



Find out how freshman guard Ronnie "Tuffy" Moss earned his nickname. Sports, page 4



The university's study abroad programs have experienced a slight drop in enrollment. Tomorrow in News



Admissions has created a new program for prospective Hispanic students. Tomorrow in News

MARKETING

## Area businesses send coupons via texts

By Callie Mason  
Staff Reporter

Saving money is now just a text message away.

Local eateries and stores, including Red Cactus, Waffle House and University Couture, have teamed up with Colleg-etokens.com, a Web site where students

can search their area and find coupons to their favorite hangouts and have them sent via text message, one of the site's co-founders, Kelvin Stroud, said.

Stroud, a graduate of the University of Arkansas, said the idea came to him when he realized that the coupon books he got after he purchased his books every semester were a waste.

"We thought, 'Why not go with this text message revolution that is going on?'" Stroud said.

To receive the coupons, students can log on to the Web site, select their locations, and coupons for local food stops, clothing stores and even gym classes will be listed, he said.

Students can pick and choose which

coupons they want to receive by typing in their phone numbers and clicking on "send coupon by text," he said. The last step is going to the place of choice and showing the text message to the cashier, he said.

Coupon text messages can be forward-

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PAPERBACK FICTION  
BEST SELLERS

- 1 *The Shack*  
by William P. Young
  - 2 *The Reader*  
by Bernhard Schlink
  - 3 *Sundays at Tiffany's*  
by James Patterson
  - 4 *Firefly Lane*  
by Kristin Hannah
  - 5 *Revolutionary Road*  
by Richard Yates
  - 6 *American Wife*  
by Curtis Sittenfeld
  - 7 *A Thousand Splendid  
Suns*  
by Khaled Hosseini
  - 8 *Slumdog Millionaire*  
by Vikas Swarup
  - 9 *Still Alice*  
by Lisa Genova
  - 10 *People of the Book*  
by Geraldine Brooks
- The New York Times



Rihanna and Chris Brown the personification of a much larger issue. Opinion, page 3

PECULIAR FACT

BEIJING — Police in southwest China are spicing up drivers with raw chilli in a bid to stop them falling asleep at the wheel. Police in the Chongqing region have started serving drivers chilli peppers at highway service stations, holding to the traditional Chinese belief that people often feel more sleepy in the spring, the Chongqing Evening News said.

— Reuters

TODAY'S WEATHER

40 35  
HIGH LOW  
Chance rain

Tomorrow: Rain Likely  
41 / 38  
Saturday: Slight chance showers  
53 / 45



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## SPEAKING OUT



Photo illustration by Katie Ruppel / Staff Reporter

Sophomore social work major Shelly Newkirk is the face behind the YouTube video called "If I Could Speak Freely," which she used as a way to voice her frustrations about the lack of campus resources for the LGBT community.

## Student works for LGBT support

By Maricruz Salinas  
Staff Reporter

If sophomore social work major Shelly Newkirk could speak freely, she would ask you to look her straight in the eye and tell her what 'educating individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community' means to you. Or at least that's one of the questions she asked in her video.

Newkirk posted a video on YouTube called "If I Could Speak Freely" about the frustration she feels with the lack of resources and support within the university for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender population.

Newkirk said she met with Chancellor Victor Boschini on Feb. 20 to discuss the possibility of the university's support in establishing an LGBT resource center that would offer counseling, a media library and a full-time director.

Boschini wrote in an e-mail that even though they did not agree on every issue, he appreciated hearing directly from Newkirk.

"I think we are actually doing much more than other places I have worked in that we are even discussing this issue in the office of the chancellor," he wrote.

Boschini wrote that a resource center is already in place for LGBT stu-

dents in the Office of Inclusiveness & Intercultural Services, and before his meeting with Newkirk he spoke to the director, who confirmed that the office is ready to assist the gay population.

Darren Turner, director of the Office of Inclusiveness & Intercultural Services, said the office offers the LGBT population what it does to all students, which includes organizations, support and a place to come together.

He said that the need for a resource center depends on what the needs are to the population and looking at how to accommodate that with IIS or creating a new space.

SEE LGBT · PAGE 2

DINING SERVICES

## Senior protests granola removal

*Product doesn't contain peanuts, student-owner says*

By Chilton Tippin  
Staff Reporter

The removal of several food items sold on campus after a chain of food recalls has resulted in a decline in revenues for Anderson Trail Inc., a locally owned producer and distributor of granola products.

Justin Avery Anderson, a senior English major and founder of Anderson Trail, said Sodexo Inc. requested that he remove all of the Anderson Trail food items, including ones that contained no peanut-based ingredients.

"Only one of my products, the Peanut Butter Graham Cracker, has peanut products in it," Anderson said. "I've supplied the documents showing that the peanuts and peanut butter that we use have nothing to do with the recall."

Monica Zimmer, public relations director for Sodexo, the food service provider for the university, said she could not discuss any supplier relations publicly.

"Out of an abundance of caution, Sodexo has removed all potentially harmful products," Zimmer said.

Ashten Burris, a sophomore theatre major, said the absence of Anderson Trail products has inconvenienced her daily routine.

"I usually eat the big bags of the original flavor," she said. "I usually carry them around in a bag because I have four and a half straight hours of class on Tuesday and

SEE GRANOLA · PAGE 2

ANIMAL TREATMENT

## Group seeks meatless meal options

By Madison Morgan  
Staff Reporter

Representatives for the youth division of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, also known as peta2, petitioned students for more vegan and vegetarian options in campus dining and gathered more than 1,000 signatures from students on campus, a peta2 official said.

Ryan Huling, a peta2 college campaign coordinator, said he has seen a nationwide trend in which students are pressing for more meatless options.

"Students are becoming more educated through documentaries and (reports) seen on television and are less interested in supporting an industry that condones such unethical treatment of animals," Huling said.

According to a recent survey conducted by food provider ARAMARK, 100,000 college students were interviewed and nearly a quarter of them said finding vegan meals on campus was important to them.

Kate Jones, a senior Spanish major who serves as president of People for Animal

SEE VEGAN · PAGE 2

COMMUNITY SERVICE

## Group to mentor boys in community

By Curtis Burrhus-Clay  
Staff Reporter

A concept from a historic civil rights activist has inspired a group of students to reach out to local youth through a new mentoring program, the program's coordinator said.

Jamarri Aikins, a junior psychology major, said that W.E.B. Du Bois' idea that if one in 10 black men becomes a leader then he can institute social change motivated him to start the Talented Tenth Mentoring Program.

Aikins said he started the

program to provide positive male influences for young boys in the Fort Worth community. The program will work with 13 black students from W.C. Stripling Middle School who have a history of academic and behavioral problems, Aikins said.

Suzy Dowdy, the guidance counselor at Stripling Middle School, said most of the students who will be working with the program lack the social skills needed to be able to control their actions in public settings.

"These kids need a role model to show them what

public behavior is," Dowdy said. "I think having this mentor will solve a lot of behavioral problems."

Aikins said the two sides will get together for study sessions, one-on-one conversations, and group discussions on a variety of topics, like the importance of heritage, problem solving and long-term goals. He said many of these children don't have someone to teach them those valuable lessons.

"A lot of these kids don't have a male figure in their

SEE MENTORS · PAGE 2

"A lot of these kids don't have a male figure in their life. It would be good for them to have somebody they can look up to and teach them about these issues."

Jamarri Aikins  
founder of Talented Tenth Mentoring Program

## NEWS

## LGBT

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Newkirk said she and Su Harz, a junior social work major, developed an initiative, the Iris Reaction, with the ultimate goal of establishing a resource center and a full-time administrative position dedicated to maintaining a welcoming environment for the LGBT community.

Harz and Newkirk named the initiative for the iris of the eye, which lets light into the eye, and is representative of their efforts to raise awareness, Newkirk said.

Jeff Ferrell, professor of sociology and informal supporter of the Iris Reaction, said he believes the university shows an unintentional lack of support for the LGBT community, mostly because of the lack of education and understanding on the issue.

"The LGBT civil rights movement is one of the last battles being fought," Ferrell said.

Newkirk said she has experienced some instances of discrimination, one being in a classroom where the topic of homosexuality came up last spring.

She said about one-third of the class began using homophobic slurs and said gay people were "gross" and that they all have AIDS.

Newkirk said she and two other gay students were in the class but none of them spoke up.

Other students in the class attempted to defend LGBT rights and stereotypes, but the students continued their commentary, she said.

"The homophobic voices were a lot louder than the [students'], but the professor did try to keep it under control," Newkirk said. "The professor stayed after class to make sure we were OK."

Lorna Runge, a sociology professor who calls herself "an on-staff lesbian" and active member of the LGBT rights movement on campus, said when university employees receive orientation on benefits, those looking for domestic partner benefits must stay after the meeting to find out information.

"There's this requirement that you have to out yourself as a gay or lesbian person to get information rather than having it available like everyone else,"

Runge said.

Tracy Thompson, human resources benefits manager, said the domestic partner affidavit is mentioned during orientation when benefits are presented to new employees, but in the interest of privacy new employees are given contact information for human resources if they need additional information.

Runge said that although the university claims to offer benefits for same-sex couples, the benefits are separate from those of heterosexual couples, which further isolates LGBT employees.

However, Thompson said there are no major differences when handling domestic partner and same-sex couple benefits except when handling taxes. The only real difference is that a domestic partner must sign an affidavit while

**"The LGBT civil rights movement is one of the last battles being fought."**

Jeff Ferrell

sociology professor and supporter of the Iris Reaction

a married person must show his or her marriage license, she said.

Jenny Cureton, TCU Leadership Center coordinator and Allies member, said the risk of neglecting LGBT students' can be that students end up leaving the university, dropping out of college or even taking their own lives.

Jamal King, a freshman education pre-major and openly gay student, said the addition of a LGBT resource center is necessary because it puts the university in a position to use its power and privilege to help the oppressed, like the Office of Inclusiveness and Intercultural Services is focused on ethnicity, religious and racial issues.

Newkirk's three-and-a-half minute video has received more than 600 views since it was uploaded Jan. 27.

Newkirk and Gay-Straight Alliance officers, an active group for gay and straight students, will have a follow-up meeting with Boschini at the end of the month.

## TOKENS

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ed to friends, as well, Stroud said.

"You can reuse the coupon until it is expired, which means that if you want to, you can come every day," Stroud said.

Businesses that are interested in signing up to use Collegetokens.com can contact Stroud through the contact list on the Web site, Stroud said. Once signed up, the businesses are able to change the contents of their coupon at any time using the business login; there-

fore, users should check the Web site weekly for new deals, Stroud said. The site also includes maps and reviews for the venues, he said.

Mario Calera, manager at Red Cactus, said he decided to team up with Collegetokens.com because he saw it as a way to get more customers.

"We have not had many people use the coupons yet, but we are hopeful," Calera said.

Sarah MacPhail, a sophomore advertising/public relations major, said she didn't know about the Web site but now she will check it out.

**"You can reuse the coupon until it is expired, which means that if you want to, you can come every day."**

Kelvin Stroud

co-founder of Collegetokens.com

"I think that it is a great idea for college kids because we all have our cell phones permanently attached to our hands," MacPhail said.

## GRANOLA

continued from page 1

Thursday and work after that, so I don't have time to eat ... it's frustrating."

Anderson said that he has tried to work with Sodexo to clear his products so they can be restocked.

"Central Market, Market Street and all the other chains from the Southwest only needed the documents," he said. "Only Sodexo has removed any products, and given that I am so local to the Sodexo TCU operation, it feels like I've been pushed aside."

Anderson said he was told by campus Sodexo employees that all peanut products that had been "processed in a facility

that may process peanuts" were removed from shelves.

"The interesting thing is that I'm not being allowed to sell my products even though I have found 15 items currently being sold on campus that are in the same 'processed in a facility' category," Anderson said.

The list includes products such as the Nestle Drumstick and Dreyer's Dibs.

Zimmer said any products on the shelves are considered safe because they have been confirmed by an approved supplier.

"Sodexo is monitoring the situation and making the decisions as we go," she said. "We're continuing to work with all of our suppliers, including Anderson Trail,

to ensure that they are safe. It's all about customer safety for us."

Anderson said campus eateries are a main source for his revenues, and given the locality of his business, the removal of his products has significantly impacted his revenues.

"I was trying to work with Sodexo to be one of the first items back on the shelves," Anderson said.

Dining Services employees told Anderson he would have to wait until after Spring Break for the items to be cleared in the industry, Anderson said.

Rick Flores, general manager for Dining Services, and Ev Barnes, operations director for Dining Services, did not reply to an e-mail requesting comment.

## VEGAN

continued from page 1

Well-Being, a student organization, said as soon as peta2 relays the gathered information she will set up a meeting with Dining Services.

"We know that there are existing vegetarian options in Market Square, but we are looking for a wider variety," Jones said. "We'd like to have the basics that students eat everyday such as soy milk in the milk machine and soy cheese for sandwiches."

Legia Abato, Dining Services marketing manager, said that Market Square usually provides one vegetarian option a day.

"We welcome any student responses and look forward to meeting with students from People for Animal Well-Being in order to improve dining services for all students," Abato said.

Huling said peta2's petition is bringing attention to an important concern among college students.

"Many times student animal rights groups will do what they can to persuade dining services at their university, but many times officials have to be convinced that there is a substantial need for vegetarian options," Huling said. "We prove that the need is there and it is real."

The organization gathered more than 3,000 signatures at the University of South Florida and within weeks sig-

nificant changes were made to its menu, including veggie burgers and veggie barbecue, he said.

Michael Kenny, sophomore business major, said he signed the petition because as a Catholic he has to abstain from meat during Lent on Fridays and having an array of meatless options in Market Square would make the temporary change easier.

Jones said she hopes that having more vegan options in Market Square will open the door to conversation about vegetarian and vegan lifestyle.

"Seeing these options should give other non-vegetarian students a different perspective on the lifestyle making it seem less taboo," Jones said.

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## MENTORS

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life," Aikins said. "It would be good for them to have somebody they can look up to and teach them about these issues."

Along with being a positive influence, Aikins said the Talented Tenth members want to show their "mentees" that it is possible for black males to obtain a quality education, regardless of their background.

"A bunch of these kids don't really aspire to be educated," Aikins said. "We mentors want to show them that we're just alike and we're getting our education."

Cameron Green, a freshman music education major who is also participating in the program, said that many of the kids believe they will be looked down on by their peers if they excel in school.

"We're trying to show them that it's OK to strive and do well in the classroom," Green said. "I want to reach back into the community and let them know that college is a possibility."

Dowdy said the program will also show the boys the advantages of getting an education beyond high school.

"It will give them their first real introduction to college," Dowdy said. "I think it will encourage them to go to college."

**"We're trying to show them that it's OK to strive and do well in the classroom."**

Cameron Green

freshman music education major and mentor

Both Green and Aikins said it is important to develop these young men into future leaders who will eventually make positive contributions to society.

"We're trying to find that group of men that will rise up and help lead the community," Green said.

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# OPINION

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*The Skiff View*

## LGBT dialogue beneficial to campus

Equal rights for LGBT people is a hot topic that evokes strong emotions on both sides of the issue. But regardless of which side of the fence one is on, it is a good thing that dialogues are taking place at the highest levels of the university.

An on-campus survey completed in 2008 found that five of the five openly gay students who were examined for the research exhibited levels of cautiousness and discomfort attributed to the “campus atmosphere.”

Being different can be difficult, and discrimination exists everywhere whether it is based on race, gender or sexual orientation. It is good that there are campus organizations to support these students who may feel added pressure because of their sexuality on top of all the other stresses imposed on students during their college years. Two such groups on campus are the Gay-Straight Alliance and the newly formed Iris Reaction, which ultimately hopes to establish a resource center and create a full-time administrative staff position dedicated to creating a welcoming environment for members of the LGBT community.

These are great for long-term goals, but given the current economic situation and the difficulty posed by attempting to assimilate official numbers to show how many students on campus are part of the LGBT community, the Iris Reaction may have better success if it first aims to create a student-held position to meet this need. Then, a better estimation of the need can be assessed without the university having to pony up an annual salary with limited evidence of demand.

The university has a diverse campus and the wide range of cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds that are represented here add to the learning experience. Getting to know LGBT people and break through the stereotypes is also an important part of that experience. But there are so many niche groups on campus, we can't afford to create administrative staff positions to address the needs of each group. Utilizing existing organizations and resources is a far safer bet and a clearly obtainable goal.

*Opinion editor Katie Martinez for the editorial board.*

The Skiff View represents the collective opinion of the editorial board.

## Celebrity domestic dispute part of larger social issue



ALEX S. TURNER

Chris Brown's brutal assault on Rihanna shocked fans and resulted in a stir of public opinion regarding his fate. The barbarity of the attack and Rihanna's subsequent return to her abuser has brought much needed attention to the fact that abusive relationships are a serious problem in America.

According to the Los Angeles Police Department's report, Rihanna and Brown, after leaving a party together in a rented Lamborghini, began arguing about a text from a woman he had engaged in sexual relations with. Brown stopped the car and tried to force Rihanna out of the vehicle, but she was still wearing her seat belt.

The police report goes on to say that Brown slammed her head against the passenger window and punched her re-

**The brutality of the attack could very well destroy Chris Brown's career and emotionally scar Rihanna, like it has done to millions of other women who have suffered a similar plight.**

peatedly in the face with his right hand, while steering the vehicle with his left hand. He later put her into a headlock until she nearly lost consciousness.

The brutality of the attack could very well destroy Chris Brown's career and emotionally scar Rihanna, like it has done to millions of other women who have suffered a similar plight.

After such a barbaric assault, how could Rihanna return to the arms that strangled her almost to the point of unconsciousness? It is a question commonly asked in these types of cases.

Rihanna never acted like she wanted to press charges and one can only imagine if it was out of fear or because she believes that Brown truly loves her, despite his callous actions.

Oprah Winfrey, along with Linda Fairstein, former New York prosecutor, has tried to reach out to Rihanna.

“Love doesn't hurt,” Winfrey said on her last show. “If a man hits you once, he will hit you again.”

Winfrey's claims are not just conjecture though, they are supported by statistics.

More than four homicides each day are committed by a partner or former partner, according to CNN reports. Whether or not the message has reached Rihanna's ears remains to be seen, but it seems obvious that these two should not be together.

The attention is now focused on Brown's punishment. He deserves to be incarcerated, but he also needs counseling.

Just sentencing him to prison will not be enough to prevent this from happening again.

As for Rihanna, Fairstein advised that she needs to “get serious counseling.”

In conclusion, neither Brown nor Rihanna should be dating anyone right now, especially not each other.

*Alex S. Turner is a freshman political science and philosophy major from Dallas.*



*Nate Beeler is the editorial cartoonist for The Washington Examiner.*

## Stimulus package a welcome gift for an ailing education system

President Barack Obama set an ambitious goal, the educational equivalent of the race to Mars, in his recent address to Congress. He vowed that by 2020, the United States would lead the world in college graduation rates.

Obama followed up his words with dollars. Included in a \$3.5 trillion federal budget is the most significant expansion in college aid in four decades, along with \$2.5 billion over five years, including probably \$250 million for California, to foster college success. Despite hard times and a huge deficit, Congress should approve the money. America must emerge from the recession with a smarter work force.

America once led the world in the percentage of adults with a college degree but for decades has limped along as other nations, sensing opportunities in a global economy, sped past. It still ranks second, behind Canada, in the percentage of older adults with at least an associate degree, according to the agency that tracks economies in 30 leading democracies. But among those under 35 years old, it's 10th. For the first time in the nation's history, those entering the work force will be less educated than their parents — a sobering prospect. It's even bleaker in California, which is 41st in the nation with workers under 35 who have some college or an associate degree and 22nd with a bachelor's degree. By 2020, only a third of working-age Californians are projected to have a

degree — far short of the 40 percent the market will demand.

Obama's stimulus package will help by boosting the maximum Pell Grant, the primary source of aid to low-income students, from \$4,730 to \$5,550 in 2010-11. Obama wants to make Pell Grants a guarantee, not subject to annual fluctuations. In California, where community college fees are cheap, many students don't seek a Pell Grant; they're unaware it can be used for textbooks and expenses.

For middle-class families, the stimulus would increase the tax credit for college tuition more than a third, to \$2,500. The proposed budget would extend student loans. The labyrinthine federal aid application would be simplified.

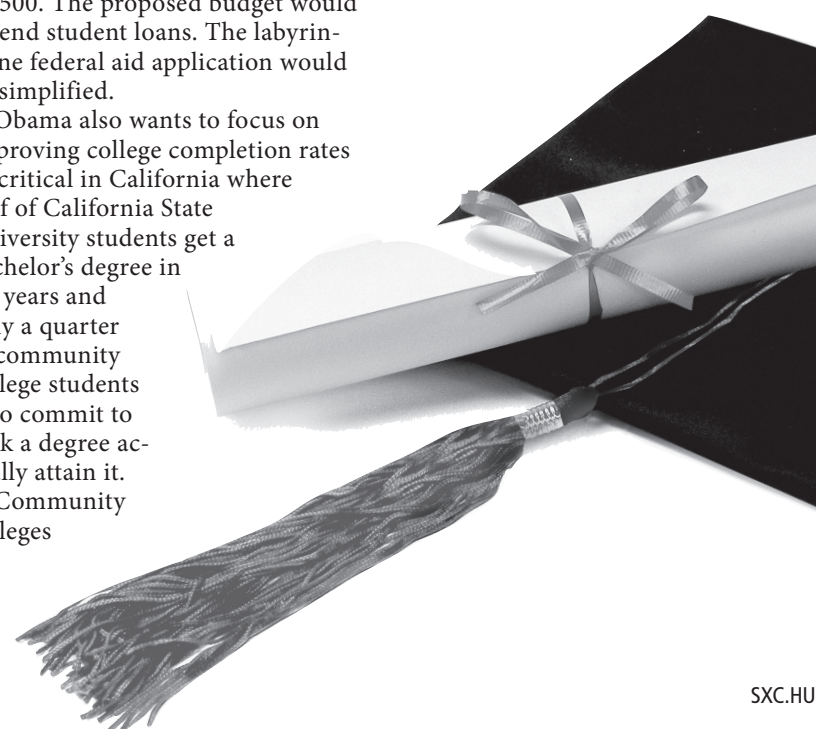
Obama also wants to focus on improving college completion rates — critical in California where half of California State University students get a bachelor's degree in six years and only a quarter of community college students who commit to seek a degree actually attain it.

Community colleges

know which programs work to keep students on track: These programs deserve more money. But what's missing are comprehensive strategies to better prepare high school students for college, create career opportunities in emerging technologies and make it easier to transfer from community colleges to four-year schools.

Federal money will make college more affordable; that's a start.

*This editorial appeared in the San Jose Mercury News on Saturday. It was distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.*



SCX.HU

## Sacrifices like those made during Lent help enrich spirit, lead to stronger values



ASHLEY TAMBUNGA

Two weeks down, a little over four more to go.

Lent is a special time of year when people all over the world work to become better Christians, better servants and better people.

First established in A.D. 325, Lent has a deeper meaning than many of us give credit.

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, “The purpose of Lent is to provide that purification by weaning men from sin and selfishness through self-denial and prayer, by creating in them the desire to do God's will and to make His kingdom come by making it come first of all in their hearts.”

That's a little heavier than my annual

sacrifice of not drinking coffee.

It has led me to an understanding that the whole goal of Lent isn't just to give up coffee for 40 days and then drink three pots on Easter morning. I think it is a time of reflection that should be used to figure out what could make one a better person, and to embrace the changes that come along with that.

I've also given up road rage, which on some Freudian level probably means I am lacking patience in my life. People who give up something as addictive as coffee or nicotine might find themselves lacking self-control in other parts of their lives. People who give up cursing might discover that they need to be more cognizant of others.

Everyone has a personal demon with which he or she struggles.

It's not just religious ideology that says people should strive to be better; it seems quite obvious that it's what we all should strive for as human beings.

Even if your religious preference — or lack thereof — makes you hesitant

of observing Lent, it's about something deeper.

While in college, we strive to become educated and socially cognizant. We strive to earn the respect of our peers.

I can't think of a better way to start

**It is not just religious ideology that says people should strive to be better; it seems quite obvious that it's what we all should strive for as human beings.**

than taking a few days to think about those things in our lives that could improve.

In whatever context you'd like to look at it, this could be good for you.

*Ashley Tambunga is a junior English major from Fort Worth.*

## SPORTS

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Freshman's journey had 'Tuff' start

By Michael Carroll  
Sports Editor

Two months ago, TCU freshman basketball player Ronnie Moss entered a game against UNLV just three and a half minutes into the contest. Almost immediately the team changed. Players picked up the pace, fought for loose balls and methodically wove their way to an 80-73 win as the final buzzer sounded.

Other players contributed to the win, but it was Moss' tenacity and effort that lit a fire under the Horned Frogs that game.

That night, Moss lived up to the nickname he earned as a newborn — Tuffy.

He was born with a congenital cardiovascular defect, an ailment that affects about eight out every 1,000 newborns. As he and his mother like to put it, he was born with a "hole in his heart."

## Gasping For Air

He was delivered at a healthy weight on his scheduled due-date, Sept. 11, 1988. But as soon as Moss entered this world, it was clear that something wasn't right. He couldn't breathe on his own. Heart and lung problems were immediately identified.

Doctors quickly attached him to an incubator to help his underdeveloped lungs. Moss' mother, Michelle Douglas, decided against putting her weakened newborn through the stress and risk of heart surgery.

Instead, she opted to slowly wean Moss off of the oxygen assistance and hoped his troubled heart would find a way of healing on its own.

Douglas was rarely able to see her ailing son because of a traumatic delivery. She relied on nurses, doctors and family members to keep her informed of his worsening status as doctors cut down the amount of oxygen Moss received each day.

One family member, Douglas' brother Charles, would come to the hospital every day after high school to sit with Moss, who was in an incubator, and relay information to his sister, who was resting and recovering — not to mention worrying — in a room on a floor above the nursery.

"Don't worry, Sis, he's going to be OK," Charles Douglas told his sister. An onslaught of needles pressed into his frail body and tubes forced down his tiny airway seemed to have little effect on Moss. He never cried.

## Learning to Breathe

The day eventually came when it was time for Moss' mother to make a final decision about what to do with her son. She decided to take him off of the oxygen assistance completely — he would become dependent on the oxygen if he was not forced to breathe on his own. Now he would have to live without the machines that had nurtured him through such rough and hopeless days.

She described the scene in the hospital as chaotic as soon as the oxygen was no longer being used to support her son's breathing.

"He started gasping for air," she remembers.



Freshman guard Ronnie "Tuffy" Moss survived a congenital heart defect at birth. Doctors thought he would never play sports.

The scene was too much for her brother. She remembers him breaking down and crying.

"No, no, no," Michelle Douglas recalls her brother pleading. "I don't care what the doctors say, he's going to make it, he's going to be able to breathe on his own. He's my little Tuffy, my little tough guy."

He's been Tuffy ever since. Even his mother uses the name.

Doctors comforted the crying mother, telling her Moss' gasps could be a good sign. He was fighting to survive — refusing to die.

Moss' skin, starving for oxygen, turned purple. But slowly, as if awakened from a nightmare, he started to regain color.

"He started balancing out a little bit," his thankful mother remembers.

His breathing was still unstable, so doctors decided to keep him in the hospital until it was determined he could leave safely. But miraculously, he was getting better. After they had decided Moss had made enough progress, doctors sent him home. But his fight wasn't quite finished.

About two hours into Moss' very first day at home, he suddenly stopped breathing. The purple skin returned. He was stiff and cold. Life was trying to escape from him once again.

A family member ran across the street to a neighbor who they knew was a firefighter. By the time the neighbor understood the situation and had made it across the street to Moss and his mother, it appeared time had run out.

"At that point I just thought, 'OK, he's gone,'" Michelle Douglas said. "I know that if you don't have enough oxygen within a certain time that more than likely it's going to be bad news."

But the firefighter immediately went to work on the small, lifeless and now colorless baby. He managed to open Moss' airway using a procedure he knew thanks to

his job. Once again, color started to return to the baby's skin.

Moss seemed to finally be in the clear, but doctors told his mother that the chances were high that her son had suffered brain damage in the incident. She prepared for the worst.

"I was going to love him and take care of him however the outcome would be," she remembers thinking.

Doctors insisted he would be slower than the other children and that sports would almost certainly be out of the question. But despite the doctors' predictions, Moss' toughness, as it already had so often, quickly showed.

## Against All Odds

Michelle Douglas said that although Moss was always surrounded by sports, she was too afraid of letting him participate. She wasn't sure his heart would hold up. His grandfather had a Pee Wee football team in Fort Worth, and one day he took Moss, who was about 4 years old, to a game to watch from the sidelines.

During the course of the game, one boy from his grandfather's team was making a break for the end zone, running free down the field. All of a sudden, a boy caught up to the touchdown-bound player and tackled him from behind. But this wasn't a player from the other team — it was Tuffy.

The incident was an eye-opener for his mother. Perhaps the doctors had been wrong.

"He may be able to do other things," Michelle Douglas began to think at the time.

With the consent of doctors, she started gradually letting her son play sports. Being active actually helped Moss. His heart began to strengthen and fully heal. He passed every physical doctors gave him. He was pretty good at sports, too.

Moss' first memory of playing basketball is when his mother,

## TCU vs. Utah

When: 8 p.m. tonight  
Where: Thomas & Mack Center, Las Vegas  
TV: The Mtn.

who played in high school and college, was teaching him how to shoot. His mother would go on to be his coach through much of his childhood. She even coached his youth teams.

Basketball quickly became Moss' life. His years were filled with playing on various teams around the area. He played three years of high school ball at North Crowley High School in Fort Worth before heading to Bridgton Academy, a college preparatory school in Maine. Before coming to the university, he attended Christian Life Academy in Houston, where he continued to play and earned a ranking as the 12th-best player in Texas according to TexasHoops.com.

Head basketball coach Jim Christian found Moss while he was coaching at Kent State in Ohio. Christian told him he was looking for a strong, left-handed guard like Moss. Moss eventually signed with Kent State. But when Christian was hired at TCU, Moss was granted a release and followed the coach back to Fort Worth — and his mother.

"I signed up to play for coach Christian and not anybody else," Moss explained after a recent practice. "I was going to stick to my commitment with him."

Today, Moss is the fourth-leading scorer on a team that is trying to find a new direction under Christian. His early struggles in life are now a distant memory. But his toughness still shines through. It isn't difficult to detect.

On the court he's easy to spot — he makes things happen when he has the ball in his hands. And of course, one thing hasn't changed since he was an infant: Tuffy's tough.



Terrell Owens makes a touchdown catch in the 3rd quarter as the New York Giants faced the Dallas Cowboys in 2007 in Irving.

## POINT • COUNTERPOINT

## Were the Cowboys right in releasing Owens?

Receiver's only crime was wanting to win

T.O.'s latest falling out comes as no surprise



MICHAEL CARROLL

There are very few players in any sport that have the ability to single-handedly affect the outcome of a game. Terrell Owens, even at the age of 35, is one of those players.

The Dallas Cowboys' release of the infamous receiver last week will end up being a move the troubled franchise regrets.

Owens' biggest fault is — and always has been — his seemingly unmatched desire to win football games. He knows good things happen when the football finds its way into his hands. It's hard to fault a guy who gets fired up because he wants his team to succeed.

Things were great with Owens when the Cowboys were winning games and he was catching touchdowns. Problems only arose when the team struggled and the ball wasn't being thrown his way this past season. While there's no question Owens is a hard man to please, sometimes you have to put up with a player's complaints in order to move forward as a team.

In his three seasons with Dallas, Owens caught 235 passes for 3587 yards and 38 touchdowns in 47 games. Those numbers will not be matched by Roy Williams, the Cowboys' new top receiver.

## The Dallas Cowboys' release of the infamous receiver last week will end up being a move the troubled franchise regrets.

Owens' tenure in Dallas was certainly filled with its share of ups and downs. From the accidental overdose to his apparent brawl with teammate Jason Witten and everything in between, there was never a dull moment while he wore the star.

But now that he has departed, numerous current Cowboys have come out in support of the controversial wideout. He clearly wasn't loved by everyone in the organization, but there were several players on the team that loved what he brought to the field on Sundays. Owens may not have very many great seasons left in the tank, but the Buffalo Bills added an unfairly criticized, great player to their team Saturday.

Sports editor Michael Carroll is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Coppell.



BILLY WESSELS

When the Dallas Cowboys released wide receiver Terrell Owens last week, I was foolish enough to think for a second the madness was finally over.

I was moronic enough to think teams in the NFL would learn their lessons and realize that Owens is nothing but a cancer that will corrode any team from the inside out.

I was naive enough to think the receiver might be heading his way north of the border to the wasteland that is Canadian football.

He got really close, but close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades.

So now we have to deal with his antics for at least, and hopefully just, one more year.

## Owens is nothing but a cancer that will corrode any team from the inside out.

I think T.O. picked the Bills for two reasons. One, it was probably his only option other than the black hole that is Oakland, and no matter how bad it gets in Buffalo, he will never be the worst Bill ever. Sorry, Scott Norwood.

How could Cowboys' owner Jerry Jones not know this was coming? Owens helped destroy the 49ers franchise, which is still in disarray. He refused to report to Baltimore Ravens' camp when he was traded there. Then he signed a seven-year deal with the Philadelphia Eagles in 2004 before being released just two years later. And finally, he came to Dallas where he helped the team win exactly zero playoff games.

I don't know whether the Cowboys' not winning a playoff game is because of Owens' antics or quarterback Tony Romo's inability to catch a snap or poor leadership skills, but Owens proved his worthlessness this year claiming Romo was making special plays with tight end Jason Witten.

So basically what I have to say is good luck Buffalo, enjoy your 10th straight season without a playoff berth even with Owens' "help." Also, enjoy your franchise now before it crumbles around you after being hit by the wrecking ball that is T.O.

Billy Wessels is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Waxahachie.

Which side are you on? Go to DailySkiff.com and cast your vote.

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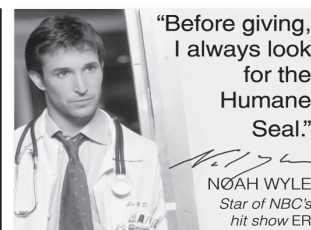
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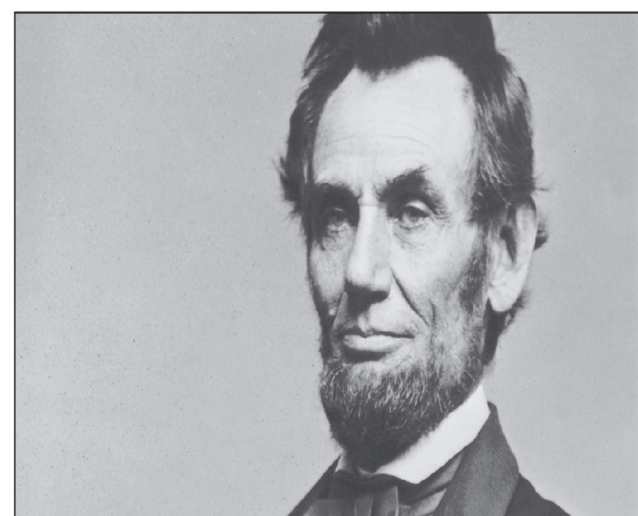


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### Today in History

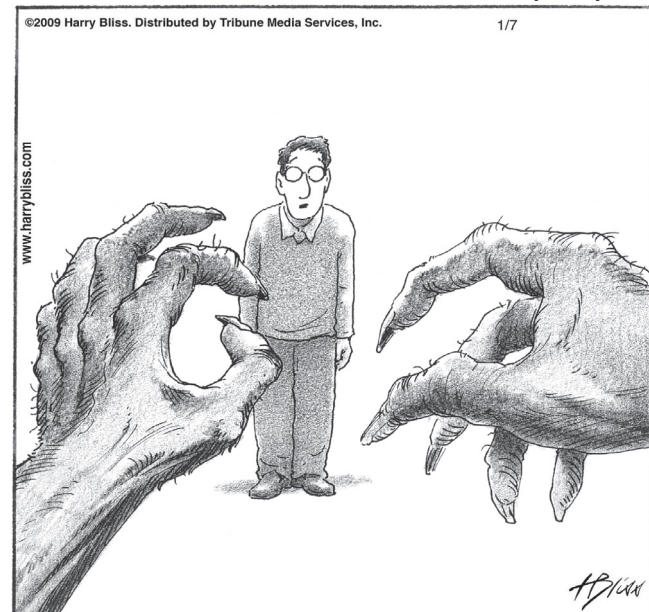
On this day in 1933, eight days after his inauguration, President Franklin D. Roosevelt gives his first national radio address or "fireside chat," broadcast directly from the White House.

— History Channel

### Joke of the Day

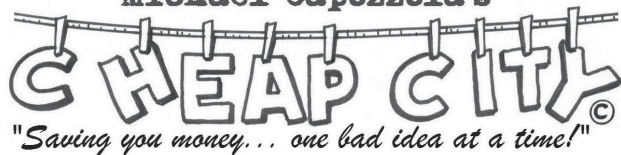
Q: What did the fish say when it ran into a wall?  
A: Dam.

Bliss by Harry Bliss



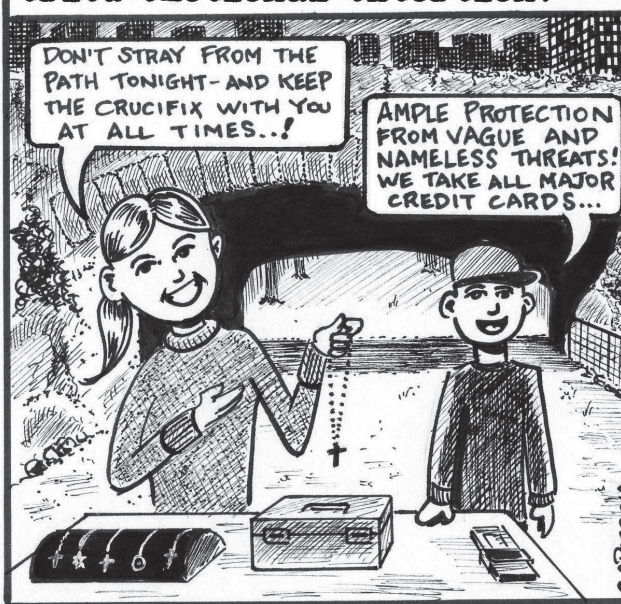
"Nope, I'm pretty sure you didn't mention this in your eHarmony profile."

Michael Capozzola's



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**HEY KIDS:** It's too cold now for that lemonade stand. Have you tried emotional extortion?



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		8						5	
	1			3	9				7
					1				4
	8			7		5			
2	3							1	9
		1		4				7	
7				5					
8				4	2				3
	4							2	

**Directions**  
 Fill in the grid so that every 3x3 box, row and column contains the digits 1 through 9 without repeating numbers.

See Friday's paper for sudoku and crossword solutions.

### Wednesday's Solutions

9	2	5	3	1	4	8	6	7
6	4	8	2	7	9	1	5	3
1	3	7	6	5	8	9	4	2
3	1	4	5	9	2	7	8	6
8	6	2	7	4	1	3	9	5
5	7	9	8	6	3	4	2	1
4	8	6	1	2	7	5	3	9
2	9	1	4	3	5	6	7	8
7	5	3	9	8	6	2	1	4

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## TODAY'S CROSSWORD

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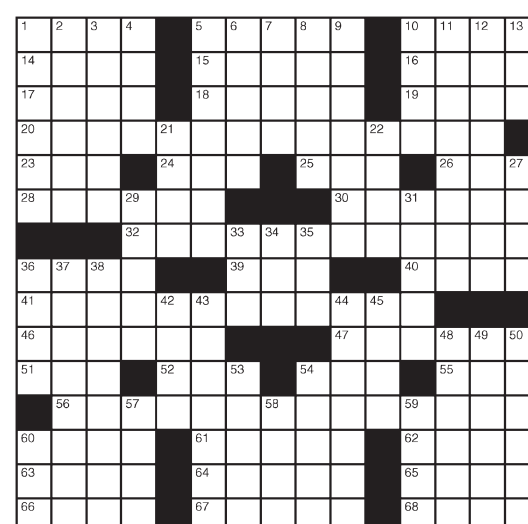
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### ACROSS

- 1 School orgs.
- 5 Sample
- 10 Type of fencing foil
- 14 Set of antlers
- 15 Studio sign
- 16 Large wine casks
- 17 \_\_\_ homo (Behold the man!)
- 18 French historian
- 19 Org. of court players
- 20 Start of a Johnny Carson quip
- 23 Ambulance grp.
- 24 Court
- 25 Peer Gynt's mother
- 26 Mary of "Where Eagles Dare"
- 28 Evil spirit; var.
- 30 Tux adjuster
- 32 Part 2 of quip
- 36 Filmmaker Riefenstahl
- 39 Prohibit
- 40 Precinct
- 41 Part 3 of quip
- 46 Actor Cesar
- 47 Placate
- 51 Wee hrs.
- 52 Cries of discomfort
- 54 Corn serving
- 55 Carpool-lane letters
- 56 End of quip
- 60 Show contempt
- 61 Medical prefix
- 62 Pressing device
- 63 Window ledge
- 64 Miscue
- 65 Female equine
- 66 Corduroy rib
- 67 Passe
- 68 Chopped



By Annabel Michaels Williamsburg, VA

3/12/09

### Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	M	O	K	R	A	M	N	E	A	G	L	E			
S	I	M	I	E	N	E	E	X	T	R	A	S			
S	M	A	S	H	H	I	T	S	A	R	A	H			
A	I	R	S	E	A	H	E	T	M	A	N	S			
T	I	S	G	N	U	R	E	S	D	S	C	O			
			B	I	G	B	A	N	G	A	S	I	A		
A	C	C	U	R	S	E	D	G	A	L	L	E			
B	U	R	M	A	R	D	S	U	S	A	G	E			
E	L	A	P	S	E	E	P	I	T	O	M	E			
L	E	S	S	O	D	A	P	O	P						
E	T	H	S	P	A	R	E	B	A	R	I				
			D	A	K	O	T	A	C	U	E	D	I	N	
S	U	I	T	E	S			B	L	A	S	T	O	F	F
A	N	E	M	I	A	A	E	C	O	R	L	E			
P	I	T	O	N	S	S	D	S	N	E	E	R			

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- 5 Italian ice cream
- 6 Wind; prof.
- 7 Spanish health
- 8 Royal headband
- 9 Che's first name
- 10 Sewing case
- 11 Of skin eruptions
- 12 Crown a king
- 13 NASA partner
- 21 Cuddly George Lucas creature device
- 22 Sport
- 27 Mother of Brunhilde
- 29 Augusta's state
- 31 Twin Falls state
- 33 Hoopsters' org.
- 34 Rather or Blocker
- 35 Opposite of ESE
- 36 Dr. Zhivago's love
- 37 Me, myself and I problem
- 48 Chest
- 49 M. de Balzac
- 50 Leveled
- 42 Disney sci-fi film
- 43 Greetings
- 44 Singer of M.I.T.
- 45 One-third of a WWII movie?
- 48 Chest
- 49 M. de Balzac
- 50 Leveled
- 53 First president of South Africa
- 54 Swashbuckler Flynn
- 57 Adjective-forming suffix
- 58 Juanita's other
- 59 Capital of Peru
- 60 Vane dir.

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# SPORTS



See how the men's tennis team is preparing for its two Spring Break home matches. Tomorrow

RIFLE

## AIM HIGH Team hosts, shoots for championship

By David Hall  
Associate Editor

The width of a hair. That is the difference between absolute success and abject failure in the sport of rifle.

Practicing in a plain, single-story, whitewashed building that looks like it houses air conditioning units rather than athletes, the members of the women's rifle team have been preparing for the biggest match of their lives at the first ever TCU-hosted NCAA championship.

This weekend, the Horned Frogs will put up their best shooters on their home turf in an attempt to win it all.

In theory, rifle is a simple sport. Shoot as close to the center of the target as you can.

The team scores are made up of two separate events: air rifle and smallbore. Air rifle consists of a shooter standing up 33 feet from the target, which is roughly the size of an Oreo, and shooting 60 shots.

Each shooter has an hour and 45 minutes to complete the air rifle portion.

Shoot the center of the target (about the size of the period at the end of this sentence) clean off, and score a 10. Shoot just a hair off of the period and receive a 9. Mere fractions of an inch more will push the score into the 8 or 7 range. Miss the Oreo and get nothing.

A perfect score would be 600. A great score is 590. A 580 is considered passable.

The combined score of the team's

four shooters is added up and added to the four-person smallbore score.

In smallbore, the same targets used in air rifle are placed 50 feet away from the shooters. The shooters are given two hours to take 60 shots, taking 20 in three different positions: standing, kneeling and prone. In the prone position, the shooters lie flat on the ground. The targets move down depending on the position. Scores are still expected to be in the same neighborhood as air rifle.

Also, smallbore uses real .22-caliber bullets instead of the pellets used in air rifle.

The best score of a team's combined performance in the two events wins the team championship.

The top eight scorers in each discipline move on to the individual finals. Each participant gets 10 total shots. Highest score wins the individual championship.

Coach Karen Monez, a member of the Army Reserve's rifle team for more than 20 years who's in her fifth year as head coach, said rifle is all about muscle memory and fine tuning, and the key to success is gaining some swagger from countless hours spent gazing down the sight of a rifle.

"You have to have confidence and self-discipline to excel at this sport," Monez said.

Junior team member Lauren Sullivan said consistency is a key element in the sport.

"A lot of shooters have what you call a shot plan," Sullivan said. "You go through and write a long list of



Junior Simone Riford and company will be vying for an NCAA title this weekend. Courtesy of IMAGE MAGAZINE

what you want to do for every shot. Then you pick four of five you want to focus on."

A short memory also doesn't hurt.

"If you shoot a bad shot you can't think about it," Sullivan said. "You have to figure out what you did that was inconsistent and move on."

The gear is also of the utmost importance and varies from shooter to shooter.

"Our guns are extremely adjustable; you adjust your gun to fit you," said junior team member Emily Paper.

The guns lack any sort of scope, as the shooters rely on old-fashioned iron sights.

Each member of the team also wears a heavy shooting jacket and pants.

The jackets, which look like large lead vests from the dentist's office, are used to stabilize the shooter and insulate the heart rate.

Footwear also plays a role in stabilizing shooters in the all-important sport of millimeters.

"Our shoes have no arch in them," Paper said. "They look like ski boots. They're not flattering outfits, but

### GLOSSARY

**Air rifle:** Shooters stand 33 feet from the target and shoot 60 small pellets while standing straight up. They have an hour and 45 minutes to complete the event.

**Smallbore:** Shooters are positioned 50 feet from target. Shooters take 20 shots in each of three different positions with .22-caliber bullets — 60 shots total. Positions are standing, kneeling and prone (lying flat on the ground). Height of target adjusts to be at eye level of shooters. Two-hour time limit.



Standing



Kneeling



Prone

### NCAA Rifle Championships

**When:** Friday 8 a.m. (smallbore) and Saturday 9 a.m. (air rifle)

**Where:** TCU rifle range (smallbore) and Daniel-Meyer Coliseum (air rifle)

**Admission:** \$3 for students; \$5 for others

they get the job done."

While the team is composed of all women, rifle is actually a co-ed sport where men and women go head-to-head.

Often, the team rosters are eclectic. The University of Kentucky's team is made up of five men and five women, whereas the United States Military Academy's team is composed mainly of men. The Horned Frogs are the only all-female team competing in the championships.

Monez said that rifle had been a club sport at TCU since the 1960s, but became an all-women's team recognized by the NCAA for the 1991-1992 season.

Monez said the university received this year's rifle championships, because the university has a twelve-lane shooting range and electronic targets to judge the competition, she said.

The targets use microphones situated around the Oreo-sized target to judge the placement of the shot through the black target paper. The reading from the microphone is then passed through a computer program and posted on an electronic projection of the target.

Smallbore will be held at the rifle range, which hosts a diminutive spectator area. The air rifle competition will be held in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum with ample room for spectators.

Monez said although rifle doesn't get as rowdy as a basketball game, it isn't necessarily as subdued of a spectator sport as people think.

"In the finals when they start reading off each individual shot, the spectators clap," she said. "There's definitely some spectator input."



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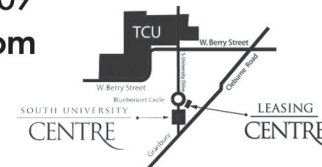
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