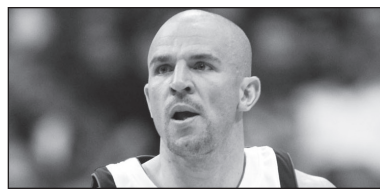


NEWS

Students are ready to party this spring break — some with fake IDs. **TOMORROW**



OPINION

Mavericks' Jason Kidd trade values athletic skill over player's character. **PAGE 3**



SPORTS

A tough opening schedule for the baseball team will spell success down the road. **PAGE 6**

TCU

DAILY SKIFF

EST. 1902



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2008
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Speaker criticizes Bush, press regarding Iraq issues

By BAILEY SHIFFLER
Managing Editor

Going to Iraq will be judged by history as possibly the worst mistake an American president has made, an investigative journalist said Tuesday.

Seymour Hersh, an investigative reporter and author, told students and community members

that President Bush is the most radical president the nation has had because of his goal to spread democracy.

Hersh, who now writes for The New Yorker, criticized the war in Iraq, saying after the speech that the U.S. is now the "bad guy" in the war.

"We've lost our edge on moral-

ity," Hersh said.

Speaking on the same day of the Texas primaries, Hersh said he wouldn't mind giving up audience members for those participating in the evening caucuses.

"The bad news first — there are 321 days left in the reign of King George II," Hersh said. "And

the good news is that tomorrow, when we wake up, there will be one less day."

Hersh said the election of a new president offers hope. But, he said, whoever is elected will be left with a mess to clean up, referencing the emotional crisis he says the country will be left with when bringing soldiers

home from the war.

"The next president is going to have a hell of a time," Hersh said.

Hersh also said the press' complacent role in the days leading up to the war was disappointing. Rather than reporting the facts, he said, the press parroted what officials were saying without dig-

ging deeper into the issues.

"There's a lack of trust with the press and it's probably very deserved," Hersh said.

David Bedford, instructor of Spanish and Latin American studies, said he has read Hersh's articles in The New Yorker for years, saying his speech was

See **HERSH**, page 2

MBA grad works to educate prisoners, assist in job search

By CHRISTINA DURANO
Staff Reporter

Prison is the last place most people would expect Neeley School of Business graduates to end up, but it is exactly where Andrew Kramer, a 2007 graduate of the Neeley MBA program, wanted to be.



JASSO

works as a grant writer for the Prison Entrepreneurship Program, which aims to help prison inmates change their lives for the better through education and a passion for entrepreneurship.

"Our mission isn't to make drug dealers better drug dealers," Kramer said. "The guys we select are people who have demonstrated a genuine commitment to lead a transformed life."

Inmates apply to the PEP by completing a 23-page application, taking four tests and inter-

viewing. The program usually selects about 20 percent of applicants, Kramer said.

Gami Jasso, who graduated from the PEP in March 2007, said he spent 15 years in prison for gang activity and murder but is now a changed man.

"In 2001, I gave my life to Christ and chose to live a righteous life," Jasso said. "Although I was committed to change before participating in the PEP, I think that without it I would not have been able to stand against the temptations the world has."

Jasso said one of his biggest fears before participating in the program was that he would return to criminal behavior.

"Without the PEP, I think I would have gone back to my old lifestyle and still be in gangs and have no job," Jasso said.

Jasso now works in case management for PEP, helping participants re-enter society.

According to the PEP Web site, the recidivism rate, the per-

See **PRISON**, page 2

Transition program to be mandatory for freshmen

By CHRISTINA SCHAMIS
Staff Reporter

Connections will be a mandatory program for incoming freshmen next year in an effort to improve freshman retention rates, said an assistant dean of Student Development Services.

According to the 2007 TCU Fact Book, the university lost more than 15 percent of freshman students. Carrie Zimmerman, assistant dean of Student Development Services, said this is a sign that there are programs that can be improved.

Connections, an extended orientation, will allow students to create a strong foundation, she said. The most important part of a student's foundation is a small group of friends, which is a core aspect of Connections, Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman said she hopes this change will help meet Chancellor Victor Boschini's goal to raise the retention from 83 percent to 88 percent.

Brooke Shuman, associate

director of Student Development Services, said the admissions office is informing incoming freshmen of the new requirement.

"The three steps to orientation, academic orientation, Frog Camp and Connections provide safety nets for students and opportunities to get connected," Shuman said.

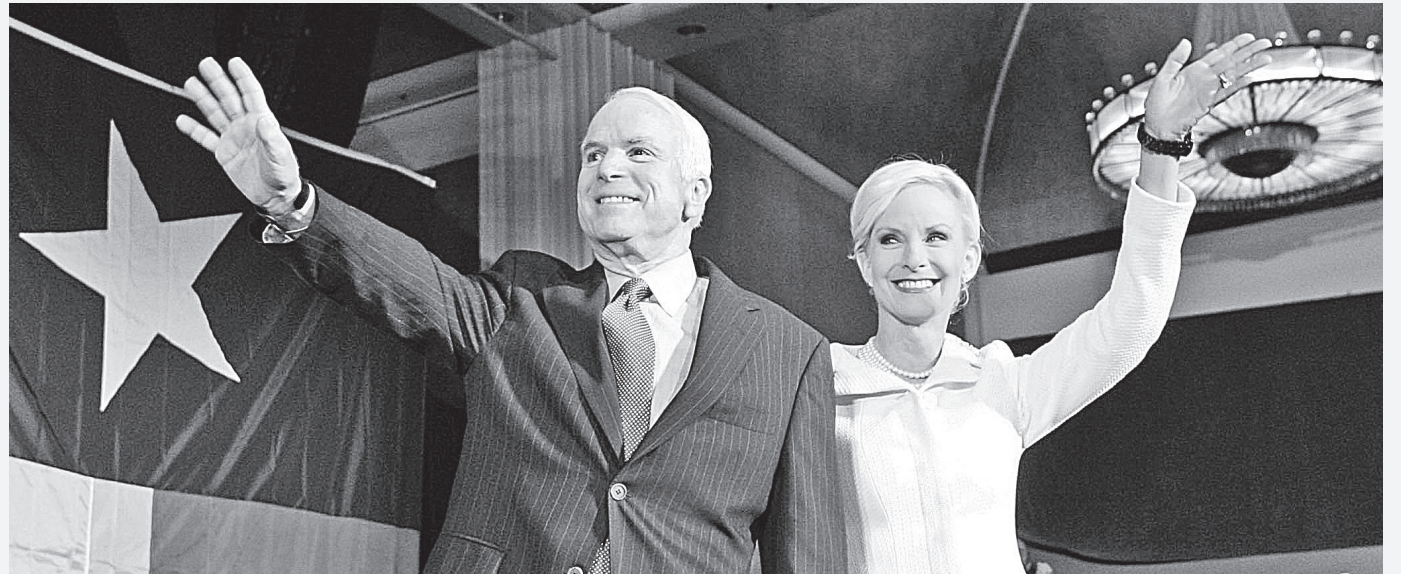
Jenighi Powell, executive student Connections director, said the staff has grown to accommodate the changes in the program. The staff has grown from two directors and 40 mentors to seven directors and 144 mentors since last year, she said.

Although mentors have been paid in the past, they will not be paid starting in the fall. This did not stop students from participating in the program, Shuman said.

Shuman said it will be more difficult to manage and organize training for mentors, but the numbers will make the program stronger.

See **PROGRAM**, page 2

TALE OF 2 PARTIES



Arizona Sen. John McCain took the Republican nomination after sweeping the Tuesday primaries, causing Republican contender Mike Huckabee to bow out.



ERICH SCHLEGEL / Dallas Morning News via MCT



REGINA H. BOONE / Detroit Free Press via MCT

Sen. Hillary Clinton's wins in Texas and Ohio lengthened the race for the Democratic nomination against Sen. Barack Obama, ending his 11-state winning streak.

McCain clinches Republican nomination Clinton's Texas win sends Democratic race down to the wire

By VALERIE HANNON and JULIETA CHIQUILLO
Staff Reporters

After encouraging students to participate in early voting last week, one student political group still had work to do Tuesday.

About 12 volunteers from the TCU Students for Barack Obama walked to Paschal High School on Tuesday to encourage people who voted during the day to return in the evening to participate in party caucuses.

It is the first time in a long time that the long-ignored evening caucuses have mattered for Texans.

After a weekend that had Democratic frontrunners almost tied in the polls, the Democratic race remained too close to call for most of the evening. Major TV networks projected that New York Sen. Hillary Clinton won Texas. Clinton also won a crucial victory in Ohio and won Rhode Island earlier in the night after Illinois Sen. Barack Obama overwhelmingly took Vermont.

Meanwhile, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. won all four states decisively, earning more than enough delegates to clinch his party's nomination. McCain's only remaining rival, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, bowed out of the race early in the night in Irving and vowed to support McCain for the presidency.

Of all Texas voters, about 66 percent voted Democrat in the primaries, with Hillary Clinton holding a 51-46 lead at about 1:30 a.m. with 85 percent of districts reporting. McCain held a 51-37 lead statewide at that time with 90 percent of districts reporting. In Tarrant County, Clinton posted a 51-45 lead over Obama with all districts reporting while McCain held a 47-42 lead.

The Youth Vote

Trey Flowers, a 2007 graduate, said he came back to TCU from his home state of Tennessee, where he worked with the Obama campaign in Nashville, to raise awareness among students.

"There are a whole range of issues we face as college students," Flowers said. "If we don't send a leader to Washington with the courage to stand up for us, then the issues we face today are going to turn into insurmountable problems down the road."

Marley Clements, a sophomore premajor and co-coordinator for TCU Students for Barack Obama, said college students would be the most affected by the results of the election because the problems the president would deal with during his or her term would be the problems of their generation, such as the Iraq war and health care.

Megan O'Brien, a junior art history major, said it was important for her to make her opinion known.

"I don't want to be involved in that generalization that young people are apathetic, because that does not describe me at all," O'Brien said.

See **CAMPAIGN**, page 2



WEATHER

TODAY: Mostly sunny, 64/37
TOMORROW: Few showers, 46/30
FRIDAY: Partly cloudy, 54/26

PECULIAR FACT

NATICK, Mass. — Two mothers fought at a Chuck E. Cheese restaurant when one got mad that the other's son was "hogging" a game.
— Associated Press

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NEWS: Gun-control case divides state AGs, page 4
OPINION: Tattoos hinder ability to get jobs, page 3
SPORTS: DirecTV picks up the Mtn., page 6

CONTACT US

Send your questions, compliments, complaints and hot tips to the staff at NEWS@DAILYSKIFF.COM

PRISON

From page 1

centage of formerly incarcerated individuals who return to prison, is less than 5 percent for PEP participants, as compared with the national recidivism rate of 51.8 percent, according to a 1994 study released by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The 1994 study is the most recent analysis of national recidivism rates.

The PEP transforms the lives of its participants, said Mark Jones, a warden at the Hamilton Unit, a pre-release facility for parole-bound inmates where the PEP started.

"It makes them stronger for society at their release," Jones said.

The PEP uses three initiatives to help inmates become productive members of society: the Business Plan Competition, re-entry services and business development services.

The Business Plan Competition is a four-month class in which participants spend 18 to 20 hours in class per week and have several hours of homework.

"We whittle down a class from about 80 to 40 people because we find out these guys have gang affiliations still, and aren't willing to do the work required of them or have anger problems," Kramer said.

Additionally, the BPC holds seminars and brings in executives and MBA students to pro-

vide positive role models.

"The executives we work with come into prison to provide good feedback," Kramer said. "[They] give advice on how to make sales pitches, how to give presentations and why a theoretical investor should invest in their business."

At the end of the program, participants present a 10-page business plan they developed during the BPC to a nationwide panel of executives to evaluate.

"These business plans we help them develop are legitimate," Kramer said. "They are good for investment bankers."

After participants graduate from the BPC and are released from prison, the PEP helps them find housing, jobs, clothing and

medical care.

"We absolutely do not want them to fail," Kramer said. "We do anything to make sure they are not going to fail."

The PEP has strong relationships with employers. About 98 percent of participants have jobs within the first month.

The final step of the PEP program is entrepreneurship school. E-School provides participants with weekly classes, a network of executives, advisers and mentors.

More than 325 participants have graduated from the BPC, and E-School graduates have started 41 new businesses since PEP was founded by venture capitalist Catherine Rohr in 2004, Kramer said.

Kramer said he first heard about the PEP while working at the Neeley School's Graduate Career Service Center.

"The PEP reached out to my boss ... and asked if she knew any MBAs who were interested," Kramer said. "She said she did and ran into my office and said, 'Andrew, I have found the perfect job for you.' And she was right."

Kramer said he always knew he wanted to work for a non-profit organization, but it was a difficult sector to get into.

"You need to want to be in it because its really confusing and how competitive it is to get into," Kramer said.

Kramer said he works about 10 hours per day, but the hours

do not bother him.

"It's not the hours I work," Kramer said. "It's the things I do."

Kramer said the most rewarding part of his job is knowing he is making a difference in PEP participants' lives.

"I know that I can have an impact and establish a relationship that makes [participants] not commit crimes in the future," Kramer said.

Jasso agreed that PEP and the people who worked for it transformed his life.

"PEP gave me the vision to succeed and re-enter society," Jasso said. "I can show society that I am a changed man and that I can make it."

HERSH

From page 1

"chucked full of interesting information that we need to know."

Thomas Pressly, junior communication studies major, said although he has different views than Hersh, the speaker did well in expressing where he thinks the country is headed.

"We will all agree that in 321 days our country needs to unite around whoever is elected president and deal with the difficult policies that the world is continuing to experience," said Pressly, Student Government Association president.

The speech was a part of the Center of Civic Literacy Series and was co-sponsored by the AddRan College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Schiefel School of Journalism and Leadership Fort Worth.

PROGRAM

From page 1

Class sizes will also grow from about 15 students to about 22, but the larger size will enhance the dynamic of the program, Powell said.

"The more energy in the classroom that the mentors can feed off of, the more fun the experience will be," she said.

About 1,700 freshmen will be divided into 72 classes that will meet Thursdays in the late afternoon, Shuman said. Student Development Services worked with the admissions office, University Ministries and athletics to accommodate the majority of students' schedules, she said.

Connections will remain a noncredit class, but in order to hold freshmen account-

able, students who fail to fulfill requirements will not be able to register for future classes, Shuman said. The temptation to skip will also not be as high because "there will be a mass exodus of freshmen attending the classes at the same time," she said.

Lindsay Ray, a Connections director, said the program's more uniform structure will have a positive impact on freshman enthusiasm.

Before freshmen had classes on different days and times, but now they will all share this activity together, Ray said.

The budget for the program will be submitted in the summer and the details are still being discussed, Shuman said.

Faculty and staff members will remain part of Connec-

tions. Ray said the 72 members that will be chosen will show the freshmen that faculty and staff are available for them.

"It makes them realize that professors are people too and they love to connect with students," Ray said.

The program will be extended from eight to 10 weeks, pushing the program past Fall Break.

Connections curriculum includes topics such as dealing with roommates, locating places on campus, making new friends and diversity. The new curriculum will be Web-based, using E-frogs, a site described as a mix between Facebook and E-college, Powell said.

In addition to being more fun, students and mentors will be able to connect better, Ray said.

CAMPAIGN

From page 1

Party Divide

More than 1,200 citizens from four precincts voted in Tuesday's primary elections at Paschal, with the Democratic Party reporting about 785 voters, and the Republicans attracting about 432, according to each party's election judge. That difference was indicative of a statewide trend, with 65 percent of Texans attending Democratic primaries.

Stormy Lovett, an election judge for the Democratic Party, said many young voters showed, and the black and Hispanic turnout Tuesday was higher than she saw at last year's local election.

"As far as the Democratic side, it's been quite moving, and I've been voting for 20 years," Lovett said. "The red

state ain't red anymore — it's purple."

Following the closing of the polling stations, more than 400 people filed into the school auditorium for the Democrat caucus at Paschal, while about 30 gathered in a classroom for the Republicans across the hall.

Greg Hughes, another Obama precinct captain, said the caucus at Paschal determined 17 delegates to go to the state convention. Of the 228 state delegates for the Democratic Party, 126 delegates were decided by primary votes and 67 were determined by caucus results.

Texas accounts for 140 Republican delegates, 96 of which are determined by primary vote. Three delegates are assigned to each of the state's 32 congressional districts for a total of 96 delegates.



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Phone: (817) 257-7428 Fax: (817) 257-7133
E-mail: news@dailyskiff.com

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— Albert Einstein

THE SKIFF VIEW

Poll workers deserve caucus voice

Citing high voter turnout in the rest of the country and down-to-the-wire races for both major political parties, many Texas officials anticipated the higher-than-normal voter turnout in Tuesday's primaries.

This led the Texas Secretary of State's office to issue a memo Feb. 15 with a list of protocols for election judges and clerks to follow to deal with the flood of Texans at the polls.

However, one of those recommendations placed too much of an emphasis on efficiency, restricting election staffers from participating in what in this campaign season has become a crucial part of the Democratic primary process in Texas.

In a memo from the state's director of elections to election administrators across the state, the office discouraged election judges and clerks from attending precinct conventions until ballots are delivered.

"If the precinct convention is being held at the polling place, the responsible election judge or clerk must complete the paperwork,

finish making out returns and deliver the records and ballots to the custodian before he or she may attend the precinct convention," according to the memo.

It certainly doesn't make sense to risk impeding election judges and clerks from participating in the conventions to get the results out a little bit faster.

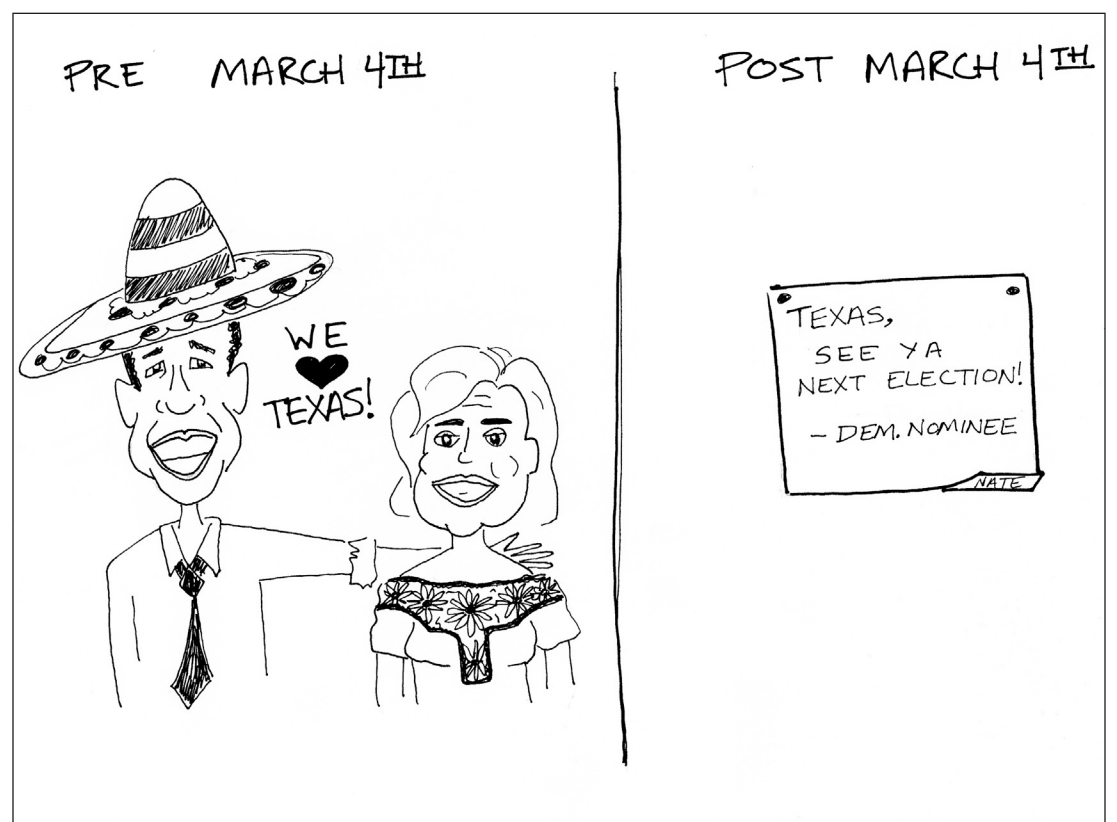
With all the flaws of the state's Democratic primary system that were already at play Tuesday, there are plenty of other things to complicate the process.

It's unnecessary to try to expedite the process if doing so risks excluding residents — albeit a very small group — from the precinct convention, which is a process that is strengthened by the presence of additional voices.

The paperwork can always be done later, but there's no way to go back in time and add input from election judges and clerks back into the precinct conventions.

Editor-in-chief Andrew Chavez for the editorial board.

BY NATE ARNOLD



Nate Arnold is a junior marketing and e-business major from Edmond, Okla.

Kidd trade leaves Dallas with questionable character

I can't help but feel disappointed about the Dallas Mavericks trade involving Jason Kidd. At first, I was more upset about losing point guard Devin Harris and center DeSagana Diop. We also lost Maurice Ager, Trenton Hassell and retired forward Keith Van Horn.

COMMENTARY



Marissa Warmis

New Jersey also received two first-round draft picks and \$3 million.

What did we get? Jason Kidd — the same guy we let go 11 years ago. Mark Cuban, Dallas Mavericks owner, thought this was the man of our team's future.

ESPN's J.A. Adande said, "not even Kidd's presence is enough to bring them a road victory against the West's top teams." I can't argue with him there. He says this because the Mavericks have lost about as many games as they've won with Kidd in the lineup.

I'll cut them a little slack. They've played a few of the best teams in the Western Division, so I shouldn't expect blowouts with a completely reformed team. When you take away the main point guard and throw someone else in the mix, it's going to take a while to adjust.

Don't get me wrong; I understand strategy in the NBA. I know Cuban acquired

one of the "best" point guards in the league according to many sports announcers and sports writers. I've watched games Kidd has played with the Mavericks, and must admit that he can pass the ball and has a decent shot.

I may be jumping to conclusions about Kidd too early, but honestly, I don't like him. He is just fine as a player and I hope he helps the Mavericks to a long-awaited title. But as a person, I can't stand him.

The Dallas Mavericks play by the rules. They have a great head coach, assistant head coach and owner, who, along with a majority of their players, have good moral heads on their shoulders. Jason Kidd does not fit in with this group. He has pleaded guilty to spousal abuse, has a big mouth and let's face it — he just doesn't look good

in a Mavericks uniform.

Again, I see the improvements Kidd has made for us. I've never seen Erick Dampier play as well as he did Sunday, but I'm not blinded by his exterior or his personal life.

Regardless of everything Kidd does right, he does things wrong, as we all do. I'm going to try to use myself as an example and look beyond Kidd's past. I'm going to give him the benefit of the doubt, because after all, people do change.

While I will continue my Mavericks fanaticism and remain steadfast in being their No. 1 fan, I am hoping Jason Kidd learned from his mistakes and can eventually change my mind about the person I assume he still is.

Marissa Warmis is a senior advertising/public relations major from Irving.



MCT

Tattoos, though popular, not appropriate for jobs

In the recent decade, tattoos have become the hottest fashion trend, especially during the summer months.

People want to show off their body art. According to an article on AOL.com, a study by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press reports more than a third of 18- to 25-year-olds have a tattoo.

But not everyone considers tattoos fashionable. People are often judged according to their tattoos in the workplace, such as in the movie "Crash" when Sandra Bullock's character discriminates against a locksmith because of his numerous tattoos.

This scene makes me wonder about the real challenges of getting a good job with noticeable tattoos. It seems like getting a job would be difficult if you have an old-fashioned boss. Because tattoos have become a popular norm, more people have learned to accept them.

Although managers have loosened their views on tattoos in order to attract today's youth, they have increased dress-code rules to require tattoos to be covered. I value recent employers' decisions to compromise with this growing trend, but does it take away from the person's rights?

In some cases it doesn't but in cases regarding certain religious beliefs it does.

In the workplace, I think it's important for employers to create a balanced environment for most, if not all people, to do their best work.

Tattoos can act as a distraction, especially in the corporate world. It's simply just not professional, especially when your job entails interacting with clients. Your appearance not only represents you, it also represents the company's standards.

Let's be honest. If you owned a Fortune 500 company, would you hire someone covered with tattoos to represent you?

Most likely not. I wouldn't want one person to tarnish the image of my business. However, in some cases, safeguarding your company's image isn't that easy.

In recent years, corporations have taken flak for their policies regarding employees and their tattoos.

In August 2005, Red Robin Gourmet Burgers and Spirits fired Edward Rangel for failure to conceal his tattoos across his wrists. Rangel argued that his religious beliefs considered it a sin to cover up his tattoos.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission supported his claim and helped him sue his former employer for religious discrimination. In court, Red Robin argued that

to amend its policy regarding Rangel would damage their image to customers.

However, the court ruled in Rangel's favor because he had initially worked for the company six months without any problem before his termination. Since then, companies have revised their policies to accommodate people with religious tattoo beliefs to avoid future lawsuits.

This prime example illustrates the difficulty of companies today to make policies that favor everyone and do not infringe on the religious rights of people such as Rangel. In the broader scheme of things, how do these revisions regarding tattoos affect the company as a whole? It helps the companies provide a more equal environment, but not for everyone. Allowing some and not all employees the opportunity to show their tattoos can still create tension in the workplace. It's rare that a religion would force a person to have tattoos, but in today's culture, anything is possible.

However, the average person only buys a tattoo because it's cool. It's not cool to have an art museum on your body, and it's not cool for everyone to have to see it. For those seeking more conservative jobs, take more consideration regarding the location of a tattoo.

Krystal Upshaw is a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Houston.

Feel free to be frisky, more and more older women are on the prowl

Is it just me, or have you noticed an unusual number of cougars prowling the sidewalk cafes at your local bistrot? I am not referring to the feline variety of cougar, of course. I'm talking about women of a certain age who prefer the company of younger men.

There was a time when they were thought of as slightly sad, such as the Nina Foch character in "American in Paris," an older, rich benefactor-with-benefits. One of the most famous cougars of the late 20th century, Mrs. Robinson, came pretty close to making a

meal of young Benjamin Brad-dock in "The Graduate."

But that was before "cougar" was coined. When it first surfaced this century, it referred to the middle-age "bar girls" who went home with guys who were still there by the end of night.

Now the term seems to have taken on a different connotation. What cougars do isn't so much prey on sweet young things as run with them. A cougar has become the female version of the swinging bachelor: an older woman who is physically and financially fit and on the hunt for a younger man who can match her ener-

gy. Suddenly cougars are cool.

There are cougar Web sites sprouting up aimed at 20-something men who see the beauty of dating a woman who can keep up with them and pick up the check. This is a change from the days when many older women assumed no man who still called his friends "Dude" would be remotely interested in them romantically.

The cougar scene has certainly bloomed since 2004, when I last spoke to Trish McDermott, Match.com's vice president of romance. The online dating service had just conducted a survey showing

only 8 percent of women on the site said they were willing to date a man more than 10 years younger than they are.

But 10 percent of men surveyed said they would be willing to date a woman more than 10 years older. There has been plenty of pop cultural evidence since then that this window of opportunity has opened up for older women.

Witness the smoldering ladies-room seduction scene from a recent episode of the new series "Lipstick Jungle," featuring a 20-something swain and a cougar-in-training played by Kim Raver. When she confessed to her

girlfriends later on, they were most impressed.

I even saw a callow fellow in the pickup basketball game playing crowd at the court in my neighborhood wearing an "I (heart) Cougars" T-shirt.

I suppose this is progress, because cougars have evolved on the dating scene. Where they were once thought of as pathetic, they're now perceived as powerful. I'm not sure what role Botox and lip collagen injections play in all of this, but it seems much of the new cougar-dom has to do with the growing number of women who are financially independent. After all, plas-

tic surgery has been around since the age of the lounge lizard.

Still, I suspect that a majority of middle-age women, single or not, are more comfortable being tabby cats than cougars. Forget about prowling the canyons with a young lad in Spandex. I prefer sprawling by the fireplace with a dude in comfort-fit khakis who's nostalgic about the last time he had tickets to a Led Zeppelin tour.

Hey, more power to the cougars. But it does sound a little exhausting.

Sue Hutchison is a columnist for the San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News.

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Understanding of solar system not what it used to be

By ROBERT S. BOYD
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Move over, Copernicus. Your once-revolutionary idea — that the Earth revolves around the sun rather than the other way around — has been eclipsed.

Recent years have brought a sweeping new revolution in solar system astronomy. The Earth still orbits the sun, as Copernicus declared 400 years ago, but the planetary system in the textbooks you studied is now out of date.

“The entire view of astronomy you learned in high school has changed dramatically,” said Alan Stern, NASA’s associate administrator for science. “We’re really in a new age of discovery.”

Stern and other astronomers offered a revised description of the solar system at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science last month in Boston. Stern said it differed from the previous understanding in several major ways:

— First, until recently, people thought there were two parts to the solar system: four small, rocky inner planets — Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars — and four gas giant outer planets — Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Uranus. Then there was Pluto, a “lone misfit,” Stern said, with a highly eccentric orbit and a rakish tilt of its axis.

“That was the old view,” he said. “Now, there are no more misfits. Plutos abound.”

Under the new definition, the International Astronomical Union has officially recognized 11 planets: eight traditional ones plus three “dwarf planets.” The dwarfs are Pluto; Ceres, which was thought to be an asteroid between Mars and Jupiter; and Eris, an object that’s slightly larger than Pluto and farther from the sun.

At least 40 more dwarfs have

been spotted even farther out and are awaiting official recognition. They bear names such as Quaoar, Sedna, Orcus, Varuna and Ixion. Dozens of others are known only by code numbers.

Stern said the solar system now was thought to be composed of three zones instead of two.

The four rocky planets make up the inner zone. The gas giants form a “middle solar system.” Beyond them lies an enormous third zone composed of the Kuiper Belt and the Oort Cloud, both named for the astronomers who predicted their existence.

“This third class of planets vastly outnumbers the terrestrial planets and gas giants,” Stern said.

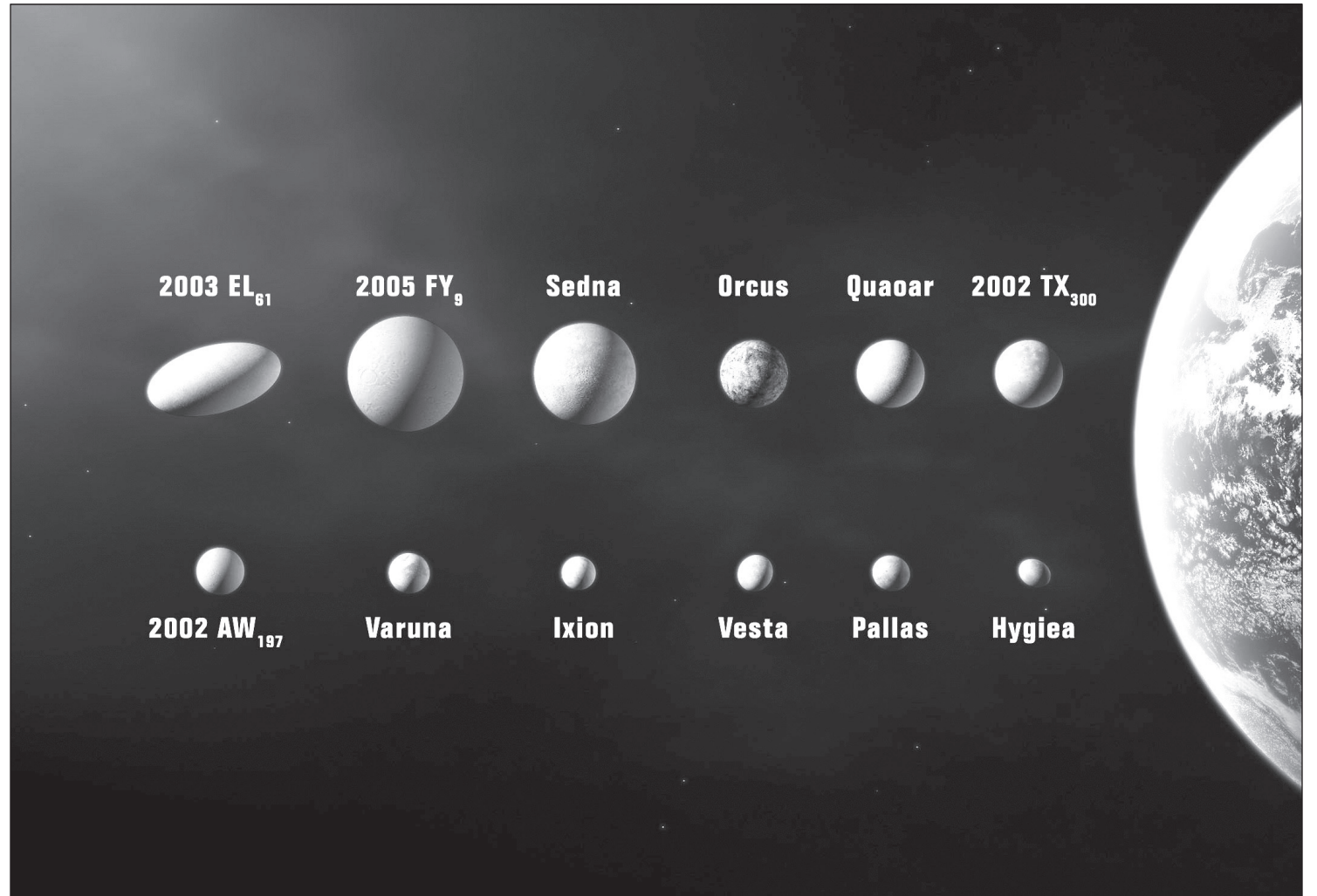
The Kuiper Belt, which was discovered in the 1990s, is a ring of dwarf planets, including Pluto, and smaller icy objects that range from 3 billion to 5 billion miles beyond the sun.

More than 1,000 Kuiper Belt objects have been detected, and astronomers think there may be 50,000 to 100,000 more. Most are small, but some rival Pluto in size. Some have atmospheres and moons of their own, and some may have warm, wet interiors.

Far outside the Kuiper Belt looms the Oort Cloud, which Stern calls “the solar system’s attic.” The cloud is a gigantic sphere with an outer edge almost 5 trillion miles from the sun and is nearly a quarter of the way to the next nearest star, Proxima Centauri.

“If the Oort Cloud were the diameter of a football stadium, the inner solar system would be the size of a washer one-eighth of an inch in diameter,” said David Aguilar, a spokesman for the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass.

The Oort Cloud is thought



Courtesy of INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION via MCT

Copernicus’ once-revolutionary idea that the Earth revolved around the sun rather than the other way around has been overshadowed. Recent years have brought a sweeping new revolution in solar system astronomy. The Earth still orbits the sun, as Copernicus declared, but the planetary system of the textbooks is now way out of date.

to contain at least 1,000 planetary bodies, some as large as Earth or larger, and as many as a trillion comets. Periodically, a passing star knocks an Oort comet loose and sends it diving toward the sun.

— A second upheaval in planetary science is the realization that most members of the solar system weren’t born where they are now. Instead, gravitational forces forced them to migrate from their birthplaces to their present homes.

“This is a true revolution,” Stern said.

“The planets didn’t necessarily form where we see them today,” said Douglas Lin, an astronomer at the University of California-Santa Cruz. “They move all over

the place.”

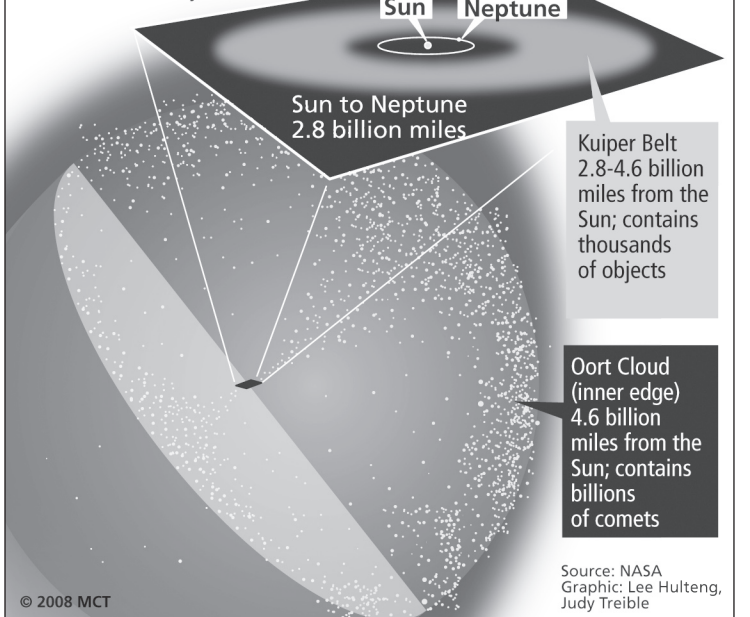
For example, the giant planets Neptune and Uranus formed where Saturn now lives and drifted outward to their present orbits.

— The third revolution in planetary science is the realization that making planets is a common process in the universe. In the past dozen years, 276 planets — some of them forming miniature solar systems — have been detected orbiting other stars. One such system has at least five planets. Astronomers discover an average of 25 planets each year.

NASA will launch a new spaceship, named Kepler, next year hoping to find hundreds more of such faraway planets.

Expanding solar system

Scientists now know much more revolves around the Sun than the eight planets of the inner solar system.



Supreme Court gun-control case divides state attorneys general

By JOHN GRAMLICH
Stateline.org

WASHINGTON — A gun-control case to be argued before the U.S. Supreme Court on March 18 has exposed a division among state attorneys general over the meaning of the Second Amendment, the fiercely debated constitutional provision that guarantees Americans the right to “keep and bear arms.”

Attorneys general from 31 states have filed a legal brief urging the high court to strike down the law being challenged in the case, the District of Columbia’s strict, 32-year-old ban on handguns. Led by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, a Republican, the group backs

a security guard who wants the district’s statute to be ruled unconstitutional.

Lending their support to the District of Columbia are attorneys general from five other states — Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York — who say reasonable regulation of dangerous firearms is constitutional and keeps the public safe. A sixth attorney general, Democrat Lisa Madigan of Illinois, sided with the district in an earlier court filing, but declined to join the supporting states’ latest brief.

The opposing views of the state attorneys general — who this week are attending their annual meeting in Washington,

D.C. — are among more than 60 “friend of the court” briefs filed by elected officials, interest groups, academics and others in an effort to influence the Supreme Court. The politically charged case even has divided the Bush administration: Vice President Dick Cheney joined 305 members of Congress in urging the court to strike down the handgun ban, while Justice Department lawyers recommended remanding the case to a lower court for further review.

Filed as D.C. v. Heller, the case hinges on whether the security guard, Washington resident Dick Anthony Heller, may bring his work-issued handgun

home with him to protect himself in what he considers a dangerous area of the nation’s capital. Heller is challenging a district ordinance that forbids handguns at home and requires rifles and shotguns to be disassembled or trigger-locked.

The district says the ordinance improves public safety by keeping small, easy-to-conceal handguns off the streets, though that assertion has been fiercely challenged. Gun violence remains a problem in the district, where 181 people were murdered last year, and dozens of handguns have been seized by police in recent months. Supporters of the handgun ban stress that it has reduced violence and would be even more effective if the district’s neighbors, Maryland and Virginia, had similar laws in place.

Attorneys for Heller contend the district’s ban plainly violates the Second Amendment: “A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep

and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

The case marks the justices’ first evaluation of the Second Amendment since 1939, and raises a question that has been debated for decades: wheth-

“We think that a decision that the Second Amendment prohibits strict gun control laws is just wrong.”

Mark J. Bennett
Hawaii attorney general

er the amendment provides an individual right to possess guns, as Heller’s lawyers argue, or a collective right associated with service in a “militia,” such as a state-run National Guard unit.

If the court finds gun ownership to be an individual right, lawyers on both sides of the debate say, the case could leave state and local statutes across the country vulnerable to legal attack. That has

prompted state attorneys general to enter the debate.

“We certainly believe the decision could affect Hawaii laws,” Republican Hawaii Attorney General Mark J. Bennett told Stateline.org in a telephone interview. “We think that a decision that the Second Amendment prohibits strict gun-control laws is just wrong.”

Hawaii and the other states supporting the District of Columbia in the case have gun restrictions that are among the toughest in the nation, according to a state-by-state ranking released earlier this year by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, a Washington, D.C.-based group that advocates for tough gun-control laws.

While no states have outright handgun bans like the district’s — only the city of Chicago does — the five states whose attorneys general are supporting the district do restrict the sale of assault weapons such as semi-automatic firearms, according to the Brady Campaign.

Most TCU Students drink 4 or fewer alcoholic drinks if they drink at all

76% of TCU Students reported that they consumed 4 or fewer alcoholic drinks per week within the past year*

ME AND MY GANG



For More Information Contact TCU Alcohol & Drug Education Center
Rec Center Basement 257-7100

* CORE Survey administered Spring 2005

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ATHLETICS ADMINISTRATION

Addition to satellite provider boosts viewership of games

By MEGAN MOWERY
Staff Reporter

A new deal to broadcast the Mountain West Conference's sports network on satellite doesn't mean more money for conference schools, but TCU's athletics director said the deal will result in more national exposure.

Javan Hedlund, Mountain West Conference spokesman, said the revenue will stay the same for Mountain West Conference members, such as TCU. He said the Mtn. will receive profits from DirecTV, but the 10-year, \$120 million contract with the MWC universities will stay the same.

DirecTV, which offers

more than 256 channels to 16.8 million U.S. customers, announced it will begin carrying the Mtn. in September, said Hayden Ellis, communications manager for the Mtn. Before the agreement, the Mtn. broadcast to 1.4 million homes on cable.

He said before the DirecTV agreement, announced Feb. 22, the Mtn. was available on cable throughout the MWC with the exception of the Fort Worth area, so TCU was the most affected school in the conference.

Ellis said the agreement is good for the Mtn. because it helps the network pay MWC universities for broadcast rights. Ellis said he could not

discuss the contract agreement between DirecTV and the Mtn. but he said it is long term.

Athletics director Danny Morrison said he is excited TCU sports will be broadcast by satellite because it will give TCU fans anywhere in the country the ability to watch the games.

Hedlund said the expanded distribution will also help with recruiting.

Kim Carver, vice president

and general manager of the Mtn., said MWC fans have fueled the network's recent growth.

"We are excited to share the passions, rivalries and pioneering spirit of Mountain West athletics with DirecTV customers and college sports fans across the country," Carver said.

"The Mtn. continues to grow because of the energy and dedication of Mountain West fans and their desire for in-

depth, comprehensive college sports coverage."

Morrison said he hopes the satellite deal will fuel more similar deals in the future.

"We hope it will encourage other satellite carriers to follow, as well as cable companies in the Fort Worth area," he said.

Although DirecTV has not decided programming package details, Hedlund said, the Mtn. will probably be included in three DirecTV sports packages: Total Choice, Total Choice Extra and the Sports Package.

He said it is possible that markets with MWC universities will get the Mtn. on Total Choice or Total Choice Extra,

but cities farther west will probably have to purchase the Sports Package, which is more expensive.

The Mtn., which is jointly owned by Comcast and CBS College Sports Network, premiered in 2006 as the first network dedicated to a college athletic conference.

According to a news release, the network covers more than 200 college sporting events, including football, basketball, Olympic sports and conference championship coverage. It also has news programming, coaches' shows, pre- and post-game analysis and feature programming about MWC athletics.

BASEBALL

NINTH-INNING SURPRISE



MARCUS MURPHREE / Multimedia Editor
Second baseman Ben Carruthers tries to push a bunt past the University of Texas at Arlington Mavericks infield Tuesday night. The Horned Frogs tied their least amount of runs allowed in a game this season, winning 3-2. The victory also pushes TCU back to .500 on the season. Carruthers had one hit during the game and left five runners stranded on base.

The Horned Frogs preserved a strong outing from freshman pitcher Sean Hoelscher with a walk-off single to earn a 3-2 win over the University of Texas at Arlington Mavericks. The win Tuesday night snapped a two-game skid for the Horned Frogs and was the first of a seven-game home stand.

For the full story, see DAILYSKIFF.COM

BRETT'S BREAKDOWN

Young squad's schedule tests ability to grow

By BRETT LARSON
Sports Editor

It is the beginning of the season. Start things off slow and take it easy by scheduling light-weight teams that won't cause too many problems.

The wins pad the overall record, allow players to ease into a season and could help provide a boost in the rankings.

For a team like the TCU baseball squad, lower-level ball clubs could have been an ideal way to start the season.

The Horned Frogs are coming off a ranked, conference-winning year, but are a team in transition having lost their starting rotation and middle of the batting order.

An easy schedule could be really beneficial for TCU.

But the team went the opposite route with an early non-conference schedule laden with quality opponents, with four of its 10 opening opponents in the top 25.

The USA Today/ESPN poll has Ole Miss ranked No. 4 in the nation and Wichita State No. 19.

Rivals.com has Cal State Fullerton in the No. 20 spot and Pepperdine at No. 24.

Throw in Tulane, which has flirted with the top-25 rankings early in the season, and TCU has an incredibly formidable opening stretch.

At 4-4, the team's .500 pace is more impressive than say 7-1 against unknowns.

A 1-4 record against top-tier opponents is not the best indicator either, with two of those losses coming in the late innings.

TCU still has a three-game series against Ole Miss and Wichita State to look forward to — the brut of its non-conference schedule.

This trial-by-fire approach is strengthening a squad of unproven players, molding a team that knows what the top competition looks like.

TCU is not going to out-power many teams this season, and the young pitching staff might not always be able to out-duel top squads' ace pitchers, but the team recognizes this and accepts its dirtbag status.

With Tuesday's win over the Texas State Bobcats, the Horned Frogs proved their consistent pitching and hitting approach can come up big in the bottom of the ninth.

Playing ranked teams should help TCU further establish this identity, which could really shine during its conference schedule.

The Horned Frogs have won the Mountain West the past two years and are predicted to come out on top again.

San Diego State University has been ranked in the top 25 this season, and could provide a real threat for the Horned Frog's conference dominance.

After the schedule TCU started with, bring on the conference games.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team aims for milestone win against conference foe

By JOHN BOLLER
Staff Reporter

The women's basketball team will bid farewell to one of its best senior classes at senior night today, but the group will still have a chance to help the Lady Frogs reach a historic win.

The 2007-2008 seniors have a record of 106-50 since 2003-2004 while playing together at TCU. Only three other classes in the Lady Frogs' history have had better records.

The only team between the Lady Frogs (18-10, 11-3) and the program's 400th win is the Air Force Falcons (10-6, 4-10). Seniors Lorie Butler-Rayford, Moneka Knight, Jenna Lohse and Adrienne Ross have totaled 3,754 points, 1,829 rebounds, 1,057 assists and 723 steals in their careers.

In this season, the five seniors have tallied 1,115 points, 533 rebounds, 269 assists and 184 steals. Ross leads the team in points per game, total steals and assists, and is second on the team in blocks. Butler-Rayford has been hitting the glass consistently all season, and her team-leading 7.1 rebounds per game prove her ability under the basket. Knight and Roden have been on fire all season and are shooting .774 and .791 from the field.

The underclassmen have also played a significant role during the 2007-2008 season. TCU had three freshmen play in a total of 78 games and start in 42 of the contests. Leading them was Helena Sverrisdottir.

Sverrisdottir has played in 28 games and started in 27 of them. She is the third-leading scorer for the Lady Frogs at 9.4 points a game, and her 5.8 rebounds a game are second best. She is also the only freshman who is in the Mountain West Conference statistical rankings. She is No. 11 in assists, tied for No. 12 in rebounding and is in the top 25 in scoring.

The next freshman to play in the most games was Emily Carter. She played in 26 and started in two. Micah Garoutte saw the fewest games for a freshman with 24, but started in 12.



ANH PHAM / Staff Photographer
Freshman Helena Sverrisdottir rises for a layup against the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The Lady Frogs take on the Air Force Falcons tonight for the possible 400th win in team history.

FOR YOUR INFO
Air Force vs. TCU

When: 6:30 p.m. today
Where: Daniel-Meyer Coliseum
What: Senior Night
Stakes: Possibility for the 400th win in TCU women's basketball history.