

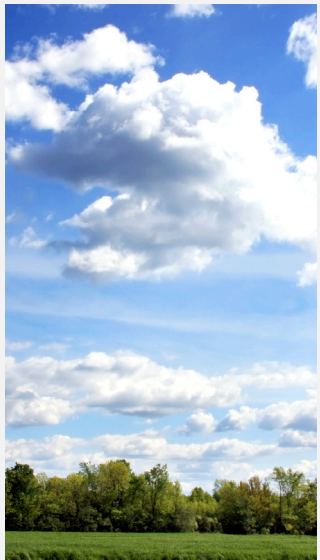


See Friday's paper for this year's basketball preview.

TODAY'S HEADLINES

Opinion: Electoral College outdated, nullifies all but swing states, page 3

Sports: Columnists debate MWC duel, page 8



Take advantage of the warm weather before it's too late.

Opinion, page 3

HARDCOVER FICTION BEST SELLERS

- 1 Extreme Measures by Vince Flynn
 - 2 The Brass Verdict by Michael Connelly
 - 3 The Lucky One by Nicholas Sparks
 - 4 Bones by Jonathan Kellerman
 - 5 The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski
 - 6 Rough Weather by Robert B. Parker
 - 7 A Lion Among Men by Gregory Maguire
 - 8 Testimony by Anita Shreve
 - 9 A Most Wanted Man by John le Carre
 - 10 Dark Summer by Iris Johansen
- New York Times

PECULIAR FACT

HARRIMAN, Tenn. — Ken Mink, a 73-year-old full-time student, scored two points Monday night in Roane State Community College's 93-42 victory over King College's junior varsity. Mink entered the game with about 6 minutes left, was fouled and made two free throws.

— Associated Press

TODAY'S WEATHER

74 45
HIGH LOW
Sunny

Tomorrow: Sunny
73 / 47
Saturday: Sunny
76 / 58



Please remember to recycle this newspaper.



Education best investment for graduating seniors.
Tomorrow in Opinion



New campus group will focus on small-scale lending for the poor.
Tomorrow in News

Report suggests changes to history studies

Jason Fochtman
Staff Reporter

When history professor Jodi Campbell first read a National History Center report calling for the revamping of undergraduate and graduate history curricula in schools nationwide, she thought the history department would have to play catchup. But after reading it, she found that the department was ahead of the game.

Campbell, who is also on the department's undergraduate committee, said the changes the report is pushing, such as focusing on broader ideas instead of names and dates, are exactly the things the department has been stressing.

Changes in undergraduate and graduate history programs such as sequencing courses and embracing interdisciplinary work among departments, are necessary to improve the quality of a student's history

education, according to the 2008 Role of the History Major in Liberal Education report issued by the National History Center, an organization that focuses on the study and teaching of history.

Reforms suggested in the report include examining the feasibility of concentration requirements within history majors to allow students to study one subject in depth. According to the report, one-third of institutions surveyed

require a specialization or concentration within the major.

Campbell said the department has not discussed that option, and said she is not certain that specializing would benefit most students, unless they plan to pursue graduate school.

"History is so big that in the handful of hours they can take at the undergradu-

SEE HISTORY · PAGE 2

ON THE LINE



The Horned Frogs' offensive line and the Utah Utes' defensive line prepare to clash in last season's meeting on Oct. 18, 2007. Utah won 27-20.

Frogs, Utes clash for MWC lead

The No. 12 Horned Frogs will face the No. 8 Utah Utes tonight in a game that has major implications on the Mountain West Conference and the Bowl Championship Series.

A win tonight for TCU means it will clinch at least a portion of the MWC title game and be one win away from a chance at a BCS bowl.

A loss dashes any hope of a BCS bowl and maybe a share of the MWC title.

These two teams are evenly matched, but TCU has already played two top-10 opponents, while this will be Utah's first game against a ranked opponent.

Full story, page 8

NUMBERS

BCS Rankings
TCU No. 12
Utah No. 8
Total Offense
TCU No. 29
Utah No. 32
Total Defense
TCU No. 2
Utah No. 7

SEE FROG DAY · PAGE 2

Group to host fair for local children

By Victoria Maranan
Staff Reporter

An event where student organizations collaborate and organize a "fair day" for underprivileged children will launch for the first time Saturday on the Campus Commons lawn, sophomore Kate Jones said.

"These children are a reality that they do need help and we can help them even with having something as simple as a fair day for them," Jones said. "It means a lot to children when you give them attention and when you make them feel worthwhile."

Frog Day

When: 1-5:30 p.m. Nov. 8
Where: Campus Commons

Frog Day, sponsored by the TCU chapter of Circle K International, is a way for the community to reach out and motivate others to do the same, Jones said.

Frog Day will have booths with activities and carnival games promoting the event's themes: safety, fitness, teamwork, environmental and cultural awareness.

The day will start with volunteers taking the children to watch the volleyball game against Colorado State, Jones said.

The game tickets are provided through funds from Circle K's past fundraisers, she said.

Circle K contacted businesses in the area to donate some of their products to be used as prizes for the event, said Kerry Seaver, presi-

Author to speak about sustainability

By Brittany Adams
Staff Reporter

Doug Fine, author of "Farewell, My Subaru," will speak to the campus community about living green, sustainability and how it dramatically changed his life at the Dee J. Kelly Alumni Center tonight.

"Farewell, My Subaru" is Fine's real-life account of how everything can go wrong when an average man tries to cut oil out of his life. Fine struggles with coyotes eating his chickens, a near-death experience while installing solar panels and many other challenges of going green.

Fine lives with his goats on a farm in New Mexico — Funky Butte Ranch — where he can get everything he needs from vegetables to milk. Fine has altered his truck, which he calls "R.O.A.T." (ridiculously oversized American truck) to run on vegetable oil. He also installed solar energy panels for his home.

Keith Whitworth, a professor in the sociology department, said he hopes students,

SEE AUTHOR · PAGE 2

Students design displays for nonprofit

By Mischa Astroff
Staff Reporter

Fashion merchandising students are using their design skills in a project for a local nonprofit organization to support ongoing services for the victims of domestic violence.

Students in Patti Warrington's promotion principles class are partnering with SafeHaven of Tarrant County to create window displays in the department of design, merchandising and textiles building.

The displays use clothing from the organization's local resale retail store, Berry Good Buys, in order to help better promote the business to students.

"SafeHaven contacted us last spring about designing some displays for Berry Good Buys," Warrington said. "We wanted to explore ways that students could help display merchandise and Berry Good Buys turned out to be a good challenge for the students."

Sophomore fashion merchandising

major Becca Zielinski said she is able to apply what she learned in class to the project.

"Everything we've talked about in class helped us work through the planning and problems with the displays," Zielinski said.

Shannon Coffey, also a sophomore fashion merchandising major in Warrington's class, said working on this project has been rewarding.

"Fixing problems with the design and seeing the display come together really gave a sense of accomplishment," Coffey said.

Berry Good Buys sells donated clothing to fund SafeHaven of Tarrant County, which provides assistance and emergency shelter programs to victims of domestic violence. According to their Web site, SafeHaven of Tarrant County runs two emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, a 24-hour crisis hotline, counseling and legal and educational services.

Sarah McClellan-Brandt, community

Window Displays

Berry Good Buys is located at 1701 W. Berry St. and the displays can be seen in the department of design, merchandising, and textiles building located at 2722 W. Berry St.

relations coordinator for SafeHaven of Tarrant County, said the fashion merchandising department was contacted as part of a campaign to revamp Berry Good Buys' business plan.

"So far, the campaign has been successful," McClellan-Brandt said.

Danna Wall, the Berry Good Buys store manager, agreed with McClellan-Brandt.

"The displays have helped sales a bit," Wall said. "I just wish more of the public could see the displays."

Wall said she didn't have an exact number for the increase in sales, but she had definitely seen an increase.

The displays will be up until Nov. 14.

NEWS

HISTORY

continued from page 1

ate level, I think it serves people better to get a variety of classes," Campbell said. "You've got the graduate level if you want to specialize more."

Campbell said graduate schools would look at a student's transcript and see whether the course a student took showed an interest in a particular area.

The report was conducted by the National History Center in response to a request by the Teagle Foundation, an organization that raises money to help improve the quality of higher education.

Researchers looked at history major requirements at 55 schools, including state universities, private research universities, comprehensive public institutions, liberal arts colleges and religious colleges and universities.

Sequencing similar courses throughout the major is another necessary change, according to the report.

Stanley Katz, co-chair for the committee that issued the report and director of the Princeton University Center for Arts and Cultural Policy Studies, said in a telephone interview that the committee was concerned about students possibly taking advanced courses without any background.

"We think that students are better served by getting a broad view of what the field is all about, and then moving on to more specialized work," Katz said.

Some history departments offer several courses that do not establish prerequisites, Katz said.

Campbell said even though she can see the value of sequencing, she said it can be restrictive.

"Our students have a wide va-

riety of backgrounds and there are students who have enough background, such as AP History or reading done on their own, that we don't want to exclude them," Campbell said.

Peter Worthing, director of graduate studies for the history department, said even though

"Our students have a wide variety of backgrounds and there are students who have enough background, such as AP History or reading done on their own, that we don't want to exclude them."

Jodi Campbell
History professor

he is glad the department has already addressed some reforms listed in the report, some areas, such as interdisciplinary work between college departments, could be improved on the graduate level.

Faculty and graduate school resources, and the way history faculty view their role are two areas that need to be addressed in order for interdisciplinary to be successful, Worthing said.

English and history are the only two doctorate programs in the AddRan College of Liberal Arts, Worthing said. If a history student wants to take a graduate course in another department

that does not have a graduate program, the history department must ask a faculty member

in that department to come up with special arrangements for the students, he said. This means asking a professor to do more work without any compensation, he added.

"If there were more graduate programs, then we could have this free exchange," Worthing said.

Even though some faculty members have embraced interdisciplinary roles, Worthing said more could be done.

"Some of these students have an inclination to do this, but I'm not sure that we encourage them that much, or that we provide role models for that kind of approach," Worthing said.

According to the report, the Teagle Foundation plans to conduct a follow-up grant program for five to 10 history departments that commit to implementing and discussing the reforms outlined in the report.

Even though the foundation does not have the money to finance that program, the National History Center is hopeful it will be able to raise enough money to implement the program, Katz said.

The money raised would allow a department to finance small operations such as holding meetings and paying for a faculty member to create new introductory courses, Katz said.

Katz said that while the decision would be up to the people who funded the program, he expects schools would basically select themselves by applying to the program.

Campbell said she didn't think the department would need to apply for the grant program because of the university's high level of internal support for things such as creating new courses.

FROG DAY

continued from page 1

dent of Circle K.

"Some of the prizes were ordered from carnival stores," she said. "Ben and Jerry's donated pints, Putt-Putt donated golf coupons and Six Flags donated tickets to give away to the kids as an incentive to do well in school."

Seaver said Frog Day is Circle K's biggest event for the fall semester.

There are about 35 children invited from the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Fort Worth to attend the fair.

The Boys & Girls Club is an organization that provides services, such as education programs, to disadvantaged children and adolescents.

Dora Uribe, Circle K's contact in the Boys & Girls Club, was unavailable for comment.

Jones said Frog Day is different from LEAPS, another community service organization, because the activities are on campus.

Ryan Scarbrough, a sophomore member of Circle K, said Frog Day is more accessible to those who are wanting to help out.

"Being on campus makes it more convenient for some people who might be discouraged by going off campus to seek out volunteer opportunities," he said.

About 40 volunteers are signed up, and anyone who wants to help is welcome to participate, Jones said.

Organizations like Soul Steppers, Calling In Action, Frogs for our Future, Frogs for Fair Trade and Brothers Under Christ are among those participating in the event, she said.

Jones pointed out that Circle K invited only one children's organization to attend because of safety reasons.

"These children are a reality, that they do need help and we can help them even with having something as simple as a fair day for them."

Kate Jones
sophomore founder of Frog Day

"Nobody wants to believe that anything bad is going to happen," she said. "But we still need to make sure that these kids are taken care of."

TCU Police will be providing security to keep an eye on volunteers and children to ensure that everyone is safe and having a good time, Jones said.

AUTHOR

continued from page 1

staff and faculty will learn from Fine one or more ways of how to make sustainability a lifestyle within the context of their everyday lives.

"He chose to radically alter his lifestyle, but we can all create a

smaller version of our own Funky Butte Ranch," Whitworth said.

Fine grew up in Long Island, N.Y., and graduated from Stanford University with a degree in journalism. Since graduating, Fine has freelanced for the Washington Post, Salon, U.S. News and World Report, Sierra, Wired, Outside and recently appeared on The Tonight

Show with Jay Leno.

In 2004, Fine wrote "Not Really an Alaskan Mountain Man," which is about his experience in trying to adjust to rural Alaskan life and the unique hardships he had to face.

This event is open to the public and starts at 7 p.m. Thursday. For more information contact Keith Whitworth at 817-257-5941.

NEW PERSPECTIVE



CHANCE WELCH / Staff Reporter

An onlooker admires an art installation at the "Electioneering" exhibit Wednesday night at Fort Worth Contemporary Arts. Joshua Okon's "Staphylococcus" takes faces from Mexican political posters and clusters them in the shape of a strain of the staph bacteria.

QUICK NEWS

Woman robbed at gunpoint

A TCU administrator was robbed Tuesday night near Charleston's Restaurant in the 3000 block of S. Hulen St., according to a Fort Worth Police report.

The administrator was held at gunpoint at 6:29 p.m. Tuesday while walking to a friend's birthday dinner, according to the report.

The suspect took the victim's purse from her and jumped in the passenger side of a car, according to the report. The suspect then drove off in the car, heading south on S. Hulen Street, according to the report. Some of the administrator's

property was found and returned to her, according to the report.

— Staff reporter Travis L. Brown

SGA passes resolution to support creation of new minor

The Student Government Association House of Representatives passed a resolution Tuesday night in support of a legal studies minor.

A legal studies minor would allow students to conduct research of political processes and institutions and engage in professional development along with community service. Students who are interested in law

school will have more leverage against other students with a pre-law degree, according to the resolution.

Candace Ruocco, head of the Academic Affairs committee, said the classes for the minor would fall into the typical unofficial pre-law program.

After being approved by SGA, the resolution will go to faculty who run the pre-law program for approval before proposal to the political science department. From there, it will be presented to Michael Butler, associate dean of the AddRan College of Liberal Arts, for further study.

— Staff reporter Brittany Adams

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OPINION

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The Skiff View

Requiring specialization restricts history majors

A report released by the National History Center has shed light on the status of the university's history department. It appears it is keeping up with comparable programs; however, there is still room for improvement.

The report suggested that history departments nationwide focus on broader ideas instead of solely names and dates, and the university's history program has already been emphasizing this concept.

But one thing the report and the program do not agree on is the feasibility of requiring specializations in the undergraduate curriculum. History professor Jodi Campbell pointed out that students would be better off taking a wide variety of classes rather than studying a specific topic in-depth. Graduate school will give students a chance to specialize, she said.

She is right. Students should be able to explore various corners of the discipline so they can gain insight on what they would like to study further at graduate school.

Furthermore, to require concentrations would pigeonhole students into a topic about which they might not be passionate. It would also strain the university's resources to provide experts in specific areas.

The current state of the history department allows students to specialize if they'd like. Students interested in Asian history can enroll in classes such as Asian Civilization courses and The Vietnam War. Students interested in American history can concentrate on classes such as The American Presidency or Civil War and Reconstruction. These opportunities allow students to show off their interests to prospective graduate schools when they look at their transcripts.

Even though a wider array of specializations would be helpful, the department is doing a good job in staying reasonable with its given resources. The program has room to grow, but there is no problem with taking it one step at a time.

Web editor Saerom Yoo for the editorial board.

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

YOUR VIEW opinion@dailyskiff.com

Election over, time to come together

It's 11:30 p.m. Tuesday and I've been watching the election results from my hometown, because I came home to vote. I'm on Facebook, just like 210 of my closest online friends. In the past five minutes, there have been about 100 "Good-bye America" status changes, several threats from peers of moving to Europe, Canada or Australia, and many thoughts on how the country will move forward as "socialist America."

That's all fine and dandy. Everyone is entitled to his or her own opinion. But what's disturbing is I've read more statements regarding the death of President-Elect Barack Obama or about him being a terrorist than I ever have wanted to. Granted, Texas is a red state; we all know that. But it's not right to be a bigot.

The color of a person's skin should not be a factor in this election. Let me repeat: the color of Obama's skin should not be a factor in why you voted for or against him. Same thing with Sen. John McCain and his age. Disagreeing with Obama's platform is one thing because that's your right as an American to stand for what you believe in, but expressing hatred toward him for any reason is not patriotic.

I stand by my statement because hatred shouldn't be prevailing in our country right now. If anything, it's time throw our differences aside and unite, regardless if the candidate you voted for didn't tri-

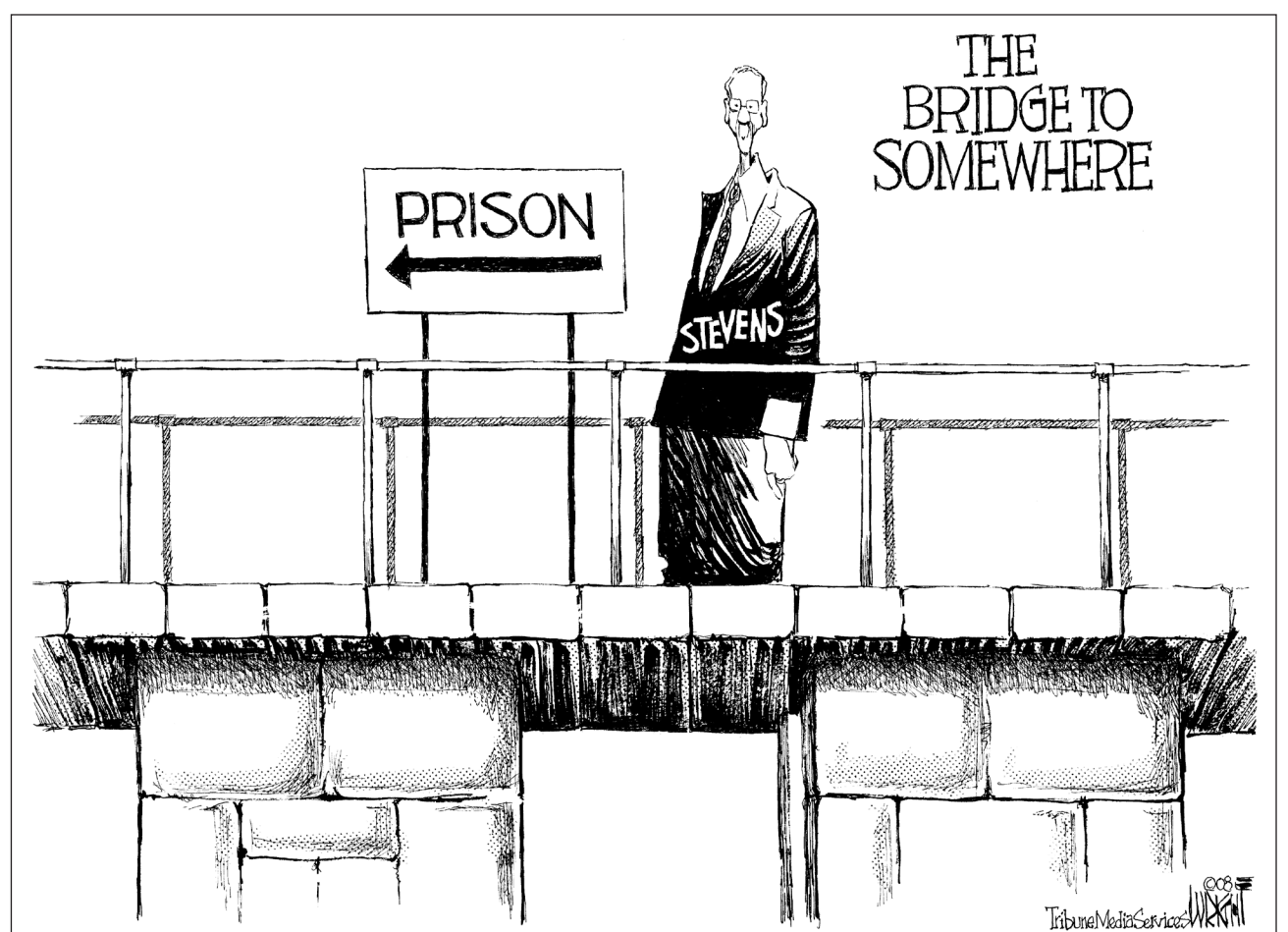
umph. You might not agree with him and you might not be happy about it, but he's the president-elect now. Accept it.

I consider myself a pretty moderate person politically. I'm not an extremist on either end — say what you will about that, I've heard it all before. But I did vote for a specific party, and unfortunately my party did not win. Was I disappointed? Yes. Did it facilitate feelings of wanting to move out of the country? Furthermore, did it cause me to call Barack Obama names? No, it didn't.

I voted for John McCain because I felt my beliefs were better projected in him, not because I didn't want Barack Obama in office. I'm proud that so many people our age are passionate about voting — it's such a huge step in the right direction because back in 2004, the country was begging our generation to step up and vote. But what makes me upset is the amount of hate coming from this election.

It's been an eye-opening experience to say the least. If anything, I encourage everyone to keep the passionate thoughts and feelings flowing. It's what makes our country great. But our country is also great because of all of the different people we have within it. So choose to move past the hatred and move forward with your life, regardless if you're a "Yes We Can" visionary or a Maverick.

Kirbie Johnson is a senior advertising/public relations major from Georgetown.



Don Wright is a political cartoonist for The Palm Beach Post.

Electoral College outdated; nullifies all but swing states

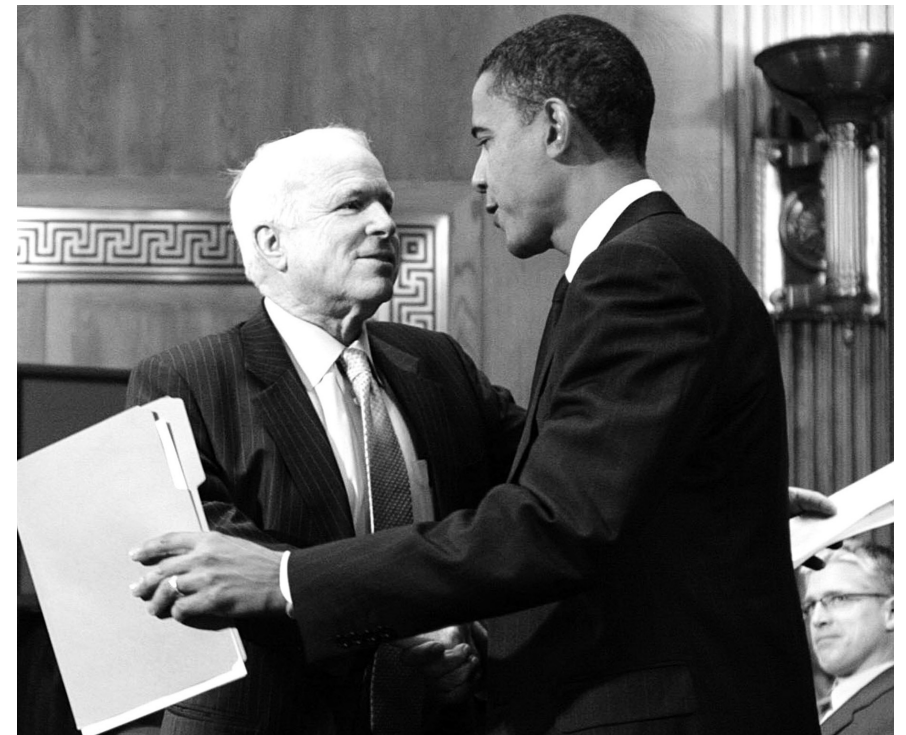
Feeling relief now that Election Day is finally over? Think again. The real election won't take place until Dec. 15. That's when the Electoral College meets to pick the winner — and it hasn't always been the candidate with the highest number of popular votes.

The popular vote is for a slate of representatives to the Electoral College, where the electors choose the next president. More than once, the candidate with the highest number of popular votes has come up short, thanks to the way votes are distributed by states on a winner-take-all basis. The last time was in 2000, when Al Gore lost to George W. Bush despite receiving 543,816 more popular votes.

Isn't it time to get rid of this horse-and-buggy-era political contraption?

The theory behind the Electoral College was it would create a rough balance between states with large and small populations. Without such protection, small states feared that they would be overlooked as presidential candidates campaigned in states with the most voters. Because it was the states that created the central government, this made sense to the framers of the Constitution.

In the modern era, however, it's the states with some of the highest populations — California, New York and Texas among them — that usually are ignored because the outcomes in those states are considered a done deal. Indeed, Florida is the most populous state to enjoy — if that is the right word — a real presidential campaign,



MCT

because it's a swing state.

These days, candidates focus almost entirely on a few states where the race is close, regardless of size, thanks to the Electoral College. In 2004, President Bush and Sen. John Kerry spent almost 90 percent of their campaign time and money in fewer than a dozen states. This tends to depress turnout in states that are overlooked. It discourages potential voters who believe their vote has no real significance.

Giving swing states more clout is inherently undemocratic. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., says it also violates the basic principle of one man, one vote. He's right. Sen. Nelson wants to get rid of the Electoral College through a constitutional amendment. That, however,

would require a two-thirds' majority in Congress and approval of 37 state legislatures, an almost impossible political obstacle.

There is another way. Four states — Hawaii, Illinois, New Jersey and Maryland — already have passed bills to cast their state's electoral votes for the winner of the national popular vote. This would take effect when states with an electoral majority — 270 of the 538 electoral votes — also have passed such laws.

The sooner we are rid of the Electoral College, the more representative our democracy will be.

This editorial appeared in the Miami Herald on Wednesday.

On eve of winter, take advantage of Mother Nature's gifts



PATRICIA ESPINOSA

Last year's winter season seemed to last forever. I remember being so eager for flowers to start blooming again and flip-flops and Nike shorts to make their 2008 spring debut. It was heaven when that day finally came.

Unfortunately, that time has come and is about to be gone, if not already. Chilling weather is just around the corner. The leaves have begun to fall, the air is cooler and the notorious UGGs have already been spotted. As much as I love the cold weather that brings yummy hot chocolate and layers of warm, soft clothing, I'll miss being able to keep my windows rolled all the way down driving to and from

school. I'll miss walking to class in perfect 75-degree weather without lugging a sweatshirt or a North Face jacket around. Luckily, I still have a bit of time, and you do too.

Students should take advantage of the beautiful days we still have before it gets so cold that 10 minutes outside is more than enough time for a nose to freeze. Yes, lately the wind has made us all feel like El Nino is out in full force, but it's still no excuse.

It's time to step out of the norm and go out. Take a bike ride around Worth Hills, get some exercise outside and enjoy wearing your most comfortable short-sleeved T-shirts. Have a picnic on Sadler Lawn — maybe a little corny for some, but it's a good place to munch on some snacks, kick back and chill with your friends while you watch the nearby squirrel do the same. Stroll around University Park Village, shop until you drop and take advantage of the many restaurants that have outdoor seating in a great area of Fort Worth. Take a study break at the Fort

Worth Zoo and goof around with the monkeys and apes where you can truly see Mother Nature at her greatest. Have a huge test? Study at the Botanical Gardens. Take full advantage of the calm, serene and beautiful environment and still feel productive. Sit outside the TCU Bookstore, work on a project or buy a book and delve into a whole new world with a cup of joe.

It won't be long before our Texas winter wonderland arrives. December is coming, and there is no doubt in my mind it'll be colder before then. Too long will we be cooped up in our homes wearing sweatpants and sweat-shirts, chomping down on Christmas cookies and caramel popcorn, watching "A Christmas Story" for the 50th time. Go outside and enjoy the gorgeous days we've been blessed with. Who knows how long this year's winter will last?

Opinion editor Patricia Espinosa is a junior broadcast journalism major from Mission.



SXC.HU

NEWS



Barack Obama supporters converge at Broad and Chestnut Streets on Tuesday in Philadelphia, Penn.

ELIZABETH ROBERTSON / Philadelphia Inquirer via MCT

Internet army will accompany president-elect to Washington

By Frank Greve
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — A powerful new lobbying force is coming to town: Barack Obama's triumphant army of 3.1 million Internet-linked donors and volunteers.

In a mass e-mail thanking them, written moments before his Grant Park victory speech, Obama put them on notice. "We have a lot to do to get our country back on track, and I'll be in touch soon about what comes next," he wrote.

Many are eager. "I'm going to be sitting at the phone, asking, 'What do you want me to do next? I'm ready,'" said volunteer Courtney Hood, 37, a mother of three from Owings, Md.

How Obama will use his ardent laptop-armed cadres is unclear. So is the extent to which they'll rally behind his priorities, press him for their own or both.

Joe Trippi, the Internet politics guru whose computer geeks made Howard Dean a contender in 2004 and who went on to design Obama's socially networked campaign machine, offers a provocative and educated guess.

Trippi predicted that Obama would use his forces, first and foremost, to intimidate congressional foes of his agenda, rally his allies and forge "one of the most powerful presidencies in American history."

Certainly, Obama reaches the White House with the biggest, best organized, fastest-acting grass-roots

army in the history of presidential campaigning.

Moreover, because his Internet operation was miles ahead of Republican John McCain's, Obama's liberal-to-libertarian electronic activists are in a position to dominate the new political medium much as conservative Republicans dominate talk radio.

As for political utility, many thousands of volunteers such as Hood will be deployable within hours, with great precision and at almost no cost, thanks to the campaign's state-of-the-art information-management systems.

The president-elect's political operatives know, for example, the ZIP codes and hence the congressional districts of each of Obama's million most active campaigners, those who volunteered via his Web site mybarackobama.com. It's a social network that the campaign set up to communicate needs, events and assignments to volunteers.

The profiles that Obama campaigners submitted to the site also reveal which supporters in each district are environmentalists, concerned about health care or keen on government reform.

Moreover, because the so-called "MyBO" site quantified volunteers' participation and fundraising totals digitally, there's a numeric score for each participant's success. It's even adjusted to give more credit for recent help.

"We really know who Obama's

community leaders are," issue by issue, said Thomas Gensemer, the managing director of Blue State Digital, the Washington-based mobilizer of online communities created by four Dean campaign veterans.

Instead of e-mailing members of Congress, Gensemer continued, Obama's most effective supporters will meet with them in their district offices and press them at local town hall meetings.

"Basically, it'll be the president and the people united, with some members of Congress in between, which won't be a very comfortable place to be."

Joe Trippi
Internet politics guru

Trippi offered a more dramatic scenario: "Obama will be able to say, 'These are the 10 members of Congress standing in our way on health care.' Basically, it'll be the president and the people united, with some members of Congress in between, which won't be a very comfortable place to be." A million Obama activists nationwide translate to an average of nearly 2,300 for each of 435 congressional districts. "And if someone in my district had a list of

them with e-mail addresses and a lot of good will, I'd pay a lot of attention to them," said Scott Lilly, a senior staffer for Democrats in the House of Representatives for nearly 30 years.

One question, Lilly continued, is whether Obama's activists are concentrated in liberal urban Democratic districts, where Obama needs no help, and not much of a presence in conservative ones, where resistance is most likely.

For example, Lilly wondered how numerous Obama supporters are in, say, Panama City, Fla. It's a hub of Florida's 2nd Congressional District, in the state's conservative Panhandle and represented by Allen Boyd, a Blue Dog Democrat.

Asked that question in late October, Alvin Peters, the chairman of the Democratic Party in Bay County, which includes Panama City, responded with shock and awe: "I've never seen so much political energy in this district ever," he said.

That's great news for Obama, whose legislative fate may depend most on his ability to persuade conservative Democrats.

What his supporters will accomplish in Republican districts is another uncertainty.

"If they're networked into PTA meetings and barbershops and call-in talk shows, they can let people know that their guy isn't doing what we want him to do. That could be an extraordinarily powerful tool," Lilly said.

Experts: Obama's Congress relations will be complicated

By David Lightman
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama's Washington will be a friendly but probably not overwhelmingly supportive place, since his coattails pulled only about 20 new Democrats into the House of Representatives and five into the Senate.

Obama's ability to work with the 111th Congress, which convenes in January, is likely to be complicated by two factors: Republicans are expected to be a more conservative and combative bloc, and many of the new Democrats are from conservative states and districts with histories of electing GOP members.

"There is not a majority of liberals in the House or the Senate," said Gary Jacobson, a congressional expert at the University of California, San Diego. "He's going to have to listen to the Blue Dog Democrats."

Blue Dogs are approximately 60 moderate-to-conservative House Democrats whose chief priority is reining in spending, a stance that could clash with Obama's promises to spend billions on education, energy and health-care programs, as well as new tax cuts.

Democrats won 254 House seats, a net gain of 18, with eight still undecided. Republicans won 173 seats. In the Senate, Democrats claimed 54 seats to the GOP's 40, with the outcomes of races in Georgia, Minnesota, Alaska and Oregon still uncertain. Independents Bernard Sanders of Vermont and Joe Lieberman of Connecticut caucus with Democrats in the current Congress.

The Democratic gains are less than most new presidents got in modern elections that have reshuffled the existing political order. Ronald Reagan in 1980 came into office with net gains of 33 Republican House and 12 Senate seats. Franklin Roosevelt's Democrats picked up 97 House and 12 Senate seats in 1932. (When the last Democratic president won power — Bill Clinton in 1992 — Democrats picked up only one Senate seat and lost nine House seats. He was bucking a conservative era.)

"If (Obama) had piled up 50 or 60 (House) seats, akin to what happened in 1964, you'd have the numbers where you could do bold things. But the numbers are not there," said Norman Ornstein, a congressional expert at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative research center.

Obama also will find that the remaining Republicans in both houses of Congress want to reposition their party as the staunchly conservative opposition.

Obama is likely to face two

big early tests, one on economics, the other on Iraq policy.

He's expected to fashion a broad economic recovery package that includes his plan of tax breaks for working families, college students and small businesses, while reinstating the pre-2001 top tax brackets of 36 and 39.6 percent for individuals who earn more than \$200,000 a year and families making more than \$250,000.

Analysts think that Obama has a shot at winning an economic program next year because he'll have a Democratic wind at his back. Quick approval would show that the party is willing to act fast on the day's most pressing issue. That desire to act will, at least for awhile, overwhelm fiscally conservative Democrats' desire to trim the deficit, said Maya MacGuineas, the president of the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

"Democrats will feel like auctioneers, just watching the price tags grow and grow," she predicted.

"If (Obama) had piled up 50 or 60 (House) seats, akin to what happened in 1964, you'd have the numbers where you could do bold things. But the numbers are not there."

Norman Ornstein
Congressional expert at the American Enterprise Institute

When Obama turns to other priorities, however, notably energy and health care, he could find growing resistance. While an economic relief package can be sold as a stimulus to combat the weak economy, health care changes cannot. As a result, "it will be very tough to get anything that will cost a lot of money on a permanent basis," Jacobson said.

Obama's other big challenge is to change Iraq policy. On paper, conditions for a new direction look promising, because U.S. casualties are down and polls have found that voters overwhelmingly oppose the war. But changing Iraq policy has always proved to be a tough vote for many lawmakers, particularly in culturally conservative areas, such as those where many Democrats won on Tuesday.

Obama's biggest hurdle could be the specter of 2010 politics. Fundraising for the next election begins almost immediately, meaning that members will cast votes with an eye on how they'll play back home.

As a result, said Ornstein, Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi "has got to be sensitive to the needs and demographics of those swing districts." That means not pushing Democrats from conservative areas into votes their constituents won't like.

"It could be hard for her to get her own party in line," he said. "I didn't see any shift in the direction the Blue Dogs want to take."

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Guard must prove he can lead Kansas

By J. Brady McCollough
McClatchy Newspapers

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Kansas Jayhawks had a bad practice last week, and Sherron Collins knew the drill.

The young guys weren't focused. They hadn't been playing hard all the time. And they were about to get what Kansas coach Bill Self likes to call a "mountain." But before Self could utter a word, Collins fell on his sword.

"It's my fault," Collins told his teammates and coach.

"You're darn right it's your fault," Self agreed.

It didn't matter that Self knew Collins had worked hard during the practice. This season, everything is Collins' fault.

"That sounds like too much to put on one guy, but it's basically true," Self says. "I've told him that, and I mean that."

"The gym would be packed whenever he got ready to play... I had him on the varsity team when he became a seventh grader."

Vernon Leach

Sherron Collins' mentor

There are more bad practices than good ones right now. The Jayhawks are filling the holes left by eight scholarship players — six of whom play professionally, or will — with seven inexperienced bodies. Almost seven months after Collins tossed the ball into the air in celebration at the Alamodome, the defending national champions are in his hands.

That may seem odd, considering Collins hasn't been the most dependable guy. His freshman year, he arrived on campus overweight and was kicked out of his

first two individual workouts because he couldn't keep up.

"Get out!" Self yelled at Collins, who sulked out of Allen Fieldhouse.

In his sophomore year, Collins' knees couldn't take the beating of a full season. He had surgery in the offseason but didn't do the necessary rehab to be ready for the Jayhawks' Canadian exhibition tour over Labor Day weekend.

Collins knows, if this were an election, his opponents would have plenty of smear material. But he vows that he is a leader.

"I think everyone is watching me to see if I'm ready to handle it," Collins says. "I think it's a fair question at this point. Honestly, I think I can handle it. I just love when a lot of pressure and responsibility is on me. I thrive on that."

For the next five months, he'll have every chance to prove it.

Collins is in a reflective mood. The other day, Kansas was in the middle of what Collins called a hard practice. The weird thing? He actually enjoyed it.

"I caught myself just looking to the sky, just being thankful for being here," Collins says. "This place changed my life."

He means that now more than ever. In August, when Collins probably should have been working out in Lawrence, he was back home in Chicago recovering from a bout of homesickness. He went back to the streets where he grew up, to the Boys & Girls Club that nurtured him, and realized the opportunity he has at Kansas.

"I just walked down the streets with a few of my friends, going through memories," Collins says. "We played football in this lot. We played basketball behind this house with these crates. Walking through the neighborhood showed me how appreciative I am to make it out of there."

The first thing anybody wants to know about a potential leader is his experience. According to KU

junior transfer Mario Little — Collins' friend since they played AAU ball together in Chicago — Collins' life away from basketball may be more important in evaluating his leadership potential than what he has done on the court.

"Sherron has had to be a leader all his life, just growing up, making decisions on his own," Little said.

Growing up in Lathrop Homes on the northwest side of Chicago, Collins was constantly confronted with tough decisions. His mother, Stacey Harris, often had more than one job and was putting in 16-hour days. His father, Steven Collins, was in jail for selling drugs. Most days, it was up to Sherron and his older brother, Steve, to stay out of trouble.

For Sherron, it was simple: Play basketball or end up in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"I had friends that wanted to go the other way — that wanted to not play basketball but do something destructive, and I wouldn't go," Collins says. "If there were six of us, I'd drag three or four with me, be a positive leader. I think it just came naturally. I'm not afraid to let people know they're doing something wrong."

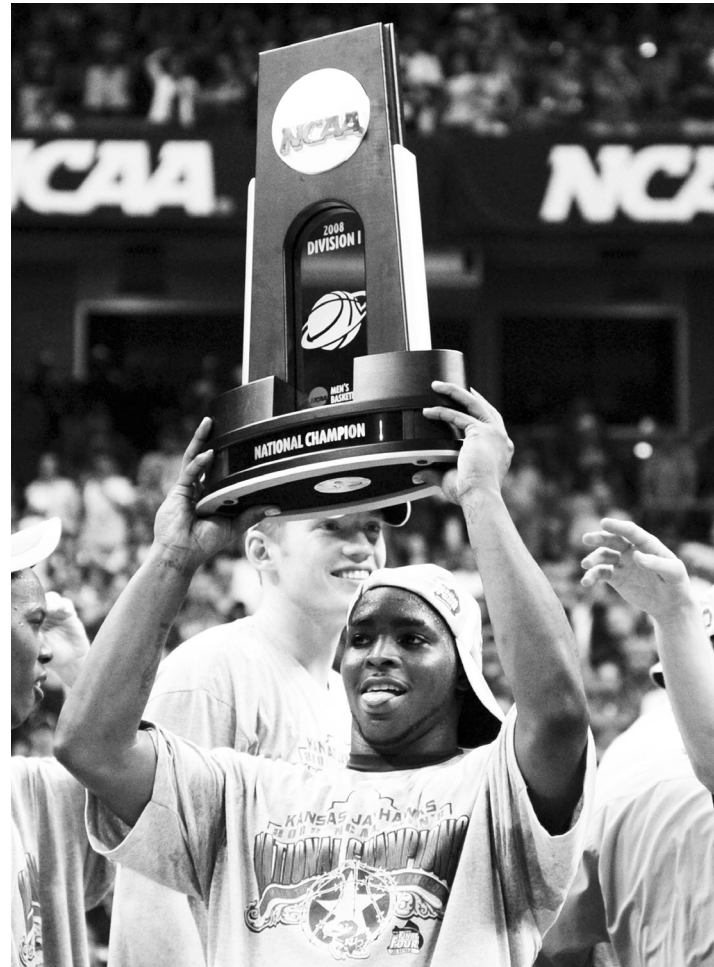
Walt Harris, Collins' uncle, said: "He's always been the peacemaker, trying to avoid violence at all costs."

Collins doesn't want to paint the wrong picture. He had plenty of help, too, from his uncles and his mentor at the Boys & Girls Club, Vernon Leach. And, of course, that round, orange ball he just couldn't put down.

"We had it set up for the younger kids to be out by 5:30," Leach said. "He would find some sort of way to sneak back in here until it was time to go home at night."

By the time he was in seventh grade, Collins had made a name for himself.

"The gym would be packed whenever he got ready to play," Leach said. "I had him on the varsity team when he became a



JEFF SINER / Charlotte Observer via MCT
Kansas' Sherron Collins raises the championship trophy after defeating Memphis in overtime 75-68 in the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship game at the Alamodome in San Antonio on April 7.

seventh grader."

One thing that all of Collins' coaches can attest to is his will to win. Or, rather, his will not to lose.

"He cries when he loses," says Anthony Longstreet, Collins' coach at Crane High. "I think that carries over into what he's trying to get the other guys to buy into: 'This is life or death, man. We can't lose.'"

"The classic example was the national championship game. There were a lot of people that gave up. He said no. He made that steal. That was classic Sherron Collins."

Collins' career trajectory at Crane was similar to what has

transpired at Kansas. His freshman year, he was the sixth man on a varsity team that had five senior starters. Longstreet had no choice but to hand the team over to Collins his sophomore year — just like Self has done now.

"That was probably his toughest year in high school," Longstreet said. "As a freshman, he comes in the door, we were 26-1. He was used to winning. He kind of had to learn how to be humble."

He didn't look very humble to his opponents, victimizing them with his crossover dribble. Collins' supporters in Chicago say that Kansas fans haven't seen anything yet, that this year will be his coming-out party.

FOOTBALL

continued from page 8

and 12 touchdowns on the ground combined.

Patterson said Utah will try to neutralize TCU's defensive speed by running straight at the players.

The Horned Frogs have made their mark on defense all season, and their game against the UNLV Rebels was no different. The Frogs held the Rebels to 175 total yards, including 67 in the passing game. But it is the Frogs' offense that has started to find a groove, led by sophomore quarterback Andy Dalton.

Dalton has passed for 1,473 yards and nine touchdowns on the season, with all nine coming in the last three games. He has also rushed for 308 yards and six touchdowns. TCU leads the conference in allowing 10.8 points per game while averaging 36.6 points on offense.

Dalton said the team has continued to find ways to hunger for more.

"We still have something to prove," he said. "We don't get as much credit as we think we deserve. We lost to Utah last year, and that gives us more motivation."

The winner of Thursday's showdown will likely become the leading candidate to bust the BCS with an at-large bid. In order for that to happen, either team would have to finish ahead of undefeated Boise State University in the final BCS standings. Utah is currently two spots ahead of Boise State while TCU sits two spots behind the Broncos.

"If we win this ballgame, I think we should get an opportunity to play for something bigger," Patterson said. "But that is for other people to decide. We just need to take care of business, and we have two more games to do that."

Javan Hedlund, associate commissioner of communications for Mountain West, said this game is significant for the image of the conference.

"For the first time, two teams in the top 12 are playing for a Mountain West Conference title and potential BCS berth," Hedlund said. "It's good that the conference can showcase two top programs."

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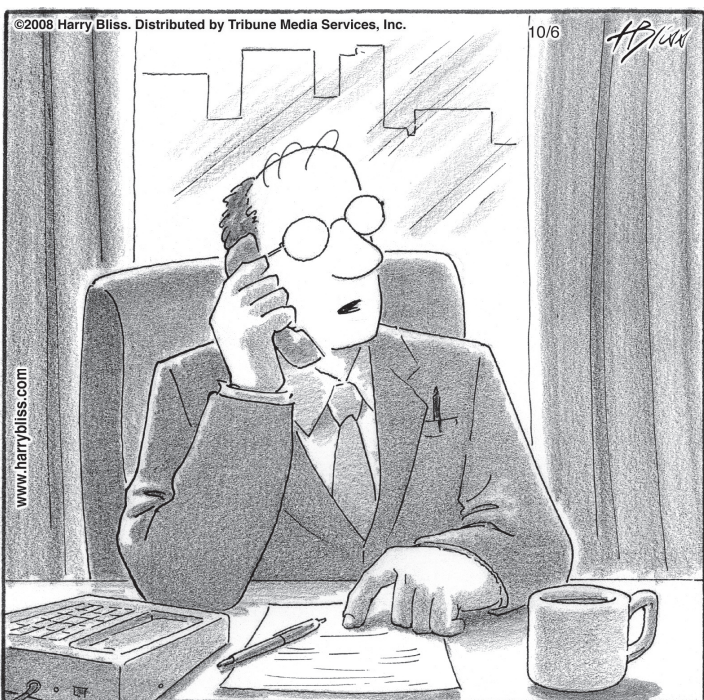


Today in History
 On this day in 1962, the United Nations General Assembly adopts a resolution condemning South Africa's racist apartheid policies and calling on all its members to end economic and military relations with the country.
 — The History Channel

Joke of the Day
 Q: What did the necktie say to the hat?
 A: "You go on ahead, I'll hang around!"

Bliss

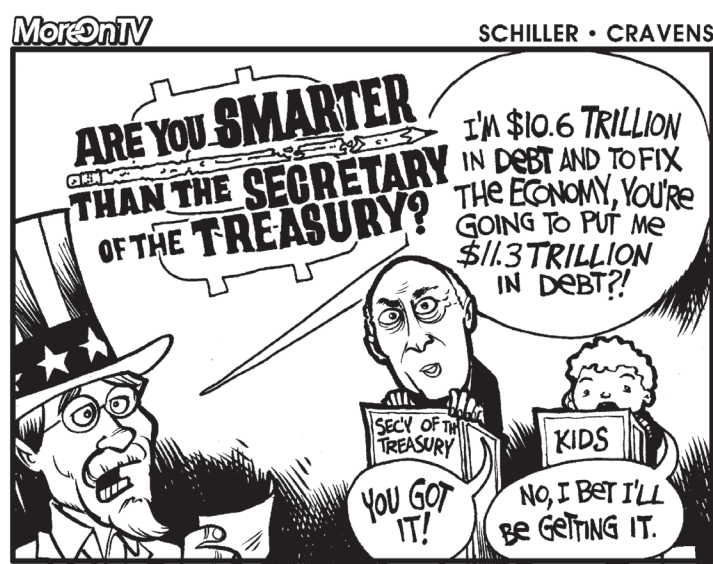
by Harry Bliss



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by Jay Schiller and Greg Cravens



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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

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

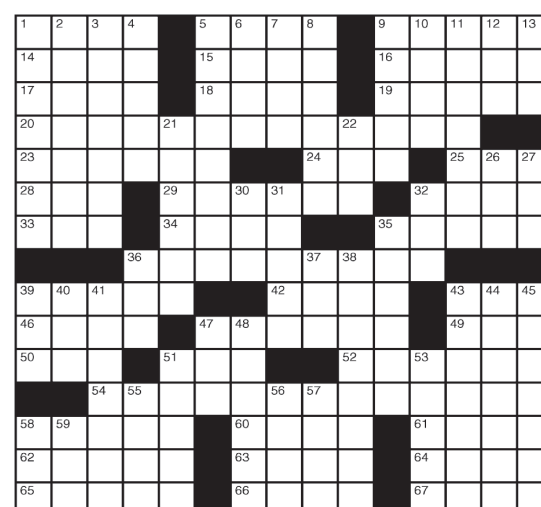
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 5 Droops
 9 Full-scale attack
 14 Costa
 15 Bryce Canyon state
 16 Flood protection barrier
 17 NYC theater
 18 Afrikaner
 19 Circumvent
 20 Start of Mario Cuomo quip
 23 Go by, as time
 24 Wet soil
 25 One of those girls
 28 Orch. section
 29 Disney dwarf
 32 Apple leftover
 33 Scottish river
 34 Eyeball impolitely
 35 Flash of light
 36 Part 2 of quip
 39 Continuous
 42 Launch forces
 43 Big galoot
 46 Sort of school
 47 Concert sites
 49 Tango team
 50 Lawyers' org.
 51 A Gabor
 52 Thelma or Tex
 54 End of quip
 58 Overcharge
 60 Alleviate
 61 Andy's radio partner
 62 Luster
 63 Move just slightly
 64 Amounted (to)
 65 Balance sheet plus
 66 Chuck
 67 Low-blow weapon
- DOWN**
 1 Superlatively ashen
 2 Canon rival
 3 Insurance statistician
 4 Rights grp.
 5 Go under



By Alan P. Olschwang
 Huntington Beach, CA

11/6/08

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	U	D	S	S	N	I	P	E	B	A	R	T
C	L	A	W	P	O	P	I	N	L	I	A	R
A	N	N	A	A	M	O	N	G	A	R	T	I
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L	I	E	U	I	R	A	T	E	R	E	B	A
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SPORTS



See how the Frogs do in their game against No. 8 Utah. Tomorrow in Sports

FOOTBALL

TIME TO SHINE



JASON FOCHTMAN / Staff Reporter

Sophomore wide receiver Jeremy Kerley runs away from Brigham Young University defenders during the Frogs' 32-7 victory over BYU on Oct. 16. The No. 12 Horned Frogs will face the No. 8 Utah Utes at 7 p.m.

Team ready for showdown

By Reese Gordon
Staff Reporter

Before the season started, the Utah Utes expected to have their conference and Bowl Championship Series dreams tested in a late-season matchup. TCU, however, was not considered the primary threat to dash their hopes.

No. 12 TCU (9-1,6-0 MWC) goes into Thursday night's game against undefeated University of Utah, No. 8 in the BCS, with the goal of achieving not only a conference championship but also, potentially, its first BCS berth in the school's history.

"It's everything you want," head coach Gary Patterson said. "This

is what you coach for, and it is exciting for our kids because the game is going to be played on a big stage."

The Horned Frogs, fresh off a dominating 44-14 win over University of Nevada, Las Vegas, will be playing Utah in a hostile environment. Utah declared this game a Blackout Game before the season began, and the Frogs will have to beat the Utes, who have lost three home games since 2004, on their turf.

Patterson said the location of the game shouldn't be a problem.

"It doesn't matter whether you play at home or away," Patterson said. "It's just like a test in that if you prepare for it, there shouldn't

Football Game

What: No. 12 TCU at No. 8 Utah

When: 7 p.m.

TV: CBS College Sports

be anything that surprises you."

The Utes are led on offense by senior quarterback Brian Johnson, who has passed for 1,820 yards and 14 touchdowns this season. But Utah also has a duo of capable running backs to take some of the pressure off the signal caller. Junior Matt Asiata and senior Darrell Mack have 996 yards

SEE FOOTBALL · PAGE 5

HEAD TO HEAD: TCU VS UTAH

Who will win MWC duel?

No. 12 Frogs to stay one step ahead of No. 8 Utes in Salt Lake City

Matchup of non-BCS heavyweights could go down in Ute gridiron lore



BILLY WESSELS

Usually, I try to defend the Bowl Championship Series ratings because it is the only system we have right now, and there is nothing we can do about it until everyone can agree on something better.

But having Utah at No. 8 is ridiculous.

Look at the schedule for the Utes and you will find no ranked teams, a couple of narrow wins over Michigan and New Mexico, both terrible teams, and an overall boring schedule.

For the Frogs, this is the third top-10 team you will find on the schedule, and the one loss you will see is to the then-No. 2 team in the country, Oklahoma Sooners.

Plus, when the Frogs beat somebody, they beat somebody. When we schedule an opponent, our goal is to go onto the field, destroy their morale with a turnover in the beginning, and then crush all hope by piling up the points on offense, while pummeling the opposing offenses with this dominating defense. The Frogs don't just squeak by opponents. That is unacceptable for TCU.

So don't expect the Frogs to go into Utah and play to win by one, expect them to go into Rice-Eccles Stadium to dominate.

They will bring their A-game for this one. If you thought BYU got it, you were wrong.

Senior Brian Johnson has thrown an interception in all but one of the Utes' games this season. I am calling Johnson throws a pick on the Utes first drive, it gets returned for a touchdown, and then it just goes downhill from there for the Utes.

Next drive Johnson looks left, then he gets blindsided by man-beast Jerry Hughes and coughs the ball up.

This game is going to get ugly fast.

The sellout crowd for the Utes will be silenced in its all-black clothes. That is when the game will get really fun.

Andy Dalton to Jimmy Young, then to Shea Reagan, then to Walter Bryant, then to Bart Johnson. Once the Utes defense gets used to that, Aaron Brown will slice and dice through the defense, while Joseph Turner runs over the defensive line like a monster truck.

The Frogs' offense is tired of being the red-headed stepchild of TCU's defense, which has been getting acclaim for years. So now, the offense has found its identity as a high-octane force to be reckoned with.

While the Utes' defense does rank in the top-10 in most categories, it is always just a few steps behind the Frogs' stingy defense. And that is just what the Utes will be on the field Thursday night, a few steps behind the Frogs.

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



NICK PAPPAS

This week is historic. Not only have we elected the first black president, but for the first time in history, two top-12 teams will meet on the turf at Rice-Eccles Stadium. Let's hope the outcome will be as satisfying as the one Tuesday.

There have been a lot of big games played at Rice-Eccles. I was a boy in 1994 when the ranked BYU Cougars came into the old stadium and lost 34-31. It was the first time Utah achieved consecutive wins against BYU since 1972.

I was there in 2004 when Urban Meyer led the team to perfection, and I sat shocked on the cold bleachers in 2006 when John Beck's prayer was answered after running around like a chicken for 11 seconds.

The game today is the biggest game in Rice-Eccles history, and the Cougars have nothing to do with it.

The Blackout Game will be either a prelude to a day of mourning or the sun will rise high over the Wasatch Mountains.

The pressure is unbearable for the fans. I can't imagine the sheer weight on the team. The Utes' worthiness has been questioned all season long. TCU means validation. TCU is a game that will start the bandwagon rolling.

It won't be easy. For those out there who check the Las Vegas lines, the gamblers have put their bellies to the table and anted up on TCU. The Horned Frogs' defense is stellar—second in the country behind perennial contender USC.

The Utes are close, though. Utah is 7th in defense and 32nd in offense. While TCU continues to get national hype for its stout defense, Utah only gives up 0.56 average yards more per play. Offensively, the teams are at a standstill. TCU averages only 3 more yards a game than the Utes.

So, what's the difference? Both are teams that rely heavily on the power of their defenses. What about rushing yards? TCU averages 4.48 a carry, Utah averages 4.44. The difference between these two teams is a matter of decimals.

It's as if the Utes will be playing themselves — an equally hungry, albeit purple version of themselves.

The difference, then, is the surroundings. TCU will leave the comfort of Fort Worth where they derailed BYU's BCS dreams and come to the Wasatch Mountains where dreams still live. TCU will hear the wild screams of the MUSS, and the alumni who will come to witness history. They will watch 35,000 black towels waving in unison, willing the team to victory. The bowl committees are going to get a show.

The Blackout Game is tonight. It's going to be a dark day for TCU.

Nick Pappas is a sports columnist for the Daily Utah Chronicle.

TONIGHT: TCU vs Utah

TOMORROW: SKIFF BASKETBALL PREVIEW

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