



Find out more about TCU's swimming coach and the history of the program. [Sports, page 10](#)

TODAY'S HEADLINES

News: Presidents stand to earn more after leaving office, [page 6](#)

Opinion: Texans should be proud of state, [page 3](#)

Sports: Men's basketball team prepares for home game, [page 10](#)

TOP iTunes DOWNLOADS

- 1 If I Were a Boy
Beyoncé
- 2 Love Story
Taylor Swift
- 3 Live Your Life
T.I.
- 4 Hot N Cold
Katy Perry
- 5 Womanizer
Britney Spears

— iTunes



Fans should be allowed to go crazy at football games. [Opinion, page 3](#)

PECULIAR FACT

PADUCAH, Ky. — Chad Toy's escape from jail wasn't what shocked his jailers; it was his plea to be let back in. "When I rang the bell at the jail and told them who I was, they were surprised," Toy told The Paducah (Ky.) Sun newspaper. "I guess they haven't seen that before."

— Associated Press

TODAY'S WEATHER



76 48
HIGH LOW

Sunny

Tomorrow: Sunny
67 / 38

Friday: Partly Cloudy
54 / 41



Please remember to recycle this newspaper.



The nursing program has received dummies that simulate live births. [Tomorrow in News](#)



Hulk Hogan should be America's dictator. [Tomorrow in Opinion](#)

Peers attracting more high-rank students

By **Victoria Maranan**
Staff Reporter

TCU has a lower percentage of freshmen who graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class compared to peer schools, such as Baylor University and Southern Methodist University, according to institutional research statistics.

According to the TCU Fall 2008 Fact Book, 32 percent of TCU's freshmen graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class.

About 42 percent of SMU's freshmen graduated in the top 10 percent of their high

school class, according to SMU fact books.

Thirty five percent of Baylor's freshman population graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class, wrote Jennifer Carron, Baylor's admissions director, in an e-mail.

Ray Brown, the dean of admissions, said a high grade point average and graduating in the top 10 percent of one's high school class are not enough to guarantee admission to TCU because being in the top 10 percent does not necessarily make a good student.

"The top 10 percent of the students are the most attractive academically, but not always," Brown said

He said TCU looks at the prospective student's transcript to determine the strength of their curriculum aside from their GPA and class rank.

Brown said students may be at the top 10 percent of their class but said applicants may have a weak transcript because of the classes they chose to take.

According to the Texas Education Agency, the recommended program for high school graduates consists of four years of English, three years of math, three and a half years of social studies and three years of science.

Joe Davis, senior admissions counselor

at SMU, said the university examines a prospective student's whole application because SMU does not have set GPA or class rank requirements.

He said class ranking does not determine if the applicant will be successful at SMU, but a combination of GPA, SAT or ACT scores, extracurricular activities, challenging courses and recommendation letters will.

"A lot of schools no longer release ranks because that's all some college admissions look at," Davis said. "Public schools still do it,

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GOOD GAME



LINH DANG / Staff Photographer

Sophomore Mike Vosters, right, wins a match against senior Quinn Peacher on Tuesday night at an intramural foosball tournament at the University Recreation Center.

Congress to bail out student lenders

By **Jessica Reho**
Staff Reporter

A recent extension to legislation passed by Congress involving the buying out of federal student loans will not affect the daily life of a TCU student, but it will greatly impact those lenders providing the loans, a campus financial aid official said.

The Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008, which authorized the Education Department to buy federal student loans from education lenders, originally included only loans made in the 2008-09 school year. However, as of Nov. 7, loans made in 2009-10 are also eligible.

Michael Scott, director of scholarships and financial aid, said there will be no direct impact on students.

"Students just wouldn't have had as many banks to choose from, and now they will," Scott said.

Because of the credit crisis, lenders can no longer sell their loan portfolios to the secondary market, Scott said. These lenders were not able to sell, or get money for, the loans they had already made, so they were unable to offer new student loans, he said.

But since Congress has agreed to buy the federal loans these lenders could not sell, the lenders will now have the liquidity to make more loans, he said. This extension is aimed at the big picture: ensuring that lenders will remain in the program, he said.

According to the financial aid Web site

SEE [LOANS](#) · [PAGE 2](#)

Young voter turnout projected to be up from previous years

By **Rose Baca**
Staff Reporter

Young Americans gravitated to the polls this election, and youth voter estimates show the percentage of eligible 18-29 year-old voters rose to at least 52 percent, an increase of 4 to 5 percentage points since 2004.

According to a voter turnout projection report released by Tufts University's Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), the increase in youth votes accounted for at least 60 percent of the overall increase in votes cast, suggesting the recent election rallied more young voters than any other age group.

Peter Levine, director of CIRCLE, said the estimates are based on the number of young voters gathered from the national exit polls, the number of votes cast and U.S. Census Bureau data on the number of young citizens.

The CIRCLE report states that youth turnout has increased by 11 percentage points since 2000.

"I think the interesting thing is that the trend has been consistent," Levine said. "Young people are just more active than they were 10 years ago."

Adam Schiffer, an assistant professor in the political science department, said he is not surprised by the increase in young voter turnout and that the projected results

NUMBERS

Youth Vote Turnout Projections

3.4

million more young people voted than in 2004

60%

of the total increase in voters is accounted for by young voters

18%

of all voters were considered young voters

Increases in the youth vote are the result of both short- and long-term effects, Schiffer said.

Civic habits are picked up early in life and the youngest voting generation was young when 9/11 happened and have been socialized under two wars, Schiffer said.

"They have a more immediate sense of

SEE [VOTING](#) · [PAGE 2](#)

Experts to discuss impact of religion in government

By **Katie B. Martinez and Brian Smith**
Staff Reporters

Despite the fact the Constitution demands a separation of church and state, the line has been considerably blurred by the Bush administration, and the practice carried over into the 2008 presidential campaign strategies, a religion professor said.

Ron Flowers, professor of religion, along with Stephen Reeves, legislative counsel for the Christian Life Commission, will examine the role of political candidates' religious affiliations and the earmarking of tax dollars for religious charities today in the Robert Carr Chapel.

Both speakers said some of the Bush administration's faith-based initiatives, which effectively rewrote the laws on government funding for religious organizations, are problematic, and the mindset behind them was also visible in the 2008 presidential campaigns.

Flowers said both Obama and McCain understood the initiatives as a way to appeal to religious voters.

"What we had in this election is what we had in the previous two," Flowers said. "People are turning their back on the Constitution and the idea that it separates church from state."

Reeves, who is part of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said the initiatives could cause problems for the churches as well.

"There are dangers there on many levels,"

Religion in Politics and Government

Who: Ron Flowers, professor of religion, and Stephen Reeves of the Christian Life Coalition

When: 4:30-5:30 p.m. Wednesday

Where: Robert Carr Chapel

he said. "The way the initiatives have been set up, safeguards have been removed that really were needed."

Reeves said great concern for some churches is the exemption to the Civil Rights Act that allows religious organizations to hire based on religious beliefs.

Once government funding is introduced, he said, their right to selectivity becomes discrimination.

That is just one small aspect of the complications that Reeves said churches are facing in the aftermath of the initiatives.

"It also opens the door for government eyes following the money and having access to the inner workings of the church that they never had before," he said.

Another big concern is the church could find it difficult to speak out against perceived injustice in government actions, Reeves said.

"It's kind of hard when the church is tak-

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NEWS

TOP 10

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but private schools and out-of-state schools are starting not to.”

Jonathan Evans, Baylor senior admissions counselor, said the university looks at an applicant's class ranking to determine how competitive they are in the classroom.

“We’re looking for graduates, not freshmen,” he said.

Evans said admission is also determined based on the prospective student's academic quality, SAT or ACT scores, resumes and letters of recommendation,

Brown said many freshmen who graduated at the top of their class are enrolled in public schools because they are granted automatic admission on account of the Top 10 Percent Rule.

The Top 10 Percent Rule is a law that states Texas high school students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their graduating class are subject to automatic admission to any Texas public school.

The university is not subject to the rule because TCU is a private institution, Brown said.

Bennett Parsons, a sophomore music education major, said the trend bothers him a bit.

“We should be a bit more selective and include more students in higher class ranking so we can prepare ourselves to go and duke it out with other universities who have higher academic standards,” he said.

However, Parsons said he was not surprised about the percentage.

“People talk in the street and are more likely to talk about TCU football than TCU academics,” he said. “We’re not as strong as an academic institution as we are a sports institution.”

Parsons said he graduated in the top 10 percent of his class in Juan Seguin High School in Arlington.

Ala Ahmad, a freshman political science major, said she was surprised about the statistics.

“When I was sending in transcripts and wrote essays, I worked

NUMBERS

Freshmen who graduate in top 10 percent of their high school class:

42%

SMU

35%

Baylor

32%

TCU

very hard on those,” she said. “So it’s surprising to me that the data shows that there aren’t as many students in the top 10 percent.”

Ahmad said she graduated in the top 10 percent of her class in Arlington High School.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

SGA to add more bike racks

By Matt Syme
Staff Reporter

The Student Government Association House of Representatives passed a bill and a resolution Tuesday to aid efforts to promote the green movement on campus.

SGA passed a bill to allocate money to install 11 bicycle racks on campus to accommodate the increasing number of students who ride their bike to class. Campus Advancement allocated \$4,368.72 from its budget to fund the supplies, equipment and services to put in the bike racks by the end of the semester. SGA logos will be added to these racks.

SGA Vice President Brett Major, who heads Campus Advancement, said he hopes the installation of the bike racks will also encourage more students to ride bikes around campus.

The House unanimously passed a resolution that supports campus

efforts to go green. Representatives Jessica Altenberg, Jamie Klump and Carl Hollingsworth, the authors of the resolution, proposed ways in which campus can save energy.

The resolution supports the placement of recycling bins in the mail room and encourages the bookstore to shut off escalators during closed hours. It also supports electronic distribution of weekly newsletters and campuswide calendars to cut back on paper usage. An amendment was added to the resolution requiring SGA to cut back on its own paper distribution to abide by the semester’s theme, “Think Purple, Live Green.”

The House also passed a resolution to show approval for the potential creation of a winter term between the fall and spring semesters.

An additional resolution was introduced that supports special parking for students and faculty who drive cars that are fuel effi-

Upcoming bicycle racks locations

- 1: Outside the entrance to the library
- 2: The ramps between Winton Scott and Sid Richardson Halls
- 3: The northeast side of the Rickel building
- 4: The east side of Reed Hall
- 5: The west side of Tandy
- 6: The rose garden steps
- 7: In between the north and south Moudy buildings
- 8: Outside the Miller Speech and Hearing Clinic
- 9: Between the Pi Kappa Phi, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Delta Gamma houses

VOTING

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the consequences of politics than a couple of other generations before them would have,” Schiffer said.

A short-term factor is that President-elect Barack Obama excited the youth vote, Schiffer said. Both Obama and John McCain’s campaigns took advantage of the ways young people process information through text messaging and social networking sites, but Obama’s attempt seemed to be more successful, he said.

CIRCLE reports that young vot-

Year	Youth voter turnout estimated by circle	Percentage point change since previous election	Number of young people who voted
1996	37%		14.5 million
2000	41%	+4	16.2 million
2004	48%	+7	19.4 million
2008	52-53%	+4-5	22.8-32.1 million

ers favored Obama over McCain 66 percent to 32 percent.

Levine said social networking sites of both Obama and McCain were like night and day. He said Obama landed a campaign that gave young people a multitude of ways to get involved, whereas less opportunities for youth involve-

ment came from McCain.

According to the CIRCLE report, there is no official count of voters by age and any statistic on youth voter turnout is an estimate based on survey data.

The Tarrant County Elections Center has no estimate on the number of youth voters in the area.

LOANS

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www.finaid.org, a total of 168 out of approximately 2,000 education lenders have exited or suspended their participation in all or part of the federally-guaranteed student loan program.

The most prominent lender to suspend has been College Loan Corporation, said Mark Kantrowitz, publisher of finaid.org, in a telephone interview.

Kantrowitz said the legislation will allow more lenders to participate in federal loans. Those that are already involved will be healthier, he said.

Only a handful of lenders have returned to the federal loan program so far; National Education is the most recent

returnee, he said.

About 3,200 TCU students received federal student loans in 2008-09, said Melet Leafgreen, assistant director of loan programs. The only difference in 2009-10, if any, will be that students might have more options in choosing a lender, she said.

In a capitalist system, choice and competition among competitors is a good thing, Leafgreen said. She said TCU keeps a list of recommendations — based on a yearly survey of product availability and customer service — for students who need help choosing.

Even though there were some smaller schools having trouble finding lenders and money, for TCU this was never a concern, Scott said.

RELIGION

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ing government money in one hand,” he said. “The concern is that it could cause them to lose their prophetic voice.”

Rodney Thomas, a graduate student at Brite Divinity School, helped organize the event and said he hopes the discussion will shine light on how the faith-based initiatives are used in campaign strategies, and the current and future role of religion in politics.

“We just want people to become more educated about the important issues surrounding the separation of church and state,” Thomas said.

The one-hour event is free and open to the public.

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The TCU Daily Skiff is an official student publication of Texas Christian University, produced by students of TCU and sponsored by the Schieffer School of Journalism. It operates under the policies of the Student Publications Committee, composed of representatives from the student body, staff, faculty and administration. The Skiff is published Tuesday through Friday during fall and spring semesters except finals week and holidays.

Circulation: 6,000
Subscriptions: Call 257-6274. Rates are \$30 per semester.
Location: Moudy Building South, Room 291, 2805 S. University Drive Fort Worth, TX 76109
On-campus distribution: Newspapers are available free on campus, limit one per person. Additional copies are \$.50 and are available at the Skiff office.

Web site: www.dailyskiff.com
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OPINION

DAILY SKIFF

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The Skiff View

GPA’s aren’t everything in college admissions

A new study shows that 32 percent of TCU’s freshman class graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class. That is less than other comparable schools like Baylor University, at 35 percent, and Southern Methodist University, at 42 percent. But as important as grades are, more goes into students than their grades in high school.

A good student has to be someone who is focused, balanced and involved in his or her community. So far, it seems TCU has done a good job of selecting students based on factors other than their grades in high school.

Plus, some of those numbers can be deceptive, which is why the TCU admission office and Ray Brown, dean of admission, go to great lengths to pick students who fit well at TCU. Without looking at a student’s entire package, there would be no way to tell which students are the best fit for TCU. Attributes such as community involvement, work ethic, diversity and unique life experiences all play a role in a student’s success in college and the university’s ability to provide a quality education. Students everywhere possess these qualities and make a university what it is — not just those in the top 10 percent of their high school class.

So while looking at face value and seeing the university ranked below Baylor and SMU might be disappointing, TCU has done a great job of attracting quality students to Fort Worth for years.

Sports editor Billy Wessels for the editorial board.

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

Texans should be proud to be from unique state



On the morning of November 5, the sun still came up, classes were still in session and about five of my friends joined Facebook groups petitioning for the secession of Texas because of the election of Barack Obama.

“Texas would be better off by itself than under the socialistic reign of Barack Obama,” wrote the administrator on the description of the group creatively titled, “Secession of Texas due to the election of Barack Obama.”

I glanced over some of the groups to gauge how serious they were. Most seemed to be making their claims with tongue firmly planted in cheek.

Others did seem legitimately furious. “It’s nice to know that some people still recognize what America stands for...” wrote a Facebook user on the wall of the group “Texas Secession.” “Thanks for the group Mr. King. I take my guns and money ... ya’ll can keep the ‘change!!!”

Well, to have my say, the group administrators are being extremely immature and petty.

They represent the worst stereotypes of Texas, and it is time for them and the rest of us sore losers to get over ourselves and help the rest of us keep moving the country forward.

There — I got the obviousness out of the way.

Beyond the pettiness, the spirit of these feisty mavericks inspires me. That spirit is what makes me love being a Texan so much.

I mean, how many of us when we were kids dreamed about running away from home? Most of us never did (the farthest I ever got was down the street; then I turned around because it was time for dinner), but we were empowered every time we thought we could.

A local TV station bills itself as “As Independent as Texas.” And many young people were inspired by the 2006 gubernatorial campaign of Kinky Friedman, who

similarly portrayed himself as a political maverick.

Last May, I was with some friends down in San Antonio. As almost requisite for a complete San Antonio experience, we visited the Alamo.

One of my friends, a young woman from Georgia, had never been to the Alamo before. Another one of my friends regaled her with the highly-dramatized story of how the scrappy band of Texans bravely held off the Alamo from the Mexicans in a 13-day standoff.

Although I had heard the story and seen the movie, it still put a lump in my throat. Like the great country I live in, the state of Texas was founded by men and women willing to die for it.

It’s what even gives me a sense of verklemp when I do something as simple as giving directions.

“Turn left on Bowie Avenue,” I’ll tell someone.

Bowie. Travis. Crockett. Houston. How many streets, schools, cities and counties are named for these men who have become legends in our minds?

“I’m Texan first, then I’m American,” I’ve heard many a friend say. It used to bother me. After all, this is America. It was and still is a great country. Be proud to be a part of it.

But since then, I’ve realized that being proud of your state is part of being proud of your country. Being proud to be a Texan doesn’t diminish your pride in America, it only makes it stronger.

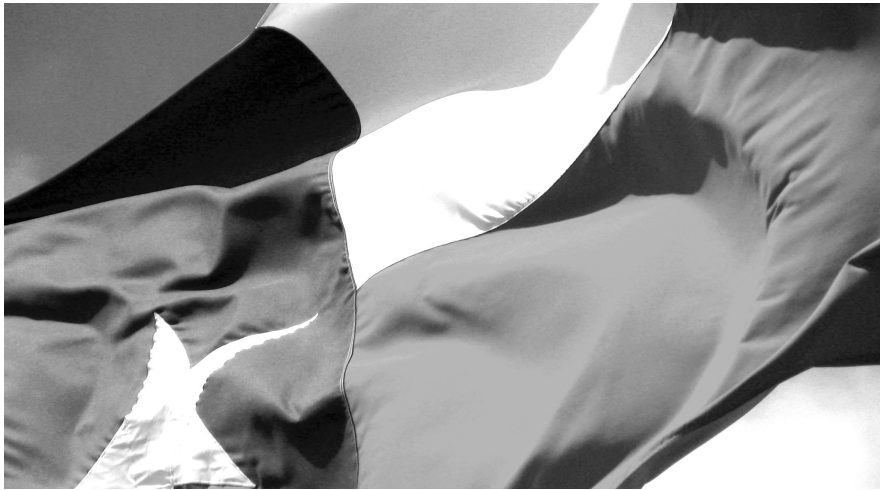
Part of the reason I’m so proud to be an American comes from one of our mottos, “E pluribus unum” — “out of many, one.” Texas is not geographically or socially anything like New Jersey, Indiana or Oregon. That’s what gives our country its flavor.

There is so much to love about Texas. Yes, the weather is crappy all year except for two weeks, but we make the best salsa, we have the best State Fair and we have the best people in the world.

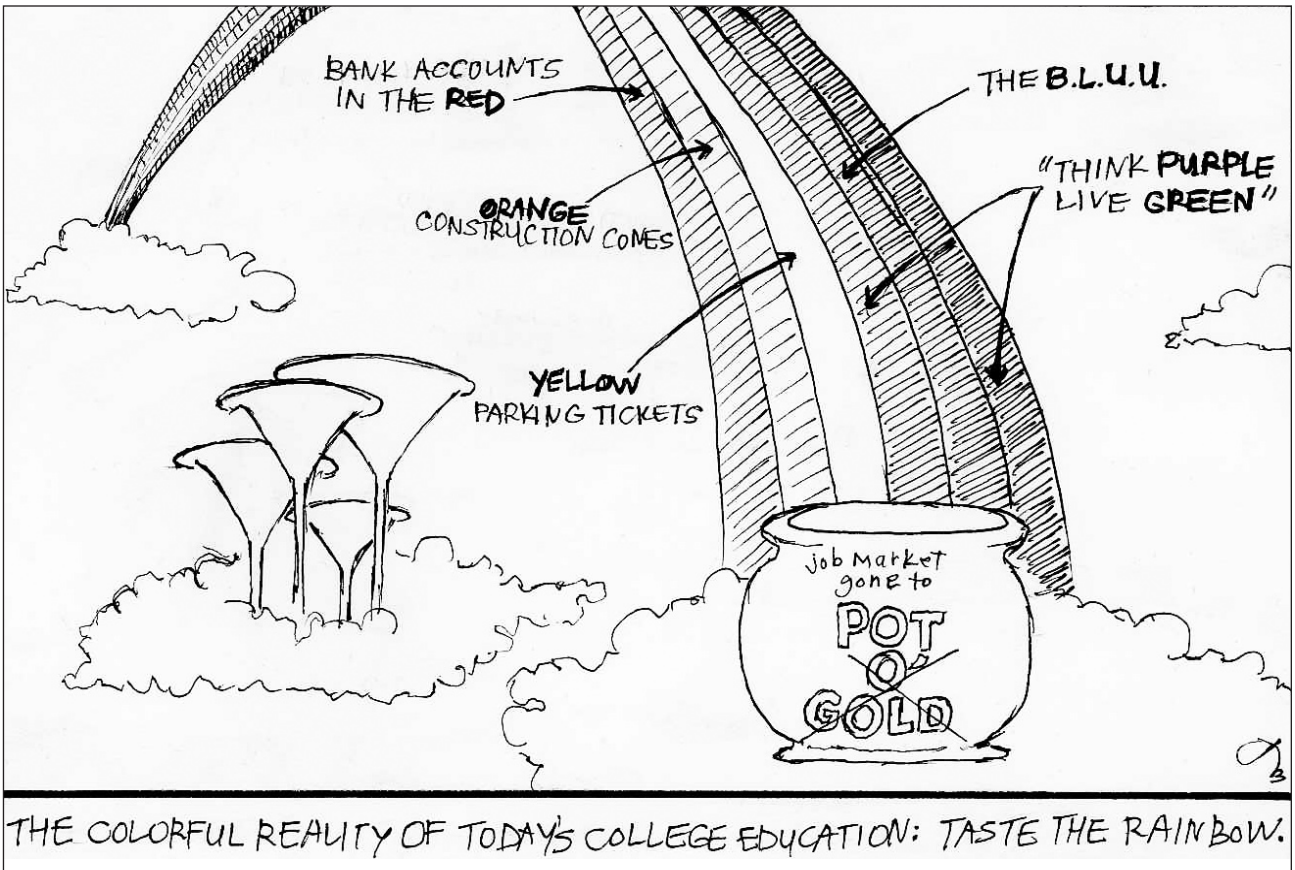
You know what? Maybe this is why Texas shouldn’t secede after all. Maybe instead we should stay and spread our spirit across the country. And teach them how to make decent salsa.

Still, it’s fun to dream.

Valerie Hannon is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Allen.



SXC.HU



Lana Blocker is a senior advertising/public relations major from Heath.

TABC too often oversteps its bounds

LIZ DAVIS

In 2007, students from all over the world looked forward to continuing their education at TCU.

Last fall, 7,382 students enrolled at TCU as undergraduates; 1,698 of those students were from out of state.

Now we all know that to be a successful and happy student at TCU you don’t just need good grades. You need to experience life and the city with your new friends.

But for the 23 percent of those students that moved to Texas for school, experiencing life and the city is a little more complicated.

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission has been tasked with enforcing the Alcoholic Beverage Code, which states: “The TABC shall inspect, supervise, and regulate every phase of the business of manufacturing, importing, exporting, transporting, storing, selling, advertising, labeling, and distributing alcoholic beverages, and the possession of alcoholic beverages for the purpose of sale or otherwise,” according to the TABC Web site.

That’s just an overview. I just turned 21 so this has become a recent problem that I know the freshmen and sophomores haven’t dealt with yet, but they will.

TABC monitors alcohol from brewing to selling and everything in between, including advertising. I believe that’s pushing it. I understand the need for an organization like the TABC to exist to help local police with enforcement of liquor laws, but giving

it authority over any other part of the alcohol industry is overkill.

Now what does this have to do with out-of-state TCU students?

The TABC has its hand in every part of alcohol production and consumption, and with that, it also has the authority to levee heavy fines. These fines have alcohol vendors everywhere shaking in their boots.

I went to Kroger one night to buy a bottle of wine to go with dinner. I got to the counter with my brand new ID; the checker told me Kroger’s policy was to refuse out-of-state licenses. I didn’t get my bottle of wine.

I was the last of my friends to turn 21 so we would try to find bars where we could all go to hang out. We found one — Finn MacCool’s. It’s a great bar kind of close to campus with a very relaxed atmosphere. It was perfect for us. I went there a few times while I was 20. They always carded me but they always let me in. I tried to go back after my birthday, but they wouldn’t take my license.

I must say that I have never been refused at any restaurant, the bars right next to campus or anywhere downtown. But a few bars downtown have asked to see a credit card along with my ID to make sure that I’m the right person.

Again, I agree with what TABC stands for, mostly. It can be useful in preventing accidents caused by drunken driving and selling to underage kids. But it is inconvenient to the rest of us who aren’t breaking the law.

I know a college campus is a place

where — let’s face it — a lot of illegal things can happen; the least of those, in my opinion, is producing fake IDs for underage students.

But I believe that instead of just punishing vendors, TABC should provide them with ways of telling the difference between real and fake IDs.

My Ohio driver’s license has two different holograms — a photo, a watermark and a magnetic strip on the back. It’s very unlikely that I forged it.

But I have seen some state issued licenses that look faked. Illinois’ license, for instance, is rather simple.

Of course, every state has a different ID, so it would be difficult and expensive to have ways of proving the validity of every ID card. Therefore, I think that we should switch over to a universal template for our IDs.

For example, let’s say every state ID has to have a magnetic stripe on the back. Then when a person tries to purchase an age restricted substance, alcohol or tobacco, cashiers can swipe the ID and get all the information they need.

I believe that the TABC needs to be restructured; it has too much power with nothing to check them. I think that there should be lenience for alcohol vendors who set up shop near a college campus so that those of us of age from out of state can feel more welcome.

If students are of age, they should be able to go out on a Friday night to get a beer without being hassled.

Liz Davis is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Findlay, Ohio.

TCU should be treated as a ‘football school’

SHAWN REDD

More than two years have gone by since I joined the TCU student body. Since then I have seen many changes take place both on and off campus. The school has become more recognizable throughout the country, and it has really helped the application process and enrollment numbers. However, TCU administrative officials have tripped up in a big way. They have not taken in the fact that a big reason for this newly-found stardom is because of our football program.

Football is usually the main spotlight at any major university because of the amount of money and recognition that it can bring to the table. Unfortunately, most other sports just can’t compete with the unstoppable force that is the pigskin.

In order to take advantage of the new limelight, TCU needs to allow for a “football atmosphere” to overtake the campus and the fans. However, this requires some storming of the field, extreme tailgates and die-hard fans screaming ridiculous things that only they can understand. Most importantly, the hatred of our rivals must overwhelm us for just one day without anyone telling us to “play nice.”

Players, coaches and die-hard fans complain constantly about the small fan base for the Horned Frogs. Well, the reason is because we don’t act like a football school. Having a clean image and always doing the right thing is great and is a must, but this is college football. Check out the schools with big fan bases. Most

of them are state schools with 30,000 or more students who lose their minds when their team scores. Also, there are many smaller schools with just as many students as TCU who get twice as loud as some of the larger schools. They have passion and the support of their universities.

Passion is required in order to have a fan base that we can be proud of. Rushing the field, celebrations, tailgating, traditions and music are all fundamental to the process of creating a fan base that is monumental.

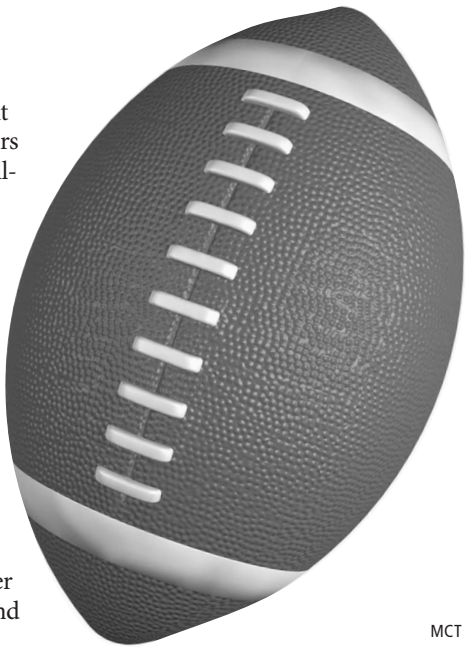
Removing the tailgate in Brachman’s parking lot was the biggest mistake our school made. School officials complain about the lack of fans; well, TCU is the reason why their fans have started to abandon the major sports. The atmosphere has become boring and the spirit has been killed by athletic administrators preaching sportsmanship rules and drilling fans with nice ways to support the opponents’ fans.

Even though I have been drilling sportsmanship, it is still very important and is required; but we need to draw the line. There is a difference between smothering us with good behavior and respecting our opponents. But TCU needs to understand they might smother us to death. The football team beat BYU, its in-conference rival, which ranked No. 8 nationally and features one of the best quarterbacks in the nation. On the other hand, we as fans could not get rowdy and have fun like a normal school like USC

or UT. It is not fair to the players, coaches and, most of all, the fans.

Students and other Horned Frog fans are about to embrace Gary Patterson’s motto: “Make It Personal.” We are about to make it personal with TCU officials. Enough is enough. Learn to let go and you will see your fan base increase and traditions start to form. This isn’t an Ivy League school, nor is it some East Coast university. This is Texas, where football is king and the passion driving it is unimaginable.

Shawn Redd is a junior news-editorial journalism major from Sunnyvale.



MCT

NEWS

Expected TV sales increase raises issues, hopes for change

By Sandy Bauers
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — The nation is headed for a TV-buying triple whammy.

First are the holiday season and the Super Bowl, traditional times when sales rise because consumers want bigger, better viewing options.

Then, on Feb. 17, there's the conversion to all-digital TV signals.

Although analog TVs will still work for those with cable or satellite service — or with converter boxes being sold especially for this purpose — industry experts think the date will prompt a rash of TV-buying.

Among the choices — plasma or LCD — consumers now can shop based on the energy TVs use, because of new federal Energy Star guidelines that went into effect Nov. 1.

“There was this mad rush to bring flat-panel digital TV’s to the market, and to also make them bigger and bigger.”

Noah Horowitz
senior scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council

For the first time, the program takes into account not only the energy a TV uses when it is off, but also the juice it consumes while on.

It's all still a work in progress. The new low-energy TVs are poorly labeled at the moment, and consumers will have to check online to know if they are buying a more efficient unit.

And environmental advocates say it's all but impossible to know if your old TV — and the toxic substances under its hood — is being

disposed of properly. Still, there is a huge green opportunity here.

About 25 percent of new TVs meet the updated Energy Star specifications, and these use, on average, 30 percent less energy than standard units.

The EPA estimates that if all TVs sold in the United States met the new specs, overall energy savings would grow to \$1 billion annually, and greenhouse gas emissions would be reduced by the equivalent of about one million cars.

Advocates remain worried that if consumers buying new TVs simply keep their old ones, that will exacerbate a trend toward more TVs, more TV-watching, and more whiz-bang options — all leading to more energy use.

Not to mention bigger TVs. In 2006, just less than one-third of households had a TV with a screen bigger than 36 inches. Projections are that by 2011, more than half will.

TVs are one of the major energy hogs in the American home, with 275 million of them sucking down perhaps 4 percent of household energy, and 1 percent of the nation's energy, including industrial uses.

Noah Horowitz, senior scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council, calls the new Energy Star specifications “an important first step.”

“The way I look at it,” he said, “there was this mad rush to bring flat-panel digital TVs to the market, and to also make them bigger and bigger” without regard for energy use, he said. “The good news is, starting this year, manufacturers are really starting to take a hard look and working to reduce the power they consume.”

Beginning in mid-2009, a few of the new LCD and plasma TVs will use 30 percent to 50 percent less power than today's models.

Panasonic has already reduced the power consumption of its plasma televisions by 96 percent since 2000. And the new models will continue that trend, said senior vice president Robert Perry. But,



LAURENCE KESTERSON / Philadelphia Inquirer via MCT
Hank Sikorski, manager of the WalMart store in King of Prussia, Pa., examines wide screen LCD TVs for sale. About 25 percent of new TVs meet the updated Energy Star specifications, and on average they use 30 percent less energy than standard units.

as Horowitz notes, “the shopping experience is still broken.”

Consumers wandering down the TV aisles can't tell whether the Energy Star labels are the new ones or the old. From the displays, it's all but impossible to determine how much energy different models use.

Congress has given the Federal Trade Commission 18 months to develop guidelines for labels, but the clock doesn't even start ticking until the federal Department of Energy comes up with guidelines and a test method.

The one now on their books was developed more than 30 years ago and is for black and white TVs, Horowitz said. He maintained the Energy Star test method amounts to handing one to the DOE “on a silver plate,” but “it's been a deafening silence from their end.”

How best to dispose of your TV also remains unclear. People got rid of about 20 million TVs in 2007, the EPA reports.

About 59 percent were given away, such as to a family member or charity, an industry study found.

About 21 percent were sent to landfills or incinerated — along with the mercury, cadmium and flame retardants they contained. Older TVs with cathode ray tubes — the fat TVs — contain 4 to 8 pounds of lead.

Landfilling is also a concern because most older TVs are so heavy — 130 pounds and up — and municipal tipping fees are based on weight.

It was for those two reasons — plus a fear shared by other waste officials that they will be overwhelmed by TVs come conversion

time — that Cherry Hill, N.J., in April started a new e-waste program for recycling electronics, including TVs.

“There is a fiscal and environmental incentive to get these things out of the waste stream,” said mayoral spokesman Dan Keashan.

New Jersey is also one of 17 states with an e-waste law. Passed this year, it includes a ban on incineration and landfilling TVs, monitors, computers and laptops, effective Jan. 1, 2010.

Pennsylvania legislators introduced an e-waste bill in September, but it applies only to computers and specifically exempts TVs.

The Consumer Electronics Association, an industry group, has called for a national law rather than a patchwork of state laws to limit the confusion.

The remainder of the nation's

TVs discarded in 2007 — about 20 percent — were recycled, the CEA says, and e-waste recycling has been increasing.

But environmental and human rights groups have complained that much of U.S. e-waste is simply sent to developing countries, where workers using crude, unsafe methods dismantle them to remove valuable metals inside.

“A lot ends up in China,” said Barbara Kyle, of the Electronics TakeBack Coalition, which seeks proper disposal for electronics. “They bash open the TV. The glass gets dumped in a ditch. They burn the plastics, which emit flame retardants.”

“Then they melt the circuit boards. They're melting lead solder, so they're breathing in lead. They use acid to get gold off chips. It's incredibly toxic and dangerous.”

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Scientists study how, why we age

By Robert S. Boyd
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Growing old isn't for sissies, the saying goes. The passage of years usually brings physical frailty, failing memory, cancer and other diseases.

As more people live longer, scientists are stepping up their efforts to understand the biological process of aging. Recent research is changing their views on how and why we age.

For half a century, much of the deterioration that comes over time has been blamed on "free radicals." These aren't 1960s-style bomb throwers, but toxic, unstable molecules of oxygen running amok in the cells of your body.

This is sometimes called the "oxygen paradox," since oxygen is both necessary for — and dangerous to — living organisms.

"Oxygen is both friend and foe," said Bennett Van Houten, a molecular biologist at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute.

A free-radical molecule consists of two linked atoms of oxygen with an odd number of electrons in its system, not the even number that the laws of chemistry require.

That chemical oddity drives a free radical to steal an electron from a neighboring oxygen molecule. Now the next molecule has the same problem, setting off a chain reaction that can damage DNA and other cell structures.

As the damage piles up over the years, it leads to increasing disability and ultimately is a common cause of death.

Free radicals frequently are created in special structures called mitochondria. These are little factories inside cells that burn oxygen to manufacture packets of energy in a form your body can use.

Unfortunately, the oxidation process produces as many as

10,000 free radicals in a cell each day, according to Bruce Ames, a molecular biologist at the University of California, Berkeley.

Natural "antioxidants" in vitamins, fruits and vegetables get rid of most of these harmful molecules, but a few are left to carry on their rampages.

"Aging is caused by the gradual, lifelong accumulation of a wide variety of molecular and cellular damage," said Tom Kirkwood, of the Newcastle University Institute for Ageing and Health, in Newcastle, England.

Views on the central role of free radicals are changing as new research reveals a more complex picture. Genes, environment, nutrition and lifestyle also are recognized as parts of a complex web of factors that cause aging.

Ultraviolet radiation from the sun, toxic chemicals, tobacco smoke or chance accidents that happen when cells divide can create free radicals. The result is what scientists call "oxidative stress," a major cause of cancer, Alzheimer's and heart disease.

A conference of world experts on "Oxidative Stress and Disease" in Italy next March will review whether the free-radical theory needs updating.

"The free-radical theory is the most widely accepted theory of aging," said Pittsburgh's Van Houten, who'll lead a panel at the conference. "But the idea that aging is caused by one thing is naive. One general theory can never fit all."

"Clearly, it's the combination of genes that your parents dealt you and the lifestyle choices you make and the environmental toxins one is exposed to," he explained.

"One need only count the number of ways a car will fail to start to appreciate that aging can be caused by a large number of problems. Like any machine, it's going to wear out."



NUCCIO DINUZZO / Chicago Tribune via MCT
Rose Naselli, from left, Beatriz Menendez and daughter Maria Menendez and Carol Elking take a water aerobics class for seniors and guests at the Dale Webb community in Mundelein, Ill., on Oct. 14.

Suburbs weigh idea of 'no kids' zoning

By Gerry Smith
and Susan Kuczka
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — The family-friendly image of suburbia is being turned on its head.

Many Chicago suburbs are embracing senior-only communities because they generate property tax revenue for school districts without adding students.

In north suburban Mundelein, Ill., a 700-unit development for residents 55 and older opened about a year ago and another 150-unit senior development is scheduled to break ground this winter. Housing that prohibits families with children — sometimes called vasectomy zoning — has become an attractive option as rising costs put increased financial strains on school districts.

"The schools tax them at the same rate, so basically it's pure profit for the schools because there are no children," said Mundelein Mayor Kenneth Kessler.

Communities with age restrictions aren't new, but they've been "popping up all over the place" re-

cently despite the housing slump, said Steve Hovany, president of Strategy Planning Associates Inc. At least 36 senior-only communities have opened in the Chicago area in recent years, and several others are being considered or are in the planning stages, Hovany said.

To be sure, senior-only communities are meeting the needs of a growing demographic: aging Baby Boomers. Illinois' population of people older than 60 is projected to jump 87 percent to 3.7 million by 2030. But the popularity of "kids-free" communities also adds an interesting wrinkle to the debate over Illinois' school-aid formula.

Recent protests at two North Shore schools spotlighted the high property tax price that residents of some suburbs pay per student.

The housing shift is not confined to the Chicago area. A few years ago, officials in suburban Boston approved so many age-restricted developments that a state legislator decried the practice as "vasectomy zoning."

Age-restricted communities

are legal under the Fair Housing Act, so long as residents are 18 or older and each unit has at least one person 55 or older. Many offer a gated, country-club atmosphere with amenities targeted for "active adults."

At Carillon, an over-55 community in Plainfield, Ill., Cyndy Kaspar enjoys a variety of social options, including card games, bocce, shuffleboard and, on some nights, dances with a live orchestra.

School officials love the developments, too, because they relieve financial pressure on their districts.

"You have this 'Beaver Cleaver' image of living in the suburbs, where everybody has a single-family home with kids running around, and that's great," said Thomas Poupard, Northbrook director of community planning. "But if you're a school district, that might not be so great."

About 85 percent of the revenue for Northfield Township High School District 225 comes from property taxes, compared with the state average of 58 percent, based on 2006-07 data, the most

recent available. But some parents of school-age children worry an influx of seniors could spell doom for referendum proposals.

In 2007, shortly after Lake Bluff approved Stonebridge, an age-restricted community of single-family homes and condos, District 65 asked voters to allow them to sell \$24.4 million in building bonds. The measure passed by 24 votes.

Joe Granda, 42, worries about the impact residents of the 85-unit development will have on future school referendums.

"You have an older community that will feel as if they have paid into the system for their lifetime," said Granda, parent of a Lake Bluff Elementary School 2nd grader.

But Tracy Cross, a real estate consultant in Schaumburg, said senior-only developments are typically too small to have major impact on voting.

Cross also said the notion that seniors summarily vote against referendum proposals is not true.

"Maybe 80 percent will (vote no), but certainly there's a group that will vote in favor of the school referendums," she said.

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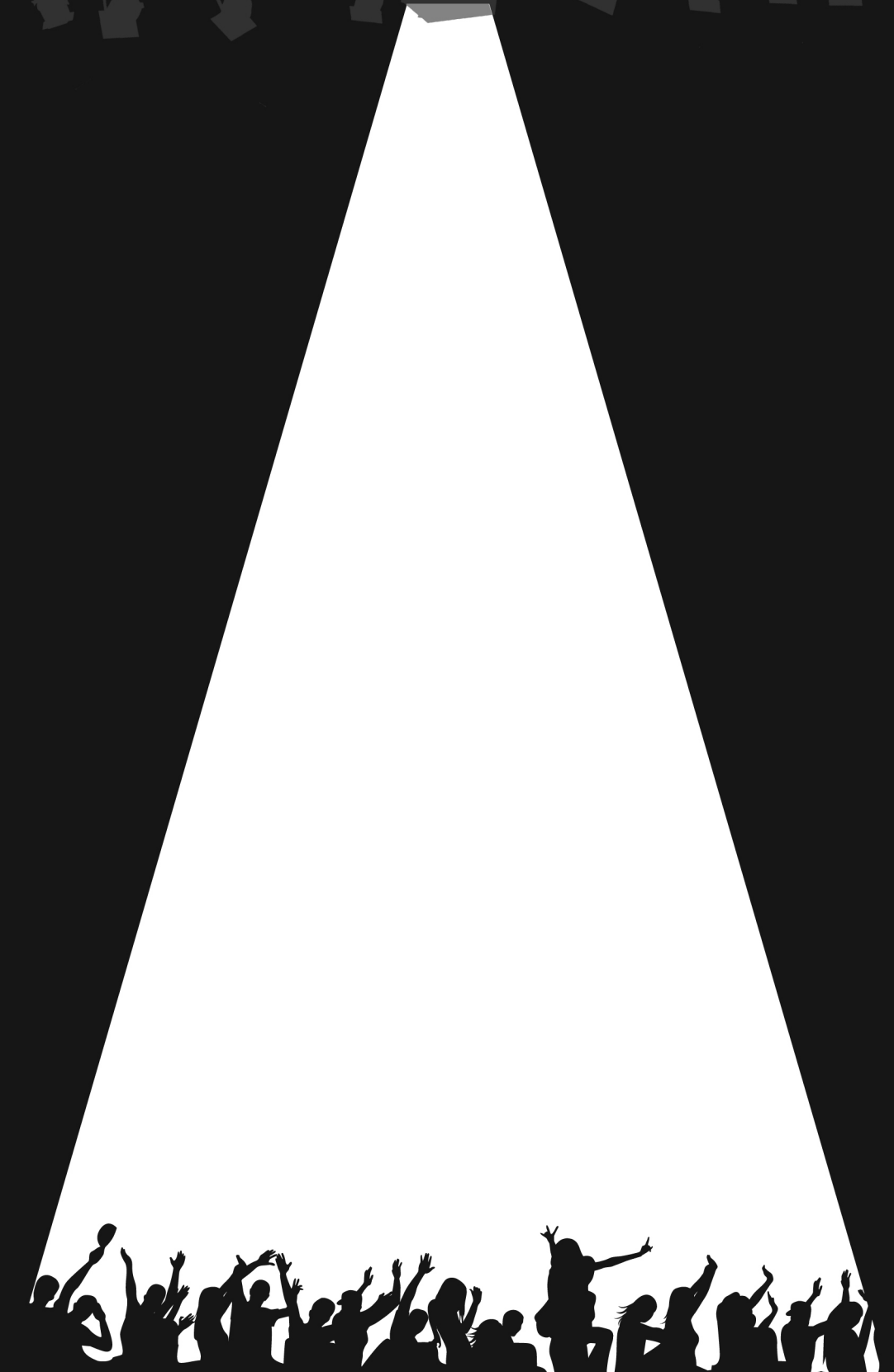
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Former President Bill Clinton shakes hands with a fan after signing his book, "My Life" at a bookstore in Washington, D.C., on July 7, 2004.

Presidents stand to earn more after terms

By Tim Jones
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — When Barack Obama and his family move into 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. in January they won't exactly be living on a pauper's salary, \$400,000. The real money, though, could come when they move out.

No matter what kind of president Obama turns out to be, the Chicago Democrat can almost certainly count on a post-presidential lifetime of steady and probably huge earnings from books, speeches, corporate boards and other events that have made multimillionaires of modern day Oval Office retirees.

This could be called "presidential economics," a big money game in which chief executives — popular, mediocre, or disgraced — cash in after they leave office.

That's not to say there are no perks — two jumbo jets, a fleet of helicopters and limos, and a presidential retreat — but not everything is covered by an expense account.

All expenses such as clothing and food are personal, with the exception of \$100,000 that is given each term for decoration of the residence and the Oval Office, according to White House assistant press secretary Carlton Carroll.

The first family also can set up an outside fund through the White House Historical Association to help cover additional costs. Travel and health care is covered, though not with a specific amount, he said. But using the White House medical unit, or an appointed civilian doctor, if the president chooses, does not come with a charge, and prescriptions also do not cost the First Family anything.

Even as Obama prepares to become the nation's 44th president, his income is already jumping. Two books he authored — "Dreams from My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope" — are soaring this week on the best-seller lists.

First lady Laura Bush is reportedly planning a memoir that is generating great interest in the publishing industry. President George W.

Bush said this week he will "probably" write a book, although his prospects are not as promising as his wife's.

In modern times, this is a stunning turn of events. After Harry Truman left the White House in 1953, his only income was his pension from the Missouri National Guard. According to Michael Devine, director of the Truman Library and Museum in Independence, Mo., when Truman was asked by a local bank to sit on the board of directors, the former president said no and asked "Where were you guys 30 years ago when I needed a loan?"

Since then, change has certainly come to the lives of Truman's successors.

Former President Bill Clinton left office in 2001 deep in debt from impeachment-related legal expenses, but he wrote a book and commanded huge speaking fees to pull himself out of a financial hole. For example, Clinton speeches range from \$100,000 to \$250,000 apiece. Bill Clinton's book "My Life" earned a \$15 million advance, and Hillary

Clinton's "Living History" drew an \$8 million advance.

They followed the footsteps of other former presidents. Richard Nixon, the only president to resign from office, wrote books and granted interviews for cash. Ronald Reagan played to his strength, hitting the speaking circuit. Jimmy Carter wrote books.

Obama's post-presidential value is potentially greater for several reasons. He's already a published and accomplished author; he made history by becoming the first African-American elected president; and his speaking skills and rock star/celebrity status predate his move into the White House. Obama is the answer to political pent-up demand.

Although Obama will likely make more money when he leaves the White House, he should have few concerns going in.

The book deal from Random House gave Obama a \$1.9 million advance in January 2005 for writing two nonfiction books and one children's book, according to his 2005 Senate ethics statement.

Salvation Army bell ringers now accepting plastic

By Debbie Kelley
The Gazette

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — No change in your pocket? That's no reason to walk past a Salvation Army red kettle this year without making a donation to help feed, clothe and shelter the needy.

El Paso County is the first Salvation Army chapter in the United States to test the use of debit and credit cards at five of the 83 locations where bell ringers are encouraging shoppers to open their wallets.

"It's a response to the way in which the public spends money — people are using cash less and plastic more," said Mike Smith, director of kettle development for the local Salvation Army chapter.

The idea of mixing technology and tradition is receiving mixed reviews. Shopper Tawny Amati said she doesn't think there's anything wrong with organizations using innovative techniques to raise funds.

"Nobody carries cash anymore; we're a credit card society," she said.

But Salvation Army bell ringer Glen Casteel prefers the "old-fashioned way" of plunking a handful of change into the kettle. "It just seems more personal that way," he said.

Whether people favor cash or plastic, the Salvation Army just hopes they'll give. The local chapter's annual fundraising drive kicked off Wednesday with a goal of

raising \$600,000 to support the city's only 24/7 homeless shelter and programs that provide free meals, plus help with utilities and rent. The goal is about 10 percent more than last year's total of \$557,000, which Smith acknowledges will be a challenge in a bad economy.

"We're seeing people from middle-class neighborhoods, who didn't used to need help, now needing food, rent and utility assistance to get back on their feet."

Mike Smith
director of kettle development for the local Salvation Army chapter

But the need is greater this year, as the slow economy has pushed up demand for services by 25 percent and decreased donations by 10 percent, Smith said.

"We're seeing people from middle-class neighborhoods, who didn't used to need help, now needing food, rent and utility assistance to get back on their feet," he said.

The local Salvation Army relies on the red kettle drive for the majority of its funding, Smith said.

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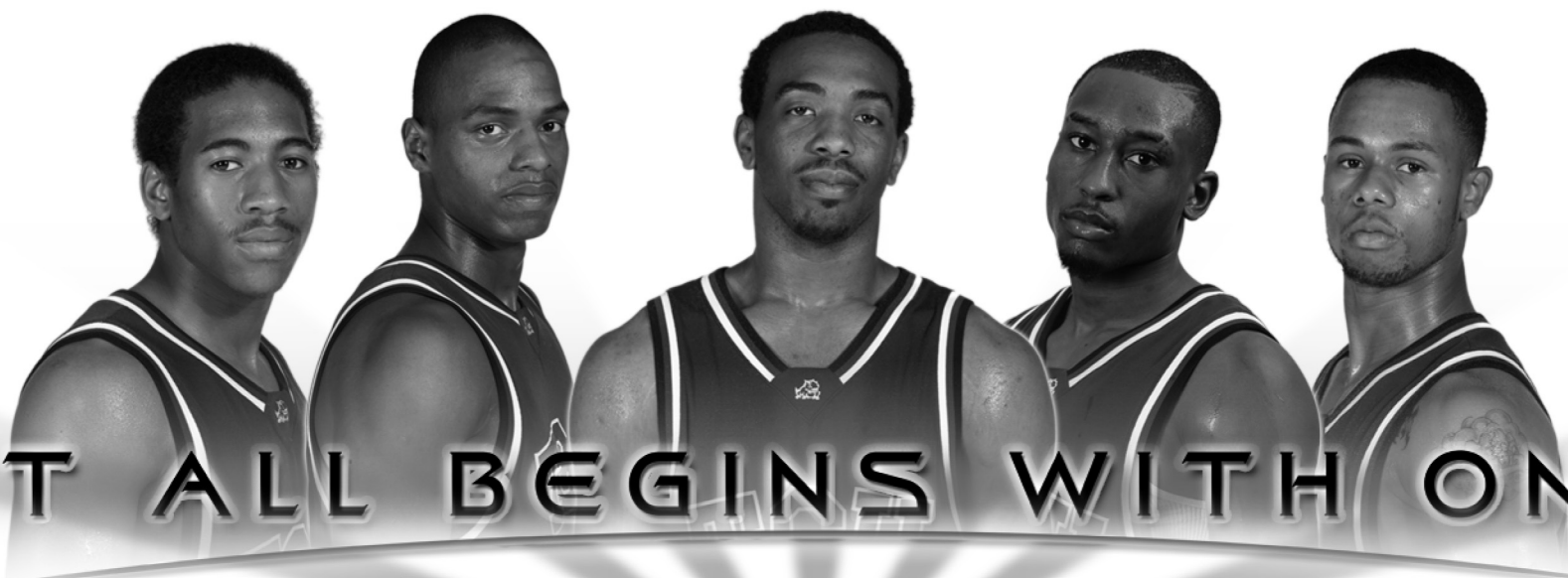
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SPORTS

COACH

continued from page 10

still a club sport, and Sybesma would be taking a \$5,000 pay cut to move to the college ranks.

"Sometimes, you have to take a step back to get two steps ahead," Sybesma said.

The early days were rough. The facilities were unimpressive, the coach inexperienced and the accommodations were lacking.

"We used to take three or four vans, and we would have to have the students drive," Sybesma said. "We usually ate fast food and stayed at less-than desirable hotels. When we were eating at McDonald's one time, one of the kids said, 'Why do we have to eat at McDonald's?' and I said, 'If it matters where we're eating, you're not thinking about the right thing.'"

There were many obstacles, but Sybesma still worked to make the program stand out.

"Over the years, there were times when we didn't have any assistants or if we did, we had a graduate assistant," Sybesma said.

"So, I've had to do it all at one time, including run the pool. Between the paperwork the NCAA makes you do, and now international recruiting, I've learned you can't do it all yourself."

Simply put, the team was outgunned in a conference featuring

"If it matters where we're eating, you're not thinking about the right thing."

Richard Sybesma
swimming & diving coach

programs like SMU and Texas, which were attracting national recruits with better pools, more exposure and name recognition.

Over the years, the coach worked to bring his teams up in the ranks through a few conference changes, eventually breaking the surface and gaining some stature for the program.

After 23 seasons in to his coaching career at TCU, Sybesma recorded his first conference championship, as his men's team went 9-2 on its way to the Conference USA title.

"It was awesome," Sybesma said. "What I'm in this for is to see that kind of excitement out of those kids."

Sybesma is currently coaching the team in its fourth conference since he's been on campus; this time the Mountain West. So far things have gone fairly well, but the coach believes the best is yet to come.

As Sybesma sits in his office, he takes a call from a recruit. It provides a reminder how champions are built — one day at a time. Even if he's been here for 10,950 of those days.

"[I want my legacy] to be that I was a small part of what helped TCU get to where it is today," Sybesma said. "And that means TCU in general; it encompasses swimming, it encompasses how swimming is thought of here, it encompasses relationships with people."

Vikings DE to discuss QB hits with NFL officials



Minnesota Vikings' Jared Allen (69) and Kevin Williams (93) celebrate Allen's safety in the second quarter against the Green Bay Packers. The Vikings defeated the Packers 28-27 at the Metrodome in Minneapolis on Nov. 9.

By Chip Scoggins
(Minneapolis) Star Tribune

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Jared Allen is scheduled to meet with NFL officials in New York on Tuesday to discuss several of his recent hits on quarterbacks, but Vikings coach Brad Childress declined to speculate on whether he expects the defensive end to be available Sunday against Jacksonville.

"Any insight would have to come from the NFL," Childress said Monday.

Fox Sports, which first reported the visit, said Allen could face another fine or possible suspension as a result of two hits on Houston's Matt Schaub on Nov. 2 and a helmet-to-helmet hit on Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers on Nov. 9. The NFL fined Allen \$50,000 for his two low hits on Schaub, two days before the hit on Rodgers.

It is unclear the exact purpose for the meeting and what steps the league might take in dealing with Allen, who declined comment after Sunday's 19-13 loss at Tampa Bay.

Allen's defensive linemates Kevin and Pat Williams also will visit the league office later this week to appeal their four-game suspensions for violating the NFL's steroids policy after testing positive for a banned diuretic that can

serve as masking agent.

Childress said he is not distracted by the possibility of losing three Pro Bowl defensive linemen to suspensions.

"I just think everything at this point would be speculation," he said. "So I try to stay in the now and get ready for Jacksonville and really don't go much further than that. That's the way our guys are, not getting out over their skies. I

"We're not the Lone Ranger. We're beat up right now physically as a football team. But I could say that about probably 31 other teams right now."

Brad Childress
Vikings' head coach

think you make a huge error when you do that. It's a negative energy drain, and I think it's just important to stay with the positive energy right now."

Allen also is dealing with a serious right shoulder injury. He left the locker room with his right arm

in a sling Sunday and was in obvious pain after playing his second game since suffering a third-degree sprain of the AC joint in his shoulder against the Texans.

Childress met with Allen on Monday and said Allen "feels much, much better today."

"But for me to tell you he's going to be pain-free the rest of the year, he's not going to be pain-free until the football season ends," Childress said. "That's just the way it is. That's the way it is with a number of guys on our football team."

"We're not the Lone Ranger. We're beat up right now physically as a football team. But I could say that about probably 31 other teams right now."

Childress said Allen will spend another week getting intensive treatment. He used the term "game ready" to describe the process and said it's not unusual for players to receive as many as 10 treatments per day on injured body parts, especially for knees and shoulders.

"You can get better, you can feel better," Childress said. "You can take some swelling out of there and get yourself some relief. It's not immediate. You have to work at it. Most all of our guys work at it because this is their profession and they work at getting well as hard as they work to take care of their bodies and stay healthy."

BASKETBALL

continued from page 10

"We've set up our schedule to play really good basketball teams early in the year so our guys can get experience and grow and learn," Christian said. "We're going to learn some things about ourselves [against Nebraska]."

The Horned Frogs will be playing their first game after dropping back-to-back games against Clemson University and the College of Charleston in the ESPN Charles-

ton Classic. Those two losses followed a victory over Western Michigan University in Christian's debut as the TCU coach.

"We're coming off three games in three days," Christian said after practice Tuesday. "It's more just game preparation and getting guys ready to go and excited to play."

After three games Edvinas Ruzgas leads the team with 47 points. Kevin Langford is second on the team with 39, 27 of those came against Charleston last Sunday.

Although Christian feels that the TCU offense will have to take a committee approach to scoring, he describes Langford as the "key to our offense."

"It's good to see him have that kind of a night and build his confidence," Christian said.

Nebraska is 1-0 on the season after defeating San Jose State last Sunday. The Cornhuskers won that contest 63-46.

This game will be the first in a four-game home stand for the Frogs.

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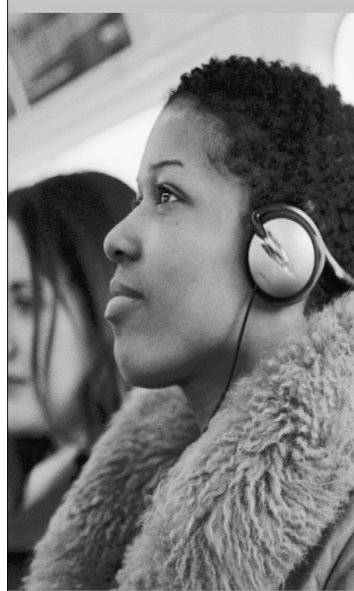


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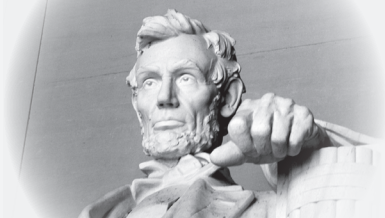


Millions of Americans expose themselves to noise levels above 85 decibels for hours at a time — the level audiologists identify as the danger zone. Lawn mowers, sporting events, live or recorded music, power tools, even traffic and crowded restaurants can sustain these levels. If you're around noises like these for prolonged periods, you're risking permanent hearing loss. For more on the 85 dB threshold, and ways to protect your hearing health, visit ASHA.org.

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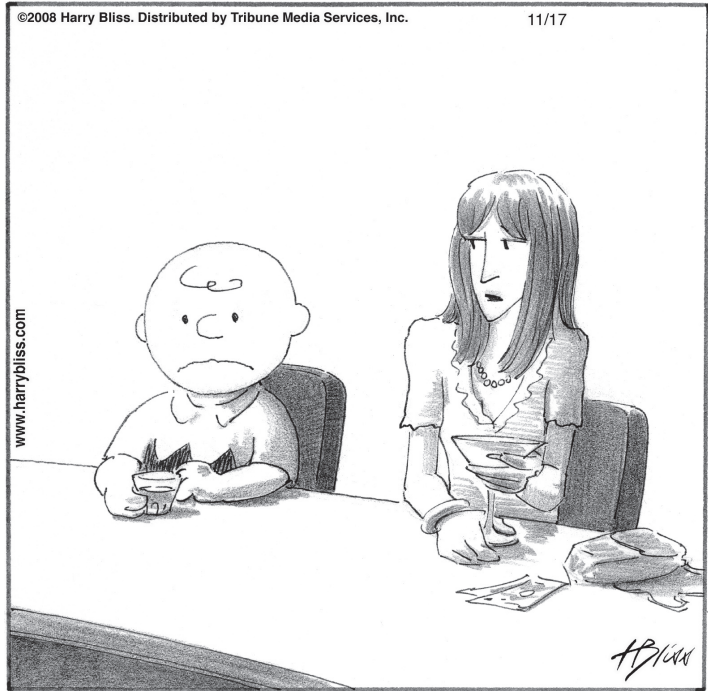
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5			9	1				4
		8		5				9
	7			8			1	
	1					7	8	
7								5
	3	2					9	
	8			2			5	
3				9		1		
2				6	7			3

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

See Thursday's paper for sudoku and crossword solutions.

Tuesday's Solutions

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

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ACROSS

1 Took wing
5 Poor-box contribution
9 Smug look
14 Burt's ex
15 Ancient mariner
16 Vietnam's capital
17 Asian inland sea
18 Embellished
20 Jet parked on a hill?
22 Proportion
23 Comic strip cry
24 Unrefined
27 Escargot
30 Fragment
32 Back of the boat
35 Genoa-based ship?
38 Relevant
41 Frankie's beach blanket partner
42 Ragu on rails?
44 Sun, homily
45 Non-studio film
46 Family of Indy winners
49 Vane dir.
50 ___ be a real shame if...
52 Weighty volumes
56 Bus on a bumpy road?
61 Vamp's accessory
63 Go it alone
64 Host
65 Shady stand
66 Golf hazard
67 The Orlons
68 Cry out loud
69 Takes a chair

DOWN

1 Natural talent
2 Doone of fiction
3 Ratify
4 "Die Hard" star
5 Shortly
6 Folk wisdom
7 South African statesman
8 Contour

By Arian and Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL
11/19/08

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

S	H	I	V	S	S	S	A	N	M	A	W
L	I	V	I	A	A	L	A	M	O	E	R
A	H	O	L	D	L	T	G	O	V	E	D
W	O	R	L	D	W	A	R	O	N	E	I
S	O	V	I	E	T	J	A	B	B	A	
E	R	I	N	F	R	A	T	E	R	N	A
M	A	E	G	U	L	F	W	A	R	W	H
I	N	T	R	E	P	I	D	S	J	A	M
N	O	T	I	P	S	C	O	R	E	S	
D	R	A	M	A	F	I	E	R	I	E	
O	H	M	W	O	R	L	D	W	A	R	T
R	O	W	A	B	O	I	L	V	I	S	O
I	D	A	Y	O	N	N	E	A	D	A	R
C	A	I	R	S	E	A	T	S	T	E	R

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9 George Beverly or John
10 Jazz flautist
11 Holds the attention of
12 Shad delicacy
13 Josh
19 Jan. honoree
21 Charged particle
25 Sharp
26 Grill brand
28 "___ That a Shame"
29 Cicero's road
30 Scathing review
31 Serpent tail?
32 Texas A&M student
33 Frond plants
34 International accord
36 Rested (on)
37 Lodges
39 Dill doubled
40 Vote in favor
43 Easily heard
47 & so on & so forth

48 Beds down on a branch
50 Curling surface
51 Chucked
53 Native New Zealander
54 Great brilliance
55 Mall tenants
57 Article

58 Quaker pronoun
59 Iditarod destination
60 Struggle to breathe
61 Low-lying wetland
62 Comic Philips

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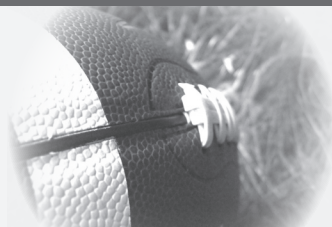
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SPORTS



See how the Frogs match up with the Air Force Falcons. Tomorrow

MEN'S BASKETBALL

GAME ON



Senior forward John Ortiz snags a rebound during the Horned Frogs' 81-50 victory over Lithuania Christian University on Nov. 3. LINH DANG / Staff Photographer

Big 12 foe slated for home debut

By Jordan Smith
Staff Writer

After losing the last two games of a three-game road trip, the Horned Frogs will face the University of Nebraska in their 2008 home opener Wednesday at 7 p.m.

This will be new head coach Jim Christian's first regular sea-

son home game at TCU. Christian was lured to TCU last March from Kent State, where he accumulated a 138-58 record over six seasons and made the NCAA Tournament twice. He said he hopes to bring those winning ways to Fort Worth.

Nebraska is the first of three Big 12 teams TCU is scheduled to play this season.

Men's Basketball Game

What: TCU vs. Nebraska
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Daniel-Meyer Coliseum

SEE BASKETBALL • PAGE 8



Coach Richard Sybesma meets with his team after TCU's 128-115 victory against Colorado State on Nov. 7. PAIGE MCARDLE / Staff Photographer

Coach reflects on 30 years

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

One of swimming and diving coach Richard Sybesma's greatest professional achievements is the kind of understated award you would expect for winning a single tournament. It is a five-inch tall rectangular crystal with his name and Conference USA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's Coach Choice Award written on it.

He was selected by a group of Conference USA student-athletes as the best coach of any sport in

the conference. It sits next to his Conference USA 2004 Coach of the Year trophy.

He prefers the one from the students.

The coach can talk passionately about winning that award and what it meant to him. He can talk passionately about most of the awards on his desk or hung on his office wall. But his favorite thing to talk about is TCU.

He can tell you about the impressive growth of the campus, its athletic programs and its student body over the past 30 years.

After all, he has been coaching here for every one of them.

It would take a fairly driven man to create a swimming program at TCU — it would invite comparisons with cross-town rival and national powerhouse SMU, and at that time in the university's history, competing with SMU was usually bad news.

Former athletic director Frank Windegger made an offer to a 25-year-old Sybesma in 1978 to become the swimming coach. It was

SEE COACH • PAGE 8

Frogs ready for season finale

By Billy Wessels
Sports Editor

Head football coach Gary Patterson began his weekly news conference Tuesday with two words that expressed the focus of the Horned Frogs this week: "Air Force."

"For a team that people say runs the triple option, they have thrown for nine touchdowns," Patterson said.

"You've got to be very careful in how you handle them and what you do."

Patterson said the team is prepared for what the Air Force

Academy has done during its first 11 games, but he would be surprised if the Falcons tried something new.

"They have a different game plan for everyone every week," Patterson said. "But they are always going to have a new wrinkle. It will really come down to game time adjustments for this group."

Saturday's game will be the first one in 16 days for the Frogs, and the coach said there are both pros and cons to getting this extra time off after 11 straight weeks with games.

"The positive is that you need the extra time to get ready for a good Air Force team," Patterson said. "But the negative is that it's the last game of the season and

Football Game

What: No. 15 TCU vs. Air Force Academy
When: Saturday, 2:30 p.m.
Where: Amon Carter Stadium

you have to find ways to keep your team motivated."

Another plus to the time off is that injured players are getting healthier. Patterson said sophomore wide receiver Jeremy Kerley, who had a limited role in the 13-10 loss to Utah, will return for this weekend's game. The coach also said junior running back Joseph Turner, who missed the Utah game, is back to running 100 percent.

Patterson also said the timing of the break was unusual because last season the team had a 16-day break with four games left in the season.

"Playing at the end of the year is a grind, especially when you didn't have any off weeks going into that point and, all of a sudden; now you get 16 days," Patterson said. "It's kind of like coming back from Christmas vacation when you were in school. You get all that time off and then you have to go back, and you don't want to be there."

This game will be the last home game for 20 Horned Frog seniors and Patterson said it will be weird looking at the field and not seeing the seniors' numbers out there next season.

"It's a big game for our seniors, this university and my staff. Everybody involved with this team owes them a lot," Patterson said. "We need to understand that these guys have won a lot of football games. Hopefully we can get them to another 10-win season and maybe 11 with a bowl game."

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