

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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Leadership was lacking in last night's men's basketball game.

Sports, page 8

HARDCOVER FICTION BEST SELLERS

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Brandon Sanderson
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River
by John Irving
- The New York Times



University needs to re-evaluate how tuition is charged.

Opinion, page 3

PECULIAR FACT

NEW YORK — "Pirates of the Caribbean" star Johnny Depp was named People magazine's "Sexiest Man Alive" on Wednesday, reclaiming a title he first won in 2003.

—Reuters

TODAY'S WEATHER



72 54
HIGH LOW

Mostly Sunny

Tomorrow: Chance of
T-Storms
62 / 45

Saturday: Mostly Sunny
65 / 47



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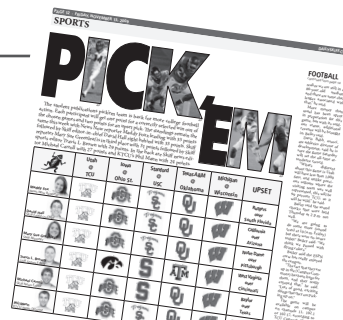
NEWS

Does applying to college early benefit students when it comes to securing financial aid?
Friday



SPORTS

Student publications members pick this weekend's big games.
Friday



POLITICS

DEMS DEBATE



Democratic candidates for Texas governor Tom Schieffer, left, Hank Gilbert and Felix Alvarado talk about the regulation of college tuition rates at the Gubernatorial Democratic Debate Wednesday night.

Democratic candidates visit

By Paige McArdle
Staff Reporter

Three Democratic candidates for Texas governor told their audience of about 50 people on campus Wednesday that schoolchildren should not be forced into a mold, with two of them expressing criticism about standardized testing.

Candidate Tom Schieffer, Hank Gilbert and Felix Alvarado met in the first Gubernatorial Candidates Forum of the 2010



Alvarado



Gilbert



Schieffer

election at the Brown-Lupton University Union ballroom. The event was sponsored by the TCU Democrats and the Tarrant County Young Democrats, and was moderated by political science professor Jim Riddleberger.

Gilbert, a rancher and former schoolteacher, said he would eliminate the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test and push for an emphasis on vocational and technical training in high schools. The majority of jobs require this type of training and not a college degree, he said.

Schieffer, a lawyer and U.S. ambassador to Japan, stressed the importance of getting children into a learning environment at an earlier age and stopping attempts to make children fit into the current education system. A teacher should have the mental-

Other platforms

For more information about candidates running for other offices, go to dailyskiff.com.

ity that he or she is teaching to 10 classes of one, not one class of 10, he said, noting individual students' unique needs.

Alvarado, an Air Force veteran, said standardized testing in schools is a minimal standard and is not predictive of success in college. Schools must prepare high school graduates for an ever-changing economy, he said.

Both Gilbert and Schieffer said they oppose the deregulation of university tuition, which has caused an increase in the

SEE DEMOCRATS · PAGE 2

TOM BROWN/PETE WRIGHT

Vandals strike in housing complex

By Xan Angelovich
Staff Reporter

The university's Tom Brown-Pete Wright apartments have experienced a recent increase in student misconduct.

The incidents included students removing trash cans from the trash rooms, stealing toilet paper from the Tom Brown-Pete Wright common bathrooms, stealing cleaning supplies from housekeeping and urinating in the laundry room.

An e-mail sent by Rony Die, Tom Brown-Pete Wright hall director, to students living in the apartments addressed the incidents. He wrote in the e-mail that it had been hard to find pride in the current actions of the community.

"The actions stated above go beyond disrespect and I am asking that we all work together in building up our community," Die wrote.

The incidents had continued throughout the semester and were discussed with the resident assistants as they occurred. This process seemed to curb the behavior, Die said.

"However, recently a few of these actions have been occurring again, and I felt it was necessary to address the whole community," Die said.

As for uncovering the people be-

SEE VANDALISM · PAGE 2

ADMISSIONS

Number of early action applicants on the rise

By Jourdan Sullivan
Staff Reporter

A record number of early action undergraduate admissions applications were submitted for this month, an admissions official said.

Nov. 1 marked the first deadline for prospective students to submit their application for the 2010-2011 school year. This year, the university received 5,705 early action applications. Last year 5,287 applications were received, and in fall 2007, students submitted 5,555 applications.

The high volume of applications could be the result of a number of factors, Ray Brown, dean of admissions, said.

Brown said the number of applications received could be because of the university administration's decision to accept the ApplyTexas application for the first time. He said that students who used the generic application apply to all state colleges and some private universities, which made the application process easier for prospective students.

Brown attributed the dip in early action applications last year to the elimination of the Fast App, an easier application that TCU discontinued

SEE ADMISSION · PAGE 2

Early Action Admissions Applications Received

For fall 2010: 5,705
For fall 2009: 5,287
For fall 2008: 5,555

FILM-TV-DIGITAL MEDIA

Perks come from anonymous donor

By Alex Butts
Staff Reporter

Department of Film-TV-Digital Media students have had more opportunities to meet film industry professionals because of a large, anonymous donation made to FTDM for a student experience fund.

Elizabeth Selzer, regional director of development for the university, said the two purposes of the fund are to bring film industry experts and FTDM alumni to the university and to send FTDM students to film festivals and workshops.

As a result of the grant, students

have already met Rusty Mahmood, the assistant director of "The Office."

Selzer said the donor wanted the gift to have an immediate impact on FTDM students. The development of the gift had been in the works since November 2008, she said.

The specific amount of the donation could not be released at this time, Selzer said.

Taylor Wright, a senior FTDM major, said he looked forward to attending more guest lectures and workshops. He said he thought meeting film experts would strengthen students' chances for success in the film industry.

"It is always an awesome experi-

ence when getting to introduce myself and talk to alumni and industry professionals about any and every concern or question that I have about the industry," Wright said. "It's things like this that gives me hope for my future career path."

Julie Harrison, a sophomore FTDM major, said she thought having more money for hands-on experiences would benefit students.

"The things you learn in the classroom are extremely important, but there's a lot of valuable information you can get outside the classroom, as well," Harrison said. "Being able to

SEE DONATION · PAGE 2

SUSTAINABILITY

Store centers around eco-friendly goods

By Melanie Cruthirds
Staff Reporter

For Fort Worth native Liz Johnston, owner of the eco-friendly wares store The Greener Good, educating the community motivated her to open a retail location to accompany a growing online business, she said. So far, the flagship location, which opened Nov. 11, embodies the "it's all good" attitude that is the company's slogan.

"We really wanted to give (Fort Worth) an opportunity to see that it is in fact worthwhile to use these products," Johnston said. "They are better for the environment, they

are better for you and they actually work."

James Powers, a freshman pre-business major, attended the store's grand opening last week with prompting from his older sister, also a university student. Powers, who stands well over 6 feet tall, said the cluttered atmosphere of the store did not impress him much.

"I probably wouldn't go for window shopping purposes," Powers said. "I can see that being, (in) 10 years, a pretty happening spot to pop your head in."

In order to market The Greener Good's products and appeal, John-

The Greener Good

Where: 6333 Camp Bowie Blvd.
Hours: Mon. thru Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun. not yet determined

ston said university students would factor into the future promotional agenda. Johnston said because the company secured the retail space only two weeks prior to opening, they did not have a chance to do much advertising yet.

SEE GREEN · PAGE 2

NEWS

DEMOCRATS

continued from page 1

cost of college attendance in previous years. Governor candidate Kinky Friedman, who was not present, wrote in a statement that he also supported the regulation of college costs and the termination of the TAKS test.

All three candidates present said they opposed legislation that would legalize concealed weapons on college campuses.

Candidates also agreed

that exploring renewable energy sources would be beneficial to the state and would create jobs.

Gilbert said he has created a policy that would call for an 80 percent reduction in mercury transmissions from concrete facilities, a mandatory carbon capture on existing coal plants and a moratorium on any new plants that can't meet these standards. He also said the state needs to expand mass transit and inter-city rail systems.

Schieffer said the imple-

mentation of smart meters that would allow residents to use electricity in non-peak hours would help lower household electricity costs and add capacity to the electrical grid, reducing the need to build new power plants. He said diversifying the state's dependence on fossil fuels was important.

Alvarado said the state could cut energy costs by creating new energy sources.

Friedman wrote in his statement that he supported the use of renewable energy sources.

ADMISSION

continued from page 1

earlier this year.

Admissions saw a growing number early action and regular applications submitted in the last decade, he said.

"As recently as 2000, we had 4,800 applications for the year," Brown said.

The increasing number of early action applications had to do with the advantages that accompanied early action and the popularity of the university, Brown said.

"The advantages (of early action) are significant," Brown said. "The response that we promise students who apply by (the) Nov. 1 early action deadline ... is (that) we will get you a decision on your application before Christmas."

Brown said students admitted early were offered

"The advantages (of early action) are significant, the response that we promise students who apply by (the) Nov. 1 early action deadline ... is (that) we will get you a decision on your application before Christmas."

Ray Brown
dean of admissions

their financial aid packages first and received preference in housing.

A high percentage of students who applied through early action composed the majority of the incoming class. Stronger students and students that want to

be at the university submitted their applications first, Brown said.

"The reality is, our best applicants apply early," Brown said.

Brown said the size of next year's class would be difficult to determine.

"The class size was 1,821 this fall and we have been instructed to do everything we can to make it smaller," Brown said. "How much smaller is yet to be determined. I'm guessing it's going to be somewhere around 1,700 and 1,750."

Out-of-state students submitted more applications than in-state students, Brown said.

In combination with recruiting efforts by the admissions office and the Ambassadors, Brown said the university expected to receive around 13,500 applications this year.

VANDALISM

continued from page 1

hind these acts, it was difficult to determine whether residents or visitors were behind the incidents. When students were asked to return trash cans to the trash rooms they complied, Die said.

However, placing blame on students for other incidents was difficult because there were no witnesses, Die added.

"Some don't even make sense such as the urine found in the laundry room because each apartment unit has two bathrooms in them," Die said.

Die said he hoped his e-mail to students would help generate some conversations on community standards and ethics. He also planned to have resident assistants follow up with their residents to see if they had any concerns they wanted to share.

"All this should bring a sense of awareness to the community and possibly result with an end to the aforementioned in-

cidents," Die said.

John Byrom, a junior accounting major who lives in the Tom Brown-Pete Wright apartments, said he was unaware of the incidents until he read the e-mail. He said he felt that the e-mail could help in raising awareness but thought it was unlikely that anybody would turn himself or herself in.

"It could really be anyone living in Tom Brown-Pete Wright or not," Byrom said.

All of the Tom Brown-Pete Wright apartment incidents violated university policies. Students found to have been involved in any of the incidents would take part in the university's discipline process as outlined in the 2009-2010 TCU Official Student Handbook, Die said.

One of the violations filed by Die was theft and unauthorized use of property. The Code of Student Conduct states that violations occurred if there was theft or attempted theft, or the unauthorized use

or possession of university property or services, or the property of others.

The community standards policy, which Die said was also violated, requires students to adhere to a standard of behavior that allowed others to live comfortably in the environment. Specifically, improper visitation hours, excessive noise and unescorted guests violate this policy, according to the Code of Student Conduct.

Die said he realized not every student living in the Tom Brown-Pete Wright apartments was involved but encouraged students to be proactive in helping officials correct these problems.

"I can look further into the situation but without something concrete it will be difficult to proceed forward with the university discipline process," Die said.

Students or residents with information regarding these incidents may contact Die's office at (817) 257-5895.

DONATION

continued from page 1

have more workshops to participate in, meet past alumni to network with and attend film festivals will provide so much knowledge and insight for our students."

Richard Allen, department chair of FTDM, said the donation was the biggest gift FTDM had ever received.

Allen said FTDM used the fund to bring in Mah-

mood and his wife, Kara Harshbarger, a university alumna. The department also used the fund to bring in another university alumnus, Allan Schwegmann, who is a producer for "The Bachelor" on ABC.

FTDM officials planned to bring in more guest speakers for the spring semester, Allen said.

Mark Mourer, assistant dean for development in the College of Communication, said guest speakers would

GREEN

continued from page 1

"I think getting out into the community and kind of figuring out programs that would interest people (would be good)," Johnston said. "I think TCU students would definitely be (part of that)."

Apart from offering an array of products as alternatives to mainstream offerings, The Greener Good serves as an outlet for consumers to experience firsthand the items they saw online like clothing, foods and cleaning products, Johnston said.

"It's difficult to tell somebody who's never felt something that is bamboo fabric that it's actually softer than cotton," Johnston said. "They think bamboo and they think sticks."

Johnston recommended several lines available in the store including a line of cleaners by EcoDiscoveries, which recently received a safety award from the Environmental Protection Agency. Also on her list was the PowerCost Monitor device by Blue Line Innovations, which reports how much energy a home uses on a daily basis and can help pinpoint costly energy wasting devices or habits, Johnston said.

Lauren Geffert, a salesperson at The Greener Good and university alumna, said Johnston's outlook on environmental awareness in Fort Worth was similar to her own and prompted her to participate in the growing retail venture. After graduating, Geffert said searching for a job required her to follow her heart more

show FTDM students that a career in film or television was possible.

"When I had people come back and talk to me in undergrad ... that was something for me to say, 'Alright maybe there's hope after graduation,'" Mourer said. "If the students are smart about using the networking opportunity that, thanks to this fund, has been put in front of them, then they will have success when they get out."

"It's tempting to take some corporate job, (but) I thought (it) was something that Fort Worth needed. I've really enjoyed working here and making a difference, even if it is in a small way."

Lauren Geffert
salesperson at The Greener Good and TCU alumna

than anything.

"It's tempting to take some corporate job, (but) I thought (it) was something that Fort Worth needed," Geffert said. "I've really enjoyed working here and making a difference, even if it is in a small way."

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OPINION

DAILY SKIFF

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The Skiff View

Christmas tree’s move leaves some out in cold

Bah humbug to the university officials who thought it was a jolly idea to move the traditional campus Christmas tree from the steps of Sadler Hall to the Campus Commons, a supposed higher traffic location.

While the new location will no doubt be aesthetically pleasing, it is safe to say that the tree will make a great centerpiece for the residential students who are on that side of campus on a daily basis.

The university would have done a great favor to all students if it had simply asked for feedback from all students on whether the Christmas tree should be moved to a new location. While the powers that be are pushing for the newly renovated Campus Commons to become the new center of campus, there are still many students, mostly non-residential, who hardly ever make a trip to that part of campus unless they have a meal plan.

The university’s Christmas tree and all the activities that surround it are important to not only the students, but the surrounding community as well. And while it doesn’t make financial sense to have two Christmas trees, it is nice for the local community to at least see one Douglas-fir as they drive their cars through campus. Perhaps the Campus Commons is becoming the new spirit of campus, but for now the university should keep with tradition and let the steps of Sadler be decked with the spirit of Christmas.

Web editor Rose Baca for the editorial board.

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

YOUR VIEW
opinion@dailyskiff.com

Give Patterson your support

I’m a TCU alumnus, and I’ve been trying to get the word out for people to vote for Gary Patterson for 2009 Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year. He was No. 23 at the beginning of last week. I started a Facebook group a few days ago called “Vote Patterson - Coach of the Year 2009”, and as of today, Coach P moved up to the No. 17 spot with approximately 3,000 votes. There are about two weeks of the preliminary vot-

ing phase left, but ultimately, the winning coach receives \$50,000 for the charity of choice, as well as \$20,000 for the alumni association. I was wondering if you could mention the Web site or the Facebook group in the newspaper to get students to start voting every day for Coach P. Check out the Web site for more info at www.coachoftheyear.com. Thanks!

Kelly Tipton is an alumnus from Dallas

Overdraft policy cause for concern



MICHAEL LAUCK

Everyone likes a good story. Let’s start with one. Let’s say you have an account with a bank and you use debit cards to draw from that account once in a while. One day, you go out with your friends and have a nice dinner. You buy dinner, and use your debit card to pay for the purchase. While you don’t have enough money in your account, your bank covers you for the purchase but still charges you a draft fee because, well, you spent what wasn’t yours. Remembering this as the waiter walks away with your debit card, you fear he will come back and tell you it was rejected. But thanks to your bank’s policy, you are saved embarrassment for a \$35 fee.

Well, after next July, this may not happen. A new rule by the Federal Reserve says that banks must notify customers before charging overdraft fees. Banks must also give customers the option of opting out of the program. The most upsetting thing about this law is that it requires banks to give consumers something they may not want. Usually in a market, producers give consumers what they want. You would think that in an industry such as banking, wherein much competition exists, people wanting to option out of overdraft fees would be granted that choice by their banks. Because banks don’t, we can only assume that customers are satisfied with the policy. This is because they either want to be

Maybe the American population is not even smart enough to buy a house without government oversight, get married to the person we want or even make our daily purchases without the watch of Uncle Sam.

covered in case they buy something and don’t have the money or they simply will be careful and not worry about overdrafting. Consumer groups and regulators may argue that people are unaware that spending in excess of their accounts’ coffers is a no no. However, it’s seems very ridiculous that a person with a debit card would not know this very simple procedure. It only takes a reading of a contract, a call to the bank or talking to a teller to figure it out. If the Federal Reserve, or even the federal government, does not think that we can protect ourselves from a simple overdraft fee, how far can they take other things? Maybe the American population is not even smart enough to buy a house without government oversight; maybe individuals aren’t aware enough to get married to the person they want or even to make a daily purchases without the watch of Uncle Sam. We are nowhere near to a totalitarian state at all. I use the above examples to show the logic train that the new regulation follows. As Americans, let’s try to depend less on government to tell us how to behave and instead learn to live with the consequences of our actions.

Michael Lauck is a broadcast journalism and economics major from Houston



Nate Beeler is the editorial cartoonist for The Washington Examiner.

University should re-examine unfair flat-rate tuition policy



KATIE MARTINEZ

As tuition rates continue to rise at an alarming rate, it is time that university officials re-evaluate the flat-rate tuition policy that requires students to pay the same price for 18 hours as if they were only taking 12 or 15. The plan was promoted as one that would encourage students to graduate on time, but it also lines the university’s pockets with money for nothing. As a non-traditional student and a mother of two, it is not possible for me to take 18 hours and do well. But



FLICKR

Trying to force students to carry a heavier course load than they can handle only deprives them of absorbing all the information they have paid so much to learn. This is not any better than charging them for classes that they aren’t taking.

even for traditional students, many who have part-time jobs and extracurricular activities, it is just too much to expect. And why then should we pay exorbitant rates for classes we are not even taking? In the latest notification of tuition increase sent out by Chancellor Victor Boschini, it is explained that tuition for students taking 1-8 hours will be \$1,040 per hour and students taking 9-11 hours will pay \$1,265 per hour. Bump it up to 12 hours and students end up paying \$1,250 per hour over

the course of an academic year. If the goal behind the flat-rate tuition is to graduate people sooner, it doesn’t make sense that students who are taking 1-8 hours get a tuition discount as opposed to full-time students. Graduating on time is a reflection on the university, but so is poor performance and retention. Trying to force students to carry a heavier course load than they can handle only deprives them of absorbing all the information they have paid so much to learn. This is not any better than charging them for classes that they aren’t taking. If the university feels that it is appropriate to raise tuition rates again despite the fact that we have an endowment of around \$1 billion and are already over the national tuition average for private universities according to the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, OK — but at least charge everyone the same rate and only charge students for services they are actually receiving.

Katie Martinez is a junior news-editorial journalism major from Fort Worth.

Monitor turkey intake this year



DANNY PETERS

“Hey Uncle Buck, could you please pass me the mashed potatoes? I need to put about a pound of them on my plate next to the turkey legs. You know, it is Thanksgiving after all.” Uncle Buck gladly passes you the homemade, buttery mashed potatoes as you eye his obnoxious, red-deer sweater that he seemingly pulled out of a magic wardrobe just in time for Thanksgiving and other holidays. As comical as it seems, this really isn’t an odd sight: Americans eating inordinate amounts of food during the holidays with their uncles wearing funny-looking red sweaters. The comedian and habitual overeater Jim Gaffigan said it best: “Thanksgiving, it’s like we didn’t even try to come up with a holiday tradition. The tradition is we overeat ... How about a Thanksgiving where we eat a lot? What if we eat a lot of (food) with people that annoy the hell out of us?” Not only do we eat an insane amount of food during the holidays, especially during Thanksgiving, but it is with people that annoy us. I’m sorry Uncle Buck, but you and your deer sweaters

We Greeks basically equate food with happiness. It’s generally the mainstay of our culture.

then either I am sick, dying, or something is generally wrong with me. The solution to all of these is ... You guessed it. More food for me. Generally, I believe that eating together during the holidays with family and friends is a great tradition that Americans should cherish and keep going as long as we can. But we don’t need to eat until we become comatose from those six turkey legs and gravy. Now, if I can just put this delicious turkey sandwich down.

Danny Peters is a junior psychology major from Fort Worth.



FLICKR

NEWS

HEALTH



ALEX BRANDON / AP Photo
Reps. Sue Myrick, R-N.C., center, gestures during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday to discuss the new mammogram guidelines. From left are, Rep. Candice Miller, R-Mich., Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., Myrick, Rep. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn. and Rep. Jean Schmidt, R-Ohio. Myrick is a breast cancer survivor.

Official: Mammograms still important

By **Randolph E. Schmid**
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Women should continue getting regular mammograms starting at age 40, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Wednesday, moving to douse confusion caused by a task-force recommendation two days earlier.

Sebelius issued her statement following a government panel's recommendation on Monday, that said most women don't need mammograms in their 40s and should get one every two years starting at 50.

That recommendation was a break with the American Cancer Society's long-standing position that women should get screening mammograms starting at age 40.

The task force does "not set federal policy and they don't determine what services are covered by the federal government," Sebelius said.

Medicare, which covers

"Mammograms have always been an important lifesaving tool in the fight against breast cancer and they still are today."

Kathleen Sebelius
Health and Human Services Secretary

older Americans and some younger ones who are disabled, provides women on Medicare coverage for an annual mammogram at age 40 and older.

Sebelius noted that there has been debate about the age at which routine mammo-grams should begin, and how often they should be given.

"The task force has pre-sented some new evidence for consideration but our policies remain unchanged," she said. "Indeed, I would be very surprised if any private insurance company changed its mam-mography coverage decisions as a result of this action."

"My message to women is simple. Mammograms have always been an important lifesaving tool in the fight against breast cancer and they still are today. Keep doing what you have been doing for years — talk to your doctor about your individual his-tory, ask questions and make the decision that is right for you," Sebelius said.

In the meantime, she add-

ed, it is clear that more re-search is needed into ways to help women prevent and fight breast cancer.

The recommendations from the task force have left women across the country confused about which advice to take. It also quickly led to charges from opponents of changing health care policy that it is an example of what could be expected from gov-ernment-managed care.

In its report the panel of doctors and scientists con-cluded that such early and frequent screenings often lead to false alarms and un-needed biopsies, without sub-stantially improving women's odds of survival.

But their recommenda-tion was loudly criticized by breast cancer survivors who were diagnosed at a young age.

CONSTRUCTION

Walkway installed over Greek creek

By **Taylor Droddy**
Staff Reporter

A new \$90,000 walk-way completed in Septem-ber is making walking from the Worth Hills area to the Garvey-Rosenthal Soccer Stadium safer and more con-venient for students, a uni-versity official said.

The walkway, which be-gins near the driveway lead-ing to the former location of Pond Street Grill, passes over a creek and ends in the park-ing lot of the stadium.

University officials noticed people trying to walk across the area, said Robert Su-lak, director of landscaping and grounds. Sulak said the area was covered with moss and algae, which made the ground slippery and danger-ous to walk over.

The new walkway also al-lows people to avoid walking across Bellaire Drive, which can be very busy, Sulak said.

"The heaviest traffic is dur-ing football games, from peo-ple parking around the soc-er fields and walking over to the stadium," Sulak said.

Senior nursing major Ash-lee Mitchell said the walkway has made it much more con-venient to walk to and from football games.

"Usually it's a hassle to find parking for the bigger foot-ball games, but parking at the soccer fields and walking

"Usually it's a hassle to find parking for the bigger football games, but parking at the soccer fields and walking over on the bridge is really convenient," Mitchell said.

Morgan Grall, a senior fashion merchandising ma-jor, said she thought the walkway would be very use-ful for fans to walk to football games, and for people living in Worth Hills who play in-tramural sports.

"It may not have been the best use of money but at least it is being used by someone," Grall said.

Senior nursing major Mary Mahon agreed that the money used for the walkway could have been better spent. Mahon said that while peo-ple living in Worth Hills will benefit if they play intramu-ral sports, there wasn't a need for a walkway in the area.

"It takes all of maybe 10 seconds at the most to walk around the creek," Mahon said. "People are just lazy."

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IMPROVE TCU DAY



OLIVIA BOYCE / Staff Photographer
Sophomore early childhood development major Mary Rassier writes down some suggestions for campus improvement in front of the Mary Coutts Burnett Library as a part of SGA's "Improve TCU Day" on Wednesday.



CHANCE WELCH / Multimedia Editor
Sophomore film-TV-digital media major Lindsay Lock fills out a suggestion sheet for "Improve TCU Day" on Wednesday.

West Virginia senator sets new service record

By Laurie Ellman
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Robert C. Byrd became history's longest-serving member of Congress on Wednesday, earning a formal salute from the Senate and President Barack Obama for his nearly 56 years of service.

"I've loved every precious minute of it," the frail West Virginia Democrat, who turns 92 on Friday, said during a day of floor tributes to him, and moments before the Senate passed a resolution marking the milestone.

Obama earlier in the day described the one-time segregationist as a touchstone for constitutional values and a role model to all lawmakers.

"Countless colleagues, myself included, have looked to him for advice, guidance and leadership over the years," Obama, who represented Illinois in the Senate, said in a statement. "He is one of the most steadfast defenders of the United States Constitution, and he never lets us forget the guiding values and principles that make our nation great."

As Tuesday became Wednesday, Byrd shattered the record for congressional service that had been set by Carl Hayden, D-Ariz., who served in the House and Senate from 1912 to 1969. Byrd began his career in Washington in 1952 with his election to the House, and his elevation six years later to the Senate.

"Because of those wonderful people in West Virginia, this foster son of an impoverished coal miner from the great hills of southern West Virginia has had the opportunity to walk with kings, to meet with prime ministers, and to debate with presidents," Byrd said.

He wept a few minutes later as he named his only regret - that his wife Erma, who died in 2006, was not there.

"But I know, yes I do," Byrd said tearfully, pointing a finger to the sky, "that she's smiling down from Heaven and reminding me not to get a big head."

Republicans were in their weekly health care meet-

ing during Byrd's big moment, unaware that he was speaking or of the impending resolution vote, said a spokesman for Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah was the first Republican to rush in as the three dozen Democrats assembled rose in a final standing ovation. McConnell, who had saluted Byrd's "astonishing" record of service in a floor speech earlier in the day, was next, followed by Republican Whip Jon Kyl of Arizona. All offered their congratulations and joined

kept him from the Senate floor during much of this year, has a nearly 98 percent attendance record over the course of his career.

Which, by Byrd's count, has spanned 20,774 days.

"I am willing to risk predicting that many of the records set by Sen. Robert Byrd will never be passed," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., in the first of a series of floor tributes Wednesday.

Byrd has served long enough for him to rescind positions that he once trumpeted, such as his opposition to the 1964 Civil Rights Act. He has voiced regret about joining the Ku Klux Klan a lifetime ago. He lived long enough to see and cheer the nation's first black president and to watch his one-time rival and later dear friend, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., succumb to brain cancer.

Byrd remains a champion of "earmarks" — pet project spending that critics also call "pork." He's helped bring home to West Virginia \$326 million for 2008 alone, according to Citizens Against Government Waste.

Though he no longer chairs the Appropriations Committee, he does head up a subcommittee. In October, after a season of illness and absence, Byrd personally managed a \$44.1 billion spending agreement on security measures against natural disaster, terrorist attacks and other threats.

"I am willing to risk predicting that many of the records set by Sen. Robert Byrd will never be passed."

Harry Reid
Senate majority leader

the line to shake Byrd's hand.

Byrd is accustomed to setting records.

Since June 12, 2006, Byrd has been the longest-serving senator and later that year he was elected to an unprecedented ninth term. His colleagues have elected him to more leadership positions than any senator in history. He has cast more than 18,000 votes and, despite fragile health that has



BYRD MILESTONE / AP Photo
In this image from video, Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., speaks on the Senate floor Wednesday at the Capitol in Washington. Wednesday marked the day when Byrd became the longest-serving member of Congress.

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FEATURES

Rock’s not dead: Vultures prove it

By Naheil Qudah
Staff Writer

WHO THEY ARE

You’ve heard these guys in other incarnations: Dave Grohl from Nirvana and Foo Fighters, John Paul Jones from Led Zeppelin and Josh Homme from Queens of the Stone Age. During the past four years, they have collaborated and appeared live as a band, including a performance in Austin, before releasing their self-titled first album in the U.S. on Tuesday.

AS A BAND

It’s easy to be wary of supergroups. When musicians with incompatible sounds and styles decide to play together, it sounds a bit like your mom put all of Sunday’s leftovers in one container. But don’t expect to hear anything of the sort when you pick up this album. Yes, their styles are pervasive. With Grohl on drums, Jones on bass and Homme on guitar and lead vocals, you’ll be able to hear the distinct sound that each musician developed during their decades of work in the music industry. But instead of sounding like a hodgepodge of the trio’s previous bands, each track is a completely new, interesting and cohesive product from three talented musicians.

WHAT TO EXPECT

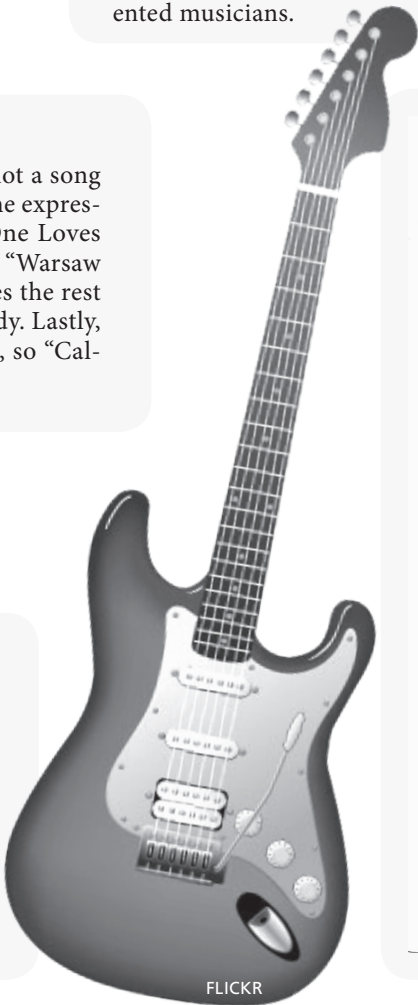
Grohl slamming out interesting and unexpected shifts in time signature mid-song; guitar solos with unmistakable roots in blues music that speed up and intensify under Homme’s quick fingers. Jones offering his heavy expertise on the bass guitar and making a gloom-and-doom appearance on the organ in “Caligulove”. This album is the epitome of real rock music in an era of pansy rock (I’m looking at you, Coldplay) and presents vicious lyrics about human interactions and the struggle for power along with striking album artwork displaying only black, white and red coloration.

THE BEST PARTS

Every track on this album is excellent, and there’s not a song worth skipping over. But it’s hard not to be partial to the expressively drawn-out vocals on the opening track “No One Loves Me & Neither Do I.” The dramatic fuzz guitar solo on “Warsaw or the First Breath You Take After You Give Up” drives the rest of the song into interesting shifts in rhythm and melody. Lastly, hearing Jones on the organ is a treat not to be missed, so “Caligulove” definitely has a place on this list.

IDEAL FOR

Disproving the theory that rock music is dead, bonding with parents over mutual respect for John Paul Jones (hey, he brought them “Stairway to Heaven” before he brought you “Mind Eraser, No Chaser”), gray winter days, tapping your feet on long drives, political discussions, air guitar, living room mosh pits. This album just raised the bar for rock music, so clear out some space on your shelf and get ready for a pleasant surprise.



Drawing by NAHEIL QUDAH / Staff Writer

Review

‘The Box’ marks ‘Darko’ director’s return to form

By Chance Welch
Multimedia Editor

The story is deceptively simple. A suburban couple are given a box with a button and a choice. They can push the button and get a million dollars, but the catch is that someone they don’t know will die. Based on a story by legendary science fiction writer Richard Matheson that was adapted from the 1980s revamp of “The Twilight Zone,” director Richard Kelly’s latest film “The Box” has him reaching some of the same potential that was first seen in his debut, “Donnie Darko.”

The film matches the mood of horror films like the 1978 remake of “The Invasion of the Body Snatchers” and the music by some of the members of the

Arcade Fire is surprisingly good. The twists that Kelly comes up with will either make you interested for the rest of the film or will take you out of it completely.

But that doesn’t mean “The Box” is without its faults. Stars Cameron Diaz and “X-Men” actor James Marsden don’t really seem up to the job of making the concept stick. Although it seems like nitpicking, Cameron Diaz’s Virginia accent is really distracting.

However, Kelly’s “Darko” was initially released to a lukewarm box office, indifferent critics and not much fanfare. It was only after its release on DVD that the film could develop the word of mouth needed to build a cult following.

His debut was followed by two misfires that have yet to

find that same group of devotees. The first was “Domino,” a Kelly-scripted Tony Scott film which was a victim of the latter’s ADD-afflicted camerawork and kinetic editing. The second was the more ambitious “Southland Tales,” Kelly’s second time out as director. Kelly gambled on a convoluted plot that revolved around an amnesiac action star, an ex-porn star, identical twins and the end of the world. Not surprisingly, audiences couldn’t get past the premise, and the movie bombed.

This time around, it’s hard to see how audiences will take “The Box.” It seems destined (or doomed) to cult success. The problem with having such a strong debut is that fans and critics will compare “Darko” to anything that follows it.

Unlike “Southland Tales,” the film is commercial, that is to say, not as confusing, but it’s not without some of the director’s signature strokes. For all of its flaws “The Box” feels like the movie that Kelly should have made after his debut. It has some of the same themes of sacrifice, a retro setting and a plot that transcends space and time. Maybe this film or the next can change critics’ and audiences’ minds that he can make a box office friendly film while retaining his creativity.

Or maybe that wishful thinking is more attuned to the universe where a teen named Donnie can travel back in time, talk to man-sized rabbits and change his own fate.

“The Box” is rated R and is in theaters now.



Courtesy of WARNER BROS.
Frank Langella as Arlington Steward and Cameron Diaz as Norma Lewis in “The Box.”

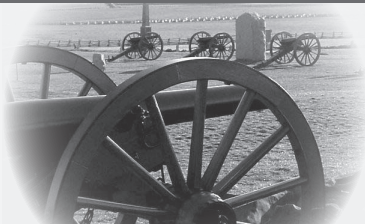
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—History Channel

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A: Because their horns don't work!

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

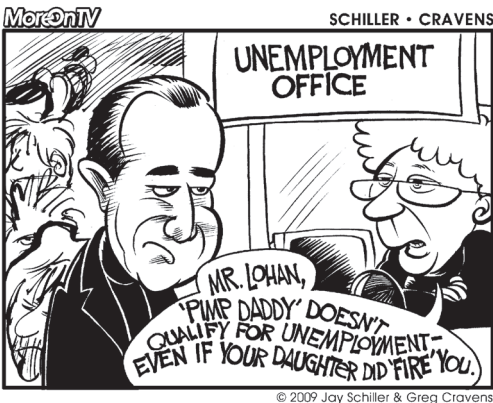
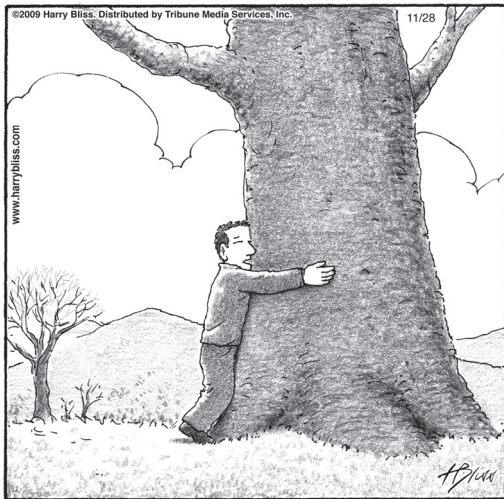
Wednesday's Solution

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

by Harry Bliss



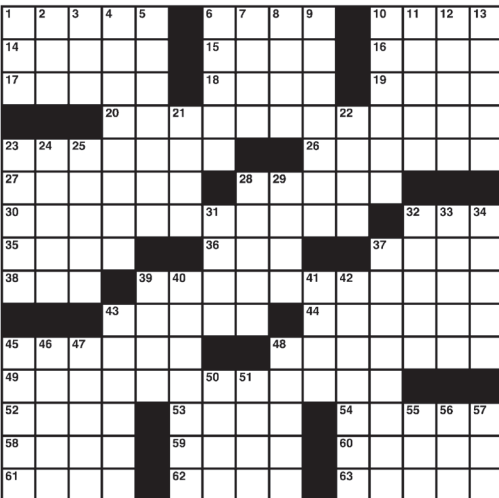
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ACROSS
1 Choir member
6 Quite
10 Ending with slug or gab
14 Make amends
15 Faulkner's "As ___ Dying"
16 Pearl Harbor site
17 Blazed furiously
18 Common nickname for a doter
19 66 and others: Abbr.
20 Weightlifting event
23 Ben-Gurion, e.g.
26 "It's ___ business"
27 Kind of biological network
28 Sea
30 Golf course pest
32 Corp. money manager
35 Fighting
36 Gallery hanging
37 Hang onto
38 ID with hyphens
39 Spinning toy manipulated with sticks
43 River in Lyons
44 Belfast's province
45 Early Ford success
48 Actors, often
49 Honest info
52 Road sign silhouette
53 Debt indicators
54 Like some vaccines
59 Dresden's river
60 Landlocked African country
61 A handful of
62 Navy commando
63 Gothic house feature

DOWN
1 La Brea goo
2 Seventh Greek letter
3 Christmas quaff
4 200 milligrams, to a jeweler
5 Original primer used to paint the Golden Gate Bridge
6 Source of the Law
7 ___ Bator, Mongolia
8 Where Jesus turned water to wine
9 Cape Cod site of a JFK museum
10 How some jump?
11 Corroded
12 Sex researcher
13 Mammoth features
21 Contemporary of Dizzy and Billie
22 Finished
23 Early Peruvians
24 Senate posts
25 Confrontation
28 Classroom drilling
31 Come out ahead
32 British actor Robert, the original Colonel Pickering in "My Fair Lady"
33 Candidate's handout
34 Trash emanations



By Jack McInturff 11/19/09

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

H	O	T	A	C	T	S	W	A	T	E	R	S
O	U	R	C	O	O	N	I	D	O	T	O	
S	C	I	R	O	S	A	N	N	E	C	A	S
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D	I	C	K	C	L	A	R	K		R	A	O
A	V	A		L	D	O	P	A		U	T	A
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			M	U	E	S	L	I		D	D	T
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A	M	A	Z	O	N		S	I	R	E		L
D	E	C	E	N	T							E

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37 Common crowd reaction in monster films
39 Colombian city
40 Some heroes
41 Sport for 300-pounders
42 Like lovers skipping church?
43 Pharmaceutical giant that developed Celebrex

45 Windows predecessor
46 Alamogordo's county
47 Nightmare, e.g.
48 Ill-fated Ford
50 Putter's target
51 Very big wind
55 Soviet spy org.
56 Snake-like fish
57 Hip-hop Dr.

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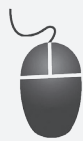
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SPORTS



Check **dailyskiff.com** for a recap of the Lady Horned Frog basketball game.

SIMULATION

WINNING BY ONE POINT



COURTESY ELECTRONIC ARTS

TCU wide receiver Jeremy Kerley celebrates after scoring the game winning touchdown. TCU beat Wyoming in the NCAA 2010 simulation, 21-20. Check **dailyskiff.com** for video highlights of the game called by sports editor Travs L. Brown and editor -in-chief David Hall

T-BALL

Senior leadership must come alive



TRAVIS L. BROWN

The men's basketball team almost upset Arizona State last night in Tempe but fell just short in the last minute by the final score of 52-49. Despite how good this might sound, I feel it will be a recurring theme throughout the rest of the season.

This is a game the Horned Frogs should have won, plain and simple. They were up toward the end of the second half, but let the Sun Devils take back the lead on a 12-1 run in the last 3:54 of the game. The run started off with three turnovers in a row; the worst was a pass over the head of point guard Ronnie Moss and into the back court. Even more frustrating than the physical mistakes made to give the game away was the lack of leadership and downright intestinal fortitude from the senior leadership of the team.

Most obvious of these seniors was forward Zvonko Buljan, who made it clear that he was not finding offensive success while on the floor by arguing every call and hanging his head in almost every timeout huddle, even when his

team was up. One would think that the maturity a senior starter has would tell him that he has the ability to make an impact on the game despite not showing up on the score sheet, especially if his team is already winning.

One big defensive stop from Buljan with just over 20 seconds left in the match would have made more of an impact than even one free throw because the Horned Frogs would have won. Winning is the ultimate goal of basketball, correct? Last time I checked, a stat line didn't win a team an at-large bid into the big dance in March.

Throughout the past few seasons, the team has proved it can hang with some big competition but is completely unable to finish. Before, the argument was that the team was young, lacking experience and maturity. Now with three seniors, this team needs to grow up fast, especially since the Horned Frogs lack a true center. They will be faced with tall feats throughout the season that will cause this squad to fall apart at the seams if they don't play as a unit.

Seniors, step up and take responsibility because the only way to be remembered for basketball on the TCU campus is to win.

Sports editor Travis L. Brown is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Dallas

FOOTBALL

Frogs don't want to overlook Cowboys

By Mary Sue Greenleaf
Staff Reporter

After defeating a ranked University of Utah team in front of a sellout crowd at Amon Carter Stadium, the Frog football team heads back out on the road for their final away game of the 2009 season.

The Frogs face off against a 5-5 University of Wyoming team Saturday in Laramie.

TCU head coach Gary Patterson told media Tuesday that the Frogs began preparing for the Wyoming Cowboys immediately following the Utah win.

"Right after the game Saturday, even with how exciting the Utah win was, we started talking about Wyoming," Patterson said. "The last time we went up there (Laramie), we got beat. We have to be ready to play."

The Frogs hold a 3-2 lead over the Cowboys in a series dating back to the 1998 cam-

paign when both teams were part of the Western Athletic Conference.

Last season, the Frogs beat the Cowboys in Fort Worth with a final score of 54-7. However, at the last meeting in Laramie, the Cowboys defeated the Frogs 24-21.

So far in 2009, the Cowboys are 3-3 in the Mountain West Conference, while TCU remains undefeated.

The Frogs are Wyoming's fourth ranked opponent in their 2009 campaign. They are 0-3 against ranked opponents this season.

Looking for the sixth win of the season, a victory against TCU would make the Cowboys bowl eligible.

"We have a tall task at hand this week, playing a team that has a chance to be bowl eligible," Patterson said. "We just need to keep minding our own business. Playing our last game on the road, I think we will be better off just keeping our nose to the ground."

Last week, the Cowboys defeated the San Diego State University Aztecs. Led by head coach Dave Christensen, the Cowboys, down 27-6 at one point in the game, came back to win the contest 30-27.

Patterson said Christensen is a good head coach, noting that he helped the Cowboys advance this season.

"He's done a good job of recruiting," Patterson said. "You become a head coach to make a team better, and he is on the right track."

Patterson also commented on the strength of Wyoming's freshman quarterback Austyn Carta-Samuels, who leads the Cowboys in total offense with 260 rushing yards and 1,532 passing yards. Samuels was named as one of the Mountain West Conference Offensive Players of the Week last week, alongside Air Force Academy's sophomore running back Asher Clark.

On the Horned Frog offense, junior quarterback

Andy Dalton leads in total offense with 389 rushing yards and 2,088 passing yards.

Senior tailback Joseph Turner leads in rushing yards with a net of 622 for nine touchdowns.

Junior defensive tackle Cory Grant said the Horned Frog's primary focus is the Cowboys and finishing out the season strong.

"We've been here before... We will have to try to find a way to win," Patterson said in agreement with Grant. "I see no reason why we would be any different about this game than we have been up to this point. They have done an unbelievable job this season of going on the road, keeping their focus and doing the things they needed to do to take ball games."

The Frogs and the Cowboys face off at noon Saturday in Laramie's War Memorial Stadium. The game will be broadcast in The Mtn Network.



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