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Voters approve constitutional gay marriage ban

Amendment passes Tuesday with 75 percent in support

By KELLEY SHANNON
Associated Press

AUSTIN — A state constitutional ban on same-sex marriage championed by

Republican Gov. Rick Perry and social conservatives won overwhelming voter approval Tuesday as Texans decided nine proposed amendments.

With 506,561 votes counted, 75 percent favored the ban while 25 percent were against it.

"I think Texans know that marriage is between a man and a woman, and children deserve

both a mom and a dad. They don't need a Ph.D. or a degree in anything else to teach them that," said Kelly Shackelford, a leader of Texans For Marriage, which favored the gay marriage ban.

No Nonsense in November, an organization opposed to the amendment, were waiting to comment until vote totals from El Paso were available. Polls closed

an hour later there than in the rest of Texas because El Paso is in the Mountain time zone.

Secretary of State Roger Williams predicted a turnout of 16 percent of Texas' 12.5 million registered voters for the constitutional amendments election. Turnout was about 12 percent in 2003, when Texans approved a lawsuit limitation

measure in a constitutional amendments election.

Supporters and opponents of Proposition 2, the gay marriage ban, battled aggressively for weeks, holding debates, dueling news conferences and sending out campaign messages through the Internet and airwaves.

Same-sex marriage already is prohibited under state law. Those

who supported Prop 2 said a constitutional ban was needed to ensure that a judge doesn't decide to allow gays to marry.

Opponents argued a constitutional ban was unnecessary and merely a statement of discrimination against homosexuals. They also suggested that the proposed amendment

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SGA ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Presidential Candidates: Trevor Heaney, Ryan Panno — President run-off scheduled for Tuesday
- Vice President: Jace Thompson
- Treasurer: Brian Andrew
- Programming Council Chair: Alina Tennie

Organizations gain support

Program successes, advertising strategies discussed Tuesday

By CAITLYN TOMASIK
Staff Reporter

The office of Inclusiveness and Intercultural Services hosted a discussion Tuesday evening to promote attendance and devise strategies for advertising events on campus.

Student leaders from various organizations attended to discuss the success of recent events and promote upcoming programs they are hosting.

"The purpose of our office is to provide support and make things happen," said Sandhya Klein, program coordinator for Inclusiveness and Intercultural Services.

Klein said the meeting focused on providing an outlet for leaders to network with one another to increase awareness of programs that are hosted by organizations supported by IIS.

Word of Truth ministries, Students for Asian and Indian Cultural Awareness and the NAACP were among the organizations represented. Several students not associated with a particular group participated and voiced their opinions at the discussion.

Leaders said they agreed the major problem that affects programming is attendance from students outside of the organization hosting the event.

Danisha Egans, a junior Spanish major, said the key to contributing to a successful event will be to attend programs hosted by other organizations.

"You support us, we'll support you," Egans said.

Methods of advertising to reach out to students on campus were also addressed as a problem.

Students at the discussion said mass e-mails, advertisements on campus and announcements in student publications were not effective if students did not make an effort to notice them.

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Campus gets Kinky



Stephen Spillman / Image magazine

Kinky Friedman, the Independent candidate for governor of Texas, makes a campaign stop at the Texas State Fair on Oct 6. Kinky will speak prior to a debate between Young Democrats and College Republicans at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in Ed Landreth Auditorium.

Friedman to make campaign stop at TCU

Campus political groups come together, host candidate, debate

By JAMIE CRUM
Staff Reporter

"Why the hell not?" is the campaign slogan for gubernatorial candidate Kinky Friedman, who will be speaking about his campaign at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in Ed Landreth Hall Auditorium.

The Young Democrats will be hosting the speech followed by a debate between the Young Democrats and the College Republicans. Jason Ratigan, a senior history

major and member of the Young Democrats said the debate will focus on the four most divisive issues in politics today — gay marriage, abortion, gun control and capital punishment.

Friedman, a songwriter, comedian and star of his own reality television show, will be making a campaign stop on campus to discuss how he can change Texas politics, according to his official Web site. Friedman will speak and answer questions before the scheduled debate.

"We asked Kinky to come because he is such a popular character," Ratigan said. "We have gotten some very positive feedback from

students, faculty and the public."

Ratigan said he expects more than 500 people to show up for the event.

Jim Riddlesperger, chairman of the political science department, said he is excited Friedman is making a stop at TCU.

"Kinky has made his living off of being funny for the past 30 years," Riddlesperger said. "I think his campaign is based upon frustration with the political process in Texas and a slam to both political parties."

Riddlesperger said it may be a long shot for Friedman to turn frustration into a strong following but it will be a fun campaign to watch.

EXTRA INFO

- What: Kinky Friedman speech followed by a debate between the College Democrats and the College Republicans
- Where: Ed Landreth Auditorium
- When: 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Admission is free, and the event is open to the public.

Riddlesperger said he will be unable to attend the event because of a prior engagement, but he thinks everyone should try to make to the speech and debate.

"I wish I could be there," Riddlesperger said. "I have my Kinky poster hanging up in my office."

Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

News Brief

Speaker: Religion, science can feasibly be combined

In an ideal world, science and religion can be fused to teach evolution, an Anglican priest and a doctor of biochemistry from the Netherlands told members of the TCU community Tuesday night.

"I think it's very important for students to know about (Intelligent Design) because of the emotions involved on either side," Bonting said.

Bonting also said it is important to have a deep understanding of evolution in order to be intelligent people.

Phil Hartman, a professor of biology who invited

Bonting to speak on campus, said he thought Bonting's discussion was stimulating and interesting.

"It's fun to think about God's hand in the mainstream evolution process," Hartman said.

Bonting said he thinks God is responsible for the initial creation and then the evolutionary process takes over.

Hartman said a lot of people think they have to believe in only God or only science, but Bonting said he is a believer in both.

Although junior biochemistry major Suzanne Hutchinson said she leans more toward the scientific definition of evolution,

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Suicide prevention attainable

Campus resources aid in cries for help

By KIM TESAREK
Staff Reporter

Suicide is the third leading cause of death for those between the ages of 15 and 24, and the second leading cause for college-age students, according to the National Mental Health Association.

TCU students said the extra stress put on them by living alone for the first time and the added school work contributed to the feelings of depression in people their age.

Series: Part 2 of 2

Check out Part 1 in Tuesday's issue of the Skiff, or online at www.tcdailyskiff.com.

Monica Kintigh, a licensed counselor at TCU, said the best way to prevent suicide is to talk about it.

She said counselors are available at Mental Health Services to discuss difficulties ranging from depression to adjusting problems.

"Are you struggling with thoughts of suicide?" is a question Kintigh said she asks students on a daily basis.

Warning signs

Ceci Lang, the head resident assistant of the Tom Brown-Pete Wright Residential Community, said there are different ways students can identify a friend who may be having trouble with depression.

Students who show no motivation to do anything — not even to wake up, go to class or study — are often victims, she said.

Changing eating and sleeping habits, dropping involvement in activities and avoiding contact with friends and family are signs of depression, Lang said.

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SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

Any one of these symptoms does not necessarily mean the person is suicidal, but several of these symptoms may signal a need for help:

- Verbal suicide threats such as, "You'd be better off without me," or "Maybe I won't be around."
- Expressions of hopelessness and helplessness.
- Previous suicide attempts.
- Daring or risk-taking behavior.
- Personality changes.
- Depression.
- Giving away prized possessions.
- Lack of interest in future plans.

— www.nmha.org

• Eight out of ten suicidal persons give some sign of their intentions.

— www.nmha.org

• To get into contact with Mental Health Services at TCU, call 817-257-7863/7864 or visit their office in the Brown-Lupton Health Center