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Candidate attacks two-party system

Friedman: Governor needs to address state's dismal education ranking

By JAMIE CRUM
Staff Reporter

Gubernatorial hopeful Kinky Friedman said Thursday night no child or teacher should be left behind, but Gov. Rick Perry should be when Texans go to the polls next year.

Friedman expressed his views on education, gay marriage and other issues in Texas politics to a crowd at Ed Landreth Hall Auditorium.

Friedman, who is hoping to be on the ballot for the 2006 gubernatorial race, used his unique humor and uncommon political incorrectness to energize the audience.

Friedman, who needs 50,000 signatures between the months of March and May to gain a spot on the 2006 ballot, said after his speech that he was inspired by the TCU crowd. Students, faculty and other Friedman fans gathered to hear the candidate discuss his ideas on changing the political landscape in Texas.

Friedman said he has a problem with the way the current governor, Rick Perry, has used the gay-marriage issue as a political tool.

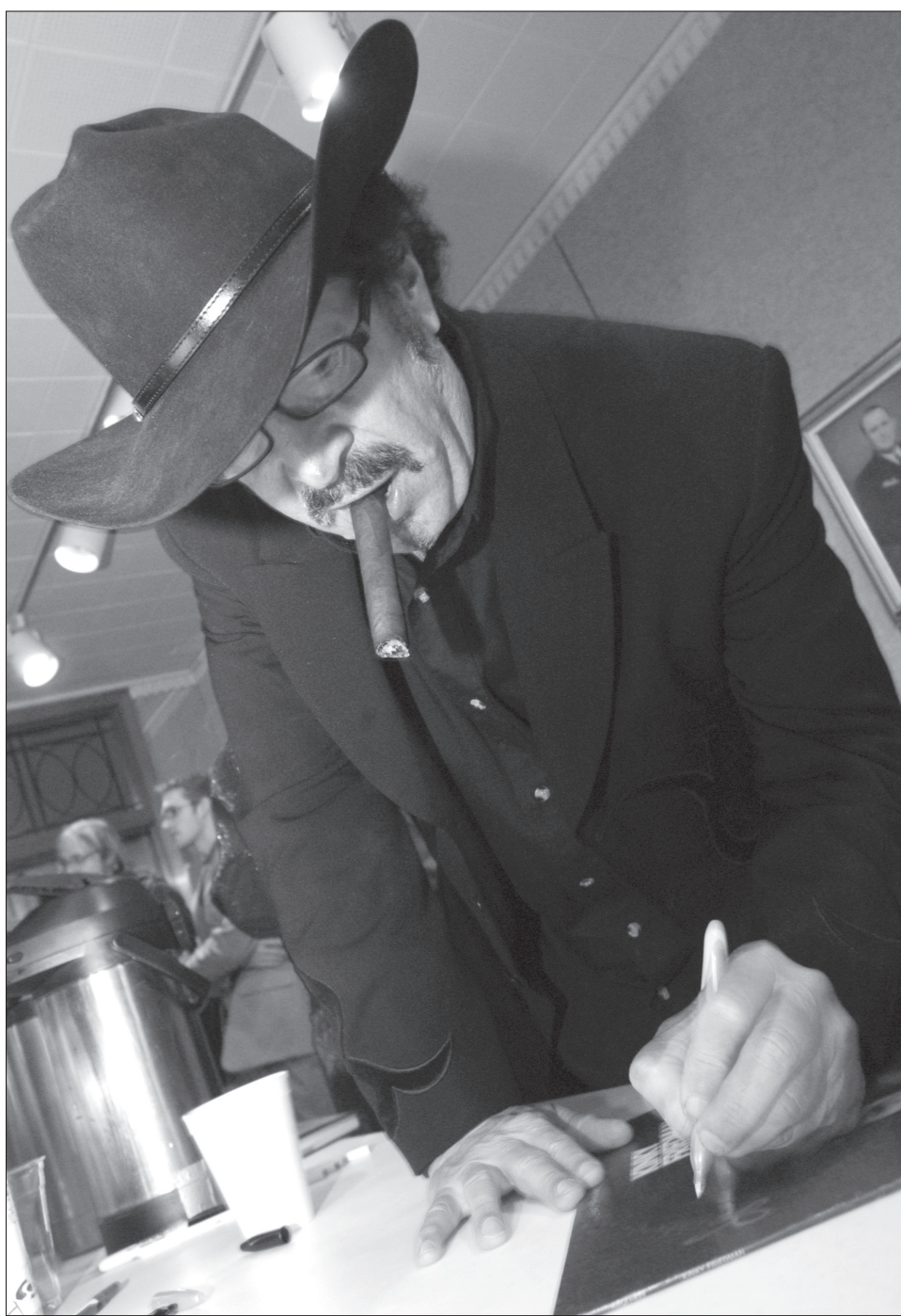
"Politicians are using God as a marketing tool," said Friedman, whose own campaign slogan is "May the God of your choice bless you."

Friedman used jokes to highlight the issues he believes are destroying the Texas political system, such as a lack of focus on education and the lack of protection at the border.

Friedman received the loudest applause when he announced his stance on education reform. Friedman said he is extremely disappointed that Texas is ranked 50th in the United States and that he believes schools should judge their success using test results.

"It takes a real dumbass to not appreciate the importance of education," Friedman said.

He said he planned to more on KINKY, page 6



Ty Halasz / Staff Photographer

Gubernatorial candidate Kinky Friedman signs autographs in the lobby outside of Ed Landreth Auditorium on Thursday night before the College Democrats-Republicans Debate.

Race factoring into admissions despite case

Affirmative action standard policy at TCU, dean says

By AMY KITCHEL
Staff Reporter

The practice of affirmative action has been controversial at universities throughout the country, including TCU, where Ray Brown, dean of admissions, said taking race into consideration in admissions decisions is standard policy.

Brown said since he arrived at TCU in 2000, the university has taken race and ethnicity into account in admissions, despite the Hopwood decision, a court case that essentially outlawed affirmative action in Texas universities.

"Does TCU practice affirmative action?" Brown said. "You bet we do."

Since 1996, public universities in Texas have been restricted in using race and ethnicity to help admissions or financial aid award decisions because of the Hopwood case. TCU's restrictions fall into the financial aid category. Because TCU accepts federal funding for some financial aid, it must comply with the same laws as public universities where financial aid is concerned.

In the Hopwood case, four students sued the University of Texas Law School for admitting what they felt were less qualified students because of their race, while rejecting qualified white students.

TCU was forced to work under many constraints of the Hopwood decision after the court ruled that race and ethnicity could not be considered, said Mike Scott, director of financial aid.

TCU continued to, at least partly, consider race in admissions during this time because of the ambiguity of the Hopwood decision, Brown said.

"Hopwood was so gray," Brown said. "We felt that it was sufficiently gray to continue operating the way we had been."

Brown said this meant taking race and ethnicity into account, like anything else in admissions decisions, but not assigning it a certain weight or point value.

In 2003, an affirmative action case involving the University of Michigan made its way to the Supreme Court, where the court ruled race could be used in determining admissions decisions, as long as it was not assigned particular weight. In light of this, Texas universities have begun letting race and ethnicity creep back into admissions decisions.

Senior early childhood education major Erin Sawyer said she thinks it's important that race more on RACE, page 2

MINORITY ENROLLMENT AT TCU

Percentage of minorities enrolled in undergraduate programs at the university

- 2005: 15.5 percent

Mills: Express shuttle services being discussed

The T helps cut back on driving expenses, traffic, official says

By COURTNEY REESE
Managing Editor

After she and her husband had commuted more than 160 miles a day — and spent more than \$600 a month on gas — Paola Chernosky saw a need for change.

The Fort Worth Transportation Authority provided an answer.

Chernosky, an administrative assistant in the office of admissions, lives 40 miles south of Fort Worth in Grandview. She used to

spend 50 minutes commuting by car to campus; she now spends just over an hour but has cut her family's monthly gas usage in half.

By driving 20 minutes to Burleson's South Park & Ride Lot, Chernosky is able to catch a coach bus that takes her to downtown Fort Worth, where she then rides the No. 7 bus to TCU. Her total commute — just 20 minutes longer than what she would spend in her car.

Preventing further wear and tear on her car and saving money on gas were the main reasons Chernosky said she decided to make some changes to her commute.

All of this was made possible by the T, Fort Worth's public transportation system, which also operates the bus route running from Worth Hills to Main Campus.

In August, the T announced that TCU students, faculty and staff would be able to ride any T bus or Trinity Railway Express, which is jointly owned by the T and the Dallas Area Rapid Transit, free of charge by showing a valid TCU ID.

Chernosky was able to cut costs even more by being able to ride the T for free. Her daily commuting routine began in March before the T's announce-

EXTRA INFO

25-year Strategic Plan to Improve Fort Worth Rail:

- A special events line running from Downtown Fort Worth to Texas Motor Speedway — uncertain completion date.
- Rail running through Arlington and Grand Prairie from Fort Worth to Dallas — 2025 projected completion.
- Double track TRE so commuter rail doesn't conflict with cargo — 2025 projected completion.
- Extension to Southwest Fort Worth near Interstate 20 and Granbury Road — uncertain completion date.
- Commuter rail to Cleburn area that would hit Crowley and Burleson — uncertain completion date.
- Cotton Belt Rail from Fort Worth to DFW — 2013 projected completion.

ment of the free service, which the company provides free of charge more on SHUTTLE, page 4

Officials: Roommate issues some of the hardest to face in college



Ryan Claunch / Copy Desk Chief

The sun sets behind Jarvis Hall as students pass by. Problems that occur with roommates, either inside a dorm or off-campus, may be some of the toughest that college students face.

Residential Services, RAs have resources to assist students

By RACHEL COX
Staff Reporter

Forget about the impossible advanced organic chemistry lab. For most new college students, adjusting to a roommate is one of the hardest issues they will face in their collegiate career.

Whether a student goes potluck or arranges a roommate before arriving on campus, the adjustment is time-consuming for someone who has never had to share such a small living space.

Barbara Hawkins, the associate director for residential services, said she has been dealing with roommate situations for many years — both good and bad.

"If we have any problems, usually they stem from lifestyle choices that are in contrast with the roommates," Hawkins said. "It could be that the personalities are totally different or that they are the same and they just irritate each other; whatever the problem is, we usually try to solve it for the better."

When going potluck, the FrogLife questionnaire computer match-up system helps to match up roommates of similar personality types. It includes information like hall choices, mutual roommate requests and expressed personal preferences such as smoking and sleeping schedules.

"The questionnaire is good for basic matchups but sometimes there are just situations that can't be avoided," Hawkins said.

The process of dealing with more on ROOMMATES, page 2

EXTRA INFO

• Residential Services provides basic roommate guidelines on its Web site (www.rh.tcu.edu) that can help to solve problems from small to large. Some of main tips are:

1. Communicate.

Sit down with your roommate at the beginning of the semester and talk about your backgrounds, preferences and habits, emotional styles and moods, and personal values. This can be particularly helpful for those of you who choose to room with friends you have known before coming to TCU. Regardless of how well you may think you know your "best friend," you may be surprised to find out some things you did not know before living together.

2. Establish house rules.

After discussing your values and preferences, establish some ground rules by which you will live together. Some common topics upon which you may want to reach mutual agreement include room cleanliness, borrowing each other's belongings, study time, visitation times, room security, etc. Write your agreements together in the beginning, and it will help in resolving problems that may develop later.

3. Ask for help.

If a difficult roommate conflict should develop at any point during the year, do not hesitate to go to your resident assistant, head RA, hall director or program coordinator. Many times students tend to wait out problems until little irritations become major conflicts. Your hall staff is experienced in dealing with these types of problems and can probably give you some sound advice. Working out differences can provide a greater understanding of yourself as well as the other individual. Learning to communicate and compromise with your roommate will become a valuable asset.