

THE SKIFF



CAMPUS NEWS, PAGE 4
RECREATION
CENTER LAUNCHES
SPRING BREAK
BOOT CAMP

A STUDENT MEDIA PUBLICATION OF TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

MUSIC STUDENTS NETWORK EARLY

PAGE 5



PHOTO BY SHANE BATTIS

"IT'S ON US"

SGA brings Big 12 sexual awareness initiative to campus.

PAGE 2

ARCADE ON CAMPUS

Football adds new arcade to edge recruiting.

PAGE 2



CAMPUS NEWS

New awareness campaign

By COLE POLLEY
STAFF WRITER

TCU will be participating in the "It's On Us" initiative for the first time, with a week of events concerning the fight against sexual assault.

On Monday, Student Government Association began facilitating discussions and providing events across campus in order to bring awareness to the issue.

"It is a campaign designed with different days outlining who 'us' is, with the different people responsible for saying no to sexual violence," Student Body President John Paul Watson said. "So one day it will be police officers on campus, another it's administration, another it's students, and it all comes together as it's on all of us to stand up."

Student Body Vice President of External Affairs Kelsey Ritchie noted the importance of SGA reaching out to students in the TCU community.

"More than anything I want students to feel like they have a part in combating sexual assault," Ritchie said. "I want students to just understand the complexity of sexual assault and also understand what our university is doing to fight it."

The week of sexual assault awareness takes place in conjunction with all Big 12 schools in an effort to unite against sexual violence.

"This event shows a conference coming together and saying it's on us to stop it but it's also on us to reach out to students and let



PHOTO COLE POLLEY

House of Representatives collaborates on "It's On Us"

them know they have a place they can feel safe," Ritchie said. "They should feel like they can come forward and we're going to believe and support them."

TCU has hosted a similar event in the past called "Not On My Campus," but the decision was made to change the initiative this year with those who have been

assaulted in mind.

"We shifted away from 'Not On My Campus' because some of the rhetoric was unsettling to survivors," Watson said. "It also gives the impression that this does not happen on our campus, and it does, it happens on every campus and it's a problem. It's unacceptable."

SPORTS

TCU Football arcade adds edge to recruiting

By KRISTEN CLARKE
STAFF WRITER

TCU Football's latest recruitment tool isn't on the field or in the locker room.

The Huffman Football Center offers athletes a place to relax and hang out with teammates.

Golden Tee, Pac-Man and Iron Man pinball are -just a few of the games in the new arcade that might change the future of TCU football recruiting.

The announcement came out right before National Signing Day, which might have helped any of the recruits that were on the fence.

Inside are games including basketball double shot and Foosball. The Huffman also features theater-like seating in front of several flatscreen TVs.

"It's hard with



PHOTO BY KRISTEN CLARKE

The new players lounge adds an edge to TCU's recruiting game.

who we're recruiting against," said coach Gary Patterson. Of the 2017 Texas Football Recruits, The Top-10 opted to play college ball almost anywhere but the Big 12. "We have to do a better job as schools in the state of Texas in how we keep them," Patterson said.

The new addition benefits both future and

current members of TCU Football.

"The arcade is great for our team's chemistry," said player Grayson Muehlstein. "It's a place where we can relax and have some fun spending time with teammates."

Beyond recruiting, Patterson increased the Frogs' competitive edge by hiring former California

head coach Sonny Dykes as an offensive analyst. Dykes can't interact with the players; his purpose is to critique performance and help with TCU's game plan and watching tape--giving the frogs additional coaching manpower as they prepare for the upcoming season.



The Skiff

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Distribution: Newspapers are available free on campus and surrounding locations, limit one per person. Additional copies are \$.50 and are available at the Skiff office.

The Skiff is an official student publication of Texas Christian University, produced by students of TCU and sponsored by the TCU Department of Journalism. It operates under the policies of the Student Media Committee.

The Skiff is published Thursdays during fall and spring semesters except finals week and holidays.

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The Skiff

Circulation: 2000

Subscriptions: 817-257-6274

Rates are \$30 per semester.

Moudy Building South

News Room, Room 212

2805 S. University Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76109

CAMPUS NEWS

Provost recommends decentralized testing centers

By **NIA BROOKINS**
STAFF WRITER

Provost R. Nowell Donovan told the Faculty Senate he prefers testing centers in each of the colleges, rather than a campus-wide testing center.

The Faculty Senate has been discussing for several years the merits of a testing center for students who can't take tests during designated periods or who have met

the requirements for additional time.

"The bigger it gets, the harder it is to accommodate," Donovan said. "The deans tell me that they think [the decentralized centers] are working pretty well."

TCU has five testing centers. All of the colleges have set aside classrooms for instructors and students for testing. The tests are usually proctored by graduate students.

A centralized testing

center might not meet the needs of the students. For instance, Faculty Senate Chair Jesus Castro-Balbi, a cello professor, said his exams might require a piano.

"That, of course, is not a requirement for biology or the business school," Castro-Balbi said. "Since we already have existing centers, it makes sense to complete the picture."

But others argue if colleges combine their efforts it would cost less.

"It would be much easier to staff one [center] at the university level than a student with disabilities could use instead of building eight," said Dr. Eric Yorskton, who's in the Neeley School of Business.

College of Science and Engineering professor Rhiannon Mayne said her students have had bad experiences in the testing center. "They say people are getting up and down the whole time, it's no

quiet space... We've had students say 'Well I don't want to go to the testing center.'"

Donovan said the decentralized testing allows students to have questions answered as quickly as possible and if the testing center is in the same building as the professor this would be a lot easier for them both.

"I don't think I've ever given an exam where a student hasn't had a question," Donovan said.

Donovan said he is also concerned about the cost, space requirements and staffing of a centralized testing center. He said that the Addran College of Liberal Arts alone cost about \$400 in staff wages and it would be much more for a bigger center.

"Addran doesn't run all day long and a centralized center would have to run all day long," he said.

"We're putting items into the budget to help with [decentralized centers]."

SPORTS

Men's tennis continues slide with loss at Columbia

By **BRANSON NELSON**
STAFF WRITER

TCU is 3-3 on the season, continuing a very underwhelming start to 2017 after the Frogs had been ranked as high as seventh in early January.

TCU head coach David Roditi said Sunday's debacle was unacceptable.

"As a coach, it is a lot easier to accept losses when they play well and beat you, but losing because we were out-competed is impossible to accept," Roditi said.

The No. 24 Horned Frogs were unable to capitalize on a 3-0 lead against No. 19 Columbia

on Sunday, dropping four straight singles-points to lose the match 4-3.

"We had a full lineup today and we don't have any excuses," Roditi said. "Some of our guys need to get in better shape and the only blame is on them."

The afternoon opened with TCU taking the doubles point by winning two of the three matches. After Jerry Lopez and Felipe Escobar narrowly lost their match, Cameron Norrie and Reese Stalder defeated No. 30 Shawn Hadavi and Jackie Tang 7-6 (7-0) in a tiebreaker.

Guillermo Nunez and Alex Rybakov clinched the



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOFROGS.COM

Sophomore Alex Rybakov serves against Pacific in January.

doubles point, winning their fifth straight match against Columbia's No. 14 duo of Christopher Grant and Adam Ambrozy in yet another tiebreaker 7-6 (7-2). TCU went on to

win the next two singles matches on courts one and two. No. 35 Norrie defeated No. 39 Hadavi 6-2, 6-1, and Rybakov topped No. 87 Victor Pham 6-3, 6-1.

With the match seemingly in hand, the Frogs needed one more win to clinch their first victory against a ranked team this season.

After losses by Escobar

(6-1, 6-2), Lopez (6-2, 6-4) and No. 80 Nunez (6-3, 3-6, 6-2), the match came down to court five between Stalder and William Matheson. Matheson took set one (6-3), Stalder took set two (6-3), but Matheson won a tiebreaker in set three that wrapped up an incredible comeback by the Lions.

The Horned Frogs will have plenty of time to improve before welcoming the University of Central Florida to Fort Worth on Saturday Feb. 25. Match time is set for 1 p.m.



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CAMPUS NEWS

TCU Rec launches new spring break boot camp

By **TAYLOR FREETAGE**
STAFF WRITER

The University Recreation Center is starting a Spring Break Boot Camp to help students prepare for spring break in a healthy way.

The boot camp is a great opportunity for students who are new to working out or who have been working out; for a while, but are looking to switch up their training, said Marcellus Williams, the Boot Camp's instructor.

"I think it's going to help students who are brand new to working out as a whole," Williams said. "It kind of gives you an idea of how to structure things like circuit training, sets and reps, and time-based exercises."

The goal of the boot camp is to provide students with an alternative way to achieve their desired progress before spring break.

Each year, students have a habit of waiting until two weeks before break to start working toward their spring break goals, which may cause unhealthy habits, said Ryan Keller, the assistant director of fitness and wellness at the recreation center.

"We chose five weeks because we wanted to make sure that people were reaching their spring break goals safely and effectively," Keller said. "We wanted to remind them to start on that before the last two weeks before spring break, you know, which people so commonly do."

Students who start

earlier on their goals are more likely to be happy with their results than those who try to cram a month's worth of progress into two weeks, said Keller.

The boot camp includes full-body workouts that increase in difficulty as the weeks progress.

"Each week is going to be a little bit different in terms of what exercises we do," Williams said. "We may do circuit training one week, sets by reps the other week, but whatever workout we do on the second day will be a harder version of what we do on the first day."

Students, faculty and other recreation center members attended the free trial and information session on Feb. 1 to get a sense of what the five-week series is going



PHOTO BY TAYLOR FREETAGE

Spring break boot camp instructor Marcellus Williams teaches the trial session to TCU students and other Rec members.

to be like.

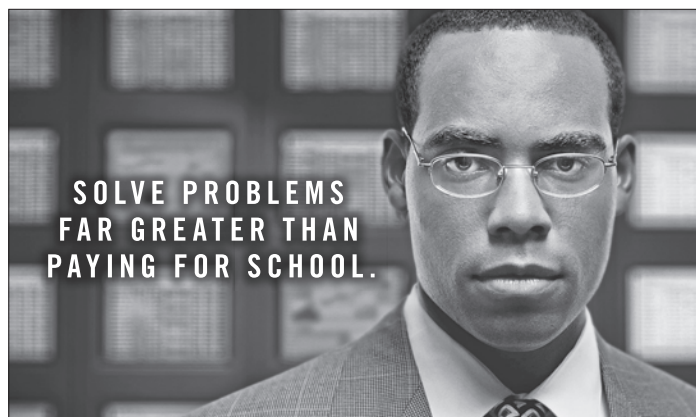
Some students were particularly excited about the boot camp because it would keep them accountable and goal

focused.

"I'm looking forward to having a set program to go to every week with trainers who can lead and encourage me to work

hard," Delaney Saragusa, a sophomore, said.

The camp costs \$50 and will be every Monday and Wednesday from Feb. 6 through Mar. 8 in



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CAMPUS NEWS

Etiquette Dinner taught valuable skills to Chancellor's Scholars

By **MAKENZIE STALLO**
STAFF WRITER

Chancellor's Scholars were treated to a five-course meal as part of an etiquette dinner on Tuesday night.

Around 70 students gathered in the Dee J. Kelly Alumni & Visitors Center to receive proper etiquette training and gain first-impression skills that can benefit them in their professional lives.

The event served as a great professional development opportunity, said Laura Nixon, the Chancellor's Intern.

"It's not about the rules or doing things right or wrong," she said. "It makes everyone at the table comfortable and makes the flow of the meal really nice."

Students learned the proper use of utensils,

how to eat in a polite manner, and conversation skills to use when interviewing with future employers.

Ann Loudon, the chancellor's associate for strategic partnerships, hosted the event and guided the students through the meal while demonstrating proper technique.

"I love that students come in fearful and they walk out confident because they've had all their questions answered," Loudon said. "The comfort that we have going into settings that are unfamiliar to us, makes us successful."

The theme of the night was movie clips. Clips from films like "Elf," "Beauty and the Beast" and "The Princess Diaries" demonstrated poor etiquette and conver-

sation skills.

The clips played between demonstrations throughout the meal included soup, salad, palate cleanser, main course and dessert.

The students who attended the evening agreed that it was worthwhile.

Emma Brilleslyper, a first-year, said the event was alluring because she'd never had training in dining etiquette before.

"I have never used more than one fork during a meal," Brilleslyper said. "It was fun to learn how to use it and present yourself well."

Nicholas Forslund, a first-year, said he found the interview and conversation techniques the most useful.

"I think going back to basics is very important," he said.

CAMPUS NEWS

Music education students network

By SHANE BATTIS

STAFF WRITER

Although they're still working on earning their degrees, music education majors are already building their network of professionals in the field.

First-year vocal education major, Ben Smith was among a group of students who recently attended the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) convention.

He said he was impressed with how many music educators in the state know one another and that tapping into this social scene will be important during his post-college job search.

Smith said the music business is "very interconnected" and that having friends throughout the state can give him an edge as he pursues his education and, hopefully, achieve his goal of becoming a choir director for a Texas high school.

"There's something to be learned from everyone who is as successful and intense as they are in Texas," Smith said.

The annual four-day convention, which was held in San Antonio, is billed as the largest gathering of music educators in the country with an estimated 27,000 attendees, including about 10,200 Texas teachers from the kindergarten to collegiate level.

Thousands of music educators from all over Texas gather to share teaching methods, network, sell instruments, and perform, according to the event website.

The site wrote that the convention helps music educators "begin connecting with other music educators and attend clinics

designed to help them in their education and preparation for the profession."

It has "everything music," said Director of the Horned Frog Marching Band, Brian Youngblood.

Education is the focus of the gathering, he said, so TCU's music education majors can benefit. They'll be able to learn from educators all over the state by

"It's their chance to be exposed to things, to network and to begin to understand the business of music education in the state of Texas."

BRIAN YOUNGBLOOD

DIRECTOR OF HORNED FROG MARCHING BAND

listening in on seminars and performances as well as conversing with teachers from other schools.

"It's their chance to be exposed to things, to network and to begin to understand the business of music education in the state of Texas," Youngblood said.

This business, like many other things in Texas, is big.

Charlene Smith, an administrative assistant for TCU's School of Music, said nothing compares to the sheer size and intensity of music in the Lone Star



PHOTO BY SHANE BATTIS

The convention is held in San Antonio and features about 10,200 music educators.

State. She said this state has more bands and symphonies than anywhere else, even the small towns have symphonies.

"Music is strong in Texas," she said. "There's nothing like this anywhere else."

Because of this, Charlene said networking is very important for people teaching music--especially for private teachers trying to build a reputation and connect with potential students.



PHOTO BY SHANE BATTIS

Director of the Horned Frog Marching Band Brian Youngblood said he's been going to the TMEA convention since high school.



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Horoscope

A baby born today has a Sun in Aquarius and a Moon in Libra if born before 1:41 a.m. (ET). Afterward, the Moon will be in Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017:

This year your intensity and determination emerge as a strong combination. You seem able to accomplish whatever you want. You might decide to lay out your goals so that you can determine which direction to head in. If you are single, you probably will meet someone of interest anytime from now until November. This bond will have an intensity that could scare you at times, but you will love that closeness most of the time. If you are attached, the two of you become very visible as a couple. Verbalize your feelings more often. SCORPIO tends to find out about your deepest secrets.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Conversations between you and trusted associates seem to have a harsh tone. You might be told that you are a bit too sarcastic. Be smart, and refuse to have a knee-jerk reaction. Give in to the need to inform others of your perceptions. Tonight: Join great company at a favorite place.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Initiate talks, and refuse to give in to someone's need for control. Remember that you can win a power play only by not getting involved. You have a charming quality about you that appeals to many admirers. Enjoy your popularity! Tonight: Go along with the moment.

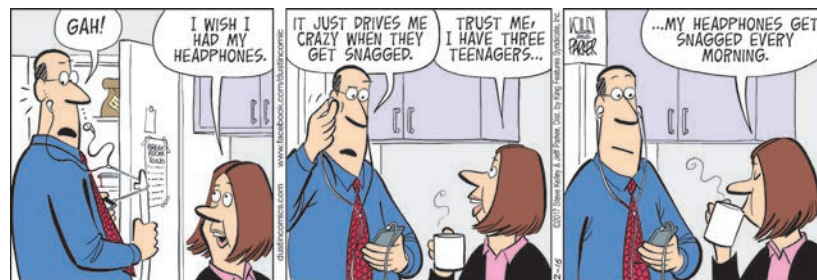
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Pace yourself, knowing that you have a lot of ground to cover. Be more direct in how you handle a personal matter. Others might not be as clued in to what is going on as you are. Be discreet

Carpe Diem by Niklas Eriksson



Dustin by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Intelligent Life by David Reddick



with a friend who has a hot temper. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You have a unique sense of humor that is likely to take you in a different direction. While bosses or associates are complaining, you will be off accomplishing more than your fair share of work. Dedicate special time to a child or loved one. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You can't get past a problem and come to an understanding without the cooperation of a roommate or close associate. You understand that it will take both of you working together to find a response. Be as direct as possible when dealing with a friend. Tonight: Out and about.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You will speak your mind

clearly, and others will hear what you are saying. Your intensity emerges as well. An associate or loved one could be reactive, as he or she doesn't seem to understand where you are coming from. Be receptive to feedback. Tonight: Find your friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You could be out of control right now. Share more of what is on your mind. Someone close to you might push to have his or her way. Opt for clear communica-

tion. Unless you are dealing with a life-or-death issue, let this person take the lead. Tonight: In the limelight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your willingness to verbalize an internal issue indicates the importance of you wanting and needing to resolve it. Others seem drawn to you, and they are more than willing to work out a problem. Use your charisma and insightfulness. Tonight: Be where the action is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You'll sense that something is going on behind the scenes. You might want to open up this matter for discussion. The wise move is to say and do nothing for now. What you believe is happening might not be the correct scenario. Tonight: Keep your own counsel.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might believe that you have everything under control, but know that you could experience some discomfort on a personal level. An issue involving real estate is likely to emerge. Know that you'll be able to handle it with ease. Tonight: Ready to take off.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You are a great source of information, but when someone hears too many facts, he or she might feel overloaded and get upset. Take this reaction as your cue to walk away from the situation. Be gracious and just subtly take a step back. Tonight: At a favorite haunt.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You could have a lot of chatter inside your head that keeps popping up at random times. You might not be sure which way to go. Understand what you want to do, and then decide if it seems possible. Open up to new ideas and start planning. Tonight: Think "spring getaway."



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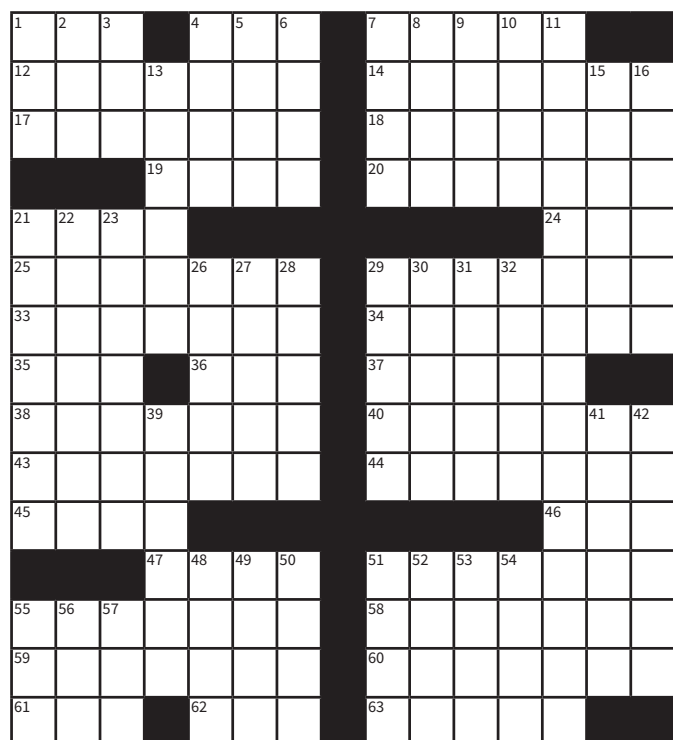
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The New York Times

Edited by Will Shortz



Across

- 1 Route follower
- 4 ___ Conference
- 7 Word following 1-/4-Across, appropriately
- 12 Not clued in
- 14 The scandal of Watergate, essentially
- 17 Its distance is measured within a meter
- 18 Japanese flower-arranging art
- 19 Going "Huh?!"
- 20 Pours a certain way
- 21 Brewing need
- 24 Subject of some prep classes
- 25 Vents frustration
- 29 Some piano music
- 33 Edwin M. ___, war secretary under Lincoln
- 34 Slipped by
- 35 Government stance on texting while driving
- 36 Santa ___

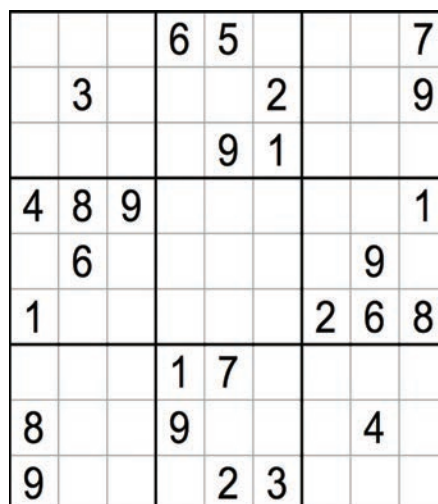
- 37 Word following 35-/36-Across, appropriately
- 38 Throw on the floor
- 40 How things typically are
- 43 Lamebrains
- 44 Fruity libation
- 45 Give meds
- 46 Ones attending to patients, for short
- 47 Tiny bit
- 51 Pity evoker
- 55 Called from a stall, say
- 58 Sequentially
- 59 What you might accidentally try to put your head through when getting into a sweater
- 60 Antacid brand
- 61 "Dude!"
- 62 ___ doll
- 63 Words following 61-/62-Across, appropriately

- 2 Spanish article
- 3 Instrument in swing
- 4 Entree in a shell
- 5 Some are named after presidents
- 6 Something a shopaholic might be in
- 7 Biting
- 8 Put a finger on, in a way
- 9 With, to Renoir
- 10 Onetime CW sitcom
- 11 It could carry a tune in the 1950s
- 13 Big brand of sports equipment
- 15 Savage
- 16 Walloped
- 21 Subject of an old wives' tale?
- 22 Its postal codes start with K, L, M, N and P — but, oddly, not O
- 23 Well-known octet
- 26 Old video game maker
- 27 Coffee shop offering
- 28 Hitches

Down

- 1 "___ how?" (words of disbelief)

Sudoku



DIRECTIONS

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

SOLUTION FROM 2/9

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

TCU Trivia

Baseball: The TCU Horned Frogs will be facing Arizona State Sun Devils this weekend. **TRUE OR FALSE?**

SOLUTION FROM 2/9

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

TCU TRIVIA ANSWER

State this weekend.
FALSE! TCU will face Penn

ENTERTAINMENT

“John Wick: Chapter 2” fights fire with fun

BY CHRIS GARCIA
STAFF WRITER

Released two years after the original sleeper hit, “John Wick: Chapter 2” sets the bar for action sequels by adding more fights, better world-building and a stylish visual flair.

The film follows the titular character (Keanu Reeves) as he gets pulled back into the criminal underground and sent on another quest for revenge.

Picking up immediately after the first film, “Wick” starts off strongly by quickly re-introducing key elements and characters before breaking off into its own story. The plot, while relatively straightforward, is done well and feels concise thanks to the fast-paced action. Moments that would seem slower or cause the pace to drag are used for brief, but interesting,



PHOTO BY NIKO TAVERNISE/LIONSGATE VIA AP

This image released by Lionsgate shows Keanu Reeves in a scene from, “John Wick: Chapter 2.”

exposition that helps build the world of the film and make everything seem more believable. Unfortunately, the weakest part of the plot revolves around Wick’s reasoning for jumping back into the fray, which seems a bit more forced this time around.

This can be overlooked, however, as it means

spending more time with the stoic assassin. Reeves does a great job as Wick, relying more on facial expression and body language over dialogue. The few words that are said, however, are delivered in a way that works well for the tone of the film and makes Wick feel like a true action hero.

Common and Ruby Rose also perform strongly in their roles, serving as excellent foils to Reeves’ character. Rose brings a sense of humor and playfulness as the mute Ares, relying solely on sign language to deliver her lines, while Common is an intimidating presence as the bodyguard Cassian.

Riccardo Scamarcio rounds out the cast as the antagonistic Santino, balancing smugness with sophistication.

While the characters are memorable, the weakest part of “Wick” is in their development. The film adds more backstory which helps to build Wick’s legacy, but much of his growth is a retread of the first movie. The other characters, including Ares and Cassian, are pretty one-note and serve more as obstacles for Wick to overcome during his journey.

The journey itself is filled with eye-catching visuals as large set pieces help craft the atmosphere of the film. The action is easy to watch thanks to the clean editing, and pops of color add a nice flair to the overall style.

All of these things combined make “Wick”

a must-see for fans of action, and those who enjoyed the first movie will find even more to love. Newer audiences should also be able to jump straight in, though watching the first is highly recommended. While the violence may be a detractor for some, the film is an outstanding example of a sequel done right.

Verdict

An incredible ride from start to finish, “John Wick: Chapter 2” hits the mark by doubling down on what works and shooting for a higher standard of quality.



4/5 FROGS

ENTERTAINMENT

“Lego Batman” on the importance of family

BY CHRIS GARCIA
STAFF WRITER

The second movie in Warner Bros. “Lego” series, “The Lego Batman Movie” takes audiences on an explosive and fun-filled journey to discover the true meaning of family.

The movie follows Batman (Will Arnett) as he deals with crime-fighting and lifestyle changes after accidentally adopting his new son, Robin (Michael Cera).

The film starts off strong with an incredible first act that honors and spoofs decades of Batman lore. The mixture of action and comedy keep the plot moving at a fast pace, though there are a few slow moments towards the film’s final act that create a noticeable shift in tone. This is due

to a heavy focus on the themes of love, family and relationships that make up the emotional arc of the story.

This impact is supported by the strong performances from the cast. Will Arnett takes the lead as the self-absorbed Batman, providing snarkiness and arrogance for which the Dark Knight isn’t usually known. Michael Cera compliments him nicely as Robin, whose unbridled energy and optimism serve as a foil to Batman’s cynicism. Rosario Dawson and Ralph Fiennes also perform well as Batgirl and Alfred, respectively, providing unique takes on familiar characters.

The weakest link in the cast, unfortunately, is Zach Galifianakis as the

Joker. Galifianakis doesn’t try to match previous cinematic versions of the character, instead opting to play himself. This leaves the Joker feeling toned-down and forgettable compared to other iterations, and even other characters in the film.

That said, the Joker has great character development that makes up for the lesser performance. His arc is simple, but well-done, and highlights important aspects of the character that are often overlooked. Batman also has a strong and believable arc that provides the foundation of the film and gives it a sense of growth. Unfortunately, the other characters aren’t as developed and stick to their one-note roles.



PHOTO BY WARNER BROS. PICTURES VIA AP

This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Batman, voiced by Will Arnett, in a scene from “The LEGO Batman Movie.”

The film’s strength, however, lies in its Lego roots. The signature visual style of “The Lego Movie” returns, polished and improved, to make “Batman” even more fun to watch. Each

set piece is filled with detail, and the visual gags spread throughout the background help the world feel more alive.

Overall, “Lego Batman” is a must see for fans of the Caped Crusader

or comic book movies in general. Adults and children will be able to find things they enjoy, though some of the more mature themes may be lost on younger audiences. The film being a spoof instead of a more serious Batman movie may also detract for some viewers.

Verdict

Fast-paced and packed with laughs, “The Lego Batman Movie” is a solid follow-up that clicks together well and adds a new dimension to the Lego movie-verse.



4/5 FROGS