

CTE This Week
William H. Koehler Center for Teaching Excellence
Texas Christian University
August 30 - September 3, 2004

"The true aim of everyone who aspires to be a teacher should be, not to impart his own opinions, but to kindle minds "
Frederick W. Robertson

Teaching Tip of the Week "Incoming Freshmen Students - Born in 1986"

Most of our incoming freshmen students were born in 1986. To put that in perspective, in 1986, the *Challenger* space shuttle exploded, Chernobyl melted down, and most students entering college this year were born. To help faculty members better understand the pop-culture gap between themselves and their students, Beloit College has released its seventh annual "Mind-Set List" (to see more of these, access the Chronicle (<http://chronicle.com>) for Monday, August 30. Following is the list for the Class of 2008:

- Desi Arnaz, Orson Welles, Roy Orbison, Ted Bundy, Ayatollah Khomeini, and Cary Grant have always been dead.
- "Heeere's Johnny!" is a scary greeting from Jack Nicholson, not a warm welcome from Ed McMahon.
- The Energizer bunny has always been going, and going, and going.
- Large fine-print ads for prescription drugs have always appeared in magazines.
- Photographs have always been processed in an hour or less.
- Baby Jessica could be a classmate.
- Alan Greenspan has always been setting the nation's financial direction.
- The United States has always been a Prozac nation.
- They have always enjoyed the comfort of pleather.
- Harry has always known Sally.
- They never saw Roseanne Roseannadanna live on *Saturday Night Live*.
- There has always been a Comedy Channel.
- Bill and Ted have always been on an excellent adventure.
- They have always been comfortable with gay characters on television.
- Mike Tyson has always been a contender.
- The government has always been proposing we go to Mars, and the project has always been deemed too expensive.
- There have always been night games at Wrigley Field.
- Rogaine has always been available for the follicularly challenged.
- Computers have always suffered from viruses.
- Politicians have always used rock music for theme songs.
- Network television has always struggled to keep up with cable.
- Bethlehem has never been a place of peace at Christmas.
- Allowing women to become bishops has always been a divisive issue in the Episcopal Church.
- Svelte Oprah has always dominated afternoon television; who was Phil Donahue anyway?
- AZT has always been used to treat AIDS.
- The international community has always been installing or removing the leader of Haiti.
- Oliver North has always been a talk-show host and news commentator.
- They have suffered through airport-security systems since they were in strollers.
- They have done most of their search for the right college online.
- Aspirin has always been used to reduce the risk of a heart attack.

- There have always been nonstop flights around the world without refueling.
- Cher hasn't aged a day.

Resources at CTE - Come by and take a look at some of the articles and books in our library. If you would like a copy of any of the articles abstracted below, contact the CTE (c.wehlburg@tcu.edu). You might be interested in:

- **Peer Consultation and Faculty Learning Communities** by Milton D. Cox (Miami University, Ohio). *Consultation to improve teaching has traditionally been one-on-one. The individual instructor seeks advice from a colleague or a consultant. However, a different model involves a faculty learning community. A faculty learning community can provide support and information on a particular topic. For example, a junior faculty member seeking ways to improve student evaluation ratings may discover, after listening and sharing, that there is a need to acknowledge and address the isolation and stress brought about by conflicting pressures. Or, a senior faculty member wanting to freshen up a familiar course may discover a new area of teaching or research while attending a learning community with colleagues from an interdisciplinary faculty learning community.*
- **Encouraging Critical Thinking Using the Case Study Method and Cooperative Learning Techniques** by Robert W. Grossman (Kalamazoo College). *Several workshop presented at the 1991 Lilly Conference on College Teaching provided the inspiration for redesigning an introductory psychology course. This article shows how cooperative learning teams can be frameworks to analyze these cases, students are encouraged to think more critically about all the theories presented in the course. This approach should be applicable to a variety of other courses..*

Upcoming Events at CTE - Mark Your Calendars!

- **eCollege On-Line Gradebook** - In this workshop you will determine what aspects of your course should be graded, and you'll add these items to your online Gradebook as gradable items. You can then assign a "total points possible" value to each gradable item. If you entered a total point value for each gradable item when you set up your Gradebook, the Gradebook can use the student's actual points and the total points possible to calculate current student grades at the content item, unit, and course level which will save you time and will be easily understood by students. **September 3 from 3:00 - 5:00** in SWR 138 or **September 10 from 3:00 to 5:00**. Go to <http://www.cte.tcu.edu/workshopsevents/index.htm#Gradebook> to register.
- **Responding to Student Writing** - Do you require students to write in your class? Essay exam questions? Papers? Journals? Threaded discussions? How do you grade student writing so that the student can learn something from your response? This one-hour workshop will focus on the appropriate and meaningful ways that you can respond to student writing and how this process can be an engaging one for both you and students. Rickel Academic Building #245. **September 7th from 2:30 - 3:30**. Register by going to <http://www.wrt.tcu.edu/Workshop.html>.
- **Faculty Learning Community** - Are you interested in being a part of a faculty learning community (FLC)? Do you have a topic in mind that you would like to explore with colleagues? Contact Catherine Wehlburg (c.wehlburg@tcu.edu) to discuss this possibility. There is a small honorarium that is available for FLC coordinators and CTE will provide scheduling and other support.