

THE DAILY SKIFF

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Friday, January 30, 1976

Colleges adapt to privacy law University protecting student records

By DARRYL PENDLETON
Assistant News Editor

TCU and other schools have restructured their policies regarding student records, as guidelines for the 1974 Family Education Rights and Privacy Act continue to be written more than a year after the law became effective.

Introduced to Congress by Sen. James L. Buckley, R-N.Y., the law was intended to grant parents the right to examine and challenge their children's full educational records, to have inaccurate or misleading records changed and to give their consent before any records can be shown to outside parties.

Students 18 or over, or attending a post secondary institution, were given the same rights to access and privacy.

An institution that does not comply with these regulations or does not release records to a parent or student within 45 days of the request will lose all federal funding.

An amendment to the bill which more clearly defines what is accessible, has allowed schools to begin operating more securely under this law.

Except for directory information, the University cannot release anything without the student's consent, said Elizabeth Proffer, dean of students.

Directory information includes: name, address, phone number, birth date and place, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received and the last educational institution attended.

Students may elect to keep even this

information closed to outside parties. "Anything the student does not want published in Frog Calls will not get released," said Buck Beneze, assistant dean of students.

"In cases of emergencies—a girl calls from out of state and really needs to get hold of her sister here—we need to make the judgment of releasing or not. We need to use common sense," Proffer said.

When the law originally was written, parents of post secondary students did not have access to the records. It was revised so that if either or both parents are carrying the student as a dependent on their income tax, they may have access to the information.

The problem, according to Proffer, arises with divorced parents when the mother carries the student on her income tax but the father is actually paying for most of the student's support.

If the father wishes to see the student's grades, should the University release them? In that case the student is contacted to give his consent or denial. Only one instance occurred at the University in which a student refused access to a divorced parent, Proffer said.

The Student Life office houses such records as the personal data sheet, a copy of academic work, records of academic probation and suspension and a separate locked file of disciplinary cases.

In 1976 only "about half a dozen" students wished to see their records in the Student Life office, Beneze said. "They generally already know what we have. In disciplinary cases there is nothing we

haven't already discussed with the student," he said.

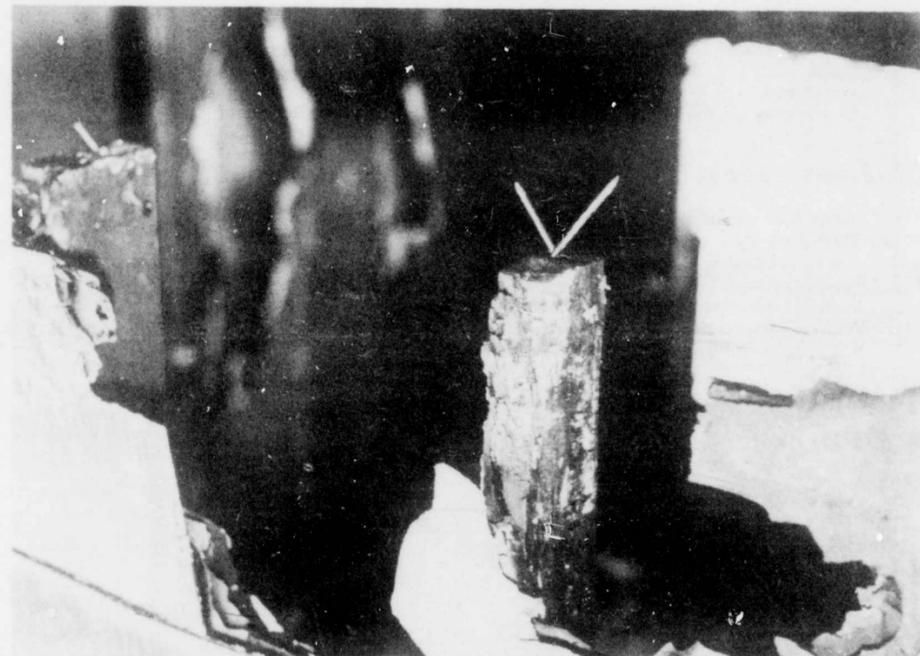
In the Health Center students are not permitted to inspect their files alone but may go over them with Dr. John Terrell, University physician.

The Financial Aid office maintains open files with the exception of letters of recommendation which were written prior to Jan. 1, 1975 and the Parents Confidential Statement, unless the parents have designated they want it accessible to the student.

One area of concern for counselors and prospective employers is that letters of recommendation will lose highly critical and honest evaluations if the student has the right to read them.

"Most high school counselors are hesitant about making more candid comments about students," Beneze said.

In the Placement office students have the option of waiving their right to access of records.



ARSON HAS BEEN DETERMINED as the cause of the fire at the home of a recent TCU transfer student, James Branum. Shown here are the remnants of the bedroom at 5112 Penrod Ct. in River Oaks. Branum has set up temporary residence in Clark Hall.

Photo by Brock Akers

Proffer's 'conflict of interest' resolved

Moudy gets appointment oversight

By KEITH CLARK
Contributing Editor

Approval of student nominations to all University-wide committees will be made by Chancellor James Moudy instead of the dean of students, as has been the procedure.

"This only centralizes power in the hands of Chancellor

Grant deadline Sunday

Applications for the 1976-77 Nordan Fine Arts Scholarships must be submitted by Sunday, Feb. 1 for students in music, dance and theater. The deadline is March 15 for art students.

Eligibility for the scholarship depends on "superior talent and learned skills of the participants and their demonstrated execution," said Dr. George T. Tade, dean of the School of Fine Arts.

The amount of the grants was doubled last year. Undergraduate winners can be awarded \$8,000 over a four-year period, and graduate students can receive \$4,000 over two years. The scholarships are renewable annually.

Moudy," said Chuck Blaisdell, one of the three students who resigned.

For the past few years, student appointments to the committees have not been submitted to any administrators for approval, though the Faculty-Staff Handbook says all student committee appointments are subject to the approval of the dean of students.

When Dean of Students Elizabeth Proffer decided last fall to exercise her authority to approve the appointments to the Student Conduct Committee (SCC), three members resigned in protest, although Proffer never rejected any appointments.

The conflict of interest was that the dean of students approved the student members of a committee which heard appeals of her own disciplinary decisions, Blaisdell said.

Proffer agreed and recommended, in the interests of consistency, that the Chancellor approve the student nominations to the SCC and all University-wide committees.

Moudy said he will handle the student nominations in the same manner he has dealt with faculty and staff nominations to committees. He will consult with the vice

chancellors and with administrators overseeing the various committees to get a balanced membership which will work together well, he said.

When Proffer became aware of that part of her job, she wrote a letter to Blaisdell, then vice president of the House, saying she would use her power of review.

Blaisdell said he thought Proffer decided to approve appointments because the SCC had modified or overturned her decisions in some disciplinary cases.

He said he resigned because he could not participate in what he considered an unfair system. He called for the other resignations to paralyze the committee and bring the problem out in the open, he said.

Blaisdell had hoped the House would be permitted to appoint students directly to University-wide committees without review by the administration. Moudy said such a system is not likely in the near future.

Blaisdell sees the possibility of a "waiting game," with the administration holding off approval until the House nominates more favorable candidates. But Moudy said his appointments would be based, not on personalities but on effective committees.

A university of high quality ★ Does TCU fit the bill?

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of weekly guest columns written by various members of the University. We hope we can provide points of view different than those of the Daily Skiff editors. The columns are solicited; persons with ideas for guest columns should contact the associate editor.

Jan Stone, secretary to the Department of Philosophy and the Honors Program, is the first columnist. She is also involved with Bread for the World and Amnesty International. She is married to Dr. Ralph Stone, youth minister at University Christian Church.

In a recent Weekly Bulletin, Director of Public Relations Jim Lehman wrote that "two terms may come as close as any in describing us (TCU): we are a university of high quality and we strive to be value-affirming, caring about our students as individuals."

How should we respond to this judgment? Are they merely the words of a public relations man? Are they just wishful thinking? Or, do they represent an accurate assessment?

An invitation to write a guest column provides me an opportunity to reflect on the above

statement. As one who has been on and around this campus since the "silent generation" of the 50s and the tensions of the 60s, my views may differ considerably from those who have come to the University in recent years.

Are we really a "university of high quality?" The Honors Program, now in its 14th year, came about as a result of the 1960 self-study. Its success in offering

Guest opinion

a special educational opportunity to those students willing to accept the challenge of high intellectual standards is based, in large measure, on the University's commitment to high quality education.

The new Academic Achievement awards offered to incoming freshmen on the basis of high school class rank and SAT-ACT scores are a very welcome—if very tardy—effort to recruit prospective students on the basis of brain power rather than muscle power or the ability to win beauty contests.

These are but two of the more visible programs which aim at high academic quality. It's not my intention to make a long list, but rather to share some students' thoughts on this matter. At registration, one new student (enrolling with 32 credit hours of advanced placement)

told us that she declined a four-year scholarship at a state university in Arizona to come here. Why? "Because TCU is such a good school and besides, who wants to be in classes with several hundred students?"

Or the former nursing student, teaching practical nurses in a school in Montana, who writes that "sometimes I feel overwhelming gratitude to the unseen force that guided me to TCU and a degree program in nursing that has opened so many vocational doors for me."

Or the former student now doing Ph.D. work in an Ivy League university: "It would be silly to deny that the opportunities for study at Yale are greater than at TCU. . . . but liberal education, which I remember as one concern of the Honors Program, is a forgotten enterprise for too many here, who see the university primarily as a passport to law or med school."

And through the years, literally dozens of students who have gone on to other graduate schools testify that something we at TCU take for granted may be unique—the good relationships which exist between faculty and students, the approachability, the stimulating conversations, the open door. This is a priceless resource.



JAN STONE

I suppose the most disappointing aspect of TCU's striving for high quality has been its inability (or is it a lack of priority?) to pay faculty salaries commensurate with other comparable institutions. The rewards for good teaching are minimal and good teaching often gets pushed into second place because of non-teaching demands on faculty.

The Honors Program doesn't have the budget to compensate its teachers in any extra way (except for a free banquet ticket). High quality teaching is a self-imposed discipline and, I hope, respected by student and colleague alike.

The Green Honors professorship is another plus and minus situation. Through the generous endowment of Cecil H. and Ida Green, our campus has been visited by outstanding scholars who come to share the fruits of their distinguished academic careers.

But often their classes are quite small and many students and faculty are unaware of their presence—we do not seem to know how to make good use of this wonderful resource. At least one Green professor even complained that he didn't have enough to do.

Well, is TCU a "university of high quality?" (I never even got to the "value-affirming" part.) I believe there is much of high academic quality to be found at TCU.

And as long as nearly a dozen students of Professor Emmet Smith win Fulbright scholarships, and as long as Pete Larson, a triple-major doing Honors work in all three departments, can win the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, then I know that, in the words of a philosopher friend of mine, "some who want to learn and some who want to teach have found each other and been awakened by surprise."

—JAN STONE

THE DAILY SKIFF

An All-American college newspaper

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Roger Meyer to the University. The driver of "TCU 1" is, of course, Mr. TCU 1, Chancellor James M. Moudy.

Photo by Brock Akers

Committee peeking at campus cheating

By BROCK AKERS
News Editor
(Third of three parts)

The Academic Appeals Committee is in the process of developing a clear and workable definition of cheating for faculty, students and administrators, according to Dr. Paul Wassenich, chairman of the committee.

When the proposal is in its final form, the committee will submit it to the House of Student Representatives, the Faculty Senate and possibly the Dean's Council, said Wassenich. He hopes to get the "widespread reaction" from these groups to help the committee in its policy formulation.

The committee has adopted the definition of cheating which the University of Texas uses. The UT policy includes cheating on tests, plagiarism and "collusion among students."

The committee was formed at the insistence of Dr. Thomas Brewer, vice chancellor and dean of the University.

The purpose of the committee is to monitor student dishonesty and classroom procedures regarding it, to discourage it at all cost and to serve as an appeals board for students accused of dishonesty by their instructors, according to Keith Clark, a student member on the committee.

Clark indicated that in the past, the guidelines for handling classroom dishonesty have been in a "state of flux." "The instructor could say, 'Well, I caught you and now I am going to give you an F.' And the student had little recourse. This is basically a clear statement of policy and procedure," he said.

Dean of Students Elizabeth Proffer said she is not sure the committee's efforts to establish clear guidelines for cheating will make appeals any easier to judge.

"What constitutes cheating? For instance, if a professor sees a student looking on a paper, does that professor then have the right to give that person a zero? Was the student looking on another's paper hoping to copy an answer, or was it only an innocent, casual glance? These are all things which must be considered in the appeals process, and they are all things which are difficult to determine," Proffer said.

The committee will have the right to reverse an action taken by the instructor, Clark said. However, this has not always been effective in the past.

Proffer told about a professor last year who gave a student an F for cheating on a test. The student appealed and the Student Conduct Committee (the former outlet for academic appeals) ruled in favor of the student.

Yet, the professor said that the committee was wrong, that the student was in fact cheating and he refused to pass the student, even in light of the committee's ruling.

"Situations such as this are difficult to handle," Proffer said.

Grad school tests changed

Major changes in the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) have been made to simplify the test-taking process, making it more accommodating for the student candidate.

A full-length sample GRE, complete with answer key, is available for the first time to give candidates an idea of the test's scope and length.

The GMAT was formerly called the Admissions Test for Graduate Study in Business. The change reflects a trend to broaden curricula and degree titles among graduate business schools.

The GRE and GMAT together test more than 400,000 prospective applicants every year.

Applications for Mortar Board 1976-77 are now available in the Student Life office, Room 110 of Sadler Hall. All interested students who will obtain senior classification by Fall, 1976, are eligible to become members of this organization of honor students if they have maintained an accumulative GPA of 3.0 or above. If you are interested, pick up your application today. Deadline for returned applications is February 18, 1976.

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Aggies invade Saturday

Baylor overcomes Frogs, 71-68

By DANA ARBUCKLE
Sports Editor

Baylor's jubilation, and a white towel almost cost the Bears a victory over the TCU Horned Frogs Wednesday night at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

The Bears had come back from

in the air as TCU brought the ball down the court.

The official called a technical foul on the Baylor bench and the Frogs had a chance to tie the game and send it into overtime. Randy Boyts, the Frogs' best free throw shooter and once

scoreboard," said Coach Johnny Swain.

TCU shot 49 per cent from the field, outrebounded the larger Baylor squad 43-32 and shot better from the free throw line. "We just couldn't handle the ball very well. We had 15 turnovers compared to just six for Baylor," said Swain. "I was really encouraged with the rebounding because it has been one of our biggest weaknesses."

The win gives Baylor a 5-4 Southwest Conference mark and a tie with Arkansas for fourth place. The Frogs drop to 4-4 in conference play and 9-9 overall.

"I thought that our defense played well enough to win but we had some crucial turnovers and their press bothered us some. We had 10 turnovers the first half and they also kept us from running," Swain said.

Rick Hensley led the Frog scoring with 20 points. Boyts and Tom Bledsoe followed with 15. Bledsoe and Marion led the rebounding with 15 apiece.

The league leading Texas A&M Aggies come to Daniel-Meyer Coliseum Saturday night to play the Frogs. The Aggies are on top of the SWC with a 6-1 slate. "The Aggies have a tremendous team. They aren't overly large but every player has good strength and coordination," Swain said.

The Aggies will start 6-6 Barry Davis, 6-7 Sonny Parker and 6-6 Jarvis Williams along the front line. The A&M guards are 6-3 Karl Godine and 6-4 Ray Roberts. Davis, Parker and Roberts are seniors while Williams and Godine are freshmen.

The Frogs will start Bledsoe, Gary Landers and Marion in the front court and Hensley and Boyts at the guards.

"The Aggies travel with 10 men and they play all 10. They will play a full-court press the entire game," Swain said.

Swaim thanks fans

Editor:

I would like to thank the student body, band and cheerleaders for their support last Wednesday night when we played Baylor. Each expressed an interest in the team and the outcome of the game. It was appreciated by me and each player on the team.

This team deserves a lot of appreciation. The players want to win for several reasons but the main one is that they want to represent TCU the best they can.

I am fond of each man on the team. They have captured my heart and I have seen them bounce back from defeat before. The Texas Aggies come here Saturday night leading the conference. We need and want your help in our efforts to beat A&M Saturday.

—Johnny Swaim

a three-point halftime deficit to take a 71-68 lead with just eight seconds remaining in the game. Tony Rufus hit a pair of free throws to give Baylor the three-point margin and a jubilant player on the bench threw a towel

ranked fourth in the nation, couldn't hit the charity shot.

Tim Marion put a few shots up when the Frogs brought the ball in after the shot, but he couldn't get one to fall and the Frogs lost 71-68.

The Frogs led throughout the game but couldn't salt the game away in the final minutes. "It was a tough game to lose because we beat Baylor in every category except turnovers and on the

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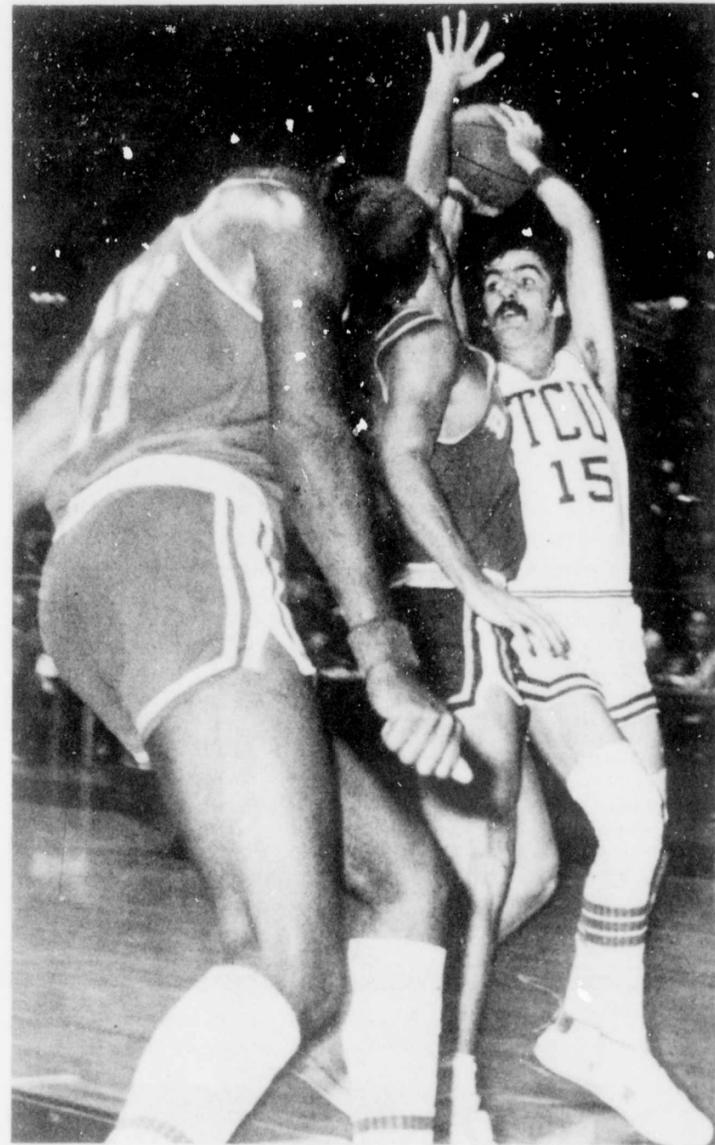
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RICK HENSLEY shoots for two of his 20 points in Wednesday's loss to Baylor. Billy Carlisle of the Bears is leaping in an attempt to block Hensley's shot, while Tony Rufus looks on.

Photo by Steve Buttry

SWC tourney tickets on sale for short time

Only a limited number of tickets remains on sale for the 1976 Southwest Conference

basketball tournament in Dallas March 5-7, TCU ticket manager Ted Hajek has announced.

Package tickets for the first SWC post-season tournament are \$16 each. Hajek says they will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis and TCU students interested in buying them should come to the TCU Ticket Office in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum soon.

The ticket office is open weekdays from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Gymnasts open against Arkansas

The TCU women's gymnastics team will host the University of Arkansas Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Rickel building. It is the first outing for the women gymnasts since the Christmas break. Coach of the TCU team is Carolyn Dixon.

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