

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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Fort Worth, Texas

1986 Fort Worth's worst year for murder

FORT WORTH (AP)—The city that bills itself as the gateway to the West just ended the deadliest year in its 114-year history and has one of the nation's highest murder rates.

It is a dubious distinction that some say harkens back to its raucous legacy of frontier life.

"We pride ourselves that the West begins in Fort Worth, and that mentality is alive and well here among some residents," said William Reese, who teaches criminology at Texas Christian University.

"I think you have to combine that with a regional mentality of, 'It's my pickup, my highway and my right of way,'" he said.

The FBI ranked Fort Worth fifth in the nation in the number of murders, based on 1985 figures. Another study ranks the city first in major crime division. Police officials have said they

among the 33 largest cities in the country. In 1986, the city has seen a 58 percent increase in murders.

Last year, a record 202 people were murdered here. By comparison, the city has averaged between 110 homicides and 120 homicides annually over the past decade, according to police department statistics.

Theories offered for the increase include the arrival of out-of-work oil workers from the West Texas oil patch, an influx of illegal aliens from Mexico, overcrowded court dockets and jails, as well as vestiges of a frontier nation.

Bar brawls, fights and domestic disputes account for most of 1986's murders, said Lt. T.C. Swan of the Fort Worth Police Department's homicide

will increase patrols near bars this year.

This year's increase was a surprise, officials say.

Tarrant County Medical Examiner Nizam Peerwani said he sometimes didn't have enough morgue space for the bodies, making temporary arrangements with area morticians.

Peerwani said the majority of the deaths were due to handguns.

"People say we are a frontier nation, and certainly we are more violent," said Peerwani. "I am sure there are a lot of Texans who disagree, (but) there are some of us, and we say very strongly that handguns are playing a major role in violent deaths," he said.

Fort Worth's FBI murder ranking is based on 30.15 murders per 100,000 population. The city has a population of more than 424,000.

according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

A survey released by the Dallas Police Department in April ranked Fort Worth first in criminal incidents among the nation's 33 largest cities. The figures are based on each city's report to the FBI in the seven major crime categories.

According to the survey, Fort Worth had 132 crime incidents per 1,000 people, Dallas was second with 131 incidents, and Atlanta was third with 130 incidents.

Behind the statistics are the people, the families who have been left to wonder why.

Fort Worth real estate agent Kay Day says she was working at her office when a business acquaintance came to tell her that her husband had been shot several times.

"Within 45 minutes (at the hospital emergency room) they started bringing out his wedding ring to me. Then they came and told me they did everything they could," she said.

Day is a member of Victims of Violence, a support group that has lobbied for bigger jails and more stringent parole requirements.

When Day talks about the January 1985 murder of her husband, she maintains a determined composure.

The 41-year-old businesswoman is involved with several community

organizations, in addition to running a real estate company.

Her husband of 12 years, Weldon, was killed at the BMW car dealership he managed. Larry Gene Sewell, 28, a former dealership employee was convicted in the killing in October 1985 and sentenced to life in prison.

"The way that I have tried to make sense of my husband's murder is to find out why," she said.

She hired her own detectives and took part in the investigation. "I climbed in every manhole in Trinity Park because they thought that was where the gun might be," she said.

The murder rate this year hasn't evoked the kind of strong response prompted in late 1984 and 1985 when at least 11 young women were mysteriously killed or reported missing. Public concern led to a special investigative task force, which later disbanded when it ran out of leads.

In Peerwani's office, a map of Tarrant County keeps track of those and other deaths. The red pins, indicating murder, are clustered together on the south side of the city in neighborhoods predominantly occupied by minorities.

Day said that more than 40 percent of the victims were black. Slightly more than 30 percent of the victims

were Hispanic and just under 30 percent of the victims were white.

According to city planning officials, blacks accounted for about 23 percent of Fort Worth's population, while Hispanics made up about 13 percent.

Swan said in most cases, the victims and murderers were the same race.

Margie Garcia, whose sister, Ana Wilson, 30, was murdered five years ago, said the high number of Hispanic victims has been a largely ignored statistic.

"Politically, the Hispanic community in Fort Worth is not strong," she said. "We've never spoken up, and no one has cared to listen."

Stung by reports of the high crime rate, some southside business leaders formed a task force to look into the problem. Task force member Joan Kline says the group is looking for ways to spruce up the area's record and image.

Donya Witherspoon, a board member of Victims of Violence, says the group will keep reminding the community of the increasing murder rate. She and other members of the group said they're worried that people whose lives haven't been touched by murder are shrugging off the figures as a fluke.

But she says, "The statistics right now are not very good in Tarrant County."

Police change abuse policy

DALLAS (AP)—An out-of-court settlement hailed as a victory for battered women will lead to changes in the way Dallas police respond to reports of domestic violence, a lawyer says.

The settlement, which must be approved by U.S. District Judge Robert Maloney, requires that police be more aggressive in arresting abusive spouses and that the department take steps to keep officers and the public better informed about the consequences of domestic violence.

The settlement would end a 1985 class action against the city alleging police had an unwritten policy of not intervening or making arrests in domestic violence cases. The suit contended that the practice denied equal protection to women.

The City Council learned of the settlement Wednesday. Police and city attorneys said they would not discuss the case before the agreement is approved by Maloney. Attorneys said they expected Maloney to make a decision within two weeks.

Gail Griswold, executive director of The Family Place, a non-profit group offering shelter for family violence victims, called the settlement "a major victory for battered women in Dallas."

"We've tried to eliminate officers from using their discretion," said Jonathan Vickery, one of two lawyers representing the four women named in the suit.

Vickery said the city had agreed to a policy that will encourage police to make arrests when they see evidence of domestic violence.

The agreement, according to Vickery, calls for the City Council to create a task force to study the issue and recommend changes in police policy. In addition, the police department is to establish a training program for rookies and other officers on how to deal with domestic violence.

The city will also produce a series of radio and television public service announcements emphasizing that domestic violence is a crime.

The suit was originally filed in 1985 by Yvette Lewis, who said she was the victim of several beatings by her estranged husband.

It claimed police failed to arrest her husband after several beatings, even though she had obtained a court order barring him from contacting or visiting her or her three children.

Residents of Sherley Hall are thankful that roofing work on their dorm has been completed.

Tonja Gerady, a freshman who lives on the third floor of Sherley, said she is glad the dorm is no longer surrounded by the protective fence, which led many to refer to it as "Stalg

Shelley."

She also said residents are once again able to study in their rooms and sleep late in the mornings.

"They'd start at eight in the morning hammering," she said. "When they were right over us, I thought I was going to go nuts!"

"Roofers like to start early, while the weather is cool (because roofing materials melt and become sticky when hot)," Haubold said. "The noise bothered some of the students."

Haubold said the old roof had simply worn out and needed to be completely replaced.

"Roofs last 35 to 40 years," he said, "and it got to the point where we couldn't spend \$50,000 to patch it every year."

The roofing project took about two months and Haubold estimated its cost at \$180,000.

Campus officer injured

A campus police officer was slightly injured Saturday night in an attempt to apprehend three robbery suspects.

Campus Police Chief Oscar Stewart said Officer Kelly Ham was struck in the abdomen with a stick by a suspect who fled on foot after a brief car chase that ended north of the TCU campus near the Colonial Country Club. Ham, who was released from Harris Hospital Sunday morning, is now back on patrol.

The chase began at approximately 7:30 p.m. when Officer Raymond Coffman noticed three men in an '83 Cadillac Seville driving slowly through the coliseum parking lot before circling around Stadium Drive and parking in the lot north of Milton Daniel Hall. Coffman, Ham and another officer approached the three men, who had since gotten out of the car.

Stewart said campus police have made at least five other arrests since the beginning of the semester based on student reports.

Earlier Saturday, two men were arrested and charged with criminal trespassing after being caught selling newspaper and magazine subscriptions on the second and third floor of Wiggins Hall.

Physical plant finishes roof, fixes pool over holiday

By Michael Hayworth
Staff Writer

While the campus lay dormant over Christmas break, the TCU Physical Plant was at work on projects to improve maintenance conditions.

Bob Haubold, physical plant director, said workers in his department completed three major projects over the break: installing a new floor for a dance studio, replacing the deck around the Rickel Building pool and finishing the new roof on Sherley Hall.

The old floor was made of oak, which tends to splinter. That floor was replaced by a maple floor with padding underneath to provide the needed resiliency.

Different types of dance have different requirements, "so there was a

little disagreement on what would be the best floor to use," Haubold said. "But this floor represents the best compromise for everyone."

The old deck around the pool in the Rickel Building was made of a textured, rubberized material. Rickel Building Director Steve Kintigh said the material began separating at the seams about two years ago. The resulting sharp edges cut swimmers' feet.

Kintigh said stainless steel strips were installed to contain the separation. However, water seeped into the

separations, producing a bad odor and a place where bacteria could grow.

"We were very concerned about the liability," Kintigh said.

The new deck is made of a silicone substance with an epoxy holding it together. Kintigh described it as "very similar to having a concrete floor."

Both Kintigh and Haubold expect the new surface to solve their problems. There is one disappointment, though. The old surface was purple.

The new one was not available in that color, so TCU had to settle for blue and white.

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Ham was the second year for the "College Hotline," financed by the First City National Bank of Houston.

Boehm described the hotline's "anonymous nature" as a reason for its success.

"Students can be assured that the person at the other end of the phone won't try to push a school," he said.

"They can ask any question—even stupid ones—and not feel uncomfortable about having it answered."

The hotline also got parents more involved in college applications, Boehm said.

"We asked, 'What can a student do from his or her own home?'" Now, over the course of a weekend, the student, with help from his or her parents, can begin to plan, solidify that plan or finalize that plan for college. It becomes a joint effort.

"That's important, because (college is) really a family decision," he said.

Texas students," he said. "We want Texas students to be accepted at any college."

Interest in a "College Hotline" was sparked by a study conducted last year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Education.

The author of the report, Carnegie president Ernest Boyer, concluded that "the transition from (high) school to higher education must be smoothed. To be helpful to prospective students, colleges should, above all, tell their stories with integrity and good taste."

Boyer criticized promotional brochures that present a college attractively, but say little or nothing about actual, realistic learning opportunities.

"It would be easy to conclude (by looking at catalogues) that about half of all college classes in America are held outside on a sunny day by a tree, often close to water," he said in the report.

Because of this, many students base their college decisions on the glamour of the campuses rather than academics, Boyer said.

He also found that misconceptions about admissions are actually the col-

leges' fault.

"You see another sign saying, 'Our average SAT score is such-and-such.' It doesn't tell about the range above and below the average. And parents especially see the average as the minimum."

The same, Boehm said, is true about costs of a college.

"You see another sign saying, 'Our average costs are such-and-such.' Right away you stop and turn away," he said. "You don't see how the cost can be deflected—by academic or civic scholarships, by grants or loans or by work-study."

"Much of our effort is spent not only on attracting students to Texas schools, but also on showing off our

OPINION

MLK struggled to free all

By Karen Anderson

It is so easily forgotten what the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. is supposed to stand for.

Many, out of ignorance, attempt to turn it into a black holiday. It is not.

It is a holiday for all people.

King's battle was not fought for just blacks, or Americans, or Texans, or Fort Worthians, or TCU students, but for all people all over the world.

If he were here today, King would probably agree that the day should stand to represent the ideas that he and many others through the years have given their lives for.

This day stands for all the people who helped bring the civil rights movement to its present position. It is in honor of all the men and women who dedicated their lives for the fight of freedom and the right to the American dream.

This is the type of courage that should be celebrated by all men.

Twenty-four years ago King had a dream that has carried the nation thus far, but his dream is beginning to wear out. It is time the dreams were turned into goals—and the goals into reality. It is time to strive for the equality that the founding fathers held dear.

As TCU turns the corner into the new century, it is time to shake off the shackles of racism that have bound this institution in the past.

The time has come to hire minority faculty and administrators—not just blacks, but Hispa-

nics, Asians, etc. as well. White students who have never been exposed to an educated minority need this type of education. The campus is full of people who think the best way to talk to a black person is to say something soulful.

It is time that the university as a whole became more sensitive to the needs and feelings of the minority population.

If you want to help someone black, get to know some black students at TCU. Become a real friend, not just a lunch or dinner companion.

It is time to learn how the other half lives, although only a black can truly know what it is like to be black. Don't let stupid movies like "Soul Man" fool you. The burdens of being a minority in the United States are far greater than that movie portrayed.

It is time for black students to be proud to be black. Although many blacks' ancestors were slaves, they do not realize that without slavery this nation would not be the power that it is. Slaves built this nation with their hands, blood and sweat.

This is the part of the American dream that the black people got, and it is time for them to move on and get what they deserve.

This day reminds the entire nation that being different in the United States is not easy. The struggle goes on.

But those who continue to struggle must remember that the race is not given to the strongest or the swiftest, but to those who persevere.

Buyer beware the newspaper

Duane R.
Bidwell

The old adage "Let the buyer beware" rarely comes to mind when buying a newspaper. But maybe it should.

Ever since Reagan started his "war on drugs," the American media seem to have forgotten the difference between the truth ("My dog licked Harold's hand.") and an exaggeration ("My dog ate Harold's thumb").

For example, look at the stories about kids who have their drug-using parents arrested. TCU sociology professor Jean Giles-Sims says there are fewer than 10 cases where this has happened. However, press accounts read like it's the newest teen-age fad.

It's not. In a recent poll conducted for Contemporary Psychology Associates of Los Angeles (which, it's credit, *The Christian Science Monitor* did report, even if the results were buried pretty low in the story), Southern California 12- to 16-year-olds were asked if they'd squeal on their parents' drug habits.

Only one-fourth said "absolutely yes." Another 35 percent said they "might." And a huge majority—60 percent—said they would "consider" it.

But considering something doesn't mean it does.

The majority of American kids, then, might also consider confronting their parents about the drug problem. They might consider

asking a teacher, pastor or friend for help. Whatever they consider, the majority of these kids aren't self-righteous enough to have parents hastily arrested.

But the media don't say that. Instead, they make it look like seven years of Reagan's rabid and self-righteous Americanism, mixed with an anti-drug campaign or two, has produced teen-age Nazis who'd sooner have their parents arrested than taking a few joints.

There's not enough evidence to prove that yet (although it could be true). Still, the press has a duty to report these incidents. After all, these little tattle-tales are as much a threat to freedom as are drug and urine testing. And, if child nars are a new phenomenon, they're bringing up lots of questions about family unity and the legal system.

Readers need to know about these things. If the media don't report them, no one would. Still, such reports need to be put into perspective. If the media don't do that, they cheat their readers.

That's not to say we shouldn't trust the press. More often than not, it's fair and accurate, and its treatment of Reagan's "war on drugs" has not been entirely wrong. Also, time and staff constraints limit just how in-depth a story can be. Readers need to remember that before they complain too much.

But we also have to remember that, often, the media don't show the whole truth. The show what's news. Often, news is what sells papers and broadcasts. As news buyers, we've got to be aware of that and do our part to seek out the whole picture before we, also, exaggerate a few facts.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

The TCU Daily Skiff welcomes letters to the editor and guest columns. The opinion page is designed to offer a forum of thought, comment and insight concerning campus, state and national issues. All letters and columns must be typed and double spaced. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and must be signed. Both letters and columns must be accompanied with the writer's classification, major and telephone number.

Views expressed herein are solely those of the individual writers and contributors. Unsigned editorials represent the consensus of the editorial board. Signed editorials are the opinion of the writers.

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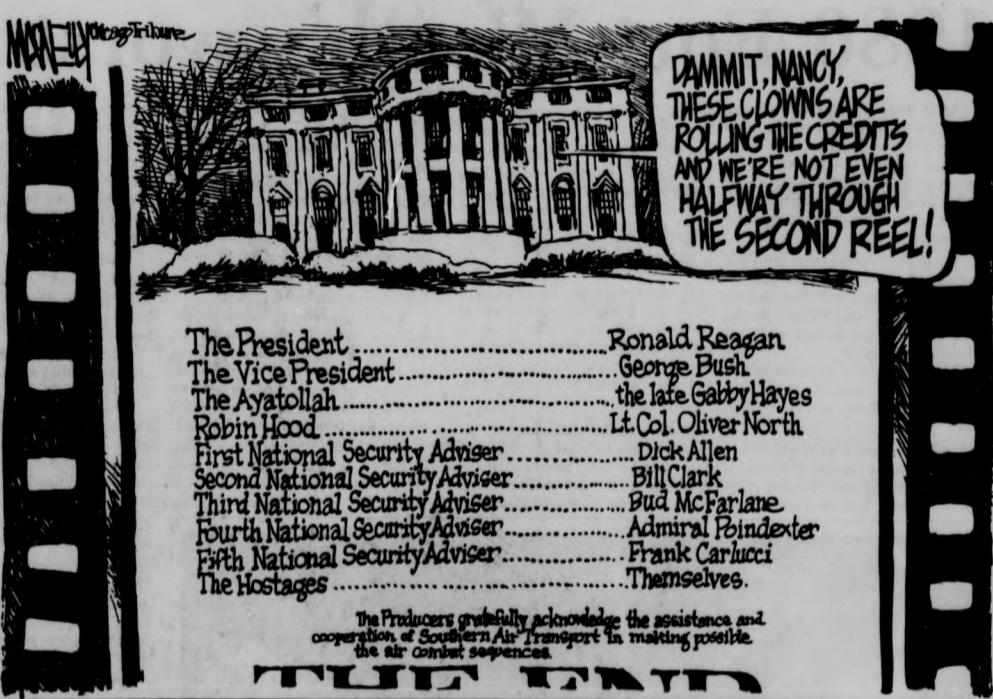
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TCU DAILY SKIFF



The Producers gratefully acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of Southern Air Transport in making possible the air combat sequences.

THE END

Jailhouse blues

Texas prison problems not surprising

The rankings show Fort Worth first in the nation, Dallas second. Congratulations are not in order.

The category is incidents of major crimes per 100,000 residents. This information is based on a survey released last year by the Dallas Police Department.

Fort Worth also set a city record last year for murders, with 202, a 58 percent increase from 1985.

But this is just the beginning of the bad news. Texas' prisons are overcrowded and have recently been at the brink of turning inmates away. To prevent this from happening, inmates are being granted paroles in record numbers.

A recent report in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* shows that inmates are being given credit for "good time," which credits well-behaved inmates with many more days than they have actually served, even when they're not so good.

No one is surprised that Texas prisons have problems; they have been among the most crowded and violent of the nation's prisons for years.

The *Star-Telegram* study also shows that almost one-third of the 1,516 Tar-

rant County inmates released from Texas prisons in 1985 were in trouble with the law again within one year.

The blame for the situation must be placed with the Texas legislature and the governor's office. They knew of the problem, but assigned it a low priority.

Judge William Wayne Justice ordered sweeping reforms in the Texas prison system in 1981. Legislators failed to act beyond the short-term measures required to comply with Justice's order.

Texas officials seemed to be hoping that, if they ignored the problem, it would go away. Instead, they ignored it, and it got worse.

Finally, they have no choice but to face the problem. Judge Justice has ordered the state to improve conditions by March 31 or face fines of more than \$800,000 per day. State officials are now scurrying to comply with the terms of Justice's order, meanwhile muttering nasty things about him under their collective breath.

Even though the state can blame no one but itself for the problem, their frustration at Justice's action is understandable. The action against the state originated with Justice, who recruited

an attorney to sue the state on behalf of the inmates, then ordered the state to pay the attorney's fees. Some might call that above and beyond the call of duty.

Others have called it worse, accusing Justice of, among other things, caring more for the criminals than for the good of Texas.

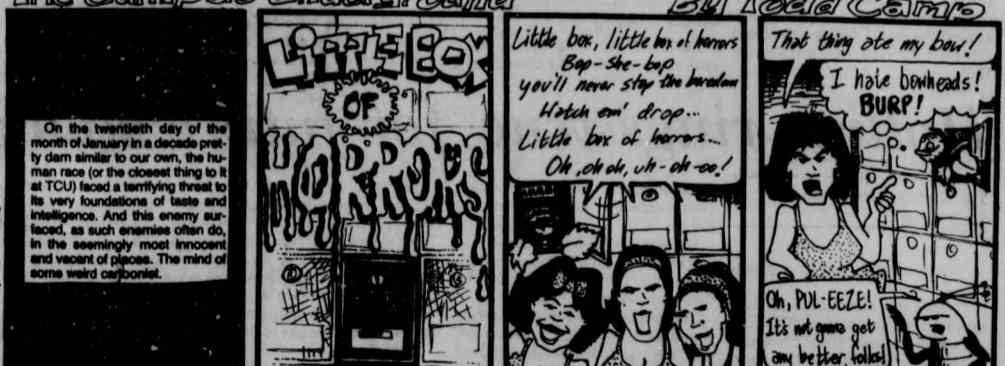
Perhaps Justice has turned the case into a personal crusade. Then again, perhaps it will take a crusade to get Texas to act. Nothing else has worked so far.

Meanwhile, the citizens of Texas are the ones who must deal with the problem. Literally thousands of inmates paroled before their sentence was completed are now free in Texas.

Some of these inmates will find honest jobs and avoid crime for the rest of their lives. Others won't. The real tragedy occurs when violent inmates are released early to open up space, then commit more violent crimes when they should have been locked up.

Until the legislature realizes they must act, not only to reduce overcrowding, but to provide more space, the citizens of Texas remain in very real danger.

The Campus Underground



BLOOM COUNTY



CAMPUS NOTES

Special store hours

For the second week of classes, the University Bookstore will stay open until 7 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Textbooks can be returned with a cash register receipt dated from Jan. 5 through Jan. 23.

Regular store hours resume Jan. 26.

Catholic retreat

Granbury, Texas, is the site for the Catholic Community retreat, to be held Jan. 23-25 at Camp El Tesoro on the Brazos River.

For more information, contact Charlie Calabrese in the University Ministries Office. Registration deadline is Jan. 23.

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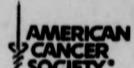
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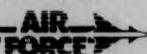
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Faculty shows creativity

The TCU annual art faculty exhibition, featuring works by professors and staff members, is now underway at the Moody Building Exhibition Space, Room 125N.

The show will run through Jan. 30.

Comedy Laff-Off

Get ready to roll with laughter at Friday's Comedy Laff-Off, beginning at 8 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. Featured will be New York comedy artists Ron Darian, Fried Hoffer and Dave Kelly.

Tickets, available at the Information Desk, are \$2 with a TCU ID and

\$3 without. The Comedy Laff-Off is sponsored by the Performing Arts Committee of Programming Council.

Freshman swimmer receives honor

Freshman Steve Reed, of Jefferson City, Mo., is one of 40 swimmers chosen for academic all-American honors by the Amateur Athletic Union for U.S. Swimming.

To be eligible for the USS honor, an athlete must have at least a 3.5 g/ade-point average and be ranked among the top 50 in the nation for his or her sport.

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SPORTS



Out of my way - TCU's Dana Hargrove drives the ball up the court while Southwest Texas' Cathy Clay tries to steal the ball. TCU pulled away from the Bobcats in the second half, and won the game 77-63.

McWilliams expects to win

AUSTIN (AP) - New head coach David McWilliams of the Texas Longhorns said Monday just being competitive is not enough, he wants to compete for the No. 1 spot in college football.

McWilliams, former player and assistant coach at Texas, returned as head coach for the 1987 season after one year at Texas Tech, where he was selected Southwest Conference coach of the year.

McWilliams, 44, replaced Fred Akers, who was fired after 10 years and later became coach at Purdue.

He called a news conference Monday after spending all but five days on the road recruiting since taking the

Texas job Dec. 6. He said his next day off would be Feb. 16.

McWilliams said simply being competitive would not be enough for him next season.

"That's not quite strong enough for me just to say I want to be competitive," he said. "I want to win, win as much as I can, or all of it right now."

"And I understand saying it doesn't get it done, but that's exactly what I'm going in with. I just never felt very good about not going for the top."

McWilliams' first test at Texas comes on national signing day Feb. 11, and he said that despite getting a late start because of the coaching change, "We're getting a very good response."

We're back in on a lot of the real top players that are in the state, that are going to visit us."

He also said he felt Texas, 5-6 last season, had "a good nucleus coming back both offensively and defensively," with the major losses among offensive linemen and defensive backs and ends.

Asked if bad publicity about SWC recruiting violations was chasing good recruits out of state, McWilliams said, "Last year that was true a good bit. This year, I haven't noticed it being quite as strong."

One plus for Texas, he said, is the addition of 1977 Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell to the University of Texas administrative staff.

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Weight training helps Frogs

By Rance Bryson
Staff Writer

The name of the game is basketball. To win, a team must pull down rebounds and score baskets. So far, the 1987 Horned Frogs have done just that.

"Our off-season weight program is one of the keys to our success this season," said TCU coach Jim Killingsworth after last Wednesday night's physical game with the SMU Mustangs. "When your players are strong they can run longer, jump higher and pull harder."

Killingsworth said the off-season weight program is one of the reasons TCU has been able to beat teams who physically outmatch them, like SMU.

The 1987 Horned Frogs were in the weight room for three hard months last fall to produce one of TCU's more physical basketball teams.

"We don't do any magic; we just

look at what the athlete is trying to achieve and then determine where strength will help," said Robbie Robinson, the varsity strength coach.

The Horned Frogs' weight program, designed by Robinson, consists of three basic lifts—the squat, the bench press and the incline bench press. A series of complementary lifts are performed along with the basic lifts.

Standout performers in the squat were Ed Froyman and Larry Richard. Richard, the Frog's leading rebounder, put on 15 pounds of body weight. He now squats 425 pounds, bench presses 250 pounds and incline presses 215 pounds. This is a 160-pound increase from 1985.

The assistant strength coach, Larry Leverman, predicts that steady weight workers Brian Stinchcombe, Roger Presswood and Kurt Wall will be making their presence known in the near future.

"I've always been a believer in weight training, but we had to count on it this season," Killingsworth said. "Basketball is becoming a big man's game. We don't have any players that fit the big man prototype, so we had to make ours."

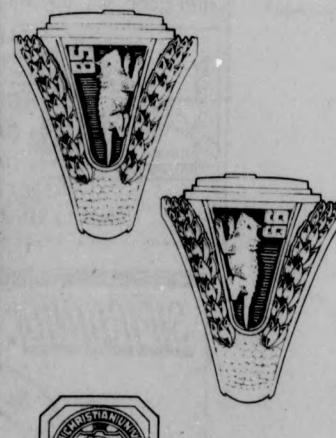
Maybe the old sports announcer cliches—"yanking down a rebound," "crashing the boards" and "ripping the net"—will not be so far off-base when they are said about the 1987 Horned Frogs' style of play.

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