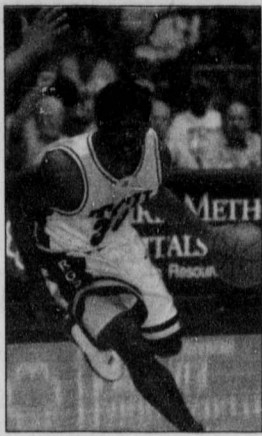


SPORTS

Red Raider Shootout

Frogs to play against Texas Tech in front of large home crowd. **Page 9**



SPORTS

Frogs capture C-USA title and Liberty Bowl bid with Saturday win. **Page 10**



OPINION

No one seems to make turkey and dressing like mom. At least that's what one columnist found out the hard way. **Page 3**

TCU DAILY SKIFF

100 years of service to Texas Christian University

Vol. 100 • Issue 52 • Fort Worth, Texas

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Tuesday, December 3, 2002



The east entrance of Milton Daniel Hall was vandalized two weeks ago. The concrete stairs were partially ripped out of the ground along with the railing. Two windows of the building were also broken.

Search under way for vandals

Officials say if the vandals are not caught, then the university may foot the repair bill. Another possibility would be to divide the bill among Milton Daniel Hall residents.

BY ANTOINETTE VEGA
Staff Reporter

Residential Services officials say Milton Daniel Hall staff will begin searching this week for the alleged vandal or vandals involved in several hundred dollars worth of damages to the building.

The damages occurred two weeks ago and included two broken windows on outside doors, demolished front concrete steps and a destroyed handrail, said Roger Fisher, director of Residential Services.

"The damages are the worst I have seen in Milton Daniel since I have been at TCU," Fisher said.

Caution tape surrounds the dismantled railing on the northeast side of the building and the front entrance steps have been ripped out of the ground. The broken windows have

been replaced.

Although an approximate figure has not been calculated, Fisher said, if the people responsible for the damages are not found, the money will come from the university. He said requiring all Milton Daniel Hall residents to pay a portion of the damages is also a possibility.

"If we find the people responsible, they will have to pay for the damages and then be disciplined by Campus

(More on MILTON, page 2)

Giuliani lists leadership principles, personal goals

The former New York City mayor said Monday that leaders need to have a set of beliefs, be optimistic and, most of all, need to have a sense of loyalty.

BY SARAH MCCLELLAN
Photo Editor

FORT WORTH — Former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani gained some knowledge of western wear Monday night when Tim Carter, president of Harris Methodist Health Foundation, showed him how to wear a cowboy hat.



But the Texans learned far more than the New Yorker at the Bass Hall when Giuliani told a Fort Worth crowd about his book, "Leadership," which outlines the leadership skills that helped guide him through personal and national crisis.

Giuliani said he began his book when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. He finished it after the Sept. 11 attacks and said his leadership skills helped him through the cancer and the attacks, as well his two major goals while he was mayor of New York City, which were to lower the crime rate and boost the economy.

His speech was broken down into his "leadership principles." The first one is to have a set of beliefs.

"You have to know what you believe," Giuliani said. "And you have to know how much you want to sacrifice for (that belief) to preserve it. If you don't have that, you can't lead yourself or others."

The second principle outlined was optimism. Giuliani drew on historical figures such as Martin

(More on GIULIANI, page 2)

Syphilis rises in Tarrant County

Despite the fact that campus-wide STDs are down, education, prevention and testing are the key to beating STDs everywhere, doctors say.

BY DAVID REESE
News Editor

North Texas public health officials say the number of syphilis cases in Tarrant County has increased dramatically while the number of sexually transmitted disease cases on the TCU campus has decreased.

According to information provided by the North Texas Public Health department, there have been 262 reported cases of syphilis from Jan. 1 to Oct. 15, 2002.

Brian Barron, surveillance disease intervention specialist with the health department, said the number of cases is divided almost evenly among males and females.

"There have been 132 females and 130 males reported this year," said Barron.

He said the Tarrant County Public Health Department projects the final number of syphilis cases will be more than 300 this year.

Marilyn Hallam, assistant to the director of the TCU Health Center, said 552STD tests have been given at the Health Center this year.

She said the individual breakdown of each type of STD test is not available because the Health Center does not keep the results.

Barron said the TCU Health Center has not reported any positive STD

tests this year.

He said the university reported three positive STD tests last year. The types of diseases found in the results were not available due to confidentiality, Barron said.

Transmission and symptoms
According to the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention Web site, syphilis is a complex three stage sexually transmitted disease caused by bacterium. The disease is referred to as "the great imitator" because many of the symptoms are similar to those of other diseases, according to the Web site.

Barron said the disease can be spread like most other STDs through vaginal, anal and oral sex. He said syphilis sores can also appear on the lips and in the mouth. Although the disease can spread through kissing, Barron said the risk is far less than the other types because of the less contact time involved.

Syphilis cases are also on the rise in the entire state, according to information provided by Ed Weckerly of the Texas Department of Health.

The number of cases have increased in all gender and ethnicity categories, according to the information. During January and September of 2001, syphilis cases were at 266,800 while the same period this year has 316,900 cases or about a 19 percent increase.

Based on information provided by both Barron and Weckerly, syphilis is most common in African Americans.

(More on SYPHILIS, page 2)

Tree trimming



Lone Star Electric technician John West prepares the Christmas tree in front of Sadler Hall to be lit Wednesday night at the Order of Omega Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony.

Final phase of renovation project begins

Rooms in Winton-Scott Hall and Sid W. Richardson Building are scheduled to be remodeled this spring. The project calls for more labs and state-of-the-art equipment, among other things.

BY SARAH MCNAMARA
Staff Reporter

The last phase of a campus-wide renovation project is scheduled to begin this spring with extensive refurbishing to the buildings housing the psychology, physics and chemistry departments.

Phase three of the project will focus on expanding and modernizing the facilities in both Winton-

Scott Hall and Sid W. Richardson Building, said Michael McCracken, dean of the College of Science and Engineering.

"The facilities are outdated, the furniture is becoming worn, there is a lack of space and there are no modern teaching devices," McCracken said.

He said some of the most significant renovations call for additional teaching labs, a new ventilation system, an improved animal care facility and large purchases of state-of-the-art equipment.

McCracken said the first two phases of the project, which consisted of renovations to class-

rooms in the biology and geology departments, have already been completed.

He also said plans for the project began in 1999 when the university decided there were specific needs within the departments concerning the poor conditions of the facilities and equipment.

"There is no question it was time for renovations," McCracken said. "We just needed to find the funding."

The work is an integral part of a three-year classroom, studio and lab renovation that will cost \$30

(More on RENOVATION, page 2)

Stages of syphilis

Primary stage

The time between infection with syphilis and the start of the first symptom can range from 10-90 days (average 21 days), usually marked by the appearance of a single sore (called a chancre), but there may be multiple sores. The chancre is usually firm, round, small and painless. It appears at the spot where syphilis entered the body. The chancre lasts three to six weeks, and it will heal on its own. If adequate treatment is not administered, the infection progresses to the secondary stage.

Secondary stage

The second stage starts when one or more areas of the skin break into a rash that usually does not itch. Rashes can appear as the chancre is fading or can be delayed for weeks. The rash may appear on other parts of the body with different characteristics.

Even without treatment, rashes clear up on their own. Symptoms can include fever, swollen lymph glands, sore throat, patchy hair loss, headaches, weight loss, muscle aches and tiredness.

Late syphilis

The latent (hidden) stage of syphilis begins when the secondary symptoms disappear. Without treatment, the infected person still has syphilis even though there are no signs or symptoms. It may begin to damage the internal organs, including the brain, nerves, eyes, heart, blood vessels, liver, bones and joints. Late stage signs and symptoms include not being able to coordinate muscle movements, paralysis, numbness, gradual blindness and dementia. This damage may be serious enough to cause death.

— Information from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Web site (www.cdc.gov).

The Weather

TUESDAY
High: 54; Low: 35
WEDNESDAY
High: 43; Low: 29; Showers
THURSDAY
High: 44; Low: 26; Partly cloudy

Looking Back

1804 — In the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned Napoleon I, the first Frenchman to hold the title of emperor in 1,000 years.

1954 — The U.S. Senate voted 65 to 22 to condemn Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy for conduct unbecoming of a senator, related to McCarthy's controversial investigation of suspected communists in the U.S. government, military and civilian society.

Watch For

In Wednesday's Sports page, we'll have complete coverage of tonight's basketball games:

- The Lady Frogs look to rise above .500 against Wisconsin Green-Bay.
- The Frogs play their third Texas team in talented Texas Tech.

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THE PULSE

www.skiff.tcu.edu

CampusLines

Your bulletin board for campus events

The TCU Police and theater department will host a free performance of Assault Prevention Theatre at 8 p.m. today in the Marlene and Spencer Hays Theatre. All faculty, staff and students are invited.

The Order of Omega Holiday Tree Lighting will be at 9 p.m. Wednesday in front of Sadler Hall. Gift cards for the Spirit of Christmas program, which gives gifts to children who would not otherwise receive them, can be picked up from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Center or in Tandy Hall today. The gifts will be collected at the Tree Lighting.

The African Heritage Organization will host "Don't Believe the Hype" from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday in the Student Center Lounge. This event will provide an opportunity for AHO to present its mission statement, to learn about African heritage and understand the many ways that it influences global society, through dance, poetry and music.

Announcements of campus events, public meetings and other general campus information should be brought to the TCU Daily Skiff office at Moudy Building South, Room 291, mailed to TCU Box 298050 or e-mailed to skiffletters@tcu.edu. Deadline for student announcements is 2 p.m. the day before they are to run. The Skiff reserves the right to edit submissions for style, taste and space available.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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SYPHILIS

From page 1

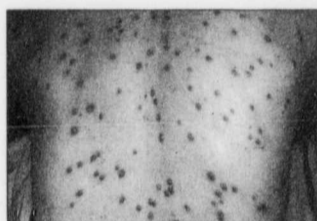
Barron said African Americans comprise 53 percent of the 262 cases this year in Tarrant County while they are 44 percent of the state's cases. He said the next highest ethnic group is Hispanics at 23 percent and then Caucasians at 22 percent.

Weckerly said the high numbers of syphilis cases among minorities is hard to target but is largely due to the crack cocaine epidemic in the mid-1980s and into the 1990s. He said African Americans were the main ethnic group involved in the epidemic.

He said all public and private physicians by law must report the number of positive STD tests they administer to the public health department.

"If they don't report, it is a Class B misdemeanor," he said.

Barron said although it is a crime not to report, it is very difficult for his agency to find and prove which



Special to the Skiff
The lesions on this back are an example of the secondary stages of syphilis.

physicians do not. He said the TCU Health Center is very consistent with its reporting.

Barron said most physicians are getting better at reporting the information which is one of the main reasons there is an increase of cases.

He said the increase in educational awareness has also helped.

"Many are beginning to recognize their own symptoms," he said.

Education and getting tested

Hallam said the university offers many educational opportunities for students who wish to know more about most health issues including STDs.

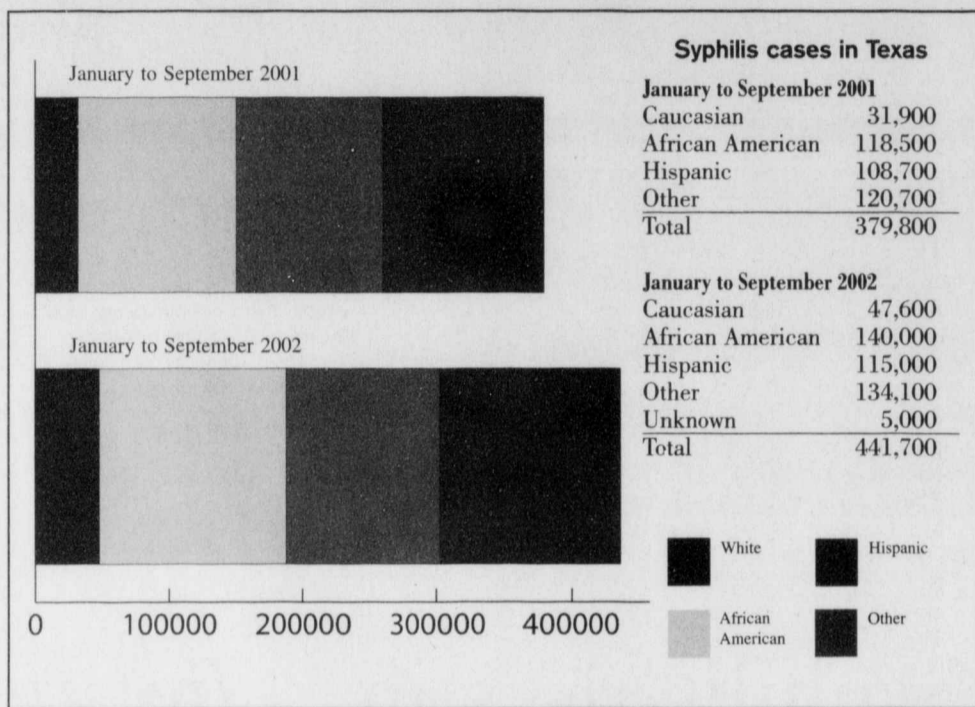
In addition to packets available in the Health Center, she said physicians are able to give educational presentations to any organization on campus including residence halls, fraternities and sororities. The subject of the presentation is decided on by the organizers, Hallam said.

Barron said their outreach to the community is lessening due to the lack and change of personnel. He said the number of screening efforts have decreased because there is not enough staff members to cover their areas.

The agency heavily relies on community based organizations like Planned Parenthood to help in the diagnosis and treatment of STDs, he said.

Alice Bello, Southeast Planned Parenthood clinic manager, said her clinic offers many services including STD testing and treatment.

"We can test and treat gonorrhea



and chlamydia, but syphilis and HIV are done by the county health department," she said.

Bello said the clinic is open to all age groups including those as young as 12 years old who are sexually active. She said they encourage parent participation from underage patients but it is not mandatory to receive treatment.

According to the Tarrant County Public Health Department Web site, Adult Health Services is a division

of the department that performs testing, counseling, diagnosis and treatment of STDs.

Jane Jensen, HIV/STD program manager, said the testing is available to everyone and the cost of the treatment is based on the patient's income. She said the minimum is \$20 which includes the lab tests, exam and most medication. Jensen said the cost can be as high as \$160 but that is usually for those who make a significant

amount of money. She said that most students would be in the minimum cost category.

Hallam said the diagnosis and treatment of STDs for men and women are available at the TCU Health Center as well. She said there are more than 5,000 tests that the Health Center can administer.

David Reese
d.w.reese@tcu.edu

RENOVATION

From page 1

million, said Carol Campbell, vice chancellor of finance and business.

Campbell said the Board of Trustees determined that the need to renovate and equip particular academic facilities.

"Since it was doubtful that fund raising for this (project) would be successful, and the need was pressing, they decided to take \$10 mil-

lion a year for three years from unrestricted endowment in order to complete the work," Campbell said.

Jim Weller, manager of the new construction and renovation program, said this last phase of the project is critical in terms of upgrading and updating the campus as a whole.

"These buildings haven't been renovated significantly since they were built," Weller said. "We need to provide better operating and working conditions, and we're going to try to do that."

McCracken said once the project is completed the facilities will provide students and faculty with experiences that are not available now in Winton-Scott Hall and Sid W. Richardson Building.

"The faculty will be able to teach more creatively and effectively," McCracken said. "And the students are the real benefactors because they will be learning in an environment specifically designed to encourage and foster learning."

Sarah McNamara
s.e.mcnamara@tcu.edu

MILTON

From page 1

Life," he said. "If we don't find out who caused the damages we have the right to fine everyone in the building," Fisher said.

According to the Student Handbook, facility damage is prohibited by the university and the student charged could face penalties ranging from probation to expulsion.

The staff of Milton Daniel Hall had a mandatory meeting Tuesday to speak with residents about the damages, Fisher said.

"The residents were told that this is a serious issue and that more is expected from them," he said.

James Hodges, a Milton Daniel Hall resident, said he does not think all residents should have to pay for someone else's mistakes.

"I don't understand why someone would want to destroy concrete stairs," said Hodges, a freshman marketing major. "It is not fair to punish everyone because of the acts of one or two individuals."

Lance Gillett, head residential assistant at Milton Daniel Hall and a junior economics major, would not answer questions concerning the damages and said all calls are directed to the hall director, Artist Thornton.

Several attempts to contact Thornton were unsuccessful.

Antoinette Vega
a.c.vega@tcu.edu

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The Skiff is now hiring copy editors, staff writers, columnists, cartoonists, photographers and artists. To apply, pick up an application from the Skiff office in Moudy Building South, Room 294. For more information, call (817) 257-7428 or e-mail the Skiff at (skiffletters@tcu.edu).



GIULIANI

From page 1

Luther King Jr. and Winston Churchill to illustrate how optimism affects leadership.

Another principle, Giuliani said, is courage.

He said people tend to equate courage with the absence of fear, but in reality almost everyone is courageous.

"A firefighter who walks into a fire and pulls someone out without fear is not courageous — he's insane," Giuliani said. "He's learned to manage his fear to do what he is

trained to do."

The other principles of leadership he mentioned are relentless preparation, teamwork and loyalty, which he said was the most important.

"You've gotta be there for other people if you want them to be there for you," Giuliani said.

In the question and answer session, Giuliani told the audience that his favorite books are the Bible and "The Godfather" and, despite his busy schedule, he will run for political office again someday.

Sarah McClellan
s.l.mclellan@tcu.edu

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OPINION

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The Skiff View SYPHILIS

Educate yourself on STDs, get tested

Three little words — sexually transmitted diseases — can alert a spectrum of emotions in everyone.

Although sex education is taught in public schools and from free resources available in Tarrant County, we wonder if any difference is being made and if the services are being used.

According to the 2001 Texas HIV/STD surveillance report, the number of syphilis cases in Tarrant County alone went from 192 to 273 during the year.

That's an increase of 42 percent.

Most educators tell us that the best way to prevent STDs is through abstinence and we definitely agree.

But some people are going to having sex anyway, making disease prevention all the more important.

The Health Center offers services for women, including diagnosis and treatment of STDs, which is usually covered under most insurance agencies, according to its Web site.

The Planned Parenthood of North Texas Web site states the organization has 27 clinics covering 57 counties throughout North Texas, serving about 63,000 clients a year.

The services for men and women include testing and treatment of STDs. Costs of the services are usually minimal and based on donations.

Planned Parenthood also offers group educational programs.

The Tarrant County Public Health department offers many of the same services that other organizations have, including STD prevention and treatment.

The stigma of STDs may be the reason for the lack of participation in prevention and treatment programs but many of these organizations work under confidentiality rules and laws.

Take advantage of what's available, it can help.

The Other View

Opinions from around the country

National Geographic and Roper recently joined forces to conduct the 2002 Global Geographic Literacy Survey, which interviewed more than 3,000 18- to 24-year-olds in Canada, Mexico, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Japan and the United States. Last week the results were released, making it official: People are getting dumber. Worse, the trend seems to be emanating from the United States, confirming a theory some Europeans have held for some time.

Admittedly, the farther away from America one ventures, the better each country's resulting score. Sweden came in first, while the United States came in next to last. Mexico received the survey's lowest grade. After reviewing the staggering simplicity of the questions asked, education departments in every country polled have been left suspect. The performance of young Americans was a disgrace:

- Eleven percent of those polled couldn't find the United States on a map.

- Twenty-nine percent failed to locate the Pacific Ocean.

- Almost 60 percent couldn't name Japan.

- Sixty-five percent missed when asked about France.

- About 69 percent of respondents couldn't point to the United Kingdom on a map.

The hits keep on coming. Despite the 24/7 coverage by Fox, CNN and

MSNBC about the possibility of a war with Iraq, less than 15 percent could identify its shape, size or placement on a map. About the same number successfully located Israel. In fact, more young U.S. citizens knew where "Survivor" took place last season than were able to identify either country.

Most embarrassing may be that every surveyed country came closer to guessing the U.S. population than American citizens did. Almost one-third said it was between a billion and two billion. (It's a little more than a quarter of a billion.) Adding insult to injury, the number of Americans who said they had taken geography in school has risen from 30 to 55 percent since 1988. Still, a majority of Americans said they knew Africa is suffering mightily from AIDS. Many had heard about El Nino and the warmer winters it has brought about. Of course, such knowledge only really proves one has a pulse rather than indicating smarts of any sort.

The United States is already facing a fourth and long where education standards are concerned, and as this poll shows, it cannot afford to fall any further behind in the geography department. America's self-respect is on the line. If something isn't done soon, it may not be able to find that either.

This is a staff editorial from the Arkansas Traveler at the University of Arkansas. This editorial was distributed by U-Wire.

EDITORIAL POLICIES

Editorial policy: The content of the Opinion page does not necessarily represent the views of Texas Christian University. Unsigned editorials represent the view of the TCU Daily Skiff editorial board. Signed letters, columns and cartoons represent the opinion of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board.

Letters to the editor: The Skiff welcomes letters to the editor for publication. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, signed and limited to 250 words. To submit a letter, bring it to the Skiff, Moody 2915, mail it to TCU Box 298050, e-mail it to skiffletters@tcu.edu or fax it to 257-7133. Letters must include the author's classification, major and phone number. The Skiff reserves the right to edit or reject letters for style, taste and size restrictions.

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Thanksgiving dinner, just like Mom makes — sort of

No one seems to make turkey and dressing like mom. I found that out the hard way this Thanksgiving.

She makes it look so easy.

While you're asleep, she's in the kitchen watching the turkey and baking the pies. While you're chatting with cousins, she's setting the table in all her finest. And while you're enjoying the food she created, she is sitting there, smiling, quietly taking the compliments.

No one seems to make Thanksgiving dinner like Mom.

But this year, I tried.

11:15 a.m.: I'm frantically flipping through numbers in my cell phone looking for my roommate's number. The turkey that needs two days to thaw — that I was supposed to put in the refrigerator this morning — is still in the freezer. This is, already, not a good start to my first Thanksgiving dinner attempt.

9:39 p.m.: Obviously, this whole "turkey will thaw in refrigerator" is a lie. My tiny little turkey has spent more than a day thawing. Last time I poked it I still hit ice. I'm putting it in some cool water.

11 p.m.: I quit. The bird's going back in the fridge. Maybe I'll have better luck tomorrow.

11:45 a.m.: The turkey feels thawed ... kinda. Back in water it goes. And in the process of making one pumpkin pie, I ended up with two. Wonder if that ever happened to Mom?

12:49 p.m.: (Insert word Mom never said in front of children.)

Burnt my left hand when I grazed the top oven burner while trying to cover the pies with foil so they don't burn. Nice little blister forming there.

12:55 p.m.: OK, going for the big one. Let's get this turkey started.

1:09 p.m.: This is disgusting! I opened the bag to turkey juices (among other things) spilling out. And the turkey is slimy and cold and the bones are sharp. I feel like the Sprint commercial ("You want me to stick my what in the what what?"). Have the roommate call the best friend's

Mom for the following advice: do I pat this thing down after I wash it, where do I stick the thermometer, what do I use to season?

A little pepper, salt and garlic powder later (that I just kind of pat into the bird), the turkey is in the oven. I have a new appreciation for all the previous Thanksgivings.

2:10 p.m.: I mix some more of the "seasoning" and add melted butter. Don't have one of those cool little basting brushes, so I'm getting awfully close to the heat and using a spoon. (Note to self: heat near a burn really hurts.)

2:19 p.m.: This really isn't fun. I'm wondering if Mom ever thought this way.

3:26 p.m.: Somehow got green bean casserole into the oven with the turkey. Think I may have bent the turkey pan in the process.

4:32 p.m.: Feel like such a slacker. A few years back, my Mom and aunt made cranberry sauce. They had to boil it and stir it and such. Every once in a while they would add some wine to it. They would say "A little wine for

the sauce ... and a little wine for the cook." Maybe that's the secret. I contemplate pouring a glass as I open a can of cranberry sauce.

4:40 p.m.: The turkey is out! And between my roomie and me (with the help of a fork and knife) it is out of the pan and on a turkey platter. (I've never cooked a turkey before, but I won a turkey platter. Go figure.)

4:45 p.m.: (Insert whole string of words not to be said in front of children.) Just burnt the other hand. The spoon fell out of the

pan as I was cooking the gravy. I grab it and the bubbling gravy ran all over my right hand. I'm definitely not as graceful as

mom.

4:54 p.m.: Still unhappy about the gravy fiasco, I have the roomie cut the turkey. You know how it always comes out in pretty little slices? Yeah, that would have been nice. But, you do what you have to, and it was actually more fun just tearing away at it.

5:43 p.m.: Dinner is over, and I'm impressed. I actually made Thanksgiving dinner. And the only things harmed in the process were my hands.

Could have been worse. Could have children running crazy at my feet while I cooked. But you know what, I can almost hear those children now, saying thank you for the meal.

You're welcome dear. Maybe I'm a mommy in the making after all.

Copy Desk Chief Jacques Petersell is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Houston. She can be reached at (j.s.petersell@tcu.edu).

There are 82 majors available, picking one shouldn't be so difficult

While it's OK for freshmen to be undecided, remaining a premajor beyond that point is a waste of time and money.

Right about now many students are busy cramming for finals and trying to bring their grades up at the last minute. With this in mind, many undergraduates have already planned or are planning their schedules for next semester. However, the majority of these students choose their classes according to vague guidelines. This should not be surprising considering one of the most popular majors at TCU is not specialized — premajors.

TCU has long prided itself on offering students a solid liberal arts education. This is assuming students will eventually choose a major of their interest. As it is, there are more than 1,600 premajors out

of about 7,000 undergraduates here. And this is not simply freshmen. For a school that offers so many specializations, this seems to be a sad fact to bring to light.

There are 82 majors available, yet this year there are 801 general business premajors. That is about 55 percent of the students in the M.J. Neeley School of Business. This is the most popular major. Arts and science premajors in the Add Ran College of Humanities and Social Sciences comes in a close second with 671 students.

While it is understandable that most freshmen be undecided on a major, to remain a premajor beyond this time just seems to be a wasteful time and money. Sure, there are students out there that seem to change majors just as often as they change clothes, but at least they have declared a major. Some goal or vision had prompted them to commit to one of

our school's great programs and try it out.

It is not like TCU has a plethora of mediocre programs either. In the College of Fine Arts, for example, programs have gained international recognition along with many awards in the areas of music, art and theater. Both the School of Education and the College of Communications have nationally accredited programs. As for our science programs, the biology major has attracted 338, the third most popular major this year.

So for those that still question what major to declare, there are many great ones to choose from.

And it's not too late in the semester to turn things around. Students can still fill out a Change of Major form and soon be on the way to bigger and better things (hopefully).

Monique Bhimani is a sophomore international communications major from San Antonio. She can be contacted at (m.s.bhimani@tcu.edu).

Lowering drinking age would avert riots

Lowering the drinking age to 18 would allow students to drink in a supervised setting and not turn to illicit parties or other forms of illegal behavior.

The recent riots near the Ohio State University campus were, as all similar riots have been, an inexcusable abomination. Students arrested for their involvement should be expelled. Students and non-students who were involved should spend time in jail.

That being said, President Joe Pirone Holbrook has asked what can be done about the nation-wide problem of college student riots. One answer, paradoxically, is to lower the drinking age to 18.

The current law that sets the drinking age at 21 does not prevent a single college student from getting alcohol if one wants it. What the law does do is label something "illegal" that virtually every college student between the ages of 18 and 20 does at least occasionally. When this unreasonable law turns students into lawbreakers when they drink, it causes respect for the law to decline. (For another, well-known example of this phenomenon, recall the Prohibition Era in the 1920s United States.)

When one is already engaging in "illegal behavior" simply by drinking, a relevant line has already been crossed, and it becomes easier to engage in other forms of illegal behavior, particularly when one's judgment is impaired by alcohol.

Lowering the drinking age to 18 would allow larger numbers of college students to drink socially in more supervised settings such as bars, and even on campus. Not as many would turn to illicit off-campus parties where sexual assaults, exploitation and other forms of injury are all too common. I'm sure that Columbus law enforcement would agree riots would be much easier to control and prevent if the masses of students who currently fuel them were not present on the streets.

Lowering the drinking age to 18 would allow younger students to socialize more with older students, allowing older students to model responsible, more mature social drinking behavior. Over time, this would help to change the culture surrounding drinking among our young people.

Many argue that lowering the drinking age would cause the number of drinking-and-driving-related injuries and deaths to skyrocket. However, if this is the problem about which we are concerned, then this is the issue our law should address. We should not discriminate against an entire age cohort of citizens because of the harmful actions of a minority, particularly when there are serious negative consequences to doing so. If we are serious about preventing drinking and driving, then we need to do the following things:

A first offense must be a felony, regardless of whether any injury or property damage resulted, and must result in both jail time and a multi-year driver's license suspension. A second offense must result in permanent license revocation, and a long jail term.

When 18-year-olds can vote, marry, defend our country in the military and are considered adults in our society in every other way, not allowing them to drink is an absurd legal and social incongruity.

While the law has reduced the numbers of young people who kill and are killed in drinking-related car accidents, it has spawned and exacerbated a host of other social ills. There are other ways to keep people from drinking and driving if we are serious about it.

Older people should support our leaders should act in our best interest by reducing the drinking age to 18.

Joe Pirone is a columnist for The Lantern at Ohio State University. This column was distributed by U-Wire.

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National/International Roundup

Questions remain on reward for sniper suspects capture

ROCKVILLE, Md. — Who gets a piece of the half-million-dollar reward for the capture of the Washington-area sniper suspects may take awhile to decide, authorities said Tuesday.

Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose, who led the investigation into the sniper shootings last month, will head the team that decides who gets the reward.

"Do not be upset if the process takes awhile, if it does not take place immediately," Moose said. "That's not going to happen. ... We want to be very careful."

John Muhammad, 41, and John Lee Malvo, 17, are awaiting trial in Virginia on murder charges. They have been accused of shooting 18 people, killing 13 and wounding five in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Montgomery County, Md., Executive Doug Duncan said the sniper task force is sorting through about 60,000 tips that were received during the search for the snipers.

Man charged with falsifying documents pleads innocent

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — A man accused of falsifying documents with help from sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad pleaded innocent Tuesday to two fraud charges.

Norman Manroe, who also is known by several other names, is charged with using false documents and making a false statement on a passport application. He faces up to 25 years in prison on the passport charge and five years on the false documents charge.

Jury selection for his trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 9.

Muhammad, a U.S. Army veteran, lived in Antigua between 2000 and 2001 and is accused of

falsifying documents to get an Antiguan passport. Authorities say that during that time Muhammad met Manroe and they forged the papers.

Manroe was arrested in Massachusetts on a drug charge last year and was turned over to immigration officials. He has claimed to be a citizen of the United States, Antigua and Jamaica.

Strong winds continue to spread fires in California

LOS ANGELES — Wind gusted to 50 mph across California for a second day Tuesday, spreading dozens of fires in the Sierra Nevada and causing power outages from San Francisco to San Diego.

The wind began to ease in some places by evening, but the National Weather Service said southwest California would be affected by strong gusts through Thursday.

Thousands of people woke up without electricity Tuesday in Los Angeles, Oakland and the San Diego area, and darkened traffic signals and wind-blown debris challenged commuters.

In Hollywood, the wind collapsed a 25-foot-long tent at a Christmas tree lot, while in West Hollywood a large billboard toppled onto a flower shop along the Sunset Strip.

Six Cubans detained after their boat was found at sea

MIAMI — Six Cubans, including a 13-year-old boy, were detained by immigration authorities after their disabled boat was found at sea, and two men were arrested for allegedly smuggling them to the United States.

The Coast Guard came to the group's aid after their 21-foot, Florida-registered boat ran out of fuel off Key West on Monday, Coast Guard spokesman Luis Diaz

said. The boat was towed to shore after the Coast Guard decided the 5-foot seas made a boarding unsafe.

The boy and the five other Cubans, including his father, were in the custody of the Immigration and Naturalization Service on Tuesday. Under a 1966 U.S. law, Cubans who reach U.S. shores are usually allowed to stay, but those intercepted at sea are generally returned to Cuba.

Early releases should relieve crowded Ark. prison system

LITTLE ROCK — The state Board of Correction voted Tuesday to grant early release to 521 inmates to relieve its overburdened prison system.

The early releases, to begin over the next few days, will affect prisoners, including violent offenders, who are already set for parole. Inmates will be able to leave prison up to 90 days early.

Since November 1998, the state board has invoked the Arkansas Emergency Powers Act every 90 days to address crowding in the prisons.

On Friday, the board said that more people than ever were in the state prison system. Counting the 1,200 prisoners that county jails are holding for the state, Arkansas had 13,089 inmates, Tyler said.

The department usually grows by about 40 prisoners a month, she said. Since July, however, that number has tripled to about 120 new prisoners a month. The reason is unclear.

Dow Jones hits 9,000 then dips due to shaky reports

NEW YORK — A strong start to the holiday shopping season sent stocks soaring briefly Monday, with the Dow Jones industrials climbing above 9,000 for the first

time since summer, only to be brought down by another disappointing economic report. Prices were mixed, with tech stocks again one of the market's strongest sectors.

The market retreated after investors were let down by a weaker-than-expected reading on manufacturing. Analysts said investors were also second-guessing the weekend's retail sales figures, wondering if the strength was artificial.

Investors were conflicted Monday — tempted to take profits from weeks of rallies but also tempted to buy stocks after Dow Jones News

reported retail sales hit an estimated \$7.4 billion during the weekend, a 12.3 percent increase over a year ago.

Venezuela opposition heads strike to oust Chavez

CARACAS, Venezuela — Opponents of President Hugo Chavez launched a general strike Monday and threatened street protests in a bid to oust him, but many businesses remained open and Venezuela's key oil sector appeared to be working.

The opponents, who say Chavez's leftist policies have fueled unemployment and hurt democracy,

declared their strike a success, estimating that 80 percent of workers stayed home Monday.

Organizers hoped the strike, which was expected to last several days, would pressure Chavez to agree to early elections — or force his ouster. Chavez said he will not call an early referendum on his presidential term, which ends in 2007.

While many shops were shuttered, Caracas' streets bustled with pedestrians, cars crawled through traffic jams, and cafeterias, shoe stores and video shops were open for business.



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Guantanamo detainees seek basic legal rights

Lawyers for 12 Kuwaiti detainees petitioned a federal appeals court to require that due process rights be given to them. The judges expressed doubt that they had the authority to direct the U.S. military in this situation.

BY PETE YOST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A skeptical federal appeals court Monday questioned whether it has the authority to help detainees in the war on terrorism who have been held for many months, without lawyers and without being charged, at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The United States has been involved in many wars in its history, "but this is the first time we have sacrificed the rule of law," attorney Joe Margulies told judges A. Raymond Randolph, Stephen Williams and Merrick Garland.

Lawyers for the detainees and their families say the Bush administration is stretching the

meaning of a half-century-old U.S. Supreme Court case and is denying rights to people picked up in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

But the three judges asked a series of questions seeming to cast doubt on whether they can direct the U.S. military to give due process rights to the aliens in Guantanamo.

The detainees "are asking for the most modest of rights," said Thomas B. Wilner, who is representing a group of 12 Kuwaitis. "We ask simply that a legal process be applied to them as it has been everywhere."

Randolph and Williams expressed doubt that any legal remedy applied to the detainees.

Williams was appointed during the Reagan administration, Randolph during the first Bush administration and Garland is a Clinton appointee.

Guantanamo has nearly 600 detainees.

Deputy Solicitor General Paul Clement said that the Guantanamo detainees are enemy combatants and lack standing in U.S. courts because they are being held outside the United States.

The government is relying on a 1950 Supreme Court ruling involving German nationals in World War II convicted before a military.

Like the Germans, the detainees "are actual enemies, active in the hostile service of an enemy power" and they lack standing in U.S. courts, the Justice Department said in recent court papers.

The two cases are completely different, lawyers for the detainees and their families responded.

"It is one thing to acknowledge ... that enemy aliens in the active service of a hostile state cannot seek post-conviction relief in the federal courts," they said in a court filing. "But it is quite another to suggest ... that any alien ... may be deprived of their liberty

indefinitely by the United States military, with no legal process, simply by the expedient of bringing them to Guantanamo Bay."

"Congress has never so much as intimated, let alone made a 'plain statement,'

that aliens detained outside the 50 states have no right to seek the writ of habeas corpus," the filing said. The appeals court should "recognize Guantanamo Bay for what it is: a fully American enclave with the basic attributes of full territorial sovereignty."

The U.S. military announced late last year that the 45-square-mile base on the southeastern tip of Cuba, the oldest U.S. overseas outpost, was the destination for Taliban and al-Qaida prisoners.

The United States leased the land for the

base from Cuba in 1903 for 2,000 gold coins a year, now valued at \$4,085. Washington pays that amount every year, but Fidel Castro's government refuses to cash the checks.

The base is surrounded by 17.4 miles of fence line and a corresponding Cuban fence line and minefield.

As for the detainees in the appeals court case:

— The 12 Kuwaitis were in Afghanistan doing charity work and weren't there to fight, their families have said.

— British Muslims Asif Iqbal, who is in his early 20s, and Shafiq Rasul, who is in his mid-20s, flew to Pakistan and then to Afghanistan just days before the Sept. 11 attacks.

— There is little doubt that Australian David Hicks, 26, had joined the Taliban when he was captured by U.S.-backed Northern Alliance forces in Afghanistan, Australian Prime Minister John Howard has said. Hicks' family denies that he trained with al-Qaida.

"The detainees are asking for the most modest of rights... We ask simply that a legal process be applied to them as it has been everywhere."

— Thomas B. Wilner

Lawyer representing 12 Kuwaitis



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Dallas family killed in plane crash did not signal problems

Associated Press
 McALESTER, Okla. — No emergency was declared by a pilot whose twin-engine airplane crashed near McAlester Regional Airport, killing him and four other members of his family, an accident investigator said Monday.

William Gray said in a radio transmission that he was planning to land at the airport and was 10 miles away. He said in a second transmission that he was five miles out.

"He did not say he had a problem," said Tom Little, an investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board.

William Gray, 56, his wife, Kathy, 53, and their sons Chad,

23 and Chase, 20 and daughter Brooke, 17, died Wednesday when their airplane crashed in a pasture west of the airport, about 1,000 yards from U.S. 69.

The family had been flying from their home in a Dallas suburb to visit relatives in Missouri for the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Gray owned the six-seat airplane, a Piper PA-34-220-T. He purchased it new in August 1998. The investigator said there was no history of trouble with the aircraft.

"The airplane was kept in extremely good shape," Little said.

Little said he talked to several witnesses, including one who saw that the left propeller was not

turning as the plane flew over the airport runway, perhaps in an aborted attempt to land.

The twin-engine plane's landing gear and flaps were down.

Little said it would not be abnormal for a pilot with one engine out to try make a "go-around" as Gray was apparently attempting for a second shot at the McAlester runway.

It was during that second turn that Gray crashed.

"The airplane was on approach; everything was fine," Little said. "If you have one engine out, you just fly the aircraft, keep it under control and land. Which appears to be what he was doing."

The aircraft crashed with its nose and right wing down.

UCLA Islamic law professor causes uproar within Muslim community

BY VINCENT J. SCHODOLSKI
 Chicago Tribune

LOS ANGELES — The death threats have stopped and the white van no longer lingers ominously outside his San Fernando Valley home, but the uproar Khaled Abou El Fadl unleashed a year ago has not abated.

El Fadl, a professor of Islamic law at UCLA, has long been a moderate voice urging Muslims in the United States and elsewhere to speak out against radical elements of Islam.

So when he wrote an op-ed article published by the Los Angeles Times in the days after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, he was expressing views he had aired for years — usually to Muslim audiences.

At the time the article was published, many Muslims were speaking out against radical Islam, the

kind personified by Osama bin Laden. So what was it about El Fadl's views that provoked such a furious reaction?

"I am the biggest danger to their (version of) Islam, not to Islam, and they don't make the distinction," El Fadl said.

"They," he said, were people who, for various reasons, support a version of Islam that has roots in Saudi Arabia and which, El Fadl suggests, has gained wide sway because of the willingness of the Saudi Arabian government to spend money to export its views.

Police tapped El Fadl's telephone but never were able to trace the source of the threatening calls.

At first he thought the threats were coming from non-Muslims angered by the terrorist attacks. But soon, El Fadl and authorities concluded that they were from Muslims angered by his criticism of those who failed to speak out against what he calls a "puritanical" form of Islam espoused by the Saudis.

El Fadl insists that the willingness of the Saudi government to underwrite fundamentalist Islamic scholarship and cultural and community centers around the world has stifled open debate about the role of

"I am the biggest danger to their (version of) Islam, not to Islam, and they don't make the distinction."

— Khaled Abou El Fadl
 UCLA Islamic law professor

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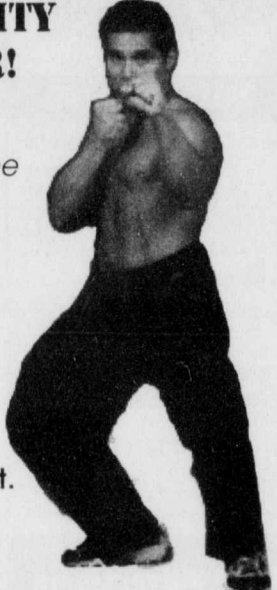
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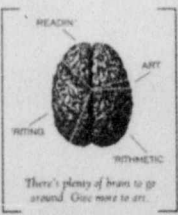
It's a long way from the Apollo Theatre to the Apollo program. And while his playing may have been "as lofty as a moon flight," as Time magazine once suggested, that would be as close as Louis Daniel Armstrong would ever get to taking "one small step for man."

But as the jazz musician of the 20th century, giant leaps were simply a matter of course for Satchmo. For no one has ever embodied the art form the way he did. It was he who helped make virtuoso solos a part of the vocabulary. It was he who was honored with the title "American goodwill ambassador" by the State Department. It was he who was the last jazz musician to hit #1 on the Billboard pop chart.

Not bad for a kid whose first experience with the trumpet was as a guest in a correctional home for wayward boys. If only today's schools were as enlightened and informed as that reformatory was.

Alas, the arts are dismissed as extravagant in today's schools. This, despite all the studies that show parents believe music and dance and art and drama make their children much better students and better people.

If you feel like your kids aren't getting their fair share, make some noise. To find out how, or for more information about the benefits of arts education, please visit us on the web at AmericansForTheArts.org. Just like the great Louis Armstrong, all you need is a little brass.



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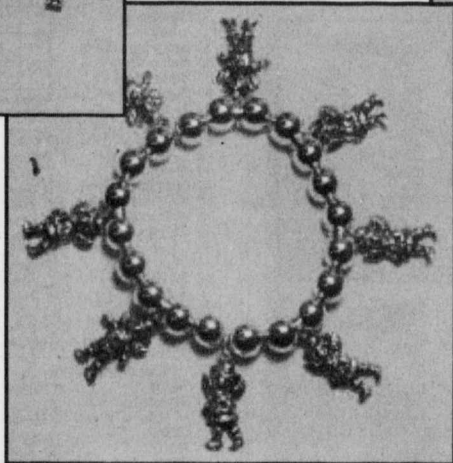
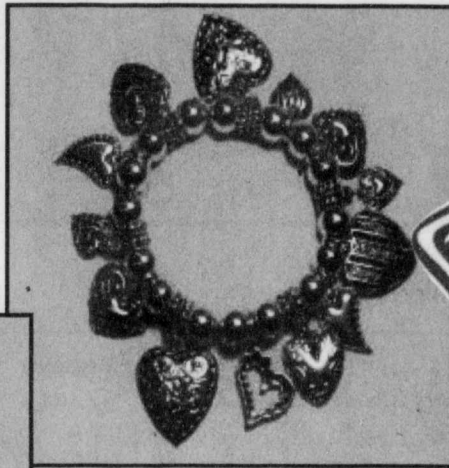
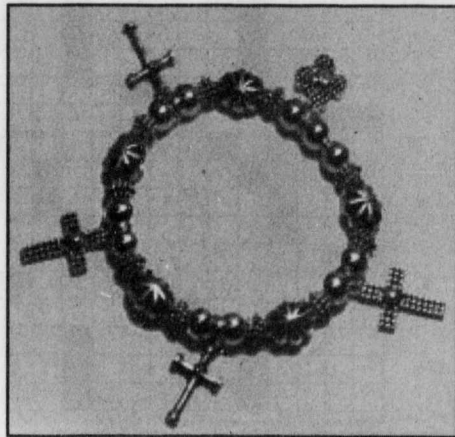
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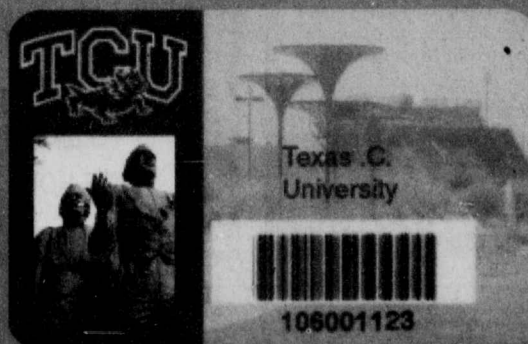
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Tech sellout will not be a dilemma, says TCU athletics

The blitz for tickets and the handling of the Texas Tech crowd tonight has been prepared for, says director of marketing Tim George.

BY DANNY GILLHAM
Sports Editor

The word "sellout" is not normally associated with TCU basketball at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

However with tonight's game against Texas Tech at 8 p.m., the Frogs have sold out all tickets for the game and are expecting a capacity crowd.

The reason is Bob Knight. The legendary Red Raider head coach won three national titles at Indiana and had a career coaching record of 763-290 (.725) heading into this season.

Knight hasn't made many stops in the Dallas-Fort Worth area during his coaching career, so the opportunity to see him live spawned a massive outcry for tickets.

Tim George, director of marketing for TCU Athletics, said when the schedule was announced, they anticipated the game being sold out.

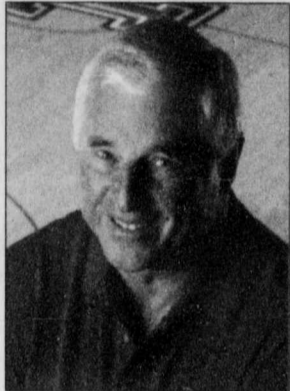
"Texas Tech is a big draw around here," George said. "Coach Knight obviously helps that out. We were looking toward this game as being a sellout."

George said tickets for individual games went on sale Nov. 1. He said dates and the time of calls were taken with the orders to prioritize who received tickets first.

According to George, the tickets were gone on the first day, but the ticket office continued to take orders in case more became available.

Student tickets were also not easily obtained.

On Nov. 20, the 1,372 tickets in the student, faculty and staff section were given away starting at 8 a.m. All were



Special to Skiff
Tickets were sold out almost immediately for tonight's home game against Texas Tech, and coach Bob Knight.

gone by 11:15 a.m.

The men's team has not had a sellout crowd since Jan. 29, 2000, when 7,201 saw the Frogs defeat Southern Methodist 92-75.

The last sellout at the coliseum was on Nov. 27, 2000. A record crowd of 7,262 came to see the Lady Frogs take on Tennessee, the defending national champions.

George also said the department is ready for the problem of seating.

There are some who have tickets for the women's game at 5:15, but not the men's game, he said.

To avoid the dilemma of those trying to stick around, George said, extra ushers and security are being brought in and will be there at the start of the women's game. He said they will be checking tickets throughout the night, making sure everyone has a ticket for the men's game and is in their proper section.

Danny Gillham
d.gillham@tcu.edu

Sellout Crowds

It has been more than two years since the men's basketball team had a sellout. It came on Jan. 29, 2000, against SMU. Here is a look at the record crowds at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum for a men's game:

Attendance	Date	Opponent	Attendance	Date	Opponent
7,260	1/12/83	Houston	7,232	1/31/70	Baylor
7,232	2/19/72	Texas A&M	7,223	2/22/86	Texas
7,232	2/15/72	SMU	7,216	1/31/87	Arkansas
7,232	2/06/71	Baylor	7,201	1/29/00	SMU

Undefeated Red Raiders stroll into town for showdown tonight



Photographer/Simon Lopez
Sophomore guard Corey Valsin and the 2-1 Frogs play tonight against 3-0 Texas Tech. The Frogs are coming off a 86-83 victory over Washington State Saturday. In the game against the Cougars, five players scored in double figures for the Frogs, led by sophomore guard Corey Santee's 23 points. In the game, senior forward Bingo Merriex became the 25th Frog in history to score over 1,000 career points.

The Frogs face off against a disciplined and talented Texas Tech squad tonight at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

BY DANNY GILLHAM
Sports Editor

Getting lost in the shuffle of tonight's game against Texas Tech and head coach Bob Knight is one thing.

There is actually a game, and the Red Raiders are a very talented team.

While most of the talk seems to be focused on Knight, and the sellout of the game, Texas Tech comes in undefeated on the short season with some impressive numbers.

The Red Raiders return four starters from a 23-9 squad that was a No. 6 seed in the NCAA tournament. They are allowing 65.0 points a game, while averaging 81.7. The average only 11.7 turnovers a game, and shoot almost 50 percent from the field.

Head coach Neil Dougherty said it will take the Frogs' best game to beat the disciplined and fundamentally sound Red Raiders.

"We're going to have to play the most complete game we've played all year," Dougherty said. "That means 40 minutes of good execution of both ends on the floor, especially on defense. We can't get impatient and gamble for steals, and cannot lose our focus."

"We told our guys basically if this is a 70 to 80 possession game, we have a 70-80 round fight, 35 second rounds a piece, and we be willing to stand in there and fight."

One thing that could help in the Frogs' favor is two of the team's players have connections to Texas Tech.

Junior guard Ron Hobbs transferred to TCU after his sophomore year. He appeared in 42 games, starting 16 of them in his time there.

Junior guard Marcus Shropshire is redshirting this season after transferring from Tech. He played one year in Knight's system, and started 10 of the 51 games he played in for the Red Raiders.

Hobbs said it helps to know the tendencies of some of his former

teammates, and Shropshire has helped in preparing for Knight's system.

"He tells exactly what they're doing," Hobbs said. "When we see their plays on tape, we don't know what they call. Shropshire tells us when they say this, they are running that."

Dougherty said it would be nice to think Shropshire and Hobbs are helping in preparing for Texas Tech, but he is not sure how much it really matters.

"You would like to think it does but to be honest I've seen his teams enough before to understand what they do," Dougherty said. "I think what they you can do you can easily see. They're easy to prepare for, but hard to play against."

With the sellout crowd expected, senior forward Bingo Merriex said the team can take the opportunity to show everyone the team's improvement against a quality team.

"It will be a new experience for the guys on the team, I think it will be fun for the guys that haven't played in this situation yet," Merriex said. "It's going to be very exciting."

Danny Gillham
d.gillham@tcu.edu

Center Court

Texas Tech at TCU

8 p.m. at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum
Radio: ESPN 103.3 FM/KTCU 88.7 FM
TV: KFDW 52
Records: TCU (2-1) Texas Tech (3-0)
About the game: The Red Raiders lead the all-time series 66-43. The last matchup was played Dec. 1, 2001, in Lubbock with Texas Tech winning 99-86.

About TCU: The Frogs are coming off a 86-83 victory over Washington State Saturday. The team has three players averaging double figures: Junior Blount (26.3), Corey Santee (18.3) and Ron Hobbs (10.0).

About Texas Tech: In their first three games, the Red Raiders beat their opponents by an average of 16.7 points. This is the third consecutive Lone Star State opponent for Texas Tech.

After second place finish in holiday tournament, Lady Frogs look to get over .500 in home game tonight

The Lady Frogs begin a seven of eight home game stretch starting tonight against Wisconsin-Green Bay.

BY CHAD MURRAY
Skiff Staff

The women's basketball team returns to the floor today after a trip to Indiana over the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Lady Frogs (2-2) play tonight against Wisconsin-Green Bay in the first game in a stretch of seven out of eight home matches.

Senior forward Grace Gantt said she is confident about this part of the schedule.

"We have some tough teams coming in here, but I think we'll play really well," Gantt said.

Head coach Jeff Mittie said the team is beginning to turn the corner.

"We haven't put together a 40-minute game yet, but we've started to play better basket-

ball," Mittie said. "Our biggest issue has been developing continuity with our players coming off of injuries, and I feel that we're starting to do that."

The women took part in the Travelers Classic Thursday and Friday, defeating Holy Cross and losing to tournament host Purdue, which is ranked sixth nationally.

The Phoenix have made the NCAA tournament the past two seasons and boast four seniors on their starting roster.

They captured the Oneida Bingo & Casino Holiday Tournament Saturday with an 83-72 victory over the Miami Hurricanes, in which the Phoenix hit a school record of 16 three-pointers.

Mittie said he thinks that Wisconsin-Green Bay will present a challenge for his squad.

"They are a good basketball team that can shoot and (they)

have four senior starters," Mittie said. "They're (an) underrated (basketball team)."

Following this game, the Lady Frogs take on arch-rival Southern Methodist Thursday, and then will prepare to face another ranked opponent, Texas, Dec. 10 in Austin.

Chad Murray
c.murray@tcu.edu

Center Court

Wisconsin-Green Bay at TCU

5:15 p.m. at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum
Radio: KTCU 88.7 FM
TV: none
Records: TCU (2-2) Wisconsin-Green Bay (4-1)

About the game: This is the first ever matchup between the Lady Frogs and the Phoenix.

About TCU: The Frogs have an early season trend of winning a game, then losing one. The team finished second at the Travelers Classic last week.

About Wisconsin-Green Bay: The Phoenix won the Oneida Bingo and Casino Holiday Tournament, with senior Elizabeth Dudley named tournament MVP. The team is currently on a four-game winning streak.



Photographer/Ty Halasz
Junior forward Amy Pack and the Lady Frogs battle Wisconsin-Green Bay at 5:15 p.m. tonight at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum. The Lady Frogs finished second in the Travelers Classic in last weekend's Thanksgiving tournament. The team defeated Holy Cross in the opening round 68-54, and then lost in the finals to No. 6 ranked Purdue, the tournament's host, 93-74.

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Hobbs' legs lead way to conference title, bowl

A record-setting rushing performance propelled the Frogs to a victory, a bowl and the team's third conference title in five years.

BY DANNY GILLHAM
Sports Editor

With his numbers getting progressively better and the passing game struggling, head coach Gary Patterson hinted that true freshman Lonta Hobbs would carry the load for the Frogs against Memphis.

Hobbs took the role with ease, and turned in the Frogs' most impressive rushing performance since the days of LaDainian Tomlinson.

Hobbs had 287 yards on 33 carries and three touchdowns as the Frogs (9-2, 6-2 Conference USA) beat Memphis 27-20 and clinched a share of the C-USA crown.

If East Carolina beats Cincinnati Saturday, the Frogs will have their first outright title since 1958.

The Frogs also accepted a bid to play in the AXA Liberty Bowl on

the field after the game from bowl director Steve Erhart. The game will be played at 2 p.m. on New Year's Eve, and TCU will face Colorado State, the champions of the Mountain West Conference.

Hobbs, who didn't play until the fourth game of the season, said the 33 rushing attempts was a career-high, and that he was not anticipating the workload in Saturday's game.

"I wasn't expected it, but you shouldn't expect anything," he said. "I didn't expect to play this year."

Going into half-time, Hobbs' numbers were quality: He had 63 yards on 13 carries. However, the true fireworks began in the third quarter.

In the Frogs' second possession, Hobbs took a pitch to the left and cut back up for a 65-yard touchdown to the right side. After a

TCU interception, it took just four plays for Hobbs to break another long run. This time he took an option pitch and raced down the left sideline for 52 yards, before being tracked down at the Memphis 4-yard line. By the quarter's end, Hobbs amassed 238 yards rushing.

The team also turned to Hobbs to win the game.

Hobbs handled the ball 11 times for 44 yards in the Frogs' 18-play, 80-yard touchdown drive, capped by his 1-yard touchdown

that gave the team the lead with just 40 seconds left.

In eight games played, Hobbs has 952 yards and 12 rushing touchdowns, both conference records for a freshman. With new

rules allowing bowl games to count towards season statistics, Hobbs has the opportunity to be the first TCU freshman to rush for 1,000 yards.

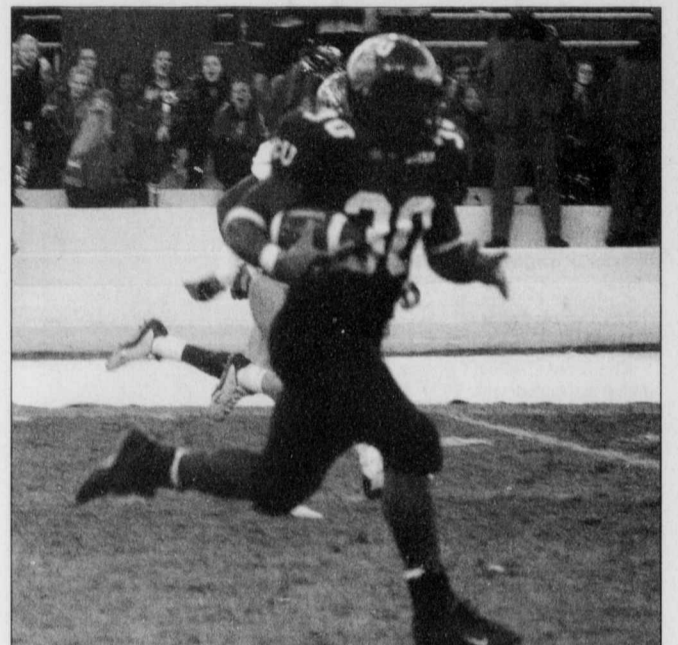
Patterson said the key to Hobbs' success has been his health.

"Thirty-three is a lot of snaps," Patterson said. "I would rather him be in the twenties. I think you got to have him for four years."

Senior quarterback Sean Stillely said it should be entertaining to see him progress.

"You guys are going to have fun with him for the next (three) years," Stillely said. "That guy is amazing. He's always put us in a situation to win as a freshman. I have never seen a guy like him, and TCU is going to definitely benefit from having him around three more years."

For now, the team will just look forward to his performance on New Year's Eve.



True freshman Lonta Hobbs had 287 yards on 33 carries and three touchdowns in the Frogs' 27-20 win over Memphis Saturday. *Photographer/Simon Lopez*

Frog Report Card

Passing offense: C

For the most part senior quarterback Sean Stillely did his job in managing the offense. The Frogs attempted just 19 passes on the afternoon, as the team leaned heavily on the rushing attack. Stillely finished the game by throwing for 85 yards and one interception.

Rushing offense: A+

The Frogs gave most of the workload to Lonta Hobbs, and the true freshman dazzled. Going for 287 yards on 33 carries and three touchdowns, Hobbs' carries accounted for nearly 45 percent of TCU's offensive plays. Junior tailback Ricky Madison spelled Hobbs, taking the ball six times for 29 yards. Senior fullback Reggie Holts also had a 1-yard rushing touchdown on a clever third-down call.

Passing defense: B-

In his first career start, sophomore cornerback Mark Walker stepped up for the Frogs. Walker had an interception and two passes broken up as the Tigers tried to test him. Memphis went his way because senior Jason Goss was on the other side. Goss had an interception giving him seven for the season, one shy of the TCU season record.

Rushing defense: B-

The Memphis combination of senior Dante Brown and freshman D'Angelo Williams combined for 111 yards on 24 carries. Overall however, the Tigers had just 108 total yards on the ground. Like almost always, senior linebacker LaMarcus McDonald led the team in tackles, having nine in the game.

Special teams: D-

The Frogs missed two extra points: One that was blocked, and one that never seemed to get higher than two feet. The two misses allowed the Tigers to take the 20-19 lead late, instead of making Memphis go for 2-points to tie the score. Seniors Goss and Terran Williams both had fumbles, one of which resulted in a Memphis score. Memphis also converted a pass in their rollout punt formation, catching the Frogs in lackadaisical coverage.

— Danny Gillham

Ugly scuffle overshadows Saturday's victory

A conference title took the back seat to the antics of the closing seconds of the TCU/Memphis game.

Saturday's 27-20 TCU victory should have been highlighted only by Lonta Hobbs' rushing performance, and the team's third conference title in five years.

Instead, it came with a dark cloud overshadowing the positives.

With only :02 seconds remaining, a scuffle broke out and forced the game to be called. Senior defensive tackle John Turntine was knocked out in the process, when Memphis freshman Maurice Avery struck him on the head with his helmet.

To make matters worse, all this was shown on the news. Local TV crews were at the game to capture footage of the Frogs possibly winning, and accepting a bid to the

AXA Liberty Bowl.

Instead they captured tape of the rumble at Amon Carter Stadium.

I was on the field when all of this took place, and have two observations:

1) It never should have happened.

All the commotion started after Memphis' last ditch effort to tie the score. Words were exchanged by Tiger wide receivers and Frog defensive backs. It should have ended there, but the officials had run up field and were not back to break up the commotion. Their poor job managing the game allowed the trash talk to turn into blows.

2) TCU is supposed to be better than this.

Head coach Gary Patterson takes pride in his team's character; you can see it when he talks about his players. That is what made it surprising to see the Frogs lose focus like this in the first place.

"(Men) are going to back up

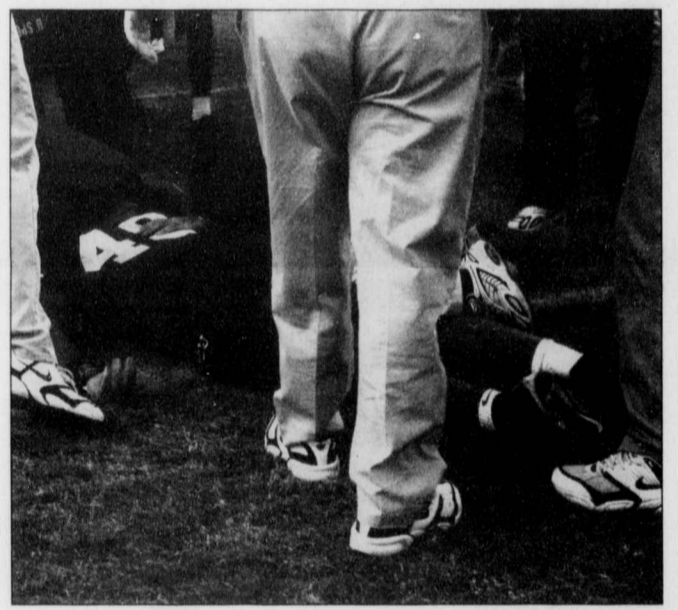
their (other men), that is how it is," senior quarterback Sean Stillely said. "Sometimes it gets out of hand, but guys are not going to lay down. They are going to go out there and defend their players, their brothers."

Maybe so, but it doesn't excuse the fact the players put themselves in the situation. The team was two seconds away from victory, why go through all the other nonsense.

Patterson showed class by going to Memphis's locker room to apologize, and there is word that consequences will likely be dealt by the teams and Conference USA.

Still, three days after it happened, it's surprising that the Frogs would allow themselves to get emotionally caught up in the situation. They could have avoided Turntine's headache and the temporary embarrassment to the team.

Danny Gillham is a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Weatherford. He can be reached at (d.r.gillham@tcu.edu).



Senior defensive tackle John Turntine was temporarily unconscious, stemming from a scuffle in the closing seconds of Saturday's game. The game was called with two seconds left. *Photographer/Simon Lopez*

Top Frogs

Lonta Hobbs, RB



33 carries
287 yards
Three touchdowns

Plain and simple, Hobbs was amazing. He had two runs of more than 50 yards and also caught three balls out of the back-

field. Out of all these big plays, his most important was for five yards. It came on fourth-and-three in the Frogs' game-winning touchdown drive.

Reggie Harrell, WR



Three receptions
38 yards
One blocked punt

While his stats are not as impressive as Hobbs, Harrell came up with two big plays in the game. His blocked punt in the third

quarter gave the Frogs the ball deep in their own territory, although they weren't able to take advantage of it. He also extended TCU's game-winning drive with a 22-yard catch on third-and-12 with 3:05 remaining.

Inside the Numbers

- 287 — Rushing yards by true freshman Lonta Hobbs. It was the first time a Frog back went over the 200-yard plateau since LaDainian Tomlinson ran for 294 yards against Hawaii in 2000.
- 38 — Passes attempted by Memphis.
- 19 — Passes attempted by TCU.
- 35:08 — Time of possession for the Frogs, compared to Memphis' 24:52. It was the ninth time this season the Frogs have held the ball longer than their opponent.
- 10 — Senior LaMarcus McDonald led the team in tackles with nine, making it 10 out of 11 games where McDonald led the team in tackles. The only time he did not was Sept. 14 against SMU.
- 38.3 — Average yards a punt for TCU.
- 30.3 — Average yards a punt for Memphis.
- 8 — The Frogs had two interceptions in Saturday's contest, marking the eighth consecutive game in which TCU has made a pick.
- 18 — TCU's game-winning drive consisted of 18 plays for 80 yards, and chewed up 7:41 off the game clock.
- 100 — Memphis scored on 100 percent of its opportunities in the red zone, going four-for-four.
- 85 — Sean Stillely's 85 yards passing marked the lowest passing total for the Frogs this season. The previous low was 96 yards against Tulane.
- 10 — Fumbles in the game by TCU.
- 2 — Number of the Frogs' fumbles recovered by Memphis.

Aggies give former head coach Slocum a big thumbs down

After numerous reports indicated his departure, R.C. Slocum was officially let go as Aggies' head coach.

Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION — Texas A&M head coach R.C. Slocum, the winningest coach in Texas A&M history, was fired Monday after the Aggies went a disappointing 6-6 in the regular season, capped by a 50-20 loss to Texas.

During his 14-year tenure as head coach, Slocum's 123 career wins were the most in school history.

But A&M fans were disappointed that the Aggies have become less competitive in the Big 12 South — their 3-5 finish was their first losing record in league play since 1984.

"We had a season where we lost several close games that could have

gone either way and no one was more disappointed than me with our record," he said in a prepared statement. "However, we have some really outstanding young players and I felt our future was bright."

In a statement, the school said A&M President Robert M. Gates asked Slocum to step down as head football coach Monday and assume the role of special adviser to the president.

"Coach Slocum is one of the most respected and admired members of the Aggie family, and he has much still to offer the university he has served so long with rare integrity and skill," Gates said.

Slocum, 58, was in the fourth year of a seven-year deal he signed in 1999 worth \$1 million annually, including a base salary of \$300,000.

Slocum leaves after a 6-6 season that matched his worst with the Aggies. A&M last posted a 6-6 record in 1996.

He won four conference championships, including the Big 12 title in 1998. His overall record was 123-47-2.

"I'm disappointed. He's a great guy and a great football coach and I hate to see that happen to him," senior linebacker Brian Gamble said. "The guy has been a father figure for me for four, almost five years. To see him go is really disheartening."

Slocum had to deal with his share of tragedy. Last week, freshman defensive lineman Brandon Falls died after collapsing in his dorm. He was the third Aggies player to die during his tenure.

And in 1999, the campus was

stunned when the log stack for the university's traditional bonfire collapsed and killed 12 people and injured 27.

Since a 30-26 win over then No. 1 Oklahoma, the Aggies lost in double overtime to Missouri, and closed the regular season loss to Texas.

"Although disappointed with Dr. Gates' decision, I do recognize that the university has the right to decide who coaches the team," Slocum said. "I have spent 30 years of my life here and have deep feelings for Aggieland. I will cherish the memories of my many relationships over the years with the students and former students of this university."

Slocum had been a part of A&M's football operations all but one year since 1972, when he

joined Emory Bellard's A&M staff as offensive end coach.

Slocum was named A&M's defensive coordinator under Tom Wilson in 1979. In 1981, he left to be defensive coordinator at Southern California but returned to A&M the following year when Jackie Sherrill became the Aggies' new coach.

Slocum succeeded Sherrill in 1988.

"I especially will cherish the time that I spent with all of the wonderful young men in our program and with their families. I have been honored to be called coach by them, and to share in their lives. Also, I have great respect and genuine gratitude for all the outstanding coaches that I was privileged to work with during my time here," he said.