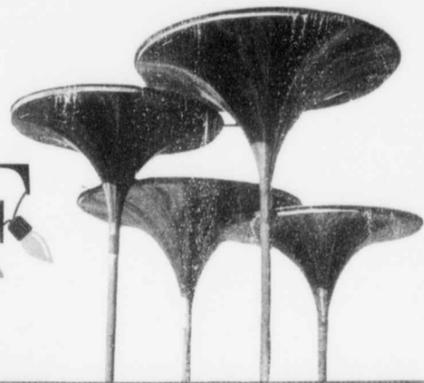


Thursday, December 4, 2003

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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Today's News

STATE/NATIONAL NEWS

DALLAS — A Dallas police officer is on administrative leave, one day after he was jailed on charges that he assaulted a girlfriend during a dispute over the results of a paternity test.

News digest on page 4

HOUSTON — In a private auction of Enron Corp.'s 50-story downtown Houston headquarters, an investors' group headed by a cardiologist has agreed to purchase the property for more than \$50 million.

News digest on page 4

PASADENA, Calif. — After seven routine months of spaceflight, NASA is bracing for six minutes of high anxiety in January, when the twin rovers it launched earlier this year punch through the Martian atmosphere to land on the Red Planet.

News digest on page 4

On Campus

Private lending on the rise for undergrads

NEW YORK — An increasing number of college students are turning to private loans to finance their education — despite the risk of sinking deeper into debt — as the gap between the cost of a college education and federal aid continues to widen.

The average cost of a four-year private college education has jumped by 43 percent since 1992, while federal loan limits have not increased in over a decade, said Sandy Baum, an economics professor at Skidmore College. Baum is co-author of the "Trends in Student Aid Report," which is published annually and sponsored by the College Board.

There has been a private loan increase of 45 percent among undergraduates and 51 percent among graduates since the 2001-02 academic year.

The total volume of private loans has now surpassed the amounts awarded annually under the government-financed federal student educational grants, Federal Work Study and the Federal Perkins Loans programs combined, she said.

— Washington Square News

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The Weather

TODAY

High: 58; Low: 37; Mostly sunny

FRIDAY

High: 51; Low: 22; Sunny

SATURDAY

High: 51; Low: 32; Sunny

Looking Back

1915 — Tycoon Henry Ford set sail for Europe on this day in 1915. His mission: to end World War I. His slogan, "Out of the trenches and back to their homes by Christmas," won an enthusiastic response in the States, but didn't get very far overseas.

O Christmas Tree

Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony gets students into spirit of season

BY CATHERINE PHILLSBURY
Staff Reporter

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas thanks to a TCU Christmas tree lighting, and good tidings to others weren't far behind.

The annual Holiday Tree Lighting illuminated the lawn of Sadler Hall Wednesday night followed by Christmas carols and the spirit of giving.

"I think it's great to see students come together who care so much about this tradition," said Hillary Wallis, vice president of programming for Order of Omega.

Hot chocolate was available, and there were "ooh's," "ahh's" and applause as Chancellor Victor Boschini lit the tree. Before and after the lighting, the Reformed University Fellowship band played carols as the crowd sang along.

For the past several years, TCU's Order of Omega has hosted and participated in the Holiday Tree Lighting and the Spirit of Christmas, a statewide program that provides Christmas gifts for children who would not receive them otherwise.

"Some of these kids have never had a Christmas before," said Lisa Hill, Child Protective Services community coordinator for Tarrant County. "Or never celebrated a birthday."

Last year, the program, which is sponsored by Bank One, collected more than 44,000 gifts for 20,000 children throughout Texas. TCU contributed 550 of those

(more on HOLIDAY, page 2)



(Above) TCU Staff Photographer (Right) Lucas Jordan Staff Photographer (Above) The Christmas tree is lit by Chancellor Victor Boschini Wednesday night in front of Sadler Hall. (Right) Senior speech communication major Ashley Petroza holds a candle during the TCU Holiday Silent Night.



History professor to teach in China

BY MONIQUE BHIMANI
Staff Reporter

Asian history professor Peter Worthing has taught at TCU for only three semesters, yet he already plans to teach a course in Beijing this summer as part of the TCU study abroad program.

Worthing said the study abroad course in China will be three weeks long. Excursions will include going to places such as the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City Palace and the Temple of Heaven. In addition to upper-level history classes, an elementary Chinese language class would also be taught by a local professor in Beijing. Worthing said specialists will also be brought in to teach students about the local Chinese culture and history, including

"The students are great. They are respectful, diligent and willing to work with the faculty to make class a productive experience."

— Peter Worthing
Asian history professor

ing cooking techniques, among other skills. "Not only did I learn the language, but I also lived and traveled in China," Worthing said. "I loved taking the train from city to city during the breaks from school, talking to various Chinese people from all walks of life. It makes you put yourself in the shoes of the Chinese."

Worthing studied at Tunghai University in Taiwan and later at Shaanxi Normal University in the People's Republic of China for one year. He said the experience broadened his view of Chinese history.

"In addition to giving me some stories to tell in class to make certain points about Chinese history and culture, (my) experience lead me to understand the importance of seeing the world through the eyes of others," Worthing said. "I think this is especially important today as the world seems to

(more on CHINA, page 2)

Parking privileges could be in jeopardy

BY BECKY BRANDENBURG
Staff Reporter

Clara Brown said she has heard every excuse in the book.

"I couldn't have been parked there for more than three minutes," but the officer told me I could park there' ... I've heard it all," said Brown, a police department administrative assistant.

Brown said that although the office doesn't record the number of tickets issued or appealed, students should contest if there is a legitimate discrepancy. A successful appeal can depend on the circumstances and explanation, she said.

The TCU Police Web site said people with three parking citations will receive a letter and/or e-mail stating that their parking privileges are in jeopardy. Parking privileges are immediately suspended once six citations are accumulated.

Cheryl Wilson, controller for the financial services department, said billing for November logged \$138,375 in parking fines to student accounts for the fall semester.

Wilson said parking fine income is added to the general fund.

"Like income from tuition, dormitory payments and dining fees, parking fees pay for things like utilities, insurance, maintenance and salaries," Wilson said.

Michael Waldo, a freshman premajor, said he has gotten three tickets this semester. Waldo said he appealed two tickets, one for parking in a fire lane and another for parking in the faculty lot on a football game weekend when cars had

to be moved from the freshman lots.

According to the TCU police Web site, parking violations are enforced 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Violators may be cited and subject to booting or towing at the owner's expense.

"After my first two appeals were shot down, I chose not to appeal the third ticket," Waldo said.

He said his parents agreed that they would pay the tuition,

(more on PARKING, page 2)

JAZZIN' IT UP



James Buckner, a theory/composition graduate student, plays a solo during jazz band rehearsal Wednesday afternoon in the band hall inside the Walsh Center.

TCU's Monday-Wednesday-Friday Jazz Ensemble is one the most traveled performing groups on campus. It has been to the Netherlands, Finland, Denmark and Sweden.

But tonight, it will be on campus performing with the rest of the TCU jazz ensembles. They perform at 7:30 p.m. in Ed Landreth Auditorium.

Curt Wilson, director of jazz studies, will be directing. Songs will include "Prelude to a Kiss" composed by Duke Ellington, "The Days of Wine and Roses" composed by Henry Mancini and "King Porter Stomp" composed by Jelly Roll Morton. The Purple, White and Blues Vocal Jazz Ensemble will also sing "Carol of the Bells."

Quick Facts

When: Today, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Ed Landreth Auditorium
Who: TCU Jazz Ensembles
Costs: Free

THE PULSE

www.skiff.tcu.edu

CampusLines

Your bulletin board for campus events

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 receiving 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 Jazz Ensembles** will perform in concert at 7:30 tonight in Ed Landreth Hall Auditorium, Curt Wilson directing. For more information call (817) 257-7602.

■ **Summer 2004 Study Abroad Programs** are now enrolling. Those wishing to enroll need to come by Sadler Hall, Room 16 to pick up a permit number and pay a \$500 deposit. Contact t.williams@tcu.edu for more information.

■ **The Center for Writing** is located on the top floor of the Rickel Academic Wing of the University Recreation Center, across from Moncrief Hall. Students who want to discuss some of their writing can stop by the Center for Writing or call (817) 257-7221 for an appointment.

■ **Senseless Acts of Comedy** will perform from 9 to 11 p.m. tonight in Moudy Building North, Room 141.

■ **TCU Opera Studio** presents "A Night of Opera Scenes," Richard Estes directing, accompanied by Mark Metcalf on piano, at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the PepsiCo Recital Hall. For more information call (817) 257-7602.

■ **TCU Women's Basketball** will play Arkansas at 7 p.m. Saturday in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum. For more information call (817) 257-7967.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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 Journalism Dept. Chairman Tommy Thomason

PARKING

From page 1

and he'd pay any fines. "I'm not happy about (paying the parking fines)," Waldo said. "The parking situation is the only problem I'm having at TCU. But so are a lot of students."

TCU and Fort Worth charge a \$100 fine for parking in a fire lane, handicap space or tow-away zone. Parking fine income for Fort Worth is estimated and accounted for in the city's final budget. In an August 2003 letter to the mayor and city council, City Manager Gary W. Jackson estimated all fines and forfeitures for fiscal year 2002-03 would come to a little more than \$14 million toward the total estimated general fund of \$385,267,203.

City fine totals for the TCU area were not made available to the Skiff by press time. Fort Worth Police Department liaison officer to TCU Jamie Johnson, the office of Municipal Courts and the Traffic Division office did not return calls requesting parking ticket numbers and fine totals.

Becky Brandenburg
 b.brandenburg@tcu.edu

HOLIDAY

From page 1

gifts. This year, 605 wish cards were picked up with information about individual children and the gifts they want for Christmas, said Wallis, a senior marketing major.

"We're letting the kids know that there are nice people out there," Hill said. "And that the community really does care. "It's teaching them that they're not alone and that there are people who do good things, because so far in their young lives they've just run into people who do very bad things."

Students brought the wrapped gifts to the tree, and when most of the hot chocolate was cold and the favorite Christmas carols had been sung, people formed a chain to pass the presents from the tree to the vans, which were waiting to take them to Child Protective Services.

Kim Carpenter, a senior biol-



Ty Halasz/Staff Photographer
 Sophomore political science major Mark Murtagh, freshman premajor Kevin Inman and freshman English major Asher Fogle pass wrapped presents down the line to a truck waiting behind Sadler Hall.

ogy major, said she's come every year with a gift and that it always gets her in the holiday spirit.

"This is such a great event," said Carpenter. "My favorite part is the hot chocolate and singing the carols."

Students who missed the

opportunity to give gifts can drop them off at any Tarrant County Bank One until Dec. 15.

Catherine Pillsbury
 c.d.pillsbury@tcu.edu

CHINA

From page 1

be a smaller place." Before coming to TCU, Worthing taught Asian history

courses at Muskingum College in Ohio and at the University of North Florida. However, of the three universities, Worthing says he thinks teaching at TCU is best.

"My experience here at TCU has been the most rewarding of my career," Worthing said. "The students are great. They are respectful, diligent and willing to work with the faculty to make class a productive experience. TCU has some of the best scholars and teachers I have ever had the privilege of working with."

Laura Taylor, a junior history major, said Worthing is the best professor she has ever had. She said what makes Worthing is willing to help his students, more so than other

professors.

"He's inspired me to learn more about history," Taylor said. "He is there for students outside of class and interested in (helping) past and present students. He really has a passion for his subject."

Some students have even taken multiple classes with him due to his teaching style.

"I've taken three of his classes, so I think I'm a connoisseur on Dr. Worthing," said John Athon, a junior history major. "If you're a history buff, he'll take it to a whole new level. He presents it with a hands-on approach. But even if you don't like history, he'll make it interesting for you."

Monique Bhimani
 m.s.bhimani@tcu.edu

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OPINION

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The Skiff View GRADES

Take teacher evaluations seriously

As the school year winds down, we all get a shortened class period for the noble purpose of filling out teacher evaluations. Time to close your eyes, fill in a bubble and get some extra time to eat lunch. I mean, who cares about these things anyway?

Hopefully, all of us. Don't dismiss teacher evaluations as an exercise in futility. Many of the evaluations are finished, but for those of you who still have a few left to fill out, take some time to do it right.

Take a little time to think about the marks you give the teacher, and don't just fill in the multiple-choice ratings. The numbers they get back from those multiple-choice questions aren't as useful as a quick comment.

Regardless of what you think happens, professors do look at what their students say about them. This is a big source for them to know how they are doing. If all students do is fill in the bubbles, the professor has no way of knowing why he or she got the marks they did, whether they are good or bad.

You can't be afraid of bringing their wrath down on you. They get the evaluations after submitting your final grade, and your answers are typed up to make sure the professor can't identify your chicken-scratch writing. At the same time, if a professor has done a good job, take the time to tell them.

The chief objective of professors is helping you learn. So instead of grumbling about that long term paper, do something to make the class better. And if you don't have any more to fill out, well, just remember you can always give a thorough evaluation next semester.

Your Views

Letters to the editor

Giving to others should be a higher priority

As I worked the Order of Omega wish card table by The Main last Tuesday, I was surprised by how many people responded negatively when asked to help a child in need.

I was able to bolster the number of participants who filled out a wish card by recruiting friends who walked by. Maybe my friends are nicer than the average TCU student, or perhaps I guilt-tripped them by applying personal pressure. I heard many excuses — I am broke, I have to go to class, or my favorite, the I-don't-know-you shrug. I have a response to each of these.

First of all, we're all broke; we're in college. But these wish cards come from referrals from agencies under the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Service, including the Child Protective Services. These kids are in situations a little more serious than the average TCU student who is broke because he spent too much cash when he made his late-night Whataburger run last Saturday.

Also, on a side note, I am not a betting woman, but if I was, I would bet that most parents would be happy to tack an extra \$10 onto the

monthly allowance in order to help an underprivileged child's Christmas wish come true.

Secondly, "I have to go to class" does not work. It only takes about one minute to fill out your information and grab a card, possibly two to five minutes if you like to deliberate on which kid has the coolest name or has a present that you want to shop for.

Lastly, the no-comment-shrug is unacceptable. If you are a Scrooge, just say so. Apparently it is the truth. I guess I am being harsh because I know there are exceptions to all of this.

But as we consider our personal Christmas wish list — DVD player, new laptop, Spring Break trip, digital camera, etc. — let's think about the kids on those cards who are assessed by caseworkers. They put the stories on the wish cards and each child only gets one card made for them. So, if a kid's card is not picked up, that child will not receive a present.

The bottom line is, I am hoping that grandma's pumpkin pie, turkey with stuffing and a little sleep will send TCU students back from their breaks with a little holiday spirit in their hearts.

— Christine Wilson, junior news-editorial journalism and English major

Give my.tcu.edu a chance

When I first heard about my.tcu.edu, I dismissed the idea.

It seemed like the university was spending even more of my money to offer a useless service. I logged on a few times, took a cursory look around and thought, "This is a waste of my time."

COMMENTARY



Laura McFarland

Then it was announced that students would have to register for next semester's classes through the site. I had to look at the site to get registration times and to sign up for my classes.

Now, advising and registration are almost over for the semester, but my.tcu.edu is still here.

As a senior, I have spent more than three years trying to figure out most of TCU's little tricks, and now they were telling me to learn a completely new system for my last semester. It was kind of upsetting.

But realizing my annoyance wouldn't change the fact that using the site was inevitable, I logged on to the site.

I've spent years exploring the TCU Web site, for one reason or another, so I am already familiar with all of the pages this new site has links to.

But thinking back to my freshman and sophomore years, I remembered how hard it was to know where to click to find needed information. Unless you always have the help desk at the other end of a phone line to answer questions, it can get confusing.

If you look on my.tcu.edu, you'll see links to a lot of familiar pages. Clicking on the "Class search" link takes you to the same page you would get going through FrogNet. But even though it is the same page, the packaging makes it a little different.

For freshmen, transfer or existing students, this site takes a number of different services that have always been available to us through different sites or by e-mail and groups them

together. Best of all, the site is personalized just for you.

Now, students can check their class schedule, the semester calendars and even make online tuition payments from the same place. It's possible to look at the TCU Announce notices on the site, so you can finally just erase that huge e-mail version students get every week, if you didn't already do so.

The site isn't perfect. There's always going to be some service people want that isn't offered. Or so you think.

I thought what the site really needs is access to academic audits and summaries. When I went back to explore again, I found that the site did have links to these.

The site is a good idea, once you get used to it. So before you just dismiss the site, take the time to really explore it.

Managing Editor Laura McFarland is a senior news-editorial journalism and English major from Houston. She can be reached at l.d.mcfarland@tcu.edu.



"OUR WEALTHY SAUDI PATRONS ARE A LITTLE LIGHT ON THE 'CHARITABLE DONATIONS' THIS WEEK. USE A TRUCK BOMB TO DELIVER OUR NEXT THANK-YOU NOTE."

Don't be a homer, root for your Horned Frogs

When I spoke to Frogs' basketball coach Neil Dougherty about his upcoming game with Kansas a few weeks ago, he told me TCU fans needed to get their tickets quickly.

COMMENTARY



Danny Gillham

"If you don't, Kansas will," he said.

And while many of the 7,267 at the game were donning purple, it was evident the Jayhawk faithful were also well represented.

I guess what kind of shocked me was that some of those KU representatives were TCU students cheering for Kansas.

If you were at home watching the game, you may not have noticed it. However, numerous TCU students donned Kansas hats, shirts, jerseys and posters in support for Rock Chalk Jayhawk.

Yes, Kansas is a storied college basketball power with an allegiance of fans as a result of its success. I myself rooted for Kansas to win a championship last year for now departed Kansas head coach Roy Williams.

However these Jayhawks homers all need to take a piece of advice from the classic movie Wizard of Oz: You're not in Kansas anymore.

Now I really don't care if you root for professional sports teams from back home. When you go to college though, its teams automatically become your favorite in that sport, period.

So for those who are confused, let me help you figure out how the best way to root for your Frogs (or Lady Frogs). Taking notes are encouraged.

1. You go to TCU. You can cheer

for anyone else all day — until that team plays TCU, then it becomes your mortal enemy. I don't care if you grew up next to the best player on the team. The players are not your friend until that game is over.

2. Wear purple. It is our school color, and it looks pretty good when everyone wears it to a game. So ladies (and some guys), please stop coming to TCU games like your going out to Deep Ellum for a Friday night. A simple purple TCU shirt will do just fine.

3. Get educated. I really don't want to hear that you don't know where or when games are. TCU has an athletics Web site (www.gofrogs.com) where you can find any information about any sports team we have: names, statistics, schedules and history — you name it.

4. Be loud. Even if you don't know why you are yelling and are doing it because everyone else is, that is fine. A loud and excited crowd gives players extra motivation to play hard because they have you supporting them. And don't be afraid to be a little loud and rowdy to the opposing team. In a civilized manner mind you. Trust me, TCU players deal with crowds like these all the time — when they play road games supported by good sports fans.

I think it's great that everyone is coming out to support teams.

Tuesday night was a record amount of attendance at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum, and the TCU football team had its highest average of home attendance in quite some time. If you're going to come to the games though, cheer the right way, and cheer for TCU.

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

Christmas is not all about presents

The day after Halloween, I ventured to Target in search of sale-priced candy. Visions of jack-o-lanterns and black cats still danced in my head as I walked through the automatic doors. But instead of leftover treats and clearance-priced plastic pumpkins, I was met with Christmas decorations.

It seems that Target, along with many in the retail world, decided to deck the halls a little early. Actually a whole month early. The retail world is strongly encouraging us to start our Yuletide celebrations on Nov. 1. It's pretty hard to get in the holiday spirit when we're still wearing T-shirts and flip-flops.

Because, as everyone knows, Christmas is about giving. And in order to give, you must buy, buy, buy. Retailers push Christmas decorations, Christmas shopping, even Christmas underwear earlier and earlier. And if you're not joyfully spending your life-savings away, there must be something wrong with you.

And it's not just stores, but it seems the whole world goes Christmas crazy earlier each year. Radio stations play holiday tunes, many which are not as good as regular songs, starting in November. An avalanche of Christmas movies, toys and commercials appear the day after Thanksgiving. That goes along with special sales so that you can buy, buy, buy for everyone on your Christmas list. Because if you listen to the commercials, that's what Christmas is all about.

And as Grinchy as it sounds, I am pretty sick of Christmas by the time it finally rolls around.

But I haven't always been such a Scrooge. I remember the joy of picking out the Christmas tree with my family, watching Claymation and Charlie Brown Christmas specials, and making Christmas cookies.

When you're a kid, you miss out on a lot of the stress of the holiday season. It's a time in your life when you can make gifts out of pipe cleaners, and people will actually pretend to be happy to receive them. If you try that now, your mental state would probably come into question.

According to the American Psychological Association, holiday stress is caused by our desire for the season to be perfect. Families that fight will still fight on Dec. 25, dinners may burn and gifts might get returned. But that's not what Christmas is about. It is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, not of retail shopping. The best way to get in the holiday spirit is to love the way that Christ loved. And along the way, you just might find the perfect Christmas gift.

Co-News Editor Jessica Sanders is a senior news-editorial journalism major from San Antonio. She can be reached at j.d.sanders@tcu.edu.

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NEWS DIGEST

Your place for the news and world events | Compiled from wire reports | www.skiff.tcu.edu

National/State Roundup

Police officer placed on leave, faces charges

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas police officer is on administrative leave, one day after he was jailed on charges that he assaulted a girlfriend during a dispute over the results of a paternity test.

Officer Milton Cockrell Jr. was released from custody early Tuesday.

Cockrell, 36, has an extensive internal-affairs record that includes assault investigations, lying to supervisors and skipping work, according to reports in *The Dallas Morning News'* Wednesday editions.

He was a rookie patrolman the first time he was suspended from the department, internal affairs records show.

Cockrell has been disciplined seven more times, including four additional suspensions for a range of misconduct.

Records show he once shot up his bulletproof vest. Another time, he used Mace on a 13-year-old student in what witnesses said was an unprovoked attack.

Cockrell, at the time of Monday's arrest, was awaiting a disciplinary hearing related to an

accusation that he caused a traffic accident while driving his squad car with a revoked license, police said.

He had been temporarily assigned to communications duty because of a shoulder injury.

Cockrell, according to internal police records, almost didn't make it out of the police academy. A training sergeant recommended that the recruit be fired in February 1996 — a few weeks into his training — because he had failed three written exams that covered professional policing approaches, use of force and juvenile issues.

Investors' group buys Enron headquarters

HOUSTON (AP) — In a private auction of Enron Corp.'s 50-story downtown Houston headquarters, an investors' group headed by a cardiologist has agreed to purchase the property for more than \$50 million.

Dr. Antonio Pacifico reached agreement to buy the 1.27-million-square-foot headquarters building after the silent auction Tuesday at the Houston offices of Enron's bankruptcy law firm, Weil

Gotshal & Manges.

The New York bankruptcy judge for fallen energy giant Enron must approve the \$55.5 million transaction, scheduled to be made final on Dec. 16, said Richard Rudd of Granite Partners, the real estate firm that handled the sale for the building owners, a group of banks led by J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.

Pacifico in 1996 treated the heart troubles of Hakeem Olajuwon, who was the star center for the Houston Rockets at the time. Pacifico later participated in several real estate investments in partnership with Olajuwon, but the star did not participate in the deal with Pacifico for the 20-year-old Enron skyscraper, Rudd said.

The skyscraper is scheduled to be vacated early next year when the sole occupant, Enron, relocates to 4 Houston Center on the east side of downtown.

Suspended sheriff will resign in January 2004

GEORGETOWN (AP) — The Williamson County sheriff, who was suspended over accusations he had been drunk in public a dozen times since taking office,

says he will resign.

John Maspero announced his plans Tuesday, almost two months after Georgetown police stopped him on a complaint that he had appeared to be stumbling drunk after a night of drinking at a barbecue.

Last week, visiting State District Judge James Clawson suspended Maspero from office after County Attorney Gene Taylor presented evidence that Maspero had been drunk in public 12 times since taking office in 2000.

Chief Deputy Richard Elliott, who had testified against Maspero, has been serving as interim sheriff since the ruling.

Maspero told reporters Tuesday he had decided he didn't want to put himself or the county through a jury trial that could have led to his permanent removal. He said he plans to submit a resignation letter soon to County Judge John Doerfler. Such a letter is required for a formal resignation.

New Virginia fire code outlaws fresh evergreens

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — James Craddolph wanted to

spend Christmas with his girlfriend cuddled up in front of a real tree in her apartment. But Virginia's new fire code has snuffed out that idea.

The code, effective Oct. 1, makes it a misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail or a \$2,500 fine, to have fresh evergreens in many apartments and condos without sprinkler systems.

"I understand what they're doing, but I also think you lose something in Christmas without that natural pine smell," Craddolph said.

State fire safety officials said the new code brings Virginia in line with many other states. "I think it's a good code, and our only goal in all of this is safety," said Ed Altizer, the Virginia state fire marshal.

Phil J. Moulton, a 46-year-old tree farmer, has sold Christmas trees in Chesapeake for nearly two decades. Moulton said the ban is "infringing upon the rights of American citizens."

"What are you going to do? Drag a man's Christmas tree out of his apartment while his kids are crying?" Moulton asked. Virginia Beach Fire Marshal

William Smith said for a fine to be imposed, "it would be a really extreme situation."

Unmanned rovers to land on Mars in January

PASADENA, Calif. — After seven routine months of spaceflight, NASA is bracing for six minutes of high anxiety in January, when the twin rovers it launched earlier this year punch through the Martian atmosphere to land on the Red Planet.

Each of the unmanned, \$400 million rovers must be slowed from 12,000 mph to a complete stop within minutes after first plunging into the planet's tenuous atmosphere.

"Just getting to Mars is hard, but landing is more so," Ed Weiler, NASA's associate administrator for space science said Tuesday during a news briefing from Washington, D.C., that was broadcast to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Landing the rovers safely requires the elaborately choreographed and fast-paced use of heat shields, parachutes, rockets and air bags. A strong gust of wind, or a single sharp rock, could destroy either or both rovers.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

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 — John Athon, junior history major

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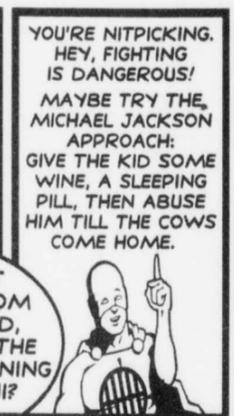
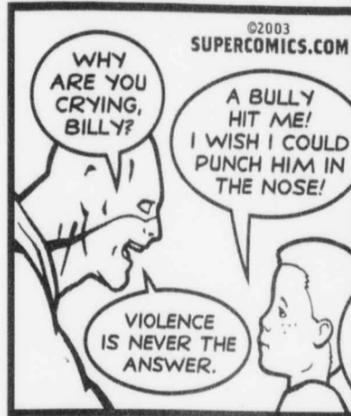
Q: Are you going to the Fort Worth Bowl?

A: YES 24 NO 76

Data collected from an informal poll conducted in TCU's Main Cafeteria. This poll is not a scientific sampling and should not be regarded as representative of campus public opinion. All rights reserved.

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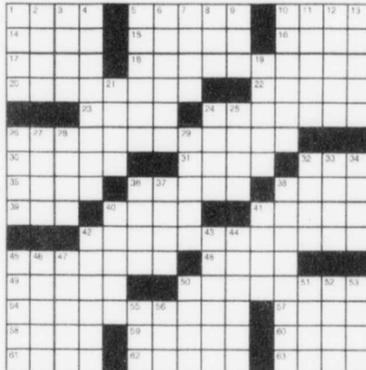


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- 1 Tortoise's rival
- 5 Church official
- 10 Like the eye of a storm
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- 15 Nary a soul
- 18 La Scala highlight
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- 18 Left-hand digit
- 20 Start
- 22 Measuring instrument
- 23 Boundary
- 24 Map volumes
- 26 Speeding up
- 30 Chess side
- 31 Crazy
- 32 Farsing area
- 35 Lattice strip
- 36 Smiles
- 38 "Whip it" group
- 39 Mata Hari, e.g.
- 40 Rheostat
- 41 Horsing Opera
- 42 Branch of mathematics
- 45 Stories in installments
- 48 Served perfectly
- 49 Painful muscle spasm
- 50 Comes forth
- 54 Truces
- 57 Artificial bait
- 58 Butcher's cut
- 59 Love to pieces
- 60 MS-DOS compiler
- 61 Residue
- 62 Flower with velvety petals
- 63 Cabinet dept. head



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The Sideline

TCU has 11 named to All-Conference team

Eleven TCU players earned all-league recognition, as Conference USA announced its 2003 all-conference football teams Wednesday. The teams were selected by the league's 11 head coaches and media members in each conference city.

The TCU contingent features four players on the first team squad, including All-America place-kicker Nick Browne, Ted Hendricks Award finalist Bo Schobel, offensive tackle Anthony Alabi and defensive tackle Chad Pugh.

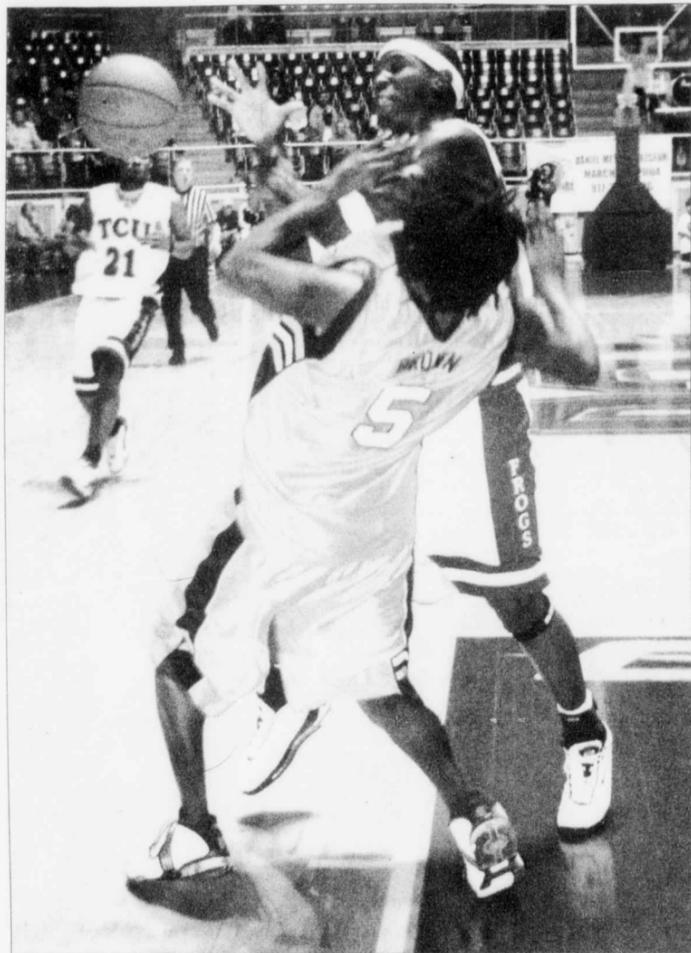
Second team all-conference honors went to freshman tailback Robert Merrill, center Chase Johnson, wide receiver Reggie Harrell and cornerback Mark Walker.

Third team accolades went to defensive end Robert Pollard, safety Marvin Godbolt and punt returner Cory Rodgers.

The Frogs also had four players named to the Conference USA All-Freshman squad. Merrill was joined on the offensive squad by tackle Herbert Taylor. Rodgers made the all-freshman squad as both a wide receiver and punt returner.

— courtesy of (www.gofrogs.com)

Racers' comeback dooms Frogs



Sophomore forward Chudi Chinweze checks Racer forward Kelvin Brown. The Frogs lost 73-67. Their overall record is 1-3.

BY ADAM WILLIAMS
Skiff Staff

Only two days after facing the undefeated No. 1-ranked team in the nation, the Kansas Jayhawks, the TCU men's basketball team faced yet another undefeated opponent Wednesday night.

The Murray State Racers came into Daniel-Meyer Coliseum with a record of 4-0, fresh off a 40-point drubbing of another Conference USA foe, Southern Mississippi. The Racers maintained their unblemished record by erasing a 7-point second-half deficit and defeating a fatigued Horned Frogs 73-67.

The Frogs practiced again Tuesday with only one day of preparation for Wednesday night's game against Murray State.

Senior guard Nucleus Smith said fatigue played a significant role in Wednesday night's loss.

"It is very difficult to recover from one tough game and prepare for another in only two days," Smith said. "The shots that were going in the first half just weren't dropping in the second. Part of that had to do with us being tired."

The Frogs shot 64 percent from the field in the first half, building a 38-32 halftime lead. The lead was built to as many as seven in the second half, only to see it slip away in the closing nine minutes. The Horned Frogs were outscored 27-14 in the final nine minutes of play and shot only 30 percent from the floor in the second half.

The loss drops the Frogs to 1-3 on the season, losing three straight after winning the season opener. The men's team now goes on the road Saturday for the first time this season to face the Cougars of Washington State.

Head coach Neil Dougherty said the team must improve in order to beat the Cougars, who will enter the game with a 3-2 overall record.

"We just have to be better at executing the simple things," Dougherty said. "We cannot

continue to set ourselves up in great position to score and then miss the easy shots. We must execute on our opportunities, especially the easy ones."

The Frogs must also get more production from their interior players. The five players who rotated on the interior in Wednesday night's game accounted for only 28 of TCU's 67 points. The Frogs were also out-rebounded 40-31. Dougherty said he has faith that his big men will begin to improve as the season continues.

"We are rotating our big men in and out very often thus far this season," Dougherty said. "They all possess very different skills. As their games improve, so will our presence in the paint."

Adam Williams
a.d.williams@tcu.edu



Lauren Johnson/Staff Photographer
Sophomore Chudi Chinweze looks to pass the ball to junior guard Corey Santee against the Racers of Murray State Wednesday night in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

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