



TCU DAILY SKIFF

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HEADING WEST?

TCU receives invitation to join Mountain West Conference



The university will announce whether the Frogs will leave Conference USA Friday.

By Braden Howell
Skiff Staff

It's official: TCU has been invited to the Mountain West Conference. Now it's up to the Board of Trustees to decide whether TCU will move to its fourth conference in 10 years.

After months of speculation, athletics director Eric Hyman confirmed Wednesday that TCU has been invited to join the conference. The Board of Trustees will meet Friday in a regularly scheduled meeting and vote on whether TCU will leave Conference USA for Mountain

West, chairman John Roach said. He declined to comment when asked which way the board is leaning, but published reports have indicated that the university will accept the invitation.

Steve Fink, director of media relations, said a press conference is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Friday to announce to the university's decision.

If the board votes to accept the invitation, TCU will become an official member of the conference in July 2005, Hyman said.

TCU would join Air Force, Brigham Young, Colorado State, New Mexico, San Diego State, Nevada-Las Vegas, Utah and Wyoming in the Mountain West. Hyman said he did not know whether the Mountain West had decided to invite any other universities to join the conference.

"It's my understanding that the conference is issuing only one invitation," Hyman said. "And that's us, TCU. The ideal size of a conference is nine teams."

Mountain West officials could

not be reached for comment.

Hyman also said the university will need to pay an exit fee to Conference USA, and he said he hopes the conference will be fair.

"We hope we're treated just like our colleagues who just left the conference," Hyman said.

The "colleagues" are the five teams — Cincinnati, DePaul, Louisville,

Marquette and South Florida — that left Conference USA in November for the Big East.

Joining the Mountain West conference will cost TCU an estimated \$200,000 more a year in travel costs, but Hyman said additional traveling is only an issue for sports that travel

(More on INVITATION, page 6)

QUICK FACTS

TCU's vagabond conference journey

Southwest Conference dismantled
Big 8 Conference takes University of Texas, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech and Baylor University to expand to the now Big 12, leaving the rest of the SWC without a home.

Joins Western Athletic Conference
TCU and Rice join WAC to make 16 team conference

Mountain West Conference formed
Air Force, Brigham Young, Colorado State, New Mexico, San Diego State,

University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Utah and Wyoming leave WAC to make MWC

TCU Leaves for Conference USA
TCU reunites with former SWC foe Houston when they leave the WAC for C-USA

Invite to MWC
TCU receives an invite to move for the fourth time in 10 years.

Allegations show rift over gays in Christian Church

A lack of regulations regarding ordination of gay Disciples allows regions to decide for themselves.

By Elizabeth Bassett
Staff Reporter

The alleged discrimination against a gay Brite administrator by a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) official reflects fundamental disagreements within the denomination and society over homosexuality, several ministers said Wednesday.

Stephen Sprinkle, a Brite Divinity School representative for the Christian Church's Committee on the Ministry for the Southwest Region, says he was prevented from participating on a committee interviewing ministerial candidates because he is gay. Sprinkle claims that committee chairman Ben Hubert told Sprinkle that he was "polarizing students," and could not attend the interviews held from Jan. 12-14.

But the Christian Church does not have explicit rules or regulations against openly homosexual people, said Cyndy Twedell, the associate minister at University Christian Church on South University Drive. Twedell is also a Brite graduate.

Ministers said the Christian Church is divided into regions, and each region makes the final decision on whether to ordain gays.

Andy Mangum, the minister for the First Christian Church in Arlington, was an ordination candidate in 1998, while Sprinkle was on the interviewing committee.

"He's been excluded from some things because of his sexuality and for his views and opinions on gays

(More on BRITE, page 2)

The painting's not on the wall

A first-year professor has an interesting installation piece on display at the University Art Gallery.

By Lauren Lea
Staff Reporter

You suck, you blow.

Cameron Schoepp explores the literal act of breathing in his exhibit at the University Art Gallery.

In Schoepp's exhibit, "Room to Breathe," there is not a single sculpture on display or a painting on the walls. Instead, the gallery walls are lined with what appears to be oversized bubble wrap. The only other aspect of the exhibit is the carpet, which is a sharp contrast of blood red and snow white. The colors meet in the middle of the room forming the phrase "you suck, you blow."

Schoepp said he wanted to transform the gallery and make it completely different from how it was.

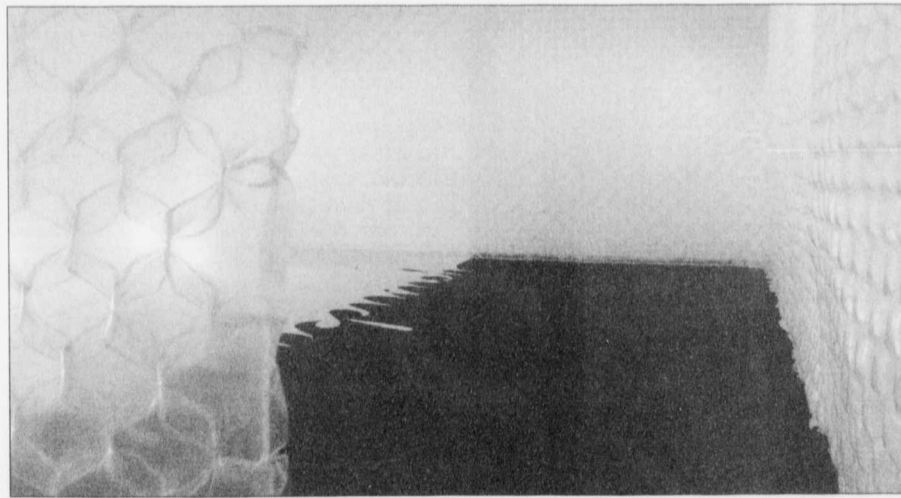
"This exhibit really pushes you in all different directions," Schoepp said. "It's more of an experience because you go into it and look at it rather than a traditional show where you look at paintings on walls. It's more about experiencing it than understanding it."

Kelela Place, a junior modern dance and Spanish major, said the exhibit is very relaxing even though it's very abstract.

"I really like this because it's different," Place said. "I feel it more than I view it. It doesn't require as much thinking on my part as it does feeling."

Senior sculpture major Bernardo Vallarino said he also likes Schoepp's work and the exhibit.

(More on EXHIBIT, page 2)



Top The border between the red and white carpet in Cameron Schoepp's exhibit reveals an intriguing message that ties into the installation's theme. Bottom Schoepp uses the open gallery space to set the mood.

Mejandra Galvez/Staff Photographer

Campaign raises goal

TCU officials are reorganizing the largest fund-raising campaign in the university's history to generate money for programs and pay for a multi-million dollar construction debt.

By Marco Lopez
Staff Reporter

University Advancement plans to ask the Board of Trustees today to raise a campaign goal by \$20 million and extend its deadline.

The department wants to extend the campaign "Our Time, Our Future" until 2008 in order to reach the desired goal, said Bronson Davis, TCU vice chancellor for university advancement.

"Nothing had gone to plan. We postponed the public kickoff twice, it was a very awkward time to solicit large gifts," he said. "We had Sept. 11, a bad drop in the stock market, a very difficult recession and two wars which diverted people's attention."

The campaign has collected \$108 million toward the current goal of \$230 million since it began in June 2000, Davis said. If the Board of Trustees approves the raise, the campaign goal will be \$250 million.

The money collected will be used to help pay the \$161 million construction debt of several existing buildings and future projects such as the School of Education Complex and a Music Performing Arts Center, Davis said.

The country's changing economy and a new chancellor should help the campaign achieve its higher goals, Davis said.

Former Chancellor Michael Ferrari retired two years earlier than planned, which affected the campaign because the chancellor was the primary leader for the campaign, Davis said.

"Any (fund-raising) campaign is dependent on the

(More on GOAL, page 2)

Student Government works to eliminate loopholes to end improper campaigning

The Student Government Association will amend its election code to curb confusion for future candidates.

By Matt Turner
Staff Reporter

The House of Student Representatives plans to revise the SGA election code this semester after the controversy surrounding last semester's election.

"The entire code will be analyzed line by line and unclear areas will be rewritten by the Elections and Regulations Committee," said Whitney Grey, committee chairwoman.

In last semester's elections, four candidates

were accused of various campaign violations.

President Jay Zeidman was accused of using illegal campaign materials or methods and improper distributing or posting of campaign materials.

Blake Eason, presidential runner-up, was accused of campaigning before the beginning of the formal campaign and using university publications for campaigning. He said he also received another violation for going door-to-door in residence halls on Election Day encouraging people to vote, although not specifically for him.

The result was a recall election for

president, which narrowed the four-candidate field down to Zeidman and Eason, with Zeidman winning by a narrow margin in the runoff.

"I don't think anyone should have to go through that again," said Megan Brown, vice president of the House. Grey said last semester was the first time the code had been widely misinterpreted since it was last revised in Spring 2002.

Officials agreed the code needs to be more explicit. "The vagueness of the code allowed four extremely intelligent individuals to interpret it differently," Brown said.

"The wording needs to be changed to eliminate loopholes," she said. "It should be so clear they don't have to ask."

Zeidman also said the code has holes and is outdated.

"What happened was sad because we had a record voter turnout," he said.

Zeidman said he supports raising the amount of each candidate's own money that can be spent, although he wouldn't say by how much. Currently officers can spend \$200 of their own money, while representatives can spend \$25.

Zeidman said he will distance himself

from the revision because he was so close to the situation last semester. Eason said he would love to give his input if it was welcomed.

The committee will meet to start revisions from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays in the SGA office in the basement of the Student Center. Officials said they encourage student participation with the revision.

After the revision is completed, the committee will submit the new code to the House to be voted on.

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THE PULSE

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Thursday, January 29, 2004

Campus Lines

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.

■**Summer 2004 Study Abroad Programs** are now enrolling. To enroll, come by Sadler Hall, Room 16, to pick up a permit number and pay a \$500 deposit by Feb. 27. Contact t.williams@tcu.edu for more information.

■**The Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA)** will have its first meeting this semester at 5:30 p.m. today in Moudy Building South, Room 271. Come hear Andra Bennett, the director of Communications at the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, speak. Pizza and snacks will be provided to all that attend. Contact John Walls at j.c.walls@tcu.edu for more information.

■**Career Night for the Spring Semester** will be from 4-7 p.m. Feb. 11 in the Student Center Ballroom. This event is for students to network with local businesses, search for an internship or look for their first job out of college. Dress is business casual. Bring resumes. For more information, contact University Career Services. Or call the Skiff advertising department at (817) 257-7426.

■**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.

■**Senior bricks** are on sale now. For your very own name-engraved senior brick, contact Sarah at (817) 257-8785 or e-mail her at s.j.cox@tcu.edu. The deadline for May 2004 graduates is Feb. 28.

EXHIBIT

From page 1

"I like what he did with the show," Vallarino said. "It's a small space but he worked with it and I really like the color usage. I feel his work puts across what he's trying to say."

The exhibit is an installation show and will be on display until Feb. 5.

Ron Watson, chairman of the art department, said this type of exhibit is fairly unusual, but not without precedent.

"It's called an installation piece, meaning that the entire room is taken into it," Watson said. "It's creating a certain type of environment to go in and experience. The form is the entire space."

Schoepp is in his first year teaching sculpture at TCU. He previously taught at the University of Texas at Dallas for 13 years. He received his master's degree

from TCU in 1985.

Vallarino said he enjoys having Schoepp as a professor.

"I've learned quite a bit from him," Vallarino said. "He's always teaching us new methods of doing things and I've learned a lot in the last year. He always gets things done and helps his students as much as possible."

Schoepp describes himself as a contemporary artist and said he often does installation exhibits. He has several other pieces around Fort Worth, including "Hats," in Worth Park downtown, as well as "Bench" and "Pollen" in the Botanical Gardens. He is widely known in the area and outside of Texas in the art community.

"His work is extremely inventive," Watson said. "The craft of his work is excellent."

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GOAL

From page 1

chancellor because he is the key speaker for the campaign," he said.

Chancellor Victor Boschini had to get acquainted with all the donors and the campaign's plans before they could proceed with collecting donations, Davis said.

Boschini said he has spent the past seven months getting acquainted with students, faculty and staff, and different organizations that support TCU to get a better perspective of the school and to develop his fund-raising agenda.

"This is definitely one of my top goals for my administration," Boschini said.

The university has to spend money in order to ensure that TCU students get the proper learning environment, Boschini said. But raising money to pay for the school's debt is at the top of his list, he said.

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Bird's eye view



Holly Elder/Staff
Photographer
The lobby adjoining Sub Connection inside Smith Hall filled Wednesday afternoon with students looking to grab a quick bite to eat between classes.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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BRITE

From page 1

in the church," Magnum said of Sprinkle.

Administrators of the Christian Church Southwest Region, including the Interim Regional Minister and President Bob Rueter and the chairman of the Committee on Ministry Ben Hubert, could not be reached for comment. Ken Hall, minister for the Trinity-Brazos area, declined to comment.

Brite President D. Newell Williams said the church reflects the social and political divides of the world. He also said that the Christian Church is no different from any church, synagogue or institution undecided on gay issues.

While regions have the authority to make rules about the ordination of gays, congregations are the ultimate foundation and body of the church, and they do not live by any rules but the focus on Christ, Twedell said.

The General Assembly for the Christian Church makes resolutions about matters, but they are considered guidelines, not binding laws, Twedell said.

"We encourage people to make their own decisions, to think and

to live blending faith and reason, head and heart," Twedell said.

The Christian Church is founded on unity, not division, Twedell said.

"God is a part of all of his creations: he is a part of gays, he is a part of blacks, he is a part of whites," Twedell said. "As long as we respect the diversity that God's made, we are the beauty of God's creation with all our differences."

"God calls each of us to a valued and specific ministry and I would not put any restrictions on what Dr. Sprinkle is allowed to do based on his sexuality."

A lesbian Brite graduate says a resolution preventing gays from being ordained was created by the Southwest Region in response to her pursuit of ordination, which was declined.

"I think they thought they could send me away and people would forget about it," said Michal Anne Pepper, an ordained Disciples of Christ minister and Brite graduate. "They act like this issue is going to go away. When people get freaked out they act poorly — and the Region acted very poorly."

Ordination candidates need both a supporting congregation and an approving region to be ordained. Pepper was supported by

her congregation, Midway Hills Christian Church in Dallas, but the region disregarded that support and would not ordain her.

"My church was very angry and upset and had meetings with the region," Pepper said.

The Southwest Region remained opposed to Pepper's ordination, so she sought support from another congregation in a different region. The University Christian Church in Berkeley, Calif., co-sponsored her with Midway Hills and she was ordained in the North California/Nevada Region. She is currently a minister at the Berkeley church.

The North California/Nevada Region is the only open and affirming region in the United States, Pepper said. She said she was not surprised that the debate over homosexuality had surfaced again in the Southwest Region, which has offices in Fort Worth.

Twedell said each region and congregation of the Christian Church is urged to make their own decisions regarding homosexuality.

"It's not very Disciple-like to have a bunch of rules restricting what people can do," she said.

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Inspector's opinion sought for war

A former U.S. weapons inspector asserts the inability to find weapons reflects problems in intelligence-gathering.

By Katherine Pflieger
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former top U.S. weapons inspector David Kay told members of the Senate Wednesday that the failure to turn up weapons of mass destruction in Iraq exposed weaknesses in America's intelligence-gathering apparatus.

"We've had a number of surprises," Kay told reporters after meeting behind closed doors with the Senate Intelligence Committee. "It's quite clear we need capabilities that we do not have with regard to intelligence."

Later, he told the Senate Armed Services Committee that "we were almost all wrong — and I certainly include myself here," in believing that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

Kay denied suggestions by Democrats that intelligence analysts felt pressured by the administration to shape intelligence to help President Bush make the case for war. He said he spoke to many analysts who prepared the intelligence and "not in a single case was the explanation that I was pressured to this."

Kay said he felt there would always be "unresolvable ambiguity" about exactly what programs Iraq

had because of the severe looting that occurred in Iraq immediately after the U.S.-led invasion and the U.S. military's failure to control it. U.S. investigators believe some Iraqis probably took advantage of that period of chaos to get rid of any evidence of weapons programs, he said.

Kay said U.S. intelligence agencies became so dependent on information from U.N. inspectors, they didn't develop their own sources. He also said he would favor an independent investigation into the intelligence failures.

Kay's appearance had strong political undertones with the justification for war emerging as a top issue in the presidential campaign.

The committee's top Democrat, Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, pointed to repeated statements by top administration officials flatly stating that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. He pressed Kay to acknowledge that there is no evidence Iraq even had small stockpiles as of 2002. Kay also said that vials the administration claimed were used for biological weapons were likely not intended for such a program.

Under questioning from Republicans, Kay stressed the danger posed by Saddam. He also said that Iraqi documents, physical evidence and interviews with Iraqi scientists revealed that Iraq was engaged in weapons programs prohibited by U.N. resolutions.

The Skiff View

Media cannot have bias toward ads

CBS cuts controversial Super Bowl commercial

The Super Bowl is a spectacular media event. Aside from the thrill of the game, there is the plethora of commercials made specifically for those half-minute intervals between game coverage. Sponsors spend millions for the spots alone, so the commercials are usually worth the time.

But one commercial did not make the cut. Not because it was poorly made or couldn't front the funds, but because CBS deemed it too controversial for its anti-advocacy ad policy. The ad was created through a competition hosted by MoveOn.org, a liberal activist organization, with the purpose of showing "the truth" about the Bush administration. While several of the submitted ads were admittedly controversial — some even comparing Bush to Hitler — the winning ad was far from scandalous.

Though the intentions of such a commercial may be obvious, it is not the media's place to question them. Despite CBS' supposedly strict policy of not running advocacy ads, we will still see anti-smoking spots and another reefer-madness ad courtesy of the White House itself. It's no coincidence that a media conglomerate with such slanted views on what advocacy means is currently working with the White House to expand media ownership laws.

If this is any indication of where our media is headed, we can expect more propaganda and less balance. As media conglomerates grow, information becomes controlled by few but dispersed to many. In order to make informed decisions, the public should be entitled to all sides and all opinions.

Other View

Opinions from around the country

Face reality, Bush must go

Recently, a friend and I were arguing about the Iowa caucuses and potential democratic presidential tickets when my friend uttered the word "Bush." I cringed upon hearing it, as is customary in my family. My friend however, is a staunch, raving, President George W. Bush supporter, and I have, for the longest time, been trying to find out why anybody would support our current "president."

I think most of us would agree that Boston University is a very good school. One should assume that as students of this school, we have the intention of educating ourselves about the world that we are a part of.

So why are there so many students that give their unwavering support to our "president?" Stupidity? Greed? If you're rich, you have got to love the "president's" new tax cuts! I doubt, however, that any undergraduates are pulling in more than 250 Gs a year, making them eligible for said cut, so that couldn't be it.

Good ol' fashioned American Pride? Well, Bush has turned our once-respectable military into a reckless, unorganized killing machine and made us all responsible for the needless deaths and mutilations of thousands. I don't know about you, but the pride I feel now brings a tear to my eye. Or is that tears?

So discounting stupidity, greed and pride, why are some

still willing to back our "president?" As I glared at my friend, I finally realized why he supports Bush. He, just like so many others, is in a state of borderline-psychotic denial.

When these people are given any credible factual information regarding the Bush administration, their first reaction is to get very flustered and bring up former president Bill Clinton's Oval Office intern escapades as an argument for Bush's elevated morality.

The second step is to call you "ignorant" and threaten physical violence. Once the confrontation has ceased, they will then go home, turn on FOX News, climb in bed with their ample allowance and say, "Don't mess with Texas," until they go to sleep.

Seriously though, it's time that these people snap out of it and face the horrible reality that this administration is corrupt and amoral and is stealing our freedom and money bit by bit. And rest assured that if Bush is reelected, it will only continue to get worse.

My advice to those who support Bush now is to go read a paper or do some form of research to inform yourself and find out what is really going on in our country. You don't need to be a skeptic to see my point of view — just a realist.

Mark Bridge is a columnist for the Daily Free Press at Boston University. This column was distributed by U-Wire.

Race for Democratic nomination not over

Despite two wins for Kerry, Clark could still pull through

John Kerry has won New Hampshire, and you may be thinking that the race is effectively over. After all, he's two for two thus far. Howard Dean's poll numbers are slipping almost everywhere.

Kerry will roll into the Feb. 3 primaries and come away with a commanding lead.

But as the noted philosopher Lee Corso says, "Not so fast, my friend."

Kerry should have won both those states. He moved his entire staff to Iowa for the caucuses and is a senator from Massachusetts, where many people in New Hampshire commute to work. At the very least, they identify themselves with their fellow New England state. Kerry didn't spend any money on the seven Feb. 3 primary states before New Hampshire. He doesn't even have the most committed delegates.

OK, so if it's not Kerry — and, hey, I'll admit it still might be — then who? The media won't let "Loud Howard"

"Despite his lack of 'Joementum' like Senator Joe Lieberman, Clark stands to capitalize if Kerry or Dean falters."

shake his "angry" label, so discount his chances. Instead, look at the guy who finished third in New Hampshire and first amongst those outside New England.

I present to you General Wesley Clark. Despite his lack of "Joementum" like Senator Joe Lieberman, Clark stands to capitalize if Kerry or Dean falters. He's spent almost \$1 million on ads in the next seven primary states. He's from Arkansas, and is leading polls coming out of neighboring Oklahoma. He's also within two percentage points of Dean in Arizona.

Clark can also match Bush strength against strength in the national election. Bush's campaign will probably focus on safer borders, an Iraq with elections, and Libya backing down without a fight.

Clark can counter with his extensive military record.

Dean is the candidate who is getting the strongest response from people who list the war in Iraq as their top complaint. The other major candidates voted for the war in Iraq. Logically, many of the voters who think that Howard Dean is mentally unsuited for the presidency will slide over to the Clark camp. Of course, since when does logic factor into this?

Moreover, Clark has been a Republican until very recently. No candidate is better equipped to reach across party lines to woo republicans dissatisfied with Bush than one of their own.

Don't listen to the pundits. This race is far from over. Should Clark win in Oklahoma and Arizona, he'll be set for the long haul. And one last fact I picked up: No democrat has swept a contested Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary then gone on to win the White House.

Patrick Jennings is a junior economics major from Melbourne, Fla. He can be reached at p.a.jennings@tcu.edu.

TOBY TRUBIANE
SBK



Homosexuals should be able to marry

Marriage in America is about as sacred as our freedom to divorce, but this sacred sentiment is continually used as a defense against homosexual marriages. The government contends that allowing homosexuals to openly legalize the love they already outwardly express is wrong, because it contradicts social norms.

Just for the record, homosexuality can hardly be considered taboo. Television shows like NBC's "Will and Grace" and Showtime's "The L Word" openly discuss homosexuality. Howard Stern banks on his lesbian interviews and make-out sessions.

Homosexuals hold steady jobs, own homes and cars, and go to school. Heck, they even vote! If we had always kept such a strong hold on social norms, there would have never been a civil rights or women's suffrage movement. Perhaps for some those were radical changes as well, but culture is meant to evolve in order to survive.

Connie Mackey of the Family Research Council criticized a Massachusetts court which ruled in November that bans on gay marriages are unconstitutional. Mackey argued that culture historically defines family as one man and one woman with the purpose of raising children. Unfortunately, she does not discuss the rights of other less controversial cultural deviants: single parents, couples unable to have children or even couples that don't want children.

Elizabeth Birch, director of the Human Rights Campaign, told CNN the courts are not obligated to support the popular vote. She reminded us that the purpose of the constitution is to protect minority groups from the wrath of the majority. Especially when the majority is the hypocritical American public.

President Bush commented on his resolution to defend the sanctity of marriage in his State of the Union speech, which came after the court ruling. His stance is based solely on the issue of homosexual marriages. Bush doesn't seem concerned with the majority of married couples who divorce or commit adultery or abuse their spouses. Somehow these discretions don't seem to break the sanctity of marriage.

Stanley Kurtz of "The Weekly Standard" argues against gay marriages because of what it might lead to. Legalizing gay marriages would be the slippery slope to legalizing polygamy and group marriage, Kurtz said. But gay marriage will not lead to the slippery slope. The slippery slope has already begun. It started when we separated church from state. It started when we stopped defining moral values for the nation. It started when we allowed people the freedom to express themselves — their minds, their hearts, their rights.

But all this presupposes the bigger issue of the government's right to involve in marriage at all. Marriage is only sacred because it is an oath between two people and occasionally their God. The government's consent does not make it sacred, only legal. Allowing the government to pick and choose which types of marriages are lawful gives them the right to say who we can and cannot rightfully love. If two people are willing to make such a serious commitment, legalities become mere technicalities. It won't stop the cultural change, and it is sad that the government would even try.

Sarah Chacko is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Fort Worth. She can be reached at s.e.chacko@tcu.edu.

Addiction to cell phones detracts from reality, increases accidents

The advent of the modern cell phone could be one of the most monumental inventions of our generation. It seems like everyone has one nowadays, from kindergartners to grandparents.

I myself am no exception. It goes with me everywhere — the store, the car, the bathroom — becoming a large part of myself, really. I think I'm to the point where I realize it is a problem, but have no desire to remedy it.

If there's a 12-step program for cell phone addiction, I doubt I would be making any progress. A hard lesson learned after I received my first bill.

Unfortunately, I had the opportunity to experience exactly how attached I really am a few weeks ago when I left my precious baby in a friend's

car, unbeknownst to me. If I told you that I was a bit frazzled, it would be the understatement of the century.

Crying and praying desperately is closer to the truth, but I try to preserve my dignity where I can.

I quickly became panic-stricken, worried that my friends and family wouldn't be able to get in touch with me in case of an emergency.

Thoughts of accidents, heart attacks, terrorism, natural disasters and general death and destruction raced through my head. I just knew that at that moment my entire family was lying in a ditch, their lives slipping away as their bloody fingers vainly attempted to contact me.

Cell phones are quickly replacing land lines, and with all of our numbers programmed into the phone itself, the fate of our communication destinies lie solely upon one shrinking technological advancement.

Just walk down any street and it becomes alarmingly clear the magnitude of this societal trend. On either side of you, pedestrians speedily pass, zoned in on their own personal conversations. Every few seconds you can hear a different ring tone blaring, with everyone hastily fishing for their phones just to be sure it isn't for them.

It's like a cellular war zone out there, fu-

eled by our personal weapons of minimal destruction.

The New England Journal of Medicine published a study in 1997 attributing a quadrupled risk of death with cell phone use while driving.

Yeah, that's four times, folks, and yet we continue to do nothing. While many European countries have required the use of hands-free headsets or banned cell phone use altogether for motor vehicle drivers, the United States has no such legislation in place.

And the situation appears to be getting worse. Recently, universities have had to ban cell phones due to cheating via text messaging. Then there's that big to-do with picture phones and privacy. And what about surfing the World Wide Web while checking your voicemail ... while driving.

But cell phones themselves are not the problem. It's when we, the American "we can do whatever we want

with our freedom" citizens, get our greedy little hands on this novel technology and choose to use it irresponsibly, that the trouble arises.

It is a trend that applies to so many aspects of American culture. Someone gives us a seemingly harmless, wonderful technological advancement, one that, in this case, promises to connect us in ways never before thought possible, and what do we do? We find a way to abuse it.

You could also say the same things about the Internet, SUVs or television — all aimed to make our lives easier and more enjoyable, yet within a few years they become the scapegoats for societal problems like obesity, war, pornography and the like.

Certainly, it's the television that makes us fat, the Internet is responsible for the corruption of our nation's children and above all, the cell phone is to blame for our terrible driving.

Now, doesn't it feel good to know what is causing all of our problems?

Erin Simovic is a columnist for the OSU Daily Barometer at Oregon State University. This column was distributed by U-Wire.

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NEWS DIGEST

4 Thursday, January 29, 2004

QUICK FACTS



Election update

The latest news from the campaign trail

Democrats vie for next primaries

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. John Kerry lined up fresh endorsements from the Democratic establishment Wednesday and launched campaign commercials in the next round of primary states as he sought to capitalize on a smashing victory in the New Hampshire primary.

"I still have the same underdog mentality," Kerry said as he left Boston for Missouri, the first of seven states on a campaign itinerary leading to next week's round of balloting.

The undisputed front-runner in the Democratic presidential race, Kerry said he would stress health care and the economy. And in a job at President Bush, he said, "the administration owes us a full explanation" for the war in Iraq.

A total of 269 pledged delegates are at stake next week in primaries in Missouri, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Arizona and Delaware as well as caucuses in New Mexico and North Dakota.

After single-state contests in Iowa and New Hampshire, the candidates' travel schedules reflected the changed nature of the race. Kerry went first to Missouri, where Dick Gephardt's recent departure from the race created a wide-open race. Edwards started in South Carolina; Clark and Lieberman in Oklahoma.

After staying off the air last week except to advertise to New Hampshire voters, Kerry's campaign opened its checkbook to pay for commercials in each of the Feb. 3 states.

Dean shakes up campaign, replaces manager

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) — Howard Dean shook up his presidential campaign on Wednesday after absorbing back-to-back defeats, re-

placing his campaign manager with a longtime associate of former Vice President Al Gore to try and stabilize his faltering candidacy.

"Governor Dean asked Roy Neel to join the campaign CEO and Joe Trippi resigned as campaign manager," said Dean campaign spokeswoman Tricia Enright.

Dean offered Trippi a spot on the payroll as a senior adviser, a source said, but he decided to quit the campaign rather than accept the demotion.

In the call with lawmakers, Dean expressed his determination to remain in the race, and said he hopes to finish at least second in the upcoming round of primaries and caucuses.

At the same time, several lawmakers bluntly told the former Vermont governor that he needed to demonstrate his ability to win somewhere — and that second place wouldn't suffice. "He said he understood," said one lawmaker who was involved in the call.

Special election date set to fill Senate vacancy

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry on Wednesday set Feb. 17 as the special election runoff date to fill state Senate seats left vacant by the resignations of Republicans Bill Ratliff and Teel Bivins.

The early voting period begins Feb. 9 and ends Feb. 13.

In the northeast Texas District 1 race to replace Ratliff, former state Rep. Paul Sadler, D-Henderson, will face Kevin Eltife, a former Tyler mayor endorsed by fellow Republicans Perry and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst.

The winner will serve the rest of Ratliff's term, which expires in 2007.

In West Texas, Kel Seliger, who served four terms as mayor of Amarillo, will face fellow Republican and Odessa businessman Kirk Edwards in the District 31 election.

The winner will replace Bivins, who resigned after he was nominated by President Bush to serve as ambassador to Sweden. The winner also will have to run again in the March primary and the November general election because Bivins' term expires this year.

The runoffs between the top two candidates in each race were forced when no one got a majority of votes in the Jan. 20 special election.

National/International Roundup

Feds to audit Lockheed Martin

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — Federal elections officials will audit Lockheed Martin's political action committee after the defense contractor accused a former employee of embezzling \$170,000 from the fund.

For two years beginning November 2001, the committee's assistant treasurer wrote himself checks and made it appear they had been sent to political candidates, Lockheed spokesman Tom Jurkowski said Wednesday.

The employee, fired earlier this month, intercepted several letters from the Federal Elections Commission noting discrepancies in the PAC's filings and those of political candidates who never received the money, Jurkowski said.

Lockheed discovered the problem when the FEC called the employee's supervisor to report that its letters had gone unanswered.

NASA releases new Mars pics

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) —

NASA on Wednesday released the first color photographs taken by the rover Opportunity of layers of martian rock that could indicate whether the outcropping on the Red Planet was formed by water.

"Some of the detail you can see in here is pretty phenomenal," Jim Bell, lead scientist for the panoramic camera on the rover, said while displaying several of the photos.

The horizontally striped and fractured slabs of bedrock are just a short drive from where the six-wheeled robot sits atop its lander.

Opportunity should be able to reconstruct the geologic events that created the fine layers with its complement of scientific instruments.

Bell said scientists have no direct information on the composition of the rocks. But the photos will help them decide where to send the rover.

Among other things, the images could show lava flows or sediment

deposits that could have been borne by wind or water, he said.

Columbia memorials proposed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison on Wednesday introduced a bill seeking \$5 million to construct three memorials along the space shuttle Columbia recovery corridor in East Texas.

The legislation would authorize \$5 million for fiscal 2004 to establish three memorials under the National Park System on parcels of land in Hemphill, Lufkin and Nacogdoches, communities that received a large part of Columbia debris.

"These memorials will be a fitting tribute to the seven heroes whose lives were lost, and pay homage to the communities and Texans that came together to help in the recovery efforts," the senator said in a statement.

Rep. Jim Turner, D-Texas, will introduce companion legislation in the House.

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TODAY:
High: 55 Low: 43
Mostly Sunny

THURSDAY:
High: 59 Low: 32
Cloudy

On This Day

1861 — Kansas became the 34th state.
1999 — The U.S. Senate delivered subpoenas for Monica Lewinsky and two presidential advisers for private, videotaped testimony in the impeachment trial.

ETC.

Thursday, January 29, 2004



Purple Poll

Should TCU go to Mountain West?

Yes 59 No 41

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.

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To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.
Aries (March 21-April 19) Today is a 6 — You could gather in a lot of cash if you focus on business now. Not only is more work coming your way, but it looks as if it pays pretty well. Accept an opportunity, even if friends think you aren't ready.
Taurus (April 20-May 20) Today is a 9 — Take a stand, hold your ground and put up a good fight. You have friends and others on your side. If you don't agree with a philosophy that you think has big holes, don't pretend.
Gemini (May 21-June 21) Today is a 5 — It's not a good day to travel or to send out messages. There's apt to be a lot of confusion out there. Tomorrow is a safer bet.
Cancer (June 22-July 22) Today is an 8 — Schedule meetings to review plans for your next adven-

ture. It'll be easy to see things that might not work and then find ways around them.
Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is a 6 — Your forward motion has been impeded, but don't despair. After you pass this exam, you may find that you've gained more authority. Look sharp.
Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is an 8 — Start fantasizing about the vacation that you and your loved one will take. Is it a first or second honeymoon? Why not? But don't go quite yet.
Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is a 6 — Truth is, you only like the most beautiful, and usually the most expensive, things. But you can shop carefully and find bargains. That would be wise.
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is a 7 — Parts of today could be pretty rough, but the outcome is positive. Having a cheerful attitude helps, as does having a playful companion.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is a 7 — You'll have to change your plans as you go along and discover reality. That's just the way it is when you're being creative. Don't let it slow you down.
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a 9 — You may not be able to buy everything a loved one deserves. Don't feel bad about it. Instead, give them more of your time. That's more valuable, anyway.
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is a 6 — Take some of your recent earnings and invest them in something that will keep you strong. Get yourself something that will be healthy for you.
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 7 — You're quite a sweetie — that's public opinion, anyway. But don't let yourself be bullied by a person who sometimes seems as cold as ice. Let your love teach that person a lesson.

— courtesy of KRT

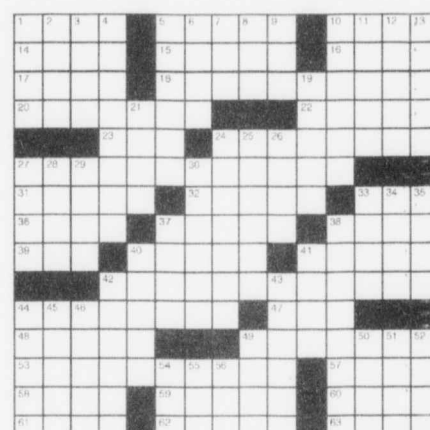
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Today's crossword sponsored by

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- ACROSS
 1 Hair line
 5 Played a role
 10 Cicatrix
 14 Nondairy spread
 15 Yankee manager Joe
 16 Tibetan monk
 17 Burn a bit
 18 Heavyweight with a horn
 20 Topography
 22 Ease off
 23 Academic URL ending
 24 Windshield cleaners
 27 Popular babysitters
 31 Lash marks
 32 "Superman" star
 33 Alfred E. Neuman's mag
 35 Eye's grandson
 37 Father's
 38 Cabbie's passenger
 39 Born in Cannes
 40 Jolly pirate's name?
 41 Finnish bath
 42 Deejay's workplace
 44 Leitch and Bailey
 47 River island
 48 Wear away
 49 Against the law
 53 "Five Easy Pieces" actress
 57 Post-it message
 58 Polyester Roper
 59 Free-for-all
 60 Black to Blake
 61 Dead and Red
 62 Bizarre
 63 Gets darker



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01/29/04

Wednesday's Solutions

- 8 Sea eagle
 9 volente
 10 Visits dreamland
 11 blanche
 12 Love in Lille
 13 Coarse flies
 19 Boothe Luce
 21 Appends
 24 Audio gear
 25 Rabs
 26 Guns in neutral
 27 Dancer Vardon
 28 Actress Russo
 29 Moisturizer ingredient
 30 Genesis
 33 Hawaiian island
 34 River under the Ponte Vecchio
 35 College official
 37 Word before jerk or pop
 38 Made plump
 40 Poe bird
 41 Spanker or jib
 42 Bronco-busting events
 43 Snatched
 44 Fake-out moves
 45 Pope's fanon
 46 Bellini opera
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 50 Mongolian desert
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 52 SLR part
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Sideline

Hockey star ready for a comeback

Dany Heatley's body has healed. His heart is another matter.

It's only been four months since that awful night — enough time, amazingly, for his right knee to mend from surgery, but hardly long enough to get over the pain of losing a friend.

Heatley's return to the ice comes nearly four months to the day that his sports car slammed into a wall with teammate Dan Snyder riding in the passenger seat.

The car split in two, flinging both players to the road. Heatley broke his jaw, injured a shoulder and tore up his knee. Snyder had severe brain injuries and held on for six days before he died without ever regaining consciousness.

After knee surgery, grueling rehab and a much-quicker-than-expected recovery, Heatley will try to jump back on his rising star while lugging the burden of Snyder's death.

Heatley's case is helped by two factors: He consumed only a small amount of alcohol before the wreck — far below the legal limit — and Snyder's family has forgiven the player, saying he shouldn't be held criminally responsible.

The Thrashers insist Heatley's knee is 100 percent, but no one disputes he'll need time to get into game condition, to reclaim the timing and touch that made him a star.

Fortunately for Heatley, his comeback begins with two home games. On the road, Heatley is sure to be reminded of that awful night four months ago.

Heatley's return comes at an opportune time for the Thrashers, who are contending for the first playoff berth in franchise history but have struggled over the past month.

— The Associated Press

Coach will resign because of health

Utah basketball coach Rick Majerus was hospitalized with heart problems and will resign after the season, the school announced Wednesday.

Majerus, 55, felt chest pains Tuesday night and contacted a cardiologist in Santa Barbara, Calif., where he went for treatment.

Majerus led the team to the 1998 NCAA championship game, where it lost to Kentucky.

Majerus, 323-95 since being hired by Utah in 1989, has taken extended leaves twice before for health reasons.

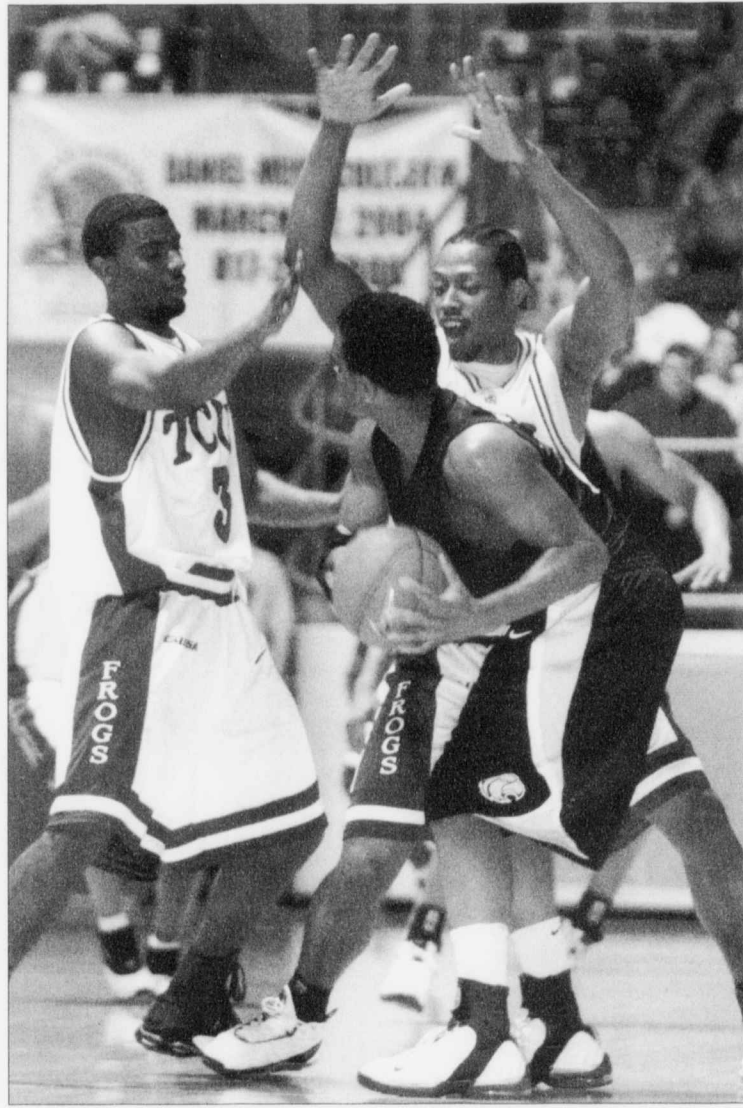
He coached just six games in his first season before having heart bypass surgery in December 1989. He coached one game in the 2000-01 season before leaving to deal with health issues and care for his ailing mother.

In the 1990s, Utah ranked eighth in Division I in victories (250) and winning percentage (.767). The team has made 10 trips to the NCAA tournament under Majerus.

Before Utah, Majerus coached at Marquette from 1983-86, and at Ball State from 1987-89. He was an assistant coach with the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks in the 1986-87 season.

— The Associated Press

Fresh Frogs top Golden Eagles



Juniors Corey Santee and Aaron Curtis double team a Southern Miss defender Wednesday night in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum. The Frogs won 79-67.

Ty Hulasz/Staff Photographer

Behind a career night from Marcus Shropshire, the Frogs blew Southern Miss out of Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

By Brent Yarina
Sports Editor

A little bit of rest proved to be the perfect medication for the Horned Frogs Wednesday night.

Eight days removed from their last game, junior guards Marcus Shropshire and Corey Santee took full advantage of their fresh bodies, combining for 48 points to lead the Frogs (7-10, 3-3 Conference USA) past Southern Mississippi 79-67 at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

"I liked getting the time off because as a group we needed some time to regroup and just look at what was ahead of us," Santee said.

Shropshire agreed the time off was beneficial for the team because it allowed the Frogs some time to just relax and get back to playing their brand of basketball.

"Eight days off was nice for us so we could relax and rest a little bit," Shropshire said. "(The break) let us just sit and think about what we needed to do tonight. Coach stressed a lot about playing hard and playing with a lot of confidence and that's what we did tonight."

Based on these two Frogs' performances, the confidence level appears to be sky high.

Shropshire scored a career-high 29 points, shooting 8-of-19 from the field, and Santee put in another all-around performance with 19 points, three rebounds and eight assists against a Golden Eagles team that was bigger than the Frogs at every position.

Santee's eight assists were impressive, but it was his ballhandling — he had zero turnovers — that prevented USM from making any sort of serious comeback.

The Golden Eagles had only one lead the entire night, which lasted a total of 46 seconds, at 2-0. That lead was quickly erased by a Chudi Chinweze jumper and a Nucleus Smith layup, however.

And with 18:27 remaining in the first half, the Frogs took their first lead of the game, a lead they would never relinquish.

Head coach Neil Dougherty also credited the team's eight day rest to his players' performances Wednesday night.

"(The long break) is unusual," Dougherty said. "It's only bad if you're playing well. Well, we weren't playing well, so we worked with Santee and tried to get him shooting the ball better."

"He wasn't playing great basketball. I have to cut his minutes back so he can stay fresh. I got to do a better job of that."

The Frogs may have been in control the entire game, but they could not keep the bigger and stronger Golden Eagles' star players from having big nights.

Senior forward Charles Gaines, who entered the game averaging 14.8 points and 9.8 rebounds, collected a double-double, scoring 20 points and grabbing 14 boards.

Sophomore forward Jasper Johnson presented matchup problems for TCU all over the court, too. He put in his best statistical game of the season with 22 points and nine rebounds.

Despite giving up these two big performances to USM, the Frogs say they just want to savor this victory, which put them at .500 in C-USA, for a few days.

"It's real good," Santee said. "It's fun. We have as many wins right now in conference than we did all last year."

Dougherty said he wants his players to enjoy this victory but that they must get back to the practice floor so they can prepare for a talented Memphis club Saturday afternoon.

"We're going right back to work," Dougherty said. "We have a few miles left to catch up to the top teams in the conference."

Brent Yarina
b.j.yarina@tcu.edu

New coach, players keep baseball team optimistic

Fresh faces will fill the Horned Frogs' dugout, but the team is expecting big things in its second season at Lupton Stadium.

By Evan Erwin
Staff Writer

The TCU baseball team hosted media day Wednesday to discuss the upcoming season and introduce the new people in the program.

Among the new faces in the dugout is head coach Jim Schlossnagle. Schlossnagle comes from a head coaching position with the UNLV Rebels. While at UNLV, Schlossnagle managed to turn the program around from a record of 7-21 the year before he arrived, to a record of 47-17 over two years. That performance in 2003 earned him Mountain West Coach of the Year honors.

Also among the new faces in the dugout are some players who won't spend much of their season riding the pine in the dugout.

"We are talented, but we are just

young," said Schlossnagle. "I have been surprised by some of our young players."

Some of these talented young players are freshman talents German Duran, Shelby Ford, Chad Huffman, and Austin Adams.

German Duran is a graduate of Fort Worth's Paschal High, just a few blocks from the stadium. He was named first-team all-state for three years as a shortstop. Duran has the chance to be the best I've ever coached at his position," said Schlossnagle.

Shelby Ford is also a local boy, from Fort Worth's Southwest High. Schlossnagle spoke highly of Ford.

"Shelby can really play anywhere and help us out," Schlossnagle said.

Another freshman that looks ready to make an impact on TCU's squad is Henderson native Austin Adams.

"Austin Adams is really athletic, and if we start the season today he will play right field," Schlossnagle said.

Chad Huffman was a TPX preseason

"We are talented, but we are just young," said Schlossnagle. "I have been surprised by some of our young players."

Jim Schlossnagle
head coach

All-American his senior year at Elkins High before he broke his arm after playing only 12 games.

"Chad Huffman has the chance to be as good a college hitter as there is at his age," he said. "Chad can really swing it and if he isn't hitting third, he'll hit fourth."

As far as familiar faces go, there are only two that return with significant experience. Those players are Chris Neuman and Clayton Jerome.

Neuman is the only player who saw consistent starting time to return from last year's squad. He led the team with 16

home runs last year en route to a first-team all Conference-USA selection.

Neuman had nothing but good things to say about the Frog's new coach.

"Schlossnagle is a hands on guy who teaches everybody; pitchers, catchers, and hitters," Neuman said. "Coach (Lance) Brown just sat around and watched and didn't really teach us much, but coach Schlossnagle knows a lot about the game."

Jerome was C-USA Pitcher of the Year last season and is picked by the coaches to retain his title. Jerome also spoke highly of the Schlossnagle and the upcoming season.

"We have been working hard all fall for this upcoming season, and really it just can't get here fast enough. We are all ready to play," Jerome said.

TCU is scheduled to start their season at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5 at Lupton Stadium.

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INVITATION

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to other conference schools to play. Sports such as track and field, tennis, and golf compete in regional meets.

Hyman said one of the benefits of joining the Mountain West could be an increase in TV revenue. The current Mountain West contract, reportedly worth \$48 million over seven years with ESPN, will expire in 2006. The conference will be able to renegotiate a deal long before Conference USA's \$80

million, eight-year contract expires in 2009.

Roach said the Board has been conducting an ongoing review of the conference situation, and Hyman has helped keep the Board informed on all aspects involved in joining the Mountain West. He said it would take a majority vote from the Board to approve

the conference change.

"Eric Hyman has spent a lot of time on all the issues related to the conferences, and the administration is very informed," Roach said.

If the move to the Mountain West is approved, it would be TCU's fourth conference in 10 years. The university

has been on an odyssey since the Southwest Conference dissolved in 1995. TCU joined the Western Athletic Conference in 1996 and left for Conference USA after the 2000-01 season.

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MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE

Introducing the teams

School	Air Force	Brigham Young	Colorado State	New Mexico	San Diego State	University of Nevada-Las Vegas	Utah	Wyoming
Enrollment	4,000	32,122	23,934	24,250	34,171	24,000	28,300	12,766
Location	Colorado Springs, Colo.	Provo, Utah	Fort Collins, Colo.	Albuquerque, N.M.	San Diego, Cal.	Las Vegas, Nev.	Salt Lake City, Utah	Laramie, Wyo.
SI rank*	109	28	68	93	126	98	65	180
Notable	All 4,000 cadets march on field at every football game	Only school in MWC to have won a national championship in football (1984)	Lost to TCU in 2002 Liberty Bowl	Katie Hnida became the first woman to play in a Division I-A football game	Former San Diego Padre Tony Gwynn is baseball coach	Strength coach Mark Philippi holds America's Strongest Man title	Dorms were location of Olympic village	Nation's highest campus (7,220 feet)

*Ranking compiled by Sports Illustrated in their "America's Best Sports Colleges" ranking.