

HERE COME THE FANS
Daniel-Meyer Coliseum could see more fans after the success of the men's basketball team

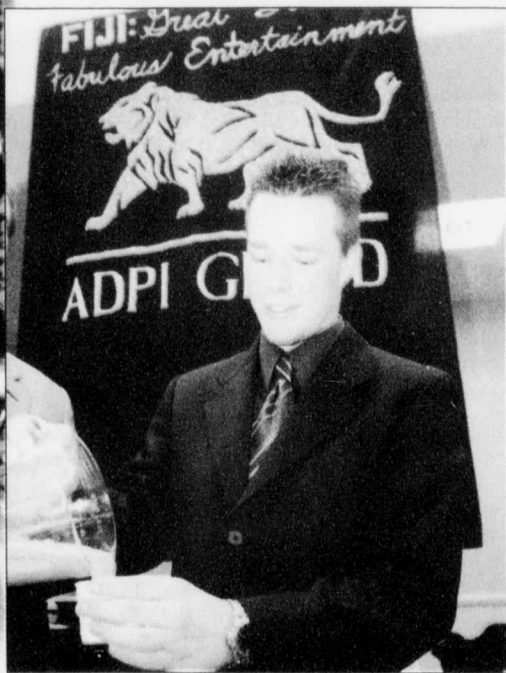
ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE — BUT GOOD GIFTS HELP
Find out which gifts will send your special Valentine's heart soaring

TCU DAILY SKIFF

Serving Texas Christian University since 1962

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alpha delta pi mardigras MOCKTAILS BLEND-OFF



Photos by Ty Hulasz/Staff Photographer

(Left) Fiji brother Bill Morrison, a senior broadcast journalism major, fills a cup with the Fiji specialty at the Alpha Delta Pi Mocktail Blend-off. (Right) Zeta sisters Leslie Winchell and Taryn Woods mix and blend the golden creation of ZTA in the Student Center Ballroom.

ADPi 'Mocktail' shakes up Student Center

By Stacey Grant
Staff Reporter

The Student Center Ballroom may never be the same after being crowded with pirates, old men and cocktail waitresses all making non-alcoholic beverages at Alpha Delta Pi's fourth annual "Mocktails Blend-Off" Thursday night.

Liz Byrd, ADPi Vice President and event chairwoman, said the night was an overall success. The sorority reached their goal of \$1,000 through entry fees, T-shirt sales and student voting to benefit the Ronald McDonald House charities, she said.

"One of the reasons we have this event is to raise awareness on campus about the dangers of drinking and driving, and to raise

money for the Ronald McDonald charity," Byrd said.

Representatives from 18 different fraternities, sororities and other student organizations competed by creating their own non-alcoholic drink. Each team of four was judged according to taste, presentation, creativity and spirit, said Byrd.

Phi Gamma Delta walked away the grand prize winner for their casino-like exhibit and mixed fruity drink, "Four Aces." The team won a trip to Breckenridge, Colo., Byrd said.

Other winners were Delta Gamma for second place, Delta Tau Delta for third and Pi Kappa Phi for the spirit award, Byrd said.

The second place team took home a paid party at Billy Bob's, the third place team won

a dinner for the team and eight other members, and the spirit winner got a trophy, Byrd said.

Jennifer McCarthy, a junior English major and bartender for Kappa Kappa Gamma, said she participated in the event because it was a chance for different organizations to get together and have fun in a safe way.

Trooper Lonny Haschel from the Department of Public Safety spoke briefly on the dangers of drinking and driving.

"With Spring Break coming up, students need to remember to give up their keys if they've had even one drink," Haschel said.

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Sprinkle cedes standing in church region

The petition of Brite's director of field education was denied in the 48th Judicial District Court Thursday.

By Elizabeth Bassett
Staff Reporter

The Brite Divinity School administrator who accused the Christian Church's Southwest Region of discrimination resigned his standing in the region Thursday, saying a church investigation into sexual misconduct allegations was not proceeding fairly.

The attorney for Stephen Sprinkle, Brite's director of field education, made the announcement during a hearing for his petition requesting depositions of church members in the 48th Judicial District Court. Judge David Evans denied the petition to investigate whether defaming claims were made against Sprinkle and whether there was a conspiracy to interfere with his employment at Brite.

"Because of clear indications that I will not be able to have a fair and just hearing before the Committee, I have taken the only option I have remaining to me," Sprinkle said in the letter to the Regional Committee on the Ministry.

"I do not renounce my ordination in any way," Sprinkle's letter says. Bryan Feille, Brite associate dean of student affairs, said a minister who no longer has standing is no longer authorized by the Region to serve in the ministry.

It was unclear Thursday if or how the resignation would affect his position as director of field education at Brite. Numerous efforts to contact Brite president Newell Williams were unsuccessful.

The letter also says that Sprinkle learned the Church's two-person investigating team recommended the proceedings against him be dropped. The Regional leadership

(More on SPRINKLE, page 2)

Sports panel focuses on media influence

Four prominent figures in intercollegiate athletics spoke about the ethical issues athletes, coaches and administrators face.

By Gabe Wicklund
Skiff Staff

Reality TV is one of the most popular kinds of shows on television, but "the real reality TV is athletics," NCAA President Myles Brand said Thursday at a panel discussion on sports ethics.

People like to see others compete in strange situations, and that is what is compelling about athletics,

Brand said. The prevalence of media has dramatically changed intercollegiate athletics, he said.

"I think there has been a dramatic change in intercollegiate athletics and the way college is affected within approximately the last decade, and the reason for that, really, is the explosion of media," he said.

Brand was part of a forum called Ethical Issues in College Athletics that also featured University of Texas at Austin football coach Mack Brown.

(More on ETHICS, page 2)

Bellaire apartments to be torn down

Student residents have until May 15 to move out.

By Kristy Cubstead
Staff Reporter

Bellaire House Condominium residents received a letter stating that they must soon vacate from Award Co. Realtors and Property Management, the company that manages the condominiums.

TCU owns the complex and will be tearing it down this summer, likely turning it into extra parking spaces until the university decides what to do with the property, said Don Mills, vice chancellor for student affairs.

Mills said TCU has not officially

decided to turn the land into parking, but it will make its final decision within the next 10 days. If it does become a parking lot, it should contain about 400 spaces, he said.

"It will not forever be parking because it is too valuable of land just to be parking," Mills said.

It could take up to two years before TCU decides what to permanently do with the land, Mills said. Some suggestions for the land are a hotel, a student residential complex or an academic building, he said.

According to a letter sent by Award Co. Realtors and Property

Management, residents must vacate before midnight April 30, 2004.

However, Mills sent a letter to all student residents giving them until May 15, at no additional charge, to move out. About two-thirds of the condominium residents are TCU students, and Mills said none of them will be forced to move before the semester is finished.

Senior dance major Juliana Williams moved into the condominiums in January. She said the management company told her she would not live there for more than six months.

Mills said no residents will be

asked to move before their lease is up, because all residents are on a month-to-month lease. He said every resident received or will receive at least 60 days notice that he or she must move out.

Some residents were caught off guard.

"Most residents knew they would have to move out, but didn't know it would come so soon," said resident Sameer Bhatia, a senior finance and marketing major.

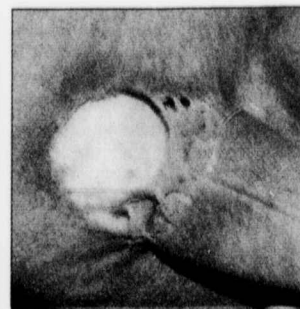
Mills said TCU has "offered to provide campus housing in the summer or next fall if they wish."

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Ty Hulasz/Staff Photographer
NCAA president Myles Brand, with former SEC commissioner Roy Kramer, weighs in on ethical issues in collegiate sports Thursday night in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

New menacing SuperFrog suit bought by SGA will be used by TCU Cheerleaders



Nicole Martinez/Staff Photographer

SGA has decided to buy a new SuperFrog suit because the current one is worn out.

The House of Student Representatives purchased a new SuperFrog suit for on-campus events.

By Matt Turner
Staff Reporter

SuperFrog will soon be sporting a more menacing face around campus because of a bill passed by the House of Student Representatives to help buy TCU Cheer a new mascot suit.

Cheerleading coach Jeff Tucker said the new suit is necessary be-

cause the two suits are 2 years old. He said the suits typically only last three years because of wear and tear. He said the new suit will be used exclusively for campus engagements, making the other two available for off-campus events to try to prolong their usefulness.

Tucker said he came to the House Finance Committee because the \$28,400 cheerleading budget doesn't allow enough funding for the new suit after paying for salaries, equipment, com-

petition fees and scholarships.

"I went to the sports marketing and athletic departments first and was respectfully told no," Tucker said.

Tim George, the director of sports marketing, said the suits usually come out of the cheerleading budget and sports marketing didn't have the funds to help them purchase the suit.

There are currently discussions in (More on SUPERFROG, page 2)

THE PULSE

Friday, February 13, 2004

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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 Moody 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.

• **English majors and minors** who wish to apply for Sigma Tau Delta (English Honor Society) may pick up applications in the English Department Office, Reed 314. The deadline for applications is noon today.

• **Did you wrestle in high school** or have any experience in the sport? Come to one of two interest meetings on forming a TCU Wrestling Club. The meetings will be at 4 p.m. today in the University Recreation Center Room 105. For more information contact Joe Bommarito at j.a.bommarito@tcu.edu.

• **The honor society for Pre Health Professions**, Alpha Epsilon Delta (Pre-Med), will be having a raffle to raise funds for its group to attend a convention in Washington D.C. during March 18-21. The raffle will be held from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Feb. 17, 18, and 19 in The Main. Drawing held Feb. 20. Tickets will be \$2 with many prizes such as dinners for two, a night's stay at the Courtyard Marriott, Stars, Brahmans and TCU baseball tickets with parking, and a TCU bar stool. More prizes include several Bianni salon gift certificates for massages, nails and hair.

• **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.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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Dallas billboards target Christian porn addicts

Posted billboards ask Christians to face their "secret sin" of looking at porn.

By Bobby Ross Jr.
Associated Press

DALLAS — Forget buying that special someone a diamond necklace or a heart-shaped box of chocolates this Valentine's Day.

A Dallas-based ministry thinks it has a better idea.

"Her gift for Valentines? Stop looking at porn," proclaim billboard messages posted by NetAccountability, a nonprofit software company that aims to help Christians confront the "secret sin" of pornography.

NetAccountability co-founders Brandon Cotter and Scott Covington say their target audience isn't those who see nothing wrong with perusing X-rated Web sites.

Rather, it's Christians caught up in a behavior their faith views as immoral — people such as pastor Bernie Anderson, who says addiction to sexually explicit images threatened his marriage and his ministry.

"It was like a double life," said Anderson, 33, who pastors Seventh-Day Adventist churches in DeSoto and Waxahachie near Dallas. "The most powerful thing about it is that it's a secret. Nobody knows but you ... so you're just kind of fighting yourself."

If national surveys are any indication, it's a personal battle waged by millions of Christians.

Almost 18 percent of people who called themselves born-again Christians admitted visiting Internet porn sites, according to a 2000 survey of 1,031 adults by the evangelical group Focus on the Family. In a 2002 Pastors.com survey, more than 50 percent of responding pastors reported viewing pornography in the previous year.

"It's definitely the church's dirty little secret," said Mike Foster, co-founder of the anti-porn site XXXChurch.com, which hosts online support groups for Christians trying to kick the habit.

About a year ago, Foster's site drew thousands of hits after a Southern California billboard facetiously invited motorists to check out "the No. 1 Christian porn site."

Similarly, Cotter and Covington say they hope NetAccountability's billboards will draw notice to an issue that many churches ignore — and offer help to Christians searching for it.

Cotter and Covington, both in their early 30s, left jobs in the technology field to start the ministry two and a half years ago, using personal money and grants from nonprofit foundations.

Since then, NetAccountability has sold more than 5,000 copies of software the pair developed that lets an "accountability partner" monitor the Web sites visited by the recovering porn user.

Partners receive log-on names and passwords that let them view the history of sites visited by the other person. NetAccountability stresses that the process is secure so that no one besides the agreed parties can access the information. The software sells for \$49 a year.

The billboards going up this week direct motorists to a Web site called PureRestoration.com. It touts "purity workshops" designed to help Christians for whom accountability software is not enough to overcome porn addictions.

"I've seen pornography impact guys all around me," Cotter said. "I've seen it tear up marriages, guys losing their jobs, all over the board. In a lot of cases, they were Christian guys going to church, with otherwise 'quote' normal lives."

Anderson certainly fit into that category. For 20 years — even as he attended seminary in Michigan and became a pastor — he found himself drawn to pornographic Web sites, movies and magazines.

In seminary, he'd get up at night, telling his wife he needed to study. Actually, he'd surf the Internet for porn.

Later, he'd spend hours accessing porn sites from the computer in his church office.

"Then there's the down side of it," Anderson said. "You go take a shower, clean up and say you'll never do it again. Yet the next day, you fall right back into it."

Last summer, the guilt and shame finally became too much for him to bear, he said.

SUPERFROG

From page 1

the athletic department about how to provide more financial support for TCU Cheer, he said.

Tucker said he was willing to pay for half of the suit with his own cheerleading salary if he absolutely had to, but requested the entire \$6,300 cost of the suit from the committee.

The committee decided to give \$3,000 for the suit because the full amount, \$6,300, is \$300 more than it has budgeted in the special projects fund for the entire semester, Treasurer David Watson said. The committee usually funds three or four special projects a semester, he said.

That proposal was amended during Tuesday's House meeting to

pay for the entire suit using "special projects" money that was not spent last semester. The bill was officially passed Thursday when available funding was confirmed by Watson, who said they still have \$5,700 for "special projects" this semester.

"In the future, the athletic department should fund this," Watson said at Tuesday's House meeting. "If suits have to be replaced every few years, it needs to be in their budget."

The consensus of the committee was that the donation would be visible to the student body and allows the other suits to go to more public functions and increase TCU's visibility in the community.

Previous suits have been funded with help from an outside donor and the House, which donated

\$4,000 for two suits in 1999 and \$1,000 for a suit in 1980, Watson said. Tucker said he didn't want to go to the donor, who he asked to remain anonymous, again because "you can only dip into that well so many times."

Tucker and his wife also purchased a suit and donated it to be used exclusively for Monday at TCU.

Tucker offered space on the new suit for a Student Government Association logo if it desired one, along with primary use of the costume for SGA events. House Adviser Larry Markley said Programming Council has tried to book SuperFrog several times in the last few years and couldn't get him.

Tucker said SuperFrog attended

456 events last year and was requested for 1,500. He said "the phone has been ringing off the hook" since the mascot appeared in Nokia commercials during the bowl season. It costs \$45 an hour to book SuperFrog. The money goes to the student inhabitant, according to the TCU Cheer Web site.

Tucker said the new suit, which was ordered six months ago, is almost finished, and will feature "a more menacing face that will add depth to the character."

He said the suit was ordered before they had the funds because they "needed it badly," and they were planning on doing a fundraiser to pay for the suit before they decided to talk to SGA.

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ETHICS

From page 1

Ohio State University athletics director Andy Geiger, and former Southeastern Conference Commissioner Roy Kramer. The event was moderated by Dutch Baughman, executive director of Division I-A Athletic Directors' Association.

Nearly a third of Daniel-Meyer Coliseum was filled with observers, mostly from the community.

Brand said media emphasis is put on fraud and misconduct in athlet-

ics. He said the variety of mediums and their desire for content has given publicity to things that may have been overlooked in the past.

Brand alluded to former Alabama football coach Mike Price. Price was fired after a scandal over his attendance at a topless bar.

"In the past, it probably would have never been found out," Brand said. "So it's not so much that the ethical challenges have been newly created, but rather that a lot of it has been much brighter than ever before."

Geiger said ethical decisions are being made in a different light and

news can expose mistakes more quickly.

"I think that it is really, really important when you have such a really large, impactful decision to make to surround yourself with the right stakeholders," Geiger said, "and to keep your group advising you very, very small and make sure stakeholders are stakeholders for the right reasons."

Kramer said leaders in intercollegiate athletics cannot base their decisions on the media's enormous spotlight. They need to act independently, he said.

"Sometimes in order to make

ethical decisions we have to almost react in a vacuum to understand what is right and to do what is right without overreacting," Kramer said.

Brown said it is important for athletes not to look to the Internet, newspaper or TV for advice. They should look to four or five people with integrity they respect, he said.

Integrity is "doing the right thing not because the circumstances demand," Brand said. "Not because there are your interests or other interests at stake, but because it is the right thing to do."

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SPRINKLE

From page 1



Sprinkle

ignored this recommendation, though, according to the letter.

Church officials have declined to comment on the findings of the investigating team.

Sprinkle had been the subject of investigations by Brite and the Southwest Region of the Church on allegations of sexual misconduct. Brite officials have said they are not currently investigating Sprinkle.

Sprinkle said he was barred in January from serving on a committee interviewing ordination candidates because he is gay.

Because of Sprinkle's resignation, the church investigation of sexual misconduct will probably be

halted, Ed Coble, attorney for the Christian Church, said in court. Sprinkle was subject to the Region's policies and procedures of investigation because he was a minister with standing in the Region, he testified.

Coble told Evans the petition could not get information about the Regional investigation because it is a church matter. Sprinkle's petition appears to have been filed in response to the investigation, Coble said.

Richard Griffin, Sprinkle's attorney, said the depositions could have turned up information that is not church-related. If depositions could be taken, he said in court, he could obtain any information not church-related.

"I believe we have a very strong First Amendment issue," Evans said.

Coble said in court he did not see any evidence of a conspiracy

against Sprinkle's employment.

"There's nothing about Dr. Sprinkle's employment, that we know, that's been changed by anything said," Coble testified.

Coble testified that as far as he knew, Sprinkle was still employed by Brite.

Brite attorney Rory Divin attended the hearing but did not participate. Evans asked him if Sprinkle is still employed by Brite, and Divin confirmed from the audience.

"My client's employment at Brite is not as secure as it once was," Griffin testified.

That seems speculative, Evans told Griffin.

Two witnesses were called forward by Griffin and testified. Griffin said in court that the testimonies were to prove the person who filed charges against Sprinkle was making a personal attack because he didn't like Sprinkle and was conspiring with church members to

damage Sprinkle's career.

Heather Patriacca, a Brite student, said in her sworn testimony that the student who accused Sprinkle of sexual misconduct told her he was unhappy with his ordination interview session in September, when Sprinkle was a part of the interviewing committee. The accuser told her he was approached by people in the regional church regarding his session but did not specify who approached, she testified.

Tammy Wynn, also a Brite student, said in her testimony she was contacted because she was present at the event where the alleged sexual misconduct took place. The accuser told her he wanted Sprinkle's standing removed because he felt Sprinkle was unethical and tried to insinuate an apology for the misconduct during the interview, she testified.

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Security issues lead to canceled flights

British Airways flights to Washington were scrapped over security fears.

By Jill Lawless
Associated Press

LONDON — A much-disrupted British Airways flight from London to Washington, D.C. has been canceled again over security fears, an airline representative said Thursday.

British Airways said Flight 223 from Heathrow to Washington's Dulles Airport would not fly on the coming Sunday. Monday's Flight 263 from London to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia also was scrapped.

The airline said the decision "follows government advice to cancel those flights for security reasons." The 184 people booked on the Washington flight and 149 Riyadh passengers would be rebooked on other flights or given a refund, the airline representative said.

BA said the return flights to London would operate as scheduled.

Flight 223 has been delayed or canceled eight

previous times this year because of U.S. security alerts. Saudi flights also have been canceled several times.

Officials in Britain have refused to say what intelligence prompted them to advise cancellation of the BA flights, but U.S. authorities have spoken of a "specific and credible" terrorist threat to international flights.

Dennis Murphy, a spokesman for U.S. Department of Homeland Security, said the decision to cancel the flight was based on British intelligence, but that U.S. intelligence officials had shared information.

Murphy said the United States had "specific and credible" threat information for the flights currently canceled.

Disruption to flight 223 began Dec. 31, when the plane was kept on the tarmac at Dulles for several hours after landing, while U.S. authorities questioned passengers and crew.

BA scratched the same service the following two days and several times after that, most recently on

Feb. 2. When the flight has gone ahead, it has sometimes been delayed for hours for stringent checks on passengers. The carrier's two other daily flights to Washington have not been affected.

Last August, BA suspended service to Saudi Arabia, where the British government warns of "a continuing threat of terrorism," after local authorities broke up a cell that reportedly was plotting an attack on a British plane. Service was restored in September.

Several Paris-based Air France flights to the United States and a Continental Airlines Glasgow-to-Los Angeles flight also have been canceled in the past few weeks.

Air France said Thursday that its flights were running normally and there had been no cancellations for security reasons.

Some European officials have questioned the need for the flight disruptions, and Britain's pilots' union has expressed concern over the "erratic" nature of the intelligence leading to the cancellations.

Bush hampers CIA improvement, says former inspector

As Bush and Rumsfeld hold out hope for Iraqi nuclear weapons to be found, intelligence lacks resources.

By KEN GUGGENHEIM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is hampering efforts to improve intelligence by clinging to the false hope that weapons of mass destruction may be found in Iraq, the former chief U.S. weapons inspector said Thursday.

"My only serious regret about the continued holding on to the hope that eventually we'll find it is that it eventually allows you to avoid the hard steps necessary to reform the process," David Kay said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Since resigning last month, Kay

has repeatedly said U.S. intelligence was wrong in claiming that Saddam Hussein had stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons and advanced nuclear weapons programs. Those programs were the main justification for the Iraq war.

President Bush and other officials insist weapons could still be discovered. In an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press" last weekend, Bush said, "They could be hidden, they could have been transported to another country." Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has also said he believes weapons could still be uncovered.

Kay said the administration could fear the political costs of acknowledging error. "I suspect if I had their jobs I'd probably, to keep my sanity, be an eternal optimist about some

things," he said.

Kay stepped down from his role as CIA adviser for the weapons search after the military diverted resources from the search to bolster security for troops and fight insurgents. He described a constant battle to keep his staff of 1,400, in which he initially prevailed but began to lose ground in the fall. He said he wasn't informed of the final changes until after the decision had been made.

Though he is persuaded that no large stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons existed, more work needs to be done to examine the foreign assistance Iraq received in its missile program, Kay said.

"These same people are likely helping other countries trying to achieve missile programs," he said.

Kay said "the dominance of analytical opinion" was that two trailers

found in northern Iraq were meant to make hydrogen for balloons, not biological weapons.

Part of the problem, Kay said, was that the trailers had never been used for anything and that their equipment was not well suited for either hydrogen or biological weapons production.

Another issue was the discovery of thousands of high-strength aluminum tubes in Iraq. Before the war, Bush administration officials said those tubes were meant to be used in centrifuges to make nuclear bomb fuel out of uranium.

Although Tenet said the issue was still open, Kay said analysts have concluded Iraq had no active nuclear program.

"There's no substantial disagreement that there was no centrifuge program," Kay said.

The Skiff View

Superstition reigns on Friday the 13th

Ladders, black cats and hockey masks, oh my

Is everyone scared? If you aren't, you should be. Today is Friday the 13th and superstition has it that bad things will come your way.

Don't do anything stupid like walk under a ladder or open an umbrella inside. The rumors say that, if you do, you will have several years of bad luck.

For all you paraskevidekatriaphobes, those afraid of Friday the 13th or psychotic men with hockey masks, make sure to stay inside your room under the covers so nothing at all happens to you.

Christians have feared Fridays because things like Jesus being crucified, Eve eating the forbidden fruit and the Great Flood have supposedly happened on a Friday.

The fear of the number 13 came about because that's the number of witches in a coven, months in the pagan lunar calendar and the number of people at the Last Supper.

When these two elements mix, it becomes one of the scariest days of the year.

Friday and the number 13 are related to each other in capital punishment. Britain held public hangings on Fridays and the prisoner had to walk up 13 steps to get to the noose.

We learn from a young age to fear this day, and because of this, people look for bad things to happen on this day. If you fall down a flight of stairs, get robbed or eat a bug, you attribute this flaw in your day to the curse of Friday the 13th.

So make sure you don't let a black cat walk in front of you, make sure to bless everyone that sneezes and most definitely check behind you often, because you never know who or what may be there.

The Other View

Opinions from around the country

U.S. wars need justification

The United States should not go to war unless the call to arms is completely justified.

The 1970s military debacle of the Vietnam War showed the country that we shouldn't risk American lives unless there is an imminent threat to our country or to the world.

Before bringing the United States into the

Iraq conflict, President Bush tried to convince the country that such a threat existed.

He told the country how Saddam Hussein had stockpiled weapons of mass destruction and stressed the imminence of a pre-emptive strike.

The strategy worked. The plan to go to Iraq had bipartisan support.

Nearing the end of the conflict, it was clear that these weapons never existed. In recent months, leaders such as Secretary of State Colin Powell have been forced to concede that no such weapons are likely to be found in Iraq, while Bush dodges any questions about weapons of mass destruction.

Instead, the party line has shifted to the politically savvy stance of, "the world is a better

place without Saddam Hussein leading Iraq."

It's impossible to dispute this. But it's a distraction from the real issue: Was the war justified?

Of course it's great for the world to get rid of an insane dictator. But it's not worth risking American lives unless a threat to the safety of our

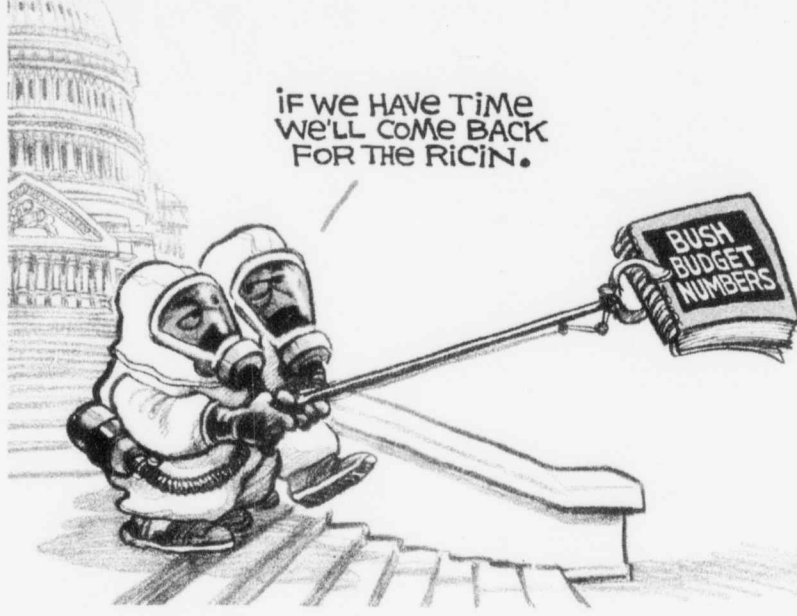
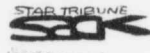
country exists. Hussein was a tyrannical dictator, but such dictators are not unique to Iraq. Just ask North Korea's Kim Jong

Il or the authoritarian leaders of many African countries.

The "world is a better place" argument doesn't provide much solace for the families of the nearly 300 American soldiers who died in Iraq — lives cut short for a cause that is more political than moral.

War is the most dangerous of human action, capable of ripping the world apart at the seams. Every time we take arms against another country under false pretenses, we come one step closer to permanently destroying the tenuous peace that exists in the world today.

Zack Hemenway is a columnist from the University Daily Kansan at the University of Kansas. This column was distributed by U-Wire.



Point/Counterpoint

Today's topic: Valentine's Day

Just give me a little love, please

Let me go ahead and immediately separate myself from the masses by saying that I love Valentine's Day. Yes, I have a girlfriend, but that in no way influences my view of Valentine's Day. In fact, my girlfriend hates Valentine's Day. So, even in my relationship, I am alone in

COMMENTARY



Braden Howell

my feelings.

For years, I have listened to people complain about what a terrible day Valentine's Day is. How it makes single people feel bad about being single, and how it forces people to be romantic for no specific reason. It comes as no surprise that I am once again surrounded by such rants.

A leading argument of the anti-Valentine's Day militants is that it puts pressure on men to be romantic. As a male, I can only respond with, "What is wrong with that?"

So what if men feel a little extra pressure to be romantic on Valentine's Day? If there's one thing the world, and more specifically relationships, could all use a little more of, it is love.

Let's face it, men are not always

on their most romantic behavior, so why is it so wrong for a man to go out of his way to be romantic on Valentine's Day?

And it doesn't need to be a one-sided thing either.

What is wrong with a woman taking the extra time on this one day of the year to be a little more romantic? I am sure men would love for their girlfriends to take a little extra time to do something special for them.

Too often Valentine's Day is used as a scapegoat. A time when you can requite for 364 days of lovelessness with one day of all-out, over-the-top romanticism.

This is unfortunate, but why should we punish the day of love because people try to make up for lost time? I firmly believe both men and women should be romantic as much as possible, but with so much going on and lives moving at 1,000 mph, what's wrong with holding on to one day when nothing else matters but love?

Barring the Valentine's Day haters, I don't know anyone who does not enjoy special occasions, and it boggles my mind that people could be so against a special occasion dedicated to love!

I know that many of the sentiments I express are not shared by other men, and obviously

even some women have their issues with Valentine's Day. To those people, I suggest it is time to think outside of the box, and look at Valentine's Day on a much grander scale.

Valentine's Day does not have to be all about relationships. I have been through many Valentine's without a girlfriend, 21 to be exact, and I have always loved this most amorous of days.

You do not need to be in love to be able to express love. Valentine's Day is a great day to remind your family how much you love them and your friends how much they mean to you. There is no Valentine's Day rulebook that says you can only express love to someone whom you are in love with.

Love is the greatest of all human emotions, and I believe everyone enjoys knowing that someone loves them. Valentine's Day evokes a wide array of emotions in people, but I can't help but think of a most appropriate line from one of my favorite movies, Moulin Rouge.

"The greatest thing you'll ever learn, is just to love, and be loved in return."

Associate Editor Braden Howell is a senior broadcast journalism major from Dallas. He can be reached at b.r.howell@tcu.edu.

Every day should be special

SportsCenter and Miller Lite.

What else could a guy want for Valentine's Day? Maybe Bud Lite to mix things up a bit and, well ... you know!

COMMENTARY



Catherine Pillsbury

I just don't see the need that it be on one specific day.

Valentine's has always been marketed as that "special day" to share with your lover, but how many guys really care about this day? Well, maybe one.

Let's face it, this day has always been for the women. With all the pinks and reds everywhere you look, how could it not be.

I always laughed at the girls in junior high who got a carnation and would flaunt it around. You know, you could buy a carnation from the SGA who sells them as a fund-raiser, and then have it sent to someone. Every girl who got one would carry it around the whole day to show that she was "special." When I got one, I was more embarrassed than flattered and it went straight in

my locker.

The point is, how many guys did you see carrying a carnation in junior high. None! Because they didn't care.

The girls acted as though they were the only ones who got a flower and told everyone about it's color, the ribbon, the note, even though we could see the darn flower because, yes, they were still holding it. The funny thing is, every other girl had a flower that looked the exact same with the same color ribbon.

People sell Valentine's to make it seem like it's so special when in fact, the day is just an aphrodisiac for those who are in a relationship.

However, if a guy does something random, let's say, for instance, on May 8 he brings his girlfriend flowers, it is so sweet and nice and she tells all her friends about this random act of kindness. They get jealous and tell her how lucky she is. He becomes a god! But if the same guy did the same thing on Valentine's Day, it's not enough! It's never enough, and the guy gets in trouble.

Valentine's has turned into a day for apologies and declarations. If the relationship is on the rocks, it's the day you try to salvage anything that was left of it. You'll tell them that you love them and that you really do care for them, but you

know it will get rocky again!

I know of a girl who waited until after Valentine's (so she could get the Tiffany's necklace she wanted) to break up with her boyfriend. Ouch! Guys, if you're gonna go expensive, make sure she at least likes you! I blame him for that one, idiot!

If your lover treated you right to begin with, there would really be no need for Valentine's Day, now would there?

Here my theory: All girls like flowers and nice things that are unexpected. Even me! But it's so much sweeter when it's not expected, unlike on Valentine's. It will mean that much more to her and she'll think that much more of you. It's just not as special anymore when everyone is getting sweet things on Valentine's Day, it takes away the element of surprise.

So, guys, let's come to a common agreement.

We'll watch SportsCenter and drink beer with you on Valentine's if you can guarantee that you'll surprise us with something romantic at least once. We don't need a Cary Grant, just a guy who acknowledges that we like sweet, random gestures.

Features Editor Catherine Pillsbury is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Dallas. She can be reached at c.d.pillsbury@tcu.edu.

President uses show to defend decisions

When the president of the United States says in a television interview that the reason why he went to war was "lack

of intelligence," it seems like

something that should be reserved for a "Saturday Night Live" skit. Yet the president did just that on Tim Russert's "Meet The Press," as well as evade questions while issuing well-rehearsed statements Sunday.

Confronted about the continuing weapons of mass destruction controversy, President George W. Bush went in circles for a long time insisting that it had been the intelligence that was at fault. Saying "I know I'm getting repetitive," and that he does not "want to sound like a broken record," he nevertheless kept issuing well-rehearsed statements.

And while Bush claims that it was the intelligence community that provided him with information that he now admits seems to be false, it makes one wonder at what point in the war process the government found out that the information was indeed false.

Recent reports have shown that the Bush administration knew about the lack of WMDs in Iraq since early on in the war, yet repeatedly kept insisting "the weapons will be found," as recently as a few weeks ago. It should be investigated if there was an intentional misconstruing of the facts. While Bush appointed members of an intelligence committee Friday to investigate such allegations, the findings are not expected before the presidential election in November.

This matter will not be cleared up before voters step into the booth in November, as Bush said he did not "want it to be hurried." He further said "the commission (is set up to) help future presidents understand how best to fight the war on terror." A worthy goal, but it would also mean that voters may inadvertently learn about the shortcomings of a president they re-elected mere months before.

The statement that Bush sees himself as a "war president" is also less than reassuring. Such statements by Bush do not make it clear if he understands that war should be a last resort rather than a quick fix and that there are more issues at hand than waging war.

Seemingly eager to discuss the economy, Bush responded to the question "Why, as a fiscal conservative as you like to call yourself, would you allow a \$500 billion deficit and this kind of deficit disaster?" Bush responded "The budget I just proposed to the Congress cuts the deficit in half in five years."

So let's get this straight: Here is a man that led the nation to war based on facts that turned out to be untrue, and while the war was in full sweep kept insisting the assertions leading to the war were true. A man under whose leadership the nation's biggest surplus of \$281 billion was turned into the biggest deficit but now seems upbeat about the possibility of cutting down it down to a \$250 billion deficit within five years.

And yet he wants to be re-elected president. Maybe this is simply his famed "strategy," but it hardly seems like a good one.

Sebastian Meyer is a columnist for The Oracle of the University of South Florida. This column was distributed by U-Wire.

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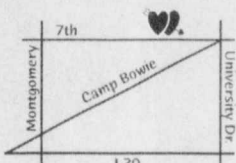
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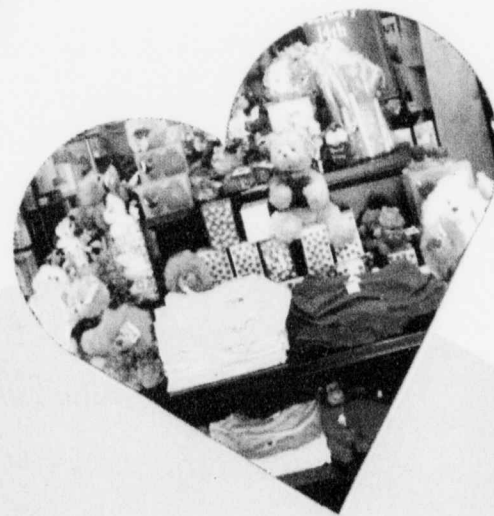
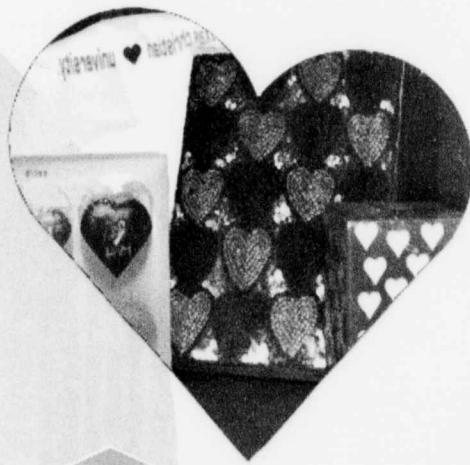
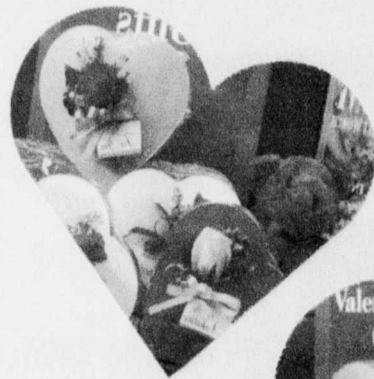


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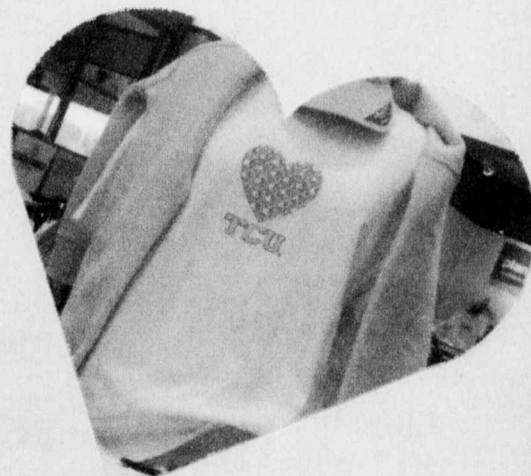
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FEATURES

Friday, February 13, 2004

RM 17

Spreading the Love

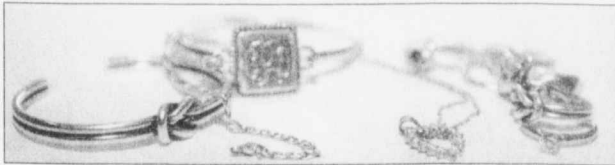
By Catherine Pillsbury • Features Editor

Not sure what to get that someone for Valentine's? Not sure if you should even get them something? Well, we've all been there. Here are some last minute, rest-assured ideas that will please him or her at any level of dating. Valentine's has always been more important to women, so in light to that, more gift options are for them. But, guys, I haven't left you out! While having a plan and being prepared is always the best bet, I know that's not always the case. If you're in a relationship, establish first if you are going to exchange gifts and second, what kind. It's easy to say, "Let's just do something small." You want to have something comparable to each other's gifts. If a girl gets her guy an expensive wallet and he just gets her flowers, she'll be upset and he'll feel bad. Just be sure both of you are on the same page. And guys, keep in mind that this gift will set the bar for each gift that follows. If you're with someone you want to get more serious with, keep in mind that each gift after this is going to have to beat the one before. Start small and inexpensive if you can. She'll appreciate it later.

Him to her What to give

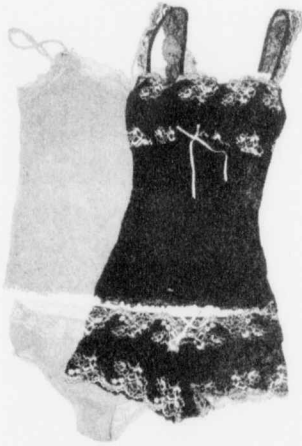
Necklace or bracelet

There's really no need to spend hundreds on her for one day, but she doesn't need to know that! If you're in something serious, six months (depending on the couple) or more, and are sure you're the only one she's seeing, a sterling silver necklace or bracelet would do beautifully. Moderately priced ones can be found at James Avery, which has a multitude of options.



Lingerie

For another in-depth "relationship," lingerie can be a fun gift for all! One option is to buy it for her. If this is the case, know for certain her size, or always go smaller. Another idea is taking her to get it. She'll like finding out what you do and don't like, and you'll like the visual of what's to come! Victoria's Secret and Fredrick's of Hollywood are your best bets.



Flowers and wine

If it's something new and you truly like her, a mixed bouquet of flowers and wine is a sweet way to say "I like you." Call before going over and mention you just have a little something for her. If she seems excited once you present your gift, offer to take her to dinner if not tonight, the next night. Usually, last minute is not acceptable. However, this is a sweet gesture that leaves you vulnerable, and she knows it. If she doesn't invite you in, don't invite her out! Flowers and wine from the grocery store are fine, we understand budgets, just take off the price tag.



Make dinner

Every girl likes a thoughtful gesture. This is for the sweet girl you've been dating anywhere from two months on, who doesn't need reassurance through gifts. A simple chicken breast or steak (yes, girls like steak) with vegetables and a green salad would be lovely. Add white wine (red with steak) and candles for a step up. Don't worry if it doesn't come out right, imperfection is very attractive. If you're really serious, strawberries and champagne are classy for dessert, otherwise, buy (or make) Valentine's fudge, cookies, cake or whatever you like. Besides, nothin' says lovin' like something from the oven!



Dinner Out

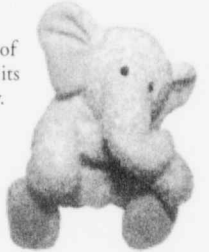
Something easy and not as impressive, but still a nice gesture for any level of dating. This will be a hard last minute plan because most places have taken reservations. If you try a place without reservations and you have to wait more than 10 minutes, have something else prepared to swoon her. Having to wait shows that you were unprepared and didn't put time or thought into it. Don't take her to a bar afterwards unless she suggests it.

All photos taken by Ty Halasz

Him to her What not to give

Stuffed Animals

We're in college! Get away from stuffed animals as a way of showing affection. Unless it has a necklace or bracelet around its neck for her, stay away from them. But even that is kind of creepy. She'll say it's cute and sweet, but she will be thinking something else.



CD

Very impersonal and almost offensive unless it's a collection of songs you put together that remind you of her. Again, the thoughtful ideas will get you farther.

Anything to improve her

For the sake of you and any future children you want, don't even consider a gift that could be misconstrued as a "fixer upper" gift. These include make-overs, cooking classes and gym memberships. Even if they are valid things she needs to work on, no girl wants them pointed out, especially on Valentine's. Besides, you don't want us changing you! If you have to question it, don't do it!

Chocolates

Just over-rated. Everything seems to be chocolate on Valentine's and it's not that sweet (no pun intended). If you're that hard up for a gift, Godiva is the best. But add something else, such as flowers and wine.

A Card

Never, under any circumstances, give a girl that you are "seeing" or "dating" just a card. This should be self-evident but if this is done, you'll have to really fix it later. Plus, you know she'll tell all her friends and you'll be "that guy" and will have difficulty finding any other girl to go out with you ever again. Word travels fast!

Her to him What to give

DVDs

Though it seems general and impersonal to girls, a guy will be grateful for the thought. One or two DVDs is fine, and you can find old classics like "The Godfather" or "Pulp Fiction" at Target or The Movie Trading Co. on South Hulen.



Sports Tickets

If the two of you are serious and you know his favorite sports team or sport (which you should to even consider this gift) then he will think you are truly awesome and his friends will wish for a woman like you! You are obviously limited to the Stars and Mavericks since the Cowboys and Rangers are out of season. Seats for the Stars range from \$25-\$300 (yes, some girls will pay that) and are playing the 20th, 22nd and 25th. Go to www.dallasstars.com to see the seating chart with price. Mavericks tickets range from \$10 - \$235 and are playing on the 21st, 24th, 26th and 28th, and you can find charts with prices at www.dallasmavericks.com. All games are played at the American Airlines Center.

Wallet

I've been told by male sources that you should give a guy something he can use. Wallets are the king of gift ideas for guys. You can't go wrong. The last wallet most guys probably got was for high school graduation, and wallets are to guys what purses are to girls. You normally stick with a good one, and when that one gets old, you get another one. When the one they use now gets old, they will appreciate not having to shop for a new one.

Boxers

Again, something a guy can use. A guy can never have too many pairs of boxers! Besides, it'll let him put off doing his laundry, which he won't think is so bad.

Cookies

For a guy you've been hanging out with just enough that you feel that you need to get him something, cookies are a thoughtful gift.

Her to him What not to give

Anything Mushy

There's not very much that you couldn't give a guy, but don't think that because you like something he will too. Just like girls don't want to be improved, neither do guys. Stuffed animals or anything at all sensitive is only going to make him more cautious of you. Of course he'll tell you that it's sweet, but he too will be thinking something else. Stay away from anything too "Valentiney" and focus more on what a guy would want or use, not what you want for him, like the type of shirt you want him to wear.

Robert Carr Chapel presents ideal atmosphere for weddings

By Crystal Forester
Staff Staff

Thirty minutes before a ceremony starts, guests start filing into the chapel accompanied by a joyous melody from the pipe organ.

The bride and groom are in their respective dressing rooms with their close family and friends preparing for their big moment.

As time ticks by, the chapel slowly fills as the last of the guests arrive.

Mothers and fathers give their last loving advice and praise to their children who are about to embark on a new life.

The groom and his groomsmen line at the front of the chapel waiting for the big moment.

Bridesmaids make their way up the aisle. A fussy flower girl throws rose petals down for the bride.

Then it starts.

"The Bridal Chorus" begins.

The bride takes a deep breath and begins her journey down the aisle.

Approximately 80 to 90 weddings

similar to this one are held in Robert Carr Chapel, on campus, spread out over 40 weekends throughout the year, says Ed McMahon, wedding coordinator at TCU. In June, three weddings a weekend are held, and every other month only two weddings a weekend are held.

Since 1953 there have been around 2,400 weddings and Emmet Smith, the wedding music director, has played the organ at most of the weddings.

"It's the most beautiful place in Fort Worth to get married," Smith said.

About half of the people married at the Chapel are children of faculty and staff, students or former students, McMahon said. The other half are people from around the community.

The Chapel is a particular consideration for many couples because it seats 275 people, McMahon said.

"There are not a lot of places in town that can do that," he said.

It seats the right number of people for most weddings, Smith said.

"That depends on the size of the people,

of course," he continued. "A small wedding with 85 people still looks good in there, it's not lost."

Although there are big churches around town that seat between two and three thousand guests, the smaller chapels at those churches only seat 100 people, McMahon said. There are only three or four places in town that meet the medium size wedding capacity.

Besides the practical reasons for using the Chapel, it also has a magnetism that draws people into its design.

"It is a pretty place; light and airy," McMahon said.

Another pull to the Chapel is there are no denomination requirements, McMahon said.

"It's not his or hers. It's a common or impartial meeting ground," he said.

"The only disadvantage would be for people with bad taste," Smith said. "I can think of no disadvantage, it has everything. Everything is perfection."

The Chapel is inexpensive compared to other places around Fort Worth to get

married, Smith said. Faculty, staff, students and trustees can rent the Chapel for \$100. Alumni pay \$400.

The Chapel is booked about at least a year in advance, McMahon said.

"Most often people get engaged at holidays, Christmas, New Year's Eve or Valentine's Day, so they start thinking a year from that point," he said.

Brides book the chapel up to two and a half years before their actual wedding, Smith said. If an alumna wants to book the chapel closer to her wedding date she is often out of luck because the Chapel is already booked, he said.

"The sad thing is the brides that book so far ahead often don't materialize," Smith said. "Money seems to be no item. They seem to give up their money they pay in advance."

Smith said the couples that don't show up will book several churches at the same time and wait until they know how many people will show up then go with the church that best accommodates them.

"In a year's time we might have 80 weddings on the books and end up having 55 weddings," Smith said.

May through August tend to be the busiest for the Chapel.

McMahon said these months are popular because it's when people have natural breaks in their lives. The couples may graduate in May then they usually have a natural break because they don't have a job yet or are starting graduate school the next year, he said.

It's a tradition to be a June bride, which also contributes to couples getting married during that month, McMahon said.

Vows have been made by the bride and groom and tears flowed from many sets of eyes.

The newly married couple is presented to their guest.

They now begin the journey back down the aisle and to the beginning of a new life.

Crystal Forester
Staff Staff

News Digest

8

Friday, February 13, 2004

QUICK FACTS



Election update

The latest news from the campaign trail

Dental records raise doubts

WASHINGTON — (AP) The White House released dental records intended to support President Bush's account of his Air National Guard service in Alabama, while several members of the Guard unit said in interviews they don't remember ever seeing Bush at their Montgomery base.

Nor does the dentist specifically recall treating Bush. But all of them told The Associated Press that doesn't mean he wasn't there, serving alongside hundreds of others in the Guard unit.

The White House late Wednesday released a copy of a dental evaluation Bush had at Dannelly Air National Guard Base in Montgomery on Jan. 6, 1973, which Bush's spokesman said documented that the president had served in Alabama as required.

The White House obtained the dental record, along with other medical records it did not release, from the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver, spokesman Scott McClellan said.

The inch-tall stack of medical documents has been the subject of debate within the White House, where staff members have pored over the records while wrestling with how much to release to the public — and which contents inside the file would clear up lingering questions.

Boy beaten; students now suspended

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Seven middle school students were suspended and a school bus driver was placed on leave after the beating of a 12-year-old student was captured on a surveillance camera aboard the bus.

The tape, which was broadcast on local and national television, shows several Landon Middle School students punching the boy for about 30 seconds last week as he cowers in his seat.

The boy, who was not seriously injured, will be allowed to transfer to another school, Marsha Oliver, a spokeswoman for Duval County schools, said Wednesday.

The students' names were not released because of their ages. The oldest attacker is believed to be about 15, and no arrests were made, authorities said.

A hearing officer will determine the punishments for the suspended students, Oliver

State/National Roundup

said. Penalties could include expulsion, she said. The bus company, First Student, refused to identify the driver. He is on leave; a review of his conduct will take a few days, said John Ziegler, the company's vice president.

AP art teacher suspended with pay

HOUSTON (AP) — A high school art teacher who asked a student to pose for class-mates wearing only boxer shorts has been suspended.

Karen Fearon, an advanced placement art teacher at The Woodlands High School near Houston, was suspended with pay pending the outcome of an investigation.

"I asked him if he'd feel comfortable wearing them in class. At first he was hesitant, then he said, 'Yeah, I will,'" Fearon told Houston television station KPRC. "Before I knew it, I turned around to get the paper and supplies

and he had dropped his pants in the class. Well, that was kind of shocking because ... I usually have them go in the back room to change."

Unknown bones discovered on Interstate 10

PECOS (AP) — Officials are trying to determine if bones discovered during the investigation of a traffic fatality on Interstate 10 are human.

The bones were discovered Feb. 4 while taking measurements for a report on the death of Jerry W. Obermiller, 25, of Las Vegas, Nev., who was killed when he lost control of his pickup just west of where I-10 merges with Interstate 20.

"The next afternoon after the fatality, troopers were measuring and doing their investigation when one of them found pieces of skeleton and old clothing," said Jeff Davis County Sheriff Steve Bailey.

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***Catch That Kid:** 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 7:10, 9:20

***50 First Dates:** 12:15, 1:30, 2:30, 3:45, 4:45, 6:15, 7:00, 8:30, 9:15, 10:35, 12:00am**

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***Catch That Kid:** 12:05, 2:15

***50 First Dates:** 12:15, 1:30, 2:30, 3:45, 4:45, 6:15, 7:00, 8:30, 9:15, 10:35

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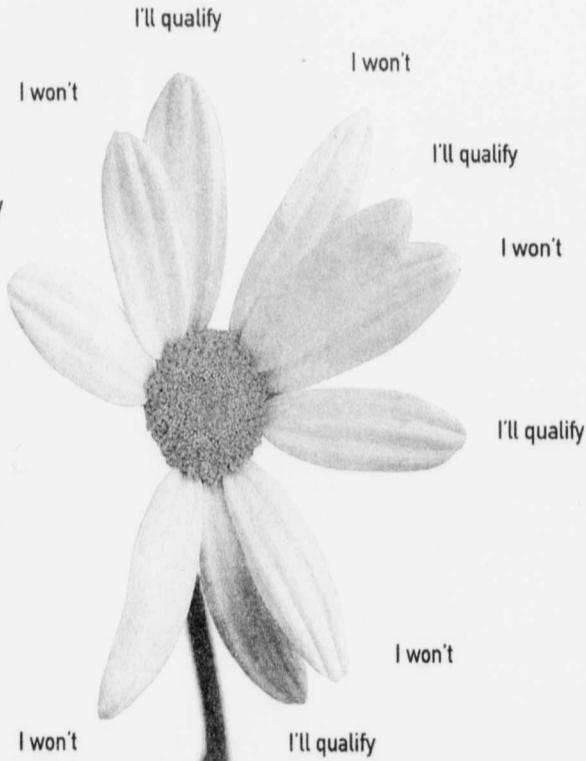


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On This Day
1861 — The earliest military action to be revered with a Medal of Honor award is performed by Colonel Bernard J.D. Irwin. Irwin volunteered to go to the rescue of 60 men trapped by the Chiricahua Apaches.

ETC.

Friday, February 13, 2004



Do you have a date for Valentine's Day?

Yes 45 No 55

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.

Question Claire

Claire Voyance is a weekly advice column that will run every Friday. To submit a question to Claire e-mail clairevoyance@wouldillie.com. Remember, Claire is not a psychologist so take her advice at your own risk. Enjoy.

Dear Claire,
 I want to break up with my girlfriend of a year, but we have already made plans for Valentine's Day. What should I do?
 Sincerely,
 Heart-breaker

Dear Heart-breaker,
 Well, considering it is now the day before Valentine's Day, I think that you should wait before dropping the bomb. You see, heart-breaker, Valentine's Day is like fine china to women. Any little chip, and it loses its value. Basically, you should respect your girlfriend enough to give her one last wonderful evening. Plus, it would end things on a positive note, and not a "my boyfriend broke up with me the day before Valentine's Day" one. TRUST ME, you don't want to have to deal with the latter. Save yourself some trouble and stick it out another weekend.

After that, it's fair game.

Yours truly,
 — Claire Voyance

Dear Claire,
 I have been dating Bob* for a few months now, and things are going great. I know its really soon, but I already think I am in love. I want to tell Bob that I love him on Valentine's Day, but I wasn't exactly sure how to do it without scaring him off. What's your advice?
 Thanks,
 In Looovve

Dear In Looovve,
 Before you do anything you might regret, please pay very close attention to the following three words: DON'T DO IT! OK, I know that may be a little harsh, but, honey, sometimes this world is not a pretty place. I know that you probably really like Bob, and that's

great. I'm happy for you, but before you start throwing the L-word around, seriously think about it. Call me old-fashioned, but I don't think a woman should ever be the first to say "I love you." A woman admitting to a man that she is in love before he has done the same makes her vulnerable. She puts herself in his control. Being in love is like a spell. Love is intoxicating, and like alcohol, it can affect your perception. But then again, love is also powerful. Sometimes it is impossible to suppress the intensity of your emotions. If you really think this is it, the real thing, YOU + BOB = LOVE, then I say take your chances. Just realize you are doing just that, taking a chance. It's up to you, kiddo.

Best of Luck!

*names have been changed to protect the innocent

Today's Horoscope

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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 an 8 — An obstacle you've been up against is starting to fade away. A person who was completely stuck may even begin to budge. Love is the secret of your success, and everyone else's.
Taurus (April 20-May 20) Today is a 6 — It's lucky that you're so stubborn. You can hold out for what you want. The odds are good that you'll have to compromise, but you'll still get a better deal.
Gemini (May 21-June 21) Today is a 7 — It's not a good time to travel, at least not for a little while. Tomorrow and the next day are better. In the meantime, finish a tough job.
Cancer (June 22-July 22) Today is a 7 — If at first you don't succeed, try another tactic. The "easy" way is much harder now than a method that takes more work. You'll achieve your goals through your efforts,

but a gamble will not pay off.
Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is an 8 — Your partner may disagree with you, forcing a compromise. This you can readily do. You know there are more important things than getting your own way. Graciousness leads to more love.
Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is a 6 — Don't get overconfident. Check constantly for errors or changes in plans. It's not your fault, so don't blame yourself.
Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is a 7 — A conflict between love and money could have you hovering at wit's end. Of course, you can't decide between them. You can't bear to settle for not having both, nor should you.
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is a 6 — You're facing resistance. Turn it into an advantage. By pretending you won't do a tough job, you might get a better price. Just make sure you don't hold out for

too long.
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is a 7 — Proceed with caution for a little while longer. Finish old business before you launch a new enterprise or make suggestions. You'll be more effective tomorrow.
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a 7 — If you can't afford to give as much as you'd like to a worthy cause, donate your time instead of your money. That works to everyone's benefit.
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is a 5 — You may not be able to convince them all, but you can certainly try. You'll be surprised to discover that you have allies where you least expected.
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 7 — The more responsible you are, the more responsibility you'll take on in your life. All you have to do is respect your considerations without letting them stop you. It gets easier with practice.

— courtesy of KRT

Today's Crossword

Today's crossword sponsored by



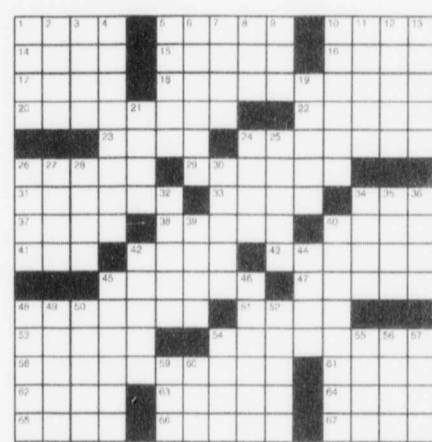
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 17 Go on a trade
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 22 Ventured
 23 Trashy stench
 24 Fanatics
 25 Dunces' perch
 29 Make a bust
 31 Some time
 33 Many
 34 Welcoming rug
 37 Benevolent
 38 Flashy outfit
 40 Agree
 41 Teamwork disrupter
 42 Ancient harp
 43 Chopin studies
 45 Expel from a country



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02/13/04

9 Moon car, briefly

- 10 Lava rock
 11 Houston player
 12 Ghost costume
 13 Cattle collectives
 19 Be flexible
 21 Computer giant
 24 Bantu language
 25 Wed on the run
 26 Rice wine
 27 Wreath piece
 28 Say it ain't so!
 30 Provide food
 32 King Tut's land
 34 Skirt length
 35 Assist a criminal
 36 Hardy heroine
 39 Son of Aphrodite
 40 Spring beetles
 42 Full of holes
 44 Brass band member
 45 Judicial decision
 46 Lux adjuster
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 *Highwaymen-PG13 (fri-sun): 12:20, 2:35, 4:45, 7:00, 9:10, (mon-thurs): 1:20, 3:35, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45, (mon-thurs): 1:30, 3:20, 5:45, 8:05, 10:20
 *Miracle-PG13 (fri-sun): 1:00, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30, (mon-thurs): 1:10, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30
 *Catch That Kid-PG (fri-sun): 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45 (mon-thurs): 2:30, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45
 *Barbershop 2-PG13 (fri-sun): 11:45, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20, (mon-thurs): 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
 *Along Came Polly-PG13 (fri-sun): 12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:10, (mon-thurs): 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:10
 *Win A Date With Tad Hamilton-PG13 (fri-thurs): 9:20
 *Big Fish-PG13 (fri-thurs): 1:40, 4:40, 7:15, 10:15
 *Calendar Girls-PG13 (fri-sun): 1:10, 4:00, 6:45, (mon-wed): 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, (thurs): 1:15, 4:00
 *Return of the King-PG13 (fri-thurs): 12:40, 4:50, 7:00
 *The Butterfly Effect-R (fri-thurs): 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
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SPORTS

Friday, February 13, 2004

10

Mountain West advantage Shift in conferences will leave C-USA trailing

TCU's move to the Mountain West Conference should be beneficial for football and women's basketball.

By Matt Turner
Staff Reporter

The Conference USA the Horned Frogs belong to today is not the same conference it will be leaving behind in 2005.

Departing with the Frogs, albeit to different digs, will be every former conference basketball champion and all but one former football champion since TCU arrived in C-USA two-and-a-half years ago. Replacing the crème of the C-USA crop are five schools from less-heralded conferences.

Other teams leaving C-USA are Louisville, Cincinnati, DePaul, Marquette, South Florida, Army, Charlotte and St. Louis. Meanwhile, Tulsa, Rice, Southern Methodist, Central Florida and Marshall are the replacements.

Athletics director Eric Hyman said the competition level the Mountain West Conference offers seems to be a more stable situation for the Frogs.

"Stability. I'm looking for stability," Hyman said at the press conference announcing the move.

And looking at the MWC's track record, stability appears to be what the Frogs will be getting.

Not only did MWC football teams go 2-0 this season against C-USA teams, they also had a 24-18 record against non-conference opposition. According to college football expert Rich Tellshow's Web site, those figures were good enough for a 55.6 average strength of schedule in the final Bowl Championship Series rankings.

C-USA, on the other hand, went 24-25 against non-conference foes, despite having a much easier 82.2

part 4 in a series



strength of schedule average.

Tellshow's Web site shows the MWC was the seventh best conference in college football last season with a 61.1 average team BCS ranking.

C-USA was 10th, posting a 71.3 average ranking. If TCU had been in the MWC last season, C-USA's average would have been even higher and the MWC's lower, providing greater separation between the two conferences.

The Liberty Bowl this season proved the MWC's possible dominance over the C-USA.

In the battle between the champions of the two conferences, Utah beat Southern Miss 17-0.

Head coach Gary Patterson said the MWC has quality programs and plays good football, but it is hard to say how the conferences will compare in 2005 due to leagues fluctuating every year.

"We haven't played anybody yet, so I don't know," he said.

Women's basketball should also benefit from the mountain scenery, head coach Jeff Mittie said. He said the MWC has been rated higher than C-USA four of the last five seasons, and they typically send a fair number of teams to the NCAA Tournament.

Last season, six MWC teams went to postseason tournaments, including four to the NCAA Tournament.

"It is a very strong conference," Mittie said. "I anticipate a shift in conference powers soon and the Mountain West will be one of the top leagues in the nation."

This is a down year for the MWC in

women's basketball, however. The conference is currently the 13th ranked conference in the Ratings Percentage Index, while C-USA is seventh.

TCU's addition to the MWC, along with the loss of three of C-USA's current best four teams, should help offset that difference in the future.

In fact, when realignment occurs, C-USA will retain only one of its NCAA Tournament qualifiers, Tulane, from the past two seasons.

C-USA has made a name for itself in men's basketball over the last few seasons, but that too is about to change. All but one of the conference's NCAA Tournament qualifiers the past two seasons are leaving for other conferences.

Despite having six teams in the top 50 of the RPI this season, only two of those schools will remain members of C-USA after realignment.

Louisville and Cincinnati, two of the high-ranked C-USA teams leaving, are the conference's only men's basketball teams ranked.

In contrast, the MWC has no teams in the Top 25.

But that does not worry head basketball coach Neil Dougherty.

Dougherty said while the current top teams in C-USA are better than the top teams in the MWC, the MWC is more competitive overall when comparing the quality of the athletic departments and their respective budgets.

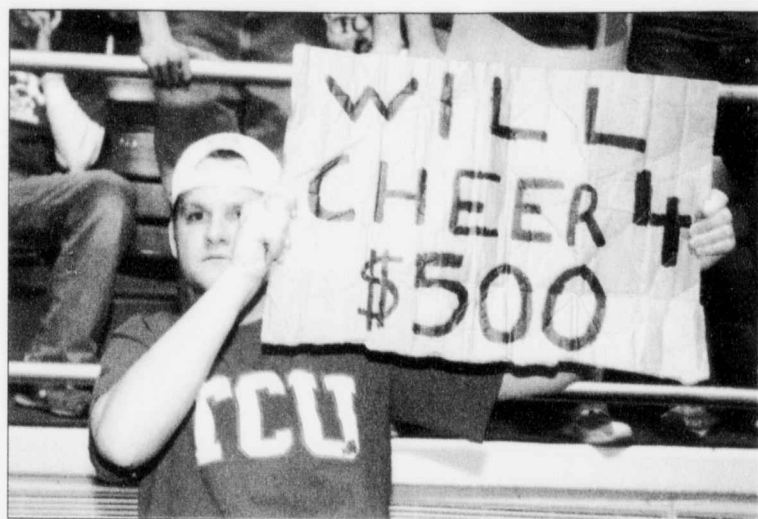
He said the MWC will be much stronger than the new C-USA.

"That's kind of a no-brainer," Dougherty said.

He said his team's eventual success will depend on how quickly they can get a feel for their new conference foes. "We get a little older and a little wiser every day."

Matt Turner
m.u.turner@tcu.edu

Horned Frogs hope more wins will score larger crowd



Ty Halasz/Staff Photographer

A fan demonstrates one of the reasons he is attending a men's basketball game.

The Frogs are looking for bigger crowds to support their improved game.

By Ryan Claunch
Skiff Staff

In his second season as TCU's men's basketball coach, Neil Dougherty has his players looking up to him and believing they are capable of achieving great things.

After Monday's victory over South Florida, this has never been more apparent. The Frogs currently own their first-ever winning record in Conference USA (9-11, 5-4 C-USA), and have a group of teams looking up to them in the conference standings.

Everything about the program seems to be looking up in 2004, except for one thing: attendance.

This season, like most others, when a Frog looks up into the stands of Daniel-Meyer Coliseum, he sees more vacant seats than filled ones.

"The attendance at the games is something that definitely needs improving," head coach Neil Dougherty said.

This season, the average attendance per game is 4,514, filling about 63 percent of all seats available inside the coliseum.

"With attendance the way it is, we play primarily on a neutral court, where the crowd doesn't really have an effect on how the game goes," Dougherty said. "If we had bigger crowds showing up to support us during the games, it would definitely give us an edge."

Although TCU has a winning conference record, non C-USA games have attracted bigger crowds, averaging 4,561 fans compared to 4,432 for conference games.

Athletics director Eric Hyman said he is determined to get more fans in the seats to see the basketball program's improved product.

"The players are now beginning to truly represent TCU both on and off the court," Hyman said. "What we're looking at doing now is working with students in developing new ways to promote sporting events and draw bigger crowds that also reflect on TCU

positively."

Hyman said he believes an increase in morale and support from the crowd will make TCU a force to be reckoned with.

"If we can get the crowds to equal what the players are giving every game, that will make Daniel-Meyer very tough on competitors and give us a better home advantage," he said.

Team members also stress the importance of large crowds.

"The crowd helps a lot," junior guard Marcus Shropshire said. "They give us lots of support and the extra energy to help us during the games."

Shropshire said the energy and cheers a crowd brings to the court help the team prepare for the game. He said increased fan support is wanted.

"I encourage people to come to the games," Shropshire said. "We really appreciate the support and the help it provides the team."

Ryan Claunch
r.k.claunch@tcu.edu

A view from above



Ty Halasz/
Staff Photographer
A third of Daniel-Meyer Coliseum filled up Thursday night to listen and question some of the biggest names in college sports.

QUICK FACTS

2003-04 Men's basketball home attendance

Date	Opponent	Attendance
Nov. 22	Texas-Arlington	4,764
Nov. 29	Tulsa	3,977
Dec. 1	Kansas	7,267
Dec. 3	Murray State	3,419
Dec. 8	Stephen F. Austin	4,320
Dec. 13	North Texas	4,383
Dec. 22	Arkansas State	4,128
Dec. 29	Grambling	4,219
Jan. 3	Vanderbilt	4,573
Jan. 7	Saint Louis*	3,887
Jan. 10	Tulane*	3,936
Jan. 20	DePaul*	4,084
Jan. 28	Southern Miss*	4,138
Jan. 31	Memphis*	6,113

*denotes Conference USA game

Sideline

St. John's program troubled

NEW YORK (AP) — The president of St. John's told a newspaper he might recommend suspending the school's basketball program if it can't remain scandal-free.

The school's chief spokesman, however, said Thursday there hasn't been any consideration of dropping the team.

The Rev. Donald Harrington told the Daily News for Thursday editions: "I would go to the board (of trustees) and say, 'It's now my conviction we can't do it,'" if the program's troubles persist.

On Wednesday, guard Elijah Ingram withdrew from the university, one week after he and five teammates broke curfew to go to a strip club. Ingram, a sophomore who led the team in scoring, left on the same day the St. John's judicial board suspended teammate Abe Keita from school for one year, the university announced.

Both Ingram and Keita already were permanently suspended from the basketball team. A third player, Grady Reynolds, was expelled from St. John's last week. Two other players were suspended from the basketball team but remained in school.

The players got in trouble after a 71-51 loss to No. 4 Pittsburgh on Feb. 4. A woman told police she was raped by St. John's players she met at a strip club outside the city.

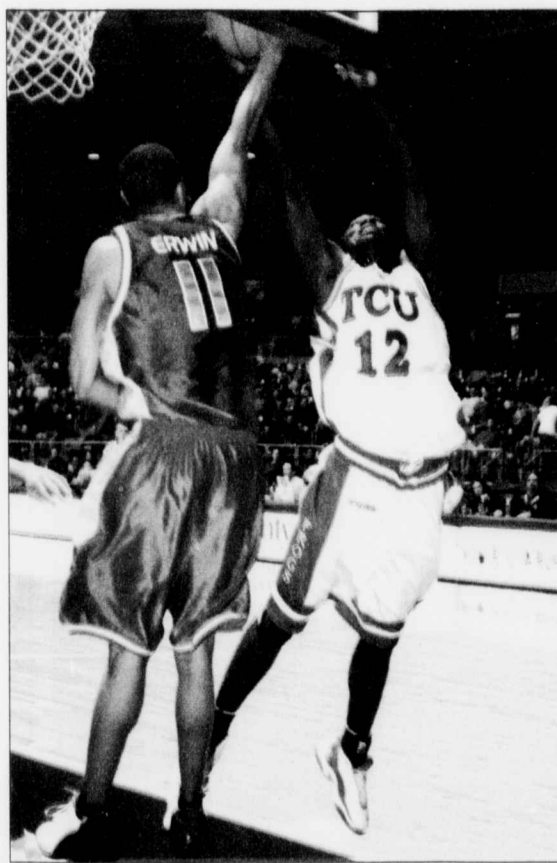
QUICK FACTS

Men's Basketball Standings

Conference	Overall		
	W	L	Pct.
Cincinnati	8	2	.800
Memphis	8	2	.800
Louisville	7	2	.778
UAB	7	2	.778
Charlotte	6	2	.750
DePaul	7	3	.700
TCU	5	4	.556
Marquette	4	5	.444
Saint Louis	4	5	.444
Southern Miss	4	5	.444
Tulane	2	7	.222
Houston	2	8	.200
East Carolina	1	9	.100
USF	0	9	.000

Women's Basketball Standings

Conference	Overall		
	W	L	Pct.
DePaul	8	1	.889
Houston	8	1	.889
TCU	7	2	.778
Charlotte	7	2	.778
Memphis	7	3	.700
Marquette	6	3	.667
Louisville	6	3	.667
East Carolina	5	4	.556
USF	3	7	.300
Southern Miss	2	7	.222
Saint Louis	2	8	.200
Cincinnati	2	7	.222
Tulane	1	8	.111
UAB	1	9	.100



Ty Halasz/Staff Photographer

Freshman forward Femi Ibikunle and the men's basketball team will play Tulane at 7 p.m. Saturday in New Orleans.

On Tap

Catch the Frogs in action this weekend

Friday

- (W) Basketball vs. East Carolina, 6 p.m., Greenville, N.C.
- Baseball vs. Texas State, 7 p.m., Lupton Stadium
- Swim and Dive at USS Nationals, All day, Orlando
- Track at Razorback Invitational, All day, Fayetteville, Ark.

Saturday

- (M) Basketball vs. Tulane, 7 p.m., New Orleans
- Baseball vs. Texas State, 3 p.m., Lupton Stadium
- Swim and Dive at USS Nationals, All day, Orlando
- Track at Razorback Invitational, All day, Fayetteville, Ark.
- Rifle at NCAA Sectionals, TBA, TCU Rifle Range

Sunday

- (W) Basketball vs. Charlotte, 2 p.m., Charlotte, N.C.
- (M) Tennis vs. Colorado, noon, Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center
- Baseball vs. Texas State, 1 p.m., Lupton Stadium
- (W) Tennis vs. Tulane, noon, New Orleans