

DORM QUALITY OF LIFE
Dorms on campus fail to live up to the standards that students deserve



DRESSED TO THE NINES
Coach Neil Dougherty was voted the nation's best dressed coach

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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Armistice tense in south Iraq

Shiite militias withdrew from police stations in three cities as the cease-fire held in Fallujah.

By Lee Keath
Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — As a tenuous cease-fire held Monday in the restive Sunni city of Fallujah, a radical Shiite cleric pulled his militiamen out of police stations in three southern cities in an attempt to ease a standoff with the United States.

With quiet on both fronts, the scale of Iraq's worst fighting since

the fall of Saddam Hussein became clearer: The military reported about 70 coalition troops and 700 Iraqi insurgents killed so far this month. It was the biggest loss of life on both sides since the end of major combat a year ago.

A hospital official said over 600 Iraqis were killed in Fallujah alone — mostly women, children and the elderly.

The withdrawal of radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's al-Mahdi army militia from police stations and government buildings in Najaf, Karbala and Kufa was a key U.S.

demand. But al-Sadr followers rebuffed an American demand to disband the militia, which launched a bloody uprising in Baghdad and the south this month.

"Al-Sadr issued instructions for his followers to leave the sites of police and the government," said lawyer Murtada al-Janabi, al-Sadr's representatives in the talks.

American troops were seen on the outskirts of Najaf, where al-Sadr is thought to be in his office. The top U.S. commander in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, said "the mission of U.S. forces is to

kill or capture Muqtada al-Sadr."

U.S.-allied Iraqis were negotiating separately with representatives from Fallujah and al-Sadr. The U.S. military has moved more forces into both areas and is threatening to push into the cities if talks fall through.

The burst of violence since April 4 has exposed weaknesses in Iraq's U.S.-trained security forces. A battalion of the Iraqi army refused to fight in Fallujah, Sanchez said. And some police defected to

(More on IRAQ, page 2)



Sylvia Kapuscinski/Detroit Free Press
American military forces protect a police station in the Chewader area of Sadr City in Baghdad after a night of clashes in Sadr City on Thursday.

Competitive job market awaits MBA graduates

Professionals say MBAs are still important in the business world, but experience has become almost as important.

By Drew Irwin
Staff Reporter

The lingering economic recession has affected all parts of the economy and the job market has taken an especially hard hit.

And experts say those with graduate degrees have not been spared.

For years, business students have believed that an MBA would ensure them of an easy job hunt and a prosperous salary. But today, the reality is that more is required of a student than a degree.

Bob Greer, associate dean for graduate programs and research at the Neeley School of Business, says he is not worried because he believes the job market will improve when the economy improves.

In the meantime, he thinks the Neeley School has done a good job of adapting to the changing conditions. He said 85 percent of TCU MBA graduates received job offers within 90 days of graduation.

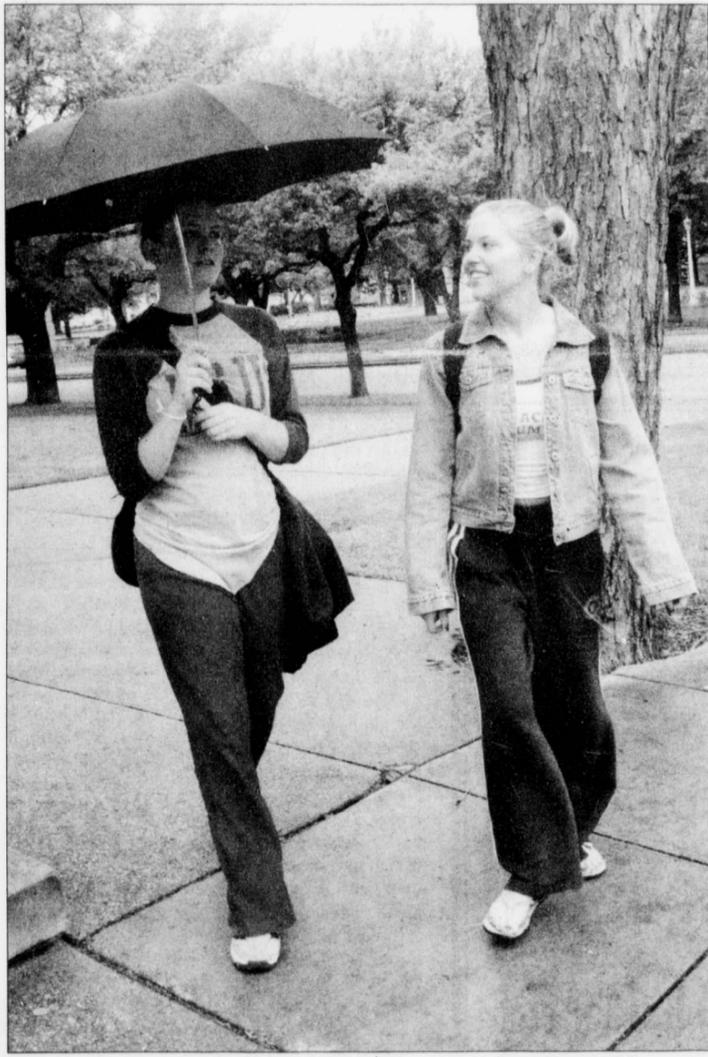
It is difficult to isolate MBA degrees in the figures dealing with unemployment.

But in December 2000, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the unemployment rate for people with bachelors, masters, professional and doctorate degrees was at 1.5 percent, the lowest of the decade.

Since then, the rate has risen slowly, and has

(More on MBA, page 2)

Rain drops keep falling...



Stephen Spillman/Staff Photographer
Sophomore ballet and modern dance major Allison Ploor and sophomore English and ballet major Michelle Timmons walk to their French class. As the weather changed this weekend, students had to go from shorts to sweats to accommodate for the rain.

Picture continues to pester school officials

Administrators are frustrated that a photo with part of the university name plate has not been removed from an escort service Web site.

By Angelica Rosas
Staff Reporter

Administration officials are pressuring Web site owners of a Dallas escort service to remove the picture of "Sunny," an escort posing in a purple and white cheerleader uniform on top of a university name plate, from its escort site.

Chancellor Victor Boschini wants the TCU likeness removed immediately and is working with school lawyers to ask the Web site host to withdraw the image from the site.

On March 30, Sunny promised the school's lawyers that she would remove the picture as soon as technically possible. The picture would be gone within three to seven days, she told lawyers.

That was almost two weeks ago, and at the end of the business day Monday, the picture remains posted to the Dallas-Eros Web site.

"Legally, no one can use the TCU logo or name without permission," Boschini said. "It is just

a big frustration but I will go down any route to work it out."

Lawyers are sending a letter to the company hosting Dallas-Eros.com to request photo removal of any picture linking TCU to the site, said Robert Ginsburg, of McDonald Sanders P.C.

"We will send the letter either to

"It is just a big frustration but I will go down any route to work it out."

Victor Boschini
Chancellor

day or tomorrow," Ginsburg said. "We believe the picture is a violation and tarnishes the TCU name."

Ginsburg said he does not know how the company will respond because the site has a legal disclaimer abdicating any legal responsibility for what advertisers choose to post.

The company or Sunny could not be reached for comment.

(More on SUNNY, page 2)

Student launches new Internet search engine

A senior will start IceRocket.com, a new Internet search engine that appeals to a Web-savvy crowd.

By Ferrell Fields
Staff Reporter

Internet users tired of looking on the same search engines will have the opportunity to broaden their search options when IceRocket.com launches Thursday.

Blake Rhodes, a senior communications major, teamed up a year ago with friends, Andrew English and Donny Plunkett, to design a new search engine that would be more appealing to the eye.

"Over the summer, I came up with the idea that I wanted to cre-

ate a fun search engine that would be more accessible for people our age," Rhodes said. "In a time where people are always in a hurry, a meta search engine saves people time from searching several different sites."

The reason it will save people time is because it will search from seven different engines in the same amount of time, Rhodes said. The seven engines will include Google, Yahoo, Altavista, AlltheWeb, Teoma, About and Looksmart.

Rhodes worked with a branding company that helped pick the name, IceRocket, partly because it was much cheaper than paying

(More on RHODES, page 2)

Professors speak on Latin American literature



Sarah Chacko/Photo Editor
David Bedford, professor of Spanish and Latin American studies, signs a copy of his book "The Labyrinth, The Ring and The Spaceship" after a lecture on Argentinean literature Monday evening in Moudy Building North.

By Lori Russell
Staff Reporter

Jazz music mingled into Moudy Building South Monday evening along with a large crowd of students and guests who came to hear David Bedford, a professor of Spanish and Latin American studies, discuss genres of Latin American literature.

Joseph Butler, associate dean of the school of fine arts, introduced Bedford and the two respondents for the evening, Neil Easterbrook, an English professor, and Bonnie Frederick, who chairs the Spanish and Latin American studies department.

Bedford focused on the definitions and descriptions of different categories of English and Argentinean literature, including discussions of science fiction and magical realism.

He discussed some of the differences between each form, pointing out elements embraced by both English and Latin writers.

Frederick followed Bedford's lecture with a discussion of the influence of Edgar Allan Poe on the Latin American writers of the 19th century. "They were entranced by his use of words, the musicality of his writing and they imitated that polished use of words in their own writing," Frederick said.

Tessie Mosteiro, a guest who attended the lecture, said she found the lecture very interesting.

"Even though I had never really thought about it before, being familiar with Poe and (Jorge Luis) Borges, I could see the comparisons being drawn between the two," Mosteiro said.

"Genre terms are only ways of focusing our discussions — not facts."

Neil Easterbrook
English Professor

Words in the fantastic genre of Latin American writing begin to take on their own life and carry the reader from the real to the unreal world, Frederick said.

Easterbrook addressed the basic notion of defining or describing too specifically different categories of writing.

"Genre terms are only ways of focusing our discussions — not facts," Easterbrook said. "When we think of them as facts we limit their development."

Ryan Miller, a freshman math major, said he had never thought about breaking down the genre into different types before.

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Sarah Chacko/Photo Editor
Senior communications major Blake Rhodes, a creator of IceRocket.com, said the search engine's design and accessibility make it different from others.

THE PULSE

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Tuesday, April 13, 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.

■ The first Spring Fling, sponsored by Programming Council, is Sunday. Organizations have the chance to compete for money prizes in a fashion show and carnival game competition. Information packets and registration forms are available at the Student Center Information Desk. Turn in registrations forms to the Student Center Information Desk by Friday.

■ Can't pass the MOS TEST? Help is here. Take MOS exam prep courses. Classes are held six times a week at convenient hours. Sign up at the Neeley Certification Office, Dan Rogers Hall, Room 138, or call Leigh at (817) 257-5220 for details.

■ A six-hour defensive driving course under the curriculum of the National Safety Council is being offered from 1-7 p.m. April 29 and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 1. On completion of the course, you are eligible for a 10 percent reduction on your liability insurance for three years. It is not for ticket dismissal. To register, call Hao Tran at (817) 257-7778.

■ Applications are now being evaluated for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. The camp is by invitation only. Men and women ages 10-19 are eligible to apply. Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan and Vince Carter. Camp locations include the following states: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin. For a free brochure, call (704) 373-0873.

MBA

From page 1

been hovering around 3 percent since the third quarter of 2001.

While this number is low compared to the national unemployment rate, it still means there were 1.169 million people with college degrees unemployed in February 2004.

Bud Weinstein, director of the institute of applied economics at the University of North Texas, said these numbers are small compared to the national unemployment rate of 5.6 percent.

"Those numbers would only be alarming to me if I was a college graduate without a job," Weinstein said.

Part of the issue is that in a market with more applicants than jobs, employers can be more selective of whom they hire.

The tightening economy is making businesses more selective, Weinstein said.

"In a slow economy and a tight job market, businesses can afford to be more choosy," Weinstein said.

Carol Nichols, division director of the Fort Worth Office of Robert Half Finance & Accounting, said a decrease in the number of job offers for graduate students could be explained by the cyclical nature of the job market.

"Companies are looking for more than a diploma on the wall," Nichols said. "They want to hire a well-rounded individual."

Nichols said one reason fewer MBAs are being hired is that businesses are being more specific about what they're looking for.

"An MBA is still a prerequisite for some jobs, but in addition, they're also looking for certain certifications," Nichols said. "Because certifications demonstrate a commitment."

Certifications such as a CPA (certified public accountant) or CFA (chartered financial analyst) require more schooling but can look good on a resume, Nichols said.

However, Shirley Rasberry, director of the graduate career service center, said she has not found that certifications, except for the CFA, do much for students.

"Employers I have talked to have not indicated that professional certifications make a difference," Rasberry said. "Having one on your resume may get you an interview, but you still have to interview well, show leadership, accomplishments and experience to get the offer."

Despite TCU's record of quick job offers, Jose Tamez, managing partner at the San Antonio office of Austin-Michael, an executive recruiting firm, said students shouldn't expect immediate employment.

"Getting an MBA is just like any other investment, but an MBA is an investment in yourself," Tamez said. "Sometimes, however, the return comes later than you might expect."

Andy Chan, director of the MBA Career Management Center at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, made a similar point in a 2003 interview with Business Week.

"Getting an MBA can be a stepping stone to a new career, but it's not an automatic ticket," Chan said. "It was never that way. An MBA opens doors, but you have to do a lot on your own to persuade employers to hire you."

Nichols said MBA students also have a misconception about how much their salary will increase when they get a job.

"What I have found is that students need to be reasonable about how much an MBA will increase their salary," Nichols said.

Nichols said students shouldn't expect more than a 10 percent increase in salary with an MBA. Experience and soft skills also come into play when it comes to salary, she said.

Tamez agreed and said students can't assume an MBA by itself always gives them an advantage over an undergraduate degree. He said an MBA looks good on a resume, but that an experienced applicant with a BBA could win a job over an less-experienced applicant with an MBA.

But if a BBA and an MBA had similar skills and experience, Nichols said the degree could end up being the deciding factor.

"An MBA definitely gives applicants a leg up," Nichols said. "But an MBA and good experience will give applicants the best opportunity for success."

Tamez said experience is starting to play a bigger role when companies choose an applicant for a job.

"In today's economy, companies are more likely to hire people that can come on board with little or no ramp-up time as possible," Tamez said.

Tamez said since some businesses have eliminated internal training programs because they did not offer results quickly enough.

Now, he said, businesses want to hire people who already know what they're doing.

"Businesses are working on a much narrower time frame," Tamez said. "It is more necessary to get someone who can add value immediately."

Tamez also said that students must also perform well when they are gaining experience.

"Experience coupled with above average performance, along with an MBA would set a student apart from the crowd," Tamez said. "But you have to interlock experience with performance because the experience doesn't do anything for you if you don't do the job well."

Greer said finding experienced MBAs usually is not hard, since most graduate business schools require at least two years of experience. Most TCU MBAs already have three to four years of experience when they graduate.

That's one factor in TCU's success rate, Greer said. Another is the graduate career services center. Greer said the business school started adding extra staff in the center after the market started to decline.

Rasberry said the center brings in employers to discuss the job market and the job opportunities they will face when they graduate. "Every MBA has one mandatory one-on-one session with a career counselor, an assigned career counselor, and of course our door is open at all times," Rasberry said. Students also take an assessment

that gives them specific job interests that they are best suited for, Rasberry said. She said the counselors then encourage students to find targeted companies that have those specific jobs.

Rasberry said TCU's placement and salary statistics have remained fairly flat for the last three years, but notes that the job market has picked up over the past year.

Rasberry said the center's primary assistance is in employer outreach.

"Our MBA class is very small and typically would not fill a whole interview schedule for a major company," Rasberry said. "Where we provide the most help is with placements on a one-on-one basis with targeted employers."

And while the school does all it can for graduating MBA students, Greer said it is "absolutely critical" that students be looking toward the job market on their own while they are still in school.

"Students need to be continually networking and making connections with people in the industry," Greer said. "They need to keep track of and strengthen contacts through friends, family and the school."

Tamez said it is very important for students to be watching job trends in college to see what sectors of the economy are hiring and to try to match those with their interests.

Nichols said students should limit their search to about 20 companies if they want to be successful.

And after making that list, she said it is important for students to market themselves well.

"What I tell people is that they need to make a 30-second commercial about themselves," Nichols said. "It really helps when you go into an interview prepared and with your game-face on."

Tamez said he still believes students should strive for an MBA if they are willing to go through the extended education.

"An MBA is worth the investment, but it's like any other investment," Tamez said. "You may not have an immediate return, but as long as it's coupled with above average performance, you'll get a great return."

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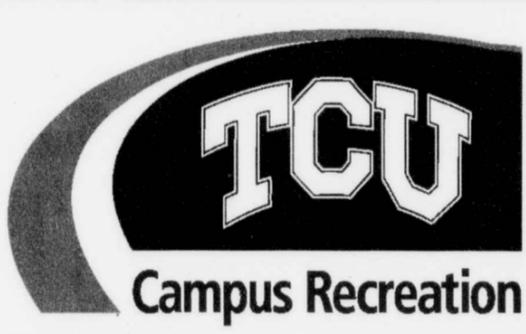
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www.CampusRec.TCU.edu

INTRAMURAL SPORTS DEADLINE!

TODAY is the DEADLINE for the Recess Weekend Tournament.

\$20 entry fee is due by 6 p.m.

This is the LAST opportunity for All Campus Champion Points!

Rosters will be OPEN. This means you can have as many people on your roster as you want, but they may only participate on one team.

Events include: Dodgeball, Kickball and a Surprise!

Mandatory captains meeting Thursday at 6 p.m. in Room 048.

RHODES

From page 1

\$25,000 to register its own name on the Internet, he said.

"The word ice has several different meanings in my eyes so we chose that name to make it the next big search engine," Rhodes said.

IceRocket's design, which includes a blasting rocket on a bright blue background, is meant to target a younger market of Web users who is currently underserved, Plunkett said.

Rhodes said he thinks IceRocket is edgier than Yahoo or Google because the page design caters to the demographics, which will mostly be younger people.

The design and accessibility will make this search engine different

from others, Plunkett said.

Plunkett said his e-mail address and phone number will be on the contact page so users and media outlets will have direct access to him if they have a problem.

The Web site will also feature a "site of the day."

"Every day I will choose a fun, cool site that our generation will like, and maybe a site that is not easily found on the Web," Rhodes said. "This will entice users to return after their initial search."

Rhodes would not comment on any of the finances involved, but said it's very expensive.

The expensive part is buying servers, which can cost several thousand dollars a month, to host the site, because users will be requesting information rather than just reading text, Rhodes said.

SUNNY

From page 1

The TCU police were the first to contact Sunny when the picture surfaced March 25 in an e-mail link sent to school administration, TCU police and the TCU Daily Skiff.

The TCU police decided to hand the case over to McDonald Sanders P.C. when Sunny did not comply with the 24-hour deadline they issued. Later, Sunny told Skiff reporters that she did not remove the picture because the TCU police threatened her.

Ginsburg said that although only a portion of "Christian University" is shown in the picture, the purpose is still to associate the site with the university.

Boschini said he wants to avoid a lawsuit.

"Legal action would cost a lot of money and if it's money that I can spend on students then I want to get this taken care of without legal expenses," Boschini said. "And Sunny knows that I have an \$800 million dollar endowment behind me."

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Fender bender



Sarah Chacko/Photo Editor

A Fort Worth Transportation and Public Works Department vehicle was struck from behind after yielding to a pedestrian Monday afternoon at the intersection of Bowie and University Drive. The driver that caused the accident will be cited for suspected driver inattention and failure to control speed.

IRAQ

From page 1

al-Sadr's forces, said Gen. John Abizaid, the top commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East.

Another toll from the week's violence: more than 40 foreigners reportedly were taken hostage by insurgents, though a dozen had been released Sunday and Monday. Those still believed held included three Japanese and American truck driver Thomas Hamill, whose captors had threatened to kill them.

Seven Chinese were freed Monday after being held for a day, China's official news agency said. Two reportedly were injured.

Two U.S. soldiers and seven employees of a U.S. contractor were still missing after an attack Friday on a convoy west of Baghdad, Sanchez said.

And Al-Jazeera television said 11 Russians working for a Russian energy company were kidnapped during a clash in Baghdad. The station did not say when the reported abduction took place.

The Skiff View

President doesn't need hand-holding

Commission gave White House too sweet a deal

Last week National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice defended the Bush administration before the September 11 Commission. Her testimony was quickly dissected and digested by the mainstream media.

But mostly ignored in the cacophony of instant analysis from talking heads on both sides of the political spectrum was the deal the administration struck with the commission to get Rice to testify.

(A brief bit of background if you haven't been paying attention: The administration had vigorously refused to allow Rice to testify on principle of executive privilege, claiming it would create a precedent that would allow national security advisers to be hauled in front of congressional committees at will. But the position became politically untenable and is logically incoherent — the commission, for starters, is not congressionally appointed, meaning it would not, by definition, create such a precedent.)

No matter who wins the spin battle, it's hard not to conclude that Bush didn't work out a sweet deal.

The White House, which had agreed to questioning by only two members of the commission, backtracked and consented to questioning by all 10 panel members. But there's a catch: In exchange of the Rice testimony, the commission will privately question Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney together.

The president, apparently, needs somebody to hold his hand.

You don't have to be a legal scholar to understand the absurdity of this arrangement. When police question two victims — or suspects, or witnesses, or anyone, for that matter — they do so separately. Why? To see if their stories match up.

The administration's defenders might say that joint testimony can save time for both the commission and the administration. But it seems that Bush has no problem making time to campaign — on a platform of strong defense and homeland security at that — or visit his Crawford ranch, which is where he was, incidentally, when he received the now infamous Aug. 6, 2001, memo.

There is no good reason for Bush and Cheney not to testify separately to the commission. We hope the administration's attempts to stonewall continue to backfire.

Your View

Letters to the Editor

Bush not concerned about AIDS

It appears the Bush administration may not be as dedicated to fighting AIDS as it originally seemed.

In his 2003 State of the Union address, President George W. Bush made a valiant promise to set aside \$15 billion over five years for AIDS treatment in poor countries. It was a generous, sorely needed offer — one for which this editorial board took the rare step of praising Bush.

But 14 months later, the world still is waiting for Bush to come through on that offer.

Money shortages and battles over drugs have kept more than 90 percent of AIDS victims in the world's poorest countries from getting the help they need, according to the World Health Organization. Put that in numbers. Of 6 million people, just 300,000 are receiving the antiretroviral drugs that have made such an impact in the United States and other Western countries.

And though our president vowed to spend \$15 billion, his requests so far for donations to

the Global Fund to fight AIDS have amounted to about \$200 million. Oh, and that's despite the fact that Congress authorized \$550 million this year for the fund.

We have to ask: Where's the money, Bush? Where's the help you so boldly promised?

The United States isn't alone, either. Neither Europe nor Asia has given to the fund as generously as promised.

It's true that we're fighting a massive war against terrorism, spending billions of dollars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But there's another war, and that's against a disease that has killed 20 million, infected 60 million and left 14 million children without parents.

We're disappointed in Bush's negligence of what is a hugely important worldwide issue.

As the leader of arguably the most powerful nation in the world, our president must take the initiative and step up efforts to battle this pandemic.

This is a staff editorial from the Daily Nebraskan at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. It was distributed by U-Wire.

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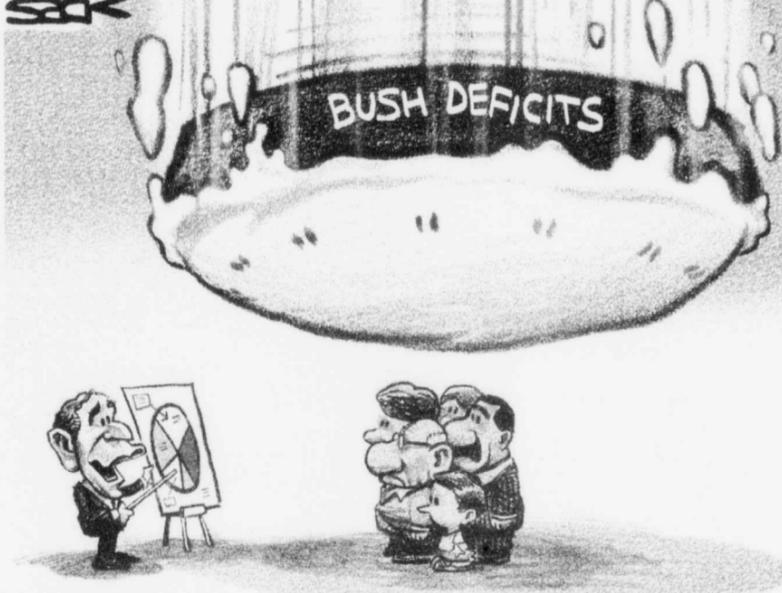
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Letters to the editor: The Skiff welcomes letters to the editor for publication. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, signed and limited to 250 words. To submit a letter, bring it to the Skiff, Mousy 291S; mail it to TCU Box 298050; e-mail it to skiffletters@tcu.edu or fax it to 257-7133. Letters must include the author's classification, major and phone number. The Skiff reserves the right to edit or reject letters for style, taste and size restrictions.

STAR TRIBUNE
SCK



'TODAY'S LECTURE: "HOW KERRY ECONOMIC POLICIES WILL HARM AMERICA." — LET'S START WITH THIS PIE CHART....'

Price of dorm life must drop

For almost \$3,000 a college student could take a Spring Break trip to Hawaii — with a friend. A college student could buy a rather large high-definition plasma TV. Or, this college student could take his or her \$3,000 and spend it on a four-month stay at one of the luxurious dormitories here at TCU.



Jennifer Noy

For the nearly three grand TCU students fork over for housing, what do we get? Well, for starters we get a soiled mattress atop a rickety wooden frame. In addition, we are provided with an ill-proportioned desk, unsuitable for study materials. And finally, TCU graciously gives us paper-thin walls, so we hear every conversation from our neighbors and consequently they can hear us as well.

Just when you thought it couldn't get any better, we share bathrooms with foreign odors and unidentified hairs. Good thing we brought flip-flops.

As wonderful as this sounds

and at such a bargain price, it is no wonder students choose to live off-campus. The alternative, a rented house or apartment, provides students with a much nicer living area at a more reasonable price. When comparing the two, the price difference over a semester can make a huge impact on a student's limited budget.

The question remains, why is there such a huge discrepancy in price between the dorms and off-campus living areas?

The apartments and rental homes often provide much nicer living spaces. Students have their own rooms and even private bathrooms. These off-campus residences have convenient parking, kitchens and extra living space. So for a higher price, students living on-campus park far away from their dorms, have less space (and no private space) and share bathrooms with 10-20 peers.

But I do have to point out the benefits of dorm life at TCU: location, location, location! I'm sure I am not the first to say that rolling out of bed ten minutes before class is nice. The library, the Main and the Recreation Center are all minutes away.

In addition, TCU students are provided with high-speed Internet and more cable channels than I knew existed. All this is rolled into our semester price.

But are the benefits enough to warrant the high price? No! As TCU students, we pay thousands of dollars for our education. We put up with a yearly increase in tuition rates and pay outrageous prices for "food" in the main (but that is a whole other story).

With all that said, the last thing we need as TCU students is a steep and unjustified residence hall rate. Surely, a university like TCU, with a multimillion-dollar endowment could find some way to redistribute its wealth to alleviate the burden of unreasonable dormitory fees.

I hope that in the future TCU will make the financial adjustments necessary to assist on-campus residents as they struggle to make ends meet. TCU, although one of the cheapest private schools in Texas, is still expensive. Give us a break on housing.

Jennifer Noy is a sophomore advertising/public relations and psychology major from Austin. She can be reached at j.j.noy@tcu.edu.

Media controlled by conservatives

It seems odd to me that some people see a liberal bias in the media. I consider myself a liberal, and most of my views are excluded from mainstream debate. The conservatives really have control of public thought.

All one needs to do to recognize this is take a look at who controls the public airwaves. Conservative talk radio shows hosted by Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity reach massive audiences. Limbaugh alone is heard on more than 600 stations.

According to a recent column by Al Franken in the Los Angeles Times, "The 45 most powerful radio stations owned by the top five station owners broadcast more than 300 hours of conservative talk radio each weekday. They broadcast only five hours of liberal talk."

Franken and others are trying to combat this with the recent launch of Air America radio, a liberal radio network that was able to buy time on a whopping six radio stations across the United States before their first broadcast. Now, who do you think has more influence in the media: the 600-station-strong conservatives or the six-station-strong liberals?

If this doesn't convince you, just look at what happened to the only show on network television in recent memory that allowed a significant voice to liberal thought.

ABC's "Politically Incorrect

with Bill Maher" was canceled after being part of super late night network programming for less than six years. This was not a liberal show, but it allowed liberals to be heard along with conservatives and others. Now Maher's show has been sent to cable, where it can do less harm.

On the other hand, the conservatives have Bill O'Reilly, who has a prime time spot. His show has been on the air for more than eight years.

Liberal voices aren't represented on "The O'Reilly Factor." Most so-called liberals that show allows on are really moderate, and the host can be counted on to cut people off when they say something he doesn't want to hear.

Another way to see this conservative bias in the media is to look at how views and even factual events have been excluded from media coverage by conservatives who know that including such things could hurt the system they wish to conserve.

The invasion of East Timor by Indonesia, supported by the United States and resulting in hundreds of thousands of civilian deaths from the mid-1970s to the late 1990s, has suffered almost complete exclusion. After Sept. 11, 2001, the fact that the U.S. government had supported and trained terrorists in Afghanistan and was responsible for the Taliban coming to power never entered mainstream debate. After Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, no one

mentioned that we supported this monster through many years of his atrocities and continued to support him until he disobeyed our orders.

When it was revealed that the current administration's invasion of Iraq, which has resulted in more than 10,000 civilian deaths, was based on false evidence, there was no significant outrage in the media for these lies. There has been some criticism for putting U.S. soldiers in harm's way, but not for the meaningless killing of civilians.

During all the Florida recounting in the 2000 presidential election, there was no mention of the fact that Jeb Bush was responsible for wrongfully purging thousands of voters before the election happened.

These voters all belonged to demographics that traditionally vote Democrat. To learn more on that, you have to go to a book like "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy" by Greg Palast.

When Ronald Reagan attacked Nicaragua with contra killers, the press criticized him for not getting the permission of Congress. No one questioned the fact that he would purposefully target civilians; they just wanted him to go through the proper channels.

There are many other examples. Read about some in "Manufacturing Consent" by Edward S. Herman and Noam Chomsky. *Eric Blevins is a columnist for Sidelines at Middle Tennessee State University. This column was distributed by U-Wire.*

Skiff staff senior goodbye
Jessica Sanders

Memories last, but it's over

I think I am getting old. I am developing all the symptoms of senior-ness: The smell of Ramen noodles makes me ill. A trip to Target means groceries, not an evening's entertainment. I see freshmen hanging out at the Student Center and wonder why they're not doing their homework.

Yes, it's sad but true. I have outgrown college.

All I want is a home of my own, where I don't have to load up all my possessions every May and carry them across the state in my beloved Buick. I need a permanent spot for my license plate collection, a residence where I can use candles responsibly and keep a pet that doesn't live in a bowl. I'm ready for the next chapter of my life.

With all this said, I can remember so clearly the day my parents dropped me off three years ago. As a transfer student, I felt that the hearty welcome for freshmen was not for me. I felt misplaced. All I wanted was to go home and return to my safe life at the University of Texas at San Antonio. I sobbed embarrassingly as I watched my family's minivan disappear down University Drive. Twisting my soggy Kleenex in my hands, I began to believe that I had made the greatest mistake of my life.

I was wrong. I thank God every day that I came here, that I made it through three years and that He sent me a wonderful bunch of friends and supporters to help me out. My life really has been changed by my time at TCU. I've grown so much emotionally and spiritually that I barely remember the brokenhearted transfer student I used to be. In my time here, I got a fake tattoo and passed it off as real, won a few syrup-drinking contests, sang some Motown karaoke and took advantage of happy hour buffets. This is the part where I say thanks to Aunt Beth, Chrystal, Betsy, Erin, Vicky, Allison, Kelly, Sarah K., Sarah C. and many others who made my life at TCU an adventure (and sometimes a slapstick comedy).

I've gotta say that college would have been a lot more fun if not for class, but I got a lot out of the academic part, too. I have learned about everything from ballet to media ethics. I became a better writer than I ever thought possible, finished projects I never thought would get done, and took on jobs I didn't remotely understand (news editor at the Skiff, for example). I owe a hearty thanks to Dr. Horvit, Phil Record, Dr. Perry and Dr. Ferrell (to name just a few) for making class interesting, instead of painfully boring. I'll be talking about your classes for years.

In May I will walk across the stage, in a robe so purple it would make a grape blush. My aunt is coming from Arlington, my parents are getting their car fixed so they can drive up from San Antonio and my grandpa is flying in from San Diego. After the ceremony we will have a nice dinner and haul all my stuff away. And that will be it for my college career.

I always expected to know what I wanted to do when I graduated. I thought I would have a secure job and a future that was clear. Well, none of these things have come to pass. But how many graduates can say they know how to pick out transmission fluid or understand both Macs and PCs? How many people do an amusingly bad Strongbad impression or tell really lame jokes with overwhelming confidence? Yes. For what it's worth, I can do these things. I am hoping that's what it takes to be a grown-up, because I need to get away from Ramen noodles.

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

Skiff and Image staffs awarded at journalism conventions

The TCU Daily Skiff's advertising staff, news staff and the Image magazine staff have been recognized for excellence in their fields at national and state student publication conventions.

"I'm pleased that the Skiff on both the advertising side and the news side have gotten recognition from two different organizations," said Robert Bohler, director of student publications. "I'm also pleased with the design and photography awards won by

the Image and the Skiff."

The Skiff advertising staff won two first-place national awards for best training program and for best special section at the College Newspaper Business and Advertising Managers convention in Seattle. Under the direction of Karla Williams, who was the advertising manager for the 2003 spring and fall semesters, the staff also won two third-place awards for best display spot color and best classified group

promotion at the convention, which took place in March.

Alexis Hoefer, an advertising designer, won a second-place award for best single advertisement at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association annual convention in Austin, which took place in April.

Image magazine won the Sweepstakes award for the most awards won at the Austin convention. Its 16 awards include second place for a single issue and second place overall. Brandon Ortiz, the Image's fall 2003 editor, won first place for a news feature story. Other first-place winners include Molly Beuerman, feature photo; Sarah Krebs, information graphic; Ortiz, Krebs, Stephen Spillman and Ty Halasz, story package.

Second-place winners include Krebs, cover design; Halasz, action photo; Emily Baker, column; John Mark-Day, feature story; and Colleen Casey, picture story.

Third-place winners include Baker, feature story, and Jeff Brubaker, column. Jonathan

Sampson, Image's 2003 spring editor, won third place with Leslie Moeller for an illustration.

Braden Howell won honorable mention for a news feature story and Halasz won honorable mention for color feature photo.

The Skiff news staff won eight awards in the Division I daily newspaper category at the Austin convention, including first place in the general column category by Ortiz.

Second-place winners include Lacey Krause, feature page design; Carlos Alvarado, sports column; and Halasz, sports feature photo. Megan Stroup and Elizabeth Serio won second place in the online newspaper category.

Third-place winners include Jennifer Hall, sports page design; and Hall and Brian Wooddell, special section/edition.

Hall and Krause won honorable mention for a special section/edition, along with Ortiz in the television feature story category. Hall also won honorable mention for opinion page design.

The Skiff was led by Jacque Petersell in the spring of 2003 and Kelly Morris in the fall of 2003.

QUICK FACTS



Election update

The latest news from the campaign trail

Kerry would help students

BOSTON (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry on Monday renewed his call for a comprehensive commitment to national service by Americans of all ages, telling college students that "change starts with you" as he proposed to tie aid for college tuition to national service.

"We cannot and we will not pass America's problems on to your generation. But the fact is, this election is not just about what we're going to do, it's about what you're going to do," Kerry said in remarks prepared for an appearance at the University of New Hampshire.

"With college tuition rising higher this year than ever before, it's time to make four years of college affordable and available to every single young American," Kerry said. "We'll help you pay for school, and we'll help even more if you're willing to serve your country.

And together, we'll make 2004 the last year that debt and dollar signs come before degrees and dreams for the future.

While Kerry pledged to "offer a lot to young people," his prepared remarks did not specify the relationship between service and tuition.

"But like no president since John F. Kennedy, I'm going to ask young people to give something back. I'm going to ask you to serve your country to go out into your communities and teach children, be mentors, build homes and protect America," he said.

As it opened a concerted appeal to younger voters, the Kerry campaign presented statistics it called a "misery index" to show the soaring costs of a college education amid lagging incomes. Other stops on its college tour this week are the University of Rhode Island, the City College of New York and the University of Pittsburgh.



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SPORTS

Tuesday, April 13, 2004

6

Dressed for basketball success

The Horned Frogs' Neil Dougherty was voted the nation's best dressed coach.

By Brent Yarina
Sports Editor

Even after Neil Dougherty picks up his laundry from the dry cleaners he is never fully satisfied.

The second year head coach says he insists on ironing and re-ironing each one of his shirts for wrinkles the cleaners missed before he'll consider wearing it.

"I don't like wrinkles," Dougherty said. "I will re-iron a shirt even after I get it back from the cleaners. It's just one of those weird things that I can't stand."

Well, thanks to collegeinsider.com and its "Best Dressed Coach" title which was awarded to Dougherty, the coach's "weird" habit has finally paid off for himself and his basketball program.

Not only is Dougherty now the latest fashion expert among the TCU community and his family and friends, but the recognition has also brought a lot of attention to his team.

"It's a positive lead in for all conversations," he said. "Every time this is mentioned so is TCU. We can never get enough exposure here."

Angela Lento, chief operating officer of collegeinsider.com, said Dougherty won the seventh annual tournament this year because he looks good in whatever he wears.

"He's always very sharp," Lento said. "You never see him throwing his jacket off or looking like he just rolled out of bed. Some coaches dress doesn't fit their personality, but that isn't the case with him. His clothes were made to fit him, even his sweats."

The coach's run to the best dressed title wasn't an easy journey, however.



Stephen Spillman/Staff Photographer

TCU is receiving exposure due to men's basketball coach Neil Dougherty, who was voted best dressed coach by Collegeinsider.com.

Dougherty, a No. 4 seed in the Web site's version of their field of 65, defeated three No. 1 seeds, including all three of the previous winners, en route to pulling off the improbable upset.

Dougherty fails to take credit for this title and instead jokes about his good fortunes.

"We pulled a shocker upset," he said. "I was led to believe we were

losing and were about to be eliminated. But in the end, we pulled off the shocker. I mean, it's not like I did anything for this to happen. It just came to me."

Dougherty attributed the large campaign he had behind him to winning the title.

"I had two schools voting for me, while all the others had only one," he said. "I had the people

from TCU and Kansas on my side. It was simply a matter of having a larger campaign than the rest."

It isn't so much what Dougherty or his supporters did for him to achieve this status as what his family has done.

Freshman point guard Neil Dougherty Jr. credits his mother, Patti, and sister, Megan, for his father's wardrobe.

"I don't know if it is his style that won him this award," Dougherty Jr. said. "That credit should go to my mom and sister. They are the ones always telling him what he should and shouldn't wear."

And Dougherty couldn't agree more.

"My wife is a champion shopper," he said. "She can shop all day long. I'm not good enough to even make the amateur league. I don't spend any time in the stores. I hate shopping."

In fact, Dougherty, owner of over 100 ties and 10 suits, said he would love to move his expensive gameday attire to the back of his closet.

"I'm real casual," he said. "I just wish I could be on the sideline in sweats. If I could go out there in a sweatsuit that matched our team colors I'd be so happy."

Either way, Dougherty's impressive threads have made him bobblehead worthy, the reward for winning the best dressed title.

"My own bobblehead, that will be funny," he said. "This will be so great, I can already see it in my parent's room."

Dougherty Jr. said the bobblehead is the first step to his father making a name for himself.

"That's what makes it so cool," he said. "I guess when they make a bobblehead of you, you have made it to the big time."

Brent Yarina
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Sports Briefs

Frogs' defensive back released
Defensive back Chris Peoples was released from the football team after violating undisclosed team rules Wednesday, university officials said.

Head football coach Gary Patterson was unable to be reached for further comment on Monday, but the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported that Patterson informed Peoples of his dismissal Wednesday.

Peoples, a graduate of Dunbar High School, took over the weak safety position after starter Marvin Godbolt was injured. He finished last season with 61 tackles and two interceptions and played in all 13 games.

He is also a member of the TCU Flying Frogs track team who holds the TCU outdoor record in the high jump, clearing 7-3 1/4.

Peoples had been slated to be a starting corner next season going into the spring, but did not take

part in spring practices. Coming off an 11-3 record, TCU will go in to the season with Mark Walker and Jerome Brazier as starters at cornerback.

Bonds ties for home runs
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Barry Bonds hit his 660th home run Monday to tie godfather Willie Mays for third on baseball's career list.

Bonds connected in the fifth inning on a 3-1 pitch from Milwaukee's Matt Kinney and sent the ball over the right-field wall into McCovey Cove for his second homer of the season, a three-run shot.

The 39-year-old Bonds was greeted at home by several teammates and he stepped on the plate and raised both hands in the air.

Bonds came back out of the dugout and waved to the fans in each direction as they cheered, "Barry! Barry!" and gave him a standing ovation.

Children bowed repeatedly along the left field wall when he came out to play the field in the top of the sixth.



Peoples

QUICK FACTS

Weekend sports followup

Gameday	Sport	Opponent	Score
Friday	Baseball	Cincinnati	TCU 13, UC 2
Saturday	Baseball	Cincinnati	TCU 10, UC 3
Saturday	(M) Golf	Boilermaker Invitational	NA
Saturday	Track	Texas A&M Invitational	NA
Sunday	Baseball	Cincinnati	UC 7, TCU 6
Sunday	(M) Tennis	SMU	SMU 4, TCU 3
Sunday	(M) Golf	Boilermaker Invitational	4th of 18

Weekend highlight

Senior first baseman and designated hitter Chris Neuman hit everything in sight this weekend against Cincinnati. The lefty torched Bearcat pitching all weekend finishing the three-game series 6 for 8 with eight RBIs and four runs scored. Neuman was the Frogs' spark on offense in each game versus Cincinnati (6-25, Conference USA 2-10), getting on base nine of the 11 times he went to the plate for an 82 percent clip. Neuman's biggest game came Friday afternoon when he went 3-for-4 with six RBIs en route to leading the Frogs to a commanding 13-3 victory in the first game of the series. Following his successful weekend with the bat, Neuman brought his batting average back above the .300 mark to .313.

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