

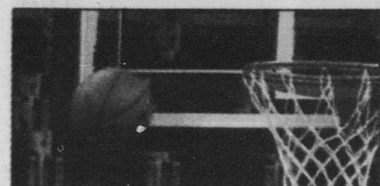
NEWS

A workshop aims to educate students on the citizenship application process.
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VENTURE CORP

FEATURES

Real estate makes one alumnus a millionaire.
PAGE 5



SPORTS

The men's and women's programs feature new faces from different places.
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TCU

DAILY SKIFF

FRIDAY

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Students given option to stay in dorms during Winter Break

By VICTORIA PUENTE
Staff Reporter

Every winter break many international students have had to find temporary housing because a flight home was too expensive and the residence halls were closed for the holidays. This year, several dorms will remain open during the break.

Carter, Samuelson, Foster, Waits, Tom Brown-Pete Wright

and Moncrief halls will give students the option to stay in their dorms during the break, which will be from Dec. 15 to Jan. 14, said Craig Allen, director of Residential Services.

"By opening the dorms, it not only gives (international students) a place to stay but it also means they don't have to spend that \$2,500 that they don't have," said John Single-

ton, director of international student services. "So for those kids I think it's a very nice gesture on TCU's part."

About 95 percent of an estimated 520 international TCU students are on a degree-seeking program, which means they study here for several years and for those who live overseas it can cost thousands of dollars to travel home, Singleton said.

"Students are now required to live on campus for their first two years, but international students — who could not afford to fly home — were being told they couldn't stay on campus for those three weeks," Singleton said. "This wouldn't be an issue if they were allowed to live in an apartment, so I think this was TCU finally making right on that situation."

Previously, if an international student could not find a place to stay, the International Student Services office would find a family in the community for the student to stay with during the winter break, Singleton said.

"For some students, staying on campus is probably less about needing a place to stay and more about not wanting to go back home for that amount

of time, away from their friends and the place where they spend most of their time," Allen said.

Other students who will benefit from the new open dorm policy will be those who live out of town and have a job or internship in the area or if a student's family is out of town on vacation they can stay at the dorms so they do not have to

See DORMS, page 2

ROCK STAR



Ken Morgan, associate dean of the College of Science and Engineering, stands between a horse bridle and a satellite image of Southwest Texas in his office. Morgan is the director of operations for TCU's new Energy Institute. Morgan also plays in a band set to perform at The Moon Bar on Dec. 6.

Professor balances teaching, music

He is the ultimate multi-tasker.

He chairs the geology department, teaches a freshman geology class and directs TCU's new Energy Institute.

But Ken Morgan is more than that. On his personal time, he plays music with his band, who will take the stage at The Moon Bar on Dec. 6.

For about ten years, he has been

training horses for his son, who suffers from cerebral palsy, a disease that causes difficulty in muscle control. He is now on the board of directors for a volunteer organization that provides about 100 children with the opportunity to ride horses for therapy.

See FROM ROCKS TO PRAIRIES, page 5

Campuses debate gun control issues

By TIM BELLA
Sports Editor

Not even a year after the most horrific school shooting in this country's history, the debate has been brought back to college campuses.

The debate as to whether students should be allowed to carry a concealed firearm into a college classroom has been a prevalent topic among special-interest groups, university administrators, lawmakers and students alike since that fateful April 16th morning in Blacksburg, Va.

The heart of the debate focuses on whether allow-

ing concealed weapons in a classroom setting can save lives if a catastrophe such as the one at Virginia Tech happens again.

Since the tragedy, groups such as Students for Concealed Carry on Campus (SCCC) have sprouted around college campuses nationwide, advocating that students who are concealed handgun license holders should have the right to carry these concealed firearms into university buildings.

The group saw its membership climb in October, adding about 3,000 new student activists to put the group at 7,500

members through October, said W. Scott Lewis, SCCC's spokesman. This spike in membership numbers coincided with an "empty holster" protest university representatives took part in Oct. 22 through Oct. 26. The protest took place at almost all of the 111 universities and colleges represented in the group and had students wearing empty gun holsters around their campuses. There is not a TCU chapter of SCCC. Texas universities with SCCC chapters include the University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, Baylor University, Texas

Tech University, the University of North Texas, Texas State University, the University of Texas at San Antonio, Stephen F. Austin State University and Angelo State University.

The discussion has even made its way to Texas State where, according to a recent article in the University Star, the campus newspaper, a resolution presented at an Associated Student Government meeting calling for the state legislature to allow concealed weapons to be carried to class.

Lewis, an Austin resident, See GUNS, page 4

Brite raises funds to rush expansion

By AMANDA SHIMKO
Staff Reporter

The Brite Divinity School is hoping to save \$2 million on its expansion project by moving the groundbreaking up two years, a Brite administrator said.

Newell Williams, president of Brite and a professor of modern and American church history, said plans have been in the works for a few years. The renovations and expansion will cost \$19.5 million and is expected to take 18 months to complete, he said.

But with building costs projected to be on the rise, Williams said, the school hopes to have the funds in time to begin construction summer 2008 when the cost would be \$17.5 million.

More than \$10 million has been raised, said Larry Brown, director of development operations.

If the school were able to

raise \$3.7 million, Williams said, \$3 million has been guaranteed from private donors.

The new building would supply a 54,000-square-foot addition to the 17,000-square-foot Moore Building, Williams said.

Moore was originally intended to hold 100 students, Williams said.

This year, they have 268 students, said Suzanne Stone, administrative assistant to the associate dean for academic and student affairs.

Williams said the number of students at Brite range anywhere from 270 to 320 throughout the year.

With offices stuffed in storage closets, broom closets and renovated bathrooms, Williams said, "It's like Calcutta."

The new three-story building will have a parking garage, counseling center, a 150-seat

See BRITE, page 2

Dorms to receive new media rooms

By VICTORIA PUENTE
Staff Reporter

A new 24-hour media center, to be located between King and Wright halls, will be equipped with a pool table, flat screen TVs, game tables and a minibar and it will be available for all students at the beginning of the spring semester.

The center is scheduled to open on the first day of spring classes Jan. 14, but issues with the exterior construction could delay the opening until the end of January, said Harold Lee-man, associate director of the Physical Plant.

"There will be a bar area with a sink and microwave where students can set out food for a football game or some kind of group gathering and it will also have a private bathroom area," said Craig Allen, director of Residential Services.

The center will have three

round tables with seating and two flat screen TVs. One of the TVs will be by the pool table and the other will be in a corner surrounded by comfortable seating, a DVD player and cable access, Allen said.

"We don't want to overcrowd it with furniture until we see how students use it, which is what we did in the technology center," Allen said. "We'll probably come back in and add furniture."

The technology center, located between Carter and Samuelson halls, opened Oct. 9 and was designed as a study space for individuals and groups, said Rachel Siron, hall director for Carter and Samuelson halls.

"It has one area in the center with tables and chairs and white board erase dividers," Siron said. "Then we have another area with a wide

See MEDIA, page 2

CORRECTION

The university tracks the percentage of minority students that drop out, and 81.2 percent of minority students are retained by the university, said Kathy Coghlan, assistant director of institutional research. The retention rate

for minority students enrolled in support programs is almost 100 percent said Mike Scott, director of scholarships and financial aid. An article in Thursday's paper, "Freshman programs help raise retention," contained incorrect statistics.

WEATHER

TODAY: 67/58, Mostly Cloudy
SATURDAY: 73/63, Showers
SUNDAY: 61/40, Sunny

PECULIAR FACT

BETHLEHEM, Pa. — Police officers were suspended without pay for allowing a suspect to smuggle a loaded gun into police headquarters by hiding it in her underwear. — Associated Press

TODAY'S HEADLINES

OPINION: Column intended to be satirical, page 3
SPORTS: Lady Frogs prepare to face rival A&M, page 8
OPINION: Movies don't influence religion, page 3

CONTACT US

Send your questions, compliments, complaints and hot tips to the staff at NEWS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU

DORMS

From page 1

stay alone, Allen said. "Moncrief Hall was the only exception to the closed dorm policy during the winter break, because it mostly housed athletes who needed to be on campus regularly for things like practice and games," Allen said. If a student lives in one of the closed halls and wants to stay on campus during the break they will have the option of staying in a friend's room in one of the open halls, but it has to be approved by the resident assis-

tant, Allen said. It's pretty laid back. We are just offering this service as a convenience to students and we don't anticipate any major things," said David Cooper, associate director of Residence Life, "but the RAs will still make sure if any students are misbehaving we confront it and we would do our normal procedures." Students can contact campus police from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the winter break with any problems and after 5 p.m. the RAs will be on duty and available to help students out with any issues, Cooper said.

MEDIA

From page 1

screen TV where students can watch a DVD, which many students have been using it on a very regular basis." The centers will also be available for school or club meetings and even social gatherings, but only on a first-come, first-serve basis, Siron said.

"The RAs have held different movie-watching gatherings or just have people getting together and having popcorn and sitting around and chatting. There haven't been any official events, but if people wanted to they could have their meetings there," Siron said. Both centers will be open 24 hours and accessible to all students with their ID cards, Allen said.

BRITE

From page 1

auditorium, six classrooms, preaching centers and fireplaces, Williams said. The parking lot, adjacent to Moudy Building and behind Moore and Beasley Hall, will be the site of the new building. Brian Gutierrez, vice chancellor for finance and administration, said in an e-mail that the university has added a significant number of parking spaces around the entire university as well as increased the frequency of the shuttle in order to alleviate parking issues. While there will be about 32 parking spaces around the new building, no decision has been finalized in regard to how those will be zoned, Gutierrez said. The new building can comfortably fit 400 people, Williams said. "So that means we could have 1,000," Williams said jokingly.

Students to help immigrants

By ANTOINETTE NEVILS
Staff Reporter

With the help of student volunteers, hundreds of immigrants will soon be able to call themselves U.S. citizens. A citizenship workshop on Dec. 1 will give students an opportunity to volunteer and experience something new — the citizenship application process. The workshop will be at the Tarrant County College in Fort Worth from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is being sponsored by Projecto Inmigrante ICS, Inc., said Carlos Valera, a junior political science major. The workshop is part of a campaign called "Ya Es Hora Ciudadania," which means "It's Now Time," said Kelley Escobar, a junior political science major. This campaign and workshop were created to encourage immigrants to become citizens so they can vote and express their opinions, Escobar said. She said the campaign has been going on for about three years. Escobar is one of the volunteers who will be at the citizenship workshop again this year. She said she volunteered at the workshop last year and noticed that she saw only two TCU students there and she

wanted to change that. "We're trying to get TCU more involved," Escobar said. "This is a good volunteer opportunity, can help the community and can boost students' resumes." Escobar said volunteers will help people fill out their applications for citizenship as well as make the applicants feel more comfortable if they need to talk to someone. Projecto Inmigrante ICS, Inc. citizenship workshops are hosted in major cities in the U.S., Valera said. Valera said he volunteered at two other citizen workshops in Dallas and is now organizing volunteers on campus with Escobar. "The workshop is becoming prominent now because the fee for applying for citizenship increased from about \$300 to \$600 this past July," Valera said. Through advertising on Hispanic TV stations and publications, the organization was trying to promote citizenship before and after the fee increased, Valera said. Valerie Martinez-Ebers, a political science professor, is the volunteers' faculty sponsor for this workshop. She said

she helped Escobar and Valera, who decided on their own to help the organization, host a table in the student center to get students to sign up to volunteer. "This is important because the process is complicated and expensive," Martinez-Ebers said about the citizenship application process. Martinez-Ebers said the perception of immigrants not wanting to stay in America legally is not true. They just need help to become citizens, she said. Escobar said the organization prefers bilingual students because most of the people at the workshop will speak Spanish and little English. She said they also prefer Spanish, pre-law and political science majors because this is a topic that would probably interest them the most and would be a good experience for them in their field. Martinez-Ebers said other students from Tarrant County College and the University of Texas at Arlington will be volunteering. Many volunteer and charity organizations, as well as immigration attorneys, will be at the workshop, Escobar said.

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www.amhrt.org

TCU BOOKSTORE
Calendar of Events

BARNES & NOBLE
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December 2007

S M T W T F S

1 1

2 2

3 **Exclusive Engagement**
Come to the campus store for unadvertized sales storewide!

4 **T is for Trepass**
Sue Grafton
Release 12/10 20%*

5 **Angel Tree**
Angel Tree gifts due today.

6 **Dead Days**
Shop with us for your Christmas gifts for our favorite frog.

7 **Special Event**
Author Extravaganza at the Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens 4-6 p.m.

8 **Wayne's World**
MagicJack™ a VOIP USB adapter that uses a land phone for unlimited free calls.

9 **Need Money?**
Get cash anytime. Textbook Buyback everyday!

10 **Wayne's World**
Are you Game?
XBOX 360

11 **Skinny Bitch in the Kitch**
Rory Freedman
20%*

12 **Buyback Week**
Sell back your books for cold hard cash at the TCU Bookstore.

13 **Gift Idea!**
The Barnes & Noble gift card makes the perfect stocking stuffer for Christmas.

14 **Building Fact**
The new campus bookstore has 34,000 Sq. Ft. of TCU wonder.

15 **TCU Graduation**
Congratulations on your graduation! We're open today from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

16 **Wayne's World**
Need portable digital storage for your pc? We have a variety of flash drives for sale.

17 **Blood Brothers**
Nora Roberts
20%*

18 **Online Orders Close**
Last call for online orders from the TCU Bookstore website <http://tcu.bkstore.com>

19 **Make your Mark**
That is Kate Spade stationary now available at TCU Bookstore.

20 **U-Turn Magazine**
Barnes & Noble College Booksellers U-Turn magazine available at checkout.

21 **Building Fact**
Store closes at 6 p.m. and the new store opens on January 7 at 8 a.m.

22 **Wayne's World**
Are you Game for Nintendo?
Wii™

23 23

24 24

25 **STORE CLOSED**

26 **BARNES & NOBLE**
COLLEGE BOOKSELLERS
TCU

27 **A new chapter in TCU history commences when the 34,00 Sq. Ft. bookstore opens to the TCU community and public at 8 a.m. on January 7th, 2008.**

28 28

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Did you know?
Buyback is the 10-15th. The last day for the University Store to be open at our temporary location is December 21st.

* Discount applies only for opening week of new title.
+ Buyback offer is subject to change.

TCU DAILY SKIFF
TCU Box 298050, Fort Worth, TX 76129
Phone: (817) 257-7428 Fax: (817) 257-7133
E-mail: news2skiff@tcu.edu

Editor in Chief: Andrew Chavez
Managing Editor: Aly Fleet
Associate Editor: Marcus Murphree
News Editors: Lindsey Bever, Bailey Shiffler
Opinion Editor: Sonya Cisneros

Sports Editor: Tim Bella
Features Editor: Saerom Yoo
Photo Editor: Billy Wessels
Design Editor: Camilla Andres
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Advertising Manager: Natalie Haines
Student Publications Director: Robert Bohler
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Director, Schiefel School: Tommy Thomason

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COMMENTARY



Morgan Blunk

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COMMENTARY



JoHannah Hamilton

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Editorial B

ANDREW CHAV...
ALY FLEET
BAILEY SHIFFLE...
LINDSEY BEVER...



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"His lack of education is more than compensated for by his keenly developed moral bankruptcy."

— Woody Allen

THE SKIFF VIEW

Cheers, jeers of semester

CHEERS to the university for making campus more environmentally friendly with biodegradable utensils and to-go boxes in dining locations. The innovative Spudware is a step in the right direction toward making a difference in the environment.

CHEERS to the Neeley School of Business for the multiple awards won and for raising its admission standards. To be the best, you must only accept the best.

JEERS to Residential Services for creating a dining plan that could have a \$2,100 price tag and will go into effect next fall. Deco Deli and Eden's Greens, you will be dearly missed.

CHEERS to the members of Green River Ordinance for showing us that hard work and dedication pays off — literally — with a record deal from Capitol Records. Their work around the community and attempts to raise awareness for Darfur should also be applauded.

CHEERS to Residential Services for allowing students to access their on-campus

housing during Christmas break. There is nothing worse than being alone on Christmas, and TCU has made that possible for students from far away places.

JEERS to the Mountain West Conference for scheduling the football team for three Thursday night games. The Horned Frogs 7-5 record may have been different had the team played on full rest those weeks.

CHEERS to the university for upgrading to wireless Internet in campus dormitories. Facebook can now be accessed from the basement while waiting on laundry to finish the spin-cycle.

CHEERS to Horned Frog basketball fans for camping outside of Daniel-Meyer Coliseum to create a big-game atmosphere for the Nov. 13 win against Rice. The best way to promote a winning atmosphere is to have the support on the homecourt.

JEERS to every person on campus in a position of power who stonewalls and withholds important information from students.

The Daily Skiff editorial board.

BY FRANK BURKETT, FROM THE DAILY SKIFF, DECEMBER 1949



Image column intended to be satire, not serious commentary

Are y'all kidding me? Because maybe you didn't know that I was kidding in my Image Magazine HUMOR column. Maybe you were reading too closely to tell that I was making fun of a common stereotype.

COMMENTARY



Morgan Blunk

Shame on you people for not recognizing farce from a tree or satire from an apron. My column was poking fun at an age-old stereotype, not pushing women's rights back to pre-Susan B. Anthony.

I have to admit, a few thanks are in order, though. Thank you for all of your encouraging and classy words of criticism and advice. It's you who have given me the topic for my next charming column in the spring: "A Sense of Perspective: Why Upperclassmen Have More of It." This will undoubtedly warm all of your anxious hearts.

And to those of you whose messages I didn't read, well, too many nasty thoughts can ruin a person's chi. And that's just bad karma. Forgive me.

To the ones who think I'm shallow — I do have a shoe fetish and a terrible habit of reading trashy chick-lit books, so maybe I am a bit shallow in those regards.

To the ones who think I'm wasting my \$30,000 per year degree by masking it in an attempt to get a husband, well, I'm writ-

ing the column that was heard 'round campus — and other schools, I'm told — and you're not. Weird.

If you ask anyone who knows me personally they'll tell you I'm a serial dater. My friends all laughed at my column because they know I'm probably the least likely to tie the knot in the TCU chapel in May of 2008.

I am actually disgusted at the idea of getting married while still in college — or shortly thereafter — and thought it was funny to write that I was for it. I thought you'd get it.

Thank you to everyone who gave me my 15 minutes of fame in the past few days. Now, I can get married and have lots of babies right out of college instead of becoming a reporter like I've always wanted. Not.

Aren't finals next week? Go study or something.

Morgan Blunk is a senior broadcast journalism major from Omaha, Ne.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Skiff staff decided to put the usual Opinion page on DailySkiff.com to allow students to express themselves on what has become a controversial issue. An article in Image Magazine, also available on DailySkiff.com, has caused quite a stir and raised some important questions about gender roles and editorial policies.

We hope you consider the issue carefully, and even though this is the final issue of the Skiff, we urge you to voice your opinions about this issue at DailySkiff.com. However, we hope the discussion will be academic in nature — as it should be on a college campus — and not attack the author or the magazine's editors.

— Editor-in-chief Andrew Chavez

women. The column should have been labeled as such, and for that, we apologize. But for running it, we do not.

Although we understand many of our readers were offended by the column, that in itself is not the right motive to censor someone's opinion. Even if the column were not intended to

be satirical, though it was, we still stand behind our writer. We asked her to express her opinion, and she did just that. We are saddened by the personal attacks that have been made on Blunk, and we would appreciate it if the discussion were handled in a civil and mature manner. A major complaint of readers is that Blunk's column was disrespectful to women, and yet, these attacks are disrespectful at best.

For those who agree with Blake Robertson's column that appeared in Thursday's Skiff that Image can no longer be regarded as a "legitimate work of journalism," we would hope that you base this belief on the numerous thoroughly reported stories throughout the magazine, rather than on the opinion columns alone. If you still have our magazine, we ask that you would take the time to read the other articles. You may be surprised at what you find.

In this issue alone, we have three hard news stories dealing with issues we hoped you would find informative and thought-provoking — things that might affect you more than the opinion of one woman in the journalism department. We appreciate TCU's interaction with us, and we hope, in the future, that other topics will generate this much discussion.

We, the editors, value strong, independent women and men. It would be a contradiction for us to say otherwise as two-thirds of our editorial staff are women — one of whom is married, working and taking 18 hours of classes; the other of whom is about to take a reporting job in another city, without a husband in tow.

Image Magazine Editor-in-chief Ky Lewis and Image managing editors Michelle Devereaux and Kathleen Thurber.

Finding spouse not sole purpose of getting college education

By now, most of the student population has read or is aware of the recent article in Image Magazine about the perpetual race to the altar.

COMMENTARY



Johannah Hamilton

What is most surprising to me, however, is the response the article has generated among male and female students.

I will make it a point here not to attack the author of the piece. After all, this is a university environment where everyone should

be free to express his or her opinions.

Yet, the substance of the article, or lack thereof, has drawn contention among the student body and also touched on some issues that rarely receive their due at this institution.

Putting on hold for a moment the larger issues about womanhood and sexuality, we must question the larger class issues at hand.

Coming to college to find a mate is not a new concept, but to that end, it is an antiquated one.

Particularly on a campus

where the females outnumber the males, it is difficult to understand the point, but the larger issue to me is one of class.

Most TCU students rarely think of their social class — it's one of the benefits that come with privilege. Others cannot help but hyperventilate at the thought of their culminating student loans. If \$125,000 is the going rate for finding a husband, I would venture to say we are overpaying, given the statistics on divorce.

But if the goal of the women on this campus is to educate themselves and find a

community where knowledge is valued, the cost of the degree is not what matters, but its substance.

Considering TCU's highly rated business school, perhaps women business majors are not "overachievers." The author owes her education and her ability to attend an institution of higher education to the feminists who came before her, as much as she desires to be unaffiliated with them.

The author's overarching argument rests on the idea that women belong in the home and should desire to stay there.

In a time where women are closer to parity than they have been in the past, it is harmful to revert to nostalgia of a time where the sole role of women was to be homemakers and choice was not an option.

The fact that women have a choice to work in or outside of the home is a testament to feminism and to the work feminists, both male and female, have done, and we must not overlook our history. Narcotizing oneself with the idea that homemaking is the preferred culmination of four years of college undermines the structure and purpose of this insti-

tution and all who have, are and will receive a degree from it. It also compromises the dignity of the women who choose to work at home.

The author's premise, that women exist to find a man to take care of, is inaccurate and embarrassing, not only because it excludes a vast human population who are not sexually attracted to the opposite sex, but also because it pulls from the grave the idea that women are not fully human.

Johannah Hamilton is a senior anthropology major from Burleson and a coordinator for the TCU Women's Network.

Religious groups shouldn't fear influence of Hollywood movies

Video games turn kids into killers.

Music encourages rebellion. And movies destroy ... Christianity?

The entertainment industry has faced these accusations for years. The latest target is a movie to arriving in theaters Dec. 7.

You have heard of it by now: "The Golden Compass."

It has sparked controversy,

among Christians.

During the preview, it almost resembles the fantasy-like features of "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" with humans alongside animals and witches.

But the themes are far from similar.

While "Narnia" has Christian undertones, "The Golden Compass," or at least the

novels it is based on, has the opposite.

"The Golden Compass" is based on the "His Dark Materials" trilogy by Philip Pullman, who has expressed his distaste with the "Narnia" series in earlier interviews.

According to the Baptist Press, Pullman has said his books are about killing God, and he is "trying to undermine the basis of Christian belief."

Part of the controversy has to do with the books being geared toward children.

Christian leaders have claimed the movie and books are trying to turn children into atheists.

Movies are getting credit for having a greater impact on society than they really do.

A survey conducted by The Barna Group indicated that the movie, "The Passion of the

Christ" — billed as the "greatest evangelistic tool" of our time — had little impact on Christianity.

The survey reported less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the people who saw the film said they professed their faith or accepted Christ as their savior as a reaction to the film.

This study indicates that watching a religious-themed

movie does not persuade people to endorse or follow the beliefs in the movie.

So why are religious organizations frightened that a so-called anti-religious movie will persuade people to turn away from God?

People decide on their own what they want to believe or not believe.

Gretchen Hollis is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Snyder.

Editorial Board

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GUNS

From page 1

said critics may be misinformed as to what the group's objective might be in regard to who should have the right to carry a concealed firearm into a classroom.

"This is not a debate about keeping guns out of the hands of immature, substance-abusing college students," Lewis said. "This is a debate about allowing licensed individuals — age 21 and above, in most states — to carry their concealed firearms on college campuses, the same way they carry them virtually everywhere else."

Even though the discussion has become more lively as of late, university officials such as Chancellor Victor Boschini know the serious repercussions that could accompany such a movement.

"I would be opposed to their being allowed to do this in a group living environment," Boschini said. "My gut just tells me, from 20-plus years experience in a campus environment, that this is a recipe for disaster."

Abbie Spangler, the founder of Protest Easy Guns — a grassroots movement "focused on protesting lax U.S. gun laws, which provide criminals and dangerous individuals easy access to guns," she said — agreed with Boschini that the results would be dangerous if they were to be put in place.

Demonstrators with Spangler's group have organized lie-ins involving 32 people lying on the ground for several minutes — a symbolic protest remembering the 32 people killed in the Virginia Tech shootings and the amount of time it took for Seung Hui Cho to obtain his gun.

"Our protest movement believes that students should not have guns on college campuses," Spangler said. "That is completely ridiculous."

Despite the strong push on the part of Spangler and Protest Easy Guns, she said in a Nov. 1 Chronicle of Higher Education article that the level of enthusiasm for

this movement was not on par with past influential movements on college campuses.

"Students just don't seem to be caught up in this issue the way they were in the civil rights movement," Spangler said in the article. "I don't know whether things will change because of these demonstrations and other things."

Even with such strong opposition to the idea, the push from SCCC state delegates and licensed concealed firearm holders alike has only intensified since Gov. Rick Perry's proclamation shortly after the Virginia Tech shootings that concealed-weapon license holders should have the right to carry their firearms anywhere in the state. Perry would even go so far as to sign a bill a little more than two weeks after the shootings that would prohibit law enforcement officials from confiscating weapons from license holders in emergency situations.

"It's time for us to have that debate in Texas from the standpoint of whether or not a law-abiding citizen in the state of Texas can take their appropriately licensed and permitted weapon anywhere in this state, whether it's on a college campus or wherever," Perry said April 30. "A person ought to be able to carry their weapon with them anywhere in the state if they are licensed and they have gone through the training."

"The idea that you're going to exempt them from a particular place is nonsense."

Cold Hard Facts

In Texas, an individual 21 or older must meet 15 requirements before successfully obtaining a concealed handgun license, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Some of the requirements include: the individual must not

have any felony convictions, must not have any family violence convictions of any kind, must not have any Class A or Class B misdemeanor convictions within the last five years, must not be chemically dependent, must not be disqualified if a court ruling presents the person as being a danger to himself/herself or to others, must pass state and federal fingerprint and background checks, must pass a 10-hour

"I support in protecting our Second Amendment right," Benavente said. "Your right to defend yourself, your family and your position is important, and is the most basic right we have in America."

Chris Benavente
NRA member

training course on the applicable laws and appropriate use and must pass written and shooting tests.

Lewis said the individuals dedicated enough to go through the application process are not the ones anti-gun activists should be worrying about.

"The people who meet all of these requirements and pay approximately \$250 to take the course and apply for the license are not contributing in any measurable degree to the problem of gun violence in America," he said.

According to information gathered from Sept. 1, 2006, to Aug. 31 by the Texas Department of Public Safety, Tarrant County issued 6,561 concealed handgun licenses — good for 7.22 percent of the nearly 91,000 issued licenses by the state during that time period. The totals were good for third in the state, behind only Harris and Dallas Counties. The county would also finish tied for third with Bexar County and behind Harris and Dallas Counties in license denials at 23, or almost 6 percent of the state's concealed handgun license denials.

Of the 90,867 licenses issued, 2,929 were issued to people ages 21 to 23, which was good for 3.22 percent of the licenses issued during the yearlong period, according to these same Texas DPS statistics. These figures dwarf the 392 applicants and the 40 people ages 21 to 23 — which

totalled a much larger chunk of concentrated data at 10.21 percent — whom were denied a license.

Even with the statistics being as concentrated as they are for college-age students in Tarrant County, legislation in the 2007-2008 Official Student Handbook indicates the use, storage or possession of weapons or devices potentially causing harm to others "may result in immediate expulsion in addition to the filing of criminal charges."

"There is no benefit to having a firearm on campus unless you are a member of our police force," Boschini said.

Open Your Eyes

The discussion has trickled onto the lawn of TCU among students who support and oppose the idea of concealed weapons on campus.

Students such as Chris Benavente, who is an active member of the National Rifle Association, said gun owners are law-abiding, responsible individuals, and thus should allow for concealed carrying on campus. Benavente, a senior political science major from Spring, said his strong views on the Second Amendment through his NRA affiliation and what it means has shaped his perspective on the issue.

"I support in protecting our Second Amendment right," Benavente said. "Your right to defend yourself, your family and your position is important, and is the most basic right we have in America."

Other students such as James Michael Russell disagree. Russell, a sophomore religion and anthro-

pology major from Fort Worth, said he disagrees with Perry's viewpoints on concealed weapons being allowed in all public places.

He offered his opinion on what should be done to gun control, not just what should be done in regard to college campuses.

"Get rid of all of them," said Russell, a member of Young Democrats and TCU Peace Action. "If we don't do something that extreme to limit the violence, what are we going to do?"

By implementing gun-free zones for potential victims at universities such as TCU, officials are essentially creating safe zones for potential criminals, said John Lott, an author who wrote the books "More Guns, Less Crime" and "The Bias Against Guns."

"A decade ago I think hardly anybody would have questioned the idea of gun-free zones," said Lott, a senior research scientist at the University of Maryland. "But I think now, it's still a minority. You have a number of people who are concerned about this and I think eventually it's going to dawn on people that these multiple victim public killings are all occurring, anything of any reasonable sign, is taking place where guns are banned."

There is no such thing as a 100-percent gun-free zone at the University of Utah or Brigham Young University. The two Utah institutions, both of which are affiliated with TCU through the Mountain West Conference, allow people to carry concealed weapons under a one-of-a-kind state legislation found nowhere else in the country. Other state legislation has 38 states banning weapons at institutions, with 16 of those states

placing a specific ban on guns, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Adam Snell, BYU's SCCC delegate, said the policy has not had a negative effect on BYU or other institutions in Utah.

"Other Utah campuses where concealed carry is allowed have not had any problems since the policy was implemented," said Snell, a senior political science major from Mesa, Ariz. "Many people claim that if students were allowed to carry and a gunman came on campus that the whole campus would turn into a shooting gallery with everyone shooting at everyone."

If there were to be a repeat of the Virginia Tech tragedy, guaranteed protection by way of campus security is something that is less than a guarantee at any given college campus, Lott said.

"It would be great if one can go and guarantee protection some other way, but you can't," Lott said. "Even if you increased the number of police tenfold from what you had, you still wouldn't be able to cover the entire campus."

"The big thing that affects how many people get killed or injured in these attacks is the amount of time that takes place between when the attack starts and when somebody is able to arrive on the scene with the gun. The longer the time, the more carnage takes place."

It is the collective responsibility of the students to engage in whatever they must do to save their lives if a horrific act were to take place at TCU or any university for that matter, said Wyatt Tubbs, Texas A&M's SCCC delegate.

"When I ask a person what they are going to do when a killer walks into the classroom and blows his or her best friend away, most of the answers I have heard have been, 'I have never thought about that,'" said Tubbs, a senior mechanical engineering major from Canadian, Texas. "The sheep mentality of 'It will never happen to me' has permeated many people's minds. As soon as people put themselves in the shoes of the victims at Virginia Tech, they realize that the police will not respond in time to save their lives and they must be able to defend themselves if they want any chance of survival."



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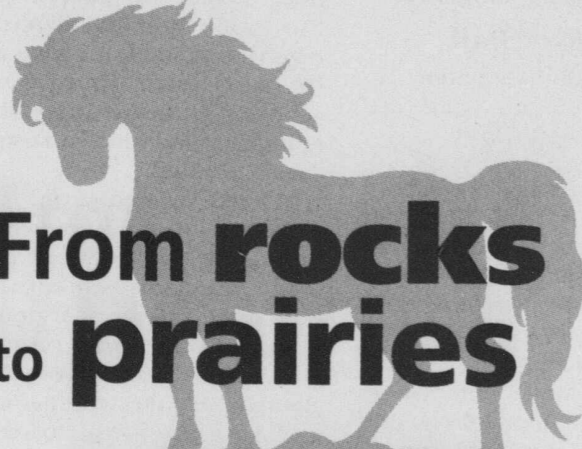


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From rocks to prairies

Geology professor trains students, horses

By JOE ZIGTEMA
Staff Reporter

He has been the principle investigator for more than 50 studies, a consultant for more than 70 companies and a lecturer in his field all over the world.

He directs a new TCU program, trains horses for disabled kids, raises his two sons and plays bass guitar at The Moon Bar, all while teaching freshman geology.

And that's just a normal day of work for Ken Morgan.

Richard Hanson, geology department chairman, said Morgan's energy makes him

a great teacher.

"He's taking on a lot, but he's got a lot of expertise," Hanson said. "He loves to teach."

Morgan, TCU's associate dean of the college of science and engineering, also serves as director of operations for TCU's new Energy Institute.

The institute will incorporate the business and technology aspects of all kinds of energy when it opens in January, Morgan said. Students interested in working in the energy industry can earn a minor from the institute, which Morgan said will teach them to appreciate

the other facets of the energy industry and help TCU students stand out to companies.

"We know they'll hire finance majors. We know they'll hire geologists. We know they'll hire engineers," Morgan said. "We're trying to also tack onto that more skills and understanding of the broader industry."

Because of TCU's proximity to the Barnett Shale, Morgan said other schools have shown interest in traveling to Fort Worth to tap into the natural gas industry, including the University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University and the University of Oklahoma.

"We have center stage," Morgan said. "They have to come to our house. We may as well get the welcome wagon out and make this happen."

Valerie DeSantis, director of advancement of science and engineering in the Energy Institute, said Morgan's dedication to TCU and his positive personality enable him to be successful.

"Ken's the type of person who can juggle a million things at once," DeSantis said. "The busier he is, the more he gets accomplished."

Morgan is not all business,

though. He said it will be standing room only when his band takes the stage at The Moon Bar on Dec. 6.

He was first introduced to music by his father, who played bass fiddle at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn.

Morgan's band, which he said has been renamed many times, covers anything from The Police to the Eagles, and invites people to come and sing with them when they play.

"This semester, I'm going to invite all the students in my class to come over and see how goofy I can be," Morgan said.

Though he is known throughout the department for his sense of humor, Morgan does have a sensitive side. He started training horses about 10 years ago, he said, when he saw the joy his youngest son took from horseback riding. He decided to move to the country and bought two horses.

There was just one problem: Morgan had no idea how to train horses. An added difficulty is that his younger son has cerebral palsy, a disease that causes difficulty in muscle control.

So he got on the Web, he said, and found what is called "clicker training."

The method uses a clicker to help horses remember certain actions with the noise and a treat. Morgan said he and his older son spent a lot of time training the horses, but seeing his younger son ride was well worth it.

"When he's on that horse, even though it's a struggle, I don't care who you are, it brings tears to your eyes because you will never witness that in your life," Morgan said.

Morgan serves on the board of directors for the All Star Equestrian Foundation in Mansfield, a vol-

unteer organization that he said provides about 100 children with the opportunity to ride horses for therapy. Every January, the foundation hosts an event for centers all around Texas at John Justin Arena. In 2009, Morgan said, Fort Worth will be the host city for all institutions like All Star around the nation.

"When you see a youngster be able to raise his hands up on a horse or take the reins for the first time in their lives and take a 1,200-pound horse around an arena, it's pretty spectacular," Morgan said.



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor
Ken Morgan, who teaches a freshman geology course, has been a consultant for more than 70 companies, will direct the new Energy Institute and trains horses for children with disabilities.

Real estate investment leads alumnus to millions

By ERICA SAVAGE
Staff Writer

When alumnus Adam Blake started buying rental properties around TCU his freshman year, he had no idea his business would make more than a million dollars a year when he was a junior.

Blake, 22, is the founder and owner of Blake Venture Corp., a real estate investment and development company in Fort Worth. Entrepreneur Magazine reported in August that his company is projected to generate \$2.4 million in sales for 2007. Although he does not disclose this information anymore, he said his actual revenues exceed the numbers from the article.

His success soon caught the attention of a Dallas entrepreneur organization, and he joined the chapter in May as its youngest member. Blake said the competition and success of other entrepreneurs has influenced him.

But Blake's success didn't come easy. His junior year of high school, everything changed.

"My dad lost his job and I saw how hard it was on my family," Blake said. "I knew right then that I didn't want to work a nine to five job."

Blake said after his father lost his job, he stepped up for the family and took on a leadership role.

In 2003, as a freshman at TCU, Blake started his corporation after receiving his real estate license. He said he never planned to get into this business but saw the opportunity and went for it.

"With the money I got from a fraternity brother, I started buying and managing rental properties as a way to pay my way through school," Blake said.

Blake said he used the \$100,000 loan from the fraternity brother as a down payment on properties. Within a few months, he made the initial investment and started managing rental properties for other owners.

"From the profit I made off the first few deals,

I was able to start my own company," Blake said. "Before I knew it, I was doing so well that I had to call my brother, David, to come down here and help."

David Blake, 21, is now the vice president of leasing for Blake Venture Corp.

"Adam is the best role model a little brother could have," David Blake said. "He taught me about the business and how to make money."

Adam Blake not only mentored David Blake about the business and how to turn a profit on investments, he also helped him financially to get back on track to finish his college degree at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Adam Blake has also influenced his family and

those close to him.

Chris Powers, senior finance and marketing major, remembers the first time he and Adam Blake met.

"He was my Rho Gamma during rush my freshman year," said Powers. "And for some reason I really hit it off with him."

A Rho Gamma advises and leads a rushee around the different Greek houses while keeping his or her own membership to a Greek organization a secret.

Powers and Adam Blake stayed in touch over the years but it wasn't until last March that they discussed working together. Powers said he also recognized there was a high demand in the Fort

Worth market for rental properties and real estate investments. He works with Blake as a licensed agent.

"I have never met someone at his age that is as motivated as he is," Powers said. "He uses his time so efficiently. He never wastes a minute; he is constantly doing something. He is more motivated than any person I have ever met."

Adam Blake's father, Richard Blake, reflected back to what his son was like growing up and how far he has come.

"Adam was more reserved, rather quiet and had a very serious nature," Richard Blake said. "He excelled in sports. His nickname in soccer was 'The Terminator' because he was so much bigger than the other kids, he would just plow right through them."

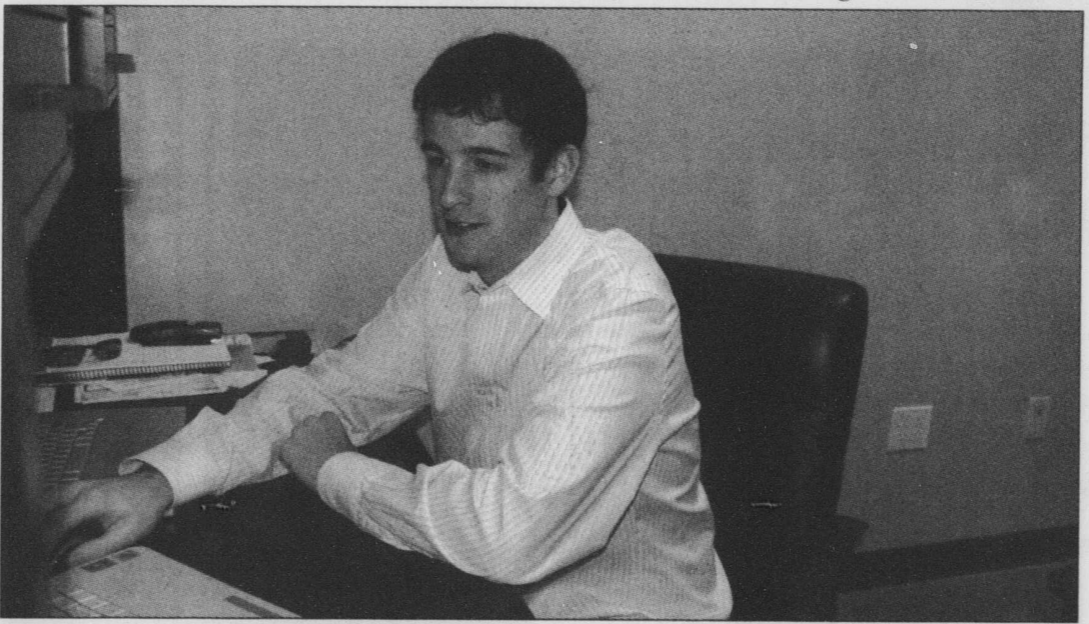
Richard Blake said he saw a change in Adam Blake's attitude in the eighth grade. He said Adam Blake started focusing on his grades in order to get into Rockhurst High School, an all boys private Jesuit prep school.

"Once he puts his mind to something he does it," Richard Blake said. "It is not a shock Adam is doing well. I knew whatever he wanted to do he would be successful at because he was so determined."

Adam Blake said if he had to offer some advice it would be to start sooner rather than later.

"College is the best time to start (a business) because there is no risk," he said. "When you're young, you have time and people are willing to help college students."

Adam Blake graduated from TCU in May with a bachelor's degree in business administration. His company has five other full-time employees all under the age of 24. When it comes to hiring, Adam Blake said, he looks for someone who is ambitious and motivated by money.



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor
Adam Blake, owner of Blake Eventure Corp., works in his office. Blake graduated in May and his company is a real estate investment and development company.



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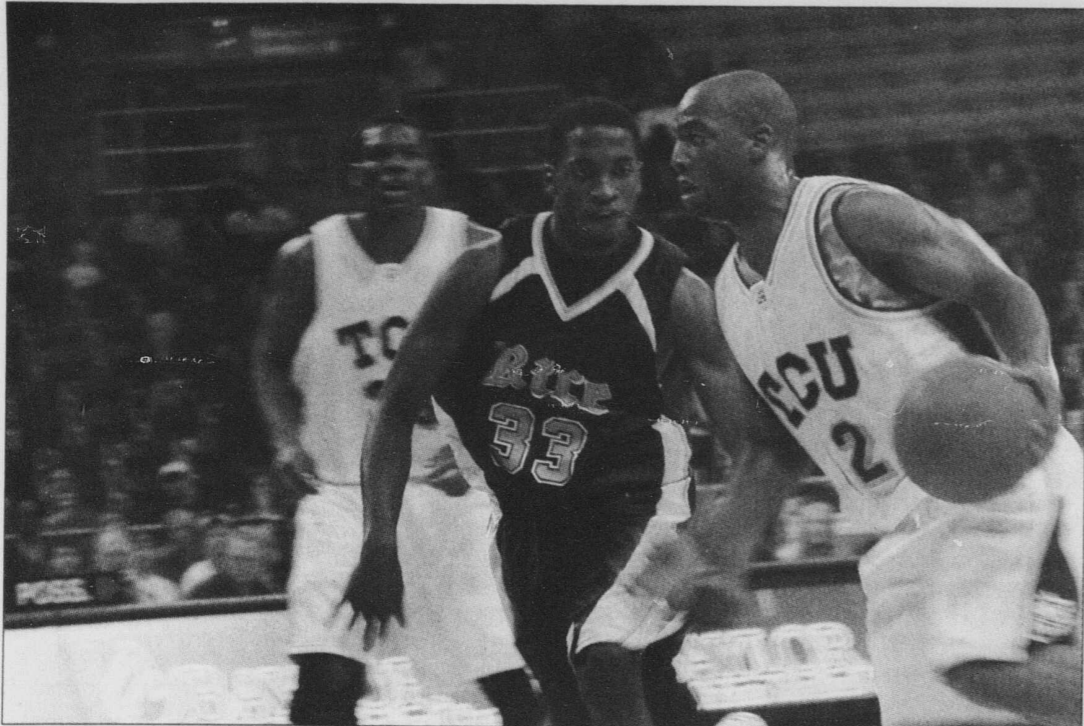
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MEN'S BASKETBALL

SUNDAY DRIVE



Senior guard Brent Hackett drives the lane during the Horned Frogs' 76-49 win against the Rice Owls on Nov. 13. TCU will host the Oklahoma Sooners on Sunday at 7 p.m. Fans are encouraged to wear white shirts to "White Out" Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

BASKETBALL

From page 8

— an issue, Mittie said, that women's basketball should consider revising.

"I think the one thing that has been different in women's basketball with 15 scholarships, you're probably seeing more transfers out there than we really need to," he said. "You can't play 15, so it is hard to keep everybody happy ... We should go to 13 like the guys have for a parity standpoint. There would be more parity across the country. You would see less transfers if you had that situation."

On the men's side, head coach Neil Dougherty has dipped into the junior college player pool to help shape out his roster. Two of which, junior forward Alvarado Parker and junior guard Henry Salter, are even starting.

During the last two seasons of his tenure, Dougherty has suffered back-to-back below .500 seasons, going 19-42 during that stretch.

Though the losing seasons did not directly lead him to recruiting more junior college players for a "quick fix," bringing in players who could play right away and have an instant impact was an important element in the recruiting process, he said.

"For me personally, I prefer to have a kid for four years whether right out of

"The high school does not want to be embarrassed where their all-state or All-American player can't qualify to go to the local state university."

Rick Ball
BallStars founder

high school or prep school," Dougherty said. "But there becomes a time when you look at your roster, as by class, that maybe it makes more sense to get some immediate or older help."

Even with the recent influx of junior college players and transfers for the men's team playing pivotal roles this season, Dougherty's team is doing it the right way, said Rick Ball, the owner and founder of BallStars, a scouting service that serves as an outlet for recruiting junior college basketball players.

BallStars plays a role similar to what Rivals plays for high school and prep school athletes, providing ratings, statistics and insight into the world of junior college basketball.

"I don't consider TCU a JC-recruiting program exclusively by any means," Dougherty said. "I think they're doing it probably as good as you can by supplementing their needs with a JC player."

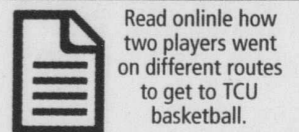
Despite the TCU basket-

ball programs' success in bringing in talented student-athletes not directly out of high school, Ball said lower academic standards among Division I institutions has decreased the number of junior college players able to play at the next level. In turn, a school's academic integrity is challenged and in some cases, tainted.

"That's probably one of my biggest disappointments in my lifetime; college academic standards continue to be diluted," he said. "I don't think our students are getting better. We're just lowering the standards so they can get in, and that's across the board."

He added: "It has always been a situation where if the player is special or seems to be special, there seems to be ways in getting his grades in line. I'm not going to say through outright cheating and a lot of the times, it's not the university that does it, but it's the high school. The high school does not want to be embarrassed where their all-state or All-American player can't qualify to go to the local state university."

DAILYSKIFF.COM



Read online how two players went on different routes to get to TCU basketball.

FANTASY

From page 8

this week's top three waiver wire adds to keep an eye on.

Waiver Wire Adds:

Adrian Peterson (RB-CHD): The Chicago running game has been abysmal this year due not only to the ineffectiveness of Cedric Benson, but also to the ineptitude of the Bears' offense as a whole. Now that Benson is on injured-reserve, the job falls to Peterson. On the upside, he has been more successful this year with the touches he has seen, averaging more yards per carry than Benson and half the touchdowns with a quarter the carries. And keep in mind, Peterson was prolific in college at Georgia Southern University.

Kolby Smith (RB-KC): Larry Johnson's ankle seems to be worse than the Chiefs are letting on and with Priest Holmes announcing his retirement, Kansas City's ground game lies on the shoulders of this rookie. If last week's extraordinary effort was any indication of things to come, he could help you down the stretch.

Anthony Gonzalez (WR-IND): He finally had the game everyone has been waiting for last week with a 100-yard-plus effort. And with Marvin Harrison still rehabbing, there is no better time for him to come up big.

We are going to forgo Week 13's Matchups because this is, unfortunately, the last column of the season.

Here are my final predictions for the season to give you an idea

what teams you should continue to look to for help during these final critical weeks.

- NFC Division Winners
- NFC North — Green Bay Packers
- NFC South — Tampa Bay Buccaneers
- NFC East — Dallas Cowboys
- NFC West — Seattle Seahawks
- NFC Wildcards — New Orleans Saints, Minnesota Vikings
- AFC Division Winners
- AFC North — Pittsburgh Steelers
- AFC South — Indianapolis Colts
- AFC East — New England Patriots
- AFC West — San Diego Chargers
- AFC Wildcards — Jacksonville Jaguars, Cleveland Browns

LADY FROGS

From page 8

style similar to TCU.

"This is a big pressure team and, hopefully, should turn out to be a good game," Knight said.

Senior forward Lorie Butler-Rayford said the team is really excited about taking

on an opponent with the stature of A&M.

"Two years ago when we played them, we won," Butler-Rayford said. "I'm sure they want revenge, so we have to come out with our A-game Sunday."

Mittie said this game is not just about the opponent, but about how to get the team to play better.

In Wednesday's game,

Ross scored a season-high 23 points, leading three players who scored in double-figures, including Butler-Rayford and sophomore guard Danielle Nunn.

Knight said as a team they are working on remaining focused on the game and continuing to build the necessary confidence in each other and as a team.

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Dec. 28: Kyle Bennett Band with Maria Sweet opening
New Years Eve: Roger Cropper with Rich O'Toole opening

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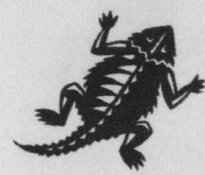
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TODAY IN HISTORY

1954: A meteorite strikes a sleeping Alabama woman on the hip after crashing through a roof, into a living room and bouncing off a radio. The victim, Elizabeth Hodges, suffered a nasty bruise but was not permanently injured.

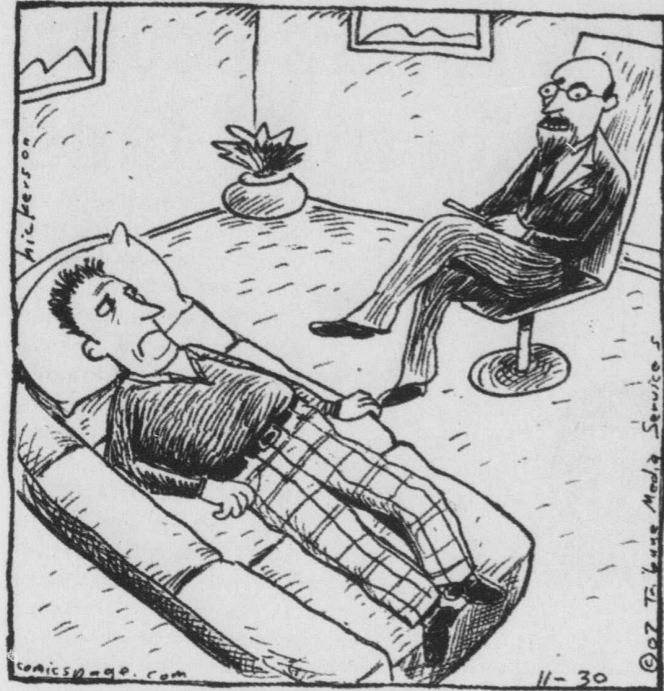
WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE

Q: What do you call a sheep with no legs?

A: A cloud.

The Quigmans

by Buddy Hickerson



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Fill in the grid so that every 3x3 box, row and column contains the digits 1 through 9 without repeating numbers.

Thursday's Solutions

9x9 grid showing the solution to the Sudoku puzzle.

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HEAD PAIN

Concussions among female student-athletes are a vital issue in college athletics.
DAILYSKIFF.COM

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Women prepare to face No. 12 Aggies

By CALLIE COX
Staff Reporter

After snapping a two-game skid, the women's basketball team welcomes an opponent Sunday that holds a lot of tradition, the head coach said.

Following an impressive performance from senior guard Adrienne Ross, the Lady Frogs will go head-to-head with state rival Texas A&M on Sunday at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

Head coach Jeff Mittie said this game is big for his team because they are competing against a respected, in-state opponent with the Aggies.

"The rivalry between us and A&M is not just about women's basketball," Mittie said. "It's this way with anything you play the Aggies in.



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor

Freshman guard Helena Sverrisdottir leads a fastbreak during the Frogs' 75-63 victory against Fresno State on Wednesday night. TCU will host the Texas A&M Aggies at 2 p.m. Sunday in a much anticipated showdown.

We have been playing each other for 100-plus years."

TCU is coming into the game following a 75-63 win against 0-4 Fresno State on Wednes-

day, bringing its record to 3-3 for the season.

The No. 12 Aggies have gotten off to a solid start this season with a 4-1 record.

The last time these two teams played each other was in the first round of the 2006 NCAA Women's Division I tournament where the Lady Frogs beat the Aggies, 69-65.

Coming off the win against Fresno State, Mittie said Sunday's test against A&M presents a similar challenge on defense, much like FSU did Wednesday. "This team presses a lot," Mittie said. "We need to handle that pressure and hopefully get some points on the board."

Senior guard Moneka Knight said she remembers A&M as being a quick team, but one that has a playing style similar to TCU.

See **LADY FROGS**, page 6

FANTASY FOOTBALL

NFL favors profit over football fans

By ERICK MOEN
Staff Writer

The outcry over viewership of NFL games reached its crescendo last night

when this year's two NFC powerhouses met up in Dallas on the NFL Network.

It was the first match-up of 10-1 teams since the 90s and involved two of the most beloved franchises in all of sports, yet 2/3 of the U.S. was deprived due to the disgusting greed of rich men.

The NFL has gone from a home-grown game to an elitist sport more every year, but it has become increasingly alarming recently. The accessibility of the game to true fans that bleed their team colors tells the story.

The Super Bowl was the first to go.

The tickets have become so exorbitantly expensive that no real fan can go see his or her team try to take sports' greatest crown. Even playoff games are becoming a corporate, convoluted mockery of their former selves with tickets so amazingly exclusive that true fans are prohibited from attending.

Next, the NFL decided to outsource its fan base by sending games overseas depriving even the privileged few with season tickets from attending their home team's games.

The NFL Network serves as the final dagger in the heart of the true fan. It is only a matter of time before the NFL stops accepting the massive amounts of money offered by the big networks and begins passing on that expense to fans by making all regular season games pay-per-view.

Not only does that increase the difficulty for any fan to see the teams they love, it also decreases their enjoyment of the event by placing them in the unsure hands of brown-nosing announcers whose checks have the NFL logo on them.

But before we get into this week's stuff, here are my thoughts for the week:

1. The death of Sean Taylor will make the next couple of weeks in the NFL a very hollow affair for a large number of players and fans and it is a dark cloud that will hang over the rest of the season — a moment of silence for a young man senselessly gone too soon.

2. Bill Parcells built the Cowboys team that will most likely represent the NFC in the Super Bowl, but he has taken shots from many of his former players on his coaching style and the atmosphere he fostered. But when asked about the matter and about Terrell Owens, all Parcells did was compliment all the players and give the credit to their efforts. Now that is the epitome of class.

And now the main event,

See **FANTASY**, page 6

BASKETBALL

Transfer athletes strengthen basketball teams

By TIM BELLA
Sports Editor

It may be impossible to argue with the women's basketball team's decade of success or men's basketball's early-season prosperity, but it is evident the programs have been recruiting outside traditional avenues to strengthen their teams.

The two programs have a combined 10 players — five on the women's team and five on the men's team — on scholarships this season that have either transferred from another Division I program or have come from a junior college.

The combined number places TCU at second in the conference for the most scholarship players that did not come straight to TCU from high school. Wyoming leads the Mountain West Conference this season with 11 such players, seven from its men's program and four players from its women's program.

The number also puts the TCU programs in elite company in the state of Texas, ranking third in a list of eight in-state universities in the category. Texas Tech, with 14, and Houston, with 13, top the Horned Frogs.

Breaking the Norms

Women's head basketball coach Jeff Mittie said non-traditional recruiting seizes an opportunity to restock a program that will bid farewell to five seniors at the conclusion of this season.

The solid play he got from a transfer last season — former player and LSU transfer Hanna Biernacka — was a sign that bringing in transfers could work. The team has added three transfers this season: Chantelle John, TK LaFleur and Eboni Mangum. The three will sit out the mandatory year before

they're eligible to play next season.

"We have five seniors this year," he said, "so when we looked at recruiting and had an opportunity to get some good players in the spring, we wanted to alleviate some pressure off of this recruiting class on signing all freshmen. It was a situation where we had never really done that before to this extent."

While there are 13 scholarships available to a men's basketball program, women's programs have 15 scholarships

See **BASKETBALL**, page 6

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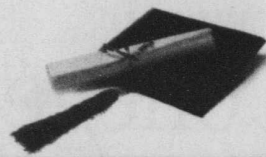
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By CAROLIN
Staff Reporter

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MAKING THE WALK



December graduates begin hunt for future careers

By CAROLINE LOCKWOOD
Staff Reporter

As the curtain closes on the fall semester and on the college years of winter graduates, the next step in life — a career — begins to unfold for the fresh alumni.

Some December graduates are still looking to find a place in the job market after walking across the stage.

Winnie Wiszneuckas, a senior marketing/entrepreneurial management major, said she is still in the process of finding a job. Even though she graduates soon, she still isn't sure what the future holds for her.

"In the beginning of college, I imagined I would

know what I was going to be doing with my life by now," Wiszneuckas said. "But that is not how it has worked out."

Finding a job is not the problem for Wiszneuckas. She said she has many options, and still has to do her second and third interviews with different companies located in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. For Wiszneuckas, choosing the job is the problem.

"I do have several options to choose from, but I am just trying to find the job that is the right fit for me," Wiszneuckas said.

Stephanie Sherwood, a senior social work major,

said she has yet to apply for a job. Because she is not staying in the Metroplex, she said, it is more difficult to search for a job she wants.

"I plan on relocating to the New York-Boston area, so I haven't been able to see what is out there," Sherwood said.

Though neither has decided on a specific career, both Sherwood and Wiszneuckas said they know several people who were able to get jobs through contacts with professors and friends.

"I know professors who have helped students get offers by personally contacting employers on their behalf," Sherwood said.

"We try to connect TCU students exclusively with employers to help get them full or part-time jobs or internships"

Darin Ford
associate director of University Career Services

in graduate school.

"More of our majors go to graduate school, so I write letters of recommendation

if they ask me to," Tillman said. "If they ask me to do it, then I will."

Wiszneuckas said she also knows students who have received jobs by using FrogJobs.net, the Alcon Career Center in the School of Business and University Career Services.

Darin Ford, associate director of University Career Services, said, "We try to connect TCU students exclusively with employers to help get them full or part-time jobs or internships."

Ford said there are career advising assessments held each year that discuss the issues that apply to specific age groups. Included in these

programs are Sophomore Spotlight, Junior Jumpstart and Senior Conference.

Ford said the Senior Conference held last January helped teach students how to be prepared for the real world.

"At the conference, students are taught job skills, how to prepare for life after college and even proper dinner etiquette for interviews," Ford said.

Students who have not secured a spot in the workplace are not alone. But with the help of University Career Services, they might have a better chance of securing a spot in the workplace, Ford said.

COMMENTARY

College degree isn't necessarily ticket to dream job

By KARA MCGUIRE
(Minneapolis) Star Tribune

Not wanting to meddle, but eager for Junior to leave the nest, parents search for ways to help their kid on the sly, because their alma mater doesn't seem to be doing much.

Can't you write a column, they ask me? My kid can't be the only one struggling with the transition from homework to work-work.

Unfortunately, that's true. And some in the career counseling field think colleges are

failing to teach students how to conduct an effective job search and sell themselves in a competitive marketplace.

Brendan Haugo left Iowa State University in 2005 with mock interview experience, a couple of internships under his belt and a marketing degree. "I thought I was preparing myself pretty well," he said. But three months into an extensive job search, mainly on the Internet, he couldn't get his foot in the door.

Peter Vogt, president of

Bloomington, Minn.-based Career Planning Resources and author of "Career Wisdom for College Students: Insights You Won't Get in Class, on the Internet, or From Your Parents," did his own share of career exploration when he graduated in 1990. It's easy to mope around and say "woe is me" when a job search is going nowhere. But he urges young people in Haugo's situation to do anything to gain experience, connections and knowledge of the career options.

"If employers perceive that you don't have solid work experience and, especially, that you don't really know what sort of job you want, (then) you're in big trouble," Vogt said.

Frustrated and in need of a job, Haugo spent some time back at the summer gig he kept during his student years.

But then he made an appointment with Fahrenheit360, a St. Paul, Minn., firm that helps recent grads and students find career

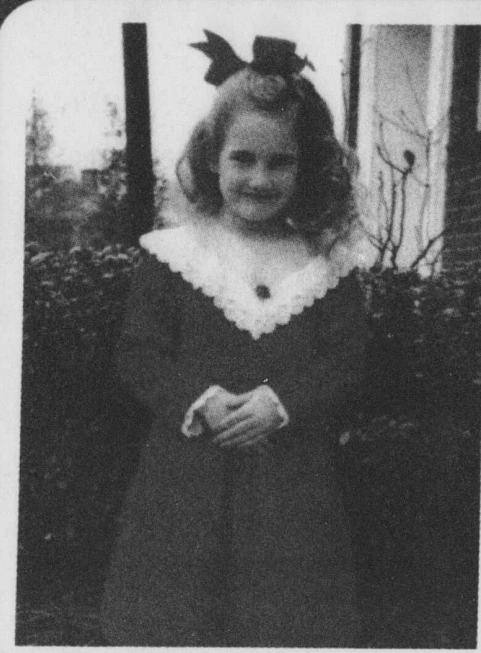
opportunities. His luck changed. Fahrenheit360 decided to hire him as an account manager, and he now spends his days helping people in the same boat he recently found himself in.

Some college alumni offices are also stepping in to help floundering alumni. Macalester College in St. Paul just held the first in a series of events featuring a panel of graduates who managed to find fulfilling and financially sound career paths.

Jim Balabuszko-Reay left Macalester with a degree in music composition and entered the real world with "laser-like focus" into the bean roasting and hosting business, he joked, referring to his jobs at Dunn Bros. and the former Table of Contents restaurant.

After spending some years working odd jobs, including a stint creating the background music for karaoke, his father stepped in and helped him land a job in his current field as an information technology manager.

Meredith Andrews



Meredith,

There is no path,
follow your dreams.

Love,
Mom & Dad

Megan Anne DeHORITY



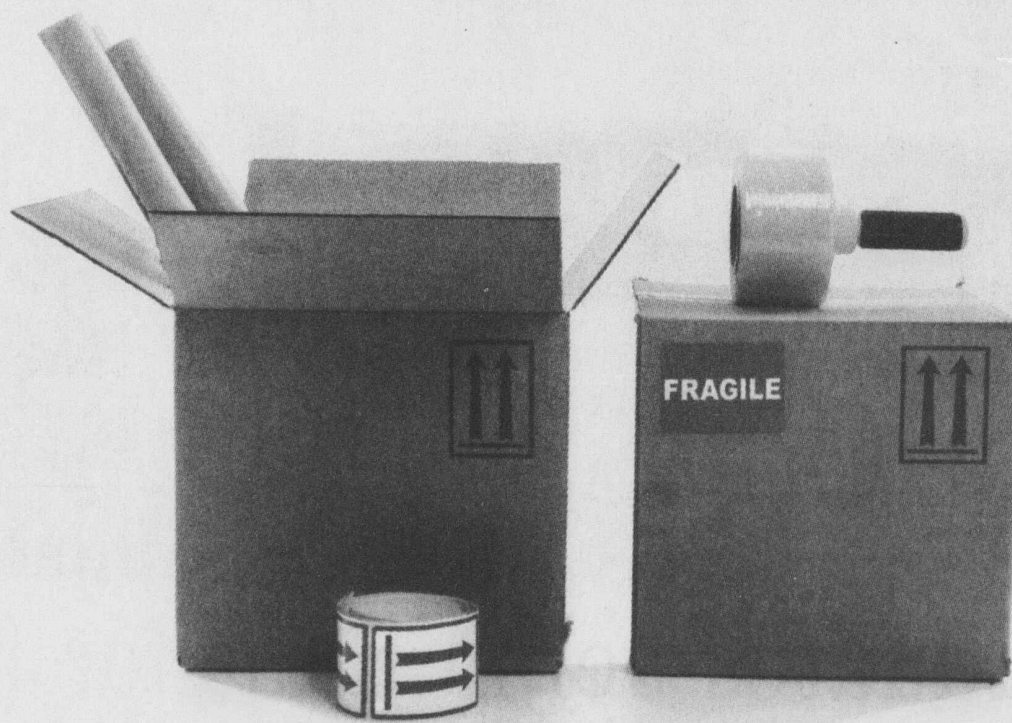
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SENIOR SALUTATIONS

Leave cynicism behind when talking with December grads

"Oh yeah ... You're graduating."

COMMENTARY



Kailey Delinger

For premature December graduates, that's the phrase of the month in almost every conversation.

The emphasis on graduating makes it all the more painful. Well, that and the look of genuine, pained pity that flashes across people's faces as that word escapes their lips.

It's as if St. Peter just flew in and tipped us off: the Apocalypse is imminent. The four horsemen are fast approaching, and they'll arrive Dec. 15 — smack in the middle of "Pomp and Circumstance" playing like a funeral dirge at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

Then comes the routine interrogation.

"But why? Why would you so abruptly end what little remains of your childhood? What about enjoying college? What about treasuring your youth?"

That's not what early December graduates want to hear.

"Leaving behind the college regimen of Red Bull and saltine crackers in the days leading up to tests could be rather refreshing."

Kailey Delinger

It's not like these things don't cross their minds.

Of course, there are good things about graduating early, like saving money or impressing people with ostensible "ambition."

But, as the big day approaches for many December graduates, the benefits of saving money and demonstrating academic determination take the back seat to more sentimental values.

With the help of the reactions from May-graduating peers, the approach of a December graduation brings more dismal issues to attention.

There are big things like having to leave friends behind early and missing the culmination of the four-year journey so many groups of friends have shared together.

Diving head first into

adulthood while everyone else savors the sweetness that is college isn't too appealing, either.

Wait ... what? It's time to worry about health insurance? What is a 401k? And these stock options you mention, what does that mean?

But even the smaller things make December graduation a secondary alternative to the big springtime commencement.

What's the cold weather protocol? Jackets under graduation gowns? Earmuffs built into the caps? And what about flowers and greenery for pictures?

Still, it will be a nice ceremony. It will be fun to celebrate the end of what has been four years full of growth and learning.

Leaving behind the college regimen of Red Bull and saltine crackers in the days leading up to tests could be rather refreshing.

Just, please, for the sake of all of those approaching graduation, leave the doomsday tone out when you note that they are, in fact, finished with college.

Kailey Delinger is a senior news-editorial journalism and Spanish major from Fort Collins, Colo.

SENIOR SALUTATIONS

In college, staying involved is key

After my freshman year at TCU, I wanted to transfer to a different school.

I felt like an outsider — like I didn't fit in. I hated college, and I thought it was the university's fault.

I could not have been more wrong.

My parents tried to talk me out of transferring.

"You can't come to college expecting things to happen for you, Al," they said. "You have to make them happen."

So, I decided to try TCU for one more semester to make my parents happy.

I joined clubs and organizations. I started working for the Skiff and for the campus radio station.

I even started attending all those "lame" residence hall socials I had skipped out on the year before.

I quickly learned it was not TCU that had inhibited me from enjoying my time at college. It had been me.

"In college, where there are thousands of other people, you can easily get lost in the crowd. Make yourself stand out. Get involved. Meet people."

Aly Fleet

In high school, I wasn't involved in anything. I was on yearbook staff for a year, but that was about the extent of my extracurricular activities. I went to one football game and one homecoming dance.

I thought I was too cool for all of that.

College is different.

In college, where there are thousands of other people, you can easily get lost in the crowd. Make yourself stand out. Get involved. Meet people.

You have to put yourself out there and try new things. You have to be willing to take chances and to go outside your comfort zone.

After I adopted this mentality, I experienced

the best two and a half years of my life.

Now, two years later, I leave TCU with amazing friends, great memories and tons of life experience.

I look back at freshman Aly — little, 17-year-old Aly from Kingwood — and I see a completely different person — more open-minded, determined and prepared for life than ever before. I have TCU to thank for that.

TCU didn't just teach me about my major. It taught me about myself.

Managing Editor Aly Fleet is a senior radio-TV/film major from Kingwood.



Aly Fleet



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Frogs resurrect season in New Mexico game

By TIM BELLA
Sports Editor

We all get tired.

And I am not talking about the kind of tired you get the morning after a long night of responsible — or careless — partying, or the level of tired you might be after pulling an all-nighter in the library for an 8 a.m. final.

No, I am definitely not talking about the mornings that ask yourself, "Why did I order that last drink?" "Why did I order that second taquito at Whataburger?" or "Has it really been three days since my last shower?"

It is the tired you get when you are frustrated or disappointed.

It could be something as big as the war in Iraq or as unimportant as Jennifer Aniston's hair, but we get frustrated and tired over things we can and cannot control.

Take the Frogs, for example. To put it simply, Gary Patterson's team was tired entering its Nov. 3 game against New Mexico.

You know the story by now. The heralded little guys with big-time talent and even larger dreams became an afterthought in the 2007 season. Heck, even the Charlie-In-The-Box and the Misfit Elephant toys exiled to the Island of Misfit Toys in "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" would not have envied where TCU stood — or didn't stand — in the minds of college football fans.

The Frogs were fading and fading fast until the "Pink Out" game against the Lobos. Now, I don't know what happened, but from the time Chris Manfredini kicked off to start the game, it was over. It was a display more suitable for a Playstation 2 game than a Division-I football game.

If I would have told you before Saturday's win that the Frogs would have had more rushing attempts than New Mexico had total offensive plays, you more than likely would have spit your drink back in my face from laughter. Now? Not

so much of a laughing matter as a tip of the hat.

What happened?

Joseph Turner was tired.

Stephen Hodge was tired.

Jason Phillips was tired.

They were tired of being the forgotten, the disappointed and the bullied. This season's team had been going off the reputation built up and established by past teams.

Was there a little too much purple Kool-Aid in our systems? Probably so, especially since the Frogs had not defeated a team with a winning record before Saturday's win. On second thought, maybe the Kool-Aid was spiked with something.

But that does not matter now.

No need to spike your favorite purple drink. The Frogs are going bowling and are guaranteed another winning season.

This was the night the 2007 season was saved.



Senior tight end Quinton Cunigan catches a pass during the Horned Frogs' 37-0 victory against the University of New Mexico on Nov. 3. This victory was the turning point for the team, which won three of its last four games this year.

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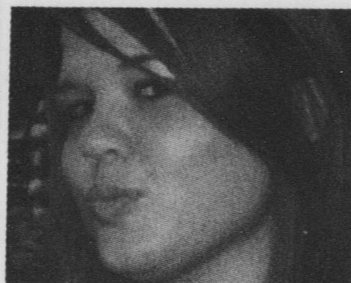


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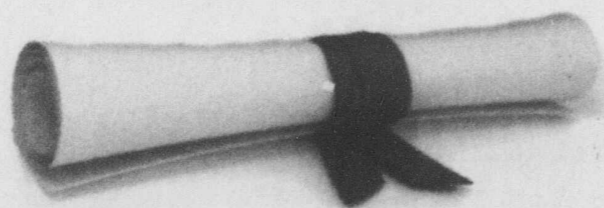
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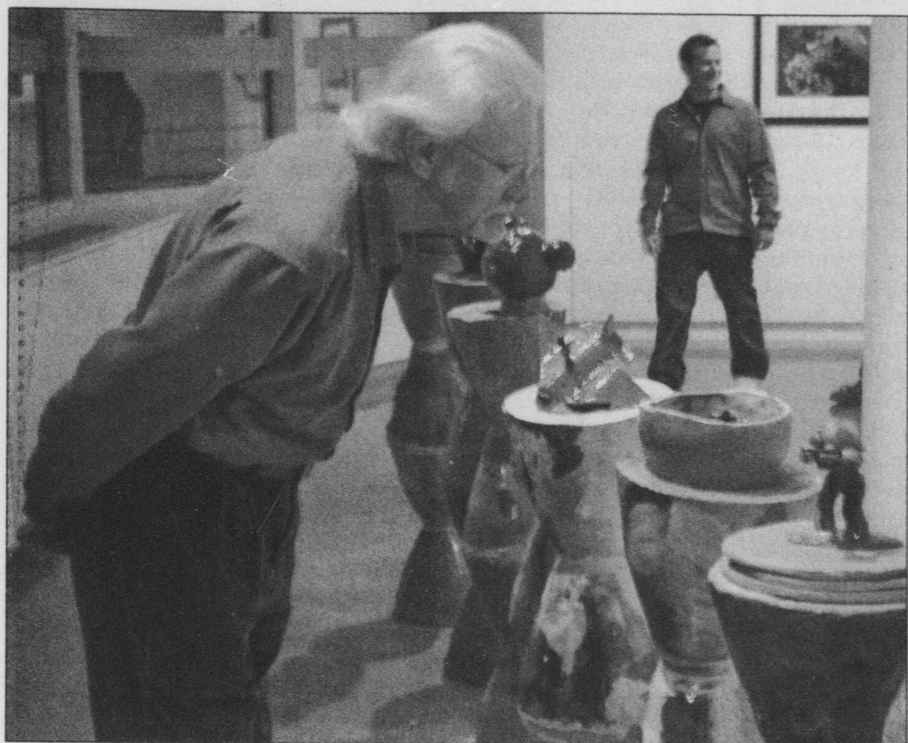
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Seniors present final art show before graduating



By ALLIE BROWN
Staff Reporter

Five studio art majors are displaying their artwork before a TCU audience for the last time before their December graduations.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts Studio Art Senior Exhibition ends today after a week of showcasing a variety of projects.

Jennifer Dawson, a senior studio art major, said she was surprised by how many people came to the show.

"It was really exciting," Dawson said. "We didn't know how many people were going to show up."

Dawson said the name of the exhibition, "Side Effects May Vary," is only a hint about the diversity of the art show.

"We have five different students doing five different things," she said. "We wanted to incorporate all our work together and not separate."

Fellow senior and studio art major Genie Thompson had similar thoughts.

"Each person is different," Thompson said. "We have two people emphasizing in photography, two in sculpture and one in print-making. We're all so different, and we thought the title of the show would represent people's feelings as they walked through."

Dawson said all the artists have been working on the pieces since the beginning of the semester, so finally releasing their artwork to the public is both exciting and nerve-racking.

"People jokingly said they were going to buy my work, but I take that as a compliment," Dawson said.

Thompson said she agreed with Dawson.

"It's a tough business," Thompson said. "Every artist would love to get an offer because that's not so common at a student show. Everyone's been so busy we haven't talked about it yet, but I think someone might have sold something."

Gavin Morrison, curator of the university galleries, said he was

impressed with the visitors' interest in the artwork.

"We had a great group of people come to the opening," he said. "It is a good opportunity not only for the art students but also for all current students to be able to see."

Thompson and Dawson said they hope students take the opportunity to go to the show.

"We've got five studio art majors, and we've all worked our butts off to make a good show," Dawson said.

Thompson said there are other reasons for going to the show, too.

"We have two sculpted performing pieces that actually change right in front of you," Thompson said. "So if you don't see them this week this may be the only time you can see them before they are destroyed."

Morrison said the show lasts until at 4 p.m. but the Graphic Design senior exhibition show "Unleashed" will replace the studio art and open for the public Monday.

Illustration professor Don Punchutz looks at a piece of Gennifer Williams' ceramic artwork titled "I Think I Would Miss You Even if We Never Met" at the Bachelor of Fine Arts Studio Art Senior Exhibition in Moudy Building South on Monday.

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Football graduation rate ranks high in NCAA

By BRETT LARSON
Staff Reporter

TCU football has a player graduation rate 12 percent higher than the national average, a study found.

According to a recent NCAA study on graduation rates, TCU is graduating an average of 78 percent of its senior football players, while the national average is 66 percent. The Horned Frogs also ranked in the top five for graduation success rates.

At TCU, student-athlete graduation rates are a top priority, head coach Gary Patterson said.

TCU football has accomplished its ahead-of-the-curve graduation rate, while at the same time, posting three seasons of 10 or more wins in the past four years.

During the 2005 and 2006 seasons, TCU finished fifth in graduation rates among teams ranked in the national top 25 polls.

Patterson said he takes pride in the football team's graduation successes and makes it a personal point to push the importance of school to his players.

"They better go to class or they'll run," Patterson said.

Redshirt freshman quarterback Andy Dalton said TCU's academics were a major reason why he chose to attend.

"Ever since recruiting, he (Patterson) talked about how high the graduation rates are here," Dalton said.

Dalton said he believes academics should be a factor in every athlete's school choice, and TCU's academics probably help persuade players to attend.

Academically, Patterson said his main focus for his team is helping players get through their freshman and sophomore years.

"I don't think they see the light at the end of the tunnel," Patterson said. "Finally, when they get to their junior and senior years, they start to mature and they see how school is important and they get a degree."

Senior free safety David Roach said the coaches are always pushing younger players to succeed in class.

"Your first two years, you constantly have coaches watching out for you," Roach said. "I wouldn't say hounding you, but they're actually looking out for you, trying to grow you up into a man."

"If they're mad because I've been pushing them too hard, it usually takes them five years to come back, but they usually come back whether they like me or not and thank me."

Gary Patterson
head football coach

Patterson said students often start school with the idea that they have it made and studying takes a back seat to athletics and social activities.

To counter the new student-athlete's inexperience, the team implements mandatory summer school and study hours for freshmen and sophomores.

Dalton said the coaches require and monitor his study hours. He said the transition from high school to college is a big leap, but the team always offers help.

"When you first get here, college is obviously different from high school, especially when you're playing a sport," Dalton said.

Roach said it is important

for players to drop bad habits they may have picked up in high school.

"It's very easy to transfer things - bad mistakes," Roach said.

Patterson said he personally keeps a record of every player's GPA and hours as another measure to ensure his players' success on and off the field.

By doing so, Patterson said, he does not need to rely on anyone else to keep track of his players' progress and can look up any player at any time.

The push Patterson makes for good grades and high performance in class often leaves his players upset with him, he said.

"If they're mad because I've been pushing them too hard, it usually takes them five years to come back," Patterson said.

"But they usually come back whether they like me or not and thank me."

Junior defensive tackle Cody Moore said he has gotten to the point where he no longer needs to worry about school because he is confident in his ability to get good grades, and he thanks Patterson for helping him get there.

"I appreciate the things he

does," Moore said, "like keeping a close eye on us with the grade checks."

Playing time is a tool Patterson uses to motivate students to study and go to class.

"The only thing coaches really have on kids is playing time," Patterson said. "If you don't go to class or you don't study, then you're not going to suit up."

Roach said Patterson is serious about benching players if they fail to meet academic requirements.

"If you don't get the certain amount of hours that you need for study hall, you actually will not be able to play for Coach Patterson," Roach said.

Currently, the Horned Frogs have five players working on their master's degrees, and 15 of the 17 seniors on the team plan to graduate in December.

Roach is working on his master's in liberal arts and said he knew from day one that academics were a big part of TCU.

Roach said that through the years, studying and balancing his workload has gotten easier.

TCU's 14-1 student-faculty ratio is one reason Patterson said the players have succeeded in school.

On this year's team, Patterson said, none of his upper-classman players fell below a 2.0 GPA last semester.

Patterson said this number is even more impressive when film, practice, game plans and games are considered.

The hardest part of every year is the middle of the fall semester, Patterson said. He called it a grind that required his players to not only play the bulk of their football schedule, but also deal with midterms and all the mid-semester work required of students.

Because of the struggle, many freshman players have, he said, there should be a fifth year of eligibility.

He makes it a point to redshirt first-year players or declare as many freshmen ineligible to play in games as possible.

This gives what he considers a needed adjustment time from high school to college work, Patterson said.

No matter how the team is playing, Patterson said, he is always going to make sure his players get a good education first.

"Ever since I've been here, it's been academics first, football second," Roach said.

Having strong credit record proves beneficial for recent graduates

By KARA MCGUIRE
(Minneapolis) Star Tribune

Most college commencement speeches instruct graduates to follow their dreams and to make a difference in the world. Inspirational as those addresses are, wouldn't it be great if they ended with a few practical financial tips about juggling debt and building a credit history?

In honor of graduation season, here are the 10 financial "to-dos" for grads entering the "real world."

1. Save something. Stop with the excuses about being too poor and automatically put at least \$20 a month into a savings account. Then, when

your car needs repairing or you must fly to an out-of-state wedding, you won't reach for the credit card.

Then there's retirement. It's a long way away, but start putting money into your 401(k) at work, especially if your employer gives you free matching money. Or open a Roth IRA.

2. Insure your stuff and your body. You may think you have nothing of value, but think about the cost of replacing your TV, computer and closet full of clothes. Renter's insurance will set you back roughly \$10 to \$15 a month.

Buying health insurance if

you're healthy may seem like a waste of money, but without it, a broken leg or appendicitis can put your finances on life support for years. Depending on the coverage, you can find a health insurance plan for less than the monthly cost of a fancy Internet and cable TV package.

3. Bye-bye school, hello loans. If you find it hard to make your student loan payment, don't ignore those bills. Talk to your college financial aid office and your lender about options such as consolidation, changing your repayment plan or applying for a deferment or forbearance. (Generally, the last two allow

you to postpone repayment.) Remember, the longer it takes you to pay off your loans, the more expensive they become. See finaid.org.

4. Pinch pennies with your peers. You're not the only recent grad living on a shoestring. Instead of trying to hide that from friends, make it a group goal to spend less than you make and still have fun.

5. Keep tabs on your spending. Track how you spend your money for a while to get a sense of how much your new life costs. If noting every penny spent sounds tedious, pick an area such as eating out or shopping, where money often flows like drinks at hap-

py hour, and focus on it.

6. Have a plan for debt. If you graduate with credit card debt, waste no time in coming up with a plan to pay it off and don't let it grow. Consider transferring your balance to a 0 percent interest card.

7. Check your credit reports. Everyone is entitled to one free credit report yearly from each of the three big credit bureaus. Visit annualcreditreport.com, or call 877-322-8228.

8. Read the fine print. It's boring, you have to squint and it's written in mumbo-jumbo. But you could pay dearly for not taking the time to struggle through

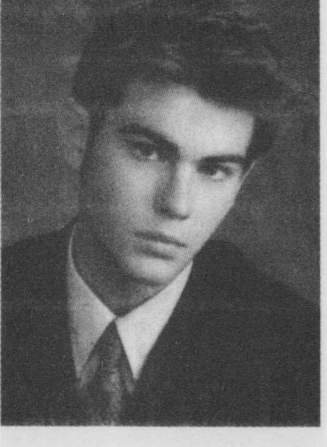
the terms.

9. Take a homebuyers' class. Many nonprofits offer such classes, which cover everything from hiring an agent to budgeting for a mortgage payment.

Sitting in class is probably the last thing recent graduates want to do, but shouldn't you take as much time learning about buying property as you did learning about ancient Greece?

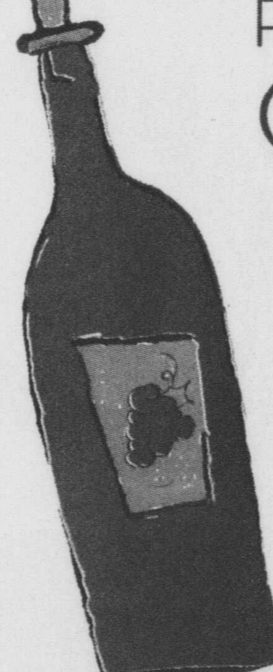
10. Get some goals. It's much easier to be smart with your money when you're on a mission, whether it's saving \$1,000 or reaching a loftier ambition — like paying for a master's degree.

Alex Zobel




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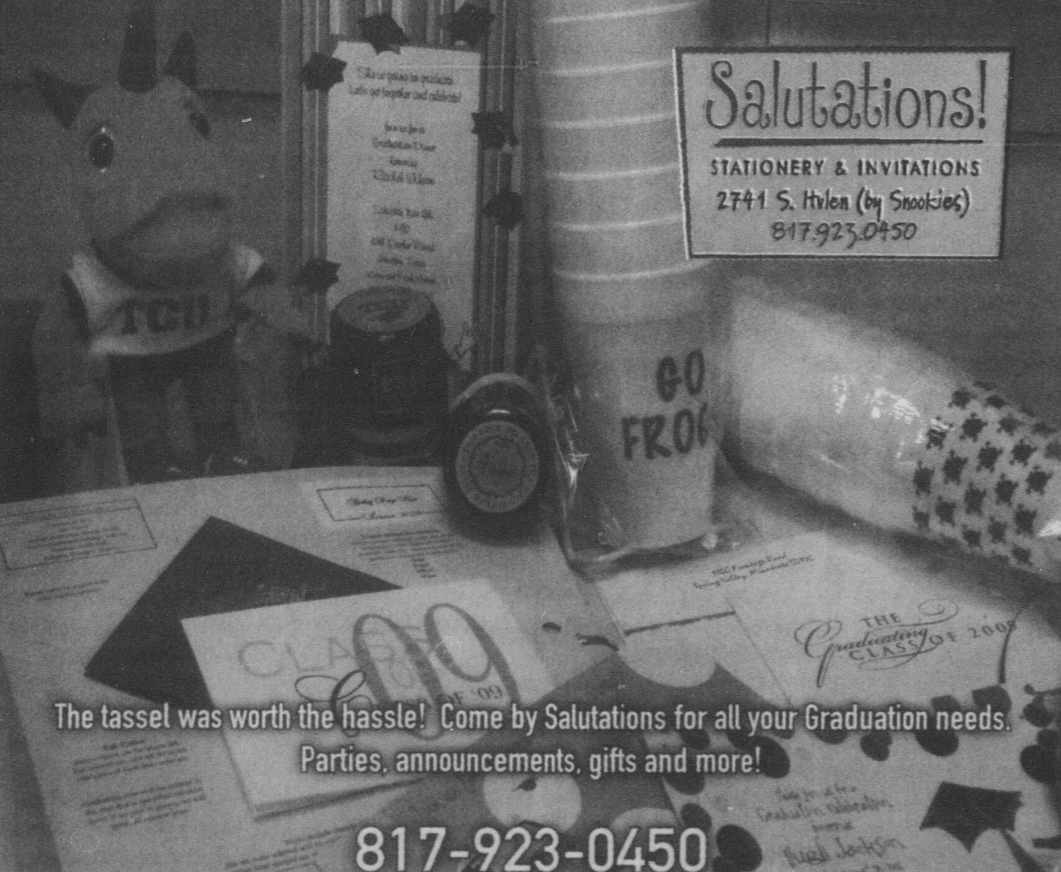


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Graduates pledge to attain socially-responsible jobs

By JESSICA MILCETICH
McClatchy-Tribune

Activism breeds on college campuses, and this generation of college students has taken the environment as their cause. Student groups that support an environmentally and socially responsible lifestyle are popping up on campuses across the country, and a recent article in BusinessWeek magazine proclaimed the green movement this generation's next big youth movement, putting it on par with the Civil Rights Movement and antiwar demonstrations of the 1960s.

Some graduating senior have even take a pledge, which says they will consider the social and environmental repercussions of any job they take.

Sarah Allen was one of those seniors who signed the Graduation Pledge of Social and Environmental Responsibility. Her first job after graduating from Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., in 2004, was working at a textbook publishing company. The job paid the bills and helped her make ends meet, but it didn't have any form of social or moral importance.

After nine months there, she quit.

"I wanted a career that I felt was meaningful and doing something good for somebody or something that I believed in," Allen said.

And while she struggled to find a new job, she knew she did the right thing.

The pledge states: "I pledge to explore and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job I consider and will try to improve these aspects of any organizations for which I work."

Created at Humboldt State University in Arcata, Calif., in 1987, the pledge is experiencing a strong resurgence in its 20th anniversary year as more schools are incorporating it into their commencement ceremonies and today's graduating seniors are becoming more aware of their responsibility as citizens of the world.

"The pledge encapsulates what my passions are and my motivation for getting my education, period and for my work," said Samantha Staley, a recent Stanford graduate, who took a job with a community

watershed council, where she will be doing environmental education in the community. "Both the social and environmental sustainability values are already something I live with, so (taking the pledge) was kind of a no-brainer."

The pledge operates on three levels, said Neil Wollman, a senior fellow at the Peace Studies Institute and a psychology professor at Manchester College in North Manchester, Ind., which is now the pledge headquarters.

The first is the individual level, where one person takes into consideration what values are important to him or her.

The second is at the education level.

"If it comes to that level it's saying education is not just about skills and knowledge but how applied values are a part of that," Wollman said.

And the final level is the societal one. "If enough people do this, you might have some real influence," Wollman said.

And therein lies the goal of the pledge: to encourage enough students to consider their values when they are looking for jobs, upon accepting jobs and once they are embedded in the workforce. The idea is that if enough people take small steps within their companies, the little changes will add up to a society that is more socially and environmentally aware.

"Some people are concerned with more than the bottom line, with more than how much money they'll make," Wollman said. "There's other things that make you happy on the job and make you feel good about what you're doing."

Past graduates who have signed the pledge have turned down job opportunities if they didn't think the company upheld the values the pledge represented. Others have taken a different route by accepting jobs at these companies and working from within to make changes, by starting recycling programs and other similar practices.

"You define it for you," Wollman

said. "People can have different perspectives, but the basic idea goes beyond that."

The pledge has grown vastly from its conception at Humboldt State 20 years ago. In the first few years, only about 30 small colleges participated. Now the numbers have skyrocketed to include more than 100 universities internationally, including more than just small liberal arts colleges. Big research schools such as the Massachusetts Institute of

Technology and Harvard University, both in Cambridge, Stanford and others all participate in the pledge.

For students, the pledge is a symbol of what they hold true. It's a way for them to constantly remind themselves that if they don't agree with a certain practice, they have the responsibility to do something about it.

For Marguerite Harden, a recent graduate from Towson University, in Maryland, this means spending lots of time researching all the companies where she is applying for jobs.

"The pledge encourages (researching) just to make sure (the company) has sound environmental policies and ethics," she said. "I think researching is the most important part because it will help avoid future conflict."

And even if she does run into a conflict in her eventual job, Harden believes the pledge will constantly remind her to do something about it.

"As a person this is something I would do anyway, so I guess you have to realize that change can be slow," Harden said.

Pledge signers, however, don't want to come across as hopeless optimists. They know they will face challenges in the workplace or be in situations that conflict with their ideals and the values of the pledge.

"One challenge is that often idealistic graduating seniors find that high paying jobs aren't necessarily aligned with the kind of work we'd like to be doing," Staley said, adding there is a dichotomy between taking a job that pays well to pay the bills and taking

a job that aligns with personal values but may pay much less.

Heidi Gross, a Manchester College graduate, experiences a different challenge in her job with the residential program at a boarding school for students gifted in the math and science fields in Illinois. Because she's in a teaching environment, she lives out the pledge by educating the students she's in charge of about social and environmental issues.

In the past she's taken her students on field trips to vegetarian restaurants, second-hand stores and environmental conferences. She's implemented a recycling program and works closely with the school's environmental club.

And she refuses to take her students to Wal-Mart.

"If the kids ask me, I say I don't go there, and then we have a good conversation about why I don't," she said.

The pledge isn't just for tree-hugging, organic-food eating, hippie types, either, a point Anastasia Semienko, a recent MBA graduate from MIT, thinks is really important to make when discussing the pledge.

"I think primarily it's becoming more important for every individual to be a good global citizen," she said, and while the pledge is a great way to encourage that in students, the future of the planet is the responsibility of more than just the pledge signers.

"Today I think there's more awareness of how business can benefit the environment," Semienko said. "The grad pledge is really important because it helps remind students they have not only a moral obligation, they have a greater opportunity to make a difference in these areas."

Harden agrees: "I hate to make the pledge sound like it's really pushing activism because I think the pledge is just pushing awareness. It's just being aware of what you're doing and what job you're fulfilling. It's not asking you to chain yourself to a tree."

And if nothing else, by raising awareness, the pledge leaves the students with hope that slowly, but surely they can affect change.

"Having the pledge at Towson and at commencement gave me a hope that these progressive ideals were spreading across the country," Harden said.

Working hard while interning could lead to job after college

By JESSICA MILCETICH
McClatchy-Tribune

Internships are one of the best ways for college students to get their foot in the door at a job they hope to pursue after graduation.

For many students, internships provide the chance to show a potential employer what assets they can bring to the company. With 78 percent of today's college students actively seeking internships, MonsterTRAK, the student division of Monster.com, surveyed employers, students and recent graduates to find out how students can turn their internships into full-time jobs.

The survey found that one of the most important things employers look for is relevant job experience. So just having that internship is a huge bonus when it comes to the job market. Bill Coplin, a professor at Syracuse University in New York and author of the book "25 Ways to Make College Pay Off," said 65 percent of a company's interns are hired.

But students who can make themselves stand out to an employer, by doing more than just making copies and fetching coffee, are the ones that have the best chance at a full-time position.

"One thing is to always have a positive attitude," said Julie Goldthwait, the vice president and general manager of MonsterTRAK.

Understand you have to pay your dues as an intern, Coplin said. Offering to make copies or do extra administrative work on the first day is a great way to prove to your manager that you're ready to take on more responsibilities.

"You've got two or three months to make a good impression," said Rich Milgram, the CEO of Beyond.com, an online job site. "Make sure at day one you list out everything you want to accomplish over the (internship). Make sure you not only set out to achieve that but you demonstrate that you achieve that along the way. You have to produce results that are noticed."


Many experts suggest looking at the internship as an extended interview. All of the work you do is on display over the course of the internship. What you wear, how you act and the quality of work that you do will speak volumes about what kind of employee you will be down the road. Use this to your advantage, Goldthwait said.

"An intern might not have much experience but their perspective does matter," Goldthwait said. "So if you have some sort of suggestion or comments feel free to speak up and share that. It may lead to a fresh perspective that the manager never really thought of."

Keep track of the jobs you do for the company, Milgram said. At the end of the summer when you sit down to discuss your internship with your supervisor, you will have plenty of details to show him or her exactly what you did.

"That's what will stick with the management team when they evaluate you," he said.

Jamison Newby



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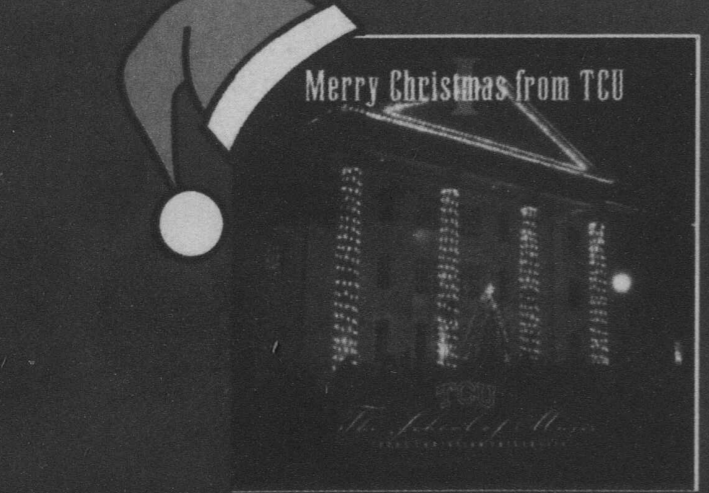
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Mom and Dad

Senior leaves campus prepared for fashionable future

By CHRISTINA WIGINTON
Staff Reporter

If you were to walk down the halls in the design, merchandising and textiles department, the chances of hearing her name are almost certain.

Fashion students admire her work, determination and success, and professors applaud her array of accomplishments while at TCU.

"Katelin Reddick is someone that you can't help but admire," said Ashley Short, a senior fashion merchandising major. "Her passion for the fashion industry is astounding. Reddick's determination is what will push her to the top and allow her to go extremely far in life."

Reddick, a senior fashion merchandising major, said she always had her sights set on the fashion industry.

"When I was a tiny girl, I was always drawing girls with belts and purses," Reddick said. "One thing was always certain — my goal was to be in the

fashion industry. I wasn't sure how I was going to do it or where I was going to school, but I knew someday I would do it — that was always a constant."

It was the fashion program at TCU that caught Reddick's attention and lured the Kansas City, Kan., native to Fort Worth.

"I was looking for a school that would offer a well-rounded experience," Reddick said. "TCU has offered me a great fashion program, study abroad opportunities, connections and Greek life."

One of Reddick's accomplishments is an internship in New York City at Tobe Report, a trend forecasting publication in the fashion industry.

"My internship was the best thing I could have ever done

for myself," she said.

One of her responsibilities at Tobe Report included accompanying editors to vendor's showrooms in order to make predictions in trends for fall 2008. The showrooms gave Reddick an opportunity to learn what had been selling for retailers, as well as what had been unsuccessful.

"There is actually a lot of math involved in the industry, which a lot of people do not appreciate about fashion," Reddick said.

Looking back, Reddick said her favorite fashion classes have been entrepreneurship and computer-assisted design.

"I really enjoy the analytical side of fashion, as well as the artsy side," Reddick said.

After her internship in New

York City, Reddick said she felt as though her fashion classes have prepared her for the working world.

"Everything I have learned in a classroom in Fort Worth is applicable," Reddick said. "Everything has been helpful."

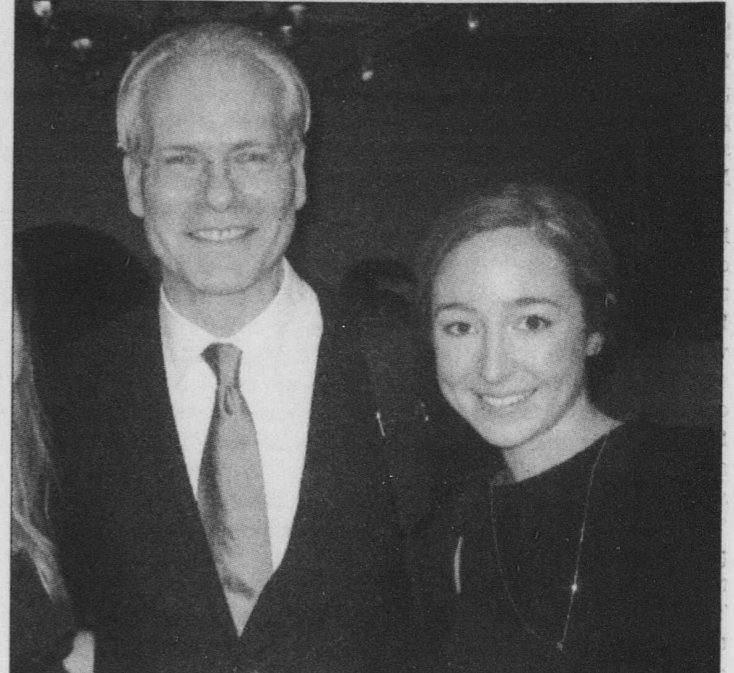
As for future plans, Reddick said she would like to slow down for a few months and return to Kansas City, Kan., to relax and continue a career search. However, the self-labeled "over-programmed individual" is currently applying and interviewing for positions in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Reddick said her goal is to ultimately move back to New York City and work for a designer such as Betsey Johnson or continue with fashion writing or editing.

With her December graduation approaching, Reddick said she has some advice for incoming fashion merchandising majors.

"Get to know your teach-

ers," Reddick said. "It's not easy being a fashion major and it's not just about liking clothes."

You have a lot to prove because you are working against a stereotype."



Courtesy of KATELIN REDDICK
Katelin Reddick, right, meets Tim Gunn, chairman of the Department of Fashion Design at Parsons The New School for Design. Reddick worked as an intern in New York at Tobe Report, a trend forecasting publication in the fashion industry.

Allison Peppers

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Charlotte Filla

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Love, Dad, Mom & Tara

Paige Hendrix

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Senior dance class prepares winter showcase

By ANA BAK
Staff Reporter

Thirteen is the number this holiday season. It's the name of the show produced and choreographed by 13 seniors, set to graduate in either May or December.

The School for Classical and Contemporary Dance at TCU will present a senior showcase concert Dec. 4 and 5 at 7 p.m. The show, called "13.0," will be presented at the Studio B Theatre inside

the TCU Ballet and Modern Dance Building.

The show consists of modern and ballet dances created by the students, said Susan Roberts, associate professor of modern dance.

"They're in control of the entire show," Roberts said. "It was produced and choreographed by them."

Roberts said having a show choreographed by all women is unusual.

"The last time we had all girls was probably in 1998, and maybe in 1999," Roberts said.

The fall shows have been going on since 1994, Roberts said.

With a mix of ballet and modern dance, "13.0" will show the invention and creativity of the students, Roberts said.

"The shows are unique in performance, and they have a contemporary emphasis," Roberts said.

The senior dance students are enrolled in the class Choreography IV: Senior Capstone, taught by Roberts. She said the dancers in the class have worked since August to make the show possible.

However, the dancers only started three and a half weeks ago on the dance pieces for the show.

Madeline Day, a senior ballet and modern dance major, said she spends five hours in class and three to four

hours in rehearsals. Day has choreographed a six minute, 30 second routine and will be doing the lighting effects for her show.

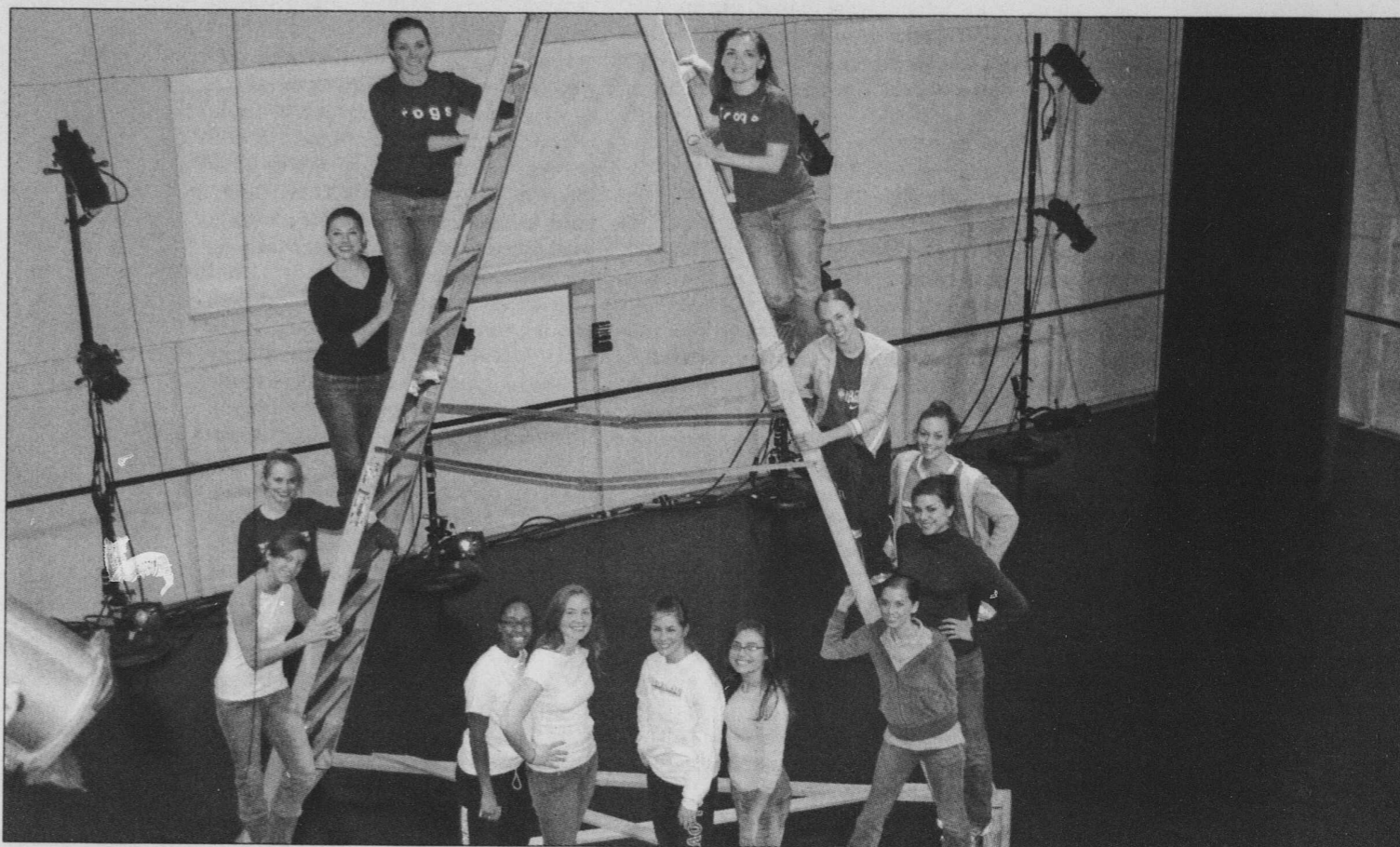
Like Day, the other students in the class will each be performing in a show and have choreographed one routine.

Halley Willcox, a modern dance major, said even though the dancers only had about a month to prepare the pieces, it was doable.

"We do two shows a year," Willcox said. "The one in the fall is informal, and the one in the spring is more formal."

Roberts, who has been at TCU for more than 20 years, said the students work hard.

"They're doing a super job," she said. "It's been a terrific training ground for the dancers; we graduate really smart dancers."



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor

ABOVE: The 13 members of the senior class of the School for Classical and Contemporary Dance at TCU will present their senior showcase concert Dec. 4 and 5 at 7 p.m. in Studio B Theatre inside the TCU Ballet and Modern Dance Building. The show, titled "13.0" is produced and choreographed by the group of seniors.

Courtesy of THE SCHOOL FOR CLASSICAL AND CONTEMPORARY DANCE
LEFT: Members of this year's senior class perform in Marius Petipa's Paquita last fall.



FOR YOUR INFO

Senior showcase concert
13.0

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Katie Jo,

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Lovingly,

Mama

Community colleges make shift toward campus living

By NICK PERRY
The Seattle Times

After high school, Melissa Pederson yearned for a traditional college experience. So she moved into campus housing with roommates from around the world and immersed herself in her wooded, secluded school.

Yet Pederson's move was far from typical: She was among the first students in King County to live on a community-college campus. Now finishing her sophomore studies at Green River Community College in Auburn, Wash., Pederson, 20, is one of a growing number of students taking advantage of shifts in the mission and approach of two-year colleges.

Around the country, community colleges are trying to adapt to increasing demand from young students and, in some cases, are beginning to resemble university campuses. Many community colleges are attempting to provide a broader approach to learning, even in specialty trades. That's because today's workers are expected to be more flexible and will likely change jobs and responsibilities more often.

Yet distinguishing among two-year colleges can still prove challenging.

As of last week, Green River had just four vacancies among the 340 beds available at the Campus Corner Apartments, where Pederson and other students share furnished four-bedroom, two-bathroom townhouses. Rooms and utilities typically cost students \$560 a month. And students can lease by the academic year or quarter.

Following the Trend

Green River is not alone in dabbling in traditional university territory. Edmonds Community College, which already leases some apartments, is building a housing complex with 156 beds, due to open in fall 2009. Seattle Central Community College is negotiating with a developer to build about 75 apartments on Broadway, while South Seattle Community College is studying whether to offer housing.

The housing boom is driven largely by community colleges' desire to accommodate international students and the higher tuition they bring. But the colleges have found there's also a demand from younger, local students.

While community colleges have long attracted "nontraditional" older students, at Green River the median age of students is now just 22 — reflective of a national trend toward younger students.

"There's a bubble of traditional-age

students who are coming in greater numbers," said Norma Kent, spokeswoman for the Washington, D.C.-based American Association of Community Colleges. "Partly it's the cheaper cost, and partly it's that so many of them can't be accommodated at traditional universities."

Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon, Wash., has even set up a section on its Web site called "No Parent Left Behind" to explain the college-going process to concerned parents of younger students — sometimes dubbed "helicopter parents" for their hovering involvement.

Given population trends, Kent said, she doesn't necessarily expect the bubble of young students to last. But there's an increased push to educate professionals of all ages, she added. Think, for instance, of the service technician at your local garage.

"It's not your traditional grease monkey," Kent said. "It's someone who knows how to do a computational diagnosis of engines."

Kent has noticed a second bubble of students at the other end of the spectrum — in the 50-plus age range. She said baby boomers are more likely than previous generations to seek job retraining or to study for enjoyment.

More Than a Two-year Degree

This academic year marks another major change in this state. Four community colleges — including Bellevue and South Seattle — have launched a pilot program in which they offer limited four-year bachelor degrees — something that had been the exclusive turf of universities. And colleges are pursuing students young and old by offering classes in everything from winemaking to nanotechnology.

While most students across the state are limited by geography to the closest college, students in the Seattle area can choose from among a dozen community colleges within a roughly 30-mile radius.

Many of those colleges are attempting to carve out niche specialties — from dental hygiene to aviation. The state Board for Community and Technical Colleges is promoting specialization through a "Centers of Excellence" program that seeks, in part, to eliminate program duplication. The board in February plans to launch a one-stop Web site that will allow students to compare

programs across all of the state's 34 two-year colleges.

Choosing among community colleges can present challenges, however. While national rankings such as those issued each year by U.S. News & World Report — along with a wealth of other information — can help students distinguish among universities, there are fewer established methods to choose among two-year colleges.

Seattle-area colleges have fared well by some measures. In 2001, Time magazine chose Seattle Central Community College among its four "Colleges of the Year." And this year, the Washington Monthly magazine rated Cascadia Community College in Bothell among the best community colleges in the nation based on student feedback and graduation rates — although the rankings appear to ignore hundreds of colleges that didn't participate in the student survey.

In this state, about 48 percent of full-time and part-time students attend community colleges to improve their job skills, while 30 percent intend to transfer to a four-year school. Another 13 percent — a figure that is growing — are in class to get basic language or math skills. Among full-time students only, a higher ratio intends to transfer.

Career Options

In a laboratory at North Seattle Community College, Robyn Severson peers through protective goggles at pieces of copper coated with a single layer of molecules that either repel or absorb water.

Severson is taking an introductory class on nanotechnology, the type of course usually associated with four-year colleges. In fact, one of his classmates already has a chemistry degree from the University of Washington but wants to find out more about the emerging subject, the study of materials so tiny they're measured in billions of a meter.

"I've always had a real fascination with science," Severson said, adding that at home he has tinkered with a lightning generator and video X-ray machines.

Severson is just 17-years-old and a student at Nathan Hale High School.



JOHN LOK / Seattle Times via MCT
Lacy Kabrich, Melissa Pederson, Michelle Morris and Chaeli Owens share an on-campus housing unit at Green River Community College in Auburn, Wash.

He is one of 17,000 high-school students enrolled in Running Start, a program that allows juniors and seniors to take college classes and earn credits. The program has exploded, tripling in size since the mid-1990s.

Deane Seeger, 55, is a student at the other end of the age spectrum, studying winemaking at South Seattle Community College. Last week, he helped dump cabernet sauvignon grapes into a hopper that removes the stems.

The college's winemaking program is proving popular, nearly doubling in size to about 24 students in this, its third year. One of the student-made wines even won a silver award at the 2007 Seattle Wine Awards.

Seeger, of West Seattle, is typical of many of the students who see winemaking as a second or third career, or perhaps a retirement hobby. Seeger hopes to retire on 10 acres of land in Oregon, where he has planted pinot noir grapes.

Another student, Denise Andrews, is a policy analyst at Seattle Public Utilities. But she would love to own a boutique winery. So she took a year's sabbatical to do an internship in California's Napa Valley for "the last crush of '06."

"It's chemistry and art," she said of winemaking. "You have to love to drink wine."

In this state, community-college leaders are trying to cope with a big increase in demand for basic educa-

tion, both from new immigrants and manual workers, said Charlie Earl, the executive director of the state Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

More businesses are taking a hands-on role in educating students, through programs such as Job Skills and Customized Employee Training. The state and employer often provide dollar-for-dollar funding matches, and students are trained in exactly the skills a specific employer seeks, typically getting jobs with that company after graduating.

Earl said in the future he expects to work even more closely with the K-12 system through programs such as Running Start to ease the transition for students moving from high school to college. He's also hoping to improve basic-education offerings, so that, for instance, students can learn literacy and job skills at the same time rather than sequentially.

At Green River, meanwhile, Melissa Pederson, who grew up in Kent, is hoping to transfer to a university next year to finish a bachelor's degree in sociology. She said living at Green River with Japanese students has broadened her appreciation for other cultures and has "opened a lot of doors." She's also learned some basics about living with others.

"For one thing, it's learning not to leave a mess all over the house like I did at my parents' house," she said.

"For one thing, it's learning not to leave a mess all over the house like I did at my parents' house."

Melissa Pederson
Green River Community College sophomore

Evan Vanderbilt

From kindergarten to college, you've brought joy to the journey.

Congratulations, Evan Keep Smiling!

We love you. Mom, Dad, & Eric

Meg Royal

Meg,

From playing dress-up to becoming a grown-up, you've been a joy to raise. We wish you a future full of happiness and success.

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Melanie Harris

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Average graduation period exceeding normal four years

By CARLA DOGAN
(University of Wisconsin)
Badger Herald

MADISON, Wis. — The four-year liberal arts degree seems to be devolving into myth, and delayed graduation has emerged as a separate academic lifestyle.

According to a 2006 study by the National Center for Education Statistics, only one-third of students at colleges offering four-year degrees were able to complete their bachelor's degree in said time. At the University of Wisconsin, that number has been more like one-half in recent years, yet nearly one-third of the students who entered as freshmen in fall 2003 is still among us, working toward a diploma they may never earn.

To be fair, most fifth-year seniors just need the time to fit in a few academic requirements before they pick up their tassels — scheduling conflicts or personal issues may have brought on the delay. But the remaining students who stay on for six or more years are part of an alarming general trend. Why do students keep paying tuition for extra semesters when they aren't going to graduate?

School is an expensive habit to sustain. Tuition rises every year, and student loan debt often takes longer to pay off without a degree. Now is a really bad time to be an undecided junior or senior, but for some reason, these students do not choose to leave now and cut their losses. Instead, they take fewer

credits per semester so they will have time to work, even though the minimal course load will only prolong their time to earn a diploma and rack up expenses, while the outside jobs draw their attention away from school.

Consequently, some of these students will realize too late that their day jobs have become their professions and that they have amassed years of avoidable loan-debt before arriving at this conclusion. Just as college isn't for everyone who graduates high school, graduating with a degree isn't for everyone who goes to college.

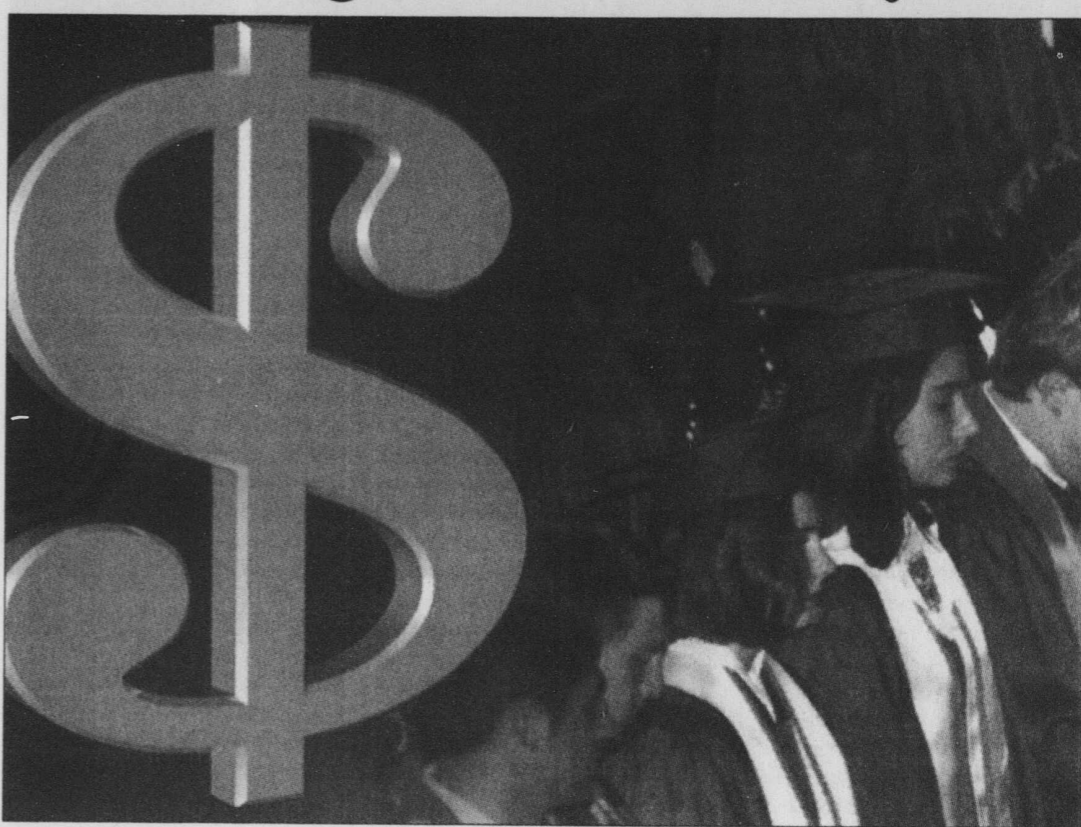
In the past decade at UW, the percentage of degree-seeking students who eventually get what they came for has consistently been around 80 percent, which is decent. But out of students matriculating in 2002, 78.7 percent earned their degrees in five years or fewer. That doesn't look good for students who are now in their 11th semester. On an individual level, these are students who have spent so much time as undergraduates that they might as well finish their degree. Viewing it through a larger scope, however, shows that some large societal forces must be at work.

Perhaps students are overwhelmed with multiple majors or have switched concentrations too many times. At a university the size of UW, students have a lot of choices, but not a lot of immediate guidance.

Other students, espe-

cially first-generation college students, may have been pressured into higher education as the U.S. economy demands more specialized work and thus are in uncharted territory to begin with. Still, these are not valid excuses for failing to earn a degree in a timely manner. The average high school graduate cannot afford to be a professional student, and if he had the planning skills to get into UW in the first place, you'd think he could find his way around a DARS report when the time came.

Paul Bell, the dean of the University of Oklahoma, has noted that graduation rates are especially low at OU — only 47 percent after five years — and believes OU's "noncompetition culture" is to blame. In response to a student editorial in the Oklahoma Daily encouraging students not to rush their degrees, he defended OU's new campaign to prevent "student burnout" for the students' own good. "Time is precious," he concluded. This is exactly the preventative attitude we need to have toward our own academic careers at UW. UW's statistics are not as extreme as OU's,



Recent studies are showing more students are taking more than the traditional four years to graduate college. In 2006, only one-third of college students were walking across the stage within four years. At Oklahoma University, students beyond their 10th semester have a less than 50 percent graduation rate.

so we can't and shouldn't rely on our administration to hold our hands. Whatever the reasons, it is a waste of time and resources to continue without the goal of graduation in mind.



TCU DAILY SKIFF

Congratulations our graduating seniors on a job well done! Thank you for your hard work and dedication to student publications over the years.

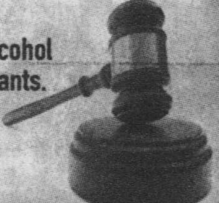
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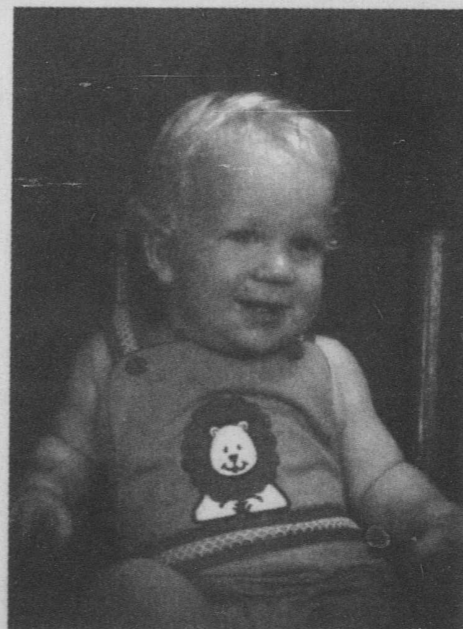
Live simply, Give generously, Laugh loudly, Love deeply. Congratulations — we're so proud of you!

Love, Mom & Dad

Congratulations to our December Sigma Kappa Graduates!

Natalie King
Kathleen Thurber

Mike Fitch



Mike,

It's wonderful and amazing how you have grown and changed. I remember the little boy that never wanted to leave home and now you are a grown man ready to face the world. We love you and are very proud of you!

Congratulations,
Mom, Dad, and Christi

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Campus symbol missing for winter graduates

By JORDAN HAYGOOD
Staff Reporter

One more commencement will pass without the iconic figure of TCU — Frog Fountain.

Harold Leeman, associate director of Physical Plant administration, said the fountain is still being reconstructed.

"The foundations for the flutes have been placed, and all the piping and electrical conduits are being set now," Leeman said. "The actual flutes have been refurbished off-site and are ready to be bolted in place when the actual fountain is completed."

The fountain, dismantled in May 2006, was in need of minor repairs, said Brian Gutierrez, vice chancellor for finance and administration.

Leeman said they are working to have Frog Fountain finished by mid-December.

"I am a little sad that it's not there and that campus is in such transition right now."

Meredith Hamilton
senior education major

At the graduation reception in May, seniors were able to stand in front of a life-size photo of Frog Fountain for one last photo opportunity.

This year, the large backdrop will be available for the graduating seniors, said Margaret Kelly, executive director for community projects, marketing and communication.

Kelly said that due to space constraints, the back-

drop and inflatable Horned Frog will be set up on the lawn behind the Dee J. Kelly Alumni Center.

Graduating seniors, such as Leigh Conway, have not thought about Frog Fountain not being ready because they were told it would be ready this fall.

"It is depressing that it is not complete but to tell the truth, I have never really thought about it," said Conway, an accounting and finance major.

Meredith Hamilton, an education major, agreed.

"I am a little sad that it's not there and that campus is in such transition right now," Hamilton said. "I'll be at TCU until next December for graduate school, though, so I'll look forward to taking my picture in front of the fountain when I graduate for good in December."



University officials hope to have Frog Fountain reconstructed by mid-December. It was dismantled in May 2006. The fountain will not be ready in time for the Dec. 15 graduation ceremony.

Workplace experience valued more than college GPA

By DUNSTAN PRIAL
The (Bergen County, N.J.) Record

This year's crop of college graduates is heading out into a welcoming employment market. But those who think good grades will be enough to land them a decent job should think again.

"Relevant work experience is my first priority," said Molly MacDermot, editor-in-chief of M and Twist, teen-oriented magazines published by Bauer Publishing in Englewood Cliffs, N.J.

MacDermot's view was echoed by a range of industry recruiters and human resource executives who annually scour colleges for

potential employees.

In a highly competitive field like publishing, internships "are crucial" for candidates just out of college and seeking entry-level positions, said MacDermot.

Proven leadership ability, solid verbal and written skills and computer aptitude over an array of software programs are qualities also frequently cited, in addition to the specific technical skills required for the job being sought.

And make no mistake — specific technical skills are definitely being sought.

Candidates with degrees in software design and development, engineering

and finance can expect to land the highest starting salaries this year, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employees, a Bethlehem, Pa.-based research group.

Moreover, salaries in each of those sectors are rising year to year, according to an NACE survey of several hundred employers.

Qualified graduates should have no problem finding job opportunities, said Andrea Koncz, NACE's employment information manager. Indeed, the NACE survey showed U.S. employers expect to hire 19 percent more college graduates in 2007 than a year ago.

Koncz said the growing number of retiring baby boomers is good news for the class of 2007.

Employers are increasingly looking to fill positions left vacant by retirees with recent college graduates, whom they hope to groom for long-term careers, she said.

"These companies are losing people with a lot of experience, so they are looking to replace them with new talent who bring with them new ideas and new energy," Koncz observed.

The companies will also save money by hiring entry-level workers.

Creativity, teamwork

skills and an ability to get results are other traits cited universally by human resource executives and college recruiters.

But nothing beats work-related experience.

"That I would have to say is first and foremost today. I find that all of the employers are looking for that," said Sharon Rosengart, director of the career development and advisement center at William Paterson.

Rachel Anevski, human resources director at Smolin, Lupin & Co., an accounting firm with New Jersey offices in Fairfield and Red Bank, said her company believes past work experience in the

field is vital as an indicator of a candidate's commitment to the profession.

Working while gaining a degree not only shows discipline and intent, she said, but also an ability to multitask and organize.

Since recruiters expect a certain level of proficiency from graduates in the field in which they majored, candidates should strive to demonstrate other qualities if they hope to stand out.

Anevski mentioned curiosity.

"We're looking for accounting majors, but we're not necessarily looking for the highest grade point average," she said.

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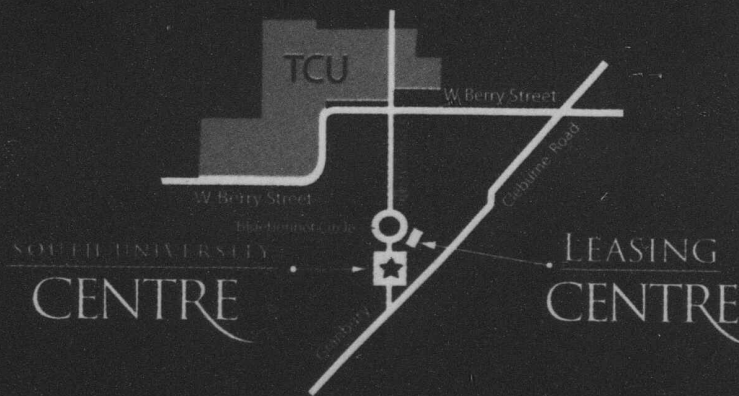
- Just Minutes From Campus
- Ample Parking
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- Pool
- Fitness Center
- Clubhouse
- Internet Café
- Private Balconies
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- Extended Cable
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