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TCU DAILY SKIFF
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REGAINING RETENTION

Committee looks to boost university's retention rates

Nonreturning students assist and answer questions

By AMY KITCHEL
Staff Reporter

One out of every six freshmen who start their college careers at TCU don't finish them here, leaving after their first or second semester for reasons ranging from not fitting in socially to not be challenged enough academically, TCU researchers said.

To boost TCU's retention rate of 83.9 percent, Chancellor Victor Boschini created a task force to study the issue. The Retention Data Analysis Committee studied expectations students had of TCU when they enrolled versus the actual experiences they had.

Dean of Admissions Ray Brown said the retention rate is average for an institution of TCU's size and stature when compared nationally, but is lower than other private universities, like SMU and Baylor.

The committee's study followed 106 freshmen who started at TCU in fall 2004 and chose not to return for the spring semester, said Catherine Coghlan, assistant director of the Center for Institutional Research.

"We want to find out what it is about the group of students who are leaving that is off skew," Coghlan said.

According to the study, nonreturning students were studied based on college, ethnicity and gender, and were surveyed about both academic and social issues related to their experiences at TCU.

The study's questions about academics included level of academic challenge, academic advising, student-faculty interaction, staff interaction and classroom interaction with other students.

Social expectation questions covered campus environment, social opportunities, the residence halls and student interaction. Students who participated in recruitment were asked about that experience also.

The study found that concerns for nonreturning students included lack of order and discipline in the residence halls, and students wanting more direction and guidance in academic advising.

According to the study, social problems were mentioned often. Coghlan said nonreturning students felt a student had to be in the Greek community to have a good social experience.

According to the study, 66 percent of students who chose not to return for their second semester cited academic reasons and 67 percent named social reasons. (Some students cited both social and academic reasons.)

"There is a combination of factors for each student," Coghlan said.

Extra Info

Retention Rates:
TCU - 83.9 percent
Baylor - 84 percent
SMU - 88 percent
UTA - 70 percent
UT-Austin - 93 percent
— College Board 2006 Handbook

The study reports that differences between students who stay and those who leave, correlated to how well social experiences matched expectations.

The most common response from students who chose not to return to TCU had to do with an inability to make connections with others, the study found. These nonreturning students also had the lowest rates of co-curricular participation, according to the study.

The study also found differences in the reasons students left after one semester and those who left after two.

According to the study, students who stayed at TCU for their entire first year, but were not enrolled in fall 2005, most frequently cited finances as the primary reason they did not plan to return.

Coghlan said financial reasons came up often during the surveys, but were not always the No. 1 reason students chose not to come back.

"I think it goes back to the combination of reasons," Cogh-

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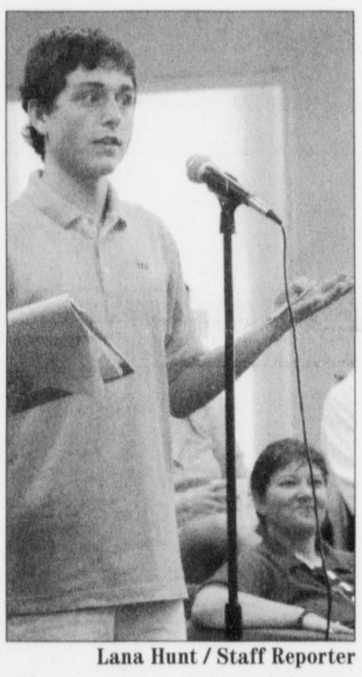
Lana Hunt / Staff Reporter
Barbara Herman, associate vice chancellor for student affairs (center), answers a question posed by an audience member at the town hall meeting Wednesday in the Brown-Lupton Student Center. The other panelists are Catherine Wehlburg, director of the Center for Teaching Excellence (left), and Andy Fort, chairman of the Faculty Senate.

Campus involvement has impact

Students, faculty say link with university helps retention rate

By LESLIE WINCHELL
Staff Reporter



Lana Hunt / Staff Reporter
Sophomore premajor Austin Uebele questions the panel during Wednesday's town hall meeting in the Brown-Lupton Student Center. Discussion topics ranged from the retention rate to racial diversity at TCU.

Improving TCU's retention rate was the topic of discussion at a Town Hall meeting Wednesday in the Brown-Lupton Student Center.

"The 83.9 percent retention rate last year is not where we need to be, but we're constantly improving," said Catherine Wehlburg, director of the Center for Teaching Excellence.

Approximately 25 students, staff and faculty members attended the meeting.

"We have to get and keep the students involved," said Barbara Herman, associate vice chancellor for student affairs. "We need to figure out why students leave and how to prevent that from happening."

Among the issues that students were concerned about were tuition increases, racial diversity and organizational involvement.

Many students leave because they do not find their "niche here or feel comfortable," said sophomore premajor Austin Uebele.

TCU needs to advertise the organizations to the student body better because students who are socially engaged more often choose to stay, Uebele said.

Freshman premajor Ashley Bachmayer had a different opinion as to why students leave TCU.

"My biggest concern is tuition increase," Bachmayer said. "I am undecided about my major and may be here for five years, and I'm afraid each year is just going to get more expensive."

The panel also discussed faculty involvement.

"We need to get the faculty involved and make connections with the students to keep retention rates up," said religion professor Andy Fort, chairman of Faculty Senate. "The problem is to figure out what exactly are the primary duties of the faculty and how to implement those duties outside the classroom."

Bachmayer echoed Fort's statement.

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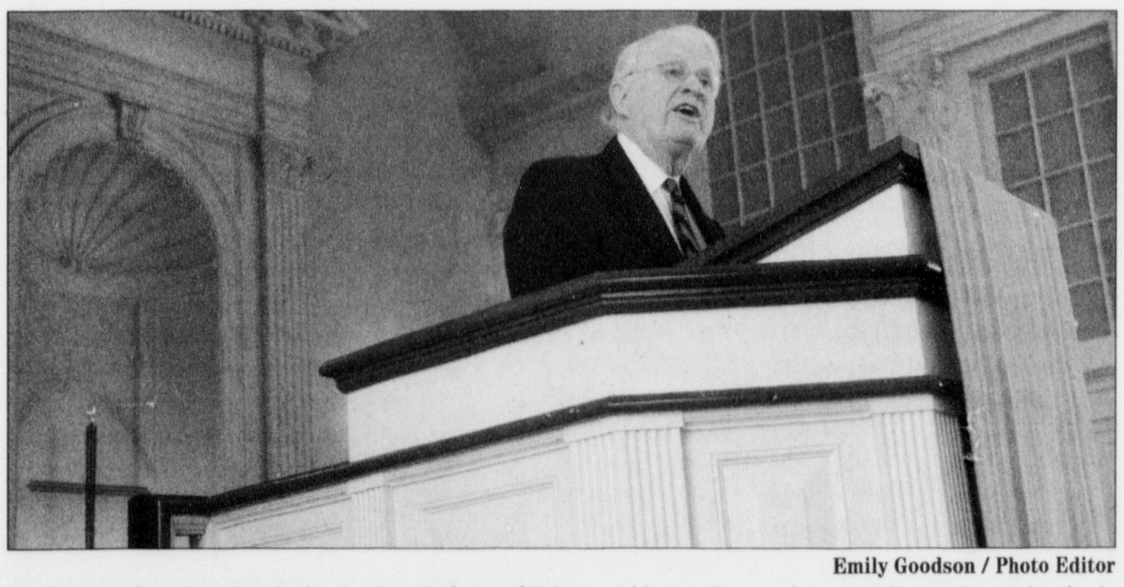

Emily Goodson / Photo Editor
Ron Flowers, the John F. Weatherley Emeritus Professor of Religion, addresses the crowd at a worship service Wednesday in Robert Carr Chapel celebrating religious freedom in America.

Worship service celebrates religious freedom on campus

Former professor praises Constitution

By AMY WILLEY
Staff Reporter

"The most distinguished part of the Constitution is the separation of church and state," Ron Flowers, the John F. Weatherley Emeritus Professor of Religion, said Wednesday.

Flowers was part of the first "Celebration of the Constitution" at TCU. About 20 people attended the event, which focused on religious freedom in the First Amendment and the intent of the Constitution's founders.

Donald Jackson, professor of political science, said Congress passed a requirement that any university receiving federal funds for pro-secondary education, such as student loans, will hold a program about the Constitution on Sept. 17 or within a few days.

The service, held in Robert Carr Chapel commemorated Sept. 17, 1787, when the founders signed the Constitution.

Jackson, who coordinated the event, said Flowers was chosen as a speaker because he is a national expert on religious freedom.

Centuries of religious persecution, Flowers said, created the need for religious protection.

The authors of the Constitution were aware of the history of persecution and resolved that it wouldn't happen in America, Flowers said.

"They avoided that result by avoiding the beginning," Flowers said.

The founders made religious

more on RELIGION, page 2

Groups volunteer time, energy to assist hurricane evacuees

Nursing students, faculty provide aid to upset, injured

By ADRIENNE LANG
Staff Reporter

When Susan Weeks received a call from the American Red Cross, she knew the Harris School of Nursing could play a different kind of role in helping the thousands in the Fort Worth area displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

"I got a call saying cargo planes of patients were being flown to Fort Worth hospitals," said Weeks, MS, RN. "Red Cross asked me to get a group of nurses together for Disaster Welfare Inquiry."

Groups of one to three nursing faculty members and three to five nursing students went to area hospitals to gather information from the evacuee patients to be put into a database, so family members who were separated and searching for each other could be matched up, said Weeks, clinical facilities coordinator for the nursing school.

Weeks, who has worked with the Red Cross for several years, said the groups were headed by herself and Lea Montgomery, MS, RN and nursing school lecturer.

"We didn't have a choice," said Dr. Kris Riddlesperger, a maternal-child nurse and lecturer in the nursing school. "It's what we do."

Due to the nurses' efforts, a man with chronic illnesses was reunited with his son in Houston a day after the inquiry started, said Dr. Dennis Cheek, professor of gerontological nursing.

Weeks said the students are not just performing community service, but they are adding to their knowledge as future nurses.

In addition to sending students to area hospitals for inquiries, the department also sent students to clinics where they performed health evaluations.

Senior nursing majors Jennifer Lauderdale and Karen Collins said the work in the clinics gave them a chance to use the skills they have learned in class in a real-life situation before they graduate.

Some of the duties included setting up doctor's appointments for the patients, checking their blood pressure, making sure they had necessary medications and just paying attention to them, Collins said.

"We played patient-advocate," Lauderdale said. "We didn't let them slip through the cracks. It's so easy to get lost in a big disaster."

Riddlesperger said the students are also learning how to communicate with different types of people. She said the students who were helping with the inquiry encountered a blind man who was partially deaf. He could not sign or speak and did not have any identification.

Collins said she had to figure out the needs of people, so she could assure them that they would be taken care of, regardless of their disabilities. To do this, Collins said she had learned to feed off of her peers and work as part of a team.

The nursing faculty and students have not just been taking the opportunity made by Hurricane Katrina to help, but many have been volunteering in their spare time as well.

Weeks taught a course at TCU at the beginning of September to train nurses to work in shelters dealing with disasters, training the Red Cross requires before letting nurses volunteer in its clinics. She said about 10 to 12 members of the faculty took the course and went to work in the shelters as soon as they could.

"We're really looking at

more on NURSE, page 2

RETENTION

From page 1

lan said. "When students aren't doing well socially, it doesn't make spending the money to attend TCU worth it."

Students who left TCU said they did so for a number of different reasons. Former student Sean Harrison said he left for financial reasons after losing his aid, while Stephanie Leintz said she left to find a school with people more like her. "It just wasn't the right fit socially for me," said Leintz, currently a student at Sam Houston State University.

Harrison, now at Texas State University, said he wished more had been done to find a solution for him to stay.

"Had they tried to help me, I think I would have worked harder to stay," Harrison said. "But I don't think that anyone on the administration level even knew that I was leaving. Nobody offered me any help."

Former student Ashley Whitehead left TCU after her first year to transfer to the University of Texas at Austin. Whitehead said she always wanted to attend UT-Austin, but couldn't get in right out of high school because she wasn't in the top 10 percent of her class.

The study found that the majority of nonreturning students left TCU for public institutions.

Of students from out of state, all but four transferred to institutions in their home states, while students from Texas, transferred to public schools in the state, Coghlan said.

The University of North Texas was the No. 1 institution that students transferred to from TCU, according to the study. This was followed closely by the University of Texas at Arlington and Blinn Community College.

During a presentation the committee gave on Sept. 8, Mike Scott, committee chairman and director of financial aid, said another reason for leaving TCU is students he called "high achievers."

The study reports that of the students who left TCU after their first semester, 12 percent had a GPA of 3.6 or higher and 53.7 percent had a GPA of 2.6 or higher. Only 22 percent of nonreturning students had a GPA lower than 1.6.

Catherine Wehlburg, director of the Koehler Center for Teaching Excellence, said helping students fit in academically is something faculty can improve to boost retention rates.

"This isn't the traditional retention problem where students are flunking out of school," Wehlburg said.

Teresa Farnum, a retention specialist and consultant hired by TCU in spring 2005, said a first-year retention rate of 88 percent is attainable for TCU in the next five years.

The committee's study reports that as TCU has become more selective, the retention rate has increased. Brown said the university will continue to become more selective in the coming years.

"It's do-able," Brown said. "While it's not going to be easy, it's something we can and should do."

Correction

In Wednesday's tailgate story, Kennedy Shuler was mistakenly given the title of Hyperfrogs president. She is a former president. The current president is Lance Kearns.

RELIGION

From page 1

persecution illegal by creating the establishment policy and the free exercise clause in the first two clauses of the First Amendment. The policy and clause allow people to act out their religious beliefs without government interference.

Flowers gave an example of how the founders thought about separation of church and state.

"The right to choose religion is conscious and government doesn't have authority to rule over consciousness," Flowers said, quoting James Madison.

The struggle for religious freedom provided a way for other freedoms to come about, such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly, Flowers said.

Once the founders gave the citizens religious freedom, they were ready to give other freedoms, he said.

Caitlin Pierce, a freshman advertising/public relations major, said the event gave recognition of an important document.

"It's a good way to recognize an important amendment and part of our country," Pierce said. "It's vital to our institution."

TOWNHALL

From page 1

"If you feel like a teacher cares about you, you're more likely to show up to class and feel more connected to the university," she said.

Herman recognized that some students do leave TCU for valid reasons.

"But our goal is get the students we want and to keep them," Herman said.

NURSE

From page 1

the big picture," Weeks said. "We're looking at the health of the patients and volunteers."

Weeks said large problems, such as communicable diseases, are not the only concerns the nurses have. She said they pay attention to small things, like the amount of light while people are trying to sleep and whether those with diabetes are getting suitable foods. She also said the nurses are concerned about the emotional status of the patients and volunteers.

Riddlesperger has completed several eight-hour shifts at the Worth Heights Community Shelter on New York Avenue.

She said her job was to initially screen the evacuees and identify their needs.

Due to numerous donations by Walgreens, Riddlesperger said, the nurses are able to give people over-the-counter medicines that they request.

She said most of the medical complaints recorded are sinus infections, allergies, headaches, calluses and other low-grade illnesses. She said the nurses try to take care of the evacuees while letting them maintain their independence.

"It's hard to have to ask for everything," Riddlesperger said.

However, if the evacuees need more help, Riddlesperger said she is willing to give more.

After taking a woman's blood pressure and putting a Garfield bandage on a little boy in a blue jersey, she said she picked up an evacuee from school because the girl had a 105-degree temperature. Riddlesperger said the girl had been in water for several hours in New Orleans, so her high temperature caused alarm among the volunteers. They put the girl in an ambulance, making sure to notify her guardian, her aunt.

As important as it is to take care of the medical side of the evacuees, the volunteers must listen to the evacuees who want to talk, Riddlesperger said.

She listened to the girl's aunt, who said the girl's mother is missing, along with two of her own children.

"They have been through more than I could consider going through," Riddlesperger said.

She said the children are the most resilient; they're laughing, playing, coping and moving on.

Collins said many people remained hopeful. She said she heard many people say, "God will provide."

The Red Cross would not let the Skiff speak with the evacuees due to the sensitivity of the situation and the organization's policy. The nursing faculty and students, however, have received positive feedback for their efforts.

"People seemed genuinely impressed by TCU and Texas in general," Lauderdale said. "They are grateful.

"It didn't matter to them that we were students."

As much as the nursing school has done, Collins and Lauderdale said they are planning to do more. They said the Student Nurses' Association is organizing a hygiene drive to collect items such as shampoo, toothpaste and razors.

"You gain twice as much as you give," Collins said.

Lauderdale agreed.

"I want to go back and do it some more," she said.

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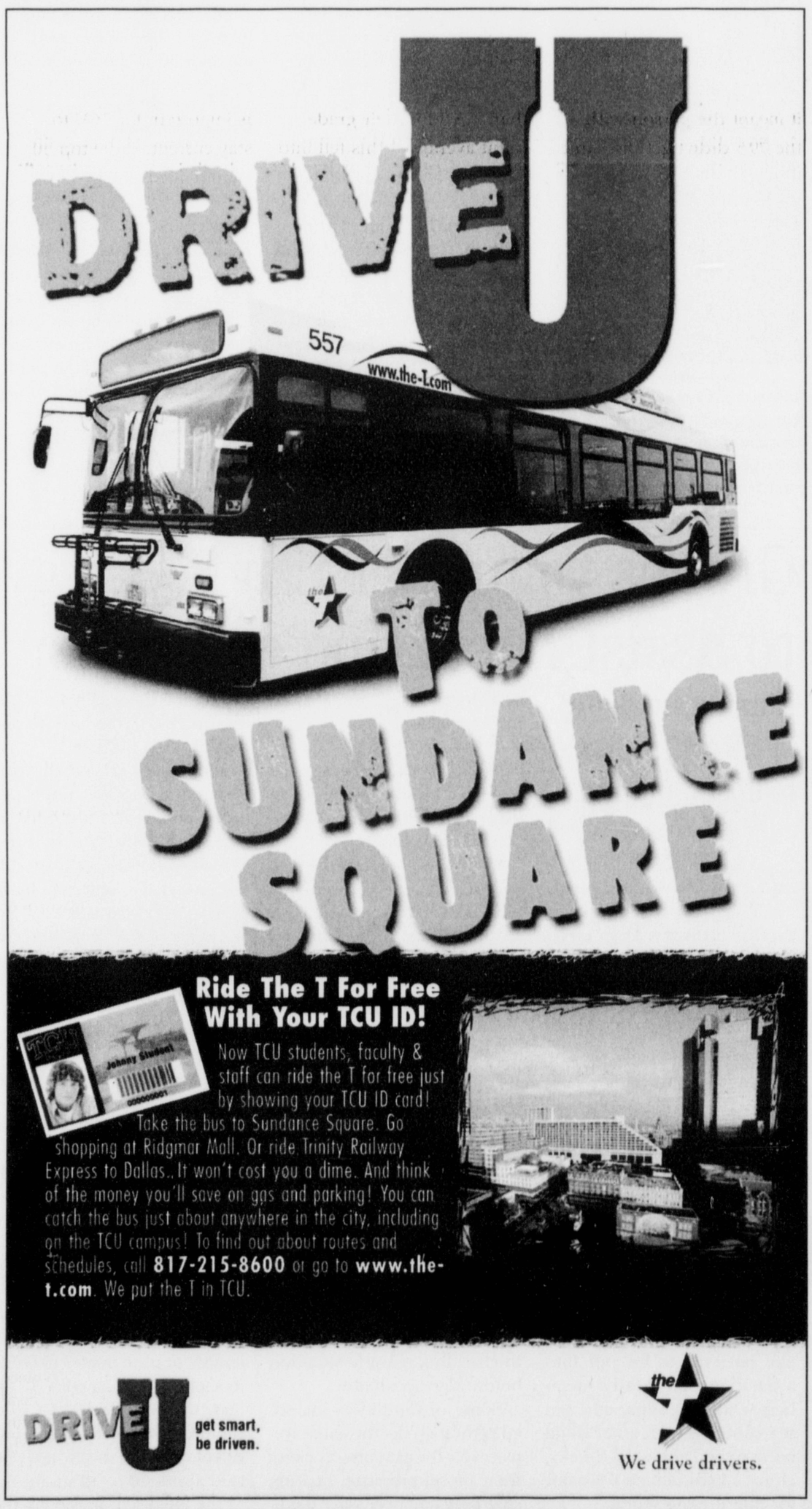

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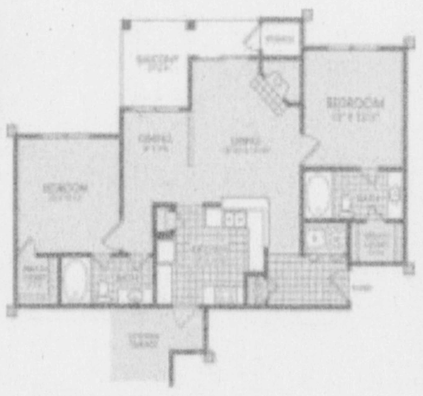

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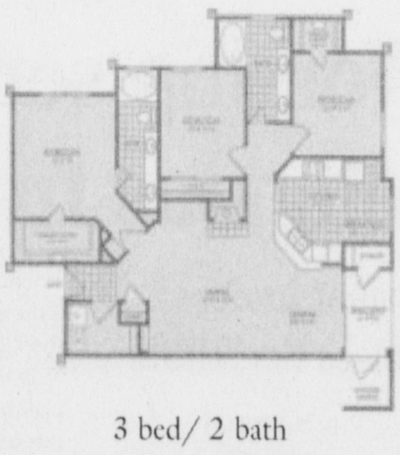

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Skiff View

Independents feel ostracized

Members of Greek organizations should be more inclusive to rid stereotype

This year, TCU ranked in the Top 10 schools nationwide for influential Greek scenes.

Indeed, TCU has a reputation, both within the university and outside of it, of having a big fraternity and sorority presence. However, that stereotype does not reflect a majority of the student body.

More than half our student body is not affiliated with the Greek system in any way. Those who are not in a fraternity or sorority can often feel alienated by those who are.

One can walk from class to class and see those wearing shirts with Greek letters on them talking to others of the same. The same phenomenon can be observed in classes, at lunch, in the library or virtually anywhere else. Greek students sit together. They eat together. They study together.

Not everyone in the Greek system falls under that stereotype, but there are enough students who do act that way to make unaffiliated students feel left out.

Fraternities and sororities should try to be a bit less exclusive. Of course, part of the entire point of the Greek system is to create a close-knit group of friends, and there's nothing wrong with that. But even when a sorority holds a mixer, most of the attendees are in fraternities.

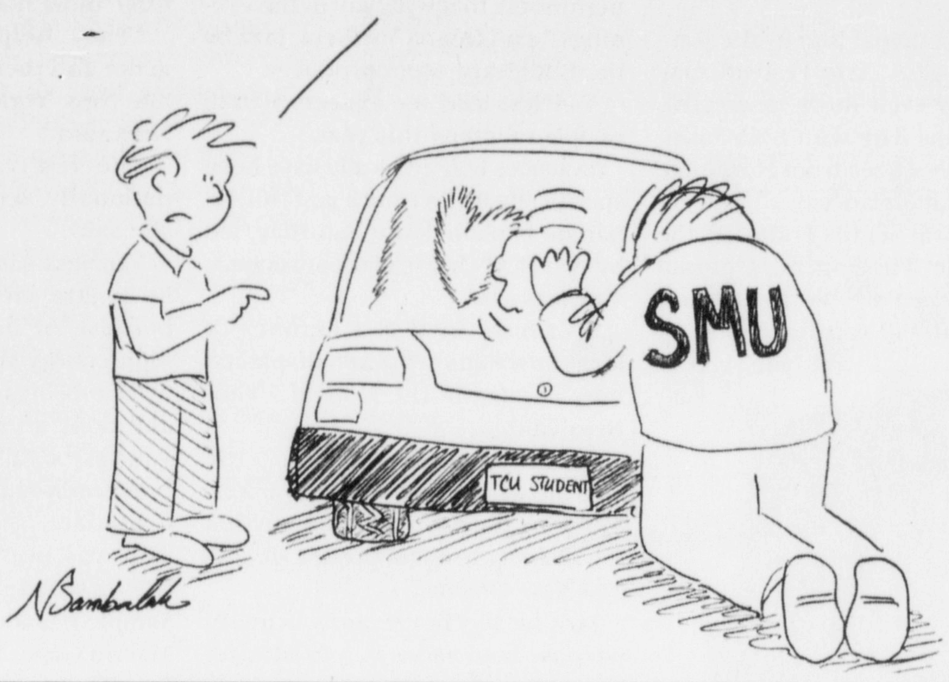
So why don't Greek organizations hold more open events, encouraging others outside the system to attend?

If Greeks mingled with independents a bit more, fewer students would feel left out and ostracized, and the elitist stereotype of fraternities and sororities might start to disappear, little by little. And that's a win for everyone.

Associate Editor Jarod Daily
for the Editorial Board

Newsreal

by Nicholas Sambaluk



Grades gain weight: plus-sizes actually good

COMMENTARY

Brian Chatman

You are a number.

You are your Social Security number. You are your credit score. You are your student ID number and your SAT score.

No number can truly define a person, but in a society obsessed with quantifying every possible facet of our lives, all that many will know about you is found in a mathematical snapshot.

This is a fact of life, so the best we can hope for is a formula that makes us a little more photogenic.

For this reason, the university is considering a plan to create a stratified GPA system based on plus and minus grades.

Instead of getting a 4.0 for any A and a 3.0 for any B, the new system would allow for a more accurate calculation of the GPA. An A student would still get a 4.0, but an A-minus student would receive a 3.67. The points awarded would decrease from B-plus to F in the same fashion.

I am not a fan of grades. The mere knowledge that what I am doing will be graded eliminates my motivation. As such, I have many classes where I have gotten that 3.0 or 4.0 for my GPA by one point.

Faculty Senate Chairman Andrew Fort put it best when he said, "The current system rewards minus students and penalizes the plus students."

I am usually a minus student, the worst of the best. I probably won't be affected by this plan as a senior, but those who follow in my overachieving-slacker footsteps will face a great challenge.

I opposed the plan at first. The proposed grade system would be great for a quantitative subject like math, but for classes based solely on subjectively graded papers, the plus/minus system would only encourage grade inflation.

Begging a professor for an A when you are sitting firmly at a B is difficult. Begging for those few extra points, the B-plus, seems to be a far less arduous task. Professors are human. Most have hearts — the rest have their price.

Corruption and graft aside, a trip to the religion department to interview Academic Excellence Committee Chairman David Grant cleansed me of my uninformed beliefs.

"(The studies) suggest the effect plus/minus grading has on grade inflation is pretty neutral," Grant said. "If anything, it has a slight negative effect on grade inflation."

Grant, using a grade sheet from a previous semester, broke down the grades given under the current system in his own introductory religion courses and then showed the same class with plus and minus grades.

The class GPA under the current system was 2.43, while the new system would have yielded a 2.41.

When I think of subjective, I think of religion and philosophy. I was looking at an example, that destroyed my opposition to the system. Not only was there very little change in the overall grade, but also it meant the person with the 79.5 didn't get the same grade as the one with an 88.

"The question to ask about the plus/minus grading system is not about grade inflation," Grant said. "The question is, will it better discriminate levels of student achievement?"

With my first objection effectively dead, Grant mentioned student GPAs on the whole might decline slightly under a plus/minus system. My opposition was renewed.

At a school where tuition has increased significantly in my short attendance, a decline in GPAs on the whole would likely hurt students that need a 3.0 to maintain their financial aid.

"The concern is that students with a 3.0 may not have that grade due to some C-minuses," Grant said. "You have to remember that the C's have pluses as well."

When I see someone get a C, it is usually a 78. These people would take more than a 3.0 for their grade point average if this fell into C-plus territory. They would improve their chances of keeping their scholarship. The C-minus students might have to worry.

Suddenly, I am taken back to my philosophy classes.

Semester after semester I got B-pluses on my papers. Try as I might, I could never get higher. Once or twice I got lower, but higher grades never came.

Every B went in as a 3.0. All of my papers could have gotten me a 3.33 average in philosophy classes with the plus/minus system. My GPA would be higher.

If I wasn't totally sold at this point, the fact that plus/minus systems are becoming the standard finished the job.

All but eight of the top 50 universities in this country use a plus/minus system, according to Faculty Senate research documents.

Grant said, and I wholeheartedly agree, that it is important for TCU to stay current. If the top 50 schools have seen a benefit in improving the means of measuring student achievement, then we need to do the same if we aspire to join their ranks.

The best course for one university may not be the same as that of another. The evidence on this issue, however, shows plus/minus grading to be right for TCU.

Opinion Editor Brian Chatman is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Fort Worth.

Your View

Letters to the Editor

Fans should mind actions

I write to report despicable TCU fan behavior I witnessed at the TCU-SMU game last Saturday. My family and I sat near a large group of TCU students, male and female. A number appeared to be inebriated. Some were sporting Greek insignia. All appeared to be spoiled children of material privilege. We were seated near SMU students of like description. Throughout the game, there was trash talking between the two obnoxious student groups. But, the TCU students went over the top when they resorted to repeatedly chanting, "F--- SMU!" Look, as a student, I went to my fair share of games under the influence. I most certainly have heard the F-bomb before. I am certain, however, that I never, as a sports fan, acted with such lack of social dignity at any game, TCU or otherwise. In the future, I would ask those students who participated in such boorish behavior to stop and think before again embarrassing our university and yourselves.

Tom Oliver, Class of 1975

Before judging Greeks, know the system

COMMENTARY

Courtney Reese

After reading a recent Skiff column about one freshman's experience at TCU thus far, I realized just how uninformed some are about Greek societies. I can see where it would be easy to simplify being a part of such an organization to "paying for your friends" if you were unaware of the good that Greeks do. However, I think that before voicing such strong opinions, one should further research the system before criticizing it.

I can admit that I am not the most active participant in my Greek society, Kappa Alpha Theta. I have never held an office or any other significant role in my sorority, but that does not mean I am any less proud to be one of its members.

I came to TCU three years ago oblivious to the inner workings of the whole Recruitment experience. I was the quiet, shy girl sitting in the back of the room, completely overwhelmed and thinking, what have I gotten myself into; this is ridiculous.

I finished out those five long days in the heat and thought, I will end up wherever I am supposed to be. I was probably one of very few who actually got a good night's sleep before Bid Day.

I can understand how those who aren't in a sorority or fraternity might feel like outsiders or like members of Greek societies don't want to befriend them; however, that is just not true. Every organization at every college or university is going to have members who are unwilling to give everyone a shot. But it is unfair to assume that everyone is that way.

I have several close friends who are not members of Greek societies, and I have never looked down on anyone who has chosen not to partake. I didn't even decide to participate in Recruitment until a month before I came to TCU, and even then, my attitude was, I'll give it a shot and see what happens. I also know that I am not the only one.

Just because you are part of a Greek society doesn't mean you have to like or be best friends with everyone in it. Yes, you do have some sort of connection with the others who are in your sorority or fraternity for the simple fact that you belong to the same society, but there is no written law saying you have to love and adore all of them. You should respect them as a human being, as you should anyone.

There is a large social aspect to being part of a Greek society, but there is also much more. Sororities and fraternities, for the most part, pride themselves on service, scholarship and social growth.

> "There is a large social aspect to being part of a Greek society, but there is also much more."

Most organizations require payment in the form of dues. How else would they survive? But I have never thought that by being a member of Theta, I am paying for my friends. I chose my friends based on the person, not the organization or the amount of money he or she might have. I cannot speak for all Greek societies, but I know that there are options available in Theta for members who struggle financially. I am one of them. I pay my own dues, and I do not use "daddy's credit card."

Theta, along with every other sorority and fraternity, dedicates long hours and hard-earned money to charitable organizations. There is an opportunity for everyone to be as involved as they would like, and there are numerous leadership positions available.

I can only apologize to everyone who has ever felt left out or looked down upon by members of the Greek community. But please, before you pass judgment and reduce the Greek system to a mere generality, do your research and become informed.

Managing Editor Courtney Reese is a senior news-editoral journalism major from Fort Worth.

TCU DAILY SKIFF
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Jazz festival highlights rich legacy

Event to raise funds for Katrina relief

By ALISON RUBINSON
Staff Reporter

The third annual Jazz by the Boulevard Music & Arts Festival may take on an even more distinctive New Orleans flair with both musicians and evacuees from Hurricane Katrina in attendance.

The festival begins Friday on the lawn of the Will Rogers Memorial Center in the Fort Worth Cultural District and will run the course of the weekend, featuring a number of local and national jazz artists.

"We have a good mix; a lot of local performers from the Dallas/Fort Worth area as well as national performers that will play in the evenings," said Donna VanNess, Jazz by the Boulevard event producer.

VanNess said she expects 50,000 people to attend this year.

Evacuees housed locally have been specifically invited and a jazz funeral parade is planned for Saturday, led by two New Orleans jazz musicians, VanNess said.

"We have invited a number of jazz musicians who are displaced here to play in the festival," VanNess said.

According to the Web site, the festival will feature a jazz variety, including classic, Latin, soul, rhythm & blues, big band, orchestra, gospel and New Orleans.

Jazz by the Boulevard's primary purpose is to serve as a fundraiser to continue beautification projects in the Camp Bowie district, VanNess said.

Secondly, the festival is meant to educate the public on the legacy of jazz music as it relates to Fort Worth, she said.

Jazz has roots in Fort Worth that few people are aware of, VanNess said.

A number of jazz musicians began in Fort Worth, and VanNess cites Ornette Coleman, Dewey Redman and Ronald Shannon Jackson as the three most notable.

"They helped to develop the genre and then moved on to places like New York and Chicago," VanNess said.

The festival boasts a list of nationally acclaimed performers, she said.

VanNess said her personal favorite is jazz violinist Regina Carter because of her unique style and high-energy show.

"She brings people to their feet, and does a variety of jazz music," VanNess said.

Houston-native Joe Sample of The Crusaders, a group that VanNess said was popular in the '60s and '70s, is scheduled to perform Friday. Sample has toured with the likes of Marvin Gaye, Tina Turner, BB King, Eric Clapton and Joe Cocker, among others, according to a Jazz by the Boulevard press release.

Another notable performer is Eddie Palmieri, of The Eddie Palmieri Latin Jazz Band, VanNess said.

Palmieri is a seven-time Grammy Award-winning Latin pianist with a 50-year career, according to the festival Web site.

The festival also offers activities for the non-jazz enthusiast, with dance performances, more than 60 professional artists' booths and cooking demonstrations, VanNess said.

The festival producers have welcomed hurricane evacuees.

"They are bored and this is a great way for them to remember New Orleans jazz and participate in something fun," VanNess said.

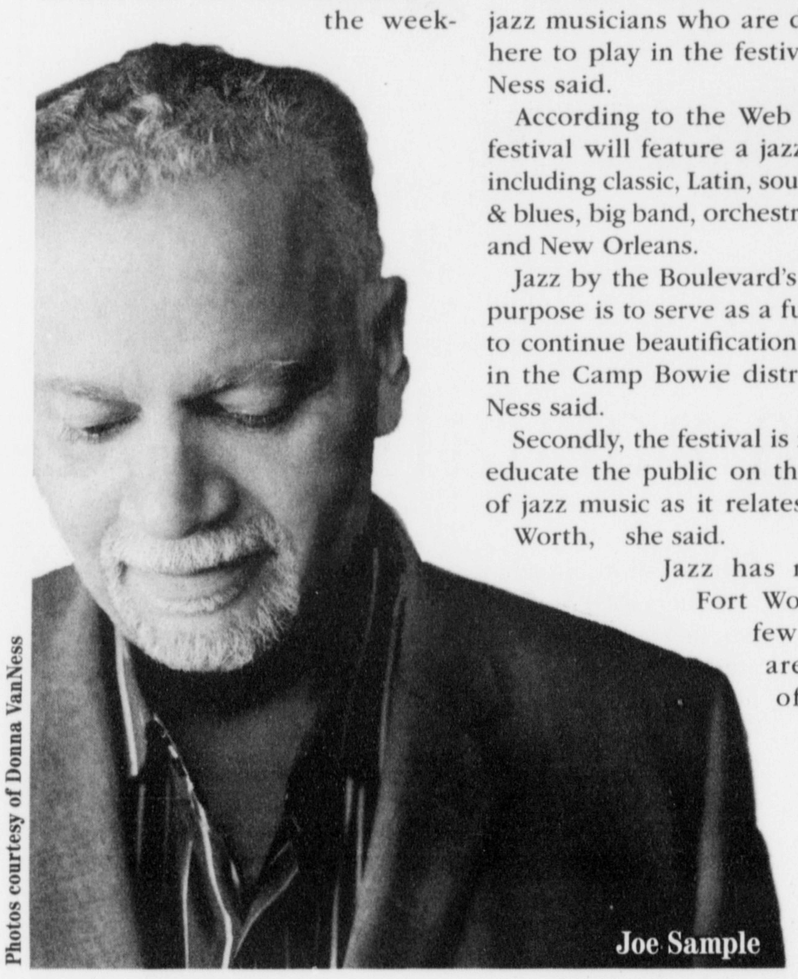
The approximately 500 evacuees who were staying in Will Rogers were notified of the festival, and a number of other shelters and the American Red Cross have spread the word as well, VanNess said.

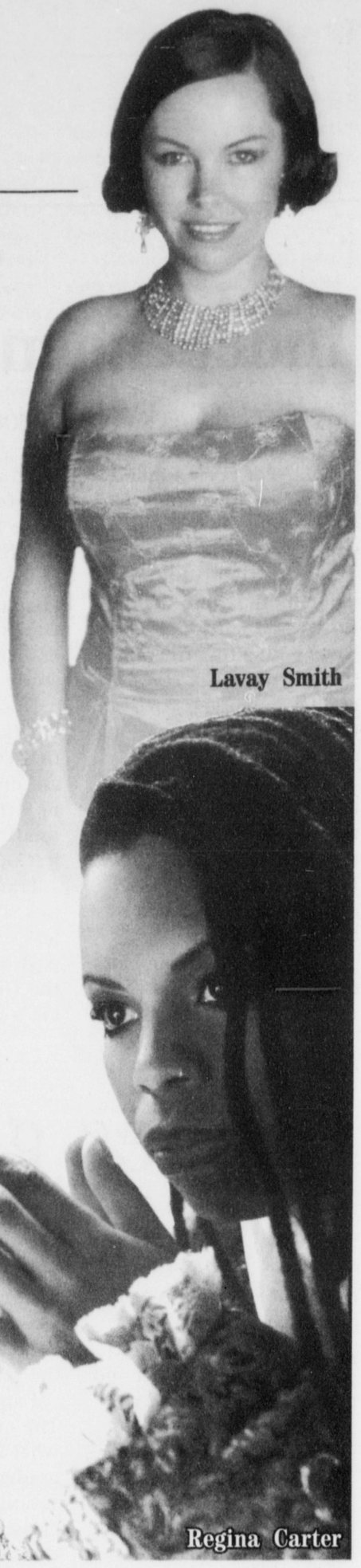
VanNess said the producers have also made arrangements to help transport the evacuees from area shelters to Will Rogers Memorial Center for the festival.

VanNess said that despite the seemingly somber subject, the jazz funeral parade will be a high-energy event.

In New Orleans, people often have parades to honor a deceased loved one, a tradition that began around the turn of the century, according to an article by Alex Oliver, on the Web site for The Times-Picayune (La.).

On Sunday, food and beverages will be provided to all evacuees. The Red Cross will be accepting donations throughout the weekend, and Mardi Gras "Beads of Hope" will be available for purchase to raise money for the relief efforts.


Joe Sample


Lavay Smith

Regina Carter

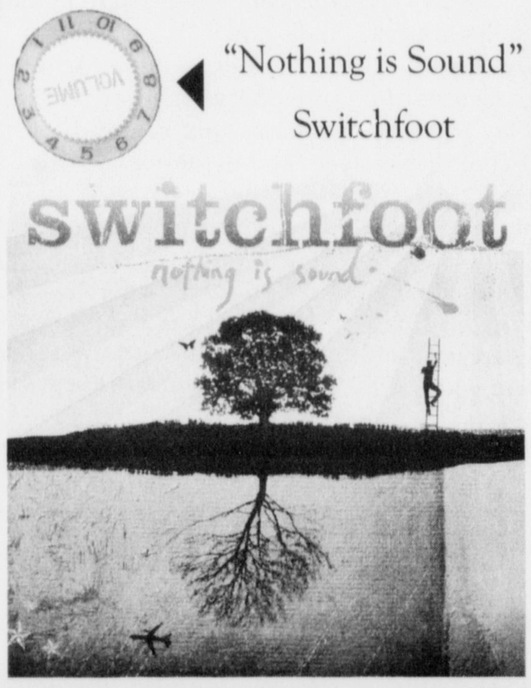
Photos courtesy of Donna VanNess

Extra Info

The 3rd Annual Jazz By the Boulevard Music & Arts Festival

- Sept. 16-18
- Admission: Free
- 817-763-JAZZ
- Outdoor lawn of the Will Rogers Memorial Complex

ALBUM REVIEW



"Nothing is Sound"
Switchfoot

Fans of Switchfoot rejoice: The new album is out and better than the last.

"Nothing is Sound," Switchfoot's fifth studio release, is catchy and masterfully written, probing the listener into examining today's materialistic society.

A self-proclaimed attempt at "trying to sing something true with a broken heart," Switchfoot's frontman, lead singer Jon Foreman, said the album stemmed from a verse in Ecclesiastes that says, "Meaningless, meaningless, everything is meaningless."

"Nothing is Sound" is about the paradox that is today's society; a society that is always trying to validate itself through material ways when all that really matters is your soul.

Although the album is darker and moodier than Switchfoot's previous release, the songs offer a wide variety of meaning. Containing music for every mood, "Nothing is Sound" puts into words the things that everyone feels but no one knows how to vocalize.

The album kicks off with the uptempo "Lonely Nation," a tune that was inspired by how kids can stay connected through instant messenger and text messages — and still be lonely. This leads into the band's first single, "Stars." Of all the songs on the album, "Stars" has the most potential to match and exceed the success of "Dare You to Move," the band's Top Five single from its previous release, "Learning to Breathe."

Compared to the double platinum "Learning to Breathe," "Nothing is Sound" is much more heartfelt, with lyrics that hit closer to home. Credited as an album full of "dreams and questions," "Nothing is Sound" is a breath of fresh air in an otherwise dreary music scene. Recorded over the last two years, the tracks were laid down in dressing rooms in between soundchecks, interviews and more than 400 live performances. It's 50 minutes of thought-provoking lyrics entwined with infectious melodies that serve to lift up the soul and give you hope for a better tomorrow.

—Kelsey Hasler and Jordan Haygood

REVIEW ALBUM

Other Albums Released This Week:

"Takk ..." Sigur Ros

"Chaos and Creation in the Back Yard" Paul McCartney

"Odditorium Or Warlord Of Mars" The Dandy Warhols

"Someone in Control" Trapt

CONCERT CALENDAR

THE MOON

- Thursday: Catfish Whisky and Friends
- Friday: Myles Hayes and James Norris CD Release
- Saturday: Jill Brewer Bolt

THE AARDVARK

- Thursday: TENO, Madera & Joe Kirkland
- Friday: Coma Rally, Dirt Merchant, Fist Full of War, Legends of the South & It's Like Love
- Saturday: Rebecca Creek, Justcause, Syndikate & Bled for Days

THE RIDGLEA

- Friday: The Vanished, Space Cadet, DV8, & One Minute Halo
- Saturday: Point Blank, Petty Theft & Riverwind
- Sunday: Two Hands 1, Confusatron, Josh Weathers (solo), Catfish Whiskey, Will Work For Food, Stella Maris, William Blake, Sunward, Terminal, John Dotson, Bob White and the F-Electrics, Jeff Taylor, Southernmost Star & CSS

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Fri, Sept 16 - Sat Sept 17
Just Like Heaven PG13- 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 9:55, 12:00am
Lord of War R- 1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 9:50, 12:15am
The 40 Year-Old Virgin R- 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
The Exorcism of Emily Rose PG13- 12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 9:35, 12:00 am
The Man PG13- 12:05, 2:05, 4:05, 6:05, 8:05, 10:05
Transporter 2 PG13- 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10

Sun, September 18
Just Like Heaven PG13- 12:20, 2:40
Lord of War R- 1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 9:50
The 40 Year-Old Virgin R- 12:00, 2:30
The Exorcism of Emily Rose PG13- 12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 9:35
The Man PG13- 12:05, 2:05, 4:05
Transporter 2 PG13- 12:10, 2:10, 4:10
"WWE Unforgiven" PG13- 7:00

Mon, September 19
Just Like Heaven PG13- 7:40, 9:55
Lord of War R- 7:15, 9:50
The 40 Year-Old Virgin R- 7:30, 10:00
The Exorcism of Emily Rose PG13- 7:00, 9:35
The Man PG13- 8:05, 10:05

Tues-Thurs, Sept 20-22
Just Like Heaven PG13- 7:40, 9:55
Lord of War R- 7:15, 9:50
The 40 Year-Old Virgin R- 7:30, 10:00
The Exorcism of Emily Rose PG13- 7:00, 9:35
The Man PG13- 8:05, 10:05
Transporter 2 PG13- 8:10, 10:10

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Monday thru Thursday (only)- show student ID's get in for $5.
Monday- $2 longnecks/ any 2 pizzas $9.
Tuesday- Bargain admission night. $5 admission all day/ $5 pitchers.
Wednesday- $5 pizza night.
Thursday- $2 you call it, any individual drink at bar.
Saturday- midnight shows $6
*no passes or coupons due to studio restrictions.

WWE "Unforgiven" Sunday, Sept. 18 7:00PM
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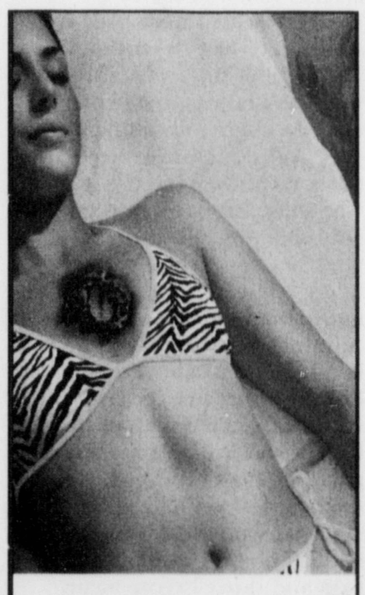
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Former Frog athletes honored at game

By TALIA SAMPSON
Staff Writer

Five former TCU athletes will be honored as inductees into the TCU Letterman's Association Hall of Fame at halftime during tonight's football game against Utah.

Current NBA player Kurt Thomas, former MLB player Tim Mauser and former TCU football players John Nikkel, Jim Lucas and Dan Sharp have been chosen from more than 100 applicants to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, said Letterman's Association member and former TCU athletics director Frank Windegger.

TCU Letterman's Association President Ed Laswell said, "It's an extremely hard process to narrow down (Hall of Fame candidates). We discuss each person."

Each of the men was nominated by teammates and fellow athletes based on their support of TCU, their community support and, most importantly, their athletic ability at TCU and beyond, Windegger said.

Director of Sports Medicine Chris Hall said, "Whoever narrowed this down did their homework. This group's a great representation of what the Hall of Fame and TCU are all about."

The candidates each received the honor warmly.

"This is an unexpected and most appreciated honor," said 70-year-old Nikkel, a former left end.

During his time as a student-athlete at TCU, Nikkel participated in two Cotton Bowls in 1956 and 1957, was an Academic All-American for those two seasons and was an honor student who graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in geology and mathematics in 1958.

Lucas, 80, who graduated in 1948, said he came to TCU to follow in the footsteps of his idol, Frank Medanich, who was a legend in Lucas' hometown of Pecos. Medanich played a key role in TCU's 14-7 victory over Texas in 1941.

Lucas left his own legacy as one of the few quarterbacks to rush for 100 yards in a game three times. After his first two years, Lucas left TCU to serve on a naval destroyer during World War II, but returned after two years of service to finish his college career.

After graduating from TCU in 1948, Lucas was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles, but he turned down a career in the NFL to become a high school coach before pursuing a 42-year career in insurance.

One inductee needed a bit of convincing to earn his degree.

When Thomas, 32, was first drafted into the NBA in 1995, he was unable to play because of a strike, said Thomas' former academic adviser, associate athletics director Jack Hesselbrock.

"Kurt needed six hours to graduate, so we called his mom," Hesselbrock said. "He said, 'You got my mom after me!' and I said, 'You'll do well in (the NBA), but you should finish your education.' He later told me it was important to him."

Out of the top 15 draft picks for the NBA in 1995, Thomas was one of two who completed his degree, Hesselbrock said.

Hesselbrock remembers Thomas fondly.

"He would never turn down anything — autographs, pictures," Hesselbrock said. "But those who saw him on the court wouldn't know it. He always played with a scowl."

During his time at TCU, Thomas set many records and became the third player in NCAA history to lead the nation in both scoring and rebounding in the same year.

Hall said he remembered telling the NBA scouts that in spite of Thomas' history of injuries, "he would be a good investment because he has a great work ethic and is a great person off the court."

Thomas graduated from TCU in 1995 with a degree in psychology. He will play for the Phoenix Suns this season after stops with the New York Knicks, Dallas Mavericks and Miami Heat. He could not be reached for comment.

Not all of the inductees have left TCU.

Described by Windegger as "a real attribute to TCU," Sharp, 43, is a TCU football assistant coach in charge of special teams and tight ends.

"Dan Sharp is a tremendous athlete, very well respected by his teammates, who has been a real attribute to TCU," Windegger said.

Laswell said Sharp is "very mild-mannered and very easy-going. He would do anything for anybody."

Sharp, a former tight end, served as a team captain during the 1984 season when he won numerous leadership awards after playing in the Bluebonnet Bowl.

Sharp graduated from TCU in 1985 with a degree in education and received his master's in 1986.

He went on to play for two seasons for the Atlanta Falcons before returning to TCU.

"I love the feeling here at TCU," Sharp said in an e-mail. "Also, I bleed purple!"

Mauser, 38, "was the ultimate athlete," said former TCU catcher and designated hitter Clayton Odom.

"He not only had the talent to play, but he also had a strong knowledge of the game," Odom said.

Hall said he remembers Mauser with a big smile.

"He broke the tense situations," Hall said. "He was there to work, but if you gave an inch, he took a yard."

Mauser set the TCU pitching record for most strikeouts in a single season, 120, which stood for 17 years until it was broken by Lance Broadway last season.

Mauser was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies, who he played for until he was traded to the San Diego Padres in 1993.

Mauser could not be reached for comment.

Today's Crossword

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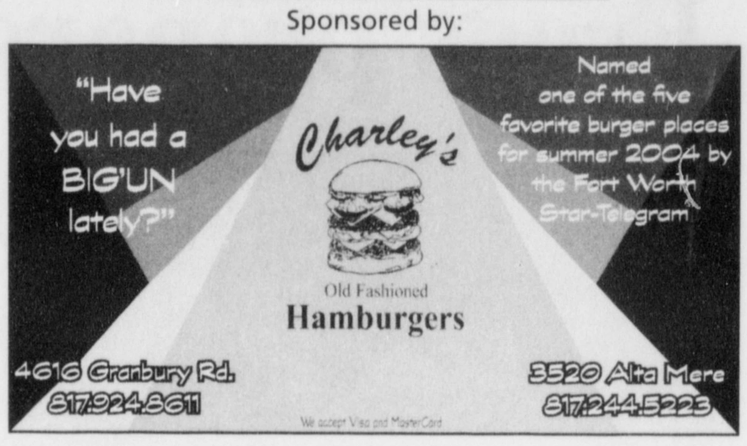
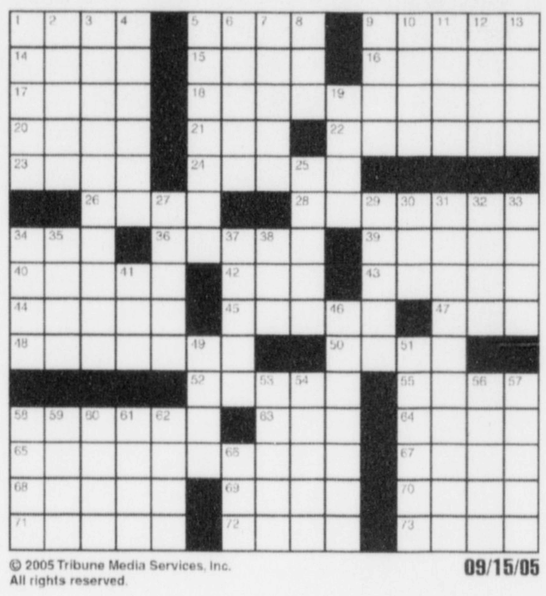


ACROSS
1 Strip in the Middle East
5 "Vissi d'arte," e.g.
9 Flippant
14 Alimony payers
15 Muscle spasms
16 __ Lumpur, Malaysia
17 Process flour
18 Making mistakes
20 Bean curd
21 Part of GTE
22 Buries
23 Throw out, as light
24 So far
26 Stink
28 Leading
34 Victory gesture
36 Goose eggs
39 Thread roller
40 Slacker
42 Cote denizen
43 Pace
44 Summer house
45 Avoid a clear response
47 AOL, for one
48 In dispute
50 Sunday night NFL outlet
52 Jimmy of "N.Y.P.D. Blue"
55 Jug handles
58 Bind morally
63 Ump's call
64 Latin & others
65 Delicate diva
67 Broad
68 Packs down
69 Rotary-phone feature
70 Novelist Bagnold
71 Secret hoard
72 Bridge seat
73 Vanities

DOWN
1 "Beau __"
2 Fundamental truth
3 "Romeo and Juliet" director
4 Sharp as a tack
5 On the line
6 Ticks off
7 In a cold, hostile manner
8 Horned viper
9 Onion covering
10 "Travels with My __"
11 Wise
12 Pronounce indistinctly
13 Gabs
19 Heart
25 Palliated
27 Pound and Stone
29 Bob of the PGA
30 Mimic
31 Towering over
32 Sorry 'bout that!
33 Lead balloon
34 "__ Zapata!"
35 Prepare to publish
37 Alter a skirt's length
38 Be obligated to
41 Raised railways
46 Whole that is more than the sum of its parts
49 Manipulated
51 Half-pint
53 Ancient region of Asia Minor
54 Albacores and bluefins
56 Brit's wireless
57 Winter vehicles
58 Makes a choice
59 Spoiled child
60 Capital of Peru
61 Little pranksters
62 Jagged cut
66 Pindar work



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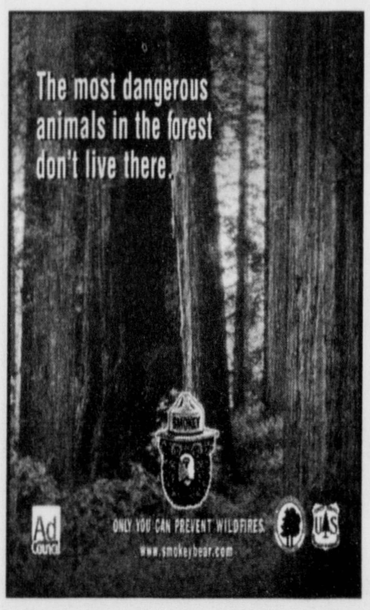

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76 percent of TCU students reported that they consumed 4 or fewer alcoholic drinks per week within the past year, if they drank at all.
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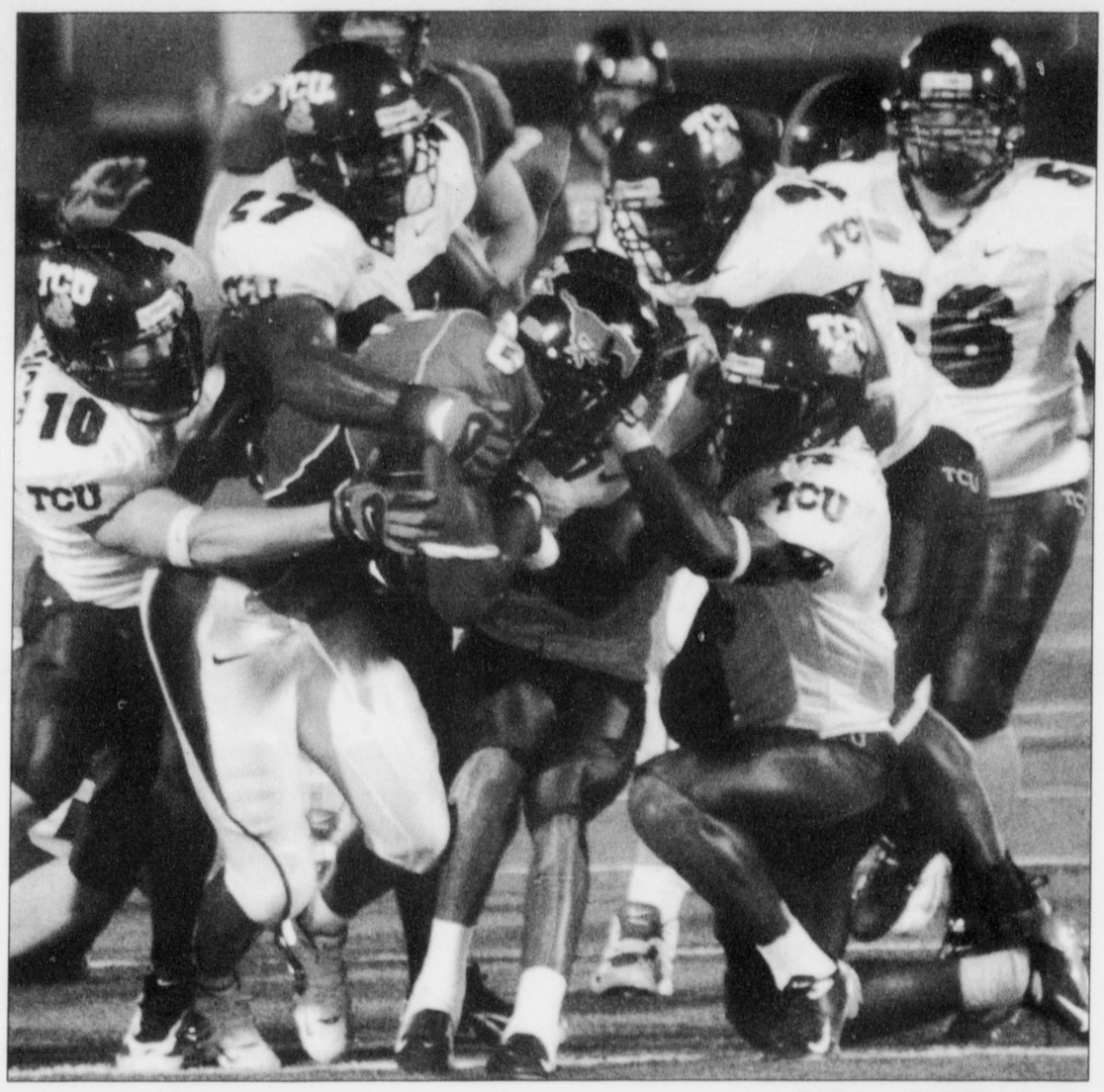
FOOTBALL

Frogs prepare to take on 'offensive threat'



Ty Halasz / Staff Photographer

The defensive line tries to bring down SMU running back DeMyron Martin during Saturday's game at Gerald J. Ford Stadium. The Mustangs took the Iron Skillet with a score of 21-10.

By TRAVIS STEWART
Staff Reporter

Head football coach Gary Patterson detailed the strengths and weaknesses of the Utah football team TCU will face Thursday.

"They play well on special teams, on offense and on defense," Patterson said at Tuesday's media luncheon. "They're athletic, they play together and they're very physical."

Even though Utah lost quarterback Alex Smith to the NFL and head coach Urban Meyer to Florida, the Utes still have several all-conference candidates on their roster. Senior running back Quinton Ganther is an offensive threat that both Patterson and players said will likely be the focus of their defensive game plan.

"(Ganther) is like a shorter Adrian Peterson (of Oklahoma); every game he runs over somebody," Patterson said. "You've got to gang-tackle him."

Senior defensive tackle Jared Kesler said Ganther is not just comparable to 2004 Heisman Trophy finalist Peterson — he's better.

"I would put him above Peterson," Kesler said. "Peterson's main attribute was his balance. But (Ganther) is stronger, faster. We're just going to try and stop him early. Once he gets past the line of scrimmage, he's really tough to tackle."

Utah also retained senior defensive lineman Steve Fifita, a 2005 All-American candidate and 2004 first-team All-Mountain West Conference member. Fifita, who won a Defensive Most Valuable Player award at last year's Fiesta Bowl, has been recognized by some NFL scouts as the best defensive lineman in college football.

Patterson said stopping a player like Fifita, who benched 460 pounds last season (the most on the team), demands both a solid game plan and perhaps a little bit of luck.

"We could see if he misses the plane," Patterson said jokingly. "Not only is he very athletic, but he plays very hard. If you don't account for him, he's going to make your life miserable."

One advantage Patterson said TCU may have is an experienced senior quarterback in Tye Gunn, compared to Utah's sophomore starter Brian Johnson.

"They have a first-year starter," Patterson said. "How is he going to get all that (game plan) down in four days?"

Sophomore linebacker David Hawthorne said the defense is prepared to match up against the Utes' inexperienced quarterback.

"We're gonna move around quite a bit," Hawthorne said. "We're going to fly around and give him a lot of different looks."

After going one for four on field goals in Saturday's loss, TCU junior kicker Peter LoCoco will be replaced by sophomore Chris Manfredini against Utah, Patterson said.

"(Manfredini) kicked as a freshman at Cincinnati, so he has experience," Patterson said. "The last two weeks he's had good camps. LoCoco kicked well in practice and at Oklahoma, and we don't make changes until someone beats another guy out."

Star players and roster adjustments aside, Patterson said the outcome will come down to the fundamentals.

"It's about finding a way to win," Patterson said. "It's about who doesn't give up the big play and who can wrap up and tackle."

FOOTBALL

Walk-on receiver finds success early in year

Derek Moore helps Horned Frogs reach victory over Sooners

By CAITLYN TOMASIK
Staff Reporter

Walk-on receiver Derek Moore has only two games under his belt this season, but it is hard to argue that he hasn't already had a successful season.

Success probably came with one pass — the touchdown reception that first put TCU on the scoreboard against Oklahoma. Moore not only put his name on the forefront of the statistic charts, but he helped put the Horned Frogs in the national spotlight with their victory in Norman, Okla.

"I was just excited," Moore said about his big play against the Sooners. "I never thought my second (career) catch would be for a touchdown."

He said the play was a good start for his season.

He also picked up more yards than any other TCU receiver against SMU on Saturday, after finishing last season with no receptions and limited playing time in two games.

Moore said he is looking forward to the opportunities that come along with playing in a new conference this season.

"We're playing new teams, traveling to new places with new competition," Moore said.

TCU joined the Mountain West Conference this season after leaving Conference USA.

Moore said he believes there is one thing that causes him to stand out most among his teammates.

"Probably that I'm from Wisconsin," Moore said. "I get hell for that."

Though the team gives Moore a hard time about where he is from, teammates say he can dish it back.

Tight end Tom Stevens described Moore as a big Green Bay Packers fan.

"When the Packers beat the Cowboys, he gave everyone grief," Stevens said.

> "I never thought my second (career) catch would be for a touchdown."
>
> **Derek Moore**
> Wide receiver

But wide receivers coach Jarrett Anderson sees it a little differently. Moore has another attribute that Anderson said is, "being on the same page as the quarterback."

Moore's touchdown-scoring reception against OU was thrown by quarterback Tye Gunn.

The sophomore business management major from Cedarburg, Wis., said he came to TCU for its football program, academics and the weather. He said those factors, along with the people at TCU, have made his experience enjoyable.

Anderson recognizes Moore as an asset to the team that will "help provide depth" on the field this year.

"(Moore) provides someone who does the right thing every day, on and off the field," Anderson said.

Moore does not have a specific strategy for the rest of the season, but said he intends to continue to be a tough competitor.

"I want to do anything that's going to help the team get a win," he said. "Whatever I've got to do."

Though Moore is an intense player on the field, Stevens said, he's very easygoing when he's not playing.

"On the field, he's pretty determined and focused," Stevens said. "Off the field he's really laid-back, cracking jokes and in a good mood."

As for his life, after his receiving days are over, he's still unsure. Moore said he is doubtful that football will play a part in his future after his career at TCU ends.

Each week, the Skiff will feature an unheralded member of the Horned Frog football family. Whether player, coach, trainer or administrator, the weekly "Underfrog" deserves to be recognized by the campus community.

UNDERFROG

Getting Personal

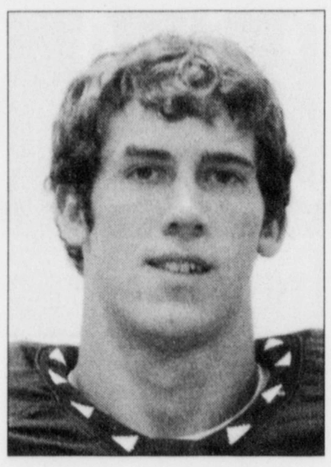
Nickname: D-Mo
Year at TCU: Sophomore
Sport: Football
Major: Business

FAVORITES

- Book: Friday Night Lights
- Music: All types; Coldplay
- Song: "Chariot" by Gavin Degraw
- Movie: Point Break
- TV Show: Seinfeld
- Day of the Week: Friday
- Snack Food: Granola bars
- Thing To Do: Golf
- Restaurant: Kopps
- Sports Figure: Brett Ravre (Green Bay Packers)

Derek Moore

Wide receiver
No. 4
6 feet 3 inches, 174 pounds
Cedarburg, Wis.



When did you start playing football?
Fourth grade

Who is your role model?
My mom

What's your idea of a perfect day?
Wake up at 11 a.m., play golf, go to movies and go to a late-night party.

When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?
FBI agent

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