

No extra time

Coach Patterson says extra days off are not really that beneficial to team.

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Armed with a notepad, an intrepid reporter set out to review five local haunted houses. **Page 5**



Selling eggs or your blood may see like a great opportunity, but think of what it really cost you; is it worth the money? **Page 3.**

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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Wednesday, October 23, 2002

Curriculum proposal may not be ready on schedule

Committee members are stressing that the Nov. 20 deadline is only a guideline. They want to create a quality plan, which may take longer.

BY AMY JOHNSON

Staff Reporter

Core Curriculum Committee members have expressed doubts on whether they will have a core curriculum proposal ready to be presented to the Faculty Senate by their Nov. 20 deadline.

Committee member Daryl Schmidt said that some type of report will be made by the deadline of Nov. 20, but a finalized proposal may not be ready.

"It could well happen," he said. "We do have a full month. It's too far away from Nov. 20 to say what kind of draft will be presented."

Chancellor Michael Ferrari reiterated Monday that he would like a proposal approved by the Faculty Senate and on his desk for review by the end of the semester.

"I am less concerned over the end of the fall semester," Committee chairman Nowell Donovan said he would not discuss the proposal's details until it is presented to the Faculty Senate.

"We won't be held to a deadline. It's more important that we get it done right."

— Lynn Flahive
instructor and clinic coordinator

He said although nothing concrete has been decided, he is still optimistic the deadline will be met. The committee is still in a discussion mode, he said.

Lynn Flahive, instructor and clinic coordinator in the College of Health and Human Sciences, said the committee is trying to adhere to guidelines, but hasn't finalized whether a final draft proposal or report will be presented by deadline.

"We won't be held to a deadline," she said. "It's more important that we get it done right."

This committee is the seventh body in two years to attempt a revision.

(More on CORE, page 2)

Recession blamed for increase in tuition rates

The economy is blamed for this years large rise in tuition at both public and private universities.

BY SUSAN C. THOMSON AND

JOSEPH PLAMBECK

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON — Students at the nation's four-year public colleges and universities are paying an average of 9.6 percent more in tuition this year than a year ago — the steepest year-to-year rise in a decade. By comparison, students on private campuses got off relatively easy, with an average increase of 5.8 percent.

The College Board released the numbers Monday.

The recession was behind the heavier hit taken by students at state schools. Their budgets caught short, states cut funding for public higher education. To balance their own budgets, state colleges then asked students to dig deeper into their pockets.

Tuition at TCU increased 8.7 percent from last year, from \$16,300 to \$17,600 a year under the flat rate plan. Administrators have boasted that tuition here is still lower than that of most private institutions, however.

The College Board also reported Monday that a record \$90 billion in student financial aid was available to students in 2001-02, 11.5 percent more than in 2000-01. Board president Gaston Caperton called that "great news." Of that amount, 54 percent was in the form of loans, up from 47 percent a decade earlier.

But for the second year in a row, grant money grew faster than loan money.

Jacqueline King, director of the center for policy analysis at the American Council of Education, said it was important to keep tuition increases in perspective. "What's relevant is the price and the aid available to offset that price. ... Families tend to overestimate the price and underestimate the aid."

(More on TUITION, page 2)

MARYLAND MAN KILLED, SNIPER BLAMED



Law enforcement officials search a vehicle in Aspen Hill, Md., Tuesday morning following a shooting of a bus driver. Police are investigating the shooting as if it is the work of a serial sniper who has terrorized the Washington, D.C. metro area since Oct. 2.

Knight Ridder-Tribune/Chuck Kennedy

Police believe the sniper may have claimed another victim Tuesday morning. Police are still searching for the man they believe may be responsible for the shootings.

BY DAVID DISHNEAU

Associated Press

ROCKVILLE, Md. — A bus driver was shot to death Tuesday as he was about to set out on his morning route in what authorities fear was the 13th attack by the Washington-area sniper. Police also revealed a chilling warning found at a weekend shooting scene: "Your children are not safe anywhere at any time."

Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose issued a new

plea, urging the gunman to continue a dialogue with investigators.

"It is important that we do this without anyone else getting hurt," he said. In an extraordinary statement that appeared to confirm authorities are in a desperate parley to stop the killing, the police chief said the sniper had tried to communicate with police over the past several days — and he suggested the gunman had made demands.

"We have researched the options you stated and found that it is not possible electronically to comply in the manner that you requested," Moose said. "However, we remain open and ready to talk to you about the options you have mentioned."

He said the sniper was seeking an 800 telephone number to talk with authorities, and he offered to set up a private post office box "or another secure method."

"You indicated that this is about more than violence," said Moose, who had asked the sniper to contact authorities for two days before Tuesday's slaying. "We are waiting to hear from you."

He refused to take questions from reporters.

The sniper has killed nine people and critically wounded three others in

Maryland, Virginia and Washington since Oct. 2. Authorities were awaiting ballistics tests to confirm that bus driver Conrad Johnson is the killer's latest victim.

Johnson, 35, was gunned down in Aspen Hill, the same community in suburban Washington where the attacks began.

He was shot once in the abdomen just before 6 a.m. as he stood on the top step of his bus, setting off a police dragnet and snarling traffic in the suburbs north of the nation's capital. Johnson, a mar-

(More on SNIPER, page 2)

"It is important that we do this without anyone else getting hurt."

— Charles Moose

Montgomery County Police Chief

TimeLine

- Oct. 2, 5:50 p.m. Bullet passes through window of a Michaels craft store, passes behind cashier's head.
- Oct. 2, 6:04 p.m. James Martin, 55, shot and killed in a grocery store parking lot in Wheaton, Md.
- Oct. 3, 7:41 a.m. James Buchanan, 39, shot and killed while cutting grass at an auto dealership in White Flint, Md.
- Oct. 3, 8:12 a.m. Premkumar Walekar, 54, shot and killed as he pumped gas at a station in Aspen Hill, Md.
- Oct. 3, 8:37 a.m. Sarah Ramos, 34, shot and killed outside a post office in Silver Spring, Md.
- Oct. 3, 9:58 a.m. Lori Iweis Rivera, 25, shot and killed while vacuuming van at a gas station in Kensington, Md.
- Oct. 3, 9:20 p.m. Pascal Charlot, 72, shot and killed while standing on a street in Washington, D.C.
- Oct. 4, 2:30 p.m. 43-year-old woman shot while loading packages into her car in the parking lot of a Michaels craft store in Rockville, Md. She was treated and released from the hospital.
- Oct. 7, 8:08 a.m. 13-year-old boy shot in schoolyard in Bowie, Md., remains in critical condition.
- Oct. 9, 8:18 p.m. Dean Harold Meyers, 53, shot and killed after paying for gas at a pump in Manassas, Va.
- Oct. 11, 9:30 a.m. Ken Bridges, 53, shot and killed after pumping gas in Frederickburg, Va.
- Oct. 14, 9:15 p.m. Linda Franklin shot and killed in parking lot of a Home Depot in Falls Church, Va.
- Oct. 19, 8:00 p.m. 37-year-old man shot in parking lot of a Ponderosa restaurant in Ashland, Va. Remains in critical condition.
- Tuesday, Oct. 22, 6:00 a.m. Conrad Johnson, 35, shot and killed as he prepared his bus for the morning run. Attack has hallmarks of sniper shooting, but it is not confirmed.

Information from ABCNews.com.



Knight Ridder-Tribune/Chuck Kennedy
Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose issues a statement during a press conference, Tuesday at Police Headquarters in Rockville, Md.

NewsBriefs

Permanent Improvement Committee chair resigns

Kaveh Nezafati announced Tuesday that he has ended his term early as Permanent Improvement Committee chairman at the Student Government Association meeting.

Nezafati, a sophomore biochemistry major, told SGA members it is time for him to focus on academics. It was difficult to balance school work with extra-curricular activities, he said. "It's been really good working with SGA," Nezafati said. "I really gained a lot of leadership experience, but it's time for me to put my academic career first."

SGA's executive board appointed Tom Casey, a freshman political science major, to take over Nezafati's position. The House supported the board's decision in a unanimous voice vote Tuesday night.

"It is the best committee SGA has to offer," Casey said. "You really have a chance to leave a mark at TCU by creating a more enjoyable atmosphere."

The Permanent Improvement Committee is responsible for initiating improvements on campus. In the past, the committee helped to create the Moudy building atrium and purchase the steel Horned Frog and weights for on-campus work out facilities.

— Emily Turner

The Weather

WEDNESDAY
High: 67; Low: 58; Thunderstorms
THURSDAY
High: 66; Low: 55; Showers
SATURDAY
High: 62; Low: 53; Showers

Looking Back

1983 — A suicide bomber drove a truck packed with explosives into the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, killing 241 U.S. military personnel.
1942 — Michael Crichton was born in Chicago.
1924 — The first radio network broadcast to the West Coast was received.

Watch For

• In Thursday's Sports: Bill Montigel has been the head coach of the men's golf team for 15 years. But did you know that golf is not the only sport Montigel has coached at TCU?

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THE PULSE

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CampusLines

Your bulletin board
for campus events

• **The Ninth Annual Major/Minor Fair** will be from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today in the Student Center Lounge. The event is hosted by the Center for Academic Services and provides students an opportunity to speak with representatives from various departments on campus. Students may also sign up for door prizes, which are two first-day enrollment passes for the spring 2003 semester. For more information, call (817) 257-7486.

• **A free GSP preparation workshop** will be at 3 p.m. Thursday in the Student Center Basement, Room B16.

• **The Society of Professional Journalists** will be meeting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in the Moudy Building South, Room 279. The topic will be sports and local reporters will be on hand to discuss the art of interviewing, asking the tough questions and how not to be a cheerleader. Everyone is welcome and free food will be provided. For more information, call (817) 257-6268.

Announcements of campus events, public meetings and other general campus information should be brought to the TCU Daily Skiff office at Moudy Building South, Room 291, mailed to TCU Box 298050 or e-mailed to skiffletters@tcu.edu. Deadline for receiving announcements is 2 p.m. the day before they are to run. The Skiff reserves the right to edit submissions for style, taste and space available.

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Colleges aim to attract more Hispanics

Many Texas universities are trying to raise Hispanic enrollment by educating them about admissions, financial aid, and by implementing programs to help them make connections once they arrive at college.

BY PATRICK MCGEE
Knight Ridder Newspapers

FORT WORTH — Two years after a state agency identified Hispanic recruitment and retention in college as a problem, Texas universities are bolstering efforts with programs to attract and graduate more Latino students.

Texas Christian University in Fort Worth has taught its admission officers Spanish. The University of North Texas in Denton has started offering seminars in Spanish about the importance of higher education, geared toward families and Hispanic leaders. The University of Texas at Arlington is studying ways to promote tutoring and other services to its Hispanic students. Other schools in the state have implemented similar programs.

Statistics show that the percentage of Hispanics who drop out of colleges and universities is higher than among other groups. Because Hispanics make up nearly a third of Texas' population and are the state's fastest growing group, officials say that helping

more of them earn degrees is crucial to Texas' economic future.

Many Latinos come from families and neighborhoods in which people traditionally have not gone to college, so they have few role models to encourage them or to advise them how to succeed if they get there, experts say.

"Their parents do not know what resources there are for their kids. They do not know about financial aid, they do not know about interest-free loans," said Jay Arekere, a research scientist with the Race and Ethnic Studies Institute at Texas A&M University in College Station. "Society has to step in and provide some of the social capital that is lacking in some of these communities."

The need to educate Latino parents about the importance and accessibility of higher education has emerged as one of the top issues among educators and Hispanic leaders.

"A lot of the parents don't see it as an investment, they see it as a waste of time," said Alfredo Ventura, president of the Association of Mexican-American students at UT-Arlington. "A lot of them see they can get a job at a grocery store and make \$10 an hour, and that's a fortune to them."

Many don't realize how much more they could earn. Over a 40-year pe-

riod, a person with a bachelor's degree makes about \$1.9 million more than someone who only has a high school diploma, according to the Washington-based Employment Policy Foundation.

Only 33.8 percent of Hispanics who enrolled in four-year state colleges in 1991 earned a degree six years later, according to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. African-Americans had the lowest graduation rate with 28.1 percent. Asians had the highest with 58.1 percent.

Last fall, Hispanics ranked lower than blacks and Anglos in returning to campus after their freshman year at UNT, UT-Arlington and the University of Texas at Austin.

"They don't complete a bachelor's degree, much less go for a master's or Ph.D.," said Gloria Bahamon, UNT director of multicultural affairs.

Hispanics make up 32 percent of the state's population. Hispanics and blacks are expected to outnumber whites in Texas by 2010.

If Hispanics don't enroll in colleges at a higher rate, the percentage of Texans earning degrees will be even less than it is today, said David Gardner, assistant commissioner for planning and information services at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating

Board.

Texas ranks 27th in the nation in college education levels, with 23.2 percent of Texans 25 and older holding bachelor's degrees, according to the Texas State Data Center.

At the current rate, the state will only meet 75 percent of the Coordinating Board's goal of having 340,000 Hispanics enrolled by 2005, according to the board's figures.

Felix A. Zamora, past president of the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education, said the goal is not high enough.

"We don't want to see that number as a ceiling. We want to see it as a floor and see that they exceed those expectations," Zamora said. "You can bump along the way we're going, and we're going to be a very poor state. You're not going to be able to compete in the global marketplace."

UNT's Bahamon said she and administrators from other universities such as UT-Arlington gathered this summer to form the North Texas Committee on Immigrants in Higher Education. The committee's mission is to tell immigrant families about a new law allowing them to send their children to state colleges and get reduced tuition and access to state financial aid as other Texas residents do.

Monkey virus not cause of cancer

A National Cancer Institute study reported in 1998 that the millions of Americans who were given contaminated polio vaccine during the 1950s do not have a higher incidence of that or other rare cancers some had thought could be linked to the virus.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Despite years of study, there remains too little evidence to conclude a monkey virus that once tainted some polio vaccine can cause cancer in humans.

The Institute of Medicine said Tuesday, although studies of people who received the vaccine have not shown increased cancer rates, a connection cannot be completely ruled out.

The institute, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences, recommended development of a federal response plan for dealing with contaminated vaccines and better tests for the monkey virus to determine how widespread it is.

During the 1950s, millions of Americans were given polio vaccine contaminated with a virus called SV40, which infects monkeys but does not cause them visible health problems.

An estimated 10 percent to 30 percent of the polio vaccine given between 1955 and 1963 was contaminated with SV40. In the early days of the vaccine, it was grown in tissue from the kidneys of monkeys. Altered production techniques eliminated the virus from the vaccine in 1963.

Fears about a potential threat from the virus heightened in 1994 when researchers studying a type of lung cancer thought to be caused only by asbestos discovered many of the cancers contained the SV40 virus.

A National Cancer Institute study reported in 1998 that the millions of Americans who were given contaminated polio vaccine during the 1950s do not have a higher incidence of that or other rare cancers some had thought could be linked to the virus.

The new report from the Institute of Medicine indicates that is still the case.

The new report does note that SV40 has been shown in some studies to cause cancer when tissue containing the virus was injected into rodents, other primates and humans.

Those findings suggest that SV40 could contribute to some cancer in humans, said Dr. Marie McCormick, chair of the committee that prepared the report.

CORE

From page 1

sion of the core curriculum.

Peggy Watson, chairwoman of the Faculty Senate, said Nov. 20 is more of a goal than a deadline.

"The goal is to certainly have a document ready for a faculty vote by the beginning of the spring," she said. "If we have something in hand by Nov. 20, that's great, but in fact we've always had that as more of a goal than an absolute fixed date. It may be that the committee will have a solid outline by then. The Senate could then discuss the

proposal at our December meeting, which still keeps us reasonably on our timeline."

Andy Fort, the Faculty Senate assistant secretary, said he cannot say whether he is satisfied with the progress of the committee because he doesn't know how much they've done.

"They (committee members) don't want to make something public without having some type of plan or proposal, but I think that's going to happen soon," he said. "It needs to happen soon because the Nov. 20 deadline is quickly approaching."

Amy Johnson
a.m.johnson2@tcu.edu

TUITION

From page 1

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, after adjustment for grants and inflation, the average net tuition at public and private colleges remained constant from 1992-93 to 1999-2000.

Although the latest round of increases narrowed the gap between them, students are paying more than four times as much on average as at public schools — \$18,273 compared with \$4,081.

"No matter what the numbers say, there are still very affordable options for students," Caperton said.

Spokeswoman Cheryl Schroeder said Missouri's Coordinating Board for Higher Education recognizes "the situation (the state's public colleges and universities) are in and just hope they keep the tuition increases as minimal as possible. We don't want to price students out of higher education in Missouri. We think it's still a good buy."

At the University of Missouri, a tuition increase and a surcharge combined to raise prices by 15 percent on all four of its campuses this fall. Meanwhile, tuition went up 18 percent at Southern Illinois University, and some students at the University of Illinois saw their bills rise 22 percent.

SNIPER

From page 1

ried father of two children, died later at a hospital.

The warning about children's safety was discovered by police outside a steakhouse near Richmond, Va., where the sniper critically wounded a man Saturday night. Moose said the warning came in the form of a "postscript," but refused to describe the rest of the note.

However, a senior law enforcement official speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity said the note demanded \$10 million. It was unclear whether the demand was linked to the options outlined by Moose.

Kathy Franco, who was shopping Tuesday at a Silver Spring mall with her year-old son, Liam, and six-week-old daughter, Katherine, was angered by the warning about children.

"As a parent, it just completely brings out every animal instinct," she said. "These two are the most important things in the world for me."

Schools in the Richmond area remained closed for a second day Tuesday, idling more than 140,000 students. School officials had cited information from police in shutting down, prompting questions for Moose, whose office is leading the sprawling investigation.

Moose said investigators recognized "the concerns of the community" and decided to provide the "exact language that pertains to the threat."

The Virginia schools will reopen Wednesday under heightened security. As of Monday evening, no Maryland schools had decided to close.

Immediately after Tuesday's shooting, police put a widespread dragnet into place, clogging traffic on Connecticut Avenue, one of the main arteries into Washington, just as the morning commute began.

But police came up empty, and Moose said there was no suspect or vehicle description to report.

"We have not been able to assure that anyone, any age, any gender, any race — we've not been able to assure anyone their safety," Moose said.

The shooting happened near a wooded area along Connecticut Avenue. The bus was parked at a staging area where drivers get ready for their morning runs, state police spokesman Cpl. Rob Moroney said. Police refused to say whether anyone else was on the bus.

All the confirmed sniper victims were felled by a single shot. Several residents of a neighboring apartment complex reported hearing one loud bang Tuesday morning.

"It wasn't a pop like a handgun. If it was a gun, it was a high-powered weapon," said Tim Roberts, a carpenter who lives nearby. He said he knew about the sound of weapons from his military service.

Johnson, a 10-year county employee, was pronounced dead at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda. In his Oxon Hill neighborhood of townhouses and tree-lined streets, residents expressed sorrow.

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OPINION

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TheSkiffView LEFT OUT

Students excluded from Core revision

The Core Curriculum Committee, which was charged by the Faculty Senate to propose a new core curriculum, is meeting regularly.

But behind closed doors.

The academic prestige of the university is on the line. A new core curriculum will affect what classes are offered and potentially change the size of some departments.

Students and faculty have a right to know not only what decisions the committee will make, but the debate and reasoning behind those choices. The meetings should be open.

Many faculty members strongly criticized the Common Undergraduate Experience proposal last spring because they felt it had been drafted with little input. Hopes of landing a proposal on the chancellor's desk that semester were quickly dashed.

In response to criticism, the Faculty Senate hosted town hall meetings, created Internet forums and actively sought more feedback. Many professors worked tirelessly, meeting twice a month to work out differences.

But closed meetings could jeopardize that hard work.

The central question is this: What if the committee produces a proposal, that like its predecessors, is met with harsh words? Will the Faculty Senate have enough time to approve a proposal by the end of the semester, which the chancellor has indicated he wants?

Probably not.

Open meetings allow for quick feedback, giving committee members more time to revise a proposal. Waiting until after Nov. 20 for such feedback could be a recipe for disaster.

The faculty need to pass a proposal by semester's end. We can't discuss this forever.

TheOtherView

Opinions from around the country

Two weeks ago, North Korea admitted it has been covertly running a nuclear weapons program in defiance of a 1994 arm control accord that pledged American and European energy in exchange for a North Korean freeze on nuclear weapons development. That North Korean leaders spend their already-pitiful revenues to build a nuclear program and not to feed a population paralyzed by famine and stagnant economic growth is a human tragedy.

North Korea's about face should come as no surprise — policymakers in Congress and in the White House have known for a long time that Kim Jong Il, North Korea's dictator, has had an interest in making his otherwise-crippled nation a nuclear power.

In response to the recent revelation, the United States has so far acted in a responsible, sober-headed and deliberate manner. The decision to withdraw from the 1994 accord makes sense. Additionally, the United States should use diplomatic influence to seek the support of the international community in rebuking North Korea and imposing even harsher economic aid sanctions on the autarchic North Korean government, squeezing possibly the world's worst economy into compliance. The United States must lead the global community in delivering North Korea's leaders a

choice — either continue building nuclear weapons or get the energy they need to power their blackout-prone country.

American leaders should appeal especially to China, whose economic interests in Asia are threatened by the destabilizing actions of a nuclear despot. A unified international response would do more to convince North Korea to halt its nuclear program than would bombing Yongbyon, the nuclear testing facility.

Many critics of President George W. Bush's policies regarding Iraq have drawn comparisons with North Korea's attempts to build nuclear weapons. The Bush administration should treat the two problems as they are — separate problems with their own idiosyncrasies — although the situations do have some similarities. As it further develops its policies toward Iraq and North Korea, the administration should not let the approach in one situation tie its hands in the other, but the president should strive for consistency. One approach should inform the other.

The final result of American policy should be that both nations end their programs to create weapons of mass destruction and that neither country has the capability to threaten regional or global security.

This is a staff editorial from the Chronicle at Duke University. This editorial was distributed by U-Wire.

EDITORIAL POLICIES

Editorial policy: The content of the Opinion page does not necessarily represent the views of Texas Christian University. Unsigned editorials represent the view of the TCU Daily Skiff editorial board. Signed letters, columns and cartoons represent the opinion of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board.

Letters to the editor: The Skiff welcomes letters to the editor for publication. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, signed and limited to 250 words. To submit a letter, bring it to the Skiff, Moody 2915; mail it to TCU Box 298050; e-mail it to skiffletters@tcu.edu or fax it to 257-7133. Letters must include the author's classification, major and phone number. The Skiff reserves the right to edit or reject letters for style, taste and size restrictions.

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Accounting isn't as hard, nerdy as you might think

Sure crunching numbers may seem boring and difficult, but it makes our major easy.

I am an accounting major, and when I tell people this I usually get one of two responses. I either get a look of disappointment and an "oh, really" or an "I could never do that." Such reactions stem from two myths about accountants that can be seen in American culture: accountants are boring nerds and accounting is a difficult subject to grasp.

The generic image of an accountant is a guy wearing thick, black-framed glasses and a short-sleeved white shirt with a thin black tie talking about stuff way over everyone's head. A calculator is usually somewhere on his person and he has a dorky haircut. Therefore, when people hear that I am an accounting major, that image pops into their mind and I am immediately labeled "Dorky Numbers Guy."

This is not fair because I am nothing like that guy. Okay, I might have a bad haircut, but I don't even own a black tie or short-sleeved white shirt. The truth

is none of the accountants I have met fit into that mold. Well, maybe that one guy.

However, I cannot get people to think accountants aren't nerds because the truth is we probably are. What I do want to do is convince you that the subject of accounting is not nearly as difficult to grasp as people make it out to be. As a matter of fact, accounting has to be one of the easiest fields of study to understand.

Those people who have taken accounting classes are probably telling me that I am crazy right now, but I want you to think about something for a moment. What do the other subjects like math, science, sociology, economics and education have in common that accounting does not? The answer is that they attempt to understand how or why a particular event occurs or thing works the way it does. And these things, whether they are natural phenomena or human behavior, are not exclusively determined by man.

On the other hand, accounting is simply a bunch of rules that a group of people made up in order

to make sense out of business transactions. These rules are not even that complicated. The Generally Accepted Accounting Principles are essentially just a few basic principles on financial reporting taken to their logical ends. Truthfully, I probably could have come up with most, if not all, of the rules that exist today myself.

So what do think is easier to understand, the mind of God or the minds of a group of people of average to slightly above average intelligence that like to make rules?

I do not want to make people who cannot understand accounting feel stupid, because you are not. I have plenty of friends, intelligent friends, who just cannot seem to grasp the subject. I just do not understand what it is about accounting that drives people to study for five days before a test and still not do particularly well on it. Although I would like to think so, I cannot possibly be that much smarter than everyone else.

Christopher Suffron is a senior accounting major from League City. He can be contacted at c.r.suffron@tcu.edu.

Don't be fooled by easy money schemes that may not be harmless

Selling eggs or your blood may seem like a great opportunity, but think of what it will really cost you; is it worth the money?

Is there anyone out there who wants an easy \$3,000? Oh sorry, you're going to have to be a female to qualify. Did I mention that you need to be a non-smoker? Oh, and one last thing, you need to have an SAT score over 1100 or ACT over 24.

Some of you may have seen the signs around campus the last couple of weeks offering \$3,000 for female egg donors who meet the previous qualifications. Sorry guys, I guess our reproductive materials just aren't in very high demand.

Obviously it was no mistake these signs were posted around TCU where there are plenty of females who meet the requirements, and probably wouldn't mind having an extra \$3,000. For those of you who have worked on-campus jobs, you know that's the equivalent of about three years pay.

For a female who meets the

qualifications, this certainly sounds like a lucrative deal. But please don't be so lured by the money that you don't research the process yourself. There are certain dangers involved in egg donation, but the funny thing is, most of the donor Web sites aren't too forthcoming with the information.

About an hour worth of Internet research yielded nothing except phone numbers and addresses of people to contact about egg donation. This alone should hopefully bring a healthy skepticism into the minds of interested parties, and hopefully you will make sure you know the facts before you make any decisions.

College students are the ultimate targets for easy money ventures. Sometimes there is no problem and you make a few extra dollars. But sometimes things are not as harmless as advertised.

It seems at least once a year, one of my friends comes up and tells me about this great new business that needs investors who make money when they bring more investors into the company. Usually these ventures sound strangely similar to a pyramid scheme, but they've always been fed some vague information about how it's not a pyramid scheme because it

avoids certain criteria.

Another common practice of college students is donating blood for money. Similar to egg donation, giving blood is needed in our society. However, if you're working two jobs, cramming for midterms, and skipping meals, it might not be in your best interests to give your blood.

I have had friends who have given blood while not in the best of physical states, and it is definitely not beneficial to them in the long term. Just because mom and dad are making you pay for those unnecessary purchases you tried to sneak onto your send home bill doesn't mean you should risk your health to cover the costs.

The bottom line is be careful with your money, but more importantly, be careful with your body. Don't let a lack of cash lead you to hastily jump into something without finding out the real details first. Also, don't rely on just the company involved to give you the "facts." It is best to get a second opinion from a third party.

By the way, what do you think I could get for a kidney these days?

Jeff Dennis is a senior sociology major from Gail. He can be reached at j.a.dennis@tcu.edu.

Scare tactics won't help drug users

Researchers conducted experiments on monkeys to prove the danger ecstasy poses to humans but opponents of research say the dose given wasn't normal.

Recent government-funded research into the effects of ecstasy applies truth-bending scare tactics that attempt to frighten the public about the "horrors" of the drug instead of using responsible scientific evidence to prove truths. These researchers should be up-front with the facts and the serious problems in their methodology that lead to misleading results.

In a recent study published in Science magazine, researchers at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine argue repeated doses of MDMA, the chemical in ecstasy that affects the brain, over several hours can cause Parkinson's disease — characterized by the loss of dopamine-producing neurons usually associated with old age.

Researchers, attempting to show the negative effects of ecstasy to the individuals most likely to use it, conducted tests that supposedly resemble normal use patterns. Researchers said they administered the equivalent of a "heavy night's worth of MDMA" to monkeys, what they contend would be usual among users at "all-night raves" — to test the effects of the chemical on the brain.

What is not made clear in the premise of the study is that the "normal" usage they describe is actually the human equivalent of three doses of MDMA injected directly into a monkey's bloodstream over a period of nine hours.

How can this be considered normal? Humans do not usually take pure MDMA in Ecstasy pills, and they usually take it orally and at a slower pace. Opposing researchers say oral digestion of ecstasy is half as potent as injection. Oral consumption can cause dramatically different effects on the body than if one were to inject the drug, especially three times in one evening. These researchers administered overdoses of MDMA and passed it off as normal usage. Two of the 10 monkeys given the ecstasy injections died quickly after their second or third dose, and two others became so ill that they could not receive a third. Nearly 40 percent of the animals tested either died or came close to dying, but nowhere near 40 percent of human ecstasy users die or even become ill.

New York City, where there are thousands of ecstasy users, only shows one death per year linked to ecstasy by itself, according to a recent Washington Post article. Opposing research shows that while brain damage is a likely side effect of ecstasy use, there is much less dopamine depletion than this latest study shows and some of the effects might be temporary, especially in single time users. The new research would have the public believe one exposure to MDMA has the potential to lead to Parkinson's disease, even though, according to the Post article, there has only been one case of Parkinson's linked to ecstasy use out of thousands of ecstasy users.

In an attempt to direct the public — presumably young people — away from drugs, the government is passing off biased and unreliable research as scientific discovery. This betrays the ethical demands of scientists to provide the public with factual conclusions drawn from experiments that have no predetermined agenda. More accurate and realistic studies are possible and deserve funding. The emphasis should be on scientific truth, not dissuasion from drug use.

Make no mistake, ecstasy is an illegal drug that has serious consequences to the body and mind, but researchers should be above the politics of the drug war. The legitimacy of agencies such as NIDA is weakened when the truth is bent in an attempt to scare people away from drugs. This works against their cause. The studies can have the opposite effect of what they are intended to do. Students, overwhelmed by anti-drug information, will throw research like this into the category of elementary drug education, something they discard as meaningless, and will instead attempt to find out the effects of drugs like ecstasy on their own.

Josh Riezman is a columnist for the GW Hatchet at George Washington University. This column was distributed by U-Wire.

NEWS DIGEST

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National/International Roundup

The New York Times to buy international newspaper

PARIS (AP) — The Washington Post signed a letter of intent to sell its 50 percent stake in the Paris-based International Herald Tribune to the current joint owner, The New York Times, the Tribune's executive editor said Tuesday.

"We consider the International Herald Tribune to be one of the premier newspapers in the world and we have been extremely proud to be a part of it since 1966," said Ann McDaniel, vice president of human resources, The Washington Post Company.

"Today's a very sad day for us. We had hoped to be a part of the IHT for many years to come, but under the terms of our partnership The New York Times left us little choice and we reluctantly agreed to sell," she said.

Ownership will be transferred by the end of the year or early next year, Herald Tribune executive editor David Ignatius said. Currently, both the Post and the Times own a 50 percent stake in the 115-year-old paper.

The newspaper's circulation last year was 264,000. It is printed in 22 plants around the world, and less than half its readers are American.

Ferry sinks in rough weather, 51 aboard, 9 saved

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) — A ferry carrying 51 people and a shipment of oil sank in rough weather in the Caspian Sea Tuesday, killing at least one person, officials said. Nine people were rescued.

The Mercury II freight and passenger ferry was making its way from the port of Aktau, Kazakhstan, heading southwest to the Azerbaijani capital Baku when it

sank, said a spokesman for CASPAR, the shipping company that owns the ferry, who did not give his name.

The ferry sank at 10:43 a.m. in stormy weather about 80 miles from Baku, the company said. There were eight passengers aboard, along with 43 crew, and 16 tanks of oil in the cargo hold.

A commission formed by President Geidar Aliev to examine possible causes of the accident said one death was confirmed and nine people were rescued and brought to Baku, Azerbaijan state television reported.

There was heavy rain and high winds at the site of the sinking, complicating rescue efforts. The water is about 1,000-feet deep in the area where the ferry sank.

Moroccan student says he trained at Kandahar camp

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — A Moroccan student accused of aiding the Hamburg terrorist cell involved in the Sept. 11 attacks testified at the start of his trial Tuesday that he attended a training camp run by Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan.

As the first trial of a Sept. 11 suspect got under way in a Hamburg state court, defense attorneys issued a statement saying Mounir el Motassadeq, 28, "continues to deny" charges of belonging to a terrorist organization and more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder.

El Motassadeq denied traveling to Afghanistan when police questioned him after his arrest last year.

In later questioning by the court, el Motassadeq admitted he had attended a camp outside the Afghan city of Kandahar.

El Motassadeq's lawyers said the Afghan trip "proves nothing," argu-

ing that thousands went to such camps without necessarily becoming terrorists.

With more than 160 witnesses due to testify, the trial was expected to go beyond the three months of sessions scheduled so far. A panel of five judges is hear the case and leading the questioning, as is customary in Germany.

Heavier patient loads for nurses means more deaths

CHICAGO (AP) — Amid concerns about a nationwide nurse shortage, a new study found that how many patients a nurse has to care for can be a matter of life or death.

Researchers found that patients had a greater chance of dying following surgery in hospitals where the nurses had to take care of more patients, according to the study in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

A heavy workload also meant nurses were more likely to be burned out and unhappy with their jobs.

Researchers suggested that improving nurse staffing levels would not only reduce patient deaths but would also keep nurses on the job at a time when hospitals nationwide are struggling to fill nursing positions.

In the study, University of Pennsylvania researchers found that each additional patient in a nurse's workload translated to about a 7 percent increase in the likelihood the patient would die within 30 days of admission.

"To have more nurses is to have better patient outcomes," said lead researcher and nurse Linda Aiken, director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

To the American Nurses Associa-

tion, the study confirms what nurses have been saying all along: They make a difference.

Digital 911 system allows immediate access to records

NEW YORK (AP) — The city is installing a new digital 911 system that could help protect victims of domestic violence by giving the courts immediate access to recordings of emergency calls.

Currently, recorded calls are located manually, and tracing, retrieving and transferring the calls to cassette tapes takes about three months. That sometimes leaves prosecutors with little evidence during bail hearings and requests for orders of protection.

The new system will store calls digitally.

"The prosecutors will now be able to play a domestic violence victim's cry for help in open court at the batterer's first court appearance," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

The program will be tested in Brooklyn for the next 90 days before going citywide.

The tapes also will be available for cases involving other crimes.

Disputes over guests cause Bloomberg to be a no-show

NEW YORK (AP) — After skipping the Columbus Day Parade in a dispute over his planned guests, Mayor Michael Bloomberg says he may also sit out the St. Patrick's Day Parade if organizers object to whom he invites to march with him.

Bloomberg skipped the Columbus Day Parade last week after organizers said two actors he invited from "The Sopranos" were not welcome because the HBO hit negatively portrays Italian-American life.

Bloomberg had planned to march

with "Sopranos" cast members Dominic Chianese and Lorraine Bracco. Chianese plays New Jersey mob boss Junior Soprano; Bracco plays psychiatrist Jennifer Melfi. Instead of marching, he had lunch with them at an Italian restaurant.

Bloomberg said he invited the pair because Bracco acts as a city spokeswoman on environmental issues, and Chianese makes a public service announcement for tourism.

Bloomberg hasn't yet decided who he will invite to the St. Patrick's Day Parade, but his aides said he would likely not invite any gay groups, who are banned from marching in the parade by its organizers, the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Droughts turn half of Texas counties into disaster areas

WASHINGTON (AP) — Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman announced Tuesday that nearly half of Texas' counties have been declared disaster areas because of drought conditions that began at the start of the year.

The declaration makes 122 counties and 58 contiguous counties eligible for low interest farm loans. Texas has 254 counties.

"As drought and other extreme weather conditions persist, we continue to use all available programs to help farmers and ranchers," Veneman said in a statement.

Growers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the drought declaration to apply for the loans. Loan applications will be considered on the basis of the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

Livestock owners in the 122 primary counties also are eligible for the department's \$752 million livestock compensation program, that makes money available for cattle,

sheep, goat and buffalo producers effected by drought. Contiguous counties are not eligible for the livestock compensation program.

Bowman brought to federal court after killing 3 people

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A carpenter wanted for questioning in the triple slaying of a Virginia couple and their 9-year-old daughter appeared in federal court Tuesday after being brought from Canada, a marshal said.

A federal magistrate ordered Garrison Storm Bowman sent to Virginia, said U.S. Marshal Charles Reavis of Raleigh.

Investigators want to interview Bowman about the August slayings of 9-year-old Jennifer Short and her parents, Michael, 50, and Mary, 36, of Bassett, Va. The parents' bodies were found Aug. 15 at their home.

DNA tests showed that skeletal remains found Sept. 25 near Stoneville, N.C., were Jennifer's. The site was about a mile from a mobile home owned by Bowman.

Bowman is not charged in the slayings and has not been called a suspect.

Court records say Bowman had threatened to kill an unidentified man in Virginia in a dispute about moving the trailer. Michael Short owned and operated a mobile-home moving business in Virginia.

Investigators searched the trailer and Bowman's rented farmhouse in Maydan, seizing a map marked with the location of the Shorts' home.

Canadian authorities charged Bowman with impaired driving. Immigration decided to deport him because he allegedly did not disclose a criminal history that included drinking and driving convictions when he entered the country in August.



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We need your graduation portrait for the TCU Horned Frog Yearbook!

Graduation portraits for the 2003 Horned Frog Yearbook will be taken Monday, Oct. 21 through Friday, Nov. 1, 2002 in the Student Center Lounge each day (except Oct. 23, 24 and 25, the photographer will be in SC Basement 9) Hours: 9 am to 5 pm (Saturday Oct. 26: 10 am to 4 pm)

Seniors: There is no sitting fee required to be photographed for the yearbook. However, if you want an extended sitting, please pay the photographer a fee of \$5. To ensure being photographed, please make an appointment by calling Thornton Studio at 1.800.883.9449, by signing up on the sheets posted outside the yearbook office in SC 301, or through the photographer.

Senior Attire: For your yearbook pose, females please wear a favorite top or dress; males should wear a favorite suit or sports jacket and tie. TCU graduation cap and gown, plus an additional background will be provided for the extended sitting. Please keep in mind that your hands will show in several portraits. Remember, these portraits make excellent application photos as well as gifts for family and friends!

Underclassmen, faculty and staff may walk-in without an appointment. There is no sitting fee.

Note your appointment here: Day: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____
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FEATURES

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jackass THE MOVIE

Johnny Knoxville, star of MTV's "jackass," explained what fame is like at a promotion for the upcoming "jackass the movie," done in the same style as the popular television show.

BY DAVID REESE

News Editor

Johnny Knoxville explains there isn't much difference between his television persona and his actual one.

"What you see is what you get," Knoxville said at a roundtable discussion Oct. 8 in Dallas.

Viewers who have seen the MTV series, "jackass" every week see Knoxville as a lewd, perverted and obscene man with a high-pain tolerance.

What viewers don't see is that he is the father of a 7-year-old daughter, a husband and an overall pleasant person.

Knoxville participated in the Dallas roundtable discussion to promote his upcoming feature film, "jackass the movie."

He walked into the discussion dressed in a pair of pants and a Roger Alan Wade T-shirt with a blue-hooded sweatshirt.

After a minute of small conversations, the interview began.

A major question posed to him had to do with the difference between the television series and the new feature film.

"The film goes much further than the show because it has an R-rating," Knoxville said. "It has a lot of male nudity and male touching."

Although male touching may bring some fans to the theaters, many love "jackass" for the hilarious stunts and pranks.

Knoxville explained that as the series became more popular, it was a little more difficult to pull pranks. He said that in turn they would pull pranks on the elderly because, most likely, they had no idea what Knoxville and his gang were doing.

Many times, the stunts have turned dangerous and caused medical emergencies. Though he couldn't remember exactly how many times, Knoxville said the series forced him to visit the emergency room numerous times. That didn't seem to faze him very much.

"I'm still walking though," Knoxville said.

One question posed was about Knoxville's status as a heartthrob, which he seemed to laugh off.

He said he was happy to hear the female reporter ask the question rather than either of the other two reporters there who were both male.

Knoxville said his more recent fame and so-called heartthrob status has not affected him or his family very much.

"It's a bit surreal," he said. "I don't take it too seriously." He said the fame has not overwhelmed him or taken over his life.

He said his family gets a real kick out of the fame, but he said they don't take it too seriously either.

One side effect of the fame, Knoxville said, is the fact that he can't visit some public places without being recognized, but he hasn't lost all of his freedom.

"Some places you can't go with large groups," Knoxville said. "Most people leave you alone except in New York and Los Angeles."

During the interview, his affection for his family became quite clear especially when his nephew came into the room.

Knoxville stopped the interview to ask him if he had received his ice cream sundae from room service.

Knoxville demonstrated his responsible side when questioned about the seriousness of the viewers' discretion clip in the beginning of the program.

"I hope they take it serious," said Knoxville without a blink of an eye.

The show's adult content was also discussed in reference to children and especially his own daughter. He said his daughter, Madison, can only watch the "happy things" on the series and film but much of it is off limits.

Although during the interview he did possess a family-man image, he was also very crude with his language and subject matter. The number of times he spoke with expletives or about alcohol and male genitalia is uncountable.

When he first walked into the room he announced he was drunk. He said that prior to the interview he had gone to a few radio stations promotions and then to a restaurant and bar where he said a lot of people bought him alcohol.

Knoxville said he is about to start work on a new film about Gram Parsons as his road manager. He also has plans to be in an independent film.

At the end of the interview, he posed for some personal pictures and continued to speak about male genitalia.

The film, "jackass the movie," will hit theaters nationwide Friday.



(Left) Dave England, (right) Ehren McGehey, (in shopping cart beginning center clockwise) Jason "Wee-Man" Acuña, Bam Margera, Ryan Dunn, Steve-O, Chris Pontius and Johnny Knoxville in "jackass the movie."

"The Motion Picture Association of America has rated this film R— for dangerous, sometimes extremely crude stunts, language and nudity!"

Haunted Houses

BY TAYLOR GIBBONS
Skiff Staff

It's October, and that means it's haunted house season. The first weekend of the month saw the opening of several haunts across the Dallas/Fort Worth area—some more family-oriented and others geared towards hard-core

thrill seekers.

Armed with a notepad and half a tank of gas, I checked out five of the most promising spook houses in the area, determined to review them all. Each house has been given a rating of one to five Jack-o'-lanterns, one being the worst and five being the best.

One thrill-seeker goes out to review five haunted houses in the Dallas-Fort Worth area

Hangman's House of Horrors

Times: 7 p.m. to midnight every Friday and Saturday through Nov. 2; and 7 to 10 p.m. Oct. 27-30 and 7 p.m. to midnight on Halloween.

Price: \$17.

Location: I-30 at Forest Park Blvd. in Fort Worth.

Contact: (817) 336-HANG or visit (www.hangmans.com).

Hangman's House of Horrors proudly advertises its status as the world's top charity haunted house. Now in its 14th year, Hangman's has become something of a Dallas/Fort Worth area institution.

This year, general admission lets visitors tour the main haunted house, a 3-D maze and a smaller haunted house (a haunted mobile home, actually) known as "Victor Gwydion's Estate of Terror." With the main haunted house, the promoters sought to create a "fun house" atmosphere without too much gore. I don't know about the gore (I can distinctly remember being offered a plateful of human parts by a burly man in a blood-splattered apron), but the fun house aspect is very apparent. Hangman's utilizes spinning tunnels, strobe lights, forced perspective and all other manners of optical trickery to create a truly immersing experience. The other attractions are fun, if rather short, but easily make up for the price of a ticket. Hangman's benefits victims of multiple sclerosis.

Rating: Four Jack-o'-lanterns

The Cutting Edge

Times: 7 p.m. to midnight every Friday and Saturday; 7 to 10 p.m. every Sunday through Thursday.

Price: \$13.87 plus tax for children 10 and younger and \$16.64 plus tax for adults.

Location: 1701 E. Lancaster Ave. (at the intersection of I-30, I-35 and Hwy. 287) in Fort Worth.

Contact: (817) 792-FEAR or visit (www.cuttingedgehauntedhouse.com).

I wouldn't say the Cutting Edge was a bad haunted house. It's not. It's good. However, it's also overrated. The Cutting Edge is basically this—a haunted house, followed by a maze, followed by being submerged up to your neck in bubbles for some reason. The maze isn't really haunted, it's just dark, and the purpose of the bubbles beyond justifying the ticket price still escapes me. So I'll focus on the house itself. It was long, which is always a plus, and dark, which when used properly, as it was here, can really add to the effect of a haunted house. Beyond that, there wasn't anything too special about Cutting Edge. Most of the rooms were too dark to really see very well, and I can't recall any themes in the house beyond "Guy in black robe jumps out at you." Cutting Edge is cool, but one would expect something this high profile to be cooler.

Rating: 2.5 Jack-o'-lanterns



Times: 7 p.m. to midnight Thursday, Friday and Saturday and Oct. 25-26, 31; 7 to 11 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday Oct. 24, 29-30.
Price: \$13 for single ending, \$20 for double ending.
Location: 3000 Race St. in Fort Worth.
Contact: (866) DARKNESS or visit (www.866darkness.com).
If you have any siblings younger than 13, you might want to think twice before taking them to the Darkside. Of the haunted houses I toured, this was probably one of the most frightening. The Darkside uses several unique elements, such as live arachnids, 3-D effects inside the haunted house and two possible endings to freak out visitors. It has an overall nightmarish feel somewhat reminiscent of the movie "Jacob's Ladder," which frayed my nerves for a while even after I had left. The Darkside benefits the Boys and Girls Club, as well as a victim of a neck injury.
Rating: 4.5 Jack-o'-lanterns



The Boneyard

Times: 7 p.m. to midnight every Friday and Saturday; 7 to 10 p.m. every Sunday and 7 p.m. to midnight Halloween night.

Price: \$12.

Location: 7500 Baker Blvd.; Exit No. 24 off E. Loop 820 in Richland Hills.

Contact: (817) 926-BONE or visit (www.theboneyard.org). The

Boneyard, though by no means strictly a children's affair, offers a slightly more family-oriented haunting experience.

Situated in an empty building that used to house a Sam's Club, the Boneyard offers a concession stand, video arcade and live music in addition to the haunted house. The house itself is composed of several distinct scenarios including a mock up of 18th century London featuring Jack the Ripper, a mummy-infested pyramid, a circus inhabited by insane clowns and, of course, classics such as a graveyard scene. It's all very cool, and some of it is pretty creepy, but I found myself not as frightened as I was at other houses. In some places, a lack of roof allows one to see the ceiling of the actual structure, which diminishes the effect of the house. For a first-year effort, however, the Boneyard does relatively well for itself. The Boneyard benefits the Special Olympics.

Rating: Three Jack-o'-lanterns

Texas Chainsaw Nightmare

Times: 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. every Friday and Saturday; 7 p.m. every Sunday and 7 to 10 p.m. Halloween week.

Price: \$8 plus \$2 for parking.

Location: From Interstate 35W, take exit 917 in Johnson County, between Alvarado and Burleson. Head south on service road for approximately one mile and follow the signs.

Contact: (817) 822-1401. (www.dfwhaunts.com)

The promoters of this haunted house billed it as "The Most Scare for the Money," and I would have to agree. Located about 15 minutes down I-35, the Texas Chainsaw Nightmare can be easy to miss. Constructed over six

harrowing weeks as a way to raise funds for a local basketball team, this house doesn't look like much on the outside, but looks can be deceiving. Constructed from interconnected mobile homes, Texas Chainsaw Nightmare uses its size constraints to its advantage, creating a claustrophobic, nightmarish environment that incites a fear visitors feel in their gut as opposed to the more psychological thrills offered by other haunted houses. The only major flaw here is the length of the house—it only lasts about 10 minutes, and that's if you're slow. Then again, it only costs about half as much as a major haunted house. This is a good alternative to some of the more established haunted houses.

Rating: 4 Jack-o'-lanterns

Taylor Gibbons
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Michelin dropped from wrongful death suit

DaimlerChrysler, Discount Tire Co. and two car dealerships are involved in a wrongful death lawsuit over a 1993 accident in a Dodge van that killed four people.

BY ANGELA K. BROWN
Associated Press

WICHITA FALLS — Wanda Jenkins spent weeks in the hospital and months in rehabilitation after breaking her pelvis when her church van crashed last year.

Now, some of her injuries prevent her from traveling to her grandchildren's out-of-town football games and doing other things she once enjoyed, some relatives said.

Although she tries to stay upbeat, she doesn't talk about the May 8, 2001, wreck that killed four of her friends and injured seven others on their way to a shopping center.

"It's sad. I think she tries to keep it out of her head," her grandson Tyler Jenkins, 12, said Monday.

Jury selection continued Tuesday in the civil trial stemming from the victims' wrongful death lawsuit against DaimlerChrysler, Michelin, Discount Tire Co. of Texas and two car dealerships.

But state District Judge Roy Sparkman announced after a late-morning break Tuesday that Michelin was no longer part of the suit, and he did not elaborate, the Wichita Falls Times Record News reported in its online edition Tuesday.

Spokesmen for Michelin and the plaintiffs did not immediately return calls to The Associated Press seeking comment Tuesday.

Michelin said Monday it decided not to pursue a motion it filed last week seeking to bar spectators from the courtroom or require them to promise not to discuss what they saw or heard.

The tire maker also had requested that court records be sealed, citing concern over trade secrets, but a spokeswoman said Monday that Michelin would ask the judge to seal documents after the trial.

"There isn't anything we're trying to hide," Nancy L. Banks, a

spokeswoman for Michelin North America Inc., said Monday.

Michelin's original motion drew criticism from watchdog groups Public Citizen and the Center for Auto Safety, and Sparkman had been expected to rule on it Wednesday.

The 1993 Dodge 15-passenger van carrying 12 women from First Assembly of God in Burkburnett lost control after a tire failed and overturned several times on U.S. 287 near Wichita Falls.

One survivor who suffers permanent brain damage already has amassed \$400,000 in medical bills and likely will need \$3.5 million to pay for future medical care, said plaintiffs' attorney David L. Perry.

The lawsuit does not seek a specific monetary amount.

Eighty potential jurors filled out questionnaires Monday, indicating whether they had driven a 15-passenger van,

"This is one of the most rollover-prone vehicles available for the ordinary person to drive."

— David L. Perry

Plaintiffs' attorney

had been involved in a rollover accident or had a tire explode.

Perry told the jury pool he would present evidence showing design flaws in the van and tires.

"This is one of the most rollover-prone vehicles available for the ordinary person to drive," Perry said.

He said DaimlerChrysler, formed when Detroit-based Chrysler and German auto giant Daimler-Benz AG merged in 1998, was liable along with Michelin for the tire because it was part of the van's original equipment.

The van had been driven 44,000 miles and was inspected in October 2000, and the tires had been rotated several times in the past nine years, Perry said. The tires had 30 percent life left, he said.

But several potential jurors raised their hands when Perry asked if they had preconceived notions that the tire failed because it was too old or that the wreck was caused by driver error.

The church bought the van from Jackson Motor Co. in Greenville, also a defendant in the suit. Discount Tire Co. and Landrum Chevrolet-Oldmobile-Pontiac had serviced the van before the wreck and were negligent, according to the suit.

Guantanamo prepares to release prisoners to Pakistan

Assessment reveals some prisoners no longer pose a threat to the United States.

BY PAULINE JELINEK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government is preparing to free a small number of prisoners from its high-security jail in Cuba, in what would be the first release of combatants who are no longer considered a terrorist threat, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld said Tuesday.

"There are some people likely to

come out of the other end of the chute," Rumsfeld told a Pentagon press conference.

Other officials said on condition of anonymity that it could be within days.

Rumsfeld said officials were vetting the prisoners to make sure they were not candidates for prosecution, no longer of any intelligence value, and not a threat to the United States and its allies.

The first batch to be let go includes "a relatively small number" of men, he said, adding that he didn't know their nationalities.

Pakistani officials have said a

visit to the prison turned up a number of Pakistanis who do not represent a threat to the United States.

The government, a major U.S. ally in the counter-terror war, has asked the men to be allowed to return to Pakistan. It's unclear how many other countries have sought release of their nationals.

"We vetted them and gave our assessment ... that some of the detainees did not pose a threat" to the United States, said Asad Hayauddin, spokesman for the Pakistan Embassy in Washington.

There are reported to be some 58

Pakistanis in Guantanamo, 100 Saudi Arabians, a dozen Kuwaitis and so on. In all, the United States is holding 598 men from 42 countries who it has labeled as enemy combatants, saying it may legally hold them until the end of hostilities. It hasn't made clear whether that means the end of the campaign in Afghanistan or the entire global war which is expected to go on for years.

It was unclear whether the men to be released would be freed completely or simply transferred to some other country for detention, Rumsfeld said.

Legislature candidate accused of having ties with racist groups

Rife Kimler, a Republican candidate for the state legislature who has a Nazi insignia on his arm, disputes ties with racist organizations.

Associated Press

BEAUMONT — A Republican candidate for a southeast Texas legislative seat who sports a tattoo with a Nazi insignia on his right arm disputes assertions by civil rights groups that he has a history of activity with racists or racist organizations.

Rife Kimler, a lawyer who is challenging Democratic incumbent Allan Ritter for the state House District 21 in Beaumont, acknowledged past affiliation with the Council of Conservative Citizens and that he has represented a Ku Klux Klan faction leader.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, a nonprofit organization that monitors suspected hate groups, has described the St. Louis-based council as a white supremacist organization and the latest "reincarnation" of the White Citizens Councils of the 1960s.

Center spokesman Mark Potok called the council "a straight-up

racist group," the Beaumont Enterprise reported in Tuesday's editions. The Anti-Defamation League calls the council a white supremacist group more polished than other extremists.

Kimler, 39, said he served as chairman of a Texas chapter of the council, which he described as a group that promotes traditional American values and is not racist. He said his involvement with the group lapsed several years ago.

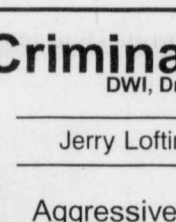
"I think they're doing a pretty good job of promoting traditional values," Kimler told the newspaper.

The frequently-asked-questions section of the group's Web site says the council opposes "government sponsored race preference programs" like affirmative action or forced integration, but does not support exploitation or oppression of minorities.

The council held rallies to keep the Confederate flag flying atop the statehouse dome in South Carolina. South Carolina was the only state that still flew the battle flag above its capitol, but it was removed two years ago and one similar to it was placed in front of the building.

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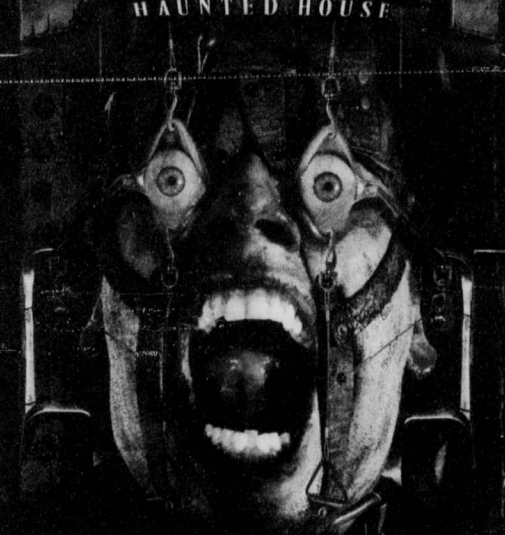
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Edward S. Curtis (1896-1952), Curley-A-Crow, 1905, platinum print, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Mass., PH 76.47

He survived Custer's Last Stand and 71 years in the basement of a New England museum.



Some say Curley was the last living survivor of the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Others say he was a scout who never saw action. Either way, Edward S. Curtis took his photograph and the rest is history. Curtis included this print in a 1906 exhibition that won support for his lifelong obsession: capturing the spirit of Native American life.

The exhibition was sold immediately after its showing and was not seen again until 1977, when it was discovered in the basement of a museum outside Boston.

Curtis is now recognized as the greatest photographer of Native Americans that the United States has ever produced. His masterpieces, like Curley, have survived.

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Today's Funnies

Paul

by Billy O'Keefe

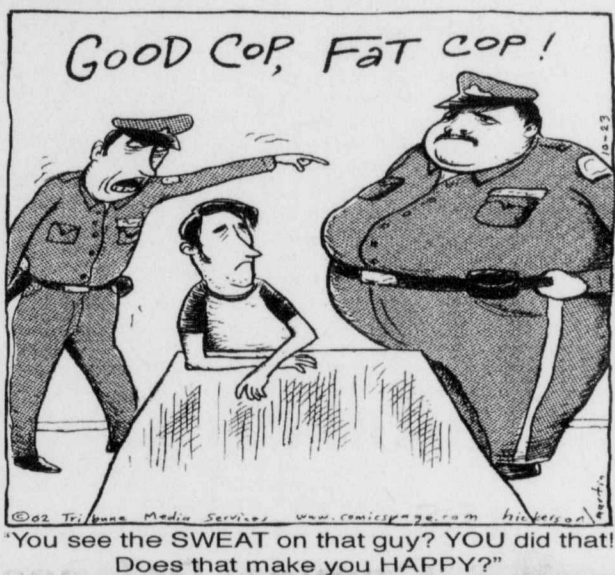


Dithered Twits

by Stan Waling

Quigmans

by Hickerson



PurplePoll



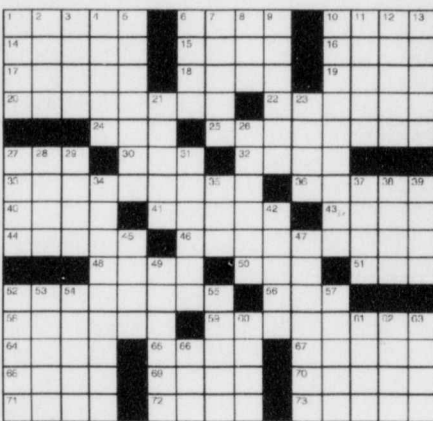
Q: Have you been to a haunted house this month?

A: YES 14 NO 86

Data collected from an informal poll conducted in TCU's Main Cafeteria. This poll is not a scientific sampling and should not be regarded as representative of campus public opinion.

Today's Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Florida city
 - 6 "Paper Lion" star
 - 10 French cleric
 - 14 Of part of the eye
 - 15 Chicken quarters
 - 16 Before long
 - 17 Climbing vine
 - 18 Three Wise Men
 - 19 Joker
 - 20 Improvised
 - 22 Always, in a poem
 - 24 Coupe, e.g.
 - 25 Advanced the motion
 - 27 Peas' place
 - 30 Bell and Barker
 - 32 Lairs
 - 33 Finding the means
 - 36 Processes flour
 - 40 Edt out
 - 41 One step
 - 42 Bread spread
 - 44 Sneeringly derogatory
 - 46 Vertically
 - 48 Two of Caesar's final words
 - 50 Classic car
 - 51 DDE's arena
 - 52 Surveillance devices
 - 56 Family member
 - 58 Beast
 - 59 Emotes
 - 64 Inactive
 - 65 Feudal serf
 - 67 Chloride (refrigerant)
 - 68 Rank
 - 69 Without ice
 - 70 Use a poker
 - 71 Mouth off
 - 72 Poi source
 - 73 Used a keyboard
- DOWN
- 1 City south of Moscow
 - 2 Enthusiastic
 - 3 Breakfast or dinner
 - 4 Overwhelming fear
 - 5 Home of the Crimson Tide
 - 6 Peak
 - 7 Burdens
 - 8 Pursue persistently
 - 9 Each
 - 10 Rise
 - 11 Live at school
 - 12 Carried on
 - 13 Concluded
 - 21 Blows one's own horn
 - 23 Heavy weights
 - 26 More tense
 - 27 Paper tablets
 - 28 Cooking box
 - 29 Where heroes are made?
 - 31 Puts off going to bed
 - 34 Saviors
 - 35 A Cole
 - 37 Cut and run
 - 38 Trial by fire
 - 39 Mediocre
 - 42 "Touched by an Angel" star
 - 45 Katt of the comics
 - 47 Most needy
 - 49 Innate ability
 - 52 Stands by
 - 53 Kind of ink
 - 54 Irritates
 - 55 Detection device
 - 57 Depper
 - 60 Interdict
 - 61 Lamb choice
 - 62 Small boy
 - 63 Rosebud, e.g.
 - 66 Sargasso



Tuesday's Solutions

W E S T M O N T G O M E R Y
B E N W I L L I A M S
C O V E R T O P
L I N E D U S S
S N O W B E N I T I V I L S
G O N V E R I O E I A L
O E N S E S S E D S I O H
E N O I E N N V Z S
B E B I O I O D E O O R E
B E T O N V H O E W O O E I
S I M V H O O V O I C O R
I T B M H O O G I N O E
I N V E M E G V I I S D
45 Katt of the comics
57 Depper
60 Interdict
61 Lamb choice
62 Small boy
63 Rosebud, e.g.
66 Sargasso

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SPORTS

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Frog women ready to make splash in first meet of season

After finishing third in its inaugural season in Conference USA, the women's swimming and diving teams get started today in Dallas.

BY CHAD MURRAY
Skiff Staff

The women's swimming and diving teams will kick off the 2002-2003 season with a trip to Dallas and a meet against rival and perennially strong Southern Methodist at 5 p.m. today.

Eleven of last year's 15 players are returning to the squad, including junior standout Erin Irons. Irons holds five school records, including the 100-meter freestyle (51.33) and the 200-meter freestyle (1:51.36). The squad welcomes 11 newcomers as well.

Coming off a 10-3 record and a third place finish in Conference USA last year, there is no lack of confidence from head coach Richard Sybesma and his squad.

"Our definite goal for our women's team is to win the conference championship," Sybesma said. "We have a large team and a lot of depth, and that is something our program has really been lacking in recent years."

"We are definitely going to try to win conference this year," added senior swimmer Kate Swearingen.

Because of renovations to the Recreation Center, the swimming and diving teams have been forced to practice off campus for a second consecutive semester. Sybesma was quick to discount any effect this might have on the team.

"It is somewhat of an inconvenience, but our kids have not looked at it as a disadvantage at all," Sybesma said. "They have dealt with the transition very well."

Swearingen said it has become part of their routine.

"It's a minor inconvenience," Swearingen said. "We had to deal with it last semester, too, so everyone is used to it by now."

Sybesma said he wants the Frogs to be the elite program in Conference USA, and that he likes opening the season against the Mustangs, who have garnered national recognition.

"SMU has traditionally been a top-10 team," Sybesma said. "I think opening the season against SMU is going to give us a good idea of where we are right now in our training."

After their opening meet against the Mustangs, the women's team looks to begin its C-USA campaign in the right direction, with key meets against conference foes Louisville and Cincinnati next week in Kentucky before returning to Texas for a match-up with North Texas in Denton.

The men will join the women to compete as a full squad for the first time on Nov. 1 against Louisville.

Chad Murray
c.murray@tcu.edu

Into the Pool

TCU at SMU

5 p.m. at Perkins Natatorium

Radio: None

TV: None

Records: This is the first regular season meet for either the Frogs or Mustangs.

About the meet: Both schools want to use this meet as a springboard into their seasons. The fact that the two schools are natural rivals should also help the competition.

About TCU: The Frogs are feeling positive about their new season. They return 11 of 15 from a team that finished third in Conference USA last season, and will have 11 new faces in the mix as well.

About SMU: The women's swimming and diving team finished ninth at the NCAA Championships last season. In the Mustangs' meet against the Frogs in 2001, they beat TCU in Dallas 136-63.

Patterson says time off difficult adjustment

BY DANNY GILLHAM
Sports Editor

Although the mood is positive around the John Justin Athletic Center following TCU's 45-31 win over Louisville, the main focus of Tuesday's press conference with head coach Gary Patterson was not about Saturday's victory.

Instead Patterson was talking about Southern Mississippi, who comes into Fort Worth to play the Frogs next Wednesday night.

The team has 10 days in between that game and its previous one against the Cardinals, and Patterson said that a 10-day week is harder to adjust to than a full two weeks off between games.

"Wednesday and Tuesday (games) are hard," Patterson said. "You want to think you have some downtime, but you really don't. We were off Monday and we'll be off Friday, but it's a lot tougher than a two-week deal."

Patterson said he hopes it's easier for the team to come back from that time period after a win, but there was still room for improvement after the Louisville game.

"We made enough mistakes in that ballgame," Patterson said. "To me you still gave up 31 points, and we scored in the fourth quarter, but we didn't score in the third. I think being consistent is something we're gonna have to do in the next four

weeks. Who knows which side of the ball is going to have to win the ballgame?"

O-line finally at full strength?

There have been struggles all season for the Frogs to solidify their situation on the offensive line. It appears that time may be in the Southern Miss game. Patterson said senior Brady Barrick should be back running around on the field, and senior Josh Harbuck "at some point and time" will be ready to go. Patterson also continued to rave about the performance of senior J.T. Aughinbaugh in the last few weeks. He said that Aughinbaugh dropped from around 320 pounds to 295, which allows him to be more mobile and active. He also added that sophomore Anthony Alabi probably played his most complete game in a frog uniform.

Quarterback dilemma

Redshirt freshman Tye Gunn has more than filled the shoes of senior Sean Stilley, who separated his right shoulder Sept. 21 against North Texas. Stilley is making progress, and has been in pads throwing in practices for about a week. Patterson said that he has confidence in both signal callers, but as far as chemistry is on the team, it might make it easier to hand the ball over to Gunn. He said not to count Stilley out though, who

has the ability to perform when needed.

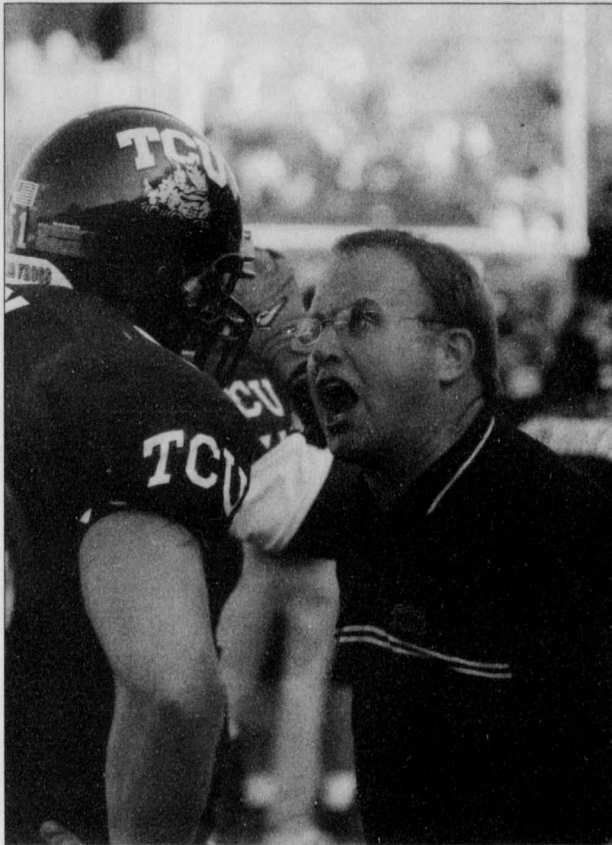
Lightening the workload

To make sure his team is fresh for the Golden Eagles, Patterson is allowing his team to rest their bodies some. The team practiced for just one hour Tuesday, as many of the Frog coaches were out on recruiting trips. The team also plans to practice for just 17 five-minute periods today, as opposed to the normal 24 periods.

Return of Coach Patterson's Calendar

With the time between their next two games not falling in a set week, the majority of the calendars in the John Justin Athletic Center will be set to 'Patterson Time.' A week normally goes like this: After a Saturday game, the team practices Sunday, is off Monday, then practices Tuesday through Thursday, has a light workout Friday and plays on Saturday. With the team's next game on a Wednesday, the schedule now becomes the following: This Thursday is now Sunday, Friday is Monday, Saturday/Tuesday, Sunday/Wednesday, Monday/Thursday, Tuesday/Friday and Wednesday is Saturday (gameday). The team will practice accordingly. Confused yet?

Danny Gillham
d.r.gillham@tcu.edu



Photographer/Simon Lopez

Head coach Gary Patterson talked about dealing with the awkward week between games at his weekly press conference Tuesday.

Frogs' postseason dreams face a wake-up call soon



Photographer/Simon Lopez

Freshman forward Chris Garman (No. 24) and the Frogs collide with the conference-leading Saint Louis Billikens at 3 p.m. today at Garvey-Rosenthal Soccer Stadium.

Time is not on the Frogs side, as the men's soccer team must win three of their last four matches just to make postseason play.

BY JAY ZUCKERMAN
Skiff Staff

Time could be running out for the men's soccer team, which needs to win three of their next four matches to qualify for the Conference USA Tournament.

The challenge begins with a 3 p.m. Wednesday match at Garvey-Rosenthal Stadium against the Saint Louis Billikens (9-3-1, 4-2 C-USA).

Scoring chances will be at a premium for the Frogs (3-11, 2-4 C-USA), who have only scored 11 goals in 14 games this season. The Billikens have one of the best defensive units in C-USA, having allowed just 11 goals in 13 games.

"We don't score many goals," senior forward and leading scorer Michael Blackburn said, "so we need to limit our mistakes and hopefully give ourselves a chance to win a close game."

Containing senior forward Jason Cole, the second leading scorer in Conference USA, will be a difficult task for the Frogs. He has nine goals on the year, two less than the entire Frogs team.

Coach Blake Amos said that senior midfielder Carrington Brown and sophomore defender Joe Fields will pressure him the entire game.

Amos does not believe the team needs to panic, even though a loss would hurt the Frogs tournament chances.

"Everyone knows the urgency, but we can't talk about it," Amos said. "You can't prepare with your back against the wall."

An upset victory against Saint Louis (No. 14, National Soccer Coaches Association of America) would benefit the Frogs in their quest to get back into the C-USA race.

"The happiness of actually winning a game is good for the team," Amos said. "It is good for the players. It makes them train harder and believe they can still do something here."

Senior goalie Michael Lahoud agreed.

"Every win gives us a little bit more confidence for the next game," he said.

Jay Zuckerman
m.j.zuckerman@tcu.edu

Soccer Today

Saint Louis at TCU

3 p.m. at Garvey-Rosenthal Soccer Stadium

Radio: None

TV: None

Records: TCU (3-11-0, 2-4-0) Saint Louis (9-3-1, 4-2-0)

About the match: This is the third time the two schools have faced each other. Last season the Billikens blanked the Frogs, 4-0, in St. Louis, Mo. Their other meeting came in 1980 in Fort Worth, with Saint Louis winning 4-0 as well.

About TCU: The Frogs are the underdogs in this match, and scoring will be a major priority to keep up with the Billiken attack. The team snapped a four game losing streak Sunday, beating East Carolina 2-0.

About SLU: The Billikens are playing for better positioning in the conference tournament, as they currently sit in a two-way tie for first place. Jason Cole is the second leading scorer in the conference with 21 points (nine goals, three assists).

C-USA Roundup

Football	C-USA games			All games			Hm.	Rd.	Ntrl.	Strk.
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.				
Southern Miss	3	0	1.000	5	2	.714	4-0	1-2	0-0	W1
East Carolina	2	0	1.000	2	4	.333	2-1	0-3	0-0	L1
TCU	3	1	.750	6	1	.857	3-0	3-1	0-0	W6
Louisville	2	1	.667	4	3	.571	1-2	3-1	0-0	L1
UAB	2	1	.667	3	4	.429	3-1	0-3	0-0	L1
Tulane	3	2	.600	5	3	.625	3-1	2-2	0-0	W3
Cincinnati	1	2	.333	2	5	.286	1-3	1-2	0-0	L2
Houston	1	3	.250	3	4	.429	2-1	1-3	0-0	W1
Memphis	1	3	.250	2	5	.286	2-2	0-3	0-0	L3
Army	0	5	.000	0	7	.000	0-4	0-3	0-0	L7

Last Week's Results

Cincinnati 14
at Southern Miss 23

Army 42
at Houston 56

at East Carolina 30
South Florida 46

at Louisville 31
TCU 45

UAB 14
at Tulane 35

at Memphis 17
Mississippi State 29

Last Week's Players of the Week

Offense — TCU quarterback Tye Gunn was 17-of-23 for 187 yards and three touchdowns in TCU's 45-31 victory over Louisville. The redshirt freshman's 73.9 completion percentage in the game was the seventh-best single game mark in TCU history.

Defense — Southern Miss safety Eric Pruitt received the award for second time this season after intercepting his sixth pass of the season and returning it 44 yards for a touchdown. He also had a game-high 12 tackles and had a pair of pass breakups.

Special Teams — Southern Miss punter Mark Haulman punted nine times for a 43.3 yard average against Cincinnati. He placed four punts inside the 20-yard line and had a season-long kick of 61 yards.



Photographer/Ty Halasz

Frog quarterback Tye Gunn was named Conference USA Offensive Player of the Week. Gunn was 17-of-23 for 187 yards and three touchdowns in a 45-31 win over Louisville.