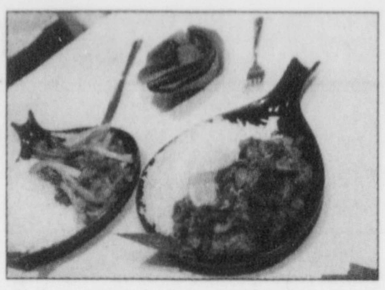
SPORTS | Coming tomorrow

BACK ON THE COURT

Coach's take on how Chudi Chinweze's return from injury is helping the Frogs on both sides of the ball.



FEATURES | 4

LOCAL EATS

Recent international additions to the restaurant scene are adding some unique flavors.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

WWW.TCUDAILYSKIFF.COM | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2006 | VOL. 104, ISSUE 2

Taxes safer, easier for TCU employees

Director: Online W-2 form more convenient, efficient

By JOHN-LAURENT TRONCHE
Staff Reporter

TCU employees can now access their Form W-2 online as part of a broader effort by TCU to make payroll services more efficient and employees' private information safer.

Form W-2 is used to report wages and taxes of employees for the previous calendar year.

TCU Human Resources adopted the service in order to encourage customer service and help avoid identity theft, said Debby Watson, director of payroll services.

"Eighty percent of identity theft can be traced to residential mailboxes," said Jill Laster, associate vice chancellor of human resources and risk management.

Employees have until noon Friday to request the W-2 online, after which it will be sent out on paper.

Watson said Human Resources sent e-mails and posted signs to educate employees about the service.

"I believe it will be very popular," Watson said.

David Stell, a spokesman for the Internal Revenue Service, said this is the second year the W-2 can be accessed online. Stell said the online W-2 is part of a nationwide trend toward electronic tax filing, with more than 50 percent of federal tax returns in 2005 filed electronically.

Shelli Barr-Majors, TCU payroll tax coordinator, said the online W-2 arrives more quickly than the paper W-2, which is sent out via mail and may also be accessed by students' parents.

After getting the go-ahead from administration last month, TCU became one of the first universities to use the online W-2, Watson said. She said Pier1 Imports and Alcon, two Fort Worth-based companies, are using the same online W-2 service as TCU.

ONLINE

TCU employees may retreive their Form W-2 by accessing **WWW.GETMYW2.COM/TCU** and entering their Social Security number and date of birth.

After following the onscreen instructions, employees are given a confirmation e-mail. According to the e-mail, the online Form W-2 will be available by January 31.

In addition to the online W-2 service, direct deposit and my.tcu.edu are two examples of TCU's effort to become safer and more efficient through electronic means, Barr-Majors said.

Those not familiar with computers can call or visit Human Resources.

Bush calls for more language funding

Student enthusiasm necessary, dean says

By GRETCHEN HOLLIS
Staff Reporter

TCU could see new foreign language classes implemented into the curriculum if students demonstrate a genuine interest in learning new languages, said Mary Volcansek , dean of AddRan College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

In his budget proposal for the 2007 fiscal year, President Bush requested $114 million for the study of foreign languages, with most of that money coming through the State and Education departments for the National Security Language Initiative.

The Department of State officials stressed the need for more people to master Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Hindi and Farsi languages because they are critical to national security and cultural understanding.

Carrie Sickmann , a modern languages and literatures student adviser, said any expansion in the department could benefit the TCU population and increase TCU's capabilities to create a global community.

"The Chinese language is becoming especially prominent in the business world today," Sickmann said. "I believe that TCU students should have the opportunity to study the language and culture of this society that is growing so rapidly."

Sickmann said the modern languages and literatures department could use additional money to create awareness of the variety of languages and cultures among all of TCU's students, not just those majoring or minoring in language.

Volcansek said TCU has offered a Chinese course before, but only a few students enrolled.

"Those languages take so much longer to reach proficiency," Volcansek said. "We can't afford faculty when there is no genuine student demand for those courses."

Another problem is that foreign languages "come in fads," Volcansek said.

German, French and Spanish will always be mainstream languages, but German and French are not offered as majors anymore because few students enrolled, Volcansek said.

Volcansek said the majority of students tend to learn Spanish because they plan to stay in the Southwest.

Sharon Fairchild , the modern languages and literatures department chairwoman , said the department is not currently planning to take on any additional languages.

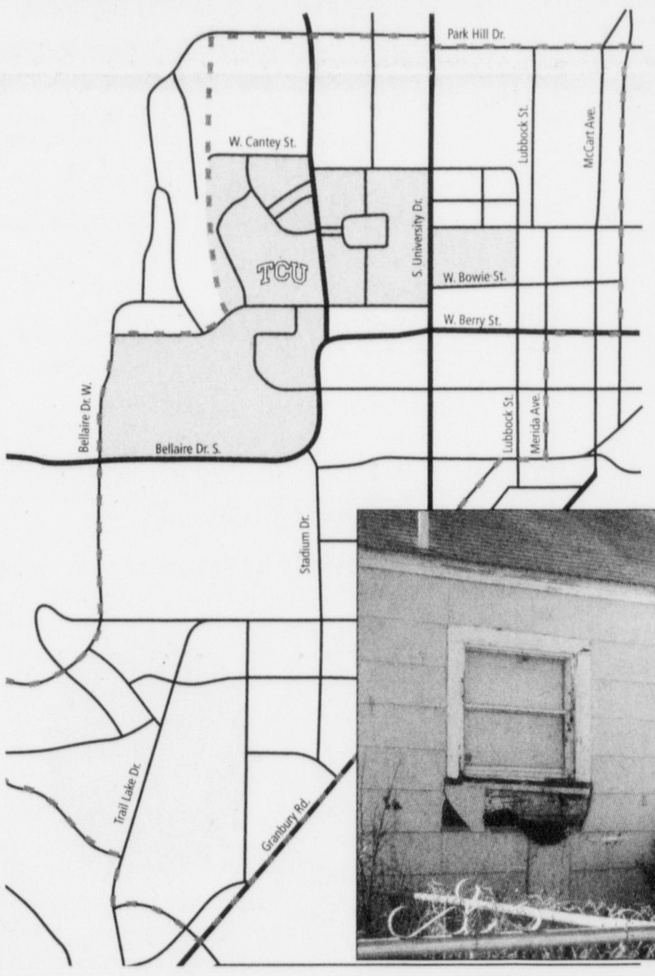
"We would love to include more languages, but the programmatic and budgetary commitments are quite heavy," Fairchild said. "Such a decision would have to be made after considerable study."

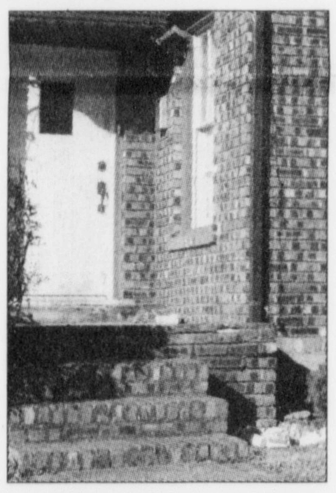
8 Percent of undergraduates in the U.S. take foreign language courses

1 Percent of undergraduate degrees which are in the foreign languages

— INSIDEHIGHERED.COM

Do TCU students make BAD NEIGHBORS?





PHOTOS BY LANA HUNT / CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER; MAP BY BRIAN WOODDELL

TCU area residents are frustrated over the rowdiness and lack of care for the neighborhood from TCU students.

Possible zoning changes could alter local demographics

By LYDIA AKINDE
Staff Reporter

TCU-area residents will meet tonight in hopes of settling the storm brewing over what some consider to be inconsiderate student neighbors.

A public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. in the Kelly Alumni Center, to allow local residents, students and nonstudents to respond to recommendations concerning parking problems, loud parties, littering and drinking in the Frisco Heights and Bluebonnet Hills neighborhoods.

The Unrelated Persons and Rental Registration Task Force, the group assigned by the Fort Worth City Council to recommend possible solutions to these problems, made suggestions to the last week in an effort to quell traffic congestion, noisy parties, littering and other disruptive behavior in the TCU area.

If the task force's proposal is enacted, residents will be issued parking permits, by which the police can differentiate residents' cars from those belonging to nonresidents and tow those that don't belong in the neighborhood.

Jordan Bastable, a junior entrepreneurial management major and landlord on Corto Avenue, said he is concerned people might get ticketed for parking on the street to visit friends.

According to the task force's proposal to the City Council, residents would not only be required to buy $5 stickers for their vehicles, but would also be forced to cover the cost of signs detailing parking restrictions on neighborhood streets at a cost of around $1,100 a block.

Jim Johnson, the Bluebonnet Hills Neighborhood Association president, said it is unreasonable for residents to incur such heavy costs.

"I think it is prohibitive and residents might not respond to that," he said.

The effects on students

See **COUNCIL,** page 2

FINANCIAL AID

Senate cuts billions from student loans

By DAN MCGRAW
Staff reporter

The U.S. Senate approved a bill to cut $12.7 billion over the next five years from federal student loan programs, but the director of financial aid said students would not be the biggest losers — lenders would.

Mike Scott, the director of financial aid, said students should not expect changes in their loan programs, but he said the decision by Congress could result in lenders reducing borrower's benefits, such as origination fees — money taken out to start loans.

"This isn't going to affect students at all," Scott said. "This is going to affect lenders getting their return on loans."

Staci Chiller, the communication manager of Wells Fargo Education Financial Services, said the bill, which must be reapproved by the House of Representatives because of changes made before the Senate's 51-50 vote, cuts a majority of its $12.7 billion from lenders' subsidies. This affects lenders' repayment, not student loans.

Scott said, as a result, he believes smaller lenders may get out of the student loan business because profit margins will decrease, but established lenders, such as Wells Fargo Bank and Citibank, will not move away from student loans.

Jim Riddlesperger, a professor of political science, said these changes result from budget cuts that will enable Congress to continue to pay for the war in Iraq and the recovery efforts in the Gulf Coast region.

"Obviously, everyone is in favor for higher education," Riddlesperger said. "This is a conservative Congress that wants to balance opportunities to attend universities with minimizing budget spending."

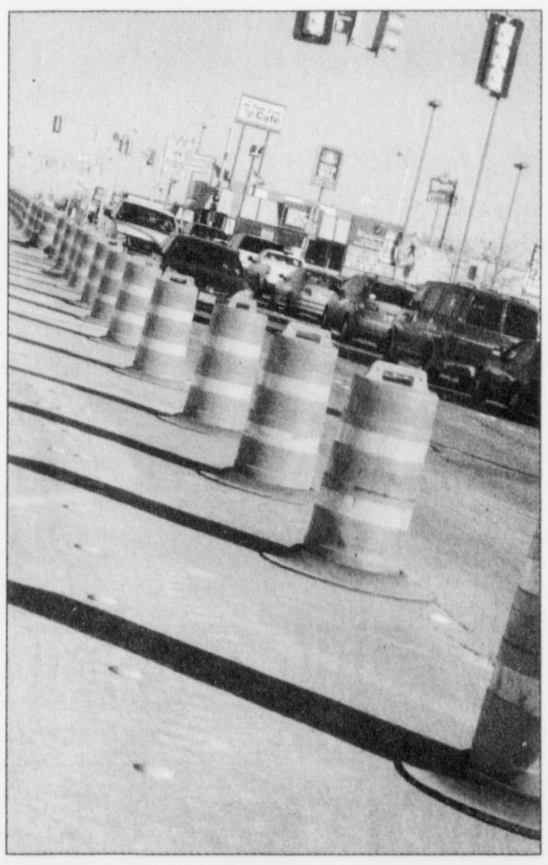
Luke Swarthout, the associate director of Student Public Interest Research Groups, said students will bear the brundt of Congress' decision.

In a press release Dec. 19, the day the House of Representatives passed the bill, Swarthout said students will pay for 70 percent of the budget cuts.

The bill also creates a $3.75 billion budget for a new two-part program that will create

See **LOANS,** page 2

Roadblock



LANA HUNT / CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
The Berry Street Initiative continues to frustrate local motorists, with construction closing down two lanes of traffic for the past week.

WEATHER

TODAY: Sunny, 68/48
THURSDAY: Partly Cloudy, 72/52
FRIDAY: T-storms, 71/37

FUN FACT

Actor William Shatner has sold his kidney stone to Goldenpalace.com for $25,000, with the money going to a housing charity.

— NEWS.YAHOO.COM

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NEWS: New representation in the house, page 2
OPINION: Student view on zoning changes, page 3
SPORTS: Rodgers skips draft to stay at TCU, page 6

CONTACT US

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

CAMPUS LINES

- May 2006 Degree Candidates should file their Intent to Graduate forms promptly in the office of their academic dean. Each academic dean's office has a deadline for filing and requires time to process the intent. All names of degree candidates must be submitted to the Registrar by Feb. 10.
- Information concerning important dates and times changes for graduation can be found on the Web page. Go to Academic Programs on Home Page then to Registrar's Office then to Graduation Information.
- Be sure your local address is correct. You can correct this on the registrar's homepage. You will be receiving important information this semester through your TCU e-mail and at your local address.
- Jan. 23 is the last day to enroll in classes for the spring semester. The 23rd is also the last day to drop a class and receive a 100 percent refund.

LOANS

From page 1

"academic competitiveness" grants for low-income freshman and sophomores from academically rigorous high schools.

"The small modifications this bill makes are helpful but too small to offset the deep and harmful $12.7 billion in overall cuts facing student and parent borrowers," Swarthout said. "This bill is truly an outrage to lower and middle class families that hope to send their children to college."

In addition, the new two-part program establishes Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent grants for juniors and seniors studying in mathematics, science and foreign languages, which Bill Frist, the author of the bill and U.S. Senate majority leader, said on his Web site should save students "up to 75 percent on their college education."

Jasmine Harris, the legislative director for the United States Student Association, had a different opinion about the budget cuts in a press release from the PIRGs.

"At a time when the entire country believes we need to make higher education more affordable, Congress is trying to balance the budget on the backs of students," Harris said in a press release from PIRGs. "Even as tuition continues to rise, Congress had decided middle class students and families should pay even more for college."

Scott said, under the current provisions, federal Stafford loans have a variable interest rate with a cap of 8.25 percent, but interest rates have been as low as 4.7 percent. With the new modifications, student interest rates would be fixed at 6.8 percent.

"There will be consequences to these actions, but what are they?" Riddlesperger said. "What's the impact? I don't think we know just yet."

COUNCIL

From page 1

living in the area extend beyond concerns about parking tickets.

The legal limit for unrelated people living in one house is five in Fort Worth. The task force is divided on lowering that limit so it did not make a recommendation to the City Council, Johnson said.

"Homeowners are saying that the number (of unrelated persons in a household) should be reduced," Johnson said. "Five unrelated people to a home is not conducive to a quiet and pleasant neighborhood environment."

Other members, such as realtors and apartment owners, maintain that the limit should remain the same because reducing it is not in their economic interest, Johnson said.

Alex Southern, of the Fort Worth Code Compliance Department, said it is hard to ticket homes with more than five unrelated people because it is nearly impossible to prove whether they are related. Marsha Cowdin, former president of the Frisco Heights Neighborhood Association, lived on Merida Avenue for 40 years. Cowdin said she had to move out of her home in November 2004 because of constant littering and loud parties by her student neighbors.

"The students would have loud parties, block the driveway and litter the streets every weekend, especially Thursday nights," she said. "I reported to the police, but that did not stop them. So I decided to sell the house and move out."

Laura Webb, a resident of Merida Avenue, said the residents on her street are frustrated with loud parties as well. She cited an incident where her next-door neighbor had a party that disturbed her until 5:30 a.m.

While some residents still lament, Paul Diffee, a TCU student living on Corto Avenue, said he and his three roommates received noise violations from the Fort Worth Police Department.

He said locals should realize they live close to a university.

"It is a college neighborhood and residents should accept that this is the way it is," Diffee said.

Bastable, who owns three houses leased by TCU students, said the lack of communication between students and their neighbors is cause for concern.

"The neighbors don't address the problem with the students," Bastable said. "So it escalates and students don't know which neighbor is being bothered."

Greg Hughes, spokesman for TCU-area neighborhoods, said changes should be carefully considered because laws implemented to address specific problems in the TCU area would affect all of Fort Worth, including people who cannot afford to live in a home with fewer than five unrelated residents.

House puts new election system into practice

Representatives say new system will improve SGA

By ANDREA BEARCE
Staff Reporter

A new system of representation in the House of Student Representatives aims to benefit the campus as a whole, John Campbell, House student advocacy representative, said.

One representative for every 90 students is now elected from each college and two representatives come from each class level, Campbell said.

In past years, representatives were elected from their respective residence halls while commuter representatives were chosen to represent students who lived off campus, Campbell said.

The problem arose from the imbalance between on and off-campus representation, Campbell said.

"In the 1960s, most of the student body lived on campus," he said. "The commuter representatives began to outnumber the on-campus representatives."

Commuter representatives had trouble voicing the concerns of their constituents and hardly anybody showed interest in running for the positions, Campbell said.

"The theory is that the elections are supposed to be competitive because when you have people just signing up, you get lower quality," Campbell said. "We had to actually go fish for people."

Campbell said he expects better representation of the whole campus with the new system.

Molly Marten, a sophomore political science major, has held a seat in the House for the past four semesters and said that the new system works better than the old.

"The new system provides a lot more opportunity for representatives to change things within their school and major, as well as TCU as a whole," she said.

Marten also said the transition has benefited the cohesiveness of Student Government Association.

"It seems like we have more representatives that really care about the House and really want to make a change," she said.

Greek representation has drastically dropped because, under the old system, each fraternity or sorority could send a representative to the House through the organization's residence hall, Campbell said.Tori Hutchens, elections and regulations chairwoman, assured that Greek influence will be drawn from other sources.

"We still have Greek involvement, it's just coming from the colleges instead of each individual residence hall," she said.

Three of the 56 representative positions remain open and are expected to fill during elections tentatively set for the next week, Marten said.

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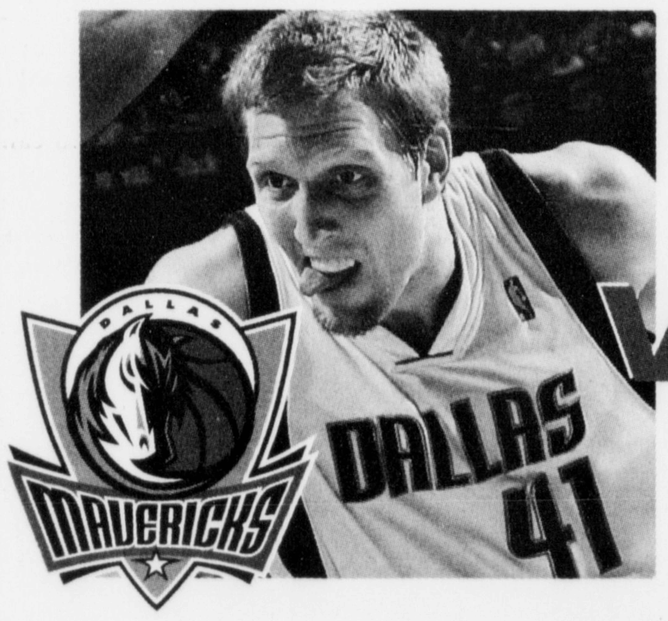
MAVS U

$10.00 For Premium Upper Level Tickets
(SAVINGS UP TO $25 PER TICKET)

Starting two hours before any weekday (Mon-Fri) home game, bring your current college ID to the North Box Office at American Airlines Center and purchase Premium Upper Level Seats at student prices.



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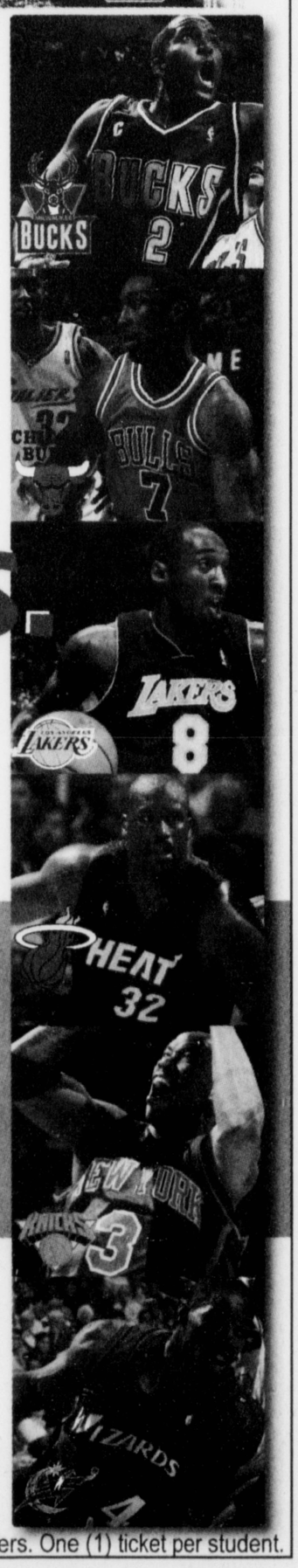

UPCOMING MAVS U GAMES

January
Mon., 16th - 7:30PM - Milwaukee Bucks
Tues., 31st - 7:30PM - Chicago Bulls
February
Tues., 7th - 7:30PM - Los Angeles Lakers
Thur., 9th - 7:00PM - Miami Heat
Mon., 13th - 7:30PM - New York Knicks
Wed., 15th - 8:00PM - Washington Wizards

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- Carports*
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- Barbecue Grills
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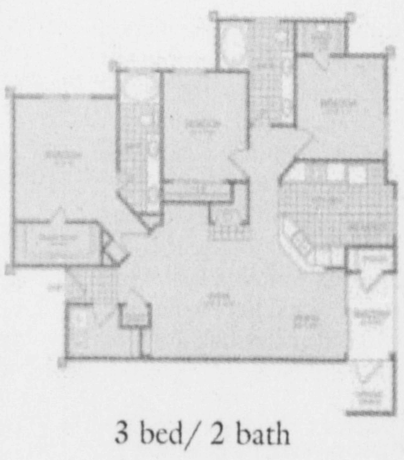
*Optional or in Select Homes

2 bed/ 2 bath



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

Editor in Chief: Courtney Reese
Managing Editor: Brian Chatman
Associate Editor: Adrienne Lang
News Editor: Amy Hallford
News Editor: Mike Dwyer
Opinion Editor: Stephanie Weaver

Sports Editor: Travis Stewart
Features Editor: Darren White
Photo Editor: Ty Halasz
Chief Photographer: Lana Hunt
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TV SLOWS SEX LIFE...

Your bedroom TV may be cutting your sex life in half, an Italian study sugests. Reuters reports that couples with bedroom TVs had sex four times a month instead of the average, eight. Is the "Tonight Show" really worth it?

THE SKIFF VIEW

New bill may cause more debt

Money is a sensitive subject for many college students — from budgeting a monthly allowance to having a regular job and paying for living and school expenses. On July 1, students and their families may face one more hiccup when it comes to managing their finances.

Although the director of financial aid at TCU said lenders will be most affected by a bill recently passed by the Senate to cut $12.7 million from federal student loan programs over the next five years, many worry students and families will be burdened with even more college-related debt. The new legislation will not reduce the number of students eligible for loans, but it will increase interest rates on student and parent loans.

The interest rate on Stafford loans, which are popular because students don't have to demonstrate need in order to qualify, will be fixed at 6.8 percent rate. This is a noticeable difference when compared to the current system, where rates are as low as 4.7 percent. Presently, interest rates on Stafford loans fluctuate and are reset annually depending on the market.

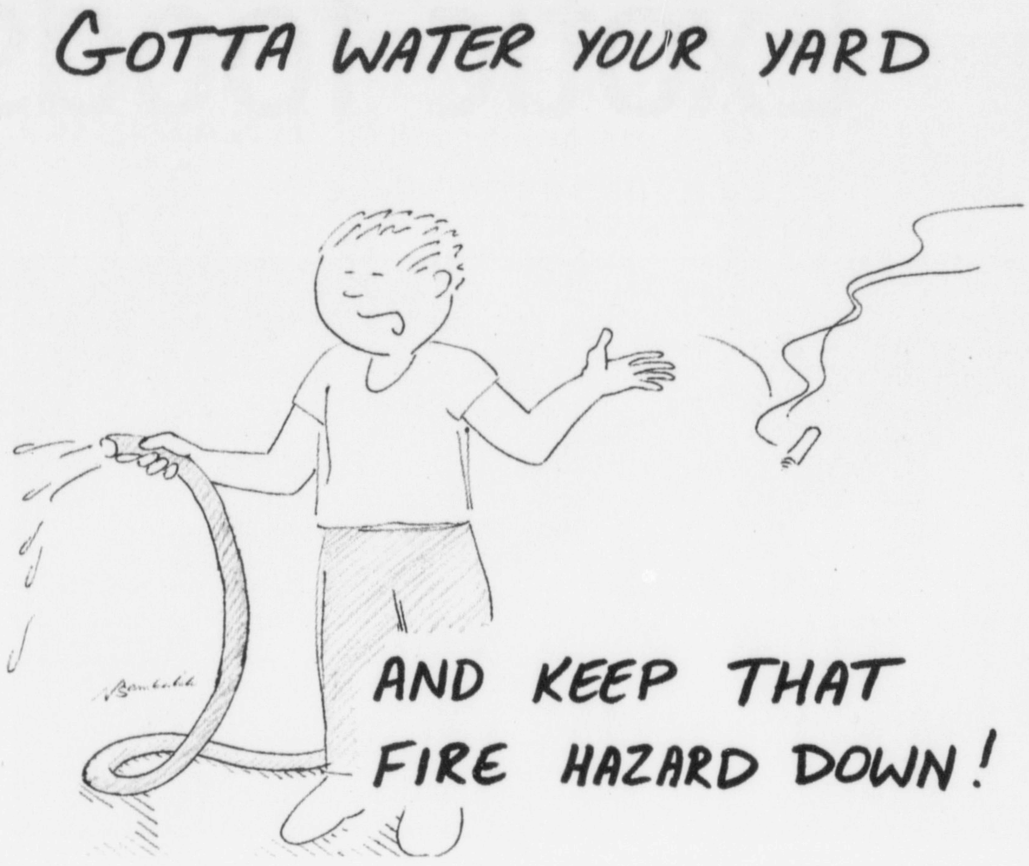
In addition, parent loans for undergraduate students, also known at PLUS loans, would have a fixed interest rate of 8.5 percent. Like the Stafford, Rates for PLUS loans are currently as low as 6.1 percent. The new legislation would bring interest rates for the PLUS loans to just under the current 9 percent cap, making parent loans far less attractive.

These new changes are coming at a time when tuition bills across the nation have been on the rise, and more students and families are struggling to keep up with the increases. According to the Wall Street Journal, private-college tuition and fees have increased by 37 percent over the past decade, and public tuition has increased by 54 percent.

Whether students and their families will be directly affected by the new legislation can only be determined over time, but the fixed interest rates would suggest they will soon feel the pinch.

Editor in Chief Courtney Reese for the editorial board

NEWSREAL • NICHOLAS SAMBALUK



TCU Theatre deserves more acknowledgement

As the curtain fell on the last production of the TCU Theatre fall season, the actors, actresses, sound and set technicians, and costume designers breathed a sigh of relief knowing that for another semester they had put on three successful shows for the TCU community.

COMMENTARY

Michael Bishop

TCU Theatre, now in its 61st season, is not your average collegiate theater department.

The amount of work put into each show is evident through the acting, costumes and set design.

It takes around five to six weeks to build each of the sets, sew the costumes and rehearse for opening night.

This level of dedication is unfortunately not witnessed by the majority of the TCU campus.

Although TCU students fill the majority of the seats, Student Box Office Manager Becca Nordeen said many of them attend because they are required to by a class.

Survey of Theatre Arts requires students to attend two of the three shows during the semester. Theatre arts majors and minors often attend performances.

Nordeen said for "Proof," the first show of the season, 80 percent to 90 percent of all tickets went to TCU students, with roughly 10 percent of that total going to students not affiliated with either the survey class or the theatre curriculum. The other tickets went to the families of the actors and the general public.

There is an option, however, for the public to increase their chances of getting into a performance. A group called "First Nighters" meets on the night of the first show, and has dinner with the director. They then proceed to the theatre to watch the performance.

Although many of its members have donated to the department, it does not exclude any potential members.

The box office normally opens two weeks prior to the last show, and the performances are usually sold out by the end of the first week.

For "You Can't Take It With You," the theatre department's first production in the newly renovated Buschman Theatre, all six performances were sold out by the end of the second day.

"It sold out astronomically fast," Nordeen said.

There was such a demand to see this play that a new performance was added and the dress rehearsal was open to the public.

Even with the additional performances, it's still difficult to get into the show.

There are several reasons for this:

One is scheduling. Because Ed Landreth Hall Auditorium, Hayes Theatre and Buschman Theatre all share the same backstage area, care has to be taken to not schedule anything for the other two venues during a performance.

Theater Performances

- **Misalliance**
  By George Bernard Shaw
  7:30 p.m. March 1–3
  2:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. March 4
  7:30 p.m. March 5
- **Eleemosynary**
  By Lee Blessing
  5:30 p.m. March 30-31
  2:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. April 1
- **Cabaret**
  Music by John Kander
  Lyrics by Fred Ebb
  Book by Joe Masteroff
  7:30 p.m. April 26-28
  2:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. April 29
  2:30 p.m. April 30

The music and theatre departments have made concessions for each other in the past.

Another reason is the seating capacity of each theatre. The Hayes Theatre can seat up to 250 people, while Buschman Theatre can only hold 127 people. For studio performances, the maximum capacity is 75.

Nordeen said students have been turned away, even those in a class.

Forty-five minutes before each performance a wait list is started for those who do not have tickets. Most of the time, they are able to get everyone on the wait list in because some people who have tickets decide not to show up.

No matter how you get in to see these productions, rest assured that you will be seeing a quality performance. Theatre TCU conducts its shows on such a professional level that for the cast and crew, it can feel like it consumes their lives during the production. However, most will not complain about the amount of time spent preparing. The members of the cast and crew enjoy what they are doing.

The actors, actresses, set designers and costume designers are often focused on producing a quality play.

"Their dedication, talent and energy are at a very professional level," Nordeen said.

Due to scheduling with the music department, among other things, it is unlikely that the theatre department will be able to add additional performances for each of its shows.

Therefore, anyone who wants to see a performance needs to pay attention to the upcoming schedule of performances and call the box office early for tickets. If that doesn't work, there is always the option of showing up 45 minutes prior to curtain and being put on the wait list.

Everyone should make the effort, at least once, to see a theatre performance. The experience will often be one to remember.

Michael Bishop is a junior news-editorial journalism major from Providence, N.C.

Zoning grabs students by the wallet

The City of Fort Worth has invited the public to comment at 7 p.m. today right here at the Kelly Alumni Center on a growing controversy affecting students. The issues concern everyone in Fort Worth, but TCU students have special reason to attend.

COMMENTARY

Douglas Lucas

Swords will cross over several proposed changes to the city's zoning ordinance. Most punitive to TCU students, if implemented, would be the city-wide reduction in the number of unrelated persons permitted to live together on a property lot zoned with an A classification, as well as the rezoning of University Place neighborhood to A-5 or "single-family" status, which would make it more difficult for tenants to lease in the TCU area.

The effect? Students who enjoy the decades-old practice of renting near our university would find arranging leases far more impractical and problematic.

University Place is the residential block just north of campus. Some of its residents who favor the zoning change have spoken quite haughty words against students.

At the Sept. 14 zoning meeting discussing the change, University Place resident Katherine Blair said the University Christian Church hopes to tear down a building and replace it with either a parking lot or student housing, which advocates of the rezoning also don't want, Blair said. Then she added: "But better parking lots than students." Don Houk, senior director of operations at UCC, has since noted that the church has never sought to house TCU students.

When my neighbor learned TCU students would rent another house on our street, he exclaimed, "Shit!" and stomped his feet. Gesturing to the western side of University Drive, he explained that TCU students ruin neighborhoods. However, he told me, he would rent to Brite Divinity students, since "they're the only ones I trust."

Prompted by neighborhoods across Fort Worth expressing concerns about, among other complaints, loud parties, decreasing home values and houses with an "excessive number of tenants and related guests," the city's Unrelated Persons & Renters' Registration Task Force discussed strategies to cut down on the number of unrelated persons it will allow to live together in residential neighborhoods. That number currently stands at five to each house; the Supreme Court has upheld cities reducing the number all the way down to two to each house.

If the City Council accepts the Task Force's recommendations for the zoning ordinance, individuals not related by blood, adoption or marriage could no longer live together in groups higher than the new number the city deems (two, three or four). This change could easily increase off-campus housing costs and make living with friends more difficult.

According to a handout given by the City of Fort Worth's Planning Department, City Councilwoman Wendy Davis has proposed a "text amendment" to the City's Zoning Ordinance for "A-5" zoned lots (among others). Many properties around TCU have garage apartments where students live; her amendment would only allow five unrelated persons per lot instead of five in each building per lot.

Again, with the allowed number of unrelated tenants allowed reduced, rent would rise and off-campus students would face difficulties planning group living arrangements for groups.

These three proposed changes — rezoning University Place, reducing the number of unrelated persons permitted to live together, and the text amendment — harm TCU students. Since by City charter the latter two changes must take place citywide, others outside University Place also risk seeing living arrangements fall apart: Non-TCU individuals rooming together to save housing costs and, according to Fernando Costa, Planning Director for Fort Worth, the disabled who live together in "personal care homes" to assist one another.

Right now the battle is being fought only by a few: landlords, people with garage apartments and neighborhood associations, but these are community issues. It's not fair that responsible landlords and law-abiding students suffer for the misdeeds of other landlords and students — that's discrimination by matriculation status. Students need to make their presence known before it is too late. If you cannot make the public meeting tonight, the city will hold another meeting on these proposed zoning ordinance changes at 7 p.m. Jan. 26 in the Deborah Beggs Moncrief Garden Center at the Botanic Garden.

Douglas Lucas is a senior English and philosophy major from Fort Worth.

Less demanding majors rewarded

Many students base their decision of where to attend college on which school offers them the best scholarship.

In an effort to recruit the best and brightest, the University of Utah offers merit-based scholarships to any graduating senior with at least a 28 ACT score and a 3.9 GPA.

Unfortunately, Utah cannot afford to have all these students keep their scholarships for four years of education. They are counting on a certain number of these students losing their scholarships by not maintaining the required GPA. Statistically speaking, 30 percent of students on Honors at Entrance scholarships will lose them in their first year at school.

In order to keep an Honors at Entrance scholarship, a student must maintain a 3.7 cumulative GPA. If students fall below the requirement, they are sometimes eligible to appeal for a probationary semester.

Why is it that a 3.7 GPA was chosen as the blanket standard of excellence, regardless of the department in which a student is enrolled? We all know that some majors are simply harder than others. This is why, when it comes time to award Latin honors at graduation, such as summa cum laude, etc., every department evaluates its graduates' GPAs individually.

Any student on a scholarship soon realizes the benefits of creating an easy class schedule to maintain the required GPA. Rather than taking hard sciences or other difficult classes, students who wish to ensure the survival of their tuition waivers enroll in classes that are not as challenging or rigorous.

There is something counterintuitive in an institution of higher learning rewarding intelligent students for underachieving. Rather than punishing students for taking a class load that is too difficult, Utah should give more leeway to students who challenge themselves academically.

After all, a 3.7 GPA is an A-average; should students who achieve a B+ average in physics, anatomy and chemistry really be punished for having sub-standard grades?

Utah should be in the business of educating students, yet it is promoting a system that rewards students for dumbing themselves down.

This is a staff editorial from the Daily Utah Chronicle at the University of Utah. This column was distributed by U-Wire.

COURTNEY REESE
MIKE DWYER
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ENTERTAINMENT ON THURSDAY
A symphony hall, a goofball, and some basketball–find out what's on the entertainment radar for the new year with The Skiff's "Six in '06."

Exotic foods made local

Spice International Cafe

PHOTOS BY LANA HUNT / CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Located adjacent to Snookies, Spice International Cafe brings a worldly atmosphere just around the corner from the TCU campus.

Reasonably-priced international foods around the corner

By ANDREA BEARCE
Staff Reporter

In Fort Worth's meat and potato desert, Spice International Cafe is an oasis for the palate.

The menu offers multinational selections inspired by a mom and pop duo who own and cook in the cafe.

Located next to Snookies Bar and Grill, Spice is a fantastic restaurant to start the night.

Soft fabrics, light colors and bamboo huts create a kitschy yet casual setting for the timely waiters to ebb and flow with tasty tapas ($3-$6) of Brazilian chicken and fried calamari. Many tables are secluded behind draped beads, giving an ambient vibe, while world music plays softly in the background.

Affordable pricing for elegant dining goes a long way at Spice. Entrees of Spanish chicken in saffron almond sauce and Indian curry vegetables are rich with global influence and are offered in lunch ($7-$9) and dinner-sized portions ($8-$12).

The Moroccan lamb with lemon and olives was lackluster in its range of flavors, but the Peruvian shrimp cocktail revived my appetite.

The wait staff was eager to make wine recommendations and did not rush the bill.

The desserts ($5-$6) are a must, and chocolate lovers will appreciate the dense richness of the chocolate toffee Kahlua mousse.

For light lunches, a la carte salads ($3-$5) and mixed skewers ($4-$5) are a cheap and flavorful option.

Specials are not offered, but the ever-changing menu is created to match the season and promise an ethnic tour de taste.

Having opened its doors in August 2005, Spice has a bit of refinement to undergo but is well on its way to becoming a Hulen Street favorite.

Reservations are recommended but not required for Friday and Saturday evenings.

Spice is located at 2747 S. Hulen St.; (817) 922-0809.

Zam Zam Cafe

Mediterranean eatery offers more than just average meal

By Bre'anna Emmitt
Staff Reporter

Tucked away on the corner of Berry Street and McCart Avenue sits Zam Zam Cafe, a small Mediterranean eatery with a surprisingly extensive menu.

Zam Zam's menu offers nearly everything a starving college student is, in fact, starving for — and for a reasonable price.

Co-owner Hossein Tabaei, who previously owned the Dunkin' Donuts and Baskin-Robbins restaurants that once occupied Zam Zam's spot, started the restaurant so he could offer more products than the franchises would allow.

"Whatever you like, we have it: breakfast, lunch, dinner, ice cream, smoothies, cappuccino," Tabaei said. "We serve it all."

If you're on a breakfast run, stop in for donuts (59 cents) and coffee (89 cents) — or choose from one of Zam Zam's omelets ($4-$5). For lunch, try a gyro ($4.99), burger ($2.39) or stick to that New Year's diet by ordering the Zam Zam salad ($3.19).

Zam Zam is also open for dinner, so when the sun is low, you can enjoy the chicken Parmesan ($4.99) or grilled trout ($6.50).

Zam Zam offers better quality and 30 percent lower prices than its competitors, so TCU students can afford to eat out more often, Tabaei said.

And as far as paying goes, bring your plastic, because Zam Zam Cafe not only offers a 10 percent student discount but also accepts all major credit cards, debit cards, gift cards and, of course, cash, but sorry, no personal checks or bills larger than $20.

As for the ambience, Zam Zam hits the nail on the head when it comes to a small cafe near a college campus.

Its casual atmosphere is brightly decorated in eye-catching colors. The design concept was his own, but Tabaei consulted many friends and restaurant owners to get the perfect touch, he said.

Tabaei said he made sure to decorate the cafe using TCU colors and is excited to fly a TCU flag at the restaurant.

If sporting TCU colors isn't enough to make you run to support the local cafe, maybe the free wireless Internet that is on its way will lure you in.

Zam Zam Cafe is open daily from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and will soon offer international groceries as well.

Tabaei said he plans to open the other side of the building in two months. The international grocery store will specialize in Greek, Indian and other ethnic foods.

Tabaei said "zam zam" is a common saying in the Middle East that means "pure water." Zam Zam Cafe is a little oasis — a small cafe that has the potential to be a tasty and affordable hangout for TCU students.

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TODAY IN HISTORY

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by Keith Knight

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Directions:

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see tomorrow's paper for the answers to today's Sudoku puzzle

9	1	2	8	4	6	3	5	7
5	8	6	1	3	7	2	9	4
7	4	3	2	5	9	6	8	1
4	3	9	5	6	2	1	7	8
8	2	1	7	9	3	4	6	5
6	5	7	4	1	8	9	2	3
1	9	4	6	8	5	7	3	2
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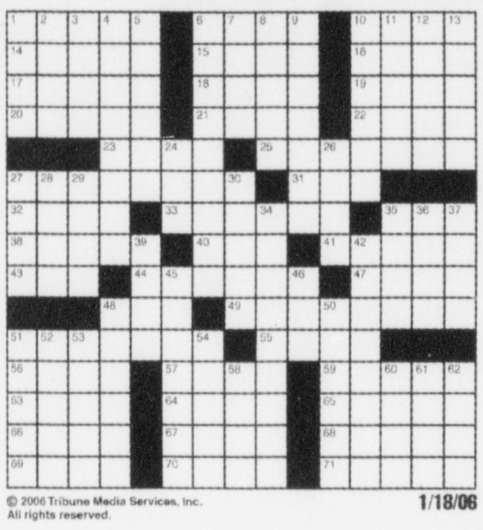

ACROSS
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6 Carson's predecessor
10 Went down
14 Outer covering
15 Complexion problem
16 Pizza box?
17 Flick
18 Monopoly payment
19 Uncommon
20 Mace or mint
21 Russian ruler
22 Sharp decline
23 Lendl of tennis
25 Literary comparisons
27 Joshed
31 Lend a hand
32 Chills and fever
33 Fishes using setlines
35 Hrs. in Seattle
38 Proceeds
40 Period
41 Dispatched biblical-style
43 Mormon ltrs.
44 Seniors
47 Writer Murdoch
48 GPs' org.
49 Wardrobe assistants
51 Bike rider
55 MP's pursuit
56 Damage
57 Connery of Bond films
59 Caesar's tongue
63 Neil Young song
64 Kiln
65 Put up with
66 May celebrants
67 HOMES part
68 String quartet member
69 Bard
70 Couple
71 Actress Barkin

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1 Distinctive doctrines
2 Small store
3 Jeans maker
4 Educed
5 Pipe fitting
6 Teamed up
7 High cards
8 Paquin and Pavlova
9 Second time in court
10 Morally degraded
11 Be of use
12 Brazenness
13 Genuflection joints
24 Museum purchase
26 Hit's counterpart
27 Wail
28 Advanced to maturity
29 Sisters
30 Took the plunge
34 Deserved
35 Small skin opening
36 Kind of crazy?
37 Thomas Hardy heroine
39 Big rig
42 Tag incorrectly
45 Roped
46 Stitch together
48 Not quite
50 Consolation
51 Chew noisily
52 Bumpkin
53 Lawbreaking
54 Inclined to weep
58 Gobi Desert site
60 Turn soil
61 Waste time
62 Inert gas

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1/18/06

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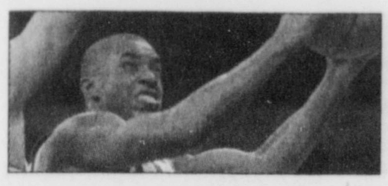


TODAY IN SPORTS

Mens' basketball play San Diego State (10-6, 3-1) at 7 p.m. tonight at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum. Check tomorrow's sports page for full game coverage.

Player: Rodgers to return

Receiver to forgo draft, source says

By TRAVIS STEWART
Sports Editor

After seven days of speculation and second-guessing, one Horned Frog football player says the team will be returning one of its most dangerous weapons.

Junior wide receiver Cory Rodgers, just one week after he told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that he was declaring himself eligible for the NFL Draft, has decided to return to TCU for his senior season, a team source said Tuesday.

Junior safety Eric Buchanan said Rodgers told him Tuesday that after further considering his options, Rodgers decided to return to his teammates and finish the remaining hours on his degree plan.

"He just said that he didn't really want to leave his friends here," Buchanan said. "He's close to graduating ... he's just a few hours short from completing his degree."

Buchanan said Rodgers, who was projected to be a third- or fourth-round pick, did not factor his draft status into his decision.

"He was real comfortable with his position," Buchanan said. "He told me that didn't have anything to do with it."

Aside from graduating, Buchanan said Rodgers may also better himself as a player by coming back.

"I think he'll vastly improve," Buchanan said. "He can better his receiving skills; he'll be doing himself a favor by returning."

As last season's leader in receptions, receiving yards and receiving touchdowns, Rodgers will have another shot at breaking several TCU records by returning for his senior year. Rodgers is currently tied for the school record in receiving touchdowns (17) and is 32 receptions behind Kelly Blackwell's record of 181.

Although he is a dangerous receiver, Buchanan said, the team is most glad to have Rodgers back as a punt and kick returner, where he was selected as a 2nd-team All American. Rodgers returned two kickoffs for touchdowns last season.

Buchanan said that despite the uncertainties surrounding the past week, he respects Rodgers' new decision.

"This is a major part in his life," Buchanan said. "When it comes right down to it, he's just trying to make the right choice. Sometimes the first choice isn't always the right one."

Rodgers did not return phone calls, and coaches were not made available to comment on the matter.

STEPHEN SPILLMAN / File Photo

After making the decision to forego his collegiate eligibility and enter the NFL draft, junior wide receiver Cory Rodgers announced that he will remain at TCU.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Frogs looking to improve

By DARREN WHITE
Features Editor

Men's basketball head coach Neil Dougherty said he is hoping the Horned Frogs can reverse their season before it's too late.

"We're struggling with wins," Dougherty said, "but we're working hard to play better."

The Horned Frogs are 0-3 in conference play and 4-13 overall. Despite their losing record, Dougherty said, the point differential has been consistently small.

"The gap between winning and losing in a lot of our games is a thin one," Dougherty said. "For example, the New Mexico game was a two-point game."

Statistics show, however, that the Frogs' season has been anything but consistent. For every game the Frogs have lost by five points or less (four times), they have lost another by more than 15. For every game TCU scored more than 75 points (three times), it have scored less than 50 in another game.

The inconsistent offense has been a major source of concern for the team, Dougherty said. So far this year, the Frogs have shot 35.1 percent from the field, which ranks last in the conference.

"We have not shot the ball well," Dougherty said.

The Frogs have focused on shooting the ball better in practice, Dougherty said, as well as providing more shot attempts for more players.

"We've worked more and more shooting into practice," he said. "We're trying to put more people where they can be successful."

Frustration also affects shots, Dougherty said.

"A lot of it can be mental," he said. "All it takes is one night of good shots to turn it around."

The Frogs are also trying to pull down more offensive rebounds as well as cut down on turnovers, Dougherty said.

"It's been a number of things," Dougherty said. "It's been a tough schedule for a young team."

The high level of competition in the Mountain West Conference also makes for better play, Dougherty said.

"There's not a whole lot of difference between who's up and who's down on any week," Dougherty said.

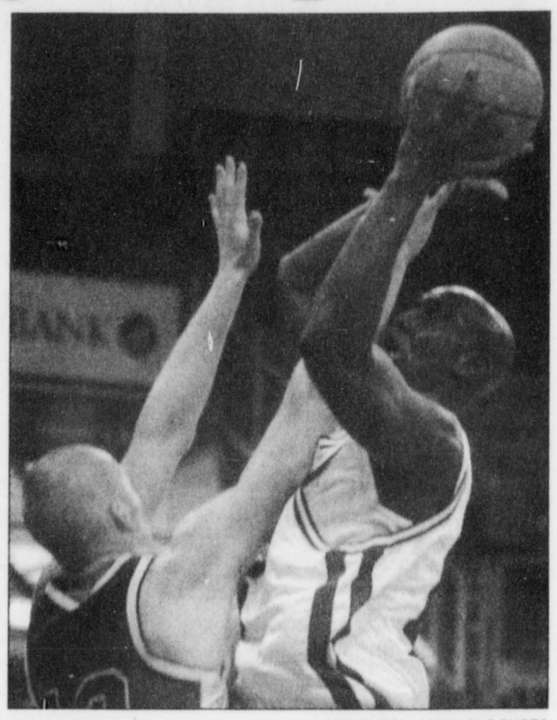
Although the Frogs have struggled as a team, several individual players have posted impressive numbers.

Senior guard Nile Murry has averaged 16.4 points per game, placing him third in the MWC. Senior forward Judson Stubbs has brought down 6.9 rebounds a game, putting him fifth in the conference.

Through the season, Dougherty said, the team has remained positive.

"The group has handled it well," Dougherty said. "The players are working very hard."

Dougherty, who has not allowed players to talk to the media following a 75-49 loss to Air Force on Saturday, was the only team source made available for comment.



STEVEN SPILLMAN / FILE PHOTO

The men's basketball team will take on San Diego State tonight at 7 p.m. in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

Coach cuts off media access to players

By TRAVIS STEWART
Sports Editor

TCU men's basketball coach Neil Dougherty has temporarily suspended player availability to the media following Saturday's 75-49 loss to Air Force. Dougherty said player-media relations will be re-evaluated after tonight's game against San Diego State.

"They've gone through a lot," Dougherty said. "It's not that they've been shut off, but as a coach, sometimes I feel the need to protect my players."

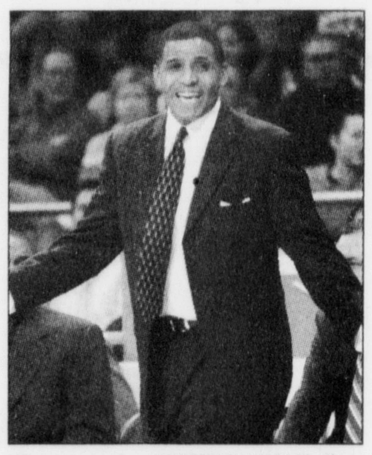
Kristie Le, associate director of media relations, said that although the decision was ultimately Dougherty's, players were ambivalent enough Saturday about speaking to the media that Dougherty chose to let several days pass before they could be made available for comment again.

Dougherty said he hopes the suspension will be short, but he cannot promise Wednesday's game will bring it to an end.

"I don't want it to last long," Dougherty said. "The sooner the better, maybe after we get our next win."

Dougherty said some media outlets have alienated players by "asking stupid questions," and he feels compelled to handle all responses to the media regarding the team's poor play. Dougherty said the current suspension is not about personal feeling of negativity.

"I've said it since day one," Dougherty said. "I will always work with the media and always try and help. But I have to try and help the kids a little bit, too."



ANDREW CHAVEZ / File Photo

Men's basketball head coach Neil Dougherty silenced players following Saturday's 75-49 loss to Air Force.

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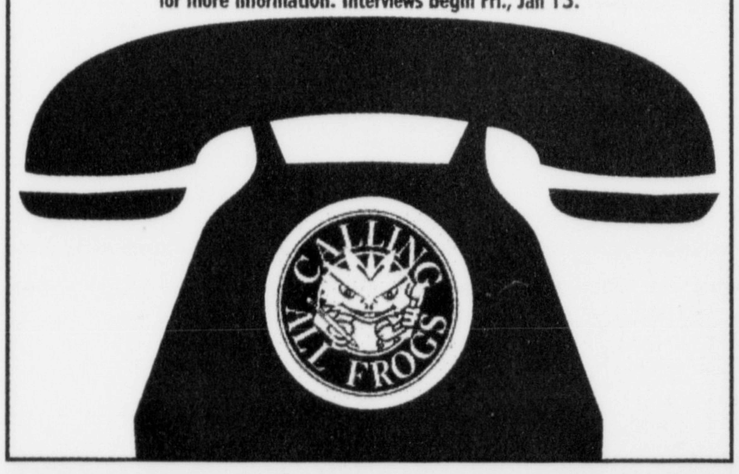
Contact Amy Daniel: a.daniel@tcu.edu or 817.257.6492
for more information. Interviews begin Fri., Jan 13.



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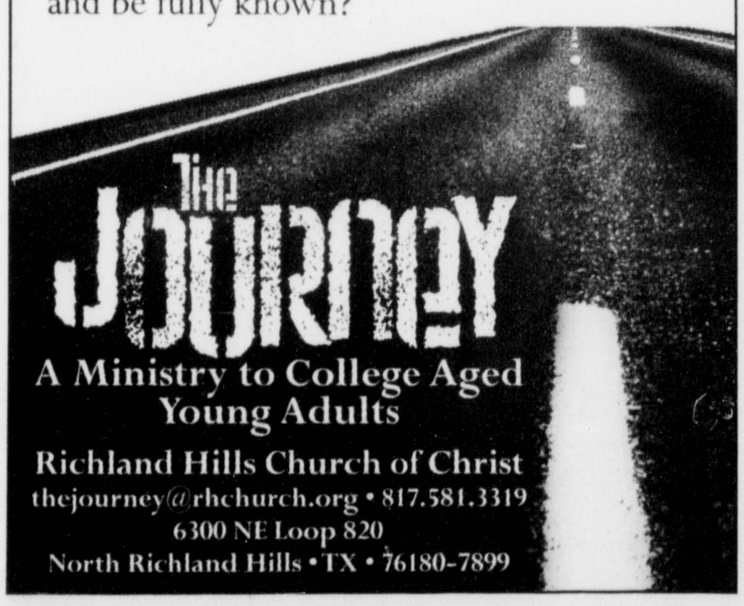

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