



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.



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LOCAL EATS

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

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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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
— INSIDHIGHEDER.COM

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

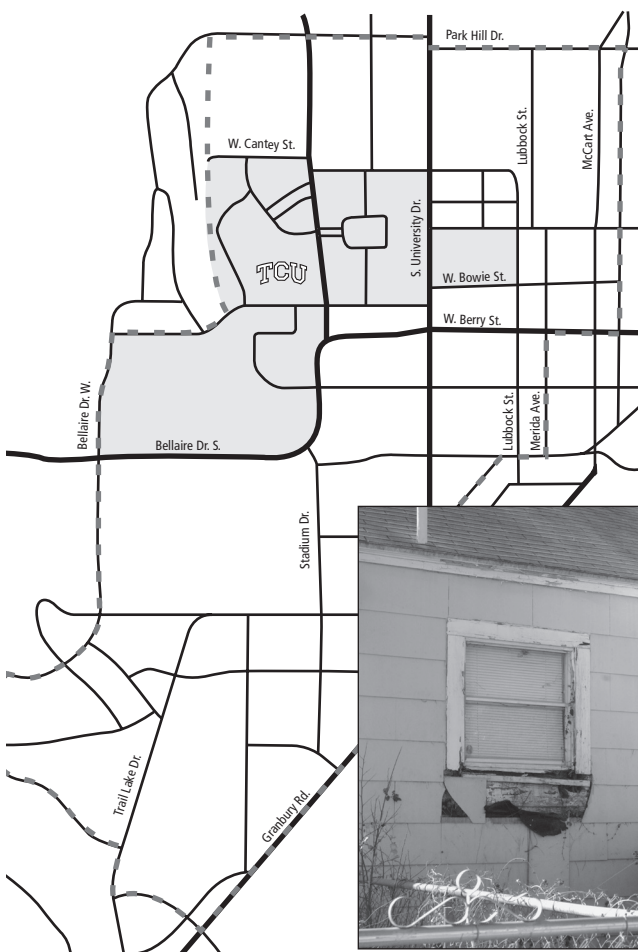
TCU employees may retrieve their Form W-2 by accessing WWW.GETMYW2.COM/TCU and entering their Social Security number and date of birth.

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.

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 brunt 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

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