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Wednesday, August 24, 2005

Vol. 103 • Issue 1 • Fort Worth, Texas

Former Horned Frog track athlete sues university

Hernandez files suit regarding denial of transfer request

By RYAN THOMAS
Staff Reporter

TCU has until the end of the week to respond to a lawsuit recently filed by an award-winning athlete and former student, according to the Tar-

rant County District Clerk's Office.

In the lawsuit, Jacob Hernandez alleges TCU violated its own policy by denying his request to transfer to the University of Texas Track and Field program.

Hernandez filed the lawsuit Aug. 2, and TCU, the defendant, has 20 days after the first Monday the lawsuit was filed to respond, according to the clerk's office.

TCU's athletics administration officials would not comment on the case because it is a pending litigation.

According to the lawsuit, the first time Hernandez requested to transfer to Texas, he was denied the release because Texas was ranked in the Top 15.

According to the TCU Student-Athlete handbook, a student-athlete is not allowed to transfer to an institution that



Hernandez

is ranked in the Top 15 in a sport-specific poll. Weeks later, Texas dropped from the Top 15, and Hernandez requested to transfer to Texas again. His request was denied for the second time, according to the lawsuit.

Hernandez's lawyer, Shelby

Sharpe, said based on TCU's "unwritten policy," only one request is permitted for a university. Texas already made its one request for Hernandez. TCU's transfer policy does not limit the number of times a student-athlete can request to be released.

According to NCAA rules, a student-athlete can be released from a four-year institution to another four-year institution once, as an exemption.

TCU APPEALS PROCESS

Extra Info

1. The student-athlete discusses with the head coach his intentions to transfer.
2. The student-athlete appeals to the head of the athletics department.
3. The student-athlete appeals to the University Appeals Committee.

Marc Evans, TCU's director of athletics compliance, would not comment on the specified more on TRACK, page 2

Rock On



Emily Goodson / Photo Editor

The sun slants across the circular stone sculpture in front of the Ballet Building on Monday. R. Nowell Donovan (above), vice chancellor for academic affairs, commissioned the sculpture as a gift to TCU.

Vice Chancellor donates rock formation to serve as gathering place for students, faculty

By LESLIE WINCHELL
Staff Reporter

Whether it is for a rock concert or to hold debates, there is a new gathering place for students on campus.

The Megalith rock formation in front of the Bailey Building is designed to draw together students and faculty and serve as a circle of knowledge, said Nowell Donovan, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

"A university is after knowledge and so are people," Don-

ovan said. "It's a great catalyst for creativity and is designed to be a circle of truth."

The rock formation is a replica of an existing formation in the British Isles. The project was funded by Donovan and cost a couple thousand dollars, he said. It will be used to give students an alternative learning space and expand TCU's global presence, Donovan said.

Kay Stevens, associate professor in the School of Education, said, "A lot of people are

thinking, what the heck are these rocks?"

But, she said it is a great art addition to the campus.

Under the right weather and bug conditions, Stevens said she would con-

sider holding class inside the rock formation.

"I would love for the fine arts department to perform plays in the Megalith or for the political science department to host debates inside."

Nowell Donovan
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

on the lawn.

"I would love for the fine arts department to perform plays in the Megalith or for the political science department to host debates inside," Donovan said. "It would also be great space to hold a 'rock concert.'"

Junior Tricia Tedford, a member of TCU's percussion band, said she thought it would be "cool" to have concerts in the rock formation and it may draw more people to attend if it was outside.

The people that constructed these formations in the British Isles used them to track the behavior of the moon.

The Recumbent, or center, stone is in the exact spot the moon sets, Donovan said.

"The recumbent stone is to be used as the teacher stone," he said. "All the other stones decrease in height away from the teacher stone."

There are eight stones that form the circle along with three outlier stones. Each out-

more on STONE, page 2

New AD aims to leave mark

Morrison plans to 'make a few tweaks'

By TRAVIS STEWART
Staff Reporter

In a time when the world of sports is so concerned with the words "I," "Me" and "You," TCU seems to have found an individual who still knows the meaning of "We."

Daniel Morrison Jr., TCU's new athletics director, has expectations set far beyond the simple science of team records and goal differentials.

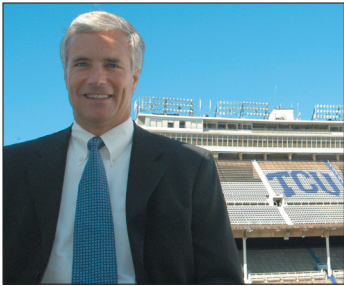
"Things are already working pretty well here. We just need to make a few tweaks," Morrison said. "We just want to help young athletes reach their abilities."

Morrison is no strang-

er to team athletics — he was a four-year letterman in basketball at South Carolina's Wofford College. His take, however, is a little less glamorous.

"I wasn't very good," Morrison said with a laugh. "When you get called scrappy, or energetic, you know you're probably not very good. But I loved it. It was a really great experience."

Morrison has an extensive history in both athletics and administration, and has filled a variety of jobs en route to his recent hiring, including four years as commissioner of the Southern Conference. Despite the admirable résumé, Morrison is quick to pass the torch of his success on



Emily Goodson / Photo Editor
Daniel Morrison began his job as TCU athletics director this semester. Morrison was commissioner of the Southern Conference before moving to Fort Worth in July.

to others.

"I've been blessed to work with really good people," Morrison said. "Coaches, bosses ... to be honest, I've never felt like I've had a job. I've loved every job I've had."

more on AD, page 2

Overcrowding remains an issue this fall

Students awaiting dorm rooms reside in hall lounges

By RACHEL COX
Staff Reporter

More than 20 students found themselves still living in residence hall lounges Tuesday, and university officials say the overcrowding issue may not be resolved until 2007 when a new res-

EXTRA INFO

Men

Clark Hall: 3

Women

Colby Hall: 6

Wiggins Hall: 4

Coed

Brachman Hall: 9

Moncrief Hall: 3

idence hall opens in Worth Hills.

Robin Williamson, associate director of Residential Services, said there are students living in the lounges of Brachman, Clark, Colby, Moncrief and Wiggins halls.

"We make sure that they all have the same furniture, Internet and cable as any other regular dorm," Williamson said. "Some even have their own kitchen, and in the Clark lounge the students have Micro Fridges. Our main goal is to make the students comfortable."

The rooms are also under the same safety precautions as the rest of the hall, and they all have the adequate amount of smoke detectors, she said.

Chase Gentry, a freshman marketing major, lives in the Clark lounge with two other students and said he is comfortable living in the lounge.

Some students, such as Gentry, really like the lounges and do not want to move out. They are larger in size, and the students are also paying a discounted amount for their housing bill, said senior kinesiology major Mary Power, a resident assistant in Colby.

Williamson said the discount varies from hall to hall, but said in Colby, a standard double dormitory costs \$2,037, and the students who are living in the lounges are paying \$1,500.

Although living in a lounge more on CROWDING, page 2