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Pablo Martinez Monsivais / Associated Press
Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid follows Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers on Monday. President Bush nominated Miers to the Supreme Court to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Miers' nomination has some concerned

Bush selects Supreme Court nominee with no judicial experience

By JENNIFER BOONE
Staff Reporter

President Bush announced Monday his nomination of longtime campaign supporter and White House counsel Harriet Miers as a Supreme Court justice despite her having no judicial experience.

Miers' nomination could go either way, said Joanne Connor Green, associate professor of political science.

A number of groups are already

concerned about the fact that Miers has not served as a judge prior to the nomination, Green said.

"Members of Congress expressed how important it is for someone to have had trial experience," Green said.

One-third of all justices appointed to the Supreme Court had no prior judicial record, said James Riddlesperger, chairman of the political science department.

Senior political science major Austin Hardwick said it seems like the president knew he could not push through another very conservative nominee as he did with John Roberts.

"He picked a crowd pleaser," Hardwick said. "He wanted some-

one he could get through with the least amount of resistance."

Little is known publicly about Miers' position on abortion, an issue of importance to outside groups on both ends of the political spectrum.

Riddlesperger said the lack of a judicial record could help Miers' more than it could hurt her because there is no paper trail.

"Sometimes, it is difficult to project how appointees without judicial experience might vote on constitutional issues," Riddlesperger said.

When David Souter was appointed to the Supreme Court, many thought he would be more conservative than he was. Instead, Souter

has turned out to be relatively liberal, Riddlesperger said.

"(Miers) is just another personal friend," said sophomore political science major Paige McCord.

To rebut any charges of preferential treatment, the White House produced statistics showing that 10 of the 34 justices appointed since 1933 had worked for the president who picked them.

McCord said Miers' background makes her a worthy nominee but does not think she is going to replace Sandra Day O'Connor as a swing vote.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said the president had seriously considered 12 to 15 con-

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Service focuses on other 'members of family'

Blessing of pets honors monk, saint of animals

By JENNIFER BICKERSTAFF
Staff Reporter

Calling all creatures: TCU is holding its first Blessing of the Animals ceremony at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday.

Students, faculty, staff and the Fort Worth community are encouraged to bring their pets or pictures of their pets to be blessed individually, said Ann Smith, TCU Ministries Intern for Worship, Spiritual Life & Pastoral Care.

The Blessing of the Animals is in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, a 13th-century monk and patron saint of animals, and will be held outside of Robert Carr Chapel.

The blessing holds special significance for pet owners who, like St. Francis, feel that their companions are members of the family, Smith said.

At the ceremony, there will be prayer, scripture, song, response reading and blessings for the animals, said the Rev. Angela Kaufman, minister to the university.

"The blessing will involve three clergy from the local community and will include all animals present and nonpresent.

EXTRA INFO

Pet Blessing

- When: 5:15 p.m. Wednesday
 - Where: outside Robert Carr Chapel
 - All pets are welcomed
 - An offering will be collected and donated to the nonprofit organization, Noah's Wish.
- www.noahswish.com

But it's really for all of God's creation," Kaufman said.

The offering at the blessing will be donated to Noah's Wish, a nonprofit organization that works exclusively to rescue and shelter animals in disaster.

Many of the animals at Noah's Wish were rescued in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and have been housed in a temporary shelter in Slidell, La.

More than 1,000 animals have gone through the shelter since Katrina, including cats, dogs, rabbits, birds, snakes, a scorpion, an emu, a potbelly pig and many more animals, according to the Noah's Wish Web site.

After the blessing, refreshments for attendees and pets will be provided.

Also, all pets need to have a leash or a container, Kaufman said.

Menu expanded for evening dining

New additions include steak option, rotating meal plan

By RACHEL COX
Staff Reporter

The menu includes Surf-n-Turf, recipes from home and Saturday steak night, and it is not at a local five-star restaurant. It is at The Main.

The Main recently introduced a new twist on the dining choices for students who dine on campus.

Legia Abato, the marketing manager for TCU Dining Services, said the choices are going to alternate every night.

"We have had such a great response to the remodeling restaurant style of Pond Street Grill that we have decided to incorporate some different features at The Main during

the week," Abato said.

Saturday night is steak night. The choices are the prime rib combo for \$10.99, the chicken combo for \$9.99, and the half-pound burger for \$5.49.

Sunday night is the carver's combo station. The carver's combo comes with carved meat, choice of vegetables, steak fries, roll and beverage, all for \$10.99.

The Student Government Association decides on Tuesday night's menu. Last week was Hispanic-themed in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, and this week will be State Fair-themed, complete with turkey legs and candied apples.

Edens will be open Wednesdays during the evening hours.

"Edens is usually open only during lunch hours; now,

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No-Go for Lobos



Stephen Spillman / Staff Photographer

New Mexico wide receiver Gabriel Fulbright gets wrapped up by TCU wide receiver Michael DePriest while attempting a kick return.

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More students forced to borrow for college

Tuition, slumping economy spike rise in quantity of loans

By KIM TESAREK
Staff Reporter

In the 2003-2004 academic year, nearly 8,000 loans — totaling more than \$50 million — were taken out by TCU students, according to a report from the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corp., a nonprofit agency that coordinates transactions between schools and banks in Texas.

The report states that the average loan each student takes out for the year was more than \$11,000.

The number of students borrowing money to pay for school, and the amount they are borrowing, has more than doubled in the last 10 years, according to a new report from the American Council on Education.

There are two reasons why more students are borrowing in greater amounts, said Melet Leafgreen, the assistant director of loans programs in the Office of Scholarships and Student Financial Aid.

School tuition is increasing, but federal grants are not rising at a comparable rate, Leafgreen said.

Also, the decline in the economy has caused families to have less money, Leafgreen said, and many times the money they have invested for their children's education is worth less now than when they began the investments.

"Loans are a necessary evil," Leafgreen said. Economics instructor John Lovett said a declining economy may have caused a rise in student loans the past four to five years, but the long-term trend affecting student-borrowing is a more expensive university education.

R. Michael Meyers, a 26-year-old freshman business major, said he had no other choice but to take out student loans, no matter where he went to school.

Although the Army is paying for his tuition and books, he said he needs the loans to support his wife, a senior at TCU who also has loans, and their child.

Many students with loans are overwhelmed by all the money they owe.

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hopefully, more students will choose to dine on campus because of its availability," Abato said.

Thursday night is Surf-n-Turf. Students can get prime rib steak, fried shrimp, vegetables and a roll for \$13.99.

Friday night will be a rotation of home-style recipes, and this Friday will feature a fried chicken special.

In comparison to local restaurant features like the Surf-n-Turf, The Main is doing a surprisingly good job, said Rockfish restaurant chef and manager Raymond Nunley.

"We have the steak and shrimp combo, and it is \$16.33," Nunley said. "The special comes with an 8-ounce sirloin steak, five grilled shrimp, and choice of two vegetables or french fries."

Nunley said some TCU students come in to the restaurant, but he would like to see more.

"We offer TCU students a 15-percent discount, so hopefully more will start coming in to the restaurant," Nunley said.

"I think the Surf-n-Turf special The Main is offering is a good deal for students who are on campus; for \$13.99 a meal like that is a good deal," Nunley said.

Vincent Perez, a chef in The Main who works at the Surf-n-Turf station, said he had a good night with customers trying the new feature.

"I have had a good amount of customers — about 60 students, and it's still pretty early," Perez said. "Mainly the guys purchase the



Emily Goodson / Photo Editor

Freshman premajor Paige Bossart accepts a sample of rice pilau from server Kennard McKenzie on Monday in The Main.

prime rib, and the girls usually get the shrimp; it's a good mixture."

Zack Kays, a freshman premajor, said he gave the Surf-n-Turf a five on a scale of one to 10.

"I like the shrimp, and I have so much money on my meal plan that I am going to spend it here on campus rather than going out to eat all the time," Kays said.

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