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Cheerleading coach fired, appeal pending

Search for interim sponsor underway

By TRAVIS STEWART
Staff Reporter

Cheerleading head coach Jeffrey Tucker was fired Monday for undisclosed reasons pending an appeal process, associate athletics director Jack Hesselbrock said Tuesday.

Scott Kull, associate athletics director for external operations, declined to comment on the reasons behind the firing, but said the focus now is

finding an interim coach to manage the team during the appeal.

"I just told (the cheerleaders) that we had a change in leadership," Kull said. "We're just trying to find somebody to act as a sponsor right now."

Cheerleading captain Magean Thompson said the team will be affected by the coach's absence. Without a coach, cheerleaders can still cheer, but are not allowed to perform stunts at any football games.

"Without a sponsor, we're not allowed to tumble or do any of that stuff," Thompson said. "And it's home-

coming weekend, so we're in a terrible position. I mean, this is homecoming weekend. This is our season."

Tucker has opted to appeal the firing, a procedure Hesselbrock said should last about a week.

The appeal process consists of three stages: a mediation, a peer review and, if necessary, a meeting with Chancellor Victor Boschini, Hesselbrock said.

During the mediation period, Tucker will meet with administration under the guidance of trained faculty mediators, Hesselbrock said. If the two sides cannot come to a

satisfactory decision, the appeal will progress to the peer review stage, where Tucker will appear before a board of faculty and staff, Hesselbrock said. If, again, no conclusion is reached, the appeal will move to Boschini.

Thompson said team safety has become a recurring issue this year as a result of several on-field incidents.

After the University of Oklahoma football game Sept. 3, an OU fan wrote a letter to Kull describing one of the TCU cheerleaders' more on COACH, page 2



Stephen Spillman / File Photo
Sophomore business major Lacey Larsen sits with her mother as Jeff Tucker applies ice to Larsen's injured ankle at Spirit of Texas in Arlington in April, 2005.

Officials focus on improving retention rates

Locked tuition among options

By AMY WILLEY
Staff Reporter

Retention was on the minds of the Faculty Senate, Staff Assembly, Student Government Association and TCU administrators Tuesday night at the Joint Assembly.

Retention has risen from 71 percent in 1990 to 84 percent in 2004, Catherine Coghlan, assistant director of institutional research, said.

Unmet expectations were a part of why students did not return to TCU, said Kim Appel, Brown-Lupton Student Center activities coordinator.

Every school has a sales pitch, she said, and when students get to school, their experience is different than the pitch.

Jason Ratigan, a senior history major, said some students left TCU because of the money.

"(Students) couldn't keep up with the tuition," he said.

The Retention Data Analysis Committee conducted a study to understand why students were not returning to TCU.

Three groups of people were interviewed over the phone for the study: returning and non returning students for spring 2005 and non enrolled students for fall 2005, Coghlan said.

The study was based on the match factor, which compared students' expectations and experiences and their effect on student retention. The two areas explored were academic and social expectations.

The research showed the non returning students and non enrollees didn't meet their social expectations as well as the returning students. The academic match score was fairly equal between the three groups.

The biggest gap between experiences and expectations were the experiences in residence halls and students feeling a lack of guidance in academic advising, Coghlan said.

A female non returning student expressed her thoughts about her residential experience on the survey.

"I went into it thinking I was going to make a lot of friends," she said. "It was very loud and a bigger party atmosphere than I would have expected."

Both returning and non-returning students felt they didn't get direction or guidance from academic advising, Coghlan said.

"I was expecting useful information and guidance; advice on how to go about planning an academic career," a returning student more on ASSEMBLY, page 2

Train hard, play hard



Emily Goodson / Photo Editor
Junior communication studies major Jeff Broyles watches as members of the All Saints Episcopal School junior high football team perform drills Thursday on its practice fields near Fort Worth. Broyles and Haden Masterson, a junior communication studies major, are assistant coaches for the team.

SAE members coach local sports

Fraternity brothers mentor young team

By ERICA MAREZ
Staff Reporter

Trickles of sweat ran down their faces as the seventh-

grade football players, dressed in shoulder pads and blue and white jerseys, huddled around their coaches to receive pats on the back and words of encouragement.

The players attend All Saints' Episcopal School, one of two

local schools where members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon mentor by coaching sports.

"This is the most satisfying thing I have ever done," said head coach Jeff Broyles, a junior communication studies major.

Broyles, along with his fraternity brother, Haden Masterson, also a communication studies major, coach basketball, baseball and football at All Saints' Episcopal School. They are paid for the work more on FOOTBALL, page 2

Changes made to school calendar

Classes start early, breaks are longer

By TERRILL ESTABROOK
Staff Reporter

The University Council voted to make changes to TCU's academic calendar in a meeting Monday based on students' requests.

The changes include starting school on a Monday rather than a Wednesday in August, and adding a Thursday to Fall Break and a Wednesday to Thanksgiving Break.

"The students identify the changes that have been made,"

said Don Mills, vice chancellor for student affairs.

Students wanted these changes for a while, and former student body president Jay Zeidman brought many of the issues to the council, said Nowell Donovan, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Mills said the last change made to the academic calendar was the addition of Fall Break eight to 10 years ago.

The new changes were necessary and came about because of student concerns about traveling around the

CHANGES TO 2006-2007 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

- First classes meet Monday, Aug. 21
- Fall Break includes Thursday and Friday, Oct. 4-5
- Thanksgiving Break includes Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Nov. 21-23

holidays, Mills said.

"We were convinced that it was a question of student safety," Donovan said.

The extra day for Thanksgiving Break was added because students need to leave early for traveling purposes, Donovan said.

The university is obligated more on CALENDAR, page 2

Coming Out Day brings support

Forum promotes awareness at TCU

By JENIFFER BERRY
Staff Reporter

Gay-Straight Alliance praised University Ministries for supporting gay students on the TCU campus during its celebration of National Coming Out Day on Tuesday.

"I've never seen a ministry as supportive as University Ministries," said Talia Sampson, co-public relations chairman for GSA. "If you're looking for a supportive network, there are people there to talk to."

The social implications

of being gay in society was the topic of discussion at the forum, said Jessica Fleming, secretary for GSA.

Approximately 25 people attended the forum, while more paused as they passed.

Among the speakers was Bayliss Camp, an assistant professor of sociology, who said the single most important thing gay people can do for social justice is come out.

"We call on others to treat us differently and ask them to think of us in a different context instead of abstractly like in 'Will and Grace,' and 'Ellen,'" Camp said. People are less likely to par-

ticipate in homosexual jokes and use "soft homophobic speech" when they know someone who is gay, he said.

Sampson, a sophomore political science and news-editorial journalism major, said growing up, she was taught that God loves all people, but people have problems loving each other.

"We need to be loving of all people regardless of the decisions they make in life," Sampson said.

Fleming, a junior radio-TV-film major, held up her rainbow-colored dice bracelet and said it has special meaning because every time she

more on FORUM, page 4