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Cheer stunt declared unsafe, banned

Lack of head coach causes problems

By TRAVIS STEWART
Staff Reporter

The stunt that sparked a confrontation between an associate athletics director and the head cheerleading coach two weeks ago has been suspended from the squad's football game routine, even

though it has been a part of the team's repertoire for several years, a cheerleader said Tuesday.

Cheerleading captain Jovan Farris said the team will not be allowed to perform basket tosses at this weekend's football game by order of associate athletics director Scott Kull. Farris said she thinks the restriction is based on an isolated incident.

"I think it stems from one toss that didn't fall in complete safety,"

Farris said.

Kull said he does not see the suspension as a constraint, but as a commitment to safety.

"I wouldn't say it's a restriction," Kull said. "We're just going to go with the same game plan as last week. We want to be careful about what we do."

Even though Farris said some of the veteran cheerleaders have been performing basket tosses

for several years, Kull said the cheerleaders need a permanent sponsor in order to perform the stunt.

"It has to do with the history and the familiarity the cheerleaders have with a permanent coach," Kull said.

Farris said the squad will be allowed to travel to the football game against the U.S. Air Force Academy more on COACH, page 2

Web applications up; TCU not changing policy

Processing fees same for online, written submissions

By AMY KITCHEL
Staff Reporter

With the early-decision admissions deadline approaching for prospective TCU students, admissions office staff members said they expect half of applications to arrive over the Internet.

Over the past five years, Internet applications, at TCU and across the country, have grown in popularity, according to www.collegeboard.com.

The Web site also reports 98 percent of students applying to college this year have access to Internet applications.

Wes Waggoner, director of freshman admissions, said that despite the findings, TCU will continue to accept paper and Internet applications, and has no plans to change its policy.

"There will always be an element of the population that doesn't have adequate Internet access," Waggoner said. "Those are the kinds of people we want to reach."

Internet applications have become more popular because they make the process easier for the institution and the student, Waggoner said.

"There are obvious advantages to an admission office, and maybe even bigger ones for the student," Waggoner said. "Students are Internet-savvy, and some say they prefer Internet applications over paper."

"We're in the business of catering to the student."

TCU is not considering waiving the \$40 application fee for applicants who apply online like other institutions have, Waggoner said.

SMU and Baylor University accept Internet applications.

At Baylor, the application fee of \$50 is waived for students applying online, said Stephanie Willis, Baylor's director of admissions counseling.

Information from the online application automatically downloads into a database, Willis said, so the process saves time and money.

"It makes things faster and easier for us," she said. "It's definitely a better system."

One reason TCU is not considering waiving the fee for online applicants, Waggoner said, is that the Internet application process does not save the admissions office time. He said the office still has to download applications received electronically and manually enter them into a database.

Waggoner said another reason TCU is not considering waiving the fee is that it does not want to give the impression that it prefers one form of application over the other.

"I joke with prospective student groups that as long as I get all the information I need, they can write it on a napkin and submit it," Waggoner said.

Waggoner said two advantages of online applications are that they are more legible and have fewer errors.

Students questioned had mixed reactions to Internet applications.

"I applied online because it was faster and easier," said Cristina Wilson, a sophomore elementary education major. "I didn't have to deal with losing papers."

Katy Park, a sophomore communications studies major, said applying online took away some of the stress of the application process.

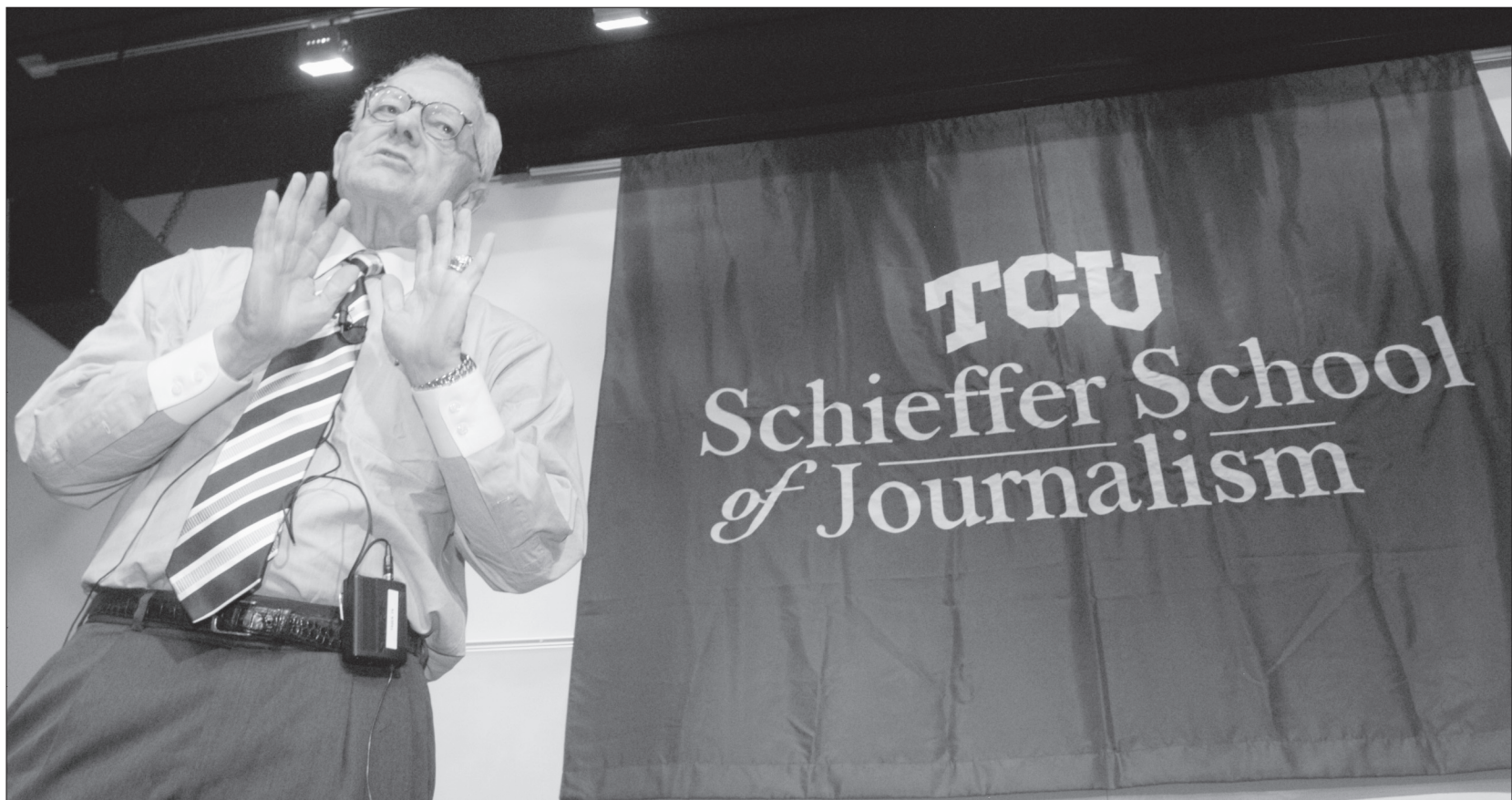
"On applications, I feel like colleges are judging my handwriting," Park said. "If I had bad handwriting, I would have felt like they thought I didn't take college seriously."

Some students, including freshman pre-major Andrew Vernon, said they prefer the paper application.

"I wanted something that was concrete — that I could hold in my hand," Vernon said. "That way, I could look it over and make sure I had filled everything out. I got to carry it with me and know it was sent and done."

Waggoner said that while some day TCU may exclusively use electronic applications, the paper application will stay for students like Vernon, who need a traditional, tactile form of applying.

Sharing wisdom



Stephen Spillman / Staff Photographer

Bob Schieffer spoke to a packed room in 320 of Moudy Building South on Tuesday afternoon. Schieffer fielded questions from the room and spoke of his experience as a young journalist.

Journalism offers connections, fun, Schieffer says

By KIM TESAREK
Staff Reporter

Against a purple backdrop bearing his name, CBS News anchor Bob Schieffer told journalism staff and students that journalists have more fun.

Schieffer came Monday afternoon for his first visit since the Schieffer School of Journalism was named after him in March 2005.

"The number one reason to be a reporter is because it's just so much fun," he said.

In his purple shirt and purple-striped tie, Schieffer shared stories to encourage students in the field.

On New Year's Eve of 1977, he and Barbara Walters danced over to former President Carter at a party to ask him about a rumored visit to Egypt

to visit President Anwar Sadat. The president gave them information his closest men didn't even know, sending both journalists scrambling for the phones to relay the message to their respective news stations.

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Intelligent Design under scrutiny

Explanation has no place in science class, professors say

By ALISON RUBINSON
Staff Reporter

The theory of intelligent design, currently being debated as an alternative to evolution, does not have a place in the science classroom, TCU professors say.

An 80-year-old case, known

as the Scopes Monkey Trial, was the first public debate about how to teach the origin of life on Earth, but the verdict of the trial did not end the discussion.

This past September, the age-old debate had a resurgence in the courts after a Pennsylvania school district constructed a policy that would require administrators to read a four-paragraph statement referring to evolution as a theory and introducing

intelligent design as an alternative.

"The (Scopes) trial lasted just a week, but the questions it raised are as divisive now as they were back then," according to www.NPR.com.

The general response among today's science community is that intelligent design does not have a place in the science classroom, said John Horner, a professor of biology.

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INTELLIGENT DESIGN

EXTRA INFO

In 2004, the Dover Board of Education passed a resolution requiring school administrators to read the following statement in biology classrooms:
The Pennsylvania Academic Standards require students to learn about Darwin's theory of evolution and eventually to take a standardized test of which evolution is a part.
Because Darwin's Theory is a theory, it is still being tested as new evidence is discovered. The Theory is not a fact. Gaps in the Theory exist for which there is no evidence. A theory is defined as a well-tested explanation that unifies a broad range of observations.
Intelligent design is an explanation of the origin of life that differs from Darwin's view. The reference book, *Of Pandas and People* is available for students to see if they would like to explore this view in an effort to gain an understanding of what intelligent design actually involves.
As is true with any theory, students are encouraged to keep an open mind. The school leaves the discussion of the origins of life to individual students and their families. As a standards-driven district, class instruction focuses upon preparing students to achieve proficiency on standards-based assessments.
— according to a letter from the assistant superintendent of the Dover Area School District to the parents in the school district on www.dover.k12.pa.us

Astronomers discover distant celestial body

Professor: Moon helps discover object's mass

By ADRIENNE LANG
Staff Reporter

"Xena," debated to be the 10th planet of the solar system, apparently has a sidekick — a moon.

Astronomers at the Mauna Kea Observatory in Hawaii found the moon, dubbed "Gabrielle" for Xena's

fellow heroine of the TV show "Xena: Warrior Princess," after taking images of the planet with an advanced telescope, according to the Web site of "Xena's" discoverer, Mike Brown.

According to Brown's Web site, the planet currently under debate, 2003 UB313, is being referred to by its nickname, "Xena," until its official name is decided by the International Astronomical Union.

A moon may help scientists

learn more about the planet itself, said Dr. Mike Fanelli, an astronomy instructor in the department of physics and astronomy.

"If it has a moon, it helps us determine the mass of an object," Fanelli said. "The current estimate is that it's larger than Pluto."

Fanelli said it was discovered in 2003, but made publicly known in spring of 2005, after scientists had time to study its orbit.

According to Brown's Web site,

the grayish planet is estimated to be 10 billion miles from the sun, with a 560-year orbit.

Dr. Doug Ingram, an instructor in the physics and astronomy department, said "Xena" may not be a planet, even though it has an object orbiting it.

"The fact that it's big and has a moon, that may affect the public's view, but not science's view," Ingram said.

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