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Renovations, improvements introduced

Board of Trustees passes campus construction plan

By AMY HALLFORD
Staff Reporter

The \$94 million construction plan to build the University Union and renovate the Brown-Lupton Student Center was unveiled to community members Monday by TCU officials.



Boschini

Construction on the campus commons area, which will include four new residence halls, the University Union, renovation of the Student Center and a grass area between the Student Center and the Union, was approved by members of the Board of Trustees on Friday. The project is scheduled to begin in Summer 2006.



Gutierrez

The expansion of the campus commons is a goal of Vision In Action, the strategic planning initiative created by Chancellor Victor Boschini in 2003 and is designed to form a nexus between academic life and student life, Boschini said.



Mills

"We want to enhance the crossroads of the campus and create a vibrant learning environment," Boschini said.

The Union, a 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week campus activity area that will replace the Student Center, will include indoor and outdoor dining areas, campus retail stores, a late-night restaurant, conference areas and a heritage center, said Don Mills, vice chancellor for student affairs.

"There may be an amphitheater as well, but we are hoping to design the structure in such a way to save existing trees," he said.

Mills said Frog Fountain will remain a landmark but may be moved.

"I bet you didn't know it was a movable fountain," he said.

The current Student Center will house student organizations, Career Services, University Ministries and the admissions office. The building will also provide additional faculty offices.

In addition to the campus commons area, the Bailey Building will receive a \$10.2 million makeover.

"The School of Education is program-rich and space-poor," Boschini said. "We have increased enrollment, but we haven't enhanced facilities."

As a result of the renovation, space in the School of Education will be tripled, allowing professors to teach their classes in the Bailey Building instead of other buildings, Boschini said.

"Also, office space will be increased, so faculty won't feel like they are advising students in a closet," Boschini said.

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Brian Gutierrez confirmed funds for the Bailey Building have been raised and will not "come out of TCU's pocket."

The Vision In Action plan is bringing student activity facilities to the center of campus and as a result, is pushing parking lots to the edge, Mills said.

The 300 spaces in front of the Student Center will be relocated to the south side of the University Recreation Center, and more parking will be available in the Worth Hills area, Mills said.

The Grandmarc Apartment Complex will hold 700 student vehicles that otherwise would probably be parked in

more on TOWNHALL, page 2

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

Frogs dominate Rams to clinch Mountain West, 33-6

See story on SPORTS, page 8



David Pellerin / Associated Press

Sophomore strong safety Brian Bonner, left, intercepts a pass intended for Colorado State wide receiver Johnny Walker, right, from CSU quarterback Justin Holland (not shown) in the second quarter at Amon Carter Stadium on Saturday.

Student body elections to be held today

Votes can be made online today at my.tcu.edu

By AMY WILLEY
Staff Reporter

Students will voice their opinions today by voting for the next student body officers.

Students can learn more about the candidates at www.sga.tcu.edu and www.tcdailyskiff.com. To vote, students can go to my.tcu.edu.

Student Government Association President David Watson said when students vote, they should keep in mind the candidates' platforms and look at leadership experience.

"(Students) should vote who they think is the best instead of who's their friend and who they know," Watson said.

Major issues addressed during the campaign are creating stability in tuition, increasing communication between SGA and the students and improving tailgating by making it student-managed.

The campaigning period was kept eventful when a presidential candidate stepped down and a treasurer candidate appealed

more on SGA, page 2

ONLINE EXTRAS

To find out more about the SGA candidates, check out their Q&As on the Web at: www.tcdailyskiff.com

Suicide second leading cause of college-age deaths

Depression common, but can be controlled with professional help

By KIM TESAREK
Staff Reporter

Students who have had thoughts about suicide should be aware that they are not alone and help is at hand if they choose to seek it out, said a campus counselor.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among 15- to 24-year-olds and the second leading cause of death among college-age students, according to the National Mental Health Association.

"One in 17 people have had serious thoughts of suicide in the

SERIES: PART 1 OF 2
Read about suicide warning signs and how students can find help in tomorrow's Skiff.

past year," said Monica Kintigh, a licensed professional counselor in Mental Health Services at TCU.

Kintigh said this would translate to one person living on every dorm floor on campus as having dealt with the issue personally.

Kintigh said about 90 TCU students come for treatment at the Mental Health Center every week, with difficulties ranging from depression to adjusting problems.

A question she says she asks students on a daily basis is, "Are

you struggling with thoughts of suicide?"

A TCU student's struggle

Caroline is a former TCU student who left school after her sophomore year in 2004 because of her struggle with depression. She said she was willing to share her story so that students could understand the very prevalent, but often taboo, situation of many students on the TCU campus.

She asked that her last name not be used.

"During my sophomore year, I sunk into a crushing depression," Caroline said. "I felt like I had the weight of the world on my shoulders. It was almost like life around

more on SUICIDE, page 6

The Numbers

How common is this?

Suicide is the second leading cause of death of college-age students.

— www.nmha.org
Of the total number of completed suicides among ages 15-24 in 2001, about 20 percent were female and 80 percent male

Of the total number of suicide attempts among ages 15-24 in 2001, about 75 percent were female and 25 percent male

— www.cdc.gov
Drug and alcohol abuse was the most common characteristic of those who attempted suicide; fully 70 percent of these young people frequently used alcohol and/or other drugs.

— U.S. Department of Education, "Youth & Alcohol: Selected Reports to the Surgeon General," 1993.

To get into contact with Mental Health Services at TCU, call 817-257-7863/7864 or visit its office in the Brown-Lupton Health Center.

Fort Worth seeking to regulate student renters near campus



Stephen Spillman / Staff Photographer
A sign advertises a house for rent during spring 2005 in a neighborhood close to TCU.

Measures would limit number of unrelated persons in each house

By JENNY EURE
Staff Reporter

Where there's thunder, there's lightning.

And for residents in Bluebonnet Hills, a neighborhood located near TCU, the rumblings began almost two years ago.

It started with groups of as many as five people — or sometimes even more — living together in rental homes. Then residents began noticing parking congestion on their streets. Soon after, it was parties and alcohol consumption that caused some residents to consider moving, said Jim Johnson, Bluebonnet Hills Neighborhood Association president.

The storm may have spread

across Fort Worth.

Because of the number of concerns voiced from Fort Worth homeowners and neighborhood associations, the Fort Worth City Council oversaw the creation of a Rental Registration Task Force a year ago, a combination of homeowners, realtors, Chamber of Commerce representatives and other organizations.

The task force has discussed lowering the number of unrelated adults who may live together in a rental home. Currently, the number in Fort Worth is set at five, according to the Fort Worth Municipal Codes. If the number was lowered, off-campus students would have to live with fewer roommates.

Since the ordinance change would affect the entire city, there would be no way to cut the TCU neighborhood out, said Anthony Snipes, assistant to the city manager.

"They will be impacted by the

EXTRA INFO

Process to pass task force recommendations

1. Task force recommendations go to the City Council
2. Public hearings of task force recommendations
3. Council approval of task force recommendations
4. (for unrelated adults issue) Zoning Commission — would make a recommendation to City Council to change the zoning ordinance
5. Council approval for zoning ordinance change

change," he said.

For now, efforts toward reducing the number are at a standstill. At an Oct. 12 meeting, the task force decided to hold off sending the unrelated adults recommendation to City Council.

But efforts to address residents' concerns are not over.

Mike Russel, associate dean of

more on RESIDENTS, page 5