

Students are producing a soap opera that will be filmed and aired next semester.

College degrees just aren't worth as much as they used to be.

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Cheerleaders: Season in danger

Squad may not compete without new guidance, leadership student says

By TRAVIS STEWART
Staff Reporter

The cheerleader squad's competition status is still in doubt in the absence of both a permanent head coach and show choreographer, cheerleaders said Tuesday.

Former coach Jeff Tucker was fired Oct. 10 for undisclosed reasons pending an appeal process, and neither him

nor the choreographer used during his coaching tenure have been replaced.

Senior cheerleader Troy Cole said the squad usually meets with a choreographer by the end of November to start planning the show it will use during competition in April.

"In past years, we would have gone out and shown our skills and have then start putting a routine together," Cole said. "This year we haven't been able to do that."

Even though Cole graduates in December, he said the setbacks the cheerleaders are facing may keep them out of this

season's competition altogether.

"Personally, I don't see it happening," Cole said. "We don't even have a place to practice right now because we used to go up to (Tucker's) gym."

Associate athletics director Scott Kull also placed a ban on basket tosses, one of the team's stunts, until a permanent head coach can be found.

Junior cheerleader Jessi Farris said this ban also affects the team's competitive status.

"We're not allowed to do basket tosses, and that's one of the categories more on COACH, page 2



Courtesy of Andrew Chavez / Horned Frog Yearbook

Religious leader named honorary Horned Frog

Fort Worth Catholic bishop celebrated

By JENNIFER BICKERSTAFF
Staff Reporter

The Catholic bishop of Fort Worth was made an honorary Horned Frog by Chancellor Victor Boschini while celebrating the Bishop's second visit to TCU on Sunday. After his ordination at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum in July 2005, Bishop Kevin Vann came back to celebrate Mass in the Brown-Lupton Student Center Ballroom.

"I can't think of a better way to finish my day than to be here with you," Vann said.

Vann went to the Mass because he wanted to meet the students and Boschini, and he wanted to learn more about the people in his diocese, said Father Charlie Calabrese, TCU's Catholic priest.

Many TCU students, faculty and staff, as well as people from the community, came to worship. Half of the Student Center Ballroom was filled with attendees of the Mass.

"It was great that the Bishop was able to take time out of his busy schedule to celebrate Mass with us," said Amy Schwalm, a senior psychology major. "It shows that he cares about being involved with and learn-

ing more about the Fort Worth Diocese and its people."

Vann spoke at Mass about the Feast Day of Christ the King and how Jesus can help people with difficult decisions.

Co-coordinator of Catholic Community and junior religion major Brittney Smith said she was pleased with the special event and Vann's message.

"My career path changes every other day, so it was nice to be reaffirmed that God has a plan, some plan, prepared for me," she said. "I have no idea what

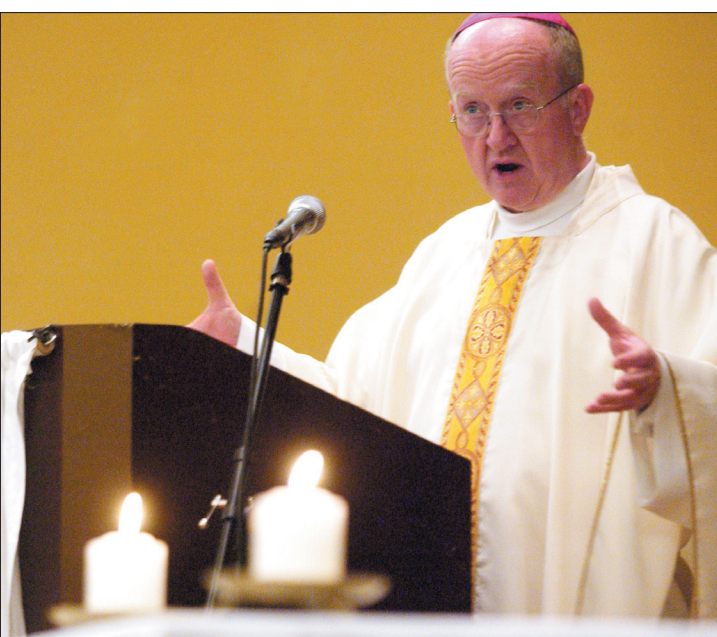
(the plan) is, but the Bishop reminded me to stop fretting so much."

As a college-aged Catholic, Smith said, she has also faced religious challenges in her daily life.

"Sometimes it seems difficult to balance church doctrine with modern society trends, but the more I read into what the church teaches I realize that it still applies," Smith said.

After the service, Catholic Community representatives gave Vann a Horned Frog figurine and a Catholic Community T-shirt.

Vann is the third bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth and is from Springfield, Ill.



Emily Goodson / Photo Editor

Kevin Vann, the Catholic bishop of Fort Worth, delivers his sermon Sunday during Mass in the Student Center Ballroom.

That bites

No. 8 Lady Bulldogs defeat Lady Frogs, 80-51



Emily Goodson / Photo Editor

Junior forward Ashley Davis goes up for a shot Monday as Georgia forwards Megan Darrah (left) and Desire Bostice (right) defend.

Geography playing role in response to recent hurricanes

Disasters abroad are often overshadowed by local tragedies

By CAITLYN TOMASIK
Staff Reporter

After a series of successful fundraisers for victims of natural disasters close to home, members of the TCU community noticed a change in the efforts of student organizations to raise money for tragedies abroad.

"What we have to avoid is becoming desensitized to human tragedy," said the Rev. Angela Kaufman, minister to the university.

Several organizations and university departments united earlier this fall to support fundraising efforts for those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

According to CNN, the earthquake that struck Pakistan in early October claimed the lives of over 73,000 people, and was responsible for the deaths of an additional 1,200 people in India.

Kaufman said there haven't been the same large-scale fundraising efforts on campus for Pakistan that were seen after Hurricane Katrina.

"We should have had as much or more of a response for Pakistan," Kaufman said. "I think that's one of our failings in the community sometimes. Sometimes we pay more attention to what is closest to us in proximity and in our hearts."

Jim Riddlesperger, chairman of the political science department, agreed that geography often plays the greatest role in determining response to tragedies.

"Americans don't pay a lot of attention to international disasters," Riddlesperger said.

He said the tsunami broke the mold as a tragedy by attracting so much international attention and support.

"Tsunamis are sexy disasters, if you will, because they don't happen all the time," Riddlesperger said.

Claudia Vaz, a junior finance and accounting major, said about \$450 was raised for the earthquake victims at an annual event earlier this month sponsored by Students for Asian/Indian Cultural Awareness.

She said the group was grateful for the funds that were raised, as it will still provide relief more on FUNDS, page 2

Course encourages community involvement

For class, students fight for off-campus inclusive food plan

By LAURA MADSEN
Staff Reporter

TCU freshman Lauren Fred said she has never been very involved in community affairs activities. However, this semester she is deeply involved in a community project on campus, she said.

The advertising/public relations major is part of a group of students trying to instate an open campus meal program that would allow students to use their student ID cards to purchase food at local restaurants.

"The majority of people at

TCU want this program to be implemented," Fred said. "A lot of other campuses do this already, so right now we're behind. I think it's important for us to keep up to date with other schools, and this would give students more variety. It's also more convenient to pay with your ID card than carry around a lot of cash."

Fred is not working toward this goal only out of interest in campus dining plans. This semester she is enrolled in "Topics in American Politics: Civic Literacy," now offered as part of TCU's core curriculum.

"I voted in the last election, but before this class I didn't really get involved with

local politics," Fred said. "I've learned a lot — that you really can make a difference."

Two sections of the course were implemented as part of TCU's new Center for Civic Literacy, started in response to a decline in citizen participation rates in the United States, said Don Jackson, Herman Brown chair professor of political science and director of the Center.

"The notion is that there has been a decline over the last 40 years in terms of participation in public affairs and community affairs," Jackson said. "And civic engagement is designed to encourage people to participate in public, community life."

Harvard sociologist Rob-

ert Putnam, who wrote an influential best-selling book on community involvement in 2000, said interest in public affairs has declined by 20 percent, voting by 25 percent, attendance at public meetings by 30 percent and participation in party politics by 40 percent over the past few decades.

"We have extraordinarily low participation rates and voting rates; almost everything you can say about post-1960s America shows that people are participating less and less," Jackson said. "There are high rates of cynicism, high rates of alienation."

Bill Koehler, president of more on LITERACY, page 4