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TCU

# DAILY SKIFF

THURSDAY

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## SGA president vetoes resolution requesting return of KTCU jazz

By SONA THAPA  
Staff Reporter

The Student Government Association resolution to bring jazz programming back to KTCU FM 88.7 "The Choice" was vetoed Wednesday by the SGA president.

Jace Thompson, SGA president, said he vetoed the resolution because it did not represent the interests of the entire student body.

Thompson said he talked to Russell Scott, KTCU station man-

ager, and another student who informed him that no one had consulted them before building the resolution. Thompson said the resolution's author should have researched KTCU's perspective to validate the resolutions' necessity.

Scott said no one contacted KTCU regarding the resolution.

"I guess I am a little disappointed that there was no attempt to initiate a dialogue with KTCU prior to taking this

to the SGA," Scott said.

Scott said the decision to take off the jazz programming was made after consulting the KTCU staff and other students. KTCU staff members had not shown interest in working during hours when jazz was aired, Scott said.

Jazz previously aired between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. After it was taken off the air, fewer than five students called to complain about it, Scott said.

Justin Brown, author of the

resolution and Student Relations Committee chairman, said he could not understand why the resolution was so debated.

Brown said the resolution was in a perfectly acceptable format and had passed through the executive board and the House of Representatives and had gained a lot of support. He said the resolution should not have been vetoed.

"It is very irresponsible and inappropriate for a single member of any organization to exer-

cise power," Brown said.

This was not an impromptu resolution, and he had been working on it ever since the issue was first brought to his attention this semester by his committee members, Brown said.

Jazz is an instrumental part of art and culture in society, he said, and that is why he decided to advocate for it, he said.

Brown said he had spoken to more than 100 students on several occasions and even those who did not listen to jazz

thought it was a good idea to include jazz in KTCU programming.

He said he had also spoken to DJs at KTCU about the resolution and was planning to speak to the authorities, including the station manager, once the resolution was passed. The resolution was intended to help facilitate a solution to bring the jazz program back before working with KTCU, Brown said.

This is Thompson's second veto as president.

## HOLIDAY CHEER



Chancellor Victor Boschini turns on the lights for the 27th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting sponsored by the Student Government Association. Along with the tree, there were appearances by Mr. and Mrs. Claus, Mr. and Ms. TCU, carols and a performance by the Singing Chaparrals from O.D. Wyatt High School.

## Campus tailgates top TABC citations list

By JOE ZIGTEMA  
Staff Reporter

TCU student tailgates may be partying too hard by Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission standards.

TCU student tailgates were the second-most cited place in Tarrant County by the TABC in 2007, TABC records show.

TABC officers have handed out 59 citations at TCU tailgates in the Brachman Hall parking lot. As a result, more TABC agents were present at recent home games for officer safety, said TABC Agent Tana Travis.

Travis has written 395 citations since 2004, third-most among TABC agents. She has written 29 citations at TCU tailgates, records show.

"The first couple of games that I worked, with the number of violations that we had, it was definite that we needed more help out there," Travis said.

Although TABC agents have written 43 percent fewer tickets in 2007 than in 2004, all citations handed out at TCU came in 2007.

Darron Turner, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs

who oversees student tailgates, said he did not know why TABC agents decided to target tailgates this year and not in years past.

"(TABC) contacted the university one time to say they were coming with more people, and then they just kept that up," Turner said.

In the spring, Turner said university officials will meet with TABC agents to discuss plans for next year's student tailgate.

"We're taking some of their concerns and trying to figure out how to deal with those in the future so that students feel like they have a good

See **TABC**, page 2

### FOR YOUR INFO

#### 2007 Ranks for most cited by TABC:

1. Billy Bob's: 173
2. TCU student tail-gate: 59
3. Red Dirt Roundup (concert): 38

SOURCE: TABC Records

## New system causes financial aid delays

By ANTOINETTE NEVILS  
Staff Reporter

Hundreds of students' financial aid was delayed this semester because of a new computer system.

Michael Scott, director of scholarships and student financial aid, said the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board had problems when it installed a new computer system at its offices, delaying disbursement of financial aid all over Texas.

The College Access Loan is the only state loan that was delayed this year, Scott said. Upperclassmen were the main recipients of this loan because they were granted priority over freshmen by the Coordinating Board, he said.

Melet Leafgreen, assistant director of loan programs, said about 600 students took out a College Access Loan, and about 200 to 300 students' aid money was delayed. She said it usually takes about two weeks until loans are disbursed, but this semester it took eight to 10 weeks.

Leafgreen said the B-On-Time loan disbursements were also delayed.

Tiffany Smith, a sophomore middle school education major, said she currently has a \$5,000 B-On-Time loan. She said she heard about and received the loan from the financial aid office, so when her disbursement was a month late, she went to the office to get help.

She was originally charged a \$25 finance charge, Smith said, but when she told the financial aid office about the problem, it removed the charge.

Leafgreen said the delays were hard on some students because they needed the money to pay for their TCU bills, groceries, books and rent. She said she wrote several letters to landlords telling them about the aid delay in order to extend rent payments.

"Some students had to borrow money from friends," Leafgreen said.

Leafgreen said these students were not punished for  
See **FINANCIAL**, page 2

## Freshman programs help raise retention

By GRETCHEN HOLLIS  
Staff Reporter

TCU's retention rate for freshmen has risen from 81 percent in 2002 to 86 percent in 2007, according to the TCU Fact Book, and professors say it is because of better advising procedures, mentors and freshman programs.

TCU has conducted research to see which students leave and why by calling those students for phone interviews.

"A lot of students call back, and the issues are generally related to something academic," said Mike Scott, director of scholarships and financial aid. "Like they didn't like their

major or didn't feel like they fit in."

National retention research has found that students who engage academically and socially with their school are less likely to drop out or transfer. TCU's goal is to get more students graduated, Scott said.

### Keeping Tabs

Vision in Action programs at TCU, like College 101/Compass 101, focus on getting more freshmen to get involved on campus, Scott said.

"We found that students in a mentoring program really appreciate talking to someone on a personal basis," said Cher-

yl Cantu-Mireles, project director for College 101/Compass 101: A Program to Enhance Student Retention.

College 101 is required for freshmen who have not achieved a 2.0 in their first semester, Cantu-Mireles said.

"College 101 helps jumpstart a successful career at college so students will, hopefully, stay at TCU," Cantu-Mireles said.

Another new program designed to keep freshmen at TCU is called eFrog. This program gives first-year students a Web presence and is like TCU's version of Facebook, said Patrick Miller, registrar and director of enrollment

management.

eFrog starts communicating with potential students while they are still in high school through blogs, announcements and information on what is happening in Fort Worth and at TCU. It has had a lot of student participation, he said.

### Easing the Transition

AddRan College of Humanities and Social Sciences has made changes to academic advising for students by hiring additional professional advisers for all premajors and first-year students with declared majors in the school, said Michael  
See **RETENTION**, page 2



### WEATHER

TODAY: Mostly sunny, 62/47

TOMORROW: Partly cloudy, 70/57

SATURDAY: Isolated T-storms, 69/63

### PECULIAR FACT

ACCOMAC, Va. — A waste truck leaked poultry fat along 20 miles of roadway Tuesday, causing at least four crashes  
— Associated Press

### TODAY'S HEADLINES

NEWS: Candidates' religions affect voting, page 5

OPINION: Holiday traditions make no sense, page 3

SPORTS: Men's basketball falls in Lubbock, page 8

### CONTACT US

Send your questions, compliments, complaints and hot tips to the staff at NEWS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU

**TABC**

From page 1

place to be, and TABC feels that it's a safer environment," Turner said.

One TCU junior political science major, 20, who asked to remain anonymous, received a minor in possession of alcohol citation from TABC at a student tailgate and said the agent who issued her ticket was not helpful.

"(It was) my first time ever getting in trouble with the cops so I was trying to ask questions and figure out what I needed to do," she said. "(The TABC agent) did not offer me any information. I wasn't doing anything to attract attention to myself, and I thought it was unnecessary to be rude about it."

Travis said she has never seen any officer act disrespectfully toward a student.

"Sometimes (agents) are a little stern because you have to take control of the situation so it doesn't get out of hand," Travis said. "When we issue those citations to defendants, there's a box on the bottom of the citation. Personally, I read it to the violator."

The most common offense cited by TABC officers has been minor in possession/consumption of alcohol

as 1,802 such tickets have been handed out since 2004. Public intoxication was the second-most frequent offense with 543 citations.

Sgt. Terry Parsons with TABC said he does not know if fewer people are violating the law, or if agents are not catching as many offenders.

"All I can tell you is that less people are getting caught," Parsons said. "I'd like to think it's because people are complying with the law. That's our goal, is for compliance."

Alcohol-related offenses by minors carry up to a \$500 fine, eight to 12 hours of community service and a 30-day driver's license suspension for a first offense, according to the TABC Web site. In addition, offenders must complete an alcohol awareness course.

The leading site for TABC citations in Tarrant County this year is Billy Bob's Texas, a famous country-western club in the stockyards.

Billy Dresser, assistant general manager of Billy Bob's, said so many citations are written at his establishment partly because of its large capacity, and partly because guests under 21 are admitted.

"(Underage guests) should know better by now," Dresser said. "We've been here 26 years — if you're going

**RETENTION**

From page 1

Butler, associate dean of AddRan.

"I think, as students come into the university making a transition from high school to college, advising needs to be more than just course selection," he said.

Now, students don't have to worry about tracking down faculty advisers because they know they have a place to go, Butler said.

Occasionally, Scott said, the reason some students do not return to TCU is cost.

Butler said even though tuition is on the rise, TCU is still a good buy and is priced in the lower third of private universities.

TCU is also attractive with its new facilities, and popular majors like business, communication and nursing are growing, Miller said.

But compared to Southern Methodist University and Baylor, TCU's retention rates have been historically lower, Coghlan said.

The No. 1 reason for not retaining freshmen students is the lack of preparation for college level work, said Alan Seidman of Bedford, N.H., Center for the Study of College Student Retention.

"If you've never done a research paper in high school, you can't do one in college," he said.

Seidman said professors are responsible for telling students what it takes to be successful in their class, and if students don't have the skills, then the professors should teach them.

"If we accept you into our institution, we should provide you with necessary skills to be successful," he said.

**Minority Retention**

In most cases, minority students have lower retention and graduation rates than white students, and encouraging these students with high school mentor programs and adopt-a-school programs would help increase their retention in college, Seidman said.

He said professor interaction with potential college students and their families would help keep those students in college, especially minority students who may not have thought of attending college.

Many minority students don't attend or end up dropping out of college because of they do not connect with the university and other students, he said.

He also said universities may be setting some minorities up for disappointment.

"Initial enthusiasms during the

recruitment process just aren't compatible with some institutions because each has a specific goal and community," he said. "The bottom line is, if a student is told the university is diverse, but finds out people don't look like him there, he thinks maybe there's not enough commitment there."

Minority students dropping out of college or not coming in the first place is a financial issue, said Darron Turner, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs.

He said they do not want a lot of loans and may end up coming one semester and leaving the next semester, then coming back and leaving again so graduation rates for minorities are generally lower.

Most private universities have a difficult time recruiting minority students, Turner said.

But, from 2003 to 2007, TCU's Hispanic freshman population rose from 6 percent to 9 percent, while the white freshman population dropped from 82 percent in 2004 to 74 percent in 2007, according to the Center for Institutional Research.

TCU does not track what percentage of minority students drop out, Coghlan said.

Scott said TCU provides minority students with a support network so their retention rate is nearly 100 percent.

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**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip."

— Will Rogers

**THE SKIFF VIEW**

**SGA presidential veto justified**

The Student Government Association overstepped its bounds.

The Student House of Representatives passed a resolution Tuesday asking KTCU FM 88.7 "The Choice" to reinstate its jazz programming.

Fortunately, Jace Thompson, student body president, vetoed the resolution Wednesday.

Thompson recognized what those who voted for the bill should have — it's simply not SGA's place to police other organizations on campus, and allowing the bill to go through would set a dangerous precedent.

Imagine SGA trying to tell the Horned Frog yearbook what to put on the book's cover or telling the Wesley Foundation when to hold its services.

Or, imagine the Texas House of Representatives coming down on 103.7 Lite FM for starting to play Christmas music soon after Halloween.

It just wouldn't be the Texas House's place, just like it's not SGA's place.

All of SGA certainly isn't to blame, though.

In fact, discussing the bill took time away

from other more worthy issues to debate something that was outside the organization's area of responsibility.

Trying to regulate another student-run organization is simply a disappointing use of time for a governing body that's supposed to represent the student body.

Policing another organization's taste and what music genre is on the radio doesn't serve students' interests.

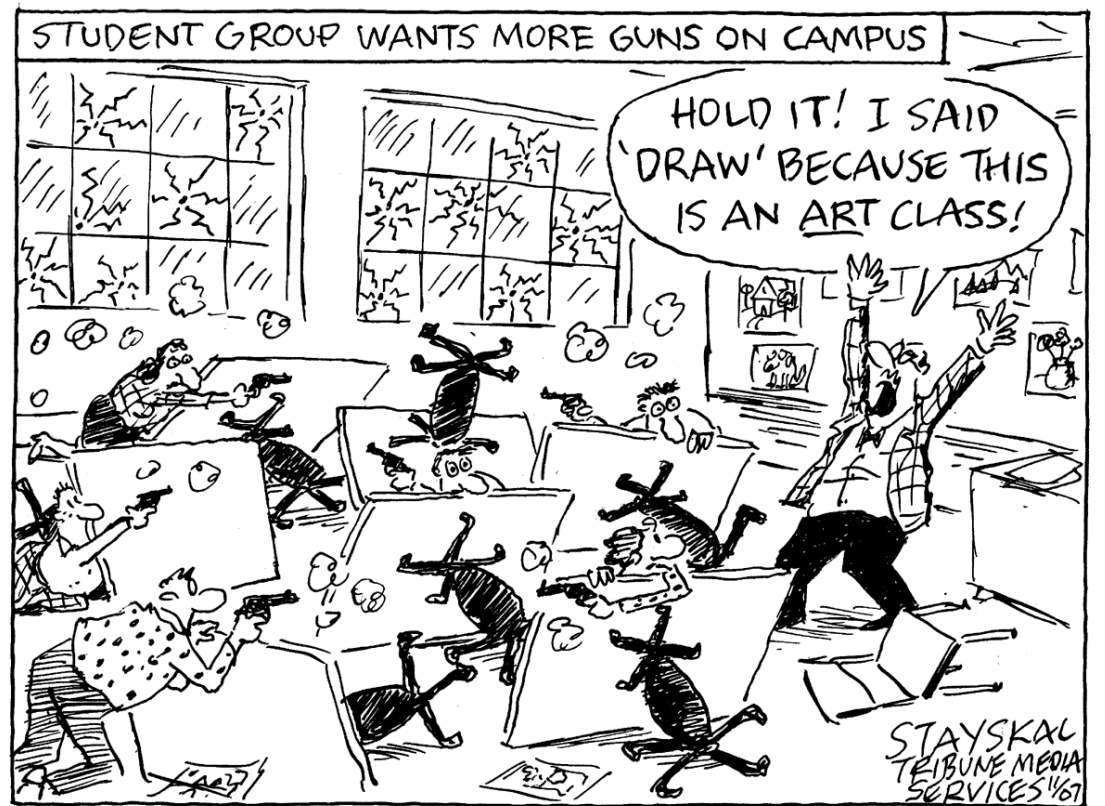
Certainly if the radio station were doing something that was harming the campus, SGA would be applauded for taking action.

But when it comes to influencing the station's format, complaining to the radio station could have been carried out much better as a petition to the station or as a phone call to one of the station's managers.

As the station's program director said Tuesday, the staff already aims to tailor the music to students' needs. If the station thought students wanted jazz, there would be more jazz on the air already.

*Editor-in-chief Andrew Chavez for the editorial board.*

**BY WAYNE STAYSKAL**



**Facebook makes protesting more convenient for students**

Eight hundred students at Middlebury College formed a group to protest the change of the school's seal.

A Facebook group.

Students no longer need posters and signs to picket and rally against injustices. In fact, they don't even have to leave their desk chairs.

With one click of the mouse, they can join other students in the latest protest on campus, in the region, state or even the world.

All because of the wonders of a little Web site called Facebook.

In the 21st century, the Internet is used for many basic human needs. Many people get their news online instead of from newspapers and magazines. You can buy just about anything you could ever want online. Some people even grocery shop or date online.

Times have changed, so why couldn't you protest or support a cause via the Internet?

Forming an online protest group is quicker, more organized and can incorporate thousands of people from all over the world.

That's what Middlebury senior Sarah Franco, a religion major, realized when she created the "Just Say No to the Middlebury Logo" group last July.

The school had changed Middlebury's seal to a logo

that looked like something akin to a blue Canadian maple leaf toward the end of last semester. Students like Franco were upset over this change, and she started the Facebook group to inform her friends about the new logo and to make fun of it.

In a matter of days her group had more than 300 members, and later that week the number jumped to more than 800.

One week after Franco started the Facebook group, Mike McKenna, vice president of communications, sent out a campus-wide e-mail stating that the logo would not be used to represent the school anymore — it would now only be used for a fundraising initiative.

The speed and success of the Middlebury protest demonstrates how efficiently the Internet, and particularly Facebook, connects people with common interests or beliefs, as well as enabling them to stage very quick and effective protests.

Franco said she would definitely use Facebook again for similar reasons because it is such an effective way to organize people. She also points out that it's an easy way for college students, who can't necessarily commit to meetings, to participate at any time, 24 hours a day.

TCU students have their own reasons to protest, and many of these have turned into popular Facebook groups. Parking problems seem to be a big issue with students seeing as one group has 538 members. The

new dining plan and placing a cap on tuition are other major Facebook groups, with 394 and 195 members respectively. TCU students think these are important issues on campus, and can get connected with other people who feel the same way via the Internet.

However, it's important to not let the Internet be your sole social connection with the outside world. Technology is making it so easy to never have to leave home, and it's this ability that can lead to an increasingly isolated population. So while the Internet and Web sites are great ways to connect with people from all over the world, they should be used with caution. They cannot, and should not, replace social interactions and conversations with real people in real settings.

That said, for students, Facebook and other similar sites are a popular and easy way to show support for causes and ways of expressing your position on issues. It's quick social networking, which is good for college students, so it only makes sense to use them to rally people behind a cause.

The next time you feel as though something is not right in your school, neighborhood, country or the world, make a Facebook group to see how many others share your view. You may be surprised.

You could make change happen.

*Elizabeth Davidson is a junior news-editorial journalism major from Austin.*

**U.S. holiday traditions odd, illogical**

Returning from a wonderful time of family gathering and football watching during the Thanksgiving break, I found myself questioning the function of America's holiday traditions.

When boiled down to the basics, some behavior deemed

normal during our most celebrated days seems downright unusual.

Let's start with Halloween.

You get decked out as a pirate, a ghost or Superman to beat on the doors of strangers, demanding candy and threatening a trick if said goodies are not handed over promptly.

First of all, this conflicts with everything your mother used to tell you. Remember when she told you not to talk to strangers?

Well, I guess she thought you would infer that it's also wrong to beg them for sweets. Imagine if this holiday didn't exist.

A guy dressed as Batman roaming the streets in search of treats and tricking those who didn't comply would not only be deemed insane by onlookers, but he would probably spend the latter hours of the night in jail, begging that his cellmate quit using his cape as a tissue.

Also, what if someone doesn't have anything to offer on All Hallows Eve? What sort of a trick would this mandate?

Would a simple kick to the shin suffice, or should the trick be more sophisticated, like the old flaming bag of dog poop gag?

"Rather than remembering our blessings, we turn ourselves into 24-hour gluttons, cramming our faces full of sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, stuffing and rolls until we're stuffed fuller than that sad turkey."

**Michael Best**

If a candy-less stranger isn't somehow tricked, then it's an empty threat, and the whole meaning of trick-or-treating is thus voided.

Next there's Thanksgiving.

We show our thanks to our pilgrim forefathers by cooking and devouring a gigantic bird.

As if the treatment of this poor turkey wasn't harsh enough already, before the chomfest begins, for some reason we feel it is necessary to stuff the poor bird's butt with some mushy yellowish bread substance that looks as if it has been partially digested.

At least we have the decency to wait until the bird is dead to do this.

Rather than remembering our blessings, we turn ourselves into 24-hour gluttons, cramming our faces full of sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, stuffing and rolls until we're stuffed fuller than that sad turkey.

And then there's the pie.

Even though your pant button just ricocheted off the chandelier, you'll still eat that delicious slice — or two or three — of cherry, pecan or pumpkin goodness.

My question: What does this have to do with thankfulness?

If stuffing our guts means we are giving thanks, then Thanksgiving must occur far more often than once realized, like every time you set foot in a Chinese buffet.

After Thanksgiving, we're on the fast track to Christmas, yet another holiday with utterly baffling traditions.

Each year, Christian families worldwide chop down evergreens in order to wrap them up in lights and shiny balls and bows.

Did Jesus have an unhealthy obsession with decorating pine trees? I fail to see the connection.

Another tradition I have never understood the relevance of is gift giving. It's Jesus' birthday, so what does that have to do with buying little Jimmy the PlayStation 3 he's been begging you for each time you drive past Toys 'R' Us? If anyone gets some presents shouldn't it be the birthday boy?

Don't get me wrong; some of my fondest memories are of the times spent celebrating with loved ones.

I love the holidays. I just don't understand them.

*Michael Best is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Longview.*



S. DURANT and JEFF DIONISE / MCT

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Column pushes outdated generalizations of women**

On Wednesday, a good friend of mine passed along Morgan Blunk's now-famous commentary, "Nothing Wrong with Racing to the Altar."

Upon reading this article numerous times, I turned to the first pages of Image Magazine, hoping to receive a better understanding of the magazine and what it is attempting to represent and report. Unfortunately, nothing in the entire publication could comfort my distress and embarrassment after reading such a shocking and entirely misleading article.

Ky Lewis, editor-in-chief

of Image Magazine, writes on page two of this publication that he "would like (the reader) to take on the underlying message, however subtle it may be, and look at how different we all are ...," a truly admirable sentiment, for we are all different and are encouraged to celebrate said differences.

How, then, did he and the other editors of Image Magazine allow such a sweeping generalization of 63 percent of the TCU student population to be printed?

If the intention was "to see TCU interact with" Image, as Mr. Lewis hoped, then I have

no doubt this has been a highly successful venture.

Unfortunately, I no longer regard Image Magazine as an accurate representation of my university and am unable to accept it as a legitimate work of journalism.

There are so many distressing issues this commentary raises, one of the greatest being the reflection on our time.

In the musical version of "Little Women," adapted from Louisa May Alcott's novel by composer Jason Howland, author Allan Knee and librettist Mindi Dickstein, the character Jo March is told

"to return home and have babies. That is what women are made for."

Can TCU truly claim to be "learning to change the world" if publications such as Image Magazine are supporting ideas that are 142 years old?

I desperately hope that a woman who graduates from an outstanding university such as this will gain more in her time here than a desire to "be coy and bat (her) eyelashes."

The TCU faculty and staff have given me the assurance and the drive to pursue a life that not only includes solid

relationships with friends and significant others, but a life that also embraces a love for what I am studying and a confidence that I can achieve success and happiness with or without someone else by my side.

I have always been taught that being a woman is empowering, not a hindrance, and yet, I find myself reading an article in a publication — representing this very same university — encouraging me to "embrace being a woman" by "searching for an apron."

How upsetting that these shallow, outdated general-

izations are embodying an institution that so many of us place our faith and trust in each day. If Ms. Blunk wishes to let her \$30,000-a-year education "collect dust in the basement," then I completely support her right to do so; she is entitled to whatever life she chooses.

However, I do ask that she and Image Magazine apologize to the entire TCU community for misrepresenting the percentage of women who choose to lead their lives with goals, success and above all, passion.

*Blake Robertson is a junior theater major from Snyder.*

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# Dorm to host freshman living groups

By VICTORIA PUENTE  
Staff Reporter

Next fall, residential services will make Foster Hall the first dormitory to host a program that aims to build relationships and increase retention among freshman.

The hall will be home to freshman Living Learning Communities known as freshman initiative groups, which will consist of Frog Camp groups and a Service Learning group.

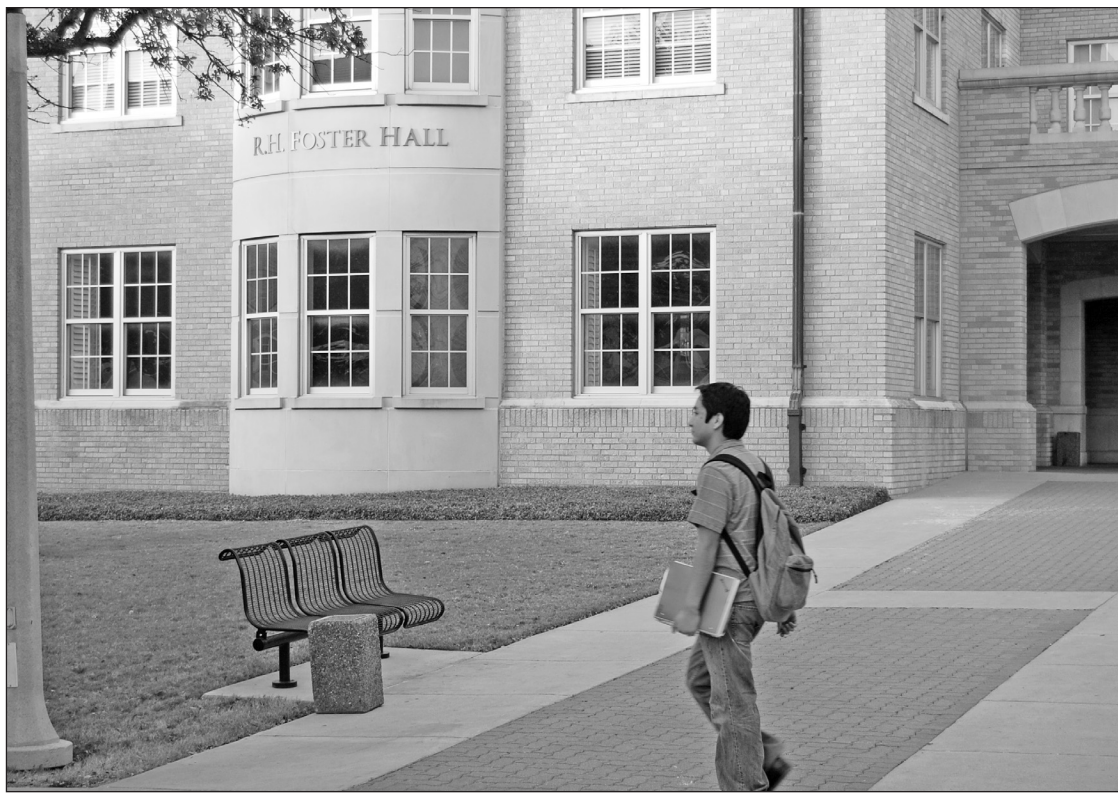
The service learning freshman initiative groups will be for students who have courses that require community service as part of the curriculum, and each Frog Camp will have its own freshman initiative group, as well, said Craig Allen, director of Residential Services.

"The Frog Camp (freshman initiative group) will be fun primarily for social connections, because students really tend to connect during that experience," Allen said. "Frog Camp is about getting people connected to TCU and showing them how fun it is to be involved and, ideally, to become leaders, and we want to continue that in the Frog Camp FIG groups."

The new program will be like the Living Learning Communities program, which had upper class students with common interests live in the same housing community in dorms on campus, Allen said.

"It's really about people having some identity in the place that they live and learning together with people who have something in common," Allen said.

A focus group will be put together in the next few weeks consisting of students who lived in the living learning communities this semester, and certain changes will be made to both the living learning community and freshman initiative group programs based on that feed-



Sophomore radio-TV-film major Marcus Bahena walks in front of Foster Hall on Wednesday. The dorm will become home to the freshman Living Learning Communities next fall.

back, Allen said. "The goal is to help students want to stay at TCU and feel connected, so the (freshman initiative group) program is a way of helping freshman feel like they immediately have common interests and bonds with other students," said Bridget Breslow, director of Foster Hall.

Frog Camp registration begins in January and every student who signs up will receive information about the freshman initiative group program and how to apply, said Heather Miller, assistant director of Residence Life and freshman initiative program coordinator.

"This first year we are going to have them apply for the program on Frog Life, starting in April,

where they can express their interest in a (freshman initiative) group, and we'll place them on a first come, first serve basis," Miller said.

There will probably be seven groups of about 25 to 30 students in each freshman initiative group in Foster Hall, which houses about 200 students on three floors, Breslow said.

"We'd like to keep them together in little pods because when students live together and learn together, their retention rate increases and they have better memories," Breslow said. "Because in this environment students will have a common interest between them, and it brings them together both socially and academically."

The goal for freshman initiative

group students will be to build leadership skills, lasting connections and personal growth through interaction with people who have similar interests and to continue developing each freshman initiative group's common interest, Breslow said.

"We'll have staff who will encourage study groups and we will provide faculty or other TCU administrators to come do programs regularly that incorporate that (freshman initiative groups) common interest, Allen said. "It is all designed so students can have a good experience that makes what they learn and what they know that much richer."

The number of applicants and the responses from student applications will determine if more freshman groups will be created in different halls and if other types of freshman initiative groups will be added, Allen said.

## FINANCIAL

From page 1

their delay, and many students' late finance charges were waived once their money came in.

Leafgreen said it was even more difficult for non-traditional students who quit their jobs to go back to school or for students who had children.

Mayra Hernandez, a junior marketing and supply chain management major, said she first applied for a College Access Loan her sophomore year and had problems even then. She said she got her financial aid two to three weeks late.

"It backed up everything," Hernandez said. Hernandez said she had a hold on her account because of the late aid, so she could not register for classes on time. Once the money came in, she was able to enroll in most of the classes she wanted, but still had to pay for the finance charge due to the late disbursement.

Leafgreen said the financial aid office tried to contact the Coordinating Board for answers, and about half of the staff would spend about 25 minutes on hold waiting to get information on a student's account. She said it took up the staff members' time, as well as students and parents' time.

"They actually turned off their phones for a week due to a 'high volume of applications,' they told us," Leafgreen said.

Despite the poor service, Leafgreen said, the College Access Loan is a good loan for students. She said loan disbursements are usually not the fastest to be distributed, but it has never been this bad.

Brad Davis, a financial systems administrator, said Financial Services took into consideration all of the students' situations. He said the department allowed grace periods for students whose aid was not in yet.

"The account could possibly be put on hold, then once aware of the situation, we would have adjusted and taken it off hold," Davis said.

Davis said holds on a student account can affect their vending, laundry, printing and bookstore buying ability on campus. However, if students had a dining plan, they could still use their meal card and buy food, he said.

Davis said his department knew a majority of the students whose aid was coming in late beforehand, so they adjusted accordingly. He said if their bill was due for the minimum amount, financial services and financial aid worked together to lower the minimum amounts.

"I've been here six years," Davis said. "This is the first time we've seen this to this multitude."

Davis said the financial aid office gave him a list of students whose aid was coming in late, but some who were missed called and were also helped. The department was working with the students and their parents throughout the entire process, he said.

A majority of the financial aid is in now, Davis said.

Scott said he had a hard time communicating with the Coordinating Board and finding out the exact problem and cause of the delay. The Coordinating Board assured TCU that things will be better next year, he said.

"We hope to not go through this next year," Scott said.

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# Survey: Religion vital for voters

By AMANDA SHIMKO  
Staff Reporter

Sorry, Mitt Romney. A September report released by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life states that candidates who are viewed by the public as not highly religious seem to top the newest Gallup Polls for both the Democratic and Republican Parties.

The nationwide survey, based on telephone interviews from 3,002 adults in August, rated people's perceptions of candidates and their religiosity.

Romney, a candidate with a Mormon background, was perceived as most religious by participants. Of those polled, 46 percent found Romney to be very religious, while George W. Bush comes in at 43 percent.

The latest Gallup Poll, released Nov. 13, shows Hillary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani as the frontrunners of the Democrat and Republican Parties. Both candidates ranked in the bottom of the religious survey, ranking 16 and 14 percent, respectively.

While these numbers state the percentage of people who found the candidate to be very religious, 63 percent found Giuliani to be somewhat religious, while Clinton received 53 percent in the same category.

"Our country has gotten a lot less to where we expect a religious stance by a politician"

**Heather Carlson**

sophomore engineering major

Clinton received the biggest percentage of all candidates, both Democrat and Republican, of those who find her not too or not at all religious.

According to the study, voters in the past have said it is important for a president to have strong religious beliefs, and voters tend to express a more favorable view toward those candidates.

But, the report goes on to state, the new study finds that candidates with White House dreams do not have to be seen as very religious in order to be accepted by the public.

James Riddlesperger, professor and chair of the political science department, said



DAVID P. GILKEY / Detroit Free Press via MCT  
Republican presidential candidates are introduced at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn, Mich., on Oct. 9 before a debate. A recent study found presidential candidates who are highly religious aren't faring well with voters.

religion has always been an important part of American politics.

However, Riddlesperger said, the effect of a candidate's religious preference on the next election outcome remains to be seen.

"We've never had an election this intense this early," Riddlesperger said. "It's too early to tell."

But some think the shift in Republicans now aligning with the Democratic Party might account for the statistics.

Mark Toulouse, professor of American religious history, said since 2004, evangelical voters have been tilting toward the Democrats.

"(Evangelical Christians) recognize that there are other moral issues than abortion and homosexuality, like poverty and the war," Toulouse said.

But are there right and wrong religions?

The study states Romney is handicapped because of concerns held by voters regarding his Mormonism.

When the public has questions regarding a candidate's religion, they turn to the candidate, Toulouse said, and the questions might not be something the candidates can answer to the voters' satisfaction.

Toulouse also said there are barriers that have yet to be broken in regard to a president, but that could change this election.

"We have three persons



MICHAEL PEREZ / Philadelphia Inquirer via MCT  
Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, third from left, jokes with candidates John Edwards, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama during the Democratic presidential debate at Drexel University in Philadelphia on Oct. 30.

who represent barrier-shattering ideas," Toulouse said. "A woman, a person of color and a Mormon."

Students have mixed feelings about what the study showed.

Sophomore engineering major Heather Carlson said that because she is a Christian she is more inclined to choose a Christian candidate who shares the same values and views.

But, she said, the findings show where the U.S. as a whole has come to be.

"Our country has gotten a lot less to where we expect a religious stance by a politician," Carlson said. "It is not as big (of) an issue as

when we elected Bush."

Senior engineering and mathematics major Aaron Bartholomew said a candidate does not have to be very religious to win his vote, but that his or her views are seen through policy and by an overall feeling.

There is debate on whether the perceptions are true and whether Clinton and Giuliani are truly the least religious, but Riddlesperger said people will still hold their perceptions of what they believe a candidate's religiosity to be.

"Reality is perception," Riddlesperger said.

# Gun control debate reaches Texas State

By AMANDA VENABLE  
The (Texas State)  
University Star

SAN MARCOS — A resolution presented at an Associated Student Government meeting is calling upon the Texas Legislature to allow students to carry concealed firearms to class.

The resolution, titled "Enabling Self-Defense," sparked a debate among the senators when it was presented Nov. 19 about whether or not students with a concealed handgun license should be allowed to bring their guns into the classrooms.

T r a c i Adams, resolution sponsor and College

Republicans president, said the proposal would allow law-abiding residents to exercise their civil liberties outlined in the Second Amendment.

Adams said Gov. Rick Perry is in support of the resolution and has agreed to bring it to the Texas Legislature as long as it gets support on campus. Texas State could not allow students to carry handguns in academic buildings without the Texas Legislature's revision of current laws.

"The Constitution gives us the right to protect ourselves," Adams said. "Who is to say you have the right to deter me from protecting myself? This is not making (campus) less safe. It is a gun-free zone now. I would hate to have a shooting at our school and people get hurt because we did not pass this. We are defenseless without this."

Many senators oppose the resolution, arguing that more guns on campus would result in more violence. Those senators said the university should hire more police.

"I believe people have the right to protect their homes, but the university should be a place of safety and peace," said ASG Sen. TJ Hardy. "The likelihood

of something not happening is far greater than something happening. As a civil people we voted to have police do that job."

In opposition, Adams said University Police Department officers cannot enter a building until a SWAT team arrives. There is only one SWAT team in Hays County, she said.

"We need to be proactive, not reactive," Adams said. "I don't know why we would want to wait until later."

ASG Sen. Tyler Ferguson echoed the thoughts of several senators, saying the campus as a whole should be allowed to consider permitting individuals to carry guns in academic buildings. He offered an amendment to the resolution that would call for a student referendum. The amendment passed by almost two-thirds of the house.

"Something of this magnitude deserves more consideration, especially since it has the potential to change the law," Ferguson said. "If Governor Perry really is supportive of this bill, I think it is vital that we take advantage of this issue and get the students' opinions."

In response to the meeting, ASG President Reagan Pugh said if a student referendum had not been added, he would have vetoed it. He discussed the resolution with Sgt. Daniel Benitez of the University Police Department, who said the UPD officers undergo training in order to safely enter buildings in emergency situations. The argument that the police have to wait for a SWAT team is false, Pugh said.

"There were inflammatory remarks made in the legislation," Pugh said. "I would advise you all to educate yourselves on the issue. I would veto it, but I think the students deserve the right to vote."

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## U-WIRE COLLEGE FOOTBALL POLL

## Gator leads Heisman race

Through games of Nov. 24, released Nov. 27.

Thirty-three sports editors took part in this poll.

## 1. TIM TEBOW, QUARTERBACK, FLORIDA

**Points:** 134 (18 first-place votes)  
**Statistical proof of awesomeness:** 3,132 passing yards (68.5 comp. pct.), 177.9 passing efficiency (2nd in FBS), 29 touchdowns, 6 interceptions; 838 rushing yards (4.3 per carry), 22 touchdowns in 12 games.

## 2. DARREN McFADDEN, RUNNING BACK, ARKANSAS

**Points:** 113 (9 first-place votes)  
**Statistical proof of awesomeness:** 1,725 rushing yards (5.7 per carry), 15 touchdowns; 21 receptions for 164 yards, 1 touchdown; 123 passing yards (54.6 comp. pct.), 4 touchdowns in 12 games.

## 3. CHASE DANIEL, QUARTERBACK, MISSOURI

**Points:** 109 (4 first-place votes)  
**Statistical proof of awesomeness:** 3,951 passing yards (70.5 comp. pct.), 155.9 passing efficiency (8th in FBS), 33 touchdowns, 9 interceptions in 12 games.

## 4. PATRICK WHITE, QUARTERBACK, WEST VIRGINIA

**Points:** 41 (1 first-place vote)  
**Statistical proof of awesomeness:** 1,498 passing yards (69.0 comp. pct.), 153.2 passing efficiency (10th in FBS), 12 touchdowns, 4 interceptions; 1,144 rushing yards (7.0 per carry), 14 touchdowns in 11 games.

## 5. (tie) COLT BRENNAN, QUARTERBACK, HAWAII

**Points:** 19  
**Statistical proof of awesomeness:** 3,732 passing yards (69.9 comp. pct.), 163.4 passing efficiency (4th in FBS), 33 touchdowns, 14 interceptions in 11 games.

## 5. (tie) DENNIS DIXON, QUARTERBACK, OREGON

**Points:** 19  
**Statistical proof of awesomeness:** 2,136 passing yards (67.7 comp. pct.), 161.2 passing efficiency (5th in FBS), 20 touchdowns, 4 interceptions; 583 rushing yards (5.6 per carry), 9 touchdowns in 10 games.

## FOOTBALL

## USC athlete awarded Rhodes Scholarship

By JEAN GUERRERO  
Daily (USC) Trojan

LOS ANGELES — A senior majoring in mechanical engineering has been named USC's first Rhodes Scholar since 1995.

Reed T. Doucette is one of two California students to receive the 2008 Rhodes Scholarship.

More than 750 students from about 295 colleges and universities nationwide vied for the prestigious scholarship to Oxford University.

Thirty-two of the 80 scholarships granted annually are given to students in the United States.

"It's really great to be able to represent USC and the entire Trojan Family," Doucette said.

The scholarship generally awards individuals who demonstrate extraordinary academic success and athletic involvement, said Bryce Nelson, the USC Rhodes Scholarship representative and chair of the USC Committee on National and International Graduate Fellowships. In addition to these qualities, winners must display a genuine desire to improve the world around them — and Doucette does.

"I'd like to be involved in causes to advance the well-being of mankind," he said.

Rhodes Scholarships are particularly desirable worldwide because "they are given to people who are both scholastically very adept as well as athletically very involved — and as we all know, that's a fairly rare combination," said James

L. Heft, a USC expert in higher education. "Secondly, they are given by a university that is recognized worldwide as a high-quality institution."

Noosha Malek, the interim director for academic recognition programs, said the Rhodes Scholarship is the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for students.

"The Rhodes Scholarship is the oldest and most high-profile award for international study that has maintained its prestige for over a century," Malek said.

Doucette is a USC Presidential Scholar with a 3.97 GPA, Nelson said. He also co-founded Los Angeles Community Impact, an organization that provides consulting services to local non-profit organizations with business-related challenges.

"(The Rhodes committee) wants people who are leaders, people who are compassionate about what's going on around them and serving others," Doucette said.

Cecil Rhodes, founder of the scholarship, outlined how the scholarship should operate in his will. In addition to scholarship and service, he indicated that recipients' qualities are usually exemplified in sports.

Doucette has also played on the USC men's basketball team for the past four years, something he said he plans to continue at Oxford.

"I think that sports will be a great way to meet a lot of people over there," he said.

## WIN

From page 8

at the shot chart of that group, I thought there was a lot better offense there."

In less than six minutes during the second half, senior forward Butler-Rayford and sophomore guard Danielle Nunn helped carry the Lady Frogs' offensive attack, going for 13 of 17 points during an almost eight-minute stretch.

Nunn finished with 13 points

off the bench, one shy of her career high, as Butler-Rayford chipped in 14 points to go along with five rebounds.

Nunn said she was relieved knowing the hard work put into Wednesday night's game against a tough penetration offense paid off.

"We worked on a lot of penetrations yesterday in practice, so we worked on the offside giving help to the ball and just staying head up on them and playing defense," she said.



THE (TEXAS TECH) DAILY TORREADOR  
Sophomore guard Jason Ebbe tries to maintain possession of the ball during Wednesday night's game against Texas Tech in Lubbock. Despite leading for a majority of the game, the Horned Frogs suffered their first loss of the season, dropping a 71-58 decision to the Red Raiders.

## TECH

From page 8

back into the game.

"It was a factor," head coach Neil Dougherty said of his team's early foul trouble. "That's not everything that did us in — a pretty good Tech team did us in tonight. The foul trouble can throw you out of sync. Texas Tech did us in."

A three-pointer by senior guard Ryan Wall and a basket by sophomore guard Keion Mitchem gave the Horned Frogs a solid 35-29 lead going into halftime.

The Horned Frogs showed no signs of slowing down, grabbing a 43-35 lead to start the second half.

Tech's only production to start the second half came from Zeno, allowing TCU to take its largest lead of the game by 13.

Tech eventually got a spark from Red Raider junior guard Alan Voskuil, including some key three-pointers, bringing the Red Raiders close to the Horned Frogs. A basket by Tech junior forward Ricardo De Bem cut the Horned Frogs' lead to two, giving Tech a chance to overcome the deficit.

Zeno gave Tech its first lead of the half with 8:08 remaining in the game, on his way to scoring 20 points in the half.

"I haven't been playing the way that I wanted to be playing these last couple games," he said. "I felt that tonight was my night to step up and play when we (were) down in the second half."

The Horned Frogs found themselves in foul trouble once again, receiving their 10th team foul with six minutes left in the game.

Tech capitalized on TCU's foul trouble by making 75 percent of its free throws, and Voskuil hit another three-pointer to take the lead for good midway through the second half.

Knight said there was no way he could expect his team to overcome its mistakes and take the win.

"If I could sense that, I'd be with George Bush tonight trying to figure out what the hell to do in Iraq," he said. "How can you sense anything like that? You'd have to be smarter than I am. We just made some changes, we made some little adjustments in what we were trying to do and we got better movement in our offense."

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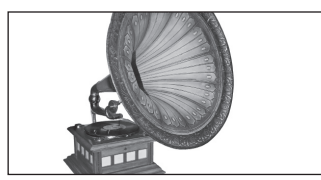
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A: He wanted to get the scoop!

**The Quigmans**

by Buddy Hickerson



"As you can see, he is no longer wearing Prada. It's Valentino, people! Hello!"



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6			5			9		
	1	9				7		
5			1	2		4	8	
4	3		6	5				1
		4				1	3	
		1		7				2
8			2	9				

**Directions**  
Fill in the grid so that every 3x3 box, row and column contains the digits 1 through 9 without repeating numbers.

See Friday's paper for answers to today's Sudoku puzzle.

**Wednesday's Solutions**

9	5	4	2	6	7	1	3	8
8	1	6	3	4	5	7	9	2
3	7	2	9	8	1	6	5	4
2	4	9	6	5	8	3	1	7
6	8	5	7	1	3	4	2	9
1	3	7	4	2	9	5	8	6
5	2	8	1	7	6	9	4	3
4	6	3	5	9	2	8	7	1
7	9	1	8	3	4	2	6	5

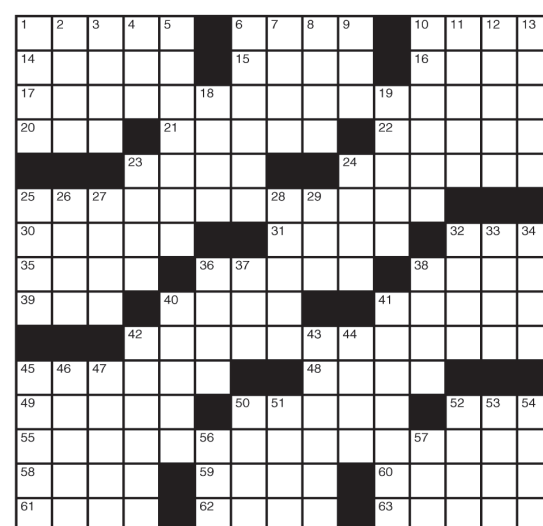
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1 Chocolate substitute  
6 Slammer or clink  
10 River of New York City  
14 Man from Muscat  
15 Forum wear  
16 Picture of a physician?  
17 Start of a quip  
20 Pop the question  
21 Indiana pro  
22 AWOL part  
23 Not of the cloth  
24 Electric eye, e.g.  
25 Part 2 of quip  
30 Aggrandize  
31 Chits  
32 Cal. abbr.  
35 Order to a broker  
36 Claw  
38 Humdinger  
39 Letters that bang



By Alan P. Olschwang  
Huntington Beach, CA

11/29/07

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

A	D	A	M	M	A	S	C	O	B	E	S	E	
S	E	R	A	E	L	L	A	R	E	S	A	T	
T	A	N	G	S	C	A	M	A	R	A	B	S	
I	D	O	N	T	H	A	V	E	A	C	L	R	E
O	W	E	N	R	U	L	E						
S	T	O	L	I	D	A	A	R	E	M	C	S	
P	E	R	I	L	I	R	M	A	S	S	O	O	
I	T	S	A	L	L	G	R	E	E	K	T	O	M
C	O	O	S	I	N	O	N	A	R	D	E	N	
A	N	N	S	C	O	W	P	R	E	S	T	O	
I	M	T	O	T	A	L	L	Y	A	T	S	E	A
S	N	E	E	R	M	O	A	T	C	A	R	L	
S	T	A	R	K	U	N	D	O	A	L	G	A	
T	O	N	E	S	E	E	N	R	E	O	S		

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- 7 Lug  
8 Borodin's prince  
9 Brit. flyboys  
10 Range  
11 Puccini pieces  
12 Military tribute  
13 "Saint Maybe" novelist  
18 Couple  
19 Dog's bane  
23 Droop  
24 Avoid  
25 Examine  
26 Cart-pulling pair  
27 Beer ingredient  
28 Novelist Cather  
29 Court  
32 Greek drink  
33 Pitch symbol  
34 Surf partner?  
36 Like a drumhead  
37 Circle segment  
38 Iron pumper's pride  
40 Seashore  
41 Eric Clapton's axes  
42 Gives in  
43 Sagebrush State  
44 Quarry  
45 Make behind time  
46 Similar  
47 Silver screen parts  
50 Cornishman or Welshman, e.g.  
51 Norse god  
52 Cease  
53 Monterey money  
54 Bohemian  
56 Res.  
57 Enemy

See Friday's paper for answers to today's crossword.

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**CHANGING GAME**

Transfers and junior college players are benefiting both TCU basketball programs.

**TOMORROW**

**SWIMMING**

# WATER WORLD



MICHAEL BOU-NACKLIE / Skiff Archives

Head swimming and diving coach Richard Sybesma talks to his team during the meet against the University of Nevada-Las Vegas on Nov. 16. Members of the men's swimming team will compete at the University of Texas Invite in Austin beginning today.

**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

## Red Raiders hand team first loss

By ADAM COLEMAN  
*The (Texas Tech) Daily Toreador*

The Texas Tech men's basketball team's inconsistencies could have given TCU a win Tuesday night.

Preventing it from happening, the Horned Frogs' foul troubles and 26 points from Tech guard Martin Zeno pushed the Red Raiders to a 71-58 win at the United Spirit Arena.

"Our guys did a pretty good job of hanging in there," Texas

Tech coach Bob Knight said. "Didn't look all that when we were 13 points behind. But we came back, I thought, well."

The Red Raiders (5-2) showed their flaws in the first half, but kept the score close.

The Horned Frogs (4-1) used a full-court press to force four straight turnovers from the Red Raiders.

TCU scored six points off those turnovers, giving them a 14-8 lead midway through the

first half.

"It was pretty physical, but it was to be expected," junior forward Kevin Langford said. "It was a good test for us."

After forcing four straight turnovers, a basket by junior guard Henry Salter helped the Horned Frogs to a 9-0 run.

Although TCU held a lead in the first half, TCU's eight fouls with 7:22 left gave the Red Raiders chances to climb

See **TECH**, page 6

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

## Guard drives team to victory

By TIM BELLA  
*Sports Editor*

After finishing a layup off her own missed 3-point attempt, Adrienne Ross was feeling it.

It was just one of eight buckets in a half to remember for the Lady Frogs' All-American guard, who dropped 19 points in the first half. Her offensive output steadied the pace for TCU's 75-63 win against Fresno State Wednesday night.

The win snaps a two-game skid and was the team's 23rd win in its last 25 games at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum, erasing the bad taste of a rare home defeat against Cal on Nov. 23.

Ross' showcase had her shooting eight for 14 from the field in just 17 minutes of play. Although the senior guard cooled off in the second half, going just two for six from the field, the damage had already been done.

She finished with 23 points, four assists and four rebounds, while having to adjust her style of play to be more pass-first in the second half.

Ross also made her way up a couple of career record lists by moving to No. 4 all-time in points with 1,308 and No. 3 all-time in field goals made with 450.

Aside from Ross' first-half performance, there was also a game.

TCU (3-3) was up by



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor

Senior guard Adrienne Ross brings the ball up the court during the first half of the Lady Frogs' game against the Fresno State Bulldogs on Wednesday.

as many 25 points at one point, but a 10-3 run late in the game pulled the winless Bulldogs (0-4) within 12. But it was too little too late for Fresno State.

With all of the bumps and traps Fresno State's defense presented to TCU, head coach Jeff Mittie said he was satisfied with his team's ability to finish possessions with points on the board.

"We know that it was

going to have a lot of bumps and a lot of traps," Mittie said, "but we felt like we were going to have a lot of opportunities to score if we stayed fundamentally in the back court to get it into the front court, and I thought our team did that for the most part.

"I thought Lorie Butler-Rayford) and Adrienne Ross all had some good reads. When I look back

See **WIN**, page 6



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