

There are plenty of activities to keep you busy during the holiday season.



Many of the December grads have ads from parents dedicated to them.

# DAILY SKIFF

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## Three men shot at Naval Station

### Officials: Possible suicide attempt injures superiors

Associated Press

Three sailors were injured in a shooting at a military reserve base Thursday during what investigators think

was a suicide attempt by one of them, an official said.

A single bullet injured all three men at the Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base at Carswell. The gunman was in critical condition with a single gunshot wound to the neck; his supervisors received stitches and were expected to be discharged Thursday from

the hospital, said Chief Petty Officer Eric Clement.

The gunman apparently tried to commit suicide when his two superiors attempted to stop him, officials said. As they struggled, the weapon went off, grazing the two supervisors and injuring the sailor, said base commander Capt. John McCormack.

The shooting happened

around 12:20 p.m. inside an administrative building where all three worked, base officials said.

Initially, officials thought one of the sailors shot his two superiors and then turned the gun on himself.

Gates to the base, formerly known as Carswell Air Force

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## SAE handles hazing problems, improves

### National officials get involved to help fraternity

By DARREN WHITE  
Staff Reporter

After dealing with the fraternity's second hazing incident in two semesters, Sigma Alpha Epsilon president John Athon said he knew it was time for a change.

The second incident involved SAE pledge trainers yelling at pledges during fall Recruitment, Athon said.

"It was a straw that broke the camel's back," Athon said. "It was time to fix the problem from a different direction."

At the time, Athon said SAE wasn't aware raising voices at pledges was considered hazing. Regardless, Athon said he did not approve of their actions.

"It was conduct unbecoming of SAE," Athon said, "or any TCU student."

Soon after the incident, the SAE's national office contacted Athon to improve the chapter.

"They told us we'd made an improvement from last year, but there was still more to be done," Athon said. "They said, 'You've gone this far, now keep going.'"

The national office appointed six SAE alumni, called an alumni commission, to act as advisers to the fraternity over the course of the fall, said Brandon Weghorst, director of communications for SAE's national office.

While controlled by an alumni commission, a chapter cannot make any governing decisions without the consent of the advisers.

"Under an alumni commission, we've taken away their right to govern themselves,"

Weghorst said.

Chapters are evaluated on 12 areas, including risk management and pledge education, before reinstatement, Weghorst said.

SAE will probably remain under alumni commission until the end of the year, Weghorst said.

Athon said the advisers did everything from attending chapter meetings to talking with SAE officers about improving the chapter.

"They've encouraged accountability among our brotherhood," Athon said. "If someone causes a problem, we let them know it's not all right."

Chaplain John Stauffer agreed that renewed accountability among fraternity brothers was the first step in fixing SAE's problems.

"We drastically changed our direction," said Stauffer, a junior finance major. "We've taken the initiative to be our own problem solvers."

Other changes the alumni suggested were a stricter judicial board and a new pledge program, Stauffer said.

"We've focused on stronger enforcement," Stauffer said, "and holding people accountable for their actions."

SAE will be on probation until spring 2007, stemming from an incident during the fall 2005 semester.

At the time of the investigation, TCU officials did not release specifics on the incident, but current president Athon said Wednesday the incident involved physical hazing that led to the removal of an SAE member.

Athon said he is glad SAE has been allowed to deal with the problem internally.

"We're in control of our own destiny," Athon said. "They allowed us to fix the problem."

## Donovan: Friday classes to stay

### Four-day academic week improbable, vice chancellor says

By JENIFFER BERRY  
Staff Reporter

Changing the schedule to cancel classes on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is one thing, but changing the weekly schedule to a four-day week will not happen, said Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Nowell Donovan.

"There are too many scheduling issues," Donovan said. "There's not enough time in one week and not enough room for that to be possible."

For the 2006 spring semester, there are approximately 460 classes held Fridays that would have to be rescheduled and incorporated into 80-minute Monday and Wednesday classes.

The Student Government Association's president-elect Trevor Heaney mentioned the idea of a four-day school week during his campaign this fall.

Eliminating Friday classes would benefit not only the professors by uniforming their teaching schedules, but it would also benefit students who have jobs and need to work on the weekends,

Heaney said.

"I'm definitely in support of this schedule change because I personally have always had at least one job while at TCU and would benefit from the extra day," said Heaney, a junior entrepreneurial management and finance major.

Mike Sacken, professor of education, said he would be fine with eliminating Friday classes not only because the percentage of TCU students who work part time is high, but also because it would increase the availability of professors to meet with students.

"Friday is my available day to meet with students, and it would be a huge advantage for professors who travel to conferences," Sacken said.

Heaney said that although

there would be benefits, there also would be a few negatives.

The school could be called a suitcase college because students could easily travel home every weekend, he said. In addition, Heaney said that for some students, 80-minute classes are too long.

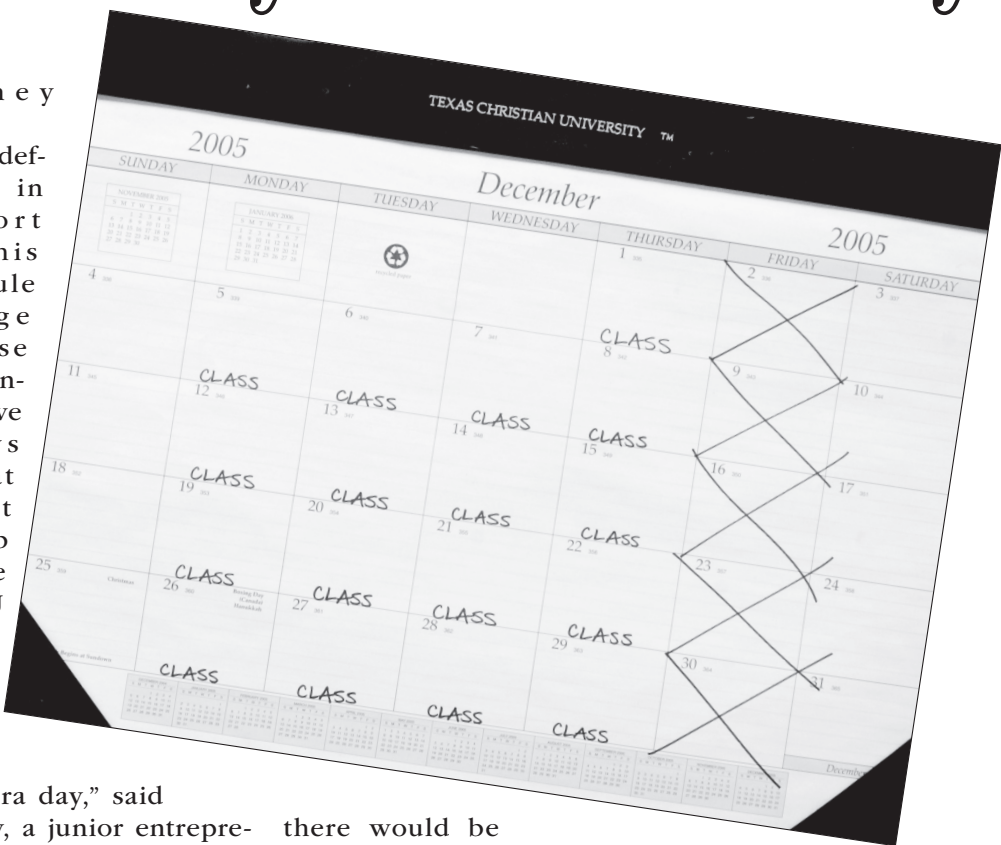
Sacken said that although some students' attention spans are not sufficient for that long, holding class twice a week as opposed to three times a week is not a big deal.

"I don't see a work differ-

ential, but the students I see in class more often I know better," he said.

Donovan said that academically, it depends on the teaching method. In a discussion class, it would be beneficial to have the longer class period, he said. In a lecture, however, the students benefit more from a smaller class period.

"Research shows that the most beneficial lecture is 35 minutes long and covers no more than six major points," he said.



## Police officer dies of injuries

### Family, friends mourn loss after Tuesday shooting

Associated Press

FORT WORTH — A police officer who was shot in the head while searching for a fugitive this week died Thursday as friends, family and fellow officers stood vigil.

Officer Henry "Hank" Nava, 39, was on life support and his condition had been deteriorating since the shooting Tuesday, said Fort Worth police Lt. Dean Sullivan.

"This afternoon, this great city, and our Police Department and this loving and caring family have indeed lost a true professional," Sullivan said.

Investigators said Stephen Lance Heard, 39, a convicted felon on parole, fired a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun as Nava opened a bedroom door while searching a mobile home.

After the shooting, Heard

forced his way into a nearby home and held another woman hostage for about two hours before releasing her and eventually surrendering, authorities said.

Heard has been arraigned on charges of attempted capital murder and aggravated kidnapping and was jailed on \$1 million bail on each charge. He is under suicide watch at the Tarrant County Jail and earlier Thursday said he mistook the officer for a robber.

"There is no way I knew that was a police officer. There is no way," Heard told reporters during a 20-minute interview at the Mansfield Jail.

Police said the officers identified themselves when they entered the mobile home.

Nava was in civilian clothes but wore a jacket that identified him as an officer, according to a police affidavit.

Heard was treated at the scene for a gunshot wound to his chin that he apparently received when Nava and two

other officers returned fire.

Heard's previous convictions include forgery and possession of a controlled substance, according to Texas Department of Public Safety records.

Police are trying to determine whether he is the driver who led officers on a high-speed chase Sunday night and also whether he has ties to the Aryan Brotherhood, a white supremacist group.

Nava had been a Fort Worth officer since 1992, except for a brief stint as a Plano officer in 1999, records show. He and his wife have a 9-year-old daughter and a 4-year-old son.

In a statement, Sandi Martin, a Nava family spokeswoman, thanked the public for its prayers and urged them to continue praying for the safety of all police officers.

"As you look around here, as you're on the street and you see police cars pass you each day, please be remind-

more on POLICE, page 2

## High utility costs a challenge to local universities, officials say

### Vice chancellor says \$1.5 million increase needed for next year's utility budget

By OLGA BOGRAD  
News Editor

As utility prices continue a steady upward climb, local universities, including TCU, are coping with price increases by raising tuition, budgeting more for utility costs and renovating buildings to make them more energy-friendly.

TCU is proposing to increase its \$8 million utility budget by \$1.5 million in the next fiscal year to accommodate the rising costs, said Brian Gutierrez, vice chancellor for finance and administration. He said rising utility costs have not yet caused TCU to go over its set budget for the year like they have at other universities in the area such as the University of North Texas (Denton) and the University of Texas at Arlington.

"As the year progresses, we compare the actual costs to our budget estimates," Gutierrez said. "We also (factor in) weather conditions."

He said the utility budget is assessed at least once a month, and it will become clearer if TCU has exceeded the allocated

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Andrei Cervantes / Staff Photojournalist