

THE SKIFF



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TUITION WILL BE
INCREASING BY
4.9 PERCENT NEXT
SCHOOL YEAR

A STUDENT MEDIA PUBLICATION OF TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

FORT WORTH, TEXAS



PHOTO BY BRANDON KITCHIN

NEW MINOR COMING

HEALTH, COMMUNICATION,
AND MEDIA WILL BE OFFERED
NEXT SEMESTER

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MAKING AN IMPACT

DENNIS JR.'S JOURNEY WILL
IMPACT THE BASKETBALL
SEASON

PAGE 8

CAMPUS NEWS

Tuition to exceed \$50,000 moving forward

By **ROBBIE VAGLIO**

EXECUTIVE EDITOR, TCU 360

TCU will tip the tuition scale next fall as the price as the price of attendance will exceed \$50,000.

On Friday, the board of trustee set tuition for the 2020-21 academic year at \$51,570, or 4.9% higher than this year's rate of \$49,160.

Need-based financial aid is expected to increase to match the hike, but merit scholarship won't keep pace.

Future increases are likely to be less, said Chancellor Victor Boschini. During last month's Faculty and Staff Town Hall, Boschini said the university won't be able to maintain annual increases in the 5% to 6% range that were seen in recent years.

"Rolling out into the future, we probably can't maintain that high of a tuition increase every year...it's already too high," Boschini said. "It can't be \$70,000 to go to TCU, that's just not realistic."

TCU's largest tuition increase spike, 8 %, came in 2012. Tuition increases have stayed around 4.9% since 2017.

Boschini said stabilizing tuition is part of an ongoing sustainability effort initiated by TCU's board of trustees.

He said while they are trying hold tuition spikes, it's unlikely that it would be cut. Everything on campus is funded by tuition, Boschini said.

In order to maintain this plan, Boschini said students will need to stop



PHOTO BY HEESOO YANG

Tuition will increase by 4.9% next year, but similar increases likely won't continue.

asking for as much as they have been.

"Students can have whatever you want, but somebody's going to have to pay for it, and students want more of everything every year," Boschini said. "They want more food options, they want more psychiatrists in the counseling center, they want a bigger Rec Center, and all that costs money."

He said having a set rate for incoming first-year students that won't change throughout their time at TCU likely isn't a good solution either.

"I've worked at a school that did that and they canceled it because

it backfired," Boschini said. "What happened is eventually the underclassmen got angry and they thought that they were paying for your benefits. It kind of created some dissension on campus."

Even though tuition has been increasing over the years, Boschini said students' pockets haven't always felt the price jump. Every time tuition has been raised, financial aid has been raised by the same amount.

"It shouldn't affect any students if they file the FAFSA -- if you need it, you'll get it," Boschini said. "I don't think it has because the retention

rate is 92%, it's actually gone up so I don't think that's affected anybody."

He said problems arise when students are only on merit-based scholarships, because those don't increase at the same rate as tuition.

"If it cost \$10 to go to TCU last year and I had an \$8 merit scholarship, this year it cost \$12 to go to TCU and I still have an \$8 merit scholarship," Boschini said. "Our board has sided with helping those in need versus anyone else, and so if you don't qualify for need, you won't get more money."



The Skiff

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CAMPUS NEWS

SGA considers eliminating Scantrons

By **RENEE UMSTED**

MANAGING EDITOR, TCU 360

TCU's Student Government Association (SGA) is considering reducing or eliminating Scantrons in favor of electronic tests.

The initiative, which is still just an idea, reflects TCU's attempt to become more sustainable, as moving away from Scantrons would decrease TCU's paper use, said Abby Vernacchia, SGA chair of academic affairs.

Vernacchia and Josh Witkop, SGA's president, have been meeting with different departments to accumulate data on



PHOTO BY HEESOO YANG

SGA provides Scantrons for students.

Scantron usage. After meeting with the provost, Dr. Teresa Abi-Nader Dahlberg, who told them they needed more faculty support, they presented the idea to the Faculty Senate.

Vernacchia said she and Witkop are working with some professors who might try to eliminate Scantrons, and they are continuing to gather information from the Harris College

of Nursing & Health Sciences, which uses only electronic tests.

The two have been discussing the pros and cons of making the switch, including weighing the costs and benefits and determining the best way to introduce the idea to SGA.

However, a vote in favor from SGA would not be enough to eliminate Scantrons testing, Vernacchia said.

Removing Scantrons would directly affect both faculty and students.

Dr. Susan Watson, an instructor of three economics courses, uses Scantrons as one form of testing. Although

Scantrons allow Watson to grade large quantities of assessments quickly, she said eliminating this method of testing would not have a significant impact on her classes, as she already utilizes forms besides Scantrons.

In fact, Watson said she has considered switching to electronic assessments, but her students expressed a preference for physical tests.

Dr. Scott Langston, an instructor of religion, said his students have discussed a preference for certain types of questions over others, but they have not indicated which method

of testing they like best.

Langston said he uses Scantrons in his introductory-level courses, though like Watson, he assesses his students in a variety of ways, including essay questions.

The religion instructor said Scantrons allow him to more quickly grade large quantities of tests, and if Scantrons were removed, he would have to spend more time grading assignments.

Langston said he supports the push for sustainability that drives this initiative to eliminate Scantrons.

Water line break affects Moudy

By **GRACE TOUPS**

EXECUTIVE EDITOR, THE 109

At around 6:45 a.m. Monday, a 12-inch cast-iron pipe underneath the intersection of Princeton Street and University Drive burst.

The Fort Worth Water Department began repairing the pipe about an hour later, which ultimately forced crews to shut off the water that runs through the Moudy buildings by 3:45 p.m.

Both of the building managers were notified of the incident, however, some students did not know there was a water leak.

The Fort Worth Water Department owns most of the pipes that run under University Drive and has lines that run off to TCU.

"Those pipes connect to a service meter that run the water connected to TCU's property through a distribution system," said Mary Gugliuzza, the communications director for the Fort Worth Water Department.

The pipe that burst on Princeton Street released a pressure that needed to be isolated in order to fix the line. Gugliuzza said the way to isolate this pressure was to cut off the main water lines in Moudy.

Chris Honkomp, assistant vice chancellor for facilities of the physical plant, said this is the third water main break that has affected Moudy this year.

"There's no exact reason we can identify why the pipes burst," Honkomp said, "but the

pipes connected to the Moudy buildings are older, cast iron pipes which can be affected by the clay earth that surrounds them when the earth moves."

Most of the newer buildings on TCU's campus use high-density polyethylene pipes, Honkomp said.

"Any project where the physical plant can go in to the water system, we try to go in and replace the old piping to avoid this problem," Honkomp said.

Gugliuzza said the issue was resolved at 11:33 p.m. Monday night but to expect Princeton Street to be closed for the next few days while they repair the street.

The bathrooms and all of the water lines in the Moudy buildings are now safe to use.

DECEMBER 6, 2019 is the deadline for the

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Deadline:

Portfolios may be submitted as ecopy to d.e.williams@tcu.edu, no later than 5 p.m., December 6, 2019.

For more information, go to www.elf.tcu.edu or send an email to d.e.williams@tcu.edu.

POLITIFROG

New law could cancel campus voting

By **BENTON MCDONALD**
EXECUTIVE EDITOR, POLITIFROG

Voting on campus for next year's general election could be blocked under a new Texas law.

House Bill 1888, which went into effect in September, requires all early-voting sites to operate for the entire 12-day early-voting period.

In the past, locations — such as TCU — have been allowed to be open for shorter time periods.

Not all of the votes were cast by students, but a 2018 study of similar voting sites in Florida found that voters between the ages of 18-22 were 10 times more likely to vote at an on-campus location than an off-campus one.

"The stated intention of this bill was to limit the ability of certain

localities, in particular in school bond elections, from temporarily placing voting sites in the schools that would benefit from those bond elections so as to 'stuff the ballot box' in favor of borrowing more money," said Joshua Blank, director of research for the Texas Politics Project.

Critics argue that the bill is also an attempt suppress voter turnout among college students.

Last year's midterms saw a surge in turnout by Texas' younger voters — a 234% increase in turnout compared to the 2014 midterm election.

"This was an election that saw significant victories for Democratic candidates both at the local level and significantly more competitive elections at the state level," Blank said.

Young voters

Voters aged 18-29 leaned strongly Democratic (67%) in the 2018 midterms, according to a study by the Pew Research Center. Looking forward, the 2020 election could see the first wave of influence from Generation Z. In Chegg's State of the Student 2019 Report, 80 percent of college students said they planned to vote.

However, under the new law, temporary sites will have to be operational for the entire 12 day early-voting period or not be offered as an early-voting site.

Texas Coordinator for the Campus Vote Project Maya Patel stressed the importance of convenience in a student's ability to vote.

"Having a polling location on campus



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANDON KITCHIN

The BLUU may no longer be able to host an early-voting site due to a new state law.

allows a student to not have to spend time traveling to a location because they're already on campus and to just be able to have an easier time accessing polls," she said. "Especially in places where there is not good public transportation and students don't have cars."

There's a chance TCU could opt to become a full-time polling place.

Budget concerns

Tarrant County has yet to decide whether they can afford to operate their polling sites at college campuses for the 12-day period.

At a commission-ers court meeting last month, County Judge Glen Whitley said that they won't know until they begin looking at the

budget for 2020.

County Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks, whose precinct includes TCU, is a strong supporter of voting sites on college campuses.

"I will commit to you that I will do everything conceivable to make sure that there are voting sites on the campuses of our universities in this county," he said.

Texas Democrats suing state over new early voting regulations

By **ZAED YOUSUF**
REPORTER, POLITIFROG

Democratic organizations at the state and national level have filed a suit arguing that a new Texas law that limits potential early voting sites unfairly targets young voters.

In the lawsuit, the Texas Democratic Party along with the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee claim that House Bill 1888 is unconstitutional because it decreases the access of young voters to polling

sites.

The law requires all voting sites to remain open for all 12 days of early voting. This effectively eliminates mobile polling locations on college campuses, which typically are only open for a portion of the 12-day early voting period.

One of the bill's authors, Rep. Greg Bonnen, R-Friendswood, said mobile locations led to vote harvesting in Texas.

In the lawsuit, Democrats contend that "HB 1888 now mandates that, based on where they live, some voters will

enjoy the same consistent access to early voting they had previously, but voters who live near now-defunct temporary voting sites, especially young voters, will suffer reduced or eliminated access to the franchise.

Tarrant County used six different voting locations on college and university campuses during the 2018 midterms. The new law would remove these locations unless the county decides to allocate funds to allow them to stay open for the entire early-voting period.

"Republicans know Texas is changing,

that's why they're trying to change the rules to make it harder for college students, seniors, the disability community, rural

Texans and survivors of natural disasters to cast their ballots," Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa said in a statement after

the lawsuit was filed. "Texas Democrats know we should be making it easier to vote, not harder. Democracy thrives when everyone participates."

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CAMPUS NEWS

TCU cancels offer to trade tickets for canned food

By GRACIE AMISS

MANAGING EDITOR, TCU 360

For some students, it sounded like an early Christmas present, but within minutes it was more like an early April fool's joke.

In a campus-wide email, the TCU Police told students with parking tickets that if they brought in non-perishables the department would eliminate up to two parking violations.

The department was trying to boost its effort

in "Frogs Feed the Fort," competition, in which departments across campus vie to see who can collect the most non-perishables for a food drive that benefits the Tarrant Area Food Bank.

But the offer was snatched back before students could make it the grocery store.

Jenna Quirk, a junior marketing major, received two parking citations within the past week. Although she was planning to appeal her

tickets, this proposition came in the knick of time.

But nine minutes after the initial email was sent, another email hit students' inboxes. This one retracted the offer and apologized for the miscommunication.

"I felt played," Quirk said. "I was so overjoyed about this opportunity, and when they took their offer back, I was extremely disappointed."

DayJus Hill, a sophomore communication studies major who also has two

citations, was planning on partaking in the food drive.

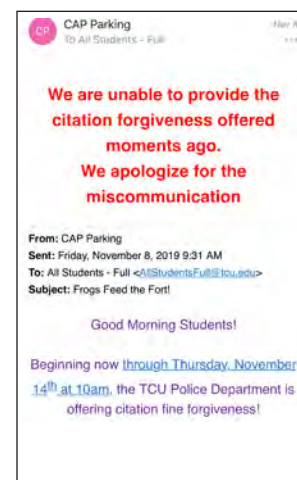
"When I received the second email, I was upset. Whoever sent the email should have made sure everything was intact before sending it," Hill said.

Parking tickets can easily put a dent in student's wallets, with prices ranging from \$50 to \$100. Many students complain that they are forced to park in places that might result in a citation because TCU

lacks adequate parking spaces.

TCU Assistant Police Chief Robert Rangel apologized for any miscommunication.

"We're sorry that we got everybody's hopes up high," Rangel said. "We should've clarified the rules and run that by the people who were coordinating [the program] to make sure they would be okay with that type of public relations initiative."



SCREENSHOT BY STUDENT

CAP Parking sent out an email dismissing the offer for citation forgiveness.

Students approve all proposed changes to SGA's constitution

By YULISSA CORTINA

STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

TCU students approved all four of the proposed changes to the Student Government Association's (SGA) constitution in a student-wide vote last week.

The proposed changes included adding the TCU anti-hazing policy and TCU anti-discriminatory policy to SGA's constitution, eliminating student

body vote on changes to the SGA constitution mandated by the university and merging the two student body vice presidents into one.

All four proposed changes will go into effect immediately except for the merging of the two student body presidents.

Vivian Noyd, the elections and regulations chair of SGA, said that amendments made to the SGA constitution must

first be approved by the organization.

To be approved, the amendments must pass the House of Student Representatives by a two-thirds vote, and then the undergraduate student body will vote.

When asked about the reasoning behind implementing TCU's anti-hazing and anti-discriminatory policies into the SGA constitution, Noyd said that they are

required provisions in all student organization constitutions.

The proposed change to eliminate the student body vote only applies to charges mandated by the university to maintain SGA's status as an officially recognized student organization.

"As an organization, it places an undue time and financial burden on the group to advertise and then hold a student

body-wide referendum vote on items, like the anti-hazing and anti-discrimination clauses, that the university is requiring SGA to add," Noyd said.

The amendment that combines the vice president positions will go into effect in SGA's next election cycle in the spring of 2020.

SGA's House of Student Representatives will meet again on Tuesday, Nov. 12.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SGA

The proposed changes to the SGA constitution.

Health, communication and media: New minor is on the way

By DYLAN GUEST

LINE EDITOR, TCU 360

A new, multidisciplinary minor – health, communication and media – will be offered to students through the Bob Schieffer College of Communication beginning next semester.

Dr. Wendy Macias, an associate professor and the associate dean of undergraduate studies in strategic communication,

said the minor started as an idea last spring when the first related class was made available.

The Health, Communication and Media class is taught by one professor from four different departments, including communication studies, strategic communication, journalism and film, television and digital media.

"We have a growing number of faculty with

experience in health communication who are either doing research or have expertise bringing that in," Macias said.

Macias said the emergence of the TCU and UNTHSC School of Medicine has highlighted the importance of health communication.

"Having the med school come in has shown the importance of health communication for that unit at TCU and

the world that we live in," Macias said.

Macias also said that students have shown a desire to study health communication.

"There are so many jobs out there that are looking for health communication," Macias said. "I've taught at TCU for about 10 years and happen to be in strategic communication, so I've had students come and talk to me because they

know I do health communication, and they're interested to go out there into those jobs but had a lack of that opportunity here."

The minor has five required classes and then another selection of one three-hour course must be taken as well. Health, communication and media also fills the social science core requirement.

Macias said she believes the minor can

complement a variety of majors.

"Psychology, sociology and anthropology all come to mind because health communication would be a little bit more applied," Macias said. "Others would be the more health-focused majors as we would be adding the communication side to the health and science side."

Horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019:

This year, you move easily through hassles; however, sometimes you like the chaos and the ideas that come from such confusion. You might be able to handle the undefined and vague when dealing with matters in your life, but others might not. If single, you could be unsure about making a commitment, but the other party could be demanding. Be true to yourself. If attached, you absolutely adore your sweetie. Relax and allow the bond to deepen.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ Push comes to shove when dealing with an active, caring person in your daily life. You might judge that others do not understand him or her. You could get involved in this issue or suggest how this person could approach others differently. Tonight: Chatting with a friend.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ You opt to do a sound review of finances. You might want to hold off on a purchase until this process is complete. A friend or situation appears one way but could actually be a perpetual drain. Tonight: Continue your work before the weekend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Observe what is happening with a loved one or close associate. He or she might be quite generous and seem very upbeat. You might wonder how it feels to be in this person's position. You express your caring by pitching in or sharing ideas. Tonight: As you like it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★ You might feel cautious or timid. Reach out for a wiser

person who can give you feedback and help you see your way through what feels like a maze. Tonight: Off listening to a favorite song.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Where your friends are is where you want to be. Even at work, you view your cohorts as friends for the most part. Have a discussion that might be overdue with someone who is involved in the work-related part of your life. Tonight: Join friends. Start the weekend early.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ Defer to another person. He or she might not have your organization or vision; however, they are unusually dynamic and creative. They also pick up subtleties you don't. You will be pleased at what comes up. Tonight: A must appearance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Reach out for someone who frequently supports you. Your imagination adds zip to a project even though at first an idea could be rejected. Try presenting it in a different manner. Put more of yourself into this particular project. Tonight: Think weekend plans.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ One-on-one relating takes you down a new path. You are likely to go overboard with the help of a partner. He or she enjoys unwinding with you. Your caring keeps growing. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Defer to others, especially someone who makes you feel good almost every day. Try to take this person off a pedestal. Appreciate him or her as a human being with faults. Tonight: A loved one plays a significant role.

Carpe Diem by Niklas Eriksson



Dustin by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Intelligent Life by David Reddick



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Get into a project with determination. You have a lot you want to get done. A loved one might call and interfere for a brief while. Do not allow your thoughts to wander. Remain disciplined. Tonight: Put your feet up and relax.

carpec20191114

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You enjoy yourself far more than you thought possible. You have a lot of obligations and need to take a stand financially. Nevertheless, a loved one or child weaves a happy note through your day. Tonight: Play

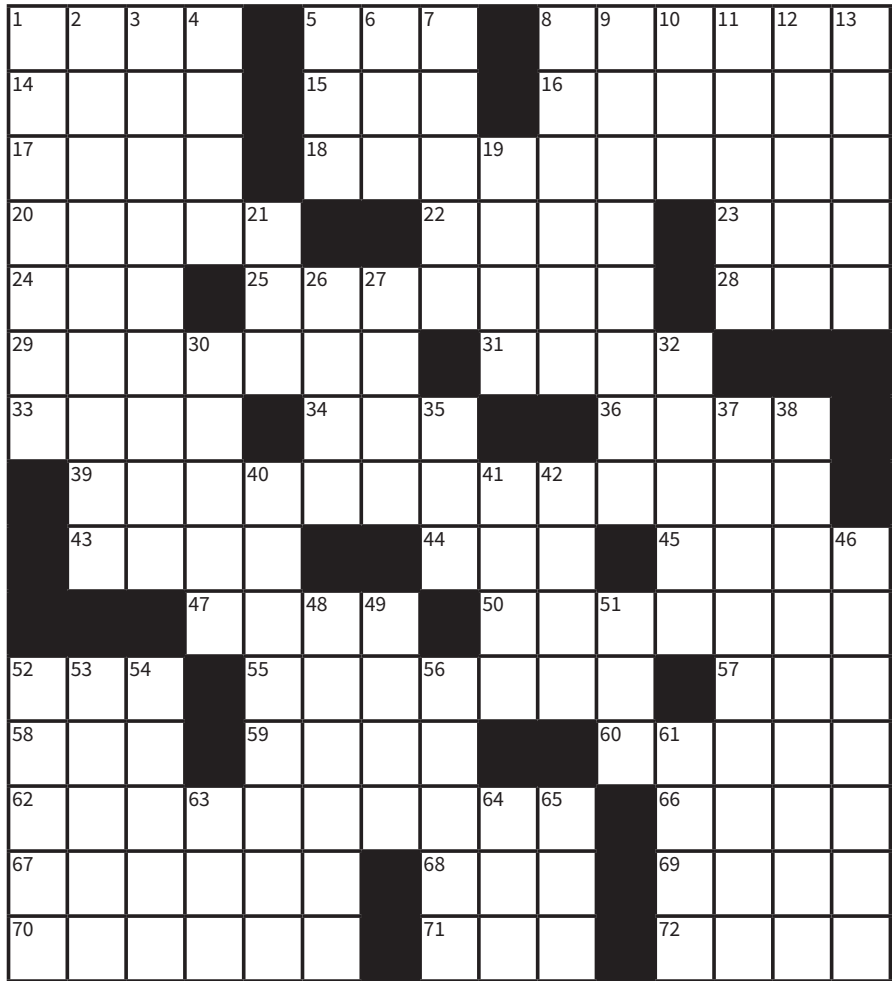
away.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Tension builds at home. You could be concerned about a matter in your personal life and also how to handle the other party. Know that when you need "to handle" someone, you need to let go. Tonight: Curl up at home.

The New York Times

Edited by Will Shortz



PUZZLE BY TRACY GRAY

- ACROSS**
1 Acrobat displays
5 Fish in a Japanese pond
8 Unjustified criticism, in slang
14 Make well
15 Part of the Nativity story
16 Light a fire under
17 Luxury hotel brand
18 What margarine has, unlike butter
20 Potentially offensive
22 World Golf Hall-of-Famer Isao
23 Morsel for a toad
24 It's here, on the Champs-Élysées
25 Hounds
28 Paul in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
29 Part of a tenant screening report
31 Conseil d' ____ (adviser to un président)
33 One of two for four
34 Lasik target
36 Birds' bills
39 "Tread carefully!" ... or a hint to four dangers in this puzzle
43 Jiffies
44 ____ Poke (caramel candy)
- 45 Old cars with wings in their logo
47 Sexologist Shere
50 Classic "Animal House" scene
52 Fool
55 Kenya's second-largest city
57 "Are you blind, ref?!"
58 Part of I.P.A.
59 Speck
60 Authors of many sch. textbooks
62 Requirement after a surgery, perhaps
66 Apnea-treating M.D.s
67 Before it's too late
68 Nickname in 1950s politics
69 Pulitzer-winning James
70 Get moving
71 Suede feature
72 Exam with two logical reasoning sects.
- DOWN**
1 Sound system?
2 Opposite of builders
3 Aid for prospective homeowners
4 Berth place
5 Relations
6 Cry of horror, quaintly
7 Cuzco residents
8 Online shopping icon
9 Sellers on Etsy, e.g.
10 Jane or John, in unsolved cases
11 Like scenes in Grant Wood paintings
12 Last two words of John Lennon's "Imagine"
13 Pummels with paintballs, say
19 Metaphor for indebtedness
21 Michael of "Weekend Update" on "S.N.L."
26 Banda ____ (2004 Indonesian tsunami site)
27 Blue-bottled vodka brand
30 Abandon
32 Colorful aquarium swimmer
35 Sister of Helios and Selene
37 Aids in getting drunk fast
38 Brit's afternoon refreshment

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

SOLUTION

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8	6	9	5	2	4	3	1	7
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TCU Trivia

True or False: The University of Texas and Texas A&M developed their hand signs partly because of TCU.

SOLUTION

P	D	F	S		K	O	I		B	A	D	R	A	P
H	E	A	L		I	N	N		A	R	O	U	S	E
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I	N	T	I	M	E		I	K	E		A	G	E	E
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TCU TRIVIA ANSWER

True

SPORTS

Started from the bottom: Dennis Jr.'s long route to TCU

BY COLIN POST

SPORTS EDITOR, TCU 360

Many new faces will hit the court for the Horned Frogs Thursday night, but one is set to make an impact from the get-go.

Alongside returners Desmond Bane and Kevin Samuel, senior Edric Dennis Jr. has emerged as a leader for head coach Jamie Dixon's squad, though he has only been in Fort Worth for a few months.

"He brings a lot of intangibles to the table," Dixon said. "[He has] the characteristics you want from a point guard: leadership, loud voice."

TCU is Dennis Jr.'s fourth school in five years. He transferred to TCU from UT-Arlington in May. As a graduate transfer, he is eligible immediately for the Frogs.

On Thursday, Dennis Jr. will make get his first action at the Power 5 level.

"I think it means a lot," Dixon said about Dennis' first Power 5 start. "Here's a guy who's played himself up, to use that phrase, from lower levels, junior college, and is now playing in his local, Power 5 institution."

Adjusting to a new school and new teammates is nothing new to the 6-foot-3 point guard.

In high school, Dennis Jr. spent three years at Skyline High School, a public magnet school in Dallas, before transferring to Desoto High School. Though he was listed as a top-50 player

in Texas by Rivals.com during his time with the Eagles, he garnered little attention at the college level.

Dennis Jr. started his college career at Hill College, a junior college south of Dallas. There, honorable mention all-conference honors earned him a chance to move to Jackson, Mississippi, and play for the Jackson State Tigers.

At Jackson State, Dennis Jr. continued to improve. He finished 10th in the SWAC with 14.7 points per game and averaged 32% from behind the arc. Once again, the Dallas native would see a bigger opportunity arise, and he announced his transfer to UT-Arlington following the Tigers' season.

The increase in competition would not diminish Dennis Jr.'s game. After sitting out a season due to the NCAA transfer rule, he ranked second on the team with 14.3 points per game in 2018, adding 4.5 rebounds and 2.3 assists as well.

"All my life I've been a scorer," Dennis Jr. said. "I'm not your traditional just bring-it-up-pass-the-ball type of point guard. I can do both."

Nevertheless, Dennis Jr. did not believe his journey was over. After TCU saw their roster diminished by transfers and missed the NCAA tournament in March, the talented point guard saw an opportunity to make an impact at the highest level and signed with the Frogs in May.

"It's been fun, very different from the last

school I came from," Dennis Jr. said. "I want to win. I want to get to the tournament."

Now, learning to run an offense against some of the country's top competition in a talented Big 12 Conference, Dennis Jr. no longer has to worry about proving himself by way of scoring. Instead, he has learned to develop a skill that TCU fans know well—passing.

"I've always had the characteristics of a point guard: leading, talking, energy," Dennis Jr. said. "Now I'm balancing being around great players, [a] great coaching staff, and scoring and passing."

Last season, TCU starting point guard Alex Robinson finished with 672 assists on his career, a program record. His 6.9 assists per game ranked first in the Big 12, 2.9 ahead of second place.

It's no doubt that Dennis Jr. has big shoes to fill, but he is confident that he can, once again, exceed expectations. The ferocity with which the fifth-year senior has approached the preseason has already caught Dixon's attention.

"The main thing is his enthusiasm and his toughness," Dixon said. "Right now, he's been starting and playing really well."

Dennis Jr. will benefit from playing with the most talented roster he ever has had.

Bane, named to the preseason All-Big 12 First Team last month, is the Big 12's lead returning scorer after averaging 15.2 points per game



AP PHOTO/TYLER KAUFMAN

Texas-Arlington guard Edric Dennis (5) is defended by Georgia State guards Damon Wilson and Kane Williams during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game for the Sun Belt Conference men's tournament championship in New Orleans, Sunday, March 17, 2019. Georgia State won 73-64.

last season. The senior was also named to the preseason Wooden Award Top 50 list on Tuesday.

Down low, Samuel is expected to be one of the most dominant presences in the conference this season. A year ago, the redshirt sophomore

averaged 6.9 rebounds per game, good for sixth in the Big 12.

"They make my job easy," Dennis Jr. said about Bane and Samuel. "Greatest teammates I've ever had. Great kids."

TCU fans will get their first look at Dennis Jr. Thursday as the Frogs

take on the Southwestern Pirates in their season opener. Tipoff in Schollmaier Arena is scheduled for 7 p.m.

"I took the longer route to get here [TCU]," Dennis Jr. said. "Now, I'm definitely ready for it."