

# THE SKIFF



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WOMEN'S  
BASKETBALL FALLS TO  
BAYLOR 66-57

A STUDENT MEDIA PUBLICATION OF TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

FORT WORTH, TEXAS



TCU

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# TCU AT A CROSSROADS

*Student and former faculty member allege racial and gender  
discrimination*

*Illustration by: Hailey Campbell*

## LISTENING SESSIONS FOLLOWING LAWSUIT

TCU GIVES STUDENTS SPACE  
TO SHARE CONCERNS

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## CRISIS IN KING HALL

DORM FLOODING FORCES  
STUDENTS TO EVACUATE

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## CAMPUS NEWS

# Listening sessions follow lawsuit

By **ALEXANDRA LANG**  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR, THE SKIFF

Faculty, staff and administrators listened Monday and Tuesday as students of color and from marginalized groups spoke of the hostility and hatred they experience on campus.

The listening sessions were called in response to a lawsuit that alleges faculty, including Dr. Diane Snow, dean of the John V. Roach Honors College, physically and verbally abused an unnamed student during a summer trip to Washington D.C.

Many of the students who spoke during Tuesday evening's session in the Dee J. Kelly Alumni Center

Painted a bleak picture of life at TCU. One said she had never been called the N-word until arriving at TCU; others spoke of having their presence in the classroom questioned by faculty. Some suggested that the session itself was traumatizing as students were being asked to share painful experiences.

During the sessions, students were also asked for ideas for change.

They proposed mandatory diversity training for faculty and staff. Currently, faculty and staff are required to complete anti-discrimination training.

The sessions were hosted by Kathy Cavins-Tull, the vice chancellor for student affairs. Ebony

Rose, senior learning and development consultant in Human Resources, facilitated the discussion.

Cavins-Tull and Rose organized the event to give students the opportunity and platform to share their thoughts directly with faculty and the administration.

"I think it's important that our students have an opportunity to share their stories and have their voices heard," Rose said.

Cavins-Tull said she is optimistic that the sessions will help the administration to find solutions. "The more stories we can hear, the different approaches we can use to make our decisions," she said.

Provost Teresa

*Recorders and cameras were not allowed in the session.*

Abi-Nader Dahlberg also attended.

"I'm grateful for the students, faculty and staff who attended our listening sessions. Especially the students who shared their stories. It is important for us to listen and it is clear we have work to do," she said in a statement. "I am sincere in my commitment to build upon what we heard these past two days so that we can be the community we aspire to be."



## The Skiff

TCU Box 298050  
Fort Worth, TX 76129  
360@tcu360.com  
Phone (817) 257-3600  
Fax (817) 257-7133

**Editor** DREW MITCHELL

**Design Editor**  
Kaitlyn Freetage

**Advertising Manager**  
Dorothy Anderson

**Associate Editor**  
Alexandra Lang

**Director of Student Media Sales and Operations**  
Leah Griffin

**Director of Student Media**  
Jean Marie Brown

**Chair, Department of Journalism**  
Uche Onyebadi, Ph. D

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# Water line burst causes flood in King Hall

By **MARISSA STACEY**  
STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

The first floor of King Hall flooded Monday night when pipes burst just after 10 p.m.

"There was a water line break and it caused some damage, and they are working on getting it cleaned up so that residents can get back in," said Steven McGee, the chief of TCU Police.

Video footage by Dawson Kundysek, a resident of King Hall, shows the weight of the water bursting through the ceiling.

"I was concerned at first. Then the ceiling collapsed and I freaked out," Kundysek said.

"The water was fast and filled our common space and I started to panic."

All students were evacuated immediately and sent to the BLUU Auditorium for further instruction.

"The housing staff in King Hall learned about the leak minutes after it happened and took immediate action," said Craig Allen, the director of Housing and Residence Life. "We are most concerned about the students impacted and the safety of all the residents."

Housekeeping worked with TCU facilities to address the issue as quickly as possible, Allen said.

King's Hall Director and resident assistants declined to comment on the event.

"The emergency alert came on and so me and my roommate had time to grab our important belongings," said, Tychelle Bearden, a resident on the first floor of King Hall.

Students living on the second, third, fourth and fifth floors were escorted back to their rooms. First-floor residents were only allowed to grab their necessities.

It is unclear where first-floor residents would be sleeping and when they will get to go back in their rooms for other items.

"Our hall staff worked quickly to identify vacancies throughout campus so that all those impacted had a place to stay for the night," Allen said. "We appreciate the kindness of Horned Frog students who welcomed these residents, and we are very sorry for any inconvenience this has caused."

The cause of the water line break is currently unknown. Allen said repairs are starting to be made to get residents of King Hall back home as soon as possible.



## COMMUNITY

# Flu activity remains high in Texas

By GRACE AMISS

MANAGING EDITOR, TCU360

Despite the Center for Disease and Control (CDC) reporting that influenza activity has declined slightly within the past few weeks, Texas is still indicated as being one of the states with the highest flu activity.

Texas is one of 35 states with “high” flu activity. The CDC reported a widespread statewide flu activity level with 34.72% of positive flu specimens in Texas hospitals.

Influenza, more commonly referred to as “the flu”, is nothing new. Every year, the season approaches, and doctors urge the public to get their shots and be more diligent about staying

sanitary; however, health officials predicted this flu season to hit harder than in years past.

Three Tarrant County influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported, according to the most recent Tarrant County influenza surveillance weekly report.

While there is no official start or end to flu season, it typically begins in October and lasts until February. TCU’s Brown-Lupton Health Center is encouraging students to be conscientious about staying healthy now that peak season is in full swing.

Although Lois-Kate Kolkhorst, a junior fashion merchandising major, had the flu twice before, the beginning of

peak season didn’t phase her — until she tested positive for influenza last week.

“I’m out of class for the whole week,” Kolkhorst said. “I know a few people that have the flu right now. I’m a little nervous about the flu affecting my school work.”

For Kolkhorst, getting the flu shot was never something in which she partook; however, Dr. Jane Torgerson, the medical director at the health center, advised getting the shot.

“The flu vaccine is an inactivated virus and you cannot get the flu from it,” Torgerson said. “If you do get the flu despite getting the vaccine, it is much more likely to be a mild case.”



AP PHOTO/MATT ROURKE

Photo of vials of flu vaccine.

Since the start of the new year, the health center has documented 17 cases of influenza, a number similar to years past, according to Torgerson.

Aside from getting the flu vaccine, she urges students to wash their hands, avoid sharing

drinks, straws, or utensils and, arguably the most important one, to stay home when sick.

TCU offers over 3,500 free flu vaccines each year. Additionally, TCU has hand sanitizers located conveniently throughout campus and posts flu prevention

information across campus and electronically to students.

## Former faculty member sues alleging discrimination

By MARISSA STACY

STAFF WRITER, TCU360

A former TCU professor has filed a lawsuit alleging she faced gender and racial bias during her time in the economics department.

Dr. Silda Nikaj, who specialized in “health economics and labor economics” according to the suit, wants her job back or compensation for the loss of her job.

“As a practice, Texas Christian University does not comment on the specifics of pending litigation. We will respond to the claims in the complaint as a part of the legal process. The university is committed to providing an academic

community that values respect, diversity, equity and inclusion,” the university said in a statement regarding the suit.

A lawsuit was filed on her behalf Jan. 23, in federal court in Dallas. The suit claims that “during her employment, she faced blatant discrimination based on gender, female, and race/national origin.”

Nikaj is of Eastern European/Albanian descent, according to the suit.

This follows a suit filed by an unnamed student on Jan. 15, alleging physical and verbal assault.

Nikaj was hired as a tenure-track professor

in August 2012 and left in 2016. She did receive equal pay as her male peers, but according to the court documents she was required to “teach a heavier caseload.”

“The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued a cause finding on her claims of gender discrimination based on pay,” according to the suit.

Nikaj did file two complaints with TCU’s Title IX coordinator and the chair of the Department of Economics, according to court papers.

However, the suit detailed multiple incidents of retaliation after she complained:



PHOTO BY MARISSA STACY

TCU Economics Department is now under investigation for the discrimination of a former professor.

“TCU attempted to increase the research requirements she needed to complete, TCU had a different expectation of her for attendance of Faculty meetings, the Department chair created a new rule intended to make it more difficult for faculty to complain

of disparate treatment/discrimination and efforts to embarrass Plaintiff by inappropriately contacting other members of the profession questioning the validity of her work.”

There was also a hate crime that occurred in her class in September of

2016, the suit said. She found swastikas drawn in her classroom, something that the suit said the department at TCU did not take seriously.

## CAMPUS NEWS

# Lawsuit claims TCU faculty physically, verbally abused student

BY ROBBIE VAGLIO

EXECUTIVE EDITOR, TCU 360

A lawsuit filed in federal court on behalf of a student accuses the Dean of the John V. Roach Honors College of physically and verbally abusing the unnamed student during a month-long course last summer in Washington, D.C.

The suit, which was filed in the U.S. District Court in Dallas, also claims that faculty members on the trip conspired with Dean Diane Snow to make sure the student, identified only as Jane Doe No. 1, didn't get credit for the course.

The suit claims TCU discriminated against Jane Doe No. 1, "through a series of hateful and bigoted acts and adverse actions designed to dehumanize [her]."

By creating a hostile environment to learn in, subjecting Doe to harassment and discriminating against Doe on the basis of disability, she claims TCU violated Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1970.

TCU gave a brief comment: "As a practice, Texas Christian University does not comment on the specifics of pending litigation. Like many universities in the country, TCU has a complex history that we are taking an active approach to examining and understanding."

***"Today TCU is focused on creating a respectful and inclusive community for all students. At this time, the university's priority is to address our student's concerns, and we are investigating the matters outlined."***

An attorney for the student said it was difficult to believe that such treatment could occur "in modern times."

"Upon investigation, including conversations with current and former students and others in the TCU community, we concluded this case demanded legal redress," said Kevin B. Wiggins, a Dallas attorney with the firm of White and Wiggins. "Our examination of TCU's history—based on its own records—reveals an institution with a sad and unrepentant history of racial discrimination punctuated by brief and abortive efforts to ameliorate its causes and effects."

As a member of the Honors College, Doe had



Diane Snow, dean of the Honors College, is accused of verbally and physically assaulting a student.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TCU 360

the opportunity to study abroad either in Europe, Japan or Washington, D.C. last summer. She did not want to go to Washington, but she was persuaded to go when the university offered to pay 48% of the program fee, according to the suit.

Doe was forced to sleep on the hotel couch because her roommates decided to take up all of the available space, but despite Doe's best efforts to get the situation fixed, Snow said she was assigned to sleep on the couch, the suit said.

"TCU's conduct left the African American students knowing that 'their life at the university [and university-sanctioned programs] [was] generally worse than the life of an average white

student," according to court documents.

The suit said hotel staff feared she was being abused on the trip because she wasn't allowed to use the bathroom in her hotel room and had to go to the hotel lobby, no matter the hour.

When she complained to Frederick Gooding, an Honors College professor and a facilitator for the Washington program, he insisted that the treatment was her own fault, according to court documents.

The suit said Gooding also didn't act when Doe told him she had difficulty walking due to sores and blisters on her feet.

When the students were walking between

programs, Snow even "aggressively shoved" Doe to the front of the group when she noticed Doe was starting to lag behind, the suit said.

The next day, when the group visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the suit accuses Snow of telling Doe to "experience the feeling of being crowded into a slave cargo ship" by taking the elevator.

The same day, when Doe's mother visited Washington to support her daughter, Snow is accused of "harassing" her by asking her how she could afford to be there, according to the suit.

"Dr. Snow welcomed and treated the other TCU (white) parents

with excitement, warmth and respect," the court documents say.

When Doe continued to struggle walking later in the trip, this time bleeding through her socks because of the sores and blisters, the suit said Snow insisted she go on a low-carb diet and mocked her physical appearance and weight.

The suit said Snow also told Doe, who was 19 at the time, looked like Gooding, who is in his 40s.

The pain and hostile treatment Doe was experiencing almost convinced her to leave the program, according to the suit, but Snow forced her to stay by threatening to make her repay the discount

Continued on Page 5



Continued from Page 4  
 that was given to her to attend, revoke her credit for the course and kick Doe out of the Honors College and TCU.  
 The suit said Doe decided to take pictures of the sores on her feet and send them to the office of Campus Life at TCU; the photos were then sent to the health center. Doe was advised to seek immediate medical evaluation of her feet.

Her feet forced her to take rideshare options rather than walk in between activities, but court documents say Snow was disgusted with her for doing so, according to the suit.

According to court documents, another student on the trip witnessed Snow saying she “hates [Doe].”

A couple of weeks into the program, students began to notice bed bugs in their rooms. While some students were allowed to change rooms, the suit said Snow told Doe that she needed to stay in her room because “bugs live inside too” and to “stop talking about it.”

Doe’s mother booked a room for her daughter in a different hotel, but she received no assistance from TCU. Snow told her it was against TCU policy and forced her to return to the bug-infested suite, according to the suit.

Despite everything that was working against her, the suit said Doe was able to maintain good grades and excelled academically throughout the course.

Later that week was Doe’s 20th birthday, and her colleagues wanted to throw a party for her because Snow spared no expense when another

student celebrated his birthday earlier in the trip. According to the suit, Doe’s classmates planned her dinner when there was nothing planned on the schedule, but when Snow learned about this, she scheduled a family dinner to honor Aaron Chimbel, a former professor of journalism at TCU, current professor at St. Bonaventure University and dean of the Jandoli School of Communication.

“Dr. Snow knew her family dinner was in direct conflict with [Doe’s] surprise birthday plans,” court documents said.

One student confronted Snow about this, but she responded that Doe’s birthday dinner was “not optimal” and “over budget,” the suit said.

Snow returned to the hotel that evening visibly intoxicated, according to court documents, and told Doe that “everything worked out the way it was supposed to,” regarding the birthday dinner. According to the suit, Doe contemplated suicide that evening. It was the first of three separate times she considered taking her own life.

The suit said around Aug. 3, 2019, Snow, Chimbel and Russell Mack, an instructor of strategic communication at TCU, conspired against Doe to make sure she wouldn’t receive credit for the course.

Snow accused Doe of plagiarizing assignments that she submitted to her, Chimbel and Mack, including her Honors College admissions essay, and questioned the value of her life again, according to the suit.

Snow, Chimbel and Mack gave her poor grades on class participation and interactions with tour guides, as well, despite the fact that Chimbel and Mack praised her academic accomplishments during the trip, according to court documents.

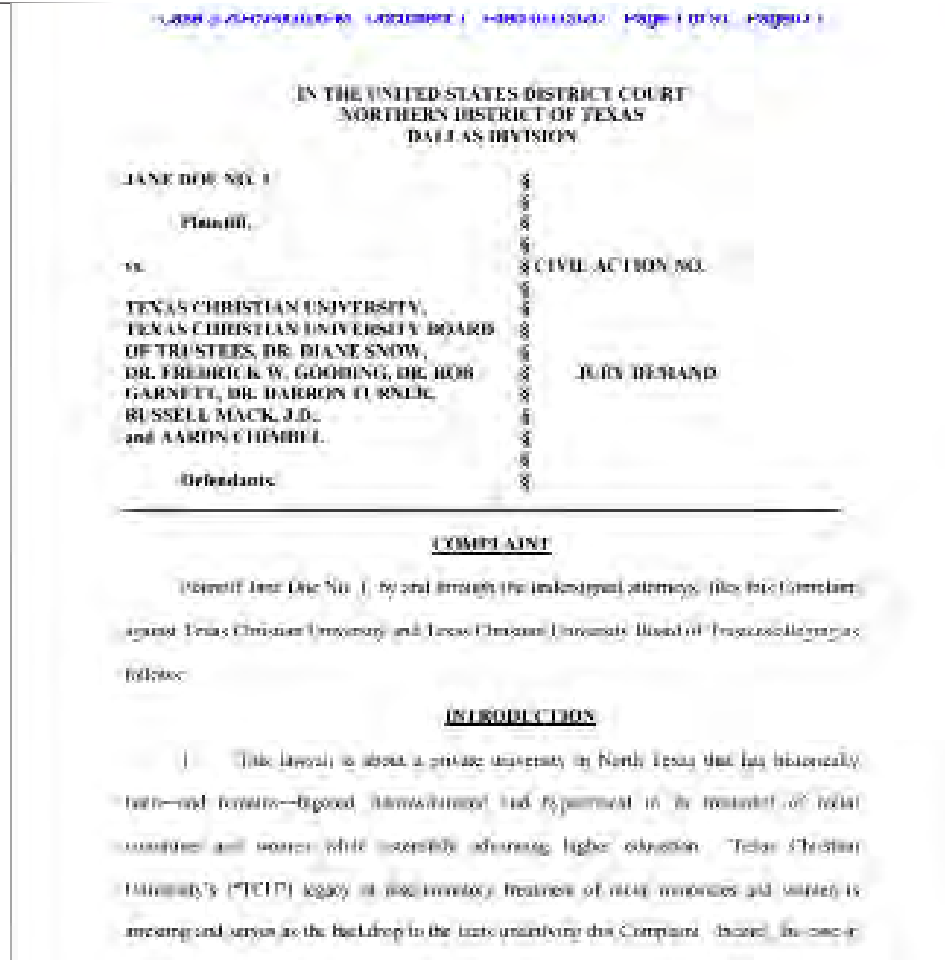
The experience in Washington changed Doe as she now struggles with mental and physical health deficiencies. The suit said she hurries off campus when she doesn’t have class and now lives in a hotel room.

TCU’s Counseling and Mental Health Center diagnosed Doe with academic issues, depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation or self-harm, according to the suit.

The suit claims she was also promised that there would be staff changes at TCU, but she still hasn’t seen any turnover.

The lawsuit also claims that TCU committed fraud by misrepresenting the university’s DEI campaign that was meant to foster an inclusive campus, that Snow, Gooding, Mack and Chimbel acted grossly negligent and that TCU negligently hired and trained its employees.

“This lawsuit has been filed to compensate this student for the injuries she has suffered and to encourage TCU to take seriously its responsibility to provide an academic environment in which minority students can thrive,” White and Wiggins, LLP said in a statement.



The front page of the lawsuit filed against TCU.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TCU 360

SPECIAL EDITION



VALENTINE'S DAY

GRAB YOURS FEBRUARY 6, 2020

# Horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020:

This year, you will be an active communicator, which could cause some people to pull back at first. Eventually, you find that others become more responsive than in the recent past. If single, you will want to share a heavy dose of ideas and feelings. Try it, but you might not like that much intensity all the time. If attached, your bond flourishes because of your time spent together chatting and reconnecting. ARIES could want to be closer to you than in the recent past.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ Fuss, complain and do what's necessary. Your energy and willingness to take the lead with a money problem is admirable, but it could cause a hassle or two. Consider having another associate take charge of finances. Tonight: On a roll... finally.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ You could feel pressured by a sequence of events that force you to take a stronger role than normal. Investigate options, and keep doing so until you have a stronger sense of direction. Tonight: Do not allow a person or situation to make you feel cornered.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ You can jump into what appears to be a full-throated problem or hang at the edge to gain a better perspective. You will know what to do. A loved one or associate looks at the issue quite differently. Tonight: Be willing to go back to the drawing board.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Your feelings always seem on the verge of exploding or creating a new scenario. Force yourself to use some restraint. Lady Luck comes through for you

in a powerful manner. Tonight: Be open to new ideas, even if you feel tense about them.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ You could be in a tizzy and not able to bypass a problem. You seem to keep feeding the issue with your concern. Others sense how important it might be to follow through on an idea. Your associates add an element of good luck. Tonight: Get feedback.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ One-on-one relating takes you down the right path and success seems imminent. How you complete a certain task demonstrates flexibility and a desire to find winning solutions. Tonight: A loving friend continues to be instrumental.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Others seem more than ready to pitch in. Someone could want to assume more power until he or she witness an element of unpredictability. Do not allow an associate or friend to rock your foundation. Tonight: Encourage others to share their thoughts.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ You could be reacting to a certain amount of unpredictability stemming from a loved one or close associate. He or she might become stubborn over a key matter, which could be the last reaction you anticipated. Tonight: Say little. Go with the flow.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ While others scratch their heads not knowing what to do, when to do it could be the critical issue. Loosen up and be willing to brainstorm until you are no longer concerned as to what course a situation will take. Tonight: Go play.

## Carpe Diem by Niklas Eriksson



## Dustin by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



## Intelligent Life by David Reddick



**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Your imagination rarely gets out of control, yet it could at the present moment. You might be concerned by what is heading down your path. Know that you can handle whatever might be delivered to you! Tonight: Head home early.

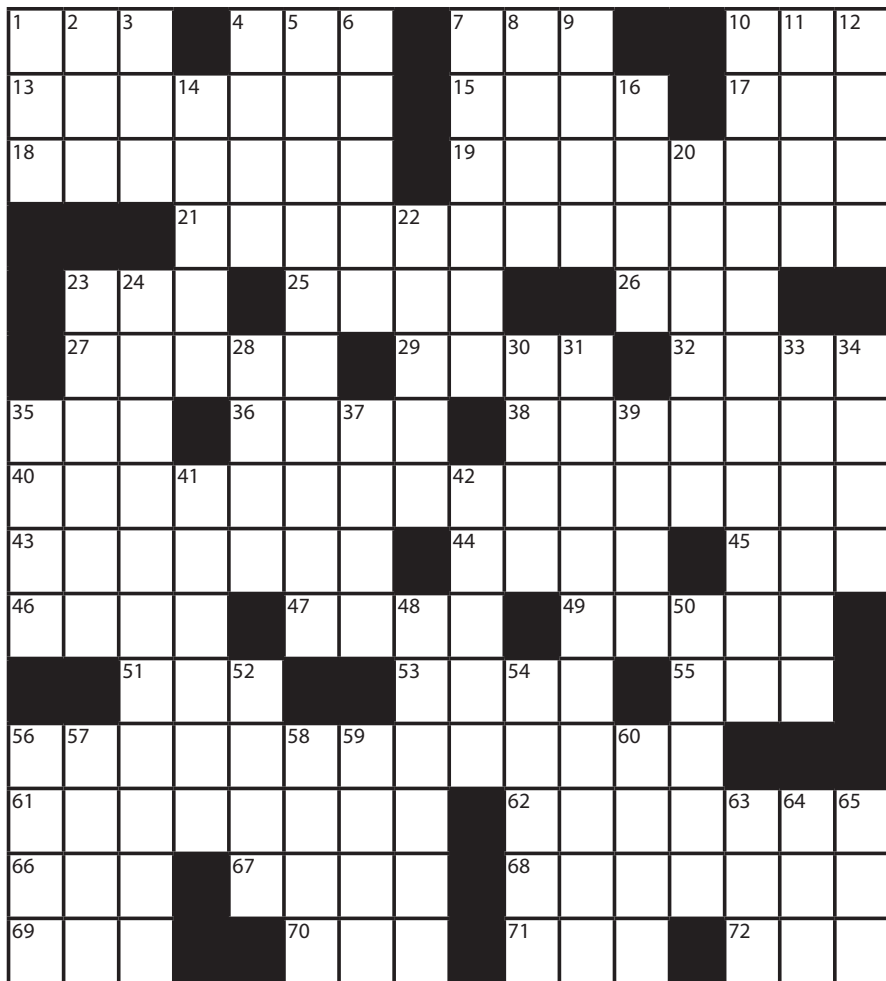
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ You often tell it like it is. How you handle surprising news speaks of your stability and willingness to integrate with others. You could be burdened by another person's inflexibility. You can be that way too sometimes. Tonight: Paint the town red.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ You have a lot to share and need to do just that. Whether your audience is as receptive as you might like falls into question. Be aware of the costs of heading into a project alone. The end results might not please you. Tonight: Let your hair down.



# The New York Times

Edited by Will Shortz



PUZZLE BY TRENTON CHARLSON

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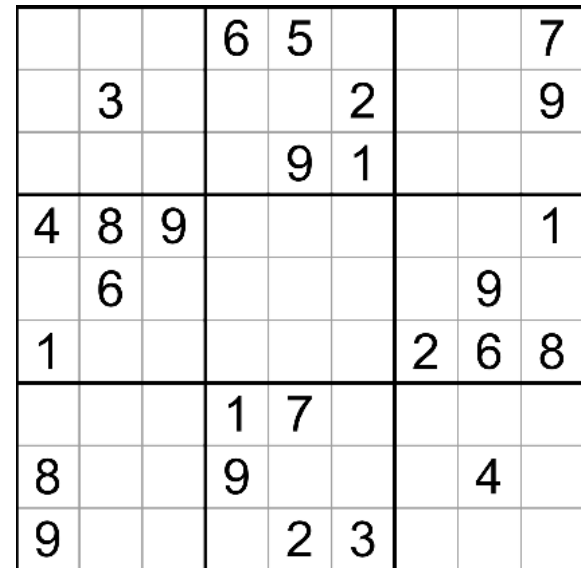
- 41 Bibliographer's phrase of inclusion
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**DIRECTIONS**

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

**SOLUTION**

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

## TCU Trivia

**True or False** Super Frog made his debut in 1977.

**SOLUTION**



**TCU TRIVIA ANSWER**

**False; Super Frog made his debut in 1980.**

## SPORTS

# Women play BU even for three quarters, but lose

By **SAM FRISTACHI**  
STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

TCU women's basketball battled with No. 2 Baylor all the way through the fourth quarter but ultimately came up short, falling 66-57 to drop to 4-2 in conference play.

"I'm proud of where their heads are at prior to the game, in-game and postgame in just having an unsatisfied mentality and that's where it's going to say," head coach Raegan Pebley said.

In the first half, TCU limited the Bears to just 30 points, Baylor's second-lowest scoring effort through the first 20 minutes of play this season.

The Frogs also went on an 11-point scoring



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOFROGS.COM

Kiana Ray scored double-digit points for the 13th time this season.

run in the second quarter against the Lady Bears, which is only the second time the Bears have allowed a run with a

scoring differential of that size.

Baylor held a slim 30-26 lead going into halftime, but the Frogs

would come out of the half hungry for the lead.

In the final four minutes of the third quarter, the Lady Bears

went 0-4 from the free-throw line, and TCU closed out the quarter on a 5-0 run to take a 45-44 lead.

Baylor separated themselves on an 8-0 run to open the fourth quarter.

"The way the schedule is set up, you have to learn quick what you lost in that game, I think in that game we lose the fourth quarter," senior guard Kianna Ray said. "We just kind of lost momentum, we lost energy, we lost focus. So, going into the next game, we are going to have a huge emphasis on the fourth quarter."

A three-pointer by Jaycee Bradley brought TCU within four points of the Lady Bears, but Baylor closed out the

game.

"Give TCU credit, those kids were fired up and they came ready to play," Baylor head coach Kim Mulkey said.

Ray finished the game with 16 points, which moves her to No. 19 on TCU's all-time scoring chart.

Guard Lauren Heard scored 11 points and has now put together double-digit scoring efforts in 14 consecutive games.

Next, the Horned Frogs will face off against No. 25 West Virginia this at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Ed and Rae Schollmaier Arena.

# Men's basketball falls despite Samuel's performance

By **COLIN POST**  
SPORTS EDITOR, TCU 360

Despite a career-high 24 points from center Kevin Samuel, TCU men's basketball fell to Arkansas Saturday afternoon as part of the Big 12/SEC Challenge, 78-67.

Samuel also recorded a career-high 18 rebounds, giving him his tenth double-double of the season.

TCU recorded 19 turnovers in the contest, their third-highest total of the season.

In front of a sold-out crowd at Bud Walton

Arena, the game was fast-paced from the beginning. As a result, both teams struggled to control the ball, combining for 21 turnovers in the first half alone.

TCU struggled to put together runs, only seeing a field goal go unmatched by Arkansas one time in the first half.

The Frogs' lone first half spark on offense came from Samuel, who scored the first eight points for TCU. He also went on to go a perfect 7-for-7 for 16 points in the first half alone.

TCU headed into the

locker room with a 33-29 deficit. Besides Samuel, the team was shooting just 24 percent.

After being held scoreless in the first half, guard Desmond Bane got involved right away in the second. The senior hit back-to-back threes in the first two minutes of the half to pull TCU within three.

This was as close as the Frogs would get though. Arkansas guard Mason Jones exploded for 19 second-half points, giving the Razorbacks a 15-point lead with 6:30 to play.

TCU was never able

to pull closer than nine from there, falling to 1-3 in away contests this year.

Jones was joined in double figures by guards Jimmy Whitt and Desi Sills, who combined for 40 points for Arkansas.

Bane, who averages 17.2 points per game, finished with just eight points.

Up next, TCU will look to bounce back at home as they return to Big 12 play to face Texas. Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday from Schollmaier Arena.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEESOO YANG

Center Kevin Samuel had a career day in TCU's loss to Arkansas.