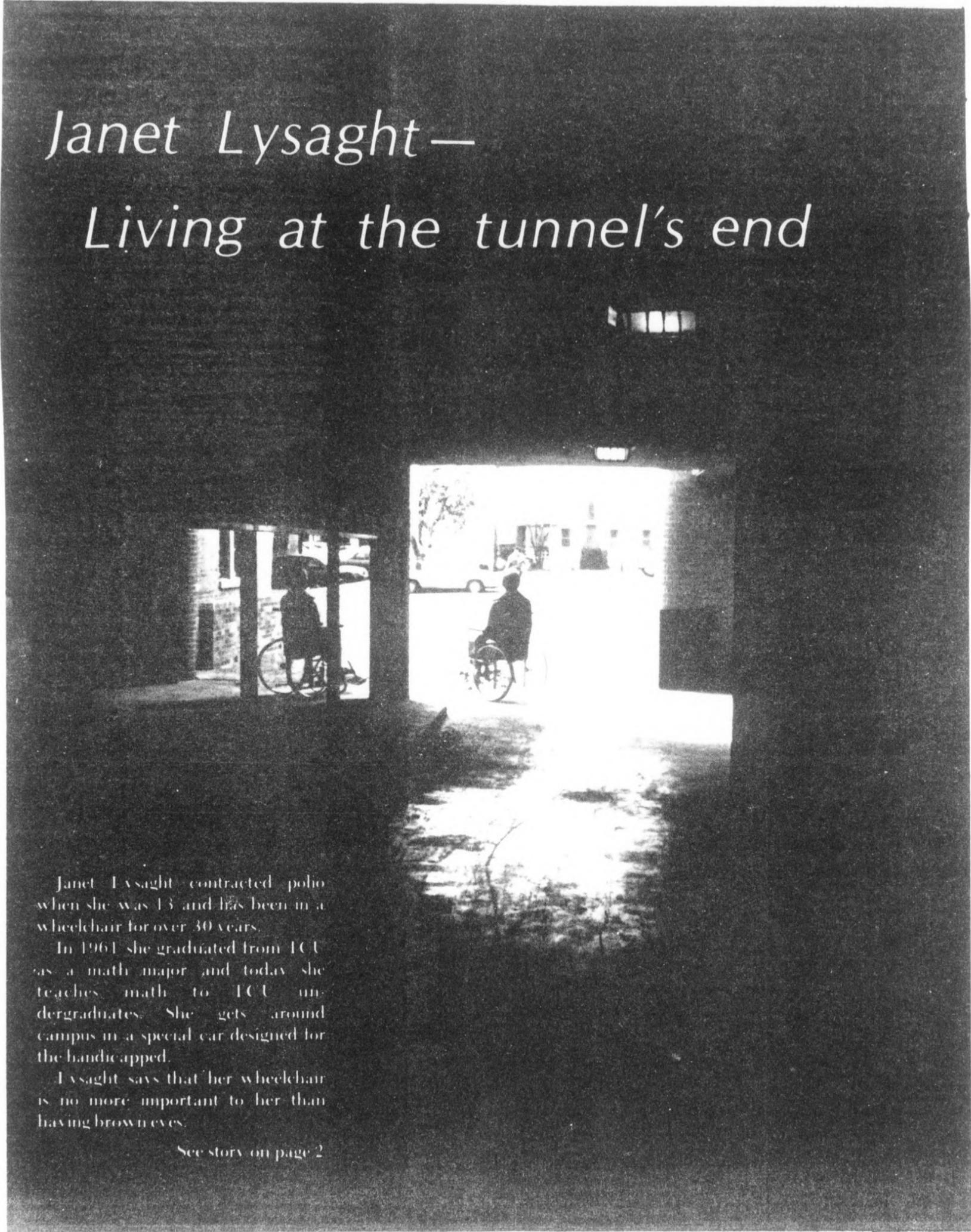


Janet Lysaght— Living at the tunnel's end



Janet Lysaght contracted polio when she was 13 and has been in a wheelchair for over 30 years.

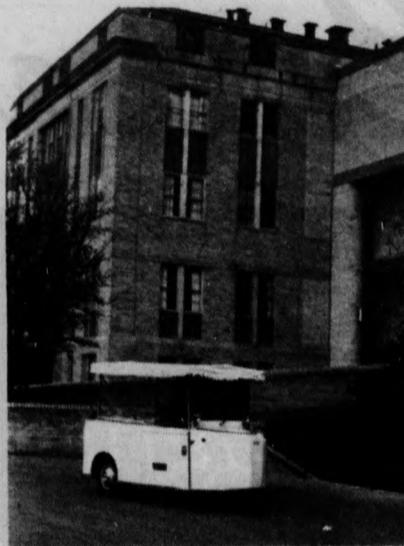
In 1961 she graduated from TCU as a math major and today she teaches math to TCU undergraduates. She gets around campus in a special car designed for the handicapped.

Lysaght says that her wheelchair is no more important to her than having brown eyes.

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Dr. Janet Lysaght has been in a wheelchair for more than 30 years, yet she entertains a very mobile lifestyle. Living close to campus she commutes to school daily in an electric car, parking between Winton-Scott Hall and the Sid W. Richardson Building. The vehicle is similar in nature to a golf cart adapted with a ramp for easy access. Plastic windows help protect Lysaght from the February chill. Lysaght travels to her office via a service tunnel ramp. In her office she has her own personal desk in which she gets "the real work done."

Photos by Ben Noey



Going abo

By Susan Walker

It's a typical office - minus a desk chair.

Math books line one wall, the word "Calculus" sporadically striping each shelf. Homework papers are spread across the desk.

The scene is complete - chair and all - when Dr. Janet Lysaght enters her office.

Lysaght, a professor of math at TCU, has been in a wheelchair since she contracted polio when she was 13. "I was in and out of hospitals for all of what would have been my high school years, except my senior year," she says.

A native of Fort Worth, she graduated from Paschal High School, and in 1961 from TCU. She's been teaching full-time since 1966.

"Being in a wheelchair isn't any more important to me than having brown eyes," she says. "It isn't a problem for me, so it shouldn't be a problem for my students."

"At first, when no one had heard of me, students must have thought, 'What is this going to be like?' I just didn't dwell on it. I knew they'd have to accept it, and I haven't found any problems," she says.

Lysaght is in her middle 40s and has been in a wheelchair for more than 30 years. She is at ease and confident - the wheelchair is inconspicuous. When she talks about her handicap she is very positive.

Lysaght considers herself lucky. She is able to work full-time and, since last year, has driven a specially-designed car.

"I don't have any trouble getting around," she says. "There are some things, minor frustrations like everyone has. Mine are just different ones."

"Sometimes the person in charge of locking the back door is replaced



about the business of living

or something. So when I come, the door is locked. That's the same as if someone parked in front of your driveway blocking you," Lysaght says.

She parks her car in the quad between the science buildings, then wheels herself up a ramp to the back door. "I have a good deal," she says. She avoids stairs, and can avoid bad weather by driving her car up the ramp. Usually.

"This fall, dad-gum, someone chained their bike to the 'No Parking' sign (at the bottom of the ramp), so I couldn't get by," she says, laughing and slapping the arm of her chair. "But someone moved it for me."

Lysaght has been in and around Winton-Scott Hall since she was an undergraduate. Before that she was in and out of hospitals and different treatment centers.

"At the beginning I was totally paralyzed," she says. "But I came back to being as functional as I am. Maybe that helped me accept it. I was very lucky - that's how I look at it."

"I was in an iron lung for the first six weeks of my illness. I couldn't breathe by myself," Lysaght says. "It was months before I could feed myself or brush my teeth."

"It was difficult for my parents in that they wanted to exhaust every possibility they could for me. I was five or six years working on rehabilitation. It's hard to describe how devastated I was then."

Lysaght says they tried two experimental medicines and treatments in another state for several months. Neither was helpful.

"When you're in that kind of situation," she explains, "you try everything because you don't know what might work."

Three years after she got polio she went to Warm Springs, Ga., for rehabilitation. "I went into

rehabilitation for taking care of myself. Some things you work out for yourself, but there is a lot to learn. I got expert help there, but it took a long time getting to where I am now."

"Eventually," Lysaght says, "I got about the business of living, of rejoining the world."

For most of her high school years, Lysaght was tutored and worked at home. She went back to school for half-days her senior year.

"Friends carried me up and down stairs. I had to go wherever the classes were (in a three-story building). There were no special provisions for me," says Lysaght.

She lives a mile from TCU, so when the time came this was the logical choice. "I live so close, it was easy without help."

Her choice in majors also made things easier for her. "In my case, I was majoring in math in a building with an accessible entrance. I had it easy," she says.

"It might have been different if I had a different major. My minor was psychology and that wasn't far to go either."

The absence of air conditioning in most of the buildings then was also to her advantage. "When I was in college, not all the classroom buildings were air-conditioned. In the summer they offered classes in Winton-Scott that wouldn't normally be held there. I took a heavy class load in the summer, and a lighter load throughout the year," she says.

Conditions for the handicapped have changed somewhat, Lysaght says. Many public buildings, and most buildings at TCU, have ramps for those in wheelchairs.

"It doesn't make a difference in my case," Lysaght says. "It's great that there are ramps, that places are more accessible. But, if you don't have the use of a car, the fact that

you have ramps isn't fabulous."

She has talked to one or two students who get around in wheelchairs about their scheduling. "It's hard for these students to get across campus, especially if the weather is bad. It's not as convenient as if classes could be rescheduled in one place."

"I think TCU would reschedule classes if they were given enough notice. TCU is very personal. I think they would take it into consideration."

"It's easier in 1982 to get around in a wheelchair than it was in 1961," Lysaght says.

Getting to school is also easier since she got her car. "For many years my family brought me and that was fine. But they're getting older now."

A couple of years ago she heard of a special car that was adapted for the handicapped. She finally was able to get one about a year ago.

The car is based on the design of a golf cart, with the back end of the van-like automobile lowered by a hydraulic pump. She wheels herself in behind the dash where she drives with hand controls.

"It has everything it needs to be licensed. It has an inspection sticker, turn signals, gauges - everything a regular car has."

"It only goes 15 mph, so it isn't safe to drive in heavy traffic. I drive through the residential area, and cross University with the signal," she says.

Once here, Lysaght knows the area so well that she rarely has problems. When she does, she simply asks someone to help her.

"TCU students are very friendly. I'm amazed," she says. "People I don't know are always smiling, saying hello and helping out."

Sometimes, she says, people are hesitant. "Lots of people don't know how to help someone who's han-

dicapped. There's a hesitancy in people in general. So if I need help, I just ask."

Lysaght lives with her parents. "I never wanted to live alone," she says. "There isn't any reason I couldn't, but I like living with my parents."

The house isn't set up differently for her, except for a ramp from the driveway to the porch. "I don't have special things. Outside of that, there's nothing," she says.

At school, all she is careful about is not writing too close to the bottom of the blackboard.

Except on days when she has department meetings, Lysaght goes home about noon. "I don't have lots of stamina. I go home in the afternoon and work in bed. It's lucky for me that I have the kind of job that I can arrange my schedule."

Outside of school she has no problem keeping busy, she says. "Cooking is what I like to do most. I also play bridge and am a sports fan - especially pro basketball."

She has never been involved with any groups for the handicapped. When she was at Warm Springs, she says, there were people who preferred to live among other handicapped people - secluded and safe.

"Living at Warm Springs was all they wanted to do," Lysaght says. "This never appealed to me."

"People will say to me, 'Surely you know so-and-so. He's handicapped.'"

"If I were more handicapped, then maybe I would seek others who were similarly restricted. I don't look for people in wheelchairs. If they occur in life, that's fine."

"I never had any trouble accepting what happened to me," Lysaght says. "I don't know why, I just didn't."

Her wheelchair is just part of her life. *etC.*



Cajun sings the South

By Linda Flood

"Last night I saw Lester Maddox on a TV show
With some smart-ass New York Jew
And the Jew laughed at Lester Maddox
And the audience laughed at Lester Maddox
too.

Well he may be a fool but he's our fool,
If they think they're better than him they're
wrong.

So I went to the park and I took some paper
along
And that's where I made this song..."

What do you do if it's snowing - if you've been
stuck in your dorm room for five hours with Eliot
and Pound, and if you're worried that you're
beginning to relate too keenly to the "Waste
Land"?

What do you do if it's gray outside and dark
inside, if you're in sock feet and want some wine
and cheese but all you have is half a flat Tab on
your windowsill?

What do you do if Texas is out there freezing
and you can't read anymore? What if you want to
put something on the stereo but you don't know
what - you feel slightly eccentric but not strong
enough for Pat Benitar, not weak enough for Air
Supply? What if ZZ Top would make you blow up
and the 3-D of Joni Mitchell would make you tilt?

It's time to resurrect an album.

The album is "Good Old Boys" by Randy
Newman, vintage 1974, and is quite the ticket for
a listless mood, perfect for a slow afternoon of
watching the lifeless parking lot and waiting for
something to strike you.

Randy is Southern but he isn't country. And he
certainly isn't rock, God forbid disco. He's just
slow and down to earth. He'll tell you about the
South and about some things that happened down
here and about some people he knew. He won't
embellish them, make them seem profound or
more than what they are.

"My brother is a machinist in a textile mill
And he makes more money than you ever will
He just got married to a Polish girl
With a space between her teeth."

Newman won't spare you any of the details, and
he won't spare you any of the pain. He'll just tell
you how it was or how it is and let you smile and
let you daydream a little - forget about the snow
and be in the middle of whatever he's telling.

"There's a hundred thousand Frenchmen in
New Orleans

In New Orleans there are Frenchmen
everywhere

But your house could fall down
And your baby could drown
Wouldn't one of those Frenchmen care..."

And he can tell a story. He'll tell you who built
the highway to Baton Rouge, and about President
Coolidge coming down to Louisiana in 1927 on a
railroad train with a little fat man with a notepad
in his hand.

"The President say, 'Little fat man isn't it a
shame,

what the river have done to this poor cracker's
land?'"

He'll tell you about a wedding in Cherokee
County.

"Her papa was a midget
Her mama was a whore
Her grandad was a newsboy 'til he was eight-
four."

Newman will tell you about the famous Naked
Man.

"He faked to the left and he faked to the right
And he snatched the purse from her hand.

"Someone stop me," he cried,

And he faded from sight

"Won't nobody help the Naked Man?"

Beware, Beware, Beware of the Naked Man."

Randy Newman wrote "Short People" in 1977,
which is a far cry from the mood of this previous
album. And although you don't hear much about
him, he's got his own slot in the Male Vocal
sections at Peaches, Sound Warehouse, and
Record Town.

His music isn't elaborate, but it's hummable.
It's addictive and different. It's perhaps sarcastic,
but quite serious and quite good.

T.S. I love you, but sometimes only Randy will
do. Maybe it's the snow, maybe it's the "Waste
Land," or maybe it's just the Naked Man. But
there's something about his stories and his crazy
Southern tone that can make a mood complete.

As Randy says,

"I used to worry about wastin' time
And layin' around the house all day
But I'm all right now." etC.

Kincaid's deemed best burger builder

By Liz and Lori

Column of restaurant reviews

Chas. Kincaid Grocery - 4901
Camp Bowie (732-2881). Open 9
a.m.-6:30 p.m. Monday through
Saturday, closed Sundays.
Moderately priced. The *Star-
Telegram* dubbed this unpretentious
storefront restaurant the best
hamburger producer in the city,
and *Texas Monthly* carried that

same claim state-wide. Kincaid's
has come up with the ultimate
solution to waiting for a table -
there are none. The grocery shelves
double as counter tops. Sure, it may
feel strange to dine amid Tidy Cat
and toilet paper, but after a few
bites of a famous burger the
surroundings become purely
secondary. One need not be a
vegetarian to appreciate the array
of fresh cooked veggies, and the
special of the day, ranging

anywhere from tuna salad to
chicken fried steak, is a safe bet.

Rick's Lockerroom - 1633 Park
Place Ave. (927-9682). Open 10
a.m.-2 a.m. daily, closed Sundays.
Inexpensive. "Cowboy Bar. If You
Don't Pull for the Cowboys, Tear
Ass," proclaims a sign hanging on
the quasi-cluttered walls of this hard
to find dive. That may be blunt, but
it is sincere, and sincerity is the
overall attitude of Rick's
Lockerroom. Cowboys and Greeks,

Blue collar workers and district
attorneys sit side by side devouring
some of Fort Worth's most genuine
cuisine. The cook has transformed
onion ring making into a fine art,
and the french fries might just be
the best in town. If chicken fried
steak is your bag, Rick's version of
oversized breaded veal cutlet,
smothered in cream gravy, won't
disappoint you. They serve beer,
mixed drinks and exceptional
burgers, etC.

events etC.

Monday 15

Campus Chest 11 a.m. Student Center lower
lobby.

Films Committee 6 p.m. Student Center Room
202.

IFC Presidents noon Student Center Room 211.

Forums 4 p.m. Student Center Room 214.

International Students 6 p.m. Student Center
Room 214.

Panhellenic/IFC 3:30 p.m. Student Center
Room 218.

Travel Fair 10 a.m. Student Center Lounge.

Tuesday 16

Campus Chest 11 a.m. Student Center lower
lobby.

Blood Drive 10 a.m. Student Center Ballroom.

C&W Dance Class 7 p.m. Student Center
Ballroom.

Traffic Appeals 11 a.m. Student Center Room
202.

Campus Chest 6 p.m. Student Center Room
202.

Miss Texas USA 9 a.m. Student Center Room
203.

Creative Programming 5 p.m. Student Center
Room 203.

Academic Affairs 6 p.m. Student Center Room
203.

Student Life 8 a.m. Student Center Room 205.

Religious Studies 7:45 a.m. Student Center
Room 214.

Student Affairs 5:30 p.m. Student Center Room
214.

BSU 6 p.m. Student Center Room 218.

House of Reps 5 p.m. Student Center Room
222.

Wednesday 17

Campus Chest 11 a.m. Student Center lower
lobby.

Blood Drive 10 a.m. Student Center Ballroom.

Managing Stress 2:30 p.m. Student Center
Room 202.

Parents Weekend 4 p.m. Student Center Room
203.

International Students 6 p.m. Student Center
Room 204.

Secretarial Seminar 8 a.m. Student Center
Room 205.

Bible Study 8 p.m. Student Center Room 207.

Programming Council 5 p.m. Student Center
Room 211.

Resident Hall Assoc 4 p.m. Student Center
Room 222.

Marson Graphic 10 a.m. Student Center

Lounge.

Performing Arts 4 p.m. Student Center Art
Gallery.

Thursday 18

Campus Chest 11 a.m. Student Center lower
lobby.

Blood Drive 10 a.m. Student Center Ballroom.

Frog Follies 4 p.m. Student Center Room 202.

Arnold Air Society 4:30 p.m. Student Center
Room 204.

Career Evaluation Committee 8:30 a.m.
Student Center Room 214.

Career Placement 8 a.m. Student Center Room
215.

Collins Scholarship 2:30 p.m. Student Center
Room 216.

Camp Day all day Student Center Lounge and
lobby.

Career Placement 8:30 a.m. Student Center
Room 218.

VITA 6 p.m. Dan Rogers Hall Business School
Library.

Personnel Association 4:30 p.m. Dan Rogers
Hall Room 107.

Friday 19

Friday on Campus 8 a.m. Student Center lower
lobby.

Campus Chest 11 a.m. Student Center lower
lobby.

Film All-Nite Movie Marathon 5 p.m. Student
Center Ballroom.

International Students 2 p.m. Student Center
Room 203.

Delta Sigma Theta 7 p.m. Student Center Room
203.

Alpha Epsilon Delta 5 p.m. Student Center
Room 205.

Career Placement 8 a.m. Student Center Room
218.

Saturday 20

Omega Psi Phi 10 p.m. Student Center
Ballroom.

Chinese Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Student Center
Room 218.

Sunday 21

FCA 2 p.m. Student Center Room 205.

Tae Kwon Do Karate Club 1 p.m. Rickel
Building Room 218.