

## Religion and politics mix in Latin America

By Mari Rapela

To study the mingling of politics and religion in Latin America, political science professor Michael Dodson will spend next semester in Costa Rica.

The focus of Dodson's research is the study of how religious faith influences political and social thought and action. In Latin America, he said, "the church has become the institution that people who are really desperate turn to, and whether it has wanted to or not, the church has found itself harboring the discontent of millions of people."

That puts the church in the center of politics, and it has become an important political factor.

Dodson chose to study in Costa Rica because it is a central gathering place for people interested in the Roman Catholic Church and its role in society, he said. Dodson will continue his research in conjunction with a group of Central American universities. The group is conducting a two-year project on popular religions in Central America.

He also chose Costa Rica because it has bilingual schools where Dodson's children will learn in both English and Spanish.

Dodson first became interested in Latin American affairs in 1965 when he wrote a term paper on the church in Colombia.

"I was amazed at how important religion was in their life and how much impact it seemed to have," he said. When a controversy arose in early 1966 about a priest who joined a guerrilla organization in Colombia and was later killed, Dodson's attention was attracted. He began to look more at the church in Latin America.

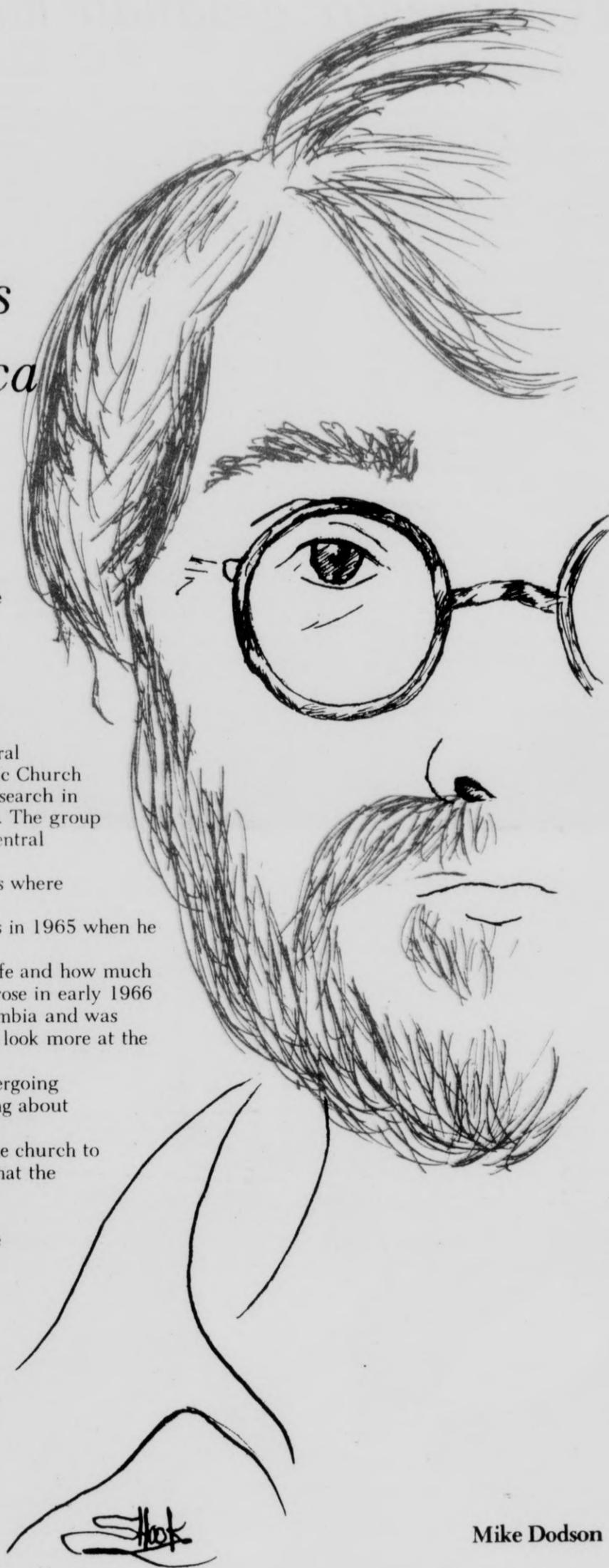
During that time, the church in Latin America was undergoing major changes. The second Vatican Council helped to bring about some of these changes, he said.

"The second Vatican Council was an attempt to open the church to the world," Dodson said. "In Latin America, that meant that the church had to look at the condition of the people."

That examination of social conditions led to the Third World priest movement, where priests went out among the people and took jobs and homes beside the middle class.

At the same time, the poor people of Latin America received Bibles of their own for the first time. Until then, they had had to rely on local priests to read and interpret it for them.

See Dodson, page 4



Mike Dodson

# TCU theatre graduate lands 'dream job'

By Debbie Sullivan

Most college students dream of that perfect job offer upon graduation, and for Rose Mari Rountree this dream became a reality.

Rountree, a Fort Worth native, graduated from TCU last May with a degree in theatre. She is now teaching and performing as a full-time staff member at Fort Worth's Casa Manana.

Rountree said she was offered the position after performing in Casa's production of Little Red, an upbeat musical version of Little Red Riding Hood, last January.

"Charles Ballinger, the director, called me and asked what I would be doing this next year. I was thinking about going to graduate school, but he asked me to come and talk with him." She said after talking with Ballinger she decided to take the job.

Rountree performs in the shows and teaches three classes a week—two basic acting classes involving third through fifth-graders, and one teen workshop involving eighth graders through high school. She said the children are put into classes by age group and experience.

"The teaching I look forward to because it's a way of being able to pass on things that I have learned," Rountree said. "The students are young and eager and want to learn. It's real reward-

ing."

Dedication and time are the two main requirements for acting, she said. "There are many days we come there at 10 in the morning and don't leave until 10 at night."

Rountree first became involved in theatre at Tarrant County Junior College, which she attended before transferring to TCU as a junior. "I started out in college as an art major with a minor in French."

She said the choir director at TCJC asked her to audition for the choir and then encouraged her to audition for a musical. "I had never done anything like that before," she said, "but some of my friends got me to go to the audition, and I auditioned, and was cast."

The next semester Rountree took some theatre classes and was cast into another play, leading her to change her major to theatre in her sophomore year.

Rountree said she believes her late start in theatre was an advantage in that she had not previously formed any bad habits.

Rountree speaks highly of the TCU theatre department. She said the department helped her learn how to learn by not forcing certain ideas on her but allowing some freedom.

"At TCU you have a freedom to use your creativity, like experimenting in studio shows and directing classes."

She also said that studying the human mind in an abnormal

psychology class at TCU added another dimension to her understanding of what a certain character type might be.

While at TCU, Rountree played the part of Emily in "Our Town," Dorine in "Tartuffe" and the oldest daughter in "Fiddler on the Roof."

Rountree said that she, like any other performer, sometimes worries about forgetting lines and is nervous before a performance, but she said the nervousness is good for her because it's an energy that she can work off of.

"I think that if I wasn't nervous then it would mean I didn't care. It's because I do care so much that I'm nervous."

Rountree said she prefers neither dramatic roles nor comic roles, but said the two drama forms are very different. She said

that comedy is harder for her. "In comedy there's an element of timing, and some people have it naturally. I don't think I did. I had to learn it."

Rountree said she would eventually like to get into film work but said she feels she needs more training. "I don't think you ever stop learning. My goal is not to be the movie star or the leading lady. I like the smaller, more important roles."

Rountree has done some commercials with Kim Dawson agency in Dallas, including one for Chevrolet.

Anyone who has a love for any of the arts could be involved in some aspect of theatre, she said. "You have to be a dreamer... you have to face defeat. I've faced it many times."

Describing herself, Rountree said, "I'm not a workaholic. I have to psyche myself up."

She said although talent is a valuable characteristic, luck has a lot to do with getting the roles. She added there are many talented people who don't get the roles for a variety of reasons.

Rountree said if her theatre career does not work out, she has other skills and resources to fall back on, although she said a person can really work around most any obstacle.

Rountree played the part of Dorothy in Casa Manana's production of the Wizard of Oz, which ran from Sept. 24 through Oct. 2.



Photo by Roger Klepacki

TARTUFFE—Rose Mari Rountree, a recent TCU theatre graduate, appears with Johnny Carson in "Tartuffe." Above, she performs with Phil Morgan in

"Fiddler on the Roof," in which she played the eldest daughter, Tzeitel.

Photos courtesy of TCU Publications Department

Rose Mari Rountree pauses between a busy schedule of acting and teaching at Fort Worth's Casa Manana. Rountree was offered a job teaching children at the theatre after she performed in Casa's "Little Red."

*Friesen represents New Mexico*

# TCU coed reigns as state queen

By Jennifer Skiff

Fifty women, representing 50 states, traveled to Atlantic City, N. J., this month to vie for the Miss America crown.

TCU sophomore Cindy Friesen was there, representing her home state of New Mexico.

Friesen is a journalism major and an active member of Pi Beta Phi sorority. She spends her time singing, playing the piano, snow skiing and studying. She is also on the dean's list at TCU.

Friesen, 19, was crowned Miss New Mexico March 18.

After years of watching her sister, Dana, perform in pageants and go on to take the title of Miss Carlsbad, N.M., Friesen took her turn at the crown.

She accepted the Miss Carlsbad crown from her sister in 1982. Later, Friesen captured the title of Miss New Mexico.

Friesen gives her mom credit for some of her success. She, her mother and her sister have sung together in a trio ever since the sisters were in pre-school. Friesen's mom, who was a drama major while in college, has also proved supportive by directing musicals that Friesen performed in.

Friesen's sister is also a student at TCU. She is a 21-year-old senior and is majoring in marketing. Also a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority, Dana has watched her sister follow her footsteps.

Friesen said she received the "royal treatment" during the festivities.

Restricted from speaking to people who were not involved in the pageant, Friesen said she enjoyed being with the other contestants. "Those girls were the friendliest girls I've ever met." She said she didn't experience any back-stabbing or petty jealousy from the other contestants, but, unlike the Miss USA Pageant, she said there was quite a bit of "bra padding."

Having previous experience in the entertainment field, Friesen participated in the talent competition as a singer. She sang the song "Carnival," which she calls a family song because she was brought up with her family members singing it around her home.

She is on a music scholarship at TCU for her singing, and takes voice lessons at TCU. Her ultimate goal is to someday perform on Broadway.

"I thought I did my best in everything I could" in preparing for the pageant, Friesen said.

She did not bring the title of Miss America back to TCU with her, but she said she learned one very important thing: "You can do anything you want to do if you put your mind to it."



Miss New Mexico - Cindy Friesen

Photo by Ben Noey

# Dodson to study mix of politics, religion

Continued from page 1

As the priests integrated into communities, lay people took over some of the priests' jobs, such as leading Bible studies. Groups of people that were trained to do that were known as the Delegates of the Word. These people, the worker/priests, and the communities around them formed what are now known as Christian Base Communities.

All that combined to give people the Bible and responsibility within the church. "This was something in their life situations that was revolutionary," he said.

The political reactions that came as a result of those changes are the basis of a group of political and religious theories known as liberation theology. Dodson sees liberation theology not as a sophisticated, complex theory, but as real and concrete in the lives of the people.

He characterized it as "a sentiment that the Bible intends the liberation of people in this world as well as in the next, and in fact that liberation in this world is connected to liberation in the next."

That sentiment arises, Dodson said, because people read the Bible and apply it to their lives and realize that what is happening in their lives is unjust. That causes a political reaction, often coming in the form of identification with popular opposition. That is the case with the Sandinista movement, which

is closely allied with Christian Base Communities throughout Nicaragua, he said.

The opposition is a demonstration of how religious faith influences social and political actions. "The church is a training ground for democracy," he said.

Religiously and politically, Christian Base Communities bring democracy to the people, he said. It happens in religion when celebration is put in the hands of ordinary people, and it happens in politics when people are taught how to organize groups of people to make demands on their behalf.

That way, people receive experience in something close to self-government in a religiously fertile setting. "What more could Americans ask for than a flowering of religious and democratic experience?" Dodson asked.



Mike Dodson

People in the United States have several reasons to be concerned about what goes on in Latin America, he said.

One of these reasons is geopolitical—Latin America has many valuable resources, such as oil, and it houses the Panama Canal Zone. Also, the United States trades with Latin America, and North American companies have a tremendous amount of capital invested there. The politics and economics of Latin America directly impinge on the United States, he said.

But there is a more important reason, Dodson said. They are "human beings, fellow Christians, neighbors, who have a history of wanting to pursue the same ideals the United States professes. We have reason to be interested in them because tens of millions of them are suffering grievously," he said.

He referred to the *barrio* of Netzahuacoyotl outside Mexico City. Nearly a million people live there in tin shacks with no running water and no sanitation, and many of them moved there to better their lives. "We have a moral obligation of the most profound kind to assist Latin Americans to enjoy the same ideals we profess," Dodson said.

As small countries close to the United States, the Latin American nations are very vulnerable, he said, and "Yankee imperialism" is still one of the most powerful symbols in Latin America. He said that he often encounters the

fear that the United States is ready to invade, a fear that he said is not unfounded.

The United States has a history of military intervention in Latin America, and tensions continue. Last year, the Reagan administration said it poured \$19 million into an attempt to destabilize Nicaragua and restore the Somoza regime.

"They (the people of Latin America) often know more about what our government is doing there than we do," Dodson said.

In spite of governmental tensions, he said, the people he interviews are very open, though he has encountered some reservations. "People really want to tell their story," he said. "They want North Americans to understand it."

During his time in Costa Rica, Dodson will be spending several weeks at a time in Christian Base Communities in Nicaragua, doing more interviews and trying to understand the religious influences on politics through experiencing what the people of Latin America experience.

He said that Christian Base Communities and the religious and democratic experiences they hold are an important part of the opposition movements that people in the United States call communistic, totalitarian and Soviet-controlled.

"My work," he said, "is an attempt to demonstrate, to learn, to show just what is really going on."

## events etc.

### Monday 4

**Management by Objective** 8 a.m., Student Center Room 207&9  
**Management by Objective Luncheon** noon, Student Center Ballroom  
**Panhellenic** 3:30 p.m., Student Center Room 218  
**IFC** 3:30 p.m., Student Center Room 222  
**Pi Phi Scholarships** 5:15 p.m., Student Center Ballroom  
**Lecture on St. Francis** 7:30 p.m., Student Center Room 205&6  
**RHA** 9 p.m., Student Center Room 211

### Tuesday 5

**Management in Action** 8 a.m., Student Center Room 207&9  
**Brite Chapel** 11 a.m., Robert Carr Chapel  
**Management in Action Luncheon** noon, Student Center Ballroom  
**Armchair Tours** 12:30 p.m., Student Center Room 222  
**Parents' Weekend Committee** 3:30 p.m., Student Center Room 204  
**TSEA** 4 p.m., Student Center Room 205&6  
**Creative Programming** 4:30 p.m., Student Center Room 215  
**House** 5 p.m., Student Center Room 222  
**Spirit Wranglers** 6 p.m., Student Center Room 207&9  
**Koinenia** 6 p.m., Student Center Room 204

**Campus Chest** 6:30 p.m., Student Center Room 202  
**Young Life** 7:30 p.m., Student Center Ballroom  
**Caribbean Cruises** 7:30 p.m., Student Center Room 205&6

### Wednesday 6

**Management in Action** 8 a.m., Student Center Room 207&9  
**Management in Action Luncheon** noon, Student Center Ballroom  
**Dean's Luncheon** noon, Student Center Room 208  
**University Chapel** noon, Robert Carr Chapel  
**Lunch** 12:30 p.m., Wesley Foundation  
**Study Skills** 2:30 p.m., Student Center Room 203  
**Interview Workshop** 3 p.m., Student Center Room 218  
**Forums** 4 p.m., Student Center Room 202  
**RHA** 4:15 p.m., Student Center Room 222  
**Catholic Community Supper** 5:30 p.m., Wesley Foundation  
**Canterbury** worship, dinner, program 5:30 p.m., Trinity Church  
**Student Foundation** 5:30 p.m., Student Center Room 222  
**Circle K** 6 p.m., Student Center Room 205&6  
**Beta Sigma Phi** 6:30 p.m., Student Center Room 205&6  
**ICTHUS** 7 p.m., Student Center Room 207&9

### Thursday 7

**Secretarial Seminar** 8 a.m., Student Center Room 205&6  
**Secretarial Seminar Luncheon** noon, Student Center Ballroom  
**Arnold Air Society** 4:30 p.m., Student Center Room 205&6  
**Angel Flight** 5:30 p.m., Student Center Room 207&9  
**BSU Dinner** 5:30 p.m., University Ministries  
**Free Supper** 5:45 p.m., Wesley Foundation  
**Tau Beta Sigma** 6:45 p.m., Student Center Room 203  
**BSC** 7 p.m., Student Center Room 207&9  
**Church of Christ** 7:30 p.m., Student Center Room 202  
**Lutheran Ministries** 8 p.m., Student Center Room 204

### Friday 8

**Student Life Staff** 8:30 a.m., Student Center Room 214  
**Jazz Band** noon, Student Center Lounge  
**DSF Friday Night** 7 p.m., UCC  
**Talent Show** 8 p.m., Ed Landreth Auditorium

### Saturday 9

**Parents' Weekend Opening Session, Chancellor's Reception** 9 a.m., Moudy Building  
**Alumni Parents' Reception** 11 a.m., Student Center Room 207&9  
**Dorm Open Houses** noon  
**Minority Parents' Reception** 1 p.m., Student Center Room 207&9

**Class of 83 Parents' Reception** 3 p.m., Student Center Room 205&6  
**Barbecue** 5 p.m., Student Center Lawn  
**Pep Rally** 6:30 p.m., Student Center Lawn  
**Parents' Weekend Dance** 8 p.m., Student Center Ballroom  
**Kappa Alpha Psi** 9 p.m., Student Center Room 205&6

### Sunday 10

**International Breakfast** 10 a.m., Student Center Lounge  
**Roman Catholic Mass** 8:30 p.m., UCC 244

### Monday 11

**Council For Educational TV** 8 a.m., Student Center Room 207&9  
**Residence Hall Staff** 9 a.m., Student Center Room 211  
**OSP** 11:30 a.m., Student Center Room 205&6  
**Panhellenic** 3:30 p.m., Student Center Room 218  
**IFC** 3:30 p.m., Student Center Room 222  
**Films** 5:30 p.m., Student Center Room 202

### Tuesday 12

**Student Life Secretaries** 8 a.m., Student Center Room 207&9

*etCetera is a special weekly section of the TCU Daily Skiff, a student publication produced by the Texas Christian University journalism department. It is published on Mondays.*  
 Susan Bridges, Editor  
 Mari Rapela, Assistant