

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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Fort Worth, Texas

Organization says dumping ought to stop

AUSTIN (AP)—A conservation organization recommended Tuesday that dumping trash in the Gulf of Mexico be banned by international agreement.

The Washington-based Center for Environmental Education said the Texas land office should prepare a proposal for designating the Gulf as a "special area" exempt from dumping, as are other enclosed bodies of water, such as the Mediterranean Sea and Persian Gulf.

This was the highlight of 29 recommendations by the center, which last September sponsored a Texas beach cleanup, described as the biggest in the nation.

In that project, 2,772 volunteers cleaned 124 tons of trash from 120 miles of Texas coastline in three hours.

"CEE's report of its September cleanup is 124 tons of proof why we've got to stop messing with Texas beaches," State Land Commissioner Garry Mauro told a news conference.

"The report shows more than ever that Texas doesn't have a little problem; we've got a garbage problem on our beaches," Mauro said.

CEE marine biologist Kathy O'Hara, principal author of the report, said the Gulf of Mexico "is a special area because trash is not going to go anywhere."

"There is no reason why it can't be classified as a special area, because it has currents that direct all trash right onto the shoreline, and also it has such heavy traffic of maritime vessels," O'Hara said.

O'Hara said the Coast Guard could take the proposal to MARPOL, a shortened version of marine pollution, which is derived from the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution From Ships.

"Then all the other countries would have to decide if they were going to abide by this," she said, adding that the Gulf "seems to qualify."

The CEE report recommended the Legislature revive the Texas Coastal and Marine Council or designate an existing agency "to take the lead on the coastal debris problem."



One step ahead - Lissa Hannah, an employee of the TCU bookstore for 10 years, decorates the store's

walls with spring break beach towels Tuesday afternoon.

TCU Daily Skiff / Jim Gribble

House passes bill, clubs land funds

By Nancy Andersen
Staff Writer

An organization that has tried to raise money for an upcoming trip but is still short of the goal should be allowed House funds to reach that goal, the House of Student Representatives decided in Tuesday's meeting.

Introduction of a bill to give TCU's chapter of the American Marketing Association \$450 for officer registration at a national convention spawned debate within the House.

Representative Keith Kirkman, author of the bill, said AMA planned to take five officers, two faculty sponsors and 23 members to the convention in New Orleans. Costs, including a \$90 registration fee per student, total \$7,000, he said.

Kirkman praised AMA for covering \$4,000 of the expenses—including airfare, hotel costs and meals—through six months of fundraising. Organizational funds covered another \$3,550, he said.

"They (officers) did this rather than taking money from the members," Kirkman said.

The \$450 AMA requested from the House is only 6.5 percent of the total cost, he said.

"(AMA has) come in for a specific expense—just the officers' registration fees," he said. "It's not as if they're begging for money."

Treasurer Patti Keefe argued that AMA could just pool money to pay for officers' registration fees, as it had done for the 23 members attending.

Kirkman replied that, while members attended for themselves, officers attended to represent the organization.

"Conventions are a selfish thing," he said. "You attend the workshops you're interested in. But officers attend workshops to

TCU alumnus gives students legal advice

By Troy Phillips
Staff Writer

TCU students who have legal problems or need legal counseling can get help on campus from an experienced lawyer.

Since 1979, Tom Lowe, a TCU graduate, has offered legal counsel to TCU students and has helped many of them through problems ranging from fender-benders to felonies.

While attending TCU, Lowe actively participated in student government. As student body president, he pushed to get students legal counseling on campus.

"When I was a student, I always said that if I was a lawyer, I'd do it," Lowe said.

When Lowe first started in 1979, he began with telephone counseling. But frequently, he would have to come to campus to look at a document or contract and talk to the student in person.

Along with serving students' legal needs, Lowe also gives advice to faculty and staff members if they request it.

Lowe visits campus three days a week for several hours, in addition to his individual family law practice.

The most common problems Lowe works with include motor vehicle violations and accidents, credit prob-

lems, landlord problems and apartment contract disputes.

"Students on their own can easily taken advantage of by some unsavory people," Lowe said.

"The first time students have to leave home for college, they're confronted with making contractual obligations, and those are the first time they get in trouble," he said. "They need someone to turn to."

Sometimes Lowe is confronted by students who have been charged with misdeemeanor or felony crimes.

He said often students don't understand how serious a situation is, and when he tells them they could be facing a jail term, it gets their attention.

Lowe said he believes in total honesty when putting a situation into perspective.

He said other students are so terrified and consumed by a problem, he will try to put the student at ease while still concentrating on the seriousness of the problem.

"Sometimes students have situations arise in which they're too afraid to tell their parents or anybody," he said. "They just don't know what to do."

Lowe said helping students to get over the initial fear of a situation really helps in getting the problem solved.

He said one of students' worst fears

when they get into trouble is telling their parents about it.

"A lot of times, I'll be the one to break bad news to parents because the student is so scared," he said. "The parents need to know what's going on."

"Many parents are surprised to hear that their son or daughter has taken the initiative to get help and recognizes that they have a problem," he said. "It puts the parents a little more at ease."

Lowe said he gets to know some of the students very well; the ones with more serious problems need extensive counseling during the year.

"Sometimes it's under really sad circumstances, but the students feel that I'm really the only one they can confide in and trust," he said.

Lowe said at times he finds himself in the role of a mediator in conflicts between students.

"I don't take sides because it poses an ethical problem for me," he said. "If student A comes to me with the problem, then student B deserves equal access to me as well."

Lowe said he spends time counseling TCU students because he enjoys helping students when they feel they have nowhere else to go.

"A student can tell me anything in complete confidence that nobody else will find out, and I enjoy that," he said.

Although Lowe receives some compensation from the House of Student Representatives, his individual practice is still his primary source of income.

Lowe said when students come in for counseling, there is no charge to them at all. If further legal services are required such as court appearances, long distance calls or letters, he charges a fraction of his usual rates.

Although Lowe works with approximately 600 students every year, he said more students should know they can get help if they need it.

"There are still not enough students aware of my availability on campus," he said.

Lowe said he would like to do more preventive work like speeches and workshops on apartment leasing and other legal problems.

"Students are just like other people in general," he said. "They don't think much about preventing problems until something happens, and it's too late."

"I didn't know anything about it," Barr said. "This has really caught me off guard."

Hannah said the bookstore has sold other items in the past that could have been taken offensively by patrons, but because this product openly suggested the use of alcohol, she thought it best to remove it.

"We sold champagne bottles with chocolate candies inside for Valen-

Bookstore removes drink mix from shelves

By Francesca Taylor
Staff Writer

Now you see it, now you don't.

At least that's the case at the TCU bookstore, where bottles of "Texas Red-Eye Bloody Mary Mix" have disappeared from the shelves.

According to Lissa Hannah, associate director of the bookstore, the concoction was removed to avoid negative feedback and criticism.

"We don't want to raise any eyebrows or anything," Hannah said. "The negative connotations it gave is what

really made us pull it off the shelves."

Hannah said the mix was meant to be used as a dip for nacho chips and crackers, even though it did suggest on the front label that the mix be used to "warm up Vodka."

"It came in last Friday along with other items on the 'Texas' line (cookies, crackers, pecans and nacho chips) we bought to show as a whole line of new products," Hannah said.

"I know it says that it is a Bloody Mary mix, but we didn't mean for it to try to encourage students to drink or anything."

Peggy Barr, vice chancellor for student affairs, said she was not aware the product was being sold in the bookstore.

"I didn't know anything about it," Barr said. "This has really caught me off guard."

Hannah said the bookstore has sold other items in the past that could have been taken offensively by patrons, but because this product openly suggested the use of alcohol, she thought it best to remove it.

"We sold champagne bottles with chocolate candies inside for Valen-

tine's Day last year," Hannah said. "But you've got to admit, if only one thing has gone wrong all this time, that's not a bad average at all."

Hannah said before the mix was removed Tuesday the sales were moderate, but it "will not be sold again."

"The only reason we brought in the line was to make a more creative food aisle for the students here. By bringing in new and different things on a regular basis, we can make the bookstore a fun place to shop," Hannah said.

OPINION

Letters to the editor

Apathy can never change injustice

"We're living in very bad times. Common integrity is often mistaken for courage."

This is what William Sloan Coffin of Riverside Church in New York said about apathy when he spoke to a group of Christian Church ministers and TCU students last week at an informal gathering at Britte Divinity Professor Dick Hoehn's house.

Coffin was willing to take time out of his busy schedule as guest minister of TCU Ministers' Week (a gathering of Christian Church ministers from all over the United States) in order to speak to various members of student groups about social issues.

His message was that if you ever expect to achieve social justice, or any other form of justice, you must conquer your apathy and fear and take action.

Coffin made several observations about today's college students. He cited a poll taken last year in which incoming college freshmen were questioned about their goals in life. Seventy-three percent of those polled listed financial wealth as their main goal in life.

Very few mentioned world peace or justice. Those of you who are thinking, "that figures," are merely justifying this apathy with cynicism. Who is to say which of these attitudes is worse? They both stink.

Coffin quipped about college students: "Their intelligence refines their self-seeking behavior."

But a college campus is an ideal environment for effective action against social injustice. Students and teachers have only to take charge.

Different student/educator groups with concerns about various social and political issues can rally together and engage the entire community against social injustice. Instead of complaining about one of the president's lies or cover-ups, groups can hold press conferences, demonstrate or write letters to the editors of both school and local newspapers.

Phoning or writing to various politicians involved in social issues is an incredibly effective method of promoting justice. But you must not just speak out against bad policies or statements.

If you are impressed with a particular statement or action a politician has administered, let him or her know about it. Positive reinforcement encourages more of the same admirable action.

Freedom of speech is a right that not all countries' citizens can claim. This is because many governments recognize and fear its awesome power. Yet how many Americans exercise this right?

There is always an audience out there. One has only to choose the proper channels of communication to reach the greatest number of people who have the power to change the situation.

Make certain that the communication is effective and widespread. If you hold a demonstration on campus, phone politicians and tell them why you are demonstrating. Call the editors of local papers and encourage their support.

Newspaper editors are important opinion formers in every city. With their support, one can hope to have one's message of social justice acknowledged and accepted by many. Try to get as much attention as possible without coming across as being too radical. Keep in mind that the press loves controversy.

As far as international relations are concerned, the United States can never be an effective world leader of social justice until its own domestic social policies are strong and effective.

When protesting problems of international significance, stress the local attitudes and actions that led to the problem as well as those that can help solve it.

The idea is to open the public's eyes to all of the causes and effects of the issue.

Coffin drew a humorous analogy of today's situation with the fictional character Rip Van Winkle.

"We all know that Rip slept for 20 years, but which 20 years were they?" he asked. "He awakened to discover that the Union Jack had been replaced with the Stars and Stripes. He slept through the entire American Revolution."

How many of us are sleeping through a revolution? After all, a revolution is only a specific and intense moment of change, and change is the first step in positive growth.

If we are too lazy or too scared to take that first vital step, what can we ever hope to accomplish? Cynicism?

We cannot ignore the problems or adopt an attitude of apathy either. Conditions today are not good. In fact, much of what happens all over the world is downright revolting.

As Coffin said, "It takes revolting conditions in order to have a revolt."

So instead of ignoring the problems or justifying plain laziness with the belief that no one can really make a difference, get out there and actively promote change for the benefit of all mankind.

Allan Alford
Freshman, journalism/English

Senate meeting incorrectly reported

It was commendable that you sent a reporter to cover the meeting of the Faculty Senate Feb. 5. However, the subsequent article in the Feb. 11 *Skiff* contained several errors.

The reason for the discussion was the request of the vice chancellor for academic affairs that the Faculty Senate discuss the philosophy of the student-initiated withdrawal policy. One issue was whether the current policy serves a philosophy of helping students avoid failing a course and, if so, is that the best philosophy for a withdrawal policy.

Many senators spoke on the issue, but Gerry Dominick does not currently serve on the Senate. The discussion was intended as input for the Academic Excellence Committee, which will report at the next Senate meeting.

In preparation for that meeting, the committee was asked to have a response for the Senate Executive Committee by Feb. 20. Senate committees do not meet with the vice chancellor for academic affairs or any other vice chancellor.

The Executive Committee reports the business of the Senate to the vice chancellor of academic affairs.

In the absence of the chair of the Senate, I chaired the February meeting and would have provided this information to the reporter had she asked.

Daryl Schmidt
Chair-elect, Faculty Senate



Thinking nothing sure is something



John
Paschal

What exactly do you do when there's nothing there? I mean nothing. Like . . . well . . .

What exactly do you do when the mental void arrives? I mean the mental void. Like . . . well . . . the mental void.

What exactly do you do when there is isn't. I mean is isn't. Like . . . well . . .

Like nothingness. Like there's nothing there. What is isn't. Like you're trying to think and nothing results from it. I don't mean nothing results from it, as in not a thing results from it; I mean the result of your thinking is nothing, like nothingness. Your thinking results in nothingness. What do you do then?

When there are no ideas. No formulas, no thoughts. Nothing substantial. Just a big vacancy. A black hole where no real thoughts exist, no thoughts that would be acceptable on a college exam. Nothing you could call home and tell Mom.

Somebody says, "What are you thinking about?" You reply, "Aw, nothing." Exactly.

What do you do when your mind is just a big, empty parking garage. Cars drive by but never park. They honk. Then they drive by.

You know things are out there, like ideas or something—something—but none of it ever sets

ties down in your mind. What do you do? What do you do when you write something like this?

What do you do when nothingness has invaded your mind so fiercely that you're forced to write about it; it being nothingness, which doesn't amount to much of anything except something. And because that's all there is, that's what you write.

What do you do when you see something like this coming out of your mind? Do you panic? Does it make sense, perfect sense, to you and to nobody else? If you understand it, should I provide you with coffee and donuts? Or if you really understand, will coffee and donuts even matter?

The donut, or more precisely, the donut hole provides a good example. The donut hole is something, evidence being it has a name: donut hole. What it really is, however, is nothing defined as something.

A similar state exists in my mind, I suppose encased by my skull like the donut hole is encased by the donut. It is a nothingness just tangible enough to write about. Its existence is certifiable by the very act of my writing about it.

When you realize that your decided deficiency of ideas is actually an idea in itself, then the nothingness begins to take on meaningful dimensions. When you start thinking about why you can't think, when you begin formulating ideas about your lack of ideas, then you're on your way out of nothingness. But why leave?

Obviously this nothingness means some-

thing. It has made an impact. It has made your thinking productively unproductive. It has been meaninglessly meaningful.

So, is the ultimate state of awareness nothingness? When the ideas don't come, is that the ultimate idea? Is nothingness the greatest something you can have? I ask the question: Why are there tunnels?

Are questions the best answers? Then is emptiness the best question? Will any idea come to you if you sit there long enough, being sure not to think about it?

Maybe all ideas are already out there. Maybe they just happened to stop and hang out in your void before hanging out in somebody else's. Maybe the most intelligent people have the biggest mental voids of all—maybe airheads actually have the most potential. Closed minds have, by definition, no openings at all, and therefore no potential.

When I began, when I first sat down to write, I thought I had nothing to write about. I was right. There was nothing to write about. And because there was nothing to write about, I wrote about it.

Every once in a while, I think I will choose not to think. I will welcome a mental chasm, devoid of ideas, devoid of self-instigated thought, because when there is such a vast space, there is only more room for free ideas. Next time my mind is besieged with nothing, I will close my eyes and open my mind as much as I can and let the onslaught begin.

So what do you do when you start writing about nothing? You just keep on writing until you stop.

By Todd Camp

The Kampus Underground

Under the control of the new communistic TKU the House of Student Reps has become a seething bureaucratic monstrosity!



And its members have transformed into back-stabbing power-hungry animals, eager to control the presidency...



Okay, all those in favor of voting to table the bill to committee to be voted on for six weeks until it's returned to us to vote on it again?



BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed

TCU DAILY SKIFF

The TCU Daily Skiff welcomes letters to the editor and guest columns. The opinion page is designed to offer a forum of thought, comment and insight concerning campus, state and national issues. All letters and columns must be typed and double spaced. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and must be signed. Both letters and columns must be accompanied with the writer's classification, major and telephone number.

Views expressed herein are solely those of the individual writers and contributors. Unsigned editorials represent the consensus of the editorial board. Signed editorials are the opinion of the writers.

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CAMPUS NOTES

AMA meeting

American Marketing Association meets tonight at 5:30 in Dan Rogers Hall Room 216. The guest speaker will be from the Milliken Company.

Overnight retreat

Eagle Mountain Lake is the site for the Catholic Community overnighter from 4 p.m. Friday to noon Saturday. For more information, contact Char-

lie Calabrese at University Ministries Office at 921-7830.

International Students Week

International Students Week runs Feb. 23 through 28. The first event will be the opening ceremony, beginning at noon Monday in the Student Center Lounge. It will be followed by an exhibits display until 3 p.m.

Other events include a TCU Jazz

band concert Tuesday, two forums on Feb. 25 and 26 and an International Banquet Feb. 28. Tickets for the banquet, costing \$7.50, are available while they last in Sadler Hall Room 16.

Kilbourne speech

"Under the Influence: The Pushing of Alcohol Via Advertising" is the

topic of a speech by Jean Kilbourne, 7:30 p.m. Monday in the Student Center Ballroom. Kilbourne is a graduate of Boston University and has studied alcohol's effect on campus life.

Tickets, \$1 with a TCU ID and \$2 without, can be purchased at the Student Center Information Desk. Kilbourne's speech is sponsored by the

Forums Committee of Programming Council.

Rotary scholarships

Rotary Foundation is supporting two scholarships in the areas of peace studies and Japanese language training/study. Information is available by calling Bill Reeves of UT/Arlington at 273-2261.

Deadline is Feb. 27.

Contact Chuck, 924-0010.

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A minimum 2.5 GPA is required to participate. Information is available in Sadler Hall Room 205 until March 3.

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SPORTS



Gagne breaks mold as woman referee

By Rusty McCaskey
Sports Editor

It takes a special type of person to want to be a referee.

Cathy Gagne, a senior kinesiology major, didn't have to work her way through school, but she wanted to be a referee.

A friend told her he was applying to be an intramural referee as a part-time job. With nothing else planned for the day, she thought she would check into the job because she knew this was for her.

"I went in to take the test that every referee has to pass to get hired, and I was the only girl in the room. Every head turned and stared at me," Gagne said. "I thought for sure they would

not hire me because I was a girl, but I proceeded on with the test. I never gave up."

Gagne had spent a year at North Texas State University and was very active in its intramural program. NTSU played with the no contact rules in its football program, and TCU was changing its rules to the same program that year.

"I knew the rules well since I had played with them before, and I thought I could help others understand them," Gagne said.

She passed the test, and they hired her. At the time she was the only female on the referee staff. She had opened a new door for females in the job market, but that was not important to her. Her most difficult job was

still before her—she had to prove herself.

Gagne stood up to the challenge. She was not afraid of refereeing men's intramural football games. In fact, that is what she requested.

"I love competition, and the girls' games are OK, but I like the fast action of the men's games," Gagne said.

On a hot August day in 1985, she made her debut on the intramural football field. Nervous and tense, she blew the whistle, and the game began.

"At first I was afraid to throw a flag because I thought people would get up in my face and scream, but I had to because it was my job," she said. "Oh, I heard complaints."

"People were shouting 'She does not know what she is doing—she is a

girl,'" Gagne said. "I stood strong, and I made good calls. Soon they realized I did know what I was doing, and I was accepted. Later, teams would request me for games."

The football players were not the only ones surprised to see her on the field. Spectators watched with astonished looks on their faces from the sideline.

"I heard a number of different responses from the sidelines. The girls would say 'She is a girl—what is she doing out there?'" Gagne said. "It didn't bother me."

On the field her well-toned tan body stands 5 feet 6 inches tall with a silver whistle around her neck. Her blonde hair is pulled back, and her big brown eyes concentrate on the action before her. When she is off-

iciating a game she takes charge.

She is in charge, but sometimes she gets scared and intimidated when a big guy argues about a controversial call.

"One time a guy was arguing about a call I had made, and he put his hand on my shoulder. The other referees were there to protect me, and we ejected him from the game. That was the most threatened I have ever felt."

However, football is a rough sport, and she has suffered the consequences from time to time.

"It was a long pass near the end zone, and I was there in position. The ball was coming right for me," Gagne said, as her voice grew with excitement. "The receivers went up in the air and landed on top of me. I was sore, but I never suffered any real

injury."

"I have always been around sports, and that is why I wanted to study kinesiology," she said. "At North Texas State, I was a computer science major, but that was not for me. When I transferred to TCU I decided to study what I wanted—sports medicine."

Gagne will hang up her whistle in May when she graduates, and she said it was a great experience. She tried something new to her and to the school, but she said she is not really different than any other TCU student.

"I wear skirts, paint my nails and wear bows in my hair like most girls at TCU," Gagne said.

She might look like most girls at TCU on the outside, but inside she is loaded with ambition and courage.

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Surfside, Texas is the best kept secret on the Gulf Coast. Join the party this spring break. We offer more than 13 miles of beach. We permit beach driving and bonfires. Lodging is provided in town.

Surfside has excellent weather, camping, fishing, and a friendly attitude. Come on down and join the party.

Contact the Surfside Tourist

Council 409-233-7598

Surfside



Undiscovered,

and Lovin' It.