

# TCU DAILY SKIFF

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THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1987

Fort Worth, Texas

## Black Greeks face problems

By Melissa Webb  
Staff Writer

Black fraternities and sororities at TCU face different problems than their white counterparts because of the small size of their chapters.

Some of these problems include difficulty maintaining a group large enough to be recognized as a TCU organization and the lack of separate housing for black Greeks.

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity was denied facilities this spring and is no longer recognized by TCU because of its low membership.

When a group is recognized by the university, it is allowed to use "TCU" in its name, has access to university facilities for meetings and parties and is listed in the "Co-curricular Bulletin," a guide to all campus organizations.

Requirements for recognition by TCU are that a group have a faculty sponsor, turn in a financial report once a year and have at least 10 members.

This number was set by the Student Organizations Committee, which felt it was the minimum number necessary to show there is adequate interest in an organization at TCU, said Susan Batchelor, director of student activities.

The two black fraternities, Alpha Phi Alpha and Kappa Alpha Psi, and the two sororities, Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta, average eight to 10 members each. The white organizations range from about 80 to 120 members.

"It's difficult for the people involved (in the black organizations), because when you need to share responsibilities, you need some folks to share them with," Batchelor said.

Anne Trask, assistant director of student activities, said TCU's black Greek organizations have always been small.

"I think it is tied to the percentage of minority students we have here," she said.

Only 3.8 percent of the students at TCU in fall of 1986 were black, according to "Institutional Statistics," which is printed by Institutional Research and Planning.

Another reason black sororities and fraternities at TCU are so small is that their national organizations allow both undergraduate and graduate students in their chapters, and the traditional emphasis has been on graduate chapters, Trask said.

Claude Steele, minority affairs coordinator and program adviser, said the black pledge classes are noticeably small, with only between three and five people going through rush.

This could be for a number of reasons, Steele said. Prospective members are required to have a 2.5 grade point average, which is higher than that of white fraternities and sororities.

In addition, other students may wish to join a group that does not have a chapter at TCU.

An organization may not offer what students want, or they may not be interested in being Greek, Steele said.

Black organizations need strategies to retain members as well as attract new ones, Steele said.

Shelly Miles, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, said there are disadvantages to having a small group.

"You can't get as much done as you'd like," she said, and it is difficult to organize committees.

Alpha Kappa Alpha gets a number of people at its fall and spring rush parties, but these standards keep many people out, Miles said.

The sorority doesn't accept members just to keep up numbers, but sometimes this makes decisions hard, she said.

Recruiting new members would be easier if the black groups had houses, because a definite location draws people, said Barry Williams, Alpha Phi Alpha president.

There are also problems with time scheduling and transportation because the fraternity does not have a specific place on campus to meet, Williams said.

However, black fraternities and sororities can have parties in the Student Center Ballroom or the Woodson Room.

Lack of housing for the black Greek organizations is related to their size, as well as to the fact that the black groups were established 10 or 15 years after housing for white Greeks had been built.

Fraternity and sorority houses must have an occupancy rate of 30, said Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Don Mills.

Groups must also pay a \$3,500 facilities fee, which is a burden on small groups, Mills said.

He said housing for the black Greeks is a "Catch-22" situation, because black Greeks might be able to recruit more members if they had their own houses.

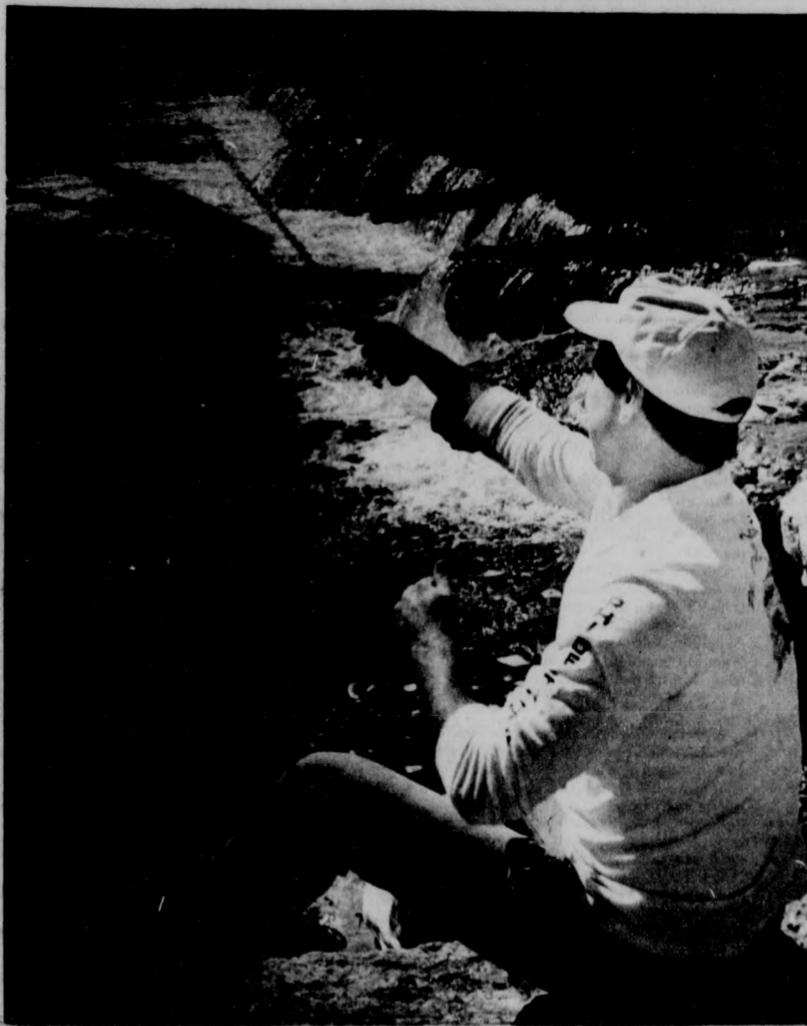
The housing department can help a group get rooms together in a residence hall, but so far the black sororities and fraternities have not acted on that, Mills said.

One black sorority did have a suite in a residence hall for meetings for a year, he said, but decided it was too expensive to continue the practice.

"If TCU were able to increase its minority population, the number of people joining black groups would be increased," he said.

Large groups often don't take small groups seriously, Mills said.

"Long-term strength and viability is more of a problem than just housing," he said.



Reel spring weather - TCU student Chip Allen takes a break from studies to enjoy Wednesday's warm weather by fishing at the Trinity River. Today's weather will be colder, with temperatures in the 50s.

TCU Daily Skiff / Robert N. McDonald

## Costs rise when plant shuts down

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pennsylvania's big Peach Bottom nuclear plant was ordered shut down Tuesday by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which said it found control room operators sleeping on duty.

While plants have been shut down before, NRC spokesperson Joe Fouchard said "this is the first time we've taken an action as the result of information of this type."

Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., called the action "a wakeup call for the nuclear industry."

The NRC said it learned just a week ago about "pervasive" on-the-job sleeping at the plant.

The plant, owned by Philadelphia Electric Corp., began "an orderly shutdown" Tuesday morning, Fouchard said.

"They may not restart without our approval. These are very serious matters, and we plan to probe them thoroughly," he said.

The plant is capable of producing one million kilowatts of electric power—more than most in the United States. The utility said costs can be expected to rise because it will have to buy replacement power.

Before the Three Mile Island accident in 1979, the commission ordered five plants shut down to resolve questions of seismic design.

An NRC investigation found the "inattention to duty" was not confined to one or two instances.

It said that shift supervisors and superintendents "have either known or condoned" the sleeping or they "should have known these facts." The top managers of the plant also should have known, the commission said.

Last year the plant was fined \$200,000 because of safety violations. Spokesperson Neil McDermott said the company paid the fine, which he said involved the withdrawal of control rods out of sequence.

## Few participate in soapbox forum

By Joe D. Williams  
Staff Writer

As TCU students passed through the Student Center Lounge Wednesday on their way to lunch or classes, few paid any attention to a man making an unusual pitch from behind a podium.

"Okay, folks, just get up here and tell us what you think," said Steve Rubick, one of the organizers of the Forums Committee Soapbox Forum.

The event was conceived to give students a chance to speak out on American foreign policy, Rubick said.

But he wasn't getting many takers. "Okay," Rubick said, "how about this: Ronald Reagan is a god!"

"Would anyone like to respond to that?" he asked.

"Hey! There's Joe Jordan," Rubick said, pointing to the TCU student body president, who was making his way among the crowd. "Come on, Joe, you're president. You've got an opinion."

As classes let out just before noon, the traffic in the hallway swelled. Outside, Reed-Sadler Mall filled up. Still, no one took a place at the podium.

Forums Committee chairperson Paul Schmidt left to recruit volunteers. He came back after a few minutes, having failed to interest anyone in sounding off.

"Interesting party fact number 42: A cockroach can live without its head for 72 hours because it doesn't have a centralized nervous system," Rubick said, an attempt that prompted a few stifled laughs.

As junior Doug Dowler read from his essay on Strategic Defense Initiative, the crowd dwindled to five, the same number who eventually spoke. Two were studying. One was reading a newspaper.

"It would have been a good idea 20 years ago," Rubick said. "I think it speaks poorly of the students at TCU that they won't stand up for what they believe in."

"I don't agree with everything SDSA (Students for a Democratic South Africa) does, but I have a lot of respect for them for standing up for what they believe in," Rubick said. "It would have been a fun event."

Karn Oleson, a sophomore member of Forums Committee, disagreed. "I don't think it's fair for (Rubick) to lump us all together," she said. "Some people are worried about exams, and

some people don't like to speak in front of a crowd."

Charles Quinn, a freshman member of Forums Committee, said, "I think a lot of the students here haven't been educated to be politically active. Since they're already well-off, they don't have to be."

Quinn, who said he attended an international high school in Germany, said students in Europe seem to be more politically aware, "probably because those countries are affected so much by American foreign policy."

"We chose Wednesday during the lunch hour because we thought there would be the maximum number of people in the halls," Rubick said.

"If we don't get a response at this time (of day), we're not going to get one," he said. "I would not recommend doing this again."

## TCU House raises budget

By Nancy Andersen  
Staff Writer

By unanimous consent, the House of Student Representatives raised the House budget for the 1987-88 fiscal year from \$180,000 to \$193,000 in Tuesday's meeting.

Among the changes, as stated in the budget summary, is the addition of \$6,396 to the Programming Council fund. Five thousand dollars will go to the Thank Goodness It's Friday program, which "began as a response to the change in the drinking age," the summary said.

Money was redistributed to give more to the Forums, Visual Arts, Special Events, Recreation and Travel, Parents Weekend and Films committees.

Student Concerns Committee chairperson Brett Miley proposed an amendment to the budget that would rearrange the Films Committee fund so projectionists' fees were lowered and the money put into film rental.

Miley called for lowering the projectionists' fees from \$7 to \$4 per show, so the \$363 saved could increase "the caliber and number of movies shown on campus."

"Seven dollars is beneficial to projectionists. The extra \$363 will be beneficial to the entire student body,"



Joe Jordan - listens to budget discussions.

he said. "More people attend films than any other PC event."

Miley said he was concerned that, aside from the vice president for programming and the Programming Council secretary, the projectionists are the only council members paid.

"I would like to see all members paid," Miley said. "Other PC people work hard, also."

Representative Steve Rubick argued against lowering of the fees, saying projectionists don't receive

one of the main benefits of belonging to the Films Committee—seeing free movies.

"We're short on projectionists as it is," he said. "By paying \$4, we won't find enough (projectionists) to be available to show films. Nobody is going to give up a weekend night to run around and be yelled at a lot for only \$4."

He said projectionists go through a two- to three-week training period and, months later, are still learning to use the equipment.

The amendment was rejected by a large margin.

The approved budget also places \$2,703 in the new Organizational Support Fund, with \$1,100 to be allocated each semester. An extra \$503 will be available if needed, said Finance Committee chairperson Patti Keefe.

Organizations may apply for funds for a trip or activity and must sign the House Funding Agreement if they get money, Keefe said.

In addition, as stated in the budget summary, funds for the House University Relations Committee were increased from \$150 to \$400 for the Big Brother/Big Sister program for incoming freshmen. More money was also given to Alcohol Awareness and the Horned Frog Yearbook staff.

## Levity lightens house meetings

By Nancy Andersen  
Staff Writer

The time: 5 p.m. on any given Tuesday.

The scene: a room upstairs in an out-of-the-way corner of the Student Center, beautifully furnished with plush purple carpet and comfortable chairs.

The team: 40 to 50 members of the House of Student Representatives and their officers, who play "executive officer" games before discussing legislation.

The first activity begins after the mandatory pledge of allegiance and prayer. Secretary Monique Chapin reaches for the roll sheet amid extracurricular papers and clicks open her ball-point pen.

"Todd Breeding?" she asks.  
"Here," says a murmured reply.  
"Candi Daniel?"  
"Here."  
"Keith Kirkman?"  
"Yes ma'am!"  
"Jacquie Maupin?"  
"Winner!"

And the representative waves a purple card. As a reward for checking her box in the Student Activities Office for her House minutes, she is a winner of the secretary's

Minute Game. Chapin gives her a bag of M&Ms.

Chapin explained she began the Minute Game this semester to make sure all representatives pick up the minutes and other information from the previous House meeting. Before noon each Monday, she puts a purple card in two boxes.

"Basically, it's just closing my eyes and shoving it into the boxes," she said.

Chapin gives prizes to those winners.

Although she picks two boxes, Chapin said for the past few weeks only one person has waved the purple card during House meetings. "When there's only one it means someone in the room didn't check his or her box," she said.

Time: 5:05.  
The next activity comes with the vice president's report. After standing and reminding the House about the leadership retreat, vice president Lee Behar declares, "This week's Chairperson of the Week, for revising the election code . . . Andy Hartman!"  
The House applauds.

Behar explained that he instituted Chairperson of the Week this semester to recognize the part play-

ed by committee chairs in the House.

"Because of the committee system, we have a lot of things that go on behind the scenes that people don't know about," he said. "I like to honor the chairs when they do something especially worthwhile."

Time: 5:12.  
At last comes a long-awaited moment with the Academic Affairs Committee chairperson's report.

Steve Partain stands holding before him a large sheet of paper on which is crayoned "reiterate."

"The Word of the Week—reiterate," Partain says. "Now I get so perturbed when I hear people say, 'I'd like to echo what so-and-so said.' No!"

"We have a House word for that, and it's 're-it-er-ate.'" He sounds like Mister Rogers.

Partain said he started crayoning words on paper for House meetings because, as Academic Affairs Committee chairperson, "It's my duty to increase the House vocabulary."

He said he hopes at least one representative will use the Word of the Week during the meeting.

Time: 5:18.  
The games are over—now it's time for House work.

# OPINION



## Letters to the editor

### Skiff missing the action in sports

I am not one to incessantly complain if I do not get what I want. However, an article written by someone on your staff moaned and groaned about no one writing in to comment on the Skiff.

Well here goes nothing. I have felt for some time that the Skiff neglects certain aspects of TCU that deserve merit. The TCU track team may not walk away with track and field championships, but we do have some of the fastest runners currently in college. Even if the team fails mediocre in competition, it is still part of the institution.

Our tennis team is one of the top 15 teams in the nation, and I do not hear as much about them as I would like, except what I hear from players I am friends with. What's the problem? I do not believe there is a lack of information to be reported.

I do not intend to beat the proverbial dead horse, but TCU has at least 3 senior football players who I know plan to go out for the NFL draft about one month from now.

These big, burly guys have been busting their \$&@s to get ready. Football season may be over, but let's give these guys some support. Track and tennis are not over, so let's give them some support also. The Skiff is the daily newspaper of TCU, is it not?

By the way, good article on Ronnie Schwyer. He deserved it.

Bobby Wilson  
Junior, English

### Help available for rape victims

I am writing this in response to Cathy Toledo's article in the March 25 edition of the Skiff on date rape and as an open letter to all women on campus.

Some of you may consider date rape to be just another social issue that has been taken up by the media, like teenage suicide and welfare children. You may believe you are above such a thing, that you're too smart, or too well-bred or too strong to have it happen to you.

In a sense, rape is like the above mentioned popular social causes, because it is a real problem in our society. But unlike those issues, acquaintance rape is a crime, with a victim and a perpetrator. It happens to honors students with 4.0 grade point averages, country club members and body builders.

It may or may not leave bruises and scars, but it can destroy a life and always affects the victim.

In the article on March 25, the question is asked, "... is acquaintance rape a problem at TCU?" But the response, "... no one really knows how often date rape occurs on campus," does not answer the question.

The answer, of course, is yes, it is a problem. If rapes are committed, that is a problem. If they are not even reported, that is a problem. And it is a problem if human beings are being victimized, are having their lives torn apart and aren't even aware that help is available.

I, for one, am glad university administrators have "admitted their concern" (did they not admit it before?), and I hope TCU will see increases in the amount of information available on date rape and in student participation in programs dealing with the topic.

It cannot be reiterated enough: date rape can happen to anyone, and it is not the fault of the victim. The most important thing, if it does happen, is to tell someone. The article included Campus Police, the dean of students, the Health Center and the Rape Crisis Center.

I would add to this list resident assistants, hall directors, a trusted professor or adviser, clergy or ministry and the Fort Worth Police. Any of these people or organizations can assist

you in getting the help you need, but remember, no one can help until you tell someone.

Kate Pier-Winsett  
Sophomore, mathematics

### At last, a response for Winneker

Alas, a letter for Craig Winneker. This will be my second, at least my second directed at Winneker.

Winneker stated that his goal this semester was to stir up controversy, an endeavor he admits failing. However, Winneker does not understand why he has failed. There are two interrelated reasons for his shortcomings.

The first is that most of the people I know, the ones he wants responses from, (in his words the "right-wing, tie-clipped Saab jockeys," although he forgot hawkish, Darwinistic, capitalistic, imperialists in his stereotyping), don't even want or need to waste their time giving Winneker what he wants—a response.

The reason they don't waste their time is obvious—they don't need to. Winneker states that when he writes, he both "expresses and defends" his beliefs. Nothing is further from the truth.

This semester, Winneker has enlightened us with his opinion about SALT II "violations." SDI and the criteria for being a real man and, unfortunately, that is where his journalism ends. Two of his articles brought Winneker emotional payment in the form of editorial responses. In one piece earlier this year, Craig gave TCU readers his analysis of SDI.

According to Winneker, it was too expensive and would not work. I challenged him with the facts—1) The Soviets are building their own ABM system. (A CIA study says it will be ready by 1992.)

2) The Soviets are violating the ABM treaty every day with three separate radar installations. In response to the argument that the United States is also breaking this treaty, I think Caspar Weinberger effectively explained that "clause D" states new negotiations are needed.

3) SDI will not cost 1 trillion dollars. According to the Marshall Institute, "The Fully Developed System is estimated to be \$121 billion."

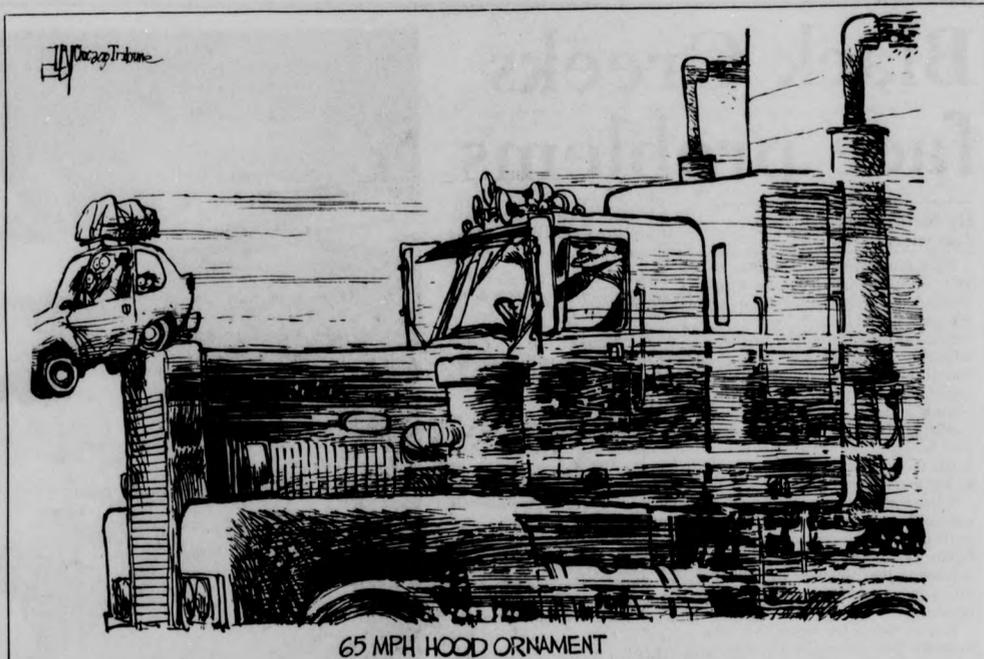
4) SDI is feasible, and we should at least wait until it's fully tested to pass judgment. As I stated before, America was made great by trying. Flying, space travel, etc. were only discovered by trying. Doubting never helps progression.

Another of Winneker's works told readers of a wonderful weekend spent at Carswell Air Force Base protesting the United States "breaking" of the SALT II treaty. Ann Chambers' one sentence unraveled all of Winneker's wasted ink: "You can't break what has never been put together."

Winneker asks what he has to do to get responses. I would suggest that he follow the example of David Artman, president of Students for a Democratic South Africa. Last semester, TCU students were drowned by almost weekly letters and columns dealing with the need for TCU and national divestment, but there was a difference—Artman used support; he supplied information, analysis. He gave people a target for response. In return for his efforts, people responded. Artman got controversy.

So, if Winneker wants real mail, maybe he should write real editorials. He stated that he succeeded in annoying one conservative this semester. Unfortunately, he does not realize he annoyed this conservative because of his irresponsible journalism, not his stance on issues.

John Laboon  
Sophomore, finance



## Despite their differences, people are all the same



John Paschal

Perhaps it's stereotypical to say, but you can't avoid using stereotypes. I have never avoided them and, likewise, they have never taken the time to avoid me.

It happens. How can you see someone walking on a downtown sidewalk and not form an immediate opinion? Again, I don't mean to stereotype the process of stereotyping, but in cases such as on the sidewalk, stereotyping has some validity.

Stereotyping helps you choose your associations. It's like looking at the Sunday paper and choosing which articles you want to read by looking at the headline, the length, the byline or whatever.

You can't read every article to decide if you like it, and you can't meet everyone to decide if you'd like to be friends with a person. By stereotyping you miss out on a lot of great people. But you also exclude some cruddy ones. It's an exchange.

Last weekend, stereotyping came full circle.

I was drinking a Budweiser in a Boston pub when I decided to test the accuracy of a certain stereotype I held in my heart as damn true. I wanted to see if Bostonians were as rude as I believed them to be. I stuck two bits in the jukebox and selected Willie Nelson's "Always on My Mind."

To paraphrase, I didn't get my two bits' worth. Before Willie could even deliver the first chorus, a Boston girl kicked the jukebox right in the gut, screaming Willie straight into another verse. She wasn't fond of that verse, either, so she kicked the jukebox again, and this time Willie flew all the way out of the bar.

A minute or so later a brawl broke out. I suspected it wasn't because people were upset that Willie had been preempted. I figured they were just supporting my contentions; they were being rude and slamming their fists into each other's faces to prove the point.

It was already the second fight I had seen that night, and I'd only been in Boston about four hours. These were just normal Bostonians, sully the sanctity of Willie and bopping each other on the nose.

They fit the mold I had cast for them, all right. Haughty and arrogant, but also rude and violent. Dark alleys definitely would not be on my agenda.

Since I was in Boston for an international journalism symposium, however, "symposium" would be on my agenda. Educators and students from all over the world were there, "exchanging ideas," as they say. As it turned out, it was that internationalism that shed some incandescence on stereotypes I had formulated.

I'm not prejudiced toward people from foreign countries and never have been; at least, I try not to be and know I shouldn't be. Of course, like everybody else last weekend, I recognized the differences. Different skin. Different accents. They dressed strange, you know.

I didn't look down on them. I didn't look up to them, either. I just looked over at them. They looked over at me. I'm not blind, and neither were they.

We were different but we had similarities, similar in our differences. We definitely recognized each other's traits were different than our own. In that sense, there were certain barriers between us all.

Then in one instant, the barriers were blown away.

An Oriental man burped.

Pretty loud. I don't think he meant to, but there it was, plain to the ears. An Oriental burp, hanging there in the cool Boston air.

At that same instant, though, I realized it really wasn't an Oriental burp, but simply a human burp. Belch or burp, it's still the same act—expelling gas through the mouth from the stomach.

Burping. One of those universal things.

My eyes, not to mention my ears, were unexpectedly open. I noticed just how similar, even if for their differences, everybody was. They talked and laughed and shook hands and pressed elevator buttons. They ate food. They breathed. They were human. One single species, many variations. Many common bonds. Including the burp.

I took that knowledge with me Saturday night when I met six students, and we went to a Chinatown restaurant. The students came from West Virginia, Kentucky, Florida, New York, Trinidad and Tennessee, and here we all were in Boston, at 3 a.m., hungry and thirsty.

Our cabbie was a real Boston guy, accent and everything. He was nice, though. He knew what we wanted. He took us to a good place with good food, and he said to ask for "cold tea," which means "beer" after 2 a.m.

The place was crowded. We had a 30-minute wait, so we stood there and talked and laughed. While we were waiting, a huge fight broke out.

A table of muscleheads had questioned a young woman's fidelity, and she didn't take kindly to it. She threw a glass of beer on one of them and finally threw the whole glass at another. Then it erupted.

People and glass flew all over, and Yankee cuss words split the air. Immediately after the angry young woman got hit over the head with a glass picture, a big fellow tapped me on the shoulder.

"Hey, not everybody from Boston is like this," he said.

I knew that. Because not every man from the Orient burps.

## THE CAMPUS UNDERGROUND BY TODD CAMP...



## 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

Showgirl tryouts

Tryouts for the TCU Showgirls will be Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum. Students must wear leotards and tights.

Phi Alpha Theta meeting

Phi Alpha Theta will meet today at 4:30 p.m. in Reed Hall Room 304 to plan Saturday's regional meeting.

Yearbook staff positions

Anyone interested in serving on the 1987-88 Horned Frog Yearbook staff

can pick up an application in the Student Activities Office. Positions include editor, business editor, photography editor and section editors. For more information, call Laura Puckett at 921-7926.

Discount ballet tickets

Discount tickets for Friday's performance of the Fort Worth Ballet will be available through Friday at the Student Center Information Desk.

Normally priced at \$12.50, the tickets are \$8 with TCU ID.

Casting call

Anyone interested in auditioning for a part in TCU senior David Alan Hall's upcoming motion picture, "Fragile Expressions," should call Hall at 926-3283 before April 9 for an interview.

Four major roles—two male, two female—are open, with many supporting parts and crew positions also available.

The movie, a feature-length drama, will be shot in the Dallas/Fort Worth

Metroplex this summer.

Leadership America applications

Applications from students who have been nominated for the Leadership America program are due Friday in the Student Activities Office.

Ambassador to speak

Ambassador Ralph Earle II will speak on U.S./Soviet relations April 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center

during other church activities. Call Kathy Nance, 923-0617 after 5 p.m.

Ballroom. Earle was U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union and a U.S. negotiator for the Salt II treaty.

Tickets are \$1 with a TCU ID at the Student Center Information Desk. Earle's speech is sponsored by the Forums Committee of Programming Council.

Alpha Phi teetertotterathon

Alpha Phi sorority is holding its annual teetertotterathon from 2 p.m. Friday to 2 p.m. Saturday in front of

the Student Center. All money raised will go toward heart projects.

Divestment rally

Students for a Democratic South Africa will hold a divestment rally Friday at noon in front of Frog Fountain. A representative from the African National Congress will speak.

Phonathon cash awards

Students who won cash awards in the Phonathon may pick them up through Wednesday in the Office of Development, Sadler Hall Room 214.

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# SPORTS



## Sportswriter obligated to air out complaints



**John Paschal**

I'm in a bad mood. While I'm in it, I feel obligated to bellyache about some things in the sports world that have ached my belly lately.

Rodney Dangerfield, he of the respect vacuum, should seriously consider taking an adjunct professorship at this university. TCU basketball players would be the beneficiaries of Rodney's tutorial skills, and in fact, Rodney's class (we're talking academics here, not fashionable refinement) might even help the entire Southwest Conference. The class? How to Cope With Little or No Respect.

In Sunday's edition of the *Boston Globe*, "noted" basketball scribe Bob Ryan did a number on the of Southwest Conference and TCU, without even trying. Ryan, after really doing his homework, was informing his lucky readers about an upcoming college basketball all-star game. Two of the players are from the SWC, and according to Ryan, they are "Ricky Winslow, Houston; Carl Lott, Texas A&M."

Well, *Rob*, Ricky is spelled "Ricky," and Texas A&M is spelled "TCU."

So listen, Boston buddy, if you can't get it right even from a press release, you don't deserve your press credentials. What you need is your own class: How To Cope With Little Or No Journalistic Responsibility.

This problem is getting way too old. It's downright sickening. Ryan's boo-boo is just another example of justice for all... except the Southwest Conference.

You'll be atinged with excitement to learn that Hulk Hogan defeated Andre the Giant on Sunday to retain his World Wrestling Federation heavyweight crown.

The sad thing about the previous paragraph is that some people—93,173, to be exact—would not detect its sarcastic nature and would take the paragraph at face value.

"Yep, we are thrilled. Let's go have a Budweiser."

The aforementioned number of people (people, as a term, should be taken lightly) packed into the Pontiac Silverdome in Pontiac, Mich., last weekend to witness the sports spectacle of the century, *Wrestlemania III*. In the main event, say the newspaper reports, Hogan delivered a leg drop and a body slam to the 7-foot-4, 525-pound Andre before pinning him 15 minutes into the match.

Well, there's nothing like half a ton of sweaty bulge taking a Theater I class inside the ring, I say. Ugly, smelly Thespians are always a real pleasure for me to be around.

It gets worse. A wire story quoted a William Boone of Detroit as revealing, "I'm here more or less for the violence." The really impressive thing about William, apart from his obvious social concerns, is that he brought his 7-year-old daughter, Tina, to the event.

Tina said she came to cheer Jake "the Snake" Roberts, whom she postulated "looks like my dad."

Lucky guy. Lucky girl. . . .

There does seem to be something wrong, doesn't there, when TCU barely fills a 7,000 capacity coliseum to see a good college basketball team, and the Silverdome has no trouble drawing 93,173 trolls to witness glitzy, glorified crap.

The other day in yet another espousing of written opinion, I attempted to deliver the theme that

sportswriters are, for the most part, a goodly portion of the human race. In light of prevailing circumstances, however, I am now considering recanting that statement.

reason: as you might know, the good Doctor, Julius Erving of the Philadelphia 76ers, is retiring from professional basketball at the end of this season. Thus sportswriters feel obliged to write their personal tributes to the legendary Dr. J., which is great. He deserves it.

But geez, guys, can anybody please be original?

Each and every testimonial says something like, "The Doctor will be making his last house call here tonight, and it will be a hard pill for all of us to swallow. Every Erving shot was a pain in the butt to opposing fans, yet every shot was still a beauty to witness. Soon there will be a simple diagnosis for our heartsickness: simply, we will miss Dr. J. It is not just the basketball player we will miss, however, but the man as well. Julius Erving. He combined grace, strength and vision. No one else comes close to his charm on and off the court." (And then the doozy) "Dr. J is a class act."

No other phrase in sportswriting history has been as overused as "class act." I agree, Erving is. But for his sake, call him something else just once. Call him a "cool guy." Anything, please, as long as it's different.

And speaking of bilgy basketball bandwagons, when will writers get off Mark Aguirre's back? Critics have harangued the Dallas Mavericks' star forward for his "behavior" too long, and often the product of their pointed pens is unjustified. When will sports journalists inherit some much-needed tact and compassion and refrain from tabbing Aguirre "talented but troubled," or "enormously gifted but immature," and similar criticisms? Please just call him Aguirre, tell us what he did and let us formulate our own opinions from now on.

Better yet writers, let Aguirre watch you while you work, every day. And every time you show the slightest bit of agitation or—oh no—immaturity, let Aguirre call you a "gutless quitter" in the newspapers. Then answer his "probing" questions graciously.

Wait. I've got more bellyaching. . . .

Can AP writers begin a story about a Chicago Bulls game without using the word "despite"—as in, "Despite Michael Jordan's 42 points. . . .?"

And bless the day when we read a headline other than, "Jordan's 50 not enough as Celtics whip Bulls."

Then again, pity the day when headline writers write, "The magic is gone—old Jordan scores only 11 as Celtics whip Bulls."

I think I will cry when Michael Jordan gets old and can no longer play. Thank God for celluloid's ability to capture the moment. For Michael Jordan is a basketball icon. He is not human. The man flies higher and longer than any man ever has.

It is these truths that constitute still another cause for the funky color of my mood ring. The reason: I'll never play basketball like Michael Jordan. Fortunately for me, neither will

anyone else. Regardless, isn't it kind of bitterly sweet to see Jordan soar into The Highlight Zone and slam-jam, when your own left-handed layups are iffy propositions at best? Just once, without the use of a trampoline or illegal drugs, I'd like to fly like Jordan, parallel to the ground, suspended in my own time zone, above every hairline, and jam one home to papa.

My luck, though—I catch my mood ring on the rim and rip my finger from its socket.

Bad moods sure breed pessimism, don't they?

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