

TCU DAILY SKIFF

Tuesday, February 7, 1989

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX

86th Year, No. 65

Ministers' Week provides reinforcement for participants

By JULIE PALM
Staff Writer

More than 400 ministers and their spouses will be on campus this week to participate in TCU's annual Ministers' Week.

"The program is a form of continuing education. It also provides an opportunity for ministers to reinforce and support each other," said Jack Suggs, dean of Brite Divinity School and program chairman.

The week's activities, which include worship services, receptions,

luncheons, coffees and lectures, began Monday and will run through Thursday.

Three religious leaders have been invited to present distinguished lectures throughout the week.

James A. Sanders, a professor at Claremont School of Theology and at Claremont Graduate School, has been named the Wells Preacher and will deliver three sermons during the evening sessions.

The Wells Sermons are funded by an annual gift from the East Dallas Christian Church in honor of L.N.D.

Wells.

Jeffery William Rowthorn, bishop suffragan of Connecticut, will deliver the McFadin Lectures and Jane Dempsey Douglass, professor at Princeton Theological Seminary, will deliver the Scott Lectures.

The McFadin Lectureship is funded by an annual gift from the McFadin Memorial Loan Fund in honor of D.G. McFadin. The Scott Lectureship is supported by the Oron E. Scott Foundation.

"The program and lectures will allow people to gain information from

some of the better scholars from all over the world. It's an opportunity for continuing education," said the Rev. John Butler, university minister.

Butler said people from university ministries will be attending as many of the events as their schedules will allow.

The majority of those attending the program are Disciples of Christ ministers from Texas and surrounding states, Suggs said.

"Our dominant attendance will be from Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas but people will attend from all

over. We are glad for anyone to attend," Suggs said.

Suggs said he expects between 400 and 450 people to attend this week's events, but recent bad weather may cause attendance to drop.

"Weather is certainly a problem, especially for people coming from South and East Texas, but attendance should still be good," Suggs said.

TCU's Ministers' Week, which is also sponsored by University Christian Church, is one of many similar programs around the country.

"There are 'mid-winter lectures'

held all around the country at about this same time every year," Suggs said.

"All of the programs provide an opportunity to see old friends in the same craft," he said.

Butler also said seeing friends is one of the pluses of the program.

"It gives us a chance to reconnect with people we've known over the years," Butler said. "It also gives us the opportunity to visit with ministers around the region who have students here (at TCU) from their congregation."

Students score big with Nerf

By BRETT BALLANTINI
Staff Writer

The facilities are catered to with motherly care and concern, the competition is regarded highly and shown proper respect, and the zeal to perform often reaches addictive levels.

This is not a story about an upcoming TCU theater production. Nor is it a spring football preview. And it is most definitely not a story about a TCU graduate who now pilots his very own McDonald's franchise.

It is about Nerf hoops.

Silly? Consider such a reaction the next time you sit down to study and are interrupted by a loud series of grunts and groans, wall shudders and piercing yodels of exultation.

Chances are, the noises are coming from a few peers who are hosting some Nerf basketball festivities.

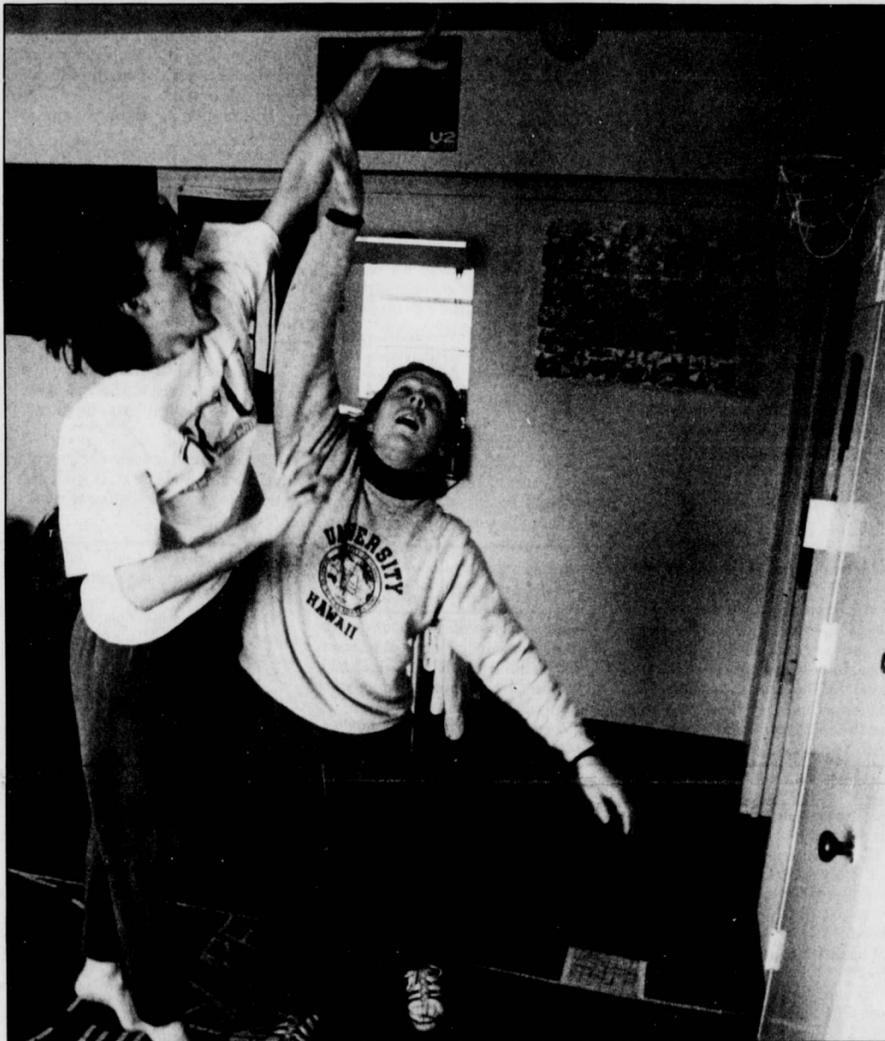
And when it comes to Nerf festivities, no one hosts as well as freshman religion-studies major Scott Crews and freshman biochemistry major Keith Crow.

Welcome to Tom Brown Hall Room 328.

Emblazoned in masking tape on the floor is "The Pleasure Dome." The Nerf haven features a scoreboard, free-throw lane, three-point line and a British flag backboard. The shades are drawn, the court is clear. Serious business.

Call it basketball with a few rough edges.

"There are no rules, just an occasional double-dribble or travel so humorous it must be called," Crews said.



Scott Crews (left) and Keith Crow begin their Monday with a quick game of Nerf basketball on their homemade court, "The Pleasure Dome," in Tom Brown Hall.

TCU Daily Skiff / Suzanne Dean

UCC neighbors protest at vigil

Group meets to oppose construction

By JOHN MOORE
Staff Writer

Gusting winds and frigid temperatures did not stop about 35 members of two neighborhood associations from gathering for a candlelight vigil near the University Christian Church Friday night.

Members of the University West Neighborhood Association and the Park Hill Neighborhood Association lit more than 500 luminarias in front of the Alice Carlson School on Cantey Street. The group met to oppose the UCC's plan to have Trammel Crow developers build a retirement center and parking garage on the 2600 block of Rogers Avenue.

Each candle represented someone who signed a petition opposing the UCC's project, said Ben Ann Tomayko, a former president of the University West Neighborhood Association.

The Fort Worth City Council will vote Feb. 14 whether to approve the zoning change necessary for the UCC's project to continue.

Wearing orange and black buttons that said "Just Say No To Trammel Crow" and holding signs that said "No Zoning Change," the group huddled against the 18-degree chill for about 40 minutes to listen to two speakers.

Between the 10-minute speeches, the groups sang "This Little Light of Mine" and chanted "Trammel Crow, Say No."

"This is how every good community supports itself," Tomayko said. "This is an example of neighbors in support of their neighborhood and

shows that we are unified and standing together against a zoning change."

Tamayko said the group is not opposed to the idea of a retirement center.

"This is just the wrong location for it," she said. "People have said we won't give an inch, but the fact is we have no inches to give. Putting a retirement center here would be like putting a battleship in your bathtub - it just wouldn't fit."

"We're against the commercial development of our neighborhood," said Don Malone, of 2546 Rogers Ave. "We are not alone in this fight. We have supporters throughout the city."

Malone urged the group to write letters to members of the Fort Worth City Council, asking them to oppose a zoning change.

"I respect the neighborhood's right to sue or to take whatever course they deem appropriate and effective," said UCC senior minister Albert M. Pennybacker. "The process through which the zoning change request is moving is a democratic process."

Pennybacker said church members are overwhelmingly supportive of the retirement center project.

"The fears of the project seem to me to be highly exaggerated," he said. "The politicizing of a project aimed at helping older people seems entirely inappropriate to me."

The retirement center will provide seniors with cultural, religious, entertainment and health-care opportunities, Pennybacker said.

"I believe the time will come when

See Vigil, Page 2

Offices stay open despite ice storm

By JULIA C. STEWART
and TY WALKER
Staff Writers

The color of the sky as far as I can see is coal gray. Lift my head from the pillow and then fall again with a shiver in my bones just thinking about the weather.....10,000 Maniacs.

The color of the sky was gray over TCU last Friday and students had a shiver in their bones due to the infamous Alaskan cold front and ice storm. Although classes were cancelled last Friday many regular university procedures continued as always.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs William Koehler said road conditions are a primary concern for a school closing.

"I got up early, around 4 a.m., and I drove around to check out the

road conditions, and I found that there were very icy roads," Koehler said.

"Three thousand students live on campus, but the remaining 4,000 students are left trying to find a way to class. When the roads get so bad that it couldn't reasonably be expected for faculty and students to be at an appointed place at an appointed time, then we cancel school," he said.

Despite the fact that road conditions were hazardous, Marriott employees managed to maintain food services as always regardless of a few minor complications. Marriott was unable to open Eden's Greens and the athletic cafeteria, but the Student Center Cafeteria, Snack Bar and Worth Hills Cafeteria were opened at their scheduled times.

See Cold, Page 2



Mike Lusa (left) and Chad Shipes, members of the TCU baseball team go sledding Sunday after noon.

TCU Daily Skiff / Julie Barnhouse

Extremely cold temperatures to continue through Friday

Weather service predicting more freezing rain

By KERRI CAMPBELL
Staff Writer

Students should not plan to pack their winter clothes away any time this week, according to the National Weather Service.

The extended forecast for the Dallas/Fort Worth area calls for continued severely cold temperatures through Friday with a chance of freezing rain or sleet Wednesday or Thursday, said Don Mankin, spokesman for the National Weather Service.

"It is not unusual for north Texas to have these temperatures at this time of year, but they are below normal," Mankin said.

Mankin said the cause of the extremely cold weather is an air mass that had been building in Alaska.

"The clear skies and long hours of darkness, however, have allowed for tremendous cooling to build into this high pressure system," Mankin said. "It finally had to spill southward into north Texas."

The pressure patterns in the south usually keep the bitter cold out of Texas.

Mankin said that a system called an Omega Block builds up pressure that prevents storms from the Pacific from warming up the areas even farther south.

See Storm, Page 2

Students learn to cope with recent cold spell

By BRETT BALLANTINI
Staff Writer

The pipeline that has brought bitter cold to TCU's doorstep from Alaska has made simple trips treacherous, has created ice sheets that are fun to play on but dangerous for travel, and has intensified weather debates between North and South.

For a change, students from the North can return the hospitality of their Texan hosts by giving them a few pointers, while spinning some tall tales of their own.

Put simply, how often is there a lost glove hanging from the message board in the post

office?

"This is a Minnesota summer," said senior management major Derek Tillemans.

"I just watch everyone else for free entertainment," he said.

"I think it's hysterical watching all the people who aren't used to it having to cope," said senior political science-speech communication major Tim Hatfield.

Hatfield, a Tom Brown Residential Assistant, led a gang of sledders through icy courses down the ramp outside the post office and near Daniel-Meyer Coliseum late Thursday night.

It also was a weekend for travelling adven-

See Ice, Page 2

RTVF major wins laughs, competition

By JENNIFER DOLT
Staff Writer

The funniest Horned Frog was found Friday.

John Grosskopf, senior radio/TV/film major, was named the TCU winner in the U.S. Comedy Competition in the Student Center Ballroom.

Catchy one-liners were Grosskopf's comic style - his goal is to own a car in the same decade in which it is made.

"It was fun to do. It (the crowd) was better than I expected," Grosskopf said.

Two other student comedians, sophomore broadcast journalism major Kevin Daniels and sophomore fi-

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Despite a strong start, the Frogs still lose to the Aggies

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CAMPUSlines

Free writing assistance is available for TCU students, faculty and staff, along with computers and software to help you write, revise and polish papers. Open 8-noon and 1-5 Monday through Friday in Rickel Room 100. For information call 921-7221.

House Student Concerns Committee meeting on Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the Student Center Room 203. Anyone welcome. For information call 921-7926.

Programming Council Forums Committee meeting on Thursday at 4 p.m. in the Student Center Room 205. For information call 921-7926.

PC Films Committee will meet Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Student Center Room 218. Everyone welcome.

Extras needed for "Post Mortem," a horror comedy. Anyone interested in a minor part should call John Harvey, director, at 926-5330 to set up an appointment.

Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the Kappa Lambda chapter, is holding its annual Essay/Skit Scholarship Competition Wednesday at 7 p.m. The competition will be held in Student Center Lounge.

Psi Chi, the national honor society in psychology, is accepting applications for membership until Friday. Forms are available in Winton-Scott Hall. For information, call 346-7904.

MBA Reception for TCU Students to be held on Feb. 15, at 4:30 p.m. for all students interested in the MBA program. Current faculty and students will be available to discuss the program. It will be held in the Tandy American Enterprise Center of Tandy Hall.

TCU Calendar Cover Competition for 1989-90 TCU Calendar/Student Handbook. Entries may be slides, photos or art and must be related to TCU. Cash prizes. Submit entries in Room 101 of Sadler Hall. Deadline March 15.

Adventure Club is having its first meeting today at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center.

T.G.I.F. Committee meeting Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. Student Center Room 203.

Culture Shock - Presented Friday noon in the Student Center Lounge by T.G.I.F.

To announce an upcoming event in CAMPUSlines, send information to TCU P.O. Box 32930 or deliver information to the Skiff office, Moudy Building Room 291S before 1 p.m. Include name and phone number.

TCU Daily Skiff

Editor: Brenda Weichlin
 Managing editor: Andrea Heitz
 Assignments editor: Karen Frost
 News editor: Lisa Bianchi
 Features editor: Kristie Aylett
 Editorial editor: Michael Hayworth
 Commentary editor: Jerry Madden
 Sports editor: Regina Anderson
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 Business manager: Audrey Metroka

Newsroom: Moudy Room 291S
 921-7428 or Ext. 6560
 Ad sales: MB 293S, 921-7426
 TCU Box 32929
 Ft. Worth, TX 76129

The TCU Daily Skiff is a student publication produced by the Texas Christian University journalism department and published Tuesday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters except during finals week and holidays.

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The Skiff is a member of The Associated Press.

The Skiff welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, signed and limited to 500 words. Letters should be turned in two days before publication. They must include the author's classification, major and phone number. The Skiff reserves the right to edit or reject any unacceptable letters.

Storm/ from Page 1

"What is so unusual is that places like Brownsville are having freezing drizzle," Mankin said. "And it is going to stay for several more days, because the air is too dense and heavy to move out."

Students are advised to have warm clothing with them at all times to protect their skin.

"The flesh should not be exposed for any long period of time to avoid the possibility of the skin freezing, and to avoid the possibility of hypothermia," Mankin said.

Students should avoid getting wet and should not get out on the lakes where the cold temperatures combined with the water could be fatal.

Most of the Fort Worth city streets and roads are fairly clear except for some patches of ice in localized areas, according to the Fort Worth Public Works Department.

"The overpasses and bridges are worse because the ice in those areas has not had contact with the heat from the ground to begin to melt," said M.L. McKean, a spokesman for the Public Works Department.

Crews and trucks worked through the weekend sanding the roads, and they are still sanding areas of accumulated ice upon request, McKean said.

There are more severe cases of patchy or solid ice in Dallas and Arlington, according to the Fort Worth Highway Department.

"Our job is to keep the roads open if it is at all possible," said Bill Paige, a spokesman for the Highway Department. "And that's what we are trying to do."

Most of the highways and interstates in north Texas have been cleared and are open, but travel is extremely hazardous, Paige said.

All expressways in Corpus Christi are closed at this time, and only emergency travel is allowed, he said.

Some large businesses and schools were closed Monday because of the gas curtailment system established by Lone Star Gas Company.

TCU is not part of the gas curtailment plan, but according to Breck Harris of Lone Star, companies that are large-volume users of gas are asked to limit their use of gas.

"Those companies have industrial contracts with Lone Star and receive a cheaper rate in return for their agreement to curtail their use of gas," Harris said.

The curtailment system was established because of the increased demand for gas during cold weather.

"When people want more gas, we ask our large industrial users to cut back on their use of it so we can pump enough gas to our residential and commercial customers," Harris said.

Most schools in Tarrant County are on the industrial rate by their own choosing, but if they were on a commercial rate, they would not be curtailed, Harris said.

"If the room you're sitting in is cold as ice," Harris said, "then your school or company is not on the curtailment plan."

Some of the businesses that remained open throughout the weekend include the airlines, Primo's Pizza and Domino's Pizza.

American Airlines tried to accommodate their passengers on other flights, said Ed Stewart, a spokesman for the airline.

"We had about 200 passengers from D/FW Airport that had to stay over Saturday night, and we got about 24,000 out," Stewart said.

Passengers were sent out on carriers of other airlines that continued flight to particular areas, Stewart said.

"As of noon Monday, the flight schedules are all back to normal," Stewart said.

Primo's Pizza, a restaurant that continued delivering to TCU all weekend, experienced a tremendous increase in business, said Breck Schoch, assistant manager of Primo's.

"We were trying to deliver pizza as fast as a car can drive on ice," Schoch said.

Domino's Pizza also had an increase in business to TCU but had to cancel the guarantee to deliver in 30 minutes or take \$3 off the price.

"We wanted to do our best to serve our customers, but we needed to ensure the safety of our drivers," said Nathaniel Fields, a spokesman for the TCU area Domino's.

Domino's reported no accidents over the weekend, Fields said.

Laughs/ from Page 1

nance major Chad Henry, attempted to tickle funny bones in a house packed despite the icy weather.

"They were a good and tough crowd. They were good to the students," said Mike Sikowitz, tour manager.

The panel of four judges rated each competitor on a scale of one to 10, based on presentation, creativity and audience reaction.

Before the spotlight shone on TCU's jokers, free bags of Doritos were tossed around the ballroom among the rowdy audience.

The producer of the national event, U.S. Concepts, Inc., sent comedian Brad Reeder to emcee the event.

Reeder has been performing in comedy clubs for more than two years and has been practicing magic for 12 years.

"These guys were pretty good. Even with only three, they did a good job," Reeder said.

Vigil/ from Page 1

the center will be seen as an asset to the community and as a warm and comfortable home to all those who live there," he said.

During the vigil, the white lunch bags surrounding two of the candles caught fire, but members of the group reacted quickly to put out the flames.

"We're here to show support for the neighborhood we've grown up in," said Joe Matson, a TCU graduate who attended the vigil with his brother Tom. "We both attended Alice Carlson, Paschal, then TCU. A zoning change will have a big effect on both the city and TCU."

"About 510 residents oppose the

zoning change," said Ed Ipser, vice president of the University West Neighborhood Association. "That's 60 percent of the of the residents in this neighborhood who are against commercial zoning."

"Traffic is already congested," said Lucy Prince, who has lived at 2545 Rogers Ave. since the 1920s. "It's controlled now, but if this area goes commercial, it will mean utter chaos for those who live here."

"I live directly north of where the parking garage will be, and the price of housing will plummet," said Mike Hairgrove, a former member of the church.

Hairgrove said the price of his house dropped about \$15,000 when the UCC built the parking lots on Rogers Avenue and Cantey Street and on Rogers Avenue and McPherson Street.

"We just don't want the garbage and the noise that will be created if this area is zoned commercial," he said.

"A neighborhood is no more than the quality of the people who make it up. We're fighting to keep quality in our neighborhood for everyone who lives here," Tomayko said.

Ice/ from Page 1

Just ask sophomore advertising-public relations major Susan Harris and Glen Love, a sophomore marketing major who attends the University of North Texas State.

Harris and Love were stranded for two days in Arlington after Love's car slid into a curb Saturday night.

"We were going about 10 miles an hour and did \$980 in damage to my car," Love said.

Love and Harris got back to TCU on Monday.

"The guy that towed his car had been working for seventeen hours straight," Harris said.

"You know how everyone has a credit card reserved for emergencies?" she asked. "Well, this weekend was the first time since I've been at TCU that I've had to use it."

Misadventure might be a better word for the movie going experience of Fraternity Activities Co-Ordinator and Greek Residential Advisor Felix Mira and Tom Brown Hall Director

Spiro Lempesis.

Mira, from Buffalo, and Lempesis, from Chicago, being cold weather veterans, decided to brave Thursday's storm in pursuit of fine entertainment.

"We ignored the storm as it intensified before the movie, and afterward there was an ice coat on Spiro's windshield," Mira said.

"His scraper, of all places, was at home."

So Mira rode on the running boards of the van, barking directions to Lempesis, who was blinded by the ice, until they reached a gas station.

"It was like running through a maze," Mira said.

"The gas station sold out of scrapers, so it turned out that the only two guys who were used to cold weather got stranded in it."

"The weather is good because it makes you appreciate the warmth a little more, but if it lasts, forget it," Lempesis said.

Caution was thrown to the gusting wind by hundreds of TCU students, anticipating the cancellation of classes on Friday.

Cold/ from Page 1

Because none of the cooks were able to come in on time, managers Mark Washburn and Amy Gilpen had to perform the morning and afternoon cooking duties.

"We were short-handed but we

were able to pull it off," said Jim Bitenc, Marriott resident district manager.

Vivian Sosa, a Marriott employee, said she didn't mind having to come to work on Friday.

"Marriott and the students made us feel very good about coming in. Marriott gave us a cash token of appreciation, and the students were very kind," Sosa said.

"They appreciated our coming to work," she said.

Another ramification of the ice storm is the problem of heating the residence halls.

Don Mills, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, said that the only difficulties have been in Sherley Hall, and in Moncrief Hall where a fan coil unit froze and broke yesterday morning.

However, four residents of Wiggins Hall reported that their room is so cold that they have had to move

into the Holiday Inn on University Drive.

The Physical Plant was busy taking care of the sidewalks and steps by showering them with sand.

Robert Sulak, assistant director of the grounds, said the workers spread 24-30 yards of sand over major portions of the campus such as residence halls steps and high traffic areas like the mall and Student Center. The sand costs about \$8 a yard.

Although efforts were made to hinder ice-related injuries, there were several reported sprained ankles and bruised knees, said Marilyn Forney, Health Center administrative assistant.

For all those stranded on campus Friday night, Programming Council's Film Committee provided a movie as usual, and the Performing Arts Committee sponsored a comedy competition.

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7 TANS \$20.00 special spring break package

A new way of sending a message on Valentine's Day!

For only \$8, your message to a sweetheart, roommate, or special friend will be shown on the Action Fax color screen in the Student Center for 7 seconds at least 70 times a day.

Forms are available at the Information Desk and must be completed by Thursday, February 9th, at 5:00 p.m.

Valentine message's will run on February 13th and 14th.

Kappa Alpha Theta would like to congratulate our new 1989 Initiates!

April Anthis	Cindy McClure
Angela Baker	Holly Miracle
Marihelen Barlow	Shannon Mitchell
Janet Bax	Kelly Mortimer
Julie Bennett	Julie Nalley
Jennifer Burgess	Jenny Neary
Mary Caire	Robin Oelkers
Carla Chitwood	Lisa Pappalardo
Karen Dodson	Emily Roth
Piper Edmonson	Sharon Ruffner
Courtney Gilstrap	Tracy Schreiber
Carolyn Gromel	Jennifer Shaw
Kelle Hahn	Sherri Smith
Krissy Hubly	Suzanne Stone
Tej Kennedy	Jennifer Swank
Dottie King	Mercedes VanSanten
Anna Koerber	Shelley Walker
Jodi Lowenberg	Beth Wilson
Megan Marshall	Sara Wilson

Cherish Wooten

SIGMA NU FRATERNITY

All interested TCU men are cordially invited to attend our Rush Orientation Party

DATE: Wednesday Feb. 9, 1989
 TIME: 5:30 Pre-game Party
 -TCU vs. Baylor-

PLACE: Sigma Nu house
 DRESS: Casual

For more information call 927-7315

Commentary

Our View

Good choice, TCU

TCU made a prudent decision in canceling classes Friday because of bad weather.

TCU's reputation the last few years has been that, if hell froze over, the administration might consider canceling classes. Last year, a snowstorm during the night was not enough to cancel classes, despite icy road conditions the next morning.

No one was hurt getting to class, and the weather cleared by afternoon, but the administration could not have foreseen that.

William Koehler, vice chancellor for academic affairs, was responsible for the decision to cancel classes last week.

The decision to cancel classes kept those who absolutely couldn't make it to class from getting behind. More important, it may well have prevented injuries - both from accidents and from slipping on icy sidewalks.

This area of the country is simply not prepared to handle severe winter weather. Good call on Friday, TCU.



TCU DAILY SKIFF FEBRUARY 7, 1989

Bring back childhood memories

By STEVEN J. RUBICK
Columnist



Life was so much simpler growing up. I remember when an old stick would magically become a rocket launcher, and I

could blow up anything or anyone that got in my way.

That was about the same time that a collander with a few wires attached to it became an evil brainwashing device; and a corrugated cardboard box could become anything from a high-tech time machine to an ordinary, down-to-earth car or truck.

Back in the stress-free days of childhood, we could sleep all day and sleep all night if we wanted to. We could run around all day long like maniacs listening to our hearts instead of our minds and our parents as little as possible.

In that golden age, we were the immortal rulers of all we surveyed. Until bedtime, that is.

Being a kid was great. My daily schedule went something like this: up whenever, eat whatever, play, play, play, ignore mom calling me to dinner, play, play, ignore dad calling me in for the night, play some more, give in to parents and head home for bed. This rigorous schedule was followed by more sleep than I could ever again hope to get and another day along roughly the same lines.

It's too bad that we had to grow up. The freedom we had as children is something that we can never have again; life was lived for the simple pleasure of just being alive, and that was all that mattered to us.

There were no cares and no worries, there was just life and love and friends. And lots and lots of play.

Of course, childhood had its drawbacks; like it or not, we had to obey our parents, and we had to eat all our vegetables so we could grow up big and strong. We had to be in when the streetlights came on. Still, all in all, life was a game, and we played it to its fullest.

Playing is something we don't do enough of when we become adults. Some time around high school we are taught that life is stuffy and serious. We learn about love and loss and death and taxes. We are told that life is hard and cruel and full of pain. We throw away our simple, playful world and replace it with a more conservative, more efficient one.

We learn to survive and, in the process, we forget how to live.

I don't believe that life is as dark or as cold or as uncaring as many people seem to think.

I believe that I can still be a kid; I've gotten older, but I haven't grown up yet.

Somewhere, deep down under all the worldly veneer, is the little kid who used to run around like a maniac and pretend that the world was his to do with as he pleased. The one who went running with his dog through the creek and got grounded for it.

The same little kid who took naps every afternoon and woke up to a glass of milk and a handful of cookies.

It's that little kid that helps to keep things in perspective now that I'm grown and prone to all the stresses and strains of adulthood. Little kids don't care about power or prestige or money. All that matters to them is friendship and fun.

Last Tuesday, when the weather was nice, I stretched out under a tree in front of Reed Hall. I was tired, and I just wanted to relax, and the tree presented a perfect opportunity.

As I lay there wasting time, I looked up and watched the clouds passing through the blue sky and, for just a second, all my cares and worries slipped away, and the world was golden again.

Just like when I was a kid.

Letters to the Editor

It's still culture

I am a former TCU student and Tom Brown Hall resident. Last spring, I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with the aspiring filmmakers of the Tom Brown Carnage Committee and even had a small role in their hilarious film "Carnage Hall."

I hope to repeat that good fortune and contribute to their new effort, "Post Mortem," a sequel of sorts to their first funny, grisly outing. In either of these activities, my motivation is not the undermining of society or the "diminishing of the human spirit."

Although I can't claim to know my new-found friends at Tom Brown all that well, I feel safe to say the aforementioned subversive, anarchic and otherwise nasty intentions cannot be ascribed to them, either.

While a fine arts (theater) major at TCU (I'm sure it's the same everywhere), I became all too familiar with those would-be artists who were quick to sneer at that which they regarded as "juvenile," "commercial," "unsophisticated," etc. You know the type-actors that frothed at the mouth over Shakespeare or O'Neill but shunned, across the board, anything on TV (PBS might squeak by) and most films, particularly American.

A very talented music major friend of mine once, in all seriousness, issued a blanket condemnation of any song or work written in 4/4 time! I'm sure that there are equivalents in other disciplines and, hence, other artists (or "hacks," "jokes," etc.) that would be tossed into the mire of disdain with Clint Eastwood, Bruce Springsteen, TV movies, folk music, horror films, country songs and the like.

Certainly, commercial success is not synonymous with quality or artistic achievement; much of what makes money might well comprise sort of a cultural black hole. Perhaps Stallone could serve as a tour guide.

However, it's certainly just as ludicrous and anti-intellectual to draw an ironclad "line of death" across the arts and eliminate whole genres and modes of expression as trash, low-brow or "diminishing to the human spirit."

Make no mistake; "Carnage Hall"

was not "Citizen Kane" (or "Kagemusha," or "The 400 Blows"). From what I've heard, "Post Mortem" holds no such lofty promise either.

But I fully expect a good share of the on-target satirical wit, clever dialogue and surprising narrative economy that marked the first project. More importantly, I expect to see growth and refinement in the execution of this second film by Rim Shot Productions, as they are cleverly called; these films are learning devices for their young makers.

Better they cut their teeth on a parody of stalk-and-slash films than a humorless rumination on The Meaning of It All, or a Kabuki version of "Our Town." Besides which, I'd rather watch (and perform in) the parody.

My filmmaking friends tell me they're in this for real, for life; I'm sure their more earnest, thoughtful sides will eventually surface, mainly because seriousness is an inevitable consequence of the budding artist.

Give 'em time. "Throne of Blood" wasn't built (or filmed) in a day; neither was "A Nightmare on Elm Street."

Steven Alan McGaw
TCU alumnus

APO answers

The letter to the editor in last Friday's Skiff titled "Why a Fraternity?" written by Sandra Miller is, at best, an uninformed view of Alpha Phi Omega. She asserts that APO is "trying to appear as a social fraternity when they are a service club" and asks why APO's "sign up" is called "rush."

In response to Miller's first assertion, our organization is not a "service club," but rather a National Service Fraternity, with a rich heritage dating back to the 1920s. The 14 founders of APO were former Boy Scouts of America, on which our principles of leadership, friendship and service are based.

It is funny that Miller should mention the houses of the Fijis and the Deltas in her letter, since located next to the Delt house is the house of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, the fraternity to which eight of our 14 founding members belonged.

However, we do not try to "act like a coed pseudo-fraternity." Mil-

ler presents an extremely limiting definition of a fraternity.

Webster defines fraternity as "a body of men (or, rarely, women) associated for their common interest, business, or pleasure; a company." We are a rare exception, since at the National Convention in 1976 the decision was made to include women as members of APO.

Our fraternity's common interest and main emphasis is dedication to serving humankind. We are not a social fraternity, although social functions are an integral part of a program that is primarily service-oriented.

In response to Miller's second statement, her definition of "rush," like her definition of "fraternity," is narrow indeed. Miller thinks that in order to be labeled "rush," certain people must be excluded from the fraternity to which they are seeking pledgeship.

APO, on the other hand, believes that rush is an opportunity to recruit prospective pledges, allowing them to decide whether or not they want to become an APO pledge. If they decide affirmatively, they enter an eight- to 10-week period of pledgeship, on the successful completion of which they become an active member of APO.

APO is for anyone who has the desire to serve and can fulfill that desire. We do not want a fraternity house. In fact, we are not trying to imitate any fraternity or sorority, although several of our members are also affiliated with the TCU Greek community.

We are a group of individuals dedicated to leadership, friendship and service, distinct from any other group on campus, and anxious to extend a welcoming hand to anyone wishing to join our fraternity.

Neil Koone
Senior
Astronomy/physics
APO president
David C. Hedgepeth
Senior
Religion-studies
APO vice president

(Editor's note: The Skiff ran a letter Friday titled "Why a fraternity?" Friday, signed by Sandra Miller. The name "Sandra Miller" was apparently a pseudonym.

The Skiff has a policy of calling the authors of all letters submitted to verify their validity. The phone number given on Sandra Miller's letter was found to be invalid, but the Skiff later received a phone call from someone claiming to be Sandra Miller and asking about when the letter would run.

There is no record of a student named Sandra Miller, either in the Registrar's Office or in the psychology department.

The Skiff regrets any inconvenience caused by the publishing of the letter.)

Half right

It has been my privilege over the past week or so to read the widely varying opinions of racism here at TCU and in the world today. After reading these, I have to halfway agree with Jeff Middleswart's comments of a week ago.

While some of his assumptions border on the extreme, the fact remains that whites on this campus have had the dubious pleasure of being branded as racist and closed-minded because of the racial actions of a few people. The question I propose to the student body is how Caucasians can remove themselves from this tag and progress on to have meaningful relations with blacks.

In addressing this issue, it is important to note that the blame does not lie entirely with the white "middle class." Whites have moved away from the "societal crimes" of racial mistreatment toward a posture of open acceptance of different nationalities, religions and races.

Deducing from the above changes in white behavior, a logical assumption could be made that black-white relations would be significantly improved as well. However, as one well knows, this is not totally true.

While significant headway has been made in these interracial relationships, the fact remains that there is still quite a bit of animosity between the two races. My theory behind this, which is shared by many, is that we are currently pushing too hard for equality using steps of inequality.

A classic case in point for my theory is the current trend of reverse discrimination. I thoroughly

agree with Middleswart's point about the stupidity of fulfilling minority quotas. My question is, who actually benefits from this?

What kind of educated person would come to a university and teach, knowing that he or she was hired to fill a minority quota? What kind of doubts would this set off in their minds about their successes, their abilities, their future relationships with their fellow colleagues?

It would seem to me that these doubts and insecurities would further plunge the black educated citizen into the abyss of inequality because of these feelings of inferiority.

Now, for a second, let us take a look at the whites' perspective of racially motivated hiring. Whites, on the surface, might wholeheartedly appear to support affirmative action, until they themselves are directly confronted with the harsh inequalities it stands for.

A typical white might ask why he or she has to treat everyone equally, but whites themselves might be discriminated against when they apply for a job. All the principles of equality that they have been taught seem to be useless because of this brutal realization.

In their frustration, it can be very easy for them to do away with such an ideal as equality. This makes it so they can still accept the black people that they have to deal with in their lives.

However, any interest they had to try to cross the line to the other side and learn about the other culture has been squashed because of the discrimination against them.

While there is not a clear answer to pave the way into the future with better black-white relations, it is obvious to me that this attempt to promote equality by such measures of inequality is clearly not the way to achieve this goal. It is my sincere desire that we move away from this distasteful idea, and on to discover ways to break down the hostilities that exist between the two races.

Hopefully, with this month being Black History Month, a renewed dedication to the principle of equality can be found on both sides.

David Hatchell
Sophomore
Business

Fraud, theft eventually landed LaRouche in prison

By NICK EASTHAM
Columnist



His followers made airports their political springboard, capturing travelers' attention with signs like "NUKE JANE FONDA," then suggesting mandatory testing and quarantine for all U.S. citizens with the AIDS virus. They accused anyone they wanted of sympathizing with Communists, including Walter Mondale, whom they labeled "an agent of influence of the Soviet secret intelligence services."

Now their leader is going to jail. Lyndon LaRouche is convinced that the government is at fault for his misdoings, but U.S. District Judge Albert V. Bryan called the accusations "errant nonsense," and sentenced LaRouche, now 66, to 15 years in pris-

on for tax evasion.

Prosecutors told the court that LaRouche never intended to pay the loans back. In an interview with reporters, LaRouche said that his conviction was a "wrong, gross, disgusting, obscene miscarriage of justice," but stressed that he did not feel sorry for the people who loaned money to his political organization.

"They were wronged, not by us, but by the government," he said, referring to his argument that he was forced to divert funds toward defending himself against attacks by the news media and countering what he called government harassment.

Part of that "defense" was a 174-acre compound in Virginia, where LaRouche ran his operations. LaRouche ran what a former official of the National Security Council called "one of the best private intelligence services in the world" out of the compound.

LaRouche has also been accused of running a printing company that produced misleading books, magazines

and newspapers, which were aimed at gathering followers and money for his organization.

Several followers who left LaRouche said that his organization resembled a religious cult more than a political party. They said LaRouchites were persuaded to reject old political beliefs, family members and friends to ensure their absolute devotion to the LaRouche movement.

They said they were worked around the clock, gathering information and soliciting donations for the man they considered a "fount of political wisdom."

Many former followers have said they were encouraged to take money from donors. One woman said she lent \$112,800 to LaRouche to help pay for an anti-drug book. She said when she ran out of money and could no longer contribute, a LaRouche fundraiser got her to try to take out a loan.

The demise of LaRouche was not surprising. In 1986, one political consultant said of the LaRouche party,

"They've been exposed. What they stand for has been exposed. The light of day is going to disturb this fungus."

And so it has. The prosecutor of the case said that he did not feel the verdict was a victory. "I consider this an obvious conclusion to a long pattern of false statements."

LaRouche still faces charges of obstructing justice in connection with the unauthorized use of credit cards

to raise money for his 1984 presidential campaign. His lawyers also said they want to appeal the recent conviction.

Meanwhile, he must sit behind bars, without bail. Perhaps LaRouche's case will be an example to those who still follow him, and to other so-called politicians who think that they can get away with ripping off the public.

BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed

Sports



TCU Daily Skiff / Jim Winn

Texas A&M guard Tony Milton pushes pass TCU's Tony Edmond on his way to the basket for two points. The Aggies won the game Saturday night 64-59.

Aggies gig Frogs in upset

By JOHN CLEMENTI
Sports Writer

The TCU men's basketball team will remember Saturday's game against Texas A&M as the one that got away.

TCU was supposed to be one of the big fish in the SWC pond, A&M was one of the guppies. Unfortunately for TCU fans, somebody forgot to tell the guppies.

A&M handed the Frogs their third consecutive defeat, 64-59, before 5,029 at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

TCU started strong, powering home three dunks in the first five minutes and racing to a 12-6 lead.

The Aggies scored the next seven however, and the teams traded buckets until the intermission.

TCU led at the half, 33-31, despite shooting only 43 percent from the field and a dismal 42 percent from the charity stripe.

"When you don't hit your free throws," TCU coach Moe Iba said, "you generally don't win."

A&M opened the second half with a 9-2 run that forced TCU to swim upstream for the remainder of the game.

The Frog's second half field-goal percentage dropped to 36 percent, leaving them at 40 percent for the game.

Starters Danny Hughes and John Lewis were a combined 8-of-24, while back-up center Rich Antee struggled through a 1-of-8 performance from the field.

"We're not going to win too many games shooting like that," Hughes said. "When the ball's not going in, you've got to make up for it on defense. I don't guess we did that tonight."

TCU had a chance to take the lead when A&M's Donald Thompson committed his fifth foul with 5:10 remaining and the score at 51-50.

Hughes missed the front end of a one-and-one however, and Lynn Suber and Doug Dennis led the Aggies on a 10-3 run to put the game out of reach.

"It feels good to win one on the road," Dennis said. "I think we had some carry over from the Texas game (a tough 85-80 loss). We're getting our confidence back."

"It feels sweet," A&M coach Shelby Metcalf said. "All you have to do to

appreciate these kinds of wins is to lose a few games like we've done in the past couple of weeks."

The Frogs went 6-0 in the first half of conference play where they limited their first five conference foes to an average of 38 percent field-goal accuracy and 53.4 points.

They have lost their last three games where they have allowed their opponents to shoot better than 54 percent from the floor and to score 66 points a game.

This Jekyll-and-Hyde consistency has resulted in a one-point win at Texas Tech and three straight losses to Texas, SMU and A&M.

"If I had to put my life on the question and tell you what's wrong with this ballclub, I couldn't do it," senior forward John Lewis said. "It seems like one day we're playing and one day we're not."

The Frogs missed an opportunity to gain a game on Arkansas in the SWC standings. The Razorbacks were upset by Texas Tech, 84-73.

The Baylor Bears, who lost to Texas by 29 on Saturday, are the next opponent for the Horned Frogs. Baylor is 1-8 in SWC play, 5-15 overall.

Nerf/ from Page 1

Sophomore speech communication major Guido Climer, a frequent competitor in the Pleasure Dome, said, "The fact that we play on a violent edge makes it a real game."

Climer backed his statement in a two-on-two game with Crews, Crow and freshman pre-med student Clint Robertson, who called Nerf "an exercise in sheer manliness."

Crews, barefoot and in dress slacks, teamed up with Climer in a game that quickly began to resemble "Wrestlemania," only without the acting.

Climer set the early pace, sacrificing his kidneys on doorknobs and random shelving in order to gather in a loose ball. Offensive diversions are created in this game not through behind-the-back passing and peripheral vision, but by knocking down valuable items in the room.

Defensive stands in the Pleasure Dome are spearheaded, not by a human participant, but by the dimensions of the room.

Three-point bombs are routinely deflected by the ceiling, nicknamed "Manute."

The name pays homage to Manute Bol, the 7-foot-7 center of the NBA's Golden State Warriors, who is known primarily as a shot-blocking menace.

During the game, a tube of toothpaste is kicked across the room. Claims are made that spectators are frequently kicked across the room. It isn't hard to believe.

True to their word, foul calls are laughed at or ignored, even when Crews receives a finger in the eye.

"That's the fourth one this year," Crow said, adding that the intercom box jutting out from under the basket makes frequent victims of flailing wrists.

"I heard the jaws crack there," Climer yelled, moments before he is cut-blocked out the door.

"Playing full-court basketball for 30 minutes is equivalent to about five minutes of Pleasure Dome Nerf,"

SCOTT CREWS, freshman

By this time, what was a breakneck, shake-and-bake pace has become more of a sickly limp.

"Playing full-court basketball for 30 minutes is equivalent to about five minutes of Pleasure Dome Nerf," Crews said.

The importance of keeping score is indirectly addressed by Robertson between shots. "Score? Um, I guess we're up by one, Keith."

"We go until we get sick," Robertson puffs.

"Sick" evidently is defined by red chests and bellies and a great deal of sweat. A certain "manly" smell now permeates the room.

Time-outs give everyone an opportunity to show off the real reason they love basketball in the Pleasure Dome. All have pledged a lifetime of service to Phi Slamma Nerf.

Each player has a one-of-a-kind dunk. Crow executes the rim-shattering "Keith Dawkins" and "Make Them Eat Crow" dunks.

Robertson shows off an untitled but interesting slam involving a dash up the closet door under the basket.

"There's something about being able to dunk like Michael Jordan that appeals to me," Crews said.

"One dunk a week helps keep you going," Climer said.

"I like the squishy feel of the ball," Crow said.

Robertson offered a different perspective, one that adds a bit of redeeming value to Nerf basketball.

"It puts me in the correct frame of mind to study biology."

Lady Frogs end streak, beat Aggies at home

By ANGIE COFFMAN
Sports Writer

Maybe you caught the last few minutes of the Lady Frogs basketball game Saturday night. As you hurried to get a good seat for the "real" game, did you notice they just happened to be winning?

What the average, unassuming basketball fan doesn't realize is the struggle this Lady Frog squad of a 2-7 season has been through on the hard road to success.

With the sound defeat, 81-68, of the more talented and experienced Lady Aggies team, the Lady Frogs did more than win a mere game. They scored a victory for perseverance and determination, two essential qualities in the making of a consistent basketball team.

"You've got to feel good about a victory like this," TCU head basketball coach Fran Garmon said. "I was really disappointed with the girls after the loss to SMU but we've worked hard and it's finally paying off."

Garmon's Lady Frogs led at the half, 42-34, shooting 51 percent from the field.

"You've got to be happy with that (statistic)," Garmon said.

"This is the first time in the history

of the women's program here at TCU that they've ever beaten A&M," David Nelson, sports information assistant, said.

TCU freshman guard Deana Giles, in her first conference start ever, was an igniting spark in the Lady Frogs' newly-found success, tossing in nine points and seven rebounds (an awesome feat for the 5'11" freshman in the land of the giants from A&M).

"We really needed this win heading into the second half of the conference," Giles said.

TCU senior guard Dana Hargrove led the Lady Frogs with 20 points and five assists. Senior Michelle Henry added 16 points and junior Janice Dzuik grabbed 10 rebounds.

"We're running a new offense that frees more people up for rebounding. If the posts aren't open, the guards are and vice versa," Dzuik said. "It can only get better from here."

The Lady Frogs shot 51 percent from the field (27-of-52) and 79 percent from the line (23-of-29) while the Lady Ags shot only 40 percent from the field (30-of-74) and 50 percent from the line (8-of-16).

The Lady Frogs' next outing is tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum against the Lady Bears of Baylor.

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