

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX

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Play depicts origin of creation-evolution dispute

By KERRI CAMPBELL
Staff Writer

The opening of "Inherit The Wind" at the Fort Worth Scott Theatre today reminds us that the dispute over teaching evolution versus creationism in public schools is still around after 64 years.

The play is based on the famous 1925 Scopes' "Monkey Trial," in which a teacher stands trial for violating a Tennessee law prohibiting the

teaching of evolution to high school students, a theater press release said.

"We decided to put on this production because it seemed like a timely issue," said Claudia Bengé, a spokeswoman for the theater. "It is just amazing that this many years later, the same points are being discussed."

Bengé said the play is a favorite of director William Garber, who said it is an extremely challenging production. The leading roles are being played by Erwin Swint, William Bryan

Jennings and Bill Scarborough.

According to the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the government may not, by law, advance or inhibit religion, said Ron Flowers, professor of religion studies.

"The reason this issue is still being fought in the schools," said David Grant, associate professor of religion studies, "is because there are groups of fundamentalist Christians who have a particular understanding of

how the world came about."

These groups have a certain interpretation of their scripture and their faith. The theory of evolution contradicts those views, so they think teaching evolution is wrong, he said.

"The difference today from the situation at the time of the Scopes' trial is that the Supreme Court has struck down the law that made it illegal to teach evolution in the public schools," he said.

Since that decision, fundamental-

ists have tried to develop a form of creation without the references to Genesis, Grant said. They call this creation science.

Fundamentalists are using this strategy to try to convince school boards that creation science is a viable scientific theory that competes with evolution, he said, so it should be taught along with evolution.

"The rule is that there may not be a law that demands the teaching of creationism in the schools because it

is unconstitutional," Flowers said.

"Creationism does not provide for academic freedom and tries to advance religion," Flowers said.

"Inherit The Wind" starts today and runs through Sunday and also on the weekend of Feb. 22-25. Tickets are available at the Scott Theatre box office on 3505 West Lancaster.

Tickets are \$10 for weeknight and matinee performances and \$12 for Fridays and Saturdays. Student tickets for all performances are \$7.



TCU Daily Skiff / Julie Barnhouse

Two students walk through the Reed-Sadler Mall to class Tuesday in a cloudburst. The rain is expected to continue throughout the week.

War films unfair, author says

By ROBIN SHERMER
Staff Writer

With two televisions and a videocassette recorder, Wallace Terry did not just talk to his audience about Vietnam in the movies. He showed it.

Terry, a former *Time* magazine reporter and the author of "Bloods," a book about black soldiers fighting in the Vietnam War, lectured in the Student Center Monday night about the misinterpretations of the war in films.

Terry used the VCR to show his documentary "Bloods of Vietnam," which depicts the life-after-war experiences of five black Vietnam veterans.

"The experience of war transcends (skin) color because there is something common to all in war," Terry said. "I hope the people who see this will see why we don't need war."

Terry said 10 years ago, the attitude about the Vietnam War was to forget it completely. College students today were born after the Tet Offensive, and they are curious about what happened.

"They (students) do not have the same strong feelings about whether

there should have been a war or not," he said. "They just bring fresh, open minds and curiosity into the subject."

There is also a concern not to repeat history in places like El Salvador and Nicaragua, Terry said. And a "coming out of the closet" of Vietnam veterans.

"Hollywood is also getting Vietnam out in the open. It is on films, TV and cable TV," he said.

Terry said he believes the Vietnam War has not been portrayed accurately in TV and films, especially in the case of black soldiers.

"Black soldiers in Vietnam have been among the missing in the media for a long time," he said.

"One of the failures of the films on Vietnam has been not to give human dimensions to the enemy or the South Vietnamese people, and to show what they were going through," Terry said.

He said another problem in the films and on television is that blacks are shown as drug addicts, lingerers and lazy soldiers instead of being shown in a heroic state or in an officer position. Terry said the movie "Platoon" is an example of this.

The worst group of films made about the Vietnam War are those that have the attitude that the United

States can go back and win the war like in "Rambo," "Popeye Doyle" and Chuck Norris movies, Terry said.

"It is disturbing to see young people lined up to see these films with painted faces and idolizing these characters," he said.

He also said this genre of films fails to depict violence in an accurate way and oversimplifies the issues of the war.

"What is the intent of these films? What is the purpose?" Terry asked.

Terry categorized Vietnam War films into three groups. The first group, which came out in the 1970s includes "Coming Home" and "Apocalypse Now."

"These movies suggest we were wrong for being in Vietnam and those who went were crazy and those that came back were even more crazy," Terry said.

The second group of films include the Rambo-type movies while the third group includes the most recent movies like "Platoon," "Hamburger Hill" and "Full Metal Jacket."

"The latest group of films has been the first to show it (the Vietnam War) as it really happened because the movies were made by or written by



TCU Daily Skiff / Jim Winn

Wallace Terry

the people who were in Vietnam," he said.

In reaction to Terry's lecture, sophomore Tisha Coleman said, "He was great. I think he was sincere. His whole purpose is not just about the black experience but the anti-war experience."

"It (Terry's lecture) was very good," said Bill McMurry, an English professor from the northeast campus of Tarrant County Junior College.

"He (Terry) addressed a subject that has been very neglected, and he did it well," McMurry said.

Airmen advise blacks to prepare for adversity

By ROBYN ADAMS
Staff Writer

Two retired Tuskegee Airmen challenged members of the Black Student Caucus Monday night in the Student Center to prepare for obstacles they may face in the future.

Lt. Col. Joe Blaylock and Maj. Johnny Briggs, of the Fort Worth area, are retired Air Force officers who were aircraft pilots with the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II.

The Tuskegee Airmen, also known as the 99th Fighter Squadron, was the first all-black fighter squadron and was formed during the war.

Blaylock and Briggs were among the 966 black men trained as fighter pilots at Tuskegee Air Field in Alabama in the 1940s.

Due to the racial segregation of the armed services during World War II, these men were trained at the all-black air field to determine if they were fit to be Army Air Corp pilots.

Briggs explained that the training of black men as fighter pilots was considered an experiment to see "whether they could fly and fight at the same time."

Briggs was among 450 men in the

four fighter squadrons that fought in air battles over North Africa, Sicily and Europe. Blaylock served as a tanker pilot.

The Tuskegee Airmen earned 150 Distinguished Crosses, Legions of Merit and the Red Star of Yugoslavia in 1,578 completed combat missions. Sixty-six Tuskegee pilots were killed in aerial combat and 32 were shot down and captured as prisoners of war.

The outstanding wartime record of the fighter squadron and demands for equality in the armed services led to a reversal of the U.S. War Department's segregation policy in 1949.

Blaylock said he shot down at least one German fighter plane during the 70 missions he flew.

Briggs set a Guinness book record on a speed run from Yokota, Japan to Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina. He flew 7,175 miles in 12 hours and 32 minutes.

Blaylock said blacks faced great racial tension while attempting to prove themselves as pilots.

He said white pilots respected the Tuskegee Airmen for the fighter

See Airmen, Page 2

Lofts make last stand

Two weeks after deadline, 5 remain up

By SCOTT HUNT
Staff Writer

What went up has now come down.

The Feb. 1 deadline set by the Fort Worth fire marshal passed with only five lofts remaining to be taken down, said Don Mills, assistant vice-chancellor for Student Affairs.

Extenuating circumstances were involved in three of the lofts, Mills said.

One loft owner was out of town after a death in the family, and another was ill. A third loft was left by a student who did not return for the spring semester. Since the room is unoccupied, the university will dismantle it.

The other two lofts belonged to students who refused to take them down, Mills said.

The university will remove those lofts, and the students will be billed for the cost of the removal and disposal of the lumber, Mills said.

"If something is not done soon (to

remove the remaining lofts), we will have to take some action," said Jack Arvin, coordinator of Residence Hall Services. "We can't afford to have the university in violation of the city fire code."

Despite the remaining lofts, Mills said he was pleased with the way the situation was handled by students.

"I think we all accepted it, regrettably," Mills said. "No one was happy with what happened."

Discussion with the fire marshal is continuing, he said, and will result in a new policy to be distributed to students before spring break, if possible.

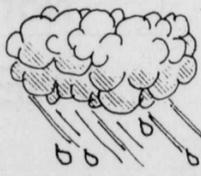
The new policy may allow for the elevating of beds, so structures in rooms will be permitted as long as they do not exceed the size of the bed, do not block doors or windows and do not exceed a certain height.

"We have talked to the fire marshal last week about what is permissible with beds," Mills said. "We are drawing up a semi-policy which we will send to him and see if he approves."

Inside

Athlete's foot
Sprinter overcomes difficulties
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Outside



Today's weather is continued cloudy and cold with an 80 percent chance of rain and scattered thunderstorms. Highs in the mid-40s, and lows in the low 40s. Winds are at from the north at 10-15 mph.

Friday's weather will be windy and turning colder with rain likely, possibly turning to freezing rain by the afternoon. Highs will be in the lower 40s and will drop during the day. There is a 70 percent chance of rain.

Senior citizens lament paradise lost

By MICHELLE RELEFORD
Staff Writer

To some people, University Place was to be more than just quality housing for senior citizens. To its almost-residents, the proposed retirement center was an appealing dream of community.

To some Fort Worth residents, University Place is a paradise now lost.

Troy Crenshaw is an emeritus professor of English and was once head of the English department of TCU.

He wanted to be a resident of University Place.

The novelty of University Place revolved around a closeness between the university and University Christian Church, Crenshaw said.

UCC and TCU were born together, more or less. When TCU moved to Waco, the church was moved there and then back to Fort Worth again, he said.

"So a large number of TCU faculty and staff are members of UCC," Crenshaw said.

"The faculty and staff of TCU has its own social life, and when we retire, it's continued through the retirees association," he said.

Many of these faculty and staff members lived in the TCU area while working for the university, so a closeness and a sense of community was formed, Crenshaw said.

"When we can no longer maintain our homes, we would like to live in the community and not be scattered all over Fort Worth and Dallas," he said.

Crenshaw has to travel from Benbrook to UCC and to TCU functions he likes to attend at TCU.

People wonder what will happen to Crenshaw and others like him if or when he can no longer drive.

"It was an ideal situation for retirees to be close to the church and to TCU," he said.

"It means a great deal - instead of going to a retirement home with a lot of strangers - to see people you know there (at a home)," he said.

The biggest complaint about the zoning change required to build the

University Place retirement center was parking.

Some residents of the area surrounding UCC expressed their fear of the traffic and parking they assumed would come with the center during a Fort Worth City Council meeting Tuesday.

This is a tale of two communities, one that desperately wants to bond together and one afraid of being torn apart.

In the city council meeting Tuesday, Mike Johnston relayed a plea from his neighbors not to let the zoning change pass. He said they had invested their life savings, at least 30 years of their futures and their dreams into renovating homes in an inner-city neighborhood.

But security means something else to senior citizens.

Sandy Abernathy, director of residential services and marketing for Trinity Terrace retirement center, said security and community are two big reasons that senior adults move

See Seniors, Page 2

CAMPUSlines

PC Forums Committee meeting at 4 p.m. today in the Student Center Room 202.

International Student Association meeting at 5 p.m. today in the Student Center. ISA is open to all TCU students.

Campus Christian Community First Ecumenical Exchange will discuss homosexuality and the church. Meet at 5:30 p.m. today at Wesley Foundation. Call University Ministries for more information.

Biology Spring Seminars Fridays at noon in Sid Richardson Lecture Hall 3.

AERho CD Hour features Elton John. Friday 8-10 p.m. on KTCU-FM 88.7

Deadline for intramural soccer is Friday. Divisions: Men's, Women's and Coed. Individuals may play on one men's or women's team and a coed team. Teams may register in Rickel 229. For information call 921-7945.

Deadline for intramural weightlifting is Friday. The meet will be held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday. Events: bench press, squat and deadlift. Register Rickel 229. For information call 921-7945.

Alpha Lambda Delta, the freshman honor society, will have its 1st meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the Student Center Room 205. All freshmen with a 3.5 or higher GPA are invited. Be prepared to pay dues of \$13.

AIDS Walk-a-thon at 10 a.m. on March 4 to benefit the Bryan House in Dallas. Sponsored by Mortar Board. Information sheets in Dean of Students Office or call 921-3942.

Horned Frog Yearbook needs writers for 1988-89 edition. Anyone interested can call 923-4137 and ask for Melissa.

Extras needed for "Post Mortem," a horror comedy. Anyone interested in a minor part should call John Harvey, director, at 926-6530 to set up an appointment.

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.

Soccer officials needed, experience preferred. Stop by Recreational Sports, Rickel Room 229 for information.

TCU Daily Skiff

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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.

Fair camps out in Student Center

By **PAUL MOUNT**
 Staff Writer

Looking for a summer job that's a little different may not be as hard as it sounds.

The Career Planning and Placement Center is having its annual Summer Camp/Job Fair Day in the Student Center Lounge from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today. Representatives from various summer camps will visit campus in hopes of finding students in-

terested in working at a camp.

Over 20 camps will be represented, including boys and girls camps, sports camps and a camp for children who have cerebral palsy, said Margo Sassaman, a career counselor at TCU.

Sassaman said the camps expect students to know life-saving procedures in case of emergency, and the camps like the versatility of college students.

"Most of the students are eager to work and have the qualifications the camps are looking for," she said. "By

being in college, they have shown they can handle responsibility and adjust quickly to new situations."

The camps will be seeking to fill a variety of jobs, including horsebacking staff, activity instructors, counselors, business managers and program specialists.

MIKEY Choate, director of the last year's job fair, said if students show enough interest and willingness to work, the camps can usually find a job for them.

Seniors/ from Page 1

into a retirement complex.

"The people who move here are used to making their own decisions. Their support groups may have diminished and they find themselves lonely or something has happened to scare them - either a realization that they are getting older through a medical or physical problem or they've been robbed," Abernathy said.

A retirement center can provide proper nutrition, social programs around the area and transportation, as well as medical needs, she said.

One of the most important things she's noticed about the residents is a sense of community, she said.

"I've noticed in the six years I've been here that there is a sense of camaraderie in the building," she said.

"We're having women moving from homes and forming second families," she said.

"Their neighbors take care of them as much as we do," she said.

An elderly woman died of exposure this winter when she locked herself out of her home when she went out to her back porch to feed her cats. There was no one living next to her whom she felt she could go to for help. It could have been a matter of life or death.

"People get locked out all of the time, but they go next door and have a cup of coffee at their neighbor's and wait for security to get there," Abernathy said.

A sense of security could mean the difference between life and death.

Equally important is a sense of community.

"I think it's important to be around people of your own age. It's better now to be around people with a lot in common with you - namely being old," said Ruth Wassenich, a resident of Trinity Terrace.

"It's good to get away from it too," she said.

"We would much have preferred to live there (University Place). We could have gone to TCU and observed the young people," she said.

"I really regret that that wasn't made possible," she said.

Ruth and Paul Wassenich are both retired from faculty and staff positions at TCU.

Airmen/ from Page 1

squadron's ability to protect bombers on bombing missions over strategic targets in Europe and gave them the nickname of the "Black Redtail Angels."

Despite their efficiency in aerial combat, the blacks had separate barracks in Europe and were not allowed in the White Officer's Club or the post exchange, Briggs said. The two races rarely mingled on the military bases.

"Whatever we have achieved that impacts black history, we hope that it will have some inspiration to young

people facing their own challenges," Blaylock said.

Briggs served in the Air Force for 20 years after serving in World War II. Blaylock returned to the United States after his enlistment and worked until he was reactivated into service during the Korean War.

Blaylock faced further discrimination when he re-enlisted. He was demoted to second lieutenant after serving as a first lieutenant in World War II. He was not promoted to first lieutenant for another year.

Air Force Capt. Richard Horton invited Blaylock and Briggs to campus as a part of Black History Month.

"These men represent living symbols of the heritage of this country," Horton said.

Derrick Rodgers, president of Black Student Caucus, said he found the program enjoyable and informative because it was important to be made aware of the men's accomplishments during an important time in black history.

Suspect/ from Page 1

again on campus within the following year, he will be charged with criminal trespass.

"We gave him the criminal trespass until further action could be taken," Stewart said. "At first there was a question about whether he was a student or not. If he had turned out to be a non-student, we would have turned him over to Fort Worth (Police Department)."

TCU has an agreement with the Fort Worth Police Department, Stewart said. If a student is involved in a misdemeanor crime, in most instances the university will handle disciplinary action. If the crime is a felony or a serious misdemeanor, the student may also be turned over to Fort

Worth police.

Stewart said the suspect was a student, and because of that, disciplinary procedures were handled by Elizabeth Proffer, dean of students.

Proffer declined to comment on the incident.

Barr said any disciplinary action taken against a student is confidential.

"I cannot comment on any action taken because that information is confidential. I can say that the matter has been handled," Barr said.

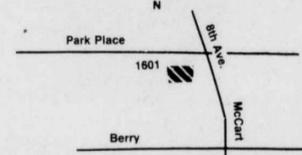
Stewart said the first official reports of harassment were filed with Campus Police this semester, but once those reports were made, students began reporting incidents that occurred last fall.



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Commentary

Our View Student House needs allotment guidelines

The House of Student Representatives currently has no written guidelines by which it can judge whether a student organization's request for money should be granted. It should have such guidelines.

Last week, debate arose on the House floor about whether money should be provided to send five seniors to a leadership conference. The measure was eventually passed, though with a smaller price tag.

Does the university as a whole reap as great a benefit from money spent to send seniors to such a conference as it does from money spent to send underclassmen? Even if it does not, is the money spent to send seniors still justified?

Debate arose in the same House meeting about \$500 allocated to Alpha Epsilon Delta, TCU's pre-med fraternity, for its 10th anniversary banquet and reception.

One side argued that the money spent would bring more alumni to the banquet, and that those alumni, as a result, would be more likely to provide observation opportunities for TCU pre-med students. The other side claimed it was \$500 spent for a nice dinner for a few people.

The House should clarify the purpose of the money its budget allots to support student organizations.

In Tuesday's House meeting, travel expenses were eliminated from a bill providing money to send Responsibility of Alcohol and Drug Workers members to a spring conference.

The House member who proposed the amendment to eliminate travel expenses from the bill said the House had not paid for travel expenses in the past, and he wanted "to keep the House's policy consistent." Another member pointed out that travel and food money is provided to sports clubs when it is included in an overall budget.

Simply following precedent does not make a consistent policy, even if House members can agree on exactly what the precedent is. In fact, having only precedent as a guide can stifle valuable proposals under the weight of "we've never done it that way before."

The Finance Committee of the House needs written and consistent guidelines to work with in approving bills and in making recommendations on bills to the rest of the House.

This will require agreeing upon an overall philosophy of the purpose behind providing money to student organizations. It means deciding if such organizations must benefit larger segments of the university or if it is enough if only the organization itself benefits. Once an overall philosophy is established, then specific criteria must be established to judge the merits of each request for funds and how well it fits the priorities of a limited budget.

These criteria should address such issues as whether money should be provided to send seniors to leadership conferences and if so, whether they should have to show how they will pass on what they learn to others. The House should decide if it will only provide money for programs that are primarily educational or for conventions that are only secondarily oriented toward training. It should decide what expenses will be included.

The House should either require the Finance Committee to draft such a policy or commission a special task force to do so. The suggested policy should then be discussed and voted on by the entire House.

The House would then be able to allot its money more efficaciously, the organizations themselves would have some idea of what requests the House will find valuable and the students might become more confident that the House is not simply throwing their money at whoever asks.



Playing, singing in the rain

By LISA TOUYE
Columnist



Rainy days used to mean mud-encrusted, red Toughskin jeans. It meant running into the wind with my Winnie the Pooh umbrella open, jumping and trying to sail like Mary Poppins.

It meant taking off my shoes on the back patio and leaving wet, muddy clothes in the laundry room while running through the house in my underwear.

It meant Mom's making hot chocolate and watching "Super Friends" on television.

Somehow, it's just not the same anymore.

People stare at you like you've just escaped from the psychiatric wing if you try to sail on the wind with your umbrella. Stomping through puddles in your high tops only gets "how juvenile" looks from other students.

There's no more streaking through the house when your house is a small room.

You have to steal your roomie's hot chocolate.

And, to top it all off, you can't even watch "Thundercats" - it's the "Snorks" or "Care Bears." Wimpy cartoons.

It also rains too often here.

I grew up in Phoenix, Arizona. We call it "The Valley of the Sun" for a reason.

When it rained, it was like a holiday for us kids.

My sister and I used to think it rained because we were bad. We thought it was God crying. OK, so we were a little self-centered and guilt-ridden.

The sky turned a magical gray, and we knew it was going to be a wild day in class. It's funny how some clouds can whip a few relatively tame third-graders into a frenzy.

The big hope of the day: hail, and lots of it.

It was the closest we came to snow. We could collect it at recess and stuff it in our desks and school boxes until it melted. A few budding jewels of the juvenile delinquent masterminds of Mrs. Johnson's third grade stuffed the teacher's freezer with glorious hailstones.

If it was a relatively minor hail harvest, there was still the mud. Lots of gunky, stinky mud to throw in a war - girls against boys - if we could drift far enough away from the teacher on playground duty.

The war was always broken up, but there was always that hope you would slime the guy you liked before it was over. Such was love in the third grade.

After school on the way home was the real payoff. The engineer who designed the streets in our neighborhood made them V-shaped so all the water would flow like a river down the middle of the street.

That meant one thing - playing in the Big Muddy on 59th Street before you got home, or trying to convince your mother you were going to be playing at Marena Pott's house.

Then you'd get out those snow saucers your parents got for playing in the snow in Mogollon Rim country, any leftover cord from your Mom's macrame projects, the cardboard from a storage box in the garage and your bikes and head for 59th Street.

Lisa S. and Nicki were already there running and trying to glide on the water with their saucers. Jonathan and Noel had started a splashing fight near the corner.

Marena was riding her bike down

the middle of the Big Muddy with Lisa K. riding in her wake on a side of a cardboard box tied to the bike with some cord.

Then Rochelle and Kristy, who were too chicken to get dirty, would come by on rollerskates and yell things. They went away when we threatened to baptize them in the Big Muddy.

The older we get, the more we get like Rochelle and Kristy - rain wimps.

We worry about our hair and clothing getting wet, or our shoes being ruined. We mumble, we grumble and we grouse.

We miss the bouquet of air that has been newly cleaned. Some people don't really look around - greens seem greener when it rains.

Now we think of what we can't do, like bicycling, picnicking or walking to the bank or a restaurant for a sandwich. We don't see what we can do like when we were kids.

There's a different feeling you get when you're an adult and it rains. It's somewhere between something-neat-is-about-to-happen-and-my-hair-is-going-to-look-terrible-and-I'm-depressed.

Now, most of us are too busy to enjoy a good book or just watch the rain through the window. Honestly, when it rains almost every three days, it's just not that special anymore.

Still, there are a few people on campus who still take rain seriously.

If I remember correctly, it was Merri and Kalen I heard whooping it up in the rain last semester under my dorm window. Yeah, guys, I remember two years ago when you first went out into the downpour, got soaked, screamed and did those little dances.

It's nice to see some people don't change.

Catching the perfect man, Cosmo style

By KATIE HAZELWOOD
Columnist



Sheila termed herself a Valentine's Day casualty because she received valentine cards only from her parents and little brother.

It's a nice thought, but it really doesn't count when the card is genetically inspired, she said. Whatever happened, she moaned and whined, to the days when men jumped all over the opportunity to finally tell a woman he at least liked her?

Sheila was upset and confused. She couldn't understand it. She'd even followed the advice in this month's "Cosmopolitan" magazine article, "How to Make an Impact On a Man."

She read that in order to catch that man she's been so ardently pursuing, she needed to wear a miniskirt and very high heels as well as frequently cross her legs so he could hear the subtle brush of nylon against nylon.

So she did. She amassed 12 runners in her hose and ate the sidewalk when she slid in her stiletto heels.

She wore the miniskirt but forgot to mind the unwritten miniskirt commandment: diet for one week prior to wearing it. The glances Sheila caught in her skirt were not admiring ones.

Silly Sheila. She moved on to Cosmo's next morsel of wisdom, which told her men love women who can tell a good joke, so she tried to perfect her joke-telling skills.

Actually, the article said she really only needs to perfect the telling and retelling of one particular joke.

The magazine warned her this may not be easy. Intense concentration and practice are required for mastering the elusive art of memorizing one joke.

But Sheila was up to the challenge. She stood in front of the mirror every evening before going out, polished the timing and innuendo of the joke and hoped that tonight would be the night she'd have her audience waiting at the Pub.

She teased her hair. She wore foundation. She wore the miniskirt again (but she'd just eaten).

She was ready to smite any man to prove she was endlessly entertaining.

Then she waited. Her crush sidled up to her at the bar.

She leaned over and told the joke. Perfect timing. Perfect innuendo.

Unwittingly, she told the joke so well the crush said, "That's amazing! Tell me another!"

She had only memorized one. She proved herself not particularly valuable in the entertainment category, and the great romance was over before it ever started.

Not to worry. Cosmo had left other options open to her.

Animal prints would make her look positively feral, the article said, and she should stock her closet immediately with the latest zoo wear. However, the magazine missed out on informing her of the animal print commandment, similar to the miniskirt one: fast for a week first.

Plenty of men preyed upon Sheila that night, but they thought she was a nice, juicy steak.

She tried many of the other suggestions. She made a point to feel men's muscles, ask them if they'd ever been a model (the magazine said this was especially flattering when the man was not handsome) and interrupted men in the middle of their sentences, saying, "Did you know your eyes look great with that shirt?"

And still, no valentines for Sheila.

Actually though, Sheila is attracting men. But she says they aren't really the kind of men she wants to attract.

"I keep waiting, hoping to meet a guy at the Pub that I can take home to Mom, but I haven't. I don't understand. . . I followed all the advice in the article."

'Weak want, weak story' a good philosophy for life

By DAVID ALAN HALL
Guest Columnist



A few months ago, I was at a writer's conference in Los Angeles. The guest speaker, a noted Hollywood screenwriter, stood rigidly by his podium and drilled us on the proper three-act story structure.

He talked about act one as the setup.

"What's your story about?" he asked. "Who's the main character, and what does he want?"

He took a sip of crystal-clear water and continued.

"Act two is the confrontation. What kind of hardships does your main character confront to get what he wants? What does he learn about himself along the way?"

He straightened his tie and moved to act three. "Act three is the resolution. Did your character get what he wanted? Was the story worth telling?"

I realize not everyone reading this wants to write, so you're probably

"The same rules that apply to fiction apply to reality. If you don't know what you want, then your life story won't be as much fun as it otherwise might have been."

wondering why I'm babbling about a three-act story structure. Well, for some years now I've had a little 3x5 card tacked above my desk.

Among other things, the card says, "Weak want, weak story." That is, if the main character doesn't want something with a passion, then the story won't be very good.

This principle goes further than a story. I see it illustrated every day.

For hours at a time, people hover around the information desk where I work. Finally, I'll ask them if there's something I can help them find.

The majority shrug and say, "I'm not sure what I want." I hear people murmur the same thing at the grocery store or in the elevator.

Whether it's what to fix for dinner, what to wear, what movie to see or what to do with their lives, I hear so many people say, "I just don't know what I want."

Weak want, weak story.

The same rules that apply to fiction apply to reality. If you don't know

what you want, then your life story won't be as much fun as it otherwise might have been.

That's not necessarily to say that your "want" has to be dramatic - it might be a certain lifestyle or attitude you're trying to find. But it's a "want" nonetheless. Articulate it. Define it.

The late Joseph Campbell, in his wonderful PBS series "The Power of Myth," calls this "following your bliss." But when I stopped to think about it, it's not really the achievement of the "want" that gives life meaning.

It's the quest for healthy "want" that makes life worth the hassle. The victories and disappointments along the way, at least for me, have been mixed with such a wide range of emotions that I can't imagine not experiencing them.

Some of the emotions are wonderful. Some aren't. Some of them make me laugh, others make me cry.

However, I never would have experienced them if I hadn't defined the

"want" of my life's story.

Sometimes that "want" seems impossible to reach, but it's the middle act - the confrontation of new ideas, with fresh ways of looking at the world in a new environment - that has brought me the most happiness so far.

Structuring your life in the shape of a three-act drama may sound strange at first, but give it a try. Find your "want." It may be easier than you think.

When you get excited about a thought, feeling or direction, hang on to it. Don't let it go, and don't let anyone talk you out of it.

Then move to act two - battle your way through it. Even in screenplays, it's the longest act.

Sooner or later, you'll come to act three. When you reach that ultimate conclusion, take a deep breath and consider carefully what you've written so far.

Then choose the ending that's right for you.

David Alan Hall, a 1987 TCU RTVF graduate, is a screenwriter living in Los Angeles.

BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed



Sports

Rodgers goes extra mile for success

By ANGIE COFFMAN
Sports Writer

Long after everyone else has gone he's still there. It's not exciting running alone, but with the big meet coming up there's no way to win without paying his dues.

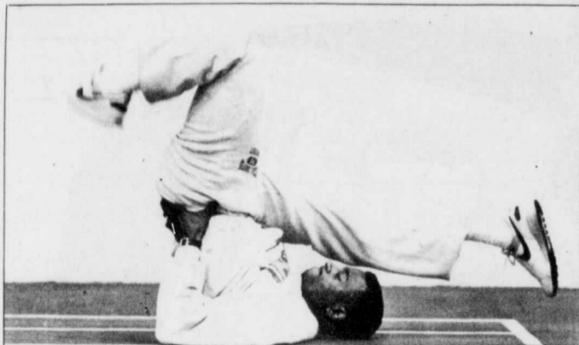
"One more lap," he tells himself as he rounds the last corner. The sun's going down and the temperature is beginning to drop, but not even Mother Nature can erase the scene that plays in his mind: breaking the tape exhausted but victorious.

For TCU sprinter Steve Rodgers, hard work isn't a new concept. Being a member of the Flyin' Frogs track team hasn't been a walk in the park.

"This year's training has gone well, and as long I can go injury-free and do well, it will be worth it all," Rodgers said.

Rodgers, a junior communications major from Houston, is a quiet guy who rarely feels the need to bask in the limelight. Getting him to talk about his accomplishments is like pulling teeth.

But modesty befits Rodgers. He believes his time will come, but bragging won't be his claim to fame.



TCU Daily Skiff / Suzanne Dean

Junior sprinter Steven Rodgers warms up before going to track practice. Rodgers and the Flyin' Frog track team will be competing this weekend in the SWC meet in Dallas.

Athletics have always played a major role in Rodgers' life. He began running in elementary school, but traded in his track shoes to try football and basketball for a while. After realizing that 5-foot-9 was the tallest he'd be, Rodgers gave up dreams of playing professional basketball and redirected his attention to running track.

"When I found out I wasn't going to get any taller, track became more than just a sport to keep me in shape for basketball and football," Rodgers said.

In his junior year of high school, Rodgers qualified for the regional track meet in the 400-meters. Unfortunately, Rodgers will never know the outcome of that race. He was de-

clared ineligible as a result of a Texas ruling barring athletes who receive failing grades from competing.

Rodgers returned his senior year as runner-up in the Texas AAAAA 400-meter.

"Qualifying and then not being able to go is disappointing, but those were the rules," Rodgers said.

When Rodgers entered TCU his freshman year, he was red-shirted in order to gain academic eligibility. He now runs the 400-meter, 4 X 400 and the mile relay for the Flyin' Frogs.

Though it is still early in the season, Rodgers has already established an impressive record. He finished third in the Dallas Morning News indoor track meet in mid-January.

This is quite an accomplishment, considering the competition. Kevin Robizine, who captured a gold medal at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, finished first in the 400-meter.

Rodgers has a personal best of 45.8 seconds in the 400-meter, a record he says can be "bettered this season."

"Sometimes you think about the competition when you're out there, but you can't let it get to you. Just hold your form and stay up tall - just run," Rodgers said.

Frogs make tracks to SWC meet

By JOHN CLEMENTI
Sports Writer

The TCU men's track team warmed up for the Southwest Conference indoor championship meet with some impressive showings in Oklahoma City last Saturday.

William Maru qualified for the national championships in the 800 meters and the 3200-meter relay team finished second to Arkansas with a time of 7:35.50.

"A real plus for us was William Maru qualifying in the 800," TCU head track coach Bubba Thorton said. "Meeting the (NCAA qualifying) standard is a great accomplishment."

Maru's time of 1:50.15 was .25 of a second under the national qualifying time.

Maru is the third Flying Frog to qualify for the national cham-

Maru qualifies for nationals

pionships. He joins the ranks of sprinters Raymond Stewart and Greg Scholars who previously qualified in the 55 meters.

The Oklahoma City meet, which was sponsored by the University of Oklahoma, offered a taste of what to expect in the SWC championships this Saturday at Tarrant County Convention Center.

"It was a real competitive meet," 3200-relay member Rodney Wellman said. "All the Southwest Conference schools were there except Texas."

"This conference is tough," Thorton said. "The national champion in every event could be from the Southwest Conference."

How do the coaches evaluate their team going into the SWC meet?

"We're progressing nicely," Coach John McKenzie said. "Our young athletes are getting better each week, and we have the quality guys in Raymond, Greg and William."

"We're strong in the sprints, but we're real thin," Thorton said.

"It's important that you don't compare our team to Tennessee or Arkansas, but some of our athletes are in an elite class, they shouldn't be overlooked."

Thorton admits that the SWC meet is especially important this year because it is being held on TCU's turf, but he says he won't put unnecessary pressure on his athletes to better the team score.

"Obviously, we could run Raymond and Greg in the 200 to pick

up some points," Thorton said. "But we won't do that."

"Every time we push ourselves indoors, we have a short outdoor season. We want a long outdoor season, this year."

TCU coaches are hoping senior Lisa Ford will become the next national qualifier when she competes in the 200 meters.

Ford has run a 24.69 this year, which is just shy of the NCAA standard of 24.25.

"Lisa certainly has the ability to do it," McKenzie said.



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