

TCU Daily Skiff

Wednesday, September 19, 1990

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas

88th Year, No. 13

New policy puts end to Frog Fountain rough-housing

By GREG LYNCH
TCU Daily Skiff

Students on TCU campus will no longer have to keep their birthdays secret, because an unofficial birthday tradition has been put to rest. TCU policy no longer allows students to jump into Frog Fountain or throw others into the fountain.

"It is a potential danger for people," said Margaret J. Barr, vice chancellor for student affairs.

Several reasons have been cited

for the decision by the directors of the division of student affairs to end the tradition, such as possible injury and hazing.

Frog Fountain has a base of flagstones, and inside the rim are a set of upturned pipes which spray water upward toward the center. The university is concerned that a student could get an infected scrape or a more serious injury by being thrown into the fountain and onto the pipes, Barr said.

People throwing their friends into Frog Fountain often disregard the in-

juries which could occur, Barr said. "Something they see as being in fun could harm other people," she said.

Barr said she only knew of one person who has been injured by being thrown into the fountain. The student, who was thrown into the fountain about a year ago, suffered scrapes and bruises.

Texas hazing laws also influenced the administration's decision to end the tradition.

Under certain circumstances, throwing people into Frog Fountain

"could be construed as a violation of the hazing laws of the state of Texas," Barr said.

Last semester, a group of students asked Barr if the tradition of throwing people into the fountain could be considered hazing, Barr said. This question prompted the university to make a decision about the Frog Fountain tradition, she said.

Although the prohibition of throwing people into the fountain is not covered specifically in the student handbook or other sources of information on university policy, it falls

under the hazing laws, Barr said. Knowledge of the regulation is now also a part of training for resident assistants, Barr said.

A standard punishment will not be administered to students who violate the university's rule concerning Frog Fountain, Barr said.

Penalties for throwing people into the fountain will be handled individually, Barr said.

"We intend to let people know, and deal with it (violations) on an individual basis," Barr said.

"We're having people understand

the dangers it involves and try to act responsibly," Barr said.

Some students are unhappy with the new rule.

"I hate to see this school lose any of the few traditions it does have," said David Sanders, a senior advertising/public relations major. "If anything, it needs more. It keeps the spirit of the school together."

Sanders agreed, however, that this tradition doesn't have much effect on binding the school together, and that students' safety should be considered.

New house members sworn in

By KENDRICK BLACKWOOD
TCU Daily Skiff

The House of Student Representatives swore in 55 new members at its second meeting of the semester Tuesday night.

Although the House could use more town student participation, this is a great number of new members, said House President Matt Hood.

"We had a lot of people graduate last semester," Hood said. "Every member is basically a new member. Dorm reps have to be re-elected each year."

Chancellor Bill Tucker spoke at the meeting and expressed his appreciation for the representatives' willingness to take on leadership.

"You are appreciated, you are respected and you make a difference," he said.

"I hope it encouraged them (the representatives) to know that the administration is behind them," Hood said. "The House and the administration work best when they have open dialogue."

A bill was introduced that would allocate \$1,610 to the TCU R.O.A.D. Workers to help the group send six of its members to the 10th annual BAC-CHUS General Assembly in St. Louis, Nov. 1-4.

R.O.A.D. Workers and BAC-CHUS are organizations concerned with alcohol and drug education on college campuses.

The bill will be voted on next week after the finance committee has reviewed it. If it is passed, the money will come from the House's Special Projects fund, which began the year with a budget of \$8,000.

Two new chairpersons were unanimously approved for Programming Council. The new concerts chairman is Bryan Key, and the new films chairwoman is Wende Walker.

Susan Batchelor, director of student activities, was unanimously approved for her ninth year as faculty adviser to the House.

Fort Worth Mayor Bob Bolen is scheduled to speak at next week's meeting to offer words of encouragement and talk about the importance of voter registration, Hood said.

"He (Bolen) really wants TCU students to be involved in the Fort Worth community," Batchelor said.



TCU Daily Skiff/ Jim Winn

(Above) Dan Rather speaks to Maurie M. Walton Elementary students after answering questions for them in an assembly in their auditorium Tuesday afternoon. The interest and enthusiasm of the students matched that of the session at TCU.

(Right) From left to right: John Criswell, Clarice Tinsley and Dan Rather discuss students' concerns with the Middle East crisis and news anchoring and reporting.



TCU Daily Skiff/ Suzanne Dean

Rather calls for concern

By JOHN MOORE
and ROCHAEL SOPER
TCU Daily Skiff

Americans should monitor media coverage of events in the Middle East to avoid confusion similar to that which surrounded U.S. involvement in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, CBS Evening News anchor Dan Rather told an audience of about 500, including former House speaker Jim Wright, Tuesday morning in the Student Center Ballroom.

Rather, who also is managing editor of CBS Evening News, spoke to journalism and political science majors from TCU and seven other Texas colleges and universities at the KDFW-TV/TCU Student News Forum. The panel discussion, which also included talks by KDFW-TV Channel 4 news anchors Clarice Tinsley and John Criswell and Fort Worth Star-Telegram editor Jack Tinsley, covered topics including journalism education, career opportunities in broadcast journalism and the current role of television news in coverage of world events.

Rather, who returned to the United States this month from five weeks in the Middle East, opened the discussion with remarks about the situation in Kuwait and coverage of events in the Middle East by American media.

"If there's any doubt as to whether it's (the situation in Kuwait) a question of war or peace, or whether it will affect your life and the life of the country for a long time to come, let me put that to rest. It is," Rather said. "And the effects will be felt long into the 21st Century."

Rather cited the build up of U.S. military forces in the Middle East as a reason for his statement.

About 270,000 men and women, 1,000 tanks and thousands of aircraft have been sent to the Middle East, Rather said.

"This is the largest expeditionary force sent to one place in such a short time since World War II,

See Rather, page 2

New Year beginning for Jews

By MEREDITH FANE
TCU Daily Skiff

Today marks the beginning of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year.

Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of a new religious year and a season of repentance, said Ralph Mecklenburger, a rabbi at Beth-El Congregation of Fort Worth.

The 10-day celebration is finalized by Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, he said.

Gary Feldman, a Jewish graduate student, is excused from classes on Rosh Hashanah and plans to attend worship services at Temple Beth-El.

Feldman described Yom Kippur as the time when one asks God for forgiveness for one's sins for the pre-

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Inside

Boardroom bandits
Cartoonist uncovers the real cause behind campus crime.

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Recovery
Columnist Patti Pattison shares her experiences as an adult child of an alcoholic.

Page 3

Outside

Today's weather will be warm with a high of about 90 and a low of about 75 with a slight chance of thunderstorms.

Thursday's weather will be warm with a high in the 90s and a low in the 70s.

Computer science gets accreditation

By BILLY HATFIELD
TCU Daily Skiff

TCU's computer science program recently joined the elite group of universities and colleges that have been accredited by the Computer Science Accreditation Board.

The accreditation went into effect at the start of the 1990-91 school year, said James Comer, associate professor of computer science and chairman of the computer science department.

"The accreditation is a nice distinction," said Comer. "The department has worked very hard and we are proud of the award."

"I feel we have distinguished ourselves," said Dick Rinewalt, associate professor of computer sciences. "The department was scrutinized, and we passed all of the rigorous

exams."

The accreditation process lasted one year and closely examined all facets of the computer science department.

A 150-page self-study conducted by department personnel answered questions concerning department budgets, graduation rates, entrance requirements, course itineraries, and faculty members. A collection of information on each course and an archive of exams, homework, and student work was also prepared.

Finally, a team from the CSA Board visited TCU for two days. Following interviews and observation of the department's facilities, a preliminary report was issued, detailing the team's findings. The department had one month to respond to any ne-

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By CHRISTY WARNER
TCU Daily Skiff

Today the TCU Daily Skiff celebrates its 88th anniversary of its first publication Sept. 19, 1902.

The Skiff staff would like to share some excerpts from the second issue in 1902. The first issue could not be located.

• "Advice To Young Men"
"Don't take too much advice. Think well of yourself. Assume your own position. Don't swear. Don't deceive. Don't marry until you can support a wife. Be civil. Read the papers. Make money and do good with it. Love your country and obey its laws."

• Regulations For Athletes

1. "Abstain intoxicants, also coffee and tobacco."
2. "Go to bed at 10 p.m."
3. "Eat no sweets or pastry."
4. "Be at practice every week day at 4 p.m."
5. "And run each morning to get endurance."

• "Local and Personal"
"The young ladies have put up the net at their tennis court. It would be a manly thing for some of the boys to clean the grass off the court."

• "Girls' Home Notes"
"On Saturday night the young ladies at the Girls' Home were aroused — from their pleasant dreams (of course they were all fast asleep) by the sweet strains of the violin and guitar. They lay motionless, enraptured by the entrancing melodies that were wafted to them by the midnight zephyrs. Come again boys!"

For all of our loyal readers, presents and birthday cake, though not solicited, will be graciously accepted.

Rather/ from page 1

the area of 1941 to 1945," he said.

Some believe war has already begun, said Rather who obtained an exclusive interview with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Hussein understands that the war has begun — a psychological war and a war of propaganda," he said. "One of the lessons we learned from Vietnam was never again will we commit our national honor and resources to a conflict without first answering the question, 'For what?' Rather said. "We can talk about whether we should have sent this many troops and this much equipment, but the fact remains we now have a mighty army in the field. The question now is, 'For what?'"

Rather recounted the two reasons President George Bush has cited for U.S. involvement in the Middle East: to defend Saudi Arabia and to force the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

"So far, we've been successful at defending Saudi Arabia," Rather said. "But we have not been successful at getting Iraq out of Kuwait. We should all be asking, 'Is it worth it for us to be there?'"

That question remains unanswered, and it is up to a reading, thinking public to answer it, he said.

"I don't have the answer, but the answer is the fulcrum on which the outcome of this situation will swing," Rather said.

Rather warned that any action taken by U.S. forces in the Middle East may have serious human and monetary costs for the United States. Merely maintaining a strong presence in the Middle East has been expensive, he said.

"There is an excellent possibility that we run the risk of saving the economy of the world and wrecking our own through actions such as these (U.S. involvement in the Middle East) even if a shooting war doesn't break out in Kuwait," Rather said.

"Of course our greatest natural treasure, our young people, have been

committed, and the cost of losing them would far outweigh the financial cost of any conflict situation," he said.

Because of the real and potential cost of U.S. involvement, Americans should force themselves to become more aware of events in the Middle East, Rather said.

"It's easy to breeze past the headlines because the press overworks the word 'crisis,'" he said. "But in this case, the term 'crisis' is accurate. That's exactly what it is."

Criswell agreed with Rather's statement.

"You can't get all the news you need from one newscast," Criswell said. "You should be reading newspapers and keeping track of the issues around you in the university community, if that is where you happen to be. Americans need to spend a great deal more time informing and educating themselves than they do."

Rather offered his opinions of Hussein and the situation that the Iraqi leader is facing in the Middle East, prefacing his remarks by saying, "I'm not a psychologist; I'm a reporter. And the hour and a half I had to interview him (Hussein) was not enough to make me an expert."

Rather said Hussein is "bull-dog" determined in his efforts to retain control of Kuwait and its oil reserves. Rather also said he believes Hussein is someone who doesn't bluff.

"Hussein doesn't consider himself cornered with no options," Rather said. "Washington says, 'yes, he is cornered,' and that maybe, but he doesn't believe that. In some ways, he believes he has Bush cornered."

Rather stressed the fact that he was able to reach these opinions through his work in the Middle East and suggested that other should attempt to reach their own opinions by comparing "what folks say with the record."

"This (Hussein) is a man who has ordered the use of poison gas on his own people, invaded two countries (Iran and Kuwait) in the past 10 years

and assassinated some of his own government leaders. Each person must make up his or her own mind as to whether this man is crazy or a fanatic."

Rather, Clarice Tinsley and Criswell spent the second half of the hour-and-a-half-long forum answering questions from the audience.

When asked why Hussein allowed Bush's speech to the Iraqi people to be aired this month, Rather said he believed Hussein was confident his followers would not be affected by the broadcast.

"Hussein saw in Stalin's plans a plan for Iraq, and he is confident of his party's control," Rather said. "He is not a religious fanatic; he just has absolute party loyalty enforced by terror. Hussein probably felt, 'Why not? I have nothing to lose. Let them air the broadcast.'"

Bush's speech probably will not be seen as a great turning point in the Middle East conflict, Rather said.

"Don't be misled by the demonstrations (by Hussein's supporters in Iraq)," he said. "These have been well-orchestrated. In this case, there is less here than meets the eye."

Some students seemed pleased with the forum.

"I felt having John (Criswell) and Clarice (Tinsley) on the panel gave a different perspective to the crisis in the Middle East because it addressed the issue from a local, rather than a national viewpoint," said Marla Green, a senior broadcast journalism major from Texas Women's University. "I was also impressed with Dan Rather's honesty and sincerity in answering all the questions."

Other students had mixed responses.

"I thought some of the questions that the audience asked had already been addressed repeatedly in the media," said Issam Hussein, a junior TCU radio-TV-film major. "I was impressed with his (Rather) response to the question of whether or not Hussein is a mad-man."

New Year/ from page 1

vious year. This period will determine the outcome of the present year.

Feldman said at first he worried about being a Jewish student at a Christian university.

"At first it felt a little funny because I thought there won't be many Jewish people here. But, it hasn't been a problem," he said.

Although TCU does not have a Jewish organization, University Ministries offers various programs throughout the year for Jewish students, Feldman said.

Those interested in attending Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur services

have the opportunity to do so in Fort Worth.

The Beth-El Congregation at 207 W. Broadway Ave. begins the celebration tonight at 8 p.m., the eve of Rosh Hashanah. Thursday, Beth-El will hold children's services at 9:45 a.m., adults' services at 10:30 a.m., a discussion at 12:45 p.m. and an afternoon service at 2 p.m.

The Beth Yeshua Messianic Jewish Congregation will hold Rosh Hashanah services at 3414 SW Loop 820 with Rabbi Stan Eisenberg presiding. Services will begin at 7:45 p.m. tonight, and Yom Kippur ser-

vices are available at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 29.

Students are welcome to attend services at both Beth-El and Beth Yeshua.

Feldman said it is exciting to see members of the Beth-El congregation during Rosh Hashanah.

"It's kind of nice because Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the really important holidays and a lot of people go . . . people who don't normally during the year," Feldman said. "It's kind of nice to see everybody. It's a happy holiday."

ECHO ECHO

by Stev KlineToBe



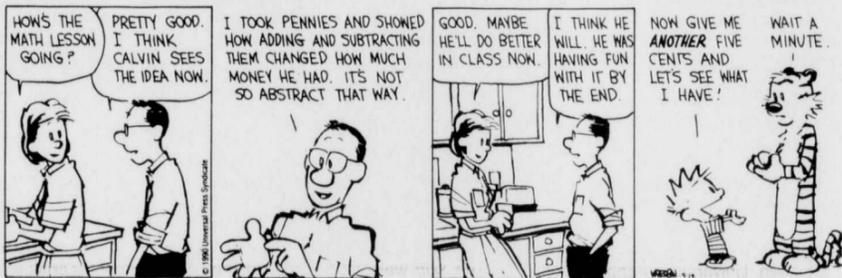
MISTER BOFFO

by Joe Martin



Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



Science/ from page 1

flaws in the computer science program that needed to be corrected before the department received accreditation, Rinewalt said.

"The board questioned the size of the department and the number of majors declared. Also there was a misunderstanding involving the degree requirements as listed in the University Bulletin," Rinewalt said.

"The bulletin did not include the university approved changes that were implemented before the team's visit," Rinewalt said. "These changes met the board's degree requirements and once we informed them of the gative comments in the report.

The report detailed two minor mix-up, they were able to recommend us," Rinewalt said.

The TCU computer science program joins 97 other colleges and universities across the country that have received accreditation. Three other Texas schools, Baylor University, University of North Texas, and University of Houston, have been accredited.

While the accreditation has been an immediate boost to the prestige of the computer science program, both students and professors think the impact of the accreditation will be felt in the future.

"Right now we are playing a waiting game in respect to what, if any, changes will be made in the department," Comer said. "The university will respond to any recommendations made by the board in order for

us to keep the accreditation. However, no stipulations have been made at this time."

There will be no changes in the admissions requirements for computer science majors at this time, but evaluations will be made and there may be changes in the future, Comer said.

The accreditation will help students in graduate work and in the professional world, Rinewalt said.

"If computer science becomes a licensed profession, our accreditation will be important for our students," Rinewalt said. "Professionals in the fields of law, medicine, and engineering require graduation from accredited courses. Students graduating from our department will have that degree, and that will be essential."

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"There's gotta be other glasses of water."



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Rather not

Channel 4's promos not journalism education

Many would say that the best education a college student can receive is on the job. One other possibility is having the opportunity to talk to professionals in their chosen fields and find out what it's really like to be a teacher, a chemist or a journalist.

Yesterday, CBS news anchor Dan Rather appeared on campus for a brief forum with students in the journalism, political science and radio-TV-film departments. It was supposed to provide that kind of information for students.

All would have been well, except that Dan didn't arrive alone. With him came the anchors for the local CBS affiliate, KDFW-Channel 4, Clarice Tinsley and John Criswell, and they brought with them a little insight and a lot of promotions.

While Rather offered insight into the Persian Gulf crisis and provided students with concrete examples during his opening remarks, Tinsley and Criswell did little but toot their own, and Channel 4's, horn.

Rather concluded his opening remarks by telling students that their peers and friends could die in the Persian Gulf. He yielded the microphone to Tinsley, who told these same students about her nifty "Great Expectations for Texas" education program and when they could tune in to see her special report.

Tinsley and Criswell spent their opening remarks discussing how neat it was to work together and how neat Channel 4 was and how much neater Channel 4 is going to be.

Warm fuzzies aside, they said less about being journalists and more about being faithful Channel 4 viewers. That discrepancy makes Channel 4's supposed effort to provide an educational opportunity for Metroplex college students look like little more than a publicity stunt.

Channel 4 did bring Dan Rather to TCU, and for that should be thanked, but it should've left its promos at the station.



Concerned daughter comes to grips with mother's alcoholism

By PATRICIA PATTISON
 Columnist

My name is Patti, and I am an adult child of an alcoholic.

There, I've said it and I'm no longer ashamed. Most of you may not realize it, but that's a pretty big step for me. I spent most of my life feeling guilty, ashamed and scared. I felt guilty because I thought my mother's drinking was my responsibility, my fault.

I felt ashamed because she drank and my friends saw her tipsy and knew my secret. We were all too young to know the ramifications of her drinking and just how much her "couple of drinks after work" was affecting my life.

I was scared because, even though I hated the way she embarrassed me and the way she made me feel insignificant, I loved her and I couldn't and didn't want to imagine life without her.

My mom died almost four years ago on February 6, 1987, one semester after my arrival here at TCU.

When she died, I moved on pretty quickly and tried to forget all the bad things about life with an alcoholic and instead tried to focus on all the good about a woman I knew had done the best she could to raise me alone.

All was well until about a year later when I was informed of my selection for a new university program called "Campus Mentors" that was being started through Alcohol and Drug Education. In order to become a mentor, I had to attend training sessions and absorb as much information as possible about substance abuse.

A funny thing happened during all of those training sessions. When presenters started talking about alcoholics and alcoholic families this little voice inside of me said, "Psst, any of this look familiar to you?"

Yes, it did. In fact everything they said about the self-esteem and emotional problems that plague children of alcoholics seemed all too familiar.

The examples that showed how members of dysfunctional families fell into patterns of lying to "protect" the addictive personality in their family. The examples that showed how

people from dysfunctional families would oftentimes indulge in self-defeating behaviors, like not preparing for a test and failing it, thereby affirming what they'd always been told they were: failures.

Well, at this point there wasn't a lot to be done, right? I mean my mother was dead. What could I do about it now? There wasn't any saving her from herself.

Wrong. I found out my work was just beginning. I had just scratched the surface by finally admitting to myself the real truth about my mom.

Now I was faced with talking about it, openly, with other people, my sisters, especially the people I wanted to be in relationships with.

I started with my sisters, who more or less brushed me off and told me they had always known, but that she was dead and they didn't think they needed to find out how her alcoholism had affected them.

Well, for about a year I continued trying to "caretake" my sisters and rescue them from all of the behaviors that we had learned to see as normal.

I wasn't far enough along to realize that my sisters are adults, that while I might be feeling really good about the recovery process I was going through, that was my choice and my sisters, miserable or not, didn't have to climb on my codependency recovery bandwagon.

After about two years of going to their home and letting them drag me back into all the old manipulative behaviors, I started letting go of my responsibility for Joanie and Gail, and slowly I pulled myself away from them.

Everything came to a head this past spring. Faced with two people who couldn't or wouldn't accept me if I didn't continue to play the games my mother had taught us, I let them go and walked away completely.

They yelled and screamed and told me I was the one who had a problem and that I was just stagnating in self-pity, hating my mother.

For the first time I said, "No." No, I'm not stagnating, I'm growing into a person who's learning to love people without manipulating

them. I'm learning how to live life without being manipulated and without apologizing for who I've become.

My sisters are wrong. I don't pity myself. I celebrate the fact that little by little, day by day, the monkey on my back is getting smaller and losing its grip on me. That monkey symbolizes all the years I thought living in an insane family was normal, that being emotionally abused was OK.

The biggest misconception my sisters and most people who are in a dysfunctional relationship have is that to confront the problem and/or the person at the heart of the problem is to say you hate them or that you are trying to hurt them.

I don't hate my mother. She was a woman alone raising three children who was herself the child of two alcoholic parents. She simply did the best she could and unfortunately, as much as she loved me and my sisters, she was an alcoholic.

She was a person who, for whatever reason, be it biological or mental or emotional, could not control her consumption of alcohol in a healthy way.

I'm not alone. I know a lot of you come from homes where in subtle and even not-so-subtle ways the bottle ruled your house. Some of you are involved in relationships now that are just as dysfunctional.

You may love your boyfriend or girlfriend, but don't fool yourself, if you are ignoring a substance abuse problem because you don't want to hurt them or risk your relationship, stop and be honest with yourself.

You have a responsibility to yourself to take the blinders of love off and see your friend or lover or parent for who they are, someone you care about enough to tell, "I'm worried about you."

No, they probably aren't going to be happy with you. They may even say they hate you, but they may also know that you're right and maybe they'll seek help. If they choose not to, you still have the opportunity to seek help and pull yourself out of chaos.

My name is Patti, and I'm a recovering adult child of an alcoholic, and I'm getting better all the time.

Letter policy

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.

Unsigned editorials represent the views of the *Skiff* editorial board. Signed letters and columns represent the opinion of the writers.

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.

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