TCU Daily Skiff

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Chain letters evoke varied responses, psychologist says

By JOHN MOORE
TCU Daily Skiff

Some cringe, while others binge when they get them — those little notes instructing the recipient to send in a dollar. Or five. Or ten. Or maybe just a few words of encouragement in a war-torn world — anything to keep from breaking the chain.

Chain letters, or pyramid letters as those asking for money are often called, have been written by individuals and groups seeking profits from mailed moola. But even college students and professors have admitted using them in research projects to study the psychological and sociological influences guiding those who create and those who receive the letters.

And the types of people who receive chain letters are as diverse as the letters themselves, said John Schuster, a psychologist at the TCU Counseling Center.

"There are basically four different kinds of people that would most likely respond — or not respond — to the money letters or non-money letters," Schuster said. "They are what I like to call 'the gamblers,' 'the guilt-ridden,' 'the joiners' and 'the non-responders.'"

The gamblers — the more hard-core chain-letter junkies — can be further divided into two subgroups, he said. Schuster calls these "the gullible gamblers" and "the deniers."

"When you take something like a pyramid letter telling you to send in a dollar or two, and supposedly after it goes around a few times you'll get back $60,000," he said, "you have to ask, 'Who would really do that?'

"I think the gambling type personality would do it. They may not really believe the letter, but they're willing to take the risk because that's what the gambler's life revolves around anyway."

The gambler's life is spent looking for excitement, Schuster said, and chain letters can help feed that excitement.

"The gamblers are a whole interesting group on their own," he said. "They like to live kind of on the edge.

"Where some people might get a charge out of going to a show or something, for the gambling personality this isn't enough. They have to have an extra charge in their life to make them feel alive. When they're not taking risks, they feel dead or kind of anesthetized."

Unlike other risk-takers, the gullible gamblers believe the chain letters they receive, Schuster said.

"These are the people who believe the actual writing of the letter," he said. "They may feel that if they put in their dollar or send the letter on, it actually will continue the chain. If they're gullible enough to think that if they do it the next person is going to put the money in, and eventually it will come back to them, they're kind of a combination of gullible and gambler."

But Schuster said there are many gamblers who deny any belief in chain letters — even though they still send in their money.

"The deniers really don't believe it'll work," he said. "But they figure, 'Oh well, it's only a dollar, so let's stick it in there and see what happens.'

"These are the ones who want some-

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A hint of spring

TCU Daily Skiff/ Trip Meade

Jim Schrantz, adjunct professor of English, conducts his freshman composition class in front of Sadler Hall on Monday.

Iraqi military retakes cities, witnesses say

By GREG MYRE
Associated Press

SAFWAN, Iraq — Employing brutal tactics, the Iraqi military has recaptured every major city in southern Iraq, according to resistance fighters and refugees who fled to U.S. military outposts Monday seeking food, shelter and asylum.

Tired, hungry and dirty, the refugees said they had escaped from Basra, Najaf, Nasiriya and other southern cities as Saddam Hussein's troops crushed anti-government activity with tanks, helicopters and heavy artillery.

The official Iraqi news agency, monitored in Cyprus, reported Monday that Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan had visited Karbala and met with Hussein Kamal, Saddam's son-in-law who is minister of industry and military industrialization, and other high officials.

Ramadan urged reconstruction efforts to wipe out traces of the rebellion, it said.

The rebels in the south, made up mostly of Shiite Muslims, have lost control of all the larger cities and towns that they controlled as recently as March 15, the refugees said.

Fighting continued in Northern Iraq, where Kurdish rebels reported numerous casualties from air assaults by forces loyal to Saddam.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency said refugees arriving at its border reported clashes continuing in some southern cities and garrison towns.

Refugees said Republican Guard troops, Saddam's best-trained and most loyal soldiers, patrol the streets in tanks, giving young men a stark choice: join the army or be killed.

"They keep 7,000 prisoners at a university (in Basra), and they shoot about 50 to 100 every day," said Khalifa Reheem, one of 26 Iraqi soldiers who surrendered Monday to U.S. forces occupying territory just west of Safwan, a war-battered town on the Iraq-Kuwait border.

The claims could not be indepen-

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Suspect arrested in shooting of Gulf war veteran

By DAVID GOODMAN
Associated Press

DETROIT — One person was arrested Monday in the slaying of Persian Gulf war veteran Anthony Riggs, whose death sparked a nationwide outcry for a domestic war against street crime, police said.

"There's been an arrest, one arrest," police spokesman Officer John Leavens said. He declined to release any other details in the arrest in the slaying of Army Spc. Anthony Riggs, 22, stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Toni Riggs, Anthony Riggs' widow, was questioned Monday by police and released, said her attorney, Althina Siringas.

"They just wanted to question her," Siringas said. "She came in and she answered their questions."

Acting on a motion from Siringas, Detroit Recorder's Court Judge Dalton A. Roberson ordered police to either bring Mrs. Riggs to his courtroom or release her.

Mrs. Riggs was released about 2 p.m., but police said an arrest had been made. A person who answered the telephone in the Wayne County Prosecutor's office said there was no one immediately available to comment on who was arrested and what any charges were.

Newsweek magazine reports in its April 1 edition that Toni Riggs met her husband upon his return from the Gulf and promptly asked him for a divorce. The magazine said mar-

See ***Arrest****, page 2*

House to debate bills funding lights, week

By JON MARTZ
TCU Daily Skiff

One of three bills scheduled for debate at tonight's meeting of the House of Student Representatives would grant $1,402.50 from the permanent improvements fund to purchase new lights for the Rickel Building sand volleyball courts.

The House will debate the bill at their weekly meeting at 5 p.m. today in Student Center Room 222.

The money for the volleyball courts would help fund the purchase of two new lights, to be placed at the south end of the courts, and the movement of the current lights to the north end of the courts, said Joey Martinez, chairman of the permanent improvements committee.

"The original bill was tabled for the past two weeks to give representatives time to have any questions they may have and to give them time to hear from all of their constituents on the issue," said Ernie Ross, House president.

The new lights will make it easier for students to play volleyball at night, Martinez said. The lights will be at the side of the courts instead of being in the line of vision of the players, he said.

The construction of the new lights should not take long once the bill is approved by the House, said Steve Kintigh, director of the recreational sports departmant.

The second bill to be debated at tonight's meeting would help fund TCU's Greek Week. The bill asks the House to spend $400 to be spent on publicity for the week.

Greek Week will run from April 1 to 7, and will feature many events including a softball tournament, a chapel service and an all-campus party, with all proceeds to benefit the Tarrant County Hospice Society.

The total projected cost for the entire week is $1,599, but the organization is asking only for the $400 to help publicize the events.

The final order of new business scheduled for debate at the House meeting is a bill that would revise the campaigning period for student body elections.

The bill would officially limit the campaigning period to two weeks, as it had been for past elections, said David LeBlanc, chairman of the elections and regulations committee.

"In the past candidates could start campaigning when they filed for office, and some may have inadvertantly broke rules before they knew what they were," he said.

If the bill passes, the new rules

See ***House****, page 2*

Press to relocate

By LISA YONCO
TCU Daily Skiff

The TCU Press will move its offices from the Bass Building to the department of child development building on Louden Street this summer, said Judy Alter, director of the TCU Press.

The building, which is located behind Robert Carr Chapel and has not been used in about three years, housed a laboratory preschool for the department of child development, Alter said.

Alter declined to comment on the reason for the move.

"We've (TCU Press) known that we were going to move eventually," Alter said. "When they (TCU) tell us to move, we move."

To prepare for the move, TCU

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TCU Daily Skiff/ Trip Meade

Maintenance men work on the building where TCU Press is to be moved.

Inside

Mortality
Columnist examines how sudden death affects the lives of others.
Page 3

Baseball
The Horns put the Frogs on ice and sweep the three-game series.
Page 4

Outside

Today's weather will be mostly cloudy with a high temperature of 82 degrees.

Wednesday's weather will be cloudy with a chance for thunderstorms and a high temperature of 84 degrees.

Bill of Rights limits public, freedom, professor to argue

By PATRICIA PATTISON
TCU Daily Skiff

Despite the tendency to embrace the Bill of Rights as a protector of American freedoms, a visiting historian said he wants TCU students to consider the possibility that the Bill of Rights actually limits the public and gives more power to the U.S. government.

Forrest McDonald, distinguished research professor at the University of Alabama, will present his paper "The Bill of Rights: Was it Necessary?" at 7:30 p.m. tonight in Reed Hall Room 312. McDonald is visiting TCU as a part of the Green Professorship program.

McDonald's speech will focus on how the framers of the Constitution were opposed to a bill of rights, he said, and then show several instances where the Bill of Rights is never observed.

"This was to be a government of enumerated powers," McDonald said. "By listing out what the government could do and then later listing what it could not do, an area was left where the government was allowed to take over. Ultimately, it can increase the power of the government."

Despite modern misconceptions, McDonald said, the Bill of Rights wasn't added to protect individual freedoms as much as it was meant as a political gesture on the part of political leaders.

"We would have been better off without it," he said.

"Now we are faced with an arbitrary government instead of a government of law."

Despite the recent celebrations for the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights, McDonald said most people do not get upset with his assertions when he explains them. One problem that stands in the way of people's understanding of his ideas, though, is their ignorance of the difference between many American documents, he said.

"The only problem I really have is that most people think the Bill of Rights is the Constitution, and most think the First Amendment is the Bill of Rights," McDonald said.

Iraq/ *from page 1*

dently confirmed. Iraq has not allowed foreign journalists to visit the troubled cities since the uprisings by Kurds in the north and Shiites in the south began late last month in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War.

But refugees who arrived Monday from several different cities and towns told similiar stories of brutal military operations crushing resistance.

They also claimed that soliders were distributing poisoned oranges and bread in Basra, which is suffering widespread food shortages.

Bodies litter the streets of Basra and families are afraid to reclaim them for fear of being identified as rebel supporters, refugees said.

Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, was never completely in rebel hands, but the resistance there has been significantly weakened, the refugees said.

Many wore green military uniforms, saying this allowed them to travel through Iraqi checkpoints. They pleaded for the U.S. military to give them arms or to send troops to overthrow Saddam's government.

Dr. Makki Jaffar Taher, a civilian, broke into tears as he said: "I lost my wife and children when my house was bombed. I have nothing left."

The physician said he treated several young girls he said were victims of a napalm attack at Najaf hospital.

In Safwan, an unruly crowd of several thousand people shoved against concertina wire as they tried to enter a schoolyard where the U.S. military was distributing water, flour and food packets.

In fighting in northern Iraq, the The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan said many people died in the oil center of Kirkuk in two government air raids.

A telefax sent to The Associated Press in Nicosia, Cyprus, did not specify the number of dead or wounded, but said "a large number of victims fell."

A morning attack involved four helicopters and two airplanes, while an afternoon attack was carried out by two helicopters, it said.

Chain/ *from page 1*

thing for nothing. Often they don't need money, but they still gamble like crazy. They have so much money they don't know what to do with it, but they gamble just for the fun of it."

Chain letters that don't mention money can appeal to groups like the guilt-ridden through their wording alone, Schuster said.

"Having read a few of these letters," he said, "they throw in a real healthy dose of guilt to get you to send it on: 'If you don't do this, the world's going to end, or the poor people in China won't get the $60,000. So you've got to send it on. Don't be the only person in the world to break the link and let the rest of us down.'"

The fear of being left out is what drives the joiners, those who send in chain letters for nothing more than the chance to be a part of something, Schuster said.

"These are people who might be lonely or like to feel they belong to things — some group or organization," he said. "They can't resist the urge to be a part of it. So here comes a letter that invites them to join this big group of people who have already responded, and they don't want to be the only one left off the party list."

Being left out of the chain is not a big concern for non-responders, Schuster said, and neither is the potential guilt or profit mentioned in some letters.

"The non-responders think it's stupid and silly and dumb, and they just throw it in the trash," he said. "You could say they're the opposite of all the other types of people — they don't gamble, they don't feel guilty, and they don't care about joining. They just think, 'This is a stupid waste of time,' and they toss it in the garbage."

Fear of the threats made in some chain letters can keep otherwise secure people from simply throwing them away, Schuster said.

"There are a few gullible people out there — who aren't gamblers at all — who will believe everything they read," he said. "They read in a letter that bad things are going to happen to them if they don't follow up, and they get scared, and they just do it."

Schuster became interested in chain letters when he lived in California during the early 1980s, a time marked by rampant chain-letter writing in the state, he said.

"They traced one of the pyramid letters to one of the big universities, and it was a sociology experiment," Schuster said. "It was one of the money letters, so it was clearly illegal. They finally said it was all in the name of research, so the authorities weren't too tough on them."

Schuster's knowledge of chain letters comes mostly from letters he or his acquaintances receive, and newspaper reports, he said, "because very little research has been done on them."

As for whether Schuster has ever taken part in a chain letter himself, "Don't ask," he said, laughing. "Let's just say it was research."

Press/ *from page 1*

maintenance employees are conducting preliminary tasks, including painting and other cosmetic work, inside the building, said Don Palmer, director of facility planning for the physical plant.

A construction company will be selected to do the remodeling inside the building sometime this week, Palmer said.

"Large rooms inside the building need to be partitioned off into smaller offices," Palmer said.

Larry Adams, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, is directing the project to move the TCU Press. Adams will be in Washington D.C. until Tuesday and could not be reached for comment.

House/ *from page 1*

would take effect for upcoming elections, LeBlanc said.

The House will begin debate on next year's budget at next week's meeting, Ross said, and all students are encouraged to speak with their representatives to ask any questions or voice their concerns about the upcoming budget.

ECHO ECHO

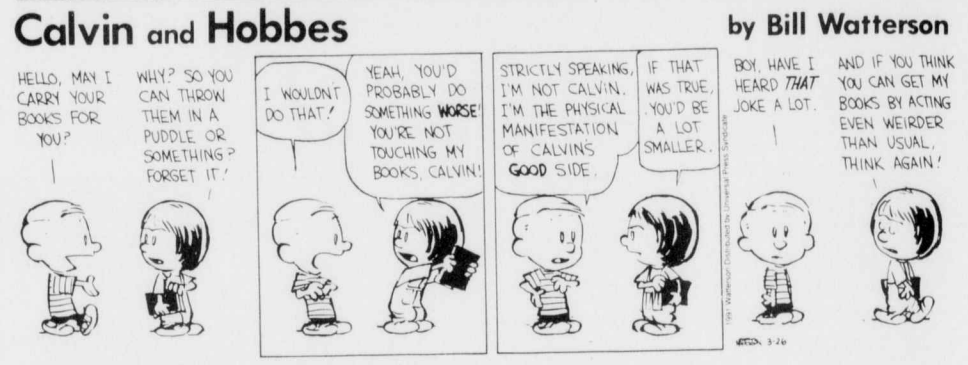
by Stev KlineToBe

Weezie

by Tom Maglisceau

Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



Arrest/ *from page 1*

ital problems arose between the couple while Anthony Riggs was in the Gulf.

Numerous broadcast outlets reported police were questioning Mrs. Riggs' brother, whose name was not given. Siringas said she didn't know who was in custody and said the family hired her Monday after being notified police wanted to talk with Mrs. Riggs.

Riggs was shot five times March 18 in front of the home of his wife's aunt. He had returned the day before from Gulf War duty, where he operated a Patriot missile battery in Saudi Arabia. Riggs' car was stolen, and some authorities said a street robbery was suspected initially.

The slaying produced an outcry from congressional and other leaders for a war against street crime, with some saying big-city streets were more dangerous than a war zone. The Rev. Jesse Jackson eulogized Riggs during the weekend at his funeral.

On Saturday, about 700 family and friends gathered at Little Rock Baptist Church, where Jackson called for an end to the war against black males. Aretha Franklin also attended the service and sang.

Meanwhile, United American Healthcare Foundation, a grant organization, announced a college education grant for Riggs' 3-year-old daughter, Amber Butler. Riggs family member were to be at a news conference announcing the trust fund, but foundation President and Chairman Francis A. Kornegay said there was no one at the home where Toni Riggs was staying when he arrived to pick them up.

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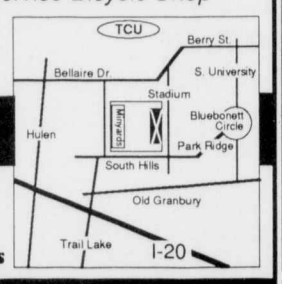

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Opinion

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Payback

War shouldn't break economic ties

Now that Iraq has been defeated, Washington cleans up loose ends. Actions and pronouncements of involved people and countries merit consideration, many feel. At home, Democrats on the losing side of Congress' authorization of force decision certainly feel the pressure.

In what may be a major change in our Middle East position, Congress has changed its mind about Jordan. Our longtime ally King Hussein remained neutral in the war and sounded sympathetic toward Iraq. Last week, Congress voted to end economic aid to Jordan. The White House objected, remarking that flexibility and maneuvering room is needed.

Capitol Hill is trying to one-up the White House in terms of patriotism. Political capital from the war is being put to use. By opposing those who opposed, Congress feels it is being supportive.

Congress typically likes foreign aid less than the president — budgetary funds are needed for domestic programs and re-election projects. Bush will not soon win a renewal of assistance to Jordan.

In the Jordan example, foreign aid is being manipulated, as it should. The whole justification of giving money away, we are often taught, is to assure loyalty, protection of our system and the capacity to reward those who behave how we like. As others become dependent on us and accustomed to receiving help, we should use our aid as a tool. Simply renewing loans or gifts without evaluating of the recipient is ridiculous, negligent and wasteful. We should get something for our money.

Perhaps King Hussein will understand. We can gain from a Jordan that pursues the same objectives as us. Jordan should be told why aid is denied. Upon sowing a return to pro-U.S. policy, assistance could be started again. The Middle East is perpetually complex; the current situation is even more so. We should maintain the upper hand. Inconsistent policy confuses the region. Many think confusing diplomacy encouraged Saddam Hussein to attack Kuwait, making him think we would allow it.

Continuing this period of welcomed stinginess in Washington, the White House says weapons sales and other interactions with coalition countries will cease until the proportionate war costs have been paid. This is good. Nations who have promised to financially support the war have money we need. It is hoped our demands will not become a sticking point. The other countries will likely understand.

The United States should more closely monitor the spread of American weapons and military products. Some of Iraq's hardware was produced within our borders. The technological superiority of American weapons makes reasonable selectivity as to who gets it.

We should walk carefully in this post-war environment. Many nations owe us gratitude, political loyalty and war debts. Not capitalizing on opportunities is a loss. Others are not as comfortable with what we did. It is these nations we should watch, pressure and never offer help without assurance of a deserved return.

A step forward

Soviet vote a long-awaited reform

The Soviet Union is moving in the right direction. Last week they held an election to decide whether or not the country should remain the one huge nation as it has been for most of this century, or if they should allow republics to break down into smaller groups.

It is encouraging that the Soviet Union, the great and mighty bastion of communism, is leaning more and more towards democracy. During the Gulf war, there times when it seemed that Gorbachev was reverting to the standard Soviet "dictator" with the repression of the Baltics.

However, by holding this election, the Soviet Union has shown it is leaving the old ways behind to embrace a system reflecting the people's desires.

As would be expected, Gorbachev was pushing for people to vote to keep the Soviet Union together. And as might also be expected, Boris Yeltsin wanted the people to vote for the Republics to disband.

However, the people sided with Gorbachev, and so the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is preserved. This might not be for the best, as the longer the many Republics stay together, the harder it may be for the government to hold the nation together. These days the Soviet Union is like a beached whale.

But as long as the nation is going to continue to move towards democracy, then there is hope for that nation's survival in a fast changing world.

Letter policy

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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.

University should recognize King

By PATRICIA PATTISON
Columnist

Today the House of Student Representatives will vote on whether or not to support a proposal which calls for a university-wide holiday to recognize the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The vote is an important one because its outcome will reflect deeply on Ernie Ross' administration and its priorities.

To be honest, Ross' administration and the current crop of representatives, like the majority of those which preceeded them, rarely deal with as substantive an issue as this one. They decide where our money goes and they vote often to support different activities, Hunger Week and Safebreak, just to name a couple. The decision to support the King holiday is different because it is controversial.

The majority of the Faculty Senate members voted not to support the resolution because they felt the day would simply be wasted by students and would not be used constructively to remember King. They are probably right.

At least 70 percent of the university population probably would enjoy the holiday, with narry a thought to King. The remaining 30 percent might work in some time to remember King, perhaps in a prayer vigil or a parade.

These numbers are hypothetical, but suppose they were true, suppose only 2,000 students or less did anything to remember King, is that reason enough to excuse classes?

Yes. Whether or not we all choose to participate in activities for him, TCU must recognize that he changed our world in enumerable ways.

King is a symbol, not only for African-Americans, but all humans, of what can happen when a person stands up to a system that might only be opposed by a minority but is wrong for the majority.

The TCU administration has long made claims of wanting TCU to be not only a person-centered campus, but a place where multiculturalism is a norm.

TCU is working on that. A minority affairs committee is working diligently to research minority issues on campus, and several speakers appeared on campus to speak to those issues specifically during African-American History Month.

Now it is time for the university to take the next step and recognize King's life with a university holiday. Yes, we also need activities, speakers and programming opportunities for all those who are interested, but the reality is this university needs to recognize King with a holiday, because it helps set community standards and is a member of the higher education system.

Today the House has a responsibility to support the resolution for a King holiday not as rebellious children who want a holiday and a chance to disagree with their professors, but as adults committed to this university, its students and its reputation as a group of people who struggle daily with issues like race relations.

To recognize King with a day of honor and silence or the hustle and bustle of university activity is the very least we can do as people who have all, in one way or another, benefited from his life, his work and his message.

The freeway, a cultural meshpot

By GREG WEED
Columnist

I have this love/hate relationship with driving. There are few things I enjoy more than getting in my car, turning on the radio and just driving. The hate part comes in when I happen upon a large, irritating obstacle — the other drivers on the road.

Now, there is no greater cultural meshpot in America than when you are out on the road. It seems that every freak, imbecile and utterly stupid moron is driving at the same time I am. They are either driving too slow or too fast; or they are just such idiots that a normally sedate human being will seriously consider murdering another individual because he took an extremely long time at the toll booth.

This cultural meshpot is also where you will see most people's prejudice come out. When someone has to deal with a stupid driver, the offended driver will blame it on the type of person that is driving, also usually associated with the type of car driven. Therefore you get the monikers like "woman driver", "dumb redneck in a truck", "old person who should retire from driving" or "arrogant rich guy who thinks he owns the road."

There are some things other drivers do that seem to merit taking them out with an uzi. When someone passes you on the gravel-infested shoulder and shares the gravel with your car, death should be an option for this person.

Unfortunately, many times you discover that the worst drivers are people you can't kill — your friends. The terrible driving comes out when you are on the hellish road escapade called a caravan. It seems that it is here that every driver's elitist feelings come out. Everyone has them: "If everyone would drive like me, there would be no problems on the road." This is where someone who has no clue where the group is going decides to take the lead. This is usually right before a crucial turn or exit. The group will end up in some place that has yet to discover indoor plumbing.

Then, of course, there are the worst hazzards in driving today: the police. It seems so trivial for them to pull you over for just wanting to get out of their state as quickly as possible. Aren't there crimes going on in these places?

However, speeding is a crime and many people get pulled over for it. The best thing to do is to make getting the ticket enjoyable for you and the officer. Jump out of the car and yell "Draw!" Or ask the cop, since he is a public servant and you pay his salary, to polish your shoes. I'm sure you'll both have a great laugh, and he might even let you off.

If those efforts don't work in getting you off, there are ways of irritating the officer so he doesn't want to give you a ticket. Talk in a different language, saying only "I know" and "English, ya". Or simply say to the officer when he approaches the car "Sir, have you found Jesus?" Many times they'll leave skid marks getting out of there.

After all this, it seems a wonder hitchhiking isn't more popular.

Near death brings you close to life

By ELIZABETH LUNDAY
Columnist

Two innocent I.R.S. agents sat quietly in the Water Gardens last week, minding their own business, discussing their next audit with energy and excitement.

The wind was gusty; their subway sandwich wrappers fluttered in the wind.

And then a light pole blew down. Boom. They were both dead.

How do you deal with this sort of thing? They were just sitting there, not bothering anyone, and all of a sudden — bam. How do their families deal with this? And how do the other people sitting in the park that lovely, windy afternoon deal with it?

Sudden, irrational death is so strange, so hard to accept. When someone dies of illness or accident or old age everyone is sad and mournful — even people who didn't know the deceased. Total strangers when seeing a funeral are slightly saddened, reminded of their own mortality and the mortality of those they love.

But sudden, totally unexpected deaths leave people blinking, gasping, pushed into a sudden realization of the immediacy of their own death.

You start to think, "You know, I was at the Water Gardens just a few days ago, OK, a few weeks ago, actually. And I was sitting right there. If the wind had blown just a little harder I could have died — boom — just like that."

You start to remember light poles that had swayed ominously in the past. Walking across campus, telephone poles and tall trees loom and creak. Even tall buildings' shadows hover, warning of unexpected and certain death.

I drove with my roommate back from a restaurant across town. And all of a sudden a rusty Trans-Am came up on the shoulder doing 80, cut in front of my Toyota, broadsided a Cadillac in the next lane, knocking it into the far left lane, and then continued down the road, all in the space of two extremely heavy heartbeats.

The experience left me with a strong desire to call my mother. We talked about it a lot, told most of the people we knew at the party we went to that night. (Hey, I nearly died tonight.) Strangely, most of them had a near death story of their own. (Yeah, I know what you mean. I was on the Central Expressway . . . .)

The Water Gardens accident caused similar reactions. Can you believe it, people said, killed by a light pole. And so suddenly. You know, one time I was on a 747 coming out of Boston . . . .

Sudden death reminds us of the fragility of our lives, the frailty of our existence. That's why we remember our near misses, our close touches with sudden death.

And at the same time, it reminds us of our continued living. It's scary, to almost die, scary but life-affirming.

I was more alive that night after the almost car crash than I am 90 percent of the time. When I breathed, I was aware of my breathing, conscious that I still had the ability to intake air.

When we tell each other, "hey, I nearly died", we are reminding each other of what we nearly lost.

For near-miss death makes us reach out, to cling to someone we love — roommate, friend, boyfriend, girlfriend, mother, father. It makes us reach out and say, "Hey, I'm alive." And in response we hear, not "So?" but "I know — and I'm so glad."

Sports

Longhorns ice Frogs

Strong UT pitching cools hot TCU bats for sweep

By JEFF BLAYLOCK
TCU Daily Skiff

Lance Brown knew the Texas Longhorns had the best pitching staff in the SWC, possibly in the nation. He knew Texas coach Cliff Gustafson was whining about how bad his staff was a week ago.

Brown knew the veteran Texas coach had nothing to whine about. The No. 3 Longhorns swept the Frogs three straight to open both teams' SWC season this weekend at Disch-Falk Field.

"He's always moaning about the problems with his pitching staff," Brown said. "He's got the best pitchers in the nation."

The Longhorn pitchers breezed through the Frogs' batting order, allowing TCU only 15 hits and five runs for the series.

Staff ace Scott Harrison (8-0, 1.65 ERA) held the Frogs punchless in a 9-inning complete game performance Friday. Texas scored three runs in the fourth to beat TCU, 5-1.

Freshman Brooks Kieschnick (3-0) pitched 5⅓ scoreless innings in Saturday's first games, and underachieving Rodney Pedraza mowed down the last five Frogs for a combined 8-0 shutout.

Roger Luce's two-out triple drove home two in the fourth, and he scored on a David Bentancourt (1-3) wild pitch to give the Horns a 4-0 lead. Texas scored four more in the sixth.

TCU slugger and SWC home run leader Chris Thomsen provided most of the TCU punch in Saturday's nightcap with a three-run homer off Brad Porterfield in the fourth. Porterfield hit Kemp Laidley and gave up a single to Scott Malone before Thomsen crushed his last pitch over the right-center field wall for his SWC-leading 16th home run.

Struggling former starter Chris Gaskill retired the next three in the fourth, but Brad Firestone led off the fifth with a double and scored on Rob Johnson's sacrifice fly. TCU led, 4-0.

Kieschnick, who played all three games as the designated hitter, homered off Jared Shope in the sixth, and a leadoff double by Shane Halter began a two-run seventh to tie the game, 4-4.

Travis Barr (5-3) made easy work of the Horns in the seventh and eighth, but loaded the bases in the ninth before retiring Dean Haskins, who popped a weak flair to Thomsen at first base.

Tim Belk bunted for a single to lead off the 10th and Luce walked. No. 9 hitter Kyle Moody scooted a basehit to left where Scott Chalk bobbled it, allowing Moody to score the winning run in a 5-4 Texas win.

Texas relievers Chris Cox and Pedraza allowed only one hit in 4⅔ innings of work in the series finale.

"We couldn't seem to get anything going," Thomsen said. "Pedraza came in and threw hard and shut us down in the end."

Brown said the hard-throwing Pedraza forced the Frogs to swing faster than against Texas' starters.

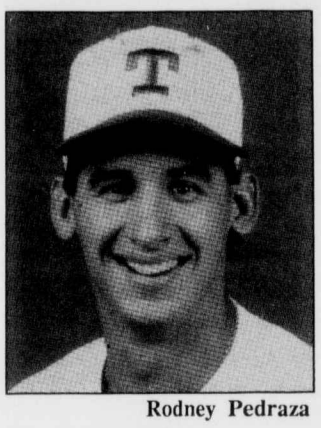
"It's much harder to speed the bat up than to slow it down," he said.

Thomsen said Harrison and Pedraza were the best pitchers he's faced this season. But he added that the pitching he saw in Austin and also at No. 16 Long Beach State a week ago were comparable. Long Beach State also swept TCU three straight, 12-0, 17-8, 12-0.

TCU (20-12, 0-3 SWC) will host No. 11 Oklahoma at 2 p.m. Wednesday before opening a three-game home series with Rice Friday.

SWC Baseball

	Conf.	All
Texas	3- 0	27- 9
Texas Tech	4- 2	28- 7
Houston	2- 1	23- 8
Texas A&M	2- 1	25-10
Rice	4- 5	12-22
Baylor	1- 2	23- 7
Arkansas	2- 4	22-11
TCU	**0- 3**	**20-12**



Rodney Pedraza

Short-handed golf team still able to place 6th

By JEFF SWAIN
Special to the Skiff

The Lady Frogs overcame playing one golfer short last Sunday to place sixth out of 17 teams in the University of Texas-Betsy Rawls Longhorn Classic tournament in Austin.

Arizona, SMU, Lamar, Tulsa and Georgia finished ahead of the TCU women. But the Lady Frogs beat higher ranked Kentucky, Furman, Miami and Texas, who was playing on its home course.

With junior Annette Kealoha out because of illness, TCU played only four golfers available instead of the usual five. Team scores are figured by adding the best four of the five rounds for each team every day.

"It makes a difference not to have that cushion there to drop a score," said coach Kristi Arney. "It's easy to get out there and panic if you're not playing well because you know it's going to count, but the girls held themselves together really well."

Junior Tricia Allen was the top TCU finisher in the rain-shortened tournament with a third-place 77-73—150. Her 73 was the best score on Sunday.

"Everybody came out on Sunday and was kind of flat," Allen said. "Nobody had any momentum since the second day was rained out. I just wish we had that extra round because we had some bad scores the third day."

Sophomore Barbara Plant's 74-82—156 was the next best TCU score. Senior Kelly Paul, who was playing on her home course, turned in a consistent 80-80—160.

A disastrous third day left sophomore Jane Kragh with a 79-90—169.

"It's a fluke," Arney said. "I've never seen her shoot like that and I'll probably never see her do it again. She kept trying and kept playing, but that was just the best she could do that day."

If the Lady Frogs had their fifth player, they would certainly have dropped Kragh's second round, Arney said. That would probably have dropped the team's score low enough to move it into third or fourth place, she said.

The Lady Frogs return to the links April 5 in Dallas at the SMU Earl Stewart-Lady Mustang Tournament.

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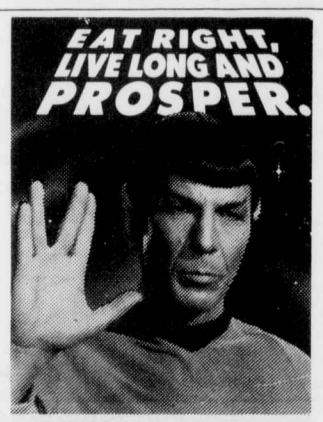

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