

TCU Daily Skiff

Thursday, March 12, 1992

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas

89th Year, No. 87

Number of HIV-infected college students rises

By BRANDY ANDERSON
Special to the Skiff

Paige used to think having sex with a guy was the best way to keep him around.

"I was thinking if I slept with these guys, they'd want to go out with me again," said Paige (not her real name), a TCU senior. "When I think of all the guys I've slept with, it makes me want to throw up."

Paige doesn't worry about finding a boyfriend anymore. She's more concerned about catching AIDS from one of the five guys she had sex with last year.

A growing number of people share Paige's fear as the risk of HIV infection increases among heterosexual college students.

One in every 500 college students is infected with the HIV virus according to a 1991 joint study by the Centers for Disease Control and the American College Health Association.

In 1989, only one in 1,000 students was infected.

If TCU reflects national statistics, about 12 students are HIV-positive. "Monogamy never looked better," said Dr. John Terrell, director of the TCU Health Center. "People can expect to see an increase in HIV-positive college students."

Almost 30 percent of documented AIDS cases have occurred among people between the ages of 20 and 29.

"Those people were likely infected during high school and col-

lege, since it usually takes seven to eight years for people to develop AIDS after contracting the HIV virus," said Thomas Bruner, executive director of the AIDS Outreach Center, 1125 W. Peter Smith in Fort Worth.

The TCU Health Center does not keep records on how many tests it has given, but Terrell said the university compares with the national average.

HIV testing at TCU is confidential. Only the doctor, the patient and the nurse know if an HIV test is done. The blood is sent to the lab with an alias name and a number, said Marilyn Forney, administrative assistant to TCU's medical director.

The University of Texas at Arlington's health center averages about 15 to 20 HIV tests a week, said Suzanne

Mason, chair of UTA's Task Force on AIDS.

Most people who want HIV tests done have had unprotected sex, sex with drug users or sex under the influence of alcohol. People who are entering new relationships also seek HIV testing, Mason said.

"UTA is no different from the community at large," Mason said. "People tend to think they're immune. UTA has lost people to AIDS, and some students have the HIV virus."

The University of North Texas encourages students to be tested at anonymous off-campus sites.

"We don't offer anonymous tests here. We only have confidential ones," said Peggy Fogel, one of UNT's health educators. "Many stu-

dents prefer to be tested without using their names."

Southern Methodist University averages about 40 tests a year, said Mike White, director of SMU health services.

Health officials at UNT and SMU consider the universities to be on level with the national college statistics.

By the end of 1993, officials at the Centers for Disease Control expect to see up to 225,000 more people become HIV-infected.

Heterosexuals currently make up to 2.2 percent of all AIDS cases, and that means there will be 4,950 new cases in the next two years.

"Everyone should be worried," Terrell said. "If you've had one to three sexual partners, that is enough

to be tested. You can estimate your risk of exposure through the number of partners you've had. Unless you've been tested, you could have it."

Most people go to the TCU Health Center after they think they've been exposed, Terrell said.

"College-age people tend to think it couldn't happen to them. They worry after the fact," Terrell said.

The HIV virus can usually be detected within six months of the infection, Terrell said.

"If people think they are at risk, the test could be repeated again after one year. Early testing is important," Terrell said.

TCU has an ongoing educational

See HIV, page 2



Students model for the Marithe and Francois Girbaud fashion show sponsored by Dillard's on Tuesday in front of the Student Center. Students had to audition on Sunday to be in the show.

TCU Daily Skiff/ Aimee Herring

Gulf War reporter to speak on campus

By SARAH YOEST
TCU Daily Skiff

Peter Arnett, the man who reported from behind enemy lines during the Persian Gulf War for CNN, will speak tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Ed Landreth Hall as part of the Distinguished Speakers Forum.

Arnett's address will be presented by Team Bank, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and Programming Council's Forums Committee.

Student organizers said it is a privilege to have Arnett address the campus community.

"The Distinguished Speakers Forum is an excellent opportunity for the entire campus community to be exposed to interesting and informative viewpoints," said Jeff Jeter, Forums Committee chairman and a junior political science and economics double major.

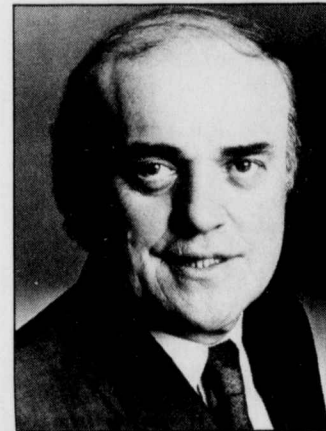
"Arnett has been well received across the country and I look forward to hearing him speak," Jeter said.

"I'm very excited about having Peter Arnett on campus because I think he is going to offer us insight into the Middle East," said Travis Reynolds, a Programming Council sub-chair and a freshman business major.

Arnett was one of three CNN correspondents who reported from Baghdad during the first air strikes of Operation Desert Storm. His reports from Iraq during the war were heard by more than 120 million people in more than 100 countries, according to a news release.

His reports were criticized by several media officials as supplying Iraqi intelligence with too much information about American military movements.

Arnett's firsthand coverage of the Vietnam War won him the Pulitzer Prize in international reporting for the Associated Press. In his 25 years as a reporter, Arnett has been honored by press institutions in Denmark and Italy and received the 1991 Overseas Press Club and Columbia



Peter Arnett

University School of Journalism awards for his Gulf War coverage.

Arnett also won the "Olive Branch" award for his reporting from Moscow from New York University's Center for War, Peace and the News Media.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter has worked in Moscow and Washington, D.C. and is currently CNN's Jerusalem correspondent.

In 1986 Arnett spent four hours in a Soviet jail for reporting the protests of Soviet Jews before the 1986 Washington summit held by Presidents Reagan and Gorbachev.

Programming Council officials said the event may be a sellout.

Reynolds said 1,000 tickets were ordered for the address. As of Wednesday evening, 51 student tickets were sold and 49 remaining.

Student tickets are available at the Student Center Information Desk for \$5 with a student identification card. A limited number of other tickets are available for \$15 at the door.

Jeter said planning to bring Arnett to campus began last semester. Team Bank and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram decided to sponsor Arnett's visit.

"With the anniversary of the Gulf War, Arnett's message will be timely and of interest to everyone," Jeter said.

Art department receives grant to expand lab

By JULIET YATES
TCU Daily Skiff

A wish has been granted for the university art department—a wish worth \$100,000.

The department received a \$100,000 grant from Team Bank Trust to expand its computer laboratory in the Moody Building.

Ten new Macintosh design computers will be installed in the lab for communication graphics purposes, said David Conn, art department chair.

"This has been the highest priority of the department and a high priority of the college and university," Conn

said.

The grant is the largest single gift the department has ever received, he said.

The money for the project came from the Leo Potishman Foundation and the Bryce Memorial Fund, he said.

The enlarged lab will include three laser printers, a color printer, film recorder, video still camera, flatbed scanner, overhead projection plate and fax machine.

The lab is scheduled to be finished in time for the Fall '92 semester, Conn said.

The original grant was proposed in 1989, but the department just

received the gift this year, Conn said.

"Over a four-year period of time we realized our students were handicapped by not having computer literacy," he said.

It is vital for communications graphics majors to have experience with computers before landing a job in the industry, Conn said.

TCU has one of the top three facilities for art in the nation, he said.

One student said the computers will make it easier for students to learn new artistic techniques.

"The Mac is designed for artistic manipulations," said John Lamb, a junior psychology major.

"The computer lab will give TCU

the edge over the competition and will enable TCU to become a true leader in the field of communication graphics," Conn said. "We have become a model for other schools."

The new computers will allow TCU to set up a computer networking system with Notre Dame, Trinity University and the National Academy of Art and Design in Dublin. Students will be able to send their work via fax for critiques from their peers across the world, he said.

The communication graphics program has ranked high in the state and in the nation, mostly because of the outstanding faculty and its award-winning graduates.

Inside

The newest addition to the Skiff, INSIGHT, discusses the problems facing today's youth. INSIGHT explores why youths join gangs in an exclusive interview with ex-gang members. Also included is an in-depth story on throwaway kids.
Starts on page 4

Outside

Today's weather will be partly sunny with a high temperature of 65 degrees.
Friday's weather will be partly sunny with a high of 65 degrees.

Employee's grandchild survives near-deadly blaze, returns home

By ALFRED CHARLES
TCU Daily Skiff

The grandchild of a TCU housekeeper who was injured in a Fort Worth house fire in February has been released from the hospital and is in good condition, a family member said.

Maria Torres' 1-year-old grandchild, Samantha Herrera, was released from Dallas' Parkland Memorial Hospital last Friday. Although doctors did not expect the child to live, Samantha survived after spending three weeks in a coma in the intensive care unit.

"Everybody prayed for Samantha and I'm overjoyed she is okay," Torres said.

The infant was injured in a blaze that gutted her parents' home. She suffered second degree burns on more than 30 percent of her body



Samantha Herrera

with burns on her face, arms and chest.

The family was sleeping when the fire broke out. The blaze also injured

Torres' daughter and son-in-law. They were released from the hospital shortly after the blaze. Samantha has been under medical care since the incident.

Torres said the other family members are pleased that Samantha has recovered and are grateful for the assistance the family has received.

"We give our thanks to the Lord for all those kind-hearted people for their prayers and their good intentions, contributions and most of all for their moral and emotional support," Torres said.

Torres said support from the community helped her family survive this ordeal.

"There is no way to repay all of you for the kindness you showed for my family, my daughter, her husband and her kids," Torres said. "Thanks to all your prayers, my grandbaby Samantha is back with us."

Family receives honor for philanthropy, gifts

By JULIET YATES
TCU Daily Skiff

The longtime benefactor of the TCU Harris College of Nursing was recently honored for 29 years of financial support to minority students.

The Pate family has assisted 49 minority nursing students at TCU through scholarships. Minority students who require financial help and have good grade point averages are eligible, said Patricia Searse, dean of the college of nursing.

"We try our best to give them (the scholarships) to students who will benefit the most," Searse said.

Students who receive the academic scholarships, which pay half of the tuition fee, are chosen through the TCU Dean's office.

The late Aggie M. Pate, Jr., and Serbert L. Pate began the scholarship program for minorities in 1963.

"We try our best to give them (the scholarships) to students who will benefit the most."

PATRICIA SCEARSE,
Dean, college of nursing

The brothers were the chief operating officers of Texas Refinery Corporation for many years, and Aggie Pate served on the Harris College of Nursing's Board of Directors for several years.

Since the death of Aggie Pate, Jr. in 1988, Mr. and Mrs. Serbert Pate have continued the donations in the name of the brothers, Searse said.

The Pate family has made major contributions to minorities in this region, Searse said.

"They have an active interest in minority education," she said.

CAMPUSlines

CAMPUSlines is provided as a service to the TCU community. Announcements of events, meetings and other general campus information should be brought by the Skiff office, Moudy 2915 or sent to TCU Box 32929. The Skiff reserves the right to edit for style and taste.

TCU Student Foundation is looking for excited new members for the 1992-93 academic year. Interested students should pick up an application at the Information Desk or in the Alumni Office. All applications are due no later than Friday, March 27. Contact the Alumni Office at 921-7803.

Air Force ROTC will be holding a 5K Run on March 28, 8 a.m. in Amon G. Carter Stadium. Registration is \$12 before March 14 and \$15 afterwards. Medals will be awarded in each age category and all entrants will be eligible for a post-race drawing. Call 921-7461.

Delta Sigma Pi presents "He Said, She Said," an information session on different management styles according to age and gender. The session is at 4 p.m. March 23 in Dan Rogers Hall Room 136. The meeting is open to the public.

TCU Showgirls Tryouts will be held Saturday, March 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Anyone interested in trying out needs to wear a leotard and tights and meet in the Rickel lobby.

Phi Chi Theta Business Fraternity will meet on March 24 at 5:30 p.m. in Dan Rogers Hall room 140. Open to all business students.

Pre-Law Association the SMU Law School field trip is March 31. To participate, sign up in the Political Science office, Sadler 205, by Friday, March 27.

Codependents Anonymous meeting at 12:30 p.m. each Thursday in Student Center Room 204. The program offers recovery for those who are seeking healthy relationships. Contact University Ministries at 921-7830.

Frog Fest/Siblings Weekend will be held April 3-5, 1992. Information is being sent to parents next week. Contact Recreational Sports, 921-7945.

HELPlines

Volunteers interested in working for the George Bush/Dan Quayle re-election campaign please call George Young at (817) 878-6328.

The Volunteer Center, a service of the United Way, needs volunteers. The Center can be reached at 860-1613 for information about the following or other opportunities.

Volunteers are needed...

...to demonstrate pioneer craft skills at a historic log cabin village in Fort Worth. Training is provided.

...to coordinate and help organize a historical library for a Fort Worth agency. Available from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Needed to work weekdays or on weekends.

...to call people who have requested assistance through a local agency. Social work skills helpful.

...to deliver library materials to home bound people and return previously delivered materials to the library. Available from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Must use own vehicle.

...at a Fort Worth museum to assist with a special hands-on children's "discovery area." Must be available on weekdays and weekends. Training begins in September.

...to assist with a recycling program on the East Side. Help is needed on Saturday mornings to sort the recyclables and help carry them from cars to the recycling area.

...at a local hospital information desk to help admit and dismiss patients, deliver mail and flowers to patients' rooms and give directions to visitors. Shifts are available Monday-Saturday 8:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

...to conduct tours at a local nature center. Lead groups of children and adults through the area and emphasize the ecology of the area and how each person can help preserve the environment.

...to conduct a storytelling session with children while their mothers are waiting for medical services at a Fort Worth community clinic. Must enjoy being with children and be able to interest them in hearing stories.

HIV/ from page 1

effort to make students aware of the increase in HIV-positive students, Terrell said.

The university provides requested speakers to dorms and Greek organizations to talk about safe sex. There is also a video library and informational materials concerning safe sex, Forney said.

TCU's counseling center offers supportive counseling and psychotherapy to students, said Dr. Jack Scott, the center's director.

"Certainly we have seen some anxiety about AIDS among people who have friends who might be infected," Scott said. "We provide training and workshops to deal with AIDS. We are prepared to deal with this problem."

"In Betty Benison's human sexuality class, students come face-to-face with people living with AIDS.

"Last year a man who had AIDS visited our class," said Benison, a professor of health education. "He didn't appear to be that sick, and he seemed happy. Two weeks later he was dead. I think that really had an effect on the class."

One student said the visitors made AIDS look like something more than a statistical disease.

"The people who talked to our class made the situation seem real," said Heather Senn, a TCU senior. "It became emotional and personal when someone says they know they are going to die soon. It really opened my eyes and made me aware of the control I have in avoiding this disease."

There is a greater awareness at TCU because there is an increase in HIV-infected college students, Benison said.

"I think we're convinced that this is everyone's disease," Benison said. "I see people moving from promiscuity to monogamy."

People may be more aware of the problem, but some still shy away from getting tested for the HIV virus.

"I don't want to get an AIDS test done, and I don't want my girlfriends to have one either," said a TCU student who asked to remain anonymous. "If we have it, we have it, and I don't want to know about it."

The risk of AIDS among heterosexuals in Tarrant County is still relatively low, but the statistics are underreported, Bruner said.

"You can't really say that we are doing OK in Tarrant County," Bruner said. "We don't know what goes on during Christmas, summer and spring breaks. TCU students may mix with students at other colleges and expose themselves then."

Paige looks back on her promiscuous days with regret.

Campus Man

by Andrew Deutsch



Insanity Fair

by Joe Barnes



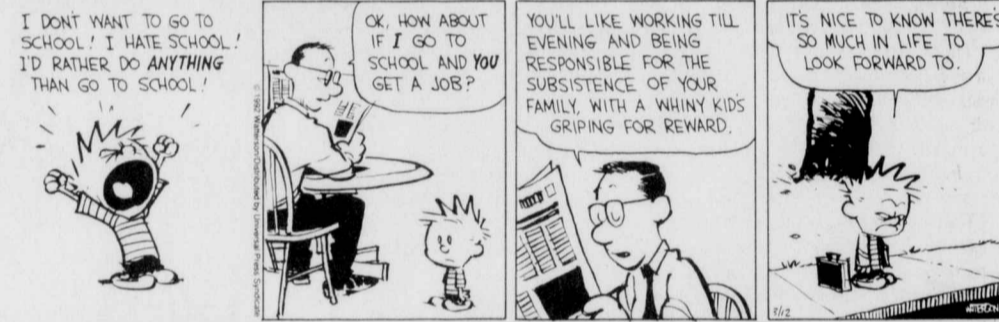
Siege

by Andy Grieser & Kall Loper



Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



"It's ironic that I haven't had sex with my current boyfriend, but he's the one who stuck around," she said. Paige is planning to get married later this year, and she said she is planning on having an HIV test done soon. "I'm scared, but it's something I need to do for my boyfriend and myself."



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For more information, contact the Recreational Sports Department, 921-7945.

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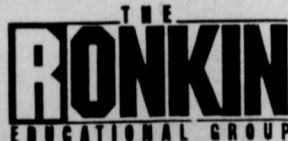
- Discover what law school admission departments are seeking for the '92-'93 school year

Tuesday, March 31 7:30 P.M.

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WE'LL MAKE SURE YOU MAKE IT.

Opinion

TCU Daily Skiff

All-American
newspaper

Associated Collegiate Press

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Letters to the editor

Gun Control

On March 11, Robert Burnett educated this campus with a letter to the editor that in effect stated that the regulation of guns was a policy fit for use by Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin, and therefore it had no business raising its ugly head in the grand, old land of the free, home of the brave (better known as the United States of America). We were told that the restriction of guns has been used by racial supremacists and that the Baltic states are free today, because they kept their guns at their sides. We were told that carrying a gun was a freedom, and we were warned, "Don't be so loose with your freedoms." Mr. Burnett, come out of your cave and into the light.

There is no reason why we should not have gun control. When the Constitution was written, the United States was a land where many depended on hunting for food for their families. It was a nation that needed an armed populace because it had no standing army, only militia to defend it. The founding fathers never envisioned that semiautomatic weapons would become such a part of American society.

No one needs one of these guns. These guns are made for one purpose, to kill people. You don't need a semiautomatic handgun with optional flame-thrower to

hunt jack rabbits, deer, or whatever you feel like killing. But, if you must own one of these weapons, I don't think it is outrageous for you to have to wait two weeks to get one. These waiting periods are for your benefit as well as mine. When a gun is used improperly, that person has lost the right to ever have a gun again. Waiting periods would help keep guns out of the hands of those who don't deserve to have them. Granted, it won't stop those without records, but at the rate violent prisoners are turned out of our prison system, I would feel better knowing they couldn't buy a gun.

Guns are dangerous because people kill people with guns. A gun in a case is no threat to anyone until some fool picks it up. We should license who can pick those guns up, just as we license who drives a car, teaches our children, or builds our highways. Stop wrapping yourself in the words of the Constitution and waving the flag and take a look at what they stand for. I think you'll see a picture without guns. I do.

Scott Force
Junior
History

Police

This letter is in response to an incident which occurred Thursday evening, March 5. The behavior of Campus Police offended my friends greatly and utterly embarrassed me as a TCU student.

My friends and I were standing in front of the Student Center around 5:45 in the evening talking when we were approached by Campus Police and asked to produce identification. After they had verified our IDs and inquired about our plans for the rest of the evening, we were told that if we wanted to continue talking, we would have to either leave campus or go to a student's room because it was "private property." My friends were not in violation of any TCU policy that I am aware of. Otherwise, why would benches and chairs and tables be there?

I understand the need for the protection of students; however, our explanation that two of us were TCU students

and the others were there by our invitation should have sufficed to satisfy any suspicions.

What concerns me most is why we were singled out. I can't help but think it was because my friends were wearing painted leather jackets and combat boots as opposed to more conservative attire. This discrimination has no place at TCU. The exhibition of this behavior by Campus Police reinforces the discrimination of people who don't look like everyone else. I found their behavior rude and uncalled for. As I said earlier, my friends were offended and I was embarrassed. I hope this behavior is not repeated and that a misunderstanding like this will not occur again.

Lisa Dianne Richardson
Sophomore
RTVF

Humor

In reference to Ted Strout's letter to the editor: what is the problem? Do you have ANY idea what cartoon means? Obviously, your sense of humor is lacking. Really, did Andrew Deutsch's cartoon say anywhere, "Hey, this is about Ted!" I don't think so. Mr. Deutsch, I think, was making light of a situation that had definite serious overtones. He made fun of the situation, hence the word cartoon.

I do not particularly believe that women should be the only ones responsible for birth control (Friday, February 28 cartoon), but I did not get all bent out of shape about it. Mr. Deutsch made fun of the tanning issue. As a tanner myself, I found it amusing. In no way did I feel the need to write a hate letter because he

was attacking those who tanned.

Why did I not take these things personally? BECAUSE THEY WERE JOKES!

Keep in mind, IT WAS A CARTOON! Whether you thought it was funny or not is your opinion. I happen to think Mr. Deutsch's cartoons are very funny and a refreshing change to those annoying little squirrels. My advice to you: adjust your attitude and don't get so uptight. Have a sense of humor! And to Mr. Deutsch: congratulations on your place in the *Skiff*. I look forward to reading your cartoons.

Amy Hunt
Sophomore
Elementary Education

Letter policy

The *TCU Daily Skiff* is produced by the students of Texas Christian University, sponsored by the Journalism department and published Tuesday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters except during finals week and holidays.

Unsigned editorials represent the view 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.



Things that make you go hmmm

by
TOM
IVESTER
Columnist



Have you ever wondered why the Independent-Greek relations question is even an issue on this campus? I think the whole thing was made up by the administration to appease the students' need for conflict.

Just how much money does TCU make from parking tickets? We should hold a university wide contest to guess the amount. Whoever wins would get a free tour of our campus police house.

Have you ever noticed that wonderful pond (water-hole, reservoir, etc.) by the intramural fields? I saw a bed floating in it the other day. The real question is, why isn't it stocked with Florida black bass?

"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing." — Helen Keller

I'm tired of people griping about the food service. It's a damn-site better than when I first came to school here. Besides, if you want good food then just wait for a Monday at TCU and load up.

Thoreau said, "For every thousand hacking at the leaves of evil, there is one striking at the root." Linda Moore, a professor in the Sociology department, is truly striking at the root.

By the way, if you want to get to the bottom floor of the Rickel, I hope you're not dis-

abled. If you are then, you need to call ahead. The building doesn't accommodate disabled drop-ins.

The constant question in my mind is a simple one. Does anybody really listen to KTCU?

I think one of the best things TCU has going for it is the Information Desk. You can find almost anything there and the phone is free.

"If a woman hasn't got a tiny streak of harlot in her, she's a dry stick as a rule." — D.H. Lawrence

One word has become synonymous with TCU in my mind — COMMITTEE. As far as I'm concerned, if your not on one, your not a true TCU student.

People seem to complain a great deal about the dating situation here at TCU. I don't understand. If you want a date, just go ask somebody.

My one big regret about TCU is the clear lack of diversity at this university. I feel sorry for myself and the rest of the students for missing out on this experience in university life.

"I don't do favors. I accumulate debts." — Ancient Sicilian Motto

In regards to the theory that we can say nothing that hasn't been said before, I found this one in the closet. "Beauty is only a light switch away," (college joke). "When the candles are out, all women are fair" — Plutarch, Greek Philosopher, 90 A.D.

Almost every significant breakthrough in the field of scientific endeavor is first a break with tradition, with the old ways of thinking. I say it's time we get rid of all the old issues

(ie. campus parking, housing, food service, etc.) and argue over some new ones. At the least, we could form a New Issues Committee to take a look at the situation.

One of the best aspects about TCU is the opportunities that are available. One can do anything from work at the Canadian Embassy in Washington D.C. (a TCU student worked there last fall on an internship) or trade stocks and bonds with over a million dollars in capital with the Educational Investment Fund. The opportunities are out there, one simply has to do it.

Thomas Paine said, "That which we obtain too easily, we esteem too lightly. It is dearness only, which gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price on it goods." A good education is not handed to you when you graduate. You have to work for it.

There are two interrelated questions I have. Will I ever learn the TCU fight song? When will TCU get a fight song I can learn?

I believe too many people think love is only a feeling. Love is first a verb, an action. The feeling, then, is a fruit of that love. Love is something you do: the sacrifices you make, the giving of self. If the feeling is there, that's great; but if it isn't we are still commanded to love. Loving unconditionally is to love even when the feeling is not there.

Just remember this, "To escape criticism, do nothing, say nothing, be nothing." — Elbert Hubbard.

● Tom Ivester is a senior Marketing major from Sayre, Oklahoma.

Magical 21st birthday loses luster

by
ELIZABETH
LUNDAY
Columnist



Turning 21 has legendary status. You're supposed to have orgies of pleasure and manic good times while reveling in cornucopias of alcohol. You're turning 21! People say and then nod knowingly. They know what an incredibly good time you're going to have.

Not. Personally, I went to night class. Really. I didn't revel or have any kind of orgy at all. I did yawn a lot. And I did some great doodling in the margins of my notes. Then I went home and watched "Star Trek."

I open myself up for the charge that I am a boring person. Well. Probably. I don't like to think I'm a boring person. But if you're a far more thrilling person with an exciting life, I can see how you would call my life boring, yes. But that's not the point.

The point is that so often those moments in life that are supposed to be oh so wonderful are often oh so ho-hum. Boring. Nothing to write home about.

Birthdays in particular. I wasn't really surprised that 21 was such a flop because 16 was even more of a downer. My entire childhood I had believed that 16 was the most incredible year ever. Not too old (i.e., 20), not too young (i.e., 10) but just perfect.

Hardly. I went to the mall with my best friend and saw a movie. I don't even remember what movie it was. Ho-hum. Boring.

And what a letdown it was! How I had dreamed of the freedom, excitement and

glamour I would have when I became 16. Freedom? Well, I was allowed to go on dates but I didn't have a boyfriend so it was all rather academic. Excitement? I was at the mall. Big deal. Glamour? I was no more glamorous at 16 than I was at 15. I am no more glamorous now. Maybe when I turn 25 I'll be that fascinating and intriguing person I want to be. But I doubt it.

I think this all begins in childhood when any holiday leads to agonies of excitement. Even Groundhog Day is cause for festivities. Probably the entire issue could be blamed on first grade teachers who make billboards for every day marked on the calendar and put on little festivals and student shows whenever they can.

That's great when you're five. But when you're older, you still have this unrealistic expectation that every holiday will be simply incredible.

Take Christmas. I recall a particular Christmas when the thrill of visiting cousins, a three-story doll house and a plate of sugar cookies was just too much for me and I spent Christmas night completely ill in the bathroom. I was still happy, though.

But I grew older, as people are wont to do. One Christmas morning I actually slept late, failing for the first time to rise at dawn to jump on my parent's bed and complain that they weren't up yet. Pain would stab me suddenly as I looked around the table and saw my family trying to maintain a facade of holiday joy as my grandfather slipped into senility and death.

So, the moments that are supposed to be so incredibly wonderful often aren't. Holidays can be downright depressing. Birthdays mean you're getting older. Turning 21 doesn't make me glamorous; turning 16 didn't make me exciting.

But yet, that's too simple and far too

depressing. The holidays may not be stunning; the birthdays may not be thrilling. But an average day may be breathtaking.

Graduation night followed the tradition of my life. I remember I went to Braums with a friend and had a caramel and pecan sundae. But it didn't matter that it wasn't the most stunning night of my life. Because a few weeks before, some friends and I had, on the spur of the moment, taken a box of fireworks purchased the summer before and driven to a private spot on Lake Worth.

We shot off a million different kinds of fireworks: loud ones and sparkly ones, fireworks that sputtered and hissed on the ground and fireworks that bubbled and glowed underwater. One hung on the branch of the tree and spun around while shooting out sparks. When the shooting stopped, a red and gold miniature Japanese pagoda hung from the branch, gently swinging in the wind.

Then we drove home through the dark, still night. All of the songs on the radio were heavy with special significance. Several of us fell asleep in the back seat and we dozed down the endless roads and up, into the sky.

All of those nights that were supposed to be busy with creation of memories — graduation, prom and the like — I can hardly remember them. But that one golden evening, the fireworks shot blue and green light through the dark lake waters and Japanese pagoda swayed scarlet and gold on the branches of a high oak.

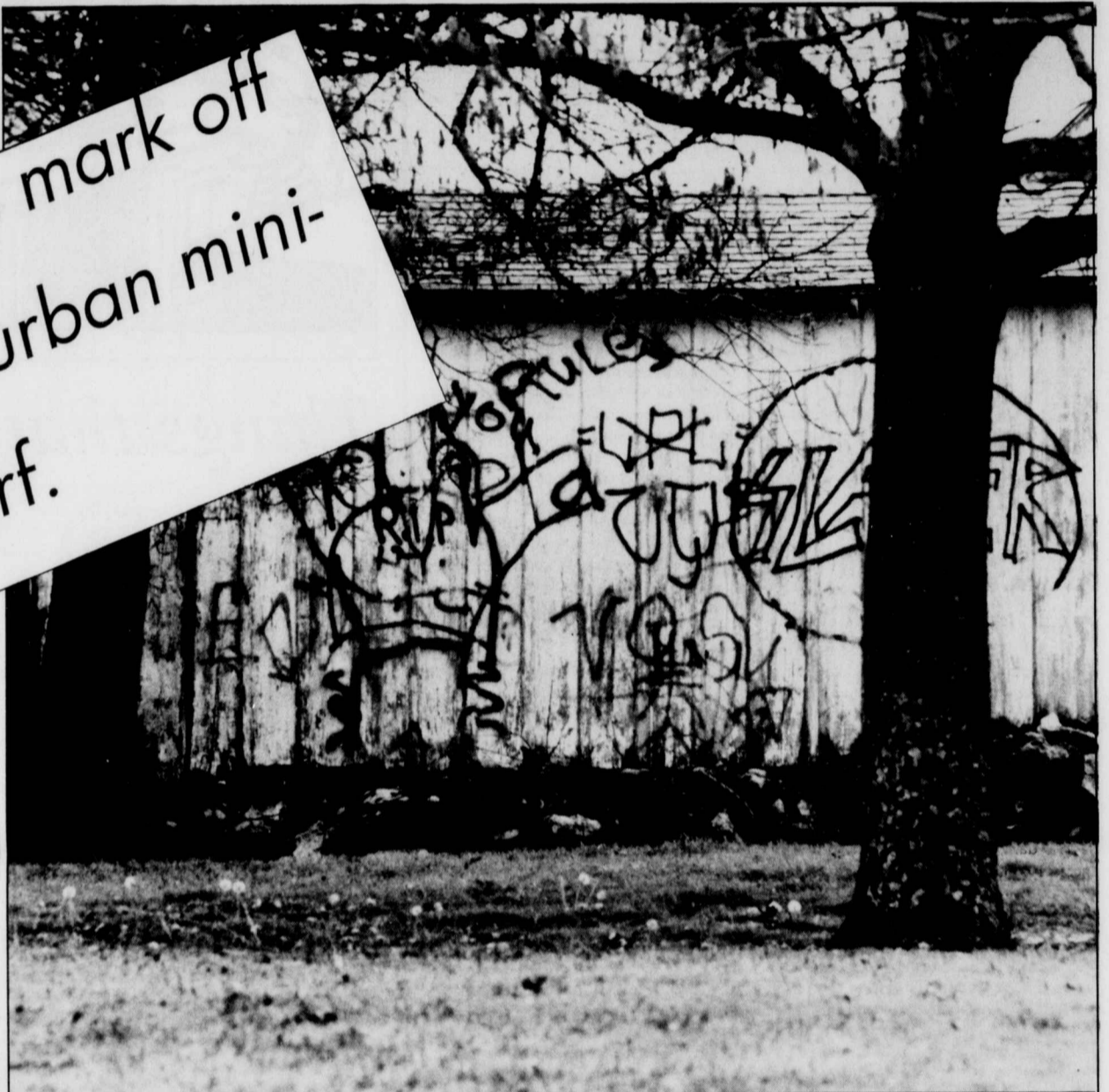
It doesn't matter if my 21st or 16th or 18th birthdays were ho-hum, boring, nothing to write home about. Because those rare, wonderful nights when everything goes right make up for it all.

● Elizabeth Lunday is a junior Advertising/Public Relations major from Fort Worth, Texas.

INSIGHT

GANGS

Spray-painted slogans mark off claimed territory as urban mini-armies battle for turf.



By JOE LATTANZI
Insight Writer

He was only 14 years old when he was accused of trying to murder a man during a robbery in Fort Worth last year.

He showed no remorse after he was arrested. He demanded a newspaper so that he could read about his latest criminal exploit.

He was proud of his criminal record, which included eight other crimes.

The boy was one example of the juvenile gang members who commit violent crimes in Tarrant County, said Melissa Everett, a Fort Worth police gang crime specialist, as she described him.

"When I interviewed him, he told me that he adored the movie 'Scarface,'" Everett said. "When I asked him if he wanted to be a criminal like Scarface, he said no. He wanted to be rich like Scarface."

The boy became a statistic in Fort Worth police files shortly after his 10th birthday, said Lt. Craig Slayton, head of the Fort Worth Police Department's juvenile section.

"He started as a runaway," Slayton said. "We've recorded 29 offenses against him since his 10th birthday. He's been accused of 10 of them, including arson, robbery and attempted murder."

Juvenile gang activity in Tarrant County is becoming a serious problem, according to an October 1991 Tarrant

County Citizens Crime Commission report. Violence has become a common factor in juvenile crimes, the report added.

"Gangs are liable to strike anywhere and at any time because of their mobility," said Sgt. Rick Andrews, a Texas Department of Public Safety criminal intelligence specialist. "Gangs are like scavenger animals. They'll go after anything, sometimes for money, sometimes for kicks."

Gang crimes in Fort Worth varied from petty offenses to capital murder, according to Fort Worth police statistics.

The police recorded 717 gang-related crimes during fiscal year 1988-1989. The crimes included 16 murders and 149 attempted murders.

The police recorded 637 gang-related crimes during the first six months of fiscal year 1989-1990. These crimes included 17 murders, 44 attempted murders, 96 drug violations and 36 drive-by shootings. The total property loss related to these crimes exceeded \$1 million.

The poverty-stricken conditions in many of the nation's inner cities have created a permanent "underclass," according to a June 1991 Texas Attorney General's report. Drug use, drug trafficking, broken families, poor education and lack of job opportunities among this underclass breeds gangs and gang crime, the report said. "The kids don't have a lot of options," said Joe Cor-

dova, director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Fort Worth. "When they're offered \$500 to \$1000 a week to sell drugs, it's hard for them to turn it down."

There's no easy answer as to why gang life attracts juveniles, said Patsy Thomas, the Tarrant County Citizens Crime Commission gang coordinator.

"I see two major causes," she said. "Mom went back to work and drugs, particularly crack cocaine. Gang crime rose dramatically in the mid-1980s when crack appeared. With the easy money and the breakdown of the family, kids are getting their value training on the streets."

Crimes associated with the underclass victimize all races and ethnic groups, the crime commission report said. Gangs are a social problem that isn't limited to ethnic groups.

"Gangs are a place to belong for kids no matter what their race," said Karen Spillman, co-director of Truce, a YMCA gang intervention program. "Gangs give them a sense of family."

The number of juvenile gangs in Tarrant County varied from non-existent in White Settlement, Azle and Colleyville to a growing and increasingly serious problem in Fort Worth and Haltom City, police officials said.

The Tarrant County crime commission report said 210 identified gangs exist in Tarrant County with as many as 2,861 members. The number doesn't include an estimated 5,000 fringe members. The average age of most juvenile gang members varied from 12 to 17 years old.

"Of these gangs, about 122 are active today," said Sgt. Jesse Hernandez, head of the Fort Worth Police Department's gang intelligence unit. "There are a reported 116 gangs on the city's north side. Most of these gangs are Hispanic."

Hispanic gangs are primarily territorial, and gang rivalries often end in drive-by shootings, according to the Tarrant County crime commission report. Hispanic gangs are becoming more profit-oriented. Gang initiations often include assaults, auto thefts and burglaries, the report said.

Black gangs are concentrated on Fort Worth's east side, where they run the crack cocaine trade like a big business, according to the report. Violent black gangs like the Los Angeles-based Crips and the Bloods have found Tarrant County a lucrative place for drug trafficking and use violence as an enforcement tool, the report said.

Asian gangs based in Haltom City are just as vicious as the Crips and the Bloods, the crime commission report said. Asian gangs terrorize the Asian community with home invasions. They smash their way into a home, brutalize the residents and commit rape and robbery. Some parts of Tarrant County are used as "safe house" locations for travelling Asian gang members, the report said.

About six Asian gangs are based in Haltom City and about three to four in Fort Worth, said Detective Charles Beltram, head of the Haltom City Police Storefront and an expert in Asian crime.

"They are dangerous, violence-prone people with national connections," Beltram said. "Overall, Tarrant County is becoming a favorite haunt for Asian gangsters."

Accurate statistics about Asian gangs are impossible to collect because Asians are usually afraid to report crimes, Beltram said. Asians traditionally distrust and fear the police and government authority, he said.

People tend to think of juvenile gang members as Hispanic, black or Asian because of movie and media stereotyping, said Boys and Girl Clubs Director Joe Cordova.

Yet white supremacist youth gangs have been involved in racially-motivated harassment and murders in Tarrant County, including a drive-by shooting in Arlington in June.

White supremacist youth gang members come from all classes of society. Many of them are middle class and some have affluent backgrounds, yet they share common factors with other juvenile gang members such as low self-esteem and a sense of family in gang membership, the report said.

Neo-Nazi "skinheads" are the most active white supremacist youth gangs in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, according to a 1990 B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League report. Two Dallas-based skinhead gangs and one Arlington-based gang have been identified, the ADL report said.

Some Tarrant County communities won't admit they have a gang problem, said DPS Sgt. Rick Andrews. The attitude in some of the communities is a serious problem because they won't devote resources to confront the gang problem, he said.

Arlington was "conspicuous among the ten largest cities (in Texas) reporting no gangs," according to a Texas Attorney General's report.

An Arlington deputy police chief told the city council that the city's gang problem was "in its infancy," according to a Feb. 2 Fort Worth Star-Telegram story. The news story giving the chief's comment and the figures showing 158 known gang members and about 200 to 500 "wannabes" in Arlington was correct, said Officer Dee Anderson, Arlington police media relations officer.

The Tarrant County Citizens Crime Commission report defined "wannabes" as juveniles who are on the fringes of gangs but call themselves gang members.

The lack of a common definition for what constitutes a gang prevents an accurate assessment of gangs and gang-related crime.

"Gang colors and the graffiti they use varies," said Fort Worth police Sgt. Jesse Hernandez. "The gangs no longer have a set pattern on how they identify themselves like they did years ago. It makes them harder to track."

The participation of children in violent gang crimes is another reason why it's difficult to accurately identify

See Gangs, page 7

GANG-RELATED CRIMES IN FORT WORTH FISCAL YEAR STATISTICAL DATA

	86-87	87-88	%Change	88-89	%Change	89-90
Murder	14	11	+21.4%	16	+45.5%	17
Attempted Murder	24	36	+50.0%	149	+313.9%	44
Rape	4	7	+75.0%	7	0	3
Robbery	32	21	-34.4%	35	+66.7%	32
Assault	50	35	-30.0%	51	+45.7%	61
Burglary	26	52	+100.0%	84	+61.5%	62
Auto Theft	NM	NM	—	70	—	36
Other	190	264	+38.9%	305	+15.5%	382
Total	340	426	+25.3%	717	+68.3%	637

NM - Not Maintained. Auto thefts during these years were included in "other."

Source: City of Fort Worth

Insight is a special investigative supplement to the *Skiff*. The **Insight** staff is:

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Life on the inside

By LISA YONCO
 Insight Writer

Editor's note: Joe Lattanzi and Lisa Yonco interviewed five ex-gang members at a youth center in northeast Fort Worth. Their names have been changed to protect their anonymity. This is Lisa's account of the interview.

Fluorescent parking lot lights shine through the tinted windows of the dance studio. Mirrors with hairline cracks on the edges line the far wall. Five young men speaking Spanish sit at a corner table eating pizza we brought for them.

Occasionally one or two of the youths would look over, catch my eye and quickly turn away. They look down while they eat. They creep over to the pizza boxes and sneak another slice, almost as if they were afraid we might want it back.

These five are lucky ones. They are part of the few who have escaped.

The young men had moved to the table opposite us when Harvey, one of the supervisors at the center, convinced them we were there to talk to them, not to ourselves. Slowly, they entrusted us, let us in to what their world is like. They told us stories about shootings, getting jumped and little kids carrying guns.

"If you mess with little kids they'll shoot you," says Tomas, a 17-year-old ex-gang member.

Tomas says he didn't think he would live to be 18.

"I'm not in gangs any more," says Little Man, an 18-year-old who was shot in the leg by rival gang members when he was 16.

"I got out because I changed myself," he says proudly, boasting his escape.

Little Man got his nickname when he was still in a gang. He was the smallest boy in the gang. Other gang members used to put him through open windows of stores so he could get inside and take whatever supplies they needed.

His dark brown hair reaches to his lower neck. He has an inch-long curved scar under his right eye.

"I was walking around by myself, and I got jumped," he says, explaining the scar. "I was 16."

Little Man lives with his family in one of

those neighborhoods parents warn their children not to go near. The buildings down the street are covered with graffiti boasting the names of some of the 80 or so gangs that call the north side their turf.

Pink, yellow and white letters cover the side of a tiny shed-sized structure outside the center. Letters like VLL, VPP and VIX decorate the sides of garages and abandoned buildings, marking off gang-claimed territory.

Little Man has two older brothers, both of whom were in gangs and both of whom were shot by gang members.

"One of my brothers was shot in the hand and the other in the neck," he says. "But they are still alive."

Just a handful have escaped, but they take with them the scars and memories of life on the other side of the law. Gangs are overtaking the minority communities and are rapidly moving into Anglo communities. They are only a few blocks from the university at Paschal High School. A visit to Wendy's or Kentucky Fried Chicken can bring one face-to-face with knife-toting or gun-carrying teens.

As we sit in fear and tremble at reports on television about gang violence in the area, we are asked to forgive this handful of teens who have escaped.

"I want to go to the college and see the campus," says Beetlejuice, another ex-gang member who laughs and insists that he doesn't know why they call him that.

Beetlejuice says he wants to go to college and "major in something," but he is not sure what. He graduated from high school last year.

Of the five youths at the table, at least two want to go to college. They share all sorts of bonds: they all speak fluent Spanish, they are all ex-gang members, and they all want to make lots of money.

"I would like to be rich," Beetlejuice says as he leans back in a black plastic chair.

Gangs are not a crisis isolated to the north side or Fort Worth. Gang violence has erupted all over the world.

Chico, 16, says he used to run with gangs when he lived in Mexico.

Today, there are Hispanic gangs, black gangs, Asian gangs and white gangs. There are gangs of females and black gangs with

Ex-gang members speak out about the horrors of the past and their hopes for the future

white members. No race or sex is immune to the lure of the gangs.

"Gang members get more attention from the gangs than from their families," says Toby, another supervisor at the center. "Their gang is their family."

Toby is an ex-gang member, but he says that was in "another life." He talks about the kids and then veers off and tells us about his gang experiences. He catches himself and turns back to the kids.

Toby is the kind of man who evokes admiration without realizing it. He talks about the center like it is his home, the guys like they are his own children. Toby, Rebecca and Harvey — the supervisors — all want help at the center.

One can't resist Tomas's eyes when he looks at you and says he wants to be shown around the university campus. One can hardly ignore Ricardo, who peeks in the windows of the dance studio throughout the interview.

Ricardo, Rebecca and Toby tell me, gets As and Bs in school, but he refuses to read or write. Ricardo came and talked to me after the interview was over. He told me he knew all the gangs in the area and would make a list of them for me while he was in school the next day.

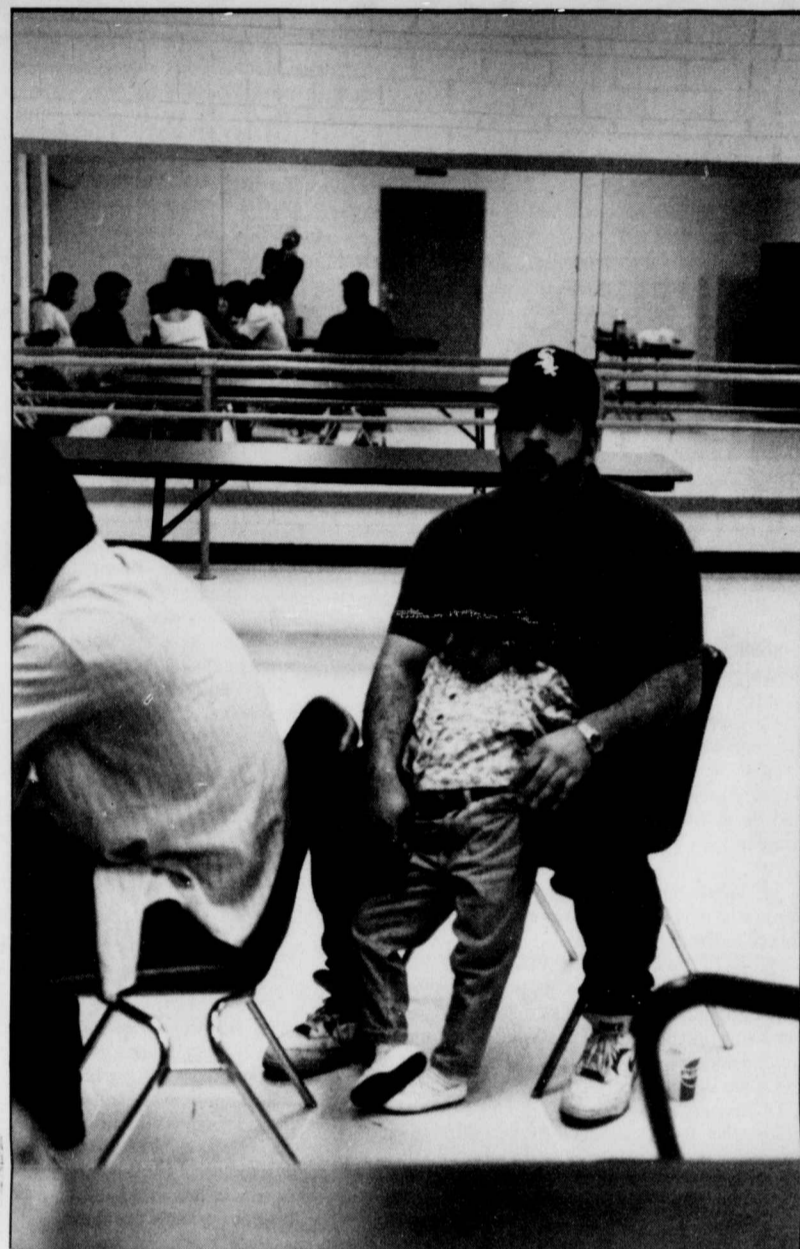
Toby briefed us before the boys came in, to prepare us for what they would be like. He gave us tips on how to handle them.

"They don't want bullshit," he said. "They'll take care of you if you take care of them."

Simply by sitting, talking and — most importantly — listening, we befriended the boys. Miguel and Chico can't speak English well enough to converse with us, but Tomas translates. Miguel tells me he wants to have a good job and make money. He looks about 18 or 19, like someone I went to high school with. He is 27 and makes \$8 an hour working construction.

I found myself split by talking with these boys: how easy to close my mind and ignore them, but just as easy to be captivated by their sincerity, to believe their confessions and want to reach out and help.

"I want to pass the GED so I can go to college," Little Man says. "I want you to help me pass."



Harvey and his daughter

Photo: Jessica Mann

Teens use gang life to escape a variety of problems

By JOE LATTANZI
 Insight Writer

She hit another girl over the head with a lead pipe just before she was institutionalized.

Her violent act brought her to the attention of school authorities. They found that she constantly defied her parents and hated her home.

She told her counselors that her home life was empty and cold though she lived with eight to 10 relatives.

These factors almost drove her into being a hard-core gang member.

The 14-year-old girl is now a resident of Lena Pope Home, a privately-owned adolescent psychiatric treatment and counseling center in Fort Worth.

"She desperately wants to live with an aunt," said Ted Blevins, Lena Pope Home executive director. "Her aunt's home is structured. In her own home, no one pays attention to her. She's lost in her own home."

The girl exemplifies the need for many gang members to identify with someone and their feelings of inadequacy, Blevins said.

"They're lost and empty," he said. "They've given up on life."

Gang affiliation is a symptom of the many social ills that plague much of today's youth, an October 1991 Texas Attorney General's report said. The reasons why juveniles gravitate toward gang life are many. Some of the reasons include poverty, low self-esteem, unsupervised time, no ethical and value system in the home and lack of parental interest.

The basic cause of the gang problem is economic, said Victor Herrera, director of the City of Fort Worth's Northside Multi-Purpose Center and Northside Code: Blue Program.

"The economy is killing us," Herrera said. "The middle class is steadily shrinking. Middle class people are swelling the ranks of the poor. In 10 to 15 years, we'll have only the rich and the poor."

All the traditional avenues the poor used to escape from poverty are closed because of the state of the economy, he said.

"The army used to be a way to success for some of the kids," Herrera said. "It's not open to them anymore. The poor want what the rich have. The only avenue they have left is to take what they want."

Gang life and profits of crime provide many of today's disadvantaged youth with money, the necessities of life and a sense of belonging far beyond the monetary gain, the attorney general's report said.

The advertising methods used to market products that appeal to today's youth have an enormous effect on gang members and youth in general, Herrera said.

"The ads imply that a kid is out if he doesn't have the product," he said. "The kid is nothing. Their need to belong, to identify with something, and lack of money drives them to take the product from someone who has it."

The large number juvenile thefts of starter or coaches' jackets and expensive tennis shoes in Fort Worth is a good example of the power of the press over the city's disadvantaged youth, he said.

Gangs primarily originate in what sociologists call the "underclass," according to the Attorney General's report. The underclass represents a segment of society who are not only poor, but chronically poor and disadvantaged.

Middle class goals and aspirations are virtually unattainable for the underclass youth. Gang members tend to come from underclass families plagued by prolonged economic decline rather than temporary hardship. Children from these families face a bleaker future than their parents, the report said.

Underclass families burdened by poverty and a home environment plagued by alcohol and drug abuse produces many gang members because they have no where else to go, said Joe Cordova, executive director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Fort Worth.

Gang membership is limited to specific ethnic groups, said Blevins.

"The need to belong and the poverty level are the same for white kids in gangs," he said. "The hurt is the same, and they show the same emptiness like other kids in similar situations. A gang is a substitute parental role model for many of them."

The socioeconomic factors that lead to gang affiliation in the Asian community mirror those of other parts of Fort Worth, said Terry Craig, director of the Haltom City gang intervention program. The problems Asian youths face are compounded by other conditions, she said.

"Many Asian gang members are Amerasian," Craig said. "Being the children of American servicemen, they were outcasts

in Vietnam. They weren't allowed to associate with other Vietnamese, much less get an education. Many arrived in the U.S. unable to read or write. Illiteracy, language barriers, cultural differences, all make them prime candidates for the Vietnamese gangs."

Some juveniles join gangs for the most basic reason, said Karen Spillman and Chris Houston, co-directors of Truce, YMCA's gang intervention program.

"They join for the protection the gang affords," Spillman and Houston said. "They don't want to get beat up by other gang members."

Some community service and youth agencies are attempting to confront the gang problem with traditional prevention and intervention methods, Herrera said. Burdened by tradition, the agencies are attempting to solve gang issues long after they have become problems, he said.

"The gangs have to be treated like a business," he said. "We have to compete with them and go out on streets and get their prime assets, the at-risk kids, the new recruits."

Community service and youth agencies must look beyond the traditional prevention and intervention methods and take their services directly into the neighborhood dominated by the gangs, an October 1991 Tarrant County Citizens Crime Commission report said.

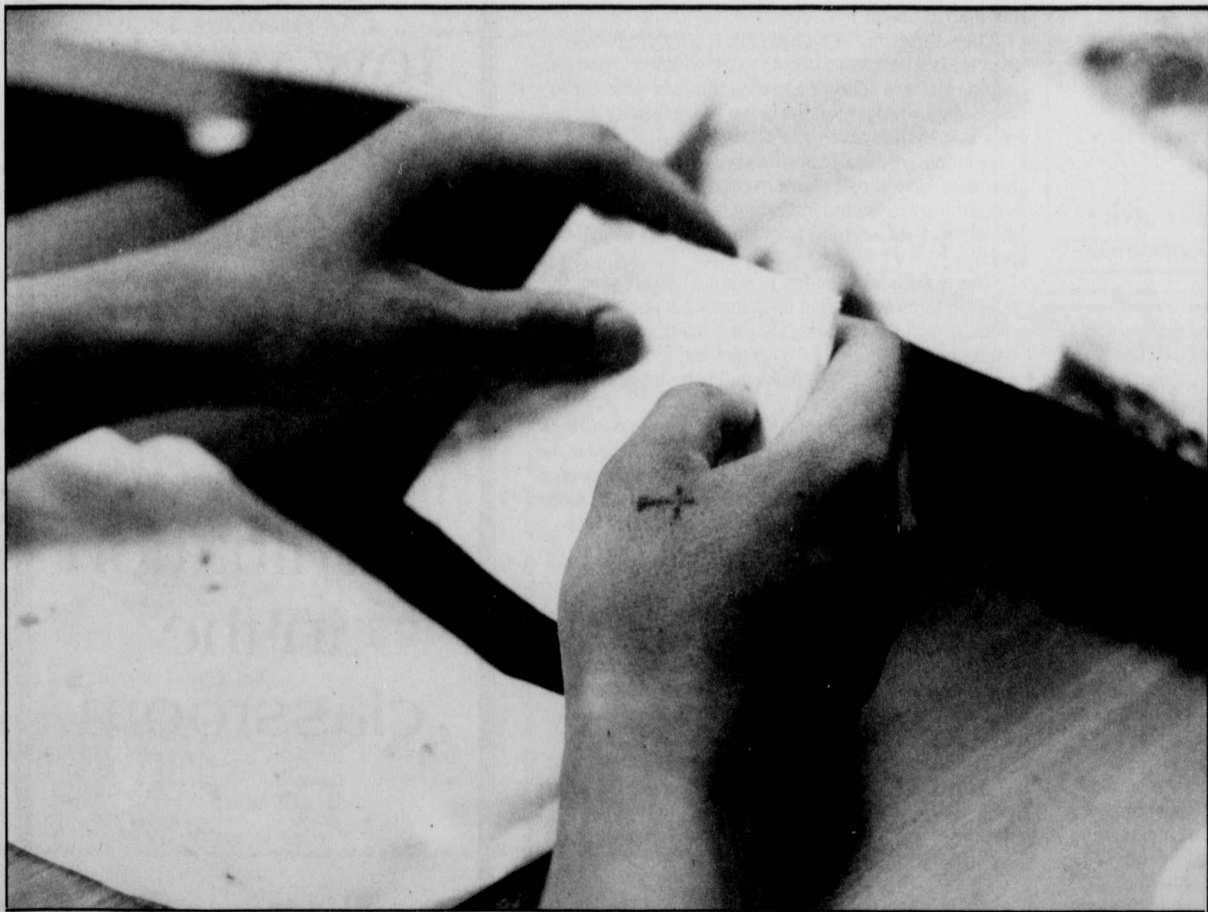
"We need to cut all the avenues of approach leading to the cesspool, the drug business, that breeds gangs," Herrera said. "We need to be out there cutting those avenues and redirecting the kids who aren't hard-core gang members. Once they get into the gangs, it's almost too late."

Some of the traditional youth service agencies and organizations are failing to meet the needs of the juveniles most likely to become gang members, Blevins said.

"The Boy Scouts and similar outreach programs don't seem to work," he said. "They're not geared to the needs of the kids who wind up in gangs. The kids feel completely inadequate because of economic and class differences. They feel they don't belong in these groups."

Many gang members and their associated crave adult authority and an adult role model, Blevins said. Some juvenile outreach programs make the mistake of using youthful counselors and leaders, he said. They don't fully understand that the juveniles in their care desperately need parental substitutes,

See Causes, page 7



Little Man fiddles with paper as he talks to reporters

Photo: Jessica Mann

Teen-age throwaways face troublesome times living Out on the street

By LISA YONCO
Insight Writer

Kathryn, not her real name, is wearing an orange Express shirt and jeans but no shoes. She has long brown hair and a tan complexion. She left without her shoes and without her pet rat.

Her mother moved a few weeks ago; Kathryn doesn't know where.

Kathryn, 17, was thrown out of her home with only the clothes she was wearing and her school books.

Her story is similar to that of a number of other teens. They may know where their parents are. They may have taken more of their possessions with them. But they were all thrown out of their homes.

These teens are not part of a strange unfamiliar culture living in a foreign land. They are from the same neighborhoods in which some students at this university grew up. Some may have gone to the same schools with them, stood in cafeteria lines with them, went to football games and parties with them.

Somewhere along the way, these teens fell out of the picture.

They dropped out of school and disappeared from the neighborhoods.

Now, they are living under interstate overpasses or in the burnt-out shells of old apartment buildings. The lucky ones find temporary shelter in the homes of their friends.

Throwaways, the new generation of runaways, are teens who have been thrown out of their homes and forced to live on the streets.

"They (throwaways) are someone whose family has stated verbally or through some action that they just don't want them anymore," said Patrick McGee, systems superintendent of Texas Youth Community, a juvenile department of corrections center for girls.

Of the 18 girls presently in the Willoughby House at TYC, five are runaways, McGee said. But TYC, like many other centers and shelters don't differentiate between those teens who chose to leave and those who were forced out — those who were thrown away.

Unless the children have actually committed crimes, they cannot be placed in a detention center, McGee said. TYC is not a place for parents to put their children if they have are having trouble with them, he said.

Many of the teens living on the streets have not committed crimes. Many are living on the streets because

"Sixteen is about the oldest practical age where we (the Christ's Haven staff) can do anything to help. In nine years we haven't had a 17-year-old who has stayed the entire six months. Realistically, making them live in this sort of environment is not the best option."

KAREN SAMPSON,
Counselor at
Christ's Haven for Children
in Fort Worth

they simply have no choice. They just can't go home anymore.

Most of the children leave their homes because of family problems, said Karen Sampson, a counselor at the Christ's Haven for Children in Fort Worth.

The haven accepts children ages 5 to 18 (or up to high school seniors) for a period of six months or more and provides housing, education, clothing, meals and Christian spiritual care and discipline. Of the runaways housed at Christ's Haven, 30 to 40 percent are throwaways, she said.

Either the children can't get along with their parents, or they just have a communication problem, she said.

"Parents have usually put up with the children until they can't take them anymore," Sampson said. "They see no other alternative but to let them go."

Once these children are on the streets, they are forced to find not only clothing and food but also shelter and employment on their own. The most essential thing for them to find is a permanent residence. If they don't have a permanent address, they can't enroll in school and they can't find jobs.

"All they have are obstacles," said an Arlington woman who has provided shelter and care for four throwaways, including Kathryn, in the last year. "They have no transportation to their jobs if they have jobs, no transportation to school. They become totally isolated and totally helpless. They can't eat, and they can't mature."

Kathryn and two other throwaways the Arlington family provided shelter for went to high school with the family's youngest child.

Most of the children she has met who are out on the streets are from middle-class and upper-middle-class families living in comfortable communities in Arlington and Fort Worth, she said.

The children on the streets face many of the same problems as homeless and unemployed adults face. The only difference is the children who are nearing the age of 18 don't have very many options, because of state laws that restrict where they can live.

The Human Services Department restricts child-care and housing facilities to housing only those under the age of 18.

If they are over 18, they have to go to adult homeless shelters, since it is illegal to have unrelated adults (who aren't working for the facility) living with children, said Kelly Smith, outreach coordinator for the Welcome House in Arlington, another shelter for homeless children.

Few of the shelters will accept older teens because they feel once they have reached a certain age little can be done to help them.

"Sixteen is about the oldest practical age where we (the Christ's Haven staff) can do anything to help," Sampson said. "In nine years we haven't had a 17-year-old who has stayed the entire six months. Realistically, making them live in this sort of environment is not the best option."

As a result, children between the ages of 16 and 18 are usually forced out into the streets to live on their own until they turn 18 and can move into the adult homeless shelters.

The teens have no options at this point and must find alternate means to survive, which can mean dealing drugs or prostitution.

The throwaways have usually been through every situation imaginable, including sexual abuse by a parent, drug abuse or mental abuse. The teens are usually victims of dysfunctional families who are suffering through separations, divorces or other unstable situations.

Once the throwaways do find shelter, they need help with basic chores like laundry and cooking, which the Arlington woman said she and her family try to help with.

After Kathryn moved in with the family, she went back to her house to get her pet rat.

"I stole it back," she said. "It was the first thing I have ever stolen in my life."

The woman and her family have helped her care for the rat and have paid for veterinary care for it, she said.

"The problem is you begin to care for these children," she said. "They become an emotional part of your family and that is difficult when your family is dealing with its own problems."

The children are in a difficult position because they think they have no place to go so they take whatever they can find, the Arlington woman said. They don't watch television or read the newspapers, so it is impossible to get in touch with them and let them know there is a place for them to turn, she said.

"All they really need is parents," she said.

The few who have gone through counseling programs often find themselves labeled as manic depressive, which opens a new set of problems for these

"My mother does whatever he (my step-father) tells her to do, so I can't go back home."

"KATHRYN,"
a throwaway

children, the woman said.

"They are labeled by counselors and then by society," she said. "The signs of psychological illness are manageable. Anyone raised in such a chaotic household like most of these children are bound to have some emotional problems."

What's worse about the situation is that while these children are labeled and left out on the streets without any options or rights, their parents aren't labeled as anything — nothing happens to them, the Arlington woman said.

The blame on the parents is usually minimal, although there are some incidents when it is clearly the parent's influence that has driven the children to this point, McGee said.

"Mostly it is a communication problem," Smith said. "They (parents and children) just don't know how to talk to each other anymore. It is never just the kid's fault, but they are always the ones who suffer."

There are some programs designed especially for runaway teens. The Welcome House is working on starting peer groups, mall programs and community centers where the children can get together and talk about things before they go too far, Smith said.

Several places provide emergency shelter for homeless teens, like the Bridge in Fort Worth. But these

places will only allow the teens to stay for a few weeks and then they are out on their own.

Most shelters lump runaways and throwaways in to the same category — homeless teens. They fail to realize, however, that throwaways do not have the option of going back home as some runaways do. Once the shelters make them leave they are forced back on to the streets to again look for shelter.

Kathryn said she told her mother she wanted to come back home but her step-father said she couldn't. "My mother does whatever he (her step-father) tells her to do," she said, "so I can't go back home."

The Arlington woman said the children need more than just a place to live. She said they also need the care, nurturing and love only a parent can give.

"The only solution lies in a change of attitude of what the family is today," she said. "Society has changed its attitudes about drunk driving and drug use, and now they need to change their attitudes about the responsibility of parents. They are responsible for raising their children."

The woman has often had to deal with the parents of the children who have come to stay with her. After calling the shelters, schools and churches, she often finds there is no other option but to get in touch with the parents and go from there, she said.

"Parents are usually accusatory," she said. "They feel they have to offer lame excuses that don't hold any weight. I try to be understanding, but in the end I know the child is not going to get support or help from their parents."

The woman said she has to remind herself when she takes in throwaways that no matter what she does for them, it won't cure them. They are really just "good but damaged kids" looking for a home and looking for love and a parent-figure to care for and help them, she said.

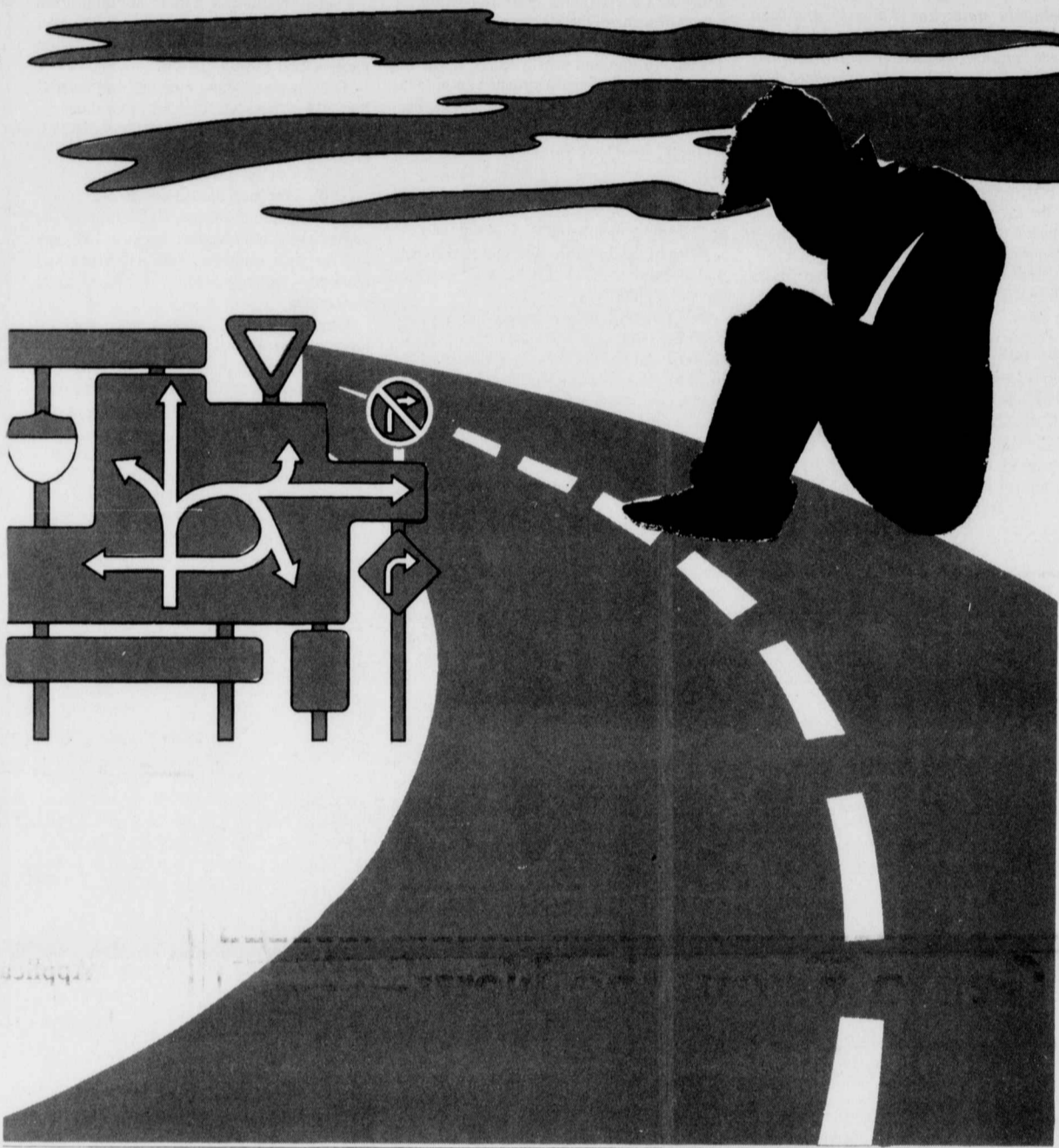
The nightmare of the throwaways, unfortunately, doesn't ever end. According to a study published in the *Social Service Review* in June 1991, "as a consequence of socialization both at home and on the streets, chronic runaways might be expected to have a difficult time adjusting to conventional adult roles."

The study supported the theory that many chronic runaways grow up to become homeless adults. As adults, they tend to show higher rates of criminal behavior, substance abuse and "other forms of deviant behavior than the homeless characterized by culturally normative childhoods," according to the study.

The study also did not differentiate between throwaways and runaways.

Too many of the agencies treat teenage throwaways — especially those near the age of 18 — as low priorities, the Arlington woman said. Even those who are willing to help are so overworked that they don't have the time to help them, she said.

The plight of the homeless adults and children cannot be solved overnight, the woman said. The shel-



Check the Skiff again in a few weeks for the next issue of **INSIGHT**, covering sexual discrimination in the classroom

Gangs/ from page 4

gang members, the crime commission report said. Older gang members are recruiting 7-year-old children to sell drugs and commit other crimes, the report said. The children insulate older gang members from arrest and identification, the report said.

Forty-four young gang members are being held in the Tarrant County juvenile detention center accused of crimes ranging from minor theft to attempted murder, said Jerry Wood, assistant director of Tarrant County's Juvenile Services.

"Their ages vary from 10 to 16 years old," Wood said. "Some of them are habitual offenders. Four of them are girls. One is an 11-year-old boy who was arrested with a MAC-10 submachinegun in his possession."

Juvenile gang crime is no longer just a law enforcement problem, Andrews said. The problem starts in the family and parents must do everything possible to prevent their children from being influenced by gangs, he said.

The root of the gang problem lies in the failure of parents to educate their children in the dangers of gang life, Hernandez said.

"Parents don't pay enough attention to their kids," he said. "Kids today have a poor self-image and no viable alternatives to the gangs. The gang problem is a result of the failure of our society. We're paying the consequences for that failure."

The Crime Commission report said the cost to house one juvenile offender in a Texas Youth Commission facility in 1988 was \$93 a day. The daily cost amounted to \$33,945 a year.

No local or state medical agency maintains precise figures on the deaths and injuries caused by gang-related crime in Tarrant County, said Johnny Humphreys, public information specialist for the Fort Worth Health Department. There is no central data bank in Texas or accepted procedure for documenting or reporting injuries or deaths caused by gang-related crime, he said.

"Kids today have a poor self-image and no viable alternatives to gangs. The gang problem is a result of the failure of our society. We're paying the consequences for that failure."

SGT. JESSE HERNANDEZ,
Fort Worth Police Department

"We simply don't know if patient injuries are related to gang crime," said Drenda Witt, public information officer for John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth. "We leave that to the police. The need to care for the patient outweighs the cause of the injury."

A Texas Committee on Economic Development report said many juvenile gang programs are expensive, but for every dollar spent for gang intervention and prevention, \$4.75 is saved in the cost of remedial education, welfare and crime in the

future.

The cost to Tarrant County will get worse because the gangs are becoming more mobile, much more violent and are driven by the lure of money, Andrews said.

"Unless the whole community gets involved, we'll be up to eyeballs in gang-related crime within 10 years," he said. "Gang crime will escalate unless something is done to stop the ease with which gangs commit crimes."

The Tarrant County District Attorney's office is developing proposed legislation that will stiffen penalties for gang-related crime, he said.

The gang problem requires a community-wide intervention effort by all agencies that deal with juveniles, said Truce co-director Karen Spillman.

"One of our kids said a gang is a place to go when your family and no one else wants you," said Chris Houston, Truce co-director and a former Chicago gang member. "Kids are going to die more often on the streets because gangs have easy access to guns, even grenades and explosives. They can get anything they want on the streets."

Tarrant County communities must initiate an aggressive approach to the gang problem while it is still manageable, Tarrant County crime commission report said.

"I recently heard that Los Angeles has about 100,000 gang members," said Patsy Thomas, crime commission gang coordinator. "We've lost the war out there."

Causes/ from page 5

Blevins said. The youths simply need someone to teach them a value and moral system, he said.

Many of today's children lack ethical and moral instruction, the Tarrant County crime commission report said. Schools must accept the role of teaching social and moral as well as academic skills to student, the report said. Life skills and decision-making programs build self-esteem and teach students cope with life, the report said.

One response to the gang problem is proactive school and neighborhood intervention rather than residential care centers like the Lena Pope Home, Blevins said.

"Schools and neighborhood associations need to actively seek out the kids who are potential gang members," he said. "Schools and neighborhood associations need to be empowered to teach these kids basic life and coping skills before it's too late to help them."

Short-term residential care and gang intervention programs aren't working, Cordova said.

"The kids are going right back to the same environment they came from," he said. "The kids need to be followed from the point of intervention, their basic needs provided for, until their lives are turned around, and they can manage themselves."

Family value systems have broken down across the nation, and many institutions haven't adjusted or can't cope with the problem, said Patsy Thomas, Tarrant County crime commission gang coordinator.

"Schools and churches should be more sensitive to their role as social value as well

as academic educators," Thomas said. "The failure of schools and churches to meet the social, physical and spiritual needs of children and their families is a common theme we've developed from interviews with gang members."

One of the most stunning characteristics of many gang members is their spiritual void, Blevins said.

"When I ask them who they really depend on in a jam, the answer isn't God," he said. "It's the gang."

Juvenile gang members have no goals and no dreams, Cordova said. They don't know what else is beyond life on the streets, he added. Disadvantaged children need alternatives to the streets that can teach them to be self-sufficient, he said.

"Gang kids need an environment that makes them feel good," Cordova said. "They need a safe haven where they can get positive reinforcement and feel good about themselves."

Gang membership and affiliation isn't a commonplace response to poverty and social disadvantages, the Attorney General's report said. Gang life is only one result as long as very poor children run the streets, underclass conditions undermine the family structure and the street subculture fills the needs of very poor children, the report said.

"There's no such thing as bad kids," Cordova said. "Their potential is unlimited if only they're given a reason to leave the streets."

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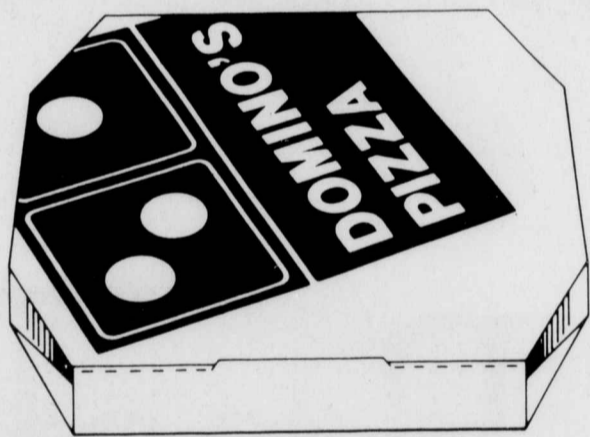
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Frogs look to bash Baylor

By GREG RIDDLE
TCU Daily Skiff

Amid a sea of orange and white, the fourth ranked Texas Longhorns stampeded into Fort Worth last weekend, trampling the second place TCU Horned Frogs in a three game sweep, and proving that the race may be for second - not first - in the SWC this year.

"I don't think anybody even thought twice about the Texas series the next day," said TCU Coach Lance Brown. "They're playing extremely well right now. We're the kind of team that has to play good to win. Texas can have a bad day and still beat you. We have to put this behind us and concentrate on Baylor."

The Frogs will travel to Waco for a 7 p.m. game Friday and a double-header beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday. Friday night's game will be the first night game in Baylor history.

The Bears just took two out of three games from the Texas A&M Aggies last weekend to raise their record to 13-9 and 5-7 in the SWC.

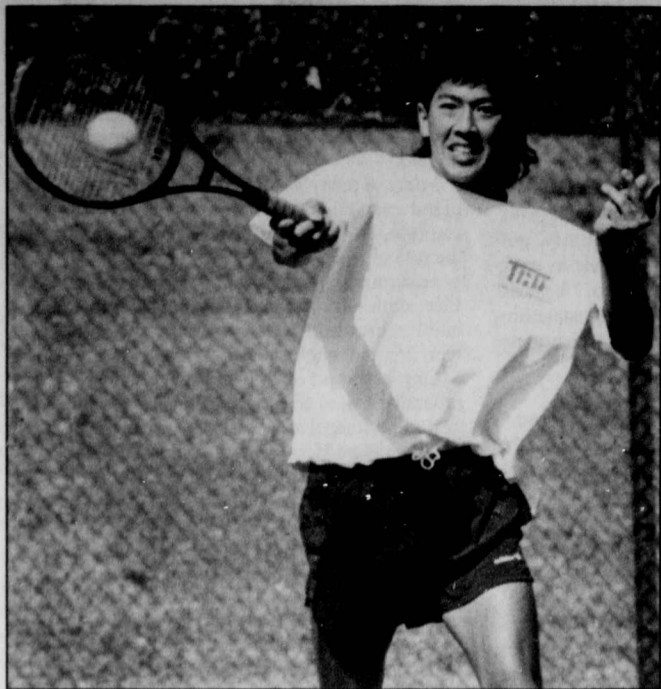
"We will use these next couple of weeks to evaluate where we're at right now," Coach Brown said.

"We will try some different lineups and do a little experimenting before we settle on a fixed lineup for the second half of the season."

Hitting has been the key to TCU's success this year. The Frogs currently have a team batting average of .388.

Second baseman Beto Garza-Gongora has led the way with a .415 batting average, and a team high four home runs and 15 RBI's.

Pitching will be the key, not only against Baylor, but for the rest of the season. Glenn Dishman, Kelly Johns and Reid Ryan will once again be the Frogs starters when they take to the mound in Waco.



TCU tennis team members work out before this weekend's matches against New Mexico

Tennis team reaches new heights

By TY BENZ
TCU Daily Skiff

The TCU men's tennis team just keeps getting hotter and hotter.

On March 10, the Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches Association issued its annual rankings and issued the Frogs their highest ranking ever, second.

Coming off a second place finish in the ITCA/UTSA Indoor Team Championships, the Frogs upset No. 1 UCLA on the way, and a 9-0 vic-

tory over Baylor, TCU impressed the ITCA voters enough to gather 192 votes, good for a second ranking behind Stanford (who beat the Frogs in the finals).

"This is a new plateau for our program," said TCU head coach Tut Bartzten. "It's a nice acknowledgment for the players, and proves that we are capable of playing at this high level."

Senior Tony Bujan led the Frogs in individual rankings as he cracked the top ten, while senior Luis Ruetter was

ranked 36th. Bujan and Ruetter also play doubles together and received a ranking of 10th.

TCU protects its number two ranking when it hosts New Mexico today at the Mary Potishman Laird Tennis Center at 2:00.

The Lobos were ranked in the top 20, but dropped out after a poor showing in the Indoor Championships.

"They are a good team, and it should be a tough match for us," Bartzten said.

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