

# TCU Daily Skiff

Tuesday, March 24, 1992

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas

89th Year, No. 89

## Billionaire suggests potential candidacy

By Tom Raum  
Associated Press

Texas billionaire Ross Perot's flirtation with a third-party campaign for president is making political veterans in both parties nervous. Analysts say a well-financed Perot campaign could easily change the dynamics of a close general-election contest.

President Bush's re-election campaign is suggesting Perot's potential challenge would hurt the Democrats more than the president.

Campaign spokeswoman Torie Clarke said Perot "may be having some fun" in considering a challenge to his fellow Texan. But, she said, "it doesn't make any difference to us one way or the other" whether he gets in.

She predicted Perot would take votes away from Clinton, citing Perot's support for abortion rights and gun control.

Other Bush aides were more wary. "You have to take seriously anybody who's got \$2 billion who wants to run for president," said Bush senior campaign adviser Charles Black.

Democratic Party Chairman Ronald Brown saw Perot doing damage to the GOP.

"My judgment is his candidacy will debilitate George Bush, will hurt him very badly and will therefore help us elect a Democrat president," Brown said.

Perot said last week that he would run for president if supporters put his name on the ballot in all 50 states. He said he would spend up to \$100 mil-

lion of his own money if he were to wage such a campaign.

Whether Perot would draw more votes from Bush or from Clinton is a hard question in this unpredictable presidential season, analysts suggest.

"It seems that at first blush, he would hurt the Republican side more than the Democratic side," said Bruce Buchanan, a political science professor at the University of Texas. "But if you look deeper into the situation, he's going to appeal to the same kind of disaffected voters that both Jerry Brown and Pat Buchanan are."

Still, Buchanan says, Perot "might hamper the Republicans slightly more than the Democrats because he attacks the Republicans' conservative base."

In any event, Perot could be a major factor in states where the vote between the two major candidates is close, Buchanan said.

Drives are under way in every state to have Perot's name placed on November ballots as an independent candidate.

Although an independent candidate has never come even close to winning the presidency, there has never been one backed with \$100 million.

The last candidate to wage an independent candidacy was John Anderson in 1980. The former Republican congressman, whose campaign was severely short of cash, got just 6.6 percent of the vote.

With so many disenchanted voters, "There's room out there for a third-party candidate who could run stronger than Anderson did," said

Democratic analyst Bob Beckel.

Beckel, who managed Democrat Walter Mondale's 1984 presidential campaign, said "analyzing whom Perot would take votes from is very difficult to do because nobody knows what he stands for — other than that he's a billionaire who's very successful."

Perot seems liberal on some social issues, but also is pro-business and for a strong defense. At the same time, he opposed the Persian Gulf War.

A self-financed campaign would not face the same federal spending restrictions imposed on the Democratic and Republican candidates, whose races are financed by tax dollars.

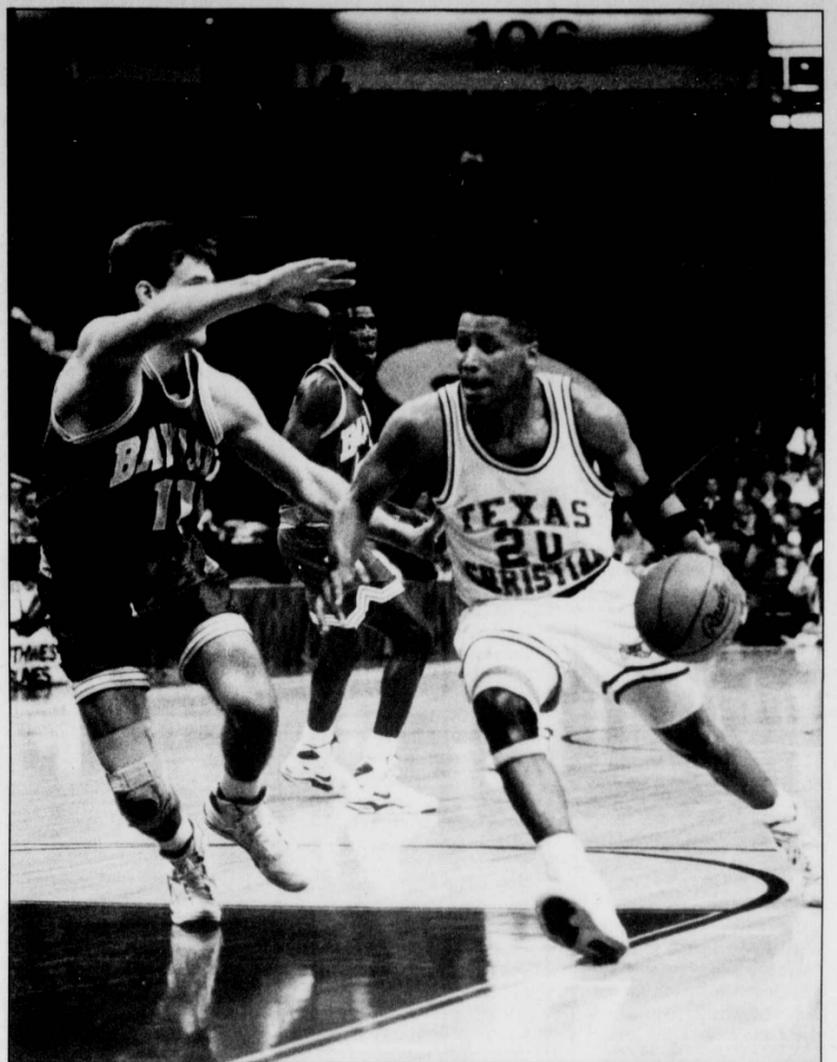
But getting on the ballot in all 50 states is a daunting prospect.

For instance, in Texas, Perot must round up 54,000 signatures by May 11 from voters who didn't vote in Texas' Super Tuesday primary.

Perot's staff has set up a toll-free telephone number in Dallas that is being answered by volunteers with 100 phones to assist in the state-by-state petition drive. A spokeswoman said the phone banks have been getting 2,000 calls an hour.

George Wallace won 13.5 percent of the vote when he ran as a third-party candidate in 1968. Strom Thurmond got 2.4 percent in 1948.

The high-water mark for independent candidates came in 1912 when Theodore Roosevelt ran as Progressive Party candidate and lost with 27.4 percent of the vote.



TCU Daily Skiff/ Aimee Herring  
Albert Thomas helps the Horned Frogs defeat Baylor in round one of the SWC Post-season Classic held in Dallas last week. See story on page 4.

## Farm Aid attracts 40,000 fans for performances

By HEIDI WEAVER  
Special to the Skiff

Fans and farmers numbering close to 40,000 arrived at Dallas' Texas Stadium Saturday, March 14 for Farm Aid V, to attend the all-day, star-studded event.

Organizer and country singer Willie Nelson rounded up major performers like Paul Simon, John Mellencamp, Neil Young and Tracy Chapman and dozens of other performers to bring attention to the ongoing plight of American family farmers.

"In 1937 there were 8 million farmers. In 1950 there were 6 million. Today there are less than 2 million, and we're losing 2,000 every week," Nelson told reporters at the pre-show press conference.

"With every five farmers who lose their farms, one business is lost," Nelson said.

The show opened at 11 a.m. with a prayer followed by the Dallas Dynamics choir singing the hymn "How Great Thou Art" to a crowd of

5,000 people.

Nelson fluttered on and off the stage all day, accompanied many acts during their performances.

Although the majority of the 55 acts were country performers, the reggae group Common Sense, rap group CTP and the heavy metal Christian group Petra participated in the concert.

"I went because I thought it would be a really good show," said Homer Jon Young, a sophomore radio-television-film major who arrived with a group of 15 other spectators at 1 p.m.

Young said his favorite act of the day was Mellencamp, but he was disappointed when Nelson joined singer Paul Simon for a duet.

"I really like Willie, but he kind of took over the whole show," Young said.

Young said he already knew most of the information given about the farmers' crisis, but he appreciated the Rev. Jesse Jackson's comments about industrialized farming.

Jackson said the United States is pursuing a policy of industrialized

farming which brought about the demise of the Soviet Union.

Farm Aid entertainers and spokespersons criticized political leaders in both parties for current farm policy and lack of compassion.

"This is an election year and we need leaders who are more interested in people than profit," said singer Kris Kristofferson.

Nelson said he has written all of the presidential candidates but he, "hadn't heard from any about what they are going to do for family farms."

Former Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower also criticized political leaders for their inability to assist farmers.

"Cameras have left from the farm foreclosures, politicians have patted a few cows on the head, patted themselves on the back and gone back to Austin and raised their salaries by \$24,000," Hightower said.

"If George Bush were here today, he'd ask how the escargot crop is doing," he said.

Attendance at the concert peaked

at about 4:30 p.m., the same time the show went live on television via The Nashville Network. The temperature reached the mid-70s and fans directly under the stadium's opening ditched their shirts and smoothed on sunscreen.

Applause and cheering escalated as the more well-known performers filled the lineup until the concert's finale at 11 p.m.

Proceeds from Farm Aid V will benefit more than 100 farm organizations, hot lines, churches and service agencies in 41 states, officials said.

Fans purchased Farm Aid V paraphernalia, fresh produce and other stadium food fare during the event. In addition to ticket sales, officials said 40 percent of the concert's merchandising revenue would also benefit farmers.

Since the first Farm Aid in Champaign, Illinois in 1985, more than \$10 million has been raised.

Ron Morrisette, a dairy farmer

See Aid, page 2

## Plight of U.S. farmers prompts artists to help

By ABIGAIL DALBEY  
Special to the Skiff

Two 50 foot banners proclaiming "Farm Aid V—Keep America Growing" framed the stage where 55 acts performed during the 14-hour concert Saturday, March 14, at Texas Stadium in Dallas.

"The purpose of Farm Aid is to educate everybody in America and to get everybody to realize it's important to save the family farmer," said country singer Willie Nelson, president of Farm Aid, Inc.

Most entertainers said they had agreed to perform to help the American farmer.

"It makes me feel good to think I might be helping," said country singer Mark Chesnut. "Plus, I'm getting a kick out of seeing all of these big stars."

Many performers said they were not aware of the problems farmers faced until they got involved with Farm Aid V.

"By being here I am getting an education," said rock recording artist Billy Falcon. "You can't do anything unless you're informed. This (concert) should make people aware."

Singer Tracy Chapman said she asked Farm Aid organizers to send her information about the

See Help, page 2

## Lottery will begin earlier than expected

By Michael Holmes  
Associated Press

The first tickets for the Texas Lottery could go on sale as early as late May, State Comptroller John Sharp said Monday.

Sharp, whose office oversees the gambling game, said he expects to beat the July 1 deadline for starting the instant-win games and the Jan. 1, 1993, deadline for computerized "lotto" games.

The lottery is already issuing licenses to retail outlets that will sell instant scratch-off tickets, he said.

"It (start-up) may be moved now to as early as June 1," Sharp said. "It may even be possible to begin around Memorial Day — the last week of May — something like that."

Sharp's comments came in a speech to the Texas Daily Newspaper Association's annual meeting.

The comptroller said the computerized games could be ready by Sept. 1, although lottery officials likely would wait until a week or two after the Labor Day holiday.

"Everything's on track. It's well ahead of schedule," he said.

Each day the lottery operates means about \$1 million in revenue for state government, Sharp noted. An earlier start-up means that much more revenue, he said. "One million dollars a day starts getting into some real money."

Sharp also said lottery officials are pushing Texas merchants to apply for lottery-selling licenses by the March 31 deadline to help meet the earlier start-up date.

"We're trying to get the whole 15,000 signed up by the end of this month," he said.

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### Inside

**Luckiest Man Alive**  
Columnist discusses the rocky campaign of Democratic candidate Bill Clinton.

Page 3

**Checks and Bounces**  
Columnist discusses the latest Washington scandal.

Page 3

### Outside

Today's weather will be partly sunny with a high temperature of 69 degrees.

Wednesday's weather will be partly sunny with a high of 70 degrees.

## Group honors speech professor

By KRISTI SWAN  
TCU Daily Skiff

A university speech communications professor was selected as an "Outstanding Woman of Fort Worth" for her contribution to the field of education and will be honored this week during an awards ceremony.

The Fort Worth Commission of the Status of Women selected Donna R. Hall from over 50 nominees. Hall will be honored along with 10 other women from different areas Wednesday at Will Rogers Memorial Complex.

"The committee that selected the honorees said Donna Hall stood out for her numerous contribution in the field of education and the community," said Libby Lanzara, assistant personnel director of the commission.

The honor was definitely a surprise, Hall said.

"You never do these things alone,"

she said. "There are always people who have supported you and helped you to get there."

Hall's students said she deserved the honor.

"She is more interested in listening to what we have to say than strictly lecturing," said Meredith Cawthron, junior broadcast journalism major. "She comes down on our level and is so personable that it really helps us learn by being able to explore our own thoughts."

That is one difference that put Hall in the same league as other well-known women who have received the award, Lanzara said.

In the past, women such as Martina Navratilova have been honored, Lanzara said. Fort Worth Mayor Kay Granger was also honored as an "Outstanding Woman" this year, she said.

Notices and media pieces are sent throughout the year requesting nominations for the awards, Lanzara said. Nominees must exhibit excellence

not only in each individual category, but also in service to the community.

This week has been proclaimed "Outstanding Women of Fort Worth Week" by the Fort Worth City Council according to the commission.

A display of the nominees can be seen in Fort Worth City Council Chambers.

## What would YOU ask the trustees if you could?

Mail or bring your request by the "Skiff" office. The editor will address your concerns during the Student Relations meeting. We will print your question and its response.

### 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 291S or sent to TCU Box 32929. The Skiff reserves the right to edit for style and taste.

Phi Chi Theta will host guest speaker Mindy Barron on March 24 at 5:30 p.m. in Dan Rogers Hall 140. All business students are invited to attend.

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. For more information contact the Alumni Office at 921-7803.

Golden Key National Honor Society will meet at 8 p.m. Sunday, March 29 in Student Center Room 218 for a guest speaker and on "How Golden Key Can Help You in the Real World."

Air Force ROTC will be holding a 5K Run on March 28, beginning at 8 a.m. in Amon G. Carter Stadium. Registration is \$12 before March 14 and \$15 afterwards. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each age category and all entrants will be eligible for a post-race drawing for gifts from area merchants. For more information, call 921-7461.

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. For more information, contact University Ministries at 921-7830.

GSP A review session for the GSP test will be held on March 26 at 6 p.m. in Moudy 280S. The review session costs \$10 per student. The GSP will be given on Tuesday, March 31; Wednesday, April 1; and Thursday, April 2. Students may sign up for both the review session and the test in the journalism office.

### HELPlines

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 be an aerobics instructor in an agency in Fort Worth that helps chemically dependent women with children. Hours are available mornings and evenings.

...to assist a teacher and teacher's assistant in teaching English and math skills to children to whom English is a second language. Volunteer may choose to work one or more days per week. Bilingual Spanish/English preferred, but not required.

...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. 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.

### Soon/ from page 1

On other state issues, Sharp told the newspaper group:

—He continues studying possible changes in the tax structure that would end public schools' dependence on property taxes. Lawmakers are under court order to devise a more equitable funding system.

Sharp said he wasn't yet ready to endorse a "value-added tax" but is looking for something that could roll back property taxes on homeowners and provide a fairer business tax structure.

"The only reason we use school property taxes to fund education is because when that system started, that's the only wealth there was," he said.

### Help/ from page 1

cause before she agreed to perform. She said she had not realized how desperate the farmers were.

"We think about the food we eat, but we're not thinking about the people who make the food we eat," Chapman said.

Many members of the farm movement also attended the concert to preach their cause.

"We're here to spread the issue and get people to understand why Farm Aid is important," said Gilles Stockton, a rancher with Northern Plains Resource Company in Montana.

"This isn't a charity that's ripping people off," Stockton said. "This money goes out."

Most of the entertainers and members of farm alliances blamed the government for the downfall of the American farmer.

"This election year we ought to hold it to them (politicians) to do something for America's family farmers," said country singer Kris Kristofferson.

The Farm Aid board of directors distributes the money raised from concert ticket sales, Stockton said. Most of the money goes to farm coalitions who then use the money to help farmers in their regions.

"Individual farmers don't actually get the money," he said. "They get services that help them get back on their feet."

Farm Aid has granted over \$10 million to farm organizations in 41 states. Nelson is responsible for all final funding decisions that keep America growing.

### Aid/ from page 1

from Vermont, praised Nelson, calling him "the best friend of all farmers."

"The number one accomplishment of Farm Aid is that it brings farmers from all around the U.S. together. We need unity among farmers. In the past, politicians have pitted regional farmers against other regions... Now we are aware that family farmers in every state are facing the same problem," Morrisette said.

### Campus Man

by Andrew Deutsch



### Insanity Fair

by Joe Barnes



### Siege

by Andy Grieser & Kall Loper



### Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



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Recovery Support Group

Thursday, March 26 3:00 p.m. SC 203 For more information, call 921-7100

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# Opinion

TCU Daily Skiff

All-American  
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## Speak Up

Students deserve the right to be heard

The press should be the voice of the people, but the people must speak up to be heard.

Now is the time.

The TCU Board of Trustees will meet Friday to discuss important issues such as a tuition hike, next year's budget and faculty tenure. After the meeting, which is closed to the public, the trustees will meet with the Student Relations Committee to hear student concerns.

It is important that the student voice be heard. As a member of the committee, the editor of the *TCU Daily Skiff* will be on hand to ask questions. And those questions should represent those on the minds of the students.

So instead of merely complaining about what should and shouldn't be done, students have a rare opportunity to take action. Any person wishing to communicate concerns to the board should take the time to write those concerns down and bring them by the *Skiff* office. Because the full Board meetings are closed and most trustees will not regularly meet with students or the press, this is the only way to gain access to the action which directly affects the entire student body.

TCU students are often accused of being apathetic. But when it comes to issues like increasing tuition, we cannot afford to be silent. Even the most minuscule problem deserves to be addressed, and the trustees have a responsibility to answer to the public. But the questions must first be asked.

Openness is the key to understanding, and the board should be commended for allowing student leaders to voice concerns during the Student Relations meeting. And the practice of admitting a representative from the *Skiff* to the meeting is a step in the right direction.

The information gathered at the meeting allows the *Skiff* to serve its readership more fully than obtaining secondhand information.

Too often, students tend to view the board as the enemy, while they are the victims of decisions like tuition increases.

But it is time to stop acting like victims and start taking charge. Friday's meeting is important to each student on campus. If you have concerns that deserve to be heard, bring them by the *Skiff* office, Moudy 291S, by 8 p.m. on Thursday.

## Hoops

A basketball season to remember

The 1991-92 Horned Frogs basketball season will probably be one of the most successful in Coach Moe Iba's career at TCU.

The team's early victories propelled them to the top of the conference during season play. Despite losses to the Universities of Texas and Houston, Coach Iba's team hung on to place third in the conference and managed to clinch an invitation in the NIT Tournament.

The team also performed well in an outstanding roller-coaster game against the Houston Cougars in Dallas' Reunion Arena during the Conference Tournament.

The Frogs also managed a win in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum during the NIT's first round against Long Beach State in front of 6,000 spectators.

Although the team fell last night, their impressive victories enthralled the campus community—and Fort Worth, as they racked up win after win.

Congratulations to the basketball team and to Coach Moe Iba for an outstanding job. Although the NCAA selection committee snubbed our team for tournament play, we certainly won't.

Coach Iba and his squad—Reggie Smith, Michael Strickland, Mark Moton, Albert Thomas, Kurt Thomas, Brent Atwater, Allen Tolley, Junior Graves, Tom Hocker, Brandon Aldrich, and David Lewis—should be congratulated by the entire campus for the fantastic season they provided.

A special thanks should go out to the Frogs' five seniors—center Reggie Smith, guards Michael Strickland, Albert Thomas and Tom Hocker, and power forward Mark Moton—who provided excitement and leadership throughout the season.

We wish the team continued success in the future as they prepare for next season's action and we commend the team for succeeding against the odds and proving many people wrong.

## 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.



## Clinton hailed as luckiest man alive

by  
**CARL KOZLOWSKI**  
Columnist



It's amazing how this presidential campaign is working out, isn't it? We've gone from a field of six major Democratic contenders to two, and those two are probably the least qualified of the bunch. We've had a newspaper columnist embarrass the president within his own party—well, at least for a while. And now we are facing the prospect of having the governor of the worst state in America as our next President.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the luckiest man alive: Bill Clinton.

Having suffered under his rule in Arkansas in 12 of the last 14 years, I am eminently qualified to gripe about the man. He has taken the state from 50th in everything to an occasional 49th-place finish, pulling ahead of Mississippi once in a while to make Arkansans feel a little better. Heck, my state is probably even behind Washington, D.C., Guam, and Puerto Rico in everything imaginable, so that makes it 53rd when you count all the U.S. possessions.

Bill, of course, is the man whom rival Democratic candidate Jerry "Moonbeam" Brown has branded as "Scandal of the Week." He has already suffered his way through a wide variety of allegations, ranging from a former exotic dancer/lounge singer (now there's a respectable career combination) who said she carried on a 12-year affair with the

governor, to new allegations that Clinton funneled state legal business and its attendant fees to his wife Hillary's law firm.

In between, the governor waded his way through a scandal over potential draft evasion during the Vietnam War as well as getting caught with a short fuse over Jesse Jackson ("that two-timing back stabber!") and Mario Cuomo (whom he imitated in his most insulting "Godfather" impersonation).

Oh, did I mention the fact that this self-proclaimed environmentalist is allowing vicious, widespread clear cutting of Arkansas' forests in the name of lumber companies? Or that this "education governor" seems to be more concerned with sex and AIDS education than in reading, writing, and arithmetic? This attitude over what needs to be taught has resulted in a state that's dead last in genuine education and first in teen pregnancies. Well, we had to be at the top of something, I guess.

Meanwhile, Bill's wife, Hillary, has been making some headlines of her own. When the pair appeared on "60 Minutes" to defend themselves against exotic dancer Jennifer Flowers (only in Arkansas do you find women with their own names misspelled), she stirred up a national feud with infamous country singer Tammy Wynette by saying "I'm not just sitting here, standing by my man, like Tammy Wynette or something." Tammy, of course, was not pleased and virtually challenged Hillary to a cat fight. Hillary, of course, apologized, and yet another scandal rolled off the Clintons' backs like water off a duck (to paraphrase an old Arkansas saying).

Hillary's latest firestorm occurred last week when she insulted housewives everywhere by saying "I guess I could've stayed home and baked cookies and held teas, but I chose to

pursue my career instead." This statement was delivered with her omnipresent sneer and resulted in female television analysts from such sources as Newsweek warning America that Hillary seems ready to explode at any given moment.

Nearly every analyst predicts she'll move to be the most powerful First Lady ever, and many of them wonder if she'll be a co-president with Bill. If Americans ever get the chance to hear her real record as one of the national board members of extreme liberal groups like Planned Parenthood, the Urban League, and the Children's Defense Fund, she'll take Bill's candidacy down with her.

Don't let the fact that they come from a Bible belt state fool you. This is a very radical pair, but just like George Bush, they'll say whatever it takes to get elected. The difference is that Bush doesn't have a personal scandal erupting every week, and I can't imagine him pairing off with an exotic dancer in the first place.

Bill Clinton has taken Arkansas nowhere in 12 years as governor, but that's only because when you're 49th or 50th out of 50 states, there's nowhere left to go. He has presided over a state slogan change from "Land of Opportunity" to "The Natural State," probably because he realized that Arkansas naturally had no opportunities for people to succeed. But now he has the worst environmental record of any governor in America.

Bill Clinton has promised to do for America what he did for Arkansas. Can we afford his promises?

• Carl Kozlowski is a junior English major from North Little Rock, Arkansas.

## Bouncing checks hit Congress

by  
**JEFF JETER**  
Columnist



Yesterday, "Jeff" (not his real name, especially if you are a creditor) handed a check to Big George of Big George's Tires 'n' More for a brand new set of steel belted radials. "Jeff" then headed across town to Trapper Natty's Pelt Emporium to stock up on genuine imitation South American flat-footed wombat hides. Then, "Jeff" rounded out his afternoon of mirth and merriment at Crazy Sally's Pawn City where he purchased a diamond brooch and an automatic elephant gun. Suddenly, "Jeff's" happy-go-lucky, free-spending world came crashing down around him.

Creditors to the left of him, creditors to the right of him, creditors everywhere. Men and women in thousand dollar business suits, flanked by large, hairy individuals named Big Guido continue to insist that a tomato is a fruit, Quebec is its own sovereign nation, and Jeff owes them an amount comparable to the national debt of Lower Slovenia.

Yes, the word on the streets is that "Jeff" has been writing bad checks. But fear not, gentle reader, for this story has a happy ending. "Jeff" is no ordinary, run-of-the-mill check kiter. Why no—he is a congressional check kiter, which means his rubber checks are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Congress, where no money and no propriety is still no problem.

Yes, the House banking scandal continues to rage both in the media and in the minds of the American people. Voters are angry and frustrated and the inferno continues to roar.

Several months ago, the General Accounting Office of the United States released a twelve month audit of the U.S. House of Rep-

resentatives which has sent shockwaves throughout the nation. From June 30, 1989-90, members of the House managed to write 8,331 bad checks from their personal accounts at the House bank. The bank covered the checks and no member had his/her account suspended.

In the months since the scandal broke, the House leadership, especially Speaker Thomas Foley (D-Washington), have tried to gloss over the controversy. At first Foley and his free-spending entourage tried to control the damage by voting to make public the names of only the worst offenders. However, the incredible public outcry has led to a vote for full disclosure of all guilty parties.

Still, many Congressional leaders insist that the check kiting scandal is minor—merely a pothole in the road of politics. Charlie Wilson (D-Texas) called his 81 bad checks, "no big deal—it's not like molesting young girls or young boys—it's not a show stopper." Regarding the situation, one former House speaker wrote recently, "The nation suffers an array of serious problems that dwarf the petty personal finances of politicians like giant redwoods towering over a patch of asparagus tips."

This "minor problem" as so many of these Democrats like to dismiss it is much more major than anyone on Capital Hill cares to admit. The fact that the 535 members of the House of Representatives cannot manage even their own personal finances underscores the epidemic—Congress has absolutely no fiscal integrity whatsoever, either personally or institutionally. The men and women charged with spending and allocating our tax dollars cannot even manage their own checking accounts. It is absolutely absurd.

The constant refrain being echoed throughout the House chambers is, "This was merely overdraft protection." The structure of the House bank and the manner in which it went about paying these bad checks qualifies as far more than just overdraft protection. Overdraft protection like many of us enjoy at

our own private banks draws money from one account to pay for overdrafts on another while charging an inordinate amount of interest. The House bank covered bad checks without penalty.

Even more appalling is this careless, flippant attitude taken by Foley and the Democratic leadership. "It's no big deal," they say. Yes, it is a big deal. It is a big deal that transcends the bounds of political party and ideology. These guilty congressmen are spoiled, arrogant politicians who have been taking advantage of their position and their power for far too long. Congress has in effect demonstrated that either it is incapable and/or unwilling to serve the nation and their constituency honorably.

And then there is the argument that these are only human beings—flesh and blood, mortals—with shortcomings. My, how understanding, how noble, how forgiving. How wrong. Of course we are all human and we all make occasional mistakes. But 8,000 bad checks in one year (an average of 19 per house member) is more than an occasional mistake—it is an abuse of power that borders on the criminal.

Congress has managed to once again place itself above the law. In many states, kiting a check constitutes intent to defraud and is met by a steep fine and/or imprisonment—apparently for everyone but members of Congress.

We cannot simply dismiss these outrageous abuses of power as slight indiscretions. We should hold our leaders and representatives to a higher standard. Anyone that argues differently is selling the nation short.

It's time we end the special treatment for the Capital Hill elite. It's time we send a message to the crooked politicians. It's time we clean House.

• Jeff Jeter is a junior Political Science and Economics major from Shreveport, Louisiana.

# Sports

## Frogs storm into NIT play

By WILLIAM HATFIELD  
TCU Daily Skiff

Spring Break was not a time of relaxation for the TCU Horned Frog men's basketball team.

Instead, the team experienced a roller coaster of emotions between March 13 and March 21.

In that week-long span, the Frogs won their first round game in the SWC Post-season Classic, lost a double-overtime heartbreaker to Houston in the classic semifinals, was denied a bid to the 64 team NCAA tournament, was rewarded a bid to the National Invitational Tournament, hosted and won their first round NIT game, and traveled to West Lafayette, Ind. for last night's second round NIT matchup with Purdue.

### TCU's Season Over

The TCU Horned Frog basketball team lost at Purdue, 67-51, in the second round of the NIT tournament last night. The Frogs finished the season 23-11. See complete game story in Wednesday's Skiff.

"It's been a hectic past few days," said TCU head coach Moe Iba.

And an emotional few days as well.

The disappointment of the Houston loss, which may have cost TCU its final shot at an NCAA bid, and the snub by the selection committee was a bitter pill for the Frogs to swallow.

"It was upsetting to not even see us listed as one of the teams on the bubble," Reggie Smith said.

But the team has taken that initial disappointment and refocused their goal toward winning TCU's first NIT championship.

The Frogs took their first step in achieving that goal by beating Long Beach State 73-61 last Thursday in Fort Worth. It was the first time in six NIT appearances that TCU has hosted a game. An enthusiastic crowd of 5,907 fans witnessed a spectacular second half performance by Frog point guard Brent Atwater. After scoring one point on 0 for 5 shooting in the first half, Atwater hit 4 of 5 in the final 20 minutes. He tallied 13 points.

It was his personal five point spurt midway in the second half that extended a tie ballgame into a five point TCU lead. Long Beach State (18-12) would get no closer the rest of the way.

"Atwater had a terrible first half," Iba said. "He had a great second half. He was tentative at first, then we told him at the half to take the ball to them. He started penetrating and causing things to happen."

TCU jumped out to a quick 18-11 lead over the Forty-Niners of the Big West conference. Reggie Smith was on fire the first eight minutes of the game. He scored 10 of TCU's 18 points. He poured in 14 first half points of 5-of-6 shooting. He recorded his 20th double-double of the season by finishing the contest with 24 points and 11 rebounds.

Long Beach State then dropped a guard down to front Smith. By double teaming the Frogs' big man, the Forty-Niners were able to somewhat limit him. The Frogs led by as much



TCU Daily Skiff/ Aimee Herring  
Senior center Reggie Smith shoots for two in the Frogs 62-55 victory over Baylor in the SWC Postseason Tournament.

as nine in the first half, but were up only 31-29 at half.

"We came out and played great during the first twelve minutes of the game, then we got tired," Iba said. "At halftime I told the kids that they had to keep playing, and they came out very strong in the second half."

Albert Thomas chipped in 16 points for the Frogs. The performance was a continuance of the outstanding late season form Thomas has displayed the past month. He has averaged almost 17 points the last six games, including a career high 25 point effort against Houston, an 87-84 double-overtime thriller in which Thomas played an inspired 50 minutes.

## Baseball team slides over Spring Break

By JOHN S. WILSON  
TCU Daily Skiff

The TCU baseball team has mastered the concept of getting on base, but getting home has become a problem.

The Frogs (13-14, 6-9 SWC) played eight games over Spring Break, winning only three while dropping five. The worst part of the eight game stretch was three straight conference losses at the hands of the Baylor Bears. The series sweep by Baylor dropped the Frogs from third in the SWC to seventh, only one game shy of last place.

A defensive battle started off the Frogs three game series with the Bears. TCU and Baylor combined for 15 hits but were only able to put three runs on the scoreboard. The Frogs once again had trouble driving in runs, leaving nine Horned Frog runners on base.

The Bears relied on four extra-base hits to win, 2-1. TCU junior starter Glenn Dishman looked impressive in defeat, giving up two runs on five hits in six and a third innings of work.

The first game of the doubleheader was an exciting one. The Frogs actually led until the bottom of the seventh inning behind a strong pitching performance by junior Kelly Johns.

Senior Scott Chalk was two-for-four on the day with one run batted in. However, reliever Tim Grieve fell apart in the seventh, giving up two hits, two walks and three runs as the Frogs lost, 6-5.

The Frogs travelled to Las Cruces, N.M. for two midweek games last Tuesday and Wednesday against New Mexico St.

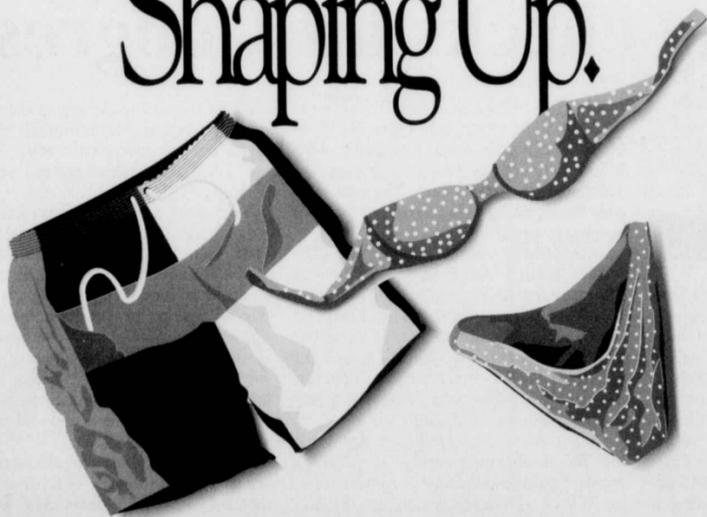
In Tuesday's contest, the Frogs had to go to extra innings to get the victory, winning 8-7. The Frogs bullpen ace, junior Chris Eddy, started the game, going five innings and giving up six runs.

Wednesday's game once again found the Frogs battling back. The Frogs trailed several times throughout the game and once again found themselves tied going in to the ninth inning. However, five runs off of NMSU reliever Jaime Mendes projected the Frogs to victory.

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