

# TCU Daily Skiff

Wednesday, November 17, 1993

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas

91st Year, No. 48

## Celebration of Indian culture to benefit earthquake victims

By DENA RAINS  
TCU Daily Skiff

"Experience India," a fund-raiser for earthquake victims in India, will bring Indian culture to students and faculty Saturday.

The 11 a.m. benefit will be held in the Student Center Ballroom and will include an authentic Indian meal, music, dancing, a slide show, a fashion show and an auction of Indian goods.

Proceeds from the tickets and auction will go to the Indian Prime Minister's National Relief Fund through CARE.

The event is sponsored by University Ministries, the Department of Journalism and a new student organization tentatively named Students of Asian Indian Descent.

The club was formed two weeks ago and has about 18 members, said Vidya Bhandarker, a media studies graduate student.

"'Experience India' is our first venture," she said. "It's good that we're doing something positive instead of just hanging around a pizza place."

The group's purpose is to "promote Indian identity and awareness of Asian Indian history through cultural and social activity" and to "help mobilize campus activity to respond to natural calamity," according to the group's student organization application.

"I hope this 'Experience India' is just a beginning," Bhandarker said. "I hope it's not just for India. I hope we can go beyond that. If there's a natural disaster elsewhere, I hope we can contribute to that."

A local Indian group called Vichar Manch, which means "platform of ideas" in Hindi, will also help supply the day's entertainment. Vichar Manch has presented annual Indian cultural festivals for the last decade in Fort Worth.

Bhandarker said there are few Indian students on campus, so TCU students may not be aware of India's rich culture.

"There's so much variety in Indian culture," she said. "It's variety that students may not have been accustomed to."

The dances are also "a lot of folk dances people may not have been exposed to yet," she said. "We hope to take you into another world once you step into the room."

She also said Anantha Babbili, chairman of the journalism department and a native of India, will be singing, dancing and modeling at the event.

Bhandarker said Babbili came up with "Experience India" and has been giving the group ideas for the project.

"I'm pleased the students and the Fort Worth Asian Indian community have come together to stage a fund-raising event on the campus of TCU," Babbili said. "TCU has already developed a tradition to meet the

**"'Experience India' is our first venture. It's good that we're doing something positive instead of just hanging around a pizza place."**

VIDYA BHANDARKER,  
Media studies graduate student

challenges posed by hunger, poverty, tragedies and natural disaster. This is one more event in a long list of activities on campus.

"I'm glad Asia has become a focus," he said. "We're all connected by common threads in humanity. If people on the other side of the planet suffer then we also suffer in different ways."

Bhandarker also said the students will also benefit from the event.

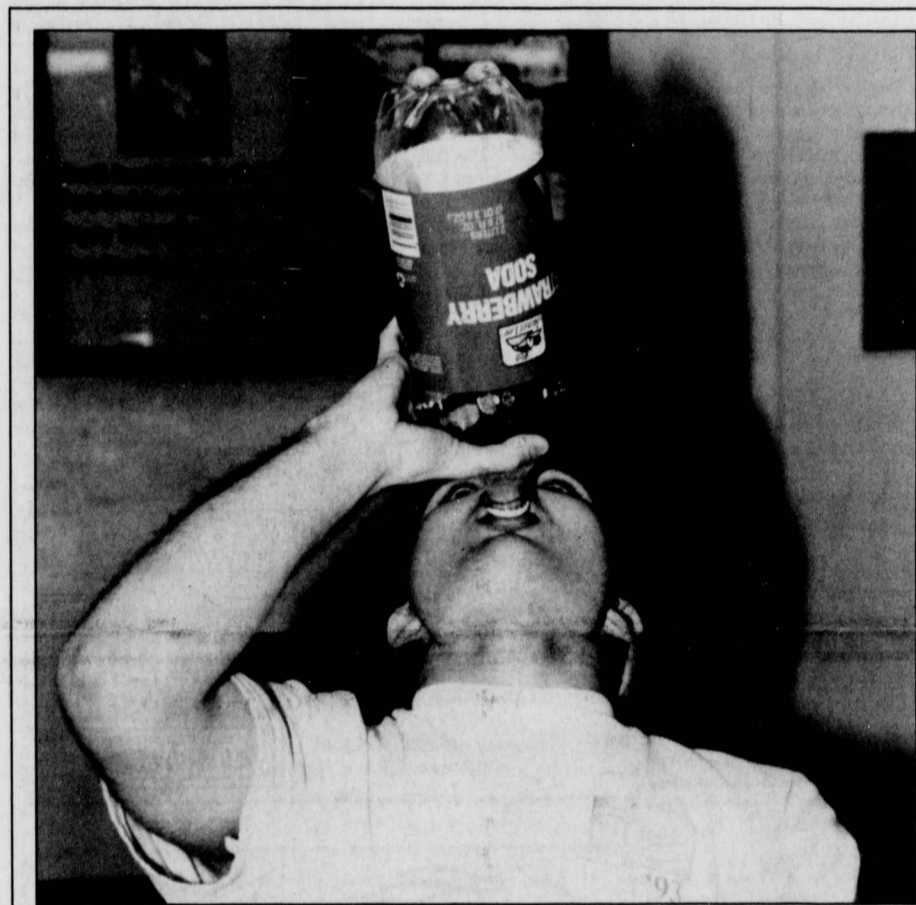
"It's a two-way thing. We get to share our culture with you and you get to help others," she said. "Your curiosity will help others."

The group expects 400 to 500 people to participate in the benefit, Bhandarker said. "I'd be rather disappointed if they didn't at least show up," she said. "I hope they will come even though the football game will be on that day."

"We will make it fun," she promised. "It won't be sober or toned down. It won't be so serious so that you will feel bad when you leave."

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and free for individuals giving larger donations.

A portion of the Hunger Week donations will also be given to the "Experience India" project.



Michael Moore, a freshman premajor, downs a 2-liter of strawberry soda Monday during the "Drinking Game," part of the Tom Brown Olympiad.

TCU Daily Skiff/Alex Taliere

## Police arrest local women in Freeloze murder case

By SARAH YOEST  
TCU Daily Skiff

Two women have been arrested in connection with the murder of Channing Freeloze.

The women, 20-year-old Brandi Michelle Cirelli and 24-year-old Sherrie Lynn Sikes, were arrested at their apartment at 12:20 a.m. Tuesday on a warrant charging them with criminal solicitation of capital murder. They are in police custody at the Tarrant County Jail, said Fort Worth Police Department spokeswoman Lt. Pat Knebllick.

"These two women who were arrested were not arrested for the murder of Freeloze and (Melanie) Golchert," Lt. Knebllick said. "They were arrested for soliciting, or asking two guys to kill Freeloze."

Cirelli and Sikes were arrested at their apartment, 6751 Westcreek, from which they reportedly dealt narcotics. Approximately 4 pounds of marijuana were seized at the apartment.

The murder of Golchert was not solicited by the women.

"We're still checking into how involved Melanie Golchert was with marijuana dealing because she was in the circle of friends that did sell marijuana," Lt. Knebllick said. "The extent of her involvement at this

point is under investigation."

Freeloze and Golchert were found shot to death at 3:53 a.m. in a vacant lot at 2200 Southwest Loop 820 Service Road by a man bicycling in the area. Freeloze had been shot in the neck; Golchert had been shot at least once in the back of the head.

Cirelli, Freeloze, Golchert and Sikes were lesbians, according to the affidavit, and have had "ongoing sexual relations with one another."

Two men "did come voluntarily to the police and said that they had been asked to kill Freeloze" by Cirelli and Sikes, Lt. Knebllick said.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit obtained from the Fort Worth Police Department, one of those men was released from a Plano jail Nov. 5.

That man told police his fine was paid by two men who said they had paid to get him out of jail and that he now owed them a favor. The three men went to Cirelli's apartment.

Upon their arrival at her apartment, the man who had been released from jail went to take a shower, then sat at the kitchen table with Cirelli and one of the men who had paid his fine. Sikes came into the apartment from using a phone outside.

Sikes said she had been talking to Freeloze and that Freeloze had threatened to kill herself. Cirelli said

she didn't think Freeloze would go through with it and said that Freeloze had tried to kill herself the night before, Nov. 4.

Freeloze told Fort Worth Police that someone had broken into her apartment on the night of Nov. 4.

The man contacted to kill Freeloze said that on Nov. 5, Cirelli, Sikes and the man who had paid his fine said that on the night before, Freeloze had come to Cirelli and Sikes' apartment with another woman.

"Brandi and Sherrie found out that this girl was one of Channing's girlfriends, as was Brandi and Sherrie," the affidavit said.

Cirelli, Sikes and Freeloze argued, and Freeloze swung at Cirelli. Sikes started throwing Freeloze around the apartment.

"Brandi yelled for them to quit fighting and threw a chair at them," the affidavit reported. "Channing then went out on the balcony and said she was going to jump and kill herself."

Another man in the apartment told police that he caught Freeloze as she tried to jump, then threw her on the balcony. Sikes began to beat Freeloze.

After Sikes let Freeloze up, the affidavit reported, Freeloze pulled a

see Arrest, page 2

## Burglars take clothes from nearby business

By CHRIS NEWTON  
TCU Daily Skiff

Three men smashed the front window of Flash: The University Store and burglarized the South University business at 3:14 a.m. Nov. 13. Three suspects were seen running from the store at 3001 S. University with armfuls of sweatshirts and other clothes.

"I was sitting with my friends between Sadler and Reed Hall when I heard the sound of glass breaking and saw people running through the front," said Eric Groce, a sophomore premed major.

Groce said he immediately contacted the Campus Police.

"I then ran around to the front of the Student Center and found two officers on patrol," he said. "I told them there was a burglary in progress and they sped toward the store."

Although the campus police arrived within almost one minute of the break in, they were unable to apprehend any of the suspects, according to the Fort Worth Police report.

"They headed east on West Bowie Street and they all had armfuls of clothes," Groce said. "I really don't think they got away with that much."

Groce said he was unable to get a physical description of the suspects. "I was more interested in contacting the police than trying to pursue the burglars," he said. "I was never really close enough to see what they looked like."

Fort Worth police arrived shortly after the incident and aided Campus Police in searching the area of the

**"I was more interested in contacting the police than trying to pursue the burglars. I was never really close enough to see what they looked like..."**

ERIC GROCE,  
Sophomore premed major

suspects, according to the Fort Worth police report.

Police were unable to find any suspects in the area.

Groce said the suspects left the scene on foot. "I never saw them get into a car so I can't imagine that they got very far," he said. "I really didn't want to get close enough to the situation that I might be in danger."

According to the report, the audible alarm sounded when the burglars broke the window, but the entire burglary took less than two minutes.

Store owner Ric Strong said the incident was minor and will not affect business.

"We'd like to see whoever did this caught, but we're really not too worried about it," Strong said. "What can you do?"

According to the report, \$750 in clothes items were taken from the store.

No suspects have been named at this time. The store has remained open for business.

## Student body elects new House officers

By DANI KUNKLE  
TCU Daily Skiff

The student body elected officers Tuesday for next year's executive staff of the House of Student Representatives.

Scott McLinden will be the next student body president.

Christian Ellis was elected treasurer and Anitha Nair was elected secretary. Jennifer Schooley was voted in as vice president of programming.

A runoff for vice president between Holly Neeson and Scott Wheatley will be held Thursday.

Heather McIntyre, Elections and Regulations Committee chairwoman, said 1,810 people voted, 200 more than last year.

The House is now accepting applications for chairmen of the following six committees: Academic Affairs, Elections and Regulations, Finance, Permanent Improvements, Student Concerns and University Relations.

Students wishing to run for these positions must submit their applications by 5 p.m. Nov. 29 to the Student Activities Office. Applicants then must give a two-minute speech at the Nov. 30 House meet-

ing. Applications are available in the Student Activities Office.

Several Programming Council positions are also open to students who have been a member of Programming Council and have a grade point average of 2.5 or above.

Vice President for Programming Council Chris Hightower said chairman positions are available for many committees, including Howdy Week, Concerts, Forums, Homecoming and Parent's Weekend. On the administrative level, the positions of administrative assistant, secretary, assistant trea-

surer and others are open.

In other announcements, House Administrative Assistant Anitha Nair announced that 30 local merchants will sell gifts and Christmas items in the Student Center Lounge during the first week of December. She is also working on other activities for the seasonal celebration week, she said.

Student Body Vice President Scott McLinden said the Food Service Committee will meet representatives from Marriott Food Service at 2 p.m. Friday in Eden's Greens. Any student may attend to voice concerns.

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**Double life**  
Developments in the Channing Freeloze murder investigation paint a troubling picture. **Page 3**

**New life**  
Insight looks at adoption. **Page 4**

### METROPLEX

Today's weather will be mostly sunny with a high temperature of 59 degrees.

Thursday will be partly cloudy with a low of 40 and a high of 63 degrees.

## Comedy joins Old West with Old World

By JOHN J. LUMPKIN  
TCU Daily Skiff

The Old World will meet the Old West in George Brown's adaption of the Renaissance comedy, "The Servant of Two Masters," playing today through Sunday at the University Theater inside Ed Landreth Hall.

Show times will be at 8 tonight through Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The play follows two separated lovers, Beatrice (played by freshman theater major Jamie Burns) and Florindo (senior theater major Patrio Gonzalez), who are staying in the same inn without realizing it.

A servant, Truffaldino (freshman theater major Greg Burton), works for them both because he needs money. The servant tries to keep the

lovers apart in order to keep both his jobs.

Brown, assistant professor of acting and directing, adapted the play from its original Renaissance setting to the Old West. The characters underwent a few changes as well.

"The characters translate perfectly," Brown said in a TCU News Service release. "Instead of being a servant of the Renaissance, Truffaldino is now played in the tradition of Gabby Hayes and Smiley Burnett."

The play is *commedia dell'arte*, a physical slapstick production in the tradition of the Three Stooges, Laurel and Hardy and Wile E. Coyote, Brown said.

"It is off-the-wall farce," he said. The climax of the physical element is a saber duel in the second act.

In preparation, the cast has rehearsed four hours a day every weekday for six weeks.

"I have a miraculous crew of actors I would not trade for any professional company in the world," Brown said.

This is Brown's first directing effort at TCU. He joined the faculty this summer, coming from an artistic director position for the Island Center for the Performing Arts in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Brown is an accomplished fight choreographer, according to the news service report.

The play runs two hours and 20 minutes plus an intermission.

Admission is free for TCU students, \$3 for non-TCU students and \$5 for general admission. Reservations can be made by calling 921-7626.

### 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.

**Psi Chi** will hold their banquet at 6:30 p.m. today at the Spaghetti Warehouse.

**The United Asian Community** will meet at 4 p.m. Thursday in Student Center Room 203. Call Christina at 923-9017.

Representatives from all student organizations should attend a meeting at 4 p.m. Thursday in Student Center Rooms 205 and 206 to plan Christmas events. R.S.V.P. with Hans at 551-7129.

**Ed Robinson** from the University of California at Irvine will speak about "Medical Science Training Program (M.D., Ph.D.): The Future of Academic Positions" at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in Sid Richardson Lecture Hall 2. Robinson will speak about "AIDS Vaccine Development" at noon Friday in Sid Richardson Lecture Hall 3.

**Cercle Francais** will meet at 2 p.m. Nov. 20 in front of the Student Center to spend the day in the Cultural District. Call A.J. at 924-2717.

**Graduating Seniors** for December 1993 must order diploma, cap and gown and settle your student account by Nov. 22.

**Kappa Beta** is sponsoring "How to Study for Finals" chaired by Dr. Micheal Brooks at noon Nov. 22 in Sadler Hall Room 211. All adult students are invited to attend both this seminar and a brief business meeting afterwards.

**AIDS Outreach Center** now offers a toll-free phone line for informational calls. For information about HIV testing, AIDS statistics, safe sex, local resources and more, call 1-800-836-0066.

**Pet Bereavement Support Group** is forming. It is open to anyone grieving the loss of a pet. The group will meet from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays. For more information, call Jan Dalsheimer at 921-7650.

**Chi Alpha**, a Christian group focusing on worship, fellowship,

evangelism, discipleship and prayer, meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays in Student Center Room 218.

**International Students Association** meets at 5 p.m. every Thursday. Check at the Student Center Information Desk for location.

**Rape/Sexual Assault Survivors' Group** is forming at the Counseling Center. The group will meet from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Fridays. For initial screening appointment, call Dorothy M. Barra at 921-7863.

**Women's Eating Disorders Group** is forming. The group will meet from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Fridays. Call Dr. Lisa Rollins-Garcia at 921-7863 for an initial screening appointment.

**The Butler Housing Area** needs volunteers willing to tutor school-age children (grades 3 to 8) from 4 to 6 p.m. one or more afternoons per week. For more information, call Sonja Barnett at 870-2046.

**Adult Children of Alcoholics** groups are being organized at the TCU Counseling Center. For more information, call Larry Withers at 921-7863.

## Adult group lets mature students be part of university community

By SARAH DUNCAN  
TCU Daily Skiff

Most TCU students don't have to worry about balancing a job, finals and a family including a spouse and children, let alone finding time to relax and have a little fun.

Yet, this is a reality for some adult students at TCU, who often cite feeling excluded from campus life as an additional hurdle to overcome on their ways to making the grade.

"Adults don't really feel like part of the campus," said Neal Steinbrecher, a senior nutrition major and vice president of < Kappa Beta. "They usually feel excluded because they're older and have families."

To address these unique complications, the group < Kappa Beta was formed. The group, whose name means "greater than 22," is for any TCU student over the age of 22, according to sponsor Sarah Schaffer. "These are busy people," Schaffer said. "They get things done quickly.

We are off to a roaring start."

< Kappa Beta was formed by three adult students who wondered if any of their peers were experiencing some of the same difficulties adjusting to TCU. Nursing major and group president Malinda Jones decided to put up a sign-up sheet. Within the first day, 13 people signed up, indicating interest in joining some kind of adult club, according to Jones.

"I wasn't expecting this much response," Jones said. "I thought maybe we would have a group of eight to ten people. The next thing I know, there were thirty people signed up. My jaw hit the floor."

< Kappa Beta has since elected a core of 11 officers. Their first meeting will be November 22 after a seminar on "How to study for Finals," Schaffer said. The group has planned a party at Abernathy's between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. on the Friday after finals, and also plans to sell pins, sweatshirts and T-shirts to promote the group.

Schaffer said goals of < Kappa Beta include providing a basis of support and welcome for adult students, providing fun activities for students and their families and participating in community service projects both on and off the TCU campus.

"I always wanted to belong to a sorority, but I never thought about a group like this," said scrapbook chairwoman Betty Washington. "This is a unique and important source of support. It gives you somebody to talk to through the day — a coming together of the minds."

Jones said the most challenging thing about < Kappa Beta will be to let adult students know that the group exists.

"It took me until mid-October to find the adult student club on campus, and even then, I wandered into it by accident," she said. "The biggest challenge will be to let people know we're here. We're going to have a blast."

### College

by Dan Killeen



### Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



### Arrest/ from page 1

gun from her purse and pointed it at them.

A man who was in the apartment took Freelove's gun and handed it to Cirelli. Cirelli unloaded the gun, put it up to Freelove's chin and said she didn't want Freelove to ever come back to the apartment and wanted nothing more to do with her.

"Brandi stated that she was tired of playing Channing's 'high school games' to make her jealous and that she was becoming a pain in the a—," the affidavit reported.

"Brandi stated that she wanted someone she could count on to be there for her and that Sherrie was now her girlfriend," it said. "Brandi also stated that she needed to find someone to take care of Channing

because she was becoming a real problem, she couldn't have her coming over because it was bad for her business."

The man who stopped Freelove from jumping off the balcony told police that after the fight in which Freelove was disarmed, he overheard Cirelli say, "I'm sick of this high school game crap. If she ever comes around here again, I'll get rid of her my way."

Cirelli asked the man who had been released from prison Nov. 5 "what it would take for him to take care of Channing for her," according to the affidavit.

The man told her he wanted no part in Freelove's death.

"Not even for money?" Cirelli

asked him. He told her no, because he had just been released from prison.

Cirelli then said she would "just have to find someone else to take care of Channing," the affidavit said. Sikes said she knew a man who had beaten up one of Cirelli's ex-boyfriends and eventually had him set up to get busted and go to jail.

Police are continuing their investigation of Freelove and Golchert's acquaintances and have several suspects in the double murder.

Freelove was a freshman premed student at TCU; Golchert was a freshman at Tarrant County Junior College's south campus. The TCU Registrar's Office confirmed that neither Cirelli nor Sikes have ever been enrolled at TCU.

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# Opinion

## Campaign posters lack entertainment to hold student interest



**RYAN  
McCARTHY**

The fact is indisputable. These fluorescent posters and signs need to come down quick.

You know what I'm talking about: Yeager for leadership, for action, for treasurer, Blocker for president — integrity and diversity, and last and definitely not least, Scott Wheatley for vice president — back to basics. This is just to mention a few.

I can just see it. Some student is walking to class thinking, "I could vote for leadership and action, but what about integrity and diversity... Geez, maybe I should just go back to the basics."

I guess that if we went back to the basics through the election process, a good majority of the campus next year would go to class chewing on

blades of grass. Maybe we could tear down a couple of buildings and replace them with a beautiful field.

The way I see it, all these candidates have integrity, leadership and diversity. If they didn't, they wouldn't take the time to run and put up all these signs. One thing that hasn't been displayed though, is creativity.

If you are going to flood the university with posters and signs, have some fun with it. Make four hundred different posters, each dumber than the other.

Here are some examples: "Vote for Fred Willard, his favorite color is your favorite color./Vote for Jeff Braezeale, his telephone is your umbilical chord./Have a drink of water, it's on Rick Heimendinger.

Rick for president. (This is to be displayed by a water fountain.)/Vote for Ryan McCarthy, he's a hairy version of Webster." I really hope you get the idea.

So they may sound really dumb, but were they interesting? Sure they were. If one candidate put up 378 random posters such as these above, would you read them? I think you would, more so than that "Rock the house" one. At least, that's my guess.

There were a few funny signs out there. Take for example that poster with the guy from L.A. Law. It's funny; way too many of them, but funny.

One thing I really enjoy, though, is reading these people's resumes. You know, the ones displayed on

the lunch table signs. I've seen a lot of people writing down and comparing and contrasting the resumes so as to vote for the most qualified candidate.

People have been walking up to me recently and asking questions like, "Which do you think is more important: Dean's Honor List every semester or being V.P. of programming for two years?"

Guess what, people don't care if you've managed to make great grades. It's assumed. How many "D" students decide to become treasurer?

They would probably prefer to go the pub and drink some more ale that got them the stellar GPA.

I guess I could be analyzing this a bit too much, but it just seems as

though the TCU campus has become a fluorescent nightmare. If you want your signs to stick out, don't use bright yellow, use black. It would look like a big stain amongst an explosion of pastels.

Next year at this time, I hope you all remember this column. It might make for an enjoyable November.

Just imagine, all the candidates try to out do each other in obscurity and stupidity in campaigning. The campus will become a big zany romper room.

Who knows, maybe even a riot of joy will erupt.

*Ryan McCarthy is a sophomore premajor from Leawood, Kansas, who wants to make your year great. Vote Ryan.*

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### Drunk driving

Now that I am on my own at school, I think back on all the things my parents have done for me only because they loved me - no questions asked.

I ask something of you—sit back and think of the special things your parents did for YOU. Maybe your mom scraped up extra money so you could have a new dress or tux for a party. Maybe your dad sent you more money because you fouled up your checkbook. Or how about the times when your parents sat up with you all night when you had a nightmare?

Did your mom stay up late with you while you cried your eyes out because someone broke your heart? My mom did. Did your parents come to your football and basketball games or watch you cheer? My parents did. Do your parents just say they love you for no reason? My parents do.

Now that you have all these thoughts of your parents' love, think about the grief they would go through if they were to get a call from the hospital.

There has been an accident...

Can you imagine the phone sliding from your father's hands in disbelief? Can you imagine your mom's shriek of anguish to learn that her baby will never come home?

Think about your parents' agony of having to come up to school to move you out, only that you will not go home with them. Think of Thanksgiving and Christmas and how they will never be the same once you're gone.

Drinking and driving is not a game. You can't start over—once you are dead, you stay dead. There are no second chances. You cannot bargain with death.

Let me define death: a PERMANENT cessation of

all vital functions—the end of life...

The key word is permanent. We all know about permanence. Tattoos are permanent. There are permanent markers. Life is NOT permanent!!

You are precious to someone, and if you aren't going to think of yourself, think of them!! You are somebody's baby.

Don't think I am preaching. I am not condemning drinking. Morality is the least of my concerns - Lord knows that I am not a saint. I admit I have done my fair share of drinking and driving, but past mistakes cannot be rectified. You and I only have the future to which we can control. Take charge of your fate.

Remember that life has so much to offer and, personally, I do not want to miss anything. Remember all the dreams that have brought you this far. Remember, oh remember, that those dreams can vanish in a split second.

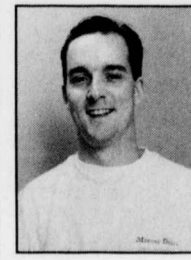
My dreams. I want to be able to walk across the stage to get my degree. I want to be able to look into my husband's eyes. I want to hold my first child. I want to hold my grandchildren. I WANT TO GROW OLD!

I want life.

Now I have a question for you—is it worth it? Is one more beer worth death? Is getting into a car drunk so that you can sleep in your own bed worth the agony you could cause your family? Is pride worth death? Is anything worth death? One more question—is a lifetime of happiness worth saying no to drinking and driving? Is your parents' happiness worth saying no?

I know it is.

**Deborah Dean**  
Junior, history



## Freelove case un.masks story of double life

Her TCU freshman credentials were exemplary: honor student, accomplished athlete, driven pre-medical student. This is the side of 19-year-old Channing Freelove that was on the books until the events surrounding her death were revealed.

Freelove's freshman orientation roommate described her as fairly normal, but a little eccentric... "maybe even a bit strange." Strange enough that she didn't feel comfortable sleeping in the same room with Freelove after the first night and slept in a friend's room instead. She said Freelove mentioned getting "f— up" in a general sense, like Freelove enjoyed partying, but she didn't mention drugs at all.

Freelove also expressed "no homosexual tendencies" to her roommate during this short period of contact, but that she planned to "live with a friend off-campus" even though TCU requires freshmen to live in the dorms or with their parents for their first semester of college.

Freelove and Melanie Golchert, the other woman found shot execution-style next to Freelove's car, attended high school at R. L. Paschal. The Paschal campus borders on what some consider a rough part of town, but it is a mere four blocks from the TCU campus, with its pristine lawns and 24-hour security, and only slightly further from the exclusive neighborhoods around Colonial Country Club and Hulen Street.

Golchert attended the south campus of Tarrant County Junior College, which is a popular starting college for those who cannot afford or get into a more rigorous university. Freelove, on the other hand, was attending our fine university, noted for rather conservative views and lifestyles, where drugs and a homosexual community are present but are so low key that they probably wouldn't be noticed by any but the most probing outsiders.

But it is here on South University that a young woman with every outward appear-

ance of being the all-American girl continued her dangerous flirtation with the wilder elements of the city.

The young women were engaged in a sexual relationship, according to an arrest warrant affidavit filed in Tarrant County, and Tuesday, two other women were arrested for criminal solicitation of capital murder. Approximately four pounds of marijuana was seized during the arrest at the suspects' apartment. They are also believed to have been involved in lesbian affairs with both Golchert and Freelove.

There is also the matter of the 2/2 pounds of a "leafy green substance" found in Freelove's apartment and the 10 pounds of marijuana allegedly fronted to her by a dealer and then supposedly was stolen from her, according to police reports.

Many of the details of the case remain to be proven, but it is clear that there is a common thread running through the entire story: Channing Freelove, in theory, should have been living a life to be envied by most young ladies — college parties and a quality education — but instead she was leading a life that most of us have only seen on TV or imagined — drug debts and complicated lesbian love affairs.

leading a life most of us have only seen on TV or imagined — drug debts and complicated lesbian love affairs.

Most people on campus felt about the same when they heard of the murder of a fellow student and her friend: shocked, but suspicious because of the location and manner of the murder. Since then, the case has done nothing but become increasingly strange. What was in the beginning viewed as another unfortunate death has become a bizarre tragedy: A case of young women trying to live completely on the edge and slipping off.

The truth of the matter may never be known, but one thing is fairly clear: It could have been anybody's daughter who found her way into this twisted web of narcotics and aberration. Perhaps that's what makes it all the more frightening.

*Clay Gaillard was assisted on this column by Dena Rains, freshman advertising/public relations major from Tyler, Texas.*



## 'Mrs.' President could be closer than most folks think

*There's more to women in politics than Geraldine Ferraro*

This summer I worked at a Christian sports camp. The work was rewarding, but it did have its challenges.

The challenge was not the cabin full of 12-year-old hormonally challenged (this is the politically correct term for those going through puberty) boys; rather, the challenge was the colleagues ramming head-on into my often waffling value system.

One guy in particular disagreed with me on everything from movies to the "evils" of "secular" music to the evolution.

**CRAIG  
MARTIN**

I remember one conversation that thoroughly disturbed me.

I expressed my hope that one day a woman would occupy the White House. He, in a typical fundamental, Bible-thumpin' way, said he hoped that would never happen because he didn't think "God made us that way." I pressed the issue sparingly because I had learned that this was one Christian who could not be reasoned with.

His wife sat with the good-Christian-wife-apologetic-half-smile on her face that communicated to me that she knew she was stuck to the perils of domestic work for the remainder of her days. I nearly had to hurl out the window as a spewing of religious and scriptural reasons for male dominance flowed from his illogical lips.

I suppose he has a reason for believing what he believes, and maybe I am just a left-wing, tree-huggin', flag-burnin', feminazi liberal (which contrary to my summer colleagues' opinion is not the case... I think). But I also have a reason for believing what I believe, and since I have the pen in my hand, indulge me for a few minutes and I will enlighten you (insert arrogant, pompous, columnist smirk here).

It is true that America has never had a woman president. Oh sure, Geraldine Ferraro was the first woman to be nominated for national office by a major party in 1984, but she doesn't count because among other things (like being on the ticket with Walter Mondale), her husband cheated on his taxes or something really

quirmy like that.

In Britain, Margaret Thatcher ruled with an iron VAT tax for many years, and Canada just recently elected its first woman prime minister. It's politically chic to elect a woman — just ask Ann Richards (Harley-Davidson mama extraordinaire). But hey, this is America where our politicians brag about how far behind all the industrial nations we are in wages and health care and production and legalization of pot and prison rehab and euthanasia and...

I haven't even begun to start on all the wonders of the fabulous Japanese.

*Warning, the tone of this column is about to change because the columnist realizes that his jokes are tired and up to this point his ramblings have achieved... well, nothing.*

I was flipping through U.S. News and World Report last week when I saw the ever-so-brilliant Hillary Rodham Clinton — yes, I think she is brilliant, and I am not returning to my former pithy ways. After all she did graduate No. 1 in her law class at Yale — addressing a Congressional hearing on the health care issue.

The picture, along with my reflections back to the glorious days of yesteryear when Ann Richards (Harley-Davidson mama extraordinaire) spoke at Fall Convocation and wowed me with her wit and political power, made me realize that women are beginning to make serious inroads in politics. A woman in the White House just might provide the political dynamicism and charm to break the "gridlock" in Congress. A woman in the White House just might be able to provide new insights into the problems of this country.

OK, OK, maybe not. After all, a woman in the White House would still be a politician. But I do hope a woman will be in the White House before I die because I think it would be — forgive me this once for using a big word, there is just no other way to say it and sound intellectual — cop acetic.

*Craig Martin is gearing up his personal political machine to make the big push for Kay Bailey Hutchison's presidential campaign in the year 2000.*

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## INSIGHT

## Adoption: understanding both sides

## Road to adoption starts with provider

By JENNIFER SCOTT  
TCU Daily Skiff

The advertisements seem to fight for attention, sandwiched between the attorneys and the psychics in the classified section of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.

"A Baby Wanted. A loving Dallas couple wants to adopt a baby or young child. MUCH LOVE, happy home, good schools and many advantages. Pictures and visits for you, if you wish. Call Sarah and Andrew collect at (214) 555-BABY."

Sarah and Andrew are not alone.

A study conducted by the National Council for Adoption found there are between one and two million infertile couples and individuals in the United States looking to adopt the 51,157 available children in 1992.

Sarah and Andrew have chosen an adoption route that many agencies and adoption advocates say could lead to heartbreak and frustration in the future: private adoption.

Kayte Steinert-Threlkeld, vice president of public information for the Gladney Center in Fort Worth, said the choice of the "adoption provider," the choice between private and agency adoption, is one of the most important choices potential adoptive couples face.

"Those who practice private adoptions are attorneys who make arrangements and handle the legal papers between adoptive parents and birth parents," Steinert-Threlkeld said. "We (agencies) see a breakdown in that process in that they are not prepared to offer the same type of services to all the people affected by adoption that an agency like Gladney does, particularly where counseling

is concerned."

Susan Paquet, a Fort Worth attorney who handles private adoption cases, said that one form of adoption, private or agency, is not necessarily better than the other.

"What is right for one particular birth mother and adoptive parents may not be right for another," she said. "People have to make their decisions on an individual basis."

Nevertheless, Stan Brown, an adoption agent for the Buckner Institute in Dallas, said his concern with private adoption practices focused

on the child to help prepare her for the decision that she is going to make and to prepare her for the sense of loss she will face following placement. The center also provides services for the adoptive parents to help them cope with sudden parenthood.

"Most of the stories you hear about in the news have to do with private adoptions," she said, "simply because the same kind of care and concern has not been afforded to the parties prior to placement that would have been offered through an agency like Gladney."

The stories Steinert-Threlkeld spoke of concerned "Baby Jessica," the 2½-year-old adopted child of Michigan couple Roberta and Jan DeBoer, who was ordered returned to her biological parents in August after two years of court battles.

The DeBoers' problems began when the birth mother, Cara Schmidt, put a man's name other than the father's on Jessica's Iowa birth certificate. The man named as the father signed away his parental rights, but the real father, Dan Schmidt, never did.

A thorough background check by a licensed agency would have stopped the DeBoer-Schmidt situation early on, Steinert-Threlkeld said.

"He (Schmidt) never relinquished his rights to the child," she said. "We would have never sent that baby home."

Paquet said the Baby Jessica case could have happened with an agency as well.

"All adoptions are at-risk, whether they be agency or private adoptions," she said. "What makes agency adoptions a little more secure is that they are very conservative and do an excellent job; therefore, the assumption is made that everything was handled as it should have been. Attorneys vary tremendously in how

well they do things."

A representative of the Fort Worth law firm of Bailey, Galyen and Temple, who asked that her name not be used, said: "As long as the adoption is done properly through a reputable law firm, a private adoption isn't any more risky than an adoption through an agency."

Paquet says adoption varies from state to state, and Texas is considered a very conservative state for both agency and private adoptions.

"Private adoptions in Texas have to follow all the rules that agency adoptions follow," she said.

The National Council for Adoption (NCA) in Washington, D.C., reported that, in general, the birth-parent signs a consent to the adoption or a relinquishment of parental rights.

This consent or relinquishment is not legally binding prior to the birth of the child and can generally be revoked for a limited period of time after birth.

The Council also reported the biological father of the child usually must be notified of any adoption plan.

After a period of court supervision that varies from six months to a year in length, during which the adoptive parents have custody of the child, the adoption can be finalized.

Texas adoption laws do vary slightly from other states in that the birth mother can not revoke her decision once relinquishment papers are signed.

Steinert-Threlkeld said Gladney and other licensed agencies work with the birth mothers to ensure that the legal aspects of the adoption are taken care of, as well as the emotional aspects.

The Gladney Center takes its birth mothers to court before the birth of their children where they appear privately before a judge to testify that they are placing their child for adop-

tion on their own free will, and not because they were pressured by Gladney, their parents or the father of the child, Steinert-Threlkeld said.

"If at that time they have a change of heart, we won't allow the adoption to go forward," she said. "We don't

outnumber agency adoptions in Texas 2 to 1, a number that reflects national trends.

This trend is probably due to the shorter waiting periods involved in private adoptions, Paquet said.

Linda Moore, associate professor of sociology and director of the social work program at TCU, said this trend is typical of the current adoption situation in the United States.

"What happens is that people just want babies," she said, "and they're willing to go wherever it is that they need to go to get those children."

The number of adoptions in Texas has been following a downward trend for several years, with 7,432 adoptions registered in 1990 and 6,992 for 1992. Tarrant County adoptions account for almost 10 percent of all the adoptions registered in the state.

Patricia Molina of the Central Adoption Registry in Austin said the downward trend has one very apparent cause.

"More and more unwed, and usually teen-age, mothers are keeping their babies," she said. "With less of a stigma attached to unwed motherhood there is less of an incentive to give the children up."

This decline leaves hundreds of thousands of infertile couples to choose "at risk" private adoptions, she said.

However, the representative from Bailey, Galyen and Temple said the Baby Jessica case and others like it have caused people to be more careful and reduce the risk involved with private adoptions.

"I definitely think the recent controversies have scared potential adoptive parents — and they should," she said. "They need to be very careful about the attorney they choose and they need to study up and find out what needs to be done and how it needs to be done to ensure that their adoption is successful and risk-free."



primarily on the lack of counseling offered the parties involved.

"Generally, agencies like Buckner and Gladney that are licensed by the state as child-placing agencies are required to meet some minimum standards where counseling is concerned," he said. "Private adoptions aren't held to that same accountability."

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ment of the child to help prepare her for the decision that she is going to make and to prepare her for the sense of loss she will face following placement. The center also provides services for the adoptive parents to help them cope with sudden parenthood.

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Want any adoptions to occur without the full and wholehearted endorsement of the birth mother or the father of the baby?"



Paquet agreed that the birth parent's relinquishment is irrevocable, but said even that safeguard does not lead to foolproof adoptions.

"This still doesn't mean that parental rights are terminated," she said. "The birth mother can still go into court and testify that it would be in the baby's best interest to be raised by her, and even in agency adoptions it could be overturned."

Still, according to statistics from the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services Central Adoption Registry, private adoptions

## Agency helps couple find perfect match

By JENNIFER SCOTT  
TCU Daily Skiff

Bob and Mary Ellen Baker had been married for 13 years when they decided to adopt a child.

The Grapevine couple had been trying to have children since the beginning of their marriage, but with no results.

They underwent many medical tests hoping to find answers for the infertility that their doctors could not explain. Their ordeal helped them decide to adopt.

"There were other things (tests) we could have tried," Mary Ellen said. "But it came to the point where I had had enough. My body had been picked on enough and I said 'I don't want to do this anymore.'"

Bob said the couple first decided to look into international adoption, because they heard that five-year waits for babies in the United States were common.

"We told some friends our plans

and they told us about the Gladney Center and said that the wait there was only a couple of years," he said. "The next week we filled out the information at Gladney and joined their auxiliary program."

The couple said they chose the agency adoption approach because they were looking for security, and they chose the Gladney Center because of its reputation of taking care of the birth mothers.

"That was of great concern to us because this isn't just someone who doesn't exist in our lives," Mary Ellen said. "Our birth mother is very important to us because she has brought Elizabeth to us and made our lives complete."

She said they wanted to make sure that the birth mother was taken care of emotionally, physically and socially and felt that the agency could best do that.

"We wanted to make sure that when all was said and done she (the birth mother) was comfortable with

what had happened," she said. "I didn't want to have a child in my home that some other woman was out there mourning for all the time."

The incidents surrounding the "Baby Jessica" case had many adoptive parents concerned about their own cases, but the Bakers said they were not concerned about their situation because all the legal obligations were met.

"The first thing I felt was concern for Jessica herself," Mary Ellen said. "Once I found out the real story, that Jessica had never really been adopted, I wasn't really concerned about our rights or Elizabeth's staying with us because everything was done correctly — all the legal things were taken care of."

The couple was given custody of Elizabeth soon after her birth in August 1992, and the birth parents signed away their parental rights. The adoption was final in November 1992.

Bob said the Baby Jessica case

helped to affirm that their decision to adopt through an agency had been the right one.

"When I first heard about the case I had been a father for less than a year and it just tore my heart out," he said. "The bond was already so strong between my daughter and myself that I just couldn't imagine anyone taking her away or having to give her up over some legal technicality."

He said people have to understand that adoption has two distinctive and important aspects.

"First, it (adoption) is the permanent placement of a child with a loving family," he said, "but secondly, it is a legal process that places full responsibility for that child with the adoptive parents. You have to meet that legal side, and the Deboers realized soon after Jessica was adopted that the legal side had not been met."

"I feel we did the right thing by going to the agency because we have no fear of this kind of thing ever happening to us," he said.

## Student never questions family ties

By MICHELE GRAY  
TCU Daily Skiff

Julie Hopkins sometimes forgets she's adopted.

"I really don't think about it (adoption) that much," said Hopkins, a sophomore education major. "I don't even remember my adopted mom and dad sitting me down and saying, 'You're adopted.'"

Hopkins was two days old when her adopted mother saw her at Harris Hospital in Fort Worth and adopted her immediately. Her mother, Charlene Hopkins, already had four children of her own but wanted another one.

But being adopted has not made her feel alienated from her family, she said.

Hopkins' attitude is typical, said Kayte Steinert-Threlkeld, vice president of public information at the Gladney Center, an adoption agency.

Todays adopted children do not feel as alienated as they did in the past, Steinert-Threlkeld said.

"About 30 or 40 years ago children had a stigma hanging over their head," she said. "They were considered a by-product of a pregnancy out of wedlock."

Adopted children perceived themselves as "tainted" and it would lower their self-esteem, Steinert-Threlkeld said.

The children of the Gladney Center are taught early that being adopted is not a terrible thing, she said. They grow up knowing from the beginning they were adopted, instead of finding out later on, she said.

Hopkins said she's always known she was adopted. Her parents had given her an almost storybook description of her birth and mother.

Hopkins' mother told her a little about her real mother. She was a 16-year-old woman from California from a devout Christian family, Hopkins said, and her only request was that a Christian family adopt her baby.

Hopkins said she never thought to ask her parents more questions about

her real parents. But now that she's 20, Hopkins said she would like to find out about her mother's medical history.

Hopkins said it's important to find out if her real mother had cancer or heart disease.

Steinert-Threlkeld said if adopted children want to find their real parents for whatever reason, they must first, be 21 years old and second, both the mother and the child must agree to meet each other.

Mothers and children can volunteer to give information to the Gladney Center and they will hold the information in a registry, she said.

Hopkins said her mother's medical history concerns her but otherwise she's not in a hurry to find out who her real mother is.

Hopkins believes the reason a lot of adopted children want to find their real parents is because they're unhappy with their present family.

"It would be different if I remembered my mother, but I don't," she said. "I think it would hurt my par-

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# Sports

## TCU athletes learn to adjust to season-ending injuries

By TY BENZ  
TCU Daily Skiff

Anytime athletes are seriously injured, their dedication is severely tested. This was the case for TCU athletes Reggie Anderson and Kurt Thomas.

Both Anderson and Thomas had their careers cut short by injuries in 1992 and missed the entire season.

In 1991, Anderson, who plays linebacker, led TCU in tackles with 110. But in spring practice before the 1992 season, he injured his left knee and had reconstructive knee surgery. The injury cost him all of 1992.

Thomas, a center for the men's basketball team, also had his career interrupted with an injury. As a sophomore, Thomas was a key sub-

without him. The basketball team finished with a 5-22 record in 1992.

"I hate to lose and I know I could have helped us win last year," Thomas said. "We had a bunch of close losses and I know I could have been the difference in some of those losses."

The biggest adjustment for both of them was being away from sports for a year, Thomas and Anderson said.

For Anderson, it was difficult being away from football and having the focus of his world change from athletics to academics, he said.

"When I first came to TCU all I thought about was football," he said. "I went to classes and got my grades, but I never took it seriously. But last year I was like a normal student."

Being a normal student made Anderson change his lifestyle, he said. He said he had to manage his time better and spent more time studying than he ever had before. It was a time of big adjustment for Anderson, he said.

"It was different for me," Anderson said. "I had to focus in on my classes while rehabbing my knee. I missed playing a lot, but I responded well in the classroom and made some 3.0 semesters."

Thomas, who just turned 21, said he spent last season growing up.

"I met a lot of people and hit the books hard," Thomas said. "I was out on my for the first time and didn't have to play basketball. It gave me a chance to grow up and mature as a person."

Thomas said his maturity grew because he had to work hard as a student and as a person.

Another hurdle both had to overcome was staying positive about their injuries, Thomas and Anderson said. Thomas said the first thing he had to realize was that his career wasn't over. He said he knew that he could play again if he rehabilitated his leg.

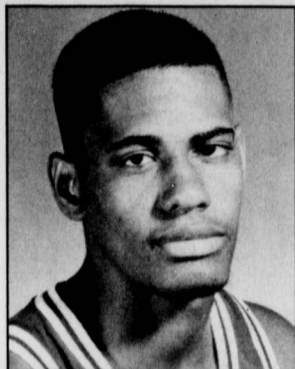
"You have to stay positive because if you let the negative things get to you, then your career could be ruined," Thomas said.

Anderson said he concentrated on his rehabilitation and how it would

help him as a player.

"I tried to look on the positive side of things and I how I was getting bigger and stronger while rehabbing my knee," Anderson.

While both athletes had a year of adjustment, the injuries forced



Kurt Thomas

Thomas and Anderson to work hard, but their dedication is paying off, they said.

Anderson returned to the starting lineup this year and leads TCU in tackles with 119. He said his hard work has played a big part in his success this year.

"I really think the injury helped me because I got bigger and stronger," Anderson said. "I worked the hardest I ever had this past off-season and was in good shape before the season started."

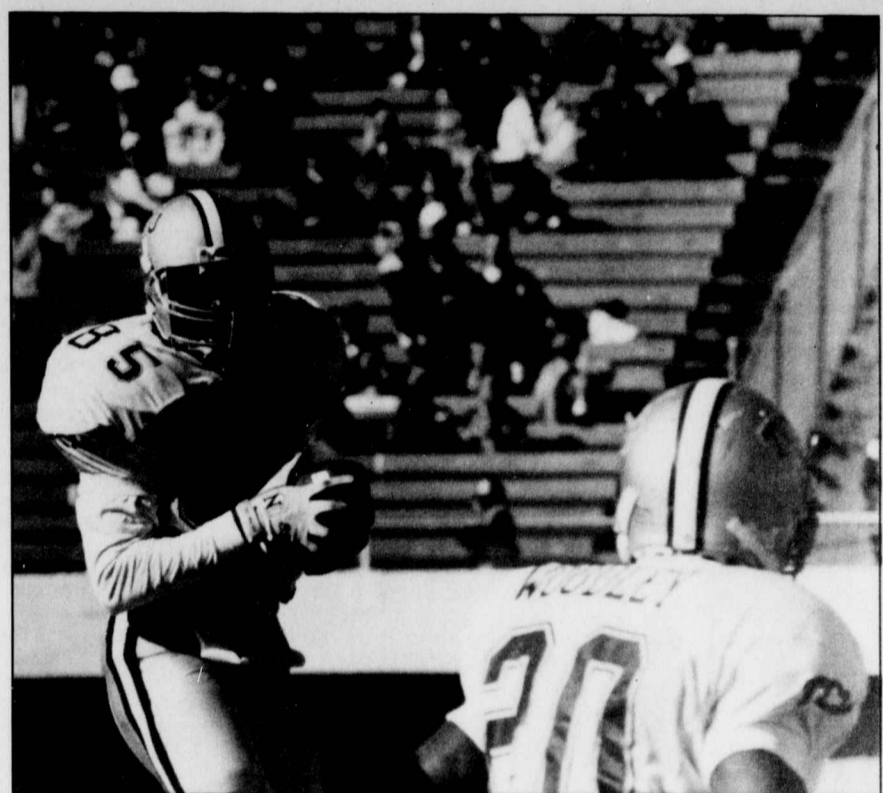
For Thomas, his season is just beginning. He said his leg has fully recovered and expects to stay healthy this season.

"I'm ready to go," he said. "I'm totally healthy, am in good shape and am stronger. I'm going to show everyone what I'm capable of doing."

Last season was a big adjustment for both Thomas and Anderson, but both said they wouldn't change a thing.

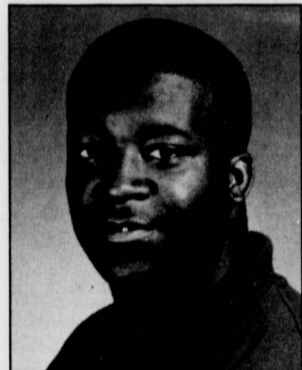
"You can't ever look back in life," Anderson said. "I tried to make the best of the situation, work hard and let everything else take care of itself. I guess things happen for a reasons and things have worked out good for me."

"It (the injury) made me a better person," Thomas said. "It showed me that I had to work a lot harder on things that don't come easy. You just can't play on talent alone, you have to improve it."



TCU Daily Skiff/Jenny Putchinski

Horned Frog tight end Brian Collins hauls in a pass in a TCU game earlier this season. The Frogs will play host to SWC powerhouse Texas A&M this Saturday at Amon Carter Stadium.



Reggie Anderson

stitute off the bench. He averaged more than seven points and five rebounds a game. But in an exhibition game against Fort Sill, Thomas fractured his left tibia, forcing him to miss all of last season.

Both Thomas and Anderson said not playing was a big disappointment because they missed playing their sport and knowing they couldn't help their teams win.

"Sitting out last year was tough because I love to play the game so much," Anderson said. "It was very disappointing to know that I couldn't help the team out at all."

Thomas said it was frustrating watching the Frogs struggle inside

## Kosar will start on Sunday if Aikman is unable to play

By DENNE H. FREEMAN  
Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Bernie Kosar will make his first start for the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday against the Atlanta Falcons if Troy Aikman's hamstring injury isn't 100 percent healed, coach Jimmy Johnson said Tuesday.

Kosar came off the bench against Phoenix Sunday to replace Jason Garrett and hit 13 of 21 passes for 199 yards and a touchdown in a 20-15 victory that extended the world champion's winning streak to seven games.

"In all probability Bernie will start Sunday," Johnson said. "Troy is jogging and will work this week. If he can workout without aggravating the injury then Troy would be the starter."

"Bernie will get the majority of snaps in practice. It wouldn't be necessary for Troy to get as much work. We'll probably know later in the week about Troy's status."

The Cowboys listed Aikman, who pulled his left hamstring in the third quarter of Dallas' 31-9 victory over the New York Giants Nov. 7, as questionable for Sunday's contest at Atlanta.

"We want to be conservative with Troy's injury," Johnson said. "We want to make sure he is 100 percent healthy. We don't want to aggravate the situation. I want to see him to be able to change direction when he runs."

Johnson made another change at Valley Ranch on Tuesday after elevating Kosar over Garrett as Aikman's No. 1 backup.

He released seven-year veteran backup fullback Tommie Agee to make room for an undisclosed roster move.

"It was difficult to release a player I have a tremendous amount of respect and affection for," Johnson said. "Tommie was very well liked. He perhaps could be resigned but we had to do something to help with our injuries."

The Cowboys lost special teams star Joe Fishback with a knee injury and have a number of injuries in the defensive line, particularly Charles Haley, who has a bad back and saw only limited duty against the Cardinals.

Leon Lett has a leg injury. Also, kick return specialist and wide receiver Kevin Williams is doubtful against Atlanta with hip and knee injuries.

"We're more banged up for this game than for any game this season," Johnson said. "We have a lot of players who are not 100 percent but will play."

"Atlanta is a tough team to play at home in the dome," Johnson said. "It could give Bernie a little trouble playing in a loud place. He's still trying to learn all of our plays. He used a wristband last week because he didn't have enough time to get our signals down. We'll be signaling from the sideline this week."

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# News

## Unplugged

Campus restaurant becomes coffeehouse for the evening

By CRYSTAL DECKER  
TCU Daily Skiff

The Pit was transformed into a cafe-style coffeehouse Monday night to celebrate the first night of TCU Hunger Week.

Students were supplied with muted lighting and tables set with candles and incense. An elevated stage in the corner of the room was littered with throw pillows and 1960s-style lamps, lending to the laid-back, beatnik atmosphere. Free coffee and pastries were served, and the attitude was one of casual observation.

The event, called "TCU Unplugged," was brought to students by the university's Performing Arts Committee. Kelly Burns, a junior advertising/public relations major and chairwoman of the committee, said the event was something the stu-

**"We decided to do this because we saw a need to do a cultural, groovy, funky artsy thing. This was the best way to do it."**

**KELLY BURNS,**  
Chairwoman,  
Performing Arts Committee

dents have been wanting to see on campus.

"We decided to do this because we saw a need to do a cultural, groovy, funky, artsy thing," Burns said. "This was the best way to do it."

The musical performers of the evening, Esoteric, played for the stu-

dents. Their sound was said to be a blend of Enya, Madonna and New Order, according to some students.

Students were also encouraged to perform for the crowd in an "open-mic" session. Performances included acoustic guitar performances and original poetry to readings from favorite books and "Deep Thoughts."

Donations for Hunger Week were accepted, and tickets for the Hunger Week banquet and auction were sold.

"I think it turned out really well," Burns said. "Our committee decided that if we had 50 people show up, the night would have been a success, and we had about 50 come through tonight."

"This was the first time for Programming Council to try anything like this and it was really good," she said. "We'll probably try it again sometime."



Esoteric (Julie Lange, Brian Aitken and Darren Jenkins) plays Monday at "TCU Unplugged."

TCU Daily Skiff/Alex Tallercio

## 'Patient' nursing instructor wins award for teaching excellence

By RICK WATERS  
TCU Daily Skiff

Marinda Allender is a patient teacher in the eyes of her students. She explains and then carefully explains again the intricacies of the human body until all her pupils understand.

Allender is a polished professional in the eyes of her fellow faculty members. She juggles both the roles of conscientious teacher and knowledgeable expert in her field.

Allender is a pediatric nurse who loves what she does — teaching students about taking care of children.

"I like working with students and getting them excited about taking care of children," said Allender, an instructor in pediatric nursing. "It is very rewarding work for me."

Her love for her job stems directly from her involvement with her students, she said.

The feeling is mutual. "She is a wonderful teacher and person," said Karen Haas, a senior nursing major. "She is one of those teachers that is tough but good. She does an excellent job of taking a complicated subject and explaining it with patience."

Another student agreed. "In one word, she is just great,"

said a senior nursing major who asked not to be named. "As a teacher, her door is always open and she is always available to help her students. She is really a human being on top of being a teacher."

Allender's hard work has paid off, said Patricia Scarse, dean of the Harris College of Nursing. She received the Ruth Eliose Sperry Teaching Excellence Award during Homecoming week activities because of her commitment to students and the respect of her peers, Scarse said.

"The award is really an honor because it is given by peers," she said. "I think peers are looking for a certain level of excellence in teaching and she (Allender) has it. She is well-respected by students and faculty alike."

Allender said she teaches a lecture class once a week and supervises a lab practicum twice a week. She also works part time as a staff nurse at Cook Fort Worth Children's Medical Center, she said.

In addition, Allender is active with student pre-professional organizations, such as the Student Nursing Association, Scarse said.

Haas, who is a member of the association, said Allender acts as an advisor to the group and often

accompanies student to conventions. She rallies faculty support for the organization also.

"There is so much to get excited about in nursing," Allender said. "You can really make a difference in people's lives when you get involved."

And making a difference is what makes her job meaningful, she said.

Allender said she has seen nursing make that difference in the lives of some of her former students.

She also said that one of her best memories was of a football player who was not sure he wanted to be a nurse. She worked with him and persuaded him to "give it another chance." He is now a pediatric nurse in the intensive care unit of a San Antonio hospital.

Allender said seeing her former students achieve success in the field also makes teaching students rewarding.

At least 10 of Allender's former students from the last three years now work alongside her at the medical center, she said.

"The award is very special to me and I'm glad the students and the faculty here chose me," she said. "I just enjoy teaching students and seeing them achieve success."

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