

TCU Daily Skiff

Tuesday, November 30, 1993

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas

91st Year, No. 53

Headaches of parking may soon be resolved

By JENNIFER SCOTT
Special to the Skiff

It is a game that is played several times during the day, usually beginning 10 to 15 minutes before scheduled classes. Students drive around in circles, first around the lots in front of the student center, then around the library lot, then the smaller lots near the TCU Press and Sid Richardson buildings.

As earlier classes are released and the hourly bells begin to chime, parking spaces open up and the circling motorists fill them quickly in a sort of dance with the departing cars. Soon, the chiming ends and many students are left sitting in the aisles of the lots, unable to catch a space.

These students lose the game and must start over, circling the more distant parking lots and thinking of excuses for being late that their professors will accept.

Whether this scenario is inevitable is the question at the heart of what has been labelled the "parking situation" at TCU, and it is an issue that students and administrators believe must be answered.

A 1992 University self-study committee conducted a survey containing several questions about parking on campus.

One of the questions, question 141, simply stated "Campus parking is adequate." Among undergraduates who responded, 12 percent answered that they believed the statement to be

true while 83 percent said that the statement was false and five percent had no opinion about the subject.

Scott McLinden, vice president of the Student House of Representatives, said that complaints about parking have a recurring role in the student government.

"Parking is an issue that comes up at every single meeting we have," he said. "It's always been a major issue and it will continue to be a major issue."

McLinden said that the members of the House have found bills and resolutions dating from the '70s and '80s concerning parking.

"It's an issue with a lot of history on this campus," he said. According to *Skiff* and *Image* archives, students were demanding more parking lots as early as 1947 because they considered the lots behind the administration building and library too far to walk to classes.

In a 1958 *Skiff* editorial titled "The Parking Misery," the editorial board complained that the number of parking spaces on campus was not keeping up with the growth of the university and predicted that "In the future, we're sure a lasting solution to the campus parking problem will be found." However, a 1968 article in the *Skiff* showed no signs of an improved situation with its headline — "Apollo Space Woes Can't Match Ours."

The 1970's and 1980's brought more complaints from students, and

a 1980 *Image* column insisted that the parking situation was a "Communist conspiracy" that was meant to drive students out of their minds.

Provost William Koehler said that parking complaints tend to follow certain patterns.

"For as long as I can remember, it (the parking issue) tend to be something that is most acute in late August and early September," he said. "What I hear tends to trail off as the year goes on."

"I don't think a year goes by that I don't hear something about the 'parking problem,'" Koehler said, "but it's not always the same problem."

According to physical plant and campus police statistics, there are 6,155 parking spaces on campus for 3,756 registered student motorists and 817 registered faculty and staff motorists.

This number does not include the three University Christian Church (UCC) parking lots that are made available to students from 7 a.m. to midnight daily. These lots, located at the corners of West Cantey Street and University Drive, West Cantey Street and Rogers Avenue, and Rogers Avenue and McPherson Street, contain approximately 274 spaces, said Mike Swank, UCC business manager.

"Basically, the lots are just something we provide as TCU's church,"

see *Parking*, page 6



TCU Daily Skiff/Jenny Putchinski

Diana Nefkens (left), a senior special education major, and Jennifer Tefsteller (bottom right), a senior neuroscience major, are assisted by Kenny Vaughn from HVAC in decorating the Christmas tree Monday in front of Sadler Hall. The Order of Omega annual tree-lighting ceremony will take place Wednesday night.

Finding a job may take longer today than in years past

By CARRIE SCHUMACHER
TCU Daily Skiff

Brandon Cotter graduated from TCU in May with a degree in radio-TV-film. He has decided not to work within his major and is looking for a job in systems integration.

The job helps companies and organizations adapt new computer technology to specifically help their company. Since graduation, Cotter has traveled to Europe for job-related experience and has completed several interviews at large and small companies. He remains motivated and positive, but his patience has almost run out.

Ginger Nichols, assistant director of TCU's Career Planning and Placement Center, said finding a job is going to take a little longer than it used to.

"There are fewer jobs, but I don't always think there are as few as we are lead to believe," Nichols said. "They're different and they're harder to find."

Downsizing at Fortune 500 companies has left the majority of jobs in the smaller companies, she said. Companies with less than 250 employees are going to see the most growth in the next few years, but these companies are the hardest to find, Nichols said.

Carolyn Ulrickson, director of the Career Planning and Placement Center said these jobs aren't easy to find because the companies won't be holding on-campus interviews like many larger companies did in the past. Jobs are going to be harder to find for everyone, not just college graduates, because of downsizing, Ulrickson said.

When graduates get hired, they should be prepared to be flexible and do more than just one job, Nichols said. Companies are hiring more generalists than specialists because they are easier to retrain, she said.

Both Nichols and Ulrickson said job hunting needs to include networking. Cotter said he used both family and friends to set

up interviews and get resumes in the right hands. He also used the career center's Alumni Sharing Knowledge database to locate TCU graduates involved with computers. One of the contacts he found was at Apple Computers, he said.

"I called him and got information about Apple and we talked about what I wanted to do," Cotter said. "He also gave me names of other contacts that I might be interested in talking with."

Networking includes a lot of initiative to follow through and really use the contacts you've made, he said. The career center database is one place to start networking. The alumni database has more than 1,900 members who would like to help TCU graduates find a job, Ulrickson said.

"If there's one thing I think all of us can become better at, it's networking," Nichols said. "The idea of who you know is critically important."

Joining professional organizations within

your major is a good way to begin networking early, Nichols said. Internships and other job-related experience also can help students make contacts, she said.

"You need to start making contacts, whether that be from an on-campus interview or coming to the career center's directories and getting in touch," Ulrickson said.

To compete within a smaller job market, graduates are going to need more than just a college degree, she said: "A bachelor's degree is no longer a guarantee of a job. You have to market and sell yourself."

There are several ways to gain marketability during your college years. Having job-related experience or an internship in your field is one way to set yourself apart from other applicants.

"So many organizations are looking for individuals to fill openings who have taken the initiative to find career related work and internships," Nichols said. "This ensures that their capital investment in an individual

is, in their opinion, better."

She said many companies like to hire their interns because they have learned the job-related skills and employers already know what their work ethic is like.

Job hunters are also going to need good communication skills to help market themselves. Employers are ranking both oral and written communication skills as a top priority for their employees, Ulrickson said.

"They're saying, 'Give me someone with strong communication skills. I can teach them any job, but I don't have the time to develop their communication skills,'" she said.

Students can show these skills in both resumes and interviewing. Graduates need to have a good resume and cover letter before they attempt their job search. Cotter said he has updated his resume at least 10 times since graduation. He also used a

see *Jobs*, page 6

Learning disabilities receive university's accommodations

By JOHN J. LUMPKIN
TCU Daily Skiff

Words dance around the page for one student. Another can't remember which goes first — addition or multiplication. Yet another understands the test question but can't seem to organize an outline.

Such problems are typical for students with learning disabilities.

For these students, the university can provide accommodations for those who need them. Learning disabilities are handled under the auspices of Jennifer W. Sweeney, coordinator of academic services for students with disabilities at TCU.

Julie Hynes is a sophomore physical education major. A car accident left her legally blind in one eye and with a learning disability that affects her comprehension speed.

"It takes me a longer time to study," she said. "If I'm really trying to make the grade, you will find me studying most of the time."

Hynes was allowed extra time on tests to compensate through working with the Dean of Students Office and, later, Academic Services.

"When I know that I have extra time, I don't rush through the test and make mistakes," she said. "Most of the time I do use the extra time, but I'm getting faster."

The nature of college tests keep

See related story,
page 5

her studying almost constantly, she said. Hynes said that since most classes only have a few tests during the year, she has to study to stay fresh on a subject.

"I am not able to cram and get a good grade," she said.

Of course, anybody who is slow on tests doesn't necessarily have a learning disability, Sweeney said.

Students who potentially have a disability are given a series of tests to determine where the student's abilities and deficiencies lie, Sweeney said.

Test scores that are average or above average in most areas but severely deficient in one or two others are a good sign of a learning disorder, she said.

Most learning disabilities stem from a nervous system disorder that Sweeney likened to a short circuit along the brain's information processing paths.

Some people with learning disabilities have trouble with taking in information, others with accessing memory and others with expressing that information, Sweeney said.

The tests show the location of that short circuit by pointing out extreme

deficiencies, she said.

For example, a person with a learning disability taking the tests might handle complex reading comprehension problems well but not be able to read numbers properly.

Students who suspect they have a learning disability can take preliminary versions of such tests at the Counseling Center. The tests are administered by staff psychologist Margaret Thompson.

Most students come to college with their learning disabilities already documented, Sweeney said. Documentation is required for receiving accommodations, as with any disability, she said.

Accommodations are designed specifically for each student, because learning disabilities are often unique, Sweeney said.

A professor with a student who has difficulty spelling may be asked not to count misspelled words on tests, for example.

Gregory Esch, a sophomore journalism major, has cerebral palsy, which makes it difficult for him to take written notes and tests.

"It's really easy for me to comprehend things," he said. "My motor skills are slower than everybody else's."

To remedy this, Esch has used a

see *Disabilities*, page 2

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METROPLEX

Tuesday's weather will be warm and mostly sunny with a high temperature 72 degrees.
Wednesday will be cloudy and windy with a high temperature of 70 degrees.



Let the buyer beware! Spending bug is catching young adults by the wallet

By ROBERT WOLF
TCU Daily Skiff

Have you ever wondered why the only things that seem to get slimmer during the holidays are your wallet and your credit rating?

Bruce Finley, an executive at Credit Services of the Mid Cities/Arlington, said people, especially young adults, have a tendency to make unrealistic purchases during the holiday season.

"In other words," Finley said, "people spend way too much money for the amount of cash that is in the bank."

A report from the National Retail Federation states that the "typical" American family spends about \$400 a year on holiday gifts.

Finley said one of the major factors in overspending during the holidays is that people over use their credit cards and find themselves in debt.

"If you use a credit card, come home and record the amount in your checkbook, as if you had written a check," he said. "This makes for more complicated record reconciliation at the end of the month, but it might be worth it."

Several different credit institutions have offered advice for the hol-

iday shopper.

"Say to yourself, 'This year I'll do with what I have available,' and then start planning for next year," said Marianne Gray, executive director of the Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Fort Worth.

Gray said this advice applies to those using cash, check or credit.

Impulse buying is another problem with holiday shopping, Gray said.

"You need to plan in order not to spend impulsively," she said. "Now is the easiest time to get behind, and rationalize it."

Gray and Finley both said everyone, particularly younger and more inexperienced buyers, should set a budget and make a list of the gifts that they intend to buy, with spending limits for individual budgets.

"For impulse buyers, take cash only and leave your credit cards at home," Gray said. "That way, when the cash is gone, it's gone."

Tammi Williams, a clerk at the Structure store in Hulen Mall, said planning ahead is the key to receiving great values because shoppers can take advantage of seasonal sales.

"Shop early so that you're not caught up in the last minute,"

see *Bug*, page 4

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.

Parabola presents "Knots So Difficult," a seminar by Efton Park. The talk will be held at 3:30 p.m. today in Winton-Scott Room 145.

The Society of Professional Journalists is sponsoring a panel discussion about how public relations and the news media view a news story. The discussion will be held at noon Wednesday in the Student Center Richardson Room. For more information, call Camie Melton at 923-7570.

Jennifer Martin, a TCU graduate, will open for singer-songwriter Sara Hickman at 7 and 10 p.m. Dec. 11 at the Jefferson Freedom Cafe. The Cafe is located at 1959 Sandy Lane. For more information, call 451-1505.

The Theatre Department has added Acting 1303 to its spring course offerings. This class will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Pre-majors and non-majors are welcome to enroll.

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.

College

by Dan Killeen



Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



Teddy bear drive begins

TCU Daily Skiff

The Student Nurse Association is collecting teddy bears to donate to the Fort Worth Fire Department for a project called "Teddy Bears for Trauma."

The stuffed animals collected are given to children at the scenes of fires and accidents.

Teddy bears will be collected until Dec. 1 before they are presenting to Dana Jordan of the Fort Worth Fire Department on Dec. 2.

Contributions can be made to the drive by donating teddy bears or \$5 to the Harris College of Nursing. The SNA will use all cash proceeds to purchase teddy bears.

The SNA hopes to improve on last year's drive total of 100 teddy bears.

Disabilities/

from page 1

tape recorder, his memory and sometimes a friend to help him take notes.

"They give me extra time on tests," he said. "My writing's really hard to read. To make it easier on them, I just do it on a word processor."

Both Esch and Hynes said they were satisfied with the university's provisions.

"So far, I haven't had any problems with any of the professors," Esch said. "They've been really accommodating to me."

Even with the accommodations, students with learning disabilities have limits on their options. Some disabilities leave students unable to perform adequately in certain technically oriented majors and professions.

"They tell us, 'You should not be critical on spelling,'" said Jack Raskopf, associate professor of journalism. "For a tele-journalism professor to overlook spelling discrepancies is like a math professor overlooking a student not being able to add two and two."

One of Raskopf's students has a

learning disability, but that student is holding up fine without any accommodations in comparison with other students, he said.

"In advertising, deadlines are sacrosanct," he said. "Everything has to be done two days ago. A magazine doesn't hold up deadline. It's not realistic."

Sweeney said although her position allows her to encourage students to go to majors that are suited to their skills, she is not allowed to give full-fledged career counseling.

Mary Morrison in part chose her major because of her learning disability. She is a sophomore special education major, and for a career, she intends to diagnose other students' learning differences, she said.

Morrison said both she and her brother have learning disabilities and she has always been interested in them.

Morrison's disability affects her attention span and auditory processing. She said she has trouble understanding things read aloud to her.

"You have to realize you look the same as other people," she said, "but

you have to do more than other people."

Morrison works with her professors independently to arrange testing, rather than through academic services, she said.

"I pretty much fight my own battles," she said. "I've spoken to all my professors."

Sweeney works with 67 students with documented learning disabilities on campus, but there are probably many more, she said.

"We don't know how many more there are," she said. "A lot of our students come in on personal referral."

Learning disabilities fall under federal laws which require the university to supply reasonable accommodations for any student with a disability.

TCU is subject to these statutes because it receives federal funds.

Until this year, accommodations were handled through the Dean of Students office. The school administration added Sweeney's position June 1.

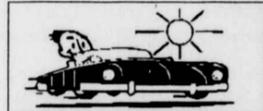


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Opinion

Students lack respect for the people who make the campus tick



RYAN MCCARTHY

While I'm sure a good portion of TCU doesn't realize it, it just may be that the nicest people in the world work in the Main.

Take Lupe for example. Could there be anybody nicer? I think not. I walked into the grill area and ordered a hamburger one day. Lupe was preparing the burgers, and I received my usual cheerful greeting from her.

As I waited for my burger, I wondered whether I should get the fries or rings. Both looked good, but the fries aroused my curiosity.

"Ma'am, could I try one of those fries?" I asked.

"Oh sure, sweetie," Lupe responded.

The nice part followed. Lupe grabbed a plate and put a handful

of fries and a couple of onion rings on it for me to eat while I waited for the burger.

Since then, I've noticed that Lupe may just be the nicest person on the face of the earth. Every time I go to the Main, she gives me the friendliest greeting I could imagine. People like her just don't get in bad moods.

The same could be said about almost all of the employees at the Main. If you're friendly to them, they're even more friendly back.

Because of this fact, it irks me to see rude students who take their services for granted (i.e., failure to

bus their own trays).

Eliza and Maria work hard enough at the cash register that they shouldn't have to walk to the south part of the cafeteria, pick up the mess left there and run back

when they see a line build up.

Yet even when they do this, they too, keep a nice, friendly attitude. It's kind

The walk to the bussing area isn't really that bad.

of weird. I would probably start throwing silverware and cast spells on certain students who were never taught manners.

Okay, so here's what I ask of you. When you go to the Main, be friendly. Say hello to Lavita. I'm

sure you'll find out that she's quite funny. Thank Lupe when she serves you some tortellini, and don't pout when you have to wait more than two minutes for your chicken sandwich.

When waiting in line, ask Eliza or Maria how their day has been. I guarantee a friendly response. You may even get a discount.

Most importantly, pick up after yourselves! This goes especially to the people who sit in the south section of the cafeteria. They have a strange tendency to leave without realizing that their tray is still sitting there.

The walk to the bussing area isn't really all that bad.

It appears to me that we take the Main and the rest of the campus

courtesy for granted. Have you ever noticed how polite the people from the Physical Plant are? If they are blowing leaves and grass, they always turn the machines off as students walk by.

It's common for me to overhear students complaining about little things on campus, and I always wonder if they notice anything good about the place.

These are usually the same people who get mad when they have to wait for food and never seem to pick up after themselves. Lighten up, guys. Look at the good aspects of this place for once.

Ryan McCarthy is a sophomore psychology major from Leawood, Kansas.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Review stereotypes bands

Those who read the article in the Mosaic section of the *Skiff* on Nov. 19 ("Pearl Jam surpasses expectations," page 4), came across an untruth which we would like to expose as a fabrication of outrageous proportions. It also demonstrates the ignorance of the reviewers whose intentions, although good, were marred by the following paragraph: "Playing without any of the fancy props or light shows that other big acts (Depeche Mode, Erasure) have become dependent upon, the quintet let its music speak for itself."

Although we don't deny the fact that Pearl Jam is a great band that puts on a great show, which we have seen, we do deny that the "other big acts" are dependent upon the use of big, fancy props, etc. Let me tell you something:

Depeche Mode practically began the alternative revolution in music when they premiered in 1981. After producing more than a decade of quality music, the band has become, undoubtedly, one of the greatest alternative rock bands to hit this planet. The members of Depeche Mode have successfully headlined four sellout world tours, so don't tell me everyone went to see a good light show.

Erasure, whether you like it or not, is a force in the genre of synthesized music. Haven't you been to Arcadia? Detour? Lizard Lounge? Who doesn't know all the words to "Chains of Love"? Erasure's influence on dance music is undeniable. Moreover, the theatrical aspect of their concert was a performance, yes, a performance and not a stagnant quintet of flannel-wearing stage-divers. See how ignorant stereotypes can be harmful to a band's reputation?

Next time, boys, why don't you see the concert performance before you let your ignorance dilute the high caliber of the *TCU Daily Skiff*.

Powell Jackson
Sophomore, radio-TV-film
Adrian Gonzalez
Sophomore, advertising/public relations

Forget JFK?

In response to P.D. Magnus and his editorial on the assassination of John F. Kennedy, I'd like to say he is correct in stating that he does not understand the events that happened 30 years ago. He is also correct in stating that he can't add any perspective to the events that happened in Dealey Plaza.

Mr. Magnus seems to believe it is unimportant to reflect on

the assassination of Kennedy in light of what he feels are more important events in history, such as the Nazi war camps and the atomic bomb. Apparently, he does not feel the need to mourn the death of a man who ended the cold war, thereby reducing the risk of an all-out war with Communist Russia, thereby reducing the risk of total annihilation through nuclear bombs.

He seems to think the press should let Kennedy rest in peace after 30 years. But why stop there? Using his argument, I feel we could let a few other notable figures in history rest in peace, too, such as Martin Luther King, whose only contribution was to bring about the beginning of the end of racial discrimination in America. Or how about Malcolm X? In as much as I understand, he did basically the same thing, only through a different point of view.

We can go further back in history as well. Let's let Columbus rest in peace, too, in as much as his contribution to America wasn't really that significant, was it? Why don't we go all-out, while we're at it? For 2,000 years, we've been touting the ideals of a man who, there are those that claim, was homosexual. After all, Jesus Christ never slept with a woman and spent most of his adult life hanging out with 12 other guys.

It would be all right to let these people rest in peace, too, because, after all, Mr. Magnus, they were only men.

We look back on events and people so as not to make the mistakes made while they were alive. The mistake made with Kennedy, and almost all the other mentioned, was the we didn't give them enough of a chance to make the difference they could have made. We didn't listen to their teachings and we thought they were wrong simply because they were different. And ultimately, we destroyed them for it.

It's important to look back on events such as the assassination of President Kennedy to insure, or at least reduce the risk of them ever happening again.

Donovan C. Wygal
Graduate, music

A matter of choice

This is in response to (Matt Flaherty's) concerned but misguided column on "Moral question surrounding abortion rights" from Nov. 18.

Let's quit with the pointing of fingers. All side issues boil down to this: Who would you like to make the decision — you or the government?

Victoria Harris
Senior, political science



Gay friends make holiday an adventure

Pass out the tissues — it's my last column. Now, before you all take to the streets demanding that I pursue another degree just

DENNIS WATSON

so I can keep writing for the almighty *Skiff*, please realize that there comes a time when the rest of you need to grow up and start thinking for yourselves!

Nonetheless, I'll give you one more dose of pure, unadulterated wisdom. Are you ready? Well, here it i-i-i-i-i-s!

Unlike the vast majority of you, my life is full of excitement and wonder; not to say that the rest of you are dull, unimaginative dolts, it's simply that I can find a way to enjoy just about anything (yes, even Texas).

So far be it from me to go home, eat turkey, watch football and scratch myself over the Thanksgiving holiday. No, sir. I got the hell out of the country and hid out in the heart of Montreal's gay/lesbian community. But don't worry, I had a great time.

The really cool thing about spending five days with, for the most part, only homosexuals is that one can finally obtain some sort of understanding about this bizarre breed of individuals who, like the mouse to the elephant, are capable of making even the largest redneck quake with fear.

Having absorbed all of the this new environmental stimuli, I've come to a few conclusions regarding homosexuals: Other than the fact that they dress better, dance better and listen to better music, they are (surprise, surprise) JUST LIKE ANYBODY ELSE. Call the Pope, I think he needs to know this.

Now, I know that I've written a few articles before about how one should not judge others (i.e., gays and lesbians) without actually having at least met one. And every time, some oh-so-witty music major writes back telling me how his or her third cousin twice removed is gay but that doesn't make it right since the Bible (in this person's view) says otherwise.

Well, that's great and all, but what you don't understand is that your argument sucks;

in fact, it can hardly be called an argument. Allow me to explain . . .

When one uses the Bible, or some other religious tome for that matter, as a basis for an argument, he or she pretty much rules out any kind of thought or reason from clouding such a righteous view. The line of reason is as follows: the Bible "said" it; I "believe" it; therefore, it is so. This, people, is called blind faith, and it just don't work. Because believe it or not, the Bible saying it's so doesn't make it so!

The Bible, must I remind you, is a book of stories that, for one reason or another, the majority of Americans tend to believe as being factual. It's like Mother Goose on crack. Bottom line: It's silly.

Therefore, if you're actually wondering whether or not homosexuality is right or wrong, screw "believing" what some book says and do everyone a big favor by taking some time to actually THINK about it! THINK, THINK, THINK, THINK, THINK! That's all I ask of you.

Having said that, I would like to take these last few inches to thank some people who have made my college experience somewhat memorable.

By way of Texas/Germany: Oliver, Christian, Joerg, Tim and Joseph (thanks for putting up with me).

By way of Kansas: my family, Scott, Curt, Kate and Bill (the only people who understand my sense of humor and never take offense).

By way of Montreal: Jacque (Arrrrrrr), Grant and Rob (I had an incredible time . . . and it's all your fault!).

And lastly (but not leastly), Jennifer (Jenifa-Oh-Jenny) Ralston, who, though a thousand miles away, best understands me and has somehow convinced me to totally re-evaluate my life (thanks a lot).

So, that's it. And what do I think of myself and my ability as a columnist? I think Mohammed Ali said it best:

"I am the greatest!"

Dennis Watson is a senior accounting major from Overland Park, Kansas.



Layne told you so, but you wouldn't listen, would you?

Self-evaluation by the grim, conservative prognosticator

Well, the semester is almost over and that can only mean that it's report card time! I thought I would give myself a report card for my columns in the *Skiff* because, let's face it, they'll probably be the best grades I get all semester!

LAYNE SMITH

First, let's kill three birds with one stone. I wrote three columns covering crime in America: the crime bill, taxing guns and ammunition and the Brady bill. Aside from being devilishly clever, they all had one thing in common. They all showed the farce which is the Democrats' anti-crime movement. Sure, sure, I was for and then later against the crime bill, but it's not like the president is the only one who enjoys waffles. Taken as a whole, all of these proposals planned to stop crime. Judging from the traffic on my police scanner, I can see they were very wrong. **GRADE: A-**

You remember that little Israeli peace plan thing? I told you way back in September that a Middle East peace plan was an oxymoron, the PLO was just looking for publicity and someone else would step into take the role as antagonist to Israel. Enter the Hamas, the new bad guys on the block. Is there peace? Was I right? Thank you. **GRADE: A+**

Then comes Haiti. I came out against placing Jean-Bertrand Aristide back in power because he was a loon not fit to rule people. Obviously the administration agreed and decided not to do it. **GRADE: A+** for me, F- to the president for letting a bunch of thugs push around the U.S. Navy. No, wait, make my score an A- since I spelled my name wrong in the column. Oops.

NAFTA came and went this semester. I tackled the issue twice, NAFTA in general and then the debate between the vice president and Ross Perot. Even the Congress of these United States read the pro-NAFTA column. President Clinton owes me a thank-you note for my help in swaying those last holdout votes. My apologies to

the Perot people out there. You're all a great group of people but your boss . . . what's with all this "Can I finish, can I finish?" and a pro-NAFTA Cuban assassination team? It's called the funny farm, look into it. **GRADE: A+** on both counts.

One of the biggest I-told-you-so's won't come for awhile, but it'll come. I warned of the North Korean nuclear threat when that whole issue was only worth two inches on the second to last page of most newspapers. Now it has made it as far as the second page and is receiving around 10 to 20 inches a pop. I guarantee we will be having this talk next year. Let's just hope our president finds his balls for this basketball game. Yes, my readers, all 3.5 of you, the mighty *Skiff* is truly a cutting edge piece of work!

I can't say goodbye without thanking some people: My family, for pointing out illogical sentence structures a week after the column runs — that was really my fault; the young lady who wrote me a letter to the editor in the Parents' Weekend issue (I'm not sure exactly what you were trying to say but I loved getting the letter anyway); copy editors — you sure earned your money on me; and finally Liz Murray, the love of my life.

For the past 40 some-odd months, you have been faithfully by my side. You have been there with me to enjoy the happiest times in my life as well as to support me through some of the most difficult. Through the thick and thin and the ups and downs of life, you were, and always will be a constant in my life. And though your future demands you take a different path than mine, and even though it will lead you hundreds of miles away from me, still I know our paths will meet again. And at that point we shall walk it together, as one, for the rest of our lives. That I promise.

Layne Smith is a senior criminal justice and journalism major from Sugar Land, Texas, and he certainly did not consult his opinion editor when he gave himself these grades.



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News

Card-giving tradition celebrates 150 years of observance in 1993

By VICKI LOGAN
TCU Daily Skiff

There are many Christmas traditions that seem as if they have been around forever: Setting up the Christmas tree, putting up lights around the house, singing Christmas carols, exchanging gifts and having a family dinner are just a few. One tradition that seems to play a large role in the Christmas season is sending and receiving Christmas cards.

Although it may seem like a chore to some, sending out Christmas cards is one way for some families and friends to keep in touch each year.

While this tradition carries on year after year, it is not often one stops to think about when and why the idea began. 1993 marks the 150th anniversary of the Christmas card tradition, according to an article in the Hallmark Christmas Catalog.

Henry Cole, a businessman in London, began the tradition in 1843 when faced with the problem of writing out hundreds of thank-you notes to his friends and customers every year during the holiday season. He came up with the idea of designing

one colorful card with a simple holiday message and reproducing it. He could then send the same card to each of his friends and customers, according to the article.

A friend of Cole's, who was an artist, designed the first card. It was a picture of a family toasting the holidays, flanked by pictures of two holiday traditions which included feeding the hungry and clothing the needy. The holiday message on the inside read, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year To You."

Cole's idea spread quickly, and within a short period of time, everyone was using the new Christmas cards as a way to send a holiday wish.

Today there are only a dozen of Cole's original cards left.

The manager of Karen's Hallmark Shop said there are several hundred different Christmas cards available in Hallmark stores today. Their selection includes cards from collections such as Crown, Windows, Shoebox, Just How I Feel, Between You and Me, Snoopy, Garfield and many others.

There are so many Christmas cards sold each year now that it is impossible to count exactly how many are purchased, according to the manager.



Physical Plant rejects Teamsters

By RICK WATERS
TCU Daily Skiff

A harmony now exists between the management and workers of TCU's Physical Plant.

But three months ago, the two were polarized on the issue of union representation.

A 17-month struggle regarding this issue was finally resolved when a bargaining unit of 37 Physical Plant workers rejected union representation by the Teamsters Union Local 997 in a Sept. 9 election, said Will Stallworth, Physical Plant director.

The 26 to 11 vote ended an unfair labor practice complaint against the university and Stallworth, he said.

The complaint had been filed by the union after TCU retracted an apparent "final offer" during face-to-face negotiations in December 1992 that would have given some Physical Plant workers union representation, said Daulton Alexander, president of Teamsters Union Local 997.

But TCU never made an offer to the union, Stallworth said.

"No contract was ever presented by the university," he said. "Neither

one of the parties ever reached any agreement."

A letter sent to the National Labor Relations Board in the university's defense stated that a final contract or agreement was never established, Stallworth said.

"The NLRB found the charges against the university baseless when they rendered a decision to the university," he said.

The issue of union representation began in 1992 when a small group of Physical Plant workers wanted to investigate the advantages of a union, a right they have as employees, Stallworth said.

"Employees have every right to do this (seek union representation)," he said. "But I don't agree with it. If that is what they want, then that's fine."

TCU Physical Plant workers were exercising their rights when they went to investigate what a union had to offer, Stallworth said.

The group asked the NLRB for direction and were told to circulate a petition for a vote, he said.

But not all workers supported union representation, he said. An election was held in May 1992, and Physical Plant workers narrowly

decided to begin negotiations with a union, Stallworth said. The vote for representation won by a margin of one, 21 to 20.

However, Alexander said Stallworth and the Physical Plant did not bargain fairly.

"In the 20 years I've been associated with this union, I have never seen anyone deal the way Stallworth has," Alexander said. "He used Gestapo tactics in dealing with us."

The TCU Physical Plant did make a final offer in December 1992, and a majority of the bargaining unit accepted the offer, Alexander said.

But Physical Plant management retracted the offer because it forgot to put some additional items in the contract, he said.

In January 1993, the union filed a complaint against TCU and Stallworth, claiming he lied and was using stalling tactics, Alexander said.

But while the NLRB reviewed the complaint, the one-year time span for negotiating a contract expired, and the workers asked for a de-certification election to nullify the first election.

The September 1993 election nullified the May 1992 election according to NLRB stipulations, Stallworth said.

"I think the workers became disenchanted with the situation because they saw there was no advantage of being represented by a union," he said.

He assumes workers wanted higher pay and a change in work rules, Stallworth said.

But Alexander said the bargaining did not involve economic issues. Instead, workers wanted more stability in work rules and policies and more respectability, he said.

Workers could have gotten a collective bargaining agreement in writing that would eliminate the rule and policy changes workers complain about, Alexander said.

Neither Stallworth or Alexander could comment about specific negotiations.

Currently, all TCU employees have 13 benefits, including vacation time, sick days, medical and dental insurance programs, retirement and disability programs and other benefits, according to the TCU employees manual.

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Bug/ from page 1

Williams said. "Because then you typically can't find what you want. You're tired. You're frustrated. And you end up paying three times as much, just to get it over with."

In order to pay for the holidays, Gray and Finley have come up with six different "musts" for holiday buying:

- Set a firm spending limit and write out a shopping list.
- If you are an impulse buyer, use cash only.
- Shop early to spread expenses over a longer time.
- If necessary, apply for a low-cost term loan from your bank or credit union.
- If you charge gifts, use credit cards with low interest. Try not to charge no more than you can pay off in a few months.
- Evaluate the no-interest credit deals offered by retailers, but beware of the fine print.
- Make sure, if you use credit cards, to read all of the advertised

terms," Gray said. "Monthly payments might be required and interest rates might be compounded greatly."

People must realize, however, that if they do not pay off the loan balance within the allotted period, they are likely to be charged interest dating back to the time of purchase. Gray said the interest rate probably could be 20 percent or more.

"Maybe Christmas is a time to look more along the lines of practical gifts," she said. "Tires for the car, clothes for the fall."

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HAROLD'S

UNIVERSITY PARK VILLAGE, FORT WORTH

Features

Starpoint School helps children with learning disabilities

By MICHELE GRAY
TCU Daily Skiff

Aaron Sprowls plays football, has fun with his friends after school and watches television after school like any other boy his age.

But Aaron, 10 years old, is different. He has a learning disability.

His disability brought him to Starpoint School, a TCU academic facility for children with learning disabilities.

M.J. and Alice S. Neeley started the school in 1966 to provide children with average to high intelligence, like their grandson, a chance to overcome their learning disabilities. Starpoint also provides teaching training for students enrolled in special education courses.

Aaron, like the other children who attended Starpoint, started with the first level of four classes that teaches students to trace letters, use phonetics and to understand the classroom structure.

Aaron progressed through the second and third level classes and is now in the fourth and highest level class, after which he will graduate from Starpoint and be able to attend regular school.

The teachers and Henry Patterson, the principal of Starpoint, said they are impressed with Aaron's progress.

But only three years ago, a psychologist from a child study center told Aaron's parents that he would always learn slowly, too slowly to keep up with other children his age. Aaron's parents later learned he had attention deficit disorder, dyslexia and other learning disabilities.

Dyslexia can cause stress and a sense of frustration from an inability to see letters and numbers in their correct order. When Larry Sprowls, Aaron's father, once asked the boy to turn the television dial to channel 3, Aaron said he could only see a channel 30. Sprowls said Aaron could not learn symbols like the alphabet and

could not count numbers.

The learning disability amounts to a child who can't learn at the same rate as other children are expected to learn, he said.

To treat his attention disorder, Aaron must take the drug Ritalin twice a day to make him calmer. Aaron's father said Ritalin allows his son to be more focused on his school work and to be able to do two things at once, such as write and listen to the teacher at the same time.

Sprowls said Aaron would not have achieved these tasks without the extra attention the teachers at Starpoint had given him.

According to the school's handbook, the teachers at Starpoint plan daily activities to provide a sense of security for the students. The teachers write their day's agenda on the chalkboard so that students will be prepared for the next activity. Worrying about what will come next is a source of stress for many students with learning disabilities, according to the handbook.

"Their little brains are slow to mature and develop on a different schedule," Larry said.

And ultimately, the child is made to feel like a failure when he or she cannot comprehend at the same level as other children their age, Larry said.

Children at Starpoint are not made to feel like failures because of their learning disability, said Robin Davis, one of Aaron's teachers.

Davis has known Aaron since he was seven. When Aaron registered at Starpoint, he could not write the letters of his name, she said. So every day, for 15 minutes every afternoon, Davis worked with Aaron. The next year, Aaron had one-on-one 30-minute sessions twice a week to improve his reading and writing skills. In two years, he did not require any personal help at all.

Aaron still does not read on his grade level, but his reading has

improved greatly, Davis said.

"He's reading very well," she said. "His handwriting, you used to not be able to read any of it all."

Aaron also was disorganized but had consistently improved, Davis said.

According to its handbook, Starpoint relies on consistency for a successful teaching program. The students learn that rules must be followed. The children are rewarded or punished according to their behavior.

Teachers and student relationship are also emphasized to develop the feelings of trust, respect and affection in a classroom, according to the handbook.

Aaron began to amaze her, Davis said, once he grasped the meaning of words and then could put them together and form sentences.

"He just took off!" she said.

The process wasn't easy for Aaron. Aaron was easily distracted and could not read. Davis said the battle was hard for such a little boy.

Starpoint tries to address the needs of the individual child while maintaining a group atmosphere, Davis said. There can be different levels of reading among the students but the group cohesiveness must be maintained, she said.

"That's what we do really well here is address the needs of those children who have those serious learning difficulties," Davis said.

And this serious learning difficulty doesn't appear to show when Aaron is wrapped up in a parachute the kids play with during free time or when he's leading his grandfather around the school and proudly showing off his project called "The Walking Stick."

Aaron said he's changed a lot in the three years he's been at Starpoint. Not being able to read was a source of frustration for him.

"I learned to read a lot better, probably better than if I was someplace else," Aaron said. "And I'm better at



Special to the Skiff/ Michele Gray

Aaron Sprowls concentrates as his fourth-level teacher helps him out with math.

making friends than before I came here."

Many of Aaron's friends have grown up with him over three years.

One of his classmates, Adam, said Aaron can turn into a "frying pan" when he gets mad playing football, but in all, Aaron is unique.

"The only person who knows most about Aaron is Aaron," Adam said.

Starpoint may have had a lot to do with helping Aaron with his learning disability, but Aaron was intelligent to begin with and very thoughtful with his words and actions, Davis said.

"I like to think a lot," he said.

Aaron has worked hard to overcome his learning disability, Davis

said. He must work at everything twice as hard to achieve the same goal as children without a learning disability, she said.

Aaron has a determination to succeed, Sprowls said. When he learned he had a learning disability, it bruised his "little ego," he said.

Aaron is bound and determined to excel, Sprowls said.

Aaron said he goes home after school and watches Nicktoons or his favorite television show, "Northern Exposure," but only after he finishes his homework.

Sprowls said he doesn't have to force Aaron to do his homework — he does it voluntarily.

Aaron said he was tired because he

was working the night before on another project for school.

Aaron called the Starpoint school unique and his father thought so, too.

Sprowls said he only wishes there were schools and teachers that offered education for children with learning disabilities while he was growing up.

Aaron's father said he also had a learning disability except he did not have a school that understood his problem. So, instead, the teachers yelled, spanked or punished him.

"I struggled through grade school," he said.

Sprowls is an obstetrician/gynecologist and works at Harris Methodist Hospital.

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Parking/ from page 1

Swank said. "We just ask that students not park in our north lot, which is reserved for members and activities."

He said that this year, UCC and TCU entered into an agreement where TCU would provide the maintenance for the lots in return for the parking privileges.

All totaled, this provides 6,429 parking spaces for 4,573 registered "parkers." Don Palmer, the assistant director for facilities planning, said that the parking problem does not, therefore, lie in the number of available spaces.

"It's the location of the parking spaces that is the problem," he said. "It's not that we don't have enough spaces for all of the cars, it's just that they're not in the right places."

Palmer said that the parking lots surrounding the stadium and Daniel Meyer Coliseum are included in the given number of spaces.

"We've got a lot of parking spaces around the stadium that never get used," he said, "but if you go to the east campus there aren't very many parking spaces, and that's the problem."

According to a map of campus parking, there are a total of 993 faculty and student parking spaces on the east side of University Drive, 806 spaces between University and Stadium drives, and 4,468 spaces west of Stadium Drive.

The last number includes 2,197 spaces located adjacent to or directly behind the stadium and 146 spaces adjacent to the Mary Potishman Lard Tennis Center.

In the conclusions of the university self-study team, parking was mentioned as a "space need identified by the Master Plan,"

and reported that according to the Master Plan document, "New parking structures will relieve congestion on neighborhood streets, make valuable land available for more appropriate uses and place more parking in the area of campus where it is needed."

Edd Bivin, vice chancellor of administrative services, said that there are three proposed sites for parking structures on the master plan, which was drawn up in 1990 and 1991 as a guideline for the future of the university.

No proposals have been called for this project, and the amount of spaces it would provide can not be estimated at this point, Bivin said.

"It is still a discussion item," Bivin said. "There are many things on the Master Plan, many of which are in the stages of discussion and consideration. The parking situation is one of them."

Bivin said that the university is concerned about the parking situation on campus.

"That's the reason we have an outside consultant involved in doing a study for us," he said. "They are giving us possible solutions from which we will decide what we can and can not do to help the parking situation."

The consultant team is from the firm Lockwood, Andrews and Newman, which operates out of Dallas and Houston.

Tom Luschen, an engineer from the firm and leader of the TCU consultation team, said that the team has already completed several phases of the study.

The firm has gathered demographic data on the campus; staged field tests, where the research team counted the number of cars

parked in the lots and in the streets during certain hours of the day; and in October held meetings with members of the campus community.

"Each meeting was attended by about 15 people from the university, including representatives of the faculty, staff and student body," Luschen said. "We did this to get input and find out where the perceived problems might be. It's with that type of data that we're now trying to draw conclusions and see what the situation really is in terms of demand and needed improvements."

He expects to submit a draft of the final report of the firm's findings to Bivin near the end of November, but said his general reaction to the parking situation at TCU was positive.

"It's certainly a typical problem," he said. "In fact, I think TCU probably has a better situation than most college campuses in terms of the amount of parking that is provided for the student and faculty population."

Representatives from other area universities agree that the problem is not unique to TCU.

Carrie Paxton, president of Baylor's Student Congress, said that their parking situation has been one of the primary problems of the university.

"We have very limited space," she said. "The administration has created a few more open areas by tearing down some buildings, but we really have no other space."

However, Baylor's student government proposed a solution that has seemed to alleviate some of the problem: the use of trolleys to serve as shuttles for off-campus students

living in the apartment complexes surrounding the school.

The university made a deal with a tourism company in Waco to use its trolley-like buses during the week, which are then used during the weekends for tourists. Students pay \$6 a semester to ride the trolleys.

Paxton said the program has been very well received.

"It has alleviated a lot of our problem," she said. "We didn't know how the idea would go over or if the students would like it, but the trolleys have been doing very well."

Parking is also a student concern at the University of Texas at Arlington, said Zeb Tidwell, president of the school's student government.

Tidwell said the student government held a contest for students to decide the "ultimate solution" to the parking problem.

"One solution called for the freshmen to park out in the remote parking areas," he said, "but the president (of UTA) was against that because he said it was discriminating against the underclassmen."

Tidwell said that although UTA students had access to a privately owned parking garage near campus, a second structure was needed to fill the needs of the growing student body.

"The Student Congress is researching the topic to find out how much something like this would cost," he said. "We are also having a town meeting of the more than 300 student organizations on campus who are going to back any resolution we come up with."

"In the next 10 years they're predicting a big increase in student enrollment in every

institution," he said, "so we might as well get the parking ready for them now."

At TCU, the most recent attempt to alleviate the problem was the vote by the House and the administration during the last spring semester that relegated freshmen motorists to the 648-space parking lot located behind the new ranch management building.

Freshmen parking privileges were first restricted in April 1980, when they were relegated to the coliseum lots.

The House and administration also discussed restricting driving privileges to upperclassmen as a solution to the parking crisis, McLinden said.

"Many schools are beginning to have very, very restrictive freshmen parking policies or are telling freshmen not to bring cars to campus," he said. "We (member of the House) submitted a proposal that would ease the parking situation while still permitting the freshmen to have cars, and we feel it has helped incredibly."

McLinden said that he believes that the university takes the parking issue very seriously and does not consider it to be "just another student complaint," and that the fact that outside consultants have been hired is evidence of this sincerity.

Koehler agreed that the administration does take the issue seriously, and said he hopes that recent actions will help alleviate any problems.

"Hopefully we'll get some good recommendations from the consultant and take some appropriate steps," he said.

Jobs/ from page 1

video resume he made last year to increase his marketability.

"It allows companies to see me and not just a piece of paper," Cotter said. "The video let me talk about my work experience and also showed my references to back it up."

Interviewing is another crucial area to present the ability to communicate and market yourself. To reduce the stress and anxiety about an interview, Ulrickson suggested doing a videotaped mock interview. Evaluating the tape can help students catch mistakes before the real interview, she said.

Another way to market yourself in today's job market is by participating in co-curricular activities. This shows employers leadership qualities and the ability to work with others, Ulrickson said.

"They would rather hire someone who's exhibited and demonstrated strong interpersonal skills and maybe has a 2.9 GPA than a 4.0 GPA who sat in the library all four years," she said.

Looking for the right position in a smaller job market can also increase chances of finding employment. Dean of Nursing Patricia Scarse said almost 98 percent of her students will be employed before they graduate. According to U.S. News and World Report, every graduate of a nurse practitioner program will have six to eight positions waiting for him

or her when he or she finishes graduate school. Scarse said many of her seniors are going to pursue graduate education and become practitioners, where they can make \$55,000 to \$60,000.

Other professions listed by U.S. News and World Report as the hottest jobs include teaching bilingual and special education, computer-systems analysts, business-service sales and telecommunication managers.

Dale Young, director of student placement for education majors, said teachers will always be in demand.

"As far as the teaching outlook, we're always going to have schools," Young said. "So these jobs are always going to be there."

Bilingual teachers and special education teachers are going to be hired almost anywhere, he said. During the first year after graduation, 98 percent of education majors are hired and making more than \$23,000.

Service jobs like systems analysts and telecommunication managers are needed to explain and adapt new technology for companies to use. Business majors in the quantitative fields will also be able to find work, Nichols said.

"The accounting, finance, information-systems managers and working with computers and applications of software seem to be the strongest," she said.

Ulrickson said she believes there is a job out there for everyone, but it takes patience and motivation to continue the search. Both Cotter and Ulrickson agree that finding a job could be the hardest job you ever have.

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Sports

Tournament would solve national championship puzzle

by
Thomas Manning

Sports Columnist



Well, the college football regular season has all but come to a close, which means that the usual whining and complaining among coaches and players surrounding who is number one is set to begin.

And, true to form, the festivities have begun.

Nebraska and Florida State are in the driver's seat for the national championship. They will meet on January 1 in the Orange Bowl to determine who will be college football's king in '93. But the game, and its ramifications, are not without

controversy:

Florida State is clearly one of the two best teams in college football. Unfortunately, they do not have one of the two best records in college football. They will be 10-1 heading into the Orange Bowl, losing to Notre Dame early in November for the one blemish on their record. Now it's tough to argue that the Seminoles shouldn't be involved in the game to decide the national championship, but there are some people around the CFA who have a pretty good argument against the 'Noles.

Namely, West Virginia fans. The Mountaineers have had a glorious campaign in 1993, going 11-0 and posting wins against Miami and Boston College. But the Mountaineers have not played the competition of Florida State, and they don't have the respect that Nebraska does, and so West Virginia is sitting with

its 11-0 record at No. 3 in the nation and no chance at the national title. Now, there are probably only a handful of folks outside the state of West Virginia who actually root for the team, but admittedly they deserve a shot at the national title.

And although teams like Miami, Notre Dame, Tennessee and even Texas A&M have blemishes on their records, they also deserve a shot at the national championship.

(Note to Auburn fans: the Tigers, although they are 11-0 and very tough, do not deserve a shot at the national title. If you break the rules, you have to pay, and Auburn is learning about it now. Sorry, guys, but you deserve to sit out.)

So the only solution to this problem is one that has been argued among the powers that be in the NCAA for years: it is time to set up a playoff system, and have a championship tournament to determine who is the king of college football.

And this idea, although it will break with the tradition of the game, would be a much needed and exciting change.

Picture it: the top 16 teams in the country are invited to the tournament, with the No. 1 team playing No. 16, No. 2 playing No. 15, and so on. After four weeks of tournament, the national champion will be crowned.

Now, two possible problems come up with this proposal, but they are both easily solved.

1) The season will drag on too long, and the kids will lose too much time that they should be using studying for finals playing football.

Answer) The season will end on January 1 with the title game. End the regular season Thanksgiving weekend, and start the tournament the next week. And surprise, all will fall into place and the final game will be set for New Year's Day.

2) The tradition of the bowls will be ruined.

Answer) No, they won't. Right now, there are 19 bowl games. If a tournament is held, there would be 15 games. Now, if we just plug the 15 games into 15 bowl slots, I'm sure we could eliminate the Las Vegas, Aloha, Copper and Carquest bowls, couldn't we? Of course. The Orange, Rose, Cotton and Rose bowls would all be as prestigious as ever, and they could rotate each year as the championship game sight.

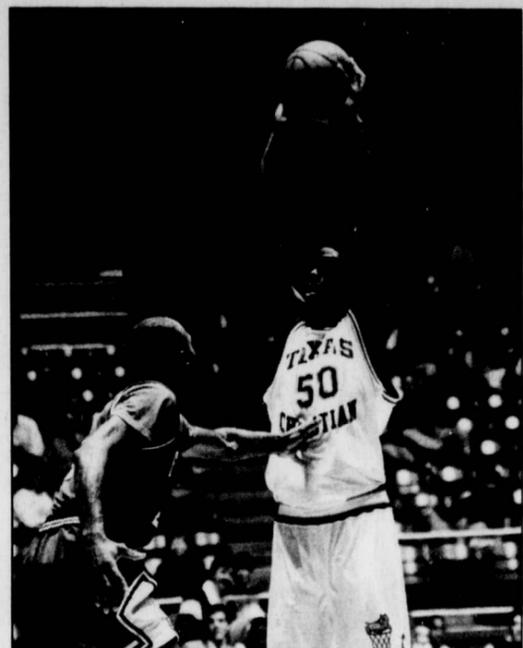
This all seems fairly simple, but it's not going to happen in 1993. But for all of you that are wondering what would go down if there was a championship tournament this year, here is the lowdown.

- Week 1:**
Hall of Fame Bowl: Nebraska 24, Arizona 10.
Gator Bowl: Florida State 27, Alabama 13.
Peach Bowl: West Virginia 34, Boston College 31.
Freedom Bowl: Notre Dame 44, UCLA 10.
Independence Bowl: Tennessee 34, Penn St. 14.
Alamo Bowl: Texas A&M 27, North Carolina 20.
Liberty Bowl: Miami 40, Ohio St. 17.
John Hancock Bowl: Florida 38, Wisconsin 10.
- Week 2:**
Citrus Bowl: Florida 28, Nebraska 21.
Holiday Bowl: Florida State 31, Miami 21.
Cotton Bowl: West Virginia 27, Texas A&M 23.
Rose Bowl: Tennessee 35, Notre Dame 32.
- Week 3:**
Sugar Bowl: Tennessee 35, Florida 34.
Fiesta Bowl: Florida State 38, West Virginia 24.

CFA Championship Game:
Orange Bowl: Florida State 38, Tennessee 28.

Now, we arrive at pretty much the same result as we will with the format the way it is now, with Florida State as the national champs, but look at all of the exciting games we get to see on the way. Florida State-Alabama in the first round? Tennessee-Notre Dame and Florida-Nebraska in the second round? And so on, and so on. Fifteen excellent games to determine who is the king of college football. What could be better?

Of course, I, along with scores of other college football fans, are living in a dream world when we think of a championship tournament. But if college football could take a cue from college basketball, which has a tournament that is arguably the most exciting three weeks in all of sports, the game would be better, the fans would be more excited, and the perennial whining over who is number one would finally be over. Amen.



TCU Daily Skiff/Jenny Putchinski
TCU center Byron Waits looks inside in the Frogs' rout of Fort Sill last Thursday. Look for a season preview of the TCU men's basketball team, as well as a preview of the SWC basketball season, in tomorrow's Skiff.

Teammates come to Leon Lett's defense

By DENNE H. FREEMAN
Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Leon Lett said he was sorry for his Thanksgiving Day blunder in a statement released Monday by the Dallas Cowboys public relations department.

"I'm deeply hurt for my teammates because of the judgment error I made at the end of last week's game," Lett said. "In my efforts to try and help our team win, I made a poor decision. Hopefully, my performance in the future will in some small way make up for my mistake."

Lett tried to recover a blocked field goal in the final seconds of Thursday's 16-14 loss to Miami. After he touched the ball, the Dolphins recovered at the Dallas 1 and

Pete Stoyanovich kicked the game-winning 19-yard field goal.

The defensive tackle has refused to talk to the media and spent Monday playing hide-and-seek in the Cowboys dressing room.

His teammates came to his defense as the Cowboys began preparations for their next game against Philadelphia Dec. 6.

"Leon had a horrible weekend," said offensive tackle Nate Newton. "I couldn't believe how many great Cowboy fans had bad things to say about him. I couldn't believe how these fans tried to tear down our meat house. We'll get rolling again, and they'll be the same ones to start cheering."

"Leon is a nice guy and I hope people leave him alone. He might explode on someone," Newton said.

"Everybody is in his face and on his back. I'm tired of hearing about it and I know he is," said running back Emmitt Smith. "I know how he feels. We lost a game once because I fumbled against Houston. A loss is a loss. We need to forget it."

Wide receiver Michael Irvin said, "Everybody loves Leon on. I'm afraid a game like this will never leave your mind. But I don't blame Leon if he doesn't want to talk to the press. He's doing what he feels is best for him."

Fellow defensive tackle Tony Casillas added, "We want to forget this but everybody keeps bringing it up. I'll tell you one thing, Leon Lett is going to make a lot of big plays for us in the future."

Quarterback Troy Aikman said it was unfair that Lett was being blamed for the loss.

"Everyone on our team had opportunities to put the game away before that last play. Everyone of us," he said.

Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson, who said last Friday that Lett "will be with the Cowboys as long as I'm head coach," was not pleased with the dressing room circus surrounding Lett's empty locker.

He supervised the closing of the noon to 1 p.m. interview period, saying at 1 o'clock sharp: "This lockerroom is closed."

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What is Horned Frog Associates?

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1994 may bring economic woes, rising unemployment for Japan

By ELAINE KURTENBACH
Associated Press

TOKYO — Profits are down, unemployment is rising, the stock market has lost almost 20 percent of its value in the last month.

Winter has come early to the Japanese economy — and there is no promise of revival in the spring.

"The disappointment is pretty complete," says Richard C. Koo, senior economist at Nomura Research Institute. "Nothing on the horizon suggests an economic recovery or recovery in corporate profits. There is nothing to look forward to."

On Monday, the Tokyo Stock Market's key index plunged to its lowest level this year. After hours of panicky trading, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average shed 647.66 points, or 3.87 percent, to close at

16,078.71.

Even worse, analysts said the drop was not a reaction to any specific event, just the lack of good news.

It capped a month long decline of more than 3,600 points — and added to snowballing pessimism over the prospects for an economic recovery.

Consider the following:
• In recent weeks, Japanese manufacturers reported sharp drops in profits across the board for the half-year that ended in September.

• Many businesses have announced job cuts or cutbacks in production. Officially, unemployment remains at 2.5 percent. But according to an Asahi Bank report, the jobless rate would be about 6.5 percent if calculated by U.S. standards.

• Department store sales are down. Plant and equipment investment, and

"The market's direction depends on what the government is or isn't going to do. So far, it just sits smack there and seems to do nothing."

KATHY MATSUI,
Strategist

machinery orders, all negative.

• Lists of economic indicators look like a temperature chart for the North Pole — in December.

• Japan's auto exports plunged 25 percent in October, which one industry official attributed to a prolonged slump in foreign demand and to this year's rapid appreciation of the yen.

On the positive side, prices aren't rising. Consumer inflation is running about 1.4 percent annually and pro-

ducer prices are falling. Help wanted signs appear on most Tokyo city blocks, but they are for jobs no one seems to want: waitressing, clerking, cleaning.

When Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa took office in August, he pledged to wipe out political corruption, promote government efficiency and revive the slumping economy, in that order.

Now he faces mounting pressure

to make the economy his number one concern.

"The market's direction depends on what the government is or isn't going to do," says Kathy Matsui, strategist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd. "So far, it just sits smack there and seems to do nothing."

One possible move would be to set aside political reform legislation, which appears headed for trouble in the upper house, and enact an income tax cut.

Economists disagree, however, whether a tax cut would have much real impact. Many believe thrifty consumers would just sock the extra money away instead of spending it. And cutting income taxes would force the highly unpopular move of raising sales taxes.

Still, some argue that doing anything is better than doing nothing.

"It's worth a try," says Koo. "Hope can be very useful."

Another idea being considered is channelling funds to small and medium-sized businesses hardest hit by the downturn.

So far, however, the economy has resisted all the usual cures.

Public works spending has grown by an average 14 percent in the past three years, 21 percent in 1993. And the discount rate is at its lowest level ever — 1.75 percent — but investment has not picked up.

Despite the bad news, Hosokawa's government is enjoying record high popularity ratings — more than 70 percent in most polls. But the plunge in share prices has shaken confidence in the government's plans to pull the country out of recession.

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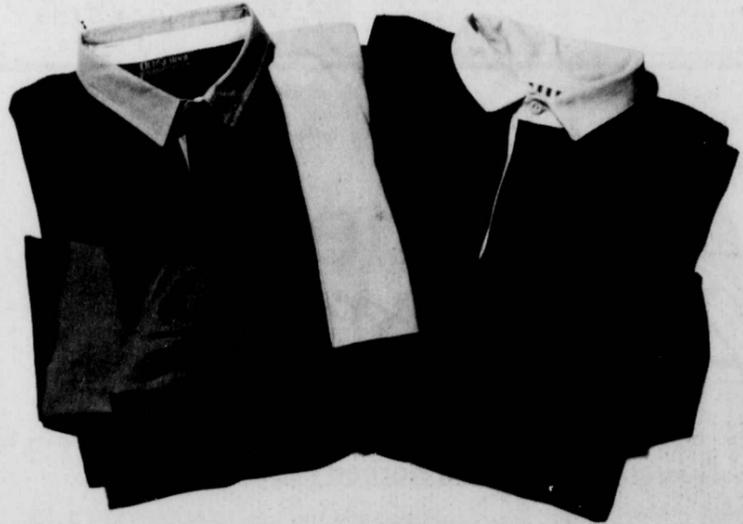
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