

TCU DAILY SKIFF

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1994

TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, FORT WORTH, TEXAS

92ND YEAR, NO.21

Berkeley prof Searle to give lecture today

BY DENA RAINS
TCU DAILY SKIFF

Philosophy professor and writer John R. Searle from the University of California at Berkeley will speak on artificial intelligence 7:30 today at the third annual Moore Philosophy Lectures in Moudy 141N.

The title of his lecture will be "Minds, Brains and Computers."

Richard Galvin, an associate professor of philosophy and chairman of the department, said the lecture will deal with the philosophical arguments of human and artificial intelligence.

The differences between the mind and the brain and the question of whether computers — which can perform many of the tasks humans do — have minds also will be discussed, Galvin said.

Searle will conclude the Moore Lectures at 4:30 p.m., Friday in 141N Moudy by speaking on "The Problem of Consciousness."

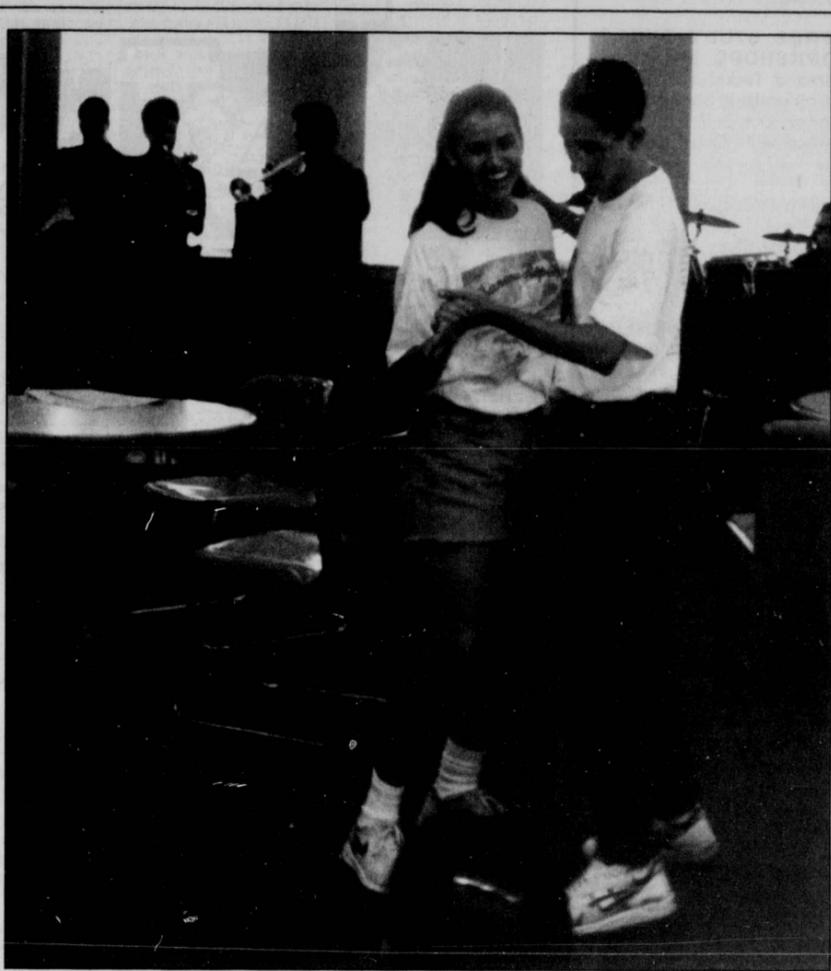
Receptions will follow both lectures.

Searle "is first, and foremost, a really great intellect," Galvin said.

One of the reasons Galvin said he holds Searle in high regard because he has published works on various different topics in the philosophic realm including ethics, philosophy in language and the philosophy of minds and artificial intelligence.

The fact that the Moore Philosophy Lectures fall on Parents' Week-

see Searle, page 3



Elio Elizondo, sophomore English major and Melissa Caddell, freshman education major, dance together to the music of Latin Express at the Hispanic Heritage Month Vendor's Fair.

TCU Daily Skiff/Blake Thornhill

Student House: No support for TCU Triangle

BY JENNIFER HOLMES
AND TASHA ZEMKE
TCU DAILY SKIFF

A Student House of Representatives resolution to support the TCU Triangle, the gay, lesbian and bisexual organization on campus, was rejected 28 to 17 votes on Tuesday night.

Nineteen members of the House abstained from the vote.

The resolution was written and brought forward by sophomore philosophy major Thomas Graca, who said that some of the organization's campus publicity materials were recently vandalized and destroyed.

The failed resolution does not affect the Triangle's rights as a campus organization; it instead is a failed vote of support for the group, House leaders said.

After the vote, House officers said the actual purpose of the resolution was unclear. Points brought up in debate before the vote ranged from the moral correctness of homosexuality to the nature of the House's support for campus organizations.

Graca said he was dismayed by the House's vote.

"(House members) were called to vote to support the right of student organizations to exist," Graca said. "They were called to condemn vandalism and destruction of publicity

materials. They were called to defend the rights of students. And they failed."

The resolution does not address the morality or ethics of homosexuality, nor did it reflect upon what the Bible, or any other sacred writing had to say about homosexuality, Graca said.

Scott Wheatley, House vice president, said he was unsure why the resolution was proposed in the first place, but he speculated that the Triangle had been the object of disapproval from some students.

"The (TCU Triangle) has been getting flak lately," he said. "TCU students that don't agree with the organization are acting oppressively."

Wheatley said House members were confused as to what the actual voting issue was, but that the vote boiled down to whether House members personally supported the group.

Scott McLinden, House president, told members before the vote that "we are not voting here on whether we support or do not support the beliefs of this organization. We are simply voting if we, as students, support the organization being on this campus."

Triangle President Alan Dettlaff, a senior social work major, said he was

see Triangle, page 3

Alum takes helm of minority affairs

BY CHRISTI GIFFORD
TCU DAILY SKIFF

Darren Turner, a 1987 TCU graduate, is the new coordinator of minority affairs in student development services.

"I think some of the most important things are bringing the minority community of TCU together to address issues of the entire minority population," he said.

The coordinator of minority affairs must support and work cooperatively with minority groups on campus, help achieve the university's commitment to diversity, and encourage campus involvement by minority students, according to the job description.

"I'm very excited about Darren being here," said Barbara Brown Herman, director of student development services. Student development services had numerous applications for the position and made an extensive search before hiring Turner, she said.

Turner's diverse education includes degrees in

social work and science and experience as a Horned Frog football player. At his previous job, he worked for the Fort Worth Independent School District as a supervisor for drug education in the middle schools.

"I think he's going to be excellent for this position," said Susan Batchelor, director of Campus Life.

In the month that Turner has been at TCU, he has formed a minority council which has already met several times, he said. Three representatives, each from groups such as Black Student Caucus, Organization of Latin American Students, United Asian Community, Students for Asian Indian Cultural Awareness, Native American Student Orga-



Darren Turner

see Turner, page 4

Donation boosts ISA loan fund

BY MARK MOURER
TCU DAILY SKIFF

TCU's International Student Association received a donation of \$500 from the Greater Fort Worth Council on World Affairs to help its international student loan program.

The council's donation is being designated to complement the Jerome Moore Loan Fund, which was established by the late dean of students to provide small, interest-free, emergency loans to TCU's international students.

Al Mladenka, director of international student affairs, said the generous loan was approved by the council to further TCU's commitment to caring for its international students.

"The original loan was set up to provide emergency money for international students who needed help paying bills or medical expenses," Mladenka said. "International students sometimes have a hard time getting money to pay bills from home, and we would provide them with a loan for their expenses until they could pay us back."

The two loan programs give the



Al Mladenka

international student affairs office around \$1,500 to loan to international students, Mladenka said. There is no credit check or any collateral necessary, and the student is given a designated time to pay back the department.

Mladenka, who sits on the board of directors for the council, said he was asked by the council how they could help out the department. He listed several ways and the council decided to help bolster the loan program, he said.

"The council is always wanting to expand intercultural involvement in the educational programs in Fort Worth," Mladenka said, "and they

see ISA, page 3

Alcohol ed to refocus under new leader

BY BILL CRAWFORD
TCU DAILY SKIFF

The Alcohol and Drug Education program has long been associated with teaching students about drinking safety and drug prevention.

But the organization's new alcohol and drug education coordinator, Angela Taylor, said she wants to expand the program's services.

Taylor, a previous drug education counselor at the University of North Texas for three years, said she wants the organization to help students achieve their goals.

"I wanted to help by not letting drugs and alcohol interfere with goals," Taylor said. "It's rewarding to know, in a small way, that I can help someone get their life back on track."

Taylor said she became interested in alcohol and

drug education because she saw friends and family brought down by alcohol and drug use.

She grew up in a home with an alcoholic grandfather, she said.

Taylor spent her undergraduate years at Texas A&M University, where she had a friend who was a great athlete until she began to drink heavily. Taylor's friend lost her scholarship and dropped out of school.

"That made me want to be a drug and alcohol counselor," she said.



Angela Taylor

see Taylor, page 3

Nurse to address eating habits of elderly

BY ELYSE NUNN
TCU DAILY SKIFF

Harris College of Nursing is holding a series of lectures and discussions on nutrition and eating behaviors of older adults.

Jeanie Kayser-Jones, a nurse, anthropologist and researcher specializing in health care for the elderly, will be the guest speaker.

She is professor and director of graduate studies in gerontological nursing and department physiological nursing in the school of nursing at the University of California, San Francisco.

Kayser-Jones, author of *Old, Alone, and Neglected: Care of the*

Aged in the United States and Scotland, will give a presentation 2 p.m. Oct. 13 and a keynote symposium from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Oct. 14 in the Bass Building Living Room.

Kayser-Jones will discuss eating behaviors of elderly adults and identify the various social, cultural, psychological, environmental and clinical factors that result in eating problems and the use of feeding tubes.

Gail Davis, professor of nursing, helped arrange for Kayser-Jones to visit TCU.

Davis hopes people from other disciplines such as nutrition and social work will attend Kayser-Jones's speeches, she said.

Harris College of Nursing is co-sponsoring Kayser-Jones's visit with UNT and Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas. Kayser-Jones will speak at Presbyterian Hospital Oct. 13.

Jan Weaver, a research associate at UNT Health Science Center, works with the Texas Institute for Research and Education on Aging. She invited TCU to participate in this event.

Since UNT does not have a nursing department, Weaver said they wanted to include nurses and nursing faculty from around the Metroplex.

Weaver is most interested in hearing what Kayser-Jones has to say about long-term changes in care for the elderly, she said.

NEWS DIGEST

Biosphere director sued

FORT WORTH (AP) — Financier Ed Bass' \$4.9 million claim against former Biosphere director Margaret Augustine is "all baloney," Augustine's attorney said Wednesday.

Bass, a financial backer of the Arizona ecological experiment, accused Augustine of overpaying herself through an architectural firm she controlled that did business with the project.

The claim, accuses her of "acts of self-dealing, conflicts of interest and fraudulent activities" while she ran the experiment in the foothills outside Tucson, Ariz.

Police charge teen in murder

DALLAS (AP) — A teen-ager accused of murdering a 13-year-old girl received psychiatric treatment at a Dallas hospital until his family's insurance coverage ran out, his mother said.

The 14-year-old boy, whom police have not identified because of his age, was charged with juvenile delinquency-murder Tuesday in the death of Carla Farmer. He was being held Wednesday at the Denton County Juvenile Detention Center.

The Garland girl was sexually assaulted and stabbed repeatedly with hacksaw blades. Her body was left on a convenience store rooftop.

Tyler drill team appeals ruling

AUSTIN (AP) — Dozens of members of a Tyler high school drill team converged on the Texas Education Agency Wednesday in a squabble over one girl's effort to be a team officer.

About 47 teen-age girls and 22 parents left Tyler in chartered buses Wednesday, arriving in Austin to show their support for Southern Belles drill team director Kellye Roberts.

Leigh Toney, a senior who tried out to be an officer on the Robert E. Lee High School team, contends that Roberts gave her an unfair score, denying her a spot.

Michael Fay enters drug rehab

KETTERING, Ohio (AP) — Michael Fay, the teen-ager flogged in Singapore for vandalizing cars, has gone into drug rehab for treatment of a butane-sniffing habit, his stepmother said Wednesday.

Jan Fay said her 19-year-old stepson was admitted to the Hazelden clinic in Minnesota several weeks ago after she and his father, George Fay, learned he had been inhaling the gas from pressurized cans to get high.

Butane is used in cigarette lighters. Fay told her he was inhaling butane because it made him forget what happened in Singapore.

800 die in ferry disaster

TURKU, Finland (AP) — Frigid waters and raging winds turned the Baltic into a sea of death for more than 800 people when a ferry suddenly listed and sank in a storm early Wednesday. Authorities said 141 others survived.

Officials said it was too early to say what caused the ferry to sink shortly after midnight about 25 miles from Uto island.

A surviving crew member said water started pouring through the Estonia's front cargo door and the ship rolled over and sank.

Swedish inspectors had criticized the seals on the door before the ferry left Estonia on Tuesday evening on its way to Sweden.

CAMPUSLINES

Campuslines is provided as a service to the TCU community. Announcements of events, public 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.

BAPTIST STUDENT MINISTRY (previously Baptist Student Union) meets at 12:30 on Thursdays for Noondays (a bible study) in Student Center 218 and at 7 p.m. on Mondays for Jumpstart in Student Center 205-206.

LET'S GO ABROAD is having a meeting at 4 p.m. today in Student Center 218.

THE ADVERTISING CLUB will meet at 5 p.m. today in Moudy 279S. Come hear about

our benefits to you as future professionals.

STUDENT ALLIES is having its first meeting at 7:30 p.m. today at the TCU Wesley Foundation, Lubbock St. at Lowden. Student Allies is a group with the same purpose as Faculty Allies, to support the TCU Triangle and learn about Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual issues.

RAPE/SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS GROUP meeting from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on Fridays, is forming at the TCU Counseling Center. Call Dorothy M. Barra at 921-7863 to set up an initial screening appointment.

TCU TRIANGLE will meet at 5 p.m. on Sunday to discuss Christian author Brian McKnott's video "On Being Gay." Contact Assistant Dean Priscilla Tate, faculty sponsor at

921-7160.

FREE STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOPS are being offered in Rickel 106 (unless told otherwise). Study Skills - Monday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m., Time Management - Oct. 10, 9 p.m., Note Taking - Oct. 18, 9 p.m., Test Taking - Oct. 26, 7 p.m., Reading Textbooks - Nov. 8, 9 p.m., Time Management - Nov. 16, 9 p.m., Study Skills - Nov. 29, 7 p.m., Test Taking - Dec. 5, 7 p.m. Call 921-7486.

DALLAS SONGWRITERS will meet at 7 p.m. Monday to host guest speaker Ron Chapman, who is celebrating his 25th anniversary as chief disc jockey for KVIL and now assumes the post of Program Director. DSA meets at the White House, 6611 Forest Lane. Call President Beverly Houston 214-750-0916.

The Adventures of Superfrog

by Ben Roman & Adam Wright



Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



WEATHER

Clear skies and 90 degree temperatures are in the forecast for today. Tonight will be partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s are expected for the rest of the week.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Today
12 noon to 5 p.m., PC Hispanic Heritage Month: Vendor's Fair
5 p.m.: Interviewing Techniques, Student Center 203

Friday
PC Parents Weekend: Check-In, Talent Show, TCU Jazz Band Noon Performance, Ballet and Modern Dance Performance
Reunion 1995 Alumni Leadership Conference

Saturday
Reunion '95 Alumni Leadership Conference
PC Parents Weekend: Check-In, Fun Run/Walk, Chancellor's Reception, Mini Lectures, Picnic

Miller Speech & Hearing Clinic Open House
Harris College of Nursing Dedication Ceremony
Sigma Theta Tau Induction

Sunday
PC Parents Weekend: ISA Goodbye Brunch

Monday
7:30 p.m., Music Faculty Recital
PC Visual Arts Display: Elizabeth Leal

Tuesday
PC Visual Arts Display: Elizabeth Leal
Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra

Wednesday
Last Day to withdraw from classes for Fall

TCU DAILY SKIFF

Since 1902

The TCU Daily Skiff is produced by the students of Texas Christian University, sponsored by the journalism department and published Tuesday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters except during finals week and during holidays. The Skiff is distributed free on campus to students, faculty, staff and visitors.

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PHOTOGRAPHS: Staff photographs are available for purchase by readers of the Skiff. For pricing guidelines, contact the photo desk.

EDITORIAL POLICY: Unsigned editorials (on the opinion page) represent the view of the Skiff editorial board, which is composed of the editor, managing edi-

tor, assistant managing editor, news editor, campus editor, opinion editor, art director and sports editor. Signed letters and columns represent the opinion of the writers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Skiff welcomes letters to the editor for publication. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, signed and limited to 500 words. Letters should be submitted at least two days before publication to the Skiff newsroom, Moudy 2915, to TCU Box 32929, or to fax 921-7133. They must include the author's classification, major and phone number. The Skiff reserves the right to edit or reject any letters for style and taste.

Letters to the editor are also accepted in voice mail form and through the TCU computer system. To leave a voice letter, dial 921-7683. To leave e-mail, send it to the Skiff's TCU vax address, listed below.

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Triangle/ from page 1

disappointed by the vote but he didn't feel like the vote was against the organization, because issues were too confused during the debate.

"I'm appreciative that this resolution went to the House," he said. "There are people willing to stand up for us that aren't even involved."

Detlaff said he felt that most campus groups facing the same situation as the Triangle would have had a similar resolution of support passed without much debate.

Wheatley, one of the 19 abstentions, said he voted such because "too many questions were unanswered when the vote was called."

"It was late and people were tired of the issue and emotionally uptight," Wheatley said. "Twelve to 14 people were never heard, and that's not fair. As a responsible representative, I abstained."

Christian Ellis, House treasurer, said that there were a number of things people voted against. People didn't feel it was right for the House to have a resolution supporting just one specific organization, rather than all of them, he said. But some members did not support the homosexuality issue, he said.

On April 28, 1994, the Student Organizations Committee recognized the TCU Triangle as an official organization after being petitioned with the required ten or more necessary signatures.

Graca's original title was "A Resolution to Support the TCU Triangle," but it was changed to clarify the resolution and the group, House officers said.

Graca read a portion of a letter which was printed in the *Skiff*, written by Chad Turner, president of Uniting Campus Ministries, which stated that TCU Triangle flyers advertising a meeting and posted

around campus were removed by the next morning.

"It is our responsibility to build community on this campus," Graca said. "Every student at this university is a part of the TCU community."

Graca said that it was the students' responsibility to respect the right of a group to peacefully assemble, and it was the responsibility of students to respect the dignity of all persons, be they heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual.

During the debate, a House member asked Graca why the TCU Triangle needed the House to support its legitimacy to exist when the House did not necessarily do that sort of thing.

Another representative said that the House should not support something that is against the law.

"By Texas law, the actual practice of homosexuality is still illegal," said a Clark Hall representative.

Graca said he was not a representative for the TCU Triangle in any way and that he was not asked to present the resolution.

"The resolution is based on my feelings that organizations have the right to meet on campus," he said.

"They have the right to publicize on campus without their stuff being torn down. The TCU Triangle is an officially recognized student organization."

Graca said the House made the mistake of changing the title of the resolution, and making it different from what he wrote, and with his name on the bottom of it.

Graca is a House member and chairman of the Christian Education for Uniting Campus Ministries.

The TCU Triangle has been supported by the Student Organizations Committee (SOC) and the administration.



John and Madeline Ross, siblings of Abbey Ross, a TCU soccer player and sophomore biology major, play their own game at the women's soccer game at Southern Methodist University on Wednesday afternoon.

Taylor/ from page 1

While at TCU, Taylor plans to help students develop individual identity as well as a sense of community. All of the alcohol and drug education programs are geared toward reaching these two goals, she said.

Taylor said she intends to keep students from ruining their lives.

"My role here at TCU is to keep alcohol and drugs from interfering with life and academic goals," she said. "And I want to be a resource to students who don't drink and want to stay that way."

One problem Taylor said she wants to correct is what counselors say to students.

"We want to be consistent in messages we send students about alcohol and drug use," she said.

Taylor received her undergraduate degree from Texas A&M and her master's degree from the University of North Texas, both in sports psychology. She is currently working on her doctorate in counselor education at North Texas.

ISA/ from page 1

liked this program because not only would it increase the amount of money that we are able to offer international students in emergencies, but also it will perpetuate itself in continuing to help international students for many years.

"There have been times when we had loaned out all of our money to our international students and had been unable to provide loans for students whose money had not arrived from home," Mladenka said. "With the extended funds provided by the council, we'll be in a much better position to help international students who need loans."

Mladenka said international students often have problems obtaining

loans from banks because they generally have no collateral to offer or any credit record. He also said many banks view international students as temporary residents, adding to the difficulty in approving loans.

He said that in his 18 years at TCU, there have been only a few problems obtaining pay-back on loans extended through the international affairs office.

Joe Orr, chairman of the council, has been involved in promoting international education to the Fort Worth area. Orr said he felt like this loan program was a great way in which the council could help international students in need of emergency funds.

"The Jerome Moore Loan Fund is very worthwhile in helping out international students who need assistance," Orr said. "It is nice to now have more money available to help the students."

"I will try to encourage the council from year to year to increase funding available for TCU's international students," he said. "We'll see how things go, but I would like for the council to continue to aid the loan program."

In addition to approving the donation, the council also received a donation of \$200 from Pier 1 Imports. The donation will allow five TCU international students and two faculty members to attend its annual awards banquet tonight.

Holger Nass from Germany, Iana Konstantinova from Bulgaria, Barbara Kasujja from Uganda, Jeff Aludo from Kenya, and Samantha Polczer from Austria are the international students who will be representing TCU tonight. Faculty members attending are Manochehr Dorraj, assistant professor of political science and Yushau Sodiq, assistant professor of religion.

Searle/ from page 1

end is not "purely" coincidental, Galvin said.

"I think people ought to bring their parents to hear Searle," he said. The lectures will show the parents that the money they spend on their children's education is being well-spent, he said.

Searle is the Mills Professor of Philosophy of Mind and Language at Berkeley. He was a Rhodes Scholar and received his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees from Oxford. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and has twice won a Fulbright

Award. In 1990, Searle served as president of the American Philosophical Association.

His books include *Speech Acts, Expression and Meaning, Intentionality, Minds, Brains and Science* and *The Rediscovery of the Mind*.

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STRIPLING & COX

Paroled child molester convicted of murders

By JEAN PAGEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIDLAND, Texas — Jurors took 27 minutes Wednesday to convict a paroled child molester of capital murder in the abduction and strangulation of a 7-year-old girl.

TEXAS

Michael Blair — branded a "subterranean little troll" by one prosecutor — could be sentenced to death.

The speedy verdict stunned the defense and elated state's attorneys who had argued that eyewitnesses and forensic evidence linked Blair, 24, to the disappearance of Ashley Estell from a Plano park.

"Surprise," defense attorney Don McDermitt said in quiet disbelief. "It's just amazing."

Blair showed no emotion and refused to speak to reporters.

Dick and Diana Estell, Ashley's parents, cried in the courtroom. Estell said the conviction doesn't ease his pain.

"It brings another point of closure, another point to get by," he said. "I'm not sure anything will help."

McDermitt claimed during closing arguments Wednesday morning that prosecutors propped up their circumstantial case using Blair's prior convictions of burglary and child molestation.

He pointed out that no one testified seeing Blair with Ashley at the crowded soccer tournament where she disappeared Sept. 4, 1993. McDermitt held up two photos: a portrait of Ashley, and a scruffy mug shot of his client.

"How could someone who looks like that walk onto that playground and walk off with a little girl and not be seen?" he asked the jury.

"Somebody would have heard her cry, seen him pulling her by the arm," McDermitt said. "But nobody saw it. Why? Because that man didn't take the little girl."

Hundreds of people — including Blair — joined the search for the third-grader before her body was found Sept. 5, 1993, off a remote road. The high-profile case generated so much news coverage it was moved to Midland.

Sentencing begins Thursday. Blair faces either the death sentence or life in prison.

Collin County assistant district attorney Bryan Clayton delivered a closing reminder to jurors that hair matching Ashley's was found in Blair's car. A fiber on her body matched that of a toy rabbit also found in his car.

"This subterranean little troll — because that's what his lifestyle showed — committed this offense," Clayton said. "Never let her leave your mind."

Alternate juror Janet Dickson said she considered the hair and fiber evidence to be most persuasive. She said she wasn't surprised by the quick deliberations.

The trial, which began Sept. 12, included testimony that Blair was asleep at a Dallas apartment the morning Ashley disappeared. Defense attorneys also tried turning suspicion onto another man — a sex offender working at the park as a soccer official.

"They didn't show you anything with regard to an alibi or other suspects," Clayton told the jury. "... The evidence is overwhelming, just overwhelming."

Blair was on parole from prison after serving 18 months of a 10-year sentence for burglary and indecency with a child.

After his arrest in Ashley's murder, news of his criminal record prompted demands for reform of the Texas parole system.

"I think this whole incident has certainly served to illuminate the problems that we've had in our penitentiary system, in the numbers that are there as well as the activities of the board of pardons and paroles," said Collin County district attorney Tom O'Connell.

Democrats worry about losing majority

By JOHN KING
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — In a depressing election season for Democrats, Sen. Kent Conrad is one of the lucky ones, never mentioned on the growing list of endangered incumbents. Still, better safe than sorry.

NATION

"A majority of the time, I vote with the Republican leader, Bob Dole," is Conrad's astonishing boast in his latest television ad in North Dakota.

Consider it insurance against a Democratic meltdown.

With just 40 days to Election Day, Democrats see trouble — to Republicans, it's opportunity — everywhere they look.

The climate was supposed to be bad for Democrats this year, because of historical trends in midterm elections, festering anti-government and anti-incumbent sentiment and President Clinton's subpar public standing. But not even the party pessimists thought things could be this bad.

"I think in the end things will even out, but it's a lot tougher out there

than I thought it would be," laments Donald Sweitzer, the Democratic National Committee political director.

"I've waited 15 years for this to happen," marvels GOP pollster Bill McInturff. "The world has turned."

Consider just a smidgeon of the evidence supporting the Republican euphoria and Democratic despair:

—Already competitive or ahead in all nine Senate races without an incumbent, Republicans are now striking fear into several Democratic incumbents. Among them: Harris Wofford of Pennsylvania, Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, Dianne Feinstein of California, Charles S. Robb of Virginia and James Sasser of Tennessee. And Democratic hopes of toppling any GOP incumbent are dimming.

•Republican projections for major gains in House races across the Southern and border states are holding solid, and there are a growing number of GOP opportunities in the Midwest and West Coast.

Not only is House Speaker Thomas S. Foley of Washington in trouble (down 14 points in a poll released Tuesday), but Republican

challengers in a handful of other districts viewed as long shots or worse for the GOP suddenly find themselves competitive. Democratic incumbents handed surprising and troubling poll numbers recently include freshman Maria Cantwell of Washington, two-term Dick Swett of New Hampshire and a handful of veterans, including Bill Hefner of North Carolina and Richard Lehman of California.

•California GOP Gov. Pete Wilson has gone from given-up-for-dead to ahead, and Republican challengers in Texas, Florida and New York have put Democratic veterans Ann Richards, Lawton Chiles and Mario Cuomo into tossup races heading into the final weeks.

Given all that, some Republicans are beginning to suggest Election Day might bring a powerful GOP tide, one of those rare swings in politics where one party wins a bunch of races it shouldn't — at least not by any objective analysis.

"The polling data indicate there is a Democratic meltdown but the real world data say it shouldn't happen," said Fred Steeper, a Republican pollster based in Michigan. By "real

world," Steeper means, "We have no recession and we have no war and we have no major scandal."

Because of that, Democrats believe Election Day won't be as unkind to them as the outlook six weeks in advance.

After all, many Democratic incumbents have been hamstrung from a campaign standpoint because Congress is in session in Washington, and experience and deeper campaign bank accounts often tilt races toward incumbents in the final days.

"I do not subscribe to the tidal wave theory," said DNC Chairman David Wilhelm.

Still, Democrats acknowledge that if elections were held today, they likely would suffer a debacle, probably losing control of the Senate and coming perilously close to the 40-seat loss that would give Republicans a House majority, too.

"The Republicans are understandably jumping with glee at some of the numbers they see right now," said Sweitzer. "But as this thing gets closer a lot of their challengers who look real good right now are going to get a closer look and all of these races are going to tighten."

Hartman wants to keep state treasury alive

By SCOTT ROTHSCHILD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Republican banker David Hartman wants to become the state's banker. And unlike incumbent Texas Treasurer Martha Whitehead, he wants to keep the job.

TEXAS

Whitehead is running for re-election on a platform of abolishing the Treasury Department, an idea Hartman says would eliminate important government checks and balances.

In addition, he says he is more qualified than Whitehead, a Democrat, will defend against a state income tax, and will serve as a watchdog over what he calls runaway state spending.

Whitehead's recommendation to merge Treasury functions with the state comptroller's office may sound appealing, but it is bad fiscal policy, Hartman said. "State government needs financial

controls. Any CPA (certified public accountant) will tell you that the person who handles the books shouldn't be handling the cash," he said.

The treasurer receives, invests and minds all money deposited to state funds and reviews and pays all warrants issued by the comptroller's office.

The office also is custodian for unclaimed property and money turned over to the state. The comptroller's office collects taxes and provides a revenue estimate used by lawmakers to write a state budget.

Hartman, 58, said abolishing the Treasury wouldn't save the state any money and would kill a priceless check-and-balance in the system. Since the treasurer is set out in the Texas Constitution, abolishing the post would require two-thirds' approval of the Legislature and passage by Texas voters.

"It's preposterous," Hartman said of the idea. "It's the closest thing to fraud that I've ever seen in a candidate's platform."

Although he has never run for political office, Hartman said his banking experience and appointment by former Gov. Bill Clements, a Republican, to a task force that studied efficiency in government make him qualified to become state treasurer.

He is chairman and chief executive of Hartland Bank in Austin, and has a substantial interest in Valley Bancorp. Inc. which owns Montwood Bank in El Paso.

Hartman also accuses Whitehead of mismanaging an investment service called TexPool, which offers local governments the opportunity to pool their money with other public entities. He says confidence in the investment fund has dropped because of substandard returns based on ill-advised investments.

While opposing abolition of the Treasury, Hartman has proposed shutting down three agencies and having the Treasury assume their duties. The proposal calls for combining the staffs of the Public Finance Authority and Bond Review Board

and placing them under the Treasury, along with the Pension Review Board.

If elected, Hartman said he would ask the Texas Supreme Court to order the Legislature to abide by a 1978 constitutional amendment that was aimed at limiting growth in state spending to the growth of the state's economy.

He said the state has illegally spent billions in excess of the limit.

And, he said, as treasurer he will maintain a vigilant stand against a state income tax.

Last year, voters approved a constitutional amendment to require voter approval of any proposed state personal income tax and any subsequent increases in such a levy.

But Hartman said state leaders will try to present the case to the public that an income tax is needed to provide basic services.

Calling himself the "taxpayer's watchdog," Hartman said, "I'll be loved by my masters, the taxpayers, and feared by those" in Austin.

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Turner/ from page 1

nization, and fraternities and sororities, meet as a part of the council. Turner said he hopes to get it off the ground by December or January.

Another important aspect is dealing with diversity on campus, Turner said.

All groups work together with one another to experience the variety of culture and ethnicity brought to the table, he said.

Getting students involved in mainstream activities is another one of Turner's goals.

"It's real easy because the population of minorities is nine or ten per-

cent of the total (TCU) population," Turner said.

When getting ready to start nominating people for committees or organizations, it's easy to forget minorities because often they are not a daily part of everyone's life due to their smaller population, he said.

Community service in inner-city schools, pen pal programs and getting students in a mentorship program are all part of Turner's agenda.

Turner said he hopes to work in conjunction with TCU's alcohol and drug education program since he has

experience with drug education programs.

Trisha Worlow, senior social work major, worked one summer with Turner in Because We Care, an alcohol and drug prevention program in the schools, she said. Turner was the supervisor over the entire district.

"He is just a great person. He's motivated, respected by a lot of people, and gets the job done," Worlow said. "People like to talk to him."

"I think he will be a help to the administration with minority affairs. He has a lot of good things to say," she said.

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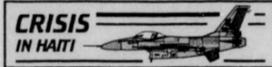
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Exiled lawmakers return to Haiti; discuss amnesty for coup leaders

By DAVID BEARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Haitian lawmakers cast aside years of fear to reunite Wednesday and try to build a democratic society.



Ten lawmakers had ended their exile just hours earlier, flown in on a U.S.-chartered jetliner and guarded by the American military force at the seaside Legislative Palace.

At least 3,000 jubilant well-wishers cheered as vans carried the legislators toward the white colonnaded parliament building, which was

sealed off by concertina wire and 600 American soldiers armed with assault weapons.

The politicians met Wednesday in hopes of forging an agreement on amnesty for the military leaders who ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in a bloody coup three years ago. Amnesty for the coup and the human rights abuses that followed was part of a Sept. 18 deal between the ruling junta and an American delegation led by former President Jimmy Carter.

U.S. officials have strongly backed an amnesty to defuse violence by desperate Haitian soldiers.

Several of the returning lawmakers hugged friends who greeted them as they stepped off a green-and-white Boeing 737 jetliner from Miami.

"We don't want (army chief

Raoul) Cedras! It is Aristide we want!" the crowd sang.

"We are happy about the amnesty bill ... These guys can finally leave and we can go on," said one well-wisher, Nene Dordilus.

Before they left for Haiti on Wednesday, several of the returning lawmakers said they opposed granting the military rulers amnesty, but would go along with it in order to restore the elected government to Haiti.

Human rights groups have blamed soldiers and army-backed gunmen for the deaths of about 3,000 people since the 1991 coup.

"Personally I think amnesty is an immoral act, but one of the conditions of the return of President Aristide is the amnesty. So we're going to do the sacrifice," said Fritz Robert St.

Paul, an exiled deputy, before departing from Miami International Airport.

Fifty-four of 79 deputies and 11 of 17 senators attended the parliament session, giving both houses a quorum for the first time since fistcuffs broke up a session in January. U.S. Ambassador William Swing was among the foreign diplomats in attendance.

Lawmakers disagreed on how broad an amnesty to grant. Several pro-Aristide legislators supported a political amnesty, but not exoneration for bloodshed.

"We cannot prevent citizens from suing their executioners," said Jean-Robert Martinez, a pro-Aristide deputy, "otherwise we will authorize them to take the law into their own hands."

At least six amnesty proposals have been prepared, and there was no estimate when the lawmakers would reach agreement.

In sections of the nation abandoned by Haitian police and soldiers, the people have generally showed self-restraint, except for some cases of looting food warehouses.

The United States announced Wednesday it had temporarily halted food shipments to warehouses until better security could be arranged.

The number of U.S. troops in Haiti reached 18,262 Wednesday. Many took on the jobs of traffic cops and security guards as Haitian authorities abdicated power.

Near the Legislative Palace, crowds cheered American medics who evacuated a small boy for treat-

ment after he collapsed on a downtown sidewalk.

Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul announced he would return to City Hall on Thursday.

Paul issued a statement urging "the citizenry of the capital to live through this important event in discipline and in order."

Aristide supporters planned huge demonstrations Friday to coincide with the third anniversary of Aristide's overthrow.

By midafternoon Wednesday, 117 weapons had been returned. One pro-Aristide deputy, Raoul Kessa, said the pro-military terror squads must be disarmed quickly for democracy to triumph.

"If they are not disarmed, the danger will be permanent," Kessa said.

Mexican party leader assassinated

By JOHN RICE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY — A young man assassinated a key official of Mexico's ruling party Wednesday, rocking a country already buffeted by a turbulent year of violence and rebellion.

WORLD

Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu, secretary-general of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), was shot in the neck after getting into his car following a breakfast at a downtown hotel. Shattered glass from the passenger side window was strewn on the busy Paseo de la Reforma boulevard.

A bank guard tackled the gunman and turned him over to police. Officials did not immediately identify the dark-haired man or give a motive for what President Carlos Salinas de Gortari described as "a hideous crime."

"This is a day of mourning for PRIistas. This is a day of mourning for all Mexicans," said President-elect Ernesto Zedillo.

The killing shocked officials still recovering from the March 23 assas-

sination of PRI presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio, shot at a Tijuana campaign rally. Zedillo won the Aug. 21 presidential election and takes power Dec. 1.

Both Zedillo and Salinas were at the Hospital Espanol where Ruiz Massieu, his shirt ripped open and soaked with blood, was rushed after the shooting. Doctors said Ruiz Massieu had no pulse on arrival and was pronounced dead at 10:30 a.m., an hour after the shooting.

Deputy Attorney General Mario Ruiz Massieu, the slain man's brother, announced the death. He is in charge of prosecuting drug traffickers for the federal attorney general's office, which has the suspected gunman in custody.

Drug traffickers are accused of murdering Roman Catholic Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo in a case of mistaken identity at the Guadalajara airport in May 1993.

The assassination of Ruiz Massieu, No. 2 in the ruling party, jolted Mexico just as the country appeared to be settling down after months of violence and political turbulence.

Despite the Mayan Indian movement uprising in southern Mexico that began New Year's Day, the PRI,

which has governed Mexico since 1929, was able to gain 50 percent of the vote in the national election. Widely feared post-electoral violence failed to materialize.

Ruiz Massieu, a 48-year-old lawyer, was a rising figure in Mexican politics. He was elected to congress in August and was selected to lead the PRI delegation that would dominate the lower house.

He was governor of the western state of Guerrero from 1987 to 1993 and was named PRI secretary-general in May as the party reorganized itself in the wake of Colosio's murder.

Ruiz Massieu also represented the PRI before the Federal Electoral Institute.

Mexico's stock market plunged more than 3 percent after the shooting before bouncing back slightly in the afternoon. The value of the Mexican peso dipped slightly after the shooting.

Mexico City Mayor Manuel Aguilera described the weapon used as a sub-machinegun. Witnesses told local media it was an Uzi.

Ambassador James Jones said the U.S. government "deplores the act of senseless violence which has cost the life of Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu."

CIA officers reprimanded in Ames spy case

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Eleven senior CIA officers have been reprimanded for failing to push hard enough to uncover Aldrich Ames' spying for Moscow, but no agency officials will be demoted or fired, CIA Director R. James Woolsey said today.

In remarks to reporters at CIA headquarters in nearby Langley, Va., Woolsey named only one of the 11. He is Ted Price, head of the CIA's

clandestine service, the elite core of American intelligence. The others' identities must remain secret, he said, because of their involvement in clan-

NATION

destine operations.

Woolsey said Ames' betrayal of U.S. intelligence secrets between 1985 and 1993 led to the deaths of one dozen U.S.-paid agents and the compromising of "approximately three dozen" U.S. clandestine oper-

ations, including double agent operations that Ames learned about by tapping into a CIA computer at headquarters.

"The consequences have been horrid," Woolsey said.

At the heart of the failure to unmask Ames, Woolsey said, was a "serious and sustained inattention" to signs — some "like a bright billboard" — of Ames' treachery.

Price and three other senior officers still on the CIA payroll have been issued letters of reprimand.

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Lady Mustangs thwart TCU upset bid, 4-0

By SCOTT RUSSELL
TCU DAILY SKIFF

The TCU women's soccer team went into its game against perennial soccer powerhouse and long time rival SMU looking for an upset.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

However, the Mustangs had other ideas in mind as SMU shut out the Lady Horned Frogs, 4-0.

"SMU's got some very good soccer players as they have for years and we have to be able to match up with them," said head soccer coach David Rubinson.

Junior midfielder Courtney Linex pounded the ball from across the field to the corner of the goal only six minutes and nine seconds into the first half.

Only two minutes later another SMU midfielder, Emily Rogers,

denied TCU of an answering score by banking the ball off the crossbar and into the goal to make the score 2-0.

"Those two early goals really deflated us a lot," Rubinson said.

TCU (5-2-1) then proceeded to play 55 minutes of scoreless defense with senior goalkeeper Michelle Davies blocking five shots on goal as the ball rarely crossed midfield back to SMU's side.

"All the things that we preach in practice about possession of the soccer ball didn't happen today, and if they don't happen and if you can't keep possession, then your bound to have a long day," Rubinson said.

TCU's lack of possession kept starting freshman sweeper Molly Suess extremely busy.

"I thought I could have played a little better than I did," Suess said, "but it's just a frustrating game because we were all excited to play this team

(SMU) and we were all just pumped about playing as team that we thought was going to be a good game for us, it's just frustrating."

As TCU's defense began to wear down SMU's strong midfielders once again went on the attack.

With twenty minutes left in the game, Linex bumped the ball into the goal with her shin after it deflected off the goal post.

Finally with only one minute and 55 seconds left in the game, SMU reserve Emily Bumps kicked the ball just over Davies' head to bring the final score to 4-0.

"I didn't think we played very well at all today," coach Rubinson said. "Some years the rivalry between SMU and TCU has been really good, but I was just afraid that this could happen to us after a long weekend on the road and a little bit of a lackluster week in preparation," Rubinson said.



TCU Daily Skiff/ Mark McCauley

Junior defender Erin Trujillo controls the ball in a 4-0 loss to SMU Wednesday.

SPORTS DIGEST

Cougars replace QB

HOUSTON (AP) — Senior Clay Helton will be the starting quarterback for the University of Houston's homecoming game Oct. 8 against Texas A&M University.

The oldest son of Cougars coach Kim Helton will be replacing starter Chuck Clements, who broke his throwing hand against Ohio State University last Saturday.

Clements will have screws inserted in his hand Wednesday and will miss the rest of the season.

The Cougars are off this weekend before hosting the Oct. 8 game against the Aggies.

Horns lose Adams

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas Longhorns receiver Mike Adams, who missed the first game of the season for violating NCAA rules, has now been sidelined for three to six weeks with a knee injury.

Texas coach John Mackovic said Tuesday that Adams, an All-Southwest Conference performer last season, has a sprained medial collateral ligament in his right knee.

Adams was hurt while returning a punt in the third quarter of the Longhorns' 34-18 victory Saturday at Texas Christian. On the season, Adams had three receptions for 35 yards.

SMU players injured

DALLAS (AP) — Two SMU football starters have been ruled out for the season as a result of knee injuries.

MRI tests confirmed the seriousness of injuries by wide receiver Brian Berry and strong safety Rodney Watkins.

Team orthopedist Dr. John Baker will operate Friday on Berry to repair a ruptured patella tendon in his right knee.

Watkins suffered a stretched anterior cruciate ligament and a torn lateral collateral ligament in his left knee. Trainer Cash Birdwell said Watkins will be sidelined at least eight weeks.

Frogs wary of Baylor veer

By JEFF WILSON
TCU DAILY SKIFF

The Baylor Bears' lineup has changed since TCU's convincing 38-13 victory last season, but its offensive style has stayed the same.

FOOTBALL

The Bears lost four-year starting quarterback J.J. Joe and fullback John Henry to graduation, but the veer-style offense is still being implemented in Waco.

The veer, which emphasizes the run, is an option style offense. While in the veer, Baylor can run up the middle, run the option or the play action pass.

"Baylor gives several different formations from the stacked eye with three running backs and two tight ends to three wide receivers and the quarterback in the shotgun," TCU head coach Pat Sullivan said.

This season, the Bears have averaged 204.5 yards rushing in three

games this season and 381.5 yards total offense per game.

The strength of the Bears offense is their running backs headed by sophomore Kalief Muhammad. Along with Muhammad, junior Brandell Jackson and freshman Jerod Douglas will be the quickest backfield TCU will face all season, Sullivan said.

The TCU offensive line will be out-sized by Baylor's offensive line as it was in the Texas game. The Bears' offensive line, anchored by senior Will Davidson, averages 292 pounds and is bigger than Texas' line.

The TCU secondary must be wary of the Bears' offense because of their recent success with play action pass.

"They get really big plays off their passing game," Sullivan said. "Their two plays against Oklahoma State were big, long passing plays."

Defensive backs have a tendency to play the run first when they see the veer set, Sullivan said, and they get caught when they cheat up against the run.

Oklahoma State fell victim to the

play action pass twice including a passing play of 81-yard yards.

Freshman quarterback Jeff Watson leads Baylor's offense. Watson has played with an unusual amount of poise and confidence for a freshman this season, Sullivan said.

"All he does is win and all he's done all his life is win," said Sullivan of Watson, who led his high school team to a high school state championship in 1991.

The Horned Frogs, will be without junior nose tackle Hayes Rydel. Rydel, TCU's leading tackler through the first three games, left the Texas game on Saturday with a sprained left ankle. Sophomore Michael Janak will replace Rydel at nose tackle.

TCU will not switch its defense in an attempt to stop Baylor's offensive attack, said Sullivan despite the Frogs defense surrendering 224 rushing yards a game.

"We will have to scout their game plan as we go and make the adjustments as the game goes along," Sullivan added.

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■ LAURA POTTER

Procrastination is necessary student evil to keep sanity

The idea that the "serious student" always reads the text two weeks before the lecture, completes all papers when they are assigned, studies for tests from day one and outlines his or her notes is fairly naive.

The notion that the "serious student" files his or her notes alphabetically by subject and recopies them for neatness is also, alas, a pipe dream.

We all pretend for our dear parents' sake that we are this student. But this student is merely a figment of someone's imagination, and wouldn't survive if he or she did exist.

No real college student would ever attempt to learn by these means. The college experience would not be the same without the sweet agony of waiting until the last possible minute to accomplish something you have known about for weeks.

Students work best under pressure. Nothing brings out the artistic and literary genius of a student more than a five-page, single-spaced paper written out an hour before it is due. Nothing can match the joy of watching the sun rise as you expound on something you haven't read yet.



Why not wait until the night before to cram 15 chapters of chemistry into your head? It's not like you needed to get any sleep. And more importantly, this technique keeps the material fresh in your mind, so you can't forget it over a night's sleep. Yes, this is the gentle art of procrastination — a form which takes years to master, and a lifetime to perfect. And no one knows this better than a college student. We are the pioneers in this field, with each generation of students taking the art to a new level.

Procrastination is a craft which can only be mastered by the truly lazy... or the truly inspired. All the hard work and stress pays off when we can stand and say, "I got a B on a paper I wrote in one hour and 47 minutes," to a crowd of freshman admirers.

The journey begins with the first paper we put off back in high school, and reaches its pinnacle as we research and write our doctoral thesis the Tuesday before it is due.

Why else would Vivarin exist, except for the replenishment of students who haven't slept in four days?

An expert procrastinator is never at a loss to find something more important to do than study for the test which will determine whether or not they get that degree.

Recently, I spoke to a resident assistant who is a junior mathematics major. The R.A., who would like to remain anonymous, said that there is a fine art to procrastination.

This R.A., who has been on the dean's list several times, told me that a socially responsible student would never begin to write a paper or study for a test if she hadn't taken care of other, more important things first.

For example, she suggested calling your mother and all your other relatives to make sure they are still alive. Also, it's nearly impossible to study if your tapes and CD's aren't alphabetically arranged. And how can anyone concentrate if their study supplies aren't color coordinated?

Students should always do their best.

And if the only way they can produce their best work is under pressure, then they should wait until they become extremely stressed.

If this means waiting until the very last opportunity to do something, then that's what has to be done. After all, why do something that isn't your best work?

Procrastination isn't an evil that must be vanquished; it is our friend. Putting things off is the only way to remain sane and have fun. Why do today what can be put off until tomorrow?

I have, of course, been speaking entirely hypothetically. After all, I am a very, responsible student. And I never, ever procrastinate. Honest.

Laura Potter is a junior English major from Plano, Texas.

■ P. D. MAGNUS

We should all apply tolerance on equal basis

Recent letters on the opinion page have reflected a much larger debate about the place of homosexuals in our culture: Do we tolerate them? Discourage them? Ignore them? Beat them to within an inch of their lives?

The debate over homosexuals in our society has been raging, which got enormous billing in the Clinton administration's reevaluation of the military's policy on homosexual soldiers, hits as close to home as university parking policy.

From the formation of TCU Triangle (the gay, lesbian, and bisexual student network) to the recent letters, the issue is one with which nearly everyone is familiar.

Aside from the handful of self-righteous folks who speak out against the very existence of gays and the even smaller group of hate-mongers who chalk anti-gay slogans onto the sidewalk every semester, most people on campus are either ignorant or tolerant.

As for the ignorant, they should take their heads out of the sand. Nothing written in 17 column inches on the opinion page can redress their myopia.

The tolerant, however, are products of a politically correct society that teaches us to walk the tightrope of tolerance while still making a show of having firm moral beliefs. Although homosexuality is accepted by some as simply an alternative choice, many others admit that they do think it's wrong.

It's not an issue of whether it's evil or will get you sent to hell, these people say. Instead, it's a matter of giving people their own space. If gays want to do whatever it is they do, that's fine, so long as they keep it to themselves. The watchwords are tolerance and acceptance.

This line of thinking walks dangerously close to moral relativism, the notion that all morality is a personal sort of thing. Homosexuality may be all right, but it's not the lifestyle choice everyone makes. Moral relativism denies us any reason whatsoever to pass judgement on anyone for anything.

This common line on gays and lesbians doesn't lead to the collapse of morality, though. There's that last bit. Whatever they do is fine, so long as they keep it to themselves. We should be able to pass judgement on murderers and rapists, but not on what takes place with consenting adults.

What about suicide, then? It's safe to say that many people who are tolerant of homosexuality are not so open about suicide. Why not? It is, after all, something that someone chooses to do to themselves. Even if it's a waste of the gift of life, even if it's sin, what right does anybody have to intervene? It's just between a person and their conscience.

Perhaps someone might want to say that suicide is a sign of mental illness, that people lose their right to autonomy if when they're out of their mind. Some people might say homosexuals are sick, too, though, so that doesn't end it.

All right then, what about drug use? Society has a compelling interest in controlling PCP, crack and heroin which cause all sorts of violence and crime that goes well beyond just the users. But what about marijuana?

Medical evidence indicates that reeferers aren't terribly addictive, if at all. Marijuana use does not preclude participation in society. By the same standard many use to defend make room for homosexuality, shouldn't we legalize pot?

Perhaps your intuitions don't accept suicide or drugs as easily as they do homosexuality. If you can argue the acceptance of one thing you believe is evil, while denying that standard to others, though, you are a hypocrite.

If our society preaches tolerance and individual autonomy, but insists on applying them only where it is convenient, expedient, or feels good, then we all are hypocrites.

P.D. Magnus is a junior physics and philosophy double major from Burleson, Texas.



■ TODD MCKINNEY

America should rethink its notion of good literature

What is literature? Not the dictionary definition of it, but the names of authors and their works that should be included somewhere in the canon of literature.

Shakespeare, of course, comes to mind rather quickly. He's followed by a number of authors. Wordsworth, Emerson, Whitman, Tennyson, Virginia Woolf and T.S. Eliot are all writers who should be credited as forerunners of literature.

But presently speaking, what writers do most people read these days? Stephen King? John Grisham? Tom Clancy? Hopefully not. Because what they write is not literature, but rather the same story told again and again merely to make another buck and another million with another movie.

Authors such as John Updike, Joyce Carol Oates, Raymond Carver and Toni Morrison grace your mind with their presence. These are just four authors out of hundreds who have written Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winning novels or compilations of short stories.

Why is it that authors such as Stephen King, Tom Clancy and John Grisham receive the recognition that they do for the same stories sold under different titles? Why is it that their names are banned across the top of every best seller list?

Many would argue, predictably, that these books are best sellers because they are the most enthralling stories with the most suspense and the most action.

With that in mind, are these really authors who are on the cutting edge of literature? Three hundred years from now, will people read these novels to learn what it might have been like to live during the times they were written?

Don't get me wrong; I don't hate the works of King, Grisham and Clancy. I've read some of these authors' works.

But haven't we let our standards for good reading deteriorate?

We let many best-selling authors entertain us with nonsensical stories that are entertaining the first one or two times around for far too long.

The written word is one of our most important forms of communication. Without our ability to read and write, the human being is no more than just a faded memory.

Text is the heartbeat of time. With it, we know something about the lives lived by Jesus, Mohammed, Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great, King Henry VIII, Napoleon and Abraham Lincoln among thousands more.

With it we remember the tales told by Homer, Shakespeare, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. With it we remember the symphonies written by Bach, Beethoven and Mozart.

There is so much that we can learn from one single book in time. We can learn about a culture's religion, philosophies, politics and social standards.

For instance, take any of the novels written by Sir Walter Scott, who is known best for working the historical novel into literary form. If you are going to read Scott and understand what he is writing about, you must know more about the history of Scotland. The same can be said for most good novels because they are a reflection of the times in which they were written.

Three hundred years from now, when our descendants are busy studying our literature, they deserve to see the good as well as the bad sides of America.

Todd McKinney is a senior English major from Tulsa, Okla.

■ EDITORIAL

CENSORSHIP

Banning books doesn't solve problems

Sept. 24 through Oct. 1 commemorates Banned Books Week. This week is designed to make Americans think about the absolute lunacy of some attempts at censoring the printed word.

It seems a little ludicrous that today's children could get corrupted by books like "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," "The Sun Also Rises" or even Mickey Mouse. It seems a little ridiculous when today's culture offers many more opportunities to expose children to graphic sex and violence.

Self-appointed censors should ask themselves if they would rather have their children learn about "adult" situations through stories by eloquent authors like Mark Twain, Ernest Hemingway and John Steinbeck, or through 20th century sensational media.

Books lend history to situations. And

history often includes ideas or events that many may find objectionable. But history should offer an honest account of events, and therefore, may include racial slurs, violence or sexual situations.

Books are merely reflections of our world's past history and our present situations. We cannot censor history, just as we can not censor events which happen today and are recorded by modern authors.

The Holocaust was truly horrific, but it is an important event in history. Its lessons should not be forgotten merely because books describing the graphic nature of its events may be offensive to some.

Banning books is not the answer. Education is.

■ LETTERS

Claim some money

At approximately 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 22, I found some money around the Student Center. Because there was no one around to claim it, I decided to keep it. The purpose of this letter is to tell whomever lost this X amount of money that I have it and will gladly give it back to them if they call me and guess where I found it, and how much it is. I will keep it until Friday, Sept. 30, after that I will spend it. My phone number is 926-9510.

Paul Flowers
Senior, English

Love, don't judge

I could not believe the letter to the editor by Mr. Dunbar on Sept. 21. I am not surprised, though. I am a Christian and attend church every Sunday. I am so sick of so-called "Christians" pulling apart Biblical scriptures to find fault in homosexuals. Mr. Dunbar obviously knows his

scripture, but when are people like him going to stop trying to interpret the Bible in a negative way? Funny, I always thought the Bible stood for love for your brothers and sisters unconditionally, like God loves us unconditionally (my God does, anyway!)

I am proud that TCU has an organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals. It gives them a chance to be around people with the same interests without being dogged to hell about their orientation. You don't have to understand them, just accept them!

Second, Planned Parenthood doesn't "condone" abortions. They are a very resourceful organization that is available for contraception, STD prevention, counseling, and other gynecological services. Wake up! Their focus is prevention, not destruction.

As a nursing major, I have come to accept people for who and what they are as a person. It shouldn't matter what kind of lifestyle they live, who they love, or what they are doing with their lives. My Bible teaches me to love, not judge!

Jill Burnett
Senior, nursing

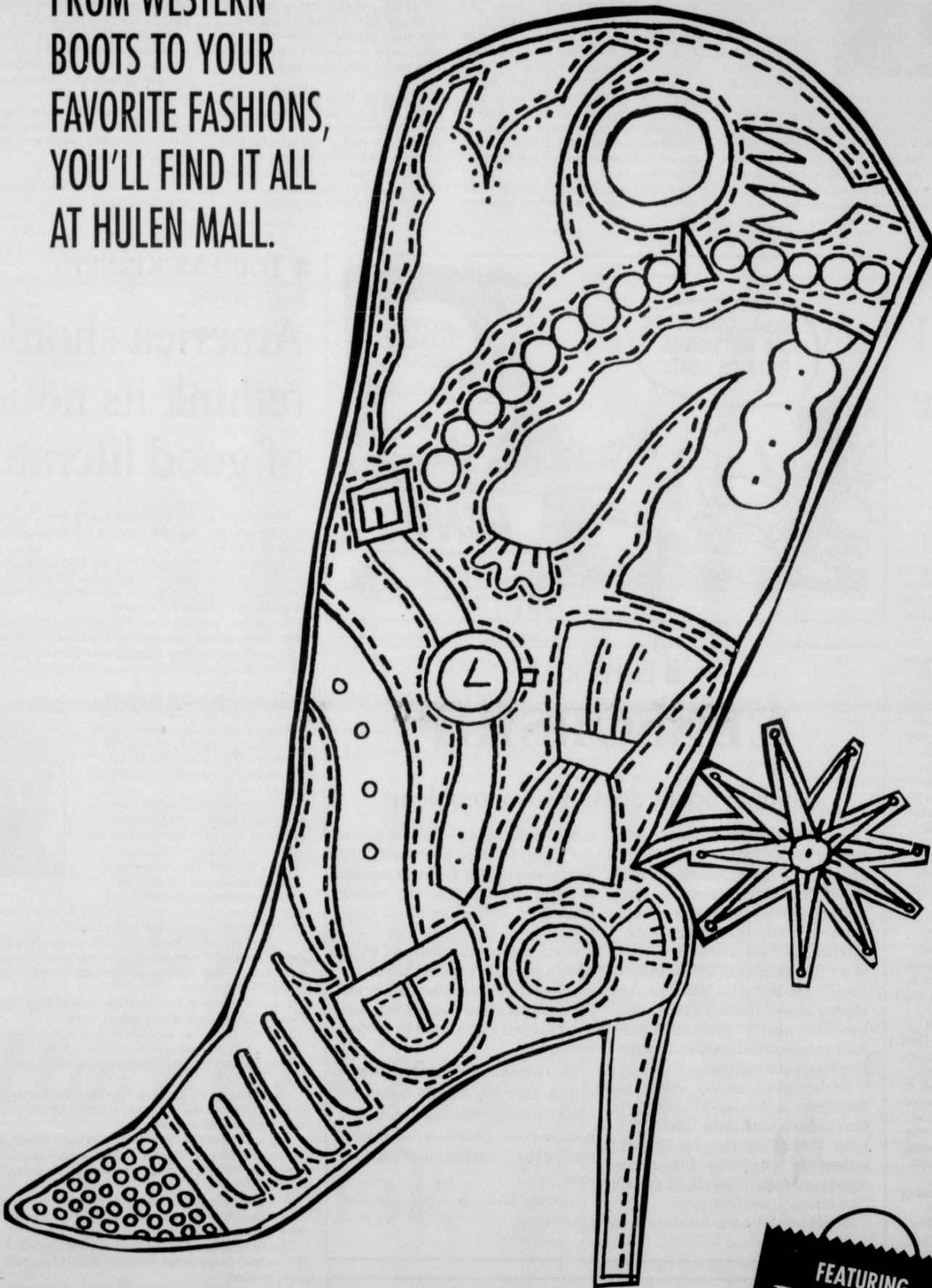
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