

TCU DAILY SKIFF

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1995

TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, FORT WORTH, TEXAS

93RD YEAR, NO. 17

Trial continues in suit against McCrary

By SARAH DUNCAN
and DENA RAINS
TCU DAILY SKIFF

Testimony continues today in the trial of a former TCU student accused of causing another student's death in November 1991.

Barry and Priscilla Clement, the parents of Betsy Clement, filed a wrongful death suit against Michael McCrary, accusing him of causing their daughter's death by driving recklessly while under the influence of alcohol.

They also claim the Fort Worth

Police Department mishandled the investigation of the case involving McCrary's responsibility for the accident, in which Clement, McCrary and another TCU student were involved.

Twenty-five year-old McCrary was driving Clement, a 19-year-old freshman, and Derek Franklin, a 20-year-old junior, home from Billy Bob's Texas on Nov. 17, 1991, when McCrary said his Volvo hit a patch of water and struck a metal light pole on University Drive.

In court records witnesses said Franklin, who was riding in the

Volvo's front passenger seat, stumbled from McCrary's car and collapsed in the road. He died the next day of head injuries.

Police later found Clement's body two miles from the accident scene. Authorities have never determined how the body was moved.

McCrary's lawyers say Clement walked away from the accident and was struck by another vehicle, according to court record. Therefore, he isn't responsible for her death, they say.

In September 1994, nearly three years after the accident, Fort Worth

detectives arrested a Fort Worth painter named Abel Moreno. He was charged with failure to stop and render aid.

Detectives say Moreno hit Clement with his truck and dragged her body from the scene of the Volvo accident. DNA testing positively identified hair found on Moreno's truck as belonging to Clement.

A Tarrant County medical examiner ruled immediately after the accident that Clement's injuries were consistent with an automobile-pedestrian accident.

That medical examiner is no

longer with the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's office.

A grand jury refused to indict Moreno based on Tarrant County Medical Examiner Nizam Peerwani's statement that there is a "strong probability" Clement died of injuries sustained in the Volvo accident, not by being hit by Moreno's truck, as his subordinate had confirmed.

McCrary's lawyers have hired a Bexar County medical examiner to testify that Peerwani's subordinate was correct and Clement died as a result of being hit by another vehicle

after the Volvo wreck, according to documents filed in the case.

McCrary said he was driving 15 or 20 miles over the speed limit at the time of the accident. He also said he had had two accidents and up to five speeding tickets before the wreck involving Clement.

The lawsuit also names McCrary's stepfather and mother, W.R. and Jerri Watt, accusing them of negligently lending McCrary their Volvo even though, according to court records, they knew he had at least one acci-

see Clement, page 2



TCU Daily Skiff/ Don Johnson

Rubinna Villasana, a sophomore biology and premed double major at the University of Texas at Arlington, dance the Cumbamba Wednesday afternoon in the Student Center Lounge as part of the festivities of the Hispanic Heritage Celebration.

Heritage celebration offers dancers, pinatas, speeches

By MARK MOURER
TCU DAILY SKIFF

Though TCU's Hispanic Heritage Celebration activities officially came to a close yesterday, Cynthia Flores, chairwoman of the activities, said the celebration should continue to raise awareness for the duration of the semester.

Yesterday's celebration of the Hispanic culture, held from noon until 2 p.m. in the Student Center

Lounge, provided authentic Mexican food, cultural awareness presentations and traditional music and dancing for TCU students.

Students from kindergarten through the sixth grade performed Hispanic dance routines early in the celebration. The students from Worth Heights Elementary performed traditional dance numbers like La Bamba and the Ol' Folks Dance, which was most people's favorite, Flores said.

"They also got to break some pinatas, and I think that was a real treat for them," Flores said.

Ballet Folklorica Ollimpaxqui, a Hispanic dancing company from Dallas, performed "Concheros," a national ritual dance.

The company, outfitted in colorful wardrobes and peacock-feather head dresses started out to a slow beat, then picked up the tempo with

see Heritage, page 6

TCU grad, former R.A. in coma after car wreck

By KIMBERLY WILSON
TCU DAILY SKIFF

Julia Wall, a December 1994 graduate, is in a coma after a car accident Tuesday morning on her way to work in Oklahoma City.

During an attempt to pass a truck, Julia clipped the truck and her car was thrown into oncoming traffic, said her brother, Jim Wall. Wall said the most threatening injury to his sister is her bruised brain stem.

"The doctors say they've never seen someone come out of this type of coma before," he said.

"Initially, they put her on a respirator, but last night she began breathing on her own," Wall said.

He said the family has made the decision not to put Julia back on the respirator despite what happens, Wall said. However, he said Wednesday afternoon his sister's oxygen level dropped to the upper 60s and that a normal level is in the 90s.

Wall said the Church is surrounding the family and people in seven states are praying for his sister.

"Our hope is in Jesus," he said.

"She was one of the most genuine, fun people I've ever known," said Victoria Deen, a senior English major and friend of Julia's.

Deen said Julia was a strong

Christian who was always helping those around her. She had a great personality and had a lot of fun with her residents in Waits Hall, she said. She also loved "Peanuts" characters, Deen said.

Julia was known to many as being

a very friendly, outgoing and congenial person, said Shana Blocker, a Moncrief hall director.

"She was really close to her parents. Whenever she

could, she'd go up there for the weekends," said Elaine Willey, a senior political science and English double-major.

"She was a great asset to TCU," Blocker said. "She was R.A. of the Month her last semester here."

Willey said Julia did "anything and everything" while she was a student at TCU.

"She really loved TCU," Willey said.

Julia was a resident assistant in Waits Hall for three and a half years,

Deen said.

"She was always there for everybody," Deen said.

Julia was a big part of the Waits community which had a tight-knit staff, kind of like a family, Blocker said.

"One of the things she was famous for was leaving little party favors in the R.A.'s boxes just for no reason with a little note or a smile," Willey said.

Julia did not publicize herself, Deen said. She did a great deal for people, but she didn't ever talk about what she did, she said.

Michael Moore, a junior speech communication major said Julia was on the executive board of programming council while she was at TCU and was Howdy Week Chair in 1993.

"She was an incredible leader," Moore said.

"She made a difference in a lot of people's lives while she was an R.A. in Waits," Blocker said.

Julia graduated from TCU in December of 1994 with a degree in Finance and a French minor. She was living in Oklahoma in an apartment about a block away from her parent's home there and had just recently begun a job at Fleming, an accounting firm.

"Everything was just coming together in her life," Deen said.



Julia Wall

Fossil finds by profs, alum published

Breakthroughs may bring challenges to timetables, textbooks

By GREGOR ESCH
TCU DAILY SKIFF

An article on historic geological findings by three TCU geology professors and a former TCU student have recently caused a stir in the world of geology.

The findings, which were published in last March's edition of *Geology*, could literally cause the history of animal life on earth to be rewritten, said John Breyer, professor of geology.

The findings of 11 multicellular animal-trace fossils near the West Texas town of Van Horn in May of 1992 were discovered by Breyer, Edward Roy III, a former TCU student and associate professors of geology Arthur B. Busbey and Richard E. Hanson.

Prior evidence of life on earth had suggested that multicellular life began 650 million years ago, but the discovery of this new geological phenomenon indicates animal life has existed for almost twice as long as

"All (University of Texas at Dallas) studies indicate that these rocks are about 1.2 billion years old."

JOHN BREYER,
Professor of geology

most textbooks claim, Breyer said.

The group of professors and students were at the site of a talc mining operation for metamorphic rocks when a dumbfounding discovery was made thanks to the angle of the sun, Breyer said.

"The beds were tilted vertically," he said. "The sun was shining into the pit at just the right angle when Roy noticed these odd-looking marks on the rocks."

When shown the marks, Breyer said knew he was witnessing something extraordinary, but he did not know exactly what it meant.

"There shouldn't be odd-looking marks like that in very old rocks because they weren't produced by structural causes," he said. "We got excited because we thought they had to be to what geologists call trace fossils, and those are marks left behind by organisms as they walk across or burrow in the sediments. They (the rocks) had a series of curving trails."

"The dating of the rocks has been done by a group of people over at the University of Texas at Dallas," he said. "All their studies indicate that these rocks are about 1.2 billion years old."

Busbey said the initial reaction to the fossils was fun. Neither Roy nor Breyer knew the significance of the discovery, and Busbey was skeptical about the origin of the fossils.

"I said 'wait a second. They can't be trace fossils, they're too old,'" he said. "I saw the light go on in both of our eyes and we went running back to the other end of the quarry, and,

see Fossils, page 4

NEWS DIGEST

Man swallows cash-filled condoms

NEW YORK (AP) — Carlos Trujillo had little room for airline food when he tried to board a flight to Colombia: His stomach was already full of \$100 bills — 189 of them, tightly packed inside condoms.

"We see this quite frequently with cocaine and heroin, but this is not the method normally used by money smugglers," said Tom Smith, Customs agent in charge at Kennedy Airport.

With a little time — 36 hours — and the help of a laxative, Trujillo produced the \$18,900, Smith said. Trujillo was jailed on charges of failing to report currency over \$10,000.

Forbes Jr. enters Rep. race

WASHINGTON (AP) — Publishing magnate Malcolm S. Forbes Jr. said Wednesday he will enter the Republican presidential race, using his personal fortune to campaign for higher economic growth and lower taxes.

Forbes, a soft-spoken multimillionaire, sees his lack of political experience as a plus in the current anti-Washington political climate.

Forbes, 48, will make his official announcement on Friday in a speech at the National Press Club and launch a national TV campaign the same day, aides said.

Woman infected with dengue fever

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — A McAllen woman has the first confirmed case of dengue fever in South Texas and more cases soon may be verified, state and federal health officials said Wednesday.

The case, contracted in nearby Reynosa, Mexico, has stirred fear in Rio Grande Valley residents and health officials, who say it could spawn an outbreak of the mosquito-carried virus on this side of the border.

Lack of sanitation and drainage in colonies, poor neighborhoods near McAllen, make prime places for mosquitoes to breed.

House drops national speed limit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted Wednesday to drop the national speed limit and let the states decide how fast people should drive.

The vote to eliminate the federal limit of 55 mph on most roads, 65 on rural interstates, came during debate on a bill designating the 159,000-mile National Highway System.

An amendment by Rep. Nick Joe Rahall, D-W.Va., to maintain the current limit was turned down 313-112. The House also defeated Rahall's effort to set a maximum limit of 65 mph on all roads.

Atwell to speak at convocation

Fall convocation speaker and American Council on Education President Robert Atwell will give faculty and students a chance to examine current issues facing higher education. TCU fall convocation will take place today at 11 a.m. in Ed Landreth Auditorium. The ceremony will feature the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Research and Creative Activity.

Atwell will also hold a press conference before convocation on student financial aid at 10 a.m. in the music reception room of Ed Landreth Auditorium.

TODAY ON CAMPUS

Thursday, Sept. 21

11:00 a.m.: Fall Convocation in Ed Landreth Auditorium
5:00 p.m.: ISA in Student Center 222.
5:30 p.m.: TCU Wesley Foundation in the Wesley Foundation Building (2750 W. Lowden). Phone: 924-5639
5:30 p.m.: Episcopal Students in Student Center 214

Friday, Sept. 22

11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.: Arts and Music Festival, Student Center lawn
9:00 p.m.: PC Film: "While You Were Sleeping" in Student Center Ballroom

DATES AND SERVICES

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.

DE ZAVALA AND COMO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN FWISD are looking for young adults to mentor their students. The only requirement is a one-hour commitment per week to talk with, have lunch with and listen to a little child. Call Kathy Williams at extension 7141.

TCU CIRCLE K INTERNATIONAL is the world's largest collegiate service organization. The major emphasis of the chapter is on helping children. If you would like to make a difference, please attend one of our meetings, which are held at 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays in Student Center 205. Call Chris Alexander at extension 2458.

ALPHA PHI OMEGA AND CARTER BLOOD CENTER are sponsoring a blood drive Sept. 26-28 in the Student Center lounge. Free pizza for every donor. Call Michelle Sanders at 921-6733.

GRADUATING SENIORS
December degree candidates should file their intent to graduate promptly in the office of their academic dean. October 13 is the deadline for the Registrar to receive names of candidates from the deans.

THE STUDENT CENTER AND SIX FLAGS OVER TEXAS are offering Six Flags tickets for \$15.00. These tickets are valid only on Sunday, Sept. 24, 1995, and include a ticket for Holiday in the Park. Call Brian Kennedy at extension 7928.

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH is happy to provide student parking in three lots: on the corners of University and Cantey, Cantey and Rogers and Rogers and McPherson. However, cars WILL be towed if parked in the north lot on University Drive (adjacent to the Church). Contact Linda Gray at 926-6631.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ANNOUNCES UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES. This program is open to sophomores, juniors and seniors majoring in engineering, physical and life sciences, computer sciences or social sciences. Students use state-of-the-art equip-

ment to conduct projects relating to individual majors, career goals and the ongoing research and development of the facility. Applications are due Jan. 16, 1996. Call Pat Pressley at (423) 576-1083.

UNDERGRADUATES INTERESTED IN STUDENT TEACHING IN SPRING '96 need to fill out an application. Come by the Bailey Building, 102 or 304 and ask for the student teaching diskette. All applications are due by Wednesday, Sept. 27. Call Judy Grouly at extension 6781.

SOUTHWEST HIGH-TECH CAREER FAIR will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25 and Tuesday, Sept. 26 at INFO-MART, I-35 & Oaklawn. Call (214)462-8807.

"LETTING GO AND MOVING ON" The TCU Counseling Center is sponsoring a group to help students deal with transitions. Call Monica Kintigh at the Counseling Center at 921-7863.

TARRANT COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION offers a FREE Legal Advice Hotline between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Call (817) 335-1239.

The Adventures of Superfrog

by Ben Roman and Adam Wright



Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



WEATHER WATCH

Today's skies will be cloudy with highs in the mid 70s and a 50 percent chance of rain or thunderstorms. Five to 10 mph winds will be blowing out of the southeast. Thursday night will continue to be mostly cloudy and windy, with a chance of showers and a low in the mid 50s.

Friday will be decreasingly cloudy and windy, with a high in the upper 60s.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

Since 1902

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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, Moudy 2915, to TCU Box 32929, or to fax 921-7133. They must include the author's classification, major and phone number. Letters are also accepted through the TCU computer system. Send e-mail to the Skiff's TCU vax address, listed below. The Skiff reserves the right to edit or reject letters for style and taste.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Staff photographs are available for purchase. Contact the photo desk.

EDITORIAL POLICY: Unsigned editorials represent the view of the Skiff editorial board, which is composed of the editor, managing editor, opinion editor, assistant managing editor, news editor, campus editor and sports editor. Signed letters and columns represent the opinion of the writers.

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CORRECTION
In the graphic, "House of Student Representatives — How They Voted, Sept. 19, 1995" the Skiff identified Shawn Groves, Willy Pinnell, and Steven Wheelock as being absent from the meeting. Actually, Groves, Pinnell, and Wheelock attended the meeting, but abstained from voting.
The name of Joe Bobich was incorrectly spelled in the story. "Survey examines TCU's efficiency," which ran on Sept. 19, Bobich was identified as Joe Babitch, which was his name before he had it legally changed over the summer.
The Skiff regrets these errors.

Clement page 1
dent and four tickets.
Police records say McCrary's blood alcohol level wasn't tested after the accident.
McCrary testified he drank four beers before the accident, and told ambulance drivers he had consumed six.
The family of Franklin was previously a party to the wrongful death suit, but settled out of court last year. The Franklin family received \$550,000 from McCrary, the Watts and their insurance company, court records show. None of the defendants claimed liability in the settlement.
McCrary transferred to another university shortly after the accident.
McCrary's attorney, James Watson, would not comment on the case or McCrary's defense.
The Clements' attorney, Moreen Specter, could not be reached before press time.

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TCU does not encourage the consumption of alcohol. If you do consume alcohol, you should do so responsibly, and you should never drive after drinking.
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■ BRIAN WILSON

Republicans should have cracked down on illegitimacy

Last week, the Senate overwhelmingly rejected a proposal that would have denied cash payments to single mothers who have more children while on welfare.

For perhaps the first time since I was shown the conservative light of truth several years ago, I found myself in disagreement with Republicans over a policy decision.

Many pro-life Republicans voted for the amendment offered by Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., agreeing that prohibiting mothers from receiving more money for having more children while on welfare would result in a massive increase in the number of abortions.

While I can see the logic of those who favored the amendment, their decision bears striking resemblance to the one made by liberals in their attempt to promote "safe sex."



I am referring, of course, to the condoms given to school children in New York and other places across the country as a means of "preventing" the AIDS virus.

Clearly, the schools that provided their students with contraceptives were promoting illegitimacy, and by throwing their arms up in submission, many Senate Republicans are doing the same.

Democrats who oppose the practice of discontinuing payments to welfare mothers who have more children argue that such a plan would only hurt the children.

Since children can't work, anything done to their parents is going to affect them, whether it involves cutting off welfare payments or increasing them.

The effects of the former are obvious: upon having her benefits taken away, the recipient would have less money by which to support her children. However, further subsidizing illegitimacy gives the single mother no incentive to get off welfare. So, her children are likely to find themselves in a situation similar to their mother's.

My solution to the very serious problem of illegitimacy among the impoverished does not involve more money. That's been tried for 40 years. And it's failed for 40 years.

My prescription for change involves a two-tiered plan: First, the House, which has already

passed this provision as part of its welfare reform bill, must convince the Senate of its grave mistake in continuing to support illegitimacy.

And second, to appease senators in the Domenici camp, Congress must propose a constitutional amendment to overturn Roe v. Wade. At the very least, it should make sure tighter restrictions are placed on abortion.

Before your eyes pop out, you must understand that this case was based on a lie. Norma McCorvey, also known as Jane Roe, claimed she was gang raped.

She wasn't gang raped. In fact, she wasn't even raped. So why did she do it? She simply did not want the child. Consequently, because of the Supreme Court's inability to separate fact from fiction in this case, millions of unborn babies have been denied the most fundamental of all God-

given rights.

In order to stop the culture of poverty from spreading to future generations, Congress must devise a welfare bill which encourages work and personal responsibility, while discouraging illegitimacy.

Despite its attempts to do so, the amendment offered by Domenici fails to offer legitimate solutions to these serious problems.

Children on welfare will not be hurt — and will not go hungry either — if their mothers are denied money for having more children.

They do, however, stand a decidedly better chance of failing to reach their potential if they are neglected by a mother who gave birth to them for her own benefit.

Brian Wilson is a junior news-editorial major from Vienna, West Virginia.

■ LEIGH ANNE ROBISON

Kindness and generosity are very special

As students eager to follow those unwritten rules of collegiate etiquette, we all ask polite questions that have fairly standard, benign answers, such as, "How was your summer?" But every time someone asks me that, I just cringe.

Some days I feel like saying, "My summer sucked, thanks anyway."

But I know that it didn't. If anything, this summer taught me lesson after lesson about the goodness of other people.

My house burned down on July 23.

We lost almost everything. No, we weren't insured. That's what everyone wants to know.

I was in Europe at the time on an art history trip. All my luggage had been stolen, and I was ready to come home.

When I got off the plane, two friends were waiting to tell me the news. "No one was hurt, but there was a fire..."

It started three doors down and took out 10 townhomes. It's funny, but it never mattered



what caused it.

I thought finding out about the fire would be the biggest news, but I was wrong.

I soon learned that the math department of Klein Forest High School, where my mother teaches, was paying for our temporary shelter. My father, long since divorced from my mother, sent her \$2000 to help out. Relatives were coming out of the woodwork with money, furniture and every other kind of help imaginable.

I had expected to find my mother an emotional wreck, but instead she was almost giddy. She couldn't stop telling me stories of generosity.

My grandmother had held a "love shower" in our hometown of Orange, Texas. She invited all her friends and gotten hold of some church rosters. They held a party at which the cover charge was a donation to my mom and me. The woman raised nearly \$1,600.

One of my mom's colleagues had gone to every restaurant in the area telling our story to managers and getting us vouchers for free meals.

In the wake of the fire, it was hard to focus on how invaluable other people's kindness was. We were busy finding a new home and things to put in it. The emotional toll was high. Every so often, something more comes to mind that we'll never have again.

But when I'm about to feel sorry for myself, I remember a story that my art history professor told me in Holland after both of our suitcases had been stolen.

During one of the hailstorms last spring, she and her husband received a lot of damage to their car. But she turned to him and said, "It just doesn't matter."

When he asked what she was talking about, she repeated, "It doesn't matter, because Joe didn't fall off the pier." That sounded strange to me, too, at first, but she explained.

The day before, her son and grandsons had been visiting. Suddenly someone realized that the 2-year-old was missing. They looked out the window and saw that Joe had wandered down their pier, climbed into the boat, and was trying to catch fish with his hands. Luckily they got to him before anything tragic could happen.

That story became my mantra for the remainder of the summer. It reminds me of our priorities and how often we lose sight of what's truly important. Every day of August became like Thanksgiving for my mom and me. We found joy in the acts of generosity that bombarded us every day. I learned that I was lucky.

And that's why I hate to answer that question about how my summer was. If I tell people what happened, there's a certain look that comes over their faces. I know that it's a genuine concern, but there's some part of them that won't be able to understand the whole thing.

So how was my summer?

Well, Joe didn't fall off the pier. It was good.

Leigh Anne Robison is a senior English and history double major from Houston.



■ SCOTT BARZILLA

People should be thankful for teachers' work

Recently, it came to my attention that some people are under the opinion that every teacher in Texas is unqualified. Certainly, everyone is entitled to his or her opinion, but I would like to take this opportunity to clear up a few misconceptions about education.

First of all, few people know and understand that the U.S. Constitution does not contain any passage which directly guarantees any citizen a public education. Even though this right is guaranteed in the Texas Constitution, people still take public education for granted.

Like free speech, public education is not a God-given right, but rather a privilege that can be abused. Several countries do not guarantee their citizens an education. Countries such as England even separate some students into a trade curriculum automatically based on their performance and potential. Others do even less than that.

I certainly would not propose this system for our own country, but I think it is an important example to illustrate the point. Education is not only a privilege, but a gift. It is a gift from everyone that chooses to enter the profession.

Almost everyone has become accustomed to making fun of the amount of money that teachers make. It is certainly atrocious that some unskilled workers make nearly as much as — if not more than — members of the teaching profession.

This is precisely why teaching is a gift. Anyone who says he or she enters the profession for money is lying. Generally speaking, teachers enter the profession at least partially because they enjoy it, or because they want to help society.

Our parents should have taught us that any time we get a gift, we should thank the person that gave it to us. Certainly, some gifts are better than others, and the same is true for teachers. However, this just does not change the fact that we should thank them anyway.

The fact remains that teachers are generally doing the best they can with the limited resources with which they are provided (certainly including salary). Calling all teachers unqualified is an insult that all teachers (including my parents and my sister) would find revolting.

I certainly cannot tolerate people who claim that education is getting worse, yet refuse to fund it when a bond election is at hand. If you refuse to help your local district fund their operation, then why complain about the quality of education?

Too many people these days look at education as something that is owed them, instead of the privilege and gift that it really is. It is important for these imbeciles to understand that you don't get something for nothing.

Hypocrisy is running wild. Everyone agrees that education is probably the most important thing in society, yet where do people go when it is time to vote for a bond issue.

Might I suggest that the blame not be placed with the teachers. If they cannot get the support they desperately need, how can they possibly succeed?

The blame should go to the state governments for not making education enough of a priority. The blame should go to the taxpayers who vote against bond issues and support politicians who think we are spending too much.

If you want better education, then it is time to put up or shut up.

Scott Barzilla is a junior political science major from Houston, and is also the Opinion Editor of the Skiff.



■ EDITORIAL

EFFICIENCY

Administration needs to look at itself first

The Faculty Senate reported this week that TCU has a higher proportion of administrators in the overall staff than Baylor, Rice and SMU.

To be more precise, TCU's percentage of administrators more than the doubles the average of Baylor, Rice and SMU. One out of every seven employees at TCU is an administrator.

Ironically, this data comes right on the heels of the administration's request for an "efficiency survey" which began last spring. Included in this survey was a request to "justify their secretaries' existence."

First of all, it is important to note that this attempt to make TCU more efficient is commendable. The problem is that attempts should be made by both the general staff and the administration to become more efficient.

These attempts to become more efficient have resulted in some employees having their time cut back. To the average observer, this would appear to be hypocritical when considering the fact that the administration appears to be

"top heavy" compared to other schools.

Efficiency is an important goal in any administration, and should be pursued fully. At the same time, efficiency should involve everyone from the top to the bottom. If the review would have started from the top, it is possible that less people would have been effected by the move towards efficiency.

There are concerns as to whether these figures have validity because it may be difficult to compare two universities to each other. However, the top rung should get the first consideration so that less people will be effected.

The administration intends for every department to go through these evaluations, so any right-sizing will effect every department, but there is concern as to whether every department is doing it.

Sometimes appearances can be wrong, but the administration appears to be "top heavy." It is important for TCU to look at the number of administrators it has in addition to the numbers of general staff. It would be unfair if they didn't.

■ LETTER

Columnists don't know what feminism is

Matt Pearce's column last Thursday really enraged me. I was not mad because of his views on the Miss America pageant. I was frustrated that he misrepresented feminism completely.

Feminists are not man-haters and are not trying to take away men's "enjoyment." I have never heard any feminist say that men are perverts for looking at women's bodies. The movement has instead tried to stop the degradation of women that is so prevalent in our society.

But let it be known that feminism is also against the degradation of men. Feminists are not looking to have control over men. Instead, feminism looks at the differences between men and women and analyzes what can be done to unite the sexes on a more equal level.

These are just a few things that feminism is about, but not all. To lump the group together is to deny the vast experiences that women have. There are many beliefs within feminism that are different, and that needs to be acknowledged as well.

I now turn to Bob Turney's article from Friday. Just because someone is a feminist does not mean that he or she is ugly. I am amazed at how many times feminism is misrepresented in the media.

The Skiff has not made any attempts in the past to understand what feminism is before talking about it. I hope in the future the writers will be more aware of what feminism really is as opposed to how the media portrays it.

Marta Shetler
Senior, English

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Program helps high school students get into college

By AMANDA BRONSTAD
TCU DAILY SKIFF

Most TCU students have parents that graduated from college and came from families with a collegiate tradition, but the students of Upward Bound are the first in their family to brave collegiate waters.

Upward Bound, a part of Special Programs at TCU, helps first-generation, low-income high school students attain the skills they need to be successful in college, said Charles Latham, director of special programs.

The students of Upward Bound come from a variety of backgrounds. "The majority of (our students) come from single-parent homes," said Margaret Faust, Upward Bound coordinator.

Faust said one Upward Bound student, for example, had continual

problems staying in school and out of trouble, but now he is a junior at East Texas State University planning to go into the ministry.

Some of the students from Upward Bound at TCU have become lawyers, pharmacists or have gone on to medical school, she said.

"We had one student in particular who was real active in his gang and is now a sophomore engineering major at UT—Arlington," she said.

Another student became an entrepreneur and now owns a Mexican food restaurant in Fort Worth, Latham said.

"Eighty-six percent of our kids graduate from college with at least a bachelor's degree," Faust said.

The Upward Bound program has been very successful compared to Upward Bound programs at other schools.

"We were a model program for the state of Texas this year," Latham said.

The program consists of 80 students between 10th and 12th grade who attend school in the Fort Worth Independent School District, Latham said.

The students must meet three requirements. First, neither parent must have a college degree. Second, the student must meet income criteria and third, he or she must judge to have a potential for success.

He said while most programs at other Texas schools meet only four times a month on Saturdays, TCU's Upward Bound program meets with the high school students at least twice a week, sometimes up to five times, for after-school tutoring.

"We probably do more as far as services to students," Latham said.

As part of their preparation for college life, students in the TCU

Upward Bound program take a summer term of six credit hours of required courses like math, science and writing, he said. The required classes usually take place in the morning, while the afternoon is open to enrichment courses such as American sign language, theater, weight lifting and art.

"With the kind of personal counseling and mentoring we offer, any of our students could be a success story," Faust said.

This summer, many Upward Bound students volunteered their time and talent to create a 4-foot by 120-foot mural with the message "Faith, Hope, Love" which is currently located outside the downtown offices of the project's sponsor, Planned Parenthood of North Texas Inc., according to the Fall 1995 issue of TCU Magazine.

The mural was part of an art enrichment course the students took this summer, Latham said.

"Its message and imagery reflect the environmental and social awareness of its young artists," according to the July 16 issue of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Latham said one of the reasons why TCU's Upward Bound program is so successful is because of the overwhelming support it has received as a part of the campus.

"The support it has at the upper administrative level couldn't be better," Latham said.

In May, the program was moved into a new office complex at the Rickel Building, an encouraging mandate for continuance of the program considering other school's programs have had problems simply staying on campus, he said.

"We plan to work with new programs that need improvement," he said.

Upward Bound is an auspice to TRIO, an equal opportunity lender, which provides programs on the campuses of 1,200 colleges, universities and community colleges, according to the Fall 1995 TCU Special Programs newsletter.

"TRIO programs help students overcome class, social and cultural barriers to higher education," according to the newsletter.

Federally funded as a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Upward Bound was founded 26 years ago and introduced to TCU a few years later, Latham said.

Recruiting usually takes place through the high school counselor's office, where students can apply for consideration, Latham said.

Fossils from page 1

sure enough, they looked like trace fossils and they are that old."

"As I reflect on it, I think it's certainly one of the most significant things I've been involved in finding in my life," he said.

Busbey said it was neat to find something that appears to challenge the timetables and textbooks for when multicellular organisms evolved. He said it is also good to have hard evidence in a controversial issue, which he believes they have.

The TCU discovery sheds light on a historical puzzle that has mystified geologists, Breyer said in the fall issue of the TCU Magazine. Breyer said the mysteriously long lag-time

between the appearance of multicellular plants — about 1.2 billion years ago — and what has been accepted as the appearance of multicellular animals — thought to be 650 million years ago — has been inexplicable to geologists.

"It's possible that complex animal life did exist over a billion years ago, went extinct, then reappeared later, eventually evolving into the human race," he said.

Both Breyer and Busbey said that many reviewers and editors for scientific journals have doubted the validity of the fossils. They said that other geologists have refused to print the article on the breakthrough. The department has written an article and made proposals, but so far only *Geology* has published their claim.

"So far as we could tell, the only real reason that they wouldn't publish it is that they just couldn't believe the fossils could be that old," Busbey said. "I think the general reaction was that if there were two people who reviewed a paper, one would say, 'great, let's publish it,' but someone else would say, 'It can't be, it's too old, don't publish it.'"

"Finally, we got it published because the people in *Geology* realized that it was significant, but in other publications it may have been too heretical to publish," Busbey said.

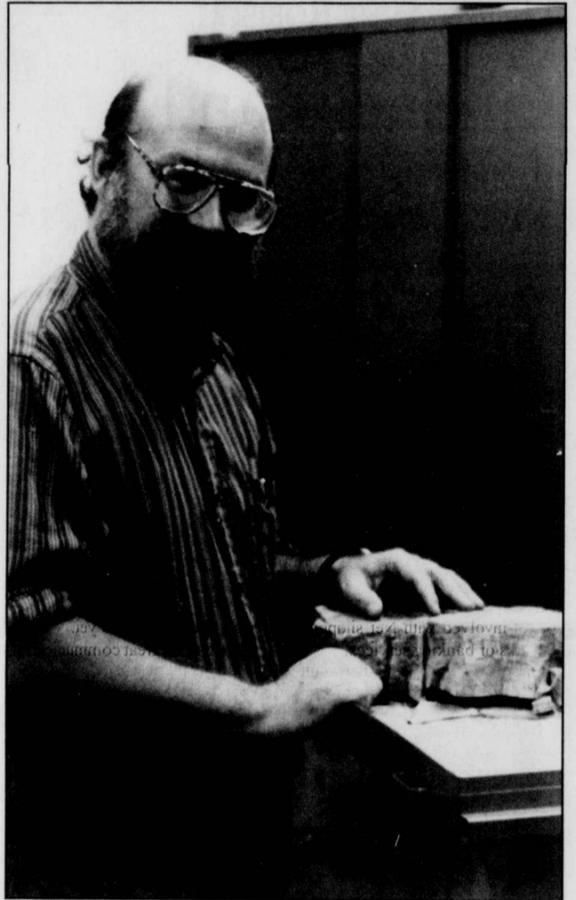
"There have been five to 10 claims of very old organisms, all of which have been debunked," Breyer said. "They turned out to be something else. That's why people are so skeptical."

Breyer said the irony of the paper getting published in *Geology* is that both reviewers did not accept the findings, but the editor did.

The first step in the acceptance of a proposal is getting the paper published by a high-circulation journal, Breyer said. However, there is a lag time that has to pass before the acceptance of the discovery is known.

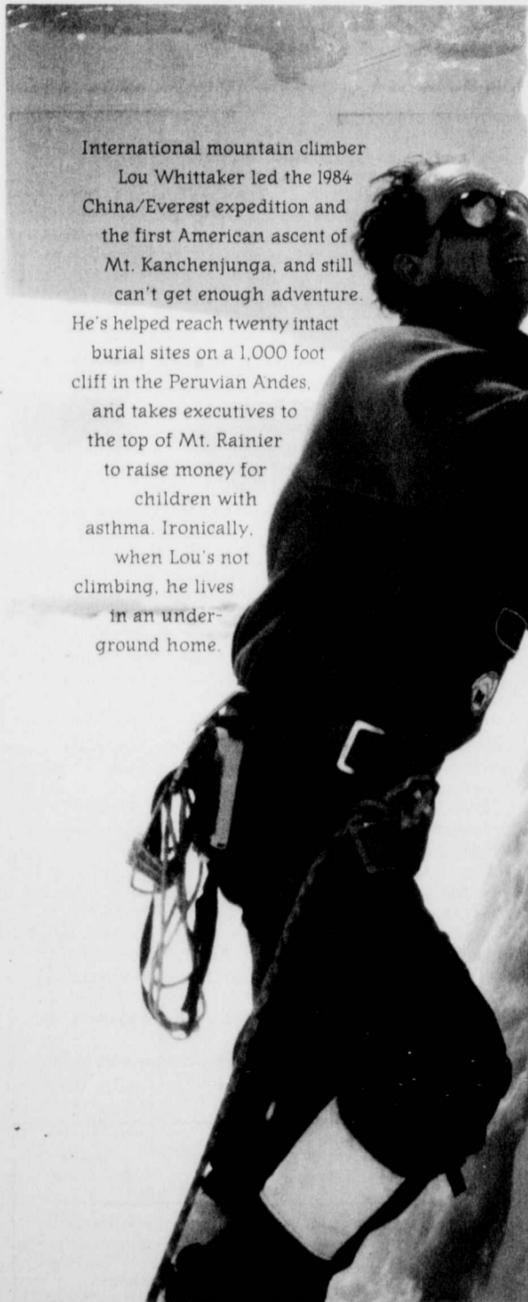
"People will see it and read it and decide whether or not to accept it, by using it in their own papers," Breyer said. "The next papers that could possibly incorporate this won't see the light of day for the next one and a half, two years."

Both geologists agree that geological time scales will have to be rewritten eventually in order to give factual account of life on earth.



TCU Daily Skiff/ Janelle Stanhope

Arthur Busbey, an associate professor of geology, examines the fossil he and three others recently found in Van Horn in May of 1992.



International mountain climber Lou Whittaker led the 1984 China/Everest expedition and the first American ascent of Mt. Kanchenjunga, and still can't get enough adventure.

He's helped reach twenty intact burial sites on a 1,000 foot cliff in the Peruvian Andes, and takes executives to the top of Mt. Rainier to raise money for children with asthma. Ironically, when Lou's not climbing, he lives in an underground home.

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Retreat seeks to cultivate unity, gain input on issues facing TCU

By **CHRISTI GIFFORD**
TCU DAILY SKIFF

Students can "Celebrate TCU" at the University Leadership Retreat sponsored by the House of Student Representatives Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at the Dallas/Fort Worth Hilton Conference and Recreation Center.

"The goals of the retreat are to bring students from across campus together with faculty and staff and to learn more about TCU education," said Sharon Selby, House of Student Representatives vice president.

Students will participate in small group settings with one student leader and one administrative facilitator, Selby said.

The emphasis is on fun and meeting new people, she said. All TCU students are invited to attend the retreat.

"The idea (of the retreat) is to facilitate discussion about significant issues facing TCU," said Jay Young, program specialist for Student Development Services and a facilitator for the retreat.

Young said students rarely have a lot to do with the administration. He said he is glad they will get the opportunity to have their voices heard.

The retreat participants will watch "The Next Frontier," a promotional

video for TCU's \$100 million fund-raising campaign. TCU officially began the public fund-raising in November of 1994.

Bronson Davis, vice chancellor for university advancement, wants to add a student component to the campaign, Selby said.

"One of the things student government is working on right now is how we get students educated about what TCU is doing to make itself better, whether it be institutional effectiveness or the campaign to raise \$100 million," said Scott Wheatley, House president.

Wheatley said he thinks the retreat will give students the opportunity to be leaders and have a say in their university. Administrators and the House can find out what students think, he said.

Selby said she hopes the students will discuss their thoughts about TCU's vision and its role as an institution. She said she would like students to talk about change at TCU and what the university does best.

Chancellor William Tucker will also speak about TCU's role and vision in a dinner address Sept. 30.

A dance and an optional worship service are also on the retreat's agenda.

Selby asked students in a survey last year what they would like to

focus on at the retreat. Most students wanted to adhere to the philosophy of a leadership retreat, she said.

Last year, the University Leadership Retreat was more service-oriented. Students joined in the "Into the Streets" program with area children to clean up local neighborhoods.

This year, Selby said, it seemed that people wanted to be more educated about what was going on.

Nice facilities and nominal price were big incentives to participate in this year's retreat, Selby said. The cost is set at \$25, and is a bargain for what the students get, she said.

Students will be bused to the hotel, and the price includes lodging, meals and refreshments.

Wheatley said the retreat was an innovative one and a different type of retreat than others held in recent years.

"This is one time to get (all the students in organizations) together," Selby said, "We are not all in our separate corners."

Selby said she hopes about 120 students will go to the retreat.

The deadline for applications for the retreat is Friday, but Selby said the House would accept applications until Wednesday of next week.

For more information, call the House at 921-7924.

Students say lack of NAFTA information leaves them unprepared for business world

By **ADRIA JOHNSON**
TCU DAILY SKIFF

Despite efforts from the M.J. Neeley School of Business faculty to provide information and opportunities to learn about the North American Free Trade Agreement and its implications on the business world, some students feel that they are being inadequately prepared to compete in the job market.

"Every now and then they go into NAFTA in the financing and accounting classes, but the textbooks haven't come up-to-date with all the recent changes," said junior finance major Chris Dupre.

The NAFTA agreement allows countries in North America, mostly Mexico and Canada, to trade freely and has brought about many changes in the business world.

Mike Hall, a junior marketing major, says he feels he has not been made aware of these changes in his business classes.

"They should start putting more emphasis on international trade and things that will affect us when we enter the job market," Hall said.

David Behrends, a junior international business major, said the textbooks for his business classes are outdated and classes do not "focus on NAFTA itself."

However, Behrends said TCU is expanding its curriculum, and, for the interested student, there is an opportunity to actively learn about NAFTA's effects on the global marketplace.

Jan Titsworth, assistant dean of the M.J. Neeley School of Business, said the school has implemented several programs that aim to educate and heighten students' awareness of the cultural business practices of other countries.

"You cannot focus on a domestic economy anymore," Titsworth said. "They (students) have to learn how to do business across the borders."

The business school promotes the International Emphasis Program, which allows students who do not wish to earn a degree specifically in international business to choose to earn a business bachelor of arts with an international emphasis. This will then show up on the student's transcript, Titsworth said.

"The IEP is seeking to legitimize language training and the need to understand geography and political science issues on a global level, and emphasize the importance of international course work at TCU," Titsworth said. "Students are learning a foreign language and getting experience without having to take a lot of international business courses."

Contrary to what some business students say, Titsworth said the school does not ignore current trends in business and other schools are not making greater efforts to prepare students for the real world.

"Our faculty is of the same quality as SMU or Baylor, and is aware of the ideas that are shaping departments elsewhere," Titsworth said. "They (faculty) wouldn't be keeping our students at a competitive disadvantage."

Behrends said, although there are no specific courses geared towards NAFTA and related issues, the programs the business department endorses are enough to prepare students for the future.

"The implementation of the IEP itself is an indicator of TCU's interest in keeping up with the growing

trends," Behrends said. "But it still needs to get more attention."

Behrends is planning to attend TCU's Summer in Germany program next year, where business students can work in a foreign setting and gain insight into their cultural business practices.

"It (summer in Germany) is going to give me a greater understanding of the business world in Europe," he said.

Titsworth said the business student exchange programs provide students with "the things they need to be conscious of in order to compete in the global environment."

Last year, in order to expand their international business department, the Neeley School of Business established a finance course taught in Spanish.

"The department had the foresight to know that it is to the student's advantage to be able to use a second language in a business setting," Titsworth said. "However, there weren't enough students interested to continue the class this year."

In addition to various international business programs, the department also hosts guest lecturers from other countries and sends students and faculty to study and teach abroad.

Although some students said they are in the dark concerning issues like NAFTA and other current events in business, Titsworth said ignoring those issues is an impossibility.

"NAFTA is going to pervade the way business is done," she said. "The important thing is what NAFTA allows us to do and what our students need to do to prepare to work in a global environment."

Netscape revision in the wings

By **MARK MOURER**
TCU DAILY SKIFF

TCU Netscape users should have no major cause for alarm at the news of the Netscape system security problems, said Steve Levering, TCU User Services consultant.

He said most students are just discovering how to surf the Net and are not yet involved with Net shopping networks or banking services.

These two areas are where concerns have been focused after two University of California at Berkeley students found a way to break the security system's encryption methods, Levering said.

On Monday, the students discovered a way to decipher credit card numbers, social security numbers and bank account numbers that Net users had been sending over the Net to institutions that handle monetary transactions.

Levering said it has been ill-advised from the inception of such capabilities to transmit personal information, yet some users have done it anyway. He said that, as of now, no crimes have been committed by hackers who might have gained access to the information. In addition, he said that no one has even been involved in the theft of personal identification information.

"There has been no actual theft through the Net," Levering said.

Tim Bose, TCU international MBA student, said that security systems for Netscape are still being

developed and that a revised, tighter security system will be available to Net users by next week.

"Traditional Netscape policy warns against putting credit card numbers and social security numbers in the system," Bose said. "Right now, the security systems are being developed. A lot of companies are working on it, though as far as I know it hasn't been perfected yet."

"The Net is a great communication system, but the security systems have been the one thing that is holding back commercial activity. They have not yet been able to guarantee absolute security, but they are working on it," Bose said.

Levering said that upon the completion of a new encryption process for personal account numbers, TCU facilities will be upgraded with the enhanced security systems.

"As soon as a new system becomes available, I will be downloading the information in the Mac labs," Levering said. "My partner will also be downloading the security systems in the Windows labs."

Levering said that the two students were working on a reverse engineering process in their programming research when they discovered a way to break Netscape's encryption code.

Reverse engineering involves taking a program that is already established and unraveling it from the top, Levering said.

"Reverse engineering essentially is starting with a finished product and going backwards," Levering said.

Upon reversing Netscape's encryption capability, the students found out how to decipher Netscape's encryption techniques, he said.

Levering said Netscape's encryption process assigns random numbers as a coding system to credit card and other personal account numbers when that information is being sent over the Net.

"What Netscape does is encrypt information like credit card numbers as the information is being sent," Levering said. "They try to use random numbers assigned during the transaction and then the person on the other end will unencrypt it. For example, at present, Netscape looks through the system for numbers like the time or date of the transaction and they use these numbers as a key."

Levering said immediately upon learning of the breach in their encryption system, Netscape programmers began working on a new security system. He said the new system will involve several other numbers in the coding process, increasing the information being transmitted and thus making it more difficult to break into a user's personal account information.

Students concerned about the security situation can access Netscape at <http://home.mcom.com/home/welcome.html>. Levering said there would be an informational update at that site which will update users on the current progress of the new security system.

Inquiring minds read *the Skiff*.

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Soccer teams keep working as season hits midpoint

By TASHA ZEMKE
TCU DAILY SKIFF

The TCU women's soccer team racked up a win and two losses this week, bringing its overall record to 2-5.

The Lady Frogs beat Mississippi State 6-2 at the TCU Soccer Field on Sep. 12. It lost to Auburn University in a 4-0 shutout Sep. 17 in Austin, and to Texas A&M 3-1 on Sep. 18.

"Auburn wasn't any better than we were, but we were just waiting for them to make mistakes," head coach Dave Rubinson said.

Three of the four Auburn goals were scored during the first half against freshman goal keeper Emmy Tekell. Freshman goalie Stephanie Seagraves replaced Tekell for the second half, and went on to play during the A&M game.

The women's team still has three goal keepers even after senior goalie Danielle Shaver quit the team Sep. 15.

Rubinson said the women played a better game against A&M, which was ranked at No. 20 as of last week.

"I think that after our loss to Auburn, A&M took us lightly," he said. "But we stepped up and battled."

Rubinson said he told the women before the game to get the ball out of trouble areas early. "I guarantee, if you work hard, you'll have between six and 12 quality shots," he told the team.

TCU had more scoring opportunities against A&M, but nothing resulted until a penalty was called against A&M during the second half. Senior defender Erin Trujillo took the penalty kick for the Frogs and scored.

The women's next game will be against Southern Methodist University at 4 p.m., Sep. 27, and will mark the

midway point of the women's season.

SMU, with a season record of 5-0-1, is ranked No. 4 in the country. Rubinson said SMU will be one of the toughest teams TCU will play all year, as it is every year.

"SMU is quite good," he said. "When we played them last spring, they were at the best level I've ever seen."

Rubinson said he knows SMU has several national team players and a talented goalie.

"They play at a high level, but we're gonna take it to them," he said. "We've got nothing to lose."

He said the Lady Frogs need to play physical and disrupt flow when SMU has possession of the ball.

"We'll do our best to win ugly," he said.

The men's team took a much needed week off from games and is now healed and ready to play against the University of Nevada Las Vegas and Fresno State University this weekend in Las Vegas, Nev.

The Horned Frogs will play UNLV (3-2-2) Sep. 22 and Fresno State (3-3) Sept. 24.

Both teams have average records, but the teams UNLV and Fresno have played are outstanding, Rubinson said. They have highly competitive schedules.

Jim Zakel, TCU's goalie coach, played for UNLV and has been providing Rubinson and his coaching staff with pointers and information on his alma mater.

"We know they'll be fast and technical," Rubinson said. "We will need a more compact attack."

"They might not be expecting a whole lot from us, but we can steal the game," he said. "We can force mistakes from UNLV."



TCU Daily Skiff/Rebecca Newitt

Erin Trujillo displays fancy footwork during women's soccer practice Wednesday. The Lady Frog's record is 2-5 as the season enters its halfway point.

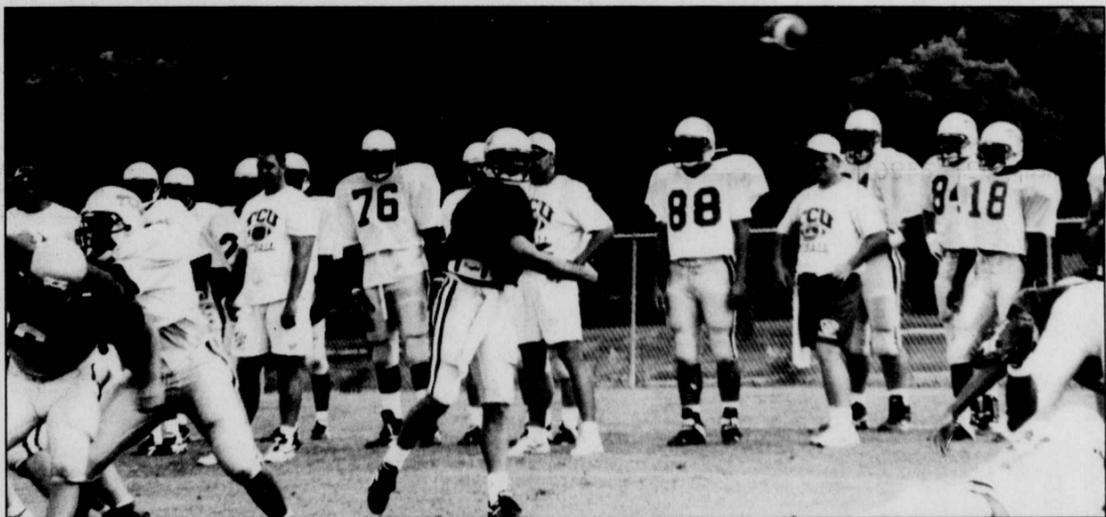
TCU has never played Fresno State, a Top 20 Division I-A team.

The week's rest for TCU has not slowed down the team's momentum; rather, it has given the chance to recuperate from injuries and play at a higher fitness level in Las Vegas.

The men won its last game against

Austin College 2-1 on Sep. 13, boosting its record to 4-2. Rubinson said he is pleased with the season record so far. It has already surpassed last year's win-loss record at this time.

"The men have a good work ethic, and we are proving we can win away from home."



TCU Daily Skiff/Rebecca Newitt

Max Knake looks to complete a pass downfield at practice Wednesday. Knake and the Frogs are currently 1-1 and will visit Vanderbilt Saturday to face the Commodores.

Fate of Mariners rests in Seattle voters' hands

By TIM KLASS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — Proponents of a \$325 million baseball stadium designed to keep the Seattle Mariners in town began talking Wednesday about what to do if voters reject the critical financing plan.

The proposed increase of one-half of 1 percent in the sales tax in King County, which includes Seattle, was leading 219,968 to 215,867 with votes from all precincts counted. But absentee ballots arriving by mail could kill the measure.

"We're in a race against time," County Executive Gary Locke said. "If the stadium fails, the owners are going to put the team up for sale, and then we're in a race against potential buyers to save baseball in the region."

Mariners chairman John Ellis refused to predict the outcome, praised efforts by ballpark boosters and said the club would comment further only when the vote is decided.

The measure contained \$100 million for construction of luxury boxes in the Kingdome and other improvements demanded by the Seattle Seahawks' owners, who said they might pull the NFL club if the proposal were rejected. Also included was \$70 million to cover last year's repairs to the roof of the Kingdome.

The Mariners have been unhappy with the Kingdome and claim attendance has suffered. The team is expected to lose \$30 million this season, bringing the total to \$67 million for Hiroshi Yamauchi, the president of Nintendo, in the 3 1/2 years he has been majority owner of the Mariners.

Early arriving absentees, counted immediately after the polls closed Tuesday night, broke 63 percent to 37 percent against the measure. Election officials expect to count about 47,000 more mail-in ballots, including a bloc of 30,000 to 40,000 on Thursday.

Preparing for the worst, the

County Council's budget committee met Wednesday with representatives of the Mariners, Seahawks and the NFL to discuss alternatives.

Assuming the best, Locke said he was already talking with city and club officials about permits and environmental reviews for the retractable-roof stadium, despite the lack of a final design, site or lease.

"I think the next batch of absentees will reflect the great effort of the campaign," Locke said. "With the 4,000 vote lead, that will be enough to sustain the vote."

He said he also was talking with Mayor Norm Rice about who should sit on a public board to own and operate the ballpark. Seven names will be submitted to the Legislature next week if the measure passes, Locke said.

In the past, the trend among absentee ballots mailed closer to the Tuesday night deadline has been somewhere between the early absentee count and results at the polls.

For the measure to lose, only about 55 percent of the remaining 47,000 absentees would have to be marked no.

The proposal would raise the sales tax in King County, which includes Seattle, to a state-high 8.3 percent from 8.2 percent to provide a maximum of \$240.8 million for a stadium with a retractable roof and natural turf.

The cost would amount to about \$7.50 per county resident annually for 20 years.

The county also would provide a site and perhaps cover construction of a parking garage to be financed through parking fees. The Mariners would pay \$45 million, the club and private contributors would cover any cost overruns and the state would be asked to exempt the project from the sales tax, cutting costs by about \$25 million.

Locke said the earliest a special election could be held to resubmit the proposal or a revised plan probably would be December or January.

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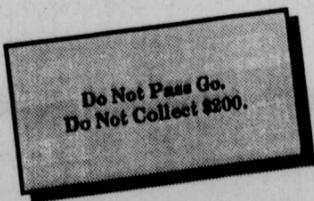
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Panhellenic would like to extend congratulations to these sorority women who achieved a 4.0 the Spring Semester of 1995.

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Julie Bauer	Courtney Grafa	Katie Meisel	Stephanie Smith
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Beth Billeck	Sara Hawk	Amy Nelson	Jocelyn Tiepelman
Andrea Buchett	Susan Hill	Laura Nelson	Sirin Torpis
Lori Carr	Stacey Holmes	Heather Novak	Dallas Walker
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Ragan Coker	Karen Jefferies	Anne Marie Pinkenburg	Ashley Watson
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Shannon Croteau	Merritt Johnson	Robin Rahfs	Allison Whitley
Tiffany Diederich	Jennifer Judkins	Julie Reeves	Shannon Wojtek
Gina Doctor	Jennifer Kennedy	Carina Roe	Tammy Wood
Tracey Donoho	Lauren Lax	Margaret Ross	Jennifer Woodward
Michele Echols	Kristen Lieber	Shannon Sage	Kristi Wright
Katie Edwards	Camille Liverman	Jill Saterbak	Carlye Zajicek
April Evans	Michelle Ludwig	Dawn Schaefer	
Beth Fletcher	Susan Lunn	Kimberly Schaefer	
Andrea Foy	Michelle Mahoney	Angela Scutter	

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TCU Daily Skiff/ Don Johnson

Freshman goalie Bill Brandenberger stops a shot yesterday's first day of practice for the lacrosse team. Brandenberger was recruited to TCU after being one of the best high school lacrosse players in the state last year.

Quantity, quality of players increase for lacrosse team

By THOMAS MANNING
TCU DAILY SKIFF

The TCU men's lacrosse team began another season with its first practice yesterday, but this year's team is a lot different from past squads.

The differences are not only in the quantity of players on this year's club, but in the quality of players that will be on the field, according to head coach Buck Hoffman.

"In the past, our guys spent as much time drinking beer as they did in the penalty box," said Hoffman. "And both of those were much too much."

This year will be different, as the team is much more organized and the players are much more dedicated, according to Hoffman.

"Last year we lost a lot of close games," he said. "And the reason we lost was because we were outmanned and we were horribly out of shape."

TCU is no longer going to be outmanned. Over 40 players have signed up and are expected to play this season. Last year, TCU sometimes had as few as 12 players ready for games.

"What happened was that a lot of the guys on the team were involved in fraternity rush, and they began to encourage some of the younger guys to try lacrosse out," assistant coach and defensive coordinator Mike Lieneice said. "Word spread, and we've had more guys come out this year than any before."

Hoffman did not only give the credit for the increase in interest simply to word of mouth.

"Tony Stevens was a big moving force in organizing this team," Hoffman said. "Basically, he headed the recruiting process. He got recruiting brochures printed. He really provided some stability."

Stevens is a captain on this year's team, along with fellow-returning players Jason Ellington and Rob Bridges.

"Last year was really the first year we actively went out and recruited," Stevens said. "And we got five of the best lacrosse players in the state of Texas."

One of those recruits was goalie Bill Brandenberger, one of the best high school players in Texas last year. The Houston native was the most valuable player in the state lacrosse championship last year.

But unlike the varsity sports at

TCU, the lacrosse team cannot lure players to the university very easily. Lacrosse remains a club sport, meaning it receives no funding from the university.

That means that the team also has to pay for its own travel arrangements, its own uniforms and equipment, and even referees to officiate the games.

"These guys are spending their own money on this thing," Hoffman said. "But to me it's worth it. I can't think of anything else I'd rather spend it on."

The TCU lacrosse team is part of the Lone Star League, which is a division of the U.S. Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association. Inclusion into the Lone Star League means a chance at post-season play and a more set schedule.

The team's schedule will be light in the fall, with most of the action coming during the spring season. TCU will open its fall schedule Oct. 8 against Austin College. The team will also face SMU, Stephen F. Austin, and Texas A&M this semester, before ending the season with a trip to the Texas Shootout in College Station. Twenty teams will be competing in that event.

Hoffman said that although TCU will face some stiff competition, the team has a chance to improve on past seasons.

"We have continuity now, where we didn't in the past," he said.

"We've got at least 10 or 12 guys on this team that I would consider very good. If we make sure that we're in shape and all the guys are ready to play every game and are ready to put all their effort into this team, we will play very well."

Hoffman said that although the TCU lacrosse team is not a varsity sport, and although it receives no funding from the university, he still expects his athletes to follow the same guidelines as the varsity athletes at TCU, mainly in the classroom.

"These guys are here for an education, and I will always stress that that is the most important thing about being here," he said. "I want these guys to enter here as high school boys and leave here as men, and the most important part of that is getting the job done in school. You aren't going to make a living playing lacrosse."

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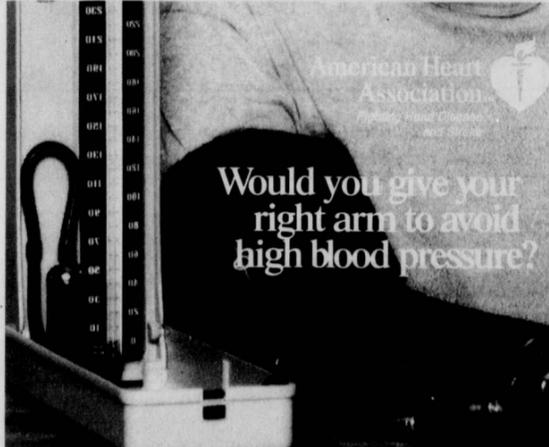


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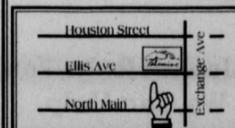
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