

TCU Daily Skiff

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1996

TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, FORT WORTH, TEXAS

93RD YEAR, No. 66

Ministers Week brings alums, guests for lectures, seminars

BY AMY GALPIN
TCU DAILY SKIFF

For over 50 years, ministers and scholars from around the country have been combing the campus each year for TCU's Ministers Week.

Next week, Brite Divinity School will hold its annual Ministers Week beginning Monday and concluding Thursday. The week will include lectures, sermons, workshops and luncheons for Brite alumni and other interested persons.

Bryan G. Feille, Harold Glen Brown lecturer in pastoral ministry at Brite Divinity School and an

ordained Disciples of Christ minister, will serve as Wells Preacher. Feille has been on staff at Brite since 1991.

During Ministers Week, Feille will give three lectures on Kingdoms in Conflict. The first of the three will be given at 8 p.m. Monday in the University Christian Church sanctuary and is titled, "Oil For Our Lamps (Matthew 25:1-13)." He also lectures at 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday in the same place.

Sheila Greeve Davaney, the

McFadin Lecturer, is an associate professor of theology at Iliff School of

Theology in Denver, Colo., and the author of "Divine Power: A Study in Karl Barth and Charles Hartshorne."

Her lectures, which begin at 11 a.m. Tuesday and continue at 11

a.m. Wednesday and Thursday in the

UCC sanctuary, will include mapping and judging theologies and ministry in

a changing landscape.

Michael Kinnamon, dean and professor of theology and ecumenical studies at Lexington Theological Seminary, will be this year's Scott

during the week focusing on God's presence in history. The lectures will be at 9 a.m. Tuesday through Thursday in the UCC sanctuary.

Darryl Trimiew, a faculty member at the Brite Divinity School, said Kinnamon was "on the cutting edge of social issues and insightful in regards to certain kinds of theological understanding."

Brite Professor of the History of Christianity and Historical Theology James O. Duke and the Rev.

Kenneth Cracknell, Brite's research scholar in theology and missions, will conduct workshops during the week.

Duke will discuss "COCU-nauts or COCU-nots?: Responding to COCU's Quest for a church of Christ Uniting," at 3 p.m. Tuesday in Brite's Weatherly Hall.

Cracknell will discuss "Interfaith Dialogue: Conversion or Conversation" at 3 p.m. Wednesday, also in Weatherly Hall.

Another event during the week will be the Brite Divinity School Luncheon at 12:15 p.m. Tuesday in

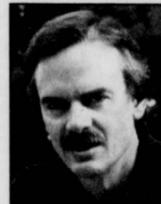
see Minister, page 2



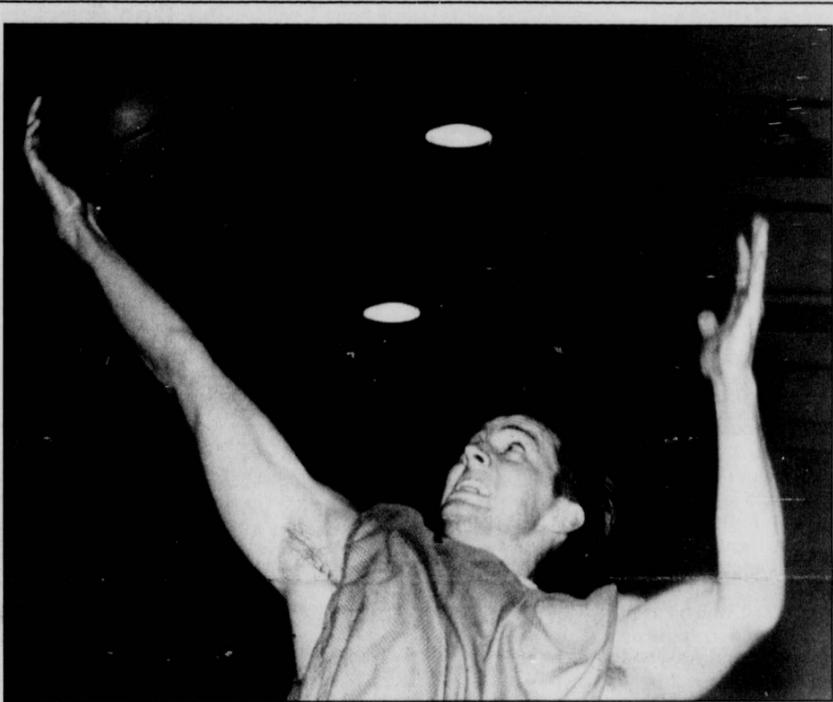
Bryan Feille



Sheila Greeve Davaney



Michael Kinnamon



Trip Fell, a senior environmental science major, helps open the intramural season and helps The Old School win, 100-24. Old School, comprised mostly of graduate students and faculty and staff defeated the Kappa Sigma C team last night in the Rickel Building.

Committee of 100 betters ticket sales

Boosters strive for 'warm and fuzzy fans'

BY ROB SHERWIN
TCU DAILY SKIFF

Who has been TCU football's most valuable player over the past two years? Andre Davis? Max Knake?

Not according to Glen Stone, TCU sports information director. "As far as I'm concerned, the MVP is the Committee of 100," he said.

Formed in May 1994, the committee is a coalition of about 200 business and community leaders from across the state who share the goal of promoting TCU athletics.

Larry Teis, TCU athletics marketing and promotions director, said, "The committee was initially designed to be a group of 100 business leaders, members of the community and friends of TCU that would come together and sell TCU athletics. It's really one big public awareness campaign."

Whether it is simple public awareness or intensive scientific marketing, many are praising the results.

Stone said, "The committee has added to the overall excitement of game day. I'm not just talking about crowds, which is obviously a big factor, but the goings on, events, and atmosphere that prevails. They'll do

whatever it takes to keep a crowd feeling warm and fuzzy."

For Stone, warm and fuzzy fans mean an increase in ticket sales.

"As far as attendance goes, we've had two consecutive record breaking years," he said. "The numbers speak for themselves."

Stone said that he expects the committee to extend more of its efforts to TCU's other sports.

"If you and I were going to start a new business, we'd have to devote all our time and energy to one aspect to begin with, and once we felt comfortable, then we could broaden our horizons," he said. "That's what they did."

"They didn't turn their backs on the other sports, but they wanted to make sure that football got off on solid footing, and then they'd come back this year and really start working on the other sports."

Stone said the improvements in the basketball program are already visible.

"Just go to a basketball game and look around," he said. "Look at all the image enhancements that have been made."

see Boosters, page 2

Fund eases pain of financing college

BY KAREN KASSEBEER
TCU DAILY SKIFF

The Texas Tomorrow Fund starts off the year with a new option for parents wanting to save money for their children's education.

The Texas Tomorrow fund was proposed by John Sharp, chairman of the Texas Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board and state comptroller

of public accounts in his annual report "Gaining Ground," said Sheila Clancy, spokeswoman for Sharp's office.

"The Texas Tomorrow Fund is for families who earn too much for our children to qualify for need-based scholarships, but not so much that college tuition represents mere pocket change,"

Sharp said in a fact sheet.

Clancy said, "The Fund works by allowing parents, grandparents, or anyone to prepay their child's tuition, and that tuition rate stays locked in."

The fund officially began Jan. 2, and the first enrollment fund is from the period of Jan. 2, through the deadline

March 31, she said.

In order to qualify for the Texas Tomorrow Fund, the person must be a Texas resident for at least one year. But, children whose parents have lived in Texas for at least one year can still qualify for in-state tuition rates, even if the family has moved elsewhere.

see Fund, page 2

Program gives graduates career assistance

BY CHIP CALLEGARI
TCU DAILY SKIFF

Prospective graduates can receive assistance and guidance for graduate school and college teaching careers from an on-campus program sponsored by the National Department of Education.

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is a federally-funded program designed to encourage first generation college students to pursue careers in college teaching and to prepare them for postgraduate study.

Participants in the program are given a faculty mentor to guide them through research experiences, which helps them do better graduate level research, said J. Steven Hodnett, interim director and coordinator for the program.

The mentors then help the students present their research at professional conventions and give them the opportunity to have their papers published in appropriate journals.

It took Dannyela Meredith, a May 1995 criminal justice graduate, a year and a half to complete her research project.

"I want to get back with my mentor to improve

my project and make it better," Meredith said.

The facility, which is located in the Rickel Building Room 231N, has a computer lab with special studying programs, study areas and a TV/VCR.

The McNair program also gives students extra help with their classes and on standardized tests such as the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) by using tutorial sessions, computer software programs and study groups.

Students in the program are assisted with grad-

see Program, page 2

Winter weather disrupts travel

BY JUAN B. ELIZONDO JR.
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The good weather news is that temperatures could go up next week.

The bad weather news is that all of Texas, especially the state's midsection, suffered through wintry weather yesterday with flight cancellations and road closures. More of the same was expected through the weekend.

Areas around Austin and San Antonio were hit with freezing rain and drizzle and light snow was forecast for Dallas and Fort Worth.

Forecasters at the National Weather Service in San Antonio said that city and the state's capital took the brunt of the passing

winter storm.

But Constantine Pashos, a meteorologist with the weather service, said a cold front was moving over all of the state. He said temperatures and driving conditions throughout the state could deteriorate through the day.

Pashos said the current cold front would move through the state by this morning. But a second front will move in this afternoon.

"They might see an increase of 2 to 3 degrees," Pashos said of Central and North Texas residents.

Traffic backed up for miles in Austin as numerous accidents

see Snow, page 4

News Digest

Forbes may refuse federal funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Multimillionaire Steve Forbes hinted yesterday he might continue to finance his own campaign with unlimited spending if he wins the GOP nomination.

By law, the Republican and Democratic nominees are guaranteed \$60 million each from the taxpayers for the general election.

Forbes indicated yesterday that if Clinton would agree to give up federal financing, he would too. Even if Clinton balks, Forbes left open the possibility he might unilaterally pass up federal financing.

'95 prices rose 2.5 percent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer prices rose just 2.5 percent in 1995, helped by the smallest increase in health costs in 23 years. It was the nation's fourth straight year of moderate inflation, the best run since the 1960s.

Analysts said the exceptional news on inflation would provide fresh incentives for the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates further.

The Labor Department reported yesterday that inflation for December rose just 0.2 percent.

Hutchison to return to Bosnia

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison is taking part in a bipartisan congressional trip to Bosnia over the weekend, her fourth trek to the troubled region since last year.

She won't be going empty-handed.

The Republican called a news conference yesterday to announce she's bringing 712 pair of mohair socks for a battalion of American soldiers taking part in the NATO peace-keeping mission.

The delegation was to leave last evening and return Sunday.

Man claims wife cheated online

SOMERVILLE, N.J. (AP) — A man filing for divorce accused his wife of carrying on a "virtual" affair via computer with a cybersex partner who called himself "The Weasel."

Diane Goydan's relationship with the man apparently never was consummated, but her husband, John Goydan of Bridgewater, claimed the pair had planned a tryst at a New Hampshire bed and breakfast.

Goydan filed divorce papers that included dozens of e-mail exchanges between his wife and a married man she met on America Online.

New AIDS drug prolongs life

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the first time, researchers have compelling evidence that a powerful new class of AIDS drugs prolongs life and reduces complications for people at advanced stages of the disease.

The news produced a sense of optimism that is rare at AIDS gatherings, where the results of drug experiments are so often disappointing.

In a presentation yesterday, Dr. John Leonard of Abbot showed that the drugs cut the death rate in half when given in late stages of AIDS.

CampusLines

CampusLines is provided as a service to the TCU community. Announcements of events, public meetings and other general campus information should be brought to the Skiff office, Moudy 2915 or sent to TCU Box 298050. The Skiff reserves the right to edit for style and taste.

A SUCCESSFUL JOB INTERVIEWING WORKSHOP will be held at noon today in Student Center Room 202. Call 921-7860 to register.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES has applications for orientation student adviser, orientation office manager and orientation photographer in Student Center Room 220. They are due today.

TCU TRIANGLE, the gay, lesbian and bisexual student group meets at 5 p.m. Feb. 4. Call Priscilla Tate at 921-7160.

ANONYMOUS EATING DISORDER SCREENINGS will be given

from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 5 through Feb. 9, at the TCU Counseling Center. Call 921-7863. An education presentation will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Feb. 7.

THE PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIETY OF AMERICA'S Fort Worth chapter will meet at 11:45 a.m. Feb. 8, at the Colonial Country Club. Attorney Tom Williams will speak. Call 347-8649.

LEARNING DIFFERENCES SUPPORT will sponsor informative meetings from 7 to 9 p.m. on Feb. 9 and 16 at Starpoint School. The cost is \$2 for non-members. Call 737-4818.

FEB. 12 is the last day to choose the pass/no credit grading option for a course. Feb. 26 is the last day to withdraw from a class.

APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 1996 STUDENT TEACHERS are available in the Bailey Building Room 102 or 304. Applications are due Feb. 28.

VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS, a World Wide Web site for physics students, has been established at <http://www.inegratedconcepts.com/virtualprof>.

THE RAPE/SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVOR GROUP is now forming at the Counseling Center. Contact Dorothy M. Barra at 921-7863.

UNITING CAMPUS MINISTRIES meets at 4 p.m. Mondays in Student Center Room 211. All students are welcome.

MORTAR BOARD information sheets are available in the Student Center. Juniors with a 3.0 or higher GPA and between two and three semesters left until graduation are eligible. Call 920-8198.

TCU CIRCLE K INTERNATIONAL meetings are at 6 p.m. Tuesdays in Student Center Room 205. Call Chris Alexander at 920-2458.

The Adventures of Superfrog

by Ben Roman & Adam Wright



The Beaten Path

by P. D. Magnus



PurplePoll

YES	NO
96	4
No Opinion	0

Have you ever seen snow?

Today's Purple Poll question was asked of 100 people in the Main Cafeteria last evening by a Skiff pollster.

Ninja Verses

by Don Frederic



Boosters

They're all either direct or indirect byproducts of the Committee of 100. Teis said that the committee's strategy towards promoting other sports is to use the same successful techniques that worked for football. "We're using the horn, putting up the frog balloon, and increasing our advertising," Teis said. He admits, however, that sports like basketball present more of a

challenge. "Football is easier because it's a whole-day event," he said. "You can't really have a Frog Alley at a night game." Teis said that another challenge lies ahead as TCU prepares to move into the Western Athletic Conference. "Our plan is to be even more aggressive," he said. "We have to be, because now we need to sell just to Fort Worth people. We won't have any traveling squads coming to our games anymore."

Correction

Capt. Cynde Tomlinson, associate professor of military science, was incorrectly identified as Clyde Tomlinson in yesterday's front page photo of the Skiff. The Skiff regrets the error.

Weather Watch

Today will be cloudy and cold with a 30 percent chance of light snow and a high in the 20s. Temperatures will slip into the teens tonight. Saturday will be mostly cloudy and cold with a chance of snow. Sunday's high will be in the 20s.

TCU Daily Skiff

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The TCU Daily Skiff is produced by students of Texas Christian University, sponsored by the journalism department and published Tuesday through Friday during fall and spring semesters except finals week and holidays. The Skiff is distributed free on campus. The Skiff is a member of Associated Press. CIRCULATION: 4,000. SUBSCRIPTIONS: Call 921-7000, extension 6274. Rates are \$20 per semester. 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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Fund

Parents can set up the fund for their children as soon as they are born or as late as their high school graduation. "The Texas Tomorrow Fund is really one of the more flexible pre-paid plans in the country," Clancy said. The Texas Tomorrow Fund pays for tuition and required fees but does not include the cost of room and board, books and lab fees. It offers four plans: the Junior College Plan, Senior College Plan,

Junior-Senior Plan, and Private College Plan, Clancy said. "The plans are very flexible, and you may change or upgrade to them at any time," she said. There are a variety of options for making payments, including paying in one lump sum, monthly installments or choosing a fixed five or ten year payment. In cases of the child choosing not to go to college or dropping out, refunds will be made. "A little interest will be given, but it wouldn't be as much as interest generated in the bank," Clancy said. "The only way to fully pay for this is to go to college," Clancy said.

Clancy believes the Texas Tomorrow Fund will be extremely successful. "Response has been more than we had ever anticipated," she said. "We have received over 40,000 inquiries since January." State Rep. Will Hartnett (R-Dallas), who co-sponsored the legislation that created the Texas Tomorrow Fund, said in a press release, "I'm pleased to have sponsored this legislation to help more young people go to college. This will make it easier for future generations of Texans to obtain a higher education." Hartnett said he had heard about similar plans in other states, and was

inspired to do the same for Texas. "The Texas Tomorrow Fund will be great for Texas," he said. "It would give parents protection against rising tuition rates," he said in a phone interview. Hartnett bases the future success of the Texas Tomorrow Fund, on the success of the program in other states. "Many people are signing up," he said. Michael Scott, TCU's interim director of scholarships and student financial aid, said he believes more students will be able to attend college through the Texas Tomorrow Fund. Scott said that parents will be better prepared and more encouraged to help

their children go to college. "I think the Texas Tomorrow Fund is a good idea, but it's not the only idea or the best viable idea option for everyone," he said. Scott advises parents to look at all options and potential funds; and lets them choose the best option for that family. He encourages the family to talk to financial advisors and weigh all options of investment. Applications for the fund can be obtained through the state comptroller's office or by calling 1-800-445-GRAD. There is a one-time, nonrefundable \$50 fee due with each completed application.

Minister

from the Student Center Ballroom. Susan J. White, an assistant professor of worship and spirituality and coordinator of Brite's chapel program, will give a speech titled, "Can Spirituality Really Be Taught?" Registration will be between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Monday in the Brite Divinity cloisters and again at 7 p.m. on the second floor of the University Christian Church. The first event is the 8 p.m. Monday worship service in the University Christian Church sanctuary.

Program

allows her to stay focused on graduate school and keep her diligent. "It helps you to become focused on what to do with your life by narrowing the path toward the final goal," Patterson said. The McNair program was named after the astronaut who died in the 1986 Challenger explosion and began at TCU in October 1991. Nineteen students are currently involved in the program. Since then, the program has had 63 participants,

43 of whom have gone on to graduate schools. There are currently 21 students who had previously participated in TCU's program enrolled in various graduate schools. "We are a relatively young program on campus and are still working to improve recruiting to get more students to join this program," Hodnett said.

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■ Scott Barzilla

Legal reform needs attention

Over the past several months, Congress, the president and most people concerned with politics have spent most of their time worrying about the budget negotiations and government shutdowns.

The budget is an important issue. However, it is unfortunate that these negotiations have drawn the country's attention away from more pressing areas.

Campaign finance reform, lobby reform and legal reform are all important issues that have been put on the back burner. We will concentrate on legal reform for now.

1995 was an eventful year in the courtroom. We saw several high profile cases, including that of O. J. Simpson, the Oklahoma City bombing case and the Susan Smith case.

Some cases went well, some not so well. As we have found out, anything can happen when lawyers get involved. This has caused many people to wonder about the future of criminal law.

If we take the Simpson case as an example, we see two major problems with the criminal justice system. The first is that the man who most likely killed two people roams free, and there is nothing that the victims' families can do but watch.

This is the problem between an accused's rights system and a victims' rights system. Some countries like Scotland have merged the two and created a

legal term called "not proven." This allows the accused to avoid sentencing if the prosecution doesn't have enough evidence, but allows the prosecution the opportunity to retry them later.

The fourth amendment is another problem. It sometimes keeps the police from obtaining enough evidence to convict a defendant. Of course, the fourth amendment could be very positive, depending on your vantage point. The amendment has also saved many from wrongful prosecution. You have to take the good with the bad.

However, what concerns most Americans is the problem with civil justice.

Tort reform is the most talked about type of legal reform in Congress and in the state legislatures. Fortunately, the problems with civil justice can be boiled down to one thing. We are the only major country in the world that does not use the "loser pays" system.

This means that every Tom, Dick and Harry can sue until the cows come home, and only pay their own legal fees in the case of defeat. In this scenario, litigants know they can sue repeatedly and, someday, they will get lucky and win.

"Loser pays" would deter buffoons from filing frivolous lawsuits because they would have to pay their legal fees and those of the person they sue. This would help to protect the middle and lower classes. At present, if less fortunate

Voice of Reason

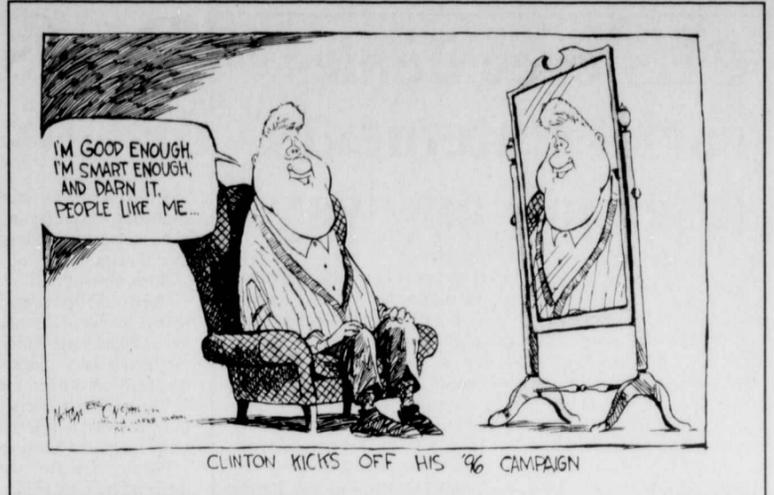


ate defendants win, they still lose because they have to pay their legal fees. Under "loser pays," less fortunate defendants would have their legal fees paid for if they

win the case. "Loser pays" still helps those who are wronged and, in fact, it would actually help them. Presently, large corporations can stonewall smaller litigants until they run out of money. Under "loser pays," smaller litigants can hang on longer if they have a good case, because the loser pays.

"Loser pays" is the easiest and best way to reform the legal system. Unfortunately, our bumbling representatives in government are too busy bickering over the budget to worry about other important matters.

Scott Barzilla is a senior political science major from Houston.



■ P.D. Magnus

Various faiths exemplify religion's ephemeral aims

Many here at Texas Christian University frame their religious understanding in terms of Christianity. Surely not every student is Christian, and there's enough room for Muslims, Hindus, Jews and others. But regardless of what you know, it seems that the world is a much bigger place even than that.

Last month, the government in the West African nation of Benin declared a paid holiday in celebration of voodoo. Contrary to its image in American films, voodoo is not an evil cabal of identical twin witch doctors dealing drugs, practicing human sacrifice and trying to kill Steven Seagal. About sixty percent of Benin's five million people follow voodoo.

Best known for sponsoring late night television ads for the book "Dianetics," billed as the owner's manual for the human mind, Scientology was founded in 1954 by the science-fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard. Rumors report Hubbard did it on a bet with fellow author Ray Bradbury (which Bradbury denies) or founded it as a source of income after realizing how little he was making hawking fiction.

Scientology has been defiled as new-age lunacy, a pyramid scheme, or pernicious evil. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports Claudia Nolte, German minister for family policy, as describing the church as "one of the most aggressive groups in our society." Other German officials reportedly claim that the church seeks world domination.

Scientology literature consists of a typical mix of bad philosophy and overgeneralization. It explains that church secrets are revealed to members over time. Members begin with counseling performed by more experienced members making use of an E-meter, a device Hubbard invented to measure mental states. No explanation is provided for why such a miraculous telepathic invention has not spread beyond Scientology.

When a disgruntled former member attempted to leak the secrets of Scientology, the church went to court, claiming protection under laws about trade secrets.

In his book "Bigger Secrets," William Poundstone explains that this highest wisdom of Scientology concerns the Earth 75 million years ago, when it was called Teegeeach and ruled by the evil Xemu. Xemu imprisoned his victims' spirits, but they escaped after being encased in ice for eons. They are now loose and solely responsible for insanity and nasty behav-

The Iron Fist of Dogma



ior among us humans. Since members pay the church on a per service basis, some paid over \$12,000 to find out that all their problems were the fault of evil aliens.

Despite all the bad press, the church of Scientology still claims eight million members worldwide (although other estimates run as low as 50,000) and is recognized as a religion in 115 countries (although German officials are working to make it 114).

What does all this amount to? It's not clear how much we can laugh. Christianity is rich with its own peculiarities. Consider Mother Theresa, whose name is often used as a synonym for altruism. Although no one has accused her of engaging in sexual depravity or sheltering the Unabomber, her track record is hardly spotless. Some cite her letter in support of S&L swindler Charles Keating as evidence of impure motives; it seems she'll write a character reference to the court on behalf of any large contributor.

And what does the money go for? Regardless of how much good she has done for this or that helpless waif in Calcutta, her work to prop up Catholic dogma has squelched efforts at family planning. Helping some children born into poverty is less noble when she works to preserve overpopulation and hence also poverty.

We must never forget that religious understanding presents a desirable but ephemeral goal. Scientology may be out for cash, but who isn't? Neither the pious nor the cynical can provide us with an untarnished report. The former are apt to be too sympathetic and the latter too hostile. Everybody frames religion from where they are. Like so many things in life, there are no facts; there are only perspectives.

P.D. Magnus is a senior physics and philosophy major, a part-time existentialist, and an associate member of the Zarathustra fan club from Burseson, Texas.

Stay at Home

Driving on ice a bad idea for Horned Frogs

The old saying "If you don't like the weather in Texas, wait ten minutes and it'll change," is certainly true. But despite the climatic variations, Texans are virtually clueless about how to drive on ice.

Sadly, this includes most TCU students. Thus, our advice on driving in this weekend's storm is simple: don't do it.

Ice on roads comes in all varieties of thickness and, from a moving car, it is virtually impossible to determine the difference. To further complicate matters, invisible patches of "black ice" can pop up anywhere, and motorists don't know it's there until they're doing donuts.

Unfortunately, some driving is inevitable, so for those who absolutely have to go out, here are a few driving tips.

The biggest thing you can do to improve your

chances on ice is to slow down. Leave early and travel at or below the speed limit. Slow down five or ten miles per hour when approaching bridges and overpasses.

Don't ever slam on the brakes. Instead, "pump" them repeatedly so your wheels don't lock (unless, of course, your car is equipped with anti-lock brakes). Try to let your car stop itself.

And, the most important tip of all: don't panic. If your car starts to swerve, gently steer into it.

Driving on ice is nothing like driving on wet roads, which is dangerous anyway. If you know how to drive on ice, chances are the other guy doesn't.

Stay on campus or at home as much as possible this weekend. Watch a made-for-TV movie, eat at the Main, have some friends walk over or even take a few hours to study.

■ Editorial

■ Letters

I must respond to Scott Barzilla's latest liberal column, "'80s not as great as political pundits think," from Jan. 30. He compares Reagan's presidency to that of Herbert Hoover. He states that Hoover responded to the stock market crash of 1929 with tax cuts for the wealthy. That is not true.

Supply side economics had been practiced in the 1920s before the depression hit by presidents Harding, Coolidge and Hoover. But once the depression hit, Hoover's response was

to raise taxes.

He believed the government was not taking in enough revenue. Needless to say, raising taxes only made matters worse. Also, the depression was not caused by huge budget deficits because we did not have them back then. When the depression hit, Hoover had a balanced budget, and he still raised taxes.

Mr. Barzilla also blames Reagan for the recession of 1982. Maybe he is not old enough to remember what led up to that. Jack Kemp once said, "to understand the '80s you have to understand the '70s." The 1970s was a decade of inflation, unemployment and uncertainty. It was a decade of shortages, and there were gas lines.

Carter, much like Hoover, also did not know how to reassure the

see Letter, page 6

■ Bob Turney

Israelis, NBA show discrimination isn't dead

While many Americans were focused on the Super Bowl last weekend, two important events got lost in the shuffle. Both stories dealt with the deadly HIV; one showed how attitudes have begun to change, while the other showed how much we have to learn.

Last week in Israel, word leaked out about a particular policy in their health care system. Ethiopian Jews who donated blood, who took the time to help their fellow man, discovered that their blood was being treated like hazardous waste, just because of their origins.

To give some background, in the 1970s, Israel discovered a "lost" tribe, a group of people who practiced what was determined to be an offshoot of Judaism, in Ethiopia. By Israeli law, these people are free to immigrate and become citizens. While they are darker-skinned than most Israelis, they were Jews, and that was all that was important.

There was, however, one problem. They began arriving about the same time that the HIV came to light. Believed to have originated in Africa, at the time there was no way

Arm Wrassin' with Life

to determine if someone had HIV until it developed into full-blown AIDS. Other than that, not much was known about the disease.

In that light, the decision of the Israeli government appears prudent, to protect the health of their citizens. Countless numbers of hemophiliacs or people who received blood transfusions before the advent of a test to detect HIV received contaminated blood, and a death sentence, since there is no cure.

However, once a test became available to screen for HIV antibodies in blood, this pol-



icy of rejecting the Ethiopians' blood because they are in a "high-risk group" (which is untrue; just being from Africa does not make you high risk) became indefensible. Moreover, hiding the fact that their blood was being thrown away just so that you can avoid having to justify that action is cowardly. The Ethiopians felt that they were being discriminated against because of their race, and tempers flared into full-scale rioting over the weekend.

I think the part of this incident that strikes me as really morally reprehensible is the fact that the Israeli government, while apologizing for the deception, and saying that it would make a greater effort to be sensitive to the Ethiopian community, has not announced the repeal of this policy. There has been no statement about whether or not their blood will now be used, or if it will continue to be thrown away.

The other notable event was the rumored (and since confirmed) return of Earvin "Magic" Johnson to the NBA. Johnson

retired in 1991, when it was discovered that he was HIV-positive. While Johnson left the league of his own accord, when he attempted a comeback, the players' opinions quickly scuttled that idea, though none would admit that publicly. They chose to hide behind a mask of anonymity.

Now, thanks to the changing attitudes in this country and the growing acceptance of people who have been stricken with AIDS, along with an admirable education program sponsored by the NBA, Showtime is back in the Great Western Forum, even if Magic is a little chunkier and playing power forward instead of point guard (they can't fire you for being overweight, or Stanley "Snack Bar" Roberts wouldn't have a job). Good luck, Magic, and I hope that you are able to play as long as you want.

Bob Turney is a senior political science and history double major from Houston, who applauds Baylor on its decision to legalize dancing.

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CBS exec denies racist statements, loses job anyway

By SCOTT WILLIAMS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — CBS's top late-night programming executive resigned yesterday, steadfastly denying he had made the racially insensitive remarks that ultimately cost him his job.

John Pike, whose comments were reported secondhand in February's *Details* magazine, maintains that he did not make the statements attributed to him, CBS said in a statement.

"CBS regrets our association with Mr. Pike has come to an end under such circumstances," it read. "We now consider this matter closed."

Pike's alleged comments — that blacks make good late-night audiences because they're unemployed, stay up late and have short attention spans — came in a closed-door meeting with producers of *The State*, a comedy troupe.

The comments were reported by *Details* writer David Lipsky, who was profiling *The State* and its travails in angling for a late-night show on CBS.

Pike supposedly made his remarks at his first meeting with the producers. Lipsky has acknowledged he was not present at the meeting, but said Pike's remarks were conveyed to him by others who attended.

In Lipsky's paraphrase, Pike "flatly explains that research shows there are three reasons why African-Americans are an important part of the late-night demographic: First, they have no place to go in the morning — no jobs — so they can stay up as late as they like; second, they can't follow hourlong drama shows — no attention span — so sketches are perfect for them; third, network TV is free."

Even before the issue of *Details* was on newsstands, CBS Entertainment President Leslie Moonves ordered an internal investigation on both coasts. "CBS finds these alleged statements to be reprehensible and hopes the allegations are not true," Moonves said at the time. "If they do prove to be true, the company will take appropriate action."

Profs recoup, research on leave

By BARBARA MOORE
TCU DAILY SKIFF

Every semester, students return to classes expecting the professor listed on their schedule to be the person standing before them on the first day of class.

Sometimes it isn't. Each semester, many faculty members choose to take a leave of absence. According to the TCU Faculty and Staff Handbook, university faculty may take a leave of one semester with full salary or a leave of two semesters with half-salary.

The handbook states that leaves are normally only awarded to tenured faculty and that seven years must pass between leaves.

Faculty members may take leaves for many different reasons. Medical leaves are considered leaves of absence. Faculty may also choose to take an unpaid leave to work on a political campaign, write speeches or do other activities, according to the handbook.

However, faculty normally take leaves to work on research.

Tommy Thomason, an associate professor of journalism, took a leave of absence in fall 1994.

"Most people I know who do sabbaticals are taking time off to do research projects that are so time-consuming that you don't have time to do them in the regular semester," he said.

Thomason worked on a research project and also helped in planning the National Conference on Sex Crime Coverage in National Media.

Faculty in the fine arts departments often engage in "creative activity," their own form of research.

Luther Smith, a professor of art, took a leave of absence for the entire 1990-1991 school year. During his leave, he photographed the Trinity

River. Smith said that professors at TCU are there to be instructors and "in addition to that, we're expected to be involved in our field."

"I make photographs . . . to show in galleries and museums and hopefully books," he said.

His series of Trinity photographs is intended to be a "poetic description" of the Trinity area, not just the river. He said that on his sabbatical, he took photographs that have a "relationship to the complex world that we live in." He said many people do not realize that the Trinity is both a water source and a sewer.

Smith hopes that this photographs will be compiled into a book. TCU Press has agreed to work with him to publish the book, he said.

Michael Dodson, a professor of political science, took a leave of absence in fall 1995. He used his time off to work on a research project on El Salvador's political structure. He studied the transition of the country from a military dictatorship to a democratic government.

Dodson spent his time studying the effect of the new democratic institutions on human rights. He traveled to El Salvador in June, November and January to interview officials, such as supreme court members and legislative deputies.

He has presented some of his findings at conferences and hopes to publish his research in journals. He is continuing his research along with Don Jackson, the Herman Brown professor of political science.

They have asked the National Science Foundation for funds to do a national survey of Salvadorians. If the funding comes through, they will be working with Central American University in San Salvador to conduct the survey.

"It's wonderful. It's good for faculty, and I

think it's good for students too," Dodson said of leaves. He said that faculty members come back "energized."

Unlike other institutions, TCU does not have a true sabbatical program. At TCU, leaves are considered "merited leaves."

Becky Roach, assistant to the vice chancellor for academic affairs said, "A faculty member has to have a particular project in mind to do during the leave."

The Faculty Senate is currently reviewing part of the leave process, said Sally Fortenberry, chairwoman of the Faculty Senate. She said the process has not really been an issue, but the Senate is reviewing TCU's policy on a type of leave written in the 1970s by the American Association of University Professors.

She said it is about "leaves of absence to re-energize, to get away from an environment, to get juices flowing again."

Fortenberry said that most faculty members are happy with the current system of taking leaves of absence.

To get approved for a leave of absence, a faculty member must submit an application to the department chairperson citing reasons for the leave. The chairperson may then recommend the faculty member to the college dean. Together, they submit the application with letters of recommendation to Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs William H. Koehler. Koehler must receive the application by Nov. 15 of the academic year before the leave.

There is not a maximum or minimum number of faculty members who may take leaves of absence in any given semester.

Twelve faculty members are on leaves of some form this semester. Four are in the second semester of a full year leave.

Pet iguana poisons, kills baby

By NANCY ARMOUR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — A 3-week-old boy died of salmonella poisoning that was probably contracted from the family's pet iguana, and health officials yesterday warned that other reptile owners could be at risk.

"I do not know why (pet stores) sell these things," said Diane Jones, Fulton County health nurse. "The least they could do is inform people about this."

Health officials are not even sure how Gaige Becker got salmonella, but Jones said it could have been as easy as someone handling the iguana and then touching the boy.

While Gaige's story sounds unusual, health officials have seen an increase in unusual strains of salmonella as the popularity of pet reptiles — especially iguanas — grows. The number of imported iguanas grew from 27,806 in 1986 to 798,405 in 1993, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

At least 90 percent of reptiles carry some strain of the intestinal bacteria, according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. These include snakes, turtles and other types of lizards besides iguanas.

In 1994 and 1995, health departments in 13 states reported unusual strains of salmonella bacteria that were traced back to reptiles.

Gaige died in October in Rochester, about 40 miles south of South Bend, but the cause of death was not disclosed until a Fulton County Board of Health meeting last month. Gaige died of the Poona strain of salmonella, the same bacteria carried by the family iguana, which has since been destroyed.

The boy's parents, Jamie and Teresa Becker, didn't realize the danger their iguana posed to their son, health officials said.

Salmonella causes diarrhea, abdominal cramps and a fever, and many people who get it don't even realize it.

But for people with immature or weakened immune systems — babies, the elderly or those with AIDS — the bacteria can cause severe sickness and, if not treated right away, death.

Last year, the Atlanta-based CDC began a campaign to encourage veterinarians and pet store owners to make people with reptiles aware of the risk.

"We're not by any means telling people not to own reptiles," CDC spokesman Tom Skinner said yesterday. "It's just that we've identified a threat to public health. It's the obligation of our agency to inform people of that threat and inform them of the necessary precautions."

The CDC's recommendations on preventing salmonella:

- Wash your hands after handling a reptile and make sure children don't put their hands in their mouths after touching a reptile.

- Keep reptiles away from areas where food is prepared and don't wash cages, food dishes and aquariums in the kitchen sink.

- Don't keep reptiles in child-care centers. And anyone with a weakened immune system, including pregnant women, should avoid them.

Gary Weimer of South Bend, who has owned a variety of reptiles in the past 10 years, said he doesn't plan to take any precautions. He said he lets lizards crawl on him, and he doesn't wash his hands after playing with his pets.

"I've never worried about it one bit, to be honest," he said. "I never had a problem with it, and I never took any precautions."

John Simmons, spokesman for the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, a group of scientists who study fish and reptiles, said: "It's a mistaken idea to think that pet iguanas should be banned. If you just follow basic hygiene, keeping things clean takes care of it."

"It doesn't require a bleach or antibacterial cleanser," he added. "All it requires is soap and water."

Snow from page 1

were reported. An express bridge on I-35 was shutdown due to slick conditions. It was opened after noon, but traffic moved at a slow pace throughout the city.

The Texas Department of Public Safety said no major injuries had been reported as of yesterday afternoon.

"Our main advice is to stay off the highways unless you absolutely have to get out," said Sherri Deatherage Green, a spokeswoman for the DPS.

Gov. George W. Bush, who was traveling in Houston, said he would monitor weather conditions before deciding his travel plans today and urged state offices to send employees home early.

Three inches of snow accumulated in Amarillo where temperatures dipped to 8 degrees early yesterday and threatened the Panhandle wheat crop.

"It takes until it warms up and

water tries to move through the plant — about three weeks — to know whether we've had damage," said Bill Nelson, executive vice president of the Amarillo-based Texas Wheat Producers Association.

Classes were canceled at the University of Texas and at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. Baylor University in Waco also canceled classes.

Charles Franklin, vice president of business affairs at UT Austin, said several students had fallen on slick areas around the campus, but none were seriously injured.

The Bandera and Blanco schools districts in the Hill Country were releasing students from classes early yesterday, and roads and overpasses around San Antonio also were closed because of icy conditions.

At the Dallas Parkway Hilton, clerk Norma Murphy said icy predictions have meant a mixed bag for business at her hotel.

"We have had a few people who had to stay because their flight was canceled leaving Dallas and a few

others have called canceling their flight to come into Dallas," she said.

At Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, American Airlines was planning to cancel as many as 150 departures yesterday — about 30 percent of operations there — while its regional carrier, American Eagle, targeted 75 flights or 27 percent, said spokesman Tim Smith.

The icy mix caught some people by surprise since weather service extended forecasts at the beginning of this week for North Texas had predicted lows yesterday from 35 to 50 degrees and highs up to the mid-60s.

Instead, lows stayed in the 20s with afternoon readings remaining below freezing.

But the bad weather hasn't meant bad news for everyone. James Edwards, a driver for Airborne Express, said his company was considering a short work day for its drivers.

"They're talking about pulling us off the streets," he said. "It wouldn't be too bad because all my days are long."

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Tasha Zemke Sports Editor Last week: 4-4 Total: 9-7	Texas	Texas A&M	Texas Tech	Georgia	Connecticut	Virginia	Bulls	Stars
Ernie Moran Sports Writer Last week: 5-3 Total: 11-5	Texas	Texas A&M	Texas Tech	Georgia	Connecticut	Florida St.	Bulls	Canucks
Brett Van Ort Sportswriter Last week: 4-4 Total: 9-7	Texas	Texas A&M	Texas Tech	Georgia	Connecticut	Virginia	Bulls	Stars
Gregor Esch Sportswriter Last week: 4-4 Total: 11-5	Texas	Texas A&M	Texas Tech	Georgia	Connecticut	Florida St.	Bulls	Stars
K.E. Stenske Sportswriter Last week: 5-3 Total: 13-3	Texas	SMU	Texas Tech	Georgia	Connecticut	Virginia	Bulls	Canucks
Jen Jones Guest Progger Last week: 0-0 Total: 0-0	Texas	Texas A&M	Texas Tech	Georgia	Connecticut	Virginia	Bulls	Stars

Weather delays start of '96 tennis season

By TASHA ZEMKE
TCU DAILY SKIFF

The Lady Frogs tennis team will begin their season as soon as the cold weather ends. The match scheduled against North Central Texas on Saturday has been postponed until 2:30 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Mary Potishman Lard Tennis Center. It will be pushed back if similar cold fronts are in the forecast, said head tennis coach Roland Ingram.

This season, TCU will compete against several Top 15 teams. Ingram said some of the hardest matches will be against the University of Texas, South Carolina, Indiana and Louisiana State.

"We have a good schedule," Ingram said. "But I have eight women hitting the ball, and they are all solid. We're capable of beating any team. It's a mat-

ter of being mentally strong."

Two players are American and the rest are foreign. Six members are underclassmen and two only began playing tennis for TCU in January.

Junior Deirdre Walsh from Dublin, Ireland, is ranked No. 71 in national singles competition, and she will start in the No. 1 singles spot at the first match. Sophomore Annika Kjellgren from Hono, Sweden, should play No. 2.

None of the Lady Frogs are ranked in doubles competition like the TCU men's team, which has two teams in Top 5 doubles ranking.

Playing No. 1 doubles for TCU is the duo of Kjellgren and senior Christina Stangeland from Hafslund, Norway. In the No. 2 spot will be Walsh and freshman Natalie Balatoutis from Kingsford, Australia.

Lewis to run last race at Olympics

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Carl Lewis has run lots of races during a stellar track and field career. This year, he's headed toward the finish line.

Lewis, who will be 35 this summer when the world's athletes meet in Atlanta, says these will be his last Olympic Games. He won't be in Greece for the 1997 World Championships or in Australia for the 2000 Olympics.

"No Athens, no Sydney," he said.

Lewis will start down the path to life after track this Saturday, lining up against some of the world's best sprinters — including Leroy Burrell and Mike Marsh — at the 1996 Gallery Furniture Games at the University of Houston.

When the gun sounds, Lewis said he will be looking for indications of how he'll do while trying for a last hurrah.

"For me personally, it will show

me where I am in terms of my start and the first part of my 100 (meters). I still have my speed; the first 30 meters is where I was getting killed last year," he told the *Houston Chronicle*.

Last season was the first time since high school that Lewis failed to rank among the world's Top 10 runners in the 100. His No. 7 ranking in the long jump was his lowest since high school.

After several months of weight training and other conditioning, Lewis figures he has improved his body strength by 40 percent over last year. He weighs 185 pounds, close to the 179 he weighed when he set the previous 100-meter world record of 9.86 seconds in Tokyo.

Following the Houston meet, Lewis' first indoor meet since 1992, Lewis plans to run the 60-meter race next month at the U.S. indoor meet.

As his lengthy career winds

down — he made his first Olympic team in 1980 at age 19 — Lewis said longevity is among his proudest accomplishments.

"I hope that in 10 years from now, longevity is the norm and not the exception, that people will say, 'He did it, and I can do it, too,'" he said.

Lewis is the only three-time winner of the Olympic long jump. He also owns the world indoor best, 28 feet, 10 1/2 inches, which he set at the 1984 Millrose Games in New York. But he has never gotten the record he wants most — the world outdoor record.

Mike Powell surpassed Bob Beamon's 23-year-old record of 29-2 1/4 with a leap of 29-4 1/4 at the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo. Lewis beat Powell a year later at the Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, but Powell's record is still in Lewis' thoughts.

"I still feel I can do it; it's still one of my goals," Lewis said.

The Baseball Insider

Season preview of the Frogs from an inside perspective

By GAVIN MILLAY
TCU DAILY SKIFF

Hello all of you loyal Frog baseball followers, and welcome to the debut edition of "The Baseball Insider." If you expect this to be just another mundane, ho hum, read it and trash it column, mister, are you mistaken.

During the '96 baseball season, I'm going to take you on a roller coaster ride that we all know won't stop until the Frogs are dog piling each other after the final game in the College World Series. You're going to have a first-class ticket into player and coach perspectives, road trip happenings, locker room talk and, of course, in-depth analysis of all of the games.

All of this will be brought to you via my pen, because I am the baseball insider.

For all of you early, season-doubting Thomases, fear not; the Frogs' 4-4 start in Hawaii should not be considered a viable indicator of what is to come. Playing conditions on the big island were just short of flood-like; Noah's Ark was spotted in left field. Pitchers and position players were being shifted in and out by head coach Lance Brown to give him a feel of how all of his players stack up against each other.

That four or five hour jet lag probably didn't help, either. I am not trying to make excuses for their

less-than-impressive start. I am, however, weighing some intangibles into the win-loss equation.

Scanning over the Frogs' spring schedule, I see a far more forgiving one than last year. Not necessarily an easier one, but one that has the Texas series on grass instead of that trampoline the Short-horns play on in Austin. The Texas series last year proved to be the beginning of the team's demise as the Frogs dropped four straight games in Austin, leading them down a hole of which they could not dig out.

The TCU pitching staff is going into this season a highly-touted group, but also very untested. With the exception of Flint Wallace and Toby Dollar, all of their projected top pitchers have minimal college innings under their belt. This limited experience takes nothing away from the staff's talent, but good leadership from Dollar and Wallace is essential. With it, pitchers like Scott Atchison, David Meyer, Derek Lee and Erik Brown can have the season that is expected of them.

Moving on to the position players. This experienced group has all the talent of a championship team. Everyone in the lineup has the ability to go out of the ballpark.

Brad Wallace and Sam Lunsford are returning as a cohesive middle infield unit. Veteran Jeff McCurdy will be roaming center field, and a very advanced sophomore catcher,

Casey Smith, will be behind the plate. TCU recruiting paid off in the form of David Wallace, Matt Howe, Matt Zabel and Keith Knoerr, all good-looking newcomers. The only element TCU is offensively lacking is the big bomb hitter the Frogs always had in recent years. Guys like Adam Robson, Darren Tawwater, Jason McClure and some guy who played right field last year, will be sorely missed.

And now, my homemade recipe for this baseball team's success. 1) The pitchers have to consistently throw strikes. This sounds elementary, but try telling that to last year's staff. 2) The pitchers have to hold runners at bay. The number of last year's bases stolen was so astronomical, I can't even fit it on the page. 3) The middle infield has to make the routine play. 4) Hitters have to swing at good pitches. Last year's discipline at the plate was less than enviable. 5) The team must be able to play consistently on the road. 6) A common goal has to be agreed on by every single player on the team, and that is to win the National Championship in Omaha, Neb. TCU teams of old killed their winning hopes with an ever-linger individualistic outlook.

And now this column comes to an end. Yet the '96 season is still ahead of us. So, let's get out and fill the stands. If you do, I can promise, you will be a part of some exciting baseball.



Gavin Millay
Sports Columnist



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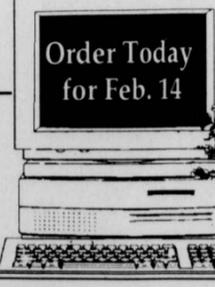
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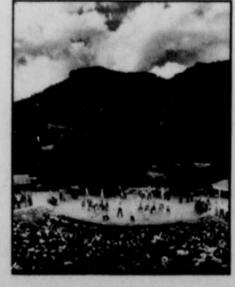
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U.S. House passes communications bill

By JEANNINE AVERSA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A major telecommunications overhaul designed to make television, telephone and home computers the cultural and economic engines of the 21st century won House approval yesterday. The vote was 414-16.

The bill, the biggest rewrite of telecommunications law in 62 years, was being debated simultaneously in the Senate. Leaders there also predicted passage, and President Clinton was expected to sign the bill.

"Today, we have broken up two of the biggest government monopolies left — the monopolies in local telephone service and in cable television," said the bill's primary author in the House, Thomas Bliley, R-Va. "For the first time ever, Americans will be given choices. Besides lower rates and better service, the result will be innovative new products and services that will create thousands of new American jobs."

But Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., contended the bill would do more for big business than for consumers. Among his concerns were media deregulation and the gradual removal of federal price controls on cable television service.

"This Congress... has decided that consumer protection must take a back seat to industry demand," Conyers said.

Still, the bill's bipartisan supporters predicted it would usher in a new era of telecommunications competition, changing the way people communicate at home and at work.

As it stands now, the massive rewrite of the 1935 Communications Act would let local and long-distance telephone companies and cable companies into each others' businesses, deregulate cable rates and restrict smutty materials on computer networks and on television. It also would make it easier for media companies to expand their holdings.

Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La., predicted that the bill, supported by a cross-section of titan telecommunications companies — including the Baby Bells, the major broadcast networks, cable and long-distance companies — would create 1.5 million to 3 million new jobs.

Supporters also say the measure would expand consumer choices and potentially lower prices for cable, telephone and other communications services.

Opponents say more jobs will be lost through consolidation than created, are skeptical about the creation of new services and predict cable and telephone rates are likely to go up.

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole has been blocking a vote on a bill because he opposed a key provision to give broadcasters free use of extra channels they'll need to provide higher-quality digital television.

In the end, House and Senate leaders agreed not to go along with Dole's proposed changes, allowing them to sidestep for now a dispute over how new digital TV licenses are awarded to broadcasters.

Instead, key lawmakers pledged to explore Dole's concerns in hearings later this year and possibly address them in a separate bill.

Sen. Larry Pressler, R-S.D., said Dole was satisfied by these assurances and would not block the bill.

Dole was not as clear.

"Any agreement to bring telecommunications reform to the Senate floor hinges on receiving a commitment from FCC Chairman Reed Hundt that the FCC will not short-circuit Congress by issuing licenses or permits for advanced television services before Congress had resolved the spectrum issue," Dole said in a statement.

Asked whether he could offer such a commitment, Hundt said: "I'm sure all the commissioners will be very pleased to respond." But he would not speculate how they would respond.

Train derails, catches fire, killing one

By LARRY GERBER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAJON SUMMIT, Calif. — A freight train carrying hazardous chemicals derailed and caught fire early yesterday, killing at least one crew member, injuring at least 20 other people and closing a major highway.

The train's engineer was among the injured and one other crewman was missing after the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Corp. train left the track shortly after 4 a.m. It touched off a spectacular fire that continued to burn intensely at midday.

"It's really ripping, really burning," said Bill Peters, California Department of Forestry spokesman. "We're not fighting it as of yet because of all the chemicals."

The dead crew member's body was pulled from the twisted, burning wreckage shortly before noon. His identity was not immediately released.

Most of the injured were police officers and transportation officials who complained of chest pains, shortness of breath and skin rashes. They were taken to several hospitals. The engineer was hospitalized

in fair condition with lacerations and an injured back.

A tunnel-shaped cloud formed over the heavily traveled mountain pass as the rail cars burned, spitting flames 30 feet into the air.

The site, in the Cajon Pass, is a sparsely populated area about 15 miles north of San Bernardino. A hotel, a restaurant and a gas station were evacuated along with a few homes.

"Thank goodness for the Red Cross and coffee," one evacuated resident, June McDonald, said as she waited out the crisis at a shelter set up at the county fairgrounds in Victorville.

One witness said a fireball hundreds of feet high could be seen when the train crashed. "I was out there standing and felt a rumble. I felt the heat of the fire," said the witness, Chuck Mydlowski.

A 20-mile segment of Interstate 15, a main artery between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, was shut down in both directions, causing a commuting nightmare for motorists.

All four of the train's locomotives and 38 of its 42 cars left the track, Peters said.

The train had originated in Barstow and was

headed for Los Angeles. Mike Martin, a spokesman for the Schaumburg, Ill.-based railroad, said it had five tank cars of hazardous materials including butyl acrylate, a chemical used for making paints and adhesives that irritates the eyes, nose and throat.

Some tankers were among the burning cars. Patrick Davis, who lives near the crash site, said he and his brother-in-law pulled the engineer from the wreckage.

"I couldn't see anybody else and one engine was on fire and the other engine blew up," he said.

The engineer didn't know what happened to the other crew members, Davis said. "He was pretty disoriented."

Four truckers who were driving on the interstate pulled in to a truck stop in Barstow, complaining of nausea and dizziness, officials said. An ambulance was initially called, but the four later decided to see doctors on their own rather than going to the hospital.

The closure of I-15 caused traffic problems throughout a large part of San Bernardino County. Yucca Valley, 60 miles southeast of the derailment, was jammed with Los Angeles-bound motorists who were forced to take a detour.

Gramm's voting record slips during campaign

By MICHELLE MITTELSTADT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Texas Sen. Phil Gramm compiled the worst voting attendance record in the Senate in 1995 after turning his attention to his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination.

In just the last two months alone, he's missed votes relating to the balanced budget, averting a third partial government shutdown, national defense and appropriations bills.

But there's one debate Gramm refused to miss: Senate consideration of the farm bill.

Gramm cut short a campaign trek through Iowa yesterday to rush back to Washington to cast votes during the Senate's consideration of new agriculture policy.

A Gramm spokesman said votes in farm-rich Iowa — whose bellwether GOP caucus is 11 days away — had nothing to do with the senator's decision.

"The farm bill vote is very important for Texas farmers who are desperately in need of guidance in the farm program," said Gramm's Senate press secretary, Larry Neal. "Texas

farmers are making decisions today on how to plant, what loans they are going to need. The fundamental decisions that will govern what they do in the spring and summer are being made now, and in effect their government has failed them because President Clinton vetoed legislation which included the farm program."

Producers have been in limbo because Congress has failed to enact a new farm bill, technically making the 1949 permanent farm law the only legislation on the books. Without passage of a new farm bill, the 1949 bill would prove costly to taxpayers, mandating billions of dollars in new payments.

Asked why Gramm — whose presidential campaign boasts a laser-like focus on reining in government and achieving a balanced budget — would miss spending votes yet make a farm bill vote, Neal said: "I can only say to you that we are struggling to overcome the effects of the Clinton veto here."

Letter from page 3

American people. He also believed that if he understood something, everyone else did too. We had recessions in the '70s, if Carter had been reelected in 1980, the recession of 1982 still would have happened.

The reason we replaced Carter in 1980 was because his economic and foreign policies were not working. Reagan inherited a bad situation in 1980, just as Roosevelt did in 1932. Both times, things got worse before they got better. Reagan gave the people a sense of hope in 1980, just as Roosevelt did in 1932.

Yes, Reagan wanted to repeal many of the New Deal programs FDR had enacted, but that is not the point. Both leaders were optimists who knew how to reassure the American people, and that is what

mattered. Roosevelt's policies were not what got us out of the Depression. Historians agree World War II is what ultimately got us out of the Depression.

I agree that Reagan deserves some of the blame for the huge budget deficits. I wish he would have used his veto more vigorously like President Ford did. It also would have helped if he had a line-item veto and a balanced budget amendment.

But overall the American people were better off when Reagan left office than when he came in. In judging the '80s, we have to look at where we were when the decade began in order to understand how we should view that decade now that it is over.

John Duck
senior, political science/history

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