

# TCU Daily Skiff

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1996

TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, FORT WORTH, TEXAS

93RD YEAR, No. 73



Tas Shore, Colby Hall director, sniffs one of the many flower arrangements in the hall office on Valentine's Day.

TCU Daily Skiff/ Keisha Knowles

## Social work ratio rising

### Accreditation may be in danger, director says

BY ANDREA DAUM  
TCU DAILY SKIFF

The number of social work students is growing at TCU, which could put the department at risk of losing accreditation because of the rising student-to-faculty ratio.

"In order to be accredited, we must meet certain standards set by a national body," said Linda Moore, director of the social work program. "This includes having a student-to-full-time-faculty ratio of 25 to one. This year we are right at those numbers. If we go higher than that, then we can lose our accreditation."

Although the program is not up for accreditation renewal for three more years, Moore said something needed to be done now.

"Every year we ask for more faculty, but we haven't gotten any yet," she said. "In the past four years our program has doubled, and if the numbers keep growing like they have, we are at risk for losing our accreditation."

In order to keep the numbers at or below 25:1, the program must either hire a new faculty member or cap the amount of students eligible to participate.

Moore said that she would rather see a new professor hired than see enrollment limits set.

"More faculty is definitely the way to go. We get dynamic students in the program, we really do. I would hate to cap but if we don't get any more faculty, we are going to have to," Moore said.

"In one year we have gone from 21 to 35 students in the senior class. Obviously if we continue to grow without an increase in faculty... well, we're a

little nervous."

Melissa Spradling, a junior social work major, agrees with Moore.

"If TCU wants to uphold its reputation it is going to have to accommodate the students," she said. "Capping means having to keep qualified students out of the program just because of this, and we need qualified people out in the field."

At an accredited university, all faculty must have a master's in social work and the program must offer a broad liberal arts base, require a certain amount of field hours and offer internships and research opportunities.

Moore said TCU does exceed the criteria set by The Council on Social Work Education, which accredits all universities with social work departments in the United States.

"If our students come from an accredited program, that means that they are eligible for advanced standing in graduate school," Moore said. The students are able to complete the two-year master's degree program in one and can take the licensing test in all 50 states without hassle, she said.

"It (accreditation) has serious implications, and I would be distressed if we didn't have accreditation," she said. "It affects graduates of the program seriously."

"TCU has an outstanding reputation in the community and nationwide in terms of our graduates," Moore said. "We have a 100 percent placement rate and I get people from all over calling and writing me thanking me for sending our graduates to them. It's really exciting."

Moore said not only do the grow-

see *Ratio, page 2*

## Committee seeks input through boxes

BY ALISHA LAROCHELLE  
TCU DAILY SKIFF

The recently-installed student concerns boxes can provide a link between the thoughts of the students and the actions of the Student Concerns committee, but they work only if people use them, say House of Student Representatives members.

"If you have a problem write it down and stick it in a box," said Becca Gardner, current Student Concerns chairwoman. "Don't just gripe about it, because nothing gets changed that way."

Another way for students to communicate with the committee is to attend its meetings. The committee meets at 4 p.m. today in the Student Center, Room 203.

"It's hard for us to know where the students

want us to focus our attention," said Leon Reed, a sophomore political science major and past Student Concerns chairman.

Gardner, a freshman pre-major, said the job of the committee is to look out for the student body and address its concerns. Without feedback, there is no need for the organization, she said.

When the committee sees there is a lot of concern in one area, its members take steps to solve the problem, she said.

Gardner said she enters all the concerns she receives into a database for future reference. Then, when she goes to meetings with the administration, she can print graphics to illustrate the major concerns of the student body.

Reed said after the concerns are entered into the database, they will be sent to the office that over-

sees the subject of the complaint.

"It gives us bullets," said Reed. "They (the administration) can't argue with numbers."

If the comment was signed, a letter will also be sent to the person who wrote it. The letter will tell the person what actions are being taken, he said.

Reed said students had questioned the effectiveness of the House in the past. He said he hopes the boxes will show students that the House is a productive organization.

The boxes were installed right after the winter break, so there are still some problems with the organization of the program, Gardner said.

She said some of the boxes are located in the offices of the residence halls. She said she wants

see *Concerns, page 2*

## TCU grad headlines Freedom Cafe concert

BY AMY TREADAWAY  
TCU DAILY SKIFF

Combine the vocal and writing talents of Edie Brickell and the acoustical guitar flair of James Taylor, and you hear the mellow music of Jennifer Martin.

Jennifer Martin is a Nashville-based singer-songwriter and a TCU graduate who is headlining on Saturday at the Jefferson Freedom Cafe, sponsored by First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church on 1959 Sandy Lane in Fort Worth.

A native of Fort Worth, Martin began playing piano by ear at the age of four. While at TCU, she studied piano with Van Cliburn Gold Medalist Steven DeGroot and Judith Solomon, associate professor of music.

"I was practicing what my professors would call 'serious music' during



Jennifer Martin

the day, and teaching myself guitar and experimenting with songwriting at night," Martin said. "Somewhere between Frederic Chopin and Tracy Chapman, my own style emerged."

At TCU, Martin was a member of Mortar Board Honor Society, Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and Student Foundation.

"I would play at the Student Foundation Christmas parties, but I didn't think it would take me anywhere," said Martin. "There were many realms of encouragement from TCU, and not only in the music department. I had lots of encouragement from friends and faculty."

After graduating in 1990, Martin moved to Nashville and took a job as a publicist for Reunion Records.

see *Concert, page 5*

## Texas primary ready for taking

### Chairman says Gramm's departure leaves Dole in top shape in state

BY MICHAEL HOLMES  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — The Texas GOP presidential primary, once viewed as a backyard stroll for Sen. Phil Gramm, became a big-time shootout as the Texan dropped out of the race Wednesday.

"We're going to have an interesting shift in the chemistry," said Tom Pauken, state Republican Party chairman.

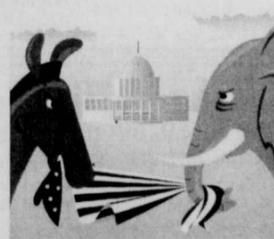
Texas will send 123 delegates to the Republican National Convention. That's a prize second in size only to California, and it makes up more than 10 percent of the 996 delegates needed to win the GOP presidential nomination.

With favorite son Gramm's departure, those delegates are up for grabs on March 12.

"There's going to be a lot of attention paid here," said GOP consultant Karl Rove.

Officials of three campaigns — Sen. Bob Dole, former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander and columnist Pat Buchanan — all said they are looking to do well in Texas.

Pauken said he thinks Dole's strength is greater and that he would carry the state today. But he cautioned that the Kansas senator needs to keep winning in the primaries leading up to March 12.



"Right now, I think that it's Dole's to lose," Pauken said.

"Clearly, Buchanan is emerging as the principal conservative alternative to a Dole candidacy. But he's going to have to knock Dole off in one of the primaries before Texas to be com-

petitive here," the GOP leader said.

In quitting the race Wednesday, Gramm declined to endorse any other candidate.

Dole has made several campaign appearances in Texas, and he reported raising more than \$1 million in the state.

In Texas, Dole campaigner Gary Bruner said the Kansan already was hearing from Gramm's supporters.

"This gives us a tremendous boost in Texas," Bruner said. "We will get a great number of the Gramm people to come over to our campaign. It's a contest now, we think, between Bob Dole and Pat Buchanan, and we think Bob Dole's going to carry Texas."

Rob Mosbacher, a Houston oilman who heads Alexander's Texas campaign, said their campaign also was feeling new momentum, especially with Alexander's third-place finish in the Iowa precinct caucuses Monday night.

"Lamar Alexander is an optimistic conservative. I think the country and the party are desperately looking for someone who could beat Bill Clinton with a positive message. He could do extremely well in Texas," Mosbacher said.

## News Digest

### New leukemia drug discovered

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists have found a drug that wiped out human leukemia cells in mice, giving them a potential weapon against the most common cancer in children.

The drug blocks a chemical signal that the acute lymphoblastic leukemia cells need to survive. The general idea behind the drug may also apply to finding new treatments for other types of cancer, said researcher Dr. Chaim Roifman.

Traditional chemotherapy cures most patients, but about 20 percent suffer a relapse. The new study focused on what to do in those cases.

### Wife gives kidney for holiday gift

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Noreen McGuire has already given her husband her heart. So for Valentine's Day, she's giving him one of her kidneys.

"We thought that would be a nice gift," she joked. "I told him that's all he's getting this year."

Surgery to transplant one of Mrs. McGuire's kidneys to her husband, Michael, began this morning at Stanford University Medical Center.

"It's a humbling experience," Mrs. McGuire said on the eve of the operation.

### Officer awakes from 7-year coma

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) — A police officer who was in a coma for more than seven years after he was shot in the head suddenly started talking, "like flipping on a light switch." He was quickly making jokes and talking with relatives on the phone.

"There's not but one way to describe it," family friend Tim Thompson said. "It's a miracle of God."

Gary Dockery, 39, was shot in the head by a drunken man while working in Walden, a town near Chattanooga. He had been in a coma ever since the September 1988 shooting.

### Police nab theft ringleader

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — Police have arrested the suspected leader of a burglary ring who they say placed orders for the items he wanted stolen — including dog food for his pet.

Guadalupe Yanez, 47, was arrested Tuesday and jailed on felony theft charges. Police said they're confident he's the ringleader of a gang responsible for up to 70 burglaries over the past nine months.

Among the items stolen were a \$5,000 computer that contained eight years of diabetes research and a Dallas Cowboys football helmet autographed by quarterback Troy Aikman.

### Baboons saved from floods

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — One by one, volunteers sedated anxious baboons and carried them to safety at a remote animal reserve Wednesday as threatening flood waters flowed under their cages.

One hundred baboons, as well as other wild animals, were in danger before the rescue operation began at the Animal Rehabilitation Center near the Kruger National Park.

The normally placid Olifants River that runs through the park, overwhelmed by five days of heavy rainfall, leapt its banks with a ferocity unseen since the center opened in 1963.

## 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.

TARRANT COUNTY YOUNG REPUBLICANS' monthly meeting will be 5:30 p.m. tonight at Celebrations restaurant, Camp Bowie and Hulen. Former mayor Kay Granger, Ernie Anderson and Ed Harrison will be guests. Call Cliff at 370-7187.

CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL STUDENTS meets at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays in Student Center Room 214 for dinner, a program and an evening prayer. Call Jonathan at 921-7830.

LEARNING DIFFERENCES SUPPORT will sponsor informative meetings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday at Starpoint School. The cost is

\$2 for non-members. Call 737-4818.

UNITING CAMPUS MINISTRIES meets at 4 p.m. Mondays in SC 211. All students are welcome. Call the University Ministries office at ext. 7830.

TCU INTERIORS ASSOCIATION will sponsor a tour of Joseph Minton's studio Monday. Meet at 3 p.m. at the Bass Building elevator. Call Kathy Sims at 924-2547.

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

APPLICATIONS FOR THE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM are available in the Bookstore. They are due Feb. 29.

MARCH 1 is the last day for the registrar to receive names of May degree candidates. Students who plan to graduate in May should file their intent immediately with their

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

THE ORGANIZATION OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDENTS meets at 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays in Student Center Room 211.

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

FREE LEGAL CONSULTATION is available from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the Student Center Annex. Call 921-7924.

CAMPUS CRUSADE has small group Bible studies at 7 p.m. Wednesdays in SC 205-206. All students are welcome.

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES meets at 9 p.m. Wednesdays at the Coliseum.

## The Adventures of Superfrog

by Ben Roman & Adam Wright



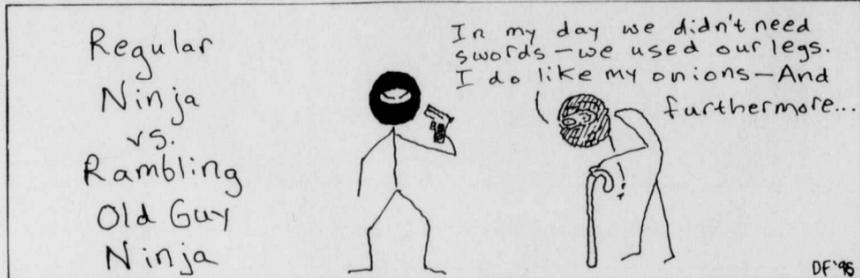
## The Beaten Path

by P. D. Magnus



## Ninja Verses

by Don Frederic



## PurplePoll

Are you going to Mardi Gras?

YES	NO
10	90

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

## Ratio

from page 1  
ing numbers put their accreditation in jeopardy, but keeping a low student-to-faculty ratio is crucial, especially in the social work program.

"It is important (keeping numbers low) because it is a professional program where you are sending out people to help others, and if they are not properly trained, they can do more harm than good," she said. "The larger

your classes are, the more diluted the interaction between faculty and students becomes. I want to know that the students who graduate with a social work degree are competent to practice. You want the best people providing care for people and it is very important that they are cut out for social work."

Spradling said there is no reason the department should lose its accreditation.

"It's ridiculous for TCU to lose accreditation over something they have control over," she said.

## Clarification

In Wednesday's sports section, an article said that Online with the Horned Frogs was the only Internet site available for TCU sports information. Terence Brockhausen also has a site online, <http://www.tcu.edu/scoreboard/tcusports/tcusport.htm>

## Weather Watch

Today will be slightly windy with a high in the lower 60s and a low in the mid 30s.

Friday will be partly cloudy and windy with a high in the 50s.

## TCU Daily Skiff

Since 1902

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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## Concerns

to change that so students can make comments at any time, not just during office hours.

Gardner said she has a meeting with Don Mills, vice chancellor for the Office of Student Affairs, Friday to discuss student concerns and to gather information from the administration.

She said she plans to talk to Mills about the parking situation and about the establishment of a campus-wide recycling program. She said she will re-enforce the need for new vacuum cleaners in the residence halls.



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## MISCELLANEOUS

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Chris Smith

## Bad resolutions discredit House

There are many on campus who would be happy to indulge the passerby with their theories on how student government should be disbanded. However valid some of their points may be, the presence of student government is needed at TCU.

However, the recent actions of the House of Representatives, for some students, have proved otherwise. Case in point is the use of resolutions in the House. Inherently, resolutions are a form of legislation calling for recognition in a passive form. Yet lately, the Student House has turned them into a soundless voice with trivial content.

The most recent faux pas of TCU's House was the passing of the "Support Cletus" resolution drummed up by our unopposed treasurer, Brian Spindor. For some reason, in his infinite wisdom, Spindor believed that commending the return of the "Dukes of Hazzard" was worth the time of the representatives.

The problem is it only passed 22-19. When a vast number of the representatives oppose a resolution of such flippancy, the author should respectfully withdraw said resolution. But instead, he made a fool out of himself and the workings of the House.

President Sharon Selby made a preemptive strike on the trivial by addressing the problem of miscommunication between the House and the student body.

She pointed out most students don't understand the reason behind resolutions. She also cited many of the resolutions House had passed in previous semesters that were indeed relevant to TCU.

Her entire message was tainted when the "Dukes of Hazzard" fiasco came into being. All of her accolades for the idea of House resolutions were destroyed by the flaming impudence of Mr. Spindor's tribute to Cooter and all his inbred cohorts. The timing of this Dixieland revival was perfect.

Not only did this celebration of the Confederacy pop up conveniently for Black History Month, but when this point was brought up, our beloved representative reaction was equal to crying "Long live Bo and Luke."

In the face of this mass quantity of triteness, the seriousness of other resolutions and bills are compromised. And they definitely don't speak for the student body. They speak for Brian Spindor's affinity for a certain TV show.

Now, in order to redeem themselves, the House wants to pass a resolution commending Marriott for excellent service. The flawed reasoning behind this, as espoused by the Food Service Committee, is that Marriott is far above the food providers at other schools.

Since when does this justify price gouging? They have a monopoly on food

### Modern Angst

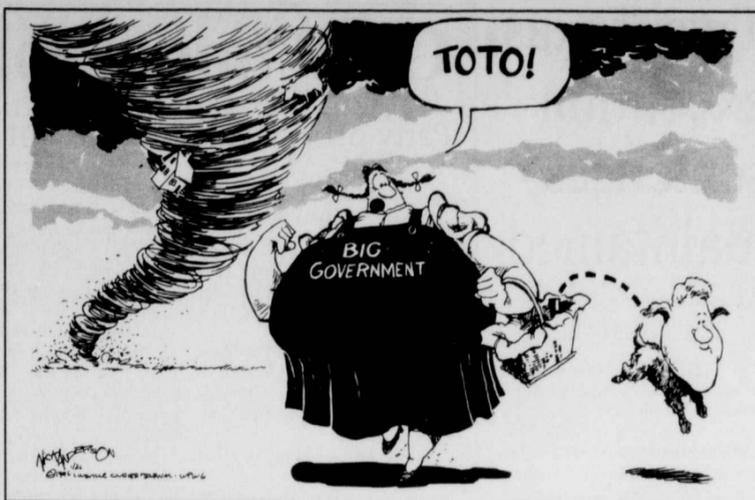


ditions to give reason for the existence of our own.

At best, Marriott is adequate, but NOT commendable.

The positions these representatives hold are not to be taken lightly. They are a mandate from the people. But for now, we as a student body must be content with a House that feels the need to trivialize the powers we bestow upon them. Or do we?

Christopher Donovan Smith is a junior history/sociology major from Burleson who, in his spare time, welds the doors on his car shut so he can jump in and out of them. Yeehaw!



Matt Pearce

## Alexander's record, goals make him primary choice

Now that the Iowa Caucus is behind us, the presidential campaign is a little clearer. Phil Gramm is gone, and Steve Forbes is falling.

Alan Keyes, Dick Lugar, Bob Dornan and Morry Taylor are finally realizing what the rest of us have known all along: they have as much chance of winning the race as Toronto Raptor Acie Earl has of being named NBA Most Valuable Player.

The one candidate who is starting to gain momentum is a Washington outsider, yet he has plenty of government experience. His name is Lamar Alexander.

Through his career as Tennessee governor, University of Tennessee president and U.S. Secretary of Education, Alexander has had an excellent record in keeping promises, reaching goals and spurring economic growth. He balanced eight budgets in Tennessee and improved the state's per capita income. When he left office in 1987, Tennessee had the nation's fifth lowest tax rate.

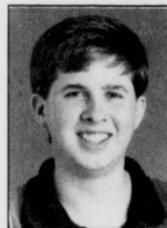
Alexander's strongest field is education. While governor, he enacted the first and, thus far, only successful program in the nation that gives bonus pay to good teachers. He also enacted the 10-Point Better Schools Program, which created a computer skills program for students, alternative schools, schools for the gifted, new organizations for educators and incentive programs for Tennessee's colleges and universities.

While president of the University of Tennessee, Alexander improved its math and science curricula and established its first full-year scholarship program. In 1988, he received the prestigious James B. Conant Award for "distinguished national leadership in education."

In 1991, Alexander was unanimously approved by the U.S. Senate for Secretary of Education. While in office, he created America 2000, a program aimed to encourage high academic standards, give low and middle-class families more flexibility in choosing schools, and give more decision-making power to states, communities and families.

As president, Alexander would deliver on his pledge to give power back to the states. The idea of abolishing the Department of Education has drawn controversy, but Alexander could manage this transition better than anyone. He would shift some of the responsibility to the states and move the rest to another federal institution. He would improve education and save money.

### Mass Conceptions



Alexander has been recognized throughout the nation as a conservationist. While governor, he found ways to set environmental regulations without hurting businesses. As president, he could easily do the same.

In other issues, Alexander opposes racial quotas and set-asides, strict gun control and drug legalization. He has pledged to revamp health care and welfare and give more control of Medicaid to the states. He also favors term limits for Congress. Given Alexander's record in Tennessee, there is no better choice for president.

Alexander is best known for his red and black flannel shirts, which have been a part of him since 1978. He is not making a fashion statement with the shirts. They symbolize the hard-working American people, who "know what's wrong with America, and more importantly, know what to do to fix it," according to Alexander. He has found more wisdom in these people than in Washington, D.C. politicians wearing "empty blue suits."

Those of you who are ABC voters (as in Anyone But Clinton) can have faith in Alexander. In 1992, Clinton won by faking a vision. He'll likely do the same this year. While Clinton's strategy has proven to be lethal, Alexander's legitimate vision is stronger. When November comes, people will see the real Alexander.

Many political "experts" see the GOP nomination as a race between Bob Dole and Forbes. One of them has an incomplete agenda, and the other's vocabulary is limited to the words "flat" and "tax." Another candidate, who has a complete agenda and refrains from caustic attack advertisements, is moving in. There is hope in defeating Clinton. It lies in Lamar Alexander.

Matt Pearce is a sophomore news-editorial major from Wenham, Mass. who celebrated Valentine's Day by kicking the crap out of a guy in a Cupid costume.

## Where is Everybody?

Poor attendance at events must improve significantly

Editorial

Roy Brooks, president of the minority leaders and citizen's council of Fort Worth and Black History Month speaker, spoke to about 20 people Tuesday night in the Moudy Building.

Twenty people? Not to mention that a *Skiff* photographer said some of that number included Brooks' family.

What does this low attendance say about TCU? It tells us how much apathy there is among the student body. It reminds us why we have such a poor perception of race relations. It reinforces the fact we are not making a difference in society by making the most of our college educations.

The university, Greeks, Programming Council, Students Reaching Out and many other groups bring countless speakers and groups to TCU every

semester for our benefit. Attendance at so many functions is unacceptably low.

Money and effort are spent to make us broader, better people, and we waste these people's time and talent by not going to see speakers or performances.

True, TCU has so much programming, many of us do not have time to go to everything offered. However, Black History Month and Brooks' speech are relevant to all. We all could improve our understanding of race relations and culture.

Surely more than 20 people out of the 7,500 at TCU had about an hour Tuesday night to listen to something worthwhile.

We should make an effort to improve ourselves and give these events a chance by attending them. That's what college is about, right?

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### Henning uninformed

In response to John Henning's challenge to "get out a writing instrument," I would like to say a few words regarding religion. The article, "Religious faith doesn't justify irrational claims," which appeared in the Feb. 8 edition of the *Skiff*, relies upon immature logic and inaccurate claims about religion to advance an unclear argument.

Like a beggar moving from door to

Letters

door, Mr. Henning appeals to a wide scope of historical events (recent strife in Bosnia, the plight of Native Americans and warring religious bodies in the Middle East) in an attempt to demonstrate his capacity for having "sound judgment and a clear head." To be sure, these are sensitive issues, and they deserve our attention, com-

passion and industry.

Mr. Henning, on the other hand, hammers these historical moments into his uninformed sense of philosophy and theology, using them to suggest the abandonment of religious values in the face of the human capacity to wage war. For Mr. Henning, religion is an "either-or" proposition; either relinquish those beliefs we have, or suffer war, violence and (per-

see Letters, page 8

Kylie Johnston

"Too bad religious radicals decide who will lie upon the altar."

## Religion not an excuse for killing innocents

Save your child. Shoot a drug dealer.

A bumper sticker recently offered me that sound advice. I sped ahead, expecting to see Phil Gramm or Pat Buchanan steering the car, loading multiple rifles and misquoting scriptures, but instead I saw a middle-aged man with a dangling cigarette. Just a regular-looking guy with a "witty" bumper sticker. Because it's just a joke, right? Extripate all druggies! Eliminate all temptations! Ha, ha. Regardless of how evil and life-threatening some people may view drugs and the horrors that sell them, no one would actually propose such absurdity. Right?

Wrong.

We could easily delete "drug dealer" and substitute "abortion doctor" or "abortion receptionist" or anyone walking within 50 yards of one of those cursed, child-sucking clinics. (For those of you who believe women should control their own bodies, a reminder: Abortion is wrong! And anyone associated with self-control is evil!) Shoot-

### Thus Spake Zarathustra

ing abortionists is commonplace and even commended by right-wing religious radicals.

Remember John Salvi? No reason his name should stand out above the crowd of religiously-motivated clinic attackers, but in Brookline, Mass., in 1994, his homemade, taped-together handgun sprayed bullets into the backs, necks and hearts of innocents who happened to believe in a woman's right to choose. And outside of Salvi's jail, a religious leader with a gory banner and a megaphone in hand whooped and cheered,



hailing Salvi as a god. He said, "Why is the life of a receptionist worth more than the life of 50 innocent human babies?"

Too bad these sacrificial deaths aren't voluntary. Too bad inept, neurotic religious radicals decide who will lie upon the altar.

But, folks, we're talking about that ubiquitous religion here: buffet religion. A scoop of dogma and a hearty serving of non-sequitur. Take what you want. Interpret how you please. Just turn the other cheek when the context clues reveal that the Christian command — *Thou shalt not kill* — really means just that.

It's a quid pro quo of sorts. You offend my dogma; I kill you. What a literal way to interpret a piece of the Bible. An eye for an eye; your tooth for my tooth.

But this absurdity — this vindictive, illogical reasoning — has seeped into our judicial system. America's judicial system is so just that 38 of our 50 states enforce the death penalty. But our government's proclamation of life as expendable is not the kicker. Nor is

the view that revenge is copacetic and legal. The mind blower: relatives of the victim can now view the execution.

And last Friday was Texas' first gloating fest, with a dying Leo Jenkins watched by five of his victims' family members. The victims' mother said: "As that man died, I had total anger for him... I'm glad he's off this Earth." And her sister said: "It's like a favor to (the victims): a life for a life."

Proponents of this live "Faces of Death" say viewing executions lends closure to the family, but, rather, it simply perpetuates the anger and the notion that revenge is the American Way. Capital punishment reeks of the harsh, vengeful mentality of the "Shoot the drug dealer" bumper sticker.

I've got a novel idea: Instead of eliminating another life, how about we kill the death penalty?

Kylie Johnston is a senior religion-studies/English major who applauds any and all dissections of her opinion columns.

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## Two Texas execution sentences maintained

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals upheld two death sentences Wednesday, including a murder-for-hire case from Fort Worth and another against an Amarillo man who says he wants to die.

In the Fort Worth case, the court upheld the death sentence against Jeffrey Dillingham, who was convicted of capital murder in the March 1992 death of Caren Koslow.

Mrs. Koslow's stepdaughter, Kristi, offered Dillingham \$1 million to kill her parents, according to court records. She was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Dillingham said in a confession to police that he, his accomplice and Ms. Koslow initially planned a robbery, but escalated it to murder-for-hire. He said he forced Mrs. Koslow and her husband, Jack, to lay on the floor, where he beat them with an iron pry bar.

Medical examiners said Mrs. Koslow suffocated after her larynx was crushed.

Jack Koslow suffered several blows but escaped.

Dillingham raised 35 points of error in his conviction. The court rejected all of them in upholding his sentence.

In the Amarillo case, Joe F. Gonzales Jr. pleaded guilty in the 1992 shooting death of 50-year-old William J. Veader during a robbery of Veader's home.

Gonzales, who represented himself through the trial and appeal, said in a statement to police that Veader owed him money from work he did for Veader's roofing company.

## GOP hopes for '76 in '96'

Party officials think control of Legislature within reach

By MICHAEL HOLMES  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — It's been a long time, but Republican Party officials say control of the Texas Legislature might be within the GOP's grasp this year.

To them, "76 in '96" is more than a rhyme. It's a call to arms to try to take charge of the 150-member state House for the first time since the 1870s.

Across the Capitol rotunda, the GOP already holds 14 of the 31 Senate seats and needs two more to take control.

"For the first time ever, most of the winnable legislative seats currently occupied by Democrats will have Republican challengers," said state GOP Chairman Tom Pauken.

Taking control is "a possibility," he said. "It's our goal. We understand the difficulty of it. We've got

a ways to go."

Not so fast, responds new state Democratic Chairman Bill White, who lists keeping control of the House and Senate as one of his party's top goals for 1996.

"There's a lot at stake in the state House, and we'll mobilize and do whatever it takes to keep control of the state Senate," he said. "We are going to work at the grassroots in order to make that happen."

In the last Legislature, Republicans held 64 House seats, meaning they need a net gain of 12 to take over. All 150 seats are up for election.

Janet Warren, spokeswoman for House Speaker Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, said 72 incumbent House members have no opposition in either the March 12 primary or the November general election.

Another 65 incumbents face opponents in one or both elections: 17 have a primary opponent only, 39 face only a general election opponent, and nine face opponents in both. Thirteen House seats have no incumbents running, Warren said.

Fifteen Senate seats are up in this election, and incumbents are seeking re-election to all but three, said Cindy Rugeley, spokeswoman for Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock.

No Democrat is running to succeed Sen. Don Henderson, R-Houston, who's leaving the Senate to run for Congress. Two Democratic senators, Bill Sims of San Angelo and Peggy Rosson of El Paso, are retiring.

According to the Texas Almanac's "Political History of Texas," it's been a very long time since the GOP wielded the legislative gavel.

## Gang shooting wounds 16

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — A grand jury will try to identify those responsible for a weekend suburban gang shooting that injured 16 people, including three who remained hospitalized Wednesday, officials say.

The case was being referred to a grand jury because the gang members weren't cooperating with investigators or the Harris County district attorney's office, said Pasadena Police Chief Tommy Shane.

"There are some advantages to going before the grand jury — you have to testify under oath," he said, adding perjury charges can be filed if someone lies during the proceedings.

Officials believe four gunmen were responsible for the shooting that started about 3 a.m. Sunday at a Pasadena apartment complex after a face-off between two gangs attending separate parties there.

On Tuesday, police charged 10 people with engaging in organized criminal activity for an attack after the melee that occurred as two suspects were being taken to jail.

Two people were injured after being kicked while en route to jail in a paddy wagon, Police Capt. A.H. Corbett said. One suffered a fractured foot and a ruptured eardrum as well as abrasions and contusions, while another refused medical treatment for superficial

wounds.

Police believe one of the men charged Tuesday is one of the trigger men and that the other three escaped the scene.

Two people who had been listed in critical condition as a result of the shooting were upgraded on Wednesday, a spokesman for Hermann Hospital said. A 19-year-old woman was in fair condition and a 19-year-old man was in good condition. Another 22-year-old man also was in good condition.

All but one of the 16 wounded suffered injuries from shotgun pellets. A 19-year-old man was shot in the neck with a pistol, Corbett said.

Police recovered 28 rounds from the complex's courtyard.

## Seven found guilty in money order plot

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN ANTONIO — Seven defendants, some of whom repeatedly challenged a federal judge's authority and claimed Texas is not part of the United States, have been convicted in federal court of mail fraud.

The court case focused on more than \$400,000 in worthless money orders used to purchase vehicles and other property and to pay off debts.

Tuesday's verdict ended a bizarre three-week trial in which four of the accused represented themselves and defendants continually questioned U.S. District Judge Ed Prado's authority and integrity.

Several defendants previously had tangled with the Internal Revenue Service for not paying taxes and believe Texas is a sovereign state, not part of the United States, according to court documents.

The defendants claimed they were innocent and that they used the money orders in good faith. Some of their lawyers indicated they would appeal.

Federal prosecutor Bill Harris said the money-order scheme was a protest against the banking system and that the defendants knew what they were doing.

"We believe it's part of the federal government's role to prosecute those who would take advantage of and

defraud individuals and financial institutions," Harris said.

Billy Mack O'Neill, 56; Michael Joseph Kearns, 54; Earl Oscar Forester, 62; Wayne Slater, 63; Vicki Slater, 38; Clarence Ray Mikolajczyk, 44; and Patricia Rae Koehler were found guilty on various counts of mail fraud.

Six of the seven also were convicted of conspiracy.

O'Neill was not on trial for conspiracy. He was found guilty of conspiracy in a related case in Dallas in December.

Oliver Neal Paulson, 63, was acquitted.

According to court testimony, an

operation called U.S.A. First in Waxahachie sold financial packages to customers for \$300 each. Each packet contained six money orders with directions on how to use them.

Norman Summers, 20, who worked for U.S.A. First, testified the money orders could not be cashed.

Halfway through the trial Kearns disappeared, saying in an affidavit he would appear at a common-law court in Tarrant County on Saturday. Anti-government activists frequently cite so-called "common law" courts as the court they recognize.

Prado issued an arrest warrant, but Kearns remains a fugitive.

Sentencing is set for May 10.

## Educators want to keep standard

Passing classes with a '70' not in law

By PEGGY FIKAC  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Teacher groups are urging Texas education officials not to retreat from a grade 70 passing standard despite a new law that state lawmakers say limits their power to tell school districts what to do.

The State Board of Education is scheduled to vote Friday on a rule proposed by Education Commissioner Mike Moses outlining curriculum requirements.

The rule doesn't include the 70 percent standard for passing courses.

That's because the Legislature, in revamping the state education law last year, eliminated that standard as the minimum passing requirement.

The law does retain a requirement for a grade of 70 in some areas, perhaps most notably in its no-pass, no-play requirement: It restricts students' participation in extracurricular activities if they get a grade lower than 70 in a regular class.

The law also identifies students as "at risk" if they don't maintain the equivalent of a 70 in two or more courses. And if a school district provides tutorial services, students with a grade lower than a 70 must attend them.

Rene Lara of the Texas Federation of Teachers said such provisions show that lawmakers intended to keep 70 as the overall passing standard.

"We believe the state board and the commissioner should clarify that these changes do not manifest a legislative intent to water down academic standards. We believe that legislative intent was quite the contrary," he told a public hearing Wednesday.

Mike McLamore of the Association of Texas Professional Educators said maintaining the 70 percent requirement "would continue a statewide academic standard that protects the quality of learning expected of all students among all school districts."

Debbie Graves Ratcliffe — spokeswoman for the Texas Education Agency, which is headed by Moses — said state officials are trying to follow the law.

"Our lawyers don't think we have the authority to put that (70 percent

standard) in board rule any more," she said.

While school districts have the authority to set another passing standard, she said state officials don't expect them to do so.

"If your football kids and your band kids have to pass at 70, do you really want to set an 80 standard for your English students or a 60 standard for your math students?" she asked.

Moses also is recommending that graduation standards be strengthened by adding mandatory technology and speech courses.

But he has backed off a call to eliminate graduation credit for high school remedial reading courses in the face of concern from parents, educators and school counselors. Instead, he is recommending a reduction in the number of credits students receive for those courses.

"You will receive many comments about this and, as a result, I am modifying the commissioner's original recommendation to allow for three credits of Reading Improvement through 1996-97, two credits through 1998-99 and only one credit after that time," Moses said in a letter to board members.

Opponents of eliminating the credit had expressed concern that students who need the courses might no longer take them. Moses' change comes in the wake of a push by Gov. George W. Bush to emphasize reading.

Moses' overall proposal would increase the minimum number of credits required for graduation from 21 to 22. Students get a half-credit for each semester of coursework in a particular area.

The new requirements would apply to students entering the ninth grade 1997-98.

In addition to English, math, science, social studies, economics, physical education and health, the proposal would require students to have a half-credit of speech and one credit of technology applications — such as a computer class — to graduate.

The number of credits for elective courses in the minimum required program would be reduced from seven to 6 1/2.

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## Crusaders offer rate tips

By JOHN CUNIFF  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — It's amazing, says Joe Mintz, whose mission in life is prodding financial institutions into being up front with the public and educating the public about watching its dollars.

"Amazing," he says again in his Texas drawl. "When I buy a can of beans the label tells me clearly what I get and what I pay for. But when I lend money to my bank they can't tell me precisely what I'll get back."

All Mintz wants from them is a clear answer to questions like this: If I lend my money to you — that is, buy a CD from you — for five years, will you please tell me in dollars and cents exactly how much I'll get back?

He has tested questions like this around the country and is surprised when he receives a correct answer. Or any answer. Lenders prefer instead to just restate the simple interest rate.

Simple interest can be, and is often meant to be, deceiving. It hides from view, for example, how often the amount is compounded, and compounding can make enormous differences in the total yield.

Mintz said he wants them to tell him the annual yield, which eliminates all the bother about how often the interest is compounded. With that, he can calculate in seconds how much money he is due at the end of the time period.

In this way, he says, customers can shop for the best price, as they

can for beans. Tiny differences in price can turn into big sums over time, even allowing a couple, for example, to retire earlier.

"If I can do it, why can't lenders?" he asks a listener, and before the listener can answer he continues, his usually calm voice

work is to be reduced, and 2. An overabundance of information can confuse rather than inform consumers.

Says Morse, a legend in financial and consumer education and legislation, "Exactly what evidence has been presented by bankers that it costs them more to tell the truth?" What is this fear, he asks, of consumers being informed?

He scoffs. Do banks mean to suggest they cannot handle their own accounts? That their computers cannot do what the local gasoline pump accomplishes in pricing its product to the hundredth of a gallon and the precise cent?

Both Morse and Mintz are super-active 79-year-olds. With decades of effort endangered (testifying, writing, publishing, educating, etc.), Morse has been beseeching Congress and the Federal Reserve. Mintz has another idea.

Mintz suggests: "Write a simple letter expressing your opposition to reducing requirements of Truth in Savings, and that you want the bill to show in real dollars the results at the end of the savings period."

If you send the letter to Joe Mintz at Box 12066, Dallas, Texas 75225, he promises to hand carry it to sponsors of the bills, H.R. 2520 by Rep. Jim Leach, R-Iowa, and S.650, by Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala.

In the meantime, you can find the yields in dollars and cents that bank and insurers find difficult to provide, and which wouldn't be required if the law is changed, with "Joe's Instant Yield Calculations," offered at \$8.75.

rising: "When you borrow money, they darn sure spell out your obligation in real money."

He's right. They can. And under the law, the Truth in Savings Act, they are required to declare the "annual percentage yield," rather than befuddle you with such vague promises as "We pay more," or "We pay interest daily."

Bad enough that the law isn't observed, says Richard L.D. Morse, the father of Truth in Savings, but proposals now before the Senate and House would trash it under the guise of reducing paperwork regulations and costs.

Those who defend the bills contend that 1. Some items inevitably must be cut from the law if paper-

work is to be reduced, and 2. An overabundance of information can confuse rather than inform consumers.

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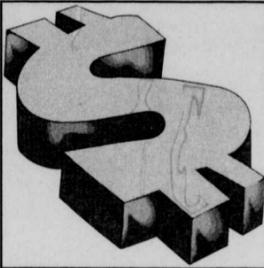
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## Dow Corning wins case

### Insurance companies must pay \$1 billion in damages

By BRIAN S. AKRE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — A jury ruled Wednesday that dozens of insurance companies should pay Dow Corning Corp.'s claims for its costly breast-implant litigation. The ruling could cost the insurers as much as \$1 billion.

The verdict came after 24 days of deliberations. The jury of six men and three women heard nearly 34 months of testimony in Wayne County Circuit Court.

The civil trial involved 43 insurance companies, including some of the nation's largest. The insurers, including Home Insurance Co., Employers Insurance of Wausau and Allstate Insurance Co., sold product-liability policies to Dow Corning from 1962 to 1985.

Dow Corning sued the companies after they refused to pay its claims for settling and defending against a deluge of implant lawsuits that began in 1992. It cited the cost of the litigation and the insurers' refusal to pay when it filed for Chapter 11 reorganization in federal bankruptcy court at Bay City last year.

Dow Corning said the money will go toward settling claims filed by thousands of women who allege they suffered a variety of ailments from breast implants. Those claims eventually will be resolved in the Bankruptcy Court.

The insurers argued that they should not have to pay because Dow Corning misrepresented the risk of litigation that implants posed. They alleged the company withheld information about problems with implants and the doubts some doctors had about the devices' long-term safety. They also argued the product was put on the market in 1964 with inadequate testing.

Dow Corning said complications caused by implants, such as hardening of breast tissue and ruptures, were widely known long before the insurers balked at paying Dow Corning's claims. The company said it provided the insurers with all the information they sought.

The company also argued that its executives did not anticipate the litigation explosion, which occurred after a couple of large verdicts and a moratorium on most implants by the Food and Drug Administration.

Those verdicts involved a new allegation, that implants cause immune-related diseases.

Dow Corning attorneys stressed that scientific studies have shown no link between implants and any diseases. The company maintains the verdicts against it have been based more on emotion than fact.

The insurers' attorneys agreed there was no link, but suggested that the claims filed by more than 440,000 women against all implant manufacturers indicate there is something wrong with the product.

Dow Corning settled out of court with 12 insurers for a total of \$375.3 million before the trial began. Several other settlements were pending, including a partial settlement with the largest insurer in the case, American International Group Inc. Details had not been announced by Wednesday.

From January 1992 to last May, Dow Corning had received about \$127 million from its insurers for implant-related judgments, settlements and legal expenses.

Midland-based Dow Corning is co-owned by Dow Chemical Co. and Corning Inc.

## Rapist terrorizes Louisiana

By CHUCK BARTELS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A "blue light rapist" and others mimicking him have raped, accosted or chased more than a dozen women since November, and State Police are warning women about pulling over for unmarked cars at night.

In communities from northeastern Arkansas to northern Louisiana, a predator using a police-style flashing blue light has pulled over women traveling alone. A 15-year-old cheerleader was raped after a basketball game last month by a man driving a white Oldsmobile with a blue light.

"People in Pine Bluff are scared," said Debbie Workman, a receptionist at an office in charge of collecting court fines. "I don't go out at night without my husband."

The assaults grew steadily worse before last month's rape. A woman in St. Francis County was assaulted Nov. 30; another woman drove away Dec. 4 after a man who stopped her near Brinkley got out of his car wearing a mask. The 15-year-old was raped Jan. 9 near Forrest City.

A blue light has been involved in at least nine other incidents in which the women escaped unharmed.

Because the incidents have occurred over a wide area, police suspect that some of them were carried out by copycats.

In an undetermined number of other cases, women have reported that men without blue lights flashed their headlights or honked to get them to pull over.

State Police are urging women to report any suspicious activity and are warning those traveling not to stop for an unmarked car until they are in a well-lit area with several

people around.

That's advice Workman said she's following. "I'm not the kind of person that's going looking for trouble," she said Wednesday.

The instructions have caused problems for Arkansas' township constables, said Harry "Dusty" Rhodes, a constable for 20 years and president of the state constable association.

"We can't do our duty the way we should. No one wants to stop," he said.

Constables, who typically deliver summonses, are usually unpaid and untrained but have the power to make certain traffic stops.

They are not required under state law to wear uniforms, but they must carry a badge and have a marked vehicle, even though most drive pickup trucks. Often, the marking is a blue light on the dashboard.

Dr. Robert Gale, an assistant professor of psychology at University of Arkansas Medical Center in Little Rock, said the initial attacker may be a quasi-law officer, such as a constable or a security guard.

Police say they have investigated hundreds of potential suspects, mostly men previously implicated in sex crimes. No clear suspect has emerged.

In St. Francis County, in the heart of the area where the attacks began, Sheriff David Parkman said he and other sheriffs have had to develop new codes to talk about the case over the radio.

"It would surprise me if (the attacker) doesn't have a scanner," Parkman said.

Los Angeles was terrorized in the 1940s by Caryl Chessman, who became known as the "red light bandit."

## Man guilty of mail bombing wife

By STEPHEN W. DILL  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WILMINGTON, N.C. — A man was convicted Wednesday of mailing a pipe bomb that blew off several of his wife's fingers and injured one of her co-workers.

Jurors also found Stephan Bullis guilty of sending a second bomb to his wife's office building. That one was discovered in a mail bin and detonated after his arrest.

Tracy Bullis smiled as the verdict was read, then sobbed quietly, along with Judith Harrison, the co-worker who was slightly injured. She had cried in court last week when she removed a glove to show her mangled hand.

Bullis, 31, remained motionless.

His public defender said he would likely be sentenced to life in prison, plus 40 years. He also faces a possible \$1.5 million fine.

"Life means life in federal court," attorney Michael Howell said.

Prosecutors said Bullis was a cold, calculating man who was having an affair and bombed his wife July 10 after her life-insurance benefits were increased. They also said he faked his tears on the witness stand when asked his reaction to seeing his wife's mangled hand for the first time.

"Did any of you see any real tears, or did you see an acting job?" Assistant U.S. Attorney John Bennett asked the jury. "I submit to you that no real tears came from that man's eyes."

The defense said evidence was circumstantial and pointed to someone else. Howell also suggested that Bullis' fingerprints had been planted on the second bomb.

The bomb left a crater in Mrs. Bullis' desk, shattered glass and scattered blood and bomb fragments around the fifth floor of Business Telecom Inc. in Raleigh, the long-distance telephone company where she worked.

Bullis, a project manager at rival MCI Telecommunications Corp., admitted on the stand that he had been having an affair. At the time of the bombing, the couple had been married five years, and Mrs. Bullis told investigators she thought their marriage was a happy one.

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## Concert page 1

"I just had to be more in the center of music," Martin said. "And I wasn't brave enough to go to New York and thought California was too expensive, so I moved to Nashville."

Martin's musical talent led her to open for such folk singers as Cheryl Wheeler, Tish Hinojosa, Sara Hickman, Christian pop artist Cindy Morgan, and virtuoso guitarist Phil

Keaggy. Her songwriting skills include her recognition as a finalist in the internationally acclaimed Kerrville Folk Competition in 1994 and the B.W. Stevenson Competition in 1993.

Martin's latest release, "By the Waves" is a collection of haunting songs "from a woman who just realizes the power of mercy and life," she said. Her throaty vocals whisper the pains and loves of her life. "Whatsoever You Do" is a melodic tale of needy people who see every day. "By the Waves"

can transport listeners to the ocean as they flow with Martin's music. "Lydia" is the sad story of a woman who's had "one of those days, for 15 years." And "About Us" questions the concept and direction of relationships.

"Performing on stage is where I feel completely at home," Martin said. "I can be kind of quiet and shy offstage, but put a microphone in front of me, and a metamorphosis begins. I don't know that person from any other part of my life. There's a humor that just wouldn't happen in your living room. I have no inhibitions, no fear of putting my heart out to an audience."

During her concert this weekend, Martin will be accompanied by percussion, a bass guitar and background vocals.

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## Men's basketball loses two guards

### Sources say Parks, Bragg dismissed by Coach Tubbs

By ERNESTO MORAN  
TCU DAILY SKIFF

The TCU men's basketball team lost two players Tuesday who said they will transfer to other schools at the end of the semester.

There are conflicting reports, however, about the departing terms of sophomore guard Juan Bragg and freshman guard Princeton Parks.

A press release from the TCU sports information office said that according to head coach Billy Tubbs, the players left by mutual agreement.

But sources on the team said that once the two players notified Tubbs of their plans to transfer, he dismissed them from the squad for the rest of the season.

Bragg and Parks each met individually

with Tubbs before practice Tuesday to inform him of their intentions, both players said.

"Basically, he (Tubbs) heard a rumor that I was going to transfer," Bragg said. "He asked me about it, and I confirmed it. He felt like I shouldn't return and play the rest of the games, and I agreed."

Sources close to the team, who asked that they not be identified, told the *Skiff* that both players had intended to finish the season, but were pushed out by Tubbs.



Princeton Parks

Parks said that it was not his idea to leave the team before the season ended. He said both he and Bragg were planning to practice the day they broke the news to Tubbs.

"I would've played the rest of the season," Parks said. "I like the guys on the team. We were suited up and everything, ready to play. But once we told him (Tubbs), he said there was no sense in us coming back if we were not going to be here next year."

Tubbs had no comment on the matter



Juan Bragg

after Wednesday night's loss to Houston.

"That's a closed subject," he said. Bragg was last season's Southwest Conference Newcomer of the Year, when he averaged 15.6 points per game and 6.1 assists per game. But this year, he missed 11 games with a strained hamstring and was averaging 9.3 points, 2.6 rebounds and 3.3 assists in the 12 games he did play.

Parks also saw limited action this season, averaging 2.8 points in 13 contests. Both players graduated from Eastern Hills High School in Fort Worth.

Parks said he wants to go to school further away from home.

"I told him, 'Coach, I'm transferring,'" Parks said. "He asked me why I wasn't



TCU Daily Skiff/ Rebecca Newitt  
Head coach Billy Tubbs directs his team from the sidelines.

see Guards, page 8

## Swim teams face tough matches vs. SWC foes

By SCOTT RUSSELL  
TCU DAILY SKIFF

The Horned Frog men's and women's swimming and diving teams will travel to College Station today to participate in the final Southwest Conference Swimming and Diving Championships.

Head coach Richard Sybesma said that all of his swimmers are tapered, or well rested, and have shaved their entire bodies in preparation for the championships.

"All of our kids are peaked," Sybesma said. "We should have 3 to 4 swimmers on each team with a good shot at qualifying for the NCAA Championships."

However, the Horned Frogs will have their hands full at the championships — three SWC men's and women's teams are among the nation's Top 20.

The men will face No. 3 Texas, No. 8 Southern Methodist and No. 20 Texas A&M; the women will face No. 2 SMU, No. 6 Texas and No. 19 A&M. The Horned Frogs have come up short against these teams already this season in Dual Meet Competition.

Individually, future Nicaraguan Olympian and TCU senior Walter Soza and freshman sensation Maggie Topolski look to win the men's and women's 400-yard individual medley, respectively.

Other Horned Frogs to watch on the men's side will be junior Chris Kern, freshmen Jason Flint and Mischa Somerville and senior Matt Houston. Other Lady Horned Frog standouts will be junior Sheila Hewerdine, junior Deirdre Steven, senior Jamie Tawwater and senior Heather Renders.

The absence of top diver, sophomore Adam Knippa, could hurt the men's team. Knippa will not be making the trip to College Station for medical reasons.

However, junior Jeff Moehling and senior Nate Noyes have both joined the team late in the season to give the Horned Frogs a full three-man squad for the championships.

The women divers will be lead by sophomore Sarah Crawford, who should have a shot at making this year's Zone NCAA Championships, said head diving coach Chip Weiss.

The Championships will begin tonight and continue through Saturday in College Station.

The Aggies will host the event at the new Texas A&M Student Recreation Center Natatorium. The Natatorium, which was completed in October, has a seating capacity of 2,500 and is said to be one of the finest new facilities in the nation.

"A&M's brand new facility is one of the best in the country," Sybesma said. "Our teams are looking forward to competing in their new pool."



TCU Daily Skiff/ Rebecca Newitt

Junior guard Anthony Burks, starting in place of the departed Juan Bragg, struggled against Houston on Wednesday night, shooting 2-12 from the field.

## Frogs fall short against Houston

### Men's loss to Cougars is third straight

By ERNESTO MORAN  
TCU DAILY SKIFF

The TCU men's basketball team, playing under the shadow of two teammates' departure, lost its third straight game, 86-82 to the Houston Cougars on Wednesday night at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

The Frogs, 11-13 overall and 2-7 in the Southwest Conference, lost for the fourth time in their last five contests, all of them in the SWC. Houston upped its record to 13-8, 7-2 in the SWC.

Sophomore Juan Bragg and freshman Princeton Parks said Tuesday that they plan to transfer at the end of the semester.

Sophomore forward James Penny's 19 points, eight rebounds, six assists and five steals led the Frogs in all four categories. After the game, Penny said the absence of Bragg and Parks had little effect on the team's performance.

"It was just another game," Penny said.

Sophomore forward Dennis Davis, who had a season-high of 15 points, said the losing the former teammates served as motivation to play well.

"If anything, it gave us more drive to go out there and show that we can do it," Davis said.

Penny said the Frogs were driven more by the embarrassment of Sunday's 102-81 loss at home to Texas.

"We got our butts kicked by Texas," Penny said. "If you've seen us get our butts kicked before, we come out with a lot of emotion (afterwards)."

"We didn't take too well to that loss.

And we're not taking too well to this one, either."

In a see-saw battle that saw 15 first-half lead changes, the Cougars had the last word.

"I thought the turning point of the game was the last two and a half minutes of the first half," Tubbs said. "The last play of the half was a real turning point in the game."

After a field goal by freshman center Damion Walker at the 2:57 mark put the Frogs up, 40-37, Houston finished the half with an 8-0 run. The Frogs had the ball and seemingly the last shot, as the game clock and shot clock both read :35. But after the Frogs misfired, the Cougars' Kenya Capers put in a layup with two seconds left. The clock ran out before the Frogs could inbound the ball.

"We got the ball for the last shot, and we're not supposed to put it up with a chance for them to respond," Tubbs said. "We went from being three (points) up to five down (45-40). And then we chased the rest of the night."

The Frogs took their last lead, 48-47, on a three-pointer by junior guard Jeff Jacobs with 18:31 to play in the game.

Led by Penny, the Frogs turned in a strong defensive effort, totaling 11 steals. But TCU struggled at the offensive end, shooting just 38 percent from the field.

"Our offense really got us into trouble," Tubbs said. "We're not getting things done offensively."

The Frogs travel to Waco to face Baylor at 7 p.m. Saturday.

## Baseball Insider: '96 team the next SWC champs?

By GAVIN MILLAY  
TCU DAILY SKIFF

I cannot express to you the bewilderment that coursed through my veins last Friday and Saturday. There I sat, with my rump firmly rooted to the stands as I watched three hard-fought and thrilling TCU baseball games. Yet to my right and to my left, only a sparse crowd of onlookers shared what I was watching. In other words, where were the fans? Yeah, you!

Surely you cannot forget that your TCU baseball team won the SWC Championship outright in 1994, just

less than two years ago. I don't see too many other TCU athletic teams boasting this honor. The reason why I bring this up is because I see the same type of chemistry in this team as in the championship team of 1994. Furthermore, I see a lot of talent that was vacant in the '94 team.



Gavin Millay

Case in point, game three of the series discussed below. TCU took two out of three from Oral Roberts: 13-2, 2-3 and 10-9. In case you didn't know, those are some exciting baseball scores. In the last game of the series, you could catch glimpses of the '94 team. TCU was down 6-1 at one point, but there was a sense they knew a comeback victory was inevitable. Finally, forging ahead to a 10-9 lead in the top of the ninth, closer Erik Brown, highly reminiscent of the '94 closer Tim Grieve, struck out the side for the victory. I mean, the man really dropped the hammer on the Oral Roberts final

defense of hitters.

A synopsis of Tarleton State can be encapsulated in the next four sentences. TCU broke the school record for home runs with seven and the school RBI record with 22. Frog third baseman Matt Howe tied a SWC record with six hits, clearing the TCU record of five. The 53 total bases is one short of the SWC record of 54. All this equals a 23-5 romp in Stephenville.

I asked TCU right fielder Ryan Dunn, who hit two home runs against

see Baseball, page 8

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TCU Daily Skiff/Blake Sims

# Mardi Gras Madness

BY GINGER D. RICHARDSON  
TCU DAILY SKIFF

*This article is based partially on information provided by Skiff New Orleans correspondent Mark Mourer, who has been living and drinking in the French Quarter since graduating from TCU in December.*

It is an annual rite of passage that happens every February.

During the second weekend of the month, a multitude of Horned Frogs leave Fort Worth and descend, along with 600,000 other tourists, on the tiny area in southern Louisiana known as the French Quarter.

What awaits is a wild weekend of mostly unspeakable activities on the streets of Mardi Gras.

Mark Mourer, a former Skiff campus editor and member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, has graciously (and perhaps unwisely) opened his home to his brethren from Fort Worth.

"I've got tons of people from school coming out here," he said. "There are 10 confirmed in my apartment right now, and I've got another house set up for possible overflow."

Truthfully, most people who attend Mardi Gras, also known as Fat Tuesday, are not all that concerned about where they stay. In fact, students visiting the home of drunken debauchery probably spend as much time worrying about living accommodations as

they do sleeping while they are there.

"Finding a place that you're comfortable staying at during Mardi Gras should not be your objective," Mourer said. "Finding any place to stay is the goal — people should not be above sleeping on a park bench or in a doorway."

But members of the International Student Association have decided to go all out for their annual Mardi Gras trek.

Ralph Goedderz, president of ISA, said the organization has rented a bus to transport 20 of its members to the festivities.

"It's great because we have a ride there and back — no one has to worry about drinking and driving, and the bus will pick us up at a designated meeting point at 2 a.m. to take us back to the hotel," he said.

Goedderz, who has never been to Mardi Gras before, said he was looking forward to having a great time.

"I've heard that it is crazy, but I come from Cologne, Germany, where there are a lot of outdoor festivals, so Mardi Gras would have to be pretty crazy to surprise me," he said.

Today's Mardi Gras is synonymous with excess — too much drinking, too much dancing, too many parades, too many people — and too much to do in such a short period of time.

And although it may seem a little ironic, Mardi Gras actually has

some religious significance attached to it.

The festival is always celebrated on the Tuesday that is 46 days before Easter. That Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, or the start of Lent.

The early beginnings of the festival can be traced back to the early 1700s when New Orleans, while under French rule, began celebrating pre-Lenten balls. The tradition continued until the late 1700s, during which time Spain took over the territory and banned all Mardi Gras celebration.

For more than 30 long years, the streets of New Orleans were quiet during the months of January and February — even after the United States assumed control of the territory through the Louisiana Purchase.

It wasn't until 1823 that the Creoles finally convinced the Americans to reinstate the balls and celebrations of the previous century.

But the real fun didn't begin until 1827, when masking on the street was legalized. And less than a decade later, the first costumed revelers marched down the streets of the French Quarter in the first documented parade.

It's no secret Mardi Gras is one of the world's best parties, and it wasn't long before the festival's appeal spread globally — or at least to the ears of the Russian Grand Duke, Alexis Romanoff.

When the Russian nobility decided to join the party in 1872,

a civic-minded group decided to form a parade called "Rex," in his honor.

Shortly after, Rex became King of the Carnival and an international symbol of the holiday; it was also from the "Rex" parade that Mardi Gras got its traditional colors — namely purple, green and gold.

The annual celebration has grown ever since, and the street festivals that originated in the mid-1800s have turned into the central attraction of Mardi Gras. The parades run at least every day — sometimes several times a day — during the Carnival season.

The color and flamboyance of these festivals packs the well-known streets of the French Quarter — Bourbon, Royal and Decatur — with hundreds of thousands of reveling tourists.

If it's outlandish you'll find it in New Orleans — from the masks to the costumes to the things people will do to earn the ever-coveted beads.

"You would not believe how this town has been gearing up for this," Mourer said. "The cultural exchange is amazing — there's floats, marching bands, parades, great food — everything."

Of course, at an outdoor party of this size, you're bound to run into some people you would rather avoid.

"You will see people with hair the color of the rainbow and multiple body piercings who will ask you for change on every corner,"

Mourer said. "My advice to you is not to give them any."

Mourer said he also recommends eating as much as possible during the Mardi Gras experience — not only to offset the affects of hurricanes — but also to experience some of "the finest dining in the world."

"Nobody who comes here should pass up the opportunity to eat here," he said. "Because no one takes their food more seriously than the chefs in New Orleans — and as an added bonus, its crawfish season again."

The only downside to all this Mardi Gras Madness has historically been the fear of rampant crime on the streets of New Orleans during Carnival season.

But Mourer said that Mardi Gras is fairly safe.

"You always hear about two or three incidents, but for the size of the crowd, the risk is really small," he said. "Man, don't mess with the cops out here — they'll sit and have a beer with you as long as you obey the law, but the minute you step over that line, you're dead."

Just remember the name of the game is fun. And in New Orleans, you'll be hard pressed to find something that isn't to your liking.

"It's impossible for someone not to have a good time in Mardi Gras — from classical music in the park to a body-piercing dominatrix on Bourbon Street, New Orleans has it all," Mourer said.

## Safety tips for a crazy, inebriated weekend

As the official safety officer of the Skiff, I'm here to remind all you crazy kids headed to New Orleans to always use the buddy system and to keep your liquor stash away from all the other party animals on Bourbon Street.

As we can all imagine, Mardi Gras is probably the biggest party any one of us have ever seen or been in our lifetime.

Although I know the main objective of any college student heading to New Orleans is to party like nothing before, I must remind you that coming back in one piece is a top priority.

So, without further ado, I will highlight just a few things to remember as you're battling the crowd through the streets of party city.

First and foremost, you must remember, restrooms are scarce. Girls, for you this means, yes, you are going to have to either stand in line for nasty Port-o-Potties or just hold it all day. If I were you, I'd opt for the latter one.

Guys, to you, this probably means nothing. But remember, although Mardi Gras is crazy, there are still cops out there just waiting for you to christen the street. The song, "There Ain't No Place To Pee On Mardi Gras Day," wasn't originated by a carnival goer for nothing.

Also, anyone going to Mardi Gras will probably see more people in one place than they've ever seen before — unless you've been to Times Square on New Year's Eve. For you, this means, one thing — THE BUDDY SYSTEM!

I guarantee that if you get lost from your group, you're not going to be seeing them for a while. Bear with me while a sound like your mother for a moment.

Arrange a meeting place for two different times during the day; that way if someone does get separated from the group, everyone can eventually meet up again.

Also another mother tip — bring along pre-moistened towelettes to help with those messy king cakes and sticky beer. They just might come in handy — you never know.

Now to address the big issue — DRINKING. For all you freshman that just can't wait to get to New Orleans and drink legally, think again. Contrary to popular belief, the legal drinking age IS 21. This is probably a good thing, although I wouldn't worry too much, since 10-year-olds could probably drink down there and it wouldn't matter much.

Remember, we are talking about the same town where naked people run down the street on a regular basis and the police don't even bat an eyelash.

One thing about this place (since it is one of the biggest parties in the world) is that there aren't going to be that many sober people. That means that you're probably going to get something spilled on you and you may encounter some sort of flashing.

That's the big thing during Mardi Gras. Men and women run around wearing barely anything at all and flashing everyone they meet. For some, this might be an added treat to the whole Mardi Gras concept.

But for others, this might not be your cup of tea. My advice is to just remain clothed at all times and be on your best behavior.

Now on to the matter of "throws." Number one rule is to be sure not to bend down to catch things. Just imagine a bunch of crazy drunk people all lunging into the street at the same time to catch a few strands of plastic beads.

You might think this is stupid, but let me tell you, these people are ruthless. They will do anything (and I mean anything) to catch those beads or, especially, the panties (yes, they



Natalie Gardner  
Columnist

batting the crowd through the streets of party city.

## Fat Tuesday Trivia

Before you head off to the parades at Mardi Gras, or even throw your own Mardi Gras party here in Fort Worth, better brush up on some trivia about this annual celebration. The following are some fun facts about the biggest party on earth. Read them, learn them, regurgitate them and impress your friends.

**Mardi Gras** (also known as Fat Tuesday) always falls on the Tuesday that is 46 days before Easter. It is always the day before Ash Wednesday, which is the start of Lent.

**Carnival** is the season of heavy partying that occurs before Mardi Gras. It officially begins on Jan. 6. There are two carnival celebrations — public and private — held by clubs called krewe. Private celebrations are balls, to which you will *not* be invited. Public parties take the form of parades, which you and 600,000 of your closest friends can attend.

**Parade Season** officially begins on the second Friday before Mardi Gras (that was Feb. 10). Parades are held only on weekends early in the season, but grow more and more frequent as Mardi Gras approaches. The season culminates on Fat Tuesday with nine parades.

**Carnival colors** are purple, green and gold, chosen in 1872. Purple means justice, green stands for faith, and gold for power.

**Garbage** is produced in record amounts at Mardi Gras — last year sanitation workers picked up 2,318 tons of garbage along parade routes.

**Throws**, always a Mardi Gras tradition, come in a variety of sizes, shapes and items. Catch these at parades, or by whatever other means you feel necessary — just keep in mind, your friends will remember what you did even if you don't. Some everyday throws range from the average string of beads, to stuffed animals and doubloons. Crowds go crazy over the more unusual throws — including panties, plastic float cups and Golden Zulu coconuts. Happy Hunting.

## Parade Times

For those of you who do decide to brave the crowds at Mardi Gras, here's a list of the most recommended parades this weekend, according to the New Orleans Times-Picayune.

**Friday, February 16**  
**Hermes** - 6:30 p.m., Uptown New Orleans. This parade features witty floats and stilted walking figures — but pay attention because it usually moves very quickly.

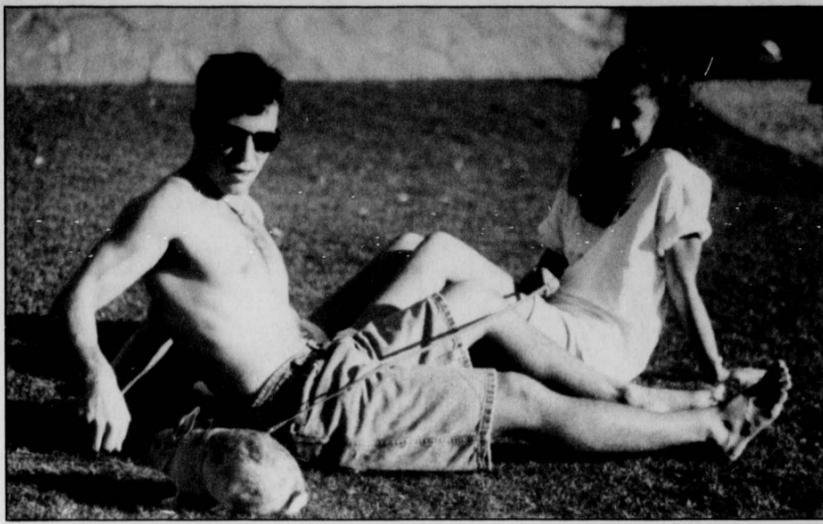
**Saturday, February 17**  
**Iris** - noon, in Uptown New Orleans. An all-woman parade suitable for everyone in the entire family.

**Tucks** - in Uptown New Orleans, immediately following the Iris parade. This parade is one of the more humorous at Mardi Gras — the King sits on a toilet.

**Endymion** - 4:30 p.m., Mid City, New Orleans. This is Mardi Gras in all of its excess. Really big floats, celebrities, bands, feathers, glitz — and crowds to match.

**Sunday, February 18**  
**Mid-City** - 1:30 p.m., Mid-City, New Orleans. Fun, bright and colorful floats. This parade also features the annual Battle of the Bands.

**Bacchus** - 6 p.m., Uptown New Orleans. The biggest parade of them all. This is the one that started all of the modern-day revelry back in '69. Huge floats, larger crowds. Lots of "throws," but slow moving.



TCU Daily Skiff/ Keisha Knowles

Nick Sabino, a junior movement science major, and Julie Cozad, a junior fitness promotion major, play with a pet rabbit on the Frog Fountain lawn Wednesday afternoon.

## Superfrog reaches the big 17

Birthday party to include olympics and trivia games

BY TONY COVER  
TCU DAILY SKIFF

It's time to wrap the birthday presents and blow out the candles on the cake for TCU's favorite horned frog.

Superfrog, TCU's furry purple mascot, is turning 17 this Friday.

To celebrate this special occasion, Programming Council is throwing a birthday bash Friday afternoon in front of Frog Fountain, outside of the Student Center.

"This is a great opportunity for students to show their school spirit," said Heather Jones, Programming Council special events chairwoman. "We're hoping a lot of people come out for the celebration."

Events are scheduled to kick off at 1 p.m. with various olympic-type events and carnival games.

Students can show off their olympic potential in the javelin toss or brush-up on their marksmanship in the rifle shoot competition.

Jones said a trivia competition will also be held in the Student Center Lounge for those with more brains than brawn.

Both olympic and trivia events will last until 4 p.m., and prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Students can meet Superfrog from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and sing "Happy Birthday" at 3 p.m.

Jones also said the TCU cheerleaders will be on hand to lead the students in a pep rally during the festivities.

The Programming Council said it will provide free pizza, Dr Pepper and cake for those in attendance.

At 4:30 p.m., TCU is presenting Heath Hyche, "Comedian Sketch Extraordinaire," in the Student Center Lounge.

Hyche has recently signed with a new sitcom under Roseanne's direction, set for next fall. He has also signed a deal with Warner Brothers Pictures for two upcoming movies.

TCU is one of the last colleges on his final tour.

Jones said she is hoping a lot of students turn out for the celebration.

"I would encourage students to come out and participate," she said. "It's a great way during the day to take break and have some fun."

## Letters from page 3

haps) the end of civilization as we know it.

I believe we can maintain both our faiths and our integrity in the pursuit of peace. According to Mr. Henning, "religion, after money, is the leading cause of war and destruction." For one to claim affiliation with any particular religion will automatically place that person in opposition with those people who believe in another, alternate, belief system. Many people who disagree about how to understand the ultimate reality of our existence do not suddenly strap on weapons and "have at it," but instead, dedicate their efforts to eliminating war as an option for resolving conflict. For many of us, religious values have nothing to do with enmity or aggression.

As persons of reason, we make appeals to religious texts, the traditions we maintain, our shared experiences and our capacity to understand (or, stated differently, our "reason"). These appeals comprise our methodology for making rational decisions. Mr. Henning says, "do not point to the Bible as proof, because I will simply show you a place in another religious text saying otherwise." His point illustrates the idea that scripture has ceased to function as the collection of narratives which attempts to understand the ineffable nature of God.

Mr. Henning's brand of "reason" asks us to cancel our idea that religious writings have some degree of importance for describing what is, ultimately, beyond our ability to describe. Making a responsible inquiry into the value of scripture, and then dismissing its importance, might indicate reason or wisdom. But Mr. Henning has proved only that his cavalier, reckless attitude for being a voice for the community at TCU is one that scorns making informed public statements.

We can (as Mr. Henning does) believe in America, Texas, family values, Mom and apple pie. But to characterize religious people as having "mutual distrust of other religions" is laughable and absurd.

One might as well make blanket statements and stereotypical claims about ethnic communities or gender identities if Mr. Henning's statements about religion go unchallenged.

Todd W. Simmons  
Brite Divinity School

The letter from Jim Henley criticizing Erick Chang's recent column in support of a flat tax was about two-thirds correct. Yes, Mr. Chang did reveal a misunderstanding of current U.S. tax law by confusing the concepts of marginal and average tax rates, and yes, Mr. Chang could have been clearer when he referred to "let(ing) people aspire for higher incomes without worrying about paying more taxes." The sentence should have read "without worrying about paying taxes at a higher rate." I'm sure that was Mr. Chang's intent.

Professor Henley goes too far, however, when he suggests that flat tax supporters believe that money is the only motivating factor behind human behavior. If money were the only factor motivating our behavior, marginal tax rates of 99 percent would provide no disincentive to earning income, since more work effort would still result in more after-tax income. In fact, it is because money is not the only motivating factor that disincentives are created by higher marginal tax rates. As marginal tax rates rise, the after-tax return to greater work effort is reduced and people rationally respond by reducing work effort (and, therefore, income) in return for something else of value, in this case more leisure.

While the precise magnitude of this substitution effect is an empirical question, there is little reason to doubt its existence. Most economists (including this one), consider the pursuit of self-interest as that interest is defined by each individual to be the primary factor motivating human behavior, not a "monomaniacal obsession with profit," as suggested by Professor Henley.

Michael R. Butler  
Associate Professor of Economics

## Tips from page 7

do throw these out with Mardi Gras emblazoned across the back of them).

So, instead of bending down, step on the coins and pick them up with your foot. This is much better than having your body trampled by a bunch of half-naked people.

My whole philosophy on "throws," is that instead of tossing out buckets of beads, coins, stuffed animals and panties, they should start throwing out condoms too. Who knows, maybe some ingenious float crew has already decided to throw out purple, gold and green condoms

that say "Happy Mardi Gras" down them.

If you're beginning to think that this trip might be a little crazy, you've hit the jackpot. Get ready for a wild party and a grand ol' time. Just remember to play it safe and to not drink too many Pat O' Brien Hurricanes.

Hopefully, this year when you scream, "Throw me something, Mister!" (the correct Mardi Gras lingo to use) you'll catch a couple of festive condoms along with all those beads.

Natalie Gardner is Skiff campus editor and staff-appointed safety officer. She does not recommend throwing your own undergarments into the parade crowd.

## Guards from page 6

coming back next year, and I told him, 'I don't feel the atmosphere is right for me. I think I need to get away from home.'"

Parks said it was a matter of considering what was in his best interest.

"He (Tubbs) asked me if there was anything wrong, and I said, 'No, there's nothing wrong.' It's nothing personal. You've got to do what's best for yourself. The best decision is for me to leave."

He said there were no hard feelings.

"I have nothing bad to say about

TCU or the coaching staff at all," Parks said.

Bragg said he is not certain where he will attend school next fall, but will continue classes at TCU until May.

"I have a few schools in mind, but most likely it will be somewhere out of state," he said.

Bragg and Parks were told they must check out of Moncrief Residence Hall before Tuesday evening. Both moved to their homes in Fort Worth.

Tubbs did not want the two in the dorm, so they had the option of moving to another residence hall on campus or to move off campus, Bragg said.

## Baseball page 6

Tarleton State, if it took superhuman power to do so. "No, it takes skill," he said. "Whether it be skill, luck or the will of God, TCU got it done this week."

Head coach Lance Brown said,

"As long as we score 20 runs a game, I am the hitting coach!"

TCU plays Louisiana Tech this Saturday and Sunday. So let's ask ourselves, do we, or how could we have anything better to do than come sun ourselves while watching a weekend of America's pastime? After all, it's a great way to sweat off a long Friday night studying session.

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