NEED A JOB? – PAGES 10, 11 AND 12

TCU Daily Skiff

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1996 | TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, FORT WORTH, TEXAS | 93RD YEAR, NO. 109

Prof recalls visit to Mexico

Spanish instructor saw Zapatista rebel movements firsthand

BY KAREN KASSEBEER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donald Frischmann, who witnessed Mexican politics and the Zapatista liberation movements firsthand for several months this school year, recounted his adventures Tuesday for a political science class about his trip.

"The reason for my lectures is because people are poorly informed of what is going in Mexico, and I feel I have a responsibility to share this information," said Frischmann, an associate professor of Spanish.

At his lecture, Frischmann showed slides and discussed the experiences that he had with members of the Zapatista National Liberation Army. This group organized 12 years ago as a desperate attempt to rectify the Indians' situation, he said.

"I decided to go on this trip because I read about it in newspapers and wanted to learn more about it," he said. He learned that the Zapatistias are truly committed to their goals and that the Mexican federal government is trying to prevent peace, he said.

Frischmann's stay in Mexico lasted from September 29, 1995, to January 6, 1996. He told the class about several political events he had experienced on his trip after giving the students some background about the Mexican situation.

On January 1, 1994, The Zapatista National Liber-

see **Mexico,** *page 2*

Class led prof to study religion

BY NEELIMA ATLURU
TCU DAILY SKIFF

Andrew Fort, an associate professor of religion, would have laughed at anyone who told him during his undergraduate career that his future would be teaching South Asian religions.

As he reclined in his office with his legs propped up on a chair, Fort said he "found" himself during his junior year at Amherst College in Massachusetts.

"That's when I got into my studies, very into religion and settled into who I was," he said.

Fort's interest in religion was sparked by an introduction to religion class he took in the second semester of his sophomore year.

"It was a social scientific study of religion, not a theology course," he said. "It taught about why people believe in religions and what beliefs they have."

So, after his sophomore year, he added religion as a double major with English.

Fort graduated from Amherst College in 1974. From there, he went on to get his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. He married Sharon Voros in 1978. The have two children: Sam, 14, and Meredith, 9.

At the University of Pennsylvania, Fort took classes in Oriental studies, South Asian studies and religion studies.

He also studied Sanskrit, the classical literary language of ancient India, and Hindi, India's national language.

There were three types of programs in graduate school, Fort said. The first was a linguistics program in which the students concentrated on the languages. The second was the "Indiaphiles" group, Western students who were pro-Indian. The third was the religious studies program, in which Fort classified himself.

"These were the students who saw India as the most interesting example for their discipline," he said.

Initially, Fort said his studies were a toss-up between Zen Buddhism in

see **Fort,** *page 8*

Student gets taste of big screen while on the range

BY AMY CORONATO
TCU DAILY SKIFF

While most college students found themselves in classrooms last semester, Matt Hawrylak spent his days playing with toy guns, riding horses and e-mailing his homework assignments from a small town in West Texas back to Fort Worth.

The TCU sophomore sent his term papers to professors via Federal Express. He made 12 trips by plane to take exams in person.

Why the long-distance learning experience?

Hawrylak, 20, spent four months on the set of "Dead Man's Walk," the prelude to the movie "Lonesome Dove," in Alpine, Texas.

In May, he will be seen in a various assortment of small roles in the made-for-television movie on ABC.

"It was incredible," Hawrylak said of his first-time acting experience. "I had a lot of fun."

Hawrylak, a Fort Worth native, was visiting a friend on his ranch in Alpine last August when the ranch was chosen as the site for the set of the movie's main town, Austin, in the Old West.

Larry McMurty, author of the book "Lonesome Dove," was surveying the site along with the director and producer of "Dead Man's Walk," when Hawrylak was asked to join them for lunch.

Less than a week later, Hawrylak said, he learned he had a chance to be cast as a Texas Ranger in the movie.

"I had to ride a horse for them," he said of the audition.

Two weeks later, the filming began.

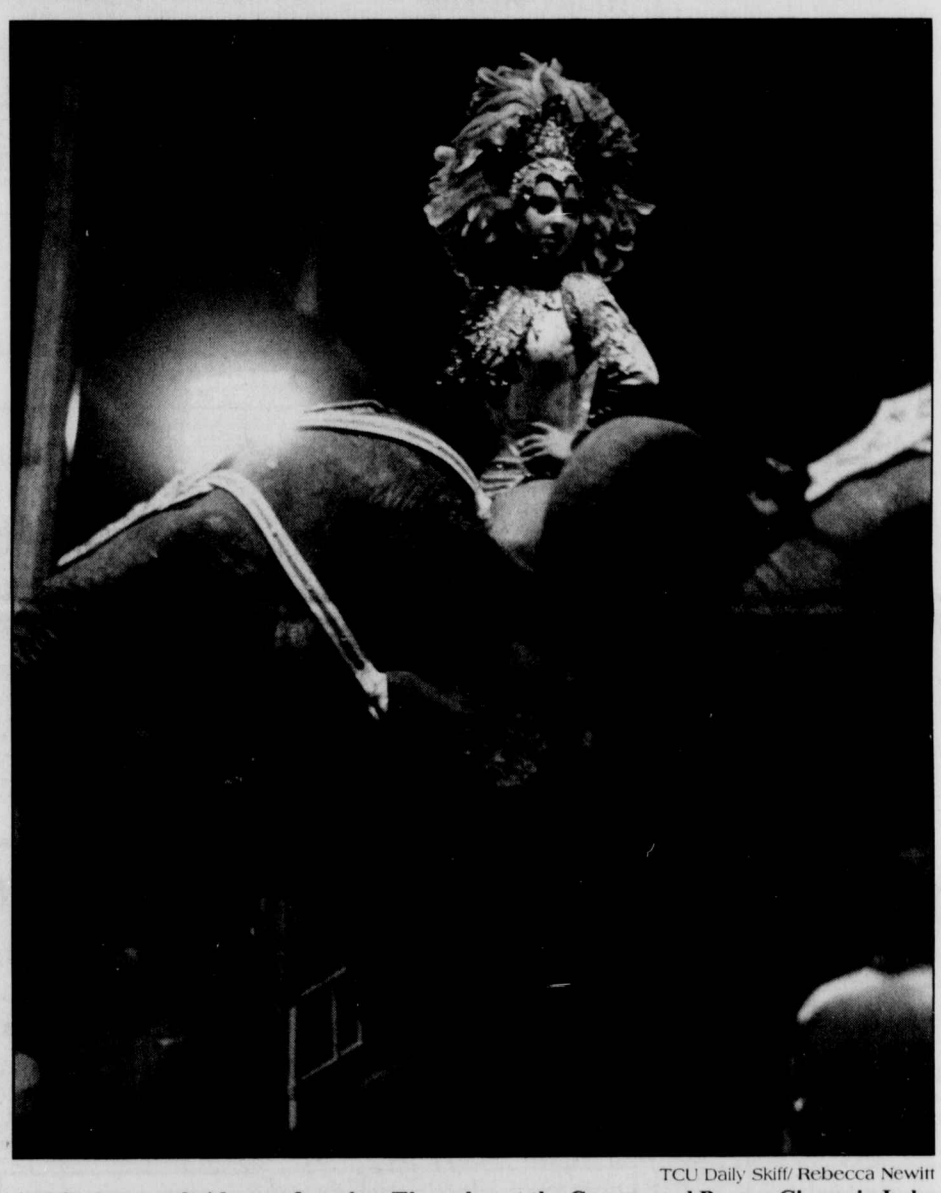
Hawrylak worked on several scenes scattered throughout the movie, he said.

"You really don't know how many scenes will actually make it in until the movie comes out," Hawrylak said. "I did a whole bunch of different things."

Hawrylak worked on scenes filmed in both Alpine and Van Horn, Texas, cast mostly as a Ranger, he said. In one of the Austin scenes, he was a carpenter working on the roof of a saloon.

"I learned a lot about how it all

see **Movie,** *page 5*



TCU Daily Skiff/ Rebecca Newitt

An elephant and rider perform last Thursday at the Carson and Barnes Circus in Lake Worth. The circus, owned by the family of sophomore business major Kristin Byrd, is the world's largest wild animal circus that performs under a big top.

House gives $9,793 for chapel seats

Reps invest in Coffeehouse

BY ALISHA LAROCHELLE
TCU DAILY SKIFF

A bill allocating $9,793 from the Permanent Improvements fund to replace the seat covers in Robert Carr Chapel was passed 45 to 10 by the House of Student Representatives at its meeting Tuesday night.

Six other bills were also passed. A resolution to promote a smoke-free Student Center was introduced and tabled until the next meeting, and a bill to erect four kiosks on campus was tabled for one week due to lack of information, Treasurer Brian Spindor said.

Bill 96-13 was introduced by Monica Myers, a Brite Divinity representative. Myers said the seat covers in Robert Carr Chapel have not been replaced in 40 years and are in bad condition.

She said Brite Divinity Student Government is willing to give $800 to the project, which is about 37 percent of its annual budget.

Myers said the chapel is used by students, alumni and members of the Fort Worth community, and it may be the only part of the TCU campus some people see.

"A lot of people use the chapel for weddings, and it reflects the overall look of the university," said Lauren deDecker, the Alpha Delta Pi representative.

Jennifer Schooley, a Brite Divinity representative, said this project would not be possible without House funding. She said this is a chance for the House to visually improve the campus.

Some House members said they thought the administration should play more of a role in funding the project.

However, Leon Reed, a town representative, said if the administration gave money to buy new seat covers, then the funding for another program would probably have to be cut.

Stoney White, Permanent Improvements Committee chairman, said his committee has worked all year to find a project that would best benefit the campus, and this is what the committee decided was the best.

"Trust your neighborhood Permanent Improvements Committee,"

see **House,** *page 4*

New meal plan to be in effect next fall

BY JENNIFER LONGLEY
TCU DAILY SKIFF

Students who are unhappy with the current meal plans offered at TCU can choose a new all-you-can-eat option beginning in the fall.

The new plan was developed after much discussion between Marriott and Residential Services, said Emily Burgwyn, associate director of housing.

"Some students feel food costs are very high," Burgwyn said. "This is a value plan that lets students who are limited in finances eat on campus affordably."

To accommodate those students with the all-you-can-eat plan, the area next to Eden's Green in Reed Hall will be converted into a new cafe. This area, called Eden's North, will be open to students with other meal plans as well, Burgwyn said.

The all-you-can-eat plan mirrors traditional board plans offered at other universities, Burgwyn said. There will be three plans from which students can choose.

Students can select 19 meals a week, which will cost approximately $1,345 plus tax. A second all-you-can-eat plan includes 15 meals a week and retails for $1,245. The smallest plan includes 13 meals a week and goes for $1,099.

The all-you-can-eat meals will cost $4.75 for breakfast, $5.75 for lunch and $6.59 for dinner.

"The plans, excluding the smallest one, include $100 of discretionary points that can be used in other cafeterias on campus," Burgwyn said. The $100 can be used in other cafeterias as well as in Staples. She said this gives students more flexibility than regular plans.

Eden's North will also offer to-go orders, Burgwyn said. This is to accommodate those students who want to eat with their friends in other cafeterias or who want to eat in their rooms.

Burgwyn said Residential Services is developing a brochure to distribute to students living on-campus next fall. The program will be limited to the first 250 students who sign up.

see **Plan,** *page 9*

News Digest

U.N. won't criticize China

GENEVA (AP) — In a defeat for Western diplomacy, China today averted criticism from the U.N.'s top human rights watchdog agency for the sixth straight year.

After lengthy procedural wrangling, the 53-nation Human Rights Commission upheld a motion by China to take no action on a mildly worded resolution voicing concern at the human rights situation in the world's most populous nation.

The result was 27 in favor of taking no action, 20 against and six abstentions.

Company to pay for soggy siding

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A $275 million class-action settlement will allow homeowners in North America to replace a brand of siding that turns soggy in wet weather.

Under terms of the deal reached Monday, any homeowner whose Louisiana-Pacific Corp. Inner-Seal siding becomes damaged over the next seven years would be able to dip into the settlement fund for the cost of replacing the material.

The lawsuit said the siding, made of wood chips and resin covered with resin-soaked paper, soaks up moisture, swells and cracks.

Officer arrested in drug raid

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — A Texas police officer and three other men were arrested on drug charges in a raid in which police seized about 150 pounds of marijuana.

Capt. John Samaniego of the West Alabama Narcotic Squad said Kenneth Dewayne Castro, 28, a police officer in Houston, was arrested with the other three Monday in a Tuscaloosa motel.

The others arrested were identified by police as Pedro Guerra, Joseph Joaquin Costello and Michael Ray Kemp, all from the Houston area.

Church denounces homosexuality

DENVER (AP) — The United Methodist Council of Bishops today upheld church policy opposing the ordination of gays and declaring homosexuality incompatible with church teaching.

Less than a week after 15 prelates announced they personally opposed United Methodist policy on homosexuality, the full council of bishops acknowledged there are serious differences within the 8.5 million-member church on this issue.

Leaders said they are committed to following church law.

DISD chief gave staff large raises

DALLAS (AP) — The superintendent of the Dallas Independent School District gave top staffers raises averaging nearly 9 percent last year, even though the school board ordered raises of only 4 percent for all employees, *The Dallas Morning News* reported in a copyright story Tuesday.

"This is a surprise," said school trustee Joe Plata. "This is greed. This is absolute greed."

Superintendent Chad Woolery said the increases were not raises but rather reflected additional duties the staffers took on.

Page Two

CampusLines

CampusLines is provided as a service to the TCU community. Announcements of events, public meetings and other general campus information should be brought by the *Skiff* office, Moudy 291S or sent to TCU Box 298050. The *Skiff* reserves the right to edit for style and taste.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ABROAD'S program director will meet with interested students from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. today in Reading Room A of the Student Center.

ORDER OF OMEGA'S 40th Anniversary Diamond Gala is at 7 p.m. Friday at the Arlington Marriott.

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

TCU UNIVERSITY CHAPEL is at noon Wednesdays at Robert Carr Chapel. All students are welcome.

TCU COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK meets at 6 p.m. Wednesdays in University Ministries. All students are welcome.

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

CAMPUS CRUSADE has small group Bible studies at 7 p.m. Wednesdays in the Student Center Annex. Call 921-7924.

CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL STUDENTS meets at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays for dinner, a program and an evening prayer.

PurplePoll

Who is your favorite Skiff columnist?

Bob Turney	Ryan J. Rusak
20	4
Kevin Arceneaux	Chris Smith
1	14
John Lamberth	Scott Barzilla
3	3
Matt Pearce	Kylie Johnson
2	2
Leigh Anne Robison	P.D. Magnus
2	3
Keisha Knowles	Andee Moore
1	5
Todd Jorgenson	No Opinion
1	39

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

Mexico *from page 1*

ation Army rose up in arms and took over five cities in the state of Chiapas. A truce was signed about two weeks later, and since then, a series of talks has been held with Mexican Government, he said.

"It brought open debate to the Mexican Political system, bringing themes such as democracy and justice," Frischmann said.

"Generally, justice and democracy don't mean what it is supposed to in Mexico," he said. Justice is not apparent for the poor people, he said.

In December 1995, Frischmann traveled through the Zapatista community and attended a cultural event marking the second anniversary of the uprising.

"We were treated really well at the event," he said.

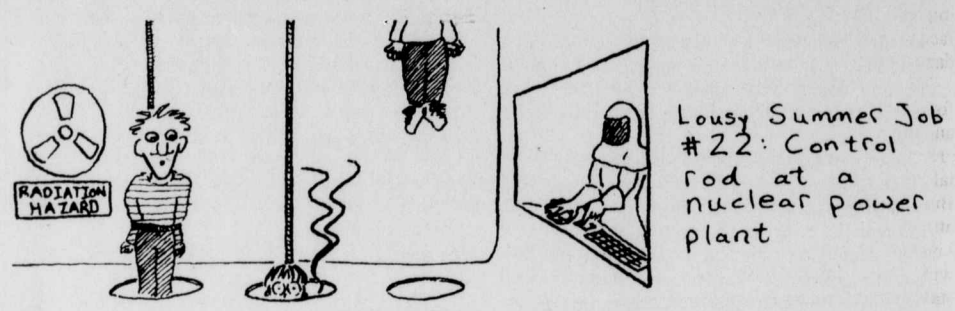
Another major event he attended was from January 3-6, 1996, at Ceristopal, the National Indian Forum that sponsors the Zapatista National Liberation Army. This event was an open forum of Indians' rights and culture. To protect their identity, 22 military commanders at the forum wore ski masks, he said.

The Adventures of Superfrog

by Ben Roman & Adam Wright

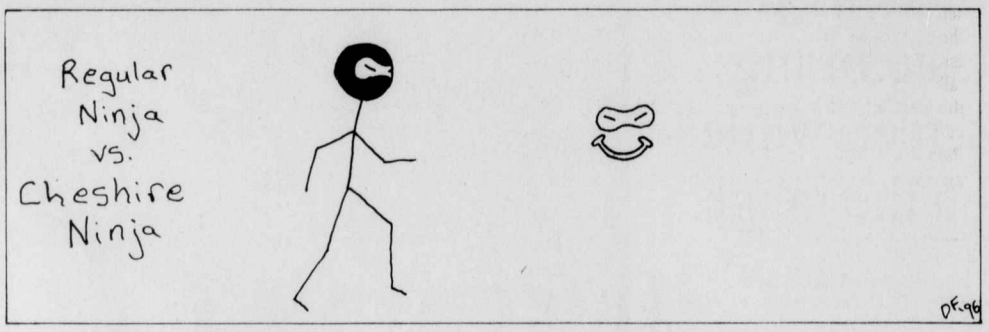
The Beaten Path

by P. D. Magnus



Ninja Verses

by Don Frederic



WeatherWatch

Today will be partly cloudy with a high of 78 and a low of 50.

Thursday will be sunny with a high of 76 and a low of 54.

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.

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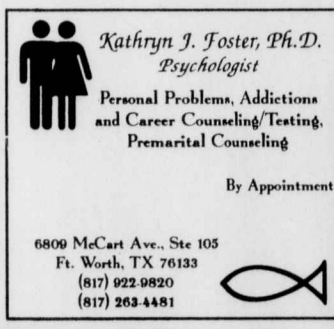

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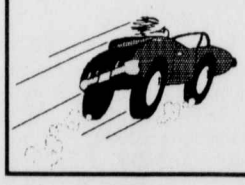

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The E.R. Van Zandt Southwest YMCA is now hiring creative, energetic people to work with youth day camp (children ages 4-14). Full-time. Positions also available for lifeguards, swim instructors, and desk staff. Apply at 4750 Barwick. 292-9612.

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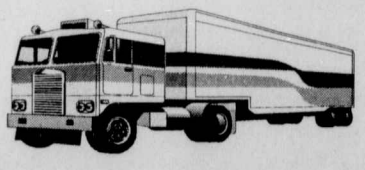

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■ Bob Turney

Hezbollah must be stopped

In honor of my soon-to-happen transition into the real world, I'm going to write another serious column. When you talk about serious these days, you gotta talk Israel. No one is more serious about the security of their borders and citizens than the Israelis. That's not to say the United States wouldn't bomb Canada if they started popping rockets at Detroit (heck, it might be an improvement), but Americans don't face the constant threats and myriad of dangers that Israelis do.

Their country was born in fire, forged through three successful wars, and now, after almost 50 years, they are ready to deal peace with their mortal enemies. Why? It's hard to say. But I feel Israel has realized you attract more flies with honey than with vinegar. To put it differently, peace with your neighbors provides a more stable (not to mention less expensive) solution to your security problems than an army constantly poised on the brink of war.

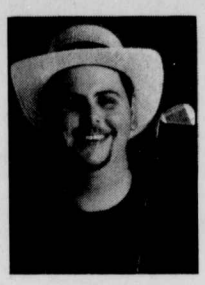
And that is the path Israel has chosen. From the Camp David Accords to the current Mideast Peace Accord, Israel has signaled its willingness to talk with its enemies. Bringing them to the table, however, has been more difficult. It was a diplomatic coup when the Palestine Liberation Organization agreed to talk with Israel. Now all of this progress is threatened.

Recently, Israel has put what is left of the country of Lebanon under siege. While the Lebanese have a government, two-thirds of the country is under Syrian occupation and Israel controls much of the rest with its self-proclaimed "security zone." This security zone, meant to prevent attacks into northern Israel, has largely succeeded, with one exception.

Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed terrorist organization, is adamantly opposed not only to the peace accord, but to the very existence of the state of Israel. Vowing to remove it from the face of the earth, they have launched a new round of rocket attacks against border settlements in Israel, with no thought or compunction about who or what they might hit. All Israelis are the enemy, all must be destroyed; there is no compassion for civilians in their rhetoric.

Their indiscriminate killing has caused massive Israeli air strikes into Lebanon (who are sorry if civilians get in the way, but not sorry enough to stop), a blockade of the Lebanese coast (an act of war under international law) and heightened tensions between Israel and Syria. So far, Syria has shown restraint, but it only takes one missed target and a few dead soldiers to start a war.

Journalism on the Side



Question: How do you stop Hezbollah? Answer: Cut off its funding from Iran. It costs money to kill people, and it has been estimated that Iran gives up to $1 million a month to Hezbollah, not to mention training and advice from their Revolutionary Guards. Until the world gets tough with Iran, they will continue to fund terrorists and cause instability in one of the most important areas of the world. I don't care how — stop their oil shipments. Cut off their access to hard currency, and these groups will start to fold. Oil companies, ever the opportunists, will raise gasoline prices, but ask yourself this question: What price for peace?

Bob Turney, with his cutting wit, bon vivant personality and stunning good looks, is a senior. And you're not. Ha-Ha!

The Skiff's editorial cartoonist makes his first annual
PREDICTIONS OF SUMMER NEWS EVENTS:

Madonna gives birth to a material boy.
Confusing 'Lesbian' with 'Lebanese', Pat Buchanan ends up at the wrong convention. A riot ensues.
"Bigfoot" turns out to be Elvis hiding in the woods.
The National Organization of Women sue the FreeMen to change the name to 'FreePersons'.
Bob Dole buys a new personality. Unfortunately, It's Al Gore's.
The cast of "3rd Rock from the Sun" turns out to be real aliens.
Hillary Clinton is pregnant. She believes she is the father.
The new writer for 'Sesame Street', Stephen King, doesn't work out.
Pamela Anderson is pregnant. The Unabomber is rumored to be the father.
Michael Jackson collapses under the weight of his make-up.
His ears accidently catching an updraft, Ross Perot flies to Haiti.
Chelsea Clinton announces that she's marrying Urkle.
The Skiff editorial cartoonist gets a whopping pay raise in the fall semester (Okay, this one may not happen).

■ Ryan J. Rusak

Liberal idea of Christian 'compassion' a vile hoax

It's been 16 months since the Republican party won (not stole) control of the U.S. Congress. In those 16 months, not a day has passed that its conservative beliefs have not been barraged by the media, the Democratic minority (isn't *that* fun to say?), left-wing wacko socialist freaks and the current occupant of the White House.

These attacks have gone beyond political or ideological disagreements. Newt Gingrich and company have been accused of starving children, wanting the elderly to die, raping the environment, etc.

Let me point out that President Clinton and his White House Goons have led many of these charges. But at the same time, The Waffle King intends to run against a Do-Nothing Congress. Let's just mark this one No. 4,672 in the file of Bill Clinton's inconsistencies (read: lies).

The charges are only going to get worse as the November election approaches. Sometimes they are downright laughable; sometimes they just hurt. Regardless, conservatives must step forward now and set the record straight about what we believe and why we believe it. Fiscal conservatism will prove itself under a balanced budget, lower taxes and less regulation. Let's focus on social conservatism, then.

Modern social conservatism is based upon the belief that the federal government is, by nature, incapable of taking care of people and solving most problems. It is reinforced by evidence of the last 30 years, specifically Lyndon B. Johnson's feeble attempts at forming a "Great Society."

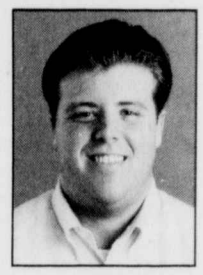
Since that effort began in the 1960s, the United States has transferred $5 trillion among Americans. That's a five followed by 12 zeros. Certainly that's enough to solve the poverty problem, right? Take a look around and decide for yourself.

Conservatives realize that when the federal government assumes the role of nurturer and provider, the incentive to work and provide for oneself and one's family dissipates. Welfare programs have created an entire class of people dependent upon the federal government. That is simply wrong.

It is here that liberals inject their code word: compassion. This word has whatever meaning a particular liberal wants it to have at a particular moment. They say, "How can you not want to help these people? Don't you *care*? Don't you have any compassion?"

Conservatives clearly care a lot more about the poor than liberals. If liberals had one tenth of the compassion they claim to have, they would admit their programs have failed miserably and be willing to try something else to combat the welfare dilemma. But that would eat away at their power base and voting constituency, and we can't have that, can we?

From the Hip



Conservatives propose these changes *because* we care. We want people to flourish and succeed, and we realize that a life subsidized by the government is no life at all.

Some liberals have begun to realize that Code Word Compassion is no longer effective. Perhaps the 1994 election taught them a stiff lesson. Thus, liberals have whipped out their next big weapon: they throw the label "Christian" in front of compassion.

This hoax is transparent and vile. Liberals chuckle with glee when they can point out the "irony" of conservatives who claim religious righteousness while promoting the starvation of children and execution of the elderly.

Think about this carefully, liberals. Do you really want to get into an argument about who has more Christian compassion? Must we point out the moral vacuum of your beliefs? Must we mention that the president won't make it a crime for a doctor to stab a pair of scissors through an unborn child's head and suck out his or her brain? Must we point to the moral relativism of the 1960s, which has contributed to the inability of our criminal justice system to *punish* murderers, rapists and thieves? Must we bring up the ridculous extremes to which you take the establishment clause of the First Amendment, trying to control people's lives?

Social liberalism in the '90s is what mercantilism was after Adam Smith wrote *The Wealth of Nations*. It is a tired, failed doctrine clinging to the past, desperately trying to preserve its power structure. Kiss it goodbye, folks.

Ryan J. Rusak is a sophomore news-editorial and history major from Benbrook, Texas, and Skiff *copy desk chief.*

Interviewing

Editorial Board offers advice

■ Editorial

Regardless of whether or not you're graduating in May, you may be looking for a job. It could be an internship, a part-time summer job or a job to subsidize the ol' college education.

Whatever the case, that work force is a tad intimidating, and entering it can be about as settling as cliff diving. So we here at the *Skiff* have compiled some interviewing tips to help you land the job that's right for you. We've been going through a lot ourselves, and it's only right we shared what we've learned with our readers.

So spit out the gum (or chew, you studs), sit up straight and check those pantyhose for runs. It's time to grow up — at least for half an hour.

First of all, remember this: a hangover is not a good thing to take to an interview. Do whatever it takes to avoid the aftershock of a party-filled night. Visine, extra black coffee, talk to Ralph on the big white phone, or hey, how's this? Don't drink at all before. Keep in mind that prospective employers frequently do drug tests — it's best to stay away from all of it (including poppy seed muffins). Better safe than unemployed, kids!

Don't drip. To elaborate, don't be so blatantly brown-nosing that you appear artificial. Once they see TCU on a resume, they might be expecting it. Don't compliment the interviewer on his clothes, office or hairstyle, especially if he's bald. Be sincere and don't laugh too hard at the cheesy small-talk jokes.

Ladies, don't pile the make-up on too high. If you're nervous or the crazy Texas weather isn't cooperative, you could sweat half of it off, and then wouldn't you look good? The same goes for humidity and its gracious effects on hair.

Don't make any mention of expected salary. If you're asked, be extremely vague. As a college graduate, your prospective employer will want to extract from you maximum work at minimal price. And there's always someone out there who will accept less than you. Besides, almost any wage you get will be more than you had while you were in college.

Don't overdo it on a resume. Chances are, your interviewer will not be impressed by your term as historian of the Geometry Club during your sophomore year. Moreover, listing all the jobs you've ever had, like handing your father brake parts while he fixed the family car when you were 7 years old, is not a good idea. Stick to the relevant jobs.

Don't eat anything with even a hint of garlic for at least six months prior to your interview. The stuff lingers, and any word starting with an "H" could hopelessly cripple your career.

Don't wear any color even remotely close to orange. It's just not smart.

Finally, don't volunteer to display neat skills learned at events like Frog Camp or Freshman Orientation. "Riff-Ram-Bah-Zoo" doesn't do much for you in the business world.

■ Leigh Anne Robison

"Every last one of us is a naive, inbred bumpkin."

Message for non-Texans: put up or shut up

Today I'm speaking specifically to those of you Frogs out there from the great state of Texas. I want you to join with me in speaking out against the numbers of folks from states smaller than ours who insist on dogging us.

For those of you who aren't exactly Texas enthusiasts, I want you to either put up or shut up. When you find a reason — other than the slew of idiot politicians (too easy) — to criticize this state legitimately, let me know. Everything I've heard thus far is either ridiculous or petty.

As you can read in that caption at the bottom of my column every week, I'm from Texas. I was born in the booming metropolis of Orange down on the Louisiana border, but I was raised in Houston. I've never had a problem with either of these towns, mostly because they are all I have ever known.

But then I came to college in 1992, only to learn that my home state is backward, every last one of us is a naive, inbred bumpkin, and to top it all off, we can't do anything right here. At least that's the impression I got from my classmates from other states.

Generation Why

Furthermore, if y'all haven't heard, "Spy" magazine recently gave Texas the honor of "most annoying state." Do what?

I have a very good friend from Ohio who insists on explaining every quirk of Fort Worth's people, construction, night life, you name it, with a smug, "Only in Texas would *that* happen."

After three years of hearing that, I think it's time I said "Shut up!" Not everything Texan sucks! *Why* don't we know how to drive when it ices over? Because it never ices over! We don't *need* snow tires and plows and chains and whatever else one may need to get from Point A to Point B safely, especially when the situation only presents itself once in a blue moon. So what if between every inning at Rangers games they play some song with the word "Texas" in it? Is there something wrong with pride?

Okay, our roads are curvy, and I don't know why they're that way. My friend informs me that in Ohio they're straight. I don't understand what's so annoying or inferior about curved roads, but somehow they are. Maybe we just don't chop down every tree that gets in our way when we design thoroughfares.

I was even once told that all girls from the south have double chins. None of them up north do, apparently. I've been trying for a year to figure that one out.

While griping about this once, I said "If they don't like it, they can leave it!" (Thank you for possessing me, Pat Buchanan.) After all, if *I* went to another state to stay for a while, I wouldn't make it a full-time hobby to criticize and insult every aspect of it. I'm not one of those Southerners who thinks "Yankees" are unworthy, pot-roast-eatin', carpetbaggin', nasal-talkin' Type A personalities. I guess that's just my little contribution to multiculturalism.

I just don't understand why out-of-staters insist on picking apart the Lone Star State. I don't want the people in our state to be moving so fast that they don't feel it's necessary to say "please" and "thank you" to others. Southern hospitality is alive and well and doesn't deserve the knocks it gets from Northerners.

We may be a bunch of conservative rednecks, but dammit, we're at least polite about it.

Leigh Anne Robison is a senior English and history major from Houston, and is the Skiff *opinion editor.*

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House *from page 1*

said Chris Brooks, the Phi Kappa Sigma representative.

Bill 96-12 was introduced by Vice President for Programming Chad McBride. The bill allocates $545 to help fund the Word of Truth Gospel Choir Gospel Fest.

Last year was the first time the Gospel Fest has been put on in three years, said Sonia Stewart, president of the Word of Truth Gospel Choir.

The Gospel Fest is a two-day event where gospel choirs from other schools come to TCU and take classes, rehearse and perform, Stewart said.

The bill was passed unanimously.

Bill 96-14, which allocates $1,000 to help Panhellenic Council bring hypnotist Tom DeLuca to campus next semester, was passed 49 to 5.

"This is a good effort on Panhellenic's part to help bridge the gap between Greeks and independents," said Becca Gardner, Student Concerns Committee chairwoman.

Tory Marpe, Panhellenic vice president of management, said this was the first time Panhellenic had tried to do a project like this.

She said DeLuca is a "strange guy" and will attract a large, diverse crowd. The event will be held Sept. 15 in either the Student Center Ballroom or Ed Landreth Auditorium, and will be free to TCU students, she said.

Bill 96-15 was also passed at the meeting. The bill allocates $285 to help fund the Panhellenic New Member Barbecue.

New members and new initiates from all Greek letter organizations are invited to attend the barbecue, deDecker said.

"This event is meant to break down barriers and create a union between all the different groups who wear Greek letters," said Chanel Schrier, a Colby representative.

Also at the meeting, bill 96-16 was passed 50 to 2. The bill allocates $2,500 to buy a new Stairmaster for the Rickel Building.

White said the Rickel is one of the most used facilities on campus, and students have complained about the need for a new Stairmaster.

"I work in the Rickel, and I always see people waiting in line for the stairmaster," said Julie Street, Alpha Chi Omega representative. "I think it is really good that the House is doing something about student complaints."

Bill 96-17, which allocated $3,300 to put a light in the Reed-Sadler Mall area, was passed 45 to 6.

White said with the new Coffeehouse coming to Eden's Greens in August, the new light is necessary. He said the new light will make it possible to utilize the Reed-Sadler Mall area for programming. He said he wants to create a "night-life atmosphere."

"The night life here does stink," Spindor said.

White said the new light will also make the area more secure for students going to and from the Coffeehouse. The tentative hours of operation for the Coffeehouse are from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., he said.

Bill 96-19, which provides $2,500 to purchase a new sound system for the upcoming Coffeehouse, was passed 37 to 16.

"The campus is dead after 5 p.m.," said Todd Watson, University Relations Committee chairman. "Throwing money in shows our commitment to the success of the Coffeehouse."

Some members of the House had reservations about spending so much money on the Coffeehouse project without knowing how it would be received by the students.

"It seems like we are putting a lot of money into the Coffeehouse without knowing how it is going to work," said Elizabeth Faucett, a Jarvis representative.

White said even if the Coffeehouse is not successful, the sound system can be used somewhere else.

In other business, a resolution to support a smoke-free Student Center was introduced by Gardner.

The resolution will be voted on at the next meeting.

Next Tuesday will be the last House meeting of the semester. The House voted to make the meeting a plenary session, which means that although legislation will be discussed, the meeting will be informal.

House of Student Representatives – How They Voted – April 23, 1996

	Bill 96-12	Bill 96-13	Bill 96-14	Bill 96-15	Bill 96-16	Bill 96-17	Bill 96-19
Town Reps							
Adrienne Elrod	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Jaime Garcia	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Martin S. Grawl	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Michelle Linn	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Jennifer Manuel	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
David Quinlan	yea	nay	yea	yea	abstain	nay	yea
Leon Reed	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	*	*
Angela Sifuentes	yea	yea	yea	abstain	yea	yea	nay
Amy Smeltzer	yea	yea	nay	yea	yea	yea	nay
Brachman Hall							
Danni Geleva	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Sharon Waigand	yea	nay	yea	nay	nay	yea	yea
Brite Divinity School							
Tracey Lawler	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Monica Myers	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Jennifer Schooley	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Clark Hall							
Thomas Kunkel	yea	nay	nay	yea	yea	nay	yea
Ryan McNutt	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Colby Hall							
Ashly Braly	yea	nay	yea	yea	yea	yea	nay
Renee Foster	yea	nay	yea	yea	yea	yea	nay
Kristen Nygren	yea	nay	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Chanel Schrier	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Foster Hall							
Heather Anderson	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Meredith Harrison	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Nightingale Ngo	yea	yea	nay	yea	yea	yea	yea
Janet Spugnardi	yea	yea	*	*	*	*	*
Francis-Sadler Hall							
Karen Humphrey	yea	yea	yea	yea	abstain	yea	yea
Jarvis Hall							
Jennifer Bedell	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	abstain	yea
Elizabeth Faucette	yea	yea	nay	abstain	yea	nay	nay
Wanda Kadlec	yea	nay	yea	abstain	yea	nay	nay
Milton Daniel Hall							
Giovanni Digiacomo	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mark Imig	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Mark Irish	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Kevin Nicoletti	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Moncrief Hall							
Joe Briggs	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Khadevis Robinison	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Sherley Hall							
Marny Brum	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Andrea Kinder	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Morgan McGiffin	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Tom Brown Hall							
Kenny Baird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Chris Haynes	yea	abstain	yea	yea	yea	yea	nay
Willy Pinnell	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Waits Hall							
Sara Carpeaux	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	nay
Sarah Paxson	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Christine Spencer	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Wiggins Hall							
Elise LaMontagne	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Alpha Chi Omega							
Julie Street	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	nay
Alpha Delta Pi							
Lauren deDecker	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Chi Omega							
Dallas Walker	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	nay
Delta Delta Delta							
Caryn Conwell	yea	yea	nay	yea	yea	yea	yea
Delta Gamma							
Kim Jones	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Delta Tau Delta							
Chris Holbert	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
FIJI							
Todd Chiscano	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Kappa Alpha Theta							
Libby Baird	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	nay
Kappa Kappa Gamma							
Monica Avila	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Kappa Sigma							
Stewart Hamel	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Lambda Chi Alpha							
Greg Leet	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Phi Delta Theta							
J.B. Cheatham	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Phi Kappa Sigma							
Chris Brooks	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Pi Beta Phi							
Christine Neiner	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Sigma Alpha Epsilon							
Brian Krpec	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Sigma Chi							
Brett Luz	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Zeta Tau Alpha							
Kiplyn Lively	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	abstain	nay
MBA Association							
John Bollman	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Christian Dumke	yea	yea	yea	nay	nay	nay	nay
Voting Officers							
Becca Gardner	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	nay
Theresa Hill	yea	nay	yea	yea	yea	nay	yea
Chad McBride	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	nay
Clement Ouda	yea	nay	abstain	yea	abstain	nay	abstain
Ashley Russell	yea	nay	yea	yea	yea	yea	nay
Brian Spindor	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Todd Watson	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
Stoney White	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea

* - denotes no recorded vote

Bill 96-12: A bill for $545 to help fund Word of Truth Gospel Choir Gospel Fest.

Bill 96-13: A bill for $9,793 to replace the seat covers and cushions in Robert Carr Chapel.

Bill 96-14: A bill for $1,000 to help support hypnotist Tom Deluca.

Bill 96-15: A bill for $285 to help fund the Panhellenic New Member Barbecue.

Bill 96-16: A bill for $2,500 to help purchase a stairmaster for the Rickel Building.

Bill 96-17: A bill for $3,300 to improve the lighting of the Reed-Sadler Mall area.

Bill 96-19: A bill for $2,500 to install a new sound system in Eden's Green for the upcoming coffeehouse.

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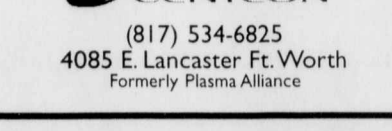
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TCU Daily Skiff

Former police officer to die for arranging wife's murder

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Former police officer Robert Fratta was sentenced to death Tuesday, a day after jurors found him guilty of commissioning his wife's murder amid a nasty divorce battle.

Harris County jurors deliberated eight hours over two days before returning the sentence. Fratta, 39, showed no emotion and was immediately led from the courtroom.

The parents of Fratta's slain wife, Farah, said they had hoped for a sentence of death even though it can't bring back their daughter, the mother of three.

"There can be no punishment in this world severe enough that can justify the everlasting grief, pain and suffering he has brought upon his three minor children," said Les Baquer, Farah Fratta's father.

The 33-year-old woman was shot twice as she got out of her car on Nov. 9, 1994. Prosecutors said Fratta, a former Missouri City officer, commissioned the killing.

He became a suspect when he tried to cash in on his wife's $235,000 insurance policy just two days after the murder.

Joseph Prystash and Howard Guidry, the alleged go-between and the accused killer, are awaiting trial. According to testimony, Prystash dropped off Guidry at the Frattas' home and the alleged gunman hid in a backyard playhouse until the victim arrived.

Testimony also showed that Farah Fratta underwent plastic surgery to please her husband and finally sought a divorce after balking at his insistence that she perform certain sexual acts.

Prosecutors argued that Fratta wanted his wife killed to avoid paying child support, among other reasons.

In order to impose the death penalty, jurors had to find that Fratta posed a continuing threat to society.

Prosecutor Kelly Siegler said Fratta was indeed a continuing danger.

"The heinousness of this crime, how horrible it was, the person that he killed, the planning and the premeditation and the kind of man that he is . . . he deserved the death penalty," Siegler said.

The sentence angered defense attorneys who had argued that Fratta would never again be under the pressures that would lead to a repeat of the murder.

State says health fund will buy HIV drugs

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Most of a $5 million state health fund will be used to purchase new drugs to combat HIV, according to a plan announced by state health officials.

The Texas Health Department faced a decision this month whether to focus an anti-HIV program for the poor on the latest drugs to fight the virus that causes AIDS.

The department had to choose between that option and another plan to continue purchasing additional drugs that fight illnesses brought on by the disease, such as pneumonia.

A panel had recommended a plan that would have forced some 5,000 poor Texans with HIV to go elsewhere for medications for AIDS-related illnesses.

But Health Commissioner David Smith said Monday that the department will not leave poor people on their own to purchase those medications. He said most of the HIV Medication Program's $5 million will go to new HIV drugs, but some money will continue to go to other medications.

Smith also said an additional $500,000 will be added to the fund to help purchase medications for AIDS-related illnesses.

"We are grateful and pleased for the additional funds the commissioner was able to find to continue supplying certain drugs to the indigent HIV population," said Tom Sheffield, chairman of the Austin Area Comprehensive HIV Planning Council.

The added $500,000 was expected to last through June, Smith said. The department was searching for other funds to continue the additional medication purchasing through the end of the year.

The latest treatment for AIDS is a combination of two to three drugs that can cost into the hundreds and thousands of dollars per patient each month based in part on dosage.

According to the department, between 49,400 and 71,100 Texans have HIV.

Movie *from page 1*

works," Hawrylak said. "Everyone has to work together and be organized because time is money."

But it wasn't all play.

"I had to get up every morning at 4:45 to go to the set headquarters," he said. "First to wardrobe, then to hair, makeup and props. The gun I carried weighed about 45 pounds."

He sometimes worked up to 12 hours a day.

"We filmed all day, shooting every scene about seven times and finishing up around six," he said. "At night we'd go eat with the directors and producers at my friend's restaurant."

Hawrylak kept a busy schedule but managed to keep up with his schoolwork, he said.

"All the computers used for the movie were Macintosh, so when they were done they helped me with my homework and then I'd fax it back to TCU," he said.

Hawrylak finished the semester with a B average, he said.

In February, Hawrylak returned to the Alpine ranch to watch the filming of a music video for country duet Brooks and Dunn. The video was filmed on location at the ranch, centered on the empty but still standing sets from the movie.

Hawrylak, a business major, is enrolled in his first acting class this semester at TCU. He hopes to be cast in another movie to be filmed this summer in Fort Worth if it is financed, he said.

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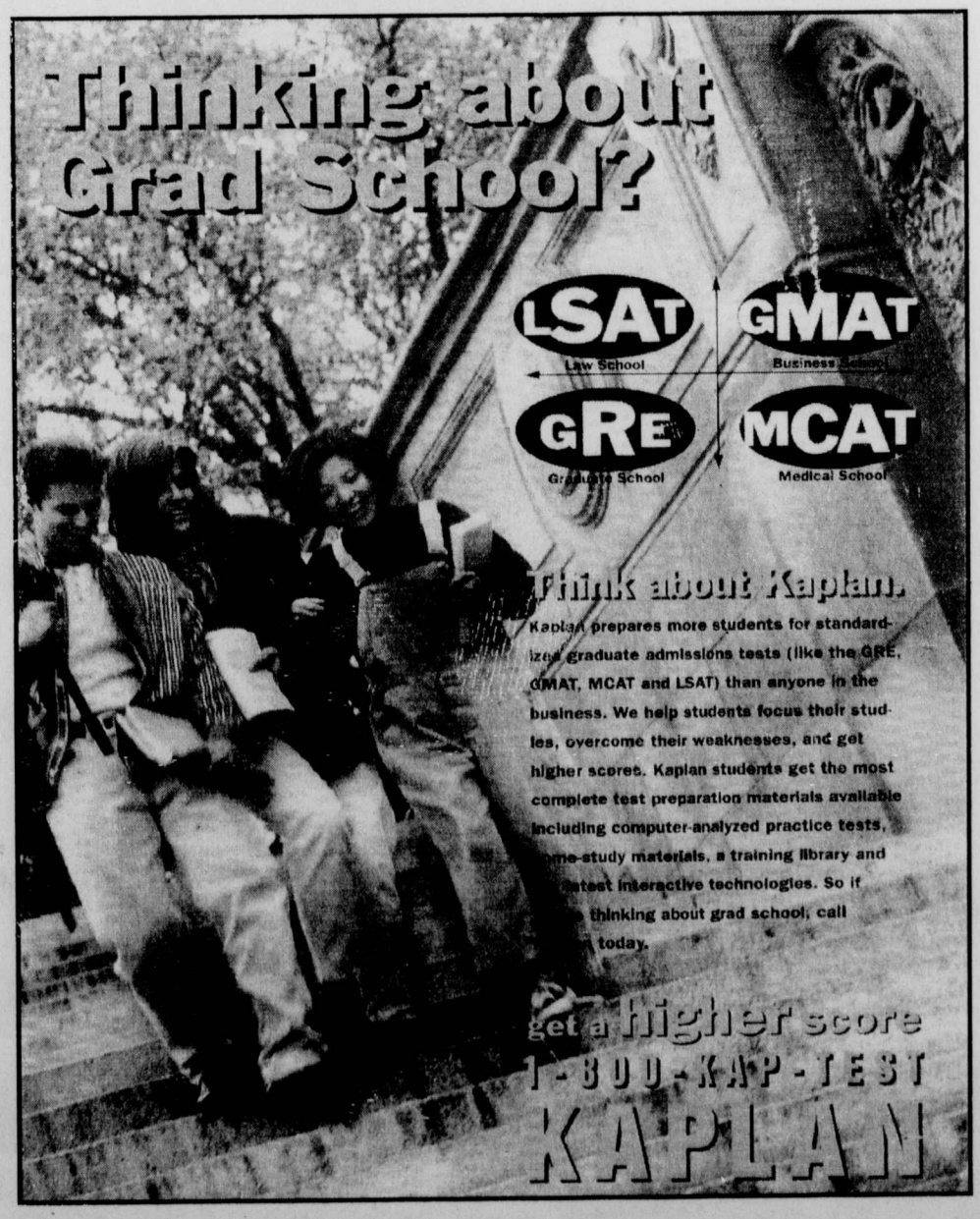

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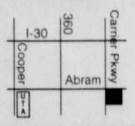

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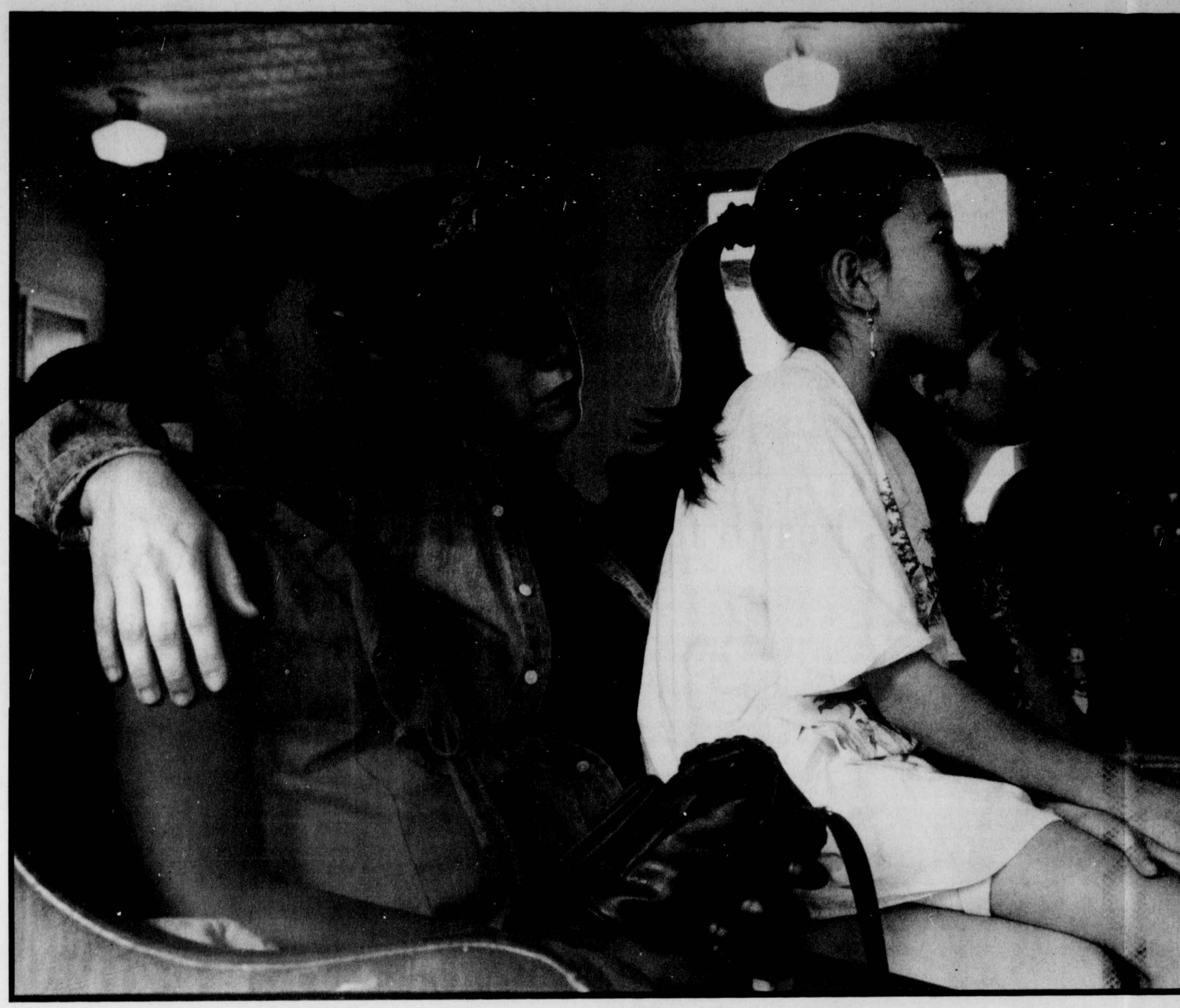


Beautiful Feet

Students volunteer at inner-city church

Like many TCU students, Andrea Berry gets up early every Sunday morning to go to church. She also leads a Sunday school class for children, like many of her peers. But what makes Berry different from most TCU students is the church she calls home.

Berry attends Beautiful Feet Ministries, an organization that she describes as, "A ministry to homeless and inner-city persons. It is designed to minister to their needs in a very unique way as a church body."

"The Feet," as it is known by its volunteers, serves both breakfast and lunch to parishioners and keeps a clothing closet stacked to the ceiling with donations. But Beautiful Feet is more than just a soup kitchen.

The worship services are upbeat and lively. Frequent cries of "Amen" and "Praise Jesus" interrupt the sermon.

Few members of the congregation are able to get to the church without assistance, so a dilapidated school bus drops by area homeless shelters to pick up any who want to go to church.

After Tim Cole, a Southwest Baptist seminary student and part-time bus driver, cajoles the brightly painted bus back to the church's renovated home at 1709 E. Hattie St., he and several other volunteers head to the Butler housing complex to round up children.

And for Berry, it's all about the children.

"They don't always come from a background of Christian values and support," she said. "But for four hours a week, they are secure in knowing that there is a God up in heaven that loves them more than they can imagine. And there is a girl, or woman, in their life that is trying to show them that in a physical form.

"Because they don't go back to that," she said. For Berry, there is no purpose in serving without God.

"They may forget all the lessons I teach them, but there is something more important that I want to teach them," she said. "That is — God loves them desperately, and I hope they see that in my life."

Berry, a junior social work major, has been involved with Beautiful Feet since her freshman year. She had visited area churches during her first semester at TCU, but had trouble finding one in which she felt comfortable.

Through TCU's Campus Crusade for Christ, Berry attended a "Friday Night Outreach" sponsored by Beautiful Feet. That night, she went to Butler and passed out fliers, trying to make people aware of the church.

"I said, 'This is something I want to be involved in. This is exciting, this is something different than TCU college life.'"

That experience was at the end of Berry's first semester, and she said she prayed about it during the winter break. When she came back to Fort Worth in January, she called Beautiful Feet and asked what she could do.

Berry had finally found her niche.

She started out in the clothing closet, and was in charge of giving clothes to the women and children. She was soon given the opportunity to lead a Bible study for 10, 11 and 12-year-old girls. She has filled that role ever since.

This year, the Eta Iota Sigma Christian sorority has started sending volunteers to Beautiful Feet as part of its service project requirements. Berry, the HIS president, said that several groups of five or six people rotate every week.

Leah Newcomer, who first became involved through HIS, said, "This semester through HIS we have required service projects, and I went (to Beautiful Feet) in the beginning of February."

The freshman speech pathology and social work double major said she didn't originally plan on volunteering at "The Feet."

"Somehow I got stuck there, and I really enjoy it," she said. "It really wasn't something I decided on, it just kind of happened."

Newcomer leads a Sunday school class for between 12 to 15 preschoolers.

"I have really loved it because I feel like the people that worship there are very genuine. I think the charismatic style of worship is something that I have not experienced before and I've really learned to appreciate it this semester," she said.

She said that the style of worship is more emotional than traditional services.

"It really seems more like an individual experience," Newcomer said.

Berry said she tries to show the girls from her class more than what they are used to by taking them on field trips almost every other week.

"The girls just love to come out to TCU," Berry said. "We had a slumber party one time in the ADPi chapter room." Berry, a member of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority, said they like to hang out in her dorm room, but the place isn't really important.

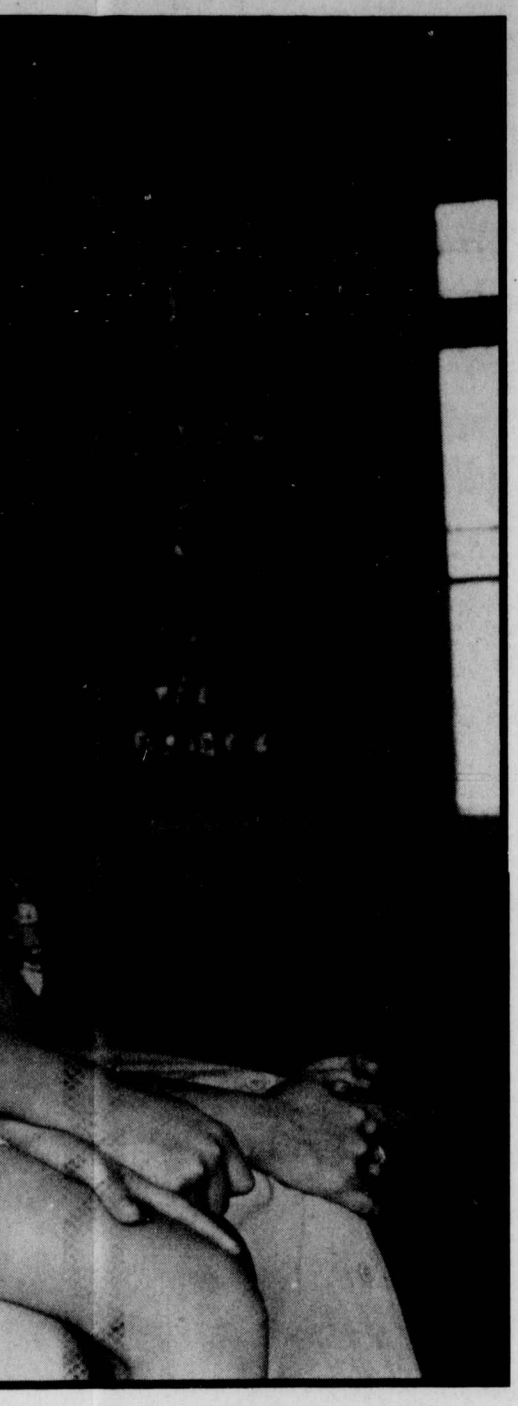
"There's more to reality than what they're seeing," she said. "That time spent together communicates love.

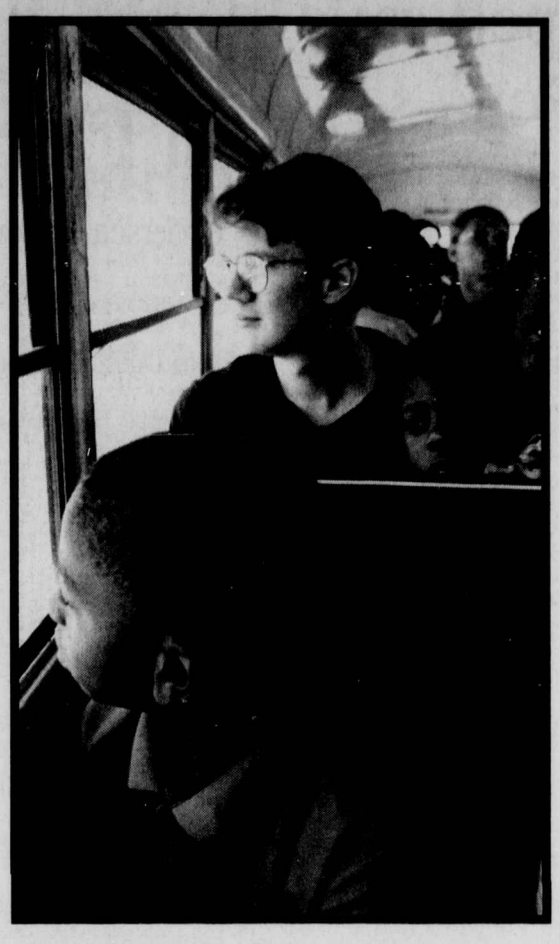
Berry said she had two goals for the Sunday school class.

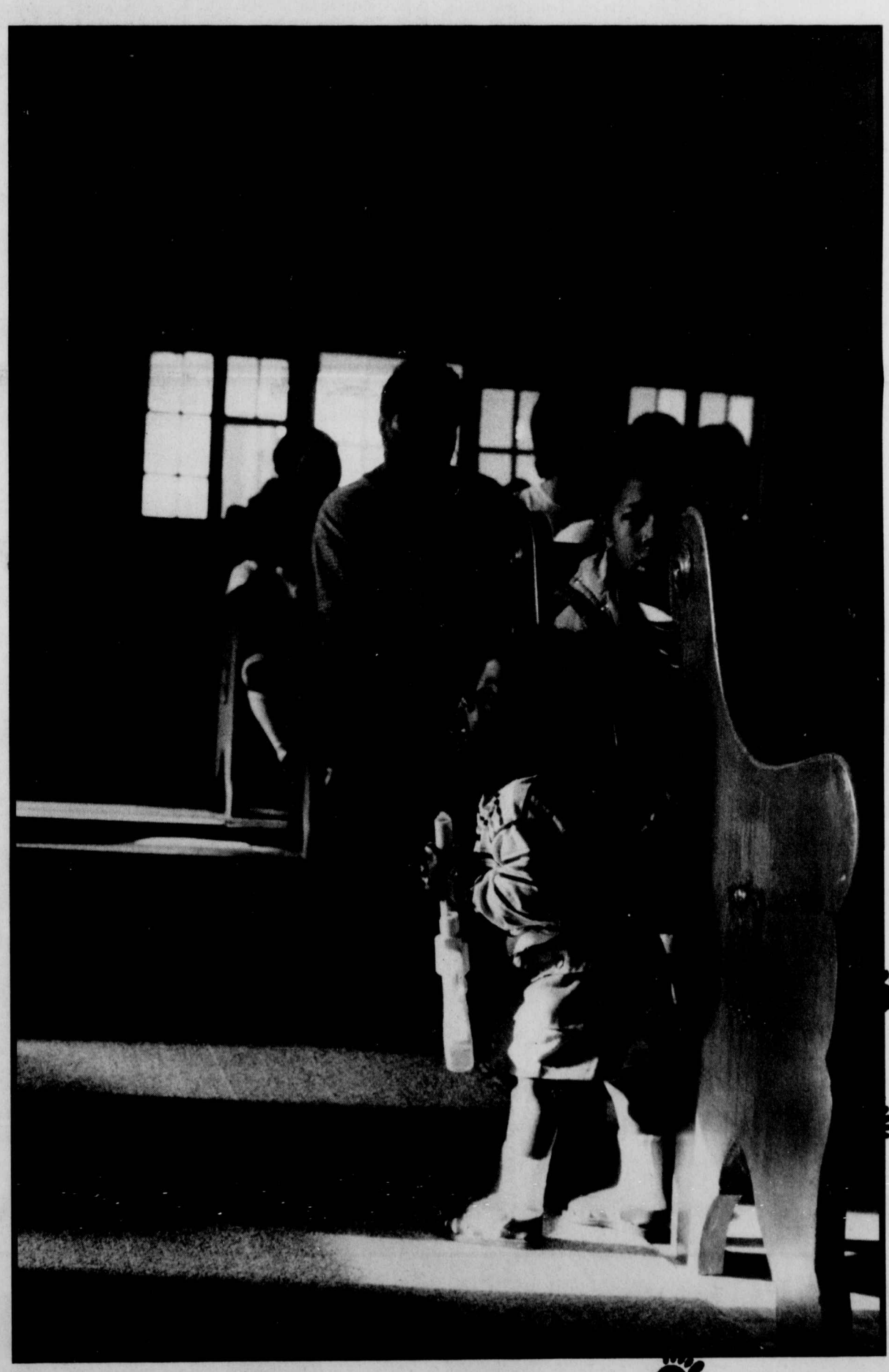
One, she said, is to let the girls know "that they can date men who will treat them well and respect them." Berry said they are at a critical point in their lives when teenage pregnancy can become a concern.

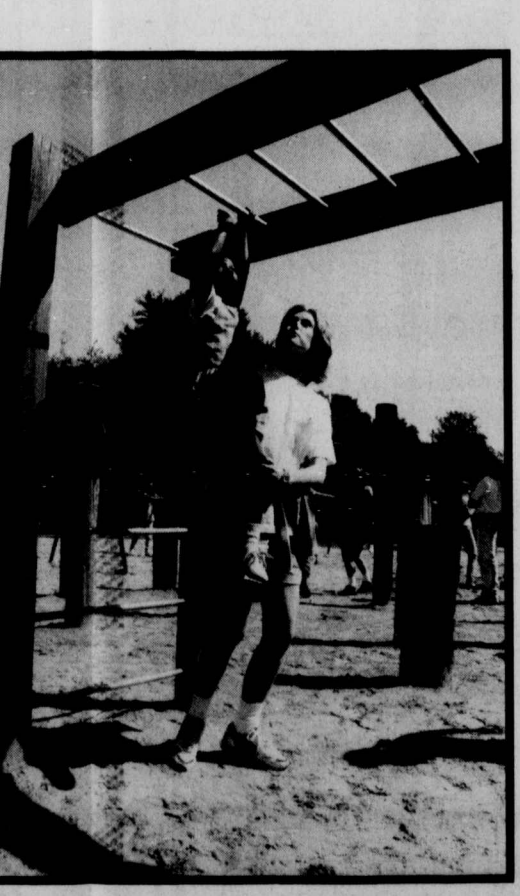
The other is "that God is an approachable person, not some lofty thing that is not approachable, Berry said. "They can take that anywhere. I always tell them that they have *what* it takes to do whatever they want to and they have *who* it takes."

Story and Photography by Blake Sims









National News

President wants funding revealed

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In an unprecedented step toward public accountability, President Clinton is authorizing Congress to make public the "bottom line" annual appropriation for U.S. intelligence, the White House said Tuesday.

"Reflecting the president's determination to promote openness in the intelligence community, he has authorized Congress to make public the total appropriation — the bottom line figure — for intelligence at the time the appropriations conference report is approved by Congress," press secretary Mike McCurry said.

The step apparently would not reveal spending totals on individual components of the nation's intelligence gathering machinery. But for the first time it would end speculation on how much the United States spends on intelligence.

McCurry said Clinton also has authorized Congress to form a cabinet-level Committee on Foreign Intelligence "to establish priorities on the nation's long-term intelligence needs."

At the same time the president will establish a Committee on Global Crime, chaired by National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, "to better facilitate cooperation between the intelligence and law enforcement communities."

Clinton's actions are based on the recommendations made by the Brown Commission, chaired by former Defense Secretary Harold Brown, which studied the roles and capabilities of U.S. intelligence.

"These reforms, which will be accomplished through executive orders and legislation, will significantly enhance our intelligence capabilities and contribute greatly to our nation's security," McCurry said.

Airlines helped save $6 billion, Pena says

By Randolph E. Schmid
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Low-cost airlines helped Americans save $6 billion on airfares last year, Transportation Secretary Federico Pena said Tuesday.

No less than 39 new airlines have started up in the last few years, first finding fertile markets in the West and Southwest and now expanding eastward, Pena said.

And he predicted that the low-cost carriers will continue to elbow their way into new cities and may expand to international markets.

The competition has caused major airlines to cut their fares, and this has encouraged more people to fly, he said.

"In cities where low-cost airlines fly, Americans pay $54 less per flight, on average," Pena reported. In airline hub cities the saving is $70 per flight.

Pena boasted of personally having flown from Houston to Dallas and back, from Baltimore to Chicago and from Albuquerque to Phoenix on low-fare airlines at a total cost of $189.

Prices have stayed high in areas where there is less competition and department officials say that some larger carriers may have even increased fares in those markets.

They pointed out, markets with high fares tend to attract more competition.

Today, nearly 40 percent of passengers fly in markets where low-fare service is available, up from just 15 percent in 1988 when Southwest Airlines was pioneering the field.

And 53 of the nation's 60 busiest airports have at least some low-fare service, Pena reported.

While some established carriers have been concerned about the growing competition, Pena pointed out that business and profits were up last year throughout the airline industry.

The lower fares helped attract an additional 47 million passengers in 1995, he said.

'Deep' thoughts in Florida Keys

Undersea explorer teaches by showing

By Will Lester
Associated Press

KEY LARGO, Fla. — Undersea explorer Robert Ballard has taken thousands of students on remote hook-ups to the Belize rain forest, the volcanoes of Hawaii and the Galapagos islands.

This year, the discoverer of the shipwreck of the Titanic has taken students to a threatened coral reef several miles off the Florida Keys.

There, he and a group of fellow scientists are teaching a hands-on session via satellite and the Internet computer network about aquatic life and the painful lessons of overdevelopment.

Listening closely is a small group of student "argonauts" and thousands of other students linked by video and computer in the United States and three other countries.

"The coastal zone is where the battle is between the human race and the natural system," Ballard said recently from a cabin aboard the ship *Carolyn Chouest*, which provides support for the U.S. Navy's NR1 nuclear research submarine.

"We're trying to teach these young people the fragility of the planet," said the 53-year-old Ballard, who considers the lessons of his Jason Project appropriate to Earth Day, observed across the nation Monday.

The Jason Project has been effective at reaching students who aren't always interested in textbook science and math, but love to learn about coral reefs, computers and sharks.

"All children are born scientists," said Ballard. "The first question they ask is why, then why again."

This year's project examines the ecology of the reefs and aquatic life, tracks the movement of sharks and helps teach the technology of the Internet.

The project, which takes it name from the mythical Jason and the Argonauts, is funded with corporate grants and fees from the participating school districts.

"We try to build bridges," he said. "Students are natural biologists. You give them a base, then you move them to math and computers . . . The key is to hook them, have them discover the tools necessary to play the game."

A teacher chosen to participate in the Key Largo project after previous years of classroom participation is a believer.

"This is the best hook we've ever had," said Sylvia Pakstis, a seventh grade teacher at Orlando's Conway Middle School. "I would suggest any school that isn't involved in the Jason Project should get involved."

Ballard sees the project as a great way to hook students, usually from 6th to 9th grades, whose natural curiosity may be waning.

Ballard, who splits his time between the Jason Project, his production company and exploratory missions, says the Internet should help him reach millions of students. Ballard was the Honors Week speaker at TCU in 1995.

Fort *from page 1*

Japan or India. He decided on India, but then had to choose either the Buddhist or Hindu philosophy.

Fort said his decision to focus on Hinduism was based on his own passions for it.

"While Buddhism is intellectually attractive, Hinduism has more of my heart," he said.

Fort also said the Buddhist philosophy required studying either Chinese or Japanese or both in addition to Sanskrit.

In 1979, Fort spent 10 months in Pune, India, studying Sanskrit at an institute and working on his research and doctoral dissertation.

Fort said his response to India during his first visit changed as the time wore on.

"At first it was like, 'Wow,' and it was great to be there," he said. The second response concerned his research.

"My research program really went great," he said. "I had good luck with my research because I was able to get to work fast and accomplish a lot."

He said the third response he had was loneliness because he felt homesick. Being a Westerner in the East made Fort an easy target for the beggars and other aspects of the culture.

"People are always looking at you as a mark," he said. "I understand it, but it wears you down."

Since 1979, Fort has been to India two more times. The last time, in 1989, he spent six weeks there. Part of the time, he read Sanskrit with a pundit.

Fort will visit India again in January.

"I am going to do a little book research," he said. "Mainly the trip will be tourism, to get new slides and update my impressions of India."

After he finished his doctoral dissertation in 1982, Fort came to TCU as the Asian religions professor.

"There were 11 people teaching the Bible and Christianity, and I was teaching everything else," he said. That included Islam. Since then, TCU has hired Yushau Sodiq, an associate professor of religion, to teach Islam.

"In principle, we would also like to have an East Asianist," Fort said, "but the student body may not be able to support it."

Currently, two-thirds of the course load in the religion department is introductory Understanding Religion courses, focusing either on the Bible or on world religions.

This means the professors almost always teach three of four introductory courses, Fort said. Then they rotate their courses.

During his first five or six years at TCU, Fort was involved in Student Affairs, a committee in the Faculty Senate. He is now near the end of his second term — six years — in the Faculty Senate.

During his first term, he was chair of the Academic Excellence Committee.

"I was really pushing for faculty control of the curriculum because it's my feeling in some ways the administration has too much influence on the curriculum," he said.

He said he's also pushed for better communication between the administration and faculty.

"Unless the faculty keeps pressing, the administration has so much to do it doesn't give the faculty as much attention as it could," he said. "We have to be face to face to hear one another."

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Official praises Colombian, Mexican drug fighting work

By Anita Snow
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Though the United States rebuked Colombia last month for failing to cooperate in the war on drugs, the top U.S. anti-drug enforcer on Tuesday praised the South American nation for dismantling a powerful cocaine cartel.

Thomas A. Constantine, head of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, also lauded Mexico as he opened an international drug enforcement conference here. Unlike Colombia, Mexico was certified by the Clinton administration on March 1 as an anti-drug ally.

"The results we saw in 1995 were beyond our expectations, and they give all of our nations reason to be proud," Constantine told officials from 27 countries throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Constantine pointed out that six of the seven top leaders of Colombia's notorious Cali cartel surrendered or were arrested in 1995. Mexican drug kingpin Juan Garcia Abrego, on the FBI's top 10 fugitive list, was arrested earlier this year and deported to the United States.

The DEA's 14th annual International Drug Enforcement Conference, which runs through Thursday, is focusing on emerging drug organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The choice of Mexico City as the conference site underscores Mexico's importance to the United States in its battle against drug trafficking.

About 70 percent of all cocaine entering the United States crosses through Mexico. The country also produces much of the heroin, marijuana and methamphetamine entering the United States.

Constantine acknowledged Mexico's efforts to stem the northbound flow of drugs.

"President (Ernesto) Zedillo and Attorney General (Antonio) Lozano have personally made narcotics a top priority for their administration, and they understand the threat that narcotics poses to the national security of Mexico," he said.

But the DEA chief reserved his highest praise for Colombia and its national police chief, Gen. Jose Rosso Serrano, for dismantling the Cali cartel.

"The persistence and commitment of the Colombian national police demonstrated to us that no one is above the law," Constantine said, as he gave the chief a plaque. "Leaders of the Cali mafia who once dined in the finest restaurants, and lived in luxurious mansions, were reduced to hiding in walls with oxygen tanks, trying to outsmart the police.

"Some believed the situation in Colombia was almost impossible to address, and for years, that may have been true," he added. "But in the end, the Cali mafia was no match for the dedicated, honest men and women of the Colombian national police, working in concert with DEA agents."

The Clinton administration's approval of Mexico's anti-drug efforts drew criticism from some U.S. lawmakers who contend the country has been lax and its police corrupt.

Village near Chernobyl burns; radiation spread

Amount of particles released by fire unclear

By Angela Charlton
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Flames engulfed five deserted villages near the Chernobyl nuclear power plant Tuesday, spreading some leftover radioactive particles from the 1986 explosion and fire into the air.

The blaze began in a deserted village about six miles northwest of the power plant, but the amount of radioactivity carried off in clouds of smoke from the fire that was declared extinguished over seven hours later was not immediately clear.

Officials had feared strong winds would spread the blaze and contaminants beyond the 18-mile exclusionary zone around the plant, site of the world's worst nuclear accident 10 years ago this week.

Firefighters from the Chernobyl station rushed to the cluster of villages after the fast-moving fire broke out about midday (6 a.m. EDT) at Tovsty Lis, about 70 miles northwest of Kiev, authorities said.

The fire started among dried pines and abandoned homes in Tovsty Lis and quickly spread to the other villages from gusts blowing to the southeast toward Kiev, station officials said. The fire was out by 7:30 p.m., said Vasily Melnik, head of the Kiev region fire department.

The blaze had threatened to spread radioactive dust left over from the 1986 explosion and fire.

"If the fire is allowed to burn much longer it will certainly carry some radionuclides beyond the 30-kilometer (18-mile) exclusion zone . . . and threaten the outside population," said Vadim Grishenko, deputy head of the Ukrainian Environment Ministry's nuclear safety department.

No casualties were immediately reported. The cause of the fire was unclear, but emergency authorities said it might have been accidentally started by a burning cigarette from picnicking families visiting grave sites near their former homes.

Dr. Fred Mettler of the University of New Mexico, who led a 1990 study of the health effects of the Chernobyl disaster, said: "I don't think there's a major danger from this to huge populations."

Most radioactive contamination from Chernobyl is cesium, which would be in the soil, he said. So it would probably not be carried upward by smoke from burning buildings, Mettler said.

Burning plants may contribute some cesium to the air, but not in amounts that would affect health, he said. Any cesium in the smoke would be greatly diluted by the time a distant person got a chance to breathe it in, he added.

Strong winds were reported blowing toward Kiev, which has 2.6 million residents.

Helicopters rushed in firefighters and firefighting equipment as the blaze burned through deserted homes, brush and trees for more than seven hours. Dozens of people were evacuated from the area by bus.

The duty officer at Chernobyl, Oleksandr Belik, said there was no fire threat to the station or the workers and that they had not changed their work routine. He said he was not concerned about the radiation risk.

"We have forest fires here every year," Belik said.

This one was clearly larger than previous fires in the zone, which normally are extinguished within a couple of hours.

A Kiev-based spokesman for the international environmental group Greenpeace, Antony Frogatt, said: "This is clearly a danger to the health of people, and not only in Ukraine. This is one of the major ways that radionuclides travel to uncontaminated regions."

Ten years ago Friday, the explosion at Chernobyl's reactor No. 4 exposed 5 million people to radioactive fallout, mostly in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. At least 30 people were killed as a direct result of the accident.

The Group of Seven industrial nations has pledged $3.1 billion to help close the Ukraine plant by 2000, but the Western democracies set no date for delivering the aid at their summit last weekend, despite an appeal from Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

Ukraine insists it needs the foreign cash to offset the jobs and electricity that will be lost to the plant's closing.

The Clinton administration is sending 1,500 tons of medical assistance to victims of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion to mark the 10th anniversary of the accident.

Plan *from page 1*

"The students signed up to live on campus next semester will have the first opportunity to take part in the all-you-can-eat plan," Burgwyn said. "We will then offer the plan to freshmen during orientation, if space permits."

Burgwyn said TCU will expand the program if students show interest in it.

"We want to give students a value plan that they don't necessarily have now," Burgwyn said.

But students do not necessarily agree that the program is a value.

Richard Samson, a junior accounting major, said it is more convenient to buy a lesser amount.

"TCU was innovative with the debit card," Samson said. "It is easier to only be charged for what I eat at a given time."

Jon Newkirk, a freshman biology and athletic training major, also said the debit plan is more appealing because it allows students to eat at their convenience without losing money.

Burgwyn said students on the all-you-can-eat plan will pay for their allotted weekly meals whether they eat them or not because it is a prepaid plan.

"The plan would be more appealing if it didn't cost so much and the meals would carry over," Newkirk said.

Shannon Johnson, a sophomore speech pathology major, said the current way is better because students are only charged for what they eat at any given time.

Samson is also concerned that the all-you-can-eat plan is limited to the hours that Eden's North will be available, Samson said.

"If you work, it is sometimes hard to meet the hours they are open," Samson said.

The proposed hours for Eden's North are Monday through Friday from 7:30 to 10 a.m. for breakfast; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch and 5 to 7 p.m. for dinner. Weekend hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for brunch and 5 to 7 p.m. for dinner.

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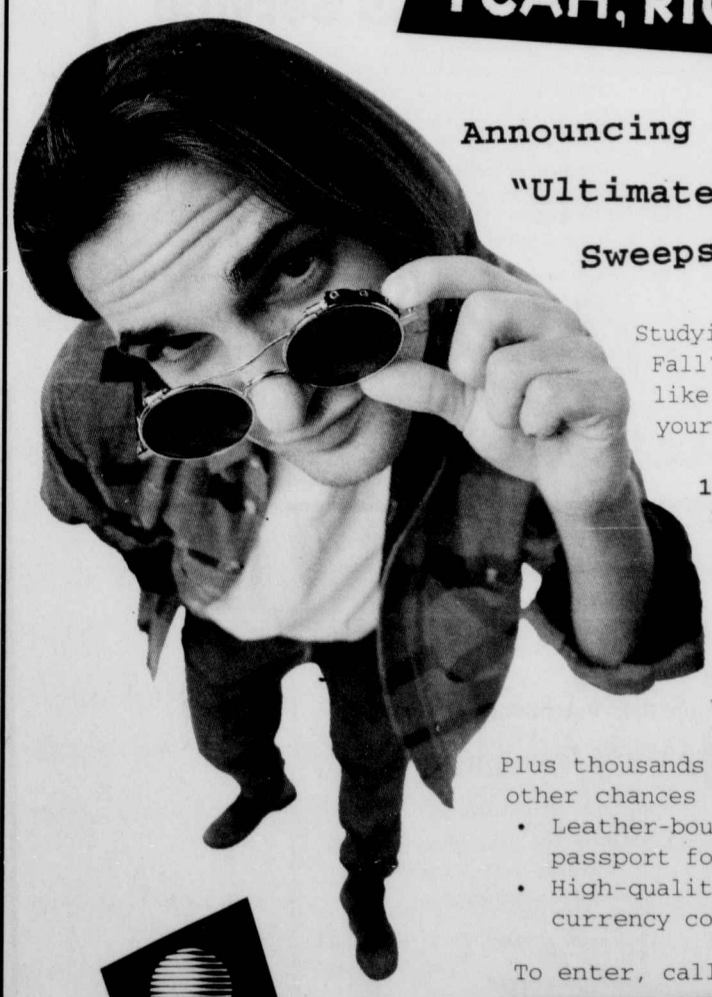

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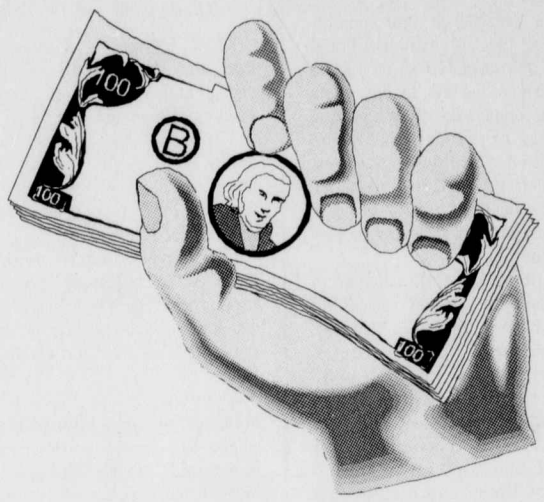

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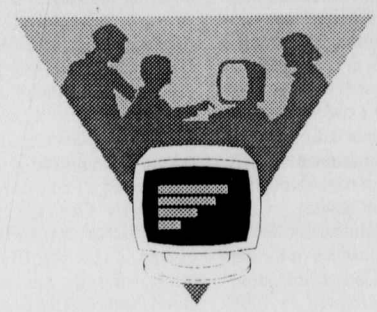

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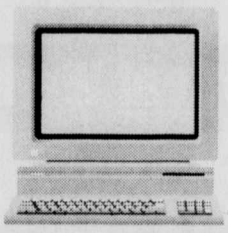

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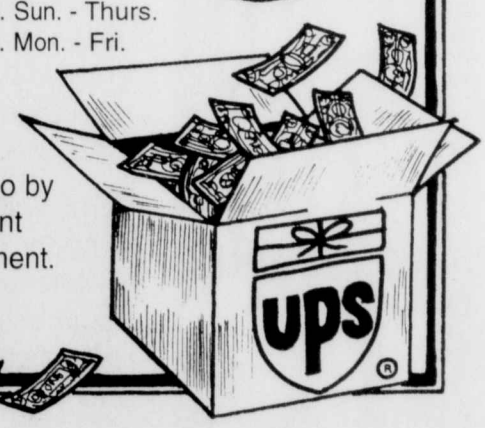

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Gang-banger turns to gymnastics

San Angelo teen finds new friends, aims for scholarship

By Allyson Reynolds Dixon
Associated Press

SAN ANGELO, Texas — Nefi Barquera has never been a good listener. He hopes, though, to be a good talker.

Barquera didn't listen when one of his best friends lectured from the state penitentiary on the evils of joining a gang. He didn't listen when his parents lectured him about the evils of doing drugs.

Now the junior at San Angelo Central High School hopes his success in gymnastics will help him give the same speeches to kids at his former elementary school.

It isn't that they'll listen because he's a successful all-around gymnast. Barquera hopes they'll listen because he's a former gang member who's turned his life around — thanks to gymnastics.

Barquera isn't too ashamed of his former life to talk about it. He offers the confession without much prompting. "I was a gang-banger," he said. "I tried all the drugs and all that stuff. It was just what a regular teen would do."

But he quickly admits that he wasn't really a regular teen. He was a regular kid, just riding his bike and making pretty good grades — until he got to junior high school. There, Barquera wanted to be cool.

"I was hanging around with ninth-graders when I was a seventh-grader," Barquera recalled of his time in junior high. "It was way different. I wanted to act like a big boy. I thought they were cool."

What they were, though, were partiers and gang members, Barquera said.

"We partied almost every day," he said. "Drug parties. In a way, I thought it was good for me because it made me feel so great. In a way, it was not because I knew it was bad for me. But I was hardheaded. I was hopeful I would grow out of it."

Initially, Barquera didn't grow out of it. Instead, his gang sucked him in more. They partied, got high and drove around until they found someone to beat up. They preyed on kids who needed a friend, then initiated those kids into their gang.

"In the eighth grade, it was just the same old routine. Then I got in ninth grade, and I started my own gang," Barquera said. "It was like a little army. You'd get soldiers — you can't have a gang without soldiers. Then there are captains. And sometimes you have something like a godfather. He's over the whole thing.

"We'd just pick out kids and pretend to be their best friend. After a couple of weeks, we'd ask if they wanted to join. You'd have to get at least three or four to start a gang."

Barquera said if kids didn't want to join, that was fine. He let them walk away. In a way, joining was worse than not joining. To become a member of Barquera's gang, he said, kids were "initiated around." That meant they had to fight at least four gang members for a minute and a half. Then they fought for one minute. Then for 30 seconds. In the end, they were generally tired and beat up, but they belonged.

"But I never peer-pressured nobody," Barquera said.

It wasn't until Barquera arrived at Central that his initial hopes of growing out of the gang scene came true. Early in his first semester, Barquera was running around town with several members of his gang. They ran into several members of another gang, and Barquera was beat up.

"I learned my lesson," he said. "I got jumped by five or six dudes. I had like six of my friends with me, and they didn't even help me out. So when it was over, I just walked out. I said, 'That's it. I'm finished.'"

Leaving the gang was pretty easy, Barquera said. He said it took a lot of guts, but once he had things straight in his mind, Barquera decided to take the risk.

Leaving the drugs behind was more difficult.

"I just cut back," he said. "I was doing it every day, then a couple of times a week. Then it was once a week, once a month. One day, I just wasn't doing it anymore."

In the meantime, someone wanted Barquera off the streets. He was taken to the James R. White Gymnastics Center to meet the Central boys coach.

"I knew what he was involved in," Bobcat coach Kern Arrott said. "But just look at him. He looks like a gymnast. So I enrolled him in my JV . . . Nefi had all the athletic ability, and he was smart."

But not smart enough to stay off drugs and the streets — at least not until Arrott sat him and another gang member down one day and laid down the law.

"I said they could make a choice — either gangs or gymnastics," Arrott said. "I told them I couldn't understand why the kids they called friends beat them up.

"I said, 'They beat you up for you to get in, and they beat you up for you to get out. But when you came in here, I didn't beat you up. And if you decide you want to leave, that you don't want to do gymnastics, I'm not going to beat you up. I'll do whatever I can to help, but you have to go by the rules.'"

The other boy eventually chose to leave. Barquera, who won the District 4-5A title on still rings four weeks ago, is what Arrott calls "a survivor."

"I told him he's very blessed with talent, and if he stayed, he would end up having his name in the paper for gymnastics instead of having it in the paper in the official records," Arrott recalled.

But the main reason Barquera chose gymnastics was because he found there what he'd been looking

see **Gymnast,** *page 14*

Ravaioli-Larkin named co-coach of year in SWC

By Tasha Zemke
TCU Daily Skiff

TCU women's golf coach Angie Ravaioli-Larkin was awarded the co-coach of the year award by the Southwest Conference over the weekend.

The award was split with Texas Tech women's golf coach Jeff Mitchell.

Angie Ravaioli-Larkin

Ravaioli-Larkin, who has coached the Lady Frogs for the past two years, is well-deserving of the award, said members of the team.

"She has helped our team out a lot, in every way she can," said freshman pre-major and golfer Susan Horton. "She has improved my game mentally and physically, and she always has a positive attitude."

Horton said that Ravaioli-Larkin pushes the team and tells the women never to give up.

Sophomore education major and golfer Nona Epps said that Ravaioli-Larkin has worked hard to build a strong TCU team that is goal-oriented.

"She totally deserves it (the award)," Eppps said. "She's a great coach and a great person to be around. She's positive, realistic and a great teacher."

All the SWC coaches respect Ravaioli-Larkin, Epps said.

Horton said Ravaioli-Larkin was surprised when she received the award.

"But we all hoped she was gonna get it," Horton said.

Frogs beat Tarleton State, 16-1

By Tasha Zemke
TCU Daily Skiff

The TCU baseball team defeated Tarleton State University, 16-1, yesterday afternoon at the TCU Baseball Diamond in front of an attendance of 211. It was head coach Lance Brown's 300th career win at TCU.

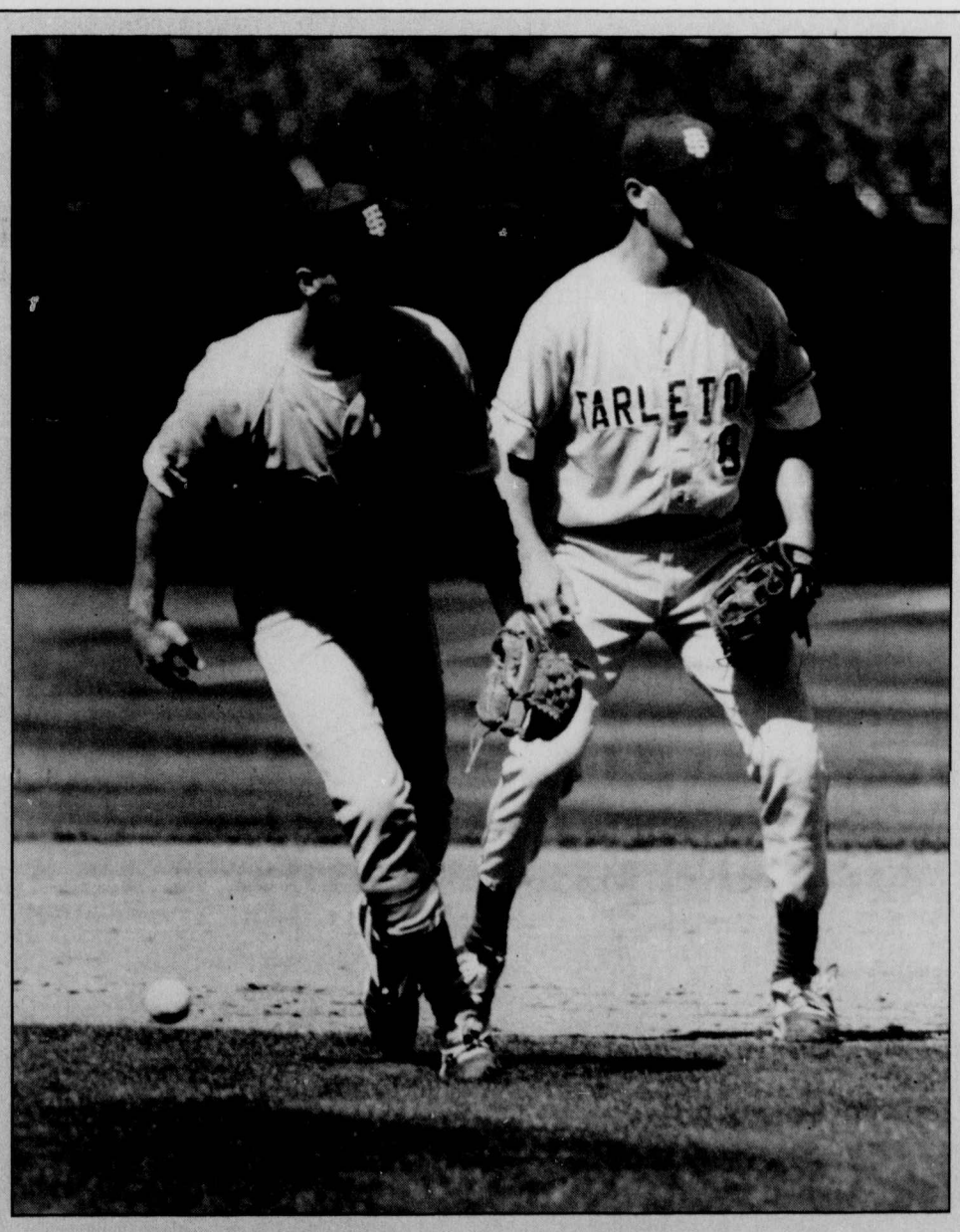
Junior Flint Wallace started as pitcher for TCU, (27-26) completing six innings and racking up his eighth season win before Brown replaced him with sophomore Reese Ryan.

Tarleton State's (25-23) only score was made by first baseman Gus Garza during the second inning, and only four players had hits. On the other side of the coin, every TCU starter had at least one hit, and sophomores Jeff Yarbrough, Ryan Dunn and freshman Matt Howe each had three hits.

Six errors were committed by Tarleton State, while TCU remained flawless.

Tarleton State pitching varied. Doug Rummel, who started the game, pitched only two innings, allowing five runs. Rummel was replaced by Brent Wachtman, who served the next three innings and fared only worse, allowing six runs. Chris Felt closed the game for Tarleton State during the last inning, where TCU jacked on another five points.

The Horned Frogs will play at 4 p.m. Friday against the Oklahoma Sooners in Norman, Okla.



TCU Daily Skiff/ Blake Sims

Two Tarleton State players try to recover from a pop fly fumble.

Columnist picks winners and losers of NFL draft

Last weekend, 30 NFL teams participated in the annual college draft. Some teams took advantage of the opportunity and some teams looked as though they slept through the entire proceedings. Let's take at look at some of the winners and losers of the draft.

The Winners

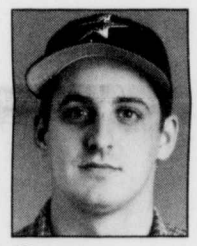
The Tampa Bay Bucs had the best draft by far. They took advantage of all of their early picks, and look poised to finally break the .500 mark. Regan Upshaw and Marcus Jones will bolster a young defensive line that already features Warren Sapp. Fullback Mike Alstott was projected to go in the first round, but he hung around until the second; Alstott should help out in the backfield. Jason Odom should help solidify an offensive line that was below average last season. *Grade: A+*

The Jaguars followed a very successful off season with a topflight draft. They should compete for a playoff spot very soon. Kevin Hardy is as good as they come at linebacker, and Tony Brackens will give the Jaguars a strong pass rusher on the defensive line. These two players should radically improve the Jaguars' defense. *Grade: A*

The Jets had their first good draft in years. Rich Kotite showed us that he really does know something about football when he picked Keyshawn Johnson. Alex Van Dyke gives the Jets another guy who can catch the football. Ray Mickens and Marcus Coleman will bolster a secondary that desperately needed somebody. *Grade: A-*

The Oilers pulled off two of the most interesting first-round trades by trading down with the Raiders, and then up with the Seahawks. They got two extra picks out of the two deals, and only had to give up a mediocre defensive tackle in Glenn Montgomery. They still got their man in Eddie George and picked an offensive tackle and defensive tackle (Jason Layman and Bryant Mix) that could get immediate playing time. *Grade: A-*

Some analyst didn't like the Eagles' first pick, but I think Jermane Mayberry will help their offensive line a lot. The Eagles filled their biggest need when they drafted tight end Jason Dunn. Brian Dawkins gives them more depth in the secondary, and Bobby Hoying will be yet another quarterback to work with. *Grade: A-*



Scott Barzilla
Sports Columnist

Arizona Cardinals coach Vince Tobin showed that he knew more about football than Buddy Ryan ever did. He got a nice defensive end in Simeon Rice, and scooped up Leeland McElroy when he fell to the second round. McElroy gives the team insurance for Garrison Hearst and a dynamite return man. Johnny McWilliams and Jarius Hayes will compete for the big gaping hole at tight end. *Grade: B+*

The Giants didn't get the dominating player they wanted with the fifth pick, but they still did OK for themselves. Cedric Jones will upgrade the defensive line, and Amani Toomer will give the receiving core some much-needed speed. Roman Oben might fill the void left by Jumbo Elliot at tackle. Danny Kanell should save Giants' fans from the terrible sight of Tommy Maddux. *Grade: B+*

Pittsburgh added only one frontline player in the draft with offensive tackle Jamain Stephens, but he pulled off the best trade in the draft. The addition of Jerome Bettis guarantees that the Steelers running attack will be as good as last year's if not better. Otherwise, they would have had to watch Court TV to see what will happen to Bam Morris. Now, it doesn't matter. *Grade B+*

The Colts didn't do too well in the lower rounds this year, but their first selection is enough to make the grade. Marvin Harrison might be the best receiver in the draft, and he fell

see **NFL,** *page 14*

Sports Digest

U.S. hockey team tops Germans

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — The United States won its second game in two days in the World Ice Hockey Championships, beating Germany 4-2 today on two goals by Chris Tancill of the San Jose Sharks.

The Americans, a 5-1 winner over Austria in its opening game, had its hands full with an aggressive, hard-checking German team that led 2-1 after the first period.

The Germans are now winless in two games after a 2-1 loss to Russia in their opening game.

The United States is favored to advance to the medal round.

Fans sue for video captioning

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Timed to coincide with the playoffs, a group of hearing-impaired fans filed a class-action lawsuit Tuesday against the NBA, the San Antonio Spurs and the Alamodome, seeking video captioning at games.

The plaintiffs filed the federal lawsuit under the Americans with Disabilities Act, asking for captioning on big-screen television and smaller monitors.

"We're not talking about a case that creates a financial burden on anybody," said Jim Harrington, legal director for the Texas Civil Rights Project.

Bristow resigns from Hornets

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Allan Bristow resigned under pressure as coach of the Charlotte Hornets today after the club had a nine-game drop-off from last season's 41-41 record and failed to make the playoffs.

Bristow molded the franchise into respectability, but was unable to turn the Hornets into consistent winner.

"Allan and I came to a mutual agreement that it was time for us to make a change and head in a different direction," Hornets owner George Shinn said at a news conference.

Bristow has twice led the Hornets to the playoffs.

Dolphins re-sign QB Marino

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — Jimmy Johnson secured a quarterback Tuesday to implement his plan for winning the Super Bowl by 1998.

The name may be familiar: Dan Marino.

Johnson and the Miami Dolphins re-signed the record-setting passer to a three-year contract reportedly worth $17.73 million.

"I felt very comfortable with my performance over the last few years and felt I have a lot of good years left," Marino said at a news conference.

Marino has yet to win a championship and turns 35 in September.

L.A. Kings get new president

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Tim Leiweke, who became president and chief executive of U.S. Skiing last September, is quitting to head up the NHL's Los Angeles Kings.

In a letter to U.S. Ski Team backers, Leiweke said Denver railroad mogul Phil Anschutz had hired him as president of the Kings.

John Frew, president of Colorado Ski Country USA, said he was not surprised Leiweke was headed to Los Angeles.

"Tim's heart is in team sports," Frew said, adding the move would mean a loss to the ski industry. . .

NFL *from page 13*

to the Colts. Dedric Mathis should be a solid safety in the NFL, but Harrison might help the team compete for the division crown. *Grade: B+*

The Losers

San Francisco had an absolutely putrid draft. Israel Ifeanyi will give the 49ers another pass rusher, but nothing was done to improve the offensive line. Protection became a problem for Steve Young last season, but it will be a bigger problem this season. *Grade: F*

Bobby Bethard outdid himself and the Chargers this time. He needed a lot of help but traded away his first rounder last season. He then traded away next year's first rounder to select wide receiver Bryan Still. Still might become a solid receiver, but he will never be worth a first rounder. *Grade: F*

Atlanta did most of its dealings before the draft, but it avoided a failing grade by drafting a solid defensive line prospect in Shannon Brown. *Grade: D*

The Cowboys didn't do very well for themselves this year. They needed a wide receiver but elected to go with Kavika Pittman, a pass rushing prospect, and Randall Godfrey, a solid outside linebacker. Dallas fans will be glued to Court TV to see what happens to superstar receiver Michael Irvin. *Grade: C-*

Buffalo added a nice receiver in Eric Moulds but little else in the later rounds. Moulds will allow the team to compete for the Super Bowl, but the future doesn't bode well for this aging team. *Grade: C-*

The Chiefs added some players to their defense but probably should have addressed the wide receivers position. Jerome Woods, Reggie Tongue and Donnie Edwards will keep the Chiefs' defense near the top, but they added little to an offense that lost a few key players this off-season. *Grade: C-*

Mixing church and athletic boundaries:

Coaches accused of pushing religion sign contract extensions, settle suit

By Juan Elizondo Jr.
Associated Press

ELGIN, Texas (AP) — Residents in this town of nearly 5,000 say they are ready to get on with their lives after two high school coaches were accused of crossing the line between church and state separations.

The issue, heated by a lawsuit, was resolved Monday night when the Elgin School Board voted to extend the coaches' contracts and to settle the lawsuit.

Athletic director and football coach Eddie Baca's contract and baseball coach Brad Osborn's contract were up for review before the lawsuit was filed last month by the American Civil Liberties Union.

On votes of 4-3, Baca got a two-year extension on his contract; Osborn got a one-year extension.

Both were accused of bringing their religions into the locker room — leading team prayers, playing Christian music and posting biblical verses. They also were accused of trying to coerce student athletes into attending church and other religious activities.

Baca admitting using Christian music and prayer, but said he never coerced any students to participate in religious activities or to attend his church.

Osborn also denied those accusations.

The ACLU filed its lawsuit against the district, the coaches and two other coaches on behalf of a group of students and parents. The school board voted 7-0 to approve a settlement that means the coaches will stop using Christian music, prayers and biblical verses.

It does not require the coaches to admit they did anything wrong, said Larry Wright, an attorney for Osborn.

The settlement in part says the coaches and school admit the lawsuit was warranted and necessary.

Kaye Stiles, a journalism teacher and parent who led the group suing the coaches, said that means the coaches admit they were wrong.

"I'm proud they agreed to settle this," said Mrs. Stiles. "But what kind of message does this send. It's hard to tell kids you can break the law and get rewarded."

Baca and Osborn said with the settlement done and their contracts renewed they were ready to move on and believe the community would heal from the rift caused by the lawsuit and their actions.

"We're going to move on," Baca said. "I hope it's going to die right now."

Elgin ISD Superintendent Ronald Bradford, said he was happy the lawsuit was settled and hoped to get back to the business of education.

"We have to realize that the kids in our school district and their education has to be foremost," he said. "We have to pull together."

Gymnast *page 13*

for in gangs the whole time — true friends. Although his gang friends just let him get beat up, his gymnastics friends are there when he needs them.

"It's just way different in here. We're a team, we work together," Barquera said. "We have fun and play jokes on each other, just like regular teens. The team's a real gang. We work together. Yeah, I thought the other guys were my friends, but I guess not."

Barquera added that gymnastics also gives him a way to fill his time. He feels that if he'd had more to do — like gymnastics — when he jumped from elementary school to junior high, his life might have been different.

"I think if they had more programs for people, things would change," he said. "My brother was trying to join (a gang), but I told him if he ever did, I'd kick his butt. I don't want him to do it."

Since the arrival of Barquera, Arrott's done quite a bit of changing. In his fourth year with the Bobcats, Arrott has had to adjust his philosophy of coaching.

"He's what gymnastics and coaching is all about," Arrott said of Barquera. "Victories are great, but a kid like that is what it's all about. It's all about getting in touch with kids and teaching them something, doing the right thing.

"I always felt I was here to help kids, but winning came first to me. But I've watched his life change, and that's the main reason we're here. And the funny thing is, if you believe in them and work at it, I really think the wins will come. It's a neat deal."

Arrott said that when he works with an athlete with a past like Barquera's, he sometimes worries what the future holds for them. With college scholarships for male gymnasts dwindling fast because of Title IX, there are few opportunities to continue in their sport. For kids without the financial resources to attend college, their options are limited.

But Arrott's encouraged for Barquera, who helps coach the age-group program at Central.

"I think Nefi's got it made now," Arrott said. "He's got the desire to really work and go on to college. But if he doesn't, I know Nefi will be a success anyway . . . I think he'd be a great little coach. He loves gymnastics. And you can tell he cares for the kids when he's working with them. He wants them to do well."

It's that same desire that makes Barquera want to go back to San Jacinto Elementary School in San Angelo and discourage kids from joining gangs. He admits that he never listened to anyone before — not his parents, not former gang members who talked at his elementary school, not even an acquaintance who did time in prison. But he hopes that kids will listen to him.

"I wish I could have done gymnastics in junior high," Barquera said. "I've changed a lot. Now I just want to help others out. I have no idea what I'd say . . . Sometimes I think back, and I wonder where I would be if I were still doing it, and I don't know. But I feel proud of myself for getting out."

And that says a lot.

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