

Skiff



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Should the Reform Party be included in the fall debates
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WEATHER FORECAST

High 90
Low 70



Partly cloudy
Chance of rain

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 19, 1996

Texas Christian University
94th Year • Number 14

Volcano erupts on Montserrat

PLYMOUTH, Montserrat (AP) — Blasting red-hot gravel into the air, an erupting volcano torched several buildings in an evacuated zone Wednesday and coated the abandoned capital in ash.

It was the largest eruption of the Soufriere Hills volcano since it rumbled to life last year. There were no injuries, though several dozen people were evacuated from an expanded danger zone as a precaution.

The 3,000-foot volcano erupted July 18, 1995, and has forced three evacuations since then. The capital, Plymouth, lies within the evacuated zone.

O.J. judge refuses excuses

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — The O.J. Simpson civil trial opened Wednesday with the judge displaying a style of jury selection summed up in two words: No excuses.

Superior Court Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki turned away most claims of hardship by the first 25 jurors summoned to his courtroom. Only four people initially were able to convince him they could not serve on what's expected to be a four-month trial.

The first wave of jurors was racially mixed with more than half white, a quarter black and the rest Asian or Hispanic.

'Spin City' wins time slot Tuesday

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael J. Fox got a warm welcome back to series TV Tuesday night.

His new ABC sitcom, 'Spin City,' premiered with a household rating of 17.0 (or about 16.5 million TV homes) and a hefty 25 percent share of homes watching TV, according to Nielsen Media Research figures.

This was good news for ABC, which counts "Spin" as one of its key ingredients for improving on its second-place finish for the 1995-96 season.

"Spin" beat the season premiere of NBC's "Caroline in the City," the runner-up in that 9:30 p.m. EDT time slot. NBC won the overall ratings race for the night.

Researchers find possible areas for asthma genes

NEW YORK (AP) — Researchers who trolled the human DNA for signs of asthma genes have found six spots where the gene might be hiding.

Scientists already knew that several genes make people susceptible to asthma, which affects some 14.6 million Americans. Those genes team up with environmental triggers to bring on the disease.

If susceptibility genes really are lurking in the areas identified, it will take roughly three to five years to find them, said Dr. William O.C.M. Cookson of John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, England.

Eventually, the genes may suggest new drugs for treatment.

Troops depart for training in Kuwait

FORT HOOD (AP) — The first 219 troops from the 1st Cavalry Division departed Texas Wednesday for training in the Middle East.

A total of some 3,000 soldiers in the 1st Cavalry's 3rd Brigade were expected to depart for Kuwait over the next several days.

The troops are joining 1,200 Fort Hood soldiers who arrived in Kuwait last month. The additional troops were first alerted to prepare for deployment Friday and received their final orders Tuesday.

The 1,200 troops already in Kuwait were scheduled to train until December. Officials have not said whether that will be extended.

Candidate may have broken rules

By Rob Sherwin
SKIFF STAFF

Vice-presidential run-off candidate Kevin Nicoletti may have violated the Election Code of TCU's House of Student Representatives by exceeding the campaign spending limit, said Kelly Pelton, a former chairwoman of the House Elections and Regulations Committee.

According to the Election Code, candidates may only spend \$40 on their campaigns, and the amount "must include the actual expenses, plus fair market value of any donated materials or campaign aids."

Nicoletti, a sophomore business management major, may have violated the code when he held a campaign rally at Frog Fountain on Sept. 11. Fisherman's Ensemble, a local band, played at the rally for no charge, but the band's fair market value was not assessed to Nicoletti's campaign expenses. The band also wore Nicoletti campaign buttons during the rally.

Matt Rosen, a sophomore biology major and member of Fisherman's Ensemble, said the band often plays for free, but has played at venues such as the Coffee Plantation for \$150. The band also played at the

Grind in Eden's Green during Howdy Week and was paid \$150 by the Programming Council, Rosen said.

Nicoletti said he cleared the event with Theresa Hill, chairwoman of the House Elections and Regulations Committee. "I worried about Fisherman's Ensemble at the time," he said. "That's why I went to Theresa, and I said, 'I've got this great idea. Can I do this?' She said that it would be fine.

"Fisherman's has given free concerts in the past, and they're looking for exposure, so we were both helping each other out. Number one, I

got my name out, and number two, they're getting high exposure. I checked in with Theresa, and everything was fine," he said.

Hill said she gave the band permission to play, but she said she thought they did not charge a fee for any of its concerts.

"To my knowledge, the band plays for free," Hill said.

Nicoletti could not be reached before press time for comment on the possible violations.

House President Sharon Selby said the Elections Appeals Board would decide whether Nicoletti violated the code if charges were filed.

The board consists of House Parliamentarian Will Pryor, two House members appointed by Selby, an Elections and Regulations Committee member appointed by Hill, a representative from the Campus Life office and Hill.

Selby said for "the Board to hear the case, a charge must be filed by a candidate, a member of the Elections and Regulations Committee or a poll worker. No charges have been filed, she said.

Selby also said Nicoletti has done a good job of clearing questionable

Please see CANDIDATE, Page 2

Starpoint, TCU share 30 years

By Paul Corliss
SKIFF STAFF

There's a birthday on campus: Starpoint School is celebrating its 30th year at TCU.

Established in 1966 by M.J. and Alice Neeley, Starpoint School serves as an on-campus training site for TCU students in the School of Education preparing to become teachers.

The school is a research site for faculty and staff who prepare an educational program for children with learning disabilities or attention deficits that interfere with academic progress.

Starpoint School President Kathleen Williams said Neeley family members will visit the school at various times throughout the year as part of the birthday celebration.

"We're happily celebrating our birthday and are welcoming members of the Neeley family who will visit us to share our happiness," she said.

Williams said Starpoint's program is the best of its kind in the nation.

"There are only two other schools of our kind in the country," she said. "One is in Washington D.C., the other's in Washington state."

Williams is in her third year at Starpoint. She came to the TCU community from the Southlake Carroll Independent School District, where she was a principal.

The Neeleys were inspired to help children with learning disabilities after watching their grandson struggle academically because of his problems, Williams said.

Williams said the Neeleys



Charlyse Lewis SKIFF STAFF

(clockwise from left) Mike McCurdy, a senior music education major; Byron Gordon, a sophomore music major; and Cory Gavito, a senior music education major, practice for their jazz ensemble Wednesday evening in Ed Landreth Auditorium.

Annual festival arrives

By Erik McKenzie
SKIFF STAFF

Art vendors, craft exhibits and live music will all be featured at TCU's annual arts and music festival this week.

The event, sponsored by Programming Council, will allow students to explore art, listen to music and eat free food.

The festival will include different artists from the Fort Worth and Arlington areas and will host several local bands that play a variety of music.

Greg Barron, Programming Council Concert Events chairman, said the festival will be an opportunity for all students to have a chance to create art.

"The festival is designed for non-art majors to get to do hands-on art creations," Barron said.

He said students can create spin art, which he described as putting paper on a record player and using colors to design different patterns on the top of the spinning turntable.

Students will have other chances to create sand art and rock paintings. Barron said there will also be a place where students can make their own tie-dyed clothing.

Please see PC, Page 6

Program focuses on diversity

Myths, stereotypes portrayed in skit, discussed by students

By Bobbie Ann Stroud
SKIFF STAFF

He sat in a chair and she sat on the floor. He wore shoes and she was barefoot. He rubbed his stomach and she interpreted that as his sign of hunger and fed him.

This was a skit featuring a couple in the Albatrosian culture, a pseudo-culture used to demonstrate myths about stereotypes of other cultures.

After the skit, students of Connections: Diversity Institute expressed their anxieties about a male-dominated culture, which they said they thought was the focus of the exhibition.

As their discussion continued, leaders of the Institute helped the group realize the female actually dominated the male. Anantha Babbili, professor of journalism and chairman of the department, played the man. He told the audience his action of tasting the food was meant to protect the woman and to make sure she would not be poisoned.

Babbili said his character was not pure enough to sit on the floor or be barefoot because then a part of his body would be touching the earth.

The woman was the only being worthy of touching the earth because, as a caretaker and life-giver, she was pure, he said.

This exhibition was the first exer-

cise of Connections: Diversity Institute, a nine-week program designed for students to open their minds to different cultures.

The program will provide students with the chance to raise awareness in themselves and others through speakers, discussions and outside projects, said Darron Turner, director of minority affairs.

The Connections experience includes weekly seminars from 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesdays, speakers and group discussions, outside experiential learning projects and different presentations to student groups, he said.

"The program will provide students with a chance to serve on committees dealing with diversity, and job opportunities will be available after the successful completion of the program," Turner said.

One of the biggest issues facing young people is diversity, especially when it goes beyond the bounds of race and ethnicity, Turner said.

"The question you must ask yourself is, 'What role you will play in defining diversity?'" he said. "Students can begin to define their role by participating in the program."

The Rev. John Butler, minister to the university, said the program will focus on being part of both the minority majority populations.



Rebecca Newitt SKIFF STAFF

Anantha Babbili, professor of journalism and chairman of the department, and Kakoli Ghosh, a graduate student, play the role of a couple in the Albatrosian culture, a mythical race used in a presentation for Connections: Diversity Institute.

"We need to learn to respect, appreciate and celebrate a variety of cultures," he said. "We are going to talk in terms of the idea that we are from all cultures but yet we are one culture."

The program will express the complex dynamics between the

seemingly opposing aspects of diversity within a global community, Butler said.

"No one person knows everything about diversity, it's a lifelong journey," he said. "But what we hope to

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Pulse

CAMPUS LINES

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION will attend a picnic today in the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens. Those who want attend should meet at 5 p.m. in Student Center Room 222.

ABOVE AND BEYOND... The House of Student Representatives invites everyone to the 1996 University Leadership Retreat on Friday and Saturday. For more information contact the House office at 921-7924.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION will hold its first meeting of the year at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 24 in Dan Rogers Hall Room 140 to discuss speakers and events. For more information contact Darren Lewis at 920-9184.

SCRUB FASHION SHOW AND STETHOSCOPE DISPLAY will be held at 12:30 p.m. Sept. 26 in the living room of the Annie Richardson Bass Building. All students are invited. Refreshments will be served.

UNDERGRADS INTERESTED IN STUDENT TEACHING need to fill out an application. Applications can be picked up in the Bailey Building Room 102 or 304. All applications for Spring 1997 student teachers are due Sept. 25.

DECEMBER DEGREE CANDIDATES should file their intent to graduate immediately in the office of their academic dean.

NATIONAL COLLEGE POETRY CONTEST is open to all college students who want their poetry anthologized. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top five poems. The deadline for submissions is Oct. 31. For contest rules send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: International Publications, PO Box 44044-I, Los Angeles, CA 90044.

Correction

In a Tuesday story about the vice presidential special election, a statement was inadvertently omitted. The story should have said Kevin Nicoletti was not available at press time to respond to accusations from other candidates of dirty campaigning. The *Skiff* regrets the error.

STARPOINT

From Page 1

believed teachers needed to be trained to better deal with children with special educational needs. Through Starpoint, the troubles their grandson encountered were addressed.

Starpoint students and TCU students reinforce each other's roles as they work together.

"TCU students are full of energy, enthusiasm and ideas," Williams said. "They ensure that the school has lots of activity, lots of communication and lots of fun."

TCU students participate at Starpoint School as observers, practice teachers, classroom aides and beginning educational researchers. TCU professors offer their knowledge to help the Starpoint staff and students.

"It's convenient to have this sort of facility located in your own backyard," said a TCU student who has worked at Starpoint. "The best thing about it, though, is the kids. They're fun and interesting to work with."

Each spring Starpoint screens for fall applicants. The school reviews the applicants' test data, meets with the child and shares information about the school's program. An admissions committee reviews all information compiled and decides whether Starpoint offers the kind of schooling a particular child requires.

"Our kids have a history of fail-

ure," Williams said. "We take them from that place where school wasn't fun, where they didn't feel good about themselves or what they were doing and put them in an environment that suits their needs."

"The kids don't feel inferior because they go to a 'special school.' It's actually quite the contrary," she said. "Our students are proud; they tell their friends that they attend TCU."

The students at Starpoint participate in various TCU campus activities, visit the sports facilities to tour the weight and locker rooms and meet TCU coaches.

"I like going to school here," said 8-year-old Reed Wilkerson, who is in his second year at Starpoint. "At my old school, Ridgela Hills (Elementary School), it was hard to understand things. Here the teachers are nice and easy to understand."

Tuition for a student at Starpoint School is \$4,000 a year. Scholarships are available based on financial need.

Starpoint School is accredited by the Commission on Elementary Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and is a member of the Southern Association of Independent Schools, the Texas Independent Schools Consortium and the National Association of Laboratory Schools.

CANDIDATE

From Page 1

issues with Hill.

"Kevin Nicoletti has taken every step to clear all his campaigning through the Elections and Regulations Committee," she said. "He has taken steps above the other candidates."

Pelton said she thinks the case should be examined.

"If it's any issue that concerns the candidates or any one who supported the candidates, then it should be examined," she said. "I think any issue like this should be examined."

Ricky Paradise, the other run-off candidate, said he also thought of staging a rally with a band but thought it would violate the code.

"I wanted to do it and I wanted to do it the same way he wanted to do it, but I was told that it couldn't be done because fair market value on a band is \$500," said Paradise, a sophomore international finance and accounting major. "And so somehow, he gets it cleared. But that's smart campaigning. That's good campaigning."

Paradise also said Nicoletti's campaign was misleading.

"You see Nicoletti running on a foundation of House experience when he only spent one semester in the House," he said. "The only reason he spent that one semester in the House is because a seat became vacant at the semester."

"He wasn't even elected, he just stepped in because someone need-

ed to fill it. He talks all the time about his committee being the Student Concerns Committee. Check your records, it's not his committee. He was at best a peon on that committee."

Nicoletti said if the student body thought these accusations were true, those thoughts would have been reflected in the election.

"I'm doing my best to run a clean campaign," Nicoletti said. "I've made no attacks on any other candidate, and I'm going to continue to stick to that. Whether or not things were done that were tacky, that's for the students to decide. I'm just going to be who I am, and I'm not going to attack any other candidate."

Martin Reidy, a senior business management major and former vice-presidential candidate, said he has no immediate plans to file a charge against Nicoletti with the Elections and Regulations Committee, but said he would consider filing if Paradise and the two other former candidates were to approach him on the issue.

Nicoletti and Paradise finished first and second, respectively, in Tuesday's special election and are on the ballot in today's run-off. Mark Irish, a junior accounting and finance major, finished third, while Thomas Kunkel, a senior radio-TV-film major, finished fourth. Reidy was the fifth-place candidate.

PLAY

From Page 1

do is give students a direct experience of what will be a changing reality."

Carlos Alvarado, a junior economics and English major, said the program is good because it helps all students get to know each other better.

"Diversity means so many different things to different people and I'm excited that we are going to do things in this program to help us learn what diversity is really about," he said.

Kevin Nicoletti, a sophomore business management major, said the program is an opportunity for students to get more involved in minority affairs.

"I've talked to a lot of minority students in different groups around campus, but this program is the best opportunity for students to communicate with one another about diversity," he said.

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Since 1902

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EDITORIALS

HERE'S THE DEAL

Perot should be included in debates

Someone needs to realize the world doesn't revolve around the Democrats and Republicans. Excluding Ross Perot from this year's presidential debates is saying that no one without partisan ties has a voice. No, the Commission on Presidential Debates shouldn't include fringe candidates, but Perot has been much more visible. Perot gained 19 percent of the votes in 1992. That's enough to justify letting him be part of this year's debates. And if that's not enough, the Federal Election Commission ruled earlier this year that Perot was eligible for \$29 million in federal money for the 1996 campaign because of his showing in 1992. Yet the Commission on Presidential Debates says Ross Perot has no "realistic chance." Did the

Commission ignore the fact that Perot received this money and that his name is on all 50 state ballots? Without Perot in the debates, the American people will again be subjected to inside-the-Beltway speeches that won't hit some of the key issues Perot emphasizes, such as campaign finance reform and opposition to free trade. In fact, one poll cited in *The Dallas Morning News* showed 62 percent of Americans want Perot in the debates. Did anyone consider this poll and what the public wants to see and hear in debates? Regardless of what the Commission thinks, Ross Perot, with his infomercials and media attention, is a viable candidate and should be part of the 1996 presidential debates.

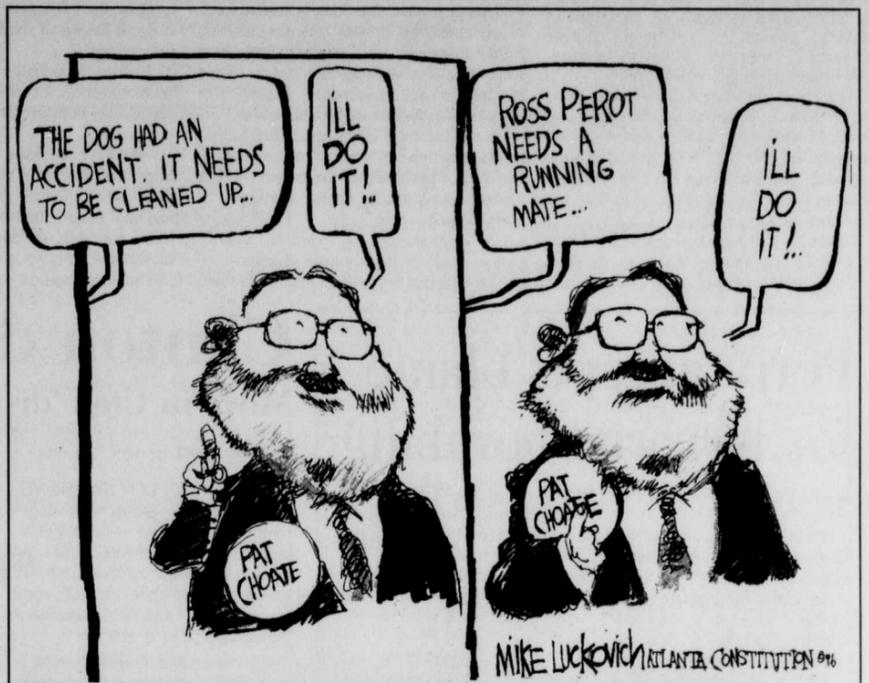
POINT

He's not a viable candidate

Even though he campaigns as an outside-the-Beltway, anti-establishment candidate, Ross Perot has mastered one aspect of modern American politics: whining. The Commission on Presidential Debates has recommended, not declared, that Perot be excluded from any fall debates because he has no "realistic chance" of winning. Everyone except Perot seems to realize this. Perot's Reform Party immediately said it would sue, and Reform vice-presidential candidate Pat Choate called the debate-designing system "a corrupt little game" between Democrats and Republicans. Every time something doesn't go Perot's way, he and his followers immediately cry that the system

is against them. Perhaps it is. But American politics and government is based on two parties that represent serious ideological differences. If the American people seriously wanted a viable third party, they would already have one. Perot doesn't have the support of more than five percent of Texas residents, and he almost certainly won't gain more than that nationwide. If he is included with such little support, then what about Libertarian Harry Browne and Green Party candidate Ralph Nader? What about the Natural Law Party, the Socialists and the Communists? The commission made a wise recommendation. The debate, if you will, has moved beyond Ross Perot.

COUNTERPOINT



U.S. disease: ignorance

Lazy, uneducated kids result of poor teaching

What is the definition of an educated person? Is a person educated when he or she graduates from high school or college? Does a diploma denote that someone is officially educated?

Apparently not. Ignorance is a disease that is destroying American brains. But are students to blame?

The Dallas Morning News quoted a study that found almost 40 percent of math teachers are not qualified to teach math.

Texas doesn't require a teaching certificate. Any random Joe could walk into a classroom and teach. This explains why students doubt their teachers' intelligence.

The study also found 500 of the nation's 1,200 schools lack accreditation. The United States is infamous for having the laziest, most uneducated kids on the planet. The government is to blame for this. We alienate ourselves from other countries by not forcing children to become bilingual.

Ask any international exchange student how many languages he or she knows — at least two, probably more. Two years of foreign language in high school does not make you bilingual. Other countries start pushing foreign languages as early as kindergarten.

President Clinton promised to improve the hiring and training of our nation's teachers in his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention. This still leaves the United States with a generation of children without an accredited education. It's known that our nation's priorities are screwed up, but, in the long run, the only people who are going to suffer are those here to see future generations take the reins.

By the time students get to college, they should already have a grasp of basic knowledge, but they don't. Edwin Feulner, president of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, writes about an informal survey conducted at the University of Maryland. He found that students could not answer simple questions about history, geography, math and science. Students were dumbfounded when asked questions such as, "What is the formula for the area of a rectangle?" Some guy said Pearl Harbor was a country the United States

fought against during World War II. That may seem funny, but it's not the least bit funny that most high school students cannot name all 50 states, or that very few TCU students can name the mayor of Fort Worth.

In order to register for most journalism classes, students at TCU are required to pass a grammar, spelling and punctuation test. It sounds pretty easy, right? Wrong!

The journalism department had to limit the number of times a person could take the test to three. They also had to set up a tutorial program for those students with weak grammar skills. I know extremely intelligent people who had to switch majors because they failed this test. It's not their fault the elementary and high schools they attended did not emphasize grammatical skills.

Until the government steps in and reconstructs our education system, our only option may be to turn to self-education. It's not hard to read a newspaper or a book every now and then. All the information you need to make yourself an educated person is out there. You just have to find it.

Jodie Vonderhaar is a junior advertising-public relations major from Arlington.

COLUMN



JODIE VONDERHAAR

Kunkel throws dirt into clean campaign

"For what does it profit a man to gain the world and lose his soul?" Or to be more precise, how can someone truly care about TCU while stomping all over his classmates to show us how much he cares?

These questions came to mind after seeing Thomas Kunkel's table flyers on Tuesday. In the span of a short paragraph, Kunkel managed to take name-calling and mudslinging to an all-time low (on-campus anyway).

COLUMN



SCOTT BARZILLA

It reached its low point when Kunkel said, "It's simple, you can vote for one of the popularity boys or you can vote for someone who will do a good job."

Those are startling accusations, Mr. Kunkel. And I suppose you have proof of these accusations. Reading this passage can lead one to wonder where libel comes into play.

Kunkel also tried to tell constituents what the most important issue of the campaign is — education. Is that so? I don't remember anyone asking me what I thought the most important issue was.

On the special section dedicated to the candidates in Tuesday's *Skiff*, Kunkel said, "I want to work toward improving teaching here at TCU."

If I were a professor at TCU, I would be insulted by that statement. An undergraduate

is going to try to tell people with doctorate degrees how to teach. That ought to be interesting.

Perhaps Mr. Kunkel doesn't know what people have to go through to get a doctorate. If he doesn't, he might want to ask one of his professors. He might think twice about criticizing them if he did.

Most of us were taught to respect people who have more schooling than ourselves. Call it courtesy, call it respect or call it anything you want. It seems that some haven't learned these lessons yet.

Perhaps we should spend more time teaching students to respect those who have more knowledge than themselves. They might actually learn more that way. That would seem to be a good goal for an institution of higher learning.

Perhaps education isn't an issue with

most students. Maybe most of us are satisfied with the professors we have had thus far. In a representative government, the voters define the issues that are important to them, not the candidates. I resent the fact that Thomas Kunkel is trying to tell me what we should worry about. I thought representative democracy worked the other way.

The most distressing aspect of this campaign is the length to which Kunkel goes to discredit his opponents. Are campus politics really that important?

Campus politics used to be fairly refreshing. National politics is full of shameless attacks and deceptive sound bites. At least House candidates kept mudslinging out of their campaigns. Until now.

This style of campaigning creates a lot of problems. House members often talk

about how important it is to have a good relationship with the administration. A good relationship with fellow House members is even more important.

If every candidate cares about TCU as much as they say they do, they will have to work together in the future. How willing will they be to do that after this campaign?

Perhaps a public apology is in order. Perhaps Mr. Kunkel should privately apologize to everyone who ran against him. Perhaps Mr. Kunkel should apologize for insulting our intelligence and for bringing lowdown filthy tactics into an otherwise respectable campaign. At the very least, I hope no one else follows his example.

Scott Barzilla is a senior political science major from Houston.

Board's blank check could have been disastrous

The legacy of last year's House of Student Representatives' ineptitude lives! This particular instance finds the Executive Board free from blame. However, the student representatives have earned the lifetime title of "mindless sheep."

The House has a nasty reputation for affirming everything lacking logic and attacking all that has any intellectual merit. Last year's achievement record was highlighted by the brilliant decision to fund four buses to the University of Texas-TCU game in Austin.

Backed by school spirit? Yes. Good intentions? Yes. Well thought out? No. The prob-

lem occurred when the administration offered to cover half of the cost. The House decided that in order for it to be truly student-supported, students (all 35 of them) must pay for all of it. Of course the students lined up on game day to ride the "spirit buses" and, of course, the student body had to eat the \$2,000 loss, since four buses were chartered and not even one was filled.

One might think that the House would learn from this monkey-esque waste of money. He or she would be moronically wrong. Instead, the sheep-like representatives give license for the Executive Board to spend gargantuan amounts of money during the summer without notifying the student body.

The origin of this lies in Resolution 96-15, "A Resolution to Support the Construction of a Worth Hills Track." This has been the brain child of the Executive Board for some time. The cost of this was

estimated at \$17,500. The cost is a moot point. The contention resides in the fact that the final three lines of the resolution reads, "Be it Resolved: That the TCU House of Student Representatives supports the Executive Board's decision to commit funds over the summer for the construction of a Worth Hills running track."

The Executive Board should be commended for successfully turning a limited democracy into an oligarchy. The representatives should be shot for their failure to see the potential for a giant reaming of the student budget. Essentially, since the resolution dictates that the House supports any expenditures over the summer (note there is no specified amount written down anywhere in the resolution, not even a ballpark figure) the Executive Board now has the right to spend as much as they damn well please.

A diamond-encrusted, gold bar-paved running track? No problem, since they now

have the blind consent of the student body. The fact that the Executive Board did not milk TCU for all that it is worth is also moot. It is the potential for shady, under-the-table dealings that indict last year's House members as morons and not the do-gooders they so vehemently touted themselves to be.

If any other organization went in front of the House asking for money without a specified amount in writing, they would be laughed out of the building. If College Bowl asked for a blank check from the House because they hadn't worked out all of the "few small details," they would be handed white sleeveless jackets and asked to get in the pretty white van. Yet, the same House that makes Ebenezer Scrooge look like Mother Teresa on crack when it comes to miserliness, freely hands out an unspecified amount of money like it is candy.

It is amazing that the student body actual-

ly heard of this fiasco. The resolution was strategically placed at the end of the year to avoid debate and ensure that it could be vague as hell with relative impunity due to: 1) the "need" to get the track completed before school started (this supersedes all rational thought) and 2) the freedom to change the amount without the student body's approval (if the estimated cost changes from \$17,500 to \$20,000 they can rape the budget for more without breaking the bond of "trust" they have with the student body).

Whether the Executive Board exercised the right to commit evil schemes doesn't matter. The true worry is the mandatory frontal lobotomy upon becoming a representative.

The "Baaaaa" have it!

Christopher Smith is a senior history and sociology major from Burleson.

COLUMN



CHRIS SMITH

Abortion pill called safe, could be available soon

By Connie Cass
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The drug RU-486, an alternative method of abortion to surgery, passed its last major hurdle Wednesday on the way to becoming available to women in the United States.

The Food and Drug Administration said the controversial French pill was safe and effective when used under a doctor's close supervision. But the FDA withheld final approval until it receives more information about how the drug would be manufactured and labeled.

It should be in doctors' offices by mid-to-late-1997, said Sandra Waldman, spokeswoman for the Population Council, the

nonprofit group that has the U.S. rights to market the drug.

The drug, already used by 200,000 European women, has long been the focus of an emotional debate between abortion rights supporters and abortion opponents, who argue that making the drug available in the privacy of doctors' offices will increase the number of U.S. abortions.

The FDA sent a letter requesting further information on Wednesday to the council, which in March began the process to get approval for the drug, known chemically as mifepristone.

Such letters are a common, usually minor, hurdle in the approval process.

"We are sure we will be able to provide

the FDA the outstanding information necessary for approval," the council said in a statement.

Once the FDA gets answers to its questions, it has up to six months to review the information.

Abortion opponents accused the Clinton administration of rushing the approval process for political rather than sound medical reasons.

"We have no idea what the long-term impact on women's health will be by this politically motivated push to get this chemical into American women's bodies," said Kristi Hamrick, spokeswoman for the conservative Family Research Council.

Tougher rhetoric came from Randall

Terry, founder of Operation Rescue: "The FDA is participation in the chemical assassination of innocent people," he said in a statement.

The decision was hailed by abortion rights supporters, who predicted it will end the days when women arriving for abortions have to pass through anti-abortion rallies outside clinics.

"It's a new era of choice for American women," said Margaret Conway, vice president for public policy at Planned Parenthood. "American women have been waiting for years for this approval. They're ready for this."

To induce an abortion, the pregnancy-ending pill is followed two days later by

another pill that causes strong uterine contractions to expel the fetus. The process can be painful and cause bleeding. It must be monitored closely, requiring three separate doctor exams for safety.

FDA officials would not give details of the information they still seek, saying that is considered proprietary information. Labeling questions usually involve instructions and warnings for patients and doctors.

The council also would not say what the FDA was seeking.

"Some things are easily accommodated in a couple of weeks or a couple of months," Waldman said. "Others will take longer."

Perry accepts blame for terrorist bombing

By John Diamond
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary William Perry told lawmakers Wednesday he bears responsibility for missteps by the Pentagon prior to the terrorist bombing that killed 19 U.S. airmen in Saudi Arabia.

"I have enjoyed some substantial successes, and I am proud of those successes. But Khobar Tower was a tragic failure," Perry told the House National Security Committee in a hearing on the June 25 attack at the Khobar Towers complex in Dhahran.

"To the extent this tragedy resulted from a failure of leadership, that responsibility is mine and mine alone."

His testimony did not entirely satisfy all the committee members. Some said people below Perry in the military's chain of command could hardly be expected to recommend punishment for the secretary or other senior Pentagon officials.

The hearing came two days after release of a task force report that said the Pentagon's top leaders failed to give counterterrorism high enough priority to protect soldiers in the field — particularly those deployed in the Middle East. The report did not name higher officials but heavily criticized Air Force Brig. Gen. Terry J. "Terry" Schwalier, the 4404th Wing commander in Saudi Arabia, for failing to pursue security at the Dhahran apartment complex more aggressively.

The author of that report, retired Gen. Wayne Downing, sat next to Perry in the House hearing room.

The report correctly concluded that "we do not have a focus in our budgeting process on force protection," Perry said. "That is my responsibility."

Declaring "I will not partici-

pate in the game of passing the buck," he noted that an Air Force general will review the Khobar Towers case to determine if further punishments are warranted. Perry gave no indication he might resign as a result of the bombing.

"We have a systematic and judicious process of military justice," Perry said. "I will let it proceed carefully and objectively. In the meantime, I will not seek to delegate the responsibility for this tragedy on any of my military commanders."

Perry said he still stands behind his top commanders, Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. Binford Peay III, head of the U.S. Central Command, responsible for the Persian Gulf area. If they made mistakes, Perry said, he is responsible because he supported them for their positions.

Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., who has sparred with Perry previously over defense issues, voiced dissatisfaction with the secretary's responses and suggested the committee conduct its own probe into culpability.

"I think any time you have someone that reports to you judging whether or not you are derelict in your duties, that presents an immediate and obvious conflict of interest," Weldon said.

Rep. Tillie Fowler, R-Fla., while not faulting Perry directly, said the Pentagon probe "needs to go up as well as down" the chain of command. "Senior civilian officials need to be held responsible."

Fowler said it is "inexcusable" that no Central Command senior officers had inspected the Khobar Towers complex for security vulnerability.

Clinton declares national monument

Move in Utah 'dismays' political leaders, 'delights' environmentalists

By Terence Hunt
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Ariz. — Siding with environmentalists in one of the nation's biggest wilderness battles, President Clinton declared 1.7 million acres of southern Utah's red-rock cliffs and canyons as a national monument Wednesday.

The election-year move effectively blocks development of one of America's largest-known coal reserves, to the dismay of political leaders in Utah, the nation's most Republican state.

"We can't have mines everywhere and we shouldn't have mines that threaten our national treasures," Clinton said.

Standing at the south rim of the Grand Canyon, Clinton invoked a 90-year-old law to create the Grand

Staircase-Escalante National Monument without congressional approval. He announced his decision near the same spot where Theodore Roosevelt used the same law, the Antiquities Act, to protect the Grand Canyon from development in 1908.

"We are saying very simply, our parents and grandparents saved the Grand Canyon for us," Clinton said. "Today we will save the Grand Escalante Canyons and the Kaiparowits Plateaus of Utah for our children."

The area is marked with natural arches and bridges, high cliffs of red, white and yellow sandstone and deep canyons.

Seven weeks before the election, Clinton's action delighted environmentalists but brought threats of political retaliation from Utah.

Mike Matz, executive director of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, called it "one of the most significant land actions that any president has done."

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said Clinton was declaring "war on the West."

Utah's Republican governor, Michael Leavitt, said Clinton "completely chose to ignore the process... (and) ignore the public trust" of people in the region.

Yet, with just five electoral votes in Utah, there was not much political risk for Clinton in offending the state's political establishment.

Arizona was the third state on Clinton's six-state campaign tour, and it was the second time he visited the state in a week. No Democrat has carried Arizona since Harry Truman in 1948, but Clinton cam-

aign officials say the president holds a narrow lead over Bob Dole.

From here, Clinton headed to Seattle for a speech at the Pike Place Market. On Thursday he will take a bus trip through Washington to Oregon for a rally in Portland on Friday. He will stop in South Dakota, another traditional Republican stronghold, on his return trip to Washington later in the day.

Clinton holds a double-digit lead in Washington and Oregon and a narrower edge in South Dakota, according to his campaign.

Clinton's designation of a national monument in southern Utah covers federal land to the west of the Colorado River and to the east of Bryce Canyon National Park. It includes the coal-rich Kaiparowits Plateau, the Escalante River Canyons and the Grand Staircase.

Dole unveils new political anti-drug slogan

By Curt Anderson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole today unveiled a new anti-drug slogan — "Just Don't Do It" — and leveled his most withering charges to date that President Clinton has done little to combat illegal drugs. He also accused the entertainment industry of glamorizing heroin use.

Dole, in remarks at a private high school that uses drug-sniffing dogs to police its campus, accused Clinton of "making light of his own experimentation with drugs," a reference to the president's jokes about his experiment with marijuana while a student.

"The president has shown his moral confusion. We will never have a firm, confident, national message against drugs when our leaders — any of us — are

ambivalent themselves," Dole said.

Dole unveiled his slogan, an update of Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" campaign of the 1980s, as he attempted to drive home his charge that Clinton has done little to combat illegal drugs. The more than 2,000 youths who made up his audience chanted the slogan along with Dole, and he said even such a simplistic message has a big impact.

"People should not use drugs, because some things are right and some things are wrong, and this is badly wrong," he said.

The Clinton administration, he contended, has been involved in a "conspiracy of silence" on illegal drugs and claimed the president had mentioned illegal drugs just 24 times in 1993 and 1994 in more than 2,300 presidential statements.

"The president has sent up a white flag of surrender. It is a

naked failure of leadership," Dole said.

Dole repeated his promise to reduce teen-age drug use by 50 percent by 2000 and to help create 1,000 new "community-based anti-drug coalitions" of parents, religious leaders, educators and others.

The Clinton campaign quickly responded, noting that Dole voted against money for school anti-drug programs and the creation of a drug czar. "When Bob Dole had the opportunity to do something other than just talk tough, he chose not to," spokeswoman Lisa Davis said in Washington.

As for the entertainment industry, Dole singled out the British film "Trainspotting," a graphic look at a group of youthful Scottish heroin users, and the popular 1994 movie "Pulp Fiction," which included a lengthy scene depicting a heroin overdose by actress Uma Thurman's character.

In both cases, he said, the movies "feature the romance of heroin." He added that popular culture "owes a duty to the fragile world of children."

"I have a message to the fashion, music and film industries: Take your influence seriously. Respect your talent and power. Stop the commercialization."

Dole said that if elected, he would spearhead an effort to persuade the entertainment industry to market products with a "no-use, zero-tolerance message."

It was Dole's third major foray into Southern California to criticize the entertainment industry; previously, the GOP nominee said there was too much gratuitous sex and violence in movies, television and music and called on companies to be responsible.

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Study abroad moves to Rickel

Consolidating office in the Rickel creates more space and benefits

By Matt Pearce
SKIFF STAFF

Larger rooms, a reference section and more information for students are a few of the benefits of the new international studies office in the Rickel building.

Roberta Corder, study abroad coordinator, said having a consolidated office helps the department serve the students more effectively. Previously, the international studies office was divided between the Rickel and Reed and Sadler halls.

"We're all together," Corder said. "It's an improvement over us being in different buildings."

Corder said she had spent her whole TCU career working out of Reed Hall, and was a bit nervous about moving to the new office. She said she now feels the move is a tremendous asset to her job.

"I thought no one would come see me anymore. I thought I'd be lost," Corder said. "This hasn't proved to be true at all."

Delia Pitts, director of international education, said the new office is convenient for students because it is centrally located among the dormitories in Worth Hills and the main campus, and because the Rickel Building has many other resources, making it easier for students to stop by when they have the time.

"In the accessibility point of view, this is a prime location," Pitts said.

Pitts said the center has attracted many students and has helped the international programs at TCU grow.

"It's extremely stimulating for the students

"It's extremely stimulating for the students who work here. We've seen a lot of traffic."

Delia Pitts, director of international education

who work here," Pitts said. "We've seen a lot of traffic."

The new office has a reference section with several books, videos, maps and reference materials to teach students more about international education, study abroad programs and international careers. The reference area has a videocassette recorder and computer for students to use. Pitts said she hopes the center will soon have access to the Internet.

She said the consolidated office is important to show students how the global business world will operate in the future.

"One of the advantages of working together is that we're showing students how offices are going to work in the next century," Pitts said.

Corder also said it's important for students to be exposed to international cultures and to learn what it means to live and work in an international environment. She said the new office accomplishes that.

"So many international students are in and out of the office all the time that our students have more of a sense of what it means," Corder said. "Everybody doesn't look like everybody else."

Pitts said TCU sponsors exchange programs with several universities around the world, including Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka,

Japan, the Universidad de las Americas-Puebla in Mexico and Regents College in London.

She said students need to sign up as soon as possible for study abroad programs in the spring and summer.

"We're encouraging students to sign up early," Pitts said. "Space is limited, and financial aid is available for those who sign up early."

Pitts said TCU is very supportive of the study abroad programs and wants to help students who can't afford to pay for the programs on their own.

"TCU puts its financial commitment behind students studying abroad," Pitts said.

Corder said applications to study abroad in the spring are due in October, so students interested must act immediately.

Pitts said there will be a study abroad fair in the Student Center during Family Weekend. She said she hopes students and their parents will attend and learn more about TCU's programs and meet the professors who lead them.

The international studies office is located in the Rickel Building Room 109. The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. during the week. Pitts said the office has an open-door policy and students can stop by any time.

U.S trade deficit skyrockets in July

By Martin Crutsinger
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The United States spent \$11.7 billion more on foreign purchases than it sold overseas in July, a sharp jump in the trade deficit that was blamed on increased demand for Japanese cars, Chinese toys and foreign oil.

The Clinton administration insisted the 43 percent widening in the trade gap was only a temporary aberration. But Republican candidate Bob Dole's campaign seized on the dramatic worsening of the deficit to highlight its attacks on White House trade policies.

"This underlines why we have to have a new economic policy," said Robert Lighthizer, a Dole trade adviser. "The country has become less competitive. We are losing our manufacturing jobs. Wages are stagnant. This is why people are so anxious."

Wall Street was initially jolted by the larger-than-expected deficit and renewed worries about rising interest rates. But by the close of trading Wednesday, the Dow Jones industrial average had recouped some of its earlier losses, ending down 11.47 at 5,877.36.

On the New York currency market the dollar suffered its biggest one-day drop against the yen in seven weeks. In late trading the dollar cost 109.15 yen, down from 110.24 on Tuesday. The dollar also fell against the German mark and British pound.

The Commerce Department said the July deficit in goods and services trade was the worst showing since the end of 1987. The deficit in just goods of \$15.6 billion was the second worst showing in U.S. history, surpassed only by a \$15.9 billion deficit in December 1985.

Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor, a top adviser in Clinton's re-election effort, sought to put the best face on the figures, arguing that despite the dramatic widening of the deficit in July, the imbalance through the first seven months of this year was 10.4 percent below the same period a year ago.

He predicted that the deficit for all of 1996 would be lower than last year's \$105.1 billion gap, reversing a trend that has seen the deficit rise steadily during Clinton's first three years in office.



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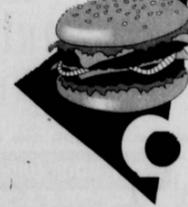
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Center sponsors groups, provides alternatives to alcohol

By Amy Thompson
SKIFF STAFF

If the average college student had to spend his or her money on either books or booze, there's little doubt which choice would be made.

Students spent \$5.5 billion dollars on alcohol in 1994, according to a survey by the National Commission on Substance Abuse at Colleges and Universities. That's more than they spent on soda, tea, milk, juice, coffee and books combined.

Angie Taylor, coordinator of the TCU Alcohol and Drug Education Center, said her office faces a new challenge each year in trying to find ways to teach TCU students about the dangers of alcohol.

The center sponsors organizations that provide students with alternatives to alcohol. Organizations such as Students Reaching Out, R.O.A.D. Workers (Responsibility of Adult Decisions), Peer Educators, Hyperfrogs and Campus Mentors promote spirit and support through means other than the consumption of alcohol or drugs.

Taylor said alcohol is a bigger problem on campus at the beginning of the school year.

"We get twice as many alcohol violations in the fall than in the spring," Taylor said. "This is probably due to the fact that most new students don't know their personal limits. People learn where that line is after they enter college."

Those caught with alcohol are sent to the center to take a personal assessment test on

drinking habits. These students must also attend a two-hour educational meeting.

Leanne Fondren, program specialist for the center, and Taylor are available to help students who have questions or concerns about drinking habits.

In 1995, the university referred about 300 students to the center, Taylor said.

"It's unfortunate that they violated the rules, but it is a great way for us to set a climate where excessive drinking is uncool," she said.

Taylor said at least 37 percent of all academic problems are related to alcohol. She said TCU's program has successfully reached the TCU community, but it is always possible to strengthen the program.

She said she wants to target the program

toward the students who leave school because of alcohol-related problems.

Mike Russel, TCU's assistant dean of campus life, said alcohol was involved in about 75 percent of disciplinary cases he has dealt with during the past year.

T.K. Bickley, a senior radio-TV-film major, said she lost a close friend from TCU in a drunk-driving accident nearly three years ago. She said she has nothing against having a good time, but students should be smart when doing so.

"When accidents like that happen, it impacts you for a while, then you go on with your life and forget about it," she said. "We don't put a lot of thought into the consequences of our actions."

Taylor said students need to know there will

be consequences when they break the rules regarding alcohol.

"We can only hope that by the time our students are juniors and seniors they will know the negative effects alcohol can have on them," Taylor said. "We want students to know it is OK to choose not to drink, or have one drink. They don't have to give in to peer pressure."

Taylor said the TCU Alcohol and Drug Education Program is strong because it interacts with every student and academic office. She said she hopes more people will take advantage of what the center offers.

FRESHMAN

From Page 1

of freshmen entering their universities.

Ware said part of the reason for the continued high enrollment at TCU is the support systems available to students.

"I think when people look at the value behind private education, they see the accessibility and interaction," she said. "Families see the level of commitment to the student."

Ware said sometimes public schools have restricted access because their numbers often allow only the graduate and upper-level students opportunities such as internships and pre-professional work.

"At TCU, our focus is the undergraduate," she said.

Ware said TCU offers freshman programs, like Frog Camp, and continuing programs to help students and to keep them involved through their senior year.

Clint Brumble, a senior accounting major and an off-site director of Frog Camp, said Frog Camp is an opportunity for freshmen to share their feelings and fears about college.

"Frog Camp allows students to meet other freshmen in a less formal setting before classes start," Brumble said.

Margaret Harris, a freshman math major, said she chose TCU over Texas A&M University because of TCU's smaller size and an impressive Monday at TCU pro-

gram.

Harris also participated in the Frog Camp program and said it was a great experience.

"At Frog Camp, I thought it was really neat because maybe you may not know everyone there, but you see familiar faces so it makes it easier when you are on campus," Harris said.

Ware said moving to the Western Athletic Conference will also make a difference in enrollment figures.

"With the population growth in the west, moving to the WAC will be advantageous to TCU in the future," she said.

PC

From Page 1

But art exhibits aren't the only part of the festival, Barron said. Several local bands are scheduled to play at the two-day festival.

Barron said three TCU bands will play for students at the festival. The bands play several different styles of music, including rock, reggae and jazz.

There will be a Tejano music band playing in conjunction with Hispanic Heritage Month, Barron said.

One band playing in the concert, the Little Band with Big Answers, uses household items as part of their instruments.

Michael Johnson, a sophomore finance major, said he attended the festi-

val last year and had a good time.

"There were a lot of things to do," Johnson said. "It was fun last time and I'll try to go again this year if I can."

The festival will be from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday at Frog Fountain in front of the Student Center. It is free to all students.

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Investor becomes Spurs main owner

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Local businessman Peter Holt revealed Wednesday he is increasing his ownership stake in the San Antonio Spurs with the purchase of Gaylord Properties' interest in the team.

Holt now replaces Gaylord as the largest Spurs investor.

Holt bought 13 percent of the Spurs from insurance giant USAA in June. Gaylord's stake amounts to 18 percent, so with the latest purchase Holt will own 31 percent of the team.

"We were able to strike a very fair deal to both of us," he said. "We had a willing seller and a willing buyer. That always makes it easier."

For months Holt, who owns two Caterpillar equipment dealerships, has said he is interested in buying a larger percentage of the team. Twenty-two investors purchased the Spurs in 1993 from Red McCombs for \$75 million.

Since Gaylord has withdrawn its investment in the Fiesta Texas theme park in San Antonio and left its management to Six Flags Theme Parks Inc., it didn't have as many reasons to keep its Spurs investment, Holt said.

He praised the entertainment company for helping to purchase the team when McCombs was selling it.

Holt was named Spurs chairman in July, succeeding Robert McDermott.

Dallas Stars cut 8 from roster

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Stars cut their training camp roster to 37 players Wednesday by sending five players to their International Hockey League affiliate and reassigning three others.

Goaltender Jordan Willis, right wing Marty Fichel, center Lee Jinman, right wing Jeff Mitchell and left wing Jamie Wright were sent to the Michigan K-Wings of the IHL.

Right wing Roger Maxwell, who was in camp on a tryout, was released. He will report to Michigan for a tryout with the K-Wings.

Center Jon Sim was returned to his junior team, the Samia Sting of the Ontario Hockey League, and center Juha Helsinkki in the Finnish League.

Florida-Tennessee long-awaited rematch

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Peyton Manning is the excitable type. Danny Wuerffel isn't.

On Saturday, the Heisman Trophy contenders will find out which approach works when No. 2 Tennessee plays No. 4 Florida in the long-awaited rematch between the SEC powers.

"I'm kind of ready to go right now," Manning said. "You play college football for games like this. Especially with people talking about this being one of the best SEC games in history... It's going to be fun."

The Gators (2-0), who trailed the Volunteers 30-14 before rolling to a 62-37 win in last year's game, arrive in Knoxville as slight underdogs, but Wuerffel holds one advantage. He's 3-0 against the Vols.

The '95 game was the turning point for both teams. The Gators went on to win the SEC championship and went 12-0 before losing 62-24 to national champion Nebraska in the Fiesta Bowl. The Vols haven't lost since, finishing last season 11-1 and winning their first two games in '96.

In the race for the Heisman, Wuerffel is 30-of-46 for 491 yards and three TDs, while Manning is 34-of-52 for 586 yards and three TDs. Manning has two interceptions, Wuerffel none.

An NCAA-record crowd of 107,000 is expected at Neyland Stadium.

Frog visits football heaven

I found a lot of gold this weekend. No, I didn't fall into a time warp during the California Gold Rush of 1849 and become the wealthiest person in the world. Don't get excited in thinking I drew up a map telling you where you can become the wealthiest person in the world. Sorry to say, it is not that kind of gold.

I struck gold in an abstract way. I found this richness in South Bend, Ind., home of Notre Dame University and the Golden Dome.

I flew to Chicago and drove to South Bend for the sole purpose of seeing just why Notre Dame is considered the place to be when it comes to school and the college football atmosphere.

My perception of the school where the Irish are told to fight had been that it was a good school with a lot of tradition, but it did not deserve any more publicity than any other school with a strong academic reputation and a football powerhouse. Did it really deserve to be on TV every week and have its own television contract with a major network?

The answer to this question is still no, but after being entrenched in the campus life for two days, I did decide this was as close to college football heaven as I would ever get.

I was transfixed on the Golden Dome (the top of the admissions building has a dome covering that is painted gold) upon arriving on campus. This may seem cheesy to some, but this shows me how everyone sees football as a way of life.

Notre Dame is said to have been founded on football, but if you did

not know anything about Notre Dame's strong Catholic ties, you could legitimately believe it was indeed founded on football. The university's two loves, religion and football, are best depicted by a mural on the side of the library overlooking Notre Dame Stadium. The mural shows a resurrected Christ raising his arms in praise to God. Irish students and fans attach more of a football meaning to the mural by cleverly calling it "Touchdown Jesus."

A pep rally is held the night before every home game in the Convocation Center (the basketball arena), but "pep" is an inaccurate adjective when describing people's behavior at this event, and I do mean EVENT. It is a delirium rally, rather than a puny pep rally. The delirium rally was packed with blue and gold crazies who had no voices when the 30-minute extravaganza concluded. Hundreds of people were turned away 20 minutes before the rally began because there was simply no more room to spare. The rallies bring out the loudest and craziest celebrities, and no one fits this description more to a tee than basketball analyst Dick Vitale. Vitale, whose daughter plays on the tennis team, entered the building amid chants of "Dickey Vee! Dickey Vee!" I had a reaction that only Dickey Vee would be proud of: "Are you serious?!"

A la the Chicago Bulls and just about every other professional sports franchise these days, the lights are turned off and music can be heard all the way to Chicago as the Irish are introduced in coats and ties to all their adoring fans. The fight song is also played 1,000 times, or so it seemed. Players and God himself, also known as coach Lou Holtz, spoke to the rabid fans. Bear in mind, this was the night before the game. It was awesome, baybee! I wondered how the game could possibly top this, because it

seemed like I had just witnessed a game. I definitely had to take a T.O., baybee!

I never have arrived to a game four hours before kickoff, but at Notre Dame that might have been considered late. Thousands of people were already tailgating outside the Convocation Center. A person would not be caught dead without adorning some sort of Irish paraphernalia. People were also free to tour the Irish Hall of Fame in the Center and hundreds were lined up to visit the bookstore.

Players go to a pre-game service in a Catholic cathedral that is the biggest I've ever seen and probably bigger than some of those historic European cathedrals.

Over 58,000 people packed the stadium Saturday to see their beloved Irish score, score and score some more in a 35-0 romp over Purdue University. The weather could not have been more perfect for football: temperatures in the low 50s, with occasional rain. The Irish ran the opening kickoff back for a touchdown, which could not have been more perfect for someone seeing his first game in a historic stadium.

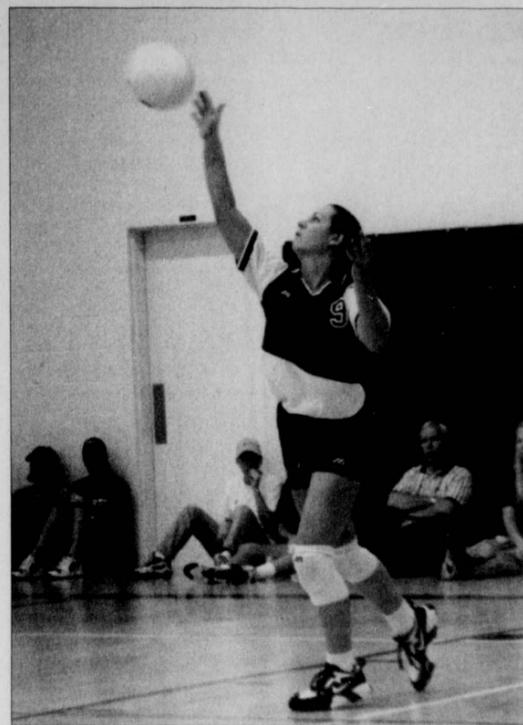
Notre Dame Stadium is expanding to 85,000 seats next year, and out of respect to legendary coach Knute Rockne (who designed the original stadium) additional seats are being added just around the top so Rockne's original "holy" structure will remain untouched. Now that's tradition.

Granted, Amon Carter Stadium is my only reference point for comparing college football stadiums (comparing Notre Dame to the home of the Frogs is like comparing Christy Brinkley and Roseanne Barr in terms of looks). So in my opinion, nothing else for the sports fan can top the thrill of seeing a game in "the House that Knute built."

Gregor Esch is a senior news-editorial major from Fort Worth.



COLUMN
GREGOR ESCH



Freshman Saylor Goforth serves during the VolleyFrogs loss Monday against Auburn University in the Rickel Building, the first-ever home match for the TCU volleyball team. The loss dropped TCU's record to 1-10.

Frog Notes

- The TCU women's soccer team improved to 3-1 with a 2-0 blanking of Stephen F. Austin University on Tuesday in Nacogdoches. Ashlee Richmond and Sarah Suess scored for the Lady Frogs.
- Suess was one of five players

nominated for the honor of Western Athletic Conference players of the week. Suess, who was nominated for her 3-goal, 2-assist effort against Northwestern State (La.), lost out to Brigham Young's Shauna Robbock and Tulsa's Amber Farr.

Cotton Bowl dials up Bell as sponsor

DALLAS (AP) — Southwestern Bell agreed to a four-year, \$5.2 million deal with the Cotton Bowl on Tuesday that will make it the official sponsor of the game, *The Dallas Morning News* reported Wednesday.

"It's a great day," said Mike Baggett, the bowl's chairman. "Our board of directors has been having an extensive search during the last year to find a perfect partner to carry us into the 21st century. Southwestern Bell has answered the call."

The Jan. 1 game will be the first game with Southwestern Bell, whose parent company is San Antonio-based SBC Communications.

The former sponsor, Mobil, pulled out in March 1995. A news conference was held Wednesday announcing the partnership.

The Bowl has been ailing from sagging interest and a drop in its ability to pay participating teams.

In August 1994, the Cotton Bowl was dropped from the top tier of bowls when it failed to qualify for the Bowl Alliance. The three-bowl alliance consists of the Tostitos Fiesta, Nokia Sugar and FedEx Orange bowls and attempts to determine the national champion each

year. Mobil dropped its sponsorship less than a year later.

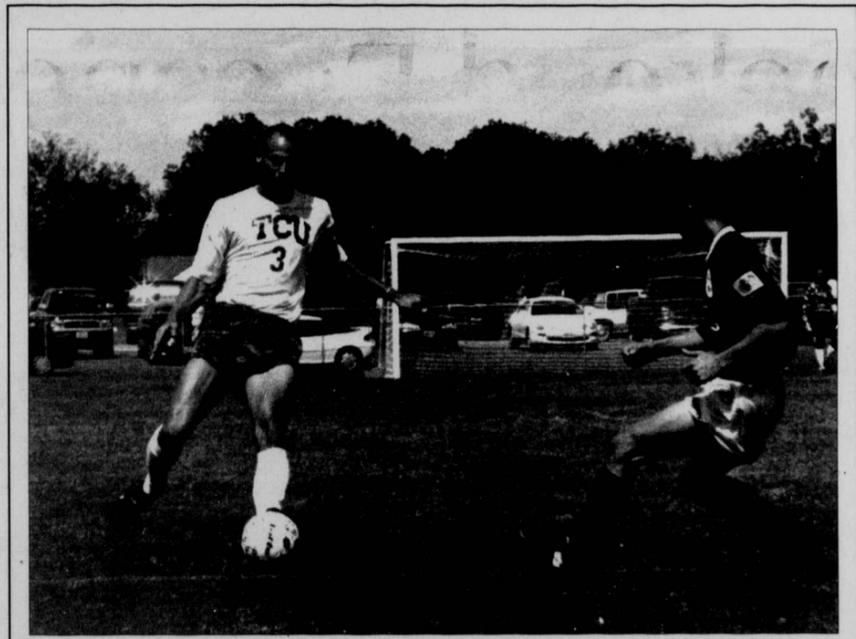
Last Jan. 1 the Cotton Bowl paid teams \$2.1 million each, down from the \$3 million before Mobil pulled out. The Southwestern Bell sponsorship should allow the Cotton Bowl, if sold out, to pay \$2.5 million per team.

"Possibly not having the Cotton Bowl, we felt like we had to step up," Morgan said. "There was a tremendous need for them to have a sponsor."

The loss of the Mobil sponsorship was a direct result of another defeat. Traditionally, the Cotton Bowl matched the Southwest Conference champion against an at-large team.

The advent of the Bowl Alliance means the Cotton Bowl will put the Big 12 Conference's No. 2 team against the Pacific-10 Conference's No. 2 team or the Western Athletic Conference champion.

Morgan said Southwestern Bell and the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association had been discussing the sponsorship for a few months. Cotton Bowl officials say Southwestern Bell likes the regional tie-in. A section of the Big 12 region is serviced by Southwestern Bell.



Junior defender Rik Littlefield moves the ball upfield during the Frogs' 5-1 victory Sunday against the University of Texas-Pan American at the TCU soccer field. The Frogs moved to 4-1 on the season with the win. The team plays Stanford University on Friday and St. Mary's University on Sunday. Both games will be played in Moraga, Calif.

Aggie defensive end bowls over competition

By Brent Zwerneman
BRYAN COLLEGE STATION EAGLE

COLLEGE STATION — Imagine what a strike looks like when Texas A&M senior defensive end Brandon Mitchell, all 285 tight pounds, lines up for the kill at the bowling alley.

"At first, we went bowling because we were so pitiful at it," Mitchell says with a laugh of his and the Wrecking Crew's exploits on the lanes. "The highest scorer would have something like 120 points."

"At the beginning we were rolling balls so hard pins were flying everywhere. One time I rolled the ball and it went into the gutter, came flying out and hit the pins."

Aggie linebacker Keith Mitchell, no relation, shakes his head in mock wonder at Brandon's bowling exploits.

"I've even got my own ball, and they tease me about it, but Brandon took a bowling class," Keith says. "So he bowls better even though I try to get in his head and talk some noise."

Growing into football
Brandon Mitchell grew up in

Abbeville, La. The journey from there to College Station wasn't nearly as long as Mitchell's journey to good health, starting with his first, choked breaths.

"When I was a baby, I almost died twice," he says. "When I was born, my umbilical cord was wrapped around my neck. I was choking, and if I had been taken out about a minute later I'd have been dead."

"Then when I got out of the hospital, I was sick for two or three months and had pneumonia."

From that challenging beginning came one of the best collegiate defensive ends in the nation, a 1995 first-team All-American and a certain high-round draft pick in the next NFL draft.

Mitchell credits his mother, Marilyn Ursin, for giving him the drive to make it this far, with a professional football career on the horizon.

"My mom was there for me when I was sick, and she's been there for me all of my life," Mitchell says. "She would give to me before she would give to herself."

"Now, I want to make my mom

happy. I don't want my mom to have to work hard again, because she's worked hard all of her life."

As a youngster Mitchell played baseball at every position but catcher — "I was real lazy and didn't want to squat down" — and third base — "I was scared those fast balls would hit me" — in baseball-crazy Abbeville.

But by the time Mitchell was a high school junior his growing body said otherwise and he began concentrating on football, although that didn't stop him from running track, where he was the state champion in the shot put.

"I also ran the 100-yard dash on the relay team," Mitchell points out with a laugh. "But people don't believe me when I tell them that."

Carving a spot at A&M

It was that kind of speed in a 250-pound body that had Mitchell playing running back and linebacker at Abbeville. He didn't play on the defensive line until he came to A&M.

Mitchell arrived in Aggieland as a small-town kid not used to what at times can be the national glare of major college football. But he was

thrust into the spotlight during a tremendous sophomore year when he earned Southwest Conference Defensive Player of the Year honors after collecting 62 tackles and nine sacks as a first-time starter.

Mitchell's highlight of the year came when he recovered Texas quarterback James Brown's fumble and returned it 48 yards for a touchdown.

And with a 6-foot, 4-inch frame and an explosiveness off the snap, the magazine covers and talk of an NFL future followed.

As a junior, Mitchell's numbers dropped to 47 tackles and six sacks after he was double- and sometimes triple-teamed.

"Last year, all of the press meant a lot, but it affected me a lot, too," Mitchell says. "I didn't want to let everyone down. Now I just go out and play."

Mitchell says turning pro a year early wasn't a consideration. "It never really crossed my mind," he says. "I need another year to get better."

A&M defensive line coach Bill Johnson now sees an older Mitchell better able to handle the

pressures of stardom headed into his senior year.

"Brandon, his first year, sort of came from nowhere and was a star," Johnson says. "His next year he was on the magazine covers and things like that, and he was from a small town, and it was all new to him."

"But I think now he's a little more accustomed to being in that role. So it's time to get down and have the best year of his career."

Aggie quarterback Brandon Stewart sees Mitchell — often up close — at every practice.

"As a quarterback, you go up to the line and you see the guy, and you know he's going to put pressure on you," Stewart says. "It's good to work against him every day. It makes the whole offense better."

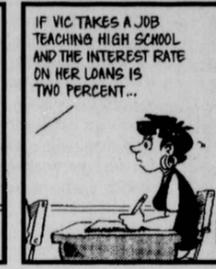
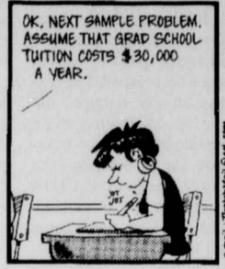
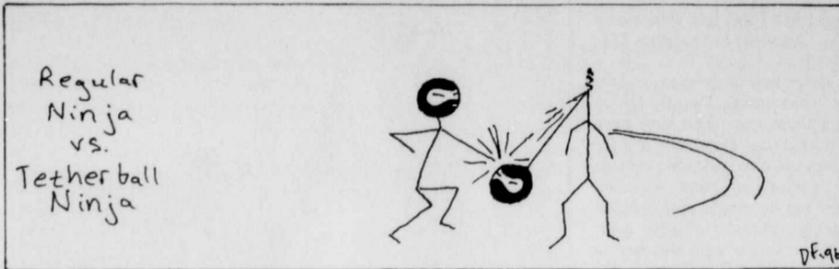
A&M coach R.C. Slocum says Mitchell's best attribute is his consistency.

"He's just a good person," Slocum says. "He brings consistent play, but he's not a vocal leader on the team."

Ninja Verses

by Don Frederic **THATCH**

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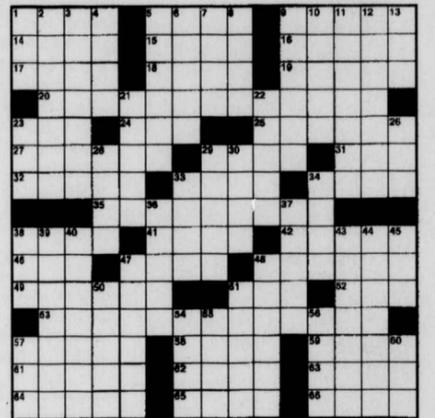
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 - 18 Fedora feature
 - 19 Girls: Sp.
 - 20 English urbanites
 - 23 Ben-
 - 24 Skater Midori
 - 25 Firstborn
 - 27 Builds
 - 29 Theda of the silents
 - 31 Classic car
 - 32 Flashy fish
 - 33 Reporter Ernie
 - 34 Beginner
 - 35 California urbanites
 - 38 Extremity
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 - 42 Key letter
 - 46 "This raid!"
 - 47 Bum inside
 - 48 Hardly ever
 - 49 Pancake ingredient
 - 51 Alley of the funnies
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 - 4 Espied
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 - 6 Enigmatic star
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 - 9 Type of paper
 - 10 Homeric epic
 - 11 Tuna packager
 - 12 Fortune builder
 - 13 "Mayday!"
 - 21 Giant
 - 22 Bridge maven
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 - 28 Also
 - 28 Sole stuffing
 - 29 Club rule
 - 30 Pub draws
 - 33 Soccer great
 - 34 Despot
 - 36 Florida athlete
 - 37 Giraffe cousin
 - 38 Sass
 - 39 Set apart
 - 40 Afternoon performance
 - 43 Cents
 - 44 Blood components
 - 45 With 65 Across, *The Fountainhead* author
 - 47 Boat ends
 - 48 Actor Young of *Topper*
 - 50 Shun
 - 51 Greek theater
 - 54 Carson followed him
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 - 56 Marian Anderson, e.g.
 - 57 Editors' concerns: Abbr.
 - 60 Time to remember



TOWNIES by Bob Lubbers
Edited by Stanley Newman

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