



High 60
Low 50s

Cloudy and windy with a 60 percent chance of rain



TUESDAY
MARCH 25, 1997

Texas Christian University
94th Year • Number 91

Inside

Columnist welcomes students back to a better TCU. See page 6

World

Australia strikes down assisted-suicide law

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australian lawmakers struck down the only law in the world allowing doctor-assisted suicide for the terminally ill, voting instead Tuesday to try to improve pain-management for the dying.

Four people already have killed themselves under the law since it took effect in the Northern Territory in July, and at least two other terminally ill people there were planning to take advantage of it.

Federal senators rejected an appeal by the doctor of the two dying patients, voting 38-33 to overturn the territorial law.

Australia's national Parliament has the constitutional right to strike down territorial and state legislation. The euthanasia legislation had applied only in the Northern Territory.

Nation

Clinton, on crutches, puts in day at office

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton hobbled to the Oval Office on crutches Monday for his first workday there since knee surgery 10 days ago.

After returning from the summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Helsinki, Finland, Clinton spent the weekend watching NCAA basketball and had planned to take Monday off as well. But he decided to catch up on paperwork in the Oval Office.

"So he motored over from the residence on his crutches after having a little physical therapy," spokesman Mike McCurry said.

The president planned to call congressional leaders to brief them on the summit's results, including a package of arms agreements with Yeltsin.

Boy attacked by gator drowned, autopsy shows

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A 3-year-old boy who was snatched by an 11-foot alligator died from drowning, a medical examiner said Monday.

Adam Trevor Binford vanished Friday afternoon while playing in shallow water on the edge of Lake Ashby, 20 miles northeast of Orlando. His mother, Lorri Binford, said she heard a big splash and Adam disappeared.

A trapper found the 450-pound alligator with the boy inside its jaws the next day, about a mile away.

An autopsy showed water in his stomach and lungs, said Dr. Ronald Reeves, chief medical examiner for Volusia County. The child's left arm was in the gator's stomach and his lower torso and legs were covered with bites.

Adam's death is the eighth fatal alligator attack since the state began keeping records in 1948. The last was in 1993.

Cable TV will battle Murdoch, Turner says

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Ted Turner says the cable television industry will fight rival Rupert Murdoch's plan to beam hundreds of TV channels, including local TV stations, directly into people's homes via satellite.

Turner, vice chairman of Time Warner Inc., just ended his term as head of the National Cable Television Association.

Murdoch's latest venture, a \$1 billion stake in a Denver-based direct broadcast satellite company, EchoStar Communications Corp., is being referred to as "Death Star" by cable executives.

Direct broadcast satellite — DBS in the industry — is cable's biggest nightmare. Murdoch's involvement is expected to escalate significantly the war between the two industries to win over America's TV viewers.

Inside

• Spring football workouts begin, page 11

Art show features mix of color, style

By Jill Taylor
SKIFF STAFF

Featuring a broad array of styles and media, the sixth annual Cross Talk student art and design competition opened Monday night in the J.M. Moudy Exhibition Hall.

Images which ranged from striking to subtle appeared in the form of original posters, illustrations, drawings, paintings, sculptures, photographs and prints. Vivid colors were interspersed with stark black-and-white images in a reflection of the diversity of the contributing artists.

The show, which is comprised of works submitted by art majors and non-art majors alike, opened with a reception and an awards presentation.

Ronald Watson, a professor of art and the chairman of the art and art history department, said all TCU students were invited to submit up to three entries. Guest jurors selected outstanding works to display in the show and chose several artists in graphic design and studio art categories to receive monetary prizes.

Entries were juried by Pat Sloan and Judy Youngblood, professional artists from the Metroplex area, Watson said.

Sloan, the graphic design juror, is the owner and creative director of Pat Sloan Designs in Fort Worth.

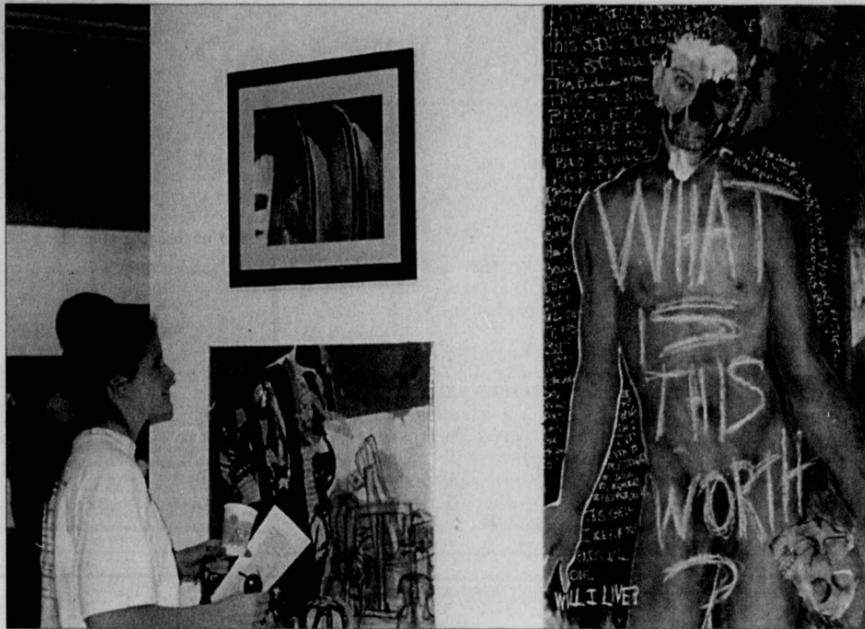
Youngblood, who juried the studio art entries, is a print maker and a professor of art at the University of North Texas.

"Both jurors have distinguished careers as artists," Watson said.

In the graphic design category, Sarah Forbes, a senior graphic design major, won the \$75 Gold Award. David Wedeberg, a senior graphic design major, won a \$50 prize. Winning \$25 were junior graphic design majors Amy Achilles, Tonya Rose, Kristin Deike and Amy Shaw, a senior graphic design major.

In the studio art category, Chris Andrews, a junior instrumental music major, won the \$75 Gold Award. Michael Roch, a graduate art student, and Ericha Ahlschier, also a graduate art student, won \$25 prizes. Lilley said her entries, which consisted of a painting and a series of three photographs, marked her second appearance in a Cross Talk exhibit.

"I had a photograph in Cross Talk last year," she said. "Although you could say painting is my major, I definitely have an interest in photography." Lilley said TCU art instructors



Stacey Collins, a senior nutrition major, examines "Self-Portrait," by senior Barry Takahashi on Monday evening in the J. M. Moudy Exhibition Hall. The painting was part of the student art display unveiled Monday.

encourage students to submit works for exhibits whenever they can.

"It's important that studio artists get their work seen by the public," she said. "And any time an artist can put a show on a resume, it really helps when they try to get other shows at galleries and museums." Local business Asel Art Supply

and the University Store, also known as the TCU bookstore, provided awards for winning entries in both categories.

Watson said although he hasn't compared the number of entries this year with previous Cross Talk shows, he believes participation this year surpassed that of the preceding five years.

"I think it's definitely the biggest one yet," Watson said. "The response was very, very large, and that makes it even more of a distinction for the students whose works were selected."

The Cross Talk show will remain on display in the Exhibition Hall through April 4.

Sitcom offers experience

By Andrew Rexrode
SKIFF STAFF

A new student-produced television sitcom will premiere at noon Wednesday in Moudy Building Room 164 South.

"Preston Hall," a parody about college dorm life, is a series produced, directed, written, performed and filmed by TCU students. The pilot episode is titled "The Set-Up."

The program revolves around the life of a college freshman who discovers that college life is not what he expected.

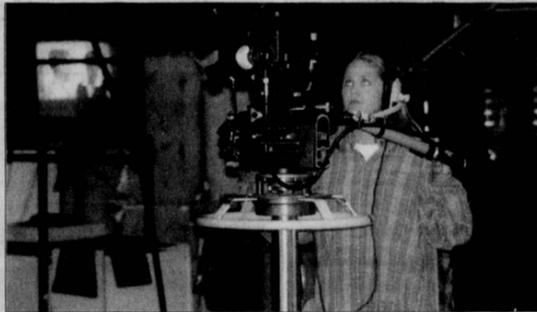
Students working on the sitcom receive course credit for their TV Production III class, "Producing the Situation Comedy and On-Camera Acting."

Richard Allen, an assistant professor of radio-TV-film and the executive in charge of production of the show, said he has had the opportunity to watch the students work on their own.

Allen said he thinks the project will prepare students for work with real television productions.

"The show is like a real-time job for the students," he said.

Shawna Hogan, a senior radio-TV-film major and line producer for the sitcom, said the show offers



Stephanie Herrera, a senior radio-TV-film major, helps film scenes for "Preston Hall" during rehearsal earlier this semester. The show will premiere Wednesday.

some good experience.

"We get to do things that we ordinarily wouldn't have a chance to do," she said.

About 100 students, actors, volunteers and production crew members have worked on the production this semester. The writing phase of the sitcom was completed last year.

Gwen Burgess, a senior radio-TV production major and executive producer of the show, said the show has given the students the get a chance to know one another and

the positions they have.

"We've hit our stride and I think we know how to work with each other," she said.

Six more episodes will be shown on campus every Wednesday at noon and will eventually air on TCU's Campus Link cable network. The series is also expected to air on the Fort Worth community access cable system later this year.

"It's been a real learning experience for me and the students," Allen said.

House to consider revised bills

By Ryan J. Rusak
SKIFF STAFF

The TCU House of Student Representatives will consider three bills and its first resolution of the year at its meeting at 5 p.m. today in Student Center Room 222.

The first bill, 97-12, originally requested \$1,296 for Army ROTC's Military Ball, which is scheduled for April 19. The bill was cut to \$500 by a 6-3 vote of

the House Finance Committee, House Treasurer Mark Irish said.

The second bill requests \$499.65 for staff members from the TCU Daily Skiff to attend the annual Texas Intercollegiate Press Association convention in Austin. Staff members will participate in on-site writing, design, editing and photography contests.

The Finance Committee passed the bill for the full amount by a 5-4 vote. Irish, who cast the tie-

breaking vote to pass the bill out of committee, said the bill and competition reflect well on TCU.

The third bill, 97-14, requested \$2,460.50 to help fund the American Chemical Society-Student Affiliates' trip to the society's national convention but was cut to \$675 by the Finance Committee. The bill passed on a 5-4 vote.

Please see HOUSE, Page 3

Bagel joint hits TCU community with a bang

By Beth Wilson
SKIFF STAFF

The bagel lovers of the TCU area have a new place for breakfast at Einstein Bros. Bagels on the corner of Berry Street and University Drive, and dozens of hungry people stood in line Monday for their first taste of the Einstein Bros. bagel.

Most had only praise for the bagels and the restaurant, largely because it is an alternative to break-

fast in the Main.

"Breakfast under a buck that doesn't rot out your stomach is good," said a local TCU alumnus.

Opening at 6:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday and at 7 a.m. on Sunday, Einstein Bros. Bagels could be a new place for breakfast before class or work.

There are 16 types of bagels available at the store, ranging from vegetable confetti and cinnamon raisin

swirl flavors to dark pumpernickel and honey 8 grain. To top these bagels are 11 varieties of "shmears," cream cheese toppings, such as cheddarpeno and maple walnut raisin.

Einstein Bros. Bagels is also open for lunch, serving soup, salads, sodas and sandwiches.

William Henshaw, TCU's cos-

Please see BAGELS, Page 2

Easter hits campus

TCU is egg-hunting ground for kids a week early

By Kimberly Wilson
SKIFF STAFF

The Sadler hall lawn was littered with colorful plastic Easter eggs Sunday afternoon, at least until the clock struck 2 p.m. Then the hunting began for several children of TCU alumni, many clad in their Easter finery and several others in the famed purple and white.

Many appreciated the relatively new event as an activity for alumni who have children.

"The Horned Frog! He's here too!" 3-year-old Katie Wisely shouted as she looked up from her Easter basket to see SuperFrog walk by.

Sally Wisely, a 1991 graduate with a degree in education, said she was concerned that her daughter might not understand how an Easter egg hunt worked.

"We're not really sure she knows what to do," Wisely said.

But when the countdown ended and hundreds of young children entered the area blocked off for ages 0-3 years, Katie wasn't left behind.

Wisely said she thinks the event is a good one for young alumni because those who have children can get involved, since many do not want to leave their children with a baby sitter to attend alumni dinners.

"If there were more events like this for the kids, I think more people would get involved," she said.

Freddie Kimberling, Katie's grandmother and a 1951 graduate with a degree in education, said she also liked the event.

"It brings back grandparents as well as parents to the campus," she said.

Kimberling said the event was "not too big and gives you a feeling of community."

She said she enjoyed coming on campus and seeing her daughter and

granddaughter participate in the event. "It's just kind of special for us," she said.

Ann Pugh, a 1945 speech and drama graduate, was on campus to see granddaughter Meaghan join in the TCU hunt.

Pugh said she thought the event was good for TCU's visibility. "I think it gets the kids sort of used to being on the campus," she said.

She said that later, when local high schoolers are looking at universities, they "will already feel comfortable at TCU."

After finishing the hunting, children waited eagerly in lines for pictures with SuperFrog and the Easter bunny.

Leslie Hutchison, president of the Fort Worth Young Alumni Association and a 1988 graduate, said this year was the third year for the event.

She said about 550 children had reservations for the hunt and approximately 650 attended, resulting in "several thousand people" on the TCU campus to witness the spectacle.

She said the event focuses on the TCU community.

"A whole lot of the younger alumni have young families," Hutchison said. "It's kind of the ideal thing to do."

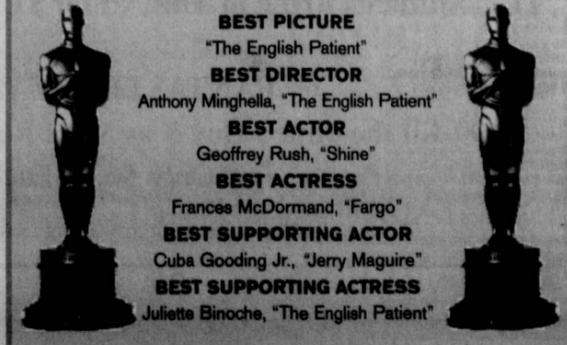
She said the event is always scheduled for Palm Sunday, and it starts at 2 p.m. so attendees have time to attend church and have lunch with their families.

Hutchison said the young alumni hope to expand the event, and said it may eventually have to be moved off of Sadler lawn and onto the intramural fields.

She said the day was a success and only two children were separated from their parents during the hunt.

"I think it went well," she said. "It's been a fun day."

And the Oscar goes to ...



Pulse

TOM DAVENPORT, the Green Honors Chair for the management department of the M. J. Neeley School of Business, will give a presentation from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. today in Tandy Hall Room 120. The presentation is titled "Application-oriented Research: Rigor vs. Relevance Revisited." All campus professors are invited, and a reception will follow. For more information call Barbara Snell at Ext. 7537.

PC MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE will host a multicultural fashion extravaganza from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. today in the Student Center Ballroom. For more information call Programming Council at Ext. 5233.

SIGMA TAU DELTA English honor society will host a lecture by author Paul Boller from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. today in the Reed Hall Faculty Center. For more information call Lisa at 263-4385.

FREE STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOP will be held at 9 p.m. today in Rickel Building Room 106. For more information call Academic Services at Ext. 7486.

PRESTON HALL, the TCU sitcom about college life, will be at noon Wednesday in Moudy Building South Room 164.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE will be held at 6:30 a.m. Sunday on the lawn of Sadler Hall. The theater department will perform the play "The Three Marys." For more information call Carolyn Rowell at Ext. 7830.

CONTEMPORARY DANCE/FORT WORTH and TCU New Century Dance will present DanceArt, a dance company from Hong Kong, at 8 p.m. April 5 at the Orchestra Hall on 4401 Trail Lake Drive. Tickets for students are \$6 each.

MINORITY AFFAIRS needs TCU acts for its "Showtime at TCU" annual talent show on April 26. For more information call Ext. 7855.

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE SERVICES needs an area representative for Tarrant County and surrounding areas. The representative selects and screens prospective host families for exchange students who will stay for five-month or 10-month periods. For more information call the national recruiter, Linda Daugherty, at 1-800-981-6801.

BAGELS

From Page 1

tume studio manager, was in the restaurant for breakfast Monday and also got his lunch to go. He said he usually goes to another bagel store, but he is happy to see one in the TCU area.

Einstein Bros. Bagels has several giveaway items this week, including a free pair of purple boxers with purchase of a sandwich and soda or coffee.

Grand opening activities for Einstein Bros. Bagels will culminate Wednesday with a bagel tower-building competition between four teams of TCU engineering students headed by junior Nathan Moser. Moser said the teams will be given 100 bagels, straws and cream cheese and the manager of the store will judge the towers. Moser said Greg White, also a junior engineering student, is the

most creative student on campus and that their team is assured to win.

A group of students from the band fraternity, Kappa Kappa Psi, and the band sorority, Tau Beta Sigma, will perform for the activities from noon to 1 p.m.

Free bagels will be passed out around campus Wednesday by members of the Bagel Brigade.

Einstein Bros. Bagels entered Texas in October of 1996 and is already the largest bagel chain in Texas. They plan to have 33 stores in Texas by the end of the year.

Einstein Bros. Bagels will donate 10 percent of the opening week's gross revenue to the Fort Worth Zoo. The store will continue to support the zoo by giving the day-old bagels to the animals.



TCU DAILY Skiff
Since 1902

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Pollen ails the allergic

By TeNikki Carter
SKIFF STAFF

Pollen nearly claimed the life of "Dave" when he was a child playing in his grandmother's back yard. Dave and his parents were unaware of the fact that he was highly sensitive to pollen.

He was running around the trees in the yard when he started gasping for air. He couldn't breathe because his throat had swollen shut.

After being rushed to the hospital, doctors told Dave and his parents he was allergic to pollen and he needed to start desensitization treatments immediately.

While Dave is not a real person, local health professionals said quite a few people are affected in the same manner by pollen.

Carol Rogers, a nurse at John Peter Smith Hospital, said some allergens such as pollen can be deadly if they reach the bloodstream of those who are highly sensitive to them.

Rogers said those who are highly sensitive to pollen or any allergen should begin a desensitization treatment, a treatment that exposes the sensitive person to small amounts of the allergen over a period of time.

"This treatment has been successful, but it doesn't work for everyone," Rogers said.

Rogers said the process is then carried out by increasing the dosage of the allergen gradually and at the

same time decreasing the sensitivity of the person to the allergen.

She said that spring is a time of the year when pollen aggravates the symptoms of many people who suffer from allergies.

Sarah Hays, a junior biology major, said her whole family is allergic to pollen.

"We have ragweed in our yard, and when I was little I always had red, itchy eyes and a runny nose," Hays said. "My mother took me to the clinic to be tested for allergies, and I tested positive for pollen."

Hays said the allergies were annoying but that the antihistamines she took relieved her symptoms and made her feel better.

"It's been about three years since I've had any allergy problems," Hays said. "I don't even take the medication anymore. I think I just grew out of it."

Bob Lanier, a Fort Worth allergist, said pollen is an allergen the immune system mistakes for a parasite.

Lanier said most allergy symptoms include sneezing, watery eyes, runny nose and exhaustion.

"Pollen causes the immune defense system to go berzerk," Lanier said.

He said some people who have allergies are so miserable they suffer from depression.

Please see POLLEN, Page 3

TRAFFIC TICKETS defended but only in Fort Worth, Arlington, and elsewhere in Tarrant County. No promises as to results. Any fine and any court costs are not included in fee for legal representation.

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Student Center Room 222
Wednesday March 26 at 6:00

Any questions regarding Christian Science will be answered after the talk.

POLLEN

From Page 2

"Many of my allergy patients don't get much sleep," Lanier said. "Therefore they have problems functioning in school and at work because they're tired and unmotivated."

Lanier said taking over-the-counter or prescribed antihistamines counteracts the symptoms of allergies, but they don't make them completely go away.

He said it is better to take prescribed antihistamines because they don't cause drowsiness as most of the over-the-counter ones do.

"The problem with the antihistamines is, when people start to feel better, they stop taking them," Lanier said. "Then they get sick again and have to start all over taking the medication."

"Taking antihistamines the second time around takes longer because they work slower," he said.

Lanier also recommends using a variety of nasal steroid sprays daily to stop runny noses and help

people breathe easier.

"In some cases people are given allergy shots," Lanier said. "The shots are mostly reserved for those with more severe allergies that are unavoidable."

La'Netia Taylor, a senior radio-TV-film major, said her asthma worsens during pollen season.

"My allergies turned into asthma," Taylor said. "When I was younger the pollen affected my asthma a lot worse."

Taylor said she is often sick during the spring and summer. She said she sneezes and coughs constantly.

"I have to keep up with the pollen count everyday," Taylor said. "Many times when the pollen is blowing in the air it triggers an asthma attack."

Taylor said she takes asthma pills and she uses an inhaler to battle the pollen.

Lanier said there is no cure for allergies. There are only medications to help those with allergies be as comfortable as possible.

Student survives semester-long hike

South American mountains were the scenery for hiking and camping adventure

By Brian Wilson
SKIFF STAFF

Imagine spending two and a half months without access to electricity, showers or toilets. Dan Shaw did more than picture this scenario... Last fall, he lived it.

Shaw, a junior engineering major, took a semester off from the rigors of that curriculum to learn how to camp in Patagonia, Chile.

Shaw, whose friends call him "Danimal" because of his frequent run-ins with danger, admits he had more than a leisurely camping trip in mind when he decided to embark on the adventure to South America.

"I like the wilderness and outdoors," he said. "I like camping a lot and wanted to learn more technical stuff like ice climbing."

The terrain and climate made this remote area in South America a great place to learn, he said.

"Patagonia's the best for that," he said. "And nobody else goes there. Nobody has ever seen it."

Shaw went with a group of 18 students and three instructors on the trip, sponsored by the National Outdoor Leadership School.

They backpacked through the Andes Mountains for about 30 days, during which they learned how to ice climb and glacier travel, battled the elements in the jungles of South America and went on a kayaking expedition.

Safety was a priority, so the instructors saw to it that everyone stayed within his or her own limits. Shaw, however, said he would have preferred that the group had taken a few more chances.

"I kind of wanted to get that unsafe feeling," he said. "I think it's fun to feel unsafe every once and a while. (But) it was more laid back than I thought."

For most of the students, this was their first trip into the wilderness.

"We didn't do things as fast, but we did things really thoroughly," he said. "It is not unlike Shaw to take some ill-advised risks from time to time,

according to his friend Byron Vardilos, who remembers a time when the two were on a bike ride last year along Hulen Street.

"It was raining and Dan decided to cross the street," Vardilos said. "Just then, a car came out of the parking lot and Dan went flying. I thought the driver had killed Dan. It scared me and the driver to death."

His bike was bent out of shape and he was lying on the ground, when all of a sudden, he got up laughing.

Events in Patagonia were not quite as dramatic, however. The only injury was a mysterious infection sustained during the mountain section by one of the students, which forced him to withdraw from the class, reducing the number of students to 17.

"I think we were pretty safe, and that was good for a big group like that," Shaw said.

Tom Reed, media relations coordinator for NOLS, said safety is a top priority for all the expeditions sponsored by the school.

"On an average mountain-climbing course, before you even get on the mountain, we teach you how to walk, how to travel safely, use of equipment and how to tie knots," Reed said.

Students are equipped with the tools as well as the knowledge to avoid problems. Everyone wears a helmet and is taught how to avoid disasters such as falling down mountains and flipping over in sea kayaks.

Besides precautionary procedures, the instructors at NOLS hope to teach problem-solving techniques in a group setting, Reed said.

"Probably one of the primary focuses is leadership skills, and our semester in Patagonia is 75 days long, so there is plenty of time to practice leadership skill," he said.

Shaw said it was essential for the welfare of the group that everyone keep a level head, even if one person's opinions were not respected as much as those of others.

"It wasn't like you just see them (other group members), and they go away. You're tenting with them,



Dan Shaw, a junior engineering major, took a semester off to learn how to camp in Patagonia, Chile.

you're eating with them, you're with them non-stop. So you learn how to get along with everybody, even if you don't like them."

Shaw was joined on the trip by his best friend from high school, Dave Staley. Shaw played an integral role during the expeditions in Patagonia, Staley said.

"I think he works really well in a group," Staley said. "He was always willing to help others (because) he was one of the best hikers there."

Shaw said the most exciting part of the trip was the small-group expedition the final nine days of the semester.

The instructors divided the students into three groups and let them go off by themselves, feeling confident in the participants' abilities to employ what they had learned throughout the course.

Each group designed its own expedition, mapping out where it

wanted to explore.

The threat of running out of food caused Shaw's group to conserve.

"We had plenty of food," he said. "We never really had to think about rationing. Some groups started running out, but the groups that had saved a lot (of food) helped them out."

It was experiences such as this one that Shaw says humbled him greatly.

"I learned how to cope well with a group and not always take what I expect of things, but just let them go as they happen (and) enjoy them how they are."

Shaw's roommate, Tim Dunbar, said Shaw's travels last semester enabled him to discover his niche in life.

"I think he's pretty much the same kid," Dunbar said. "But he's probably a little more mature. He found what he really likes to do in life. He's found something he really enjoys."

HOUSE

From Page 1

Irish said the Finance Committee has had to make large cuts to bills to ensure money remains for projects throughout the semester. "Organizations' requests are funded through the Special Projects Fund, which Irish said currently contains \$2,776, not counting the bills on tonight's agenda.

House President Andy Mitchell said that because organizations receive funds on a first-come, first-served basis, the House must dole out small amounts to give money to as many organizations as possible.

The resolution to be presented at tonight's meeting asks the House to support the academic advising survey that is being conducted this week by the Academic Affairs Committee.

According to the resolution, the data collected in the survey will be used to create a new academic advising program with the help of the administration and the Faculty Senate.

Cell phones distract

Car conversation can lead to accidents

By Elena Fortner
SKIFF STAFF

Three beers or a cellular phone — which one is more likely to cause an accident?

According to a recent study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* using cellular phones while driving could be just as intoxicating and just as dangerous as any drink with an umbrella in it.

Mixing a dial tone and a four-turbo engine can quadruple the risk of an accident, researchers in Canada said in a recent Associated Press story.

The study, the first to actually link the dangers of car phones and driving, confirmed what many people have always thought, said Penny Dalton, a freshman premajor.

"Obviously, phones are distracting," she said. "Everyone has always assumed that because people are focused on the phone call and not on the road."

The cellular phone industry is not trying to dodge the bullet and has admitted cellular phones take attention away from driving, said Tim Ayers, vice president of the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association in the state of Washington, in the same article.

On the other hand, Ayers said the number of cellular phones in the United States grew 1,685 percent from 1986 to 1995, to 34 million subscribers. During the same period, auto accidents dropped 17 percent and fatalities dropped 26 percent.

The study was completed by Donald Redelmeier and Robert Tibshirani, researchers at Sunnybrook Health Science Center in

North York, Ontario.

The study covered about 699 Toronto-area drivers with cellular phones. The drivers were involved in car accidents that resulted in substantial damages but no major injuries. The researchers compared each driver's phone calls on the day of the collision with the previous week.

The analysis of 26,798 calls showed that experience as a cellular phone user does not protect the driver. Handless phones did not prove to be any less of a risk, either.

Redelmeier said the findings suggest that losing concentration, not fiddling with the phone itself, is what makes cellular phones a hazard.

Concentrating on the phone call and the road is nearly impossible, said Nathan Tadema, a freshman premajor. "You see people with one hand on the wheel and one hand on the phone," he said. "Usually, people are paying more attention to the conversation than to the road."

Brazil, Israel, Switzerland and two Australian states have passed laws against using hand-held phones while driving.

Other benefits, such as calling in case of an emergency, make the phones beneficial. About 39 percent of the people studied used their phones to dial 911 after their accidents.

It is also becoming a social norm for people to make emergency calls for other people, said Krista Nuttall, a senior economics major.

"My friend saw an accident, and a few seconds after it happened people had already stopped," she said. "They pulled out their phones and shouted that they had already called 911."

Weather service official is ready to quit while governors lobby against budget cut

By Eddie Dominguez
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — A top National Weather Service official said Monday he refuses to be a part of "risky" budget cuts and will quit rather than impose job reductions that will threaten public safety.

Ron McPherson, director of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, already has some high-powered support. The governors of two hurricane-wary states, Florida and North Carolina, are lobbying to reverse \$27.5 million in cuts announced last week.

The cutbacks are a "threat to public safety" and will undermine the weather service's ability to predict severe weather, McPherson said in a news conference at the National Hurricane Center.

"It's a very dangerous situation," he said. "My conscience as a civil servant of 37-plus years will not allow me to be a party to reductions that I feel are ill-advised."

The night shift at five of the nation's six weather-prediction groups would be slashed to one person. The hurricane center and the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., which is responsible for monitoring tornadoes and

thunderstorms, are among those facing cuts.

McPherson fears a lone forecaster sitting in one of the centers will be overwhelmed if forced to monitor two or more severe weather systems.

Four tropical storms have been churning at the same time seven times in 103 years, and two hurricanes formed the same day in 1995.

If a tornado-producing system threatens Kansas City and another moves across Mississippi and Alabama, "one person on duty will have a hard time dealing with both systems," McPherson said.

If announced cuts are not called off by mid-July, McPherson said he will quit. The threat is the latest sign that morale at the agency is plummeting.

In Texas, the weather service plans to close its Southern Region headquarters in Fort Worth, which oversees operations from New Mexico to Florida. Responsibility for the 10-state area will shift to regional headquarters in Bohemia, N.Y., and Kansas City, Mo.

Susan Zevin, a high-ranking weather service official, is scheduled to meet in Austin on Tuesday with Tom Millwee, the Texas divi-

sion of emergency management state coordinator, to discuss how public safety might be affected by the closure.

"We've insisted all along they need to get down there and explain this," said Tom Houston, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison's chief of staff. "I know they're going to catch some criticism from people they deal with. We just thought it was very appropriate and justified that they get down there and explain it."

In McPherson's battle, he is joined by the rank and file of the weather service, state emergency managers and elected officials, who warn the budget cuts will save money but may cost lives.

Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles will travel Tuesday to Washington, where he hopes to lobby President Clinton after briefing the president on medicare fraud problems in the state. He will also lobby Commerce Secretary Bill Daley to reverse the cuts, said Chiles spokeswoman April Herrle.

"It's not that the governor is blaming them," Herrle said. "As a governor, he understands you are given a budget and have to live within it. But he will certainly be

making Florida's case to them, and if there is any way this decision can be reversed he will do it."

"Florida's case" includes experiences with the costliest hurricane in history, Andrew, five years ago, and a winter storm with the force of a hurricane that ran up the East Coast, killing more than 235 people from Cuba to Canada in 1993.

North Carolina Gov. Jim Hunt is also joining the fray with a letter to Daley asking him to reconsider the cuts.

The bottom line for Hunt: Coastal residents can't live with cuts.

"It's something we can't afford," he said. "And it costs lives."

North Carolina was particularly hard hit last fall by Hurricane Fran, which swept ashore in September and felt hurricane-force winds as far inland as Raleigh.

About \$3.7 million of the cuts are coming at the prediction centers, which oversee hurricanes, tornadoes, thunderstorms and weather for the aviation industry.

But all of the cuts will hurt an agency relied upon by most weather information outlets, including radio and television newscasts, McPherson said.

Judge refuses to open hearing on prosecutors' lottery deals memo

By Jeffrey Gold
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWARK, N.J. — A federal judge on Monday turned down a request made by two Texas newspapers and a third in New Jersey to open a hearing on information outlining kickbacks deals and lottery lobbyists.

U.S. District Judge Nicholas H. Politan said he would consider unsealing some or all of the information in the dispute only after a closed April 7 hearing so he can make a "full, frank and unfettered" examination of the information.

"I'm not here as a manufacturer of news for newspapers," Politan said. "Let us be deliberative."

Lawyers for the nation's dominant lottery operator, GTECH, the lobbyists, and the company's former national sales manager said the government document contained grand jury information that should have remained secret, and that prosecutors should be punished.

The *Austin American-Statesman* and *The Dallas Morning News* — and *The Star-Ledger* of Newark, sought access to the hearing and legal papers filed in the dispute. The newspapers will discuss whether to appeal, their lawyer said.

The document that sparked the quarrel involved the upcoming sentencing of the former GTECH official, J. David Smith, who was convicted here in October of accepting kickbacks from lobbyists doing work for GTECH in New Jersey.

The sentencing memo again raised questions about the business practices of GTECH, of West Greenwich, R.I., which runs lotteries in 29 of the 38 states that have lotteries — including New Jersey, New York and Texas — and in 30 nations. The company has never been charged.

The memo was released Jan. 15 by the U.S. attorney's office here

and was the basis for newspaper stories that week in at least four states.

The 53-page sentencing memo, routinely a public document, was available in paper form, as well as on an Internet site maintained by the U.S. attorney's office. Lottery regulators in several states were given copies.

Two days later, after protests by lawyers for GTECH, Politan ordered the memo sealed, and had the U.S. attorney's office remove it from its Internet site and recall paper copies.

The judge acknowledged that an unknown number of copies are still circulating, and that the memo remains at other Internet sites.

The newspapers maintained that any confidential material in the legal papers could be removed before being made public, and oral arguments touching on that material could be handled in a closed hearing.

"The public and press have a right to know what happens as it happens," especially if it involves possible government wrongdoing, said Steven L. Lapidus, lawyer for the newspapers.

The judge should only seal material to prevent the disclosure of undisclosed grand jury material, not information that is already known, Lapidus said.

The U.S. attorney's office sided with the newspapers, contending that the memo contained no secret grand jury material.

Smith lawyer John J. Gibbons said the assertions in the sentencing memo hurt Smith and have never been the topic of a hearing.

GTECH spokesman Robert J. Rendine praised the judge's decision, saying, "These issues should have never played out in the press."

Testimony in Smith's trial touched on the lobbyists in New York and Texas, but did not reveal

the accusations that surfaced in the sentencing memo prosecutors wrote regarding Smith.

The report accuses former Texas Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes of paying more than \$500,000 to Smith. It also said that companies controlled by New York limeusine mogul William D. Fugazy gave Smith \$72,613 in kickbacks.

No charges have been filed against Barnes or Fugazy, and their representatives deny any wrongdoing.

Federal authorities in Texas said there is an ongoing investigation of GTECH there. In New York, federal prosecutors would not say if they are investigating Fugazy, Smith or GTECH.

GTECH removed Barnes from its Austin lobbying team in January, and they have since severed their relationship.

"The Texas monies are kickbacks and should be considered as relevant conduct for the purpose of

calculating" the sentence against Smith, prosecutors here said in the memo.

Trial testimony showed that GTECH favored hiring lobbyists with influence, such as Barnes, a former elected official, or Fugazy, who has helped raise money for New York Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani.

Smith, of Morganfield, Ky., was convicted of taking \$169,500 in kickbacks from a politically connected consulting firm in Atlantic County, Benchmark Group Inc. of Linwood, which is now defunct.

Benchmark paid the kickbacks in 1992 to Smith, who was then GTECH's national sales manager, in return for Benchmark getting \$30,000 a month from GTECH in an ultimately unsuccessful effort to get keno added to the New Jersey lottery, prosecutors maintained. One of the two Benchmark partners on trial was also convicted.

Microsoft faces delays

By Linda Ashton
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — Microsoft Corp. stock dropped as much as 7 percent Monday on news that the next generation of its Windows 95 operating system may not be on the market until next year.

A delay until next year will give Microsoft's competitors such as Netscape, Sun, IBM and Oracle more time to promote a Java-based platform that might threaten Windows hegemony.

"If Microsoft could have shipped the next generation by midyear this year, it would have generated a lot of attention and kept a lot of people in the Windows camp," said Dwight Davis, editorial director of the "Windows Watcher" newsletter in Redmond, Wash.

Microsoft recovered about half its loss by the close Monday, finishing at \$90.12, down \$3.87, on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

A test version of the Microsoft

upgrade, code-named Memphis, will be ready in July, but the date for a final release will depend on feedback and how long it takes to make changes in the software.

Last month, Microsoft began telling personal-computer makers such as Compaq, Dell and Gateway that the new software would not be ready for preloading into machines before the Christmas shopping season.

"Obviously, it would be desirable to be in the shopping season, but I don't think it will have any significant effect on the sales of Windows or the hardware devices," said Jonathan Roberts, director of product marketing at Microsoft. Still, "it's nice to be on the shelves for Christmas."

Microsoft's fortunes aside, advances can spur sales of personal computers in general as well as hurt sales of existing machines.

The Windows upgrade will include improvements that would let users see files in the same for-

mat as World Wide Web pages, Roberts said. It will also include a browser upgrade, Internet Explorer 4.0. Microsoft hopes to have a standalone version of the browser available for free in the fall.

Microsoft has missed delivery dates for major operating systems before. It recently pushed back a long-delayed update to its Windows NT system until early next year.

But this delay comes at a time when Microsoft has been conspicuously absent from an alliance of computer companies developing common technical specifications to make the most of the Java programming language.

Sun Microsystems Inc. has drawn more than 100 companies — including IBM, Apple and Netscape Communications — to Java, which lets programmers write software that will run on any computer system, threatening the dominance of Microsoft's Windows operating system.

HMO has report cards

Members can rate operations for increased choice

By Steve Sakson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — One of the nation's leading HMOs will allow members who have an operation to rate the hospital, surgeons and nurses in a report card that will be given to other patients facing the same surgery.

The program by Oxford Health Plans Inc. is designed to improve the performance of surgical teams and let patients choose teams that have the most experience, highest success rates and best bedside manner.

Oxford, which serves about 1.7 million members, mostly in the Northeast, will unveil the program Tuesday as part of an overhaul designed to address one of the most frequent gripes about managed care — a lack of choices.

"We're giving people more power to make their own decisions in health care and we're giving them the tools to make those decisions," Oxford Chairman and Chief Executive Stephen Wiggins said Monday.

Another sore spot the company will target: the frustrating process of getting claims or medical information from anonymous HMO clerks on the phone.

Each Oxford member will get a "personal service agent" — a single person to call whenever they have a

question, who will be responsible for getting them an answer within 24 hours.

Enrico Madonna, an Oxford member from the borough of Queens who was part of a pilot program last year, said, "With one person they know your situation without you having to re-explain it every time."

Oxford's new surgery program asks surgeons to set up teams of medical professionals — anesthesiologists, physical therapists and nurses, for example — to provide a specific service at a preset fee. Examples include delivering a baby, performing a heart bypass or doing a hip replacement.

Oxford has already set up more than 200 teams and hopes to establish an additional 500 this year.

Patients will pick their team after reading several report cards.

For instance, those considering a balloon angioplasty to clear their heart arteries of cholesterol will be able to find out how many of these procedures each team has performed, and how many were successful.

A man considering whether to have a cancerous prostate gland removed will find out what percentage of a surgeon's patients suffered incontinence or impotence after the surgery.

The program will be optional, but Wiggins hopes patients will prefer it.

"Most people have no idea about the training, background and success rate of providers before they undergo surgery," he said. "Our game plan is to clear the clouds, because sunshine is the best disinfectant."

While these surgical teams will get paid less than their usual fees, teams that get good report cards will likely be rewarded with more patients.

"This obviously will take some effort to get it right, but to move that way is really quite impressive," said Uwe Reinhardt, a health care economist at Princeton University.

"If it works right, it will set Oxford apart," said Bob Eicher of Foster Higgins, a consulting firm that advises employers on their health benefits. "The only place I think could be damaging is you may see providers turn down some of the tougher cases."

Oxford, based in Norwalk, Conn., has become one of the nation's most profitable health maintenance organizations by catering to consumer demand.

Last year, for example, it began covering alternative medicine such as acupuncture, massage, yoga and herbal remedies.

Murder probe criticized

By Anita Snow
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY — A Mexican congressional commission Monday hotly criticized the three-year-old investigation into the 1994 assassination of presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio.

A commission report blamed what it described as mistakes made by investigators and police in the first hours after the killing, omissions and "simple human error" for the fact that "after three years, the investigations have not achieved any depth."

The investigation has not been able to move beyond "rumors, smokescreens and procedural errors," said commission member Heriberto Lizarraga of the ruling Party of the Institutional Revolution.

The legislators observed a moment of silence for Colosio, who was gunned down March 23, 1994, during a campaign rally in

the border city of Tijuana.

As the candidate of the ruling party, or PRI, Colosio had been favored to win the 1994 presidential elections.

A man who admitted to shooting Colosio is behind bars, but many Mexicans believe there was a larger conspiracy behind the assassination. Several legislators rejected the lone-gunner theory and said the intellectual authors of the killing have yet to be uncovered.

The investigation has been plagued by contradictions and sloppy police work under a series of five special prosecutors appointed to the case.

Files on the Colosio killing now fill 27,000 folders, but as commission member Ezequiel Flores noted, investigators know little more than the public about the case than the general public: the time, the date and place of the murder.

The head of the PRI said Sunday he wants an investigation into

whether drug traffickers had any connection to a high-profile political killing three years ago.

"That line of investigation must also be exhausted," PRI President Humberto Roque Villanueva said as PRI members gathered to remember Colosio.

In Colosio's hometown of Magdalena de Kino, in the northern state of Sonora, the late politician's relatives on Sunday mourned their loss and the government's failure to clear up the case.

"We feel cheated," Colosio's father, Luis Colosio Fernandez, said in comments widely published Monday. "We will not rest while from every corner of the nation... the clamor for justice is heard."

In Tijuana on Sunday, residents of Lomas Taurinas, the Tijuana neighborhood where Colosio was killed, held a festive memorial service, singing a folk ballad written in his honor.

Newspaper strikers return to work

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — Eight people who had been on strike against Detroit's daily newspapers returned to work Monday — the first under an agreement to end the walkout.

Other workers who had been on strike against the *Detroit Free Press*, *The Detroit News* and *Detroit Newspapers Inc.* stood outside and cheered their colleagues, even giving them flowers and cigars.

Seven of the employees work for *Detroit Newspapers Inc.*, which oversees the joint business operations of the two newspapers, while the eighth is a clerk for the *Free Press*.

"It's the beginning of a re-union for the papers," said Nancy Dunn, a guild member and spokeswoman for the Metropolitan Council of Newspaper Unions. "And I say re-union, because the unions are coming back."

Next week, 28 members of The Newspaper Guild are expected to return to work, said Susie Ellwood, *Detroit Newspapers* vice president of market development.

In all, about 160 people have received calls back to work and 135 have accepted. The rest have either declined or made no commitment.

Six union locals began a strike

against the *News*, the *Free Press* and *Detroit Newspapers* in July 1995. Six weeks ago, the striking employees made an unconditional offer to return to their jobs.

Since then, both sides have been working out a schedule of returning employees to work. The companies are taking back union employees on preferential hiring lists, based on seniority and as positions become available.

A dozen of the job offers have come through the *Detroit Free Press*, and the rest have been through *Detroit Newspapers*. The *News* does not have any openings, Ellwood said.

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Baylor's monies must stay public

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — If Baylor University sells its health-care system to a private entity, the value of the system's charitable assets must go toward originally stated public health goals, Attorney General Dan Morales says.

Morales outlined his position Monday in a letter to Baylor President Robert Sloan and Randall Fields, chairman of the Baylor board of regents.

"Please be advised that a sale of the assets of the medical center and the system to a private, for-profit entity would represent, in our judgment, a material change in the charitable purposes and objectives of these entities, which would compel the intervention of my office," Morales wrote.

"In the event of such a sale, my office would insist that the full value of the Dallas community's investment in these entities' charitable assets remain directed toward the charitable public health objectives originally set forth in the

Articles of Incorporation," he wrote.

Baylor officials announced Jan. 17 that they were considering selling the system because of changing conditions in the health-care market. They reportedly had received a \$1.2 billion offer.

Since then, Baylor has reportedly backed off the possibility of a sale. Regents and health care system trustees will meet next Monday, where they will be briefed by a consultant who's been working on the issue for several weeks.

"As I read the letter, everything makes perfect sense except he leaves room to consider other facts in the situation and we know he'll do that as time goes on," said Stan Madden, vice president for university marketing at Baylor.

Jennifer Coleman, a spokeswoman at BHCS, called Morales "a hero to the people of North Texas as he has demonstrated a commitment to community service and the advancement of public health."

China signs deals with companies

Gore's visit leads to agreements on economic and political fronts

By John King
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING — With Vice President Al Gore on hand to celebrate, China signed lucrative deals Tuesday with Boeing and General Motors and agreed to allow the United States to maintain its Hong Kong consulate when the colony reverts to Chinese rule.

In an agreement worth \$685 million to Seattle-based Boeing Corp., China's civil aviation authority arranged to purchase five of the aerospace giant's 777-200 series passenger jets.

And General Motors Corp. said it was launching a \$1.3 billion joint venture with a Chinese automaker to manufacture 100,000 Buick Regal and Century sedans a year in China.

Clinton administration officials traveling with Gore hailed the agreements as evidence that China was becoming a more reliable partner — and as proof that the policy of engagement was bearing fruit.

Last spring, in a blow to Boeing, China ordered \$1.5 billion in planes from Airbus Industrie of Europe, delayed a \$4 billion aircraft deal with Boeing and other companies and chose a consortium led by

British Aerospace and Aerospatiale of France as partners to build a 100-seat jetliner.

The trade announcements came as Gore opened two days of talks with China's leaders. It marked the highest-level U.S. visit in eight years — since then-President George Bush was here four months before the 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square.

Premier Li Peng was attending the signing ceremonies with Gore, and the two were meeting throughout the day. On Wednesday, Gore was meeting with President Jiang Zemin to provide a framework for Jiang's state visit to Washington this fall.

Just inside the Great Hall of the People on the edge of Tiananmen Square, Li greeted Gore with a handshake, and they stood stiffly on a platform while a military band played the Chinese and U.S. national anthems.

"Thank you for greeting me, for welcoming me here," said Gore. The vice president and his wife, Tipper, were also presented bouquets of flowers by two young school children.

Gore's agenda was crowded with areas of friction — disputes over human rights and U.S. access to

Chinese markets and American displeasure with China's sales of missile technology and weapons to nations the United States considers unfriendly.

But he said his overriding mission was to demonstrate the U.S.-Chinese relationship was maturing to a level of understanding that would allow cordial daily relations despite disagreements.

To make his case that it was time to take the relationship to a new level, Gore cited a Chinese poem from the Tang Dynasty, which ended 1,100 years ago:

"The sun beyond the mountain glows

"The Yellow River seaward flows
"But if you desire a grander sight,
"Then you must scale a greater height."

Gore also sought China's help on two fronts: in convincing North Korea to join South Korea in formal peace talks, and in working to lower emissions of so-called greenhouse gases even as China relies on coal to meet energy needs soaring to match economic growth.

Gore said his mission would not be derailed by allegations China tried to funnel money illegally into

last year's U.S. elections. China has forcefully denied those allegations and blamed them on anti-China forces in Taiwan and the United States.

Critics of the administration's China policy assert that the United States has little to show for its decision to delink progress on human rights from economic relations. These critics include House Democratic leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri, a potential Gore rival in the 2000 presidential campaign.

Gore aides said the new business deals were a powerful rejoinder.

"If the administration is doing the work to benefit people across the country in a positive way — in their pocketbooks — there should be less criticism," said Gore spokeswoman Ginny Terzano.

Under the agreement with Boeing, three of the 777s are to be delivered to Air China in the fourth quarter of 1998; the other two in 1999.

Boeing, which has 4,500 parts suppliers in all 50 states, has been competing fiercely against the European Airbus consortium for China's business, expected to total as much as \$120 billion over the next two decades.

American tuberculosis cases drop to lowest level since 1950s

By Malcolm Ritter
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The number of new tuberculosis cases in the United States dropped last year to the lowest level since record-keeping began in the 1950s, the federal government announced Monday.

It was the fourth straight year of decline, suggesting the nation is recovering from a rise in TB from the mid-'80s to 1992, officials said.

"We're on the right track toward the elimination of tuberculosis in this country," said Dr. Ken Castro of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "We now have the rare opportunity to eliminate tuberculosis in the

United States."

However, he and others at a New York news conference cautioned against relaxing the fight against the disease, saying that's what made TB surge in the 1980s after a long decline.

Castro noted that 20 states and the District of Columbia showed no reduction or even had increases from 1995 to 1996, and that sporadic outbreaks of drug-resistant TB continue to be reported.

Last year's nationwide count of new TB cases was 21,327, down nearly 7 percent from 1995. That's the fewest cases recorded by CDC since it started national surveillance in 1953. Over the same period, the total

population has almost doubled.

Officials credited programs that seek out people with infectious tuberculosis, diagnose them and make sure the patients take their full course of therapy. To be cured, a TB patient must take drugs for six months or longer, even after symptoms are gone.

The TB case total in 1996 was about where it would have been a decade earlier if the TB resurgence hadn't interrupted years of decline, Castro said.

From 1985 to 1992, TB cases rose almost 20 percent, said Dr. Charles Felton, speaking on behalf of the American Lung Association. The reason is that federal funding aimed specifically

at TB control had been replaced with general public health block grants to states, which led many states to cut back their anti-TB efforts, Felton said.

Congress restored much of the anti-TB money by 1992, he said.

"If we do not continue to support TB control efforts, we will face an inevitable rise in tuberculosis cases once again," Felton said. "And the next time, the fight against TB will be much more costly."

Among the areas reporting TB increases or no change in 1996 were the District of Columbia, up 36 percent, and Oregon, up 22 percent, Castro said.

He said it would take further study to determine why they and 19 other states bucked the nationwide trend. Many are probably still rebuilding their anti-TB programs, he said. And some may simply be getting better at detecting the disease, he said.

Castro also noted that an increasing proportion of this nation's cases is being found in people born outside the country. They accounted for 37 percent of cases in 1996, up from 22 percent a decade before, and two-thirds of them were born in Mexico, the Philippines or Vietnam, he said.

Part of that trend is due to an influx of immigrants, he said. Many people diagnosed with TB

probably entered the country with harmless, latent infections of TB germs, Castro said. These infections can turn active after years of dormancy.

The best response is to support anti-TB efforts in other countries, he said.

The worldwide spread of TB has leveled off for the first time in decades, the World Health Organization announced last week.

WHO estimated that 2 billion people, or a third of the world's population, are infected with TB germs. About 10 percent of people infected will eventually become sick.

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EDITORIAL

EGG-CEPTIONAL

Alumni activities necessary

In the beautiful spring afternoon, hundreds of TCU alumni, along with friends and relatives, gathered to watch their children join in an egg hunt Sunday that covered the Sadler lawn, and then some.

Amid SuperFrog and the Easter Bunny, the children gathered eggs filled with candy and gift certificates from area businesses.

It was a wonderful event and the benefits of it will certainly be far-reaching.

Put on by the TCU Young Alumni, there were thousands of people enjoying the campus as a result of the event and, thus, re-experiencing TCU.

Maybe the smile on a child's face or the chance to talk to an old friend they hadn't seen lately reminded them of the great times they had while going to school here.

Maybe the hunt will make a few of them want to stop by more often.

It sure wouldn't hurt to have a few more alums walking around. In fact, Sunday afternoon, passersby were probably amazed at the school spirit clearly visible from the TCU shirts and hats worn by many of the attendees.

And their children.

The young people were making some of their first TCU memories.

Maybe when they are looking at universities, they'll remember how comfortable they feel at TCU and they'll come back. Several of them have probably already felt a TCU tie, as many of the "hunters" at Sunday's event were with grandparents who once went to school here.

The egg hunt was an event that took much planning and preparation, but it resulted in a terrific day that promised several memories formed on the campus. The Young Alumni are to be applauded for their efforts. Surely they saw some of the rewards in the smiling faces as the children collected their candy and prizes.

Maybe future students will see the rewards when some of those same smiling faces are Horned Frogs in a few years.

Welcome to a new TCU

Changes may cure students of the Spring Break blues

Welcome back! For the past week, many of you have been baking on a beach in varying degrees of inebriation. By now you have realized that you have to go to class once again, which means that you have to be up before 4 p.m. Well, I'm here to inform you of the changes that have occurred at TCU while you were burning your flesh under the happy little sun somewhere along the Gulf of Mexico.

Well, visitation is now allowed 24 hours a day. In fact, you can now sleep in whatever dorm you want.

This restructuring is because the university has decided that the visiting hour policy in the dorms is ineffectual in keeping unauthorized persons from spending the night.

For those of you who still feel the tension of the Greeks vs. Independents debate, the problem has been resolved. Independents have been graciously given the letters Gamma

Delta Iota. Independents, you are now part of the Greek system, and everyone can talk to each other now. The gap has been bridged, and we can all get along.

And what about all you professors out there? I know many you spent the past week being productive outside of the classroom, and things have turned around for you too. From now on, your students will pay attention in class, and they will also participate!

You won't have to feel like you aren't engaging enough, because no one will be nodding off in class. The best news is that when your students receive poor grades, they won't blame it on you! Are you tired of those stragglers who think they are invisible and inaudible when they skulk into class 10 minutes late? From now on, if they are late, they

won't show up!

I suspect that as you read this, you might wonder what I did over Spring Break, supposing that I probably spent way too much time in the sun. That wasn't the case at all. I am still your completely sane and friendly neighborhood columnist, and I am just trying to tell you that Spring Break is a merely a placebo.

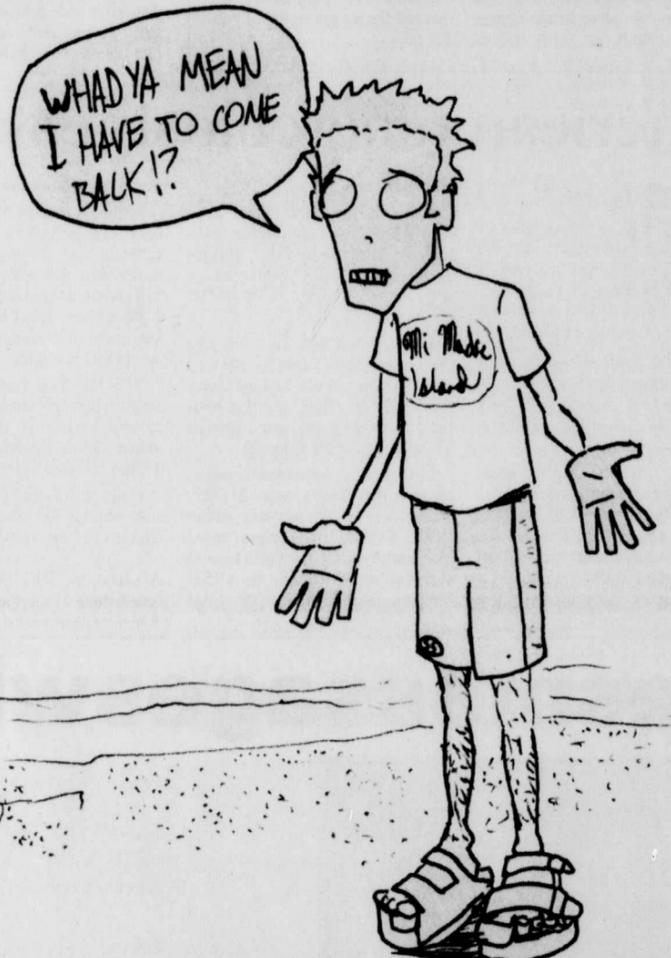
All those things that made life cruel and unfair are still there to laugh at you. I just want to warn you that although you may watch MTV and wish you were in Florida, it doesn't change the fact that you are in school. With that said, I hope you all had a zany Spring Break.

Steve Steward is a freshman political science major from Lodi, Calif.

Commentary



Steve Steward



Steve Steward SKIFF STAFF

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Spring Break offers chance to escape school

Commentary



Theresa Hill

What do you get when you have 11 people staying in a two-bed condominium in Colorado? My crazy and fun-filled Spring Break!

For the past two months, my friends and I had been anxiously

awaiting our vacation to the wild and wonderful world of Breckenridge, Colo. Leaving TCU behind in a breathless whirlwind of activity completely unrelated to school was what we (and most other TCU students) had in mind for this vacation.

I am proud to say that this goal was completely achieved, as I did not crack a single textbook or spend hours downloading any information from Infotrac (for which I am now paying the high price of library overload).

I would also like to take this moment to interject into my story a question to the reading public: Why is Spring Break so much longer than Fall Break? Just a question.

So, on the drive from the Denver

International Airport we passed mountains and beautiful, high terrain. We passed the hours on our "Resort Express" bus with a driver who was nice, yet neither knowledgeable nor clean (I had to smell my peppermints the whole way to the condo), but that is neither here nor there. This drive was probably the low point of the trip because of the above-mentioned driver and the fact that we did not get to see the landscape (the drive was at night).

This vacation comes highly recommended from me and all of my friends who went skiing. If you want a relaxing time with fun and exercise, go skiing. Not only is Colorado a beautiful place to spend any vacation, there are actually more boys there

than girls. Not that I was going to "pick up" anybody, though we did meet some cute boys. But it is a nice change from TCU, where the inverse is the case.

I am originally from California, so snow skiing is not something that I have ever had the opportunity to experience. On my first day there, I took a skiing lesson, which is the reason I am not dead. Besides the fact that I was inexperienced, afraid of heights and cold-natured, the simple fact that I am alive is testimony to the positive nature of this lesson.

Lined up with other equally scared and nervous beginners, we all spent half of the day falling down the mountain with hopes of finally mastering the art of snowplowing. For those of

you familiar with skiing, go ahead and laugh — imagine 20 people falling down a pre-green slope for the first time in their lives; skis were flying, as were poles and other various articles that should be kept secure.

Leaving that day with a bruised ego and a bruised butt, I was ready to tackle any obstacle skiing had to offer. Until I went hiking. This was fun until I slipped on icy trails, on my already bruised butt. It was awesome.

So many of you must be asking, what did you do for fun? Well, last year I went to Padre Island, so for those of you who had that experience this year, we did not go to Charlie's or Louie's. Instead we visited less "festive," but equally fun, places. We still met people, especially from Arkansas

(which shocked me), had a good time, and took many pictures.

The fun I had this year was in nature. The landscape of Colorado was clean and rejuvenating, making it even more difficult to come back to the real world or to be a GRADUATING SENIOR at TCU.

We had fun just "hanging out" with each other and seeing a new environment that was not overly populated with hedonistic college students cavorting through the land in a wild, elf-like fashion.

I had fun doing something I had never done before.

Theresa Hill is a senior advertising/public relations major from Wichita Falls.

Gingrich shifts balanced-budget strategies

Commentary



Brian Wilson

The most recent failure of the Balanced Budget Amendment to gain approval in the Senate has not doomed Republicans' efforts to curb federal spending; it just altered their strategy slightly.

To improve the "chances of

Democrats and Republicans agreeing on a balanced budget proposal, House Speaker Newt Gingrich has done something that, just four months ago, seemed unthinkable.

He has taken the GOP's promise of tax cuts off the table temporarily.

The inability of Texas Representatives Dick Army and Bill Archer to compromise on their individual tax plans also played a big role in Gingrich's move.

But not all Republicans are happy with their leader. The Republican Revolution was originally conceived from the idea of finally achieving a balanced budget.

And to date, conservatives have failed in their attempts to do so. Two votes on the Balanced Budget

Amendment and two defeats later, Gingrich knows it's time for a shift in strategy.

Congress needs to work on keeping its promises one at a time. Simplifying the tax system is an essential step toward reviving Americans' faith in the future.

But the word "cut" has developed such negative connotations over the past two years that Democrats have convinced the American people that, even when it is mentioned in tandem with taxes, it is dangerous.

Bob Dole's apparent shift from deficit hawk to supply-sider was mentioned by the media as the reason his tax package failed.

There may be some truth to this, but the main reason Dole was unable

to sell his plan was because liberals had succeeded in their objective to debunk the lessons of the 1980s.

Poll after poll indicates that a majority of the American people do not understand that lower taxes produce more revenue.

No one deserves more blame for this than Republicans, for their inability to defend President Reagan's policies. Perhaps the GOP would be better served to look at the big picture and advocate "tax reform."

The 15 percent tax cut offered by Dole during the presidential campaign was simply a bandage over the scar that is the Internal Revenue Service.

In April, two bills will be intro-

duced in Congress that, if successful, will change the way taxes are collected forever. The aim of the first is to dismantle the IRS and implement a national sales tax.

The second measure will call for a repeal of the 16th Amendment. Although the latter is a long shot, it is a must if the new system is to remain simple.

Otherwise a liberal president who does not understand the lessons of Reaganomics could reintroduce an income tax.

When coupled with a sales tax, this would have disastrous effects on the economy. There are many potential problems with both the flat-tax and the sales-tax ideas.

Both, however, would rid taxpay-

ers of the fear of being audited by the IRS. According to Citizens for an Alternative Tax System, this is an entirely feasible goal, as 45 states, already have agencies in place to collect the sales tax.

Realistically, the goal of getting rid of the IRS completely is probably a pipe dream, but it would certainly be scaled down to a microscopic version.

Republicans must guard against people buying into the notion that for America to get a tax cut, the budget must be balanced. If not, the efforts of CATS will have been made in vain.

Brian Wilson is a senior news-editorial major from Vienna, W.Va.

Hoop dreams live in March tourney

Commentary



Michael Kruse

Chattanooga and Coppin State University shine in an overnight spotlight, thanks to their surprising prowess on a basketball court.

Dads are proud of their college-attending children. It's nice to know that Gabe is studying to be a brain surgeon at Yale, Stephen is getting his master's in music at Harvard and Luke has discovered his inner-feminine side at K.B. University, but the really important thing to know is that Sarah's Jayhawks are going to kick the hell out of Purdue.

Everyone needs recognition, and that goes for the publicity departments of universities as well. Redneck State may never have had a literate graduate, but it can earn a little respect if it secures a seed in the Big Dance.

But equally important is the dream aspect of college basketball. Though one may have to wait only a few years to do so, none of the athletes who have ever donned a college jersey was a professional at the time he did so. Like the Olympics, college basketball is purely amateur competition.

Sure, some schools are expected to be top-ranked and undefeated, but underneath those expectations is the universal understanding that these mighty teams are made up of young kids who have dreamed for this special moment and may never see it again.

The elements of college basketball tournament play are the same as America's: dreams and desire. That is why every spring, just around March, schools dismiss for a week vacation every year to encourage the March Madness that threads the bonds of a nation.

Michael Kruse is a sophomore advertising/public relations major from Overland Park, Kan., and a die-hard, rock-chalk Jayhawk fan.

The championship is still up in the air, office pools are still up for grabs, and televisions still pause at ESPN to check the scores. We are in the doldrums of desperate times with millions of arm-chair quarterbacks turned point-guards contracting the ultimate spring fever: March Madness.

For those of you who have been deprived of the flamboyantly obnoxious charm of Dick Vitale, March Madness is the conclusive 64-team single-elimination NCAA basketball tournament. It's the Big Dance, baby, and there are multitudes of frenzied fans nationwide cheering for their boys to be crowned Prom King.

What is the root of this obsession? What quality does college basketball possess that allows it to captivate and control a whole country for a month? There are season-ending tournaments to determine the fate and standings of pro teams at the culmination of all organized sports' seasons, yet only a few of them get more hype than the Final Four.

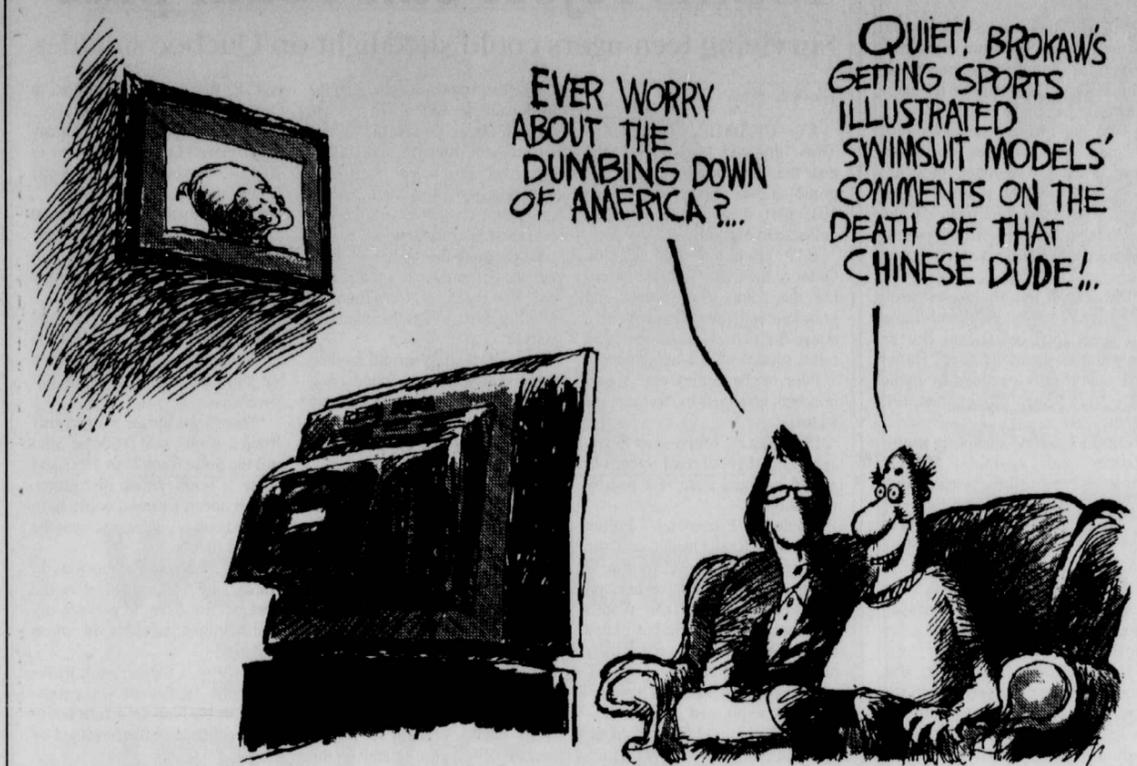
Even the NBA championship series, the supposed mother-ship of college basketball, doesn't seem to enthrall basketball fans nearly as much as the college tournament. It's as if college hoops have the Midas touch, changing college basketball games into golden gems of anticipation and excitement.

College football made a costly error in choosing to distribute the national championship over a series of bowl games. Without the definitive single-elimination tournament, there is never any unanimous consensus on who is number one.

That is what makes the NCAA tournament so popular. People have always been obsessed with knowing who is the clear-cut best. This tournament plays to people's need for bragging rights.

The University of Tennessee-

MIKE LUCKOVICH ATLANTA CONSTITUTION 1997



Letter to the Editor

Skiff should act like a real newspaper

Perhaps I waited too long, but it is better late than never.

In some ways, I admire the style of the Skiff's editorial line: lots of freedom of speech, independence and a good school for future American journalists. However, there are limits. It came to my attention while reading the last of Mr. Smith's pseudo columns ("Smith waxes poetic"). I am not a poet so I cannot judge his contribution to American poetry.

Below his poetry, three letters attacked another of his columns. This is not the first time this has happened. I would ignore it if having such layouts is your strat-

egy to create controversy among the TCU students. In my opinion, though, his column was not a reflection of the Skiff's motto: an All-American newspaper, unless you want to compare the Skiff with the National Enquirer or another such tabloid.

Right now, you are living covered by the shield of inexperience in the real world, playing to run a publication without fears and defending your learnings in classrooms. But outside this child's play, how much further do you want to go? The world is full of believers in the freedom of the speech, but at least some of them have had financial independence. That is not the case of the Skiff.

As far as I know, the Skiff receives funds from TCU, and its

writers are paid by the university. If part of the money comes from fees that students like me pay every semester, what hundredth of a percent was used to pay for Mr. Smith's columns? He has attacked the House for wasting money. Has he wasted some of the students' money by writing such poetry? And what about the image that TCU wants to show to the community? Let's support writers like Smith and see if we are going to be recognized as capable professionals when the chance to get a job appears in the future. I do not think that the students and the Skiff readers have to support Mr. Smith's remarks and be insulted at the same time — unless you want to preserve your independence and freedom of speech without a single one to

read your opinions. As I said before, there are limits, and you need to recognize those.

Think about it. Perhaps you can believe that my reaction is to get even at you for not letting me write (as a columnist) in the Opinion page for the last two semesters. Well, that is not the case because perhaps you lost a chance to know more about working in real and truly independent media. And, anyway, I took the hours planned to write for the Skiff to finish my second book.

You can search my Website on Yahoo and learn about how the things work — you have to know Spanish, though.

Erick Chang
MBA student

Should Greek houses be alcohol-free?

Proposal that Greeks go dry could reinstate group values

Commentary



William Thomas Burdette

Sometime over the last century, the focus of fraternities has switched from brotherhood to boozehood; from education to inebriation; from holding each other up under adversity to holding each other up for keg stands.

Before all you fraternity boys put down your beer long enough to attempt to write a pseudo-scathing letter about how I don't know what brotherhood is all about and how fraternities are more than beer and babes, let me save you the brain work. I am a card-carrying member of the largest national social fraternity and I can vouch for the fact that almost all of the rumors, stereotypes and stories about drinking and fraternities are true.

But the point here is not to exploit the out-of-whack priorities of the Greek system, but to applaud the recent efforts of a couple of fraternities to turn the trend of alcohol abuse around. Frankly, it is about time.

Sigma Nu and Phi Delta Theta have gone dry. That's right, the two national fraternities have outlawed drinking in all their chapters' houses. That's 390 fraternity houses that could try to come up with some new and creative ways to have fun at parties without alcohol. Unfortunately, the parties will probably still have alcohol, but they will just be moved off campus.

However, the fact that two national fraternities were willing to take a stand on alcohol is very admirable. It is a step in the right direction. What, you might ask, is the right direction? Well, it would be nice if

fraternities would at least attempt to adhere to the values that their founding fathers tried to instill in young men.

Most fraternities were founded upon virtue, diligence and other lofty ideals. No organization lives up to all the fine print in its mission statement, but if you're going to put words like "virtue" on your crest you might want to at least attempt to live up to them.

Alcohol plays no part in virtue. To illustrate this fact, just look at a couple of recent stories about alcohol and fraternities:

Last fall, a drunken University of New Hampshire student fell off the roof of his fraternity house after drinking at a fraternity party. Consequently, the school banned drinking at fraternity parties.

Earlier this month, eight students at Frostburg State University in Maryland were charged with manslaughter after the alcohol-poisoning death of a freshman.

"A chain is only as strong as its weakest link," you might hear an active tell a pledge during his first semester in a fraternity.

Drinking makes weak links. How can fraternities commit themselves to making strong chains when their lifestyles are creating weak links?

The Phi Delt and Sigma Nus are, in effect, recommitting themselves to creating the types of strong links that will be beneficial to incoming freshmen, rather than detrimental.

If all goes well, this new trend of Greeks going dry will catch on and give incoming freshmen, who need or want the camaraderie that a fraternity can provide, an alternative to the traditional fraternity lifestyle. An even better result would be if the "traditional" fraternity lifestyle were to change so that drinking was no longer an integral part of the chapters' activities.

William Thomas Burdette, a sophomore news-editorial major from Overland Park, Kan., and Opinion editor of the Skiff, only condones non-social drinking.



Steve Steward SKIFF STAFF

Alcohol ban in Greek houses is an unrealistic requirement

Commentary



Anne Drabicky

Remember when the Phi Delta Theta fraternity was suspended last spring? Among the violations that earned them their "death sentence" was an alcohol violation.

The Sigma Nu fraternity has been off campus for a while now, and though the members aren't there because of problems with alcohol, have you ever been to one of their parties?

However, these two fraternities have recently become the first two to ban alcohol in chapter houses.

Ban all alcohol in all chapters nationwide? And they expect more houses to follow suit? Yeah, right. I have a feeling this fad won't last long, and few, if any, chapters will follow. Fraternities everywhere, even our own beloved Sigma Nu, will crumble.

Yes, I realize that fraternities are not all about drinking. They have their philanthropies and they do good in the community, blah, blah, blah. But we all know alcohol is as much a part of their way of life as the rest of the stuff, and trying to eradicate it is next to impossible.

We've all heard the stories about the parties where the only nonalcoholic beverage is tap water, and since there's usually someone puking in the sink... Oh, and have you ever heard of trash-can punch? Do you know what's in it? Of course. But there are some naive party goers who actually think that it's some sort of Kool-Aid-type drink.

Then there are the poor pledges. Some have been forced to drink until they puke, then drink some more, all for the sake of brotherhood. Initiation rites can be hell on an innocent, impressionable freshman who had absolutely no idea whatsoever of what he was getting himself into. (Well, that's what I've heard. I've never actually had the opportunity to be privy to the goings-on at a fraternity initiation.)

But it is not my intention to lambast fraternities for their love of alcohol. I could care less what they drink or make their pledges drink. However, I do think that this latest attempt to remove a part of fraternity

life is a poor attempt to solve the problems that come with drinking.

Drinking is, for many people, a part of the college experience. It's not necessarily healthy, but it is a part of life nonetheless. College is all about experimentation and, even more so, it's about having the freedom to do so. By saying that all chapter houses should ban alcohol, these two groups are, in effect, limiting students' freedom.

The executive vice president of the IFC, Jonathan Brant, said in the report, "Many of the poor decisions students make on campuses today are result of using alcohol."

The man's a genius.

But he and the rest of the yahoos who made this ruling are only making the situation worse. Now, since the fraternity boys can't drink in their houses, they will have to go elsewhere, say, to a bar. They will most likely drive. You can see where this is going.

Telling people they can't do something is the quickest, surest way to get them to do it. And if they aren't successful at sneaking alcohol into the house (not that they would ever think to do such a thing), then they'll just get drunk somewhere else and add drunk driving, in all its glory, to the list of problems fraternities have.

I admire the attempt to curb some of the problems fraternities have faced because of alcohol abuse, but this is not the way to do it. Nice try, guys, but try again.

Anne Drabicky is a senior English and news-editorial major from Farmersville and the Photo editor of the Skiff.

Boat people return home

By Ian Stewart
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABOARD VIETNAM AIRLINES FLIGHT 7911 — She gambled everything to escape Vietnam nine years ago: home, family, dignity. In the end, she lost it all.

At Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport, Nguyen Thi Hien said goodbye to nine years behind barbed wire and climbed aboard Vietnam Airlines charter flight 7911 to Vietnam.

She, her husband, Hoang Duc Hung, and their three children were among the last of the boat people whose saga gripped the world's attention in the 1970s and 1980s.

Now, having finally surrendered to the reality that no other country wanted them, they were getting onto an airplane for the first time in their lives, and going home with less than they started with.

Convinced almost to the last that the family would get asylum, Hien had given most of their belongings to other families who chose to return months ago.

"We packed up everything we had in the camp, but there's not much. We don't have much left," said Hien as she grappled with the mysteries of the seat belt during Friday's flight.

Hien is 34, a short woman with sad, down-turned eyes, whose

odyssey began in February 1988 when her husband, a ship welder, was out of work and Vietnam's communist economy was sinking.

They sold their home for \$450 worth of gold, enough to buy the family passage on a leaky fishing boat along with 60 other people.

After drifting through the South China Sea, the overburdened boat broke up just off a Chinese beach. For six months they lived on the beach, begging Chinese fishermen for money, food and passage to Hong Kong.

The next nine years were spent in the Whitehead Detention Center, one family among thousands waiting, filling out forms, answering questions, seasawing between hope and despair, finally opting for "voluntary repatriation" and a U.N. cash grant worth \$400.

At liftoff, Hien got her first and probably last glimpse of Hong Kong's glittering skyscrapers, a world apart from the squalor she was used to.

The Vietnamese had never been welcome in Hong Kong. As their number grew to 60,000, the clamor went up to get rid of them. They were viewed as a burden on the taxpayer, the fallout from a crisis not of Hong Kong's making.

Vietnam guarantees that returning boat people will not be pun-

ished. But those who left to find better job prospects are often perceived at home as opportunists who deserted Vietnam in its darkest hour.

"We don't care when they left, or care why. If they don't act against the government, they are most welcome to return," Pham Khac Lam, vice-chairman of the National Committee for Overseas Vietnamese, said in a recent interview.

For part of the flight, the cabin was filled with excited chatter and the sheer thrill of flying. But as the plane descended toward Hanoi and sparkling rice paddies came into view, the passengers fell silent.

On the ground, unsmiling immigration and customs officers processed the returnees back into Vietnam and put them on buses to relocation camps in Hanoi, where they stayed for a few days before moving to their home towns.

Inside the shabby terminal, Hien blended into a sea of confused people having one form after another shoved at them.

Holding little Doanh in one hand and a small canvas bag in the other, she pushed deeper into the crowd. Her red-and-black jacket popped briefly into view once more, and then she was gone.

Youths reject cult death pact

Surviving teen-agers could shed light on Quebec suicides

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. CASIMIR, Quebec — Three drugged teen-agers found near the scene of a doomsday cult group suicide rejected an offer to take part in the deadly ritual, police said Monday.

Five adult members of the Order of the Solar Temple, including the teen-agers' parents and grandmother, died Saturday in a house fire in St. Casimir, about 50 miles southwest of Quebec City.

Four of the bodies were found in a bed, arranged in the shape of a cross.

Firefighters found two boys, ages 13 and 16, and a 14-year-old girl in a dazed state in a nearby workshop.

Quebec Provincial Police spokesman Real Ouellet said the teen-agers woke up Friday morning to discover their parents and other cult members had placed propane tanks, electric hot plates and fire-starters on the main floor of the two-story house.

They realized what was happening and expressed their disapproval. The suicide was delayed until Saturday, when the youths

rejected an opportunity to join the death pact, he said.

Fanie Queze-Goupillot, 14, and her brothers Tom, 13, and Julien, 16, agreed just before the fire to take sleeping pills their parents gave them. They went to sleep in a workshop near the house.

Police said the bodies of their parents, Didier Queze and Chantal Goupillot, both 39, were found in bed with those of another man and woman.

Goupillot's 63-year-old mother, Suzanne Druau, was found lying on a sofa downstairs with a plastic bag over her head — a characteristic of previous Solar Temple murder-suicides.

The other victims were identified as Bruno Klaus, 49, and Pauline Rioux, 54. Police said Queze and Klaus were Swiss, and the female victims French, as are the teen-agers.

Police also found letters and documents mentioning a planned "departure." Solar Temple followers believe suicide instantly transports them to a new world on a planet called Sirius.

The deaths brought to 74 the number of victims linked to the

cult in the past 30 months in Quebec, Switzerland, and France.

Provincial police said Sunday they believed Quebec was home to 30 to 40 current or former Solar Temple members.

Quebec coroner Roger Michaud said in June that he believed the order was no longer active in Quebec and he didn't fear another tragedy.

Hermann Delorme, a former cult member, said he thought the cult was no longer well-organized but still had small groups of followers.

"There's no longer a structured group as such," said Delorme, who quit the Solar Temple in 1992 and wrote a book about the group. "But it doesn't mean people have dropped out — we've just seen the proof of that."

Police contacted authorities in France and Switzerland after the weekend fire to try to prevent any similar mass suicides in those countries.

In 1994, Swiss authorities found the bodies of 48 people linked to the cult in a farmhouse and three chalets, all consumed by fire.

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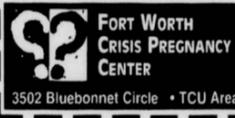
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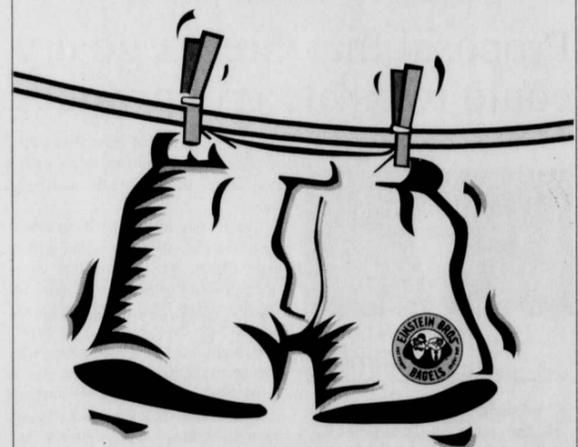
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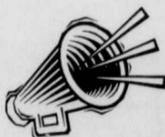
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Student Center
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

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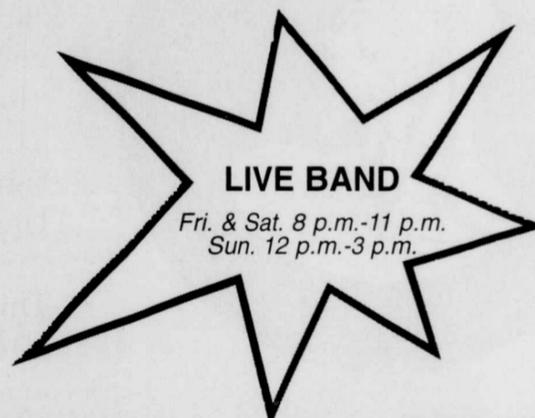
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Final Four teams set to play Saturday

And then there were four... The NCAA men's Final Four is set, with the University of Kentucky set to take on the University of Minnesota and the University of North Carolina meeting the University of Arizona this Saturday at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

Kentucky earned a chance to defend its 1996 national championship as All-American Ron Mercer got the best of Utah's All-American Keith Van Horn and knocked off the second-ranked Utes 72-59 on Saturday. Kentucky, the No. 1 seed in the West Regional, defeated Montana, Iowa and St. Joseph's before topping Utah in the elite eight.

Minnesota, champion of the Big Ten and No. 1 seed in the Midwest Regional, proved its 31-3 record is no fluke. The Gophers knocked off 1995 champion UCLA 80-72 on Saturday after squeaking past Clemson in double overtime on Thursday.

North Carolina had perhaps the easiest route to the Final Four of all the No. 1 seeds. The Tarheels' highest-seeded opponent was No. 5 California in the third round, which Carolina defeated 63-57 to move head coach Dean Smith into first place for all-time wins by a college coach. North Carolina pounded Louisville 97-74 Sunday to advance to the Final Four.

Arizona, the only team to make the Final Four that is not a No. 1 seed, knocked off the mighty Kansas Jayhawks 85-82 in the sweet 16 on Friday and came back Sunday to knock off Providence 96-92 in overtime. The Wildcats are in their second Final Four in the last four seasons, despite the lack of a single senior starter.

Broderick Thomas re-signs with Cowboys

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys, who aren't certain Charles Haley will return, re-signed pass-rush specialist Broderick Thomas on Monday.

"We had to have this guy," coach Barry Switzer said. "He can run people down from behind. He has natural pass-rushing instincts."

Thomas moved from linebacker to defensive end in the last six games of the 1996 season and finished second on the team with 4.5 sacks.

"I'm happy with this franchise," Thomas said. "I had a chance to sign with other teams, and it was close. But I decided to try to come back here and take another chance at a Super Bowl."

Thomas was the second "priority" signing by the Cowboys, who also brought fullback Daryl Johnston into the fold last week.

Dallas has lost punter John Jett, place-kicker Chris Boniol, and safety George Teague to free agency.

Barkley's return delayed again

HOUSTON (AP) — With Charles Barkley, the Houston Rockets feel they are a team of destiny. Without him, they have a losing record, and it could get worse.

Barkley, the last of the Rockets' big three superstars to remain on the injury list, had expected to play Tuesday night against the Minnesota Timberwolves after being out since March 1 with a bruised left pelvis.

Those plans were dashed at Monday's practice when Barkley took part in a half-court drill and felt a tightness in the injured area. Trainer Keith Jones said there was no new timetable for his return.

Clyde Drexler, Hakeem Olajuwon and the rest of the Rockets eagerly await his return. The Rockets, vying with the Los Angeles Lakers for the third-best record in the Western Conference, have a 12-13 record without Barkley. They are 33-10 with him.

"Hopefully, we'll be the same team we were when we had all our players healthy early in the season," Drexler said. "That's what we're shooting for."

Season closes with loss at Notre Dame

Tubbs optimistic after Frogs match the third-highest number of wins in one season for TCU



Damion Walker was TCU's most effective inside player, with a team-high 16 points and eight rebounds in the Frogs' 82-72 loss at the University of Notre Dame in the second round of the National Invitation Tournament last week.

By Paul Corliss
SKIFF STAFF

The TCU men's basketball team's roller-coaster ride of a season screeched to an end with an 82-72 loss at the University of Notre Dame March 18 in the second round of the National Invitation Tournament.

The Horned Frogs finished 22-13 for the season, giving head coach Billy Tubbs his most wins ever at TCU, and equaled the third-highest number of wins in a season ever for a TCU basketball squad.

"I believe this is the year we turned the corner in our program," Tubbs said. "The postseason games and the conference tournament games were a tremendous experience and should serve as a critical building block for next season. We played 35 games this season... most teams only play about 28."

TCU, playing in the postseason for only the fifth time in the last 25 seasons, fell behind Notre Dame 35-23 in the first half as the Frogs hit only 10 of 44 shots (23 percent). Despite improving to 47 percent in the second half, TCU was never able to overcome the Irish and their strong frontline.

"We dug ourselves a hole we couldn't get out of in the first half when we couldn't hit a shot," Tubbs said. "And once again we ran into a big ol' strong inside game."

The Notre Dame frontline of Derek Manner, Pat Garrity and Phil Hickey outscored TCU's starting frontcourt of Damion Walker, Dennis Davis and Malcolm Johnson 45 to 29.

Walker was TCU's most effective inside player, with a team-high 16

points and eight rebounds, while Davis added nine boards.

The Horned Frogs' leading rebounder came from the backcourt, however. Junior guard Mike Jones pulled down a game-high 15 boards, including nine off the offensive glass, and scored 14 points.

Tubbs said Jones is one of several returning players he believes will lead the Horned Frogs to greater heights.

"With guys like Mike, Malcolm and Prince Fowler back next season, we should be a better team," he said. Jones was named first-team all-Western Athletic Conference Mountain Division, Johnson earned second-team honors and both were named to the WAC's all-newcomer squad and earned all-WAC Tournament honors.

Fowler regained the starting point guard spot in the WAC Tournament and averaged nine points and four assists in TCU's final six games. He was also counted on as a defensive stopper during the Frogs' impressive late-season run.

Top recruits Lee Nailon (6-foot-9-inches) and Jon Day (6-foot-10) will bring size to TCU from the junior college ranks and should solidify an undersized front court that returns all of its contributors aside from senior forward Saipele Tuailii. Nailon was listed as the top juco power forward in the country by *Sporting News* and was named a preseason All-America selection by numerous publications.

"I don't want to make any predictions, but with the guys we have back and the addition of our recruiting class, we expect our ball club to improve next season," Tubbs said.

Football begins preparation

By Paul Corliss
SKIFF STAFF

The Horned Frog football squad begins work to improve upon last year's 4-7 mark and return to the form of 1994 and 1995, when the Horned Frogs posted back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since the 1950s.

Head coach Pat Sullivan returns for his sixth season at TCU, having posted a 23-32-1 mark in his first five seasons. However, defensive coordinator Pat Henderson has been replaced by Phil Bennett after the Horned Frog defense yielded more than 27 points per contest in 1996.

Bennett, who came to TCU after serving as an assistant at Texas A&M University under R.C. Slocum, will install an attack-oriented defense this spring that emphasizes speed and quickness.

Senior defensive end Matt Harper, who led TCU with 5 1/2 sacks and was named second team All-Conference, said the goal of the new defense is to put more speed on the field in order to employ more blitzes and aggressive schemes.

"We're moving a lot of people around to make our defense quicker," he said. "I may be moving to defen-

sive tackle and Kam Hunt looks like he'll move from linebacker to end.

"We need to improve on the defensive side of the ball because we were really hurt a lot by the pass last season."

Junior linebacker Cody Mortensen said the defensive players need to focus especially hard this spring because of the new scheme.

"We just have to get this new defense down pat," he said. "There's a lot more pass rushing and a lot more man coverage in the secondary, so we'll have to step up."

Sophomore defensive tackle J.W. Wilson said there's a good class of seniors returning to the defense who are willing to learn and lead.

"Harper, Chance (McCarty), (Chris) Staten and (Scott) Taft should be leaders," Wilson said. "They're a really good group of seniors."

On the offensive side of the ball, the Horned Frogs will employ their usual balanced attack under Sullivan and offensive coordinator Pete Hoener. Leading rusher Basil Mitchell (953 yards) and leading passer Jeff Dover (1,456 yards) return to an offense that had difficulty posting points, averaging less than 20 points per game.

Mitchell said the key to TCU's offensive success lies in each player taking care of his assignment.

"Every play's designed for success," he said. "It's usually one or two breakdowns that cause a busted play."

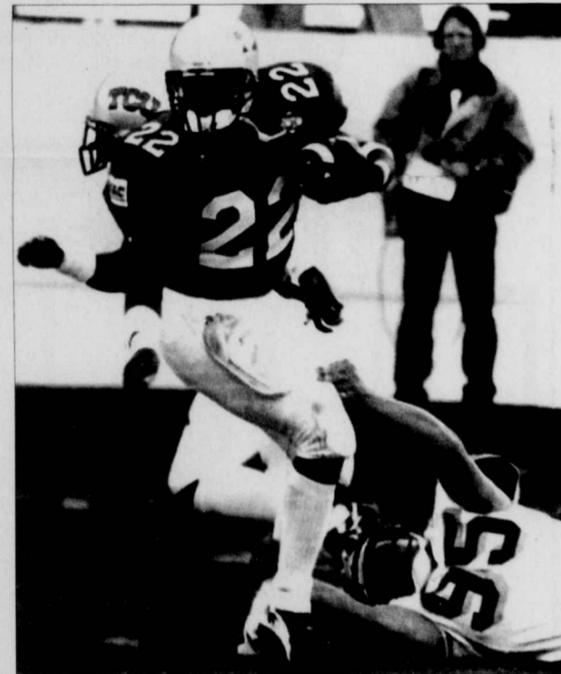
Despite starting eight of 11 games at quarterback as a redshirt freshman, Dover will be pressed by transfers Derek Canine (SMU) and Kevin Colon (Texas A&M), who sat out last season because of NCAA transfer rules.

Harper said the crowded quarterback situation isn't necessarily bad for the Frogs.

"Dover, Canine and Colon provide a lot more depth at quarterback than we've had in the past," he said. "One needs to emerge this spring to help the offense consistently put points on the board."

Mortensen said the good part about spring practice is that it enables the coaching staff to try new things and look at different players in different positions.

"Compared to the season, spring ball is experimental," he said. "It's a time to put guys in new places and see who fits, which is a good way for the coaches to take a good look at everybody."



Basil Mitchell, who led TCU with 953 yards on the ground last season, returns to the field today as the Horned Frog football team begins spring drills.

Frogs' record improves after series

By Ryan J. Rusak
SKIFF STAFF

After its first-ever Western Athletic Conference series at Rice earlier this month, the Horned Frog baseball team limped home with a 6-10 record (0-3 in the WAC).

What a difference three weeks have made.

The team has been on a tear since then, winning 10 of 12 and boosting its record to 16-12 (8-4). That includes three-game sweeps of the University of New Mexico and Grand Canyon University at home. And when the Frogs went on the road this weekend, they won three of four from Air Force in Colorado Springs, Colo. One of those wins was non-conference, though, as the teams scheduled a second game Saturday to make up for games both teams had lost to weather.

More importantly, while TCU was beating Grand Canyon and Air Force, Rice lost two of three at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and one at New Mexico, allowing the Frogs to close the gap between the two South division teams to one game.

The Frogs won the first game Friday against Air Force 9-3 on the strength of a complete game

by senior left-hander Derek Lee.

The Frogs fell behind 2-0 in that game after the first but tied the game in the second and took the lead for good in the fourth on junior left fielder Chris Connolly's 11th home run of the year.

Lee (5-3) earned his 20th career win, moving into sole possession of third place all-time in TCU career wins. Air Force senior starter Dave Lyons (1-3) took the loss.

The Frogs split the Saturday doubleheader with the Falcons, losing the first game 18-10 and winning the second 14-8. Only the first game counts in conference standings.

The Frogs fell behind 4-1 after three innings but chipped away and took a 8-6 lead in the top of the sixth. Air Force blew the game open with four runs in the bottom of the inning, however, and added one in the seventh and seven in the eighth.

Freshman reliever Shawn Thompson (1-2) took the loss, while Air Force junior reliever Todd Ladd earned the win.

The second game of the doubleheader was another slugfest, as TCU won 14-8 on the strength of two home runs and five RBIs from

junior right fielder Ryan Dunn.

The Frogs took a 2-0 lead in the first on Dunn's first homer but fell behind 5-2 in the bottom of the innings, as Air Force sent 10 men to the plate against Horned Frog junior starter Jeff Shaddix.

But TCU came right back with six runs in the second to reclaim a lead it did not relinquish again. Shaddix (1-0) got the win, Falcons junior starter Nick Nobriga (0-1) took the loss.

Sunday's game provided the most drama. The game was a 4-4 tie in the top of the seventh when TCU took the lead as sophomore catcher Mark Silva doubled with one out. Silva went to third on an error by Air Force center fielder Kevin Runyon and scored on a suicide squeeze bunt by junior center fielder Sam Lunsford.

Senior starter David Meyer (3-0) made the lead hold up, pitching a seven-hit complete game to earn the win. It was Meyer's second straight complete game victory. Ladd (1-2) took the loss for the Falcons.

The Frogs return to action at 2:30 p.m. today at the TCU Diamond against the University of Texas-Arlington Mavericks. UTA comes in at 14-13 (7-4 in the Southland Conference).

NIT teams merit attention

By Tom Withers
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Nice Final Four, isn't it?

Four high-profile programs from high-profile conferences with rich histories, big-name coaches and big-time players.

Well, with all due respect to the four schools heading to Indianapolis this week, this year's NIT semifinalists have equally impressive resumes.

Arkansas, Michigan, Connecticut and Florida State. In any other year, they might be playing deep into the NCAA tournament. This year, though, they form a stellar NIT semifinal field competing for the 60th title of college basketball's oldest tournament.

Connecticut (17-14) will play Florida State (19-11) in Tuesday's first semifinal game (7 p.m. EST), followed by Arkansas (18-12) vs. Michigan (22-11). The winners meet in Thursday's championship game following a third-place match-up.

"The four of us could be in there also," Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson said of this year's Final Four. "I don't think the winner here is the No. 65 team in the country, far from it..."

The NCAA is a great tournament, but when you look at all 64 teams there, there are probably 25 or 30 of them who couldn't win the NIT."

Richardson isn't talking trash. He's led the Razorbacks to three Final Four appearances in 12 years, including 1994, when Arkansas defeated Duke for the school's first NCAA title.

After starting the year ranked No. 9 in the nation, Michigan missed the NCAAs by losing six of seven games during a late stretch in February.

Connecticut and Florida State will be meeting for the first time since 1995, when the Huskies routed the Seminoles 79-61 in a nationally televised game.

"Our guys were plenty excited when they found out who we were going to play," Florida State Head Coach Pat Kennedy said.

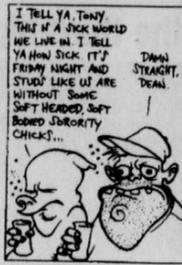
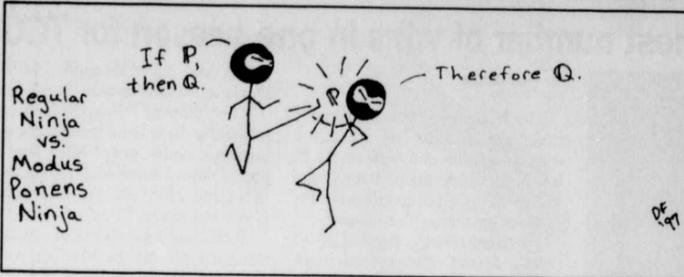
Connecticut has been a different team during the postseason, recovering from five straight losses to reach the NIT semifinals for the first time since 1988.

The Huskies went on to beat Ohio State in the finals that year, marking a turning point in the school's rise to basketball prominence.

Ninja Verses

by Don Frederic UNIVERSITY²

by Frank Cho



Answers to previous puzzle

A	R	I	A	S	A	B	L	E	S	A	H	A
P	E	N	D	T	R	O	L	L	S	M	O	B
H	P	L	O	V	E	C	R	A	T	I	N	A
F	L	O	E	P	S	O	M	E	X	E	V	I
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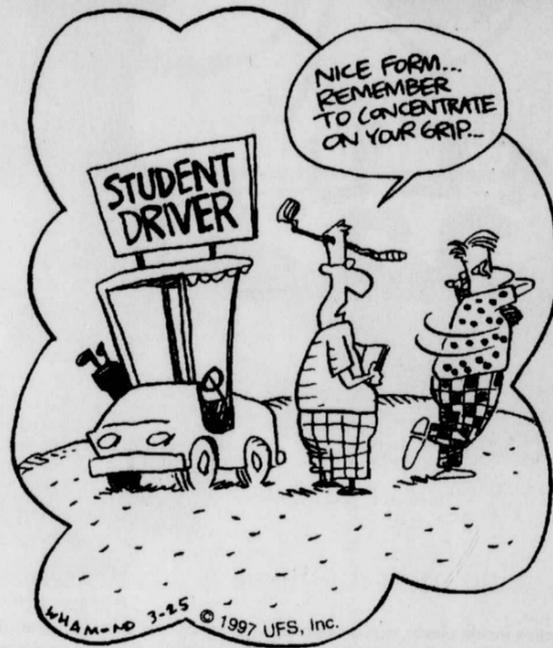
By Leigh Rubin



Testing the limits of Abe's honesty

Reality Check

by Dave Whamond



Newsday Crossword

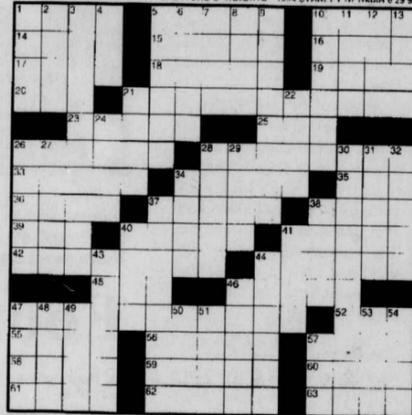
- ACROSS
- 1 "Hey, you!"
 - 5 Corn color
 - 10 Secluded hollow
 - 14 Slow payer's risk
 - 15 Intentional fire
 - 16 Wander about
 - 17 Sacred image
 - 18 Stirs up
 - 19 Messiah section
 - 20 Pontiac model
 - 21 Betray a secret
 - 23 Din
 - 25 "you kidding?"
 - 26 Code of silence
 - 28 Spielberg title word
 - 33 Lanai
 - 34 Trio x 3
 - 35 Cow comment
 - 36 Minor
 - 37 Very cold
 - 38 Bad reviews
 - 39 Bandleader Brown
 - 40 Gave out hands
 - 41 Implied
 - 42 Pleasing proportion
 - 44 Winter wraps
 - 45 NATO cousin
 - 46 Indian princess

- DOWN
- 1 Fussy sort
 - 2 Religious faction
 - 3 "White Horse souse" is one
 - 4 Whole bunch
 - 5 Actress Berenson
 - 6 Came up
 - 7 Fertility goddess
 - 8 Dreyfus defender
 - 9 Captured father
 - 10 Rubs the wrong way
 - 11 Folktales
 - 12 "See no..."
 - 13 Actress Patricia
 - 21 "and kin"
 - 22 "Dagnabbit!"
 - 24 Killer whale
 - 26 Iridescent stones
 - 27 Saunter
 - 28 Adjective for Roger
 - 29 Constituent part

PASSION PLAY

by Dean Niles Edited by Stanley Newman

- 30 Moola
- 31 Aegean area
- 32 Amounts to
- 34 Close
- 37 Has one's revenge
- 38 Cut back
- 40 Poots Societ
- 43 Talk-show host
- 44 Left in the dust
- 46 Arrest
- 47 Talk big
- 48 Screen Turner
- 49 As far as
- 50 Make over
- 51 Walt awhile
- 53 Old toon Betty
- 54 Roadhouses
- 57 Grad degree



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