TCU DAILY
Skiff

WEATHER FORECAST
High 55
Low 31
Partly cloudy

FRIDAY
JANUARY 23, 1998
Texas Christian University
95th Year • Number 64

Inside
Discover hidden treasures at the Kimbell Art Museum.
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Pulse

TCU to award science scholarships

TCU will award eight full tuition scholarships, valued at $47,000 each, to the winners of the 49th International Science and Engineering Fair held in Fort Worth at the Tarrant County Convention Center May 10-16, 1998.

One scholarship will be awarded to each of the following departments: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Environmental Science, Geological and Earth Sciences, Mathematics and Physics. Each scholarship covers tuition for full time study during the Fall and Spring semesters for up to four years.

"We are very much interested in (the fair) because it brings some of the best and brightest students in science from around the world to Ft. Worth," said associate vice chancellor for academic affairs Larry Adams.

In order to be eligible for one of these scholarships, participants must place first or second in the INSF. Students must have a high school GPA of 3.5 and a minimum 1350 combined SAT score or a composite score of 31 on the ACT.

To maintain the scholarships, students must be enrolled in at least 27 hours for each academic year and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or better.

Prof. emeritus to hold book signing

A TCU English professor emeritus will participate in a book signing and poetry readings Saturday at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore on South University Drive.

Betsy Colquitt, a native of Fort Worth, has recently released a book titled, "Eve, from the autobiography and other poems," and will join other Metroplex authors and poets in "Poetry Potpourri."

The event will be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and will feature an open mike portion in which those in interested can read their original poetry.

Caffeine may extend life of cancer cells

(U-WIRE) PROVO, Utah — Caffeine may promote the livelihood of cancer cells and their spread throughout the body, according to a new study by microbiologist Kim O'Neill of Brigham Young University's Cancer Research Center.

While this controversial chemical doesn't qualify specifically as a carcinogen, something that damages healthy body cells, it may protect cancer cells from the natural process of programmed cell death.

O'Neill discovered this phenomenon in an experiment where he dosed leukemia cells with caffeine and then subjected them to heat shock, a procedure that normally breaks the cell's DNA, then induces a series of events that lead to cell death.

When cancer cells were boosted with caffeine before receiving the deadly heat shock, they refused to die.

This process of "cell suicide," or apoptosis, is one of the body's main defense mechanisms that helps eliminate damaged cells before they threaten the body, according to a news release.

"Apoptosis is the efficient way for a cell to die, because it will pass on some of its good contents to neighboring cells and eliminate damaged cells that could pass on defective DNA," O'Neill said.

With the influence of caffeine, precancerous cells with damaged DNA may be allowed to thrive and multiply in the body instead of being eliminated. This in turn could lead to cancer, "a disease where cell division has gone out of control," says O'Neill.

—The Daily Universe
Brigham Young University

Sigma Kappa recruiting members

New sorority opens spring Rush

By Kristina Jorgenson
STAFF REPORTER

The Sigma Kappa sorority will hold Rush and colonize during the week of Feb. 22, with the intent to become a nationally recognized chapter in April, said Kristen Kirst, director of fraternity and sorority affairs.

An expansion team, consisting of Sigma Kappa national officers and collegians, will plan and run the sorority's week-long Rush activities, Kirst said.

Panhellenic President Megan Masoner said the current sororities are looking forward to welcoming Sigma Kappa.

"We're hoping that . . . (Sigma Kappa) will provide one more place for women to find a home and to find sisterhood," said Masoner. "I think what's most exciting for us is that we'll be able to expand our community and provide another outlet for women to get the sorority experience," she said.

Competition often exists when other fraternities or sororities join a campus, but this can ultimately develop an improved Greek system since other chapters strive to reach the level the new organization may exhibit, Kirst said.

"Any time you bring something new in, I think it serves as a reminder of what the reasons are that fraternities and sororities exist and are important," she said.

Susan Banzer, a member of the Sorority Extension Committee that chose Sigma Kappa last semester, said the new sorority will provide some unique benefits.

"Sigma Kappa has extremely progressive programming," she said. "They will challenge the rest of the Greek community to match them and to be as inventive as they are."

The section of Francis Sadler Hall opposite to the Alpha Delta Pi house will provide a home for the new sorority beginning next fall, Kirst said.

Officers will be elected during the first week, and all members will participate in a new member program lasting from six to eight weeks. Sigma Kappa should join the annual summer Rush along with other sororities, Banzer said.

The expansion team will look for about 120 women to form the sorority this semester, Kirst said.

Sigma Kappa can provide a niche for women who haven't found a sorority that fits their needs yet, Masoner said.

"I would hope to think that we would be able to get many non-affiliated women and encourage more people to participate in the fraternity and sorority community," she said.

Organizing the sorority has been fairly smooth thus far, Banzer said.

"Any time you have a new colony, it's going to take a lot of time and a lot of work," she said. "I'm not going to say it's going to be easy."

A chapter consultant, who is an employee of the national organization

Please see SORORITY, Page 6

Frog-filled field trip

Photo by Erica HAyden Lytton SKIFF STAFF

Students from Alice Carlson Elementary School enjoy a tour of the TCU campus Thursday. The students were on the tour because they all expressed dreams of attending college in the future.

House seeking caring students

By Aimee Courtice
STAFF REPORTER

The House of Student Representatives is aiming to increase involvement of all TCU students in the House and to reexamine its budget this semester, members of the Executive Board said.

House *of student representatives*

House Vice President Willy Pinnell said one of his main goals is to involve non-House members with House meetings.

Pinnell said he would like more students to take part in the House's eight standing committees that research, plan and design projects for the campus. They include: Dining Services, Finance, Elections and Regulations, Student Concerns, Permanent Improvements, University Relations, Academic Affairs and Computing Affairs.

Pinnell said that traditionally, between 10 and 12 House members participate in each committee.

"I want to get at least one non-House member for each House member on a committee," he said.

According to the constitution, non-House members are allowed to serve on committees, but to have a vote, the student must be on the committee for at least two weeks and have a 2.5 GPA.

House President Shana Lawlor said that she also wants to get more campus organizations involved in the House. She said she would like to designate "House liaisons" to increase communication with the House.

"This will make us (the House) more aware of where we can help them, and where they can help us," she said.

She also wants to strengthen the President's Council, a group set up by former House President Sharon Selby in 1996, for presidents of all campus organizations to discuss issues and concerns, she said.

"It's kind of like a rap session to make TCU better for everyone," she said. "Organizations will have more of a voice."

The House's Executive Board members are also reevaluating the House's budget.

House Treasurer Renee Rabeler said the House needs to look more closely at its spending.

"In the past, we haven't been fiscally responsible in sticking to our guidelines," she said.

Rabeler said that she wants House members to have a clearer understanding of where money is going, as well as a chance to offer suggestions to amend the budget.

The House's budget consists of approximately $220,000, which comes from a $20 student activity fee paid by each full-time TCU student.

Please see HOUSE, Page 2

A worldly experience

Study abroad offers cultural perspective

By Jason Crane
STAFF REPORTER

Few college students would characterize their semester as something out of a "fantasy land."

But that's exactly how Seth Magarian described his Semester-at-Sea travels at a reception Wednesday to welcome back students who studied abroad last semester and encourage others to do the same in the future.

Magarian, a sophomore international communications major, sailed and studied aboard a cruise ship last semester that made frequent stops throughout Asia and around the Mediterranean Sea.

"I wanted to get a taste of each culture before I decided where I wanted to study abroad in the future," he said. "I know now that I want to study somewhere in Latin America."

TCU sponsors study abroad programs in Mexico, England and Japan during the academic year, but opportunities are available to study virtually anywhere in the world. Some popular destinations include Greece, France and Spain.

German Gutierrez, the director of the Center for Latin American Music, said he is encouraged by TCU's commitment to become an international university.

"We are trying to open new venues for students from the United States who want to experience the cultures of other countries," he said.

Kim Jones, a senior speech communications major who spent last semester studying in Australia, said students who study abroad have to keep an open mind.

"In my American literature class, I realized that some of the authors we consider great are perceived much differently in Australia," she said. "You have to be accepting of other culture's ideas."

Aimee Rindoks, a senior sociology major, studied at the University of Ghana in Africa. She said she was surprised because she did not expect the country to live up to its "third world" stereotype.

"I saw things that looked like they were straight out of a National Geographic documentary," Rindoks said.

Lions, tigers and zebras aside, Rindoks said she gained valuable insight into the African culture through a sociology class that focused on developing nations and a religion course on traditional African religions.

Many students who study abroad are concerned that they will have trouble adjusting to another language. Scott Bogle, a senior marketing major who studied in Madrid, said he hardly noticed the transition after a few weeks of speaking only Spanish.

"I found it a lot easier to grasp the

Please see ABROAD, Page 6

Summers receives FAA award

By Kristina D'Aun Bosquez
SKIFF STAFF

An assistant professor of aerospace studies received a national award from the Federal Aviation Administration Thursday for his work with Metroplex pilots to develop safer flying conditions.

Capt. Johnny Summers' merits were recognized at the Third Annual Federal Aviation Administration Aviation Safety Counselor of the Year luncheon in Hurst.

Lt. Col. Michael Withers, professor and chairman of the aerospace studies department, said Summers' work with the FAA was voluntary and has brought aviation safety classes to TCU.

Summers said his nomination for the award began at a local level when Jim McElvain, an aviation safety inspector in operations for the FAA, selected Summers as the district winner of the award.

McElvain said the nomination then went to a regional level where he won for the Southwest region. Summers was then selected as the national recipient of the safety award by a committee comprised of members of the FAA and the Airplane Owners and Pilot Association.

One of the most important vehicles to promote air safety is the safety program in which Summers participates, he said.

"I think (the program) allows us to effect permanent change because it works with attitude," McElvain said.

He said the safety program has several facets. The seminars allow experts to talk to pilots and inform them of current problems and new procedures.

Safety committees, for which Summers also volunteers, allow members of the community to come together, McElvain said.

According to McElvain, Summers constantly writes articles for a safety newsletter that the FAA and safety board publish.

Jim Gardner, a corporate pilot and the 1996 winner

Kristina D'Aun Bosquez SKIFF STAFF

Capt. Johnny Summers and his daughter Bethany accept the 1997 Federal Aviation Administration Safety Counselor of the Year award at a luncheon in Hurst Thursday.

of the award, said there are no "tangible rewards" for the recognition he and Summers received.

"The honor is also for what you've gotten others to do," Gardner said.

Roger M. Baker, national manager for the Aviation Safety Program, said Summers was chosen because he is a gifted teacher, motivator, enthusiastic and most

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Pulse

Announcements of campus events, public meetings and other general campus information should be brought to the TCU Daily Skiff *office at Moody Building South Room 291, mailed to TCU Box 298050, or e-mailed to skiff@gamma.is.tcu.edu. The* Skiff *reserves the right to edit submissions for style, taste and space available.*

CHI DELTA MU will meet at noon Monday in Student Center room 205. Gregg Franzwa will speak on "Dumbing Down in American Education." Lunch will be served.

LIBRARY DATABASE DEMONSTRATIONS will be held Monday in room 219 in the library at 9 a.m. and in Sid Richardson room 154 at 2 p.m.

UNITING CAMPUS MINISTRIES is holding a Super Bowl party Sunday at 5 p.m. in UCC's college lounge. Admission is one non-perishable food item or a small monetary donation. For information call 7830.

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HOUSE

From Page 1

The constitution requires house members to approve the budget no later than April 15 each year. Poor planning last year prevented House members from having enough time to review or amend the budget, Rabeler said. House members then had no choice but to approve the initial budget.

Under normal circumstances, House members receive a copy of the budget to review, and vote to accept or amend it at the next week's meeting.

Rabeler also said she wants members of the House to justify projected spending during the budget-making process.

"I think some things within the House need to be looked at," she said.

The first House meeting this semester will be held at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the Dee J. Kelly Alumni Center's dining room.

College News Digest

Funding for Perkins loans may be eliminated

WASHINGTON — Students who rely on the federal government for financial assistance may find themselves both helped and hindered when President Clinton submits his budget to Congress next month.

The president's budget request is slated to include a provision that will up the federal government's spending on the nation's work-study program by $70 million for the 1999-2000 academic year.

But also included is a section that will kill the government's capital contributions to the federal Perkins loan program.

If passed, the budget provision will not eliminate the Perkins loans program altogether.

Funds for Perkins loans, which are available to students at a lower interest rate than regular bank loans, revolve through the system. The federal government makes its contribution annually, and participating colleges grant loans to students using those federal funds and money that has been repaid to the institution by past students.

"It's a misconception that if this goes through, the program will die," said Jerry Roschwalb, director of governmental relations for the National Association of State Colleges and Universities. "There is $6 billion already in the program, and it will continue to revolve through the program."

More than 788,000 students nationwide received Perkins loans this year, and 83 percent of them had family incomes of $30,000 or less.

—The Hatchet
George Washington University

Funky frogs spark Minnesota research

MINNEAPOLIS — There's no stopping them.

Since the 1995 discovery of deformed frogs in southern Minnesota, these strange green creatures have hopped their way onto newspaper covers and television sets around the world. Now they're headed straight to the Minnesota state legislature.

Last week Minnesota Gov. Arne Carlson proposed to spend $500,000 on deformed frog research as part of his 1998 Bonding Bill, which legislators will vote on this spring.

Researchers at the University of Minnesota and others involved with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency continue to search for answers to the mystery of these strange creatures.

These misshapen amphibians were first discovered by a group of students on a field trip.

University researchers have come across frogs with as many as nine legs in places where legs shouldn't be. They've also seen frogs with webbed skin behind the knees that reduces mobility.

"And there are some missing legs or parts of legs and missing eyes. I had one with a missing jawbone," said David Hoppe, a biology professor studying the frogs.

—Minnesota Daily
University of Minnesota

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Attention TCU Students, Faculty and Staff!
January 26th is
MONDAY at TCU
Prospective students and their parents will be visiting our campus. Please give them a friendly TCU welcome when you see them.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Communications Company is looking for someone to answer phones, light administrative duties. Located near cultural district. $6 per hour on Tue and Thurs. Fax resume to 336-3317.

Currently accepting applications for an entry level position in a prof. environment which offers competitive pay, flexible hours and a part-time benefits package. Office is minutes from TCU Campus. Great for marketing or advertising major. 817-921-1342 EOE M/F.

Private school needs softball coach for 8th grade. 246-2413.

Children's Clothing Store in Camp Bowie area. Part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Store open Mon-Sat 10-5. $7 per hour to start. Call Billy Joe at Mudpuppy 731-2581.

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editorial

WHAT'S THE BEEF?

Amarillo cattle ranchers are having a cow over comments Oprah Winfrey made about hamburgers nearly two years ago.

After cattle rancher-turned-vegetarian activist Howard Lyman suggested on her show that cattle, being fed ground-up parts of other cattle, could spread mad cow disease to humans in the United States, Winfrey said, "It has just stopped me from eating another burger!"

Whoa, Nellie! It's no wonder the ranchers are angry. Winfrey reacted strongly to a statement that had no real evidence to back it up. But should the ranchers be able to cash in with a law suit?

Oprah's words were misguided, but she isn't responsible for industry's losses.

In 1995, the state of Texas passed a law against libeling or making disparaging statements about perishable food products. The libel law is understandable, but it shouldn't be a crime just to say something bad about food, and even more ridiculous is the idea of having to pay someone millions of dollars for saying it.

The ranchers are suing Winfrey for over $12 million in losses. Their actual losses far exceeded this amount, so why is this the amount they settled on? Is there some sort of complex equation involving "Oprah" watchers and a proportionate amount of beef that they might eat? Of course not. The complex equation most likely relates their problems to Winfrey's net worth.

In other words, they know they can't prove that Winfrey's statement caused all their losses, but they aren't willing to let her get out of it without trying to make some kind of profit off of her.

Talk shows are exactly that: talk. The purpose is conversation between the host, the guests and the audience, both live and via television.

If the cattlemen win this lawsuit, the atmosphere in even the trashiest of talk shows will change because anything the host says will run the risk of being considered libelous. Just imagine the type of lawsuit Jerry Springer might have to defend himself against.

Talk show hosts state their opinions. That's the point of the show. Yes, they are public figures and should watch what they say by never directly or knowingly libeling anyone, but it is unrealistic to expect them to predict the effects of their words.

At the time this particular episode aired, people in this country were already worried about beef contamination. It's impossible for the beef industry, which was obviously going to take a hit no matter what anyone said, to prove that such a large percentage of their losses was a direct result of Winfrey's comment.

TCU DAILY Skiff

An All-American Newspaper

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NOTE: In addition to being the *Skiff* production manager, Tom Urquhart is also a part-time student.

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Stick to your guns

Outside threats, criminals create need for firearms

It's Friday again, and I'm back to make you laugh, make you think, make you mad and make you leave the *Skiff* on the floor of your noon class.

On the docket for discussion today is gun necessity — one of my favorite paradoxes. I realize that guns receive a deservedly bad rap, but what their detractors fail to realize is that guns have had a titanic impact in American society that cannot be denied.

Commentary

STEVE STEWARD

Once upon a time, our forefathers fought a war with England over free trade, equal representation and the right to dump tea over the sides of schooners whenever they felt like it. It was a bitter war, and the odds were stacked heavily against the continental army.

Nevertheless, the colonial freedom fighters managed to prevail over the British by using Yankee ingenuity, the overwhelming cause of freedom, and guns. And after they won, they designed a legal way to ensure that those helpful firearms would never be wrenched from the hands of their owners by an oppressive government.

And that legality, also known as the Second Amendment, has survived to this day, although it is under constant attack for being antiquated or irrelevant or for fostering the growth of white separatists.

Those in the anti-gun camp complain that guns have no place in contemporary society and any threat to our basic freedoms will be successfully staved off by the American Civil Liberties Union, defender of everything good and free. It seems they take solace in the belief that as the last superpower, the United States has little to fear from an outside force overthrowing our government, and therefore, gun ownership is unnecessary.

I would buy into that theory, except for the fact nobody knows what the future holds. There could come a time when the armies of Cuba or China or Mars drift lazily to the ground in their red parachutes in an effort to defeat the capitalist monster once and for all.

Never mind that the oppression could also come from within.

If this were to happen, all those anti-gun people would be wishing they'd been a lot nicer to those flannel-clad guys in Idaho who have a cache of automatic weapons buried under their cabin.

What amuses me the most is the idea that if guns are abolished, they will eventually disappear. People who believe this should wear a tag clearly stating what planet they come from, so they can be dealt with accordingly. Keeping guns out of people's hands on a legal level will only make them available illegally, and thus only criminals will have guns, because criminals procure them illegally anyway. Waiting periods do little to keep guns out of the wrong hands either, for the same reason.

Perhaps the only anti-gun sentiment I hold is the silliness of full-automatic assault weapons. Aside from the fact that they look cool in every episode of G.I. Joe I've watched, there is no place for them outside of the military, as they are not good for anything but killing people.

Opponents of guns lump any firearm that resembles an assault weapon into the full-automatic category. Often, this involves mere cosmetic similarities. It is essentially a political trick by those advocating their own minority views.

Before I am labeled a misinformed, right-wing gun nut, please understand that in a perfect world, guns would be totally unnecessary, unless they grew on trees, in which case God would have a sick sense of humor.

Unfortunately, the world is not perfect. Until crime is wiped out, and world peace is achieved, there is a need for firearms.

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

The *TCU Daily Skiff* has decided to continue running its Issues page for the spring semester. The page will run every other Wednesday, beginning January 28. The first topic will be:

Academic vs. Athletic Recruiting

Does TCU place the same value on academic recruiting as it does athletic recruiting? Does the school spend too much money recruiting athletes and not enough recruiting regular students? Does TCU place too much emphasis on athletics and not enough on academics, or vice versa? Should TCU place stricter academic requirements on athletes? Let the *Skiff* know what you think. Send your letters to:

TCU Daily Skiff
TCU Box 298050
or skiffletters@tcu.edu
fax: 921-7133

Tom Urquhart SKIFF STAFF

Language should change with time

Bad grammar really isn't the big demon it's made out to be. There are plenty of social ills that are far worse — nose picking, for instance, or incessant public displays of affection. Compared to these nausea-inducing gaffs, the occasional use of bad grammar is a minor fault.

Yet it is the only fault that invites constant public correction, the only fault aired constantly as a signal of the downfall of society. The incident invites further scrutiny when one realizes that the error-laden grammarians aren't actually incorrect, in any real sense of the word.

Commentary

JULIE FINN

Grammar is a convention. It has nothing to do with the actual ability to communicate, which can be accomplished as easily by saying "Go supermarket banana" as "Go to the supermarket and buy a banana."

Instead, grammar deals with ease of communication. Much less processing time is required in the brain when every clause and every word has its own particular place in a sentence, which is also a conventional artifice.

The precious processing time is also lessened, however, when convention changes. When the mind finds communication shortcuts and spits them out the mouth, they sound suspiciously like bad grammar until everyone begins to do them and everyone forgets that there ever was another way.

Grammar police fight any evolution of the language by steadfastly holding to the ignorant notion that the language in its present incarnation is perfect. Any deviation from the contemporary rules and structure could only be a move backward, not forward.

Thus fell the lowly "ain't," which is actually quite a nice word. It made a handy contraction for "am not," speeding up speaking time, and offered another contraction choice for "are not" and "will not," giving the human mind further outlets for creativity.

However, it was accepted first by the lower classes and the children — the more open-minded sets of society. Parents and the educated immediately rebelled. "Ain't" became a low-class word, and anyone who spoke it was seen as low-class and ignorant.

An entire generation of children suffered constant correction for their revolutionary discovery, and eventually watched it be beaten back to the margins of society, another thwarted gain.

Our insistence that the English language, as it is currently spoken, must remain stagnant could very well be thwarting society's potential gains in other areas as well.

It is a well-known theory that language shapes thought. People think in words and words structure how they think. For instance, the Eskimos have something like four billion words for snow. They think of snow quite differently from the Texans, who barely have one word for it.

Refusing to allow the conventions of a language to improve or to evolve could also be a refusal to allow the mind to think in different ways. By keeping the mind locked in its strict structure of subject-verb and sentence, people are teaching themselves to stay locked in all their strict and structured thinking patterns.

Children should be taught grammar, though not for the propagandized reason of "speaking correctly." The teaching of grammar should instead be used as a tool to teach complex thoughts about language.

Children should learn why they put sentences together in a certain way, not just how. They should learn that there are other ways to put sentences together and other ways to conceive ideas. They should experiment and apply what they learn to other areas.

Society's greatest innovations have been achieved not by doggedly plodding through eternal layers of logic or by endlessly following the same old paths in the brain, but by performing stunning leaps of creativity and innovation.

Language is one of the most creative enterprises a person can accomplish. It should not be bound.

Julie Finn is a senior English major from Ft. Smith, Ark.

Charity should be a reward within itself

Over Christmas break I noticed the church I grew up in is planning a trip to Central America to build a church, pass out toiletries and teach the word of God. This is a brave step for people who can barely muster up enough support for a bake sale in front of Wal-Mart.

This idea initially hit me as a wonderful gesture of peace and goodwill. I thought that probably those involved would experience new things both thought-provoking and rewarding because they would have the opportunity to dig into a new culture while helping people.

Commentary

AMANDA WALKER

This illusion was blown when I heard two people who planned on being a part of the group, expressing great excitement that the last two days of their mission trip would be spent at the beach. Suddenly this trip was for a lesser good — humanity as a means to an end.

It seems as if we have to be rewarded for doing good work for the less fortunate. Has wanting to do good things for the merit of the act itself simply slipped out of fashion?

In our society we are becoming so programmed that when we do a good deed, we come to expect homage. Do our goals fall in this order — 1) Get good grades in college; 2) Be able to afford an expensive automobile; 3) Do God's work; 4) Go to the beach?

If so, this paradigm leaves no room for good for the sake of good.

Has the age of the good samaritan passed by completely? Selflessness in some cultures is considered virtuous. If good actions are done only out of seeking rewards, then as a culture we can expect complete abandonment of compassion.

By treating these voyagers on the mission trip to some leisure at the beach, we are perpetuating a culture of needers and receivers — not givers.

Why travel to other countries to do good things anyway? There are worthwhile projects here in the United States — many close to home. Air fare, lodgings and food add up when travelling with a group. Summing the costs for a group to travel abroad and dividing the money among projects in the community might work better by reaching more people. Is South Dallas not exotic enough for some people?

There are all sorts of projects that could be embraced by my church or yours if someone was willing to do the work. Inner-city soup kitchens always need extra hands. The Federal Emergency Management Agency needs people to build levees and fill sand bags throughout the seasons.

Habitat for Humanity can build homes for Americans with the help of their neighbors.

Finally, why travel to a less-developed nation and force our American expectations on their people? The United States has continuously thought the high moral ground was to pursue more in terms of land and people that they could influence.

The idea behind the Eisenhower Doctrine was to protect smaller countries from the threat of communism, but this idea of saving other nations has developed into nongovernmental groups spreading American ideology.

We have realized our manifest destiny by covering our land shore to shore. It is almost conceited to presume that other people want our material goods and values piped into their culture. And in some situations, we could be disturbing a way of life that has been able to support itself for years.

Think about your experiences. You've never seen Japanese or British humanitarian groups rushing to help impoverished Americans, so why don't we help at home first?

Amanda Lee Walker is an advertising/public relations major from Athens, Texas.

letter to the editor

Wish list addendum

Last week, several of the *Skiff* staff submitted their wish lists and I'd like to include mine to the pile.

Since our campus already looks like a war zone with all the construction, I think now would be the perfect time to have the sidewalks widened. I find it very annoying, as a student hustling from one class to another across campus, to have to give up the sidewalk to the workers driving in the pint-sized Daihatsus.

I had always assumed sidewalks were designed for people to walk on and not trample the extremely cared-for grass around here or fall into the now-abundant mud pits everywhere. With wider sidewalks, TCU employees would still be able to cruise campus while enabling students to get to class in a clean and timely manner. And just think: More sidewalks = more cement! So there would be less grass to water and less grass to mow!

Crysy McEnroe
junior sociology major

Best Bets of the Week

The Skiff Entertainment staff has chosen a list of cool things to check out this weekend . . .

Movie — "As Good As It Gets," starring Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt, R.
Video Rental — "Face/Off," starring John Travolta and Nicholas Cage, R.
TV Show — "Nothing Sacred," 7 p.m. Saturday, ABC.
CD — "Don't Get Too Comfortable on Mercury," Peeshy.

TCU Movie Channel

(reviews by TCU film critics)
Jan. 23-Jan. 30
Check Listings
"Groundhog Day," B
"Addicted to Love," D+
"Romy and Michele's . . . ," B-
"My Best Friend's Wedding," B
"Star Trek: First Contact," B+
"Beverly Hills Cop," B+
"The Net," C-
"Rudy," A
"Cry, the Beloved Country," C+
"Stand and Deliver," B+
"That Old Feeling," C-
"Vertigo," A
"Babe," A
"Murder at 1600," D
"The Evening Star," B

Top Ten Films

1. "Titanic," $36 million, $242.7 million, five weeks.
2. "Good Will Hunting," $13.7 million, $37.3 million, seven weeks.
3. "Fallen," $10.4 million, $10.4 million, one week.
4. "As Good As It Gets," $10 million, $67 million, four weeks.
5. "Hard Rain," $8 million, $8 million, one week.
6. "Half Baked," $7.7 million, $7.7 million, one week.
7. "Wag the Dog," $6.5 million, $18 million, four weeks.
8. "Tomorrow Never Dies," $6.3 million, $112 million, five weeks.
9. "Mousehunt," $5.5 million, $52 million, five weeks.
10. "Amistad," $3.3 million, $35 million, six weeks.

—Associated Press

Top Ten TV Shows

Also listed is the show's rating.
1. "ER," NBC, 23.1.
2. "Seinfeld," NBC, 21.3.
3. "Veronica's Closet," NBC, 17.7.
4. "Friends," NBC, 17.3.
5. "Golden Globe Awards," NBC, 15.9.
6. "Frasier," NBC, 13.6.
7. "Union Square," NBC, 13.3.
8. "Dateline NBC-Tuesday," NBC, 13.2.
9. "Touched By An Angel," CBS, 12.9.
10. "60 Minutes," CBS, 12.5.

—Associated Press

KTCU's Top Songs

Jan. 16-Jan. 23
1. "Discoball World," David Garza.
2. "You Can't Live on Mars," Glitterbox.
3. "Siren," Tori Amos.
4. "I'm Ready," Triple Fast Action.
5. "You Shall See," G Love and Special Sauce.

—KTCU

Video Rentals

1. "Face/Off," Paramount.
2. "Con Air," Touchstone.
3. "My Best Friend's Wedding," Columbia TriStar.
4. "Contact," Warner.
5. "Conspiracy Theory," Warner.
6. "Men In Black," Columbia TriStar.
7. "Spawn," New Line.
8. "Austin Powers," New Line.
9. "Speed 2: Cruise Control," Fox.
10. "Chasing Amy," Miramax.

—Associated Press

Cool Web Site of the Day

www.ubl.com
Web Sounds

Have you ever heard of the band Yank Jaw? What about Qenga? Me neither, until I visited The Ultimate Band List. This site lists virtually millions of musical groups from well-known artists like Sting, to not-so-well-known artists like, well, Yank Jaw, for instance.

– Nathan Phelps

New flick needs less gore, more horror

'Phantoms' has blood, but no guts

Film Review

ANDY SUMMA

SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF

Rose McGowan (left) and Joanna Going (right) star in Joe Chappelle's "Phantoms." The film is based on the best-selling Dean Koontz book.

"Phantoms," Dean Koontz's newest foray into cinematic terror, doesn't waste any time getting to the gory scenes.

About ten minutes into the movie, 700 people are already savagely killed and body parts are strewn everywhere.

I don't know whether to be impressed or irritated. Usually, horror movies toil tediously with tiresome character development and monotonous scene setups. Then, and only then, the blood sheds. These "Halloween"-ish staples rarely work, but it's nice to see an effort.

"Phantoms" director Joe Chappelle ("Halloween: The Curse of Michael Myers") doesn't even *try*. Instead, he jumps right into the middle of the supernatural hauntings and cliched plot designs - complete with naive newcomers and ineffectual police officers. Chappelle's impetuousness is refreshing - to a point.

The end result, however, is just as obtuse as "Phantoms"'s horror film contemporaries - mindlessly banal and insultingly uneven. Koontz's script is relatively taut, but it lacks the depth to spook.

Centered on a small Colorado town, "Phantoms" begins with a provisionally clever idea: two 20-something sisters find a deserted tourist trap - with cars still running and food still cooking (ala "The Twilight Zone"). Something isn't right, one of the sisters candidly points out.

As they investigate the just-deserted town, they discover dismembered bodies, and hear beastly whines. But, curiously, they don't seem too surprised. They take in all the carnage as if they were morticians - with little emotion.

In between "Where is everybody?" mantras, the sisters stumble upon the town's befuddled police force - a savvy former FBI agent ("Chasing Amy"'s Ben Affleck) and a smarmy redneck ("Scream"'s Liev Schreiber). Then, the characters just sit and wait for "The Ancient Enemy" (as the monster is so subtly named) to strike next.

In the film's latent period, however, we learn that the monster is an ancient "force" that's laid dormant below the surface of the Earth for centuries. And the beast has resurfaced to wipe out the human species. Why the monster chooses a small Colorado tourist town to begin its terror is never fully answered.

This Pacific-sized plot hole wouldn't have been so gaping had Chappelle spent more time with his characters. Instead of melding the four into a dynamic character base, Chappelle uses them as mere props. They watch the gross monster creep around town, but don't do anything about it. By the end of the film, we don't really care if they live or die.

The petroleum jelly-esque Ancient Enemy isn't all bad, however. It maintains a relatively effective eeriness throughout the film, but never penetrates our imaginations.

Film

Phantoms
Directed by Joe Chappelle
Starring Ben Affleck, Rose McGowan and Joanna Going

And, the Enemy is not just after blood. The monster also wants, ahem, fame. Speaking through one of its victims, the Ancient Enemy sends for Timothy Flyte (Peter O'Toole), a renowned supernatural expert. The monster wants him to chronicle what has happened.

From this point, the movie descends into terror - not because it's scary, but because it's so stupid. The final climax isn't climactic and the resolution is corny. The tattered movie just falls apart, crumbling into a heap of mindless cliche.

There are a few genuinely haunting scenes but, on the whole, "Phantoms" should have stayed below the surface.

Grade: D-

Andy Summa is a senior news-editorial major from Alvin, Texas.

Kimbell's artifacts tell powerful stories

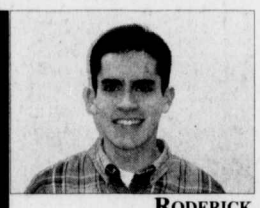
Treasures shed light on strong African monarchy

"Cupbearer," (right) by the Lula People from the Congo, is one of the displays at the Kimbell Art Museum's exhibit, "Hidden Treasures from Tervuren." The piece was collected in the latter 1800s.

"Ndop Royal Statue," (left), by the Kuba (Bushoong) people in West Kasai, is a richly textured wood and fiber display. It is on display at the Kimbell until Jan. 25.

SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF

Art Review



RODERICK BRANCH

A common ritual practiced as recently as the turn of this century in central Africa directed a new king to drink the blood of his dead predecessor's head.

This was so he might receive the former king's power and wisdom which was believed to reside in the human skull. The service was so important that African artisans even carved magnificent ceremonial bowls in which to hold the dead king's blood during the drinking ritual.

Such a bowl is part of the Kimbell Art Museum's current exhibition, "Hidden Treasures from Tervuren," a collection of artifacts from the Royal Museum for Central Africa, Belgium.

The exhibition unveils 125 pieces of art from the Royal Museum, commonly known as the Tervuren, which was founded in 1897-1898 by King Leopold II of Belgium to promote commerce and public interest in what is now known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, formerly Zaire.

Art Exhibit

Hidden Treasures
The Kimbell Art Museum
Playing through Jan. 25
(817) 332-8451

Among the objects chosen to represent the Tervuren's collection in this exhibition are power figures, masks, maternity figures, ancestor effigies and emblems of rank and power such as stools, headrests, combs and staffs.

One of the most striking pieces in the exhibit is a special kind of power figure known as a "nail figure."

This 1938 carving from incense tree wood is a representation of a male figure with an upraised right arm, in which it once probably held a ceremonial dagger or ax.

The figure is covered from head to toe with nails hammered into its body by the faithful people of the tribe, who believed that the nails would activate the figure's medicinal or retributive powers.

"Hidden Treasures from Tervuren" will be on display at the Kimbell through Jan. 25. Tickets may be purchased at the door or by calling Dillard's at 1-800-954-6545.

Grade: B+

Roderick Branch is a senior English, French and music major from Arlington, Texas.

Farcical force

'Blithe Spirit' a comedic examination of love, dedication and life after death

Theater Review

RODERICK BRANCH

The meaning of "'til death do you part" takes on a new significance for British novelist Charles Condomine when he finds himself amorously pursued from beyond the grave by the ghost of his gregarious ex-wife, Elvira.

Elvira is suddenly snatched from a celestial game of backgammon by an eccentric medium, and she returns to earth to find that Charles has remarried, this time to a domineering woman named Ruth.

This premise sets the stage for Noel Coward's exuberant 1941 farce "Blithe Spirit," which humorously examines the institution of marriage, as well as the question of life after death.

Directed by George H. Brown, associate professor of theater, Circle Theater's production of "Blithe Spirit" is both effective and engaging.

The acting is also strong. Although a slight southern drawl is sometimes detectable under Darla Robertson's British accent, she does succeed in coming across as an innocent and naive Mrs. Bradman. This is especially evident when she produces a nervous — but contagious — giggle.

Similarly, by means of the bemused smile that he wears throughout much of the play, Benton Jennings (as the beleaguered Charles Condomine) convincingly portrays a husband who has been "whipped" by both his wives.

Theater

Blithe Spirit
by Noel Coward
Playing through Feb. 21
Circle Theater
(817) 877-3040

The funniest scenes of the farce, expectedly, involve the shenanigans of the flirtatious Elvira and the eccentric spiritual medium, Madame Arcati.

Elvira's antics — like moving furniture around, throwing objects at Ruth and making things seemingly fly through the air — are used at first to prove her existence and then just to be mischievous. Regardless of its usage, it's hilarious.

Jacque Mellor's performance as Madame Arcati is especially appealing, particularly in a scene in which her noisy enthusiasm for the occult is contrasted with apathy and skepticism from the ghosts themselves; at one point, even they call her a fake.

"Blithe Spirit" definitely makes a strong case for the idea that, as Charles Condomine remarks in the first scene, "there is no guarantee that the afterlife is any less exasperating" than life here on earth.

The play runs at Circle Theater in Sundance Square through Feb. 21.

Tickets are $8 and may be purchased at the door or by calling 877-3040.

Grade: B+

Roderick Branch is a senior English, French and music major from Arlington.

Pulse

Top Singles
1."Together Again," Janet (Virgin) (Gold)
2."Truly Madly Deeply," Savage Garden (Columbia)
3."Nice & Slow," Usher (LaFace)
4."How Do I Live," Leann Rimes (Curb) (Platinum)
5."Been Around the World," Puff Daddy & The Family (Bad Boy) (Platinum)
6."Tubthumping," Chumbawamba (Republic)
7."I Don't Ever Want to See You Again," Uncle Sam (Stone Creek-Epic) (Gold)
8."You Make Me Wanna . . . ," Usher (LaFace) (Platinum)
9."Show Me Love," Robyn (RCA) (Gold)
10."Candle In the Wind 1997 — Something About the Way You Look Tonight," Elton John (Rocket) (Platinum)

Top Albums
1."'Titanic' Soundtrack," (Sony Classical) (Platinum)
2."Let's Talk About Love," Celine Dion (550 Music) (Platinum)
3."Money, Power and Respect," The Lox (Arista)
4."Backstreet," Backstreet Boys (Jive) (Platinum)
5."My Way," Usher (LaFace) (Platinum)
6."Spiceworld," Spice Girls (Virgin) (Platinum)
7."Tubthumper," Chumbawamba (Republic) (Platinum)
8."Yourself Or Someone Like You," Matchbox 20 (Lava-Atlantic) (Platinum)
9."Sevens," Garth Brooks (Capitol Nashville) (Platinum)
10."You Light Up My Life — Inspirational Songs," Leann Rimes (Curb) (Platinum)

Video Sales
1."Men In Black," Columbia TriStar.
2."Scream," Dimension.
3."My Best Friend's Wedding," Columbia TriStar.
4."George of the Jungle," Disney.
5."The Lost World: Jurassic Park," Universal.
6."Hanson: Tulsa, Tokyo and the Middle of Nowhere," PolyGram.
7."Rage Against the Machine," Epic.
8."Air Bud," Disney.
9."Spice Girls: One Hour of Girl Power," Warner.
10."Liar Liar," Universal.

Mass Market Paperbacks
1. "The Partner" by John Grisham (Dell/Island)
2. "Hornet's Nest" by Patricia Cornwell (Berkley)
3. "The Notebook" by Nicholas Sparks (Warner)
4. "'M' Is for Malice" by Sue Grafton (Fawcett Crest)
5. "An Angel for Emily" by Jude Deveraux (Pocket)
6. "Tom Clancy's Power Plays: Politika" by Tom Clancy and Martin Greenberg (Berkley)
7. "Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution" by Robert C. Atkins (Avon)
8. "Critical Judgment" by Michael Palmer (Bantam)
9. "Sea Swept" by Nora Roberts (Jove)
10. "Total Control" by David Baldacci (Warner Vision)

Trade Paperbacks
1. "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff ..." by Richard Carlson (Hyperion)
2. "Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul" by Canfield, Hansen and Kirberger (HCI)
3. "Petals on the River" by Kathleen E. Woogiwiss (Avon)
4. "Ellen Foster" by Kaye Gibbons (Vintage)
5. "The World Almanac and Book of Facts 1998" by Robert Famighetti (World Almanac Books)
6. "Under the Tuscan Sun" by Frances Mayes (Broadway)
7. "The Dark Tower IV: Wizard and Glass" by Stephen King (Plume)
8. "James Cameron's Titanic" by Ed Marsh (Harper Perennial)
9. "Undaunted Courage" by Stephen E. Ambrose (S&S/Touchstone)
10. "The Color of Water" by James McBride (Riverhead)

–Associated Press

'Spice World' lacks plot, yet is surprisingly fun

No Oscar coming, but far from a flop

Film Review

MITCH YOUNGBLOOD

The question on everyone's minds is whether "Spice World" is an incoherent ego trip by five media creations whose 15 minutes of fame were up last year, or a fun-filled fantasy romp suitable for all ages.

Strangely enough, the latter is a more fitting description of "Spice World."

The Spice Girls are the equivalent of flesh-and-blood pop rocks: pure sugar that gives you a high for about 30 seconds. No other pop music group in the world can so remind a person of the fast food McDonalds puts out in assembly line fashion.

Leaving the theater, I found myself at a loss trying to pinpoint exactly what about "Spice World" seemed so familiar. Was it the Beatles' scattershot ruckus "A Hard Day's Night?" 'Fraid not. How about U2's concert video "Rattle and Hum?" Hardly.

Then it came to me: "The Lost World: Jurassic Park." Now let me explain how Steven Spielberg and the Spice Girls can be mentioned in the same breath without insulting Spielberg.

"The Lost World" was a box office behemoth because it had T-Rexs on its side, whereas "Spice World" has three unattractive and two marginally cute British women singing off-key for 93 minutes. Similarities not readily apparent, you say? Look closer.

Both are such wonderous examples of how crass commercialism can imbue a film with the aura of an infomercial so much that it boggles the mind. "The Lost World" was two hours of eye candy so painfully tart even the raptors were begging for mercy.

Based on your preconceived notions of the Spice Girls' acting, you may be running away from the theater faster than the Road Runner.

But "Spice World" is almost worth checking out. By no means am I dubbing it theater worthy, however. At today's prices, home video is your safest bet at enduring this fluff.

The Spice Girls are no more real than the Albanian war in "Wag the Dog," but in "Spice World" they actually manage to come across (at times) as normal girls caught by the public's ravenous appetite for the latest fad.

Film

Spice World
Directed by Bob Spiers
Starring Melanie Brown, Emma Bunton and Melanie Chisholm, Geraldine Halliwell, Victoria Adams

And what else are the Spice Girls but yesterday's fad on the verge of extinction today?

By all rights they should have disappeared by now and my clock says they will by the end of 1998.

"Spice World" will then go the way of "Hudson Hawk" and be a random punchline at Hollywood parties.

"Spice World" however deserves better. In the film, at least, the women often laugh at the hype and publicity which make up their lives. They are smart enough to mock their own distinctions throughout, and most aren't quite as annoying as you would initially think.

The accents are a bit thick at times, but are understandable more often than not.

With their five personalities as the only things driving this vehicle (what use do they have for plot?) the Spice Girls hit about 50-50 on the "funny jokes-to-groaners" scale.

"Spice World" does have some laugh-out-loud sight gags (chiefly, Posh Spice's disdain for anything that may ruin her clothes), but most of the parodies are clunkers.

The movie proves the Spice Girls have less staying power than their mantra of "girl power," but that they are too cute to be dismissed as worthless.

"Spice World" has one too many musical numbers, but each is expertly handled.

The cameos with large numbers of stars trying to cash in on the Spice Girls' fame varied in success. Funniest running gag: Roger Moore's riddle-dispensing parody of numerous Bond villains.

Grade: C+

Mitch Youngblood is a junior radio-TV-film major from Dallas.

SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF

Pop music phenoms the Spice Girls make their motion picture debut in Columbia's new film, "Spice World." Directed by Bob Spiers, the film stars Melanie Brown, Emma Burton and Geradine Halliwell.

Walk like an Egyptian to Dallas Museum of Art

Tombs now on display

Art Review

BRENDA SCHULTE

An afternoon trip to Dallas can lead to the rediscovery of the mysteries of ancient Egypt. Through Feb. 1, the Dallas Museum of Art will feature an exhibit titled "Searching for Egypt: Art, Architecture and Artifacts."

The most impressive and surprisingly well-preserved pieces are segments of architecture and carved stone. Upon entering the exhibit, visitors see sections of tombs on which hieroglyphics are in exquisite detail and original pigmenting is still visible.

SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF

The Dallas Museum of Art's newest exhibit, "Ancient Egypt and Nubia," features many artifacts that are more than 7,000 years old.

The west wall from the tomb of Kaipura, the overseer of the Egyptian treasury during the 5th and 6th Dynasty, is rightfully the centerpiece of the exhibit — as well as the largest display. The segment is entirely intact, and even contains a false door, representing the passage of the deceased between worlds.

The funerary art display is also impressive due to its incredible preservation of display and vivid colors. Although the artifacts are smaller and less flashy than those at the Ramses display, they are in amazing condition.

This display contains several small items of interest including a set of jars carved into representations of different animals. Each jar holds various internal organs from the deceased inhabitant of the tomb.

Art Exhibit

Ancient Egypt and Nubia
The Dallas Museum of Art
Through Feb. 1
(214) 954-0174

A four-sided block of stone inscribed with burial prayers and descriptions of the man's family and status is another piece that is surprisingly well-preserved despite its age.

Bronze figures and a small collection of artifacts used in daily life, such as bowls and jewelry, comprise the rest of the exhibit. The last wing of the exhibit contains items from the Nubian empire, Egypt's neighbor and frequent source of trade.

The one downfall to the exhibit's organization is that nothing is in chronological order, so it's pretty hard to get a feel for any particular artifact's age. A timeline is posted directly inside of the entrance to the exhibit, but any sense of timeliness is lost.

Artifacts in "Searching for Ancient Egypt" range from the Pre-Dynastic Era into the second century.

An audio tour offers both adult and child descriptions of several artifacts. In fact, viewers with a short attention span might want to opt for the shorter and more animated child's version for a faster tour of the exhibit.

Admission to the exhibit is $8 for adults, $6 for students and $3 for children under 12.

The Dallas Museum of Art is located at St. Paul Street and Woodall Rodgers Freeway in the Dallas Arts District. For more information about the exhibit, call (214) 922-1200.

Grade: B

Brenda Schulte is a junior news-editorial major from Tulsa, Okla.

Ho Hum — another unoriginal rock album

Music Review

MICHAEL KRUSE

Nobody likes being forced to listen to something they don't like. Even fewer people enjoy writing about it afterward. That's why it's difficult for me to discuss an album that is average at its best.

"Downward Heaven" is the latest release by Hum, the rockin' and rollin' quartet from Champaigne, Ill. These boys mix Ozzy Osbourne vocals with power chords and a lot of crashing cymbals. The result isn't an original effect. They try to trip every song out with feedback fade-outs.

The songs start out OK until the guitarists click on their distortion pedals and the drummer goes nuts with monotonous snare eighth notes. My favorite song on the album is "If You Are To Bloom," which is kind of mellow-metal. Bryan St. Pere, Hum's drummer, keeps his aggression in check to lay out a pretty slick rhythm. Matt Talbott, the singer and one of the guitarists, shows that he has a voice that is actually pretty good when it is not overshadowed by the two guitars.

The biggest problem with the album is that it doesn't rock us with anything particularly new or fresh. There's nothing wrong with copying someone else's style, but unfortunately this album falls a little flat.

Hum's saving grace on the album is what we professional critics call the "rash effect." At first contact it is unsightly and irritating. But it does grow on you. The album is so far from being unique that is actually familiar by the second or third time through. And for conservative listeners, that's the point.

Music

Downward is Heavenbound
by Hum
RCA Records

So basically this is a "closet album". If you enjoy it, you should probably do so in deepest privacy. But after the third time listening to it, you may not be able to wake up.

Grade: C-

Michael Kruse is a junior advertising/public relations major from Overland Park, Kan

Wilde's wordplay still fresh

Plot twists, characters give old story new life

Theater Review

ANNE DRABICKY

"Men easily forget ... women forgive," Lord Goring says in Oscar Wilde's play "An Ideal Husband."

In five words, Lord Goring (Sean Haberle), summarizes this play about the havoc a secret from the past can wreak on a man's life.

While hosting a dinner party, Sir Robert Chiltern (Todd Waite), whose best friend is Lord Goring, is confronted with the terrible truth about his own past when one of the guests threatens him with written proof of his dishonesty.

The guest, Mrs. Chevely (Stephanie Roth), tries to blackmail Sir Robert with a letter she has obtained if he will not support an Argentinean scheme that she and her cohorts have contrived.

The remainder of the plot is nothing new, but Wilde's clever twists (Mrs. Chevely turns out to be Lord Goring's former fiancee) and minor characters' nuances keep it fresh and interesting.

The deceitful Mrs. Chevely tells the pure and moral Lady Gertrude Chiltern (Sally Nystuen Vahle) about her husband's dishonesty in his youth. Lady Chiltern is, of course, crushed and loses faith in her husband, his love for her and their life together.

Set in England in the late 19th century, Wilde's work is full of high morality and Victorian elegance.

Theater

An Ideal Husband
by Oscar Wilde
Playing through Feb. 8
Kalita Humphreys Theater
(214) 522-TIXX

But it's also a lot of fun, mostly due to the antics and words of Lord Goring.

"I love talking about nothing — it's the only thing I know anything about," he says in typical Wildeese.

Wilde's characters mock themselves and each other, and they hurl insults back and forth in an often dizzying display of word power and intelligence.

The performances are excellent, especially those of Vahle (Lady Chiltern) and Haberle (Lord Goring), and the costumes and set design are stately without being ostentatious.

The major flaw of the evening came from Waite (Sir Robert) who needs to learn to say it, not spray it.

It might seem like a minor thing to pick on, but it became pretty distracting. Right in the middle of two of the most tense scenes of the play, all I could think about was how the people in the front row must hate their seats.

Overall, "An Ideal Husband" is a nice, neat comedy with a more serious underlying message: Women should neither idolize *nor* idealize their husbands. The higher up on the pedestal they are placed, the further they fall and the more it hurts the women.

"An Ideal Husband" runs through Feb. 8 at the Kalita Humphreys Theater in Dallas. For more information, call the ticket office at (214) 522-TIXX.

Grade: A-

Anne Drabicky is a senior news-editorial and English major from Farmersville, Texas.

World Report

Nation

Bono's widow runs for Congress with no prior political experience

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — Sonny Bono's widow jumped into the race for his congressional seat Thursday.

Mary Bono, 36, said she wouldn't start her campaign for the April 7 special election until early next month so she can see to a memorial service for her husband, who was killed in a skiing accident Jan. 5.

Sonny Bono was 62. A Republican in his second term representing the desert sprawl of California's 44th Congressional District, Bono will be eulogized in Washington on Jan. 28.

"Prior to reaching this decision, I have had many in-depth discussions with my family and close friends," Mary Bono said. "We all agreed that Sonny would have encouraged me to continue his work."

Mary Bono has never held elective office.

Opponents have yet to file for the special election, but actor Ralph Waite, the father on TV's "The Waltons," told a newspaper he will seek the Democratic nomination.

The winner of the April 7 special election will fill out the rest of Bono's term, which ends in January 1999.

State

Texas newswoman slain in own home; suspect arrested on the scene

TEMPLE, Texas — Police were questioning a man found covered in blood Thursday in the apartment of a slain Central Texas television reporter he apparently had been calling.

The nude body of KWTX reporter Kathryn Dettman, 36, was discovered in her second-floor unit at the Wildwood Apartments, where there was no evidence of a break-in or forced entry, police spokesman Tony Hennes said.

"The suspect, when he was taken into custody, did have a considerable amount of blood on his clothing," Hennes said.

Dettman apparently had just gotten out of the shower when she was attacked, Hennes said.

Charges were not expected to be filed Thursday, as the man faced more interrogation and remained in custody, Hennes said. An autopsy was pending.

"According to some friends of Kathyrn, the young man . . . had been calling her a lot, but she seemed unconcerned about it," Hennes said.

Neighbors called police shortly after 8:30 a.m. Thursday after hearing a scuffle in the woman's apartment, KWTX news director Rick Bradfield said. A manager let police into the unit.

"When they opened the door they found a man in the apartment. The reporter was dead on the floor of the bedroom. She'd been beaten to death," Bradfield said.

Dettman was to start work Monday as a general assignment reporter for KTVT-TV in Dallas-Fort Worth, said KTVT assistant news director Denise Clodjeaux.

Dettman joined The Associated Press as a newswoman in Los Angeles in June 1990. She transferred to the AP's Broadcast News Center in Washington in June 1991. She left in April 1993 and joined KWTX that July.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROTC

From Page 1

importantly, a role model and mentor.

"Pilots pick up their habits from their role models," he said.

Summers, who attended the luncheon with his two daughters, Martina, 16, and Bethany, 7, gave an emotional thank you to his father and his wife, Elaine, who were not in attendance.

Summers said his father instilled in him the value of being responsible and accountable.

"You are responsible for your own success and failure," Summers said.

Summers' military career began when he was in the Army for 7 1/2 years and then flew for the Air Force for 10 years. His interests in the safety council stems from 18 years as a licensed pilot and his certification as a flight instructor through the FAA.

ABROAD

From Page 1

language than I thought it would be," Bogle said. "I think that's because I really got into it."

For Magarian, who visited 10 countries in 100 days, the language barrier presented more of a problem.

"We learned some simple phrases so we could get by, but I learned to communicate using hand gestures and noises," he said.

Study abroad programs interest many different students who vary in personalities as much as the countries they visit, but students returning from abroad agree that the experience can often be challenging.

"You have to be willing to accept change and make adjustments, because the people who complain about each culture's differences won't make it," Bogle said.

Magarian said he was surprised that people in other countries, particularly Vietnam, were so courteous to the American students.

"I don't understand why Americans can't accept people from other countries into our culture, but when we are there, they are so friendly to us," he said.

Despite the attack on 16 American students studying in Guatemala on Jan. 16, students here say they feel as safe in other countries as they do in America.

"You do face a lot of challenges, but you just have to be willing to face those," Rindoks said.

SORORITY

From Page 1

of Sigma Kappa, will be on campus from Feb. 1 until the end of the semester to help establish the chapter, assist with public relations and to organize the program.

The decision to form the sorority can be attributed to several reasons, including a letter written to former Panhellenic President Jill Grimsley last summer from several non-affiliated women who said they would be interested in joining a new sorority formed on campus, Kirst said.

Sigma Kappa's philanthropies include sea coast mission work, through which sorority members collect clothes and toiletries to send to poverty-stricken people on small islands off the American coast; gerontology work, which includes visits to nursing homes and fund raisers for Alzheimer's Disease; and an "Inherit the Earth" program, which promotes environmental awareness.

The sorority will remain a colony until the chartering ceremony in April.

Police Blotter

Criminal Mischief

8:34 a.m. Dec. 15 — A Christmas tree in the Sid Richardson Building was vandalized with tree lights broken and strings of tree wires removed from the tree.

Burglary

9:32 a.m. Dec. 15 — A staff member in the Bass Building reported that someone had come into the office and opened drawers. Later the person realized the office had been burglarized.

Harassment

1 a.m. Dec.16 — A Moncrief Hall resident called police after receiving three obscene phone calls. The officer advised the resident to stop answering the phone and let voice mail catch the calls.

9:45 a.m. Dec. 16 — Three residents of Waits Hall received harassing calls on three different phone lines. One resident said she had activated her phone trace mechanism.

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LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SPICE UP YOUR WEEKEND?
CHECK OUT PAGE 5 !

Home sports this weekend

The men's swim team, which received votes this week toward a top-25 ranking, will meet the sixth-ranked University of Tennessee at 1 p.m. Saturday in the Rickel Building.

The women's and men's basketball teams don't play at home this weekend, but they are playing at Southern Methodist University — close enough for the Frogs to have a purple presence in the stands. The women play at 2 p.m. Saturday and the men play at 11 p.m. Monday at Moody Coliseum.

Raptors-Rockets deal falls through

NEW YORK (AP) — Damon Stoudamire was nearly traded to the Houston Rockets on Wednesday, but the Toronto Raptors decided to reconsider offers that came pouring in from other teams.

The Rockets, Los Angeles Lakers, New York Knicks, Vancouver Grizzlies, Portland Trail Blazers and Orlando Magic were in contention to acquire Stoudamire, according to several league sources who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The proposals were much better than what Houston was offering: Kevin Willis, Mario Elie and a third player — either Brent Price, Matt Maloney or Emanuel Davis — and a 1998 No. 1 draft choice for Stoudamire, Walt Williams and Zan Tabak.

Raptors general manager Glen Grunwald said he expects to make a trade within a week but suggested the deal may not necessarily involve Stoudamire. Grunwald would not say what other players he was taking about dealing.

It was the latest in a long line of offers made by the Rockets in the past several days and was so close to being done, in fact, that the Raptors were already calling other teams Wednesday morning looking for a point guard to replace Stoudamire.

But Grunwald slowed the process when he started receiving improved offers.

Nuggets may become worst team ever

DENVER (AP) — The Denver Nuggets lost their 22nd straight game — one defeat away from the NBA's single-season record — in falling to the Detroit Pistons 87-67 Wednesday night.

In a season of lows, the Nuggets (2-37) finished with a season-low point total. Denver led by 10 in the first period, but scored just 9 points in the second period, falling behind.

The expansion Vancouver Grizzlies set the record of 23 consecutive losses in one season in 1995-96. The Cleveland Cavaliers lost 24 straight games over two seasons in 1982.

Denver's next game is Friday night at Phoenix. The Nuggets' last win came Dec. 7 against the Los Angeles Clippers.

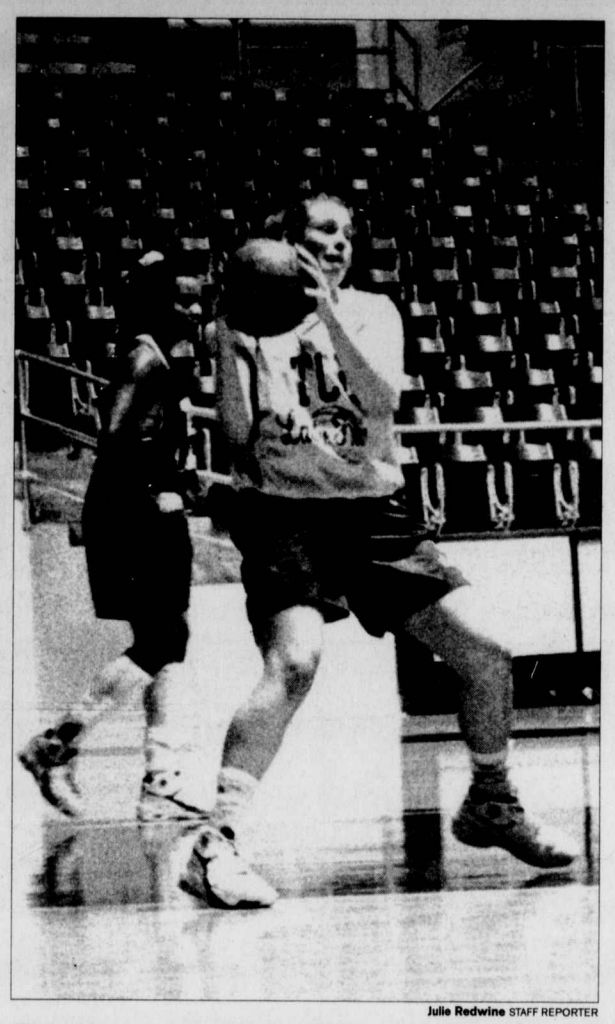
Hill, averaging 31.4 points in Detroit's previous four games, scored just 10 on 5-of-18 shooting, but Stackhouse had 21 and Dumars 20.

Bobby Jackson scored 16 points and Eric Washington added 12, but just two after the first quarter.

TCU hires new football director

Head football coach Dennis Franchione announced Thurday that former Horned Frog secondary coach Chris Thurmond has been hired as the new director of football operations.

Thurmond, an Oklahoma native, was secondary coach at the University of Oklahoma for the past two years. He also coached at TCU during the 1995 season. In addition, he has held assistant coaching positions at East Carolina University and the University of Tulsa.



Julie Redwine STAFF REPORTER

Misty Meadows practices with the rest of the women's basketball team for their upcoming game at 2 p.m. Saturday at SMU.

Biggest non-event

Green Bay Packers seeking an easy win

Ah, it's that time of year again. You know, the time of year when girlfriends and wives let out a collective sigh of relief. The time of year when the commercials are actually more interesting than the main program.

That's right, another year in the NFL will draw to a close Sunday in San Diego when the Denver Broncos and the Green Bay Packers square off in Super Bowl XXXII.

Commentary

Todd Shriber

And the game promises to be a dandy.

Sorry, aside from sounding like a Playstation game, I just lied to you, the reader. Another apology: If you're a Broncos fan, this isn't "the year" like many would like to believe it is.

Granted, the Super Bowl will be featuring the NFL's two best teams and that alone will make the game quasi-interesting. The interest ends there, however, due to the fact that the NFC has won 13 consecutive Super Bowls, making the biggest spectacle in sports a non-event.

Thirteen years have passed since the Raiders beat the Eagles in the AFC's last Super Bowl win. That's two presidents, a stock market crash or two, several foreign conflicts and a good Charlie Sheen movie ago.

In that span of time John Elway has led the Broncos to three Super Bowls — all of them losses and lopsided ones at that. Sentiment says that Elway, a guaranteed Hall of Famer, deserves to win a ring before his playing days are up. Elway is 37 years old, so Father Time isn't on his side.

Elway has the Broncos faithful thinking this is their year due to an improbable playoff run that has seen the Broncos avenge last year's loss to the Jaguars and then pick up stunning road wins at Kansas City and Pittsburgh.

The Broncos also possess the league's most potent offense with the AFC's leading rusher (Terrell Davis) and great receivers (Shannon Sharpe and Eddie McCafferey).

The stats also give the Broncos a chance. Denver and Green Bay have shared six opponents this season. Against the Bills, Rams, Cardinals, Panthers, Patriots and 49ers, the Broncos' offense averaged 363 yards per game while giving up 296 yards. The Packers averaged 370 yards per contest and surrendered 295 yards. Still, the Packers are 13-point favorites.

There's good reason for that, though. The Cheeseheads have held five consecutive playoff opponents under 300 total yards dating back to last year. Tampa Bay owns the best performance with a 263-yard showing earlier this month.

There's also three-time MVP Brett Favre, the Joe Montana of the '90s. Favre has been the best player in the NFL bar none for the past three years, and he finally won a Super Bowl last year in New Orleans. He is surrounded by two 1,000-yard receivers in Robert Brooks and Antonio Freeman, and the Packers defense steps up in big games.

Unfortunately for Elway and his Broncos, the only thing that is going to be different this year is the location. The only way the Broncos are going to win this game is if it's played on the aforementioned Playstation.

Well, we're all used to boring Super Bowls. And if the game gets boring, which it will, you can always get that Charlie Sheen movie.

Todd J. Shriber is a broadcast journalism major from Laguna Niguel, Calif.

Frogs look to success with tennis

By Rusty Simmons
SKIFF STAFF

Since Roland Ingram accepted the position as the first full-time women's tennis coach at TCU in 1984, the Lady Frogs have seen year after year of success.

Along with his 220-118 career record, Ingram has led the team to four year-end national rankings and a Southwest Conference title. After two years labeled as rebuilding seasons, the squad qualified for the NCAA Southwest Regional tournament in 1996-97. Now in his fourteenth year as a Frog leader, Ingram hopes to improve on last season's stellar results.

The first indicator that his hopes may become reality is the fall season. The four tournament fall season, full of individual competitions rather than team matches, highlighted some great tennis for the Lady Frogs.

They compiled a singles record of 55-35 throughout their tournaments at Tulsa, Rice, Texas-Arlington and Texas. This record, accounting for a .636 winning percentage, shows the talent that the 1997-98 team possesses, but they are quick to remind onlookers that it was simply preseason.

"We played pretty well, but nothing matters until the spring season," sophomore Lucie Dvorakova said.

They can deny the importance of the preseason, but the emergence of the younger Lady Frogs is impossible to glaze over. Dvorakova finished the fall with a 9-1 record, good enough for a top-30 ranking in the Southwest Region. Fellow sophomore Jessika Kjellgren went 10-2 in the fall.

The only newcomer to the team, freshman DeDe Herring, was awarded the Sportsmanship Award at the Rice Tennis Classic while finishing with a 10-3 record. According to people throughout the TCU women's tennis community, Herring's presence on the team means more than just added wins.

"She's so positive that it rubs off on everyone," Ingram said.

Some of the veterans have continued to plug away as well. Junior Rachel Niwa had an 8-5 season while battling with a wrist injury. The lone senior and elder sister of Jessika, Annika Kjellgren, played the No. 1 seeds on the majority of the teams TCU faced 15 times and won six of those matches. This role makes it tough to win a lot of matches, but according to Ingram, it has a bigger impact.

"Accepting this role takes someone who is mentally tough and someone who can raise the level of their game each week," he said.

As recognition of TCU's solid fall season, the Southwest Region currently has them ranked 8th. They will try to move up the charts in their first spring match this weekend as they travel to Arizona.

Horned Frog Football Coaching Staff

Dennis Franchione, head coach

Dan Dodd — offensive coordinator/ quarterbacks

Dodd last served as passing game coordinator and quarterbacks coach at New Mexico in 1996 and 1997. Before that, he was offensive coordinator as well as quarterbacks and receivers coach at Western Illinois University.

His coaching career began at Butler County Community College in Kansas where he was offensive coordinator in 1985-'86. He was head coach there from 1987-'88. In 1989 he moved on to Utah State where he was running backs coach,and he remained there until 1991 when he went to Western Illinois.

Kasey Dunn — cornerbacks coach

Dunn was cornerbacks coach at New Mexico in 1996 and 1997. Prior to that, he was the secondary coach at his alma mater, the University of Idaho, for one year.

He began his coaching career at Idaho as tight ends and running backs coach in 1993. In 1994 he was tight ends and running backs coach at the University of San Diego before returning to Idaho in 1995.

Stan Eggen — defensive line coach

Eggen was the defensive line coach for New Mexico in 1997 after three seasons as defensive coordinator and inside linebackers coach at Nevada-Las Vegas.

His first coaching job was as defensive backs coach at North Dakota. He then held the linebackers coach position at Southeast Missouri State, Memphis, Drake and Utah State, where he was also the recruiting coordinator.

In 1991-'92 he was defensive ends and linebackers coach at UNLV then served as inside linebackers coach at Nevada for one year before returning to UNLV in 1994.

Jim Bob Helduser — offensive line coach

In 1997 Helduser was head football coach at Lake Travis High School in Austin. Prior to that he spent five seasons as head coach at Southwest Texas State University where he succeeded Franchione.

He served as an assistant there from 1986 to 1991. While head coach he also held the position of defensive coordinator from 1991-'95.

His first coaching position was as an assistant at Rice from 1980-'84. He has also been an assistant at Alief-Elsik High School and Texas Lutheran, where he played college football.

Mark Parks — linebackers coach

All of Parks collegiate coaching experience has been at New Mexico. He was a graduate assistant there from 1990-'91 coaching wide receivers before becoming linebackers coach in 1992.

He played his college ball at the University of Kansas where he was a tight end. He was a four-year letterman and a three-year starter there from 1984-'87. After graduating from Kansas in 1988, he spent two years coaching high school football in Kansas.

Gary Patterson — defensive coordinator, safeties coach

Patterson was defensive coordinator at New Mexico for the past two seasons. The previous year he was secondary coach at Navy.

He began his coaching career as linebackers coach at Tennessee Tech 1983-'84, then he moved to California for coaching stints at Cal-Davis and Cal Lutheran. In 1988 he was linebackers coach under Franchione at Pittsburg State, and after that he returned to California to coach for Sonoma State and then for the Oregon Lighting Bolts of the Professional Spring Football League. He was the secondary coach at Utah State before moving to Navy in 1995.

Kenith Pope — wide receivers coach

Pope comes to TCU from the University of Oklahoma, where he served as defensive line coach for the past three years. Prior to that he coached outside linebackers at Mississippi State University for four years.

He coached defensive ends at Oklahoma State University from 1987-'90 and wide receivers at Southern Methodist University from 1981-'86. His first collegiate coaching job was at Lamar University, where he was linebacker mentor and kicking game coach from 1979-'80.

Mike Schultz — assistant head coach, running backs coach

Schultz has spent 10 years coaching with, or for, Franchione. He spent the last six with him at New Mexico as assistant head coach; first as the secondary coach and then as running backs coach.

He began his coaching career at Sam Houston State University, then moved on to Texas-El Paso and Kansas Stte University. He first coached with Franchione at Tennessee Tech from 1983-84, then he coached one year at Texas, and four years as a high school assistant coach, before joining Franchione at Southwest Texas State.

Mark Tommerdahl — Tight ends coach

Tommerdahl was special teams coordinator and tight ends coach at New Mexico during the 1997 season. He came to Albuquerque from Minnesota where he was recruiting coordinator, tight ends and special teams coach.

He spent 10 years at the University of Wyoming, holding variuos coaching positions, including recruiting coordinator, tight ends coach and offensive coordinator. He went to Minnesota in 1995.

Ultrafrog

by Jeremy Roman

Liberty Meadows

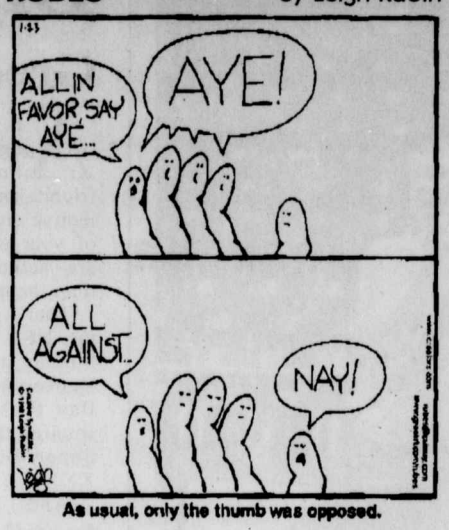
by Frank Cho

Mother Goose and Grimm

by Mike Peters

RUBES™

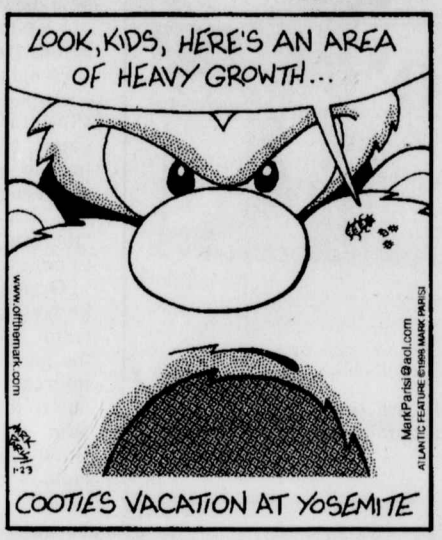
by Leigh Rubin



As usual, only the thumb was opposed.

off the mark

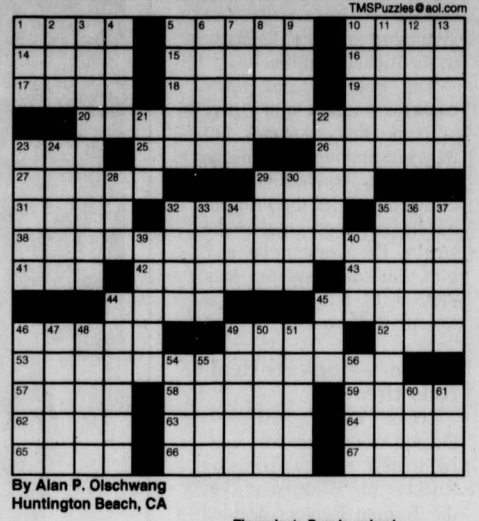
by Mark Parisi



THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

ACROSS
1 Scottish valley
5 Islamic text
10 Beatty and Rorem
14 Greek peak
15 Actress Massey
16 Ambler or Idle
17 Cat in boots
18 Gam and Moreno
19 Remove knots
20 Un"cut" superior to all?
23 Secret agent
25 Nights before
26 Stands up
27 Israeli seaport
29 Room in jail
31 Church projection
32 Zimbabwe's capital
35 Drivel
38 Un"cut" discount goods?
41 Trains on trestles
42 Lungs and livers
43 AM-PM connection
44 Queen of Carthage
45 Barbera's partner
46 Plots of land
49 Floats up and down
52 Jellied delicacy
53 Un"cut" be cut?
57 Rhythmic cadence
58 Gold measure
59 Retirement accts.
62 Region
63 All thumbs
64 Leafy abode
65 Coin flip
66 Singer Gorme
67 06/06/44

DOWN
1 Republicans
2 Fighting Tigers of the NCAA
3 Topical writers
4 Shuttle grp.
5 Imperial Russian Ballet, today
6 Martini garnish
7 Surf sounds
8 Med. sch. subj.
9 "Bed Riddance" author
10 Of the nerves
11 Sea eagles
12 Quaker verb
13 Highlanders
21 Actress Arthur
22 Barkin or Burstyn
23 Portion
24 Of the Vatican
28 Cost to play
29 "High Hopes" lyricist
30 Memorable times
32 Cattle collection
33 Jason's ship
34 Broncobusters' grp.
35 Trailblazed
36 Unanimously
37 Of punishment
39 Damp
40 Genetic letters
44 River ends
45 Pres. before DDE
46 G-sharp
47 Egypt's capital
48 Stirs up
49 Exposed
50 Giraffe's kin
51 Singer Midler
54 Dust Bowl migrant
55 Numerous
56 Posterior
60 Botanist Gray
61 Pigpen

Thursday's Puzzle solved.

B	L	A	B		A	L	O	H	A		L	O	L	A
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purple poll

Q. DO YOU WATCH OPRAH?

A.

ALWAYS	SOMETIMES	NEVER
13	50	37

Data collected from an informal poll conducted in TCU's Main Cafeteria.
This poll is not a scientific sampling and should not be regarded as representative of campus public opinion.

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WORD PUZZLES BY WOOD / TOM

Created by Tom Underwood
North America Syndicate, 1997

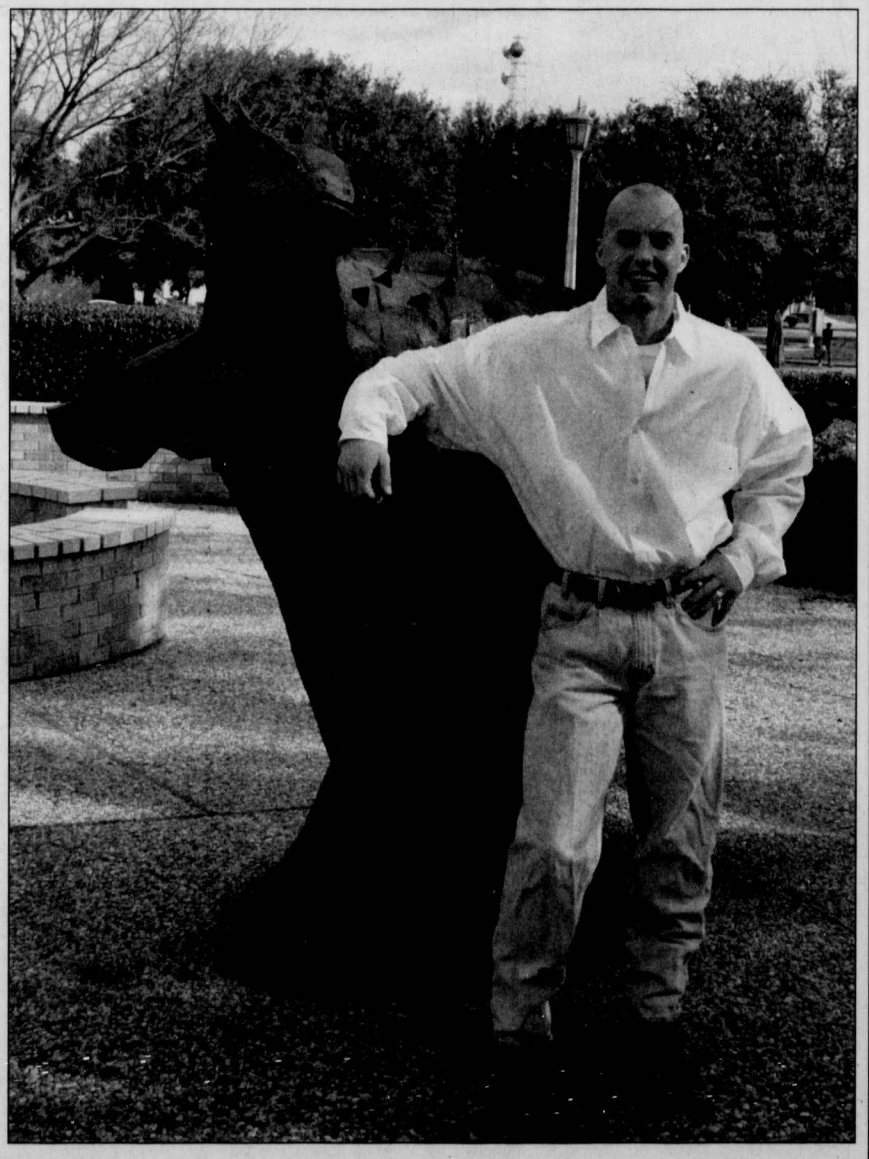
1. cheaper cheaper
cheaper cheaper
cheaper cheaper
cheaper cheaper
cheaper cheaper
cheaper cheaper

2. CHALK

Yesterday's Answers:
1. Turn in early
2. An expressionless face

TCU Cadet Profile

Jason Smith



Age: 18
Hometown: Houston, Texas
High School: Mayde Creek High School
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Pre-med, Criminal Justice
Accomplishments: Ranger challenge competition Alpha Team '97, Ranger Platoon, Active member of Delta Tau Delta, 1st Degree Black belt, Recipient of 3 year Army ROTC Scholarship
Quote: Someone once told me, "'All's it takes is all's you got.' Army ROTC and Ranger challenge have pushed me forward to achieve goals far greater than I ever thought possible. The program has shown me what I've got to give and what it takes to achieve."
Why TCU?: "I chose TCU because of its size and reputation. TCU is just small enough that everywhere you go you see someone you know, but just large enough to live in a diverse community."
Career Objectives: "After graduation I will be commissioned as an Army officer and attend medical school. Upon completion of medical school, I will be promoted to captain and continue my Army career working in the best hospitals in the world."
Profile: Confident, dedicated, and intelligent, Jason will serve his country to the highest potential.

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CONTACT ARMY ROTC AT: 257-7445