

Skiff



Inside
Frogs dive into swimming season.
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WEATHER FORECAST

High 59
Low 48
Chance of rain



THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 12, 1998

Texas Christian University
96th Year • Number 45

Colleges

University of Texas may reopen tower
HOUSTON — The famous University of Texas clocktower, once the scene of one of the nation's worst mass murders, has been closed for 23 years because suicidal people used its observation deck to jump to their deaths.

University regents were to meet in Houston today to consider a proposal to reopen the tower. If they approve it, renovation to the 231-foot tower could begin immediately.

"It's just really important that people have a positive experience with the tower," said UT president Larry Faulkner.

It was from the clocktower's outdoor observation deck, 28 stories above the campus, that sniper Charles Whitman opened fire at about noon on Aug. 1, 1966. He killed 16 people and wounded 31 that day before being shot and killed by lawmen.

"There's a very large body of support for (re-opening) it," Faulkner said of the plan, insisting it's time to bring back positive associations with the tower instead of allowing negativity to "freeze" it in history with the Whitman shooting.

The plan before the board of regents calls for \$450,000 to \$500,000 to renovate the tower and about \$86,000 to open it for tours. Needed work includes installing a safety barrier, elevator modifications, refurbishing public areas and providing wheelchair access, Faulkner said.

The proposal calls for weekend tours with about 20 minutes of viewing time and 10 minutes to get from the ground to the deck and back. Faulkner would like to have the renovation completed in time for 1999 commencement.

To offset costs, a \$5 to \$6 fee for the public is being considered, with lower costs for UT students.

The Whitman shootings horrified the country. But the tower wasn't permanently closed until 1975, following several suicides by people who jumped off the observation deck.

Yale faculty member under investigation

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (U-WIRE) — Former Saybrook Master Antonio Lasaga, who resigned suddenly from his position at Yale University last Friday, is the subject of a federal child pornography investigation, television station WFSB-TV reported Tuesday.

FBI agents found several pornographic pictures of children and two computers that were used to download, store and print child pornography, the station reported, citing unnamed FBI sources.

The evidence was uncovered in Lasaga's Saybrook rooms during a search executed by the FBI last Friday.

No criminal charges had been filed against Lasaga as of Tuesday evening.

The inventory of items removed has not yet been released to the public, but that information could be known as early as today, sources in the New Haven Federal District Court clerk's office said.

Lasaga shocked students and colleagues when he resigned from his position as master last Friday.

Lasaga could not be reached for comment by telephone or at his Cheshire residence last night.

University officials refused to comment on when they first learned of the FBI investigation.

Interim Saybrook Master Harry Adams has said President Richard Levin telephoned him Nov. 5 and asked him to fill the post.

Yale College Dean Richard Brodhead told an assembly of Saybrook students on Friday that Lasaga had stepped down "for personal reasons."

"Frying is futile," he said. "We trust your maturity," he added.

—Yale Daily News
Yale University

Questions raised in elections

◆ **Candidates may have violated Elections codes, chairman says.**

By Joaquin Herrera
STAFF REPORTER

The Elections and Appeals Board, which is headed by Elections and Regulations Committee Chairman Carlo Capua, voted Wednesday to call presidential candidate Ben Alexander and vice presidential candidate Ben Wilkinson to a meeting Friday in order to discuss concerns about the phone line they are using for their joint campaign.

The Election Code doesn't specifically state that the board can hold a hearing based on unofficial concerns.

Capua said the hearing is necessary to get Wilkinson's and Alexander's sides of the story. He said he interpreted his role as one that addressed concerns — official or unofficial — that come up during the election process.

Although holding the hearing based on an unofficial concern is not clearly defined in the Election Code, Capua said he will hold the hearing because his interpretation of the code allows him to.

Larry Markley, adviser to the

Student Government Association, said a concern can be discussed only if it is an official, written concern.

"Unless someone files an actual protest of violation, then (the chairman) can't call the appeals board for a hearing," he said. Unless that's done, the only thing the Elections and Appeals Board can do is become aware of the situation, he said.

Michael Coppens, a junior advertising/public relations major and a non-House committee member of the

Elections and Appeals Board, said the concern was brought up to make sure the issue was addressed.

"This wasn't a violation of the formal code," he said. "Carlo just wanted to make sure we were OK with it."

The unofficial concerns were brought up by Capua, who said he had input from different candidates worried about election procedures.

New technology used in this year's elections is causing many of these concerns that have not been addressed

in previous elections, Capua said. The use of the Internet, the use of a telephone line and the candidates' choice to run together have come into question as unofficial concerns to the Elections and Appeals Board.

The board declared that using Web sites and choosing to run as a slate are valid actions, provided the candidates remain within the joint \$150 budget. Using joint flyers count as donations; therefore, both Wilkinson and Alexander have to count their flyers as a donation from each other, Capua said.

These concerns arose after Capua was informed by other candidates about the new campaigning ideas that

Please see ELECTION, Page 5



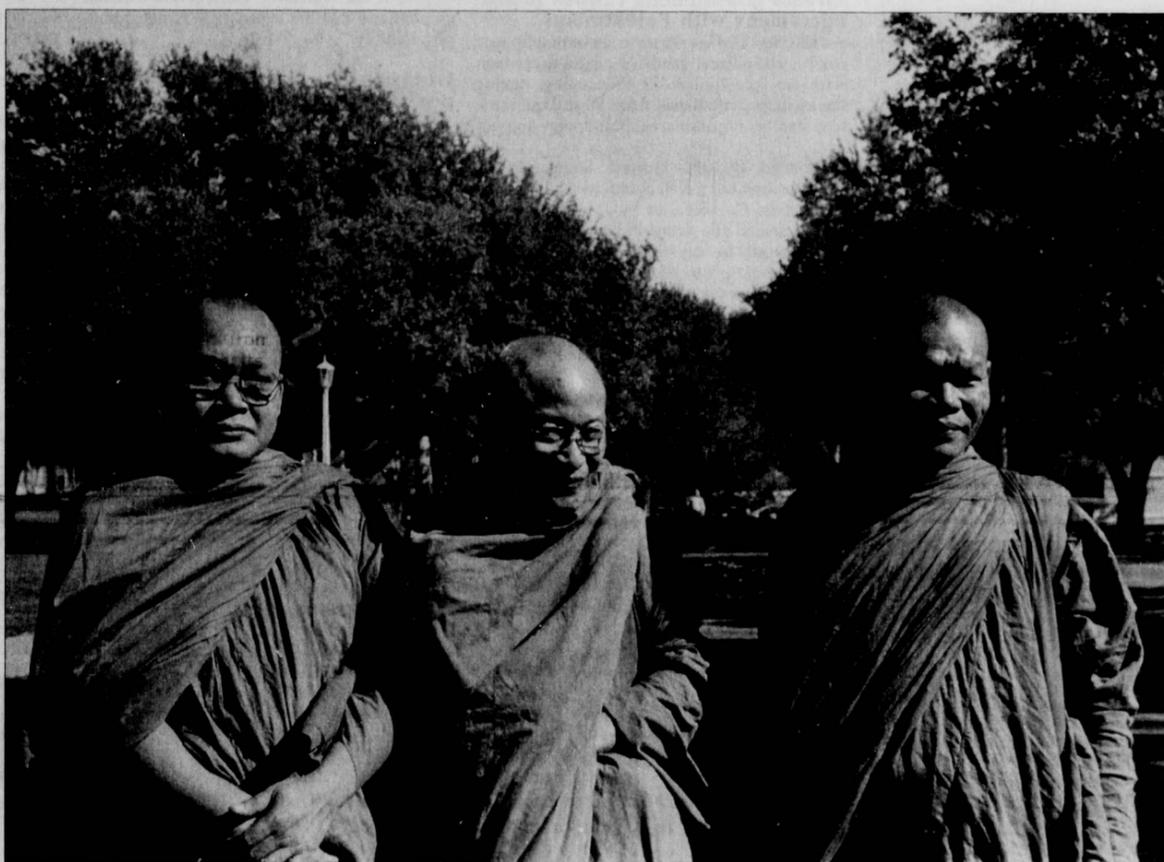
Ben Alexander



Ben Wilkinson



Nicholas Parks



Beth Wilson/CAMPUS EDITOR

Monks from the Wat Buddharatanaram temple in Keller visited TCU Wednesday as part of Uniting Campus Ministries' Week of Faith. The monks participated in chapel, where they chanted evening prayers and answered questions about their religion. They are originally from Thailand.

Lifesavers

Students gave 324 units at biannual blood drive

By Joaquin Herrera
STAFF REPORTER

TCU students saved about 2,800 lives by donating 324 units of blood during the blood drive last week sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega, said Laurie Newlin, donor consultant at the Carter Blood Center of Fort Worth.

The drive, which was held Nov. 3-5, is held every semester by APO as part of its community service activities. President Sarah Edwards, a junior social work and Spanish major, said this year's

event attracted many people.

"It was more of a community effort," she said. "People other than APO members stood at the table and got people to give blood."

Newlin said the blood center receives a large portion of its donations from area schools.

"College students are very open and willing to try new things," she said. "APO is great because they encourage students on campus to donate blood."

Newlin said that every year one

of the APO members dresses up as a vampire to encourage participation.

"APO has increased blood donations by 100 since last year and by 50 since last semester," Newlin said.

Edwards said APO tried to get more students involved by having the drive count toward the point system used during Homecoming.

"We were denied because some sorority girls can't give as much blood because of the (110-pound weight limit)," she said. "They were wrong because at the actual drive a lot of sorority girls did give blood."

Allison Serafin, Programming Council Homecoming Committee chairwoman and a senior political science major, said she was approached by APO but the committee felt the addition of the blood drive to the Homecoming point system would pressure people into giving blood.

"I didn't want people to give blood just for one point," Serafin said. "That's their body, and we didn't want them to feel like we were forcing them to do it."

Other requirements include not having a tattoo or body piercing within 12 months of donating blood. The amount of iron in the blood is also a factor.

Sigma Kappa sorority and Beta Upsilon Chi, the Christian fraternity, contributed the most to the drive, Edwards said.

Adrienne Anderson, an APO

PC exec board changes image

By Joaquin Herrera
STAFF REPORTER

Programming Council is undergoing major structural changes to prepare for next year and to meet the needs of TCU students, said Carl Long, Student Government Association, vice president for programming.

The changes will include cutting the Films and Forums committees from PC. During the debate at its Nov. 4 meeting, the executive board, which consists of all the chairmen and chairwomen of PC, argued whether the Films Committee needed to exist on campus. Concerns arose as to

whether students still attend the films and whether PC money should be spent on showing a variety of films to a small audience.

Forums Committee Chairwoman Diana Munro, a junior marketing major, said the changes were needed.

"We do programs for the sake of doing programs," she said. "We don't do enough to have a separate committee."

Although the committees will no longer exist, other PC committees will take on the responsibility.

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Beth Wilson/CAMPUS EDITOR

Alpha Phi Omega members (from left) Felicia Whitehouse, a freshman premajor, Genny Bennetts, a sophomore music education major, Sarah Edwards, a junior social work and Spanish major, and JoAnna Crowley, a junior nursing major, enjoy fellowship and lunch in the Student Center Lounge. APO organized the blood drive that ran from Nov. 3-5.

Mentors assist minority students

◆ **New program helps promote acceptance, understanding at TCU.**

By Katherine Doughtie
STAFF REPORTER

Minority students new to TCU this year have experienced friendship and guidance throughout the semester with a new program called Mentors in Action.

Anisa Dhanani, a sophomore premajor, and Linda Nguyen, a

junior environmental science major, began MIA over the summer with the help of the Office of Minority Affairs.

Dhanani said the idea came from the need to retain minority students on the TCU campus.

Darron Turner, director of minority affairs, said the program was initiated and formed by the students.

"It gives freshman and transfer

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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 Moudy Building South, Room 291, mailed to TCU Box 298050 or e-mailed to skiffletters@tcu.edu. Deadline for receiving announcements is 2 p.m. the day before they are to run. The Skiff reserves the right to edit submissions for style, taste and space available.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY Mass at 5 p.m. and a meal at 5:30 p.m. today in Reed Hall Room 214.

DISCIPLE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP meal and fellowship at 5:15 p.m. today at University Christian Church.

WESLEY FOUNDATION fellowship and meal at 5:30 p.m. today at the Wesley Building.

GOLDEN KEY NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY BANQUET at 7 p.m. Nov. 16 in the Student Center Ballroom. The event is free. New members will be inducted into the honor society, and all current and honorary members are invited.

KAPPA KUDDLERS TEDDY BEAR DRIVE, sponsored by Kappa Kappa Gamma, will run until Nov. 20 to gather new and gently used teddy bears to be donated to Cook Children's Medical Center and Children's Alliance. Bring bears to the University Ministries office in the Student Center or to the Kappa Kappa Gamma house. Call 257-4055.

DISCOUNT TICKETS available at the Student Center Information Desk for many area attractions and services including movie theaters, the zoo, bus tokens and passes and dining dollars.

BATTLE OF FLOWERS ASSOCIATION'S 74TH ORATORICAL CONTEST offers undergraduate students up to \$1,000 in prize money for the winning speech. An additional \$1,800 in prize money will also be awarded. The contest will be held March 5 in San Antonio and is limited to the first 15 applicants. This year's topic is "Life in the Texas Mission." For more information, send an e-mail to Judy.Lackritz@juno.com or write to her at 1033 Ivy Lane, San Antonio Texas 78209.

In The News . . .

World

Fears are rising that a military strike against Iraq is imminent

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Convoys of buses hastily evacuated all U.N. weapons inspectors and most humanitarian workers from Iraq amid drenching rainstorms Wednesday, raising fears that a military strike by the United States and Britain was imminent.

Iraq showed no sign of backing down from its refusal to deal with the arms inspectors — the nub of the crisis. The evacuation of more than 200 U.N. staffers was at first not reported by the Iraqi media, and there was little evidence of Iraqis panicking or rushing to stock up on food.

Prakash Shah, the special envoy of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, said the withdrawal was "in the background of possible military action against Iraq."

The United States and Britain have been threatening a military strike since Iraq announced Oct. 31 that it was halting the activities of the U.N. Special Commission, known as UNSCOM, which is responsible for eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

With U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf region and the Pentagon beginning a major buildup of warplanes and troops, President Clinton said not enforcing the U.N.'s demands for arms inspections would be a costly mistake.

The U.N. Security Council held an emergency session on Iraq on Wednesday, and the secretary-general called on Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to immediately resume cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors.

Israel's government ratifies peace agreement with Palestinians

JERUSALEM — Israel's government narrowly ratified the land-for-peace agreement with the Palestinians on Wednesday, setting the stage for withdrawal from West Bank territory and an expansion of Palestinian autonomy.

Prodded by the United States, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pushed the deal through the Cabinet with far less support than he anticipated. To secure the votes of hard-liners opposed to any deal offering land-for-peace, he also attached conditions that may provoke a new crisis.

Eight of 17 ministers voted in favor, five ministers abstained and four voted against the deal struck between Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at the Wye summit in Maryland. The plan calls for Israel to withdraw its troops from 13 percent of the West Bank in exchange for security guarantees.

Approval of the deal came after weeks of delay, caused in part by a suicide-bombing by

Islamic militants at a Jerusalem market that injured 21 Israelis.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called the vote an important step in the peace process. The Palestinians welcomed ratification with caution, but dismissed the conditions as "violations."

Nation

State settles civil lawsuit in inmate shooting death in California prison

FRESNO, Calif. — The state Department of Corrections will pay \$825,000 to settle a lawsuit over the shooting death of an inmate at a notorious California prison that was caught on video and played on "60 Minutes."

The money goes to the parents of Preston Tate, 26, who was shot by guards during a fight with two other inmates in the maximum-security facility's exercise yard on April 2, 1994.

Corcoran State Prison, located about 40 miles south of Fresno, has been rocked by a series of allegations that guards mistreated inmates.

Tate's death was recorded on prison video cameras and the images were shown nationwide on television news reports including "60 Minutes."

Tate's death also sparked an FBI investigation which led to the indictments of eight officers in February. The guards are still awaiting trial.

Fresno attorney Catherine Campbell, who sued in March 1995, said she was very happy about the settlement. She wouldn't comment further, saying the deal includes a gag order.

The guards were named as defendants in the suit, but all claims against them were dismissed as part of the settlement. Also, prison officials emphasized that the department is not admitting liability.

Gingrich ponders his options, possible run for the presidency

WASHINGTON — On his way out of Congress, Newt Gingrich is promising to explore "many avenues for a public life," a phrase that has triggered speculation that he might be heading for the road to the White House.

Gingrich isn't saying whether he will run for president in 2000. His closest advisers say he won't decide for weeks or months. But as he ponders his future, picking up the pieces from disappointing midterm elections, Republicans are debating whether Gingrich could be a serious contender.

Supporters argue Gingrich is still a top party fund-raiser and a leader with "big ideas" who energizes audiences like no other Republican, including poll-topping Gov. George W. Bush of Texas.

"I'm a big fan of George W. Bush, but it's a long way to go between now and ... 2000," said longtime Gingrich adviser Rich Galen.

Gingrich "has such incredible energy and intellect that he would have the ability to drive the race by his very presence," said Tom Rath, a New Hampshire party leader who is helping former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander position for the 2000 race.

State

Height of Texas Capitol in dispute, to be measured later this year

AUSTIN — The debate about the height of the Texas Capitol may be coming to an end.

After 110 years of guessing, the state plans to "put this to rest once and for all," said Ali Turley, the Capitol's education curator.

The Capitol's reported height has fluctuated over the years.

In 1888, it was pegged seven feet taller than the 288-foot U.S. Capitol. During the 1920s, it was reported to be more than 300 feet high.

By the 1970s, the official height was 308 feet 4 inches, only to be topped several years later at 311 feet. In 1995, engineers tackling the Capitol's restoration pegged the building at 309 feet 8 inches.

"We're going to take two measurements later this year: One to the top of the dome, to the Goddess' toes, and the other all the way to the top of the Goddess (of Liberty statue)," Turley said.

"We know exactly how tall the Goddess is, so we'll have a way of verifying the exact measurement."

No date has been set for the measurements to take place.

Geronimo! Bush planning encore parachute jump with Larry King

HOUSTON — How can former President George Bush top last year's parachute jump? Throw in a King.

Bush told CNN talk show host Larry King he planned to celebrate his 75th birthday next June by jumping out of another airplane, an encore to his March 25, 1997, stunt near Yuma, Ariz.

Boasting he feels like a "spring colt," Bush said toward the end of his appearance on King's show Tuesday night he was planning another parachute jump next June.

"Larry, you ought to go with me," Bush said. King replied, "If you do it, I'll do it."

Bush spokesman Michael Dannenhauer confirmed Wednesday that the former president, who once bailed out of his damaged bomber during World War II, was serious.

Bush wants to jump sometime around his June 12 birthday, Dannenhauer added.

These stories are from The Associated Press.

TCU DAILY Skiff
Since 1902

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editorial

READ THE RULES

Petty 'concerns' are a waste of time

It's back to business as usual for the Student Government Association. With the campaigning process less than a week under way, "concerns" have already been raised about possible campaign violations.

In a meeting Wednesday, the Elections and Appeals Board heard official complaints against two people running for offices, and at the same time heard unofficial complaints against others, namely presidential candidate Ben Alexander and vice presidential candidate Ben Wilkinson.

How can these unofficial concerns be addressed in an official meeting and then be used as the basis for calling even more meetings later this week? Not only that, but Wednesday's meeting was held in the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity's chapter room. As one SGA presidential candidate and the chairman of the Elections and Regulations Committee are Pi Kapps, this presents an obvious conflict of interest and should have been taken into consideration.

In addition, the complaints against the two had already been addressed. There were three concerns: the use of a Web site, the use of a phone line and the fact that they are running their campaigns together. As we interpret the SGA Election Code, these are not violations, but they do involve certain limitations. Alexander and Wilkinson are working within these limitations, or have adjusted to the limitations. And yet, the Election and Appeals Board has called another meeting for Friday to discuss these concerns with Alexander and Wilkinson.

Wasting time is nothing new to the SGA, but do we really need to start wasting time before candidates are even elected? If this kind of thing happens when the campaigns have barely begun, what does it signify about the year to come?

TCU DAILY Skiff

An All-American Newspaper

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Vulgarity's the in thing

OK, here's an oxymoron I've ever heard one: Suddenly, vulgarity has become chic. From Mary's hair "gel," to "South Park," yuck for the sake of yuck has taken over and even infiltrated TCU's stage.

Commentary



TIM SKAGGS

Andy Dick, what were you thinking? Did you really believe this was entertainment? For those of you who weren't there to see the show, Dick laced most of the evening with classless gags, songs and cheap shots at our chancellor's gullibility.

What I expected was adult humor that enlightened me. Instead, Dick felt he must adhere to popular culture's newfound standard of exploitative junior high vulgarity. How ironic then that my ticket said the show was for mature audiences.

The saddest part is that Andy Dick is a talented performer. His bit as the bumbling, clueless Matthew on television's "NewsRadio" is a refreshing spin on an overused character type.

His live show started promisingly as well, with some clever heckling of audience members and drunk friends. But instead of sticking with funny bits, such as a

lighthearted song about stalking his girlfriend and plotting to kill her new boyfriend, he had to pound home subjects like vomiting, menstruation and unmentionable body parts.

Why did Dick feel like he had to stoop to such degrading tactics? I have a hunch the answer is simple: If our society demands juvenile humor, the free enterprise system will find a way to provide. Dick merely became the vehicle.

I believe Americans are being socialized not to develop intellect so they can be exploited in the marketplace. Why else would we be constantly bombarded with such vulgar humor as "South Park," "BASEketball," "There's Something about Mary" and "Billy Madison"? Humor with repulsion.

Television commercials are reflective of this vulgarity as well. A more recent, more disjointed commercial depicts a jogger throwing a newspaper so hard it rips a guy's arm off. All the while, the Brady Bunch sing "Sunny Day" in the background.

Step back, and look again. It's sickening!

See, major corporations prefer consumers who can't think for themselves, have no intellect and buy on impulse. And they've started their assault on the socialization process.

Intellect, I should remind you, is not the same as intelligence. Rather, it's the application of intelligence. If you can't think for yourself, you can't make

demands, and if you can't make demands, then you're already beaten. This is socialization in its most harmful content. The rich get richer, while the intellectual morons sit around and wonder what happened.

Does this mean I didn't laugh at some of Andy Dick's jokes? Of course I laughed. But I didn't want yuck, and I didn't want to have to subtly apologize to my friends as we left the building.

As one of my friends wisely pointed out, he wanted Dick to make him fill in the blank, but instead the actor just bludgeoned him with the obvious. If the comedian has to spell out the joke to us, it's not as funny.

Somehow I think a more sophisticated entertainer, like Jerry Seinfeld or Paul Reiser, would have challenged me to fill in the blank.

William Shakespeare, one of the greatest of all intellectuals, would have had something to say about Andy's humor, as far as I'm concerned. "What's in a name?"

Well, Mr. Dick, you tell us. And while you're at it, notice how a creative intellectual such as myself just challenged his audience to fill in the blank.

Meanwhile, I turn my attention to our Programming Council, which sponsored and approved Dick's appearance: What were you thinking?

Tim Skaggs is a senior speech communication major from Fort Worth.

Discover Christ's message

Jesus Christ. No other name evokes such strong emotions just by its mere mention. In a university setting, there is much discourse

Commentary



TANNER MEZEL

as to who Jesus was, and of what importance, if any, he has in relation to our lives.

Rather than share whether I believe Jesus is really God of the universe, I have decided to prove that there is more to his life's message than the commonly touted opinion that he is the ultimate example of love, tolerance and acceptance. There was definitely a message of mercy, compassion and an unconditional love for individuals just the way they are. But with that came a message of self-examination and a call for people to turn from the way they were.

The observation is this: TCU students and faculty tend to bring up the example of Christ to point fingers at those who might appear unloving, unaccepting or intolerant. Atheists, Muslims, Buddhists, Christians: It makes no difference. Everyone has an opinion about Christ, and most use their opinions as fact.

Why not go to the Bible and its records of Jesus to gain an understanding of his life? We might as well use all the available resources written by people who were actually there.

So Jesus did not judge. Because he did not judge, no one else should, and we can all live in one big, happy circle of friendships and freedom. Most of us would agree that murder is a bad thing and judgment of that act is in order. Jesus would agree.

In one story in a book written by a man named Matthew, Jesus remarked to some of his closest friends that they had probably heard that you should not murder or you will be judged. He went on to say that even the person who was angry with his brother would be judged. Ever been angry with your brother? Looks like I'm in trouble.

In that same book, Jesus blessed those who desired to be righteous. I guess that means you're a little less than blessed if you desire things that are unrighteous.

The word "righteous" sounds a little religious, so simply put, it is the opposite of anything wrong. You know, those things that are against the law, hurt others and make you feel guilty.

So Christ did not condemn. There are some instances when he didn't condemn; that's for sure. A popular story is the one about the adulteress who was brought into the courts to be condemned. Jesus said he who had never done wrong should throw the first stone. No one did, and Christ did not condemn her either.

But no one pays any thought or attention to what he said next. He commanded her to go and leave her life of sin. In other words, she was forgiven, but Jesus did not agree with or accept her actions.

So Christ tolerated. There have been terminators and negotiators and emancipators, but there has never been anyone quite like "Jesus the Tolerator." Give me a break. Tolerate people's persecution of himself, yes. Tolerate sin and hypocrisy, no.

In a book written by a man named Luke, Jesus tells his closest friends it would be better for a man to be thrown into the sea with a millstone around his neck than to cause a child to sin. So if you've ever caused a kid to sin, then you deserve to have a 50 lb. rock tied around your neck right before you're thrown into Benbrook Lake. It seems pretty clear that he did, in fact, not have the least bit of toleration for people who caused others to sin.

Jesus loved people just the way they were; but he loved them too much to let them stay the same.

I believe that still holds true today. The message of his life was not only love, forgiveness and compassion, but also warning, judgment and rebuke. Don't take my word for it. Find a Bible and make a well-thought and rational decision for yourself.

Tanner Mezel is a senior business major from Amarillo.

Face it: College students drink to get drunk

If you've ever taken the time to pull your eyes away from the deeply engrossing stories and insightful commentary sprinkled throughout this paper — which is difficult, I know — then you've probably noticed the advertisements for various local bars.

Longhorn Saloon, Scooners and The Pub all have big, splashy ads toward the end of the week to entice the potential consumers who populate campus. These saloons try to lure in students with such fabulous offers as "25 cent drafts," "No cover with a college ID," and "Free term paper revisions with the purchase of our house brew" or something to that effect.

Right below all the distilled propaganda, in tiny type, is the disclaimer: "TCU does not encourage the consumption of alcohol. If you do consume alcohol, you should do so responsibly, and you should never drive after drinking."

Beyond the basic irony of using collegiate identification for alcohol discounts while in the same ad discouraging consumption, the placement of large type pandering beer and liquor illustrates the importance placed on drinking over whatever policy the university instills.

There are constantly statistics and studies coming out showing that college students are binge drinkers. These reports continually point out that college students will

drink alcohol just for the purpose of getting drunk. Naturally these revelations are accompanied by shock and horror when met by the general public.

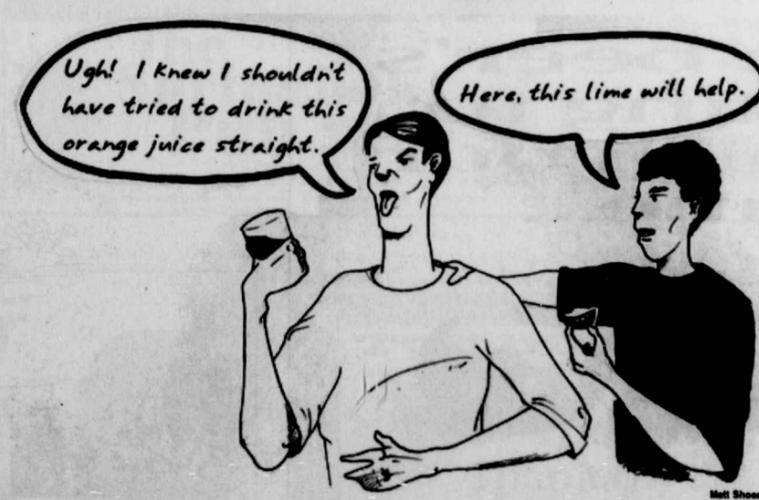
Surely the young adults wavering near the legal drinking age of 21 concentrated on college campuses are using their newfound liberties to only drink socially.

Perhaps a little red wine with their de-boned salmon from The Main or perhaps a fruity wine cooler on a warm afternoon to keep cool in the heat. Definitely not an overzealous indulgence in a cascade of inebriation, right?

Well, duh. I don't see why everyone freaks out when the obvious conclusion is reached that college students like to drink, or that they do so only to get drunk. Is there a notion that alcohol is really a tasty treat to be savored? If so, let me dispel that misconception right now.

Alcohol tastes horrible. Nobody ever talks about the cool, refreshing experience of drinking a glass of straight vodka. Such an experience is more likely to be followed up with fits of coughing sporadically, spitting into a sink than by a pained grin and pleased "Mmmmm."

Even beer requires a lengthy taste bud acclimation period before it becomes anything that actually tastes good. I've known people who have spent months and months drinking beer to try to get the taste for it, even though each can and



Matt Shoemaker SKIFF STAFF

bottle was a slow bit of torture.

That's why the term "mixer" exists, after all. You have to mix something with the liquor to try to dilute the powerfully potent natural flavor. No one ever chugs down a can of Coca-Cola then, choking back tears of pain, asks, "Man, do you have a chaser?"

To top it off, alcohol is pretty expensive. It is far more costly to drink alcohol than fruit juices or sodas. If you've paid \$15 for a good-sized bottle of your favorite spirit, that will break down into some pretty pricey glasses of booze.

If you're going to pay the cost of an expensive dinner just on a beverage, there isn't any sense in slowly whittling it down over the course of

a month. You have to drink most of it in a short amount of time to get your money's worth and to achieve the sought after "buzz." Even a full keg isn't going to affect someone who just sips at it for a prolonged period of time.

After all, it is the woozy, tipsy buzz that is the real driving force behind getting drunk. It's the feeling of reckless abandon in a crowd of strangers that is the true motive.

How else could someone muster the courage to talk to the hottie in the corner or entertain a bunch of peers with your previously hidden talent for table limbo.

There are benefits to the buzz, or else the whole drinking thing never would have caught on. People

should acknowledge that. It is part of the learning process for collegiate students to experience the wonder, mysteries and dangers that come with alcohol consumption.

It is crucial for people to know their limits, and drinking is a means to finding each person's point of no return. Drinking shouldn't be trivialized, scorned or abolished because it results in getting drunk. People have been drinking for centuries, so don't cry wolf when the next study of drinking horrors comes out. It's happened before, and, like it or not, it will happen again.

Matt Shoemaker is a junior communications graphics major from Sunnyvale, Calif.

MIA

From Page 1

students an upperclassman friend who can help them navigate the system," he said.

MIA pairs up a junior or senior student with an incoming minority freshman or transfer student. They are required to meet once a week to study or just hang out.

The entire group has a meeting once a month, and they must attend three academic workshops throughout the semester, Dhanani said.

The upperclass students help the new students by making suggestions on what classes and how many hours to take, he said. They also provide general support for their first year at TCU.

"We'll do some revising for next year, but it has done well so far," Turner said.

Students received letters over the summer explaining the program and asking for people who were interested to contact Dhanani or Nguyen. There was also a table set up during the Activities Fair at the beginning of the semester, Dhanani said.

New students were sent brochures about the program three weeks before school started. The students were asked to fill out a questionnaire about their inter-

"My mentor brings me encouragement and is someone I can confide in if I have a problem."

— J'Anzia Pullam, freshman mentee

ests and hobbies in order to pair up mentors and mentees in the best way possible, Dhanani said.

"This program is different from others for new students," Dhanani said. "The mentors and mentees have bonded well. Their relationship is now a friendship, not just a required responsibility."

Nguyen said she has seen the group come to a more personal level.

"The socializing and studying is mandatory, but they are developing friendships, and this lets them start to enjoy college," Nguyen said. "Groups are meeting four or five times a week just to eat lunch and talk as opposed to their one required time a week."

Dhanani said the program is a success if it can keep students at TCU.

There are many reasons for minority

students to leave, such as finances, academics or feelings of unacceptance, and the program is here to prevent them from leaving, she said.

"If we can affect just two people, that's great," she said.

Kirsten Bell, a junior political science major, said she is thankful for the program.

"Minority students so many times feel like they are left to fend for themselves," Bell said. "I hope this program keeps the students here."

Bell knew her mentee before the program. The relationship has developed into much more of a friendship in the past two months, she said.

"We will forget to turn in our slips (showing the required meetings) because it's not a requirement for us anymore, and

one day we just went to the mall and got our ears double pierced," Bell said. "We don't have the same major, but we can always find something to talk about."

J'Anzia Pullam, a freshman advertising/public relations major, said her experience in MIA has brought a different outlook to her first semester at TCU.

"I've learned what to do in certain situations and what not to do," she said. "Also, my mentor has let me know who to talk to when I have problems with teachers or grades and stuff like that."

It has been an important and helpful program for her first year, Pullam said.

"My mentor brings me encouragement and is someone I can confide in if I have a problem," she said. "We have become very close over the semester, and she was one of the first people I met at TCU."

Dhanani and Nguyen tried to match each person as best as possible using their own scale based on students' majors, hobbies, goals, and interests.

The program has shown to be a success throughout this semester, Dhanani said.

"We have seven mentors and mentees who have bonded well with each other," she said.

BLOOD

From Page 1

member and a sophomore political science major, said it's a college student's duty to do something for the community and giving blood is one way of doing it.

"You could make a difference between the life and death of a person," she said.

Students who donated blood were given T-shirts designed by APO.

"The fact that we gave out T-shirts was very helpful," Anderson said. "College students will do just about anything for a T-shirt."

APO member Majin Sierra, a senior engineering and French major, said he noticed more females than males donated blood at the drive.

"Girls were much more willing to give," he said. "We'd ask guys passing by, and they wouldn't even pay attention. My favorite excuse was a guy who said he couldn't give blood because he's a Delt."

Newlin said the Carter Blood Center accepts blood donations from anyone throughout the year at the clinic located at 1263 W. Rosedale St. in Fort Worth. She said the center tries to collect 796 units a day to meet the needs of area hospitals.

Gates tells shareholders antitrust lawsuit is weak

By George Tibbitts
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELLEVUE, Wash. — The government does not have much of a case in its antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft Corp., Chairman Bill Gates told shareholders Wednesday.

"As our witnesses come forward you will see the facts simply don't support the government's claim," Gates said in his first extended remarks about the case since the trial began.

Microsoft is accused of illegally using its industry influence as the maker of the dominant Windows operating system to maintain what the government portrays as its monopoly power over personal computers.

The company denies breaking any laws. At Microsoft's annual shareholder meeting Wednesday, Gates said that with the pace of innovation, monopolies are impossible because a new technology could dissolve an advantage in a matter of months.

"The more we see of the case the more

clear it is that there's an effort here to advance the interests of a handful of competitors over the interests of the public or the economy," Gates said.

Gates, who was greeted with a standing ovation by the approximately 2,000 shareholders, said the government's action threatens to stifle innovation in one of the nation's most dynamic industries.

Gates said the U.S. technology industry is extremely healthy — by some estimates accounting for a quarter of the nation's economy.

He said that with the price of computers plummeting, and with intense competition over software, he can't understand what benefits consumers would receive if the government is successful in its case.

Microsoft has had 23 straight years of record profits and revenues. Last month the company reported first quarter earnings of \$1.68 billion, or 62 cents per diluted share, up from \$663 million, or 25 cents per diluted share, in the same period a year earlier.

Drug can save lives, study says

◆ Study shows increase in HDL can reduce risks of cholesterol problems

By Daniel O. Haney
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Cholesterol drugs can save the lives of even those heart patients whose only cholesterol problem is too little HDL, the good stuff that keeps arteries clean, a study found.

Doctors often recommend cholesterol-lowering drugs for people whose so-called bad cholesterol, or LDL, is off the charts. However, about one-quarter of all people with heart disease have ordinary amounts of LDL, while their HDL, or good cholesterol, is low.

In a Veterans Administration study released Wednesday, doctors gave these people a relatively old generic medicine that slightly increases HDL. They found it lowered the risk of a heart attack or death from heart disease by 22 percent.

The study used a drug called Lopid, known also as gemfibrozil. This medicine has been overtaken in recent years by a newer class of medicines, called statins, that are available only in more expensive brand-name versions.

"It works. It's cheap. It's well-tolerated," said Dr. Hanna Rubins, who directed the study at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Minneapolis.

The study was presented at a meeting in Dallas of the American Heart Association, along with another report showing that unusually aggressive treatment with one of the statin drugs can forestall the need for angioplasty.

The statins typically cost \$900 to \$1,800 a year. In her study, Rubins said gemfibrozil cost the VA \$48 per patient annually, although the typical drugstore cost is likely to be several times higher.

In the study, 1,064 men were randomly assigned to take gemfibrozil, while 1,267 others got placebos. At the start, average LDL levels were an unremarkable 111, while HDL was 31.5 — well below the healthy level of 45 or higher.

The treatment raised HDL just two points, while LDL was unchanged. Nevertheless, after five years, 17 percent of patients taking gemfibrozil had died or suffered heart attacks, compared with 21 percent in the comparison study.

Side effects of gemfibrozil can include intestinal upsets and gallstones. Statins are

easier to take, but they have not been specifically studied in heart patients with normal LDL and low HDL.

"We've got to get the LDL down, the lower the better," said Dr. Gerald Fletcher of Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla. "We shouldn't take the emphasis off of LDL. All of my patients are on statins."

Dr. Bertram Pitt of the University of Michigan described the results of a study with one of the statin drugs, known as atorvastatin, or Lipitor, on 341 people with mild heart disease who were scheduled to undergo balloon angioplasty to reopen their clogged heart arteries.

Half got their angioplasties and other usual treatment, while the rest were put on higher-than-usual doses of Lipitor. After 18 months of follow-up, there was no statistically meaningful difference in heart problems between the two groups.

Lipitor cut their LDL almost in half — from an average 140 to 77. And 87 percent of these people were able to avoid angioplasty or bypass surgery during the follow-up period.

"We can delay or prevent the need for angioplasty" with aggressive statin treatment, Pitt said.

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Republicans strive for unity

◆ **With a small advantage** Republicans must unite to pass proposals

By Alan Fram
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Would-be House GOP leaders are stressing a common theme: Republicans must learn to work together next year in a chamber where they will dominate by just a six-vote majority.

"Maybe I'm optimistic, but it may be easier" than it was this year, said Rep. Mike Castle, R-Del. "There will be more evidence that we do have to work together now."

Rep. Bob Livingston, R-La., who seems certain to be the next speaker of the House, and other rivals for top leadership jobs have all been calling for Republicans to avoid intraparty splits in the 106th Congress, which convenes in January.

But the real question is with just a six-vote majority, can they remain united on tough issues like tax and spending cuts, boosting defense spending and strengthening Social Security? And what if conservative pro-family groups begin pressing GOP leaders for votes on abortion and other social issues that often split Republicans?

"There's plenty of incentive for them to unite, but I'm skeptical they can find the right vehicles," said Ronald Peters, director of the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma. "When they become specific, there are still disagreements."

"It's going to be interesting," Livingston said of the GOP's six-vote margin. "We're going to succeed."

Though Livingston seems assured of the speaker's job, Rep. Dick Armey, R-Texas, is still fending off challenges from Reps. Steve Largent, R-Okla., and Jennifer Dunn, R-Wash., for the No. 2 post of majority leader. Fights are also under way for the No. 4 leadership job, now held by Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, and for other posts.

When Livingston ascends to the speakership, his current post as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee will go to Rep. Bill Young, R-Fla., who is next in line by seniority, said GOP sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Last week's midterm congressional elections left the GOP with a 223-211 majority, plus one independent who usually votes with Democrats.

That will give any group of six or more Republicans, be they moderates

or conservatives, enormous power to make threats or even block legislation they don't like.

Some conservatives already acknowledge that to help keep Republicans together they will have to be less aggressive than they were this year, when they forced repeated votes on abortion, labor and other divisive issues.

"Will we put as many pro-life votes on the floor? No. We won't cause our moderates that kind of grief," said conservative Rep. Tom Coburn, R-Okla.

Others say everything will be all right as long as votes are held on issues important to conservatives.

"It's more important that we demonstrate an effort and let people go on the record," said conservative Rep. Ernest Istook, R-Okla.

And outside conservative groups, though recognizing the delicate balance Republicans will need, are still going to press for votes on issues like tax cuts and family planning restrictions.

"We're not necessarily going to go out and fight every battle, but the ones that are most important to us we'll continue fighting," said Marty Dannenfelser, media and government relations director for the conservative Family Research Council. "We don't

want to signal that we're dropping issues."

This year, the GOP had a 10-vote majority in the House and leaders confronted frequent problems. They couldn't agree on spending cuts for tax reductions and failed to move some fiscal 1999 spending bills until the very end because of fights over contraceptives and other social issues.

Republicans also face a continuing problem in the Senate, where the 55-45 GOP majority in 1999 will be the same as it was this year. Because of Republican defections — and because Democrats can stop anything with filibusters that take 60 votes to halt — the Senate never approved a significant tax cut, a prime component of the GOP agenda.

Another complication looms. By late next year, presidential politics and the 2000 congressional elections will begin creating political incentives for the two parties to distinguish themselves from each other.

"Most moderates and conservatives are learning governing, they're learning the limits of their slim majority," said Bill Connelly, a political scientist at Washington and Lee University. "And if it hasn't sunk in yet, it will early in the 106th Congress."

ELECTION

From Page 1

are being used this year. "We brought this up to ensure fairness to all the candidates," Capua said. "There's always going to be some ambiguity in any government document. We just want to clear it up."

Alexander, a junior advertising/public relations major, said he would have liked to have seen the concerns in writing.

"It would have been nice to know who had the concerns and to see it in writing," Alexander said. "It would have been helpful to see what the candidate's specific concerns were."

Wilkinson, a junior premed and business major, said he and his running mate tried to open communication lines between themselves and voters with the telephone line.

"Our intention was not to be malicious," he said. "The election needs to be about the best candidate and not about technicalities. If this needs to be a concern, then it should be a written concern."

Capua filled the position of Elections and Regulations chairman two weeks ago after vice presidential candidate Jason Cordova stepped down.

"I do think Carlo is doing the best job he can considering his position," Wilkinson said. "... Carlo is in the unique position of being close friends

with all these people."

Vice presidential candidate Sarah Burleson, a sophomore political science and Spanish major, said unofficial concerns can be both good and bad during an election because they give anyone an opportunity to voice a concern, yet they do not put a face to a charge.

"We have to trust that the Elections and Appeals Board will come out with the best decision," she said. "If someone is doing something wrong, they'll decide that."

The board was originally meeting to discuss the candidacy of Nicholas Parks, who was seeking an appeal to run for treasurer. The Election Code says a candidate has to have three hours of accounting before he or she is eligible to run. Parks is currently enrolled in his first accounting class. The board denied his appeal.

The second original concern brought up during the meeting was the candidacy of Jason Cordova, who is running for vice president. The election code states that a candidate running for office may not have been chairman of the Elections and Regulations Committee for the fall semester. Cordova resigned his position as chairman before filing for his candidacy. He has been allowed to run.

PC

From Page 1

ties of the two. The Fine Arts Committee will show films occasionally, and the Special Events Committee will hold forums if needed.

"I think the PC (executive committee) has seen this change coming," Long said. "We knew our programming needed to be changed to reflect what students want. What we did opened PC up to being more creative and having more options."

Long said with the shifting of committees and funds, committees will be able to work with larger budgets.

"Instead of doing a \$2,000 program, a chair has the option of doing a \$12,000 program — that's a howdy week," he said.

PC Treasurer Adam Ryan, a sophomore business major, and Development Coordinator Meredith Killgore, a junior advertising/public relations and criminal justice major, proposed the new by-laws. They were passed by the PC executive board at its Nov. 4 meeting.

Other changes included the changing of titles of the administrative cabinet of PC.

The administrative cabinet helps the vice president for programming run the PC office.

The development coordinator title changed to director of programming and development; the treasurer title changed to director of finance and assistant treasurer of the student body; and the communications position was split in two: director of recruitment and retention, and director of public relations and fundraising.

"For the administrative cabinet, it was a revamping of the positions," Killgore said. "We specified each person's job. If you don't know what you're doing how can you help PC?"

Ryan said the changes in the names of the positions were made to provide incentives for students to do the jobs.

"The new titles look better on a résumé," Ryan said. "The name change will get people to notice

the positions and make them eager to fill them."

Killgore said cutting two long-standing committees was a difficult, but necessary decision.

"We're not losing films and forums totally," she said. "We're weaving them into other committees. They'll still be around, just not on the scale that they have been."

Plans to restructure PC have been on the drawing table since 1995, Killgore said.

"A lot of our ideas came from the long-range planning that started in 1995," she said. "We did our homework to find out why PC wasn't meeting students' needs."

Killgore said she hopes the changes will bring bigger names to campus and encourage more participation from students in planning events.

"PC needed a whole burst of energy," Killgore said. "The student body will see an immediate difference with the type of people doing the programs."

Journal implies reason for murder-suicide

By Greg Smith
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVENPORT, Iowa — A day after a mother and daughter were found shot to death, a newspaper received in the mail a letter and a diary, apparently from the older woman, in which she said: "I am not a murderer, but I have been forced to become one."

The woman also accused her former son-in-law of molesting her granddaughters and destroying the family.

Janis L. Custer, 50, was found shot to death Monday night along with her daughter, Christina Custer-Rock, 27, at Custer's home. Custer-Rock's daughters, ages 2 and 3, had been shot and wounded, and were hospitalized in undisclosed condition.

Police said they are investigating

the deaths as a double-homicide. But the *Quad City Times* said the packet they received indicates Custer killed her daughter and tried to kill her granddaughters before shooting herself.

The letter and journal apparently had been mailed a few hours before the shootings.

The letter was signed "Jan Custer" and said, "Now we are all angels and with Jesus."

Li. Don Schaeffer said police were trying to verify that Custer wrote the letter and were still investigating other possible suspects.

The writings depict a woman obsessed with the belief that her former son-in-law, Trevor Rock, had sexually abused her two granddaughters.

The state's Human Services Department found no evidence that

Rock abused his daughters, and the letter laments that nobody would pursue her allegations any further.

Schaeffer said Custer had contacted police and hired a private investigator and attorney. He said her actions showed a "mental disorder here, there's no way of avoiding that issue."

The journal said she tried to take the children in early 1998 but returned when her daughter and Rock threatened arrest.

Capt. Dave Heesch said Rock, 27, discovered the victims after he tried to call his ex-wife about picking up the children. Rock went to the house and saw her body through a window, Heesch said.

Heesch said both children had been shot once in the upper torso, and the women had both died from a shot to the chest.

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To request an application packet, write: Russell B. Pulliam, Fellowships Director, The Indianapolis News, P.O. Box 145, Indianapolis, IN 46206
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Teen kills eight-year-old neighbor, hides body

By Ron Word
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.— Maddie Clifton knew her 14-year-old neighbor as a playmate and friend. Now, Joshua Earl Patrick Phillips sits behind bars, charged with killing the 8-year-old girl and hiding her under his water bed.

Phillips, who was charged with murder, appeared in court today and was ordered to be held in isolation.

Clifton disappeared Nov. 3 after she left her home across the street from Phillips' to play with friends.

Police, alerted by the boy's mother,

found Clifton's body Tuesday bound with tape in a fetal position under a sheet of plywood supporting the waterbed, said Sheriff Nat Glover.

The girl was stabbed nine times in the body and twice in her neck, and also was struck on the head. Detectives recovered a knife and a baseball bat believed to be the weapons, Glover said.

The sheriff said Phillips had confessed but the boy's lawyer, Richard Nichols, refused to label the statement a confession. "He gave them a statement about what happened," Nichols said.

Authorities had not yet decided whether to charge him as an adult. The boy, who has no criminal record, would not be eligible for the death penalty because of his age.

Phillips appeared in court today, wearing ankle and wrist shackles. He did not speak during the two-minute hearing and Nichols did not enter a plea.

Duval County Judge James Ruth ordered the boy held under tight security in isolation at a juvenile detention center. Another hearing was set for Nov. 20.

Nichols said he expects prosecu-

tors to try Phillips as an adult. "He understands what we are talking about and what is going on," said Nichols, adding that the boy cried during their meeting.

Joshua's mother, Melissa Phillips, grew suspicious after police searched her home Monday and smelled an odor coming from the water bed. She saw a liquid oozing from the bed Tuesday. When she pulled aside the frame, she saw Clifton's feet and summoned an officer patrolling the neighborhood, Glover said.

"Her body was securely entombed in the casement of that

water bed," he said.

Investigators believe the girl was killed in the house shortly after she vanished. The boy's parents were away at the time, the sheriff said.

Glover said Clifton did not appear to have been sexually assaulted.

"There was no indication she had any reason to be afraid or had any apprehension to go with him," he added.

Sam Iardi, who lives next to Phillips and allowed his 8-year-old son to play with the boy, said he never suspected Phillips could be involved.

"He was a good kid. He was

always, 'yes sir, no sir, to me,'" Iardi told *The Florida Times-Union* of Jacksonville.

After Clifton's disappearance, hundreds of volunteers posted fliers in Jacksonville and surrounding communities and passed out yellow ribbons and leaflets at the Jaguars NFL game Sunday.

Alice Darby, who has known the Cliftons for years, called Maddie Clifton "a precious little girl."

"She had her hair cut recently, and I was outside and she came up to ask me how I liked it," Darby said. "I said, 'It's just adorable,' and it was."

TCU DAILY
Skiff

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Application

Image
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Please print.

Name _____ Date _____

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Position(s) desired (in order of preference)

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List courses already taken that are relevant to position sought.

List relevant courses you are taking this semester.

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How many hours are you taking next semester? _____ What is your TCU grade point average?*

What other commitments demand your time during the semester (study time, fraternity or sorority, etc.)?

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References: Please list two TCU faculty or staff references (names, departments and phone numbers).*

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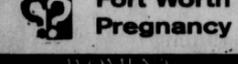
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The Ladies of Zeta Tau Alpha would like to congratulate their new initiates!

- Leslie Althouse
- Nicolette Bize
- Chelsea Blackmon
- Amber Cantini
- Cassidee Carlson
- Ryann Castle
- Molly Clope
- Laura Costilla
- Betsy Council
- Holly Crawford
- Leslie Dedek
- Katie Dobski
- Tara Franke
- Lisette Gerch
- Katherine Grant



- Samantha Randlek
- Kelley Rochna
- Adrienne Sacken
- Miranda Salmon
- Laura Sellner
- Kelly Shallock
- Tara Sherwin
- Kara Sprinkle
- Deborah Storms
- Katie Trkay
- Bethany Valmores
- Rachel Varley
- Katherine Willis
- Sara Yzaguirre

Campus

Two women earn postseason honors

Two TCU women's soccer players were named to the 1998 Western Athletic Conference all-Mountain Division team. Forward Jill Cook and midfielder Allison Calleri earned positions on the first team.

Calleri, a junior from Arlington, led TCU this season in goals and points, tallying seven goals and four assists for 18 points. She has been a three-year starter for the Frogs. Cook, a senior from Fort Worth, led the team in assists and was second in goals and points. She registered six goals and five assists for 17 points. Cook has been a two-year starter after transferring from the University of Texas at Austin in 1997.

Both Calleri and Cook were named to the all-WAC Mountain Division second team last year.

MLB

Dierker wins NL manager award

NEW YORK (AP) — Larry Dierker won the NL Manager of the Year award Wednesday after leading the Houston Astros to a team-record 102 wins and their second straight division title.

Dierker, in his second year as a big-league manager, received 16 first-place votes, six seconds and four thirds to earn 102 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

San Diego's Bruce Bochy was second with five first-place votes and 70 points, followed by Chicago's Jim Riggleman, who got five firsts and 55 points, and San Francisco's Dusty Baker with the other six first-place votes and 39 points.

"I don't think anyone thinks about winning awards. We think about winning games," Dierker said. "I thought winning the award was possible because it usually goes to a guy whose club outperforms expectations. And people didn't expect us to be this good."

Dierker came out of the broadcast booth to manage the Astros in 1997 and led the team to 84 wins and their first division title in 11 years. The Astros built on that success this year, improving by 18 games, tied for third best in baseball, to win the NL Central again.

"The fact that I came from the booth instead of the minor leagues may cause people to be more open-minded about who they consider," Dierker said.

In the regular season, the Astros led the league in runs scored and RBIs and were second in batting average. The pitching staff had the second-best ERA in the NL.

But once again the Astros faltered in the first round of the playoffs, losing in four games to the Padres. Houston was swept by Atlanta in 1997. The voting, however, was conducted before the playoffs.

"It is frustrating because it takes so long to get in position to get into the playoffs, and it doesn't take long to be eliminated — as we learned the last two years," Dierker said. "It underlines how sensitive things can be. I felt we had a better club than the Padres, but I'm sure the Braves felt that way too. It didn't help us any."

Bochy and Riggleman led their teams to 22-victory turnarounds, the biggest in baseball this season. The Padres won a team-record 98 games and their second NL West title in three years.

Riggleman took the lovable loser Cubs to the playoffs for just the third time since 1945, beating Baker's Giants in a one-game playoff to win the wild-card berth.

Bochy won the award in 1996, when he took the Padres to the NL West title in his second year in San Diego. Last year Dierker finished third, behind Baker and Pittsburgh's Gene Lamont.

New York's Joe Torre is the overwhelming favorite to win the AL Manager of the Year, which will be announced today.

Football team needs fan support

In an impressive show of gratitude, University of Texas at Austin football coach Mack Brown awarded hundreds of Longhorn fans waiting in line for UT-Texas A&M tickets by buying 100 pizzas Monday.

What's most impressive about this is that fans were waiting for tickets to a game to be played in two weeks. TCU can't even get students to a stadium that is less than seven minutes' walking distance to watch a game that is free of charge.

I thought students loved free stuff. True, last season was a downer. Players and fans alike were frustrated, but this was supposed to be a new year, a new team. Things were looking up. The football team got a new coach known for rebuilding programs, new uniforms and a meaner, tougher logo. Why wouldn't fans come to games?

The biggest difference, though, was that the players went into the game knowing they could win. It was evident in the upset win against Air Force. The players didn't beat themselves up about the little things; they just went out and played their hardest. That is the attitude that has carried

TCU to four wins, with two games left in the season.

The biggest thrill for an athlete is to walk into a stadium packed with screaming fans, hanging on every play you make. Fans who stick with you to the end. Fans who won't leave when one play doesn't go their way. Fans who will come, rain or shine. TCU doesn't have many of these kinds of fans.

TCU has conditional fans. If it's a little gray, a little chilly or a little drizzly outside, then there is little chance they will show up to the game.

If TCU doesn't win, fans don't show up. And when TCU does win there aren't enough spectators to appreciate it anyway.

It's frustrating to the players to look into the (empty) stands and see fans filing out to try to beat the traffic home. What does that say to them? It says, "You're not worth our time and don't deserve any recognition."

TCU has been in every game, excluding Colorado State. Every game has come down to the fourth quarter, with many games decided in the last two minutes. I don't understand why fans would want to leave when the most exciting part hasn't even happened yet.

It's embarrassing for the school when ESPN2 comes to town and nobody shows up to the game. In one camera shot, the south end zone was shown with maybe three or four fans. That is downright pathetic. Why would any television station want to



Not all spectators are as vocal as this one, cheering at the Wyoming game Oct. 31. Welnack says TCU fans should be more supportive.

televised an empty stadium?

Every year we hear the cries that TCU doesn't have a good football team and that we don't deserve to play in Division I-A athletics.

Upon arriving, I thought we had mistakenly gone to the "Trailer Fest '98" convention apparently being held in the same vicinity, but, once again, I was wrong. Still doubting, a double check of the tickets assured us that we were not at a screening for Jerry Springer guests either, so we ventured tentatively inside. In a T-shirt and jeans, I found myself feeling completely over-dressed and was tempted to buy a WWF shirt and rip up my pants just to fit in better. Soon, however, I was lost in the expectation of the upcoming battles and found myself yelling in excitement, just like the shirtless man behind me who had been drinking steadily for the past month in preparation for this sacred event.

The only excuse people have to not attend games now is there are no more home games. Two games left in the season and TCU goes from 1-10 to being on the verge of a winning season, and a lot of students wouldn't even know it.

Head coach Dennis Franchione said it best after the Oklahoma game. "Don't quit on them (the players), because they won't quit on you,"

Franchione said. The TCU football team has a bright future under Franchione, and the team has dug itself out of the depths of last year's nightmare season. Our job is to get out there and show the players that we notice and care.

Matt Welnack is a sophomore news-editorial journalism major from San Antonio.

Intramurals year ending

By Robyn Barthelemy
STAFF REPORTER

Intramurals

As the end of the semester nears, so do the seasons for many intramural sports.

The racquetball tournament took place Tuesday night in the Ricket Building, said Lance Steffen, intramural sports director. Placing first in the women's division was Annette Lucio, a senior psychology major. Vince Parker, an intramurals staff member, placed first in the men's division.

Last week, during Homecoming, the intramurals staff held a special Homecoming volleyball tournament. A total of 23 teams participated at the Ricket Building.

Within the men's division, the Pi Kapp A team placed first, with Sig Ep A and Pi Kapp B coming in second and third, respectively. In the women's division, Theta took first place. Sigma Kappa placed second, and Jarvis placed third.

The Pi Kapp/Pi Phi team placed first in the coed division. Phi Delta/Alpha Chi took second place, and Sig Ep/Theta B placed third.

This week is currently the final week of regular-season play for flag football, including men's, women's and coed divisions. There is currently a total of 64 teams participating. All teams that have not forfeited a game are eligible for the end of the season tournament. The final tournament is scheduled for Nov. 16-23.

Three-on-three basketball is the final sport this semester, Steffen said. The intramurals department is currently taking registration for dominos. If interested contact recreational sports in Ricket Building Room 229.

Club Sports

The TCU High Adventure Club is traveling to Mineral Wells, Texas, this weekend, said senior business major Matt Truitt.

"We are going to teach Boy Scouts how to rappel and rock climb," he said.

The club will leave at 10 a.m. Saturday morning. Truitt said anyone is welcome to join.

The following weekend, the club will travel to Enchanted Rock near Austin, Truitt said. The club will take a short backpacking trip and will also do some rock climbing and caving.

The club is also planning a Christmas party in December; interested people can contact Truitt.

Absurd amusement Professional wrestling 'stupid,' yet entertaining

There's an old joke that reads something along the lines of: what's multi-colored, saturated in beer and has a cumulative IQ of 50? Answer: the people in the first 50 rows of a professional wrestling show.

I used to think the fascination with the World Wrestling Federation and its counterparts were an elementary school phase, an obsession cultivated by little boys that dissipated with time much like collecting baseball cards eventually lost its zeal. But since coming to college, I have noticed this underground faction of TCU students who follow pro-wrestling with the enthusiasm of a soap opera buff and the unimpeachable pride of a deadhead. Yes, somewhere every Monday night on this campus, an unfathomable amount of students sequester themselves from the rest of society, agonizing over whether to watch WCW's "Monday Night Nitro" or WWF's "Raw is War."

But despite my premonitions about wrestling, it was my sense of adventure that allowed me to be coerced by some friends to check out the WWF live "Raw is War" in Dallas last week at Reunion Arena. Traveling there, I was given a crash course in the recent happenings of the wrestling world, because the last time I watched it was about the same time hyper-color T-shirts were cool. I even committed the grievous faux pas of inquiring about "Hulk Hogan," but I was quickly rebuked by a friend who informed me his new proper name was now "Hollywood Hogan," and he has become a "bad guy." Although disappointed by Hogan's blatant turn to the dark side, I was of course eternally grateful to be saved from any future embarrassment.

I also learned that there are two parts of pro-wrestling. The WWF, my friends

claimed, was the top organization that hosts the best fighters wrestling has to offer. On the other hand, the WCW was more of the retirement home of washed-up wrestlers, where people like Randy Savage and the Ultimate Warrior go when they can't become governors of Minnesota or make quality movies like "Mr. Nanny." Upon arriving, I thought we had mistakenly gone to the "Trailer Fest '98" convention apparently being held in the same vicinity, but, once again, I was wrong. Still doubting, a double check of the tickets assured us that we were not at a screening for Jerry Springer guests either, so we ventured tentatively inside. In a T-shirt and jeans, I found myself feeling completely over-dressed and was tempted to buy a WWF shirt and rip up my pants just to fit in better. Soon, however, I was lost in the expectation of the upcoming battles and found myself yelling in excitement, just like the shirtless man behind me who had been drinking steadily for the past month in preparation for this sacred event.

With a burst of pyrotechnics accompanied by heavy metal music thrashing from huge overhead speakers, each wrestler would emerge from a curtain, most bearing a scary resemblance to old He-Man action figures. They would strut, point, flex and scream, and depending if they were a "good guy" or "bad guy," the audience would either boo or cheer back at them. Some of them were so huge it looked as if their pituitary glands had been put in overtime since second grade. It didn't take much to get them angry and spouting mild obscenities either; these guys had tempers shorter than Jenny McCarthy's acting career.

Each wrestler also had a special move or a special phrase they performed, most of which entailed shots to their opponents groin area (which is always a funny place to hit someone). The stadium went crazy when Stone Cold Steve Austin chugged his traditional Coors Light and tossed the empty can behind him. I wasn't impressed, though — the shirtless guy behind me had done that at least eight times since we'd sat down.

The wrestlers executed a synchronized series of punches, kicks and throws that looked about as graceful and believable as a fight scene from a 1970s blaxploitation flick. To their credit, some wrestlers had moves that did look pretty cool, and I'm positive some of them had to hurt, no matter how fake people claim they are. The guys obviously get paid to shake off any pain they might endure, and they deserve every cent they get for it.

Fighters like Degeneration X, the Undertaker and Gold Dust all graced the stage — each with his own section of frenzied fans. Highlights of the evening included when Kane, a 300-pound fighter dressed like the spawn of Satan, choke slammed everyone (including the referee) into the center of the ring, doused them with gasoline and tried to set them on fire. Crisis was averted when officials rushed to the rescue and the fight suddenly ceased. This was all met by a resounding chorus of boos by the audience, who I guess were expecting to see four people smoldering in center ring along with the \$20 they paid to get in.

Wrestling didn't convert a new follower that evening. Two words adequately describe the sport: laughably stupid. But I did enjoy the ambience, the audience and the well-choreographed acting. Give props to the script writers who orchestrate the stuff; it's got to be good if stadiums are selling out to see it. I suppose the fans see their beloved sport as a microcosm of society, a never-ending battle of good vs. evil. Call me superficial, but I saw it as a bunch of sweaty, long-haired guys in costumes who would probably be truck drivers if they weren't getting paid to pin each other.

But then again, where else (besides New York) can you watch a pimp, a porn star or a paranoid schizophrenic hit each other over the heads with folding chairs? You just can't put a price on that sort of entertainment.

Kevin Dunleavy is a sophomore advertising/public relations major from Spring, Texas.

Swimming teams set records

By Mike Roberts
STAFF REPORTER

Winning streaks, broken records and great performances are frequently associated with victorious teams. TCU's men's and women's swimming teams achieved all of these this weekend but still couldn't beat Nebraska and Brigham Young.

The men lost Friday to Nebraska, and both the men and women lost to BYU on Saturday.

The Cornhuskers beat the Frogs 137 to 82. The men lost to BYU 152-91, while the women lost 141-102. Swimming head coach Richard Sybesma said the teams swam well but couldn't quite pull it off.

"The women tore them up," Sybesma said. "They just overpowered us at the end of the meet."

Freshman Marisa Schenke set a new TCU women's record in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 57.88 seconds. On the men's side, senior Jason Flint kept his career dual-meet undefeated streak in the 200-yard breaststroke intact.

Sybesma said he was impressed with both individual performances. He said the timing of Schenke's record is just one impressive aspect. "It's unheard of to break records this early in the season," Sybesma said.

Sybesma said Flint's streak was in jeopardy because one of BYU's swimmers beat him in the conference meet but never in a dual meet.

Sybesma said the entire team swam well on both days. Mike Wills and Charlie Fell finished first and sec-

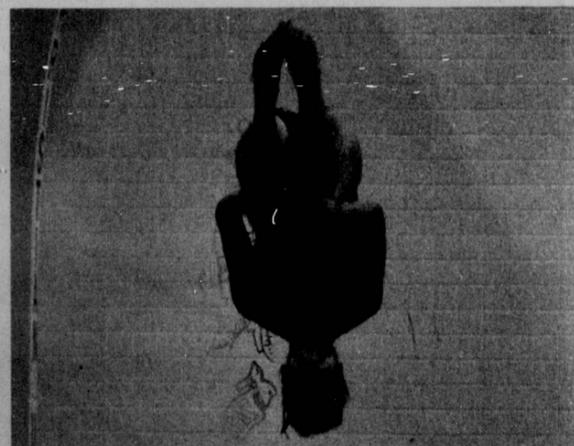
ond in the 100-yard backstroke Friday. Adrian Velasquez, Mike Wills, Ryan Mammarella and Flint all won races against BYU.

Women winning their races included Maggie Topolski, Jamie MacCrudy, Sara Allen and Ashley Hudler.

Sybesma said the alumni and students at the meet really helped the Frogs' strong performance. He said the crowd helping to get the swimmers pumped up gives them somewhat of a home-pool advantage.

"I'm very pleased with where we are," Sybesma said. "The kids are swimming real well."

Sybesma said the upcoming meets against Wyoming, Air Force and Colorado State will be real tests for the Frogs.



Freshman Sara Sloan dives during the women's meet with North Texas Nov. 4. The women lost to Brigham Young on Saturday.

RUDY

by Aaron Brown **Stick World** by Mark Crittenden



Academia Nuts

by John P. Araujo



AcademiaN@aol.com

I need help

by Vic Lee



"She's got all the qualities a couple of superficial guys like us need!"

off the mark

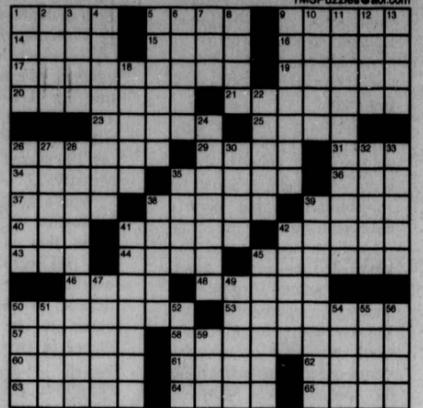
by Mark Parisi



DR. SEUSS' EARLY YEARS

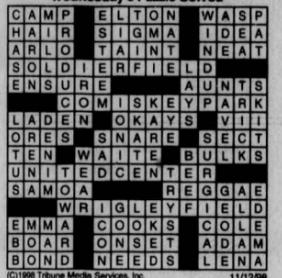
THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS
- vincit omnia
 - Beat it!
 - Dutch painter
 - Seward Peninsula town
 - Nobelist Wiesel
 - nous (confidentially)
 - 1988 Masters champion
 - Richard de Lion
 - Source of licorice flavor
 - Hired a crew
 - Citizen and Carol?
 - Filled collar
 - Columnist on language
 - Sale-tag disclaimer
 - Ending for a belief
 - Growing Pains' co-star
 - Musical work
 - Wildbeest
 - Turkish titles
 - "La Vita"
 - Turkish river
 - Malleable metal
 - Burgundy wine
 - Braid
 - Inuit abbr.
 - Affirm
 - Floating lure
 - Wicked
 - Indira's wardrobe
 - checkers
 - Kidney-shaped nuts
 - Perch
 - 1988 Indy 500 winner
 - Junior hooter
 - Pasture measure
 - Unruly kid
 - Serving dish
 - Afternoon receptions
 - Jungfrau and neighbors
- DOWN
- Latin handle
 - Lament
 - Former Atlanta arena
 - 1988 Superbowl winners
 - Moon goddess
 - Glasgow's river
 - Be in poor health
 - Golf gadgets
 - Since
 - Kind of switch
 - 1988 Wimbledon champion
 - Motley
 - Cattle collective
 - Full calendars
 - Very short time
 - Mariners
 - Flat fish
 - Sponsorship
 - 1988 Cy Young winner
 - Fringe group
 - Animal in a mobile home?
 - Cobwebby
 - Corn concoction
 - Seedy spots
 - 1988 Horse of the Year
 - Painter's board
 - Rainbow maker
 - Male ducks
 - Map on a map
 - Capital of Ghana
 - Farmer's yield
 - Wolf's wall
 - Part of QED
 - Countess's husband
 - Swaddle
 - Fast planes, for short
 - Hot diamonds



By William Canine Newberry, SC 11/12/98

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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purple poll



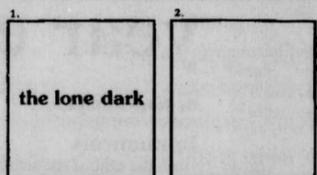
Q. ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH CAMPUS PROGRAMMING THIS SEMESTER? A. YES 58 NO 42

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.

WUZZLES

WORD PUZZLES BY WOOD TOM

Created by Tom Underwood North America Syndicate, 1998



Yesterday's Answers:
1. All in the family
2. She's on edge

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TCU

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