

Skiff

Colleges

Freedom of speech lawsuit begins for UT
AUSTIN (AP) — The University of Texas is defending itself in a federal court suit over distribution of pamphlets.

Court arguments, which were to begin Thursday, stem from a 1996 incident in which four environmental activists say they were threatened with arrest outside UT's Erwin Center after attempting to pass out pamphlets.

That was a violation, they later learned, of a university policy that prohibits any non-students, nonfaculty or nonstaff from distributing leaflets on UT property.

"The university is supposed to be a place of free inquiry and speech and intellectual dialogue, so to prevent people from peaceably passing out information is terribly wrong," said environmentalist Robert Brister, 43, a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

James Todd, an attorney representing UT, said the university restricts the distribution of leaflets for fear of having such activities interfere with students attempting to get to class.

"University space is not unlimited," he said. "It's still primarily an educational institution, and the first priority is the teaching of students in classes and laboratories."

On Jan. 19, 1996, Brister and three other members of Austin Greens and Austin Earth First — Roger Baker, Eric Samson and William Medaille — attempted to pass out fliers outside the Erwin Center. The fliers documented the toll of pollution and exploding human populations on the environment.

The group targeted the delegates of the National Issues Convention, which brought together representatives from all 50 states to discuss issues ranging from the environment to campaign finance reform.

Hampton coach won't be charged with scam

LUBBOCK (AP) — The Hampton University women's basketball coach and two others accused of trying to run a scam in a Wal-Mart parking lot were mistakenly identified and won't be charged, the police chief said Thursday.

Chief Ken Walker said after studying the store's security tapes, police decided coach Patricia Bibb, her husband, Ezell Bibbs, and assistant coach Vanetta Kelso could not have been involved. The tape seems to show two other people exiting the store after the victim and the coaches entering later, he said.

Walker denied race was a motive in the arrests. The three, who are black, have suggested that might have been the case.

"We responded to a complaint from a citizen, we went forward on an identification made by that citizen and we have handled the case the same way if the suspects had been Hispanic or Anglo or any other ethnic origin," Walker said.

Nonetheless, Lubbock officials including Mayor Windy Sitton, City Manager Bob Cass and City Attorney Anita Burgess were traveling to Hampton to meet with the coaches and other school officials Friday.

"I would describe it as a goodwill visit," city spokesman Tony Privett said. "I did not have a chance to talk to them about what they plan to do."

Hampton officials said they were relieved by the announcement.

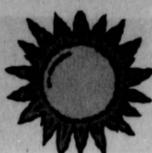
"We knew they were innocent, and now the world knows that they were innocent," said university President William R. Harvey.

Coach Bibbs said no other outcome was possible "because we knew that we had done nothing wrong."

Bibbs also said she still feels a sense of loss after being placed in handcuffs and taken to jail for something she didn't do.

The chief said alleged victim Hester Elenita has since told police that she was no longer sure the Hampton coaches were the ones who tried to con her. Elenita did not return calls Thursday by The Associated Press.

High 58
Low 36
Mostly sunny



FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 20, 1998

Texas Christian University
96th Year • Number 50



Inside
Fearless reporter hits the road in search of escape.
See Weekend insert

Alexander wins presidency

◆ **Burleson, Jenkins also elected to SGA offices in runoff.**

By William Thomas Burdette
STAFF REPORTER

Ben Alexander defeated Willy Pinnell in Thursday's runoff election for Student Government Association president, with Sarah Burleson and Ben Jenkins winning the runoff elections for vice president and treasurer, respectively.

After winning the election, Alexander, a junior advertising/public relations major, said one of his biggest challenges will be getting together with the rest of his Executive Board, which also includes Secretary-elect Heather Windham and Vice President for Programming-elect Adam Ryan, who were selected in Tuesday's general election.

"I think it is going to take a lot of talking to the other people who have been chosen as officers to where we can all get on the same page," he said.

Alexander received 628 votes to Pinnell's 551. John Baird was a distant third with two write-in votes.

Alexander's excitement after the election was evident.

"I am excited and honored to have been chosen by the students, and I'm excited about this next year," he said.

Alexander said he wants to streamline the Student Government Association's goals with those of the students.

"My main goal when running for an office was to make sure that the

goals of a student body are the goal of the student government," he said. Alexander said not being in the House for a while might make the adjustment a little difficult but with the help of the Executive Board, he would get up to speed.

"Because I haven't been in House for a couple of semesters, it is going to be a challenge to get caught up on some of the things that are going on," he said. "But I think with the support of the other officers that won't be too difficult a challenge to overcome, so I really don't see that as a problem."

Pinnell, a senior marketing and management major, said: "I just want to commend Ben Alexander on a good job; it was an incredible race. I think we both fought fair and I think we both did a great job. I think Ben Alexander is going to be an incredible president."

Pinnell said he is going to try to experience life outside of House and see what student government can do for him.

Burleson, a sophomore political science and Spanish major, defeated Alexander's unofficial running mate, Ben Wilkinson, a junior premed and business major, with a total of 686 votes to Wilkinson's 472.

Burleson said she is ready to take office and excited to hear ideas from everyone.

"I can let out a big deep breath now," she said. "I want to be someone the people can come to. I want my office door to be open all the time."

Though Burleson beat Wilkinson,

Please see ELECTION, Page 6



Sarah Burleson
vice president-elect



Ben Jenkins
treasurer-elect



Ben Alexander, president-elect of the Student Government Association, serves breakfast in The Main Thursday morning. Alexander will be inducted as student body president in January.

Trustees, students discuss future

By Brenda Schulte
MANAGING EDITOR

The TCU Board of Trustees Student Relations Committee met Thursday to discuss student concerns to be brought before today's board meeting. Issues covered at the meeting ranged from the need to replace the Student Center to suggestions for improving campus safe-

ty through better lighting.

The Student Relations Committee meets each semester, once before and once after the board itself meets. It is comprised of several trustees and leaders of various student organizations, who discuss before the meeting what issues they want the board to address.

Don Mills, vice chancellor for

student affairs, said the students' input to the board is vital to the governing of the university. He described the board's purpose as an outside group that sets policy and gives direction to the day-to-day decisions that administrators make.

The student relations meeting gives student leaders an opportunity to contribute to the policy-making,

and it gives the trustees a chance to hear what the students see as important priorities, he said.

The board does not make absolute decisions about what will be done, Mills said. Instead, it determines which changes and issues are high priorities, which the administrators then use as a guide in the decisions they make as far as funding and

campus improvements. "Money goes to priorities," Mills said. "As trustees encourage us to move things up on the priority list, money becomes available for those things."

Student Foundation President Ricky Paradise presented the need to

Please see BOARD, Page 4

JFK assassination revisited

Journalists who covered Kennedy's death speak out

By Candi Menville
STAFF REPORTER

Thirty-five years after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in downtown Dallas, the journalists who spread the news to the world reflected on the experience Thursday night.

They shared the stories and situations of that weekend at a program presented by the Fort Worth chapter of Society of Professional Journalists.

Mike Cochran, president of the

Fort Worth SPJ chapter, said it is understandable that people get emotional telling these stories.

Bob Welch, the news photographer for WBAP-TV (Ch. 5), now KXAS-TV, when Kennedy was shot, said everything happened so fast, you had to know what you were doing.

"You either had a handle on it or you didn't," Welch said. "Quite frankly, I almost lost the handle on

Please see JFK, Page 5

TCU library holds extensive collection of Oswald letters

By Sylvia Carrizales
STAFF REPORTER

There are 30 cartons full of documents in the basement of the Mary Couts Burnett Library that aren't talked about often.

The Sixth Floor, the Dallas museum that houses souvenirs from John F. Kennedy's assassination, has been trying to get its hands on the boxes for several years.

What is the reason for all this curiosity? The boxes contain a col-

lection of letters, scrapbooks, magazine articles and sound recordings from Marguerite Oswald, the mother of alleged Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

According to an article published in the *Los Angeles Times* on Nov. 15, 1981, Marguerite Oswald, who died of cancer in July of the same year, asked staff members of Harris Methodist Fort Worth, where she

Please see OSWALD, Page 5



Jim Turner holds original newspapers about the Kennedy assassination. Turner attended a program held by the Fort Worth Chapter of Society of Professional Journalists. Turner, who was working for Channel 5 as a floor director, witnessed Jack Ruby shoot Lee Harvey Oswald on Sunday, Nov. 24, 1963.

Vocal talent to be heard in concert

By Maggie Young
SKIFF STAFF

Each fall a select ensemble of student singers known as the TCU Concert Chorale fill St. Stephen Presbyterian Church with joyful noise. This year's concert on Nov. 22 promises a continuation of the melodious tradition.

Known for its skill and challenging material, the chorale is composed of about 45 accomplished singers. Auditions are held at the beginning of the semester, before director Ronald Shirey weeds the group down to its relatively small size.

"Chorale tackles some pretty difficult musical literature," said Lori Cook, a junior music and speech pathology major and chorale member. "We're able to sing more challenging material due to the nature of our group. We are a small group of experienced singers."

Those who participate in this musical group must register for it as they would for a class. The chorale rehearses three times a week for 90 minutes each session.

Performances this year have included Fall Convocation and several conferences around the area. One half hour's worth of credit is awarded for the time spent in practice and performance. However, the real reward for this effort is the chance to showcase talent in the Chorale Concert.

"This is the only concert on campus where chorale gets to perform alone," Cook said. "It's our opportunity to demonstrate what we've worked on this

Please see CONCERT, Page 6

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 run. The Skiff reserves the right to edit submissions for style, taste and space available.

DRIVE TO HELP CENTRAL AMERICA is being sponsored by the International Student Association from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today. Students can bring canned foods, toiletries and clothing to the Student Center.

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

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY Mass at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 22 in the Student Center Ballroom.

CHI DELTA MU luncheon for faculty and students at noon Nov. 23 in Student Center Rooms 205 and 206. The \$5 cost can be put on a meal card.

GOLDEN KEY NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY officer elections at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 23 in Student Center Room 207. All current and newly inducted members are invited.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 3-4 in the Student Center Lounge and Reading Room. The event is sponsored by the Special Events Committee of Programming Council. Call 257-5233 or 257-2014.

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.

MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 1999 can now purchase a brick and become part of the Senior Appreciation Program. Call 257-5423.

In The News . . .

World

Russia set to launch first segment of International Space Station

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan — A year late, Russian space officials Thursday were readying the launch of the first component of the International Space Station, the U.S.-led successor to Russia's much-maligned Mir.

The 24-ton Zarya (Sunrise) control and cargo module was scheduled to lift off from the Baikonur rocket base in Kazakhstan at 9:40 a.m. Moscow time (12:40 a.m. CST) today, ushering in a new era in international space cooperation.

The International Space Station, involving 16 nations, will consist of more than 100 components that will take 45 flights to assemble. It is due to be completed by 2004.

The United States and Russia are playing the biggest roles, but Russian participation has been hampered by the country's financial problems. The launch of the Zarya module has been delayed for one year, mainly because of the cash-strapped Russian space agency's failure to complete another part of the station.

Zarya, to be launched atop a Russian booster rocket, is designed to serve as a space tugboat in the early stages of the project, providing propulsion, power and communications.

The space station will not be inhabitable until early 2000, following the launch of a Russian crew module, which is set to blast off next July or August.

Russia has repeatedly failed to meet deadlines for constructing the crew module, putting the whole project behind schedule. Having lost hope of getting promised government funds, the Russian space agency has sold its early research time on the station to NASA for \$60 million to complete the segment.

Agency chief Yuri Koptev said that taking part in the new station is the only hope for the beleaguered Russian space industry, the funding for which has disintegrated since the Soviet collapse. The project would allow Russia to keep up to 80,000 jobs over the next 15 years.

Hillary Clinton promises to deliver word of hurricane's destruction

GUATEMALA CITY — Winding down a visit to Central America, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton promised Thursday to tell Americans back home about the devastation Hurricane Mitch has inflicted.

"All Americans have been inspired by how you have come together to repair and rebuild your nation," the first lady said in a speech to the Guatemalan Congress.

She said President Clinton has increased U.S. hurricane aid to Central America to more than \$300 million. On Monday, she had put the figure at \$250 million.

The United States will also donate another 60 million pounds of wheat to Guatemala and increase

to \$10 million the amount of low-interest loans for food, Clinton said.

She also said the U.S. Agency for International Development and Inter-American Development Bank would provide \$17 million to finance small businesses in the region.

Hillary Clinton had planned a trip to El Salvador and Guatemala before Hurricane Mitch struck in late October, killing an estimated 10,000 people. She added visits to Honduras and Nicaragua to review damage in the two worst-hit countries.

She was to travel late Thursday to the Dominican Republic.

Nation

Gulf War illness still a debate between veterans, government

WASHINGTON — Ailing Gulf War veterans told a presidential panel Thursday they still can't get the government to take them seriously. "For us, the Gulf War continues," said one former Air Force sergeant with \$32,000 in medical bills.

Describing himself as "constantly sick, some days unable to get out of bed," former Sgt. Robert Bergen of Altus, Okla., said one medical claim after another has been rejected. He is unable to get a job, and now his wife and daughter are also sick, he said. "We not only lost our health in the Gulf War, but we lost our future."

U.S. officials acknowledged the illnesses are real, but said they still lacked good diagnoses — or evidence of clear causes — despite years of extensive study. But the Defense Department is not ready to make "the final decision that the stones are too small to turn over," said Bernard Rostker, the Pentagon's adviser on Gulf War illness questions.

Clinton created the seven-member Special Oversight Board for Department of Defense Investigations of Gulf War Chemical and Biological Incidents last February to review Defense Department investigations into factors that may have contributed to Gulf War illnesses, including exposure to chemical or biological weapons.

A parade of Gulf War veterans blaming their illnesses on their combat service expressed bitterness and anger with the system and with the Defense Department and Veterans Affairs bureaucracies.

"It took us only 45 days to win the war, but I've been going through living hell for eight years," said retired Chief Petty Officer Larry Perry of Richfield, N.C. He said he had "over 30 diagnosed illnesses," including brain and nerve damage.

Despite the attention to chemical and biological agents, depleted uranium used as shell casings and other late 20th century technology, many of the reported symptoms — blurred vision, aches in joints, disorientation, constant fatigue — bear "striking similarities" to those suffered by returning U.S. veterans dating to the Civil War, said Dr. Robert H. Roswell of the Veterans Health Administration.

State

Review ordered of Darlie Routier murder trial transcript from 1997

DALLAS — A complete review of the transcript from convicted child killer Darlie Routier's 1997 trial was ordered Thursday.

State District Judge Robert Francis asked Susan Simmons, a federal court reporter from Tyler to review the 53 volumes of transcripts from the Rowlett woman's capital murder trial.

Routier, 28, was sentenced to death last year for the 1996 fatal stabbing of her 5-year-old son, Damon. Her 6-year-old son, Devon, was also killed in the attack.

The original court reporter, Sandra Halsey, took the Fifth Amendment on Thursday. Her attorney said he and Halsey need more time to review her case before she testifies as to the validity of the transcripts.

Prosecutors said Thursday a perjury charge could be filed against Halsey, alleging that she lied about the existence of audio recordings from the trial.

During a hearing last month, she testified no recordings existed. Last week, the court uncovered what are believed to be the recordings at a storage facility.

Three other court reporters earlier questioned the accuracy of Halsey's original transcript.

Routier, who claimed an intruder killed her two boys, sought the review for her appeal.

New warning signs authorized against guns in Mexico

AUSTIN — When you go to Mexico, leave your gun in the United States.

To help travelers remember that tip for avoiding Mexican jails, the Texas Department of Transportation will spend about \$600,000 to install more than 50 new warning signs at border crossings from El Paso to Brownsville.

The signs, which will remind Americans it's illegal to carry firearms or ammunition into Mexico, were authorized Thursday by the state Transportation Commission.

Transportation Department officials said the signs will be placed so motorists will have an opportunity to turn around before entering Mexico.

No date has been set for putting up the signs, but a contractor will be hired to construct them as soon as possible, according to the agency.

There currently are about 30 warning signs, said agency spokeswoman Phyllis Chandler. Old signs will be replaced in order to make them uniform and new ones added for a total of 54.

"If Texans choose to travel in Mexico, they must comply with Mexican laws pertaining to firearms and ammunition, including any that may be used for hunting. . . These signs should greatly aid our effort to educate Texans about Mexican firearm laws," said Secretary of State Alberto R. Gonzales.

These stories are from The Associated Press.

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Since 1902

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editorial

ACROSS THE BOARD

Open meetings would benefit campus

Ever wonder why your tuition increases at twice the rate of inflation? Or what kind of debate goes into permanent improvements for the campus?

You're not alone.

Semester after semester, decisions such as these are made behind closed doors by TCU's Board of Trustees.

While the board does take adequate time to meet with student leaders and discuss student concerns, the actual results of the semesterly board meeting are given out only through a carefully constructed and prepared press release. No talk of points of contention. No talk of reasons behind tuition increases.

Students' stake in TCU is much like that of shareholders of a company. We pay a considerable amount of money to the university and expect to receive dividends back in the form of an education. Thus, each student has a concern for the future of this institution, to ensure that the value of a TCU degree remains constant or even rises.

Students need to know what goes on behind these closed doors. We'd propose having a student member on the board but as great as that may sound, it's not the answer. Trustees are well-educated people who have had the chance to experience life in the real world and monitor TCU's growth over a long period of time. A student member would bring fresh ideas to the board but would lack the long-term association with TCU to make fully educated decisions.

So how is the problem solved? Simple. TCU should be a trend-setter and allow the press into board meetings. This would help bridge the gap between administrative decisions and student and faculty understanding.

Public universities have had open meetings for a while, and the world seems to still be running OK. TCU should embrace accessibility and accountability and open up its board meetings for the benefit of the university's future.

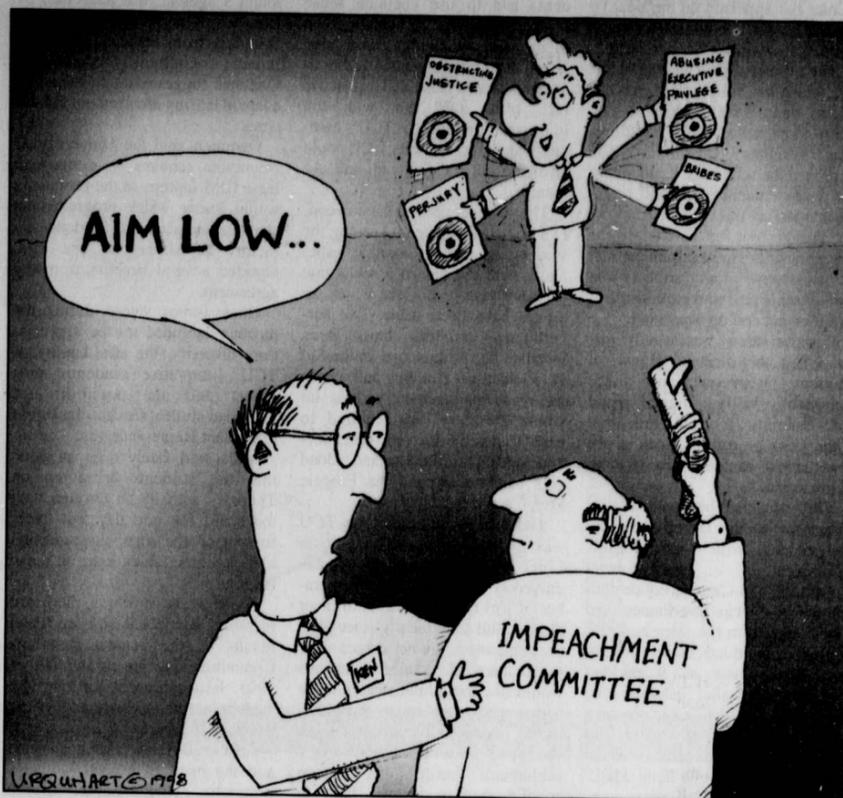
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Skiff retains integrity

I cringe every time I open this paper and notice a misspelled word, a jumbled sentence construction or a garbled headline. I seriously get depressed when people call to complain that their name was spelled incorrectly, that we got their title wrong or that we gave them only one major when, in fact, they have two.

But these errors of fact are at least easily correctable and can be avoided by insistence upon accuracy and double- and triple-checking of information. These are the errors that most commonly reach the pages of the Skiff, and despite their problems, the quality and integrity of this newspaper remains largely intact.

And then came last week.

When I first saw the issue that morning, it impressed me as one of our best of the semester — thorough, informational news coverage; a good news-to-ad ratio; copy relatively clean of grammatical errors.

And then the complaints started coming. Some people told us they had seen one of the opinion page commentaries somewhere else before. And sure enough, after a couple days of searching, we found the same material, nearly verbatim, other places.

Students initially called our attention to the error, and then Skiff alumni who had seen the day's paper sent e-mail. We started looking and found the source of the material, and unfortunately the source wasn't our columnist. We then sought the columnist out and talked about the source of the problem and what needed to be done to correct it.

Needless to say, the incident is an egregious and unforgivable mistake, and nothing can be done to erase the errors of the oversight. However, the fact that it was published cannot be ignored, and there are several things we have to do in order to put this behind us and move on.

First, we apologize. Readers should expect that everything they read in the Skiff is original material unless otherwise attributed. Anything else is dishonest and, well, unethical. Publishing the column is a black mark on this paper, and we must try our hardest to recover our image.

Therefore, let me explain the procedure that a commentary goes through so that we normally catch errors. Each column is initially read by the opinion editor and then sent to a rim editor, who reads and headlines the file. Then, it is read by two of the following: copy desk chief, managing editor and editor in chief.

Usually, these four reads ensure that most errors are caught and stories are clear and organized. In the case of the commentary last week, none of the four readers was aware of the original file and thus, plagiarism did not even cross their minds. We extend a great deal of trust to our staff members and do not expect to have to worry about situations such as the one that occurred last week.

With this trust violated, we decided the columnist should never work at the Skiff again.

The Skiff has a lengthy code of ethics and opinion page guidelines, both of which are available to all staff members, and they are reminded often to read, understand and follow the edicts therein. There are several mentions of honesty and plagiarism, all of which will be reinforced to all staff members in the upcoming days.

There are only six Skiff issues left this semester, so you may ask why we bother with all this. The answer is simple: The ideals behind this newspaper are greater than a single semester, and the last thing we want or can tolerate is a threat to the ethical standards we strive to uphold.

Once again, I hope your image of this paper is not tarnished by the events of last week. Continue reading the paper and expecting the best from it.

Skiff Editor in Chief Michael Bryant is a senior news-editorial journalism and English major from Las Animas, Colo.

School should be fun

At the beginning of the semester, I did something wild and crazy. I'd like to try to convince you that what I did involved things that I'll never tell my mother and actions that my children will come to TCU and hear legends about.

I'd like to have a giant, prominent tattoo to show you just how crazy and irrational I can be. But, unfortunately that's just not the case.

What I did involves something far greater and more important than socially risqué behavior. It involves my future and that oh-so-distant graduation date.

In August, I changed my major. Shocking, ain't it? Well, let me finish.

You see, I'm a junior. I've been at TCU now for 2 1/2 years, and now (just like that) I changed my major. At a time when most of my friends are taking 4000-level courses, planning the decorations for their class rings, filling out applications for internships and already contemplating who they're going to invite to their graduation, I'm sitting through core classes with freshman and hoping I've made the right decision.

I was an English major. Let me correct that ... I was suffering as an English major.

Since the fifth grade when I realized I loved to write and that I was actually halfway good at it, I've said that when I got to college, I would

become an English major because that's just what you did if you wanted to become a novelist.

Then I got here. I went to my classes where I read about dead white men who supposedly made the writing world the great place it is today. And I turned in essays (damn good essays, mind you) to professors who didn't like my candor and hated my use of fragments to emphasize points. And still I stuck with it.

I sat through argument after argument about the way I wrote, and I listened as old professors tried to change the way my words came out and even the time of day that I wrote them. And still I stuck with it.

Until August. I'm not trying to say anything bad about the English department or anything. If you got anything out of that long soliloquy, it should be that English wasn't the right major for a stubborn writer like me. Or maybe that I wasn't for English. (However you want to say it.)

So at the beginning of this semester, I walked into the registrar's office and I changed my major. I changed a decade of planning by marching over to the Moudy Building and just changing it to radio-TV-film.

At the beginning of my junior year — the year when college is supposed to get easier and all of your classes are supposed to be blow-off courses — I decided to become a freshman in a new department.

So why I am I telling you this long, boring, personal tale of a rather questionable decision?

I'm telling you because so often in college we get sidetracked by what we're supposed to do, rather than what we want to do. We get so into plans and UCRs that we forget that

college is supposed to be fun.

I don't believe the whole point of college is to learn abstract facts and decipher old literature that was written centuries ago. The point is to have fun. To find something you're good at. Stick to it.

Learn everything you can about it and spend the rest of your life having a great time using everything you learned while you were here. We're supposed to take classes that we're interested in and do things that are genuinely captivating.

I felt like an idiot as I walked into the registrar's office that day because I hadn't realized sooner that I loved the whole process that goes into creating something that the entire world gets to ogle and criticize and possibly find some entertainment in (similar, I suppose, to writing).

But regardless of how idiotic I felt, I was glad because even though I just tacked on possibly two years to my tenure here at TCU, I was making a decision to have fun, to get the most out of this thing called a university experience.

I'm not really sure if I've made the right decision. I'm not really sure there is a right decision. All I do know is that while I'm here, paying an arm and a leg for classes, I'm going to have fun and maybe learn a thing or two.

What will I do with my degree? Heck, who knows? With any luck, I'll publish my novel, become a big, huge, overnight success, abandon college and live happily ever after. In the meantime, I'm just trying to have a good time.

Skiff Opinion Editor SheriAnn R. Spicer is a junior radio-TV-film major from Fort Worth.

Commentary



SHERIANN R. SPICER

Students searching for delicate balance

A plea to teachers from students who are juggling numerous college tasks at once

A letter to all university professors, good and evil: I would like to briefly remind you what it's like to be a student, not so that you may alter the inevitable (because your schedules are determined by a mathematical law greater than you, apparently), but to force into your minds a reminder of the hectic days of the less fortunate students, to perhaps instill some empathy and maybe a mite of compassion. I know, this is Texas, but I might as well give it a try.

While it may be the trend that university professors like you seem to be hired on their psychic ability to make everything due at once throughout the semester, if you only have four months to teach a course and you divide them up into equal partitions, some things are going to collide.

First, I would like to remind you that this is an expensive university by anyone's standards. I'm not saying anything about the proportional quality to its price, but on secular terms it's like coughing up a new Mustang every year (or two Kias). Unfortunately, few of us were born as a member of septuplets and given full schol-

arships, so we have to work on occasion. Between work and school, there is little time to be a college student, I fear.

Another factor comes into play when discussing social lives: Should we be a student or a college attendee? If we choose to be a student, we might as well sign a written form to give up all rights to a social life, television, parties or any kind of entertainment activity whatsoever.

If we choose to be a college attendee, then the aforementioned activities become secondary to living, and we get to enjoy the flexibility of youth while it still exists. In that case, though, our grades suffer.

For many, the balance between these two extremes is the exclusion of another necessary factor in life: sleep.

We can sometimes get around this by tricking ourselves into believing we can go to sleep at night *only* if we wake up extra early in order to get the work done before it's due in class the next morning. Or we try to convince ourselves that 30 seconds of cramming will make up for the 30 minutes of long study that were replaced by sleep the night before.

As you biology professors well know, there is a chemical that gets broken down while we sleep that, if not taken care of, can lead to psychosis and mild delusion. Please take this into account the next time a student of yours suddenly shouts "NO!" and looks lost in the middle of class. (Unless

the class involves integrals, in which case this behavior is normal.)

Another course of action would be to quit working. While this is the norm for a lot of students who save up for the semesters ahead, a lot of students don't have that luxury.

It would certainly be an improvement to our social life if suddenly we had no work to commit to, but without work there is no money for school. And eventually school disappears, too, when they won't let you register because of an overextended account balance.

My solution: Drop a major or two. Yes, this is the last time you shall see my name below this article with two simultaneous majors.

Sorry to disappoint you, guys — as much fun as abstract algebra and real analysis sound, I'm gonna have to go a different route and focus on those darn computer thingies.

It's not that I don't have the ability to delve deeper into the mysteries of the mathematical world, but I just don't have the time to fully concentrate on both — therefore, both are suffering.

This parallels the decision made by students every day — which is more important, writing a paper for English or writing a paper for polisci?

Just because they are doing poorly in your class doesn't mean it isn't worth their

Commentary



JEREMY HOEKSTRA

Jeremy Hoekstra is a sophomore computer science and math major from Burleson.

BOARD

From Page 1

bring more high-profile speakers to campus, saying a speaker series would serve as a "national grab" to bring more recognition to the TCU campus.

Paradise cited the high attendance at the Lamar Alexander speech earlier this semester and said the new Fogelson Honors Forum, which brought Alexander to campus, would be a good model for a university program. Chancellor Michael Ferrari also mentioned the need for more speakers in his speech at Fall Convocation.

"There is definitely a void there that would be somewhat easy to fill," Paradise said. "And it would be a heck of a way to start a tradition at TCU."

William Adams, chairman of the Student Relations Committee, said that while big-name speakers would definitely make TCU more visible, those speakers are extremely expensive and the money to bring them to campus is not readily available.

"There are two ways to get that money," Adams said. "One is to get endowed; the other is to get a corporate sponsor."

Mills said another possibility would be to transfer some of the funding that brings department-specific speakers to allow more presentations from speakers with widespread appeal.

Megan Masoner, president of Panhellenic, presented the need to replace the current Student Center with a newer facility that would more adequately accommodate the

student body's needs. The Student Center has appeared on the board's agenda almost every semester since 1995.

The trustees agreed that the building, which was built in the 1950s and serves about 8,000 students a day, needs to be replaced. The Buildings and Grounds Committee has approved the search for a consultant for a new student center and recreational facility this fall.

"This has put the thing up on the ledger now," Adams said, adding that he isn't aware of any projects that have been approved for a consultant and then not end up happening.

Campus safety was heavily discussed at the meeting. House of Student Representatives Vice President Willy Pinnell and Interfraternity Council President Chad Cook prepared a video of the areas around campus where lighting is inadequate.

The board members seemed very responsive to the list of areas and suggestions, which the House's Permanent Improvements Committee and Campus Police contributed to. Areas that Pinnell and Cook targeted in the video and presentation included those directly north of the library and its parking lot; the sidewalks between the library and Student Center; the area between the Student Center and Foster Hall; and the areas between the Student Center and Colby Hall.

The trustees voiced some concerns that too much lighting would cause problems with TCU's neigh-

bors and said that at some point, students had to use common sense instead of relying on lights to keep them safe. Questions were also raised as to how much the additional lights would raise TCU's electric bill. Mills said that with the improved efficiency of TCU's campus-wide improvements, TCU could afford to put the lights up and use them.

The students praised the university's proactive stance on keeping the students as safe as possible, especially with the sexual assaults that occurred last spring, for which no arrests have been made. Two surveillance cameras have been installed on campus, one on the Sid W. Richardson Building and one in the ranch management parking lot where freshmen are required to park. Campus Police has hired several student employees and added golf carts to expand the Froggie Five-0 service.

The quality of teaching at TCU was addressed by Skiff Editor in Chief Michael Bryant. He said the university should decrease the number of part-time instructors in favor of more full-time faculty, since part-time employees are not as accessible to students. He said the students would like the administrators to be encouraged to return to the classrooms occasionally, and professors should be more encouraged to take sabbaticals more often, thus enabling them to stay more in touch with their fields.

Technology, another issue that

has appeared frequently on the committee's agenda, was addressed by Legacy's Kristen Bell and Sherry Oommen from Students For Asian Indian Cultural Awareness. Oommen suggested the formation of a laptop leasing arrangement for students.

Oommen said the University of Minnesota requires its students to lease IBM laptops so the professors would know which programs the students had access to. Students and faculty at Minnesota, she said, reported several benefits from the agreement.

Other issues voiced during the meeting included trustee appreciation, diversity, the affordability of TCU, innovative academic programs and the possibility of increased student fees for the House of Student Representatives.

Mills said rarely does an issue that the students bring up on Thursday actually go through with the board the next day, but three-fourths of the time, the students' ideas become reality later on down the road.

As an example of this, the board members distributed the agenda and results of the Student Relations Committee meeting in the fall of 1993. Issues brought forth by the students at that meeting included the need for the institution of a shuttle system to alleviate parking problems and the need to expand women's programs, which resulted in the development of the Women's Resource Center.

Microsoft challenged in courtroom

◆ Numerous experts take the stand against software giant.

By Eun-Kyung Kim
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The courtroom at the Microsoft trial turned into an economics class Thursday as a government witness and an attorney for the software giant squabbled over what is monopoly power.

Economist Frederick Warren-Boulton testified under cross-examination that Microsoft has significantly "raised prices above competitive levels."

The company holds monopoly power, Warren-Boulton said, because it has the ability to set prices for its products in a way that excludes competitors.

The government is hoping the testimony of Warren-Boulton, the chief economist for the Justice Department's antitrust division during the Reagan administration, will bolster its case. Microsoft is accused of using its influence to wipe out its competition; its actions will be considered illegal only if it is found to have monopoly power.

Microsoft attorney Michael Lacovara, in contrast, tried to paint a picture of the company as an aggressive but legal player in a fiercely competitive industry. He detailed Microsoft's frequent attempts to improve its operating systems software, from MS-DOS to this year's Windows 98.

The products wouldn't be so popular if they failed to deliver improved quality and value with each new version, he argued. "There's little time to rest on one's laurels" in the software industry, Lacovara said.

Nothing in economic theory says a monopolist can't innovate, responded Warren-Boulton.

"If Microsoft were to simply rest on its laurels and not innovate and shut down its R&D (research and development) department ... it would lose its monopoly power within a short amount of time," Warren-Boulton said. "Why would it do that?"

Warren-Boulton also testified about an internal Microsoft document listing the greatest threats to the company's Windows operating system. The most significant was any Internet browser that used Java technology.

Browsers allow people to view the Internet, and Java is a computer language that allows programmers to write software that can run on various types of operating systems. Microsoft feared Java would eventually make Windows obsolete.

Justice Department attorney David Boies said Warren-Boulton's testimony is intended to put government claims about Microsoft's practices in context. However, he said the testimony will have less of an impact than all the "direct information from Microsoft files."

At a news conference outside court, Boies said the timing of an interview that Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates gave Wednesday may suggest Gates is rethinking his company's courtroom strategy.

"Microsoft always has the opportunity to call him as a witness, and he seems to indicate more and more that he wants to come," Boies said. Neither the government nor Microsoft chose to call Gates among the 12 witnesses each side was allowed.

In the interview with The Associated Press, Gates accused Boies of "doing his best over many, many long days to put words in my mouth" by playing in court some excerpts from a videotaped deposition that Gates gave last summer.

Film producer killed in car accident

By Chelsea J. Carter
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Alan Pakula, who directed the films "Klute" and "All The President's Men," died Thursday in a car accident. He was 70.

Pakula was driving on the Long Island Expressway when a metal pipe lying on the road was kicked up by another car and crashed through his windshield, striking him in the head, said Officer Santo DiStefano, a Suffolk County Police spokesman.

Pakula lost control of his 1995 Volvo, veered off the road about 35 miles east of New York City, and crashed into a fence at 11:15 a.m., the officer said. He was taken to North Shore Hospital in

Plainview, where he was pronounced dead, DiStefano said.

Pakula was born April 7, 1928 in New York. In 1948, after graduating from Yale University, he moved to Hollywood. He began as a production assistant at Paramount at the age of 22.

He wanted to be a director but got his first chance at movie making by working as a producer for the 1957 film "Fear Strikes Out."

Pakula then went on to produce Harper Lee's "To Kill A Mockingbird" in 1962. He got his first chance as a director with "The Sterile Cuckoo," starring Liza Minelli, which came out in 1969.

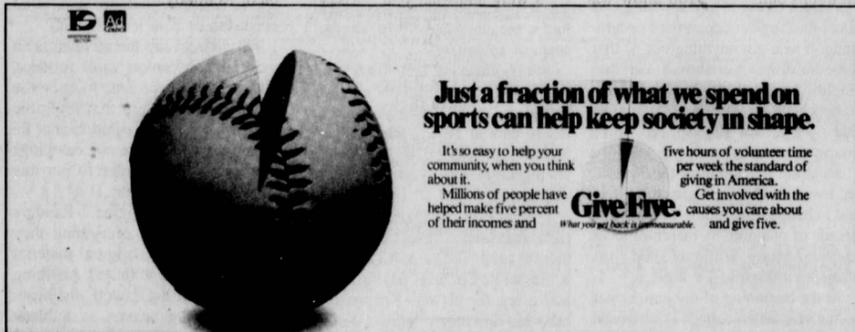
He followed that up with "Klute," "The Parallax View" and "All The President's Men." The 1976

movie, which won four Oscars, was an account of Watergate and the reporting of Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. Pakula was nominated for Best Director for "All The President's Men."

Because many of his movies dealt with a loss of trust in government, he once said, "I was called the paranoid director."

"Funnily enough, I never expected to direct those kinds of films, although I was always interested in the body politic," he said.

Some of Pakula's later films include: "Sophie's Choice," starring Meryl Streep; "See You In the Morning"; "Presumed Innocent"; "The Pelican Brief"; and "The Devil's Own" starring Brad Pitt and Harrison Ford.



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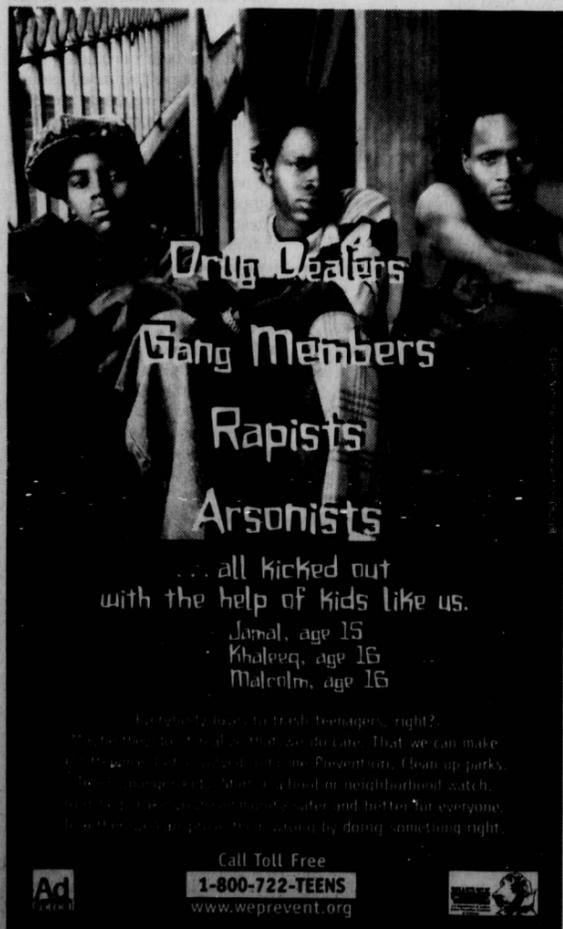
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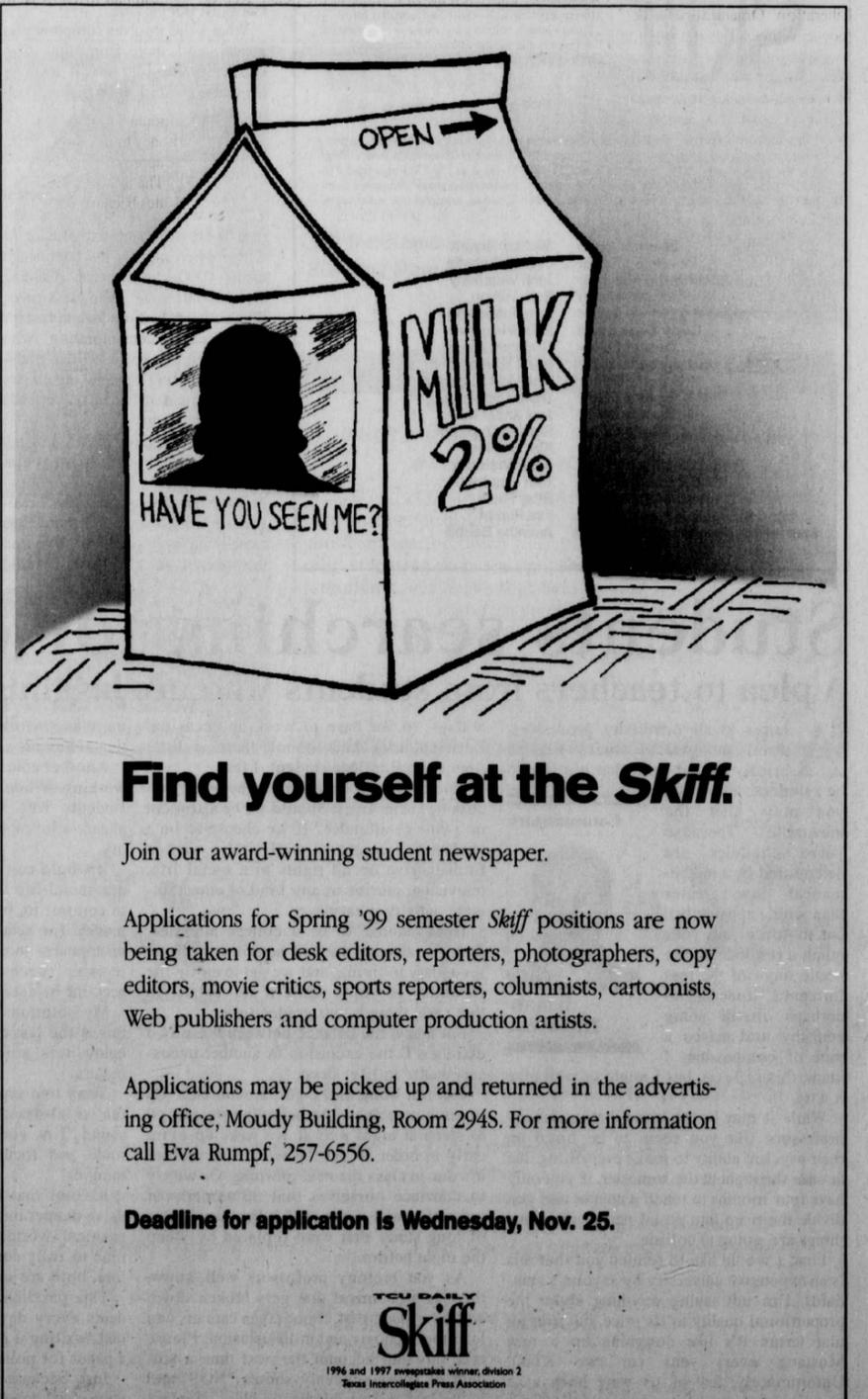
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Applications may be picked up and returned in the advertising office, Moudy Building, Room 294S. For more information call Eva Rumpf, 257-6556.

Deadline for application is Wednesday, Nov. 25.

YOU DAILY
Skiff
1996 and 1997 newspaper winner, division 2
Texas Intercollegiate Press Association

Police Blotter

Campus Police reported the following offenses between Nov. 13 and Nov. 19.

Theft

Nov. 13, noon — A student went to the Campus Police station and reported her TCU parking permit stolen. She had parked her car at 8 a.m. and when she came back at 11:50 a.m. she noticed her permit missing.

Nov. 15, 10:47 a.m. — The Frog Shuttle sign at the Worth Hills cafeteria was reported stolen. The pole and sign are both gone. There are no known suspects or witnesses.

Nov. 15, 7:39 p.m. — A microwave was stolen from Moudy Building North. There was no forced entry visible.

Nov. 16, 6:45 p.m. — A student reported his bicycle missing. He told police that the bicycle was taken from the Lambda Chi Alpha kitchen between Nov. 13 and Nov. 16.

Nov. 18, 8:40 p.m. — A student told Campus Police that he placed his bag behind his truck in a parking lot. He drove to Dallas with a friend, and when he came he noticed his bag gone.

Criminal Mischief

Nov. 14, 11:52 p.m. — An officer noticed a vehicle stopped in Frog Alley with its hazard lights on. When the officer approached the vehicle, he noticed two people, one sitting on top of the other. The female quickly jumped off the male. The female is 15 years old. The Fort Worth Police Department was called out to transport the female.

Nov. 14, 2:57 p.m. — Two officers were dispatched to Tom Brown Hall in regard to a fight in the laundry room. Two students got into a fight when one student took the other student's clothes out of the dryer. Words were exchanged, and then they started punching and kicking. They both refused medical attention. They wrote out statements and said

they did not want to file charges.

Nov. 17, 12:48 a.m. — Officers were dispatched to the Leo Potishman Tennis Center because of two males breaking lights with a 2x4 piece of wood. The men were last seen running into Bellaire Condominiums.

Harassment

Nov. 13, 9:37 p.m. — A resident of Colby Hall said that for the last month she has been getting calls in which the caller just stays on the line and says nothing. She told the caller that she was calling the police.

Nov. 16, 2:48 p.m. — A student came to Campus Police and gave a report that a student has been continually confronting her in a manner which harasses, alarms, annoys and torments her and is abusive. She said they had dated for about seven to eight months and that the harassment began shortly after the relationship ended.

False Alarm

Nov. 15, 11:40 p.m. — An officer was dispatched to Wiggins Hall in regard to a fire alarm coming from the second-floor stairwell.

Nov. 16, 10:45 p.m. — An officer was dispatched to Winton-Scott Hall in regard to a 911 call. The officer spoke with the caller and he said that he thought he dialed 411. He apologized for any problem he might have caused.

Nov. 16, 11:15 p.m. — The second-floor alarm in Milton Daniel Hall was not working. The alarms not working may have been caused by students playing with a ball in the hallway. The panel on the alarm was reset.

Nov. 17, 1:48 a.m. — Officers were dispatched to the Physical Plant in reference to an alarm. The maintenance door was unsecured. Officers checked the building and found everything fine.

Nov. 19, 2:51 a.m. — An officer was dispatched on a 911 call in Sid Richardson Hall. He checked the building and everything appeared fine.

OSWALD

From Page 1

lay dying, to give her collection to TCU.

Laura Ruede, Van Cliburn archivist and organizer of the collection, said Oswald, who lived on the 4000 block of Byers Street in Fort Worth, had befriended Paul Parham, TCU's librarian at the time, when she was attempting to sell letters her son had sent when he was in Russia.

Oswald, a nurse, could not find work after the assassination and said she relied on the sale of her son's letters to make a living, Ruede said.

Parham tried to assist Oswald and even tried to promote her as a speaker in a lecture series on the Kennedy assassination, according to a letter from Parham addressed to various lecture bureaus.

"There were surprisingly few people who wanted to talk to her," Ruede said. "She didn't succeed in getting anyone interested in this from a publication standpoint."

While none of the documents are originals, even the photocopies of the notes scribbled by Oswald give an eerie glimpse into the mind of a mother trying to

proclaim her son's innocence.

"She writes a lot of annotations in the books and margins to let you know what she was thinking about the particular article," Ruede said.

According to a 1983 TCU press release, several notes accompany FBI reports, police reports and testimony of a *Washington Star* reporter.

The comment, "You are involved and lying," is written beneath the testimony of Ruth Paine, the woman with whom Oswald's daughter-in-law, Marina, was living at the time.

The collection is not open to "curiosity-seekers" or conspiracy theorists, but if a student were writing a paper on Oswald, the staff would bring the documents up from the basement, she said.

"There really wouldn't be time to deal with the types of crowds that would come in," Ruede said. "Inevitably, they would be disappointed."

The collection is not kept upstairs in the library's climate-controlled room; instead it is locked in the basement with a key that has restricted access.

Troops begin leaving West Bank

◆ Israeli government approves first stage of peace accord.

By Laurie Copans
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JENIN, West Bank — After nearly two years of U.S. prodding and bitter disputes with the Palestinians, the Israeli government gave the final go-ahead Thursday to withdrawing troops from a chunk of the West Bank the size of Chicago.

The Cabinet narrowly approved the decision, 7-5, with three abstentions, after acrimonious debate. It marked a point of no return for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who had zigzagged on the peace process since taking office in May 1996 and now faces the loss of support of key allies.

In anticipation of winning full or partial control of an additional 9.1 percent of the West Bank, the Palestinian Authority staged a jubilant parade Thursday to mark the 10th anniversary of the Palestine Liberation Organization's declaration of independence. The parade took place in the farming town of Jenin in the northern West Bank, near most of the land that is to be handed over.

Hundreds of Palestinian police officers in camouflage uniforms, their AK-47 assault rifles hoisted, marched in formation through the town's soccer stadium to the cheers of the crowd. Tractors draped with Palestinian flags circled the arena.

Two percent, or 44 square miles, of the West Bank land in the agreement approved Thursday is being transferred

from sole Israeli control to joint jurisdiction. In addition, 7.1 percent, or 160 square miles, of the land in the deal moves from joint jurisdiction to sole Palestinian control.

The Palestinians already have full control of 3 percent of the West Bank and joint jurisdiction over another 24 percent. Unlike earlier pullbacks, this one held little promise of drama.

No army bases are being dismantled and all Israeli and Palestinian security forces have to do is move yellow-and-black road markers the size of washing machines to road junctions to demarcate the new dividing lines.

On Thursday night, the cement blocks were still lined up at the Israeli army base of Dotan, south of Jenin. On Friday morning, Israeli and Palestinian officers were to meet to finalize the transfer with a handshake, followed by an evacuation of Israeli troops expected to be completed in a few hours.

Israel's 17-member Cabinet just barely approved the first stage of the peace accord under which Israel is to hand over 13 percent of the West Bank in three stages by the end of January, in exchange for a Palestinian crackdown on Islamic militants.

Only Netanyahu and six of his ministers backed stage one, with five voting against, three abstaining and two abroad. Surprisingly, Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who helped negotiate the accord at Wye Plantation in Maryland last month, abstained Thursday, saying he felt the Palestinians had not lived up to all their commitments.

The beginning of the withdrawal was expected to give new impetus to government hard-liners to try to topple Netanyahu. "Early elections are in the air," said Emanuel Rosen, a political commentator on Israel TV's Channel Two.

With a one-vote majority in parliament and hard-liners moving against him, Netanyahu could lose a no-confidence motion in Israel's parliament when he submits his budget in December.

In an effort to reassure Jewish settlers, Netanyahu visited the Yafit settlement in the West Bank's Jodran on Thursday and declared Israel would never relinquish the valley. "It will always be part of the state of Israel," he said. "There is no uncertainty."

However, according to Israeli media reports, parts of the Jordan Valley will be handed to partial Palestinian control in one of the next pullbacks.

Israeli troops began fortifying 18 settlements that will become increasingly isolated. At the Psagot settlement near the Palestinian town of Ramallah, troops built cement trenches, to be used as shooting positions.

The United States has agreed to help Israel and the Palestinians pay for the cost of redeployment, but is still negotiating the amount. Israel seeks \$1.2 billion, but any money transfer would require congressional approval.

The aid poses a dilemma for the United States because some of it might be used for settler bypass roads and reinforcement of Jewish settlements - in violation of the U.S. position that settlements harm peace prospects.

JFK

From Page 1

mine because I was so close to it.

"I was an admirer of John F. Kennedy, so it bothered me what happened. I had to separate myself from the emotional side."

Welch said he did the live radio broadcast stating there had been a shot fired at the motorcade. The irony of his famous story is that the second take of the announcement was what the world heard, not the first, he said.

Charles Murphy was the anchorman for WBAP-TV the day Kennedy was killed.

"JFK was the biggest story I have ever covered, and it is still a giant story 35 years later," Murphy said.

Carl King, who was working for WBAP-AM, said he was the first person to announce that "Camelot was about to die."

King said his voice on the radio was how his mother learned of Kennedy's assassination.

Jack Tinsley, who was on assignment for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, said there are certain things you can never forget.

"You know where you were and what you were doing when JFK got shot," Tinsley said. When Jack Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald that Sunday, WBAP-TV was the only camera crew that got it on video. But right as Ruby pulled the gun on Oswald, the camera flickered.

Lee Eleser, WBAP-TV's film man, said it is probably the most famous glitch in history. As it turns out, Homer Vinso, the cameraman in the basement, was not to blame. As everything was about to take place, an NBC executive told Vinso to switch lenses. The famous glitch is Vinso following that man's advice.

Hugh Aynesworth, the aviation science editor for *The Dallas Morning News*, spoke on the panel that discussed the assassination and the conspiracy theories surrounding it.

Aynesworth, who was not instructed to cover the parade for the paper, found himself with nothing to record history with but two envelopes and a small child's toy pencil, bought from a boy for less than 50 cents. He started interviewing people starting at the Texas Book Depository, moving to the Oak Cliff officer shooting to the Texas Theater where Oswald was apprehended.

"There was no great skill involved at all," Aynesworth said. "It was all just luck."

Jim Marrs, a professor at the University of Texas at Arlington and author of "Crossfire: The Plot that Killed Kennedy," joined Aynesworth on the panel, offering a different take on what happened on Nov. 22, 1963.

He said there is too much evidence that contradicts itself to believe that Lee Harvey Oswald was alone or even involved with the assassination of Kennedy.

"We've been the victim of the government's pronouncement since it all began," Marrs said.

He said the government's manipulation of all the evidence is why we have to dig for the information ourselves and then make up our own minds.

"We don't want to believe a deranged nobody killed the most powerful man in the world," Aynesworth said.

Aynesworth said he has been making a living as a journalist for 50 years, and if there's a conspiracy, "Don't you think I'd like to break it?"



Who wins the Cola War at TCU? See page 8.

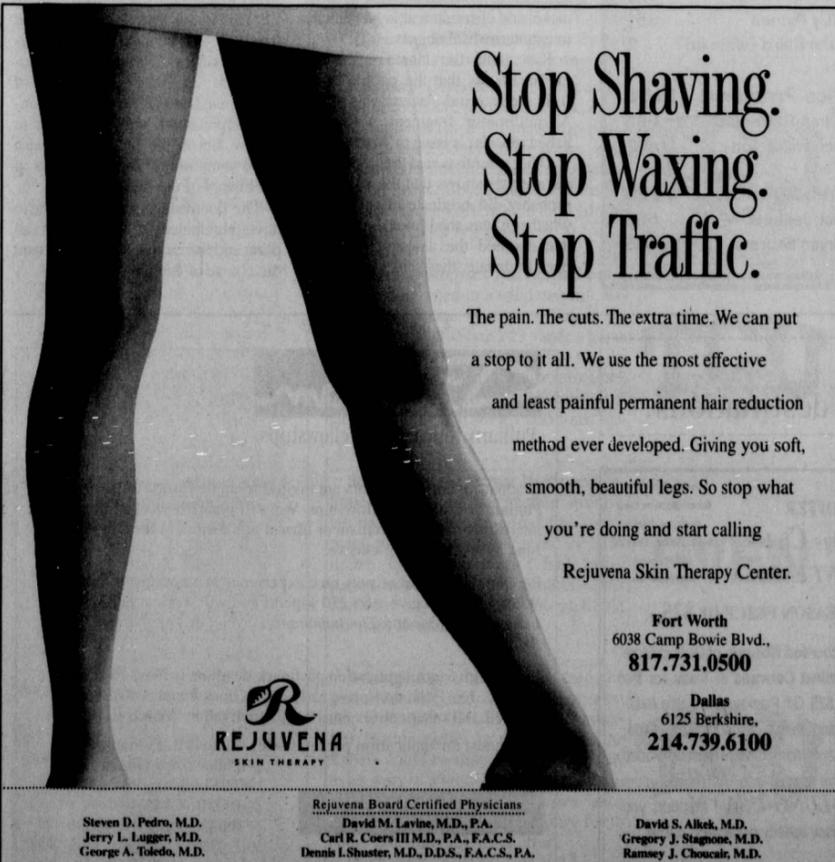
The Interfraternity Council Congratulates the following for excellence in October:

October 1998 IFC Chapter of the Month:

S	M	Lambda Chi Alpha	S
1 The Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity has achieved accomplishments in service, scholarship and sports this month. They raised over 3,500 pounds of food for the North American Food Drive and continues to achieve record highs every year. The chapter also spent a Saturday working on the Habitat for Humanity project. Iota Pi also made a strong showing in Homecoming and, as usual, intramurals. The Interfraternity Council would like to recognize Lambda Chi as the Chapter of the Month, and wish them the best in their future endeavors.			

IFC Member of the Month:

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Lane Eddleman						
Lane Eddleman, a Kappa Sigma, has been chosen as IFC's Member of the Month. He has exemplified every characteristic a Fraternity man should possess. His current achievements are Order of Omega, Pledge Trainer for his chapter and actively seeks for new philanthropies during his spare time. He was a candidate for Mr. TCU at his peers' request. During the voting, on behalf of the IFC, we would like to congratulate Lane Eddleman for Member of the Month, and hope for success in his future.						



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David S. Alkek, M.D.
Gregory J. Stagnone, M.D.
Ramsey J. Choucair, M.D.



The city of Budapest will be the location of TCU's summer study-abroad program. Students will explore the city and surrounding villages by train, bus and trolley.

David Dunn/SKIFF STAFF

Budapest program offers site-based learning

◆ Study abroad in Hungary lets students earn credit, see Europe.

By Blanca E. Rojo
STAFF REPORTER

A summer filled with museum visits, outdoor concerts and walks in the parks sounds like a vacation, but it's not. It's TCU's Budapest summer study abroad program.

The program — which will run from July 10-31 — will offer three courses in political science, art and

sculpture. And all fulfill the University Curriculum Requirements, said Manochehr Dorraj, an associate professor of political science.

Students can take the political science course Political Life in Hungary and Central Europe; the art course Tradition and Individual Talent; and/or the sculpture course Figure Drawing and Modeling.

Dorraj said even though students will receive classroom instruction, learning is site-based and includes visiting museums in

Budapest and other communities, taking field trips and going to concerts.

Tamás Ungár, a professor of music and executive director of the Cliburn Piano Institute, said students will ride on trolleys, buses and trains to experience and learn from the Hungarian people.

Ungár, who was born in Budapest, said students will also visit the Jewish ghetto, a sector in the city where Jews were killed en masse.

"It's an experience that can

change their lives," he said. Budapest, he said, is one of the most beautiful and exotic cities in the world.

"To go to London is not a big deal — it's not exotic," Ungár said.

Ungár said students who studied in Budapest in 1996 traveled to Moscow, Madrid and Vienna on their weekends off.

There was a special airline round-trip ticket to Madrid for only \$120 and students took advantage of it, he said.

Because the program involves extensive site-based learning, Dorraj said students will be lectured but will not be given assignments. A research paper will be due, however, one month after students arrive in Fort Worth.

Ungár said Budapest is not only beautiful and rich in culture and history but it's also very safe and inexpensive.

"Americans are loved," he said. "I have let my children go explore by themselves and never fear. At every turn, there's always someone who

speaks English or at least tries to." Dorraj said the rate of exchange in Hungary is favorable and only \$3 buys a full-course meal with a glass of wine.

The Budapest study abroad program is also the least expensive of TCU's programs, he said.

For \$1,700, the trip includes accommodations, transportation, breakfasts and field trips, Dorraj said.

The deadline to apply is Dec. 9. Federal financial aid is available to those to qualify.

CONCERT

From Page 1

semester. I hope that this concert will be a true demonstration of what we can really do."

Although this concert is the culmination of the vocal efforts this semester, the intensity or frequency of rehearsals hasn't increased.

"We don't do anything different to prepare for this concert," said Amy Bressler, a sophomore religion major and chorale member. "We've been practicing for this since August. It's the main focus of this semester."

The much-anticipated event will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 22 and is free of charge. The program will be composed of mostly Latin church music. Half of the songs will be performed a cappella. The remaining music will be accompanied on the piano and organ by TCU faculty member Janet Pummill.

"Most of our music is performed in the Renaissance style," Cook said. "Many of the songs are acapella. The architecture in the church is conducive to our sound.

The loud stuff sounds really good. You can hear the ring in our voices — the acoustics are great."

The audience is usually as varied as the music itself. Students and chorale alumni fill quite a few pews in the church. Many members of St. Stephen Church also attend. However, this concert proves to be a large draw among music teachers from the community.

"A lot of music majors and parents show up for this event," Bressler said. "We're seen as the top choir on campus, so it's very popular for faculty from surrounding schools to come and check us out."

Memories of musical triumphs from concerts in the past years carry on to hopes and goals for this year's performance.

"Last year was such an awesome experience," Cook said. "You really get a feeling of accomplishment when we're able to sing a piece to our potential, and ever more to be recognized for singing well."

Starr cross-examined by panel

◆ Impeachment inquiry begins with attacks on independent counsel.

By David Espo
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — In a blend of constitutional drama and partisan struggle, Kenneth Starr laid out his evidence against President Clinton on Thursday in the third presidential impeachment inquiry in history, then fended off a withering attack by Democrats.

The independent counsel, in a nationally televised appearance before the House Judiciary Committee, said the "plain language" of the Constitution makes clear that Clinton could be prosecuted for perjury after he leaves office, regardless of the outcome of the impeachment proceedings.

Starr's opening statement accused Clinton of a months-long "scheme to conceal" his affair with the former White House intern.

Democrat Barney Frank of Massachusetts, asked why Starr had not told the public before the fall elections that he had found no

evidence of impeachable offenses in inquiries into other areas covering FBI files, the dismissal of White House Travel Office employees and the Whitewater real estate deal in Arkansas.

When Starr responded that his mandate under the law was only to report on evidence of potentially impeachable offenses, Frank said: "In other words, don't have anything to say unless you have something bad to say."

A battery of the president's lawyers — private attorney David Kendall and White House counsel Charles Ruff among them — were also present in the committee room, awaiting their turn to question Starr.

Starr's testimony was the first the committee had taken since receiving boxes of his evidence this fall. While the full GOP-controlled House has voted for an open-ended inquiry, Republican appetite for prolonged proceedings has diminished markedly in the wake of election setbacks. Thus, it was not clear whether — or when — articles of impeachment would ever emerge from the panel.

Still, Hyde announced to the displeasure of Democrats that the committee would vote on issuing subpoenas to additional witnesses. Among them was Robert Bennett, the lawyer who represented Clinton in Paula Jones' sexual harassment case.

Peppered with questions about alleged inappropriate treatment of Lewinsky, grand jury leaks, his own private law clients and other matters, Starr had made only one concession as the hearing moved into the evening. He agreed to provide a list of clients from his former law firm.

At the same time, when Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., asked him directly whether he felt he had a conflict of interest, he replied, "I did not."

He stoutly turned aside all suggestions of prosecutorial misconduct, although at several points he told his questioners they might well have a different view of the law.

"Obviously this body is at liberty to reject" the material as not being "substantial, credible evidence" of impeachable offenses, he said.

He said the president was at the

heart of a "pattern of obstruction" that was inconsistent with his duty.

Starr, himself the target of ceaseless attacks from Clinton's defenders, spoke calmly and methodically — but unambiguously — as he offered his first public accounting of his investigation into the president's relationship with Lewinsky and several other matters.

"He testified that he could not recall being alone with Lewinsky. That was untrue," Starr said of the president. "He testified that he could not recall ever being in the Oval Office hallway with Lewinsky, except perhaps when she was delivering pizza. That was untrue," he added. Four more times, on matters relating to Clinton's utterances, Starr firmly repeated, "That was untrue."

The former top Justice Department official and federal appeals judge said, "The propriety of a relationship is not the concern of our office," but the case is fundamentally about "obstruction of justice, lying under oath, tampering with witnesses and misuse of power."

ELECTION

From Page 1

he said he will be happy to see her and Alexander work together.

"I'm glad Sarah will have a chance to work with Ben," he said.

But Wilkinson said the campaign itself was valuable.

"It was a great election and a great learning experience," he said.

Jenkins, a sophomore international marketing and finance major, won the runoff for treasurer with 568 votes in the closest of the three races. His opponent, Bryan Storms, a junior accounting and finance major, had 555 votes.

Jenkins said he, too, was interested in meeting with the rest of the Executive Board to find out their plans. He said he was happy about the race and said he thought it was close because Storms campaigned rigorously during the last couple of days.

Storms also seemed upbeat about the race for treasurer.

"I'm disappointed that I lost, obviously, but I am pretty excited with how I did," he said.

"I made up 80 votes and increased people who voted for me by 158, so that is definitely an encouragement for two days of campaigning."

He said losing the election will not change his view of the House and he will pledge his support to the new treasurer.

Windham, a sophomore advertising/public relations major, and Ryan, a sophomore business major, both ran unopposed.

Carlo Capua, Elections and Regulations Committee chairman, said he was happy with the way the election went.

"It was really a fantastic election," he said. "Things went great

both voting days."

Capua said he is glad the election is over.

"It's definitely a lot of pressure," he said. "But it's a lot of fun too."

Capua said that now the elections are over, he would like to continue to be the chairman of the committee so he can help update the Election Code.

"The Election Code needs some definite revising," he said. "I think that we have seen that throughout this campaign. It needs some major updating and that is a project that I would love to take on."

He said he would like to see the code updated to include new technology.

"I think first and foremost, we need to update it for technology because there is nothing about Internet or Web pages, and I think that is something that everyone would like to see," he said.

The use of new technology in campaigns became an issue because Wilkinson and Alexander set up phone lines and Web pages as campaign tools. This was the source of an unofficial concern

brought up during an Elections and Regulations Committee meeting.

While all the candidates shared similar thoughts about the success of the election, Wilkinson expressed a sentiment that is seldom heard by a TCU politician-in-training.

"I appreciate the student body putting up with our orange flyers," he said.

Runoff Results

President	1181
Ben Alexander	628
Willy Pinnell	551
John Baird (write in)	2
Vice President	1158
Sarah Burleson	686
Ben Wilkinson	472
Treasurer	1123
Ben Jenkins	568
Bryan Storms	555

SOURCE: STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Pebble could prove extinction theory

By Joseph B. Verrengia
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's only a pebble. But to Frank Kyte, it's proof of perhaps the worst day in the Earth's history.

The geophysicist has found what he says is the first known fragment of the gigantic asteroid that slammed into the planet 65 million years ago. No larger than a match head, Kyte's pebble might have been part of what triggered the cataclysm that wiped out the dinosaurs.

The fragment contains high amounts of iridium as well as iron, nickel and chromium at levels unique to extraterrestrial objects.

Kyte said the most reasonable explanation is that the pebble came from the asteroid. An analysis of the 2.5-millimeter fragment was published in today's issue of *Nature*.

Other scientists said the geochemical analysis shows that the rock chip probably did originate in space. But whether it was shed from the asteroid that doomed the dinosaurs remains open to debate, they said.

The coarse-grained fleck was pulled from the floor of the Pacific Ocean in a thin layer of the planet's crust known as the K/T boundary. Scientists believe the layer formed from the debris that settled back to Earth after being blown into the atmosphere by the asteroid.

Other researchers have found grit in the K/T boundary that might have been part of the pulverized asteroid. But while they, too, contained high percentages of iridium, they were only 100 trillionths of a gram — too small to analyze conclusively.

"This is the first object recovered from the K/T boundary that is unarguably meteoric," said Kyte, a geophysicist at the University of California, Los Angeles. "My personal interpretations will be subject to review. But in the end we will learn more about one of the worst days in the history of the Earth."

The doomsday rock is thought to have eliminated 70 percent of all plant and animal species and changed the course of evolution.

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Previous internship or part-time experience at a newspaper is desired. Winners will receive a \$5,250 stipend and will work at either *The Indianapolis Star* and *The Indianapolis News* or *The Arizona Republic*.

Early-admissions application postmark deadline is Nov. 15, 1998. By Dec. 15, 1998, up to five early-admissions winners will be notified. All other entries must be postmarked by March 1, 1999.

To request an application packet, write: Russell B. Pulliam, Fellowships Director, The Indianapolis News, P.O. Box 145, Indianapolis, IN 46206

Web site: www.pulliam.com/pul
E-mail: pulliam@pulliam.com

Compass

Veale, Tomlinson WAC players of week

TCU running back LaDainian Tomlinson and TCU safety LaVar Veale were named Western Athletic Conference offensive and defensive players of the week.

Tomlinson, a sophomore from Waco, Texas (University High School), rushed for a season-high 163 yards on 27 carries and scored one touchdown in TCU's 17-7 win at Tulsa.

Veale, a sophomore native of San Antonio (East Central High School), intercepted a pass in the fourth quarter and returned it 78 yards to the Tulsa 2-yard line in TCU's victory. Veale also stopped Tulsa's Charlie Higgins on a fourth-down rushing attempt from the TCU 5-yard line in the third quarter. Veale ended the day with seven tackles and a pass break-up.

King named WAC Co-Freshman of Year

Marci King was voted by the Western Athletic Conference volleyball coaches as Co-Freshman of the Year. She shared the honor with Colorado State's Angela Knopf.

King currently leads the Volleyfrogs in kills (3.41 per game), attack percentage (.179) and service aces (.36 per game). She is second on the team in digs with 2.61 per game. King is 14th in the WAC in kills and sixth in service aces.

She is the first player in TCU volleyball history to receive any conference post-season honor. She was also named WAC Player of the Week this week for her efforts in TCU's wins over Nevada-Las Vegas and Air Force, Nov. 13-14.

This weekend's home sports:

The men's swimming team faces New Mexico at 6 p.m. today in the Rickel Building. On Saturday the Frogs meet both New Mexico and Southern Methodist University at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The men's basketball team plays on the road Saturday but returns to play at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum at 7:05 p.m. Monday to play Arkansas State.

MLB

Astros third baseman happy to be back

HOUSTON (AP) — Ken Caminiti is so happy to be home, he's not even worried about getting his old Houston Astros No. 11 back.

Caminiti signed a two-year contract with a third year's option, passed his physical on Wednesday, and Thursday he settled the issue of his new Astros No. 29.

The Astros traded Caminiti to San Diego in 1994, and he took No. 21 because current Astros catcher Brad Ausmus was with the Padres and wore No. 11. Now Ausmus is with the Astros and still has No. 11.

"I went to San Diego. Brad had my No. 11," Caminiti said. "He said 'I'll give you your number but you've got to take me to dinner.' I told him to keep his number, and I took 21 because it was available."

"It's funny, I come back and Brad says 'you can have my number, but you've got to take me to dinner. I guess he thinks I'm after his number. But he can relax. I'm back, and I don't want his number.'"

The Astros welcomed Caminiti back to the organization where he developed and became one of its most popular players before the

Leadership council voices opinions

◆ New team leaders allow football players to communicate concerns.

By Todd J. Shriber
STAFF REPORTER

Through all the struggles of TCU's 1997 football season, leadership on the team always seemed to be lacking to the outside observer.

From the coaching staff to the players, it always seemed as if no one ever had a firm grasp on the runaway train that was last year's season.

Fast forward to 1998 and the new-look TCU Horned Frogs. Enter new head coach Dennis Franchione and the leadership TCU had sorely lacked in past years. Franchione's desire for stronger leadership on the team led to the creation of the TCU Leadership Council, an organization on the football team made up of 13 players representing different positions.

Junior safety Landry Burdine said the leadership council was created so players would have more of a voice on the issues that affect the team.

"The leadership council is Coach Fran's idea, and it allows players to have a voice in the goings on of the team," Burdine said. "We got elected by our teammates, so it's kind of an honor, and Coach Fran consults with us on team decisions."

Although there is added responsibility to go along with the honor of being on the leadership council, Burdine and the other council members seem to accept that responsibility in stride.

"It's not like a pressure, but it's an added thing to your everyday job," Burdine said. "We're the go-between for Coach Fran to the rest of the team."

Tasks of the leadership council range from keeping morale up in practice after a tough loss to telling the coaches about player complaints about their pregame meals.

Although some of the tasks may seem small in nature, the honor of being selected by teammates is not underscored, said junior quarterback

Patrick Batteaux. "To be on the leadership council means a lot to me," Batteaux said. "The responsibility means you're there to pick guys up if they're headed in a different direction than the team wants to go."

"We want to show the team that the leadership council is there to keep the team motivated and headed in the right direction. It's not a pressure being on the council, but we need to make sure we're doing a good job."

With the creation of an organization such as the leadership council, it would stand to reason that some of the players not on the council would hold council members to a higher standard of on-field performance and off-field behavior.

However, senior cornerback Andre Bruce said the way to keep a level head while being a part of the council is to act as natural as possible.

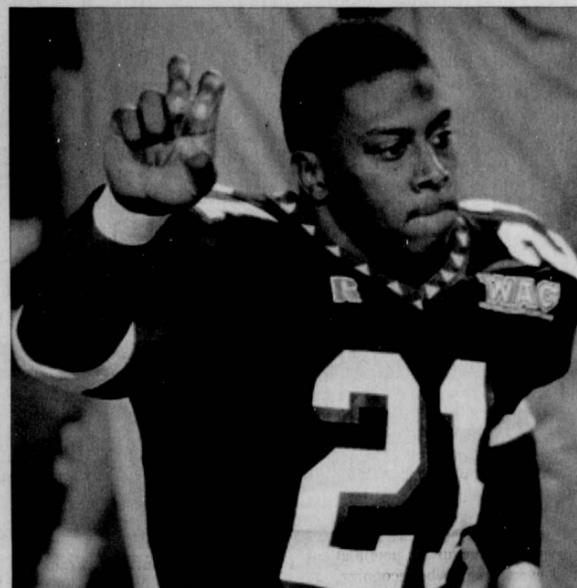
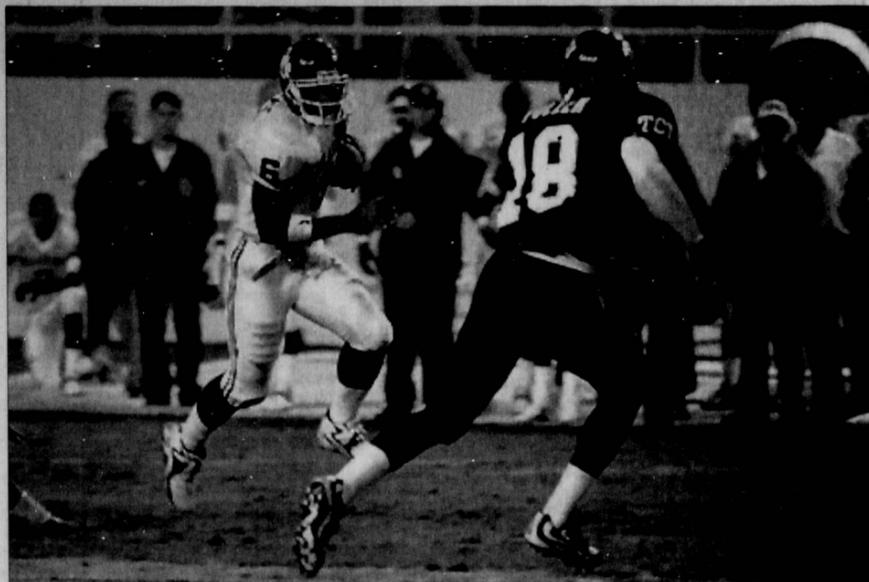
"You just have to conduct yourself in a natural way, and it will carry over," Bruce said. "It's just an honor, and it's helped take my game to the next level."

Possibly the leadership council's most important function on this year's team has been its ability to lend Franchione insight as to what's happening among the players, junior punter/receiver Royce Huffman said.

"We're the voice of the team," Huffman said. "We give Coach Fran insight about what's happening on the team and how the team feels about different things."

With the season's last game on Saturday and the possibility of just the sixth winning season in more than three decades, it looks as though the leadership council has accomplished its mission.

Other members of the leadership council include: senior running back Basil Mitchell, senior offensive lineman Greg Davis, senior tight end Jason Illian, senior linebacker Joe Phipps, senior defensive linemen Kam Hunt, Ray Lacey and Doug Shanks, junior defensive lineman J.W. Wilson and junior safety Curtis Fuller.



Top photo by Patrick Pinnett/SKIFF STAFF
Left photo by Tom Spann/SKIFF STAFF

Senior cornerback Andre Bruce (21) and junior safety Curtis Fuller (18) are two members of the football team's leadership council. The members of the council represent different positions on the team and were voted on by team members. The council acts as a mediator between the coaches and players, and its members also help motivate their teammates.

THE SKIFF SPORTS EDGE BOX

TCU	VS.	UNLV
<p>Passing Defense: Look for the Horned Frogs to bounce back from Tulsa's aerial spanking against a passing attack that only nets 138 yards a game. The TCU secondary has been much improved this year, so look for Reggie Hunt and friends to go out with a bang.</p>		<p>Passing Offense: The Rebels have started three quarterbacks this season, with senior Chad Reed starting five games. As a team, UNLV ranks 12th in the Western Athletic Conference in passing, averaging 138 yards a game.</p>
<p>Passing Offense: After a 34-yard completion on the game's first drive, Jeff Dover struggled last week, throwing three interceptions. Patrick Batteaux and Dover will share time this week, which could throw UNLV's defense for a loop. UNLV's pass defense is porous, but the TCU passing game has struggled for too long to earn the advantage over anyone.</p>	<p>EVEN</p>	<p>Passing Defense: The UNLV secondary is a weak one at best. They rank 14th in the WAC, giving up 209 yards a game. The Rebels have come up with seven interceptions and only 16 sacks this season. Defensive end Talance Sawyer leads the team in sacks with four.</p>
<p>Rushing Defense: TCU turned in another mediocre performance here last week against Tulsa but made the plays when needed. Only three backs have gained 100 yards this season against the Horned Frogs. UNLV ranks 15th in the WAC in running offense, so look for the D-line to have a big game.</p>		<p>Rushing Offense: Running back James Wofford has run for 750 yards this season with five touchdowns. As a team, though, UNLV ranks second to last in the WAC with only 119 yards a game. The TCU defense has been consistently solid this season, so look for the Frogs to dominate the ground game.</p>
<p>Rushing Offense: The Horned Frogs once again turned in a solid rushing performance in the win over Tulsa last week. UNLV gives up 213 yards a game on the ground, and that probably has the Frogs drooling with anticipation. Look for Basil Mitchell to get a fair amount of carries in his quest for a 1,000-yard season.</p>		<p>Rushing Defense: Sawyer and linebacker James Sunia lead this porous defense that gives up 213 yards a game. Sawyer leads the WAC in tackles for losses with 21 for 64 yards. Sunia is in the top 5 of the WAC in tackles with 105. TCU running backs will run circles around this Rebel defense.</p>
<p>Special Teams: Royce Huffman continues to improve his punting average but hasn't had the opportunity to return many punts. Same goes for the kickoff-return men who haven't had many opportunities as of late. Kicker Chris Kaylakie has done a good job of filling Michael Reeder's shoes.</p>	<p>EVEN</p>	<p>Special Teams: Joe Kristosik is the nation's leading punter with a 46.2-yard average. The Rebels are second in the nation in net punting with an average 41.3 yards a kick. UNLV ranks ninth in the nation in punt returns with almost 14 yards a return. Kicker Tim O'Reilly has hit five of nine field goals this season.</p>
<p>Intangibles: UNLV heads into the game winless, and TCU knows what that feels like. UNLV also fired coach Jeff Horton earlier in the week, so the Rebels could be distracted. TCU needs to be wary of a winless team so they can net TCU's first winning season since 1995. TCU has too much to play for to come out with lackluster effort.</p>		<p>Intangibles: The Rebels are winless this season, and their coach, Jeff Horton recently announced that this will be his last game. UNLV has every incentive to win this game. But so does TCU, because it means a winning season for the Frogs. The Rebels escaped with a 21-19 win last season in Las Vegas, but they won't be so lucky this time.</p>
<p>Prediction: TCU 21, UNLV 13 Todd J. Shriber/STAFF REPORTER</p>		<p>Prediction: TCU 21, UNLV 7 Matt Wehner/SKIFF STAFF</p>

Winning season on the line vs. mediocre Rebels

By Todd J. Shriber
STAFF REPORTER

Destination: Las Vegas. Mission: TCU's sixth winning season in the last 33 years. Probability of Success: High.

For their final game of the 1998 season, the TCU Horned Frogs head west to take on winless Nevada-Las Vegas.

UNLV is a team heading into its final game resembling the TCU team of a year ago. The Horned Frogs headed into the final game of the '97 season with an 0-10 record and a coach who knew he'd be doing more golfing in six months than coaching.

It's the same story for the Rebels this year. Head coach Jeff Horton was invited to leave by UNLV earlier this week as the Rebels have struggled all year long.

UNLV is hoping to salvage some respect for the season at the expense of TCU, but the Horned Frogs seem prepared.

Playing in his last game in the purple and white, senior fullback Lance Williams knows this game won't be a walk in the park for TCU just because the opponent is 0-10.

"They're (UNLV) in the same situation we were in last year, and nobody wants to go 0-11," Williams said. "We know they're going to come out and play hard. We don't expect any easy wins."

The prevailing theme surrounding this game for TCU is the chance at having a winning season under first-year head coach Dennis Franchione, a feat that has been accomplished only five times since Lyndon B. Johnson sat in the White House.

Williams said the TCU seniors want to know they were part of a winner.

"We want to be able to look back and know we were part of this program's turnaround," Williams said. "The game must be played first,

and on paper it looks as if the Horned Frogs should accomplish their goal. UNLV ranks at or near the bottom of the WAC in every defensive and offensive category. Hence the 0-10 record.

Senior linebacker Joe Phipps said this team still can't be taken lightly.

"I'm looking forward to getting a really good team effort to get us the win," Phipps said. "I know exactly how UNLV feels right now, so you can't overlook them, because this is their last chance to get a win."

Preparing to face a team in UNLV's position is a difficult task because wounded animals are always the most dangerous, but TCU might have an advantage having been there before.

"I don't know if it's an advantage," Phipps said. "It's just going to come down to who wants it more."

For senior running back Basil Mitchell, the game presents him not only with an opportunity to be a part of his first winning season at TCU but also with the opportunity to rush for 1,000 yards and move to fourth place on the all-time TCU rushing list. Mitchell heads into game needing 110 yards to eclipse the 1,000-yard mark.

"The opportunity to contribute to a winning season is on my mind," Mitchell said. "The opportunity to get to a 1,000 yards and get to fourth place are also on my mind."

"This is the last time I'll get to take the field with the guys I've been here with for five years, and we're going to have to execute to win."

The script reads like something out of Hollywood, and the game is in Las Vegas, a city where hopes are crushed just as quickly as they're built, but Mitchell says the team is ready.

"The stage is set," Mitchell said. "This is our grand finale."

RUDY

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



Academia Nuts

by John P. Araujo



Y'know, I'd get up to change the station... but like, the tv is all the way over there.

off the mark by Mark Parisi



I need help

by Vic Lee



THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS
 1 Fragrant shrub
 6 Whack
 10 Pre-college tests
 14 Cork population
 15 Verdi opera
 16 Rear appendage
 17 "Law & Order" co-star
 20 Question
 21 Rank by merit
 22 Extra strip in a shoe
 23 Family greeting
 24 Tarnisher
 25 Stir up
 28 Waterproofs
 29 "Law & Order" co-star
 31 Mess up
 34 At any time
 35 Worshipped one
 36 Piece of Puccini
 37 Stitch
 38 "Law & Order" co-star

DOWN
 4 Cigar end
 5 Alms
 6 Epsom
 7 Citrus fruit
 8 Botheration
 9 Of spouses
 10 Balance
 11 Home run number one
 12 Boxing champion's prize
 13 More crafty
 18 Art holder
 19 Total
 23 Dyeing vat
 24 Worn and shabby
 25 Cools down
 26 Church part
 27 Ship's personnel
 28 Cavalry weapon
 30 Evil characters
 31 Time periods
 32 Houston university
 33 College cheers
 36 Border (on)

By D. J. DeChristopher Staten Island, NY 11/20/98

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

W	A	S	P	G	A	M	S	D	R	A	P	E		
A	G	E	E	O	L	E	O	R	A	D	A	R		
R	E	N	T	O	M	N	I	O	K	A	P	I		
M	R	T	A	M	B	O	U	R	I	N	E	M	A	N
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purple poll

Q. COKE OR PEPSI? A. COKE 57 PEPSI 21 NEITHER 22

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

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2. **POZZLE**

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 2. Two inches thick

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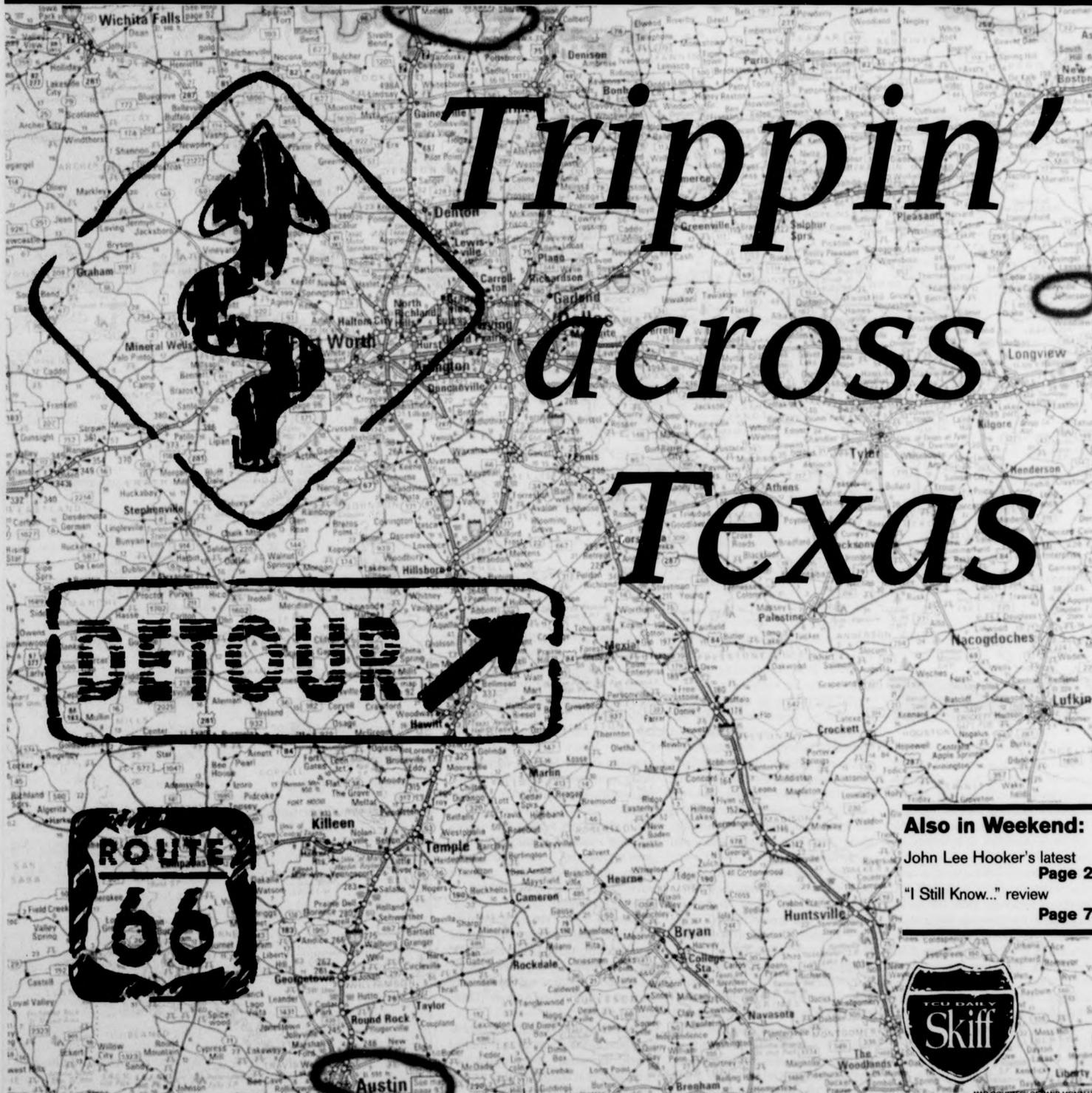
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TCU DAILY Skiff

Weekend

Volume 1, Issue 11

Friday, November 20, 1998



Trippin' across Texas

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John Lee Hooker's latest
Page 2
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MAP COURTESY OF RAND McNALLY

Hooker's R&B as toe-tapping as ever

By Trisha Pickard
SKIFF STAFF

John Lee Hooker's latest release, "The Best of Friends," is oozing with all of the soul and passion that his fans, faithful throughout his career (which has spanned half a century), fell in love with.

All of the songs on "Best of

Music

Friends" are classics of Hooker's, making it somewhat of a "greatest hits" album with the added bonus of brand-new recordings of three old favorites.

Many of the other musicians Hooker befriended throughout his prolific career come together on his latest release, making it an even bigger hit. You will hear the soulful guitar cords of Eric Clapton and Van Morrison, the velvety piano of Ike Turner, not to mention the raspy yet smooth vocals of Bonnie Raitt (just to mention a few).

I must confess that I am no R&B expert. In fact, I'm not really even much of a fan. Regardless of my musical orientation, I listened to this compact disc with an open mind and found that I really like and respect Hooker's music.

His music is simple yet passionate, and bluesy yet jazzy. I haven't been converted to a full-fledged old-school R&B fan, but I have expand-

ed my horizons and enjoyed doing it.

The opening track, "Boogie Chillen," appropriately sets the jazzy R&B mood for the rest of the album as it was Hooker's first recording 50 years ago. "Boogie Chillen" bombards you with rich guitar riffs and has that great toe-tapping quality that makes it one of the best tracks on the disc.

Hooker displays his mastery of light and simple lyrics on this track when he tells you to "Shake it baby/You gotta shake to boogie." After all, Hooker is the "Boogie Man" himself.

Hooker's deep, rough voice lends much personality to every song, but especially to track five, "Boom Boom." The upbeat rhythm and catch phrase "Boom boom boom boom" complement each other well, making it a great piece of music. The lyrics are witty and, at the same time, not too complicated or hard to digest.

I can contentedly go on living the rest of my life without ever hearing the phrase "Big legs/Tight skirt/Knock me off my feet" again, because Hooker really does use it about 50 times too many.

This song isn't totally lacking in the quality department because Hooker still uses his non-lyrical musical talent in the song. However, I think that "Best of Friends" could have been much better without "Big



SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF

BLUES BROTHER. Blues legend John Lee Hooker and some friends of his, including Eric Clapton, contributed to "The Best of Friends."

Legs, Tight Skirt," because it just leaves me with the uneasy image of Hooker as a dirty old man.

Track 13, "Don't Look Back," functions as the perfect grand finale for "Best of Friends." It works as an easygoing, sentimental closing with

reflective lyrics that sum up the attitude and career of Hooker that all of his good friends and fans so adamantly respect. Hooker gives some intelligent advice when he shares his life's creed: "Live on for the future/And not the past."

Everyone knows Hooker practiced what he preached, because even now, at age 81, he put out this "Best of Friends" album showing he isn't living in his own past and is nowhere near finished living. **Grade: B+**

Pesci takes bad career move

By Guy Bickers
SKIFF STAFF

Joe Pesci is one of America's most popular character actors. From the never-ending "Lethal Weapon" series to "My Cousin Vinny," he has endeared himself to millions of fans who love his Italian characters and his overblown comedy.

Music

It's too bad he decided to sing. "Vincent Laguardia Gambini Sings Just for You" is Pesci's debut into the world of music. Dripping with lounge stylings and Pesci's incessant rambling over the music, it is quite different than anything else out there. And this is definitely out there.

Pesci sings in-character as a mobster wanna-be about such profound topics as underage girls, life in the mob, drive-by shootings and himself as Vinny. The cover art sets the tone as soon as you look at it, since it has Pesci smoking a cigar in a red velvet tux, while a gorgeous woman lounges across the bottom with champagne in her hand.

The most obvious element on the cover after the, um, champagne, is the neat little Parental Advisory: Explicit Lyrics tag in the corner. This warning should be placed more like

it is on George Carlin's classic CD, plastered across the entire cover. If you are easily offended by raunchy lyrics, stay away from this album. Every pause in the vocals is filled with expletives. It would seem Pesci likes the words so much that he can't shut up enough to allow us to hear the band. But enough about the language; on to the songs.

The 14 tracks on this album are definitely a mixed bag. Some are genuinely funny, while others get downright annoying. It is intended as a comedy album, but it just isn't funny enough to fit that tag. The majority of his humor involves pointless swearing and shouting at the band and little kids who sing along with him. It gets really old really fast.

Every song resonates with Italian stereotypes about almost everything. Mostly "Vinny" just complains about life and how different people have messed with him or irritated him somehow. "Wise Guy" is a terrible attempt at rap about being a mobster. "Twenty-one" is about lusting after a girl who makes him feel 21 but who is herself only 16 years old.

It is a nice change to hear about violence without the influence of drugs and no mention of cop killing. But it stoops to a new all-time low in "Vinny's" praise of his lawyer. (This

is truly the most offensive part of the entire CD.)

All of this would be a little more acceptable if Pesci had any vocal talent. Every song is sung with a thick Italian-New York accent, which gets irritating after only a few bars. Even the guest vocals from Marisa Tomei are mediocre, as she sings with the same annoying accent as Pesci. This causes the songs to run together, with the only stand-outs being the two versions of "Yo Cousin Vinny" in Italian and Spanish, if only because they are in different languages. Obviously, variety wasn't important to the producers.

On the bright side ... um ... his backing band isn't bad. Well, they aren't great, but I've heard worse. Sadly, though, even they couldn't save his version of "What a Wonderful World."

Overall, I put "Vincent Laguardia Gambini Sings Just for You" at the bottom of my list. It has its moments, but since there are only three on the entire album, it sits way down there next to "The Best of Andrew 'Dice' Clay."

You might like this CD if you really like Italian humor and lounge music. Personally, I think this one will disappear from record-store catalogs very soon. **Grade: D**

TCU DAILY Skiff

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Phan standards not met in Phish album

By Michael Kruse
SKIFF STAFF

Nothing can compare to a Phish Head's anticipation of a new Phish album like "Story of the Ghost." It's more exciting than Christmas, birthdays and Halloween all rolled into one.

Music

For this loyal, limited group, nothing is more looked forward to than this red-letter Phish release Tuesday, except for, perhaps, the day tickets go on sale to Phish's annual Halloween concert.

Unfortunately, "Slip, Stitch and Pass" and "Billy Breathes," the last two Phish releases, have been sort of letdowns compared with earlier recordings. "The Story of the Ghost," though overall a funkier and better album than "Billy Breathes," still fails to hit the high standard Phish Heads hold their band to, which was marked by "Hoist" in 1994.

There are two ways to rate a Phish album. The first is to absolutely ignore all previous Phish concert experiences and albums and just evaluate the album itself in comparison with other popular music. The second way is to compare the new album with the rest of the albums in the Phish discography.

Using the first method, "The Story of the Ghost," Phish's ninth album, is a tremendous success as an experimental release in this somewhat-conformist world of corporate rock. Most of the music was recorded spontaneously from jam sessions. The band jammed for several days and mixed together their favorite parts into 39 songs. They then recorded their favorite 14 of these.

Words were added when Phish sang various poems by longtime Phish lyricist Tom Marshall to the music they had recorded until they found lyrics that matched the overall tone of their songs.

"The Story of the Ghost" has its share of highlights. Every group member sounds top-notch on the album, especially drummer Jon Fishman and bassist Mike Gordon. Gordon actually goes off on this

album for a change and lays down some funky slap-stick bass grooves.

"Guyute," the longest song at over eight minutes, is also the oldest of the "Ghost" songs, as it was first written and played on tour in 1994. Though the recorded version of this phan phavorite pales ever so slightly in comparison with its more jam-endowed live version, it is still the best song on the album. It's a mixture of jazzy rock coupled with a lot of time switches and what sounds like an Irish jig.

Other highlights of the album include the radio single "Birds of a Feather," which includes the awesome lyrics: "Like whippets we dance our curley-cue dance." "Meat" is a new song that sounds very good as if the band tried to throw in a little Medeski Martin and Wood fusion jazz. The recorded version of "Limb by Limb" is also good as it stays true to its groovy live version.

"Ghost" is the opening title song. It starts slow, builds and bursts into a great opener for this concept album. "The Moma Dance," which starts as pure funk at the end of the album, slowly turns into a "Ghost" reprise to close the album.

The biggest complaint I have about "The Story of the Ghost" is that the majority of the songs are short tales. The band said that when each song was first conceived, they all had to be cut down from 30 minutes. Unfortunately, every song on this album but "Guyute" is under 4 1/2 minutes long. That means that a lot of good jams had to be cut out.

Every Phish Head's worst fear is that Phish will someday release an album that is comprised of short, almost thoughtless songs that can be played infinitely on commercial radio. "The Story of the Ghost" isn't that bad, but it pushes the limits.

"The Story of the Ghost" definitely doesn't master the concept album theme like "Rift." Its songs aren't complicated, beautiful compositions like "Junta." As a Phish album, "Ghost" is weak, definitely not in the top five, but its experimental style is somewhat redeeming. It may not work too well as a Phish album, but it's a lot better than most of the other fish albums in the commercial sea. **Grade: B-**



SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF
PHISH OUT OF WATER. Phish members (from left) Trey Anastasio, Jon Fishman, Page McConnell and Mike Gordon ponder their new album.

Kent's 'Isola' provides Radiohead-esque mediocrity

By Derek Roy
SKIFF STAFF

The band Kent is going through a serious identity crisis. For some unknown reason, the band seems to think that it's Radiohead.

Music

Kent's latest release, "Isola," could possibly be a lost collection of old Radiohead songs that weren't quite good enough to make it on any of their albums.

The main reason Kent sounds so much like Radiohead is the voice and the lyrics of lead singer/guitarist Joakim Berg. Berg's voice is almost identical to that of Thom Yorke of Radiohead. Kent's lyrics are the same cryptic, and sometimes bizarre, lyrics that

Radiohead is known for. Berg does have good vocal ability, and he sings with passion, but he needs to find his own voice.

The rest of Kent doesn't have quite the resemblance to Radiohead that Berg possesses, although the band lacks any kind of musical creativity. Berg, Sami Sirviö and Harri Mänty are slightly above mediocre (at best) and the band never strays from anything that hasn't already been done. The brightest moments for Kent are when the band turns down the guitars and experiments with keyboards to create something almost unique.

Most of "Isola" is a melancholy album, but by no means is it depressing. The band seems to be trying really hard not to sound happy. There are moments during

the album when Kent seems to become somewhat uplifting, but it quickly reverts to its same old sad sound. Also, too much of the record is the exact same tempo. It would be nice if the band would change things a little bit from song to song.

The album begins with "Lifesavers," a song that contains every characteristic of a Radiohead song. The slow opening guitar lick is almost good, and the lyrics are somewhat poetic as Berg sings, "I will save your life when you're out and down/I'll dim all the lights to comfort your eyes." Berg does have the talent to write good, strong lyrics, but the band needs to spend more time writing better music to match these lyrics.

Following "Lifesavers" is the

unimpressive "If You Were Here." Berg's voice is nothing but annoying on this track, and the repetition of the lyric "If you were here" gets old the 10th time you hear it. The guitars in this song are the same guitars that grace every other alternative/rock record these days.

The piano and strings on "OWC" provide a nice break from the guitars and show the band's possible ability to make something that sounds original. The lyrics of this track are both strange and personal as Berg quietly sings, "I love that smell when the sun shines down after the rain/I remember how I felt when I closed the files where I saved the miles."

The noisy guitars that begin the track "Velvet" are like something you would expect to find on an old Nirvana album, but once the

verse kicks in, the band leaves this Nirvana influence behind. The song shows that the band can smile sometimes and it is the closest they get to sounding like pop.

The closing track of the album, "747," has the band using a drum machine and keyboards alongside the guitar to create a dreamy and trippy sound. The song sounds reminiscent of the later U2 albums — if you're going to copy someone, at least copy someone who has talent.

Kent does have talent hiding somewhere in this record, but they need to find something that is their own and stick with it. "Isola" is an OK album, but Kent is far from being ready for the masses. Give them a few years to get rid of the Radiohead influence. **Grade: C+**



HALLOWED HALLS. Though the Capitol building in Austin isn't necessarily the first place you'll visit once you get there, it's still pretty cool.

PHOTOS BY AMY TUBBESING/ASSISTANT CAMPUS EDITOR

On the road again

For many students, there comes a point in every semester when weekends are shaped more by the urge to be someplace else than by the urge to study, sleep or hole up in the library to work on the project due Monday. This semester, with an exceptionally mild-weathered fall thus far, the opportunities for travel abound. Dead days loom, so why not bring them to life with a trip out of the bubble of academia?

Oh, the places you can go. Strange and wonderful sights await and Texas offers some of the lesser-known wonders of the world, including a guy who makes aquariums out of televisions, the Mecca of Texas barbecue, bats and, of course, some beautiful landscape. So pack up the car, load up on junk food at Staples and head out to find the allure of Texas. (For those who are directionally challenged, or who have never heard of Rand McNally, we'll get you started in the right direction, or rather, directions, as we outline three destinations for your road tripping pleasure.)

A Quick Jaunt From the Concrete Isle Back to Nature

If you get on Texas 121 (going north) just past downtown Fort Worth, and pick up U.S. 75 in McKinney, you'll hit **Lake Texoma** in about two hours. Northeast of Lake Texoma is **Lake Murray**. These two lakes offer a taste of wilderness and several activities that will make you forget the woes of your upcoming philosophy paper.

For great fishing, exit U.S. 75 and take Farm Road 120 northeast to Pottsboro and to the **Lake Texoma Recreation Area**. Bass fishing is supposedly good and there are several marinas that offer fishing charters, boat rentals, water-skiing, sailing, jet-skiing, yachting and an all-around good aquatic experience. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can help you find the recreation spot of your dreams. Call them at (903) 465-4990.

Gayle Ellis, administrative support assistant for the Corps of Engineers, said while the corps campgrounds are closed for the season, there are many other places to stay.

"There are several privately owned resorts on the lake that have campgrounds and lodging that are open all year round," she said.

One such place is **Pappy's Point**. Rose Olmsted, who works in the resort's office, said their restaurant features great food at a great price.

"We have a wonderful restaurant called The Point," she said. "I think it is about the best in the area, to be frank about it."

In addition to the food, the atmosphere is nice, she said.

"It has a really fine atmosphere," she said. "We have a glassed-in porch that is heated and cooled, and it overlooks the lake. During the evening sailboats are going by ... the view is absolutely fantastic."

She said the special offerings at the restaurant are prime rib, the Thursday all-you-can-eat shrimp and the Sunday buffet. The buffet runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and costs \$8.99 per person.

Pappy's Point resort has one cabin with six bedrooms, but most of its other cabins have one or two bedrooms. There are also 98 spots for camping and a full-service marina.

The resort is located at Lake Texoma on the Texas side, right off of highway 84, which is right off of highway 75 just outside of Denison. For more information, call (903) 465-6330.

Go for a day trip, or, if you're feeling woody, camp out for a night. It's cheap — you'll save a lot of money on lodging and meals.

At the southern end of Big Mineral Arm on Lake Texoma (Farm Road 1417, west of

Horned Frogs can hit the highways for a break from the TCU routine

by William Thomas Burdette
Staff Reporter

Denison), there is an 11,320-acre wildlife reserve called **Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge**. This winter haven for ducks and geese provides opportunities for fishing, hiking, picnicking as well as a visitor's center. Call (903) 786-2826 for more information.

If you choose to go farther west from Lake Texoma, you can reach Lake Murray State Park (580-223-4044) in about a half hour's drive. Or you can take I-35 straight there. If you choose the second route, **Lake Murray Country Inn** (580-223-6600) is just 2 miles east of I-35 at exit 24 and offers recreation and a great place to eat.

Speaking of eating, if on the way home via I-35 you hit Marietta, Okla., after 5 p.m., check out **McGehee's Catfish Restaurant** (exit 15 off I-35; 580-276-2751). Enid McGehee, a partner in the restaurant, said it offers seclusion.

"We're out a way from town," she said. McGehee said they offer fresh hush puppies and all the catfish you can eat for \$10.

Also of note, especially for poor college students, is **President Baking** (also exit 15; 580-276-3312), which has discounts on broken cookies.

Jeannie Holt, who works at President Baking, said most people see the signs on the interstate and inquire into their broken cookie offer.

"They see our ads out on the interstate: 'Broken Cookies for \$.99,' and they check it out and see what it means," she said.

What the ad means is that you can get 2 pounds of tasty cookies (if slightly misshapen) for \$.99.

"They're rejects when they're too big or they don't weigh enough, and they can't ship them out," Holt said.

Goin' Batty in Austin

If you go south from here, toward Austin, you're going to hit Waco. There is really no way to avoid it. So while you're there, visit the **Dr Pepper Museum**. Dr Pepper was born in Waco; Waco is on the way to Austin; lots of people drink Dr Pepper; therefore you should stop there. Call (254) 757-1024 for details. Wouldn't you like to be a pepper, too?

While you're there, you should probably look at the site of the old **Branch Davidians' compound**. It's a pretty tragic historic site, though there isn't much left to see.

After a quick stop in Waco, just keep going toward Austin. Friday night on **6th Street** will probably prove entertaining for anyone wanting lots of people, music and fun. It's like Deep Ellum but with fewer Goth kids.

Austin has been called, by many, the "Live Music Capital of the World," and with one of the biggest music festivals in the United States, South by Southwest, coming up in the spring, it lives up to the moniker. Pick a club from the plethora of Austin's live music venues.

If you're still standing at dusk, watch for bats. According to "Quick Escapes Dallas/Ft. Worth" by June Naylor Rodriguez, "Austin is home to the greatest urban bat colony in North America. Some one and a half million free-tailed bats live beneath downtown's historic Congress Avenue Bridge."

If you stand along the Town Lake riverbanks and on the bridge at dusk (usually through November) you will have a good vantage point.

While in Austin, you might want to drop in and watch TV with **Larry Piltz**. If you do, you will probably note there is something fishy about his TV set. In fact, Piltz makes aquariums out of old televisions. Stop by his studio, in central West Austin, to look at his

functional art pieces, but make sure to call first (512) 452-1717.

Take a tour of the state capitol. After all, in typical Texas fashion, it is the largest state capitol and is second only to the national Capitol Building in Washington. For more information, visit the capitol's Web site at www.capitol.state.tx.us/.

Whatever you do in Austin, do not leave without going to **Stubb's**. It is a Mecca for anyone who likes good barbecue. They also have pretty good music and, if you get there on Sunday morning, you can feast on the Sunday Gospel Brunch. It is \$10.95 for all-you-can-eat and the spread is impressive.

Miranda Kreitzer said the culinary delights of Stubb's brunch should appeal to everyone.

"We have all different kinds of stuff," Kreitzer said. "We have pancakes and eggs for breakfast kind of things, and then, if you are more in the mood for lunch, we have brisket and sausage and chicken."

She said Stubb's draws customers because its founder gave it character.

"It's got a lot of character," she said. "It was named after Mr. Stubblefield, who was just a local character, really."

The brunch is a great event but you should probably make reservations first by calling (512) 480-8341.

There is so much to do in Austin, no one could compile a complete list. But the *Austin Chronicle* did. To check it out, visit www.auschron.com/issues/annual/bestof97/.

Way Back When in Jefferson

For those who are disenchanted with the concrete wasteland that is the Metroplex, there is a place in Texas that will take you back to the days when river commerce thrived and cotton was the currency of the

South. **Jefferson**, about three hours east of here on I-20 (exit U.S. 59 and go north about 20 miles), was once the "Riverport to the Southwest," according to the Marion County Chamber of Commerce. At

the height of the riverport movement, Jefferson was second only to Galveston in the tonnage shipped from Texas — a heritage that Jefferson embraces by continuing to give riverboat tours along the Big Cypress Bayou.

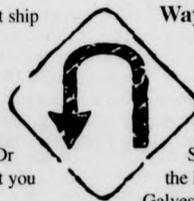
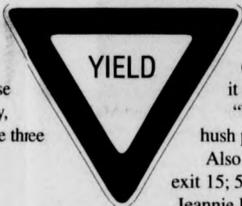
For those looking for a piece of history from the days of old, a trip to Jefferson is essential. On the way there, antiques stores line the highways and, once in Jefferson, that seems to be the main source of commerce.

But antiques aren't the only pieces of history in Jefferson. The whole town exudes history. Cars seem to stay hidden on the outskirts of the town square, while horse drawn carriages clip-clop up and down brick streets. In the town of less than 3,000, there are more than 60 bed and breakfast establishments ranging from about \$35 a night to more than \$125 a night. Some are posh, and others are quaint — but all are pieces of history.

The best way to approach Jefferson is to get up early on Saturday, drive out there, spend the night and go back the next day. More than one day might make you feel like you're in Pleasantville. Lunch at one of the soda shoppes is a good idea. Or, if you're not feeling cute, **Auntie Skinner's** is a great place for a beer and a burger with the bikers who, ironically, seem to flock to this antique haven and congregate at Skinner's in the afternoon. Dinner should be at **The Black Swan** — an upscale Creole restaurant.

This town is a great place to go for a romantic get-away, anniversary or to dig through piles and shelves of old junk.

For information about where to stay and what to do, call the **Marion County Chamber of Commerce** at (903) 665-8233.



Christmas flick deserves a lump of coal

By Justin Roche
SKIFF STAFF

I'll be home for Christmas, and while I'm there I won't be seeing this movie. You may be shocked and surprised by this, but Hollywood is going to try to market Christmas this year by releasing a cute family movie, thereby making a few fast bucks off of this season of giving.

Film

Oh wait! That happens every year! But this time, it's especially bad. In the Yuletide spirit of "Home Alone" and "The Santa Clause" comes the latest capitalistic Christmas concept: "I'll Be Home For Christmas."

For those of you who would like to continue to think of the upcoming holiday as one of joy and good cheer, don't see this movie. It will take your jolly St. Nick attitude and turn you into Scrooge. This film makes "Ernest Saves Christmas" look like "It's a Wonderful Life." My gift to you will be to warn you about this movie and save you from the embarrassment of viewing it with your own eyes. Don't say I never gave you anything.

Jake Wilkinson (Jonathan Taylor Thomas) is a college freshman in California who is the second coming of Ferris Bueller, rigging tests and using his sly tactics to impress his love interest Allie (Jessica Biel). For some unknown reason, his father (Gary Cole) wants his self-absorbed son home for Christmas and cuts him a deal. If Jake can be home by 6 p.m. Christmas, then he will get the classic Porsche that the two have worked on for years.

No problem, until some jocks get mad at Jake and his faulty scheme to help them cheat on their finals. In revenge (and typical movie jock fashion), they kidnap



SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER. Jonathon Taylor Thomas (left) tries to get home for the holidays in "I'll Be Home for Christmas."

SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF

Jake and leave him in the desert, clad in a Santa suit complete with a glued-on hat and beard. So begins Jake's trek across the country to get home in time for the car and to catch up with his rival Eddie (Adam La Vorgna), who is driving Allie home and has his own eye on her.

The rest of the film is filled with mildly amusing scenes with Jake pulling various stunts to make it home in time and rescue Allie from the dreaded clutches of

Eddie. While this has the possibility for some humor, it instead makes you hope that he gets lost in Kansas somewhere, just so there's no chance of a sequel.

Perhaps the most shocking of all this "family" film's aspects is the level of crude humor that runs throughout the entire movie. When is the last time you heard the word "butthole" in a Disney film? How about a naked guy with a strategically placed pitcher of orange juice? I'm sorry, but no

holiday family movie should ever contain the phrase, "Hey jingle-balls! Move your candy cane!"

Ever since Hollywood realized they could exploit these holiday films, we've seen a serious decline in meaningful Christmas movies with good, wholesome, family values, and a rise in mass-produced, cookie-cutter films like this one. It's enough to make me consider giving up eggnog altogether.

If you want to sit down with your family over winter break and

watch a movie that will get you in the Christmas mood, then I might suggest "Miracle on 34th Street," or even "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians," but don't watch this horrible display of bad acting and poor taste intended for cheap laughs. "I'll Be Home for Christmas" is as bad as getting socks and underwear on Christmas morning. In fact, this film doesn't even deserve a grade. I believe a lump of coal will suffice. **Grade: D-**

Bizarre film isn't even worthy of good insults

By Mitch Youngblood
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

It's very hard for a critic to classify a film as odd as "Home Fries." So I'll just call it something simple, like bizarre.

Film

Don't go in to "Home Fries" under the impression, based on the previews, that this is a romantic comedy for everyone who is just looking for love.

There are some seriously twisted shenanigans going on in this film, and it frequently comes across that it really wants to be directed by Tim Burton and scored by Danny Elfman.

Instead, we get first-time director Dean Parisot and "The X-Files" scribe Vince Gilligan. We also have Hollywood heavyweights Barry Levinson ("Wag the Dog"), Lawrence Kasdan ("The Big Chill") and Mark Johnson ("Donnie Brasco") as producers of this film. Drew Barrymore stars along with Dallas native Luke Wilson and Jake Busey.

It's a shame all that talent was assembled for what is essentially a nothing movie. You can add "Home Fries" as yet another victim of the Warner Bros. curse. The top brass should die, plain and simple.

"Home Fries" doesn't really excel at anything, so it's difficult to even come up with good insults

for it, other than pointing out the obvious, such as how it has a lot of plot twists but a dearth of connections between them.

We begin our misadventures through this mess of a film when we see a philandering husband driving home from the town's Burger-Matic. He is promptly driven off the road by an A.H.-1 Cobra Attack Helicopter that shoots at him, the terror of which causes him to have a heart attack and die. Morbid humor ensues, as well as twisted familial structures and how everyone involved with this crime is related in one way or another.

"Home Fries" derives most of its wit from cheap shots at small-town people, but some of the sight

gags, like two cops walking through the rows of an outdoor amphitheater, are genuinely funny. The romance between Sally (Barrymore) and Dorien (Wilson), touted so heavily in the previews, takes a back seat to what becomes a murder mystery and the subsequent cover-up.

It turns out Dorien and his brother Angus (Busey) were the helicopter pilots and the cheating husband was their stepfather, Harry. Harry impregnated Sally, who is almost to term in the film, and Dorien begins a relationship with her.

None of this seems plausible in the least. I know going into films you need to have a rather high suspension of disbelief (I do; the

"Star Wars" films are some of my favorite films ever), but "Home Fries" had me rolling my eyes at the sheer stupidity of the script. Inane doesn't quite cover it, and I don't feel like dredging up SAT words to describe schlock like this.

What hurts the most is the lack of chemistry between the two leads. Apparently, Wilson and Barrymore hit it off in real life, but on the screen Wilson is just blank. Looking in Barrymore's eyes when she looks at him, you can tell she wants to feel something for him but is just getting a vapid stare in return. Which is how I felt about "Home Fries." As much as I wanted to like it, there just wasn't anything there. **Grade: D**

'I Still Know' makes you want to forget

By Jamie Brinkman
SKIFF STAFF

If a hit movie should be comprised of gory death scenes, little or no plot and as many shots of Jennifer Love Hewitt's breasts as possible, then "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer" has what it takes to succeed in Hollywood today.

Film

However, if a hit movie actually needs to be well-made, believable and make you care about whether or not the characters live to the end of the show, then this sequel falls short of fitting the bill.

"I Still Know" is the continuing story of Julie James (Love Hewitt) and her boyfriend, Ray (Freddie Prinze, Jr.), from last year's teen sensation "I Know What You Did Last Summer."

This time around, Julie is at college in a town far away from the memories of what happened last summer. However, when she and her friends win a free trip to a fantasy island in the Caribbean, the memories and the deaths are right behind them.

Basically, the only plot in this movie is to have as much death and destruction in two hours as possible. Believe me, it shows. There were times I almost fell asleep because it was so boring. One can only stand so much needless blood and gore for so long when there's no plot to back it up.

Another problem with "I Still Know" is that the scares are, in a nutshell, not scary. More than anything, I was laughing at the absurdness of it all. Especially when Julie is trapped in a tanning bed and her friends come to rescue her before she gets burned to a crisp.

The audience is forced to watch for what seems like an eternity as Julie screams and struggles to free herself while her friends run around like chickens with their heads cut off as they try to find something they can use to break her out.

All I could think during their antics was, "Why don't they just turn the machine off and then try to free her? Or do they want her to get fried while they look around for something to pry open the tanning bed?" Stupid things like that made this movie

practically unbearable.

And don't even get me started on the scene with Hewitt and the karaoke machine. The writers try and make it look like just a group of friends hanging out together and having a good time.

However, it's obvious what is really going on during this scene. Hewitt is just trying to show off her singing voice in an effort to sell more of her albums.

Jennifer Esposito says it best as the sarcastic bartender named Nancy, "Humph! Everyone's a singer!" I couldn't agree more.

That is another reason why this movie was so hard for me to sit through. Promotional gimmicks like that really bother me. I can see adds for Hewitt's CDs and films during the previews. I don't want to have to sit through them in the movie, as well.

However, I could have suffered through the non-scares, the silly plot and the shameless gimmicks if the acting had been decent. Alas, I was disappointed yet again!

Hewitt spent the entire movie screaming and showing off her breasts in revealing outfits, while Prinze was just running around with his mouth hanging open and basically looking like a first-class idiot.

Also, the villain of the piece was completely unbelievable. Do the writers actually expect you to believe that Ben Willis, the hook-wielding maniac from the original movie, is still alive?

I mean, after the number of times he was killed in the first movie, it's just impossible to believe that he's still alive and well. Add to that his non-existent acting abilities and you've got one terrible bad guy!

The only person in the entire movie who actually tried to act well was Brandy Norwood as Julie's best friend. I went into the theater expecting her to be the weak link when, in fact, she was the most believable person in the film! I was pleasantly surprised with her performance.

Perhaps if Kevin Williamson had written the second installment of his horror series about the fisherman with the hook instead of Trey Callaway, it would have been much better.

My advice: Just rent the original. At least it has Sara Michelle Gellar and Ryan Phillippe to keep you interested. Plus, it will save you



SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF

HOOK, LINE AND STINKER. Jennifer Love Hewitt (left) and singer Brandy star in the rehash "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer."

'Explosion-fest' is even better the second time

By Mitch Youngblood
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Whenever I watch a movie for the second time, especially the thundering explosion-fest "Armageddon," I tend to pay more attention to the things that kept me from seeing it repeatedly in the theater.

Video

Much to my shock (read: dismay), I actually had a more enjoyable time watching "Armageddon" on the small screen than I did in the theater.

The film was released over the July Fourth weekend and had been hyped endlessly since the Super Bowl as the ultimate end-of-the-world flick. It drew criticism upon release for being almost deafeningly loud throughout. And that's

not even getting to the countless flaws in logic, science, you name it.

That added up to the perfect summer movie for me, so I and my friends went to the biggest screen in Texas: the Galaxy 9 Theater in Dallas. It has 79 1/2 feet worth of silver screen glory in two massive auditoriums. It also has a sound system to go with the screen.

While my friends, significant other and I watched "Armageddon," we literally shook in our seats and marveled at the effects. So why does such a massive film play better on the small screen?

Because of the level of intimacy you get with the characters on television that you can't get in the theater. Director Michael Bay is a master of two things: flashy presentation and button pushing. Bay's hyperkinetic style over-

whelmed his debut, "Bad Boys," but worked better with his second film, "The Rock." He seems to be maturing as a director because he uses stationary camera shots in "Armageddon," but when his style gets overwhelming, it's because there are so many shots all at once.

Bay and producer Jerry Bruckheimer tend to go for sensory overload with their respective films. They also tend to promote old-fashioned good vs. evil values, but in a headache-inducing package. The morals and lessons are there, but they quickly get lost amid the numerous explosions and constant Aerosmith tunes.

Bruce Willis is Harry Stamper, called the best oil driller in the world. He and his team of rough-necks (that term is used in the most extreme sense possible here) get called by NASA to help them

solve a slight problem — an asteroid on a collision course with Earth that will hit in less than 20 days, thus destroying all life on the planet. This is also supposed to be kept top secret at all costs.

But how can you keep something top secret when the first event of the film is the destruction of New York City by a meteor shower caused by the larger asteroid? Do you bribe people into not revealing that they saw the Chrysler Building knocked in half? Do you claim no one was really in Grand Central Station when it was obliterated during rush hour?

Stamper and his team become the leaders of a project spearheaded by NASA chief Truman (Billy Bob Thornton), who wants to land a team on the asteroid, drill to a certain depth, drop a nuke in the hole and then leave. The hope is

the force of the nuke will split the asteroid and the two pieces will miss earth.

What everyone misses is that the script is so full of holes, it's fun to pick out your favorite lapse in logic. But "Armageddon" works as a showpiece for some terrific acting, primarily by Thornton, and tons of rah-rah patriotism. Bay creates some montages that would work better as Discovery card ads, but he handles the rest of the action exceptionally well. He can stage pretty explosions and beautiful effects very well.

"Armageddon" is so intent on making you realize the people in the film are in jeopardy that you understand immediately that if the world doesn't unite, it's toast. It may not make a lot of sense in the end, but it's sure an enjoyable ride. **Grade: B+**

TCU Bookstore book of the week

By Kristina Iodice
SKIFF STAFF

One of the most dramatic political chronicles of the 20th century, which is also one of the more ignored historical changes of our time, is the background for Barbara Kingsolver's newest novel, "The Poisonwood Bible."

The novel swirls around the personal stories of the Price family, with each member telling his or her individual tale of Africa and how it changed his or her life.

Nathan Price, head of the family, is a fierce and stubborn man devoted to evangelizing the Congo, beginning in the tiny village of Kilanga. In 1959, he takes his wife and their four daughters from Bethlehem, Ga., to the Belgian-controlled Congo. They carry with them everything they think they will need. All of it, from garden seeds to Scripture, is disastrously changed on the African soil.

The Kingsolver trademark, the means of spreading memories into retelling, presents itself once again in "The Poisonwood Bible." Orleanna starts the tale, as if speaking to someone long gone. Her four daughters also narrate.

There is Rachel, the selfish, vain, oldest daughter, who is probably the most annoying character you'll ever meet. The twins, Leah and Adah — each with her own stories to share — seem the most practical of the family. Last but not least comes Ruth Ann, the clairvoyant 5-year-old. She absorbs Kilanga and the people with a child's honesty and sees more than the adults give her credit for. She is also important as a unifying element; she is the only family member who loves practically everyone openly and without reserve.

Nathan is portrayed as the overbearing shadow hanging over the Price family. Even in the Congo, he controls his family with a religious fervor — a control that fails to seep into the struggling congregation at the Kilanga mission. A veteran of the Vietnam War, he returned without physical injury but was the only man from his unit to survive.

Psychologically scarred for life, he became bent on saving the world by spreading the news of eternal salvation. Yet he refuses to let the Congo shape him. As the rest of the Price family is molded by the reality of the Congo wilderness, he is unable to come to terms with that reality and so he makes one horrific error after another.

Orleanna, Nathan's wife, is dragged to Africa despite her pleas for the future lives of the children. At the beginning, she enters the jungle with the simple hope of the family surviving until the end of the short-term mission. She did not bargain for the political upheaval that would shake the Congo. She could not comprehend Nathan's inflexible determination to remain despite warnings from other missionaries. Orleanna loses so much in Africa, it is her undoing.

Nathan is a lost cause. Rachel renounces everything for a chance at escaping her hated Kilanga. The jungle takes Ruth Ann, and Leah is all but claimed by malaria. Adah is the only member of her family Orleanna pulls away. Yet even Adah finds her own place, and it is not with her mother.

A journal of human frailty and strength, "The Poisonwood Bible" touches the heart. The message of this book is that humanity has all the power it needs to conquer impossible difficulties if accompanied by forces of love and hope. Kingsolver's characters always lose something, yet they always find an even greater richness in the dispossession. Her genius for human emotions and understanding allow the reader to relate to the characters.

The novel is a story that is next to impossible to put down. It recounts the historic change of power between the Belgians and the Congo and the terror and chaos that followed yet all the context of a missionary family trapped in the midst of their Kilanga world falling apart. The saying goes "there are two sides to every story," yet Kingsolver weaves the tale of a third side: the narrative of a family who is not African yet is not entirely American anymore.

Kingsolver is one of the more daring modern writers of our time. She captures so many people and places with an energy and talent that is refreshing. Capturing the pivotal era of African independence is no small task, yet "The Poisonwood Bible" will find a place among the classics of post-colonial literature. Kingsolver has a special connection with the Congo — one that is reflected in the story she paints. The thriving child of medical and public health workers, Kingsolver went with her parents when they were led to the Congo by compassion and curiosity.

As she so eloquently puts it, "they brought me to a place of wonders, taught me to pay attention, and set me early on a path of exploring the great, shifting terrain between righteousness and what's right." This novel took 30 years to write and mature into the treasure of hope, family, understanding, giving and living that it is; an intricate dance between the dark comedy of human failings and the breathtaking possibilities of human aspiration. **Grade: A+**

Calendar & Events

Friday, Nov. 20

Casa Mañana: "Complete History of America (Abridged)," 8 p.m.

Pocket Sandwich Theatre: "Dracula — The Melodrama," 8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 21

Casa Mañana: "Complete History of America (Abridged)," 5 and 9 p.m.

Pocket Sandwich Theatre: "Dracula — The Melodrama," 8 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 22

Casa Mañana: "Complete History of America (Abridged)," 2 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 23

Lyle Lovett at Bass Performance Hall, 8 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 26

Casa Mañana: "Complete History of America (Abridged)," 8 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 27

North Central Civic Ballet: "The Nutcracker," 7:30 p.m.

Fort Worth Symphony, 8 p.m.

Pocket Sandwich Theatre: "Ebenezer Scrooge," 8 p.m.

Casa Mañana: "Complete History of America (Abridged)," 8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 28

North Central Civic Ballet: "The Nutcracker," 7:30 p.m.

Fort Worth Symphony, 2 and 8 p.m.

Pocket Sandwich Theatre: "Ebenezer Scrooge," 8 p.m.

Casa Mañana: "Complete History of America (Abridged)," 5 & 9 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 29

North Central Civic Ballet: "The Nutcracker," 2 p.m.

Fort Worth Symphony, 2 p.m.

Pocket Sandwich Theatre: "Ebenezer Scrooge," 7 p.m.

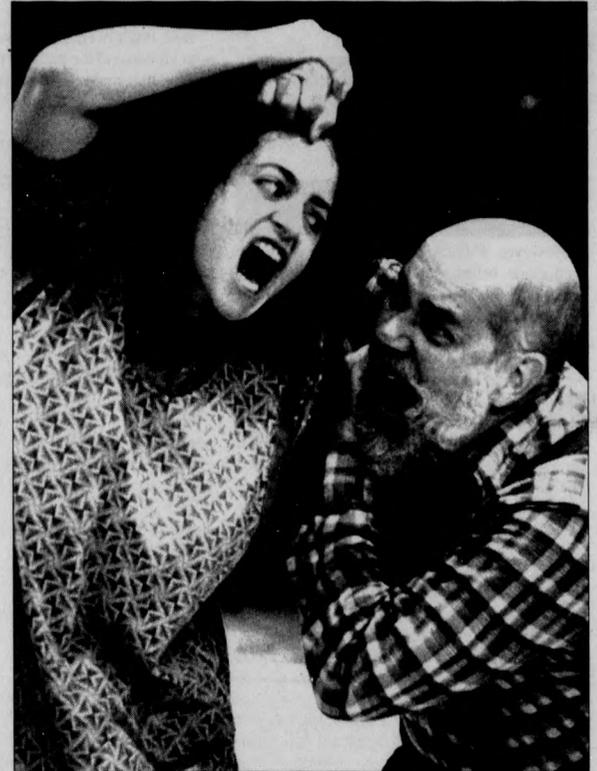
Casa Mañana: "Complete History of America (Abridged)," 8 p.m.

'Mysteries' breathes new life into Bible stories

Stage West's holiday offering will be the premiere of "The Christmas Mysteries," an adaptation by Nicolas Sandys, which opens Dec. 3 and runs through Dec. 27.

"The Christmas Mysteries" highlights selected Bible stories from the fall of Lucifer to the birth of Christ.

Various theatrical forms, including dance, music, clowning, farce and the occasional moments of theater magic, are used to bring stories to life. The stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, Herod and others are brought to life in a celebration of mankind in



SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF
SCREAM A LITTLE SCREAM. Erin McGrann (left) and Gary Taggart are at their wits' end in the Stage West play "The Christmas Mysteries."

all its variety, eccentricity and humor.

"The Christmas Mysteries" has been adapted from a group of plays that were originally part of huge civic celebrations in medieval England. Each play was sponsored by one of the craft guilds, hence the name "Mystery," which in this context meant craft, as in mastery.

All performances are at Stage West, 3055 S. University Drive. "The Christmas Mysteries" runs Thursday through Sunday with shows at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday, 3 and 8 p.m. Saturday, and 7:30 p.m. Sunday from Dec. 3 through Dec. 27. Student discount tickets are available 30 minutes before any show. For more information, call 784-9378.

Artists prepare for annual AIDS benefit

Local artists and vendors are joining for the third annual Artists Against AIDS, a benefit for AIDS Interfaith Network of Tarrant County. The benefit will be held Saturday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Four Star Coffee Bar, 3224 W. Seventh St. in Fort Worth.

Merchandise available for the silent auction will include artwork donated by local artists and merchandise and gift certificates donated by local businesses.

Last year's event raised more than \$4,000.

AIDS Interfaith Network is a nonprofit organization with a mission to mobilize people of faith to demonstrate God's love through active compassion and care to people affected by AIDS.

Commemorative stamps to be unveiled

The Amon Carter Museum and the United States Postal Service are bringing two works of art and their reproductions as commemorative postage stamps to the Fort Worth public Saturday.

From the Amon Carter Museum's permanent collection, Thomas Moran's "Cliffs of Green River," painted in 1874, is represented in a new 20-piece set of U.S. commemorative postage stamps.

Amon Carter Museum and the Fort Worth Post Office will present the artwork and the stamps from the Four Centuries of American Art Classic Collection to the public at 2 p.m. Saturday during a special unveiling ceremony at the museum. A special second-day cancellation, cachet envelopes and stamps will be available for collectors, art enthusiasts and anyone looking for a unique gift or souvenir.

Presenting a mix of style and subject matter, the 20 works featured in the Four Centuries of American Art pane of stamps come from museums and collections across the country.