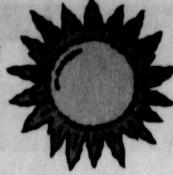


TCU DAILY Skiff

WEATHER FORECAST

High 68
Low 43

Mostly sunny



FRIDAY
MARCH 26, 1999

Texas Christian University
96th Year • Number 92
www.skiff.tcu.edu/skiff

Inside

Movies to get you in the mood for spring training.

See Weekend Insert

Pulse

Campus

Alpha Chis to hold benefit show Saturday

Alpha Chi Omega's seventh annual style show, held to benefit the victims of domestic violence, will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Round-Up Inn at Will Rogers Memorial Center.

A buffet lunch will be provided. Proceeds from ticket sales and a silent auction will go to the Women's Center of Tarrant County. Local retailers provided products for the auction, and Neiman Marcus provided the clothing for the style show.

Two people from each TCU fraternity and sorority will model the clothing.

Kathryn Johnson, communications chairwoman for Alpha Chi, said the sorority hopes to raise more than the \$11,500 the group raised at last year's style show.

Tickets are \$20 for students and \$30 for non-students. For tickets or more information, call 257-2562.

Registrar's office sets new registration hours

The Registrar's Office staff will be available from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. starting March 31 for advance registration for the Fall 1999 semester.

Previously, students could register from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Patrick Miller, registrar and director of enrollment, said the office has extended its hours to provide a more efficient registration.

The office will switch to the PeopleSoft computer system in May, and the registration time change is necessary for the staff to accomplish all of its goals.

Students will not be able to register or make any changes, such as adding or dropping classes or registering late, prior to 1 p.m.

Miller said the office, located in Sadler Hall Rooms 17 and 18, will accommodate students beyond 7 p.m. if necessary, but the last officially scheduled time assigned to some students for registration is 6:30 p.m., he said.

Colleges

OU researchers help with launchpad plans

NORMAN, Okla. (UPI) — An University of Oklahoma professor and graduate research assistant have helped state legislators plan the construction of a spaceport to bring the contract for a launchpad to Oklahoma. A state Senate bill needs approval to help make the state more attractive for the bidding company.

State Sen. Gilmer Capps, D-Snyder, co-authored Senate Bill 720, which calls for the old Air Force base at Burns Flat, a southwest Oklahoma town, to be converted into a launching site for space vehicles and satellites.

Capps said about 18 other states are competing for the contract for the launchpad of the newest space vehicle, VentureStar.

Chris Shove, director of the Region and City Planning Division at OU, helped plan the Florida spaceport.

He said many University of Oklahoma students were involved in the planning and research for the spaceport.

Oklahoma Daily

University of Oklahoma



Group discusses improvement ideas

Trustees to hear curriculum, pub suggestions

By Beth Wilson
SENIOR REPORTER

Students and trustees discussed the quality of faculty members, curriculum adjustments and ways to improve the social quality of the university Thursday at the Student Relations Committee meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The committee consists of 15 student organization representatives and 11 trustees. Don Mills, vice chancellor for student affairs, was also present.

William L. Adams, chairman of the committee, will present the committee's recommendations at the board meeting today.

Ben Alexander, Student Government Association president, said maintaining the high level of quality for the members of the faculty was a big concern of the students.

Some professors are experts in their areas but are not as effective as

teachers, said Tyler Smith, a representative from Student Foundation.

"If they can't communicate the vast knowledge to the students, it's almost worthless," he said.

Smith said he estimates one out of four professors are substandard.

Kelly Connally, a representative from Uniting Campus Ministries, said not enough credit is given to the student evaluations of the pro-

fessors. Student members suggested unannounced classroom visits by the dean as a way to further evaluate professors.

The stability of the average class size and the tuition was also discussed.

Adams said it is the board's intention is to keep the enrollment as it is now.

Student members said more infor-

mation about the allocation of the finances should be disseminated to the students.

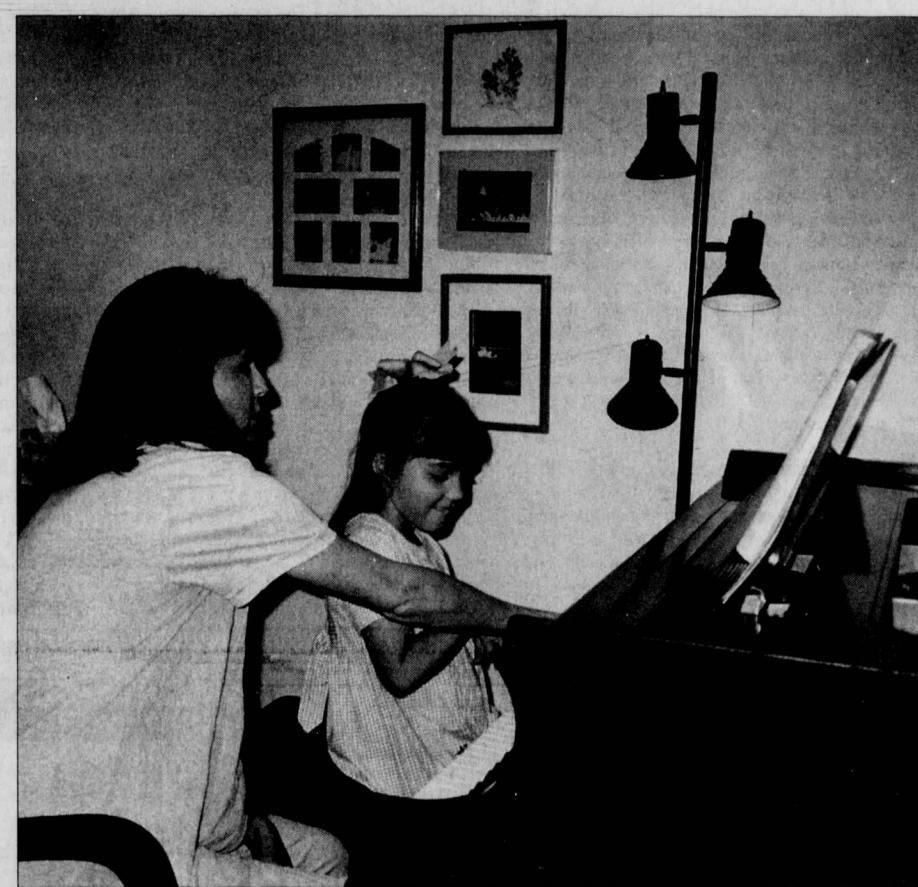
Adams said that financial data is available to the students.

"Are you getting the bang for the buck?" Adams asked. "That's something you gotta tell us."

Student members examined several areas of the curriculum and offered their suggestions on how to improve it.

Additional computer literacy, for-

Please see BOARD, Page 4



Photos by John Shaw and Jeri Petersen/SKIFF STAFF

Madeleine Carr, daughter of TCU alumna Heather Carr, receives piano instruction from Lori Christ, assistant director of the preparatory music program. (Right)

Doris Aparicio, director of the early childhood program, teaches children music.



Tiny tunes hit music school Enrollment surges for preparatory program

By Jeri Petersen
STAFF REPORTER

Call them Horned Tadpoles, Froglets or pre-freshmen, but by any name, TCU's littlest music students outnumber their grown-up counterparts.

About 600 children, nearly half of whom are younger than 7, are enrolled in music preparatory programs at TCU, with 65 more enrolled in Suzuki violin, viola, cello and harp classes.

Just more than 200 students are enrolled as music majors, although many non-majors take music courses and private lessons.

Three years ago, TCU was one of a handful of institutions in the country offering music lessons for young children.

Leanne Kirkham, director of music preparatory and piano professor, said enrollment has tripled since then.

"Our program was unique at the time, and we were getting a lot of attention. Local TV stations did stories on us a couple of years ago," Kirkham said. "With all the recent Mozart research claiming that classical music enhances learning, programs like ours have sprung up all over the country."

TCU's preparatory division, located in Ed Landreth Hall, includes preschool music classes, private lessons and technology resources, including a keyboard orchestra and theory lab. Children from birth to 7 participate in the early childhood program, and children 8 to 18 participate in music preparatory programs.

"We have a core of permanent faculty, and graduate students make

up the remainder of our teaching staff," Kirkham said. "It started as piano preparation, and now we offer clarinet, voice, flute and oboe, depending on what teachers we have each semester."

Kirkham is a piano pedagogy professor and also teaches piano readiness in the School of Music.

Heather Carr, a TCU alumna, enrolled her 6-year-old daughter, Madeleine, in private piano lessons last August.

"I was always aware of the program because I attended TCU," Carr said. "I know other people who have had their children in lessons here, and once Maddy expressed an interest, I signed her up."

Like other parents, Carr said her daughter needs gentle encouragement to practice.

"But while she's doing it, she really enjoys it," she said. "She is so pleased when she is able to play something hard."

The TCU Suzuki Summer Institute and year-round program for students aged 4 through 18 is separate from the Preparatory Division.

Suzuki philosophy and early childhood music education theories are similar in that they believe the optimum time for a person to learn music is in the first few years of life.

Shinichi Suzuki, the son of Japan's first violin manufacturer, observed in his music studies that children surrounded by the sounds of their languages from birth speak naturally and easily. He applied the principle to teaching violin to young children, calling it the

Please see SUZUKI, Page 4

Film festival to include drive-in at Frog Fountain

By Joaquin Herrera
DESIGN EDITOR

Students looking for a free, fun way to entertain a date on Wednesday night can make plans to go to Programming Council's film festival next week, which will include a drive-in movie.

The theme of the film festival is "Three Generations of Saturday Night Live" and is hosted by PC's Fine Arts Committee. All movies will feature former "SNL" cast members.

"Ghostbusters" will be shown Monday and "Austin Powers" will be shown Tuesday, both in Moody Building North, Room 141.

"Waterboy" will be shown Wednesday on a big screen set up in front of Frog Fountain. Students will be able to bring blankets to the lawn area or park their cars in the faculty parking area west of Frog Fountain to view the film.

Those who will be a part of the drive-in, can tune to an AM station, which will be announced at the event, to hear the film.

Lexi Dunham, Fine Arts Committee chairwoman and a sophomore accounting major, said this will be the first time TCU has a drive-in movie on campus.

The Fine Arts Committee is holding the event this semester because of the loss of the Films Committee. PC underwent major struc-

PC Film Festival

"Ghostbusters"
Monday, March 29, 10 p.m.
Moody Building North, Room 141

"Austin Powers"
Tuesday, March 30, 8:30 p.m.
Moody Building North, Room 141

"Waterboy"
Wednesday, March 31, 8:30 p.m.
Frog Fountain

SOURCE: PROGRAMMING COUNCIL

tural changes at the beginning of this semester, cutting both the Films Committee, which held free movies throughout the semester, and the Forums Committee, which hosted speakers.

The Fine Arts Committee has taken up the responsibility of hosting movies this semester and the committee has decided to begin holding the festival, Dunham said.

"We'd love to see this turn into an annual thing with a theme every year," she said.

Dunham said she hopes students will come to the event and take advantage of the free popcorn and drinks provided during the drive-in.

Door prizes will be given during the festival to those who attend the films, Dunham said.

1970-1980 Streaking, disco favorite pastimes

This is the ninth story in a series illustrating the history of life at TCU.

By Katy Garcia
SKIFF STAFF

Students in the 1970s, like those today, participated in a wide range of activities. In the '80s, students take part in Student Government, intramural sports and Greek life. Horned Frogs of the '70s, however, enjoyed the popular sports of streaking, disco dancing and panty raids.

Overflowing with young, open-minded pioneers, the student body made history at TCU in the fall of 1971. Jennifer Giddings won the honor of being the first black Homecoming queen. Giddings, now known as Jennifer Giddings Brooks, serves on the TCU's National Alumni Board.

The 1971 edition of the Horned

Frog yearbook commemorated the occasion: "Elected by the student body, (Giddings) became the first black Homecoming queen in the history of TCU and the Southwest Conference."

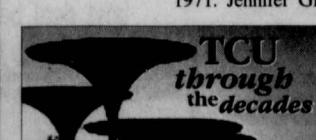
Students also elected another first as their Homecoming queen in 1974, when the queen in question was a he, not a she.

Kristi Hoban, a 1975 graduate who now serves her alma mater as the director of alumni relations, remembers the incident.

"(The students) elected a male Homecoming queen, and that's why, today, there is a Homecoming queen and a Homecoming king," Hoban said. "Basically a bunch of people got together and thought it would be funny to elect a man."

"The guy was on a Chancellor's Scholarship, and rumor was that Dr. Moudy, who was the chancellor then, told him that if he didn't pull out he would lose the Chancellor's

Please see DECADES, Page 4



nifer Giddings Brooks, serves on the TCU's National Alumni Board.

The 1971 edition of the Horned

Pulse

Announcements of campus events, public meetings and other general campus information should be brought to the TCU Daily Skiff office at Moudy Building South, Room 291, mailed to TCU Box 298050 or e-mailed to skiffletters@tcu.edu. Deadline for receiving announcements is 2 p.m. the day before they are to run. The Skiff reserves the right to edit submissions for style, taste and space available.

Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the earth sciences honor society, presents Robert Stern, chairman of geosciences at the University of Texas at Dallas, who will be speaking at 11 a.m. Friday in Sid Richardson, Lecture Hall 4. The presentation will include video footage of submarine studies of the Izu-Bonin-Mariana Arc.

Caribbean summer internships are available through Orphanage Outreach, a non-profit organization, for university students interested in volunteering at its Touch the Future Summer Program in the Dominican Republic. The program will be conducted at the Hope of a Child Orphanage from June 12 to August 8. One-week, three-week, and eight-week positions are available. The program consists of both an educational summer school and a community health program. For additional information and an application, visit www.orphanage-outreach.org, or call Volunteer Director Paula Greba at (602) 990-1100.

A golf tournament will be held by Air Force ROTC Cadet Wing on April 11 at Carswell Golf Course. Proceeds from the event will offset costs of training for cadets. Golfers can match their games against the TCU Golf team players during the tournament. Deadline to enter is April 1. For more information contact Brant Nickell at 921-7461.

Catch three generations of Saturday Night Live at an upcoming film festival sponsored by the Programming Council Fine Arts Committee.

"Ghostbusters" will be shown at 10 p.m. Monday in the Moudy Building, Room 141N. "Austin Powers" will be shown 10 p.m. Tuesday in the Moudy Building, Room 141N. And don't miss "Waterboy" at 10 p.m. Friday at Frog Fountain for a "drive-in" showing. Concessions will be available at "Waterboy." Watch from your car or bring a blanket.

TCU Triangle will meet at 5 p.m. Sunday at the Wesley Foundation Building. Officer elections for next year will be held and suggestions for a new faculty sponsor will be discussed.

News ROUNDUP

World

NATO blasts Yugoslavia in hopes Milosevic accepts peace deal

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — NATO pounded Yugoslavia for a second night Thursday, following through on a pledge to systematically destroy President Slobodan Milosevic's military forces unless he accepts peace in Kosovo.

Bombs rained down on Kosovo's capital of Pristina shortly after dark. The sky lit up with bright flashes when three heavy blasts were heard from the direction of an army base next to the airport.

Explosions were also heard north of Belgrade, in northern Kosovo, and in Serbia and Montenegro, the two republics that make up Yugoslavia.

"We're going to systematically and progressively attack, disrupt, degrade, devastate and ultimately — unless President Milosevic complies with the demands of the international community — we're going to destroy these forces and their facilities and support," said U.S. Gen. Wesley Clark, supreme commander of allied forces in Europe.

But there was no hint the assault was causing Milosevic to rethink his refusal to end his offensive against ethnic Albanian separatists in Kosovo or accept a plan calling for 28,000 NATO troops to enforce the peace.

His aides scorned the airstrikes as "a crime against the people" of Yugoslavia, his troops reportedly kept burning villages and kidnapping people in Kosovo and Serbia ordered all foreign reporters to leave. Most journalists heeded the warning.

Yugoslavia also announced it was cutting diplomatic ties with United States, Britain, France and Germany for participating in the airstrikes, Serbian TV reported. But Britain and the United States said they had received no formal notice of ties being broken. France would neither confirm nor deny the report and Germany had no immediate comment.

More than 2,000 people have been killed and at least 400,000 forced to flee their homes in a year of fighting between Yugoslav troops and ethnic Albanian rebels in Kosovo, a province in Serbia. The ethnic Albanians have already signed the U.S.-backed peace plan.

A devastating first round of airstrikes Wednesday reportedly killed at least 11 people, injured dozens and delivered serious blows to Yugoslavia's military infrastructure.

Muslims journey to Mecca for annual hajj pilgrimage

MECCA, Saudi Arabia — About 2 million Muslim pilgrims swathed in white made their way Thursday toward holy Mount Arafat, traveling on foot or aboard packed buses for the annual hajj journey to Mecca.

Despite the huge traffic jams caused by the influx of the faithful, Saudi officials said the num-

ber of hajj pilgrims was down this year due to economic troubles in Southeast Asia and among oil producing countries.

This year, over 1 million foreign Muslims have made the annual journey to the holy city of Mecca, according to a Saudi official. That's 135,000 fewer than last year's final figure.

Another 1.2 million Saudis also were participating, bringing the total number of pilgrims to about 2.3 million.

Economic and political turmoil has reduced the number of pilgrims from Indonesia, the most populous Muslim country in the world, from 230,000 last year to 70,000, the official said.

Indonesia has been hardest hit by the Asian economic meltdown, which has devalued currencies and caused widespread unemployment. The crisis led to political turbulence and riots in many parts of the country.

Pilgrims from neighboring wealthy Persian Gulf states also were staying home because of slumping international oil prices, the official said, although he had no precise figures.

Citizens of the United Arab Emirates, used to luxurious facilities, spend an average \$6,850 during the hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca that able-bodied Muslims are required to perform at least once, if they can afford it.

There were, however, more than enough pilgrims to create incredible traffic jams all over Mecca, where a 15-minute trip easily could take one and a half hours this week.

Nation

Powerful space explosion still a mystery to astronomers

WASHINGTON — The most powerful explosion ever observed — a deep space eruption detected in January — released in just seconds a burst of energy equal to billions of years of light from thousands of suns.

Researchers say in studies to be published Friday that the explosion, called a gamma ray burst, occurred 9 billion light-years from Earth. What caused the explosion is still a mystery.

"It is probably something to do with massive stars," said S. George Djorgovski, a California Institute of Technology astronomer. "The real truth is, we don't know."

The gamma ray burst was detected by Italian and U.S. science satellites that sent an alert to a network of ground instruments and telescopes. Within seconds, telescopes focused on the area of the sky where the burst originated and captured views in visible light. Later, more powerful telescopes photographed the explosion's afterglow.

The alert enabled astronomers, for the first time in history, to capture optical views of a gamma ray burst event as the detection was underway. Analyzing this light helped the scientists determine that the burst happened about 9 billion light-years from Earth. A light-year is about 6 trillion miles.

An international team of astronomers wrote a series of reports on their study of the gamma ray burst in two scientific journals, *Nature* and *Science*.

Djorgovski, co-author of a study in *Nature*, said an analysis of light and other energy spewing from the explosion suggests that for a very brief instant the explosion was more luminous and energetic than the whole rest of the universe.

"If the gamma rays were emitted equally in all directions, their energy would correspond to 10,000 times the energy emitted by our sun over its entire lifetime of about 5 billion years," he said in an interview. "Yet the burst last only a few tens of seconds."

Djorgovski said there is some evidence the energy was detected as a concentrated beam that was pointed at the Earth. A beam would give an impression of greater energy in the explosion.

But even if the gamma ray energy were sent out in a beam, said Djorgovski, that would reduce the energy estimate only by a factor of ten to 100.

"It would still be the most powerful explosion ever observed," he said.

State

Executed prisoner proclaims innocence until his death

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — Charles Rector, claiming his innocence to the end, was executed Thursday night for the abduction, rape, shooting and drowning of an Austin woman more than 17 years ago.

Rector was pronounced dead at 6:22 p.m., eight minutes after the lethal drugs began flowing into his body.

"I want you to know I'm not guilty," Rector said in a final statement while strapped to the death chamber gurney.

He turned his head and looked at five members of Carolyn Kay Davis' family.

"And I'll say this to the family — I did not kill your daughter. Take it the way you want. I'm sorry for the pain," he said.

Rector expressed love to members of his family, who also watched through another window. He concluded his statement by reciting the words to a song he wrote, called "God Living With Us 24 Hours."

Rector, 44, was convicted of killing the 22-year-old Davis, who disappeared from her Austin apartment Oct. 17, 1981.

"Tonight does not give our family any feeling of closure or satisfaction," Joe Irvin, Davis' stepfather, and her two sisters, Kim Cole and Katherine Matthews, said in a statement released after the execution. "Katy is still gone and nothing can change that or bring her back."

Rector was on parole for another slaying seven years earlier when he was arrested near Davis' apartment a few hours after she disappeared. He was wearing her designer jeans, carrying her jewelry in his pocket and had items taken from her apartment in his car.

The U.S. Supreme Court refused final appeals, and the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles rejected a clemency petition, clearing the way for the eighth execution in Texas this year.

These stories are from the Associated Press.

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Opinion

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1999

Skiff

PAGE 3

editorial

PRIORITY CHECK

Board should focus on more than sports

The popularity of athletics has surged this year. We got a new head football coach and a new athletic director. The football team improved dramatically. And who could forget the upset at the Sun Bowl? Then there are the basketball teams, the baseball team, swimming and diving ... the list goes on and on.

Last semester's meeting of the Board of Trustees reflected this interest in athletics. The Board passed Phase 1 of the new athletic complex and appropriated funding to carry it out.

Now the Board of Trustees is about to meet again, but this time, priorities should better reflect the well-roundedness of this university.

Now, we aren't saying that athletics are bad. Athletics have many positive effects on the entire university. Success in sports gives the university name recognition and brings in revenue.

But TCU has many worthy programs within its boundaries, and some of them need attention this semester.

Consultants have been hired in the initial stages of building a new student center, and the continuation of this process is a must. The Tucker Technology Center will have many benefits for education and technology on this campus. But both of these very worthwhile causes were somewhat shortchanged at last semester's board meeting. Only a small amount of funding was shifted their way, as opposed to the great gains given to the athletic department.

Again, supporting athletics is not a bad thing. Not at all. However, the key here is that several aspects of TCU also need the board's financial support.

Last semester, athletics had its turn. This semester, we hope the board will put Phase 2 on hold and give other branches of the university a turn.

Editorial policy: The content of the Opinion page does not necessarily represent the view of the Texas Christian University. Unsigned editorials represent the view of the *TCU Daily Skiff* editorial board. Signed letters, columns and cartoons represent the opinion of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board.

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Tom Urquhart/PRODUCTION MANAGER

Girl Scouts may rise to dominate our existence

There can be no denying it, Girl Scout cookies are delicious. I have frequently been tempted to make a box of Thin Mints into an impromptu meal, sacrificing the traditional concepts of nutrition and balance to satisfy an irrational hankering.

How many of us can say that we have been able to resist the charms of cute young girls loaded down with delicious morsels in front of a grocery store? It is an irresistible deal — you get tasty treats to crank up your body fat percentage, and they get money to send them out into the woods to roast marshmallows.

When it's "cookie season" it is virtually impossible not to bump

into someone who isn't peddling the cookies for their daughter, niece or cousin. How can you turn down their offers — after all it's all "for a good cause?"

I once thought that the Girl Scout cookie sales-a-palooza was just innocent fundraising for the good of the young girls of America, but in the midst of a Grasshopper-induced haze I realized the dire repercussions of America's blissful Girl Scout cookie binge.

The Girl Scouts sell literally millions and millions of boxes of cookies to Americans. The actual figure for 1997 was 182 million boxes being bartered by a sales force of 2 million girls, according to the Girl Scouts' official Web site.

Now considering it only costs a couple of cents worth of ingredients to produce a box of cookies, imagine the kind of cash the Girl Scout organization is stockpiling. In the 80 years the Girl Scouts have been selling cookies, imagine the kind of profit that has been accu-

mulated. I wouldn't be surprised if it was up in the billions of dollars.

What sort of thing could the Girl Scouts spend this kind of money on? They aren't like a commercial cookie company such as Nabisco in that they need to pay for advertising; all of their sales are made by a free, diligent workforce that is being motivated by nothing more than the prospect of a cookie badge.

Individual Girl Scouts have to buy their own uniforms and how much can the upkeep on a couple of campsites be? The only conclusion can be that the Girl Scouts organization has an untapped fortune at its disposal, just gathering immense interest in a sheltered bank account.

So where is the money headed? There is only one possibility: the Girl Scout war machine.

Consider that the Girl Scouts are the world's largest female organization with millions of members. For the most crucial learning years in a child's life they are having the

Girl Scout philosophy and value system drilled into their being. What better method of training an army than to wrap your mantra around them from their earliest moments in life? Does any one remember the Hitler Youth?

I cannot be sure when the Girl Scouts will rise up in their bid for global conquest, but I believe it will come soon. Perhaps they will strike in the confusion caused by the Y2K computer crash. Maybe they will wait until there is a woman in the White House to lead their assault.

At the risk of my own life and limb I feel this conspiracy must be exposed. Fight back against the Girl Scout legions. Only by resisting their cookie sales can we hope to cut off the invasion before it begins!

If only they weren't so damn tasty.

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

Smoking ban will have dire consequences

Tobacco has had a long, tumultuous history in these United States. Once it was the backbone of our nation's economy, and now it's considered a taboo, an evil product designed to eat away at its consumers' wills like an addictive acid. But our country's recent efforts to strangle the life out of the industry is like committing a crime that inspires copycat actions — a dangerous trend that could very well end up putting a straitjacket on the land of the free.

I'm in no way condoning smoking. My parents were both smokers, and I've seen how hard it is to quit. My grandfather lan-

guished and suffered for years with emphysema. Cigarette smoke makes me gag, like it does to a lot of other people. It's a habit that's gonna kill you if you don't stop. It's flat-out bad. But the fact of the matter is, if we get rid of smoking because of its negative effects on our health, it's only going to make it easier for special interest groups to step in and start dropping other substances that can be considered unhealthy.

Personally, I'm a big fan of caffeine. Coffee, Dr Pepper and the like can always pick me up, though I haven't gotten to the stage of No-Doz consumption. But the fact of the matter is, caffeine is an addictive substance that dehydrates the body, strains the heart, thins the blood and eventually can cause hypertension. The same thing applies to nicotine: It's a substance used for recreational purposes, and it will end up killing you.

Despite the fact that these two carry the

same kind of consequences, only one is being taken down slowly — for now, anyway. Members of influential health organizations have taken to calling Coke "addictive, liquid candy that is severely detrimental to your health."

If cigarettes are eventually eliminated from existence in America, what's to stop health organizations from restricting, or rather constricting, caffeine additives? Or red meat? Or salt? How'd you like to live in a country that didn't allow sugar?

The age of Prohibition is a good example of what happens when the government tries to ban a harmful but widely used substance. Not only did alcohol production still occur, but the restrictions allowed other illegal drugs to become more prevalent. After all, if you're already violating one constitutional law, what's it going to matter if you throw a little weed in there, too? To paraphrase Dennis Miller, drug use is so ingrained in

the American lifestyle, that if you got rid of all of the drugs in America, people would spin around in their yards until they fell down and saw God.

The dilemma that smoking presents us with is much like a free speech debate in which people like the Nazis are not allowed to hold a parade or a demonstration because their message is one of hate. The fact of the matter is that everyone, under constitutional law, has a right to say whatever he or she pleases, whether it's a popular message or not. In fact, one might say the Constitution was written to protect those unpopular views. If we're going to allow something, whether it's free speech or cheap thrills, we have to be willing to accept the evils that come with the good.

In other words, it would be hypocritical if we didn't have an all-or-nothing acceptance of things like free speech or cheap thrills. So cigarettes kill people. We've

put a warning on the pack and blared it at the top of our lungs that *this stuff will kill you*. So secondhand smoke can cause cancer after a period of time. We've set up designated smoking zones and banned the act in places where people congregate.

We've got our bases covered. By doing anything else — by raising the tax on cigarettes even one cent more than inflation requires — the government is allowed to try to take control of people's health. I realize that every time I brew up a hot cup of coffee, it's a step toward heart problems. I accept the tradeoff, the same as smokers do. As long as it doesn't interfere with someone else's life, I'll sip my Folger's crystals, hoping Big Brother doesn't come by and take it away. It's my health, and I'll chip and dent it as I please. But hey ... that's just me.

Herndon Hasty is a freshman business major from Overland Park, Kan.

Specialization leads to a narrow outlook on life

I've been brainwashed, and I didn't even know it. Last week

I realized that my thought patterns have been severely altered, and now I don't know if that is good or bad. This brainwashing has to do with the courses related to my major and how they have changed my view of the world. Something in my mind tells me this alteration

is good, but something in my heart tells me it is also very bad.

In most history courses students learn that "civilized" societies are "specialized." In primitive cultures everybody needs to know a little of everything in order to survive, but in "modern" societies, people are to learn only one trade and exchange services with others. Until now, I thought that division of chores was merely practical. I always thought I would be happy learning one trade, because this meant I was only going to make a living out of this trade, not that I had to limit myself to it. The fact that I was a journalist didn't mean I couldn't be a designer, or so I

thought. My bubble was burst pretty quickly.

I was sitting quietly in my Intellectual Traditions class, which was a discussion of the gospel of Mark. The professor was trying to make us focus on the literary value of Mark as a narrative text. I, good student that I am, tried to do this. I tried to focus on this text and view it as a narration. However, all along, my subconscious mind was mumbling, "Awmygod, this is an awesome movie script!" I wasn't focusing on the class work at all. I was considering the rewards that a movie with such an awesome script would bring (not that Zeffirelli didn't beat me to it). I was wondering

if the Arizona desert would mimic Jerusalem closely enough. For a moment, the Bible was to me no more than an endless source of blockbusters.

Then, the realization suddenly hit me: Majors are not trades, they are perceptions of the world. Maybe some people are saying, "Well duh, that's what majors do," but I wasn't aware of it until about two weeks ago.

One of my teachers spent 15 minutes trying to explain the format of a particular paper. She went on and on, fruitlessly trying to make me understand. Then she said, "Think of it as sort of a feature article." This may not mean

much to other people, but to me, it was all clear. And so I realized that I can no longer think like I thought. I am condemned to view things as a journalist. I can no longer read a book without picturing it as a movie. I don't sit down to watch TV but to watch ads, and somehow, I am never happy with the aesthetic distribution of my room. It lacks the balance of a designed set.

On one hand I am happy because it means that I am actually learning something in my classes, and I might just be able to make a living out of being a journalist. On the other hand, it also means that I will never be able to view the world as I used to. I can't appreciate a sun-

rise for the value of it, but for its potential as a lighting technique. Grammar is a gospel, not a choice.

I can't quite explain what it means, but something tells me I am missing out on seeing the world through the eyes of a teacher, a businessman or a designer. Now I'll never know. Maybe "civilized" societies are not that good, and specialization only leads to loss. Maybe we should all be liberal arts majors, and the world would be a better place.

On the other hand, we could never get a job.

Raquel Torres is a freshman journalism major from Cali, Colombia.

Police BLOTTER

Theft

March 23, 6:48 p.m. - Officers received a call from a student in Winton-Scott Hall regarding theft of personal property. The complainant had left her bag in the back of room 313 at 8:30 a.m. When she returned at 3:30, she noticed her wallet was missing from the bag. The wallet contained \$100 cash, credit cards, an Arizona driver's license, a TCU ID, a hotel room key and rental car keys. The complainant notified her credit card companies and found that someone had tried to charge \$3,000, but was denied because the amount was over her limit. The unknown suspect or suspects had also charged \$5,325.86 at an unknown store. TCU Police advised the complainant to file a report with the Fort Worth Police Department.

Disorderly Conduct

March 11, 4:49 p.m. - Police took a complaint from a student living in Sherley Hall regarding disorderly conduct. The complainant's ex-boyfriend arrived in Fort Worth and wanted to see her. The complainant agreed to meet with him, and he came to campus in a taxi. He told her he came to Fort Worth to renew their relationship. The complainant told him she was not interested in getting back together, and he said he

would not call her again. Within the next few days, however, the complainant received six or seven calls from him indicating that he was not going to give up. The complainant said she was filing the report because the suspect has a very aggressive personality and might persist in trying to renew their relationship. The complainant has had her phone number changed, and police advised her to contact them if the suspect comes to campus or calls her again.

March 19, 8:37 p.m. - Police met with a student in Jarvis Hall in response to harassing phone calls. The complainant is sharing a dorm room with a friend who moved out of her aunt and uncle's apartment because of family problems. The complainant has since received harassing calls on her voice mail. Assistant Campus Police Chief J.C. Williams advised the suspects to stop calling, but the complainant received another call on her voice mail. TCU Police have recorded the messages from the voice mail for evidence.

Intoxication, DWI

March 13, 7:47 p.m. - Police received a call to assist the Fort Worth Police Department near a broken-down car on University Drive. When police arrived, they found the suspect unable to stand on his own and smelling strongly of alcohol. The suspect was handcuffed and taken to the Tarrant County Jail on suspicion of driving while intoxicated.

Compiled by Pam Woodhead

SUZUKI

From Page 1

"mother tongue approach."

Suzuki founded the Talent Education Institute in Matsumoto, Japan, in 1945.

TCU's Suzuki program director, Barbara Barber, is taking two of her students to the 13th Suzuki Method World Convention in Tokyo and Matsumoto this week, where they will join teachers worldwide in seminars, lessons and concerts.

Barber, an assistant professor of music, will be one of the international faculty members at the Japan convention. She will teach a master class and play a recital with a pianist colleague from Australia.

Both of Barber's students started Suzuki violin as young children in different parts of the world and are pursuing music degrees with emphasis in Suzuki pedagogy.

The two students met Barber at the Suzuki World Convention in Dublin, Ireland, in 1995.

Ryoko Arai, a sophomore music performance major from Japan, will serve as a translator at the conference. She has also been invited to play at a convention concert.

Arai and Padilla both teach Suzuki classes at TCU and said they will bring valuable training back to pass on to their students.

The Suzuki method teaches children as young as 2 to play instruments by listening to musical patterns and playing them back exactly as they hear them.

Students begin reading music when they reach school age. Parents must be committed and are heavily involved in the teaching process.

Suzuki ideas were introduced in the United States in 1958, and TCU embraced the program in 1979 with the implementation of the TCU Suzuki Institute and Advanced String Camp. A year-round Suzuki program was added 12 years ago.

Similar to the Suzuki philosophy, the early childhood program in the preparatory music division strives to immerse children in music from birth.

Dorla Aparicio, director of the early childhood program, said the youngest child enrolled now is three months old.

"We found that this is when we really want to expose children to music because although their attention span is short, they are a captive audience at this age," Aparicio said.

"They're still too young to want to move around. They just sit in their parents' laps, and we have their full attention."

The classes revolve around activities such as singing, rocking, dancing and experimenting with instruments.

"We sing to the babies in different tonalities and express movement in different meters," she said. "Just as listening is part of the process of learning to speak, this is part of their musical growth."

Aparicio said she teaches little ones by singing to them and making funny faces at them.

"I encourage parents to enjoy themselves and be a model for their child as I am a model for them. It's so much fun, you forget your children are learning."

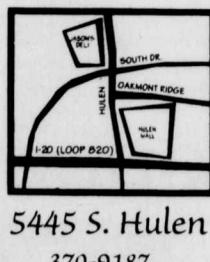
Word of mouth has made the program one of the hottest tickets in Fort Worth, Kirkham said.

"We've become a program parents clamor to get their kids into, much like Zoo School or Museum School," she said.

The music preparatory division of the School of Music started in 1956. The early childhood courses were added about 12 years ago.

The Suzuki and preparatory programs run on regular TCU semesters. For information, call Suzuki at 257-5505 or Music Preparatory at 257-6645.

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DECades

From Page 1

Scholarship," Hoban said. "Of course, now that I'm at TCU in administration I know that, had that happened, [Moudy] probably wouldn't have done that."

The crown was given instead to the woman with the most votes. The next year, TCU had both a Homecoming king and queen for the first time.

Firsts at TCU abounded all over the campus with the discontinuation of mandatory curfews in the residence halls in 1971.

Prior to 1971, dorms had curfews of midnight on weekdays and 2 a.m. on weekends.

On the fashion front, the Vietnam War impacted students' styles, some of which can be seen today.

"The Vietnam War was going on and it was kind of a free spirit," Hoban said. "It was the hippie era."

Female students wore hot pants, plastic boots and mini skirts. They wore their hair parted down the middle, straight and long, she said.

"I look back now and I can't believe I walked out in public with my skirt that short," Hoban said. "And the men wore really long hair. They wore polyester leisure suits and afros were big with the African-Americans."

As an expression of rebellion,

many students protested various issues.

According to a February 1976 issue of the *Daily Skiff*, the residents of Pete Wright Hall protested outside the dorm, wearing only towels, after the water was unexpectedly turned off.

Streaking and panty raids were among the popular pastimes for the Horned Frogs of the '70s.

Hoban said when she was a student at TCU, streaking was common. Between Colby and Sherley residence halls, a group would gather and somebody would streak.

"I remember one night in particular, there was a crowd gathered and people were streaking back and forth," Hoban said. "Somebody just dropped their clothes and streaked."

"These girls decided they were going to do it, but they were going to get on a motorcycle to just do it real quick and nobody would see them. But a bunch of people got in front of the motorcycle and knocked them down."

The campus was growing quickly with the completions of buildings that are now time-honored, prominent fixtures.

The Sid W. Richardson Physical Sciences Building and the Anne

Richardson Bass Building were completed between 1970 and 1971. The following year the Cyrus K. and Ann C. Rickel Health and Physical Education Building was completed. In 1975, construction was finished for the Miller Speech and Hearing Clinic. Other additions included the Mary Potishman Lard Tennis Center and Starpoint School.

In 1973, a full-time physician was hired as director of the Brown-Lupton Health Center, according to Joan Hewitt Swaim, author of *Walking TCU: A Historical Perspective*. When Fort Worth entrepreneur Charles Tandy died in 1978, an endowment by him and his widow established funding for TCU's new business building, Tandy Hall, writes Jerome A. Moore, author of *Texas Christian University: A Hundred Years of History*.

In a November 1979 issue of the *Daily Skiff*, an anonymous student wrote a letter to the editor that read: "It is time that we, the generation of changers, open our eyes to the world around us. We think we have made progress and done great things, but the road is longer than we, at TCU, can imagine."

With that final note, the decade soon came to a close.

BOARD

From Page 1

sign language, writing emphasis and critical inquiry classes were suggested to enhance the liberal arts education.

Smith and Marianne Graham, a representative from Students Reaching Out, said many classes that teach computer skills offer outdated information and services that are nonessential to what is used in the "real world."

Adams said these concerns could be addressed through a serious look at the courses in the core curriculum rather than adding classes.

"It seems like we could beef up the courses, which wouldn't add hours," he said.

Student members also said today's global community requires graduates to be proficient in another language and to experience diversity through the international experience.

Both the ends of the study abroad program were discussed: TCU stu-

dents who study abroad and international students at TCU.

Sarah Burleson, vice president of the House of Student Representatives, said it is difficult to find funding for study abroad programs because the availability of financial aid is limited for study abroad programs not affiliated with TCU.

Mills said he estimates 400 to 500 students study abroad each semester, including the summer.

Integration of community service in to the curriculum was also discussed.

Ruthy Googins, a representative of the Leadership Council, said a fourth credit option for some classes would provide an incentive for students to get involved in the community. Instead of receiving three hours of credit, students would have the option of doing community service work related to the class and receive an additional credit hour.

Enhancing the social atmosphere

through the addition of recreational facilities and an on-campus pub were also discussed.

Adams said the recreational needs of the students will be examined thoroughly as a part of the Student Center planning process.

"You've got the board's backing in knowing the center is obsolete ... These things will happen but probably not in your lifetime," he said.

Mills said the consultant firm will be on campus April 6 and 7 to gather student input about what should be included in the student center.

Daniel Worden, a representative from the Honors Cabinet, said many other universities have pubs on campus and have no problems with enforcement of the drinking age.

"It would give on-campus students who are of age something to do on campus, and they don't have to worry about driving home after a few drinks," he said.

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Sports

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1999

Skiff

PAGE 5

Pulse

Campus

This weekend's home sports

The baseball team continues its series with San Diego State today and Saturday at the TCU Diamond. Today's game begins at 2:35 p.m.; Saturday's game will be at 1 p.m.

The track team will compete in the Fort Worth Recreation meet beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday at Clark Field.

The women's tennis team will face Brigham Young University at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center.

NIT

Cal beats Clemson by one in close final

NEW YORK (AP) — California's comeback kids did it again on Thursday night, and this time they came away with the NIT championship.

Geno Carlisle's 3-point play with 4.7 seconds capped yet another Cal comeback and lifted the Golden Bears to a 61-60 victory over Clemson at Madison Square Garden.

The Tigers had taken a 60-58 lead on two free throws by Andrius Jurkus with 29.8 seconds left. Carlisle, the Golden Bears' leading scorer this season, drove the lane and scored as Tom Wideman was called for the foul.

After a timeout, Carlisle, a 77 percent free-throw shooter, walked to the line and swished the decisive free throw in front of a crowd of 10,864.

Terrell McIntyre, who led Clemson 17 points, dribbled the length of the court but his desperation 15-footer was off the mark, and the Golden Bears (22-11) rushed the floor to celebrate their first postseason title in 40 years.

Carlisle, who had 16 points in his final game to lead Cal, was one of four seniors who enrolled at the school two years ago knowing NCAA sanctions were coming.

Last year, Cal was barred from postseason play but the Golden Bears wiped away all the bad memories of the past with their first NIT title.

Sean Lampley, the MVP of the tournament, had 15 points and Michael Gill added nine for Cal, while Harold Jamison had 13 points and 14 rebounds for Clemson (20-15).

In the game for third place Xavier cruised to a 106-75 victory over Oregon.

NBA

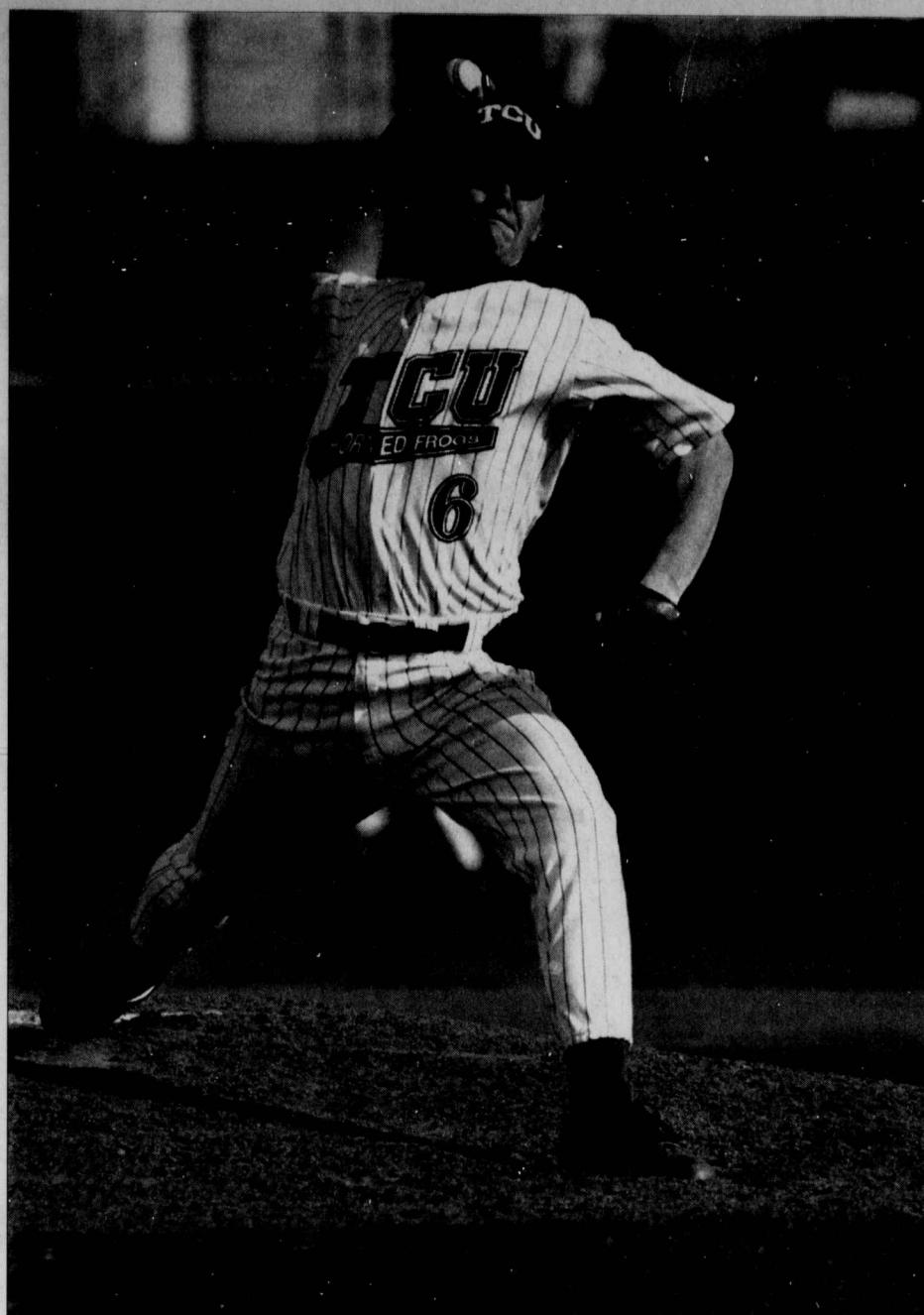
Rockets win despite Olajuwon ejection

HOUSTON (AP) — Sharpshooters Michael Dickerson and Cuttino Mobley, picking up the slack as Hakeem Olajuwon was ejected, combined for 14 of Houston's club-record 17 3-pointers as the Rockets held off the Toronto Raptors 113-104 Thursday night.

The Rockets broke from a 63-63 deadlock with an 18-2 run in the third quarter that featured five 3-point baskets, four by Dickerson. He got a career-high 28 points, including 7-of-9 from 3-point range.

Mobley also hit 7-of-9 from beyond the arc in scoring a career-high 26 points, helping the Rockets to their sixth straight victory. The Rockets finished 17-for-30 from 3-point range.

The Rockets took control with their big run but with 2:55 left in the third quarter, Olajuwon was ejected with a flagrant foul after an altercation with Charles Oakley.



David Duna/SKIFF STAFF

Junior Shawn Thompson was the winning pitcher in Thursday's 8-2 victory over San Diego State. The two teams face off again at 2:35 p.m. today at the TCU Diamond.

Cal Ripken Sr. dies of lung cancer

By David Ginsburg
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALTIMORE — Cal Ripken Sr., whose contributions to the Baltimore Orioles extended well beyond fathering and tutoring of one of the best players in the history of the franchise, died Thursday. He was 63.

Ripken, who died at about 4:15 p.m. EST at Johns Hopkins Oncology Center, spent 36 years in the Orioles organization as a player, scout, coach and manager. He also found time to raise a family that included Cal Ripken Jr., who joined the Orioles in 1982 and set baseball's iron-man record, and infielder Bill Ripken, who also played in Baltimore.

"We always talk about the Oriole Way. Cal Ripken Sr. was the one who indoctrinated every one of us who came in," said Baltimore manager Ray Miller, who served under Ripken as a pitching coach.

Ripken Sr. had leathered skin and a gruff voice, characteristics at least partially attributable to his heavy smoking. Back in the days when smoking on the field wasn't taboo, he often cupped a filterless cigarette in his palm while watching batting practice or in the dugout.

Ripken taught Cal and Bill about baseball

while serving as a minor league manager. He won 964 games in the minors and was 68-101 as manager of the Orioles in 1987-88.

"Cal Sr. played an important role in many of the successes of the Orioles. Players at all levels of development benefited from his vast knowledge of the game and his teaching skills," then-general manager Roland Hemond said after Ripken was removed as Baltimore's third-base coach in 1992.

Ripken Sr. was offered another job within the organization but instead retired.

In 1987, Ripken Sr. became the first father ever to manage two sons simultaneously in the majors. Cal was the mid of a major league record consecutive games streak that would extend to 2,632 games. Bill was the Orioles' second baseman.

Ripken Sr. was fired as manager after the Orioles opened the 1988 season with six straight losses in what would be ultimately a record 21-game losing streak.

Ripken Sr. began his career with the Orioles as a catcher with the team's Phoenix farm club in 1957. He ended his undistinguished playing career in 1964, having never reached the major leagues.

His 13-plus years in the Baltimore farm system is the longest tenure of any minor league manager in Orioles history. During those 13 seasons, Ripken Sr. worked odd jobs during the winter because baseball didn't pay him enough to support a family of six.

He often brought his boys to the ballpark, but left most of the development of the family's four children to their mother, Vi.

"It was just as if their father was a truck driver — he was away from home a lot, and you just had to live with it," Vi Ripken said.

"I resented baseball for taking away my father," Cal Jr. once said. "Baseball didn't allow him to spend much time with me when I was growing up."

They made up for lost time when Cal Jr. joined the team in 1981 and Bill came aboard in 1987.

At the time, Cal Sr. downplayed his unique baseball association with his boys. But he said it would be something he would look back at fondly after retiring.

"We just happen to be in the same business at the same place," he said in 1992. "Maybe years from now, when I'm reflecting upon things in my rocking chair, I'll

smile about all this. But for now they're just a second baseman and a shortstop on this ballclub."

Cal Jr. viewed his father as the inspiration for his incredible consecutive games streak.

When young Cal was 16, his dad hooked a snowplow to a tractor in an effort to help clear the neighborhood. The tractor stalled, and when Cal Sr. tried to get it going, a crank flew off and hit him in the forehead.

Cal Sr. pressed an oily rag to his head in an effort to stop the bleeding while his scared son got him into the family car. But instead of driving to a hospital, Cal Sr. told his son to drive home. There, Cal Jr. watched his dad put on some butterfly bandages, then saw him head back to the plow to finish the job.

"When I get the feeling that things are a little low, that I need a little motivation to work on my hitting, I visualize the tractor-crash story. That pushes me," Cal Ripken said in the midst of his streak.

"I think of that story more than any other. Sometimes I'm beating my head against the wall and not getting any results at the plate, and I'm wondering if my effort is worth it all. That story sums it all up for me."

Unforced errors prevent tennis team victory

By Matt Stiver
SKIFF STAFF

Old proverbs, though cliché, have been passed down through the ages because they hold truths. One of these states, "Don't make life harder by making what is simple difficult." Perhaps the TCU women's tennis team overlooked that one.

Despite having leads throughout the meet, the TCU women were defeated Thursday afternoon at the Bayard Friedman Tennis Center by the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers, 6-3. The loss drops the women's spring record to 5-7.

The women throughout the meet hit an inordinate amount of unforced errors and missed shots. An unforced error occurs when a player hits a ball into the net or out of bounds.

"The net killed us today," coach Roland Ingram said after the meet. "We should have won. I hate to use 'should have,' 'would

have' or 'could have,' but we didn't win. They didn't beat us; we beat ourselves. Tennis is a game of errors, and we made too many."

"The thing that separates a good team from a really good team are the easy shots and unforced errors. A good golfer never misses a two-foot putt. A good basketball player never misses a layup. And a great tennis player never misses an easy shot, or they make 99 percent of them."

After splitting the six singles matches, the meet came down to the three doubles. The Frogs had to win at least two to claim victory. They lost all three.

"Doubles killed us today," Ingram said. "I thought we would sweep doubles."

The No. 1 doubles team of juniors Lucie Dvorakova and Daria Zoldakova lost to Kim Simonsen and Jana Hidinova of the Gophers, 9-8 in a tiebreaker. Dvorakova and Zoldakova held a 8-7 lead and were serving for the

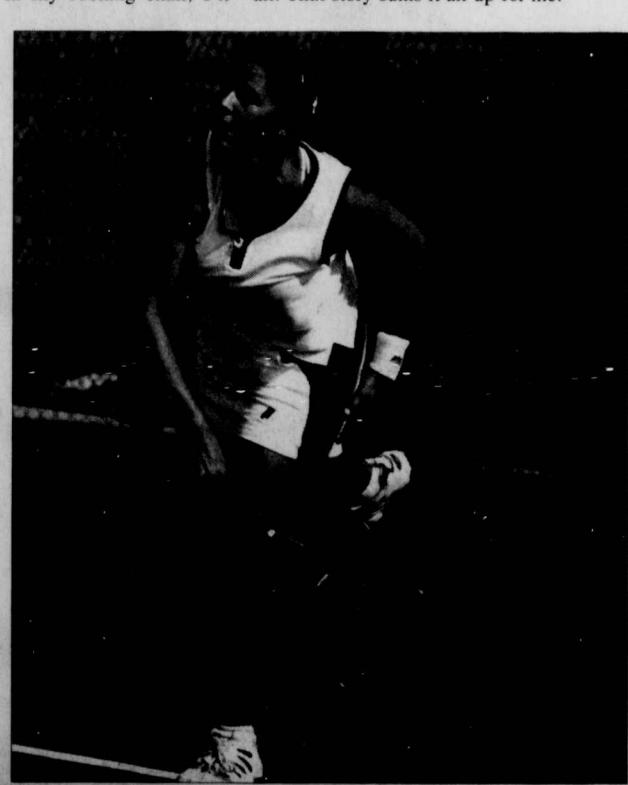
match, but were broken, mainly on unforced errors.

The No. 3 doubles team of freshman Leoni Weirich and junior Jessika Kjellgren jumped out to a 3-0 lead. They saw it evaporate into an 8-4 loss. Again, it was the easy shots that cost them.

"We can play great doubles," Ingram said, "but we can't do it consistently. Right now, our valves are lower than our peaks are high."

The Frogs have precious little time to correct their errors. Western Athletic Conference play brings Brigham Young into the Friedman Tennis Center at 2 p.m. Saturday. Ingram said he sees a light at the end of the tunnel though.

"If we reduce our easy misses by 50 percent, and our unforced errors by 50 percent, we can play with any team in the nation," he said. "We just can't give (our opponents) that many points."



Junior Daria Zoldakova follows through with an overhead shot in Thursday's match against Minnesota.

RUDY



by Aaron Brown

Chaos



by Brian Shuster

Academia Nuts



AcademiaNuts@aol.com

by John P. Araujo

Texas Critter University



by Jamie Elizabeth Brinkman

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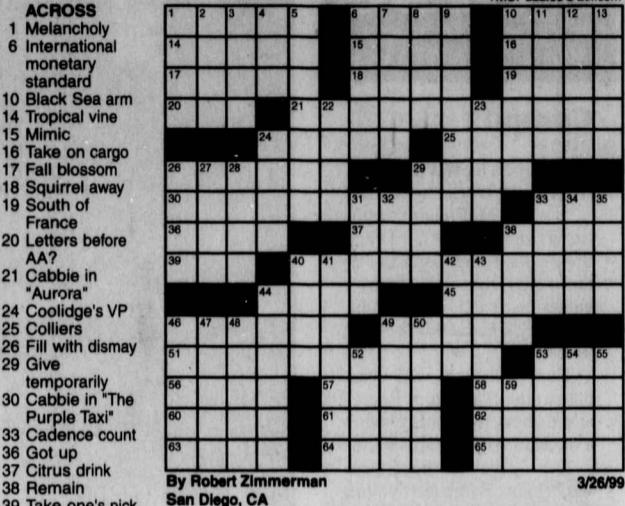
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By Robert Zimmerman

San Diego, CA

3/26/99

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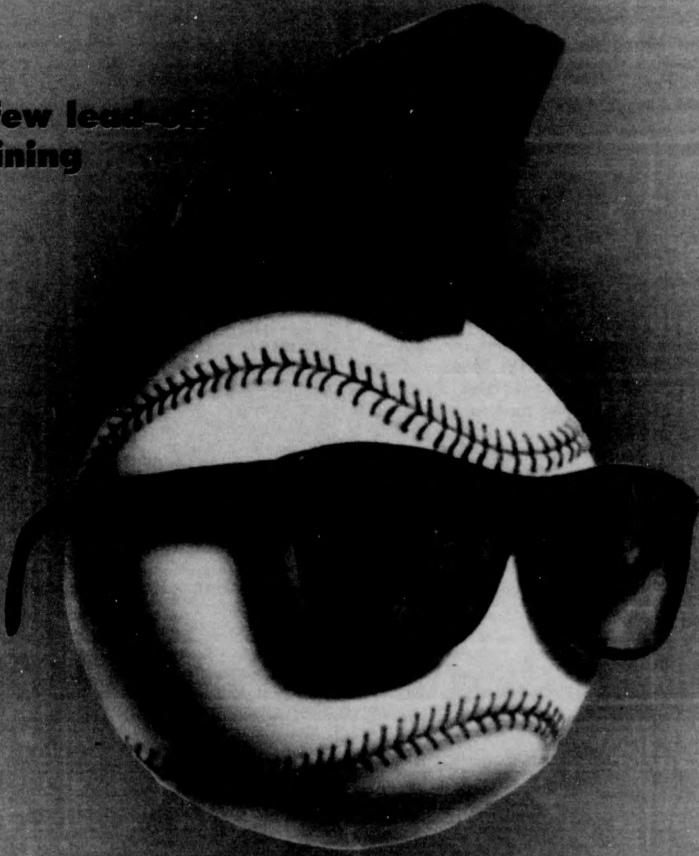
Weekend

Volume 1, Issue 21

Friday, March 26, 1999

Outta the Park ...and into your VCR!

The Skiff suggests a few lead movies for spring training



Also in Weekend:

- My Friend Steve Page 3
EDtv Page 6

TCU DAILY
Skiff

Austin film festival offers great deal

By Mitch Youngblood
SENIOR REVIEWER

How was your Spring Break?

Mine was pretty good; I went to Austin and relished the annual South by Southwest (SXSW) Film Festival. I don't mean to offend everyone in the radio-TV-film department, but I learned more about film making in four days than I have in four years of film school. Regardless of what people can teach you in a classroom, there is just no substitute for learning first hand from professionals who do every day what you want to do for the rest of your life.

In my case, that's make movies. Lots of them.

I journeyed forth with two travel companions, my significant other and my best friend. While that combination would get a lot of mileage on a soap opera, we had a tremendous amount of fun in the state capitol. If you dismiss the rain we drove down in last Friday (at times it felt like we were windsurfing on I-35), then everything was downright peachy.

When we arrived at our less-than-posh hotel, we immediately went to sleep. Not together, mind you. The next day, we went to the convention center and checked in. We received really cool-looking badges and bags loaded with goodies. The schedule of events we each obtained told where and when seminars and films were showing.

What our new survival gear didn't prepare us for was the sheer number of film makers and film fanatics in Austin. Everywhere we looked there was someone hawking his film (SXSW is where numerous independent films get sold for distribution) or a line to get into a 10:30 p.m. screening. It was cool getting to see good movies for free, then driving across

town in 15 minutes to see another. SXSW is also one of the few places where you can be standing in line to see a midnight movie and wind up having the director of one of the festival's films standing right behind you.

The seminars included a lengthy session for entertainment law, which included discussions on how thick contracts should be (would-be directors can estimate having an 80-plus page contract per job), a session hosted by Robert Rodriguez, who got a speeding ticket en route to the seminar, and Q & A sessions with film makers, producers and writers.

There were also movies. So many of them, in fact, that it would have been impossible to see them all. But we tried our hardest and I



hope many of them get picked up for distribution. Among the ones we saw, here are the highlights:

Two Ninas

The highlight of the festival, this debut by writer-director Neil Turitz (who is a really neat guy to talk to) feels so natural and real that it's a nice departure from canned romances like "You've Got Mail." When you want originality, you have to go to the independents like

"Two Ninas." It tells

how Marty Sachs (Ron Livingston), an aspiring novelist who's down on his luck, meets and falls for two girls named Nina: Cohen (Cara Buono) and Harris (Amanda Peet). The way he juggles dating both girls simultaneously is hilarious, and the emotions between them are beautiful. This better get

distributed because I want to see it again. Grade: A

From Dusk 'till Dawn 2: Texas Blood Money

This has white trash written all over it. It's now available on video, but the big screen was perfect for it. It has some amazing camera tricks and visuals (although it has one too many point-of-view shots), and the dialog is often hilarious. We saw it with a crowd that was dying for a trash flick and this delivered in spades. Robert Patrick ("Terminator 2") leads a group of bank robbers across the Texas-Mexico border, but vampiric mayhem ensues. Great fun. Grade: B

Spent

This was an intriguing curiosity. Max Kaplan (Jason London) is a kid addicted to gambling, while his girlfriend is addicted to alcohol. It may sound like a downer (and at times it is) but "Spent" is very good at dealing with the curveballs life has a tendency of throwing your way. I didn't like it as much as my friends did, but I'm the one with the byline (feel free to insert a snide retort here). Grade: B-

Macbeth in Manhattan

This gem is about as good a film as you're likely to see, if it gets picked up at all. This was shot on a shoe-string budget, but you can hardly tell. A group of actors are staging an off-Broadway production of *Macbeth* and their lives begin to mirror the lives of Shakespeare's characters. This has some beautiful acting, notably from John Glover and "ER"'s Gloria Reuben. Please, distributors, pick this beautiful film up. It needs to be seen as soon as possible. Grade: A

Find cheap trips and other thrills

By Guy Bickers
SKIFF STAFF

Hello again. After a week's hiatus I have returned with more goodness for you to devour and download. (I was away renegotiating my multimillion dollar salary here. If the NBA can do it, so can I.) Hope you find something fun and mindless here, but that's never been an issue in this space.

Internet

Countdown to (Movie Here)

(www.countingdown.com)

This is the most obsessive fan site I have ever seen. The poor slob who runs this site is addicted to South Park, Austin Powers and Star Wars. But the last one is the only one that matters. Click on Star Wars from the main page and enter the world of drooling, obsessive fandom in all of its glory.

Not only does this system administrator have all versions of the trailers, stills and audio clips, he has also created the South Park: Special Edition trailer. I don't want to ruin it for you so just go check it out. The nicest thing about the site, however, is the promise that it is spoiler free. While millions of fans are willing to ruin the big pay-off of mid-May, this man refuses to put up anything

we shouldn't already know from Lucas. In this day and age on the Web, that takes guts.

MovieLink

(444-film.com)

For all of you who depend on 444-FILM to find times and hate that ad at the beginning, here is a moment of peace. From here you can find the times of any movie at any theater in the country, honest! I prefer it to calling just because I'm online all the time and hate to disconnect to make a painfully loud phone call. If you are on the network on campus put this in your bookmarks/favorites file and never pick up the phone again. (Plus, you need enter your zip code only once.)

United Airlines

(www.ual.com)

While recently planning a trip I spent hours online looking for airfares from DFW to Los Angeles. This is a nightmare, believe me. I tried Southwest but apparently I'd need to leave Monday to get to L.A. by May. American was horrifically expensive, as was Delta. I finally decided to give United a shot without ever actually having flown on their planes. (I prefer to use Virgin but oh well.)

It took me a while to find the online reservation system but once I did I was in heaven. I had a choice of literally dozens

of flights at just as many prices. When I finally found one that looked good and decided to find the round-trip price something magical happened:

I was told to book a cheaper trip on a different airline.

Wow! Cool, my new option was almost \$100 cheaper than United, even if I have to take Continental through Houston. It even let me choose to book a hotel and a rental car in the same place. If you travel a lot, check this place out.

TuCows

(tucoins.alphal.net)

TuCows is THE site for everything you need to completely customize Windows 9X. From themes to FTP programs to games this place has it all. They have hundreds of mirror sites across the world, but this particular server is based here in Dallas so it's nice and fast. Here you can also pick up shareware trials of programs like MemTurbo and SysCleaner, both utilities designed to make your PC run faster.

All righty, that's it for now. Next week we'll visit the Mafia, more music and some dead sites for you to scoff at. If you hit anything interesting out there, drop me a note with the URL to webcolumn@hotmail.com. If you find Dan's Gallery of the Grotesque, definitely let me know. I miss that place.

TCU DAILY
Skiff

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RE "FUSE" TO BE NORMAL. Joe Henry's creative and unique style of music makes his recent effort "Fuse" a quality album.

My Friend Steve shares polished, upbeat music

By Derek Roy
SKIFF STAFF

At first listen it's easy to blow off My Friend Steve as nothing more than just another pop band in the endless stream of pop bands that dominate the radio air waves. My Friend Steve, however, definitely has more to offer than your average music group.

Music

"Hope & Wait"
by My Friend Steve
Mammoth Records
Grade: B+

What sets this band apart from the Matchbox 20s and Sister Hazels is the songwriting of lead singer/guitarist Steve Burry and the band's rich texture which it displays throughout its new album "Hope & Wait."

"Hope & Wait" showcases Burry's melodic pop sound. Most of the record's 12 tracks are very upbeat with a carefree vibe to them. The band is acoustically based but isn't afraid to occasionally turn up the volume. This album is the perfect soundtrack for a summertime road trip with its diverse and eclectic sounds.

Along with lead singer Burry, the band is made up of Eric Steinburg on guitar, Patrick Koch on keyboard, David McMahon on bass and Eric Gardner on drums. Even though the band has only been together for a short while, they possess a very polished and tight pop sound.

Each song on "Hope & Wait" plays like a different chapter in the story of Burry's life. He is a very personal songwriter who takes the listener through every heartache and joy, never sparing any details. Burry's voice sounds almost like a

younger and happier version of Elvis Costello.

"Hope & Wait" opens pleasantly with the beautiful pop of "The Schooling." The song is a priceless gem with its intelligent lyrics and rich Eagles-like harmonies. Burry sounds almost like the Counting Crows' Adam Duritz as he sings over the upbeat music: "What do you see when all that surrounds you is darkness? Where do you stand when all of your idols have fallen? I can watch for a little while longer though it pains me."

Following "The Schooling" is "Charmed," which sounds like a cross between Big Head Todd and Toad The Wet Sprocket. The track, much like "The Schooling," has harmonies the band is known for but has a slightly louder more rock sound than the opening track.

The standout track of this album maybe the Bob Dylan-influenced "Better Left Behind." The song

has a nice folk rock sound that joyfully rolls along. It's somewhat on the mellow side, but somehow Burry pulls it off without sounding cheesy. His lyrics definitely make this song, as he sings in a soft voice: "Baby you ain't the daughter of Mark Twain and Ayn Rand. Like you have stated in your press release to your imaginary fans."

As a songwriter Burry sometimes shows a small John Lennon influence. Although Burry sounds nothing like the late Beatle, he does write lyrics that possess a Lennon-like quality. On "Lessening Mercies" Lennon's impact on Burry is very evident as he sings: "Your keen sense of being oblivious. Shows that you've nothing to hide."

"Backwards And Sideways" is a wonderfully funny tale about Burry's battle with chicken pox. The song is reminiscent of the early Violent Femmes with its

acoustic guitar and quirky lyrics. The track's two whole minutes are pure pop perfection as Burry sings cheerfully: "I've got my head screwed on backwards-sideways/Visions from fever I can't hear what you say."

After the humor of "Backwards And Sideways," the band begins to show off its quieter side with "Chandeliers" and "Carflips." "Chandeliers" is a solo piece done by Burry which has a nice REM-like sad feel to it. The album closer "Carflips" is absolutely beautiful with its piano and strings next to Burry's voice.

My Friend Steve has created a wonderful pop album that takes the listener through many different emotions and musical styles. If you've been "hoping and waiting" for a quality album, your time has come. So go grab this CD, find out Steve is more than just another pop band and make a new friend.

'Fuse' lights fire with every song

By Trisha Pickard
SKIFF STAFF

Joe Henry is no new kid on the block. Henry's latest contribution to the music industry, "Fuse," is his seventh full-length album.

Editor's choice

Music

"Fuse" by Joe Henry

Mammoth Records

Grade: A

Henry's natural musical talent and his brilliant one-of-a-kind musical style have got to be one of the best kept secrets in music today. He has yet to receive his well-deserved mainstream recognition, despite his already established staying power and likely cult following that's similar (but not exactly comparable) to those of R.E.M. and the Dave Matthews Band.

"Fuse" evades typical categorization, as does Henry himself. Joe reinvented himself along with his musical soul on his last album when he veered away from his old acoustic country-rock sound into a more alterna-rock vibe. Henry's music is of the kind that you would hope to hear while sitting in some swanky, smoke-filled club. "Fuse" is light and jazzy, yet full of soul and insight, making it music to your ears, food for your brain, and medicine for your spirit.

Henry's roughly masculine and troubled voice impeccably construes his rock poetry. His songs are filled with thoughtful similes, vivid imagery and unique symbolism backed by calm, upbeat rhythms and a jazzy Harry Connick Jr.-type sound. "Fuse" is

packed with 11 compelling and completely unpredictable songs, including one quirky instrumental track.

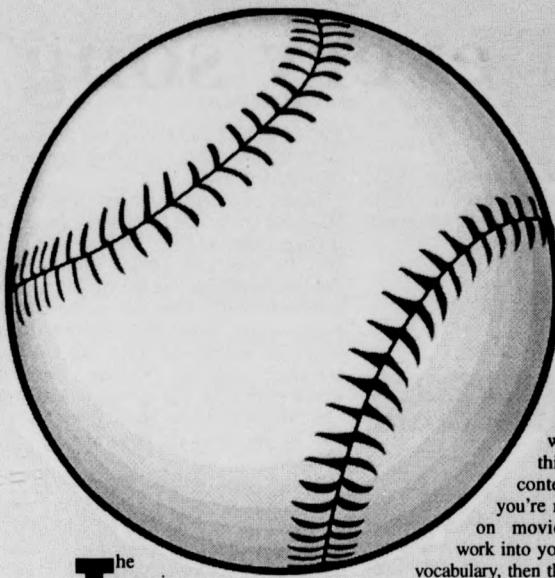
Expect the unexpected on "Fuse." The first track on the disc, "Monkey," deceptively begins with the line, "I'll keep your monkey/I'll treat him good." This makes a strange impression, but the song is actually a reflective love song, all to the beat of bongo drums. Henry masterfully takes an over-used and abused topic like lost love and splices it up with "Monkey." This song would have been called something boring like "Maybe Someday You'll Come Back to Me" by just about any other Matchbox 20-ish band.

Henry's creative and profound songwriting is phenomenal. Every track on "Fuse" overflows with great lines of depth, originality and character. Even though Henry touches on predictable topics such as being in love and love gone wrong, he effortlessly reinvents these common themes.

It is impossible to like one of Henry's songs and dislike another. Each song has an individuality all its own, while achieving the same high standards as the song before it. "Monkey," which surprisingly makes sense despite all of its odd lines, is hard to top. But the next track, "Angel," takes the queer but profound language to the next level with even greater success.

"Fuse" sets a moody, yet enjoyable tone from the beginning and maintains a similar consistency without becoming anything near boring.

Joe Henry has proven himself to be above and beyond your average musician, and that he isn't going away, especially with seven albums under his belt. Henry is bound for bigger places than college radio and rinky-dink shows. His music truly is alternative. It is an alternative to boredom. It is an alternative to mediocrity. It is an alternative to generic music by generic musicians.



The grass is getting greener, the weather is getting warmer and the urge to skip class is getting more powerful. Yes, the telltale signs of spring are here. But perhaps the most evident of all the indicators of this wonderful season is the start of Spring Training. Major League Baseball gets back in full swing and anticipation mounts as Opening Day approaches.

For the baseball enthusiast, little is needed to stir up excitement for the upcoming season. But for those who are less than fans of the sport, it might take nothing short of divine intervention for a spark of interest to appear.

So, in the interest of getting us all on the same playing field, perhaps a look at some cinematic baseball efforts might to the trick. If you have seen them, see them again and start your season a little early. If you haven't, these films might get you out of the dugout and into America's favorite past time. Let's PLAY BALL!

Major League

If there was ever a successful effort to dispel the myth that baseball is boring, this film is it. With All-star actors Charlie Sheen and Wesley Snipes, the down-and-out Cleveland Indians baseball club is sabotaged with unknown and unproven players by the owner (Rachel Phelps) in hopes that the team finishes dead last and is relocated to sunny Florida.

A rag-tag group of players is thrown together, including a convicted felon and a firm believer in Voodoo, and their beginning efforts are pathetic at best. However, when the owner's plans are uncovered, this group of misfits begin to play ball and play it well, making a run for the pennant.

Yeah, it's a predictable plot, but the off-field antics and humorous

insights of baseball are what make this movie a contender. If you're running low on movie lines to work into your everyday vocabulary, then this film will last you until next season.

The Sandlot

For those of you who wonder why people can be passionate about a game where a guy hits a ball with a stick, have I got the answer for you. "The Sandlot" shows how baseball is more than a game by telling the tale of how a group of neighborhood kids find friendship and grow up as they play the game you love. Don't worry, it's not as sappy as it sounds.

New kid in town Scotty Smalls joins the local group whose lives revolve around baseball and the friendship that stems from it. To gain acceptance, Smalls brings a baseball from home when the team loses theirs. On the first pitch, the ball is knocked over the fence into a yard guarded by a dog that could pass for Cujo's stunt-double.

No problem, they'll just get another ball, right? Well, the lost ball just happens to be Small's dad's ball autographed by Babe Ruth. Yeah, that makes it a little different.

As the boys band together to battle the backyard beast for the ball, you can't help but realize that baseball is more than a sport; it's a way for people to come together and form lasting friendships.

If you're needing that boost to get you interested in baseball, this is probably your best bet. Laughs, kids and a great storyline make this one of those "feel-good" films that never grow old.

Field of Dreams

If this movie doesn't make you want to grab a glove and play catch, you're either comatose or a soccer player (no offense to you "foot ballers" out there. My sister is one of you, too).

Nowhere else in Hollywood will you find a more powerful and moving film that is based on baseball. Kevin Costner is a farmer in

Iowa who hears a mysterious voice in his cornfield one day telling him to build a baseball diamond. Following the voice's instructions, he finds that ball players from the past can come back and play in their prime on his magical field.

Costner's field brings back the joy and tradition of baseball, while at the same time fulfills what's been lacking in the lives of all who come into contact with the diamond. You'll find what you've been looking for, too: a quality movie with a great "base" (no pun intended ... OK, maybe it was, but I had to use it somewhere!).

Unmatched character development and conceptual writing make this a great film no matter what sport you like. However, the deep underlying desire that fills every baseball fan is so prevalent in this movie that you won't be able to resist it. The drama and magic of baseball will infect you so badly, the only antidote will be for you to go buy season tickets (or at least catch a game or two).

A League of Their Own

Ladies, here's your answer to the "Baseball is just a dumb guy's sport" argument.

During World War II, a female baseball league was created when most of the male ball players went overseas. While the All American Girls Baseball League was only supposed to last until the men got back, it was so popular that it lasted several years after the war.

This film is about the beginning of the league as Geena Davis and her sister, played by Lori Petty, travel to try out for the teams. Ending up on a team with Madonna, Rosie O'Donnell and coached by Tom Hanks, this is another All-star team where humor is just as impacting as home runs.

"A League of Their Own" proves that baseball can be a gender-neutral sport and enjoyed by everyone. Ladies, this may be a way to take an interest in something your boyfriend likes. And guys, yeah, it's a date movie but it's baseball, too. Who knew the two could be combined?

Baseball Greats

Eight Men Out

This may be the one film on this list most of you haven't seen. The previous four are great works of fiction that take a different spin on the sport, but "Eight Men Out" is pulled right from the pages of baseball's illustrious and fascinating history.

A scandal in 1919 rocked the baseball world as eight players on the Chicago White Sox were accused of taking bribes to deliberately lose the World Series. Labeled "The Black Sox," these eight men were banned from baseball and their reputations were tarnished in the process.

John Cusack stars as Buck Weaver and D.B. Sweeney as the great "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, both turning in superb performances as they play a pair of baseball's falling stars. The fact that it actually happened makes the storyline that much more powerful and interesting. History is really fascinating when you're not in class being tested over it.

Seeing this still widely discussed part of baseball's past come to life on the screen will whet your palate for more of baseball's background. Trust me, there's plenty to be had, all you have to do is dig in. Consider this one an appetizer.

As you can see, baseball has many different facets and a movie to match every one of them. This is in no way meant to be a comprehensive list, as baseball movie buffs will ask where classics such as "The Natural," "Bull Durham" and "Angels in the Outfield" are (OK, scratch that last one if you're a real baseball movie buff). This is merely a starter to get the season going. Our own little cinematic Spring Training, if you will.

If you're ready for the baseball season to begin, I don't think you'll mind catching a few of these flicks before the first pitch of the year. But if you're still weary of labeling baseball as America's favorite pastime, give it one more chance and catch one of these films. Do it for yourself, do it for the team, do it for America.

By Justin Roche
Weekend Editor

all's Latest Hits



Baseball Movie Madness

A League of Their Own

1992

Starring: Tom Hanks, Geena Davis,
Lori Petty, Rosie O'Donnell,
Madonna

Rated PG



Eight Men Out

1988

Starring: John Cusack, D.B. Sweeney

Rated PG



Field of Dreams

1989

Starring: Kevin Costner, Amy
Madigan, James Earl Jones

Rated PG



Major League

1989

Starring: Tom Berenger, Charlie
Sheen, Corbin Bernsen

Rated R



The Sandlot

1993

Starring: Tom Guiry, Mike Vitar

Rated PG



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'EDtv' mocks our own obsessions

By Mitch Youngblood
SENIOR REVIEWER

"EDtv" is an interesting and really enjoyable TV show within a film, or a movie within a movie, or something to that effect. I don't get it either.

Film

"EDtv"
Universal Pictures
Rated PG-13
Grade: A-

To look at the initial concept of a man's life broadcast 24 hours a day, seven days a week (with his only private time being when he's on the toilet), one might draw comparisons to last June's "The Truman Show," which covered similar territory. But "EDtv" succeeds where I thought "The Truman Show" failed: It parodies the sometimes idiotic obsession we as a public have for anything on TV, even if it's just a regular guy going to work, while simultaneously giving us flesh and blood characters we can relate to.

"EDtv" begins when programming executive Cynthia (Ellen DeGeneres) decides to save her failing network, True TV, by interviewing several candidates for an extended documentary of their life. The winner gets a large amount of money to let a camera team follow him/her around all day every day and film every aspect of his/her life. While her boss Whitaker (Rob Reiner) is



SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF

SMILE FOR THE CAMERA. Ed Pekurny (Matthew McConaughey, left) wins a contest to have his life televised 24 hours a day and his brother Ray (Woody Harrelson, right) makes the most of it in "EDtv."

skeptical, they go ahead after realizing their ratings are lower than The Garden Channel.

The lucky winner is Ed Pekurny (Matthew McConaughey), a 30-year-old video store clerk. Ed also has a rather eccentric family with the standouts being his brother Ray (Woody Harrelson) and his uncle Al (Martin Landau). His

mother, Jeanette (Sally Kirkland), and Ray's girlfriend Shari (Jenna Elfman) also complicate matters; Shari because Ed falls for her and Jeanette because her past comes to light. In fact, the complete lack of privacy affects their family so much that several closets swing open and a slew of skeletons are brought out.

Where "EDtv"'s brilliance shines brightest is in the performances. McConaughey is great as the lovable dork, and he always changes his tune when he starts to become cloying. Elfman, whose no-holds-barred performance on "Dharma and Greg" has been toned down, also turns in a fine and nuanced performance as Shari.

'Mod Squad' repeats tired old formula, ad nauseam

By Kevin Dunleavy
SKIFF STAFF

OK, OK. Stop me if you've heard this one before.

Film

"The Mod Squad"
MGM Pictures
Rated R
Grade: D-

There's this police force but some of the cops are corrupt and start dealing drugs for a little side profit, right? Then the one honest guy on the force finds out, gets murdered by his evil co-workers and then framed for the illegal activity. The world seems destined for destruction until some brave youngsters save the day by ...

Oh, you have heard it before.

MGM's newest release, "The Mod Squad," doesn't stray much from this antiquated Hollywood formula. The squad consists of three

members, with the "mod" being a hip term for "modern," which also translates into "can be milked by MTV because it's more like a music video than a movie."

The three recruits are young adults convicted for various crimes but work for the police as undercover agents instead of going to jail. Julie (Claire Danes) teams up with Pete (Giovanni Ribisi) and Linc (Omar Epps), to infiltrate younger club scenes where the normal undercover cops can't.

On a routine assignment, the kids discover their supervisor Captain Adam Greer (Dennis Farina) was murdered and blamed for distributing stolen drugs. They find out that corrupt officers in the organization framed Greer and are selling drugs for their own profit. The three decide it's up to them to set things straight and blah, blah, who cares?

"This is one of those dirty cop/drug things, like in the movies," Pete remarks at one point to Julie while they journey to another aim-

less destination in the film.

Yes, Pete, but you don't have to apologize for stating the obvious. I'm insulted enough by the fact the movie felt it necessary to joke about how it was nothing original.

Suspense is cut to a minimum in the first five minutes when you realize that everyone who doesn't die and isn't a part of the mod squad is in on the conspiracy. I wish I could describe the rest of the movie but the scenes are so asinine and unimportant that I won't bother.

The direction and acting are sharp but the superficial, apathetic screenplay and lack of characterization take away from what could have been a solid film. I've cared more about characters in "The Life of a Slug" on the Discovery channel than I did in about these three self-serving kids in "The Mod Squad."

I desperately searched for a climax in this movie but somehow I was watching the credits before I could discover one. I was about to ask my friend if he had noticed any-



SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF

MOD ABOUT YOU. (left to right) Omar Epps, Giovanni Ribisi and Claire Danes are juvenile delinquents who are sent undercover by police captain Greer (Dennis Farina, far right) in "The Mod Squad."

thing that could pass as the "high point" of the picture, but he had already slipped into the sweet embrace of unconsciousness.

I won't give away too much of the ending, although I'm tempted to do so to save people from accidentally seeing it. But the film solves the whole boring plot with a Scooby Doo-esque, "I would have gotten away with it if it weren't for

those meddling kids" conclusion. It also leaves a tangled heap of loose-ends lying around in need of resolution.

"The Mod Squad" was about one K-9 dog and Chuck Norris came away from fulfilling all of the facets required for the dumbest cop movie ever contrived. Maybe I'll just go get arrested to see what ACTUAL cops do. At least that's free.

Oscar night gowns talk of Tinsel Town

By Carol Deegan
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Last year, it was Minnie Driver's garnet dress by Randolph Duke for Halston.

This year, the most memorable dress at the Oscars was Gwyneth Paltrow's pink evening gown by Ralph Lauren.

Paltrow, winner of the Oscar for best actress, was a beautiful princess in pink.

"Gwyneth's dress definitely was a showstopper from every level," said Tom Julian, trend analyst for Oscar.com and Fallon McElligott Advertising.

Julian described Paltrow, star of "Shakespeare in Love," as a regal beauty.

Another eye-catcher: best actress nominee Cate Blanchett of "Elizabeth" in John Galliano's knitted purple gown with embroidered flowers on the front.

The gown plunged to the small of Blanchett's back. An embroidered hummingbird was in the center of the netting on the back of the dress.

Oscar fashion was elegant, glamorous and even a little cutting edge. (Celine Dion's backward white suit by John Galliano for Christian Dior was perhaps too fashion-forward.)

"This year, it's about individuality," said Randolph Duke, who launched his own company last November. "Women want to look beautiful. It's not about putting on a dress."

Driver wore Randolph Duke this year, as did Kim Basinger, Geena Davis, Lisa Kudrow, Rita Wilson and Laura Linney.

In a year when stylists got as much media attention as the nominees, "there are too many people out there" telling actresses how they should look, said Duke, who set up a temporary studio in a Los Angeles hotel. As a designer, "You can control it more if you work intimately with an actress."

He cautioned, "I don't think the red carpet should be a runway literally."

Amsale Aberra, whose celebrity breakthrough occurred when she designed

Basinger's 1950s-inspired dress at last year's Golden Globes, created an ice-blue satin sleeveless gown for Oscar nominee Lynn Redgrave.

"I was really convinced it was 'the dress' as soon as I saw myself from the side," Redgrave said. "With the bustle trailing behind me and a shawl draped over my shoulder, I knew that this would be my Oscar dress."

Davis was a breath of spring, dressed for ABC's Oscar preshow in a pink Bradley Bayou corset dress with a bustle back and train. (She wore her Randolph Duke design as a presenter.)

Also dressed in the colors of spring: Rachel Griffiths, who wore an iridescent pink silk taffeta halter gown by Richard Tyler; Goldie Hawn, in a blue beaded halter dress by Versace; and Meryl Streep, in a pale lavender gown with crystal embroidery draping by Valentino.

Why are the Oscars so important to the fashion business?

"Because it is now the visual medium for the global marketplace that projects into the future on every level," Julian said. "Not just dresses, but hair, makeup, accessories. This becomes their ad campaign for the next year."

Black didn't dominate Oscar fashion, but it did make a fashionable appearance, most notably on Sophia Loren, whose long-sleeve black gown with sheer square neckline was designed by Giorgio Armani.

Annette Bening wore a black silk crepe gown with a crisscrossed platinum beaded bodice by Escada. Also dressed in black: Jennifer Lopez, in a Badgley Mischka ball gown studded with jewels, and Oscar nominee Fernanda Montenegro, who wore a pleated chiffon gown by Valentino.

"If anybody can be glitzy and glamorous and can look the part of screen stars, it's screen stars," said Bonnie Fuller, editor-in-chief of Glamour magazine. "It wasn't just about youth. The more mature actresses looked just as stunning."



SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF
YOU'RE NOT FROM AROUND HERE, ARE YA? A vacation full of mishaps and humor bring Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn closer together in "The Out-of-Towners." Based on the Neil Simon comedy by the same name, Martin and Hawn star alongside John Cleese in the ultimate trip gone bad.

Just like old times 'Out-of-Towners' reminiscent of family vacation

SKIFF STAFF

We've all had bad vacations. Those long trips in the car with mom and dad, fighting with siblings over where the exact center line of the back seat is, are fond memories now that they're over.

Film

"The Out-of-Towners"

Paramount Pictures

Rated PG-13

Grade: A-

Well, it's about time we had a chance to laugh at the traveling misfortunes of someone else for a change, and Hollywood has given us our request on the silver screen. Be sure to pack a spare gut, because you'll bust the one you have when you take a two hour trip with Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn in "The Out-of-Towners."

Having recently been fired, George Kellerman (Martin) takes off to New York for a prospective job interview and his wife Gwen (Hawn), who is unaware of George's being fired, comes along.

As expected, anything that can go wrong does, and hi-jinx and hilarity ensue. Problems

with the police, muggers and other mishaps make the couple's trip to the Big Apple beyond rotten. But, through the trials and tribulations, the two manage to rediscover that spark that's been missing from their marriage.

Basically, it's "Trains, Planes and Automobiles" with a romantic twist, but is a good comedic effort in its own right. Martin and Hawn have worked together well in "Housesitter" and "The Out-of-Towners" proves that the two still have the right chemistry for comedy.

The biggest boost of laughs comes from John Cleese, who portrays the hotel manager where Martin and Hawn stay. Cleese has proven his knack for humor in the multitude of Monty Python skits and films. If you don't laugh at this guy, you've either been raised by Vulcans or had a frontal lobotomy. Either way, you need to wise up.

Even though Spring Break is over you've still got an opportunity to get a quick vacation in, and this one you get to spend with movie stars! How can you say no to that? So, if your break from school was less than desirable, make up for it with "The Out-of-Towners." Maybe have your friend drive so you can take up the entire back seat. To heck with that blasted invisible center line!



PULL MY FINGER. Julia Stiles (right) is a quick-tempered teen with an abrasive personality who gets hooked up with her male counterpart (Heath Ledger, left) in "10 Things I Hate About You." The film opens nation-wide today.



ONE EGG SHORT OF AN EASTER BASKET. (From left to right) Mary Gilbreath, Richard Frederick and Steve Abolt try to solve a holiday mystery in "The Great Egg Caper," showing at the Casa Mañana Theatre.

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Calendar & Events

Calendar

Friday, March 26

Casa Mañana: "The Great Egg Caper," 7:30 p.m.
Creative Art Theatre and School: "Three Little Pigs,"
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 27

Casa Mañana: "The Great Egg Caper," 2 p.m.
Creative Art Theatre and School: "Three Little Pigs,"
2:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 28

Creative Art Theatre and School: "Three Little Pigs,"
2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 30

Bass Performance Hall: "RENT," 8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 31

Bass Performance Hall: "RENT," 8 p.m.

Thursday, April 1

Bass Performance Hall: "RENT," 8 p.m.

Friday, April 2

Bass Performance Hall: "RENT," 8 p.m.
Pocket Sandwich Theatre: "Captain Blood - The Pirate Melodrama," 8 p.m.
Creative Art Theatre and School: "Three Little Pigs,"
7:30 p.m.

Events

A hunt for hidden eggs brings about hilarious holiday hijinks

HELP THE EASTER BUNNY! Someone is trying to sabotage and stop Easter! Augustus Lincoln, rookie detective, is hired to make sure the Easter Bunny will be able to deliver his eggs. Will he be able to do it on time? Find out at Casa Mañana's Children's Playhouse production of "The Great Egg Caper."

Performances are on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. March 19 through April 3. The performances are at Casa Mañana Theatre at 3101 W. Lancaster. Tickets are only \$7 and may be purchased at the Casa Mañana box office or at TicketMaster. For more information, call 817-332-2272.

Successful musical "RENT" to be performed at the Bass Hall

The sensational musical, "RENT," opens and closes this week at the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass

Performance Hall. Described as one of the most exuberant and original American musicals this decade, "RENT" will take Fort Worth by storm.

Inspired by Puccini's "La Boheme," "RENT" is a joyous, breathtaking and often heartbreaking musical that celebrates a community of artists as they struggle with the soaring hopes and tough realities of today's world.

There are still a few limited tickets left for the performances March 30 through April 4. For more information, call Casa Mañana Theatre's box office at (817) 332-2272 or TicketMaster at (972) 647-5700.

Pirate play allows audience to interact, participate and throw popcorn

Another one of Pocket Sandwich Theatre's infamous plays opens on April 2. Why are its plays infamous? Because it is actually a rule to participate in its plays and popcorn tossing IS allowed.

This play, "Captain Blood - The Pirate Melodrama," is a comedy-spoof, poking affectionate fun at the swashbuckling pirate movies of the 1940s and 1950s.

"Captain Blood" runs April 2 through May 15. Performances are on Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m. Tickets range between \$6 and \$12. For more information, call 214-821-1860.

Favorite children's story set to blow the house down with a new twist

Is huffing and puffing hazardous to your health? It is if you are the wolf in the Creative Art Theatre and School production of "Three Little Pigs." Then, you might want to be careful.

However, if you prefer to participate in the story offstage, then you might enjoy this fun little play. Guaranteed to have absolutely NO hidden meaning, this show is pure fun. With a little twist in the story, the wolf now has a wife who sent him to "bring home the bacon." Literally. And the pigs he chooses to bring home consist of an artistic pig, a vain pig and a financial pig. These three siblings offer the wolf much more than he expected.

Creative Art Theatre and School presents "Three Little Pigs" Friday, Saturday and Sunday March 26 through April 3. Show times are Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7. For tickets and more information, call (817) 861-CATS.

Calendar & Events compiled by Shannon Johnson

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