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Mac vs. PC:
Columnists hash it out.
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Skiff

WEATHER FORECAST

High 430
Low -20

Windy with
snow flurries



THURSDAY
APRIL 1, 1999

Texas Christian University
96th Year • Number 95
www.skiff.tcu.edu/skiff

Pulse
NEWS BRIEFS

Colleges

A&M student leaps to his death off garage

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — A Texas A&M University freshman, distraught over his grades, leaped to his death Tuesday from the fourth floor of a campus parking garage.

William E. Berry Jr., 19, jumped over a ledge after police officers spent nearly 20 minutes trying to talk him out of suicide, said University Police Director Bob Wiatt.

"He thanked them for trying to help and said he appreciated what they were trying to do, but he had his mind made up," Wiatt said.

Berry, an agricultural engineering major from Hewitt, Texas, was pronounced dead at St. Joseph Regional Health Center.

Authorities said Berry left suicide notes in his truck and dorm room for his parents and friends, citing grades as the reason for his despondency.

Officials said a professor had just notified Berry that his average was 16 points below a "C" and he would be dropped from the rolls at the end of the spring semester.

Officials said it was the second suicide attempt at the parking garage in less than 24 hours.

Penn students protest alcohol policy

(U-WIRE) PHILADELPHIA — Engaging in chants of "What do we want? Beer! When do we want it? Now!" between approximately 800 and 1,000 students gathered on College Green Tuesday afternoon to protest the recent decisions made by the administration regarding the University of Pennsylvania's alcohol policy.

The predominantly undergraduate protesters — who chanted and held up signs comparing the administration to Soviet Russia and its new policies to Prohibition — were enthusiastic in expressing their disapproval of the implementation last Thursday of new temporary restrictions that ban alcohol at registered undergraduate events.

"Take away my alcohol, I'll take away my tuition," one student's sign read.

Another student challenged University Police, saying, "Cite me, I'm sober," while another declared, "I'm drunk right now."

— *Daily Pennsylvanian*
University of Pennsylvania

Proposal to ban Nude Olympics approved

(U-WIRE) PRINCETON, N.J. — Princeton President Shapiro spoke out in favor of the Committee on the Nude Olympics' report in an interview Tuesday, describing the proposed plan for banning the event as "a very thoughtful approach to the issue."

Shapiro said he will continue to review the details of the report over the next few days in preparation for a meeting of the University Board of Trustees late next week. However, he said his initial reaction to the proposal was positive.

If Shapiro and the trustees approve the wording of the report, it could become University policy by the beginning of next year, he said.

Shapiro said he agreed with the general language used to describe future offenses relating to the Nude Olympics.

— *Daily Princetonian*
Princeton University

Leaders from Argentina to visit

By David Quinlan
STAFF REPORTER

Business leaders from western Argentina are coming to TCU for a month-long seminar to exchange ideas on ranch management.

Beginning Sunday, the select group of 25 business leaders will be meeting with TCU faculty from the business school and international education, as well as with Fort Worth business leaders.

Larry Adams, associate vice chan-

Ranch management discussions part of agreement

cellor for academic affairs, said the \$100,000 seminar, which is funded by the government of Argentina, will include lectures by TCU faculty and visits to Dallas/Fort Worth area businesses.

"The seminar will be focusing on U.S. and international business," Adams said. "We have an agreement with them to work with education on an economic level."

TCU also has a formal agreement with Argentina for academic and cultural exchanges.

Thirty graduate students from the Argentinean state of San Luis will complete their education at TCU beginning in the fall.

Adams said he has been working with San Luis governor Adolpho Rodriguez Saa, to organize the seminar. Saa will join the group during the

closing event on April 30.

"San Luis is a rapidly growing state," Adams said. "We've been working with (Saa) and plan to do a lot more things with them."

Adams said one of the seminar's main goals is to introduce TCU's ranch management to the Argentinean business leaders.

Business in the western region of Argentina deals primarily with the

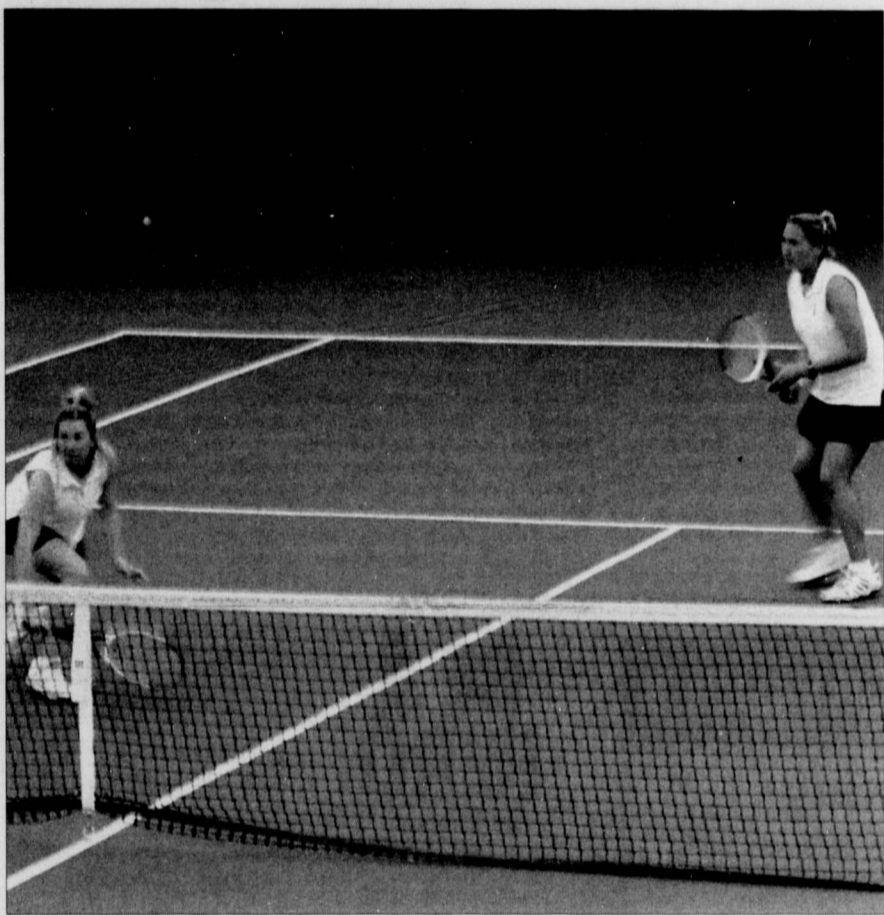
cattle industry.

Gregory Stephens, an associate professor of management, and Garry Bruton, assistant professor of management, have joined Adams in planning the seminar.

Stephens, who worked and conducted research in Mexico prior to coming to TCU, said he will accompany the leaders on visits to area businesses, including Lockheed Martin,

Please see ARGENTINA, Page 6

Making a racket



Doubles partners junior Stacey Sabala and senior Rachel Niwa play against Brigham Young in Saturday's match, which TCU won, 5-4. The women's tennis team will challenge the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma this weekend.

Erica Newton/SKIFF STAFF

Facelift or renovation? Consultants consider Student Center's future

By Pam Woodhead
STAFF REPORTER

For anyone who has ever wished that the Student Center had more to offer, here is a chance to be a part of the solution.

Consultants from WCW Architects, the firm hired to build a new student center or renovate the existing one, will host a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Student Center.

Don Mills, vice chancellor for student affairs, said Tuesday's meeting is intended to give the TCU community a chance to offer opinions and ideas for the new student center.

"It will be an open workshop anyone at TCU can attend," he said.

Mills said meetings such as this one are very important to the development of the new center.

"We certainly want to hear what students think our needs are today and what our needs will be 10 or 15 years from now," he said. "The important thing is to have a student center that is inviting to students."

Larry Markley, director of the Student Center, said WCW has built more than 30 university centers and is very student-oriented.

"They're very concerned about finding out what the students' wants and needs are," he said.

"That will be their task probably between now and next fall."

Markley, who has drawn up several plans for a new student center, said he is in favor of building a completely new center.

"I think we need a new one," he said. "We've done all we can in this building."

Markley said one of the additions he would like to see in a new student center is a permanent theater.

"We need to have a permanent theater of 400 to 500," he said. "That would cover most of our speakers, most of our films and things like that."

Markley said too many events are held in places such as the ballroom and the Moudy Building, which is hosting the current film festival.

"Why should we have to go to the Moudy?" he asked. "That's only a 200-seat facility."

Markley also said the new student center should include an updated post office, with new boxes large enough to hold small packages.

Glen Hulme, manager of mailing services, said he liked the idea of placing the post office in a new student center.

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Global school

New classes in Russian, music to prep students for world market

By Laura Head
STAFF REPORTER

As the world stands at the threshold of a new millennium, some new classes have been created at TCU to better prepare students for a global job market.

Introductory Russian, taught by Al Mladenka, and World Music, taught by Michael Meckna and Barbara Davis, are two classes that will be offered.

Meckna, a professor of music, said the World Music course is the result of a growing interest in diversity in the curriculum.

"The idea of developing tolerance and sympathy is what we're trying to do," he said. "It comes out of studying other cultures that are very unlike."

Mladenka, director of international student services, said the Russian class coincides with the current trend of globalization.

"Now the timing is right with Russia devel-

oping into a democratic society and with the potential for trade and relations with the United States," Mladenka said. "We think that acquiring that language would be helpful to students in a global society."

Meckna said the music class will look at music from each hemisphere to get a better idea of musical styles from around the world. Students can receive a fine arts credit for World Music.

"Survey of Music teaches our music, the classical stuff that sells a Lexus," Meckna said. "(In World Music) we study funeral music from South America, where the birth mortality rate is really high. This is a society that sees the dead child as lucky for escaping the horrors of this world."

Davis, an adjunct professor of musicology, will teach one of the two sections of world

Please see CLASSES, Page 3

Wind symphony plays at Carnegie

By Jeri Petersen
STAFF REPORTER

Angela Schindler's T-shirt reads, "Carnegie Hall — if you haven't played it, you haven't made it."

Schindler and about 50 other TCU wind symphony members "made it" Sunday when they played the prelude performance of the Ensemble Debut Series at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The group left Thursday and returned Monday night, tired but exhilarated, Schindler said.

"I'm still waiting for my head to stop spinning," she said.

Schindler, a graduate oboe student, said as a performer she has goals for herself, but playing Carnegie Hall wasn't even a dream.

"All of a sudden, I realized, 'Hey, I'm here,'" she said. "Nothing is bigger than that — to be this age and doing this is amazing."

Greg Clemons, director of bands, said the wind symphony is the most select performing group of the TCU bands. It is frequently invited to perform at professional conferences at state, regional and national levels. It has recently been invited to perform for the Japan Bandmasters Association Convention at the Yamaha Music Camp in Nemu No Sato, Japan.

Clemons said the group played better at Carnegie Hall than he has ever heard them play.

"The students sounded like a professional group," he said. "It wasn't only their performance on stage, though. They acted like professional ambassadors of TCU. I am so proud of them."

The TCU musicians played to a packed house and got a near-standing ovation after

Please see CARNEGIE, Page 3

Students say life at Biosphere 2 more than science

By Lety Laurel
SKIFF STAFF

It is a place where six different ecosystems exist all under one roof.

Biosphere 2 Center is a 250-acre campus in Oracle, Ariz., and includes a 204,000 cubic-meter enclosed glass and space frame structure built to model the earth's various ecosystems: rainforest, cottonwood forest, estuary, ocean, savanna and desert.

Every year, TCU sends five students to the biosphere to attend Earth Semester, a class in which

students can gain knowledge of the consequences of human impact on the earth and to learn strategies for planetary management.

But for two TCU students who attended the biosphere in Spring 1998, the experience was more than scientific.

"It's a once in a lifetime experience," said Kristi Argenbright, a senior environmental science major. "It is an opportunity to find yourself because you're not so adapted to little mundane things of city life."

Meredith Wallace, a junior nutrition major, said she changed her major from environmental science to nutrition because of her experience at the center.

"It turned everything around for me," she said. "If I hadn't gone to the biosphere I would have never found what I really wanted to do. You get to be around people who see you for who you really are even if you yourself don't know."

Wallace said she used to relate every science project to nutrition, but hadn't considered changing her

major until students at the biosphere asked her why she was still an environmental science major.

Earth Semester offers 16 weeks of study each fall and spring and includes lectures and team teaching by Columbia University professors and guest speakers. To offer students hands-on experience, students participate in field trips outside of Biosphere 2 and conduct field work within the complex. Independent and group research is also conducted by students with the guidance of faculty researchers.

One semester at Biosphere 2 earns a student 16 credit hours: 13 in science, and three in UCR social science and economics.

Leo Newland, director and professor of environmental sciences, said a semester at the biosphere is open to all students, regardless of major.

"There is no limit to who can go; it's who wants to go," he said. "We want students to represent TCU in a positive light. A good student has a

Please see BIOSPHERE, Page 3

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.

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

Can't find a summer job? Look at www.JobMonkey.com for free information on job opportunities. The Web site can help students and recent graduates find jobs in Alaska, Hawaii, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia and other locations. The site can access profiles of more than 2,000 employers such as airlines, casinos, cruise and land tour companies, national parks and forests, ski and beach resorts and schools that hire English teachers in Asia and Europe.

The Wesley Foundation will meet at 5:30 p.m. today at the Wesley Building, 2750 W. Lowden. Call 924-5639 for more information.

The Catholic Community will meet for mass and dinner 5:30 p.m. today in Reed Hall, Room 214.

Disciple Student Fellowship will meet at 5:15 p.m. today at University Christian Church for fellowship and a meal.

"The Man I Love" a film starring Ida Lupino will be shown at 7 p.m. today in the Moudy Building North, Room 141, as part of the radio-TV-film department's spring film series.

Kappa Kappa Gamma will host a golf tournament April 10 at Lost Creek Golf Club to benefit the Bridge Emergency Youth Shelter. Check-in will begin at 1:30 p.m., and the tournament will start at 2 p.m. Event fees are \$100 for adults and \$65 for students. All the proceeds will go to the youth shelter. For more information, call Kristen Kirst at 257-7281.

News
ROUNDUP

Nation

Ads attack Bush, Dole over abortion stance

LOS ANGELES — An abortion-rights group is airing TV ads in California accusing GOP presidential front-runners George W. Bush and Elizabeth Dole of masking their anti-abortion positions.

"Which Republican presidential hopeful said, 'I will do everything in my power to restrict abortions?'" one ad asks viewers, flashing pictures of Bush and GOP rival Steve Forbes. The answer was Bush.

"Like the rest of the Republicans on the far right, Elizabeth Dole is anti-choice," the other ad declares.

The National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League began running the TV spots in New Hampshire and Iowa about a week ago and expanded the campaign to Los Angeles on Monday. The California ads appear primarily during local and national news broadcasts on network and cable outlets.

Mrs. Dole has declined to discuss her abortion views in any depth since entering the presidential fray. Her spokesman, Ari Fleischer, says she is "pro-life." Fleischer condemned the commercials as "negative attack ads."

Widow hails \$81 million award from tobacco giant

PORTLAND, Ore. — For 42 years, school janitor Jesse Williams puffed three packs of Marlboro a day, never believing the cigarette company would sell him something that would kill him.

Almost two years to the day after he died of lung cancer, a jury ordered Philip Morris to pay the biggest liability award ever against the tobacco industry, \$81 million, for lying about the risks of smoking.

"My late husband had a dying wish," widow Mayola Williams said after Tuesday's verdict. "He wanted to make cigarette companies stop lying about the health problems of smokers ... so that other people will understand that they are being used, just plain used, for the gain of money."

It is the second major financial blow this year against the world's largest cigarette maker. A San Francisco jury awarded \$51.5 million last month to a Marlboro smoker with inoperable lung cancer.

Besides that case, U.S. juries have awarded damages in smoking liability cases only three times — twice in Florida and once in New Jersey. All three verdicts were overturned on appeal.

However, industry watchdogs and Wall Street analysts said the Oregon award may open the floodgates.

Message in a bottle found 45 years later

BARNSTABLE, Mass. — When 12-year-old Bill Burrows set adrift a message in a bottle more than 45 years ago on Cape Cod Bay, he hoped it would float to Europe. Or maybe China.

Instead, it apparently traveled in time, not space. The bottle was found Saturday by Christian and Rachel Herder near Sandy Neck's tip — not far from where it was launched.

The dated note inside the green screw-top bottle said: "Will the person who finds this let me know where and when it was picked up? My name is William Burrows, 212 Lincoln Street, Worcester, Mass."

When a computer database couldn't find a William Burrows in Worcester, the search was extended to western Massachusetts. A William Burrows was found in Longmeadow.

His wife answered the phone and was a skeptical until her husband laid her doubts to rest. "I vaguely remember doing it," Burrows said Tuesday.

When the note was read back to him, he laughed. "I wasn't very creative in those days," he said.

Chief Ranger Anthony Troiano figures the bottle may have been buried in a dune all this time until high tides allowed it to float to shore.

Ooops! Definition of 'blue moon' corrected

BOSTON — Once in a blue moon, a widely accepted definition has to be rewritten.

Take the term "blue moon" itself.

For half a century, it's been known as the second full moon in a month, like the one that appeared Wednesday. But that's wrong, and the editors of Sky & Telescope say it's their fault: The magazine incorrectly defined the term 53 years ago.

"I hate to admit it," said Roger Sinnott, associate editor of Sky & Telescope.

Sinnott blamed the goof on an amateur astronomer.

James Hugh Pruett wrote a 1946 piece for the magazine after apparently misinterpreting a complex 1937 article in the Maine Farmer's Almanac that essentially, but not clearly, said a blue moon occurs when a season has four full moons, rather than the usual three. Pruett mistakenly thought that meant a blue moon is the second full moon within the same month.

Pruett's mistake went unnoticed for decades. A 1980 National Public Radio story about blue moons used the wrong definition. In 1986, the board game Trivial Pursuit repeated the error. When two full moons appeared in May 1988, "radio stations and newspapers everywhere carried an item on this bit of 'old folklore,'" folklorist Philip Hiscock wrote in the magazine's March issue.

Sky & Telescope, based in Cambridge, discovered the error when it was working on an article about how January and March of this year featured what would have been two blue moons by Pruett's definition.

Although Sky & Telescope's editors think Pruett's mistake led to the popular modern mis-def-

inition of "blue moon," it's unclear where the Maine Farmer's Almanac came up with the rule. The almanac is defunct.

Although the term "blue moon" has existed for centuries, Sinnott said his research of almanacs dating to the early 1800s found no precise definitions until 1937.

By either definition — Pruett's or the almanac's — blue moons occur about every two or three years, Sinnott said. The last blue moon as defined by the almanac was in May 1997. The next will be in February 2000.

"This meaning is so entrenched now. Nothing we can do is going to put the genie back in the bottle," Sinnott said. "Our big mistake in 1946 has really caught on and there's no turning back."

State

Judge wants to allow donations as probation

HOUSTON — A state judicial committee has ruled that judges can't order defendants to make charitable donations as part of their probation, but a Houston-area judge who believes in the practice is taking her case to lawmakers.

Harris County Judge Diane Bull is leading an effort to create legislation that would allow defendants to donate to the poor or infirm as part of their probation, according to The Texas Journal of the Wall Street Journal in today's editions.

The newspaper reported that Bull is looking for a lawmaker to sponsor the measure.

Current state law permits donations only to the Crime Stoppers program and charities that are "related personally to the rehabilitation of the defendant."

Earlier this month, the state Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, which interprets judicial rules for judges, ruled that judges can't order those convicted of petty crimes to make charitable donations as a condition of their probation.

Other kids OK after teen found confined to crib

EL PASO, Texas — The younger siblings of a retarded woman found severely underweight and living in a crib appear to be well taken care of, child welfare officials say.

Staff members were sent to evaluate the condition of the minor children in the home where 18-year-old Vanessa Isela Marquez was found naked in a crib without a mattress in a tiny room without heat or air conditioning, said Eddie Wilson with Child Protective Services.

The teen weighed 54 pounds.

"They found that those children (her brother and sister) were not being victimized, abused or neglected," Wilson said Tuesday.

Vanessa's parents, Jose Luis Marquez and Paula Marquez, recently immigrated to the United States with their three children, their court-appointed lawyer Albert Beil said Tuesday.

These stories are from the Associated Press.

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TCU CHEERLEADER TRYOUTS



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Thursday, April 8
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Coed Squad
Thursday, April 15
at 5 p.m.

All-girls Squad
Friday, April 16
at 5 p.m.

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TCU SPORTS CALENDAR

BASEBALL

MEN'S TENNIS

vs. Texas Tech
Tues. April 6, 7:30 p.m.

vs. Tulsa
Sat. April 3, 1 p.m.

vs. Arkansas
Wed. April 7, 1:30 p.m.

CLASSES

From Page 1

music. She said the class emphasizes the difference between world music and the traditional western music studied in Survey of Music.

"We're always hearing that music is a universal language, but it's not," she said. "Japanese music is not the same as South American music. We want to familiarize students with a totally different style, one that's not contained in the United States."

Meckna said his students will listen to performers whom he will bring to class, and they will make their own instruments.

"I've had students bring in anything from six beer bottles filled with different amounts of water to violins made out of saws," he said. "It's really something. They always moan, but they really get into it."

Mladenka said the Russian class, which offers a foreign language credit, will focus on the conversational aspects of the language.

"We're going to emphasize the listening, speaking and reading in the beginning," he said. "As the semester progresses, we will put more emphasis on grammar."

Mladenka said he hopes the class will draw enough interest to allow for the expansion of the Russian program at TCU.

"Our goal is to offer at least two years, if not more," Mladenka said. "Some day a student may be able to get a minor in Russian."

Sarah Hebel, a junior elementary education major, said she likes the idea of having more variety in the classes offered.

"It sounds like a great way to learn about other cultures and lifestyles," she said. "That's what college is about."

BIOSPHERE

From Page 1

good chance to go."

Currently four TCU students are studying in the biosphere, all with different majors.

Nicholas Parks, a sophomore business major and one of the four currently in Arizona, said the education is rigorous with 23 hours of class a week and five outside projects.

"I'm a business major, but the experience is more than just science courses," he said. "I feel like I have more good friends here than I had in four years of high school."

Jessica Travis, a senior modern dance major, said she decided to postpone graduation to go to the biosphere this semester.

"I decided this was not an opportunity I could pass up," she said. "I was on the path to finish school, but I had no real idea of what I wanted to do with my life or where I wanted to go. So I came to Biosphere 2, and as a result, my life is unfolding before me and taking me in new directions I had never before imagined."

Located in the foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains, Biosphere 2 is a 40-minute drive from Tucson and to the nearest grocery store.

"The closest town is Oracle, which has got to be the smallest town in the world," Wallace said. "We used to take road trips to Cir-

cle K for a chance to get away. But the real experience was going to the grocery store 40 minutes away. We planned our weekends around it."

Newland said Biosphere 2 is a unique experience and he encourages students to apply for next fall.

"It is quite an experience," he said. "To me it is something that is quite a unique opportunity because you can acquire something there that you can acquire no where else."

Students who are interested should contact Newland in the Sid W. Richardson Building, Room 207. Applications for next semester are due April 9.

CARNEGIE

From Page 1

the Palm Sunday concert, Clemons said. "The applause went on and on, and a lot of people were standing," Clemons said. "If I had to characterize (the experience) in one word, it would be 'magnificent.'"

Clemons said Carnegie Hall sets the standard for musical excellence. From its opening on May 5, 1891, when Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky conducted his "March Solennelle," Carnegie's stage has been graced by the likes of Sergei Rachmaninoff, George Gershwin, Aaron Copland,

Benny Goodman, Van Cliburn and Tommy Tune — and now the TCU wind symphony.

"I was in a dressing room backstage, wondering who else, what famous conductors, had been in that very room," Clemons said.

Students made similar comments as they gazed at the famous stage from empty seats in the auditorium, Schindler said.

"I heard everyone saying how amazing it was to be in a place where so many famous people have played," she said.

"Anyone who is someone has played here."

The Carnegie mystique apparently brings out the best in performers, Schindler said.

"I was stunned at our soloists," she said. "The stage enhances the tone a lot. After our dress rehearsal, individual musicians were playing notes just to hear how it sounded in there. It was awesome how the sound lingered and faded."

Each student paid \$500 to go on the trip, with food, transportation and attrac-

tions in the city costing extra.

Josh Davis, a senior music education major and French horn player, said it was worth every penny.

"I got to see Phatt Phil Meyers play with the New York Philharmonic. To me, he's the pinnacle of horn playing," Davis said. "His playing has a full, rich, velvety sound."

Schindler said she didn't think anyone was disappointed in the trip.

"A really neat thing happened," she said. "At school, the sections usually stick

together. On this trip, we broke out of our sections and got to know each other better."

Schindler graduates in May and said she is glad she had this opportunity while still at school.

"I took lots of pictures because as I told my friends, when you're 80 and you're sitting in your wheelchair, and your hands can't play your instrument any more, your grandchildren won't believe you played Carnegie Hall unless you have visuals," she said.

After one week of strikes, NATO continues mission

By George Jahn
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — NATO moved to escalate its aerial bombardment of Yugoslavia today, possibly aiming strikes at the center of the capital Belgrade, as the conflict over Kosovo hit the one-week mark with no sign of ending.

NATO's North Atlantic Council decided early today to widen the geographic area it is targeting, in the wake of a failed Russian peace mission. The first week of strikes have concentrated on military bases and air defense sites, including some outside the Yugoslav capital.

Cloudy weather has slowed NATO's mission. British pilots complained they had to abort mis-

sions overnight for the second time this week due to weather. They said American pilots had to launch anti-radar missiles to protect themselves from ground fire, indicating Yugoslavia's air defenses were still a threat.

Western officials expressed new resolve to try to cripple a Yugoslav military machine they say is responsible for atrocities and "ethnic cleansing" of Kosovo Albanians, who continued to stream out of the devastated province today.

"We are now widening the range of military targets," British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said today on British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

U.S. defense officials acknowledged that the assault was far from

reaching its goals. Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said the allies were looking for "a knockout punch."

Ethnic Albanians and neighboring countries have urged NATO to do something to halt the exodus from Kosovo. An estimated 118,000 people have fled to Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro, the smaller of Yugoslavia's two provinces, since NATO airstrikes began March 24. The U.N. refugee agency said today that 85,000 refugees have poured into Albania alone.

At the Macedonian border today, refugees described a line of cars believed to stretch more than 3 miles into Kosovo, and they said Serb security forces were searching

passengers.

Poised to focus on Serb military forces in Kosovo accused of atrocities against civilians, five U.S. Air Force B-1 long-range bombers prepared to fly to Europe to join B-52 bombers that have been launching cruise missiles at Yugoslavia.

Missile and bomb explosions were reported at a number of locations today in the Belgrade area and elsewhere. Shriill hisses were heard before dawn in the center of the Yugoslav capital, and the independent Beta news agency said they were NATO planes.

But there was no evidence the allied forces had begun bombing strategic targets in the center of the city, which reportedly could include

the Yugoslav Defense Ministry and Interior Ministry.

Missiles hit military-industrial targets outside Belgrade near Avala and Pancevo, the state-run Tanjug news agency reported. Several missiles hit southeast of the Kosovo capital, Pristina, and other impacts were reported around the province, Tanjug said.

Brief hopes for a political breakthrough were dashed Tuesday when Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov failed to persuade President Slobodan Milosevic to make an overture acceptable to the alliance.

Milosevic insisted that NATO attacks stop before he resume peace talks. He said he would pull back

some of his troops in Kosovo if NATO halts its raids, and he declared his forces ready to fight "to the very end."

NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana said today the peace mission was a "large failure."

"With the current situation on the ground, it is absolutely impossible to engage in political negotiations," Solana said on French radio.

Russia will send warships to the Mediterranean as a protest to NATO airstrikes, Russian news agencies reported today. However, Russia has said repeatedly that its military will not become directly involved in the conflict in Yugoslavia. Russia also desperately needs loans from the West to save its faltering economy.

happy Easter

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editorial

HITTING HOME

Crisis in Kosovo can't be ignored

Hundreds of thousands of people are being driven from their homes, left without food or shelter. Thousands of people are being massacred. Unconfirmed reports say thousands are also trapped in concentration camps.

And it's all over a piece of land the size of Connecticut. "Ethnic Albanians," "the Balkans" and "Orthodox Christians" all seem to be the latest buzzwords heard on CNN and seen on the front pages of national newspapers. But do we know what it all means? Despite the attention this latest international crisis has attracted, most of us shy away from understanding the background as well as the possible implications of the conflict in Yugoslavia.

Currently, Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic is driving ethnic Albanians out of Kosovo, a province of Yugoslavia, in an effort to end Albanian dominance in the area. The struggle is between ethnic Albanians and Serbians who both feel they have a rightful claim over Kosovo.

Today about 90 percent of Kosovo's population is Albanian, and their numbers are growing. Kosovo Serbs felt their rule was being threatened by Albanian influence and in 1989, the Serbs began to crack down on the Albanians by taking away Kosovo's autonomy.

Albanians protested and the disagreement turned into civil war. The Serbs have since fought to drive out Albanians, and after Milosevic refused to agree to a peace plan, NATO forces stepped in.

More than 118,000 people have fled Kosovo since NATO airstrikes began March 24 and at least 100,000 ethnic Albanians have rushed into Albania, forced to leave their lives behind.

Often, events in the news, because of their complexity, seem worlds away. Kosovo is on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, way over in Eastern Europe, but the conflict's potential effects are still far-reaching.

American lives and resources are at stake. At the very least, we should understand why.

Editorial policy: The content of the Opinion page does not necessarily represent the views of 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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Kosovo conflict takes on new meaning for student

"Things are not looking good in Kosovo." This statement didn't mean anything to me when I heard it on the news. It passed right by me when I read it in the newspaper. It was a buzz in the bulk of daily disasters Clinton was addressing. When CNN mentioned it, Kosovo was such a far, far away place that nothing that happened there could alter my happy college life.

Commentary



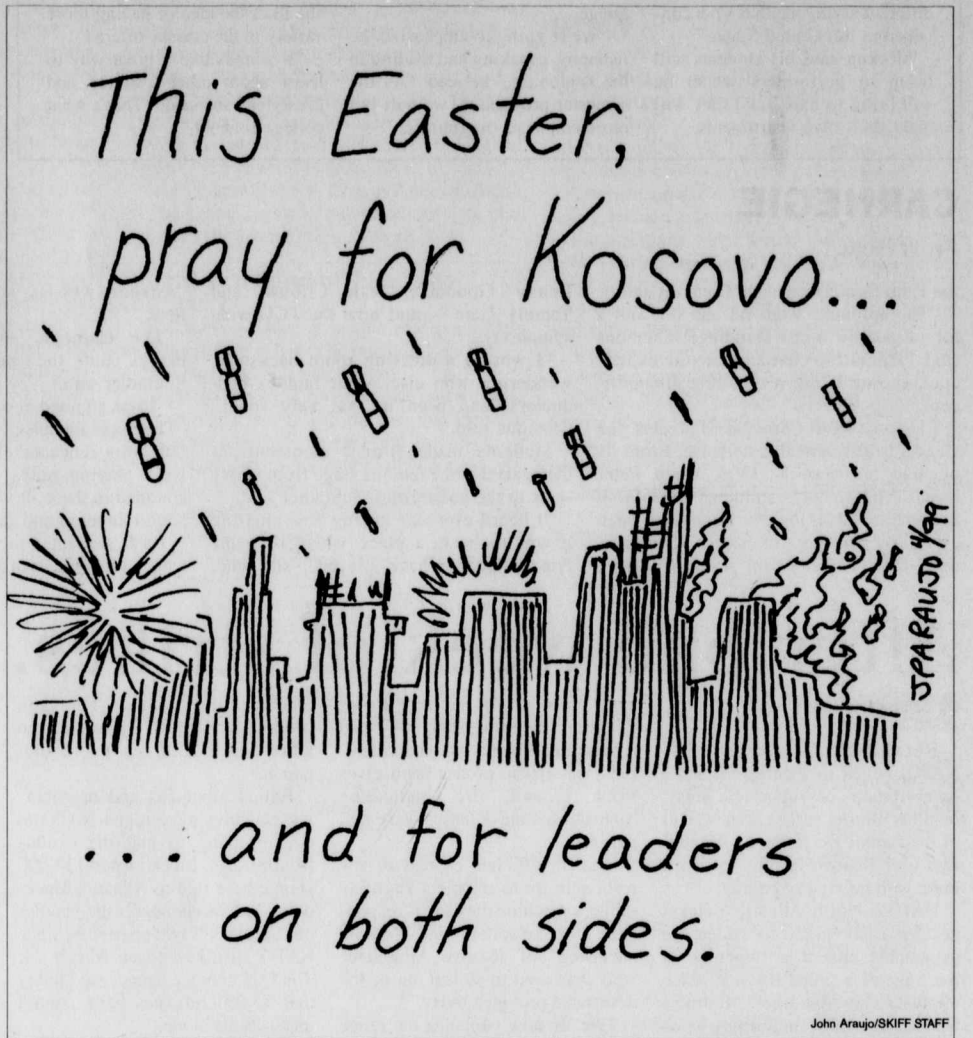
RACQUEL TORRES

But when one of my friends — someone who comes to TCU, who strives everyday with grades and homework, someone with whom I've partied and shared — told me, "Things are not looking good in Kosovo," the statement took on a whole new dimension.

My friend is from Yugoslavia. This wouldn't mean a lot if she weren't, because Kosovo is in Yugoslavia. If you can still recall the early '90s, you'll realize that Yugoslavia is still coming out of severe political and economic changes. Yugoslavia declared its independence less than 10 years ago and hasn't seen a year of peace ever since. That her country of origin has undergone so many years of bloodshed doesn't make it any easier on my friend to understand Kosovo's tragedy. Somehow, war is one of those things one never gets used to.

So what is it that makes "Things are not looking good in Kosovo" different when it comes from the president than when it comes from my friend? Well, for once, when the president tells us that Kosovo is not OK, we suspect that he is boosting his good image on the polls, justifying more expense on defense or planning a new allegiance with some European superpower.

But when my friend says, "Things are not looking good in Kosovo," it means that her father is stranded in Yugoslavia, and he can't get out of the country. It means there is always the possibility that someone she knows will be on the news, hurt and torn by the disaster. It means she has lost



John Araujo/SKIFF STAFF

all communication — phone, e-mail, letters — with her father for an indefinite period of time. She has no way of knowing if he is OK; she couldn't even talk to him on her birthday last week.

"Things are not looking good in Kosovo." This statement, coming from my friend, made me think like I hadn't in a long, long time.

When my country, Colombia, was struck by an earthquake that destroyed half of the countryside, several people joined the efforts to help gather donations for the survivors of the earthquake. Some people were genuinely concerned and got involved in the fundraiser. Others didn't quite grasp the magnitude of the catastrophe but helped nonetheless.

All these people, for a second,

cared for something that happened thousands of miles away from their homes. They did what they could to try to understand what the earthquake meant for those who had experienced it. On that occasion, I was on the side of the concerned ones. I could not understand how people could pass the earthquake stand at the Student Center and not even look at the pictures of the victims.

But with Kosovo, I have been on the side of the apathetic ones. Every time Kosovo came up in the news I switched the channel. I threw away every section of the paper that mentioned it. I deliberately detached myself from the event and chose not to let it bother me.

But now I have to pay attention

to Kosovo. This place is no longer a detached portion of the world that can never reach me. My friend's words made me realize that today the world is, indeed, a smaller place.

I never thought I'd meet someone who actually had something to do with Kosovo. I never thought I'd try to cheer up someone who had to deal with all the terrible consequences of war. But now, every time something goes wrong with Kosovo, I know the heart of one of my friends is breaking. It happened to me with Kosovo; it could happen to you with anything else.

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

Net dating shouldn't be viewed as pathetic

He was sweet, kind and incredibly sensitive. He was a writer of poetry, a lover of music and he even appreciated art. "Meet me tomorrow at 10," he said. He was perfect. And as I stared deeply into the glow of my computer at his screen name, I knew that he was the one for me. But as I was signing on the next day, I began to feel rather silly. I had actually rushed home from my aunt's house to be on time for our date. An Internet date! Suddenly it no longer

seemed romantic. It was just pathetic.

It seems many people feel this way about dating on the Web. When I told my cousin, Ralph, I had an Internet date he laughed at me. When he realized I wasn't kidding he asked in utter disbelief, "Are you for real?" My roommate expressed similar sentiments and simply gave me the "you-cannot-be-serious" look while she lectured me on the do's and don'ts of Internet dating. No. I on her list: Don't believe anything he says.

I, however, didn't understand their reactions until I talked to an old friend. We were doing a little catching up and she happened to mention a new boyfriend. I then asked the age-old question, "How'd you guys meet?" But I did not get an age-old answer. She told me she met him on the Internet. I couldn't

have been more surprised. "That's really nice," I told her. Secretly, though, only one word came to mind: pathetic.

It seems dating on the Web appears to be the lowest form of social interaction. Not only can you "go on a date" wearing nothing but your boxers and a bra, but you can lie, embellish and pretend to be other people. Also, I find myself thinking people searching the Web for dates are either incredibly ugly, socially inept or (thank you, Barbara Walters) psychotic.

In examining Internet dating, however, it becomes clear that it is really just another way to meet people that isn't so different from any other. For instance, what's the difference between meeting someone at the mall, asking for their phone number and call-

ing them and meeting someone on the Internet? In both cases you don't know whether the person is good or bad, sane or insane, or if they are telling the truth or lying. The only difference is that on the Internet you can get to know someone without the superficiality of knowing what they look like. Also, I find that I'm much wittier on the computer screen than I am in person. In other words, the Internet gives me the chance to relax and be myself.

All this said, however, I doubt very much that the status of Internet dating will change. There's just something desperate about a person who will post an ad on *Love@aol* looking for a serious or casual relationship. I should know. And while I still have fun talking to people on the computer, the very

thought of taking any of it seriously just makes me feel pathetic.

Another reason that Internet dating will never achieve high social status, though, is much more valid. There's just so much more in an actual laugh than there is in "lol" — which stands for "laughing out loud" — and :-)) is no substitute for a warm smile.

The fact is, I'd still rather stroke a man's hand than stroke a keyboard. But I must admit, it's kind of nice to be able to flirt with a guy while I'm in hair curlers and a bathrobe. And who knows? Maybe my prince charming is just a point and click away.

Shavahn Dorris is a sophomore English major from Joliet, Ill.

Housing conspiracy forces students into marriage

TCU's latest insidious scheme for wasting students' money and interfering in their lives is the best one yet.

Architect Raul Stoola has recommended that TCU build apartment-style structures for married students between Colby and Sherley halls, and between Waits and Foster halls. The Board of Trustees is considering this recommendation even as it completes the apartment-style housing on the other side of

campus, with an eye toward nipping the married-student housing problem in the bud.

The problem is, there IS NO problem.

There is no housing shortage for married students. Nothing prevents married students from living in existing TCU dorms. Students have plenty of opportunities to see each other during the day and after class, and there's no dorm curfew.

Yes, there's a housing shortage of sorts. That was abundantly clear at the beginning of the fall semester, when students were at first assigned to live with their RAs or in "triple" rooms built only for two. But if the university is going to build more dorms, they shouldn't be reserved for only one demographic group.

TCU is using this move for more

married student housing as a means of encouraging marriage between TCU students, plain and simple. If a larger percentage of the on-campus housing is only available to married students, those who have been considering marriage after college will be more likely to rush into their plans to ensure a spot in the housing reserved just for them. But, while it might help out Residential Services, the idea wreaks havoc on students' relationships by making them marry early and for the wrong reasons.

What does our university have to gain from pushing us to tie the knot with each other?

A big part of it is image. If TCU admissions brochures can quote statistics about the number of students who are married by the time they graduate, or who marry each other,

the college looks more like a happy little family. Prospective students may feel more confident when they come to college that they'll have a ring to go along with their degree.

Funny coincidence, isn't it, that every wedding held in Robert Carr Chapel generates \$3,000 for the General Fund. How would you like knowing your wedding-day rental fee was going to buy punch for SuperFrog's birthday party instead of for your own reception? But administrators figure, and rightly enough, that weddings between TCU students have a good chance of being held in the chapel. And there's no way around paying the chapel rental fee. Clever.

Encouraging students to marry and move into on-campus housing is also a political maneuver, although a

cleverly disguised one, against cohabitation. If the Board of Trustees or anyone else wants to force its old-fashioned ideas against living together on a group of young adults, it can at least do so openly, instead of by allowing only the students who've exchanged vows to take advantage of the housing. I thought TCU was going to enter the '90s with coed dorms, but maybe I thought too soon.

One more minor problem is the elimination of a safe tanning area for female students in Colby, Sherley, Waits and Foster halls. The grounds where the new buildings will be constructed are traditionally reserved for sunning during swimsuit season. Without this reliable grass, girls who want a tan will have little choice but to hit the salons,

which will cause massive amounts of skin damage.

So what should our fearless leaders in Sadler keep in mind?

Constructing more married student housing is unnecessary, unfair and inappropriate. It assumes that we are here to find a mate instead of finding ourselves; to shuck up instead of growing up. There's a lot more out there than marriage, and by promoting it as a goal over all others, TCU is limiting the lives of the very students it is designed to develop. Let's spend our resources on something we really need.

Robyn Ross is a senior news-editorial and English major from Marble Falls, Texas, and is highly insecure. She would like to wish everyone a happy April Fool's Day.

PCs rule today's market They may be 'best of show,' but they're here to stay

I could easily write a pro-PC column by pointing out the flaws in how Apple, Inc., would like to see the world. But as an optimist I would like to focus on what steps PC manufacturers, licensees and marketers have taken to lead them to the No. 1 spot in home computing today. But we won't start without a little

PC vs. Mac
issues
JEREMY HOEKSTRA

background.

When Apple, Inc., made a bold statement by flinging a sledge hammer through a giant television screen on the Super Bowl a little over a decade ago, it started a frenzy in the MS-DOS-, IBM- and Tandy-dominated PC world. Computers could be... hip?

Capitalizing on that mission statement, Apple marketers flung their dollars on connecting to the everyday people who were an untapped market for computer technology. They came out with computers that were easy-to-use, had easy interfaces and were bundled together nicely. The parts made for each other so there were no problems to fiddle with when there was no such thing as a corner computer repair shop. The revolutionary icon interface on the desktop was intuitive! Suddenly,

home computing was simple and accessible, and Apple had its day....

They forgot to watch what was happening behind them, though. In focusing on marketing, they forgot about the market. Bill Gates took the helm.

Looking to the office and business world with renewed vigor, PC manufacturers built office products that provided solutions to save time in the business world, not teach people how to do things intuitively. Windows '84 wasn't nearly as playful as its successors

or MacOS, but business people were willing to learn a clunky operating system to get to the powerful applications they needed to run. Since Apple's computers didn't run using the same architecture as the PC manufacturers, the office products were made for the computers that were in the office, the PCs. Thus, the Catch-22 began for Apple as long as it remained incompatible.

As the competition heated up between computer manufacturers,

and PC prices became reasonable to the well-to-do business man, he looked to see what his options were: a PC, which he already knew how to fool around with even though it wasn't pretty, or an Apple, which was strange and different. Once the businessman figured out that if he bought the PC, he could take his work home, the decision was made for him.

I will admit there are a few fundamental problems with the PC world. For instance, using a Microsoft product on your computer is kind of like paying taxes

... it uses 40 percent of your RAM, 40 percent of your hard drive, 40 percent of your firstborn child, etc.

People who have been working on computers for years will yell and shout at you until they are hoarse about the evils of the Windows

registry and backwards bit pattern of the Intel processors, but Gates and the guys in the shiny contamination suits have gotten pretty good at ignoring them.

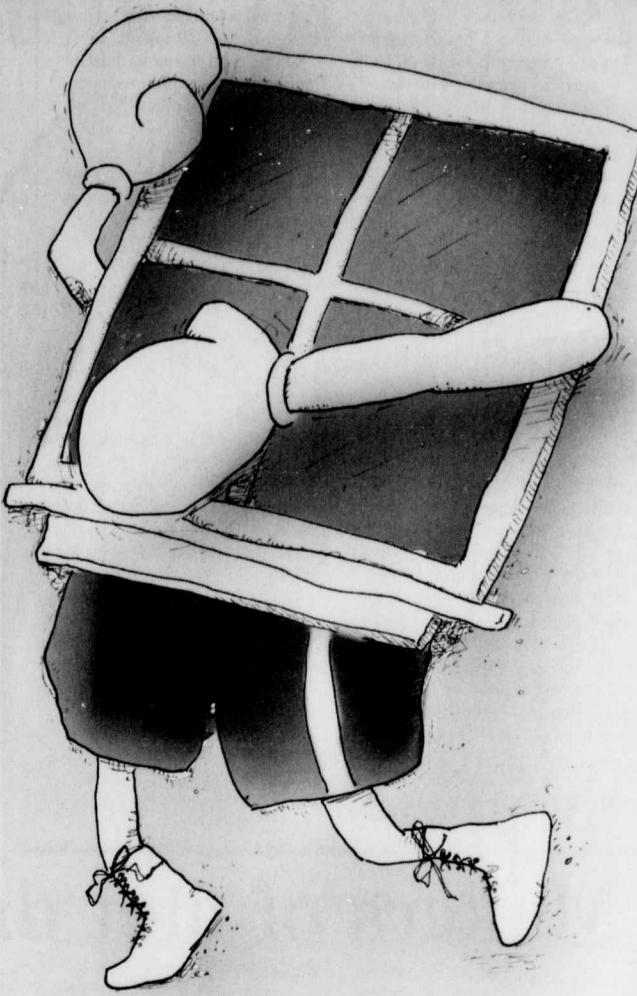
The market is what makes PCs

successful, not marketing. Products are available faster (if at all) for the PC, and there are more of them. More utilities. More plug-ins. More games. People aren't looking for a small operating system, they're looking for a powerful one. However irrational we might be as a group, what we want is what we want, and if someone fills that need, we will go to them in droves. We didn't want to look cool; we wanted to be comfortable. Forget the Apple Armani suit, pass me the Windows muumu and make me some money.

In the early '80s, Pepsi thought it had the future of the cola industry securely in the palm of its hand. Nowadays "Coke" is the most recognized word in the world, edging out "God." So as Apple sits back on its haunches and smiles because it is featured on sitcoms more or seen in the movies more and enjoys its cool status, PC manufacturers are raking in the money. With every user it grabs and familiarizes with the Windows operating system, it has secured its place once again in the oversaturated market.

Go PC. You may not deserve "best of show," but you're an ugly old pup that we won't get rid of.

Jeremy Hoekstra is a junior computer science major from Burleson, Texas.



Computer users divided Macintosh and PC have symbolic representation

In the long-running debate over whether Macs are better than PCs, one argument has preoccupied my mind more than any other: More of an analogy than an argument, Umberto Eco's comparison of Macs and PCs to Catholics and Protestants, respectively, sheds new light on this debate.

PC vs. Mac
issues
WILLIAM BURDETTE

In an English translation of the column "La bustina di Minerva," which ran on Sept. 30, 1994 in the Italian news weekly *Espresso*, Eco posits the computer/Christianity comparison that gives the Mac/PC thing a divine importance.

When souls are at stake — rather than newspaper layouts, spreadsheets, e-mail, Internet surfing and purchase orders — the question transcends typical water-cooler discussions.

"The world is divided between users of the Macintosh computers and users of MS-DOS compatible computers," Eco writes.

But just as the Catholic/Protestant issue only applies to Christians, the Mac/PC argument only applies to computer users. To be sure, there is another category of people — which includes, but is not limited to, Luddites and atheists — who avoid the question altogether.

But in the silicon-chip survival of the fittest, one platform will come out ahead and one will be designated as a relic of the pre-Y2K era of computers. As the rapture approacheth (and the Y2K nears) we will find out if Catholics, Christians, Macs or PCs are going to burn in the post-apocalyptic hell that is sure to ignite 12:01 a.m., Jan. 1, 2000.

Now that the importance of this question has been unequivocally established, let us visit in greater detail, and with religious fervor, Eco's delineation between Macs and PCs.

The Mac, he says, is Catholic: "It is cheerful, friendly, conciliatory, it tells the faithful how they must proceed, step by step, to reach — if not the Kingdom of Heaven — the moment in which their document is printed."

Eco continues, "It is catechistic: The essence of revelation is dealt with via simple formulae and sumptuous icons. Everyone has a right to salvation."

On the opposite side of the Catholic Mac, lies the Protestant (or "even Calvinistic") PC, Eco contends.

"It allows free interpretation of scripture, demands difficult personal decisions, imposes a subtle hermeneutics upon the users and takes for granted the idea that not all can reach salvation," Eco writes. "To make the system work, you need to

interpret the program yourself: a long way from the baroque community of revelers, the user is closed within the loneliness of his own inner torment."

You might be thinking, "Macs and PCs are becoming so streamlined, they're practically the same." Or perhaps you are wondering, "What difference does it make what branch of Christianity I belong to? As long as I believe in Jesus, aren't they essentially the same thing?"

Eco has pre-empted your questions:

"You may object that, with the passage of Windows, the DOS universe has come to resemble more closely the counter-reformist tolerance of the Macintosh. It's true, Windows represents an Anglican-style schism, big ceremonies in the cathedral, but there is always the possibility of a return to DOS to change things in accordance with bizarre decisions; when it comes down to it, you can decide to allow women and gays to be ministers if you want to...."

Perhaps it would be oversimplified to say Macs are better or PCs are better. It probably isn't that simple. I like the habits of the Catholic Church. The rituals seem to sort of concretize the beliefs. I like the icons and user-friendly nature of the Macs.

But I also like the Protestant notion of interpreting scripture, (although I would have no earthly

idea how to do this on a PC).

I have worked in newspapers, publishing and advertising where Macs reign. I like the speed and graphic abilities of the Mac. But I don't agree with the way the Pope runs his religion.

I also don't like the way Bill Gates runs his religion.

I was raised Protestant and PC. I will probably marry a Catholic and a Mac.

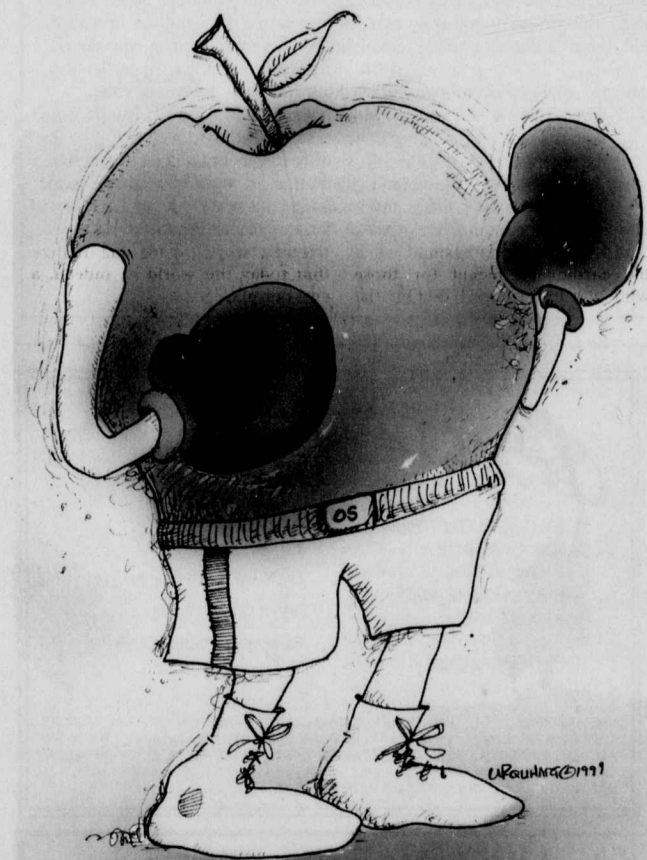
I hate it when Mac drops me a bomb.

I hate trying to figure out how the hell to put in page numbers on my PC.

I hate it when my column can't be translated into Mac format for the *Skiff* because I wrote it at home on my PC and the two just can't see eye to eye.

That is what I hate the most: The inability to see the merits of both platforms. Therefore, I will delay any comment on which platform is better until judgment day (at which time most of the free world will be using Macs because they're just better and neato looking. And let's face it — we're all scared to death that Bill Gates is going to take over the world, and if not buying into his regime keeps that from happening, we should all buy Macs).

William Thomas Burdette is a senior English major from Fort Worth.



Macintosh and Windows: which one bytes?

When asked to write a column on the "facts" about Windows and Macintosh, I accepted even though I knew I was treading on dangerous territory. The benefits of one system over another are highly subjective, which is why this topic is so hotly debated. What Windows aficionados might proclaim as a benefit is sometimes looked at with disdain by Mac users and vice versa. There is so much hype about Mac vs. Windows and so much emotion about which is better, that it is hard to find out what the facts really are. A Web search reveals not much beyond the usual "Windows sucks" and "Macs are crappy," and few Web pages offer valid facts to back their claims.

PC vs. Mac
issues
STEVE LEVERING

So now that all that's out of the way, here are a few facts to help you decide which system best suits your needs. Please note that where Win-

Consumer must check facts to decide which best suits needs

Windows is mentioned, it refers to Windows 95 or above unless otherwise specified.

Windows users have a wider variety of software to choose from. Everything from shareware to commercial software is usually available first for Windows systems, and many times the software is never released for Macintosh. However, if a Mac user has PC envy, there are several packages available that allow the Mac to emulate a Windows computer. There's even a program that lets Macs run Playstation games.

Macintosh computers come equipped with networking and sound capabilities built in. While some Windows machines are shipped with sound cards and ethernet cards installed, many are shipped without these capabilities. Many Windows users prefer computers that ship without sound or networking, so they can select cards

that meet certain specifications.

OK, it's computer geek buzzword time. Windows computers have Pre-emptive Multitasking and Multithreading, which basically means that if one program crashes or freezes, it probably won't affect any of the other programs that are running. This only applies to programs designed especially for Windows NT or 95, which are known as 32-bit applications. If a user runs an older program designed for Windows 3.1 (a 16-bit application), a crash would probably affect other 16-bit programs. The Macintosh does not currently have this type of protection. Sometimes if a program freezes, the user can force quit out of the program, and a reboot is often necessary.

The Macintosh is the favorite of the publishing and design community due to certain technologies built into the Macintosh operating system. The Macintosh offers true

WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) capabilities along with Colorsync. Now, I can already hear some irate Windows user yelling at me that his machine displays WYSIWYG, too, but hold on and hear me out. On the Macintosh, font sizes correspond very closely with the printed font size. In other words, when a Mac user prints something out, the font appears to be about the same size as it was on the screen. Windows actually displays fonts larger than they would appear on printed material. If you're still not sure about this, just compare 12-point Times type between Windows and a Macintosh. Some people may not think this is important, but to someone in publishing or design, it is crucial.

Colorsync is part of the Macintosh operating system that keeps colors consistent from one computer to another. On Windows computers, various combinations of graph-

ics cards and monitors can change colors slightly from one computer to another. Again, not vital for most users, but significant to people who use computers artistically.

Windows includes utilities with the operating system. Disk Defrag, System Monitor and several other utilities are installed automatically in Windows. The Macintosh includes Disk First Aid (big deal...), and for disk defragmentation or anything else along those lines, Mac users have to purchase software.

Mac users have fewer viruses to contend with, and the viruses they do have are not as malicious as Windows' viruses. Mac viruses tend to provide minor annoyances, such as flashing words on the screen or eating sections of documents. Windows' viruses attempt pleasantries such as reformatting the hard drive or turning the system into a doorstop.

Windows allows users to open

multiple instances of an application. For example, I could start my e-mail program and then start it again. The Macintosh won't allow users to do this. I can't really think of too many reasons why I'd want to do this, but Windows users always point to this as a sign of superiority, so I'll add it to the list.

Windows supports multiple user profiles. This is useful in an office or home where several people share a machine. When a user logs into the machine, it brings back the preferences that user specified, without having to click through a slew of control panels to get the computer back to the preferred setup.

Hopefully, this collection of facts will help people decide on their own which machine suits them best. After all, it's not about one computer's superiority over the other; it's about how useful the computer is to the user.

Steve Levering is a user services consultant (and he does prefer Macs).

ARGENTINA

From Page 1

Bell Textron and Burlington-Northern.

"(The seminar) will connect us and help us build relationships," Stephens said. "I look forward to working with them."

Bruton said the seminar will allow the different business leaders to exchange economic strategies as well as reap the cultural benefits of such a program.

He said it will be a great opportunity for both countries.

"It's a great strategic relationship," Bruton said. "You can learn a lot about the culture just through the little things."

Adams said business leaders from both sides expect to incorporate their new knowledge into their respected environments.

"This is very important to us," Adams said. "International education is a two-way street in which we can learn from each other. They'll enrich our TCU environment."

CENTER

From Page 1

dent center.

"I would think the post office would be a key anchor to draw students to the student center, which in turn would draw new vendors," he said. "I'd also like to see them have an area for stamp vending machines."

Alan Shepard, chairman of the English department, said more lounge space would also draw students to the new center.

"They need space where they can build community," he said. "It doesn't have to be elaborate."

Shepard suggested building an area for games and moving The Grind coffeehouse from its current

location in the basement of Reed Hall.

Mills said he wants the new center to house as many student organizations as possible.

"I suspect that there will be a lot of student activities offices located in the center so students don't have to go to a lot of buildings," he said. "It will be a one-stop shopping kind of thing."

Other ideas for the new center include the improvement of the House of Representatives' facilities, the inclusion of outside dining areas, and the addition of a student print shop.

Private loans may cost less

By Anjette McQueen
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Education Department maintains it saves money through providing direct college loans to students and parents rather than subsidizing loans made by mostly private lenders. The department's internal watchdog begs to differ.

In a recent report, the department's inspector general concludes that low interest rates mean low costs, but when interest rates are high, the government pays more to make the loans in its direct-lending program than it recovers from borrowers repaying loans.

The report says outdated computer equipment is at least one source of the extra costs.

Education Department officials disputed the findings. They said the report used outdated figures for 1996 and 1997, and that it made unfair

comparisons between the government's actions and how the best private lenders would manage the loan program.

"Don't believe for a second that the numbers in the study are right," said Greg Woods, in charge of improving management of the department's student financial aid programs.

Critics dispute that the program costs less to run and passes the savings to students. Currently, rates for borrowers vary in both programs.

The recent report is ammunition against the program, they say.

"It paints a bleak picture of the Education Department as efficient managers," said Mark Cannon, the Coalition for Student Loan Reform, which lobbies for private lenders. "It shows that there is \$100 million annually that is going to bureaucrats and not to students."

Steven A. McNamara, acting Education Department inspector general, insists the report is not questioning the department's management of either program. He noted that the report also said it is difficult to compare the costs of the two loan programs fully because they vary each year, depending on interest rates.

Finance officials continue to fight over the two major types of loans offered to student borrowers. For many years, the government paid subsidies to private lenders so they would make the loans. In 1994, the government said it could save borrowers money by taking out the middleman and started a lending program of its own.

President Clinton angered Republican lawmakers and private lenders with his budget plan to give the program more funding and cut the private lenders' federal subsidy.

Lady returns twin to birth mom

By Beth J. Harpez
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — They are brothers, twins born of the same womb. One is black, the other white. It is a baby-switching case with a twist — these babies were switched before birth.

Now the only mother either 3-month-old boy has ever known will return the child who does not share her DNA — the black child — to his genetic parents.

"We're giving him up because we love him," said Donna Fasano, 37, in

a handwritten statement supplied by her lawyer Tuesday.

The babies ended up in the same womb because a doctor at a fertility clinic apparently mixed up Mrs. Fasano's embryos with those of another couple.

"Both of these boys are beautiful — two precious, normal little boys," said her lawyer, Ivan Tantleff. "They sit in the swing together. They sit in the tub together."

The case began April 24, 1998, when Mrs. Fasano underwent embryo implantations in the Man-

hattan offices of Dr. Lillian Nash. Another couple, Deborah Perry-Rogers and Robert Rogers, sought help from the same clinic at the same time.

Both women underwent in vitro fertilization, in which their own eggs fertilized by their husbands' sperm were implanted into the uterus. Only Mrs. Fasano became pregnant.

Doctors discovered a problem a few weeks into Mrs. Fasano's pregnancy, when an amniocentesis exam revealed that although she was carrying twins, only one was

her genetic son.

The clinic had apparently inserted some of Mrs. Rogers' eggs into Mrs. Fasano's uterus along with her own. Since both babies were healthy, Mrs. Fasano decided to carry them to term, her lawyer said.

The babies were born in December. Mrs. Fasano said she didn't know the other parents' identity until the Rogerses sued Nash, two other doctors and the Fasanos on March 16.

"This wasn't my doing," Mrs. Fasano said in her statement.

Makers of diet drug face lawsuit for concealment

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEBURNE, Texas — The maker of half of the popular diet-drug combination fen-phen was headed for court today to defend itself against a woman's claim that it marketed the drug knowing it could cause heart valve damage.

Opening statements were scheduled today in a lawsuit believed to be the first of its kind to go to trial.

Sandra Moore is suing American Home Products Corp. of Madison, N.J., parent of pharmaceutical company Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories. She claims she wasn't warned about the risks of taking fenfluramine, marketed by Wyeth-Ayerst as Pondimin, and dexfenfluramine, a similar drug later sold by the company as Redux.

The two drugs make up half of the so-called fen-phen combination prescribed to thousands of patients to promote weight loss.

Moore, a former middle school teacher, is formerly of Alvarado but now lives in Missoula, Mont.

Doctors found mild heart valve damage after Moore, 52, took fen-phen for 10 months in 1996. Now on medication for her heart condition, she seeks damages exceeding \$10 million.

"She has congestive heart failure and heart valve disease as a result of taking the pills," said her attorney, Michael McGartland.

Bill Sims, an attorney for American Home Products, said he looks forward to

putting the facts before a jury.

"There's a lot of misinformation circulating about these drugs and why they were voluntarily withdrawn from the market," he said. "We are going to tell it like it is."

Likely to be introduced by the plaintiff's attorneys are internal documents that show American Home Products withheld information about heart valve risks to avoid putting warning labels on the drugs, sources said.

Labels advised users that they carried the risk of a rare side effect called primary pulmonary hypertension, an often fatal heart and lung condition. But the drugs were banned by the government in 1997 because of concerns about heart valve damage.

Fenfluramine had been sold since the 1970s but only in the 1990s did it become widely used when doctors began prescribing it together with phentermine. Fen-phen was never approved by the Food and Drug Administration as safe but many doctors prescribed the drugs together, thinking it made them a more potent weight loss aid.

Phentermine taken alone was never associated with that damage and is still on the market.

American Home Products, the world's seventh-largest drug maker, has been hit with more than 1,000 lawsuits since the company pulled the drugs from the shelves. The company already has spent millions settling five cases involving pri-

mary pulmonary hypertension, according to published reports, but Moore's lawsuit is believed to be the first to reach a courtroom over the issue of heart valve damage.

Two weeks ago, Dallas lawyer Kip Petroff settled with American Home Products for a reported \$4.5 million in a case involving an Arkansas woman who developed primary pulmonary hypertension after taking fen-phen for two months.

More lawsuits will follow if Moore can win her case, Petroff said.

"It's going to encourage a lot of lawyers and clients that are right now sitting back and watching," he said. "I know for a fact that (American Home Products) is banking on winning so it'll have the exact opposite effect."

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Pulse

Rec sports season isn't over yet

NBA

Pistons win fifth straight

BOSTON (AP) — Lindsey Hunter scored 17 points as the Detroit Pistons won their fifth straight game, 87-72 over the Boston Celtics on Wednesday night.

Grant Hill added 16 points and 11 rebounds, while Bison Dele scored 14 points for the Pistons.

The Celtics have lost seven of their last nine games.

After trailing by 16 points in the third quarter, the Celtics closed to 70-62 with a 6-0 run midway through the fourth quarter. But the Pistons remained in control and took a 76-64 lead on Jud Buechler's second 3-pointer of the period.

Bucks beat Hornets by eight

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Ray Allen had 20 points and Milwaukee opened a four-game road trip by shooting a season-high 61 percent for a 102-94 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Wednesday night.

Milwaukee, which came in shooting an NBA-best 40 percent from 3-point range, made seven of 14 attempts from long range. Former Charlotte guard Dell Curry, who had 18 points, was one of three Milwaukee players to hit two 3-pointers.

Reserve guard Eldridge Recasner had a career-high 26 points for the Hornets, who got just 48 points from their starters. Recasner made nine of 14 field-goal attempts, including five of seven 3-pointers, on the way to scoring three more than his previous NBA best.

Wizards set defensive record in win

WASHINGTON (AP) — Juwan Howard scored 20 points and the Washington Wizards used a record defensive performance to beat the Orlando Magic 84-73 Wednesday night.

The 73 points by Orlando were the fewest ever allowed by Washington. The previous record was 74, by Cleveland in 1982 and Miami in 1997.

Terry Davis went 6-for-6 from the field and matched his season-high with 12 points, including six points during an 8-0 first-quarter run that gave the Wizards the lead for good.

By Jeri Petersen
STAFF REPORTER

The intramural season isn't over yet, but the Intramural Sports Council is already turning its attention to next year's calendar.

The 12-member council met Monday in the first of three meetings to determine the Fall 1999 and Spring 2000 intramural sports calendar.

Lance Steffen, intramural sports director, said programming starts earlier than students might think.

"We've been working on this for a while already, and next year's calendar will be ready by the end of June," he said.

Steffen said the council evaluates the current calendar and decides what sports will be included next year, the order of events and rule changes or modifications.

The council, formed last semester, is made up of 10 students and two faculty advisers.

Steffen said the student representatives were hand-picked by the recreational sports staff and student supervisors from a group of interested individuals. He said they tried to select the council from fraternities, sororities, staff and supervisors to be representative of everyone who uses the service.

Shawn Wallace, a sophomore business major, represents the sports supervisors and Brothers Under Christ on the Intramural Sports Council.

"At Monday's meeting, we talked about what sports and programs to continue and what ones we might eliminate," Wallace said. "We're considering having a track or swim meet next year."

Steffen said this is the first time the council has decided on a calendar.

"Formerly, the person in my position made up the calendar," he said. "Intramural sports is a stu-

dent organization, and the students should make the decisions."

Steffen sits on the council and leads the meeting by bringing up topics for vote, but he said he doesn't vote. Darron Turner, director of minority affairs and commuter student services, is the other faculty adviser.

Decisions are made by a majority vote of members in attendance, Steffen said.

"As a first-time council, they have served all aspects of the purpose they were put in place to serve," Steffen said.

The second council meeting will be on April 27 to decide rules and regulations for the coming year.

At the meeting in May, council members will finalize everything before they leave for the summer, Steffen said.

In intramural sports play, the Ultimate Frisbee tournament was played in place of soccer this week. Games were played Tuesday and Wednesday nights, and the championship game was played Wednesday night. Results will be published next week.

The registration deadline for the Delta Dunkfest three-on-three tournament is April 7. The first 50 teams to sign up will be registered to play on April 11.

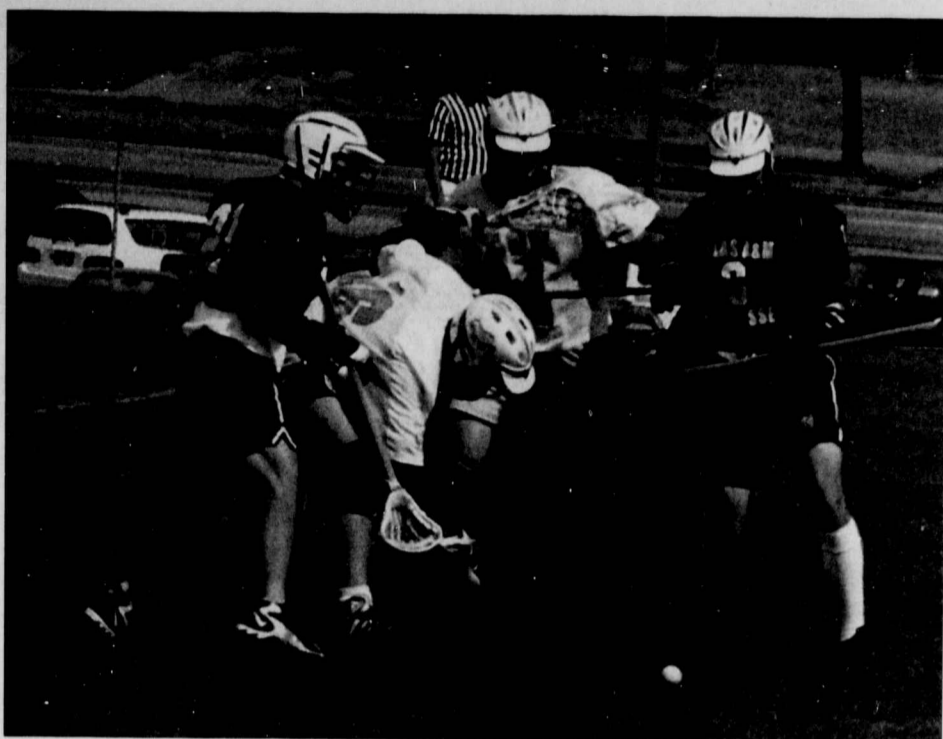
Registration for the softball tournament ends April 7.

Students can sign up for all recreational sports activities in the Rickel Building, Room 229.

Club Sports

Several members of the Tae Kwon Do club participated in a state tournament on March 12, club instructor Wade Meeker said.

Ryan Cox earned a gold medal in middleweight fighting at the yellow belt level, and Ray Colston earned a gold medal in heavyweight fighting at the green belt level.



The men's lacrosse team, above, is ranked second in its division after beating Texas Tech last weekend.

Minh Phan won bronze medals in lightweight form at the green belt level.

Gerardo Franco won a gold medal in black belt forms testing in the heavyweight division.

The men's lacrosse team locked up a No. 2 position in its division by beating Texas Tech University, 12-11, in overtime on Saturday.

Club President Pete Hoffman said the Frogs were ahead, 7-1, at the half, but Tech rallied and tied the score at 11 by the end of the game.

"Last year the game was right down to the wire in driving rain. We were feeling like it was going

to be an ironic déjà-vu," Hoffman said. "We knew they'd rally. But our team was resilient, and we got the better of them this time. It was a great win."

Steve Packard and Ryan Donovan both led the Frogs with three goals and one assist each, and freshman goalkeeper Dwight Clabby finished with 15 saves.

Women's lacrosse suffered a setback when captain Kelly Coulson broke her foot in practice last week.

The team played a tough schedule on Saturday, facing Baylor in the morning, then traveling to Austin to play the University of

Texas. The women lost both games.

Club co-captain Tracy Glasheen said the team had an off day.

"We should have taken both teams," Glasheen said. "Even without Kelly, we should have taken them. We got delayed in Baylor because of weather, too."

The women will play Rice the weekend after Easter.

"We're favored to beat them, but it's looking like Rice will be our last game," Glasheen said. "Because of last weekend, we have to depend on other teams beating certain other teams for us to get into the playoffs."

Huskies should learn some respect

Dear UConn fans, players and coaching staff: Congratulations on your well-deserved win over the heavily favored Duke Blue Devils in Monday night's NCAA championship game.

Now that college basketball is over for a while, it's time for you Huskies to take an etiquette class. That's right, this letter is to inform you (as if it wasn't painfully obvious to everyone outside New England) that graciousness in winning is mandatory for all champions at the collegiate level.

I will sit here on my high horse and patronize you by saying every champion in every college sport is gracious in victory. C'mon, we all remember those University

of Miami football teams from the 1980s.

But the behavior of the Huskies prior to and following Monday's game was ... well, like that of dog. (Get it, dog — Huskies?)

UConn's outstanding sophomore point guard Khalid El-Amin played well throughout the entire tournament. He has been the catalyst for the Huskies since he arrived in Storrs at the start of last season.

"The Penetrator," as he is known, did more than penetrate opposing defenses. He penetrated any and all available eardrums with his pre- and post-game soliloquies about how good his game was, how he was the best, how UConn was the best and how there was no one who could stop the Huskies.

Basketball fans everywhere know trash talking is part of the game. Both the college game and the NBA have more than their fair share of motor-mouths.

El-Amin backed his words up and that's fine. What he didn't know how to do was draw the line. He seemed intent on making

people feel sorry for his beloved Huskies during the tournament. Personally, I find it a bit hard to feel sorry for any team that starts the season 19-0, was the nation's top-ranked team for much of the year and garnered a No. 1 seed in the tournament.

I can hear the violins playing right now, Khalid, and they don't sound pretty.

El-Amin said before the game that he and his teammates were going to "shock the world" Monday night.

If you put the game into perspective, its outcome really shouldn't come as a shock. Yes, Duke was heavily favored and had cruised through the tournament like a fox in the hen house when the farmer isn't home.

But Saturday's game against Michigan State took a lot out of the Blue Devils. Not to make excuses for the Dukies. They went into the Dance ranked No. 1 and lost just two games all season. Unfortunately, one of those was the championship game.

UConn coach Jim Calhoun is also responsible for his team's lack of respect

after the game. He is the coach after all. It seemed like every night the Huskies played some broadcaster was telling the viewers about how Calhoun's father died when he was 15. Sad, but the abrasive Calhoun is now 56. Let's hope he has come to grips with that tragedy.

Calhoun also proclaimed UConn's fans "the best in the nation" in his wretched Boston accent. I liken UConn basketball fans to Nebraska football fans: There's not much else going on their respective states, so the real story would be if they had bad fans. One difference between the two sets of fans: Nebraska's are known as the classiest in the nation.

Enjoy your first championship UConn, and if you win another, don't gloat the way you did after this one.

Todd J. Shriber is a junior broadcast journalism major from Laguna Niguel, Calif., who lived in Connecticut for 14 years.

Commentary



TODD J. SHRIBER

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RUDY

by Aaron Brown **Chaos**

by Brian Shuster



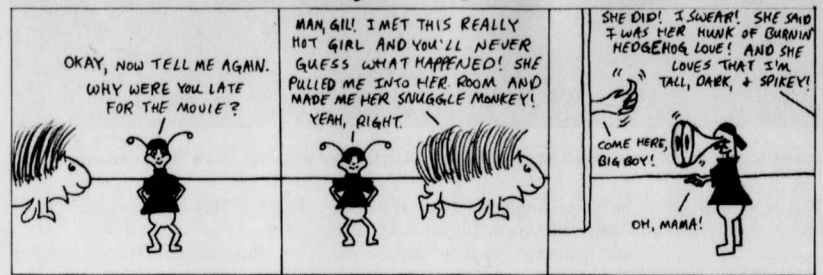
Academia Nuts

by John P. Araujo



Texas Critter University

by Jamie Elizabeth Brinkman



Lex

by Phil Flickinger



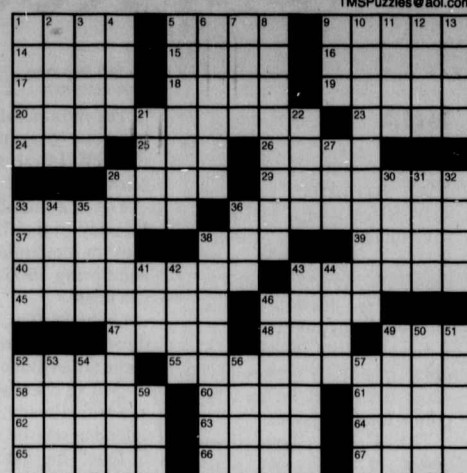
THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- 1 Vivacity
- 5 "Citizen _"
- 9 Flavor enhancer
- 14 The Swedish Nightingale
- 15 Aware of
- 16 _ S. Buck
- 17 Besides
- 18 Neophyte
- 19 Patronage
- 20 Tobacco-pipe mineral
- 23 Dressing gown
- 24 Superlative ending
- 25 Ah, I see!
- 26 Creative Coward
- 28 Murdered
- 29 Scoop-shaped surgical instrument
- 33 Arrive on horseback
- 36 Buck's hide
- 37 Singer Brickell
- 38 Cushion
- 39 Marketed
- 40 British writer Max
- 43 Heartbeats
- 45 Small Florida orange
- 46 Withhold
- 47 Shoshones
- 48 Can. province
- 49 _ Moines
- 52 Silvery metal
- 55 Slothful person
- 58 Japanese metropolis
- 60 Killer whale
- 61 Fit
- 62 Beginning
- 63 _ Bator,
- 64 Mr. Flintstone
- 65 Dazed look
- 66 Evaluation
- 67 Brown shades

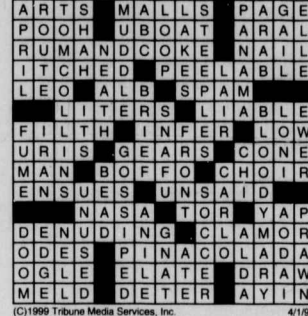
DOWN

- 1 Point a finger
- 2 Stirs to anger
- 3 Map within a map
- 4 Stench
- 5 Cook's milieu
- 6 Haphazardly
- 7 Mrs. Nick Charles
- 8 Stated clearly
- 9 Healthy spot
- 10 Incomparably
- 11 Othello's nemesis
- 12 Tot's bed
- 13 Otherwise
- 21 Singular performances
- 22 Wry face
- 27 Go wrong
- 28 Crinkled fabric
- 30 Boxing decisions, in brief
- 31 Mosaic piece
- 32 Conclusions
- 33 Confederate soldiers, casually
- 34 Inking
- 35 Menu plan
- 36 Hoover or Grand Coulee
- 38 End one step at a time
- 41 On the contrary
- 42 Portent
- 43 Hanging ornament
- 44 "Do _ others as _"
- 46 Kind of gazelle
- 49 Actress Winger
- 50 DeGeneres sitcom
- 51 Snow-day vehicles
- 52 Animal displays
- 53 " _ It a Pity"
- 54 Astronauts' grp.
- 56 Perry's penner
- 57 Float on the wind
- 59 Snacked



By Alan P. Oleschewicz
Huntington Beach, CA

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



purple poll

Q

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A

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