

High 84
Low 62
Mostly sunny



FRIDAY
APRIL 23, 1999

Texas Christian University
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Inside

Cowtown and culture collide.

See Weekend

Pulse

Campus

Picnic for commuters to be held Saturday

The Office of Commuter Student Services and Minority Affairs will host a picnic for commuter students from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday at Frog Fountain.

Linda Nguyen, assistant to the director of minority affairs, said this event is open to everyone, although it is targeted to commuter students and their families.

Free barbecue will be provided, and appearances will be made by Super Frog and Chancellor Michael Ferrari.

College

Reps protest sweatshops nationwide

(U-WIRE) MADISON, Wis. — As nationwide anti-sweatshop protests continued Wednesday — with sit-ins staged at two universities — representatives from a number of schools met at University of Wisconsin-Madison to discuss administrative response.

Students at the University of Arizona-Tucson started a sit-in late Wednesday in protest of a proposed anti-sweatshop code. At presstime, details of the Arizona protest were unavailable.

A similar sit-in at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill entered its third day Thursday. Students at Brown University avoided a sit-in Wednesday, negotiating a set of conditions which would monitor the factories where the school's apparel is made.

The meeting at UW follows months of sweatshop debate at schools nationwide. Protest is now largely centered around university involvement with the Fair Labor Agreement, which was drafted by a group of corporations, human-rights organizations and two labor unions.

— Badger Herald
University of Wisconsin

ACLU against city ban of alleged rioters

(U-WIRE) EAST LANSING, Mich. — A decision to ban certain people from East Lansing because of their alleged involvement in the March 27-28 riot has drawn criticism from the American Civil Liberties Union.

East Lansing judges ruled that six people, including two Michigan State University students, cannot enter the city except for legal proceedings. The students can stay in the city until the end of the semester.

Henry Silverman, chairperson of MSU's History Department and president of the Lansing branch of the ACLU, said the penalization is unfair because the banned people have not yet been convicted of a crime.

But city officials defend the measure, saying it is for the community's safety.

"I think anything that you do to restrict people from engaging in similar behavior would improve community safety," said Assistant City Attorney Tom Yeadon.

This is not the first time East Lansing has dealt with the issue of banning people for riotous behavior.

After the May 1 Munn field riot, 54-B District Judge Richard Ball banned several MSU students from East Lansing. The ban was lifted days later.

— The State News
Michigan State University

Pull!



Fourth and fifth grade children from area elementary schools participate in tug-of-war at the annual School is Cool Jam. The annual event is sponsored by the TCU social work and education departments to encourage children to stay in school.

Seniors to present their own music

By Jeri Peterson
STAFF REPORTER

A lifetime of music education comes to fruition Saturday for two TCU music theory and composition majors as they present their senior recital in the PepsiCo Hall at the Walsh Center for Performing Arts.

Michael Riggs and Brandon Moore said the recital will feature music they have written during the past four years and will be performed by about 60 student musicians.

"The program will include 11 pieces in a huge diversity of styles," Riggs said. "It was our responsibility as composers to recruit performers, organize rehearsals and program the recital. The student performers willingly sacrificed their own time to give new music a chance to be heard."

Music students study all genres of music, so a senior recital naturally includes music ranging from baroque to modern, jazz to Bartókian, Riggs said.

The ensembles will be as varied as the music itself, Riggs said.

"We will have a brass sextet, quintet and trio, as well as a mixed sextet and nonet. We also feature a male chorus, string quartet, piano solo, flute duet and two pieces for a full jazz ensemble," Riggs said.

Ken Richardson, an assistant math professor who plays saxophone in the TCU jazz band, said he will play in Saturday's recital.

"The compositions we're playing are good," he said. "I think it's great that people have the

motivation to do things like this."

Moore said it is exciting to hear his own pieces performed.

"Student composers rarely get to know their music beyond the notes on the page," he said. "The recital also displays the friendship and camaraderie of all those involved. Without such a supportive foundation, the evening would never fly."

Esther Anderson, a freshman premajor who will play cello in the recital, said it is exciting to contemplate what went on in a fellow student's head while composing the pieces she will play.

"I feel honored to play original student compositions," she said. "It's exciting to think that the work I play now might be famous some day."

Riggs and Moore said their recital goes beyond a graduation requirement.

"We entered the program before a recital was a requirement," Riggs said. "We want to do this, and it gives us a chance to record our pieces, which completes the artistic process."

Riggs said putting a program such as this together is a huge undertaking, but one that is ultimately rewarding.

"You're not competing against anyone else — you're only limited by yourself," he said. "Art has to be communicative, and the artist is trying to get a message out through the medium of choice. A composer, then, is engaging the listener."

The 7:30 p.m. recital is free and open to the public.

Creating awareness

Alvarado helps organize minority affairs

By Karen Kassebeer
STAFF REPORTER

His peers describe him as a creative and approachable person, someone they can call on for help and one who will always follow through.

Carlos Alvarado, a senior geology and English major, said he strives to make TCU a place where students can share ideas and experience cultural awareness.

"I want people to know they can count on me for help," he

said. Alvarado has served as the assistant to the director of Minority Affairs for four years. As one of three assistants this year, Alvarado's major duty consists of acting as a liaison between students and the office of minority affairs.

Darron Turner, director of minority affairs, said Alvarado is dependable and people-oriented.

"He's committed to making a difference on campus," Turner said.

Alvarado said his major project

for minority affairs included planning and organizing the minority leaders retreat last fall. He said his goal was to help promote cultural awareness and unite campus organizations. Alvarado said he encourages as many students as possible to attend the minority council meetings, which are joint meetings among all minority organizations. He said he wants to promote cross-cultural awareness and help unify different organiza-

Please see CARLOS, Page 4



Carlos Alvarado, a senior geology and English major, has served as the assistant to the director of Minority Affairs for four years. He received the Jessica Slate Award for teaching and a Hispanic leadership award from TCU for his work at Country Day.

Elementary fun

Young visitors enthused by School Jam

By Joel D. Anderson
STAFF REPORTER

Raymon Henderson was obviously impressed.

The 11-year-old student from Briscoe Elementary School inspected his surroundings, which included a view of the towering, 46,083-seat Amon Carter Stadium, but then said he was enthused by other facilities.

"We've never seen clean bathrooms before," Henderson said.

With the assistance of several TCU organizations, Henderson and more than 300 students from Briscoe and Richard J. Wilson Elementary Schools had the opportunity Thursday to see many other things they had never seen before at the fifth annual School Is Cool Jam at the Walsh Complex Track.

Linda Moore, chairwoman of the social work department, had one of her classes, Community Intervention: Policy and Prac-

tice, organize the event with the help of the social work department, the Golden Key National Honor Society and the National Association of Social Workers. With the cooperation of more than 100 volunteers, the group sponsored the four-hour event, which included pizza, a disc jockey and 14 activities such as soccer, face painting and relay races.

"We're trying to get kids who are less likely to come to TCU," Moore said. "We want them to realize they can come here. Too many kids here think they can't come to TCU."

She said the event showed TCU's commitment to the Fort Worth community.

"It's important for TCU to help the community understand that we're a part of the community," Moore said. "I think there's

Please see SCHOOL, Page 4

Greek members gather to celebrate community

By Kristen R. Nequin
STAFF REPORTER

Todd Chiscano, a Phi Gamma Delta member, and Kaitlyn Bloomquist, a Delta Gamma member, walked away with the 1999 Greek Awards Ceremony's top honors Thursday night. The Outstanding Greek Senior Man and Woman of the year were celebrated with standing ovations in a packed Student Center Ballroom.

Fara Brown-Owen, the president of Order of Omega, said the annual awards ceremony is designed to honor students who have supported the Greek and TCU communities.

"Tonight is a celebration of your success as sorority and fraternity members," said Brown-Owen.

Awards were presented by Panhellenic, Interfraternity Council, The National Pan-Hellenic Council, and the Order of Omega, which is comprised of the top 4 percent of fraternity and

sorority members. The annual ceremony recognizes individual members and chapters for service, scholarship and leadership. Faculty and staff members who have contributed to the Greek community are also honored.

Erin Kelley, Order of Omega's vice president of programs, said the annual awards ceremony is an excellent way to bring together members of different chapters.

"Everyone competes and competes within the Greek community," she said. "There is a lot of division, but this is a time to come together and recognize outstanding members whether they are in your chapter or not."

Although all chapters were invited and encouraged to attend the event, Delta Tau Delta, Kappa Alpha Psi, Phi Delta Theta and Phi Kappa Sigma fraternities were ineligible from

Please see OMEGA, Page 4

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.

Tarrant County Democratic Party is offering unpaid summer internships. No political experience is needed, but good communication skills and organizational abilities are required. Work schedules are completely flexible. For more information, contact Lisa Richardson at (817) 335-VOTE.

Host families are needed for international exchange students for the 1999/2000 school year. The students will arrive in August and will stay with the family for one semester or until the end of the school year. Families are needed to provide a bed, meals and a desire to share the American way of life. The exchange students are between the ages of 15 and 18 years old. For more information, call Sharon George at (817) 295-6696.

Tickets on sale now for Sig Ep 1901 Philanthropy from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. May 2 next to the Greek on the Worth Hills punting green. The event will benefit kids at Cook Children's Hospital. There will be music from Owen Temple, volleyball and barbecue. Tickets for the concert only are \$10. Tickets for barbecue, raffle, and concert are \$19.01. For more information or tickets, contact 257-3117.

TCU Showgirls will have tryouts from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 1 in the Rickel Room 318. A prep class for any interested girls will be held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. April 28 in the Rickel Room 318. A session to learn the routine will be from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. April 29. For more information, call Jamie at (903)753-7696.

The Student Government Association is hosting an appreciation dinner for Sodexo-Mariott employees from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. April 30 in the Student Center Ballroom. All food services will be closed during this time. For more information, call Alicia at 257-3807.

The Tarrant County Republican Party is offering unpaid internships over the summer. No political experience is necessary. Valuable computer skills will be taught. Schedules are flexible. For more information, call Tom Davis or Becki Fowler at 332-9371.

News
ROUNDUP

World

Milosevic accepts U.N. presence in Kosovo, Russian envoy reports

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — President Slobodan Milosevic has accepted the idea of a U.N.-controlled "international presence" in Kosovo, a Russian envoy said Thursday. Hours earlier, NATO struck directly against the Yugoslav leader for the first time, destroying his luxurious mansion.

In a diplomatic bid to end the conflict, former Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin held day-long talks with Milosevic. It was unclear whether the international force discussed would be armed, under what guidelines it would operate or whether the offer represented a real peace gesture.

NATO has insisted it must lead any armed presence in Kosovo to enforce a peace agreement. Milosevic has so far rejected NATO demands to withdraw his troops from the embattled province and accept a Western-dictated autonomy plan for the ethnic Albanian majority there.

Chernomyrdin said after the talks that he and Milosevic had "considered the possibility of an international presence led by the U.N. in which Russia would take part."

"Those are the basic principles we agreed upon," Chernomyrdin said.

President Clinton said in Washington that he did not have details of what was discussed.

"If there is an offer for a genuine security force, that's the first time that Mr. Milosevic has done that," Clinton said.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he was encouraged by news that Yugoslavia would accept an international presence in Kosovo and "eagerly awaits the details," according to a statement through his spokesman.

As refugees continued to stream out of Kosovo, where hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians remained displaced, NATO jets rained dozens of missiles on the area around Pristina, the provincial capital. The Yugoslav state news agency Tanjug called it the fiercest daytime attack yet.

Missiles also targeted Yugoslavia's second-largest city, Novi Sad, in a rare daytime attack that failed to take out the one remaining bridge over the Danube River.

But the most startling strike was the one before 4 a.m. that ripped into the white two-story mansion in Belgrade's Dedinje district where Milosevic sometimes lives.

Yugoslav officials expressed outrage over what they said was an attempt to kill their leader, saying three laser-guided bombs blasted Milosevic's bedroom, living room and dining room.

"NATO committed a criminal act without precedence — an assassination attempt against the president of a sovereign state," said Goran Matic, a government minister.

NATO and other Western officials called the

building a presidential command post and legitimate military target.

American officials have insisted they are not trying to kill the Yugoslav leader. U.S. law bans assassination attempts on other countries' leaders but no prohibition exists for hitting facilities — which may also be a leader's residence — that are considered command and control centers.

Last December, several of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's palaces and a house belonging to Saddam's daughter were hit during U.S. and British air attacks. And in 1986, the Air Force took out Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's house and his tent in a raid on Tripoli.

The NATO attack Thursday came a day after missiles slammed into a Belgrade high-rise that housed Milosevic's governing party and a radio and TV station owned by his daughter.

The house, surrounded by a high fence and typically patrolled by guards, had belonged to Yugoslav communist leader Josip Broz Tito, whose marble tomb stands just 50 yards behind the house.

Also Thursday, the Kosovo rebels' news agency alleged that Serb forces killed dozens of ethnic Albanian civilians in Kosovo. The Kosova Press report, which could not be independently confirmed, said Serb forces killed 50 ethnic Albanians in the past week around Podujevo, north of Pristina. It also said Serb paramilitary forces killed at least 40 people in five villages in the region of Lipljan, south of Pristina.

Nation

Army Black Hawk helicopter crash kills 7, injures 4 in Kentucky

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — An Army Black Hawk helicopter crashed early Thursday at Fort Campbell, killing seven people and injuring the other four aboard.

An Army photo of the crash scene showed the helicopter scattered in several large pieces in a wooded area beside a road.

The UH-60L helicopter went down in a rural training area about 7 a.m., the Army said. The Black Hawk is the primary helicopter for air assault, air cavalry and medical evacuation units.

One victim died at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn., and two others were in critical condition there. The others injured were being treated at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital on Fort Campbell. The Army did not immediately release their conditions.

No cause was given for the crash. The soldiers were practicing getting either on or off the helicopter when it crashed, probably from a fairly low height.

The Black Hawk broke up after a "traumatic impact with the ground," Army spokesman George Heath said.

About 350 helicopters are kept at Fort Campbell, but no others were nearby when the accident happened.

The base is headquarters for the 101st Airborne Division, the Army's only air assault division. It straddles the Kentucky-Tennessee line about 200

miles southwest of Louisville.

In 1996, two Black Hawks collided at Fort Campbell, killing six soldiers. In that crash, the Army said the air crews failed to coordinate well enough, and one did not warn the other that it had lost sight of the second chopper.

Three months earlier, a MH-47E Chinook from Fort Campbell crashed in a western Kentucky field, killing five people aboard.

The Army said the worst crash at Fort Campbell happened in 1988, when two helicopters collided in the air and 17 people died.

State

Corpse found in river identified as missing Irving 3-year-old

IRVING, Texas — A corpse found in the Trinity River is that of a 3-year-old Irving girl missing since last weekend, the Dallas County medical examiner's office confirmed Thursday.

But Cristy Ryno's cause of death might not be determined for several weeks, authorities said.

Irving Police Officer David Tull released few other details about the case and wouldn't discuss the physical condition of the body or whether it was clothed.

"We had a really difficult time making a positive identification," he said. "Nothing else from the autopsy report is being released at this time."

Cristy's family was notified of her death Thursday. Charlene Stuber, a family friend, said the girl was identified in part by a scar on her right forearm caused years ago by a curling iron burn.

"The police brought back a picture of the arm," Stuber said. "We wanted to go down and look at the arm but they said no, we don't want to see the body in that condition."

Police also wanted to know if Cristy had eaten green beans the day before, Stuber said. The family confirmed she had.

"And with the hair being real short, it was almost 95 percent," said Ms. Stuber, who met Cristy's mother, Leticia, while the two waited tables at a Waffle House.

She said police did not tell family members a cause of death, but "she wasn't traumatized and she wasn't beaten up. That's all we know."

Karen Ramos, Cristy's maternal grandmother, said the family was pleased at least to have a resolution to the girl's disappearance.

"This is better than wondering for years, or whatever, where she is or how she's doing," Ramos said. "We do know that the Lord has his arms around her and we're just thankful to the community for their prayers and support at this time."

"We're just waiting I guess for the police to find who did this to her. We know that the Lord will give them their just rewards."

Tull said officers are no closer to solving the death.

"At this time, the case is still ongoing," he said. "We have no particular suspect or suspects in mind."

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editorial

TAKE A BREAK

Let the weather motivate

Weather has the ability to shape moods. Warm sun on your face can shake off that dragging feeling. A cool breeze can blow away your concerns, and a cleansing rain can make all the difference.

This is the time of year when attendance in afternoon classes drops as TCU guys and dolls make an informed decision to skip learning about quantum physics and spend a few hours in the sun.

We, at the *Skiff*, of course, don't advocate ditching class but we do understand the benefits of catching rays.

In these final days of the semester as teachers pile on the work, it's easy to forget that a world exists beyond the classroom. So take a break. Take a walk. Have a picnic. Toss a Frisbee.

We are all fortunate enough to be attending school in Texas where the temperature is conducive to these activities most of the year. And if we continue to stay indoors, watching cable TV and re-learning arithmetic, we may forget the healing powers of nature.

Spend time outside and make yourself do something you have not written down in your weekly planner. Let the spring air spark your spontaneity. Remember that college may be the last time you have a semi-valid excuse to skip out on obligations and savor the afternoon.

With all the papers, tests, projects and organizations that have consumed our time this semester, it is only fitting that we try to enjoy what is left of it.

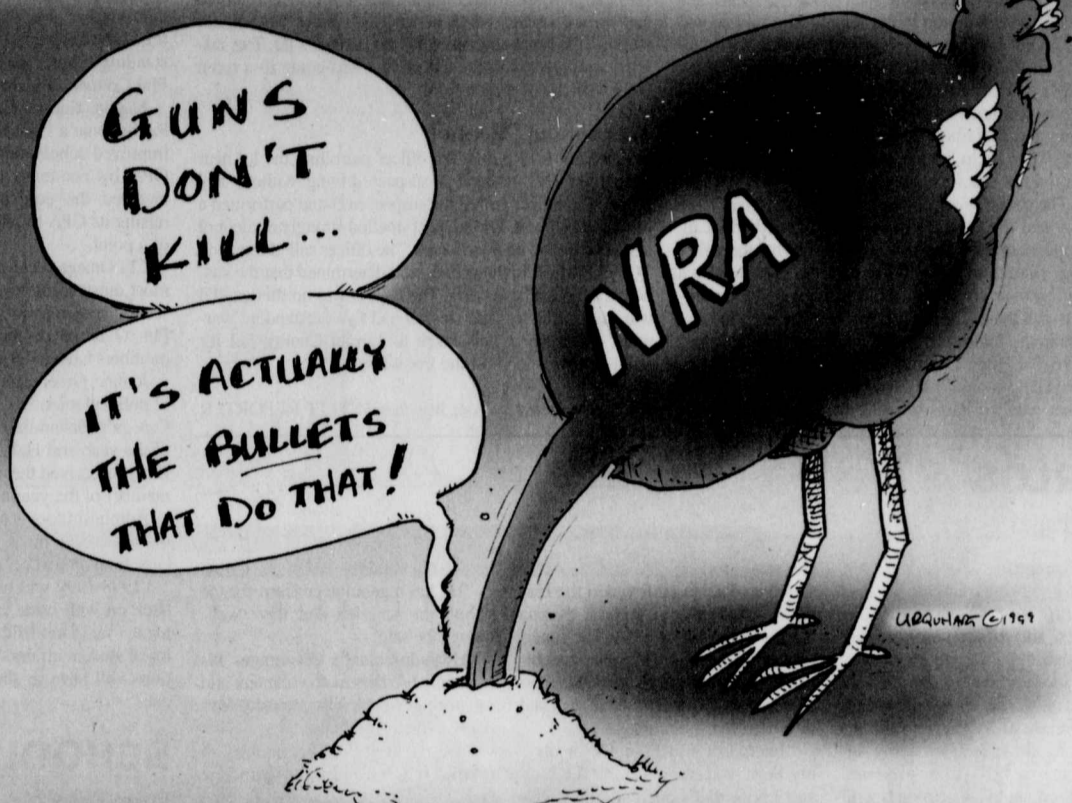
Pick up a book you've been meaning to read (even if you have 300 pages of reading to do for that darn history class), call a friend you have not seen since February or put on those running shoes that have collected dust and head outside. It will give you a taste of summer vacation and just enough motivation to not completely blow off those 300 pages of reading.

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Letters to the editor: The *Skiff* welcomes letters to the editor for publication. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, signed and limited to 250 words. To submit a letter, bring it to the *Skiff*, Moudy 2915, mail it to TCU Box 298050, fax it to 257-7133 or e-mail it to skiffletters@tcu.edu. They must include the author's classification, major and phone number. The *Skiff* reserves the right to edit or reject letters for style, taste and size restrictions.

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SOMEWHERE IN LITTLETON, COLORADO...



URQUHART C. 1999

Tom Urquhart/PRODUCTION MANAGER

Students can stop violence

Adam Sandler's movie "The Waterboy" is well-received among teenagers, not just because of the general idiocy of Sandler, but because of how violently he disposes of people who make fun of him. Part of it is the weird sound he makes on the way to the tackle, but mainly at the reprisals his attackers receive.

Commentary



HERNDON HASTY

So why are we so shocked to see kids such as the Littleton, Colo., gang of the "Trench Coat Mafia" smile as they try to do away with their former jeerers? Granted, barely anyone who's been made an outcast sees that "The Waterboy" is going to do the same, but at the same time we can't be so naive as to assume that everyone will react to it harmlessly.

So what's causing these bursts

of anger? At risk of making light of terrible situations, what can possibly be happening to make our country look like "Revenge Of The Nerds" on a "roid rage"? For one, the fact that kids feel this much animosity toward those who make fun of them is a bad enough sign of our country as a whole. We've all been poked fun at during some point in our lives — some more than others — and we've probably all been peeved for a little afterwards.

For many kids, self-esteem problems can turn high school into a bitter war-zone between the haves and the have-nots; an annoying traffic jam that eventually leads them to the scholastic equivalent of road rage. Add a few catalysts such as violent movies and a pack of friends who feel the same way and you've got the Los Angeles freeway on your hands.

Although the mental state of the perpetrators is a big part in the big picture, those who made fun of them cannot be without blame as well. While the victims in Littleton couldn't have possibly known what any "harmless" comments

could have turned the kids to, what good could they have possibly done by whispering "Goth" every time they passed them?

I'm not a fan of Marilyn Manson, painting my nails black and my face white, or Dungeons and Dragons. Nor are many of us. But what reason do we have for poking fun at people who are? What can we find in insulting other people, especially if we don't understand them, besides a show of our own insecurity? Insulting someone you don't know or comprehend makes as much sense as Dan Quayle running for president.

An even bigger question is how did a couple of teenagers get access to handguns, sawed-off shotguns, grenades and other implements of destruction? The guns are one thing; with a proper ID guns aren't that hard to get. But what kind of country do we live in where an 18-year-old can access grenades and timed explosives?

Even more importantly, where were the parents in all of this mess? Parents can say that they can't control their kids, which

may be true to a point, but they are responsible for their upbringing, including teaching them that killing is wrong no matter what the circumstances. Did the parents not notice or (worse yet) not care that their children were obviously troubled? I'd like to think that there'd at least be a sign that something's wrong in their life, let alone a blind hatred.

I pray that situations like these will finally bring attention not so much to the security of our schools, but the insecurity and bitterness that our generation is capable of. If 15 young lives — not to mention the 14 people dead and 40 wounded in school shootings during the past two years — isn't enough to show it, I wonder what it will take. I think that if we go out into the world with the same blatant disregard for life we've shown growing up, the world's not going to like us much in 10 years or so. But hey ... that's just me.

Herndon Hasty is an advertising/public relations major from Overland Park, Kan.

Student finds his niche in many realms

Three years ago, after making the leap from the corporate arena to Horned Frog soil, I was immediately concerned with the contents of the TCU water supply.

Obviously there had been a Prozac leak and the authorities should be alerted.

Everyone I met seemed so happy. Happy. So very happy. Suspiciously happy, indeed.

Now, as I reflect on my time at TCU so far, while sipping a tall, cool glass of water, I have a better insight on why folks are happier here than some of the other places I've been.

TCU is not infallible, but it offers oppor-

tunities to folks who need only apply themselves, not be afraid to make a mistake or two in order to achieve a little fun ... and maybe learn something along the way.

However, don't confuse this university with a textbook vocational school. Attending class alone won't have employers all hot and bothered, clawing each other to win the grace of your employment (although it is a nice dream!).

The most effective education is based in experience. Yeah, you may have to write that stupid paper about that stupid guy and it's due on the same day as three other stupid little projects. Guess what: Even if you own the business, you'll have to do stupid stuff when you're not entrenched in unbridled joy. It ain't all that bad, kids.

I've been allowed to assume several roles here: employee, employer, production manager, student, teacher, editorial cartoonist, graphic designer, computer geek, radio de-

jay and friend.

Some folks would say that I'm the poster child for non-traditional education. I'm too old to fit into the traditional 18 to 22 demographic and too under-degree'd to qualify for any significant academic status.

Rather than be excluded by my dual identity, I've always felt accepted in both environments by the students and professors that I've had the pleasure to work and play with for the past few years.

While working for student publications, I've developed an affinity for drawing editorial cartoons. Some folks thought my doodles warranted recognition. Others consider this dangerous reinforcement for my penchant to be a smart ass. So, thanks to the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, unruly TCU athletes and hateful gay-bashers for supplying me award-winning material the past couple of years.

It just goes to show that even the seem-

ingly idiotic actions of others can inspire effective commentary.

Much of my experience here at TCU has been a process of overcoming inertia. Inertia is being comfortable. Too comfortable. Too much comfort can reduce one's ability to learn and achieve to a process of osmosis. (Inertia... osmosis... Good to know those science UCRs paid off.)

I thought I was going back to school alone. A solitary journey.

I've never been alone.

What really happened is that off-campus loved ones, especially my wife, have often made larger sacrifices than I have while I was overcoming my dreaded inertia. My wife was the one who spent nights waiting on me to get home, sometimes after dawn. She's the one who hasn't had a "real" vacation the past few years because I'm either working or schooling, or both. She's the one earning the "real" wage while I earn my

degree. She's the one I'll need to convince that grad school really is a good idea.

Ultimately, my home is wherever this lovely and relentlessly patient woman is. Thank you, Angela.

So, today I'm a TCU senior. Soon — to the shock and amazement of loved ones and neighbors — I'll be a graduate.

But, in one form or another, I'll always be a student.

Along the way I've learned to appreciate folk music a little more.

Jim Croce once said, "If you dig it, do it twice."

So, may I have another glass of water, please?

Tom Urquhart is senior general studies major from Fort Worth. He's available for hire for small parties, weddings and bar mitzvahs.

Senior Commentary



TOM URQUHART

Media, society don't perpetuate school violence

Tragically, another group of "social misfits" has decided that the best way to compensate with the mockery of others is to blast away at their fellow students.

You've probably seen the wave of media coverage of the Colorado high school shooting, the shots of weeping students and parents and the profiles on the two shooters.

The death toll, initially announced

as 25 has dropped down to 15, including the two gunmen who committed suicide. This was an all-out assault with an arsenal of weapons that no student should have been able to acquire.

As things settle down and more facts come to light, I can expect that there will be more cries of how unsafe our schools are and how we need to put more security into our schools. Parents will lament and cry out that things were never like this when they went to school before coming to the next step that these tragedies always take, finding a scapegoat for the incident.

Maybe the parents and friends will blame the incident on television. Perhaps they will focus the fault on

movies like the "Basketball Diaries" or "Natural Born Killers." Maybe, like those involved in a recent \$130 million lawsuit in Tennessee, they will blame the prevalence of porn on the Internet and the growing violence in video games as the cause for the rampage.

These types of media always get blamed when a juvenile decides to take a life. If little Tommy goes on a shooting spree, it must be caused by that video game that he's been playing. Whatever caused Tommy to snap must have been piped directly into his brain from some demonic media source.

I don't buy any of these excuses. I suppose the whole phenomenon of murder just started in 1977 when the

first video game came out? Before television there was no violent crime at all, isn't that true?

Am I supposed to believe that the hand grenades and firearms were supplied at the local Wal-Mart when they bought copies of violent games? Surely using a mouse and keyboard can make any couch potato novice into an elite FBI sharpshooter?

The fact is that these kids obviously aren't able to handle the reality of everyday social interaction with their peers. It has nothing to do with media brainwashing. I can look back at my high school and run off a list of a few kids that were obviously not handling high school as well as everyone else. Maybe they would have snapped if they got pressed enough. There was

one kid who wrote a love letter in his own blood to this girl he had a crush on. When I heard that he died in a car accident, a little part of me breathed a sigh of relief that he didn't take anyone else out with him.

In every high school there are kids who don't fit in, so they look for other places where they are more comfortable, and those places may be within a video game, a movie or a television show. It isn't that the media makes them who they are, but who they are makes them choose the media they enjoy. Freaks may like violent media, but violent media doesn't make freaks.

I can guarantee that every student at every school with a shooting had some idea that the shooters weren't

quite right in the head. If the schools did something as simple as placing undercover officers in the schools, they could probably pick up on this as well and prevent this kind of tragedy.

High school can be difficult for many people; it wasn't all roses and butterflies for me, but almost everyone is able to work through their problems. For the small few who can't, when they use violence to get their way, the blame lies solely on them. Only they can pull the trigger, and only they are responsible for their actions.

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

Commentary



MATT SHOEMAKER

Police BLOTTER

Disorderly Conduct

April 15 - Officers met with a complainant in Sherley Hall in regards to a harassing phone call. The complainant received a call at 12:30 a.m. from a male off-campus caller. The complainant said the man had a slow voice and sounded like he had cotton in his mouth. She said he was possibly in his late teens or early twenties. The complainant said she thought he was her ex-boyfriend from Boston, Mass., and she talked to him for about an hour. The caller asked her what she was wearing, if she liked to masturbate and described in very explicit language what he would like to do to her sexually. The complainant said the caller did not describe any physical violence, just sexual acts. The complainant contacted her ex-boyfriend later in the day and discovered that he had not made the call. The complainant said she did not know who the caller could have been. The caller did not use the complainant's name during their conversation. Police advised the complainant to call their office immediately if she received any such calls in the future.

April 16, 3:17 a.m. - An officer was dispatched to Martin-Moore Hall on an alcohol violation. Upon arrival, the officer met with an RA who told them several suspects

were intoxicated and trying to fight. The RA had already broken up the fighting. The officer observed about 15 suspects on the front stairs. When the officer asked the suspects to return to their dorm rooms, one said "no" in a kidding manner. The officer repeated his request firmly. The suspect argued, but his friends convinced him to go to his room. The suspect turned to walk into the building with a lit cigarette in his hand, and the officer told him to put it out. The suspect argued with the officer, but finally put out the cigarette. About ten minutes later, the suspect returned and turned around when he saw the officer. The officer went up the stairs and asked for the suspect's ID. The suspect continued to argue and said he was going to a room other than his own.

Trespassing, Alcohol

April 15, 9:12 p.m. - An officer patrolling the lot near Brachman Hall noticed a suspect driving without any lights. The officer pulled the suspect over and performed a routine traffic test. The suspect smelled strongly of alcohol and appeared to be intoxicated. The officer called a second TCU officer to the scene, who determined that the suspect should not be driving. The FWPD was notified, and it was discovered that the suspect had five outstanding warrants. The suspect was taken to Tarrant County Jail for public intoxication and the five warrants.

Compiled by Pam Woodhead/STAFF REPORTER

OMEGA

From Page 1

receiving awards, Brown-Owen said.

Graduating seniors were not the only members of the TCU community to be recognized.

Delta Gamma received the Panhellenic award for outstanding chapter service, but "due to outstanding circumstances," no fraternity received the Interfraternity Council's outstanding chapter service award, said Phil Cottone, IFC director of service.

Kappa Kappa Gamma received Panhellenic's award for most improved scholarship for raising its GPA by one-tenth of a point. Fiji received the equivalent award for raising its GPA by almost one-fourth of a point.

Chi Omega received the award for most outstanding scholarship for the second year in a row, as did Pi Kappa Phi. Over 16 percent of Pi Kappa Phi members have a 4.0 GPA.

Joanne Green, assistant professor of political science, received Order of Omega's outstanding faculty member of the year, and Hall Director Kristie Harrick received the outstanding staff member of the year award.

Administrators said TCU Greek members have made a visible difference both on and off campus.

"1998-1999 will be a year to look back on with pride and accomplishment," said Don Mills, vice chancellor of student affairs. "Future generations will have to shoot to beat this one."



Order of Omega member Lindsay Gall presents the Panhellenic award for most outstanding scholarship to Chi Omega President Kelly Krueger during Thursday night's 1999 Greek awards ceremony held in the Student Center Ballroom.

CARLOS

From Page 1

tions on campus.

"We try to bring minority students together to vote for House of Representatives and programming positions," he said.

Alvarado said he helped organize a new student retreat to help minorities feel welcome at TCU. He said the retreat is important because many students come to TCU from predominantly Hispanic, black or Asian communities and the transition to TCU can be a bit overwhelming.

"I want minority students to recognize there's a place for them," he said.

Linda Nguyen, also an assistant in minority affairs, said people enjoy being around Alvarado.

"He likes to have fun, but he's a good leader," she said. "He knows how to work with different kinds of people."

Nguyen said Alvarado is willing to lend a hand and is resourceful when things need to get done.

"He's always willing to help us,"

she said.

Alvarado also co-founded the Hispanic fraternity Lambda Kappa Kappa in the fall of 1994. The fraternity provides male Hispanic students at TCU the chance to work together to make a difference in their own and in others' lives, he said.

"Instead of watching TV or playing Sega, you can make life fulfilling and I hope that's one thing they realize," he said. Alvarado said he overcame several struggles in order to provide an outlet for Hispanic males to unite and give back to the community.

Silverio Ramirez, a senior finance major and a co-founder of Lambda Kappa Kappa, said Alvarado is a great guy who is proud of his heritage.

"He's very honest," Ramirez said. "I think people get that feeling when they approach him."

Ramirez said he and his fraternity brothers look up to Alvarado for his

leadership abilities.

"He has a genuine concern for the people in America and their well-being," he said.

Alvarado said he encourages his fraternity brothers to do volunteer and mentoring work with minority students in the community.

"We try to get the community to realize TCU's a place for them," he said.

Alvarado and members of his fraternity go to Fort Worth schools and teach students chess every week. He said they do it so the students can learn that college is within their reach.

Alvarado also taught minority students at Fort Worth Country Day School poetry and geology last summer. He said he tried to convey to them a sense of what college is like.

He received the Jessica Slate Award for teaching and a Hispanic leadership award from TCU for his work at Country Day.

SCHOOL

From Page 1

been a separation. We're in Fort Worth, but people think we're not of Fort Worth."

The children were entertained by attractions such as the TCU Showgirls and cheerleaders, Superfrog and the "Moonwalk," an inflatable playhouse.

But one question remained: Is school really cool?

"Yeah, because we went on the Moonwalk," said David Farris, 10, of Briscoe. "Oh, and because you get to learn and stuff."

Frederick Johnson, 11, of Briscoe, agreed.

"This is an exciting experience for us. It was wonderful."

The teachers and facilitators all said that the students had an enjoyable day off from school.

"They had a great time," said Lauretta Byrd, head of instructional services at Briscoe. "For one thing it gave them exposure to a college campus, something most of them have never had before. It also gave them a time to bond;

plus it gave them time off from school."

Volunteers said they could tell the kids were enjoying themselves.

"It was a stress reliever before the TAAS (Texas Assessment of Academic Skills) test for the kids," said Kelly Clark, a junior social work major who is a member of Moore's class. "This is a great age of kids to have here, because they're old enough to understand, but they also want to have fun."

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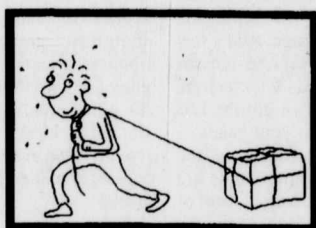
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OSP

From Page 1

ected for every 20 staff members. Currently, there are 914 employees on staff.

Ferrari announced at fall convocation that TCU would work to achieve parity in retirement benefits for all current faculty and staff within three years.

In the new budget announced after its spring meeting, the Board of Trustees gave general staff members a \$600 per year wage increase. They also voted to

increase the university's contribution to the general staff retirement program.

John Weis, director of Human Resources, said there are many distinctions between the general, or non-exempt staff, and university, or exempt staff.

Exempt and non-exempt are designations for staff under the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. If a position is non-exempt, then the person is eligible for overtime

pay. An exempt position is not eligible for overtime pay.

Differences also exist between the amount of money the university contributes to general and university staff members' retirement funds.

General staff, as of June 1, will receive an increase of university contributions from 6.5 percent to 8.5 percent of a person's salary per year. The staff members are not required to match the payments

toward their retirement fund.

The university currently contributes 11 percent of a university staff member's salary to their retirement fund.

There is also a difference in vacation time. General staff employed up to 10 years receive 12 days of vacation per year. After 10 years, general staff receive 20 vacation days per year. University staff receive 22 vacation days per year.

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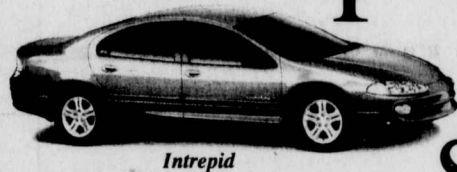


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Bronzing in a booth may not be healthier choice

SKIFF STAFF

As pleasant weather conditions sets in, clusters of tanners can be found in backyards, pool sides and grassy lawns as they lather up and try to attain the desired shade of tan.

But some students want to spend their time in the sun, not only for leisure but also to ensure they look beautifully bronzed by the summer.

When the summer heat becomes unbearable, the tanning booth alternative becomes popular, said Adonica Tippens, assistant manager of the Pro Cuts on Berry Street.

"During the summertime we get many people, most of them students, in our tanning booths," Tippens said.

Cori Troxel, head part-time

Professionals caution suntanners, warn of cancer risks

manager of Salon Classique, recommends tanning booths to avoid any of Mother Nature's shortcomings.

"Most of our summers are so hot that if you tan inside you don't have to worry about the humidity and pollution in the air," Troxel said. "It's faster and a controlled environment ... and it is better for no tan lines. I would still recommend to people, no matter what the temperature is, that they should tan inside."

But many studies tend to disagree with Troxel.

The Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention encourage people to avoid use of tanning beds and sun lamps. UVA rays or

"tanning rays" — have a suspected link to malignant melanoma, which is described as the most serious type of skin cancer. It can cause damage to the immune system and cause wrinkles. Many of these symptoms do not surface in victims for several years.

Moderate tanning has also been associated with skin cancer.

Sara Trevizo, a nurse at Dr. James Maberry's dermatology practice, said she wouldn't recommend tanning to anyone.

"The UV rays are flat out bad for your skin," she said. "They age your skin, and then later in life the effect of getting cancer becomes greater."

Trevizo said both tanning inside

and outside are bad for the skin and that one isn't better than the other.

And the effects of tanning may not be seen immediately.

"Tanning prematurely ages your skin and wears it down," said April Collins, a medical assistant at Maberry's practice. "Someone who tans consistently has a great chance of getting cancer. But you don't notice anything until later on."

Collins said people assume they have to tan to add some color to their skin. "You can stay out in the sun and not tan," she said. "Getting some color is good. But if you do stay out in the sun, you need to know that lotions with a 15 SPS (sun protection systems) is the minimum. And that's good for at least six hours."

Troxel said tanning should be short.

"Our booths won't go any longer than 20 minutes," she said. "And people shouldn't spend more than 40 minutes outside in the sun."

Troxel said those who tan should always wear suntan lotion. Troxel said it is more effective than sunscreen because it contains more oils and allows for better tans.

"There are lotions that are formulated for both," Troxel said. "But the stuff you buy in the grocery store is sunscreen and not suntan lotion."

Stephanie Furgal, a sophomore elementary education major, said she prefers to tan outside.

"Even though you get more

ultraviolet rays inside than you do outside," she said, "I would rather tan outside — I always have."

Despite the dangers of tanning, it is fairly inexpensive.

The cost to use tanning booths in the TCU area ranges from \$30 to \$35 a month. Tanning can also be done on a daily or weekly basis. Tippens said she thinks women are more conscious of their bodies than men.

"Women want to tan here because they always want to look good in their swimsuits," she said. "We get a lot more girls than guys."

Both Troxel and Tippens said the busiest time of the year seems to precede swimsuit seasons.

"It's split about evenly," Troxel said. "But our busiest time of the year is right before Spring Break and right before the summer."

Gunmen had 'great deal of potential,' court officer said

By David Foster
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LITTLETON, Colo. — Dylan Klebold was "a bright young man who has a great deal of potential," Eric Harris was "intelligent enough to achieve lofty goals."

So reads a report written less than three months ago by a court officer assessing the future of the two gunmen who killed and wounded dozens of students Tuesday at Columbine High School.

Klebold, 17, and Harris, 18, were caught breaking into a van last year and allowed to complete a juvenile-court diversion program to clear their records. They finished in February with flying colors, convincing a diversion officer that they had promising futures.

"Eric is a very bright young man who is likely to succeed in life. He is intelligent enough to achieve lofty goals as long as he stays on task and remains motivated," the officer said in documents released by Jefferson County District Court.

A copy of the documents was provided to The Associated Press by KCNC-TV.

The officer, whose name was blacked out by court officials, wrote that Dylan "is a

bright young man who has a great deal of potential. If he is able to tap his potential and become self-motivated he should do well in life. Dylan has earned the right for an early termination ... He is intelligent enough to make any dream a reality but he needs to understand hard work is part of it."

But even as they reassured the court of their rehabilitation, the two teens were causing concern among some of their classmates.

Last fall, Klebold and Harris made several class-project videos foreshadowing their spasm of violence, classmates say.

In one video, "they had their friends pretend to be the jocks, and they pretended to be the gunmen shooting them," high school junior Chris Reilly told the *Denver Rocky Mountain News*.

videos," said Eric Veik, 16. "They always wore trench coats. They always wanted to be the intimidators, the good guys out to get the bad guys."

At school, the pair were known as members of a group of outcasts who called themselves the "Trenchcoat Mafia," for the long black coats they wore, regardless of the season. Klebold and Harris openly admired Hitler, wore German crosses to school, and played violent video games for hours at a time.

The disturbing thing, to some, is that Klebold and Harris came from respected, middle-class families.

Klebold's father, Thomas, 52, a retired geophysicist who consulted with companies exploring gas and oil, now runs a mortgage management business from his

home. His mother, 50, has worked for the Colorado community-college system for years, helping disabled students gain access to education.

"We're all scratching our heads right now," said Michael Briand, who knows Ms. Klebold from his work as a community-development consultant at Arapahoe Community College.

"As far as I can tell, this family was utterly, utterly normal," Briand said. "They did everything right. But somehow the pain and anger was too deep, and they didn't see it or couldn't reach it. This has got to be a pervasive thing in our society if it can reach this far, into families like this."

Harris moved to Littleton in 1996 from Plattsburgh, N.Y., where his father, Wayne Harris, was an Air Force pilot. In Littleton, the elder Harris worked for a flight-safety business; his wife, Katherine, worked for a catering business, according to the juvenile-court documents.

"This has got to be a pervasive thing in our society if it can reach this far, into families like this."

—Michael Briand
family friend

School officials said they hadn't yet determined whether such a video was made, and the teacher who taught the class refused to comment. But another student said the pair's video projects were uniformly disturbing.

"They always were the same kind of



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WNBA labor agreement collapses

NEW YORK (AP) — The labor agreement between the WNBA and its players apparently has fallen apart, forcing the league to postpone Tuesday's draft indefinitely.

The league blamed the fledgling union, the WNBA Players Association, for making new economic demands after the tentative agreement was reached last week.

The union, meanwhile, said the league had introduced last-minute terms and conditions in talks late Wednesday night.

The two sides reached an agreement in principle April 14 on a new four-year contract and had hoped to have it in final written form by Thursday.

The deal included increases in the minimum salary from \$15,000 to \$30,000 for veterans and \$25,000 for rookies. Those figures would rise to \$40,000 and \$30,000, respectively, by 2002. The benefits package was to include year-round health and dental benefits, pension, maternity benefits and life insurance.

WNBA president Val Ackerman said Thursday the union is trying to renegotiate the rookie minimum salary, player bonuses and the rookie scale and reduce the number of appearances players make in their communities.

A union spokesperson said the league introduced five issues in talks Wednesday night and said that if the players' association did not agree to them, there would be no deal.

NHL

Flyers shutout Maple Leafs, 3-0

TORONTO (AP) — John Vanbiesbrouck stopped 25 shots, including a penalty shot by Mats Sundin, as the Philadelphia Flyers beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 3-0 Thursday night.

Valeri Zelepukin, John LeClair and Eric Desjardins scored the goals and the Flyers' checking frustrated the highest-scoring team in the NHL as they got the jump in the opener of their first-round Eastern Conference series.

The Maple Leafs led the NHL with 268 goals during the regular season, but were continually thwarted by the Flyers, who were making their first playoff appearance in three years.

Women's golf takes 2nd in WAC

By Wendy Bogema
SPORTS EDITOR

On the final hole of the final round of the Western Athletic Conference women's golf championships the tournament's final golfer had an opportunity to lead her team to the WAC title.

Tulsa senior Niina Laitinen sunk a 12-foot birdie putt to capture the individual WAC title and put her team one stroke ahead of TCU to take its first WAC Championship Wednesday.

After the first round of play on Monday TCU, the No. 10 ranked defending champion, and Tulsa, the No. 3 ranked team in the country, were tied for first place. Laitinen had shot

Stanford named WAC Player of Year

the day's low score and was in first place. TCU senior Susan Horton was one stroke back in a three-way tie for second place and sophomore Brenda Anderson was one stroke behind that in a two-way tie for fifth place.

The second round saw Brigham Young senior Jamie Stevenson take over the top individual spot but TCU moved into first place as Anderson shot into a three-way tie for second place with Laitinen and San Jose State's Georgina Simpson. TCU was three strokes ahead of Tulsa heading into Wednesday's final round.

At the turn of the course TCU had a four stroke lead, but by the time Laitinen was at the final hole the two teams were even. Her birdie putt gave Tulsa the win.

"We gave it a lot of heart today and it came down to the last hole and last players," TCU head coach Angie Ravaioli-Larkin said. "You can't ask for more than that."

"This was a great tournament. You'd love to win by a ton, but it does so much for women's golf to see them play their guts out."

All five Lady Frogs finished in the top 25 in the tournament. Anderson finished the tourna-

ment in third place and was the highest finisher for the team; she tied for second in last year's tournament. Horton tied for tenth; junior Angela Stanford tied for 13th; senior Shannon Fisher tied for 17th; and freshman Jennifer Patterson placed 23rd.

Conference awards were given after the tournament. Stanford was an all-WAC selection and named WAC Player of the Year.

The tournament was played at the Poppy Ridge Golf Course in Livermore, Calif. The Lady Frogs now have three weeks to prepare for the NCAA regional tournament. It will be held May 13-15 at the Pine Forest Country Club in Houston.

Pippen arrested, suspected of DWI

By Michael A. Lutz
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Scottie Pippen's struggles as a Houston Rockets player spilled off the court Thursday, when he was arrested in the wee hours on suspicion of drunk driving.

The star forward released a statement through his agent that denied the charge against him.

"I was not intoxicated when arrested after the game last night, and I'm confident the evidence will support me in the end," the statement read. Pippen added that he had no further comment and was turning the matter over to his attorneys.

Teammates supported Pippen during a brief practice before jetting to Los Angeles for a game with the Clippers on Friday. Pippen didn't attend the workout, but coach Rudy Tomjanovich said he would accompany the team.

"I'm hoping it won't be a distraction," Tomjanovich said. "We are trying not to make any assumptions. It would be unfair to comment when nothing has been established. I'm sort of used to unexpected things happening. You just try not to lose your composure."

Houston, currently the No. 4 seed in the Western Conference playoffs, was upset by the Dallas Mavericks, 109-95, Wednesday night, keeping the Rockets from clinching a spot in the playoffs and snapping an 11-game losing streak to the Rockets.

Pippen had four points and three rebounds and was repeatedly beaten defensively in one of his worst games as a Rocket.

"Scottie is my teammate and I'm behind him 100 percent," Charles Barkley said. "This is not Armageddon. It happened. Scottie Pippen probably wasn't the only person stopped last night."

"Scottie Pippen is a role model. If all the kids grew up to be like Scottie, the world would be a better place."

Barkley planned to offer serious support to his teammate but also said Pippen wouldn't get off lightly with the team.

"I'm going to get on the plane and take the PA and say, 'Attention Mr. Pippen, last call for alcohol,'" Barkley joked.

The officer who stopped Pippen around 1:30 a.m. said the Rockets star ran a red light. A member of the department's DWI task force was called after suspecting Pippen was intoxicated, said police spokesman Fred King.

Pippen, 33, did poorly on the field sobriety test and was taken into custody, where he was videotaped and given the opportunity to take a Breathalyzer test, King said.

After he refused the Breathalyzer, Pippen was booked on suspicion of DWI and released on \$500 bond just before 7 a.m. His arraignment is set for next Thursday before Harris County Court-at-Law Judge Sherman Ross.

Pippen has not formally hired a lawyer, but Houston lawyer Rusty Hardin said he is set to meet with Pippen next week after both men return from road trips. The Rockets go on to play at Phoenix on Sunday.

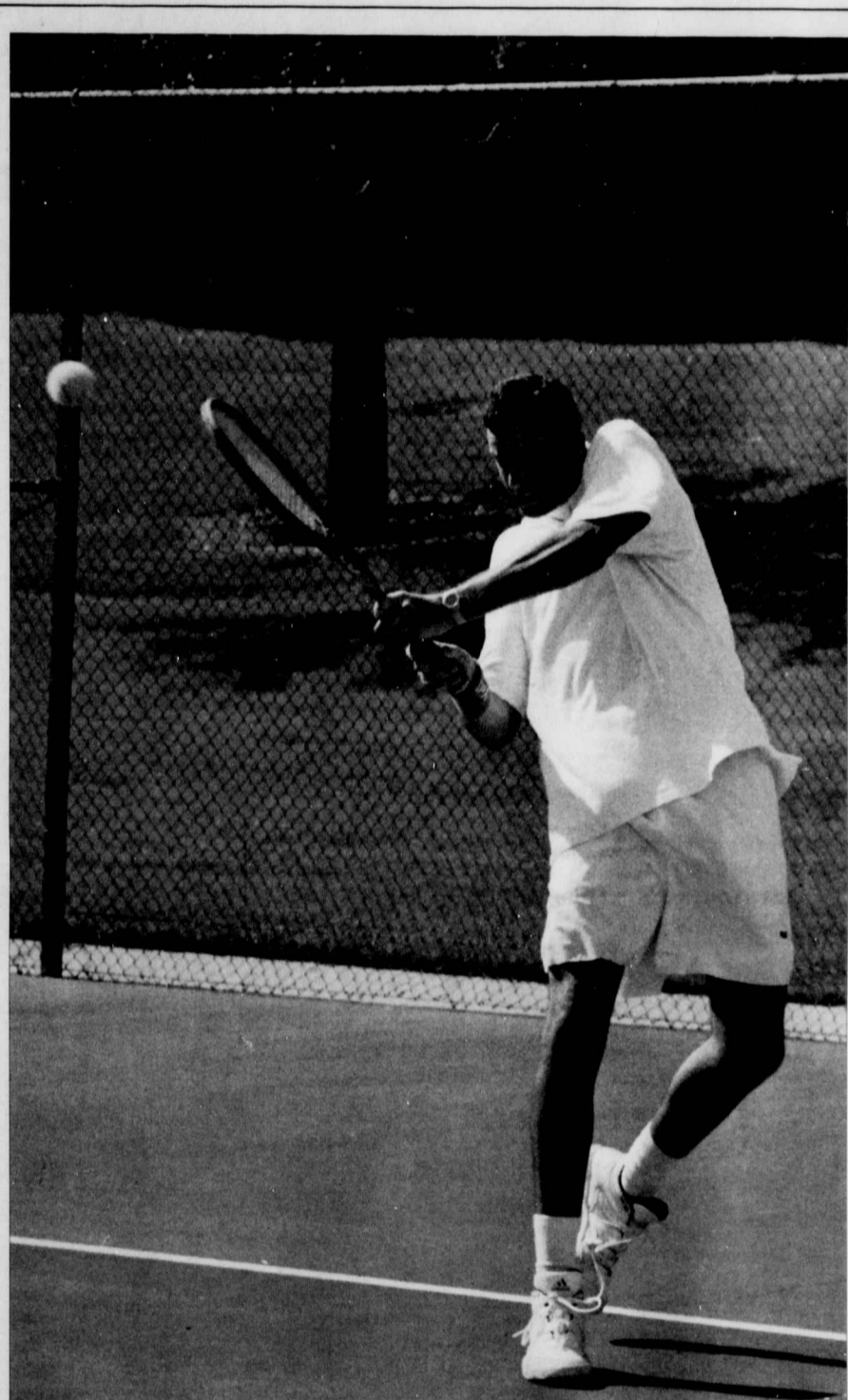
"He adamantly denies he was intoxicated," said Hardin, who spoke with Pippen after the arrest.

Pippen has struggled to fit into the Rockets' alignment after earning seven NBA All-Star appearances and helping the Chicago Bulls win six NBA championships. He broke out with a season-high 31 points on April 15 against Portland and had 22 points and 11 rebounds in a victory over Seattle on Monday night.

In January, Pippen was traded from the Bulls, with whom he had spent his 11-year pro career, and signed a five-year, \$67.2 million contract with the Rockets.

Pippen, who has been slowed by back and hand injuries but hasn't missed a game, is averaging 14 points and six rebounds, both below his career averages. His six assists per game is slightly better.

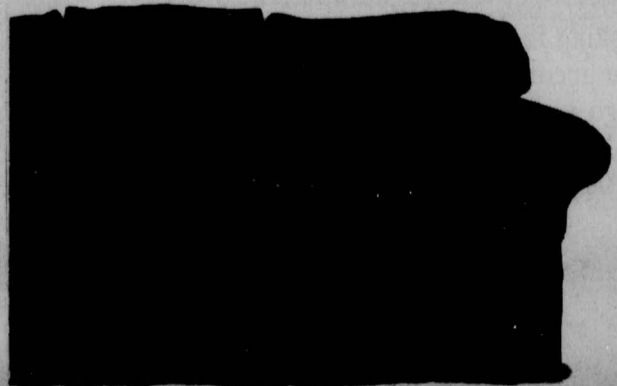
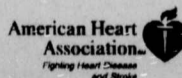
"It's been my experience that a lot of times, something negative off the court brings you together and makes you stronger on the court," teammate Matt Bullard said.



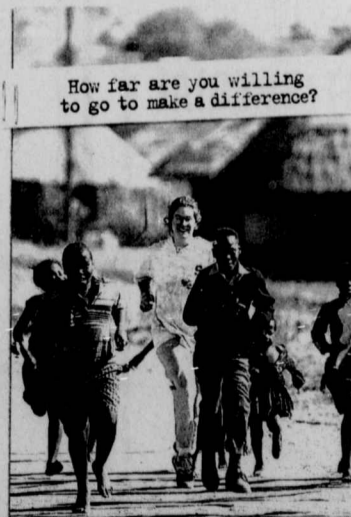
Sophomore Trace Fielding, shown here in a recent match, and the men's tennis team are in San Diego, Calif., this weekend competing at the Western Athletic Conference Championships.

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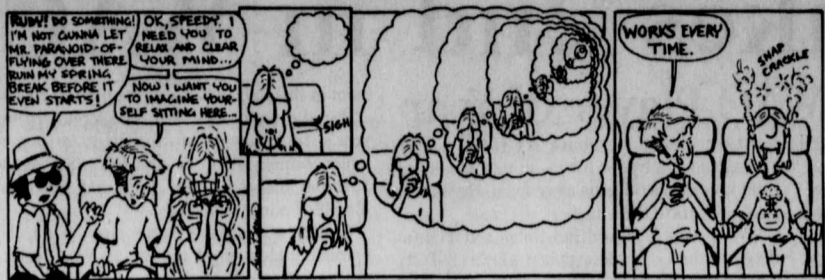
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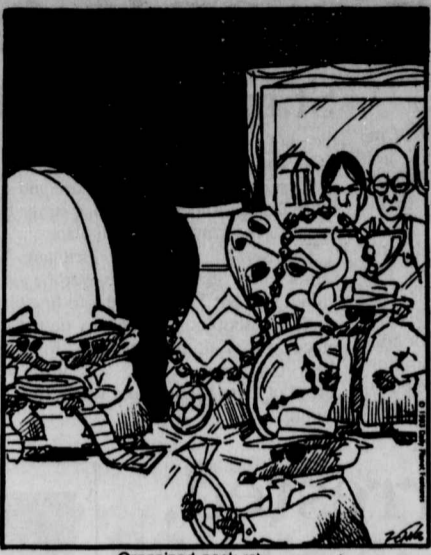
Texas Critter University

by Jamie Elizabeth Brinkman



Lex

by Phil Flickinger



purple poll

ARE YOU IN DANGER OF FAILING ANY CLASSES?

YES 34 NO 66

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

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

TMSpuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS

- Statuesque
- Thick slice
- "The Pirates of Penzance" heroine
- "Vissi d'arte," e.g.
- Comfort
- Battery electrode
- Season of sacrifice
- Kittenish
- Hitches
- Salinger title, with "The"
- Secrete
- Movie critic Reed
- Heavyhearted
- Allied by kinship
- Put in position
- Unlawful activity
- Fluffy scarf
- Hold sway
- Lorraine Hansberry title
- Part of LP
- Fishing pole
- Sidestep
- Female sheep
- Inventor's collection
- Seine
- Take in food
- African fox
- Elton John title
- Approximately
- 8 on a sundial
- Actress McClurg
- Piece of a pound
- Scent
- model
- Man the tiller
- Landlord's due
- Snowmobile

DOWN

- Dusting powder
- Enviros
- Fuzz
- Gate closer
- Leave the Union
- Bay tree
- Spumante
- there, done that
- Converted into pulp
- Adult male pig
- On pins and needles
- majesty
- Employs
- Trick's partner?
- Soffeggio
- Turning light
- Ladd or Lane
- Put up with
- Weight of bricks?
- Lazy girl?
- Escape detection
- Religious belief
- USSR jet
- New Testament book: abbr.
- Wrathful
- Ready alternative?
- "Demian" author
- Equivocate
- Country
- Casual top
- Elicit
- Pitchers
- Berets and beanies
- Shelter a fugitive, e.g.
- "And Then There Were ..."
- Actor Novello
- Pheasant's brood
- Golden calf, e.g.
- Sudan river
- Act

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	R	O	P	S	P	A	R	R	A	I	L	S														
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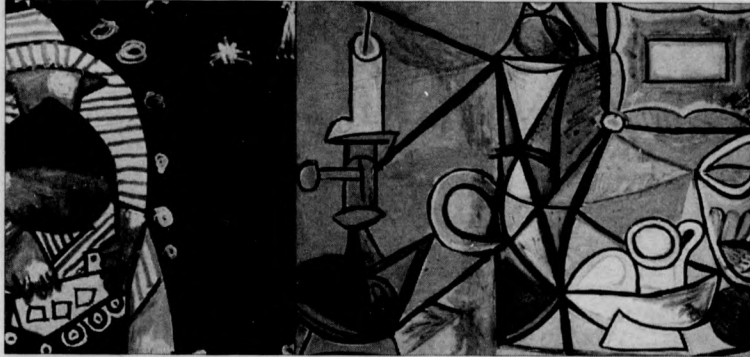
TCU DAILY
Skiff

Weekend

Volume 1, Issue 24

Friday, April 23, 1999

MODERN ART MUSEUM OF FORT WORTH



KIMBELL ART MUSEUM



AMON CARTER MUSEUM



'Legend of Legaia' thrills RPG players

By Guy Bickers
SKIFF STAFF

The Playstation has been the console of choice for role playing game fans for well over a year now. If there was any doubt of that, "Final Fantasy VII" solidified that claim last year. The final clincher is Sony's own "Legend of Legaia."

Video Game

"Legend of Legaia"

Sony Electronics

Playstations

Grade: A-

This is an incredible game wrapped in nice graphics, solid gameplay and a fantastic story. The game begins with your character running around your hometown gathering bits of background. In a nutshell, you learn that there is an evil fog which possesses any "seru" it touches.

The seru were gifts from the gods to protect humans, giving their wearers great power and allowing them to perform countless tasks. If the seru is alone the fog turns it evil. If on a person, the seru takes control of the wearer and makes them do naughty things.

You play the part of Vahn, a young man in a village defended against the fog by a wall. The wall is broken and you must set out to save your friends and family by eliminating the fog. However, you're not alone.

You meet two other characters, Gala and a generic anime-babe looking girl. Each of your three characters get a special ra-seru to wear,

a powerful totem which gives the bearer magical powers. After your party is fully assembled, about three hours of gameplay, the group sets off to save the world.

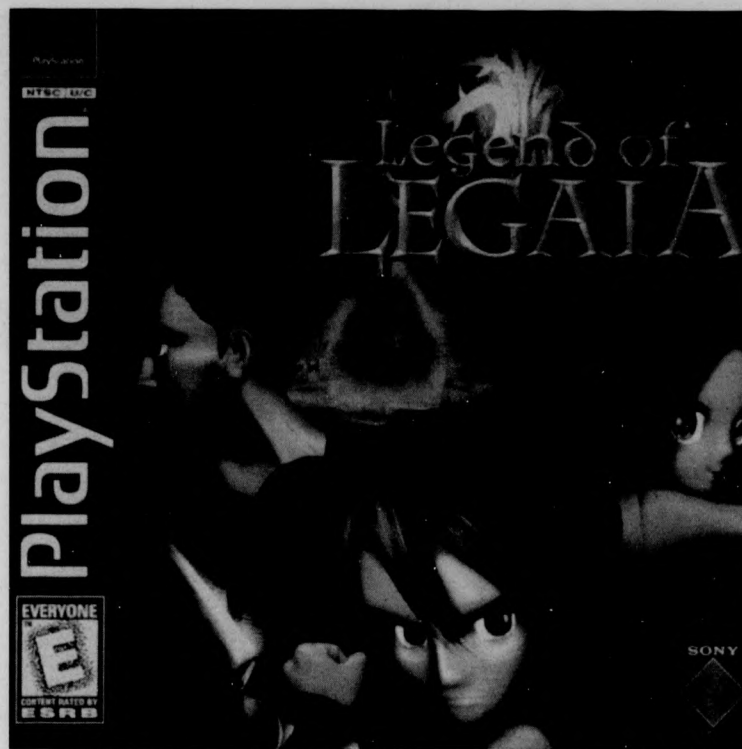
OK, I'll admit the story IS a touch generic, but RPG's about doing homework and collecting enough money to buy a keg just don't sell well over here. Well, the second one might...

Anyhow, as I said earlier this game has great gameplay. This may seem an odd comment for an RPG but it's a big issue here. The fights are based on hand-to-hand combat, not weapons-based like most games. Hence the interface is designed to mimic a fighting game. There are combos to be found and you can string together hits for impressive amounts of damage. Magic is learned by defeating an enemy by using anything but magic. And trust me, the magic rocks.

When you cast a spell it is much like the impressive summons in "Final Fantasy." Each spell is cast by a supercharged form of the enemy from whom it was claimed. The attacks can be devastating, and they actually get better. The more you use each spell, the stronger it gets. As your characters go up in levels, your spells grow along with them.

The graphics are a mixed bag, however. At times they are dazzling for the four-year-old Playstation. At other points they seem foggy and very, very dated. They don't get in the way of the game even at their very worst though, so it's really not that big a deal.

It's also important to note that this is not exactly an easy game. I didn't have my party die terribly often but I got stuck quite a bit. Usually the solution was plainly obvious but occasionally it was a bit vague



A LEGEND IN ITS OWN TIME. The latest role playing game for the Sony Playstation, "Legend of Legaia," brings magic, might and mounds of fun to the video game industry.

where to go next.

It is critical to own a dual-shock pad to play this game right. You can play without it, but why? The vibrations come fast and furious during the fights. On one part I encountered an earthquake and I nearly lost the controller due to its vibration. An undocumented feature is that the right stick, almost never used, doubles as the buttons.

Instead of mashing X repeatedly you can just tap down. This is really nice for those of us whose buttons are wearing out.

Overall this is a terrific game. There is an epic saga, characters you actually care about, a completely new style of controlling a fight and truly killer music. If you are a fan of RPG's, "The Legend of Legaia" is definitely worth your time.

Out of site! Serious sites offer information

By Guy Bickers
SKIFF STAFF

The Web is certainly becoming an interesting place. It's gotten harder and harder to do any real research on the Internet because there are so many fluff-filled pages of naked people and hate speech. I'm here to help with all that. This week we'll dig through the muck and slime to find something increasingly rare on the web: REAL INFORMATION!

Internet

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

(129.120.113.30/start/teks)

Ever wonder what in the world you were supposed to learn in high school? Here you can find out everything you were supposed to know before you graduated. The history sections are, sadly, amusing.

There are requirements for eighth-grade U.S. history that are completely unrealistic. Their topics concerning the Civil War are extremely broad. I took the

Civil War class here and even I can't figure out what the state wants.

For ED students this page could be vital. For Texas high school graduates it's good for both a few laughs and some pain as you try to remember what you should already know.

The Mining Co.

(home.miningco.com)

This is a search engine, so what is it doing here? It's a great search engine that can find a lot of good sites that the others miss. I used it to do research on the Mafia and I came up with mountains of sites with copious amounts of information. You need not click here if you're looking for the Tommy Lee/Pammy video; go to Yahoo for that. This site is a wonderful starting point for a research paper or just plain curiosity.

HotBot

(www.hotbot.com)

This is another one I might have mentioned already. I hope not. To me this is THE engine of choice for serious surfing. It is the fastest, most accurate and most colorful engine on the planet. It actually

won an award last year for being the fastest and most accurate. Sadly there is no award for most colorful. HotBot used to be owned by Wired, but they sold out to Microsoft. They might have sold their stake to the devil, but it is still a great site.

The Northern Lights Search Engine

(northernlight.com)

I came across this while looking for ... never mind. All I will say is that it is great for finding people. If you have a bio due for literature or a psychotic analysis for Psych 101, this is a good launching pad. It's extensive, neat and very user friendly.

Adios, my friends. As always, send any correspondence, complaints or innuendo to webcolumn@hotmail.com. I claim no responsibility for what you may find in these places. (The lawyers told me to put that in.) So I'm off to the magical land of angel dust, I mean Fairy dust and my Website up above. (Whoa, no more three-week old pizza for me.) Have fun out there, and as always, practice safe surf. If you don't know how, send your credit card number and exp. date to...

TCU DAILY

Skiff

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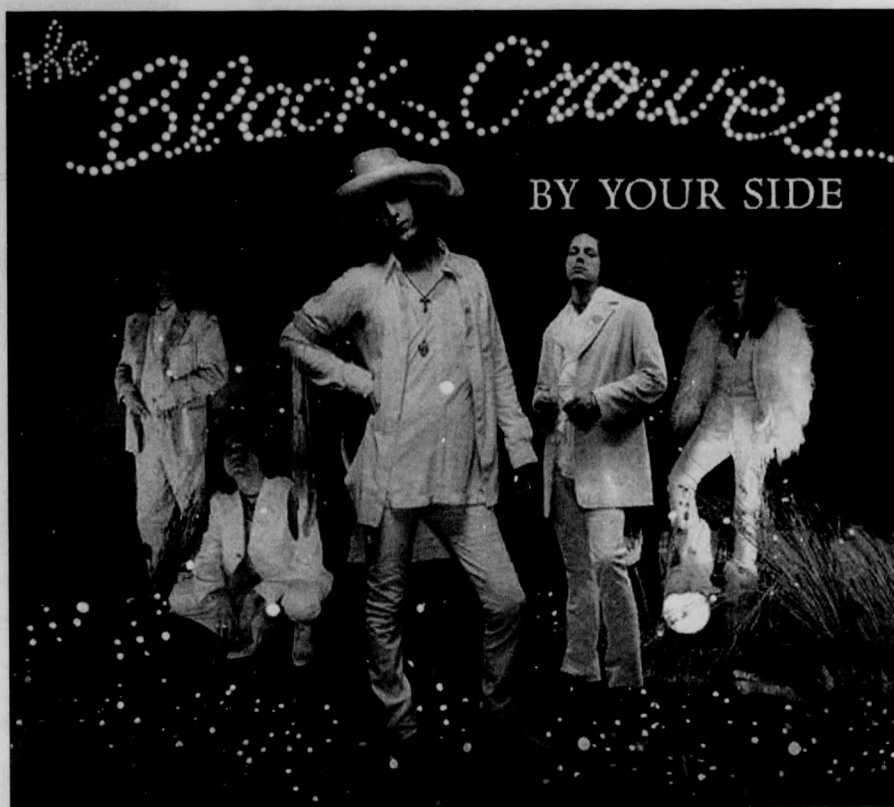
Yushau Sodiq

Reviewers: Steve Baker, Guy Bickers,

Kevin Dunleavy, Reagan Duplisea,

Dods Pengra, Tara Pope, Derek Roy,

Emily Ward



NOT READY TO EAT CROW. The Black Crowes aren't about to throw in the towel just yet, as evidenced by their latest effort "By Your Side." SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF

Crowes play passably

By Kevin Dunleavy
SKIFF STAFF

Sometimes it's nice to rediscover something you haven't enjoyed in a long time.

Editor's choice

Music

"By Your Side" by the Black Crowes
Columbia Records
Grade: B+

Like when you come back to campus from Christmas and you haven't eaten in The Main for a month. As you take your first bite of that over-fried, dried-out, yet strangely edible stuff, you think to yourself, "I actually kinda miss this!"

OK, that's a bad example.

But it was some sort of reminiscing euphoria that I felt when my editor handed me the new Black Crowes CD "By Your Side."

The last song I remember hearing from these guys was their jamming cover of Otis Redding's "Hard to Handle," which was back in the days of junior high school. What have they been doing?

Well, they've been pretty busy

over the years, steadily pumping out a couple of decent albums. They've even had a few sparse radio hits grace the airwaves.

Their fourth album, "By Your Side," is a feedback-laced, beat-driven, high-energy rock ride. It might also be the closest they've come to their first release "Shake Your Money Maker."

Dressed like trendy hippies, the Crowes seem serious about their music. Apparently, they're also serious about their partying, too, because they sell their own brand of rolling papers. This means they either enjoy smoking fine, tightly-rolled tobacco or smoking fine, tightly-rolled something else.

Led by enigmatic and flamboyant frontman Chris Robinson, the Black Crowes' newest effort is nothing great but nothing to be ashamed of either.

The Led Zeppelin influences are obvious in this band but they do a decent job of almost capturing that magic. Robinson grunts and groans in true Robert Plant fashion, while heavy guitar riffs and pounding drum beats thump smoothly along with him.

The album's first song "Go Faster" explodes off the CD and moves furiously along into the second anthem "Kickin' My Heart Around," a song with an equally fast and endearing rhythm.

"Only a Fool" and "Diamond Ring" have already hit the air-

waves and are probably the most laid back songs on the record. It moves quickly through its 11 compositions before building momentum on its final three songs.

Perhaps the only downfall of this album is its monotony. Nothing really stands out on this CD. The songs simply blend together in a prolonged string of four minute sounds.

Horn arrangements, an organ, harmonicas and a back-up choir add a little variety, but aren't noticeable enough from Robinson's wailing or the thick guitar.

I can't really extract a favorite from the album besides the last track called "Virtue and Vice." I'm not sure if I like it because it was better than the other songs or because it was when I started paying attention again.

But the music is upbeat and tight and not even close to being a drudgery to wade through. So for those of you wondering where the Black Crowes have been, my guess is that they've just been waiting out their hangovers. "By Your Side" is the product of pent-up rock energy that was finally released and overdue from this band.

And if you don't like the album, at least try the rolling papers and write us to tell us how they were. We won't ask any questions.

High five for Hi-fi's latest album

By Derek Roy
SKIFF STAFF

Hi-fi Drowning may very well be one of the best kept secrets of Dallas. Anyone who has seen the band play live will tell you about their euphoric sound and energetic performances.

Music

"Narci Darvish" by Hi-fi Drowning
Luminous Records
Grade: A

Their brand new album, "Narci Darvish" from Luminous Records, not only captures the band's live energy, but also shows the band's creative and experimental side.

Hi-fi originally came together in the late summer of 1996, when bassist Jon Eggert met lead singer/guitarist Eric Martin through a mutual friend.

Jon brought in his brother Jeremy to play guitar and Martin knew a drummer, Carlos Jackson. Then after only a few months together the band went into Planet Dallas to record their first full length album.

Jon Eggert explained that the band recorded the first songs they had written together.

"With our first record we didn't know much about recording or the recording process and by the time the album was released we'd written a lot of new songs and we had actually stopped playing many of the songs on our first record," he said.

The band continued to write songs and play shows around Dallas when they caught the attention of producer Keith Cleversley, who is known for his work with Spiritualized, Hum and The Flaming Lips.

In the summer of 1998, the band made the trip up to Chicago to record its second full length album at Cleversley's studio, The Playground.

Eggert said the band was at first intimidated by Cleversley but he had a way of making the band feel comfortable.

"Keith is a real genius ... he really helped the creativity flow throughout the album," he said.

With the help of Cleversley, the band experimented with different instruments to find the

sounds they wanted on their album. "Narci Darvish" features the use of instruments such as the sitar, xylophone and wurlitzer organ.

"When we walked into Keith's studio he had all these weird and old instruments and we made an effort to try everything at least once," Eggert said.

Eggert also said that the band came into this recording situation differently than they had the first time around.

"We wanted to make an album of pieces instead of pop songs. On this record we tried to make music that we would like, and if other people liked it then that is just an added bonus," he said.

"Narci Darvish" begins with the trippy and out-there sound of "Enough," a track which displays the vocal ability of lead singer Martin. Martin has a powerful voice and a wide vocal range that he isn't afraid to show off throughout the entire album.

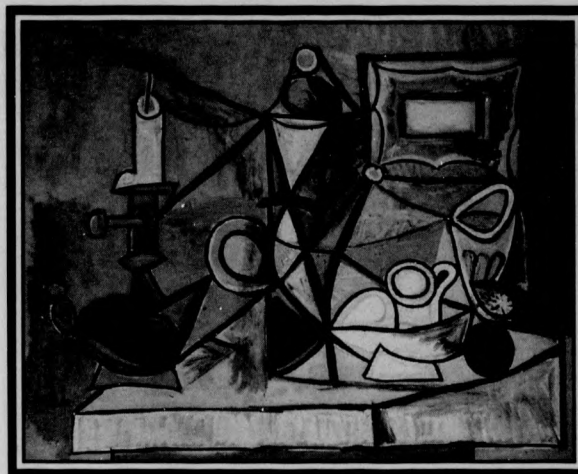
Following "Enough" is the carefree sound of "Pole Position," which has an almost Blur-like feel as Martin sings. "Jenny calls and says it's been four years since we took the one she loves, we took the one she loves."

Elsewhere on the album the band shows off its more melodic side on tracks like "Dedicated Work Bus" and "Formula One Way." On both of these tracks the group creates a dreamy, lurid sound that seems almost otherworldly. The record does also have its more rock moments, namely "Breathe" and "Re-vital."

After listening to the record it becomes obvious that the band has a much different sound than the rest of the Dallas music scene. Eggert said that the band thrives on sounding different.

"I hope we sound different, but not only in Dallas band but everywhere," he said. "However, I don't feel we are so different that we would alienate anyone who would regularly go out to a show in Deep Ellum."

Hi-fi's CD release party is this Saturday, April 23, at the Curtain Club in Dallas. Opening for Hi-fi will be Austin's own space rockers 7% Solution and Dallas band, Lewis.



COWTOWN AND CU

STORY BY REAGAN DUPLIS

Cowboys and art seem as far apart on the cultural spectrum as you can get, but a trip to the Fort Worth Cultural District will quickly change your mind. Just down South University Drive is a seemingly eclectic group of attractions, ranging from the concert venues to an award-winning zoo.

When exploring Fort Worth's Cultural District, you can view one of Picasso's paintings or an award-winning heifer, have a picnic in a rose garden or visit the zoo.

Components of the Cultural District include the Kimbell Art Museum, the Amon Carter Museum, the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, the Botanic Gardens, the Fort Worth Zoo and the Will Rogers Memorial Center.

Ken Kahn, president of the Arts Council of Fort Worth and Tarrant County, said the art museums are valuable to the Cultural District.

"They are a vehicle for educating the public about art from the prehistoric period to the present," Kahn said. "Not the average city of 500,000 can present everything from ancient to modern."

Babette Bohn, an associate professor of art history, said the art that the museums house is an integral part of the city.

"Fort Worth is unusual for a city of its size, having three important, active art museums," Bohn said. "All of them have important permanent collections that enrich the cultural resources of the area."

Some students like Cecelia Goodman, a junior religion and English major, were not expecting to find much culture in Fort Worth.

"I was surprised by the amount of culture here; I went to the opera here for the first time," Goodman said.

Anne Helmreich, an assistant professor of art history, said the museums benefit both Fort Worth and TCU.

"The museums bring a link to the world outside our doors," Helmreich said. "As a teaching resource, they're fabulous because the students are able to get far more voices on art than those on the faculty. They help us broaden our horizons."

Art history students benefit from the museums' close proximity to TCU.

Sara Finch, a junior art history major, said the museums have allowed her to experience more art.

"They helped me develop my appreciation of art," Finch said. "They helped me decide on my major."

Ruth Ann Rugg, program communication manager at the Amon Carter, said the museums complement each other and offer a lot of variety.

The Kimbell's collection contains pieces dating from antiquity to the present. The Amon Carter just collects American art, but stops at the same time period where the Modern picks up, Rugg said.

The Kimbell is currently hosting the "Matisse and Picasso: A Gentle Rivalry" and "Gifts of the Nile: Ancient Egyptian Faience" exhibits.

"I have been to museums everywhere, including Paris and New York, and the Kimbell is comparable to any of those," said Dewayne Campbell, a sophomore religion major.

The Modern contains paintings, sculptures and international contemporary photography.

Carri Ann Wantuchowicz, public information officer at the Modern, said their collection is similar to other museums.

"I think that we are competitive with any major museum in a major city," Wantuchowicz said. "Our collection is on par with all major cities."

"Our curator, Michael Opping, has taken us forward to the next millennium with international photo and video exhibits. We have new mediums that you won't find at the other museums."

The third major museum in the Cultural District, the Amon Carter, offers many works that reflect the development and history of our country.

"The Amon Carter is a museum of American art, and the collection has grown out of a core collection of about 400 works to almost 300,000 now," Rugg said. "The core collection had extraordinary works — paintings, watercolors and bronze statues."

The Amon Carter is expanding to triple its gallery space, and the Modern will move to a new building as the Cultural District grows. The museum will close for construction

HOURS

Kimbell Art Museum
 Tuesday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Friday noon to 8 p.m.
 Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sunday noon to 5 p.m.
 closed Monday

Amon Carter Museum
 Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Sunday noon to 5 p.m.
 closed Monday

Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth
 Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sunday noon to 5 p.m.
 closed Monday



CULTURE CONVERGE

DUPLISEA AND TARA POPE

Internationally known artist Tara Pope will be exhibiting her work at the Western Heritage Center, next to the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, he said.

In addition to creating more gallery space, the approximately \$36-million project includes the construction of a 170-seat auditorium and expanded library and research facilities.

The Modern's new building will allow the museum to offer more educational programs and bring in bigger names than before, Wantuchowicz said.

"We have been constrained but the new building will have a large auditorium, restaurant and bookstore," Wantuchowicz said.

Japanese architect Tadao Ando was chosen to design the Modern's new building. His design has incorporated the beauty of art and experiencing the beauty of nature, Wantuchowicz said.

"The whole area will be lined with trees and have a shallow reflecting pool, and it will be pedestrian-friendly and inviting," Wantuchowicz said. "When people come to look at art, they can spend time on the grounds."

"The building itself will be a treasure."

Pat Svacina, public information officer in the mayor's office, said the Cultural District is expanding and he expects the growth to continue.

The Cattle Raisers Museum and the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame will be moving to the new

Western Heritage Center, next to the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, he said.

The Cattle Raisers Museum is currently raising funds to move from downtown to the Western Heritage Center in approximately two to five years. The current museum has monitors that depict ranch life and cattle wrestling. It also has a huge saddle collection, as well as a collection of brands and spurs.

The Cowgirl Museum is the only museum in the world of its kind. It honors women who exemplify the pioneer spirit of the west. The new museum will have six galleries, hands-on exhibits, a library and a store. Susan Fine, director of development for the Cowgirl Museum, said that Fort Worth beat out 12 other cities for the museum. "Fort Worth got the museum because they love their history and we identify with their slogan of 'Where the West Begins,'" Fine said. "They proved they wanted it." Currently all the exhibits are in storage but they will be on display at the new site.

Many people feel the new western-centered museums will enhance Fort Worth's overall culture.

Kahn said the Cultural District is rooted in western heritage.

"The traditional western heritage is less apparent in everyday life; there are fewer walking/working cowboys and cowgirls," Kahn said.

Fort Worth is keeping the western spirit up to date, Kahn said.

Svacina said the Cultural District captures the western spirit but at the same time offers some of the finest sophis-

ticated paintings.

Helmreich said that some people think the art museums are completely opposite the Cowtown image, but that is the wrong way to think about it.

"They're really in dialogue with Fort Worth — like the Kimbell building makes reference to the cowsheds at Will Rogers," Helmreich said. "I think the museums are delighted to respond to the Cowtown image."

Kahn said that all the components of the Cultural District present a balanced historical and contemporary picture of Fort Worth.

He said the whole Cultural District — including the rose and Japanese gardens, the zoo — tend to balance out the Cowtown image. Fort Worth needs a balanced, complex approach to support the many layers of culture in a community revealed to visitors and residents alike, he said.

"While references to Cowtown continue, what is stressed now is Fort Worth's western heritage in all its different manifestations," Kahn said.

If you came to Fort Worth expecting the only entertainment to be cow roping (not that there is anything wrong with that), by now you have probably come to realize that there is more to this "Cowtown" than cows.

The emphasis of Fort Worth's 150th birthday is cowboys to culture, meaning that the city embraces all facets of its past and present. Fort Worth is preserving its historical heritage while seeking to provide its residents with a world-class selection of art.

HOURS

Kimbell Art Museum
 - Thursday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Friday noon to 8 p.m.
 - Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Sunday noon to 5 p.m.
 - closed Monday

Simon Carter Museum
 - Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Sunday noon to 5 p.m.
 - closed Monday

Art Museum of Fort Worth
 - Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Sunday noon to 5 p.m.
 - closed Monday

Elephants rumble onto big screen

By Justin Roche
WEEKEND EDITOR

They are more imposing than a comprehensive final and more powerful than several cups of coffee leading up to that very exam. Ruling the African landscape in a silent yet solid manner, elephants are the largest land animals on the earth.

Film

"Africa's Elephant Kingdom"
Omni Theater
Fort Worth Museum of
Science and History
Grade: B

But just when you thought they couldn't get any bigger, they went and made an Omni film about them: "Africa's Elephant Kingdom." It's kind of like giving steroids to the competitors in the "World's Strongest Man" competition. Funny enough though, putting an enormous animal on an enormous screen doesn't produce the enormous results everyone was hoping for.

Don't get me wrong, with the breathtaking scenery and impressive display of the Omni theater, going to this show is like taking a field trip to Africa without having to get malaria shots. However, the quality of past films has set the pace for those that follow, and it seems these elephants just fell a little bit behind.

The camera follows a herd of elephants through the dry plains of Africa during a drought, depicting the intricacies of the elephant's existence.

Both educational and entertaining (yes, that combination is actually pos-

sible), the story is told through a first person ... er ... first elephant view of one of the animals. Avery Brooks (Captain Benjamin Sisko on the TV show, "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine") narrates, providing insight and information along the herd's journey for water.

We all remember the information about elephants we learned in grade school: Elephants never forget, elephants are afraid of mice, elephants can fly if they have big floppy ears and a magical feather. Amazingly enough though, this film shows that there is still more to learn (and I thought the magic feather thing covered it all).

The surrounding and involving effect of Omni films grabs your attention like no other, and being a part of the surroundings makes you want to know more about them.

Despite these positive aspects though, this certainly isn't the finest Omni film to grace the gigantic screen. Many times, the narration by Brooks, as told from the view of the elephant, attempts to be cute or creative and interpret what each elephant is thinking and feeling. Either the writers have created the world's first elephant mind-reading device, or they simply made the stuff up. I'll take door number two, Montie.

Instead of describing the habits of the elephants and showing them to us, the film names all the creatures and throws out phrases like "Torn Ear knows that danger is near. She will not let harm come to the family she cares about." Corny stuff like that belongs in animated films where the animals talk, not these beautifully directed and educational documentaries.



SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF

STAMPEDE! The daily life and surroundings of the African elephant are portrayed on the giant screen in the new Omni film "Africa's Elephant Kingdom."

Even with the less-than-satisfactory narrative, "Africa's Elephant Kingdom" more than makes up for it with the overpowering presentation of the Omni screen. Scenes where elephants charge the screen and let out a trumpet that would strike fear into any carnivore and/or band director show how these mostly peaceful animals can defend their African kingdom.

At the other end of the spectrum, footage of the newborn baby elephants just makes you want to take one home with you (Imagine how big one of those things could get on a steady diet of chicken fingers!).

The bottom line is that while the story line and narration are hurting in this film, the scenery and eye-candy are just as spectacular as ever. Pure golden sunsets and a sky bluer than

the sharpest Crayola in the box are simply things you don't see around our bustling metropolis of Fort Worth.

It's not the best Omni film, but it's certainly still worth going to see. You'll learn something, and you'll enjoy a nice trip to a continent most of us have never set foot on. And, given the choice, I'd rather face a charging elephant than a comprehensive final any day.

'Pushing Tin' takes chance, but pushes right buttons

By Justin Roche
WEEKEND EDITOR

I've heard of pushing a lot of things. You can push your luck, push dope on the street or even push a push-pop. But pushing tin? Either someone came up with a really lame new name for "Kick the Can," or we've all been exposed to some technical jargon.

Film

"Pushing Tin"
Regency Pictures
Rated R
Grade: B+

You can check "air traffic controller" off your list of occupations Hollywood has yet to make a movie about. I think shoe salesmen and the TCU grounds keepers are the only ones left on that ever-diminishing list.

"Pushing Tin" stars John Cusack

and Billy Bob Thornton as two air traffic controllers who have high pressure jobs and live fast-paced lives, always striving for control.

Granted, it is one of the most stressful jobs in the entire world, but the behind-the-scenes look at how these people operate and earn a living makes you appreciate that there are people out there who are doing that job instead of you.

Cusack plays Nick Falzone (or simply "The Zone"), the hot-shot controller wiz who handles stress like the rest of us handle tying our shoes. He's cool, collected and the man, that is until Russel (Thornton) shows up.

A motorcycle-riding master of inner peace, Russel shows Nick up from the moment he steps in the door. The competitive nature of the two causes the animosity between them to escalate and spill from work into their personal lives. A little marital promiscuity always seems to work its way into films these days, doesn't it?

Sure, it sounds like a simple and lousy attempt at a plot, but this movie isn't about the story line; it's one of those rare features on character development and interaction. Quick quips and snappy one-liners are thrown around by Cusack as Thornton's meek, yet intimidating, character refuses to give in to "The Zone."

If you think you're experiencing stress with upcoming finals, think again. Coordinating hundreds of planes, holding people's lives in your hand and having your ego threatened are just a little more mentally taxing. "Pushing Tin" shows that the life of an air traffic controller, complete with drinking, competing and more drinking, is just a spilt second away from snapping the poor soul in two. But, despite this grim and harsh reality, humor abounds in this film.

The fact of the matter is, this movie fits about as well into the traditional film categories as that square block fits in that triangular hole in



SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF

KINDA LIKE SPACE INVADERS, ONLY REAL. Keeping planes from colliding and getting them to land safely are only a few of John Cusack's concerns in "Pushing Tin."

preschool.

It's got all the elements of a character-centered drama, but there are too many comedic moments, not to mention intense scenes involving the aspects of an air traffic controller's job. It's basically a cinematic buffet, allowing you to choose what elements you are craving and letting you go back for plenty of seconds.

Going to a film these days requires you to know what kind of movie you want to see. Seeing as finals are coming up, I'm trying to make as few decisions as possible. Since this has a little bit of everything, choosing it will save you some wear and tear on your gray matter, something that I'm sure air traffic controllers would love to try one of these days.

Farley lost, but humor 'found'

By Dods Pengra
SKIFF STAFF

I'm sure that a great many of you have had the privilege of viewing "Tommy Boy." I will venture further to assume that a select few of you were also able to catch "Tommy Boy 2," a.k.a. "Black Sheep."

Film

"Lost & Found"
Warner Bros.
Rated PG-13
Grade: B+

So for those of you who were eagerly awaiting a new installment of the Farley/Spade collection, I introduce you to the Farley-less "Lost and Found."

If someone were to point a gun at my head, asking for the central theme of this movie, I would have to say it's an hour-and-a-half film glorifying David Spade's knack of making other people look like idiots.

Directed by Jeff Pollack, of "Above the Rim" fame, this film revolves around the life of Dylan Ramsey, (Spade), a restaurant owner who is desperately seeking a loan to continue his dreams in the restaurant business.

In spite of the external need to be successful, Dylan's internal need for love and happiness takes control of

him after a new neighbor catches his eye. Lila Dubois (Sophie Marceau), the woman under Dylan's watch, is a French cellist who has come to L.A. hoping to audition for the Philharmonic.

Lila's terrier, Jack, who continually runs away, ends up being the reason that she and Dylan meet. Dylan returns the dog and realizes that he might grow closer to Lila if he insures that the dog stays lost for a long period of time. After kidnapping the dog, Dylan accompanies Lila on a number of phantom searches for the canine and they end up becoming friends.

The plot deepens when Lila's ex-fiancee shows up to win her back and the dog swallows a diamond anniversary ring entrusted to Dylan by his best friend. Having to fend off the new suitor, woo Lila and retrieve the lost ring, Dylan has his hands full.

Although Spade spends a good 70 minutes making the surrounding cast look as feeble as Barney from "The Simpsons," he does a great job without his physically comical counterpart, Chris Farley. He brings fresh material to the screen with a charming delivery of sarcasm and a hearty portion of one-liners.

As I laughed at the expense of others, I couldn't help but be intrigued by Spade's interest in Sophie Marceau's character, Lila. If you don't remember her, I'll give



SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF

HEY, LOOK WHAT I FOUND! David Spade (Left) uses Sophie Marceau's (Right) strong attachment to her dog to further their relationship in "Lost and Found."

you a hint. Do you remember the French princess in "Braveheart?" EUREKA!

The only problem is buying the idea that the two could ever be interested in one another. Coming from the point of view of a single guy, I don't see this relationship happening. I mean, seeing her with Mel Gibson worked for me. But David Spade is hardly a Mel Gibson. Heck, he looks more like Debbie Gibson.

One of the film's memorable characters is played by big man

Artie Lange as Wally. The purpose of Lange's character is obviously to create an interim Chris Farley, but the director does a good job of using Wally sparingly.

A funny scene includes Lange and Spade wading through numerous piles of dog excrement to find the diamond ring that the dog swallowed days earlier. In an attempt to remove a bit of dirt of his face, Wally wipes his cheeks with dog feces. Yeah it's bathroom humor, but the audience let out a tumult of

laughter during the scene.

With a cameo from funny man Jon Lovitz and Martin Sheen, "Lost and Found" finds itself with a humorous cast, a lovely leading lady and a slew of eye-watering laughs.

Although I'm sure Chris Farley was sorely missed, David Spade holds his own in this romantic comedy. The dynamic duo may be broken up, but Spade proves he is a comical juggernaut, even if he does resemble a certain teenage pop singer from the '80s.

MTV-style movie not fit for the big screen

By Emily Ward
SKIFF STAFF

Shot with the bizarre style of a three-minute music video is the potentially likable film, "Belly," from director Hype Williams.

Video

"Belly"
Artisan Entertainment
Rated R
Grade: C+

With a background as a producer/director of music videos, Williams' talents are not meant to be used for the big screen. Although the short camera shots and skewed angles are good on MTV, they do not go so well for an hour and a half in a movie.

"Belly" would have the ability to be both entertaining and worth your while if only it were more coherent. Williams does not seem to comprehend that although different is good, too much of a good thing can be bad.

Of what can be understood, the basic structure of the film is not that

bad. "Belly" is the tale of two best friends and the growing divergence between the two.

Rapper DMX plays Tommy Brown, a boy plunging deep into his drug-dealing, woman-chasing and money-driven lifestyle. Tommy has everything going for him: ample amounts of cash, an awesome house and a beautiful girlfriend (T-Boz from TLC), on whom he is able to cheat.

On the other side of things is Sincere (rapper Nas), also conveniently known as "Sin." For some time, Sin and Tommy have been best friends, working together in the drug business. Realizing that his duty should be to his wife and child, Sin decides to break free from his immoral chains to make a fresh start on life.

The only really comprehensible part of the plot is this establishment of the two main characters and the struggle for Tommy to get out of the business with Sin. The rest of the movie is hard to make out because of its choppy shots and discomforting scenes.

The story seems like it would be rather interesting, and even a bit

meaningful, but it hardly allows you the chance to grasp what is happening in the movie.

One of the most distracting qualities of "Belly" is the lighting — or rather — the lack of lighting. There is little to no real color spectrum available in this film, making it not only dull in appearance, but rather difficult to see the on-screen actions well.

The other mistake made by director Williams was his choice of actors. Though they have proven to be talented in the music business, the rappers in the film do not show much ability for surviving in the movie industry.

Like all movies, "Belly" has its good parts as well as its bad ones. Somewhere behind the confusion lies a subtle theme which deserves to be complimented. It inspires you to do the right thing, no matter how difficult things may become. No, it is not the most original of messages, but it is a commendable one nonetheless.

If you are not too offended by graphic violence, harsh language and explicit sexual content, you may want to try this movie out. It means



SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF

DECISIONS, DECISIONS. Rap artist Nas must choose between turning his life around or continuing his criminal lifestyle in "Belly."

well, even though it does not always make sense.

With a few camera tricks and a little bit of underlying meaning, Williams has not done an outstanding job, but it is not a complete flop either.

It is one of those "whatever floats your boat" kind of movies that is enjoyable depending upon who is watching. The movie could either open up your mind and reach for your heart, or stab you in the belly. The choice is yours.

Calendar & Events

Calendar

Friday, April 23

Casa Mañana Children's Playhouse: "The Wind in the Willows," 7:30 p.m.
 Pocket Sandwich Theatre: "Captain Blood — The Pirate Melodrama," 8 p.m.
 Bass Performance Hall: Dionne Warwick with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, 8 p.m.
 Stage West: "Sweet Phoebe," 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 24

Casa Mañana Children's Playhouse: "The Wind in the Willows," 2 p.m.
 Pocket Sandwich Theatre: "Captain Blood — The Pirate Melodrama," 8 p.m.
 Bass Performance Hall: Dionne Warwick with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, 8 p.m.
 Stage West: "Sweet Phoebe," 3 and 8 p.m.
 Dallas Museum of Art: D'Drum, 3 p.m.

Sunday, April 25

Stage West: "Sweet Phoebe," 7:30 p.m.
 Pocket Sandwich Theatre: "Captain Blood — The Pirate Melodrama," 7 p.m.
 Bass Performance Hall: Dionne Warwick with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, 2 p.m.

Monday, April 26

Bass Performance Hall: Boys Choir of Harlem, 8 p.m.

Thursday, April 29

Will Rogers Auditorium: "Red, White and Tuna," 8 p.m.
 Pocket Sandwich Theatre: "Captain Blood — The Pirate Melodrama," 8 p.m.
 Stage West: "Sweet Phoebe," 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 30

Will Rogers Auditorium: "Red, White and Tuna," 8 p.m.
 Pocket Sandwich Theatre: "Captain Blood — The Pirate Melodrama," 8 p.m.

Stage West: "Sweet Phoebe," 8 p.m.
 Ed Landreth Hall: "The Marriage of Figaro," 7:30 p.m.

Events

Comedians mock wide range of topics in "Red, White and Tuna"

Joe Sears and Jaston Williams satirize everything from contemporary politics to the religious right in the fictional town of Tuna, Texas, while playing 21 characters. This second national tour of the play concludes a trilogy that began with "Greater Tuna" 15 years ago and the subsequent "A Tuna Christmas" in 1994. Old favorites from the preceding plays combined with new personalities are faced with a high school reunion and Fourth of July celebrations.

"Red, White and Tuna" will be presented at the Will Rogers Auditorium at 3401 W. Lancaster Ave. Tickets range from \$18 to \$34 and can be purchased at Casa Mañana's box office or through TicketMaster at (972) 647-5700.

Boys Choir of Harlem will perform a myriad of music at Bass Hall

Fifty vocalists of the Boys Choir of Harlem will sing everything from classical music to Stevie Wonder in a one-night performance April 26 at the Bass Performance Hall. The choir, originating as the Ephesus Church Boys Choir in 1968, has sung on the movie soundtracks of "Glory" and "Malcolm X."

Tickets are very limited and available through STAR Tickets at (888) 597-7837, at the Bass Performance Hall's box office, Albertson's grocery stores and on the Web at www.startickets.com. Ticket are \$10 to \$75.

A missing dog ruins a couple's "normal" life in "Sweet Phoebe"

Helen and Frazer have just gotten their lives together when they offer to watch their friend's dog for a week. The dog, Phoebe,



SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF

FASHION POLICE, WHERE ARE YOU? Joe Sears (Left) and Jaston Williams (Right) play a combined 21 different characters in the satirical "Red, White and Tuna" at the Casa Mañana Theatre.

soon changes the couple's lives for the worse. Helen and Frazer frantically search for Phoebe when he suddenly disappears in the neighborhoods of Sydney, Australia.

Stage West's staging of "Sweet Phoebe" marks the regional premiere of this Australian comedy by playwright Michael Gow. Gow has acted and directed in television, film and stage productions throughout Australia. He directed

Geoffrey Rush and Cate Blanchett in "Oleanna."

Performances are from April 29 through May 8. Tickets are \$14 to \$18 and can be purchased at (817) 784-9378. Half-priced tickets are on reserve for full-time students and senior citizens.

Compiled by Steve Baker.



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