



Skiff



Greg Kim, a freshman engineering major, uses the Internet to compare prices of textbooks. Kim is among several TCU students who enjoy shopping online.

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Creation of Staff Assembly already having impact

By Priya Abraham
STAFF REPORTER

After a semester in action, representatives of the TCU Staff Assembly said it has improved communication and increased solidarity among staff members.

"I think we've been very successful," said Mary Lane, chairwoman of the Staff Assembly and executive assistant to the dean of the School of Education. "Staff Assembly meetings are very well-attended, and I think we feel comfortable with one another."

Last semester, the Staff

Members say having direct voice has improved unity among staff

Assembly worked to reduce staff tuition fees from \$55 to \$25 a credit hour. The assembly also successfully recommended English as a Second Language classes for staff, which will begin this spring.

Before the creation of the 47-member assembly in Spring 1999, staff members channeled their concerns to administration through Office Staff Personnel, which was made up of administrative support staff members.

"The Staff Assembly has given individuals the opportunity to participate at a campus-wide level who've never had that opportunity before," said Rebecca Glass, an Executive Committee member and Information Services consultant.

Clyde Ridge, a Physical Plant supervisor, said the assembly has helped foster understanding of different points of view between staff and administration.

"Instead of different departments, we're one unit," said Ridge,

a Staff Assembly member-at-large.

Roger Pfaffenberger, chairman of the Faculty Senate and a professor of finance and decision science, said there are now two important voices to the administration on academic and administrative policy.

"One of the most significant things Chancellor Ferrari did as chancellor is make the Staff Assembly," he said. "If both (bodies) pass resolutions, it'll have a greater impact."

Last semester, both the Staff Assembly and Faculty Senate voted to have the chair-elect of the assembly co-chair the university's Resource, Insurance and Benefits Committee, which is striving for parity of benefits for faculty and staff.

Ken Morgan, chairman of the RIB Committee and professor of geology, said having a person serve as a co-chair of a committee and a member of the Staff Assembly allows representative input, which is critical in consider-

ing individual and group needs. This spring, the Staff Assembly will be working toward increasing salaries for non-exempt staff, employees eligible for overtime pay under the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. John Weis, director of Human Resources and resource person for the Staff Assembly, said competitive salaries should be offered to continue attracting and retaining qualified employees to TCU.

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PULSE BRIEFS

Fifty percent cheat at least once on tests, study says

EAST LANSING, Mich. (U-WIRE) — It's a scenario that's probably happened to more than one Michigan State University student — during a tough final, the professor steps out of the room, and a student is close enough to ask a friend for some answers.

Whether the student decides to cheat in this instance, there's a 50-50 chance he or she has cheated at least once during college, according to a recent survey published by Ball State University researchers.

Most students who admit to cheating claim they cheat because of pressure on them for high grades. Their behavior can include looking on other students' papers during exams or plagiarizing other people's work.

"Personally, I have never cheated," anthropology freshman Joe DeCler said. "You take a class to learn the material in it. There is no reason to cheat."

DeCler said he believes cheating doesn't provide a student any benefit.

"Students who cheat are not learning the material in the course," he said. "They are not understanding the subject. They get nothing out of it."

However, many students find reasons to cheat, said assistant psychology professor Linda Gerard. She said peer pressure may be one of the most important factors behind student dishonesty.

"Students cheat for many reasons," she said. "The main factor may be a matter of conformity."

—The State News, Michigan State University

Inside

CARDIO ROOM



The new cardiovascular room opened in the Rickel Building Friday with positive feedback from both faculty and students.

Sports, page 9.

RESPECT

The vandalism that occurred after the TCU men's basketball game on Saturday was an act of stupidity.

Opinion, page 3.

Dinner side chats



Sarah Kirschberg/PHOTO EDITOR

Religion Professor Andy Fort and Philip Aldridge, a sophomore advertising/public relations major, chat during a weekly Chi Delta Mu lunch. Chi Delta Mu is a student organization whose members meet with religion faculty members each week to discuss different religious topics.

A&M grad student to lead Greeks

Sullivan named director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs

By Victor Drabicky
STAFF REPORTER

Officials at the Office of Campus Life have named a replacement for Kristen Kirst, three months after she quit her job at TCU.

Tom Sullivan, a master's degree student at Texas A&M University, will replace Kirst as the director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs.

Although Sullivan is still completing work on his master's degree, Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Campus Life Susan Adams said his work at TCU will not be hindered.

"Tom's priority is with TCU," Adams said. "He will spend most of his time here and will only return to A&M when he has to."

Interfraternity Council President Walker Moody said Sullivan will work on a modified schedule.

"Tentatively, Tom will work Wednesday through Sunday," Moody said. "If something were to come up while he is away, we can still turn to Rick Barnes or Susan Adams for help."

Zeta Tau Alpha President Lisette Gerch said despite Sullivan's modified work week, he is committed and

Replacement

Officials at the Office of Campus Life have named Tom Sullivan, a fourth-semester master's student at Texas A&M University, as the new director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. Sullivan begins his new job Thursday.

See SULLIVAN, Page 5

Financial aid for study abroad programs lacking

Funding criticized due to insufficient monetary assistance

By Kasey Feldman
STAFF REPORTER

TCU gave away over \$133,000 in financial aid to students going abroad for classes this year, said Sandra Tobias, associate director of scholarships and student financial aid, but some said it was not enough.

Delia Pitts, director of international education, said some students are not able to

study abroad because they cannot afford it and are denied financial aid. Pitts said study abroad should be available to every student, and TCU should address the need to make it so.

J-P Millsap, a junior international finance major, said although he did not get special financial aid to study abroad, his TCU scholarships transferred to the program. Millsap said even with scholarships, studying abroad was expensive. He spent \$6,000 to \$7,000 of his own money on travel and living expenses.

Nicole McWilliams, a senior vocal performance major, said she ended up thousands of dollars in debt when she spent a

semester in Vienna, Austria. She said she relies on scholarships to pay for her education, and although she received some federal grants, McWilliams' TCU scholarships did not transfer when she studied abroad. She was told she had to study with TCU programs for her scholarship to transfer because the money had to go back into TCU.

McWilliams got TCU credit for her classes, but not TCU funding.

"If they had a TCU program, I would have gone on that, but there is not a program in my major," McWilliams said.

According to Pitts, over two-thirds of TCU students who study abroad go on

TCU-sponsored summer programs which offer credit in 19 disciplines.

Students have to pay regular TCU tuition for three or six hours of credit (\$1,095 or \$2,190), a program fee which ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,600, round-trip transportation and other out-of-pocket expenses.

Pitts said the program fee includes housing, some meals, entrance fees to some museums and other attractions and honorarium for outside lecturers.

Out-of-pocket expenses can include meals not included in the program fee, entrance fees to the attractions not included

See STUDY, Page 5

SDS seeks students to fill campus leadership positions

By Kathryn Garcia
STAFF REPORTER

The search is on for students interested in joining the New Student Programs staff and the Chancellor's Leadership Program staff. Students can apply to be orientation student assistants, orientation office managers, Frog Camp facilitators, Frog Camp service project coordinators and mentors for the Chancellor's program.

Carrie Zimmerman, program coordinator for Frog Camp, said she is excited about the large number of

OSAs, orientation office managers, Frog Camp facilitators sought

applications coming in and expects many more Monday, which is the deadline for both the Chancellor's program and the New Student programs.

"We're attempting to have a diverse group of people for staff with many different majors," she said. Last November, former OSAs received a letter from Kay Higgins, director of new student affairs, informing them that they would not be able to return to their previous

positions in the 2000-01 school year. The letter indicated that Student Development Services was headed in a new direction, offering the leadership positions to students who had not previously held them.

Although former OSAs cannot be rehired for their old positions, they will still be able to be involved in the orientation process as office staff, Higgins said.

Office managers handle all incoming calls from parents, do

data entry and manage the entire office operations for the summer orientation and Frog Camp, she said.

Mandy Mahan, a sophomore religion major and former OSA, said although she is not pursuing the office positions, she is wary of the changes.

"I relied so much on the returners, and it was good to see survivors (of the orientation)," Mahan said. "It's very intimidating the first time

because the freshmen look at you as an authority figure."

Higgins said there would always be stress for the new OSAs, even when the returning officers are present.

"We may look at those issues when we look at the training positions," she said. "And the office staff will be returning, as well. So they may be able to offer advice."

Senior marketing major and former OSA Zuberi Williams said he is sure the changes will be beneficial

See OSA, Page 8

PULSE

CAMPUS LINES

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 available space.

■ **Argentinean film.** "Sentimientos. Mirta, de Liniers a Estambul," will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in Moudy Building South, Room 164. The film discusses the effects of exile in the lives of two young Argentineans who leave their country and their adjustments in a new country. The film is in Spanish with English subtitles. For more information, contact Anabella Acevedo-Leal at 257-5402.

■ **TCU Triangle and Student Allies** will have their first meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in Sadler Hall, Room 210. The groups will watch a gay comedian. For more information, contact Danielle Daniel at 923-9517.

■ **Participate in the planning** for the 6th Annual Women's Symposium "Women and Community" from noon to 1 p.m. Monday in the Student Center, Room 220. Bring lunch, but drinks are provided. RSVP to Marcy Paul at 257-5815 by Thursday.

■ **Interviewing Skills Workshop** will be noon Feb. 2 in the Student Center, Room 204. This hour-long workshop will include topics such as researching the organization, anticipating questions, preparing you marketing strategy, dressing appropriately and following up effectively. Please register at least 24 hours in advance by calling 257-7860 or stopping by Career Services in the Student Center Annex.

■ **May 2000 degree candidates** should file their Intent to Graduate forms promptly in the office of their academic dean. Each academic dean's office has a deadline for filing and requires time to process the intent. All names of degree candidates must be submitted to the Registrar by Feb. 15.

■ **Students are invited to enter their work** in the year 2000 Creative Writing Contests. Nearly \$3,000 will be awarded to TCU students for essays, fiction and poetry. Rules and entry forms are available in the English department, Reed Hall 314, or in the Writing Center, Rickel Building 100. Deadline for entries is Feb. 11.

■ **The TCU Cheerleading Nationals Squad** needs both men and women for the 2000 coed squad. For more information, contact Glenda Clausen at 257-7969.

NEWS

ROUNDUP

WORLD

Suspected war criminal arrested on charges of mass murder and other atrocities

VISEGRAD, Bosnia-Herzegovina — NATO peacekeepers on Tuesday arrested a suspected war criminal under a U.N. tribunal indictment charging him with "extermination" of Muslim men, women and children and other atrocities.

Visegrad Police Chief Vuceta Sipic identified the arrested man as Mitar Vasiljevic.

A statement from the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands, said Vasiljevic was suspected of "participation in the mass murder, torture and other cruel treatment of the Bosnian Muslim population, including women, children and the elderly in and around Visegrad."

The alleged crimes were committed between May 1992 and October 1994, according to the statement. It stated Vasiljevic, 45, was charged with "extermination ... of a significant number of Bosnian Muslim civilians."

Detailing one alleged crime, the indictment stated Vasiljevic participated in forcing civilians into a house and then setting it on fire.

"Some people tried to jump out of the windows, but the other member of the paramilitary unit stood outside shooting at them while Mitar Vasiljevic (shone) ... a light on the victims," according to the statement.

A statement issued in Brussels by NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson stated Vasiljevic was being processed for transfer to the war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

Church of England takes a step forward toward approving remarriage for divorcees

LONDON — The Church of England, established by the much-wedded King Henry VIII, took a step Tuesday toward approving remarriage for divorcees — an issue that may be of keen interest to Britain's next king.

Recommendations published by a group of bishops, if adopted by the church's governing General Synod in 2002, could make it easier for Prince Charles to contemplate marriage to his longtime love, Camilla Parker Bowles.

The church's main concern is dealing with the realities of a nation with one of the highest divorce rates in Europe and the fact that a third of its priests already are exercising their legal right to marry divorcees.

"If these proposals win acceptance, the church will not simply marry anyone who turns up and asks to be married," said the Right Rev. Michael Scott-Joynt, bishop of Winchester and chairman of the bishops' working party on remarriage.

Among the conditions: Divorced people should be honest about the reasons for the failure of their previous marriage, adequate provision should be

made for supporting children, the new relationship should not be the cause of breaking up the previous marriage, and "a reasonable time" should have passed since the divorce.

Bishops also recommended that remarriage should normally not be permitted for people who have been involved in more than one divorce.

NATION

Judge rules that Court TV will be allowed to cover Amadou Diallo police shooting trial

ALBANY, N.Y. — A judge ruled Tuesday that state law barring cameras in the courts is unconstitutional, clearing the way for television coverage of the Amadou Diallo police shooting trial.

"The quest for justice in any case must be accomplished under the eyes of the public," Supreme Court Justice Joseph Teresi said.

Four white New York City police officers are accused of second-degree murder in the death of Diallo, a 22-year-old black street vendor from Guinea with no criminal record. He was shot 19 times in his vestibule last February by members of an elite street-crime unit looking for a rape suspect. He was unarmed.

An appeals court moved the trial to Albany after accepting defense lawyers' claims that pretrial publicity had made it impossible to seat an impartial jury in the Bronx, where the shooting happened.

The case was then assigned to Teresi. In his ruling Tuesday, he said that only Court TV will be allowed to bring its camera into the courtroom, and the network can pool the video to other networks. Jury selection is set to begin Monday. In New York state, the Supreme Court is a trial court.

"The broadcast of the trial will further the interests of justice, enhance public understanding of the judicial system and maintain a high level of public confidence in the judiciary," Teresi said.

Teresi said there is a presumptive First Amendment right of the media to televise court proceedings.

STATE

Dallas City Council member Al Lipscomb found guilty of bribery, conspiracy charges

AMARILLO — Dallas City Council member Al Lipscomb was convicted Tuesday on all 65 federal bribery and conspiracy charges against him.

Jurors deliberated less than four hours before deciding that \$36,000 in cash payments from a Dallas businessman influenced Lipscomb.

The 74-year-old civil rights leader was the first black to run for Dallas mayor and helped bring an end to the city's at-large system of electing mostly white city council members.

After a two-week trial, Lipscomb sat stoically in a packed courtroom as he listened to the verdict. Two women in the audience burst into tears.

"The evidence against him was compelling," said prosecutor Michael Uhl, adding that Lipscomb had lied about the payments. "I was not surprised."

"Nobody's above the law — no matter how old you are, what you've done in life or what color you are," he said.

Uhl said a Dallas jury also would have convicted Lipscomb. U.S. District Judge Joe Kendall moved the trial to Amarillo, more than 300 miles away, because Lipscomb is well-known in Dallas.

When the sentencing phase begins, Lipscomb faces a possible prison term of 265 years and a fine of up to \$16.2 million. Until sentencing, which will be scheduled later this week, Lipscomb is free on bond.

Defense lawyers said race was an issue in the jury's verdict. All 12 jurors were white and Lipscomb is black.

"Unfortunately, I was right when I told Al he should plead while we were in Dallas, because he couldn't get a jury of his peers here in Amarillo," attorney Billy Ravkind said.

"I think there's a lot of evidence that suggests he's not guilty ... but we were very much in an uphill battle from the beginning," lawyer Tom Melsheimer said. "We are all prisoners of our backgrounds and our reality, and we cannot step out of them, just like we can't step out of our skin."

Defense attorney Scottie Allen said he was dismayed at the short amount of time jurors spent deliberating the case and that they took no exhibits into the jury room with them.

"All of our worst fears came to reality here," a red-eyed Allen said after talking with Lipscomb. "It's like nothing I've ever heard about or read about before. This jury completely disregarded the facts and evidence in this case. ... Al Lipscomb is not guilty of conspiracy and is not guilty of bribery."

In closing arguments earlier Tuesday, defense attorneys contended the government had not proven its public corruption case.

Mendoza recommended as Fort Worth police chief, awaits City Council approval

FORT WORTH — Ralph Mendoza, Fort Worth's acting police chief since August, has been recommended as the permanent replacement for the late Thomas Windham.

That recommendation was made Tuesday to the City Council by Bob Terrell, the city manager. The council will vote on Mendoza's appointment, and most likely give its approval, when it meets again next Tuesday.

Mendoza, the first minority to lead the department, has served as acting chief of the 1,200-officer department since after it was discovered that Windham had an inoperable tumor between his lungs and rib cage. Windham died Jan. 12 from cancer after serving nearly 15 years as the city's police chief.

Mendoza, 46, grew up in Fort Worth and has been on the police force for 27 years. In 1990, he became the first Hispanic officer to attain the rank of deputy chief in the department, and since 1997 has served as second in command as executive deputy chief.

These stories are from The Associated Press.

TCU DAILY Skiff

Since 1902

The TCU Daily Skiff is an official student publication of Texas Christian University, produced by students of TCU and sponsored by the journalism department. It operates under the policies of the Student Publications Committee, composed of representatives from the student body, staff, faculty and administration. The Skiff is published Tuesday through Friday during fall and spring semesters except final week and holidays. The Skiff is a member of The Associated Press.

Circulation: 4,600
Subscriptions: Call 257-6274. Rates are \$30 per semester.

Mailing address: Box 298050, Fort Worth, Texas 76129
Location: Moudy Building South Room 291
2805 S. University Drive Fort Worth, TX 76109

On-campus distribution: Newspapers are available free on campus, limit one per person. For additional copies contact the Skiff office.

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Main number: (817) 257-7428
Fax: 257-7133
Advertising/Classified: 257-7426
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STAFF editorial

MATTER OF RESPECT

Shattered maturity shatters glass

Following the men's basketball game that was held Saturday night, seven vehicles were found vandalized on South Drive between the Leo Potishman Tennis Center and the Tom Brown/Pete Wright Residential Community.

Witnesses heard glass shattering and car alarms being set off around 2 a.m. Unfortunately, when police officers arrived, they were unable to recover fingerprints left by the vandals and to get a good description of what the vandals looked like from any of the witnesses.

Police officers said they do not know if the vandalism had something to do with TCU's one-point victory over the University of Texas-El Paso. But regardless of the reasons behind the crime, it is something that should not be taken lightly.

It all comes down to a matter of respect.

Respect for others.

We live in a society where there are certain rules that people should follow. When these rules are broken, the result is chaos. No one should have to worry about their cars being vandalized for no apparent reason. A college campus should prevail upon those who enter it to maintain a certain level of maturity.

"I wish people didn't choose to do these things," said Amy Durham, director of Pete Wright. "It is not very respectful. But aside from parking cars in covered garages, I don't know what else we can do to protect the students."

Indeed.

There's not much that can protect us from stupidity.

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

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Value the 'cheesy' life

The disillusionment started as soon as I came back to campus. I don't know why, but it did. For some reason, fond memories of my Christmas break dissipated the moment I parked behind the Moudy Building.

I'm sure everyone can relate. Finals eventually end, even though your mind took a vacation during dead days and never quite showed up again. Problems are locked inside the apartment as you hit the road for a month. You silently affirm to yourself grand aspirations of finding a job and exercising more, which realistically amount to nothing more than getting up at 2 in the afternoon and watching "Mannequin" on TNT three days after you're home.

And then, all of a sudden, school arrives again.

Not that I don't like school. It just has some strange way of making your month-long break seem about as big as your TCU Bookstore bill is small. And then it makes you feel just as tired as when you left. You return to your apartment to find that those problems you locked behind your door a month earlier have subsequently mated and produced a brood of ravenous, howling problem children who are angry that you didn't bring them home with you.

And then you soon get tired of the same old routine. You get tired of having more classes in the same building and in the same room. You get tired of people asking how your break was during the first week of classes. You get tired of chicken strips in The Main. Most of all, you just get plain tired.

So, how does one get rid of those post-break, second-semester, tired-already apathy blues? The surface answer would be sleep. But by now, I have realized I will never attain the standard of sleep I have

been eternally chasing.

My life is a continual cycle of an endless pursuit of sleep. It's been eluding me forever, and I realized, with great sadness, it's a goal I will never attain and a pinnacle I shall never reach. I will always be living under the phrase, "I'll catch up on Saturday!"

A friend once told me we all like to think we look at the glass as half full, but that's usually only if it's something we like to drink. Maybe a change in attitude and a new focus on the overlooked daily blessings can take the preoccupation off the temporal worries.

Perhaps the secret lies within a Velveeta commercial. It's the one where the family spices up that old, boring bowl of chili with hot, melted Velveeta cheese. They all sing and dance around the kitchen while the precious cheese magically transforms the drudgery of chili into an ethereal experience of curdled bliss.

I watch that commercial in awe because those people have discovered something so magnificent about cheese that I apparently missed in all the cheeseburgers I've eaten over the years. I suppose it's all about the simple things. If you can get happy about cheese, you can pretty much get happy about anything. Enjoying the small things is what breaks up the monotony of the homogeneity.

So here's to the next semester. If you find it becoming about as exciting as Al Gore in a presidential debate, do something to switch up the routine. Sometimes the individual turnaround lies more within the internal attitude than the exterior surroundings. It's about just enjoying the nuances and challenges of your day and meeting each turn with a different paradigm of thinking.

And, at the very least, cook yourself a Kraft dinner. The beauty of life is, after all, in the brie of the beholder.

Kevin Dunleavy is a junior advertising/public relations major from Spring, Texas. He can be reached at (kduns80@airmail.net).

Commentary



KEVIN DUNLEAVY

Skin color not black, white issue

I often wonder if white people are cognizant of being white. I wonder if they ever come to a sudden realization as they are walking down the street that their skin is pale, their hair straight, their lips thin. I wonder if they ever walk into a room and are so completely aware of their whiteness that the thought never leaves them, coloring every word they say and every look they give. Or do the privileges of being white extend beyond the physical realm, and white people aren't even troubled to think about being white at all?

In a country that is more than 80 percent white, it is not likely that white people are often faced with the task of examining their color. Unless attending an National Association for the Advancement of Colored People meeting, black church event or some other gathering where the majority of the people are not white, most whites rarely move in a world that is not their own.

This privilege of insensibility of self may seem trivial. But, in fact, I've come to realize just how important it is as I entered my classes for the first time once again this semester. Because TCU is a microcosm of American society with more than 80 percent of its students being white, it is a good example of how this privilege works in everyday life.

For instance, it is a privilege to walk into a room and be Joe, Jenny or John instead of the black girl. It is a privilege not to feel as though you are an ambassador for an entire race of people simply because you are the only member of your race in a classroom. Moreover, it is a privilege not to walk into a class and feel completely alone.

In looking back, it has become quite obvious to me that the privilege of insensibility of self is prevalent among whites at TCU. For example, I remember a writing workshop my freshman year in which my classmates and I were given the chance to help each other with our papers. In reading one of my group members' papers, I was surprised to find her use the phrase "us white people." Apparently, she was so insensible of her color that she took for granted that the reader of her paper would be as white as her.

Such blatant acts of insensibility lead me to believe that many white people have no idea and have never thought about what it means to be black, Hispanic or some other ethnicity in a white society. For myself, it has always meant "us" against "them." All my life, I've been told the white man does not want the black man to succeed, that whites are two-faced, and, while they may smile in your face, they're calling you "nigger" behind your back. And that no matter how intelligent or talented you are, all the white man sees is black. These thoughts pervade my mind as I enter the classroom.

Surrounded by what I've always known to be "the enemy," I search for others like me. In those rare instances when I find them, I feel a certain kind of kinship with them. When I do not locate any black faces I am deeply disturbed.

On one level, I am enraged. What does the lack of black students going on to institutions of higher learning say about the quality of education in the black community?

On another level, however, I am saddened. What do my feelings say about me?

What does it say when I walk into a room and my first concern is how many black people are in it? What does it say when I feel like I am an outsider in a room full of human beings simply because they are not my color? What does it say when I assume everything I say in class is perceived from the black perspective instead of Shavahn's perspective?

Maybe it says I'm paranoid. Maybe it says I have been conditioned by my environment to value "my people" above all other people. Maybe it says I'm a bigot.

What it says about me, however, is less important than what it says about us — society as a whole. It says we haven't come that far as we think in looking past each other's color. For a while, I am allowed to move around in the "white world." I see it as just that — the white world.

It says that we still don't simply see each other as human beings as I walk into a room and connect to a color instead of a person. Mostly, however, it says that we don't, and quite possibly will never, have a good understanding of each other, as I'm sure I've raised some issues some white people have never pondered, and some black people have never admitted.

Shavahn Dorris is a junior English major from Joli-et, Ill. She can be reached at (MissVon21@aol.com).

Commentary



SHAVAHN DORRIS

Future Pulitzer Prize winner moonlights as Skiff writer

You can call me Mr. Day. According to my journalism professor, the power lies with whoever holds the information. The real powerhouses in this country are the ones who filter what the rest of the public reads, sees and hears. Control lies not with the newsmakers, but with the news writers.

So now that I am the newest news-editorial journalism major, I plan to move directly into the role of luminary. My words will change people's lives. I am a writer. I am a hero.

In my imagination, the headline is already penned: "Skiff writer wins Pulitzer Prize!" The story (written, of course, by me) will be an inspiring account of how I overcame adversity to become the world's greatest journalist, ending with a section of quotes about me from journalists and other celebrities.

From Peter Jennings: "That's it. I quit. I will never be able to match his standards."

From Sarah Michelle Gellar: "Hey, he's pretty cute..."

This is my destiny. I can feel it with every word that flows from my fingers onto my trusty reporter's notebook. My writing is going to save the world, and I will be forever upheld as the highest standard to which a journalist must aspire.

Even as I write this, my mind flashes forward to an episode sure to occur many times over in my future:

The tall, handsome journalist stands in the middle of the room, his supermodel wife by his side. Every eye in the room is riveted to him as he relates another amazing story.

"The armed guards escorted us to the throne room," he says. "There, perched high on imperial thrones like twin vultures, were Saddam Hussein and Fidel Castro. Fidel stood, gave the order for our execution and then asked if we had any last words.

"I spoke quickly and reverently, searching for the words that would save our lives. I wasn't worried for myself, knowing that I could easily overpower the guards, but I had to save the President. When I was finished speaking, the two were silent. They glanced at each other. Then Saddam spoke as tears shone in his eyes.

"Mr. Day, you have shown us the error of our ways. I can only hope that your wonderful country can forgive us for the terrible, terrible things we have done."

The crowd applauds wildly as the journalist flashes a shy grin. Something catches his eye from the shadows, and he excuses himself from the group. He comes upon an old college classmate of his, standing back, afraid to approach.

"Is there anything I can do for you?" the journalist asks.

"I just wanted to thank you. Three years ago, I was considering dropping out of school and joining the Ice Capades. But then I read one of your columns in the Skiff, and it changed my life. I felt like you were speaking just to me, and it gave me the strength to continue."

The journalist is speechless. He had been knighted, won the Emmy, Grammy and two Oscars, penned countless plays, stories and the Great American Novel, but nothing compared to the honor he had just received.

OK, so maybe I am being a little unrealistic. I realize that I probably won't win the Pulitzer Prize, make Saddam and Fidel into new men or ever save the President's life.

At least not as an underclassman.

John-Mark Day is a freshman religion and news-editorial journalism major from St. Joseph, Mo. He can be reached at (jmday2@delta.is.tcu.edu).

Commentary

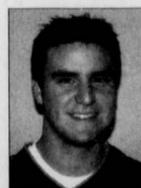


JOHN-MARK DAY

STUDENTS speakout

What qualities do you think an academic dean should possess?

"The dean should have prior experience in other universities throughout the United States. They should come to TCU with an open mind and a lot of innovative ideas that will carry TCU to the 21st century."



—Bryan Perkins, freshman marketing major

"I feel it is important to choose a dean that is personable and approachable. I want to have a dean that I can approach, ask questions and not feel intimidated."



—Ivy Totta, sophomore elementary education major

"I think a dean should be culturally diverse. They should participate in many different activities, be open-minded, approachable and a very good listener."



—Clayton Cross, sophomore ballet and modern dance major

"The qualifications of an academic dean should include campus life experience, be approachable and available to work with students and faculty. They should also be well-rounded so they can be understanding in many different cases."



—Angella Bray, junior interior design major

"I think that the new dean should have a good working knowledge of students and should respect diversity."



—Kirsten Bells, senior political science and speech communication major

"I think an academic dean should have experience in the field that they are teaching. They should also be required to have their master's or doctorate in their field so they can relate to students and also the working world."



—Shea Ostrander, freshman premajor



mom and dad



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FILMMAKER TO DISCUSS MOVIE INDUSTRY

Toporoff advises radio-TV-film students about directing, shooting

By Jeff Anderson
STAFF REPORTER

Independent filmmaker Ralph Toporoff knows what it takes to make a movie.

Now he is attempting to show TCU students the same skill.

Toporoff will be on campus through Thursday speaking to several radio-TV-film classes about specific areas of film-making.

During his stay, he will discuss directing, shooting and the film making process, Toporoff said.

"Being an independent filmmaker, you have to know about all parts of filmmaking," he said.

Toporoff designed Motion Picture Pro, a course that lets students make a short film in an entirely professional environment in Manhattan. The course offers training for step-by-step instruction of how to make a movie.

"It's more difficult to distribute a movie than to make it," he said. "It's very hard for filmmakers to find a

place for their movies."

Toporoff co-wrote, produced and directed "American Blue Note," which was shown in 40 U.S. cities and also on HBO and Cinemax, he said. He has also worked six years in Europe for "Look" magazine and has 20 years of cinematographer experience, he said.

Toporoff urges people to attempt movie-making.

"If the film isn't successful, what's the worst thing that can happen?" he said.

Roger Cooper, associate professor and chairman of the radio-TV-film department, said Toporoff plans to discuss how art and industry work together. Toporoff will primarily talk with field-oriented production classes.

"(Toporoff) is an excellent talent," he said. "He has great variety experience."

Richard Allen, associate professor of radio-TV-film, said Toporoff's school is complimentary to what is taught at TCU. Toporoff is clear in



Sarah Kirschberg/PHOTO EDITOR

Ralph Toporoff, an independent filmmaker, is on campus through Thursday speaking to several radio-TV-film classes about specific areas of filmmaking. During his stay, he will discuss directing, shooting and the filmmaking process.

telling students the cold hard truth in a very light way, he said.

"The timing was good for students to see how much work it takes to make a movie," he said.

"American Blue Note" will be shown to radio-TV-film students 7

p.m. Wednesday in Moudy Building North, Room 164. Anyone interested may view the film with the class if space permits.

Jeff Anderson

jwanderson@delta.is.tcu.edu

SULLIVAN

From Page 1

dedicated to TCU.

"Anyone that is willing to drive back and forth from College Station to go to work must be dedicated," Gerch said. "I don't mind him working different days if he is going to be that dedicated to his work."

Adams said Sullivan comes highly recommended.

"In my career, I have never seen anyone be so highly recommended by both colleagues and students," Adams said.

Sullivan has worked with the Greek system at Texas A&M and Southwest Texas State University and has also worked in private business. In addition to doing administrative work, Sullivan has also worked as the house manager for the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity at Texas A&M and has helped with leadership development of the Pi Kappas at Southwest Texas State.

Panhellenic Council President Elizabeth Gipson said she was impressed with Sullivan's dedication.

"Tom is really dedicated to the ideals fraternities and sororities

stand for," Gipson said. "He is more than willing to learn the TCU Greek system and to work with us rather than against us."

Gerch said Sullivan's personality makes him easy to work with.

"He is really down to Earth," she said. "It is comforting to see someone that has experience and is easy to work with."

Gerch said she was also impressed by Sullivan's handling of the bonfire accident at A&M.

"This past semester, Tom dealt with a lot of issues such as the bonfire tragedy," she said. "That makes me more confident that he will deal

with the issues facing us now."

Moody said he is happy with TCU's decision to offer Sullivan the job.

"After interviewing him over the break and going on the retreat with him, I was very pleased with what I saw," he said. "I know that he is the right man for the job."

First left TCU during the middle of last semester to accept a job in the marketing department of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

Victor Drabicky

vmdtcu@swbell.net

STUDY

From Page 1

in the program fee, spending money and travel expenses for weekend trips to neighboring countries.

Although studying abroad can be more expensive than studying at TCU, Tobias said only students who qualify for financial aid at TCU qualify for financial aid to study abroad. She said financial aid for summer study abroad programs is increasing every year, and she expects financial aid for the London Centre to increase, as well.

"TCU has made a big effort to put together a very substantial financial aid pot, but it is clearly not enough," Pitts said.

But why is financial aid for study abroad so important?

"(Study abroad) broadens the individual," Pitts said. "It provides the capstone to a liberal arts education, which is, in fact, what students are getting when they come to TCU."

Kasey Feldman

KLfeld@aol.com

Debate over gay marriage draws crowd, despite Vermont snowstorm

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONTPELIER, Vt. — A raging snowstorm couldn't keep more than 1,000 people from streaming into the Statehouse Tuesday to weigh in on the debate over gay marriage.

Fewer than half that number were able to get into the House chamber where two committees gave people their first opportunity to comment on last month's state Supreme Court ruling that said gay couples must be given the benefits of marriage.

The debate was civil, but emotional. People wore their opinions on their lapels, with hundreds of pink circles declaring "I Support The Freedom to Marry" mixing with hundreds of blue ovals stating "Don't Mock Marriage."

People unable to squeeze into the House chamber crammed into hearing rooms to listen to testimony as it was piped through the building.

Gays and lesbians said they no longer want to be second-class citizens and those opposed to gay marriages cited scripture and the importance of a traditional family to make their case.

"Homosexuals should be protected from attack on their personal freedom," said Chris Bixby, who said

he opposed gay marriage and believed the voters should decide the issue. "Marriage is not a civil right."

Lawmakers heard a variety of suggestions, ranging from granting gays and lesbians the right to marriage, creating a domestic partnership system or adopting a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

"I want to sit anywhere on the bus I choose to sit," said Laurie Morrison, referring to the conclusion of some that a domestic partnership system would be similar to the separate-but-equal laws that grew up as blacks sought the right to vote in the 1960s.

Security was tight as the House and Senate Judiciary committees held the joint hearing. In a building that normally has no more than two law-enforcement officers at any one time, at least 20 uniformed and plainclothes officers roamed around.

The court said gay couples are being unconstitutionally denied the benefits of marriage. But the justices left it up to the Legislature to decide.

The Roman Catholic Diocese had planned a silent vigil outside the Statehouse but canceled because the chartered bus company it had hired refused to carry protesters to Montpelier during a snowstorm.

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Chechen fighters resist Russian takeover of square in Grozny

Human rights group criticizes Russia's offensive

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GUDERMES, Russia — Chechen fighters fiercely resisted attempts by Russian forces to take a strategic square in the rebel capital Grozny on Tuesday, attacking from the front and the rear to stymie the Russians' drive.

Russian troops returning to Gudermes from Grozny Thursday evening said federal forces were still at least 400 yards from Minutka Square, which has been under siege for several days.

The square is near a Russian-held bridge that crosses the Sunzha River, which runs through Grozny. If captured, it could give Russian forces leverage to move into downtown Grozny. Capturing the capital would be the war's biggest political prize.

As Russian aircraft and artillery continued their attacks in the break-away province's steep southern mountains, where an estimated 6,000 rebels are based, a prominent international human rights group on Tuesday

criticized Russia's offensive.

The Council of Europe, the continent's highest human rights organization, said it would debate on Thursday whether to suspend Russia over allegations its forces have committed atrocities in Chechnya.

Exclusion from the body would mark a serious setback to Russia's post-Communist attempts to integrate with the rest of Europe, and could severely embarrass acting President Vladimir Putin.

While Council members said Russia was guilty of indiscriminate bombings, detaining innocent people and restricting refugees' freedom of movement, Russian officials argued that Chechen rebels had committed far more serious violations than federal troops.

A representative of the Federal Security Service noted that the rebels had kidnapped 500 to 800 people, severing the fingers of some of their hostages.

"Human rights are not for one group of people and not another,"

said Alexander Kazdanovich. "You cannot be selective."

Russian ground forces moved into Chechnya in September and took much of the republic in a steady drive. But they have faced heavy resistance in their efforts to take Grozny, which began Dec. 25.

Rebels in the city, numbering at about 2,500, fire from the capital's wrecked buildings and launch hit-and-run attacks.

Aslanbek Ismailov, the rebel commander in Grozny, said that in some districts of the Chechen capital his fighters have switched from trying to hold on to fixed positions to striking Russian troops from the rear.

The Russian soldiers in Gudermes described this strategy as the "roach tactic," saying rebels pretend to retreat, hide somewhere, and circle back.

The Russians claim to control most of Grozny, although troops are often taking city blocks by day only to abandon them at night in fear of rebel ambushes.



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Nuclear secrets still not 100% safe

Energy Department increases anti-espionage tactics

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The lax security that allowed a Los Alamos scientist to transfer and copy hundreds of nuclear weapons codes six years ago has been corrected, but computer security at the labs still is not 100 percent, the Energy Department's top security official said Tuesday.

Eugene Habiger, the department's head of security, said he is "99.5 percent confident" that America's nuclear secrets are protected from cyber-espionage.

"But when it comes to computer stuff to say impossible is pretty tough," said Habiger at a news conference in which the department's top security and counterintelligence officials ticked off dozens of actions taken over the past year to improve protection of nuclear secrets at the weapons labs.

"We've dramatically improved security," said Energy Secretary Bill Richardson in a separate interview Tuesday. He said that the security and counterespionage activities at the labs have improved so much that security

should not be an issue in Congress this year.

The firing of computer scientist Wen Ho Lee from the Los Alamos National Laboratory for security violations last March and a congressional report on alleged Chinese espionage unleashed months of criticism of the Energy Department's security and counterintelligence operations.

Lee last month was arrested and charged with illegally transferring files of nuclear weapons codes from a highly secure computer system to a system accessible to outside hackers, and copying the files onto computer tapes. The violations occurred in 1993 and 1994 and seven of the tapes have not been recovered, the government contends.

Richardson said that couldn't happen with the security improvements now in place. And Habiger, whom Richardson calls his "security czar" said new procedures, including an "air gap" — or physical separation of the secure and insecure computer systems — and "elaborate controls" on any physical transfers would prevent a repeat of what Lee has acknowledged he did.

Lee admits he transferred the files, but insists he never provided the data to anyone, including the Chinese.

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WEB briefs

www.bustamove.com

Bustamove (www.bustamove.com) is a Web site devoted to the instruction of social dance. The basic dance steps of the Salsa, West Coast Swing, East Coast Swing, the Lindy Hop, the Foxtrot and the Waltz are available for free. Advanced moves for each of these dances are available for \$1 per move.

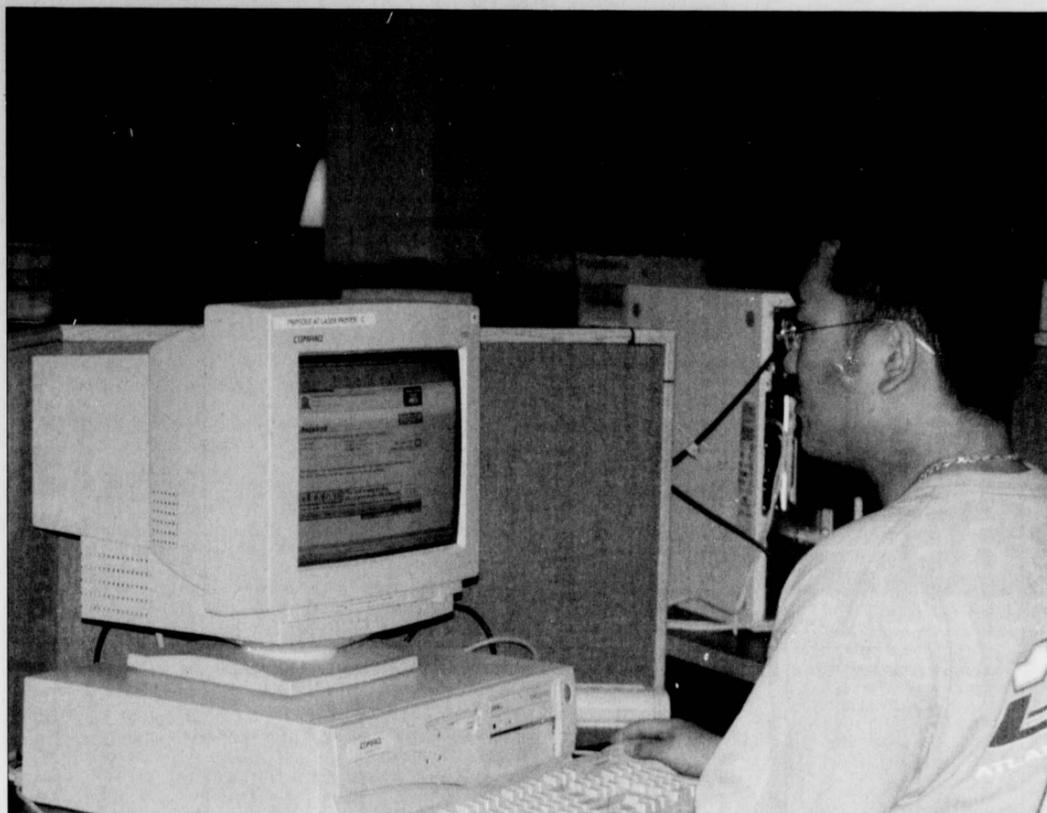
Video clips of professional dancers David Weiss and Valentina Kostenko are animated through a patent-pending process which defines the edges of each dancer, coloring the leader blue and the follower red. The animation allows for faster downloading and crisper images.

Through video clips with music, still shots, rollover animation, close-ups and a section titled "The Hall of Shame," students are instructed in the comfort of their own home, on their own schedule and at a fraction of the non-virtual dance class cost.

Once a move is purchased, customers can access it as often as necessary for review.

Along with dance instruction, bustamove provides a database to search for a dance partner according to sex, age, geographic location, dance levels and dance interests. Instruction in Hip Hop and the Cha Cha will be available in several months.

—Missi Christensen

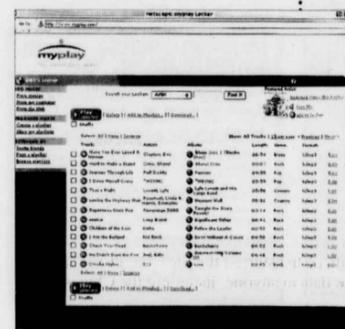


Greg Kim, a freshman engineering major, uses the Internet to compare prices of textbooks. Kim is among several TCU students who enjoy shopping online for merchandise.

Jimmy Nam/SKIFF STAFF

SHOPPING.COM

Students use Internet technology to discover worldwide bargains



www.myplay.com

Launched during Fall 1999, myplay (www.myplay.com) is the Web-based service that simplifies the digital music experience for the consumer. Consumers acquire, store, organize and download MP3s and other digital music files into a 250 MB virtual locker accessible from any computer.

Downloading is as simple as dragging music files from anywhere on the Internet directly into the individual's locker using a feature called the myplay DropBox.

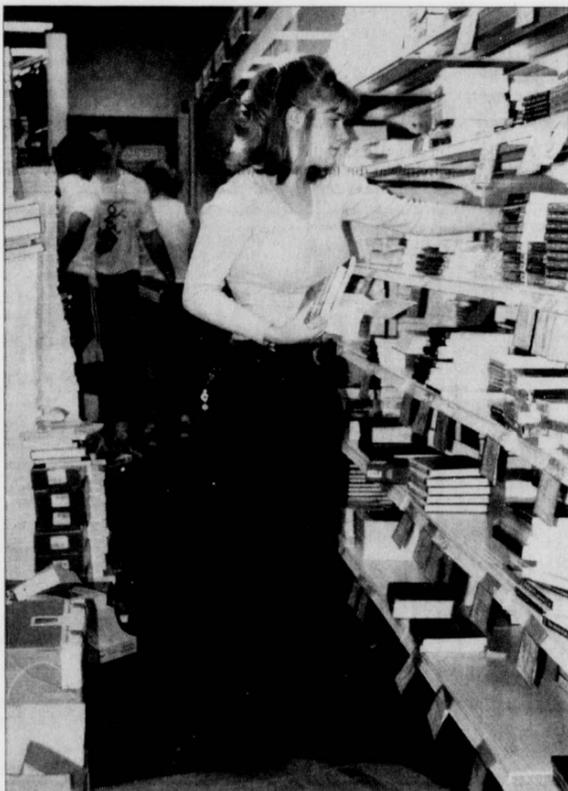
The file is transferred within seconds. Tracks from personal CDs may also be stored in the locker.

Once music files are stored, they can be arranged into playlists and shared with others via e-mail.

Ripport-compatible portable players allow the personal music selections to be taken anywhere.

Locker storage is free, along with free promotional tracks from top artists like Kid Rock, Public Enemy and Chris Rock.

—Missi Christensen



Christina Deck, a sophomore advertising/public relations major, shops for supplies and textbooks at the TCU Bookstore. Other students have opted to purchase books online in hopes of finding lower prices and shopping convenience.

Jimmy Nam/SKIFF STAFF

By Missi Christensen ASST. PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Lyndi Conrad leans back in her desk chair, stretching, as a confirmation number appears on her computer monitor. Without changing out of her pajamas, Conrad, a sophomore radio-TV-film major, has saved nearly \$50 on her textbooks for the semester. Three days later, she is ready for classes, minus the crowded aisles and long lines at the bookstore.

"I found several Web sites that sold textbooks," Conrad said. "I just looked until I found the cheapest prices."

Although textbooks were her most recent online investment, Conrad has also purchased clothing and CDs through the Internet.

"About two years ago, I couldn't find a CD I wanted in a store, so I went online," she said. "I've been shopping on the 'Net ever since."

Conrad is among several TCU students who find shopping online convenient and affordable.

Jon Hilley, a junior finance and marketing major, and Phil Hawkins, a junior history major, took advantage of e-bay.com, an online auction site, to find a Nintendo-64 entertainment system for their apartment.

"It was cheap," Hilley said. "You find kids who want the newest and latest thing, and they put their old systems up for whoever will buy them."

Although Conrad said the prices are appealing to online shoppers, she points

out that shipping and handling charges sometimes overshadow the savings. "Look for free shipping," she said. "Sometimes they don't mention those charges until you've ordered."

Preston Gralla, author of "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Online Shopping", has several tips to protect online shoppers. First, plastic is the preferred method of payment.

"When you pay with a credit card, you're offered a wide variety of consumer protections," Gralla said. "If you pay by check or money order, you don't get the same protection."

Second, ensure the site is a legitimate business, Gralla said.

"Only buy at secure sites," he said. "They use encryption to scramble your credit card information so that on one except the site can read it. You'll get a pop-up notice on your browser and then an icon of a locked lock will appear at the bottom of the browser."

Hawkins said he felt completely confident giving online businesses his credit card number.

"It's the same as giving it out over the phone or mailing it in," he said. "I just don't ever give out my Social Security number."

Keeping that identification number private is a good idea, Gralla said.

"There's no legitimate reason a site needs to know your Social Security number."

See ONLINE, Page 3

WEB review

WINDOW BROWSING WITH A CLICK

Shopping online offers convenience, variety, but also leads to frustration if led down wrong 'Net path

By Robert Bickers SKIFF STAFF

It's amazing the stuff you can do with your computer these days. Not only can you type a paper (or newspaper column), but you can play games, keep up with your taxes and take down foreign economies. Mr. Gatti's lets you order pizza, Albertson's will deliver nonperishables, and the National Rifle Association will deliver weapons of mass destruction.

So where do you go to buy stuff you really need?

The answer is that there are a variety of places to buy pretty much anything you might want. Some sites are excellent, others

are terrible, and some are even dangerous. So how do you know where to get what you want? Trust in me, and I shall steer you on the right path to parting from your parents' hard-earned cash.

Clothes Good: www.landsend.com

Not only is this site easy to navigate, but the quality of the merchandise is exemplary. Land's End knows clothing, and it delivers a superior product. The site offers photos of the merchandise, lists alternatives and makes ordering fairly easy. Be sure to read the "Browser Notice" to avoid any surprises, but there's nothing dangerous.

Bad: www.jcrew.com

J Clueless is extremely slow in comparison to the other retail sites in this roundup.

The prices run rather high, and the catalog is almost identical to its print version. However, you can't see what the clothes look like on a model, just laid out on a white background. On the bright side, J Crew is having a lingerie sale.

If shopping's your thing, but you just don't feel like human contact for a day, turn to the 'Net.

There are other notable sites out there as well as some horrible ones, but there's only so much room to write.

Just remember, download a

128-bit browser before you go shopping to enhance security. Happy spending!

Music Good: www.cdnw.com

If you're one of those who likes obscure music that's hard to find, CD Now is heaven. Imports are easy to find and are very reasonably priced.

Mainstream tunes are also in ready supply and cheaper than most retail places. However, it's still not as fun as cruising through the racks at Border's.

Bad: www.cduiverse.com

This site fails for one reason: security. In mid-month, Visa and

American Express were forced to replace hundreds of credit cards after someone broke CD Universe's servers and got the numbers. 'Nuff said.

Movies Good: www.dvdexpress.com

I can't rave enough about this site. If you want VHS, you're outta luck, but for the growing numbers of DVD buyers, DVD Express will become your new best friend.

If you pre-order a movie (order before it's released), you get 40 percent off the retail price. After the movie is released, you still get a discount.

From Adult to Zydeco, if it's

available on DVD in the United States, it's gonna be here. And if you pre-order, you generally get the movie a day earlier than the regular stores.

Bad: www.suncoast.com

This is a confusing site, if you can get into it. I tried repeatedly to get into the site on my Mac but never got the page to load. From what I can tell, it doesn't exist, but I'm not sure. (Lousy way to do business.)

Robert Bickers is a senior history major from Amarillo. He can be reached at (rbickers@earthlink.net).



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ONLINE

From Page 7

he said. "If you give it out, someone could steal your identity, get access to your bank account and, in many ways, ruin your life."

The Better Business Bureau Online (www.bbbonline.com) cautions consumers to be wary of sites that request personal data without posting privacy policies.

"A mother's maiden name is often used to confirm identity and is especially sensitive information," the Web site warns. "Look for and read the privacy policy posted on a Web site to understand what personal information is being requested, why and how it will be used."

The Better Business Bureau Online Web Site provides services similar to its regular duties. By accessing the bureau's home page, one can look for background information regarding online businesses and file a complaint, if necessary.

"As ever, the best consumer is the best-informed consumer," according to the BBB.

Missi Christensen
missic@usa.net



Students shop in the TCU Bookstore for supplies and textbooks.

Josh Rodriguez/SKIFF STAFF

President to outline next year's plans in State of the Union address

By Terrence Hunt
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Clinton, handicapping prospects for congressional approval of his legislative agenda, said Tuesday there is "some significant chance" for passage of an increase in the minimum wage, a patients' bill of rights and tougher gun controls.

Beyond that, he said there is "a better than 50-50 chance that a lot of the investments I have proposed will eventually prevail." In particular, he mentioned his proposal for \$5 bil-

lion worth of tax incentives over 10 years to encourage investment in depressed areas under a program he calls "New Markets."

The president will outline his agenda at 9 p.m. Thursday night in his final State of the Union address, presented before a joint session of Congress.

To drum up public interest about Clinton's speech, the White House created a State of the Union Web site with a history of the presidential address, a children's page and a place to send ideas to the president.

OSA

From Page 1

to orientation.

"A lot of times, opportunities are given to just a few leaders on campus, and you see a lot of the same people as OSAs and in the student government," he said. "They're wanting to get more people involved and hone their leadership skills."

Students may also apply to join the TCU Leadership Council until the Feb. 8 deadline.

Penny Woodcock, program coordinator for the Leadership Center, said the Chancellor's Leadership Program mentors help

new students feel connected to campus life.

"Upper-class students facilitate the classes and serve as a support to first-year students, offering advice and helping them avoid common first-year pitfalls," she said. "They have upper-class students to look to for advice and avoid common pitfalls. They also meet and get to know a faculty member outside of the classroom who helps shed a lot of light."

Applications for all three programs can be picked up at Student Development Services in the Student Center, Room 220.

Kathryn Garcia
annitakathryn@hotmail.com

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Press Release

A New Student Organization Founded on Campus.



January 23, 2000

The International Foundation searches for a select group of students to become part of a new and exciting organization at Texas Christian University. With the advent of the new millennium, there will be witness to great changes both here at TCU and throughout the world. One such change is the creation of the International Foundation.

The purpose of this organization is to inform the campus and community about global issues and raise cultural awareness. The organization's objective is to become the liaison between TCU, Fort Worth and the global community. The primary focus this semester is to increase our membership. This will be accomplished through a membership drive at the beginning of the semester. With the organization's overall mission to promote awareness and cross-cultural cultivation of values, the International Foundation is interested in providing leadership opportunities as well as cultivating an attitude that this University is part of the global community.

The International Foundation will offer informational meetings at 6 PM on Monday, January 24 and Thursday, January 27 in the Student Center room 202. Also, from Monday, January 24 to Thursday, January 27 members of the organization will be at a table located in the Student Center offering applications and information from 11 AM - 1 PM each day. If you are interested in global issues or in becoming involved with the international community in the surrounding area, please take the opportunity to learn more about this organization.

If you would like to nominate a student you feel is particularly suited for this organization, or for more information, please contact Trupti Desai at 428-0754 or Ben Jenkins at 257-8812.

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PULSE SIDELINES

Rodman to wait until after Sunday to decide on future

DALLAS (AP) — Dennis Rodman is thinking about joining the Dallas Mavericks, but he won't make up his mind until after the Super Bowl.

Rodman told Mavericks owner Mark Cuban on Tuesday that he's interested in signing on for the rest of the season, but his calendar is booked through the weekend. He previously said he wanted to delay a decision until after the Super Bowl and the Pro Bowl.

"I didn't get into the details of his schedule, but he can't be back before Monday," Cuban said. "Nothing's been signed on the dotted line yet, but we're really confident we can get to the point that we can work something out."

If Rodman arrives Monday, he could debut Tuesday at home against Philadelphia. A roster spot is open because starting power forward Gary Trent went on injured reserve before Tuesday's game against Golden State.

Rodman was not at Reunion Arena on Tuesday, but agent Steve Chasman was.

"Nothing has changed," he said. "We're still in discussion with several teams. Dennis will be making a decision in the next two weeks as to which team he will play for."

Rodman said he preferred to play for a title contender, which would've eliminated Dallas. But few other teams have pursued the 38-year-old whose checkered past is often matched by checkered hair.

NCAA allows video review of last-second baskets

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Officials will be allowed to review last-second baskets on a replay monitor under a rule change adopted Tuesday by the NCAA.

The men's and women's basketball rules committees unanimously approved the change after an emergency conference call Monday. The change takes effect Friday once officials are made aware of the change.

The rare midseason switch was prompted by controversies over last-second baskets that altered the outcome of recent games, including Johnny Hemsley's buzzer-beating 3-pointer Jan. 17 that gave Miami a 67-66 win over Villanova, and the final basket in Texas A&M's 88-86 victory Jan. 15 over Texas Tech.

"Obviously there is no call in the game that is more important, and it's the one call that's remembered longer than any other. If we have the technology available to help us, we want to make sure we use it to get the call right," said Reggie Minton, chairman of the men's basketball rules committee and Air Force coach.

Previously, officials were barred from using monitors to see if a shot was released before or after the buzzer, which led to the suspension of a Big 12 referee who counted Texas A&M's game-winning basket.

Thomas' spinal cord only bruised after surgery

MIAMI (AP) — Derrick Thomas underwent more than four hours of surgery Tuesday to rebuild part of his spine and doctors said his spinal cord was not damaged as badly as feared.

Thomas' spinal cord was severely bruised, neurosurgeon Barth Green said.

Doctors originally thought it might have been severed when Thomas, 33, was thrown from his car Sunday after losing control on an icy highway near Kansas City, Mo. Thomas broke his spine and neck and wound up semi-conscious with no feeling in his legs.



Freshman biology major Sara Komenca watches television as she works out on the stationary exercise bike in the new cardiovascular room in the Rickel. The new room allows students to listen to TVs set up in the room via their own set of headphones.

New cardio room opens in Rickel

More TVs, increased space main improvements

By Gibbs Colgin
SKIFF STAFF

The new cardiovascular room opened in the Rickel Building Friday with positive feedback from both faculty and students.

Mary Ellen Milam, head of recreational sports, said the new cardio room was opened mainly because the old room was crowded, and a bigger space became available. The new room is across the hall from the old room.

"We were better able to lay out the room and add more equipment," Milam said.

The old room had machines in a circle facing the center and four TVs in the middle, but the new room is set up in a theater style. The machines are set up in rows, and each is elevated behind the other with the TVs in the front of the room.

"This room is much better because of the TV hookup," Jenna Otin, a senior deaf education major said. "Before, one of the TVs could have been out of order, and you'd be looking into nothing. But now, there are more TVs, so that won't happen."

The new room consists of seven

treadmills, seven stair masters and three bicycles.

Milam said each machine is programmed to a TV, so the person working out can control the channel and volume of what he or she is watching. Eight TVs line the front of the room and show the major networks and cable stations. Headphones may be used to hear the

TVs, but each person must bring his or her own pair.

"I think (the new room) is definitely an improvement from the old one because it was really loud," kinesiology graduate student Kristin Demarest said. "The new room is also spaced out better."

Milam said the old cardio room will be turned into a wellness center for students. Students will be able to come in and receive nutrition counseling and personal training in a more private setting, she said. Students will be able to have their body fat and blood pressure measured in the new center.

Gibbs Colgin

gibbs1014@hotmail.com

New cardio room hours

Monday-Thursday

6 to 9 a.m.
Noon to 2 p.m.
3:30 p.m. to midnight

Friday

Same as Monday through Thursday, but closes at 8 p.m.

Saturday

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday

1 to 10 p.m.

Lady Frogs try to reverse fortunes on road

Mittie wants better shooting, bench play from team during away games

By Danny Horne
STAFF REPORTER

Even after the Lady Frogs won their first road game, a 66-59 victory against UT-El Paso Saturday, head coach Jeff Mittie said he would like to see his team play better on the road.

The Lady Frogs are 1-6 on the road this season. They are 7-3 in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

Mittie said a team must be able to play and win on the road, no matter the environment, if they expect to be competitive.

"The team has to be able to pull together," Mittie said. "If they don't play well together, that problem will be especially magnified on the road. Another problem lies within a team's confidence to win on the road. Obviously, if they don't think they can compete on the road, they won't."

Mittie cited one problem for TCU as the lack of offensive production. If players could get some offensive consistency in road games, they could win more, he said.

As a team, the Lady Frogs average 80 points per game at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

They average just 61 points per game away from home.

"For some reason, when we play on the road, we do not shoot the ball as well," Mittie said. "I give credit to the opposing defense for clamping down on our perimeter shooting, but the basket is still 10 feet high no matter where you play. I would like our overall shooting to improve."

Mittie stressed the importance of his bench play in road games. He said players like junior forward Sally Spencer, sophomore guard Jodi Harlum and junior center Karen Clayton have to contribute off the bench and take some pressure off the starters.

Mittie said there must be a balance between perimeter shooting and inside post-play to have an effective offensive attack. This is especially important on the

road, he said.

"We have just recently started to have the inside game as an integral part of our offense," Mittie said. "(Freshman) Kim Walter has really stepped up her play which should open up

"One thing every road team must remember is that you can't change your style of play too much and expect to win. We play an aggressive style of basketball, and we won't be changing that style on the road."

— Jeff Mittie,
TCU Lady Frogs
head coach

Frogs allow 63 points per game at home and 73 points per game on the road.

"Specifically, we played very well defensively against UTEP on Saturday," Mittie

said. "When you allow just 59 points in a road game, you played well defensively."

Mittie said the team was relieved to get its first road win out of the way, so they can focus on the rest of the season.

"I have always taken the approach that road games were beneficial to the team because, as the road team, players only focus on the game," Mittie said. "Players do not have the distraction of playing in front of the student body or having to impress any family members that may be in the stands."

The Lady Frogs have four road games remaining in their schedule starting with Saturday's game against Southern Methodist University.

"One thing every road team must remember is that you can't change your style of play too much and expect to win," Mittie said. "We play an aggressive style of basketball, and we won't be changing that style on the road."

Danny Horne

bravestcu3116@mindspring.com

Men's tennis starts new season with two titles

Four singles players reach semifinals in Houston-tourney

By Paul Freeland
SKIFF STAFF

Any concerns TCU men's tennis head coach Michael Center had about his team before the Texas Indoor tournament were erased with the team's performance over the two-day tournament.

The 16th-ranked Horned Frogs claimed titles in both the singles and doubles divisions in the top flight of the tournament. All-American Esteban Carril defeated teammate Scott Eddins 3-6, 6-1 and 6-4 in an all-Frog final to win the singles title.

Afterwards, Eddins teamed up with Jimmy Haney to win the doubles title, beating Andy Leber and Ola Bentzen of the University of Texas at Arlington.

"I thought that we had a great weekend," Center said. "We took both titles in our flight, and we had two guys in the singles final. We

competed really hard, and it was a great start to our season."

Overall, the Frogs won 23 of 31 singles matches and eight of 11 doubles matches throughout both flights of the tournament. TCU had four individuals reach the semifinals in the singles brackets, while four doubles teams reached the quarterfinals, with two teams making the semifinals.

The tournament consisted of 13 teams from Texas, Nebraska and Florida State.

The Frogs made their debut performance this year at the tournament, which was intended to give teams an opportunity to build confidence going into their respective seasons.

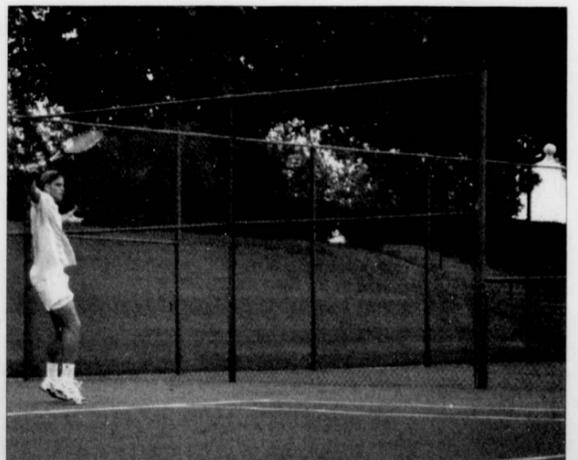
"We really enjoyed our weekend," Center said. "It is a tournament designed to let teams get their feet wet at the start of the season.

There was a good field there, and I was pleased with the performance that we had."

The performance gives the Frogs positive momentum as they enter their dual match season. TCU will open dual-match competition Saturday against Florida State and follow up with a road trip Sunday at New Mexico.

"My biggest concern this past weekend was that we had to play dual matches the next weekend," Center said. "We wanted to get some matches under our belt before then. Florida State has had some strong teams in the past, and New Mexico is the higher ranked of the two. We have to play New Mexico on the road, and it is always tough to win there."

Paul Freeland
paul-f@usa.net



Junior Esteban Carril hits a backhand in practice. Carril, who is ranked No. 28 in the nation won the singles title in the Texas Indoor tournament in Houston last weekend.

ADVICE column

Wives should not chide husbands who ask for intimacy; Couple has choice

Dear Carolyn:

Why is it that if a woman requests more physical intimacy from her husband or boyfriend, it is OK, but if the husband or boyfriend requests it, he is branded as being oversexed? I don't think wanting to have sex more than twice a month is too much.

—Va.

She's fending you off with a really tired line, you're getting upset over the line, neither of you is any closer to knowing what the other is feeling and nobody's getting sex. Enough.

Sometime when you're not in bed, ask if the two of you can talk about this. That way, neither of you will have Mr. Steamy breathing down

your neck. Just tell her how the rejection and the thoughtless stereotyping make you feel. Then ask how she feels and listen to the answer. If you cut her off or get angry or defensive, this conversation's over.

Carolyn:

My boyfriend and I have been together for nearly four years now. We are sophomores in college, and we have mutually set our career goals. We want to spend the rest of our lives together.

A corporation has decided to offer him a job right now that would be waiting for him when he graduates. The problem is he doesn't want to tie himself down in case his "dream job" pops up. I'm afraid of being stuck in a town

where I may not have the potential of earning my career goal, and the last thing I want to do is cause problems by being selfish.

Should I encourage him to accept the offer, or should I discourage it because it may hamper my career?

—M.D.

You are both in full agreement that the sophomore year is too early to be tied down to a job. You are both in full agreement that you want to be tied down to each other for life.

He doesn't want to settle on a job before he graduates because so much can happen between now and then. You shouldn't want to settle on each other before you graduate because so much can happen

between now and then.

If you belong together, you'll pass that test. If you don't, trust me — you want to find out now.

I'm not saying you can't bloom and grow together, but there's no way you can if you won't even try. Explain to your boyfriend that you have too much at stake personally to give him good advice, and the decision must be his. It's pretty clear his uncertainty has made his decision for him. Five semesters is a long time, and 20 is awfully young. Let's hope he figures that out.

You can write to "Tell Me About It" by Carolyn Hax at (tellme@washpost.com). (c) 2000, Washington Post Writers Group. This column is distributed by U-WIRE.

TODAY'S menu

MAIN

- Lunch**
 Grilled ham & cheese
 Barbecue beef & sausage bar
 Cajun chicken
 Nacho bar
- Dinner**
 Yankee pot roast
 Sweet & sour chicken
 Fajita bar
 Baked potato bar

WORTH HILLS

- Lunch**
 Patty melt sandwich
 Chicken Caesar salad wrap
 Enchiladas
- Dinner**
 Steak
 Barbecue chicken

EDEN'S GREENS

- Lunch**
 Baked ziti
 Baked Cajun cod

FROGBYTES

- Sizzlin' salads (late night)

Rudy



by Aaron Brown

Lex

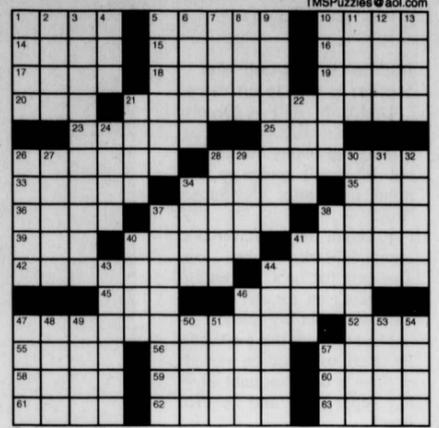


by Phil Flickinger

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- ACROSS**
 1 Lower California
 5 Stand one in good
 10 Pinball goof
 14 Touched down
 15 Slight trace
 16 Aroma
 17 Weighty book
 18 Rye disease
 19 "Star Wars" princess
 20 Skirt edge
 21 First AFL-CIO chief
 23 Triple feet
 25 Gat or heater
 26 Neutral vowel sounds
 28 Airplane type
 33 Lowed
 34 Minute arachnids
 35 Bruins' great
 36 Barks in comics
 37 Yearned
 38 Loafer or slipper
 39 Ump's relative
 40 Desires
 41 Blair or Ronstadt
 42 Supporters of Nicholas
 44 Phoned
 45 CIA predecessor
 46 Question aggressively
 47 IWW leader
 52 Wane
 55 False god
 56 Fertilizer from ground fish parts
 57 Not home
 58 Otherwise
 59 Foley or Glasgow
 60 Itemize
 61 Marsh growth
 62 Oracles
 63 Tennis great Arthur



By Matthew Higgins
 Concord, NH

1/26/00

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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1/26/00

- 3 Teamsters' controversial boss
 4 Had a bite
 5 Spirited horses
 6 Weather satellite series
 7 Art print, briefly
 8 All flutter
 9 Dissuaded
 10 City on Lake Erie
 11 Concept
 12 Cut of meat carrier
 13 Cafeteria
 21 Alum
 22 Unruly groups
 24 Fills with wonder
 26 Sting
 27 Apple discards
 28 Color shades
 29 Shoshones
 30 CIO founder
 31 Wear away
 32 Stair part
 34 After-dinner tidbit
 37 Corridors

- 38 Flowerpot spot
 40 Longing
 41 Placed
 43 Turned over and over
 44 Sings romantic tunes
 46 Dead 'un
 47 Coffin platform
 48 Run in neutral
 49 Misplace
 50 Christmas time
 51 Corduroy characteristic
 53 Lively party
 54 Eight bits
 57 Auburn U's state

PURPLE poll

Q. ARE YOU PLANNING TO USE THE NEW CARDIO ROOM IN THE RICKEL?

A. YES NO
 68 29
 MAYBE
 3

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.

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