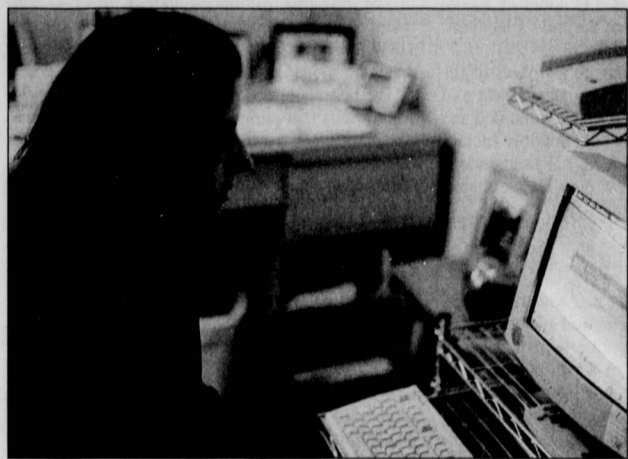




Biosphere 2 is a representative environment of the world's ecosystems where students have been studying this semester.

Life, page 5

## New officers voted into SGA positions



Judy Fetter/SKIFF STAFF  
Ceci Burton, a junior management major, uses the Internet to cast her vote in the Student Government Association elections Tuesday.

### Low voter turnout leads to decrease of 600 from last year's elections

By Kristina Iodice  
STAFF REPORTER

Brian Wood will be the next Student Government Association president after defeating Sara Donaldson in SGA officer elections Tuesday.

Wood, a junior economics major, received 822 votes (62.41 percent) while Donaldson, a junior neuroscience major, received 480 votes (36.45 percent).

Wood said he is excited about the chance to represent students.

"I want people to be excited about being at TCU," he said. "We're about to make big changes as mandated by the Commission on the Future of TCU,

and I want students involved with what is happening to their university."

About 1,330 students voted in the elections, a decrease of 600 from last year. No students opted to vote by paper by going to the Student Center Information Desk and abstentions didn't count in the tally for office.

Donaldson, who couldn't be reached for comment, said earlier that regardless of the election results, she would face new opportunities.

"This is opening a new page in my life and I really believe God has chosen my path," she said.

Amy Render, a sophomore marketing major, was the only candidate for

vice president of House and received 1,189 votes. Sara Komenda, a sophomore biology major, ran unopposed for vice president for Programming Council and received 1,156 votes.

For SGA secretary, Kaylan Minor, a sophomore environmental science major, received 957 votes and defeated Ryan Shoemake, a junior theater major, with 230 votes.

Deanna Bennett, a junior finance and accounting major, received 41 more votes than John Billingsley, a sophomore business major, in the race for House treasurer. Bennett received 649 votes while Billingsley received 608 votes.

#### Student Government Election Results

President  
**Brian Wood** 822  
Sara Donaldson 480

Vice President of House  
**Amy Render** 1,189

Programming Council VP  
**Sara Komenda** 1,159

Treasurer  
**Deanna Bennett** 649  
John Billingsley 608

Secretary  
**Kaylan Minor** 957  
Ryan Shoemake 230

## Campus divided on importance of Electoral College

### Narrow presidential race brings attention to old political institution

By Michael Davis  
STAFF REPORTER

The Electoral College has become a topic of contention on TCU's campus, where opinions range from apathy to resigned acceptance.

The Electoral College's 270 votes elect the president of the United States independent of the popular vote. The Electoral College has gone from a little discussed and little known institution to one that has outlived its usefulness for some students during this year's election cycle.

Gov. George W. Bush has apparently won the Electoral College vote, depending on which candidate carries Florida's 25 electoral votes. Bush has a 388-vote lead in Florida. Vice President Al Gore seems to have won a plurality of the popular vote. If Bush wins, he will be the first president since Benjamin Harrison in 1888 to be elected with a minority of the popular vote.

James Madison, one of the framers of the Constitution and sponsor of the Bill of Rights, contrived the Electoral College as a way

to control the divisiveness of factions that would form to serve their own selfish interests. According to Madison's "Federalist Papers," the presidency is too powerful to trust to the ordinary people.

Madison wrote that decisions made by the majority were not made with consideration of the rules of justice and the rights of the majority, but by the superior force of an overbearing majority. Madison feared majorities of people would act in a short-sighted and self-interested way.

Some students are not worried about this year's apparent conflict between the Electoral College and the popular vote.

"It doesn't affect my beer drinking, so it doesn't matter to me," said Russ DiCapo, a senior management major.

Other students aren't opposed to the abolition of the Electoral College, but know it will be difficult and is easier said than done.

"I don't think a change is

See ELETORAL, Page 6



## Night of HISTORY



Photos by Sarah Kirschberg/PHOTO EDITOR  
Jennifer Jewers, a sophomore engineering major, and Justin Lucero, a sophomore international marketing and e-business major, look at crowns of Alexandra and Nicolas II Tuesday night. The crowns, which were wedding gifts to the couple, were displayed as center pieces in the home of Martha Hyder, daughter of Charles L. Rowan, founder of the Honors Humanities day night.

## Bush holds onto 300-vote lead

### Overseas ballots still to be counted

By Ron Fournier  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

One week into America's election limbo, Florida's Republican secretary of state certified George W. Bush's narrow lead Tuesday night, even as thousands of disputed ballots were counted into the night at Al Gore's behest. "When is it going to end?" asked Bush aide James A. Baker III.

There was no answer in sight.

Baker floated a proposal to cease the ballot-by-ballot fight for Florida's 25 electoral votes and the White House, but Democrats said he offered nothing new — and dismissed it outright. With lawyers and judges front and center in the presidential election, nerves began to fray and adjectives failed to serve.

"It's like the seventh day of being held hostage," stammered Jeb Bush, governor of Florida and the brother of the GOP presidential hopeful.

Secretary of State Katherine Harris, a Bush supporter, announced Tuesday night that the Texas governor had a 300-vote lead out of 6 mil-

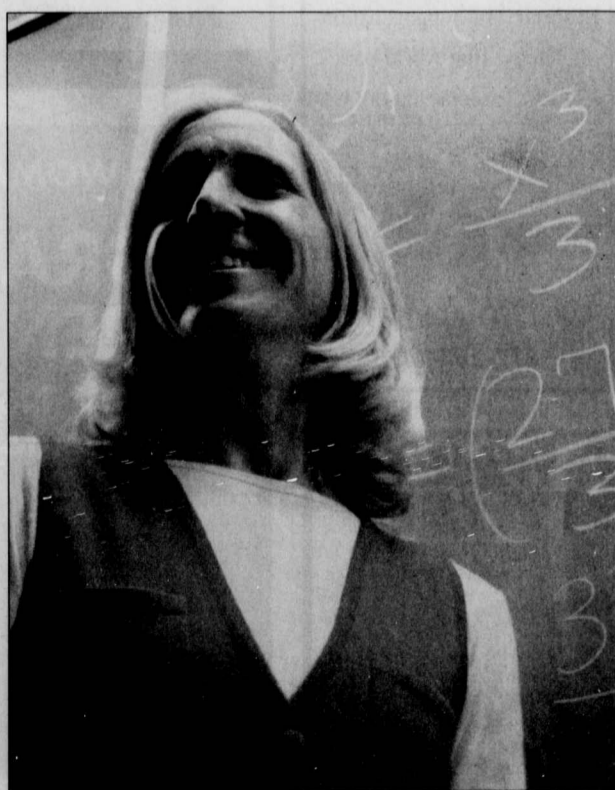
lion votes cast — with overseas absentee ballots and ongoing recount totals pending.

Her announcement came almost three hours after a 5 p.m. vote-counting deadline, upheld earlier by state Judge Terry Lewis. He turned aside Gore's arguments to lift the deadline, but gave Harris the authority to accept or reject follow-up manual recount totals afterward.

Lewis' decision was a setback for the vice president, who wanted a clear order lifting the Tuesday deadline, but his lawyers found solace in ruling language urging Harris to consider "all appropriate facts and circumstances" when recount totals are filed.

Harris said she will require counties filing late recount numbers to explain in writing by 2 p.m. today why new vote totals should be accepted. "Unless I determine, in the exercise of my discretion, that these facts and circumstances ... justify an amendment to (Tuesday's) official

See RECOUNT, Page 6



File photo  
Rhonda Hatcher, an associate professor of mathematics, was named the 2000 Texas Professor of the Year Tuesday. She has been the recipient of numerous awards over the years, the most recent of which is the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Teaching.

## ALL ADDING UP

### Rhonda Hatcher awarded 2000 Texas Professor of the Year Tuesday

By Chris Gibson  
STAFF REPORTER

In 1990, TCU math chairman Bob Doran told the potential professor sitting across from him that she was going to win a national award some day. Ten years later, Doran looks like a psychic.

The potential professor is now associate math professor Rhonda Hatcher. She was named the 2000 Texas Professor of the Year Tuesday.

The award is given out each year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

The national award was created in 1982 and has been given to teachers in individual states since 1987. TCU has had three previous recipients: Anantha Babbili for journalism, Bob Frye for English and Doran for math. Doran was also recognized with the national award.

Hatcher has been a math professor at TCU since 1990. She earned her B.A. from the University of Colorado and later received her

A.M. and Ph.D from Harvard University. She has been the recipient of numerous awards over the years, the most recent of which is the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Hatcher said she is appreciative of the awards, but teaching is her main focus.

"I'm always a little embarrassed to win an award because in the math department we have a number of faculty who are deserving," she said. "It is great to teach in a department and a school that puts such a high value on teaching."

Doran, who nominated Hatcher, said he is proud of his colleague and said she is deserving of the award.

"She teaches with a lot of joy and enthusiasm and her students recognize that," he said. "She acts as a coach, cheerleader and mentor to her students. It's a pretty good package."

Ken Richardson, fellow associate math professor, said Hatcher's ability to relate to her students is

See HATCHER, Page 4

pulse

campus lines

Announcements of campus events, public meetings and other general campus information should be brought to the TCU Daily Skiff office at Moody 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.

► Parbola will present "Election 2000: Presidential Election Math," a speech by associate professor of math George Gilbert, at 3 p.m. today in Winton-Scott Hall, Room 145. Refreshments will be served at 2:30 today in Winton-Scott Hall, Room 171.

► An information meeting for Topics in Regional Geography (GEOG 30503) will be from 4 to 5 p.m. today in the Student Center, Room 211. Slides will be shown.

► Neely Student Resource Center will have academic advising workshops from 5 to 7 p.m. today in Dan Rogers Hall. The workshops are for all business students and those planning to be business majors. For more information, call (817) 257-6772.

► Kino Monda International film series will present "The Spider's Stratagem" (Italy) at 8 p.m. today in Sid Richardson Building, Lecture Hall 1. All films in the series are free and open to the public.

► A criminal justice career panel will be held from 8 to 9 p.m. today in the Student Center, Room 205. Anyone with an interest in criminal justice or law is welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call (817) 257-7470.

► Placement applications for fall 2000 student teachers are due today in the Bailey Building, Room 102. Applications can be picked up in the same room.

► Kappa Kappa Gamma is holding Kappa Kuddles, a teddy bear drive, today to Friday at The Main or Kappa House. The collected teddy bears, new or used, will be donated to the Fort Worth Police Department and then given to children who are victims of domestic violence. For more information, call (817) 207-9085.

► Programming Council Executive Board applications may be picked up today to Nov. 28 in the PC office or at the Information Desk. Interviews will be held Nov. 29 to Dec. 2. For more information, call the PC office at (817) 257-5233.

TCU DAILY Skiff

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news digest

WORLD

Mir space station can expect new crew by next year; American "space tourist" may join them

MOSCOW — Russia may send a new crew to the Mir space station Jan. 18, but the government hasn't decided how much longer to keep the 14-year-old outpost in orbit, an official said Tuesday.

Four Russian cosmonauts and one American potential "space tourist" are preparing for the flight at the cosmonauts' training center outside Moscow, said the center's chief, Col. Gen. Pyotr Klimuk, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency.

The American, businessman Dennis Tito from Santa Monica, Calif., is hoping to travel to the station for \$20 million.

The Mir has been flying unmanned since its last crew left this summer. The Russian government earmarked \$27 million last month for two supply rockets to deliver fuel to the Mir, but remained uncertain about whether to send another crew. A decision about the Mir's fate was put off until February.

Without that decision, it remained unclear what the next Mir crew would do if it goes up in January.

The crew may help lower the Mir's orbit if the government decides to abandon the space station, Klimuk said. Otherwise, the cosmonauts will conduct science experiments, he said.

The private Netherlands-based MirCorp has leased time on Mir and wants to use the station for commercial purposes, such as trips for "space tourists" like Tito.

MirCorp has been trying to persuade the government not to abandon Mir, but Russian space officials seem to have grown skeptical that MirCorp can follow through with its plans.

NATION

Rules of engagement prevented sailors from firing without permission on ship's attackers

WASHINGTON — Sailors guarding the USS Cole when terrorists bombed it last month in Yemen did not have ammunition in their weapons and were instructed not to shoot unless fired upon, The Washington Post reported Tuesday.

Crew members told the newspaper that their "rules of engagement" prevent them from firing without obtaining permission from the ship's captain or another officer.

Suicide bombers in a small, explosives-laden boat approached the Cole while it was refueling Oct. 12 in Aden harbor and detonated the explosives, ripping a 40-by-40-foot hole in the steel hull. The blast killed 17 American sailors and injured 39.

Petty Officer John Washak told the Post he was manning an M-60 machine gun shortly after the Cole was hit. Washak said he waved the weapon at a second small boat that was approaching, but a senior chief petty officer ordered him to turn the gun away.

stories from the Associated Press

Washak said he protested, fearing that the ship was still under attack. But even in the aftermath of the bombing, "with blood still on my face," he said he was told: "That's the rules of engagement, no shooting unless we're shot at."

Rules of engagement aboard a U.S. warship are set by its captain following Navy guidelines. Pentagon officials won't publicly discuss the specific rules in effect aboard the Cole. But senior officers said in congressional testimony that the ship filed a detailed security plan, which they think was followed.

"If we had shot those people, we'd have gotten in trouble for it," said Petty Officer Jennifer Kendrick, a sonar technician. "That's what's frustrating about it. We would have gotten in more trouble for shooting two foreigners than losing 17 American sailors."

A Navy spokesman Cmdr. J.D. Gradeck would not comment to the Post about the crew's accounts, citing the ongoing investigation.

The Post interviewed about 20 members of the ship's crew. Some said FBI investigators have told them the Cole may have been secretly boarded and surveyed by Islamic militants — possibly including one of the suicide bombers — as it passed through the Suez Canal a few days before the attack.

STATE

Doctors remove heart for repair and return it to woman's body in experimental procedure

HOUSTON — A 57-year-old woman underwent a surgical gamble Tuesday in which doctors temporarily removed her heart, cut out three rapidly growing tumors and returned the repaired organ.

Only one other patient has survived the operation.

The team of cardiac surgeons at the Methodist DeBakey Heart Center had just six hours, the length of time a heart can survive out of the body. A heart-lung machine took over the function of Joanne Minnich's diseased heart for the approximately 45 minutes it was out of her body.

Minnich's heart rested in a silver bowl while doctors worked on it.

Doctors said the malignant growths, one as large as a lemon, were on the wall of her heart's left atrium, restricting blood flow, and could have killed Minnich in as little as two weeks if left unchecked.

Surgeon Michael Reardon said a smaller tumor was behind Minnich's aorta but did not involve the vital artery, which he called "good news" as he spoke to reporters observing the operation.

Doctors had repaired the damaged organ with tissue from a cow's heart and returned it to her body when Reardon discovered a third, even smaller tumor. Surgeons had been aware of only two tumors.

The team again pulled out the heart, removed the last tumor, repaired the atrium and again reinstalled

the organ and began concluding the operation.

Reardon performed the procedure, called an autotransplant, successfully in 1999. Two other patients died, in 1983 and 1998.

"Can I remove the tumor and rebuild the heart? I don't know," Reardon said Monday. "I don't know how much of the heart the tumor has invaded. The possibility exists that when I cut the tumors out, the heart will be so badly damaged I will not be able to reconstruct it."

"The patient knows that."

Cities dependent on Edwards Aquifer plan to protest amount of water allotted to them

SAN ANTONIO — Some cities and industries that draw water from the Edwards Aquifer plan to protest permit amounts proposed by aquifer officials they say will leave them dry.

The Edwards Aquifer Authority Monday announced proposed permit amounts for 818 of the 1,084 individuals and entities that applied to pump water from the Central Texas water source.

The permits turned down were exempt domestic wells, wells that pumped outside the historical period, applications not filed by the deadline or for claims not fully substantiated.

Some say the amounts come up short and will have to buy or lease pumping rights from other applicants to get the water they need. Applicants have until Dec. 18 to protest their amounts.

"We think the proposed amount is a little low, and we'll be working to get that amount raised," San Antonio Water System spokesman John Boggess was quoted by the San Antonio Express-News Tuesday.

The city, the aquifer's largest single pumper, is proposed to get 149,815 acre-feet of water, almost one-fourth less than the 193,944 acre-feet the city pumped last year.

An acre-foot is 325,851 gallons, enough to meet the needs of two average families of four for a year.

Aquifer officials acknowledged the amounts may leave some applicants wanting.

"Every municipal and industrial user is going to be looking for some additional water supplies immediately to get back to what their current use is," said Greg Ellis, the authority's general manager.

Ellis said the smaller-than-wanted permit amounts resulted because law that created the aquifer authority in 1995 mandated that it not issue pumping permits for more than 450,000 acre-feet a year.

The law also guaranteed two acre-feet per irrigated acre for farmers and for municipal and industrial users with at least three years of pumping, it guaranteed the average for all years they pumped during the 21 years ending in 1993.

The authority reduced all pumpers' allotments by an equal percentage to get down to the 450,000 acre-foot cap, then restored the amounts back to each pumper's guaranteed minimum, Ellis said.

CLASSIFIEDS

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## STILL PERTINENT Faculty advice worth the time

Of the 124 credit hours needed for a bachelor's degree at TCU, 47 hours must be of specific subjects within the University Core Curriculum.

The enrollment process is broken down even further by the necessity of classes specific to gaining a major from any given department, and usually 18 separate hours must be in the correct classes for a chosen minor to be completed.

Confused?

staff  
editorial

There are numerous options when scheduling classes with the intent to graduate from TCU, but the advice by faculty about enrollment decisions has been overlooked during the last year.

Australia Tarver, director of undergraduate studies in the English department, said she used to advise about 20 student a semester, but now only four or five meet with her before enrolling.

She, along with many faculty members, is worried about whether or not students are selecting the correct classes.

The anxiety around enrollment and the lack of advising has risen since the beginning of online registration.

Before online registration was launched in May 1999, an adviser's signature was needed before a student was allowed to register for classes. Now that the enrollment process takes place online, seeing an adviser is optional.

Some people have called for advising to again be made mandatory.

But Patrick Miller, registrar and director of enrollment management, suggests that individual departments should make advising mandatory.

Advising is pertinent, whether that means the entire university returning to mandatory advising or individual departments beginning the process themselves.

Without the use of faculty advising in the future, it will be interesting to see how many students have compiled 124 total hours, but can't graduate because they have selected the wrong classes.

**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.

**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, Mousy 2915; mail it to TCU Box 298050; e-mail it to skiffletters@tcu.edu or fax it to 257-7133. Letters 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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FOR WHOEVER GETS IT...

## Learn patience, earn president

### Public will accept whoever becomes president after the dust clears

It seems rather fitting that, in our capitalistic and litigious-minded society, even our nation's presidency is now being decided through lawsuits in the courthouse. We have always demanded perfection in our government, but we have cynically decided that we have no hope of ever achieving such a utopian dream. For these reasons, we may never be fully satisfied with the way our nation is run and no one is demanding that we do so.

This mandate for good government represents the core of our Constitution. Our founding fathers started this nation with the idea that the public would have the right to overthrow the government if they were left discontent with the way things were being directed. I'm pretty sure no such suggestion has ever been made in modern times.

American democracy isn't the prettiest thing to observe in action. Personally, I could never see myself in politics because of all the roadblocks and corruption that go along with getting things accomplished. However, believe it or not, the way things stand now allow for the most efficient and sustaining method of government ever to be successfully put into practice in our civilization's history.

I'm as frustrated as anyone else that we still don't

know who our next president is going to be more than a week after the election was held. But the beautiful thing is that whoever eventually wins doesn't even become president until next year. If absolutely necessary, we still have more than a month to work through the apparent chaos and come to a final decision.

There will be no military coup, which would come close to happening in most other nations, or any anarchic effect because of our nation's indecision, as several powerful Republican Party members have hinted at. For once, the American public has to resist the need for immediate gratification that the infinite choices of satellite television, the Internet and, most recently, respected TV-news anchors have forced into our public mindset. All we have to do is slowly sift through the little mess we have created for ourselves and discover who actually won the election in the now infamous state of Florida.

If Gov. George W. Bush had actually been deemed the president-elect, then our nation would truly be in trouble. The public would split in two, with no peaceful end in sight, because we would never have any recounts or potential re-vote to determine who had truly won Florida. Bush's entire administration would be bogged down by contro-

versy and both public and media critics would attack his every move, claiming he never earned or really even truly won the presidency.

Now, if it is announced in a couple of weeks that Bush is the winner, then the public will accept such a decision, whether they voted for him or not.

It may not be easy to get things accomplished through our democracy, but at least we can feel secure on a daily basis that nothing will seriously go wrong in our country. Things may be decided much quicker and easier in a totalitarian form of government, but I'm pretty positive those don't have much of a track record for success.

Humans are an imperfect species and many of the things we do will inevitably be wrong, which is why we have checks and balances to keep the mistakes of a few from affecting many.

If we are able to force ourselves to learn patience, we can be confident that we will eventually decide who deservedly won the election — whoever it may be.

Jordan Blum is a sophomore broadcast journalism major from New Orleans, La. He can be reached at (j.d.blum@student.tcu.edu).

#### Commentary



JORDAN BLUM

Things may be decided much quicker and easier in a totalitarian form of government, but I'm pretty positive those don't have much of a track record for success.

## Righting an injustice

### Votes lose all purpose with the Electoral College

When meeting in Philadelphia in 1787, our founding fathers, armed with a strong distrust of the populace, created the Electoral College. Thus, the people still vote for the president of the United States, but electors make the final decision. The Electoral College has greatly changed from when it was conceived. Originally, it was meant to be an independent body. But in the years that have followed, many states passed laws saying that their electors would have to vote for the candidate carrying a plurality of the votes in their state, following the American tradition of a winner-take-all system.

In other words, because Gov. George W. Bush received a majority of votes in Texas, he received all 32 electoral votes.

This system is inherently undemocratic. The United States should operate on the principle of one person, one vote. According to our most fundamental beliefs, every person in this country who goes to the polls has an equal say.

But the Electoral College makes this not the case. For example, I am a liberal Democrat from Texas, a Republican stronghold. Throughout the campaign (at least after former Sen. Bill Bradley was eliminated from contention), I supported Vice President Al Gore. However, I knew that my vote for Gore wouldn't count because my home state would go strongly for Bush; thus, without committing a crime or being the victim of racist laws or anything like that, I was disenfranchised.

So I ended up voting for Green Party candidate Ralph Nader in an attempt to help him gain the 5 percent of the popular vote he would

need to qualify for federal matching funds for campaigning — at least that way my vote would have some purpose.

Sure enough, Bush carried 63 percent of Texas' popular vote and thus all of its electoral votes. But what about the 37 percent of us who didn't vote for him? Our voices are now silenced.

This isn't democracy; this is tyranny of the majority. Our democracy is based on the principle that the majority will rule but that the views of the minority will be respected, listened to and considered.

The Electoral College does no such thing — instead, it gives the majority absolute control and the minority no voice whatsoever. Only a couple of states divide their electoral votes based on a proportional division instead of a winner-tak-all system. This is, however, just as bad, since it still gives supporters of candidates such as Nader and the Reform Party's Patrick Buchanan no voice. Some would say this is a good thing; indeed, many supporters of the Electoral College say that it is indispensable in marginalizing third-party candidates, something they consider a benefit.

Marginalizing anyone's voice should never be considered a benefit of a system. No matter how much Buchanan's views scare me, they are his views and should have a place in the system. After all, those who are alienated by a system for long enough will try to subvert it from outside.

In 1787, the United States consisted of 13 states that were practically independent countries. The framers of the Constitution origi-

nally wanted to say "We the States" in the Preamble, but changed it to "We the people" at the last minute. Although at the time they meant for the federal government to be more similar to what the United Nations is — a grouping of somewhat autonomous states — this isn't the case today. Instead, we are a nation-state.

In 1787, geographic-based representation may have made sense as each state was much more distinct and homogeneous. However, this is no longer true. The United States has the most mobile population in the world. Many people live in different states than the ones in which they were born.

State boundaries are arbitrary divisions; thus, the views of almost everyone in that state won't be the same. For example, if largely poor and Hispanic South Texas were its own separate state, Gore would have carried it. But instead, these people had no say. South Texas has a larger population than a lot of states — why should its citizens' voices be silenced while the voices of the citizens of Wyoming are amplified?

Changing the system to a popular vote would eliminate this problem; everyone, no matter in what state he or she lives, would have the same voice. I realize that this would take an amendment to the Constitution, but is the process of ratifying an amendment such a large price to pay for righting an injustice?

Give democracy a chance.

David McKenzie is a columnist for The Pitt News at the University of Pittsburgh. This column was distributed by U-WIRE.



## in your words

### Take Hunger Week to spread love, help those who are less fortunate

As we join together as a campus to commemorate Hunger Week, I am compelled to address the issue of hunger. People in all corners of the world, and even here in Fort Worth, are hungry. Although we are setting aside this week to address the lack of access to food, I am writing to address the greater need from which too many people are starving in this world; the need for love.

It is often said what the world needs most is love. As cliché as it sounds let me assure you that this is what is most needed.

By giving of yourself, you address more than just a financial need or a need for food. You form a human bond and give hope to the hopeless.

Improving diversity, reconciling the races and

eliminating world hunger and poverty can't be achieved by sitting in our classrooms or offices or by giving a can of food once a year. There is much work to be done in the "trenches." Yes, it may mean touching someone who is sick or someone who has not bathed for a few days. However, when you give, you just don't touch a hand or a mouth, you touch a mind and a heart, and in turn your own mind and heart is touched.

Let us use this week to galvanize our own personal commitments to helping those less fortunate and spreading love wherever and whenever possible, and not for the purpose of building our résumés.

— Samuel Rose,  
junior social work major

### letter to the editor

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## Faculty, staff sign up for health care

### UnitedHealthcare benefits considered before Friday deadline

By Angie Chang  
STAFF REPORTER

Faculty and staff are weighing the benefits of new health care provider UnitedHealthcare this week before making a final decision to sign up for coverage Friday.

John Weis, assistant vice chancellor of human resources, said an Exclusive Provider Organization plan and a Preferred Provider Organization plan will be offered through UnitedHealthcare. The EPO plan is similar to the current Health Maintenance Organization plan provided by PacifiCare, but the new plan differs in the referral process and prescription drug plan, he said.

"UnitedHealthcare has streamlined the referral process," Weis said. "(With the EPO plan), the insured can go to their (primary doctor), get a referral to another doctor and see them right away without having to wait for a week for paperwork to be filed."

Weis said with the PPO plan, the insured would no longer have to get a referral from the primary doctor and can instead go straight to other doctors, including those not on the UnitedHealthcare network.

"You can self-refer to other doc-

tors and still receive benefits coverage," Weis said.

Weis said the PPO plan is more costly with higher premium prices as well as more out-of-pocket payments for deductibles, but offers more options.

TCU decided to change health care providers from PacifiCare in early October after faculty and staff complained about delays in processing claims. Coverage under UnitedHealthcare will begin Jan. 1.

Craig Elders, associate director of student affairs information services, said despite a 14.4 percent increase in premium cost, he likes the new plan because it allows doctors and patients to make decisions together. Information sessions organized by Human Resources and presented by insurance representatives indicated this communication would be possible, Elders said.

"(The insured) can get so much more for just a few more dollars a month," Elders said. "I think everyone can be happy about that. I'm very optimistic about the new plan and I think the (Retirement, Insurance and Benefits Committee) has done a good job (of choosing a provider)."

Weis said the increase in premium rates won't significantly impact the wage increase that was given to entry-level hourly paid workers last year. The premium cost that is deducted from biweekly paychecks from a self-insured employee will

rise \$4.11 from last year's rates, which compares to about \$120 that an entry-level hourly paid staff member earns from the raise, he said.

Ken Morgan, co-chairman of the RIB committee, said many complaints the committee received with PacifiCare were because of the lack of timeliness and communication.

"People would call to PacifiCare with problems and hear nothing back," Morgan said. "If only they could get a response, they could deal with a negative decision as opposed to no decision."

Morgan, who is also chairman of geology, said PacifiCare's inability to respond quickly caused far more out-of-pocket payments. This created feelings of anxiety and frustration that made people want to look elsewhere for coverage, Morgan said.

Weis said UnitedHealthcare's prescription drug plan differs in that it requires a \$40 payment for a brand name prescription drug not on the preferred drug list as opposed to the current \$20 payment with PacifiCare. PacifiCare had agreed to renew TCU's contract with the existing prescription drug plan, but it was moving to a system that would require the insured to pay the entire cost of the drug, Weis said.

If TCU decided to stay with PacifiCare, there would have been a 17 percent increase, Weis said.

Weis said the new benefits package will include an Employee Assis-

tance Program, which will make counseling assistance available for TCU faculty and staff and their family members. The program provides up to three free sessions and is provided by the university with no premium cost paid by the faculty or staff, Weis said.

Karen Baker, associate director of residential services, said she is impressed with the information sessions and the benefits that UnitedHealthcare is offering.

Baker said she is currently deciding whether she will sign up with UnitedHealthcare or re-enroll on her husband's plan with CIGNA Health-Care.

"UnitedHealthcare is offering a very good benefits plan," Baker said. "I want to look at both plans to see which is the best for me and my family."

Morgan said TCU faculty and staff have been satisfied with the decision to switch to UnitedHealthcare and the company itself has been cooperative by providing information.

"The early impressions that we are getting from UnitedHealthcare is that they are helpful, which shows they put forth effort," Morgan said. "Everybody seems to be extremely happy that we were able to get an ample benefits plan with a good cost."

Angie Chang  
a\_o\_chang@yahoo.com

### HATCHER

From Page 1

what really makes her excellent.

"It is pretty hard to teach math and to get the concepts through in an enjoyable way," he said. "(Hatcher) is able to do that. She's a great teacher

and the students love her. I'm sure this award is great for her, but it is also good for the department."

Amanda Knecht, a junior math major, is one of Hatcher's current students. She said Hatcher is not only a great teacher but also a role model.

"When she teaches, she makes

sure she doesn't go too fast and keeps the pace on track for the whole class," Knecht said. "She is one of the best professors I have ever had. She inspires me to want to go to graduate school and to one day teach math."

Despite praises from colleagues and students and her numerous ac-

colades, Hatcher has managed to stay grounded.

"The money and the awards are all very nice, but the recognition for being a good teacher is better," she said.

Chris Gibson  
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## UNCONVENTIONAL LEARNING



Special to the Skiff  
Senior biology majors Derrick Dollar and Zach Norris are studying at Biosphere 2, a representative environment of the world's ecosystems. They, along with senior geology major David Lanartowicz, are part of a program through Columbia University in Arizona's Sonoran Desert.

### Students learn, work outside the norm at Biosphere 2

By Alisha Brown  
SKIFF STAFF

In the middle of the desert, through panes of glass you can see the ocean and the tall grasses of a savannah. You call main headquarters and relay to them how many people you've got coming in before entering an air-sealed hatch. You have 40 seconds to close the hatch behind you before the alarm goes off.

Enter Biosphere 2 — a representative environment of the world's ecosystems where students such as senior biology majors Derrick Dollar and Zach Norris and senior geology major David Lanartowicz have been studying this semester.

The three TCU students are part of a program through Columbia University that has opened up the door, or hatch, of the Biosphere 2 for individual study after scientists lived in this bubble in Arizona's Sonoran Desert for research.

For one semester, students research in the Biosphere 2 but stay in an outside apartment. The conditions and atmosphere are nearly the same as when the scientists lived there.

"We're studying ground water shortages, overpopulation and increased (carbon dioxide) levels in the atmosphere — all relevant issues," Dollar said.

The Biosphere 2 has seven ecosystems inside, from a million gallon saltwater ocean to a coastal fog desert climate. Each ecosystem is separated by air-sealed hatches, Dollar said.

"(After you enter the Biosphere) you can go left to the rain forest biome and cross the overlook where you can see the ocean," he said. "A lot of people do research in the canopy of the rain forest. You can rappel yourself over the tops of the trees. There are wind generators because they found that without movement of wind, the cell walls of plants became weak and began to collapse. The wind helps the plants to develop."

What they are experiencing is work outside rather than in the classroom, in a desert rather than a suburb, that can be related to other classes.

"Our classes are very unconventional," Norris said. "I'm learning all kinds of things, but mostly the interconnectedness of fields that have been traditionally thought to be unrelated — economics and ecology, sociology and geology,

management and botany.

"It is all relevant to society because humans have changed the world in ways not understood yet, and in order to have effective planetary managers in the future, students must cross the boundaries of specialized discipline."

Dollar said the work load is intense in the Biosphere. "But being able to supply it hands on is like nothing I've ever seen," he said.

The area attractions appeal to the students as well.

"There is so much to do," Norris said. "I have climbed two mountains, hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, camped in the desert, gone to several concerts in Tucson, jumped off of 40-foot rocks into crystal clear mountain pools after a rain and (have taken) a weekend trip to San Diego."

This week the students are on a field trip to Puerto Peñasco, Mexico in the Northern Sonoran Desert along the Sea of Cortez.

"Students are based at the Intercultural Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans," said Michael Omiecinski, director of student admissions. "They study tidal pool and tidal flat ecology, investigate halophyte diversity, explore the dunes of the Pinacate volcanic region, help with an intertidal monitoring research program and examine the sociocultural dynamics of the region."

Leading up to this semester, the students agreed that their science courses at TCU are what prepared them for the magnitude and level of study required for the Biosphere.

"The work load is very heavy, after all it is an Ivy League program, but the challenge is welcomed," Norris said. "TCU helped me get here by being a partner with the program. All the credits transfer and the professors were very supportive of me coming to the Biosphere."

"It takes a certain type of person to really excel here, but for that type of person, and you know who you are, it will be the best experience of your college career."

Alisha Brown  
lishakat@aol.com



Special to the Skiff  
(Above) Among the topics that Dollar and Norris study at Biosphere 2 are tidal pool and tidal flat ecology, halophyte diversity and the sociocultural dynamics of the region, said Michael Omiecinski, director of student admissions. (Left) Norris and Dollar study the world's ecosystems.

### Students study environmental concerns by living in Biosphere

It rained in the desert biome today. That may seem insignificant to you, but to the residents of the Biosphere, it is a good reason to throw a party.

Of course, just about any reason is a good reason to throw a party here. It seems that the people here are into celebrating life, and what a grand celebration it is.

But the rain in the Biosphere desert biome wasn't only significant because it gave us an excuse to dance in the mud of the world's largest laboratory. The desert biome in the Biosphere hadn't been allowed rain for over eight months. The researchers in the Biosphere are observing the changes in the plant life of the desert when faced with the droughts that are expected to occur as a result of global warming.

So, in typical biosphere fashion, while we partied, we learned. Columbia University's

Earth Semester at the Biosphere 2 Center consistently provides students with a good balance of work and play. The high Sonoran desert, where it is located, provides students with a plethora of activities, from hiking, camping and rock climbing to clubbing in Tucson. The Biosphere itself is a marvel of modern engineering and can provide hours of entertainment for the contemplative mind. The course work is challenging and stimulating, with a good balance of "hard science" and policy issues. But without a doubt, the best aspect of this experience for me has been the people.

Imagine a mosaic of people from all over the world, gathered in the middle of the Arizona desert because they share common interests.

Imagine the energy that results from a gathering of 80 students who wish to lead the push toward responsible planetary management with a faculty of established and accomplished environmentalists and conservationists. Imagine the insanity that results when those students decide they want to let off some steam. Imagine what happens when the faculty decides to join the students.

Don't get me wrong, however. The class work is challenging, and when it rains at the Biosphere, it pours. The stress level around midterms was stifling. Students are confronted with some controversial issues, and often it seems as if the assignments are impossible. For example, I was given one week to devise and present a balanced and sustainable water budget for the city of Tucson, a task that the Tucson water managers have been unable to accomplish in 15 years. I completed the assignment, though, with a little help from the Biosphere 2 faculty.

The professors and teaching assistants here are amazing. Our relationships with the faculty are on a first-name basis, and they even sometimes surprise us by showing up at our parties. This is always a welcome treat, because the professors have so much life experience to teach from. Tony Burgess, the principle designer of the desert and thorn scrub ecosystems, is one of the most well known desert ecologists in the business. Rick Brusca literally wrote the book on invertebrate zoology. John Titus spent two years in the Peace Corps in the Philippines and stud-

ied plant succession and re-colonization after the Mount St. Helens eruption. There is no doubt that there are a lot of things to learn from people like them, the only constraint is the questions that you ask.

Tomorrow, we are going to Mexico. This will be our second major field trip of the semester. Our first was a week-long camping trip in the Grand Canyon, where we studied the geology of the canyon, the anthropology of the ancient Anasazi tribe that has inhabited the canyon area for the last thousand years and the policy issues regarding coal mining and water extraction in the region.

In Mexico, we will be studying sea life and water quality, and I will be studying the stars from a boat floating in the night waters of the Gulf of California. I plan to brush up on my Spanish and study the culture in the plaza of the town. I'll let you know how my results of my research turn out.

Zachary Norris is a senior biology major from Long Beach, Calif. currently studying at Columbia University's Biosphere 2 Center. He can be reached at (znorris@bio2.edu).



ZACH NORRIS

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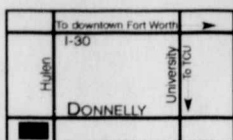
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## ELECTORAL

From Page 1

necessarily a bad idea, but I don't want to turn the country upside down over the issue," said Riggs Rylander, a senior political science major. "(Relying on the popular vote) is a Utopian idea, but a lot of people aren't educated on the issues. And that's why they (the founders) installed (the Electoral College) in our constitution."

Other students oppose the Electoral College and believe it has outlived its usefulness.

"We shouldn't have the Electoral College," said Debora Copenhaver, a sophomore criminal justice major. "How do our votes even matter if the (Electoral College) doesn't even have to go with the votes of the people?"

James Riddlesperger, chairman of the political science department, said this kind of turmoil over the Electoral College is to be expected when the vote is so close.

"I am not really troubled by it," he said. "I think both parties will end up agreeing. Reforms of the Electoral College have always been debated."

The abolition of the Electoral College will require a constitu-

tional amendment. Two-thirds of both houses of Congress and three-quarters of the states must ratify any change in the election process.

Sen. Arlen Specter, a Republican from Pennsylvania, and first lady Hillary Clinton, who was recently elected to the Senate in New York, have already publicly come out in favor of altering the Electoral College.

Changing the Electoral College will be difficult because small states have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo, Riddlesperger said.

"With the Electoral College, small states have more influence," Riddlesperger said. "Under a system run by popular votes, big states would have greater influence than they currently do."

"I think it (the current system) goes against our contemporary democratic values," Riddlesperger said. "But in order to get reform, it will take a sustained effort."

The Electoral College has been consistent, and has not made a mistake in 112 years, he said.

"The reason this is even an issue is because the margin of victory is so small," Riddlesperger said.

Michael Davis

m.s.davis@student.tcu.edu

## Wood requests potential violation not be filed

By Hemi Ahluwalia  
STAFF REPORTER

The Elections and Regulations Committee won't review the potential election code violation of Student Government Association presidential candidate Sara Donaldson because fellow candidate Brian Wood requested that an appeal not be filed.

The potential violation concerns an e-mail sent out under director of intercultural education and services Darron Turner's e-mail account to minority students stating Donaldson's experiences and qualifications. According to Section 3.10E of the election codes, candidates may not use any university publication or properties other than paid advertising in the *Skiff*.

"I would like this election to be a fair competition, and therefore I asked for any appeal which is filed to be thrown out," said Wood, a junior economics major.

Candidates, members of the Elections and Regulations Committee or poll workers are the only people allowed to file an appeal against a candidate, according to the election codes. The committee can't review the case until an appeal is filed.

Grant Hewitt, a freshman political science major and Elections and Regulations Committee member, said he doesn't think any of the committee members would file an appeal.

"I will not file an appeal because I feel the potential violation was more of a misunderstanding between the two parties involved instead of intentional," he said. "The impression that I got was that (Wood) would not appeal because he had also committed a violation (by filing late) and he did not want an appeal against himself."

Brian Becker, Election and Regulations Committee chairman, didn't return repeated phone calls.

Donaldson, a junior neuro-

science major, said she doesn't believe she was the only candidate in this election who might have potentially committed a violation under the election codes.

"I know that all of the candidates had in some way committed some kind of violation," Donaldson said. "One example is I was the only candidate who turned in a budget and all of my receipts on time to Becker."

Some students think Donaldson did nothing wrong by sending out the e-mail to minority students and said it wouldn't affect the way they voted.

"I think the e-mail was fair because all of the candidates were given the opportunity to send one out," said Trupti Desai, a senior biology major. "If anything, this e-mail has pushed me more toward Sara because it shows that she has made an effort to reach all students."

Crystal Taylor, a sophomore ballet major, also said these recent allegations won't affect her vote.

"I voted for the person who I felt was more qualified for the position," Taylor said.

Eric Rodgers, a senior music major, said the violations should be addressed even if there isn't an appeal.

"I think that the Elections and Regulations Committee should do something about this issue as soon as possible," Rodgers said.

Permanent Improvements Committee chairman, John Billingsley, a sophomore business major, disagrees with Rodgers and said the Elections and Regulations Committee shouldn't look over the issue unless an appeal is filed.

"I feel that the committee should be reactive and not proactive," Billingsley said.

Hemi Ahluwalia

hemia@hotmail.com

## RECOUNT

From Page 1

returns" the totals will stand, she said.

Gore decided to hold off an appeal of Lewis' ruling and press forward with recounts in four Democratic-leaning counties. Gore's advisers hope Harris will approve the hand-counted ballots — though they expect the worst — and are prepared to appeal if she doesn't.

"If the secretary of state arbitrarily refuses to accept the amended returns based on the recount and violates what this court has ruled ... which is to accept those results unless she has good reason not to, then we will be back in court," said a new member of Gore's massive legal team, David Boies.

With Harris' announcement, the battle lines were clearly drawn: Bush's team says the manual recounts are conducted with no set standards in Democratic-leaning counties with the sole purpose of pushing Gore ahead. The vice president's team argues that the painstaking process is the only way to ensure that every Florida voter is heard.

The next pivot points will be when overseas ballots are counted,

with results due by midnight Friday, and when Harris is confronted with the recount totals that could threaten Bush's lead.

The race tumbled to the courts after a statewide machine recount trimmed Bush's lead from 1,784 votes to a few hundred, prompting Gore to push for painstaking manual recounts and Bush to fight them in courts of law and public opinion.

Officials in two counties tabulated ballots by hand Tuesday, with action in two other jurisdictions pending.

With the razor-thin lead in ballots counted so far, Baker said presidential candidate Bush would accept the results of manual recounts collected by close of business Tuesday and the overseas absentee ballots due in Friday. Both sides would also drop their dueling lawsuits, Baker said.

"It would give us some degree of finality," Baker told reporters. "When is it going to end? I ask you, when is it going to end?"

"It truly was not a proposal," sniffed Gore campaign chairman William Daley during a visit to Capitol Hill to calm Democrat leaders. "It was strictly, in my opinion, an inaccurate description of the laws of Florida. The laws of Florida will be determined by the courts."

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## Rifle Weekly

# Rifle team ends fall season with third-place finish

### Coach says team played to his expectations, looks forward for lighter spring semester

The TCU women's rifle team ended the fall season Saturday with a third-place finish at the U.S. Military Academy Invitational in West Point, N.Y.

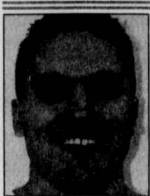
The third-place finish equaled the team's only other third-place performance, which was at the Horned Frog Invitational. The Frogs finished second in all other matches this fall.

Senior captain Michelle Parker topped her own TCU record in the .22 caliber event by two points, scoring 1,111 points.

"All of the teams this weekend were top 10 teams (in the NCAA rankings), and for us to do as well as we did, I was really pleased," head rifle coach Roger Ivy said. "Considering all we had to go through with traveling to New York and some of the other things, I think everyone shot really well."

Parker said the West Point matches were a good way for her to end the semester, but some of her teammates were a little intimidated.

"I think if we keep going the way we are, we can do pretty well (next semester)," Parker said. "It's hard to tell because everyone has been fluctuating. I just hope the want and desire to keep getting



**CHRIS GIBSON**  
Rifle weekly

better is there." Ivy said despite only having one shooter (Parker) with previous rifle experience and no scholarships, his team has performed up to his expectations.

"There were a few surprises, but overall, it was a pretty good semester," he said. "(Parker), (senior) Dena (Putnam) and (senior) Jennifer (Millner) have been our top shooters and (senior) Liz (Bitar) has done a good job filling in when we needed her."

"We probably have one of the longest seasons of any sport, so staying focused and continuing to shoot well next semester will be a big challenge."

Putnam said her scores this semester haven't been what she wanted, but the team has done well overall.

"I spent the whole semester getting used to a new gun, so I don't think I've really been shooting my best," she said. "As far as everyone else, they are shooting really well. This part of the semester has been swamping everyone, so hopefully, next semester will be lighter for people, and we will have more time to put into (shooting)."

Ivy said with so many seniors on this year's team, they have a good shot at doing just that.

"We are usually bubbling around the top 25 or 30 in the nation," he said. "I think this year, if we can hold things together and continue to improve, there is no reason why we can't finish up there. A lot of what we deal with in shooting is the mental aspect and concentration."

"This time of year is always hard because everyone is dealing with tests and having time issues. We just need to work on staying focused, keep practicing and getting better. We don't need to have any let downs going into next semester's (NCAA) sectionals."

The women's rifle team began the process of cleaning their equipment this week in preparation for the spring semester. They will resume competition Jan. 20, when they will travel to El Paso to participate in the UTEP Invitational.

### Notes

**Team faces unintended obstacles**  
This past weekend at the U.S. Military Academy Invitational in West Point, N.Y., the team had problems just getting to the match.

"First of all, something should be done about whoever runs that (Newark) airport," Ivy said. "I have seen airports all over the world, and that one is by far the worst. Then, the directions we were given were really bad. The



Hillary Morgan/ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Senior Jennifer Millner peers down the barrel of her rifle looking to accurately hit another target. The TCU rifle squad finished third in its fall event Saturday in West Point, N.Y.

girls didn't mind though; most of them were asleep in the back."

At the University of Missouri-Kansas City match, Oct. 21, the Frogs were forced to shoot in a public range. Coaches and team members said the added distractions presented a problem.

"I don't want to make any excuses, but it sounded like a war

zone in there," senior Dena Putnam said. "I think the Kansas City Police Department was above us shooting their (handguns), and other people were shooting shotguns and things. It was really loud and distracting."

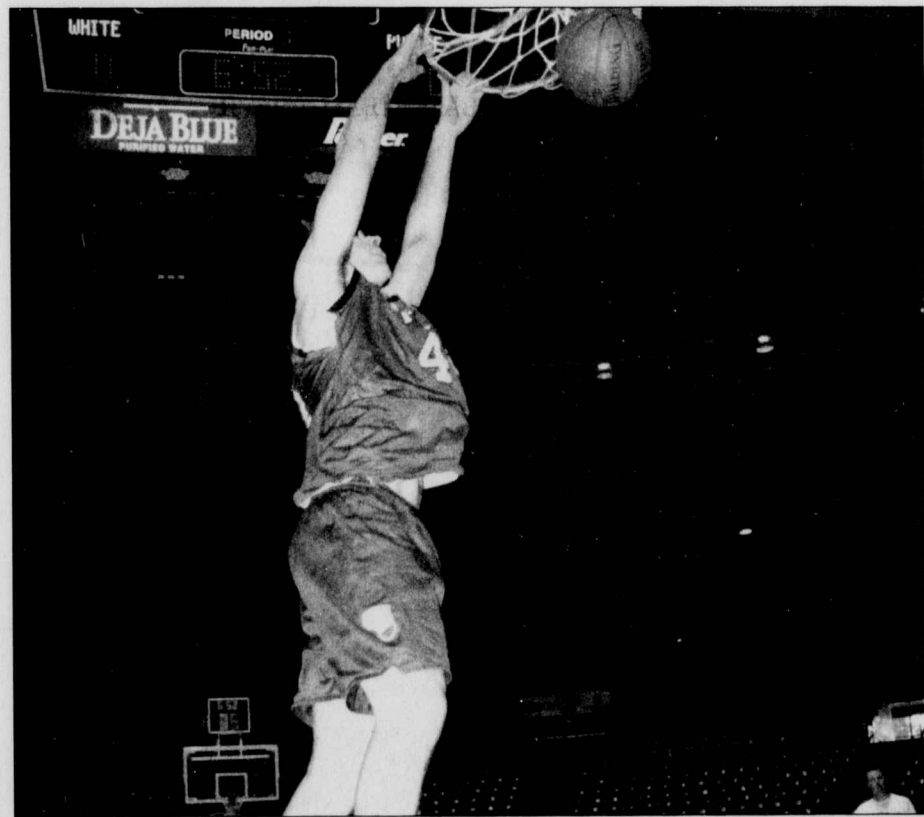
Ivy reiterated that fact, but he said the team needed to stay better focused in those situations.

"It was real loud and noisy, and it really affected our shooters," he said. "I think it really affected some of our individual scores, because we're not used to shooting in that situation, but overall we did pretty good as a team."

Chris Gibson

c.j.gibson@student.tcu.edu

## Finishing touches



Hillary Morgan/ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore center Rebel Paulk finishes a two-handed dunk during practice Tuesday at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum. The Horned Frogs tip off their season Friday at 7 p.m. at Daniel-Meyer against Northwestern State. With the addition of senior Greedy Daniels, junior Marlon Dumont and freshman Nucleus Smith, TCU looks to improve on last year's final record of 18-14.

## Johnson wins Cy Young Award

### Three-time award winning Arizona pitcher gets 22 first-place votes

By Josh Dubow  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Arizona's Randy Johnson was the overwhelming winner of the National League Cy Young Award Tuesday, his second straight award and third of his career.

Johnson, who also won the 1995 award with Seattle, received 22 of 32 first-place votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Johnson also got seven second-place votes and two third-place votes for 133 points.

Atlanta's Tom Glavine finished second with 64 points. Greg Maddux of Atlanta was third with 59 points, followed by Robb Nen of San Francisco (20), Darryl Kile of St. Louis (8) and Kevin Brown of Los Angeles (4).

Johnson joined Maddux and Sandy Koufax as the only back-to-back winners in the National League. Maddux won four straight from

1992-95 and Koufax won in 1965-66. The "Big Unit" also became the eighth pitcher to win three Cy Youngs in his career. Boston's Pedro Martinez won his third Monday.

Roger Clemens has five, followed by Steve Carlton and Maddux with four each. Koufax, Tom Seaver and Jim Palmer also have three.

After going 14-2 with a 1.80 ERA before the All-Star break, Johnson faltered down the stretch as Arizona fell out of the pennant race. He won only five times in his final 16 starts, going 5-5 with a 3.81 ERA after the break.

Nevertheless, Johnson finished the year with a 2.64 ERA — second in the league to Brown (2.58) — while leading the league in strikeouts (347) and winning percentage (.731), and was tied for first in complete games (8) and shutouts (3).

"Our guys realize that we are lucky to have Randy and that we

don't have to face him," former Diamondbacks manager Buck Showalter said in September. "This is a 37-year-old guy who throws 98 mph. He's a remarkable athlete, and I feel lucky to have had him pass my way."

Johnson joined Nolan Ryan as the only pitcher to record 300 strikeouts in three straight seasons and became the 12th player to reach the 3,000-strikeout plateau.

Glavine (21-9, 3.40 ERA), a two-time Cy Young winner, led the league in wins and was a key component to the Braves' NL East-winning team. Maddux went 19-9 with a 3.00 ERA to earn three first-place votes.

Nen, who got two first-place votes, was the most dominant reliever in the league, going 4-3 with 41 saves and a 1.50 ERA.

Kile, who was the only other 20-game winner, got the final first-place vote.

## WAC roundup

### Football

WAC games	W	L	Pct.	All games						
				Hm.	Rd.	Neutral	Strk.			
UTEP	7	0	1.000	8	2	.800	5-0	3-2	0-0	W7
TCU	5	1	.833	8	1	.889	5-0	3-1	0-0	W1
San Jose State	5	1	.833	7	3	.700	3-1	4-2	0-0	W3
Fresno State	4	2	.667	5	4	.556	4-0	1-4	0-0	L1
SMU	2	4	.333	3	7	.300	3-2	0-5	0-0	W1
Tulsa	2	4	.333	3	7	.300	1-3	2-4	0-0	L5
Rice	2	5	.286	3	7	.300	3-2	0-5	0-0	L1
Hawaii	2	6	.250	2	7	.222	2-3	0-4	0-0	W1
Nevada	0	6	.000	1	9	.100	0-4	1-5	0-0	L7

### Saturday's results

Fresno State	.....	7
TCU	.....	24
Tulsa	.....	20
SMU	.....	24
Rice	.....	21
UTEP	.....	38
Nevada	.....	17
Hawaii	.....	37

Louisiana Tech at Hawaii, 12:05 a.m.

### Players of the week

**Offensive — TCU senior tailback LaDainian Tomlinson** was named offensive player of the week. He ran for 231 yards on 42 carries and scored a touchdown. He now has 1,679 yards rushing this season.

**Defensive — Texas-El Paso senior linebacker Trey Merkens** made a career-high 16 tackles in the Miners' 38-21 win over Rice. Merkens had nine solo tackles, one tackle for a loss and one forced fumble.

**Special teams — Southern Methodist junior place kicker Jacob Crowley** hit three extra points and a 42-yard field goal that sealed the Mustangs' 24-20 win over Tulsa. The fourth quarter field goal was Crowley's second longest of his career.

### Saturday's games

UTEP at TCU (Fox SportsNet), 2:05 p.m.  
San Jose State at Tulsa, 2 p.m.  
Rice at Nevada 2:05 p.m.  
SMU at Fresno State, 6 p.m.

### AP TOP 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Saturday, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and ranking in the previous poll:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Oklahoma (70)	9-0	1,774	1
2. Miami, Fla.	8-1	1,690	2
3. Florida State (1)	10-1	1,629	3
4. Florida	9-1	1,551	5
5. Oregon	9-1	1,490	6
6. Washington	9-1	1,429	7
7. Virginia Tech	9-1	1,328	8
8. Oregon State	9-1	1,263	10
9. Kansas State	9-2	1,124	16
10. Nebraska	8-2	1,101	4
11. Notre Dame	7-2	1,006	11
12. Ohio St.	8-2	957	13
13. Mississippi State	7-2	896	15
14. Texas	8-2	725	19
15. TCU	8-1	679	18
16. Clemson	8-2	662	17
17. Purdue	7-3	603	9
18. Auburn	8-2	599	22
19. Michigan	7-3	543	20
20. Georgia Tech	7-2	469	24
21. Texas A&M	7-3	328	23
22. Georgia	6-3	322	14
23. Northwestern	7-3	284	12
24. Southern Miss.	7-2	238	25
25. South Carolina	7-3	121	21

**Others receiving votes:** Louisiana State 97, Tennessee 56, Louisville 49, Toledo 17, UTEP 14, Air Force 8, Colorado St. 7, Iowa St. 6.

## Coming Next

Football head coach Dennis Franchione took some of the drama out of the game when TCU accepted an early bid to play in the Mobile Alabama Bowl. However, this week's showdown against Texas-El Paso still has Western Athletic Conference championship ramifications.

TCU (8-1, 5-1 WAC) must win Saturday if it wants a share of the title for the second consecutive year. The Miners (8-2, 7-0 WAC) have had a storied season and have already clinched a tie for the WAC title after beating Rice last weekend 38-21. The Miners offense features senior quarterback Rocky Perez. He's thrown for

2,444 yards and 24 touchdowns while throwing just five interceptions.

Perez has two main targets in junior wide receiver Lee Mayes, who has 64 catches, 1,051 yards and 14 touchdowns and senior tight end Brian Natkin, who has 59 catches for 735 yards and four touchdowns.

After last season's 52-24 loss, the Miners have reason to think revenge. The Horned Frogs would like to go into the Mobile Alabama Bowl with a share of the conference title.

— Danny Horne

## heismanTROPHYwatch

**1 Oklahoma senior quarterback Josh Heupel** remains at the top of this list by virtue of the top-ranked Sooners' comeback victory over Texas A&M. He completed 28 of 42 passes for 263 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions. For the season, he's thrown for 2,770 yards and 16 touchdowns. Oklahoma hosts Texas Tech Saturday.

324 yards and five touchdowns. For the season, Weinke has thrown for 3,814 yards and 30 touchdowns.

**2 Florida State quarterback Chris Weinke** has been putting up huge numbers all season without much recognition. He put up more big numbers in the Seminoles' 35-6 win over Wake Forest. He completed 23 of 36 passes for

**3 Purdue senior quarterback Drew Brees** remains third on this list despite an especially untimely loss to Michigan State. Against the Spartans, Brees completed 26 of 43 passes for 279 yards and one touchdown, but he also threw three interceptions. Overall, he has thrown for 3,177 yards and 23 touchdowns. Purdue plays Indiana Saturday at home.

**4 Northwestern junior tailback Damien Anderson** climbs into this list despite the Wildcats' loss at Iowa, but he got help from an injury to Virginia Tech quarterback Michael Vick and another loss from Nebraska quarterback Eric Crouch. Anderson leads the nation in total rushing yards with 1,735. The Wildcats next play at home against Illinois.

**5 TCU senior tailback LaDainian Tomlinson** remains on the fringe of this list week. His team's drop out of the BCS rankings has severely hurt his already damaged chances. Tomlinson carried 42 times for 231 yards and one touchdown.

## today's menu Nov. 15, 2000

### The Main Lunch

Nacho and burrito bar  
Beef teriyaki  
Italian sausage  
Rotisserie chicken  
**Dinner**  
Carved turkey or ham  
Squash casserole  
Minestrone soup

### Worth Hills Lunch

Chicken and dumplings  
Beef tips with rice  
**Dinner**  
Pesto chicken or beef

### Eden's Greens Lunch

Baked potatoes  
Potato skins  
Chicken mornay  
Barbecue beef  
Steamed broccoli with cheese sauce  
Baked potato soup

### Frogbytes Late Night

Same as The Main

### Tomorrow at The Main:

**Lunch:** Ravioli, pork stir fry, Salisbury steak, London broil

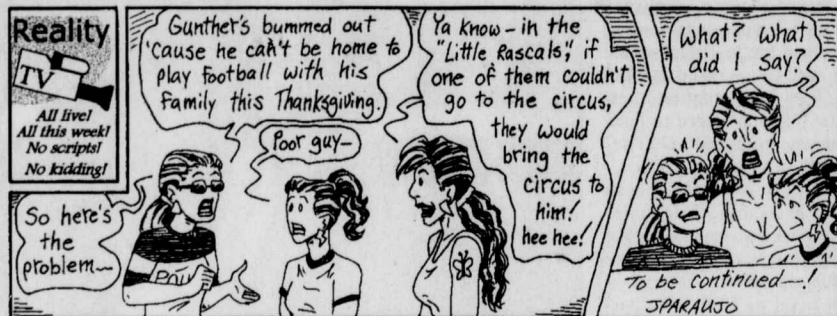
**Dinner:** Beef stew, Yankee pot roast

## Lex



by Phil Flickinger

## Academia Nuts



by John P. Araujo

## Off the Mark

by Mark Parisi



## I Need Help

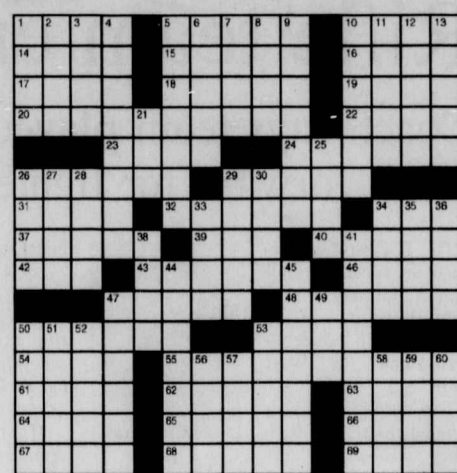
by Vic Lee



Movie-theater popcorn.

## Crossword

- ACROSS**  
1 Nagger  
5 Mexican coins  
10 Invitation letters  
14 Hi/zeaway  
15 Antilles island  
16 Arab leader  
17 Perry's penner  
18 Kept talking  
19 Hatcher or Garr  
20 Starred  
22 Othello's nemesis  
23 Subway route  
24 Looking glass  
26 Goofing up  
29 Hammett's detective  
31 Crazy bird?  
32 Singer Easton  
34 Flower at first  
37 Fills completely  
39 Cultural expression  
40 Dry-heat bath  
42 Asner and McMahon  
43 Straggler  
46 Baby bed  
47 Telegraph code  
48 Incidents  
50 Paler and grayer  
53 Venetian blind piece  
54 Neighbor of Vietnam  
55 Beachfront promenades  
61 Grounded birds  
62 Trailblazer  
63 Wear out  
64 MacIntosh center  
65 Crooner Mel  
66 Actress Moran  
67 Back talk  
68 Stairway  
69 Parakeet staple



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## Solutions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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31												
37												
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64												
67												

- DOWN**  
1 Earnest request  
2 Jug handles  
3 Sandy deposit  
4 Edge of the tundra  
5 Trimmings  
6 Rub out  
7 Submerged

- 8 Hautboy  
9 Bedtime visitor?  
10 Quit working  
11 Spread lies about  
12 Zodiac sign  
13 Preceding in order  
21 First name of a canine star?  
25 Lupino and Tarbell  
26 Otherwise  
27 Byway  
28 Decomposes  
29 Worsted cloth  
30 Rose or Sampras  
33 Old crones  
34 Scottish river  
35 Precisely defined quantity  
36 Taps gently  
38 Blackthorn  
41 Synthetic fibers  
44 Checks  
45 Demonstrates connections

- 47 Off-target shots  
49 Mover's vehicle  
50 Guinness and Baldwin  
51 Pacific island group  
52 Cunningham  
53 Losing streak  
56 Dundee fellow  
57 Skin hole  
58 Dreadful  
59 Great Lake  
60 Mail

## Purple Poll

**Q:** Do you think the Electoral College should be abolished?



**A:** Yes No  
44 56

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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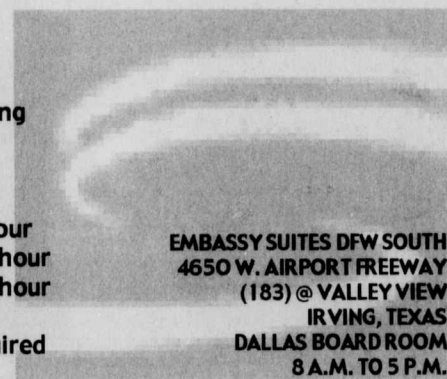
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Suzanna Dillard  
Margaret Dodd  
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Amanda Grantham  
Jennifer Gravely  
Robyn Hafer  
Jessica Hatton  
Laura Hollinger  
Amanda Jackson  
Lauren Klingensmith  
Mary Loranger  
Erica Markell  
Staci McGrath  
Sarah McNamara  
Loren Newsom  
Lindsey Perry

Amy Potemski  
Alyson Scholz  
Candace Shelton  
Julia Snodgrass  
Cinnamon Stanley  
Jennifer Trachte  
Jennifer Turner  
Jennifer Wayne  
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Leslie Wooldridge