

Through the Halls

As they walked the halls of the university in 1965, they were aware that TCU had only been completely integrated to black students a year earlier. Mildred Simms and Chavalla Williams will share their experiences tonight.

FEATURES, Page 5

TCU Daily SKIFF

Serving Texas Christian University since 1902

Rain Delay

Wednesday's baseball game at Sam Houston State, which was originally scheduled for Tuesday, was canceled because of rain. The Frogs begin Western Athletic Conference play Saturday against Hawaii-Hilo.

SPORTS, Page 8

Thursday, February 15, 2001

Fort Worth, Texas

'Wheel of Fortune' to hold auditions Tuesday

Five applicants to be selected at random for March shows

SKIFF STAFF

Students, faculty and staff will have the opportunity to audition for ABC's popular game show "Wheel of Fortune" Tuesday in the Student Center Ballroom.

Auditions will be held at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Five applicants will be selected at random for each audition time. Following each of the three "mini shows" a new pool of contestants will be drawn.

"There is no need to arrive early," said Kelli Horst, director of the Office of Communications.

"As long as you are there before one of the drawings you have a chance," she said.

The show is looking for contestants for its March 17 to 18 tapings

at the Dallas Convention Center and its "best friends" show, said Lisa Dee, "Wheel of Fortune" promotion director.

"We won't be looking for just the winners," Dee said. "A contestant will be a quick puzzle solver and have the enthusiasm that'll make the crowd want to cheer them on."

"Wheel of Fortune" will arrive on campus in the Wheelmobile, a 32-foot long Winnebago that tours the country in search of contestants. Known by "Wheel of Fortune" staff as "television's most ambitious contestant search vehicle." Show officials hope to audition over 100,000 contestants nationwide.

"Normally the Wheelmobile will be in malls," Dee said. "When it is on campus, the auditions go with the rhythm of the campus."

Although show host Pat Sajak and Vanna White will not be present for the auditions, they will come to town for taping in March.

Dee said bringing the show on the road is an expensive process. Planning begins more than a year before the tapings. Show officials meet with local affiliates to become more educated about the area and how to get the best representatives.

Dave Muscari, WFAA Channel 8's vice president of strategic alliances, recommended TCU as one site for the Wheelmobile to visit. "We wanted schools of some magnitude," Muscari said.

"TV Guide" labeled "Wheel of Fortune" "the most popular television show on Earth." The game show first aired on Jan. 6, 1975. The original hosts were

Chuck Woolery and Susan Stafford, a Los Angeles based talk-show personality. Sajak first hosted the show in December 1981. White made her first appearance on "Wheel

of Fortune" in December 1982. The show is the nation's No. 1-rated series in syndication and has held that position for 66 consecutive sweeps ratings periods.

Students are anxious for the chance to audition and maybe end up on television as a contestant for the well-known game show.

"I want to go in there and make mom and dad proud," said Glenn Brawn, a sophomore business major. "I'd also like to represent TCU."

Dee said the shows taped in Dallas will air on ABC during the May sweeps period.

skiffletters@tcu.edu

Auditions Dates

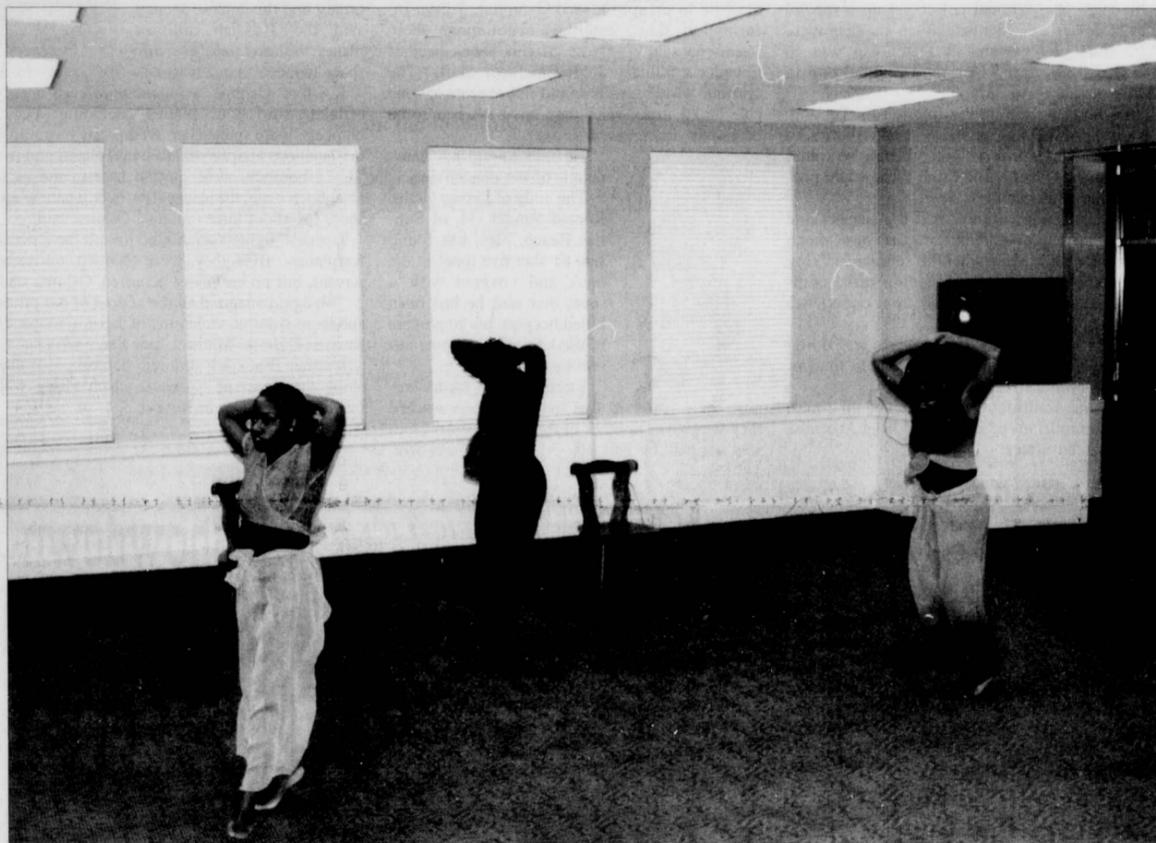
What: "Wheel of Fortune" will hold an audition for contestants at TCU.

When: 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., Tuesday.

Where: Student Center Ballroom.

Auditions will also be held at the North Park Center Mall Sunday and Northeast Mall Feb. 24. Shows will be taped March 17 and 18 at the Dallas Convention Center.

EN RELEVÉ



Yvette Herrera/FEATURES EDITOR

Lacreacia Sanders, Kim Tapp and Keisha Breaker-Haliburton of the Jaade Dance Theatre perform Wednesday in the Student Center Lounge. The group was at TCU to celebrate Black History Month.

Democrats criticize Rich pardon

Justice Department surprised to learn man was a fugitive

By Jesse J. Holland
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Members of former President Bill Clinton's own party openly criticized his pardon of financier Marc Rich amid new testimony Wednesday that the White House initially failed to tell the Justice Department pardon attorney that Rich was a fugitive.

"The pardoning of fugitives stands our criminal justice system on its head," Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.

Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., said the Rich pardon "certainly raises the appearance of impropriety."

The Democrats' criticism came as Justice Department pardon attorney Roger Adams testified that in a midnight phone call on Clinton's last day in office, White House lawyers didn't bother to mention that Rich was a fugitive from justice.

Adams testified that the White House counsel's office said in the call that "the only two people" on a long list of names "for whom I needed to

obtain record checks were Marc Rich and Pincus Green."

The White House counsel's office said "that it was expected there would be little information about the two men because they had been ... 'living abroad for several years,'" Adams testified. Adams said the long White House list of names "included no other information."

"You were not told" about the fugitive status of Rich and Green? asked Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

"I was not told," Adams replied. "I learned that from the FBI." Specter said Adams "should have been told more" than "Marc Rich is living" in Switzerland.

Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., an advocate of campaign finance overhaul, said he has suspicions about the Rich pardon because the financier's ex-wife, songwriter Denise Rich, donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Democratic Party.

Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont said he disagrees with Clinton's

See CLINTON, Page 1

New e-mail proposal drafted

Plan is to use account for all university business

By Carrie Woodall
STAFF REPORTER

Although most university offices use campus e-mail accounts to communicate with students, Mike Russel, associate dean of Campus Life, is drafting a proposal which would make it an official method of communication for university business. "A general hesitancy of sending something via e-mail and not knowing if a student will receive the information, caused the need for e-mail to be an official communication tool," he said. Mike Scott, director of scholarships and student financial aid, said e-mail isn't reliable now because its use is not consistent around the university.

Email how-to

How to forward your student account to your personal e-mail account.

- Go to (<http://eforward.tcu.edu>).
- Type in your log-on user name and password.
- Type in the address preferred for use.
- Click submit.
- Check confirmation e-mail in preferred address to make sure the process was completed.

"Right now some offices and professors do communicate by e-mail, and some don't," he said. "It

See E-MAIL, Page 6

SuperFrog celebrates 21st birthday

Annual event includes Casino Night, giveaways

By Jonathan Sampson
STAFF REPORTER

Programming Council is celebrating SuperFrog's 8th annual 21st birthday party at 8 p.m. today in the Student Center Ballroom, but as of Wednesday, many students were still unaware of the event.

SuperFrog has been the official university mascot for more than 20 years, but T.J. Ammons, PC Special Events Committee chairman, said it's always been tradition to celebrate his age as 21.

Josh Paschal, a junior com-

puter science major, said he has never been to SuperFrog's birthday celebration.

"I knew it was sometime around this time of year, but I didn't know when," he said.

He said one reason he hasn't gone in the past is he does not hear about many PC events.

Laurie Oberhausen, a sophomore elementary education major, said she hasn't been able to attend many PC events this year.

"I feel like if they would publicize a little more, I might go," she said.

Ammons said he's tried many different types of publicity this year to attract students to attend the events. SuperFrog was in The Main Tuesday passing out invitations to the event. Casino Night money will be distributed at tonight's basketball game, he said.

"It will be a very good marketing tool," he said. "We'll already have a crowd, and they can just come straight to the Student Center."

See SUPERFROG, Page 6



University seeks religious diversity

Different faith organizations spring up on campus giving students choices

By Bethany McCormack
STAFF REPORTER

The university wants the school to be as diverse as possible, said University Minister John Butler. He said University Ministries encourages the practice of religious diversity even though the majority of students at TCU identify themselves as Christian.

Tahira Hussain, a sophomore political science and economics major, said although she is Muslim, she was not worried religion would be an issue when she chose

to come to TCU. She said she was surprised to find how little most students knew about her religion when she first started here.

"The population at TCU really doesn't know what Islam is," she said. "I say 'I'm Muslim' and they say, 'Oh, what religion is that?'"

Hussain said she has gotten mixed reactions from students about her religion.

"To a great degree, people have been accepting, but I have been uncomfortable many times," she said. "Going through a tradition

that is not yours is difficult sometimes."

Butler said more than 5,300 students at TCU identify themselves as Christian. He said 20 students say they are Jewish, 10 Muslim, 10 Hindu and six Buddhist. Butler said when students register they have the option of indicating their religion, but since not all do, these figures don't represent all students.

Hussain said the small number of Muslim students at TCU is not representative of the general pop-

ulation.

"The fastest growing religion is Islam," she said. "Soon, around the world, the number of Muslims will outnumber the Christians."

Butler said University Ministries does several things to enable the practice of religious diversity at TCU.

"Two times a semester in (Robert Carr) Chapel we celebrate a faith other than Christian in worship, making it as authentic as

See RELIGION, Page 1

WEATHER TOMORROW



High 60
Low 37

Showers

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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 space available.

► **Internships Credit Information Sessions** for business students will be at 5 p.m. today, Wednesday and March 1 in Dan Rogers Hall, Room 166.

► **The Second Valentine's Concert** will present the music of Glenn Miller at 7:30 p.m. today in Ed Landreth Hall. Admission is \$8 for the public and \$5 for TCU students, faculty and staff with ID.

► **TCU students interested in entering a creative writing contest** may pick up contest applications and descriptions in Reed Hall, Room 314, and in Rickel Building, Room 100. Twenty-four prizes, totaling near \$3,000, will be given to students who write poetry, fiction, drama and essays. The deadline is Friday.

► **The TCU art and art history departments** and the Nancy Quarles Stuck Art History Lecture Fund will present a free lecture at noon Monday in the Moudy Building North, Room 132. The lecture, titled "Rembrandt and the Jews," will be given by Shelley Perlove, professor of art history at the University of Michigan at Dearborn. For more information contact the art department at (817) 257-7643.

► **TCU Career Night**, sponsored by Career Services, will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday in the Student Center Ballroom. For more information call (817) 257-7860 or go by Career Services.

► **The TCU London Centre** will have information sessions at 4 p.m. Wednesday in the Student Center, Room 203, and 4 p.m. Thursday in the Student Center, Room 205. Students interested in spending a fall or spring semester at the London Centre are encouraged to attend. Application deadline for fall 2001 is March 15. Applications are available in the International Education Office in Sadler Hall, Room 16.

Correction

In the Feb. 9 issue of the Skiff, Monica Kintigh should have been labeled as a licensed professional counselor.



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WORLD DIGEST



Computer hacker arrested for spreading virus

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — Dutch police on Wednesday arrested the hacker known as "OnTheFly," a 20-year-old man who claims he wrote a computer virus that backed up e-mail systems worldwide by purporting to offer a photograph of tennis star Anna Kournikova.



Authorities charged him with damaging private property and computer programs, and sent the man home with his parents, saying the offense didn't warrant holding him. A prosecutor will decide later whether to seek a jail sentence or a fine.

"The offenses with which he has been charged aren't enough to hold him," said police spokesman Robert Rambonnet, adding that they carry up to a four-year sentence.

The man's name was withheld under Dutch privacy regulations, but he was identified as a resident of the small town of Sneek, 60 miles northeast of Amsterdam.

"It's up to the public prosecutors whether and for what he should be punished," said Peter Boomsma, the police spokesman in Sneek. A district court was expected to hear the case in a few weeks.

Boomsma said the man was released on his own recognizance; it is ordinary practice in the Netherlands to let people go until trial.

The discovery of the apparent hacker in the Netherlands harked back to the 1980s when this country gained a reputation as a virtual transit point for hackers trying to break into U.S. government computer systems.

In 1999, the national police set up a special unit of dozens of cyber detectives, but they were apparently clueless that a Dutchman was to blame for the most widespread Internet bug in nearly a year.

In a letter posted on the Internet on Tuesday admitting responsibility, the computer buff said he copied "the worm" from a program he found on the Internet, because "I don't know any programming languages."

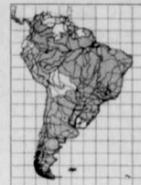
A police statement indicated the suspect had altered the bug, but didn't realize how much havoc he would create when he sent it scurrying around the world Sunday, feeding off a computer's address book to spread from one victim to the next.

"When he realized what the virus was doing he agreed with his parents to report to the police," the police statement said.

The Anna Kournikova virus backed up e-mail systems in millions of computers from Australia to the United States.

Nine bodies found in national park in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia — The bodies of nine hikers on an excursion near a national park in southwest Colombia were found at the bottom of a ravine, authorities said Wednesday. They had all been shot execution-style.



National police chief Gen. Ernesto Gilibert said it was too early to speculate on who killed the hikers near the Purace National Park, home to a majestic, snowcapped volcano. All of the victims — three women and six men — were Colombians.

It was not immediately clear when they had been killed. A report in *El Tiempo* newspaper said the group had last been seen on Feb. 4, when one of the hikers phoned home from an archaeological site near the park.

The bodies were discovered Tuesday, and authorities initially believed they had stumbled upon a massacre of peasants — almost a daily occurrence in a 37-year war that pits leftist guerrillas against the military and right-wing paramilitary groups.

Guerrilla fronts are active in the area in western Cauca state, police said, however officials were not pointing blame in any direction.

Kidnappers agree to ransom offer at deadline

QUITO, Ecuador — Kidnappers holding seven foreign oil workers — including four Americans — have agreed to a ransom offer just ahead of their deadline to kill another captive, the head of Ecuador's armed forces said Wednesday.

"With relation to the deadline of today or tomorrow to execute a second captive, I have information that yesterday negotiations were restarted," said Vice Adm. Miguel Saona, head of Ecuador's military Joint Chiefs of Staff. "The criminal group said it would not execute anyone else and I understand they have reached some economic arrangement."



He said he did not know details of the ransom deal.

The body of kidnap victim Ronald Sander, 54, of Sunrise Beach, Mo., was found Jan. 31 shot five times in the back and covered with a sheet that said he had been killed because his employers refused to pay ransom, authorities said.

Unconfirmed media reports here had said that the kidnappers warned they would kill another of the hostages if ransom was not paid by Feb. 15.

"The information that we have about this is not very broad because all negotiations are being conducted between the criminal group and the embassies or companies that employ the captives," Saona said.

Sander, a technician with Tulsa, Okla.-based Helmerich & Payne Inc., was seized in October in a jungle region that has grown increasingly lawless in recent years. Nine others were taken along with him from oil camps in the El Coca region, some 150 miles east of Quito.

The other Americans have been identified as David Bradley, of Casper, Wyo., an oil field platform foreman for Helmerich & Payne; and Arnold Alford, Steve Derry and Jason Weber, all employees of the Oregon-based Erickson Air-Crane Co., and residents of Gold Hill, Ore.

Also among the kidnap victims are a Chilean, an Argentine and a New Zealander. Two others kidnapped, both French men, escaped shortly after they were seized.

Russian military prompts protest from Japan

MOSCOW — The Russian military held air exercises near Norway and Japan on Wednesday, forcing fighter jets in both countries to scramble and eliciting a strong protest from Japan, which said the planes violated its airspace.



Japan's Foreign Ministry called in a Russian diplomat to protest and the defense agency said the Russian military planes violated Japanese airspace twice.

Koichiro Oshima, a Japanese defense agency official, said four planes including TU-22 bombers, were spotted late Wednesday morning in the Japanese airspace off Rebunto Island and two TU-22 bombers were spotted later in the same area. Each time, the planes flew over Japanese airspace for about three minutes, Oshima said.

Japanese fighters scrambled toward the Russian warplanes after they were spotted on radar screens, but no encounter occurred, Oshima said. "We again analyzed all the actions of our pilots, and there were no violations of Japan's airspace," Russian Defense Minister Igor Sergeev said.

Russian Blackjack strategic bombers also flew along the coast of Norway, which along with Japan is a neighbor of Russia.

These stories are from the Associated Press.

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YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Failure to read e-mail is inexcusable

Over the past few semesters, TCU has toyed with the notion of making e-mail an official university communication tool.

This means all correspondence with students, staff and faculty will be transmitted electronically, an idea that has had growing support over the last couple of years.

The only thing standing in the way of the university is the 74 percent of the student population who has checked their university accounts only one time.

That's right kids, a university filled with students of the most computer-savvy generation ever, isn't checking their e-mail. But it's not because they are afraid of computers or the Internet. It's because they're lazy.

Mike Scott, director of scholarships and student financial aid, said there is a hesitancy that exists to send e-mail to students because there is the possibility that only a few students will check it.

The university has made every effort to aid students in accessing their e-mail. Last year, students switched from Telnet to Microsoft Outlook, the same e-mail system the faculty and staff was using, which allows students to check their e-mail anywhere on the Web.

Furthermore, Microsoft Outlook allows students to forward their e-mail to other accounts such as Hotmail.

So, if you are too lazy to check more than one e-mail account a day, have your TCU mail forwarded to your other personal accounts.

Yes, this process may take a few seconds out of your precious time, but it will save you time in the long run.

TCU provides computers, e-mail accounts and personal e-mail addresses for all its students, faculty and staff.

It's time the students do their part and take advantage of these services so the university can continue its technological process.

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*, Moudy 2918; 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.

Street closure is not a necessity

Bush needs to re-open Pennsylvania Avenue to aid traffic woes

For more than five years, an entire block of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House has been closed to through traffic. Even though President Clinton's closing of the avenue created a traffic nightmare of sorts in the city of Washington (believe it or not, Pennsylvania Avenue is a main thoroughfare in Washington, D.C.), the street became a sort of Venice Beach from the Twilight Zone.



Bullion

There, right in front of the home of the most powerful man on Earth, a bizarre, uniquely American sort of humanity played itself out. Tourists could meander along and take photographs. Protesters both peaceful and belligerent could vie for the camera's attention. And, most deliciously, skateboarders could scoot around all they wanted, only hundreds of feet from federal property.

Of course, free pedestrian rein over Pennsylvania Avenue also meant that total wackos could wreak havoc in kamikaze terrorist attempts like the one we saw last week — at the White House gate, of all places. Forty-seven year-old Robert Pickett of Evansville, Ind., a man otherwise described as quiet and mild-mannered, fired a couple of shots into the air Feb. 7, jumped in some bushes and engaged in a tense stand-off with Secret Service agents before being wounded in the leg. Thankfully, no one was hurt, save for Pickett, who is recuperating in a nearby hospital.

At first glance it would seem like President Clinton might have had good reason to close down

the avenue, given events like these. It's enough that the man was getting assaulted by right-wingers. But who wants to be shot at?

However, in keeping with the discarding of anything dealing with Clinton in the Second Bush Era, President Bush has expressed a great desire to re-open the avenue to vehicular traffic. The Republican Party went as far as making it one of their pledges at the Philadelphia convention last summer. And in spite of yet another case of someone interpreting their right to bear arms a bit too liberally, re-opening Pennsylvania Avenue would probably be a very good idea.

Critics initially decried Clinton's closing of the avenue as anti-American, citing a certain Thomas Jefferson quote ("Kings live in park enclaves, presidents live in street") so often that the words would've lost all meaning — had it not already lost all its meaning. Jefferson passed on before he got the pleasure of having dark-suited Secret Service men ringing around him. The modern president is a king, a target of both idolization and contempt in equal measure. And, in the period following the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, things suddenly started to feel a lot less secure.

President Clinton didn't necessarily overreact when he closed off Pennsylvania Avenue, but it was perhaps an overly cautious

move. The White House is set 350 feet back from the street, meaning that it would take an impossibly powerful car bomb to harm the president. Not only does the president reside in rather glorious isolation, but also, as *The Weekly Standard* reported in an editorial, in "a large mansion with bulletproof windows set back across 100 yards of open lawn studded with surveillance cameras and motion detectors and swarming with armed sentries led by bomb-sniffing police dogs." Maybe Jefferson was right about presidents living in streets — they're just streets with a really good Neighborhood Watch program.

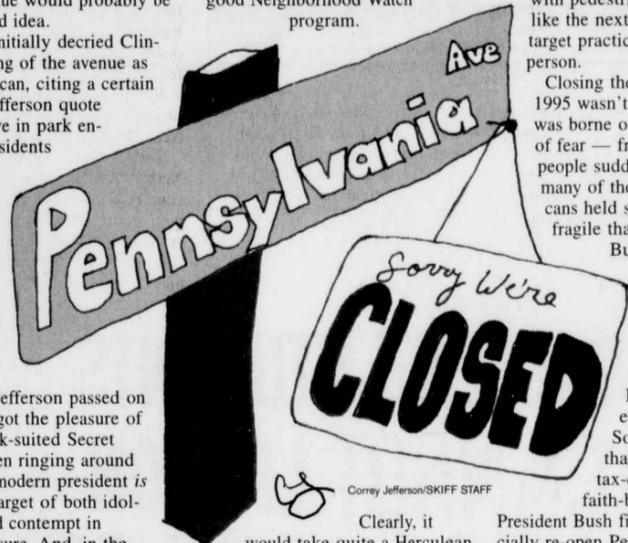
But what is at issue is the safety of those who actually stroll down Pennsylvania Avenue — and in many ways, the closing of the street to through traffic makes it all the more dangerous.

About a mile down the road from the White House, the U.S. Capitol was the sight of a terrifying event in 1998, when an armed gunman snuck in behind some tourists and opened fire, killing two Capitol policemen who attempted to subdue him. Imagine an incident like that out in front of the White House, where a wider, less secure, completely open promenade jammed with pedestrians might look like the next best place for target practice for a deranged person.

Closing the avenue in May 1995 wasn't unreasonable. It was borne out of an unheeded of fear — from a time when people suddenly realized that many of the things Americans held sacred were more fragile than they thought.

But we've made progress in the prevention of terrorism since then, and there's really no reason to keep Pennsylvania Avenue closed off. So here's hoping that while he pushes tax-cut plans and faith-based initiatives, President Bush finds time to officially re-open Pennsylvania Avenue. And if he can't find the time, I promise I'll give the man \$5 if he goes out front and does a few ollies on his skateboard.

Jack Bullion is a junior English major from Columbia, Mo. He can be reached at (j.w.bullion@student.tcu.edu).



Correy Jefferson/SKIFF STAFF

Clearly, it would take quite a Herculean effort by any terrorist to do any major harm to the leader of the free world while the president is actually inside the White House. The safety of the president, with the increased awareness of terrorism since Oklahoma City and the constant presence of the Secret Service, is no longer really an is-

Bush should practice what he preaches

I don't understand why, but I'm absolutely drawn to George W. Bush.

While I'm not a big fan of the blood and gore of a road-side crash, I am unable to pull myself away from this Bush kid. It's like watching Alfred E. Newman in a pod race. You know that sooner or later, something is going to happen.

It's just a matter of whether Bush will hit a wall, a rock or just explode.

He says the most unexplainable things, and the media have done its best to insulate him so far. But really, how long will it be before Dubya has to explain himself?

I am aware of this fascination of mine (in fact it's becoming a vice) and it is just so hard to turn away from the cognitive dissonance of that man. For those of you wondering about that last phrase, 'cognitive dissonance,' it denotes the difference between speech and action.

Let's take a look at some of his greater moments ...

"I want those young people who commit crimes to be held accountable for their actions."

"We need to say that each of us need to be responsible for what

we do. And people in the highest office of the land must be responsible for decisions they make in life. That's the way I've conducted myself as governor of Texas. And that's the way I'll conduct myself as president of the United States."

OK, George. Take that first step, and come clean about your drug use and certify once and for all the president is not above the law.

I know what you all are saying: "Come on, it happened a long time ago." It was a different era, the 1960s and '70s were about self-discovery and exploration. Everybody was doing drugs. Well surprise! Drug use in the '90s was about self-discovery and will continue to be in the future.

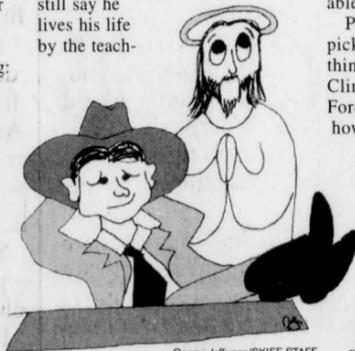
So how can Dubya tell others to take responsibility while shirking it himself? Maybe he did not learn as much as he pretends from those "mistakes he may or may not have made." Go cognitive dissonance!

Note also, our government feels alcohol and tobacco are safe for public consumption, and they topped 500,000 deaths in 1998.

"I was asked what (philosopher most) influenced my life, and I gave an honest, unvarnished answer (in Jesus Christ). It doesn't make me better than you or better

than anybody else, but it's a foundation for how I live my life. Some may accept the answer and some may not. But I really don't care. It's me. It's what I'm all about. It's how I live my life."

George W. Bush can allow the execution of almost 150 people and still say he lives his life by the teach-



Correy Jefferson/SKIFF STAFF

ings of Jesus. I must be unfamiliar with his version of the Bible. All I have read about Jesus has stressed the importance of love and that Christians must not judge others. Long live cognitive dissonance.

Dubya's nomination of John Ashcroft and reinstatement of Ronald Wilson Reagan's "Mexico City Policy," effectively a world gag order eliminating any funding

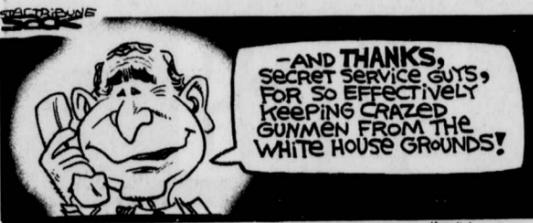
for organizations that in any way fund abortion, are starting to raise some questions as well. People are beginning to realize a government willing to remove one's sovereignty over their body when it comes to some drugs feels that a woman's reproductive rights are similarly governable.

Please don't think that I'm picking on Bush. It's not that I think he's so much worse than Clinton, Bush, Reagan, Carter, Ford, LBJ, JFK, Nixon, Eisenhower or Truman.

Lately I have been hearing "the Rule of Law" being thrown around as a political buzz word by Bush and Ashcroft, and according to the United Nations, the only legitimate use of force on the state level in the world is that authorized by the U.N. Security Council. So if these people really want to follow the Rule of Law, then we must indict every president — except Dubya incidentally — we have had since the United States signed on as a member of the United Nations on Oct. 24, 1945.

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Gore must learn to accept his past mistakes, change for future

Dear Mr. Gore,
During the election you were able to keep your image as an intellectual man, unlike George W. Bush, who wasn't even able to list the names of leaders of prominent countries.



Ahluwalia

You also accomplished many things during your term as vice-president, something you should be very proud of. For in-

stance, your stance on family values has given many people respect for you that they might not have had before.

However, this letter is to inform you that your argument last week with former President Clinton isn't one you should brag about with your buddies when you have them over for cocktails.

Many people know that you haven't been buddy-buddy with Clinton since he lied to you about his affair with Monica Lewinsky, and that's perfectly understandable. The problem is you thought the people of this country would look at you the same as Clinton. But

that's not true. People have always seen you as your own man, and not a mini-Clinton. Americans understand you're a family man and wouldn't engage in the same activities as your former boss. You need to stop worrying about people trying to compare you to Clinton and start worrying about how you are going to win the election in 2004. We need you to take over and clean up the mess that our current president is going to cause while he is in office.

The real reason you lost was because you ran a bad campaign...

You argued the reason you lost the 2000 Presidential Election to President Bush was because of the Lewinsky scandal.

Well guess what ... you're wrong. The real reason you lost was because you ran a bad campaign — not because of the so-called bad boy

image you thought Clinton portrayed.

Think about it for a second. You had the whole economy to fall back on when your campaign started to go sour, but you insisted

you didn't want to bring up Clinton's name, so you went a different route. Well maybe it would have helped a little. No one is saying you should have had Clinton on stage with you and your family, but it might not have hurt to have him campaigning for you in those key states, such as Tennessee.

Clinton could have also helped you raise more money to run your campaign so you could have had the same amount as Bush. And you know how money talks.

The decisions that were made during the months of your campaign might not have been the smartest, but the person who had

the final decision was the one whose name was on the posters ... Al Gore.

Now I understand this letter may have sounded as if I don't like you, but that's not the case. Not only did I vote for you in the past election, but I also have great respect for you. I believe you can run our country just as good as any past president — and definitely better than the one we are living with today.

Associate News Editor Hemi Ahluwalia is a junior broadcast major from Stephenville. She can be reached at (h.a.hluwalia@student.tcu.edu).



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Judge bans testimony in Wal-Mart lawsuit

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — A Galveston federal judge has accused Wal-Mart Stores Inc. of improper behavior in a series of lawsuits, including a case involving injuries to a girl burned while wearing clothes bought at one of its stores.

Galveston U.S. District Judge Sam Kent banned testimony in the girl's case from an expert witness that Wal-Mart belatedly put on its witness list. He also ordered the discount-retail giant to pay \$1,000 to the lawyer for the girl's family.

Kent issued his order Monday that Wal-Mart has repeatedly concealed documents and witnesses from the family's attorney during preparation for the trial, which is scheduled to begin Tuesday.

Bill Wertz, a spokesman for Wal-Mart, based in Bentonville, Ark., called the judge's actions "completely inappropriate." He said Wal-Mart tried to comply with the judge's deadlines for producing evidence but couldn't immediately de-

termine the manufacturer of the girl's garment.

Megan Wilson, now 11, was burned and permanently scarred on her back and thighs when her clothing caught fire as she played with a lighter in August 1997. The girl's parents, Gary and Jerri Wilson of Pearland, say the garment was dangerously flammable, and they sought \$10 million in their original lawsuit.

Wal-Mart has denied the Wilsons' claim and said the family should be held at least 51 percent responsible for the girl's injuries for giving the girl access to a lighter.

Wal-Mart also has argued that if any company is responsible for the girl's injuries, it is the manufacturer of the clothing. The clothing has been described variously in court documents as a child's playsuit, pajamas and an adult garment. The item was imported in 1995 or 1996, "when our records were not kept as well as we wish they had been," Wertz said.

But the judge ruled that Wal-Mart

will be deemed the manufacturer because it took months to identify the clothing supplier.

By also blocking testimony from a Wal-Mart expert, who was expected to say that the garment met safety standards, the judge could be making it easier for the Wilsons' lawyer to convince a jury that the garment was dangerously flammable and Wal-Mart was negligent for selling it.

"It's been stonewall all the way," the attorney, Tony Buzbee, said of Wal-Mart's tactics. "I'm just proud that this has been brought to light, and they've been punished and that the working person has a chance against this international corporation."

Buzbee claims that Wal-Mart record keepers destroyed files on cases similar to the Pearland girl's until June 2000. He said Wal-Mart failed to reveal the name of the Chinese company that made the garment until December, when the trial was scheduled to begin.

In his ruling, the judge cited nine other cases in which state and fed-

eral judges have criticized or fined Wal-Mart for defying court rules, including a Beaumont state district court judge's \$18 million fine against the company two years ago for withholding evidence in a personal-injury lawsuit.

Wertz, the Wal-Mart spokesman, said the Beaumont judge voided the fine after Wal-Mart reached an out-of-court settlement in the case.

The judge said the string of cases represented an "appalling list of arrogance" by Wal-Mart.

"Unfortunately, nefarious conduct is all too common in lawsuits in which Wal-Mart is a party," Kent said. "And now, having had its hand called, it whines."

The Wal-Mart spokesman said the company has tried to correct problems in its handling of lawsuits since the Beaumont case.

"We've acknowledged mistakes in the handling of a number of lawsuits, and we've put into place a number of procedures to make sure that this doesn't happen again," Wertz said.

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Through the Halls

Story by Sylvia Carrizales

In 1969, a select group of students graduated from TCU and moved on to careers as attorneys, school principals, business owners and even a professional athlete.

But it was a group of students who were the first to graduate from TCU in 1964.

They were the first black students to graduate from TCU in 1964.

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would offer her more opportunities.

"That was a major concern for him that he would not get a good education," she said. "I said, 'I guess that's a good enough exchange for me.'"

Once on campus, Simms, who had been a high-achieving high school student, kept an open mind and went out to make many new friends.

"I didn't ever limit myself to African-American students," she said. "The (white) kids knew we were just getting on campus and they didn't come on campus with biased attitudes. If they had them, I didn't show."

She said the only area of campus social life that she knew was off limits to her and her black friends was Greek life.

"It was so closed and tight that you didn't even bother it," Simms said.

But Simms said some black students began to contact the National Panhellenic Council to meet with a traditional black fraternal organization.

Simms said no students ever insulted her or treated her badly because of her race. She was elected to join what was thought to be an exclusive spirit club called the Violators. She made the team, to the surprise of some of her black friends.

As a math tutor, Simms remembers a few students who were initially surprised that she would be tutoring them.

"When you see people in a role that is not a traditional role, you have the initial shock," she said. "But then after that, I had no problems."

Students even began to seek out her help outside of the math center.

Warner-Green said she does not remember any negative or racist attitudes on campus but said discrimination was more evident off campus at department stores and on the city bus.

Simms recalls an incident, with a hint of regret, when she and her roommate, also a black student, applied for the sophomore sponsor position.

These selected would serve as advisors to the incoming freshmen women. The job included reading any women who broke the rules of the residence hall.

"We got called in to the dean's office to get explained why we couldn't be sophomore sponsors," Simms said. "The dean said we had made a decision that it may not be the right time to have an African-American serve as a sophomore sponsor. Sometimes parents have a problem and they didn't want to create a situation where parents wouldn't accept us as sophomore sponsors."

Simms said she was never clear who made the final decision, but she did not protest it.

"I didn't need something that was going to cost me grief," she said. "I could easily let go of something that wasn't something that I needed to do so I could be successful."

Simms said her parents were never too involved with many civil rights protests at the time. She said the environment was so nurturing that at times she didn't realize she was missing out on anything because of being black in a segregated society.

"It was the parents and the community working together who made that segregated school a learning experience," she said.

But Simms saw through the media that, in other parts of the country, black people were not as fortunate as she was.

"I watched (the marches) on television and I realized there were big problems," she said. "We didn't read a lot of history books because we were a part of the history."

Warner-Green said at the time, she also didn't think about being a part of history.

"I don't think I really thought about being the first students to make it," she said. "It was stressful and I didn't think about it at the time. But TCU was a good experience. It did teach us that."

Sylvia Carrizales

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"Everyone thinks we're not going to make it, so we're going to prove to them that we are going to make it,"

-Mildred Simms said about being among the first black students at TCU

SUPERFROG

From Page 1

He said they plan to have birthday cakes, pizza, popcorn, a raffle, a live band and giveaways at the event as well as the traditional Casino Night and fortune teller.

He said he hopes the publicity will bring students to the event even though there are changes from last year in its time, length and location.

Ammons said the event was originally planned to begin at 6:30 p.m., but it was moved to 8 p.m. because of the basketball game. He said the event will still conflict with the end of the game, but added he is not concerned.

"The mark of a good campus is that they have different events at the same time so students can actually have a choice," he said.

Ammons said the event was moved from the Student Center Lounge to the ballroom because the committee decided they needed more room. Sodexo-Marriott management was also concerned about the noise level if the event was held in the lounge, he said. The party has lasted for two days in the past, but this year it will only run for one night, he said.

"The purpose of it being one day instead of two is that two days just drags out the event and changes the cost," he said. "A lot of people at the event charge by the hour."

He said even with the changes, he expects the cost to be around the same as last year, \$6,250.

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E-MAIL

From Page 1

is confusing as to whether everyone is going to read the e-mail you send."

If the proposal is approved, students will need to check their e-mail like they check their mailboxes.

Russel said he realizes some students don't check their student account regularly because much of the mail sent isn't important to them.

"I know some students complain about what colleges send," he said. "Part of the university's commitment to students, faculty and staff is that we will try to make sure any e-mail sent is reasonably targeted to the person."

Lauren Kane, a sophomore marketing major, said having all of her university business sent by e-mail

would be more convenient.

"I like the idea of having e-mail as a major method of communication," she said. "It is a lot easier to sit in your room and check e-mail than it is to take time to walk to your mailbox."

Bill Senter, manager of technical services, said as of fall 2000, about 74 percent of the student body has used their student account at least once and nearly 57 percent have used their student account more than once or on a regular basis.

"We would like to see students preferring their TCU account over their other (e-mail) accounts," he said. "The university provides each student with 50 (megabytes) of space which is more than a lot of other e-mail providers."

The university updated its e-mail system in August 2000, switching from

a Telnet server to the Web-based Microsoft Exchange server, Senter said.

"When we were using Telnet, students could only check their e-mail from computers with that system," he said. "The new server allows them to check their TCU account from any computer with Internet access. We surveyed students, and they said they wanted more access, but they wanted a familiar program. We found that in Microsoft Exchange."

Students who prefer their personal account to their university account can forward all information to the address they desire.

Russel said he believes students should at least forward university e-mails so they can be aware of academic information concerning them.

"I think (forwarding) is the perfect solution if students want to con-

tinue to use something like their Hotmail account," he said.

Tammy Ibach, a junior social work and religion major, said she reads all her university information by forwarding her student account to her Hotmail account.

"I like my Hotmail account better because I am familiar with it," she said. "I also don't want to have to check two different e-mail lists, so it's easier to forward everything."

According to technical services, approximately 544 out of the 7,767 students forward their student e-mail account to another address.

Russel said the proposal for official e-mail communication will be completed and reviewed by the Chancellor's Cabinet next month.

Carrie Woodall
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RELIGION

From Page 1

we can," he said. "We invite people of that (faith) to participate."

Butler said University Ministries offers support of any religious organization that would like to form on campus, such as the Hillel Jewish Student Organization and the Muslim Student Association.

Awais Mazhar, a senior computer science major, said he was expecting TCU to be more strict about religion.

Mazhar said he was surprised the school was so helpful with the start of MSA, which he is the president of. The organization began in September and now has 15 to 20 members.

"Professors are very tolerant and encouraging when it comes to organizations," he said. "It took me by surprise."

Richard Allen, associate professor of radio-TV-film, said as a Conservative Jew he walks on Saturdays and follows a Kosher diet.

"My department has always bent over backwards to include me," he said. "At a state university it might be more of an issue because of the separation of church and state."

The founders of TCU were Disciples of Christ, and originally the majority of the Board of Trustees had to be of the Disciples of Christ faith, but Butler said that is no longer the case.

"Important elements in Disciple heritage are expressed in

much of what the institution is about, like in the mission statement," Butler said.

Allen said the Disciples of Christ philosophy is a very inclusive one, and Butler makes an effort to include all faiths.

"(University Ministries is) open to any campus activity," he said. "They were very helpful with Hillel."

Allen said although there is only a small number of Jewish students on campus, a lot of factors make TCU seem welcoming to Jewish students. He said the development of a Jewish studies program, a yearly scholarship available for Jewish students and the start of a Hillel organization on campus are appealing aspects of TCU for Jewish students.

"Hillel is very nationally rec-

ognized," Allen said. "It puts us in a different category if someone is looking at the school."

Ashraf Muncherjee, a junior economics major, who is Zoroastrian, said he thinks most students are indifferent to religion.

"There's never been any discrimination on the basis of religion," he said. "I don't think religion plays a big part at TCU at all."

Hussain said religion classes at TCU should encourage students to experience religions different than their own by visiting a mosque or going to a synagogue.

"Just to live in this world you have to know about others," she said. "You get insight into your own self when you learn about others."

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CLINTON

From Page 1

pardon of Rich. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said she has "concerns not only about the Rich pardon but about a number of" others granted clemency on Clinton's last day in office.

After discovering that Rich and his indicted partner were fugitives, Adams fired off a fax to the White House summarizing the facts of their criminal case on charges of tax evasion, fraud and participating in illegal oil deals with Iran. The White House then asked Adams to fax over the materials that he had gotten from the FBI.

Rich's Jan. 20 pardon was one of 141 by Clinton, who also commuted the sentences of 36 others that day. Of the 177 total clemency actions, 32 were not reviewed in advance by the Justice Department's pardon attorney, which is the usual, though neither legally nor constitutionally required, procedure.

At the Senate committee hearing, Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder faulted himself in the Rich pardon, saying he didn't realize the Justice Department staff had been ignored by the White House.

"I assumed there were conversations going on at staff level," testified Holder, the department's No. 2 official.

It "could have changed the whole thing" if he had known there was a complete absence of discussion between the White House and Justice Department pardon attorney's office, said Holder.

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Roast beef

Dinner
Meat loaf
Fajita bar

Worth Hills

Lunch
Patty melt
Beef stew

Dinner
Chicken fried steak

Eden's Greens

Lunch
Beef and pepper steak
Stewed eggplant
Steamed pasta

Frogbytes

Same as The Main

Tomorrow at The Main:

Lunch
Grilled ham and cheese
Baked fish
Rotisserie chicken

Dinner
Fried catfish
Eggplant parmesan

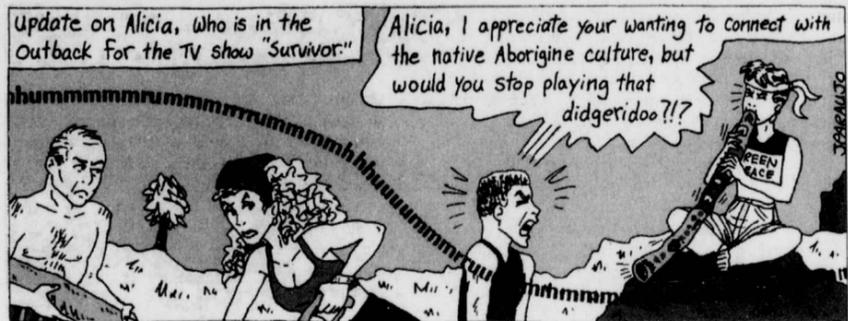
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John P. Araujo

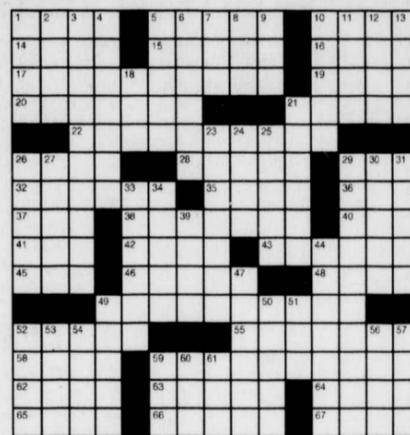
Girls and Sports



Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

Crossword

- ACROSS**
1 Apple PCs
5 Unobstructed
10 Emie's buddy
14 Ersatz butter
15 Telephone greeting
16 Surf's noise
17 Rich
19 Not taken in by
20 More squalid
21 "The Ballad of Jones"
22 Scout motto
26 Run smoothly
28 Teheran cash
29 Bat material
32 Graphite remover
35 Sundial number
36 Pigeon call
37 Perch
38 Pairs of emcees
40 Actor Gulager
41 Three-way junction
42 Part of Q.E.D.
43 Aquarium fish
45 Like a fossil
46 Crevasse
48 In this place
49 Made easier
52 Locations
55 Napoleon's birthplace
58 Square measure
59 Laid waste to
62 Stink a lot
63 Peruses
64 Physical starter?
65 Fruit drinks
66 Bones in forearms
67 Dutch cheese
- DOWN**
1 Does the lawn
2 Out of the wind
3 Renowned
4 Bonds metals
5 Shout of encouragement
6 Eyed lewdly
7 Cornering pipe
8 Pub order
9 Angler's tool
10 Kind of daylight?
11 Billions of years
12 Charge per unit
13 Home of Paris
18 With it
21 Cherry red
23 Of critical importance
24 Some cuckoos
25 John or Bonnie
26 Garlic-basil sauce
27 One archangel
29 Sanctioned
30 Of the sun
31 Roulette-player's opponent
33 Successful transplantation
34 Music critic Ned
39 Heavenly instrument?
44 Drinker's second order
47 Noisy insect
49 Searches for
50 "All That Jazz"



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2/15/01

Yesterday's Solutions

S	O	U	L	E	M	A	I	L	C	U	T	S		
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E	V	A	D	E	E	L	M	P	A	C	E	R		
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S	O	F	T	S	P	O	T	I	R	E				
A	R	I	A	E	N	S	U	R	E	A	T	E		
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director
51 NYC subway line
52 "Two Mules for Sister"
53 Chilled
54 Shoe follower
56 Govt. jobs act
57 Sandier or West
59 Joanne of "All the King's Men"
60 Elver's parent
61 Heflin or Johnson

Purple Poll

Q: Do you check your TCU e-mail regularly?

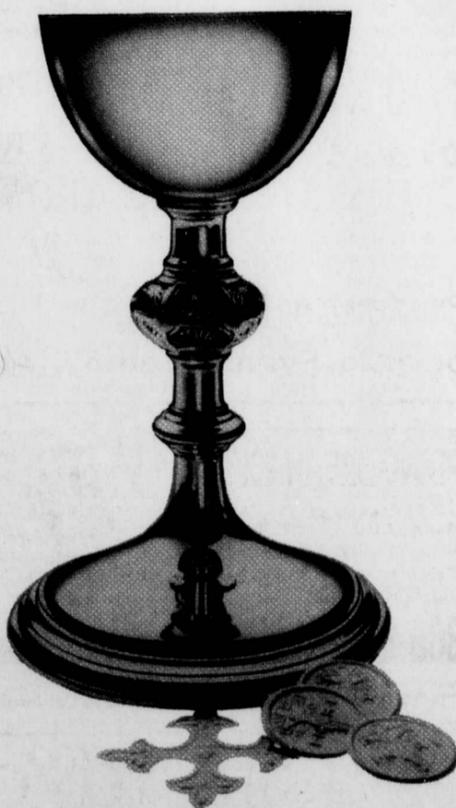


A: Yes 74 No 26

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.

What other meal can sustain you for a week?

Sometimes what we need most in life is not more physical nourishment, but spiritual nourishment. Come join us in the weekly celebration of Holy Eucharist in our church.



ADOC on Thursdays at 5:15 p.m. - Activities Room
Dr. R Scott Colglazier, Senior Minister
University Christian Church
Your Companion for the Journey
2720 South University Dr. Fort Worth, Tx 76109
(817) 926-6631 - www.universitychristian.org

Basketball team to play Fresno State tonight

With chances of NCAA bid fading, Frogs remain confident against conference foes

By Matt Stiver
SKIFF STAFF

TCU men's basketball head coach Billy Tubbs bristled at the question presented by junior guard Greedy Daniels. Judging by the way he threw open the door in front of Daniel-Meyer Coliseum, Tubbs is not scared of Fresno State and its coach, Jerry Tarkanian.

"I've beaten Tark more than he's beaten me," Tubbs said.

However, Tarkanian is gaining, having defeated Tubbs and the Frogs in three consecutive contests, including a 94-82 victory on Jan. 10. Having lost four of their last seven, including two losses to Rice, the Frogs return home tonight with glaring questions before them. Their postseason dreams are rapidly turning to nightmares and their shooting touch, once reliable, has faded.

While the No. 20 Bulldogs (20-3, 9-1 Western Athletic Conference) are playing for NCAA seeding, the Frogs are increasingly playing for WAC Tournament seeding. With a Ratings Percentage Index ranking of 60 (34 teams are granted at-large berths in the 65-

team field) and the National Invitation Tournament a more realistic option, Tubbs refuses to rule out an NCAA bid.

"The only team guaranteed of getting in is the one that wins the conference tournament," Tubbs said. "Our goal is to get better with each game. We still haven't peaked yet."

The WAC, after a one-year hiatus, had its automatic bid restored by the NCAA this season. The WAC Tournament will be held March 6-10 at the Reynolds Center in Tulsa. If the season ended today, the Frogs would open the conference tournament against Texas-El Paso with the specter of Fresno State in the second round.

Daniels said the players still cling to their goals.

"We know our chances are slim, but the season isn't over yet," Daniels said.

The Frogs must find a remedy for their shooting woes. After leaping out to a 47-39 half-time lead against Rice Saturday, the Frogs shot only 5-of-29 from the field in the second half. Senior forward Ryan Carroll, TCU's leading scorer at 17.2

points a game, shot only 3-of-12 from the floor. Senior center Derrick Davenport found net on 1 of 7 shots.

"We didn't come out with the same intensity," Daniels said. "We were still in the game, but no one could make a play."

The Frogs have failed to hit shots down the stretch. During road losses to Tulsa (Jan. 6), UTEP (Feb. 3) and Rice, the Frogs have found themselves with a propensity for missing shots in the second half. During its loss to Fresno State, TCU held a 37-35 half-time lead, but the Bulldogs scored 59 second-half points on 61-percent shooting.

"We play better the last five minutes at home," Tubbs said.

The Frogs will be without the services of senior forward Myron Anthony, who sprained his left ankle against Rice and will miss Saturday's contest against Nevada. Tubbs said Anthony suffered a "real sprain, not a twist" and would not be 100 percent for at least two weeks.

Anthony is ranked fourth on the team in scoring and second in rebounds (7.4).

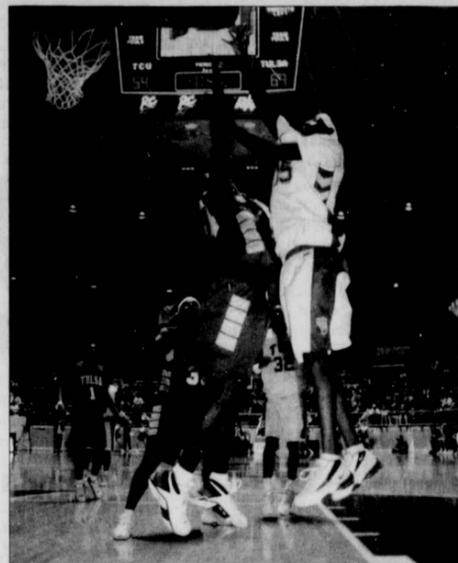
Without Anthony, sophomore Bingo Merriex and junior Marlon Dumont will likely share time at forward. Against Rice, Merriex and Dumont combined for 20 points and six rebounds.

Fresno State brings one of the most prolific offenses in the WAC, averaging 84.1 points a game with a 27.9-point margin of victory. The Bulldogs are led by a trio of all-WAC performers. Freshman Tito Maddox (14.7 points, 6.04 assists), senior Melvin Ely (15.6 points, 7.4 rebounds) and senior Demetrius Porter. Junior transfer Chris Jefferies leads the Bulldogs in scoring (16.3) and three-point shooting (44 percent).

Daniels said the Frogs can match Fresno's quartet.

"We have five players who can play defense," Daniels said. "If we play defense the best way TCU knows how, if we play our game, we'll be fine."

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David Duna/Senior Photographer
Senior center David Davenport scores two points in an 88-66 loss to Tulsa at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum. The Frogs host another Western Athletic Conference opponent at 7 p.m. tonight when Fresno State comes to Fort Worth.

RAIN DELAY



Yvette Herrera/FEATURES EDITOR

Wednesday's baseball game at Sam Houston State, which was originally scheduled for Tuesday was canceled because of the week's rain. The Horned Frog baseball team returns to action Saturday when it opens play in the Western Athletic Conference against Hawaii-Hilo (3-8, 2-1 WAC) at the TCU Diamond. The Frogs are led offensively by sophomore first baseman Walter Olmstead and sophomore third baseman Mike Settle. Olmstead leads the Frogs with a .421 batting average and 11 RBIs while Settle has two home runs and 12 RBIs. TCU is 4-5 overall and has lost three of its last four games.

Baseball teams begin spring training camps

By Ronald Blum
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Just 111 days after the final out of the World Series, the bats and balls began to come out Wednesday in sunny Florida and rainy Arizona.

"The excitement for me is really starting to build," new Pittsburgh Pirates manager Lloyd McClendon said in Bradenton, Fla.

While some Cincinnati players showed up Tuesday in Sarasota, Fla., Wednesday was the first day teams were allowed to work out at spring training.

But Cal Ripken, the Baltimore third baseman who broke Lou

Gehrig's record for consecutive games played, learned he had a hairline fracture in his rib cage and will miss up to a month of spring training.

Ripken, 40, was hurt at home, either working out in preparation for his 20th full season with the Orioles or while playing basketball. He played in 2,632 consecutive games before voluntarily ending the streak in September 1998, then was bothered by a bad back that limited him to 86 games in 1999 and a career-low 83 last year.

"I woke up Tuesday and it was hard to breathe," he said. "I'm a little saddened, a little disap-

pointed because I was working hard during the winter and was really feeling good."

With opening day 45 days away, teams are sure to take aim at the New York Yankees, who have won three straight World Series and four of the last five.

Soon after he arrived in Tampa, Fla., Yankees manager Joe Torre said he is interested in managing beyond this season, the final year of his current contract.

"I think I would miss this," he said.

In Vero Beach, Fla., Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Chad Kreuter was anxious to get back on the field.

"This is what I do," he said. "I'm a baseball player. To start things again is always exciting."

Fans wait all winter for the start of spring training, filling their time with hot-stove talk of trades and signings.

But on Wednesday, it was time to break out the equipment and get back on the field. Most position players report next week, and the pace will pick up March 1 with the start of exhibition games.

The Texas Rangers and their new \$252 million man, Alex Rodriguez, open the season against the Toronto Blue Jays on April 1 at San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Football schedule needs shot at big name teams

Coming season looks to be a step up from previous small-time opponents

Throughout last week, rumors were afoot that the TCU Horned Frog football team might have a shot at playing defending National Champions Oklahoma in next season's Hispanic Fund Football Classic, a nationally televised preseason game that can attract a good amount of exposure.

Alas, though, the honor of joining the Sooners in that game eventually went to the gridiron grunts from North Carolina, and thus TCU's finalized 2001 schedule, released Thursday, remains conspicuously deficient of anything resembling a marquee opponent. Wasn't that the problem last season?

Well, I guess some things never change. Though there's plenty to like about next season's slate, I can't help but feel that whatever success the team achieves will still stand speechless in the face of that oh-so-annoying question: "Yeah, but who did they play?"

Still, let's focus on the positive for a change. As I said, there's a lot to look forward to when we get ready for the Gary Patterson era, so here's the breakdown:

Sept. 1 the Frogs travel north for a battle with mighty North Texas. Hmm ... OK, so maybe they're not so mighty. OK, OK, so they went 3-8 last year ... let's see a half-full glass and say that it's always nice to start the season off with a win. One week later, the Iron Skillet. Do you think that the Mustangs still remember the drubbing they received in last year's game? Don't worry, I'm sure their band still has a few tricks up its sleeve. I see this game as a chance for TCU to show Southern Methodist exactly why the Frogs were asked to make the jump to Conference USA, and why SMU was left to captain the rapidly sinking Western Athletic Conference.

At any rate, while it's never advisable to look past any game, it's expected that the Frogs will be taking a 2-0 record back to Amon Carter Stadium to meet the Thundering Herd of Marshall in the first home game of the year, Sept. 15. Last year, we were the "Marshall of 2000," having an impressive record while playing no significantly competitive teams, much like the Herd two years ago. So, in this match up of apparently talented, yet relatively untested squads, it's difficult to say who will come out on top.

Marshall may even come the closest to being that elusive "marquee opponent," but not quite, though they did win a bowl game last year.

Regardless of what happens against Marshall, the Frogs are back to their old scheduling ways

the next week when Northwestern State comes to town. Northwestern who? Northwestern State. Oh, where is that again? Washington? Oregon? Somewhere in the Northwest? No, it's actually in Louisiana, so let's hope they're better at football than they are at reading a compass.

Last year Northwestern started Southland Conference play at 3-0 before losing its last four games of the year. Something tells me this game is not going to increase the Frogs' prestige in the Bowl Championship Series rankings.

After what was not an intimidating non-conference schedule in the WAC, we've all been waiting for C-USA. The Promised Land. Zion with a TV contract. What can we expect?

It's difficult to say, but it's probably not a bad thing that our first three conference games are against Houston, Tulane and Army, teams which finished among the bottom four in the league last year.

Starting Oct. 30, we should really start to see some benefit from being part of the C-USA. When East Carolina comes to Fort Worth in a rematch of 1999's Mobile Alabama Bowl, ESPN is coming with them and will televise the game nationally.

The Pirates are also a pretty decent crew now, having trounced Texas Tech in last year's a galleryfurniture.com Bowl. After a game against Alabama-Birmingham and a week off, the Frogs welcome Louisville, another bowl team from last year and the defending C-USA champion in what could be a crucial game in deciding next season's conference champion.

The final game of the year, also on national television, will be the one legitimate grudge match on the conference docket as the Frogs look to avenge a bitter 2000 GMAC Alabama Mobile Bowl loss at Southern Miss.

So, despite lacking a big name opponent like the Sooners, it's clear that next year's schedule is a step up from last season and hopefully, indicative of a trend that will continue.

Last year there was nothing that would irk a Frog fan more than the prospect of a potential undefeated season going without reward at bowl time simply because of schedule strength. Even with their one loss last season to San Jose State, it seemed that the Frogs deserved more than the Mobile Bowl.

I have full faith in Patterson's ability to continue to build a solid TCU football program, and I hope that sometime soon the critics out there will have no reason to question the on-field successes of the Frogs. Bulking up the quality of the schedule is a step in that direction.

Daniel Bramlette is a senior radio-TV-film major from Ogden, Utah. He can be reached at (dcbamlette@yahoo.com)

BRIEFS

Men's tennis team plays in Seattle

The TCU men's tennis team begins play today in the 2001 United States Tennis Association/International Tennis Association National Men's Team Indoor Championships in Seattle. The Frogs will be the No. 6-ranked team since moving up one spot in Feb. 14's WingspanBank.com Collegiate Tennis Rankings.

The Frogs will face No. 7 Mississippi at 10 a.m. today in the tournament's first round. Both the Frogs (3-0) and the Rebels (4-0) have undefeated records going into the Indoor Championships.

Two of TCU's three wins so far this season have come against top 25 opponents. The Frogs defeated No. 21 Arizona State Feb. 11 and No. 25 Washington Feb. 12.

Women's tennis team loses to A&M

The No. 34-ranked TCU women's tennis team lost its second match of the season Tuesday against No. 36-ranked Texas A&M, 4-3. The victory extends the Aggies' undefeated streak to four games. The loss dropped the Frogs to 1-2 for the season.

Each team won three of its singles matches. TCU was victorious at the No. 1, 3 and 5 positions while A&M won at the No. 2, 4 and 6 positions.

At the No. 1 position, junior Katrin Gaber defeated Texas A&M's Jessica Roland, 6-3, 6-4. At the No. 2 position, sophomore Rosa Perez lost to Oliva Karlikova, 6-7 (7), 6-3, 6-2.

The Frogs lost both of their doubles matches. At the No. 2 position, Gaber and freshman Karolina Roubickova lost to Ashley Hedberg and Roland, 8-3. Freshman Patricia Aburto and sophomore Brenna Shackelford lost, 8-5, at the No. 3 position.

Women's golf delayed in California

The TCU women's golf team did not play in the first round of the Regional Challenge in Palos Verdes, Calif. Monday due to rain. Only 12 of 18 teams completed first-round play.

New Mexico, Stanford and Texas lead the pack while Arizona, Tulsa, Southern California, Michigan State, Ohio State and TCU did not play because of a nearly three-hour rain delay. Rain is in the forecast for the final two days of competition.

The tournament is TCU's first of the spring season. The Frogs have nearly a month-long break before they travel to Austin to participate in the Betsy Rawls Longhorn Invitational March 12-14.

Stories by Kelly Morris.