

**Tourney Time**

The TCU men's and women's basketball teams have taken different routes into the conference tournament, but both squads are in Tulsa with a common goal.

**SPORTS, Page 8**

**Desperately Seeking Joe**

A trash-eating 8-year old is abandoned at a Grand Canyon tourist stop and discovers life on his own. Now grown up, Joe Dirt has one dream — to find his parents.

**FEATURES, Page 5**

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Fort Worth, Texas

**Master's now earned online**

By Jillanne Johnson  
STAFF REPORTER

Members of the TCU Staff Assembly discussed Tuesday the different programs the university offers through distance learning said Leo Munson, associate vice chancellor for academic support.

Distance learning, as defined by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, is any means of electronic communications between faculty and students away from the main campus, Munson said.

Distance learning is providing students with opportunities they may never have otherwise, said Kathleen Baldwin, director of graduate studies for the Harris School of Nursing.

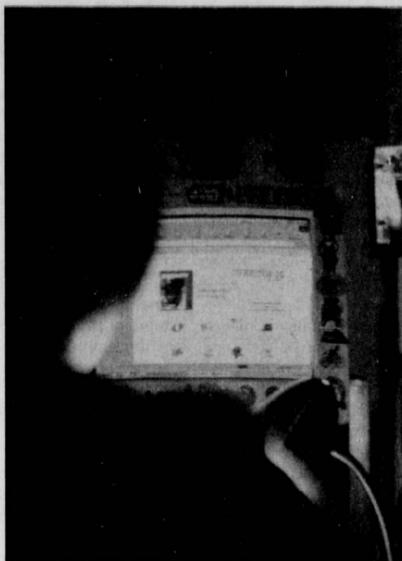
TCU is now offering a Master of Liberal Arts and a Clinical Nurse Specialist master's degree earned through online courses.

"This program is designed so someone who doesn't have an option to go back to school can go back and improve," Baldwin said. "If you don't give this opportunity, you are inhibiting people's chances to continue their education."

The five students enrolled in the accelerated master's program for nursing have associate degrees and are completing 24 hours of TCU credit online before beginning the master's program. Baldwin said, pending approval by the state Board of Nurse Examiners, 12 more students will join the pilot group to open the master's program in fall 2001.

Baldwin said the online option allows nurses who may not attend a school that offers a master's degree in nursing in their area to further their

See ASSEMBLY, Page 4



Tim Cox/SKIFF STAFF

Kate Brodine, a freshman nursing major, does some homework from her computer for her online sociology class. The TCU Staff Assembly met Tuesday to discuss the new online master's programs.

**Alumnus helps relations**

Fox's cabinet member to speak on 'The New Mexico'

By Melissa Christensen  
STAFF REPORTER

A TCU alumnus is helping to change the relationship between Mexico and the United States, said James Riddlesperger, chairman of the political science department.

Juan Hernandez, a cabinet member for Mexican president Vicente Fox who received his Ph.D. from TCU in 1981, will speak about "The New Mexico" at 2:30 p.m. today in Moody Building North, Room 141.

The 2000 election in Mexico brought Fox and his National Action Party to power, ousting the Institutional Revolutionary Party, which had held the presidential office for 70 years. Hernandez, who worked on Fox's presidential campaign, leads the newly-created office for Mexicans Abroad.

Michael Dodson, a professor of political science, said the change in power has helped to bring issues such as immigration, trade and drugs to the discussion table for the two nations.

"Hernandez carries a brand new portfolio that says Mexico is going to take a keen interest in Mexicans living in the United States," he said. "Something new and fresh is afoot.

Now we've got a good climate for discussing difficult and sensitive issues."

Riddlesperger said Hernandez is a tangible symbol of the geographical and cultural relationship between Mexico and the United States, particularly Texas.

"Mexico is our closest neighbor and our most active neighbor," Riddlesperger said. "Texas and Mexico, by definition, are intertwined."

Both professors said Hernandez serves as a role model for TCU students.

"This is an individual who has very close contact with the president of a big and important country," Dodson said. "It's always exciting to see someone who was a student (at TCU) who has gone out and done something interesting."

Riddlesperger said Hernandez is an individual on the cutting edge of policy making.

"He represents the desire of the Fox presidency to transform Mexico," he said.

Hernandez, who was raised in a town west of Mexico City, also received his master's degree and doctorate from TCU. Two of his brothers also attended TCU.

**DISREGARDING HIS DISABILITY**



Photos by Tim Cox/SKIFF STAFF

(Above) Josh Wallace, student at the Rise School, and his mother, Shauna Wallace, wait in line in the Student Center Ballroom for a chance to meet Chris Burke who spoke Tuesday night about his life with Down syndrome.



(Right) Chris Burke takes time out to play with Rise School student Kaley Anne Hernandez Tuesday night in the Student Center Ballroom. Burke spoke about his experiences on the television show "Life Goes On," his involvement with the National Down Syndrome Society and how people should never give up on their dreams.

**Speaker talks about living with Down syndrome**

By Jennifer Koesling  
STAFF REPORTER

Chris Burke, the actor who played Corky on "Life Goes On," said Tuesday he has lived an interesting life because he thrust himself into acting and teaching despite what some people thought about his disability.

"When people say I can't do something, I try even harder," Burke said to an audience of TCU students, faculty, staff and families of Rise School students in recollection of a line he once had to memorize as an actor. Burke said it was this mentality that became his life strategy.

"I have a quality of life that came out a lot of love and lots of quality time that brought me to where I am today," Burke said.

Burke said including people with Down syndrome into everyday activities is an important part of helping them feel like a part of society.

See SPEECH, Page 4

**Burke focuses on abilities, goals**

By Jonathan Sampson  
STAFF REPORTER

Chris Burke said he doesn't like to talk about Down syndrome because that's not what he wants to focus on. Instead of his disability, he said he focuses on his ability.

"This is the way I see things," he said. "Maybe I have Down syndrome, maybe I have a disability, but I have the ability to be anybody's friend, and that's really important to me."

Burke, who played Corky Thacher on the ABC television show "Life Goes On," now travels around the country speaking about his experiences on the show, his

See BURKE, Page 4

**TODAY IN HISTORY**

In 1936, Nazi leader Adolf Hitler violated the Treaty of Versailles and the Locarno Pact by sending German military forces into the Rhineland, a demilitarized zone along the Rhine River in western Germany.

**WEATHER TOMORROW**

High 55  
Low 38

Showers



**INDEX**

- CAMPUS LINES .....2
- COMICS .....7
- CROSSWORD .....7
- HOUSE EDITORIAL .....3
- MENU .....7
- PURPLE POLL .....7
- WORLD DIGEST .....2

**Threats not taken seriously**

Students failed to report warning signs of Santee attack

By Ben Fox  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTEE, Calif. — Friends say the scrawny freshman accused in the nation's latest high school bloodbath talked about his plans over the weekend, and they took him seriously enough to pat him down before school.

One adult even warned Charles Andrew "Andy" Williams not to commit "a Columbine," and tried to call the 15-year-old's father, but didn't follow through. But no one is known to have reported the threats that preceded the attack Monday that left two dead and 13 wounded.

Santana High School was closed Tuesday. Students, parents and others gathered outside to place flowers at a makeshift memorial site and grieve. Some expressed anger that acquaintances of Williams heard him make threats in recent days but failed to warn authorities.

"I think they're to blame, too," said Helen Howard, who came to the

school with her husband. "I just can't understand why they didn't say anything."

During a morning counseling session at a church, an American Red Cross representative asked for a show of hands of people who had trouble sleeping the previous night. About a third of the 200 people indicated they did.

"You may just feel like your heart is beating all the time and you can't calm down," said Robert Bray, a Red Cross disaster mental health worker. "I want to reassure you that people do get through this."

Teachers were told to report to school district headquarters.

As authorities dug into the case, they questioned how so many people see the warning signs and fail to act.

"That's going to be haunting me for a long time," said Chris Reynolds, 29, who heard the threats and didn't report them.

Williams, held in a juvenile facility Tuesday, will be charged as an adult

with murder, assault with a deadly weapon and gun possession, District Attorney Paul Pfingst said. The adult prosecution is mandatory under a ballot measure approved last year, and the boy could face multiple life terms. Arraignment was set for Wednesday.

Pfingst said the gun belonged to Williams' father, Charles, a lab technician at the Naval Medical Center-San Diego, since July. Sheriff's and FBI officials Monday night searched the Williams' apartment and said they removed seven rifles, a computer, a plastic crate filled with papers and files, and about a half dozen bags filled with evidence.

Bryan Zuckor, 14, and Randy Gordon, 17, were killed; 11 other students, a student teacher and a campus security worker, were wounded. The injured remained hospitalized in good or fair condition.

The shooting happened Monday morning in this overwhelmingly

See SHOOTING, Page 4

**CULTURAL AWARENESS**



Tim Cox/SKIFF STAFF

This South American artifact was one of many on display Tuesday in the Student Center Lounge. There were different artifacts on display from different areas of the world as part of International Week's cultural display sponsored by the International Students Association.

**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.

■ **International Week**, sponsored by International Student Association and Programming Council, will be today through Saturday. The purpose of the week is to promote multicultural awareness on campus and to have international students share their culture and customs with students, faculty and staff. "Taste of the World" will be from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today in the Student Center Lounge. Twenty different dishes will be offered free of charge.

■ **The Society of Physics Students** will meet at 5 p.m. today in the Sid W. Richardson Building, Room 323. The members will be voting to amend by-laws and announce upcoming events. Officer election nominations are due March 14.

■ **The Kino Monda World Film Series** will present "La Grande Vadrouille" at 7 p.m. today in the Sid Richardson Building, Lecture Hall 1. Admission for the viewing is free. Yves R. Dumond, a chemistry professor, will introduce the film. For more information call (817) 257-7292.

■ **The Texas Council for Humanities and the TCU Research and Creativity Activities Committee** will present a lecture on globalization titled "Globalization — Another American Century?" at 7:30 p.m. today in the Moudy Building North, Room 141. Walter LaFeber, a leading diplomatic historian in the United States, will give the speech. A reception with snacks will follow the lecture.

■ **Applications for student teaching** for fall 2001 are due Friday. Applications and disks are in the computer lab on the third floor of the Bailey Building.

■ **Harris School of Nursing Student Poster Presentation** will be from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Monday in the Student Center Lounge. Students will be available to answer questions about genetic engineering, drug addiction and new treatments for strokes.

**TCU Daily SKIFF**

Since 1902

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

Circulation: 4,000  
Subscriptions: Call 257-6274. Rates are \$30 per semester.

Mailing address: Box 298050, Fort Worth, Texas 76129.  
Location: Moudy Building South Room 291  
2805 S. University Drive Fort Worth, TX 76109  
On-campus distribution: Newspapers are available free on campus, limit one per person. For additional copies contact the Skiff office.  
Copyright: All rights for the entire contents of this newspaper shall be the property of The TCU Daily Skiff. No part thereof may be reproduced or aired without prior consent of the Student Publications Director. The Skiff does not assume liability for any products and services advertised herein. The Skiff's liability for misprints due to our error is limited to the cost of the advertising.  
Main number: (817) 257-7428  
Fax: 257-7133  
Advertising/Classified: 257-7426  
Business Manager: 257-6274  
Student Publications Director: 257-6556  
E-mail: skiffletters@tcu.edu  
Web site: http://www.skiff.tcu.edu

**WORLD DIGEST**



**Russia works out insurance deal for Mir**

MOSCOW — After months shrugging off foreigners' protests that the Mir space station could come crashing down on a populated area, Russian officials said Tuesday they are negotiating a \$200 million insurance policy against any damage the orbiter could cause when it plunges to Earth in March.

Mir set several records during its 15 years in space, but its history of accidents, including a near-fatal collision with a cargo ship, a fire and computer failures that left it drifting out of control, have fed speculation something could go wrong with plans for a controlled disposal of the obsolete station.

"The insurance is just another attempt to assuage fears," Russian Aerospace Agency spokesman Sergei Gorbunov said during an Internet news conference.

He said the three Russian insurance companies expected to share in covering the risk have "nothing to fear," because the re-entry would be safe. Gorbunov said Mir will most likely be brought down between March 18 and March 20, although no exact date has been set and the final re-entry could happen earlier or later.

Gorbunov wouldn't provide further details about the insurance, such as how much it would cost.

Japan has been especially concerned, because Mir is expected to pass over its territory on its final, low orbit. "We have grown tired of repeating that there was no danger for Japan," Gorbunov said.

Russian space controllers have extensive experience in dumping used spacecraft into the ocean, since the cargo ships that supply Mir are disposed of that way.

Gorbunov said Tuesday that ground controllers will wait until Mir naturally drifts down to an orbit about 155 miles from Earth instead of using up precious fuel to speed up the descent.

"We don't want to spend extra fuel to lower its orbit," Gorbunov said, since that fuel can be used to make sure Mir's final fall is properly controlled.

Controllers must steady Mir by halting its current slow rolling motion. That will be one of the most difficult tasks, since it requires lots of electrical power, and the station's batteries are old and unstable.

A Progress cargo ship docked with the Mir will fire its engines and send the 143-ton station hurtling down in the atmosphere, where friction with the air at high speed will make it glow red-hot. Most of Mir will burn up before reaching the Earth's surface, but some 1,500 fragments with a total weight of up to 27.5 tons are expected to make it all the way down.

Past re-entry accidents have included the 1978 crash of a Soviet satellite in northern Canada,

scattering radioactive fragments over the wilderness but causing no injuries.

A year later, the unoccupied U.S. Skylab space station fell to Earth after its orbit deteriorated faster than expected. Ground controllers tried to aim it into the ocean, but debris came down on a sparsely populated area in western Australia, creating sonic booms and whirring noises audible to people on the ground as it fell. No one was hurt.

**25 Muslims killed during annual pilgrimage**

MINA, Saudi Arabia — Nearly 2 million pilgrims threw pebbles at pillars in a symbolic stoning of the devil Tuesday at a site where a day earlier 35 Muslims performing the ritual were crushed and trampled to death.

The tragedy during the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, or hajj, was the main topic of discussion among participants Tuesday, with many blaming overzealous pilgrims as well as bad organization.

Crowds of pilgrims moved patiently along the giant ramps surrounding the three stone pillars symbolizing the devil at which the faithful cast seven pebbles.

Pilgrims who had completed the ritual changed from their traditional hajj garbs — seamless white robes for men and modest head-to-toe costumes for women — and put on their usual clothes, their heads shaved in the tradition for those finishing the pilgrimage.

Many recalled the chaos from the day before. "It was a very tough day," said a Qatari pilgrim who wanted to be identified only by his first name, Jaber. "Our group passed it unhurt, thank God."

The government said in a statement that the deaths occurred when some pilgrims in the massive crowds dropped luggage they were carrying, causing others to trip and fall amid the press of people. Besides the 23 women and 12 men killed, a total 107 people were injured, said the statement, carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

Witnesses said the crush took three hours to get under control. An Egyptian journalist who was performing the ritual at the time said he saw a few people at a time suffocate or fall and be trampled to death.

"The ramps were extremely congested," Jaber said. "People, in the tens of thousands, were pushing and shoving. People used the entrance to the ramps also as their exit, resulting in a massive crowd getting stuck in a small area. It was two-way traffic on a one-way road."

Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef blamed pilgrims for the deaths, saying "they should allow everyone to perform their rituals and they should show tolerance, calmness and forgiveness toward

each other." Saudi authorities have not disclosed the nationalities of the victims, but the Associated Press of Pakistan news agency said seven of the victims were Pakistani. Hilmi Bedir, Egypt's ambassador in Riyadh said two Egyptians were among the dead. Anwar Haleem, India's consul for hajj affairs said two of the women killed were Indians.

Saad bin Abdullah al-Tuwegry, a Saudi civil defense chief, said most of the victims died of suffocation. "A stampede resulted when the older people in the crowd couldn't move as fast as others," he told SPA on Monday.

**Study finds NATO uranium use not hazardous**

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Depleted uranium used by NATO in armor-piercing weapons in Kosovo had no detectable effect on health, a European Union panel of experts concluded Tuesday.

The findings concurred with NATO's own studies saying there was no link between depleted uranium, a substance used in anti-armor munitions because of its penetrating power, and cancer among peacekeeping troops.

"I don't think there is any reason to be afraid," said Ian McAulay, a professor at Trinity University in Dublin who headed the panel.

U.S. aircraft used munitions containing depleted uranium, a slightly radioactive heavy metal, during the 78-day air campaign against Yugoslavia in 1999, as well as in Bosnia in 1994 and 1995.

A number of European nations also use munitions containing depleted uranium, which has about 40 percent less radiation than natural uranium, which itself is not considered a health hazard.

Concerns arose in several European countries earlier this year when Italy started studying the illnesses of 30 veterans of Balkans peacekeeping missions. Seven of the veterans died of cancer, including five from leukemia.

The European Union sought its own scientific opinion since EU civilian employees have worked and visited Kosovo for prolonged periods. Its experts concluded that "radiological exposure to depleted uranium could not result in detectable effect on human health," McAulay said.

These stories are from the Associated Press.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**WANTED**  
\$20 will be given to pairs of black/white close friends willing to be interviewed for a book on interracial friendships. Contact Dr. Korgen at KorgenK@wpunj.edu or (973) 720-3563.

**EMPLOYMENT**  
**FRANKLIN COVEY**  
Full and Part Time Sales Associates, **Sunday's off**, Hulen and I-30, Competitive base pay PLUS Incentives. Contact Melanie @ (817) 595-0501. Franklin Covey is a Affirmative Action/ Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Princeton Review wants instructors! If you have great SAT, GRE, LSAT, GMAT, OR MCAT scores, like money, and want to have more fun than you deserve, call 735-8555 or email at info.fworth@review.com

Masonic Home and School of Texas is looking for someone who wants a challenging and rewarding job working with today's youth. Now hiring house-parents, live-in positions, and shift-workers. For more information, call 817-531-9300.

**DIET**  
Need to lose 20-200 pounds? 100% natural, FDA regulated, 100% guaranteed, Doctor recommended. Call 866-283-5713, ask for Herb.

**ROMANCE**  
singlesfinder.com

**FOR SALE**  
1998 BMW 328i, 1 owner, BMW maint., loaded, OB-computer, sunroof, AM/FM, cassette, electric seats, etc. Black with tan leather. 44 K Hwy miles. Excellent condition. \$26,500 OBO. Call 763-2349 (Day), 306-0269 (evenings)

**To advertise, call Skiff Advertising at 817-257-7426**

**The ELITE**  
HAIR • NAILS • TANNING • MASSAGE  
2817 w. berry  
817.921.3901  
www.theelitesalon.com

To my friends on the faculty and staff at Texas Christian University. I have established a tax and accounting practice and am working out of the office of King & Woolery, CPAs at 2625 8th Ave. Let me work with you on your tax or accounting needs.  
Call for an appointment (817) 923-4601  
Larry H. Calloway, CPA

**PRIME NUTRITION**  
DISCOUNT VITAMINS & SPORTS NUTRITION  
Save 30-50% Everyday! 10% discount with this ad  
\* Huge Selection \* Low Prices \* Knowledgeable Staff  
6215 Oakmont Blvd Ft. Worth 76132 817-263-1800  
1663 Hickory Dr. Suite D Ft. Worth, Tx 76117 817-834-1888  
M-F 10-6pm Sat. 10-4pm www.primenutrition.com

**TRAFFIC TICKETS**  
defended in Fort Worth, Arlington, and elsewhere in Tarrant County only. No promises as to results. Fines and court costs are additional.  
**JAMES R. MALLORY**  
Attorney at Law  
3024 Sandage Ave.  
Fort Worth, TX 76109-1793  
(817) 924-3236  
Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

**Laxative Study**  
Sciman Biomedical Research is currently conducting a research study of a prescription laxative to determine the lowest effective dose that could be sold without a prescription for the treatment of constipation. If you are 18-85 years of age and you currently use nonprescription laxatives to treat constipation, you may qualify for this research study. If you qualify, your participation will last up to four weeks and you will be compensated up to \$125.  
For more information please call Sciman Biomedical Research 817-417-5551

**EARN \$100 IN ONE DAY**  
... by assisting first year medical students in their learning process. UNT Health Science Center needs healthy, proportionate females to serve as simulated patients for medical student training.  
**FREE PHYSICAL AND PAP SMEAR PROVIDED PRIOR TO TRAINING DATES.**  
Call Donna Spencer at (817)735-5043 for information.  
UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at Fort Worth  
Education, Research, Patient Care and Service

**Sinus Infection Study**  
Are you experiencing the following symptoms? Facial Pain/Pressure/Tightness Facial Congestion/Fullness Tooth Pain/Earache/Headache Sore Throat/Cough Bad Breath/Fever  
Sciman Biomedical Research is seeking individuals 16 years of age and older to participate in a research study with an investigational oral antibiotic. If qualified, your participation will last up to 24 days and you will be compensated up to \$500.  
For more information please call Sciman Biomedical Research 817-417-5551

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING**  
A Gift THAT REMEMBERS BY HELPING OTHERS  
When you lose someone dear to you or when a special person has a birthday, sports smoking, or has some other occasion to celebrate, you need gifts that will truly help others. The American Lung Association helps people at home and in hospitals. This can be a great gift to you and your loved ones.  
AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION 1-800-LUNG-USA

**Editorial**

## NEED THE SWEEP

### Time for women to leave legacy

Twenty wins in collegiate basketball is often seen as the magic number in terms of getting recognized as a possible at-large contender.

Call it a minor miracle, but both the men's and women's basketball teams have managed to post 20-win seasons. It's the first 20-win season in the history of women's basketball at TCU.

The women have been one of the nation's biggest surprises this season, picking up their first-ever conference championship.

To put it lightly, it's been a fairy tale season to this point. It was a season that included record-breaking crowds against top-ranked Tennessee Nov. 27 and Saturday's game against Southern Methodist University.

It was a season that included an 11-game winning streak, the longest in the program's history. It was a season that saw the Frogs pick up votes in the Associated Press Top 25 poll for the first time.

For the first time in what seemed like decades, the women managed to grab a victory from the jaws of SMU. They were 0-5 all-time against Hawaii before stealing a win on the road, Jan. 5.

At 21-7 and 13-3 as champions of the Western Athletic Conference, the women open the conference tournament today as the No. 1 seed against San Jose State.

While the possibility of an at-large bid is still quite favorable, the only way to really cap off this tale would be to sweep through the WAC Tournament and gain the automatic bid.

For seniors Jill Sutton, Amy Porter, Sally Spencer and Karen Clayton, who came to TCU to play basketball in 1997 for a program that had won a total of 40 games in seven seasons, it's time to leave their legacy.

It's time to leave a legacy as the first-ever WAC Champions representing TCU's newly resurgent women's basketball program. It's time to punch your ticket for the Dance.

## Americans are too desensitized

### School shootings should not seem like an everyday occurrence

It seemed school shootings had become passé in the eyes of the viewing public, but apparently they're coming back in vogue in a retro sort of way.



Blum

It's happened recently with bellbottoms, the Volkswagen Beetle and with disco music. In a similar fashion, a 15-year-old high school freshman apparently felt the urge to bring back the trendiest crime of the past few years back into the national spotlight.

Just when it appeared hate crimes had cemented their place as the most popular crime, school shootings suddenly came roaring back with a vengeance.

The sad truth of the matter is that much of the American pub-

lic actually sees these situations from this perspective, even if just subconsciously.

If this had happened a little over a year ago, in the midst of the spree of shootings that were seemingly occurring on a weekly basis, virtually no one would pay much attention to it. People would read that only two students were killed and think to themselves that this was nothing compared to Columbine and go along with their daily routine without giving the matter much thought.

In fact, one friend of mine muttered in reference to Monday's shooting spree that it wasn't that bad because "just" two people were killed. Excuse me, did I hear that correctly? Maybe the earthquake in Seattle wasn't a big deal either because hundreds of people weren't killed (which still got more attention than the earthquake in India that killed tens of thousands).

The sad reality is that many people have already become desensitized to these types of incidents. It seems as if someone is going to have wipe out an entire student body in order to truly shock the public.

I sat watching CNN in horror, seeing students waving their arms and sticking their tongues out at the camera while they were being evacuated and after just witnessing a virtual blood-bath at their own school. When people actually observing these shootings firsthand still aren't emotionally affected, then something is seriously wrong.

Doing that is almost as bad as the shooter's friends not turning him in when he said he was "going to pull a Columbine" at Santana High School. Sure they thought he was joking, but it seems they took him at least relatively serious if they patted him down for weapons Monday. If there was even a little doubt, they shouldn't have hesi-

tated to report him — especially when lives are at stake — regardless of friendships.

What's obviously the most disturbing aspect of the atrocity is the fact that the shooter was smiling as he took aim and played God with his peers' lives. It's truly impossible to fathom what would drive someone to commit these horrors in such an utterly evil fashion. I'd like to extend my vocabulary to describe it, but no word better encapsulates it than simply, evil.

Just imagining someone committing these crimes with a smile invokes a surreal and an almost sardonically cartoonish feeling.

I don't want to sound clichéd, but I can't help asking what the world is coming to. And, sadly, I'm not so sure I want the answer.

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

## Going commando not worth freedom

The life of a columnist is not easy. Even if it doesn't seem that way.



Ortiz

Fort Worth Star-Telegram columnist Molly Ivins once wrote: "As any newspaper reporter can tell you, all newspaper columnists work maybe two hours a day and spend the rest of their time drinking martinis and misbehaving."

True. But every now and then, we go through a lot to write a column. Well, at least I did for the first (and last) time last week.

Let me explain. A friend told me Friday will be National Going Commando Day. I had no clue what going commando meant, so it was explained to me that to go commando meant to wear no underpants.

My friend thought it was worth a column. Tired of writing about politics and cigarettes, I agreed. But I couldn't think of a way to write it. And that is when it hit me: How could I possibly write about going commando if I have never done it in the first place?

So I decided to do something I have never done before: go commando.

Being the type of person who takes things ridiculously too far, I

decided to go commando for a week. I did it all for the column.

During the course of the seven days, I sat down and wrote a journal entry. Here is a complete unabridged version of the "Commando Days."

**Commando Log 02272001**

First day without underpants. Complete and total liberation. This is the freedom our forefathers really fought for. Forget that sappy rights crap ...

The mission is already having problems though ... I learned a valuable lesson today. Baggy pants + no underpants = disaster. Walking around campus, my special artillery almost got exposed. Had to go back to camp and obtain a secret hi-tech piece of equipment: a belt ... Roommate getting suspicious of whole going commando thing. He could be a spy. Nothing can get in way of mission ... Note to self: try not to wear wind pants later in week. Enemy in newsroom could come up and pull them down.

**Commando Log 02282001**

Second day without underpants.

Not as good as first. Learned valuable lesson No. 2, going commando in cold weather sucks ... Developing rash, itches badly. Roommate says Icy Hot should fix that. He had a funny smirk on his face when he said it. Wonder what he thought was funny ... Valuable lesson No. 3: be careful when sitting down while going commando. Note to self: remember to buy Icy Hot at store.

**Commando Log 03012001**

Third day without underpants. Ready to abort mission ... Bought Icy Hot at store.

Will put it on later ... Put it on. Burns badly. Why won't the burning go away? Please, somebody, make it go away ... With such little laundry to do, I have trouble finding stuff to do in spare time.

Instead of studying, I have resorted to watching daytime soaps ... Valuable lesson No. 4: Icy Hot is Satan in ointment form ...

**Commando Log 03022001**

Day four... Rash finally went away. Burning did, too. Plan to show my appreciation to God by building five churches when mission is over ... Monica cheated on

Tony today on "Nine Lives to Live." That slut ...

**Commando Log 03032001**

Day five. Somebody please shoot me. Not used to so much movement. Certain things are not supposed to bounce up and down ... Joey and Maria are getting married on "The Old and the Restful."

I was wrong on Samantha and Joseph's marriage, but I have a feeling this one is going to work out ... Roommate came back and apologized for Icy Hot incident.

Didn't trust him at first, but he gave a convincing song and dance number. We're buddies again. Started watching soaps together ...

**Commando Log 03042001**

Day six. Don't quite remember what happened last night. Went to party in Fort Worth, but woke up in bathroom of fat waitress's house in Dallas. Found \$20 in back pocket though. Wonder how that got there ...

**Commando Log 03052001**

Last day. In the words of Ren and Stimpy, "Happy, happy, Joy, joy." ... Most valuable lesson learned: Never wear wind pants while going commando. Wore wind pants to gym, and buddy thought it would be funny to pull them down. Everyone laughed at me. Spent most of day crying ... Joey and Maria didn't make it after all.

*Brandon Ortiz is a freshman news-editorial journalism major from Fort Worth. He can be reached at (b.p.ortiz@student.tcu.edu).*

### TCU Daily Skiff

- Editor in Chief: Rusty Simmons
- Managing Editor: Laura Head
- Advertising Manager: Ashley Anderson
- Associate Editor: Danny Horne
- Senior News Editor: Jaime Walker
- Associate News Editor: Hemi Ahluwalia
- Features Editor: Yvette Herrera
- Opinion Editor: James Zwilling
- Senior Sports Editor: Victor Drabicky
- Associate Sports Editor: Kelly Morris
- Senior Photographer: David Dunai
- Copy Desk Chief: Jacque Petersell
- Senior Reporter: Melissa DeLoach
- Co-Production Coordinator: Veronica Johnson
- Co-Production Coordinator: Renée Marchin
- Graphic Artist: Kelly Chia
- Web Editor: Ben Smithson
- Production Manager: Jeanne Cain Pressler
- Business Manager: Betsy Faulk
- Student Publications Director: Robert Bohler
- Journalism Department Chairman: Tommy Thomason

### 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 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.

## U.S. policy contradicts itself, supports killing

George W. Bush has bombed Iraq, which makes him the third consecutive president to do so and this the fourth presidential term that the Neo Babylonian empire has unjustifiably attacked the ancient home of the Babylonian empire.

Let's take a long, slow walk back through the events of 1989-90 — the year Vanilla Ice lit up the charts with "Ice, Ice, Baby," Ollie North was pardoned and slap bracelets were tragically falling out of style. Look at it as a multiple choice test. Which of these actually occurred?

A.) The United States entered Panama to catch the "Swamp Rat," drug runner and Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega.

B.) Iraq enters Kuwait to end the slant drilling of those pesky rebellious Kuwaitis.

C.) The United States enters to liberate Kuwait from the world's newest Hitler.

Do you know what's wrong with the previous three statements? They are all rife with background ideologies that must be examined. Let us examine them in order and reflect duly.

The wording of the first implies that we were welcomed into Panama and allowed to enter. This is not true. The United States lost 26 Army Rangers, and Panamanian casualties numbered

in the thousands. We removed the 'elected' government and illegally extradited Noriega, the head of their government. Now some say we needed to invade, the term used worldwide for our action in Panama, because Noriega was the head of a narco-militaristic regime that flooded American streets with cocaine.

As the *San Jose Mercury* noted, the CIA had him beat by almost a decade importing cocaine to help offset the cost of funding the 'Contra' rebels or death squads, both apply. I'm sure that everybody knows about that canal they have down in Panama, but did you know that until 1895, when the United States invaded Colombia, there was no Panama? Colombia won't give us the terms we want; no problem, we invaded and created a new country and negotiated with them.

The wording of the second implies that Kuwait welcomed the Iraqi army and allowed them to enter. This is not true, and the Iraqi army sustained minimal losses as they paraded through Kuwait.

They removed the 'elected government' and destroyed Kuwait's capacity to drill along its northern border. Iraq also claimed that Kuwait is historically part of Iraq and was a remnant of the colonial era. Some Iraqis said they needed

to invade because Kuwaitis were stealing oil from the people of Iraq.

Iraq's oil reserves are second in the world next to Saudi Arabia's.

Oil proceeds provided for the people of Iraq free education and health care, as well as a state-of-the-art water system. By comparison, the people of Saudi Arabia were given a free pick-up truck, which women are prevented from driving, and free higher education, which women were prevented from receiving.

It's funny how similar these two incidents are. Perhaps, Hussein is guilty of being a copycat. It's not hard to understand why. It's always hard to hear "do as we say not as we do." Why, if the United States can unilaterally solve their problems, could Iraq not act along the same lines? It seems hypocritical to take action and then condemn others for it. If Saddam Hussein is the next Hitler, which our former CIA director and President George Bush said, then what I ask is the United States?

Hussein brought his complaints before the UN numerous times, but they were not addressed. After the invasion of Kuwait, the United States said leave, and Iraq did.

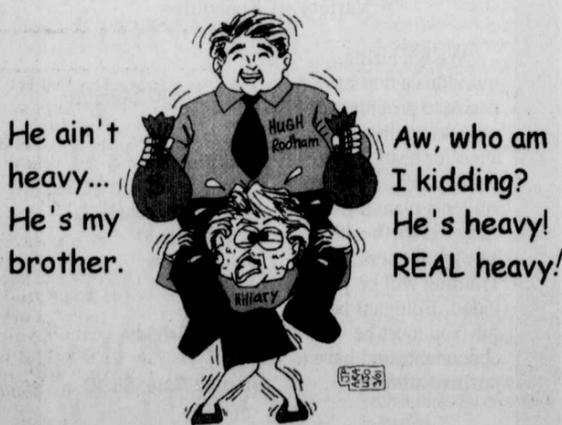
So we attacked them as they left, removing the puppet regime put in place by Iraq. The reason

no negotiation could be allowed hinges on the fact that exposing Saddam's actions would expose our own in Panama. It's true that this man was gassing his own population, but the next question should be, "Where did he get these weapons of mass production?" The vast majority came from what the British and American governments call machine and farming tools.

Another term is dual use technology, that which can be used for both farming or militarily. Orwellian language must be applied here because a modern artillery piece is both a machine and a tool and could possibly plant corn up to a range of 12 kilometers and within 300 meters of the targeted field.

The U.S. government did not just stand by while Hussein gassed his own populations; we supplied the weapons and allowed these atrocities to occur. Then in the Iran-Iraq war throughout the 80s, the United States supplied both sides. Hmm ... that would mean that we supported neither side and instead sought to profit from the destruction and death spread by our weapons.

*Chris Dobson is a senior history and political science major from Arlington. He can be reached at (c.p.dobson@student.tcu.edu).*



John P. Araujo/SKIFF STAFF

**BURKE**

From Page 1

involvement with the National Down Syndrome Society and how people should never give up on their dreams.

Marian Burke, Chris Burke's mom, said Chris Burke has been speaking to groups ever since "Life Goes On" went off the air in 1993.

"I think people were so enthused about the fact that someone with a disability, especially Down syndrome, was able to really do the good job he did on 'Life Goes On' that they immediately became interested in his speaking to various groups," she said.

Chris Burke also works with the National Down Syndrome Society as editor in chief for its news magazine for children with Down syndrome and their siblings, Marian Burke said. He also represents the society as a goodwill ambassador and self-advocate.

She said one common misconception about children with Down syndrome is that they can't learn.

"These young people who are born with this disability are capable of learning, and the earlier that we start (teaching them), the better they're going to be," she said.

Jeni Durant, assistant director to the Rise School, agrees that early intervention is important, but she said there will always be a need for assistance.

"Not every child born with Down syndrome is going to be like Chris Burke," she said.

Marian Burke said Chris Burke doesn't dwell on the disability.

"(Chris) really doesn't focus on his Down syndrome because he doesn't think it's anything to focus on," she said.

Chris Burke said he wants people to see the importance of working to overcome any obstacle.

"I really would encourage my fans to believe in themselves and to work hard and to never give up," he said. "Never take your eyes off the goal, and make your dreams come true."

Jonathan Sampson

j.m.sampson@student.tcu.edu

**SPEECH**

From Page 1

"This was happening at a time when college students were becoming more aware of what mental disabilities were and students supported me and included me," Burke said.

Among members of the audience sat Burke's father, Frank Burke, who spoke at the end of his son's speech and helped answer questions.

Frank Burke said he wants to encourage parents to help their children to receive a good education.

"Training educators is key and I think it is evident at TCU that the students with special education degrees are receiving good preparation," Frank Burke said.

Kathy Cooter, the director of the Rise School, presented a calendar of events to Chris Burke, after his speech in appreciation for his dedication to the cause.

Brad Thompson, fine arts chair-

man for Programming Council and a Best Buddies director, said PC and Best Buddies formally invited Rise School students and their families because they wanted them to be inspired by what Chris Burke said about living with Down syndrome.

"It is something we wanted to address on this campus because there is a huge need for volunteers, but it is more important that these families hear what he has to say because it may be an inspiration," Thompson said.

Derek Westbrook, a Rise School parent, said he attended the event because his 1-year-old son, Jakob, has Down syndrome and he wanted to hear Chris Burke speak about living with a mental disability.

"There are not many chances to hear a personal perspective on this," Westbrook said.

Jennifer Koesling

j.c.koesling@student.tcu.edu

**SHOOTING**

From Page 1

white, middle-class suburb of San Diego.

Youngsters were out and about as one "block" of students who start early in the day headed to their next classes and another group — Williams' "block" — arrived for their first classes.

Williams shot two people in a restroom, then walked into a quad and fired randomly, sheriff's Lt. Jerry Lewis said. He stopped to reload as many as four times, getting off 30 or more shots, Lewis said.

"It was total chaos. People were trying to take cover," said student John Schardt, 17, who was in a nearby classroom when the shooting started. He said the shooter had a smile on his face.

"Pop, pop, pop and everyone started ducking," recalled student

Nika Ocen-Odode.

Barry Gibson, 18, said he saw a friend fall to the ground, rolling onto his side and spitting up blood.

"We were asking him, 'Are you OK?'" Gibson told the *Los Angeles Times*. Amid another burst of gunfire, Gibson ran. "I got hit in the leg," he said. "It went numb."

Authorities have said little about a motive for the rampage.

He's a skinny kid, a skateboarder "wannabe" friends said. There's talk of recent scrapes with booze and a girl, a breakup, and a beating by another teen-ager at the skateboard park where he hung out.

Since the 1999 Columbine High School massacre that left 15 dead in Colorado, people have become more willing to report threatening behavior. At least four times around the country in recent months students reported threats and possibly averted violent episodes at school.

**ASSEMBLY**

From Page 1

education.

She said many of the students this program will attract will be in their mid-30s or 40s and have families.

"Some of these students will be single heads of families," Baldwin said. "School would not be an option without the flexibility of the Internet."

The MLA program has nine students enrolled who live outside the Fort Worth area. Munson said these students have the opportunity to choose from 33 classes which have been developed for online use.

"These courses are not fluff — they have substance," he said. "We have been encouraged by the informal responses we've been getting."

Munson said professors have the opportunity to supplement classroom instruction with distance learning.

Keith Whitworth, a professor of sociology, teaches three first-year sociology classes using an Internet supplement. He said he doubts students will be able to buy a textbook without an online supplement two years from now.

"I like (the Internet supplement)," Whitworth said. "I don't think I will teach another course without it."

He said it takes about

three times as long to develop an Internet class but believes the work is worthwhile. Whitworth said many times, face-to-face interaction creates barriers for students when communicating with professors while Internet supplements allow students to interact less formally. Where students might not approach professors in person, Internet supplements often require responses on chat boards or in threaded discussions.

"Because of the increased or required interaction, there is more opportunity to dialogue with students and get to know students better," Whitworth said.

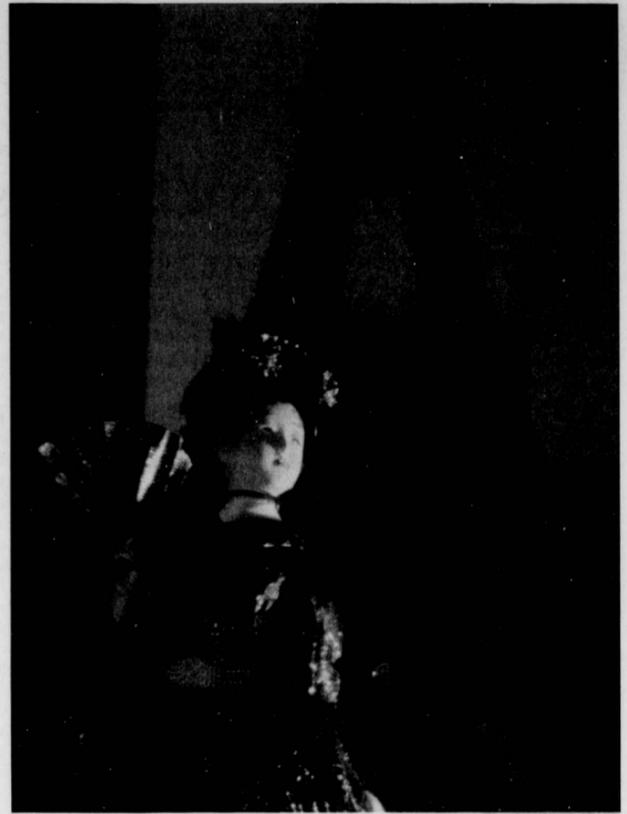
Baldwin said the online nursing classes allow undergraduate students to interact with the accelerated master's degree students as well. She said this program could open doors for employment and bring a TCU presence into Dallas health care.

Munson said distance learning provides a different level of interaction and could also go a long way to publicizing what the university has to offer.

"I have been pleased with the willingness to try to figure out if distance learning is part of the next step for the university," Munson said.

Jillanne Johnson

j.johnson@student.tcu.edu

**INTERTWINING NATIONS**

Tim Cox/SKIFF STAFF

A poster of the Eiffel Tower and a Japanese doll were two items put up on silent auction Tuesday as part of the International Week celebration in the Student Center Lounge. Proceeds from the auction went to benefit the International Student Association.

**Winter storm shuts down northeast**By J.M. Hirsch  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RYE, N.H. — A nor'easter covered parts of New England with near-blizzard conditions Tuesday and hammered coastal communities with high waves, after failing to live up to expectations in much of the mid-Atlantic region.

From New Jersey to Maine, schools were closed for a second day, hundreds of flights were canceled and offices were shuttered.

Vermont's Jay Peak ski resort had 29 inches of new snow by Tuesday, 28 inches had fallen at Ballston Spa, N.Y., north of Albany, and more than 20 inches of snow piled up at Keene, N.H. But only a few inches fell in Boston and New York City, and Philadelphia got only flurries, sleet and rain.

At least five people were killed in weather-related traffic accidents, four in New York state and one in Connecticut.

At Cranston, R.I., part of the roof of the Rhode Island Lottery Commission collapsed under the weight of ice and 5 inches of snow Tuesday morning, sending workers scrambling from the building. No one was hurt.

Lottery director Gerald Aubin said he and others ran after hearing

**West Virginia to Maine hit by high waves, near-blizzard like conditions**

crackling noises. "Everyone started to scream," Aubin said.

Heavy snow also collapsed the roof of a store in Peabody, Mass., during the night, but no one was inside.

Road crews were out all night in New Hampshire and had a tough fight, said dispatcher Al Rule.

"Some are winning the cause, and some aren't," he said. "You go through with a plow, and 10 minutes later, it's all covered again."

Some 80,000 homes and business were without power in Massachusetts, and 3,000 were blacked out in Connecticut. Scattered outages were reported in New Hampshire, and the Seabrook nuclear power plant was shut down because the storm knocked out power lines that can be used to bring in outside electricity for backup safety systems.

Forecasters had grappled with conflicting computer models about the storm.

"It's a very complex storm because what's happening is on the surface and in the upper layers of the atmosphere," said National Weather Service meteorologist George Klein

in New York. "You see, we're dealing with computer models that tell us what a storm should do, not what a storm could do."

Wind-whipped waves crashed over seawalls along New Hampshire's seacoast on Tuesday morning, bouncing rocks the size of bowling balls across flooded roads. Parts of Rye were under 2 feet of water after the waves tore apart one section of seawall.

Flooding was reported along the Massachusetts shore after the 8 a.m. high tide, with water waip deep in some streets in Scituate, and residents voluntarily evacuated some areas.

"We're not taking any chances. We figured we'd get out," said Fred Loeb, who left his house in Scituate with his wife, two children and their dog after water rose to the level of their main floor.

"It's so wild and crazy," Raul Cardona, 17, said as waves threw sand onto sidewalks at Revere Beach, Mass. "You never see Revere Beach so untamed."

Connecticut and Massachusetts

ordered all nonessential state employees to stay home Tuesday, and Connecticut continued a tractor-trailer ban to avoid the possibility of jackknife accidents.

Some of Vermont's annual town meetings, where residents debate and vote on budgets and other local matters, were postponed. New Hampshire's Legislature, state Supreme Court and other courts canceled Tuesday's schedules and state officials shut down all but essential offices.

Ninety percent of flights scheduled to leave Boston's Logan Airport on Tuesday morning were canceled, and airlines canceled 700 flights Tuesday at the New York metropolitan area's Kennedy, LaGuardia and Newark airports.

Schools were closed again Tuesday from Pennsylvania across parts of New England. On Monday, fears that roads would be hazardous led to school closings in districts scattered all the way from West Virginia to Maine, affecting an estimated 3.1 million students in New York state alone.

Many residents of New York City, New Jersey and Pennsylvania were more inconvenienced by preparations than the weather itself.



we throw all kinds of  
**[obstacles]** at you.  
tuition isn't one of them.

Sharp cliffs, rope bridges, final exams. With obstacles like these in your way, tuition's the last thing you should have to worry about. But if you qualify, you can get a 2- or 3-year Army ROTC scholarship that'll help make life easier over the long haul. Talk to your U.S. Army ROTC representative. And get a leg up on your future.

**ARMY ROTC** Unlike any other college course you can take.



For Scholarship Information call 817-257-7455  
www.army.tcu.edu

**HOUSTON SUMMER JOBS**

Miller Swim Academy is now hiring swim instructors, lifeguards, and pool managers. Excellent pay!

Sixty locations throughout Houston

713-777-7946

call between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

**Rehabilitation Assistants Needed**

A Variety of Schedules

We are hiring individuals that have a desire to provide caring and quality guidance for head injury patients. Excellent for students planning a career in the health care profession. Training will be provided. Bilingual helpful. You must be dependable and have a positive attitude.

WE DRUG SCREEN

Apply at:  
Centre for Neuro Skills  
Post Acute Rehab.  
3915 Portland  
Irving, Texas

Or, call:  
(972) 594-0549

Starting Rate: \$8.50

Vender # 000684, 000949, 000685, 000686

## Movie Review

By David Germain  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The crime thriller "15 Minutes" runs two hours. That's eight 15-minute chunks of time you could have better passed organizing your sock drawer.

This movie initially looks like another of those half-baked crime thrillers, say "Cop Land" or "Ronin," that managed to land the name Robert De Niro on the marquee. But as the quarter-hours pass, "15 Minutes" becomes something much worse.

While trying to keep rooted in cops-and-killers action, the movie makes frantic and foolish stabs at social commentary, trying to double as a darkly comic satire on media culture and the price of celebrity.

But the effort is crudely written and farcically performed.

De Niro plays Eddie Flemming, a New York City homicide detective who's such a media darling he has his own paparazzi — reporters and cameramen who cry out, "Look over here, Eddie!" when he arrives at a crime scene.

Called to investigate two deaths in an arson fire, Eddie reluctantly teams with arson investigator Jordy Warsaw, played by Edward Burns.

In the grand tradition of brainless buddy-cop flicks, Jordy's the opposite of Eddie, a man who eschews the limelight and wants to go about his job in obscurity.

They wind up sharing some moments, exchanging ideas, influencing each other in ways they never thought possible, blah blah blah.

### "15 Minutes"



Even worse than this clichéd partnership is the doltish duo Eddie and Jordy pursue.

Czech immigrant Emil Slovak (Karel Roden) and his Russian chum Oleg Razgul (Oleg Taktarov) arrive in America, take a few moments to get their bearings, then embark on an outlandish killing spree that puts the city into a tizzy.

Emil, a twitchy ex-con in his home country, does the slaughtering, and Oleg, a devotee of Frank Capra, decides to make a movie of their exploits with a stolen digital-video camera.

This documentary, both figure, will be their ticket to fame and fortune in a country where murderers become TV personalities who duck justice by blaming society for their actions.

"I love America," Emil says. "No one is responsible for what they do."

Wrong. Filmmakers are responsible for their creation. So let's examine the degrees of liability for "15 Minutes."

Assess about 75 percent of the fault to writer-director-producer John Herzfeld, who follows up his edgy "2 Days in the Valley" with this nonsense.

Spread the rest of the blame among the cast, whose performances range from drowsy shallowness to overblown idiocy. De Niro's not exactly bad, but he's not exactly good, either. Burns' whininess hits a new high here, and he's forced to spout some really silly lines.

"You're a witness to a double homicide," Jordy tells the beautiful immigrant (Vera Farmiga) he becomes smitten with after one glance. "I can't get involved with you."

Kelsey Grammer is a dull stereotype as a sleazy journalist, and Avery Brooks is a non-presence as Eddie's homicide-squad colleague. Taktarov is just plain goofy, while Roden comes across as a poor man's Gary Oldman as the killer without a conscience.

In short, "15 Minutes" isn't worth 15 seconds of your time.

"15 Minutes," from New Line Cinema, is rated R for strong violence, language and some sexuality.



SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF

By Yvette Herrera  
SKIFF STAFF

A trash-eating 8-year old is abandoned by his parents at a Grand Canyon tourist stop and discovers life on his own. Now, grown up and working as a janitor, Joe Dirt (David Spade) has only one dream — to find the parents he lost or that lost him.

Joe's mullet hairdo and acid-washed jeans only add to the humor in the movie. Although he befriends an odd, but amazing cast of characters, Joe still manages to tell a funny but touching story of his life.

He finds himself in Los Angeles, where shock-jock Zander Kelly (Dennis Miller) brings Joe on his radio show for an on-air interview. Listeners are hooked to what they hear and cheer Joe's decision to find his parents.

An entire city tunes in daily to hear the adventures of Joe. Not long after, audiences worldwide join to help this unlikely hero uncover the mystery of his family's disappearance.

The cast includes a high school janitor (Christopher Walken), an alligator trainer (Rosanna Arquette), the fire-works salesman (Adam Beach), the beautiful but untouchable Brandy (Brittany Daniel) and Kid Rock, who makes his feature film debut, as Robby.

From the producing team of the comedy "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo" comes "Joe Dirt" about a janitor who has learned everything on his own.

Costume design played an equally important role in making this film. Five to 10 years out of date with his comical fashion choices, Joe's outrageous retro-hair (a mullet) and ratty rock concert T-shirts contribute to his comical adventure.

"Joe Dirt" will be in theaters April 11.

The film has been rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for crude and sexually-related humor and language.

Yvette Herrera  
yvebex@yahoo.com

## Desperately Seeking Joe dirt



SPECIAL TO THE SKIFF

## Music industry takes a ride to the

By Jim Patterson  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Is there room in a Jennifer Lopez dance music world for jangling guitars and yearning male tenor vocals of old-fashioned power pop — made in the capital of country music?

SWAG, a Nashville band consisting of moonlighting members of the Mavericks, Sixpence None the Richer, Cheap Trick and Wilco, isn't really sure.

In fact, the reason the band got together was to put those concerns aside, and just have fun.

SWAG's "Catch-all" compact disc, to be released Tuesday on Yep Rock Records, harkens back to the days when the melodic rock 'n' roll of the Beatles, the Kinks and the Zombies ruled the pop charts.

The compact disc contains mostly energetic love songs. One can hear the influence of the Hollies on an introduction or two, and the Beach Boys on the delicate ballad "Different Girl."

More contemporary artists such as Matthew Sweet and Fastball have walked the same territory in recent years with some radio success.

"It is a real square peg today, perhaps," said Robert Reynolds, who sings and plays guitar for SWAG. He's the bassist in the versatile Nashville band the Mavericks. "I think it's our reaction to modern music. We all do that for a living, and this is another love that we have, early pop music. It's not that we've given up on modern music."

Also in the band: bassist Tom Petersson of Cheap Trick, drummer Ken Coomer of alternative country band Wilco, keyboardist/singer Jerry Dale McFadden of Christian pop band Sixpence None the Richer and solo artist Doug Powell.

McFadden joined Reynolds for an interview at a busy coffee shop. By coincidence, Coomer was there and joined in.

For those unfamiliar with music-industry slang, SWAG is the term for freebies like T-shirts and promotional compact discs.

"The name came because we all make our livings playing in other groups," Reynolds said. "SWAG is the free stuff, the fun stuff, the stuff that at the time doesn't matter. Somehow it fits."

The idea for the band began on the Mavericks' tour bus. McFadden was traveling with the band as a backup musician.

"Late at night on the tour bus we would play each other classic music that we loved," Reynolds said. "Usually it wasn't relative to country music or the industry that we were working in. It was a relief from that, a release."

The pair liked all kinds of music, but shared a common love of garage and pop bands of the 1960s. Weary of band politics within the Mavericks, they decided to start another band, and avoid the pressure of major-label expectations.

SWAG has played occasional shows around Nashville for the past four years, depending on the schedules of each player's principal job. In December, they performed at a John Lennon tribute show that marked the 20th anniversary of his death. They've also contributed a version of "Don't Let Me Down" to an upcoming tribute album to Jeff Lynne of Electric Light Orchestra.

"This band is healthy," said Coomer. "It's like when you were a kid playing in a garage with four guys, and you've got a gig at a girl's party next week. It's that kind of excitement."

Like-minded friends have sat in live or played on the recording sessions, including guitarists Bill Lloyd and Kenny Vaughn, Rick Nielson of Cheap Trick and Paul Deacon of the Mavericks.

The band characterizes its material as "about girls and love, not heavy and occasionally stupid." It's immaculately crafted with help from producer Brad Jones, Nashville's best pop music producer, who's worked with Jill Sobule, Swan Dive and many others.

Without the marketing muscle of a major label behind it, SWAG isn't counting on much radio support. And the band knows its brand of pop music isn't hip.

"You could conceivably end up in some magazine, where the guy reviewing it was into the latest whatever," Reynolds said. "And he'd say, 'What the hell is this?'"

McFadden finishes the feared review: "Look at these dinosaur guys making dinosaur music."

One melancholy song, "Near Perfect Smile," alludes to Reynolds' divorce last year from country star Trisha Yearwood. An answering machine message from an annoyed-sounding Yearwood precedes another song.

"I was separated from Trisha when I started 'Near Perfect Smile,'" Reynolds said. "I was living in our guest house, of all things... Sometimes you're channeling something that no matter how simple it sounds, it's got a meaning to it. We joked about that song: 'SWAG doesn't do stuff with meaning!'"

SWAG seems destined to remain a second job, with somewhat of a revolving cast. Because of Cheap Trick's touring schedule, the band has performed as much without Petersson as with him. And Reynolds, Coomer and McFadden are all committed first to their other bands.

Artistic freedom is the result of that arrangement.

"It's a lot of fun to do something that is not so business-oriented," McFadden said. "SWAG is not trying to be part of the whole music business machine."

P  
A  
S  
T

The pair liked all kinds of music, but shared a common love of garage and pop bands of the 1960s.

If you're pregnant and alone, you need a warm voice, not a hotline.

1-800-GLADNEY

**PLANET BEACH TAN PLANET BEACH**

Fort Worth's most luxurious tanning salon.

We have it all...

Super Beds  
AM/FM Radio  
Stand-up Units  
Built-in CD Players  
10 and 20 Minute Beds  
Built-in Air Conditioning

Show your TCU ID and get 3 free tans  
first-time guests only

Planet Beach Tanning Salon of Fort Worth  
3000 S. Hulen at Bellaire Dr. Suite 113 • 737-3231  
Between Tom Thumb and Red, Hot and Blue

**Circle Cleaners**

VISA 3450 Bluebonnet Circle 923-4161 MasterCard

**SAME DAY SERVICE** in by 10am - out by 5 pm

professional dry cleaning  
minor repairs free  
leather cleaning • bulk cleaning  
expert alterations  
charge accounts

**\$6 off** any \$12  
DRY CLEANING ORDER with coupon - one per visit

**\$3 off** any \$6  
DRY CLEANING ORDER with coupon - one per visit

Looking to PARTY for Spring Break 2001?

STS has guaranteed low prices to the following destinations:

BAHAMAS • JAMAICA • MEXICO • FLORIDA

**Cancun Starting @ 479**

STUDENT TRAVEL SERVICES  
America's #1 Student Tour Operator

www.ststravel.com Beach Front @ 559  
1800648-4849 Call Today. Space is Limited!!!

www.skiff.tcu.edu

**PREGNANT? NEED HELP?**

- Free pregnancy tests.
- Results while you wait.
- No appointment necessary.
- Confidential.

**924-9110**

FORT WORTH CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER  
www.forthworthcrisis.org • TCU Ave.

Haircut • Color  
817.923.103

SHAMPOO

**WOMEN**

From Page 10

Tournament. After that, we will hopefully go to the NCAA Tournament!"

To win the conference tournament, the Frogs will first have to get by San Jose State with game time scheduled for noon Wednesday in Tulsa, Okla. The Spartans are coming off a 66-55 victory against Texas-El Paso in Tuesday's play-in game between the WAC's two lowest seeds. On Jan. 7, the Frogs beat the Spartans, 72-63, in San Jose. TCU completed a series

**MEN**

From Page 10

Tubbs said the Frogs are not taking the Rainbow Warriors lightly.

"You never know about these tournaments, especially those first-round games," Tubbs said. "All our focus is on Hawaii right now."

Having defeated Texas-El Paso (99-91) and SMU (84-76) to close the regular season, the Frogs' players said they are finding something that eluded them all season: momentum.

"We're playing with confidence right now," Merriex said. "We've won two games and had two good practices. I think we're ready."

Tubbs said the Frogs have proven themselves resilient this year, bouncing back from losses (two to Rice) and having two teammates dismissed from the team. He said that quality should come into play in the tournament.

sweep against the Spartans Feb. 27 with a 66-54 win at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum. With the victory, the Frogs clinched their WAC title.

The Frogs were eliminated in the first round of last season's WAC Tournament after losing to Tulsa, 64-56.

Mittie said no matter who the Frogs face in the tournament, the team will have to work on both offense and defense to have success.

"Defensively, we are less predictable," he said. "Offensively, we have to be stronger in the paint because it's a more physical game come tournament time."

"You really have to give our team a lot of credit," Tubbs said. "They pulled together and played team ball. I think it speaks well for our players."

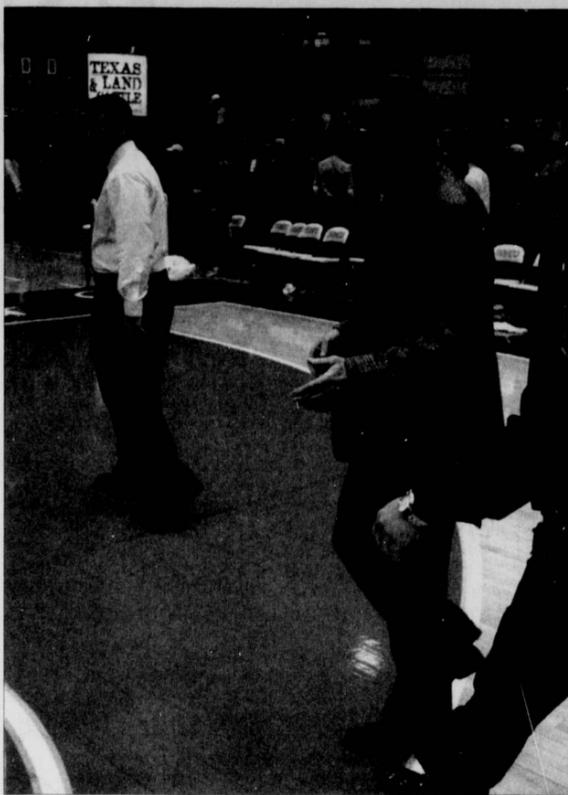
Tubbs said the Frogs are starting to peak at the right time.

"The key is we're still excited about playing basketball," Tubbs said. "Our attitude is good, our conditioning is good and we're pumped. That's exactly where you want to be this time of year."

Merriex said the Frogs are going to Tulsa to win the tournament.

"Everybody has that in mind," Merriex said. "In the first game, we have to be focused on Hawaii. In the second game, we have to be focused on the second game. Then in the championship, we can think about it. If we have the right mindset, we can do it."

**Matt Stiver**  
m.r.stiver@student.tcu.edu



David Dunai/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER  
Billy Tubbs, TCU men's basketball coach, dons protective goggles and is escorted by a security guard Saturday at Moody Coliseum in Dallas. The Frogs begin their play in the Western Athletic Conference Tournament Thursday in Tulsa, Okla.

**HORNE**

From Page 10

hoping to steal the automatic bid from the WAC.

Only two teams have won in Tulsa this season, Fresno State and Creighton. Nope, that doesn't mean Fresno State has the tournament locked up. The Bulldogs very well could win the tournament on the strength players like Melvin Ely and Tito Maddox, who were awarded WAC Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year respectively.

But if two of Fresno's last three road games were any indication, that team's in some trouble. The Bulldogs lost convincingly at TCU and UTEP by an average of 16 points. However, they've won four straight including a win against Tulsa in Fresno.

Barring any major upsets, Fresno State and Tulsa are on course for a meeting in the conference championship. Call it a hunch, but it's just too tough to win in Tulsa, especially twice.

So that leaves the women.

Head women's coach Jeff Mittie shrugged off what has become quite

the monkey on the back of the TCU basketball programs by simply pointing out that his squad picked up a scant four-point win Feb. 2. It should be said that the Tulsa women have been complete opposite of their male counterparts at the Reynolds Center going a meek 4-11 this season.

Perhaps he and his team have reason to exhibit such a confident air. After his version of the Frogs completed a 21-7 season and went 13-3 in the WAC, the Frogs seem poised for at least an at-large bid, if not a run through the tournament for the automatic bid.

Simply put — a better RPI, key wins against SMU and Hawaii and a competitive game with No. 1 Tennessee — the women's resumé is far more attractive than the men, whose resumé package features quality losses to Rice (twice) and San Jose State.

Add a conference tourney championship to the women's accolades, and they will be dancing.

Associate Editor Danny Horne is a senior broadcast journalism major from Carrollton. He can be reached at (d.m.horne@student.tcu.edu).

**Macha's homer sends Frogs past Texas**

By Brandon Ortiz  
SKIFF STAFF

Texas-Austin head baseball coach Augie Garrido might want to ask TCU head coach Lance Brown for his playbook back.

The Frogs keep beating him with it.

The Frogs used Garrido's formula of good defense, pitching, small ball and a little bit of power to upset Texas 7-2 for the second time this season Tuesday.

The win marked the second time the Frogs (12-6) have beaten the Longhorns (12-7) this season. Texas still holds a commanding lead in the all-time series, 212-54-2.

The Frogs beat Texas 2-1 Feb. 4

on junior Justin Crowder's suicide squeeze and his pitching, which limited the Longhorns to four hits.

TCU used a little bit of small ball to start off Tuesday's game.

Using the bunt, a weapon Garrido's Longhorns are known for, sophomore right fielder Terry Trofholz singled to lead off the first inning. Crowder was hit by a pitch, and the Frogs had two on with no out. Longhorns' pitcher Justin Simmons, who came into the game with a 1.50 ERA, managed to get sophomore first baseman Walter Olmstead to pop out and senior outfielder Tom Bates to strike out.

Simmons started junior shortstop Erick Macha with a curveball

for a first-pitch strike. Macha, who said he knew from scouting reports that Simmons usually doesn't throw two breaking balls in a row, geared up for the fastball.

"After that first curveball, I was looking for the fastball, and there it was," Macha said on KTCU 88.7-FM.

Macha connected for a three-run homer to give the Frogs the early lead.

Texas managed to score individual runs in the fourth and fifth innings and came close to taking the lead, but senior pitcher David Tombrella got right fielder Ben King to ground out to Olmstead to leave two Longhorns stranded in the fifth inning.

The Frogs scored four more runs on four hits and two errors in the eighth inning to put the game out of reach.

Despite being out hit 9-6, the Frogs were able to win behind solid pitching from Tombrella and freshman reliever Clayton Jerome.

Tombrella pitched five innings, allowing two runs on six hits and walking one. Jerome pitched four shut-out innings and struck out four to get his first career save — and the second save of the season for TCU.

The Frogs play Southwest Texas State at 2 p.m. today in San Marcos.

**Brandon Ortiz**  
b.p.ortiz@student.tcu.edu

**Napster given 72 hours to block songs**

By Ron Harris  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal judge told the music industry to catalog the copyright songs it wants removed from Napster Inc. and said the highly popular file-swapping service then has 72 hours to block free sharing of that music.

The order, dated Monday and posted on a Web site Tuesday, effectively gave the recording industry control over the immediate fate

of the Internet-based clearinghouse that has turned music distribution on its head and cultivated a following of millions.

Napster is fighting to stay online and retain its popularity while promising to shift over to a subscription-based service. For that, it depends on the cooperation of the very music labels that sued the company to stop song swapping.

The order by U.S. District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel did not specify what would happen if Napster was

unable to comply, except to say another hearing could be held. Napster officials had no immediate comment.

Patel, in issuing an injunction she reworked on the order of an appeals court, said the record labels must notify Napster of the title of the song, the name of the artist and the name of the Napster file containing the infringing material. She said all parties should take "reasonable measures" to identify the copyright-infringing music.

Napster, which began a screening

system this weekend in an effort to weed out such copyright music, then would have three business days to implement a system of blocking access to that file.

Patel acknowledged that it might be difficult to identify all variations of a copyrighted song, given that Napster users could use code words or shorthand to identify different pieces of music. "This difficulty, however, does not relieve Napster of its duty," she wrote.

**Cheney released after angioplasty**

By Christopher Newton  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Vice President Dick Cheney was released from the hospital Tuesday, a day after undergoing a surgical procedure to repair a damaged artery.

The vice president walked out of George Washington University Hospital, shook hands with his doctors and was driven away.

"Good," he said in response to a reporter's shouted question about how he felt.

Senior aide Mary Matalin said Cheney was up about 7 a.m. and was "antsy" to leave. She said three sets of cardiac enzyme tests showed no damage to Cheney's heart muscle, and multiple EKGs have not changed.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Cheney will rest at home

and likely will return to work later this week.

"No restrictions have been placed on his work," Fleischer said.

He said President Bush had not spoken with Cheney about his work schedule, but the president "expects him to follow his doctor's orders."

Matalin said the procedure Cheney underwent Monday was prompted by a common complication of his prior heart procedure, not a progression of heart disease. The vice president had an angioplasty to unclog a coronary artery.

Cheney should be able to continue in his job unimpeded by his latest heart problems, doctors said, shrugging off any suggestion that he should curtail travel or his intense workload.

His physicians said, however, there is a fair chance he will be back in the

hospital facing the same trouble soon, even if he sticks to his no-beef diet and rigorous workout regimen.

"Well, it's possible for the narrowing to come back, and I think I quoted around 40 percent," Dr. Jonathan Reiner, who performed the surgery at George Washington University, said at a news conference. "There are studies that may show, you know, a little bit higher than that. If the narrowing is going to come back, usually it comes back within the first six months."

Cheney, who has had four heart attacks, underwent the angioplasty after he experienced a series of subtle pains in his chest. Doctors said their best evidence indicated that Cheney, 60, had not suffered another heart attack.

The artery, which had been opened during surgery at the same

hospital in November, had partially re-closed, Reiner said. The culprit was scar tissue building up in the same channel doctors had opened previously.

Monday night Cheney was groggy and sedated, but Reiner said he should be back at work this week. He said Cheney won't face travel restrictions, or any restrictions at all.

"There is a very high likelihood he can finish out his term in his fully vigorous capacity," Reiner said.

Cheney quickly resumed a full schedule after the November operation.

President Bush called the vice president to wish him well, Fleischer said. "During their five-minute phone call, the vice president told the president that he was feeling fine and looked forward to returning to work," he said.

## today's menu March 7, 2001

### The Main

**Lunch**  
Mongolian wok  
Chicken fried steak  
Rotisserie chicken

**Dinner**  
Mongolian wok  
Barbecue pork chops  
Rotisserie chicken

### Worth Hills

**Lunch**  
Baked potato bar

**Dinner**  
Taco station

### Eden's Greens

**Lunch**  
Mandarin chicken  
Vegetable ragout  
Steamed rice  
Sautéed button mushrooms

### Frogbytes

Same as The Main

### Tomorrow at The Main:

**Lunch:**  
Burrito bar,  
roast beef

**Dinner:**  
Nacho bar,  
meat loaf

### Lex



www.l-e-x.com

### Phil Flickinger

### Academia Nuts



e-mail: academianuts@aol.com

### John P. Araujo

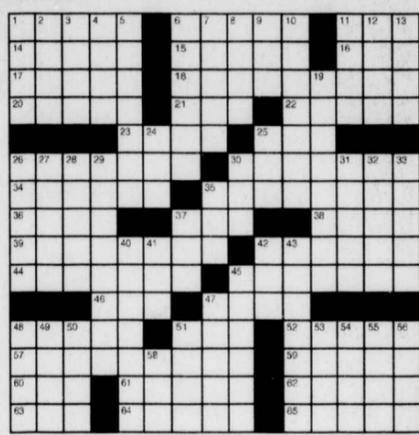
### Girls and Sports

### Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



### Crossword

**ACROSS**  
1 Low voice  
6 Sentence components  
11 Cassowary cousin  
14 Broadway name  
15 Walking  
16 Family  
17 Spicy dish  
18 Utterance  
20 Multitudes  
21 Coop denizen  
22 Part of RCA  
23 Pizzeria fixture  
25 Cellmate  
26 Decorated  
30 Files  
34 Sell off  
35 Medical exam  
36 Rara  
37 Notable period  
38 Raton, FL  
39 Exclusive control of a commodity  
42 Where tutus twirl  
44 Adler and Benson  
45 Thin surface layers



© 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

3/7/01

8 Colorful mount  
9 Period  
10 Fatty tissue components  
11 \_\_\_ out a living (scraped by)  
12 Short skirt  
13 "Do \_\_\_ others as..."  
19 Lower jaw  
24 Dog's best friend?  
25 Demure  
26 Smith and West  
27 Golfer's gouge  
28 Of sheep  
29 Decides  
30 Govt. agcy. (1934-65)  
31 Elev'e's place  
32 Fast snake  
33 Louvers  
35 Use too much nose  
37 1994 Open golf champion  
40 Credit cards

### Yesterday's Solutions



41 Horse's morsel  
42 Hogan of golf  
43 Indigestion relief  
45 Poetry  
47 Greek island  
48 Subdue  
49 Australian gem  
50 Alcove  
51 Coup d'  
53 Kent's beloved  
54 Exposed  
55 Beer ingredient  
56 Feed the kitty  
58 Biblical lion

### Purple Poll



**Q:** Do you think the women's basketball team will get an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament if they fail to win the WAC tournament?

**A:** Yes No Huh?  
41 23 36

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.

## SPRING BREAK BLOWOUT

SKIING? SNOWBOARDING?  
GOING TO THE BEACH?

- Northface Jackets & Pants 25% Off
- All Snowboard Equipment 30% Off
- Spy Sunglasses 30% Off
- Snow Skis, Boots, Skiwear & Boardwear up to 50% Off

We have REEF Sandals, Oakley & Black Flys Sunglasses, and Quick Silver & Hurley Swimwear...

Everything you need for Skiing, Snowboarding, Wakeboarding or Sitting on the Beach

# CD Ski & Sports

Fort Worth  
5270 S. Hulen St.  
3/4 mile south of I-20  
817-263-0490

Grapevine  
311 S. Main St.  
across from Grapevine Opry  
817-488-2529

Mon-Wed 10:00-8:00  
Thurs-Sat 10:00-7:00  
Sunday 1:00-5:00

SKIS AND BOOTS AT OUR FORT WORTH LOCATION ONLY

2001  
Wakeboards  
Are In!!

## division one

\$1 Pints

2 Story Night Club  
2 Separate Dance Floors

\$2 Jager

\$2 Wells  
and Import Crafts

15 Beers on Tap

Thursday Night

Friday Night

17-25 East Division, Arlington

17-25 East Division, Arlington

"I'll get it!"



At Skiff Advertising we work hard to make our customers happy. So, call the Skiff today to place your ad!

257-7426

## Western Athletic TOURNAMENT Conference

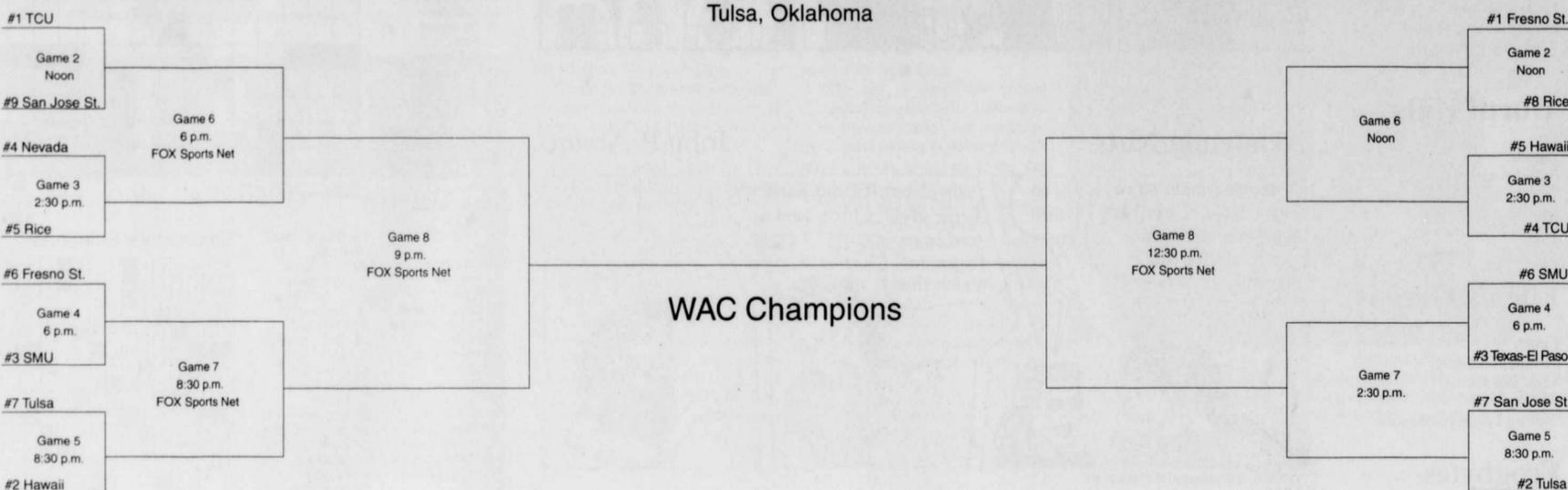
### WOMEN

2001 WAC Tournament  
Reynolds Center  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

### MEN

Wednesday, March 7    Friday, March 9    Saturday, March 10

Saturday, March 10    Friday, March 9    Thursday, March 7



### TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

#### WOMEN

## Women enter as favorites

By Kelly Morris  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

For the first time in its history, the TCU women's basketball team will enter the Western Athletic Conference Tournament as conference champions.

But after finishing the season Saturday with a 87-79 loss to Southern Methodist, head coach Jeff Mittie said the team could be doing a little better.

"I think we played (well) against SMU," Mittie said. "But in the first half, we didn't get the loose balls, and we couldn't finish plays. We would have liked to finish the season stronger, but we did finish the season as regular-season champs."

Even with Saturday's loss, the Frogs still finished the season with an overall record of 21-7 and had just three conference losses. The Frogs set single-season records for wins with 21 and wins in a row with 11.

Senior guard Jill Sutton said the Frogs season-ending loss will in no way affect their momentum going into the tournament.

"Oh no, the loss won't affect us," Sutton said. "If anything, the loss will motivate us more. We just need to get that hunger back. I don't think we have become complacent at all."

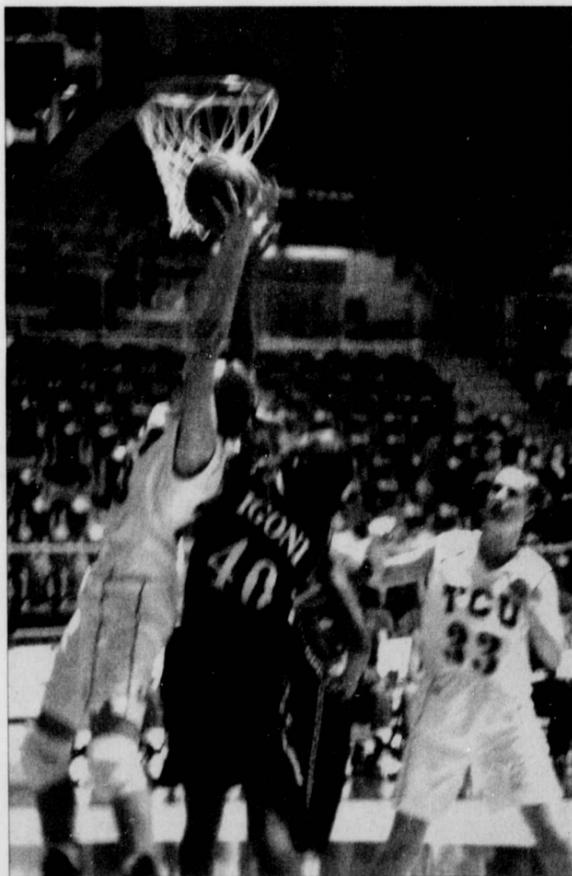
"We just need to realize that there's so much more out there that we can get."

That "more" could be the Frogs first appearance in the NCAA Tournament. TCU's best chance to make it to the field of 64 is to win the WAC Tournament.

Sutton said the next three games are crucial if the Frogs want to make it that far.

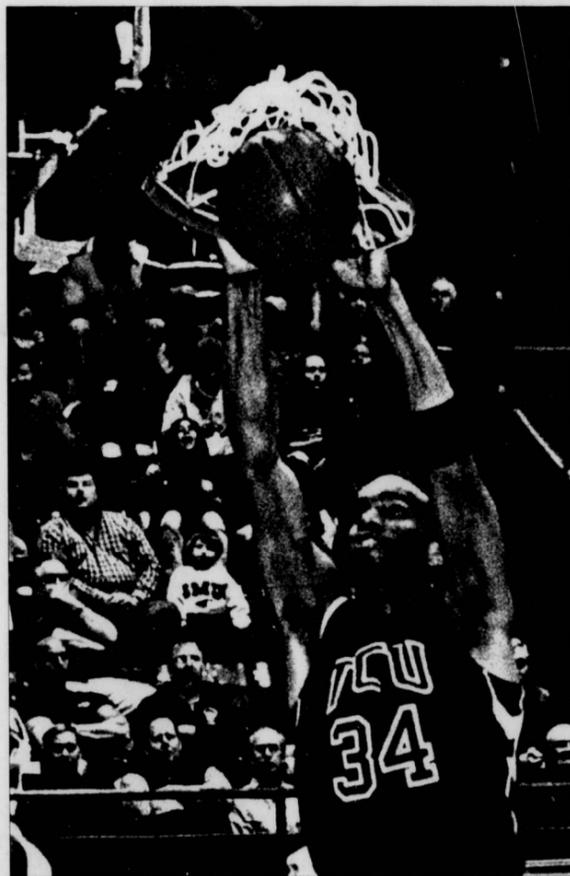
"The next three games will be the most important part of our season," Sutton said. "We've won the WAC — now we have to focus on the (WAC)

See WOMEN, Page 6



Tim Cox/SKIFF STAFF

Freshman forward Tiffany Evans goes up for a rebound in the Frogs' 66-54 victory against San Jose State Feb. 27. With the victory, TCU clinched its first Western Athletic Conference title.



David Dunai/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore forward Bingo Merriex dunks against Southern Methodist Saturday in Dallas. Merriex will play a key role for the Frogs in the Western Athletic Conference Tournament as the team is down to seven scholarship players.

### WAC Tournament at a glance

#### WOMEN

**TCU:** An automatic bid removes all doubt. The Frogs don't want to leave any doubt that they belong.

**Hawaii:** At 21-6, the Wahine are on the bubble for one of the at-large bids. A couple wins in Tulsa should help, but they've only played eight games outside Hawaii.

**Southern Methodist:** A win against TCU Saturday was a boost, but it won't be enough to get them through the WAC Tournament.

**Nevada:** It's time to start thinking National Invitation Tournament.

**Rice:** The winner of Rice/Nevada very well could get an invite to the NIT, but that's as good as it gets.

**Fresno State:** The Bulldogs have been a disaster on the road all season. No reason to think that might change.

**Tulsa:** Even with the home crowd behind them, the Golden Hurricane women won't be much fight against Hawaii.

**San Jose State:** With Texas-El Paso losing the play-in game, the revenge card is spent. So now, it's just a first-round win for TCU.

#### MEN

**Fresno State:** With the postseason awards to Melvin Ely, Tito Maddox and Jerry Tarkanian, the tournament should be a lock. Not so fast.

**Tulsa:** Reynolds Center. 34-4. Automatic bid from the Western Athletic Conference. It's that easy.

**Texas-El Paso:** Senior Brandon Wolfram, the WAC's leading scorer, looks to delay his trip to the NBA.

**TCU:** "BillyBall" gets another chance to prove it's worthy of the postseason. Which team will show up?

**Hawaii:** The Rainbow Warriors are

1-8 outside of Hawaii. Couple that with playing in Tulsa. Not a good mix.

**Southern Methodist:** It's the farewell tour of seniors Jeryl Sasser and Willie Davis. TCU fans probably won't miss them.

**San Jose State:** The Spartans finished the regular season strong, winning four of six. Problem is they face home town Tulsa in the opening round.

**Rice:** It's all about the miracles. The Bulldogs swept both games this season from the Owls.

#### MEN

## Frogs to take on Hawaii

By Matt Stiver  
SKIFF STAFF

The TCU men's basketball players will enter the Western Athletic Conference Tournament confident in themselves and their ability to emerge as champions.

"We're playing our best basketball right now, and it couldn't come at a better time," sophomore forward Bingo Merriex said.

The Frogs open the tournament at 2:30 p.m. Thursday against Hawaii. The Frogs split the season series with the Rainbow Warriors, with the home team winning each matchup. TCU won, 103-64, in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum Jan. 4, while Hawaii took a, 102-87, decision in Honolulu Feb. 22.

Both TCU and Hawaii played well at home and poorly on the road this season. The Frogs went 16-1 in the friendly confines of Daniel-Meyer Coliseum, but a modest 4-9 on the road. Hawaii contrasted a 13-5 home record with a 1-8 mark on the mainland.

Both teams will look to find consistency on the "neutral" site of Tulsa's Reynolds Center, where neither team has a victory.

Merriex said playing on a neutral site will be an adjustment for both teams.

"Hawaii is a good team, but this time it's on a neutral court," Merriex said. "Whoever goes out and jumps out quick will win. We'll find out which team is better."

Despite their poor mainland record, the Rainbow Warriors have fared well in the WAC Tournament. In last season's tournament, Hawaii upset Southern Methodist in the first round, 87-82, before taking eventual conference champion Fresno State into two overtimes.

Knowing what they did last year, Tubbs said the Frogs are not taking

See MEN, Page 6

## Women bouncing strong into tournament; men may need luck

#### Commentary



DANNY HORNE

Schedule strength, ranking in the rating percentage index (RPI), tough road wins and key losses. It's time for every prospective NCAA Tournament team to pull out the résumé. It's the tournament or burst for all those bubble teams teetering on the brink of elimination.

Well, not quite yet. Selection Sunday is less than a week away, but there's drama to be had all over the country as teams vie for automatic bids and those precious few at-large positions in the field of 65 or 64 in the case of the women.

Championship Week brings what many schools will live or die by, the conference

tournament. For women's basketball, the tourney tips off today, while the men play Thursday.

The women enter the tourney as the top seed for the first time in the program's history. The Frogs (21-7, 13-3 WAC) will play the winner of the play-in game between San Jose State and Texas-El Paso, the two teams at the bottom of the conference.

The men (20-10, 9-7 WAC), by virtue of their win against Southern Methodist and UTEP's win over Hawaii Saturday, are the No. 4 seed and will face Hawaii in the first round.

The only similarity between the two

squads going into the conference tourney is that both teams are headed to Tulsa, Okla. However, these two will be headed in completely different directions come Selection Sunday.

Simply put, the women are headed for another program first, a bid in the NCAAs. The men are hoping and praying not to miss the postseason for the second straight year under head coach Billy Tubbs.

I know I skipped over the fleeting chance the Horned Frog men could, by an act of divinity, upset the likes of Fresno State and Tulsa in the tournament.

That's because it won't happen.

Sorry, guys.

I'll give credit where credit is due. The game in Dallas against those Ponies was impressive. Overcoming a 10-point deficit on the road is never easy, especially without two of the leading scorers. There was a lot of heart exhibited on the court, and that's to be commended.

However, that comeback is not enough to impress the committee into a bid.

The venue of the tournament is reason enough to believe the men could be bound to National Invitation Tournament at best. When's the last time TCU won at the Reynolds Center?

I don't know either.

Well, I do, but it's almost better not to bring it up because they've never won there. Not many teams have won in Tulsa since the Reynolds Center opened Dec. 29, 1998. In fact, the Golden Hurricane men are 34-4 at home since that date.

Three of those 34 wins have come at the expense of TCU. The Horned Frogs have lost by an average of more than 19 points in those three games, including a 103-70 loss last season and most recently, 82-66, Jan. 17.

That doesn't bode well for Horned Frog fans. That doesn't bode well for anybody

See HORNE, Page 6