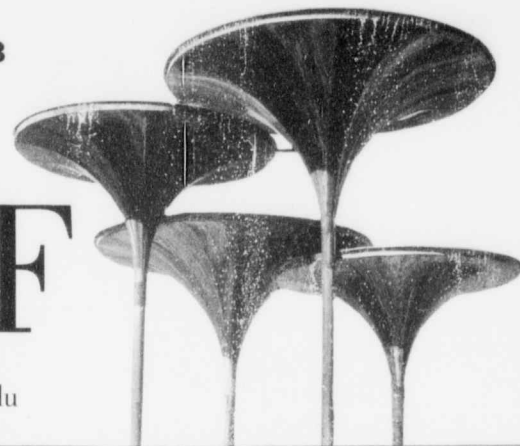


Thursday, October 23, 2003

# TCU DAILY SKIFF

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## Today's News

### STATE/NATIONAL NEWS

**MADISON, Wis.** — Democratic State Sen. Gary George, who spent almost 23 years in office fashioning a reputation as a maverick politician, was swept from office in the state's second recall of a sitting senator in seven years.

News Digest on page 4

**WASHINGTON** — Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, whose abortion views have sometimes run counter to those of her Republican colleagues, missed the vote on legislation restricting so-called "partial birth" abortions but said she is eager for President Bush to sign it, her office said.

News Digest on page 4

## On Campus

### Florida urged to donate unclaimed lottery funds

**TAMPA, Fla.** — Florida's colleges and universities may soon be hitting the jackpot with state lottery funds.

Gov. Jeb Bush urged Florida lawmakers Monday to use the state's current unclaimed lottery jackpot to match private donations to Florida's universities and community colleges. The jackpot is worth \$30 million.

Bush had originally recommended three weeks ago that the money be spread among the state's 67 school districts, but has since changed his mind and ordered a fifth special session.

Michael Rierson, vice president of advancement at University of South Florida, says the USF Foundation's No. 1 priority is to lobby the state's legislature to match private donations.

"This is great news for USF," Rierson says.

USF is owed approximately \$13 million out of the \$125 million owed statewide. The tough budget year has left the state in a bind when it comes to matching private donations because donors are more willing to give when they know their gift is matched.

— *The Oracle*

## Inside Skiff

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## The Weather

### TODAY

High: 87; Low: 61; Sunny

### FRIDAY

High: 83; Low: 62; Partly Cloudy

### SATURDAY

High: 66; Low: 45; Few Showers

## Looking Back

**1971** — Walt Disney World opens in Orlando, Florida.

**1998** — Doctor Barnett Slepian is shot to death inside his home in Amherst, New York, by an anti-abortion radical, marking the fifth straight year that a doctor who was willing to perform abortions in upstate New York and Canada had been the victim of a sniper attack.

# TCU plays the waiting game

BY BRADEN HOWELL AND BRENT YARINA  
Sports Editors

The domino effect caused by recent conference realignment around the country has left TCU uncertain about the future of its athletic affiliation, Chancellor Victor Boschini said Wednesday.

"We won't know what's best for TCU until we see what schools around us are doing," Boschini said.

Boschini said his main goal was to position TCU in the best possible place for its participation needs and desires in athletics.

The cause of the confusion is the shock-wave still being felt by the University of

## University officials still uncertain about future in C-USA

Miami, Virginia Tech and Boston College deciding to leave the Big East Conference for the Atlantic Coast Conference.

The move leaves the Big East Conference with only five teams and searching for replacements in order to retain its Bowl Championship Series affili-

ation. According to published reports, the Big East is pursuing Conference USA front-runners University of Louisville, University of Cincinnati, DePaul University and Marquette University.

Kenny Kline, University of Louisville athletic director, said leaving C-USA is not being discussed right now.

"Commenting about what is going to happen with Conference USA is purely speculation," Kline said. "Nothing has been done at this point. Louisville has not received an invitation from the Big East."

(more on C-USA, page 2)

## Grad school not always necessary, some say

BY MEGHAN YOUKER  
Staff Reporter

Going to graduate school may seem like the right move, but some students may want to think twice.

The field of study, perceived quality of the program, cost of attendance and job opportunities should be important considerations for those contemplating graduate school, said Bill Stowe, associate director of University Career Services at TCU.

"The bottom line is that students need to know what their occupational goal is before committing themselves to graduate school ... and that's what we are trying to help them do."

— **Bill Stowe**

associate director of University Career Services

Most jobs do not require graduate school at the entry level, but a student wanting a job such as a doctor, lawyer, counselor or social worker, will need a graduate degree, Stowe said.

In fields where a specific degree or license is not required, the probability that a person without experience would get a job is not that much greater if they have a graduate degree, he said.

"People might even hurt themselves," Stowe said. "Companies do not want to hire people without full-time job experience and have to pay them more money."

The Employment Policy Foundation, a nonpartisan research group, estimates that the lifetime earnings of those with a professional degree will total about \$4.4 million, while those with bachelor's degrees will make about \$2.4 million. However, students seeking master's degrees in liberal arts, the sciences or engineering, should expect earnings of only \$500,000 more over a lifetime than those with bachelor's degrees, the EPF estimates.

Earnings also depend on where a student earns a graduate degree. For example, an MBA from Arizona State or Vanderbilt University might bring a base salary \$20,000 less than one from Stanford, according to the September issue of Business 2.0. U.S. News & World Report ranked Stanford's business school second, Arizona State 37th,

(more on DOCTORATE, page 2)

# Singin' in the shade



Ty Halasz/Staff Photographer

Freshman broadcast journalism major Laura Stanton belts out a tune along with guitarist Wes Mullins, a freshman nursing major, Wednesday afternoon in front of Jarvis Hall.

# Flu shots to be given at health center

BY AARON KOKORUZ  
Staff Reporter

She ached all over and couldn't move, let alone make it to class. Meredith Alonso, a sophomore speech communication major, had come down with the flu.

"It knocked me on my behind for quite a while," Alonso said of her bout with the flu last year. "I didn't get a flu shot last year, but I'll definitely be getting a shot this year."

With cases of influenza already in parts of Texas this year, getting a flu shot will be important, said Burton W.

Schwartz, a physician at the TCU Health Center.

Influenza attacks the respiratory tract of the nose, throat and lungs and is spread through coughing, sneezing or even talking, according to the Texas Department of Health.

"The flu usually hits TCU hardest around Christmas, and we're really busy in the Health Center after the Christmas break as students bring the flu to campus from different areas they've traveled to," Schwartz said.

Since the flu is a virus, there is no cure for it, Schwartz said.

"If antibiotics are used, they are used for bacterial compli-

cations that have arisen from the flu, not the flu itself," he said.

Common symptoms of the flu include generalized body aches and pains, a fever, headaches and fatigue, according to the Baylor College of Medicine.

A lot of the illness, and even death, caused by the flu can be easily prevented by a yearly flu shot, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site.

Schwartz said getting flu shots early in the flu season is important because it takes several weeks after the shot to gain immunity.

**What to do if you catch the flu**

- Get plenty of bed rest
- Drink lots of fluids
- Take aspirin or an aspirin substitute for the aches and pains and to bring down fever

Source: Baylor College of Medicine

About 5 percent of people who get the flu vaccine experience

(more on SHOTS, page 2)

# Rumsfeld questions results of war

BY MATT KELLEY  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld questioned whether the United States was doing enough to win the war on terrorism, citing "mixed results" in the fight against al Qaeda in a pointed memo to top Pentagon officials.

Rumsfeld said the U.S.-led coalitions would win in Afghanistan and Iraq, but not without "a long, hard slog." He wrote that the United States "has made reasonable progress in capturing or killing the top 55 Iraqis" but has made "somewhat slower progress" tracking down

top Taliban leaders who sheltered al Qaeda in Afghanistan.

"My impression is that we have not yet made truly bold moves, although we have made many sensible, logical moves in the right direction, but are they enough?" Rumsfeld wrote.

The memo, dated Oct. 16 and first reported by *USA Today* on Wednesday, offered a much more stark assessment of the global war on terrorism than contained in Rumsfeld's public statements.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan, traveling with President Bush in Australia, reacted by voicing support for Rumsfeld.

"That's exactly what a strong and capable secretary of defense like Secretary Rumsfeld should be doing," said McClellan. "The president has always said it will require thinking differently. It's a different type of war."

Bush talked about the war on terrorism with reporters aboard Air Force One en route to Canberra, where he planned to discuss it with Prime Minister John Howard.

"I've always felt that there's a tendency of people to kind of seek a comfort zone and hope that the war on terror is over."

(more on RUMSFELD, page 2)

# Helping out



Ty Halasz/Staff Photographer

Sophomore math major Emily Henry (left) discusses giving blood with Alpha Phi Omega members Wednesday afternoon in the Student Center. There were as many as six tables set up next to The Main, including Carter BloodCare.



# THE PULSE

www.skiff.tcu.edu

## Campus Lines

Your bulletin board for campus events

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.

■ **University Career Services** presents Sophomore Spotlight from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. today in the Dee J. Kelly Alumni and Visitors Center Banquet Hall. The event is intended to help sophomores decide on majors, find careers and more. For more information, call (817) 257-7860.

■ **Word of Truth Gospel Choir** presents "Prime Time Praise" at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday in the Student Center Lounge. Jason Illian will speak. E-mail j.t.baltimore@tcu.edu for more information.

■ **Student Foundation** is taking applications, due Wednesday. Applications can be picked up at the Student Center Information Desk, in the Dee J. Kelly Alumni and Visitors Center, in the admissions office or at (www.alumni.tcu.edu/groups/sf.htm). Call (817) 257-8796 or (817) 257-5030 for more information.

■ **Creative Writing Contests** have begun. Submissions for 25 different contests are due Nov. 17. Contact Charlotte Hogg at c.hogg@tcu.edu or (817) 257-6257.

■ **Summer 2004 Study Abroad Programs** are now enrolling in Sadler 16. Those wishing to enroll need to come by Sadler 16 to pick up a permit number and pay a \$500 deposit. Contact t.williams@tcu.edu for more information.

## TCU DAILY SKIFF

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Journalism Dept. Chairman Tommy Thomason

## SHOTS

From page 1

mild aches and pains and a low-grade fever, but they don't have the flu, which has much more severe symptoms, according to the Baylor College of Medicine.

The Health Center has no exact date set yet on when flu shots will be available at the Health Center, but it will be soon, Schwartz said.

Flu shots will be available for \$17, which is a good price

compared with other places, Schwartz said.

The exact dates the Health Center will be offering flu shots will soon be posted on the TCU Health Center Web site, TCU Announce and the Campus Lines section of The Skiff.

Students who want a flu shot, but don't want to go to the Health Center, could do an Internet search on flu shots in Fort Worth, Schwartz said.

Aaron Kokoruz  
a.m.kokoruz@tcu.edu

## DOCTORATE

From page 1

Vanderbilt University 45th, and TCU's business school was not listed in the top 50.

Hiring the best faculty members possible and carefully considering any future graduate programs will keep TCU's programs competitive, said Chancellor Victor Boschini.

"Our students should be taught by experts in their field, by people doing cutting-edge things," Boschini said.

Maria Monica De La Cruz, a graduate student in the radio-TV-film department, said she decided to get a master's degree because the communication field is competitive and there is an increasing need to be more specialized.

"I can't be really picky right now about choosing jobs," said

De La Cruz, who is specializing in media analysis. "Especially when the economy is not so great."

Students should realize the demands of graduate school and not attend just because they don't know what else to do, Stowe said.

"People need to stop and figure out what they want to do first, and then figure out the appropriate route," Stowe said.

Students wanting careers in which graduate degrees are not required should know exactly why they want to go to graduate school, Stowe said.

"The bottom line is that students need to know what their occupational goal is before committing themselves to graduate school," Stowe said. "And that's what we are trying to help them do."

Meghan Youker  
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## RUMSFELD

From page 1

Bush said. "And I view it as a responsibility of the United States to remind people of our mutual obligations to deal with the terrorists."

Rumsfeld's spokesman, Larry Di Rita, told reporters Wednesday the memo was meant to raise "big questions that deserve big thinking" and preserve a "constant sense of urgency" about where the war on terror is heading.

On the battle against the terror network blamed for the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, Rumsfeld wrote: "We are having mixed results with al Qaeda, although we have put considerable pressure on them — nonetheless, a great many remain at large." They include the group's top leader, Osama bin Laden, and his right-hand man, Ayman al-Zawahiri.

Rumsfeld wrote "we are just getting started" in battling Ansar al-Islam, an Iraq-based terrorist group linked to al Qaeda.

Di Rita said the memo was another in a series of provocative questions that the secretary regularly raises with Pentagon brass.

Three members of Congress who met with Rumsfeld Wednesday morning said the defense secretary gave them copies of the memo and discussed it with them.

"He's asking the tough questions we all need to be asking," said Rep. Jim Turner, D-Texas.

"Today, we lack metrics to know if we are winning or losing the global war on terror,"

Rumsfeld wrote. "Are we capturing, killing or deterring and dissuading more terrorists every day than the madrassas and the radical clerics are recruiting, training and deploying against us?"

Madrassas are Islamic religious schools. Rumsfeld and other U.S. officials say some schools run by radical groups indoctrinate students to join in an anti-American holy war.

Rumsfeld's memo raises the possibility of creating "a private foundation to entice radical madrassas to a more moderate course" and questions how to block the funding of the extremist schools.

Sounding a theme Rumsfeld has voiced repeatedly in the past two years, the memo says the Defense Department is too big and slow to effectively fight small groups of terrorists.

"It is not possible to change (the Defense Department) fast enough to successfully fight the global war on terror," Rumsfeld wrote. "An alternative might be to try to fashion a new institution, either within (the Defense Department) or elsewhere — one that seamlessly focuses the capabilities of several departments and agencies on this key problem."

Rumsfeld also suggested the United States may need to do more to "stop the next generation of terrorists."

"The U.S. is putting relatively little effort into a long-range plan, but we are putting a great deal of effort into trying to stop terrorists," Rumsfeld wrote. "The cost-benefit ratio is against us! Our cost is billions against the terrorists' costs of millions."

## C-USA

From page 1

C-USA officials have prepared for such scenarios by offering invitations to Rice University and the University of Tulsa. As of Wednesday, Rice and Tulsa had accepted invitations to join C-USA. According to a statement from Southern Methodist University given to the Skiff Wednesday, the university and C-USA have been working together to reach an agreement on the terms under which SMU might join C-USA. SMU anticipates having a "formal announcement with Conference USA regarding its membership realignment in the near future," according to the statement.

Brad Sutton, SMU assistant athletic director of media rela-

tions, said university officials have authorized a change in conference membership from its current Western Athletic Conference.

"There's not a formal invitation that has been extended," Sutton said. "Our Board of Trustees has simply authorized a change in conference membership if an invitation does occur."

As schools around TCU begin to change conferences, many are wondering what TCU will do.

Athletics director Eric Hyman said he has considered the options for TCU but at this time has no plans to leave the conference.

"TCU must be fluent in any situation," Hyman said. "We have to be able to adapt and be flexible with all changes that are going on. We have had meetings with WAC officials but we are committed to Conference USA, and we want to make it a nation-

ally prominent conference."

Boschini said about 20 different "what if" scenarios were discussed at this month's meeting of C-USA officials. He said these scenarios included Tulsa, Rice and SMU coming into the conference and the possibility of C-USA splitting into two divisions.

"What happens around us affects what happens to us," Boschini said.

With so many "what if" scenarios, not even Boschini knows what the aftershock of the conference realignments will be.

"Everything is fluid in athletics," Boschini said. "I would be afraid to guess."

Staff reporters Meghan Youker and Matt Potter contributed to this story.

Bradley Howell and Brent Yarina  
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## Man who survived Niagra plunge has new hopes for life

BY CAROLYN THOMPSON  
Associated Press

NIAGARA FALLS, Ontario — A man who went over Niagara Falls head first said Wednesday that he was driven by depression, not a desire to become a daredevil.

Kirk Jones, 40, of Canton, Mich., is charged with illegally performing a stunt.

In a phone interview with ABC News, Jones said he had been depressed, but surviving the plunge made him want to live again.

"I honestly thought that it wasn't worth going on. But I can tell you now after hitting the falls I feel that life is worth living," he said.

Jones recently lost his job when his parents shut down the family business, which made tools for auto parts manufacturers. His father, Raymond Jones, told The Detroit News he had to lay off his son because of the economy.

Family and friends have said Jones had been considering the jump for years. One friend said Jones hoped to make a lot of money from the notoriety.

Eric Fronek, 21, also of

Canton, told ABC that his friend had discussed going over the falls in the past, but was driven to act by depression.

"I think he just reached the point where whatever happened was the best plan for him ... If he made it, he might benefit with money. If he died, so be it," Fronek said. "That's what depression will do to you."

Jones said he made the jump on impulse, and immediately wished he hadn't.

Going over the falls was like "being in a giant tunnel, going straight down, surrounded by water," Jones told ABC. He said he "hit hard," was turned upside down in the water below, then pushed out far enough by the current to climb onto a rock.

Jones was not seriously injured and remained hospitalized in stable condition. He could be fined \$10,000.

Jones' parents told ABC he had been suffering from depression, but his mother said surviving a leap from Niagara Falls had intrigued him for years.

"He said he always thought

there was a spot you could jump and survive," Doris Jones, 77, told The Associated Press from her sister's home in Keizer, Ore. "We never agreed to it. We thought it was risky."

No one has ever survived a trip over the narrower and rockier American falls.

Niagara Parks Police Inspector Paul Fortier said police believe they have a videotape of the jump made by someone who accompanied Jones. That person has not been charged. Fortier said Jones was undergoing psychological tests.

Brian Merrett, chairman of the Niagara Parks Commission, called the stunt "stupid."

"Our people went down in the gorge and got him," Merrett said. "That's why we don't condone this. It puts all of our people — the fire department, the paramedics, everyone — at risk to do the rescues."

Water rushes over the falls at a rate of 150,000 gallons a second. Lynda Satelmajer, of Brampton, Ontario, said she and her family watched the man as he entered the river and then went over the falls.



# OPINION

Your place for the opinions that shape your world | www.skiff.tcu.edu

## The Skiff View DECISIONS

Florida woman's right to die denied

Everybody's got to die someday. True, making arrangements for the inevitable doesn't top the to-do lists of most busy college students. In fact most of us would rather not think about death at all.

But next time you shrug off the subject of mortality, think of Terri Schiavo.

Schiavo is a Florida woman who is part of a literal life-or-death battle. She has been in a vegetative state since 1990. Her husband, who claims Schiavo did not want to be kept alive in such a state, had doctors remove her feeding tube Oct. 15.

Schiavo's parents, however, didn't agree that she should be allowed to die and took their battle to the state government. There, it was decided that Schiavo doesn't have the "right to die" after all. Schiavo's feeding tube was reinserted by order of the governor Tuesday.

Sadly, Schiavo never put her final wishes in a living will, so there is no reliable way to really know her wishes.

The ridiculously simple solution to avoiding the Florida fiasco is this: Make sure all of your immediate family members know what you would want if you are ever put on life support. You can go on believing you'll live forever, but it never hurts to have a backup plan.

If you don't trust your loved ones to follow through on your wishes if tragedy strikes, then consider making a living will. There is plenty of information on the Internet that can help you put one together.

Yes, it's weird to talk about death and life support with your parents. But the pain of a drawn-out conflict like Schiavo's is well worth avoiding.

## The Other View

Opinions from around the country

### Airport security still in need of improvement

A 20-year-old student from Guilford College in North Carolina decided to take a stand against current airport security procedures by hiding suspicious material in the bathroom of a Southwest Airline jet.

According to an article on (www.MSNBC.com), Daniel Heatwole got past security and successfully hid box cutters and other banned items in the plane as an "act of civil disobedience with the aim of improving public safety for the air-traveling public."

With the materials, Heatwole provided a note detailing when and where the bags were carried aboard. He later sent an e-mail providing precise details of where the bags were hidden, the exact dates, flight numbers and his name and phone number, the article said. Heatwole's actions were both stupid and noble.

If someone would have seen Heatwole with any of the materials, it could have caused chaos as well as a potentially dangerous situation for his life. If there was a marshal, security guard or even just the average Joe who was flying that day, they could have thought Heatwole had ill intentions and taken matters into their own hands.

Across the nation people are already living in fear since Sept. 11 and actions like Heatwole's may add more apprehension.

However, it is hard to imagine

many authorities would have listened if Heatwole merely said there were weaknesses in security without demonstrating them. Sometimes the only way to get something done or noticed is to step up and make a sacrifice.

In a time when this generation of students is already considered lazy, it is refreshing to see someone sacrifice himself or herself for a cause he or she believes in.

Heatwole knew about the possible repercussions if he were caught, the (www.MSNBC.com) article said. Heatwole faces possible charges of 10 years in prison for bringing a dangerous weapon aboard an aircraft.

Heatwole will be charged no matter what, more so to show actions like these cannot be accepted. Until then, airport security will be put under much needed scrutiny. The fact that the box cutters alone slipped past security is scary — not only for the fear of terrorism but for the fear of any unstable person getting through with a weapon.

Learning from this incident, airport security should set up training for employees to look for incidents such as this. Putting employees through mock drills more than once can help them be better-trained observers. It may not happen often but catching that one time can save one or many lives.

*This is a staff editorial from The Daily Vidette at Illinois State University. This editorial was distributed by U-Wire.*

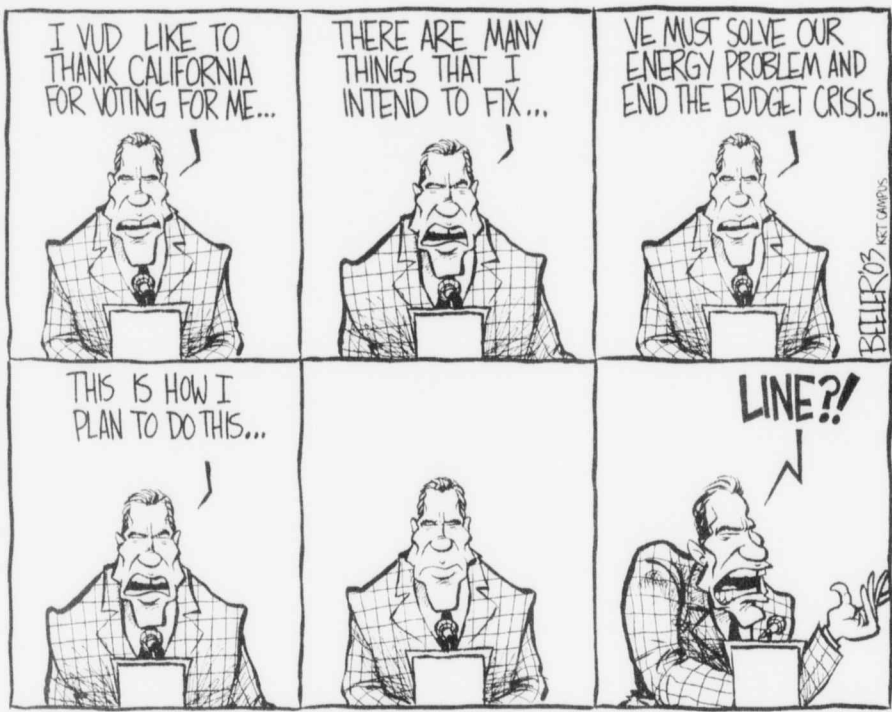
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**Letters to the editor:** The Skiff welcomes letters to the editor for publication. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, signed and limited to 250 words. To submit a letter, bring it to the Skiff, Moudy 2918; mail it to TCU Box 298050; e-mail it 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.



## Appreciation of what we have is necessary

For 15 years, my father owned a sky-blue '79 Pontiac. My brothers and I called it the Titanic, but Dad loved his car. He referred to it as a luxury car and drove it with pride long after the hood began to rust. Despite his careful maintenance, it

COMMENTARY



Jessica Sanders

finally had to be towed off to the junkyard. But to this day, when he sees a Bonneville, my father looks at it wistfully and insists that his old boat could still be around, if only he hadn't given up on it. That's some kind of loyalty.

People like my dad seem to be few and far between in a society where most people run to the dealership at the first sign of trouble with their aging automobiles. We would like to think our cars are wearing out and our cell phones are unusable without Internet access. But this isn't necessarily true. There is no need to spend \$100 on a new phone when you can still make and receive calls on the old one. Most DVD special features aren't worth the extra price, so save a few bucks and buy a VHS tape. A car that runs is still useful, even after the new-car smell wears off.

In our race to have the next great toy, our society has become a creator of junk. Cars, cell phones, computers... Like fireworks, they come in with a bang and fizzle out before you can appreciate them.

It's easy to convince yourself that a new car

would be cheaper than fixing up the old one. But according to Autoshop Online, the cost to replace the engine and transmission of a car averages around \$2,000. That's only about enough for a down-payment on a new car.

The truth is, cars are usually replaced because newer, better-looking models come out. Cell phones are replaced because they don't offer polyphonic rings or Internet access. Maybe if we don't fall for every new gimmick that comes on the market, businesses will get a clue and start making products that last a little longer.

*"Maybe if we don't fall for every new gimmick that comes on the market, businesses will get a clue and start making products that last a little longer."*

What we need first though, is a little owner loyalty.

Now I'm not suggesting that we, like my dad, hold on to something that no longer works. I am not suggesting that we develop attachments to inanimate objects and insist on keeping them past their useful lives. What I do suggest is that we take the time to appreciate what we have. All machines have their quirks... but then so do people and we don't throw them away.

*Co-news Editor Jessica Sanders is a senior news-editorial journalism major from San Antonio. She can be reached at j.sanders@tcu.edu.*

## Celebrities have become the center of worship for many

With the recent coronation of the Terminator in California, I'm forced to confront my disdain for what many call the "cult of personality."

Unlike most cults that at least promise some kind of complimentary housing, meal plan or hair cut, the only thing offered by this one is a guarantee you'll always feel ugly, boring and inferior.

Although Conan the Barbarian's rise to real power was the proverbial last straw, there are some other factors that explain my disaffection: I've probably seen too much TV over the years, and "Seinfeld" in syndication was replaced by some crappy tabloid.

I took the 30 minutes I now have from 7:30 to 8 p.m. and hatched an epiphany. I realized that I see Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez on accident more than I see my own parents on purpose. I noticed that every time Russell Crowe dumps beer on a bouncer in Sydney or snarls at someone who wants an autograph in L.A., the "news" is in my brain before the cuffs go on.

MTV and VH1 have become perhaps the most solid proof

that people would rather be vicariously beautiful (plastic), stylish (spectacles) and camera friendly (vapid bozos) than see artfully produced video interpretations of great music.

I'm sure many of you are saying, "Hey, Dave, why don't you just change the channel" — or,

*"Unlike most cults that at least promise some kind of complimentary housing, meal plan or hair cut, the only thing offered by this one is a guarantee you'll always feel ugly, boring and inferior."*

"Get a life and turn it off" — or yet still, "What's wrong with a little glitz and glamour?" Some people besides me might reply, "Why don't you go back to playing with your Jennifer Aniston doll and kissing your Keanu Reeves poster," or even, "People like you are the reason the only show I really enjoy got canceled, you jerk."

Not me though. I do enjoy spirited intellectual repartee as much as the next guy. However, I would calmly point out to those people how the new Mr. California Bod — I mean, the new governor of California — is becoming the rule

rather the exception.

Most politicians are in some way confident men. They are hucksters skilled in the prestidigitation of voter preferences. However, even the most apt politico must bow to someone that people already spend his or her time stalking through their TV sets. Campaign finance reform can't touch a dime of the residuals from Taxi or royalties from soft drink ads.

The congregation of celebrity worship will only grow. Before long, People magazine will supplant the Congressional Record. The 24-hour news networks will go to an exciting new format. It will have an hour a day of actual news and 23+ hours of discussing Oscars-night outfits.

Exclusive footage of Russell Crowe and his blokes throttling some bartender with a didgeridoo will pre-empt a State of the Union address being delivered by our commander in chief Hulk Hogan. If California taught us anything, maybe it's that the leaders of the cult will soon become the U.S. Congress.

*Dave Brock is a columnist for the Kentucky Kernel at the University of Kentucky. This column was distributed by U-Wire.*

## Life away from home

Sometimes you take the simple things for granted, forgetting to appreciate the little idiosyncrasies in life.

**COMMENTARY** I'm as guilty as any other, but I'm quickly learning things aren't always quite as they appear.

**Jutta Tobias** When was the last time you really stopped to consider a dairy product?

We went to Denny's the other Sunday, my American friends and I. I'm new here. Keen, eager to experience the United States first-hand and see for myself what it's really like to live in the most talked-about nation on Earth.

*"I scooped up the alleged ice cream and found myself trying to get rid of the oversized dollop of whipped butter in my mouth."*

"What's wrong with that?" you may ask. It gets me into trouble; it's as simple as that. But it's worth it, every time, because I love my life as a foreign student.

Back to Denny's. The first thing I liked about it is that it's open 24 hours but doesn't look quite like your typical all-night-long establishment; the ones I had been to in Europe are all somewhat scruffy and badly lit. If you are weird enough to want to have a meal at 4 a.m. over there, you should suffer for it — seems to be the reasoning behind this. At Denny's, they seem to be committed to recreating a proper breakfast atmosphere anytime of the day. I love breakfast — not that I don't like all the other meal times — but breakfast has something special about it, something optimistic and fresh. I was happy to be there.

My happy contemplation was interrupted with the arrival of my pancakes and syrup. I was delighted. They even put some ice cream on top of my pancakes, which was gently starting to melt. Before anyone could say anything, I scooped up the alleged ice cream and found myself trying to get rid of the oversized dollop of whipped butter in my mouth.

I tried to keep my composure and not make a scene (I didn't want everyone in the whole restaurant to know I was a greenhorn in the Wild West). I thought this could have happened to anyone; we don't have whipped butter where I come from and especially not shaped with little miniature ice-cream-scoops.

Yet, it made my friends' day, and although you guys don't have a word for "Schadenfreude," I was reminded that the sentiment of "pleasure at others' expense" is universal.

It's those small differences that make every day here an adventure. I just hope my cholesterol count can take the punishment.

*Jutta Tobias is a columnist for the Daily Evergreen at Washington State University. This column was distributed by U-Wire.*



# NEWS DIGEST

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## National/State Roundup

### Two police officers shot, wounded at apartment

DALLAS (AP) — Two police officers shot outside an apartment complex during a drug investigation were in serious but stable condition Wednesday, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Senior Cpl. Lance Crawford, 37, and Senior Cpl. Jeffery Eggleston, 39, were taken Tuesday night to Parkland Memorial Hospital, where they were treated for upper-body wounds.

Police spokesman Senior Cpl. Chris Gilliam said the officers

were at the apartments because they had noticed drug-related activity. They were shot at the front door of an apartment at about 10 p.m. Investigators are trying to determine where the shots were fired from, he said.

One man was in custody Wednesday, suspected of being the shooter, said Sgt. Hollis Edwards, another police spokesman. The suspect's identity was being withheld pending charges, Edwards said.

Other police officers went to the complex Tuesday night in response to officers' call for assistance.

### Student suspended for sharpener, parents sue

HOUSTON (AP) — The parents of a Katy middle school honor student have sued the school district alleging it punished their daughter without a fair hearing over a pencil sharpener.

Christina Lough, a straight-A student at Garland McMeans Junior High School west of Houston, received seven days of in-school suspension earlier this month after a teacher wrote her up for having a sharpener that violated the school district's zero-tolerance policy on weapons. Lough also was removed as president of the student council and honor society.

The sharpener has a 2-inch blade which folds into a small

handle and is used to sharpen pencils in South Korea, where the girl's family is from.

Attorney Neal H. Paster told the Houston Chronicle in Wednesday's editions the parents don't object to the school banning the pencil sharpener, but want their daughter treated fairly.

"They just want the punishment to fit the crime," he said. "This was an innocent mistake on her part and they are treating it as if it were the second coming of the hijackers." The suit was filed in state court and has been transferred to federal court.

The school district says it had no choice but to follow its policy which prohibits weapons, such as pocket knives, fireworks, razors, box cutters, chains or "any other

object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury on another person."

"If we vary from the rules, that's when the rules fall apart," said school district attorney Christopher B. Gilbert.

### Truck hits 18 cars, building, kills driver

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. (AP) — An overweight tractor-trailer barreled down a steep hill and hit 18 parked cars and a building before it broke apart Tuesday, killing the driver, authorities said.

The truck, which was four times heavier than the road's 5 1/2-ton weight limit, could have been going as fast as 100 mph when it descended Frankstown Road, witnesses said.

Paul King, of North Baltimore, Ohio, died two hours after the noon accident. No one else was seriously injured.

The truck was carrying liquid argon, which exploded in a white cloud, but Fire Chief Mike Huss said the inert gas posed no threat.

Authorities were examining whether the rig's brakes failed and whether King may have been trying to circumvent truck safety checks being conducted on the nearby Route 56 Bypass.



Records obtained by *The Tribune-Democrat* of Johnstown show King was cited four times in a month by truck owner Cryogenic Transportation Inc., of Baytown, Texas, for driving too many hours and not keeping proper logs.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What I do suggest is that we take the time to appreciate what we have. All machines have their quirks... but then so do people, and we don't throw them away."

— Jessica Sanders, columnist

# ETC.

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PURPLE POLL

Q: Have you had a flu shot this year?



A: YES 4 NO 96

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

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Captain RibMan

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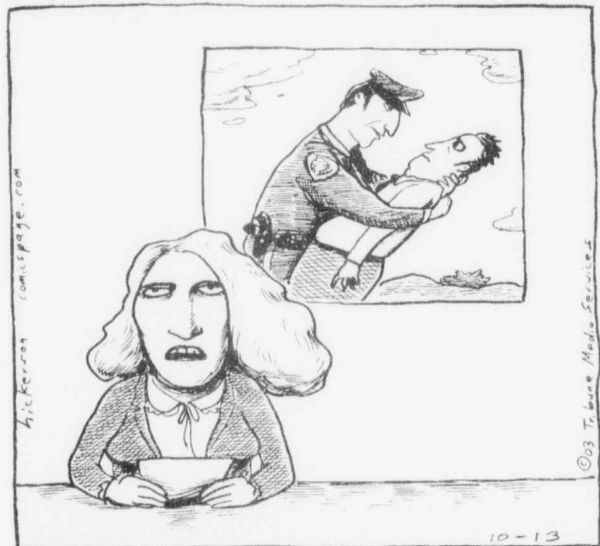


Quigmans

Hickerson

Paul

Billy O'Keefe



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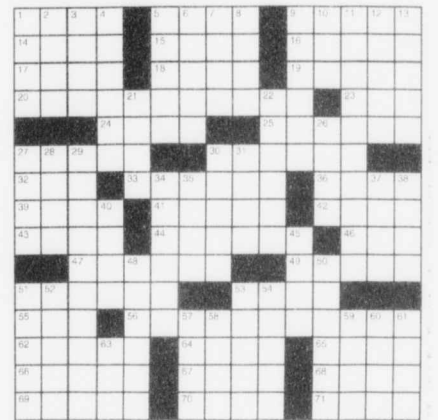
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- ACROSS  
1 Frodo's band?  
5 Instrument for a Marx  
9 List entries  
14 Locality  
15 Cleveland's lake  
16 Pitcher Ryan  
17 Nabisco cracker  
18 Chip in a chip  
19 March King  
20 Basically  
23 Machine part  
24 Military installation  
25 Removes fasteners  
27 Antigone's uncle  
30 Chopped into small pieces  
32 Actor Chaney  
33 Giving guns  
36 Carson  
39 Aleutian island  
41 Pound piece  
42 Italian volcano  
43 Home  
44 Constant  
46 & so on  
47 Talked widely  
49 Singer Gorme  
51 Camelot king  
53 Hari  
55 Mauna  
56 Sight  
62 Out of kilter  
64 Chevron rival  
65 Welles role  
66 Ms. Zelig  
67 Somewhat in music  
68 Black, poetically  
69 1956 Charlton Heston role  
70 Smack  
71 Exxon, once



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Wednesday's Solutions

SONG PASTA SWAP  
ODOR USERS HOBO  
BITS BEWAP ERAS  
SEEM GAIN TASTE  
BARB SWARTER  
GEODE ASPIRE  
ALLOYS SPOT DRAW  
ELK TAPERED ALL  
LASS DENTOMITS  
ALERTS M NOT  
MOTIONS BEND  
OPENS HMA DRAB  
DEPT COOED SORE  
ERIE INTROPEE  
LADD ASHEN TSAR  
52 Juliet's beau  
53 Central city of Islam  
54 Currently in progress  
57 Kindergarten breaks  
58 Get bigger  
59 Pats gently  
60 Seth's son  
61 'The Biggest Little City in the World'  
63 Observe

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# SPORTS

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## The Sideline

### Patterson in running for coach of the year

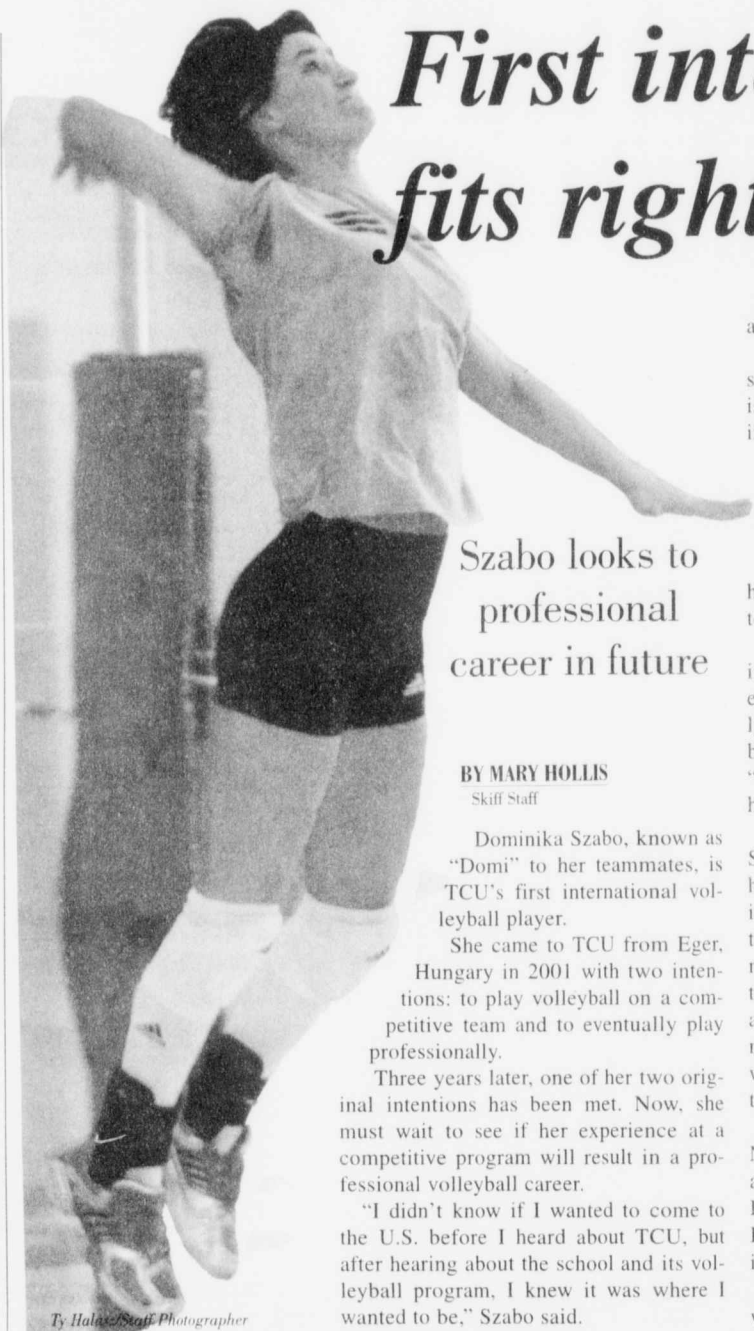
TCU head coach Gary Patterson is one of nine Division IA college football head coaches who are potential recipients of the prestigious Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Award for 2003, according to the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Foundation.

Patterson joins a list of coaches being "followed" by the Foundation that includes Frank Beamer of Virginia Tech, Lloyd Carr of Michigan, Pete Carroll of USC, Larry Coker of Miami (Fla.), Glen Mason of Minnesota, Joe Novak of Northern Illinois, Mark Richt of Georgia and Bob Stoops of Oklahoma.

Patterson has led the Frogs to a 7-0 record this season, including a 4-0 mark in Conference USA action. The Frogs are just one of five undefeated Division I teams in the country and are tied with Oklahoma for the nation's longest winning streak. TCU is currently ranked 13th in the country according to the ESPN/USA Today coaches poll, 14th in the BCS standings and 15th according to *The Associated Press*.

Patterson has a 23-9 record in 32 games as the Horned Frogs' head coach. That tops Dennis Franchione's mark (22-10) as the best record after 32 games of any TCU football coach since the legendary Dutch Meyer was 24-7-1 from 1934 to 1936.

— courtesy of (www.gofrogs.com)



Ty Halasz/Staff Photographer

## First international player fits right in with Frogs

### Szabo looks to professional career in future

BY MARY HOLLIS  
Skiff Staff

Dominika Szabo, known as "Domi" to her teammates, is TCU's first international volleyball player.

She came to TCU from Eger, Hungary in 2001 with two intentions: to play volleyball on a competitive team and to eventually play professionally.

Three years later, one of her two original intentions has been met. Now, she must wait to see if her experience at a competitive program will result in a professional volleyball career.

"I didn't know if I wanted to come to the U.S. before I heard about TCU, but after hearing about the school and its volleyball program, I knew it was where I wanted to be," Szabo said.

Szabo is a junior outside hitter for TCU and says she loves being a Frog.

"I love TCU mainly because of the school spirit," she said. "My favorite color is purple, and when I was in kindergarten in Hungary, we got to pick our own mascot, and I chose a frog. It was meant to be."

Senior defensive specialist Jessica Fleming said Szabo is the kind of player who does everything she can to help the team and is a constant asset to the team.

"Being from another country, she brings in a totally different game with her experience and is constantly working at getting better," Fleming said.

"She is a model for her technique."

Before volleyball, Szabo put much of her time and effort into track and field, taking after her mother. However, track was not a popular sport in her town and after watching her first volleyball match at the age of 12, she fell in love with it and went home to tell her mother that she wanted to play.

While playing for the Hungarian Junior National Team in Budapest, Szabo read an article in a newspaper, written by Hungarian born TCU assistant coach Barbara Kovacs, who was looking for an international student to play outside hitter.

"After I wrote her a letter about how I was interested, we started talking on the

phone and getting to know one another and becoming friends," Szabo said.

After two years, Szabo completed the steps required for her college acceptance and was offered a scholarship to come and join the Frogs.

"I wanted to know another language and have the experience that was offered to me," she said. "An amazing part of the (TCU) program is how much they care about athleticism and sports."

Head coach Prentice Lewis said Szabo's athleticism is a trait that makes her unique and an important member of the team.

"Physically, Dominika is a role model to others; she is not very outspoken and loud," Lewis said. "She leads the team by example."

Sophomore middle blocker Hayley Harmon said Szabo is a great role model on and off the court.

"She is at the top of all the skills," Harmon said. "She is what someone would want to work hard to become. I look up to her."

Szabo said she plans to move back to Europe and play professional volleyball for a few years after college, possibly in Spain.

"I can't just quit because I have played for so many years, and it has been such a big part of my life," she said.

— Dominika Szabo  
junior outside hitter

Mary Hollis  
m.w.hollis@tcu.edu

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