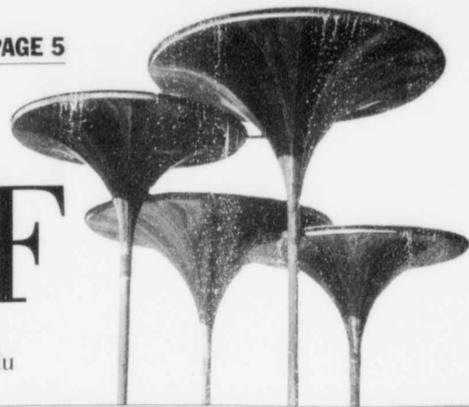


Wednesday, October 29, 2003

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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Today's News

STATE/NATIONAL NEWS

WACO — A White House staffer's purse containing security credentials was stolen from a car in Waco, police said.
News Digest on page 4

LADONIA — A former cotton shipping center and the river that flows nearby are now in the target sights of North Texas water planners.
News Digest on page 4

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Authorities are investigating the death of a 16-year-old who was shot to death by a neighbor while playing a late-night prank.
News Digest on page 4

OnCampus

TCU faculty, students speak out at SGA forum

Chancellor Victor Boschini and Vice Chancellor Don Mills were among the panelists at "Sharing Opinions and Solutions," a forum sponsored by the Student Government Association, Tuesday in the Student Center Lounge.

Corrie Lockhart, communications committee chairwoman, said the event was a success.

"About 50 or 60 people stayed the whole time, and about 100 people came through," said Lockhart, a sophomore advertising and public relations major.

Topics at the forum included parking issues, the mission statement, the Christian aspect to the university and advising.

Lockhart said a suggestion box was also available for participants.

"After (the questions) are read, they will be passed down to the chairs (the questions) fall under," Lockhart said. "The chairs will then e-mail them within the week, and begin working on finding solutions to their questions."

At Tuesday's SGA meeting, the finance committee announced it would not fund a bill to complete funding of the FrogPages Web site.

A bill was also introduced to support the Music Educator's Organization in attending their convention. The bill will be debated next Tuesday.

— *Danny Gillham and Blair Busch*

InsideSkiff

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The Weather

TODAY

High: 81; Low: 61; Sunny

THURSDAY

High: 84; Low: 61; Partly Cloudy / Wind

FRIDAY

High: 82; Low: 66; Partly Cloudy

LookingBack

1998 — Microsoft accuses rivals America Online and Netscape of striking an illegal bargain to divide up the online services market in 1995. The charge came during the cross-examination of AOL executive David Colburn as part of Microsoft's antitrust trial.

More students opt for AP tests

Skiff Staff

Lexie Strickling, a junior marketing and management major, started her freshman year with enough hours to classify as a sophomore. While still in high school, she tested out of 30 hours of college credit.

"It was the best thing that I could have done," Strickling said. "It gave me so much time to pick my major and focus on what I really wanted to do in the future."

Strickling is among the increasing number of students opting to test out of classes or transfer credit from community

colleges, said Registrar Patrick Miller.

According to the Texas Education Agency, a record number of students participated in the Advanced Placement program in 2003. This represents a 13.3 percent increase since 2002 and a 106 percent increase since 1998.

Texas gives the second highest number of Advanced Placement tests in the country, following California.

Miller said this increase indicates that TCU students are becoming more mature, more academically orientated and more concerned with graduating on time.

Ten years ago, only a minority of freshmen took the AP tests, but now there is a clear majority of students who transfer their credits over, Miller said.

English professor Richard Enos said if high school students demonstrate proficiency in a subject, then there is no need for them to take an introductory course in that subject.

In the English department, however, the second-year course builds onto the first course, and includes advanced work that is not readily available to most high school students, Enos said.

Shannon Sales, a junior communication studies major, said she took anatomy and physiology at a community college because she heard the class at TCU was incredibly difficult.

Testing out of certain subjects because the TCU classes are considered difficult is not a good idea, Miller said.

"In general, the courses are harder at TCU because we set such high standards," Miller said. "If a student tests out of a class at another school that is considered easier,

(more on TESTS, page 2)

Ghouls, goblins and the girls of Colby Halloween

BY AARON KOKORUZ
Staff Reporter

About 600 children had the chance to take the yellow brick road to a land full of candy, laughs and a few scares as Colby Hall played host to its 31st annual Colby Halloween event Tuesday night.

"I think it's a good experience for the kids to be on a college campus, as well as with the Colby residents to interact with the community," said Sarah Board, a Colby resident assistant and senior Spanish major.

Colby residents started decorating Sunday night to prepare for the trick-or-treaters, said Bre'anna Brooks, vice president of Colby Hall Council.

When the trick-or-treaters arrived they were immediately met with popcorn machines, cotton candy and balloons. Once inside, each wing was decorated with a different theme.

Some of the themes this year included Barbie, Dr. Seuss' "The Cat in the Hat," a jungle, the yellow brick road and an extra scary floor for some of the older children, said Brooks, a broadcast journalism major.

Trick-or-treater Chris Graver said he has been a regular at the event for a few years.

"It's fun and exciting, and the best part is definitely the candy," said Graver.

In addition to trick-or-treating, chil-

(more on COLBY, page 2)



(Top) Freshman broadcast journalism major Whitney Langdon stands above freshman fashion merchandising major Jamie Christensen and gives candy to a bunny at Colby Halloween. (Above) Freshman speech communication major Amanda Tarr mixes a potent brew of sherbet in the Colby lobby. (Right) Parents and children lined up outside Colby Hall waiting for their chance to trick or treat.



Chancellor agrees to color change

MONIQUE BHIMANI
Staff Reporter

Chancellor Victor Boschini decided Tuesday to change the color of the graduation caps and gowns from black to purple.

Boschini said he based his decision mainly on the results of a survey, in which 70 percent of seniors who responded voted in favor of the color change.

"That's what students wanted," Boschini said.

The survey, which was sent to 2,010 seniors Oct. 6, got a 48 percent response rate. Of the 965 seniors who responded to the survey, 676 voted to have purple graduation caps and gowns, and 289 wanted to stay with the color black, said Margaret Kelly, director of special projects in the marketing and communication department.

The new gowns should be used as soon as this December, Kelly said. In past years, TCU ordered black cap and gown rentals from a company that also services other college graduations, she said. The new ensembles would be custom-made by Herff Jones Graduation Services, the company TCU uses, she said.

Robert Shryoc, the account representative at Graduation Services, said that only about 50 colleges nationwide have taken advantage of this program to customize the color of graduation caps and gowns.

"(The program) is more common among private universities," Shryoc said. "The purple (gowns) have been created only for TCU graduates and will be stored in a private facility. The

(more on GOWNS, page 2)

Fraternity appeals to students

BY ANDREW DONOVAN
Staff Reporter

Freshmen Jimmy Williams and Jamey Ice were in their last days of rush earlier this fall when they said they decided that fraternity life was not for them.

"We just had a lot of bad experiences," said Ice, a premajor. "We only really did it because we thought it was the best way to meet people here."

The two eventually dropped out of rush, but Williams, a business marketing major, said they were still interested in meeting as many people on campus as possible. He said the two of them had always joked about starting an organization like a fraternity or sorority, just without the mandatory meetings, community service, dues or restrictions.

"We just wanted to create a new way to get students plugged into the campus without taking up so much of their time," Williams said.

The joke eventually became a



Freshman marketing major Jimmy Williams, one of the creators of the Fraternity, high fives senior English major Kristin Hines, center, and senior early childhood education major Allison Ross as they arrive for the first meeting Thursday.

reality. Their newly instated student organization, the Fraternity, is already creating quite a buzz among students on campus.

The group held its first meeting last Thursday, and about 40 students attended. Williams said he

could not have been happier with the turnout.

"The most important thing for us right now is getting people involved," he said. "We are going

(more on FRATERNITY, page 2)

THE PULSE

www.skiff.tcu.edu

CampusLines

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.

■ **TCU Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble** presents OcTubaFest at 7:30 p.m. today in the PepsiCo Recital Hall, Richard Murrow directing. Call (817) 257-7602 for more information.

■ **Word of Truth Gospel Choir** presents "Prime Time Praise" at 6:15 p.m. today 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 today. 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.

■ **TCU Wednesday Worship** will meet at Robert Carr Chapel at noon. Call University Ministries at (817) 257-7830 or e-mail k.b.low@tcu.edu for more information.

■ **TCU Community Band** is looking for musicians. The ensemble meets from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday nights in the band hall in the Walsh Center for the Performing Arts and is open to all faculty, staff and student musicians. Contact Duane Niles at d.niles@tcu.edu or (817) 257-6702 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.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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 Journalism Dept. Chairman Tommy Thomason

TESTS

From page 1

then he or she will not have learned the information that subsequent courses at TCU require."

Perry Cottrell, a junior marketing management major, said he came to TCU with six transfer credits from his high school in Colorado but TCU would not accept them, saying that his high school had different testing standards than what the university accepted.

"My parents were angered because this just meant more money flying out of the wallet," Cottrell said.

Sandra Mackey, director of administrative services in admissions, said TCU evaluates all AP credits based on the credit by exam brochure, which outlines all the requirements for the transferability of credit. She said the brochure is available online at (www.admissions.tcu.edu/pdf/clep04.pdf).

Andrew Geesbreght, a senior history major, said that while TCU allows you to test out of hard classes at easier colleges, the grade you get for that class is not counted on your GPA.

"I believe that TCU is still maintaining a high standard by doing that, even if you did not take certain classes here," he said.

skiffletters@tcu.edu

FRARORITY

From page 1

to try to make this club as inclusive as possible."

At the meeting, the two founders explained the only requirement to be in the club is to have a passing GPA. The only other rule, Ice said, was "just to have a good time."

Angela Stodieck, a junior middle school education major who attended the meeting, said she is excited about the new club and the possibilities it could bring. She said the organization definitely appeals to a lot of different students.

"I just really liked the basic idea of the group," Stodieck said. "I mean, why wouldn't someone

want to be a part of something that encompasses the whole campus?"

She said the organization has a lot of potential to bring together several groups on campus, hopefully even fraternities and sororities.

While they may have nothing against Greeks, Ice said they are already receiving some slack from several fraternity and sorority members. He said hopefully, though, they will see the Frarority as a friend, rather than a foe.

"We are not trying to be threatening at all," Ice said. "We are just trying to have some fun."

For more information on the club, visit the group's Web site at (frarority.com).

Andrew Donovan
 a.d.donovan@tcu.edu

COLBY

From page 1

dren could sit in the lobby around a campfire and listen to ghost stories told by various Colby residents.

The trick-or-treaters includ-

ed children of faculty and staff and Kinderfrogs students, Brooks said.

Colby budgeted \$1,000 out of their programming money for the event this year, said Emily Ward, hall director of Colby Hall.

Maryann Candanosa, a parent at the event, said this was

the second year she has brought her children to Colby.

"I love it because it's good for the kids and a lot safer than going out in the neighborhoods," said Candanosa.

Aaron Kokoruz
 a.m.kokoruz@tcu.edu

GOWNS

From page 1

black gowns are usually used by eight different colleges over the course of a year."

Shryoc said Graduation Services provides customized robes for Harvard University.

He said the bachelor gowns will be in the standard regalia style, and the doctoral gowns will be customized with flared sleeves and the TCU logo.

Shryoc said he will have the caps and gowns ready by the end of the semester.

"This will be up and running by December for the December

graduates to use," Shryoc said.

Shryoc said the cost increase of \$5.50 is probably because of the different fabric used in the graduation ensemble and the allowance cost for seniors to keep the mortarboard caps this year.

Monique Bhimani
 m.s.bhimani@tcu.edu

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The Skiff View E-MAIL

Spam clogs inboxes all too often

It's one of those sad compliments to the digital revolution. A mountain of worthless messages in your e-mail box marketing everything from home loans to more vulgar materials. Spam filters help but don't solve the problem — not by a long shot.

The problem isn't getting any better. According to cnn.com, the number of spam e-mails increased from 2.3 billion a day last year to 14.5 billion a day this year. That's gone beyond being a minor annoyance and has graduated into a productivity-sapping disaster.

In the recent tradition of do-not-call legislation, Congress is trying to get involved and slow the flood of ads into our inboxes. The Senate unanimously passed legislation to restrict some of the practices spammers use. The bill stops short of creating a "do-not-spam" list but does limit misleading subject lines, disguising return addresses and hacking into a third-party computer to mask the path of the e-mail.

At this point, something is better than nothing. Even spam continues to persist, it becomes a lot easier for filters to pick up on it and set it aside for later disposal.

The next step may be creating a do-not-e-mail list similar to the do-not-call list. This is where things get dicey. Many senators doubt that such a list will deter the most prolific spammers and only force out small, legitimate companies. In addition, there are technical problems with producing a master list without letting it become a gold mine of active e-mail addresses to send spam to.

Despite these misgivings, the do-not-spam list is a good idea. You may not be able to eliminate spam entirely, but just putting a dent in it is an improvement.

The Other View

Opinions from around the country

Buying books overseas saves students money

The quarterly trip to the bookstore is a dreaded ritual for most college students. Textbook expenses can add up quickly. But, as reported in The New York Times last week, students should be aware that they can purchase books abroad for much less with a few clicks of the mouse. We believe it is wrong that textbook manufacturers charge significantly higher textbook prices in American markets than in other parts of the world.

We encourage students to take up this issue directly with publishers, and in the meantime, find ways to avoid overpriced domestic books by purchasing from vendors abroad. Most publishers sell textbooks to overseas wholesale distributors for lower prices than to U.S. distributors, resulting in higher shelf prices in America. In response, students at American colleges are now purchasing books from countries like England, Singapore, Taiwan and Malaysia to save money. Some U.S. college bookstores are even purchasing materials from overseas retailers and then passing the savings along to students. However, most students are still paying the higher U.S. prices.

Buying low-cost textbooks from abroad has not been adopted on a larger scale due to the textbook companies' preventa-

tive measures. To maintain their high profit margins in the U.S. market, some companies stipulate in sales contracts that books sold to overseas distributors cannot be repurchased by American companies for domestic distribution. The publishers also place advisory stickers on foreign-sold books to discourage their resale in North America.

Textbook publishers claim that prevailing conditions and dominant market forces determine American and foreign book pricing. But this doesn't change the fact that American students are still shelling out more money for the same products as their international peers. This practice needs to change.

When publishers artificially increase prices, they ultimately hurt students — the customers they rely upon the most. As more American students discover that they are being overcharged, we hope they will demand change in the publishers' practices. Meanwhile, students should take advantage of available options to obtain cheaper overseas books. Companies may not acknowledge students' voices, but they will be forced to change their actions when students voice their concerns by shopping elsewhere.

This is a staff editorial from The Stanford Daily at Stanford University. This editorial was distributed by U-Wire.



Point/Counterpoint

Which is better, multiple-choice or essay tests?

Multiple-choice tests a good pick

I don't think there's a type of test that doesn't fill the hearts of students with dread. It doesn't matter if the test is essay-based, multiple-choice, true/false or oral. If you haven't studied, your grade is going to suck.



Patrick Jennings

It's hard — close to impossible, actually — to say outright that one form of testing is superior to another. A lot of it boils down to how good a professor is at writing tests. I've seen multiple-choice tests that tested my knowledge to its limit. Conversely, I've had multiple-choice tests I could've taken with my eyes closed and scored well on. I've had essay tests where everyone got an A and no one learned anything but others that forced me to thoroughly analyze what I had learned.

If you pointed a gun to my head — and please don't — I'd say multiple choice tests are a better way to go in most subjects. On math tests, partial credit is almost a necessity and impossible with multiple choice. Writing essays for English classes are, of course, OK since you're being graded as much on the writing itself as anything else.

The chief advantage of a multiple-choice test is its objectivity. There are no shades of gray, only correct and incorrect. Essay tests are at their core a subjective measure of the knowledge you've absorbed. The "correctness" of your interpretation of the course material can vary from professor to professor. In addition, a talented writer can arrange his

thoughts on paper in a more coherent way. He may understand the question less than the guy next to him, but his A in sophomore composition bumps him up a few points here, too. Your skill in one area shouldn't be able to give you a letter-grade improvement in every area.

Another plus to testing by multiple-choice is getting it back to students quicker. This isn't necessarily an advantage because the professor has more time to spend at the pub on the weekend. Supposedly, a test is supposed to show you what you need to work on or haven't quite learned properly. If it takes two weeks to get the test back, you can barely remember taking the test, let alone how you approached a specific problem incorrectly. It's also much easier for a student to interpret his shortcomings on a multiple-choice test as compared to an essay test.

As for the idea that multiple-choice tests are all about learning by rote, that only applies to the bad ones. Just because you're given four possible answers, doesn't mean the question can't ask "why" instead of "what." Mastery of the material, which is what is being tested, can still be demonstrated.

Essay tests can judge how well you apply the knowledge but often they devolve into an exercise in how little information a student can put in a 500-word essay. Multiple-choice tests are fairer, more selective in what they test, a better learning tool and a better choice in general.

Opinion Editor Patrick Jennings is a junior economics major from Melbourne, Fla. He can be reached at p.a.jennings@tcu.edu.

Multiple choices, little learning

A, B, C, D, E. Five little letters on a 39-cent Scantron are laid out to determine just what students have learned in the weeks preceding the exam. It's the eenie-meenie-minie-moe



Melissa Christenson

approach to learning. Study just enough to be able to narrow down your choices, and you'll be fine. As long as you get enough questions right to get the grade you want, no worries. It's not like you'll ever need to know this stuff again anyway.

Such an apathetic attitude toward learning is bred by the overuse of multiple-choice testing. The rote memorization and temporary absorption of facts required to pass these tests fail to inspire actual learning, rendering the class useless.

According to a study by two psychology professors at Rider University, often times multiple choice tests cause students to learn the wrong lesson. The study by Michael Epstein and Gary Brosvic found that students retain the answer they marked on the test regardless of whether it was correct or not. A pink speck on a Scantron does little to tell students why the answer they chose was incorrect, so they never replace the wrong answer with the right one.

ing it through the class.

In a wake-up call article to his colleagues, Rutgers University associate professor Lion F. Gardner condensed three decades of research showing that the large majority of tests administered at universities require only a basic recall of facts. Gardner points out the failure of this approach in that it "reinforces concrete thinking" rather than engaging students in critical thinking and complex problem-solving. He correctly argues that society has a rightful expectation of college graduates to be highly-developed thinkers. To produce such thinkers, tests need to invoke critical thinking and writing skills.

Developing and grading tests that engage critical thinking is time consuming, though. As several of my professors have openly admitted, Scantron tests are the quickest way to get grades back to their students. Thoughtfully grading essays in a large class is no easy task.

A reasonable compromise is to use the two approaches in conjunction with one another. Multiple-format tests would require students to internalize the themes of the subject they are studying in order to both recall the bare facts and apply those facts to an argument.

Unfortunately, there are still professors who simply rely on multiple choice tests. But in order to fulfill TCU's mission, "To educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community," real learning needs to be attainable in every classroom. Teaching students to be life-long learners needs to be the top priority for every professor.

Melissa Christenson is a junior news-editorial journalism major from Grand Island, Neb. She can be reached at m.s.christenson@tcu.edu.

Youth against teenage sex

I was surfing the Internet a few weeks ago and saw an interesting headline from AOL's AIM Today. The beginning of the headline,

COMMENTARY



Eugene Chu

"Teens say they respect this ..." caught my attention. I expected the rest of the headline to be about the latest social or material fad, but when I clicked on the link, I saw something pleasantly surprising. According to a new survey, high school teens respect sexual virginity. The survey, conducted by Seventeen magazine and International Communications Research for the Kaiser Family Foundation, found that American teens believe that being a virgin is "a good thing" in high school.

Despite America's superpower status in the world, social problems still exist. Unsafe teenage sex is still a significant problem. According to the AOL story, the Centers for Disease Control estimates up to half of teenagers in high school have had sex. In addition, another report from www.cdc.gov estimates 25 percent of sexually active teens may contract a sexually transmitted disease before graduating high school. These statistics paint a depressing picture of today's teens. Despite these gloomy figures, the Kaiser/Seventeen survey offers some hope for the future.

According to the survey, more than nine out of 10 teens revere the idea of virginity. More than 90 percent of the surveyed teens cited self-respect, parental respect, relationship control and religious values as benefits for delaying sex. In addition, almost 80 percent cited fear of sexually transmitted diseases or pregnancy, peer respect or "one less thing to worry about" as other reasons. Despite the overwhelming displays of sex in modern culture, American youth have decided virginity may be the better avenue for adolescence.

America should not expect boy and girl scouts from all of its youth, but the pleasure of sexual intercourse can have painful consequences. According to the study, nearly one in five teens surveyed were using drugs or alcohol when they first lost their virginity. Along with unplanned pregnancies or STDs, the emotional factor of teenage sex can also be painful. Almost half of surveyed teens wished they had waited until they were older for sex. Many traditional-minded people believe sexual intercourse to be an intimate romantic act with a loving partner. For sexually active teens, it turns into an act of trivial recreation.

Sex is a difficult decision for many teens. Support for premarital virginity is challenging the perception that rampant sex is the norm of teens today. This new survey indicates that American youth believe abstinence is not only a good choice out of pragmatism, but also out of principle. It should be remembered that while half of American teens have had sex, the other half have not. Many people fear for the sexual morality of today's youth. However, there are still signs of adolescent acceptance of traditional values.

Eugene Chu is a senior political science major from Arlington. He can be reached at e.chu@tcu.edu.

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NEWS DIGEST

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National/State Roundup

Security credentials in purse stolen from car

WACO (AP) — A White House staffer's purse containing security credentials was stolen from a car in Waco, police said.

Lauren Pfeifle, who declined to comment about the theft, also has worked as a press assistant to Attorney General John Ashcroft.

Police were reluctant to talk about the Monday incident other than to confirm that a vehicle burglary had occurred.

Waco Police Sgt. Ryan Holt said the theft is being investigated and that few details are available to the public.

President Bush is scheduled to visit Dallas on Wednesday, and he may travel to his Crawford ranch near Waco, authorities said.

Police said special passes are issued to White House personnel during presidential visits, but it is unlikely that one of those passes was stolen, police said. Credentials for presidential visits are handed out closer to Bush's arrival, police said.

Residents dispute dam at North Sulphur River

LADONIA (AP) — A former cotton shipping center and the

river that flows nearby are now in the target sights of North Texas water planners.

But not all residents agree that damming the North Sulphur River to flood thousands of acres of rural Fannin County is a good idea.

The Lewisville-based Upper Trinity Regional Water District, which provides services to 25 cities and utility systems, is seeking state and federal approval to dam the North Sulphur and create Lake Ralph Hall for its customers in Denton, Dallas and Collin counties.

"We're looking ever which way" for water, Tom Taylor, the district's executive director, told The Dallas Morning News in Tuesday's editions.

The district has applied for a state permit to block the river almost five miles from Ladonia and pipe some of its water to a treatment plant at Lewisville Lake in Denton County, then to thousands of homes in Flower Mound, Argyle, Sanger, Celina and other communities.

The lake would have a water surface of about 8,500 acres at normal elevation, cost \$200 million and be as many as 15 years in the making, Taylor said.

Armed man questioned about Bush's daughter

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — There were some tense moments last week involving an armed man and the president's daughter, according to a published report.

Secret Service agents assigned to Barbara Bush, 21, at Yale, briefly detained a man with a gun, the New Haven Register reported Tuesday.

The newspaper, quoting law enforcement sources, said the man was questioned then released after authorities determined he had a permit to carry the weapon.

Bush is a senior at Yale University. A contingent of Secret Service agents is assigned to protect her.

The newspaper said the incident occurred in downtown New Haven late last week as Bush was walking down the street, with Secret Service escorts nearby.

Agents noticed a man watching the president's daughter and, at some point, feeling the man had shown an unusual amount of interest in her, agents confronted and frisked him, discovering he was carrying a gun, the newspaper reported.

When the man consented to let them search his car, agents found a

cache of ammunition and other items in the trunk. After being questioned, he was released.

Prep school headmaster accused of indecency

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — The headmaster at a New York City prep school was arrested Monday at his suburban home and accused of having indecent online conversations with people he thought were young girls.

John Dexter, 60, who heads the exclusive Trevor Day School, was being held on \$25,000 bail after his arraignment in White Plains City Court on two counts of trying to send indecent material to minors, said Westchester District Attorney Jeanine Pirro.

She said that between June and October he entered a chat room for teenage girls and sent explicit messages and photos to investigators posing as 14- and 15-year-old girls.

She said the messages described sex acts he wanted to perform. The photos were of other girls, Pirro said.

Dexter also tried to get the "girls" to meet him for sex, Pirro said. She said Dexter's computers at home and at school were being searched for more evidence.

The school announced Monday it had placed Dexter on a leave of absence. It said it had no reason to believe "that Trevor students were involved in Dr. Dexter's alleged misconduct."

Messages left at Dexter's Westchester County home were not returned.

If convicted, his sentence could range from 15 months to four years in prison.

Teenage boy shot during neighborhood prank

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP) — Authorities are investigating the death of a 16-year-old who was shot to death by a neighbor while playing a late-night prank.

Mark Drewes and a friend were knocking on neighbors' doors and running away around midnight Friday when Jay Steven Levin said he mistook the 6-foot-2 teen for a burglar and "thought he saw something in Drewes' hand," according to sheriff's reports.

Levin answered the knock on his door armed with a handgun and shot the teen, said sheriff's spokeswoman Diane Carhart.

Drewes ran and collapsed a few hundred feet away in front of another home in the middle-class

neighborhood. He died at a hospital early Saturday from a single gunshot wound.

Levin has not been arrested. Carhart said authorities were in contact with the 40-year-old businessman.

The state attorney's office could file charges against Levin, seek an indictment from a grand jury or decide not to go on with a case against him, said spokesman Mike Edmondson.

He said homeowners have a right to protect themselves, but not unconditionally.

"If someone is on your property and you are in a shouting match, you can't just pull out a gun and shoot them," he said.

Neighbors were in disbelief over Drewes' death. Outside his home Monday a sign read, "We love you Mark. We will always remember you."

"It's tragic. Teenagers are going to be teenagers. They are going to pull pranks," said neighbor Barry Hahn. "I don't think the proper response is to shoot a gun."

No one answered the door or phone at Levin's home on Monday. Drewes' family spent the afternoon planning a memorial service for Wednesday.



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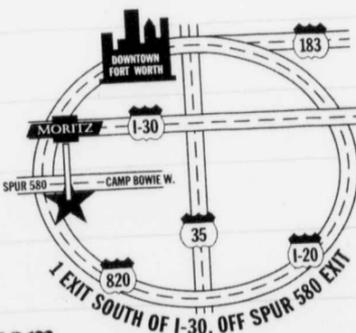
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It's for you...

These days, cell phones are providing an incredible array of functions, and new ones are being added to the market daily. People send pictures wirelessly. And polyphonic ring tones download faster than you can hum the Pink Panther theme.

COMMENTARY
Nicole Duvall
 Depending on the cell phone model, people can perform an array of useful functions, like downloading MP3s directly to a phone or keeping in touch with friends halfway around the world on wireless AOL Instant Messenger and Yahoo Messenger. You can use your phone to check phone listings, movie times or to make restaurant reservations by dialing 411. By sending a text message on your AT&T wireless phone, you can get addresses, phone numbers and driving directions sent to your mobile messenger. Wondering who's leading the big game? Have the real

time score sent to your phone with ESPN. From the latest scores to BCS rankings, ESPN can wirelessly deliver. Wondering what the weather is like in Tallahassee? Log on to The Weather Channel to access current weather conditions in 44,000 locations worldwide. For those who love to shop, access Ebay or Amazon.com anytime to check auctions and browse music, books and DVD's. You can even track your portfolio, stocks or get updated stock data throughout the day. *Business Week* and the *Wall Street Journal* are available via mobile phone. This service offers access to top stories. Even mobile messaging is evolving beyond text by taking a development path from simple text messages to MMS. The Multimedia Messaging Service is, as its name suggests, the ability to send messages comprising a combination of text, sounds, images and

video to MMS capable handsets. Phones with digital cameras and voice recording capacity are the current must-haves on any new cellular phone. Make a video, then watch it on your phone. Known as a "converged device," the Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) is the new wave in cell phone technology. PDAs are wireless phones with messaging capabilities in one compact, multi-tasking device. They combine the functionality of a Palm Pilot with the mobile ability of a cell phone. They can access all the data on your office or home computer and its network, thus improving its preceding technology that merely allowed the user to access e-mail, calendar and contacts. Most PDA devices integrate MMS technology. One popular PDA is the Siemens SX56 Pocket Phone. It is basically a pocket PC with cellular ability. It offers popular programs like Microsoft Office, which allows the phone to communicate with your PC. The Siemens SX56 Pocket Phone has a big all-color screen, all the better to surf the Web, manage your schedule, send and receive e-mail, download and listen to MP3s. Palm is again revolutionizing the business world with its new PDA. The Palm Tungsten W blends the

best of voice and data. With its large high resolution color screen and familiar Palm interface, it is easy to use. The Tungsten W has incorporated a keyboard into the face of the PDA, making it easier to type e-mail and other data messages. Samsung's i500 is a classic case of cell-phone-meets-PC. Its sleek Palm-powered flip-phone design makes it stylish. Powered by a 66MHz processor, the Samsung i500 syncs information with your laptop or desktop. It has a standard 16MB memory, multi-mode browser, full-color screen and handwriting recognition software. Nokia's latest dual band phone, the Nokia 3300, will allow users to take the music with them wherever they go. Nokia's new music phone is packed with music features like an MP3 player, stereo FM radio and a digital recorder. You can copy MP3 files from a compatible PC to the included 64 MB memory card to personalize your phone. All these cell phone features continue to increase the popularity of the ever-evolving device. As the popularity of cellular phones continues to flourish, so will the technology behind them.

Nicole Duvall
 n.m.duvall@tcu.edu

Love HATE

Students debate for and against cellular phones

Against Cellular phones. They are the best friends of college-bound teens, rushing business people, or, indeed, almost anyone living in the modern age. And they give us so much: the companionship of having almost anyone at your ear, the safety of never having to find a pay phone and the thrill of constant conversation. But at what price? Other than the fact that holding the phone to your head physically limits your ability to see from that side clearly, the attention to conversation itself effectively distracts almost any driver from the duty of operating what is, in fact, a lethal weapon. Would you want someone who is fighting with their boyfriend in charge of the button that drops the next atomic bomb? Then why is the same temperamental being put in charge of a car? I understand that accidentally mowing over a few pedestrians is not the equivalent of detonating a nuclear device, but I doubt the streetwalkers killed by distracted motorists would care. Watching a driver who is on the phone is enough to prove the danger in that little machine.

They cut you off in one lane, get too close in the other and before you know it, there's a fender bender and they'll have to call whoever-it-was back after they get your insurance information. When operating such an expensive piece of machinery, there should be a degree of respect and attention paid not only to one's own vehicular activities but to the surroundings and other cars as well. Then there is the value of entertainment, and how these mobile messengers can cheapen that. If someone has ever had to answer their calls in the same theater in which you are enthralled in a movie or performance, you know the price of this constant communication. Even in class, the little electronic samba ushers in distraction for some of those urgent to find it. Furthermore, while studying on

campus, you might find it hard to concentrate when you are bombarded with the intimate details of another's love life, as professed by some person sitting near you. Most textbooks fail to offer such raunchy details. It is true that you could just move from the spot and find somewhere else to study, but that only comes at the expense of more time that could be better used to study. Cellular phones not only endanger and annoy others, but also prove detrimental to the users themselves. Aren't there some times when you do not want to receive a call? Have you ever had a prank caller wasting your precious few minutes, or a wrong number that never gets corrected? If nothing else, these things are detrimental to the social environment. No longer do you find any necessity to talk to that person from your history class as you sit at lunch when you can call up your old friends. A good deal of the introverted student body will cling to their phones in every unguarded moment, never venturing out to meet new people who may not only share some interests and classes but might have something important to offer — an alternate perspective.



For "Can you hear me now?"

Well, chances are you can if you are like most people today in America and are on your cell phone hours at a time each day. Sadly, but truly, my cell phone has become something I know I couldn't live without. It helps me keep in touch with others, saves me time and even allows me to keep changing my ring tone to fit my mood. And when I can't talk, there's text messaging. Thank goodness we are out of the ages of the "good old Pony Express." Now when we feel like hearing a loved one's voice, they are just a few buttons away. I mean, really, would you rather leave message after message at a home or office that a person might not return to for hours, days or even weeks? Me neither. Not only does my cell phone

enable me to chat with anybody, it also saves me tons of time each day. Today, we can simply remember, "Oh yeah, I can't get my hair done today, I have class. What was I thinking?" Then, on our way to class, we quickly call Thomas and reschedule. It's that simple: No

can't do it in person. This is why text messaging was invented. Just the other day I was in class when I realized I had accidentally left my flat-iron on. I text-messaged my friend stat, and she went to my room and turned it off. My friends, you may not have had a school left had it not been for my text message, which saved TCU from burning to the ground. Yes, imagine my panic as I tried to take notes as visions of Sherley Hall up in flames ran through my head. What would life be like without the use of cell phones? Most of us still remember a time before the phenomenon, but it was a sad time without the ease of quick call. This just goes to show how fast technology has grown in order to make all of our lives dependent upon certain objects that we now believe we could not live without.

Cellular phones not only endanger and annoy others, but also prove detrimental to the users themselves.

It helps me keep in touch with others, saves me time, and even allows me to keep changing my ring tone to fit my mood.

Tobacco companies unite to save

BY PAUL NOWELL
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. and rival Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. are uniting their U.S. operations in order to weather an onslaught of discounted brands and lawsuits.

The deal announced Monday vastly expands the reach of two tobacco companies that together produce about one of every three cigarettes smoked in the United States. The merged operation will be called Reynolds American Inc., with about \$10 billion in annual sales. It will still trail industry giant Philip Morris USA,

whose brands command about half the U.S. cigarette market.

R.J. Reynolds makes Camel, Winston, Salem and Doral, while Brown & Williamson's top brands include Kool, Lucky Strike, GPC and Capri.

Brown & Williamson is the U.S. subsidiary of British American Tobacco PLC.

R.J. Reynolds will pay \$2.6 billion in cash and stock for a 58 percent controlling stake in the new company, RJR spokesman Tommy Payne said. British American Tobacco will own 42 percent of the new company through its Brown & Williamson subsidiary.

The tax-free deal also frees

British American from future tobacco litigation and allows the company to shift its share of payments due under a national settlement with states onto the new entity.

"This agreement marks a milestone for both companies," said Andrew J. Schindler, RJR's chairman and chief executive.

British American Tobacco chairman Martin Broughton said the merger "will improve our competitive position in the most important cigarette market in the world."

The merger is expected to result in more than \$500 million in annual savings.

The merger follows a tumultuous period for RJR. In September, the tobacco company said it was eliminating 2,600 jobs, or 40 percent of its work force, as part of a massive restructuring designed to retreat from stiff discount-brand competition.

RJR also said it will focus future spending on premium brands Camel and Salem and will scale back investment in the cheaper Winston and Doral brands to try to optimize profits.

RJR also has slashed profit forecasts and surrendered its title sponsorship of the Winston Cup stock car racing circuit as the company tried to trim costs.

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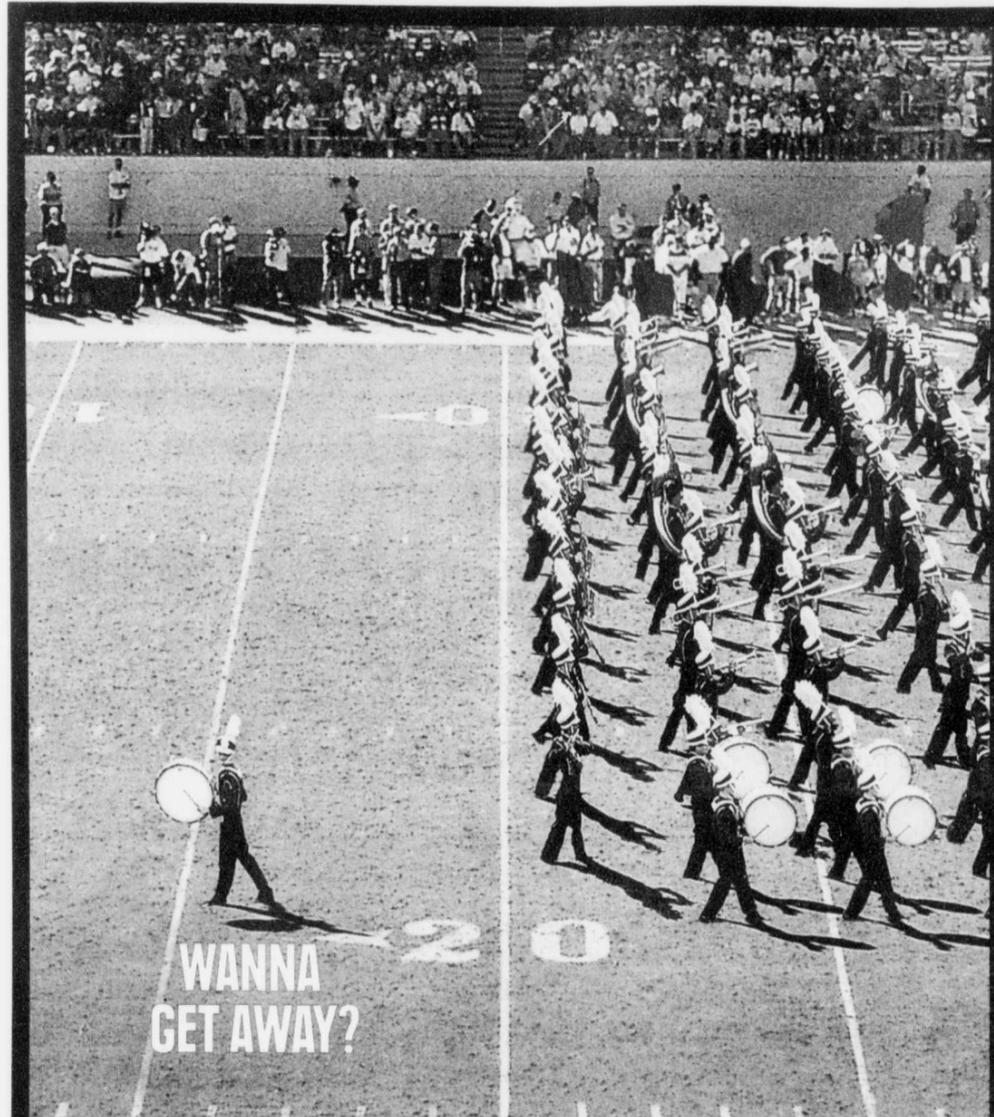
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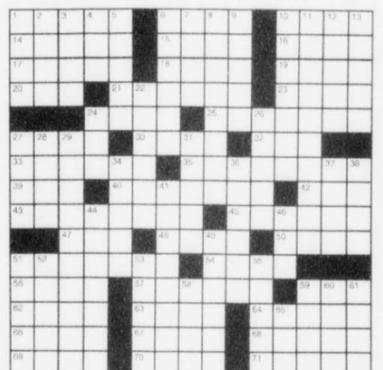


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- 21 Decorative
- 23 Slalom
- 24 Type of rug
- 25 Locks
- 27 Greek letters
- 30 Italian wine
- 32 "Norma" _____
- 33 Egyptian pharaoh
- 35 Signer-upper
- 39 "The Raven" poet's initials
- 40 Apothecary units
- 42 Poetic meadow
- 43 Gifts
- 45 Some valuables
- 47 Lair
- 48 Stanton film, "Man"
- 50 Formerly, formerly
- 51 Adriatic gulf
- 54 Dieter's word
- 55 Freeway exit
- 57 Baltimore team
- 59 Island garland
- 62 Branchid
- 63 Dictator Idi
- 64 In touch with
- 66 One of a "Turdador" trio
- 67 Penny
- 68 School in central England
- 69 Setting
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The Sideline

Schobel named finalist for lineman award

TCU defensive end Bo Schobel has been named as one of 12 semifinalists for the 34th Rotary Lombardi Award, which honors the top lineman in Division I College Football. The winner will be announced on Dec. 10 in Houston.

Schobel, a 6'5, 268-pound senior from Columbus, Texas, is the Conference USA leader in sacks with 10.5 and is tied for the top spot in the conference with 16 tackles for loss. He has established a new school record for sacks in a season, breaking the old mark of 10.0, set by his cousin, Aaron Schobel, in 1999. Earlier this season he was named the Conference USA Defensive Player of the Week for his 3.0-sack performance at USF, as the Frogs broke the Bulls' 21-game home winning streak. He was also named to the Mid-Season All-America Team, as selected by Richard Cirminiello of CollegeFootballNews.com.

Others on the semifinal list include defensive tackle Tommie Harris and linebacker Teddy Lehman of top-ranked Oklahoma, linebacker Jonathan Vilma and tight end Kellen Winslow of the second-ranked Miami Hurricanes, offensive tackle Shawn Andrews of Arkansas, defensive end David Ball of UCLA, offensive tackle Robert Gallery of Iowa, linebacker Matt Grootegoed of USC, and center Jake Grove of Virginia Tech

—courtesy of www.gofrogs.com

Offense needs to step up again

BY JOHN ASHLEY MENZIES
Staff Reporter

One more week, one more win for the Frogs.

Head football coach Gary Patterson said Tuesday the TCU offense finally played the way it is capable of against Houston, but he also took the blame for the 55 points the defense allowed against the Cougars.

"I think a lot of people were shocked to see TCU score 62 points," Patterson said.

Shortly after the Frogs jumped

out to a 21-3 lead in the first quarter, the defense allowed Houston to climb back into the game.

"Our defense hasn't been in that position before," Patterson said. "Once we fell out of rhythm, we could never get back on."

Patterson said the defense's collapse was his fault because the team practiced to control the short game, but Houston was able to exploit the vertical game.

Junior quarterback Brandon Hassell took the reigns of the

TCU offense that had been dormant for the first seven games of the season and exploded for a TCU record 782 yards against Houston.

"The bottom line is that our offense is finally healthy," Patterson said. "We stepped up and did what we needed to do. Hassell did a good job of getting the ball in the hands of our receivers."

Senior tight end Stanley Moss said the players have confidence in Hassell's ability to continue to

lead the Frogs offense.

"Everyone had confidence in Brandon," Moss said. "When he steps onto the field, everyone's like 'let's go'; he's our leader."

After Saturday's game, TCU now has seven days left to get ready for Wednesday night's showdown against Louisville.

Wednesday's game will be the first played between two ranked teams in Amon Carter Stadium since the Frogs hosted Texas in 1984.

Patterson said Louisville is similar to the other teams TCU has played this year. He said the Cardinals are physical with good skill position players and will be looking to knock off TCU.

"Louisville's whole skill package is scary," Patterson said. "Besides Kentucky, this is the game they've wanted to play since the beginning of the season. I expect to see the best game out of them they've played all year long."

Louisville is not a team TCU can go and shut out, Patterson said. He said he was glad to see the offense break out against Houston because it will have to put up points against Louisville.

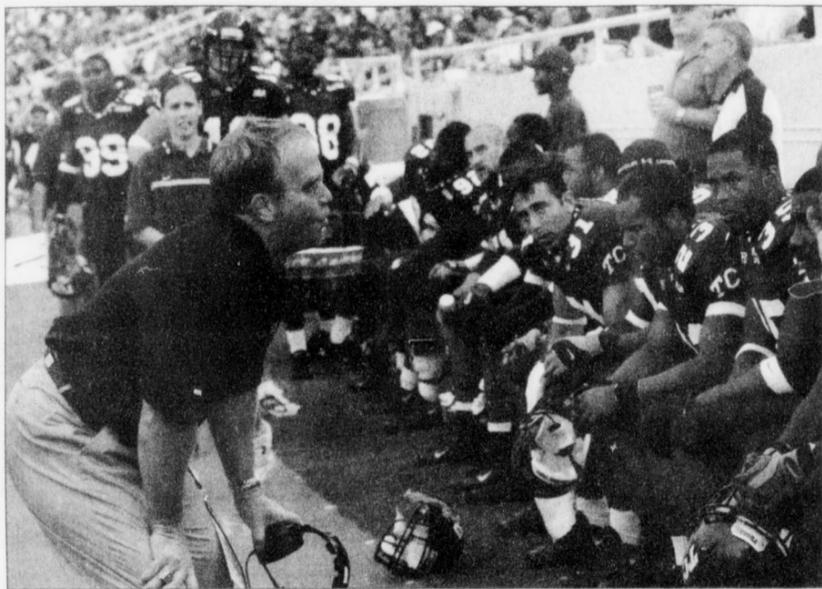
Moss said the performance against Houston showed the potential the Frogs have on offense because the players are getting healthy and are starting to get into a rhythm on offense.

"It's like a puzzle, and all the pieces are starting to come together," Moss said.

Patterson said Louisville could



Simon Lopez/Staff Photographer
Junior Brandon Hassell will start as quarterback for the second straight week against Louisville next Wednesday.



Simon Lopez/Staff Photographer
Head coach Gary Patterson said in Tuesday's media luncheon that he is proud of his team's offense and its performance at Houston last weekend but that the defense will have to play better against Louisville Wednesday.

try to exploit TCU's defense in a similar fashion as Houston did but felt that he would be ready for them.

Hassell will start for the second straight week as sophomore quarterback Tye Gunn continues to doctor a pulled leg muscle sustained against Alabama-Birmingham.

"We'll be lucky if he's back for a bowl game," Patterson said. "He took a pretty good shot against UAB. I will say this, though, that Tye Gunn is Tye Gunn, and he came back from that shoulder injury a lot faster than we thought."

John Ashley Menzies
j.a.menzies@tcu.edu



THE HORSEMAN

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