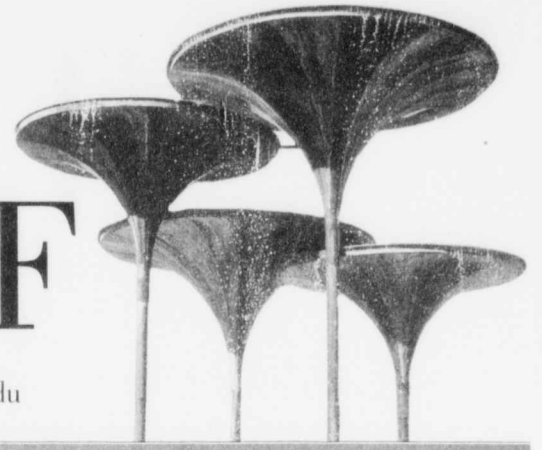


Thursday, November 13, 2003

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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Today's News

STATE/NATIONAL NEWS

HOUSTON — Tollway drivers soon will be able to take the fast lane in both Houston and Dallas.
News Digest on page 4

NEW YORK — A judge said Wednesday that neither Rosie O'Donnell nor the publisher of her former magazine deserved damages in their dispute over its demise.
News Digest on page 4

On Campus

Fossil discovery questioned by experts

ARLINGTON — An 8-year-old girl and her father stand by their mid-October statement that they discovered the first dinosaur bones ever found in Tarrant County, Texas.

Eules, Texas, residents Art Sahlstein and his daughter, Olivia, told news media in October that Olivia discovered bone fragments before University of Texas-Arlington anthropology junior Phil Kirchhoff and his digging partner Bill Walker did.

Kirchhoff and Walker, both amateur paleontologists, are credited with finding tooth fragments from a 100-million-year-old duck-billed Hadrosaur in June on a site in Arlington, Texas.

The Sahlsteins, though, claim they came across bone fragments three months earlier in the same area.

Art Sahlstein says he reported the bones to the Fort Worth Science and History Museum in Fort Worth, Texas, immediately afterward for professional analysis. The museum didn't react, curator Jim Diffily says, because the only bones Sahlstein showed them were those of a crocodile. Diffily says it was an easy misconception because the bones are common in the state.

Diffily says he tried to gather a paleontology team from Southern Methodist University to explore the site, but had trouble getting it organized. He says he regrets not examining the Sahlstein site but notes that crocodile bones are not enough to prompt an immediate site visit.

— *The Shorthorn*

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The Weather

TODAY
High: 49; Low: 39;
Cloudy

FRIDAY
High: 51; Low: 46;
Cloudy

SATURDAY
High: 62; Low: 56;
Few showers

Looking Back

1949 — Caryn Johnson, later known as Whoopi Goldberg, is born in New York City.

1940 — Walt Disney's "Fantasia" opens. The unusual animated film had no plot — it was an ambitious, artistic attempt to marry classical music and animation in a new way.

Eason removed from SGA race

BY DANNY GILLHAM
Staff Reporter

Elections and Regulations Chairman Nick James said late Wednesday night Blake Eason had been eliminated from the Student Government Association presidential race.

"All I will say is the (House Judiciary Board) found that Blake Eason was in violation of the Election Code," said James, a junior political science major. "The violation has resulted in his removal from the presidential race."

James said further documentation about specific violations and the next steps to be taken in determining SGA's new president will be provided at a later date.

Eason, a junior finance major, would not comment on the phone, but said in an e-mail he would appeal the decision.

"We hold ourselves to the highest possible standards of ethics," Eason said. "As the leader of my campaign, our behavior and actions must be congruent with the expectations we have of others."

Eason said his code of ethics appears directly opposed to that of those running the election.

He said he was sad his fellow SGA members do not support someone who "strives to meet these expectations that are prescribed to us."

Presidential candidate Jason Ruth said he feels sorry for Eason.

"I had a tremendous respect for Blake and really started growing close to him in the time up to the election," said Ruth, a senior entrepreneurship,

marketing and e-business major. "I really don't know what to say at this point."

James said official results of the races for vice president of house and treasurer will be made available sometime today to the *Skiff*. On Tuesday, he said Megan Brown and David Watson had won each position respectively, but refused to give margin of victory, saying he did not want to insult their opposing candidates.

Danny Gillham
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Summer school rules to be evaluated

BY CARMEN CASTRO
Staff Reporter

A more detailed evaluation of summer school enrollment policies has been prompted since the firing of former radio-TV-film chairman Roger Cooper in September, said Nadia Lahutsky, Faculty Senate chair.

Cooper was dismissed following an investigation of enrollment discrepancies for two summer school Video I courses. Some students enrolled temporarily to avoid cancellation of the courses and to try to avoid a pay cut for the instructors.

Leo Munson, assistant vice chancellor for academic support, said the Faculty Senate Executive Committee is considering other models to try and make summer school more personable to both students and faculty.

"We want an analysis that's more subjective than objective," Munson said.

Chris Baran, coordinator of operations and marketing for Extended Education, is handling the management model evaluation, Munson said.

Baran said he is comparing schools like Baylor University that have a decentralized system in which each department funds summer school, to schools with a centralized system where the university pays out of its budget. Baran said the departments would have more freedom with the decentralized model.

"We want to see if there's a better way to administer summer school," Baran said, "if there is another way out there."

TCU currently has a centralized system, Baran said. Southern Methodist University and Tulane University are other schools with the centralized system.

This fall, Baran has previewed each department's list of summer courses, Munson said.

"Each department used to bypass the academic dean and send their list of offered summer courses straight to the registrar," Munson said. "The academic dean never saw the list."

Munson said this new procedure will bring information to the dean about the courses being offered and help ensure there are no duplications of similar courses across departments.

(more on SUMMER, page 2)

Hometown pride



A banner reading "Fort Worth is our home town" beckons drivers to come watch TCU play Cincinnati on Saturday. The banner, which went up Tuesday, was donated by ABC Flag.

UNT fraternity issued four-year suspension

Associated Press

DENTON — Members of a University of North Texas fraternity, suspended for hazing, are sought by police in connection with alcohol violations.

Police at UNT have issued arrest warrants for six Sigma Alpha Epsilon members for furnishing alcohol to minors, Deputy Chief Ed Reynolds said Wednesday.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon's national headquarters has imposed a four-year suspension on the UNT chapter after police found a freshman pledge

unconscious near a trash bin Oct. 12. University officials determined the student, who required hospitalization, had been drinking at a fraternity event and that the fraternity was in violation of its own policy and the school's.

The national fraternity headquarters imposed an additional four-year suspension of the affiliations of the chapter's UNT members.

The UNT fraternity, under the suspension, cannot hold meetings, participate in service projects or solicit or accept new members.

Reynolds said the warrants were issued as a part of the criminal investigation of the October event that also resulted in the fraternity's suspension from the university.

"These are six of the fraternity members who played a significant role in making the alcohol available," Reynolds told the Denton Record-Chronicle in Wednesday's online edition.

Some fraternity members told the newspaper in October that while there was alcohol at the event, the university's story

was exaggerated, and no one was forced to drink.

"The university acted immediately after the incident to suspend the organization," said Kelley Reese, a UNT spokeswoman.

Reese said it is a violation of the university's code of conduct for students to break any law, including possessing alcohol when underage or distributing alcoholic beverages to minors.

Since 2000, UNT has suspended six fraternities, including three during the last academic year.

Police kill gunman, free hostages

BY BOBBY ROSS JR.
Associated Press

DALLAS — For the second time in less than three months, Francisco Fuentes held police at bay in a standoff that lasted hours. Unlike his peaceful surrender before, Wednesday's standoff ended with Fuentes and two other men dead and four officers wounded.

Fuentes held a woman and three children — at least two of them his own — hostage for hours before freeing them unharmed during the nine-hour standoff. Officers were able to rescue four other children when they responded to reports of gunfire at the apartment early Wednesday. Three officers were shot then, police said.

SWAT team officers entered the apartment after Fuentes, 32, released the final hostage, a little girl, shortly before noon. Barricaded in a bathroom, the gunman again opened fire, injuring a fourth officer, police spokesman Sgt. Gil Cerda said.

"They returned fire on him," Cerda said.

Police found the other two men dead in a living room and a bedroom. Their names were not released.

In early September, Fuentes was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon after a five-hour standoff in the nearby suburb of Lancaster. Lancaster police Commander Pat Stallings said Fuentes barricaded himself alone in a house

after shooting at a man's car. The two men had argued earlier in the day at the apartment complex where Wednesday's standoff occurred.

Fuentes was facing at least four charges in Dallas County, including two for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, interfering with child custody and violation of a protective order. He was free on \$25,000 bond in each of the assault cases and was scheduled to appear in court next week, records show.

Sandy Besanceney, a manager of a Dallas mobile home park, said the mother of the man found dead in the bedroom lives in the mobile home park and was distraught over the slaying.

Advising time



Sophomore radio-TV-film major Kenny Lumadue discusses his registration options with RTVF professor Joel Timmer. Students are separated by classification and then registered for classes in order of hours completed.

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.

■ **Radio-TV-film** presents "The Palm Beach Story," a part of the Thursday Night Movies series, at 7 p.m. tonight in Moudy Building South, Room 164. Call (817) 257-7630 for more information.

■ **Public Relations Student Society of America** will meet at 5:30 p.m. today in Moudy Building South, Room 271. Rich Rice, media relations manager for the Texas Rangers, will speak. Contact Heather Cohen at (972) 467-1233 or h.r.cohen@tcu.edu 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.

■ **The Center for Writing** is located on the top floor of the Rickel Academic Wing of the University Recreation Center, across from Moncrief Hall. Students who want to discuss some of their writing can stop by the Center for Writing or call (817) 257-7221 for an appointment.

■ **Frog Calls** student, faculty and staff directories are available to be picked up free of charge in the lobby of the Student Center.

■ **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.

■ **Summer 2004 Study Abroad Programs** are now enrolling. Those wishing to enroll need to come by Sadler Hall, Room 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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SUMMER

From page 1

The minimum number of students needed to keep a course open is also being evaluated. Munson said. Currently, freshmen and sophomore courses require 15 students, junior and senior courses must have 13 students, and graduate level classes require eight students.

David Bedford, a Spanish professor who has taught a summer course each of the past six years, said some of his courses have fallen below minimum numbers but have never been canceled.

"The ideal number of students in beginning language, in my opinion, is a minimum of seven and maximum of 12," Bedford said. "It would help me if the minimum number required for summer courses to make was lowered a little."

Munson said the discussion now is how to improve the early notification to both the

instructor and student of any possible class cancellations.

Under the current procedure, a class's enrollment is checked the week prior to the first day of class and the instructor can appeal to keep a class under special circumstances, Munson said.

Sometimes a student that is trying to graduate on time or graduating in the summer needs that single course, Munson said.

"Ninety-nine percent of the time, the class will go so those students can graduate in the summer," Munson said.

The university is looking for the most efficient model so that university resources are not wasted, Munson said.

"People don't realize that one in three students at this university are enrolled in some type of summer school course," Munson said. "There has to be a better way to make all the identities work cohesively."

Carmen Castro
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NewsBrief

Worker died after power line electrocution

One of two workmen electrocuted at Bellaire Ranch apartments died Tuesday from electric burns, according to the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Web site.

Angel Juarez, 18, was working on a scaffolding ladder Tuesday afternoon when wind pushed the ladder into adjacent power lines. The power lines

were running 7,200 volts of electricity, according to Wednesday's Skiff article.

Juarez was taken by Care Flight to Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas.

Another workman was also injured and was taken to Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital to be treated for burns. His condition was not known at press time.

— Kristi Walker

Demand for beef reaches new high

BY LYNN BREZOSKY
 Associated Press

KINGSVILLE, Texas — Until recently, a lanky Texan like Paul Genho had little interest in celebrity doctors and their diet trends. But thanks to the toppled food pyramid advised by the low-carbohydrate Atkins and South Beach diets, red meat sales are up again.

"Beef is hot, beef is back," said Genho, manager of the 825,000-acre King Ranch, one of the country's top beef producers. "People are sick of chicken."

Breed bulls are going for \$40,000 and live cattle prices were recently trading over \$1 a pound, when just a few years ago prices were in the 50-cent range.

Diets can't take all the credit for the increase. A mad-cow disease scare closed off the Canadian supply, so steak distributors worldwide turned to the U.S. market, where there were no reports of the sickness. The two countries are the major suppliers of grain-fed beef, which consumers prefer to grass-fed beef. Droughts around the United States also have thinned cattle herds, so supply is down.

"But that gets you two or three or four cents on the pound, that doesn't get you 20 or 30 or 40," said Gregg Doud, chief economist for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. "That comes from predominantly domestic demand. That's steak orders from restaurants."

The effect of the diets can't be understated in the high prices, said Ann Barnhardt, an analyst with the livestock research firm Hedgesedge.com. "I credit a lot of that to the Atkins diet," she said.

Sales are soaring for books such as "Atkins for Life" and "The South Beach Diet," which reverse decades of dietary advice and say the way to lose weight is to cut out carbohydrates in favor of more protein, including red meat. Many dieters say they've quickly lost weight on the diets.

But people would be back to beef even if there weren't a dietary license, trend analyst Gerald Celente said. He said people are tired of depriving themselves after two years of a weak economy and worries about terrorism.

"Beef is also a comfort food," Celente said.

The diet promoted by the late Dr. Robert Atkins debuted in the 1970s and recently enjoyed a resurgence in popularity. The original "Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution" is still a bestseller, as is relative newcomer the "South Beach Diet" by Dr. Arthur Agatston.

The theory behind such diets is that the body too quickly converts carbohydrates into ready energy, ignoring existing fuel stored as fat. It's a theory that works for ranchers.

Al Qaeda accused of strike

BY ADNAN MALIK
 Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Residents of the mainly Arab residential compound attacked by suspected al Qaeda suicide bombers said Wednesday they knew their Westernized lifestyle was under scrutiny — they'd received a surprise visit from Saudi religious police suspicious that men and women were mixing at a party.

The choice of target in the attack, which killed 17 people, mostly Arabs and Muslims, has baffled many in the region — and indicates al Qaeda's rage may be directed as much at Muslims seen as having slipped from the religion's true path as at Western "infidels."

Saudi and U.S. officials have blamed Saturday's attack on Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda, the militant Muslim terror network blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks and a sworn enemy of the Saudi ruling family, which it accuses of being insufficiently Islamic and too close to the United States.

On Tuesday, a purported al Qaeda operative claimed responsibility for Saturday's bombing, saying in an e-mail that al Qaeda believed "working with Americans and mixing with them" was forbidden. The e-mail was

sent to the London-based Arabic weekly al Majalla.

Most of the residents of the Muhaya compound were Lebanese. Seven Lebanese were among the dead; other victims came from Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Sudan.

Muhaya was typical of compounds housing members of the large contingent of foreign workers in Saudi Arabia: a place where non-Saudis could escape rules banning alcohol and mixing of men and women in public and requiring women to cloak and veil themselves when outside their homes.

Muhaya had a coffee shop where residents of both sexes chatted over water pipes and watched foreign movies and other entertainment on a big screen television. It was located next to a pool where women swam in bikinis.

Agents of the Saudi religious police — the Committee for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice — roam Saudi streets and shopping malls berating or even manhandling those who violate the social code. Its chief holds the rank of Cabinet minister in a kingdom where the royal family retains power in part with the support of conservative religious authorities.

Some Saudis chafe at the religious restrictions. Saturday's

bombings and similar attacks in Riyadh in May have sparked debate about whether the strict form of Islam preached in Saudi Arabia fosters intolerance and extremism.

Seven bearded, robed religious police officers visited the Muhaya compound three months ago, saying they had reports of an "un-Islamic" party being held there, residents told The Associated Press on Wednesday. The religious police scuffled with compound guards who barred their entry until the compound owner arrived. During the delay, residents of both sexes slipped out of the complex coffee shop.

The religious police were eventually allowed in and headed straight for the coffee shop. They left after finding it closed.

The Associated Press placed several calls Wednesday to the religious police, but the calls were unanswered.

Muhaya residents said religious police had visited about four years earlier, also saying they had heard a party was being held.

Residents said most compound parties are birthday gatherings for children. They said some residents may have alcohol in their homes, but it was never consumed in public.

Circus memorabilia to be donated

SAN ANTONIO — A deceased state senator's collection of circus memorabilia is making its way to a new home after an unconventional custody battle between two museums.

The Witte Museum plans to display Harry Hertzberg's collection of circus-related documents, props and archives next summer.

Before Hertzberg died 63 years ago, he said his collection of more than 40,000 items should first be offered to San Antonio, then to the Witte and finally to his alma mater, the University of Texas at Austin.

The items have been in limbo since 2001, when budget cuts forced San Antonio to shutter the downtown building where they

had been displayed.

Saying they were concerned about the deteriorating condition of the collection, officials with the Ringling Center for the Cultural Arts in Sarasota, Fla. offered in August to share ownership of it with the Witte.

Witte officials balked at the offer and said they just needed time to inventory and catalogue the collection before it could be displayed.

"We're at the concept stage," Rebecca Huffstutler, director of collections for the Witte, said in Wednesday's editions of the San Antonio Express-News. "We're taking our role as the second beneficiaries to his bequest very seriously."

Ringling officials have backed off their proposal. But Howard Tibbals, a circus enthusiast and philanthropist who was the driving force behind the Ringling's efforts, said he is still concerned about the Witte's ability to conserve the collection.

"As long as the city of San Antonio has had the collection, they've not done a thing with it. It's been terribly taken care of," he said. "If (the Witte) will conserve it properly and take care of the materials, what else can I ask for?"

Bart Iddins, president of the Circus Fans Association of America, said he was relieved to hear that the collection would be displayed soon.



SIGMA KAPPA SORORITY

ΣΚ

The ladies of Sigma Kappa Welcome their Beautiful New Initiates

Ashley Alderman	Emily Gilmore	Brittany Murphree
Stephanie Avery	Missy Goslee	Elizabeth Nearburg
Elizabeth Berger	Kirsti Haefner	Amanda O'dell
Holley Brown	Molly Hommerding	Heather Padgett
Nicole Burkett	Emily Humphreys	Karen Reis
Liz Butler	Jenny Jackson	Abby Richards
Michele Chapman	Erin Lawshe	Eliza Rivera
Amber Clausen	Savannah Leonard	Laura Rizzuto
Kathleen Clemer	Lara Libby	Caitlin Sewell
Shannon Cornelius	Karin Long	Mary Stillwagon
Sarah Cox	Kim Martin	Jenni Thompson
Chelsea Edge	Dana McCarthy	Erin Vaughn
Amanda Edgmon	Courtney McGill	Crystal Vaught
Tania Gaitan	Sarah Moore	Anne Zanula

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TCU does not encourage the consumption of alcohol. If you do consume alcohol you should do so responsibly, and you should never drive after drinking.

OPINION

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

The Skiff View

DISGRACE

Students have right to know results

Tuesday night, the results of the Student Government Association elections were in, but if you looked in the *Skiff*, you couldn't find the margins of victory anywhere. Want to know why?

Because they didn't disclose it to the public. Because they didn't want the public to know.

But what we do know is that by not telling the public, SGA violated its own election code. Section 3.06 C of the code says the vote counts of each contest in the election must be released upon the request of any candidate in the contest or the press.

Elections and Regulations Chairman Nick James refused to disclose the number of votes each candidate received because he said the losing candidates would feel bad if the numbers were made public. Are we in third grade?

If candidates are mature enough to run a campaign for an office against other candidates, they should be mature enough to handle having the results of the campaign published. When it comes to running for an office, there will always be winners and losers.

This is a blatant betrayal of public trust.

Student voter participation nearly doubled from last year. James said about 2,200 students went to the polls. But by going to the polls, we have a right to know where our votes went.

If you can't show us the numbers, how do we know that a certain candidate actually won? How do we know you are telling us the truth?

In past elections, the *Skiff* has had no problem getting the percentages of votes. This year, officials are treating it like top secret information. Shame on those officials.

The Other View

Opinions from around the country

Decision shows bad precedent and censorship

CBS's rash decision last week to scrap airing the four-hour miniseries "The Reagans" can only be considered a weak-willed submission to Republican political censorship.

This self-censorship sets a dangerous precedent, not just for docudramas and television programs exploring the ins and outs of presidents' administrations, but for any televised or written criticism of political figures' actions.

Detractors of "The Reagans" claim it was unbalanced in its portrayal of former president Ronald Reagan as uncaring about AIDS and passive about his job. While the program in its entirety has been viewed by few, bits and pieces of the script have been leaked and have offered up enough meat for the Right to sink its teeth into.

For example, according to a newsobserver.com article, in one scene Nancy Reagan pleads with her husband to start fighting the mounting AIDS epidemic, only to have him reply, "They that live in sin shall die in sin."

Reaganites insist he never said such harsh words, and that's probably true. However, there was a bit of truth tangled up in it — Reagan's administration was in fact slow to act on AIDS initiatives.

How Reagan's perceived performance in office got translated to harsh quotes in a made-for-TV movie should be no surprise to anyone on either side of the political spectrum: The most important thing is to get viewers' attention, and to do that, it requires dramatized, stepped-up storylines.

Movies aren't documentaries of everyday life — their primary purpose is to entertain, then inform. It's not a justification, it's just the way it is, especially with television dramas. NBC's "Saving Jessica Lynch," which aired Sunday, wasn't exactly true to life, either.

So why was the "exaggeration" of truth deemed inappropriate in "The Reagans"? It certainly didn't stop makers of movies about John F. Kennedy from dramatizing historical events.

The suppression of any information regarding presidential administrations should be widely available to the American public, no matter who it's about or how dramatized it is. All the cancellation of "The Reagans" does is support the elimination of our right to decide for ourselves what we will believe by censoring our informational sources.

This is a staff editorial from the Iowa State Daily at Iowa 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*, Monday 291S, 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.



Lend a helping hand to someone in need

Almost three years ago, I learned what it meant to have a broken heart.

No, it wasn't a tall, dark and handsome man that caused me such pain, but a little girl. She had knobby knees, glasses, and a face full of freckles. Most kids' lives revolve around school and the afternoon cartoon schedule, but her world was a homeless shelter.

During a spring break mission trip, I had the privilege to visit the Presbyterian Night Shelter and the experience will stay with me forever. Never will I forget the faces of

those kids, with eyes like puppies in a pound. More than candy, more than toys, they were starving for attention.

This particular girl welcomed us into her home and gave us the grand tour: the playground, the toy room, the dining room and an introductory story about each kid we encountered. When my group left she followed us down the stairs and held on to me, crying as if she had known me all her life. And as the door closed, I could hear her pleading, "Take me with you!"

I wanted with all of my being to go back to see her every day. But I never did.

And sitting here, three years later, I wonder what it is that made me too busy. What is it that causes us to duck away when we see booths in the

Student Center recruiting blood donors? Why do we promise to sign up for volunteer opportunities and never actually do it?

True, many TCU students help out in the community on a regular basis. About 700 students participated in TCU Leaps this year and many organizations around campus require volunteer hours or encourage members to help out.

But so many times we only do what we have to. What is required, convenient or easy. Take a moment and think about it, we are all so blessed. We are educated, have homes and eat regular meals. We might stress about exams and professors, but most of us don't worry about where we're going to sleep each night. We are the lucky ones.

I am just as guilty as anyone else. I use work, school and anything else to justify the fact that I just don't give back as much as I could. The truth is that I, along with countless other students, am just lazy.

It takes so little to help out with a food drive, to donate blood, to spend a few hours volunteering at a soup kitchen. So volunteer, not because it's required, not because it looks good on a resume, but because it feels good to help other human beings.

Think about it... our lives are good. But life can be so much better when you share it with people who need you.

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

Lefties forgotten in world made for right-handed people

This week I realized I was born with a disease that most people don't see as deadly. It's called left-handedness, and one out of 10 people has it.

The doctors say not to worry, but I don't want to take any chances if my life is at stake.

Studies have shown that lefties die at a younger age and are more prone to accidents. Perhaps these statistics have something to do with right-handed people conducting the tests. Of course they would alter the information — it's in their favor to tell us we aren't as worthy.

Lefties have to learn early that they need to develop skills to function in a world designed for right-handed people.

Language sets the stage for discrimination against lefties. No one wants to hear a "left-handed compliment." The English word "sin" comes from the Latin "sinistra," a reference to the left side. The French word "gauche," like "sinistra" also translates to left. In English, "gauche" means socially awkward or clumsy.

There has been a conspiracy against left-handers for ages and it continues today.

Most lefties learn to adapt by becoming ambidextrous because they are forced to live in a world that caters to right-handed people. But even ambidextrous literally means, "both right." There's no escaping it, fellow lefties: We're doomed.

Moving from language barriers into the college classroom, left-handed awkwardness becomes more obvious.

We never get a good seat in a lecture hall because there are few desks made for lefties.

You'll find two left-handed desks among 30, if you're lucky. You can definitely count on lefty desks to stand out with gaudy colors and missing screws. No one else would want to sit there, believe me.

I give props to any lefty who can write without smearing ink all over the page or his or her hand. Writing legibly in a three-ring binder is even more impossible.

Items like camcorders, computer keyboards and mice, bicycle gears, golf clubs, cameras and most musical instruments are designed for right-handed people. It requires a tremendous amount of patience, planning and

wealth for a left-handed person to live in a planet of non-left conformity.

Perhaps calling political liberals left-wing is our only true compliment. Also, some of the most creative geniuses are lefties. Look at Ludwig Van

"But even ambidextrous literally means, 'both right'. There's no escaping it, fellow lefties: We're doomed."

Beethoven, Albert Einstein, Leonardo Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Benjamin Franklin and Isaac Newton. Jimi Hendrix even figured out how to string a Stratocaster upside-down.

These men are only a handful of the world's left-handed geniuses, and many more are coming out. Lefties have proven their brilliance throughout history and have many right-handed people running scared.

I think they have fear that we might take over the planet. After all, there is a lefty born every minute.

Angela Bratrud is a columnist for The State Hornet at California State University-Sacramento. This column was distributed by U-Wire.

Serial killer getting off easy

Move over Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer and O.J. Simpson. There's a new killer on the block with the highest body count yet. And it's time to examine society's ills, legal loopholes and our values of life and death.

On Nov. 5, 54-year-old Gary Ridgway pleaded guilty to 48 murders — the highest number of convictions for a single killer in U.S. history. Ridgway, a truck painter, left a trail of horror in the Seattle area for almost two decades. He picked up women — mostly prostitutes and run-aways in the city's red light district — and strangled them. Occasionally, he performed sexual acts on them after their deaths.

Unfortunately, serial killers have become a part of life in America. More than 100 killers are believed to be in operation — a dozen or so using Texas' largest freeways. To receive major attention, the killers must have celebrity connections or do something really outrageous to their victims.

As modern life becomes more fast-paced, trends change and the population constantly grows, people have developed more of a cutthroat attitude to maintain a certain portion of the resources. It's most evident in the academic and business world.

How many people do you know that will do whatever it takes to succeed? They have no problem stepping over someone or going against major principles. It is that type of thinking that leads to blatant disregard for other people on a large scale.

Society has been desensitized to violence. It is exposed to us in almost every fashion, whether in a movie of the week, video game or chart-topping CD. I don't need to see somebody's head chopped off to realize that a character is really bad. The moment I see a machete, I get it.

There is also a popular chain of videos where you can watch people die in 101 different ways. Why? There is too much natural carnage available now. Pretty soon there will be real footage of a slaughterhouse and we'll see how it ranks against Disney films at the box office.

The most shocking action is when the legal system hands down a sentence for the convicted. A life sentence for someone who took so many lives is a pat on the back for committing the murders. Sometimes, the convicts are brought under justice by the law only to slip through a legal loophole.

Many in Seattle are upset because Ridgway didn't get the death penalty. If someone who confesses to 48 murders doesn't get the death penalty, who does? Frankly, I think lethal injection is too good for these types of crimes. The things I think should be criminal punishments can't even be printed in this article.

Morris Bailey is a columnist for The Daily Cougar at the University of Houston. This column was distributed by U-Wire.

NEWS DIGEST

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National/State Roundup

Toll tags will work in both Houston, Dallas

HOUSTON (AP) — Tollway drivers soon will be able to take the fast lane in both Houston and Dallas.

The Harris County Toll Road Authority and the North Texas Tollway Authority have agreed on a plan to allow the windshield-mounted automatic payment tags to work in both areas.

The tags, called EZ Tags in Houston and TollTags in Dallas, both were developed by TransCore. The company has been contracted to provide radio frequency identification equipment to make the tags work in both markets.

Tags allow drivers to zip through toll plazas without stopping to pay. The toll instead is charged to a credit card or bank account linked to the tag.

Harris County EZ Tags began working on Dallas-area TollTag lanes last month, giving the more than 1.2 million Houston-area tag holders access to the Dallas North Tollway, the President George Bush Turnpike, the Addison Airport Toll Tunnel and the Mountain Creek Lake Bridge.

The 750,000-plus Dallas-area tag users will have to wait until July for access to the Hardy Toll Road and the Sam Houston Tollway in the Houston area.

Chicago teachers' union avoids potential walkout

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Teachers Union reached a tentative agreement with school officials on a new contract

Wednesday, potentially averting a walkout that would affect nearly 440,000 students.

The agreement was reached just before 5 a.m. after a 17-hour bargaining session, union spokesman Jay Rehak said.

Joi Mecks, a spokeswoman for the nation's third-largest school district, said school officials are "pleased" by the agreement, but details of the pact will not be released until the union's members can evaluate it.

Recent negotiations were centered on contract length, health care costs and proposed changes to the length of the school day.

Rehak said the union's House of Delegates will review the proposal Friday or Saturday. The negotiating team recommends approval, he said. If the delegates agree, a ratification vote would be set.

The House of Delegates voted last month to authorize a strike beginning Dec. 4 if negotiations fail. Any walkout must also be approved by the 30,000 rank-and-file members. Chicago's teachers have not staged a walkout in 16 years.

Alabama judge refuses to remove monument

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Suspended Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore had "every legal right" to ignore an order to remove his Ten Commandments monument from the rotunda of the state courthouse, Moore's attorneys said Wednesday at his judicial ethics trial.

Attorney General Bill Pryor, whose office is prosecuting Moore, has asked the Court of

the Judiciary to remove the chief justice for "Moore's sensational flouting of a valid federal injunction."

About 100 Moore supporters gathered on the sidewalk and plaza outside the judicial building Wednesday, some carrying "Save the Ten Commandments" signs. As Moore arrived, some women held small children up to get a glimpse.

Moore remained defiant as he entered the court building, saying the monument properly acknowledged "almighty God" and that a federal judge's order to remove the marker was unlawful based on "state sovereignty."

"I've done nothing wrong," Moore said, adding that he wished cameras would be allowed inside the courtroom.

In his opening argument, defense attorney Jim Wilson denied that U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson's order to remove the monument was valid.

"Justice Moore had every legal right to decline to obey what he deemed as an illegal order," Wilson said.

Prosecutors rested their case after about an hour, most of which was spent entering evidence. They called no witnesses, but played two videotapes depicting speeches Moore gave on Aug. 14 and Aug. 21.

Moore's attorneys objected to the playing of both tapes, saying their contents already were included in written evidence.

In the Aug. 14 speech, which Moore gave six days before Thompson's deadline to remove the monument, he said he had "no intention of removing the monument."

Battle ends between O'Donnell, publisher

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge said Wednesday that neither Rosie O'Donnell nor the publisher of her former magazine deserved damages in their dispute over its demise.

Minutes after both sides rested in the case, state Supreme Court Justice Ira Gammerman issued his surprising comments concluding the two-week trial.

"It seems to me ... we're just dealing with bragging rights here, who wins and who loses," said Gammerman, who heard the case without a jury.

The judge's remarks effectively left neither side as the victor in a trial where O'Donnell's image as the "Queen of Nice" took some hits and where the publisher was accused of manipulating the magazine's financial figures. The judge did leave open the possibility that O'Donnell could ask for publisher Gruner Jahr USA to cover her legal fees.

Gammerman said there was no evidence or testimony during the contentious trial indicating that either side had caused the other to suffer damages.

Both parties invested money, the magazine lost money, and then it folded, he said.

"There's no evidence that the magazine would have made any money at all," he said.

Gammerman's comments from the bench were not legally binding, although he offered no indication to either side that he would reverse his opinion. The case began two weeks ago.

"I have no vengeance toward

the company. ... I'm simply happy about the fact that it is finally over," O'Donnell said afterward. She thanked the judge and vowed never to discuss the company ever again.

Supreme Court deals with age discrimination

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court justices fretted Wednesday over an age discrimination fight that pits 40-something workers against their older colleagues over job benefits.

The court has been called on to interpret a federal law that protects workers over 40 from age discrimination. In an odd twist, some 40-something General Dynamics Corp. workers sued claiming they are being discriminated against because they are too young to get benefits being offered to older colleagues.

While some of the aging justices seemed concerned about discrimination faced by mid-career workers, there was more distress over the prospect of allowing companies to be sued for treating their oldest employees generously.

Justice Antonin Scalia warned that if General Dynamics loses its appeal, "a piece of legislation that everyone thought was meant to aid older workers ... ends up harming them."

"Your interpretation will blow up this act, destroy it," Justice Stephen Breyer told the lawyer representing the General Dynamics workers who are in their 40s.

The case is important for U.S. companies that offer retirement packages to get employees to leave and for the workers who

hope to benefit from the offers.

The Bush administration, which frequently sides with businesses, is instead backing the General Dynamics workers who sued. On the other side are unions, business groups and AARP, the advocacy group for people 50 and over.

Bush administration lawyer Paul Clement said that the law is "crystal clear" in protecting people over age 40 from discrimination.

About 70 million U.S. workers are 40 or older, about half the nation's work force.

Howard Dean gains backing of major unions

WASHINGTON (AP) — The executive board of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees voted unanimously Wednesday to endorse Howard Dean for president, giving the Democratic front-runner an army of supporters and extra cash in his bid for the nomination.

The endorsement was expected, with news coming last week that the 1.5 million-member union would join the Service Employees International Union in support for the former Vermont governor.

"We have a candidate who represents our values and who can defeat this president," AFSCME President Gerald McEntee said. "AFSCME is going to mobilize the largest and most aggressive grass-roots campaign this nation has ever seen. Together with Governor Dean, America's working families will take back the White House in 2004."

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

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-Leo Munson, assistant vice chancellor for academic support, on the committee examining summer school policies

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A: YES 37 NO 63

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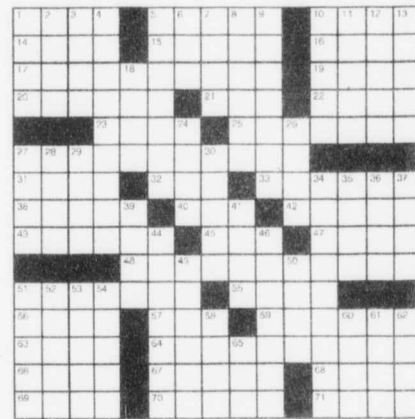
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ACROSS

- 1 On the sheltered side
- 5 Corporal O'Reilly
- 10 Partially
- 14 Mentor
- 15 Chew the scenery
- 16 Falls to be
- 17 Made worse
- 19 Archibald or Thurmond
- 20 Do cobbling
- 21 Tool with teeth
- 22 Make headway
- 23 Lima's nation
- 25 Dry wind from the Sahara
- 27 Imaginary
- 31 Novel thought
- 32 Comic Philips
- 33 City on Seneca Lake
- 38 Legal claims
- 40 Used scissors
- 42 Type of boom
- 43 Turns out
- 45 Greek letter
- 47 Ice-cream holder
- 48 Assumes
- 51 Put down
- 55 Per (for each day)
- 56 Pick a field?
- 57 Bashful
- 59 That's enough!
- 63 Opera highlight
- 64 Carole King song
- 66 Fortitude
- 67 Explosive stuff
- 68 Tiger's sponsor
- 69 Fower
- 70 Descendant
- 71 PGA pages



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Wednesday's Solutions



- 8 Relaxing
- 9 Detroit player
- 10 Eureka!
- 11 Newton or Stern
- 12 Playful prank
- 13 Off skill
- 18 Trebek of "Jeopardy"
- 24 Leatherneck's cry
- 26 AAA advice
- 27 Cleo's river
- 28 Valhalla VIP
- 29 Requirement
- 30 Sightseeing excursions
- 34 Unhelpful reply
- 35 Grandson of Eve
- 36 Clinging plant
- 37 Suit toppers
- 39 Dines
- 41 Heavy dull sound
- 44 Attica and San Quentin
- 46 Court ruling
- 49 Of a common cultural heritage
- 58 Abominable snowman
- 59 Unskilled laborer
- 60 Garfield's dog
- 61 Do a fall chore
- 62 Looks over
- 65 To and

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The Sideline

Frogs host football pep rally on campus

TCU Athletics and Sodexo Services will host a football pep rally Friday, at noon in the Main Cafeteria in the Brown-Lupton Student Center.

The TCU Marching Band and TCU Cheerleaders will perform beginning at noon. The TCU Showgirls will also be on hand to meet and greet fans. Head football coach Gary Patterson will address the crowd during the pep rally.

TCU (9-0, 6-0 in Conference USA) faces the Cincinnati Bearcats (5-4, 2-3) Saturday at 2 p.m. at Amon Carter Stadium.

— courtesy of www.gofrogs.com

Two golfers commit to play for women's team

A pair of standout Texas high school golfers, Angela Akins and Carrie Morris have committed to play for TCU, said head women's golf coach Angie Ravaioli-Larkin Wednesday. Both will be true freshmen for the 2004-05 season.

Akins has seven prep tournament titles to her credit. Morris placed third at the TransAmerica Junior Golf Championship. In June, Morris took fifth at the American Junior Golf Association's Harvey Penick Junior Classic.

— courtesy of www.gofrogs.com

TCU deserves BCS berth

Just because TCU is ranked in the top six of the Bowl Championship Series now doesn't mean they want us there.

So allow me to apologize to those who control the BCS rankings. I'm sorry that TCU can't blow out a team 77-0.

I'm sorry that Arizona is no longer a national power, like they were when that game was scheduled.

I'm sorry there is no big team on TCU's schedule.

But does that detract that much from what TCU is doing? TCU wins. Period. End of story. TCU gets down in the dirt and wins.

When did it become such a bad thing to just win?

The Frogs have moved up to the six spot in the BCS standings and are the first non-BCS team to do so since the BCS's inception. And those BCS backers don't even want TCU there. Football fans love it, but BCS people are dreaming of a TCU loss to just get the Frogs out of the equation.

There are only two undefeated teams left in the country. One is Oklahoma. Okay, Oklahoma is above and beyond the best team in the country. But that is beside the point.

As you watch other powerhouse teams fall one by one, TCU is that other team that somehow stays afloat.

TCU critics cry because the

Frogs don't play anybody. Then they cry because TCU doesn't beat teams convincingly

The Frogs may not play anybody, but TCU is that somebody that everyone else plays. Every other team comes to play TCU and comes to play them hard.

And that is what the Frogs do. They play hard. Time after time, TCU could roll over and die, but they don't.

They fought off Houston in a game that became a track meet.

They held off LeFors and Louisville to win by mere inches after allowing LeFors to have an incredible passing game.

Tulane wanted to come back, but the Frogs would have none of that.

Not to mention the Frogs are staying undefeated with a backup quarterback, a rotation of running backs and an injured Marvin Godbolt. The magnitude of injuries this team has overcome doesn't even come close to ending at Godbolt, however.

Somehow the Frogs have still been able to pull it out. They've pulled it out nine times this season.

And then there are even some projections that say TCU would play the mighty Longhorns of the University of Texas.

The Longhorns and TCU? Now, that would be a game.

TCU can't hang with the Longhorns, they'll say. TCU can't handle a receiver of Roy Williams' caliber, they'll say. Quarterback Vince Young is a better runner than they've seen

all season, they'll say.

But this is a Mack Brown team. Tell me what a Mack Brown football team has done?

He's had more talent to work with in Austin and has done nothing with it, as he has still never led a Longhorns team to a BCS bowl game. He's got a four-game losing streak to Oklahoma, and his team is not capable of getting down in the dirt with you and just beating you.

Texas is what it is. It is soft and it is a Mack Brown team. And they're a team that does not scare me.

Vince Young is not a great quarterback. He is a good runner but nothing beyond that at this point in his career. So, Roy Williams and B.J. Johnson wouldn't be as big of factors.

It has been running quarterbacks who can throw that has given the Frogs fits these past few weeks. And Young might not even be the best quarterback the Frogs have faced this season.

TCU couldn't just play with UT. TCU could beat them.

Critics don't want to jump aboard the TCU band wagon, but that's okay.

They'll cry when TCU gets into a BCS bowl game; that's okay, too.

But when TCU does and they go and beat a team like Texas, I'll be saving those BCS backers a seat on the wagon right beside me.

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

Rangers' shortstop considered for trade

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Texas Rangers are willing to field trade offers for star shortstop Alex Rodriguez. *The New York Times* reported Wednesday.

"It would be less than honest for me to say we're not listening," Rangers manager Buck Showalter told the newspaper. "If people call you about a player, even if it's a player you love the way we love Alex, you have to at least listen."

Especially because Rodriguez costs the Rangers so much.

He has seven years and \$179 million remaining on the record \$252 million contract he signed with Texas before the 2001 season. He also has a no-trade clause, which he would have to waive before any potential deal could be completed.

Rodriguez, 28, might agree to

that for a chance to win soon. The Rangers have finished last in the AL West for four straight seasons.

At the general managers' meeting in Phoenix, Texas GM John Hart made it clear that his team is not trying to move Rodriguez and said the possibility of a deal was a long shot. *The Times* reported.

"He's our cornerstone player," Hart told the newspaper. "But if the phone rings in this business, you pick up the phone and listen."

Rodriguez suggested in late July that he would be willing to accept a trade if the team doesn't improve, but later changed his tone.

"The optimism is obvious. I hope that this winter we get a few small pieces and keep going," Rodriguez said at the end of the season. "We don't need a miracle. We don't need a total facelift."



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