



TCU DAILY SKIFF

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Lack of support leads CEO Club to request loan be tabled

The bill to fund CEO TV has been tabled indefinitely by the House of Student Representatives.

By Matt Turner
Staff Reporter

Students won't be tuning into CEO TV anytime soon.

The Collegiate Entrepreneurial Organization requested the bill be tabled indefinitely by the House of Student Representatives last night, the same day it was supposed to be voted on. The House granted the request.

The CEO Club previously requested a \$38,000 loan — to be repaid over five years with \$4,500 interest — from the House to cover the initial cost of starting a student-run TV station.

Michael Hennig, CEO TV's chief representative, said students are confused about the CEO TV proposal and there is no consensus supporting the bill.

The CEO Club wants what is ultimately best for TCU, and they wouldn't feel comfortable moving forward without the support of students, faculty and SGA, Hennig said.

"This is a weighty issue that should not be rushed in any way," Hennig said.

Hennig said students are evenly divided on the issue, but believes the bill would have passed in the House.

"It's not the right time for CEO TV to come through SGA," President Jay Zeidman said.

Some administrators, including Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Don Mills and House advisor Larry Markley, think the proposal was rushed and didn't have enough support, Zeidman said. He said there is also concern about the House giving a loan, since that is typically not its policy.

Zeidman said that the bill would not be revisited this semester because the CEO Club

will be doing more research this summer, but it could eventually be brought back.

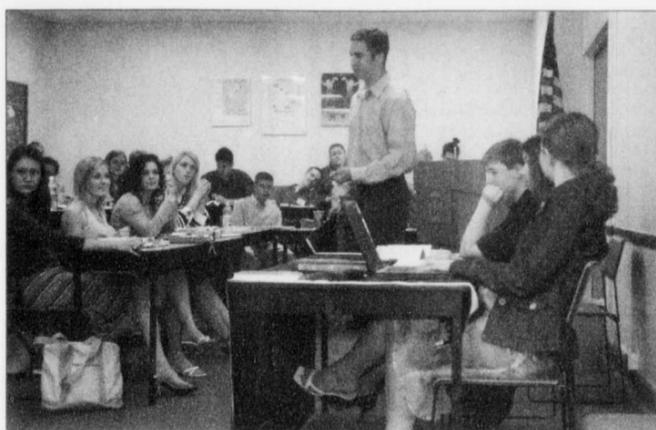
Hennig said their research will include looking at alternate funding and consulting more with involved parties, including SGA officers and faculty members.

The CEO Club wants to look further into the capabilities the station would have and how it can use them to support TCU, Hennig said.

Treasurer David Watson said the CEO Club will have a hard time getting a loan of this magnitude from a bank, something Hennig previously acknowledged. Hennig said confidential private investors are another option they will explore.

CEO TV will move forward if research shows it would be in the best interest of TCU, which could include returning to the House for funds, Hennig said.

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CEO TV representative Michael Hennig, a sophomore marketing and entrepreneurship major, speaks before the SGA Tuesday night.

Boot scootin'



Ronnita Miller/Staff Photographer

Political science professors line dance at a western-themed achievement celebration Tuesday night in the Kelly Alumni Center. The department recognized the 2003 and 2004 Washington interns, scholarship recipients and honors students.

Panel examines pre-Sept. 11 actions

Donald Rumsfeld says killing bin Laden might not have stopped 9/11 attacks.

By Hope Yen
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Clinton and Bush administration officials engaged in fruitless diplomatic efforts instead of military action to try to get Osama bin Laden out of Afghanistan before the Sept. 11 attacks, a federal panel said Tuesday. Top officials countered that the terror operation would have occurred even if the United States had been able to kill the al Qaeda leader.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell, in a strong defense of pre-Sept. 11 actions that have become a major campaign issue, told the federal

commission reviewing the attacks that the plot was well under way when the Bush administration took office in January 2001.

"Killing bin Laden would not have removed al Qaeda's sanctuary in Afghanistan," Rumsfeld said. "Moreover, the sleeper cells that flew the aircraft into the World Trade towers and the Pentagon were already in the United States months before the attack."

Powell said that even if U.S. forces had invaded Afghanistan, killed bin Laden and neutralized al Qaeda, "I have no reason to believe that would have caused them to abort their plans."

Separately, President Bush said Monday that he would have acted more quickly before Sept. 11 "had my administration had any information that terrorists were going to attack New York City on Sept. 11."

The testimony by Rumsfeld and Powell came against the backdrop of counterterrorism adviser Richard Clarke's claim that top Bush administration officials had ignored bin Laden and the threat of the al Qaeda terror network while focusing on Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

Powell did not mention Clarke, but said, "President Bush and his entire national security team understood that terrorism had to be among our highest priorities and it was."

Yet, not until the day before the attacks did U.S. officials settle on a strategy to overthrow the Taliban Afghan government in case a final diplomatic push failed. That strategy was expected to take three years, the commission said.

The commission report said U.S. officials, in both the Clinton and Bush administrations, feared a failed attempt on bin Laden could kill innocents and would only boost bin Laden's prestige. And the American public and Congress would have opposed any large-scale military operations before the September 2001 attacks, the report said.

In the end, it said, pursuing diplomacy over military action allowed bin Laden and other al Qaeda leaders to elude capture.

The panel investigating Sept. 11, formally the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the

(More on PANEL, page 2)

TCU wants to increase grad funds

A committee and consulting firm will help TCU to expand and improve its graduate studies.

By Lori Russell
Staff Reporter

The university is working to increase funding for its graduate programs and to recruit better graduate students, Chancellor Victor Boschini said.

There are many factors involved when determining how graduate studies will expand, Boschini said. Graduate programs are more cost-intensive, and the resources per capita are much greater in graduate programs than in un-

dergraduate programs.

Specific goals and target dates for the enhancement of the graduate programs will follow reports from the Vision in Action committee, which will be available in April, Boschini said.

The committee, led by Leo Munson and Nowell Donovan, is working with the support of Kaludis and Associates, a private consulting firm in Washington D.C., on the university's strategic planning process, said William Koehler, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

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Donovan preparing for provost transition

The provost office staff is getting ready for Nowell Donovan's transition into his new position.

By Jarod Daily
Staff Reporter

Those who work closely with Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs William Koehler say they expect no major obstacles when Geology Chairman Nowell Donovan takes over.

Becky Roach, assistant to the provost, said the transition to the new provost should go smoothly.

"Rather, it will be a matter of the provost office staff adjusting to Dr. Donovan's manage-

ment style after having worked with Dr. Koehler for so long," Roach said. "This will be a mutual learning experience for all involved."

Assistant Provost Ann Sewell said the transition should provide some challenges, although not necessarily problems. She said one such challenge might be the fact that Donovan does not possess the same historical perspective of TCU that Koehler has.

"I foresee Dr. Donovan asking more questions than Bill Koehler might ask during the

(More on DONOVAN, page 2)

Speaker discusses details of campaigning with students

College Republicans learn about campaigning from assistant district attorney.

By Amy Bowman
Staff Reporter

Debra Dupont, assistant district attorney and candidate for County Court Judge No. 2, spoke to a handful of College Republicans Tuesday about the aspects of campaigning.

Dupont, who graduated from TCU in 1990 with a degree in economics, said campaigning and fund-raising is exciting but hard work. The process includes making calls, mailing pamphlets, writing notes and a seeking financial support.

Generally, four to five pieces of campaign mail is sent to a household of a particular political party. Dupont said she then follows up with a personal call to potential voters. Though other candidates have been successful campaigning through signs and newspapers, it basically comes down to the message and money, she said.

A political consultant can come in handy to

calm the candidate's nerves, Dupont said. As the election draws near, rumors and gossip emerge and the political consultant can have a helpful objective voice.

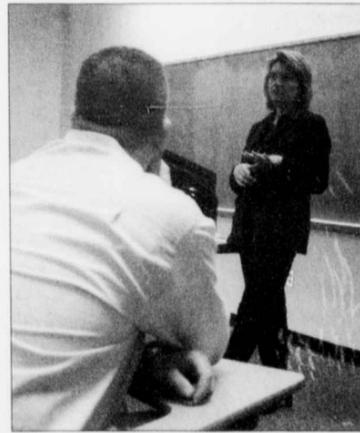
Mike Boone, junior political science major and president of College Republicans, said he learned a lot about campaigning from Dupont.

"It is interesting to hear about the exciting times and what works and what doesn't in a campaign," Boone said.

Dupont, an active participant in the Bush-Cheney re-election campaign, is happy that candidates running for a judicial office can now talk about issues, she said. When controversial issues come up, Dupont said a judge can have an opinion but it is important for them to "apply the law, not make it."

Bert League, Precinct Chair, said volunteering for elections and joining such activities like the Strike Force, which is when volunteers go door to door supporting their

(More on DUPONT, page 2)



Sarah Chacko/Photo Editor
Debra Dupont, judicial candidate for the Parker County Court, discusses her campaign with the College Republicans Tuesday night in Beasley Hall.

THE PULSE

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

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Campus Lines

Your bulletin board for campus events

Announcements of campus events, public meetings and other general campus information should be brought to the TCU Daily Skiff office at Moudy Building South, Room 291, mailed to TCU Box 298050 or e-mailed to (skiffletters@tcu.edu). Deadline for receiving announcements is 2 p.m. the day before they are to run. The Skiff reserves the right to edit submissions for style, taste and space available.

■ **Check out the photo exhibit called Game Face:** What Does a Female Athlete Look Like? In honor of Women's History Month, it will be on display today on the second floor in Justin Athletic Center. This is sponsored by GOalition!, TCU Women's Athletics and Women's Resource Center.

■ **Brown Lupton Student Center** announces that effective April 1 reservations for student organizations and departmental concerns for the academic year 2004-2005 will be accepted at the Information Desk in the Student Center. Please turn in your reservations by April 30 to maintain your priority status. You can get a reservation request form in the "Policies and Reservations" section at www.sc.tcu.edu or stop at the Student Center Information Desk to pick one up.

■ **The Inclusiveness Task Force** will host a forum which will examine the citizenship dynamics and expanding responsibilities within the global society of the future. More specifically, the forum will bring focused attention to the principles of inclusiveness, equality and our active role as citizens within the global society. The luncheon is at noon Thursday in the Woodson Room in the Student Center. The lunch is free, but attendees must RSVP to Glenda Clausen by Tuesday morning at (817) 257-7796 or e-mail g.clausen@tcu.edu.

Correction

The Lady Frogs' won 25 games this season. The win total was incorrect in Monday's By the Numbers.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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PANEL

From page 1

United States, is holding two days of hearings with top-level Bush and Clinton administration officials. The aim is to question them on their efforts to stop bin Laden in the years leading up to Sept. 11.

The commission's staff has spent months interviewing Clinton and Bush administration officials and poring over documents. Its preliminary findings, included in two statements issued Monday, will be considered by the 10-member panel, which plans to issue a final report this summer.

The staff reports found both administrations lacked the detailed intelligence needed to strike directly at bin Laden, so they fruitlessly sought a diplomatic solution to get the al Qaeda leader out of Afghanistan.

Former Defense Secretary William Cohen said the Clinton administration recognized the dangers posed by al Qaeda and

considered the United States to be "at war" against the terrorist organization. Three times after August 1998, U.S. officials considered using missile strikes to kill bin Laden, but each time it was decided the intelligence wasn't good enough to ensure success, he said.

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told the commission that President Clinton and his team "did everything we could, everything we could think of, based on the knowledge we had, to protect our people and disrupt and defeat al Qaeda."

Among the staff findings:

• U.S. officials were concerned that Taliban supporters in Pakistan's military would warn bin Laden of pending operations. The U.S. government had information that the former head of Pakistani intelligence, Hamid Gul, had contacted Taliban leaders as a private citizen in July 1999 and assured them that he would provide three or four hours

of warning before any U.S. missile launch, as he had the "last time" — an apparent reference to a failed 1998 cruise missile attack on bin Laden.

• Pentagon counterterrorism officials prepared a strategy urging the Defense Department in September 1998 "to take up the gauntlet that international terrorists have thrown at our feet." But the paper was rejected by a deputy undersecretary as "too aggressive."

• Rumsfeld told the commission that "he did not recall any particular counterterrorism issue that engaged his attention before" the Sept. 11 attacks, other than using unmanned aircraft against bin Laden.

• In a secret diplomatic mission, Saudi Arabia won a commitment from the Taliban to expel bin Laden, but Taliban leaders later reneged.

"From the spring of 1997 to September 2001, the U.S. government tried to persuade the Taliban to expel bin Laden to a

country where he could face justice," the report said. "The efforts employed inducements, warnings and sanctions. All these efforts failed."

Shortly before the attacks, the Bush administration was debating how to force bin Laden out. At a Sept. 10, 2001, meeting of second-tier Cabinet officials, officials settled on a three-phase strategy. The first step called for dispatching an envoy to talk to the Taliban. If this failed, diplomatic pressure would be applied and covert funding and support for anti-Taliban fighters would be increased.

If both failed, "the deputies agreed that the United States would seek to overthrow the Taliban regime through more direct action," the report said. Deputy national security adviser Stephen Hadley said the strategy had a three-year timeframe.

Associated Press reporter Ken Guggenheim contributed to this report.

DONOVAN

From page 1

initial months as he seeks to familiarize himself with the processes and procedures of daily operation in the Provost Office," she said. "However, Nowell is a quick study and I don't foresee any major problems. "I expect he will do some things differently, which is OK," she said.

Donna Johnson, Koehler's executive assistant, said she also expects no problems, but that she anticipates some changes to the running of the provost office.

"The staff in our office has been here for quite a long time and we may be a little too set in our ways," she said. "But I know there will be changes and there is certainly room for improvement."

Donovan said one way he is preparing for the transition is by attending as many meetings with university officials as possible. However, he said he doesn't have time for as much preparation as he would like.

"My teaching schedule gets in the way some," he said. "My timetable is incredibly full."

Donovan said he has also had regular meetings with Koehler.

"Dr. Koehler has been the biggest help in getting to know how the job works," he said.

Chancellor Victor Boschini said he recently spent some time thinking about how he could ease Donovan's transition into his new position.

"I think the best thing I can do for him in preparation for the switch is to just listen to his questions, his concerns, his thoughts on the job in general," he said. "I am also prepared to

spend lots of extra one-on-one time with him during his first few months in office."

Roach said all the staff members have met with Donovan several times to help him learn how the provost office is run.

"I have spoken with Dr. Donovan about his expectations and plans and tried to provide answers to his questions, and we have started keeping a calendar for him," Johnson said.

Sewell said she is not doing anything different to prepare for a new provost from what she would do for any other new person in the office.

"Nowell Donovan knows where my office is located and knows I stand ready and willing to help in any way I am able," she said. "I can't foresee what items might be most critical to him."

"Whatever he needs to suc-

ceed in this position, we all will try to provide," Sewell said. "I look forward to working to help him as he assumes his new role as provost."

Donovan said he has been doing a lot of reading and that he is in the development stage of the job.

"Before, I knew what the provost did," he said. "Now I'm learning how all that is done."

Donovan said one of the biggest challenges will be getting to know the boundaries of the job.

"The provost has a different timetable from that of a normal faculty member," he said. "I'm used to intensive 15-week semesters, but the provost's job goes year-round."

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FUNDING

From page 1

The process involves several small study groups at TCU that act as support committees, offering information and proposals based on their specific areas of expertise, Koehler said.

The Vision in Action committee is addressing what the goals of graduate education are at TCU; the best ratio of undergraduate to graduate students; and the ideal mix between traditional graduate programs and nontraditional graduate programs, such as part-time, night and online programs, Koehler said.

The reports from this commission are meant to guide fund-raising campaigns and help to set goals and agendas, Koehler said. These results will be available to the entire TCU community in fall 2004.

"Graduate programs are a vital part of our university because they contribute to our undergraduate program as well," Boschini said. "Graduate students give undergraduates aspiration. They also stimulate ideas for research and invigorate faculty."

Bill McClain, a graduate biology student, agrees that the graduate programs need more funding.

"I receive a 'living stipend' from the school for teaching the freshman biology lab," McClain said. "The 'living stipend' hardly covers my living expenses when three paychecks - six weeks of work - are needed to cover books and fees."

Koehler said that the amount of living stipends varies depending on the field of study and the job held by students and increasing stipends is always a major concern in universities.

"We are working on a plan that would provide the opportunity to increase those stipends annually," Koehler said.

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DUPONT

From page 1

candidate, is a great way for college students to get experience as well as a great addition to resumes. League said this election and those that follow will be interesting times in politics.

League also said joining organizations such as College Republi-

cans is an exciting way to get involved and know what is going on politically in your surroundings.

The College Republicans and Young Democrats will debate April 8. Major issues — including gay marriage, tax reform, the war on terror and fair trade vs. free trade — will be discussed at the debate.

"The debate will be a great way

for students to get involved with both parties and make an informed vote in the upcoming presidential election," said Samantha Cheatham, senior political science major and public relations chair for College Republicans.

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Angry Iraqis target police recruits

Nine police trainees killed south of Baghdad; two police killed north of the capital

By Christopher Torchia
Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Gunmen opened fire on a van filled with police recruits south of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing nine, and assailants shot and killed two policemen — twin brothers — north of the capital.

The slayings were the latest to target police and other Iraqis who work with the U.S.-led occupation.

The attack in the south took place on a road between Musayeb and Hillah when a car pulled in front of the minibus and assailants sprayed it with small arms fire, police in Hillah said.

A U.S. military official confirmed that nine people died and said two were wounded. Iraqi police said one wounded trainee survived.

In the northern city of Kirkuk,

gunmen in a car killed two policemen and wounded two others, police Capt. Abdul-Salam Zangana said. He identified the slain victims as twin brothers Ahmed and Mohammed Kadhim, killed as they were parking their car in a main square and as worshippers left a nearby mosque.

In Ramadi, west of Baghdad, Iraqi police fired shots to disperse a violent protest against Israel's assassination of Hamas founder Ahmed Yassin in Gaza City on Monday.

Iraqi police fired in the air after protesters burned two police cars and two hand grenades were thrown at the governor's office, witnesses said. Television footage showed U.S. soldiers remaining behind at the building, protected by concrete blast barriers, as police with assault rifles moved down the street to disperse the crowd. At least two police and three protesters were wounded.

Muslim clerics in Ramadi,

where support for the anti-U.S. insurgency is strong, had urged followers to protest the slaying of Yassin, the spiritual leader of the Palestinian militant group.

In the northern city of Mosul, insurgents fired mortar rounds at a barracks housing soldiers of the U.S.-trained Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, killing two civilians and injuring six, the U.S. military said.

Also in Mosul, a U.S. soldier from the 3rd Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division died in a "non-combat-related shooting" on Monday, the military said. An investigation was under way. The soldier's name was withheld pending notification of next of kin.

At Abu Ghraib prison on the outskirts of Baghdad, the U.S. military released 272 detainees who had been picked up in security sweeps. The men, many of them bearded and wearing Arab robes or tracksuits, appeared to be in good health.

The Skiff View

There is no method to March Madness

College basketball brings chaos — and fun

April showers bring May flowers, but what does March bring? Madness, pure madness — March Madness that is. The beauty of the NCAA tournament is its unpredictability. You never know which team will come out on top and which teams will hit the road home.

March Madness is jam packed with surprises, and just when you thought your bracket was a surefire and 100 percent unbeatable, your No. 1 prediction loses in the second round, dashing your hopes ... not to mention, ruining your bracket. Take Kentucky for instance. They were predicted to be the strongest team entering the tournament, only to be knocked out by ninth-seeded Alabama-Birmingham. And then there was Stanford — *was* is the key word — until eighth-seeded Alabama shattered all Stanford's hopes to stay on the road to the Final Four. Only two No. 1-seeded teams and two No. 2-seeded teams are headed to the Sweet 16.

Accordingly, like all fairy tales, the Cinderella story must come to an end sometime. Gonzaga lost its glass slipper to Nevada, this year's Cinderella story. Next year Gonzaga should think about going back to being the underdog, then maybe they'll go somewhere in the tournament rather than out the door.

Not only is March Madness full of upsets, but this year, the first and second rounds happened to be during Spring Break. With no classes to interrupt our intake of the beginnings of the tournament, we watched every upset and game while sitting, relaxing and doing absolutely nothing. Life is great ... and so is college basketball.

Now that Spring Break is over, classes and work should revolve around basketball during the remainder of the tournament. More so, March Madness should be in the running to be considered a national holiday.

March Madness is complete craziness, though at times, bittersweet. In the words of ESPN personality Dick Vitale, "It's awesome, baby!"

The Other View

Opinions from around the country

Censorship hurts campuses

On Feb. 27 Baylor University's student newspaper, The Lariat, started a firestorm when its editorial board came out in support of gay marriage. The Baylor administration, which maintains ultimate control over The Lariat's editorial content, reproached the paper's editorial board, claiming its position was in conflict with the university's religious values. And while Baylor, the nation's largest Baptist-affiliated university, has the right to feel that The Lariat's position conflicts with its religious beliefs, it should not actively censor and condemn free press.

Censorship has no place on college campuses. The entire theory behind higher education centers on individuals being exposed to and actively debating controversial issues. This important intellectual step is seriously inhibited when a university restricts the ability of the campus newspaper to contribute to the process.

The problem The Lariat and many other college newspapers

across the country face is that because a significant amount of the revenue they need to publish comes from their respective universities, the university administrations are ultimately allowed to restrict what they publish. Most colleges work out an arrangement by which the student newspaper is permitted some autonomy because those university administrations respect the fundamental concept of freedom of the press. Unfortunately, it appears Baylor University does not.

Because The Hatchet is an independent publication, it is fortunate enough to be able to report and editorialize freely. And while its pages recognize that going independent is not a realistic possibility for a vast majority of campus newspapers, universities must strive to ensure that they enable student-journalists to think freely and exercise freedom of the press.

This staff editorial is from The GW Hatchet at George Washington University. It was distributed by U-Wire.

HELP WANTED!

The TCU Daily Skiff needs local artists to contribute to the opinion page.

- Draw something mocking the school's lack of parking, or sketch something that thoughtfully recognizing a public figure's efforts.
- All cartoonists who are published in the Skiff receive about \$5.
- All interested parties should contact Skiffletters@tcu.edu.

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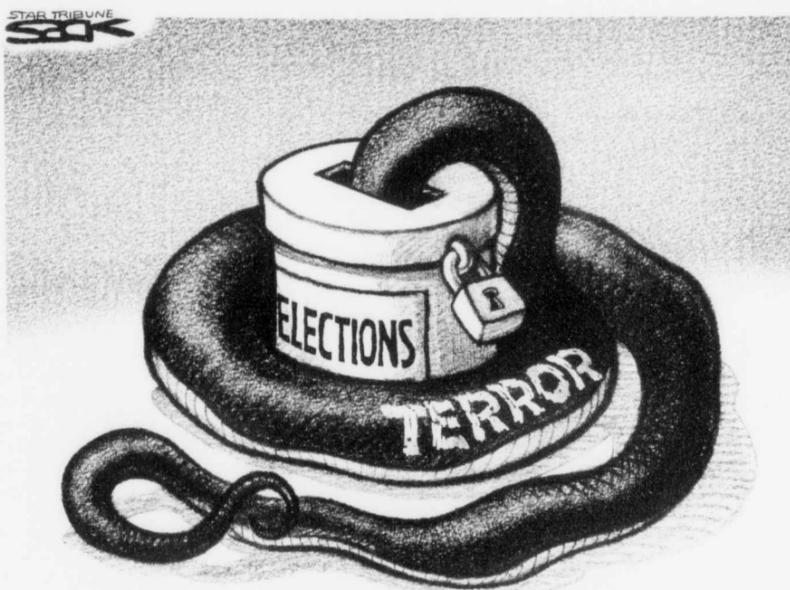
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Letters to the editor: The Skiff welcomes letters to the editor for publication. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, signed and limited to 250 words. To submit a letter, bring it to the Skiff, Moudy 2915; mail it to TCU Box 298050; e-mail it to skiffletters@tcu.edu or fax it to 257-7133. Letters must include the author's classification, major and phone number. The Skiff reserves the right to edit or reject letters for style, taste and size restrictions.

STAR TRIBUNE
S&K



Point/Counterpoint

Today's topic: Bush's 9/11 ad

Bush's leadership unreliable

Disgust ... Outrage ... I think these words are far too strong to describe my reaction to the president's new ad campaign. It is better to get worked up over his actual performance than the usual political posturing that goes on before an election. But given that, where does Bush get off taking credit for being a strong leader after Sept. 11?

COMMENTARY



Brian Chatman

There were some things that the president did right. For example, he addressed the nation very quickly. Soon after the attacks he visited New York and stayed at Ground Zero while the Secret Service felt it was still too dangerous. He promised that we would fight terrorism. The problem is that any person in office would have stayed to rally the morale of those at Ground Zero. Any president would have had to address the nation very quickly after the attacks to ensure citizens that the government hadn't fallen. As for fighting terrorism, the Bush administration appeared to be somewhat in the dark before Sept. 11. According to Bush's former counterterrorism advisor Richard Clarke, the administration seemed unaware and complacent about the rising terror threat. Taking military action against al Qaeda was inevitable from the moment the first plane hit.

Bush is a strong leader if what you want is to be someone who uses terrorism as a ticket to an election. It took three months before we sent troops to Afghanistan. Troops should have been breathing down al Qaeda's neck from the moment we made the link. The Bush administration explored diplomatic avenues even though Afghanistan was harboring terrorists and did nothing to remove them. The Taliban had a terrible human rights record, and we still waited

three months before we marched in. All this with a clear act of aggression against our country.

Fast-forward to Iraq and we see a very different tact from the administration. There was no conclusive proof that Saddam Hussein had a link to al Qaeda, or that there were weapons of mass destruction. There had been no attack on U.S. soil since 2001 and Saddam was showing the same resistance to U.N. inspections that he had since the end of the first Gulf War. With many voices from around the world saying that there were still diplomatic avenues to explore, we launched a pre-emptive strike against Iraq. Iraq did have a terrible human rights record, but that didn't seem to play a major role in the decision to attack Afghanistan. At best, this is inconsistency in leadership. At worst, this is using our nation's credibility and power for a personal vendetta.

The first showing of the administration was indecisive. We had a reason to attack and waited. The second showing was hasty and reckless. And this is considered strength worthy of a post-Sept. 11 world? No matter how good your marketing spin is, it can't save a faulty product. Both of the operations in Afghanistan and Iraq show traits that a government should never exhibit. What can we expect if Bush is elected again? If the administration sticks with the holier-than-thou pre-emptive war doctrine, and actually applies consistent reasoning, the United States should launch an offensive starting with the West Coast of North Africa, sweeping through the Middle East into the old Soviet republics, and finish with a glorious "shock and awe" campaign in China, North Korea and a handful of other East Asian countries. So if you want blood lust, vote Bush.

Brian Chatman is a sophomore journalism major from Arlington. He can be reached at b.e.chatman@tcu.edu.

The ads do not devalue 9/11

There's a new mantra floating around the press that President Bush shouldn't use images from the 9/11 attacks in his campaign — that somehow those events are too sacred or painful for use

COMMENTARY



Ezra Hood

with politics, and the Bush campaign is playing dirty to use them.

Cheapshot campaign ads are nothing new in politics — the Democrats' infamous TV ad a few years ago showing a pickup driving away with a chain dangling from its bumper might as well define the genre. The spoken message with the ad was something like, "Vote Democrat or more churches will burn and more black people will be senselessly murdered." The unspoken message was even more sinister: Republicans are violent racists who lynch blacks and burn churches. These fantastically false spots marked a low point in recent American politics, and the cooked-up outrage over President Bush's current ads try to link the two.

Do George W. Bush's recent TV spots carry any of this

slander and venom? Not at all. The president's new ads serve as critical reminders to a forgetful public that he leads the nation in war. I thank my lucky stars that the war on terror is Bush's focus as president, and insist that all of the war's aspects are legitimate in a wide-reaching political contest like the presidential race.

The president's detractors have spent volumes of ink and air separating the 9/11 attacks and the "President's" war on terror. The attempt to disassociate these events from Bush's transforming presidency baffles me. True, it is Bush's response to the September 11 terrorism that has defined his presidency — but to separate the executive's response from the stimulus that provoked it seems shifty to me. War with terrorists began unanswered with the first Trade Tower bombing and numerous others when Clinton was president. George W. Bush didn't lead us into war, he awoke with us at last to the grisly reality that war was upon us whether or not we wanted it.

It looks to me like the only way to find dishonesty in the portrayal of 9/11 in Bush's campaign ads is to separate the war on terror from the terrorism

that started it. This self-imposed blindness is dangerous and has no place in American foreign policy. Reckless refusal to see our enemies for what they are is exactly the weakness that made us vulnerable three Septembers ago. The real dishonesty here is to put 9/11 out of bounds when it is the issue that needs most to be addressed!

Vigilance in the war and strength at home remain the primary issues at hand in the presidential election (by more than 80 percent, in a March Gallop poll). John Kerry and his fellow Democrats want desperately to find senseless war and destructive foreign policy in the Bush administration. They will bluster all year against Bush's campaign ads, but their arguments betray their views as distorted, and no amount of dishonesty can cover that up.

The very best way we could dishonor the dead from September 11 would be to forget that their lives were snuffed out by enemies of our freedom; such sad forgetfulness would endanger our own freedom — and our lives.

Ezra Hood is a junior music composition major from Fort Worth. He can be reached at e.h.hood@tcu.edu.

Words nobody must use

I don't usually hate things. Every so often, I run across something that bothers me, maybe a person here or there

COMMENTARY
David Stagg

who gets under my skin, or maybe a late-night Wendy's on Assembly Street that almost always mixes your order with someone else's and you begin to order the wrong thing just so you can get what you really want and you don't even know you got the wrong thing until you get home because you went through the drive-through.

But just like getting grilled chicken instead of the savory spicy chicken, there are some things I just can't stand. As we've been exploring the depths of the English language the past few weeks, it's time we tackle the words no one should use.

Hated Word No. 1: "metrosexual": This is the most ridiculous term I've ever heard. Not only does it stereotype both gays and alpha males (e.g. if a straight man is clean he must be somewhat gay), but, and this is more important when it comes to selecting a word to describe something, the word doesn't even make any sense. Are these people that have sex with buses? Do they have sex on buses? Does the man like sex in the city? Can a woman be a metrosexual? Who the heck knows? Stop using the buzzword. And if a boy looks clean, dresses nicely and stands on two feet, he's either hetero or homo, not both.

Even my trusty Microsoft Word program doesn't like the word metrosexual. I click on the cute little computer help box that waves to me and I type in my question: "Did I spell metrosexual wrong?" He replies, "No, I don't know what that word is, you jackass, and I don't like it or you," before he proceeds to insult my mother and give me the middle arrow key.

Hated Word No. 2: "guesstimate": Another term that doesn't make any sense. If we estimate something, we are, by default, not hypothesizing. Hypothesizing (definition: writing a thesis on hippos) requires the scientific method, lots of scientists, half a cup of sugar and three blind mice. Estimating, on the other hand, is understood to be somewhat of a guess. That's why we have separate words for the hierarchy of guessing on mid-term exams (in order of greatest to least knowledge on a subject): hypothesizing, estimating, guessing and I was drunk last night.

Heck, estimating is like the Upper East Side of guessing. So we'd either guess (having no real idea whatsoever), or estimate (have somewhat of an idea, but not enough of an idea to write a thesis on hippos). Therefore, if we guesstimate, we merely confuse the listener and might as well use the word metrosexual right after it.

Hated Word No. 3: "ginormous": Yes, we understand that the object is big. We understand that it might be a little difficult to describe, but is it so big you can't think straight and have to combine words and inadvertently invent a new word that defies language? Gigantic. Enormous. Why don't we just invent "hugantuan" and "colossive"?

If you use these words, this is not an attack on you. I personally choose to weed these words out of my vocabulary, but every once in a while I make the ginormous mistake of guesstimating a woman's age wrong, and then horrible words slip out of my mouth, too.

David Stagg is a columnist for The Gamecock at the University of South Carolina. This column was distributed by U-Wire.

NEWS DIGEST

4 | Wednesday, March 24, 2004

QUICK FACTS



Election update

The latest news from the campaign trail

Poll shows country divided

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is trusted on national security and seen as a strong leader but vulnerable on job creation; Democrat John Kerry is strong on the jobs issue, viewed as the candidate more caring about ordinary people but vulnerable on national security.

After two weeks and tens of millions of dollars spent by both sides on negative advertising, little has changed in the basic landscape of a very close presidential race, an Associated Press poll found.

Bush was backed by 46 percent of voters, Kerry by 43 percent and independent Ralph Nader by 5 percent, according to the poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs.

The AP-Ipsos poll looked at the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the two closely

matched candidates eight months before the election.

Voters said they trust Bush to do a better job of protecting the country by 58 percent to 35 percent. They trust Kerry to do a better job of creating jobs by



KRT Campus President Bush held a slim lead over John Kerry in a poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs.

53 percent to 37 percent.

Bush and Kerry are closely matched on some measures like honesty, despite efforts by Bush and Kerry to raise questions about each others' credibility. Kerry has a slight advantage on voters' perception that he cares about people like them.

Bush has a big lead over Kerry, 60 percent to 32 percent, on which candidate is the strongest leader, and almost as big a lead on which one is likely to stand up for what he believes. Bush's advertising accuses Kerry of flip-flopping on Senate votes.

While Kerry matches up well with Bush in many areas, including sharing the values of voters, he clearly has work to do persuading people he is a solid alternative to Bush.

Bush had a slight advantage over Democrat Al Gore on the question of strong leadership in a June 2000 AP poll, but not a double-digit lead like he has over Kerry. Bush has that advantage after more than 30 months leading the U.S. response to terrorist attacks.

The AP-Ipsos poll of 784 registered voters was taken March 19-21 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

National Roundup

Prisoner commits suicide

NEWTON (AP) — A man sentenced to life in prison for killing a 21-year-old woman apparently hanged himself in a hospital, southeast Texas law officers say.

Richard Derek Hoffpaur Jr. of Orange had been on suicide watch since his arrest in May. He apparently wounded himself Friday and was transferred from a state prison psychiatric unit in Jester to a Galveston hospital, said Newton County Chief Deputy Larry Folmar.

Folmar told the Beaumont Enterprise in Tuesday's editions that Hoffpaur, 22, appeared to have hanged himself at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

"Derek had a serious, serious mental problem from the whole time we were (dealing) with him and we knew that," Folmar said, adding that the diagnosis was bipolar disorder. "That's the reason he was not convicted of capital murder and given the death penalty."

Hoffpaur pleaded guilty in Newton County to capital murder in exchange for a life sentence. He was sentenced in August.

Christy Goodman, 21, of Mauriceville disappeared from her residence May 1. After fleeing in her car, Hoffpaur was captured May 5 near Benton, Ark. A week later, Goodman's body was found off a rural road in Newton County.

Arkansas authorities said Hoffpaur told them that he shot Goodman before fleeing in her car to Arkansas, where he crashed the vehicle and allegedly broke into a string of rural Saline County homes and shot a resident who survived.

Identity theft scam thwarted

HOUSTON (AP) — Federal officials have shut down an identity theft scam in which a Houston man tricked Internet users into providing their credit card and bank account numbers.

Zachary Keith Hill, 19, pleaded guilty in February to having and using credit instruments that did not belong to him. He will be sentenced May 17 in Houston.

Neither Hill nor his attorney, Victor Blaine, immediately returned phone messages Tuesday.

According to the government, Hill got hundreds of people to provide information by sending e-mails that appeared to come from America Online or Paypal. The e-mails requested updated personal information and said the account would be suspended if the information wasn't provided, according to a Department of Justice criminal complaint.

Hill also was named in a civil action by the Federal Trade Commission.

"A hyperlink in the e-mail took consumers to what appeared to be

the AOL Billing Center, with AOL's logo and live links to real AOL Web pages. But the copycat Web page belonged to the defendant," the FTC said.

The agencies announced Monday that they halted the scam, sending a "clear message that electronic identity theft won't be tolerated," said Howard Beales, director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection.

The FTC said Hill used the information from people who answered the e-mails to open new credit card accounts and made purchases using existing accounts.

The Justice Department said Hill had 473 credit card numbers, 152 sets of bank account numbers and bank routing numbers and 566 sets of user names and passwords for Internet service accounts.

He was accused of using the information in 2002-2003 to obtain products and services valued at more than \$47,000 in Virginia, where the complaint was initially filed.

"The Department of Justice remains committed to working closely with the FTC to shut down these phishing operations and protect Internet users from thieves who seek to steal their valuable identity and financial information," U.S. Department of Justice assistant attorney general Christopher A. Wray said.

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U.S. forces set up base in Afghan mountains

Special operations forces plan to use the installation in a search for al Qaeda members.

By Noor Khan
Associated Press

ON THE AFGHAN BORDER — Using bulldozers to slice bunkers and a helicopter landing pad out of a mountainside, U.S. special operations forces dug in Tuesday on a peak overlooking Pakistan — fortifying the area for the intensifying battle against al Qaeda and Taliban forces.

Special operations forces — who include Green Berets, Navy SEALs, and CIA operatives — are playing a secretive but leading role in the battle against al Qaeda and Taliban suspects believed to be hiding out in the mountains of Pakistan's tribal areas.

Remote posts like this one near the Afghan city of Orgun, scratched out of a mountainside to house a small contingent of U.S. forces and a larger Afghan militia unit, serve as forward launch pads for the fight.

An Associated Press writer on

Tuesday became the first to report from the special operations' observation post since the start of Operation Mountain Storm, a 2-week-old American offensive designed to capture Osama bin Laden and his top lieutenants.

Village elders in this hamlet of 45 families in Paktika province said the Americans arrived 18 days ago with Afghan militia.

The camp is home to 60 Americans, working with 200 Afghan militia, the Afghan militiamen say. The Westerners wear T-shirts and sunglasses, and most sport beards and mustaches, with pistols strapped to their legs. Rank and file U.S. soldiers must remain in uniform and are banned from growing beards, but special operations forces are not subject to the same regulations.

Villagers see the Americans out building their base and patrolling, at times with allied Afghan militia — helping close the border against what villagers say are frequent incursions by al Qaeda and Taliban.

The U.S. military says its forces

also are sharing information with Pakistani troops across the border — intelligence typically coming everywhere from satellites to intercepted radio calls.

On Tuesday, the Americans were erecting 100 yards of wire fence along the border beside their base. They also dug holes, which will become bunkers, to live in while their Afghan allies put up tents.

Workers used construction equipment to level a helipad.

Americans around the camp refused to speak to AP. Relaying their request through Afghan militiamen, they eventually asked the reporter to leave, saying no journalists were allowed in the area.

The U.S. military as a matter of policy does not comment on special operations. But asked about buildup along the Afghan-Pakistan border in the area, U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty said: "We do have some positions that are constantly changing. We are constantly rearranging."

On the Pakistan side, President Gen. Pervez Musharraf has said

about a dozen U.S. "technical experts" are in his country. Some are located across the border from the special operations post in Miran Shah, Pakistani intelligence officials told AP.

Last week, a Pakistani army spokesman, Gen. Shaukat Sultan, said a dozen or so U.S. intelligence agents were in the country "assisting Pakistan in technical intelligence and surveillance." The CIA declined to comment.

Afghan villagers near the new post said they welcomed the U.S. crackdown, saying they have come under a growing cross-border rocket barrage from Pakistan.

"So many rockets. We are living in fear of rockets," said shopkeeper Shawar Khan in Sisandi, a village near the U.S. encampment.

Both sides of the border around Miran Shah have come under repeated rocket attacks by militants hoping to hit U.S. or Afghan military posts. Authorities blame al Qaeda fugitives and allied Pakistani tribesmen. Taliban fighters are believed to be hiding in the mountains as well.

Basque separatists may call for new cease-fire

Spanish based group ETA ponders cease-fire in conjunction with the Socialist party preparing to take power.

By Albert Letona
Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — The Basque separatist group ETA may call a unilateral cease-fire in its campaign of violence, a founder and other Basque sources said, in an effort to win political concessions from the newly elected Socialists due to take power next month.

Julen Madariaga, a founding member of ETA, said he thought a truce could be called soon.

"I have the impression that in a very short time — in coming days, or coming weeks — that ETA will declare a cease-fire," he said in a telephone interview Monday night from his home in southern France.

Within the month, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero and his Socialists are to take over from the conservative Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, who cracked down on ETA.

"ETA always has known how to take advantage of these occasions. ... It's very weak and needs a strategic truce," said Kepa Aulestia, a Basque writer who focuses on ETA issues in his columns in El Correo and La Vanguardia newspapers.

ETA issued a statement Sunday proposing dialogue with the Socialists, but Zapatero responded the following day with these point-blank words: "The only communique I await from ETA, as do the vast majority of Spaniards, is one in which it abandons violence."

Aznar's Popular Party government had succeeded in weakening ETA, but has not been able to end the separatist group's violence, which has killed more than 800 people since the late 1960s.

Spanish and French police arrested more than 150 suspected ETA members last year, including senior commando leaders, and the number of killings blamed on ETA dropped to three, compared with 23 in 2000 after the last cease-fire ended.

The government had claimed ETA used that previous truce to regroup, and 2000 was its deadliest year in almost a decade.

Politicians and analysts in northern Spain said they expected a new ETA cease-fire.

"I believe there will be a truce soon," said Gorka Espiau of the Elkarrri movement, which advocates dialogue with ETA.

ETA, whose name is the Basque-language acronym for Basque Homeland and Freedom, demands independence for the three Basque country provinces and part of neighboring Navarra in northern Spain, and three other areas in southwest France on the other side of the Pyrenees mountain border.

A minority of Basque nationalists support that demand — if not ETA's bombing campaign. Others want more autonomy, but not necessarily outright independence. About half of the region's 2 million people want to remain part of Spain.

The three-province Basque country is one of 17 autonomous regions created by the 1978 constitution that followed the death of longtime dictator Gen. Francisco Franco.

The region already collects and spends its own taxes and manages many of its public services. If it gets more rights, or independence, there are likely to be more demands from other regions, notably Catalonia in the northeast, which have their own languages, cultures and autonomy aspirations.

42 arrested in suspected immigrant smuggling ring

Mexico arrests 42 current, former government employees in suspected migrant-trafficking ring.

By E. Eduardo Castillo
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexican police have arrested 42 immigration agents and other government employees accused of running a network that smuggled illegal immigrants into the United States, officials said Tuesday.

The suspects, arrested in raids last week in 12 of Mexico's 31 states, allegedly smuggled Cubans, Uruguayans, Brazilians, Asians and Central Americans through the southern border and guaranteed them safe passage into the United States. It was unclear how the ring operated in the United States.

Attorney General Rafael Macedo de la Concha said his office was asking U.S. law enforcement agencies for help in determining whether any Americans were involved in the ring.

Macedo de la Concha said it was the largest smuggling ring involving officials discovered to date, and that suspects face organized crime and migrant trafficking charges.

"Unfortunately, these criminal organizations operated with protection from public servants," Macedo del Concha said, noting the officials "offered information about (police) raids, illegally freed captured migrants, and allowed them to pass with falsified documents."

Those arrested included agents and ex-agents of Mexico's National Immigration Institute, the INI, the very agency Mexico relies on to detect illegal migrants and prevent the country from becoming staging base for migrants from other countries.

Even more chilling was the fact that seven of the 26 INI agents arrested were assigned to Mexico's Grupo Beta, a special force designed to protect immigrants.

The suspects also included six former INI

agents, seven local police and three former officers. Two non-officials who were identified as smugglers were also arrested, bringing the total number of detentions to 44.

"Immigrant trafficking is a shameful, intolerable crime," Macedo de la Concha said. "But even more serious is the participation of public servants, because beside damaging people, that also hurts our institutions and principles."

Deputy Attorney General Jose Luis Santiago Vasconcelos said the traffickers charged between \$2,000 and \$6,000 to get immigrants into the United States. The highest price was charged for smuggling Asians.

The ring operated in the northern border states of Baja California, Chihuahua and Nuevo Leon; the southern border states of Chiapas and Quintana Roo, and the central Mexico states of Jalisco, Tabasco, Veracruz, San Luis Potosi, Mexico and Mexico City.

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Prosecutors bring bombing evidence

Jurors in Oklahoma City bombing trial view bomb-making materials found in defendant's home.

By Tim Talley
Associated Press

McALESTER, Okla. — Fuses and barrels like those used to create the bomb that destroyed the Oklahoma City federal building were brought into Terry Nichols' murder trial Tuesday, and jurors were told the materials were found at his home after the deadly blast.

FBI lawyer Mary Jasnowski testified that the four 55-gallon drums, white with blue rims, and the three pieces of Primadet detonation cord were found at Nichols' home in Kansas three days after the 1995 bombing.

Prosecutors say fuel oil-soaked ammonium nitrate fertilizer was loaded into drums to create the bomb, which was set off by igniting detonation cord attached to blasting caps.

Under questioning by prosecutor Lou Keel, Jasnowski also testified that 30 firearms were found at the home in Herington, Kan.

She had testified Monday that agents also found a receipt for 2,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate at the home and discovered traces of the fertilizer.

Prosecutors allege Nichols stole blasting caps to set off the explosion that killed 168 people.

Keel opened his case Monday by telling jurors Nichols hated the U.S. government and worked hand-in-hand with Timothy McVeigh in assembling and detonating the "huge, monstrous bomb."

"These two were partners, and their business was terrorism," Keel said.

Defense attorney Brian Hermanson countered in his opening statement that McVeigh and other conspirators were responsible for the bombing and Nichols was manipulated by McVeigh to take the blame.

"Timothy McVeigh set him up so McVeigh could cover up the others who acted in this conspiracy," Hermanson said.

Nichols, 48, is already serving a life sentence on federal charges for the deaths of eight federal law

officers in the April 19, 1995, blast at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The 161 state charges are for the 160 other victims and one victim's fetus.

Prosecutors brought the state charges hoping to send Nichols to the death chamber for his role in the deadliest act of terrorism on U.S. soil at the time. McVeigh was executed in 2001.

Prosecutors allege that Nichols conspired with McVeigh to build the bomb in revenge for the FBI siege against the Branch Davidian sect at Waco, Texas, exactly two years earlier.

The receipt for the fertilizer, dated Sept. 30, 1994, was issued by the Mid-Kansas Cooperative Association to Mike Havens, one of several aliases that prosecutors allege Nichols used to gather bomb components.

Keel said the blasting caps that detonated the bomb were stolen from a Kansas quarry and that drill marks on a padlock at the quarry matched a drill bit found in Nichols' basement.

Also discovered was an address book containing the names and phone numbers of McVeigh's sister, Jennifer, and Michael Fortier, a former Army buddy of Nichols and McVeigh who is serving a 12-year prison sentence for knowing about the bomb plot but not telling authorities.

The defense plans to show that Nichols was a patsy for a shadowy group of conspirators, possibly including members of the white supremacist and anti-government group Aryan Republican Army.

Measures taken to curb indecency

The "vast wasteland" that is cable television could be cleaned up thanks to new equipment that allows viewers to block certain channels without a cable box.

By Jonathan D. Salant
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The cable television industry said Tuesday it will provide free equipment to allow subscribers to block unwanted channels, a reaction to efforts on Capitol Hill to curb indecent programming.

The offer is directed to about half the nation's 70.5 million cable subscribers who don't have cable boxes that can be programmed to block certain channels or programs. The companies agreeing to the plan include the 10 largest in the country and reach 85 percent of all cable subscribers.

Robert Sachs, president of the National Cable and Telecommunications Association, announced the plan at a gathering of cable industry executives. It comes just as both lawmakers and regulators, attempting to crack down on indecent programming, have discussed requiring cable companies to let subscribers buy individual channels or a family-friendly tier, rather than have to purchase packages that include both the Disney Channel and MTV. The cable industry opposes the idea.

The announcement comes before Thursday's Senate Commerce Committee hearing on cable television. The committee, which earlier this month voted to raise the maximum fine for indecency from \$27,500 to \$500,000, narrowly defeated an effort to apply broadcast indecency standards to cable and satellite channels such as Spike TV and FX.

"No one wants policy-makers to have to choose between protecting children or preserving the First Amendment," Sachs told the Cable Television Public Affairs Association. "So if we, as an industry, actively promote the choices and controls available to consumers, there will be no need for anyone to do so."

Cable association spokesman Rob Stoddard said each cable company will decide on the technology to supply to block unwanted channels. One popular way to block programs in homes without cable boxes is to install a filter on the wire leading into the home. Cable companies now charge for such equipment, though the prices vary from system to system.

The cable industry also launched a new Web site, www.controlyourtv.org, which includes instructions on how parents can use the V-chip in televisions built in 2000 and later to block both broadcast and cable programs. The V-chip works with a voluntary industry ratings system.

"This is what we think is the best method of addressing all those concerns," Stoddard said. "It leaves the power in the hands of the cable subscriber."

The cable industry earlier this month said it would air a series of advertisements telling parents that they can block unwanted programming. Information also will be sent to cable customers in their bills.

With 85 percent of the 108.4 million U.S. households with televisions subscribing to either cable or satellite, some lawmakers have suggested that cable-only channels such as Spike TV or FX be subject to the same indecency rules as over-the-air broadcast television.

"No one wants policy-makers to have to choose between protecting children or preserving the First Amendment. So if we, as an industry, actively promote the choices and controls available to consumers, there will be no need for anyone to do so."

Robert Sachs

president of the National Cable and Television Association

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Israel vows deaths of Hamas leaders

Rantisi is chosen as new Hamas leader after the killing of Shiek Ahmed Yassin.

By Ibrahim Barzak
Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israel threatened to kill the entire leadership of the Islamic militant group Hamas after assassinating its founder and hinted Tuesday that Yasser Arafat could wind up on the hit list in the future.

The accelerated strikes at Hamas are part of an attempt to score a decisive victory ahead of an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. Israel does not want to be seen as being driven out of the strip by militants, who already are claiming victory.

The tough talk came on the same day Hamas hard-liner Abdel Aziz Rantisi was elected as the new leader of the Islamic militant group in Gaza. The 54-year-old pediatrician replaces Shiek Ahmed Yassin, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike early Monday.

Late Tuesday, Israeli gunboats opened fire off the coast of Gaza, targeting fishing boats and piers, witnesses said. No one was hurt. The Israeli military had no comment.

Around the same time, Israeli helicopters opened fire at guerrillas in south Lebanon who were setting up rocket launchers, the military said. Lebanese officials said two guerrillas were killed and one wounded.

Rantisi, who has pushed for accelerating attacks on Israel and rules out all compromise, told tens of thousands of cheering Hamas supporters at a soccer stadium that he was chosen in secret elections. One by one, senior Hamas officials got up and swore loyalty to him.

In his acceptance speech, Rantisi made his priorities clear. "My people, we must unify under the umbrella of resistance," he said, and

exhorted the Hamas military wing to "teach this Zionist occupation a lesson."

Rantisi has rejected even a temporary truce with Israel and any compromise with Arafat's Palestinian Authority. His aggressive style is particularly popular with younger Hamas activists.

With his new post, Rantisi will likely become an even more tempting target for Israel's military, which wounded him in a missile attack on his car last year.

On Monday, Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz and various security agency chiefs decided to go after all the Hamas leaders, a security official said Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Israeli army chief, Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, hinted that Arafat might eventually be targeted as well. The killing of Yassin should be seen as a signal "to all those who choose to harm us that this will be their end," Yaalon said.

"It is our view that decapitation of the terrorist infrastructure is one means among the strategies in the war against terror," the general said. "The strike on Yassin is a significant blow to the Hamas terror organization."

After Yassin death, Hamas threatened revenge attacks of unprecedented scope, and Israel beefed up security throughout the country and at missions abroad. Shopping malls, markets and buses were relatively empty as jittery Israelis hunkered down.

Opinion polls published in newspapers Tuesday suggested a majority of Israelis support the killing of Yassin.

Despite the Israeli threats, the Hamas leaders apparently in Israel's crosshairs — Rantisi, Mahmoud Zahar and Ismail Hanieh — made rare public appearances, though surrounded by a shield of civilians.

Pastors say gay union not civil right

Black clergy rally in Atlanta to dispel comparisons between civil rights and gay marriage.

By Mark Niese
Associated Press

ATLANTA — More than two dozen black pastors added their voice to the critics of same-sex marriage, attempting to distance the civil rights struggle from the gay rights movement and defending marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

"When the homosexual compares himself to the black community, he doesn't know what suffering is," said the Rev. Clarence James, an African-American studies professor at Temple University.

James and 29 pastors rallied late Monday with their supporters at an Atlanta-area church where they signed a declaration outlining their beliefs on marriage and religion.

It is meant to pressure state representatives to approve a constitutional ban on gay marriages, which will be considered again by the Georgia House as soon as this week.

The declaration, to be presented to state leaders Wednesday or Thursday, says same-sex marriage is not a civil right, and marriage between a man and a woman is important because it's necessary for the upbringing of children.

"To equate a lifestyle choice to racism devalues the work of the entire civil rights movement," the statement said. "People are free in our nation to pursue relationships as they choose. To redefine marriage, however, to suit the preference of those choosing alternative lifestyles is wrong."

Same-sex marriage is already illegal in Georgia, but supporters of the ban say the constitution needs to be changed to make sure a judge does not direct Georgia to recognize gay marriages performed in other states.

"It is a threat to who we are and what we stand for," said Bishop William Shields of Hopewell Baptist Church. "If nothing else gets us out of the pews, this ought to."

But the Rev. Paul Turner, a gay pastor from Atlanta who helped organize a pro-gay marriage rally last month outside the Georgia Capitol, disagreed: "How do they figure that it's not a civil rights issue?"

"This is just a way for those conservative leadership in the black community to say, 'Look, this isn't a matter of civil rights because we're black and we didn't have a choice in being black.' And they think gays do, and that's not true," Turner said.

Elsewhere Monday:

• In Oregon, the county that was poised to

become the state's second to allow gay marriage backed off until courts intervene. Commissioners in Benton County, home to Oregon State University and the liberal city of Corvallis, decided to stop issuing all marriage licenses until there is a court ruling on whether gay marriage is legal in Oregon. Commissioner Linda Modrell said Tuesday that panel members were assured that the issue would be decided as quickly as possible and feared the high cost of litigation and the possibility that county employees could be arrested.

• In St. Paul, Minn., supporters of a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage gathered by the thousands in one of the largest Capitol rallies in memory, waving hundreds of signs on the Capitol steps and spilling over onto the lawn and parking lot. The House is expected to pass the bill Wednesday, with a Senate committee planning to take up the measure later in the week.

• In New York, two Unitarian Universalist ministers facing criminal counts for officiating at same-sex weddings pleaded innocent. Kay Greenleaf and Dawn Sangrey were charged after marrying 13 gay couples during a public ceremony in New Paltz, but the district attorney has said he does not expect to seek jail time.

Evidence of water formation on the Red Planet

NASA: Mars once had a shallow pool of briny water on its surface

By Andrew Bridges
Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Mars had a shallow pool of briny water on its surface long ago, NASA said Tuesday in announcing what could be the strongest evidence yet that the now-dry Red Planet was once hospitable to life.

The space agency's scientists announced earlier this month that the Opportunity rover found evidence of water in Mars' distant past. But it was unclear whether the water was in the soil or on the surface. The new findings suggest there was a pool of saltwater at least two inches deep.

A rocky outcropping examined

by the rover had ripple patterns and concentrations of salt — considered telltale signs that the rock formed in standing water.

"We think Opportunity is now parked on what was once the shoreline of a salty sea on Mars," said Cornell University astronomer Steve Squyres, the mission's main scientist.

The findings add to the growing body of evidence that the Red Planet was once a wetter and possibly warmer place that may have been conducive to life.

"This is a profound discovery, it has profound implications for astrobiology, and I'd like to say if you have an interest in searching for fossils on Mars, this is the first place you'd want to go," said Ed Weiler, NASA's associate

administrator for space science.

Although Squyres referred to the water as a sea, scientists said it is not clear how big the body of water might have been or whether it was a fixed feature and not just a desert basin that flooded periodically.

The evidence also does not indicate when water covered the broad and flat region where Opportunity landed, called Meridiani Planum, or for how long. Nor does it indicate if any organisms actually lived on Mars.

If life did flourish at the site when it was awash in water, the type of rock found there is capable of preserving evidence of any biological material, he said.

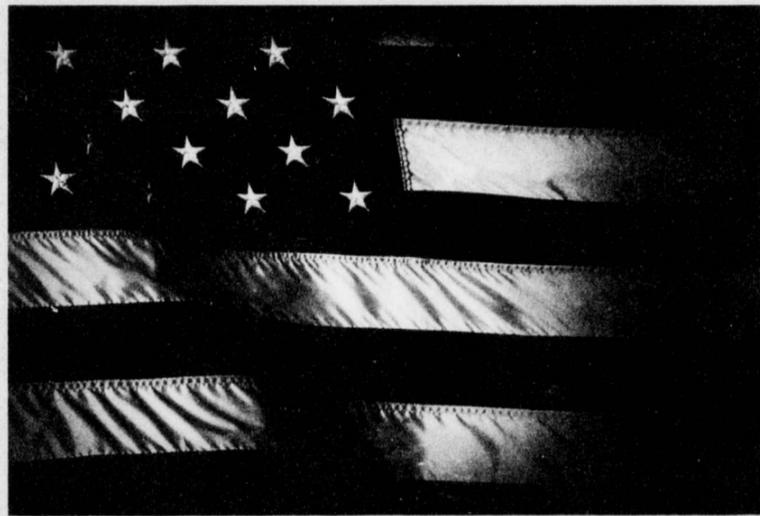
"If we are correct in our interpretation, this was a habitable

environment," Squyres said. "These are the kinds of environments that are very suitable for life."

The findings were presented at a televised news conference at the headquarters of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Washington.

Weiler noted that a group of outside scientists was brought in to review the rover mission scientists' findings before they were announced.

NASA plans to send a more sophisticated rover to Mars in 2009 to probe for signs of life. In 2013, the space agency plans to send a robotic mission that would collect rock and soil samples and bring them back to Earth for more detailed analysis.



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Second, make a family communications plan. Make sure family members know how to contact each other in an emergency. It may be smart to have everyone call an out-of-state friend or relative. Keep a list of emergency numbers near the phone. Plan how you will evacuate if you are asked to do so.

Third, be informed. In emergencies, planning pays off. If your family knows what to expect, all of you will be calmer in the aftermath of a terrorist event. For details on emergency preparedness, visit our website at www.ready.gov. Or get a free brochure by calling 1-800-BE-READY (1-800-237-3239).



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President leaving railroads vulnerable, senators say

Lawmakers say Bush administration policies leave some methods of transportation open to terrorist attacks.

By Leslie Miller
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration has neglected to protect railroads and mass transit systems from a terrorist attack like the one that killed nearly 200 people in Madrid, senators said Tuesday.

Though the entire U.S. rail system can't be protected from terrorism, the government can start by securing the Amtrak tunnels under the U.S. Supreme Court and New York's Penn Station because of their vulnerability to a catastrophic attack, Sen. Joseph Biden told the Senate Commerce Committee.

"Can we stop an explosion of incredible

consequences under the Supreme Court of the United States?" said Biden, D-Del.

Biden and fellow Delaware Democrat Thomas Carper proposed a bill that would improve ventilation and lighting and upgrade other emergency features in the tunnels.

In 2001, a 130-year-old tunnel under downtown Baltimore was the scene of a railcar fire that took five days to extinguish and crippled Internet systems and rail travel along the Eastern Seaboard.

Hundreds of thousands of people travel through the six Penn Station tunnels every day, the newest of which was built in 1910, said Biden, D-Del.

Amtrak tunnels built in 1904 run under the Supreme Court and House and Senate office buildings.

A separate, bipartisan bill would also order the Homeland Security Department to assess threats to railways and authorize \$515 million to pay for security improvements.

That's still far short of what the industry says it needs. In an American Public Transportation Association survey, transit agencies said they need more than \$6 billion for security.

Commerce Committee Chairman John McCain, R-Ariz., said he wants the committee to pass a rail security bill before the Senate's April recess.

McCain chastised the administration for failing to develop a coordinated plan to protect railroad and mass transit systems. "Rail is a target," he said. But "rail security efforts remain fragmented."

McCain said he was "somewhat confi-

dent" the administration recognizes the need for the bill.

Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson cautioned against responding to individual events such as the attacks in Madrid, which were linked to al Qaeda sympathizers.

"It's important that we don't simply react to incidents," Hutchinson said.

Transit and rail systems have put some protective measures in place.

Freight railroads, for example, are currently on heightened security awareness. So they conduct daily security briefings, inspect cars and containers and increase security at certain facilities, said Ed Hamberger, president of the Association of American Railroads.

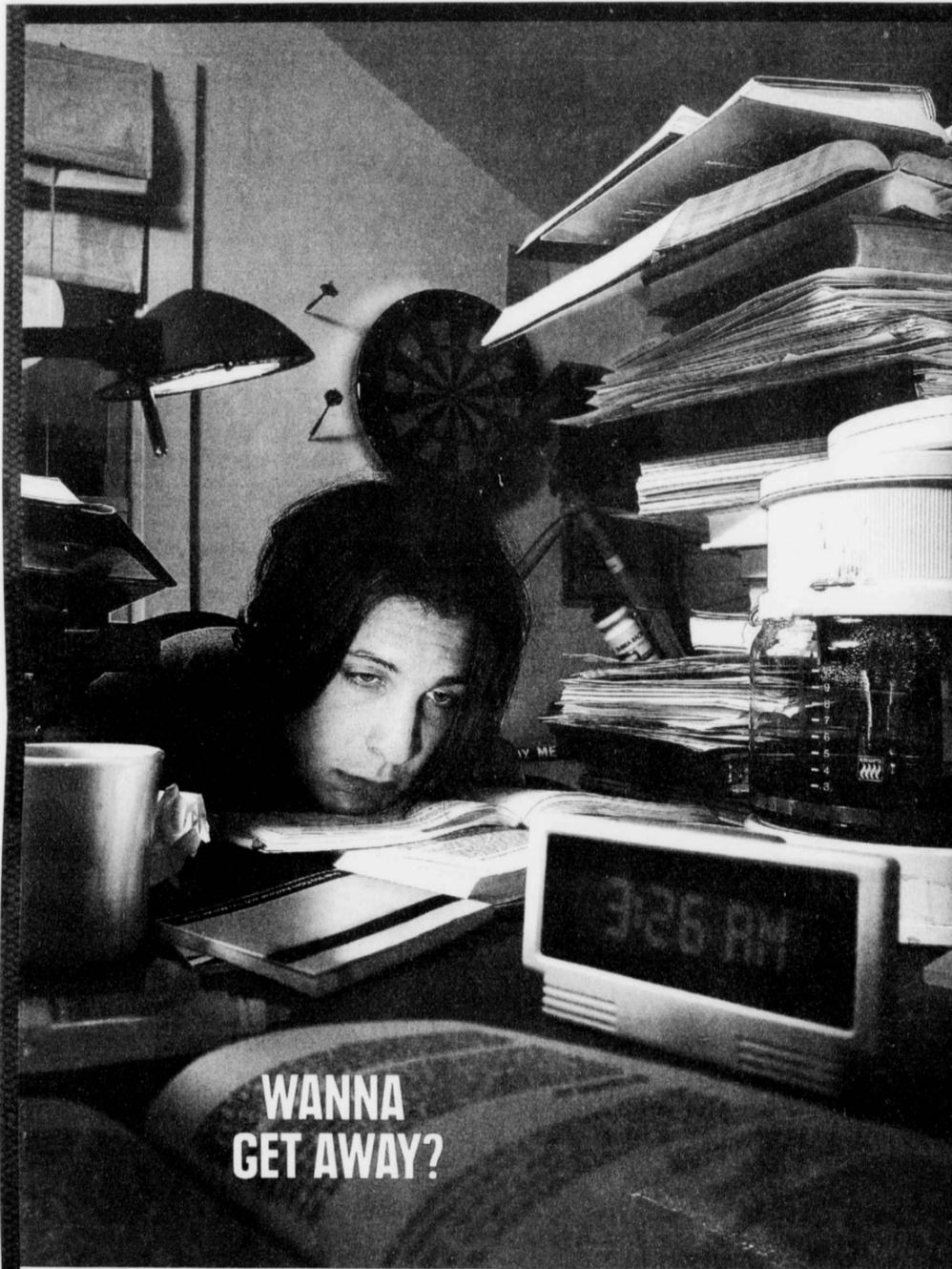
Hutchinson also outlined two Homeland Security initiatives announced Monday.

A project to begin this spring will test a way to screen rail passengers and their luggage to see if there's a way to quickly and accurately detect security risks.

He also said the Homeland Security Department would make available to local law enforcement agencies specially trained bomb-sniffing dogs and help them train their own canine units.

Separately, the Transportation Security Administration awarded \$19.3 million Tuesday to the American Trucking Association to expand its "Highway Watch" program.

The grant will allow the trucking group to expand its call-in center to handle more calls from drivers. It will also expand its operation center that coordinates crisis plans with the government.



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On This Day 1603 - Queen Elizabeth I of England dies, and King James VI of Scotland unites England and Scotland under a single British monarch.
1900 - Andrew Carnegie incorporated his Carnegie Steel Company.

ETC.

Wednesday, March 24, 2004



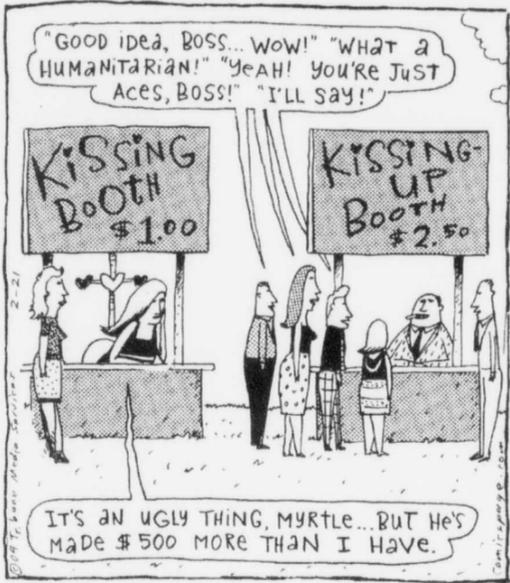
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Yes 17 No 83

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

Quigmans

by Hickerson



Quigmans

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Aries (March 21-April 19) Today is a 7 - Money might be at the root of all evil, but it doesn't make the bad things happen all by itself. You can do lots of good with it, too. Make that your objective today.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Today is a 7 - You generally talk about everything that passes through your brain, but that's not a good idea right now. Keep a romantic matter confidential.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Today is a 7 - You have the kind of friends who are there for you in good times and bad. Remembering something that one of your friends likes and then providing it will be great fun for you both.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is a 7 - Accepting more authority means you'll also get more money. Taking responsibility can mean you'll have more headaches, too. Don't make promises you don't intend to keep - it's a sure bet somebody will hold you to them.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is an 8 - A visit with somebody you love would be good for you both. If you can't get there and back on a weeknight, allow yourselves to chat for hours. Ain't technology grand?

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is a 6 - You may have more than you realize. How long has it been since you had your resources appraised? They may have appreciated.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is an 8 - True love always involves commitment, as you well know. The truest love develops after the commitment has been made for years. Enjoy.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is a 7 - They say that if you do what you love, the money will surely follow. Go ahead and get involved in something you enjoy.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is an 8 - How many ways do you have to explain all the love that you feel deep inside? Your actions often speak louder than words, and they can also express your love quite fluently.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is a 7 - An argument could turn into a valuable learning experience. Don't assume you have all the answers. You're the student as well as the teacher.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 7 - Love is the key to your success and your cheerful attitude. If you focus on someone you love, everything else will fall into place.

- Courtesy of KRT

Today's Crossword

Today's crossword sponsored by

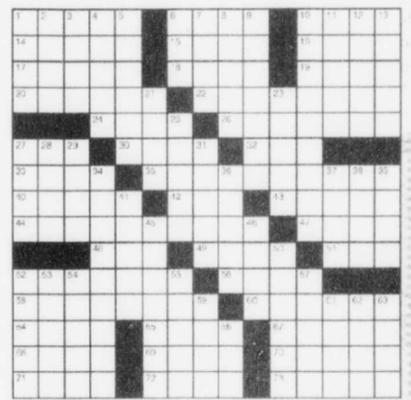


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03/24/04

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3 Part of a three-piece suit 4 Best of the best 5 Legislative body 6 Solidify 7 Hosiery shade 8 Narrow leather strip 9 Position of discomfort 10 Second lieutenant slang 11 Mexican money 12 Blazing 13 Remains behind 21 Designate 23 Declare invalid 25 Plate base 27 Lion's comment 28 Utah ski resort 29 Lucy's love 31 Bul-ef 34 Misses in Madrid 36 Snouts 37 Skier's ride 38 Younger Saanen 39 Bacon buy 41 60s hairdos 45 Does a favor for 46 Faithful 50 Tailor's tool 52 Lawn tool 53 Hollow rock 54 Type of piano 55 Inexact 57 Three-spots 59 Zilch 61 Bird of the Nile 62 Sea eagle 63 Tatters 66 Moines

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SPORTS

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

10

Sideline

Penders to coach Houston

Tom Penders was hired Tuesday to coach at the University of Houston, the once-powerful program that has not won an NCAA tournament game in 20 years.

Penders and the university agreed to a five-year contract, but terms were not finalized, officials said. Penders, a coach at Texas for 10 years, replaces Ray McCallum, who was re-assigned March 8 after going 44-72 in four seasons.

Penders, 58, is best known for resuscitating Texas after his arrival in 1988 after successful stints at Tufts, Columbia, Fordham and Rhode Island. He led Texas to a 208-110 record and eight NCAA tournaments, including a regional final in 1990.

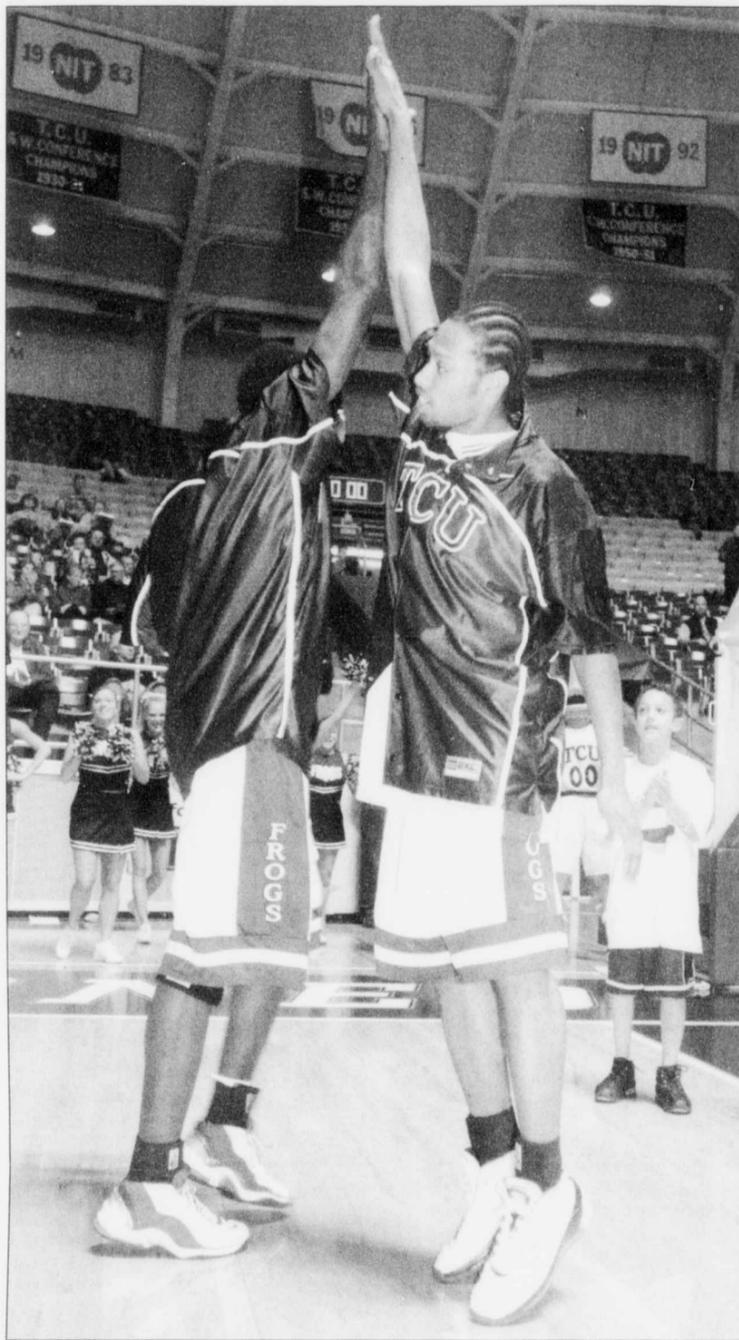
Penders is the seventh UH coach but the fifth since the revered Guy Lewis retired in 1986 after 30 seasons and five Final Four appearances. Pat Foster, who followed Lewis, took the Cougars to three NCAA tournaments and went 142-73 in seven seasons.

Since Foster, Alvin Brooks, Clyde Drexler and McCallum combined to go 117-195 with no tournament bids. The Cougars have not won an NCAA tournament game since the 1984 semifinal.

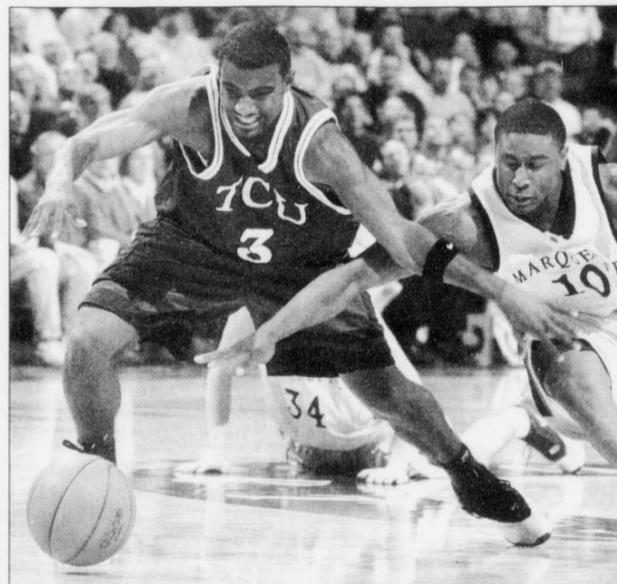
Penders resigned from Texas in 1998 after his second losing season with the Longhorns. The move came amid a rift with some prominent players and a lawsuit that accused Penders of being involved in the public release of a player's grades. The suit was settled when Texas agreed to pay \$7,500 in legal fees and admitted no wrongdoing.

Penders moved on to George Washington but resigned in 2001 citing "burnout" following allegations of players making unauthorized long-distance calls. He has worked as a broadcast analyst since.

A look back on the Frogs' season



Ty Halasz/Staff Photographer



Jeffrey Phelps/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



Stephen Spillman/Staff Photographer



Ty Halasz/Staff Photographer

Left: The Frogs go through their pre-game ritual of high-fiving during the announcement of the starting line-up. Top: Junior guard Corey Santee and Marquette's Karon Bradley fight for a loose ball in the first half of the Frogs' winning Feb. 4 game at the Bradley Center in Milwaukee. Above left: Famed Louisville coach Rick Pitino watches his Cardinals fall to the Frogs 71-46 during the Feb. 17 game. Above right: A packed student section was only part of the record 7,267 fans who crammed into Daniel-Meyer Coliseum to watch the Frogs take on then-No.1 Kansas on Dec. 1.

QUICK FACTS

Top Frog



Ty Halasz/Staff Photographer

Corey Santee PG

Santee was the go-to guy for the Horned Frogs all season. When he wasn't scoring baskets or showing off his ball-handling skills, Santee was producing easy shots for his teammates with great passing. The junior guard led the team with 14.6 points, 4.4 assists and 1.1 steals a contest. With a productive third season, Santee has placed his name in the TCU record books. He has entered the program's top 10 all-time scoring list and is also on pace to become the TCU all-time leader in assists, a record Prince Fowler holds with 514. By earning third-team All-Conference USA honors this season, Santee also became the first Frog to earn conference honors since Junior Blount in 2002.

Santee has a lot to look forward to in his senior season. Not only is Santee joined by his starting backcourt mate Marcus Shropshire next year, but the team's young frontcourt will also have one more season under their belt. The backcourt duo should be one of the conference's elite next season, even without an improved frontcourt. If Santee hopes to make TCU a force in C-USA next season, he will need Femi Ibikunle and Chudi Chinweze to take some of the pressure off himself and Shropshire. With Santee's proven ability to run the offense and his great confidence, the program looks to be going nowhere but up.

Starters

Corey Santee: A-

2004 statistics: 14.5 ppg, 4.4 apg, 3.1 rpg, 1.1 spg
Santee led the Frogs on offense nearly every game this season in every category. He was also the team's floor general on both ends, directing the team for an average of 33 minutes a contest. The junior guard was the team leader in points, assists, steals and minutes. Whenever the Frogs needed a big bucket or wanted to end a prolonged scoring drought, Santee was willing to put the team on his shoulders and take the shot. And if he thought another player had a better look at the basket, he made sure to deliver him a good pass. Santee's great year earned him third-team All-Conference USA honors. In his first game, after earning conference honors, Santee led the Frogs to a thrilling last-second victory over Marquette in the first round of the C-USA tournament, keeping the team's faint hopes of an at large berth to the NCAA tournament alive.



Santee

Marcus Shropshire: B+

2004 statistics: 13.1 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 2.4 apg, 0.8 spg
The junior transfer from Texas Tech lived up to Neil Dougherty's every expectation. Shropshire was the perfect complement to Santee in the backcourt. He provided the Frogs with a second consistent scoring weapon, which allowed open looks for the other players on the court. From behind the 3-point arc, there weren't many players in C-USA who could hit as frequently as Shropshire. In fact, his coach calls his 3-point stroke "deadly." His shooting from beyond the arc was so deadly that he shot a higher percentage behind it (.396) than he did from the rest of the field (.394). Shropshire saved his deadliest shooting for the free-throw line, where he led the team at a 93 percent clip. On a team that shot 67 percent from the line, Shropshire's accuracy is the reason that figure isn't even more unimpressive.



Shropshire

Nucleus Smith: B-

2004 statistics: 8.6 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 2 apg, 0.8 spg
As the only senior to see significant action this season due to a Ronald Hobbs season-long injury, Smith played the role of leader very well. He was never worried about individual statistics or getting any of the glory. Instead, he just tried to lead this young team in the right direction and to a winning season. This was never more evident than in the Frogs blowout win over No. 10 Louisville, where he played one of the best games of his career, scoring 17 points, grabbing six rebounds and recording three steals. The senior called it the biggest win of his career and you could tell he wanted that victory more than any other game, as he was constantly on the floor diving for every loose ball. Without Smith and his leadership, the Frogs' great



Smith

improvement over the season, especially in C-USA action, wouldn't have been as noticeable.

Chudi Chinweze: B-

2004 statistics: 10.7 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 0.8 apg, 0.5 bpg
Chinweze made great strides in his sophomore season. He may have been the team's third-leading scorer, but it was his accuracy from the floor that made him such a valuable commodity. Chinweze led the Frogs in shooting at an impressive 56 percent clip. As gaudy as his performance from the field was this season, he continues to have trouble from the free-throw line, where he shot only 61 percent for the year. The sophomore needs to improve on this part of his game in order for the Frogs to take their game to the next level. With his inside moves and ability to create and make tough leaning jumpers, he will continue to make frequent trips to the line in his remaining two seasons. As a result, it would be in the best interest of him and the team to capitalize on those free points.



Chinweze

Femi Ibikunle: C

2004 statistics: 3.7 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 0.8 apg, 0.4 bpg
You can't help but marvel at what this freshman might be able to bring to the court someday. He has everything a coach and a team can ever want in a low-post player. Unfortunately, his talent is very raw right now and he's still learning how to play the game. When Ibikunle finally masters his footwork, passing, low-post moves and decision-making skills, the sky will be the limit. The freshman center improved his game a lot over the course of the season, but foul trouble and a propensity to turn the ball over constantly rattled him. As is the case with Chinweze, Ibikunle must improve his free-throw shooting over the off-season. He shot 48 percent on the year from the charity strip. With more practice and game experience, he will continue to improve and become a menace for teams in C-USA and the Mountain West.



Ibikunle

Bench

Aaron Curtis, Corey Valsin, Blake Adams, Marcus Sloan, Art Pierce, Neil Dougherty, Jr., David Markley: C

2004 statistics: 16.6 ppg, 13.8 rpg, 2.4 apg
For most of the season, Aaron Curtis and Marcus Sloan were the highlight of the bench. Curtis was the leading scorer at 5 points a game while Sloan led the way in rebounding with 3.5 boards a game. Sloan really came on late in the season off the bench and dominated the offensive glass the last few weeks of the season. Blake Adams showed he can be a 3-point threat, connecting on 35 percent of his attempts. Freshman Art Pierce was inconsistent much of the season. As a unit, the bench needs to do a better job of providing the team with a spark. The Frogs lack a proven sixth man who can come in and change the pace of the game. Someone needs to step up and give the team a consistent lift off the bench.

Men's Basketball 2004 Final Statistics

NAME	GMS	MIN	PTS	REB	AST	TO	A/T	STL	BLK	PF	FG%	FT%	3P%
Corey Santee	29	33.1	14.5	3.1	4.4	2.2	2/1	1.1	0.0	1.7	.422	.734	.353
Marcus Shropshire	29	28.4	13.1	2.6	2.4	2.0	1.2/1	0.8	0.1	1.6	.394	.925	.396
Chudi Chinweze	29	24.2	10.7	4.9	0.8	2.3	1/3	0.7	0.5	2.8	.556	.611	.000
Nucleus Smith	29	26.0	8.6	3.8	2.0	1.6	1.3/1	0.8	0.0	2.0	.425	.832	.326
Aaron Curtis	29	16.8	5.0	3.2	0.8	1.4	1/1.7	0.7	0.2	2.2	.360	.769	.224
Femi Ibikunle	29	20.8	3.7	4.6	0.8	1.9	1/2.5	0.4	0.4	3.0	.413	.477	.000
Corey Valsin	28	10.8	3.3	2.8	0.3	0.9	1/3.1	0.4	0.1	1.6	.452	.618	.235
Blake Adams	29	11.0	3.2	1.3	0.2	0.7	1/3.2	0.1	0.0	0.7	.350	.400	.353
Marcus Sloan	29	13.7	2.2	3.5	0.3	0.6	1/2	0.4	0.6	2.0	.411	.528	.000
Art Pierce	29	11.7	2.1	2.1	0.4	0.9	1/2.4	0.5	0.4	1.4	.294	.462	.190
Neil Dougherty, Jr.	23	3.9	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.4	1/1.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	.167	.692	.167
Ronald Hobbs	9	3.4	0.6	0.8	0.2	0.1	2/1	0.1	0.0	0.9	.000	.625	.000
David Markley	11	1.7	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	1/1	0.1	0.0	0.0	.000	.500	.000
Team Averages	29	—	66.9	35.0	12.6	14.8	1/1.2	6.1	2.4	19.4	.414	.676	.333