

TCU Daily Skiff

Thursday, April 1, 1993

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas

90th Year, No. 93

Faculty panel ponders importance of religion in society

By CHRISTINA BARNES
TCU Daily Skiff

Matters of morality, metaphysics and man were raised at an Honors Program faculty debate Tuesday night in the Faculty Center.

C. David Grant, director of the Honors Program, moderated the debate in which five university professors argued their views on the question "Is religion necessary?"

The panelists were Claudia Camp, Andrew Fort and Yushau Sodiq, associate professors of religion studies; Richard Galvin, chairman of the philosophy department; and J.A. Breyer, professor of geology.

Manochehr Dorraj, associate professor of political science, said he thought the forum provided good debate on an important issue.

"I thought it was wonderful," he said. "It was a great forum for learning, a terrific display of discourse. We need to have more of this (kind of debate). It illuminated many issues and theories."

The panelists set the tone for the evening during the opening arguments by speaking for five minutes on his/her feelings toward religion.

Breyer added a humorous note to the discussion when he distributed construction hard hats to the members of the panel and Grant.

Camp said she felt that religion was inevitable and the definitions for religion were arbitrary and arguable.

Camp defined religion as "Any given person's or groups' set of beliefs, values, and commitments." She said she defined "beliefs" as one's improvable, ultimate reality.

"Values" were what a person defines as right and wrong related to his or her ultimate reality, she said. And "commitments" were fundamental life decisions that enact values and beliefs.

Sodiq, who is a Muslim, said the Islamic concept of God is "Dia," the way of life. He said that anything the Muslim does in life is religion.

"If there is a need to be alive, then there is religion," he said.

Galvin said religion is not the ultimate cause of morality. He said many people associate religion and morality as inseparable, which he feels is untrue.

Fort said that defining religion is a difficult problem.

"Religious belief and action is primarily socially determined," he said.

Nationalism, scientism and

humanistic psychology were the top three religions in the United States today, he said.

Breyer said religion was not necessary to understand salvation, but necessary to understand the universe.

"There are some questions that science can not answer," he said.

Christy Newton, a sophomore religion studies and Japanese double major, said she learned a lot from the panel because they presented many different views, other than the traditional Judeo-Christian ideas.

"What I think was really interesting is that they brought together people from different traditions," she said. "It's really good to have brought so many different religions together and they could talk openly."

Discussion followed the opening arguments. The faculty members

raised issues of power and religion, faith and the ability to know which religion has the right beliefs.

Camp made the comment that no one in the room would ever naturally call God a woman. In later discussion, a Hindu attending said that his religion believed that God is a male, female and an "it." He also said that his religion does not separate the issues of philosophy, religion and science as the panel had done.

The floor was opened to the 38 people who attended the debate after an hour of discussion.

Joseph Babitch, professor of chemistry, said that there was no need for organized religion, because he felt that these groups are merely mind control.

"Traditions and revelations lead to problems in Waco or cutting off

hands for stealing," he said.

Students asked questions on the human psychology of religion, and the basis of religious evolution in regards to society and science.

Khanh Nguyen, a freshman pre-med English major, said the discussion did not focus on the debate's question.

"I thought (the panel) posed a lot of interesting questions," he said, "but as usual in any panel of discussion, we didn't get a lot of answers."

"They did ask some direct questions, but more or less they were answering a question with a question," he said. "Usually it ended up inciting other viewpoints and not getting anywhere."

Newton said she wondered what

see Religion, page 2

Honor group to announce new initiates

By ROBIN SHIRLEY
TCU Daily Skiff

Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest honor society in America, will announce its 28 new members on April 15 during Honors' Convocation, said Bob Doran, immediate past president.

"Phi Beta Kappa is a liberal arts academic honor society and there are only 244 chapters in the whole nation," Doran said.

This year 22 seniors and 6 juniors were chosen, he said.

For seniors to be chosen, the minimum requirements are at least a 3.70 GPA, 90 hours of liberal arts courses like English, math or biology and four semesters of a foreign language, Doran said.

"The requirements for juniors are even more stringent," he said.

Juniors must have at least a 3.90 GPA and 60 liberal arts hours, he said.

"It's very difficult for students to get their liberal arts hours, especially if they are in programs like engineering or speech where they don't have a lot of electives," Doran said.

TCU got its charter about 20 years ago, he said.

"For a university to even be con-

see Doran, page 2

'Mr. Ebony Man'

Contest aims to disprove stereotypes, promote campus unity, support scholarship

By CHARLSIE MAYS
TCU Daily Skiff

Countering stereotypes, promoting campus unity and instilling service are the three main goals of the "Mr. Ebony Man" contest, said Michelle Smith, senior English major and coordinator of the contest.

The contest, sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, will be held tonight at 8 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

The event is to combat negative stereotypes about African-American men, Smith said. Many of the contest applicants are aspiring doctors, lawyers, teachers and family men,

she said.

"(African-American men) are not just athletes," Smith said. "They are also aware of social and political issues."

Historically, African-American Greek organizations have not worked well with other Greek organizations, Smith said. The contest is promoting unity among these groups by allowing everyone to be involved in preparation, she said.

The House of Representatives, Programming Council, Panhellenic and a host of sororities have offered financial support, Smith said. These groups, along with other campus organizations, have purchased

advertisements appearing in the souvenir booklet that will be available at tonight's program.

"They all realize the importance of combating the negative stereotypes about African-American men," Smith said.

The proceeds from the contest will go to support the Reva Bell Scholarship which honors Bell, a retired member of the TCU School of Education faculty. The award is presented every spring at the University Leadership Reception.

"We (the members of Alpha Kappa Alpha) felt it was important to serve the TCU community by supporting this scholarship," Smith said.

The first step in the contest process was an interview session which all 35 applicants went through last semester, Smith said. The interviews focused on social and political issues; 11 finalists were chosen based on their performance in the interview, she said.

The finalists are Marcus Allen, Geoff Aludo, Albert Bledsoe, John Conley, Jeff Malonson, Charles McWilliams, Horatio Porter, Vincent Pryor, Tyrone Roy, Albert Thomas and Rico Wesley.

These men were debated at the AKA Founder's Day program Feb. 8.

see Contest, page 2

PLASTERED



TCU Daily Skiff/Beth Aine Bollinger

Sophomore art major Martina Zukoski helps junior art major Don Stevenson with a relief print that will be included in a gallery show in the Moudu Building April 14.

Kappa Sigma defends design

Fraternity shirt raises concerns over prejudice, homosexuality

By CAMIE MELTON
TCU Daily Skiff

The shirts for the annual Kappa Sigma "MASH" party have some people upset over what they see as prejudice toward homosexuals.

Sara Smith, the University Ministries intern/ministry to the Greeks, said she has seen other shirts that have been in poor taste, but the shirt in question goes beyond that.

"I used to practice law, and I believe in the freedom of speech," she said. "But when an organization categorically ridicules a group of people, it becomes bigotry and indecent. It's 'fun' at someone else's expense. If the figures on the front were a male and a female, it would be called pornography. So why would this be appropriate?"

The Kappa Sigma MASH party has a military theme where everyone dresses in fatigues, said Les Kreis, Kappa Sigma president. Approximately 75 shirts were sold.

The front of the shirts have a silhouette of two men having anal intercourse. They are circled and have a line through them similar to the "no smoking" signs. The caption underneath the symbol says, "Stop Slick Willie."

The back of the shirt says "Clinton's Army" and shows two men dressed in pink and green fatigues. The caption reads, "We are looking for a few gay men." Next to that it says, "Bush's Army" and shows former President George Bush with one woman under each arm dressed in green fatigues. The caption says, "We are looking for a few good men."

"We have come under fire with this shirt," Kreis said. "But I can't say that it's wrong because I believe that we have the right to express our opinion."

Marylyn Koble, president of Uniting Campus Ministries, disagrees.

"I found the shirt extremely offensive," she said. "There is the freedom of speech, but there are other ways to express your opinions without

offending people. If I was in that organization I would be hesitant to make such a broad statement. Surely there are people in the group that don't feel that way."

The entire fraternity decides on the party theme, Kreis said, but the job of designing the shirts is delegated. Most people don't know what the shirts will look like until they are finished.

"We would have known if someone in our fraternity didn't agree with the shirts," Kreis said. "We never really voted on the shirt design, but no one objected."

The shirts are an expression of a political view held by most of the Kappa Sig members, Kreis said.

"I understand how others can be offended by the shirts," he said. "But we couldn't take them away after they had been paid for. The intent was to express our view that we don't agree with homosexuals in the military. We don't have anything against homosexuals."

But Smith said the shirts have more than a political message. They say that homosexuals are not accepted, she said.

"It's bigotry," Smith said. "People said the same thing about black people in the '50s. They said that they had nothing against blacks, but they still shouldn't be allowed to ride in the front of the bus. It's wishful thinking that it is only a political issue."

"I don't think anyone else thought it was just a political issue when they saw the shirt," Smith said. "The circle with the cross bar says that these people don't belong. That impression goes beyond a political issue."

The shirt is degrading to Greeks as well as homosexuals, Smith said.

"Greek Week was just a couple weeks ago and it was supposed to show the positive aspects of Greeks," she said. "I think this gives a different message to those that aren't Greek. The purpose of Greek organizations is to build community and I

see Shirt, page 2

Music department pipes up with summer program

By JENNIFER SCOTT
TCU Daily Skiff

The TCU music department will sponsor a European organ study tour to Paris from July 4 to 16 as part of its Summer Music Institute 1993.

The seminar will be conducted by Emmet G. Smith, Herndon Professor of Music and professor of organ and church music at TCU, and Christina Harmon of Dallas, an organist at Park Cities Baptist Church and a faculty member at Richland College.

Participants will hear lectures, demonstrations and recitals by many well-known organists while touring some of the most famous

church organ lofts in the world, Smith said.

"We chose Paris as the site of the seminar because there's no place like it," he said. "Mozart and many other famous composers played in the organ lofts of the churches of Paris and it remains a city filled with magnificent churches and historical organs from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries."

Students will also have the opportunity to arrange private organ lessons with the French teachers participating in the program, Smith said.

"Many of the French performers and teachers specialize in one or two styles or composers of music," he said, "so the students can benefit

from the expertise of a specialist in the areas they are interested in."

Smith said he gathered together a number of world-renowned organists to participate in the seminar through personal contacts made while serving as a Fulbright scholar in Paris in 1955 and 1956. Other contacts were made with guest performer who have visited TCU, he said.

The seminar will be held in conjunction with the TCU Summer Music Institute, a series of workshops in all musical areas that was developed by Kenneth Raessler, chairman of the music department. The organ seminar will be the first European study tour sponsored by the program.

Applicants are not required to be performers or performance majors, and enrollment is not limited to TCU students, Smith said.

"We've had inquiries from all over the United States," he said. "Most of the applicants are very mature people who have wanted to get into the organ lofts of Paris for quite some time but didn't know how to go about it."

Smith said that seminar organizers were aiming for a group of 30 participants, even though many of the organ lofts will not hold more than a dozen people and some of the demonstrations may have to be repeated several times.

"Through this program the students will be exposed to the most

famous organs in Paris and we want them to have a lot of freedom and a lot of time to study them," he said.

The two-week program will cost \$2,195, which will include air fare, hotel accommodations, breakfasts and all classes and seminars. This basic cost does not include public transportation, lunches, dinners or the individually-arranged private lessons.

Students will not be eligible for financial aid for the summer program.

"Financial aid is something we think might happen in the future if we have a successful turnout this summer," Smith said.

Deadline for applications is April 15.

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Lack of logic
Columist examines intellectual honesty and current events. Page 3

METROPLEX

Today will be sunny with a high temperature of 62 degrees.
Friday will also be sunny with a high temperature of 65 degrees.

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CAMPUSlines

Gridiron Show will be held at the Round-up Inn April 2 at 7 p.m. Cocktails start at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$75 each.

Multiple Sclerosis, Bank One Super Cities Walk will be held throughout the TCU campus April 3.

Frog Fest will be Saturday, April 3 at Frog Fountain. Picnic starts at 11:30 a.m.

Opera solo recital will be held April 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Ed Landreth Auditorium.

Painting Exhibit. Paintings by Blaine Bolton will be shown in the Moudy Building's Exhibition Space from April 5-9.

Hunger Week Committee meeting Tuesday, April 6 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in Student Center Room 202.

Kodak videoconference on black and white photography April 8 from noon to 2 p.m. in the Tager TV Building.

Maudy Thursday Service and Potluck Dinner Thursday, April 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, UCC.

Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON CREATOR'S SYNDICATE, INC.

ARIES(Mar.21-Apr.19). The chance of a lifetime appears through a friend's generosity. Stay firm with your original decision at work.

TAURUS(Apr.20-May 20). You win the support of a long-admired bigwig. Highlight is on charismatic appeal and compatibility with Gemini.

GEMINI(May 21-June 21). Be honest with your intentions. Approach a dilemma directly. Stay away from two-faced, capricious characters no matter how romantic.

CANCER(June 22-July 22). You befriend someone who previously rubbed you the wrong way. You're a fabulous host.

LEO(July 23-Aug.22). Punctuality is vital with meetings. You or a necessity of some kind forces you to develop a hidden talent.

VIRGO(Aug.23-Sept.22). What seems like an obstacle is actually an asset. Dealings with those in authority are highly effective.

decide that original goal is no longer applicable.

LIBRA(Sept.23-Oct.23). Take charge of opportunities by setting up timetables and adhering to deadlines. Place emphasis on security and stability.

SCORPIO(Oct.24-Nov.21). A journey may be just around the corner. The day takes on a higher, more spiritual significance.

SAGITTARIUS(Nov. 22-Dec.21). Follow others' notions of appropriateness. Secret information is readily available.

CAPRICORN(Dec. 22-Jan.19). Someone does you a life-altering favor. Don't let opportunities pass.

AQUARIUS(Jan.20-Feb.18). Give in to your romantic side. Harmony is restored when a relative says, "I'm ready to come back now."

PISCES(Feb.19-Mar.20). Unique proposals sweep you off your feet. Stand up for principles. Travel and philosophy guide your instincts.

Insanity Fair

by Joe Barnes



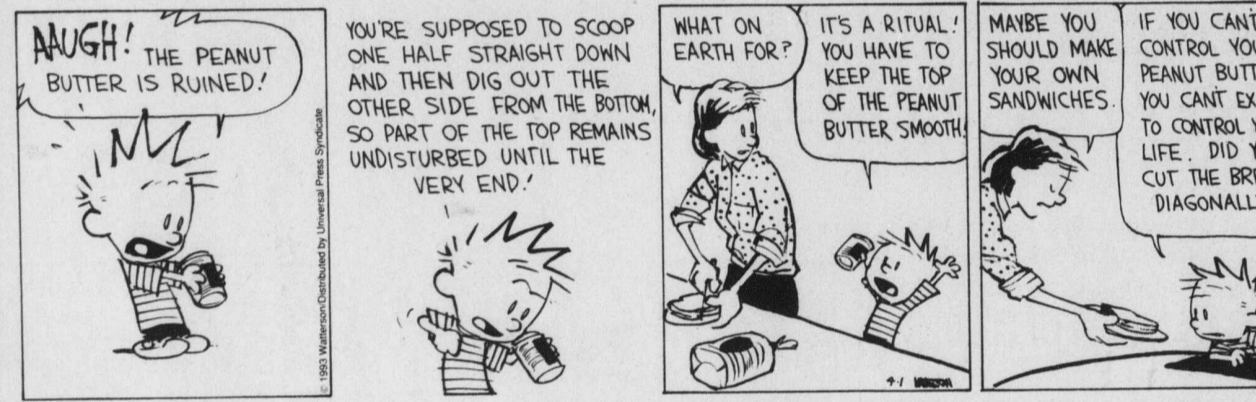
Hemlock

by Andy Grieser



Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



Religion/ page 1

the point of life is without religion. "What is the point of doing anything if there is not religion?" she said.

Nguyen said the debate did provide some new insights into religion. Breyer said he enjoyed being a member of the panel because he always likes to talk with his colleagues in other departments.

"This is something I need to look into more," he said. "I would be curious to find out how other things happen in other parts of the world."

Contest/ page 1

They also had a photo shoot, two image consultant programs, a career planning program and a talent workshop, Smith said.

Tonight the contestants will be modeling tuxedos and Cross-Colors sportswear from two African-American businesses.

There will also be a talent competition and an impromptu question and answer session, Smith said. The program, open to the campus community, will be hosted by Michael Hill from Channel 8 (WFAA-TV), Smith said.

Tickets are \$5 per person pre-sale or \$7 per person at the door.

Correction: An article in Wednesday's Skiff incorrectly stated that accounting professor Will Yancey keeps both tests and homework on file in the library; only homework is in the library.

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Shirt/ from page 1

think things like this break it apart. I also feel sorry that the gay community on this campus had to see this."

There is no requirement that shirts for Greek parties be approved before they are made, said Scott Horton, the assistant director of student activities. Any form of controlling measures would not be feasible or wanted, he said.

"We try to give the officers of the Greek organizations good advice and information so they can make good decisions," he said. "And they need to deal with those decisions. They are adults. We all make mistakes."

Because of the negative feedback from the shirt, the Kappa Sigs plan to be more careful about the offensive nature of future shirts, Kreis said.

"This one might have been too much," he said. "We probably won't do it again because we don't want a negative image on campus."

Doran/ from page 1

sidered (for a charter), it must have a very strong UCR program," Doran said. "A university has to show seriousness in pursuing the program."

Doran shared an example of how difficult it can be for schools to get their charter. When he attended the last triennial Phi Beta Kappa convention, 48 schools applied for a charter. It was quickly reduced to five and from that two were chosen, he said.

"There were many other well-known schools that weren't chosen," Doran said. "It tends to be the smaller liberal arts schools, which can focus more on the students needs, that are chosen."

Neither University of Texas, Arlington nor Texas A&M have their charters, he said.

The members will formally be inducted the day before graduation at the Phi Beta Kappa banquet, Doran said.

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In case you at the Academ Almost every microphone to been treated li throughout the should all bow ority in all are

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Someone a-day calen I would act front of the me. Instead a fool for h I make the all those pr believe to ference in y So, no, I changed m made a B i class, when hugging. B losophy, I a nervous l sional crisis enthusiasti good about In fact, "It's a Bea just no exc even more Kristina Lexington,

Opinion

Hollywood's overblown year of the woman impedes true equality

The year of the woman at the Oscars. Silly me, I thought since women are equals, they wouldn't need a year to specifically honor them.

In case you missed it, this is how it went at the Academy Awards on Monday night: Almost every woman who came to the microphone told of how women have long been treated like a redheaded stepchild throughout the history of film and now we should all bow to their obvious superiority in all areas.

Then, of course, most of the men stepped up to say that the women were right on all counts and then followed that up by admitting that they were ashamed of having tangible manhood in their possessions. Not to mention the endless film clips showing the far superior performance of women in virtually all areas of film-



CLAY GAILLARD

making. In fact, I was shocked that the Academy allowed a female to win an award for best costume design. I'm certain that the National Organization for Women Who Hate Men is at this very moment gathered for an emergency meeting to denounce the Academy for its sexist portrayal of women; how dare they recognize a female for being a mere seamstress! I'm also sure that Clint Eastwood will get

a reprimand for saying "gals" from the podium in one of his acceptance speeches. The Oscars, once the great symbol of success and excess that is Hollywood, have now gone politically correct, falling in line with the trendy notion that is beginning to dictate everything we do. Some wore red ribbons, according to Susan Sarandon, to protest how the government is handling the situation of AIDS infected Haitians trying to enter the United States. Liza Minelli did a rather poor lip-synch of a song that amounted to little more than "I Am Woman Hear Me Roar." Even the commercials assured the viewing audience that "no means no" on Planet Reebok.

And the blatant pandering to feminism tells me volumes more than just what women have accomplished in film; it tells me that feminism, like the most trendy-

issues of the day, is still relying on the oppressed group mentality to accomplish its ever changing goals.

But the Academy, for all its lip service, still made a choice for best actor that was probably the most offensive to the feminist crowd. The character that Al Pacino played in "Scent of a Woman" was a raunchy old retired Army colonel who made indecent suggestions, told dirty jokes, drank good whiskey and didn't mind indulging in the pleasures of a call girl. And he was a man who enjoyed taking in that unforgettable scent that a beautiful woman (that's in all aspects, not just looks) exudes; not the smell of sweat that one might catch outside an abortion clinic when the NOW crowd is defending it. But for all of the irrelevance, it was a great performance in an excellent movie.

The choice was my personal favorite, not because Pacino had an anachronistic view of women, but because the movie, in essence, thumbed its nose at the Oscar's Year of the Woman, which was completely overblown.

It's not that I think that women are inferior in film-making or just about anything else; on the contrary, they have proven themselves quite capable. It's just that they must stop asking for or allowing special tributes in areas that have been traditionally male dominated if they ever hope to gain the true equality they deserve.

As for Hillary leading the way, as Liza Minelli's lip-synch prophesied, I don't think I'll be alone when I don't go.

Clay Gaillard is a junior English major from Texhoma, Okla.

Mr. Rogers shows caring nurturers at their most annoying

Now that Siblings Weekend is nearly upon us, and our campus is about to be bombarded with all sorts of little buggers, it seems appropriate to go back and remember when we were small. Ah, yes, those formative years before "college" entered our minds and when public television still kept our attention.



KRISTINA STARKE

Remember "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood?" Well, it started coming on TV when our older brothers and sisters were small (1968) and is now on its 25th year, making it the longest running program on public television. And because "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" is celebrating its silver anniversary, it has been the object of much attention and even praise. So with my own 20-year experience with Mr. Rogers, King Friday and all the gang in the Neighborhood of Make Believe, I will go ahead and freely admit that I have always hated Mr. Fred McFeely Rogers.

I am not arguing that the show is not well-intended. In fact, it is probably one of the most well-intended shows to ever appear on television. With its goals of letting children know that someone cares and loves them (even if that someone is Mr. Rogers) and that it's okay to be a unique individual, Mr. Rogers has perhaps encouraged thousands to become "caring nurturers."

Just think of Stuart Smalley (of "Saturday Night Live") looking into a mirror saying "I'm good enough, I'm smart enough, and doggone it, people like me." It's easy to picture Mr. Rogers doing the same. Before he walks into the house to take off his jacket and put on his cardigan sweater, Mr. Rogers probably does say, "It's going to be a really good show today."

The biggest difference between the two is that Stuart Smalley/Al Franken is actually ridiculing people like Mr. Rogers. Caring Nurturers make us gag, and SNL realizes that. So I find it amazing that "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" has been on TV for 25 years, that 7 million people watch it everyday and that there's a life-size Neighborhood of Make Believe at Idlewild Park in Pennsylvania. That, in other words, there are people out there who actually like the show.

I remember intensely disliking "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" as a child. His annoying, condescending voice, his stupid shoes and sweater routine and then the trolley — I would fall asleep waiting for the trolley to make it into the Neighborhood of Make Believe, only to be awakened by Mr. Rogers' voice in falsetto as he attempts to bring life to his goofy little puppets, acting out superficial scenarios to later be explained in Mr. Rogers' kitchen.

Thankfully there were other shows to choose from then, or I would have sworn off educational programming forever. And now, with the dawn of cable television, even better shows for children are available, from the Disney Channel to Nickelodeon. You'd think kids would have higher standards and say "Twenty-five years is enough Mr. Rogers, please don't show up on my TV anymore."

Someone actually gave me a daily affirmation page-a-day calendar for Christmas my first year here at TCU. I would actually try reading the affirmations aloud in front of the mirror, but I think it had a negative affect on me. Instead of feeling happy and rah-rah-life, I felt like a fool for having to tell myself how great I am and how I make the universe better. If you have to tell yourself all those prefabricated dictums, which you don't really believe to begin with, and they won't really make a difference in your life.

So, no, I have not turned into a caring nurturer or changed my middle name to McFeely. I admit that I made a B in Benison's "Mental and Emotional Health" class, where we learned about 12-step programs and hugging. But despite my disregard of Mr. Rogers' philosophy, I haven't yet become a "woman on the edge of a nervous breakdown," nor have I experienced any personal crisis as a result. I am not the most positive, enthusiastic person I know, but I generally feel pretty good about myself and life in general.

In fact, the other day I even caught myself humming "It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood." There's just no excuse for that kind of behavior — giving me even more reason to despise Mr. Rogers.

Kristina Starke is a junior religion major from Lexington, Mo.



EDITORIAL

Protests

Reaction to Brosky decision shows dignity and peace

Who can forget the violence that erupted in Los Angeles last April when a jury found four police officers innocent in the Rodney King beating trial? For several days television screens across the country were filled with images of looters, burning storefronts and senseless violence committed to voice frustrations.

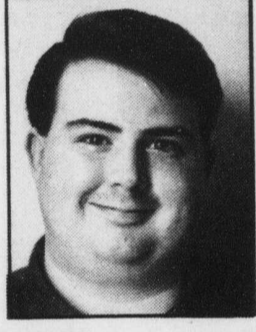
But when 10,000 protestors took to the streets of downtown Fort Worth to voice their objections to the racially charged Brosky "skinhead murder" verdict, their demonstration was peaceful. No stores were looted. No drivers were pulled from their vehicles and beaten.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram called the peaceful protest "a moving tribute to murder victim Donald Thomas that was reminiscent of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.'s strong but peaceful demonstrations of the 1960s." And it was.

Reaction to doctor's murder highlighted by inconsistencies

From time to time, people ask me just what the heck irks me so about certain political and social beliefs. Near the top of the list is inconsistency. It seems that no matter how hard some philosophies advocate an idea, in practice, it is riddled with inconsistencies.

A perfect example is the recent murder of an abortionist in Florida. Up front, let's state it loud and clear: Michael Frederick Griffin, the man who was arrested for killing the doctor, was wrong and he should be convicted and punished. However, many individuals are being neither fair nor consistent in their reactions to this tragedy. Every time this issue is debated, abortion supporters and liberal leaders preach the same message: Griffin is the epitome of the anti-abortion movement. Thus, our problems with "dangerous generalizations" suddenly disappear when they refer to politically incorrect and liberally unacceptable ideas such as the pro-life movement.



JEFF JETER

This is occurring on talk shows and in the newspapers at an incredible rate.

Consider a recent column in *The New York Times* in which the writer draws some rather broad conclusions about the nature of all abortion opponents based on the stupidity of one person.

It reads, "David Gunn's murder tells us the essential truth about most anti-abortion activists. They are religious fanatics who want to impose their version of God's word on the rest of us. For them, the end justifies any means, including violence."

The alarming reality is that these gross exaggerations and others like them have remained completely unchallenged by the liberal media. So if we cannot have objectivity, let's at least try to be consistent. Why not apply this same absurd logic to issues other than abortion? Only then can we truly see and appreciate the unfair generalizations being leveled against the pro-life movement.

How about the Brosky murder case? Suppose someone said, "Donald Thomas' murder tells us the essential truth about most white people. They are bigots who want to impose their version of social relations on the rest of us. For them, the end justifies any means, including violence."

Let's try Mike Tyson's rape conviction. "Desiree Washington's rape shows us the essential truth about most athletes. They are rapists who want to impose their own version of intimacy on the rest of us. For them, the end justifies any means, including rape."

And we can't forget the riots in Los Angeles. "The L.A. riots tell us the essential truth about most minorities. They are civil rights fanatics who want to impose their version of justice on the rest of us. For them, the end justifies any means, including violence."

Why not tackle the bombing in New York City? "The World Trade Center bombing tells us the essential truth about most Muslims. They are religious fanatics who want to impose their own version of Allah's word on the rest of us. For them, the end justifies any means, including violence."

And my own personal favorite is about the Kennedys. "Mary Jo Kopechne's death tells us the essential truth about most senators. They are political fanatics who seek to impose their own version of a midnight drive on the rest of us. For them, the end justifies any means, including death."

As one can clearly see, the logic is stupid and the statements are unpleasant. But this is the message being sent out by the leaders of the abortion movement across our nation's liberal airwaves. Regardless of whether the generalizations are made about abortion opponents or homosexuals or minorities, the stereotypes being trumpeted are plainly wrong.

We should not condone Michael Frederick Griffin's crime. Similarly, however, we cannot and should not condone the double standard emerging in reaction to it.

Jeff Jeter is a senior political science major from Shreveport, La.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Abortion

After reading Rochael Soper's editorial on a mandatory waiting period as it applies to abortion, I believe she missed the point on why pro-choice advocates fight so vigorously against it. I am pro-choice. This does not mean I am pro-abortion. I believe that women and men have the fundamental right to make decisions about their own lives. Is there any major decision in which we are not emotionally involved? By adulthood we learn to cope with these choices and determine what is in our best interests.

I do not think any woman makes the decision to have an abortion without first giving it plenty of thought. Besides being physically painful, abortion stirs up many levels of guilt and "what ifs" which a woman must deal with long after the actual procedure is over. A 24-hour waiting period refutes the woman's right to make a "good, sound judgement" on her own.

You say that people give consideration to "other major decisions in their lives: buying a new home or car, changing careers." I will point out that these major decisions are made by adults in the privacy of their homes. There is no mandatory waiting period for buying a car or taking a new job. The government does not need to stand over us and say "Are you sure? Are you really sure?"

It is not the government's job to determine

when we are adults and when we are not. As adults, it is our right and our responsibility to ask these questions of ourselves. It is also our responsibility to accept the answers.

Heather Hutton Coomer
Post Graduate
Modern Dance

Horoscopes

Since the Reagans probably don't get to see the *Skiff* regularly, why bother to waste space (and money) on Joyce Jillson's Horoscope? Why not run passages from "Alice in Wonderland" or "The Wizard of Oz" instead? They wouldn't cost anything and they're a lot more fun.

Paul F. Boller, Jr.
Emeritus Professor
History

The Skiff welcomes letters to the editor if they are double-spaced typed and one page or less in length. All letters must be signed. The Skiff will not publish unsigned letters. All submissions must include the writer's classification, major and phone number. The Skiff reserves the right to edit or reject any letters to the editor.

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Sports

Basketball at its best

by Ty Benz



Sports Columnist

After a season of watching Southwest Conference men's basketball, my reward from my parents came this past weekend.

No, I didn't get money or a Porsche (although I deserved both after this dismal season). My reward was a trip to St. Louis. And no, it wasn't to go sightseeing.

Instead, I went to watch the Midwest Regional final between Kansas and Indiana.

And the reward was very, very sweet. After spending a season in basketball purgatory, I got to see basketball at its best.

Two legendary programs filled with great tradition.

Indiana boasts its magical undefeated year in 1976 that culminated with a national title, one of the greatest coaches of all time in Bob "The General" Knight and a team that won 30 games and the Big-10 title this year.

And the program at Kansas isn't too shabby either. Great players in its history: Wilt Chamberlain and Danny Manning to name a few. Several national championships, a coach on the rise in Roy Williams, and a team that had a very good year, 26 wins to go along with the Big-8 title.

It just couldn't get any better than this - March Madness at its best.

And the game lived up to its hype. It was close throughout as Indiana's Calbert Cheaney tried to keep his team in the game by himself. In the end, it was the Jayhawks' depth that wore down Cheaney and the Hoosiers, as KU won 83-77 and advanced to the Final Four.

The thing I noticed throughout the game was how well each team was coached. The fundamentals on both sides were excellent. There weren't any bad passes, few poor shots and the offenses were constantly moving as back screens and backdoor cuts were common throughout the game.

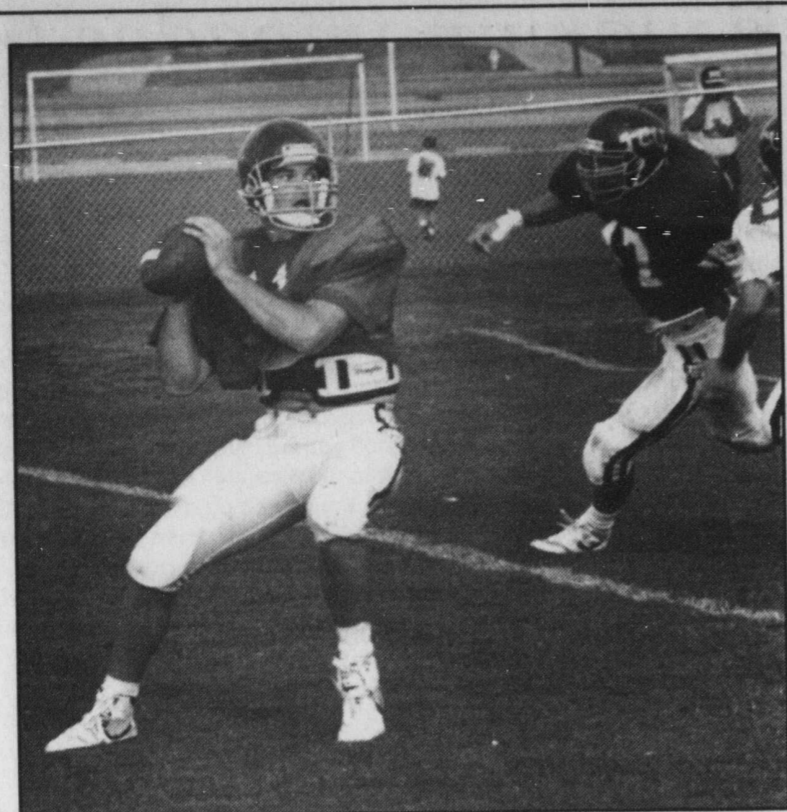
But the thing that dominated the game was defense, no make that DEFENSE. Both Indiana and Kansas just flat out got nasty on D. They contested every shot, banged through the screens and denied the ball. This is what sets these two teams apart from teams in the SWC, if not the nation.

It was simply basketball heaven. Afterwards, my dad commented on the fact that I'll never see that type of game while I was in Texas.

I wanted to argue with him...really I did. But what could I argue with? Hey dad, you didn't see the TCU-SMU game in the SWC Tournament. Great game, one of the best upsets of the year. But I couldn't say that because the atmosphere stunk. I've been in louder churches than Reunion Arena that day. So what does a Texan have to do to see a good college basketball game?

It's easy, just road trip up north to Big-8 or Big-10 country and watch basketball in the heartland where college hoops, not football is king.

Until the So What Conference starts to build some good basketball programs and not be satisfied with the status quo: small arenas, average programs, and lukewarm fan support, it will never be resurrected from college basketball's graveyard.



TCU Daily Skiff/ Jenny Putschinski

Freshman quarterback Max Knake and the TCU football team opened spring practice Monday.

Future of women's basketball cloudy

Shockwaves were felt throughout the TCU women's basketball program after the resignation of head coach Fran Garmon Tuesday.

After receiving Garmon's faxed resignation from Atlanta Monday, TCU athletic director Frank Windeger was still undecided about who would replace Garmon.

"No committee (to find Garmon's successor) has been formed at this time," said Windeger before catching a plane to Atlanta to join Garmon at the women's Final Four.

Garmon's resignation was not

linked to player dissatisfaction, Windeger said, but he was evaluating the women's basketball program at the time Garmon submitted her resignation.

Windeger refused to comment if Garmon's resignation was voluntary.

"She knew we were evaluating the program, so you can interpret that any way you want."

Garmon and assistant coach Shell Robinson will meet with the team Monday when they return from Atlanta, a former player said.

-R.W.

Tennis teams look to net wins as SWC Tournaments approach

By ERNESTO MORAN
TCU Daily Skiff

The TCU varsity tennis squads head into the final stretch of the season looking to gather momentum for the upcoming Southwest Conference Tournaments.

The women's team (7-6 overall, 3-1 in the SWC), fresh off consecutive home wins against non-conference opponents North Texas and Southeastern Louisiana, travels to Houston for a Saturday afternoon SWC showdown with Rice, before returning home for a match Tuesday against Nichols State and a showdown Friday with SWC foe Texas Tech.

TCU head coach Roland Ingram doesn't want his team looking beyond the Rice match.

"That's a big one," Ingram said. "They're better than their record (9-6, 2-3 in SWC) indicates."

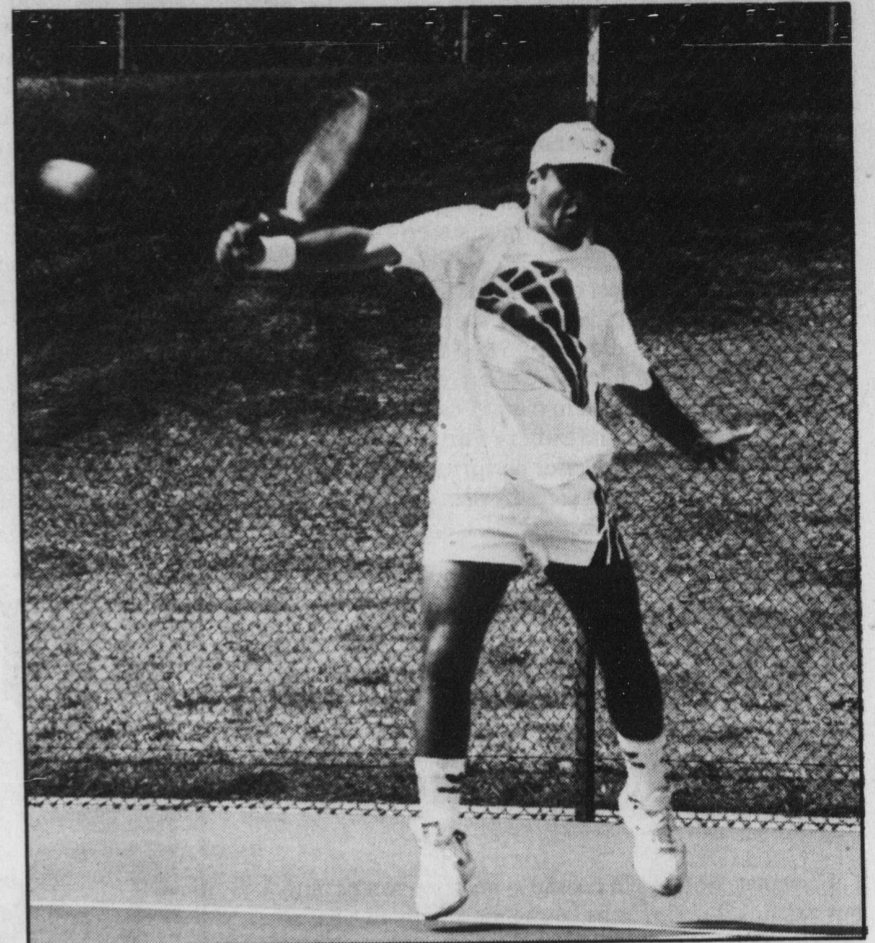
After its final two matches at Southern Methodist and at home against Texas-San Antonio, the Lady Frogs will prepare for the SWC Tournament, which will be played on campus at the Mary Pottishman Lard Tennis Center beginning April 22.

Ingram said that although the team has improved over the course of the season, it will need to win the conference tournament in order to qualify for the NCAA Championships, held in Gainesville, Fla., May 12-20.

The Lady Frogs are 5-1 at home so far this season, the only loss being to Texas, who is ranked No. 3 in the nation and favored to win the SWC title.

Meanwhile, the TCU men's tennis team must like its chances at a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

The 15th-ranked Frogs (13-4 overall, 2-0 in the SWC), who defeated Baylor in a SWC match Wednesday, will host No. 25 Texas A&M in a conference match Friday, then travel



TCU Daily Skiff/ Nicole Lewton

Freshman David Roditi will try to help the TCU men's tennis team get back on the winning track when they host Texas A&M Friday.

to the SMU campus to face No. 12 Arkansas on Sunday.

"That will be a good opportunity for us to beat a higher-ranked opponent," said senior Laurent Becouarn. "That would help us get in the NCAA Tournament."

The Razorbacks beat the Frogs earlier this season, and senior Ricardo Rubio says the team hasn't forgotten that match.

"We want to play them badly, because we want to get even with

them," Rubio said.

The Frogs finish the regular season with three straight SWC matches. TCU will host the Mustangs of SMU, then travel to Austin to face No. 10 Texas, before closing out the regular season against Rice at Houston.

TCU will host the men's SWC Championship starting April 23.

If selected, the Frogs will compete in the NCAA Tournament in Athens, Ga. May 14-23.

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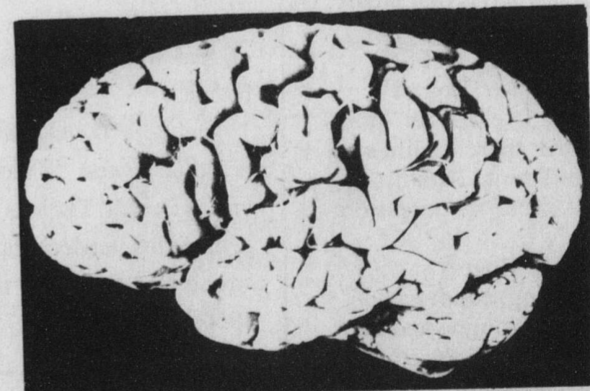
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