



NEWS
Get "Insights" into the creative talents of some art faculty members.
TOMORROW



FEATURES
Read how college students have fun at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo.
TOMORROW



SPORTS
The Frogs look to erase their conference losing streak.
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TCU

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Program gives students glimpse of life in new dorms

By **SONYA CISNEROS**
Staff Reporter

Today through Wednesday, a program hosted by Residential Services will allow students to see a virtual tour of the four new residence halls, said the director of Residential Services.

As a bonus, students in attendance will be entered into a raffle to win a guaranteed place in one of the new buildings, said Craig Allen, director of Residential Services.

The program will visit each existing residence hall and introduce students to the new dorms, address new roommate selection methods and answer any questions, Allen said.

The new dorm rooms will be suite-style with a living room and private bedrooms, Allen said.

In a recent e-mail to students, Chancellor Boschini referred to life in the new residence halls as the "suite-life."

According to the e-mail,

media and technology centers will be located near the residence halls and feature a large-screen TV, game tables, lounge chairs and space for study groups.

Margaret Schrubba, a freshman nursing major, said she hopes to get a spot in one of the new residence halls.

The advantages of living on campus are numerous, Schrubba said. Living on campus allows students to remain connected with the TCU community and

makes it easier to meet people, she said.

Schruba said she likes being able to have more roommates in the new residence halls, something not offered to her in Sherley Hall.

Students will have a choice between one- to four-bedroom suites, with one or two private bathrooms, Allen said.

Another resident of Sherley Hall, Jessica Guillory, a freshman fashion merchandising major, said she likes the fact

that the new rooms will have more privacy.

Allen said the suites will be fully furnished and living rooms will be equipped with a couch, entertainment center and one or two Micro-Fridges.

Bedrooms will also have a built-in closet, a full-size bed and a bookcase, Allen said.

The bed frames will be wooden, which Allen said are more durable than the metal

frames found in the Grand-Marc at Westberry Place.

The new desks have a dark wood finish with a roll-away portion that could be used as a night stand, Allen said.

If budget allows, Allen said Residential Services would like to buy "task chairs" to replace regular wooden desk chairs.

The "task chairs" can be taken apart to create a small table or can be used as a gaming chair.

Council debates changes to grade appeals process

By **VALERIE COOPER**
Staff Reporter

The Undergraduate Council discussed a proposal Friday that increases the number of members on the University Appeals Committee and shortens the amount of time students have to file appeals but ultimately decided to table the decision until the February meeting.

David Whillock, chairman of the University Appeals Committee, and Bonnie Melhart, associate provost for academic affairs, have been working with a faculty task force and the rest of the committee since the fall to revise the current system students use to appeal received grades.

"We're keeping the old policy, for the most part, but we're fixing inconsistencies and explaining it better," Melhart said at Friday's meeting.

Whillock said problems in the system became apparent last summer when there weren't enough committee members on campus to hear student appeals.

It was also unfair for graduate students undergoing the appeal process because "the committee should be a group of peers," Whillock said, and there are no graduate students currently on the committee.

The proposed committee would consist of three staff members, two undergraduate students, three graduate students and 12 faculty members, six of whom would have graduate-faculty status, doubling the current number of members. Five members will hear any one appeal.

"A larger group just gives us more people to choose from," Whillock said.

The proposed system also shortened the amount of time students have to initiate a grade appeal. Under the current system, students may appeal a grade until the final drop date of the subsequent fall or spring semester. Under

See **APPEALS**, page 2

OVERCOMING TERRORISM

International student featured on CBS after Russian attack

By **JENIGHI POWELL**
Staff Reporter

For sophomore Dariya Fadeeva and other residents in Beslan, Russia, every shot fired was aimed at someone they loved.

For Fadeeva, that someone was her sister Alia.

On the day of the attack, Fadeeva remembers helping her 12-year-old sister with her hair before the nationally celebrated first day of school. Known as the Day of Knowledge, the event is meant to celebrate peace and friendship.

However, on Sept. 1, 2004, the small town of Beslan would not be celebrating like the rest of Russia.

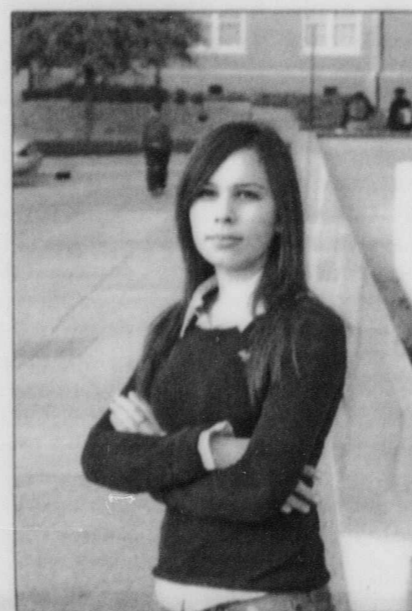
Terrorists from the nearby republic of Chechnya took control of the local school, filled with 1,200 children, parents and teachers, for three days. Fadeeva and other Beslan citizens watched in horror as the terrorists forced the hostages into a gymnasium and barricaded themselves inside using humans as shields.

"Everyone had someone in this school, someone that they knew," Fadeeva said. "This just touched everyone."

A desire to encourage cultural understanding led Fadeeva to CBS News reporter Jonathan Sanders, and eventually TCU.

Sanders, who is fluent in Russian, traveled to Beslan to interview residents for a documentary called "Three Days in September" about the attack. Fadeeva saw Sanders sitting by the Beslan City Hall and approached him, speaking English as a dare by one of her friends.

"We talked for a while," Sanders said. "I said to her, 'Tell me about



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor

Dariya Fadeeva, international economics major, witnessed a terrorist attack in her hometown of Beslan, Russia, on Sept. 1, 2004. She was also featured in a documentary called "Three Days in September" on CBS News.

your life in English."

Sanders and the other film producers thought Fadeeva's story would make a great interview in the documentary. He spent months with Fadeeva and her family while recording interviews by her and many other residents. She also narrated some parts of the siege reenacted for the film.

"Dariya is a natural communicator," Sanders said, "She understands the universality of what her sister went through."

In May, Fadeeva traveled to Tribeca Film Festival in New York City, where the documentary was being screened.

There, she met more members of the CBS News team including TCU alumnus Bob Schieffer. He suggested Fadeeva consider attending TCU.

Since Fadeeva had already attended school in the United States once



MCTCAMPUS

The bullet-scarred interior of School No. 1 in Beslan, Russia, shown on Feb. 25, 2005. Thirty-two terrorists attacked the school on Sept. 1, 2004.

— as an exchange student in Eules she visited her host family and toured the TCU campus.

"The first day, I knew that I was going to love this life," Fadeeva said, beaming.

Her host mother, Susan Thompson, had the same impression as Fadeeva.

"I think the people impressed her most," Thompson said. "Everyone was so helpful. I think she liked the fact that she felt so welcome."

Karen Scott, director of international admissions, said she was impressed with Fadeeva's unique background. She said Fadeeva has a strong sense of determination and persistence.

"She's done things that most 18-year-olds can't even fathom," Scott said.

Freshman Amanda Goss, a friend of Fadeeva's, believes that TCU is the right school for Fadeeva.

See **BESLAN**, page 2

Local eatery, student hangout closes; future of spot uncertain

By **NATHAN BASS**
Staff Reporter

The pending sale of Jons Grille to Fuzzy's Taco Shop fell through, ending weeks of rumors and speculation of the possible move.

The owners of Fuzzy's were originally going to take over the location, said former Jons Grille owner Janis Meyerson, 64. However, the owners have lost interest in buying the space during the last few weeks.

"I had talked to Fuzzy's Tacos about a sale several years ago, but decided I wasn't ready to sell it yet," Meyerson said. "I offered them the first chance to

buy it this time but now the sale is up in the air. I'm disappointed that they didn't take it because I thought it would be a good fit for all parties." After serving the TCU-area community for 18 years, Jons Grille shut its doors for the final time on Dec. 21.

Meyerson said she decided to sell the grill when she was unable to find another family member to take over the business for her.

"It was a neat experience," Meyerson said. "I had a great time and met some great people, but I got to the point where it was time to stop and move on. I'd like to have a

life again."

Meyerson's brother, Jon Meyerson, opened the restaurant in 1988. After he died in 2001, Meyerson said she planned to run the restaurant for five years and then pass it on to another family member.

However, she said, she couldn't find anyone who lived close enough to take over. Many students said they were sad to see Jons go.

"I was disappointed when I found out Jons Grille was sold," said Oscar Restrepo, a junior psychology major. "I really hated to lose one of my favorite restaurants around TCU."

Tyler Ferguson, a junior music education major, said he

shared Restrepo's sentiment. "They had good food, fair prices and I really enjoyed getting to eat there," Ferguson said.

As to what will replace Jons, Meyerson said she is unsure.

Although Meyerson said she will enjoy her newfound freedom, she acknowledged all of the people who came into the restaurant over the years.

"I'll miss all the students and faculty that came into the Grille," Meyerson said. "I was very impressed with them over the years, and I really enjoyed their company. I had a lot of fun with the whole experience, and it was a fun challenge."



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor

Brad Bigby, freshman business major, walks in front of a vacant Jons Grille. The restaurant was open for 18 years and closed its doors Dec. 21.

WEATHER

TODAY: Mostly Cloudy, 49/36
WEDNESDAY: Partly Cloudy, 52/35
THURSDAY: Sunny, 55/32

PECULIAR FACT

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — Terrie Berenden, a pet shop owner in the southern Dutch town of Zelhem, created a beer for her dogs made from beef extract and malt.
— Associated Press

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NEWS: 2008 presidential candidates start fundraising, page 4
OPINION: Handbags could be a health hazard, page 3
SPORTS: Bill Parcells resigns as Cowboys head coach, page 6

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BESLAN

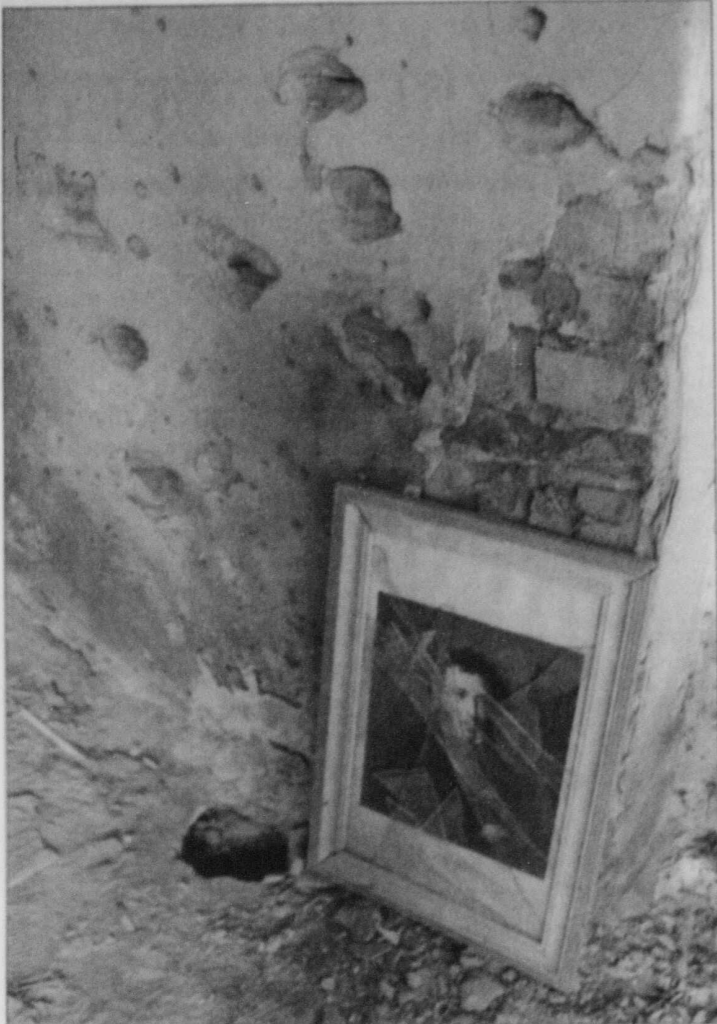
From page 1

"She is always laughing, full of energy, and up for anything," Goss said. "She is loving TCU, and I know that she plans to make the most of her time here."

The siege, now called Russia's Sept. 11, gave Fadeeva a

strong desire to learn more about international affairs, which she is pursuing as an international economics major. The CBS News team, which she calls her CBS family, has inspired Fadeeva to minor in journalism.

"It's just amazing that people from so far away can care so much about what happened in Beslan," Fadeeva said.



MCTCAMPUS

A shattered portrait of the Russian writer and poet Alexander Pushkin sits in the bullet-scarred main hallway of No. 1 in Beslan, Russia.

APPEALS

From page 1

the proposed system, students would have five days after receiving their grades to appeal to their teachers and five subsequent days to appeal to the faculty chair or dean of the school the course is in and the appeals committee, respectively.

"It allows for a better mindset for both the faculty member and the student to go through the process more quickly," Whillock said.

Most importantly, Melhart said, the proposal outlines

exactly how students appeal, clearly explaining each step in the process.

"Before, it was just more jumbled up, and now we're trying to sort it all out," Whillock said. "Having everything in writing makes it easier for everyone to be on the same page."

Council members voted to table the discussion until additional concerns could be addressed in the proposal.

One of the issues was when a student's five-day limit began. Since grades are posted online, professors don't know when the students see

them. Furthermore, if a student appeals in the summer, a faculty member might not be able to be reached in a reasonable amount of time.

Students were also concerned they would not be able to initiate the process in such a short amount of time.

"If you have a medical or family emergency come up, you're not going to think about appealing within five days," said Sydney Jones, senior fashion merchandising and advertising/public relations double major. "If that happens with this rule, you're stuck."

There were also concerns

about the difference between officially appealing and simply inquiring about a grade.

Suggested revisions to the proposal included a formal appeal form for students to submit online and a longer amount of time for students to appeal.

The council will discuss the updated proposal at the Feb. 16 meeting. The Graduate Council and the University Council must also approve the proposal before it goes into effect.

"We're never going to be able to make everyone happy," Whillock said. "But we did get some good feedback."

Diminishing clout presents challenges for Bush

By RON HUTCHESON
McClatchy Newspapers

Facing a hostile Congress and a skeptical public, President Bush will use his State of the Union speech Tuesday to try to leverage his rapidly diminishing clout behind a series of new proposals.

In his seventh annual address to Congress, Bush will offer to work with lawmakers on a handful of domestic issues while urging them to support his plans for Iraq. He'll call for expanding health-insurance coverage, tout a foreign guest-worker program and offer initiatives intended to slow global warming.

But he's never gone to Capitol Hill under such difficult circumstances, and he's so weak politically that his effort to set the national agenda is unlikely to succeed, for Democrats

didn't win power to follow his lead.

He'll speak at 9 p.m. EST to a Congress controlled by his political opponents and to a national television audience that's lost confidence in him. A new ABC News-Washington Post poll released Monday found that Bush was more unpopular on the eve of this State of the Union speech than any president since Richard Nixon in 1974, during the Watergate scandal.

Nearly two-thirds of Americans say they disapprove of Bush's job performance.

Restive Republicans in Congress are increasingly willing to desert him. On Monday, Sen. John Warner of Virginia and two other Republicans, Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Norm Coleman of Minnesota, said they'd offer a Senate resolution opposing the president's plan to send more U.S. troops to Iraq.

Warner, the former chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and a former Navy secretary, is one of the most influential lawmakers on military issues. His split with Bush on Iraq could help convince other Republicans to break with the White House.

Separately, Republicans in the House of Representatives called Monday for the president to report monthly on Iraq to a new bipartisan committee that will monitor the situation there. After six years in which House Republicans saluted virtually everything Bush did, this too reflects ebbing confidence in his war policy.

In yet another sign of Bush's shrinking power, 10 chief executive officers from some of America's largest corporations visited Washington to press for a more aggressive policy against global warming. They didn't wait to hear the president's speech, issuing

a public letter urging him to do much more, as many members of Congress propose. White House Press Secretary Tony Snow said Bush's proposals wouldn't go as far as the CEOs sought.

"It's uphill for the president. Democrats are really the ones choosing which issues get talked about," said Sarah Binder, a political science professor at George Washington University. "He really wants and needs to put his imprint on the domestic policy agenda."

Bush is expected to acknowledge the political realities by focusing on issues that might win Democratic support.

His health-care plan would expand coverage by offering new tax breaks for basic medical insurance while imposing new taxes on the most generous plans. Generous plans would be treated as a taxable fringe benefit.

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Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis.

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Nina Totenberg

National Public Radio Political Analyst and Legal Affairs Correspondent

Wednesday, January 24, 2007
3:30 pm student forum, 6:00 pm Keynote address
Ed Landreth Auditorium
Texas Christian University

The event is free and open to the public.

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Johannah Hamilton

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Anahita Kallianiva

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JOHN-LAUR

MARCUS M

ANDREW C



Don't knock the weather. If it didn't change once in a while, nine out of 10 people couldn't start a conversation.

— Kin itubbard

THE SKIFF VIEW

Limited appeal time smart

One thing worse than getting a bad grade in a class is getting that bad grade when you don't think you deserved it.

Addressing that discrepancy between whether a student's perceived academic performance in a class and the actual letter grade he or she received are one in the same has been an issue in a recent discussion topic for the Undergraduate Council.

The council is discussing whether to shorten the period of time that students have in order to file a grade appeal to five days, a good decision on the council's part.

This process would also benefit the faculty members who are involved in grade disputes.

Any disputed grade would therefore have to be challenged in a reasonable amount of time so that the issues in question would still be fresh on the minds of everyone involved.

That's just a matter of fairness to faculty members.

It also means that students will now bear greater responsibility in initiating the process — which is how it should be anyway.

Students bear that responsibility all semester long; this process shouldn't be any different once the semester has been completed.

The council met Friday to make a decision but decided to table the issue until nuances in the policy could be fully addressed.

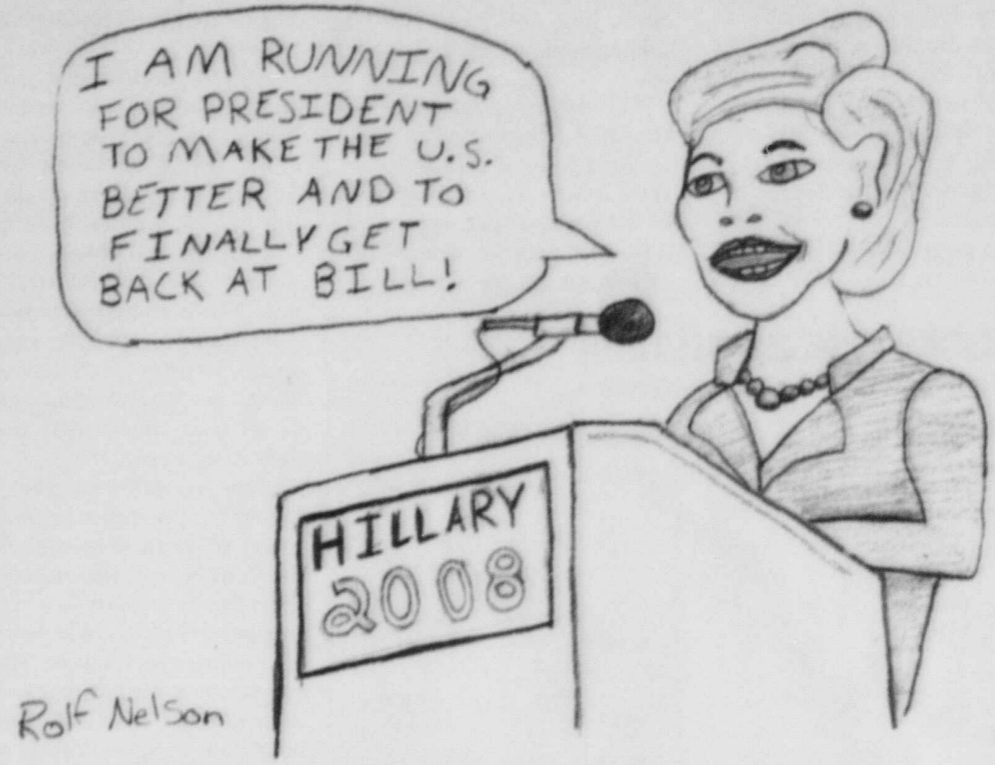
The council's decision to table the issue should be applauded given the past problems that have arisen with the process last semester, such as lack of members to hear student appeals.

This time, the council is determined to get it right.

Its diligence will benefit all students in the long run but only as long as students take the initiative to take advantage of the improved appeals process and not waste time voicing their concerns about their grades.

News editor Andrew Chavez for the editorial board.

OOFSPOOF BY ROLF NELSON



Rolf Nelson

Don't let prejudices determine who your election votes favor

There is a lot in life I have come to realize I don't understand. I think that's what education is supposed to do: teach you



Jannah Hamilton

COMMENTARY how much you don't know. And, while I can respect the opinions of others, I have a more difficult time when these opinions are based on, well, prejudices.

Am I naïve to think we have come further than this? I am beginning to think so.

Working in a bookstore has made me somewhat of a liberal, tree-hugging hippie. I'm not sure if that's a good thing or a bad thing, but I do think that it forces me out of my normal surroundings and makes me think about affairs outside of myself.

Most recently, I read Barack Obama's "The Audacity of Hope." If people our age would read this book, I have no doubt that it would give them hope for what is possible in our time and a place from which to start changing the world.

Why do you vote for someone? What qualifications do you think are necessary? If you listed white and male, I am disappointed.

I have heard many people of both sexes say they will vote for Hillary Clinton and many more who say they will not.

Whether or not it was in jest, they cited the fact that she is a woman as their deciding factor. As much as I would love for a woman to be president, and I think we are behind the times in not having had one, I must urge you to look again at what the candidate does and not his or her name or reproductive capacity.

Forget classifications, forget labels and look at what these candidates want to do about things that matter to you. Cutting student loan interest rates, the global economy, women's rights, men's rights, the environment and many other issues will be important in this election, as well they should be.

I have to wonder if we are ready to understand this great responsibility that we have: to vote. Some people say if you're old enough to go to war,

you're old enough to vote, indicating you need only be 18. As residents of Texas, or mere visitors, we saw how much of a difference the "college-age" vote can make, considering we were the ones who voted for Kinky — and why the hell not?

But then I met a man who questioned my minor obsession with Barack Obama because his name sounded like Osama. What's in a name and does it matter?

Whether you're a Democrat, Republican or you fall somewhere in between, you have an obligation to exercise your right to vote responsibly. We cannot forget it is not who you are or what you look like, it is what you do.

How are our prejudices of today different from the ones we have held in years past, or did we ever fully give them up? Do we still question a person's moral character based on the color of his or her skin or sex, or do we see a person in light of his or her potential? I cannot help but wonder where we would be if we didn't have our prejudices.

Jannah Hamilton is a senior

Polar bear's environment shows extent of global warming's effects

The threat of global warming keeps manifesting itself in ways we would be foolish to ignore.

Just recently, the Bush administration proposed to put polar bears on a federal threatened species list, and scientists learned that a 41-square-mile Arctic ice shelf had broken away from Ellesmere Island on Canada's northernmost shore.

In both cases, higher Arctic temperatures are widely believed to be the agent of change. Many scientists say the rising temperatures are the product of global warming that results, at least in part, from increased emissions of carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse gases" from vehicle tailpipes, power plants and other sources.

U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne has proposed officially declaring the polar bears "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. Melting sea ice is shrinking the frozen platforms from which the beloved Arctic icons hunt seals and other prey. Researchers have observed thinner bears and lower survival rates for their offspring. Some bears have been observed swimming

great distances, and at least a handful have drowned. Some starving bears might have engaged in cannibalism.

The breakaway Ayles Ice Shelf is the size of 11,000 football fields and one of only six major ice shelves left in Canada's Arctic, according to an Associated Press report. Scientists say Ayles' breaking away is an indicator of climate change.

The reports regarding the polar bears and the ice shelf are further evidence that Congress and the White House need to look seriously at adopting regulations to curb emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases.

Scientists say global warming could cause catastrophes ranging from flooding of heavily populated coastal cities in some areas to expansion of deserts in others. The negative impact on humans, wildlife and crops could be devastating, scientists and environmentalists warn.

Some scientists and political leaders question global warming theories, saying the jury is still out on the issue. Indeed, no one can say precisely how much the Earth is warming, how fast it is heating up and how much of the temperature rise results from human activity. We

would be foolish, however, to ignore the threat, particularly when the United States is the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases. Failing to do anything could have disastrous consequences and hurt our standing among other nations that are taking more aggressive actions to deal with the problem.

Some states, notably California, already have adopted environmental regulations to scale back emissions of greenhouse gases. The U.S. Supreme Court recently heard arguments in a case in which 12 states have challenged the federal Environmental Protection Agency's refusal to restrict greenhouse-gas emissions from new vehicles under the Clean Air Act. EPA officials contend that the act doesn't give them such authority.

Meanwhile, the troubled polar bears and breakaway ice shelf are providing us ample warning that global warming is no longer an issue to be taken up in some distant future year. Congress and the White House must begin seriously addressing it now because the solutions won't come overnight.

This editorial appeared in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on Jan. 5. This article was distributed by MCT.

High-fashion handbags bring along heavy burden

With the new year in full swing, many orders of business fall upon our shoulders. Aside from resolutions we may not keep and weather predictions from a groundhog,

COMMENTARY



Anahita Kallantova

the heaviest of those orders are high-fashion handbags.

A fashion accessory trend that began with designer labels and recognizable patterns has snowballed into a larger-than-life craze. Handbags that used to designate an extreme awareness of fashion, such as Dooney & Bourke and Coach, are now worn by a large number of women.

Not only are college students and working women strapping their arms through more bags, the bags themselves are getting larger. According to an article from About.com, major designers are "pushing larger, structured bags in shapes from bowling bags to satchels to totes and doctors' bags."

For these bags, you'll spend upward of \$150, but don't rule out the additional expense of a doctor's visit for your sore shoulder and

tired back.

Bigger bags and longer straps create extra leverage that may spell health problems for women, according to Martin Roberts' article in Reuters Life! These problems include neck, shoulder and back pain.

William Case, a private-practice physical therapist of Houston, said in the Reuters article that "an aggravated neck or shoulder can lead to upper back problems." Then the pain can be felt in a range of activities — from working at a computer to playing sports.

Whether it's worth the hassle, it's up to every fashionista to decide for herself, but I'd say it's time to bring our bagging styles back down to earth. The good news, said handbag expert Pamela Pekerman, of Bag-Trends.com, is the bags are getting smaller this season.

Still, with great power comes great responsibility. With the packing capacity of a super-large tote, women have to be careful not to overstuff. Proud owners of big bags should be careful to keep their cargo to the essentials.

For college students, it's convenient to carry an ID holder that will fit onto your keyring, and, with that ensemble, you have all your daily must-haves in the palm of your hand.

If you're too attached to your designer purse to part ways with it, change up the size and weight of the ones you carry. Along with this, always practice good posture — bag on your shoulder or not. Case recommended keeping the head and shoulders aligned upright. Even if your posture doesn't last the whole day, it's sure to momentarily relieve the pressure. And keep in mind Case's recommendation for schoolchildren and backpacks — keep the load within 10 percent to 15 percent or less of your body weight.

Temporary pain alleviation can come from massages, rest and anti-inflammatory medicines, but the only permanent solution lies in changes as big as our purses. So unless we want to carry around books on our heads, we better shape down our bags, straighten our postures and lighten the load.

Anahita Kallantova is an English and psychology major from Fort Worth. Her column appears every Tuesday.



MCT/CAMPUS

JOHN-LAURENT TRONCHE

LINDSEY BEVER

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Oil prices decline; national average sits at \$2.16/gallon

By KEVIN G. HALL
McClatchy Newspapers

After a year of oil prices so high that analysts warned they might hit \$100 a barrel soon, prices are falling, financial speculators are running for the exits and analysts are pondering whether oil could fall below \$30 a barrel by spring.

Oil cost \$41 a barrel on average in July 2004, when

its price began its long climb. It's not farfetched to think that it might fall back to that soon. Back then, gasoline sold nationally for about \$1.90 a gallon.

There's no guarantee that it'll happen again, but several factors point to at least a few months of lower oil and gasoline prices:

— Oil production globally is no longer drum-

tight. A warm winter eased demand and a mild hurricane season allowed damaged production to come back on line. That weakens sellers.

— Oil producers are in some disarray now that it's a buyer's market. A few vocal OPEC members want to cut production to shore up slumping prices, but OPEC's most important producer, Saudi Arabia, has nixed that for now. Saudi Arabia now boasts 3 million barrels per day of spare production capacity, after two years when global oil supplies barely could match demand.

Some analysts suggest privately that Saudi opposition to OPEC cuts is based more on politics than business. The Saudis, they say, want to stave off Iran's need for oil revenue because Saudi rulers are Sunni Muslims and increasingly worried about Iran's backing of fellow Shiite Muslims who rule Iraq.

Lower prices will spell relief at the pump for American consumers, at least for the short term. Oil dipped

briefly below \$50 a barrel last week and, after volatile trading Monday, closed at \$51.13. Gasoline prices lag falling oil prices by a few weeks, but the AAA Motor Club reported Monday that the nationwide average for a gallon of unleaded gasoline stood at \$2.16. That's down 18 cents from just a month ago.

Falling oil prices make it cheaper to drive, heat a home, run an airline or deliver packages overnight. Lower oil prices, if sustained, should make airline tickets cheaper and lower the costs of shipping packages.

Predicting future oil prices depends not only on production and consumption trends but also on money managers who have pumped billions of dollars into contracts for future oil delivery. These institutional investors include hedge funds — investment pools for the very wealthy — as well as companies that manage pension funds and 401(k) retirement plans.

Two decades ago, oil was largely sold by producers to direct users such as airlines,

trucking companies and manufacturers, who took delivery of the oil. Today, more than 500 financial "energy funds" buy and sell contracts for future delivery of oil, or futures. These investors have put anywhere from \$70 billion to \$150 billion into oil trading in recent years, according to estimates. They don't want the oil; they just want to profit from trading in it.

"Once oil leaves the ground, whether it is in Saudi Arabia or in Texas, it is in the hands of speculators," said Fadel Gheit, an energy analyst in New York for Oppenheimer & Co., a financial services firm.

When global production was barely sufficient to meet demand, oil prices rose on the slightest hiccup in politically unstable oil-producing nations such as Nigeria or even tiny Ecuador. Oil peaked at \$78.10 a barrel last July.

Today, the question is how far prices might fall, and institutional investors may hold the answer. With oil

prices falling, their investments face growing risk.

"If pension funds decide they don't want to take the risk anymore and bail out, we could see prices go a hell of a lot lower," said Philip Verleger, an oil economist who's gained a reputation for early warnings on oil-price swings. "I think prices could dip below \$30 (a barrel). It really depends on what these pension funds do."

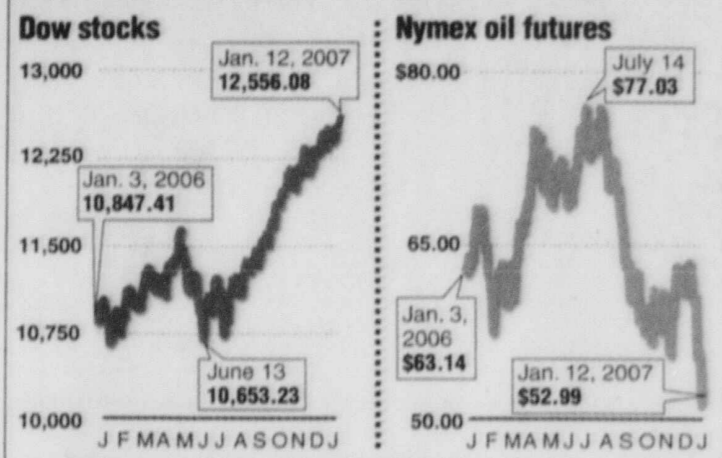
"You have the possibility for a significant break in prices," agreed Bill O'Grady, assistant director of market analysis for A.G. Edwards & Sons, a financial services company.

Still, O'Grady cautioned, consumers shouldn't expect energy prices to stay low for long.

"What a consumer is really looking at is a world where oil prices are going to be a lot more volatile," he said. "It is a world where there's just a lot more risk on both sides. When consumers hear risk they think of prices going up. When producers hear risk, they hear prices going down. And they're both right."

Stocks rise as oil falls

Daily closing prices on the Dow and Nymex:



Source: Yahoo! Finance, U.S. Energy Information Administration
Graphic: Pat Carr © 2007 MCT

Presidential candidates get early start on 2008 fundraising

By MIKE DORNING
Chicago Tribune

The Iowa caucuses that kick off the presidential campaign are nearly a year away. But Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., and the rest of the candidates have no time to lose.

To wage a serious presidential campaign in 2008, the ante is \$50 million raised by Dec. 31 of this year, said one Obama adviser. Some of the leading candidates are gearing up to raise at least \$100 million by then.

Those are daunting figures. To make the \$100 million mark in a year, a candidate must bring in an average of near-

ly \$2 million a week. That's \$274,000 a day, including Sundays and holidays, all of it raised in increments legally limited to no more than \$2,100 per person.

"Every single day, the biggest part of your day is fundraising. Fundraising is going to take up more of your time than sleep if you're a candidate," said Democratic strategist Tad Devine, who advised presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., in 2004.

Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson joined in the competition for campaign money

over the weekend, announcing their own presidential exploratory committees less than a week after Obama entered the race, highlighting the competition for campaign funds.

In this election, candidates will court well-heeled, well-connected supporters who can bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars from wealthy friends and business contacts. They will commute back and forth among New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Palm Beach, Fla., and other money centers for mammoth events that in some cases may raise \$1 million or more in an evening.

They will hone sophisticated marketing campaigns that use Internet sites, Web videos and e-mail to galvanize large followings of dedicated supporters whose modest individual contributions can add up to staggering sums.

Federal Election Commission member Michael Toner predicted "an unprecedented fundraising sprint during the first six months of this year, with candidates raising up to \$50 million to \$60 million by the end of June and \$100 million by the end of the year."

Presidential election campaigns regularly set new records

for their cost. But this time, there is an extraordinary confluence of forces that most political professionals believe will drive the costs of the early primary campaigns especially high.

The primary schedule is highly front-loaded. In the Democratic Party, contests are tentatively scheduled in Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire and South Carolina within a 15-day span next January.

So instead of the traditional focus on Iowa and New Hampshire, most top-tier candidates are expected to mount early full-fledged campaigns in all four states, with costly field operations, television advertising and travel back and forth among more locations. Moreover, because the contests are so close together on the calendar, there is less time to use a strong showing in one state to raise money for the campaigns in the others.

At the same time, the field of candidates is unusually crowded in both parties, with no incumbent president or vice president running for the first time since 1952, creating an open field. With such a large pack of candidates, a big campaign treasury demonstrates political strength that helps a candidate gain attention from the media and voters.

"You're not the only person competing for voters' attention, so you're going to have to be louder, more provocative, more consistent in your message and that's going to cost a lot of money," said Chip Smith, deputy campaign manager for Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore in 2000.

Those candidates who choose to accept public financing, which provides matching payments for the first \$250 of each individual contribution, will be limited to spending slightly over \$40 million in their campaigns for the 2008 nomination and also must abide by state-by-state spending limits that inhibit the resources they can devote to crucial early primaries and caucuses.

George W. Bush opted out of the public financing system in 2000 and went on to win the Republican nomination and the presidency. Kerry and Howard Dean declined public financing for the 2004 primary

and went on to lead the Democratic field that year.

Most campaign consultants now believe the public financing system places crippling limits on a presidential primary campaign and do not expect the leading candidates to accept matching funds.

Most candidates and campaign advisers deliberately play down expectations for fundraising to avoid perceptions that their campaigns are under-performing should they fall short.

But a confidential campaign strategy memo prepared for former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who is considering a run for the Republican nomination, leaked to the media recently and offered an inside glimpse of his fundraising plans. His advisers calculated he would need to raise \$100 million by Dec. 31 of 2007. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, a Republican who has created an exploratory committee for a presidential run, has set a goal of \$100 million by the end of the year.

Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, starts with more than \$14 million left over from her Senate campaign last year that she can transfer directly to her presidential campaign. That, noted one Democratic strategist, "is a considerable down payment toward \$100 million."

Clinton and her husband have been cultivating key Democratic fundraisers and donors since before Bill Clinton's election as president in 1992. And in the Senate, she has represented the nation's most important financial center for more than six years.

Former Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., a presidential primary candidate and vice presidential nominee in 2004, built his funding base for his last campaign and has had plenty of time to nurture it for his current presidential run.

In order to compete, Obama and other candidates have to rapidly assemble their own fundraising networks, filled with the kind of people willing and able to ask friends for big-dollar donations and serve on the host committees that make sure that \$2,100-a-seat fundraising dinners are sold out.



Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., center, walks behind Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., as they leave a news conference of Democratic senators. Obama, along with other possible 2008 presidential candidates, must start fundraising early, as experts predict an upward spike of campaign spending in upcoming primaries.

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TODAY IN HISTORY 1997: The day after her unanimous confirmation by the U.S. Senate, Madeline Albright is sworn in as America's first female secretary of state by Vice President Al Gore at the White House.

WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE Q: Why do they put bells on cows? A: Because their horns don't work.

The Quigmans

by Buddy Hickerson



"Hungry motorists on their lunch hour should be aware of an accident blocking lanes on the 405 involving a big rib."



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9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in.

Directions

Fill in the grid so that every 3x3 box, row and column contains the digits 1 through 9 without repeating numbers.

See Wednesday's paper for answers to today's sudoku.

3x3 grid of numbers for the Sudoku puzzle.

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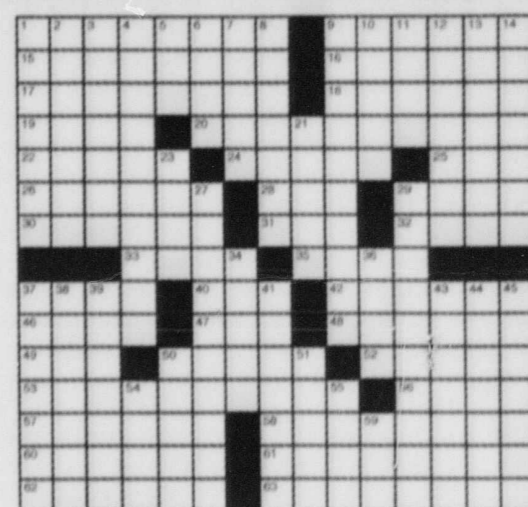
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9 Rascals
15 Cloisone creator
16 Trying experience
17 Cuban dance in duple time
18 Mental confusion
19 Poet's black
20 Straying off the subject
22 Audibly
24 Habituate
25 Cape on the Atlantic
26 Usher after the intermission
28 Printer's measures
29 Bar of soap
30 Soak
31 Chamomile drink
32 Bannad orchard spray
33 Kernel
35 pump
37 Biblical weed
40 Texas tea
42 Tilted
46 Novelist Oz
47 Genetic letters
48 Port on Puget Sound
49 Court divider
50 Who follower
52 Backless sofa
53 Quadrilaterals with two parallel sides
56 Look after
57 Functioning
58 Imaginary
60 Winding machine
61 Go astray
62 Common vipers
63 Goes by again



By Matthew Higgins Concord, NH

Friday's Puzzle Solved grid with words like MAPS, MONAH, HEAT, ASIA, ADORE, ELKO, THELEMONDR, POKID, HERON, ROE, STENO, DVA, NASA, DANNY, PARTRIDGE, ABAS, PRE, TASERS, BET, BLISSIN, NIP, SATIRE, SIS, PICA, MYMOTHER, HEAR, ELSE, SUE, LANAI, ACT, SLAIN, AMAN, CALLED, HORSE, MUNI, SYTER, UNIX, BRAT, PHONY, TEST.

- 3 Train crew's quarters
4 Dictation takers
5 Livestock enclosure
6 Begged
7 Unsettling
8 Classic TV coop show
9 Acrobatic flip
10 Earthenware jar
11 Throws in insurance coverage
13 Easily beaten pugilist, slangily
14 Long and thin
21 Ancient alphabet characters
23 Cousin of a mirror
27 Those who speculate
29 Condensers
34 Wild dog of the Outback
36 Hoover Dam's lake

- 37 Blast from a trumpet
38 Punished with an arbitrary fine
39 Spun
41 In layers
43 Nine-day prayers
44 Come forth
45 Pampers
50 Lop off
51 Earthen brick
54 Heap
55 Dance movement
59 "Rosemary's Baby" author Levin

See Wednesday's paper for answers to today's crossword.

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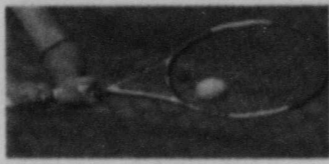
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TENNIS

The women's tennis team continues its search to find a permanent head coach.
TOMORROW

Turnovers problem in Horned Frogs' loss

By **MARCUS MURPHREE**
Sports Editor

Woes on the court continue for the Horned Frogs (10-7, 2-3 conference) as they are facing a three-game losing streak in Mountain West Conference play.

Saturday night, the Frogs' ball-handling problems left them in a bind as the UNLV Rebels (16-4, 3-2 conference) scored 36 of their 75 points off TCU turnovers. Dribbling mishaps and heavy pressure from the Rebels' defense ended up being a cancer to the Frogs' offense.

The Rebels managed to score 20 first-half points off turnovers, leaving the Frogs at an 11-point deficit before retreating to the tunnel at halftime.

"The turnovers really hurt us," head coach Neil Dougherty said. "We gave them too much of a head start."

During the losing streak, the team has made less than 50 percent of its shots from the field, but from the ashes of defeat, junior forward Alvarado Parker has emerged as a force in the paint.

The past two games, Parker scored 33 points and made 21 rebounds while notching his first career 20-point game against the Rebels.

"I try to do my part, but we still need to step up to result in a win," Parker said.

Parker's performance has earned praise from Neil Dougherty.

"He just keeps getting better," Neil Dougherty said. "He's still new and just doesn't know how good he is, and he'll only get better from this point on."

The Frogs are part of a three-way tie with the Wyoming Cowboys and the San Diego State Aztecs for fourth place in the conference. Had the Frogs won both home games last week, they would be in sole possession of second place in the conference.

"We're catching everyone's hot streak with who's shooting the ball," Neil Dougherty said.

A pair of road games face the Frogs this week. Tonight, they take the court in Colorado Springs, Colo., against the No. 13/11 Air Force Falcons and Saturday, they take on the Wyoming Cowboys.

Returning from a losing streak against a ranked opponent is not of great concern to the Frogs, senior point guard Neil P. Dougherty said.

"I don't think we're too down about it, but we have work in front of us," he said.

While on the road this season, the Frogs are 1-3, but a home crowd is not necessarily always advantageous for the squad.

"We are not a different animal at home," Neil Dougherty said. "We are the same creature no matter where we play."



Alvarado Parker drives the lane against the UNLV defense. Parker scored 20 points and pulled down 13 rebounds as TCU lost 75-66 to the Rebels on Saturday night.

Parcells shocks fans, announces retirement

By **MAC ENGEL**
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

The familiar beige Lincoln Town car still sits in the same parking spot at Valley Ranch.

And, if you didn't know it, Bill Parcells was still working on the off-season plans for the Dallas Cowboys inside his office. But he obviously isn't. More likely, he's cleaning out some of the superstitious elephants in his office.

The 65-year-old coach is retiring.

In a move only a few predicted, Parcells' decision to leave the Cowboys and the NFL caught most people by surprise.

"Shocked," Cowboys linebacker Bradie James said. "We talked two Fridays ago, and I asked Bill, 'Do you want my opinion?' He said, 'Sure.' I told him, 'Bill, you put all these guys together, and I'm sure you're not going to let another guy come in here and be so successful with your guys.'"

"He said, 'You're right.' Then he said, 'There are other things. I'm getting too old. I don't want to be a guy that the game passed him by.'"

A coaching search has begun. Current Bears defensive coordinator Ron Rivera and former Cowboys offensive coordinator Norv Turner have already expressed interest in the job.

Parcells leaves with one year remaining on his contract worth an approximate \$5.5 million. NFL sources said Parcells did not receive any of that money to leave.

He also leaves the Cowboys with an incomplete ending. In four seasons with the Cowboys, he compiled a 34-30 record during the regular season. Under Parcells, there were no division titles. No home playoff games. And they were 0-2 in the post-season.

But there was some thought that given the events over the past two weeks Parcells would return for a fifth season. He had been at work every day. There was a tentative plan to travel to the Senior Bowl this week in Mobile, Ala. He was unhappy when the Seattle Seahawks were granted permission to talk to special teams coach Bruce DeHaven without his knowledge.

"I was (at Valley Ranch)

every day getting treatment on my shoulder and I saw him every day. I figured his intentions were to come back," linebacker Ryan Fowler said. "I think that may have been the case but then at the last minute he changed his mind."

There was rampant speculation in the past two days that Parcells was working on a contract extension. But as recently as last month Parcells was telling friends that he had no interest in working beyond 2007.

He had made no secret that at age 65, he was feeling his age. That he desired to spend more time with his grandchildren. And although he rarely spoke of it, Parcells obviously didn't want to coach receiver Terrell Owens another day, let alone another season.

"I would say it made Bill think a little bit more. He struggled and going back and forth with it," James said. "I'll say this: I think it played a part. But to be honest, I don't know. Yeah, T.O. brought a lot of media attention, but he (played hard) on the field. Nobody was really surprised by some of the things that happened."

Panthers receiver Keyshawn Johnson, who played for Parcells both with the Jets and Cowboys, said, "Maybe if he stayed one more year, they might get there. They were close. I'm sure it wasn't easy dealing with the other guy (Owens)."

Assuming the Dallas Cowboys are the final team Parcells coaches, he leaves behind a legacy of two Super Bowl wins and having turned around four franchises. But his final seasons, and specifically with the Cowboys, never measured to the start. He hadn't won a playoff game since 1998.

He finishes with a 183-138-1 record in 19 NFL seasons.

"I think turning teams around and making them competitive — that was his greatest impact on this game," Johnson said. "I don't think the Giants were that good when he went there. He took them to the Super Bowl. Same thing with the Patriots. He turned around the Jets. He turned around the Cowboys. He leaves a team that to me it seems like can compete next year. That's how I view it."

Tennis volleys past competition at Rice

By **TIM BELLA**
Staff Reporter

Strong showings in doubles competition, including a victory over an opponent from a major conference, was one of the promising spots from this past weekend's Met Collegiate Indoor Invitational hosted by Rice University.

The duo of sophomore Krieger Brink and freshman Mike Donovan were able to pull off an 8-4 win against a Clemson team.

Although the team would fall the next day in the round of 16 to Southern Mississippi, 9-7, head coach Dave Borelli said the team has a major upside to its individual games, Donovan said.

"I was really happy that Mike Donovan got a win against an (Atlantic Coast Conference) team," Borelli said.

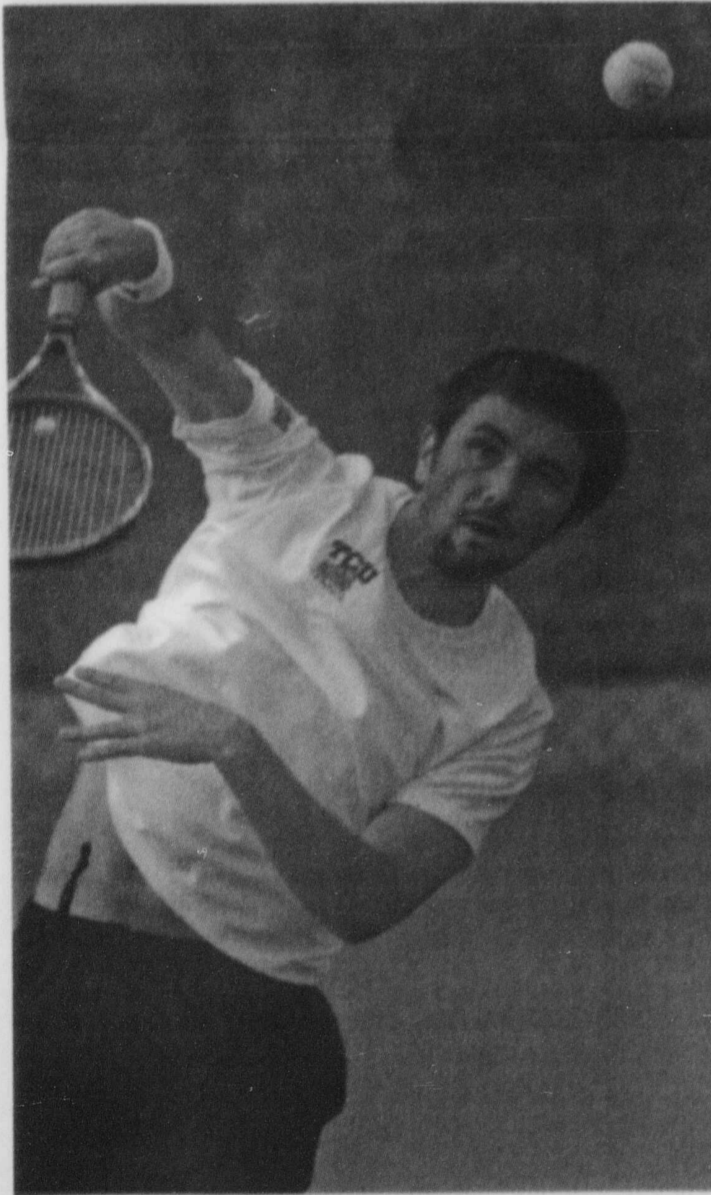
In addition to the success of Brink and Donovan, some of the team's newcomers made a good first impression with teammates by having a strong first tournament. Caleb Bulls and junior Stuart Row were not to be overshadowed as they reached the finals of the doubles consolation championship before falling to a Texas A&M team 8-2.

With TCU ready to host Wednesday matches against Texas-Pan American and Friday matches against Clemson at the Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center, Borelli said that having to practice indoors as well as trying to improve their conditioning after a two-month layoff from active competition have been issues they have been looking to address during their first week back.

"I think we're kind of in a good situation as a team," Borelli said. "Every day, we finish practice, we get better."

Borelli said the team's chemistry is exceptional considering it's still early in the season and said he expects good things in the tournaments to come.

"We are continuing to develop an attitude that we're tough, that we're going to work hard and that we're class while doing it," Borelli said. "That's the most important thing."



Radu Barbu serves during a match last season. TCU men's tennis competed in the Rice Indoor Invitational last weekend after practicing indoors last week.

Flying Frogs soar, despite lack of practice

By **LEIGH ANN WEAVER**
Staff Reporter

The Flying Frogs had a soaring performance at the Razorback Invitational indoor track meet last weekend in Arkansas.

Returning to Fayetteville, Ark., for the second weekend in a row, individual athletes of the Frogs performed at their best.

Training for the meet was minimal due to last week's weather, but even with a sparse practice schedule, the Frogs were able to get light workouts in, head coach Darryl Anderson said.

"During the bad weather, we had the little things to

look forward to in practice," Anderson said.

Some of those little things included a light warm-up and meetings at the University Recreation Center and Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

"We are looking forward to getting back on the track and having a good training period," Anderson said. "I am also looking forward to finishing the indoor season and starting the outdoor season."

Virgil Hodge set two NCAA provisional marks, one in the 200-meter dash with a time of 23.64 seconds, the other in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.43 seconds. Provisional marks are the qualifying sta-

tistics for the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships.

"It was good for Hodge to step up with her qualifying mark," Anderson said.

Dani Selner, a freshman distance runner, won the 3,000-meter race with a time of 10:08.42.

Neidra Covington had notable scores in both the triple jump and long jump with second- and fifth-place finishes. Her triple jump was measured at 12.47 meters.

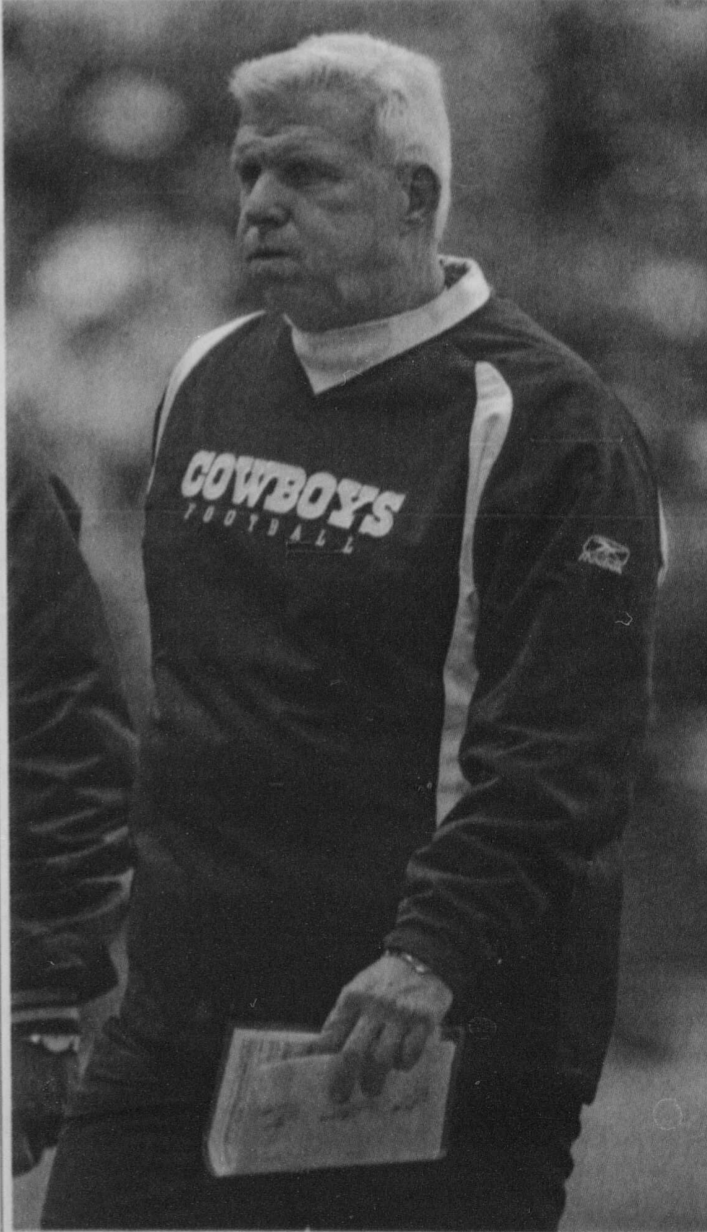
The women's 4x400 relay team recorded an NCAA provisional qualifying mark, along with a school record time of 3:38.11. The team consisted of

senior sprinter Deborah Jones, junior sprinter Marquita Davis, sophomore sprinter and hurdler Kishelle Paul and senior sprinter Nathandra John.

On the men's side, freshman thrower Trey Jordan added a personal-best of a shot-put throw at 16.94 meters, earning him third place overall and his second consecutive placement in collegiate competition.

Senior sprinter Delwayne Delaney ran a 21.48 in the men's 200-meter dash and took first place in the event.

"Overall, I am very pleased that we did better in this meet than at last meet, since that is our goal, to be improving constantly," Anderson said.



Bill Parcells resigned as head coach of the Dallas Cowboys on Monday afternoon. The Cowboys had a 34-32 record and appeared in the playoffs twice in four seasons under Parcells.

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By **BAILEY SH**
Staff Reporter

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By **JOHN BO**
Staff Reporter

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