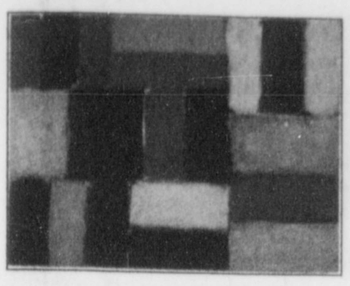


ARTS | 12

WALL OF LIGHT

The Modern hosts internationally renowned artist Sean Scully's latest exhibit.

SPORTS | Coming Tuesday

HOME RUN

See how the baseball team fared in its weekend match ups in Houston.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

WWW.TCUDAILYSKIFF.COM | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006 | VOL. 103, ISSUE 71

College suspends journalism minor, dean says

By DAN McGRAW
Staff Reporter

The College of Communication has suspended the admission of journalism minors for at least a year after the University Council denied the college's request Monday to set a 2.5 minimum GPA for students with minors, the dean of the college said.

The move will not affect students who are currently working toward their minors, he said.

William Slater, the college's dean, said the move was to control enrollment of the majors and minors of the broadcast, news-editorial and advertising/public relations fields that have increased 100 percent over the last year and half, but when the minimum request was denied, the college had to protect its journalism majors.

"I pleaded with them and I thought that I had presented my point well," Slater said. "Instead, they choose not to see it how it is and refused to let us set a limit. I fail to see how the University Council thinks this will benefit the students."

Slater said the enforcement of a 2.5 minimum GPA would have helped alleviate some of the pressure put on by the 578 majors and 150 minors.

Nowell Donovan, the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs and chairman of the University Council, could not immediately be reached at his home or office for comment about the University Council's decision.

SLATER

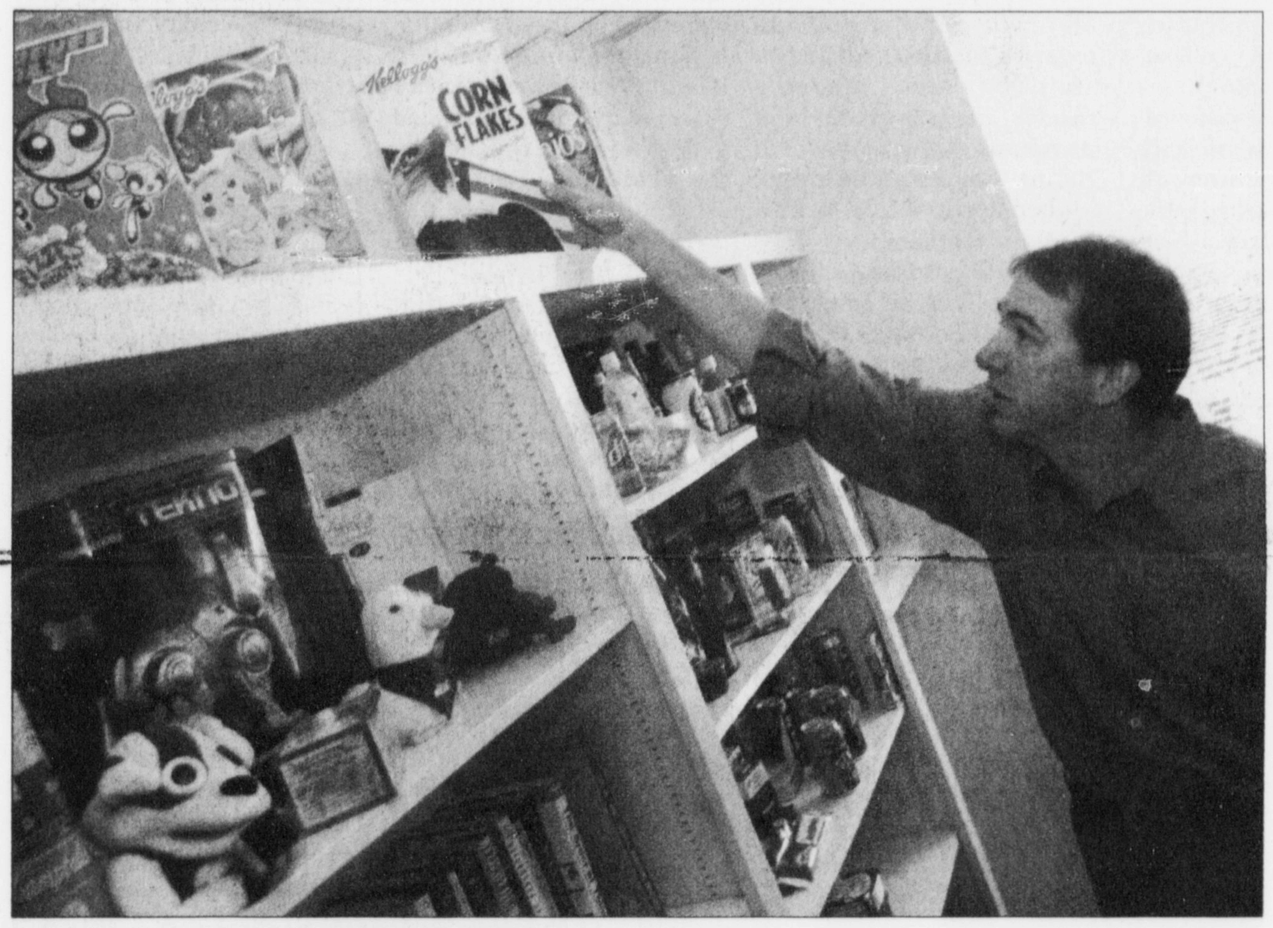
Slater said the minor would only be reopened if the college could find a way to control enrollment and also could find the space to conduct classes, but he did not see relief for either of the problems anytime soon.

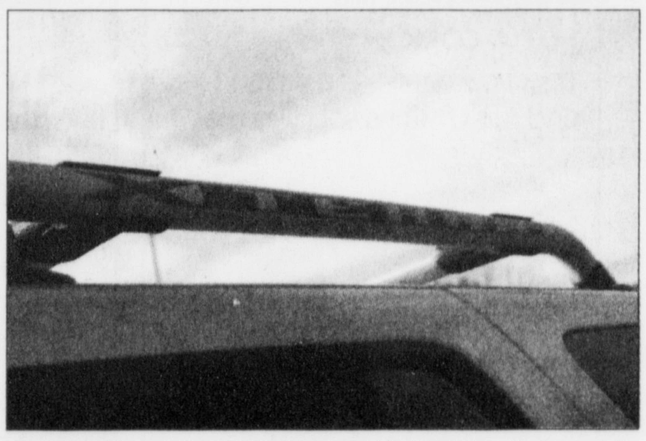
The status of the minor would be evaluated on a semester-to-semester basis, Slater said.

Tommy Thomason, the director of the Schieffer School of Journalism, said a growing media-savvy culture has caused more college-aged students to gravitate toward journalism majors, which has caused majors and minors to increase by 100 percent over the last year and half.

"Most of our small skill classes, which are 15 students or less, are at least partially done on computers," Thomason said. "We don't have a place to teach those classes here or anywhere on campus."

SERVING A SEXUAL SOCIETY





Top photo by TY HALASZ / Photo Editor, bottom photos by LANA HUNT / Chief Photographer

TOP Marketing professor Eric Yorkston displays his massive collection of quirky products, mostly from other countries. **BOTTOM** A recent study by Yorkston surveys the correlation between gender and product naming in the United States, pictured are a Dodge Durango and a Nissan XTerra.

WORLDLY MARKET

Tucked in between Eric Yorkston's psycholinguistic and business strategy books is a mini-grocery store that serves not to provide an afternoon snack, but as a display of his souvenirs from foreign supermarkets.

Yorkston, an assistant professor of marketing, said his work studying brand names has changed his thinking. Because he understands why some names succeed and others fail, he enjoys going to supermarkets that carry between 15,000 and 20,000 different product names.

Here are a few of the products Yorkston has picked up in international and domestic grocery stores:

Alcohol in a juice box with a cartoon character is not something you'll find your average U.S. supermarket, but this saké is a staple in Japan.

Even without Coca-Cola splashed across the can, most U.S. consumers would recognize this bottle with ease despite its being from Nepal.

Campbell's soup dressed up its cans in Pittsburgh with a little hometown art from Andy Warhol, a famous modern artist. Warhol's art was only put on the cans that line Pittsburgh supermarkets.

Traditional haggis is usually served as a mixture of the minced heart, lungs and liver of a sheep or calf, but this San Diego variation is a little different.

DNL is a product name many students wouldn't recognize right side up, but upside down is a different story. DNL, a 7up product, was put on the U.S. market two years ago to compete with Mountain Dew.

Photos by TY HALASZ — DAN McGRAW

Vehicle consumers may follow gender lines, study shows

By DAN McGRAW
Staff Reporter

Ford Broncos are from Mars, Toyota Sequoias are from Venus, or at least that's the thesis of a TCU assistant marketing professor.

Consumers assign gender to products and remember them easier if product names correlate with a perceived gender, said Eric Yorkston, an assistant professor of marketing.

"These are nonconscious or automatic responses," Yorkston said. "So we don't register what these endings mean, but they spark something in our minds. Our languages are filled with these automatic responses from words."

Yorkston's research findings were cowritten with the late Gustavo de Mello, a former University of Southern California doctoral student, and published in the September 2005 issue of the Journal of Consumer Research.

For SUVs, the key is picking a masculine name that fits the rough terrain associated with SUVs, Yorkston said. The names Bronco and Durango are good examples because they both end in "o," the Spanish suffix for masculine, he said.

However, the Toyota Sequoia,

See **PROFESSOR,** page 2

DG denim sale raising money to help charity

By LARRY WOODS II
Staff Reporter

The department store is usually the best place to purchase high-end designer jeans, but don't waste the gas when the Delta Gammas are offering them for half the price right in Worth Hills at the DG house.

The women of Delta Gamma Sorority are set to host their third annual denim sale today from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Liz Sergel, a freshman fashion merchandising major and member of DG, said a number of girls around campus are already wearing designers such as Rock & Republic, Juicy Couture and Paper Denim & Cloth jeans, which will all be available for purchase.

The sale, consisting of reduced-price designer jeans, has collectively grossed $5,000 from the previous two years, Sergel said.

"The jeans are normally priced around $160," Sergel said. "The sale is a good way to possibly get three pairs of jeans for the price of one."

Proceeds from the sale will go to both the Delta Gamma Foundation and Service for Sight, which is a foundation for kids who are unable to afford proper eye care, Sergel said.

The jeans are supplied to the DGs through CharityDenim, which provides the jeans for events that will benefit a charity. CharityDenim is a business that partners with sororities

See **DG,** page 2

TY HALASZ / File Photo

Last year's DG Denim sale drew a slew of students to wait in line outside the Delta Gamma House for bargain jean deals.

Grants helping professors accomplish goals

By DAN McGRAW
Staff Reporter

When one professor wanted to create a field-intensive course, he turned to the Strategic Initiative Fund for assistance.

With a $140,000 grant over three years, Tony Burgess, professor of professional practice, will be able to create a course that will give students the basics of inventory and the knowledge to create a biodiverse environment.

Leo Munson, assistant vice chancellor for academic support, said the Strategic Initiative Fund program, which is approved through the 2009-2010 academic year, will help connect TCU to the residential and business community, but will also help professors to establish courses and programs that might not normally be funded.

"There is just not that much money for deans to try experimental programs," Munson said. "These grants allow us to take risks, but an outcome assessment of each grant is reviewed."

The grant program is broken down into two categories of grants: transformational and pathways for transformation.

According to the VIA Web site, transformational grants are designed to be long-term grants that are expected to establish new programs at the university, while pathways for transformation are smaller grants that are generally intended to be completed in one year or less. The 2006-2007 VIA grants, which have a deadline of March 24, will have an estimated budget of

See **VIA,** page 2

FDA encourages warning labels for all attention deficit drugs

By ANDREW BRIDGES
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ritalin and other stimulant drugs for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder should carry the strongest warning that they may be linked to an increased risk of death and injury, federal health advisers said Thursday.

A Food and Drug Administration advisory panel voted in favor of the "black box" warning after hearing about the deaths of 25 people, including 19 children, who had taken the drugs. The vote of the Drug Safety and Risk Management advisory committee was 8-7, with one abstention. One committee member, Dr. Curt Furberg, a professor of public health sciences at the

See **ADHD,** page 2

WEATHER

TODAY: Partly cloudy, 59/33
SATURDAY: Partly cloudy, 45/32
SUNDAY: Sunny, 55/39

FUN FACT

Felix Cabrera, 34, of Tampa, was charged with stealing a tractor-trailer carrying more than $1.9 million in perfume and cologne.
— Associated Press

TODAY'S HEADLINES

OPINION: Cost of commercials to high, page 3
NEWS: New financial aid form available, page 4
FEATURES: The latest Skiff reviews, page 11

CONTACT US

Send your questions, compliments, complaints and hot tips to the staff at NEWS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU

PROFESSOR

From page 1

which ends in the prominent Spanish feminine ending "a," contradicts this theory, Yorkston said. Also, some consumers associate Toyota with smaller cars, which might be hurting them in the SUV market that is dominated by Ford Excursions and Chevrolet Suburbans, Yorkston said.

He said this perception about making smaller cars could help Toyota do well in the midsize SUV market that features Ford Explorers and Chevrolet Blazers.

Greg Shae, a Toyota sales manager in Fort Worth, said he doesn't think product names influence people's decisions because they are looking for a quality car with good gas mileage, not a name.

Yorkston said he first noticed these unconscious responses while doing research on how a word's sound affects buyers. He moved to a cross-cultural study that looked at similarities between English and Spanish while working with de Mello at USC.

"We knew the effects of this would be very strong in Spanish," Yorkston said. "But we didn't think they were going to be very strong in English because it has a very weak gender system.

"There was a lot of leakage from romance languages into the American English. Americans expect things that end in 'a' to be more feminine, just like the Spanish and French do."

But there are examples of product names that have gotten around these gender rules, such as Makita, a hardware-equipment manufacturer that produces teal power tools.

When Makita came onto the scene, teal was considered an inappropriate color for power tools and the name went against gender-stereotyping rules by ending in "a," but its quality of product allowed it to overcome these disadvantages, Yorkston said.

As a result, Makita was able to redefine its name and its color, but the Ford Edsel wasn't.

"People didn't like the name as well as the overall car design," Yorkston said. "Mustang and Impala were a few of the names come up with by experts hired by Ford, but in the end, Ford named the car after his son."

TCU professional-in-residence Mike Wood, who was vice president of advertising at RadioShack, said the Edsel, introduced by Ford in 1957, didn't fail primarily on its name, but it failed because of the lack of a market for a midrange Ford.

Product names are reviewed for potential problems in their meanings, Wood said. Companies look at the name's root origins as well as other cultural interpretations of the name, he said.

Yorkston said names are important but they aren't the most important thing about a product.

"The name isn't as important as the design, but it is going to play a role," Yorkston said.

CORRECTION

Thursday's story about the pedometer challenge contained incorrect information about the T-shirts. Only team leaders receive free T-shirts, and anyone else may purchase a short-sleeved shirt for $10 and a long-sleeved shirt for $15.

ADHD

From page 1

Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, said it would be "inappropriate, unethical behavior" not to disclose that there was uncertainty about the safety of the drugs.

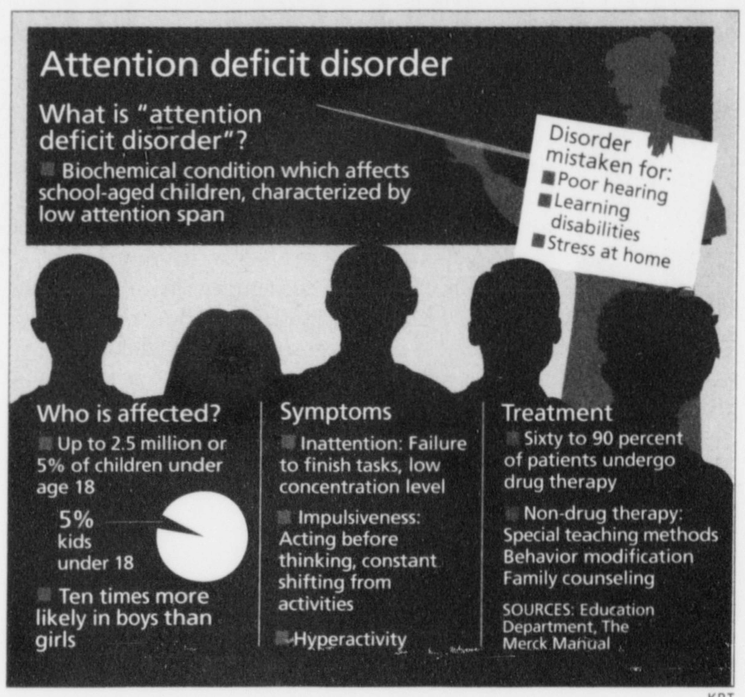
The FDA is not required to follow the recommendations of its advisory committees but typically does.

"The committee plainly wanted to tell us certain things ought to be in labeling in a more forceful way," Dr. Robert Temple, director of the FDA's Office of Medical Policy, told reporters after the meeting.

Doctors prescribe the drugs to about 2 million children and 1 million adults a month.

Drugs that would have to carry the warning labels are methylphenidates, which are sold as Ritalin, Concerta, Methylin and Metadate. The labels for Adderall and Adderall XR, both amphetamines, have included the warnings since 2004.

The advisory committee also recommended that the drugs include a medication guide for patients and parents. The vote on that was 15-0, with one abstention.



KRT

Adderall is made by Shire Pharmaceuticals; Ritalin by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp.; Concerta by Johnson & Johnson; Methylin by Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals; and Metadate by UCB. Other companies make generic versions of Ritalin.

The black box warning would not apply to Strattera, manufactured by Eli Lilly and Co. That drug is not a stimulant.

Novartis said Ritalin, approved by the FDA in 1955, is safe and effective. A company review of more than 50 years of records shows no apparent increase in cardiovascular problems associated with the drug's use, according to Novartis' medical safety director, Dr. Todd Gruber.

VIA

From page 1

$2.2 million and are expected to be awarded by the first week of May, according to the VIA Web site.

Transformation grants can receive no more than 20 percent of the budget, which varies from year to year. Pathways for transformation have a recommended limit of $25,000.

Burgess said there is no way he could teach the class without the VIA grant because of the enormous start-up cost associated with creating the course.

Burgess' six-hour course, which will begin in mid May will require students to work in the field five to six days a week studying insects, birds, reptiles and mammals at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, located north of Lake Worth, Burgess said.

Burgess said he believes the class will be small the first year, but thinks the program can be self-sufficient within three years.

Julia Lovett, extended education's coordinator of community programs and professional development, received a $20,000 pathway for transformation grant aimed to assist Fort Worth Independent School District employees. The grant will help to create a program to teach FWISD employees the basic phrases and practices needed to communicate with Spanish-speaking students and parents.

FWISD will eventually find other methods to pay for the program, Lovett said.

Both Lovett and Burgess, along with other Strategic Initiative Fund recipients, will have their programs reviewed by the evaluation committee this summer. If multiyear grants do not succeed by the established bench marks designated by the evaluation committee and the grant director, the program will no longer be funded, Munson said.

Multiyear grants that continue to succeed could receive funding from traditional methods, such as through the department deans, after the VIA grants expire, Munson said.

Lovett said: "There is a lot of talk about Vision In Action, but these grants are putting that vision to work."

DG

From page 1

all over the country to sell designer jeans at discounted prices, Sergel said.

Steve Price, co-founder of CharityDenim, said he thinks most women are fashion-conscious, which makes the sales successful for everyone involved.

"I think the sale is great because it is for a good cause," Price said. "We're also helping put young women in top-quality denim jeans."

CharityDenim has worked with organizations at Harvard University, the University of Southern California, the University of California-Los Angeles and various universities throughout Texas, Price said.

James Parker, assistant dean of Campus Life, said the sale is a unique and creative way to raise money for DG philanthropy efforts.

"The sale has proven to be very successful in the past," Parker said. "The lines for the sale are around the corner, and I don't expect it to be any different this year."

Sergel suggests patrons start forming lines early so they get there before the jeans sell out, as they have in previous years.

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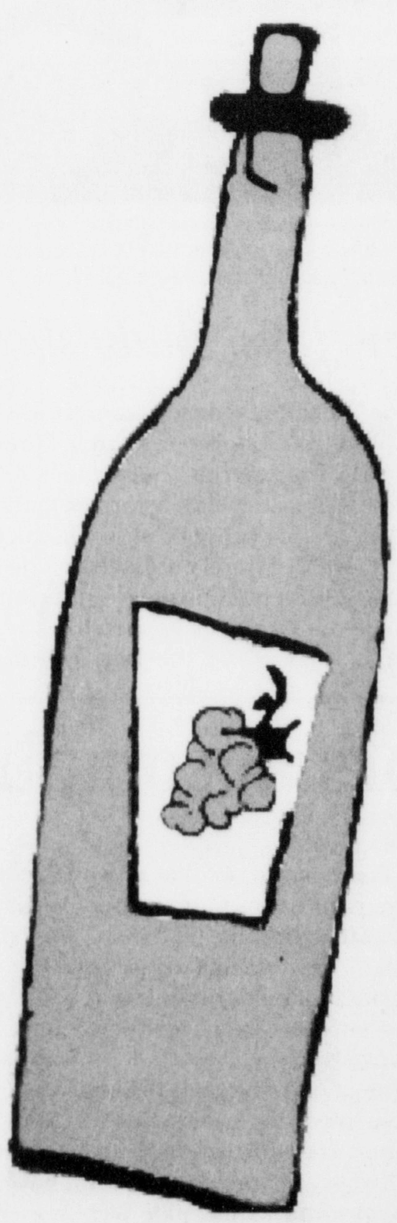

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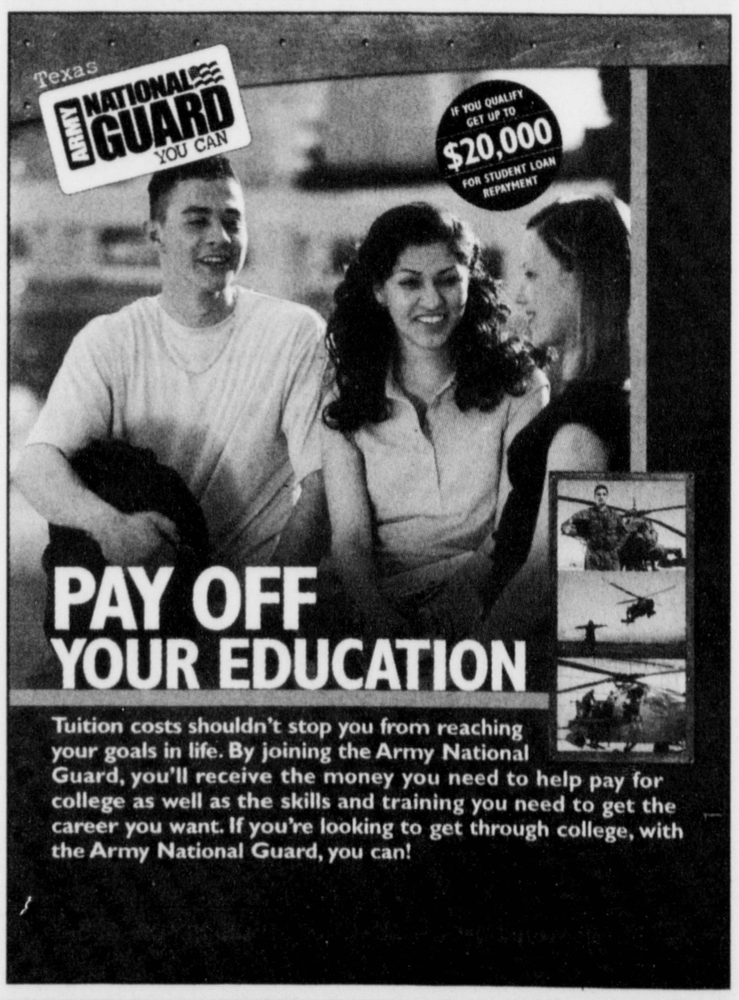

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I HEART VALENTINES...

Enjoy V-Day? Hate it? Men and women mouth off about the burdens and joys of Valentine's Day.

3

THE SKIFF VIEW

People losing personal contact

Rarely can you find a student walking across campus alone and not on his or her cell phone. Some would attribute such a practice to insecurity — do you think people will think you are a loser if you're walking by yourself? Is talking on the phone supposed to make you look like you have a throng of friends? Others say that walking across campus alone is boring and, naturally, talking on the phone passes the whole seven-minute walk time. Seven minutes. Seven minutes of quiet time to yourself should not induce boredom, it should help preserve your sanity.

Cell phones, iPods, instant messenger and the Internet — though all wonderful inventions in many ways — not only impede time for yourself, but also hinder productivity and, most importantly, personal communication.

Wednesday's Fort Worth Star-Telegram ran an article about whether people get "addicted" to the Internet. One man quoted said that his time on the computer caused him to lose his girlfriend and his job.

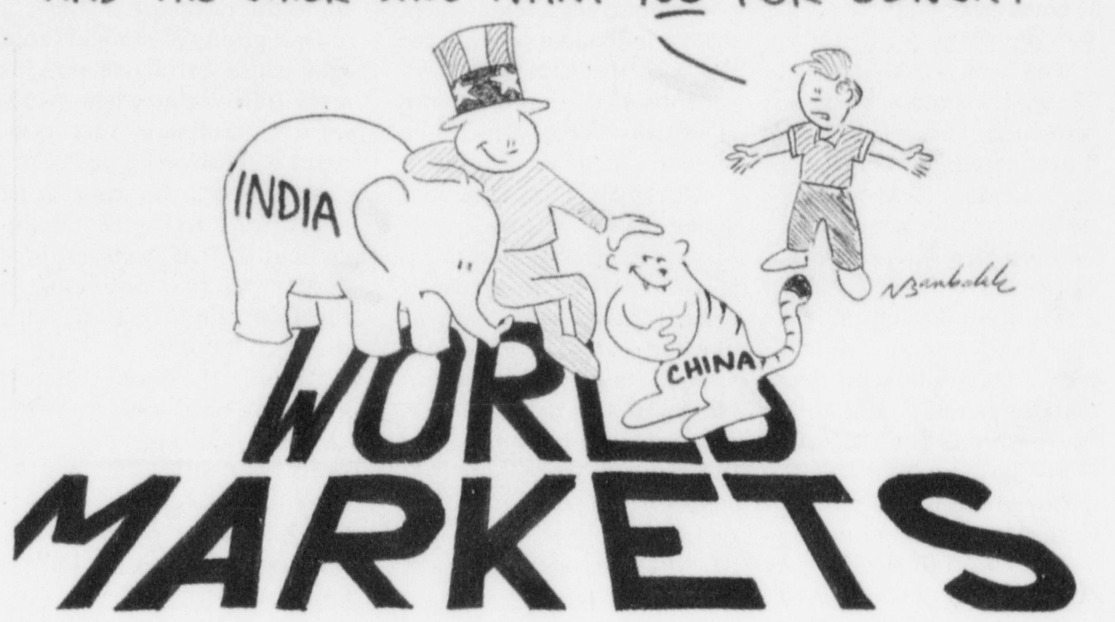
While this may seem pathetic to you, think about how much time you spend on the computer. Think about the hours you've spent on Facebook the past month when you could have been with your friends or doing your schoolwork. Now you probably feel a little pathetic.

As if letters and phone calls weren't already impersonal enough, instant messenger and e-mail have taken over common means of communication. Instead of walking across the hall, instead of looking at the person next to them — and verbally expressing themselves — people type messages to one another. Not only is this inefficient, it also takes the human aspect away from conversation.

Maslow's hierarchy of needs theorizes that humans need social connections to sustain a healthy life, so put down your cell phone, turn off your computer and reach out to your neighbor — literally, not through an e-mail.

Associate editor Adrienne Lang for the editorial board.

NEWSREAL • NICHOLAS SAMBALUK



YOUR VIEW

Questioning TCU ethics with increasing tuition

I entered TCU in the fall of 2003 and have thoroughly enjoyed my time here. In addition to the time I spend learning from the outstanding teachers and students that TCU bring together, I appreciate the opportunities that I am given through extra-curricular activities. I am the president of the band, treasurer of Kappa Kappa Psi band fraternity, a member of the Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity and the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization. I am thankful for the opportunities that TCU gives me — academically, professionally and socially. I am proud to be a Horned Frog and will be proud for life.

Despite my unrelenting patriotism for our school, I believe there is a terrible flaw in the system. I realize that I am only one of probably thousands of e-mails that you will receive today following the announcement of the tuition increase. This being my third year, I have seen the same number of increases; however, each year I manage to put aside my frustrations and write the cost increases off as an investment in my future. I have no doubt that this year will be the same, but I want to at least express my feelings on the matter, although they will likely go unnoticed.

I do not claim to understand the higher workings of the university's financial needs. Here is what I very simply observe: with next year's tuition being $22,980, the cost of my education has increased almost 32 percent from the $15,740 per year when I started. At the same time, the value of my education has experienced no perceivable change. I am very supportive of all of the initiatives the university is taking to enhance the value and quality of education, but I am not benefiting from it — so why am I having to pay for it? As a business owner, if I raised my prices for goods or services without providing any direct value to the customer I would go out of business very quickly. TCU doesn't play by the same rules as most businesses. Its customers (like myself) become so invested financially and with their time, that they have no choice but to grit their teeth and pray that graduation day comes sooner.

Deeper than just a financial issue, I believe that this issue is a question of ethics. TCU proudly claims to "educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community." Increasing costs to provide higher quality services to the customer is ethical. Increasing costs to keep up with inflation and other market influences is ethical. Increasing costs 32 percent while providing no direct benefit to the customer raises some concern in my view.

The decision of the Board of Trustees is, no doubt, in the best interests of the school. TCU is on course to be a world class institution. That costs money. I just want to raise my hand and remind the leadership of this university that there should be some balance between the best interests moving forward and the best interests of those already in attendance. I don't know if a locked rate tuition or fixed increases is the answer. I don't think it's my job to solve the problem. It is my responsibility as a 'citizen' of TCU to bring attention to the problem and insist that a better solution be found. Realistically, a change at this point will affect me just as much as the beautiful new student center or the construction of new dorms. But if new dorms are in the best interest of future TCU students, then maybe a fair or, at least, more predictable tuition system is as well.

John Parker, junior entrepreneurial management and finance major from Elkhart.

STAFF COLUMNIST

Commercials reaching excessive cost

How much can $26 million buy in today's world? Well, it could buy a really big house, a lot of fast cars or a number of other items. In the case of Anheuser-Busch, $26 million can buy a few commercials during the Super Bowl.

COMMENTARY

Dan Plate

I know a million bucks isn't worth what it once was, but $26 million on advertising for one game? I think it's a little steep, even for a multibillion-dollar corporation. It only goes to show that Super Bowl advertising has gotten to the point where it's as much of an attraction as the actual game.

Anheuser-Busch was one of many companies looking to get in on some of the most expensive television advertising. Game viewers saw adds from companies like FedEx, ABC, Pepsico Inc., Pizza Hut and many others. All of these companies paid $2.5 million for a 30-second slot, a price that didn't include production costs.

I'm not going to say that companies shouldn't pay what they think it's worth to advertise during the Super Bowl, but I am going to say that it's gotten a little out of hand. The commercials are getting to be bigger than the game. This year, as in years past, you can get online and view your favorite ads from last Sunday's game.

As much hype as the actual game generates, you wouldn't think anything could be more important to anyone watching it on the tube. But, lo and behold, as we were watching the game last Sunday, a friend at the party yelled out: "Everyone shut up, there's a commercial break!"

Huh? It used to be that people were encouraged to talk during the commercials, not the show. Although, I guess if a company is going to pay $2.5 million for 30 seconds, the least we can do as viewers is pay attention. And as anyone who watched the game knows, some of the commercials were pretty entertaining.

Anheuser-Busch's best commercial, and the favorite of many viewers, featured a "magic fridge" that disappeared so friends of the owner would not steal his treasured Bud Light. What the owner didn't know was that the fridge disappeared into the next apartment, and his neighbors were getting a free treat. Now that's great television.

An amount of $2.5 million for 30 seconds sounds ridiculous, doesn't it? At first glance, yes, but in reality, maybe it isn't. There are a few reasons shelling out almost $30 million to advertise during a football game might be worthwhile.

Number one: it isn't just a football game, it is The Football Game. Believe me — I hate the hype — but I can't argue with the fact that it is one of the biggest sporting events in the world. I have friends who think Super Bowl Sunday should be a holiday and they aren't kidding around.

This is why it's astonishing to think that the commercials have gotten to be as big of an attraction as the game. It's the biggest football game in the world, not to mention one of the biggest sporting events of any kind. And in some circles, the commercials are drawing as much attention as the game.

According to Baltimore WJZ News, 90 million people were expected to watch the game last Sunday. If that entire audience watched every one of Anheuser-Busch's commercials, 90 million potential customers would have seen roughly 10 30-second slots advertising Budweiser, Bud Light and Michelob Light.

Now, not every one of those 90 million viewers was over 21, but even if half of them were, that means that 45 million possible customers watched roughly five minutes worth of beer commercials. That's great advertising, even for $26 million, especially if it works.

If Bud Light, Budweiser, and Michelob Light sales drop off the table in the coming weeks, the people at Anheuser-Busch are going to need more than a couple brews to make them feel better. But with the number of people who saw the ads, if they are successful, it's going to turn out to be a great investment.

Dan Plate is a freshman business major from Ogallala, Neb.

Printing Muhammad cartoon a poor choice

As good Bill Shakespeare once said, "There's something rotten in the state of Denmark."

What am I talking about?

COMMENTARY

Michael Bou-Nacklie

The ridiculous cartoon that came out recently, originally published by a newspaper in Denmark. Interestingly, there was little to no reaction about the cartoon when it was first published, mainly because the newspaper that published it is recognized as a right-wing publication that has a very small following, much like the entire right-wing party in Denmark. The issue was ignored by the Danish government since the newspaper has a small readership, even after several imams, or religious clerics, complained.

The newspaper decided to run the story about the reaction to its cartoon to add some sensationalism and blow up the issue in an attempt at publicity. The specific cartoon I am referring to depicts Prophet Muhammad wearing a turban in the shape of a bomb with a lit fuse. In retaliation, the imams went on a tour of the key European states in order to publicize and inflame the issue, which is when the cartoon was republished in France.

Traditionally in Islam, it is forbidden to depict anyone in a cartoon or photo form, but because of a globalized media, these rules have been bent slightly and only very fundamental sects still follow this tradition.

If you've lived in the Middle East, you learned to see that many imams have different agendas. Right after 9/11, Saudi Arabia 'deported' several hundred imams from the mosques in the Kingdom, a public relations tactic to demonstrate that it was cracking down on fundamentalist imams. However, other imams around the region continue to push religion with politics and this always ends up being to the detriment of the rest of the country. These ones in particular had an alternative agenda to get attention drawn to themselves.

Predictably, the rest of the fundamentalist groups followed suit like a set of dominos; such as in Indonesia and Afghanistan, where remnants of Al-Qaida and the Taliban are using this to increase their anti-West ideology.

In the Arab world, the fundamentalist groups are using this cartoon hatred in order to force their governments into confrontation with their allies in the West.

But regardless of the reaction, what the Danes did was ridiculous and done with the intent to incite violence; nobody in his or her right mind would publish cartoons making fun of the Tsunami, for instance.

According to "Good Morning America," Iran issued a cartoon contest to retaliate against the anti-Islamic cartoons, where Hitler will be portrayed in bed with Anne Frank. Yeah, I know it's reprehensible, but that's the kind of nonsense that stuff such as this spawns. Kind of like a giant political version of a schoolyard tag game with big bearded bullies.

The promotion of unrest in Iran has an obvious purpose, acting to divert Western attention from its nuclear program. Similarly in Lebanon, the protests are geared at diverting attention from the assassination of the anti-Syrian Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and also geared at making Lebanon seem weak without the Syrian military presence that left, ending its 25-year occupation.

Many people have not heard about the protests in Lebanon linked to this same cartoon, but they were anything but unplanned. According to a reliable source within the Lebanese government: "Five buses arrived on a Sunday, full of unemployed people, each carrying plastic bags full of stones." Several hours later the army intervened with a rough total of about 500 arrests.

Remember that when the movie "Dogma" came out, Catholics protested.

In countries like Iran, there is nothing such as the First Amendment that allows people to vent their frustrations in a healthy and organized fashion. This facilitates bogus protests being loosely linked to things like badly drawn cartoons. If I were an imam, I would be more pissed that the cartoon was so badly done and that the cartoonist didn't spend much time on it — rather than for the meaning.

Moazam F. Syed, a consulting engineer at TXU and the president of the Islamic Association of Tarrant County, said he was disappointed in how people have reacted and that they should "go back to the teachings, back to the days of the man they are marching for and remember what he would have done in the same situation."

Michael Bou-Nacklie is a junior international communication major from La Cote aux Fees, Switzerland, who is also a writer for the Arab News.

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Senators agree on Patriot Act changes

By DAVID ESPO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican holdouts reached agreement Thursday with the White House on changes in the Patriot Act designed to clear the way for passage of anti-terror legislation stalled in a dispute over civil liberties.

Sen. John Sununu, R-N.H., said the changes, quickly endorsed by at least one leading Democrat, would better "protect civil liberties, even as we give law enforcement important tools to conduct terrorism investigation."

Presidential spokesman Scott McClellan said the agreement would "continue to build upon the civil liberties protections that are in place, but do so in a way that doesn't compromise our national security priorities."

The compromise focused on three areas:

— giving recipients of subpoenas for information in terrorist investigations the right to challenge a requirement that they refrain from telling anyone.

— eliminating a requirement that an individual provide the FBI with the name of a lawyer consulted about a National Security Letter, which is a secret request for records.

— clarifying that most libraries are not subject to demands in those letters for information about suspected terrorists.

Renewal of the law was blocked last year when critics said its provisions shortchanged civil liberties, particularly in the cases of individuals who were not suspected of terrorist activities themselves, but might have had innocent dealings with suspects.

The current extension expires March 10.

Form aids students of divorced parents

By EMILY GOODSON
Staff Reporter

Applying for financial aid in college may often seem like a complicated process, a flurry of paper involving forms, budgets and many steps that must be completed before moving on to the next one.

One group of students that may cause extra concern for some universities when deciding who gets financial aid is students with divorced parents.

Mike Scott, the director of scholarships and student financial aid at TCU, said the university has had problems in the past when dealing with divorced families.

"This is the most difficult group we deal with in terms of equity and fairness," Scott said. "The situations are so varied and so emotional, that finding the means to address the need of these families is fairly complex."

One of the biggest problems, Scott said, is that some students with divorced parents try to obtain more financial aid by filing their forms using the information of the parent with the lowest income, while others are truthfully coming from a single-parent household and need more financial aid.

"Quite frankly, we see more instances of abuse of the system in this area than any other," he said. "It's actually quite sad."

Recently, however, some universities have adopted a new system for students with divorced parents that may give colleges an advantage when deciding who gets a loan or scholarship.

The system, which was developed by the College Board, a not-for-profit association of high schools and universities aimed at helping students through college, requires students with divorced parents to fill out a new form called the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE.

According to the College Board Web site, a student with divorced parents has his or her non-custodial parent fill out the CSS form so colleges, universities and graduate and professional schools have a more complete picture of the student's financial situation. The new form may allow financial aid to be distributed more evenly.

FINANCIAL AID PROFILES:

CSS Form: Students of divorced parents are required to have their non-custodial parents fill out this form to provide a complete picture of their financial situations. The form determines only university-sponsored aid.

FASFA: Federal form required by all students applying for financial aid; requires information only from custodial parents.

TCU uses the FASFA to determine financial aid and has not adopted the CSS form.

The CSS form, however, is used to determine university-sponsored aid only, and not federal aid. Students wanting to apply for federal aid, such as a Pell Grant, must still complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.

Colleges currently using the new CSS form include Princeton University, Southern Methodist University and Tulane University.

Peggy Park, a financial aid counselor at SMU, said SMU adopted the new system three years ago.

"The CSS form is administered institutionally," she said. "Everyone in the family is required to provide their information."

However, Park said that in some cases the form must be waived due to a non-custodial parent's unavailability, such as if that parent has no contact with the student or if they are in prison.

Despite the advantages that the CSS form gives to some universities, Scott said, TCU does not use it.

"I am very familiar with [the new system]," he said, "but hesitate to adopt the CSS profile because a processing fee is required.

"I just don't like the idea of students paying to apply for aid."

Scott said currently, there are no programs targeted specifically for students with divorced parents.

"Federal regulations require income information from the custodial parent only," he said. "This usually results in a greater demonstrated financial need."

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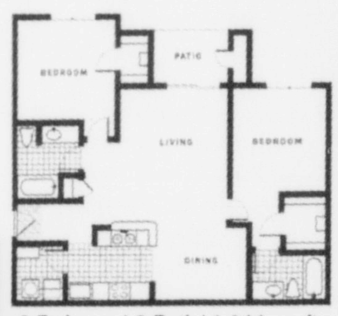

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Xi Zhu

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Mary Anderson
Keaton Andreas
Heath Arias
Nate Arnold
Marie Auxier
Allison Barbee
Sarah Bardwell
Katie Barthel
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Melissa Bell
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Valerie Cooper
Matt Corder
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Emmelie Cox
Jessica Cox
Stephanie Crane
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Jeff Grant
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Hannah Hale
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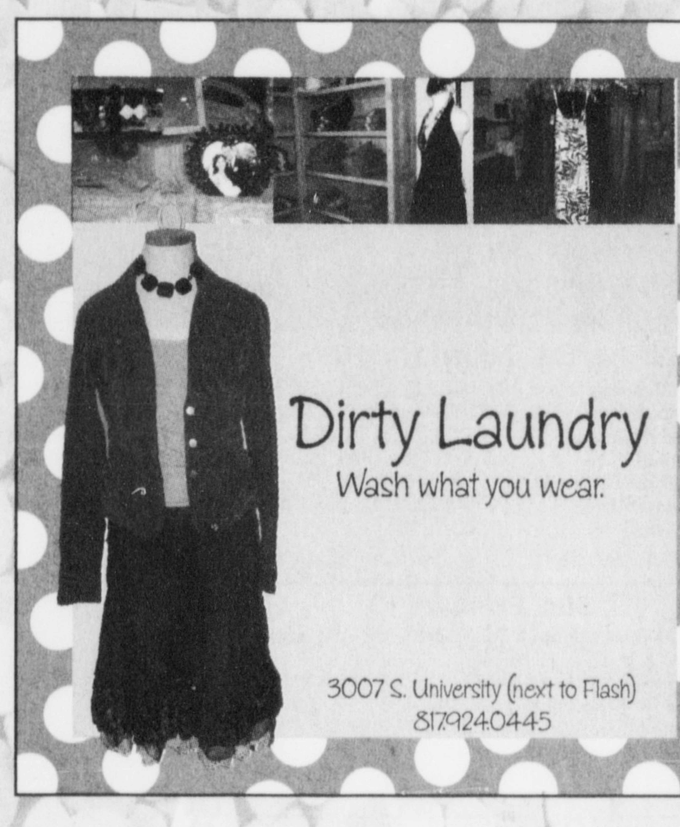

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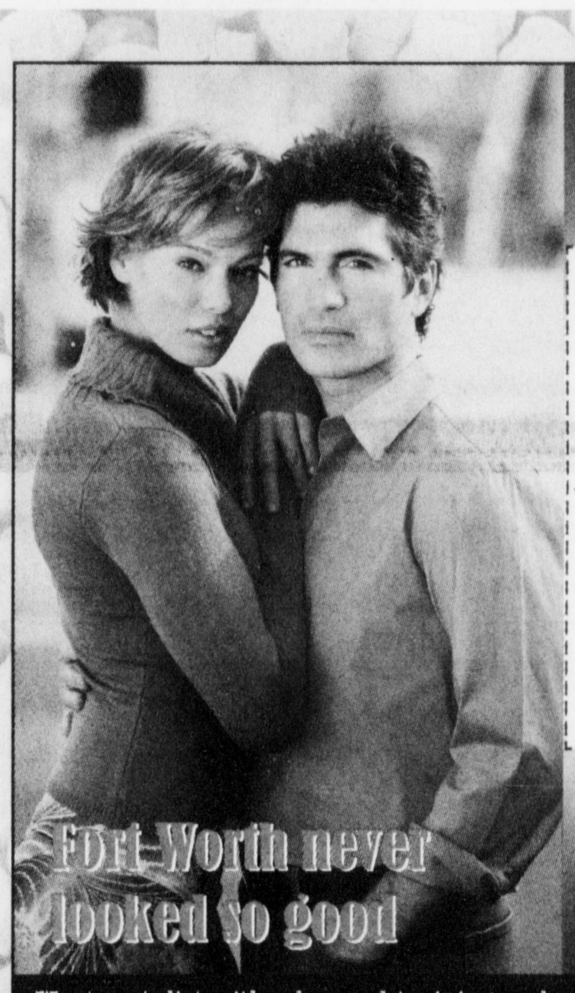

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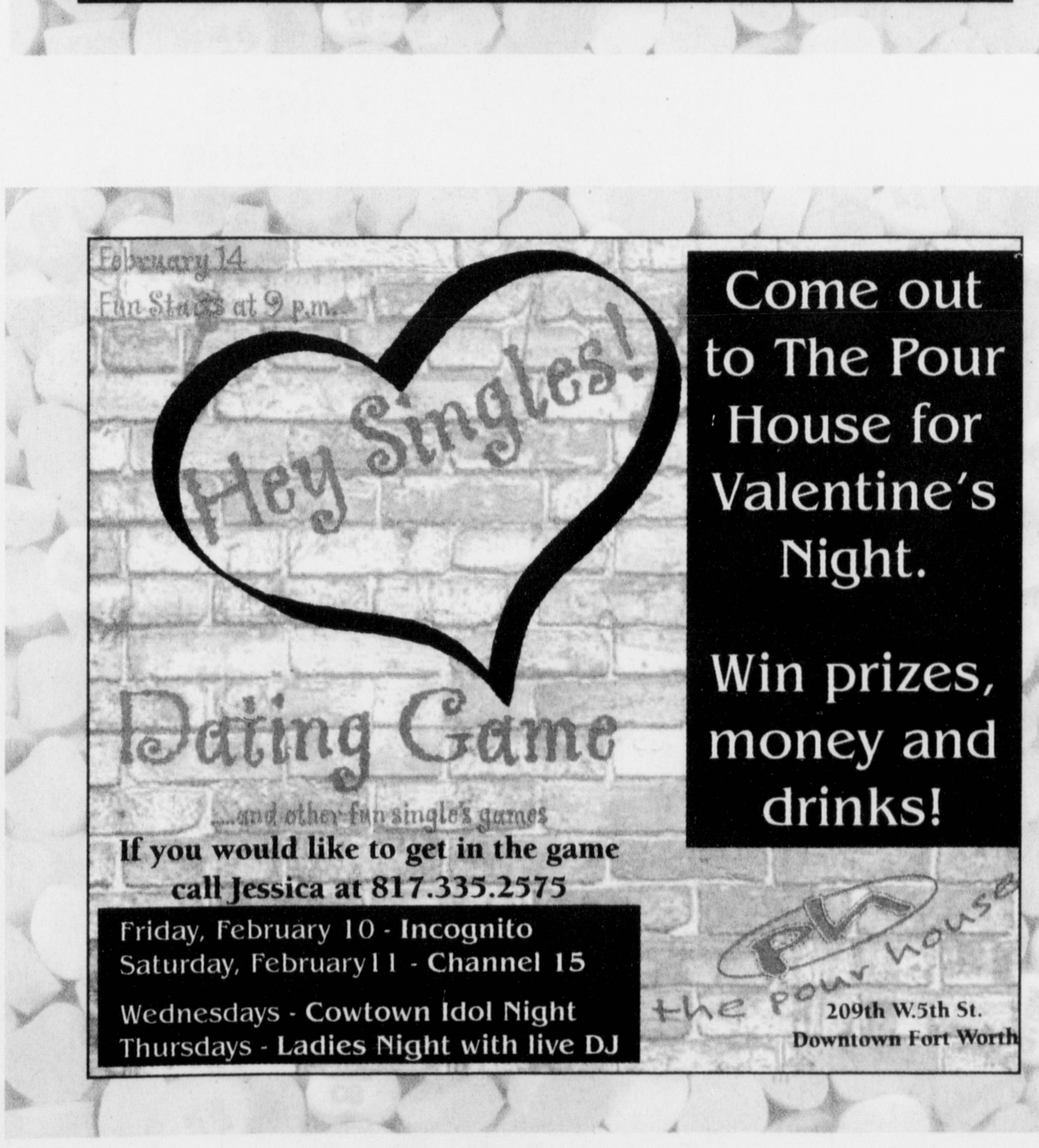

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Curious George G- 12:00, 2:00, 4:00. 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
Final Destination 3 R- 12:25, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30, 12:00am
Firewall PG13- 12:15, 2:35, 5:05, 7:40, 10:00, 12:15am
The Pink Panther PG- 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20, 12:00am
When a Stranger Calls PG13- 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00am

Sat, February 11

Big Momma's House 2 PG13- 12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
Curious George G- 12:00, 2:00, 4:00. 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
Final Destination 3 R- 12:25, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30, 12:00am
Firewall PG13- 12:15, 2:35, 5:05, 7:40, 10:00, 12:15am
The Pink Panther PG- 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20, 12:00am
When a Stranger Calls PG13- 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00am
Rocky Horror R- 12:00am

Sun, February 12

Big Momma's House 2 PG13- 12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
Curious George G- 12:00, 2:00, 4:00. 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
Final Destination 3 R- 12:25, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
Firewall PG13- 12:15, 2:35, 5:05, 7:40, 10:00
The Pink Panther PG- 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
When a Stranger Calls PG13- 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45

Mon, Feb. 13-Thurs, Feb. 16

Big Momma's House 2 PG13- 7:20, 9:40
Curious George G- 7:05, 9:15
Final Destination 3 R- 7:10, 9:30
Firewall PG13- 7:40,10:00
The Pink Panther PG- (Mon-Wed) 7:00, 9:20 (Thurs) 7:00
When a Stranger Calls PG13- 7:30, 9:45

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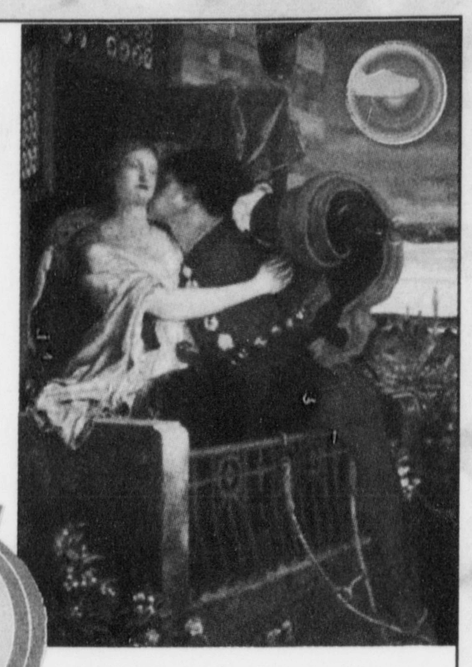

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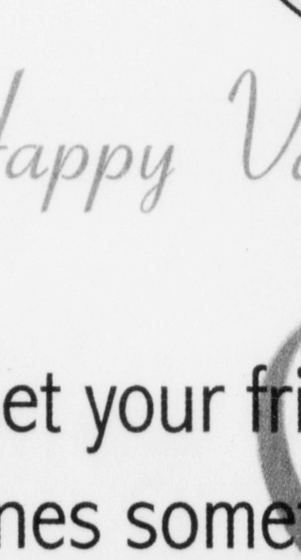

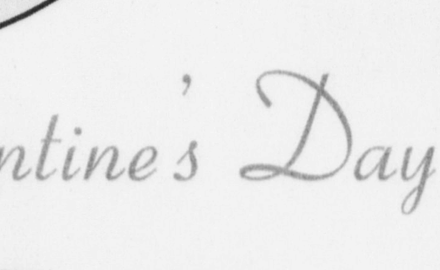

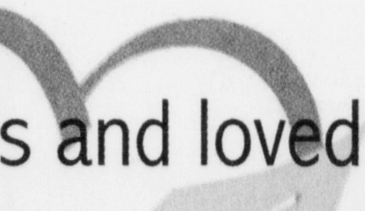

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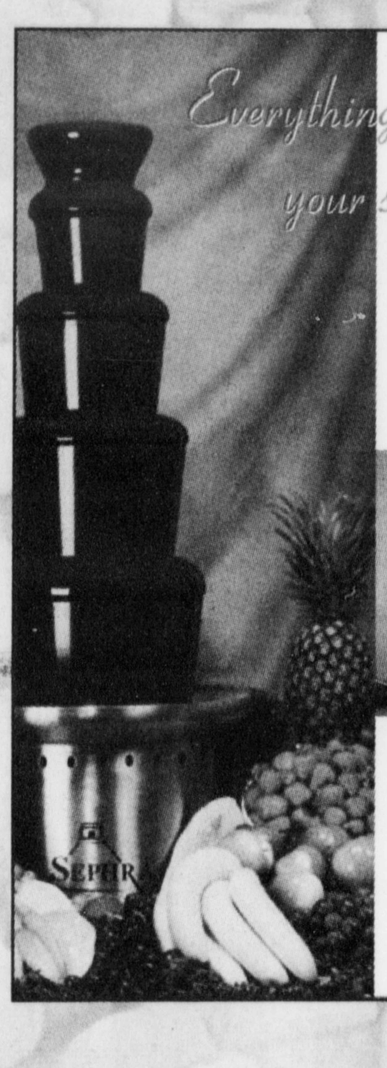

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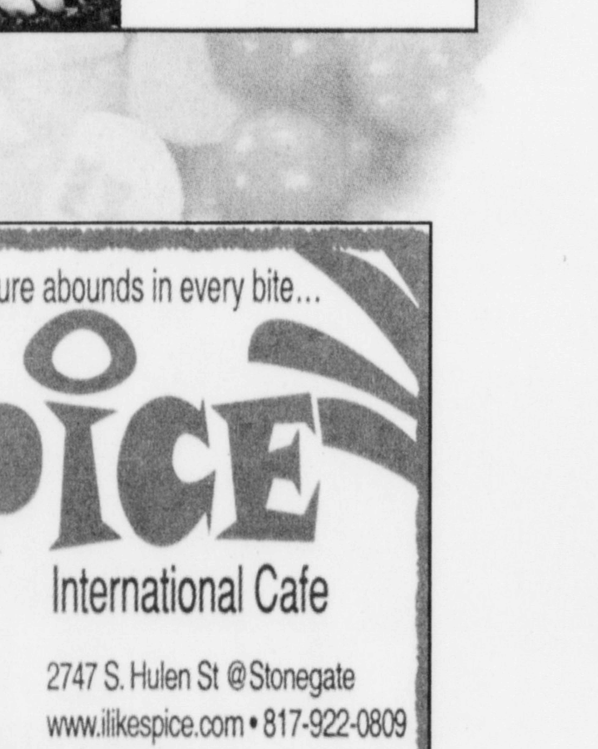

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WEEKEND UPDATE

Feb. 11: Men's basketball versus New Mexico; Baseball versus Houston; Women's Tennis versus Tulsa; Track and Field @ Tyson Invitational

Feb 12: Women's basketball @ New Mexico; Baseball versus Rice

Dedication bringing success, sprinter says

By TIM BELLA
Staff Writer

On the field, she has been described as a tiger and one who is tough to beat when she is "in the zone." Off the field, people use lighter terms, such as "outgoing" and "engaging" to describe her.

This is Virgil Hodge, a redshirt sophomore sprinter for TCU's women's track team, who is looking to make an impact for not only this season, but also for seasons to come.

Her friendly demeanor mixes well with the confidence she exudes in her genuine opinions.

"I am looking forward to winning conference," Hodge says with a grin on her face.

Hodge's story begins on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts, or as she likes to call it, "home." Here, she began to realize her special ability and started running when she was only 5 years old. In St. Kitts, "sports days" were held as athletic competitions between members of each house on the island. Locals started to take notice of the young girl with the exceptional talent when she would win handily.

Despite the early success during her time at St. Kitts, Hodge suffered a serious blow to her psyche, as a back injury early in her high school career was considered career-threatening.

"The doctor told me I would never run again," Hodge said.

She cried at the thought of not being able to live out her childhood dream. After vowing not to give up on her hopes and dreams, Hodge began rehabilitation and successfully returned to full form.

"The experience definitely made me mentally stronger," Hodge said.

After her comeback from the back injury, Hodge took the next step in her progression by moving to the Bronx, N.Y., to compete for Washington Irving High School in Manhattan. There, she was coached by Monica Stevens, an '84 Olympian in the 400-meter race, and mentored by Brady Crain, a gold-medal winner at the '84 Olympics in the 200-meter race.

Despite the amount of time it took for her to get from Manhattan to the Bronx, Hodge was still dedicated to her school and team.

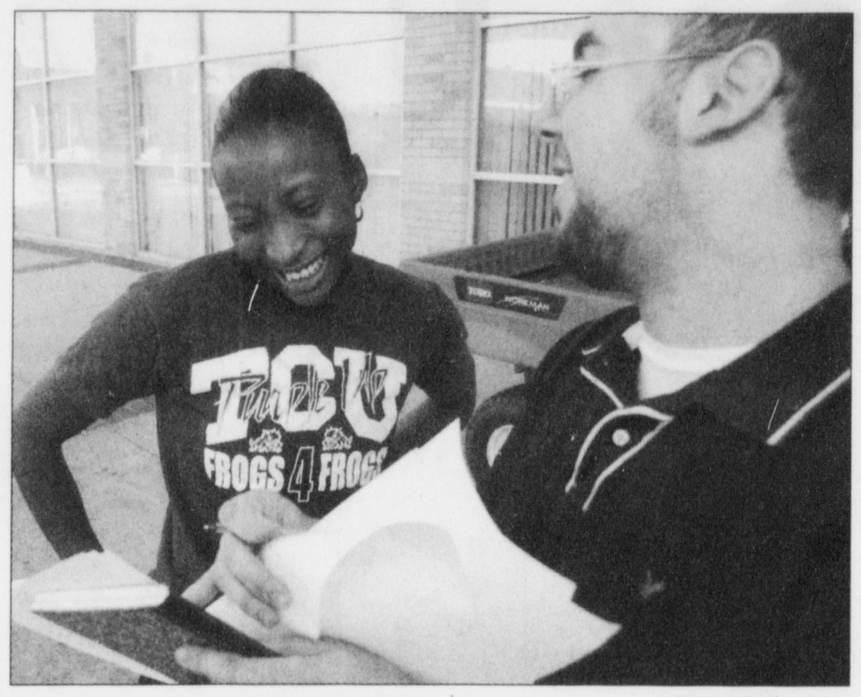
"She took two trains daily to get to school, and even more to get home, depending on where we had practice," Stevens said. "Her travel time was about 45 minutes, if all went well."

Due to the lack of funding for the program on the part of Washington Irving, Hodge and her teammates were left to earn everything they desired.

"The financial support that Virgil and her teammates received from the school was minimal, and most of the money came from funds from the juice machines," Stevens said. "They basically had to fund raise for entry fees, travel, hotels, uniforms or anything else they wanted."

One of the things that separates Hodge from her peers might be her willingness to sacrifice for success, as evident by her influencing her teammates at Washington Irving to compete for a shot at going to the state championships, even if it meant missing their prom. Hodge said it wasn't even a question of whether they should compete.

"Virgil called them together and told them in no uncertain manner that if anyone graduating that year had any plans on going to the prom and making her miss the city or state championships, they had better forget it because she was going and she was not going alone," Stevens said. "There was no prom for the team, but there were several championship titles."



TY HALASZ / Photo Editor

Sophomore sprinter Virgil Hodge laughs with staff writer Tim Bella after seeing a quote from her high school coach, Monica Stevens, about her affinity for eating food.

Upon graduating from Irving, Hodge embarked on a new challenge at TCU. Much like her time at Irving, Hodge is being mentored and coached by those who have had experience training with Olympians. Head coach Darryl Anderson has coached several Olympians over his coaching career, and assistant coach D'Andre Hill was an Olympian herself in 1996 in the 100-meter dash. Even though Anderson said he is impressed thus far with Hodge's work ethic on the field, it is Hodge's work ethic in the classroom that has caught his eye.

"Ninety percent of our conversations last year were about being a student," Anderson said. "She wants to be classified truly as a student-athlete."

Hodge, who was redshirted last year after gaining All-American honors for running anchor in the 100-meter relay team in 2004, is looking as if she is preparing for a breakout season. She was recently named TCU's co-student-athlete of the week for her two first-place finishes at the Wes Kittley Invitational.

"She's got an opportunity to be one of the best sprinters to come through TCU," Anderson said. "The ball is in her court."

Even though Anderson said that Hodge still needs to improve on her overall strength levels, he feels that she is moving in the right direction.

"If she continues to progress, the sky's the limit for her," Anderson said.

Once 2008 comes around, a trip to Beijing for the '08 Olympics to represent St. Kitts isn't too far from Hodge's mind.

"Quote me on it," Hodge said with a smile. "2008 Olympics — I'll be there."

For now, enjoy the poetry in motion that is Virgil Hodge. If nothing else, enjoy her smile.

TRACK AND FIELD

Team to face hard tourney, coach says

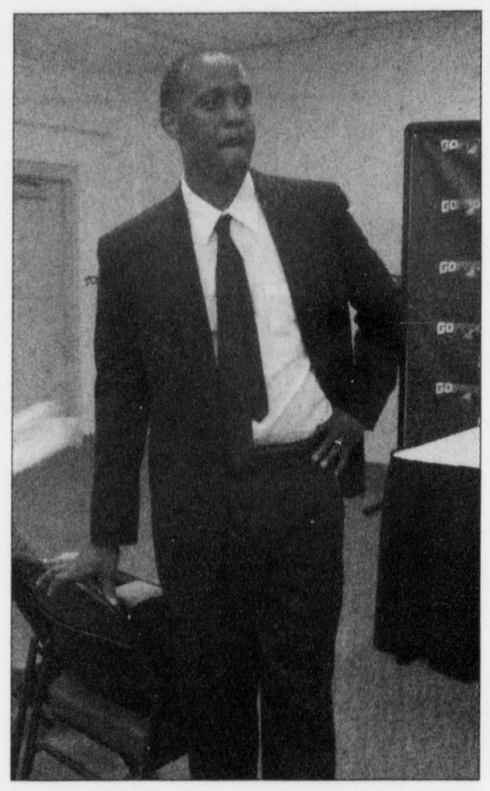
By TRAVIS STEWART
Sports Editor

The TCU track and field team heads to Arkansas Friday for its fourth tournament of the year, the Tyson Invitational.

Head coach Darryl Anderson said the event's field is not only large, but talented.

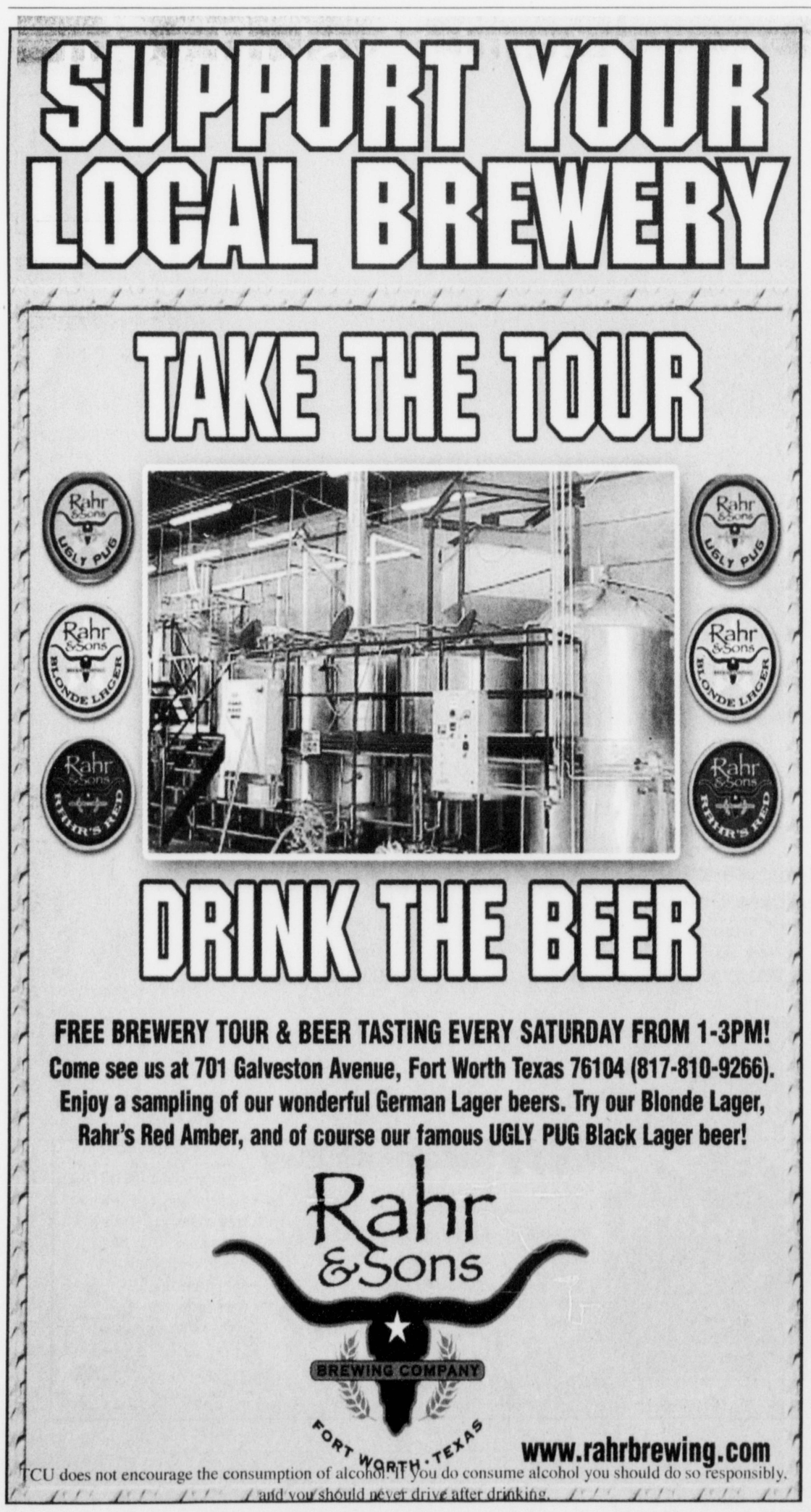
"It's a bunch of top 20 teams," Anderson said. "It's a 20-team competition with teams from the Big 12, like Oklahoma, Oklahoma State; the SEC like Florida and Arkansas, the host team. It's going to be a huge array of talent."

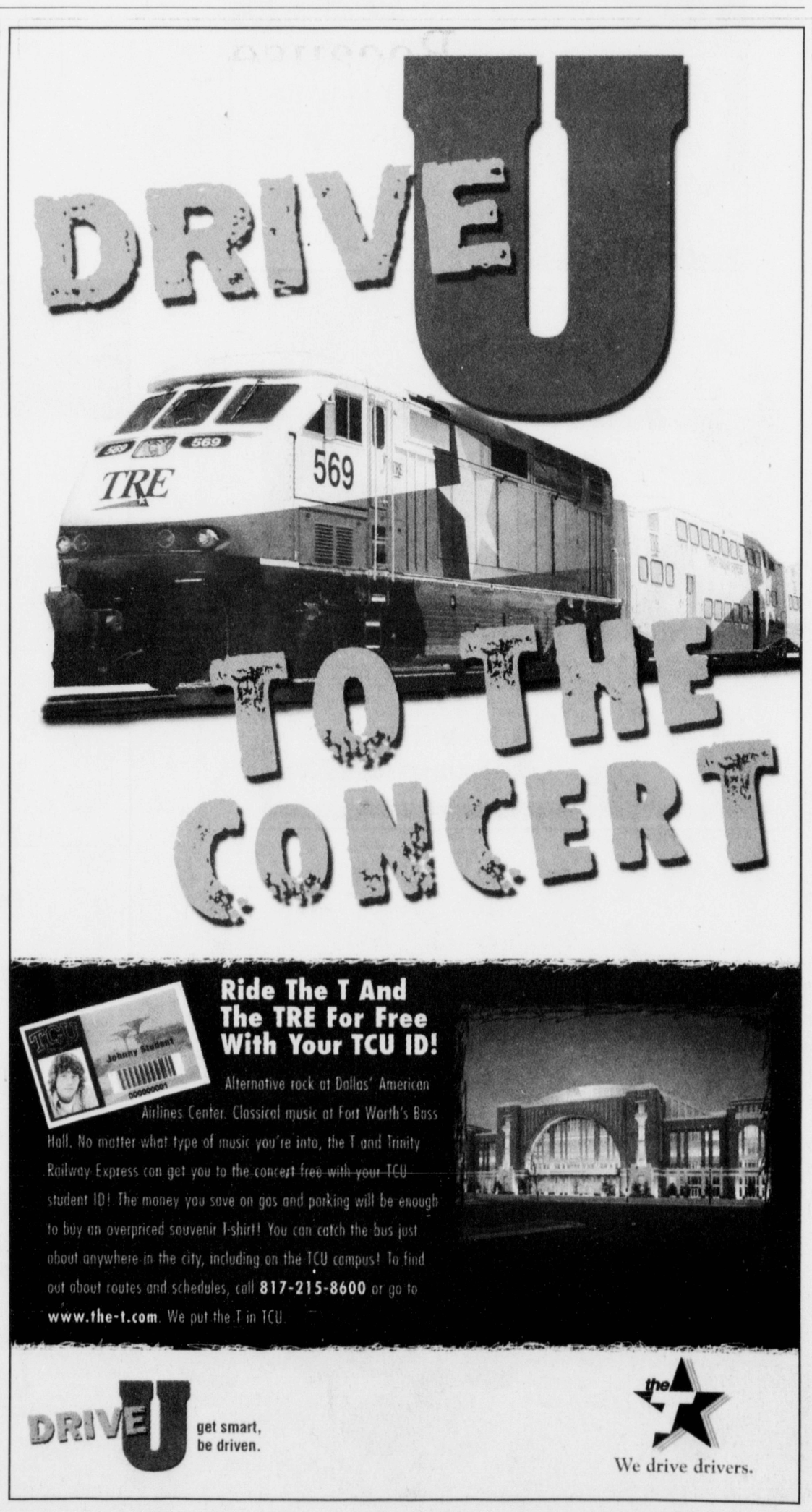
See **TRACK,** page 9



STEPHEN SPILLMAN / File Photo

Head coach Darryl Anderson says the field at the Tyson Invitational is both deep and diverse.





Frogs head to Houston, face top teams in series

By TRAVIS STEWART
Sports Editor

The baseball team heads to Houston today to begin play for this year's Houston College Classic.

The Horned Frogs play Tulane at noon today then have games against Houston on Saturday and Rice on Sunday. All three matches will be played at Minute Maid Park, the home of the Houston Astros.

Head coach Jim Schlossnagle said the other teams at the series are as good as it gets.

"It's as high of level of college baseball as can be played," Schlossnagle said.

Aside from TCU, which is ranked No. 21, the six-team field includes three other nationally ranked teams: No. 2 Rice, No. 7 Texas and No. 12 Tulane.

Sophomore pitcher Sam Demel said the team is excited to play such a talented field.

"It's going to be amazing," Demel said. "It's one of the best preseason tournaments in the nation. It's going to be a fun weekend."

Demel, who will start today's game against the Green Wave, said he is not worried about Minute Maid's dangerous Crawford Boxes, an area that is frequently targeted by line-drive home runs.

"Come on, they can't get it to the Crawford Boxes," Demel said with a smile. "I'll be throwing a little sinker. They'll be a lot of ground balls, let's put it that way."

Schlossnagle said playing in a different park may affect the defense more than the pitching staff.

"We're not there every day," Schlossnagle said. "We'll play it straight up, let the chips fall where they may. It will be more of an adjustment for the defense."

Sophomore catcher Andrew Walker said since the team will have time to practice at the field before today's game, he is not overly concerned about the challenges presented by playing at the unfamiliar ballpark.

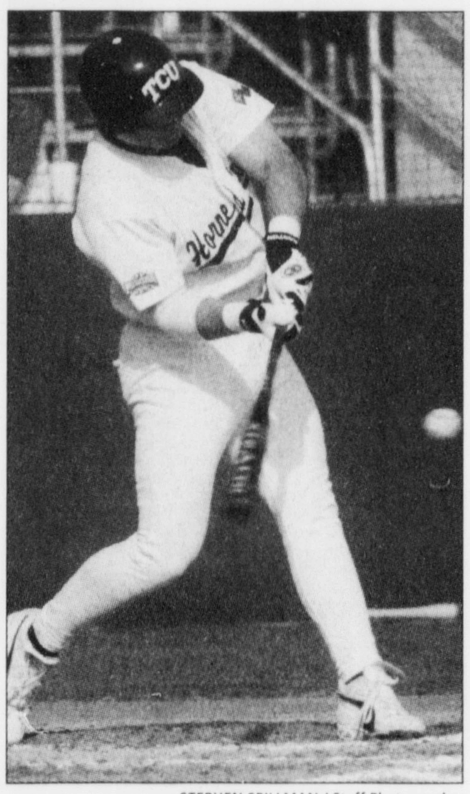
"We're going to be there (Thursday night)," Walker said. "I don't think it will be that big of a deal. The infielders will take a lot of ground balls, the outfielders will do some reads."

Schlossnagle said regardless of the tournament's outcome, the exposure of playing in a series of national scale is important.

"You have to be seen," Schlossnagle said.

Demel said the competitive field will help the team assess its talent.

"It's going to show us where we're at," Demel said. "It's going to be real informative."



STEPHEN SPILLMAN / Staff Photographer
Sophomore catcher Andrew Walker makes a hit at the Alumni Game on Saturday. The No. 21 Frogs journey to the Houston College Classic for preseason match ups.

TRACK

From page 8

Even though the Horned Frogs have been successful so far in 2006, Anderson said, this weekend will be the toughest test yet.

"It'll be the most competitive meet we have been in this year," Anderson said. "It's kind of a pre-NCAA tuneup. You've got 90 percent of the top 20 (there)."

The men's squad was forced to deal with illness at its last tournament Feb. 4, but that will not be as much of a factor come Friday, Anderson said.

"We're doing good; we're getting better," Anderson said. "It's a health issue from the standpoint of the flu virus going around. We have got a couple guys down with that. It's that time of year where we have some knicks and knacks. We've got nothing serious that will keep us out of our long-term things."

Though sophomore sprinter Bradley Reed will not race this weekend, the 400-meter relay team will still compete.

"We're planning on running it," Anderson said. "We'll be a little undermanned in that. You go in and do what you do; anytime someone is down, it gives another opportunity for someone else to step up."

The team will look to ride the momentum built off of its last meet, a performance that saw the Frogs take home eight golds. Freshman Justyn Warner and sophomore Virgil Hodge were both named TCU's student-athletes of the week.

Anderson said both are bringing positives to the team.

"Hodge has been great. She's shown some leadership, she's given some direction to a young team, she's given a presence. Some identity as you may say," Anderson said. "(With Warner) being a freshman, being under the radar, he's training hard, doing the things he needs to do. He's learning the system; he's very passionate about being successful."

U.S. skier represents country

COMMENTARY

Travis Stewart

He is the Zorro of the slopes — impulsive, daring, charismatic and, most importantly, a man hidden behind a mask.

But instead of dashing about castles and dungeons, saving damsels in distress from nefarious foes, this mysterious figure is cutting through the snow, precariously balancing himself on the slim line that constantly separates success and failure.

Unfortunately for U.S. Olympic skier Bode Miller, however, Zorro doesn't have to take off his mask before hundreds of international media. No, reporters want Miller to answer questions about ill-advised comments in interviews, questions about a social life spinning out of control, questions about supposed half-hearted efforts in big-time competition.

Bode, this may be one fall you don't get up from.

It's been just over a month since Miller's highly publicized "60 Minutes" release that broke the news of him admitting he skied drunk at last year's World Cup, but the snowstorm surrounding his public image rages on. To make matters worse, the Winter Olympics are just around the corner, and the American people are turning an increasingly critical eye toward one of their best hopes for a gold medal.

So how fair is this brutal criticism?

In all honesty, Miller is just a small-town kind of guy from New Hampshire; a rural wild child who has been suddenly thrust into the national spot-light. While he obviously has the burden of properly representing his country in the upcoming months, he also has an undeniable responsibility to himself, a deep seated refusal to conform to the political correct persona we have so blandly come to expect from our international icons.

While Miller was obviously in the wrong by failing to reconcile his competitive schedule with his social one back in March 2005, it is difficult to fault the man for laying himself on the line by honestly recounting a scenario that he could have easily lied about and covered up. The name Mark McGwire comes to mind.

Frankly, I'm refreshed. I'm glad I can open a sports magazine and read total truth. Yeah, Bode messed up, and yes, he should face some sort of ramifications for his inebriated incident. But he should also be supported for never denying the person he is at heart. We can ridicule him all we want for misrepresenting the USA on a national scale, but perhaps Miller is really an icon for everything the American people base their ideals on: candor, fearlessness ... individualism.

In a world full of greys, Bode Miller is one of the lone figures that still burns red, white and blue.

Travis Stewart is a junior broadcast journalism major from Sugar Land.

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*The Pink Panther-PG (Fri-Thurs) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
*Curious George- G (Fri-Thurs) 11:50, 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30
*Final Destination 3- R (Fri-Thurs) 12:20, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
*Firewall- PG-13 (Fri-Thurs) 1:15, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
*When a Stranger Calls-PG-13 (Fri-Thurs) 12:05, 2:25, 4:50, 7:05, 8:05, 9:20, 10:20
*Something New-PG-13 (Fri-Thurs) 1:25, 4:10, 7:10, 9:55
Nanny McPhee-PG (Fri-Thurs) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
Big Momma's House 2-PG-13 (Fri-Thurs) 11:45, 2:15, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05
Brokeback Mountain-R (Fri-Thurs) 1:30, 4:30, 7:45, 10:45
Annapolis-PG-13 (Fri-Thurs) 4:25, 10:15
The New World-PG-13 (Fri-Thurs) 1:10
Underworld-Evolution-R (Fri-Thurs) 12:15, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:40
Glory Road-PG (Fri-Thurs) 4:20, 7:20, 10:25
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FAMOUS QUOTE

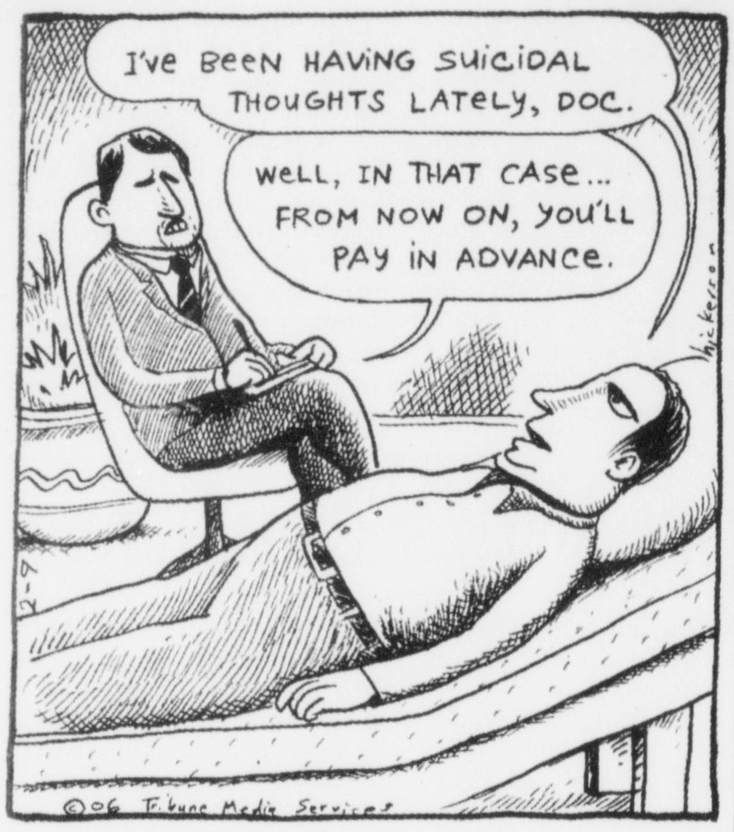
"Laughing at our own mistakes can lengthen our own life. Laughing at someone else's can shorten it."

— Cullen Hightower

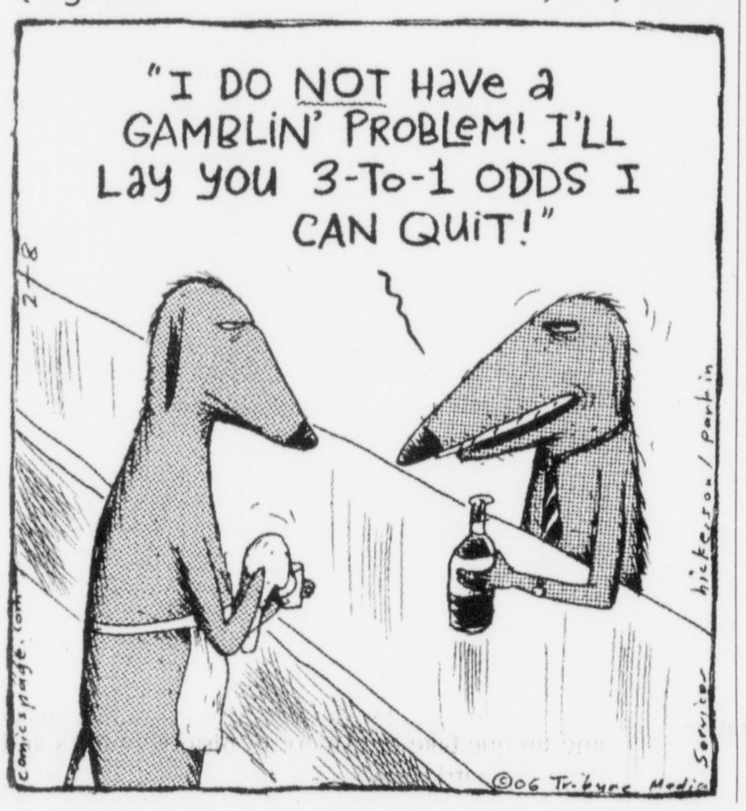
TODAY IN HISTORY

1763: The French and Indian War ends.
1846: Mormons begin exodus to Utah.

Quigmans by Buddy Hickerson



Quigmans by Buddy Hickerson



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		2	6				5	1
		5	8			4		
3	9							

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

See Tuesday's paper for answers to today's Sudoku puzzle.

Thursday's Solutions

2	5	9	1	3	4	8	6	7
4	8	6	2	9	7	1	3	5
3	7	1	6	8	5	9	4	2
5	2	4	9	7	3	6	1	8
6	3	8	4	5	1	2	7	9
9	1	7	8	2	6	4	5	3
1	9	5	7	4	8	3	2	6
7	4	2	3	6	9	5	8	1
8	6	3	5	1	2	7	9	4

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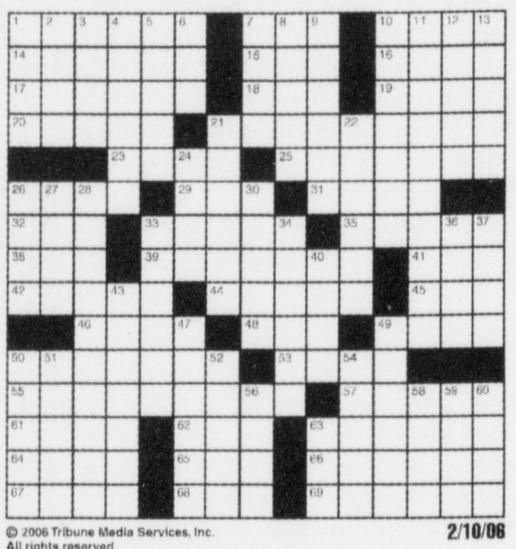
7 Lawyers' org.
10 Picnic pests
14 Radio antenna
15 Deteriorate
16 Slight
17 Mommy's mommy
18 Oneself
19 Tylenol's target
20 Implant
21 Rocket platform
23 Going price
25 Educates
26 Showy flower
29 Cereal grain
31 English noble
32 Neill or Nunn
33 Thrash out
35 Catholic honoree
38 Kind of service or gloss
39 Bravery
41 AAA service
42 Put in office
44 Go in
45 "Much __ About Nothing"
46 Henhouse
48 Boozer
49 Smallest bills
50 Got hold of
53 Exploited
55 Move from here to there
57 Workshop implements
61 Rips off
62 Org. of Player and Woods
63 Celeb magazine
64 At rest
65 Batter ingredient
66 Injury showing discoloration
67 Outer banana
68 Kind of whiskey
69 Word after buddy or solar

DOWN
1 Wise person
2 Period in office
3 Part of U.A.R.
4 Colliers
5 Bamboo-eating animal
6 Foxy
7 Geographical region
8 False
9 Immediately if not sooner
10 Two-handled jar
11 Three-flavored ice cream
12 Court case
13 E-mails
21 Alliance
22 Pursuer
24 Matador's adversary
26 Cay or key
27 Horizontal barrier
28 Without flaws
30 Rotates
33 Tragedians
34 Lunch al fresco?
36 Protuberance
37 "Terrible" years
40 Catches on to
43 Guidance
47 Granular seasoning
49 Hateful
50 Take off
51 Undermine
52 Small pooch
54 __ so often
56 Latest popular thing
58 Barbecue stick
59 Besides
60 Appear to be
63 "Masterpiece Theatre" network



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2/10/06

Thursday's Solutions

S	L	A	B	■	N	O	V	■	A	S	T	R	A	Y
A	I	D	A	■	A	N	E	■	C	L	E	E	S	E
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L	O	L	L	E	D	■	E	A	R	■	A	A	R	P
S	T	E	E	L	S	■	E	R	A	■	S	P	I	T

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

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College - Cru
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www.college-cru.com

Christ Chapel Bible Church 3740 Birchman Ave. 817-546-0860. College Impact 11:15am in the Bubble. "Focus" Modern Worship Wednesday nights in sanctuary 7-8pm. Contact Ryan McCarthy for info. www.ccsm.net or Ryanm@christchapelbc.org

Catholic

Holy Family Catholic Church 6150 Pershing Ave. 817-737-6768. Weekend masses Saturday 5:00pm. Sunday 7:45am, 9:15am, 12:00 noon.

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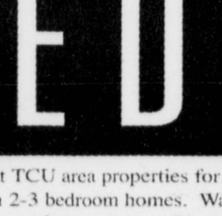


SAY IT AGAIN?

New York-based indie rockers Clap Your Hands Say Yeah will headline the Ridglea Theater March 15. The show will also feature the Magic Numbers.

CD REVIEW

'Everyone' all over the map

English quintet Oceansize grasps for "The Dark Side of the Moon," with "Everyone into Position," but often ends up hitting a wall.

COMMENTARY
Sherman Donegan

As one of Manchester's foremost rock bands, Oceansize has made waves in recent years. After signing to one of London's premier indie labels, Beggars Banquet Records, in 2002, the band released its celebrated debut LP "Effloresce," along with a handful of EPs.

Riding a crest of European admiration, Oceansize's latest release finds the band in the early stages of establishing a potential stateside fan base.

At over an hour in length, however, "Everyone into Position's" 10 tracks exhibit an exhausting arrangement of influences within and between each song.

Beginning with the resolute pounding of tribal-like drums on "The Charm Offensive," Oceansize launches the listener into a world of drawn-out swirling sounds that somehow manage to arrange themselves into a cohesive hellbent epic.

Other songs, such as "Heaven Alive," hint at the Smashing Pumpkins' energy but quickly disintegrate into a patchwork of excessively layered noise. In other spots, Oceansize employs a Cursive-like energy that borrows more from the Saddle Creek band than it independently creates.

After assaulting the listener's eardrums, the band moves into a much more subdued area with tracks like "Meredith."

Courtesy of Beggars Group

Oceansize kicks the sleepy-headed vibe with "No Tomorrow," a track that delivers an apocalyptic energy, threatening to blow out your speakers and knock down your door with its ferocious drumming and unrelenting guitars.

The album's highlight is "Mine Host," an ethereal anthem out of left field that beckons the listener to crank up the volume before dying off at a relatively short four minutes.

Quite often, "Everyone into Position" is so busy punching you in the face with an army of instruments that it overwhelms you rather than captivating you.

The final track, "Ornament / The Last Wrongs," wraps up this 2006 Oceansize release with a nine-plus minute conglomeration of the sounds and styles within "Everyone into Position;" an album, that when played from start to finish, leaves the listener thirsting for silence, recuperation and reflection.

BOOK REVIEW

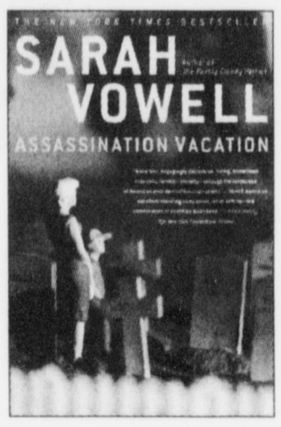
Vowell's grim reflections

Much like her "This American Life" counterpart, David Sedaris, writer Sarah Vowell excels at morphing the inane and important into one tight, compelling story. In her latest book, "Assassination Vacation," recently released in paperback, Vowell takes the minutia and makes a masterful tale.

COMMENTARY
Darren White

The book follows Vowell's personal pilgrimage to the sites of three presidential assassinations: those of Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield and William McKinley. More than just writing short reflections on the sites themselves, Vowell digs into them, takes detours and explores the details of the events. In the process, she makes the stories, and the players within them, real and all too lifelike. Vowell's journey leads her, among other places, to the Florida Keys in search of John Wilkes Booth's co-conspirators, as well as the Oneida Community, a free-love cult that spawned Garfield assassin Charles Giteau (as well as many fine dining accessories as the housewares company Oneida, Ltd.) and many other places.

If you've ever heard Vowell's church-mouse voice on NPR or during an appearance on her good friend Conan O'Brien's late night show, you'll have a good feel on the style of "Vacation." Veering from deadpan humor to poignancy, the book is almost begging to be read aloud. On the audio version, Vowell taps O'Brien and "Daily Show" host Jon Stewart to play the parts of the characters she deftly weaves together.



The beauty of "Vacation" lies in the rabbit trails and detours Vowell takes on her way to the bigger picture. Upon discovering that Lincoln's son, Robert Todd Lincoln was present at, or not very far from, each site when the dreaded deed took place, Vowell refers to the first son as "Jinxy McDeath." She also commends Garfield's repeated journal entries that reveal he'd rather be reading than leading the nation. A more ambitious work than her past works, "Take the Canoli" and "The Partly Cloudy Patriot," "Assassination Vacation" is a smart and unique take on American history, politics and personal patriotism.

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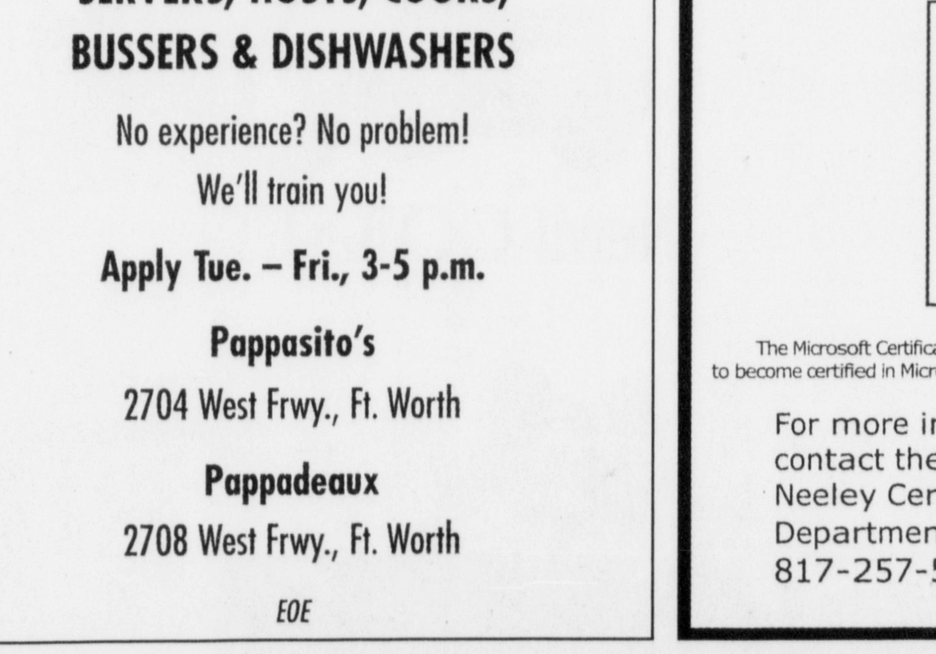

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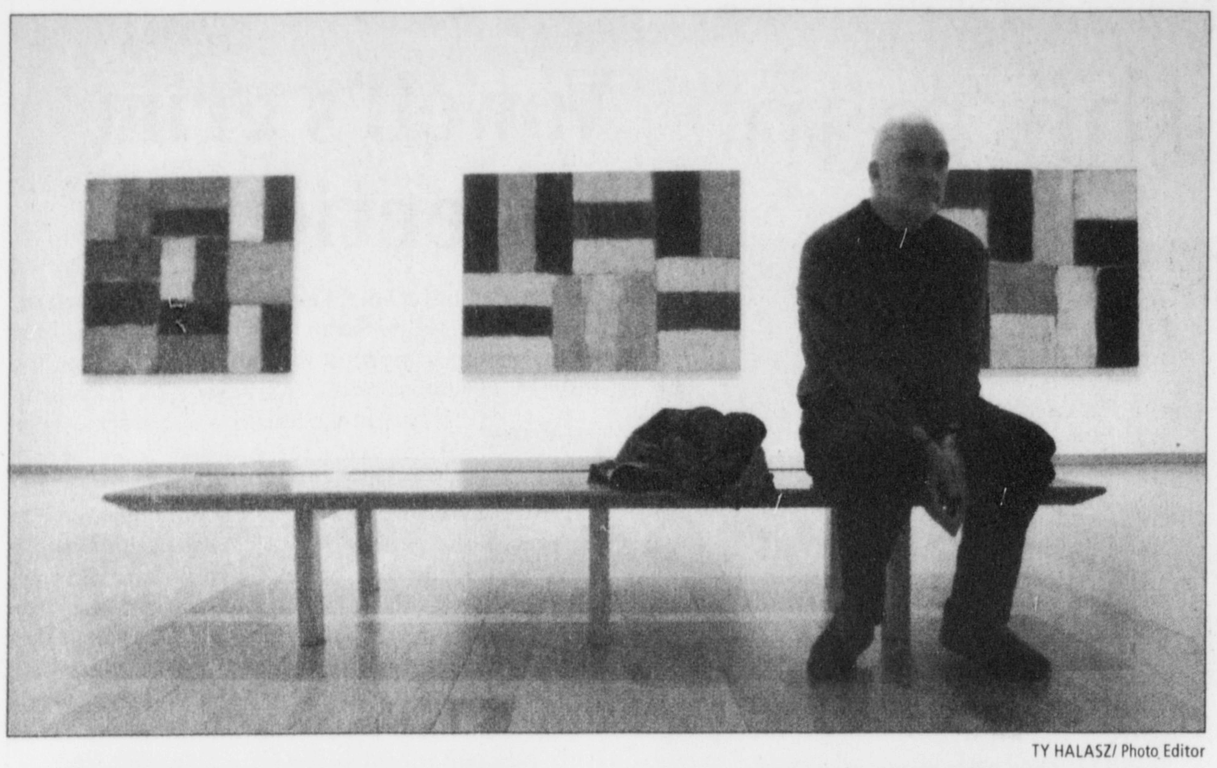
BEAUTIFUL DAY

On Wednesday, rockers U2 dominated the Grammy awards with a win in each of the five categories they were nominated in, including Album of the Year



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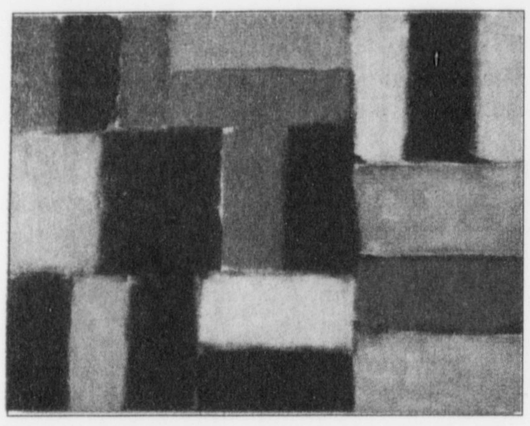
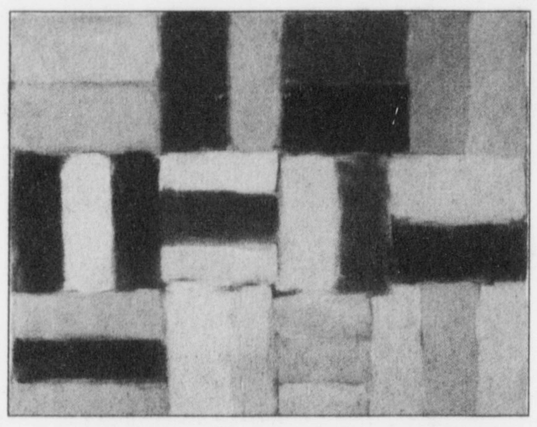




Artwork images courtesy of The Modern

wall of light

Sean Scully reflects senses in new exhibit

By DARREN WHITE, FEATURES EDITOR

"Wall of Light," the latest exhibit from artist Sean Scully, mixes color and emotion deftly onto one palette.

"The paintings are a competition between the familiar and the subjective," Scully said at a sneak preview of the exhibit.

Completed between 1997 and 2005, the works represent emotions surrounding natural occurrences, ranging from "Wall of Light Beach," (2001) to "Wall of Light Red Night" (2003).

Rather than paint a direct landscape, Scully chose to capture the feeling of the landscape by using colors to convey emotion.

"It makes the paintings very difficult at entry," Scully said, "but hopefully rewarding in the long-term."

In "Wall of Light Desert Night," (1999) Scully cleansed his frustration with the glitzy lights of Las Vegas by driving into the desert, where he was inspired to capture the desert sunset.

Many of the paintings were influenced by Scully's travels to the Mayan ruins, Barcelona, Spain and Mexico, Stephen Phillips, exhibit curator said.

"Raphael" (2004) is inspired by Scully's time in New York.

The closely slotted blues and black of the work are meant to signify the "intellectual rigors of the city," Phillips said.

Born in Dublin and raised in London, Scully shyly stalked through the exhibit, adding anecdotes about his personal favorite paintings.

A undertone of melancholy accentuates many of Scully's works, which often use muted grays, blues and browns.

While distinctly original, the paintings often invoke the names of Matisse, Paul Gaugin and Jackson Pollock.

"Unlike many artists who want to cut away from tradition, Sean studies and respects art history," Phillips said.

Scully stressed the open nature of the exhibit.

"The works range from chamber music to the orchestral," Scully said. "Each painting has possibility for interpretation."

In art, Scully said he is only interested in the profound.

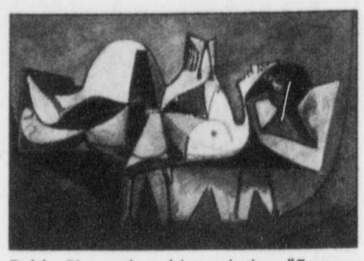
"I want them to be like a tree," Scully said. "I want them to be rooted from the bottom, so they will hold up."

The exhibit will open at the Modern Art Museum on Feb. 12.

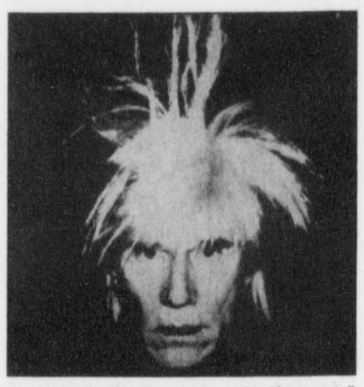
Photos (Clockwise): Artist Sean Scully sits among his artwork at The Modern Art Museum. "Wall of Light Beach" (2001) "Bridge" (2002).

IF YOU GO...

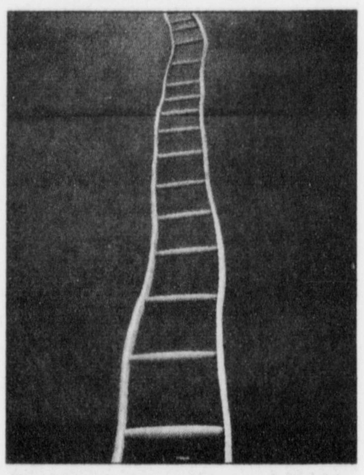
Art to see at the Modern



Pablo Picasso's cubist painting "Femme couchée lisant" (1960) shows a woman reclining on a couch reading a book.

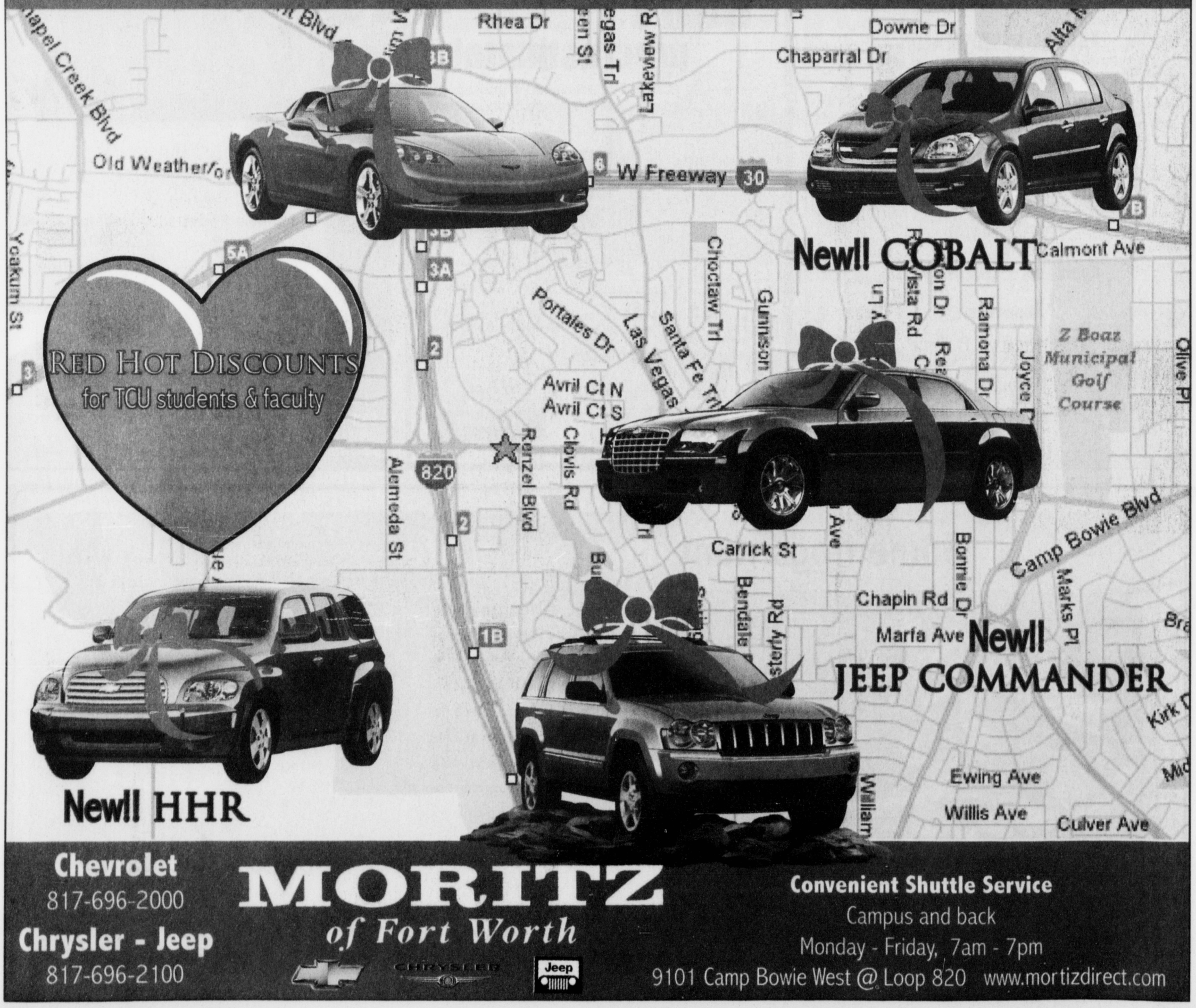


Andy Warhol's silk-screened "Self Portrait" (1986) is a modernist masterpiece in electric green and black.



Alone in a single room, Puryear's "Ladder for Booker T. Washington" is a solitary room for reflection on insurmountable odds and accomplishment. A tribute to the 20th century thinker, the ladder ascends symbolically to the ceiling of the exhibit.

THE PERFECT GIFT...



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