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WHERE'S THE HELP?
We look at how much the on-campus aid efforts have accomplished so far.

TCU DAILY SKIFF
Serving Texas Christian University since 1902
Wednesday, February 9, 2005 | Vol. 102 • Issue 70 • Fort Worth, Texas

International students forced to pay fee to study in U.S.

International student enrollment may decline next semester due to new government fees.

By CHRISTINA RUFFINI
Staff Reporter

Big Brother is watching international students, and they are paying him to do it.

The Student Exchange Visitor Information System, a national database that tracks the location and activity of international students while in the United States, went into effect this semester, paid for by a fee charged to the students.

University officials say there is already a noticeable impact nationwide on the shrinking number of foreign students enrolled in American colleges and universities.

Boschini

Many international students are opting to study in other English-speaking countries like Australia, Canada, England and Ireland, said John Singleton, director of International Student Services.

"International students coming to America have to pay $100, plus embassy fees, or they can apply to other countries that offer incentives for international students," Singleton said. "Ireland has national government advertisements to try and bring in international students."

Claudia Vaz, an international student and sophomore finance major, said this is yet another obstacle in the visa application process.

"A hundred dollars may not seem like a lot of money, but we have students coming from countries where the annual income is very low," Vaz said. "That fee is pretty harsh."

The database – called SEVIS – was created by the USA Patriot Act to help the Department of Homeland Security "maintain up-to-date information on foreign students and exchange visitors," according to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Web site.

The Web site states the database will "ensure that [International students] arrive in the United States, show up and register at the school or exchange program and properly maintain their status during their stay."

Army ROTC cadet Erin Cooksley said she believes

more on FEES, page 2

Packed in transit

Ty Halasz / Staff Photographer

Students riding the bus to class from Worth Hills find little personal space on the way to East Campus Tuesday morning.

Students overcrowd morning shuttle buses

A van has been added in the mornings to help ease demand on the Worth Hills to East Campus route.

By TIFFANY GREENER
Staff Reporter

Although riders on the TCU Frog Shuttle have decreased in number, TCU Police and Student Affairs are considering adding buses for next semester because overcrowding remains a problem, said TCU Police Sgt. J.C. Drake.

Until that decision is made, a shuttle van has been added from 7:30 a.m. to noon to ease demand on the shuttle from Worth Hills to East Campus.

In 2003, 89,833 passengers rode the TCU Frog Shuttle, Drake said. In 2004, there were 68,060 passengers.

James Johnson, a bus operator, said the most crowded times are at 8:45 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and at 9:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The shuttle that picks up students on the side of Wiggins Hall and in front of the Worth Hills Dining Hall sometimes cannot take all the students waiting to get on.

"The bus was already full before it got to the second stop," Elizabeth Hamner, a sophomore business major, said. "I walk to the first stop to make sure I can get on."

The bus is only supposed to carry as many people as it has seats, Johnson said, which is about 50. A sign is posted on the bus that says it is against federal law to stand past the indicated yellow line.

"The other day I had 100 students on the bus," he said. "I had students standing past the yellow line and sitting on the stairs in front."

Tracie Burns, a bus operator, said the operators let on extra passengers to help out students trying to get to class. She said overcrowding is only a problem for the shuttle to East Campus.

"The (Main Campus) bus is never so crowded that I can't take everyone," Burns said.

David Meyer, a sophomore business major, said buses should be added in the peak morning hours.

"It's not fair to guess if you're going to be able to catch the bus," he said.

Two weeks ago, Drake drove a shuttle van to and from Worth Hills to pick up the overflow of students. He said he drove about 100 riders from Tuesday to Friday.

Johnson said he thinks another bus should be added at peak times because overcrowding increases the time of each run.

"The problem is each run is 15 minutes," Johnson said. "That's too tight for (the bus operators) to take a break, and even with only 50 or 60 students, it takes time to get them on and off the bus."

Drake said the system works well for the most part.

"The glitches are taken care of and resolved as soon as possible," he said.

Drake said riders can provide feedback by taking the online shuttle survey at (www.cap.tcu.edu).

EXTRA INFO

Most crowded times for the TCU Shuttle:
- **9:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays**
- **8:45 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays**
- **2003: 89,833 passengers rode the TCU Shuttle**
- **2004: 68,060 passengers rode the TCU Shuttle**

TCU Frog Shuttle Van will run from 7:30 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday.

Eating disorder help offered by private group

Campus Life offers services for students to determine if they need aid.

By ASHLEE RILEY
Skiff Reporter

Low attendance spelled the end for TCU's eating disorder support group, but the university offers alternate support options.

Marcy Paul, Women's Resource Center coordinator, said the first place she points a student struggling with an eating disorder is the Campus Life office in Sadler Hall, Room 101.

Paul helped found the Disordered Eating Network Team at TCU three summers ago. DENT, which is composed of faculty, staff, students and campus experts, formed a weekly support group that allowed a safe place for students to discuss eating disorders ranging from overeating to starvation, Paul said.

DENT is still active at TCU, but the team no longer holds eating disorder support groups.

"DENT's support group meetings did not continue on, and it was very difficult to get attendance," said Jacquelyn Ekern, a member of the National Eating Disorder Association, who attended a few DENT meetings.

Ekern, a recovered bulimic and anorexic, formed a support group in January that meets in a private Fort Worth office to ensure members' privacy. She said her goal for the group, which is open to TCU students, is to talk logically about eating issues and develop skills that members can use in the real world.

"The support group is not to replace counseling; it's available to provide more information," Ekern said.

Monica Kintigh, a licensed counselor for Mental Health Services/Counseling

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EXTRA INFO

To take the confidential eating disorders test, visit (www.counseling.tcu.edu) and click on "screening for mental health." The keyword is "frog."

For further information on an eating disorder support group, contact Jacquelyn Ekern at jacquelynekern@yahoo.com or (817) 602-8727.

Designer shares industry anecdotes

Costume designer Cheri Ingle said passion is the key to success.

By RYAN BUTTS
Staff Reporter

Cheri Ingle said she sat in the dark watching Jane Seymour in the film "Somewhere in Time" and decided Seymour was someone she wanted to design for. Twelve years later, Ingle was doing just that.

Ingle shared this and other anecdotes from her career as a professional costume designer with students and faculty at the Hays Theatre in the Walsh Center for Performing Arts on Tuesday.

Ingle was the theatre department's selection for Green Honors Chair for 2005, a program that allows each eligible department to invite professionals in their respective fields to come to TCU and share new ideas with students and faculty.

Eligible departments pick a Green Honors Chair every three years, according to (www.provost.tcu.edu).

Harry Parker, chairman of the theatre department, said the decision to nominate Ingle as the department's Green Honors Chair was an easy one.

"Cheri came very highly recommended," Parker said. "She was very willing to come and review her portfolio."

Ingle's most notable career achievement came as costume designer for "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman," a drama starring Jane Seymour that aired on CBS for six seasons.

Ingle said the experience of coming to TCU to teach and inform was a fulfilling one.

"I don't know why they picked me," Ingle said, "but I feel enriched by the experience."

Ingle talked to students

more on INGLE, page 2

Horned Frog alum preaches public service

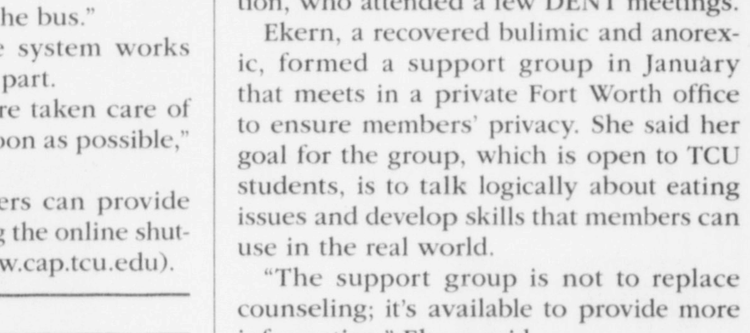
After being sworn in as the Secretary of State, Roger Williams gave a group of TCU students advice.

By KATIE MCMILLEN
Staff Reporter

Roger Williams, a Texas Christian University alumnus, was sworn in as the secretary of state of Texas on Tuesday.

That afternoon he told a group of TCU delegates to give back to the university and be leaders in the community.

"Public service is a big deal to me," Williams said. "At some point in your life, give something back, do something for nothing, volunteer."


Andrew Chavez / Staff Photographer

Corrie Lockhart, a junior communications studies major, and Ricky Nunez, a senior criminal justice major talk with TCU alumnus and Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams to discuss the funding cuts made to the Texas Equalization Grant program.

He said it is especially important to remember to give back to TCU because it does not have as many alumni as many other schools have.

While TCU may have a fraction of the alumni that a large school has, Williams said he has confidence in the students at TCU to become leaders that

more on WILLIAMS, page 2

Campus Lines

Your bulletin board for campus events

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

- Haven't gotten your picture taken for the Horned Frog yearbook? The yearbook staff will be taking pictures in the Student Center lounge at the following times: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Feb. 2 – Feb. 4; 10 a.m. to noon, Feb. 5; and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Feb. 7 – Feb. 11. For more information, contact at Kathy Hamer at (817) 257-7606 or k.hamer@tcu.edu.
- Want to be an Resident Assistant? Come see what it's all about at the RA interest session today in the Tom Brown/ Pete Wright Commons building. The session is come and go from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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News Brief

New way to recruit RAs

Hall directors and resident assistants will present information about their buildings from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. today in the Tom Brown/Pete Wright commons building for students interested in applying to be an RA for the fall 2005 semester.

"This is the first year that we have done an information session in the format we will be using on Wednesday," Dana Schmitz, manager of on-campus apartments, said.

To be considered for an RA position, students must be in good standing with TCU, must have sophomore status and have a 2.6 cumulative GPA, said Barbara Hawkins, associate director of residence life.

"We generally look for someone who has lived on campus and had experience in a residence hall," Hawkins said.

The meeting will cover the general application process, but there will also be information posted on the residential services Web site for students who are unable to attend the meeting.

Applications for RA positions are due Feb. 18, Schmitz said. Interviews will be held in the Student Center on March 1.

— Summer Kenny

News Brief

Brits face Yanks in Main

TCU Dining Services will serve British dishes for lunch and dinner starting Wednesday. The dishes are created by United Kingdom chef Ian Barnett.

The event will last through Monday, Feb. 14, when Dining Services will present "Battle of the Zones — America vs. England." Students may vote for the best use of a secret ingredient in either American or British food.

Chef Barnett will create British items to compete with TCU Executive Chef Susan Smith, who will create American meals. Each item will come with a mini-flag of either the United States or United Kingdom.

Students can drop the flags at the cashier stand so the number of items sold can be counted. The winner of the "Battle of the Zones" will be determined by sales of the particular items.

Chef Barnett is presently employed as Learning and Development Manager Craft for Sodexho Education UK, where he works to improve food standards throughout England and Wales.

— Stacey Childress

WILLIAMS

From page 1

could help the school.

"At TCU, I know we build good leaders," Williams said.

Williams cited four former Horned Frogs, including Texas Chief of Staff Bruce Gibson, that now have jobs at the Capitol as evidence of the good leaders TCU produces.

Corrie Lockhart, a junior communication studies major, said she was grateful Williams understood that student leaders do what they do to make a difference, not for recognition.

"He really believed in the power of the student," Lockhart said.

Williams gave the students tips about how to get their goals accomplished with the issue they came to tackle in Austin — cuts in the Tuition Equalization Grant.

He said the students should know what they want to say, what they want others to do about it and state their requests simplistically.

To alleviate the financial shortcomings that led to cutting the TEG, Williams suggested students could use their leadership skills to bring more business (and more tax funding for education) to Texas.

Williams said the cuts to the TEG were necessary until more revenue and tax dollars can be created.

Before Williams was elected as Texas secretary of state, he worked as a top political fund-raiser for the Republican Party, according to a Nov. 18 article in The Daily Texan at UT-Austin.

The newspaper also stated that Williams helped in both of President George W. Bush's presidential campaigns, raising more than $300,000 in both elections.

Peter Wirth, a freshman biology major, said he wants to follow Williams' advice and give back to TCU.

He is one of the students that went to the capitol to lobby against the TEG.

He considers his trip to Austin a start to giving back to the TCU community.

A large percentage of the grant goes to minorities, which could mean less diversity on campus if it is cut.

"If part of what TCU is trying to do is broaden diversity, then I want to help out with that," Wirth said.

As the students set out to speak to more representatives Wednesday about the TEG, Williams said, they should be excited about what they do.

He stressed that they remember their connection to TCU.

Williams said he is proud of his legacy at TCU.

Williams said, "Stay with TCU, remember TCU, keep it for a lifetime."

SUPPORT

From page 1

and Testing, said she has counseled students who have eating disorders. If a student needs further counseling, she recommends a list of counselors and community support groups.

"Students can go online and take a completely confidential test to see if they have an eating disorder," Kintigh said.

According to the National Eating Disorder Association Web site, some eating disorder symptoms are fainting, fatigue, overall weakness, tooth decay, osteoporosis and peptic ulcers.

Natalie Jagers, a junior theater major and resident assistant in Sherley Hall, said she has dealt with people at TCU who have eating disorders.

"It's years of believing (their) personal worth is just not worth it," Jagers said.

Angie Taylor, associate dean of student development and director of alcohol and drug education, said it does not matter what the rate is for TCU students affected by an eating disorder. If one person struggles with the disease, it is a problem the campus needs to deal with, she said.

"It takes a community, involving students, staff and faculty, to help anyone overcome an eating disorder," Taylor said.

Paul said she knows there is a problem at TCU but the bigger issue is how the university can help.

"You should not be ashamed," Paul said. "The sooner you get help, the better off you are."

FEES

From page 1

SEVIS and other immigration policies are necessary to maintain security and prevent terrorism.

"I understand that it seems a little unfair, but that is the price they have to pay if they want to study in America," said Cooksley, a sophomore political science major. "We have to protect our citizens above all else. Their ability to study here is a privilege, not a guarantee."

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Web site says that under SEVIS, schools are required by law to report information about their international students and update the SEVIS database on a regular basis.

Some of the required information includes students' home address, their grade point average and whether they are fulfilling the requirements of their major.

Across the country, the number of international applicants to colleges and universities is declining.

According to a Jan. 30, 2003 article in the "Chronicle of Higher Education," government tracking programs are making the United States less and less appealing to foreign students.

Singleton said, "The word is out in the international community that it is harder to get a visa."

As a result, he said, the number of international students enrolled at TCU will most likely drop next semester.

Additionally, even if the SEVIS fee is paid, the student can still be denied a visa.

Chancellor Victor Boschini said he is concerned about any measure that decreases the number of international students at TCU.

"I think that enrolling international students at TCU is a critical and positive element in a better education for American students and for their international colleagues," Boschini said. "International students add another dimension to our campus that you cannot achieve in any other way."

Some Texas schools have taken steps to offset the effects of SEVIS and encourage international applicants.

Jerry Wilcox, director of the international office at UT, said the University of Texas at Austin will reimburse all new students who have to pay the fee.

"Although for tax reasons we have been told to steer away from the word 'reimbursement,' we are offering $100 scholarships to all of our students who have to pay the fee," Wilcox said.

The decision to compensate UT's international students, he said, was made by university president Larry Faulkner.

"[Faulkner] felt that we needed to send the message of 'we still want you' to our international students," Wilcox said.

TCU administrators have discussed offering similar reimbursements, Singleton said.

"Fee waivers were, for us, an immediate consideration," he said. "We do not have a program in place yet to provide them."

Boschini said that he is taking the matter under consideration.

"Bottom line, I am concerned with anything that could potentially limit their (international students) numbers on campus."

INGLE

From page 1

about getting started in the film and theatre industries and shared some tips about how to find success.

"If you can find something that you would do even if you didn't get paid, you will have a happy and successful life," Ingle said.

Ingle said networking and maintaining a good work ethic are essential to thriving in the industry.

"You've always got to be telling people what your vision is," Ingle said. "Even if you are working at a McDonald's in Los Angeles."

Ingle said passion, above all else, is the key to attaining success and happiness.

"It's about the passion," Ingle said. "If I leave you with nothing else, it's about the passion you have for what you want to do."

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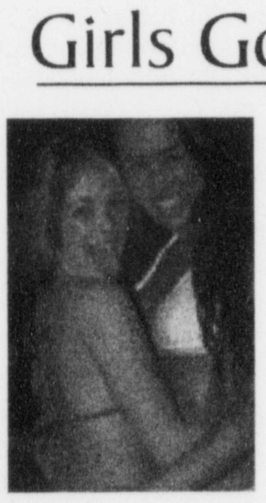

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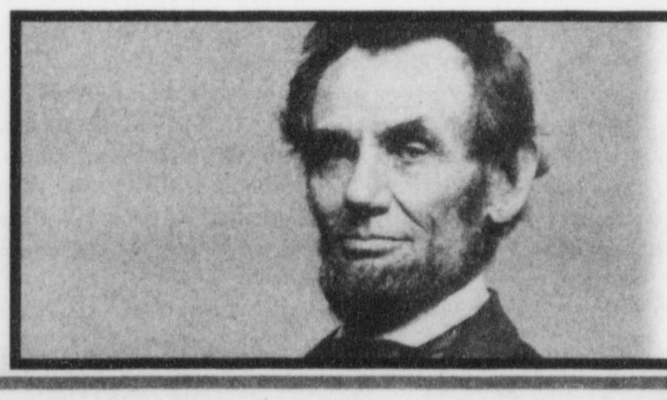

Failed, failed, failed.
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Skiff View

Help is available for eating disorders

Health battles need not be fought alone

From glamour magazines like "Cosmopolitan" to reality television shows such as "Extreme Makeover", the idea that "being skinny is the way to be beautiful" is a prevalent one. Perhaps as a result, anorexia and bulimia, two of the most common types of eating disorders, are turning up on more and more college campuses.

Overcoming these diseases can often take months or years. However, anyone suffering from an eating disorder should know that there is help available to him or her.

The Counseling Center, Health Center, Women's Resource Center and Campus Life all have resources to help those trying to recover from an eating disorder.

Also, an on-campus organization called the Disordered Eating Network Team specializes in support for those who want help. Having an eating disorder can do damage physically, mentally and emotionally, but there are plenty of people here at TCU who care and want to help.

As our cartoonist shows, bulimia is still a problem on campus because it still exists. However, we know it's not a simple problem, and there will be no simple answer. No one is making light of the situation, but rather we urge TCU to continue recognizing the problem and offering help. There are other options, and there are people there to help.

Other View

Regardless of opinion, speech should be allowed

A Colorado professor, facing dismissal for his inflammatory comments, illustrates yet again the fragility of academic autonomy and the importance of protecting free speech — no matter how controversial.

At the center of the debate is Ward Churchill's essay, written on Sept. 12, 2001, condemning U.S. foreign policy and likening victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to a Nazi mastermind.

He has stepped down as the head of the University of Colorado's ethnic studies department, and his conduct and speech are under investigation by the state's Board of Regents. Legislators and the Colorado governor have demanded his termination. Last week, he publicly declined to apologize for his comments.

But, regardless of the offensive nature of Churchill's essay — which he calls a "stream-of-consciousness interpretative reaction" to Sept. 11, 2001 — the professor had the First Amendment right to author it. Neither the Board of Regents nor the state has any right to interfere with the fate of Churchill's job.

In his essay titled "Some People Push Back: On the Justice of Roosting Chickens," Churchill writes at length about what he believes were injustices committed by the U.S. government in Iraq during and after the first Gulf War. He later makes claims that the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks were not innocent civilians — comparing them to a notorious Nazi leader who organized the murder of millions of European Jews. But Churchill has said that his comments have been misinterpreted.

"I have never characterized all the Sept. 11 victims as 'Nazis.' What I said was that the 'technocrats of empire' working in the World Trade Center were the equivalent of 'little Eichmanns,'" he said in a statement. "Adolf Eichmann was not charged with direct killing but with ensuring the smooth running of the infrastructure that enabled the Nazi genocide. Similarly, German industrialists were legitimately targeted by the allies."

Though Churchill's remarks are undoubtedly politically incorrect, professors shouldn't worry about amassing political capital or fear losing their jobs for publishing an opinion — especially in a university setting. Academia flourishes on disseminating ideas, which prompt the discussions and debates so vital to education. Opinions that stray from accepted conventions should be welcomed, not become the basis for censorship and termination. Controversial remarks, no matter how insensitive, are often catalysts for valuable dialogue.

Permitting a Board of Regents or state politicians the power to punish those holding ideas antithetical to their own sets a dangerous precedent. Academia requires autonomy to function — it is why senates of professors decide tenure, and academic publications operate on a peer-review model.

The university is no place for incompetent professors or ones who incite violence, but Churchill has yet to be proven guilty of either offense. State politicians shouldn't be the judges of academic merit and their academic witch hunt of Ward Churchill should cease.

This staff editorial is from the Daily Bruin at UCLA. This column was distributed by U-wire.

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Better lifestyle is secret to weight loss

COMMENTARY
Kathryn Anderson

During a visit to the University Recreation Center, after an indulgent semester abroad, I noticed shrinking gym-goers with faces etched with hard-bound determination and, keeping themselves occupied on the machines around me. They peddled, rowed and jogged furiously toward Cancun and hard beach bodies. Suddenly realizing that March is around the corner, I lost my grasp on the elliptical hand bars. I glanced down at my gelato-nourished thighs, groaned and decided to wait three weeks before swimsuit shopping.

The effort to lose weight quickly for spring is futile. It's a tired New Year's resolution. Experts at the FDA define responsible weight loss as losing three-quarters to two pounds each week. If a beach-bound student lost one pound each week until spring break, only eight pounds would be shed. But thousands subscribe to commercial programs, such as Cortislim, because its makers promise dramatic weight-loss in just a few weeks.

The trend is contagious. Everybody I know works out, and many of them are trying to lose weight quickly.

Not only that, but also the ever-idolized royalty of Hollywood is boasting jealousy-inducing whittled waistlines. Nicole Richie is all of the sudden skinny. No doubt, Gwen Stefani is looking increasingly like a flagpole, and I think Al Roker weighs less than I do.

Aside from building muscles that gleam in the Caribbean sun, why are we beating ourselves up for a quick fix?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 25 percent of adults are not active. This is the problem. But the solution is not to slave away at the gym.

We waste too much time on the treadmill. Much like our rodent pets, on a treadmill, you may run three miles, but you haven't moved an inch. The hamster wheel is meant to occupy a pet and was never intended for human use. Let's get somewhere instead of spending hours running nowhere fast.

Activity means more than 45 minutes at the gym. While physical aesthetics lie in the minds of exercising college students, incorporating activity into life outside of the gym can reap the same benefits plus increase overall well-being. Physical activity pulls in a myriad of benefits, including relief of depression and anxiety, increased bone strength and even increased life-span, according to the CDC. When activity equals life-altering benefits, being active shouldn't equal torture.

Learn to play racquetball. Play with your dog, cat or little brother. Enjoyable exercise is easy to stick with. The time-shortage excuse is as worthless as a fat-free cheeseburger, but you may need to cut hours playing Halo.

The United States Department of Sports and Recreation recommends a mere 30 minutes of moderate activity on all or most days of the week.

And for those still wondering about their second chin, perhaps consider ordering Gumby's once a week or limiting Corona consumption to less than a full case an evening.

Aristotle said, "Moderation in all things." This is the key to self-improvement, whether it's physical or mental.

Stu Mittleman, author of "Slow Burn: Burn Fat Faster by Exercising Slower," understands the concept of living an active lifestyle. Instead of thinking in terms of exercise, Mittleman looks to children as models for an active lifestyle.

"Even within the confines of a structured work-out or coaching session, most 5-to-7-year-olds will find a way to tickle their buddies while the coach is making a serious attempt at a new technique or defensive strategy," Mittleman said in his book.

The lesson is to have fun in day-to-day activities, not to go crazy on the stationary bike.

Mittleman is a distance runner, who in 2000 ran from San Diego to New York City in 56 days, and I'm sure he looks fabulous in a bathing suit.

So, consider the benefits of activity rather than the benefits of exercise. Rethink a goal of losing 10 pounds before Fort Lauderdale, and instead, aim for a better quality of life.

Kathryn Anderson is a columnist for the University Daily Kansan at the University of Kansas. This column was distributed by U-wire.

by Yousif Del Valle / Skiff Cartoonist

Plan to reform Social Security lacking

COMMENTARY
Zach Pickens

Fellow students and young adults of the United States: It is time to put partisan differences aside and stand in solidarity. An issue has risen that will inevitably impact all of our lives. During his State of the Union address, President Bush rolled out his plan for Social Security reform in an attempt to head off the obvious shortfalls of a flawed system. Bush claims the Social Security system will begin paying out more than it takes around the year 2018 and will fall further into bankruptcy around 2042 — just as our generation begins to retire. Bush is making the daring first move. Now we must make sure it's the right plan.

The main pillar of Bush's Social Security reform agenda is the personal retirement account program, which allows employees the option of putting up to 4 percent of their payroll taxes into a private portfolio. Then, the employee has a number of established investment options that consist of mutual funds and bonds. The returns on these accounts, coupled with the remainder of the employee's traditional Social Security payout, could potentially increase a "middle wage" payout from $21,200 per month to $25,300 per month.

We need to keep two majors points in mind to avoid the criticism currently appearing in editorials across the country. First of all, the program is voluntary. Some critics have argued that these accounts put low-income families at risk because of the possibility of lower market returns. However, a low-income household that is reliant solely on Social Security may decide to stick with the traditional system that, for now, has a guaranteed payout. Second, keep in mind that the Social Security system never was meant to be a comprehensive retirement plan. It was created during the Great Depression to serve as a safety net and a supplement to personal savings.

So why create personal accounts?

Unlike the traditional system, the program allows employees to pass their savings to their loved ones — serving as a nest egg. Of course the possibility of a higher payout, based on market performance, also will attract young investors. But these accounts are important for a much larger reason.

Many people hold a common misconception that the Social Security system is like a savings account: I pay in, so I receive that sum when I retire. But this is a pay-as-you-go program that requires a constant flow of workers to maintain an equilibrium between inputs and payouts. Our generation will experience cuts in Social Security payouts because the money just will not be in the bank.

If a person enrolls in the privatized program, that portion of their Social Security investment becomes his or her money. It is no longer subject to the swells in Social Security financial reserves. Because of this, the system will be better prepared to absorb some future spikes of inputs and outputs. What's more, in an increasingly interdependent world, it will be nice to know that you own a piece of the action.

But here's the elephant in the room: The personal retirement account doesn't do a thing to change the reality of the numbers. Yes, employees will be better prepared to handle input and payout swells, but the money has to be there first. President Bush's proposed Social Security reform gives no details about how he intends to save the system from bankruptcy. Even more, the Congressional Budget Office estimates the cost of transition to privatized accounts around $750 billion.

President Bush is doing the right thing by calling on Congress to resolve the impending Social Security debt crisis. He's also doing the right thing by calling this a crisis. We should include Bush's program in the broad reform of the Social Security system, but it's time to tell Bush to get his priorities straight. It's time to ensure sound reform for our retirements and for generations to come.

Zach Pickens is a columnist for The Lantern at the Ohio State University. This column was distributed by U-wire.

National/International Roundup

Your link to news outside Fort Worth

ALABAMA

Bombing suspect looks to dodge death penalty

BIRMINGHAM — A former FBI whistle blower is helping serial bombing suspect Eric Rudolph fight death penalty charges by challenging the work of another federal agency, according to documents filed Tuesday.

Once the FBI's top expert on bomb residue, Fredric W. Whitehurst has supplied the Rudolph defense with a sworn statement questioning the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' model of the nail-laden bomb that exploded outside a Birmingham abortion clinic in 1998.

Whitehurst said the model, constructed by an expert with ATF, is based on flimsy conclusions and includes a plastic drinking straw and insulated wire that were not found in the blast debris.

Citing Whitehurst's statement, the defense contends the government constructed its model to fit its claim that the bomb was based on an explosive described in a book Rudolph purchased.

Prosecutors filed no immediate response to the defense claims about the bomb model, but they previously defended the work of agents who gathered and analyzed evidence.

In the 1990s, Whitehurst's complaints of shoddy work in the FBI crime lab prompted a lengthy investigation that found faulty scientific analysis and inaccurate testimony for the prosecution in cases including the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. He quit the FBI in 1998 and testified for the defense last year in Terry Nichols' state murder trial in the Oklahoma City bombing, criticizing the work of a government scientist.

Jury selection is set to begin next month in Rudolph's trial on charges of planting the bomb that went off outside the Birmingham clinic, killing an off-duty police officer and critically injuring a nurse.

Rudolph also is charged with the deadly bombing at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 and in a series of bombings around Atlanta the following year.

JAPAN

Tsunami warning systems not yet free from error

KOBE — Hawaii is among the most tsunami-ready places in the world. When an alert is issued, beach-side sirens go off and urgent messages are flashed on television and broadcast on radio. Evacuation maps on telephone book covers point people to higher ground.

But most of the time, no damaging tsunami hits the shore.

The Pacific Ocean early warning system's high false alarm rate — estimated at 75 percent — is getting more attention these days as experts and nations work to extend similar protection to the Indian Ocean following the tsunami disaster in southern Asia.

"It's definitely one of our biggest challenges," said Charles McCreery, director of the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Honolulu, which sends seismic data and tsunami bulletins to 26 nations around the Pacific. The network was begun in 1965.

In addition to the problem of false alarms, experts say there is a lack of information on landslides that trigger tsunamis and a wide disparity in the ability of Pacific nations to respond to alerts. Much work remains to upgrade the system with new technology.

"You have to take that model and update it," said Eddie N. Bernard, director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle.

Accuracy is an important element. Officials say a large tsunami in the Pacific won't be missed by the sensors and point out that monitors can get seismic information much more quickly than they used to. But the high false alarm rate undermines public confidence and dilutes the impact of alerts. Another issue is money: An unnecessary evacuation in Hawaii in 1994 cost an estimated $30 million in business disruptions and other costs.

Tsunami warnings are compiled using a variety of information. The most immediate data come from seismic readings: Monitors can alert nations within minutes of a large earthquake, and can then update the magnitude from subsequent readings within an hour.

But only a tiny percentage of undersea earthquakes cause dangerous tsunamis, meaning subsequent readings from sea level monitors are crucial to forecasting big waves. And that data can take hours to arrive.

"It depends on the network," said Michel Jarraud, secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organization. "In some cases, we expect it to take two hours."

A major advance has come with Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami buoys deployed by the United States in the Pacific in October 2002. There are now seven in operation, six operated by the United States and one by Chile.

The system consists of an ocean-floor sensor and an acoustic cable linking it to a buoy. The sensor measures any tsunami, and the buoy quickly transmits data to a monitoring station via satellite. The system was successful in November 2003, when it allowed authorities to withdraw a false tsunami bulletin within an hour of a 7.8 magnitude quake in Alaska's Aleutian islands.

Attention has focused on new technologies that allow scientists to measure the deformation of the earth along dangerous faults with satellites, using Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar. Seismologists and others hope someday to use those measurements to monitor the pressure building between plates as a way of predicting when a devastating quake will occur.

"It allows engineers to concentrate their resources on places where hazard is the highest," said James H. Whitcomb, deputy director of the Division of Earth Sciences at the National Science Foundation in Arlington, Va.

Any warning system, however, starts to break down when the tsunami-generating quake is so close to a coastline that there is very little time to get an alert to residents — meaning the education and preparation of local communities to recognize the warning signs and evacuate are crucial.

"Education saves lives," Bernard said. "No system is going to get to you in five minutes."

Fears of mad cow disease keep beef importers at bay

TOKYO — Japan moved a step closer to partially lifting a ban on U.S. beef imports after a government panel Tuesday accepted U.S. assurances that a specific grade of meat would be free of mad cow disease.

The U.S. ambassador welcomed the panel's recommendations, but the findings angered some Japanese consumer groups who said they were still worried about the safety of U.S. beef.

The panel's decision, if accepted by the government, will clear the way for Japan to begin importing U.S. grade A40 beef, which comes primarily from cattle aged 12 to 17 months.

Panel chairman Akihiro Okitani, a professor at the Nippon Veterinary and Animal Science University, told reporters there was a high probability that meat of this grade was free of mad cow disease.

Japan imposed a ban on U.S. beef imports in December 2003 after the United States discovered its first case of the fatal brain-wasting illness, known formally as bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE, in a Washington state Holstein.

Okitani praised information that U.S. researchers provided the panel to help it make its decision.

"The U.S. researchers came up with highly reliable data," Okitani said. He added it was up to the Japanese government to decide whether to lift the ban on beef imports.

U.S. Ambassador Howard Baker said he was pleased the panel agreed that using the "A Maturity" grading system was an effective method of ensuring meat from animals older than 20 months of age would not be exported from the United States to Japan.

Consumer groups swiftly criticized the panel's decision.

Talks resume in Tokyo / Associated Press

Members of Agriculture Ministry panel on reopening U.S. beef import are surrounded by photographers and TV crews as they start a meeting in Tokyo Tuesday. Washington has been pressing Tokyo to set a date for Japan to resume buying U.S. beef.

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FOR AN INTELLIGENT CREATOR

OF THE UNIVERSE?

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Dr. Walter L. Bradley
Emeritus Professor of Mechanical Engineering
Texas A&M University

A Dialogue on Intelligent Design & Chance

Wednesday February 9th, 2005
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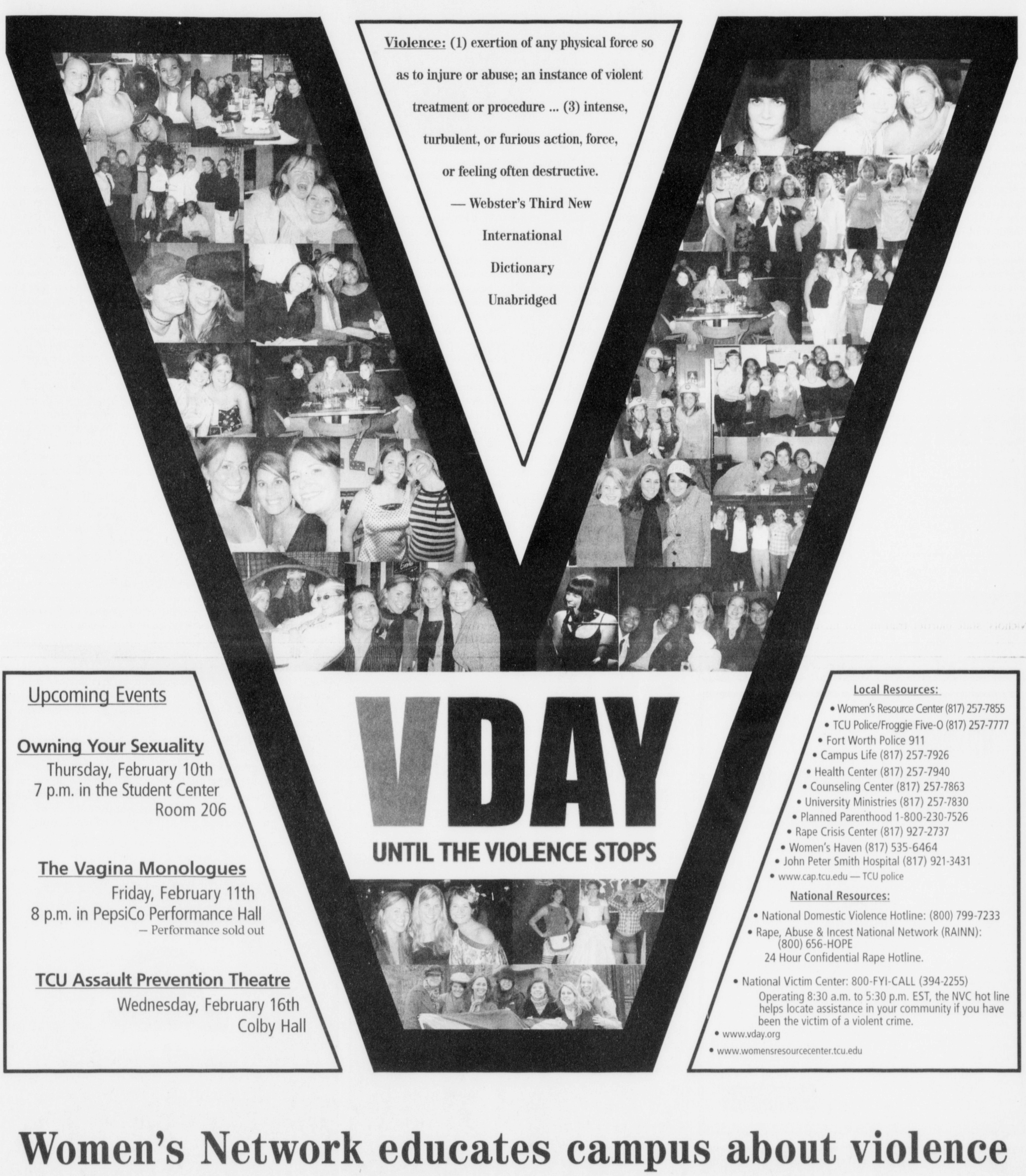

Upcoming Events

Owning Your Sexuality
Thursday, February 10th
7 p.m. in the Student Center
Room 206

The Vagina Monologues
Friday, February 11th
8 p.m. in PepsiCo Performance Hall
— Performance sold out

TCU Assault Prevention Theatre
Wednesday, February 16th
Colby Hall

Local Resources:

- Women's Resource Center (817) 257-7855
- TCU Police/Froggie Five-O (817) 257-7777
- Fort Worth Police 911
- Campus Life (817) 257-7926
- Health Center (817) 257-7940
- Counseling Center (817) 257-7863
- University Ministries (817) 257-7830
- Planned Parenthood 1-800-230-7526
- Rape Crisis Center (817) 927-2737
- Women's Haven (817) 535-6464
- John Peter Smith Hospital (817) 921-3431
- www.cap.tcu.edu — TCU police

National Resources:

- National Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 799-7233
- Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN): (800) 656-HOPE
  24 Hour Confidential Rape Hotline.
- National Victim Center: 800-FYI-CALL (394-2255)
  Operating 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST, the NVC hot line helps locate assistance in your community if you have been the victim of a violent crime.
- www.vday.org
- www.womensresourcecenter.tcu.edu

Women's Network educates campus about violence

By ASHLEY MOORE
Features Editor

Vagina, labia, vulva and clitoris.

Terms you will definitely hear this Friday spoken from 16 faculty, staff and students performing "The Vagina Monologues," hosted by The TCU Women's Network.

But don't take offense or let these terms scare you because they will be said for a reason.

The performance is in conjunction with V-Day — a week-long event celebrating women's sexuality and informing the campus about violence against women, including topics such as rape, assault and battery, incest and sexual harassment.

V-Day is about celebrating the rights women deserve, Natalie Wright, a senior biology major and organizer of the event, said. "The Vagina Monologues" is socially relevant to the issues women face today, she said.

"Women have come to be embarrassed about the term vagina, rather than celebrate it," Wright said.

Unfortunately, she said, many women have been taught not to talk about their sexuality.

But with humor, Claudia Camp, a religion professor and co-faculty sponsor of the event, explained the performance Friday night will contextualize the word vagina in hopes to make it a word society can say.

"Humor is crucial for social change," she said.

"The Vagina Monologues" is authored by Eve Ensler and based on her interviews with more than 200 women, according to the V-Day Web site (www.vday.org).

Ensler's experience performing the play inspired her to create V-Day, a global movement to inhibit violence against women and girls, the Web site stated.

The V-Day campaign encourages college campuses like TCU to stage benefit productions of the show in order to raise money for women in need.

Since being inspired after reading the monologues, Wright sought after rights to perform the show.

And with those rights, she began her crusade with the TCU Women's Network to bring the V-Day events to campus.

The actors, who come from diverse backgrounds, have had seven rehearsals since Christmas Break with student director Leah Carithers, a senior theatrical performance major.

She said all but five of the performers are theater majors, but each brings pieces of themselves to the show that really makes it wonderful to watch.

Even though she wouldn't call herself a feminist, Carithers said she believed in the cause behind "The Vagina Monologues."

"I'm pretty old fashioned and traditional about men and women's roles," she said. "But, I believe in what the material represents."

And with "The Vagina Monologues" premier, which has sold-out, Wright hopes the campus will feel the same way.

"(The play) is not about a bunch of man-hating screaming females," she said.

Wright said one doesn't have to call oneself a feminist either, but, most likely, after experiencing V-Day, one will realize he or she sympathizes and agrees with the ideals of the V-Day event.

Ninety percent of The TCU Women's Network proceeds from V-Day will be donated to the Assault Prevention Theater, a troupe of actors that perform a two-act play about date rape, while the remaining 10 percent will be donated to V-Day's Women of Iraq, a campaign that provides aid for Iraqi women.

APT is organized by The TCU Police and hopes to "stir up emotions" and prompt important questions from the audiences about violence against women, said TCU Crime Prevention Officer Pamela Christian

As a conclusion to V-Day, the troupe will perform in Colby Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 16.

The show, like "The Vagina Monologues," will hopefully make the campus more aware of the violence that victimizes many women, Christian said. She added that the facts and realities about rape personified on stage will hopefully be persuasive enough to induce change.

Before "The Vagina Monologues" premieres this Friday, The TCU Women's Network has organized an education seminar called "Owning Your Sexuality," bringing together representatives from Planned Parenthood, the Rape Crisis Center and University Ministries to speak Thursday evening.

"The more we know about violence against women, the more power we have to end it," Joanne Green, a political science professor and co-faculty sponsor, said. "Having women afraid of violence is a form of terrorism. Education is fundamentally important in fighting this unacceptable but far too common oppression of women."

Rice visits Paris, stresses positives

By ANNE GEARAN
Associated Press

PARIS — Trying to mend fences with Europe, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Tuesday "it is time to turn away from the disagreements of the past" that alienated longtime allies over the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

France was the most vocal opponent of President Bush's handling of the war with Iraq, and the new secretary of state deliberately chose Paris for the major address of her first official tour of Europe.

Rice did not back down from Bush's pledge to spread freedom across the globe and added a challenge to Europeans.

"America stands ready to work with Europe on our common agenda and Europe must stand ready to work with America," she said in a speech at Paris's Institute of Political Studies.

"After all, history will surely judge us not by our old disagreements, but by our new achievements," she said.

Science Politique, known in France as Sciences Po, is a school of political science that has been at the center of recent debate over America's reach and power. Some 500 students and intellectuals were attending and Rice was to take questions from the audience.

Following her speech, Rice answered a series of questions, ranging from Iraq's effort to establish a democracy to the development of biological weapons. She told the students and guests that the Iraqis would now engage in a political process to form a government that was not at odds with religion.

"What we must understand there is no inherent conflict between Islam and democracy," she said.

Rice explained that she chose Paris considering the rift over Iraq between the two nations. "This is a deep, broad and active relationship that is very effective on world peace," she said. "When we disagree, we still disagree as friends."

In her speech, Rice said the founders of both the French and U.S. republics were inspired by the same values and by each other. History has shown that revolutions striving for freedom can start in mundane ways but need outside help, she said.

"In my own experience, a black woman named Rosa Parks was just tired one day of being told to sit in the back of the bus," Rice said. "So she refused to move, and she launched a revolution for freedom in the American South."

Similar was the power of Lech Walesa and his labor strike in Poland, of Afghans and Iraqis who recently voted after years of repression and ordinary men and women who helped bring down the Berlin Wall in 1989.

"Yet that day of freedom in November 1989 could never have happened without the full support of the free nations of the West," she said.

"Time and again in our shared history, Americans and Europeans have enjoyed our greatest successes for ourselves and for others when we refused to accept an unacceptable status quo, and instead put our values to work for the cause of freedom.

Rice said America has everything to gain from having a stronger Europe as a partner.

"It is time to turn away from the disagreements of the past," Rice said. "It is time to open a new chapter in our relationship, and a new chapter in our alliance."

Rice said the United States and Europe should move beyond "a partnership based on common threats" and focus instead on a partnership based upon "common opportunities, beyond the trans-Atlantic community."

Earlier in Rome, Rice said she is optimistic about the chances for Israel and the Palestinians to reach accommodation, in part because of a new thirst for peace throughout the Middle East. She cautioned: "there is still a long road ahead."

She commented after a meeting with Italian Foreign Minister Gianfranco Fini in which they discussed Iraq, the Middle East and other issues.

Their meeting came hours before Israeli and Palestinian leaders declared that their people would stop all military or violent activity, pledging to break the four-year cycle of bloodshed and get peace talks back on track.

Jacques Demarthon / Associated Press

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice holds a news conference at the Political Science Institute in Paris on Tuesday. Rice will end her eight-nation tour with a meeting with French President Jacques Chirac.

Catholic Church clarifies guidelines for annulments

By FRANCES D'EMILIO
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican has clarified the guidelines it wants church judges to follow when making decisions on marriage annulments, saying Tuesday that it wants the practice that some critics have dubbed "Catholic divorce" handled more seriously.

Publication of the compendium of canon law aspects about marriage comes on the heels of the most recent criticism by Pope John Paul II, who complained that annulments are too easily obtained and expressed worry that tribunals face the risk of corruption.

"In the context of a divorce mentality, even canon processes of annulment cases can be easily misunderstood, as if they weren't anything more than ways to obtain a divorce with the blessing of the church," said Cardinal Julian Herranz, head of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, who presented the new guidelines to reporters.

For Catholics who want to remarry, annulment is their only hope of being able to do so in the church, which forbids divorce.

Among the reasons church tribunals grant annulments are impotence, refusal by a spouse to have children, and psychological immaturity at the time of saying "I do."

Critics of the annulment process contend the last reason is frequently interpreted too loosely. They also suggest U.S. diocesan tribunals are too generous in embracing canon law loopholes, pointing to the lopsided statistics: annulments decreed by U.S. dioceses account for roughly two-thirds of all those granted worldwide to faithful.

"Nobody misses the fact that human frailty can make it possible that true justice didn't happen in a specific case or that it didn't come swiftly," the cardinal said, acknowledging flaws in the church's system.

But the church is determined, Herranz said, "to persevere in the intent to improve handling both in terms of seriousness and swiftness ... and to render all the tribunal's decisions more harmonious."

At John Paul's orders, experts compiled guidelines contained in revised canon law and interpretations of the last two decades by Church courts but added no new rules. The previous such compendium dates to 1936. The instructions issued Tuesday, "Dignitas Connubii," is based on the 1983 Code of Canon Law.

A document of more than 200 pages, it covers all canonical provisions and guildelines concerning marriage and annulment. There are interpretations, clarifications of the law and expanded instruction on how the law is to be carried out, Herranz said.

The Spanish cardinal said it was too early to tell if following the updated guidelines would mean fewer of them.

The new instructions for tribunals "are aimed at ascertaining the truth" about marriages, Herranz said. "Results will be decided case by case. I can't predict" if annulments will be harder to obtain.

Church observers note that while U.S. annulment cases far outnumber those in other countries, American dioceses have been far more diligent in setting up tribunals.

"Dignity of Marriage" _ the title of the compendium _ notes in some cases the tribunals can't keep up with the annulment cases and urges bishops in dioceses with no marriage tribunals to set them up, appointing competent lay people if necessary.

In 2002, Vatican officials said, tribunals worldwide ruled on more than 56,000 requests for annulments, with some 46,000 of them granted.

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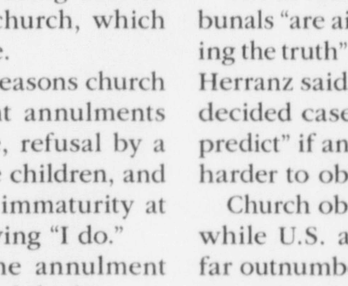
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Today in TCU History

Church worker details suffering

Jennifer Casolo, who was imprisoned for 18 days by police in El Salvador, wove a tale of life in her country through her talk at TCU.

FROM THE SKIFF: Feb. 9, 1990

Adventures of Aaron

by Aaron Warner

The Family Monster

by Josh Shalek

Today's Crossword

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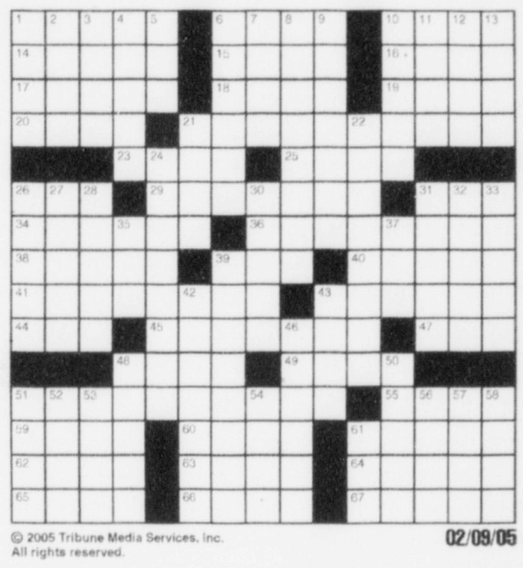

ACROSS
1 Work stint
6 Pouchlike structures
10 Guitar adjuncts, briefly
14 Core group
15 North Carolina university
16 Bearing
17 Poe's middle name
18 "Auntie ___"
19 Notion
20 ___ there, done that
21 Scattering
23 Drink voucher
25 "Exodus" author
26 June celebrant
29 Warded off
31 Ovine statement
34 Political refugee
36 Uncanny state
38 Episcopal cleric
39 Steno book
40 Municipal
41 Unbalanced
43 Formal attire
44 Silent assent
45 Carnal
47 Permit to
48 Sound quality
49 Type of school
51 Unstoppable
55 Plaster support
59 Resting atop
60 Actress Skye
61 Far from specific
62 Roofer's supply item
63 Type of curl
64 Endangered layer
65 Vamoose!
66 Kennedy and Williams
67 Engaged in

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3 Inactive
4 Former French currency unit
5 Q's Scrabble value
6 Descendant of Shem
7 Unfortunately
8 Calculated
9 Lip-curler
10 Out of order
11 Calf-length skirt
12 Ball-shaped hammerhead
13 Hosiery mishap
21 Nose follower?
22 Mockery
24 Ford of films
26 Baffin Island's neighbor
27 Essential acid
28 Chopped into small cubes
30 Peruses
31 Slanted surface
32 Stage whisper
33 Fancy cravat
35 Regular or high-test
37 Veto
39 Actress Cruz
42 Molar mender
43 Old salts
46 Bothers
48 Principle of faith
50 Public square
51 Monotonous routines
52 Historical novel
53 "Damn Yankees" vamp
54 Blyton or Bagnold
56 Excited
57 Ditty
58 Pay attention to
61 Oath

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02/08/05

Tuesday's Solutions

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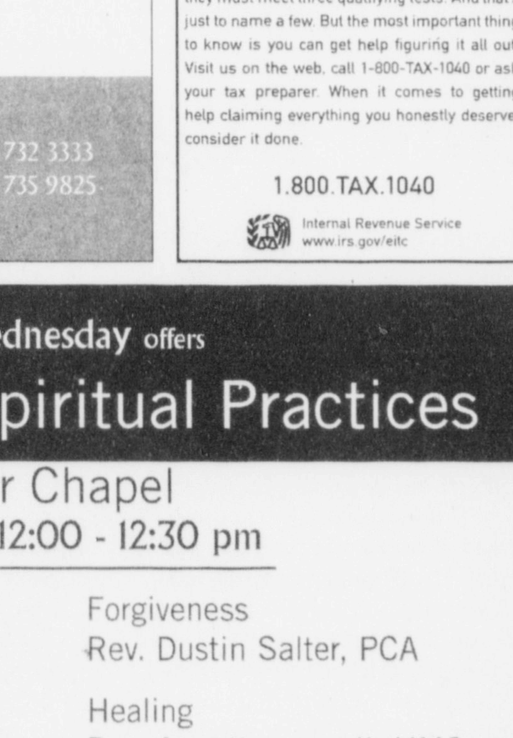

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Frogs look for return to winning record

The men's basketball team hopes to return to .500 in conference play against Marquette tonight.

By DAN MCGRAW
Staff Writer

Senior guard Corey Santee chuckled a bit and a smile broke out across his face as he reminisced about his two game-winning shots against Marquette, where the guard nailed two last-minute baskets to help TCU edge out the Golden Eagles.

"Most likely, they will be gunning for me if I get a chance for a last second shot, but I can't be worrying about that," Santee said. "I know coach can design some sort of play to get the ball in my hands so I can make plays for myself or my teammates."

Putting the ball in Santee's hands has a positive effect. The senior has averaged 12 points, 4.8 assists and 2.3 rebounds against the Golden Eagles in four previous meetings, including 10 points, 6 assists and 4 rebounds in the last game, but he will play a more vital role on defense in the upcoming matchup.

"He's got to be able to handle (Marquette guard Travis) Diener defensively," head coach Neil Dougherty said. "And he's going to have to make him work on the other end of the floor. Corey, he's accounted for an awful lot of responsibility when you talk about our basketball team."

Santee will have his hands full as he tries to control Diener, who recorded 31 points in the 64-62 loss to the Horned Frogs in the opening round of the Conference USA tournament in 2004.

"I get a rush playing against him, but I just... calm down and tell myself that I can play with him," Santee said.

Diener has missed four out of the past five games because of a sprained ankle, but he is expected to make the start after seeing significant time against Southern Mississippi.

Along with Diener, the Horned Frogs will have to deal with a size disadvantage. The Golden Eagles could possibly start a lineup that would include a 6-foot-1-inch, 6-foot-7-inch, and three 6-foot-10-inch players, which would give them a significant height advantage over the Frogs.

"We need to be able to guard, match up, box out and rebound against the great size that they have inside," Dougherty said. "They have very good size and athleticism inside."

Against the tall Marquette lineup, the Horned Frogs will miss the physical presence of junior forward Chudi Chinweze, who tore his anterior cruciate ligament and medial collateral ligament against Kansas on Dec. 9.

"We have learned how to play with what we have," Dougherty said. "We don't have Chudi anymore, but we have learned to play without that. We know how to play within our concept and we'll be able to make due with that."

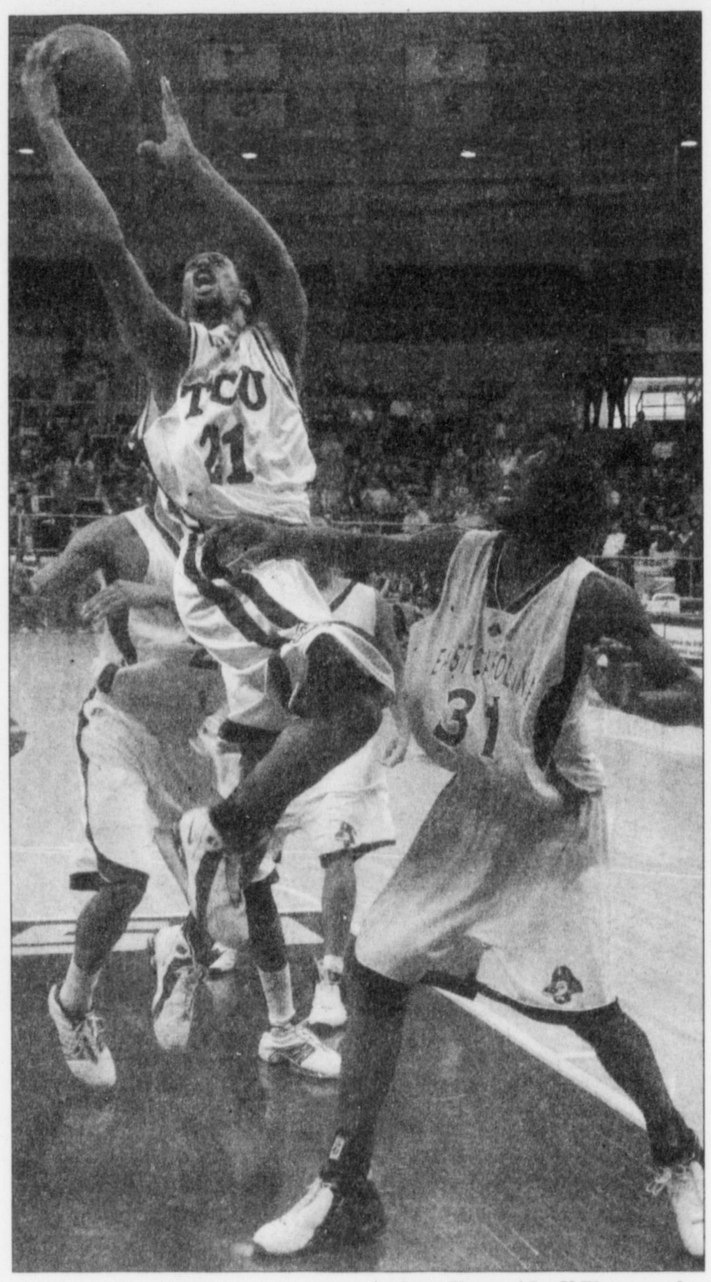
The Horned Frogs (14-9, 4-5 C-USA) and the Golden Eagles (16-6, 4-5 C-USA) will battle for possession of eighth place at 7:05 p.m. tonight at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

Student Promotion

In the last four men's basketball home games, the TCU athletic marketing team has increased the winnings for a previous promotion from $25 to $250 with the chance for one student to collect $1,000 the night of the season finale.

A student is randomly selected from the Frog Calls phone book, and his or her name is announced during the second half. At that time, the student has three minutes to collect the cash prize, but if the student fails to show up, the money continues to double until the season finale.

"We wanted to do this to increase student attendance and get students excited about the last four home games," director of marketing for athletics Jeff Crane said.



Andrew Chavez / Staff Photographer

Senior forward Aaron Curtis goes for a layup during Saturday's win against East Carolina. The Horned Frogs will face Marquette at home at 7:05 tonight.

Bush, Rangers react to drug allegations

The president and former baseball players deny Jose Canseco's claims about steroid abuse.

Associated Press

President Bush was not aware of any steroid use by Texas Rangers players while he was a team executive, White House officials said Monday.

Canseco

In his upcoming book, Jose Canseco said he introduced Rafael Palmeiro, Ivan Rodriguez and Juan Gonzalez to steroids after being traded to Texas in 1992, the New York Daily News reported. Canseco said Bush, the Rangers' managing partner at the time, must have known about the drugs.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said he spoke to Bush about alleged steroid use.

"If there was, he was not aware of it at the time," McClellan said.

"He has recognized, for some time now, that steroids is a growing problem in professional sports, particularly Major League Baseball," he said. "That's why the president has made addressing the issue a priority in his administration."

Canseco's book, "Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big," was scheduled for release by Regan Books on Feb. 21. Company spokeswoman Jennifer Suitor told The New York Times that the book's release was moved up a week to Feb. 14.

Suitor also told the newspaper in Tuesday's editions that Canseco's appearance on "60 Minutes," originally scheduled for Feb. 20, was moved up to Feb. 13.

Canseco, who has refused to publicly discuss the book or what it contains, told the Times he would address the media after the book is released.

"I will give a huge press conference, internationally and worldwide, when the book comes out," he said. "I'll answer any questions then."

Palmeiro, now playing for Baltimore, disputed Canseco's claim.

"I categorically deny any assertion made by Jose Canseco that I used steroids," Palmeiro said in a statement. "At no point in my career have I ever used steroids, let alone any substance banned by Major League Baseball.

"As I have never had a personal relationship with Canseco, any suggestion that he taught me anything, about steroid use or otherwise, is ludicrous. We were teammates and that was the extent of our relationship. I am saddened that he felt it necessary to attempt to tarnish my image and that of the game I love."

Gonzalez's agent, Alan Nero, said, "Our immediate reaction is we feel sorry for Jose, that he felt he had to do this for whatever reason. And we feel badly for everyone he implicated in this."

"Juan has never used steroids and has never been in favor of their use. And, in fact, in 2000, when Major League Baseball did its survey, Juan was in favor of testing and was one of only two players that volunteered to be tested at that time," Nero said.

Rodriguez signed with Detroit last season. Tigers president Dave Dombrowski said the team had no comment on the report.

Canseco also claims he injected former Oakland teammate Mark McGwire with steroids. McGwire has denied using steroids.

"I have always told the truth and I am saddened I continue to face this line of questioning," McGwire told the Daily News.

Rodriguez, a catcher for the Detroit Tigers, also denied Canseco's accusations.

"I'm in shock," Rodriguez told the local El Nuevo Dia newspaper for Tuesday's editions. "He is saying things that aren't true, and it hurts me a lot that he would say things like that because I've always had a lot of respect for him, and I've even helped him many times when things weren't going well for him."

New England brings home the trophies

Patriots greeted by throngs of cheering fans following their Super Bowl victory.

By HOWARD ULMAN
Associated Press

Three silver Super Bowl trophies and the gray sweat shirt-wearing mastermind who won them all took a championship ride through the streets of Boston on Tuesday, passing nearly 1 million screaming fans.

Kids skipped school and grown-ups missed work. Confetti flew and players blew kisses to the crowd.

The New England Patriots took another victory ride through town, their third in four years, to give their sign-waving, slogan-chanting supporters a chance to share in Sunday's 24-21 win over the Philadelphia Eagles in Jacksonville, Fla.

"It's incredible. It seems very surreal, deja vu, man," quarterback Tom Brady said. "You never get sick of the winning. You never get sick of the fans. I tell you, it's a great place to play."

It was a warm winter day, but coach Bill Belichick still wore his gray hooded sweat shirt, a symbol of his fashion sense and coaching focus: he's too busy making his team look good to bother about himself.

Coaches, players and their friends and family members rode along the 1.5-mile route in World War II-style amphibious duck boats, usually used to take tourists to historic city sites. Belichick was in the lead vehicle with team owner Robert Kraft, vice chairman Jonathan Kraft and player personnel director Scott Pioli. The executives each clutched a Vince Lombardi trophy, though they may need help doing it next year.

One fan held up a sign that read "Next Stop Detroit." That's where the next Super Bowl will be on Feb. 5, 2006, when the Patriots can win their fourth trophy in five years.

"It took me nine years to get my first championship. Now they're coming every year. I could get used to this," said Troy Brown, who played wide receiver, defensive back and returned punts in the Super Bowl.

The crowd was mostly orderly, although several people were led away from the parade route in handcuffs and police said they made 38 arrests. There was no mass gathering of fans at City Hall Plaza.

Some players flapped their arms, ridiculing the touchdown celebration of Eagles receiver Terrell Owens. Fans stood on snowbanks and trash cans. They threw T-shirts, posters and other memorabilia at players to be autographed and took photos with cell phone cameras.

Some wanted a smile from their dimple-chinned quarterback. He gave it to them along with three raised fingers, signifying each title.

"Take me to the prom," read one sign directed at Brady.

His girlfriend, actress Bridget Moynahan, rode on one of the duck boats.

Super Bowl MVP Deion Branch, who rode with Brady, tried to address the crowd, but his microphone malfunctioned. He smiled and was cheered just the same by youngsters who roared like rock fans.

"It's fantastic," said 11-year-old James Casey, wearing a red, white and blue Patriots jacket. "I got to see the Patriots in person. It's awesome."

Michael Dwyer / Associated Press

Bedford, Mass., high school students, from left, John Merlo, Tony D'Alleva, Bobby McConnell and Mike Barbacano cheer during the Super Bowl victory parade in Boston, Tuesday.

COMMENTARY

NHL failure will affect other sports

Talks between the NHL and the players' union have broken down for probably the last time. It's time for both sides to acknowledge one simple fact.

COMMENTARY
Drew Irwin

The season is dead, so just cancel it.

It's time to face the music. You're about to become the first North American sport to cancel a season due to a labor dispute.

But you have to ask yourself, does anyone even care?

Is ABC going to miss their "huge" ratings from the Stanley Cup Finals? Is SportsCenter straining to fill their hour without their beloved hockey highlights?

And even though the NHL is about to make history, is anyone even talking about it? Shows like "Pardon the Interruption" and "Around the Horn" didn't talk much about hockey when the season was going, let alone now.

NHL, cancel the season and take a week off. Then, it's time to sit down and figure out what you can do to fix this mess.

Because the fact is the NHL needs major renovations if it's going to retake its place in the "Big Four" sports. And it's likely when hockey comes back it won't look anything like we remember.

The biggest issue is contraction. Most of the renovation scenarios involve major contraction. In fact, ESPN's plan involves a league of 20 teams, with two "expansion" franchises in Hartford, Conn., and Las Vegas.

That means there would only be 18 teams from the "old NHL" in the ESPNHL. Luckily (for me at least), the Stars haven't been mentioned among the ones to be contracted.

But I know what you're thinking: If no one cares about hockey, why bring it up? Because hockey's lockout has much bigger implications than you would think.

The NBA's collective bargaining agreement expires June 30. And if you don't think the NHL's current situation will impact professional basketball, think again. Even though the NBA dwarfs the NHL in popularity, there's a strong connection there.

NBA commissioner David Stern and NHL commissioner Gary Bettman worked at the same law firm in the 1970s, and Stern is probably closely watching the progress of his old buddy.

If the NHL owners come away from the lockout with a big victory, it's going to give the NBA leverage in negotiations with their players' union.

So, it's likely the NBA won't resolve their CBA until the NHL resolves theirs. Meaning that a year from now, there might be two sports locked out.

There are similarities there. While there's a salary cap of sorts in basketball, it's much weaker than the one used by the NFL, the cap that owners in all four sports would like to see installed.

The average salary in the NBA is $3 million more than the average NHL salary, and the average payroll in the NBA is $17 million higher than their hockey counterparts. There's a money problem there, and Stern's probably going to use the NHL to fix it.

And the CBA parade doesn't stop there. In December 2006, baseball's CBA will expire. If you thought hockey was in financial trouble, baseball is a thousand times worse. The Yankees are now $23 million over the luxury tax, which is outlandish since the Brewers' payroll was $27 million last year.

In fact, Alex Rodriguez would take up 93 percent of the Brewers' current payroll all by himself.

So, as soon as the NHL and the NBA have resolved things, we'll have a baseball lockout to look forward to. And Bettman could probably help out there, since he's often referred to as the "father of the modern-day salary cap."

So, please Mr. Bettman, take your time. The fate of American professional sports just might be in your hands.

Sports editor Drew Irwin is a broadcast journalism and economics major from Dallas.