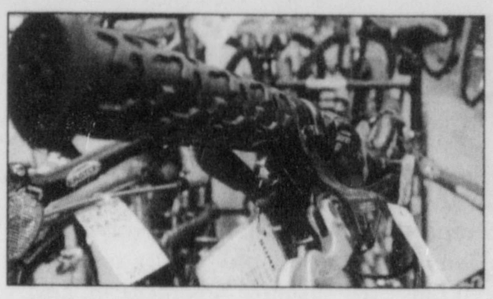


FEATURES | 4

'HEY, THAT'S MY BIKE'

Gas prices are up again and you are still driving around an SUV? Maybe it's time to hit the mountain bike trail.

SPORTS | Coming Tuesday

FORE!

Check out the Skiff next week to get up to speed on the men's and women's golf tournaments.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

WWW.TCUDAILYSKIFF.COM | FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006 | VOL. 103, ISSUE 95

Faculty Senate vote supports plus/minus system

By TALIA SAMPSON
Staff Reporter

The Faculty Senate approved a motion to endorse a plus/minus grading system at Thursday's meeting.

Faculty Senate member David Grant, who presented the motion, said there are still several steps that have to be taken before TCU will use a plus/minus grading system, but said he was happy with the results of the vote.

"A significant majority of faculty are ready for (plus/minus)," said Grant, chairman of the Faculty Senate Academic Excellence Committee.

But not all members of the Faculty Senate are pleased with the vote's outcome.

"I'm not surprised, but I am disappointed. At least three universities have some indication that (plus/minus) is inflationary to grades," said Faculty Senate member Dick Rinewalt, an associate professor of computer science.

In his private research, Rinewalt said, he found reports from the University of California at Los Angeles and Clemson University, which indicate that although average grades remained the same, there were higher numbers of A and B grades.

"What the UCLA registrar said was that looking at the psychological aspect without plus/minus, a C is the third-best grade you can give," Rinewalt said. "But with plus/minus, a C is the seventh-best so there is some pressure not to go that far down on the grade scale."

Prior to the vote, Faculty Senate chairman Andy Fort said there was nothing prohibiting professors from continuing to use the current grading system.

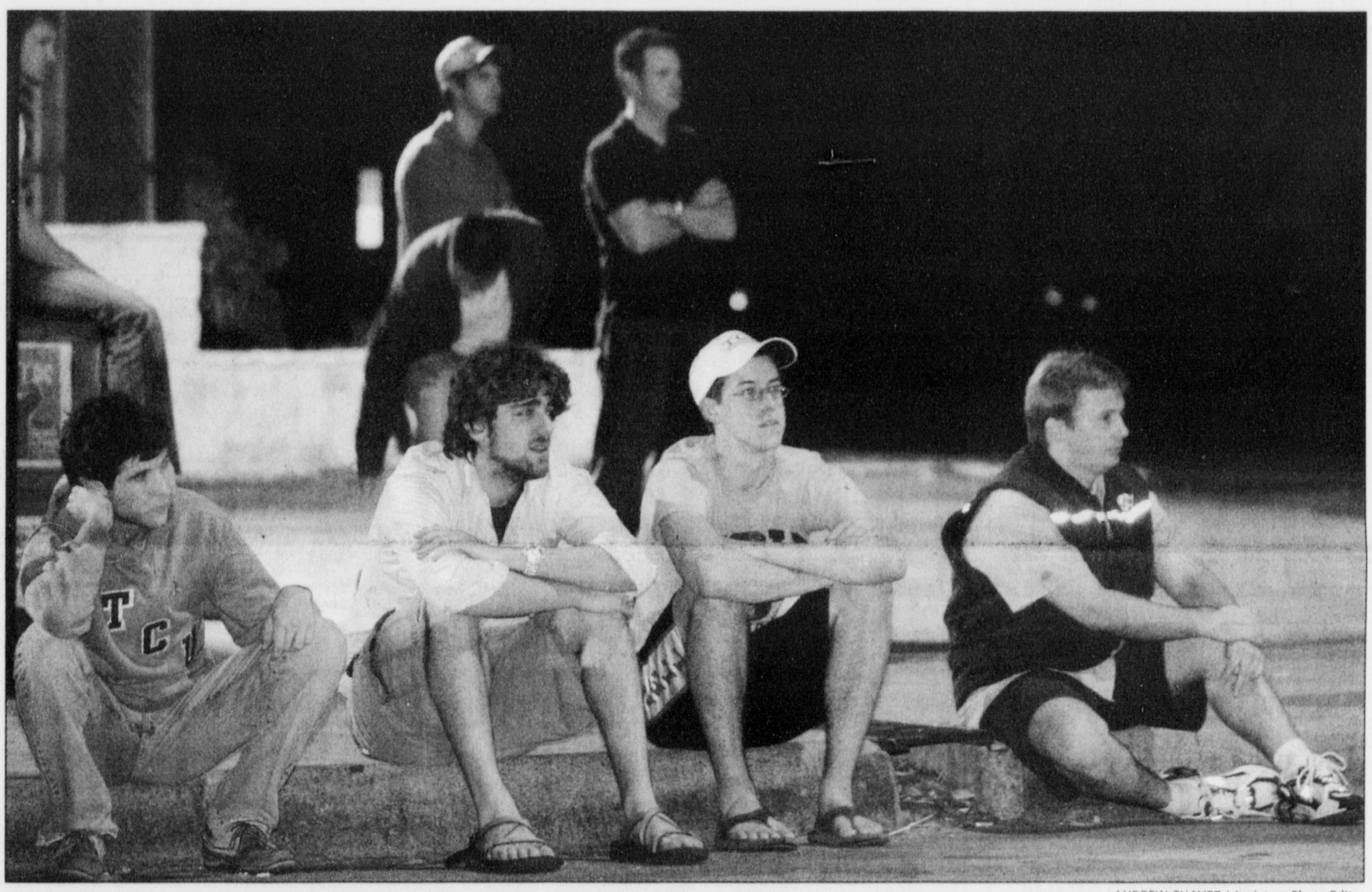
Rinewalt said, "It seems like we're doing something that accomplishes

See **SENATE,** page 2

ELIZABETH BERGER / Photographer
Religion professor David Grant discusses the new grading system during the Faculty Senate meeting.

"There's some human fascination with destruction. It's sort of beautiful."

— Sally Glass, senior psychology and philosophy major



ANDREW CHAVEZ / Assistant Photo Editor
Students watch as Fort Worth Fire Department firefighters attempt to salvage the TCU Bookstore, which caught fire early Wednesday morning.

FASCINATING FLAMES

Fire unites street-side spectators

By JOHN-LAURENT TRONCHE
Staff Reporter

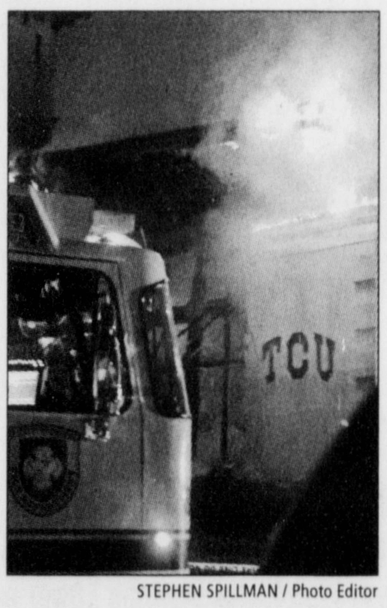
Wednesday morning's "Bookstore Inferno" has quickly built a following and has become a conversation point among students and faculty.

The blaze, which a Fort Worth Fire Department official said was caused by a leftover, slow-burning fire from a workman's torch, produced an estimated $1 million in damage that might result in the required demolition of the building.

The fire itself, however, has become a bigger interest to students rather than what will become of the black and beige mess of metal and ash left behind.

Since the fire, TCU students have created 11 different Facebook groups, including "I saw the TCU bookstore burn!!!" and "RIP TCU bookstore."

The most popular group is "Bookstore Inferno" with more than 250 members.



STEPHEN SPILLMAN / Photo Editor

Sally Glass, a senior psychology and philosophy major, said she watched the fire from her apartment porch on Cockrell Street for three hours.

After seeing flashing lights from her kitchen window, Glass went outside to find a student sitting on her porch watching the fire. After exchanging names, Glass offered "Perry" a beer, and the two watched the fire.

"It's like watching a train wreck," Glass said. "There's some human fascination with

See **WATCH,** page 2

Contractor: Demolition may not be necessary

By DAN MCGRAW
Staff Reporter

The new TCU Bookstore's contractor said he did not notice anything that could have led to the fire when he left the site at 8 p.m. Tuesday, nearly three hours after the workers left.

Ryan Doyle, D&D Construction's superintendent, said he had not heard from the Fort Worth Fire Department about the origin of the bookstore fire.

However, on Wednesday, Lt. Kent Worley, public information officer for the Fire Department, said roofing materials that became superheated by a torch used by renovation workers had caused the fire. Worley said the layers of roof materials smoldered for hours and caught fire on the east side of the building around 2 a.m. Wednesday.

Doyle said he didn't know what to think when he was called by bookstore officials at 2:30 a.m. Wednesday.

ONLINE

Check out the Skiff Web site at www.tcudailyskiff.com for a video of the bookstore fire.

"I hate that it happened," said Doyle, who was hesitant to speak about the fire.

Doyle, who remodeled the bookstore in 1998, said his workers have not returned inside and have spent the last two days securing and cleaning up the site. He said the insurance companies and the city were still investigating the fire.

"We are waiting for the insurance company's report and the structural analysis before we proceed," Doyle said.

As the building looks now, Doyle said he thinks the structure should still be sound and would not need to be demolished.

Chancellor Victor Boschini said the analysis should be completed in two weeks.

Rodney Austin, the tradeback

See **FIRE,** page 2

Nutritionist discusses new food pyramid

By BRE'ANNA EMMITT
Staff Reporter

A nutritionist visited TCU Thursday and compared America's health status to global warming: The problem does not seem dangerous at the moment, but our country is slowly eating its way to destruction, she said.

Nutritionist Shannon Jones of the U.S. Department of Agriculture visited TCU from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and spoke at 6 p.m. in the Student Center. Jones came to TCU to introduce the new food pyramid, MyPyramid.gov.

The food pyramid and Web site were launched in April 2005. The differences between the new pyramid and the old, constructed in 1992, are added exercise components and color bands to represent each food group rather than the former blocks.

The pyramid was constructed with the idea that one size does not fit all, so it can be customized to each individual.

The pyramid Web site is interactive and allows users to customize the food guide according to age, sex and physical activity level.

The customized plans explain how much a person should eat and exercise daily. Jones walked students through the guide and explained por-

See **FOOD,** page 2

Middle schoolers to get taste of TCU

By JACQUILEE KILLEEN
Staff Reporter

Hundreds of students from a local middle school will get an opportunity to tour TCU's campus today through a field trip hosted by the School of Education.

More than 400 students from Tannahill Intermediate School from low-income families will receive tours from 40 volunteers and students from the School of Education.

Volunteers for this event were found through a mass e-mail sent to international students and minority undergraduates.

Ashley Flahive, an education graduate student, said TCU and the White Settlement Independent School District have been in a partnership for five years, and this event will let students know that college is an option.

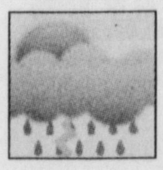
David Bitters, principal of Tannahill Intermediate School, said, "The field trip to TCU will give the students the initiative to get involved in going to college."

Lindsay Brown, an education graduate student, said, "This should be a rewarding experience for the children because going to college usually isn't the norm in low-income families, and the field trip will give the students the opportunity to know that college is something that they can do in the future."

During the tour, students will get an opportunity to see the different departments at TCU and talk with Greek and athletic panels of students.

Brown said that seeing various departments of the campus will give the students the chance to know that there are different colleges and degrees in which they can be interested.

See **TOURS,** page 2



WEATHER

TODAY: Isolated storms, 85/61
TOMORROW: Isolated storms, 82/64
SUNDAY: Isolated storms, 80/58

FUN FACT

A 36-year-old California lawyer filed a lawsuit alleging eHarmony abridged his civil rights by refusing to match him up because he is still married. —ASSOCIATED PRESS

TODAY'S HEADLINES

OPINION: TABC crackdown unethical, page 3
SPORTS: Q&A with Herb Taylor, page 6
NEWS: Students and alumni cut a rug, online

CONTACT US

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

FOOD
From page 1

tion sizes.

Many students were surprised at the seemingly small sizes of the portions.

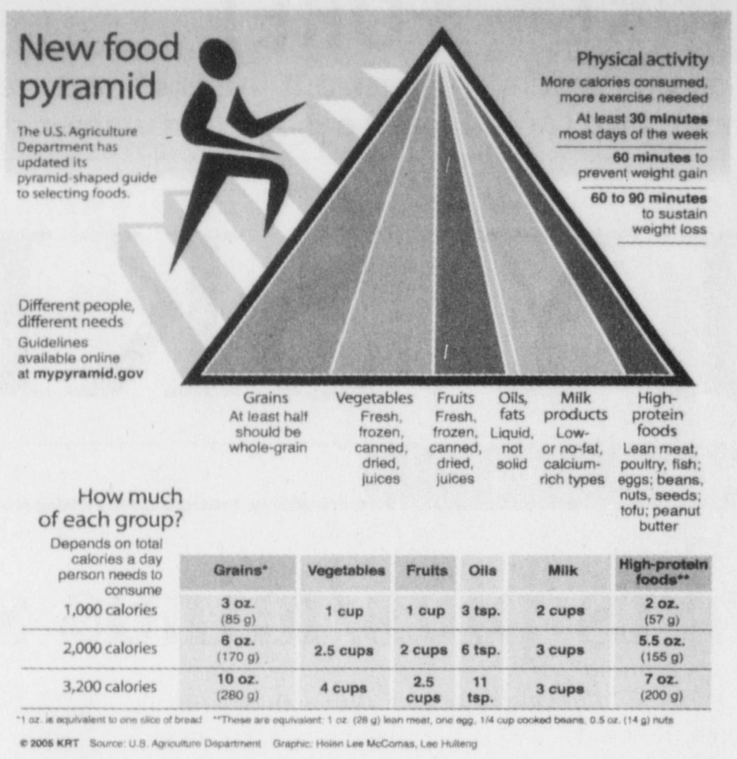
"I couldn't believe how small some of the portions were and also the fat content," said Lauren Gervais, a sophomore psychology major. "It was just gross to see test tubes of the fat that's in foods."

Stephanie Dickerson, Sodexho's nutrition counselor on campus, attended the talk and said she was glad to see professionals coming to visit the campus to promote health. She said TCU students have many healthy options on campus that go along with MyPyramid.gov.

"We have everything from Eden's that offers salads to Grill 155 degrees that offers fruit cups instead of fries and bottled water or fat-free milk instead of soda," Dickerson said. "Basically, we try to promote balance. Health is about healthy food choices, moderation and portion control. We want to see students exercising and eating balanced meals, and we really try to accommodate that."

Jones said healthy living includes balance and commitment.

"You work hard to make good grades in college, and you work hard to get a great profession," Jones said. "You don't just land a great job out of thin air. You commit to those things. Being healthy is the same way: You eat healthy and stay physically active — it will happen."



Depends on total calories a day person needs to consume	Grains*	Vegetables	Fruits	Oils	Milk	High-protein foods**
1,000 calories	3 oz. (85 g)	1 cup	1 cup	3 tsp.	2 cups	2 oz. (57 g)
2,000 calories	6 oz. (170 g)	2.5 cups	2 cups	6 tsp.	3 cups	5.5 oz. (155 g)
3,200 calories	10 oz. (280 g)	4 cups	2.5 cups	11 tsp.	3 cups	7 oz. (200 g)

SENATE
From page 1

nothing, so why do this?"

Grant responded, "Plus/minus is the ability to more accurately convey different levels of student performance."

Grant said his understanding was that the negative vote from the House of Student Representatives was not against supporting plus/minus, rather, it was against the proposal because the student representatives felt they did not have enough information.

In addition to passing the motion with a vote of 16-5, Faculty Senate heard a report from the Faculty Senate Tenure Promotion and Grievance Committee about the service and advising requirements faculty must meet to gain tenure.

Faculty Senate member C.A. Quarles presented the report and said, "The committee has accumulated material of what colleges are saying about service and put it in a grid."

Quarles said the grid condensed what departments, colleges and the university said about the service requirement for tenure and promotion into 25 pages.

Faculty Senate member Stuart Youngblood, chairman of the Tenure Promotion and Grievance Committee, said one requirement needed some clearing up.

"What we say (about service) doesn't necessarily align with what we do," he said.

Faculty Senate also passed a motion to endorse the creation of a University Compensation Advisory Committee, which will replace the Retirements, Insurance and Benefits Committee.

WATCH
From page 1

destruction. It's sort of beautiful."

Glen Ellman, 48, a commercial photographer, has made a career capturing fire on film.

Ellman's photograph of the TCU Bookstore bursting with flames made the front page of the "Fort Worth" section in Thursday's Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Within minutes of arriving at the bookstore, Ellman said, he saw more than 300 people running up to watch the action.

"Most people that you run into have never seen a building burn," Ellman said.

Ellman said he heard students cheer when the roof began to cave.

The TCU Bookstore "was a spectacular burn," Ellman said. He added that the photographs he took would be some of his better pictures.

Doug George, an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Central Arkansas, said the students at the fire acted under "collective behavior."

"In certain circumstances, the normal way of doing things doesn't quite fit," George said. "A temporary society all of a sudden comes into existence."

George said the students who share a bond through the bookstore fire are a temporary society, complete with their own set of rules and ideas of how to act.

In other words, in the same way car crash victims bond together through mutual experiences, those students who saw the fire share a common thread.

Christina Davis, a senior English and political science major, said that after leaving The University Pub on Wednesday morning, an initial group of 10 people quickly grew to a crowd of about 100. She added that as the fire grew bigger, the crowd's excitement grew.

"It was a big mixer," Davis said.

CAMPUS LINES

The information desk in the Student Center will accept reservations for student organizations and departmental concerns for the 2006-2007 academic year beginning April 3. Please have reservations submitted by April 30.

www.tcudailyskiff.com

FIRE
From page 1

manager at the bookstore, said the bookstore staff wouldn't have know anything for at least a week as they wait for the same reports.

Austin said Llisa Lewis, the bookstore's general manger, was out of the office today at a manager's meeting, but Lewis was at the bookstore at 5 a.m. Wednesday.

Along with the destruction of the bookstore, the fire resulted in loss of power at neighboring restaurants and business on University Drive, but Doyle said TXU had restored power Wednesday.

All of the businesses affected by the fire were open Thursday except University Cheer Club, which posted a sign stating it had closed because of the fire.

TOURS
From page 1

Kevin Gates, a sophomore biology major who is volunteering for the event, said, "I remember when I was in sixth grade and looked up to college students, and hopefully, they will do the same for us, and we can serve as a positive influence."

After the event last year, Bitters said, the middle school students went back to school with a better attitude toward their studies.

"The students can grasp this experience at a young age which will create an opportunity to see something that they have never seen before," Bitters said.

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Failure to Launch PG13- 12:00, 2:05, 4:10, 6:15, 8:20, 10:25
Ice Age: The Meltdown PG- 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00, 12:00am
Inside Man R-12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:35, 12:15am
Slither R- 12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00am
The Hills Have Eyes R-12:05, 2:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:25, 12:00am
V for Vendetta R- 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:20, 12:00am

Weekly Specials
Monday
$2 longnecks
Any 2 pizzas for $9
Tuesday
$4 admission allday
$5 pitchers
Wednesday
$5 pizzas
Thursday
Tanker Night:
Bring a tanker and buy one ticket, get one free
Saturday
Rocky Horror at midnight
Sunday
Watch WWE

Sat, April 1
Failure to Launch PG13- 12:00, 2:05, 4:10, 6:15, 8:20, 10:25
Ice Age: The Meltdown PG- 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
Inside Man R-12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:35, 12:15am
Rocky Horror Picture Show R- 12:00am
Slither R- 12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00am
The Hills Have Eyes R-12:05, 2:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:25, 12:00am
V for Vendetta R- 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:20, 12:00am

Sun, April 2
Failure to Launch PG13- 12:00, 2:05, 4:10
Ice Age: The Meltdown PG- 12:00, 2:00, 4:00
Inside Man R-12:20, 3:00
Slither R- 12:10, 2:30
The Hills Have Eyes R-12:05, 2:20
V for Vendetta R- 12:05, 2:50
Wrestlemania NR- 7:00

Mon, April 3-Thurs, April 6
Failure to Launch PG13- 7:40, 9:55
Ice Age: The Meltdown PG- 7:15, 9:20
Inside Man R- 7:05, 9:50
Slither R- 7:00, 9:30
The Hills Have Eyes R- 7:05, 9:25
V for Vendetta R- 7:00, 9:45

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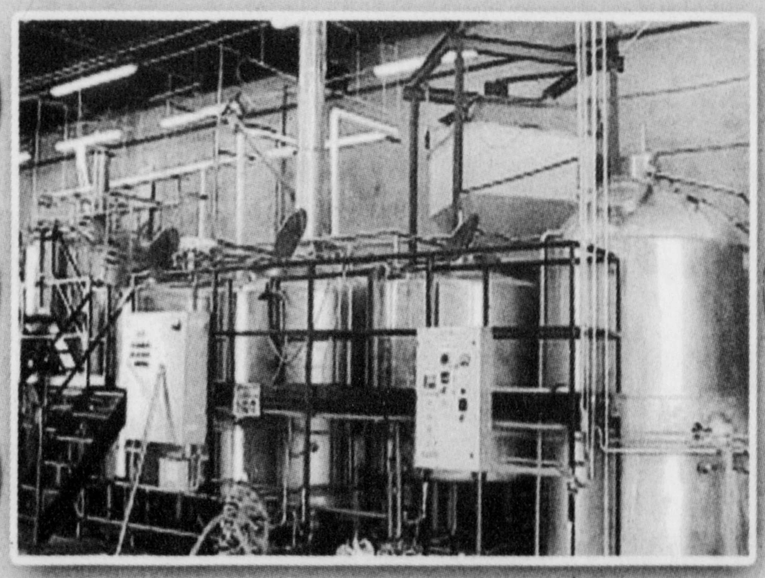
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TOUCHY SUBJECT...

Molestation continues to occur in the Catholic church — there were 783 credible claims last year — though the number of new cases is decreasing.

—Associated Press

THE SKIFF VIEW

Students need help, not dismissal

The purpose of college is to help young men and women grow into adulthood and to not only educate its students, but also allow them to exist in an environment that preaches camaraderie and self-sufficiency.

So then why are some colleges kicking out students who need their help the most?

As reported by The Chronicle of Higher Education, a George Washington University student was dismissed from campus in early 2005 after he sought university help to cure his lingering depression. Jordan Nott, who had a friend who committed suicide in 2003, decided one night that he might be slipping away and, after waking both a roommate and friend, admitted himself to the on-campus hospital.

Instead of being granted the care he not only expected, but also obviously needed, Nott was subsequently barred from his dormitory, then campus, then suspended from the university with threat of disciplinary action — all for what the university claimed was "endangering behavior."

It's not readily apparent how Nott's actions could be construed as "endangering" — all he did was seek strength in his two friends and muster up the courage to admit he needed help. Hardly threatening.

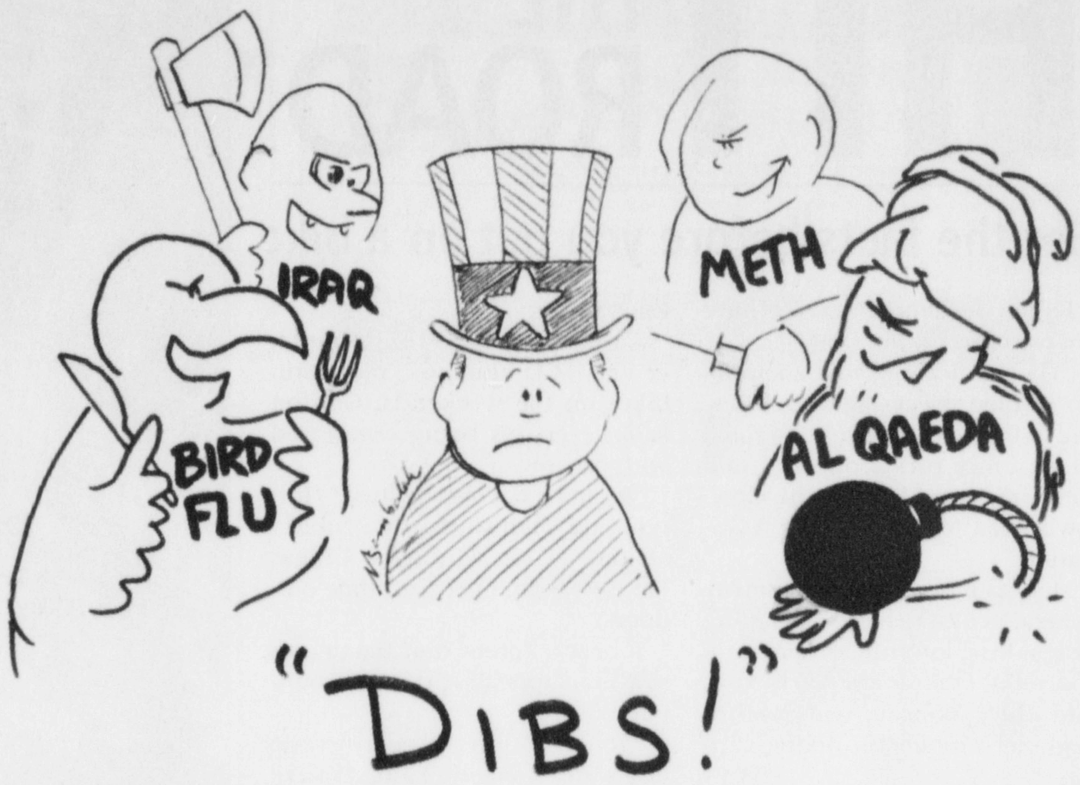
What is hazardous, however, is the university then forcing him to transfer. In a written statement, a university spokeswoman said that "the university's foremost concern is for the student's life."

So ostracizing him is the appropriate response? Not only is such an action isolating a young adult from his closest friends, but it also shows students there could be dire consequences for doing the one thing they need the most — looking for help.

Why not require a certain amount of university-sanctioned therapy hours per week? That way, students are still forced to take the proper steps toward mental health but in a way that keeps them close to their accustomed environments. More importantly, it does not endanger the future of their education — or their lives.

Sports editor Travis Stewart for the editorial board.

NEWSREAL • NICHOLAS SAMBALUK



Bar arrests infringe on individual freedom rights

COMMENTARY

Ashley Chapman

So it's Friday night, you spend an hour getting ready, text 30 friends with one click of a button and work your way to the closest bar. Why? Not to see how dizzy you can get on the bar stools. Not to taste the latest concoction of diet cherry lime vanilla banana Coca-Cola. And not to catch up on your Sudoku skills. Why do hoards of hard-working citizens (and plenty of college kids) head to the bars each weekend after a stressful week? To drink numerous alcoholic beverages, push aside stresses of the week, celebrate and let loose with friends.

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission has other plans.

They have decided to crack down on alcohol-related accidents by enforcing laws that prevent getting drunk in bars. I know, I know. The absurdity is surreal. What else do you do at a bar?

Now there is something to be said for social responsibility. I see no need for Drunk Dan to drink 40 Natural Lights, stand on chairs and punch walls and/or faces. More important, I find it quite intolerable to drive home after those 40 beers. If a bar patron is causing a major disturbance or chooses to drink and drive, he or she has given up the privilege to enjoy the rest of his or her evening and should face the consequences. But do I really need Big Brother yelling at me, scolding me, writing me a ticket or arresting me when I have done nothing more than the prerequisites of an awful morning after?

As cited in Tuesday's edition of the Skiff, Carolyn Beck, a public information officer with the TABC said officers have been trained to spot signs of intoxication such as "stumbling, being inappropriately loud, crying and not being able to stand without leaning on something." I'm not sure about you, but I have definitely had a few nights of pure stress, anger and exhaustion that could bring me to tears. More than that, I have a few friends who feel the need to passionately yell every word they speak. So for any of you who may be clumsy, loud spoken, tired or just a girl with some boy issues crying your troubles away, you better watch out the next time you're in a bar.

What ever happened to the good ol' days of "Animal House?" I thought that was half the experience of our four, five or six years of college — to have those once-in-a-lifetime stories to pass on to our own children. College house parties are out of the question because, more than likely, they are infiltrated with underage drinkers and will be busted immediately. Rather then being stricter with IDs or cutting back on the number of alcoholic beverages someone is served, the police have us concerned about going to bars for fear of us appearing too drunk.

So here's my point. Is it legal to bust people in bars? Sure. During an interview with msnbc.msn.com, Beck said, "It's illegal to be drunk in a bar to the extent that you may be a danger to yourselves or others. And so I guess that's the explanation of why it's illegal, is because it's dangerous."

Last time I checked it was dangerous to drive a car, walk down the street or use an elevator, too, but no one prevents millions of people from doing this every day. Is it ethical to arrest people before they have committed a crime? No. Arresting people in a bar for being too drunk leads to limitations on the number of drinks served and as far as I can see is in infringement on my freedom — my freedom, which also allows me to get as drunk as I damn well please — as long as I am not hurting anyone else.

To hear more from Carolyn Beck visit www.msnbc.msn.com/id/11995505/.

Ashley Chapman is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Plano.

SKIFF COLUMNIST

Volunteering worth time

COMMENTARY

Dan Plate

What's more rewarding than money? Some people will say nothing, but others, including many TCU students, will say volunteering. No, volunteers don't get paid, but there are many aspects of volunteering that make it more appealing than a job that pays.

Students can find various volunteer opportunities virtually anywhere — including on campus. KinderFrogs and Starpoint schools provide on-campus opportunities for students to get involved with incredible people. Many students, including myself, have discovered the joy and rewards of being involved in these programs.

According to sofe.tcu.edu, "Beyond providing early childhood educational services to children with Down Syndrome, the mission of KinderFrogs School is to serve as an on-campus training site for TCU students in the School of Education and other university programs. TCU students are an active and vital part of KinderFrogs School as observers, practice teachers, classroom aides and beginning educational researchers."

Speaking from experience, the rewards of volunteering at this school can be reaped not only by students from the School of Education, but by anyone willing to donate his or her time. There are no time requirements or set hours such as a job, and there are no cranky bosses to deal with — only instructors and other helpful student aides. These factors, along with others, contribute to a very relaxed atmosphere.

Students volunteer at KinderFrogs and Starpoint for a variety of reasons. Among these are community service, experience or just the joy of being around children. For many, it's a combination of these.

Students can get community service hours from various sources, but only at KinderFrogs or Starpoint can students stay on campus and work with incredible children. Even volunteering at other schools doesn't provide the same experience as these schools. They are a little different than many early childhood schools because of the unique children who attend and the wonderful adults who make up the staff.

Many students, such as freshman advertising/public relations major Samantha Roberts, just like working with the kids. "I enjoy spending time with children; plus, it's very rewarding to volunteer, and it's less stressful than a job."

Roberts has been volunteering for about seven hours a week at KinderFrogs School for almost a month.

"I usually work with the toddlers, and it was a little harder to communicate at first, but it is so much fun that the little bit of frustration doesn't last very long," he said.

For students who need community service hours but, for some crazy reason, don't like children, KinderFrogs and Starpoint can still provide an opportunity to complete hours. Filing, cleaning, organizing and other regular office work has to be done — just like at any business. But if you ask me, it would be psychotic to want to do that instead of working with the children, who are pure energy, not to mention tons of fun.

I will admit that it was a little intimidating at first — being surrounded by kids and not knowing what to say or do to entertain them; I found myself thinking self-consciously about what I should do. Soon I realized children, no matter what age, don't need to be entertained. They can do so themselves — very efficiently. I didn't need to act cool; six-year-olds don't care if you're cool.

After almost three months of volunteering at the school, I have given up relatively little (only my time and only on my own terms) to learn quite a bit. There is something amazing happening with some incredible children on our campus, and students who find the time to be a part of it will not regret the decision to do so.

Dan Plate is a freshman business major from Ogallala, Neb. His column appears every Friday.

YOUR VIEW

Illegal immigration like stealing

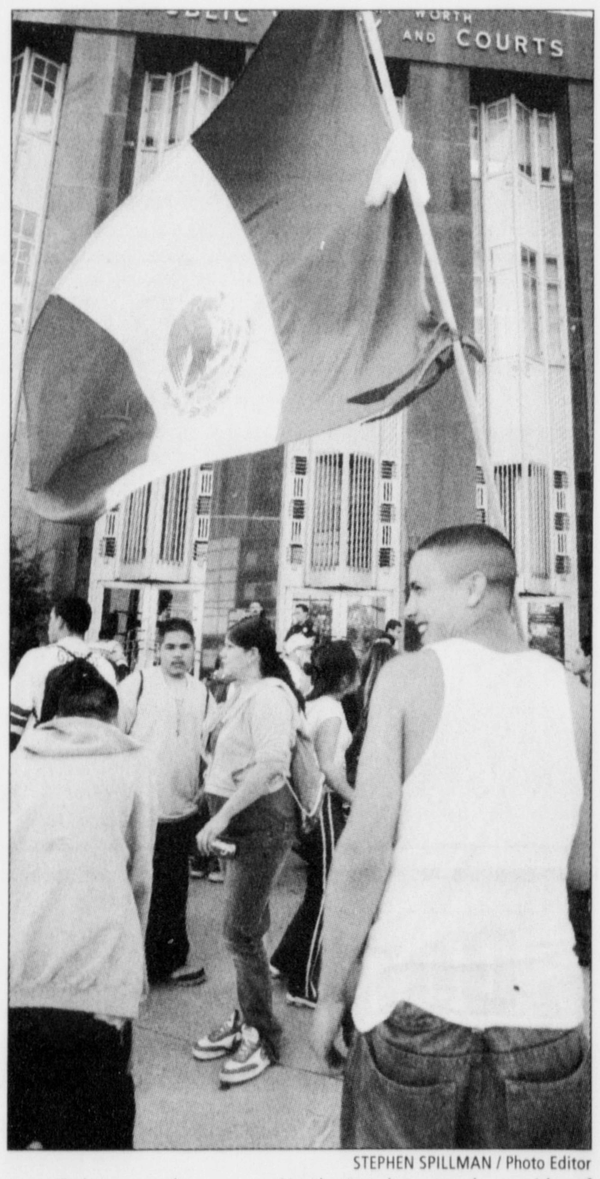
As you may know, thousands of high students have been skipping classes this week to protest new federal laws that will try to stop illegal immigration into the United States. With all the protests, sign-waving, and school-skipping, we feel like perhaps the community is confused about how the United States works. We wanted to take this opportunity to explain it to you.

The United States is like a library. The library is open to the public and can be visited by anyone. The library welcomes all visitors. But if a person wants to use the library's resources or spend time in the library, then he or she needs a membership card. True, getting a library card will require some paperwork, but after the paperwork is done, that person will have all the privileges of any other cardholder.

However, some people do not apply for library cards. Instead, they simply take the books they want without properly checking them out. This is called stealing. When people steal the library books and do not return them, the library has to replace those books. To cover the costs of replacing stolen books, the library has to charge fees and fines to its card-carrying members. This situation is especially prevalent with children, who may not know better. But every time a child without a membership card steals a book, it has to be replaced with funds from the library members.

The library has its own language that it uses for its vital functions. Let's say that one library uses the Dewey Decimal System. The library members spend time learning how the Dewey Decimal System works. Now let's say that another person, not a library member, starts visiting the library. But he or she is used to books being categorized by the Library of Congress Classification system. Even though there are membership classes explaining how to use the Dewey Decimal System, that person only wants to use his or her Library of Congress Classification system and refuses to learn the Dewey Decimal System. Every time the person tries to look something up, he or she has to ask the librarian for help instead of learning a new system.

The library might need to build a fence around its property. The library has the right to build this fence around its property.



STEPHEN SPILLMAN / Photo Editor

Juan Rohana, sophomore at North Crowley, stands outside of the City of Fort Worth Public Safety and Courts building Tuesday afternoon.

We are not against immigration. We love that the United States has such diversity and so many different cultures incorporated into it. We welcome anyone that comes into our country legally. The point is millions of people over hundreds of years have immigrated into the United States through legal methods. Why should we make exceptions for our friends from the south?

Laura Israel, junior, and Randi Stayton, sophomore

COURTNEY REESE
MIKE DWYER
ADRIENNE LANG
TRAVIS STEWART
STEPHANIE WEAVER

Editorial Policy

The content of the Opinion page does not necessarily represent the views of Texas Christian University. The Skiff View editorial represents the view of the five-person TCU Daily Skiff editorial board listed at left. The Skiff View is the collective opinion of the editorial board and may not reflect the views of the individual writers. Signed letters, columns and cartoons represent the opinion of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board.

Letters to the editor: The Skiff welcomes letters to the editor for publication. To submit a letter, e-mail it to **LETTERS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU**. Letters must include the author's classification, major and phone number. Skiff reserves the right to edit or reject letters for style, taste and size restrictions.

BEST OF THE YEAR?

Recent shows by Islands have sent the buzz surrounding the band into the stratosphere. We review its debut, "Return to the Sea" on Thursday's Arts page.

HIT THE ROAD

Get the facts before you get on a bike

By the weekend, Bryce McGuire can't wait to hit the trail.

"There's nothing like zooming along some sweet single track nestled in the forest and getting some air on a nice rock cropping," said McGuire, president of the Cowtown Area Mountain Bike Association.

Mountain biking can offer many general health benefits, including weight loss, lower blood pressure and relief from lower back pain, said Allen Johnson, who teaches beginner's mountain biking clinics.

"It keeps me feeling great," Johnson said. "I run circles around the 20-year-olds that work for me."

Johnson, who recently turned 50, said he took up mountain biking while he was recovering from knee surgery.

Casey Gordon, a Web site builder and TCU alumnus, mountain bikes on the weekends. Gordon said he enjoys being connected with nature.

"It can be flat out spiritual," Gordon said. "I'm sitting in a cubicle all day — no windows. Unless I'm on a bike, I get zero time outdoors."

Johnson agrees that being outside is an appealing part of mountain biking.

"You're not breathing everyone else's air," Johnson said. "You're getting fresh air."

Before hitting the trail, make sure to prepare. Here are a few tips on making mountain biking a lifelong, enjoyable hobby.

— Darren White

ALL PHOTOS BY STEPHEN SPILLMAN / Photo Editor

Aubrey Williams works on a mountain bike at Colonel's Bicycles. A good local bike shop is key in maximizing mountain biking enjoyment.

STEP ONE: PICK YOUR PRIORITIES

Even before riding, deciding your priorities is extremely important, said Bryce McGuire, president of Cowtown Area Mountain Bike Association.

• SET YOUR GOALS

"First you should look inward at what type of person you are," McGuire said. "What are your goals? Do you want to ride natural trails that are going to challenge you, or do you want to just ride paved trails and roads to get the cardiac benefits?"

• GET A FEEL FOR THE SPORT

Before purchasing an expensive bike and accessories, borrow a bike, Johnson said.

"Don't rush into buying something," Johnson said. "Watch the experts and pros, and make sure you enjoy riding."

STEP TWO: PICK YOUR GEAR

Finding the right gear is essential to making mountain biking a fun hobby, said Casey Gordon, who mountain bikes on the weekends.

• GO LOCAL

"You can't go to Wal-Mart and find the right bike," Gordon said. "You won't be prepared to ride."

Local bike shops offer better resources and advice than mass merchants, McGuire said.

STEP THREE: TIPS FOR BUYING A BIKE

• GO CHEAP

Although mountain biking can be an expensive hobby, it doesn't have to be. Here are some good bikes for little green.

Mongoose makes a number of inexpensive, full-suspension bikes, ranging in price from $199.99 to $349.99, all available at Sports Authority, 4830 SW Loop 820 in Fort Worth.

For a more expensive bike, Colonel's Bicycle Shop sells a line of Kona mountain bikes that range in price from $400 to nearly $3,000. Colonel's Bicycle Shop is located in Fort Worth at 3201 S. University Blvd.

• GO "HARD-TAIL"

A good way to reduce initial costs is with "hard-tail" suspension, said Aubrey Williams, a mechanic at Colonel's Bicycles.

Full-suspension bikes may cost more than $1,000, while hard-tail bikes may cost between $500 and $600, Williams said.

• GET A GOOD FIT

As well as affecting ride enjoyment, finding a proper bike size affects ability to maneuver a bike, Williams said. Many factors, including height and weight, determine proper size.

"Frame size is most important," Williams said. "If it's too small or too big, it's not going to go over the trail in the way intended."

STEP FOUR: GET INVOLVED

Here are some clubs in the Metroplex that provide a good community for novice mountain bikers:

• COWTOWN AREA MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOCIATION

Who they are: According to cowtownmtb.org, CAMBA is "dedicated to building sustainable trails in North Texas and making Fort Worth a mountain bike destination."
What they offer: CAMBA offers group rides every Wednesday, tour rides and skill clinics for new riders taught by skilled riders.

•FORT WORTH BICYCLING ASSOCIATION

Who they are: "Members are people like you who ride bicycles for recreation, fitness and sport. The club has riders of all shapes, sizes and skill levels," according to fwbaclub.org.

What they offer: Along with trail rides and clinics almost weekly, FWBA also offers special events rides, including a ride from Austin to Fort Worth.

STEP FIVE: GET ON THE TRAIL!

• Knob Hill Park

Who is it for? "Knob Hill, just north of Roanoke, is pretty good for beginners," McGuire said.
Where is it? Located just north of Roanoke, off FM 1171.

• Z BOAZ PARK

Who is it for? "Z Boaz Park is also good for beginners, but has some areas that are challenging for more advanced," McGuire added.

Where is it? Z Boaz Park is located just off Interstate 20 on Winscott Road.

STEP SIX: HAVE FUN!

The most important part of riding is having fun, Gordon said.

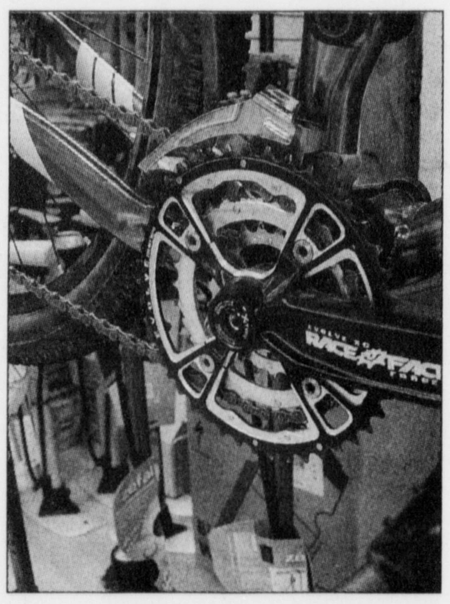
"I take my headphones with me," Gordon said. "I feel like I'm in my own heavy-metal music video."

The more riding a beginner does, the better, Johnson said.

"Get out and enjoy it," Johnson said. "Most people are out there because they want to be."

Tim Gray, a mechanic at Colonel's Bicycles, said people often take mountain biking too seriously.

"Don't be afraid to say 'hello' on a trail," Gray said. "Have fun — don't take it too seriously."



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FAMOUS QUOTE

"Cockroaches and socialites are the only things that can stay up all night and eat anything."

—Herb Caen

TODAY IN HISTORY

1889: The Eiffel Tower opens

1991: The Warsaw Pact ends

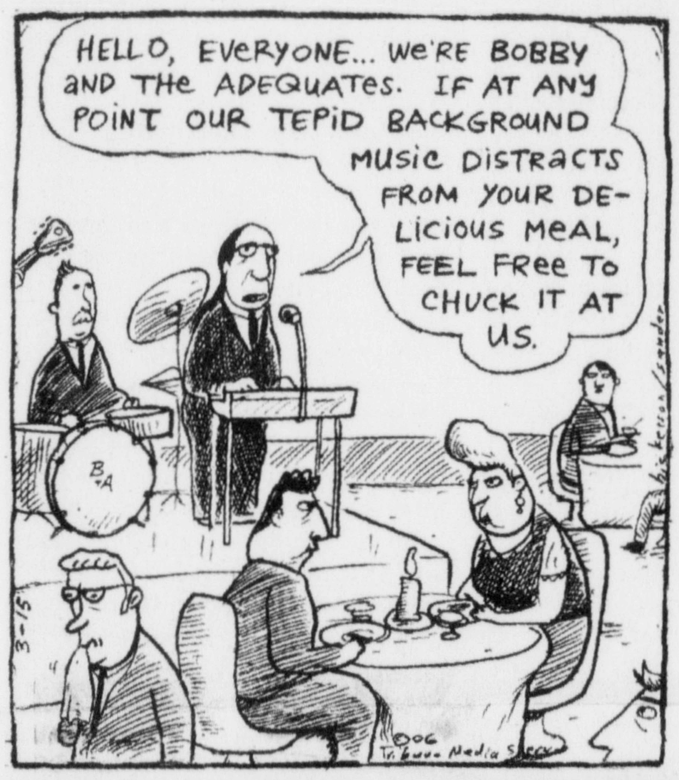
Quigmans

by Buddy Hickerson

"Dad always told me to keep my chin up. That's how I tripped and fell off the cliff."

Quigmans

by Buddy Hickerson



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

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

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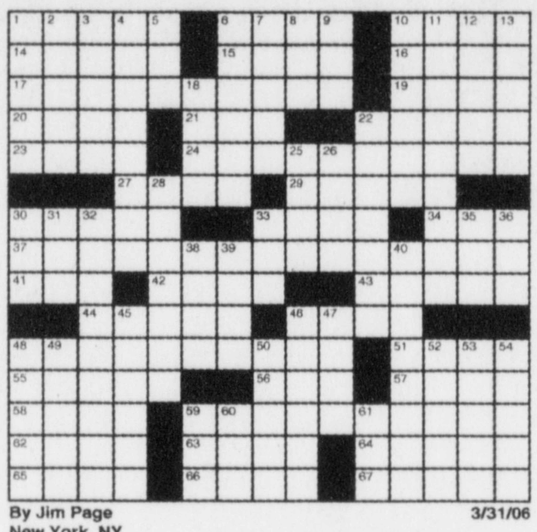

By Jim Page
New York, NY
3/31/06

ACROSS

1 Pagan gods
6 Cheese coated in wax
10 Little snakes
14 Playful caper
15 Be an also-ran
16 Flaming Gorge state
17 Kind of parade
19 Window part
20 Singer Brickell
21 Quick-cash source
22 Thirst-quencher
23 Hayes of "Will and Grace"
24 Spacecraft protector
27 Sun. talks
29 Filaments
30 Counter snake?
33 Lend a hand
34 Fairy queen
37 Write and send hurriedly
41 Bagged brew
42 Declared
43 Sleep disorder
44 Carnivals
46 Rob or Edmund
48 Goes in haste
51 "Breaker-breaker" buddy
55 "When We Dead Awaken" dramatist
56 Utmost degree
57 Scholarly book
58 Golfer "Champagne Tony"
59 Like asbestos
62 Russian emperor
63 Hosiery shade
64 Savor
65 Dispatch
66 Hwy. abbrevs.
67 Take in pants, e.g.

DOWN

1 "Psycho" motel
2 Battery terminal
3 Sky-lit courtyards
4 Card holder
5 TCU or MIT
6 Select social classes
7 Religious doctrine
8 Blond shade
9 Shea baseballer
10 Mother's helper
11 Distinguished political leader
12 Committee
13 Piece of broken pottery
18 Bolger and Haley's co-star
22 Two-man crosscut
25 Those ones
26 Bargain hunter's delight
28 Geographical shaper
30 Tiller locale
31 Run out of gas
32 Architect
33 Once owned
35 Vital statistic
36 Actress Arthur
38 Casino game
39 Pugilist's weapon
40 Ghostly
45 Frightened, in the Ozarks
46 Test paper?
47 Will-__-wisp
48 Handles of weapons
49 Very chubby
50 Kind of drum
52 Leg-up
53 Behave theatrically
54 Pass on (to)
59 Not "agin"
60 D-Day craft
61 School org.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

L	A	S	E	R		L	I	S	P	S		A	L	T					
A	G	O	N	Y		I	D	E	A	L		R	O	O					
M	A	N	C	A	N	N	O	T	L	I	V	E	O	N					
E	R	G	O		E	E	L	S		C	E	A	S	E					
		B	R	E	A	D			T	E	R	S	E	R					
S	L	I	E	S	T		S	H	E	D	S								
W	O	R	S	T		L	A	I	C		E	C	H	O					
A	L	D		A	L	O	N	E	H	E		O	A	T					
G	A	S	P		O	W	E	D		T	O	N	T	O					
			E	S	T	E	R		S	A	U	C	E	S					
S	C	R	A	P	S			H	A	S	T	O							
A	L	I	C	E		H	E	E	L		L	U	I	S					
H	A	V	E	C	R	E	D	I	T	C	A	R	D	S					
I	R	E		K	A	R	E	N		E	S	S	E	N					
B	A	R		S	T	A	R	E		S	T	E	M	S					

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3/31/06

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

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*Ice Age 2: The Meltdown-PG (Fri-Sun) 11:45, 12:30, 1:30, 2:15, 3:00, 4:00, 4:45, 5:30, 6:45, 7:30, 8:15, 9:15, 10:00, 10:45 (9:00, 9:45, 10:20 Sun) (Mon-Thurs) 1:30, 2:15, 3:00, 3:45, 4:30, 5:15, 6:00, 6:45, 7:30, 8:15, 9:00, 9:45
*Slither-R (Fri-Sun) 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30, 11:00 (5:35, 7:55, 10:30 Sun) (Mon-Thurs) 1:25, 4:35, 7:10, 9:55
*ATL-PG-13 (Fri-Sun) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:55 (10:00 Sun) (Mon-Thurs) 2:05, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40
*Basic Instinct 2-R (Fri-Sun) 2:05, 4:55, 7:45, 10:35 (10:25 Sun) (Mon-Thurs) 1:50, 4:45, 7:25, 10:05
*Inside Man-R (Fri-Sun) 1:45, 4:25, 7:25, 9:25, 10:25 (10:15 Sun) (Mon-Thurs) 2:20, 5:10, 8:20, 9:20
*Stay Alive-PG-13 (Fri-Sat) 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 8:00, 10:15 (10:10 Sun)(Mon-Thurs) 1:45, 4:10, 6:30, 8:45
*Larry the Cable Guy: Health Inspector-PG-13 (Fri-Sun) 11:50, 2:10, 4:40, 7:05 (Mon-Thurs) 2:00, 4:25, 7:00
V for Vendetta-R (Fri-Sun)1:35, 4:35, 7:50, 10:50 (7:00, 9:50 Sun) (Mon-Thurs) 3:05, 6:10, 9:10
She's the Man-PG-13 (Fri-Sun) 1:00, 3:50, 7:00, 9:50 (Mon-Thurs) 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:55
Failure to Launch-PG-13 (Fri-Sun) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 10:05 (Mon-Thurs) 2:30, 4:55, 7:35, 10:00
The Hills Have Eyes-R (Fri-Sun) 11:55, 2:35, 5:25, 8:10, 10:55 (10:40 Sun) (Mon-Thurs) 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:30

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Religion Directory

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Bible Church

McKinney Memorial Bible Church 4805 Arborlawn. Largest church you will pass on Hulen heading to the mall. Church Services on Sunday 9:00am & 10:30am.

College - Cru
Meets at 6:30pm. Same location. 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.

Episcopal

Trinity Episcopal Church A place of prayer for all people - just across the street from the TCU athletic fields. Services: 8:00am, 9:15am, 11:30am, 6:00pm. Come and join us!

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COMMENTARY

No. 2 UCLA sits atop Final Four standings

For the first time since 1980, there are no No. 1 seeds in the NCAA 2006 Men's Final Four.

The Final Four, which begins tomorrow night in Indianapolis, will feature a team that already has 11 NCAA championship banners hanging from the rafters, two young teams from the Southeastern Conference and a Cinderella team from the Colonial Athletic Association.

COMMENTARY

Ryan Thomas

The UCLA Bruins, led by sophomore guards Jordan Farmar and Arron Afflalo, are making their first Final Four appearance since 1995. They will play the Louisiana State Tigers, led by sophomore center Glen "Big Baby" Davis and redshirt freshman forward Tyrus Thomas.

UCLA, the highest-seeded team left, defeated No. 1-seeded Memphis in the Oakland regional final Saturday, while LSU needed overtime to defeat No. 2-seeded Texas.

The Bruins have won 11 games in a row and, in the process, have only allowed one opponent to score more than 60 points. That opponent was Gonzaga, who UCLA faced in the regional semifinals. They scored the last 11 points of the game to win.

LSU knocked out No. 1-seeded and No. 1-ranked Duke in the regional semifinals. Thomas scored 9 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and blocked 5 shots against Duke as they held them to a season-low 27 percent shooting from the field.

In the other Final Four matchup, the Florida Gators will play against the Cinderella team, George Mason.

George Mason, an 11-seed, is only the second 11-seed to reach the Final Four. They defeated teams who have won four of the past seven national champions in Michigan State, North Carolina, and Connecticut. Before this year's tournament, George Mason had not even won a NCAA tournament game.

Florida lost three key players to the NBA at the end of last season, but the emergence of sophomore forward Joakim Noah has help lead the Gators to the Final Four. Noah, the most valuable player of the Minneapolis Region, is averaging 18 points and 12.5 rebounds in the NCAA tournament.

While there are no No. 1 seeds remaining in the men's bracket, the NCAA 2006 Women's Final Four, which is going to be played Sunday in Boston, features three of them.

Two No. 1 seeds, the LSU Lady Tigers and Duke Blue Devils, will play against each other while the other No. 1 seed, North Carolina, will play ACC rival Maryland.

North Carolina defeated perennial power Tennessee to advance to its first Final Four since 1994, when it won a national championship on a buzzer beater by Charlotte Smith.

UNC, led by ACC player of the year Ivory Latta, won 33 games this season, but Maryland defeated UNC in overtime by three points in February.

Duke advances to the Final Four by defeated Connecticut in a game played in Bridgeport. Connecticut had won 29 straight tournament games played in the state of Connecticut.

The Lady Tigers are led by reigning national player of the year Seimone Augustus, and LSU is in its third straight Final Four.

Ryan Thomas is a senior religion major from Shelbyville, Ky.

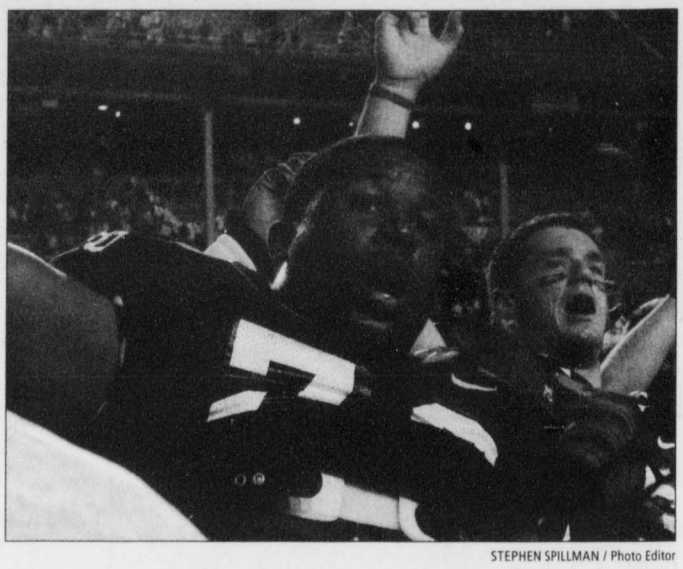
LSU VS. UCLA
LSU gets the edge in the front court with Glen Davis and Tyrus Thomas, but UCLA has better guards in Jordan Farmar and Arron Afflalo. This game will come down to who is able to manufacture points because both teams possess good defenses. LSU wins in a close game.

GEORGE MASON VS. FLORIDA
George Mason has beaten three teams from the major conferences, but I think Florida will not underestimate this team. The last time an 11-seed made the Final Four in 1986, it lost. I expect Joakim Noah and his Florida Gator teammates to be too much for the Patriots and win by 10 or more.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: LSU VS. FLORIDA
Both of these teams are from the Southeastern Conference so they are familiar with each other's playing style. This game should be a game filled with defensive intensity, and points should be hard to come by. If the game becomes fast-paced, Florida will have the advantage. I think LSU will control the tempo, and with the emergence of Tyrus Thomas, win another close game and bring home a national championship.

Q&A
HERB TAYLOR

Sports editor Travis Stewart sits down with offensive lineman — and in-the-closet wide receiver — Herb Taylor, who discusses strength, athleticism and, of course, bling.



STEPHEN SPILLMAN / Photo Editor

If you could play one other position in football, which one would it be and why?

(Wide) Receiver because I probably feel like I'd be a playmaker, and I always want to have the ball in my hands. I'd probably do crazy things when I scored a touchdown.

After all your years here, which teammate have you built the most respect for?

Probably (senior defensive tackle) Ranorris Ray. He's been consistent; he's played defensive end, defensive tackle. He's always been a strong vocal voice and the voice of the defense this year. He's played the most consistent and selfless.

What's the best thing about Gary Patterson as a coach?

His intensity. He expects you to be perfect. He pushes everybody to be the best they can be.

You were named a preseason third-team All-American recently — how big of an honor is that?

It's a pretty big honor. Matter of fact, the first time I found out about it was when I walking out of film. I saw coach Patterson, and he told me congratulations. A lot of people have been in that position and gone on to do better things, and I just hope that I can not only prove that I'm an All-American, but go up further in the rankings.

That (championship) ring on your finger, you wear that everywhere?

Actually, I really don't usually wear this one. This is the ring from the Fort Worth Bowl (in 2004). I usually wear around the Liberty Bowl (2003) ring because we were actually champions. I always wear that because it reminds me that that was the year we were actually champions, and I'm trying to get back to that point. So until we get our new rings (from 2005) on April 18, that's the ring I'll be sporting around.

What's the hardest thing about being an offensive lineman?

The hardest thing about being an offensive lineman is you never get credit for doing the good things, but you always get credit for when everything is wrong. You kind of take the punches as they go. Being an offensive lineman, you have to be very strong-minded. When something goes wrong, you're the first one to blame; you got to keep a level head.

Sometimes the football ignorants say that offensive linemen are just big and slow and relatively unathletic — what would you say to that?

Well, you look at the lines we had last year. I mean we only had a couple of guys over 300 pounds, and a lot of them could run and were very strong. (Senior guard) Shane Sims, he played at 290, and he bench pressed over 500 pounds and ran like a 4.8. Myself, I played all last year around 287, and I can move pretty well, and I can take on blocks and move people downfield, so its kind of a misconception.

Anybody you ever played against that you just hated?

I hated to line up against (defensive lineman) Chad Pugh. When I was a freshman and sophomore, he absolutely intimidated me. That's only when I was 275, and he was a monster — he was like 320 — and the things he did to guards, center and tackles when they tried to block him were unbelievable. So I mean, when you just line up and you're just purely terrified — it was probably Chad Pugh.

How much do you bench, Herb?

I bench 440.

Have you ever stopped and thought that's an unbelievable amount of weight to bench?

Yeah, because when I first started lifting weights before high school, I couldn't even get 135 up. Me and my dad went to the YMCA and tried to work out before football, and I couldn't do 135. Now, to sit here and think I'm pushing 440 off my chest, I still can't believe it. I called my dad and told him I maxed out at 440, and he said, "Shut up." He couldn't believe it.

Have you always been big for your age?

Yeah. Actually, I didn't get bigger until I moved in and stayed with my grandmother and grandfather. That's when I just blew up and got huge. My grandmother would cook every day: breakfast, lunch. I'd come home every day, and lunch would be ready. By the time of middle school and elementary school, I was pretty much bigger than everybody, and then in high school it caught up with me.

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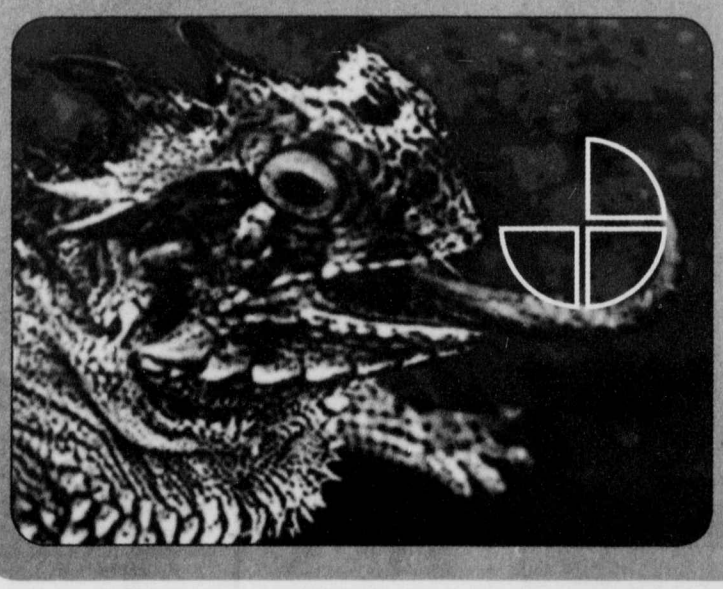

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