NEWS | TUESDAY
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THE BOYS' REBUTTAL
Now you can take a look at what guys think about love, sex and relationships.

TCU DAILY SKIFF
Serving Texas Christian University since 1902
www.skiff.tcu.edu | Friday, October 1, 2004 | Vol. 102 · Issue 23 · Fort Worth, Texas

Students watch Bush, Kerry duel

TCU students gathered to watch as President Bush and Sen. John Kerry debated.

By CHRISTINE WILSON
Staff Writer

President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., debated issues of foreign policy and homeland security Thursday in the first of three presidential debates scheduled over the next two weeks.

Meanwhile at Texadelphia, a restaurant on University Drive, approximately 40 TCU College Republicans gathered to watch the debate.

Mike Boone, president of College Republicans, said he thought the debate went really well. The turnout, he said, was excellent, but they ran out of seating.

"Both candidates were good at the beginning, but Bush did better overall," Boone said.

Boone, a senior political science major, said the major issues of the debate were foreign policy, specifically issues about Iraq, North Korea and Russia, and the U.S. troops.

"Foreign policy affects all of us, and I think the American public realizes that after September 11," Boone said. "It brought it home and made it more relevant."

Megan Brown, president

more on REACTION, page 2

Brad Johnson / Staff Photographer

During the Presidential Debate Thursday night, the College Republicans met at Texadelphia for the first of three debates to cheer on the Republican candidate George W. Bush.

Reality star shares her insights

Amy Henry returned to her alma mater Thursday to sign books and meet TCU students.

By VALERY INGLEY
Staff Reporter

The final female contestant on last year's hit reality show "The Apprentice" told students what it takes to be the last woman standing at her book signing in the University Bookstore Thursday.

"Competency is not enough," Amy Henry said to the crowd of eager students, who later lined up to meet the reality star and have her sign copies of her book "What It Takes."

The 31-year-old Henry said that in addition to "Is Omarosa really that mean?" and "Is Trump's hair really that bad?", the most frequently asked question of her is "Why do you think you were the last person standing?"

Henry said she was able to separate the attributes that individually allow a man or a woman to be successful.

A combination of these traits is what has contributed to her professional success and allowed her to survive Trump and the infamous "Board Room" as well, Henry said.

Echoing an underlying theme in her book, Henry said women do not have to act like men to excel in the business world.

Sophomore speech communication major Sarah Walkup said she wanted to attend the signing because she enjoyed "The Apprentice" and is considering minoring in business.

"As a woman thinking about the business world, she's one of my first inspirations," Walkup said.

Beth Billingsley, a sophomore marketing major, said she was impressed by Henry's willingness to "get her hands dirty" on the show.

"She made it all the way to the end and was actually more successful than most of the men," Billingsley said.

Perhaps more interesting to students, however, was not the fact that Henry had trumped the notion that women cannot succeed in the business world, but that Henry attributes much of that success to TCU.

Henry, who received her master's of business administration from TCU in 1997, said the interpersonal skills she learned had been invaluable during her "Apprentice" experience.

"I love the camaraderie [TCU] has," Henry said. "My experiences on 'The Apprentice' were much more like my MBA experience than anything else."

As for life after "The Apprentice," Henry said right now she is concentrating on promoting her book.

"Obviously, it's very exciting that she chose to come to [the University Bookstore] instead of the Barnes & Noble up the street," said trade book manager Rodney Austin.

Austin said he was excited so many students turned out for the signing.

Henry said she was pleased, as well.

"It's nice to have so many Horned Frogs come out," she said.

Stephen Spillman / Photo Editor

Business major and "The Apprentice" fan Estner Lee has her book signed by Amy Henry, a TCU alum and former contestant on "The Apprentice." Henry was at the TCU Book Store Thursday.

Candidates square off in first debate

Bush and Kerry clash on Iraq war during one of three meetings.

By TERENCE HUNT
Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Sen. John Kerry accused President Bush Thursday night of a "colossal error in judgment" in ordering the invasion of Iraq. "The world is better off without Saddam Hussein," the president shot back in campaign debate, adding his rival once said so himself.

"I agree with him," Bush jabbed sarcastically at a rival he depicts as prone to flip-flops.

In a 90-minute debate dominated by a war that has claimed more than 1,000 American lives, Kerry called the conflict a diversion in the broader struggle against terror and the hunt for Osama bin Laden.

The four-term Massachusetts senator said he could do a better job than Bush of protecting the nation against another terrorist attack, similar to those on Sept. 11, and pledged to be strong and resolute in fighting terrorism.

"But we also have to be smart ... and smart means not diverting our attention from the war on terror and taking it off to Iraq," Kerry said.

"This president, I don't know if he really sees what's happening over there," Kerry said of Bush, standing 10 feet away on a University of Miami debate stage.

Bush swiftly returned to his theme of Kerry as a man who changes his mind too often to be president.

"He voted to authorize the use of force and now says it's the wrong war at the wrong time. .... I don't think you can lead if you say wrong war, wrong time, wrong place. What message does that

more on DEBATE, page 2

Volcano shows signs of activity

Scientists predict small or moderate eruption at Mount St. Helens in the next few days.

By GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE — The flurry of earthquakes at Mount St. Helens intensified further Thursday, and scientists warn that a small or moderate blast could spew ash and rock as far as three miles from the crater in the next few days.

The volcano began rumbling last week, and by Wednesday earthquakes ranging from magnitude 2 to 2.8 were coming about four times a minute, possibly weakening the lava dome in the center of the 8,364-foot mountain, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

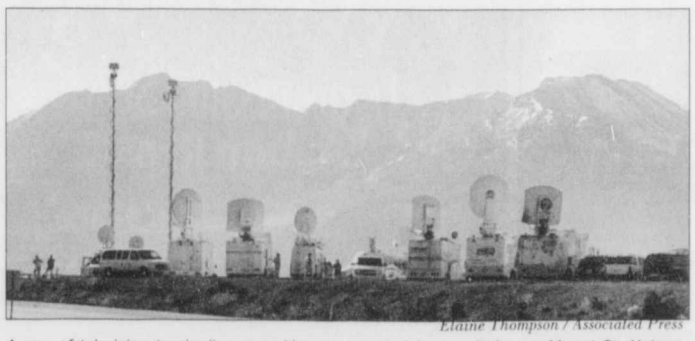
The quakes continued to strengthen early Thursday with several exceeding magnitude 3, according to the Web site of the Pacific Northwest Seismograph Network.

Scientists do not expect anything like the mountain's devastating eruption in 1980, which killed 57 people and coated towns 250 miles away with ash.

Few people live near the mountain, which is in a national forest about 100 miles south of Seattle. The closest structure is the Johnston Ridge Observatory, about five miles from the crater.

The heightened alert has drawn a throng of sightseers to observation

more on HELENS, page 2



Elaine Thompson / Associated Press

A row of television trucks line a parking area near Johnston Ridge as Mount St. Helens towers behind Thursday morning at Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, Wash. A series of small earthquakes at the volcano over the past week has prompted scientists to predict an eruption could be imminent.

Neeley winds up festivities

A full week of events put on by student organizations had strong turn-out.

By BRIAN CHATMAN
Staff Reporter

The M.J. Neeley School of Business rounds out a week of free food, prize give-aways and guest speakers with a presentation by the recruiting manager of Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Gena Burgdorf, today at 1 p.m. in Smith Hall room 104B.

The event, co-sponsored by the Society of Human Resource Management and Students in Free Enterprise, is the last of several promotional events organized by the business school's student organizations.

"The purpose of Neeley Week is to build community among faculty, staff and students and highlight the student organizations," said Lynn Cole, director of the Neeley Student Resource Center.

The week involved guest speakers from varied backgrounds such as Secret Service agent David Bentz, Billy Bob's Marketing Director Pam Minick, and TCU graduate student and corporate head-hunter Keith Albright.

Interim Dean Robert Vigeland said he has been very pleased with the week's events.

"There have been a lot of events bringing people from the business community to campus," Vigeland said. "The students have done a great job putting it together."

Ben Johns, president of the Financial Management Association, said the event his organization sponsored had one of it's strongest turn-outs.

Jill Sooby, president of the E-business Association, said the Secret Service presentation had a packed house.

"We had some of the officers standing in the back without seats, so it was a good turnout," Sooby said.

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.

- Want a chance to win $200, $100 or $50? Then sign up to be a contestant in TCU's Last Comic Standin'. Sign up at TCULastComicStandin@hotmail.com. Auditions will be from 6 - 9 p.m. Oct. 5th in the Student Center Ballroom. The show will be held at 6 p.m. Oct. 14 in PepsiCo Recital Hall. Admission is 2 canned goods. Free food reception will follow the show. Don't forget sign-ups end on Oct. 1st. Sponsored by the Hispanic Heritage Month Committee and PespiCo.
- Fun in Frog Alley begins at high noon Nov. 20. The game kicks-off at 2:00 p.m. It's your chance to get your name in the Guinness Book of World Records! Log onto (www.gofrogs.com) and sign-up to participate!
- The 12th Annual Texas Mesquite Association Art Festival is coming to Fredericksburg Oct. 8, 9 and 10. Juried artists from around Texas will gather in Fredericksburg's Marktplatz for a three-day celebration of the exquisite and attractive mesquite.
- Neeley Week 2004! This event will last all week with pizza sponsored by the Neeley Associates. Come have food, fun and learn. There will be speakers so drop by Smith Entrepreneurial Hall and join in on the activities!
- LEAPS will be held Saturday, Oct. 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with check-in at the Daniel-Meyer Coliseum. The University Recreation Center will hold a kick-off party Friday, Oct. 1 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. to pick up your T-shirt, enjoy free food and prizes and meet fellow LEAPers. Visit (www.min.tcu.edu) for more information or e-mail a.m.velasquez@tcu.edu.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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HELENS

From page 1

areas. Dawn Smith, co-owner of Eco Park Resort west of the mountain, told The News Tribune of Tacoma, "It's just been crazy the past couple of days."

A sign in front of the business reads, "Here we go again."

The Geological Survey raised the mountain's eruption advisory from Level 2 to Level 3 out of a possible 4 on Wednesday, prompting officials to begin notifying various state and federal agencies of a possible eruption. The USGS also has asked the National Weather Service to be ready to track an ash plume with its radar system.

Scientists called off a plan to have two researchers study water rushing from the crater's north face for signs of magma. A plane was still able to fly over the crater Wednesday to collect gas samples. Negligible amounts of volcanic gas were found.

"An aircraft can move ... out of the way fast," said Jeff Wynn, the chief scientist at the survey's Cascade Volcano Observatory. "We don't want anyone in there on foot."

The USGS has been monitoring St. Helens closely since last Thursday, when swarms of tiny earthquakes were first recorded. On Sunday, scientists issued a notice of volcanic unrest, closing the crater and upper flanks of the volcano to hikers and climbers.

Scientists said they believe the seismic activity is being caused by pressure from a reservoir of molten rock a little more than a mile below the crater. That magma apparently rose from a depth of about six miles in 1998, but never reached the surface, Wynn said.

The mountain's eruption on May 18, 1980, blasted away its top 1,300 feet, spawned mud flows that choked the Columbia River shipping channel, leveled hundreds of square miles of forests and paralyzed towns and cities more than 250 miles to the east with volcanic ash.

DEBATE

From page 1

send to our troops?" said the Republican incumbent.

With less than four weeks until the election, the polls show Bush with a small lead in the race for the White House, and several battleground states exceedingly close. Even some Democrats said the debate, with a national television audience in the tens of millions, represented Kerry's best chance to gain late-campaign momentum.

Both men used well-rehearsed lines during their face-to-face encounter, but this was the first time each had to listen to the criticism at close quarters.

Bush appeared perturbed when Kerry leveled some of his charges, scowling at times and looking away in apparent disgust at others. Kerry often took notes when the president spoke. Some networks offered a split screen to viewers so they could see both men at the same time and watch their reactions.

The two candidates views differed on North Korea, Iran, Russia and Iraq as well in a debate limited to foreign policy and terrorism.

Kerry charged that North Korea and Iran both have advanced their nuclear weapons programs during the Bush administration.

"As president I'll never take my eye off that ball," the senator said.

Bush said he believed that the diplomatic initiative currently under way could solve the crisis with North Korea.

"On Iran, I hope we can do the same," the president said.

Bush said that with North Korea, he would continue to pursue a strategy that involves the United States, China, Japan, Russia and South Korea in talks with North Korea to defuse the crisis. Kerry advocated bilateral talks between the United States and North Korea to find a solution.

Kerry voiced concerns about conditions in Russia, saying that crackdowns initiated by Vladimir Putin go beyond what's necessary to combat terror.

Bush said he had a good personal relationship with Putin that "enables me to better comment to him and the better to discuss with him some of the decisions he makes."

Bush said Russia was a country in transition and that would remind Putin "of the great benefits of democracy."

Not long before Bush and Kerry strode on stage, U.S. and Iraqi forces launched a major attack against insurgents in Samarra. The U.S. command said government and police buildings had been secured in the city.

The two men clashed time and again over Iraq and the broader war on terror.

Kerry said he had a four-part plan to battle terrorists, and said Bush's could be summed up in four words — "More of the same."

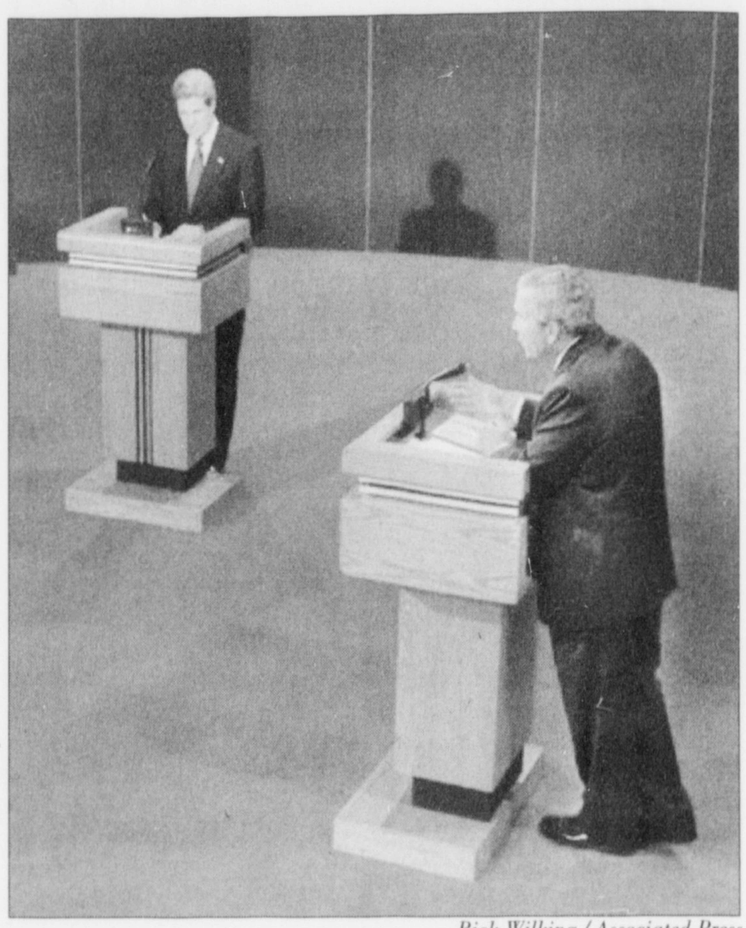
"You cannot lead the war on terror if you keep changing positions on the war on terror," retorted the president.

"What's his message going to be? Please join us in Iraq for a grand diversion?" Bush said to Kerry's contention that he could summon broader international support for the war. "They're not going to follow someone whose core convictions keep changing because of politics."

"The only thing consistent about my opponent's position is he's been inconsistent," said Bush, eager for the last word.

Given the stakes, it was not surprising that the two campaigns negotiated what amounted to a 32-page contract that covered debate details. They ranged from the choice of moderator (Jim Lehrer of PBS) to the distance between the candidate's lecterns (10 feet).

Even so, a last-minute controversy flared, as Kerry's aides objected to the placement of timing lights on the lecterns.



Rick Wilking / Associated Press

Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, left, listens as President Bush answers a question during the presidential debate in Coral Gables, Fla., Thursday night.

REACTION

From page 1

of the Young Democrats, said she thought both candidates did well.

"Senator Kerry focused his message; he was strong and resolute," said Brown, a junior political science major. "Bush was just as focused on his target, but I am left wondering what that target is.

"Again Bush used heavily philosophical words that get embedded in the minds of patriotic Americans, and that's what they vote on. His own optimism clouds his message."

The 90-minute debate at the University of Miami had an estimated television audience of 50 million to 60 million U.S. viewers, according to CNN.com. The debate, moderated by Jim Lehrer of PBS, gave the American public their first chance to see the candidates go face-to-face.

Andrew Hepworth, vice president of Young Democrats, said, "I think they both got the job done tonight; I was surprised. Bush has become a better public speaker during his presidency.

"On the whole, Kerry is a better communicator. He got the point across, while being respectful. At the same time, he was argumentative, pointing out flaws."

Lauren Koporec, a junior marketing management major, who watched the debate with the College Republicans, said Bush expresses his positions on Iraq well.

"He still defends the actions he took in the beginning, and I support him in that," Koporec said.

Kerry, she said, is a good public speaker, but he contradicts his own points.

Clay Bebee, a senior business management major, said, "Kerry can make all the promises and critiques he wants, but he hasn't made any notable decisions for people to critique. He can question everything Bush has done."

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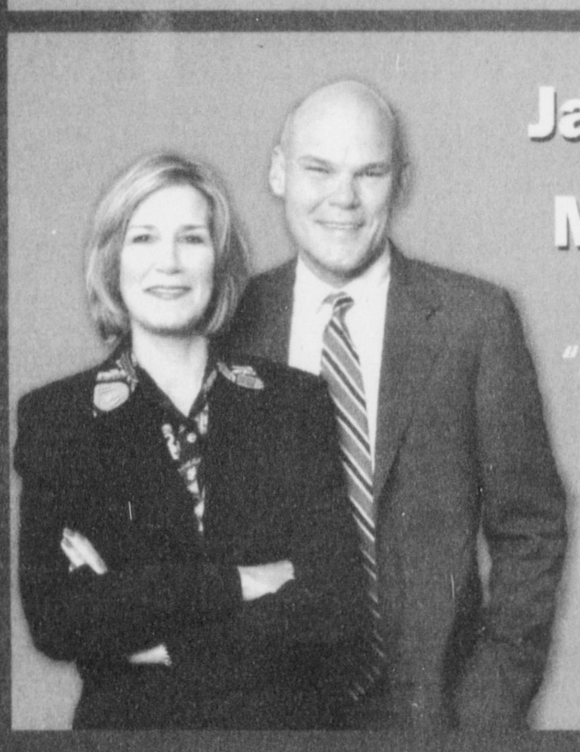

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Fri, Oct. 1
*Ladder 49 PG13- 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00, midnight
Mr 3000 PG13- 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45
Resident Evil: Apocalypse R- 12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35
*Shark Tale PG- 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, midnight
Sky Captain PG- 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15
*The Forgotten PG13- 12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20, midnight

Sat, Oct. 2
*Ladder 49 PG13- 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Mr 3000 PG13- 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45
Resident Evil: Apocalypse R- 12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35
*Shark Tale PG- 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00
Sky Captain PG- 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15
*The Forgotten PG13- 12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

Sun, Oct. 3
*Ladder 49 PG13- 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Mr 3000 PG13- 12:20, 2:35
Resident Evil: Apocalypse R- 12:00, 2:20
*Shark Tale PG- 12:05, 2:15, 4:20, 6:45, 9:00
Sky Captain PG- 12:15, 2:40
*The Forgotten PG13- 12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
WWE NO MERCY PG- 7:00

Mon, Oct. 4
*Ladder 49 PG13- 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Monday Night Football- 8:00
Mr 3000 PG13- 4:50, 7:15, 9:45
Resident Evil: Apocalypse R- 4:45, 7:10, 9:35
*Shark Tale PG- 4:30, 6:45, 9:00
Sky Captain PG- 5:10
The Forgotten PG13- 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

Tue-Thur, Oct. 5-7
*Ladder 49 PG13- 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Mr 3000 PG13- 4:50, 7:15, 9:45
Resident Evil: Apocalypse R- 4:45, 7:10, 9:35
*Shark Tale PG- 4:30, 6:45, 9:00
Sky Captain PG- 5:10, 7:45, 10:15
The Forgotten PG13- 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

Weekly Specials
Monday thru Thursday (only)- show student ID's get in for $5.
Monday- $2 longnecks/ any 2 pizzas $9.
Tuesday- Bargain admission night. $5 admission all day/ $5 pitchers.
Wednesday- $5 pizza night.
Thursday- $2 you call it, any individual drink at bar.
Friday- midnight shows $6 (Ladder 49, Shark Tale and The Forgotten only!)

*no passes or coupons due to studio restrictions.

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*Ladder 49-PG13 (Fri-Sun) 1:00, 1:35, 3:50, 4:45, 7:45, 9:50, 10:45 (Mon-Thu) 1:00, 1:35, 3:50, 4:45, 7:45, 9:50
*The Forgotten-PG13 (Fri-Sun) 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 (Mon-Thu) 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
*The First Daughter-PG (Fri-Sun) 1:20, 4:30, 7:05, 9:45 (Mon-Thu) 1:20, 4:30, 7:05, 9:45
*Sky Captain-PG13 (Fri-Sun) 2:30, 4:55, 7:55, 10:25 (Mon-Thu) 2:30, 4:55, 7:55, 10:25
Cellular-PG13 (Fri-Sun) 1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9:55 (Mon-Thu) 1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9:55
Mr. 3000-PG13 (Fri-Sun) 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30 (Mon-Thu) 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30
Wimbledon-PG13 (Fri-Sun) 1:50, 4:20, 6:45, 9:15 (Mon-Thu) 1:50, 4:20, 6:45, 9:15
Resident Evil 2: Apocolypse-R (Fri-Sun) 12:50, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15
*Shall We Dance (special sneak preview)-PG13 (Sat) 8:15
Collateral-R (Fri-Sun) 10:20 (Mon-Thu) 10:20
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Skiff View

Global experience seems to be absent

Students diverse; now focus more on faculty

When many of us came to TCU we were inundated with the university's mission statement and goals which involve "(educating) individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community."

The administration aims for us to be "recognized for our global perspective and our diverse and supportive learning community." For the most part, the right steps are in place to move toward this. We have one of the best study abroad programs in the state.

However, we have noticed a large shortcoming. There is an extreme lack of international, ethnic and minority faculty here. We see this as pertinent to maintaining a global perspective throughout the university.

Students are often accused of "living in a bubble," or of having little idea of what is going on in the world. The university needs to bring in professors who have different experiences, perspectives, methodologies and philosophies for teaching.

As a private institution, we have a plethora of funds at our disposal. Stop putting them toward offices for adjunct faculty. Instead put them toward bringing in faculty members who can substantiate our mission statement.

We need that information, we crave that experience and without it we have the potential to become the ignorant college students that many may have labeled us to be.

Your View

Letters to the Editor

Parking also public problem

My name is Russ Bloxom. I graduated from TCU in 1961. For two years, I was station manager of KTCU, before it became an FM facility.

The name of my late brother, Dave Bloxom, is on the school's new million-dollar Jumbotron scoreboard. He donated it three years ago, 50 years after his graduation from TCU. Another brother, Shankle Bloxom, who died last June, also graduated from TCU. Both he and Dave were star TCU football players in the late 1940s. And, one of our nephews, Dana Bloxom, is a TCU-ex from the 1970s.

Our family is steep in Horned Frog traditions and annual support of the university. For many years, I especially have attended football games and hosted tailgate parties for family, friends and other TCU alumni.

With all the wonderful things going on at the school and with the positive notoriety TCU is getting from its exciting football program, one huge disappointment and concern has emerged. The university has a terrible public parking problem. It especially raises questions when there is a concerted effort to fill the stadium and expose the "home team" to Fort Worth area residents who have never attended a game. Where are they going to park... conveniently?

Unless the public wishes to buy reserved parking, attendees are forced to park in remote lots, quite a walk to the stadium and far removed from the flavor of Frog Village and the activities offered. Or, such supporters are put through a hassle to find themselves a spot in nooks and crannies about the campus.

This year, the problem became compounded when officials decided that the so-called freshman parking lot, conveniently located at the northeast corner of the stadium, was put off-limits to the public. The lot also was designated for no alcoholic beverages and no tailgate parties.

Until more permanent solutions evolve, I urge TCU to reconsider use of the freshman parking lot during the season's home football games on Saturdays, some of which will occur two or three weeks between one another. On such Saturdays, I suggest that freshmen, who are on campus for the weekend, be required to relocate their vehicles for a 12-hour period around game time. Designate the lot for public parking and allow tailgate parties with alcoholic beverages. Additional revenue could be derived by an extra charge for such space.

With trends in place and available land for convenient parking not growing, another option for future public parking could be construction of a below and above ground parking garage in the far lot north of the stadium.

However, surface parking and the option of having convenient tailgate parties for the public have become scarce or non-existent. In the current push to promote attendance, TCU has fallen terribly short to make parking for public visitors at a football game a pleasurable enough experience to come back to.

Russ Bloxom, Class of 1961

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Letters to the editor: The Skiff welcomes letters to the editor for publication. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, signed and limited to 250 words. To submit a letter, bring it to the Skiff, Moudy 291S; mail it to TCU Box 298050; e-mail it to skiffletters@tcu.edu or fax it to (817) 257-7133. Letters must include the author's classification, major and phone number. The Skiff reserves the right to edit or reject letters for style, taste and size restrictions.

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

— THE ELECTION AND EDUCATION —

Give public schools help, not flak

COMMENTARY

Glory Dalton

Democracy is based on the theory that all men are created equal. While created equal, if left to natural devices such as environment and economic status, we will not remain that way for long.

In the dark ages, all the power and wealth went not to the most capable man with the best platform, but to the bully with the biggest sword.

Without access to knowledge and learning, people did not know how to make their lives more bearable. They had to start over from scratch, and that was a huge step backward. One they did not recover from quickly or easily.

It is knowledge and education that gives people an equal footing. If everyone can analyze and understand the way things function, then problems can be solved by tactical planning. Repression happens when education is not freely given, people are unable to see for themselves what is right, and are forced to take another's word for it.

Education freely provided and required for everyone in the United States is the reason we are a major power today. The reason we are able to openly challenge and defend ourselves against unjust politicians, laws and prejudices.

Yet the very institution that defines our freedom is also under constant attack. Public education funding is constantly being cut, and then being ridiculed as a second-rate institution. How can public education rise to the occasion and make sure everyone in our culture has the same basic comprehension of how the world, nature and government works, when they do not have adequate support?

President Bush proposes taking money from public schools in the form of vouchers to private schools. The claim has been made that public schools are not as capable of providing education. This is untrue, and supporting vouchers is defeating equality's mission.

When education is taken out of government control there is no way to regulate the use of government supported funding, no way to make sure that the students are all treated equally regardless of race, gender, economic status and faith.

Also, most private schools are religion based. Giving these schools government funding begins to step on the toes of separation of church and state. Without a non-biased institution teaching the beauty of tolerance, we run the risk of becoming close-minded bigots.

It is not right to go against the foundations of this country and forsake free public education for private institutions that boil down to businesses.

Let public education do its job; do not support vouchers; support educational taxes. Public education is the reason that we have escaped the Dark Ages. This system is what keeps knowledge from once again being lost and we owe it gratitude and support, not constant criticism.

Glory Dalton is a sophomore English major from Arlington.

Bush's plan solid, Kerry's has holes

COMMENTARY

Felecia Benton

Objectivity is a skill that the highly opinionated struggle with. We are notorious for remaining faithful to one side of an issue, even if later proven incorrect. Thus, I have given myself a new objective, one that will refine my skills as a rational thinker.

I have tried with my greatest abilities to defend President George W. Bush on particular issues, and each argument has been based on my rational, consistently correct, way of thinking. But Bush's attempt to revive education across America has admittedly been a little weak the past four years, and some of his policies have directly affected me. For example, money for college students was not allocated in the most efficient manner. Much of it was cut. But after four years of inconsistent results, the Bush administration has examined its education plan and made some major adjustments, which are currently being implemented.

So why replace a proficient work in progress with an inexperienced surrogate who has no plan of action to support a conventional strategy?

Let me design a simple example that might refine your comprehension: TCU football. Many devoted fans made the trek to Lubbock hoping to see a revival of pure Southwest Conference action against a former rival. Following that defeat, fans returned, eager to experience renewal from the previous weeks' debacle, only to face disappointment against a team compared to SMU.

So what is the Frog fan to do? You do what any good fan would do. You watch the coach, the commander and chief, learn from his mistakes, make proper application and improve his team. You don't hire a new coach just because he's never lost in double OT, especially one whose experience is limited to peewee football.

John Kerry's plan lacks detail, continuity and realism. He has presented several mediocre ideas, but no real blueprint of how his goal will become reality.

Bush plans on enhancing the No Child Left Behind Act by enhancing literacy among parents so they are better equipped to assist their children. Kerry plans to keep schools open longer. The "School's Open 'Til Six" initiative is intended to offer after-school programs to school districts across the country. Bush wants to help parents do their job, Kerry wants to hire "great teachers" and make them stay at work longer to "babysit."

Fact: Bush's NCLB Act struggled in structure and accountability. But administration is already working on real plans with real solutions, even for college students. So don't fall prey to random empty promises. One bad snap in double OT is better than banking on SMU.

Feleceia Benton is a senior music theatre and advertising / public relatons major from DeSoto.

Value goes past the numbers

COMMENTARY

Carlos Alvarado

Americans love ranking. Box office sales, college football teams, and celebrity earnings. We use them as proof of value in our society. The ranking has some form of measurement that allows something to be better than another, often in the form of numbers. Numbers are so well known that one could throw some out and a person would have a meaning for it:

1600: the perfect score on the SAT.

36-24-36: the measurements of Sir Mix-a-Lot's ideal woman.

4.0: the GPA of a student who studied too hard and partied too little.

117: TCU's Defensive ranking.

The intangibles are often left behind by the numbers we value. They are turned into statistics and we use them to prove something. It is difficult to pinpoint who said this quote, whether it be an unknown British politician or Aaron Levenstein, but "Statistics are like a bikini. What they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital."

Students in America walk around with floating numbers on their heads. Grades, test scores, and IQ. Our society values these numbers because we feel they prove that the money we are pumping into our schools is doing something.

John Kerry's and George Bush's attempts to fix an educational system that is taking up large sums of money both propose solutions and mandates that demand high standards and accountability.

The problem is not in the intention, but in how we measure where our children stand. The proof is not in test scores, but in areas we are afraid to measure. We spend so much time and money testing and implementing systems that it leaves no time to examine the child.

If we want to continue to throw out fancy titles like "No Child Left Behind," then we should have a new one entitled "Let Teachers Teach." Let teachers do what they were trained to do. We must show the courage to trust that our children will be educated and not concern ourselves with having to force children to prove themselves by showing us their test scores.

Numbers don't tell the whole truth when it comes time to measure worth. If that were the case, then it would be a certainty that the best movies that come out are the ones that make the most money. Regardless of who leads our country, our educational system will not reach its potential if we as a society force our love of numbers and ranking down our children's throats.

Carlos Alvarado is a senior education major from Weslaco.

Marriage is great but don't hurry to walk down the aisle

Senior year is upon me. The goal of achieving my bachelor's degree is, including today, only 225 days, 5,400 hours, 324,000 minutes, or approximately one thousand beers away.

COMMENTARY

Richard Francis

I will soon be graduated and cast out into the world on my own. Hopefully, and not necessarily in any order, my life will include: going to law school, practicing law, getting married, having children, watching the Spurs win at least 10 NBA Championships, presiding over the Supreme Court, sky diving, and of course, dying.

However, for some people, the beginning of this procession (pardon the pun) has already been set. I don't have nearly enough digits to count how many of my friends are getting married after graduation.

Is it just me, or does this seem a little early to anyone? Don't get me wrong, if you think you found your soul mate, marry away. I do believe in love at first sight, but I don't think it can truly apply until after your love at first sight is at least 25.

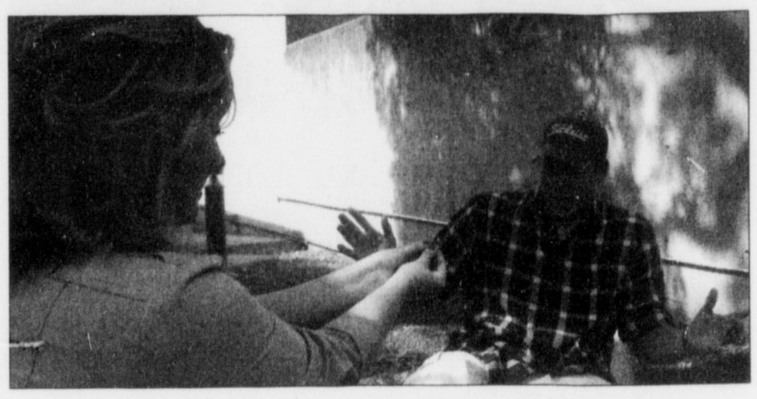
Why the barrier? Well, how can I truly fall in love with you if you don't even know who you are? Confused? Tired of questions? Feeling gassy?

I'm 21 years old and I am completely different from when I was 20. When I was 20, I was completely different from when I was 19. However, oddly enough, I'm exactly the same from when I was 12.

But I digress. The point is, you're not done growing until you are a minimum of 25. (You also can't drive a rental car.) You are essentially still growing into an adult. Of course, there are, as always, exceptions to the rule, but in my case, my taste for things changes faster than Dale Earnhart Jr.'s pit crew. But don't worry, that's normal!

There are too many things I want to do before I get married. For instance, make some money. After all, I once read that before marriage, a man yearns for the woman he loves, and after marriage the 'Y' becomes silent.

Believe it or not, I am actually a romantic. I like chick flicks, cooking, planning a romantic evening, and I even cried at the end of "Father of the Bride." But, I'm not ready to devote the rest of my life to one woman.



If you're reading this hoping for advice, then I apologize because no one can advise you on when to get married except for yourself. I truly believe a good marriage is like a casserole — only those responsible for its creation really know what goes in it.

So for you girls getting married within the year, enjoy your sorority candle pass and for you guys, I am always available to come to the bachelor party. But don't come crying to me when things don't work out because you were too young. I warned you.

Advertising Manager Richard Francis is a senior advertising/public relations major from San Antonio.

Love & Sex Marriage

From a man's perspective

Photos by Stephen Spillman

Waiting for wedding night will make sex special

I'm about as virgin as olive oil.

From birth, I've been told that premarital sex was wrong in every circumstance. My parents, church and friends all said my body is a temple of God and it should not be tarnished with sexual immorality.

COMMENTARY

Brian Wooddell

But they never really told me why.

Sure, my parents and I had "the talk," but I was young and I didn't want to talk about S-E-X with my dad. My lack of knowledge was my fault. He was willing to tell but I wasn't willing to listen.

So for years I lived in fear. I knew what sex was, and I knew I wasn't going to do it until I was married. I had heard sermons and read books about the emotional effects of sex. Of course, thanks to health class, I knew about sexually transmitted diseases. I had even heard of people who had "done it" before, but they weren't my close friends.

My sphere of sexual awareness was small, until I hit college.

At the beginning of my freshman year, I met several people who were just like me — conservative Christians who shared my abstemious beliefs — but they came from very different backgrounds.

One friend told me about his illustrious past during which he sought pleasure in all forms, including sex. He said he wouldn't be surprised if he had kids somewhere. My friend wasn't proud of what he had done. Instead he was open about it, offering to answer my questions in order to explain what made him stop.

Others told me about high school experimentations, prom night liaisons, kisses gone too far — the list goes on and on.

The stories were different, but there were always a few common themes. While they all said the encounters were fun, the fallout was not. They all said they regret their decisions and that the pleasure wasn't worth the negative consequences.

I am well aware that many couples who have sex on a regular basis have very good relationships, and many go on to have fulfilling marriages. But no one has ever told me it was sex that affirmed their relationship instead of the love they already had felt for each other.

Sex should only be shared between people who love each other enough to become man and wife, as a way to physically express their love. It shouldn't be a way to release hormonal tension, nor should it be used flippantly in dating relationships.

As much as my physical body may want it, I have come to realize through my friends' mistakes that waiting until my wedding night will make my first time that much more special.

Visual Editor Brian Wooddell is a junior news-editorial journalism major from The Woodlands.

Love goes toward love as schoolboys from their books, But love from love, toward school with heavy looks.
— WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

My advice to you is get married: if you find a good wife you'll be happy; if not, you'll become a philosopher.
— SOCRATES

Men always want to be a woman's first love — women like to be a man's last romance.
— OSCAR WILDE

Sex. In America an obsession. In other parts of the world a fact.
— MARLENE DIETRICH

Marriage is punishment for shoplifting in some countries.
— WAYNE FROM "WAYNE'S WORLD"

A relationship, I think, is like a shark, you know? It has to constantly move forward or it dies.
— WOODY ALLEN

Nothing wrong with sex without emotional baggage

If nobody's feelings get hurt, then it's okay. The "it," of course, is casual sex.

When you break it down, sex is the means by which humans as a species rely on to procreate. To say that this basic need, desire, drive, whatever you may call it, must follow and fit within guidelines set and defined by today's popular culture is plain ridiculous. We may not be going out and having sex to further the species, but that doesn't mean the urge to have sex isn't there.

COMMENTARY

Ryan Claunch

It seems early on that a pretty clear line is drawn. Those who promote abstinence point fingers and look down upon those who have sex and vice versa.

One point I need to make clear is that it's OK to agree to disagree. It boils down to your personal upbringing, beliefs and morals. No one person is right, and no one should label others and their actions as wrong.

Often, those who choose to engage in sex before marriage are in monogamous relationships. This is often done to show that they truly care about their partner and wish to show them in the most intimate way. To be involved intimately, but without the emotions often associated with that intimacy, and with different partners, is entirely plausible.

Now, I'm not condoning sluttiness, but there's no reason to go without. If you feel that there will be no ramifications, and your particular partner of the moment shares similar feelings, then by all means carry on. To automatically label one who has sex casually as being "easy" is an inaccurate stereotype. Casual sex also does not mean you engage in sexual activities completely devoid of standards when choosing your bedfellow. Whether these casual sexual encounters are with friends or with someone you've just met, it's a conscious decision, both logical and justifiable, made by both parties, and is not a moral indicator of their character.

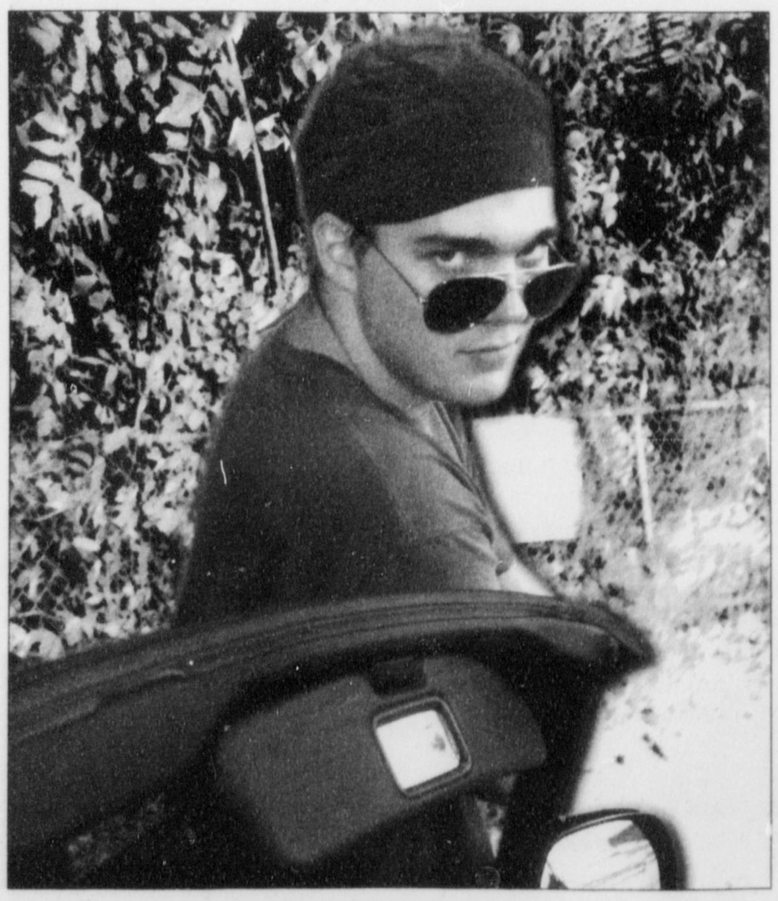
It's completely possible to be physically close without the emotional attachment.

Monogamous sex out of wedlock is commonly justified as well, and is frowned upon less often than purely casual sex. But the thing is, you must look at the options that are available to a person with an open mind. It is arrogant to say that your beliefs and yours alone are right and that everyone should follow suit. It's a personal choice. Just be smart about it. It may be casual, but that's no excuse to be stupid. Whether this means safe sex or simply knowing more about your current partner than his or her name is also a personal call.

As a person who has been on both sides of the issue, I find that casual sex should be based on a case-by-case basis. To have a general opinion limits your knowledge on the topic.

Causal sex may not be for you, but it isn't a bad thing either.

Ryan Claunch is a sophomore news-editorial journalism major from Abilene.



Nice guys don't finish in first place or last

I'm a nice guy and it really sucks.

I've heard my whole life that women are always looking for a nice guy, so that's the kind of guy I've always tried to be.

COMMENTARY

Drew Irwin

But let's just say that my dating resume isn't going to be getting me any jobs.

And yet the drunken fraternity guy who doesn't call, grabs everything and cheats has more girls than even he can handle.

I know the world isn't fair, but that doesn't even make sense.

And the worst part is that nice guys are the ones that get all the complaints about the jerks girls are dating. All his vices are thrown out there, followed by a "I wish he was more like you."

Um ... I'm like me.

It's okay though, because I'm constantly assured that my day is coming. That while they don't want to date me, they'd like to marry me. That I'd make a great husband but not a good boyfriend.

And while that means nothing to me now, I guess that's okay because I'll win the war.

But I want to win the battle too. Or at least the occasional battle.

A while back, I was e-mailed a paper entitled "Ode to the Nice Guys." If you're a nice guy, find it and read it. It's basically my bible now.

If you're a girl, find it and read it, but be prepared to feel bad for guys like me. A female friend of mine read it and told me the article was sad but true.

It doesn't have to be, though.

The reasons I've found for why girls are attracted to the bad guys are numerous. Something genetic attracts modern-day women to the modern-day caveman. Or that women simply like the challenge of changing a guy from Tommy Lee to Tommy Hilfiger.

I definitely do not have a Harley or a leather jacket.

But can't it work the other way? Can't girls find a nice guy and turn him into a bad boy and then back again? Wouldn't that be even more of a challenge?

Or, I don't know, actually start practicing what you preach. If you want a nice guy, find one. We're here and we're not exactly busy Friday night.

Until then, we're going to have to sit and wait until times change. Or at least until I can afford a motorcycle and a leather jacket.

News Editor Drew Irwin is a economics and broadcast journalism double major from Dallas.

Paul

by Billy O'Keefe

Paul

by Billy O'Keefe

Relationships 101

Your source for relationship advice
By Dr. Mark Goulston

Dear Dr. Mark,

I have a reputation for being a nice guy. But when I date nice women who like me and treat me well, I get bored. So I end up attracted to and dating "bitchy" girls who after the first few dates become more moody and demanding. That only fires me up more to meet the challenge. Needless to say, these relationships never end well. What's up with me?

BITCH LOVE at Ohio State

Dear LOVE,

Since a significant part of your personality is being a nice — as in giving — guy, it makes perfect sense that you would be attracted to high-maintenance girls (the ones who are easy to disappoint and difficult to please). They offer a great challenge to you, as if they are saying: "I dare you to see if you can please and satisfy me." And then you proceed to go all out to do just that. Every now and then they throw you a crumb, which probably feels like you won the lottery, but never lasts. I would recommend that you just say no to these girls as soon as you recognize them. A nice guide to these girls would be to ask friends who are more objective what they think of them.

I'm also guessing that you had a parent that you were always trying to please and never felt you could. Feeling unfinished or unsuccessful with said parent can often cause a child to seek out a similar type personality in the people they date. It's as if you're trying to finish with a girlfriend what you never finished with your parent. The only problem is that you choose someone so similar to that parent that it ends the same way — with you feeling that you can never do enough.

I would recommend you seek out a low-maintenance girl (the ones who are easy to please and difficult to disappoint), but one who seems passionate about things in addition to relationships. Hopefully the admiration and respect you feel for what she is trying to accomplish in her life will make up for the fact that you don't feel challenged by her being such an easy-going, nonjudgmental person.

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Today's Crossword

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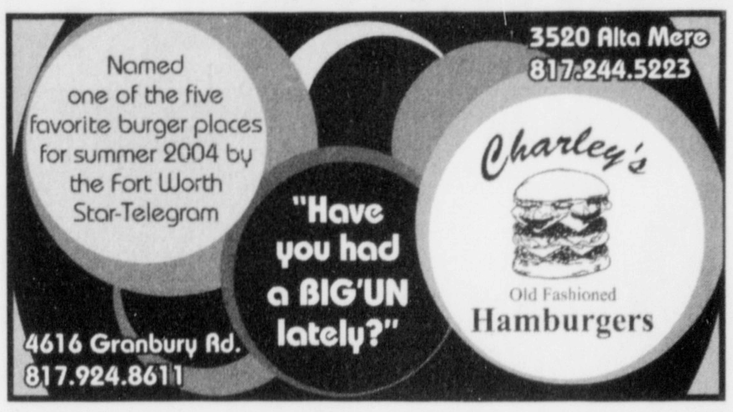

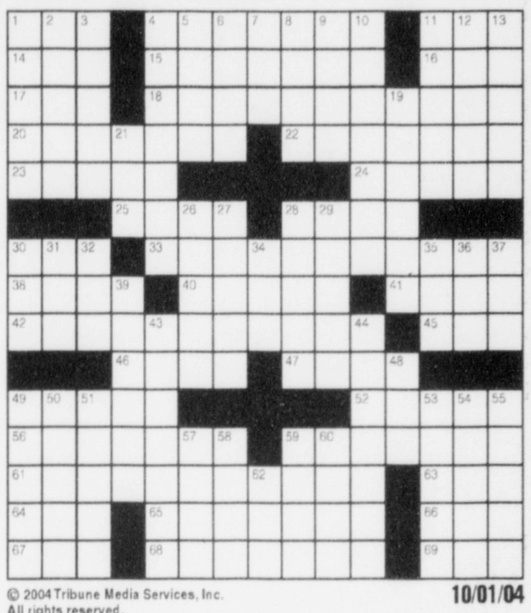

ACROSS
1 Monogram on a dime
4 Break to bits
11 Pen partner?
14 "Exodus" hero
15 Pub order
16 __-de-France
17 Chasing game
18 Law of gravity formulator
20 Quantities
22 Port of Pakistan
23 Insect stage
24 Actor Hawke
25 "You Shook Me All Night Long" rockers
28 Detonator cord
30 To the point
33 Track event featuring sulkies
38 See fit
40 Disinclined
41 Barks shrilly
42 Prohibition hot spots
45 Swiss peak
46 Plate
47 Cheerless
49 Pack animals
52 Esthetic judgment
56 Kin of water lilies
59 First finger
61 On the fritz
63 Woodshed implement
64 Keyboard spacer
65 Small brook
66 Cul-de-__
67 Fury
68 Backdrops
69 Successor of 1A

DOWN
1 Lethal
2 Serious play
3 Hardship
4 Popeye's pick-me-up
5 Ship's post
6 All is lost!
7 Ross or Bering
8 Cut ruthlessly
9 Arm bone
10 Noblewoman
11 Salesman's spiel
12 Honolulu farewell
13 Last name in Communism
19 Diluted
21 Charlottesville sch.
26 Evans and Earnhardt
27 Call to Kermit
28 Reeking
29 Wedding-party member
30 Commercial pieces
31 Get-up-and-go
32 Three-way junction
34 Certain mil. installation
35 Drivers' org.
36 Sgt.'s underling
37 Sixth sense
39 Invented
43 Smoochers
44 Hunger gratification
48 Prohibit
49 Excuse
50 Underwater scanner
51 Stockpile
53 Hoard
54 Lone Star State
55 Humanoid posture
57 __ the Red
58 Rescue
59 Heap
60 Ended
62 Large cask

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10/01/04

Thursday's Solutions

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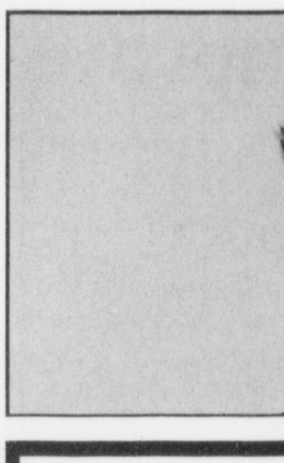
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Religion Directory

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McKinney Memorial Bible Church
4805 Arborlawn
(At 3900 block South Hulen, 1 mi south of Bellaire)
Services: 9:00 & 10:30am
College Crew: 10:30am in Student Ministries Building
4066 Kingsridge
817-377-4702
www.mckinneychurch.com

Christ Chapel Bible Church
3740 Birchman Ave.
817-731-4329
College Ministry 11:15am in the new khaki Bubble. "Focus" Acoustic Contemporary Praise Wednesday nights in sanctuary. 7-8pm. Contact Ryan McCarthy for more info. ryanm@christchapelbc.org.

Catholic

Holy Family Catholic Church
6150 Pershing Ave.
817-737-6768
Weekend masses: Saturday 5:00pm. Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:30am.

Episcopal

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
10th and Lamar, Downtown.
Sunday: 8am Holy Communion
9 & 11 morning prayer, except First Sunday. Holy Communion Anglican Worship, Evangelical teaching. 1928 BCP, midweek Bible Studies.
www.st-andrew.com
817-332-3191

Church of Christ

Altamesa Church of Christ
Sunday morning 9:00am. Bible class 10:15am. Worship Sunday night 6:00pm. Small groups Wednesday 7:00pm. Address: 600 Altamesa Blvd. Fort Worth, TX 76133. (corner of Altamesa Blvd. and Hulen St.) Phone: 817-294-1260
www.altamesa.org

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5301 Altamesa Blvd.
Ft. Worth, TX 76123
817-292-9292
clowers@Christchurch.org

Christian Church

South Hills Christian Church
(Doc) Rev. Dottie Cook Yount adults--breakfast, fellowship, worship. Class at 9:45am. Worship at 10:50am. Close to TCU. (817) 926-5281
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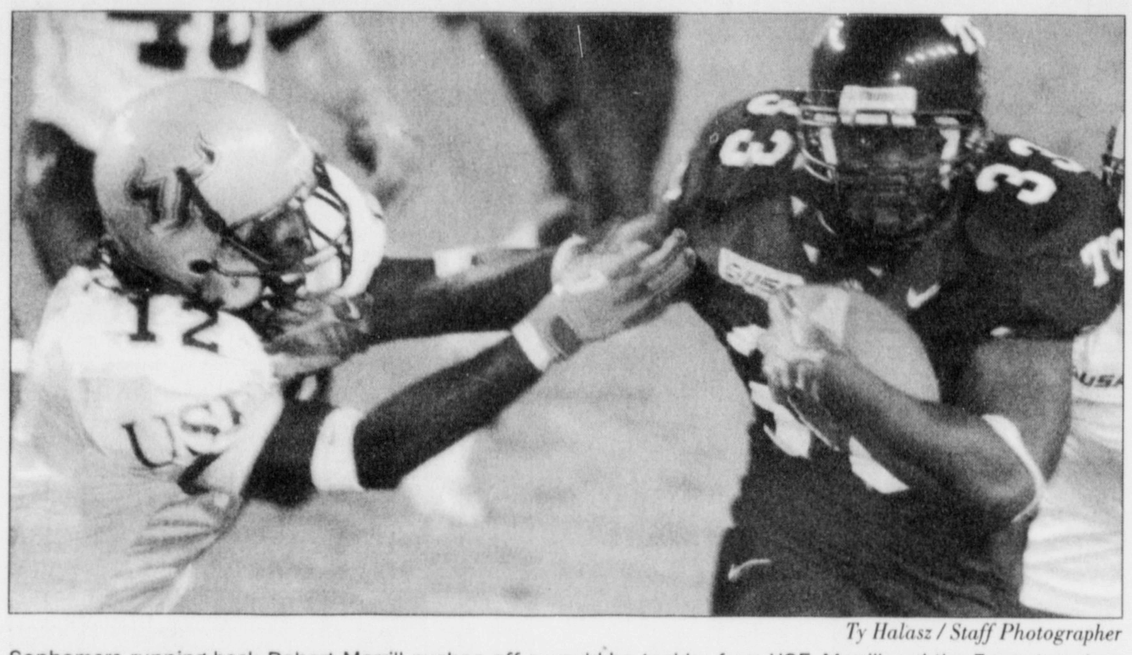
Players win, not coaches, Patterson says



Ty Halasz / Staff Photographer

Sophomore running back Robert Merrill pushes off a would-be tackler from USF. Merrill and the Frogs travel up to New York to prepare to take on the Army Black Knights.

TCU squares off against Army and legendary coach Bobby Ross.

By DAN McGRAW
Staff Writer

Head football coach Gary Patterson will have more to worry about this weekend than Army's defense or offense, but it won't be a player making all the noise. This will be the first time for Patterson and TCU to square off against Army's first-year head coach Bobby Ross.

"He's a legendary coach," Patterson said. "He's coached in the NFL. He's won a Super Bowl. He's got a lot of coaching experience."

Ross's experience entails 15 years coaching at the collegiate level and nearly seven years coaching on a professional level. On top of his two decades of coaching experience, Ross led the San Diego Chargers to a Super Bowl in 1994, even though they lost to the San Francisco 49ers. He also led the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets to share the national championship in 1990 with the University of Colorado.

Ross has compiled a 94-76-2 record in the 15 years of coaching at the collegiate level.

"Coach Ross is an outstanding coach," defensive coordinator Dick Bumpas said.

Despite his opponent's impressive coaching record, Patterson is not concerned about who will be leading Army.

"Players win ball games," Patterson said. "Preparing them is the coach's job, but players ultimately win the game."

Finding those players might be the hard part for Patterson, since many of the starters are battling injuries. Senior Reggie Harrell and junior Tye Gunn will not make the trip to Michie Stadium for Saturday's game after practicing during the week.

"Harrell will not be playing this weekend," Patterson said.

Harrell practiced Tuesday and Wednesday in shoulder pads with no tape on his hand, but Thursday his left pinkie finger was bandaged as a precaution.

However, senior Brandon Hassell is expected to make the trip to Army after practicing for the third day in a row and Patterson said there is an "80 percent chance of him playing in the game."

"He is expected to play, but we're not sure whether he will start," Patterson said. "He was overthrowing the receivers in practice, but expects to be off his shoulder until the game. I'll make the decision about whether he will start or not on Saturday."

However, Patterson still has not announced a backup for the hurt Hassell.

"We don't know that yet. We will be taking all the quarterbacks except for Gunn and the red shirt freshman," Patterson said.

The battle for the backup job is between junior Kyle Kummer and sophomore Jeff Ballard, but the edge appears to go to Kummer.

"Kummer had a better practice between the two," Patterson said.

Freshman James Battle, freshman Chad Huffman, Kummer, Ballard and Hassell are all expected to make the trip to Army and all may see playing time.

"All five may play," Patterson said. "We are going to find someone who can get it done. If one can't get it done then the next guy is going to get a try. We are going to find someone who can get it done."

Sophomore Michael DePriest, sophomore Quentily Harmon, sophomore Cory Rodgers and senior Anthony Alabi are practiced on Saturday and are expected to play.

QUICK FACTS

Army (0-3, 0-2 Conf. USA) vs. TCU (2-2, 0-1 Conf. USA)
Michie Stadium
West Point, New York, 1:06 p.m.

TCU pass offense vs. Army pass defense: TCU

Sophomore Cory Rodgers, sophomore Quentily Harmon, sophomore Michael DePriest and senior Reggie Harrell are expected to make the trip to West Point this weekend and head coach Gary Patterson said "they have an opportunity to play," which should regenerate the TCU receiving core. TCU's passing offense ranks second in Conference USA, which should pose a problem for an Army defense that ranks ninth in passing defense, allowing 308 yards a game.

TCU rush offense vs. Army rush defense: TCU

Junior Lonta Hobbs leads Conference USA in scoring with 10 touchdowns and is third in rushing with 106 yards a game through four games. The mobility of Hobbs and sophomore Robert Merrill should be a potential problem for an Army defense that ranks 10th in rushing defense, allowing 266 yards a game this year.

Army pass offense vs. TCU pass defense: Push

It's a toss up; Army's pass offense is the worst in Conference USA, producing just 144 yards a game, but will go up against the worst passing defense in Conference USA. TCU has allowed 368 yards a game. This game should determine whether TCU's defense will start playing "TCU defense" or whether Army can finally jump start their passing game against a struggling TCU pass defense.

Army rush offense vs. TCU rush defense: TCU

Army head coach Bobby Ross has turned around an absent rushing offense into the fourth best in Conference USA with 167 yards a game. However, Army will be going up against the number one rushing defense in the conference that allows a miniscule 87 yards a game, which means they shouldn't allow Army to gain 167 yards in this game.

Outlook: The outlook depends on how TCU's defense can respond to the last two losses against Texas Tech and University of South Florida and who will be playing for the Horned Frogs. However, whoever ends up playing quarterback or receiver should be able to light up the Army pass defense.

Prediction: TCU 24 — Army 21

— Dan McGraw

Women's team set to improve

The women's tennis program wants to make a statement.

By MICHAEL FLUSCHE
Staff Writer

The TCU Women's Tennis Team aims to make a big impression on the country this year.

Coach Dave Borelli has made various off-season upgrades during his second year as head coach of the program.

Mainly, Borelli made the acquisitions of Hellena Besovic and Story Tweedie-Yates. Borelli said he believes transfers Besovic and Tweedie-Yates can drastically improve the team.

"Their impact is overwhelming..." Borelli said. "Story is a great team person and Hellena competes on a tremendous level."

Borelli said it will take leadership from these two girls to improve the team's level of play intensity.

Another change from the year before is assistant coach Jefferson Hammond. Coming in from the USC men's program, Hammond is now a large part of the team's recruiting process. Borelli said his skills at attaining new prospects and players for the team are integral to developing into a nationally recognized program.

At practice, the women's tennis team focuses on a hard work ethic and individual skill building, Borelli said.

"The level of intensity at practice is comparable to a great program," Borelli said.

He said the women's tennis program uses Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday as team practice time and try to keep Tuesdays and Thursdays for a time to improve as single players.

This fall, the tournaments will focus on individual play as opposed to a team focus in the spring, Borelli said.

This weekend the Riviera/ITA National Women's Championships will give the women's team a chance to show just how good they are individually, he said.

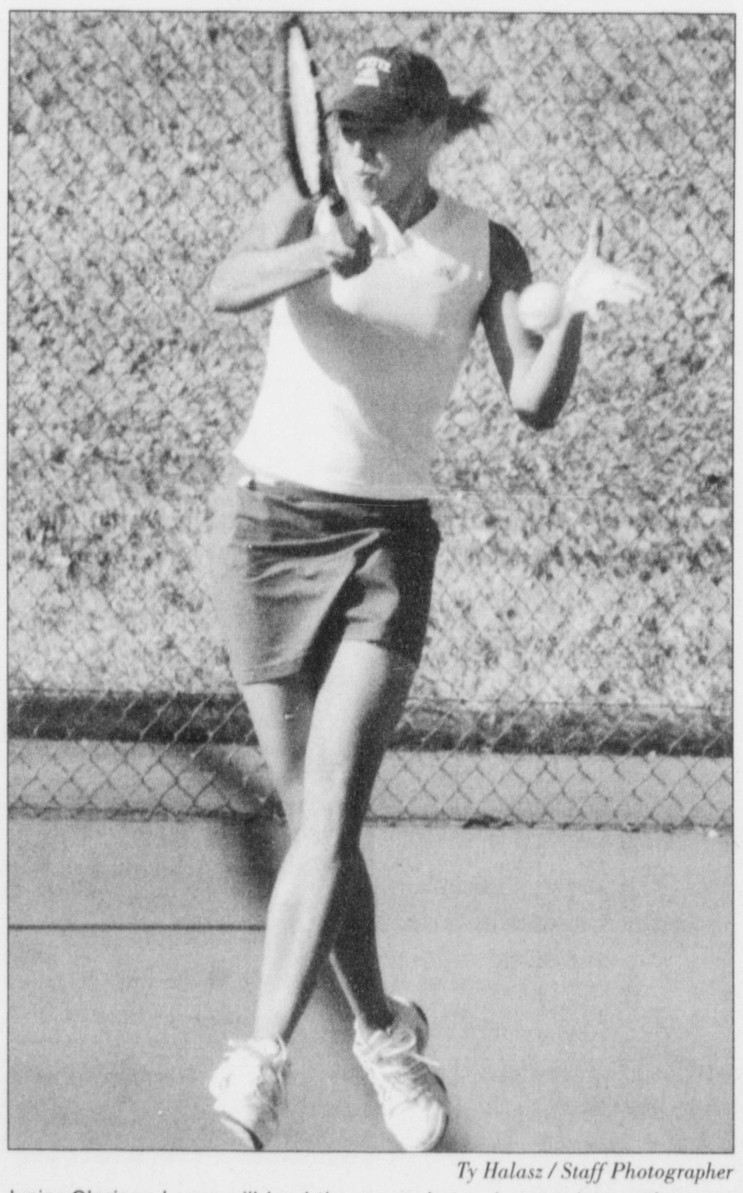
Borelli started this tournament several years ago while he was in California with the USC tennis program.

The tennis team's goals this season revolve around making an impact in tournaments and improving upon their results while making the statement that they can play with anyone, he said.

"They need to get a sense of process, and that it will take several steps in getting better," Borelli said.

Borelli said he and his team are ready to take on the nation this season, not only to show how good they can be, but also to set a precedent for future TCU teams.

"We are going to be alright, we just need to continue to improve and stay healthy," Borelli said.



Ty Halasz / Staff Photographer

Junior Gloriann Lopez will lead the women's tennis team into action next week in the International Tennis Association Collegiate Tournament in Pacific Palisades, Calif.

Chances good for volleyball team

The TCU Volleyball Team is hoping to be at the top of conference standings after their games this weekend.

By BRIAN ALLEN
Staff Writer

TCU volleyball will be at home this weekend to start the Conference USA season against Tulane and Southern Miss.

The Horned Frogs enter conference play fresh off a 2-1 showing at the TCU Molten Invitational, which improved their overall record to 9-5.

Sophomore middle blocker Emily Allen and freshman outside hitter Talaya Whitfield earned All-TCU Molten Invitational honors.

TCU has the best overall record at 9-5 in C-USA over both Tulane and Southern Miss. Tulane stands at 7-2, but Southern Miss. is at 3-7 with a five-game losing streak.

"The first conference matches are going to be exciting because we have Tulane and Southern Miss coming in," head coach Prentice Lewis said. "They are both tough opponents and should bring a high level of competition for us."

Tulane will bring four returning starters into this weekend's match: Anastasia Kenon, Lindsey Norman, Katie Case and Deva Fowler.

Tulane leads its opponents in many categories this season. The list includes kills, assists, aces, digs and blocks. Fowler leads the team in kills and blocks in the early season.

Southern Miss.' 3-7 record is deceiving because they have faced tough major conference teams. One of the teams the Golden Eagles faced off against early in the season was UCLA and the Eagles lost in three quick games. Last season, they finished in third place in the conference.

This year, the Golden Eagles are trailing their opponents in almost all statistical categories, including kills, aces, digs and blocks.

Senior Amy Truong is the stand-out player for the Golden Eagles. Truong set the single-season assists record and led the team in aces last season.

The Horned Frogs will enter the first conference matches with a chance to start off 2-0 and be at the top of the standings.

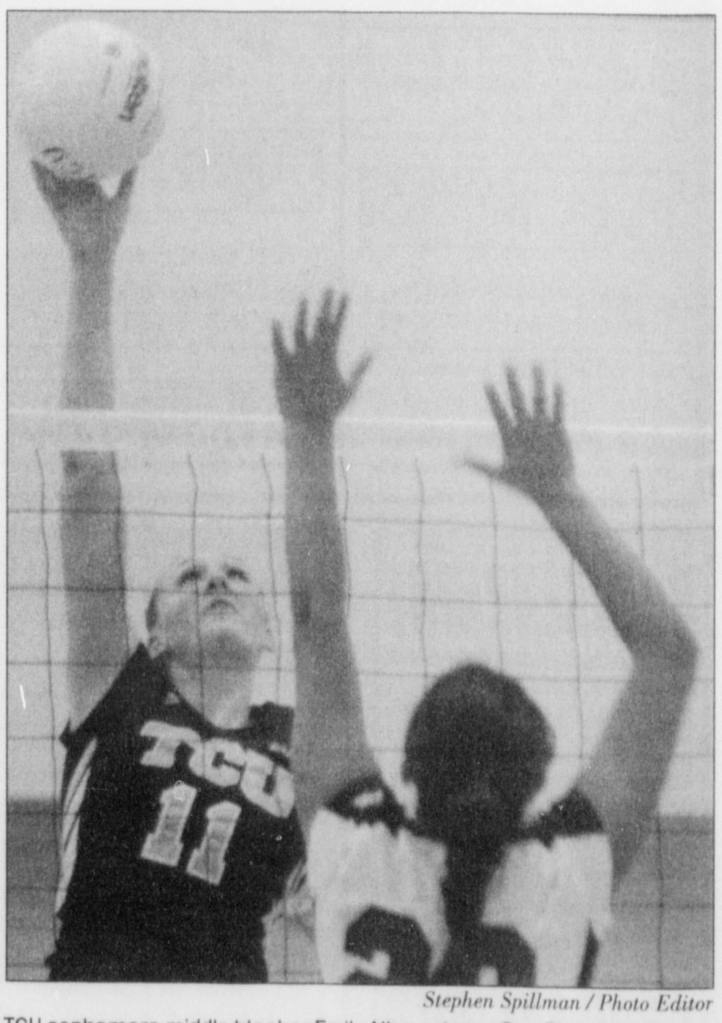
"We play one match at a time and the whole team will need to step up this weekend," Lewis said.

Senior Ellen Rehme, junior Hayley Harmon and sophomore Emily Allen are just some of the players that have had a good showing for TCU thus far this season. Rehme leads the team in kills with 218 and Allen leads the team in serve attempts with 26.

The Horned Frogs are leading their opponents in kills, assists and aces. This strong offensive domination could make the Horned Frogs a team to look out for in Conference USA.

"When we have a good offense set-up, everything else goes better for us in all aspects of our game," Harmon said. "Coach Lewis has emphasized being excited and pumped up when playing in matches."

The Horned Frogs will face off against Tulane at 7 p.m. today and Southern Miss tomorrow at 7 p.m. in the University Recreation Center.



Stephen Spillman / Photo Editor

TCU sophomore middle blocker Emily Allen returns San Francisco blocker Theresa Hart's shot. This weekend the Frogs will be at home to start conference play.