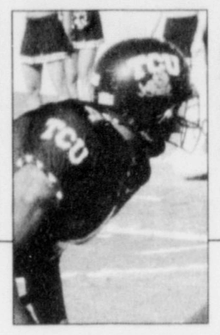
NEWS | WEDNESDAY
GET CULTURED FOR FREE
Senior art students will have an exhibition open to everyone until Friday.



SPORTS | 8
END OF AN ERA
TCU's loss to Tulane Saturday puts a halt on their streak of bowl games.

TCU DAILY SKIFF
Serving Texas Christian University since 1902
www.skiff.tcu.edu | Tuesday, November 30, 2004 | Vol. 102 · Issue 53 · Fort Worth, Texas

Community shows appreciation for late alumna

TCU graduate Brittany Joy Cune's death evokes strong emotions from many of her professors, friends and co-workers.

By ANNA CAMP
Staff Reporter

Tears come to Lewis Glaser's eyes as he opens the mail and finds another tribute to a former student who died last summer.

Like many others, Glaser, a graphic design professor, is doing his part to memorialize the life of Brittany Joy Cune, one of his students and advisees who graduated in 2004 with a fine arts degree. Cune was 23 when she died in a car accident Aug. 8.

Glaser is helping collect memorials in the form of 8-by-10-inch sheets of paper.

The pages, some of which include original designs by Cune, will be compiled into a scrapbook and presented to her family as a testament to her influence.

A room next to Glaser's office displays framed pages from those who remember Cune. Many of the authors mention her smile, optimism and passion.

"It was a heartbreaker," Glaser said of Cune's death.

Cune

Many of her friends have created and sent in pages in response to the death of the talented woman who had an impact on their lives, Glaser said.

"It was uplifting to be around her," he said. "She was never grumpy or gloomy."

Glaser said Cune was an exceptional student with more natural talent than most graphic design students he has seen in his 18 years at TCU.

She had a lot of initiative and won numerous awards and honors at competitions in Dallas and Houston for her photography, graphic designs and artistry while at TCU, Glaser said.

"She was not cocky, which is unique of people who are as talented as she was," he said.

Cune had a strong impact on her friend, Natasha Coronado, a senior graphic design major.

"I not only considered 'Brit' a friend, but also a mentor," Coronado wrote in an online journal on the Houston Chronicle Web site after Cune's death.

After graduating from TCU, Cune worked as a graphic designer for H.E. Butt Grocery Co. in San Antonio.

"She had a huge impact on everyone at H-E-B even though she'd only worked there a few weeks," said her father, Gregg Cune.

Even though she worked there for eight weeks before her death, her coworkers boarded a bus and attended her funeral, Gregg Cune said. Some spoke at the service and many wrote letters to the Cune family.

H-E-B will honor Brittany Cune by putting her name on the designs she

more on MEMORIAL, page 2

Berry Street to receive makeover

Skiff archive
This is an artist's rendering of what Berry Street could look like if planned renovations to the area are made.

Urban village to grow near campus

City Council proposes plans that include a local rail system to revitalize Berry Street.

By BRIAN CHATMAN
Staff Reporter

When most TCU students go to restaurants, video and CD stores, electronics stores and department stores, they drive to Hulen Street, Bryant Irvin Road or downtown Fort Worth.

Once, students could walk down Berry Street for those needs and, if the city's plans work, those days may return.

The Berry Street and University Drive area is one of 14 areas around Fort Worth known as Neighborhood Empowerment Zones (NEZ).

An NEZ is an area created by a city to promote creation and rehabilitation of housing, promote economic development and improve the quality of life through private investment incentives, according to the Texas Local Government Code.

"Developers can get their permit fees waived in NEZ areas," said Jason Hall, planning manager for the city's housing department. "Liens are released without payment, impact fees are waved and there is a city tax abatement for up to 10 years."

Berry Street is also part of a program to develop pedestrian-friendly commercial and residential development hubs known as urban villages, according to information provided by Hall.

The city has planned many urban villages around the city at the intersection of major thoroughfares, usually in association with the NEZ designation, to spur commercial redevelopment along many of these major streets.

Phoenix Property Co. is one of the first developers using the city's incentives to help create the urban village around TCU.

more on BERRY, page 2

Renovations reminiscent of past

Berry Street reconstruction aims to restore the original glory to a once thriving commercial street.

By MORGAN MASSEY
Staff Reporter

Berry Street and the TCU community — once thriving areas of commerce — can be successful once again but it is going to take vision and work, said a business owner whose company moved from the area after 50 years.

In the case of Marvin Electronics, the issue was parking space for customers and easy access for service and delivery trucks.

For the area along Berry Street to become prosperous again, two things are required, said Stuart Schuster, president of the company.

"First, they need to cater to the school, including both the students and the faculty," he said. "The students will come and go, but the faculty will always be here.

"Also, they need to cater to the community: the young, old and families with children. There needs to be a mix of both to work."

Marvin Electronics spent 50 years in the neighborhood before moving to a new location on Hulen Street.

"Originally we were located on the corner of University and Berry Street, where Einstein's is currently located," Schuster said. "Marvin Electronics stayed there for 25 years. Then it moved right door to the old Stage West theater for another 25 years."

Schuster said Marvin Electronics moved to Hulen Street because it needed more parking space.

"It was hard to get our delivery trucks in and out; we had only had 30 parking spaces then and now we have 85," he said. "That area was very constricted due to the parking at the school."

Schuster said 10 years ago University and Berry streets were part of a thriving business area.

"Area businesses were cater-

more on RENOVATION, page 2

University honors local educators

Recipients of the Fort Worth Teacher of the Year award will share expertise with TCU education students.

By JULIE PAPENFUHS
Staff Reporter

TCU is one of three partners in the new Fort Worth Independent School District's program to select outstanding classroom teachers.

The program aims to recognize classroom teachers who motivate and exemplify the contributions of all teachers, said Samuel Deitz, dean of the School of Education.

The intent is to honor teachers for the role they play in a child's life, said Rosalyn Whitted, coordinator for the Teacher of the Year program.

The two honorees for the 2004-2005 school year have been selected: Monique Lawson of Lowery Road Elementary and Noelle Clifford of J.P. Elder Middle School.

The two are also nominees for the 2005 Texas Teacher of the Year Award.

Clifford's inspiration for becoming a teacher came from her high school assistant principal.

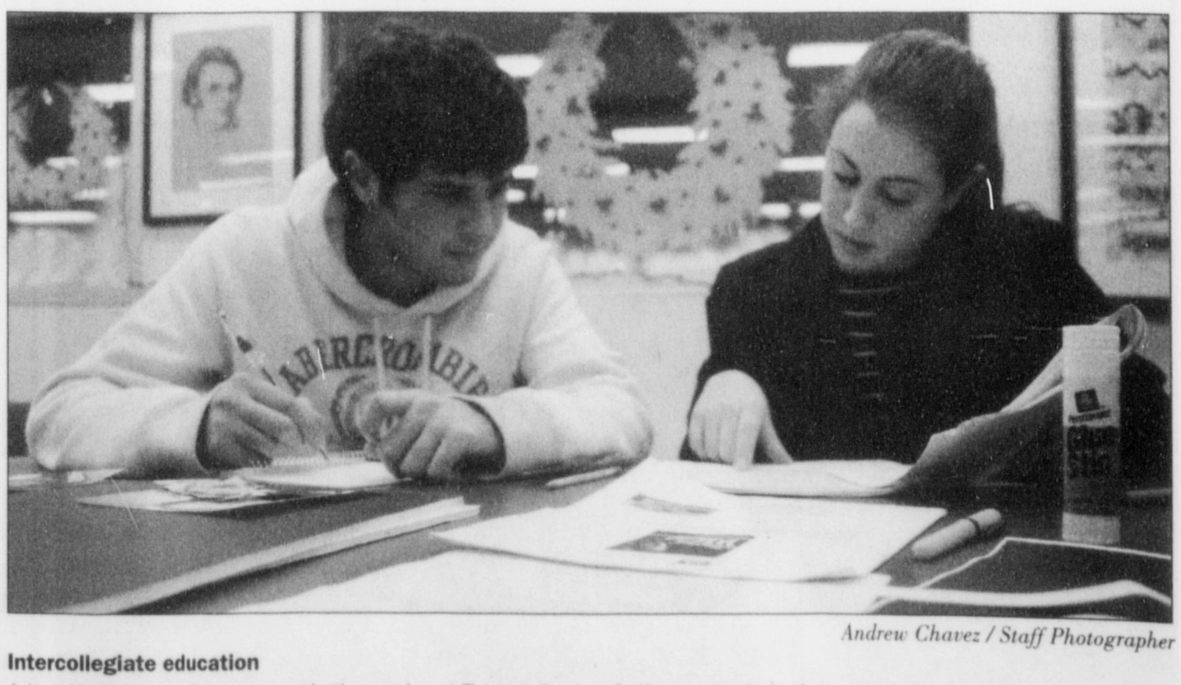
"Between seventh and 10th grade, I was always getting in trouble or expelled from school," Clifford said. "My assistant principal, Mr. Marayak, never judged me and he never gave up on me. Since he believed in me, I began to believe in myself."

Clifford said her advice to education students and young teachers would be to never give up on a student and start each day as a new day.

Lawson said an educator should always be open to new ideas.

"The teaching profession is exciting, but you have to be consistent when you get in the

more on TEACHERS, page 2



Andrew Chavez / Staff Photographer

Intercollegiate education
Adam Niolet, a sophomore marketing major at Tarrant County College, gets help from sophomore interior design major Lauren Lange on his English composition project in the Mary Couts Burnett Library Monday night.

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.

- The Sociology Society is hosting a party at 5 p.m. today in the sociology building (behind Robert Carr Chapel). There will be pizza, snacks and sodas. T-shirts and memberships will be on sale during this meeting only, so bring a checkbook or cash if you are interested. This is not a formal meeting. Go to (www.tcusociology.com) for more details!
- Join Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and Chancellor Victor Boschini in this year's Holiday Tree Lighting at 9 p.m. Wednesday on Sadler Lawn. Come for the traditional lighting of the tree, carol singing and hot chocolate. Bring joy to local children by picking up a gift card at the Spirit of Christmas tables from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. next week in Smith Hall and from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the Student Center. For more details, visit (www.sa.tcu.edu).
- The Health Center Web site offers new topics each month about current health issues. "The Flu Review" gives ways to stay healthy during the flu season, what to do if you become ill, and the difference between having a cold or the flu. Also, this is National Diabetes Month — find out if you are at risk and how to prevent Type 2 Diabetes.

Correction

The November 23 story regarding the Bush administration contained a misspelling of the name Dick Armey; also, Armey is no longer a member of Congress.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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New al-Qaida video demands change

A bin Laden deputy vows to continue the fight against the United States.

By SALAH NASRAWI
Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Osama bin Laden's top deputy vowed in a videotape Monday to keep fighting the United States until Washington changed its policies.

In a broadcast on Al-Jazeera television, Ayman al-Zawahri offered Americans "one last advice" for dealing with Muslims, adding, "I am sure that they will not heed it."

"You have to choose between one of two methods to deal with Muslims: either on mutual respect and exchange of interests, or to deal with them as if they are spoils of war," al-Zawahri said. "This is your problem and you have to choose yourself. You have to realize that we are a nation of patience and endurance. We will stand firm to fight you with God's help until doomsday."

An anonymous U.S. intelligence official said authorities have "a high degree of confidence" the message was from al-Zawahri.

The official noted the resemblance with one in September, featuring a similar fabric background and weapon. But, the official added, that does not mean it was made at the same time or is the same video.

In a reference apparently showing that the latest tape was made before the Nov. 2 presidential election in the United States, al-Zawahri said there was no difference between President Bush and Democratic nominee Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts.

"As for elections in America, the two candidates are competing to win the satisfaction of Israel," saying that fact proved "there will be no solution with America without forcing it to surrender to justice."

He added: "The results of the elections do not matter for us. Vote whoever you want, Bush, Kerry or the devil himself. This does not concern us. What concerns us is to purge our land from the aggressors."

Before the election, bin Laden said in similar video footage that the United States must stop threatening Muslim's security if it wanted to avoid "another Manhattan" — referring to the Sept. 11 attacks. Addressing the American people, bin Laden also said, "Your security is not in the hands of Kerry, Bush or al-Qaida. Your security is in your own hands ... Any state that does not mess with our security has naturally guaranteed its own security."

The United States has offered a $25 million reward for the capture of bin Laden and al-Zawahri, believed to be hiding in the border area of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

RENOVATION

From page 1

ing to the students as well as the TCU community," he said. "There was a lot of quick food."

He said, on the other hand, "University Street is fine, but over the past few years, further east you get on Berry Street, the more deteriorated it gets."

Schuster said Berry Street needs beautifying.

"The nicer they make it, the more willing people will be to go there," he said.

But he also said TCU has always been a mobile school.

"Most everyone has a car," he said. "It's not harder to get to Hulen Street than it is to get to Berry."

Schuster said the more that is done with the area, the more hip new places will go in.

"There's nothing wrong with an old building, it just needs to be spruced up a little," he said. "The new Gunsmoke Grill is a beautiful place."

Nikki Malone, a bookkeeper at the TCU Bookstore, said Berry Street looks deteriorated and it needs to be re-modeled.

Malone has lived in the TCU area for about 50 years and has worked at the bookstore for 28 years.

"In the 1950s, the area was very clean, but the Aardvark and the tattoo place aren't very appealing," she said.

Malone said she is pleased about the plan to clean up Berry Street because it will add to the current beauty of the TCU campus.

MEMORIAL

From page 1

created for the company, her father said.

"She was ecstatic about her job," he said. "She loved it."

"We always told Brittany, 'Do what you want to do and do your best at it,'" Gregg Cune said.

Her spirit lives on, in many ways, through the art which she was so passionate about.

Whether it be on her artistic sushi packaging designs for H-E-B, in a scrapbook full of art-inspired memories from friends or in the unknown designs her family continues to uncover, Brittany Cune will not be forgotten.

"Brittany wouldn't want us to mope and sob about her death," her father said. "That's just the kind of person she was."

TEACHERS

From page 1

classroom," Lawson said.

Clifford said all his hard work has been worth it.

"Teaching can be one of the hardest jobs, but it can also be one of the most rewarding," Clifford said.

The honorees will observe TCU's education students and serve on the Elementary and Secondary Teacher Advisory committees. Several education students will serve as observers in Lawson and Clifford's classrooms as well, Deitz said.

"We have the advantage of having some of their best teachers observing our education students," Deitz said.

Lawson and Clifford will be honored at the School of Education awards ceremony and introduced as honorees at that time, Deitz said.

BERRY

From page 1

The company's multifunctional development on West Bowie Street and Greene Avenue, slated to begin construction after January of next year, has seen interest from video rental chains, coffee shops, hair salons and a variety of other businesses, Andrew Harris, Phoenix's assistant asset manager, said.

As of Oct. 1, more than $44 million in development had been planned in the Berry Street NEZ, according to Fort Worth tax incentive and investment tracking records.

Berry Street does have a hurdle that other NEZ areas do not have: high land value.

Wendy Davis, the City Council representative from the ninth district, said the NEZ area on Seventh Street and University Drive has seen speculative land purchases as investors try to take advantage of incentives, while owners around TCU are content to retain their properties.

"A lot of those property owners don't have any real interest or incentive in revitalizing their projects," Davis said. "Unless they can see a real upside to it, they are going to maintain the status quo."

Davis said the university's involvement in Berry Street revitalization will help to move the process along at a faster pace.

The missing piece of the revitalization puzzle is a way to ensure people to find their ways into these newly renovated areas. The solution to this, and a catalyst to further investment, is mass transit, said Michael Morris, director of transportation for the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

"If we can get rail station activity into the neighborhood, it will spur private sector momentum," Morris said.

Fort Worth's plan to revitalize the central city includes a plan for a light-rail system that would connect the urban villages created in the NEZ program, according to information provided by Hall.

Fort Worth will use regional and commuter rail systems, costing only $10 million to $12 million per mile, to provide a citywide rail system, Morris said.

Morris said the Trinity Railway Express will be extended to Eighth Avenue to provide access to Berry Street and a regional rail line will run from downtown to Dallas/Fort Worth Airport in the near future.

If commuter rail service and the NEZ program can catalyze investment around TCU, in 20 years students in will learn in the middle of a vibrant residential and commercial center.

TCU Campus Recreation

Intramural Sports
Spring 5-on-5 Basketball
Fri, December 17th
Alpha Phi Alpha "Ice Cold Classic" due TODAY

www.CampusRec.TCU.edu.

COMING UP

INTRAMURAL SOCCER FINALS
Wednesday, December 8th
Intramural Fields

MASSAGE THERAPY
The perfect answer to test-related stress. Make your appointment now! Finals week will fill up fast!
4 massage therapists and 5 spa treatments to choose from

STUDY DAYS/FINALS WEEK HOURS
The last day for REGULAR semester hours will be Wed. Dec. 8

Thurs. Dec. 9	6 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri. Dec. 10	6 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sat. Dec. 11	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sun. Dec. 12	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Mon. Dec. 13 - Fri. Dec. 17	open from 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

For indoor pool and climbing wall hours, call 257-7529 or www.campusrec.tcu.edu

The ladies of ZTA would like to announce the 2005 Executive Council.

Congratulations!

President	Katie Gordon
VP 1 Coordinator of Committees	Lindsey Finken
VP 2 New Member Coordinator	Kate Nelson
VP 3 Membership-Recruitment	Elizabeth Hamner
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Historian-Reporter	Amy Graziano
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Ritual	Beth Novacek
Panhellinic Delegate	Melissa Shemenski

Skiff View

All is not lost for Frog football

One losing season doesn't spell doom for program

And it all comes crashing down.

We were on such a high after stepping up and beating Southern Mississippi in a pivotal game. The Frogs seemed on top of the world.

But all good things must come to an end.

After six straight winning seasons, the Horned Frogs will not be eligible for a bowl appearance. Falling to 5-6 after Saturday's loss to Tulane, the Frogs will not be playing in December.

For the seniors, this is not normal. As long as they have been at TCU, they've won.

For the new guys on the team, this is not why they came to TCU. They came to be a Horned Frog to put TCU in a position to fight for a conference title and eventually a national title.

There is rumbling that this is the end. The frustrations mount that the Frogs cannot rebound from this and cannot be what they have been for so long now.

There may be dark clouds in the sky, but there is light. Every season ends with hopes of the next.

Teams stumble and teams fall short of what they expect. But a good team, picks itself up, wipes off the dirt and gets back out there. They don't believe the rumblings. They don't listen to the naysayers.

Auburn University fell to 8-3 record last season. But they rebounded and are fighting for the national title this season. If TCU had gotten one more break, they could be sitting looking at a bowl game.

But the ball doesn't bounce that way sometimes. But no fear, just a little more than 250 days until kickoff in 2005.

Your View

Letters to the Editor

Adjuncts do good job at teaching

In the Nov. 12 article concerning the faculty-student ratio, Dean Mary Volcansek said, "Increasing class size rather than hiring more adjuncts to teach these courses is the lesser of two evils." I have been teaching in the math department as an adjunct faculty member for 15 years, and I have no doubt that the part-time and adjunct faculty in our department do a fine job of teaching mathematics to our students. I was surprised to learn Dean Volcansek thinks of us as the greater of two evils.

— Kathy Coleman, part-time adjunct faculty, mathematics department

Give extra day for Thanksgiving

TCU needs to look at revising the holiday schedule. While TCU prides itself for enrolling students from all 50 states in America, they do not do a good job in catering to their needs. TCU's academic calendar forces many out-of-state students to make travel arrangements that either conflict with class or overlap the day of a major holiday. For instance, this Thanksgiving I drove home on Thanksgiving morning, arriving home just in time to watch my little sister eat the last slice of pumpkin pie. However my friends from SMU and Oklahoma University were able to enjoy their Thanksgiving meals with their families, because they got Wednesday off. We wish TCU would follow suit and allow the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off for traveling purposes. The out-of-state students would greatly appreciate it.

— Pattie Parker is a sophomore premajor and David Harris is a sophomore business major

Cartoon on race is inappropriate

I am writing this short letter to express my concern for a cartoon published in the Nov. 24, Daily Skiff. The cartoon I am referring to is the one where a motorist is stopped by a police officer for supposedly, as the cartoon states, being a minority. I call this a cartoon because indeed it is in the section where other cartoons appeared and is a cartoon-type drawing. However, I do not see anything amusing about this cartoon. There is something, however, telling about the person who decided that this type of message (because as you know all communication is a message of sorts) is considered in the classification of funny. Yes, I do know the definition of what can make a cartoon, but I also know the philosophy of TCU is not to promote discrimination. Did I miss something in the current news that makes this particular cartoon applicable? If not, then there is nothing funny about this very real, discriminatory behavior.

Please admonish this cartoonist by forcing them to write 100 times TCU's mission and value statement. Thank you!

Not Laughing—just disappointed!

— Lucy Rodriguez, administrative assistant, Brite Divinity School

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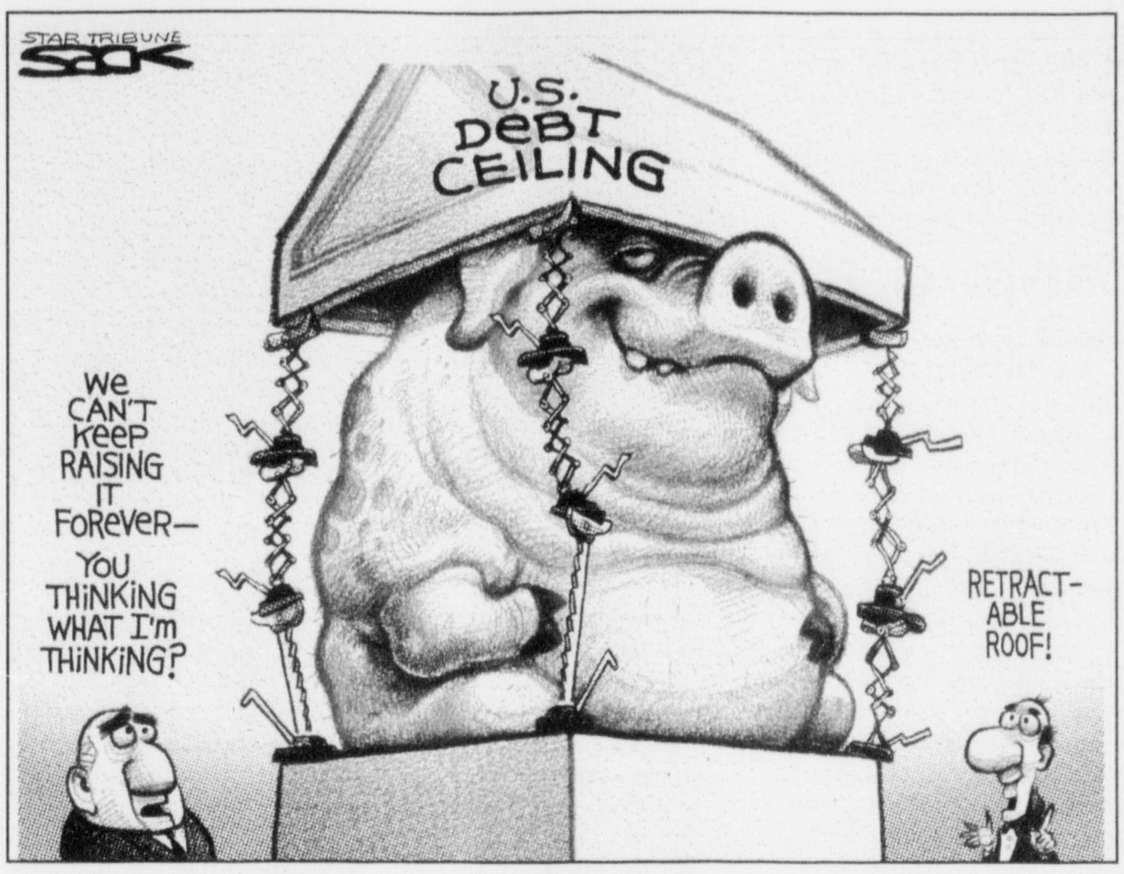
Letters to the editor: The Skiff welcomes letters to the editor for publication. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, signed and limited to 250 words. To submit a letter, bring it to the Skiff, Moudy 291S; mail it to TCU Box 298050; e-mail it to skiffletters@tcu.edu or fax it to (817) 257-7133. Letters 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.



Women shouldn't be expected to dress up

COMMENTARY

Tova McGahee

This morning I turned on the radio and was listening to the "Steve Harvey Morning Show" on 97.9 FM. He stated men love women and that they want us to get our hair and nails done and to wear makeup.

He claimed it has nothing to do with whether we are already beautiful or not — which we all are — but it enhances our natural beauty that guys just enjoy it. Now I ask, is that really true?

Of course, I am not able to answer that for the men, but from my perspective I suppose it does hold some truth. I wonder, however, if it is true for every man out there. I know I hate to take the time to put on makeup, and as for getting my hair and nails done, it also takes up time that I don't have and money, of which I have even less.

I know it is good to pamper yourself every now and then, but I truly don't see the point. It could just be me who feels this way, and although many women may beg to differ, I know there has to be at least one other person who shares my viewpoint. Women, and I can say this because I am one, always claim if a guy likes them then he will like them for them. That means with no makeup and with messy hair.

Of course, that doesn't mean we are going to go out like that, but just in case we were to decide that we want to, then we want someone who will care for us just the same. I try to look good every once in a while, but it takes some time to apply makeup and do so much extra stuff. In my eyes, guys have it a whole lot easier than girls. I mean, look at them. All they have to do is throw on some sweats and a T-shirt and they can call it a day. Maybe they'll brush up their hair and if we're really lucky, and I use that term loosely, they'll put on some cologne.

Whether or not they do even this, they still get our attention. But if a girl throws on the same thing, puts her hair in a ponytail, no makeup, and some body spray, we get no love. Not that we should have to impress anyone, but that's just the way it is and I know I am right. I have always wondered why this is so. I just don't understand. I know a woman is supposed to be soft and lovable and all of those things, but why can't we do it without having to be all "dolled-up"?

Tova McGahee is a freshman public relations major from Lawton, Okla.

Getting plenty of rest prevents STDs, according to textbook

COMMENTARY
Marti Harvey

The high school health textbook "Lifetime Health" states one strategy for teens to avoid contracting a sexually transmitted disease is to get plenty of rest. Yep, that's right. Get plenty of rest.

And while abstinence is touted as the preferred preventative, the book never mentions condom use. Never. Not once.

Apparently, some on the State Board of Education believe you can tell a teen to get plenty of rest, and they won't have sex.

Continuing pressure from conservative groups such as Advocates for Youth has forced many textbook publishers to leave out controversial or sexual information for fear their books will be rejected by increasingly conservative review boards. More and more often, publishers are offering abstinence-based texts that are likely to be accepted.

As a result, three of the four new textbooks adopted by the State Board of Education this month promote abstinence and traditional marriage with almost no information about contraception, condoms and other sensitive sexual topics.

For example, "Lifetime Health" mentions abstinence, staying away from drugs and alcohol, respect for one's self and choosing friends wisely as STD prevention strategies. It also says to go out as a group, get plenty of rest and be aware of your emotions.

But it overlooks the elephant in the middle of the room — what if those things don't work? What if a teen's emotions get out of control? As adults who were young once, should we be surprised that teens occasionally use bad judgment?

Granted, the strategies listed are good advice for any young person. And it's wise to keep one's self out of potentially tempting situations. But if we really want to keep students from getting STDs, shouldn't we be realistic?

While many parents say "not my child," they should consider this — eight in 10 girls and seven in 10 boys at age 15 are not sexually active. However, by age 17 nearly half have had intercourse, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a non-profit health research organization. The institute says only one in five make it to 20 without having sex. And for those who do have sex, about half will contract an STD, and about one in 10 will contract HIV.

In 2000, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the 15-24 age group accounted for 48 percent of STDs.

Some parents say talking about sex only gives teenagers ideas, and what they don't know won't hurt them. But is that true? Apparently, it's not working very well.

Most studies, including a recent one from health education professor Buzz Pruitt of Texas A&M, report there is almost no evidence abstinence programs work. If they did, why would Texas, which spends more in abstinence-based programs than any other state, have the highest teen pregnancy rate in the country?

If their health education is really the issue, we should change course and begin to equip them with the information they need to make informed decisions. However, if promoting a religious agenda is the goal, then let's be honest about it and see if others agree.

I bet they won't. But if they do, I better get plenty of rest.

Marti Harvey is a columnist for The Shorthorn at the University of Texas at Arlington. This column was distributed by U-Wire.

Video game in bad taste

COMMENTARY

Sarah Krebs

I am an advocate for some violent video games. I think playing a game or shooting aliens, robots or zombies is a healthy way to let out frustration. I can even see the value in sniper games and some assassination games.

But I recently found out about a morbid video game that recreates the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and was deeply offended.

According to a Reuters article, the release of "JFK Reloaded" will coincide with the 41st anniversary of his murder in Dallas, and was designed to demonstrate how a lone gunman was able to kill the president.

Traffic Games said the objective is to fire three shots at Kennedy's motorcade from the sixth-floor perch in the Texas School Book Depository, according to the article.

Not only is the subject for this game inappropriate, but the release date adds to the morbidity of it.

Kennedy's murder was devastating to this country, and creating a game that allows you to assassinate one of the greatest presidents the United States has had is an atrocity.

The article also said some of the effects in the game were that each shot can be played in slow motion, the bullets can be tracked traveling through Kennedy's body and you can see blood.

Mark Gilderhus, a professor of history, agrees this game is horrible even though he doesn't know much about the game.

"It sounds like it is ghoulish," he said. "I can't imagine what kind of creep would play that."

Gilderhus said the Kennedy assassination is a playground for whackos, loonies and conspiracy theorists, and researching it historically often leads to a blind alley.

Historical accuracy aside, this game adds to the bad mix surrounding Kennedy's murder.

David Cross, associate professor of psychology, said he believes we would have a better world without these kinds of things, but there is a need for humans to deal with death, realistically or symbolically.

"My hunch is that it is healthy to deal with death in a morbid way," Cross said. "We've tried to sanitize (death), so this is some of the reactions we're seeing."

However, this game still takes it a step too far.

Instead of creating an assassination game, maybe they should have made a game where you can be Kennedy and explore the options and outcomes of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

That kind of a game wouldn't be so morbid and could help people understand the pressures Kennedy was under, instead of trying to put a bullet in his head.

Sarah Krebs is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Arlington.

National/International Roundup

Your link to news outside Fort Worth

TEXAS

Seven dead in helicopter crash

BRUCEVILLE-EDDY — An Army helicopter crashed and burned Monday after hitting a TV transmission-tower wire in the fog, killing all seven soldiers aboard, military officials said.

Warning lights on the tower were not working, a TV station official said.

The UH-60 Black Hawk, bound for the Red River Army Depot in Texarkana with seven soldiers from Fort Hood aboard, went down in a field about 30 miles northeast of Fort Hood.

The fog was so thick that emergency crews could not see more than halfway up the tower, authorities said.

Everyone aboard was killed, said Lt. Col. Jonathan Withington, spokesman for the 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood. Their names were not immediately released.

Rock Eicke, who lives about a quarter-mile from the crash site, said he was getting ready for work at about 7 a.m. when he was startled by a loud sound. He looked out his window and saw the helicopter hit the ground.

"All of the sudden I just saw a big ball of fire erupt from the ground and then boom, an explosion," said Eicke. "It was burning to the point that we couldn't have done anything."

The main part of the fuselage went down in a field about 200 to 300 yards from the tower, said McClennan County constable Ken Brown. He said he saw the tail section, parts of the rotor and other parts between the tower and the field.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Highest court hears drug case

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court appeared hesitant Monday to endorse medical marijuana for patients who have a doctor's recommendation.

Justices are considering whether sick people in 11 states with medical marijuana laws can get around a federal ban on pot.

Paul Clement, the Bush administration's top court lawyer, noted that California allows people with chronic physical and mental health problems to smoke pot and said that potentially many people are subjecting themselves to health dangers.

"Smoked marijuana really doesn't have any future in medicine," he said.

Justice Stephen Breyer said supporters of marijuana for the ill should take their fight to federal drug regulators.

Dozens of people camped outside the high court to hear justices debate the issue. Groups such as the Drug Free America Foundation fear a government loss will undermine campaigns against addictive drugs.

Harry Cabluck / Associated Press

Bystanders observe the wreckage of a military helicopter Monday, near Bruceville-Eddy.

The high court heard arguments in the case of Angel Raich, who tried dozens of prescription medicines to ease the pain of a brain tumor and other illnesses before she turned to pot.

Supporters of Raich and another ill woman who filed a lawsuit after her home was raided by federal agents argue that people with the AIDS virus and other diseases should be able to grow and use marijuana.

Their attorney, Randy Barnett of Boston, told justices that his clients are law-abiding citizens who need marijuana to survive. Marijuana may have some side effects, he said, but seriously sick people are willing to take the chance.

Besides California, nine other states allow people to use marijuana if their doctors agree: Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont and Washington. Arizona also has a law permitting marijuana prescriptions, but no active program.

Court won't mull gay marriage

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court sidestepped a dispute over gay marriage Monday, rejecting a challenge by conservative groups to the status of Massachusetts as the only state that sanctions same-sex marriages.

Justices had been asked to overturn a decision by the Massachusetts high court that legalized gay marriage. They declined, without comment.

In the past year, at least 3,000 gay Massachusetts couples have wed, although voters may have a chance next year to change the state constitution to permit civil union benefits to same-sex couples, but not marriage.

Critics of the November 2003 ruling by the highest court in Massachusetts argue that it violated the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of a republican form of government in each state. They lost at the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston.

Their attorney, Mathew Staver, said in a Supreme Court filing that the Constitution should "protect the citizens of Massachusetts from their own state supreme court's usurpation of power."

Federal courts, he said, should defend people's right "to live in a republican form of government free from tyranny, whether that comes at the barrel of a gun or by the decree of a court."

Merita Hopkins, a city attorney in Boston, had told justices in court papers that the people who filed the suit have not shown they suffered an injury and could not bring a challenge to the Supreme Court.

New commerce head named

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Monday chose Carlos Gutierrez, a native of Cuba who rose from truck driver to chief executive officer of Kellogg Co., to be secretary of Commerce.

If confirmed by the Senate, Gutierrez would succeed Commerce Secretary Donald Evans, a Texas confidant of Bush's, who announced his resignation after the Nov. 2 election. The president called the 51-year-old Gutierrez a "great American success story" and a visionary executive, who understands the world of business from the "first rung on the ladder to the very top."

"Carlos's family came to America from Cuba when he was a boy," Bush said in the Roosevelt Room. "He learned English from a bellhop in a Miami hotel and later became an American citizen. When his family eventually settled in Mexico City, Carlos took his first job for Kellogg as a truck driver, delivering Frosted Flakes to local stores."

Gutierrez, who was joined by his wife, son and two daughters, is the first new member of Bush's economics team for his second term. Bush's chief economics adviser, Stephen Friedman, announced last week that he is leaving. Other changes also are anticipated, although Treasury Secretary John Snow would like to stay.

"The secretary views his service to the president as an honor and a privilege," Rob Nichols, a Treasury Department spokesman, said of Snow. "Like all his Cabinet colleagues, he serves at the pleasure of the president."

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ASEAN signs treaty with China

By VIJAY JOSHI
Associated Press

VIENTIANE, Laos — Southeast Asian nations and China signed an accord Monday to create the world's biggest free trade area by removing tariffs for their 2 billion people by decade's end.

Leaders in the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations also signed a pact to flesh out their agreement last year to create an ASEAN Community along the lines of a unified Europe by 2020. It aims to create a common market with common security goals.

"China's initiative has put both the U.S. and Japan on the defensive," said Chao Chien-min, a Chinawatcher and political science professor at Taiwan's National Chengchi University. "China is using its huge market as a bait to lure ASEAN countries away from the U.S. and Japan and build closer relations."

The run-up to the ASEAN summit in the Laotian capital was clouded by concerns that Thailand's crackdown last month on a protest that left 85 Muslims dead could inflame regional militants, and over Myanmar's failure to deliver on pledges to go from military rule to democracy.

Some countries indicated they might call those two ASEAN members to task in what a break with the group's tradition of keeping out of domestic affairs. But both issues were kept off the table during the summit's ASEAN-only agenda Monday, Thai government spokesman Jakrapob Penkair said.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra had threatened to walk out if the village crackdown was raised.

On the summit sidelines, South Korea and ASEAN member Singapore concluded negotiations on a two-way free trade agreement.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao signed the landmark trade accord with ASEAN leaders later Monday at a conference center built on a palm-fringed swamp in sleepy Vientiane.

"It's a very good agreement," Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai said afterward.

Laos had spruced up its tiny capital of only 133,000 people, which had no five-star hotel until one was built for the summit by a Malaysian company. Chickens still peck along brick-red dirt roads in parts of Vientiane.

Bamboo screens blocked eyesores through the city, and women were asked to wear long skirts rather than pants.

ASEAN also plans free trade areas with Japan and South Korea. A free trade agreement with India is still many years away.

The ASEAN's agreements with China and India reflect the group's desire to latch on to two booming economies that are drawing foreign investment away from the region.

The annual ASEAN summit consists of several, closed-door meetings among leaders: The 10 Southeast Asian countries alone, and in various permutations with summit partners China, Japan, South Korea and India.

This year, Australia and New Zealand also received a one-time invitation to boost trade ties but Australia resisted ASEAN's calls to sign the group's nonaggression pact.

U.S. wary of Iran's use of uranium

By GEORGE JAHN
Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — The U.N. nuclear watchdog agency passed a resolution Monday on policing Iran's commitment to freeze programs linked to uranium enrichment in an effort to defuse a dispute that had threatened to go to the Security Council.

However, confusion over what the freeze encompassed appeared to give Iran loopholes in interpreting its commitments. The vote by the International Atomic Energy Agency board came after an Iranian official seemed to cast doubt on his country's latest commitment to a total suspension of nuclear activities capable of producing weapons-grade uranium.

The United States, which maintains Iran is trying to make nuclear arms, accused Tehran of representing a "growing threat to peace and security" and said that if it failed to find international consensus to have Iran referred to the U.N. Security Council, it could do it itself.

At issue is whether Iran has promised not to operate any of its centrifuges that spin gas into uranium for fuel or for use in nuclear weapons. European nations say Iran agreed not to operate any centrifuges at all, but Iran has said it wanted to use 20 centrifuges for research purposes.

Diplomats from the European Union and elsewhere said the Iranian commitment fulfilled demands that Tehran include centrifuges of uranium-enrichment programs.

The letter commits Tehran "not to conduct any testing with these sets of components," IAEA spokesman Mark Gwozdecky said Monday, quoting excerpts.

Hossein Mousavian, the chief Iranian delegate to the meeting, told reporters: "We (only) said there would no testing."

Delegates and other diplomats with nuclear expertise agreed Mousavian's remarks did not meet the European definition of suspension.

They suggested the comments were meant to ease fears among Iranian hard-liners that Tehran gave up too much in exchange for a resolution on policing its commitment.

The United States was unhappy with the resolution.

Listing a series of questions about Iran's past nuclear activities, which became public about two years ago, chief U.S. delegate Jackie Sanders said Tehran could not be trusted.

"We believe Iran's nuclear weapons program poses a growing threat to international peace and security," she said.

Ivan Sekretarev / Associated Press

Demonstrations continue after controversial election
A supporter of Ukrainian opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko holds a candle during a rally in Kiev on Monday. Yushchenko, who claims he was cheated out of victory in the Nov. 21 run-off election, is demanding a new vote. Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators have jammed downtown Kiev for a week to support him.

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John Edwards to leave senate after giving farewell tour

Before embarking on his tour, Edwards urges Democratic leaders to reach out.

By PAUL NOWELL
Associated Press

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — Greeted by an enthusiastic crowd, John Edwards kicked off a farewell tour as U.S. senator Monday but left little doubt he wasn't saying goodbye to politics.

"One thing you can count on is that this fight is not over," the former vice presidential candidate told supporters. The visit to western North Carolina's largest city was the first of six stops Edwards plans across the state over three days.

"It's just good to be home," Edwards said after arriving than an hour late. "My blood pressure goes down when I cross the line into North Carolina."

Edwards, 51, had given up a bid for a second Senate seat when he sought the Democratic presidential nomination himself, before becoming Kerry's running mate. He will leave the Senate in January. Republican Richard Burr won the election for Edwards' seat this month.

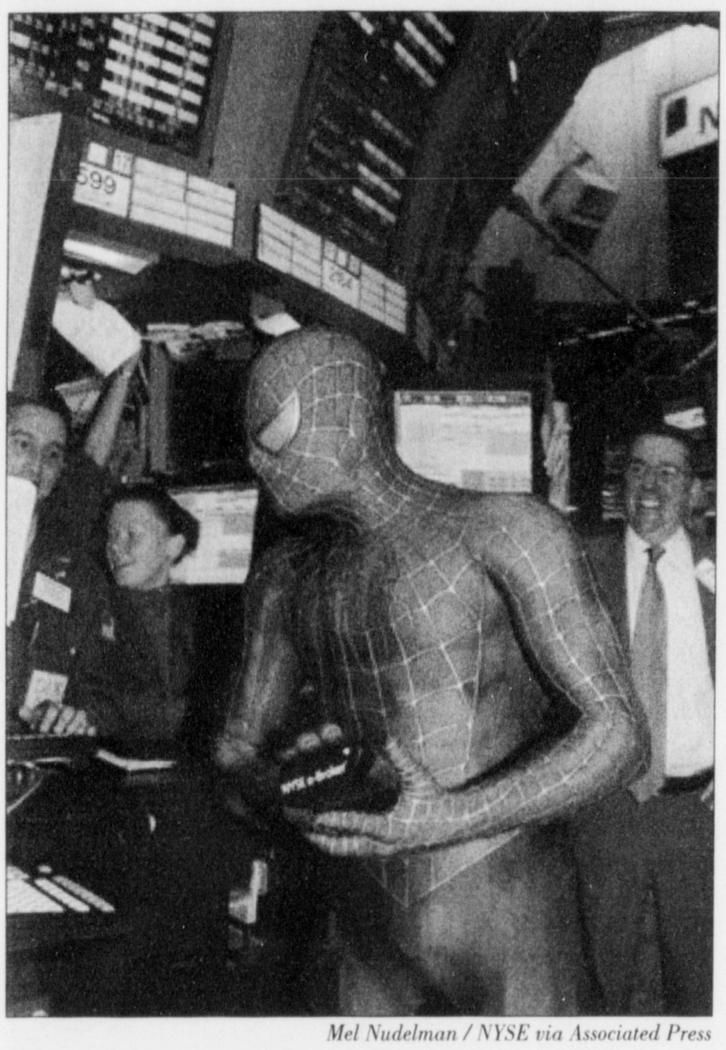
Edwards said his upbringing prepared him for a role on the national political stage. For now, he said, his top priority is his wife, Elizabeth, who is being treated for breast cancer.

In an interview before the tour began, Edwards said Democrats need to be sure that voters understand their party shares the values as the people Edwards grew up with in the Carolinas.

"In order for us to unite the country ... those voters have to believe that our values — my values and the values of other Democratic leaders — are the same values they believe in. That means we have to be touching them, reaching out to them."

Edwards said he will continue to give speeches around the country and may publish another book. He also plans to build a home near Chapel Hill. And he plans to keep a high profile.

"I have to sort my way through all of that stuff and figure out what makes the most sense and what's the best way to fight for these things I care about," he said.



Mel Nudelman / NYSE via Associated Press

Who was that masked man?
In this photo released by the New York Stock Exchange, Spider-Man joins traders during a tour of the floor at the New York Stock Exchange on Monday. He visited as part of a promotion for the release of "Spider-Man 2" on DVD.

Priest settles injury lawsuit outside of court

A woman sought damages after alleging she faced mental and physical anguish.

Associated Press

AMARILLO, Texas — The Roman Catholic Diocese of Amarillo and an unidentified Panhandle woman have settled a lawsuit that claimed a former priest harmed her.

The suit filed last year by Jane Doe named former priest Rosendo Herrera, Bishop John W. Yanta and former Bishop Leroy Matthiessen.

It was the diocese's second lawsuit settlement in two years involving Herrera.

William Wade, an attorney representing the diocese, declined to comment Monday, which was approved by a judge two weeks ago.

Attempts by The Associated Press to locate Herrera on Monday were unsuccessful.

The woman's attorney, J.E. Sauseda, said the diocese and Herrera admitted no wrongdoing under the settlement, which was for "around $50,000."

The suit claimed that at various times Herrera committed acts that were injurious, mentally and physically, to the plaintiff, a resident of Gray County, and that he engaged in wrongful conduct while employed by the Catholic Church.

The woman sought damages for personal injuries, mental anguish and past, present and future psychological pain and suffering. The diocese and Herrera had denied the claims.

In February 2003, the diocese settled a lawsuit involving Herrera that claimed he fathered a child with a 17-year-old and that diocesan officials conspired to cover up sexual abuse.

The diocese had denied that suit's claims in court documents.

Under the settlement, the diocese agreed to buy $27,150 in annuities that will be paid to the child who allegedly was fathered by Herrera.

Herrera was placed on administrative leave in December 2000 and granted lay status in March 2001. But he continued to serve as spiritual adviser to the family until September 2001, when the girl's parents discovered she was pregnant, according to the diocese.

The suit alleged that Herrera had a history of sexual abuse in Mexico before being ordained by the Amarillo diocese in 1996. He was pastor in Dalhart, Pampa and Amarillo.

Violence in schools has decreased over the years

Crimes involving students are now more likely to occur off campus.

By CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Violent crime against students in schools fell by 50 percent between 1992 and 2002, with young people more often targeted for violence away from school.

There were about 24 crimes of rape, sexual assault, robbery and physical assault for every 1,000 students in 2002, down from 48 per 1,000 a decade earlier, according to a report Monday from the Education and Justice departments.

The reduction mirrored the trend found outside classrooms — overall crime is at a 30-year low across the nation.

The report found instances of school violence involving students have dropped steadily since a string of fatal shootings in the 1990s, notably the 1999 killings of 13 people at Columbine High School in Colorado by two heavily armed students.

"There has been a drop, and we attribute a lot of that to the fact that schools are focusing on the issue more," said William Lassiter, school safety specialist at the Center for the Prevention of School Violence in Raleigh, N.C.

Schools have taken a number of steps, from installing metal detectors and hiring more security personnel to implementing programs aimed at curbing bullying, which can lead to more serious crimes. An analysis of more than 200 studies show that school-based violence prevention programs reduce school violence by up to 50 percent, said Dewey Cornell, director of the Virginia Youth Violence Project at the University of Virginia.

"Prevention programs have been quietly successful but tend to get overlooked. If you have one fight at school, it gets a lot of attention," Cornell said.

Others say the scope of the problem is underreported by the federal study, which relies on limited surveys and self-reporting instead of tracking actual reported crimes. In addition, the data is outdated, said Kenneth Trump, president of National School Safety and Security Services, a consulting firm.

"To tell the American public that school crime is dramatically declining based upon underreported, outdated and limited data is misleading," Trump said.

The report found students are more apt to be victims of violence outside schools.

In 2002, there were about 659,000 violent crimes involving students at school and about 720,000 away from school property. For the most serious nonfatal violent crimes — rape, assault and robbery — the crime rates were lower in school than away from school every year from 1992 to 2002.

"There was initially great concern about school violence, but our report shows that kids are safer at school than they are away from school," said co-author, Katrina Baum of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Teachers are also targets of schoolhouse crime. The report found that from 1998 through 2002 teachers were victims of an annual average of 233,900 crimes at school, more than 90,000 of them violent. That translates to an annual rate of 51 crimes per 1,000 teachers.

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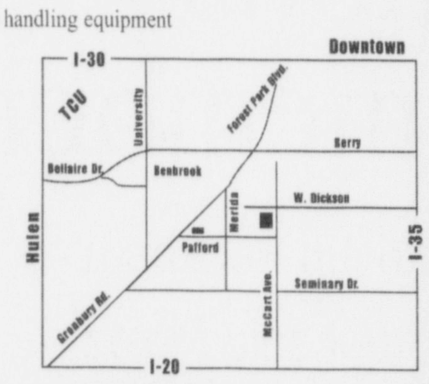

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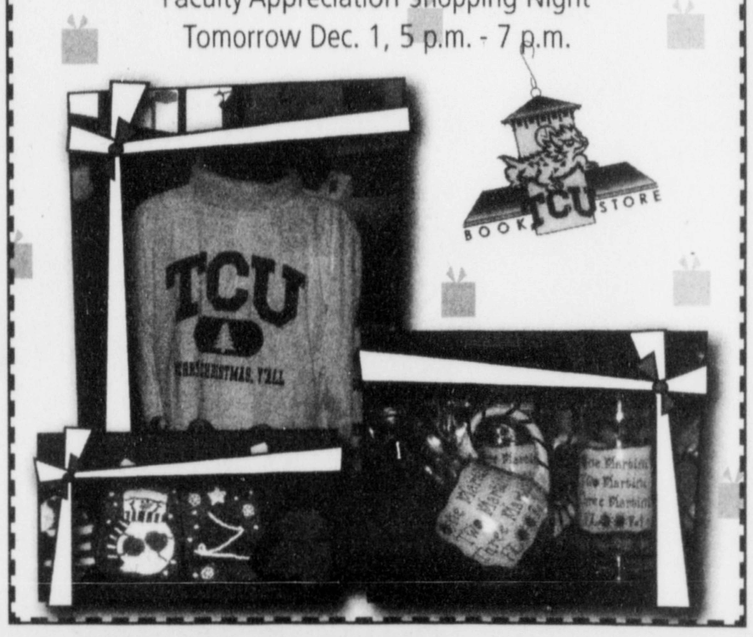

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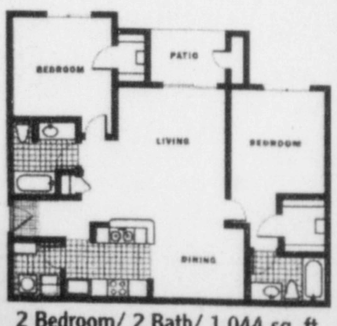

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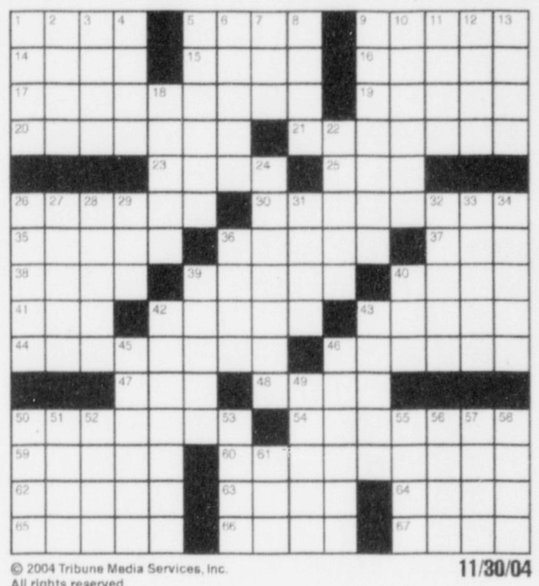

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5 Scottish group
9 Gaze fixedly
14 Opera song
15 Residence
16 Potato or yam
17 Inflammation of the stomach
19 Regions
20 Paving material
21 Rollaway bed
23 Legislative coalition
25 Social insect
26 Threadbare
30 In bad taste
35 Vietnamese capital
36 Dame Maggie of film
37 Wonderment
38 Hostess Maxwell
39 Deadens
40 Travelers' stopovers
41 5th or Park
42 Apples and pears
43 Show host
44 Connection
46 Current unit
47 __ Gatos, CA
48 Unlikable loser
50 Transparent plastic domes
54 Country on the Baltic
59 Consent
60 Noted worm-getter
62 Demand as one's due
63 Chills and fever
64 Decorated with frosting
65 Poker pot
66 Heavy loads
67 Hardy heroine

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1 Long, heroic narrative
2 Important times
3 Speech defect
4 Thin strip of wood
5 Distant and cool
6 State-sponsored gambling
7 Pierre's friend
8 Cozy retreat
9 Steadfast
10 Ask for help
11 Not up yet
12 Genuine
13 Scottish Gaelic
18 Jewish spiritual leader
22 Swimmers' platforms
24 Praise
26 Cut wool
27 Cleave in two
28 Photographer Adams
29 Fluffy scarf
31 Little white lies
32 Cyclist Armstrong
33 Landlord
34 View again
36 Japanese wrestling
39 Static
40 Mischievous elf
42 Astronomer of Alexandria
43 Vacant
45 Even though
46 Theater paths
49 Air again
50 Hind part
51 Wrinkly fruit
52 Ill-mannered child
53 Act as an usher
55 Last bio
56 Pleasant
57 Angers
58 Annexes
61 Gone by

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Ty Halasz / Staff Photographer

It's over

Horned Frogs fall to Green Wave ending six-year bowl streak

Coach Patterson said he blamed himself for the loss.

By DAN MCGRAW
Staff Writer

Head coach Garry Patterson erased "bowl" from the vocabulary of everyone within the Horned Frog football program until TCU played Tulane in the season finale.

Tulane's redshirt senior receiver Chris Bush permanently erased the word with a 12-yard touchdown reception, sealing a 35-31 victory over the Horned Frogs at Amon Carter stadium Saturday afternoon.

With the loss to the Green Wave, the Horned Frogs posted their first losing season since 1997, which was the last time TCU failed to reach a bowl game.

"It's going to break my heart to see someone else playing in this stadium," Patterson said. "We controlled our own destiny, and there's only one person I can look at — myself."

The Horned Frogs (5-6, 3-5 C-USA) needed to win back-to-back games for the first time since the opening two weeks of the season to secure bowl eligibility. With a win over the Green Wave, the Horned Frogs would most likely have seen their second-straight PlainsCapital Fort Worth Bowl appearance.

"It's something I've never experienced before," senior linebacker Martin Patterson said. "It's unexplainable. Everybody is just shocked – amazed, really because it's something that before the season started, we never thought was possible."

The Horned Frogs entered the season with high expectations after posting an 11-2 record last year, but were unable to stop a last-minute scoring drive by the Green Wave.

In front of 24,362 fans at Amon Carter Stadium, Tulane's redshirt freshman quarterback Richard Irvin drove the Green Wave 99 yards on 10 plays in the final minutes of the game.

"I've been a part of it since the beginning," Patterson said, who joined Dennis Franchione's staff in 1998. "At some point, it's going to come to an end, but obviously we didn't want it to come this season. It's very disappointing."

The Horned Frogs were on the verge of extending their bowl appearances Saturday afternoon with a 10-point lead with seven minutes remaining in the game, but the Green Wave responded to the deficit by scoring two touchdowns in the final minutes.

The last touchdown came after the Green Wave produced a goal-line stand on a fourth-and-two with four minutes left in the game.

On fourth down, Patterson opted to go for a touchdown instead of a field goal, hoping to end any chance for a comeback by the Green Wave. On that play, sophomore running back Robert Merrill, who rushed for 143 yards, was stopped one yard short.

"I felt like the way things were going that six points wasn't going to be enough," Patterson said. "If you score there, you put the game away."

After the game, Patterson took full responsibility for the loss and expressed how disappointed he was for how the season turned out.

"The bottom line, it's my fault. You've got to make plays. You're down at the 2-yard line — you've got to get in. You can't let them go 99 yards for a touchdown. You've got to score and put the game away, and all things lead to the coach. I take all the blame."

MAKING THE GRADE

Offensive Line: B-

The offensive line protected the quarterback throughout the game and produced holes for Robert Merrill to run through. However, the offensive line failed to produce a gap for Merrill to rush through on the fourth-and-two during the last minutes of the game.

Quarterbacks: B

Senior Brandon Hassell ended his college career with a 200-yard passing game. Hassell threw 13-of-22 for 217 yards with one touchdown pass, but left the game with an unknown injury. His backup, junior Tye Gunn, threw 7-of-15 for 63 yards. In the final series of the game, Gunn completed one pass and an interception, which sealed the game for the Green Wave.

Running Backs: A

For the second straight week, sophomore Robert Merrill rushed for over 140 yards. He did this on 34 carries and scored three touchdowns. The rest of the team rushed for 54 yards on 10 carries.

Receivers: B+

Senior Reggie Harrell went out of the game with an injury before he even caught a pass, but sophomore Cory Rodgers had another impressive game. Rodgers caught 10 passes for 141 yards and caught one touchdown pass. His 141 yards in the game were half of the passing yards thrown in the game. The other receivers caught 10 passes for 139 yards.

Defensive Line: B-

At the beginning of the year, the defensive line was supposedly the soft spot in the Horned Frogs' defense, but Saturday it was the bright spot in a disappointing game. The defensive line sacked Richard Irvin three times.

Linebackers: C-

As a unit, the linebackers never seemed to make their presence known during the game against the Green Wave. Senior Martin Patterson accounted for 16 tackles in the game, but his fellow linebackers accumulated only six tackles combined.

Cornerbacks: D

The cornerbacks were inconsistent throughout the game. In the final series for the Green Wave, Irvin threw 4-for-7 and converted two third-down chances. The cornerbacks were unable to cover Chris Bush in the back of the end zone on a third-and-12, which ended the Horned Frogs' bowl hopes.

Offense: B+

The offense produced 477 yards of total offense on 81 plays and put the Horned Frogs in the position to win the game. The only major dark spot was the offense's inability to put the ball in the end zone in the closing minutes of the game.

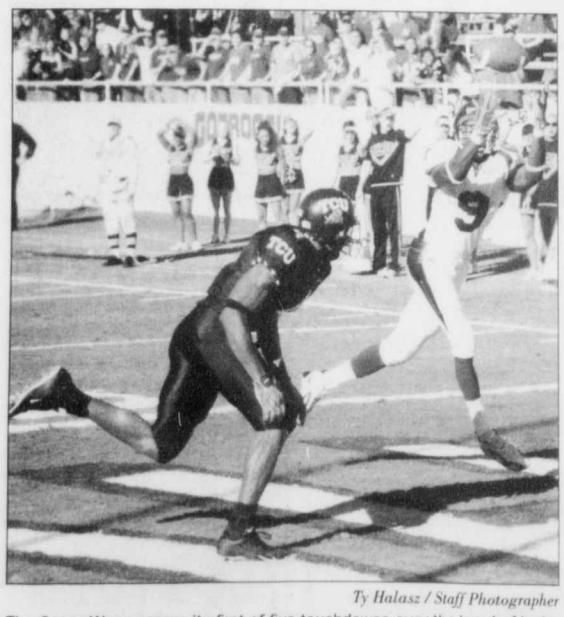
Defense: F

The defense had the opportunity to not only win the game, but send the Horned Frogs to its seventh-straight bowl game. They were unable to close the game out and allowed the Green Wave to drive down the field in the closing minutes.

Game Ball: Richard Irvin

In his first collegiate game, Irvin, who replaced sophomore Lester Ricard as starter, went 22-of-37 with one interception for 282 yards. He also tacked on five touchdown passes. His final touchdown pass came on a 10-play, 99-yard drive that ended with a 12-yard pass to senior Chris Bush.

— *Dan McGraw*



Ty Halasz / Staff Photographer

The Green Wave scores its first of five touchdowns over the head of junior cornerback Quincy Butler.

commentary

Band's attitude an embarrassment

Never in my life have I been so ashamed to be a part of something.

I am a member of the Horned Frog Marching Band. Every football game, we come to support the team and encourage the student body to do the same.

COMMENTARY

Jarod Daily

But last Saturday, several members of the band were cheering for Tulane most of the fourth quarter.

Some context is needed here, so that readers don't dismiss us as a horrible organization that should be banned (pardon the pun) from campus sporting events entirely.

If the Horned Frogs had won the game last Saturday, TCU probably would been headed for the Fort Worth Bowl on Dec. 23. A lot of band members wanted a full four-week break between semesters, something that bowl games almost always prevent. And with a bowl game so close to Christmas, some even would have had a hard time making it home for the holidays.

And you know what? I can understand the reasoning behind the desire not to go to a bowl game. I can respect their right to have that opinion. I can even sympathize with some of those people.

But to root against one's own team simply to convenience oneself is deplorable.

It needs to be said that not everyone in the band was cheering whenever the Green Wave scored. I was upset when that last touchdown happened. I felt sorry for the players, and I was worried about what a losing season might mean for the future of a program struggling to play with the big boys and gain a little national respect in terms of athletics. I still feel that way, and so do many other band members with whom I discussed Saturday's game. And many who didn't want to go to a bowl game didn't cheer for Tulane outwardly; those aren't the people I have a problem with.

I don't think even a majority of the band is at fault here. But it was certainly enough members that some students near us were ready to throw punches.

I talked to several students who were close to starting a fight. Actually, I think we might have seen a riot had it not been for the fact that, because of Thanksgiving break, a lot of people were at home rather than attending the game. So I guess I'm thankful for the Thanksgiving break itself.

Even though a fight did not actually break out, the band members in question did more to hurt the student body's perception of the program than I would have thought possible.

And I doubt students were the only ones who saw this shameful display. Some members of the team probably saw the band cheering for the Green Wave. I doubt they could pick out individuals from that distance, but by the end of the game people were cheering loudly enough and were visible enough that it would be hard not to see what was going on.

And administrators probably saw it as well. The band has asked athletics for support in the past. Just recently, the band department has asked for money to go to away games, or at least cooperation in raising those funds. Good luck getting any help on that now.

And let's not start on the people who control the money coming into the university, the alumni.

I'm not going to name any names. But those of you who were cheering for Tulane know who you are.

We're supposed to be there supporting the team. We represent our school. And we might not even exist as a marching band if not for the football team. Furthermore, we all signed up for band knowing full well that going to a bowl game was a possibility, and that we'd be required to attend.

I understand the desire to have a whole month for Christmas break. In fact, that is the little bit of silver lining on this cloud that's lingering over the sad end to our football season: We will actually get four weeks to ourselves, to sleep or catch up on our personal lives or just do nothing. But was getting that extra few days off really worth the damage done to the program as a whole?

One final thought: This year was a big one for the band program. We celebrated 100 years of existence. And what better way to end a landmark marching season than by giving other students the perception that the band is a self-serving, anti-school spirit group that only attends football games because the syllabus requires it?

Jarod Daily is a junior news-editorial journalism major from Keller.