

## Students search Web for funding Companies look to Internet for scholarship applicants

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP) — Tavia Evans barely knew what the Internet was, let alone how to use it, until her junior year of high school.

But the honor student decided to try her luck online anyway as she searched for college cash, plugging in phrases such as "African-American scholarships" to see what would pop up.

A year later, Evans had surfed her way to \$22,000 worth of scholarships.

Evans, now a junior at Northwestern University, is one of millions of stu-

dents who have turned to the Internet as an easy way to find financial help for college. As high school graduates get hit with the reality of paying for college over the next few months, the companies that run free scholarship databases are bracing for a frenzy of activity.

"It's just amazing and at times gut-wrenching how desperate kids and parents are for funds," said Larry Gerber, president of Scholarships.com LLC, a company that offers a free database of more than 600,000 scholarships.

Sites such as Gerber's are fast replacing traditional bulletin boards or visits to a high school counselor. Students simply type in information about themselves, their families, their hobbies and their grades, and wait for a list of scholarships that match their profiles.

Evans used FastWeb, one of the oldest and largest of the scholarship databases. The site matched the St. Louis native with national William Randolph Hearst and Coca-Cola scholarships.

"Would I have found these other-

wise? I don't think so," Evans said.

Most of the large, well-established databases are free.

Revenues come either from advertisements on the sites or marketing links that allow students to "opt in" and receive information on everything from college loan rates to online textbook companies.

Some small scholarship providers are overwhelmed by the attention and even complain about the cost of sending out so much information, Gerber said.

### SENATE

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Some professors said they thought safer alternatives to Bonfire could replace the 90-year-old tradition. David Woodcock, a professor of architecture, said that Bonfire could be replaced by another, less-dangerous tradition because "the tradition doesn't rest in a stack of wood—it rests in

people's hearts and minds," Woodcock said. "I think the spirit should burn—Bonfire should not."

Other faculty members, including David Barrow, an associate professor of mathematics, said Bonfire could be kept as a tradition if reformed. "It's their [the students'] game, but there are adult officials who make sure that they adhere to strict rules, and there are sanctions and penalties," Barrow said, using football as an analogy. "Possibly

we need an oversight board. We need something to give them an incentive to pay attention to corrections that need to be made," Barrow said.

Although A&M President Ray M. Bowen did not attend the forum, the Faculty Senate will give its opinions regarding the continuation of Bonfire to Bowen in time for his final decision on the future of Bonfire, which will be announced this summer.

### News in Brief

#### Collin County Jail inmate escapes

DALLAS (AP) — The Collin County Jail has had its first escapee since its opening in 1994.

Deputies were searching Sunday for a 47-year-old inmate who escaped by crawling through a laundry vent and scaling a roof.

James Charles Blair, who worked in the laundry room of the jail, was discovered missing Sunday morning, Sheriff's Department Maj. Randy Clark, the detention administrator, said in Monday's editions of *The Dallas Morning News*.

Collin County Sheriff's Office Investigator Michael Davis told *The Morning News* that Blair is a non-violent offender serving time for a probation violation, two burglary charges and a theft charge.

Blair has a criminal history in Dallas County, including guilty pleas for possession of a controlled substance, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and evading arrest, records show.

The sheriff's office was searching for Blair with dogs and helicopters.

#### College Station resident found dead

Carolyn Diane Casey, 24, an old College Station resident, was found dead in her apartment Sunday morning when fire- fighters were called to the scene after a blaze at Doux O' apartments.

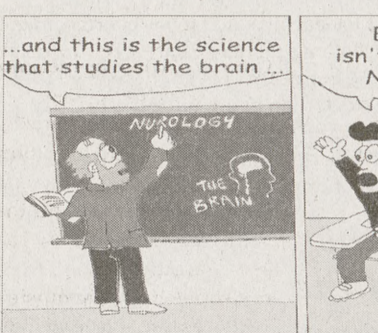
College Station Police Department Chief Ed Feldman said the cause of death is currently undetermined; the case has been ruled as a homicide pending the outcome of the autopsy. The body was discovered in the fire was contained. College Station's medical examiner's office is scheduled to release the results of the autopsy today.

"There are several possible suspects at this time," Feldman said.

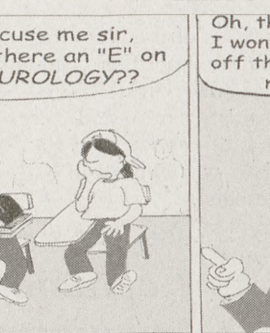
College Station Police Department spokeswoman Dana Scott said arson is also being investigated.

Casey attended A&M Central High School and Alders United Methodist Church.

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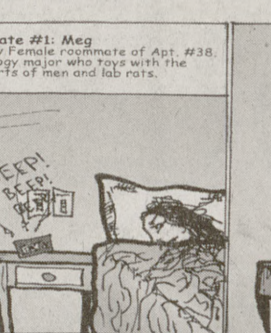
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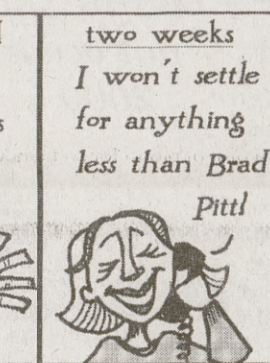
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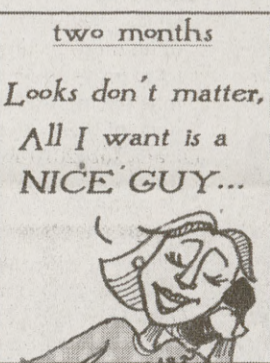
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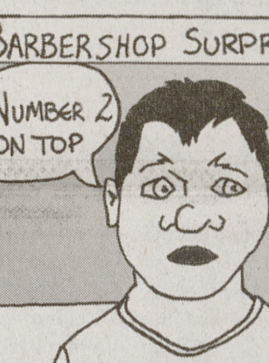
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### by J. Goldfin



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### by J. Goldfin



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