

WEATHER
Ptly cloudy
High: high 80s
Low: high 60s

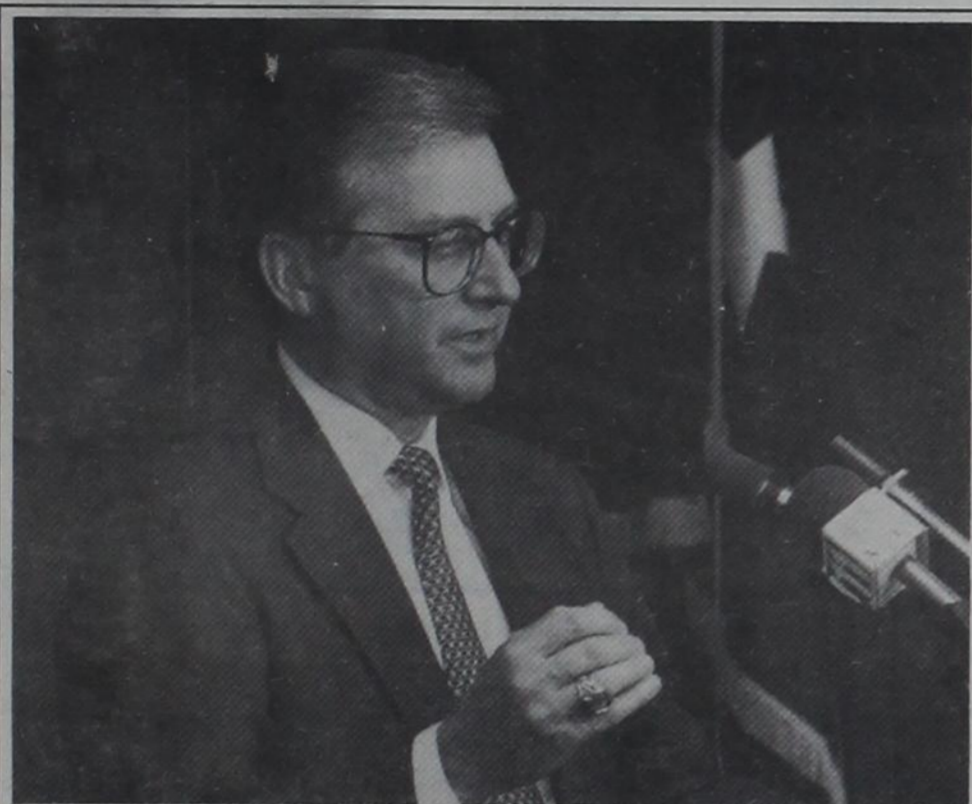
THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

Texas Tech University

THURSDAY
August 15, 1991

Vol. 66 No. 163 8 pages

Projected budget shortfall less than expected



Montford

By **JULIE COLLINS**
The University Daily

Senate Finance Chief John Montford, D-Lubbock, said the \$59.4 billion state budget passed Monday is a no-frills budget, but that the state can take pride in the fact that the projected shortfall of \$5 billion will diminish to \$2.1 billion during the next two years.

Montford was at the Lubbock International Airport Wednesday and answered questions concerning the Texas Legislature's special session that ended Tuesday night.

"I feel good about the accomplishments of the special session but more needs to be done," he said.

Montford said Gov. Ann Richards could call another special session next week to tackle some issues that the Legislature could not address during

the July special session.

"We need to resolve some unfinished business concerning congressional redistricting and the county jail suit," Montford said.

During the upcoming special session, he hopes the Legislature will address congressional redistricting and pass the bill. The county jail suit has been an ongoing thorn in Lubbock County's side for a number of years. The county is suing the state due to the lack of jail space for convicted felons.

"If the county jail suit is not settled, it could have a potential liability price tag of \$478 million increased shortfall for the state," Montford said.

Montford said the state needs to address the continued rehabilitation aspects of the criminal justice system as well.

The largest portion of the record

state budget has been allocated for public and higher education, he said.

Approximately \$2.4 billion will help pay for court-ordered school finance reforms.

Throughout the summer, Texas Tech administrators did not know how much money the school was going to receive for the next two years. The university was also unaware of how deep its budget was going to be cut, he said.

"Tech did fine considering the budget cuts we were looking at," Montford said.

Tech's main campus will see a 3.6 percent budget cut over the next two years while the Health Sciences Center will see a budget cut of 4.6 percent during the next biennium, Montford said.

see BUDGET, page 3

Recent volcanic eruptions may be cause of excessive rainfall in South, prof says

By **AMY COLLINS**
The University Daily

The recent eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo may be the cause for the excessive rain which has fallen on the South and the Southwest this summer, said Richard Peterson, professor of atmospheric science at Texas Tech.

He said the West has received enough rain this summer to definitely help with its long-term drought problems.

"The amount of volcanic ash released into the atmosphere has been the greatest since the eruption of Mt. Krakatoa in 1883," he said.

The results of the eruption of Mt. Krakatoa led to the year without summer in Europe, Peterson said.

"The largest recorded volcano eruption was in 1815 called Mt. Tamburo," he said. "The tremendous amount of ash and particles in the air resulted in the year without a summer in the United States."

Peterson does not discount the idea that volcanic ash released into the atmosphere from Mt. Pinatubo has played a part in the United States' unusual summer weather.

"The after-effects of Mt. Pinatubo were similar to the 1982 eruption of El

Chichon in Mexico," Peterson said.

The combination of sulfur dioxide, ash and other particles released into the atmosphere through volcanic eruptions reflects and absorbs the sun's rays resulting in dropping temperatures.

"Not many people can debate the fact that temperatures have dropped across the nation in the last few months," he said.

Peterson said that the volcanic eruptions may not be the only explanation for the lower temperature and increased rainfall.

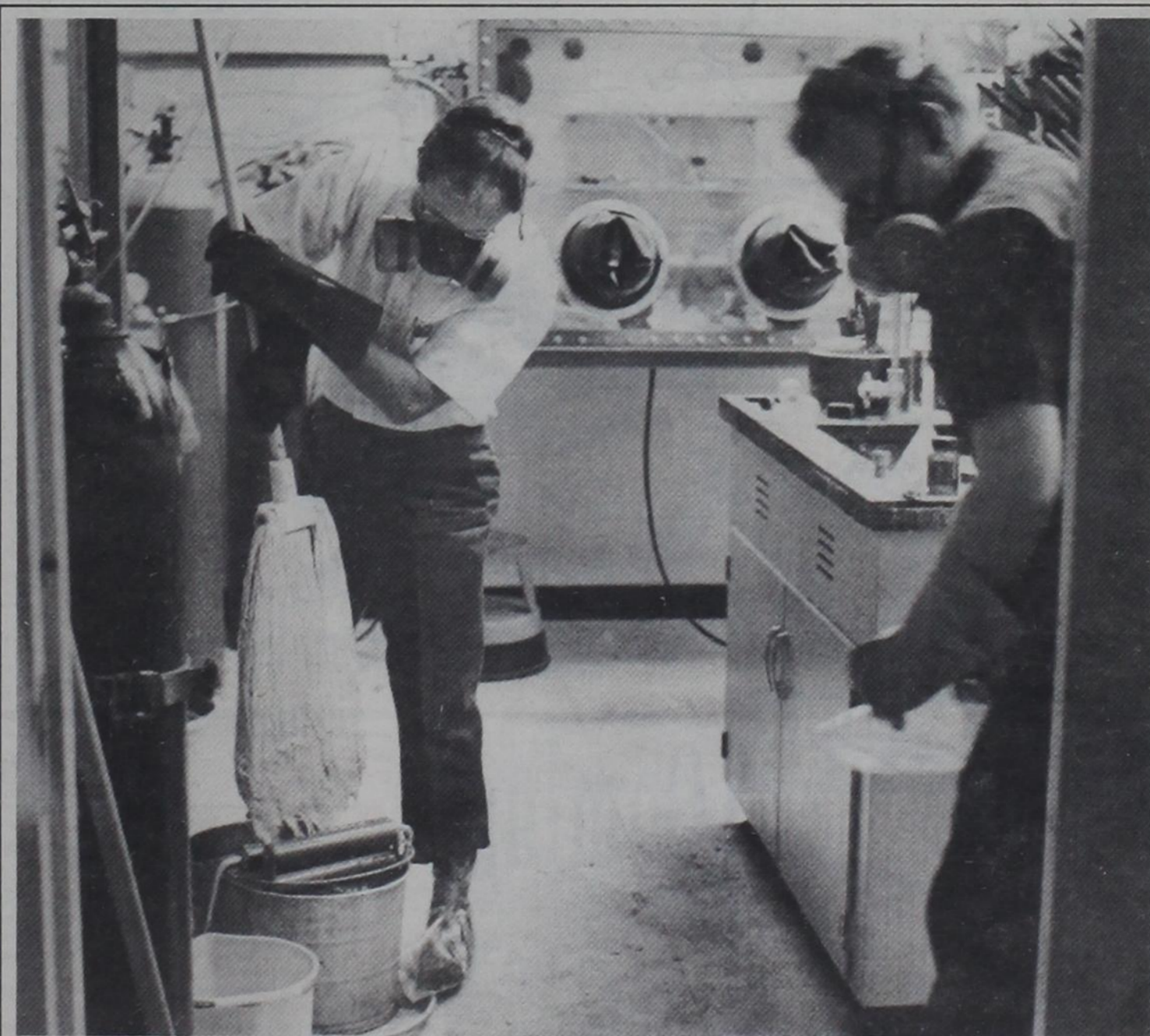
"El Niño is a name given to the waters of the Pacific Coast which increase in temperature," he said.

Peterson said when the warm water reaches the coastline, the increase in temperature in the atmosphere results in increased winter activity and storms.

"So many particles have been put into the atmosphere from the volcano and the Kuwaiti oil fields, it will definitely affect the atmosphere," Peterson said.

He said the smoke and other chemicals released into the air by the Kuwaiti oil fields will be easily washed out of the atmosphere.

"The smoke will reach 10,000- see VOLCANIC, page 3



Hazardous housework

Photo by Walter Granberry

Members of the Texas Tech Environmental Health and Safety Department clean up a chemical spill Tuesday in the chemistry building. Approximately one gallon of anhydrous tetrahydrofuran was spilled. One student was reportedly taken to Thompson Hall and was treated and released. According to the Environmental Health and Safety Department, one wing of the chemistry building was sealed off while members of their team cleaned up the chemicals.

The summer the campus came first



Andrew Harris

Editor

When I applied for summer editor of *The University Daily*, I pledged that I would cut down the summer *UD*'s reliance on *The Associated Press*.

So with that thought in mind, I would like to address this to our many readers who seem to have the notion that we seldom cover any local issues concerning Texas Tech and the Lubbock community.

Through the 22 issues of this summer, we have had four issues that had no *Associated Press* wire stories in them. How many times does that happen in Lubbock's other paper?

Only one time during the summer has an *Associated Press* story ran as the lead story (President Bush's nomination of Clarence Thomas as a Supreme Court Justice). All of the other lead stories concerned problems facing Tech (e.g., budget, bus routes), or accomplishments at Tech (e.g., grants, awards).

Including this issue, the *UD*'s lo-

cal-to-AP story ratio was 4 to 1. For every AP story we ran, we also ran four local stories.

Here's some more statistics:

Summer 1991	
Local stories:	227
AP stories:	58
Total stories:	285
Local percentage:	80%
AP percentage:	20%

I am not blasting *The Associated Press*. Certainly, the AP serves a very legitimate purpose in providing *UD* readers with statewide and national stories that affect everyone — that otherwise would not be covered by *The UD*.

Since we don't have a myriad of correspondents like the AP, we cannot send a reporter running off to every Middle Eastern country with the rest of the jackals (thanks Dr. Reddick) of the journalistic field. *The UD* is a university newspaper and our first obligation is to report what is happening in and around the Tech and Lubbock communities.

But alas, none of this could have been accomplished without the hard work of the summer *UD* staff. All of their hard work and dedication has

turned this summer edition into one of the best *The University Daily* has ever had. We could have never reached our goal I set at the beginning of the summer without their extra time and effort.

To them, I extend a heart-felt, "Thanks guys, we did it!!!!!"

As for the Fall edition of the *UD*, things will only get better. The appearance of the newspaper will change a little; things will be a bit different, and you will be surprised at the difference in last Fall's *UD* and this Fall's *UD*. Everyone on the summer staff is returning, some in different capacities, but they will all be here.

If they work as hard in the Fall as they did in the summer, things will only get better.

As for myself, I will be handing over the editor reins to Francisco Rodriguez, and assuming the managing editor duties.

Despite all that's happened in the past, all I can say is, give Francisco a chance — he know's what the hell he's doing.

I've had a lot of fun this summer, and I am excited about the Fall.

It's going to be an exciting time for *The University Daily* and I'm really looking forward to it.

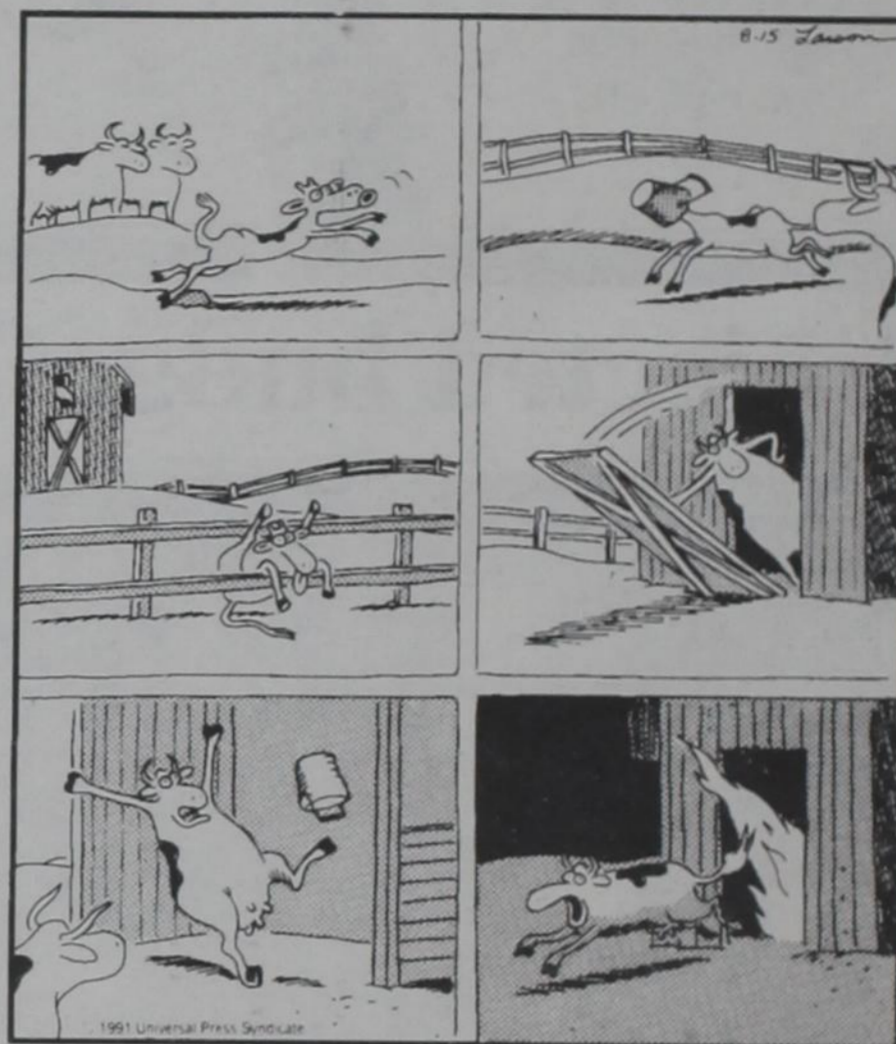
See you Sept. 3.

BEN SARGENT
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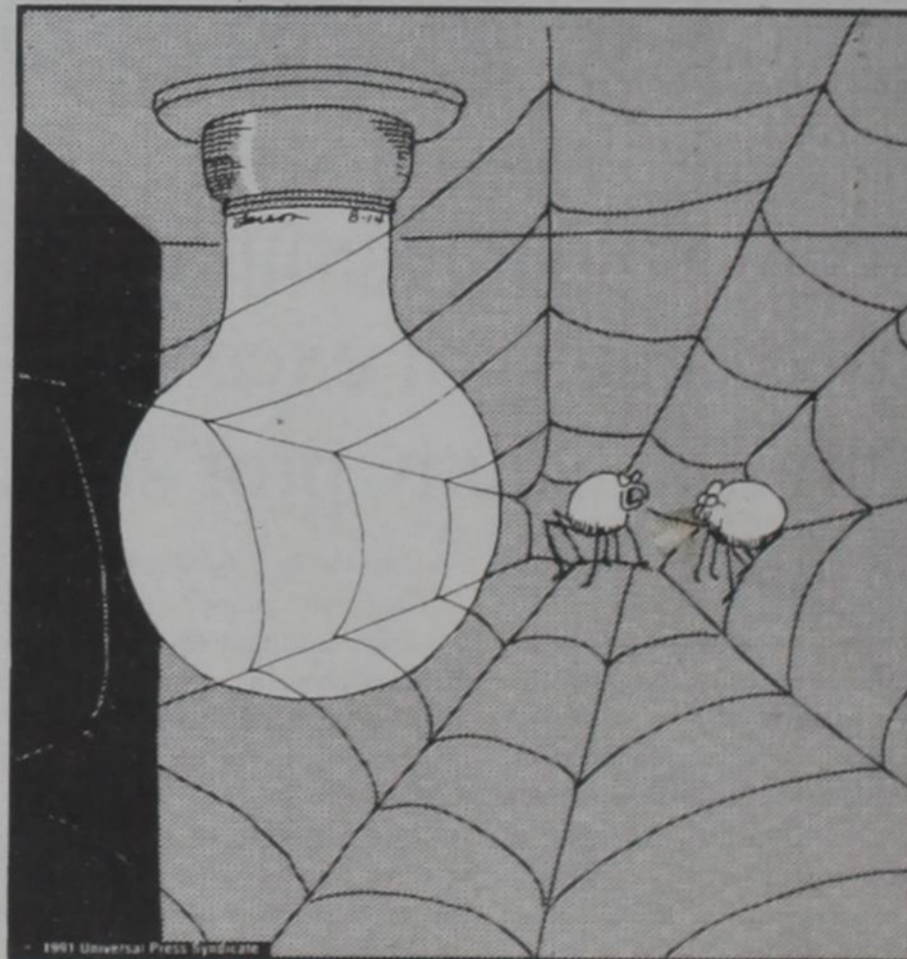


THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



The life and times of Lulu, Mrs. O'Leary's ill-fated cow.



"Crimony! Every night you ask me what's for dinner and every night I say the same thing: 'Moths, moths, moths!'"

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1970-1990



What a long, strange strip it's been

Coming
Sept. 3,
1991

The University Daily

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 Publication Number 766480

The University Daily, a student newspaper at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, is published daily except Saturday and Sunday, September through May, and twice a week June through August except during review, examination and vacation periods.

As a student activity, The University Daily is independent of the academic School of Mass Communications.

Subscription rate is \$30 per year for non-students, and \$1.50 per semester for students. Single copies are 25 cents.

Opinions expressed in The University Daily are those of the editor or writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the administration or of the Board of Regents.

LETTER POLICY

Letters to the editor of The University Daily are welcome. All letters must be TYPED, double spaced and must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. All letters must be signed. Unsigned letters will not be published. A letter writer's name may be withheld from publication upon request and with valid reason. Letters shorter than two double-spaced, typewritten pages will be given preference. Letters must be presented for publication with picture identification.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters for libel, taste, obscenity and space limitations. Letters will be edited for spelling, grammar and punctuation.

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Academy supplies educational aid for elderly

By JULIE COLLINS
The University Daily

Older students who did not register for fall classes because of the long lines and the inconvenience of regular enrollment and registration, now have the opportunity to avoid all that.

The Seniors' Academy, which debuted in the summer of 1990, was set up to aid Lubbock residents 55 and older in registering for classes and for seeking academic counseling, while bypassing the rush of Texas Tech registration.

Advance registration for Seniors' Academy members will run Aug. 26-30. Fall classes begin Sept. 3.

Seniors' Academy member registration will continue through the university's regular advanced new student registration.

Virginia Sowell, associate vice president for academic affairs and vice provost, said the Seniors' Academy gives retired individuals the opportunity to attend college that they otherwise might not have.

"Most of our Seniors' Academy members had not thought about going

to college until we set up this program," Sowell said.

The program has received and accepted 52 applicants to Tech. The program also offers easy accessibility to on-campus classes with individual attention from university personnel.

"What we are trying to accomplish through the program is to serve all constituents of the university," she said.

Seniors' Academy members are exempt from the American College Test and the Scholastic Aptitude Test to enter the college.

Sowell said many of the applicants

have supported their children not only through college but through graduate school.

"After supporting their children through their education, they feel it is time to start one of their own," Sowell said.

With more and more individuals retiring at an earlier age, college for many of those individuals is not impossible.

Sowell said most retired individuals entering college do not want to gain another degree because they would enter another profession.

"Most people that are in the Seniors' Academy program are going back to college for their own sense of satisfaction," Sowell said.

Highlights of the program include individualized academic counseling conducted by experts in adult education. Members of the program are also offered interest and aptitude tests and academic tutoring at no cost.

Applicants for the academy need not have previous college experience.

For further information concerning the academy and application forms, please call the Tech Visitor's Center.

Budget cuts not as severe as expected, Montford says

continued from page 1

"Tech's administration and board of regents (members) will be pleased to know that Tech will not be hampered from its current level of providing education to its students," Montford said.

Senators also approved a tax increase of approximately \$2.2 billion needed to pay for the two-year budget

and approximately \$600 million could be raised through a gasoline tax with proceeds going toward the highway fund.

While there was opposition to the tax increase, Montford said the state had no choice but to increase certain taxes to avoid setting up a state income tax.

Montford said many areas of the

state's business sector were actively involved in the implementation of the franchise tax, which restructures the existing finance tax scheme of the state.

"We think the franchise tax is a fair approach to taxing businesses, but it does not penalize businesses that are not doing so well," Montford said.

The tax will judge what percent of a franchise tax they will pay depending upon the gains or losses of that business.

The state's health and human services facilities will be consolidated during the next two years to better optimize the state's money, Montford

said.

Total spending on health and rehabilitation services is approximately \$18 billion.

Montford said the short-term and long-term effects of consolidation among health and human services in Lubbock could mean that Lubbock citizens will be better served, and the agencies themselves may run more efficiently.

Lubbock's regional chapter of Mental Health and Mental Retardation could see a 30-bed facility built for the city, he said.

Approximately \$3.5 million has been allocated for the construction of

the facility, he said.

Montford said it is going to be hard to predict whether Texans are going to approve the proposed lottery bill for the state.

"I believe approximately 58 percent of the state's vote will be in favor of a state lottery," Montford said.

Montford said he took a lot of criticism from local constituents concerning his backing for a state lottery, but ultimately the choice belongs to the people of Texas.

"If people want a lottery, they will vote for it; if they don't want a lottery, they have the right to vote it down. Currently, it looks positive," he said.

Volcanic debris more hazardous when reaching into stratosphere

continued from page 1

15,000 feet," he said. "When this elevation is reached, thunderstorms and heavy rainfall will cleanse the atmosphere of these smoke particles."

Peterson said debris from eruptions tend to be more serious because the particles released into the atmosphere reach 40,000-80,000 feet, which enters the stratosphere.

"When particles reach the stratosphere it becomes difficult for the atmosphere to cleanse itself," he said.

In the stratosphere the air moves horizontally and the ash and debris merely stay there, Peterson said.

"This ash is going to have to slowly reach the lower atmosphere to be cleansed," he said.

Peterson said that the Kuwaiti oil fields are a concern, but not on a global scale.

"The volcanic ash and particles might be considered a global concern," he said. "This definitely depends upon

the amount of ash released into the air."

Volcanoes are not only responsible for unusual weather patterns, but also for beautiful sunsets.

"The sunlight reflects upon the particles which were strewn so far into the atmosphere," Peterson said. "The particles can still be reflected off of the sun even though it has set to the naked eye."

Peterson said the result of this type of reflection is prettier and longer sunsets.

Ironically the number of people killed by volcanoes has increased over the last few years, Peterson said.

"The reason for the increase in deaths can be attributed to the increasing populations of third-world nations where many of these volcanoes are located," he said.

Peterson said that it will be months before we know the full effects of the volcanic eruption of Mt. Pinatubo.

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Tennis provides exercise, company for handicapped

By AMY COLLINS
The University Daily

The handicapped of the world have become increasingly active in athletics, alleviating the stereotype of participation in sports exclusively belonging to the non-handicapped.

Hayden Harris, a Texas Tech management information systems major from Corpus Christi, was paralyzed in a car accident 10 years ago but continues to pursue his love for sports.

"I have been in the chair for 10 years," Harris said. "I want to live my life just like everybody else."

Harris said life has become more challenging since his accident, but he does not think of being in the chair as an excuse not to live life to the fullest.

"I went through a three-year period of difficult transition," he said. "I finally decided to get on with my life."

Harris is a member of the South Plains Spokers, a disabled organization which recruits many handicapped men and women to perform such activities as camping, swimming, basketball and tennis.

Harris plays tennis with Jeff Brown and Wes Harley at the tennis courts across from the men's gym.

"We play tennis almost everyday to practice for the tournaments in which we compete," Harris said.

Brown, an agriculture economics major from Friona, said he was involved in athletics throughout high school before his accident.

"I did not feel the need to give up what I enjoy doing even after my accident," Brown said.

Brown said he knew some handicapped individuals prior to his acci-

dent who were very active in sports.

"I was impressed with their courage," he said. "I started playing basketball six months after my accident."

Harris said the idea of playing tennis seemed impossible.

"I originally thought playing tennis in a wheelchair was a joke," he said. "When I did finally play I was hooked."

The Racket Club in Lubbock gave free lessons to the handicapped for a year and was instrumental in recruiting members for the South Plains Spokers, Harris said.

Brown said tennis is becoming one of the fastest-growing wheelchair sports in the nation and competing in the tennis tournament is fun and very rewarding.

"About 25 players participate in the tournaments," he said. "I have gotten to know a lot of people and made great friends."

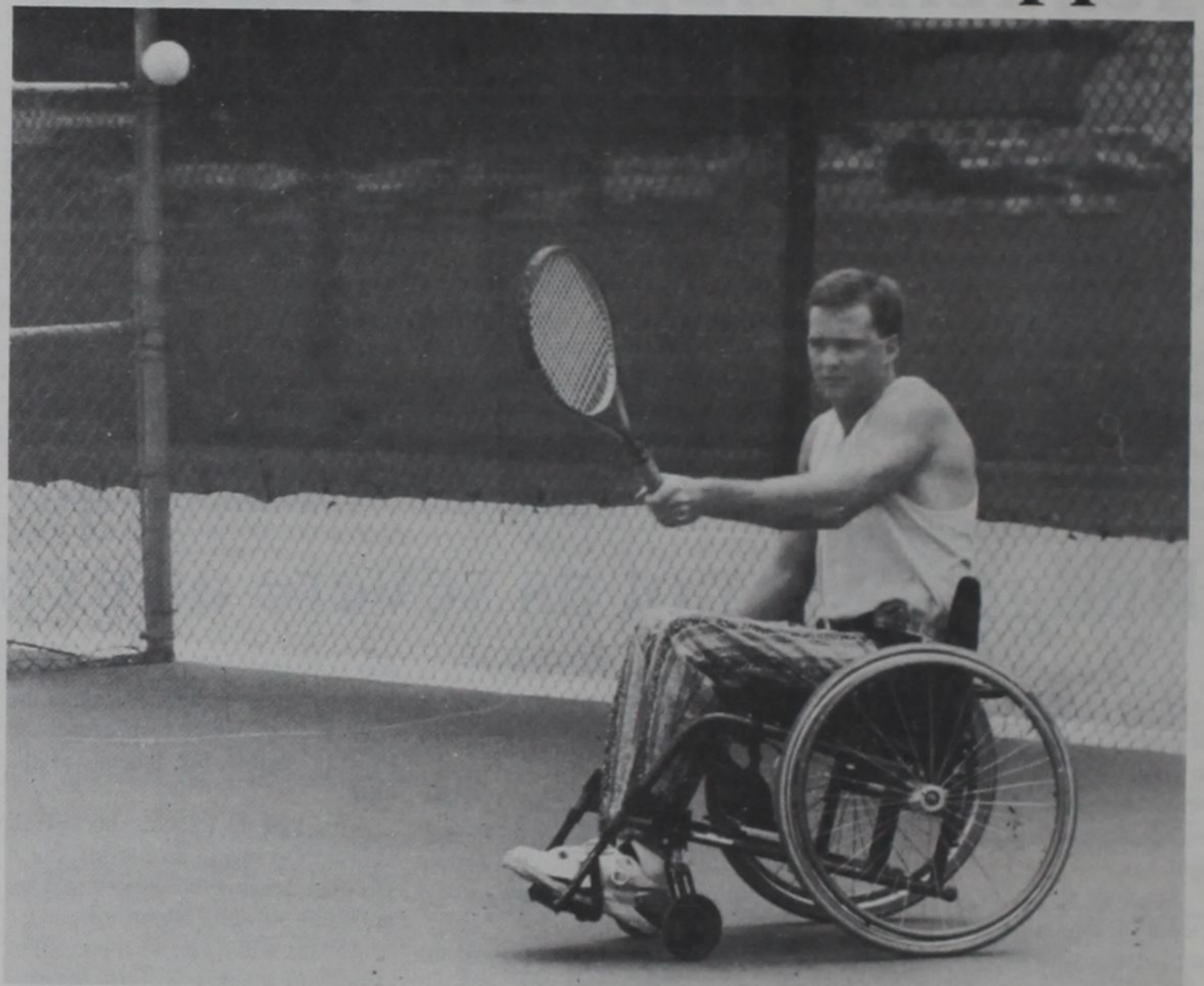
Brown was recently elected the president of the South Plains Spokers. The job involves organizing finances and reporting to the Live Independently For Everyone organization.

"We recruit many handicapped individuals through the LIFE organization," Brown said. "We also recruit players from the Texas Rehabilitation Center here in Lubbock."

Harris said it is important for the handicapped to realize that they can lead a normal and challenging life.

"Programs such as the South Plains Spokers give handicapped men and women self confidence and determination they will not find sitting in front of a television set," he said.

Many of the accidents which leave individuals paralyzed include car, swimming and hunting accidents.



Covering the court

Photo by Walter Granberry

Jeff Brown, a Texas Tech agricultural economics major from Friona, returns a volley while practicing tennis. Tennis is one of the fastest-growing national sports among the handicapped.

"During the spring, many car accidents occur because kids are graduating and drinking to celebrate becomes a priority," Harris said. "In the sum-

mer, many diving and hunting accidents take place."

Brown said his motivation for keeping active in sports is no different from

anyone else's.

"I am in a wheelchair, but I can still enjoy sports and the challenges that go along with it," he said.

9-6 Mon-Fri	12-5 Sat.
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Hub City Happenings

Off Campus:

— **The Robin Griffin Band** will play Tuesday at 9:30 p.m. at Belly's, 5001 South Ave. Q. Admission is free.

— **Euphoria** will play at 9 p.m. Friday at On Broadway, 2420 Broadway. There is a \$3 cover charge for singles and a \$5 cover for couples.

— **Crystal Creek** will play at 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Villa Club, 5401 Ave. Q, with a \$2 cover charge.

— **Tonda and the Homewreckers** will play at 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Kitchen Club, 2411 Main. There is a \$2 cover charge.

The Acoustic Jam Showcase featuring **Jay Swann and D.G. Flewellyn** is at 9:30 p.m. Monday, with a \$1 cover charge.

— **Noise Gate** will play at 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Main Street Saloon, 2417 Main. There is a \$3 cover charge for singles and a \$5 cover for couples.

— **Ground Zero** will play at 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday 9:30 p.m. at the Depot Beer Garden, 19th and Ave. G, with a \$3 cover. **The Caprock All-Stars** will play Sunday at 10 p.m. with a \$3 cover.

— **Wild Minx** will play Friday and Saturday at 9 p.m. at Chelsea Street Pub, South Plains Mall. There is no cover.

— **Electric Gypsies** will play at 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Texas Cafe and Bar, 3604 50th. There is a \$4 cover.

— **Mike-O-Waves** will play at 10 p.m. Saturday at Town Draw, 1801 19th. There is a \$2 cover charge.

Comedy:

— **Bo Johnson** headlines Joe's Froggy Bottoms Comedy Club, 6602 Slide Road, in a show featuring **Steve Mingola and Dave Grebinek**. Show times are 9 p.m. Friday, 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 p.m. Sunday. Ticket prices are \$7.50 Friday and Saturday, and \$5 Sunday.

Kirk wraps up Summer of 1991 with usual modesty, sheepish wit



Kirk Baird-Parks

Lifestyles Writer

Tired of boring old columns from old people who ramble on about issues that you really could care nothing about? Looking for some new, interesting columns that address issues you care about? Then tune to The UD's own, Kirk Baird-Parks.

Yes, Kirk Baird-Parks' witty and insightful look at the world around him will provide you endless sources of entertainment for hours at a time.

Kirk Baird-Parks just doesn't focus on political issues or the world of entertainment. No, he delves into murky depths probing the dark corridors of issues ranging from Dairy Queens in small towns to the tribulation and soon-to-be trial of Pee-wee Herman (a.k.a. Paul Reubens).

Just look at these classic bits from this past summer.

The Darryl Gates phenomena,

where Kirk Baird-Parks focused on the lighter side of police brutality. The L.A.P.D. may never be the same again.

The wacky world of David Letterman and Sean Young was essential reading to anyone with a sense of humor. Kirk, in his own, lovable way, looked at the talk-show host arena and gave his thumbs up to Letterman, while giving the proverbial thumbs-down (snub) to Young. Will the campus ever stop reeling from the lunacy?

Kirk's look at Diary Queen left attentive reader's gasping for what more this marvel of the Macintosh could conjure forth from his imaginative crevices. They wouldn't have to wait for long.

But Kirk also displayed his serious side with thought-provoking columns on getting older. His wizened sage attitude helped to steer readers clear of the potential hazards of age.

His look at life on the road was a rare glimpse into his checkered past (checkered with laughs that is) as he took a turn into the bizarre on the road to Oklahoma. That kwazy (sic) Kirk brought back memories galore with his blast into his past.

What about politics?, you question. Kirk was there.

Kirk's view of the whole Desert Storm affair had readers reeling in

their politically-stagnate chairs. Many an opinion was swayed by his non-sense approach to the cost the war really imposed.

But as always, Kirk returned to his humorous home with a recanting of sorts — on Lubbock. Yes, even Kirk admitted his folly about the great city of Lubbock, where a man is a man ... and that's just all there is to it.

But the real buzz was focused on Kirk's celebrated look at a certain satisfied celebrity. Pee-wee Herman was put through Kirk's satirical ringer and the result was instant laughter.

As for the future of Kirk Baird-Parks and his decidedly different approach to life as we know it — what does the future hold for this budding youth?

Well, expect the same outrageous outlook and erstwhile endearance while constantly exploring new areas of journalism. Areas no one else but The UD's own Kirk Baird-Parks will journey into.

The preceding was not a paid endorsement by any political campaign committee, nor does it necessarily reflect the opinion of the following:

Anyone who has ever read anything he has written.

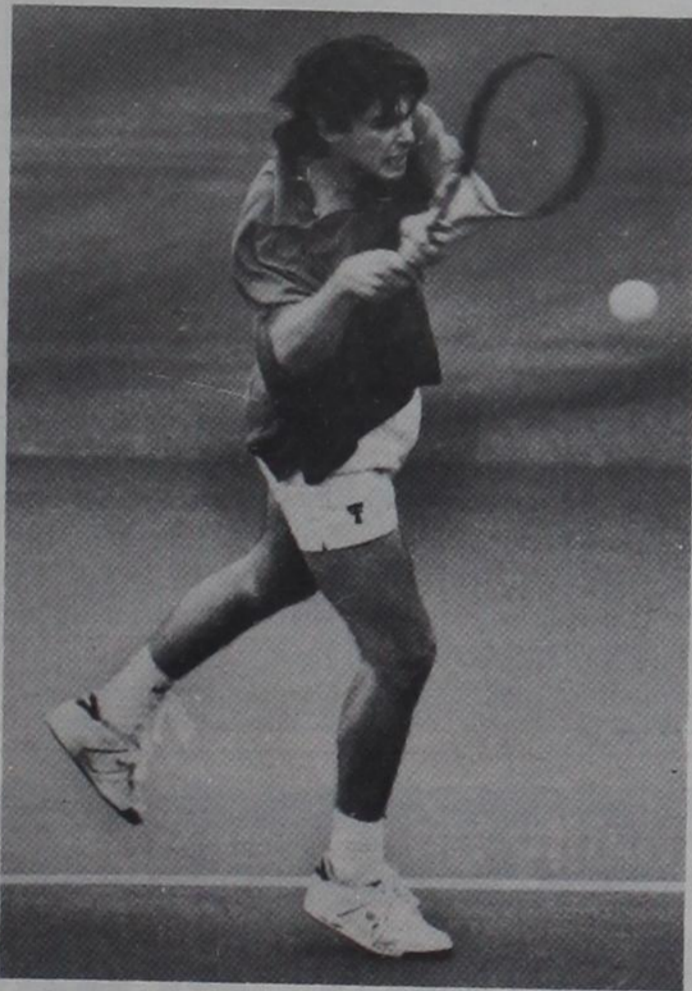
Finally, a personal message from Kirk Baird-Parks:

Hi. How are you? I'm doing pretty good. The doc says my blood-pressure is stabilizing, as is my problem with the kidneys. Anyway, I know most of you are wondering what kind of schmuck writes a column about himself. Well now you have the answer. Keep the letters a-comin', and I'll keep a-writin'.

God luv ya,

Kirk Baird-Parks

You Oughta be in pictures!



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No Passes • No Super Savers 12:40-2:55-5:05-7:30-9:40 (R)	
DELERIOUS	THX
12:35-2:45-5:00-7:35-10:00 (PG)	
RETURN TO BLUE LAGOON	Ultrastereo
12:10-2:35-5:10-7:40-10:05 (PG-13)	
BODY PARTS	Ultrastereo
No Passes • No Super Savers 12:45-2:50-5:15-7:50-10:00 (R)	
LIFE STINKS	Ultrastereo
2:30-7:05 (PG-13)	
ROCKETEER	Ultrastereo
No Passes • No Super Savers 12:30-3:00-5:20-7:45-10:05 (PG)	
BACK DRAFT	Ultrastereo
12:25-3:45-7:00-9:50 (R)	
DUTCH	Ultrastereo
No Passes • No Super Savers 12:10-4:35-9:30 (PG-13)	
KING OF THE KICKBOXER	Ultrastereo
1:00-3:15-5:25-7:40-9:50 (R)	

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Dollar Shows!

ONLY THE LONELY	Ultrastereo
12:00-2:25-4:45-7:10-9:35 (PG-13)	
THELMA & LOUISE	Ultrastereo
12:50-4:10-7:15-9:55 (R)	
DANCES WITH WOLVES	Ultrastereo
12:00-4:00-8:00 (PG-13)	
DON'T TELL MOMMY THE BABYSITTER'S DEAD	Ultrastereo
12:05-2:20-4:40-7:25-9:45 (PG-13)	
GOOD LUCK ON FINALS TECH!	

SOUTH PLAINS 4
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HOT SHOTS (PG-13)
1:00-3:00-5:00-7:20-9:20

PURE LUCK
1:10-3:10-5:10-7:30-9:40 (PG)

NAKED GUN 2 1/2 (PG-13)
1:15-3:15-5:15-7:15-9:15

DYING YOUNG (R)
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2022 Broadway

'Terminator 2', 'Naked Gun 2 1/2' highlight summer's best

By KIRK BAIRD-PARKS
The University Daily

With the summer movie fest winding down, it is time to take a look back at the winners and losers of the summer. As always, there were a few surprises.

The Losers:

Unquestionably, the two biggest losers were **Hudson Hawk** and **Dying Young**.

The films, starring big namers Bruce Willis and Julia Roberts, respectively, were predicted to be big audience draws, but fizzled leaving questions about the actors' box-office attraction.

Hudson Hawk, a \$40 million-plus opus, never got on firm ground and after a poor opening faded into film-failure oblivion. So far, Willis' only success has come from the **Die Hard** films. I wonder if Twentieth Century Fox is starting to question their signing him to such a lucrative contract?

Dying Young was predicted to be this summer's biggest success by *Premier* magazine. This prediction ranks slightly below "Dewy defeats Truman" on the laughable prediction scale.

Roberts, who was Hollywood's most bankable female star, and quickly becoming the most bankable actor period, took a step backward with this failed attempt at sappy sentimentalism in the disease-of-the-week vein. Just how big of a hindrance this film will be to her career remains to be seen.

FX 2 and **Only the Lonely** were also big disappointments in both critical and financial success.

FX 2, the sequel to the 1986 surprise hit, was a major flop. It lacked all the charm and inventiveness of the original, which most people apparently agreed on by its lack of staying power in the summer film race.

Only the Lonely, which teamed the tandem of Chris Columbus and John Hughes together again (these guys were responsible for **Home Alone**), proved that lightening does not always

strike twice. John Candy continues to confirm that he cannot carry a film by himself and should better be left as the wise-cracking but good-natured sidekick buddy to the troubled friend.

Oscar offered a new Sylvester Stallone; unfortunately for the film, no one wanted him. This John Landis-directed comedy was short on laughs as well as people in attendance.

Don't Tell Mom The Babysitter's Dead should have been titled, **Don't Tell Mom We Saw This Movie**.

Problem Child 2, the sequel that should have never been made to the film that had no business playing in any theater. If the old cliché "laugh, and everyone laughs with you; cry, and you cry alone" is true, then the theaters were definitely empty on this disaster.

Films that were moderate successes: **What About Bob?**, giving both Richard Dreyfuss and Bill Murray a little clout to their troubled careers as of late.

Backdraft, which flamed up at the box-office but was slowly doused in the coming weeks. A modest hit, but still somewhat disappointing.

Point Break continues to draw some semblance of an audience. Never a run-away hit, but with the inevitable video release, this film is bound to make a profit.

Bill And Ted's Bogus Journey opened strong but dissipated quickly. Still, its opening was more than enough to pay for this low-budget California surfer-type comedy. Don't look for a third installment, however. It is obvious that Keanu Reeves wants to go forward in his career.

The Rocketeer was Disney's big summer release, and while it didn't disappoint, it certainly didn't generate the kind of theater draw that studio execs had hoped for. Perhaps an earlier summer release would have helped this film more by giving it less fierce competition.

Regarding Henry has never really

amounted to what people thought it was capable of being. An adult-oriented tear-jerker, designed to pull all the right emotional strings, **Regarding Henry** was to be warm, sensitive and funny. Harrison Ford was in the lead, with Mike Nichols, right off the success of **Postcards From The Edge**, calling the directorial shots. Studios apparently thought the previous summer's indication of success for adult dramas, to be the formula for this summer. They thought wrong.

Regarding Henry was a classic example of when trends go awry. Although The Doctor looks to be doing well. Hmmm, maybe it was just the film itself...

Jungle Fever wasn't nearly as controversial as hyped. Spike Lee, with his modest budget, however, turned a profit again. Look for his film on Malcolm X to either solidify his career or severely stunt it.

Soapdish, with an all-star cast, witty and novel script, is a textbook example of a film that could have been more. It

never had a strong run at the box-office, yet it did marginally well over the long haul. Look for video to help it out a bit more.

Thelma And Louise was the feminist's answer to **Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid**. A wonderful ride filled with poignant questions about societal treatment of women. Director Ridley Scott, however, is still looking for that run-away hit that seems to keep eluding him. This film should have been it.

The Winners:

The Naked Gun 2 1/2: The Smell of Fear and Hot Shots!, both similar comedies, did well with audiences looking for something to laugh at besides John Ritter's career.

Look for sequels to at least one of these films.

City Slickers continued to showcase Billy Crystal's versatility as a comedic and dramatic actor. It opened very strong and held on as the number one film as long as could have been expected, considering its competition

was **Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves**. Who knows, maybe that film plugging on The Academy Awards by Crystal did work.

Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves survived the scrutiny. Sure, it didn't amass all the bounty that it had been predicted to generate, but Costner emerged scathed only for his performance, and with his box-office attraction still in full gear. A pretty impressive feat, just ask Julia Roberts.

Terminator 2: Judgement Day was far-and-away *THE* film of the summer. Audiences lined up for hours to see this sci-fi sequel. Arnold Schwarzenegger has added to his growing power in Hollywood, and Cameron has proven once again that a sequel can out-do the original, if only in terms of financial success.

All in all, an interesting summer devoid of a horde of sequels. Look for next summer to return to the formula of more action-packed films and comedies, with the fall and spring having more adult-oriented films again.

'Commitments' ribs Dublin music scene

By The Associated Press

"Have you got soul? If so, the World's Hardest Working Band is looking for you. ... Rednecks and Southsiders need not apply."

But just about everyone else does in Alan Parker's rousing romp, "The Commitments," a funny, bittersweet take on the Dublin music scene.

The Commitments is a band put together by Jimmy Rabbitte, a young man with a dream who runs a newspaper ad looking for singers and musicians who were weaned on Otis Redding, cut their teeth on Aretha Franklin and live for James Brown. In short, Jimmy wants to put a little soul in Dublin.

"We're working class," he says to his friend, Outspan. "So your music should be about who you are and where you come from. It should speak the language of the streets."

As far as Jimmy is concerned, that

music is American soul music, and he'd like Dubliners to love "Mustang Sally" just as much as "Clare Jig." After all, he tells his band, "The Irish are the blacks of Europe and Dubliners are the blacks of Ireland ... so say it loud, 'I'm black and proud.'"

Jimmy is downright evangelical. It is his fervor that brings together the band, its dynamite lead singer, Deco, and three female back-up singers.

There's an innocence to it all but at the same time, a determined professionalism. These are street kids working hard to break free from their dreary destinies, kids reaching for the rainbow and willing to settle for just a tiny glow.

Bernie, who sings backup, works a fish-and-chips wagon when she's not home tending her mother's brood and helping out with housework; Joey "The Lips" Fagan glides through life on his Suzuki and real or imagined memories of his life with Elvis, Otis, Smokey or whoever; Billy has his

drums in hock; Steven pilfers his grandmother's piano.

Musically, the group grows and becomes a throbbing, vital and talented unit. But off-stage, their success is marred by arrogance, jealousy, sexual games and pride. The dream they never dared to dream soon is over.

"The Commitments" is more than the odyssey of a rock band. It is a story of hope and idealism, of commitment to oneself and one's destiny.

Parker has assembled a wonderful group of young Irish actors and musicians, most of whom make their film debuts in "The Commitments."

Robert Arkins, who has his own local group called Housebroken, is a delight as the visionary Jimmy. Andrew Strong, at 16 the youngest member of the ensemble, has a soulful, gritty quality to his voice. Johnny Murphy, an actor in Irish theater, portrays Joey, the trumpeter who seduces all three back-ups.

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ONE bedroom apartment, three blocks from Tech, \$205 plus \$150 deposit, heat and water furnished. 745-6099.

SMALL two bedroom, one bath duplex near elementary and Jr. High. Stove and refrigerator, washer/dryer connections. Bus, two blocks. \$300 plus bills. Ideal for young family. Available after August 25th. 765-9673.

WALK to class. One bedroom, \$225, bills paid. Call 797-7133 or 792-4864.

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ROOM to rent, female student. No smoking, parties, etc. Must have references. \$200/month. 794-4004.

ROOMMATE needed. Female. Three bedroom house, 703 Dover, \$275/month. All bills paid. Nice. Call Carol, 793-1530.

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COUNTDOWN TO '91...

The following is a list of football-related events at Texas Tech leading up to the 1991 football season:

AUGUST 17 — 9-11 a.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m. — First varsity practices in shorts.

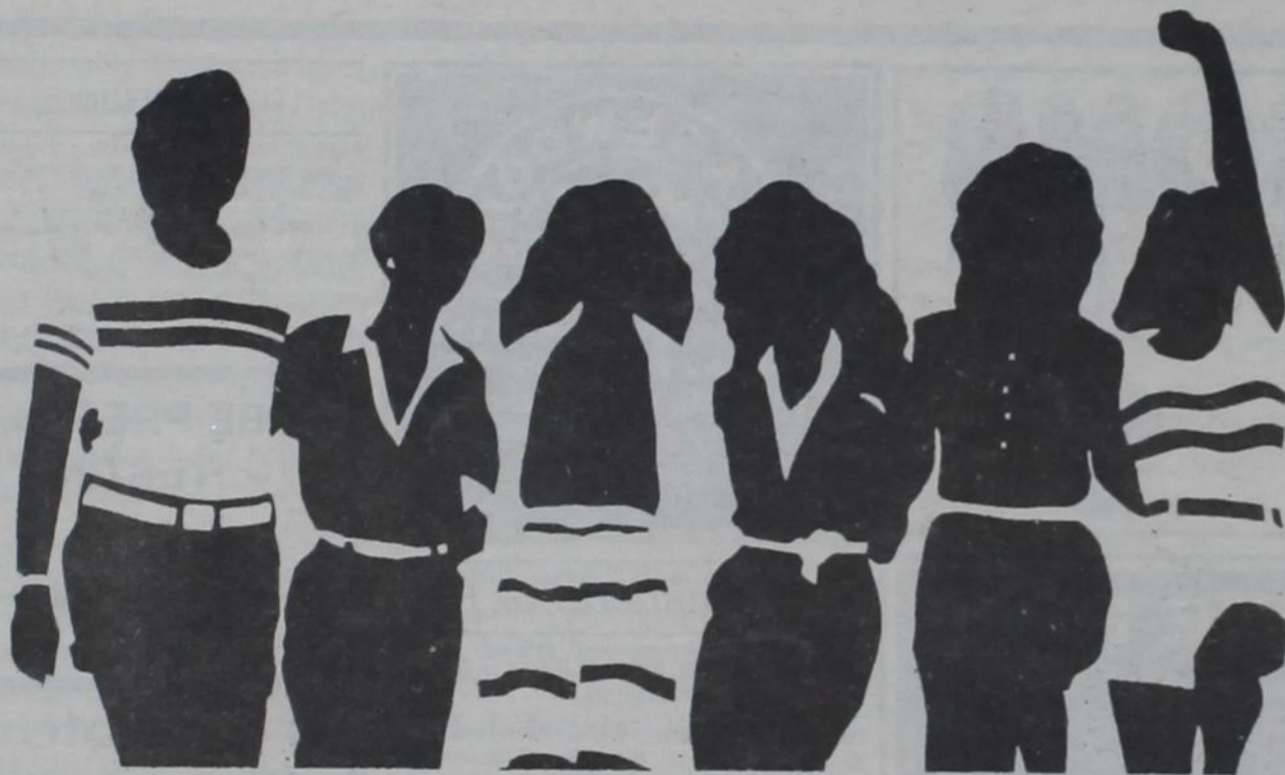
AUGUST 18 — 1:30 p.m. — Picture Day at Athletic Training Center. Public invited to meet and photograph players and coaches.

AUGUST 21 — 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. — First varsity practices in full pads.

AUGUST 24 — 7:30 p.m. — Scrimmage at Jones Stadium.

AUGUST 28 — 7:30 p.m. — Scrimmage, site TBA. End of two-a-days.

SEPTEMBER 7 — 7 p.m. — Texas Tech vs. Cal State-Fullerton at Jones Stadium.



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AA baseball

Lubbock: perfect site for minor league team



Charles Pollet

Managing Editor

The resounding crack of a bat...the smell of hot buttered popcorn and fresh hot dogs...the wonderful taste of an ice cold beer to defray a blistering sun...

These are the perfect elements for a summer baseball game. And with the introduction of two expansion teams, the Colorado Rockies and the Florida Marlins, Lubbock now has an outside chance to attract a AA minor league baseball team to the city.

Combined with the Texas Rangers AA farm team, the Tulsa Drillers, desire to move, Lubbock finds itself with a rare opportunity.

A baseball team would greatly increase economic development, which is so highly desired, in Lubbock. The money generated from such a team would also attract more tourists to the city.

Lubbock is large enough to support a AA team, and Lubbockites are in dire need of a sporting event in the summer.

Being a college student, I know that movies and miniature golf grow old quickly. A baseball game would provide two to three hours of entertainment and cost very little.

For comparison, the Midland Angels charge \$6 for box seats and \$3 for general admission. A Lubbock team

could charge the same, and have capacity crowds at every game.

The first step to obtaining a team is local interest. The Lubbock citizenry must be willing to pay for a stadium to be built and to buy the franchise rights of the team.

Rules of the Texas League, which is the league in which a Lubbock team would play, state that AA teams must play in a stadium that seats at least 6,000.

A well-built complex would cost Lubbock between \$5 and \$7 million dollars. With capacity crowds, the stadium would pay for itself within five years.

The Texas League's requirement of \$3 million for franchise rights could be purchased by a group of local businessmen, which would keep the team in Lubbock.

However, Lubbock citizens must act quickly. Texas League officials need to know all cities interested in minor league teams by mid-October. Currently, KFMX radio has a petition in its business office, 5613 Villa Drive, that can be signed for an indefinite period of time.

Stop at KFMX, and sign the petition. Who knows, in a few years you may be kickin' back in the bleachers to watch minor league baseball in Lubbock.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to watch the Texas Rangers AA farm club play three days every week all summer long? Tickets would sell out for every game for the mere fact that fans may be watching future Rangers stars.

Astros' sale drawing nearer

By The Associated Press

HOUSTON — A major obstacle in the sale of the Houston Astros to a local investment group may have been cleared, the *Houston Chronicle* reported Tuesday.

"Things seem to be very positive," a source described as being close to the talks told the newspaper. "Many of the key points have been addressed and agreed upon. There has been real progress on many important areas."

News of significant progress in the negotiations came on the same day the Houston Sports Association, which owns the Astros, was granted a license for a thoroughbred racetrack.

HSA would not be allowed to own both a baseball team and a racetrack. The granting of the license adds pressure on HSA to sell the team.

The *Chronicle* quoted another source, who also asked to remain

anonymous, as saying the two groups met secretly last week while Astros owner John McMullen was in Houston to attend the Astros series with the San Diego Padres.

The major point of debate has been the three Astrodome-area hotels that McMullen wants to sell with the team and the Astrodome lease.

McMullen reportedly was asking \$95 million for the team, but may have lowered his asking price for the hotel facilities.

The newspaper quoted sources as saying the local investors group, led by Ben and Jeff Love, has increased its original offer and contacted an outside party about operating the hotels for them.

HSA President Bob Harter said Monday the track license and the sale of the Astros were not related, but he also said the team would be sold before the start of the 1992 baseball season.