



UNIVERSITY DAILY

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MONDAY

November 22, 1999
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high 58
low 38
partly
CLOUDY

Tuesday: cloudy, high 49

Stocks	Nasdaq	S&P 500	Dow Jones
price:	3,369.25	1,422.00	11,003.89
change:	+22.14	-2.94	-31.81

Friday's closing figures

STATENEWS

Bush probably would not meet with gay GOP group

(AP) — George W. Bush, appearing relaxed and composed in his first live Sunday talk show interview, said he probably would not meet with a gay Republican group.

"I don't believe in group thought, pitting one group of people against another," the GOP presidential front-runner said from the Texas governor's mansion.

He offered no new policy initiatives as he sought to reinforce his readiness for the White House. "I will bring honor and dignity to the White House, just like I've done as the governor of Texas," he said, emphasizing the theme of his latest commercial in New Hampshire.

A top rival, Arizona Sen. John McCain, who has met with the Log Cabin Republicans, said the GOP is a party of inclusion in the tradition of Abraham Lincoln. Publisher Steve Forbes said he was "open" to a meeting with the group, the Log Cabin Republicans.

Bush touched on affirmative action, Social Security, HMO reform and other topics during his hour-long interview on NBC's "Meet the Press."

NATIONALNEWS

Two students dead after Penn State bus accident

WHITE HAVEN, Pa. (AP) — Four charter buses loaded with Penn State University students crashed on a foggy interstate early Sunday, killing a student and a bus driver and injuring at least 106 people, authorities said.

The four buses were among six carrying 280 students home from a shopping trip to New York, officials said.

University President Graham B. Spanier said the buses hit a "very thick wall of fog" while traveling on Interstate 80 just after midnight.

The ensuing chain-reaction wreck involved three of the buses smashing into one another with a fourth hitting a guard rail. A pickup truck and two cars also became tangled in the wreckage, officials said.

The bus driver who died, Robert Clifford Burge, 50, of Altoona, was in the second of the four buses. The student, whose name was not released, was in the first row of seats on the third bus, Spanier said.

At least five people, including another bus driver who underwent surgery, remained hospitalized in serious condition Sunday, he said. Police didn't know the conditions Sunday of the drivers and passengers in the cars.

WORLDNEWS

Russians tighten hold on perimeter of Chechen capital

SLEPTSOVSKAYA, Russia (AP) — More than 5,000 rebels have barricaded themselves in the Chechen capital, bracing for a Russian offensive as federal troops close in after weeks of relentless shelling, military officials said Sunday.

On Chechnya's borders, refugees pushed through wet snow and a damp wind to flee the breakaway republic. Most were on foot, though some crossed in cars sagging with sweaters, pots and blankets.

Russian forces have the capital, Grozny, 80 percent surrounded and were trying to complete the circle by advancing on the towns of Urus-Martan and Achkhoy-Martan.

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Dykes era comes to an end

Winningest coach in Tech history retires after 13 seasons



Tech football coach Spike Dykes and his wife Sharon salute the crowd after Saturday's 38-28 win against Oklahoma.

by Patrick Gonzales
Staff Writer

The joyous trek into the locker room that always follows a Texas Tech victory soon became a scene of sadness and disbelief.

The Red Raiders, after upsetting the Oklahoma Sooners 38-28, were told they had just played their last regular season game with their coach, their friend and legend.

There had been speculations all season surrounding the future of Tech head coach Spike Dykes, and after the contest, he made it official, announcing his retirement after a 13-year career.

"That's my last ball game in this stadium, and if we're lucky enough to get to a bowl game, then we'll talk about that," said Dykes, who retires as the school's all-time winningest coach with a 82-67-1 record. "I love the people in this town, and I love these students. You hate to say it, but everything has come to an end."

Despite the increased criticism this season, Dykes said he was not pressured to retire by any Tech officials but just felt the time was right.

He received criticism this year for the squad's inconsistent season, but it reached its high after the Red Raiders loss to North Texas on Sept. 18.

Just three weeks ago, two of his players were arrested on drug charges and were suspended indefinitely from the team.

"It's been a crazy year," said Dykes about his reasoning. "When you go through a year like this, you think, 'I believe I'll get me a rod and reel, a driver, some shag balls and see if I can't hit 'em and catch 'em.'"

Dykes began his coaching career in 1959 as an assistant at Eastland High School. He joined the Tech coaching staff in 1986 as defensive coordinator and was moved to head coach the same year for the squad's last game of the season.

He returned the next year and has never looked back.

"I got to stay for a while, and there were a thousand people better qualified, several thousand more deserving," Dykes said.

"It'll be hard driving off into the sunset. I was born over there across the street."

"My daddy went to high school in Lubbock. My mother and daddy went to Texas Tech, so it's more than just a job for me. I can truly say that I'm proud to be a Red Raider."

Dykes said the biggest factor he will miss is all the players who have come through the program during his career.

Tech cornerback Anthony Malbrough felt the same way.

"Coach Dykes is a very honest and great guy, and I loved playing for him," Malbrough said. "If coach Dykes ever needs anything and I have it, he can call me 'cause I really love coach Dykes."

Even though Dykes kept the news of his retirement from the squad until Saturday, many Tech players already knew.

Tech running back James Easterling said some of the players heard it on ESPN on Thursday, but the announcement still was a little shocking.

"Everybody was crying because we all love coach Dykes, and we don't care what everybody else says," Easterling said. "We were the ones who were with him everyday, so we know how the man operates."

Clemson offensive coordinator Rich Rodriguez and Oklahoma offensive coordinator Mike Leach have confirmed they have been contacted by Tech officials for the job.

Whoever the replacement is, Dykes said, it would be a breathe of fresh air and a good deal.

"Try to have as much fun as I did, and if he can do that, it would be great," Dykes said of his advice to the next coach. "I had fun. I had a ball."

Tech students affected by new amendments

by Andy Jones
Staff Writer

Two state constitutional amendments were passed Nov. 2 that will impact Texas Tech and college students around the state.

Proposition 13 calls for issuing more bonds to fund financial aid and Proposition 17 affects Tech indirectly by giving the University of Texas and Texas A&M more freedom with the Permanent University Fund.

Proposition 13 allows the legislature to authorize the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to issue up to \$400 million in new general-obligation bonds to finance student loans, according to the Texas State Legislature Web site.

Earl Hudgins, director of Financial Aid at Tech, said the amendment is part of an ongoing process, which has allowed voters to approve \$960 million in general-obligation bonds since 1965 for the Hinson-Hazlewood College Student Loan Program.

He said the bonds go toward funding a program that covers College Access loans and a number of Stafford loans.

The College Access loan allows parents to receive loans for students at a lower interest rate, Hudgins said.

"It is designed to be kind of like a parent loan, only in the student's name," Hudgins said.

"It is signed by a credit worthy co-signer, usually a parent, and does not require any payments until after a student has graduated or left a school."

He said the loan allows students to build a credit history. Because of the nature of the Texas Legislature, Hudgins said these types of bonds have always been in the form of a constitutional amendment.

"In order to go above the previous order, it takes an amendment," he said. "Bonds are issued on full faith and credit of the state of Texas."

see **BONDS**, p. 2

Law school looks to branch out to UTPA

Talks surface about possible distance learning

by Cory Chandler
Staff Writer

State Rep. Roberto Gutierrez, D-McAllen, has approached the Texas Tech Board of Regents to pass a proposal to establish a branch of Tech's School of Law at the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg.

The proposed program would involve up to 25 Rio Grande Valley students, who would be taught mostly by professors in Edinburg. The students also would participate in a limited amount of classes taught by Tech professors using video conferencing.

These students would spend two years at UT-Pan American and return to the Tech campus for their last year.

Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, opposes the plan. He said he believes the use of video conferencing in law education would be "downgrading legal education."

He said distance learning limits students by restricting the interaction with the law school professors.

Rep. Irma Rangel, D-Kingsville and chairwoman of the Higher Education Committee, also opposes the plan. She said students would be receiving a third-rate education.

see **LAW BRANCH**, p. 2

Spirited Opening



Lady Raider fans cheer on the squad in the closing minutes of their first-ever win at the United Spirit Arena on Saturday.

Arena impresses fans, coaches, players

by Andrew Thompson
Staff Writer

At 8:07 p.m. Friday, in a basketball game against the the University of Indiana Hoosiers, a new era in Texas Tech sports was inaugurated at the United Spirit Arena.

And even though the Red Raiders were handed their first loss of the season, also Tech's first game in the arena, almost everyone was happy to finally see the new arena.

Despite some minor glitches, including a low-volume public address system and faulty lighting during the pregame introductions, many fans were impressed.

"Tech got a lot of bang for their buck," said Tech fan Jim Ross from Grand Prairie, referring to the arena's \$62-million price tag. "If they didn't get their money's worth, shame on somebody because this is a grand place."

Brad Allen, a sophomore public relations major from Pampa, said he

was impressed with Tech's new home.

"It's a good atmosphere for basketball," he said.

"It took a while to finally get in here, but I like the results. Besides, I get to sit close so I can heckle Bobby Knight."

One fan sitting close to Allen held a sign that read, "Hey Bobby, don't break it, it's new!" referring to the famed coach's frequent temper tantrums and chair-throwing antics.

Even Indiana fans and administrators couldn't help but admire the arena.

Steve Downing, Indiana's assistant athletic director, said he wished Indiana had a facility to play in like the Red Raiders'.

"It's an outstanding arena, a very fab facility," he said. "It's as nice as anything in the Big 10 or anywhere where we play."

Donna Wall, a Hoosier fan who drove from Oklahoma City for the contest, echoed Downing's comments.

"This place is beautiful, there's lots of light," she said. "I wish we had something like this on Indiana's campus in Bloomington. It's simply great, and you can see from anywhere."

Robert Rodriguez, a Tech supporter from Lubbock, sat in the very corner seat in the last row in section 270. Nevertheless, he said he enjoyed his view of the game.

"This place looks great," he said. "It's big, almost overwhelming."

"The arena is very upbeat, and it should help take Tech to the next level. They say this place doesn't have a bad seat, and it doesn't. It's just a little cold up here, though."

Even former Red Raider guard Stan Bonewitz, who never had a chance to play in the arena, said it is "awesome."

"It's the nicest college environment in college basketball," he said. "It would have been nice to play in here because the arena is big time. This is how Division I basketball should be."

Symposium brings celebrities to Hub City

by Sebastian Kitchen
Staff Writer

Gold medalists, sports MVPs, actors and platinum-recording artists all have to deal with one thing — self-esteem.

Celebrities shared time and stories with Lubbock-area seventh-grade girls Friday at the Secret To Self-Esteem Symposium. The women were joined at the all-day event by doctors and other notable women to discuss self-esteem and the issues surrounding it.

"We all need role models, that's why we brought some women who have done some spectacular things," said Dr. Ann Kearney-Cooke, director of the Cincinnati Psychotherapy Institute and a leading authority on adolescent issues.

All of the celebrities at the symposium have done spectacular things.

Cynthia Cooper is the two-time WNBA MVP for the Houston Comets. Her teammate, Tina Thompson, was the first to be selected in the WNBA draft. Gail Devers is an accomplished Olympic athlete. Tiffany Milbrett was the highest-scoring player in last summer's women's World Cup. Amy Jo Johnson has acted in popular television shows "Power Rangers" and "Felicity." At the age of 20, Mya Harrison already has a platinum album under her belt.

Sheryl Swoopes led the Lady Raiders to a national championship in 1993, won a gold medal with the national team at the Olympics and now is an all-star with the Houston Comets. Jennifer Gillom is the center for the Phoenix Mercury. Mary Ellen Clark is a highly-accomplished diver.

Despite what these women have done, everyone said they have struggled with self-esteem, and they

want to share that with the girls. Each seventh-grader was accompanied by an older mentor of their choice.

Swoopes said she started to doubt herself after she left the WNBA to have her son.

"Coming back after I had my son, I had a lot of stress," she said.

The star became dehydrated and was hospitalized. Swoopes said she just needed to learn to deal with her problems and changes in her body.

"You should not let your body image be synonymous with the words 'supermodel' and 'airbrushed,'" Swoopes said.

Johnson told the girls and their mentors she was one of the "worst" people who struggles with self-esteem.

She said she would sit on her car for an hour and cry, and she would hide from people. Although she has learned to deal with it, she still struggles with her self-esteem every day. Johnson has turned dealing with her problems into a positive thing.

"All my creativity comes from this process of building my self-esteem,"

Johnson said.

Johnson grew up in small-town Massachusetts with a strict family. Her family did not have much money.

"I couldn't do all the normal things everyone was doing," she said. "I was pretty much a freak."

Thompson said she felt out of place growing up when she was the only girl in the neighborhood who wanted to play basketball.

She said the boys would throw her ball out the door and harass her.

"I took it as a challenge and played by myself everyday," Thompson said. "Just because it is unfamiliar, doesn't mean it's not cool."

She said it is important to let young girls know celebrities went through many of the same problems at their age.

"As role models, we can let them know we went through the same situations," Thompson said. "We can help them get through it. This is so important because I remember growing up, I didn't have anyone to look up to."

The athletes and entertainers should take the positions of role models, Thompson said.

"We are all excited about the position to be role models," she said. "It excites us to be here. That is why we come. That is why we're here."

Thompson said she wants the girls to know they should feel comfortable with what they are doing or with what they want to do.

The stars stayed all day Friday, talking with the girls and hugging them. Cooper even sang and danced for the seventh-graders while they were waiting for the final discussion to begin. The girls in attendance watched smiling and so did their mentors.

The smiles lasted all day.

Ashley Kemp, who attends Irons Junior High, said she had a great day and thought the symposium was a great idea. She said she learned a lot and was "going to change the goals in her life."

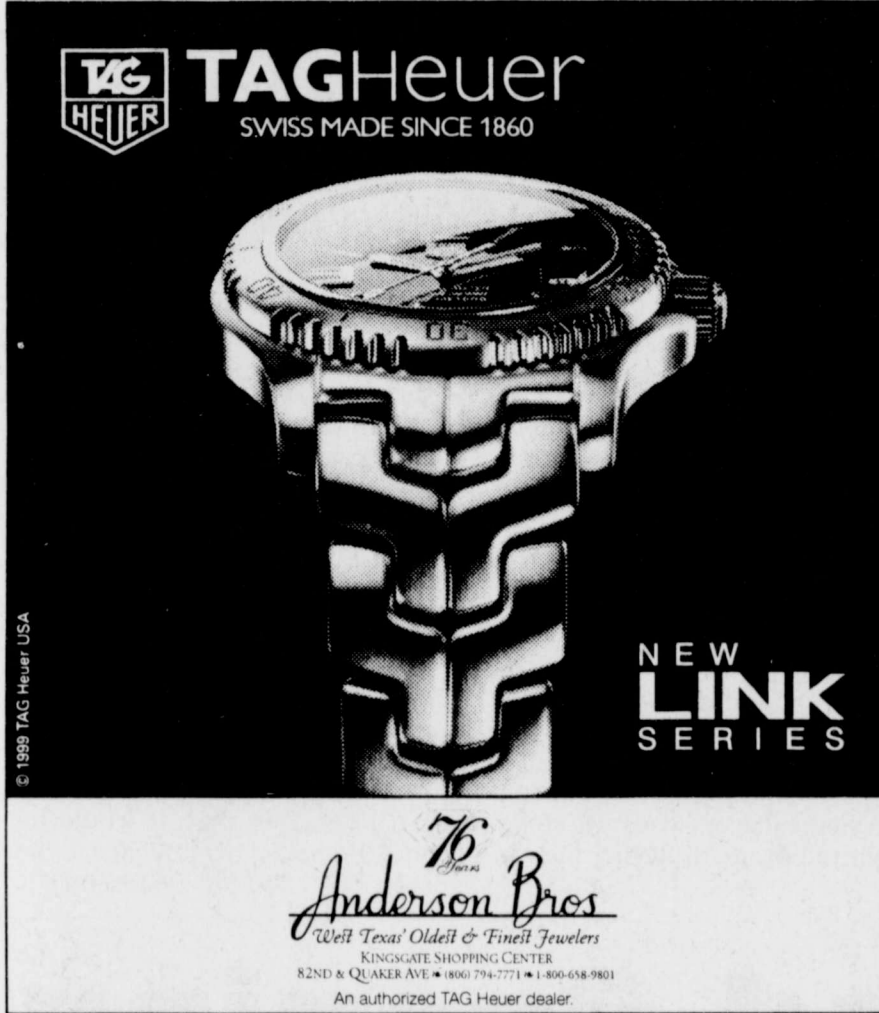
"People have really opened up and talked and learned stuff," she said.

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BONDS, from p. 1
According to the State Legislature Web site, Proposition 17 amends Article 1 to allow the UT and A&M regents to determine

distributions from the Permanent University Fund to the Available University Fund.

Robin Blanchard, chief of staff for Rep. Carl Isett, said by allowing UT and A&M to freely invest PUF money

into high-risk, quick-return investments, more money will be made available for the Higher Education Assistance Fund, which funds non-land grant state universities such as Tech.

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LAW BRANCH, from p. 1
Gutierrez said the program would provide students of the Rio Grande Valley an opportunity to attend law school close to home. He also said the students would be dealing with law professors two-thirds of the time.

"Video conferencing is good enough for businesses. Even the medical world is using it," Gutierrez said. "If a program like this isn't implemented now, it will be within the next decade. This would give Tech nationwide recognition because it would be the first of its kind."

He said there would be almost no start-up cost in implementing the program, since most of the equipment is already in place for other classes. He also said tenured professors from Tech already have

offered to fly to Edinburg during the summer to teach classes. At the moment, Chancellor John Montford said Tech has no plans to move forward on establishing the center at the UT-Pan America. He said he would not submit the proposal to the Board of Regents unless it had the support of the regional legislators.

Gutierrez told reporters that the plans to contact the regents individually and ask them to vote on the proposal. He also said UT-Pan America is considering the University of Houston School of Law if Tech regents do not approve the measure.

If the regents do approve the new law program, it will still have to be considered by the American Bar Association and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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Meningococcus Update

A recent 20/20 segment on ABC reported the risks of the disease meningococcus and the use of a vaccine for it. Student Health Services has had calls from concerned parents and students so it is important to address these issues and clear up any questions and misconceptions.

- Meningococcus is a bacterial infection usually infecting young children and the elderly, however, young adults living in close quarters such as residence halls are also at an increased risk of the infection.
- The risk for residence hall students is increased from 1 chance in 100,000 to 3 chances in 100,000. Students living off campus have no increased risk.
- Statistically the City of Lubbock should have 2-3 cases each year, but this rate has been below average in the past 5 years. Nationally, there are around 2,600 reported cases each year, mostly in small children under the age of 4.
- There are several strains of the disease - A,B,C,W, and Y. The vaccine does not cover "B", which is the most common strain in the U.S. and would prevent less than half of the current cases of meningococcus per year. For A,C,W, and Y the vaccine is very effective. Re-vaccination is required every 3-5 years.

- The Center for Disease Control and the American College Health Association have made the recommendation that all college students living in residence halls should consider obtaining the meningococcus vaccine.
- The vaccine should be given to all people with complement deficiency (a rare blood disease), an absent spleen, and those with HIV or cancer.
- Student Health Services in Thompson Hall has the vaccine available for \$60.00 payable at the time you receive the vaccine. Student Health does not accept insurance. You may call Student Health Services at 743-2848 for more information or to make an appointment to receive the vaccine.
- You might want to check into getting the vaccine from your hometown health care provider. Check with your insurance. It may cover the cost of the vaccine.

This information is provided by Student Health Services at Texas Tech University. You can contact Student Health Services at 743-2860

This is a STUDENT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT provided by the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. Announcements will be issued periodically throughout the school year.

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Internet classes aid disabled students

by Rebecca Wilkinson
Contributing Writer

Although online courses can be more convenient than traditional classes, they can cause problems for disabled students.

Texas Tech has recognized those problems and is working to avoid them.

Tech offers several online courses through the Extended Studies Distance Education program and through regular on-campus enrollment, said Denise Johnson, counseling supervisor and coordinator of AccessTECH.

AccessTECH is Tech's academic accommodation and disability support program. The program can assist all of Tech's disabled students, including those taking distance education classes.

"No one (with a disability) has requested accommodations for a distance learning course, but the help is available," Johnson said.

The Americans with Disabilities Act mandates that all state school facilities and courses, including online courses, be accessible to all students, said Mario Payne, HEATH Center Resource Manager for Educational Technology in Washington, D.C.

The HEATH Center is a nongov-

ernmental agency that focuses on providing leadership and guidance to colleges and universities.

"Technology is rapidly advancing, and we are having to strive to find creative solutions to allow students with disabilities to reap the benefits of the many technological advances that are available," Payne said.

Online classes limit students with visual impairments the most because they are unable to view the text and graphics, Payne said.

Text-reading computer programs assist vision-impaired students. However, these programs cannot interpret graphics or screen frames.

Johnson said AccessTECH can provide various types of accommodations for disabled Tech students. Note takers, test readers, and test scribes can be provided to disabled students who qualify for assistance.

"There are a number of technical devices and software programs that allow students with disabilities to be successful in college," Johnson said.

AccessTECH works closely with the Texas Commission for the Blind and the Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

"The Texas Commission for the Blind offers various devices for students to check out along with computers and other forms of assisted

technology, such as text-reading computer programs, that students can use at the commission's offices," Johnson said.

The Texas Commission for the Blind has an office on campus, located on the third floor of the library.

Johnson said certain forms of Web site formatting can cause problems for the text readers and information can get lost in the translation.

"Programs are improving every year," Johnson said.

"Soon the programs will be able to understand formatting and nothing will be lost in the translation."

Ellen Peffley, an associate professor of horticulture, is already in the process of modifying her Principles of Horticulture course Web site to meet the needs of disabled students.

"We just received a \$88,800 U.S. Department of Agriculture Challenge Grant," Peffley said. "It is a higher

education grant that is awarded to state research education and extension service cooperative programs. We are planning to use the grant to modify our Internet course to assist students (with sight disabilities) in learning about horticulture."

Peffley plans to use a computer program that translates text into audio to accommodate visually impaired students.

"Blind students will be able to listen to the course information, and they will be able to learn to identify plant material by definition and description only," Peffley said.

Several visually-impaired students successfully completed the horticulture course.

"I had two students (with sight disabilities) and one deaf student take the course in the traditional classroom setting, and they were some of the best students I had ever

"Web courses would eliminate the barriers and level the playing field."

William McCaughan
vice provost of outreach and extended studies at Tech

Tech theatre gets honor, new name

by Brooke Beavers
Contributing Writer

The Texas Tech University Theatre was renamed officially to the Charles E. Maedgen Jr. Theatre on Sunday.

Texas Tech President Donald Haragan spoke at the dedication ceremony that honored the late Maedgen and his support to performing arts at Tech and within the Lubbock community.

The ceremony also recognized a donation made to the theatre by his wife, Louise, to pay tribute to his life and the theatre.

Tech officials did not release the amount of the donation.

"I hope that this will stimulate more giving," Louise said. "The arts have always had such difficult times. Charles was involved in the symphony, the Museum of Texas Tech, and I chose to give this because his heart was in the theatre."

Lisa Maedgen White, daughter of Maedgen, and her children attended the event. White said she was honored they could attend because her children never knew her father.

"This allows them to now know who and what type of a person their grandfather really was," she said.

Haragan said the arts have been a part of Tech from the beginning and

donations such as this are greatly appreciated.

"We're thankful that the people in this community, like Louise Maedgen, come forward to support the finances of the Texas Tech Theatre," he said.

The donation will help renovate and expand the 35-year-old building. Plans include the expansion of the lobby area to allow for more office space and provide a more central location of the box office.

The donation also will allow the entry way and restrooms to be fully compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

Norman Bert, director of the Tech Department of Theatre and Dance, said the new changes will allow the department to serve its audience better.

"It will enhance the experience for them," Bert said. "It will also improve the ability to educate our students." Bert also said it is the "Charles Juniors" who consistently support the arts.

Faculty and students of the theatre department also attended the event and expressed their gratitude towards the Maedgen family.

"It's nice to see money going to the arts," said Austin Sanford, a junior theatre major from Lubbock.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 22						
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7:00	Bloomberg Body Elec.	Today Show	Early Show	Resces Sabrina	Good Morning America	News Paid Program
8:00	Street	Mr. Rogers Barney	Later Today	Martin Short	K. Copeland Nanny	Regis & Kathie Lee
9:00	Teletubbies	M. Stewart	Price is Right	Donny & Marie	View	Divorce CL
10:00	Zooom!oo	Sunset Beach	Young & the Restless	Forgive or Forget	All My Children	People's Court
11:00	Henderson	News Days of Our Lives	News Beautiful	News Spring	News Port Charles	Mills Lane
12:00	Comp. Chron. Barney	Lives Passions	As the World Turns	Ricki Lake	One Life to Live	Matlock
1:00	T. Tugboat	Hywld Square	Guiding Light	Paid Program Liv'g Single	General Hospital	Paid Program Magic Bus
2:00	Arthur	Rosie O'Donnell	Mauri Povich	Grace Fire	Sally Jessy Raphael	Monstar Wars
3:00	Zoom	R. Rainbow	Family Feud	Enquirer	Montel Williams	Digimon PG Galaxy
4:00	Krait's	News NBC News	News CBS News	Ricki Lake	News ABC News	Home Impt Simpsons
5:00	Newshour	News	News Wifortune	Judge Judy	News	Voyager
6:00	Antiques Roadshow	Friends PG	King/Queens	Ladies Man	Moesha	20/20
7:00	Frontline	Law & Order	Raymond Becker PG	Grown Ups	Malc./Eddie	MNF: Oakland @
8:00	Nightly Bus.	News Tonight Show	News David	Joe Brown	Joe Brown	Simpsons Frasier
9:00	Coman	Letman Craig	Greg Mathis	News Nightline	Cheers Coach	
10:00	O'Brien	Later	Kimberl	Real TV	News Paid Program	Blind Date Paid Program

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26 King Arthur's paradise
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36 Hammarskjold
37 River to the Gulf of Lions
38 Quote an example
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41 Kathy of "Misery"
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FORBIDDEN



Incident serves as a reminder of just how precious life is

Someone named Rhonda Creed once said, "Tragedy is God's way of reminding us to treasure every day." No more does that ring true in this state, and especially in College Station, than right now.



Brandon Formby
Columnist

In the early morning hours of Thursday, Texas A&M students were working. They were building. They were planning. The spectacle that would soon become A&M's annual bonfire was coming together. One second they were a part of a long-lived, much-loved tradition. The next they were immersed in chaos.

When the logs that were to become the beloved bonfire collapsed, killing 12 of the 60 students, it brought down with it a shockwave of surreal disbelief and grief that shot through College Station and even the nation.

The frantic phone calls in and out of the town began. E-mail, often criticized as being a cold and callous means of communication, was now ripe with assurance from survivors and requests for prayers for the not-so-lucky.

On Friday, pictures plastered the front pages of newspapers and flooded the air waves. Images were of cranes lifting logs, rescue workers digging through the debris and students watching in silent disbelief.

The stories were now being heard. Stories of the survivors being stuck under pounds of timber. Stories of witnesses who saw the split-second terror first hand. And stories of the vigil at Rudder Auditorium that was inconceivably overflowing with people — not just from A&M, but from all over Texas.

Ever since anyone can remember, A&M has been a school proud of the fact that no one understood its traditionally-based, tightly-

woven community. This tragedy, however, has abolished all of that. The sight of that auditorium completely full of people, the image of the bonfire site surrounded by students praying, the tears and the hugs — for once, everyone understood what it was like to be an Aggie. It's about family and closeness, survival and support.

And for once, there were no college rivalries, no jokes, no adversity. Bonfire is an A&M tradition. But in so many ways, it has long since been a statewide spectacle, attracting students from every school. Those of us who have never been to see it have at least seen pictures or heard stories about the wondrous, almost mythical sight. This was not just a part of A&M, but a part of Texas. The familiarity of the event, the common tie of involved college students and the randomness of the tragedy brought it all closer to home for everyone.

One of my Aggie friends said he had never seen so many people gathered together for prayer since he has been at A&M.

"Walking around bonfire site, I was able to eavesdrop on some conversations, and it seriously seemed like everybody was talking about God and prayer," he said. "Even the newscasters were trying to get everybody to pray."

As of yet, no one is sure why this happened. No one is certain whether there will ever be another bonfire. But there are few certainties that have stemmed from this event. When it comes to the human condition, rivalries and grudges are quickly forgotten as compassion consumes the heart.

When it really matters, people don't care what school they come from, who beat who in football or who tore down whose goal post. When it really matters, people do still understand that we all have one common bond underneath it all — we are all human, vulnerable to the tragedies of the world and prone to feeling the emotions that accompany them.

And as long as there are tragedies like this one and students enrolled in classes, there will always be prayer in school.

Brandon Formby is a junior journalism major from Plano.

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Women moving up in film roles

A few years ago, I heard a history professor from Southwest Texas State University comment on the female Academy Award nominees. She mentioned that Elizabeth Shue was nominated for playing a prostitute in "Leaving Las Vegas," Mira Sorvino for playing a prostitute in "Mighty Aphrodite," and Susan Sarandon for playing a nun in "Dead Man Walking." The professor's gist was that it was a bleak state of affairs for women's roles in Hollywood.



Cambria Stamper
Columnist

Personally, I've begun a deliberate trek down memory lane to learn the tradition of strong women that exists in American film history. Katherine Hepburn played a fiery, witty woman in my new favorite movie, "The Philadelphia Story." Bette Davis burned up conventions in many roles like "All About Eve;" Ingrid Bergman embodied smart, capable women in "Spellbound;" and Audrey Hepburn defied tradition by giving Holly Golightly life in "Breakfast at Tiffany's."

In the recent past, women blazed through roles traditionally played by men. Linda Hamilton kicked butt in "Terminator II," Geena Davis played an action hero in "Long Kiss Goodnight," and Sigourney Weaver axed extraterrestrials in the "Alien" series. Some critics cited this as a negative period, however, lamenting the fact that women had resorted to using violence to represent power.

Another group of Hollywood films portrayed women seeking alternative lives, but for a few years, these characters did not fare well. "Thelma and Louise" is the classic example of this search. Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon, who continue to play original characters, became icons for many women asking for more in their lives. But as I've said, the characters' fate is a much-debated issue. Some see their final choice as a dignified rebellion; others argue that it falls short and is unacceptable. It certainly fueled much-

needed debate on women's stories in Hollywood. Other films in this vein are "Legends of the Fall" and "First Knight" with Julia Ormond.

So are things looking any more diverse a few years down the road?

Demi Moore and Sharon Stone have shaken up things in Hollywood, and they have also divided critics on their contributions. I have heard it said that Demi Moore has "pushed the envelope for women's roles." But a beautiful woman taking her clothes off in Hollywood doesn't seem out of the ordinary to me. And using her considerable influence to act in a movie in which a beautiful female superior sexually harasses her male employee was irresponsible, to say the least — opportunistic at best — when the necessary attention to this issue was still being debated in the aftermath of Anita Hill. Yet Moore also played a sharp lawyer in "A Few Good Men" and a determined female soldier in "G.I. Jane," bringing a drastically ambivalent cast to her career.

My favorite recent movies include "Tea With Mussolini" with the indomitable Cher, Lily Tomlin and a brigade of strong female characters. Another wonderful sleeper is "Living Out Loud" with Holly Hunter, Queen Latifah and Danny DeVito.

The Hollywood scene still remains mighty white, though. "Living Out Loud" breaks several conventions, with a divorced, middle-aged woman as the protagonist. Unlike Sandra Bullock's "Hope Floats," this film explores life for a divorced woman reclaiming her life without hinging on romance — very unlike Hollywood. Although I find this to be a remarkable film for its departure from the expected, most reviews I read found it frustrating for this same reason. "Living Out Loud" also looks at interracial friendship, another rare topic in Hollywood.

We still don't see many women of color in Hollywood, and when we do, they are not in "crossover" roles. Denzel Washington has successfully broken the "crossover" convention (the goal of which is debatable anyway). Jennifer Lopez has gained ground for women in this area, though, in "Out of Sight." Vanessa Williams also played opposite Arnold Schwarzenegger in "Eraser" and was the lead in "Dance With Me." Whitney Houston starred in "The Bodyguard," and Angela Bassett in

several films like "How Stella Got Her Groove Back," and "What's Love Got to Do With It." We could definitely see more of women of color, though, in Hollywood.

Last year saw excellent roles for women, such as "Elizabeth," with one of my favorite actresses, Cate Blanchett. She is stunning in the Australian "Oscar and Lucinda," also. And Gwyneth Paltrow inspired in "Shakespeare in Love." I wonder, though, that though Elizabeth is without question a strong role, she is also a martyr for giving up her personal life to rule. The current "The Messenger," about Joan of Arc, is also a strong role, but again, she is a martyr, and the film title emphasizes Joan's passivity instead of courage.

The Bond film also troubles me. Having grown up loving Bond movies, I like them as much as anyone. There is a pattern, however, to the women in the series (I mean, beyond being Bond's bed buddies). There are one to several beauties who Bond dallies with, and then one serious beauty who Bond focuses on. This seems to hold true in the latest film, but the wonderful French Sophie Marceau brings plenty of fire to this "serious beauty," though I have only seen the trailer. Most troubling about this current film, though, is that the respected powerhouse Judi Dench plays Bond's superior. What's a bummer about this is that while she has just been instated as his boss in the former film, the writers have her subjected to a stereotypical female role of being kidnapped and in need of rescue. Perhaps she saves herself, but I am doubtful.

There is so much left to be discussed in a larger space than here, such as independent film actresses such as Lily Taylor and Christina Ricci, who have "broken" into Hollywood films, though most often in typical, highly-sexualized roles. And the unusual Juliette Lewis. The popularity of bridal movies could also have a go-round here. But for now, I think it's safe to say that women's roles are improving or regaining lost ground. Susan Sarandon is producing her own movies, and there is evidence that Hollywood seems to think it less risky to take a few more chances after the success of films like "First Wives Club" and "Elizabeth."

Cambria Stamper is a doctoral student in the Department of English.

EDITORIAL

Sympathy extended to A&M

We are writing to express our sincere condolences to the students, families and friends of the victims in Thursday's bonfire accident at Texas A&M.

In times of constant rivalry and competition, we want to extend to our fellow college students and friends at A&M the support needed to help them cope with their losses.

Although we cannot begin to imagine the pain and suffering felt by those who lost loved ones, we can only sympathize and offer a caring embrace and a heartfelt "we're thinking of you."

When it seems that the only form of connection we have with one another is in the athletic arena, we want to let you know that it goes deeper than that. It exists in the form of great humility and admiration.

Let this incident remind all of us that life is too precious and too short not to make the best of the time we have left. Your friends are looking down on you and are cheering you on to achieve better and go farther than ever before.

The relationship Aggies have with one another is unfathomable to those of us on the outside, but we all kind of felt what it is like to be an Aggie this weekend as we shared your loss.

On behalf of the Texas Tech student body, we give you our Guns Up.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks from A&M

To All of Texas Tech University: As a student at Texas A&M University in College Station, I would like to thank Texas Tech University for its prompt and sincere support for the Aggies in our time of need. You have no idea what this means to the entire campus of TAMU that you took the time to stop and comfort fellow Texans. Thank you and God bless.

the TAMU Student Body

End of the beginning?

To the editor: The fate of the Texas A&M bonfire tradition should rest in the hands of the students, not officials. The tragic deaths of 11 Texas A&M students have officials questioning the 90-year-old tradition of the bonfire. Texas A&M students collaborate in erecting the 40-foot pyramid of logs every year right before the football game with rival UT. The bonfire is a one-of-a-kind event that sets Texas A&M apart from every other university. Participating in the construction of the bonfire gives Aggie students a sense of pride and accomplishment. When the pile of logs collapsed upon 11 students killing them, an Aggie's worst nightmare came true. This is not only because classmates were lost or that this year's bonfire was canceled, but because the future of the long-lived tradition is now on shaky ground.

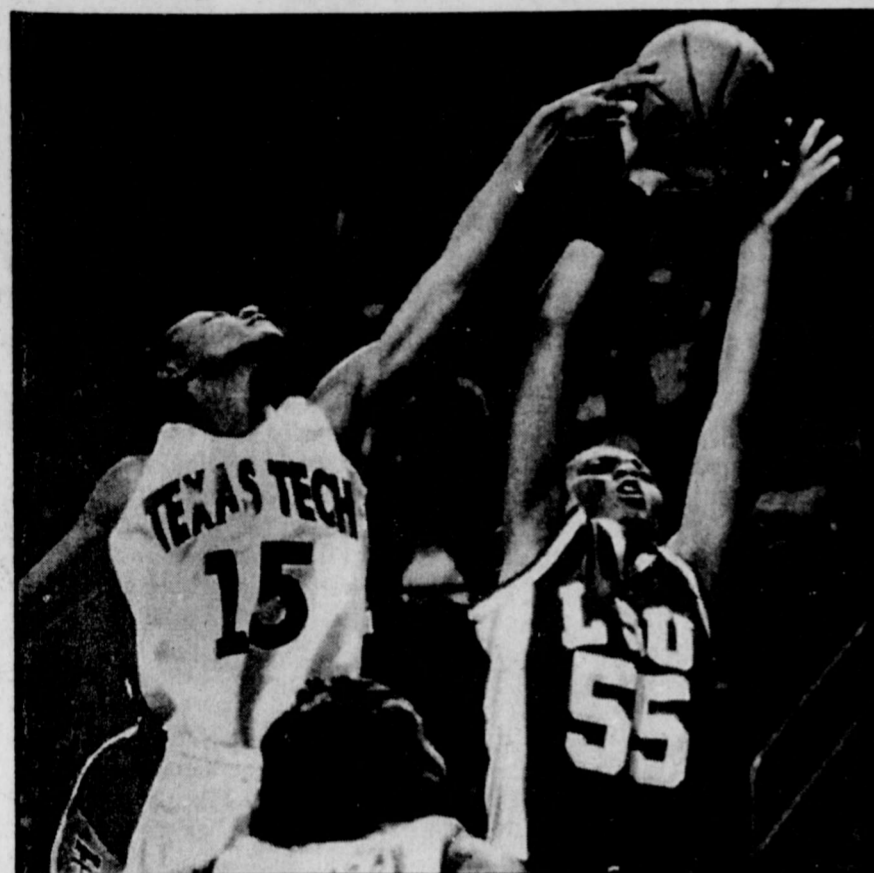
This year's event has been canceled, and the debate has already begun about its future. School officials are debating whether to do away with the annual event due to the recent tragedy. Students at A&M say ending the 90-year-old tradition would mean the victims of Thursday's accident died for nothing. Former A&M football coach Jackie Sherrill reportedly agrees. He reportedly says if the school does away with the bonfire, it might as well do away with all the other traditions. I feel that with everything there's a risk. Doing away with such a loved tradition because of one unfortunate turn of events is unfair to future Aggies. If last year was the last Aggie bonfire, then it was the year of the last complete Aggie experience. Future students will never feel the "unity of Aggie spirit" or "sense of pride and accomplishment" that only a former student of A&M can understand. Ray Bowen, president of A&M, is in the process of assembling a task force to study all the factors before deciding if the 90-year-old bonfire tradition will continue. Whatever the outcome of the investigation, I hope the students get the final vote on whether or not to do away with the tradition. It is because of the students the tradition exists. Therefore, it should be the students who decide its fate.

Lacey Waldrep senior broadcast journalism

SPORTS

6 The University Daily

Monday, November 22, 1999



J.T. Aguilar/The University Daily

Tech forward Aleah Johnson goes up for a block during Saturday's contest against LSU. The Lady Raiders upset the Lady Tigers 56-49.

Lady Raiders upset LSU Tigers

by Amy Curry
Staff Writer

Though the No. 23 nationally-ranked Lady Raiders missed 14 out of their first 18 shots and shot only 36 percent from the floor, they made it up with offensive rebounds and outstanding defensive play as they upset No. 14-ranked Louisiana State 56-49 in their home opener Saturday in the Secret Four in the Fall Classic.

In their inaugural game at the United Spirit Arena, the Tech squad made their regular season debut in front of a full house.

Tech coach Marsha Sharp said she was excited about opening up the new arena with a win and was really proud of her squad's effort competing against an extremely talented team like LSU.

Sharp also said starting off the season against a nationally-ranked team and actually pulling out a win was more than she could hope for and was

a definite confidence-booster for the Lady Raiders.

"For a young team to exhibit that much intensity and that much courage, I think it says a lot for us," she said.

With four starters returning for LSU, it was a battle of experience against desire. And after losing Angie Braziel, Rene Hanebutt, Julie Lake and Cara Gibbs, who manufactured the bulk of Tech's points last season, the Lady Raiders were playing against the odds.

But a determined Tech squad would not accept its fate as it pulled out the seven-point upset.

Before the game, Sharp said she talked with the team, and they knew they might not win strictly with offense but felt if they played good defense, they might have a chance.

Tech out-rebounded LSU 42-31, 18 of which were offensive boards, and forced 22 turnovers.

In the first 20 minutes of action, it was a back-and-forth ball game. But

with 15,050 screaming fans behind them, the Tech squad wouldn't give way to LSU as the Lady Raiders maintained the lead throughout the half. Tech went into the locker room with a 29-21 halftime lead.

A re-energized LSU squad came alive during the last 20 minutes of the game as they outscored Tech 28-27. LSU tied the score at 45 on a jumper by DeTrina White with 5:13 left. White's shot capped a 6-0 run by the Tigers.

Senior forward Aleah Johnson had 16 points and knocked down key shots throughout the night for the Lady Raiders. But she found herself in foul trouble in the second half and was forced to watch from the sideline.

Once Johnson returned to the floor, she hit back-to-back shots that helped Tech re-establish a four-point lead at 49-45 with 4:10 to play. Johnson's first bucket ended a 3:30 scoring drought for the Lady Raiders.

"Coach Sharp had enough confi-

dence in me to put me back in," Johnson said.

"And I think, as a team, we did very well to overcome the adversity."

Sophomore guard Katrisa O'Neal finished with 13 points despite playing only 27 minutes. O'Neal also got into foul trouble early as she picked up her fourth foul with 14 minutes left to play in the game. She returned to bank in a shot from just inside the free-throw line to give Tech a 53-49 lead.

It was still anyone's game until freshman forward/center Plenette Pierson sealed the deal as she pulled down three defensive rebounds in the closing minutes, drew an offensive foul with more than a minute left and drained two vital free throws with 26 seconds remaining in the game to give Tech the 55-49 edge.

The Lady Raiders will hit the hardwood again when they face-off against Rice at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the United Spirit Arena.

Men's basketball team drops season opener

by Jeff Keller
Staff Writer

Despite a 30-point outing from center Andy Ellis, the Texas Tech men's basketball team's effort came up short Friday in a 68-60 loss to Indiana in the inaugural game at the United Spirit Arena.

The 6-foot-11-inch sophomore came away with 10 rebounds in addition to accounting for half of Tech's of-

fensive output in the season opener, but the Hoosiers proved to be too much for Tech to handle as they pulled off the victory.

Guard Rayford Young said with 15,050 screaming fans in attendance, the energy level played a big factor in Tech getting off to a good start.

"I really think the energy of the crowd helped us," Young said. "A lot of the guys were anxious and really ex-

cited to play. The crowd really gave us a boost in the first half and also when we were coming back in the second."

With his team trailing in the first half, Indiana coach Bobby Knight had some words of wisdom for his players during a timeout.

"I think what I said was probably fairly ingenious," Knight said. "I said if we don't get our ass in gear, we're going to get our ass beat."

The Hoosiers responded and battled back to take a 35-34 lead into the locker room at halftime.

After the half, the Hoosiers went on a 22-6 run to take their largest lead of the game at 57-42.

Hoosiers guard A.J. Guyton finished the game as Indiana's leading scorer with 22 points, and Young said Guyton's effort was key for Indiana.

With Indiana leading by 12 with less than five minutes remaining, a dunk by forward Mario Layne sent the crowd to its feet and cut the Hoosier's lead to 10.

With less than a minute to go, Ellis tallied the last two points in his 30-point effort to cut the Indiana lead to five, but free throws from Indiana guard Luke Jimenez and Guyton clinched the win.

Ellis topped his previous career-high point total by eight points and received words of encouragement from coach Knight after the game.

"He just told me that I played a real

good game," Ellis said. "He said that I played real well against their inside guys and that I shot the ball a lot better than he thought I could. I just went over to shake his hand and tell him he coached a good game, and he gave me a compliment."

The Raiders shot only 26.3 percent from the floor in the second half and went 0-for-8 from beyond the 3-point line.

Tech coach James Dickey was not pleased with the offensive performance of his team in the final half against the Hoosiers.

"When you look at the stats, we had players going 1-for-7 and 0-for-7 and that makes it tough," Dickey said. "We had some great shots in the second half; we just had the wrong people shooting them."

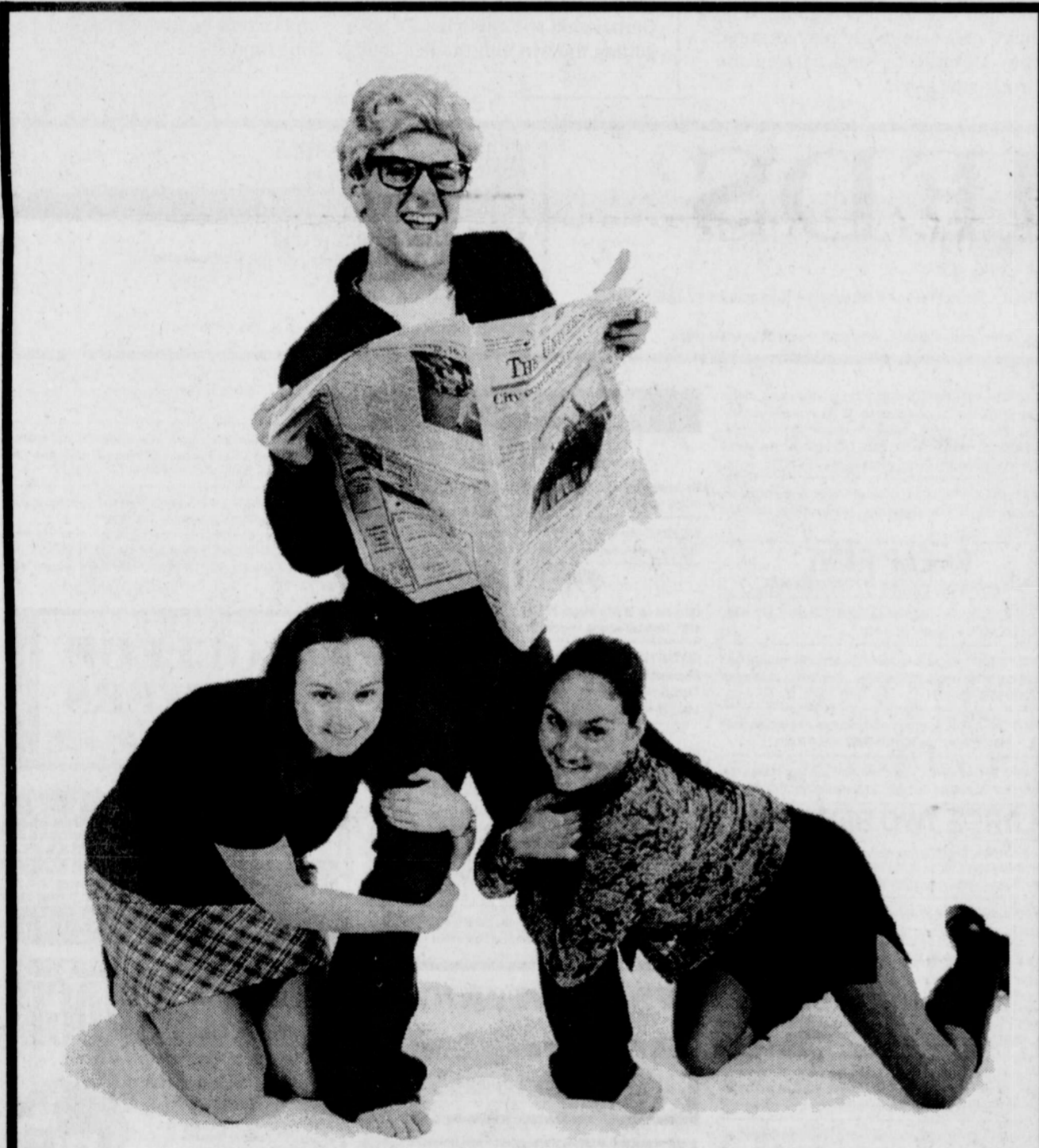
Layne was third on the team in scoring against Indiana with 11 points, and he pulled down eight rebounds but went 4-15 from the floor.



Greg Kreller/The University Daily

Tech Guard Rayford Young goes for a dunk in the 68-60 loss to Indiana.

"It's unfortunate that we lost," Layne said. "But we didn't really have everyone hitting on all cylinders. James Ware was 0-for-7, and I was 4-for-15 so we really didn't have all of the big guns playing as well as we can. So it's a tough loss, but it also gives us confidence."



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