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STATE

Fire triggers 737's emergency landing

DALLAS (AP) — An American Airlines 737 en route from Los Angeles to Orlando was forced to land at Midland International Airport on Sunday after a cockpit indicator light signaled a fire in the jet's cargo bay.

No injuries were reported when Flight 2044 landed about 1:20 p.m. There was no fire, American spokeswoman Andrea Rader said. The problem was with the light, she said.

Before the jet set down, the pilot told the 99 passengers to prepare for an emergency landing. Six crew members also were aboard.

"That's standard procedure," Rader said.

Passengers debarked from the plane at the terminal, Rader said. Members of the Midland Fire Department scanned the luggage as the air carrier's personnel checked the cockpit light.

Passengers were scheduled to re-board the jet and continue on to Orlando.

NATIONAL

Man awaits hearing for cursing charges

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) -Another Michigan man has run afoul of a century-old law that prohibits cursing in the presence of women and children.

Jeffery Richards, 27, is scheduled for a pretrial hearing Monday on charges of assault, disturbing the peace and using indecent language.

Earlier this year a judge ruled that the 102-year-old law is constitutional, and upheld the conviction of another man who swore in front of children after tumbling out of a canoe.

Richards is accused of using foul language in front of children on a school bus on Nov. 2. Richards said he used a mild obscenity, and only because he believed his daughter was being manhandled and verbally abused by the driver.

"I'm being charged with swearing on the bus and that's a pretty minor charge compared to grabbing my daughter," Richards

But Lake City Area Schools' Superintendent Lew Burchard said Richards used stronger language than he claimed and verbally threatened the driver.

WORLD

Fox touts immigrant treatment reformity

MEXICO CITY (AP) President Vicente Fox pledged Sunday to travel to the U.S. border soon to personally greet Mexicans returning home, providing an example of how he believes immigrants should be treated.

During a meeting with Mexican-American leaders, Fox repeated his vision of an economically strong, stable Mexico with jobs for its people and wages that eventually could compete with those in the United States.

"The dream is that each kid, each young person, each of our children could stay with his family on this side of the border, could stay here in Mexico," he said.

His comments were greeted with tears and cheers of "It can be done!" Fox urged those attending the

event to invest in Mexico, promising that their dollars will be used to create job opportunities.

The University

SERVING TEXAS TECH SINCE 1925

INSIDE TODAY'S ISSUE

Lady Raiders ready to tame Lobos....p.8

Lubbock, Texas

Shower peeper lurking

By Jeff Lehr Staff Writer

Texas Tech police are investigating several incidents of theft, in which a male entered a shower room of a women's residence hall and stole towels and bathrobes.

Tech Police Capt. Dan Hale said reports concerning the individual, described as male, six feet tall, with short, blond hair, were filed with the Tech Police Department on Wednesday after the suspect was seen in the ninth floor women's shower room of Chitwood Hall

According to a police report dated Nov. 29, an officer was called to Chitwood Hall shortly after 7 a.m. to investigate the theft of a bathrobe and towel from the shower room. The officer also documented a criminal trespassing offense.

Fliers have since been posted in the lobby of Chitwood Hall describing the individual as wearing a red shirt with a blue pullover and blue jeans. He also was seen wearing a green sweatshirt and green pants.

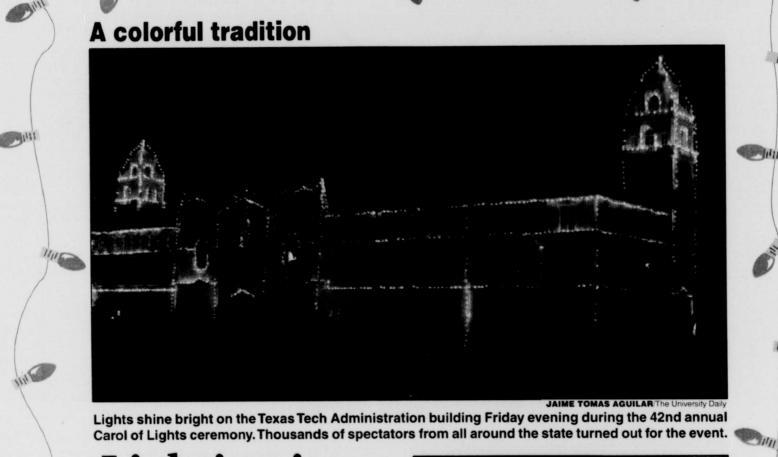
The fliers also state that the suspect opened the shower curtains on the ninth and 11th floors of Chitwood Hall while they were being used

Hale said Tech police already have interviewed three suspects but have not narrowed the investigation to one person. He also said police are not sure if the intruder is a student.

"We have increased patrols and our officers have heightened their awareness in that area," he said. "This is a higher-grade offense than a 'peeping Tom' offense.'

The police report also lists two similar incidents that occurred in

see WATCHING, page 2



Lighting it up

Holiday glow illuminates Raiderland amidst crowd

By Cory Chandler

emorial Circle and the science quadrangle were filled with an expectant crowd Friday night as Texas Tech officially kicked off the holiday season with the 42nd annual Carol of Lights

Over 25,000 lights blazed on 13 buildings by the end of the ceremony, which electricians had been stringing since early October.

The concert began with a torchlight processional of

see LIGHTS, page 5



Justin McGraw, a junior business management major from Bridgeport, walks burning torches down Memorial Circle during the Carol of Lights ceremony Friday night with fellow Saddle Tramps.

Gridiron team going bowling

■ The Texas Tech football squad accepts an offer to play in first Galleryfurniture.com Bowl in the Astrodome.

> By Patrick Gonzales Staff Writer

Texas Tech quarterback Kliff Kingsbury doesn't have too many fond memories of the Houston Astrodome. During his senior year at New Braunfels High,

endary domed stadium, putting a halt to his squad's state championship hopes Two years later, the sophomore Red Raider signal caller will get a chance to replace that memory as Sunday, Tech officially accepted an invitation to play East

Kingsbury lost his final prep football game at the leg-

Dec. 27 at the Astrodome in Houston. The bowl game will be televised nationally on ESPN 2 and both teams will receive \$750,000 for participat-

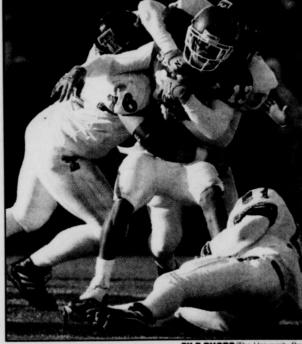
Carolina in the Galleryfurniture.com Bowl at 8 p.m.

"We lost in the semifinals, and I had a pretty rough game too, so I'll be trying to erase some bad memories when I go back this time," Kingsbury said. "It's a pretty neat place to play, and it'll be great for our passing offense, because the weather is always good in the As-

The contest against the Pirates marks the first meeting between the two squads and the first bowl game for the Red Raiders since 1998 when they suffered a 35-18 loss to Mississippi in the Sanford Independence

Tech's last bowl victory came in 1995 when they defeated Air Force, 55-41, in the Weiser Lock Copper Bowl.

"It's going to be real important for us to win,"



Texas Tech defensive tackle Kris Kocurek, defensive end Devin Lemons and linebacker Lawrence Flugence gang tackle an Oklahoma ball carrier earlier this season.

Kingsbury said. "A lot of recruits will be watching that game. Recruiting is going real well so far, and if we can get a win, then that will just make it better.'

East Carolina accepted an invitation to the bowl before the end of the regular season.

The Pirates finished third in the Conference USA with a 7-4 record and their battle with Tech will mark their second consecutive bowl appearance and fourth in the

Last season, East Carolina amassed a 9-3 record and was defeated, 28-14, by Texas Christian in the Mobile Alabama Bowl.

Altogether, the Pirates are 6-4 in bowl contests. "I've watched them over the years, and they are a

see GALLERY, page 2

Tech Web upgrade enters final stages

■ Texas Tech Internet sites unveil design and content changes today.

> By Pam Smith Staff Writer

New additions and upgrades to several of Texas Tech's information systems are being implemented and planned as the semester is winding

Today, the university will unveil improvements to its three main Web sites, www.ttu.edu, www.texastech.edu and www.hsc.edu. These Web sites have undergone both design and content changes.

"At one point, these Web sites were not linked at all," said Michael Sommermeyer, director of electronic media for Texas Tech News and Publications. "Because of this, we have been doubling a lot of the

information on these sites. The goal of the changes was to make accessing information about the university more convenient to the Tech community and future Red Raiders. Sommermeyer said after the changes, texastech.edu would become an all-encompassing Web site that would hold information about the Tech system and student resources in general.

Sommermeyer said ttu.edu will be geared more specifically to Tech's main campus; the hsc.edu Web site would still contain information about the Health Sciences Center.

The biggest change to the three Web sites, Sommermeyer said, will be the integration of the sites' search engines. By combining the search engines, a person would be able to access information from all over the campus from any of these three Web sites. Before the integration, some information was hard to access from certain sites.

"You can ask students about the Web sites and they will tell you that a number of things on the old Web sites didn't work, especially the search engines," Sommermeyer said. "For a freshman, that's not

This upgrade comes only a week after the university unveiled a faster Internet connection that has quadrupled the speed of the current connection.

Sam Segran, interim assistant vice president for technology services, said the new connection makes more collaborative research projects between faculty members possible because of the additional speed. He also said people using the

see IMPROVE, page 2

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Update on space station

■ WATCHING

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Coleman Hall, in which the theft of a towel from the women's shower room took place on the seventh and ninth floors on Nov. 28.

According to a Nov. 28 police report, criminal trespassing was documented for both incidents in Coleman Hall, as well a criminal trespassing incident on the 11th floor women's shower room of Chitwood Hall. All three of these reports were filed in the late evening of Nov. 28.

James Burkhalter, director of Housing and Dining, said he thinks the individual is gaining access to the women's residence hall floors, which are controlled by card readers, by following residents through the controlled doors.

"My guess, and this is just speculation, is that he is tailgating. Unfortunately, this practice is a little more common than we'd like," he said.

Since the incidents occurred last week, Chitwood Hall has instituted a "no tailgating" policy, meaning students who are caught will face disciplinary actions by the university.

Burkhalter said tailgating is a violation of the escort policy, which allows residents to escort supervised guests into the residence halls.

Hale said videotapes from security cameras in Chitwood Hall have been delivered to police and are under review.

'We are looking real strong at how the individual is gaining access to the halls," he said.

When, and if, police apprehend a suspect, Burkhalter said Housing and Dining will pursue criminal charges, and if the individual is a student, Burkhalter said he would be sent before a university disciplinary com-

IMPROVE

from page 1

system have already noticed a change.

"We've already talked to students and fac-ulty, and they said they have noticed a difference, even when using the system from offcampus locations," he said.

Segran said the upgrades to the Web sites are not the only project Tech has been working on to improve communication on campus. He said beginning in January, all students enrolled in the university will be given an e-mail alias that will facilitate communication between members of the Tech community. The e-mail alias will be similar to the faculty e-mail addresses taking the form of givenname.middleinitial. surname@ttu.edu. All mail sent to that alias then will be forwarded to the e-mail account the student has registered with the university. If no e-mail address is listed, one will be created for students by the university.

"We hope to distribute the aliases for students to the professors of classes to increase communication between the two," he said.

Segran said the university plans on sending mail-outs informing students about the e-mail aliases so they can begin reserving their name as an alias. He said the project originally was slated to begin at the end of this semester, but with a number of students graduating and leaving town for the holidays, he said it was not fea-

Another project Segran said he hopes will increase communication and information flow is the creation of customizable student portals that will allow students to choose which information they would like to be updated about. A

European tour planned for program

By Mara McCoy Staff Writer

The University Daily

The comparative literature program at

Texas Tech is offering students a chance to visit European cities including Salamanca, Paris and Rome.

Five cities will be visited during a 31-night sojourn to Europe.

An informational meeting is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Qualia Room, 9 Foreign Language.

Laura Beard, an associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese, women's studies, comparative literature and Latin and Iberian studies, said both undergraduate students and graduate students can apply for the pro-

"There are no prerequisites," she said. "All we ask is that the students have been at Tech for at least two semesters.

Beard said the program, which is in its inaugural year, was started not only to provide students with a stronger background in the countries they visit, but also because Tech is promoting study abroad programs.



"There has been an increased interest: there are more opportunities and more scholarships available," she said. "We're hoping with the study abroad programs and the opportunity to take courses in countries where the works take place, the students will get a unique perspective and better understand and envision what they are studying - it will expand their horizons in a whole

The students will be exposed to it not just reading the literature, but actually exposed to the culture and country that the works are in. It will give (the students) a much greater understanding.

Sharon Nell, director of the comparative literature program, said although there are no prerequisites, an intro survey in art history would be a good class to take.

"It's good to have a background knowledge," she said.

The first time I went to France, I had just taken an art history class. I traveled all over Europe and was amazed to see the works I had studied in class. It made it more meaningful having some knowledge of the works.

Nell said the program will include many unique experiences for the students.

"From Rome, we're going to take a bus or train to Florence, and then we're going to take the night train to Paris and arrive on Bastille Day," she said.

'We'll spend 10 days there, and then fly to Madrid, take a private bus to Salamanca, then go back to Madrid. Although we have many things planned for the students, we left free time for them so they could go back and see things they liked or tour the city.'

The program cost, which includes roundtrip airfare from Dallas to Rome and Madrid to Dallas, as well as room and partial board, museum entrance fees and local transportation costs and an international student ID, is estimated at \$4,445.

Students can apply for scholarships through the International Cultural Center, the Honors College, as well as certain departments within the student's major.

The program can count for six hours of a comparative literature minor and also satisfies the humanities and multicultural requirement for arts and sciences majors.

The program will include two Tech courses, one in comparative literature and one in comparative cultures. Since the courses are Tech courses, financial aid also

For more information, visit the comparative literature program's Web site at www.ttu.edu/~complit or contact Laura Beard or Sharon Nell at 742-3306 or e-mail them at laura.beard@ttu.edu or sharon.nell@ttu.edu.

A few last words from your Student Government

ow time flies. The semester is rapidly coming to an end, and if we look back for a second or two at all that took place, there are countless moments that soon will not

Thanks to the involvement of so many students in the Student Government Association this semester, much has been accomplished. We are charting our course for next semester to ensure that we are able to build even further on this semester's

accomplishments. Before you pack up and head home for the holiday break, we would like to share several items of interest with you that will hopefully be

■ Senators want to hear from you

The Student Senate has worked hard to pass a number of resolutions this fall dealing with fees, new program ideas, campus issues and relations with other universities. For the senators to continue voicing your concerns, they need to hear from you early and often. So please continue to share your thoughts to make Tech the best that it can be. Senators contact information can be found at the SGA Web site,

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

GUEST COLUMN

www.sga.ttu.edu.

■ Student organizational funding With the coming of spring comes the budget and finance process that allocates supplemental funding to registered student organizations. Packets will be available Tuesday, and there is an informational workshop at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the University Center Matador Room. Questions can be directed to the SGA office at 742-3631. Attendance is mandatory at either Tuesday's or the Jan.

money. ■ Get your grades via TechSIS

16 workshop in order to be eligible for SGA

Do you want to receive your grades? Don't forget to update your address and contact information on the TechSIS Web site techsis.admin.ttu.edu/student. ■ Make it home safely

Need a safe ride home or stranded somewhere? Call 765-RIDE to get a safe ride home. The hours of operation are 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Thursday through Saturday, and all you have to show is your Tech ID.

Parents combat drowsy driving

This holiday season, if you think you might nod off at the wheel of your car, plan ahead. Contact the Office of Parent Relations at 742-3630 to find out the names and contact information of Tech parents who would be glad to provide you with a place to take a break so you can make it to your destination safely.

We hope that each of you has a very enjoyable holiday season. To those Red Raiders who are graduating or moving on to bigger and better things, may you find success and fulfillment in all your endeavors. To those who will be back at Tech in January, we look forward to serving you next semester! Go Tech!

Andrew Schoppe, Brenda Schumann and Ryan Weller are the executive officers of the Texas Tech Student Government Association.

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Breaking News

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portal is a Web site or service that offers a broad array of resources and services such as news, message boards and online shopping malls.

"When a person currently goes to Yahoo, they can create a personalized page," he said. "This page, which comes up when a person logs on, can be customized to show only the updates the person wants to see with the links the person wants to set up."

Segran said once these portals are created, students could customize their page to include updates posted by faculty members about classes or their particular college, movie listings, chat room links and anything else the student is interested in. The date these portals will be available to students is unknown because the university still is seeking a company to help implement the software. Segran said the university has discussed the issue with several companies, including mascot.com but has not finalized any plans.

"With mascot.com, we would have very little control of the software, and there would be a lot of advertising on the portals," he said. "Other companies have more options concerning advertising, which would help the university ensure student's names would not be sold to ad-

vertisers." doesn't feel the time off will hurt the squad. "Our workouts, during the time we were

TechNotes!

■ REMINDER TO ALL STUDENTS: Don't forget to update your address and information on the TechSIS Web site, so you can receive your grades at the correct address, techsis.admin.ttu.edu/student. ■ ATTENTION COMMUTERS: Because of

an event taking place in Lubbock Municipal Auditorium on Thursday, portions of the Auditorium/Coliseum parking lot (C1) will be closed (Appendix A section 11.e.4 in the Traffic and parking regulations). Please allow additional time to find parking on this day. There should be plenty of available space in the parking lots west of Indiana Avenue.

GOT E-MAIL?

Log on to www.universitydaily.net



good football team," Tech coach Mike Leach

■ GALLERY

from page 1

said. "They throw the ball well, and I admire the things they've done in the past. I think it will be a good game.

"It feels great to play one more game and

Doskocil: meat

hopefully they can figure a way to add another one after this.'

Tech has been practicing sporadically since the end of the regular season and hasn't played a game since losing 27-13 to Oklahoma on Nov. 18.

When the Red Raiders take the field against ECU, it will be their first contest in 39 days, yet Tech linebacker John Norman

off, were aimed to help us not lose a step and stay in shape," Norman said. "We've been hitting the weights, and I think we'll be prepared."We don't want to end the season with our loss to Oklahoma. We want to go out there, pick up the victory and start a tradition here at Texas Tech.'

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BACK

Houston looks abroad for teachers

HOUSTON (AP) — Faced with a national shortage of teachers, the state's largest school district is searching abroad for qualified edu-

Importing teachers has helped the Houston district eliminate some of 1,400 vacancies it faced at the beginning of the year. The district also increased recruiting spending fivefold — from \$50,000 last year to \$250,000, the Houston Chronicle reported in its Sunday editions.

Rory Malacon, a managing partner in Houston-based Multicultural Professionals, has traveled to the Philippines twice a year since 1991 looking for teachers to bring to California and Texas.

This fall, the company brought in the most teachers it ever has, 54, to work in the Houston Independent School District. Next year, the Housteachers through the company.

"Now there's a huge interest in finding teachers abroad," said Malacon. "I believe we are contributing to helping the problem, but we're quite far from solving the problem."

From 1993 to 1999, traditional teacher preparation programs in Texas produced an average of 15,000 graduates annually.

About 66 percent become teachers. In the 1998-99 school year, more than 63,000 teaching positions had to be filled, according to the State Board for Educator Certification.

Joyce Giron, 32, borrowed \$6,000 from her family in the Philippines to hire a search firm to help her find a job in Houston.

She makes more money in a month here than she did in a year than at a prestigious private school

ton district expects to hire 45 more in the Philippines where she had taught for 12 years.

"I love these kids. This is something very fulfilling for me," Giron

has placed foreign teachers in Dallas, Brownsville and Waco. Members of Houston-area

Multicultural Professionals also

teacher's unions said school districts should instead focus on improving pay and benefits at home. "It's not the best use of resources,"

said Michael Verdone, president of the Houston Congress of Teachers. "If you can't recruit in your own back yard, then that's a problem."

Gayle Fallon, president of the Houston Federation of Teachers, said recruiting abroad isn't the answer.

"The chances of keeping these people are nil," Fallon said. "This doesn't give you a long-term solution

Now there's a huge interest in finding teachers abroad. I believe we are contributing to helping the problem, but we're quite far from solving the problem."

MULTICULTURAL PROFESSIONALS MANAGING PARTNER

to the teacher shortage."

The Houston district will spend \$2,400 to send its own people to Russia to interview teachers selected by Houston recruiting firm Rutex. The district is also considering seeking

Houston school district spokesman Terry Abbott said spending \$2,400 for a math or science teacher is a small investment.

"The state of Texas is not providing enough teachers," Abbott said. "It has to be done this way."

Space shuttle astronauts attach wings

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) -Two spacewalking astronauts attached the world's largest, most powerful set of solar wings to the international space station

It was a task as monumental as the wings themselves: The future of space station construction hinged on the astronauts' ability to pull off the job and thus provide much needed power to the newly inhabited outpost.

Endeavour astronauts Joe Tanner and Carlos Noriega guided the \$600 million solar wings onto space station Alpha and then bolted them down, their three-plus years of training paying off.

Canadian astronaut Marc Garneau, working inside Endeavour, was the one who actually moved the wings to the space station with the use of the shuttle robot arm. Tanner and Noriega, positioned on either side of the attachment point, gave him instructions for closing the final 3 feet.

Before the wings could be unfurled to their full 240 feet and begin generating electricity, Tanner and Noriega had to release all the bolts and pins that were used to secure the payload for Thursday's launch.

No seatbelt case goes to Supreme Court

AUSTIN (AP) - Gail Atwater's slow drive down a dusty Texas road has taken her all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

She was arrested, handcuffed and locked in a jail cell in 1997 - because she and her two children weren't wearing seat belts while riding in the family pickup truck.

That family drive has become a challenge of the power of police. The Supreme Court will hear arguments today from lawyers for Atwater and the city of Lago Vista on whether her arrest violated the Constitution's Fourth Amendment, which bans unreasonable arrests and searches.

"Our lives would have been much better if we would have just swallowed it," Atwater said. "We're not anti-cop ... (but) this is about reining the cops in and how far cops can intrude in our lives.'

The court's ruling could affect just about anyone with a driver's license, said Atwater's attorney, Robert DeCarli.

"Every driver, if they get caught committing a traffic violation, they expect to get a ticket. Nobody expects to be handcuffed and taken to jail," DeCarli said

Atwater, 48, was driving her children, Mac and Anya, who were then 4 and 6, home from soccer practice when she was stopped by Lago Vista

police officer Bart Turek. Atwater said a toy had fallen out of the pickup and she had unbuckled everyone's seat belts so they could look out the windows for it. She was

We're not anti-cop... (but) this is about reining the cops in and how far cops can intrude in our lives."

Gail Atwater

driving at only about 15 mph on an otherwise deserted road when Turek came along and stopped her.

Atwater could not produce her driver's license and proof of insurance. She said her purse had been

She said Turek yelled "You're going to jail!" 'I can't tell you enough how hor-

rible it was for my kids," Atwater said. It was not their first encounter. Turek had pulled her over once before when he thought her son was not belted in, but he didn't give her a ticket that time because the boy was,

in fact, wearing a seat belt. This time, Turek took Atwater to the police station while a friend took the children. She was booked and placed in a holding cell for about an hour before posting \$310 bail. She later pleaded no contest to three seat belt violations and paid a \$50 fine for each, along with a \$110 towing fee on

Under Texas law, a police officer is allowed — but not required — to

arrest someone for a seat belt violation. The offense does not carry jail

Atwater complained to the city and asked for her \$110 back, but when she got no satisfaction she and husband Mike Haas sued the city, Turek and police Chief Frank Miller.

"All I wanted was to rein this guy in, and get reimbursed the money for towing the truck," Atwater said. She said she never asked for an apology. "I knew they wouldn't do that. That would be an admission of guilt."

A federal district judge first dismissed the case. A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with Atwater but the full 17-judge court later reversed that ruling. Atwater is asking the Supreme Court to let her lawsuit proceed.

She has the support of the Texas office of the American Civil Liberties

'The fear of minor traffic offenses that don't even have jail terms does not outweigh the right to be left alone," said Will Harrell, executive director of the ACLU office in Austin.

Federal and state attorneys filed briefs in support of Lago Vista, a town of about 2,500 people located 15 miles northwest of Austin.

The state of Texas has a very significant interest in making sure that toddlers are wearing their seat belts so they won't be harmed or killed in accidents on Texas highways," said state First Assistant Attorney General Andy Taylor.

Bill Krueger, the lawyer defending the city and police department, has said the officer's actions were reasonable and constitutional. He would not discuss the case with The Associated Press.

Lago Vista Mayor Dennis Jones wouldn't comment. Turek is now a Williamson County sheriff's deputy. It was a career move for Turek and he wasn't asked to leave, Jones said.

In addition to the \$110 towing fee, Atwater and her husband, an emergency room doctor, are seeking attorneys fees. They have spent about \$110,000 fighting the case, sold their house in Lago Vista and borrowed money from their par-

"We've had more marital fights over whether to go forward with this thing. He's the one staying up all night and watching the money go to lawyers," Atwater said.

We emptied our accounts. There have been huge emotional sacrifices for our family," she said. "But there's a price for citizenship."

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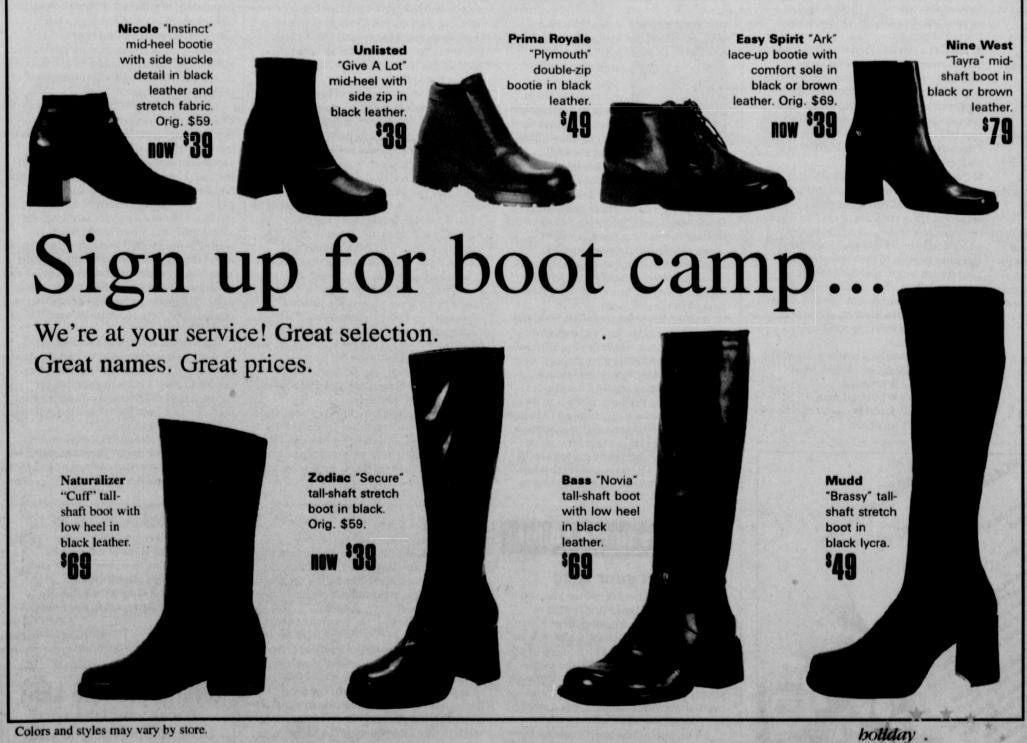
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Monday

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GUEST COLUMNS: The UD accepts submissions of unsolicitied guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 750 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community.

Opinions Ideas

The University Daily

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Column

Priced to sell

Need an excuse to get you out of that dreaded final? You've come to the right place

Sweet! Finals are just around the corner! I thought they would never get here. Honestly, I've been waiting since August. And for many of you, the fast-approaching exams mean lots of studying, cramming and concentrating.

But for me, and those of you like me who have yet to find your classrooms because you haven't been since you got your syllabus, finals mean something far bigger and better than studying. It's time once

roommate died.

an automatic 4.0 GPA. I've tried it, and they

wouldn't do it. But telling a professor this does get you tons of sympathy. Sometimes,

however, it is necessary to really kill your

roommate because the professor wants a

well in school. Also, try and make it look

make sure your roommate knows it is

stairs, etc.) otherwise, you have to go

trial. Again, I know from experience.

newspaper clipping. If you must go this far,

nothing personal and you just to want to do

like an accident (electrical fire, fall down the

through interrogations, arrests and even a

Make up a disease. Unless you are trying

"traumatic" and "psychological" with words

come up with some serious illnesses. In my

nerve syndrome, stress-induced brain wave

Blame it on the towel thief. This works for

Chitwood women only, but by telling your

professor you really wanted to go to class

everyday but could not because that bath

robe-fetish pervert kept stealing your towel

every morning, you'll have a legible excuse

that really does include a newspaper

■ Tell them you're an athlete. Of course,

you haven't actually played a game, but

there's good reason. Since you missed so

practices and mandatory study halls, you

were sitting on the sidelines studying for

biology rather than watching your fellow

much class during away games and

clipping (see page 1.)

to pull this on a science professor, your

professor will feel so bad for you, you'll

like "syndrome" and "disorder," you can

time, I've suffered from inflamed mental

disorder and even post-traumatic

compulsive psyche syndrome.

probably get a free "A." By combining

random, smart-sounding words like

Contrary to popular

belief, if this really does

happen, you do not get

again for the biannual excuse-a-thon — that wonderful time at the end of the semester when you have to find a way to keep from failing. In my years as a college student, I have found some excuses work every time.

■ Tell them your

Brandon Formby

because your nose was always stuck in a book. Tell the professor it was a vicious cycle of studying and working out, and all you wanted to do was keep Raider spirits high and still be a good student. Try and muster up a tear or two during the explanation. Have someone in the class play the school fight song on a kazoo as you explain things to the professor. They're sure to pass you for the university's sake.

Have a friend pull the fire alarm. Just as

teammates. Coach never put you in

- Have a friend pull the fire alarm. Just as your class sits down to take the final, have a friend out in the hall to pull the fire alarm. When it goes off, panic, knock people over, shuffle the exams and Scantrons, then run like hell. In the mass confusion, the professor will have no choice but to cancel the final. If you are caught, you could be arrested for the disruption and sued if anyone gets hurt in the ensuing madness. I know.
- Say your schedule had the wrong room number. This one is a stretch. But tell the professor your schedule had the wrong room number on it and that every day all semester you went to that room and sat there, alone, for the whole hour, waiting for him to show up with the rest of the class. This may require a copy of your schedule with the wrong number. Serious document tampering will have to be administered, and fakes stand out like a sore thumb. But if you do need a reallooking fake schedule, there is a counterfeit specialist in 430 Sneed Hall. Bring \$50 in cash.
- Tell them you fell. Explain that on your way to class in September you were minding your own business, when before you knew it, you were falling. Tell the professor it was all the construction on campus and you were so deep in the hole that will be the new English/Philosophy/Education Complex, no one could hear your cries for help.
- Die. Seriously. Have a friend with a motherly tone call your professor and tell him you died halfway through the semester. Have your friend cry like there's no tomorrow and speak of memories about Teddy bears and training wheels. Have her explain to the professor that your dream was to make the dean's list once, and that if they could please just give you a posthumous "A," so the dream you had in life can finally come true in death. This gets even the most coldhearted professor.

Brandon Formby is senior journalism major from Plano. For custom-made excuses, e-mail Brandon at brandonformby@hotmail.com.
Mastercard, VISA and personal checks are welcome. Sorry no CODs.



Column

Recipe for a dysfunctional Christmas

love Christmas. What can I say, it's the greatest time of year. Of course, the holiday for which we, according to a recent poll of school-aged children, celebrate the birth of our savior, Santa Claus, has its good, its bad and its downright ugly.

I so enjoy arriving



Kenneth Strickland

home to a loving and caring family who push aside all differences of opinion just long enough for me to walk to the baggage claim and pick up my garbage bag full of dirty laundry as it makes its way around the carousel. It's about 12 minutes of sheer and utter

MUNISTRACTED BY THE UNFOLDING

sheer and utter family happiness before I get blamed for the fact that my cat pissed on the rug about two months earlier, and the appraisal district has dropped the price of our home by \$10,000 because my broken down car from high school is still parked in the driveway.

It takes about four minutes from the time I set my bags down in my newly decorated room, until the ex-girlfriends start calling. After digging through the floral pieces that now line my desk, I somehow manage to find my phone.

Apparently I've been in college way too long because every time an ex calls to go out, I suggest Wendy's. After about a dozen of those calls, the relatives start phoning me. Apparently my kid brother likes to spread rumors about me while I'm gone, via e-mail. Last year I had to

convince two sets of grandparents, numerous uncles, aunts and cousins, plus the next door neighbors, that despite what my brother had alleged, I wasn't gay. "But you have all those shoes!" each and everyone seemed to point out. This year I've been tipped off by an anonymous source that the rumor my brother is basing his campaign on this Christmas season is that I have erectile dysfunction. How do you prove to someone that an accusation such as this is false? Oh wait, now I know. Damn, the kid's good.

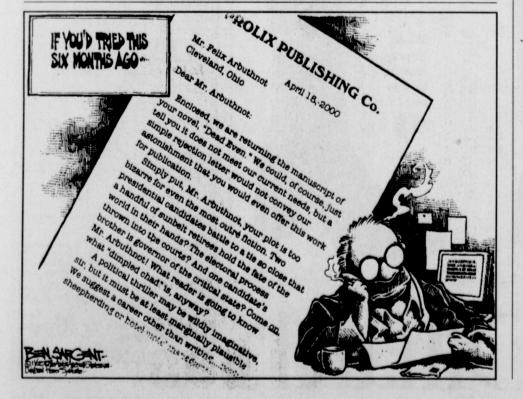
It's after about an hour of being home that I just can't stand it anymore and have to get out of there. After realizing that the Toyota's CD changer has been infected by my little sister's musical taste (or lack thereof), I settle on cruising on down to the mall to the wonderfully untalented sounds of Britney Spears. "Oops I did it again" seems to sum up my return back home. The mall is about five miles from my house, but it literally still takes me longer to get there than it took me to fly from Lubbock to Dallas. If you live in any of the major cities (major being any city that doesn't display their high school football record on the town's water tower) then the Christmas season is especially sacred to you. What better way to celebrate peace for all mankind then by getting stuck in traffic with all of mankind! After parking in a handicapped spot, which I justify by the fact that I suffer from mild colorblindness, I make my way into the mall.

I won't step foot into the Gap because of the fact that their commercials suck. Old Navy would be a great place to shop if they carried clothing in sizes that any person not confined to perpetual bed rest because of their size could actually wear. I also refuse to walk into any of the toy stores as well. I used to like toy stores. Back in the day, when you could buy a five-pound die-cast metal Voltron action figure, and it was politically correct for Barbie to have the hourglass figure, toy stores were the place to be. But since the entire population of children in this country became helpless and lethargic couch potatoes, all you can find now are Pokemon cards and computer games that allow children with inadequate social skills to continue avoiding the daunting task of making human friends.

Upon returning home, my mother attempts to ground me because I left my laundry bag on the floor. As hard as it is for me to keep from giving her the male gesture for screw that, I somehow resist. Instead, I give her the Christmas present I had bought her. I'm a really thoughtful person, so last year I bought my mom a six-foot African American Santa for the front yard. I'm kind of cheep when it comes to my brother and sister, though, so they both got T-shirts. My brother's shirt says, "Out of millions of sperm, who would have thought I'd be the first to get to the egg?" And since my sister is a little on the chunky side, hers accordingly says "I beat anorexia!"

After being scrutinized for my gift giving, I've decided that I've had enough. After about 12 hours of being back, I call up the airline. "I want to go home for Christmas," I tell them. So six hours later they have me on a flight back to Lubbock. At least we have snow.

Kenneth Strickland is a sophomore political science major from Mesquite. He wants to wish everyone a merry Christmas. Especially you, Charlie Brown!



Letters to the Editor

Smoke in your face

To the editor: There is no need for the Lubbock City Council and mayor to consider banning (making illegal) smoking in public places. Right now, in Lubbock, smoking can be banned in any restaurant or club. If the owner of the restaurant or club chooses, he or she can simply put up a no smoking sign and make the entire establishment a smoke-free environment.

An argument has been made by the proponents of making smoking illegal in public places that California has banned smoking in public places and so should Lubbock. Lubbock is not California, and I hope the City Council and mayor will

keep it that way.

A free country allows its citizens choices, and that includes the citizens that own restaurants and clubs and their customers. Shouldn't they be the ones to decide whether a restaurant or club allows smoking or not?

David DeLamar chairman Libertarian Party of Lubbock

To the editor: I would like to take this time to express my feelings about the recent decision by the Student Senate to support a smokeless Lubbock. Why is it that people seem to think that every place in the country should be enjoyable to the minority? Where must the majority go to do the things that they enjoy?

do the things that they enjoy?
Life is full of inconveniences, but
systematically alienating huge groups of

people is no way to lessen that burden. I am a smoker, and I do not believe that

the city has any right to tell private business owners that they cannot allow smoking in their establishment.

When does it stop? When the city installs smoke detectors in our homes?

Adam Barker drafting technician facilities information and reports

ONLY 2 PAPERS LEFT

E-mail your letters to UD@ttu.edu, include your name, classification, major, social and phone number for verification.

Keeping the Carol tradition in tune Trombone Choir remains important part of yearly Carol of Lights Celebration

By Cory Chandler Staff Writer

While the Carol of Lights is one of Texas Tech's strongest traditions, the ceremony itself has many traditions of its own.

One of the older of these traditions is the accompaniment of the Texas Tech Trombone Choir, which has been performing at Carol of Lights for 24 years.

Don Lucas, an associate music professor who directs the ensemble, said this is one of the Trombone Choir's largest performances of the

He said though the band typically has 20 to 30 members, its numbers swell to 40 members for the performance.

Lucas said this is because members of other ensembles on the Tech campus often join to help with the Carol of Lights.

He said preparing for the event can be difficult because it comes so quickly after the Thanksgiving break.

The students come back to school after a turkey overdose and may or may not have been hitting the horns," he said.

The combined choir meets once a week for a month starting in November and two times the week Carol of Lights takes place.

While the choir accompanies more traditional songs during the performance, it also plays two that were written for the Carol of Lights.

Terry Everson, a music professor at Boston University, wrote "T-Cubed Fanfare" the first song performed during the ceremony.

Lucas said Everson wrote the song, which stands for Texas Tech Trombone Fanfare, after teaching with Lucas at national music camps.

Lucas said he sent Everson a copy of the Texas Tech fight song and Everson incorporated it into "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing.

The second song written for the Carol of Lights is the "Christmas Fanfare," which was written by Gary Birch, a Tech student who now teaches in Waco.

Birch wrote the song four years ago, and it is now used during the actual lighting of the buildings during the ceremony.

Lucas said while the Carol of Lights is one of the most important performances for the Trombone Choir, the students are also active in many other musical events in Lubbock

He said these events include regularly performing in Lubbock and Roswell symphonies, church services, musicals and operettas.

They also recently won an international trombone competition sponsored by the International



The Trombone Choir performs at the 42nd annual Carol of Lights Celebration on Friday evening. The choir is one of the many traditions within the holiday ceremony.

Trombone Association.

Lucas said this experience helps prepare these students for other ensembles in the future.

Lucas said the Carol of Lights does present more difficulties than many of their other performances though.

He said the weather, which is often chilly, makes the instruments hard to tune and members have to use clothes pins to keep their music from blowing away in the

He said the hardest part comes when the audience sings along with "Silent Night".

"The crowd just kind of takes off on its own," he said. "So I end up

watching them to figure out what they are doing and try to lead the choir based on that.'

LIGHTS

from page 1

Saddle Tramps led by the Masked Rider, who wore a cape and hat strung with blinking white lights.

This was followed by performances by the Tech Trombone Choir and Combined Choirs, who stood beneath a 20-foot tall wreath on the steps of the science building.

Erin Brandt, a sophomore public relations major from Richmond who was on the Carol of Lights committee, said she thought the event went well.

'This was my second year to see Carol of Lights, but my first to actively participate in it," she said. "I got to stand on the stairs and see the crowd and procession - that was neat.'

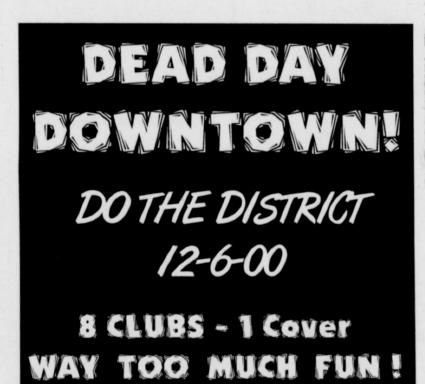
Alpha Phi Omega and Chi Rho donated the 2,500 luminarias that burned around Memorial Circle, and a 21-foot tall Christmas tree provided by the Panhellenic Association stood near the Will Rodgers

The caroling of the combined choirs was followed by William Hartwell's 19th performance of "O' Holy Night."

Lisa Rotgé, a junior sociology and Spanish major from Albuquerque, N.M., who was on the Carol of Lights committee, said one of her favorite parts of the night was when Hartwell sang.

The whole event is a big kick-off for the holiday season," she said. "I've been a part of the Carol of Lights for two years, and it's still an amazing experience, even with knowing everything that goes on. I love it when the lights come on."

The lighting was followed by a parade of lighted vehicles that began at Wells Fargo and traveled down Broadway to the Tech cam-





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Who needs Nashville?

Pat Green, Cory Morrow find success at packed Lubbock show

By Leslie Follmar Staff Writer

Liquid 2000 was busting at the seams last Thursday night as Pat Green and Cory Morrow graced the

The crowded bottom floor, which was standing room only, resembled a smaller version of Kalf Fry. Some arrived at the concert 1 1/2 hours before Morrow took stage, but many joined in singing with the CD that was playing through the speakers to pass the time.

Cory Morrow and his magnifi-

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5 :00 Betw/Lions Nightly Bus

10:00

11:00

12:00

Boston Public 7

1 :00 Comp. Chron Barney

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cent back-up band prepared the hero. It didn't take long to win those entertainment. riled crowd for his good friend, Green. The crowd never died, each song was gasoline added to the audience's fire. The room was electric when Green finally came out.

Some had to do a double take as Green took the stage. One audience member said, "I saw that picture of him in the paper, and that doesn't look like him at all." First-timers to Pat Green might especially have a problem spotting him as a country star. At first the country singer looks more like a lead guitarist for a rock band, not an average honky-tonk

DECEMBER 4

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skeptics over when Green opened up with the title cut from his latest CD,

Green and Morrow appeared together in the night's last set. Green introduced the new song "Texas Sun" and announced it is to appear on an upcoming CD, which was recorded with Morrow.

Green sported a favorite T-shirt of his that said "Nashville Sucks." The shirt is Green's way protesting against the big business country music industry.

Pick-up lines decreased in originality as the night wore on, but the music was never displeasing. Girls with too-tight clothing and guys passing out only added to the night's

Pound to a pulp Chops up

10 Final word?

Italian eight 15 Turn inside out

16 Great review 17 Yard-sale

warning 18 Spanish sauce

19 Food fad 20 Print size,

perhaps 23 Overindulging

28 Bygone bargain

24 In a domina

spot 33 Crimean

resident 36 Left bed

37 Miss West

38 Caspian's

41 Star Wars

42 Raccoon's

appearance 44 Substantial

47 Word on a door

48 Mario Puzo

52 Carpenter's

57 One of The

60 Start of path?

61 Author Ferber

Mongolia

66 Laurel and

67 Mediocre

DOWN

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Across from Jones Stadium

64 Thailand, once

62 Moises of baseball 63 Ulan

book

5 Fashion in the

6 Terrible tsar?

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11 __ tai cocktail 12 Night before

25 Actress Marisa 26 Ph.D. exams

27 Calvin of the

29 Clive Barker

30 Muse of lyric

32 Half an African

34 "As You Like It"

fly? 33 Refinement

forest

35 Contaminate 39 Major ISP

10 Passionate

Lulu 22 Dissimulation

Ancient Briton

40 Thaw

43 False

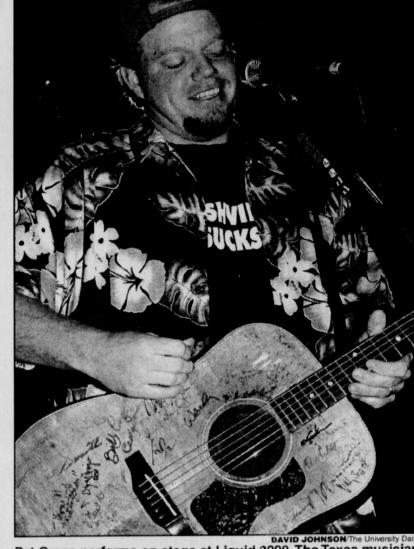
THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

Pat Green offered a "real country" stage presence; no glitz or glamour was needed to entertain the college

Green is a promising musician with his simple lyrics and footstomping music. He is bound to go down as a Texas music legend.

The last song was a salute to Buddy Holly, which was performed by Morrow and Green and was great closure to the evening.

Barry Sadler, a 1998 Texas Tech graduate, said that only West Texans can appreciate Green's music in a special way. "Green has a real West Texas sound that only real West Texans can relate to fully. That's why he's so great to listen to."



Pat Green performs on stage at Liquid 2000. The Texas musician and Cory Morrow drew a crowd at their show last Thursday.

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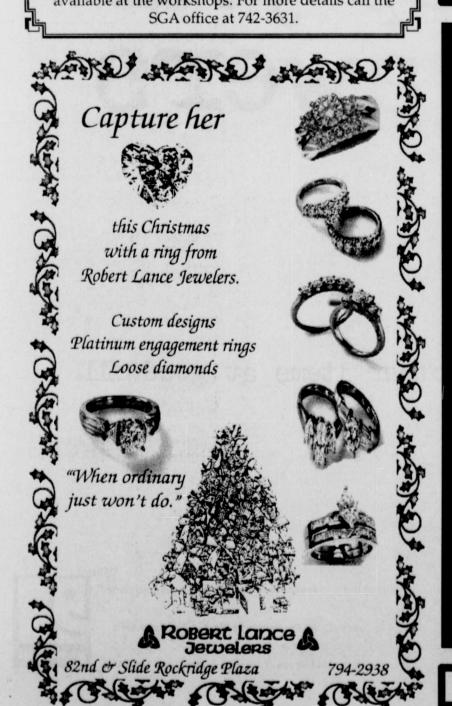
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United



Lady Raiders look to trap Lobos

By Matt Muench Staff Writer

Four wins into the season, Texas Tech coach Marsha Sharp said her team is more confident than two weeks ago.

However, she said the squad has some minor modifications to make before Big 12 Conference play begins in early January.

The Lady Raiders will try and make those adjustments at 7 p.m. today at the United Spirit Arena when they play the New Mexico Lo-

"We are still a little inconsistent on offense," Sharp said. "We still have situational plays that we need to work on which will take awhile because we will learn those as we

Although the offense has shown inconsistency with turnovers, bad shots and miscommunication, Sharp said she is impressed with how some of the younger players have stepped up in game situations.

"If I had to pick one thing that has impressed me, it would be the ability to make big plays in tough situations," she said. "Because that is what you are usually most worried about with an inexperienced team like ours.

Freshman Jia Perkins is one player Sharp said has made crucial plays. Perkins consistent play paid off for her when she landed a spot in the starting lineup last week. Perkins leads the Lady Raiders in scoring, averaging 15.8 points per game. She averaged 17 points per game when coming off the bench.

Perkins said no matter what role she fills, it does not really matter as long as the squad wins.

"It doesn't matter if I start or if I come off the bench," she said. "It is easier to come of the bench because

you get to see what is going on first and you get to see what the pace is."

Although Sharp said the starting lineup is not permanent now or throughout the season, she feels like Perkins needs to be out on the floor at the opening tip.

"We will stay with (Perkins) for awhile," she said. "She is our leading scorer, and we feel like she needs to be on the floor as much as she

Perkins will try and lead her squad against a better opponent than the Lady Raiders played last

Wednesday, the Lady Raiders played Southwest Texas who slowed the game down to try and take Tech's offense out of the contest. It worked, but Sharp said New Mexico will not play like the Bobcats did.

'New Mexico usually plays pressure defense and they are a team that likes to run," Sharp said. "They have some experience, and I think they will come in here very confi-

The Lobo's (5-2) two losses came against ranked opponents, and in their wins, the Lobos are averaging just under 80 points per contest.

New Mexico is paced on offense by sophomore Jordan Adams who averages 15 points per game.

"I think they are going to want to take the fight to us," Sharp said. "I think that is good and they will come with a full head of steam."

With such contrasting styles in their non-conference opponents, transfer Candi White said it is a little difficult to adjust.

"We just try and play our game every game," she said. "That is the clue, especially in preseason, because you are going to play some good and some bad teams so it is just important we try and stay consis-



Tech guard Candi White hustles after a loose ball in the Lady Raiders' win over Southwest Texas last week at the United Spirit Arena. The Lady Raiders will battle the New Mexico Lobos at 7 p.m. today at the United Spirit Arena. The Lady Raiders have yet to taste defeat this season as they have won their first four contests of the season.

Nebraska to play in **Alamo Bowl**

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Nebraska, the highest-rated team in the BCS standings that didn't get invited to a BCS game, settled Sunday for a trip to the Alamo Bowl against Northwestern.

"It's certainly not the place we wanted to be," said Russ Hochstein, a senior offensive lineman.

The No. 9 Cornhuskers, who were eighth in the BCS standings, were hoping to go to the Fiesta Bowl, but were nudged out by Notre Dame. Nebraska could have gone to the Cotton Bowl, but officials in Dallas opted for No. 11 Kansas State, the winner of the Big 12 North and a head-to-head winner against Cornhuskers.

The Holiday Bowl, which takes the Big 12's third team, already had selected Texas. So Nebraska (9-2) returns to the Alamodome, where it is 2-0.

The Cornhuskers crushed the Longhorns there last December in the Big 12 title game and drubbed Texas A&M in the 1997 conference champion-

"It's always a great atmo-sphere for football," Hochstein said.

"It's a great place for a

The Dec. 30 game will mark the fourth meeting between the schools, their first since

The No. 18 Wildcats (8-3) were chosen almost two weeks ago. Northwestern was the Big Ten co-champion.

Kansas State Wildcats battle Tennessee in Cotton Bowl

Middle America in the final days of ton Bowl.

DALLAS (AP) - Here's a travel December: Look out for the Kansas warning for anyone driving through State caravans heading to the Cot-

between Manhattan, Kansas, and No. 21 Tennessee on New Year's Day. tickets among supporters of both filling about two-thirds of the seats.

Fans of the No. 11 Wildcats who Dallas four years ago will be at it crammed the highways and byways again to watch their team take on nothing compared to the fight for wards of 40,000 backers last time,

The fight on the field may be programs. Kansas State brought up-

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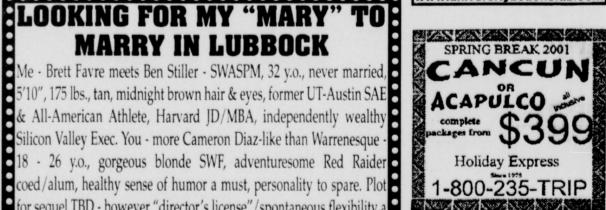
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Raiders edge Lumberjacks, 54-51

Brown sinks free throws late to preserve Tech win

By Jeff Keller Sports Editor

Thanks to a timely block from center Andy Ellis and two clutch freethrows from guard Jamal Brown, the Texas Tech men's basketball team was able to hold off a late comeback attempt by Stephen F. Austin and defeat the Lumberjacks, 54-51, Saturday at the United Spirit Arena.

The Red Raiders led by as many as 17 points in the first half and held a 12 point advantage at 47-35 with 4:50 remaining in the game. But the Lumberjacks fought back and with a threepoint basket by guard Skip Jackson, with 1:28 left in the game, Stephen F. Austin cut the score to 52-51.

Tech was unable to score on its next possession after the Jackson threepointer, and the Lumberjacks had a chance to take the lead with 14 seconds left in the game, but Ellis rejected the Lumberjack's shot and Brown snagged the rebound.

Brown dribbled the ball back up court and was fouled with six seconds left and calmly sank both free throws.

The Lumberjacks got off a last second three-point shot but it clanged off the front of the rim and Tech narrowly claimed its third victory of the season.

Brown finished the contest with 10 points and five assists and said he was glad he had the opportunity to clinch the victory at the free throw line.

"That is what you dream of," Brown

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Mysteries of Egypt

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TO THE MAX

be in that position. I just stepped up there and did what a basketball player should do. A player should knock those shots down at this level. There was no pressure even though the momentum was

to play good and

lose."

James Dickey

TECH MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

going their way. But when you It is better to play bad play basketball that is just what and win any day than you have to do. You have to take your time, be composed, step up to the line and knock them down.

Tech had only one other

player score in double figures as guard Ronald Hobbs contributed 10 points while pulling down five rebounds to help the Raiders' cause.

Center Andy Ellis scored eight points and grabbed five rebounds while blocking three shots, including the Lumberjacks' attempt to take the lead in the closing seconds.

Ellis said there was nothing special about his last block, he just saw the opportunity and took it.

'The guy just penetrated to the middle, and I was standing right there," Ellis said. "He was a little shorter than most guards. That made it kind of easy for me to go up and get it. He put it right there in my face and I just went up there and got it. It

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turned out to be a big play.' For the second consecutive con-

UBBOCK Z102 Chris Kelly

said. "Every big-time player wants to test, the Red Raiders were outscored in the paint as the Lumberjacks scored 28 points to Tech's 18 points in the

Tech also gave up 20 turnovers while forcing only 15 miscues by the

Lumberjacks. Tech coach James Dickey said the Red Raiders need to improve on the offensive side of the ball.

"We turned the ball over way too many times," Dickey said. "We gave up too many offensive

bounds. We were just really ineffective offensively."

The Red Raiders shot 31 percent from the floor in the game and Dickey attributed Tech's shooting percentage to close-range misses.

"We've got to shoot the ball better," Dickey said. "We missed a lot of easy shots. Mikey (Marshall) missed several in the first half, and Brannon (Hays) missed a couple. In the second half, we missed some shots right under-

With the win, Tech moves to 3-1 on the season and Dickey said even though the Red Raiders did not play their best game, a win is still a win.

"I am glad we got a win," Dickey said. "It is better to play bad and win any day than to play good and lose. I am just happy that we won.



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HIBERNATE OR

the Red Raiders' 54-51 win over Stephen F. Austin, Saturday at the United Spirit Arena. With the win Tech improves to 3-1 on the

Franchione plans future in Alabama

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) -New Alabama head coach Dennis Franchione said he expects the majority of his assistant football coaches at Texas Christian University will join him at Alabama, where he hopes he doesn't have to address any NCAA penalties.

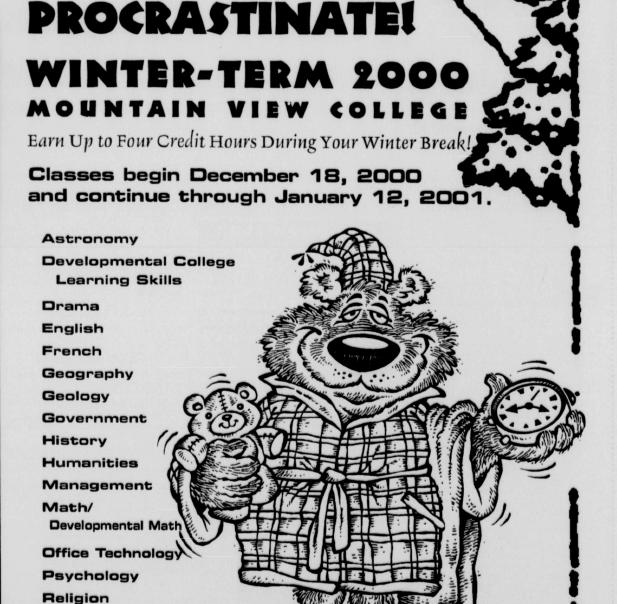
Franchione plans to meet Monday with the Alabama assistants - all still under contract. Defensive coordinator Ellis Johnson, recruiting coordinator Ronnie Cottrell and quarterbacks coach Charlie Stubbs have contracts through June 30, 2002. The other assistants' contracts run through June 30,

Franchione said he hopes one of the first issues he must address does not involve NCAA penalties. Athletic director Mal Moore has already informed Franchione about the NCAA's investigation of the Crimson Tide program. NCAA enforcement staff members spent last week questioning selected players and coaches, including former Coach Mike DuBose.

Florida linebacker Travis Carroll said after Saturday's 28-6 win against Auburn in the SEC Championship Game that he has spoken with the NCAA about possible rules violations involving Alabama.

Carroll transferred to Florida from Alabama last year after playing two seasons for the Tide. He sat out the 1999 season.

"I had to go and talk to the NCAA a couple of weeks ago," Carroll said. "I'd really rather not get into the specifics. I'm not supposed to talk about it."



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