

## Osama loyalists prevent Taliban surrender

**UNDER SIEGE:** Members of the northern alliance tighten their grip on terrorism.

By Kathy Gannon/Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The northern alliance tightened its siege on the last Taliban bastion in the north, Kunduz, where foreign fighters loyal to Osama bin Laden reportedly were preventing a Taliban surrender. Four international journalists were feared dead after gunmen ambushed their convoy in eastern Afghanistan. The northern alliance asked the United Nations to find representatives from Afghanistan's

majority Pashtun ethnic group with whom the alliance can negotiate over a new government. A conference between all Afghan factions was set to begin Nov. 24 in Germany, most likely Berlin, a Pakistani diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said. There was no immediate confirmation of the date and venue of the conference. U.S. and U.N. diplomats have been putting intense pressure on the alliance, which is made up mainly of ethnic minorities, to agree to a conference and share power. The Pentagon said Monday that more U.S. commandos had been deployed in southern Afghanistan to help in the hunt for bin Laden, the top suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. There are a few hundred Ameri-

cans now on the ground throughout the country, spokeswoman Victoria Clarke said. At Kunduz, foreign militants loyal to bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network — mostly Arabs, Pakistanis and Chechens — were preventing their Afghan allies in the Taliban from surrendering, refugees from the city said. Refugees have said up to 300 Taliban fighters were shot — apparently by their own side — as they tried to surrender Friday. Reports of other killings on a smaller scale have also emerged in recent days. The Taliban had offered over the weekend to leave Kunduz on condition of guarantees of safety for the foreign fighters, a northern alliance commander said. But other alliance commanders said Monday they doubted the Taliban were in a po-

sition to negotiate since Arabs effectively control the city. Alliance troops for the past several days had encircled the city without firing. But on Monday they used two tanks, two artillery pieces and a multiple rocket launcher to fire on Taliban positions in the hills. American warplanes also struck the city's defenses Monday. U.S. airstrikes were also reported in the south and east of the country. At the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said fighting around Kunduz was "fierce." He said he had seen reports of Taliban fighters killed to prevent their surrender but "I'm not in a position to validate them." Refugees who fled Kunduz to the nearby village of Bangi reported summary executions of ci-

vilians by the besieged Taliban. One refugee, Dar Zardad, said Taliban killed eight teen-agers for laughing at them and other fighters shot to death a doctor who was slow to treat wounded Taliban. Rumsfeld said the Taliban were also under pressure to leave their bastion in the south, Kandahar, the birthplace of the Islamic militia. At Kandahar, "it is apparently at the moment still a standoff," he said "There are southern tribes that are applying pressure and engaged in discussions (with the Taliban), and there's fighting and the U.S., coalition forces, are providing some air support." The four journalists were missing after armed men stopped their convoy of six to eight cars on

TALIBAN continued on page 3

## Smoke ban referendum a possibility

**LUBBOCK LIBERTIES:** Local Libertarians' push for repeal forces city to take review of the issue.

By Jenny Klein/Staff Reporter

Lubbock voters get prepared. The long-debated smoking ordinance might be headed toward a referendum. With the successful completion of a petition drive to repeal the smoking ban, The Vote For Freedom Coalition, a Libertarian-based organization, is forcing the city to take another look at the controversial smoking issue. Of the 4,174 signatures checked on the petition, 1,945 were validated, according to city officials. Only 1,848 valid signatures were necessary to move forward with the petition. If the City Council does not vote to accept the Libertarian's suggested ordinance, the issue must be put to a public vote. The coalition's proposed ordinance is a replica of the city's old ordinance, which allows business owners to smoke in their own discretion about allowing smoking in their facilities. David DeLamar, chairman of the Lubbock Libertarian Party, said he prefers the City Council accept the suggested ordinance and save taxpayers \$70,000. However, in the event the Council does not choose to do this, DeLamar said, he is confident the referendum will pass. "Lubbock has a history of supporting limited government and that's what this is about," he said. Dr. Donna Bacchi, a member of the Smokeless Lubbock Coalition, said she disagrees. Bacchi said the majority of business owners and citizens support the smoking ordinance.

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JENNIFER ROMAN, A freshman interior design major from Midland, shops Monday afternoon at the Texas Tech Spirit Shop on University Avenue.

## Holiday shopping tests finances

Expert advises Tech students to exercise caution during holiday spending

By Jeff Stoughton/Staff Reporter

The day of Thanksgiving usually means people stuff their stomachs full of food. The day after, however, has been the day most people stuff their shopping carts full of gifts. A financial expert at Texas Tech advises students to exercise caution in their holiday spending this season. Bill Gustafson, director of the Financial Responsibility Center at Tech, said people take on the largest amount of debt during the holiday shopping season. They usually don't feel the pinch until January or February, he said, when the credit card bills arrive. "Usually, some sort of financial panic sets in about that time," he said. Credit card delinquencies usually increase around the

SHOPPING continued on page 3



MARIANA BRANDAO, A 2000 graduate of the Texas Tech College of Agriculture, sorts through an arrangement of T-shirts Monday afternoon at the Tech Spirit Shop. CRAIG SWANSON Staff Photographer

## Tech student allegedly hits T&P official

**CAR ACCIDENT:** The report said the incident happened before the football game.

By Jenny Klein/Staff Reporter

A Texas Tech Traffic and Parking employee allegedly was struck by a drunken driver Saturday afternoon at the intersection of Fourth Street and Red Raider Avenue, according to Tech police records. Police spokesman said the staff member was checking for parking permits on vehicles when the incident occurred. A Tech student allegedly struck the parking employee when she failed to stop her car to get checked for a permit. Apparently, Hoffman said, the victim had waved her hands in an effort to get the attention of the driver. Hoffman said the driver did not stop, so the victim slapped her hands on the hood of the car, causing her to be thrust backward. The staff member sustained slight injuries, but refused treatment by EMS at the scene, Hoffman said. After checking the driver, officers at the scene determined she was under the influence of alcohol, Hoffman said. They gave her a standard Breathalyzer test and checked her balance. The driver failed both tests and was placed in custody and taken to Lubbock County Jail. Traffic and Parking officials declined comment Monday afternoon because the case is still under investigation. The driver could be facing charges of intoxicated assault, which would mean a harsher punishment, Hoffman said. Intoxicated assault is when a person causes serious bodily injury while driving intoxicated. Hoffman said Tech police would present the case to the district attorney, who will determine the proper charges.

## DECKING WALLS

KRISTEN JOHNSON, FRONT, a junior psychology major from Atesia, N.M., and Kirsten Davis, a junior nursing major from Fort Worth, construct a holiday wreath around the entrance to the Physics building. Members of the Women's Service Organization, Johnson and Davis spent the morning decorating for next week's annual Carol of Lights celebration. JENNA HANSEN Staff Photographer



## University task force earns national recognition

**AN AMERICAN OBSERVATION:** The group was given favorable comments by officials from the U.S. government.

By Melissa Guest/Staff Reporter

Members of the university's Anti-Terrorism and Public Security Task Force received favorable comments from U.S. government officials regarding the force's initial report this month. Texas Tech University Chancellor Dr. David Smith met with the group Monday to share responses received from U.S. Rep. Larry Combest, R-Lubbock, and Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Lubbock. Smith said those he met with in Washington, D.C., this month had favorable comments regarding the report and the university. "That was very refreshing to see that Tech's national

reputation is not just something we talk about but is spontaneously discussed in Washington," Smith said. He said officials in Washington were impressed with Tech's initiative as the first university to form a task force using faculty expertise across the university system. The initiatives for the task force will now focus on new curriculum, better safety and long-term plans. "The question I passed to Dr. (Victoria) Sutton is, 'What should we permanently put in place after this is over?'" Smith said. Sutton is the task force chairperson. Additionally, Smith said, the task force would work on how to become a better resource locally. "We want to address how we can offer ourselves as a resource to the Plains, how we can help those other small communities with information, whether in the Plains or in Austin," he said. The task force also formed subcommittees to more specifically address their charge. The group is charged with examining strategic plans, degree offerings and administrative structures to determine ways the university can make their resources most

accessible to the region and the nation. Judy Oskam, a member of the task force, said their full report is due in April. "I think the task force, in our first report, developed an inventory and assessment of the Texas Tech University system, and we'll be expanding on that report," she said. Through its research, Oskam said, the group has found Texas Tech University staff and faculty who can contribute in the areas of education, research and service," she said. "The university, what we've found, is there is a lot going on and there's a lot Texas Tech University staff and faculty who can contribute in the areas of education, research and service," she said. In a recent presentation at the Texas Board of Regents meeting Nov. 2, Sutton said the initial report was a system-wide collaborative effort. She credited Smith with the foresight to create such a task force. "While other universities were still reeling from the shock of the terrorist attacks, as they rightly should have,

TASK FORCE continued on page 3

## Tech engineers take truck to next level

**TIME MACHINE:** The Future Truck uses a fuel cell to make electricity from hydrogen.

By Jody Slaughter/Staff Reporter

A group of Texas Tech engineers drove a truck into the future this week-end.

Actually, they drove their 2001 "Future Truck" into a local car dealership's parking lot to show it off, but the truck is powered by something on which many cars of the future might run.

The truck, a 2000 Chevrolet Suburban, was transformed by Tech engineers to run entirely on electricity. A fuel cell stack inside the vehicle uses hydrogen and air to produce electricity.

"There's no combustion at all, it's an entirely chemical process," said Charles Paulson, an advanced vehicle engineering graduate student and information coordinator for the project. This is the second year Tech has participated in the Future Truck competition, though university engineers have been involved in similar projects since 1989.

The U.S. Department of Energy, National Instruments, Cisco Systems and Honeywell sponsor the Future Truck competition. General Motors Corp. donated the vehicle to Tech for the 2001 competition, while Ford Motor Co. will donate an Explorer for the upcoming 2002 competition.

Sixteen colleges from around the country compete in the two-week Future Truck competition.

"The idea is to create an alternative fuel vehicle that has at least 25 percent better fuel economy than with a standard gasoline engine," Paulson said.

The vehicle must also maintain all of the original capabilities of the truck, such as four-wheel drive and normal highway acceleration.

Tech's truck does not even have an engine. Instead, it has a fuel cell stack

and electric motors. The stack has more than 630 cells, each with hydrogen on one side and air on the other. The hydrogen is attracted to the oxygen through a platinum membrane in the center. As the hydrogen passes through, electricity is produced to power the car. The only exhaust from the vehicle is water and air, which is safer for the environment than the carbon monoxide of combustion engines.

So far, Tech and Virginia Tech are the only two schools to employ the fuel cell technology - most other teams use a hybrid electric engine. The Tech program is planning on employing the same fuel cell concept in the 2002 contest.

"It's the same concept, but now we have data from the Suburban to design a better system," Paulson said. Eventually, he said, the team hopes to design a hydrogen supply system for the vehicle. They will use ammonia to make hydrogen, eliminating the hassle of keeping hydrogen fuel on board.

There is no current danger, however, with keeping the highly flammable hydrogen stored in the vehicle.

"Hydrogen can safely be carried - we use polymer plastic containers," Paulson said. "It can be just as safe as carrying gasoline."

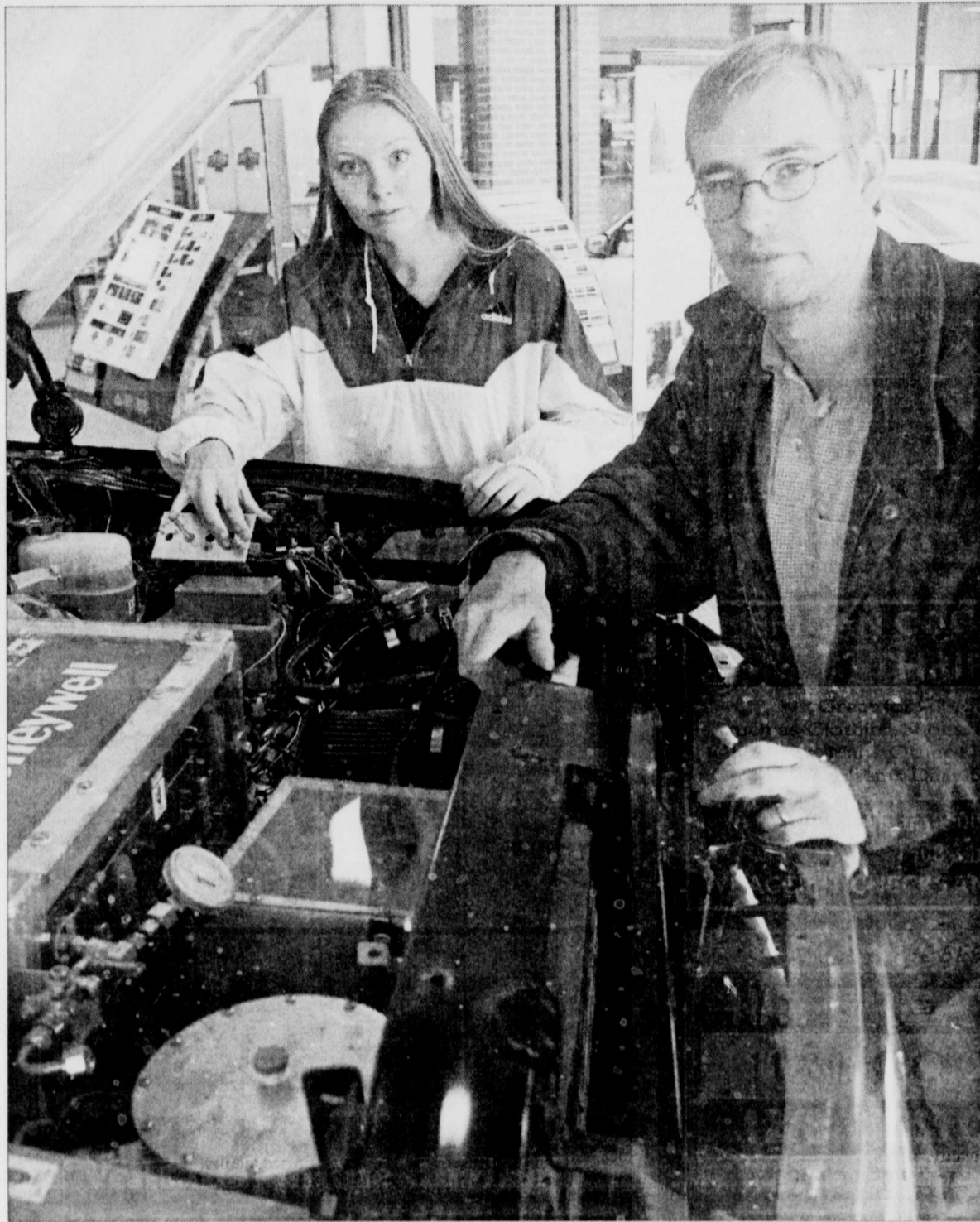
For this year's competition, the vehicle and team will travel to the Ford proving grounds near Kingman, Ariz. While there, the truck will go through safety inspections, dynamic tests, an eight mile run and a trailer pull.

Even though the engineering department sponsors the competition, the team is not limited to engineers.

"We have mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, chemists and physicists," Paulson said.

Thus far, the team has received little criticism for its research in alternate fuels that could damage the economy of oil-rich West Texas.

"The point of the competition is to decrease emissions and reduce energy consumption," said Tim Maxwell, associate professor of engineering and faculty adviser to the project. "We aren't here to get rid of gasoline."



FUTURE TRUCK TEAM members Renea Ash, a junior mechanical engineering major from Midland, and Charles Paulson, an engineering graduate student from Midland, prepare the vehicles for the Future Truck competitions. This vehicle is powered by an 80 kilowatt fuel cell that separates Hydrogen electrons to make electricity.

## McNair program welcomes scholars

By Laura Sepeda/Staff Reporter

The Texas Tech McNair Scholars Program held its annual fall banquet Monday night at the International Cultural Center Hall of Nations.

The program provides first generation college students, who intend to pursue a doctorate, with mentoring, tutoring and monetary assistance. The program is part of the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program, which was named to honor Ronald E. McNair, a successful astronaut who died in the tragic space shuttle Challenger accident in 1986.

McNair was a first generation college student. He graduated magna cum laude in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in physics from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. In 1976, he received his doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Of 10,000 applicants, McNair was one of 35 selected for the NASA space program. The scholars program was implemented at Tech in 1995 and has a membership of 20 students.

Kelly Sharp, assistant director of the program, said it is thorough and intense.

"Students are going to get a lot of experience out of it," she said. "We meet with each student once a week for about 10 minutes just to check base with them. If any issues come up throughout the semester, we can address them quickly."

Students have both a faculty and a graduate student mentor and receive intensive one-on-one academic advising. One of the students to benefit from the program is Jose Luna, a senior accounting and Spanish major from Mexico.

"The mentoring helped me launch my career," he said. "Knowing what to do just took a burden off me. I wasn't familiar with the whole process of graduate school in general."

This is Luna's third semester in the program, which is currently looking for qualified students for next semester.

To qualify for the program, students must have 60 hours of college credit at the undergraduate level, maintain a cumulative GPA that meets graduate school admission standards and be citizens or permanent residents of the United States. They also must come from low-income families and neither parent can have a bachelor's degree.

McNair scholars have a yearly stipend to help them cover educational expenses.

"We also have funds for them to travel because we think it is important they get to experience those academic conferences as undergraduate students," Sharp said. "Hopefully, those types of experiences will prove useful as they enter graduate school."

## TECH NOTES

The Llano Estacado Audubon Society will host a presentation by Texas Tech professor Clint Boal at 7 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center. The presentation will be on the distribution and abundance of Ferruginous and Swainson's Hawks. For more information, call Anthony Floyd at (806) 743-2714.

### POLICE BLOTTER



### Theft

■ An officer investigated the theft of an air compressor, accessories and a saw, which occurred at the English/Philosophy/Education Complex construction site Nov. 12.

■ An officer investigated the theft of a bathroom door from the men's restroom on the 7th floor of Weymouth Hall on Nov. 15.

■ An officer investigated the theft of a trombone from M03 Music building Nov. 16.

■ A cart of soft drinks at ramp 23 of Jones SBC Stadium was taken Nov. 17. The cart was recovered but not the drinks.

■ An officer documented a suspicious package that was mailed to a professor in the Math building Nov. 13. The package was opened by the Health Sciences Center fire marshal and was found to be a textbook.

### Burglary

■ An officer investigated the burglary of a motor vehicle in the Z4-R parking lot Nov. 14. Golf clubs were taken from the passenger compartment of the vehicle.

### Fire alarm

■ An officer responded to a fire alarm at the University Center on Nov. 15. The Lubbock Fire Department responded and determined that concrete dust from the construction site set off the smoke detectors. The building was evacuated.

### Criminal mischief

■ Trash and spoiled food were scattered over the chairs and throw rug on the balcony of an apartment in building seven of the Carpenter/Wells Residence Complex on Nov. 16.

◆ Blotter information is compiled from reports filed with the Texas Tech Police Department.

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# Four journalists missing, feared dead in Afghanistan

Witnesses report gunmen opened fire after taking writers from their cars; Italian foreign minister says it appears they were killed

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (AP) — Four international journalists were missing and feared dead Monday after they were stopped by armed men along a road in eastern Afghanistan. The gunmen opened fire after taking the journalists from their cars, witnesses said.

Italian Foreign Minister Renato Ruggiero told journalists in Brussels, Belgium, that based on reports from the scene it appeared the four were killed.

Those missing were a television cameraman and a photographer working for the Reuters news agency; a journalist with the Spanish daily *El Mundo*; and a

journalist with the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*.

Corriere della Sera's top editor, Ferruccio De Bortoli, said "we're still hanging onto the last hope, even though with the passing of the hours, it becomes ever more feeble." A Reuters spokesman said the journalists were "missing and feared dead."

The journalists were traveling in a convoy of about eight cars headed to the Afghan capital, Kabul, from the eastern city of Jalalabad. The province recently came under the control of anti-Taliban forces. However, some Taliban stragglers

and Arab fighters loyal to Osama bin Laden are still believed to be in the area.

Drivers said two of the cars were stopped by a group of six armed men who forced the four journalists from the vehicles.

The gunmen began to march the group into the surrounding hills, they said. Driver Mohammad Farrad said he then heard three or four bursts of Kalashnikov fire.

"They took the journalists, and when the journalists turned to look at them, the gunmen shot," he said.

The drivers fled and warned the rest

of the convoy, which was some distance behind, to turn back.

Authorities from the new anti-Taliban administration in Jalalabad were organizing a search in the area.

In London, Reuters identified its missing employees as television cameraman Harry Burton, an Australian; and Azizullah Haidari, an Afghan photographer.

Maria Grazia Cutuli, of *Corriere della Sera*, was also missing, said Guido Santevecchi, an editor at the daily in Milan, Italy. *El Mundo* said one of its leading journalists, Julio Fuentes, was

traveling in the convoy and also had not been heard from.

Eduard Sanjuan, a correspondent for Spanish regional television TV3, was farther back in the same convoy as the four missing journalists. He said that at one point the car carrying Cutuli and Fuentes passed his.

Some time later, another car ahead of him quickly turned around. Its passengers "were shouting at us in Pashtu, the Afghan language, to get out rapidly because they (gunmen) were shooting at the journalists," Sanjuan told Spanish National Television.

Sanjuan said Fuentes decided to join the convoy traveling to Kabul at the last moment after talking it over with other journalists. The convoy did not have any protective escort, he and others said.

Sanjuan said drivers had told him the attackers had not demanded money.

Japan's Kyodo News said a crew from Asahi National Broadcasting Co., a private Japanese television network, was confronted in eastern Afghanistan on Monday by several men who appeared to be soldiers and who stole some of their equipment. No one was harmed, Kyodo said.

## Taliban

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the road between the capital, Kabul, and the eastern city of Jalalabad. Gunmen opened fire after the journalists were taken from their cars into the surrounding hills, drivers said.

Backed by U.S. bombardment, the northern alliance swept the Taliban out of northern Afghanistan last week and seized the capital, Kabul. The Taliban hold also fell apart in the south, where local leaders took control of many areas.

In Kabul, television — banned for the past five years under the Taliban — resumed broadcasting, with two hours of programming Sunday and Monday night. A woman announcer, with her black hair partially covered with a scarf, read news and promotions between public health programs, cartoons and music.

Kabul residents also swarmed the newly opened Bakhtar cinema, long closed by the Taliban ban on movies. Hundreds of people who couldn't fit into the packed theater jostled outside, blocking traffic. Finally, soldiers with rifles intervened, pushing the crowd away from the front gate.

The northern alliance's foreign minister, Abdullah, said Monday that the alliance preferred to hold a conference of Afghan factions in Kabul but had relented on this demand. "We didn't want to make the venue and obstacle," he said.

He called on the United Nations to find Pashtun representatives for the con-

ference — but underlined that the alliance would not accept former Taliban leaders.

Most of the Taliban were Pashtuns. While some Pashtun tribes have risen up against the Taliban over the past week, so far no concrete Pashtun leadership has emerged.

Francesc Vendrell, the deputy to the U.N. envoy to Afghanistan, met prominent Afghan figures in Kabul. However, many other factions don't have a presence in the capital.

The head of the northern alliance, Burhanuddin Rabbani — who was once the Afghan president and has never dropped his claim to be head of state — controls Kabul. The United Nations wants a conference held on neutral ground, out from under the shadow of alliance domination.

Neighboring Pakistan, which was once the Taliban's top supporter but backed the U.S. campaign against the militia, urged Afghan factions not to miss the opportunity for peace.

"All of our Afghan brothers should think of the future of their country and not resort to actions that promote their selfish interests," Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar said in Islamabad.

In western Afghanistan, alliance officials showed journalists a grave near Shindand military airport that they said contained the bodies of 27 anti-Taliban fighters massacred by the Taliban before the Islamic militia fled the city.

## Shopping

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

months of February or March, after people begin missing monthly payments. March and April, he said, usually bring about an increase in consumer bankruptcies.

Typically, Federal Reserve data on consumer spending shows a zero percent savings rate during the months of October and November, which are busy shopping months.

"People are spending a lot more money

than they're making," Gustafson said.

Jennifer Roman, a freshman interior design major from Midland who was shopping Monday afternoon at the Spirit Shop on Broadway, said she is planning on spending \$800 on gifts for her family this holiday season. She said she plans on using her credit card for a portion of those purchases.

She said the advice her parents gave her about using the credit card simply was, "Don't max it out."

Gustafson said students typically are impulse spenders, which makes constructing a budget difficult. He said stu-

dents should only use cash when "browsing" the mall or other department stores.

"When you're just roaming around with your buddies, leave your credit card at home," he said.

He said students should take into account that they usually do not have a steady income, as a household would have.

Mariana Brandao, a Tech graduate from Brazil, said people should be careful with credit cards.

"Don't abuse them," she said. "There are a lot of things you really

don't need."

Gustafson said students should not worry about buying extravagant gifts for family and friends. A visit to family members should be enough of a gift, he said.

"If they judge you on the presents you give, they need to get a life," he said.

Resources are available to Tech students who need advice on financial matters. The Red to Black financial planning initiative, a financial counseling service, offers students advice on fiscal affairs. Their Web site is located at [www.hs.ttu.edu/r2b](http://www.hs.ttu.edu/r2b).

## Smoke

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When given the chance to continue allowing smoking, only 600 out of 11,000 businesses obtained a smoking permit, Bacchi said.

"Less than 1 percent of businesses got a smoking permit when they were given the opportunity to do so," she said. "What that tells me is that busi-

nesses care about their customers' health."

With the support of the City Council, members of the community and most businesses, Bacchi said, she is fairly certain people will vote against the referendum.

"People support an ordinance that protects their health and gives them a place to enjoy what they're doing without having to breathe in cancer-causing toxins," she said.

The Council will receive the petition at its Dec. 3 meeting.

In the meantime, the City Council on Nov. 15 approved the Planning and Zoning Commission's guidelines outlining what constitutes a sport's bar or grill.

Among those supporting the requirements was local restaurant owner, David Cea.

Cea, former president of the Lubbock Restaurant Association and

owner of Caprock Café and Orlando's, told the Council he saw no problem with the current definition of a sport's bar.

The Council noted public input was invited, but nobody spoke in opposition.

"Broad public input was invited," Lubbock City Councilman David Nelson said. "What has been decided is a result of good discussion and agreement."

## Task force

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we began our effort to offer a supporting role to our nation's response to Sept. 11," Sutton said.

Regent Nancy Jones said she was

impressed by the comprehensiveness of the report and the task force.

"I think what this task force indicates is the depth of diversity of excellence across the Tech system," she said.

The task force, she said, also speaks to the expertise of the nationally recognized faculty.

"Dr. Smith's ability to pull together such a great group is indicative of how greatly Texas Tech can make a difference, not only regionally but nationally," she said.

The initial report focused on research, education, service and initiative. The report concentrates "on" both the

university's and West Texas' resources in each of these areas.

The report also includes a second part dedicated to public security issues and outreach activities.

The task force will host a panel discussion on these issues from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 28 in El Paso.

## Law School ACLU to host racial profiling speech

The Texas Tech School of Law's chapter of the American Civil Liberties

Union and the Minority Law Student Association will host a presentation by Will Harrell at 4:30 p.m. today in the school's forum.

"He wrote the laws of racial profiling in Texas, basically," Hubbard said.

The event is open to everyone.

Harrell, the executive director for the ACLU of Texas, will speak on racial profiling laws, especially those issues brought to light by the Sept. 11 incident.

Julia Hubbard, a second-year law student from Lubbock and secretary of the school's ACLU, said Harrell has been involved with racial profiling issues for years. One prominent issue dealt with an incident in Tulsa last year, in which a white undercover police officer had 15 percent of the black population in Tulsa arrested in connection with a crime.

Hubbard said Harrell was instrumental in the creation of laws that prevent arrest on the basis of race alone.

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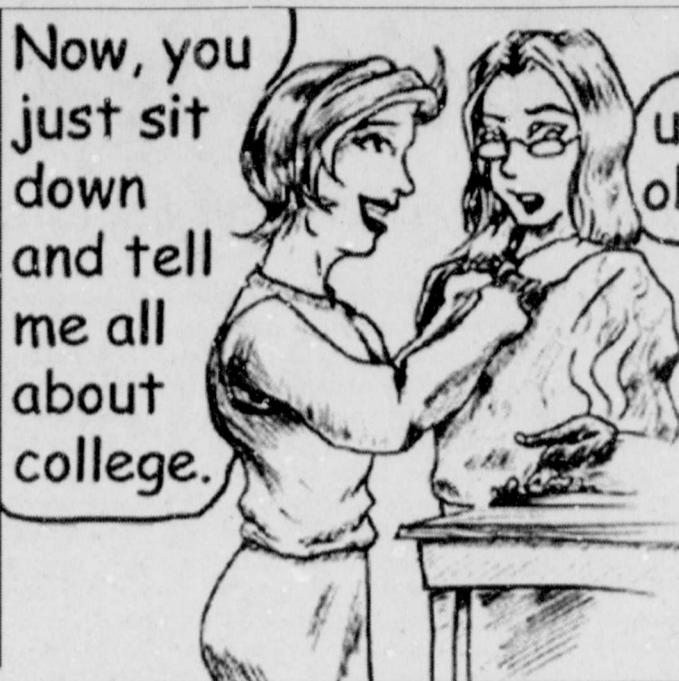
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## It's more than a GPA; it's a way out

COLUMN



DALLAS GRANT

I awoke Wednesday last week to a steady Lubbock drizzle. It wasn't a happy rain, more like a feedlot drizzle from the north side of town. When I stepped out the door, bound for class, the smell of bovine defecation damn near knocked me to the ground. Just another morning with a southerly wind here in the Hub City. Ah, fresh air.

I arrived on campus just in time for a Lubbock-style monsoon. Now, a monsoon in Lubbock doesn't necessarily translate into massive amounts of rain, just enough to fill the non-existent drainage system and flood the streets. So, I rolled up my pant legs and waded to class through the puddles, known as lakes and rivers in other locales.

Of course my story is a little exaggerated, but it proves a point. It is easy to poke fun at Lubbock. There's hardly enough challenge in it to warrant the effort, but I never let something easy get in my way. Besides, this city begs for verbal assaults, and I won't be the one to let it down.

So, knowing my subject is a little overdone, if not passé, I had to take a new angle of attack. So here it goes:

Some say Lubbock is hell. These folks aren't too far off the mark. It certainly isn't heaven, but I say it's not quite hell, either. I like to think of it as purgatory. That's right, it's a place of suffering or remorse where we wait for judgment.

Live a good life, make your grades, and heaven

waits. Not really heaven per se, but a glorious life beyond the Lubbock city limits. Fail and you are destined for hell - lifetime residency in Lubbock, Texas.

Of course a Lubbockite would object to my dismal assessment. In fact for some mysterious reason, they enjoy defending this big, flat rock. Like McKinney at the Alamo, the locals defend this worthless piece of desert from a steady onslaught of college students.

Arrogant college students aren't the only enemies that disturb the sanctity of West Texas life. In fact, I see dissent in the ranks even among the town's greatest defenders.

Allow me to paint a picture of purgatory as I see it. As I weave in and out of purgatory traffic, I notice the lack of commerce here in Lubbock. As I vie for positioning at an upcoming light with one of God's own disciples, I realize how old this town's people really are.

Has anyone else noticed the abundance of "blue hairs?" Blue hairs, for those unfamiliar with the term, refers to a person who appears to be older than God, and is distinguishable by a cotton ball-like hairstyle with a bluish tint.

Blue hairs are everywhere. I can't seem to get away from them, and all this time I thought I was in a college town.

There are no young people here. I guess the kids have been replaced by fish in this flooded playa lake. Lubbock Independent School District is closing schools left and right to keep up with the depopulation, but I don't see any fish markets. I don't know?

As I continue my journey through this West Texas oasis, I also notice numerous empty storefronts. Everyday, when I navigate the streets at 20 MPH, I see entire vacant strip malls with spray paint on the windows indicating a move or a bankruptcy. How is it possible that a building just stays empty forever?

I grew up in a fairly large city where real estate is a precious resource. Apparently, the trend hasn't caught on here in Lubbock. How much longer can we expect any sort of economy here when buildings go unused because of a lack of demand?

Do you ever wonder why there are so many vacant buildings here? It's because this town relies on smelly cattle and cotton bolls for income. I wonder if anyone has ever considered moving the feedlots further from town? A reduction in the "poo" smell might attract new residents. Why does Lubbock insist on killing the brain cells of citizens with the most grotesque aroma that ever emanated from the bowels of an animal?

The cotton industry isn't doing much to support the Hub City, either. Consider that a big, flat rock in the desert might not be the best place to raise cotton. Ever notice the lack of trees here? I'm no farmer, but a lack of natural vegetation may indicate poor growing conditions. Just a thought.

Don't take my word for it — take a look around. Stores are closing, schools are shutting down, and I doubt it's because of a lack of reproduction. People are leaving town. College students have deemed this town undesirable for year., and now Lubbock's own children have joined in the assault.

I know it all sounds a little disheartening, and for the permanent residents of Lubbock, it must be. However, Techsians should have little to fear. This is not hell, exactly; it's purgatory.

In the words of the infamous David Trout, "No drugs, no sex and no alcohol," is the key to a successful college career. So, if you would like to avoid the ultimate punishment: a horrible dental record and a lifetime in Lubbock, make your grades. For heaven's sake, make your grades!

■ Dallas Grant is a senior English major from Austin. He may be contacted at [dallas.r.grant@ttu.edu](mailto:dallas.r.grant@ttu.edu).

## Cornucopia of random thoughts

COLUMN



KATIE HARRIS

I looked in horror when I saw the new tuition payment plan for the spring semester. I cried when I realized there wasn't a payment plan. My first thought was Texas Tech must be hard up for cash or something. My second thought was they are trying to make my life and Christmas hell. For the many of you who pay your tuition as you

go, this is a major blow. I have relied on that three-month installment plan, but know it just looks like I will have to be creative in my gift giving this year. Cookies and homemade ornaments anyone?

■ First Lady Laura Bush is right when she says Thanksgiving won't be the same this year. The holiday season this year will be much more than presents and decorations. It will showcase a newly reunited America with a deeper appreciation for all the blessings we have. Giving thanks will be much more heartfelt and meaningful. Spending time with family will be cherished more, and we will all count our blessings.

■ Popular movies are demonstrating a new American morality. Movies like "Monsters, Inc.," "Shrek", and the new "Harry Potter" movie and their box office potential are mirroring a new need for positive entertainment in America. It seems Hollywood should take the hint and quit releasing movies with unnecessary language, sex and violence. These things are just fine every once in awhile, but it is sad the G-rated movie has become almost nonexistent.

■ We all have reason to cheer now at Texas Tech. It seems our football team is coming up. It is the beginning of a new era when Texas A&M is the underdog. And as always, the Lady Raiders are sure to provide great entertainment this season. Let's not forget the new coach in town. Red Raider sports are at their finest and definitely giving us something to cheer about.

■ Congratulations to Mark McGwire on announcing his retirement. Not many people can put their foot down and say enough is enough. He knew his limits and didn't push them. When you can't do your best anymore, it is time to quit. And besides, who wants to end up the player everyone said should just retire? Aikman anyone?

■ Can we just forget about last year's election already? The Supreme Court decided Bush was the winner, yet more than one year later, groups are still trying to find out who really won the election. We have a president that is doing a pretty great job considering the circumstances, so why should we question that? A president was chosen and no endless amount of recounts is going to change that. We need to back our president during these times and make sure that we keep our voices heard in the future.

■ I wanted to remind everyone that it is getting cold and winter is around the corner. You know what that means? It means flip-flops are not really a smart choice for apparel anymore. You know, when it is below 60 degrees and I see people's little toes peeking out, I wonder how they are still even walking. You know you shouldn't complain about a cold, or even frostbite, if you are still wearing sandals in December. That may be acceptable in Dallas or Houston, but trust me, Lubbock winters can be pretty harsh.

■ Finally, have a great Thanksgiving break. Help cook and, of course, eat that infamous Thanksgiving dinner. Spend time with your family because that time is so precious. Rejoice that another semester is almost behind you, and you are closer to that elusive graduation date. Most of all, have fun and be thankful for all the wonderful things you have in your life. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

■ Katie Harris is a junior English major from Lubbock. She can be contacted at [raiderx81@cs.com](mailto:raiderx81@cs.com).

## Drowsy driving dangerous — I know from experience

GUEST COLUMN

The thoughts of making it home to see family and friends are fresh on your mind. The delicious pumpkin and pecan pies you see in your mind make your mouth water. Even driving in your car, you can almost smell the turkey cooking in the oven. You just



ANDREW SCHOPPE

cannot wait to get home for Thanksgiving.

You've been on the road for hours and are feeling sleepy, but the thought of being at home makes you keep pushing yourself to stay behind the wheel. Your eyes get heavy. You slap your face a bit, and then roll down the window to get some fresh air.

Still your eyes weigh heavy and your mind drifts. You nod off for a split second, but then snap out of it just as you have always done.

"I'll just change the music in the car to a different song, something more up beat," you think to yourself. "That'll make me alert and I'll keep on driving. It's no big deal."

With the new song playing loud, you keep on cruising down the highway with thoughts of family and friends on your mind. You gaze ahead at the road and feel fine. Then without warning you nod off again, only this time you don't snap out of it immediately. Unknowingly, you swerve left into oncoming traffic, then back to the right and over the shoulder of the road into the grass.

The sound of the car rolling over the bumpy terrain at speeds above 60 MPH startles you to awaken. You quickly realize what's going on and try to correct the steering wheel to get back on the road to avoid a solid obstacle ahead. But it's too late and you hit the object.

In the blink of an eye, your car flips and begins to roll. When the car

stops rolling, will you be alive or dead? Do you want to have to consider this question?

I always thought falling asleep behind the wheel and getting into a life-threatening accident would never happen to me. I had dozed off behind the wheel lots of times before but nothing ever happened. I always fought through the sleepy eyes and got that second adrenaline rush to get to where I was going. It would never happen to me. Then it did, and it almost took the life of someone I loved dearly and my life, as well.

Thankfully, God was watching out for us and blessed us with other days to live and give thanks to him for his blessings.

Think drowsy driving can't happen to you? Think again. Drowsy driving is real and it can happen to anyone. Do you want to make a mistake like I did and take a chance at fighting through the sleepiness one more time? You might end up dead. It's 30 minutes to an hour of rest versus the chance of taking the life of someone you love or even

your own. Which do you want? If you want to make sure you make it home to give thanks for the blessings that God has provided in your life — your family, your friends, your health, your ability to wake up in the morning and give thanks to God — be safe and smart.

If you feel yourself getting tired behind the wheel, pull over and take a nap or call one of the many Red Raider parents who have offered their homes as rest spots for you while you're traveling. These parents are a part of the "Road Raiders" Safe Travel Parent Network ([www.ttu.edu/parent/network.htm](http://www.ttu.edu/parent/network.htm)). They care and want to see you make it home safely to your loved ones. Thanksgiving is a day to give thanks for the blessings in our lives.

Be safe and smart on the roads when you travel. Someone who loves you is waiting to see you when you arrive and give thanks that you are there.

■ Andrew Schoppe was the Student Government Association president in 2000-01.



Letters to the editor can be e-mailed to [opinions@universitydaily.net](mailto:opinions@universitydaily.net), or brought by 211 Journalism. Letters must include submitter's name, classification and major and social security number and phone number for verification purposes. Letters more than 300 words or unsigned letters will not be printed.



# Red Raiders turn focus to SFA in season finale

By Phil Riddle/Staff Reporter

Texas Tech players and coaches are not taking a victory for granted this Saturday when they tangle with Division I-AA Stephen F. Austin in the Red Raiders' 2001 regular season finale at 1 p.m. at Jones SBC Stadium.

Tech, coming off a 30-13 Big 12 football loss to defending champion Oklahoma, is giving the Lumberjacks respect heading into their non-conference meeting.

Quarterback Kliff Kingsbury, who

passed for 254 yards in a 24-of-37 effort against the Sooners, said the Raiders cannot afford to look past SFA.

"I don't think so," he said. "Anytime you're coming off a loss, you always want to bounce back strong. It's really important. It'll give us a lot of confidence to have a good showing, a good win. It'll put everything together that we've learned this whole year."

Tech head coach Mike Leach, while not wanting his squad to overlook the 'Jacks, sees room for improvement in the Raiders.

"We've got plenty of work to do," he said. "Every day is valuable, every practice is valuable, and I feel like it needs to be viewed that way. Any time you get toward the end of a season, sometimes guys will lose perspective. We have to get out there and play well. We need to get better this week, just like we do every week."

Leach said the Raiders' concentration on the game this weekend would be critical.

"The better you perfect your game, your intensity level, in the course of practice and drills, the better chance you have of duplicating it on the field," he said. "It's always important to play well."

Stephen F. Austin carries a 6-4 record into the game, including a 31-17 loss to Northwestern State in last week's Southland Conference battle.

Kingsbury said Tech would have a day's jump against the Lumberjacks.

"They have good athletes," Kingsbury

said. "They play real hard, so it's going to be a challenge. We're going to have to try to match their intensity."

The 'Jacks are led by quarterback Wes Pate, who completed 35 of 50 a week past for 353 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Pate has 2,626 yards for the season, the second highest single season total in SFA history.

One of Pate's favorite targets is wide receiver Lawrence Hamilton, who caught nine passes against Northwestern State for 120 yards and a pair of TDs.

Knowing SFA will require their full attention, Kingsbury said the offense needs

to make no major changes entering Saturday's game.

"We'll just stick to what we've been doing," he said. "They have a lot of speed, so we'll have to make good decisions, and our defense has to continue to play well. This'll be a good game for us to bounce back, though. To get a good win going into the bowl game."



GREG KRELLER/Staff Photographer  
TEXAS TECH SAFETY Kevin Curtis wraps Sooner wide receiver Mark Clayton during the Red Raiders' 30-13 loss to Oklahoma last Saturday. Tech closes the regular season at 1 p.m. Saturday against Stephen F. Austin at Jones SBC Stadium. The game was scheduled because of the cancellation of the Texas-El Paso football game in September.

*This'll be a good game for us to bounce back, though. To get a good win going into the bowl game.*

— KLIFF KINGSBURY  
Texas Tech Quarterback

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7:00	Bus. Report Body Elec.	Today Show	News	Recess Tarzan	Good Morning Sabrina	K. Copeland Magic Bus	
8:00	Carlou Barry		Early Show	Lightyear	America	Caroline Paid Program	
9:00	Dragon Tales Arthur	Today Show	Sally Jessy Raphael	Judge Mathis	Regis & Kelly	Crossing Over	
10:00	Sesame Street	Martha Stewart	Price is Right	People's Court	View	Ananda Lewis	
11:00	Mr. Rogers Jay Jay	Montel Williams	Young & the Restless	Clueless Paid Program	Mad/You Port Charles	Paid Program P/Attorney	
12:00	Motorweek Fine Art	News Days of Our	News Beautiful	Jerry Springer	All My Children	Divorce Ct. Divorce Ct.	
1:00	Health Diary Teletubbies	Lives Passions	As the World Turns	Jenny Jones	One Life to Live	Matlock	
2:00	Clifford Sagwa	Hilary Square	Guiding Light	Paid Program Joe Brown	General Hospital	Woody Transformers	
3:00	Zoboomatoo Arthur	Rosie O'Donnell	Maury Povich	Joe Brown E.T.	Iyanla	Time Force Digimon	
4:00	R. Rainbow	Copnh Winfrey	For Women Judge Judy	7th Heaven	Tell/Truth Family Feud	Home Impr. Shoot Me	
5:00	Beth/Lions Nightly Bus.	News NBC News	Jeopardy News	Street Smart Street Smart	News ABC News	Sabrina Simpsons	
6:00	NewsHour	News Extra	CBS News	Voyager	News W/Fortune	Friends Raymond	
7:00	NOVA	Jennifer Lopez in	JAG	Buffy	Dharma/Greg Spin City	That '70's Undeclared	
8:00	Secrets of the	Fraser TPG Scrubs TV14	Guardian	Roewell	NYPD Blue TV14	24 TV14	
9:00	Living Edens	Dateline	Judging Amy	Cops Cops	Philly TV14	News	
10:00	Secrets of the	News Tonight Show	News David	Change/Heart Blind Date	News Nightline	Seinfeld Frasier	
11:00		Conan	Letterman Craig	Blind Date Change/Heart	Incorrect Abbott	King/Hill Cheers	
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## Tech sports keep busy during Thanksgiving holiday

### Raiders face SMU for first road contest

Texas Tech men's basketball coach Bob Knight will make his first road trip as Red Raider coach when the Raider basketball squad travels to Dallas to face Southern Methodist University at 7:35 p.m. today at Moody Coliseum. Tech leads the all-time series, 54-46.

Tech (2-0) enters the non-conference battle coming off two home wins at the Red Raider Classic last weekend.

The squad defeated William & Mary Friday and San Diego State Saturday.

Tech center Andy Ellis was named MVP of the tournament by scoring a combined 31 points complemented with

27 rebounds. SMU (2-0) was successful last week by defeating Savannah State and Navy. SMU is led by guard Damon Hancock who averages 22.5 points per game.

Tech continues play through the holiday weekend when it meets Sam Houston State at 8:15 p.m. on Saturday at the United Spirit Arena. Sam Houston State has never defeated the Raiders in the four games the two teams have met in.

The Bearcats (1-1) split their first two contests of the season by defeating Norfolk St. and losing to Drake.

Tech continues its non-conference schedule when they face Texas-El Paso on Monday.

### Lady Raiders go west for Oregon State

The Texas Tech Lady Raiders will take to the court for the second time this season when they battle Oregon State at 4 p.m. Saturday in Corvallis, Ore.

The meeting with the Beavers will be the third between the two schools and both teams have claimed one victory in the series.

Saturday's game will mark the first meeting between Tech and Oregon State since 1986.

The Oregon State contest will be the first regular season contest for the Lady Raiders since losing to Duke, 85-69, on Nov. 11. The Duke contest was also a road game.

The match-up with the Beavers

will be the first of three consecutive road matches for Tech, making this road trip the team's longest of the season.

Tech will travel to Eugene, Ore., to face the Ducks on Monday and will make the journey to Albuquerque, N.M., to battle New Mexico Nov. 30.

The Lady Raiders lead the all-time series with the Ducks 2-0, and the all-time series with UNM 9-0.

Tech defeated both UNM and Oregon in contests last season.

Tech's first regular season home game of coach Marsha Sharp's 20th year with the Lady Raider basketball program will take place Dec. 2, when the Lady Raiders take on North Texas.

## Spikers close year with Bears, Aggies

The Texas Tech volleyball team closes the regular season this week when they face the Baylor Bears at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the United Spirit Arena and Texas A&M at 7 p.m. Saturday in College Station.

The Red Raiders enter the match in a three-way tie for sixth place in the Big 12 Conference. Texas, Tech and Baylor all have 8-10 records in conference play.

The match with the Bears will be Senior Night for Heather Hughes-Justice and Skydra Orzen as Tech plays its final home match of the season.

When the Bears and Raiders last met in Waco, the match went five games with four of them going to extra points. Tech left with a 3-2 victory (34-32, 31-29, 29-31, 28-30, 19-17).

The Aggies are 21-5 overall and 14-4 within the Big 12.

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