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Battle ensues in last Taliban stronghold

By Kathy Gannon/Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Panicked residents fled Kandahar, the Taliban's last major stronghold, as U.S. bombers hammered the city Saturday and anti-Taliban fighters advanced, meeting what appeared to be patchy resistance.

More than 1,000 U.S. troops dug in at a nearby desert base, about 70 miles to the southwest, and stayed out of the conflict.

With pressure increasing on the last enclave of Taliban control, the northern alliance showed some flexibility in negotiations in Germany trying to create a multi-faction post-Taliban government.

A day after the alliance leader brought talks to an impasse over the issue, the alliance's foreign minister said the group was ready to discuss names to fill an interim administration for Afghanistan at the Bonn conference. He also said the alliance would accept an international security force if it had a U.N. mandate.

Residents, meanwhile, worked their way out of Kandahar to the Pakistani border along a route made increasingly dangerous by handits and armed gangs from both pro and anti-Taliban units.

"In the last 24 hours, five minutes haven't gone by without us hearing bombing and the roaring of (U.S.) planes," said Khalil Ahmed, who arrived Saturday in the border town of Chaman.

"People think it's just like doomsday. They're in a terrible situation," said another Kandahar resident who identified himself by the single name of Mohebullah.

Air raids also pounded Afghanistan's east. Pentagon officials have said that as well as Kandahar province, warplanes of the U.S.-led coalition are targeting mountains south of Jalalabad, where more than 600 non-Afghan Taliban fighters and al-Qaida members are reported hiding in mountain caves.

But the alliance foreign minister, Abdullah, said he did not think Osama bin Laden was in the cave network, a longtime al-Qaida base known as Tora Bora. Instead, he told reporters in Kabul, the alliance believes bin Laden and his al-Qaida followers have moved into the hills of three southern provinces — Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan.

President Bush launched the campaign against the Taliban after they refused to hand over bin

Laden, the top suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

A coalition bombing raid in eastern Afghanistan killed more than 100 civilians in the village of Kama Ado, 30 miles south of Jalalabad, witnesses and survivors said. But a senior provincial official said he had received reports that between 15 and 20 civilians had died in air raids early Saturday and that residents were exaggerating.

A spokesman for U.S. Central Command in Washington denied the village was hit. "It just did not happen," Marine Corps Maj. Brad Lowell said, adding that the witnesses' account "doesn't jive with our imagery" of the area. He said that U.S. bombs did hit a target in the area, but it was not civilian.

Lalgul, a 33-year-old farmer who said he wit-

nessed the bombing, said jets dropped more than 25 bombs in passes over Kama Ado. Lalgul, who uses only one name, and other witnesses said the village of 30 mud brick and wood homes was flattened.

Taliban officials in Kandahar maintained their tough talk despite reports of mayhem.

The former Taliban ambassador to Pakistan, Abdul Salam Zaeef, said the militia had rejected offers made by Pashtun leaders for negotiating the city's surrender. "An honorable death is better than a life of humiliation," Zaeef told the Afghan Islamic Press, a Pakistan-based news agency.

In Washington, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said the United States would not ac-

BOMBING continued on page 3

Tech gets research monies

ON THE HOUSE: U.S. representatives give \$3.5 M to Raiderland for funding several Red Raider programs.

By Jenny Klein/Staff Reporter

Texas Tech research programs will receive a \$3.5 million funding package, thanks to the approval of the 2002 Defense Appropriations Bill by the U.S. House of Representatives last week.

U.S. Rep. Larry Combest, R-Lubbock, requested the funding for Tech's Institute of Environmental and Human Health, located at Reese Technology Center.

The funding, which includes \$2.5 million for the National Program for Countermeasures to Biological and Chemical Threats and \$1 million for other environmental programs at the institute, is a continuation of funding received in the past.

Ron Kendall, director of TIEHH and chairman of the Department of Environmental Toxicology, said he is pleased with the support of Combest and the House.

"To me, it's a compliment. It means that the program is delivering and the faculty is delivering," Kendall said.

The \$2.5 million will go toward continuing research on the prevention, testing, education and training in case of biological or chemical warfare, Kendall said.

The program at Reese is primarily funded through the Soldier Biological and Chemical Command of the U.S. Army, Kendall said.

The institute is active in addressing recent needs that range from fabric design to protect humans from hazardous material to developing new techniques and technologies. However, this research could not continue without the support of the Department of Defense, Kendall said.

The remainder of the funding will go toward ongoing research on the effects of toxic chemicals to the environment and human health, as well as the improvement of clean-up strategies of hazardous material waste on military bases.

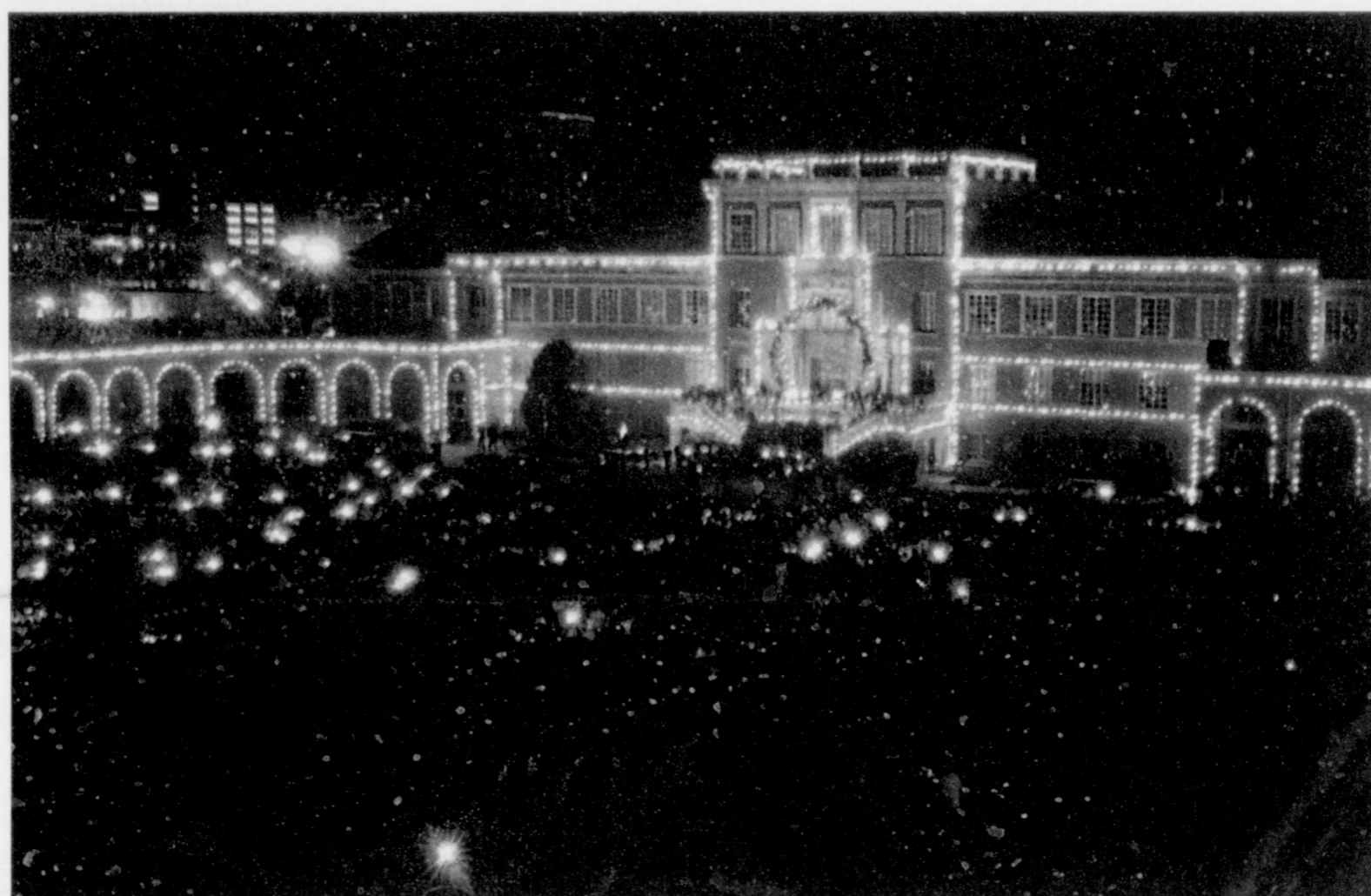
"This funding allows a tremendous opportunity for scientists and students to contribute to military base clean-up," Kendall said.

In addition to assisting the Department of Defense and its clean-up activities, the TIEHH has been working with the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by researching means of protecting and rescuing wildlife in a hazardous materials incident, he said.

Kendall said this funding not only

RESEARCH continued on page 3

A BRIGHT TRADITION



WITH AN ARRAY of lights outlining buildings on the Texas Tech campus, Red Raider administrators, students and other West Texas residents gather Friday evening during festivities celebrating the 43rd annual Carol of Lights. For related story, see ANNUAL HOLIDAY on page 5.

JAIME TOMAS AGUILAR/Staff Photographer

Faculty offering tax tips

By April Tamplen/Staff Reporter

It is never too early to begin preparing for the tax season and with the New Year right around the corner, the season is quickly approaching.

"The first thing to do is sit down and pull everything together," said Robert Ricketts, a tax professor in the Jerry S. Rawls College of Business Administration. "This would include your most recent pay stubs."

He recommends students set up a meeting with their accountant, if they have one, or pull out last year's tax information.

"This way you can input your income and expenses for this year and have plenty of time to start planning," he said.

The most important thing a student needs to remember, Ricketts said, is to check with their parents and find out if they are claiming the student as dependent or independent. Tax deductions are worth a lot more to parents because parents work full time, he said.

Students should remember, he said, scholarships are not taxable and student grants are similar to scholarships. The government will not take out the taxes, he said, because this is considered to be free money.

Important documents students are urged to keep would be paycheck stubs, tuition stubs and book receipts.

"It is very important to make sure all your taxes get paid," he said. "It is good taxes are taken out of the paycheck in the first place. It is easier to save money if you never even see it."

For confused students who need help with taxes, there are many places they can go. International students can attend a session led by the Internal Revenue Service in the middle

TAXES continued on page 3

Study abroad program suffers from attacks

By Melissa Vuduris/Contributing Writer

Many Texas Tech students were on U.S. soil when the Sept. 11 attacks took place, however, 20 Red Raiders currently are studying abroad in Seville, Spain, while others are in various countries throughout the world.

"To tell the truth, I feel safer here than I would in the States," said Nathan Rice, a senior public relations and Spanish major studying in Seville. "We hear that people in the States are panicked, and we just live life as normal Sevillanos."

Although none of the Tech students studying abroad have come home in the wake of the attacks, Tech's Office of International Affairs has had a large number of phone calls.

"There were some frantic phone calls, mostly from parents," said Luis Sanchez, a study abroad counselor. "Once parents learned the precautions we were taking to make sure the students were safe, they felt a little more secure."

The Tech program in Seville is different from other study abroad programs. Tech professors teach in a program run by the university teach students.

The program, which began last spring with 40 students, has been in operation for two semesters. In Fall 2001, the program had 20 students, and another 20 are enrolled for next spring. The Seville program's enrollment may be down a little, but a representative in the Office of International Affairs said the other programs are basically holding steady.

"It's hard to balance Sept. 11 as a factor," said Anastasia Coles at the Office of International Affairs. "We are basically where we were last year, but any number of things could be factored in."

Coles said the unstable economy could be one reason few students have opted not to go abroad. Two students confirmed they will not travel to their destination overseas in Spring 2002.

Although Tech did not have any students studying in the Middle East, all students were advised to be on full alert. Several international education organizations have sent updates to affiliate programs, which in turn, send letters to students studying abroad and their parents. The updates include the measures being taken to ensure the safety of all of the

students.

"We immediately informed the students of what had happened and urged them to contact their parents to explain that in Seville, they were on safe ground," said Allan Kuethe, professor of history. "I do not think that any of them thought about going back."

In Italy, a conference was held in the beginning of October between the U.S. Embassy in Rome and members of the Association of American College and University Programs in Italy. The U.S. Embassy official in charge gave many warnings and precautions for American students. Many study abroad directors expressed concern over the phone calls,

STUDY continued on page 3

Weekend memorial walk on campus culminates AIDS Day

By Laura Sepeda/Staff Reporter

To culminate the World AIDS Day events on the Texas Tech campus Saturday, members of the South Plains AIDS Resource Center held a memorial walk to commemorate those who have lost their lives to the disease.

Student supporters and members of SPARC began the walk with candles in hand at Memorial Circle and made their way to St. John's United Methodist Church, where a prayer vigil was held.

Juli Benson, student health coordinator for Student Health Services at Tech, said SPARC provides AIDS patients with a variety of support services.

"The main platform of our organization is prevention," she said. "We encourage

people to stay away from intravenous drugs and use latex condoms when performing oral, anal or vaginal sex."

Carla Trout, director of prevention services for SPARC, said the number of AIDS patients continue to rise.

"People need to get involved because it has been 20 years, and it is not going away," she said.

We know how to stop it, we know how you get it and we know how you don't get it. We just need to keep trying."

Trout said there is not enough support for those already afflicted with the disease.

"AIDS has a great deal of support," she said, "simply because there is a social stigma that goes with HIV that is not there with other terminal illnesses."

Because of this stigma, Trout said, many

AIDS patients are reluctant to reveal their status.

"Any type of support can enable patients to be themselves and live happier lives," she said.

In the past 20 years, the AIDS epidemic has grown exponentially. In 1981, there were 159 AIDS-related deaths. In 2000, there were nearly half a million.

Jo Hays, executive director of SPARC, said young people are particularly at risk.

"Young people between the ages of 15-25 represent half of all new AIDS cases," she said. "They are contracting the disease at a rate of two per hour. That is a horrible figure."

The alarming statistics do not stop there. Worldwide, the number of infected people

AIDS continued on page 3



TYSON JEFFREYS/Staff Photographer

PARTICIPANTS IN THE annual AIDS walk continue their journey across the Texas Tech campus Saturday enroute to St. John's United Methodist Church on University Avenue.

AFROTC turns aim to new leader

By Jody Slaughter/Staff Reporter

Texas Tech Air Force ROTC cadets were honored in a change of command and local awards ceremony last week.

The change of command is a military tradition in which the organization inaugurates its new leader. Cadet Col. Sarah Gilliland, a senior pre-medical student from Alamogordo, N.M., turned the cadet wing leadership responsibility over to Cadet Col. Nicklos Beihl, a senior engineering major from Aledo. The wing commander's responsibilities include going to boot camp, helping with freshman retention, and aiding juniors and seniors with their officer commission.

"The ROTC has made me more dedicated to everything that I do," Beihl said. "It teaches you to get things done on time, less slacking, and not being lazy."

Beihl said he plans to become a pilot once receiving his commission. Detachment 820 also recognized top performing cadets for their achievements in academics, physical fitness and military performance.

The AFROTC is contained within Tech's Department of Aerospace Studies. Members can be part of several extracurricular organizations such as the Arnold Air Society, a professional honorary service organization, and the Sabre Flight Drill team.

"The best day of my life was Nov. 20, 2000," said Cadet Mike Chebino, a sophomore journalism major from Dallas. "That was the day I was inducted into Sabre's. It was tough — I was pushed to the limit, but because of Sabres, I was able to do Freefall, a parachuting program at the U.S. Air Force Academy. I actually got paid to jump out of airplanes. I have gained so much more confidence in myself."

Cadets have found the Air Force is different from the screaming drill sergies of the movies.

"The Air Force isn't about all that in your face BS," said Joshua Jackson, a senior management major from Fort Worth and outgoing vice commander of the wing. "We have a lot of fun, especially in Arnold Air Society. We went to New Orleans for our national convention. You get to meet these big-time generals and other cadets that you'll make friends with for a lifetime."

Although the Air Force offers scholarships and a guaranteed four-year job after graduation, many cadets find the job is much more important than the benefits.

"It is very likely that here in the next

10 years or so, some of the cadets here today will have died for their country," Chebino said. "This love of sacrifice comes from complete loyalty for our country."

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, cadets have noticed more interest around campus in the AFROTC.

"A lot of people shy away when they first see my uniform, but when I start talking about the things I get to do, like ride in an F-16, their eyes pop open and they start asking questions," Jackson said.

About 100 students currently are enrolled in the AFROTC. ROTC cadets learn the principles of the Air Force and how it operates in their aerospace science classes. Their leadership skills are developed and tested in a Thursday lab that emphasizes teamwork, problem-solving skills, time management, marching and physical conditioning.

For more information on the AFROTC, call Capt. Adrianna Creech at (806) 742-2143.

Teen boy's friends set him on fire

DELAND, Fla. (AP) — A 16-year-old boy suffered burns to a third of his body after his friends doused his clothes with rubbing alcohol and set him on fire, police said.

Nathaniel Bates and two friends, ages 14 and 15, were "play wrestling" Thursday in the woods.

The teens decided the loser of the match had to light a small portion of his body on fire, while the others would videotape everything, said police spokeswoman Barbara West.

The tape showed the boys smacking one another with folding chairs. Because Bates lost, he let his friends pour rubbing alcohol on his shirt and set it on fire.

Police said the teens told them they had done the stunt safely many times before.

The boys ran inside and told the 14-year-old's grandmother to call 911. Bates suffered second- and third-degree burns to 36 percent of his body, said EVAC ambulance spokesman Mark O'Keefe. He was hospitalized in stable condition Saturday.

"Rubbing alcohol and matches never mix," O'Keefe said.

Police have questioned the boys and an investigation is continuing.

TECH NOTES

The Llano Estacado Audubon Society will host a presentation by Texas Tech professor Clint Boal at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center. For more information, call Anthony Floyd at (806) 743-2714.

The Residence Halls Association will be having a Deck the Halls fund-raiser through Wednesday, selling Christmas lights during meal times at the residence halls. A string of 100 lights will cost \$3 and a string of 50 lights will cost \$2. The lights are being sold for residents to hang in their room windows. For more information, call Chris at (806) 742-1763.

Congress' decision to just recess angers some Republicans

PLAYING GAMES: Sen. Hatch accuses some senators of trying to embarrass Bush.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress appears poised to skip the normal formal adjournment this month, taking just a recess while lawmakers return home. It's something the House and Senate used to do in times of national and global trouble.

While America is at war in Afghanistan, lawmakers say they want to be able to meet on a moment's notice. Some Republicans, however, see another mo-

tive. Without a formal adjournment, President Bush will not have the power to make "recess" appointments that bypass the need for confirmation by a Democratic-controlled Senate.

"That may be what's behind this, trying to make it tough on the president so he can't run the country well," said Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"There are a lot of games being played to try and embarrass this president so they can win seats next year. To me it's abysmal, abominable and downright cheap, but that's the way it is."

Normally, Congress adjourns "sine die" — Latin for without a date — at the end of a legislative year. That brings

an official end to all business before returning in January for a new session.

Senators and House members can just go home without officially adjourning, giving them the option to reconvene without having to ask the president for a special session, Senate Historian Don Ritchie said.

Past presidents have enjoyed periods of unilateral power when Congress is not in session.

"They've been very reluctant to call the Congress back into session, which would give the executive branch another branch to consult with instead of just being able to act on their own," Ritchie said. "The executive branch feels it works fine without the legislative branch in town."

Protecting their turf, lawmakers have become accustomed to keeping Congress formally in session during times of crisis. The first time Congress stayed all year was in 1940, while World War II raged in Europe.

"Although America wasn't involved at the time," Ritchie said, "lawmakers felt that they needed to be in Washington just in case."

The pattern has been repeated several times: in 1950, during the Korean War; in 1963, after the Kennedy assassination; in 1973, during Watergate; in 1979, during the Iran hostage crisis; in 1991, during the Gulf War; and in 1995, the first year of the Republican takeover of Congress.

"Republicans were in control of Congress that year, and didn't want to leave Washington and leave a Democratic president in charge," Ritchie said. Bill Clinton was president.

In addition to having the stage to himself when Congress adjourns, the president also gets to bypass Senate consideration of his nominations and place people he wants directly into federal jobs and important policy positions.

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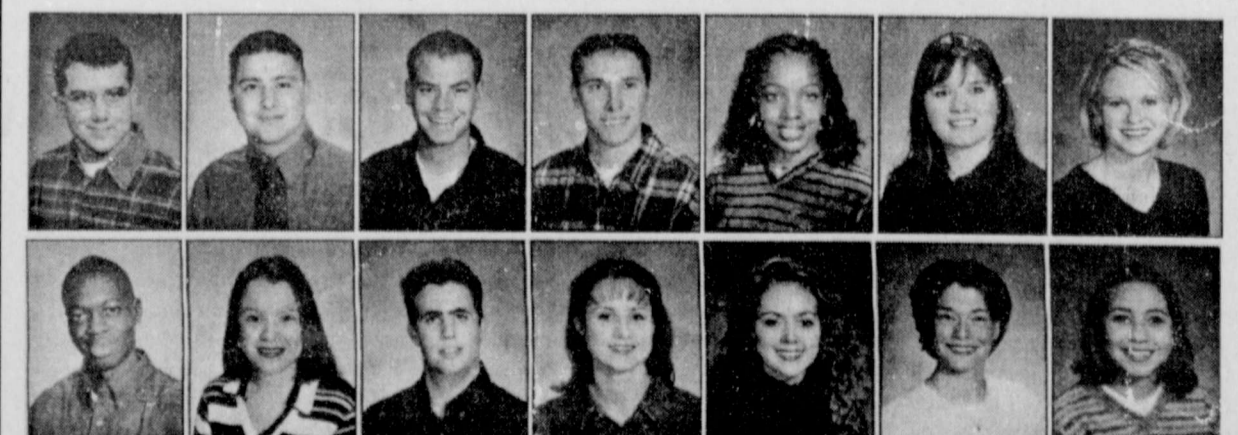
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Houston Mayor Brown wins third term

HOUSTON (AP) — Mayor Lee Brown held off City Councilman Orlando Sanchez in a tight race Saturday to win re-election to a third term and derail Sanchez's bid to become Houston's first Hispanic mayor.

With 100 percent of the precincts counted, Brown had 165,865 votes, or 52 percent, to Sanchez's 155,164, or 48 percent.

Overwhelming support for Brown in several late-reporting and predominantly

black Fort Bend County precincts put the incumbent over the top after the two candidates to lead the nation's fourth-largest city swapped the vote advantage repeatedly throughout the evening Saturday.

"Let me commend Orlando for running a very tough campaign," Brown said in a victory speech. "I know he loves Houston and I hope he'll continue to work with us to make sure we will have one city with one future."

"We have built ... We have refurbished," Brown said, reflecting on his previous two terms. "Most important to me, we have offered hope to those who are less fortunate than we are. That's what we're all about. So the next two years, we will work hard, we will work smart and most important we will work together. We will greet any conflict and challenge with courage and commitment."

"They have counted up the votes and

we've fallen a little short," Sanchez said. "We want to congratulate Mayor Brown for a well-run, hard-fought campaign. Tomorrow we'll wake up, we're all Houstonians, we're working together."

"I hope our message resonates," he added.

Brown, a Democrat and Houston's first black mayor, had characterized Cuban-born Sanchez as inexperienced, unreliable and a political extremist who shouldn't be trusted to lead the city.

Brown, 64, cited his four years in office, his tenure as police chief in Atlanta, New York City and Houston and his stint as drug czar under President Clinton as reasons why he should be re-elected.

Republican Sanchez, 44, criticized Brown for fire department staffing shortages, deteriorating streets and warned of an impending financial crisis, saying he could better set priorities and spend city money more wisely.

Study

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

e-mails and faxes they were receiving from parents and relatives of students. Only one student in Italy actually went home for fear of the situation.

Sandra Crosier, overseas opportunities coordinator for Tech, attended the Association for International Educators Region 3 Conference in Fort Worth this

fall. A representative from the U.S. State Department discussed what measures students should take when overseas. The conference advised all students to register their passport with the consulate as soon as they enter a country if they intend to stay for more than two weeks.

"She basically just informed people of what the consulate can and cannot do," Crosier said.

The conference advised students to keep a low profile and be aware of sur-

roundings. They also advised not to wear clothes that identify the student as Americans. Many programs have asked for students to inform them if they go traveling.

Hannah West, a sophomore from Tech studying in Seville, said she had only been in Spain for three days when the attacks occurred.

"We weren't quite sure of our surroundings yet, but the program here kept us well informed since watching the news

in Spanish did no good," West said.

Rice said he has come in contact with many American students who are studying in Spain and all are keeping a low profile.

"I have heard plenty of Spaniards curse the attacks on the WTC and not a single one curse what America is doing about it," Rice said.

Since the attacks, Coles said the foot traffic into the study abroad office has been down.

"We were hoping to get a 10 to 12 percent increase in students going abroad next year," Coles said. "Any number of things could be to blame, but I think people are being more sensitive to the travel economy."

Rice said he believes the attacks will affect the number of students studying abroad in the near future.

"I think it will mostly be due to parental fears," Rice said. "But in the long run, I am sure numbers will continue to increase."

Bombing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cept any surrender that gives amnesty or safe passage to al-Qaida and Taliban leaders, including the Islamic militia's supreme commander, Mullah Mohammed Omar.

Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, who is vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said fighting "will continue until Kandahar is, in fact, a free city, as is the rest of Afghanistan."

In recent weeks, the Taliban fled other Afghan cities further north when challenged by opposition forces. Tribal forces near Kandahar said they had captured dozens of Taliban fighters who surrendered despite orders by their leaders to fight to the death.

At negotiations between the northern alliance and three other Afghan factions outside Bonn, U.N. and U.S. diplomats stepped up pressure on the alliance after its leader, Burhanuddin Rabbani, on Friday brought talks to an impasse by rejecting key issues.

Rabbani said he wanted elections to create interim councils to rule Afghanistan until the spring, rather than negotiating lists of council members at the Germany talks.

But on Saturday, U.N. spokesman Ahmed Fawzi said at the conference that the alliance had submitted a list of names.

Abdullah, speaking in Kabul, did not confirm the list had been submitted but said the names would be discussed and resolved "in the coming days."

He said the alliance was prepared to

hand over power to an interim administration and does not insist that Rabbani be its head.

Abdullah also said the alliance was "flexible" about an international security force, saying it would accept a foreign force if it had a U.N. mandate. Rabbani had objected to an international force, saying only 200 foreign troops at most would be acceptable.

Fighting near Kandahar appeared largely uncoordinated and fast-moving. Reports of battles and clashes could not be independently verified because the

Taliban has refused to allow Western reporters into their territory.

In neighboring Pakistan, Abdul Jaffar, an aide to tribal leader Kamel Uddin, said 80 Taliban fighters gave up at a checkpoint without firing a shot and five Taliban tanks and other heavy weaponry was captured.

A former Kandahar governor, Gul Agha, who was forced from power by the Taliban in the 1990s, had 3,000 fighters moving on Kandahar from the south and southeast in alliance with Uddin, Jabbar said.

Taxes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of next semester. This session is held on campus and is open to interested members of the Lubbock community as well.

"International students have the most difficulty filing taxes because there is so much paperwork," Ricketts said. "Because this is so complicated, it is always a stress relief to have a little extra help."

All other students needing assis-

tance have several options available to them. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistant Program, made available with the help of the IRS, has a helpful program at the end of January, Ricketts said. The IRS Web site, www.irs.gov, has links to help file returns that are cheap and easy for students to use, Ricketts said.

The Texas Tech School of Law has a program that provides law students with clinics that prepare them to help people with IRS and other tax problems.

"This program serves counties in Texas and in New Mexico that have problems with the IRS concerning taxes," said Elma Moreno, office manager and legal assistant for the school's tax clinics.

AIDS

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"The disease is so prevalent in Saharan Africa, there are 25.3 million people with the disease," Hays said. "They say there will be approximately 10.5 million in the next 10 years or so."

Eric Benson, from the Texas Department of Health, said this crisis will become progressively worse until a cure or vaccine is found. However, individuals can help by being sexually responsible.

"Find out your HIV status," he said. "Even if you are in a monoga-

mous relationship and you suspect that your partner has or has had multiple partners, you should get tested. This problem is merging itself into the general population, and it is becoming more and more a heterosexual disease."

Hays said she encourages people to find out about their status before they are diagnosed with full-blown AIDS.

"If you get tested early and you're positive, then you can get on medication which can hopefully save your life," she said. "If you ignore it because you are afraid of the outcome, you might not only infect other people, but you will not survive. Your life will definitely be

shorter."

Many people can live with HIV for 10 years or longer before getting AIDS.

"At the moment, the longest case lasted for 22 years with HIV," Hays said. Students who wish to get involved with SPARC can help educate other students. For more information, call Hays at (806) 765-0444.

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Research

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is a benefit for the TIEHH, but it is also good for the university.

He said funding dollars for the research programs at the TIEHH allow Tech to capitalize on the growing expertise of faculty and students who participate.

"I consider these levels of support one of our outstanding opportunities for the university and a further investment in the community as we provide expertise on countermeasures to biological terrorism, which is important to this nation, state and region," Kendall said.

For more information about any of these clinical programs offered by the School of Law, call Moreno at (806) 742-3990 ext. 312.

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GUEST COLUMNS: The UD accepts submissions of unsolicited 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.

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Christmas commercialization leads to bah-humbug attitude

COLUMN



APRIL TAMPLEN

this time of year brings back bad memories and repressed anger.

To someone who dislikes Christmas as much as I do, taking a trip to Wally-World is more like a chore than actual enjoyment. In my opinion, Wal-Mart demonstrates every reason why I hate this season. For some reason, on the day after Thanksgiving, my sister and I decided to endure the pain of this store at 6 a.m. You would think people would be asleep at this obscenely early hour in the morning, but you do not realize how wrong you are.

It all starts the minute you try to park the car. Not only is the closest parking spot about a mile away, but you

also have to fight those annoying holiday shoppers who are in a rush to get inside. You know those people to whom I am referring. These are the people who steal parking spots and try to run you over as you attempt to cross the street.

The walk through the parking lot is almost as painful as the actual task awaiting you inside the store. My first complaint would be those men who dress up in the Santa Claus outfits and ring that bell. Now I know the Salvation Army has a great cause and those little men raise lots of money to help the people who cannot afford to have a Christmas. But how many people can relate to me when I say to shut the bell up? How necessary are those bells in the first place? Not only do I get chills up my spine when I hear the bell ringing, it makes me want to take off in a dead sprint to get inside the building. As you walk by these Santa Claus impersonators, it seems they give you bad looks if you do not donate your spare change. I am a poor college student who is trying to have Christmas myself. Spare change to me means laundry money.

Once you get inside the store, fighting through the crowds of people is a lot like fighting Oprah Winfrey for a honey-glazed ham. Trust me, you will

not win. It seems like people will fight over anything if the stores put the item on sale. "Fifteen cents for a carton of beet nog? I gotta get that!" What kind of Christmas attitude is this? Daughters will turn their back on their mother if it means they will be the first in line to buy the new 'N SYNC bobbing head dolls. Come on people, Christmas is supposed to be about giving and sharing.

This brings me to the subject of children. I worked at a toy drive last year that gave little children free toys. I was enraged when some of the snot-faced kids threw hissy-fits when they didn't get the toys they wanted. The parents of these kids did everything in their power to make sure the child got what they wanted. When I was that age, my mother and father would have knocked me into the next town if I were so selfish. You take what you are given, and no matter what, say "thank you" for it.

It takes about four hours to complete your mission at Wal-Mart. Then it is time to take on the checkout line. Around this time of year, lines at Wal-Mart move about as fast as the person running behind Rosie O'Donnell in a marathon. When you finally get ready to pay for your things, you realize you have just bought about \$300 worth of

useless presents, just because they are all on sale. Couldn't these people have used this extra money to donate to the Salvation Army so they would shut the bell up?

Then we have those few people who are just overflowing with Christmas spirit. These are the people who put their Christmas lights up a week before Halloween and take them down a week after Easter. They send Christmas cards that explode with confetti when you open them. They send everyone fruitcakes and watch Martha Stewart for those pointless Christmas decorations and gifts. What do you say to these people? "Oh, just what I always wanted — a wax-covered pine cone ornament!" I didn't think so.

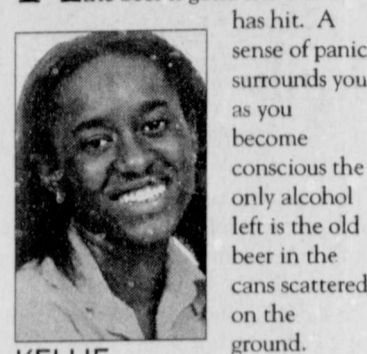
Isn't Christmas the time to celebrate being a Christian and Jesus' birthday? When did this holiday become a scam put on by department stores and shopping centers everywhere? The commercialization of Christmas has turned me into Ebenezer Scrooge. Bah Humbug!

■ April Tamplen is a freshman broadcast journalism major from Whitesboro. Anyone who wants to send her Christmas cards and presents can email her at apriltamplen@hotmail.com. Merry Christmas, everyone.

When it's 2 a.m., all bets are off

COLUMN

Hot flashes, cold sweats, dry mouth — these are all signs the beer is gone and 2 a.m.



KELLIE TOLBERT

has hit. A sense of panic surrounds you as you become conscious the only alcohol left is the old beer in the cans scattered on the ground. Then a realization hits there is fresh beer in that freshman girl's cup because she is only pretending to drink it. You start to plot out a plan with your friends. Here it is. One of you is going to bump into her while the other steals her beer. You must have an in-between person to hand the half-drunk beer off to so the person who bumped her has their drink, too.

This is the kind of plan that gets you in trouble. It has happened to my friends and I many times. Partygoers tend to play out this scenario about every other weekend. They think up the most "Mission: Impossible"-style moves they can, such as swooping off the roof and stealing someone's beer, and think the person will never notice it missing. But thank goodness you never go through with it, mostly because someone is sober and they remind you of the impracticality of it all and how the plans just won't work.

If it is a true drinking party, the beer is going to be gone in about three hours. So the smart thing to do would be to buy your own beer but keep it in your car for the 2 a.m. call. The only problem is as the party starts to dwindle down and the beer begins to diminish, someone has to mention the stash of beer in the car, and of course you are probably drunk, so you share with the crowd.

The more you drink, the nicer you get and more beer gets passed out because you are extra happy and extra drunk. The party begins to die down, you realize all the beer is gone and there is practically no way to get more. Then you really wish you weren't the nicest person in the world and hadn't given away all your precious beer to charity. This is when long lost friends come into play.

You began to call people you haven't talked to in weeks, maybe even months. As the phone calls are being made, your friends are thinking up the idea of finding one beer and splitting it as many ways as possible. They keep formulating this plan until they realize splitting one beer between five people doesn't add up to much for each person.

You finally reach someone who knows of someone having some sort of jamboree with alcohol involved. It doesn't matter who it is or where it is, you will suffer through bad company to get some more alcoholic pleasure. You begin to make your way toward the door, making your way to the sweet taste of the next cold beer. But parting the crowd with a group of drunken people is like parting the Red Sea. Everybody has to exchange numbers with someone or make plans to meet up later.

When you finally make it to the door you realize someone is not there and you end up looking for him or her. You find him or her in random spots, like the same place you started from or making out with some anonymous girl of guy in the kitchen. You have to pull him or her away from the new love of their life and make your way back to the door again.

Upon reaching the designated party, your crowd heads straight for the beer speaking to no one and meeting no one's eyes. You may get a couple of beers out of this party but this party too, will dry up soon. After this last venture for beer you just give up on drinking for the rest of the night and either pass out or make your annual trip to Whataburger.

■ Kellie Tolbert is a sophomore journalism major from Clovis, N.M. She can be contacted at Lilnymph_kit@hotmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for the support

To the editor: I would like to thank the student body for its support during the football season. Much of the success our football team achieved during the regular season was a direct result of the enthusiasm and spirited atmosphere you provided at our games. The team and I can't thank you enough.

As a token of our appreciation, the athletic department is offering students a \$10 discount on bowl tickets beginning now. You can reserve your ticket by presenting your student I.D. at the Athletic Ticket Office, located in the north end of Jones SBC Stadium.

Within the next week or so, we will find out where we will be playing. At the present time, the four bowls we qualify for are the Alamo (Dec. 29), Insight.com (Dec. 29), Independence (Dec. 27) and galleryfurniture.com (Dec. 28). It is important for you to purchase your bowl tickets from Texas Tech and support the university. By doing so, you will be sitting with your fellow Red Raider fans. We want to harness that enthusiasm and carry it over to the post-season. Our football team is excited about the opportunity to play one more game. We want you to be there with us and help us show the rest of the country that our fans, and the excitement and enthusiasm you bring to our football team, are the best in the country.

Mike Leach
head football coach
Texas Tech

WHAT THE TRULY DEDICATED DO ON SNOW DAYS...



CAROL OF LIGHTS 2001

Annual holiday tradition draws crowds to campus



JEREMY MOORE/Staff Photographer

CAROL OF LIGHTS Chairperson Kelli Stumbo dances with Lucas Ward, a senior psychology major from Midland, at the Carol of Lights Ball in the lobby of Wall/Gates Residence Complex. This was the first year there was a ball following Carol of Lights.

By Whitney Wyatt/Staff Reporter

The Science Quadrangle and Memorial Circle were filled with Tech students, alumni and Lubbock families who listened to Christmas carols and watched as the Tech campus lighted up with almost 30,000 colored lights during Friday night's 43rd Annual Carol of Lights.

The night began with the Torch Light Processional as Masked Rider Katie Carruth, whose red cape and hat were lighted with white Christmas lights, led the way around Memorial Circle, followed by the Saddle Tramps, who were holding the lighted torches.

Saddle Tramp Mike Midkiff, a sophomore business major from Midland, said it was an honor to be associated with the Carol of Lights.

"It's a beautiful tradition," he said. "We are very fortunate to witness and participate in an event like this."

Midkiff said Lubbock and Tech should feel blessed to have the Carol of Lights because it is a great way to bring people together during the Christmas season.

Margaret Morgan, a sophomore industrial engineering major from Gainesville, said she asked her family to come visit her during the weekend of Carol of Lights instead of Tech's Parents Weekend.

"Since my family didn't go to Tech, the Carol of Lights is a real interesting type of event in which they can see the pride we have in Tech," Morgan said. "It is also a good way to kick off the holidays."

Carol of Lights is also a good way to get your mind off homework and finals, she said.

"We can relax before finals and have a good time," Morgan said.

Friday night was a good time for Morgan's mother and grandmother as well.

Betty Heusner, Morgan's grandmother, said she traveled to Lubbock from Lenexa, which is a suburb of Kansas City, Kan., to share the Carol of Lights experience with her granddaughter.

"It was nice to spend the Carol of Lights with my family," she said. "There were beautiful Christmas carols."

Heusner said she heard about Carol of Lights last Christmas from her granddaughter, who attended the ceremony her freshman year.

"It was very interesting because the music represented different types of music from different countries," she said.

Not only did Heusner say the Carol of Lights was a good show, but it was also a nice tradition she could share with her granddaughter and family.

"We don't do enough as a family when our children get to the college age," said Morgan's mother, Barbara. "The Carol of Lights was very special."

Friday's Carol of Lights had a special feeling to J.J. Middleton, a Tech graduate.

Middleton, who sang at the Carol of Lights during her four years at Tech, said it was special to come back as a wife and mother of two daughters.

"The Carol of Lights means a lot to my family," she said. "My husband and I have lots of pride in Tech."

Middleton said Carol of Lights is a fun tradition to share as a family.

"It is another part of the Tech experience," she said. "It's neat to see a tradition and be able to bring the girls."

Amy Keffler, a junior human development and family studies major from Amarillo, said Carol of Lights is a wonderful tradition for family and friends to attend.

"The Carol of Lights is Tech's spirit at its finest," she said. "I saw a true support of Texas Tech from its students and Lubbock citizens."

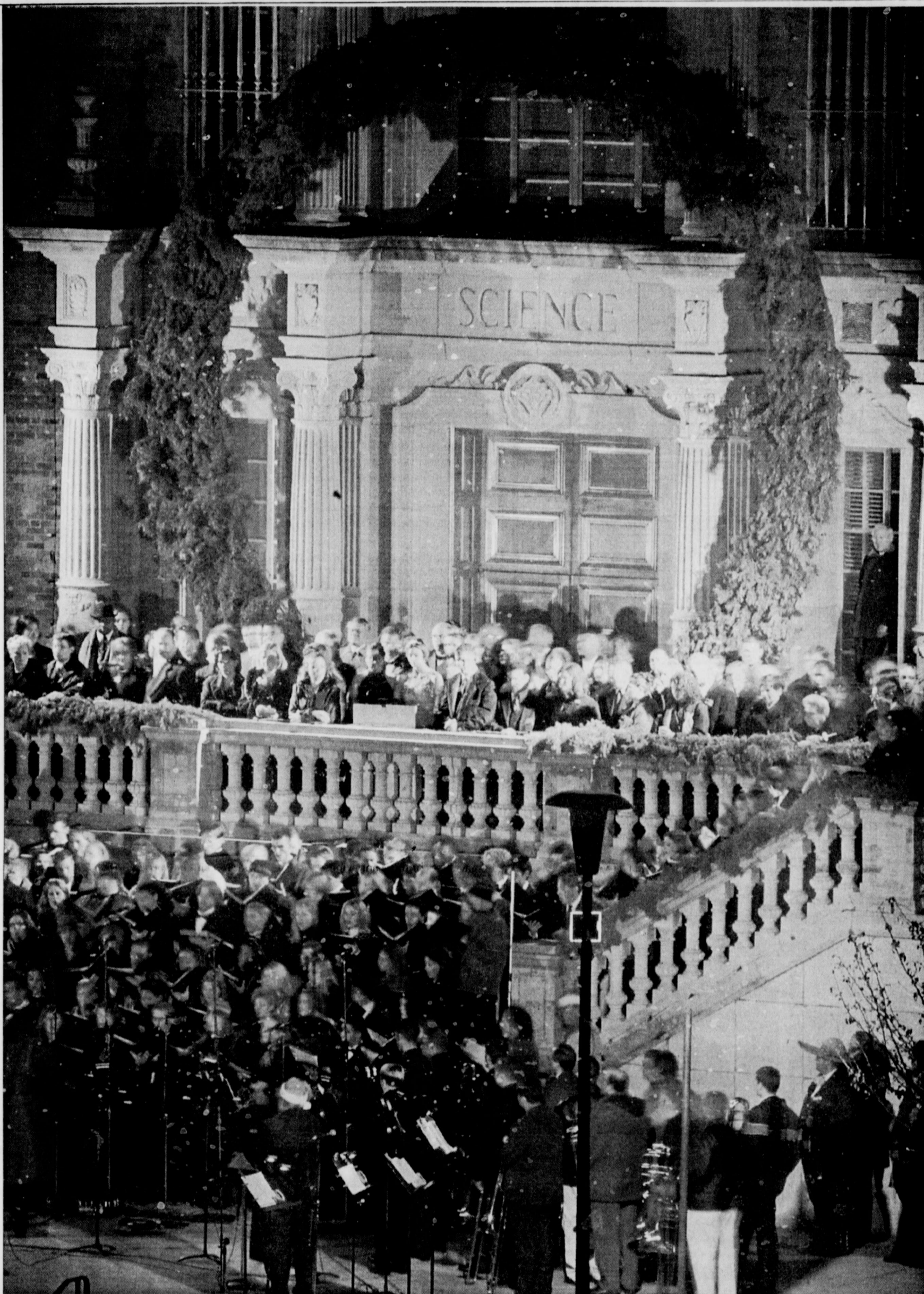
Keffler said the best part was watching the children when the lights came on.

Nik Matteus, a junior pre-med major from Katy, said he attended Carol of Lights for the first time this year.

"It was awesome," he said. "The lights are beautiful."

Matteus said he enjoyed the variety of Christmas music, from William Hartwell's solo of "O Holy Night," to the Visions of Lights gospel music, to the Mariachi Raider Rojos.

"The Mariachi band added Western-Texas spice to the Carol of Lights," he said. ■



JAIME TOMAS AGUILAR/Staff Photographer



JAIME TOMAS AGUILAR/Staff Photographer



JEREMY MOORE/Staff Photographer



JEREMY MOORE/Staff Photographer

(FAR TOP): LEADING up to the lighting of Lights, Tech President David Schmidly, Interim Chancellor Dr. David Smith and Carol of Lights Chairperson Kelli Stumbo made opening remarks from the stairs of the Geosciences building, which served as the hub of the ceremony. The Tech Trombone Choir, the Tech Combined Choirs, the Visions of Light and the Mariachi Raiders Rojos all performed during the ceremony, singing and playing holiday carols. (ABOVE): Texas Tech music professor William Hartwell sings the Christmas carol "O Holy Night" Friday night in front of the Geosciences building. Hartwell's performance marked the 20th year he had sung the song at Carol of Lights.

(TOP): THE SADDLE Tramps' torches light Memorial Circle during their procession to the Science Quadrangle. (ABOVE): Masked Rider Katie Carruth leads the crowd through the Science Quadrangle with the Saddle Tramps behind her.

ONLINE

www.universitydaily.net

WEB EXCLUSIVES

CAROL OF LIGHTS 2001: For a slideshow of this weekend's annual ceremony, go to www.universitydaily.net for an online photo essay of the event.

Upward Bound sews seeds of education in youths

By Damion Davis/Staff Reporter

High school students from many surrounding cities traveled to Texas Tech Saturday to stitch a quilt of hope with the Upward Bound program.

Eric Strong, director of the program, said this was an important learning experience for these students.

"This program has a lot of good things in it. It teaches them that learning can be fun. This also showed them everything we learn has a practical side to it," he said.

The students went through many classes in order to begin making their

quilt. Some of the classes they attended were a mathematics lab, a college readiness lab, Spanish interpretation lab and a sewing lab.

"They went to different classes so they could learn how to do more things than sew. It was important for them to go through these classes to get a good view on other subjects," Strong said.

They also went to creative writing classes in order to learn how to come up with their own haiku.

A haiku is a Japanese poem that is designed to capture a mood or moment of thought in a certain amount of syllables. Students wrote these to

talk about why education is important to them and when it became important in their lives.

Jennifer Mojica, a junior fashion design major from Lubbock and a volunteer in the sewing lab, said volunteering was a way for her to be unselfish and help children at the same time.

"I wanted to be able to work with the children. This activity lets them be able to work better as a team and cooperate with one another," she said.

Lori Yoo, a fashion design instructor in the College of Human Sciences, said the students will learn a lot of skills that will be important for them in the future.

"This will teach them skills like organizational skills, planning their time and interpersonal skills. It also lets them know sewing is not just for women. There are some male students sewing very seriously," she said.

The quilt will have many sayings on it, which were made up by the students. It will be in English on one side and Spanish on the other.

The quilt will have inspirational writings about the importance of education.

Kelly Johnson, a mathematics instructor and graduate student from Niagara Falls, N.Y., said this project brings all subjects together.

"It shows them math, science and language play a big part in education. This will also give them a sense of accomplishment when they see the finished project," she said.

The Upward Bound Program has been at Tech since 1967. It is designed to give high school students the skills and the motivation necessary to achieve success in college. Upward Bound is funded through the Office of Education.

"Our purpose is to make dreams come true. We want students to look inside themselves and know education is important," Strong said.

Upward Bound has many programs,



JAMIE TOMAS AGUILAR/Staff Photographer
LORI YOO, LEFT, an instructor of fashion design, gives the quilt's pattern to the Upward Bound students who sewed it together. The sections of the quilt were designed by the students and included haiku poems, which were written by the students in English and translated into Spanish. The poems were then transferred onto the fabric squares Saturday in the Human Sciences Building.

such as the one held Saturday. One Saturday of every month, there is an activity that ranges from learning foreign languages to science and all aspects of learning.

"My knowledge has grown from working with this program. I was able to increase my Spanish and learn many things. I know this program helps students," he said.

Students in this program have to qualify for it through the U.S. Department of Education. If they qualify, the services are offered to them for no charge.

"It gives the students a way to learn things that they may not have learned

otherwise. This program makes it fun and important for them to learn," Strong said.

Craig Worthey, a junior business major from Lubbock and a graduate from the program, said he was able to learn things he would not have normally learned.

"It teaches you things on a college level. I was able to learn things I was not taught in high school that have been very important to me in college," he said.

The students will finish the top portion of their quilt and it will be sent to a different location to be finished.

The decision has not been made on what to do with the quilt at this time.

There are many ideas, such as having it auctioned off on E-bay, or keeping it for display.

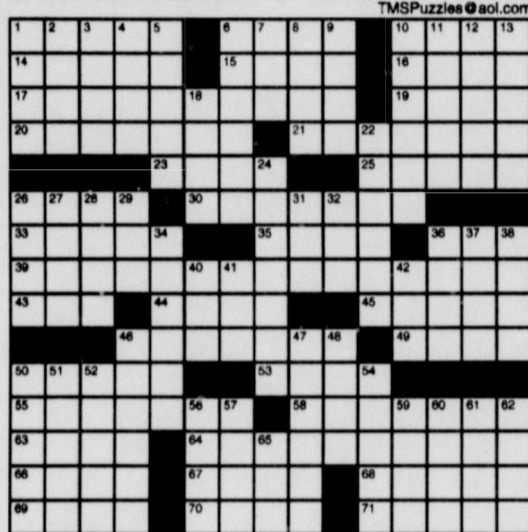
"Some people want to donate it to the Upward Bound students touched by the tragedy of September 11," Strong said. "Artistic poetry has a magic to it that solidifies the importance of education."

For more information about Upward Bound or to volunteer, call the office at (806) 742-3616 or go to the Web site at www.ttu.edu/upward_bound/upindex1.html.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- 1 Glaswegians
- 6 Tropical tree
- 10 Splash in the shallows
- 14 Nurse Barton
- 15 Ron Howard role
- 16 Spoken
- 17 Under the weather
- 19 Repair
- 20 Hyde Park, Mayfair, etc.
- 21 Intrinsic nature
- 23 Broadway persona
- 25 Come in
- 26 Chip in chips
- 30 Cincinnati pros
- 33 Swindle
- 35 Evans or Carnegie
- 36 Crude shelter
- 39 Absolute fabrication
- 43 Wildebeest
- 44 Cold feet
- 45 "My Cousin Vinny" co-star



By Gregory E. Paul
Scottsdale, PA

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

- 9 Base meal?
- 10 French novel, "The ___ Room"
- 11 Looks everything
- 12 Rain or war follower
- 13 Mormon leader
- 18 Elitist
- 22 Elite
- 24 Sign a check
- 25 Highly excited
- 27 Person, place or thing
- 28 Ballerina's skirt
- 29 Hot-dog's problem?
- 31 Babe
- 32 Foamy brew
- 34 Exertion
- 36 Word with base or plate
- 37 Shoshones
- 38 In ___ day and age
- 40 Teensy
- 41 Owns
- 42 Reply to a smash
- 46 Class exercise
- 47 Additional performance
- 48 Skyline component
- 50 White heron
- 51 In that place
- 52 Charlie or Percy
- 54 Fills to excess
- 56 Cargo
- 57 Arizona city
- 59 Togo's capital
- 60 Dark grayish brown
- 61 Type of tea?
- 62 People in general
- 65 Small child

- DOWN
- 1 Flat-bottomed boat
- 2 Mystery pointer
- 3 Feel one's ___
- 4 Lively pace
- 5 Freer from risk
- 6 French dog
- 7 Car-payment fig.
- 8 Low-cal

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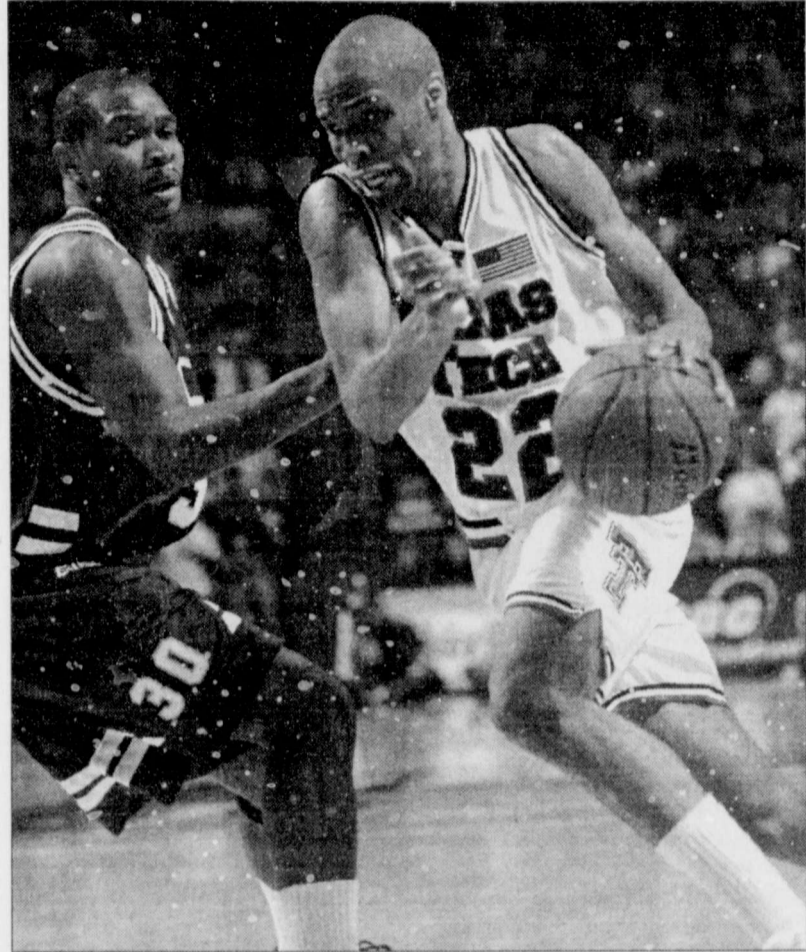
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Powell, Raider offense jump on Frogs early



TEXAS TECH FORWARD Kasib Powell looks for an open lane to the basket as Texas Christian forward Jamal Brown looks to defend him.

E-MAIL THE SPORTS DESK AT SPORTS@UNIVERSITYDAILY.NET

Cheddar's casual café advertisement. Features: Great Food, Great Prices; Happy Hour 4-7, 7 days a week; \$1 Domestic Schooners; \$2 Texas Margaritas; MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL; \$1 Schooners all night long; 1/2 Price Appetizers during Happy Hour.

By Matt Muench/Sports Editor

Texas Tech forward Kasib Powell said it was the best stretch of basketball he has ever played.

The smooth-shooting, quick-moving transfer from New Jersey scored 21 points in the first 10 minutes of the game on Saturday to help lead the Red Raiders to a 99-86 win against Texas Christian at the United Spirit Arena.

Powell, who finished with 29 points and nine rebounds, said all he wanted to do was spark his team early.

"I think I did a lot of good things for the team and I tried to get us started in the beginning of the game," Powell said. "I wanted to be somebody to bring the energy and try to get everybody into the game."

Powell did what he sought out to do. Playing off Powell's energy and a crowd of 13,811 at the USA, the Raiders

(6-1) hit their first seven shots, and with less than nine minutes left in the first half, Tech held on to a 39-12 lead.

Knight, who called Powell a "hell of a basketball player," said Tech couldn't play any better than what he saw the first 12 minutes.

"We can't play any better than we did at the beginning of the game," Knight said. "I've not had a team play any better than that, particularly in a game that was really not a big game, but a featured game, a game that's on national television with big interest in it."

The ESPN 2 broadcast was the first national home telecast for Tech since Knight's Hoosiers came to Lubbock in 1999. The contest featured three of the top basketball icons in NCAA history — Dick Vitale, the legendary broadcaster, Knight and TCU coach Billy Tubbs.

"We never got anything going," Tubbs said. "We got too far behind to

catch up. The game was decided in the first 10 minutes."

The Horned Frogs showed some life late in the first half with a 10-0 run to help close the gap at 39-22. With under a minute to play, Knight showed some frustration and stormed off the court following a Nick Valdez turnover and a 5-0 TCU run to close the half.

Knight was disappointed Tech blew another 20-point lead.

"That's the third time this year we've done that because somebody thought they saw something they could do," Knight said. "When they get to doing what the hell they're supposed to do, it will really help us."

Tech didn't do exactly what Knight wanted, as TCU hit a barrage of three pointers in the second half to pull within eight points with 5:30 remaining after hitting 8 of 15 threes in the second stanza.

However, guard Will Chavis helped stop the threat by scoring 10 of his 21 points in the last five minutes to seal Tech's third consecutive win.

Nech Tech will wait until Dec. 14 before it plays again against Houston.

Knight said Tech needs the practice.

"I'm glad we have a practice period here," Knight said. "I am really glad we don't play for two weeks because we have to do some things to get better. We have to get smarter."

KTXT-FM 88.1 Monday Night Mayhem advertisement. Features: INDIE ON THE ROCKS 8-10pm; ROOTS RADIO 10-11pm; ANGELS IN ALTERNATIVE 11pm-1am.

MONDAY DECEMBER 3 program schedule table. Lists station (KTXT, KCBF, KLBK, KUPT, KAMC, KJTV), time slots, and program titles for various stations.

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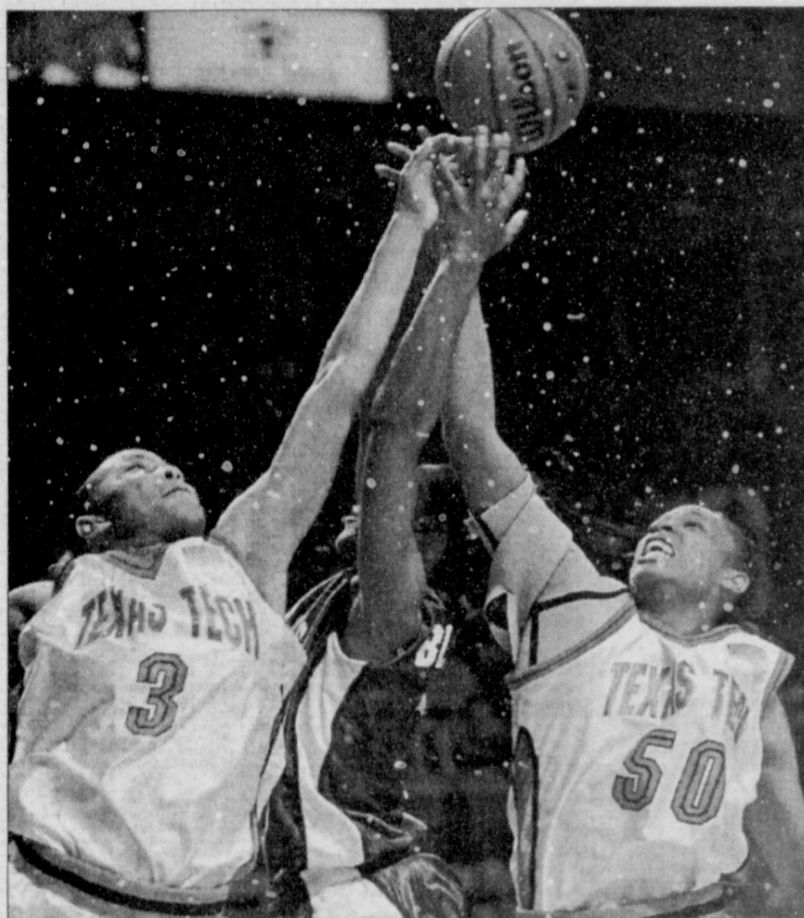
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Sports

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First half run sparks Lady Raiders' win



GREG KRELLER/Staff Photographer

TEXAS TECH'S CASEY Jackson, left, and Dionne Brown, right, fight for the rebound during the Lady Raiders' 63-53 win against North Texas on Sunday.

By Jeff Keller/Staff Reporter

Despite playing without their leading scorer, the Lady Raiders earned a 63-53 victory against North Texas in their home opener Sunday at the United Spirit Arena.

Texas Tech played without forward Plenette Pierson for the first time this season since Pierson was suspended indefinitely from the team following a road loss to New Mexico Friday.

Tech shot only 32 percent from the floor but used an aggressive defense to shut down the Eagles, holding them to a 25 percent shooting clip in the loss.

Tech forced 14 Eagle turnovers and blocked 13 North Texas shots in the contest to help earn the victory.

Lady Raider guard Amber Tarr had 13 points, seven rebounds and two steals in the win and said a strong defense can compensate for a sub-par offensive outing every time.

"Defense can win you a game, no matter what," Tarr said. "If you're off on your shooting, you can play defense the same every time. If you go out there and play hard, you know you are going to be able to stay in a game no matter what."

Lady Raider guard Jia Perkins was a bright spot for the Lady Raider offense in the victory.

Perkins did not start the contest, but came off the bench with 14:23 remaining in the first half to help spark a Lady Raider offensive run.

Perkins scored 14 points in the initial stanza enroute to her game high 26 points

"This game I just tried to come out there and cut loose and play. I didn't worry about messing up as much."

— JIA PERKINS
Texas Tech Guard

to help Tech stake claim to a 40-26 half-time advantage.

Perkins had been averaging 15 points per game in Tech's first four contests and said she credited Sunday's scoring output to a carefree attitude.

"This game I just tried to come out there and just cut loose and play," Perkins said. "I didn't worry about messing up. Everything worked out and I just started to make

plays. I guess I was just feeling it."

The North Texas just feeling it represented the Lady Raiders' first home contest of the season, after Tech played four road games to begin the 2001-2002 campaign.

Tarr said the Lady Raiders were happy to play in the United Spirit Arena for the first time this season.

"It is always nice to come home," Tarr said. "The fans are great and we love them to death. It is a lot easier whenever you are on your home court. I feel like we didn't shoot the ball well, save Jia (Perkins). I thought we were stagnant on offense and we didn't shoot the ball that well but we got to play in front of our home crowd and I think that helped a lot on the defensive end. When you hear them yelling for you it really makes you want to go out there and pressure the ball."

With the suspension of Pierson and starting the season with four straight road games, the Lady Raiders have faced some adversity in the early goings of this season.

Despite that, Perkins said the Lady Raiders will rally around each other, press on and look to the future.

"We got together and talked about it, and I think we are going to be all right," Perkins said. "Our chemistry is pretty good and we have faith in each other and we know we are going to come through in the end."

Sharp suspends Plenette Pierson

Following Texas Tech's 74-65 road loss to New Mexico Friday, coach Marsha Sharp suspended the Lady Raiders' leading scorer, Plenette



Pierson

Pierson, for an indefinite amount of time.

Sharp did not say why Pierson was suspended from the team but said Pierson's sus-

pension was necessary.

"I think that right now it is the best thing for our program," Sharp said. "I am going to leave it at that. I have a policy that I try not to talk about our personnel matters if I can help it. I think that is where we will leave it for now."

Pierson had been averaging 17 points and nine rebounds per contest in Tech's first four games this season.

Pierson attended the Lady Raiders' victory against North Texas Sunday at the United Spirit Arena but did not sit with the team.

Pierson said she knew why she was suspended from the team but would not comment further on the topic.

Rose Bowl hope dies for Texas after Big 12 loss

IRVING (AP) — A week ago, Texas was giddy in its good fortune.

Now, the Longhorns are wondering how they squandered it all.

After backing its way into the Big 12 title game, Texas had a chance to play in the Rose Bowl. Tennessee's 34-32 win over Florida on Saturday set the table for the Longhorns to play for the school's first national title in more than 30 years.

All Texas had to do was win the Big 12 title game against Colorado, a team the Longhorns whipped 41-7 back in October.

Nothing doing. As they did to Nebraska a week earlier, the Buffs used a punishing ground game and exploited a dismal outing by Texas quarterback Chris Simms to win 39-37.

The loss sent the shocked Longhorns (10-2) tumbling out of the Bowl Championship Series and most likely to the Holiday Bowl where they lost to Oregon last season.

Texas, ranked third entering Saturday's game, missed seven spots No. 10 in the AP media poll released Sunday, while Colorado shot up five spots to No. 5.

The Holiday and Rose bowls are both in California, but they couldn't be more distant in terms of importance.

"You start looking at what we had, we don't have it anymore," said Texas coach Mack Brown, who lost a chance to win his first conference championship in 18 years as a head coach.

Colorado (10-2) turned Simms' four first-half turnovers into 26 points. Simms threw three interceptions — one was returned for a touchdown — and fumbled on a sack to set up another Buffs score. Chris Brown ran for 182 yards and three TDs for the Buffaloes.

"We wanted to hit him (Simms), hit him and hit him again. Even if it was late, we wanted to hit him," said Colorado strong safety Michael Lewis.

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