



SUNNY
High 60 / Low 35
Tuesday:
High 65 / Low 35

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Deliberations continue today for Butler verdict

By Heidi Toth/News Editor

Common sense was the word of the day in the U.S. District Court on Tuesday as attorneys in the trial of Dr. Thomas Butler got their final chance to talk to the jury, encouraging the jurors to use their common sense to find the right verdict.

Tuesday ended an abbreviated week four of Butler's trial, with him facing 69 counts of lying to federal officials, smuggling and mail and wire fraud. The case was handed over to the jury for deliberation just before noon. Assistant U.S. Attorney Mike Snipes dis-

cussed Butler's testimony on a variety of topics.

"When the defendant came in here and lied to you the way he did, he became the government's best witness," Snipes told the jury. "With his willingness to lie to you the way he did, he lied to you about everything." He called Butler greedy and arrogant, say-



Butler

ing Butler thought himself above the law. He also addressed Butler's knowledge of the fear and hazard the plague caused in 14th century Europe, and how this knowledge should have affected the gravity with which he handled the situation.

"On Jan. 14, 2003, this man brought that terror to the city of Lubbock," he said. "We're talking about vials of bubonic plague. This is not something missing from a chemistry lab set. We're talking about something that in its own way is as dangerous as the atomic bomb."

Snipes said Butler was aware of the regulations for possessing and transporting viable

select agents such as Yersinia pestis, and he willfully flaunted those regulations numerous times. Snipes alleged that Butler stole about \$1 million from Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, although the indictment only covers about one third of that amount.

Butler is accused of having split contracts with two pharmaceutical companies, thus cheating HSC out of half its fee, and then counting the profits made



from the companies as business expenses so he did not have to pay taxes. Snipes said Butler was aware of how the HSC makes contracts and chose to go against these regulations anyway.

Defense attorney Floyd Holder told the jury that what they had to decide during deliberations was not if Butler did any of the things with which he is charged, but if he

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HOLIDAY HAVOC



DAVID JOHNSON/Staff Photographer

AREA SHOPPERS HUSTLE and bustle through the South Plains Mall Friday shopping for holiday gifts. Friday was the biggest shopping day of the year.

Shoppers raid shopping centers as holiday shopping season began Friday

By Justin Vallejo/Staff Reporter

The Friday after Thanksgiving once again marked the beginning of what is anticipated to be another busy shopping season for many celebrating the winter holidays.

The Christmas shopping season officially got under way this weekend as members from the Lubbock and surrounding communities and Texas Tech students participated in what is generally considered the busiest shopping day of the year. Long lines and crowded parking lots could not keep energized shoppers from getting into the holiday spirit.

While some were out to get an early jump on sales, some simply wanted to catch the holiday spirit.

Brianna Turney, a junior human development and family studies major from Lubbock, made it to South Plains Mall Friday as part of a yearly Christmas tradition to take advantage of some of the sales offered.

"It's to get an idea of what you want to get everybody and what to ask for," Turney said. "You kind of realize there's not much time left."

Turney said besides taking advantage of the best sales, it is fun to begin shopping the Friday after Thanksgiving with the other holiday-shopping enthusiasts.

Turney believes the shopping is about getting in the Christmas spirit, though shopping at the same time with so many people can be frustrating, and some shoppers seem to forget what the holiday is all about.

She said she just enjoys the feeling of being around all the other shoppers and the joyful vibe spread throughout.

"I like Christmas, so it makes me happy," Turney said. "We come out every year."

Lubbock native Misty Olsson said she was out to try to get some of her

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World AIDS Day to assess awareness; free testing today

By Beth Aaron/Staff Reporter

Choosing to have sex with someone is like having sex with every one of his or her previous partners as well.

Chris Spence, risk reduction specialist for South Plains AIDS Resource Center, is sharing this message with West Texas.

SPARC will have free AIDS risk assessments today at their facility at 4819 Ave. Q.

SPARC, the City of Lubbock Health Department, Texas Tech's Student Health Services and Planned Parenthood Association of Lubbock Inc. are co-sponsoring events highlighting World Aids Day and the overall importance of AIDS awareness.

The assessment includes a blood test and counseling on how to lower the risk of contracting the AIDS virus. Test results are developed in two weeks.

Spence said AIDS testing at SPARC is anonymous, and anyone who is sexually active needs to be tested for AIDS.

"Condoms aren't 100 percent," he said. "Everyone who uses condoms doesn't use them all the time."

Spence said 50 percent of all new AIDS cases happen in people between the ages of 15 and 25 years old.

"I think a big problem in college is they don't think it's there," he said. "It's a real thing whether you believe it or not. It does affect you. HIV increases every year."

Spence said the mentality that AIDS only affects homosexuals is still a

common way of thinking. This is dangerous because HIV does not differentiate whom it infects.

"We think we're invincible," he said. "We don't think it'll happen to us. It happens somewhere else. It's an Africa thing, or a gay thing."

Spence said in the Lubbock area, about 4,000 people have AIDS who have not been diagnosed.

"They say for every one person that's positive, 2 to 10 people for that one person have it and don't know it," he said.

Tony Thornton, CEO of Planned Parenthood Association of Lubbock, Inc., said Planned Parenthood is helping counter the ambiguous AIDS problem with events related to its Global Partners Program.

"It's a program to exchange information and to learn stuff about family planning," he said. "It's an education program."

Thornton said representatives from Durango, Mexico, will be in Lubbock this week touring the health department, observing equipment and methods of operation in order to get ideas on what can be done in their own country to prevent the spread of AIDS, unwanted pregnancy and STDs.

"We're trying to help the people in Mexico learn about family planning," he said.

Vilka Scott-Kitching, disease intervention specialist with Lubbock Health Department, said she has invited the representatives from Durango to hear her speak about HIV/AIDS and other STDs at the Texas Tech University

AIDS continued on page 3

Athletic department employee charged with embezzlement

MONEY MATTERS: Mary M. Fleming allegedly stole four deposits worth about \$4,000.

By Sally Gunter/Staff Reporter

The Lubbock Sheriff's Department issued an arrest warrant Tuesday for a Texas Tech Athletics Department employee.

Mary M. Fleming, 42, is charged with the embezzlement of funds from the Tech Athletics Department.

Bobby Gleason of the Tech Athletics Department and Lynda Gilbert, former vice president for fiscal affairs, reported to the Tech Police Department in April that four deposits were missing from program sales at the 2002-2003 Lady Raider basketball games.

The amount of each deposit missing was more than \$1,000, according to the police report.

This launched a review of the deposits for the program sales of other athletic events, according to the report.

Funds from program sales during both the 2002 and 2003 Tech baseball seasons were also reported missing, according to the report.

An investigation of records by employees of the athletics department found more than \$900 missing during the 2003 baseball season, according to the report.

Out of the \$3,000 earned in the 2002 baseball program sales, \$2,700 was reported as missing, according to the report.

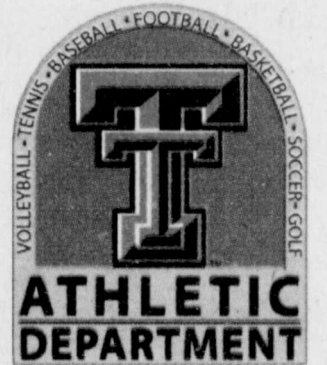
The Department of Internal Audit at Tech conducted an investigation along with the Tech Police Department that linked Fleming to the missing funds.

Maj. Gordon Hoffman of the Tech Police Department said the investigation was conducted months ago and went well.

"We presented the charges," he said, "and the grand jury chose to indict this individual on theft."

Sally Logue Post, interim director for News and Publications, said she knew nothing about Fleming or the charges.

Fleming had not been arrested as of Sunday. She could not be reached for comment.



Convicted sniper may testify in trial of alleged accomplice

By Matthew Barakat/Associated Press

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (AP)—Convicted sniper mastermind John Allen Muhammad could find himself in another courtroom this week, this time as a witness in the trial of his alleged partner in crime, an 18-year-old who sees him as a father figure.

Lee Boyd Malvo's lawyers have subpoenaed Muhammad and plan to call him to the stand this week.

Whether he will be willing to testify remains to be seen, however. Muhammad, whose trial ended last week with a Virginia Beach jury recommending the death sentence, still faces prosecution in several other states.

Any testimony by Muhammad in Malvo's trial could provide fodder for those prosecutions. His attorneys also hope to get the death sentence overturned on appeal or reduced by the trial judge when Muhammad is formally sentenced in February.

Malvo prosecutor Robert F. Horan Jr. said last week that the chance Muhammad will take the stand in Malvo's case is "zero."

But Malvo's lawyer, Craig Cooley, said he had not received any notification from Muhammad's lawyers that they would try to quash the subpoena.

"We'd like to hear the truth," Cooley said when asked what information he wants from Muhammad.

Muhammad's lawyers could try to quash the subpoena and prevent Muhammad from even showing up in court. He also could appear in court but invoke his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

Together, Muhammad and Malvo are accused of killing 10 people and wounding six in a three-week sniper spree through the Washington area last fall, but each was being tried for capital murder in connection with only one killing. Muhammad was convicted in the slaying of Dean Harold Meyers, shot while pumping gas in Manassas. Malvo is being tried in the killing of FBI analyst Linda Franklin, shot outside a Falls Church store.

The two men also are accused in earlier shootings in Washington state, Arizona, Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana.

In the first week and a half of Malvo's trial, jurors heard interrogation tapes of the teenager bragging about his shooting skill and telling authorities he pulled the trigger in all the sniper attacks. They also heard testimony from relatives, friends and former teachers of Malvo who described

SNIPER continued on page 3

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U.S. favors NATO leading Afghan military mission

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The United States would like NATO to eventually take over the military mission in Afghanistan, where an American-dominated force is still hunting down remnants of the Taliban rule that collapsed two years ago, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Sunday.

In an interview on the eve of a NATO defense ministers conference, Rumsfeld said he had not proposed such a transition from U.S. control but that it was a goal "we certainly have favored."

Rumsfeld arrived in Brussels on Sunday for NATO talks on a range of defense and security issues, including the situation in Iraq and the outlook for a realignment of U.S. forces in Europe. The latter topic is focused mainly on ways of reducing or shifting U.S. troops in Europe to make the overall American military more suited to fighting terrorism and other nontraditional threats.

Defense ministers were meeting Monday and Tuesday, followed by talks among foreign ministers on Thursday and Friday.

Asked about deadly attacks in recent days against Spaniards, Japanese and South Koreans in Iraq, Rumsfeld said he did not expect the violence to lead any U.S. allies to abandon the mission.

"The countries who have forces there recognize that it's a dangerous place and there are terrorists who are killing people and wounding people — not just coalition forces but Iraqis, in increasing numbers," he said.

Commenting on an expanded

NATO role in Afghanistan, Rumsfeld praised the alliance for taking a first, limited step: assuming control over the International Security Assistance Force that keeps the peace in Kabul, the Afghan capital, and trying to put together even more troops so the peacekeeping mission can be expanded beyond Kabul to as many as six provincial cities.

That security force has not been involved in the American-led combat missions against Taliban holdouts. In advance of this week's NATO talks, alliance officials expressed confidence that plans will proceed for a German-led NATO security force to move into the northern Afghan city of Kunduz within weeks.

That operation is supposed to be a pilot project for a broader NATO plan to provide protection for "provincial reconstruction teams" in other cities — if it can muster the troops.

"I think it's a good thing," Rumsfeld said. "And my guess is it will happen."

He added that NATO involvement eventually might expand even further.

"At some point the task may mature to the point where NATO would want to take on a still larger responsibility," he said. While the Pentagon chief did not foresee alliance troops replacing U.S. troops entirely, he would not rule out NATO eventually taking primary control of the military mission.

"I'm not predicting anything, but we certainly have favored that, over time," Rumsfeld said.

The United States has about 10,000 troops in Afghanistan, making it one of the most demanding missions the military is executing, along with the effort to stabilize Iraq with 130,000 troops.

The Rundown



Mother fights for prison system reform

DALLAS (AP) — Jayne Hawkins took the stand for the sixth time to face the last of the men convicted of killing her son.

A jury sentenced him to death, and the court allowed her to tell Patrick Murphy of her family's loss after he and six other prison escapees gunned down and used a car to run over Irving policeman Aubrey Hawkins in a 2000 Christmas Eve robbery.

"Look at me," she told Murphy at the November sentencing hearing as she began to tell the story of her only child — who as a 6-year-old boy dreamed of becoming a policeman and who was a devoted father to his young son when killed at age 29.

Hawkins told Murphy that an abusive childhood was no excuse for his crimes, including rape, for which he was serving a 50-year sentence when he escaped. She called him a coward — a weak and fearful rat.

"I said this to the other five, and I say this to you as well. For your soul's sake, I hope you gain the courage to admit to yourself that you have ruined your own life because of your repeated choices to do so," she said. "For your soul's sake, I hope you gain a heart, a heart filled with courage so to admit that you have caused pain and loss to others."

Fund raising, events crowd Bush's agenda

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is squeezing fund-raising events and traditional holiday celebrations in between a flurry of year-end bill signings this week.

Bush returned to the White House on Sunday after spending the past week at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, and elsewhere, including Thanksgiving with American soldiers at Baghdad Airport in Iraq.

After a quiet weekend on the ranch, both the president and first lady Laura Bush have busy weeks.

First, the Christmas and Hanukkah seasons get under way, a time of dozens of formal receptions at the White House and traditional holiday appearances.

On Monday, first lady Laura Bush was opening the season by receiving the official White House Christmas tree, an 18 1/2-foot Fraser fir from Wisconsin. It was arriving at the North Portico in a horse-drawn wagon and was to be carried to the executive mansion's Blue Room.

She is to preview holiday decorations throughout the White House 1/4 public rooms on Thursday. That evening, the Bushes light the national Christmas tree on the Ellipse south of the White House during an outdoor variety show that begins the monthlong "Pageant of Peace" on the National Mall.

Two U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq ambush

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Guerrillas killed two U.S. soldiers and wounded a third in an ambush in western Iraq, the U.S. military said Sunday. A day earlier, seven Spanish intelligence agents and two Japanese diplomats died in separate attacks near Baghdad.

The latest deaths bring to 104 the number coalition troops who have died in Iraq in November, with 79 American soldiers slain along with 25 other allied troops. In terms of coalition losses, it has been the bloodiest month of the war that began March 20.

A military statement said the U.S. troops were killed when a task force from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment was hit Saturday by rocket-propelled grenades and automatic fire east of the border town of Husaybah, 180 miles northwest of Baghdad.

Also Sunday, the U.S. military for the first time acknowledged that the single deadliest incident of the war — the collision of two Black Hawk helicopters in Mosul on Nov. 15 — may have been caused by enemy action. Until now, the military had not speculated publicly on the cause of the collision in which 17 soldiers died.

Area businesses offer discounts to staff, faculty

By Adam Boedeker/
Staff Reporter

Texas Tech Staff Sen. Joan Burdine heads the Committee on Promotions for the Staff, a committee whose sole purpose is to get area businesses to offer discounts to Tech faculty and staff.

She said she believed it was her obligation to staff members to form the committee, which was created in April.

"I wanted to contribute as much as I can since the staff elected me as a senator," the administrative secretary in the music department said. "I thought of ways I could help and the most help everyone needs is money. It came to mind that some businesses could offer discounts to staff at Texas Tech."

There always have been businesses in town that offer student discounts, but none offer discounts to Tech employees, she said.

"First, I presented the idea to the Senate, and they voted to form the committee," she said. "Then we had

some people volunteer for the committee, and they elected me as the (chairwoman)."

The other committee members are Senators Patrick Hancock, from KTX-TV; Judy Hunter, from communication services; David Naugher, from the physical plant and Jeanine Reynolds, from institutional research.

Burdine said the committee sent about 6,200 letters to local and area businesses, which have resulted in 300 businesses offering discounts with more possibly coming.

"As we receive responses from the businesses we put them in a database we created on our Web site," she said.

The database can be found at www.depts.ttu.edu/staffsenate/discounts1.php. It has the businesses, phone numbers and the discount offered.

Mitzi Hastings, the owner of Bodyworks, a massage and reflexology clinic, said she wanted to offer a discount to help bring in new clients. She offers \$10 off a one-hour massage to university employees.

"We thought it would be good advertising," she said. "I was contacted with some information in the mail and filled out a form offering a discount for new clients. It's an opportunity for someone to try out massage therapy at a discounted rate and for

us to bring in a few new clients."

Jim Dailey, owner of Express Car Care, Inc., said he hopes offering the staff and faculty discounts will help him get more loyal customers. He offers \$3 off an oil change to staff and faculty.

"Well, the reason I did it was to attract more business for myself and provide good customer service for our customers," he said. "I feel that if we get customers in for that first time we will definitely win their business through our customer service."

Scott Klein, general manager of Johnny Carino's, said he wanted to offer the discount because of the restaurant's relationship with the community. Employees can receive 10 percent off their meal when they show a valid Tech identification card.

"We have a great relationship with the citizens of Lubbock and the university community at Texas Tech," he said. "It's just something to help out the university community with offering the discount."

Burdine said she is impressed with the results of the project and the effort put in by those who worked on it. "You never know how a thing like this will work out until you start it," she said. "But everyone was wonderful and enthusiastic. It's been a lot of fun and a good project to work on."

MONDAY		DECEMBER 1					
STAT. CHAN. AFFIL. CITY	KTXT PBS Lubbock	KCBD NBC Lubbock	KLBK CBS Lubbock	KUPT 7 UPN Lubbock	KAMC ABC Lubbock	KJTV FOX Lubbock	
7:00	Body Etc. Callout	Today Show	News	Paid Program	Good Morning America	K. Copeland Paid Program	
8:00	Berenstein Barney	"	Early Show	Paid Program	America Cross/Over	Grace/Fire Roseanne	
9:00	Dragon Tales Arthur	Today Show	Paid Program	Judge Mathis	Regis & Kelly	Family Feud Family Feud	
10:00	Sesame Street	Martha Stewart	Price Is Right	Hatchett Hatchett	View	John Walsh	
11:00	Mr. Rogers TeleTunes	Hydred Square Jeopardy	Young & the Restless	Paid Program	Home Impr. Paid Program	Access Extra	
12:00	Handy Man Quilting	News Days of Our	News Beautiful	Jerry Springer	All My Children	Good Day Live	
1:00	Scrapbook	Lives Passions	As the World Turns	Paid Program	One Life to Live	People's Court	
2:00	Zoom	Inf/Edtion	Guiding Light	Street Smart	General Hospital	Divorce Court	
3:00	R. Rainbow Cyberchase	Opah Winfrey	Maurty Povlich	Dharma/Greg Dharma/Greg	Wayne Brady	Joe Brown Joe Brown	
4:00	Clifford Arthur	Dr. Phil	Judge Judy Judge Judy	Sabrina That 70's	Montel Williams	News & More	
5:00	Liberty Nightly Bus.	News NBC News	News CBS News	Pyramid Pyramid	News ABC News	That 70's Simpsons	
6:00	Newshour	News W/Fortune	News Millionaire	Access Extra	News E.T.	Friends Raymond	
7:00	Raleigh Ringers	Fear Factor "PG	Yes Dear "PG	Perkers Eve	Primetime Monday	FOX Movie: "Wedding Singer"	
8:00	Heritage	Las Vegas "TV14	Raymond "PG	Girlfriends Half/Half	MNFB: Tennessee	"	
9:00	Masterpiece "PG	Average Joe "PG	C.S.I.: Miami "TV14	King/Hill King/Hill	vs. New York Jets	News "Sainfield Frasier	
10:00	Nightly Bus.	News Tonight Show	News News	Friends Blind Date	"	"	
11:00	"	Conan	Letterman Craig	Ext. Dating Blind Date	News Nightline	Becker Spin Me	
12:00	O'Brien Last Call	Kibrom Paid Program	Paid Program	Ext. Dating Paid Program	Jimmy Kimmel	Shin City Paid Program	

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Students find education top concern for citizens

By Andrew Bell/Staff Reporter

Texas Tech students in Cherie Maestas' political analysis course put their education to work and found many Texans are concerned with education funding.

Specific policy areas guided the students' focus throughout the process. The survey focused on education reform, rights of undocumented workers and views of recall elections and redistricting. Maestas said the students generated the topics from issues that have a fair amount of coverage by the media and politicians.

"It is a hard choice for students on topics. It's the students' interests that drive the survey topics," she said. "We try to limit topics so it's short enough for citizens to participate."

This is the third year the survey has taken place using Tech's Earl Survey Research Laboratory. The phone survey targeted 504 individual adults from randomly selected households across the state between Oct. 22 and Nov. 2, Maestas said.

The computers generated random

numbers throughout the state and gave the numbers to the students.

The students developed the questions and pre-tested them. Maestas said each student spent 12 hours on the phone during the course of the survey.

"The survey is designed to last 15 minutes, but some people were so into the topic that they would talk for an hour," Maestas said.

During the 15-minute survey, citizens throughout the state answered questions on general policy priorities and views that citizens hold on certain topics. Although more than half surveyed said the budget deficit, the state's economy and crime are high priority issues, nearly three-quarters of the citizens thought education should be a high priority issue, according to the survey results.

Other Tech students expressed concern about education. Tim Palmer, a junior English major from Slaton, said education is important because of its impact on society.

"It is extremely important because public education standards have de-

creased so much, we are raising a nominally illiterate society," Palmer said.

On the college level, he said college students have become commodities to be used for increased revenues rather than providing a quality education.

Another student, Ebony Henderson, said education is important for all students.

"We need more bilingual education because we have so many more immigrants and they need to be given the opportunity to learn," the sophomore English major from Lubbock said.

Maestas explained why she felt education is at the top of the list of Texans' concerns.

"It is a concern that comes to mind when asked, because education touches almost every part of our lives," she said. "Anyone who owns property is paying for the school system, so it touches the life of everyone you talk to."

Since education topped the list of concerns for Texans, citizens were asked about their preferences for funding education in the state, according to the results. Of the 444 respondents, 39 percent would like to see a corporate income tax dedicated to school funding. Other respondents believed a state sales tax or a state-wide property tax could be used to help fund the school system in the state.

Within the classroom, half of the citizens questioned expressed they would like to see higher paid teachers because it could help their performance. According to the results, about the same number would like to see an end to standardized tests because they are a poor measure of school performance.

The next topic covered within the survey was policies relating to undocumented alien workers in the state. When asked if illegal immigrants hurt or help the Texas economy, 45 percent of respondents believed immigrants hurt the economy.

Citizens were then asked if illegal immigrants working in the state should be given workers compensation, a state driver's license and have the same rights as legal workers to sue negligent employers.

According to the results, those who felt illegal immigrants help the economy said they would allow the immigrants to get a license. Those who stated immigrants hurt the economy would be more willing to

let them sue a negligent employer, but only by a margin of 16 percent.

When asked about redistricting, many citizens said the redistricting process seems to favor the Republican Party. According to the results, citizens would like to see the State Supreme Court draw the district boundaries instead of the legislature or governor.

After the recall of California Governor Gray Davis, 53 percent of the citizens surveyed would like to see a state constitutional amendment allowing voters to recall state officials. However, 69 percent of the respondents viewed the California recall as more of a joke than a serious political process.

Many Texans expressed concern over the state's economy. Stephanie Douglass, a sophomore psychology major from Amarillo, said the state's economy is important because it ensures the security and job opportunities of many Texans.

"The state's economy is important for making sure the unemployment rate doesn't get too high," she said.

Butler

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

did so knowingly and intentionally breaking the law. If as the defense claims Butler was not aware of the government's regulations concerning select agents and he was not clear on HSC policy, the jury could not find him guilty, Holder said.

"What do we owe Thomas Butler? Nothing," Holder said. "We don't owe him anything but what we owe every accused. We owe him a fair trial."

Butler was acting as he was trained in the U.S. Navy when transporting the bacteria, Holder said. He was working in conjunction with the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and he believed he was upholding the law serving his country.

Defense attorney Chuck Meadows introduced the good faith defense, which allows the jury to acquit Butler of all 69 charges if it finds he acted in good faith without malicious intent on each charge.

"Butler can make a mistake, and it's not a lie," he said.

He also discussed the burden of proof, which rests with the government. The burden of proof in this case is beyond a reasonable doubt, which means the jury must find beyond a reasonable doubt that Butler committed an offense to find him guilty. The government failed to meet this burden, he said.

"Do you think they're not stretching to find some crime to force him into?" Meadows asked.

He also addressed the

government's witnesses that worked with Butler in his plague research, including researchers from CDC, USAMRIID and FDA. All turned their backs on Butler when the indictment came down.

"I saw a lot of crawfish during this trial," he said. "They were sitting on this stand, and they were going backward as fast as they could."

Meadows asked the jury to consider what Butler was doing with the plague bacteria, what his intentions were and the government's involvement in his research.

"They were encouraging him to do it, and they were encouraging him because we need it as a country," he said. "Thomas Butler is not a felon because of that, and you shouldn't find him to be a felon based on this evidence."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Dick Baker got the last word. He brought up a quotation from Butler's testimony earlier in the trial, when Butler said, "Everybody does what he needs to do to get the job done."

"That, ladies and gentlemen, gives you an insight into the defendant," he said. "His only misjudgment? The end does not justify the means."

He said the plague scare in January was a "workplace hoax by a disgruntled employee that got out of hand." Butler was not happy with the HSC because of internal problems, so he left himself several exit strategies, including looking for another job and having a coworker diagnose him with chronic fatigue syndrome on Jan. 14, the same day he reported the bacteria missing to his supervisor.

"The evidence damns the defendant and shows his guilt," Baker told the jury. "It is your responsibility to hold the defendant accountable."

Sniper

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

him as an obedient and cheerful boy who appeared emotionally vulnerable.

Malvo's lawyers are presenting an insanity defense, claiming their client was brainwashed by Muhammad, 42, and molded into a killer.

Malvo's jury was sworn to avoid any publicity about Muhammad's case, but that's a difficult promise to keep with the intense media coverage of the cases and the two trials held in courthouses 15 miles apart.

The day after Muhammad's jury recommended the death sentence, The Virginian-Pilot ran the headline

"IT'S DEATH" in type large enough to be read from many yards away.

Cooley said he takes jurors at their word that they have avoided any news accounts of the trials, but he also said he doesn't know how Muhammad's conviction and recommended death sentence might influence jurors if they were aware.

On the one hand, a jury might feel pressure to reach the same verdict. On the other, if jurors are reticent to recommend execution for a defendant who was 17 at the time of the sniper attacks, the Muhammad verdict may in a sense let them off the hook.

"I think you could make a good argument both ways whether it's a benefit or a detriment," Cooley said.

AIDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Health Sciences Center School of Nursing.

However, she suggested Tech students take advantage of the AIDS testing given at SPARC.

"I think it's a fantastic idea," she said. "They'll be there for a full 24 hours, and it's free. Anyone who's interested should take full advantage."

Thornton said he thinks the AIDS problem has not been

helped by the current presidential administration. He said Bush would only provide money for global AIDS prevention programs if the funds were used for campaigns promoting abstinence, not contraception.

"This is a tunnel-vision approach because people are going to have sex," he said. "I think the purpose needs to be educating people. The world would be a better place if we abstained, but we're not going to."

For more information on free AIDS testing, contact SPARC at (806) 765-0444 or Planned Parenthood at (806) 795-7123.

Shop

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

shopping taken care of now, rather than waiting until the last minute.

She said she knew getting her shopping done would be tough when she arrived and saw how hard finding a parking space was.

"I just wanted to get it out of the way," said Olsson, a junior human development and family studies major.

She believes it is an exciting time of the year and said she can feel a change in the atmosphere of the shoppers during the year's final month.

Olsson said that while she

feels hurried to find everything she is looking for because everything has turned into such a big rush, she enjoys the cheerful feeling of shopping with all the other holiday shoppers.

"I can feel the mood change," Olsson said. "Everyone looks like they're on crazy missions."

Hallie Smith and Collin Sides decided to take part in the shop-

ping festivities even though they knew the mall would be overrun with holiday shoppers.

"It's too crowded, it feels hectic," said Smith, a sophomore retailing major from Midland. "We came to the mall to get an early start on Christmas shopping and to see what's out there."

Sides said besides looking for the best sales and shopping for friends and family, the whole point of going to the mall directly after Thanksgiving is to get into the Christmas spirit.

"It's a good way to get into the giving mood," said Sides, a freshman early childhood education major from Lubbock.



I can feel the mood change. Everyone looks like they're on crazy missions.

— MISTY OLSSON
Junior Human Development and Family Studies Major from Lubbock

World AIDS Day FREE HIV Screening

Planned Parenthood Association of Lubbock, Inc. with Global Partners/MexFam are co-sponsoring World AIDS Day with SPARC, The City of Lubbock Health Department, and Texas Tech University Student Health Services Center.

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Students hope for passage of act to make them citizens

(AP) — Her parents rarely talk about how they sold everything and slipped across the U.S. border one cold October years ago, and Yesenia Sanchez remembers little of the journey that started with a bus ride from central Mexico when she was 8.

Growing up in Chicago, she embraced American life — making friends, joining after-school clubs, watching sitcoms on TV. But when she turned 16 and couldn't get a driver's license, the meaning of her illegal status began to sink in.

Now 20, attending a community college and hoping to earn a degree in international studies, Sanchez worries she won't get a job when she graduates because she doesn't have a Social Security number.

Like other young people across the country, she's pinned her hopes on the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, also called the DREAM Act.

The proposal is before Congress and would give undocumented youth an opportunity to become legal U.S. residents.

Sanchez is one of thousands of young people who have come out of the shadows to lobby for the bill — exposing themselves to the risk of deportation in the process.

"I would just like people to understand what we're going through," she said. "We're not coming here to take advantage of this country... We love it, and all we want to do is make it better."

Critics of the proposal call it "an illegal alien amnesty."

"An amnesty rewards illegal

immigrants and sends the message to future illegal immigrants that they can sneak in, keep their heads down long enough and eventually get green cards," said Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies.

The DREAM Act would allow students to apply for legal residency if they entered the United States before they were 16, have lived here for at least five years and have graduated from high school or are enrolled in college.

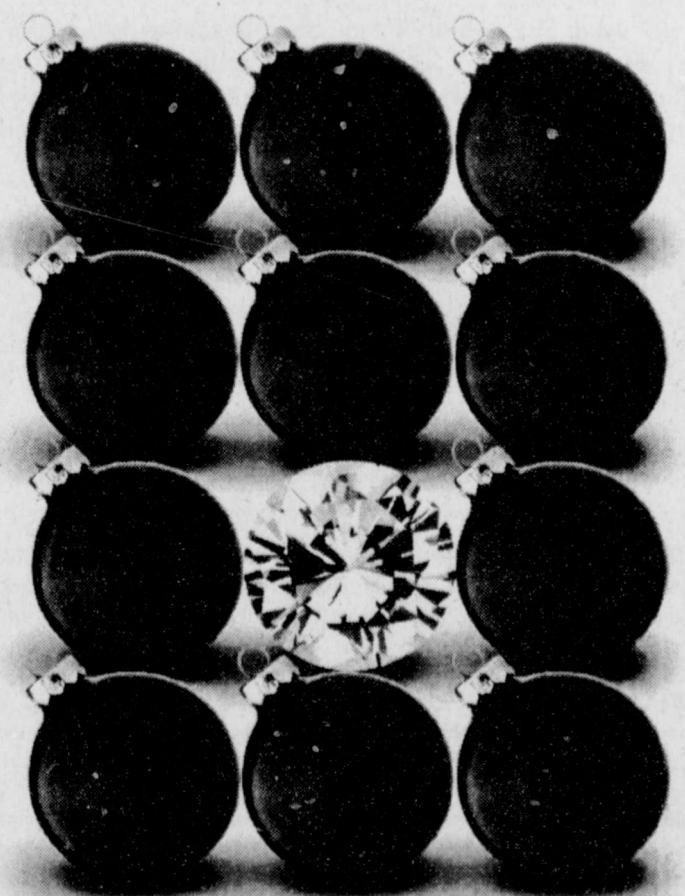
The bill seems unlikely to pass this year but might go further next year. Introduced by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, the measure now has 41 co-sponsors from both parties, and Hatch is optimistic it will be passed by the Senate. Its fate is less certain in the House of Representatives.

For the young people working on the bill, it's been difficult to put themselves in the public eye with the fear of deportation lurking in the back of their minds. But speaking out gives many a chance to finally talk about their status with others in the same situation.

"We're not invisible anymore. If they call us illegal students, we're giving ourselves a face and a story behind our lives," Sanchez said.

Diana, who came to the United States from Mexico at age 3, said talking about being undocumented has helped.

"It releases a weight from you. You know, just being able to let it out," said the 20-year-old Berkeley, Calif., resident who declined to give her last name. "No one has ever known, other than my closest family members — not even my best friend."



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Hospitality SERVICES www.hospitality.ttu.edu

Non-traditional students super

There is a group of students on campus no one knows about. They are their own secret group. They have no organization to govern them, no government to represent them; they have nothing but themselves.

They are the silent group. They are tremendous students. They do their homework, go to class and study for tests. Most of all, they care about their education. They make up 25 percent of Tech's undergraduate population.

They are non-traditional students.

Before I go on, I would like to introduce you to a handful of the non-traditional students I know.

Ann Casiraghi is a senior human development and family studies major. She graduated from high school in 1978. She then went on to work in the plant/floral industry for 20 years, and for eight of those years she owned her own business.

She took quite a career turn and spent the next eight years as a direct care worker at two drug and alcohol treatment centers. Ann realized to have a real impact at the agencies where she worked, as well move up the ladder, she had to go to college. She has been married 16 years and has a 14-year-old daughter. She hopes to go on and obtain a master's and possibly a doctorate.

Epifanio R. Martinez — he goes by Ray — graduates this December with a bachelor's degree in family studies. Since junior high, Ray has wanted to go to college.

There have been quite a few turns in the road there, though. He dropped out of high school, was married and divorced twice, received his GED, attended college in Ohio, battled drug and alcohol addictions through the years, worked at Texas Schools Inc., where he implemented programs to assist students with financial aid, employment after graduation and general aid to students.

He then went on to work at Lubbock Regional MH/MR counseling people with addictions. He started Tech in the fall of 1999 at the Center for the Study of Addictions.

Carl Looten graduated from Texas Tech in 1976 with a bachelor's in agriculture economics. He has traveled in Europe and went to Peru for three weeks. He studied at Mary Knoll Seminary in Boston for a year in 1980.

He farmed for more than 20 years. He has been married for 19 of those years and has four wonderful children. He is involved with his community, his church and his children. He stopped farming this year. He is currently going to West Texas A&M University for his bachelor's in accounting.

Kathryn Webster is 81-years-old. She is a student at Texas Tech. She started Tech in 1940 but had to return home to help her dad when the boys left for World War II in 1941. She has put one daughter and three granddaughters through Texas Tech.

Her daughter has a doctorate and all of her granddaughters have master's. As soon as her last granddaughter graduated, she re-applied to Tech. All of her original credits were still valid. She studied in San Saba for five weeks last summer on an archeology dig. She was the best cook there. Kathryn even bought a senior ring. She will

Sarah Looten



They are not in college because daddy is paying for them to go. They aren't here to get a 1.0 blood alcohol level. They aren't here to stay up late and sleep in even later. They aren't here because they have nothing better to do. They are here because they want to be.

graduate with a bachelor's in archeology.

It is more than apparent that all of these people are amazing. I have had class with a handful of other non-traditional students. You can always tell who they are, not just because they look a little older than everyone else, but because they care about what they are learning.

They are not in college because daddy is paying for them to go. They aren't here to get a 1.0 blood alcohol level. They aren't here to stay up late and sleep in even later. They aren't here because they have nothing better to do. They are here because they want to be. They choose the hardships that college will bring and take them on headfirst. They have families to take care of, responsibilities they cannot shrink, money to not waste. They are grown-ups to our partly young adults.

I have had classes with these non-traditional students and am always very interested in what they have to bring to discussions. However, there is always a jack ass in the crowd who laughs off what they have to say — "Oh, well I think you are just old and don't know what you are talking about." That fellow is a fool.

I wish Ann, Ray, Carl and Kathryn the best of luck in the future. Special congratulations to Ray with his graduation this semester. All of you, every non-traditional student, are super cool. You are role models for people to look up to.

Non-traditional students should be acknowledged for the treasure they are and respected for what they bring to our school. If I am half as cool as Carl is at 51 and Kathryn is at 81, then I will be quite pleased with myself.

■ **Looten is a junior sociology and political science major from Panhandle. E-mail her your comments at sarah.n.looten@ttu.edu**



JFK's reputation, legacy after 40 years

It has been a little over a week since the 40th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination, and I'm still thinking about it.

I'm old enough to remember the actual assassination. I remember exactly where I was and what I was doing when Kennedy was shot.

I was in the 9th grade, in English class, when our teacher came into our room a little after 12:30 p.m. and said that the president had been shot in Dallas. I didn't believe it. Surely they are wrong, I thought.

I was in my next class, Algebra I, when the principal announced over the PA system that the president had died shortly after 1 p.m.

Needless to say, that pretty well shut down school for the rest of the day. Girls were crying, people were talking about it and everyone was more or less in shock.

In my next class, Speech I, someone asked who it might have been who would want to kill the president. One student quipped that he knew for sure that it wasn't the communists. (Kennedy was often accused of being "soft" on communism.)

I thought it was funny, but I was glad I didn't laugh because our teacher became incensed at the jokester and ripped him a new one, informing us in a very loud voice that she had voted for Kennedy and that she mourned his death.

It's funny that I remember all this, isn't it? But I do, as clearly as if it had happened yesterday. That gives you some idea of the impact that the events of Friday, November 22, 1963, had on our nation.

It has now been 40 years since that awful time, and the passage of time has changed our perspective somewhat.

We know a lot more about Kennedy than we did then, and most of it isn't good.

We know his father bought just enough votes for him in Chicago, West Virginia and other places to help him win the 1960 presidential election.

Tim Hadley



There are still egotistical politicians who put their own personal gain above what is best for their country. There are still unthinking citizens who adoringly follow the latest pretty face and uncritically vote for someone on the basis of how good they look on TV.

We know about his immoral lifestyle and his consorting with gangsters and their girlfriends.

We know about his terrible health problems — which he lied about and kept covered from public view, knowing that if people had known they would not have voted for him. If he had not been assassinated, as columnist George Will recently said, he surely would have died long ago from his numerous ailments.

We also know some not-so-good things about the investigations into the assassination.

We know that, at best, the local, state and federal authorities mishandled key evidence that might have helped us know more about what really happened that day.

At worst, someone — Lyndon Johnson, J. Edgar Hoover, the Kennedys, the mafia, Castro, who knows? — may have conspired

to keep crucial evidence from coming to light, with motives that can only be guessed.

Gerald Posner, author of "Case Closed: Lee Harvey Oswald and the Assassination of JFK," examined all the evidence in his 1994 book and concluded that Kennedy was killed by Oswald alone, with no assistance from or involvement with anyone else.

But the sad fact is that, either because of someone's purposeful conspiracy or just incompetent bungling, we will probably never know exactly what happened, or why, on that day in Dallas.

On the other hand, there are some things that haven't changed since that day.

There are still people, in this country and around the world, who harbor the mistaken idea that problems are best solved with violence, instead of through discourse, persuasion and the free exercise of democracy.

There are still egotistical politicians who put their own personal gain above what is best for their country.

There are still unthinking citizens who adoringly follow the latest pretty face and uncritically vote for someone on the basis of how good they look on TV.

Sadly, the passage of 40 years has not changed these things.

Now, a little more than 40 years later, Kennedy remains a martyr and an icon of worship to many Americans — a status he doesn't deserve. And America remains a nation that has continued to see, with sickening frequency, the violence of assassination and attempted assassination against our public figures — a status we don't deserve, either.

But regardless of one's political views or one's opinion of Kennedy, it is impossible not to see how grievously his murder damaged our nation's soul. The 40th anniversary of that terrible event is an appropriate time for us all to ponder how much we lost on that November day in Dallas.

■ **Hadley is a doctoral student studying technical writing. E-mail him your comments at tim.hadley@ttu.edu**

View from another university

For the sake of politics it's time to loosen the Bible Belt

By Jake Honigman
Cornell Daily Sun

(U-WIRE) ITHACA, N.Y. — From Republicans protesting the exclusion of pro-life judicial nominees from top federal courts to virtually everyone in Congress protesting the exclusion of the words "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance, elected officials know that social issues provide great opportunities to stand up and look principled.

And even when politicians would prefer to avoid such concerns — as many say is the case now with presidential candidates and the issue of gay marriage — they can't quite be pushed below the surface. These issues are flashy and easy to understand, and most people have fairly strong personal stances on them.

Social issues — abortion, gay rights, gun control, religion in the public sphere enjoy prime attention in the national political debate and have come to define the divide between the Democratic and Republican parties.

And it's also no wonder such a divide would shape up to be largely geographic. The Northeast, parts of the Midwest and the West Coast are home to a populace that is much more urban, ethnically diverse and less religious than, well, the bulk of the area in between.

I went to a College Democrats' Conference this past weekend, and was hosted in the New York University dorms by two freshmen. As I headed off to the opening programs, one joined

me, but the other, who was from Mississippi, simply said, "I'm pro-life," and stayed where he was. There could, of course, have been a million other reasons behind his lack of interest, but I would suspect that this litmus test-type approach is very much indicative of a lot of the electorate. And given the relative importance of abortion to issues like national security, economic policy and the environment — on which my host's thoughts really could have been anywhere — it's unfortunate.

Parties have become more identifiable by their stances on issues that don't affect many people over the course of their entire lives than on those that affect everyone every day.

Economic issues are not only more relevant to society on a regular basis but address the more relevant differences that actually do exist between people. They divide people in every state — rather than pitting New England and the West Coast against Dixie and the Heartland.

Let's shift the debate from whether gays should be getting married to whether workers shouldn't be getting exploited.

An emphasis on economic policy issues would strongly favor Democrats. While a majority of Americans may be socially conservative, a majority, too, are economically progressive — whether they know it or not. Given the fact that liberal economic policies are designed to benefit the vast majority, that shouldn't seem so hard to believe.

Medicare and Social Security offer to make most Americans' old age far less scary than it would otherwise be. Labor regulations help workers, transportation projects help those who can't afford their own private jets, public schools help ... you get the idea.

Very successful business owners and other wealthy individuals would be better off without these things. The free market serves them fine, and they are certainly entitled to vote for whomever will saddle them with less "confiscatory" taxation and fewer environmental rules.

Not surprisingly, however, many don't, as they realize a less dazzling bottom line is a fair price to pay for a better, more even society. When social issues take the front seat, however, the whole debate gets clouded.

In the current Washington Republican landscape, socially conservative groups like the Christian Coalition and the National Rifle Association channel support from their principled adherents toward economic agendas that not only have nothing to do with their causes but often run counter to their members' interests.

A vast swath of the country has thus been put in the Republican column and may stay there until a prominent national Democrat, with the courage to welcome those whom his fellow liberals may find somewhat objectionable — I'm not mentioning any names — brings them back. And then we'll be able to focus on the real issues.

Have an opinion to share?
Send your letters to the editor at
UD@ttu.edu

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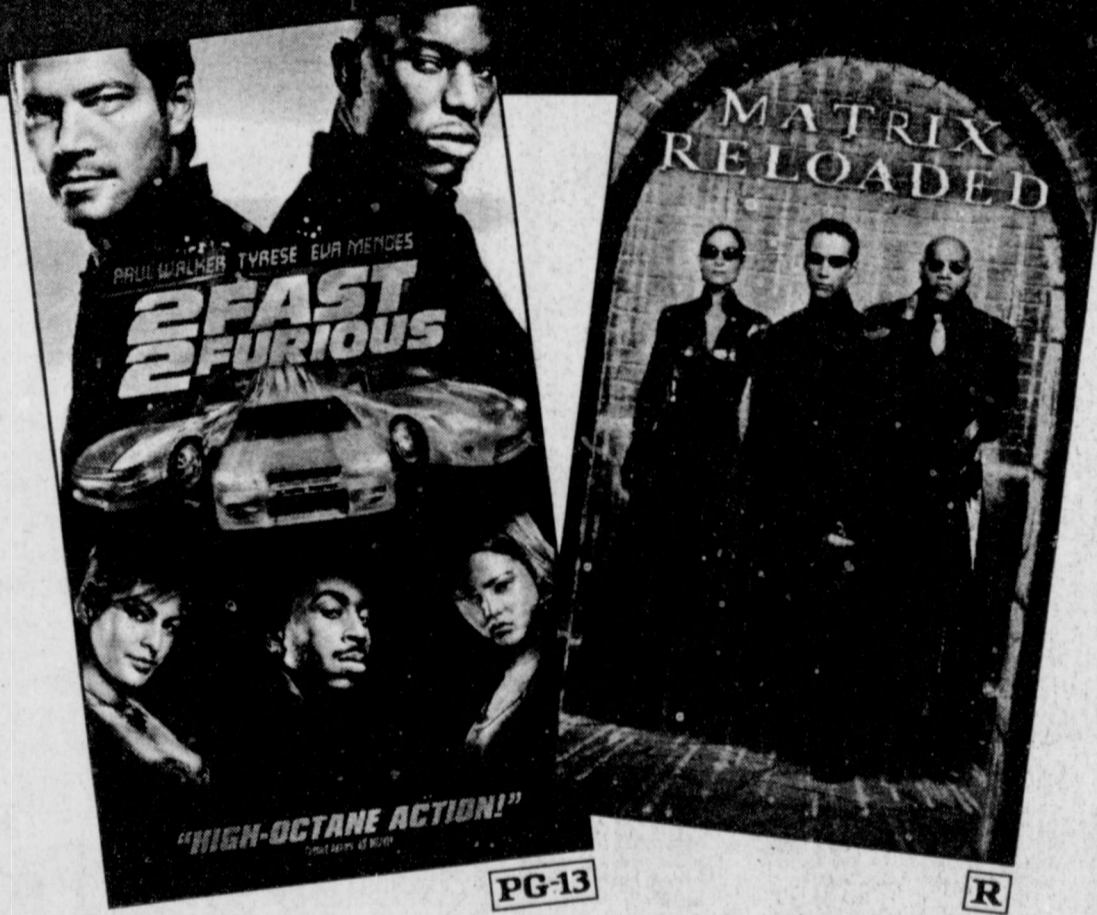
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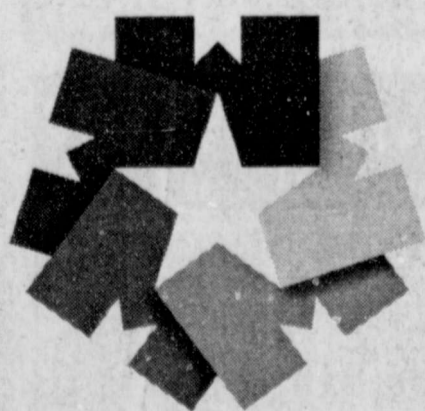
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Young Tech student, pilot swoops Raiderland

By Nikki Siegrist/Staff Reporter

Jamie Jensen had planned her goals by age 15, the same year she started college at Texas Tech.

Jensen, now a junior, is only 17 and has most of her professional goals mapped out.

The double political science and physics major from Galveston said her age is not a significant factor in her ambition.

"I'm pretty stubborn," she said. "When I set my mind to something, I do it or I find a way to do it."

Jensen tested out of seventh and eighth grade through Texas Tech high school equivalency exams. After home schooling, she graduated from high school at age 14.

Once she arrived in Raider Land, Jensen became involved in several different activities. She is a member of the Air Force ROTC, the Raider Pilot's Association, the Society of Physics students and is a mentor for the Honors College.

She was not old enough to have her pilot's license until this year, but was still a member of the Raider Pilot's

Association.

After graduation from Tech, Jensen said she wants to go to law school and specialize in maritime law, then join the Navy and fly as long as she is able.

Flying is her escape. She said it is the most enjoyable time she can spend.

"It's the greatest high ever, and it's legal," she said. "It's like being as free as you possibly can be. There's nothing like it."

She has taken short flights to Slaton, Levelland and around the Houston area, but she believes flying for the Navy will be exciting.

After flying in the service, she plans to go into politics to help enrich the world — a big dream for someone not yet old enough to vote.

"I'll try not to screw the world over," she said with a laugh.

She said helping people is her main focus and something she has enjoyed doing since she was a child.

In fourth grade, she was a mentor in her elementary school to second grade students.

After her time in the public eye,

Jensen plans to retreat to a university and teach.

Her days are busy, she said, but she enjoys it. Taking 19 credit hours, she usually wakes between 5:30 and 6 a.m. On Mondays and Wednesdays, she goes to dawn patrol for ROTC and works out for an hour. She has 8 a.m. classes every day and sometimes does not get to go home until late afternoon, but she said her schedule is typical for a student taking 19 hours.

Until this year, home for Jensen was on campus, but this year she lives with her brother Autrey Jensen, a 19-year-old freshman.

Autrey Jensen was ahead of his sister in school. Now he is two years behind her but said it does not bother him.

"I don't mind it at all," the landscape architecture major said. "I never got jealous or envious."

Her father, William "Bo" Jensen, said he is proud of his daughter, but it was hard to leave her at college when she was so young.

"It was very, very emotionally difficult for me to watch her walk in to a dorm at 15 and think she was to-



FILE PHOTO/The University Daily

JAMIE JENSEN, A 17-year-old junior political science and physics major from Galveston, does pre-flight preparations. Jensen is a member of the Raider Pilot's Association.

tally alone," he said. "I was never going to be there for her first date or prom."

He said her drive and ambition

impress him every day, and she dazzles him with her abilities.

"She's got a lot of common sense. She doesn't brag about how young

she is, how smart she is or how well she's done," her father said. "I can't think of too much she wants to do and hasn't done."

Yuletide enthusiasm during holiday shopping turns dangerous

ORANGE CITY, Fla. (AP) — A mob of shoppers rushing for a sale on DVD players trampled the first woman in line and knocked her unconscious as they scrambled for the shelves at a Wal-Mart Supercenter.

Patricia VanLester had her eye on a \$29 DVD player, but when the siren

blared at 6 a.m. Friday announcing the start to the post-Thanksgiving sale, the 41-year-old was knocked to the ground by the frenzy of shoppers behind her.

"She got pushed down, and they walked over her like a herd of elephants," said VanLester's sister, Linda

Ellzey. "I told them, 'Stop stepping on my sister! She's on the ground!'"

Ellzey said some shoppers tried to help VanLester, and one employee helped Ellzey reach her sister, but most people just continued their rush for deals.

"All they cared about was a stupid DVD player," she said Saturday.

Paramedics called to the store found VanLester unconscious on top of a DVD player, surrounded by shoppers seemingly oblivious to her, said Mark O'Keefe, a spokesman for EVAC Ambulance.

She was flown to Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach, where doc-

tors told the family VanLester had a seizure after she was knocked down and would likely remain hospitalized through the weekend, Ellzey said. Hospital officials said Saturday they did not have any information on her condition.

"She's all black and blue," Ellzey

said. "Patty doesn't remember anything. She still can't believe it all happened."

Ellzey said Wal-Mart officials called later Friday to ask about her sister, and the store apologized and offered to put a DVD player on hold for her.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS
1 Moderator
6 Puts in stitches
10 Swing at
14 Awaken
15 End of demo?
16 Faithful
17 Asia Minor region
18 Friend in France
19 Latvian capital
20 Magnificent framework
22 Part of a list
23 "Ariane" star Robert
24 Affair participants
26 Member of the lighting crew
30 Allude (to)
31 Lewd looker
32 Landing pier
34 Addams Family member
37 Set the pace
38 Rampages
39 Mythical monster
40 Presidential monogram
41 Persian
42 Alternative
43 "Guitar Town" singer Steve
45 Green club
46 Map of lots
50 Stanely Gardner
51 No-frills jet
57 Weather grp.
58 Channel island
59 Bring down
60 Abu Dhabi ruler
61 Art Deco designer
62 Addis
63 Ethiopia
64 Electoral district
65 Alpine transport
66 Bobbing toys

DOWN
1 Genesis: abbr.
2 In need
3 Futrah letter
4 Gobi location
5 Highland plant
6 Hair-raising and others
7 Bombed and others
8 Star'd by
9 Pittsburgh players
10 Endeavor
11 Pen with
12 Perfection
13 Boring tool
13 Sides in sports
21 Fish with a long snout
25 Not at work
26 Links activity
27 Matured
28 Fire-eater's talent
29 Nourished
30 Piper's followers
32 Expansive
33 Garden tool
35 Birch or beech
36 Hawaii, before 1959
38 Backslides
39 Giant Mel
41 Medical pic
42 Surpass in technique
44 Frightened, in the Ozarks
45 Trash in a review
46 Make fresh
47 Bouquet
48 Book div.
49 Preferences
52 Playful
53 Gray wolf
54 Not at home
55 Moses' mount
56 Periods

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved
SARA PAGAN ONES
ODES ANISE FIRE
NOTHINGLESSTHAN
UNCLE GAIN SAO
BART VISION CNN
ZIPADEEDODDAH
LOB DARES APUS
ENE ORB CEMENT
SEDER PARAPETS
BEDTIMES
ZERODOWNPAYMENT
ELAN SAULT AGEE
DIED TYPEE TOTE

By Nellie G. Becker
Loesburg, GA
12/1/03

Comedy claims an award show of its own

NEW YORK (AP) — Yet another awards show. It sounds like something the folks at Comedy Central would rather mock than be responsible for.

So they're trying to do both. The ad campaign for the first Commie Awards, to be shown 9 p.m. Dec. 7 on Comedy Central, questions whether another awards show is really necessary.

"We really wanted to strike a balance between our comedic irreverence in acknowledging the fact that there are way too many awards shows already and actually acknowledging that these are awards for jobs well done," said Lauren Corrao, Comedy Central's programming chief, who is editing the show.

"It's tough," she said. "Part of what we're doing right now is making sure that the balance was struck."

The show honors the best in comedy for 2003. In between serious awards like funniest person and funniest movie actor are categories such as "Oh, I thought you were dead" award and the funniest unin-

tionally funny film of the year award.

An awards show is straight out of the cable television playbook, particularly for networks owned by Viacom. Spike is televising the Video Game Awards Thursday. Nickelodeon has its Kid's Choice Awards, and MTV has the Video Music Awards and its own movie awards.

The idea is to generate some sort of event that will get fans excited and involved and entice viewers who might not watch the network every day.

Bill Hilary, Comedy Central executive vice president and general manager, said it's a coincidence that the Commie Awards are beginning during the first year the network was controlled by Viacom. The idea was in development before the corporate changeover, he said.

It's not a coincidence that the Comnies are scheduled for early December. That's just after a ratings sweeps month, so the competition from broadcast networks won't be as

intense, and advertisers are eager for a big event in which to sell holiday presents or tout new movie releases, Hilary said.

Comedy Central is also premiering seven new series next year, and the awards show offers a promotional opportunity.

Ideally, the network likes to have at least one special event each quarter, and Comedy Central's stock needed refurbishing.

For a few years, Comedy Central aired Friar's Club roasts, but they skewed old for a network with a median age of 30. Comedy Central organized its own roast of Denis Leary this year and it did very well in the ratings, Hilary said.

Similarly, the network aired for one year the long-running American Comedy Awards. But those awards tended to give short shrift to cable, he said, and with a production team that also worked on "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" more than 30 years ago, Comedy Central was looking for something hipper.

With the Comnies, the network

obviously is hoping for something that can become as big an annual event in the comedy world as MTV's video awards are in music.

"It is important that we have an awards ceremony," Hilary said. "But it's more important that it's funny."

The Commie bobblehead trophy is supposed to resemble St. Genesius, the patron saint of comedians.

Andy Richter serves as the show's host, and the Comnies pay tribute to Rodney Dangerfield, giving him its first-ever comedy idol award and throwing an 11th birthday party for him.

Comedy Central wasn't quite ready to risk a live award show, so the event was taped Nov. 22 in Los Angeles. More than 550,000 Comedy Central viewers voted on the awards, winnowing a larger list drawn up by network executives into four nominees for each award, then determining the winners.

"We didn't want it to be like any other awards ceremony," Hilary said. "There are a lot of them, and they all look the same."

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Program to lift soldiers' holiday spirits

HARRISBURG, Ill. (AP) — Some soldiers get so tired of bugs and sand, they

wear pantyhose under their uniforms. Others are so bored, they dig holes in the

desert to watch fights between spiders.

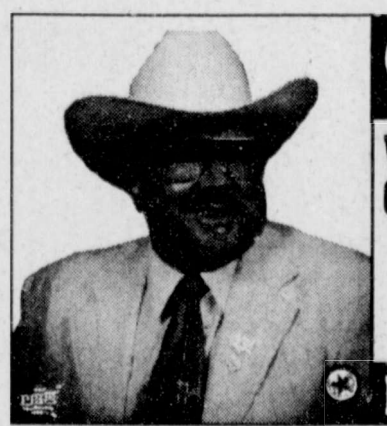
Since the start of war in Iraq, Kathy Williams and Amy Oxford have made it their mission to send whatever help they can to soldiers sweating it out in the desert.

The mother and daughter have sent several thousand care packages containing everything from the requested queen-size stockings to beef jerky to magazines and toys. The packages have gone to more than 500 U.S. soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, many of them repeat customers.

"When that officer told us (in a thank-you e-mail) his men were digging holes to watch the spiders fight, I said, 'Send those guys some yo-yos!'" said Williams, 48, pointing to some Old Glory-styled yo-yos bagged on a table nearby. "The guys love 'em."

The bag sits among dozens of boxes of checkers games, crossword-puzzle books, bottles of hand lotion and prepaid phone cards. Although they are struggling with the high cost of postage, Williams and Oxford are determined to send Christmas parcels in time for the holidays to as many soldiers as they can.

Some of the items came through the 20 or so drives the two have inspired at schools across southern Illinois. Other stuff — including a \$600 stack of phone cards — appeared in one of their two donation boxes in town.



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Ten events that shaped college football season

I've seen a lot of college football played in my life, but in all my years of watching the game I haven't seen a season played out like this.

The season started with the fall of Maurice Clarett at Ohio State and presumably will end with Oklahoma being crowned the greatest team of all-time after the Sooners clobber USC, LSU or Michigan.

I thought it would be fun, though, to point out the 10 biggest events/surprises that have shaped the world of college football in 2003. So, here are those events in reverse order.

No. 10: Miami's poor quarterback play. Miami quarterback Brock Berlin was the No. 1 recruit in the nation when he signed with Florida four years ago. This year he has looked more like a Nebraska quarterback. His competition for the job, Derek Crudup has been worse, as unimaginable as that might seem.

No. 9: B.J. Symons record-breaking season. It's hard to get attention in Lubbock, but with the help of coach Mike Leach's system and a supporting class filled with returning talent, Symons did just that.

After Symons' 661-yard passing day against Mississippi he was the toast of college football. Four losses and two interception-riddled games against Colorado and Oklahoma have taken him out of the Heisman race, but he will be honored in the NCAA record books.

No. 8: The job security of Ron Zook in Florida. Few coaches are the focus of a Web site dedicated to their

Kyle Clark



firing, but www.fireonzook.com was the gold standard edging out Texas head coach Mack Brown's hate site. Since a lousy 3-3 start, the Gators have been on a rampage and are 8-4. Zook found his quarterback of the future in Chris Leak and has built a good team. Some say Zook is still on his way out, but I doubt it.

No. 7: Atlantic Coast Conference against the world. The ACC spent the offseason stealing Miami and Virginia Tech from the Big East Conference and entered the year predicting college football domination by 2004.

When the ACC was unable to persuade Notre Dame to join as its 12th member the conference snagged Boston College from the Big East. The Big East mainstays fired back as current members Pittsburgh and West Virginia gave Miami a run for the conference title, but ultimately Miami prevailed and won the right to represent the Big East in a BCS bowl.

No. 6: Why won't Kellen Winslow just shut up? The Miami tight end began the season striking the Heisman pose after a six-yard catch against Louisiana Tech. Since, he's dropped several key passes and gone off on a trade where he said, "all I care about is this U (University of Miami)," and, "I'm a (expletive)

soldier." And I thought Jeremy Shockey was a handful.

No. 5: Auburn's fall from the top. The Tigers began the season as the Sporting News' pick for 2003 national champions. Auburn had what many called a defense made of stone and what might be the best running back corps in college football history. Ooops. Auburn is 7-5 and couldn't run the ball against a few junior high defenses.

No. 4: Frank Solich's firing at Nebraska. Solich's career record is filled 70 percent with wins, but the coach is 15-12 in his past two seasons, with seven of those losses by more than two touchdowns.

While Nebraska coaches usually aren't chased out, Nebraska athletic director Steve Pederson made an exception for Solich. Nebraska will now try to make changes to stay up to speed with Texas and Oklahoma.

Possible candidates for the job from outside the program are Pittsburgh coach Walt Harris, Iowa's Kirk Ferentz, West Virginia coach Rich Rodriguez and Utah's Urban Meyer. Nebraska might also turn to current defensive coordinator Bo Pelini. At one point this season the Cornhuskers had the No. 1 defense in the nation.

No. 3: Upsets galore. I wanted to make each upset its own number, but there were just too many of them. If it weren't for California's upset against USC, the Trojans would be the sure No. 2 in America and a lock to face Oklahoma.

If Michigan hadn't choked against Oregon the Wolverines would be No.

2 now. And who could forget Texas' bumbling failure against Arkansas? This year the Longhorns usual failure against Oklahoma might not have been enough to keep it from the national title game, but thanks to Arkansas the Longhorns are done.

No. 2: Larry Fitzgerald's performance. Pittsburgh receiver Fitzgerald caught a touchdown pass in 17 consecutive games before failing against Miami. He also has caught 21 touchdowns this season. He is the best player in the country, bar none.

No. 1: Oklahoma's dominance. It's always hard to see a team like this coming. Nebraska lost several players from its 1994 national title team but turned into a juggernaut in 1995. Miami looked good, but not unbeatable before its 2001 season, and just the same Oklahoma did not have the look of dominance before this year.

Jason White was returning on two reconstructed knees and all-star running back Quentin Griffin was gone. It's really didn't matter as OU has matured into one of the best teams ever. Receiver Mark Clayton transformed from average into one of the best receivers in the nation and the running back by committee plan worked.

It's been a wild year, and it's sure to get even wilder in the final weeks of the season. All I can say is expect the unexpected and enjoy.

■ Clark, a sophomore journalism major from Odessa, is the sports editor of The University Daily. Send questions for his next mailbag to kevin.k.clark@ttu.edu

Volleyball squad completes season with loss to Kansas

The Texas Tech volleyball team completed its 2003 season Saturday, with a loss to the Kansas Jayhawks in Lawrence, Kan. The Jayhawks defeated the Red Raiders 3-0 (26-30, 23-30, 28-30).

Tech was led by senior outside hitter Angela Mooney who had a .316 hitting percentage, seven kills and one ace. Junior outside hitter Kelly Johnson added eight kills and six digs. Junior setter Laura Grote had 28 assists, and junior defensive specialist Jessy Herrera had a team high

10 digs. Tech finished the season 11-18 overall and 3-17 in Big 12 Conference play.

The Raiders entered the game against Kansas after losing the team's final home match to the Texas Longhorns Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena. The Longhorns defeated Tech 3-0 (18-30, 19-30, 28-30).

Mooney finished her final home match with a .222 hitting percentage, seven kills and two blocks. Sophomore outside hitter Breanna Pursley led the Raiders with 12 kills and four digs.



TEXAS TECH VOLLEYBALL

Cornhuskers fire Solich after six seasons as 'Husker coach

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska football coach Frank Solich was fired Saturday night after winning more than 75 percent of his games over six seasons but failing to keep the Cornhuskers as the national powerhouse they were under Tom Osborne.

"All I know is we did the best we could. We mustered up nine wins. To a man, we can hold our

heads high," offensive coordinator Barney Cotton said.

Cotton said he had a bad feeling about the situation on the flight home from Colorado on Friday night after Nebraska's 31-22 victory.

"Steve's decision must have already been made."

Defensive coordinator Bo Pelini will serve as interim head coach for the team's bowl game.

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Tech enjoys tournament wins, resets focus

By David Wiechmann/Staff Reporter

After winning their second tournament of the year at Southern Methodist University over the Thanksgiving holiday, the Lady Raiders are coming home – at least for a while.

Texas Tech (6-0) will be at the fa-

miliar confines of the United Spirit Arena for its next three games, and the home stand starts against California (3-1) tonight at 7 p.m. for a game the Lady Raiders are hoping ends in their favor and keeps them undefeated.

"I definitely think everyone's really focused going into this game," said cen-

ter Jolee Ayers-Curry. "We had a good tournament at SMU; Michigan was a really tough team, and they gave us a really good game, which was something I feel really helped us grow as a team to have to face a little adversity and have to have people make plays for us to win the game helped us come together."

The Lady Raiders pride themselves in their defense, and they received their first true test of the year against Michigan. The Wolverines kept it close until Tech pulled away in the second half for a 74-61 win.

Then Tech pounded SMU by 40 points for the Hoops for a Cure tournament title. Tech is giving up 46.5 points a game and is scoring 76 a game.

Despite the dominating win in the tournament, forward Casey Jackson said the team cannot afford to coast into this matchup with California.

"We've got focus on what we can do to win, which is playing good defense, playing hard, taking good shots and not being complacent," Jackson said. "I know we just had a good tournament and won, but we can't get complacent; we gotta still work hard and try to get better every day."

California presents Tech with a chance to face an unknown commodity. The Golden Bears are an unfamiliar team to Tech, and it will be hard to know what to expect from them. Ayers-Curry said the Lady Raiders have to be ready for anything and not let anything bother them. Tech has to worry about itself first.

"I think coming into this it's a team we don't know as much about so we have to be ready for a lot of different things and come in really focused and prepared to play hard," she said.

Tech may be equally unfamiliar to California, which may work out in the Lady Raiders' favor. Jackson said Tech has the best fans in the nation, who create an atmosphere that would scare even her if she did not know what to expect from them.

"Our fans help us out a lot with their tremendous fan support," she said. "We don't really know a lot about, California (Monday), but it will help out a lot with them here cheering us on. I would definitely be intimidated to play here (if I didn't know about the fans) just because there's so many of them."

Tech also will have to be ready to



FILE PHOTO/University Daily
TEXAS TECH GUARD Jia Perkins reaches to steal the ball from a Rutgers player during the Lady Raiders victory against the Scarlet Knights last week. Tech will face California today a 7 p.m. in the United Spirit Arena.

play its third game in four days. After back-to-back games Friday and Saturday, Tech traveled home Sunday and hit the gym again.

The Lady Raiders headed to practice upon landing at the airport Sunday afternoon. It is a test of physical fit-

ness Ayers-Curry said she and the rest of the team will have to be ready for.

"It's not something you see as often in college ball, but it is something that helps set your team apart to see how quickly you make that turnaround and how you handle that."

Raiders lose to Georgia Tech in NIT final

NEW YORK (AP) — As satisfying as Georgia Tech's blowout of Texas Tech in the Preseason NIT final was to coach Paul Hewitt, the compliments he got from losing coach Bob Knight might have meant even more.

"I told our team (Thursday) that I was as impressed with watching Georgia Tech as I have been with any team in a long time," Knight said. "I think they are really well put together and extremely well coached. There is an energy there that they have when they play. I think this is a very, very good basketball team."

The Yellow Jackets deserved all that praise and more following Friday night's 85-65 victory over Texas Tech.

Their defense smothered Tech, and they had six shooters in double figures, led by Jarrett Jack's 17 points. Tournament MVP Isma'il Muhammad and B.J. Elder added 16 apiece.

They proved that their semifinal victory over No. 1 Connecticut was no fluke.

Knight couldn't say enough about Georgia Tech.

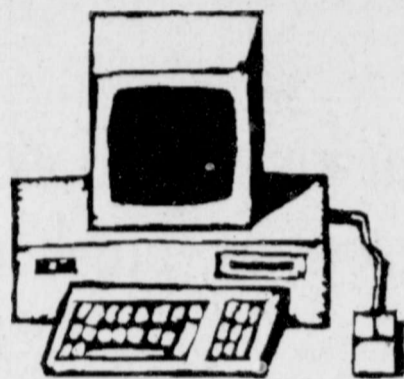
"It seems to me they have developed a determination to be good," he

said. "They have good depth, and they are unselfish. All the characteristics as a coach that you would like to see in a basketball team, they have."

All that was music to Hewitt's ears.

"You learn so much watching his teams play," Hewitt said. "I thought he gave our kids an unbelievable compliment on how tough and hard they played. When somebody I respect as much as him says something like that, it means a lot to me, and it should mean a lot to our players."

Tech will face SMU today at 7 p.m. in Dallas.



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