



FEW SHOWERS/WINDY
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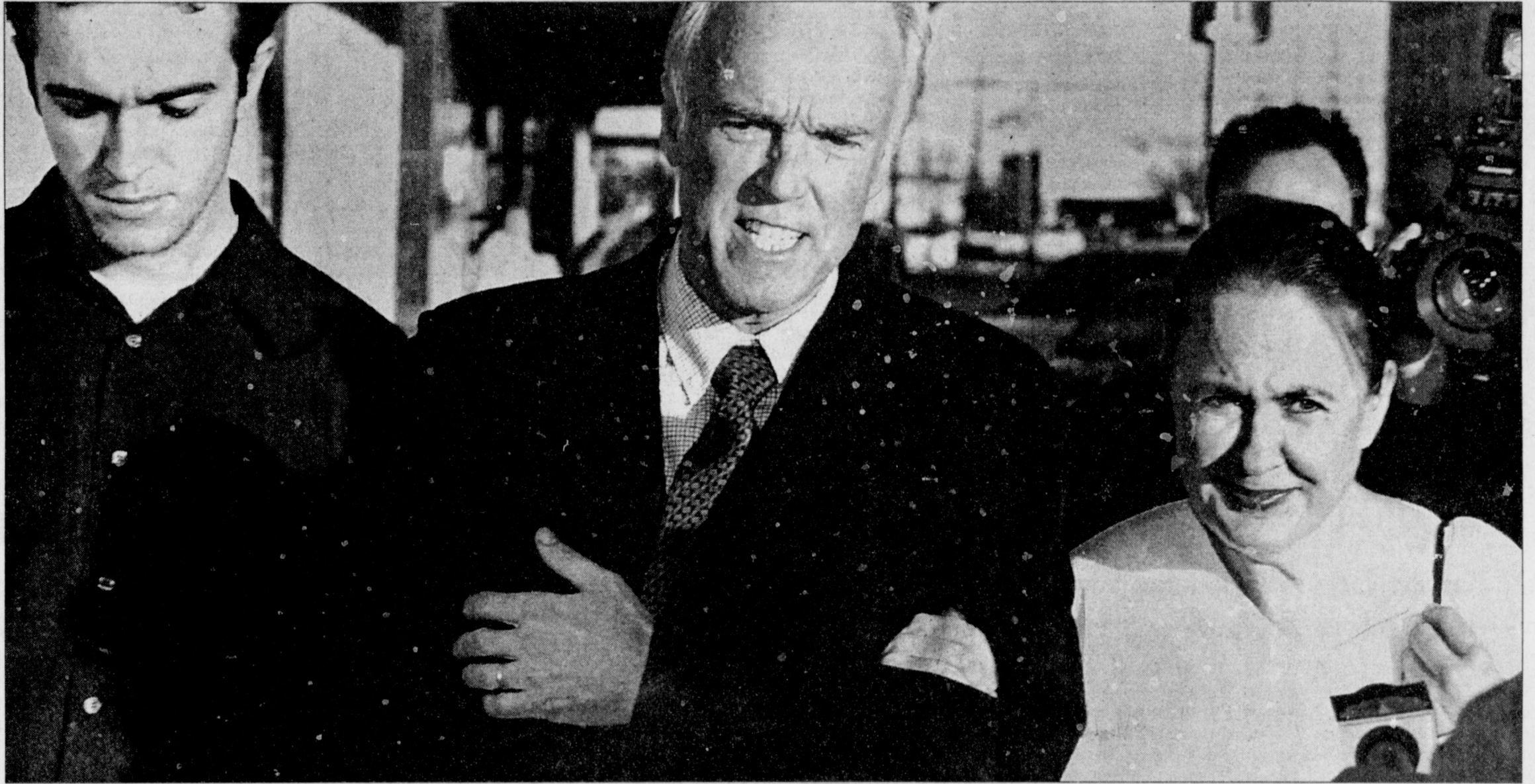
The University Daily

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BUTLER GUILTY



DAVID JOHNSON/Staff Photographer

Former Texas Tech professor found guilty of 47 counts; sentencing to take four to five weeks

By Heidi Toth/News Editor

A federal jury found Dr. Thomas Butler guilty of 47 counts Monday. Butler clenched his jaw through out the verdict's reading; he appeared to be fighting back tears. His wife and son sat stony-faced on the second row. He also was found not guilty of another 22 counts, including lying to federal officials, smuggling and tax evasion.

Butler was arrested in January for giving a false statement to the FBI, after he reported 30 vials of plague-causing bacteria missing and presumed stolen from his Texas Tech Health Sciences Center laboratory. After a frantic overnight search, he wrote a confession saying he accidentally destroyed the bacteria.

He was found not guilty on that count, as well as every other count relating to his research on *Yersinia pestis*, except for a conviction on counts 62 and 64, which were an unauthorized export to Tanzania and illegal transportation of hazardous materials, respectively. Butler used Federal Express to send plague bacteria to Tanzania and labeled it laboratory materials instead of listing the bacteria. He also did not have an export license.

Butler was also found not guilty of illegally transporting the bacteria around the United States, smuggling it into the United States, tax evasion, lying to federal officials and a few of the embezzlement charges.

"We are disappointed that the jury did not acquit Tom of all of the charges," defense attorney Chuck Meadows said, adding he was glad Butler had not been convicted on all of the counts. "The original charge against Tom Butler was he was a disgruntled employee trying to perpetuate a hoax against Texas Tech and Lubbock. The jury found he didn't do that."

The majority of the convictions were for embezzlement, and mail and wire fraud relating to the split contracts Butler had with two pharmaceutical companies, Pharmacia and Chiron. Butler had half of the grant money sent directly to him, instead of send-

ing all of the money to HSC, as is proper.

He was found not guilty on all of the embezzlement charges, though; the jury acquitted him of four charges. Meadows said he was not sure why the jury made this decision because the four charges for which Butler was not convicted were related to the same contracts and charges for which he was convicted.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Dick Baker said he was gratified that the jury saw the case in the same manner the federal government did. While he acknowledged that the jury did not feel the same way about the charges of lying to the government, he was satisfied.

"We never questioned the jury," he said. "We feel that justice was done."

Baker also discussed the polygraph Butler took, which U.S. District Judge Sam Cummings did not allow because it was too experimental.

"It conceivably could have had an impact, but we abide by the judge's decision," he said. "Justice was done. The jury has spoken."

BUTLER continued on page 3

CONVICTED



ANDREW WEATHERL/Staff Photographer

TOP: DR. THOMAS Butler, center, walks with his son Thomas, left, and wife Elisabeth moments after he was found guilty of 47 counts. In the picture Thomas Butler is saying to his wife "Don't talk to them" as reporters tried to question her. ABOVE: Butler's defense attorneys Chuck Meadows and Floyd Holder comment following the verdict.

- Jan. 14: Vials of bubonic plague reported missing at Texas Tech Health Science Center.
- Jan. 15: Dr. Thomas Butler arrested for making a false statement to the F.B.I.
- Jan. 21: Butler arraigned, released from jail, banned from HSC.
- April 10: Butler indicated on 15 counts.
- Sept. 3: Butler indicted on 54 additional counts.
- Sept. 25: Judge allows butler's confession in trial.
- Nov. 3: Trial begins.
- Nov. 25: Jury begins deliberation process.
- Dec. 1: Butler found guilty of 47 of the 69 counts.



City manager selection awaits

■ Candidate list narrowed to five nominees.

By Sally Gunter/Staff Reporter

The City Manager Search Committee started out with 67 applicants for Lubbock city manager. They narrowed the candidates to five Monday.

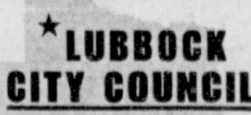
The committee has not met with the five candidates in person yet, said Allen McInnes, chairman of the committee and academic dean of the business administration department at Texas Tech.

Lubbock City Council appointed the seven-member search committee in February after former City Manager Bob Cass resigned.

The candidates include the Lubbock Interim City Manager Tommy Gonzalez. He has served as interim since March and was Lubbock assistant city manager previously.

Rickey C. Childers is the current city manager for Longview. He has 28 years of municipal government experience, including eight years as the assistant to the Lubbock City Manager.

William A. Pupo is a former city manager for Surprise, Ariz. He also served as city manager in Spokane, Wash.



MANAGER continued on page 3

Spring tuition deadline nears

■ Students dropped if due date is missed.

By Adam Boedeker/Staff Reporter

With the fall semester winding down, students must begin looking at how their increased spring tuition bills will be paid before classes start on Jan. 14.

Student Business Services will have a booth set up in the courtyard of the Student Union Building all this week to answer any questions students may have about their tuition payments, said Becky Hyde, director of Student and University Financial Services.

"Students will be able to pick up forms like payment option forms, emergency enrollment forms and direct deposit forms," she said. "We encourage direct deposit for refunds because they get the money a week earlier than paper refunds. But students need to know those refunds will not be issued if they have unpaid, past balances."

Hyde said if students do not pay their tuition in full by Jan. 9 they will be dropped from their classes if prior arrangements are not made. The student must then re-register on the Web.

"On the first cancellation date students are dropped from their classes, and they can't change it," she said. "They must go back on the Web and

Tuition DUE JAN 9

DEADLINE continued on page 3

Cars burglarized during break

■ 19 cars robbed within six different lots.

By Joey Kirk/Staff Reporter

During the early hours Sunday morning, Texas Tech campus police officers and Housing and Residence Life security guards found 19 cars that had been burglarized within six different parking lots on campus between 3:30 a.m. and 4:26 a.m.

Maj. Gordon Hoffman of the Tech police said audio equipment was the primary target for the burglaries.

"The cars that were broken into were not driven away for the holiday, which makes them subject to that," he said. "They used the typical way of entry by breaking windows, and they took mostly CD players, stereos and other audio systems and CDs."

At this time, Hoffman said there are no suspects to the crimes committed. But he said there had to be more than one person who committed the offenses.

"The question of how many is still a guess right now," he said. "There was at least one and as many as half a dozen or more."

After the break-ins were discovered, campus police impounded cars for further protection and investigation. Hoffman said Tech and the police department



THEFT continued on page 5

Tech student dies during break

MOURNING LOSS: Master's student dies in Guadalajara, Mexico from blood clot in heart.

By Andrew Bell/Staff Reporter

During the Thanksgiving break, Texas Tech lost one of its students. A former professor described Dodd Hawley as a lively and cheerful person whose enthusiasm helped contribute to class discussions.

"He was a lively talker in class," said Randy McBee, assistant professor in the history department. "He was cheerful in his approach in work, class and life in general."

Hawley, a history and political science major from Katy, died Wednesday in Guadalajara, Mexico, from a blood clot in his heart.

Hawley was in Guadalajara, where his parents have retired, teaching history at an American school. Since May, Hawley had been taking various tests to ensure that a future kidney transplant would not spread any diseases through his body.

Nikki Chude, Hawley's fiancé, said the previous tests had come out fine until his last test came back negative. Hawley was scheduled to have his mother's kidney transplanted into his body this week.

Hawley was passionate about history and books. McBee described his passion for history carried over into

his class discussions.

"He was open about what he thought regardless of the issue. It was enjoyable because it set the tone for the class," he said.

His openness also carried outside of the classroom, McBee said. When the two would run into each other after class, he said Hawley was always enthusiastic to talk about the events going on in his life or topics that had been discussed in class.

Chude described Hawley as a sweet person who had a good sense of humor.

Patricia Lorcin, an assistant professor in the history department, said he also had a generous streak to his personality.

During the semester they had a course together, Hawley had given Lorcin a video of a movie the class had watched as a gift.

Throughout his time at Tech Hawley had worked at the Tech library

and was a member of the Red Raider Club. Chude explained he also had been active with different sports.

After playing for the rugby team his freshman year, Hawley played recreational soccer through the Robert H. Ewalt Student Rec Center.

The 24-year-old Hawley had been spending his time this semester teaching history to American students in Guadalajara.

The experience of teaching is something Chude said made Hawley happy.

He was in the process of earning his master's degree in history and had aspirations of attending the Tech School of Law to study international law.

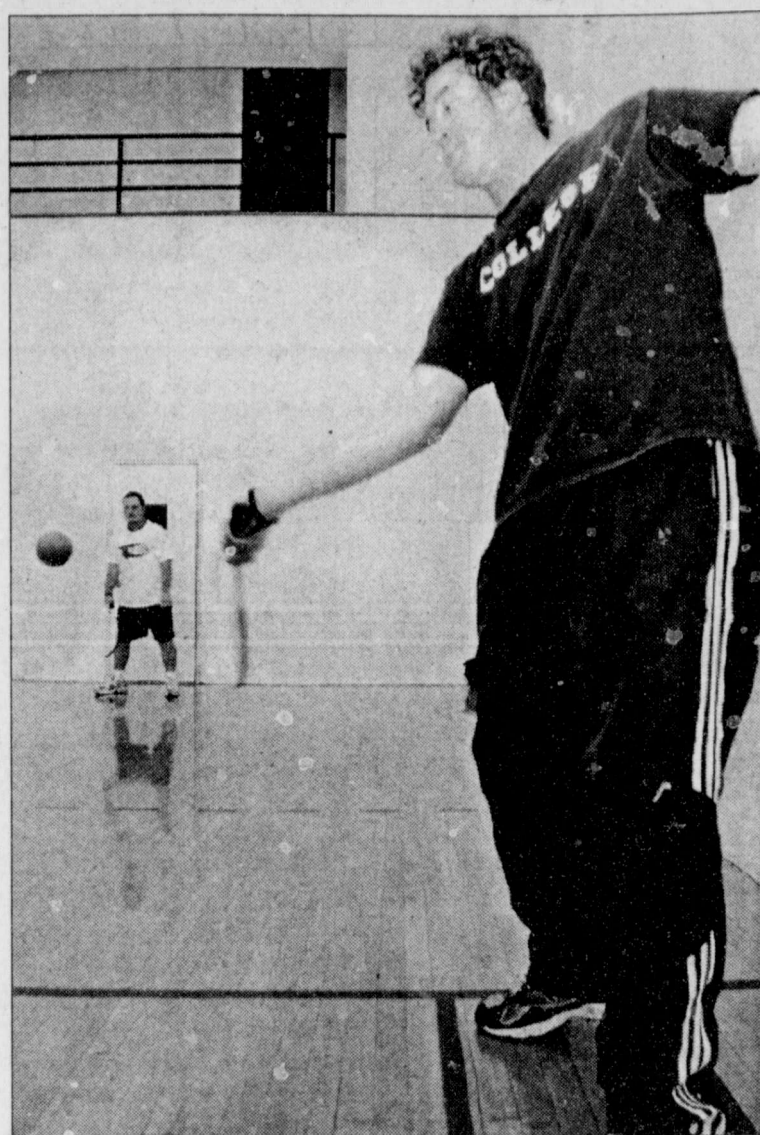
Chude said she is putting together two services for Hawley to be held later in the week.

On Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. there will be a memorial service at Saint Elizabeth's University Catholic Parish. Later in the evening at the Lone Star Room of the Student Union Building there will be a celebration of life service at 7:30 p.m.

He was cheerful in his approach in work, class and life in general.

— RANDY MCBEE
Assistant Professor in the History Department

CAUSING RACQUET



TYSON JEFFREYS/Staff Photographer
SEAN MCGREGOR, A junior business major from Georgetown, takes a swing at the racquetball while Brandon Griffin, a junior business major from Georgetown, eagerly awaits his turn.

The University Daily

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The Rundown



DOJ investigates city's religious policies

DALLAS (AP) — The U.S. Justice Department has opened an investigation into the voluntary religious activity policies and practices of Balch Springs, a Dallas suburb sued this fall by senior citizens who claimed the city violated their constitutional rights of free speech and religious expression.

A Justice Department letter obtained by The Associated Press described the investigation as preliminary and said federal attorneys had "not made any determination as to whether there have been any statutory or constitutional violations by the city."

"We're glad the full force of weight of the U.S. government will now be brought to bear on this situation," said Kelly Shackelford, chief counsel with the nonprofit Liberty Legal Institute, a Plano-based firm that handles religious freedom cases.

Balch Springs City Manager Kandi Hubert said Monday that she and the city's attorney, David Berman, were unaware of the investigation until contacted by the AP.



Manufacturing growth boosts U.S. economy

(AP) — A pair of upbeat reports Monday reinforced rising optimism about the nation's economic recovery: Manufacturing expanded in November at its fastest rate in nearly two decades, while October was the best month on record for construction spending.

"We're clearly coming out of the woods," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis.

The Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index soared for a fifth consecutive month, and at its fastest clip since December 1983. The index stood at 62.8, a large increase from the October reading of 57 and well above analysts' expectations of 58.1.

An index above 50 indicates expansion; one below 50 indicates manufacturing activity is contracting.

Economists said the most encouraging detail in the manufacturing report was an employment increase — the first time the industry has added jobs in more than three years.



11 dead in earthquake in western China

BEIJING (AP) — A strong earthquake rumbled across western China's mountainous Xinjiang region Monday, killing at least 11 people and shaking apart hundreds of flimsy homes near the border with Kazakhstan, the government said.

At least 34 people were reported injured and more than 700 houses fell, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The 6.1 magnitude quake, in the sparsely populated Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture, struck at 9:38 a.m., Xinhua said. The U.S. Geological Service's National Earthquake Information Center in Colorado recorded a slightly weaker magnitude of 5.7.

The quake was reportedly felt as far away as Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan, about 100 miles west, the Russian news agency ITAR-Tass said. It said there were no reported injuries or damage.

"I was just getting up out of bed, and everything in my house was rattling. The wall was vibrating," said a resident of ZhaoSu County who identified himself only as Mr. Wu. "Fortunately, my house is made out of brick, not wood and sand."

Sniper mastermind will not testify at Lee Boyd Malvo trial

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (AP) — Convicted sniper John Allen Muhammad will refuse to testify at fellow suspect Lee Boyd Malvo's trial, an attorney for Malvo said Monday, and the judge refused to bring Muhammad into court for a silent appearance.

Attorney Craig Cooley told the judge as Malvo's capital murder trial resumed after the holiday break that Muhammad's lawyers would resist a subpoena issued to Muhammad by Malvo's attorneys.

Cooley said he accepted that Muhammad, as a result, will be unable to testify as Malvo's lawyers had hoped.

In spite of that, Cooley said he wanted Muhammad to appear in court so the jury could see him, but Circuit Judge Jane Marum Roush

refused to approve such a move. "Transporting (prisoners) around the state willy-nilly should be done sparingly" because of security risks, she said.

Asked last week what information he wanted from Muhammad, Cooley had said: "We'd like to hear the truth." Malvo's lawyers are presenting an insanity defense, claiming Muhammad brainwashed their teenage client and molded him into a killer.

Muhammad, whose trial ended last week with a Virginia Beach jury recommending the death sentence, still faces prosecution in several other states.

His attorneys don't want to do anything to aid those prosecutions and hope they can get the Virginia death sentence overturned on appeal

or reduced by the trial judge when Muhammad is formally sentenced in February.

Muhammad, 42, and Malvo, 18, are charged in or linked to the killing of 10 people and the wounding of six in the Washington area in September-October 2002, plus shootings in Washington state, Arizona, Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana.

Malvo's jury has been sworn to avoid any publicity in the Muhammad case. That may be difficult, however, given the intense media coverage of the cases and the two trials held in courthouses just 15 miles apart.

Cooley said he takes jurors at their word that they have avoided any news accounts of the trials, but he also said he does not know how the Muhammad decision would influence jurors if they were aware of it.

Homeland Security ends foreigner registration program

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Department of Homeland Security is ending a program begun after the Sept. 11 terror attacks that required tens of thousands of mostly Middle Eastern men and boys to register with the government while in the United States, officials said Monday.

Asa Hutchinson, the undersecretary for border and trans-

portation security, said the department would focus more on individuals instead of "broad categories" of people.

He said the program that required the foreigners to reregister after 30 days or a year continuously in the United States could be used again if there was another terrorist attack linked to a foreign country.

Hutchinson said the decision to "terminate" the program, which administration officials had hinted at last week, was not influenced by the harsh criticism by advocacy groups for people targeted and civil rights organizations.

The National Security Entry Exit Registration System, or NSEERS, required men and boys from 25 countries to be fingerprinted, photographed and interviewed at U.S. immigration offices. A total of 83,519 people complied and some were deported, usually for

overstaying visas.

The program, which ends Tuesday, was targeted at men and boys from countries in the Middle East and other areas with an active al-Qaida presence. It was intended to help assure the government that no known terrorists were in this country.

The program, begun by the Justice Department, prompted angry protests, with critics saying it unfairly targeted innocent people.

Hussein Ibish, spokesman for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, said the change moves the nation to "a much fairer and more effective system of immigration."

But "there's still going to be serious residual problems associated with NSEERS for those who were covered by it related to how they relate to their government," he said.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Chips in chips, 6 Grinder or hoagy, 10 Crushing blow, 14 Wrung position, 15 Norwegian saint, 16 Model, 17 Macpherson, 18 Neap or ebb, 19 Mournful cry, 20 Elegant, 22 Put in order, 24 Noah's vessel, 26 Presiding officer, 29 Small brook, 31 Leb. neighbor, 32 Marksman, 33 Egg-shaped, 35 Body trunk, 37 Employ, 40 Risky way to fly, 43 Terminate, 44 Palmer of the links, 45 Christmases, 46 Law enforcement support grp., 47 Austral. state, 49 Leafy veggie, 50 Police informer, 55 Gender, 56 Panama Canal engineer, 57 Apiece, 59 A single time, 60 Man or Dogs, 63 Cloud nine, 66 Russian ruler, 67 Requirement, 68 Sty sounds, 69 That woman's, 70 Performer's engagements, 71 Hobgoblin.

By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL 12/2/03

Monday's Puzzle Solved grid with words: OPRAH, SEWS, SWAT, ROUSE, CRAT, TRUE, IONIA, AMIE, RIGA, GREAT, GRATE, ITEM, HAYS, LOVERS, GAFFER, REFER, ITT, OGLER, WHARF, LEAD, RIOTS, OGRE, FOR, MEDES, OTHER, EARLE, PUTTER, RAFFIA, PLAT, ERLE, PLATIN, PLANE, IOJA, SARAK, LOWE, EMIR, ERTE, LABABA, WARD, SKIS, YOYOS.

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DAVID JOHNSON/Staff Photographer

CHAIRMAN OF THE city manager search Allen McInnes announces the five final candidates for the city manager position Monday afternoon in Lubbock City Hall.

Manager

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kathy S. Rice is a former city manager for Waco. She also served as city manager for Gulfport and Lake Mary, Fla.

Mark S. Watson is the Temple City Manager. He has served as city manager for Grapevine, Mission and Stamford.

The committee plans to narrow the candidates to three and present the finalists to the City Council for review Friday, McInnes said.

"The council will decide later on in the month," he said.

The council has other issues to take care of before appointing a candidate, including site business or visiting the city where the finalists live, he said.

An orientation session will be held Wednesday to familiarize the candidates with city departments including the police and fire departments. It will be followed by a tour of the city, McInnes said.

The candidates and their spouses will attend a reception Wednesday evening with the City Council and committee members, McInnes said.

"It will give us a chance to look at them from a social standpoint," he said. "It will be the first time the council will look at them."

The search committee will meet Thursday with each candidate to narrow the search to three finalists, he said. McInnes said he feels each candidate is equally qualified for the job.

"I feel like we got a pretty good review of the individuals," McInnes said.

The search committee looked at the current and former city manager experience of each individual along with the education level. The size of the communities each individual has served in also played a role, McInnes said.

The new city manager will earn a starting salary in the mid to high \$100,000 and report to the Mayor Marc McDougal and the City Council.

The Lubbock City Manager serves as the Chief Administrative Officer for the City and provides oversight for 1,800 full-time city employees.

Issues such as economic development and growth activities as well as the organization of Lubbock's light company will be under the supervision of the city manager.

The personal meetings with the candidates on Thursday will benefit both the candidates and the city officials, McInnes said.

"It is not only an opportunity for us to take a look at them," he said. "But it is also an opportunity for them to take a look at us."

Butler

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He said the most significant conviction for the prosecution was the export charge, which Baker said was a warrant disregard for the law.

"The defendant evaded controls for the proliferations of biological materials," he said. "That's the one that pretty well drives the sentencing."

The sentencing process will take about four to six weeks, Baker said. A parole officer will do a pre-sentencing report, and then there will be a sentencing hearing, which will give both sides the opportunity to object to the results of the report.

Both lawyers and the judge expressed gratitude to the jury for working on what Baker called a very complex case.

More than 1,000 documents were introduced and about 65 witnesses testified throughout the 15-day trial, and he said the jury was conscientious in growing through all of the information before reaching a decision.

Meadows agreed, saying it was obvious the jurors took their time in reaching what they felt was the right conclusion.

"If there are any American heroes, it's the jurors," he said. "It would be very easy to find him guilty of all counts. They didn't do this."

If there are any American heroes, it's the jurors. It would be very easy to find him guilty of all counts. They didn't do this.

— CHUCK MEADOWS
Butler's defense attorney

Deadline

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

get back in their classes. That's why there is no fee because they have to go back on with everyone else and see what's available to them."

There is a second cancellation date, which is Jan. 30. This date is for students who make changes in their schedule between Jan. 9 and Jan. 30, such as adding classes or incurring additional course fees.

"If a student is cancelled on second cancellation, they must go to Student Business Services and pay a \$25 fee," Hyde said. "Then they will have to go to the registrar's office with their receipt and they will be allowed to get back in their classes."

This semester there were about 1,500 students dropped on first cancellation and about 470 on second cancellation.

The second cancellation is on the 12th class day because it allows the university to get an accurate count for state funding, Hyde said.

"All students registered on the 12th day must be paid to get federal funding,"

she said. "Even if they register on the 11th day they must pay by the 12th day. If they don't, they will be cancelled but can get back in their classes by paying the \$25 fee."

There are many payment options and plans available to students for payment of their tuition and fees. Tuition may be paid by credit card, check or a new feature of e-checks, she said.

"There is no fee for the e-checks," she said. "We still accept mailed checks, but we advise students to send them five to seven days in advance. We don't accept postmarks so the Web check plan is a really good option for students to take advantage of."

There are options students can take advantage of if they are unable to pay tuition in full by Jan. 9.

Students can enroll in a payment option plan, which includes an additional \$25 fee for processing, Hyde said.

Under this plan students pay 50 percent of their tuition on Jan. 9, and two equal payments in February and March.

Hyde said many students take advantage of the Emergency Enrollment Loan offered by the university, which also has a \$25 processing fee.

"This is a 90-day, interest free loan for tuition and mandatory fees only," she said. "It doesn't count for optional fees like Housing and Dining, Traffic and Parking or Student Red Raider Club. The repayment of the loan is due April 9. It's a good option for students waiting on other loans and financial aid because they know can pay in April, if not in January."

Students who require financial aid to pay for their schooling need to get with Financial Aid before Christmas, Hyde said.

"If they haven't finalized their financial aid or think they'll need more, they need to handle that before they come back for spring," she said. "That way they aren't scrambling for help at the last minute."

Becky Wilson, interim director of Financial Aid, said there have been, and will continue to be efforts to get the word of deadlines out to students.

"We had a joint deal with Student Business Services and ran a half-page ad in (The University Daily)," she said. "It included cancellation dates, payment arrangements and what (students) need to do before they leave for the semester."

Erick Venzor is one example of a student taking advantage of the payment option plan for this semester.

The senior music education major from Castorville said the Financial Aid office did a good job in helping students find a way to pay their tuition.

"I believe they did a good job," he said. "They gave us a whole two months to come up with the rest of the money we need for tuition."

However, Venzor does have one problem with the way things are run in the Financial Aid office.

"I know the Nov. 1 deadline was the day of the Colorado (football game)," he said. "They extended it to the fifth (of November), but they should work on setting payment deadlines on weekdays instead of weekends."

Some students believe they could be better notified of the payment deadlines.

"I don't think students are always notified properly of the deadlines," Lorelei Wofford, a senior English major from Waco, said. "I know a guy who didn't find out he was going to get dropped from his classes until the day of the deadline. He didn't know before then."

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ROCK FANS

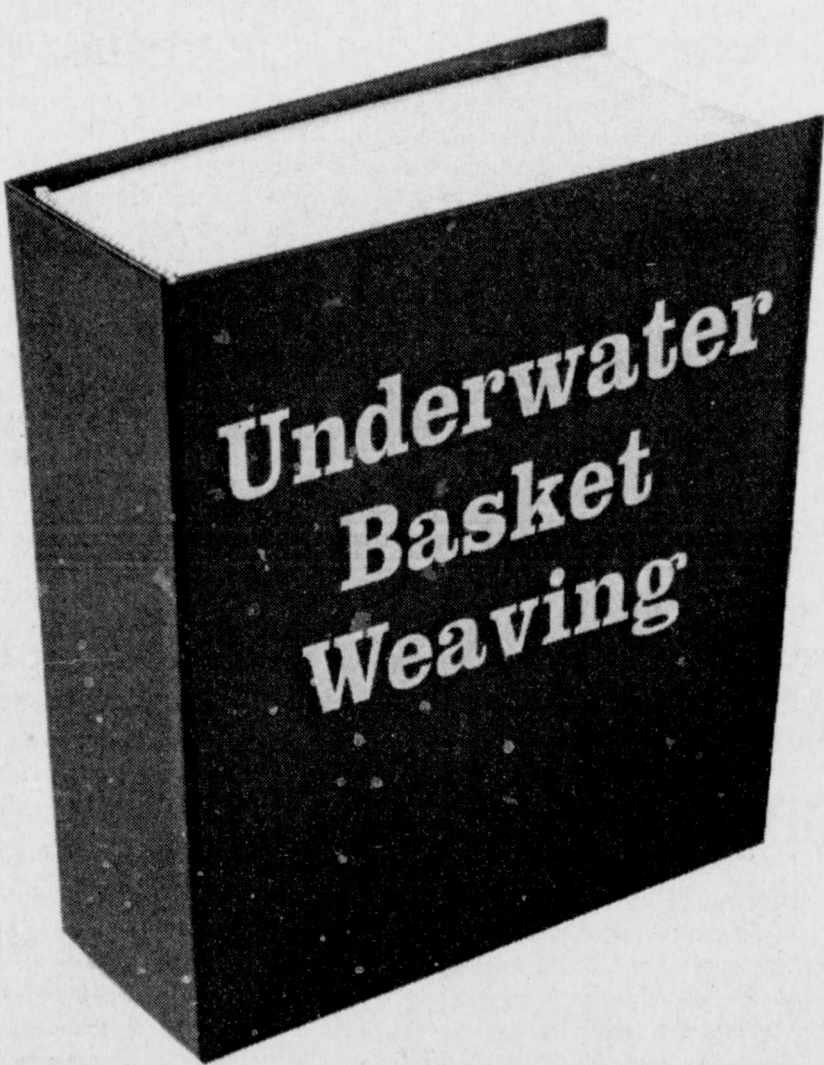


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Handful of things I'm thankful for

Thanksgiving is over, seemingly as quickly as it began. This five-day hiatus provides everyone with a chance to reflect on that which we are thankful for in our lives. During my introspection, I decided there are a handful of things, and not merely the obligatory friends and family, without which I would cease to function.

First, what would I do without good, old-fashioned country music? I'm talking about the drinking and cheating songs from guys like King George or A.J. I don't care what circumstances you're going through, good or bad. There is always a country music song that describes your precise situation.

I also don't know what I would do without the Lite Bite Mediterranean Café. When you're sick and tired of eating filth at fast food joints, swing by Lite Bite near 50th and Memphis to pick up a gyro. I promise you won't regret it.

In keeping with the food theme, I could not fathom a world devoid of Giorgio's Pizza. This hole-in-the-wall place at Broadway and Avenue J has the best pizza and calzones this side of the Mississippi.

I discovered it when I was a sophomore in high school, and, like a stray cat learning which house to go to for scraps, I have migrated back there with regularity for the past seven years.

Beer also is a staple of my existence. Though I tolerate, and in fact have almost learned to enjoy, the alcoholic waters that are the domestics, I have evolved into a kind of beer snob.

If I were independently wealthy, I would stock nothing but the high quality imported brews like Warsteiner, Paulaner, Amstel or, to a lesser extent, Foster's or Dos Equis. Regardless, I am eternally grateful to my innovative German forefathers who conjured up such a glorious concept.

Not too far behind in importance is whiskey. Here's another case where I traipse around with an air of arrogance. I once watched someone take a shot of Chivas Regal, some of the best scotch man has ever known, and mix it with a Coke.

I nearly came unglued. I seriously wanted to yell "What the hell are you doing?" and intervene to save what scotch I could from imminent contamination.

To those of us who do enjoy this nectar of life, it is something that should be appreciated. If you want to mix a brand of whiskey with Coke, don't use Jack Daniel's or high-dollar scotch. Use the hair-raising rotgut. You know, the stuff that is one chemical compound removed from moonshine.

I'm also quite thankful for cognac. It's one of the few convincing arguments as to why the French might not be so bad after all.

I'm also very thankful not to be in a clinic

Jason
Lenz



I'm also quite thankful for cognac. It's one of the few convincing arguments as to why the French might not be so bad after all. I'm also very thankful not to be in a clinic somewhere, not that I have read back through the preceding three paragraphs.

somewhere, now that I have read back through the preceding three paragraphs.

Something else I know I could not live without is the female perspective; and not necessarily in the form of a single companion but also as friends and confidants. Females are, generally speaking, emotionally complex beings, whereas a man's emotional maturity rarely extends beyond cursing and throwing things when his favorite football team turns the ball over during a last minute drive.

Thus, the stage is set for some very interesting social interaction. Understanding women is an endless and, in the end, altogether unachievable objective.

A typical male, for instance, would be immeasurably grateful if women could collectively compile some sort of a standardized set of signals for reference purposes.

Such a tome could help immensely in figuring out what women are thinking. Yet, it would somehow be disappointing if it existed, as if it is the journey that matters, not the destination. Finally, I am endlessly thankful for laughter. If I wasn't funny, I would've killed myself years ago. Nothing can supplant a sense of humor.

If you can't laugh at practically any situation, then you have my pity, and I'll probably make jokes about you.

Life is plain funny, folks, so start and don't stop laughing.

■ Lenz is a senior German and history major from Lubbock. E-mail him at jason.z.lenz@ttu.edu



Music industry crying for creativity

A few days ago I saw Britney Spears on MTV ... I know, shocking. But wait, I'll tell you how this certain appearance was noteworthy.

Unlike being faced with this occurrence three years ago (before her lips had been tainted by Madonna), when I would promptly punch the mute button so I could watch her without having to listen to whatever sounds she made, my thumb carried out the usual reaction and reached for the change button.

But this time, the title of her video and the song that sort of goes with it caught my eye. It was called "Me Against the Music," which is actually pretty appropriate.

Everyone's favorite schoolgirl really is against the music, one reason being she most likely doesn't write her own lyrics, which are meaningless anyway. She's one of the main reasons why the quality of music in this country has tanked in recent years.

As you could have guessed there are many more reasons, too many to discuss in this space. The main reason is the decline of quality rock.

First, there is a distinct line between being pop and punk. Having an extra-nasally voice like the singer of New Found Glory does not make you a punk band. Punk is bands like Anti-Flag or Less than Jake ... yeah, many people probably haven't heard of them because they tend to stay underground, where they can be found by their true fans.

Punk is not changing your lyrics to be more catchy or making your hair extra spiky and out-of-control to sell records (ahem, Good Charlotte and Simple Plan). Oh, and sorry Avril, this formula doesn't magically turn into punk with the extra ingredient of a girl lead singer. I always thought punk was about rebellion and not selling out, but maybe that's just me.

Next, everyone in the music business agrees that there will never be another musician like Kurt Cobain, who helped bring back rock in the early '90s. Sadly, Nickelback and their other unoriginal counterparts (Seether, Socialburn, Saliva, etc.) didn't seem to get that memo. Extra distortion and scratchy-voiced singing aren't good examples of musi-



Spencer
Ingram

Everyone's favorite schoolgirl really is against the music, one reason being she most likely doesn't write her own lyrics, which are meaningless anyway. She's one of the main reasons why the quality of music in this country has tanked in recent years.

cal talent, guys, even though greedy record executives tell you they are.

The band Default fooled people into thinking they were different because they were Canadian, but this wouldn't have happened if people would remember that the only good things to come out of Canada are ginger ale and Steve Nash.

Puddle of Mudd and Trapt also tried to fool people with their purposely misspelled names, which are way "kewl." And every minute, it seems, one of these bands comes up with new ways to play the same thing, and then add some downer lyrics with occasional screaming and pump out a platinum-selling album.

I wish that all of these artists would just pool themselves into one huge band, so then there might be just two songs that sound the same on the radio every 30 minutes.

Then there is Creed, which is a whole other column in itself. Basically, just associ-

ate them with the bands above, but with less distortion and worse singing.

But right after Scott and the Sellouts (Creed) comes Staind, possibly the whiniest band ever. This band has made millions of dollars and duped tens of thousands into being their fans, so what are they complaining about? Sad songs are great, but no sadness is worth being suicidal. So quit moping about your mom not liking you or all your songs sounding the same. And if your mom doesn't like you, then why should anyone who hears your songs?

Now Matchbox 20 is trying to make a comeback, even though their careers ran out of time just after 3 a.m. However, this instance shouldn't be confused with their first comeback a few years ago, when they had an uglier lead singer and changed their name to Three Doors Down.

Last, we have the rap/rock kids. Rage Against the Machine are the only good part of this genre and made it their own. They were angry, but were angry about important issues and had artistically written lyrics and music. Limp Bizkit, however, just made songs with extra cussing and screaming to seem angry and cool.

Linkin Park is the same as Limp, but they have two vocalists — one for rapping and one for screaming. Their latest album was decent the first time, when it was called "Hybrid Theory." The only redeeming parts of these two bands are their DJs, whom actually have talent. And if you take the DJ away from Linkin Park and replace the screams with high-pitched female squeals, you get Evanescence. But somehow, these variations of the formula didn't change the end result, which was lots of money from unknowing teenagers.

Basically, the main problem with rock is that many of the people who make these bands popular don't really know what music is, but what they do know is that their songs make cool ringtones for their cell phones. But don't fret, music lovers, there are plenty of great and creative bands out there ... you just can't watch MTV or listen to your phone to notice them.

■ Ingram is a sophomore creative writing major from Mesquite. Send your comments to james.s.ingram@ttu.edu.

View from another university

Michael Jackson innocent until proven guilty

By John Vaszari
Daily Bruin

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES — Looking back at my childhood, I remember how cool Michael Jackson used to be. Songs like "Bad" and "Beat It" were great, although I probably was exposed to the Weird Al parodies "Fat" and "Eat It" before the originals. I have fond memories of the Captain EO 3-D adventure at Disneyland. There was the Moonwalker arcade game in which you fought and danced with a pet monkey named Bubbles by your side. All in all, Michael Jackson was pretty much the man.

Funny how something like allegations of child molestation could change all that. Ever since the first accusations were made public a decade ago, Jackson's popularity has been consistently falling. Now there are new accusations, and everyone seems to have an opinion about Jackson and his alleged affinity for children, and in many cases they're far from favorable.

It's hard not to understand the American public's snap judgment of the one-time King of Pop. Take his looks, for example. His nose has become progressively skinnier, his dark skin increasingly paler and his curly hair amazingly straighter — leading detractors to proclaim that he's denying his black heritage to become white. Oh, and there's the fact that he dangled one of his children from a hotel balcony and that he has gone public many times to say he shares his bed with young visitors to his

Neverland Ranch. Suddenly, the goal of the early '90s video game, to save kidnapped children from the evil Mr. Big, has taken on some very weird undertones in my mind.

But does this man really deserve our condemnation before we even know all the facts? Already the name of the Michael Jackson Auditorium has been covered up at his old high school, and a marching band opted not to play "Thriller" during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. When allegations of rape were leveled against another American icon, Kobe Bryant, his fans continued to cheer him on, and the Lakers didn't suspend him temporarily out of embarrassment. It's just so much easier to believe Kobe's handsome smile rather than Michael's disfigured mug.

Sure, Jackson has admitted to sleeping in the same bed with children, and there is something inherently creepy and wrong about a grown man doing so. It's this public admission, though, that casts the greatest shadows of doubt about his guilt in my mind. Were he really a child molester, it is hard to believe that Jackson actually would be so stupid as to announce to the world his fondness of sleeping — in the most innocent sense of the word — with kids.

There's also the idea that his accusers could simply be out for money. According to a 1994 Gentlemen's Quarterly magazine article, there is evidence suggesting that the 1993 accusations of molestation aimed at Jackson were part of a

get-rich-quick scheme planned by the alleged victim's father. It's impossible to verify this claim, but rich celebrities always are vulnerable.

This time around, there are again questions about the source of the accusations. The mother of the boy involved praised Jackson in an audio tape made earlier this year and even signed an affidavit exonerating Jackson of any wrongful behavior toward her child. Also, in 1998 the boy's mother sued J.C. Penney Co., saying that security guards sexually assaulted her and beat her children. In 2001, she sued her son's father, charging him with abuse of her children. In light of all this, at least some doubt might be cast on the claims against Jackson.

Also of note is that the family has been working with Larry Feldman, the same lawyer who represented the boy from the 1993 case. That case ended in a reported \$15 million settlement, so why not get the same guy?

Don't get me wrong. In presenting this evidence, I am not saying everyone should join the vigils held in honor of Michael Jackson and sing "Kumbaya" until charges are dropped. I'm just reminding you we live in the land where people, even celebrities, are innocent until proven guilty.

Please don't proclaim Jackson a not-so-smooth criminal before we know the whole truth. If, however, he is found guilty of the charges brought against him, I will be as happy as everyone else to see him sent to prison.

Have an opinion? Send guest columns or letters to the editor to UD@ttu.edu. Also post your comments online at universitydaily.net

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Carpal tunnel not immediate threat to college-aged students

By Beth Aaron/Staff Reporter

Instant messenger addicts and ebay fanatics may have more to worry about than their budding social lives or diminishing bank balances because of a joint disease called carpal tunnel syndrome.

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Web site, carpal tunnel syndrome occurs when tendons or ligaments in the wrist become enlarged after being aggravated.

Jennifer Andjelich, a sophomore pre-communication disorders major from Cypress, said she knows a little about the syndrome because her aunt developed it while working as a nurse.

"I think my aunt has carpal tunnel," she said. "She works in a hospital. She does a lot of write-ups, so she's always typing on the computer."

Andjelich said she, like many college students, finds herself in front of the computer working on school assignments.

"I type up a lot of papers for class," she said. "My main communication with people not in Lubbock is on the computer."

Andjelich said she believes it is

possible people who write and type frequently could be at risk for carpal tunnel in their college years.

"About half of my class time is just constant writing," she said. "All of the sudden, my entire hand will start hurting - knuckles, wrists, the whole deal."

Jolene Jackson, registered nurse at the Regional Hand Center at Texas Tech's Health Sciences Center, said she does not believe college students are at a high risk for carpal tunnel. She said those most often affected by carpal tunnel are those who have worked at a desk job for many years or are already predisposed to the disease.

"They say a lot of times it occurs because of repetitive movement, but a lot of people get it that don't do a lot of repetitive stuff," she said.

Diabetics and women who are six or more months pregnant often develop carpal tunnel, Jackson said. She said the reason for the development of the disease in these particular people could be a result of poor circulation or water retention.

Symptoms of carpal tunnel include numbness and tingling in the hands and fingers, and pain at night, Jackson said. Sufferers with advanced carpal tunnel also may have trouble making a fist.

Over-the-counter pain relievers and anti-inflammatory medicines also are prescribed, Jackson said.

"Most of the time when people come in here with mild symptoms, we put them in a splint," she said.

Severe cases of carpal tunnel sometimes require steroid injections, diuretics or surgery.

Surgery is much simpler today than in the past.

Endoscopic surgery requiring three small incisions as opposed to one great incision along the palm has made it easier for people who have corrective surgery to get back on with life soon after the procedure.

Jackson said students can prevent the onset of carpal tunnel by making sure they pay attention to the position

of their hands and wrists while typing, writing or engaging in leisure activities that put strain on the hands and wrists.

"Keep the wrist in a straight, neutral position rather than bent the whole time," she said. "Change the position of your hand and take breaks."

Andrea Kile, a junior criminology major from Ft. Worth, said she is capable of spending an extended amount of time talking to friends on her computer, not realizing the effect it could be having on her joints.

"You can sit down and talk forever," she said. "I've sat down at the computer and talked for like four hours before. You don't even realize it."

Kile said her mother is a music teacher and used to teach piano. She said she remembers her mother complaining of symptoms similar to those associated with carpal tunnel.

"She never got carpal tunnel, but she got huge wrist aches and was in a lot of pain," she said.

For more information about carpal tunnel, visit the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at http://www.ninds.nih.gov/health_and_medical/disorders/carpal_doc.html.

SGA to form newsletter

SPREADING WORDS: SGA wants students better informed of legislation.

By Joey Kirk/Staff Reporter

Many students do not know what the Student Government Association Student Senate does for Texas Tech.

SGA President Jeremy Brown said they are on a mission to change that perspective.

"We're elected to serve the students," he said. "We have to find a way to communicate to students so they can be aware of things happening."

To accomplish this, the SGA is developing a newsletter for the student body. It will be a university-wide publication created to inform students about what the Senate does.

"There is a lack of communication," he said. "Students used to think that there were centralized policies and the administration tell us what to do. But it's not because we try and make it best for the students."

Although the Senate meetings are open to the public, Brown said most students do not attend, which hurts their chance to reach them.

"We don't have access to the 28,000 students on campus," he said. "The newsletter is a way to get to them and let them know what we do."

The newsletter will provide information about events happening at Tech and pieces of legislation that will be discussed at other Senate meetings. Brown said the newsletter will be distributed among all student organizations, but other students can receive it as well.

"We want to try and place it in high traffic areas where students will see it and pick it up," he said. "It will also be available on our Web site, which helps it to be more cost-effective."

The process has not officially begun, but Brown said the cost of publishing the newsletter should not be too high.

"It's not much at all. But we're not at that point of the process," he said. "The cost will be well worth it to just be more actively involved with the students."

Jacqueline Steinmetz, SGA internal vice president, said the newsletter should help their organization and what they are trying to accomplish.

"We want students to come to the meetings," she said. "This is a



way to reach out, communication-wise, and let them know what's going on here at their campus."

SGA Public Relations Director Seth Phillips developed the idea. He said the newsletter came out of necessity.

"It's hard for any governing body to explain their legislation," he said. "It takes a lot of paper to discuss policy, and this will help students understand where the ideas for legislation came from and explain what's going on."

With the new document, the SGA will be able to provide graphs, charts, comparisons and pictures of what will happen along with written explanations.

Phillips said *The University Daily* provides great coverage of all events, but the SGA has to have more room to discuss the specific reasons for legislation.

"The UD does a great job on telling the general side to the meetings," he said. "But they aren't able to convey the full message because of limited space."

Some things students find hard to understand, Brown said, is why tuition is increasing and why Tech is hurting for cash.

"People have thought before that building another fountain in the middle of the campus made us broke," he said. "But what they don't realize is that the money was donated. That's our purpose with the newsletter is to clear up misconception."

Just like a public relations firm within a corporation, Brown said the main focus of the newsletter will be to provide information to the public.

"We want to communicate with students to make them aware," he said. "There's a lack of understanding, and students ask so many questions, and this will help them understand and gain more knowledge about what we do."

United Way seeks help from students

By Jennifer Prieto/Staff Reporter

The Lubbock United Way encourages Texas Tech students to help the community by making donations, which will help fund different organizations and agencies throughout Lubbock.

Jeremy Brown, Student Government Association president, said his goal is to get students involved in the community. Student organizations could have fund-raising events where they could raise money for the Lubbock United Way.

"We talked to the United Way representatives at the end of this summer, but they did not give us enough time to put a campaign together," he said. "We only had about two months, and that was not enough time to inform and get all the organizations signed up."

The goal was to get about 30 student organizations that would donate money, he said. This was going to be a campaign that would encourage stu-

dents to contribute to the community.

Brown said he wanted the money to come from Tech students, and he did not want the SGA name to be attached to it.

"We just want to facilitate ways for students to give back to the community," he said. "I think it would be great for students to help some of the other people who live in Lubbock."

He said the campaign will be better organized for the spring semester so student organizations and other Tech students can get involved.

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources will donate \$1,000 to the Lubbock United Way.

Koby Reed, president of the student agricultural council, said the organization's annual fund-raising efforts include a raffle ticket sale where they give away six sides of pork.

There are about 15 student organizations registered with the College of Agriculture, and they were each given 40 tickets to sell, he said. The

organizations received points for selling the tickets, and the most involved organization will receive an award at the end of the year banquet.

"We sold about \$3,700 worth in tickets," he said. "We will donate \$1,000 to the United Way because this is a good way to give back to the community."

Reed said students will not benefit directly from the donations, but it will help students to feel better about themselves.

"This is the first year we have given back to the community," he said. "It is good to give back to the community because you never know when you will be on the receiving end."

Melissa Madrid, campaign-marketing associate for the Lubbock United Way, said they are trying to get students involved because they are a big part of the community.

"This was the first year that we have tried to get the students involved," she said. "We want them to

know what resources are available to them or their families and friends."

She said students who contribute will be able to give back to the community whether it is in a short- or long-term basis.

Many students will graduate from Tech and leave Lubbock, but that is not an excuse to not help the community, she said.

Madrid said the Lubbock United Way met their goal on Wednesday. Their goal was set at about \$4.6 million, and there is still more money coming in from the holidays that has not been updated.

She said their primary donors are regular working people who like to contribute to the community, but she would like to see more students get involved.

"Student don't have to donate money because if they do not have the means to do it they can volunteer at any of our 23 agencies around the community, and that way they can help others as well," she said.

Theft

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

attempted to contact the students who owned the vehicles that were burglarized.

"We contacted most of them to let them know what happened," he said. "The ones that we couldn't get a hold of, we just took their cars to the station to make sure they were safe and protected until they returned."

Sean Duggan, the director of Housing and Residence Life, said during the holidays, burglaries are typical in the residence hall parking lots.

"It seems to be a place where it happens," he said. "We haven't had this many in a while, that I know of, but some of the stuff is left in plain sight so those particular cars may be targeted."

With most students gone to their homes for Thanksgiving, Duggan said burglars may have noticed that Tech seemed a little "more quiet than normal."

"Our guards and the police were patrolling the lots, but there is only so much they can cover at a time,"

he said. "Out of the 19, I believe 10 of them lived on campus."

Some of the burglaries occurred in the commuter lots near the United Spirit Arena and the Lubbock Municipal Coliseum, as well as in the Bledsoe/Gordon/Sneed parking lot and in other residence hall lots.

With students leaving their cars in the parking lots during the holidays at their own risk, Duggan said Tech does not take responsibility for the burglaries.

"Usually, these kinds of things are covered by insurance, but we can't take responsibility for the break-ins," he said. "It's just like if it happened in your own driveway. You can't be 100 percent safe anywhere because it happens on occasion."

David Christopher, an Allstate insurance agent in Lubbock, said Texas law states that personal property is not covered.

"If you were to cut the top off your car and turn it upside down, the stuff that would fall out would be personal property," he said. "If something's permanently installed, it is covered under comprehensive coverage or 'full' coverage."

Christopher added homeowner's

insurance also can cover any damages to vehicles in the residence hall parking lots.

"It works away from your home, even if you're in Wyoming," he said. "Most insurance companies, including Allstate, try to cover students' possessions if they are full-time, and if their parents have it."

With the increased number of burglaries this year, Hoffman said parking lots will be more routinely patrolled than previously.

"We keep our eyes on each of the lots, but we didn't catch any of them in the act," he said. "They all happened in a short amount of time."

Hoffman added the crimes were "smash and grab" and "in and out" crimes of opportunity.

"We stagger our patrol cars and we don't keep a particular schedule," he said. "It's unfortunate what happened, but we will certainly try to get around to more spaces and keep a better lookout in the future."

TUESDAY		DECEMBER 2					
STAT. CHAN.	KTXT	KCBD	KLBK	KUPT	KAMC	KJTV	
AFFIL. CITY	PBS Lubbock	NBC Lubbock	CBS Lubbock	UPN Lubbock	ABC Lubbock	FOX Lubbock	
7:00	Body Elec. Callow	Today Show	News	Paid Program	Good Morning	K. Copeland UH. Choice	
8:00	Berenstein Barney		Early Show	Paid Program	America	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 Teletubbies	Hwyd Square Jeopardy	Young & the Restless	Paid Program	Home Impr. Paid Program	Access Extra	
12:00	Motorweek One Stroke	News Days of Our	News Beautiful	Jerry Springer	All My Children	Good Day Live	
1:00	Walking Dragon Tales	Lives Passions	As the World Turns	Paid Program	One Life To Live	People's Court	
2:00	Zoom Betw./Lions	InfEdition	Guiding Light	Street Smart	General Hospital	Divorce Court	
3:00	R. Rainbow Cyberchase	Oprah Winfrey	Maury Povitch	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	Neil Diamond	T. Morgan T. Morgan	JAG	One on One All of Us	Charlie Brown	That 70's Simple Life	
8:00	American Soundtrack	Frasier PG Happy	CBS Movie: "Miss Congeniality"	Rock Me Baby Girlfriends	Acc/g/girl Less/Perfect	24 TTY14	
9:00	News Nightly Bus.	News Tonight Show	News David	Friends Blind Date	News Nightline	Sainfield Fraser	
10:00	Destinos	Letterman	Letterman	Ext. Dating Blind Date	MASH E.T.	Becker Shooter Me	
11:00	O'Brien Last Call	Conan	Kilborn	Ext. Dating Paid Program	Jimmy Kimmel	Spin City Paid Program	

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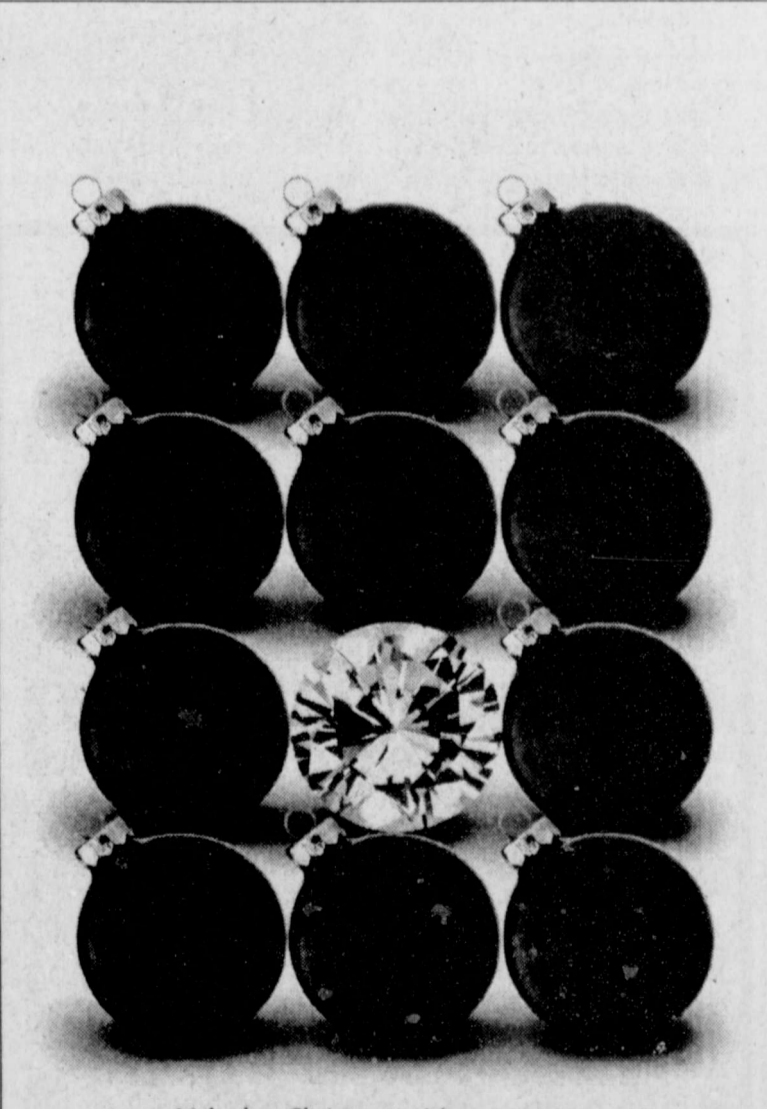
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The Spirit of Sharing

Students, community reach out during holidays

By Justin Vallejo/Staff Reporter

Sharing is the true meaning of the holiday spirit to many Texas Tech students and student organizations on campus.

Students and members of the local community are volunteering their time and money to participate in the Spirit of Sharing, coordinated by The Center for Campus Life.

Organizations such as the Salvation Army and the South Plains Food Bank, in conjunction with The Center for Campus Life joined together to create The Spirit of Sharing program.

The program is a combination of donation programs, which is taking place on campus and various locations throughout Lubbock. The program is designed to help less fortunate families and children experience happy holidays.

It combines other smaller programs like the Angel Tree program, Toys for Tots and Food Boxes for the South Plains Food Bank into one attempt to serve the community.

"I'm just one of those people that loves kids," said Diane Mashburn, a freshman agriculture education major from Chandler. "I like to help people, especially around the holidays."

She and a friend adopted four angels through the Angel Tree program hoping to bring holiday cheer.

She said although she, like most

college students, does not have a large amount of money, she does not mind spending money on children.

"I come from a family that gives a lot, even though money is tight," Mashburn said. "Even though money is tight, we know people have less than us. I just like the idea of trying to help."

Angel Trees are set up at The Center for Campus Life, the Health Sciences Center, the Law School and the School of Engineering on the Tech campus. Trees are also set up at various locations throughout Lubbock.

Each tree contains numerous angels representing a single child and gifts in which the child would like to receive but would probably not be able to receive otherwise.

Many volunteers adopted angels and attempted to fulfill each child's holiday wish.

President of the Student Engineering Committee Geoff Jensen coordinated the accommodation of one of the Angel Trees in the School of Engineering.

During such a hectic time during the semester for students, Jensen said the extra work is sometimes overwhelming, but he does not mind because of the importance of the cause.

"Sometimes priorities get a little tangled, but I consider it important," the junior mechanical engineering

major from Fort Worth said. "It's hard work, but the rewards are very good. It's a great opportunity to help others less fortunate than us."

Megan Shawn, a junior biology major from Monahans, is a co-volunteer chairman for Alpha Epsilon Delta.

She and members of her organization plan to serve as Santa's helpers for The Center for Campus Life by delivering and wrapping gifts brought in for the Angel Trees.

Shawn said she is excited to help the cause.

She said members of the organization are interested in serving people, and this is just one way to do so.

"It's a good way for different organizations and people to work together," Shawn said.

Students and staff members at Tech also participated in The Spirit of Sharing by making monetary donations for food boxes, sponsoring families and by donating new toys to the Salvation Army for the Toys for Tots program.

Janie Garza, Christmas coordinator at the Salvation Army, said she is proud of the amount of effort the Lubbock community has made in attempting to help others this holiday season.

Garza said she gets to witness first hand the impact the effort makes in



ANDREW WEATHERL/Staff Photographer

KRISTY, LEFT, AND Brittany Joyner, both students at Idalou middle school, get two angels to buy gifts for one boy and one girl. off the Angel Tree, located in South Plains Mall Monday afternoon.

people's lives.

"After they come in and pick up

their toys, you see tears in their eyes,"

Garza said. "Whenever you see tears

and hugs, at the end, when it's over,

it makes you feel really good."

'Missing' not typical western

Like the Hollywood musical, the western appears to be making a comeback. In a time in which big-budget explosions rule the box office, it is refreshing to see films that hearken back to the classic genres.

"The Missing" is the second western to be released this year after Kevin Costner's superb "Open Range" in August. It is director Ron Howard's follow-up to "A Beautiful Mind" for which he won the Oscar for best director.

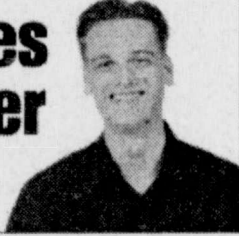
But Howard's film is a western of a different sort. As the film opens, we meet Maggie Gilkeson (Cate Blanchett), a single mother with two daughters who is skilled in medicine. There also is a hired hand named Brake (Aaron Eckhart) living in the barn adjacent to the house who works outside in the day and works inside the house at night.

But when a strange visitor (Tommy Lee Jones) approaches the house one day, it disrupts their quaint existence. He's a white man, but he is dressed like an Indian and wishes to see the good doctor.

But when Maggie gets a look at this stranger, her eyes shoot knives and the blood in her veins turns to ice water. The stranger is her father, Samuel, who abandoned Maggie and her mother when she was young so he could go live with the Indians.

Out of the goodness of her Christian heart, she agrees to treat Samuel, only so he can be on his way faster.

James Eppler



But she is soon reluctantly in need of Samuel's help when one of her daughters, Lily (Evan Rachel Wood), is kidnapped by a band of Indians. Led by a witch named Chidin (Eric Schweig), the kidnappers also killed Brake in the process. So Samuel, Maggie and her youngest daughter named Dot (Jenna Boyd) set out after the kidnappers who are leaving a trail of violence.

While the film is about the chase, it never loses its focus on the father-daughter relationship. Jones is seeking reconciliation, but Blanchett cannot forget her abandonment.

The film also shows us Lily's side of the adventure as she struggles to keep her sanity and her life in tact while in bondage.

"The Missing" is garnering numerous comparisons to John Ford's "The Searchers," with John Wayne, simply because of the fact that it is a western about searching for a kidnapped girl being held by Indians. Whereas "The Searchers" takes place over a period of years, "The Missing" is dealing with a matter of weeks. Apparently, Tommy Lee Jones is a more efficient searcher

than John Wayne.

Another difference is while Wayne's character scorned the Indian culture, Jones' embraces it religiously. In fact, "The Missing" deals heavily in the spiritual realm. Consider one of the film's strongest sequences, which finds Maggie under the spell of Chidin. She is hallucinating and developing boils on her skin. The curse is combated both by Samuel's Indian chanting and Dot's reading of scripture. In a film that finds several gun battles and hand-to-hand combats, this is a fight of a different nature. While the film doesn't necessarily favor one "religion" over another, it recognizes there are battles that can be waged without guns and knives.

Hollywood is often accused, rightfully so, of not providing actresses with strong feminine roles. All too often the heroine is reduced to a damsel in distress. But "The Missing" is full of strong female characters - Blanchett's character in particular. Maggie is a bold, strong woman, and Blanchett plays her with fierceness. It is an excellent performance and a well-written character.

The film's ending will come as a surprise to few and it treads on familiar ground, but Howard's film manages to do new things with old material.

"The Missing" is a deliberately paced, often exciting and always involving western that weaves interesting facets of spirituality into a study of character and culture.

EPPLER'S RATING:



- ★★★★★ - Flawless
- ★★★★ - Excellent
- ★★★ - Good
- ★★ - Mediocre
- ★ - Awful

■ Eppler is *The UD's* movie critic. Send comments and questions to James.D.Eppler@ttu.edu.

Breaking the bank avoidable during holiday shopping sprees

By Nikki Siegrist/Staff Reporter

Shopping bargain bins and sale racks in search of holiday gifts is what Miranda Sawall will be doing this season.

"I went to an outlet mall over Thanksgiving and did a lot of their sales," the freshman physical therapy major from Lubbock said. "I found some good bargains."

Buy-one, get-one-free sales are some of what she said she found. Even shopping for sales, she said she puts herself on a set spending limit.

Bargain hunting is helpful to those on a small budget, but there are other steps students should take to keep from getting the January blues when they receive their after-holiday bills.

She said not only is her amount of spending limited, but also the number of people Sawall buys for is limited.

Her friend, Courtney Garth, also has a limited budget and has creative ways to cut costs.

Garth, a freshman exercise sports science major from Lubbock, made gifts for some of her friends and family in the past.

The stockings and picture collages were a big hit, but this year she and friends came up with another way to save money.

"My friends are going to draw names of everyone so we don't all buy presents because that get expensive," she said.

Not all students look for ways to save while holiday shopping.

Tim Fogus, a senior business major from Denton, said he does not try to save dollars. He tries to find gifts for everyone, but he has no set budget and will charge most of his purchases on his credit card.

"It's Christmas, it's only once a year," Fogus said. "I usually keep it under \$1,000 for everybody."



DAVID JOHNSON/Photo Illustration

He said while he does not go out looking for sales, they are a nice bonus. He typically waits until day before to go.

"That's the holiday spirit — Christmas Eve shopping," he said.

Many other students might follow Fogus' spending patterns, but Red to Black Peer Educator Joe Goetz said buying with a credit card is not the best idea.

"The key is to have a spending plan for your gifts," he said. "You can save hundreds."

In order to set up a spending budget, he recommends looking at how much the student is able to spend and how many presents the student has to buy, then allotting a specific amount for each present.

He also said planning ahead is crucial, as well as knowing what you are going to buy someone.

"Many people just start looking (for a gift) and end up spending more than they planned," he said. "The problem is everyone has fun with holiday shopping. People like to shop for others. It can lead to January blues when you get that credit card bill."

He said there are many resourceful ideas to save money.

Families and friends can pull names out of a hat of people for whom to buy for. Students also can collaborate on presents for parents or grandparents with other family members. Goetz said these ideas were better than charging presents on a credit card.

"A lot of students have the buy-it-now, pay-for-it-later mentality, which can be very risky," he said.

He said credit card companies sometimes offer deals for the month of December allowing students to not incur interest or make a payment in December. The companies will then raise the interest rate dramatically for January.

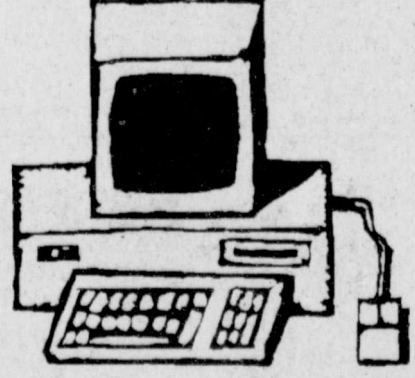
The student will pay more for the presents with a credit card than with cash in the end.

People also should not wait until the last minute to buy gifts.

"When people wait until the last minute to buy and usually end up spending more," he said. "They feel the pressure of time and buy something a little more expensive than they planned."

Goetz said making gifts or buying a gift with a smaller price tag and more sentimental value is better for people on a budget.

"I try to be more creative with my gifts," he said. "It means more to me when the gifts are made."




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Perkins second-half scoring beats Bears

By David Wiechmann/Staff Reporter

Jia Perkins said she was unhappy with her first-half performance and the closeness of the game during the first half against California on Monday night at the United Spirit Arena.

She was not too upset after the second half, though.

The Lady Raiders held a 36-32 lead at the half, and Perkins found herself in foul trouble and with six points. The preseason Big 12 Player of the Year prospect proceeded to explode scoring wise in the second half with 23 points. Final score: 76-69.

Perkins finished the game with 29 points and had a shot at 30 points on the night but missed a free throw with seconds left in the game.

"In the second half I was ready to get out there," she said. "That's what I love about basketball is the close games, and I just wanted to do what ever I had to do to win whether that was scoring or dishing."

The first half saw the Golden Bears and Lady Raiders seesaw for the lead. It was guard Natalie Ritchie that gave Tech baskets when it needed them the most to help in the win.

Two 3-pointers and another jump shot by Ritchie helped to fuel the Lady Raiders' engine, and Perkins noticed the importance of Ritchie's clutch shooting in the first half.

"The first half I credit to Nat for making those nice three's," she said.

In a game that was highly con-

tested for most of the game, Tech found itself having to break from its normal routine by giving Perkins almost free reign with the basketball. California's tight defense made Tech have difficulty finding the passing lane and the perimeter players could not pull up for jumpers.

Tech coach Caren Horstmeyer said Sharp said Perkins was going to have to be a force in the second half, and she put the game in her command as often as possible.

"Every trip," she said. "We wanted her to touch the ball on every trip down the court."

The offense was run by Perkins at the top of the key for part of the second half allowing her to make last second passes and shake defenders on the move for easy jumpers to contribute to her season-high point total.

But the story of the night may have been how closely California played Tech. Cal coach Caren Horstmeyer said even though her team lost she was happy with its performance. She was pleased enough to hold the No. 5 team in the nation to seven points.

"You saw a good game out there," she said. "We felt like we took them out of a lot of things they like to do and we surprised them."

Despite the tight defense all night,

Horstmeyer and the Golden Bears could not stop Perkins for the entire 40 minutes.

"We just didn't have an answer for Perkins," she said. "We didn't have an answer a few years back for Swoopes, and we didn't have answer for Perkins (Monday). She's a great player, and she's somebody that can take a team on her shoulders."

Tech is often able to take the ball almost at will from its opponents, but that was not the case this time out as California turned the ball over 16 times as opposed to Tech's 19. But Tech crashed the boards to out rebound the Golden Bears 46-33.

Like Perkins gave a lot of the offensive success to Ritchie in the first half, Sharp said California did make her team break from its usual strategy and forced the Lady Raiders into situations they are not used to.

"I think we need to give Cal-Berkeley a lot of credit," she said. "I thought they came and played really well. They came and made plays and played really aggressive on both ends of the floor and I thought really made us do some things that causes problems and were difficult for us to defend because of their quickness."

The performance and the challenge California gave Tech is what Sharp said wants her team to experience before conference play begins in January. It is a good test of her team and will help prepare them for what is arguably the toughest conference in the nation. And because of Tech's placement in the national polls, she said teams will come in pumped up for every game in the United Spirit Arena.

"Everyone is going to come in here and come after us," Sharp said. "We have a bull's eye on our backs right now."

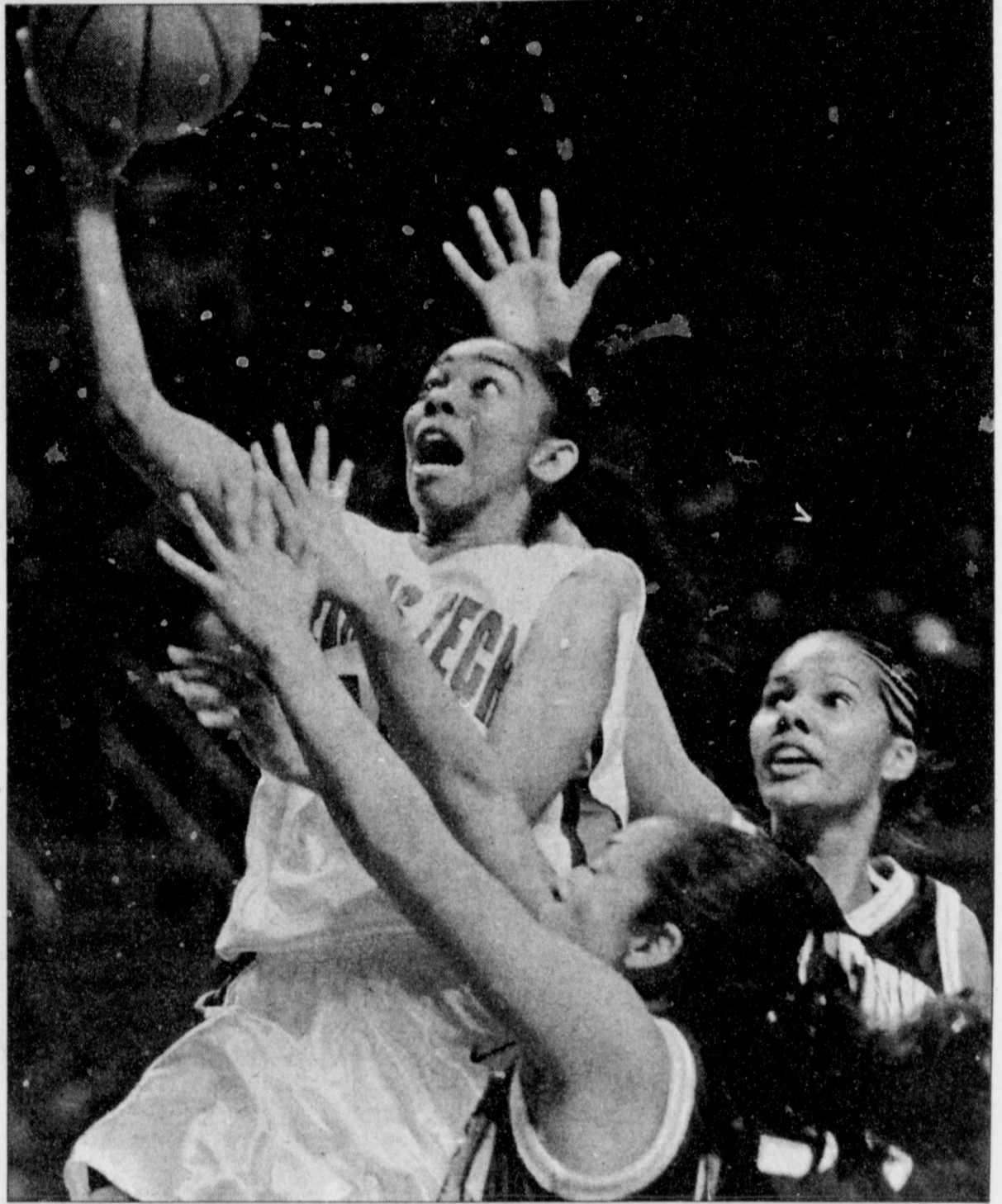
PLAYERS OF THE GAME

TEXAS TECH: JIA PERKINS



STATS: 13-19 for 29 points. Also had four rebounds and three steals.

NOTES: Scored 23 of her 29 points in the second half of the game. She also leads the Lady Raiders in scoring this season with 17 points per game.



JENNA HANSEN/Photography Editor

TEXAS TECH GUARD Erin Grant jumps past two California defenders for a lay up during the Lady Raiders 76-69 victory against the Golden Bears on Monday in the United Spirit Arena.

TCU remaining home for bowl game

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) - TCU is staying home to play its bowl game.

The 19th-ranked Horned Frogs (11-1), who turned down an invitation from the GMAC Bowl because it conflicts with final exams at the school, accepted an invitation Monday night to play in the inaugural Fort Worth Bowl against an undetermined opponent.

Before losing 40-28 at Southern Mississippi on Nov. 20, TCU was undefeated and eighth in the Bowl Championship Series rankings.

TCU athletic director Eric Hyman said that about three weeks before the Southern Miss game, the school's provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, William Koehler, had approached him and said the team couldn't play a bowl during exams.

Hyman said he expressed those concerns to Conference USA commissioner Britton Banowsky, who then told bowl officials about the potential conflict.

Two of the five bowls with C-USA ties, New Orleans (Dec. 16) and GMAC (Dec. 18), fell during TCU's exams from Dec. 15-19.

Despite its preference, TCU was

formally invited to the GMAC Bowl on Saturday night after winning its regular season finale 20-13 at SMU. Hyman declined the offer the next day.

"It was probably the toughest five days in my professional career," Hyman said. "Our athletes were in harm's way and caught in the politics that were going on."

Hyman said Banowsky and Koehler even discussed the matter with GMAC officials during a conference call Friday, a day before the invitation was extended. TCU officials offered a compromise, saying it would come to Mobile, Ala., the day before the game, but bowl officials wanted them there Dec. 13.

"It was an institutional decision, and I supported the decision," Hyman said. "There was no maneuvering. This was not Eric Hyman or (coach) Gary Patterson trying to get out of the game. It was a pure academic issue."

GMAC got the second pick from C-USA. League champion Southern Mississippi is going to the Liberty Bowl.

After TCU turned them down, GMAC officials considered going outside C-USA before Louisville was invited and accepted to play No. 14

Miami of Ohio of the Mid-American Conference. The Frogs could have been left without a bowl game had the GMAC taken a team from outside C-USA.

As for TCU's opponent in the Fort Worth Bowl, the Big 12 won't be able to provide a team for the game if the league gets two teams in the BCS as expected. Air Force, Boise State and Connecticut are possible non-Big 12 teams.

Patterson said he is excited about playing in the Fort Worth Bowl, and looked forward to playing another game at home.

"It's special to be part of the place that has helped us get where we're at," the coach said. "Our group is a humble group. There is no such thing as a bad bowl game."

TCU will make its record sixth straight bowl appearance. The Frogs played in the first two bowls in Mobile, Ala., in 1999 and 2000 when the game didn't conflict with exams.

The other C-USA bowl matchups are Southern Miss against Mountain West champ Utah in the Liberty Bowl, Houston against Hawaii in the Hawaii Bowl, and Memphis against North Texas in the New Orleans Bowl.

Tech still No. 5 in women's poll

(AP) — Virginia Tech and Michigan State gave The Associated Press women's basketball poll two newcomers Monday, while Connecticut held its usual spot at the top.

In voting that produced the same top six as last week, Virginia Tech moved in at No. 23 and Michigan State at No. 24.

It was the first appearance for Michigan State (4-0) since the Spartans were ranked the final seven weeks of the 1996-97 season. Virginia Tech was last in the poll for six weeks late in the 2001-02 season.

Connecticut (3-0) again was a unanimous choice at No. 1, a position they've held in 11 straight polls and 60 of the last 79.

The Huskies have won the last two national championships and have yet to be challenged this season, beating Western Michigan, Florida State and Holy Cross by an average of 37 points.

UConn received all 46 first-place votes from a national media panel and had 1,150 points. Texas (6-0) was next with 1,099 points, followed by Tennessee (2-0) with 1,033, Duke (4-1) with 1,016, Texas Tech (6-0) with 957 and Stanford (5-0) with 921. Duke's loss was against Texas.

Purdue climbed one spot to

seventh and Penn State slipped one place to eighth. Penn State lost to Old Dominion but defeated George Washington and then-No. 9 Kansas State.

No. 9 Minnesota and No. 10 Louisiana Tech both moved up two places.

Georgia dropped one spot to 11th after a 61-59 loss at Stanford and Kansas State fell three places to 12th, ending its string of appearances in the top 10 at 22.

North Carolina was 13th and Ohio State 14th, followed by UC

Santa Barbara, Oklahoma, Colorado, LSU, Utah and Oregon.

TCU, Rutgers, Virginia Tech, Michigan State and Auburn held the final five places.

Virginia Tech won at least 20 games in each of coach Bonnie Henrickson's first six seasons and is off to another strong start. The Hokies beat Iowa State and Mississippi State in the Virgin Islands last weekend and had an earlier win at Virginia, which was 25th in the pre-season poll.

Michigan State drew some attention with a 92-63 victory over Notre Dame, ranked 17th at the time. The Spartans followed that with a 79-62 win over Eastern Michigan.

SMU upsets Red Raiders on road

DALLAS (AP) - Bryan Hopkins scored 19 points as Southern Methodist beat Texas Tech 62-59 on Monday evening.

SMU (2-1) didn't hit a field goal and scored only two points in the final 4:29 of the game, but the Mustangs had three steals in the final minute to hold off Texas Tech (4-2).

After blowing a 16-point first half lead and falling behind 53-50 on an Andre Emmett layup, the Mustangs had 10 straight points to take a 60-53 lead on a layup by Eric Castro with 4:29 left in the game.

SMU guard Justin Isham stole the ball from Michael Marshall with 4 seconds left in the game and was fouled with the Mustangs leading 61-59. Isham hit the second of his two free throws to give SMU a three-point lead.

Texas Tech's Robert Tomaszek's potential game-tying 3-pointer as time expired hit the front of the rim.

Emmett led the Red Raiders with 28 points and 12 rebounds.

Patrick Simpson finished with 11 points and nine rebounds and Castro scored 10 points for SMU.

Tech only shot 2-of-17 from three-point range.

The Red Raiders will face Texas-El Paso at 7:05 p.m. Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena. The UTEP Miners are 3-0 this season. Tech has beaten them the past four years.

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