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**THURSDAY** Dec. 4, 2003

Volume 79 II Issue 65 Lubbock, Texas © Copyright 2003

## SGA preps for vote to change constitution

■ Amendment calls for a new executive officer position to give graduate students more representation; online student vote is Dec. 9 and 10.

By Joey Kirk/Staff Reporter

The Student Government Association is giving Texas Tech students the opportunity to vote for a change in its constitution on Dec. 9 and 10.

The amendment calls for the SGA to create a new executive officer position, which is the vice president for graduate affairs.

Although there are nine graduate senators in the Student Senate, SGA President Jeremy Brown said graduate students deserve more representation in higher positions.

"Right now, most of our executive officers are undergraduates," he said. "This would be a good change for the SGA."

The Board of Regents recognized the SGA

as the only governing body for the student body of Tech, Brown said.

"Some of us undergraduates don't understand what it's like to be a graduate student," he said. "By creating this new position, it will give all students, especially graduates, equal representation."

If the amendment passes, the office will be voted on during the spring SGA elections. The candidates will be required to be graduate students in good standing with the university as well as have a grade point average of at least 3.0.

Brown said the SGA would be able to give the full viewpoint of the entire student body if this position was created.

"Graduate students are always part of dis-



cussions, and we should get their perspective on things as well," he said. "With this, they would be able to relate to another graduate student if they have a problem with Tech."

Senator-At-Large and graduate student Kyle Jackson said he believes the SGA is headed in the right direction.

"This will give better representation for all students in the SGA," he said. "It gives the SGA a unified voice when we speak with the administration."

In the past, Jackson said graduate students have not had a strong voice in the SGA and

"This puts us in the mainstream," he said. "It will help us meet the needs that have not been met in the past."

The process of getting the amendment to the constitution together took longer than lackson and most SGA members expected.

"It took longer than we thought," he said. "But the extra time allowed us to slowly explore everything, every aspect of it before deciding officially.'

With the number of graduate students growing at a faster rate than Tech as a whole, graduate Senator Jason McAfee said the SGA

needs to make the position available. "We are one-sixth of the student body," he said. "We need an existing voice because the GPSGA is more of a service organization than a governmental organization."

The Graduate and Professional Student Government Association is funded by the graduate school, McAfee said, so he sees it as a departmental organization rather than a governing body.

**VOTE** continued on page 5

# building the FUTURE

Engineering students work on alternativelyfueled vehicles

By Andrew Bell/Staff Reporter

lince 1989, the department of mechanical engineering at Texas Tech has been taking alternatively-fueled vehicles to competitions to show people throughout the nation how efficient these automobiles can be.

The competition takes teams of students from the top 15 universities in the nation to re-engineer their vehicles into lower transmission vehicle with higher fuel economy without sacrificing the performance and utility, according to the competition's web site.

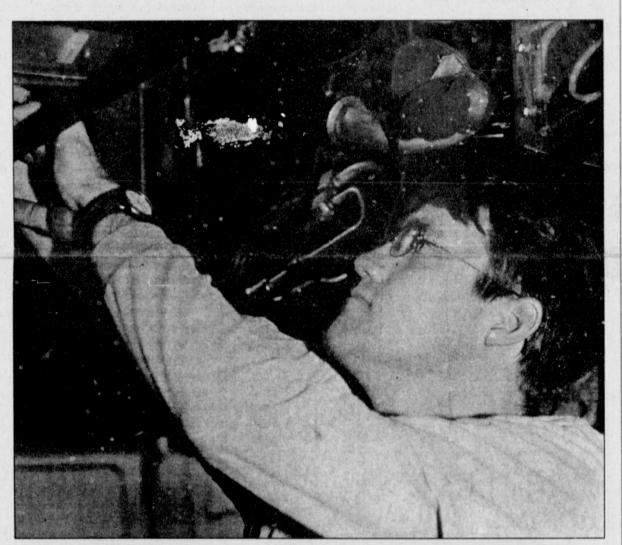
The most recent development is a hybrid vehicle powered by hydrogen and electric energy. The automobile that Tim Maxwell, an associate professor of mechanical engineering, and his students have been working on is a two-wheel drive 2002 Ford Explorer.

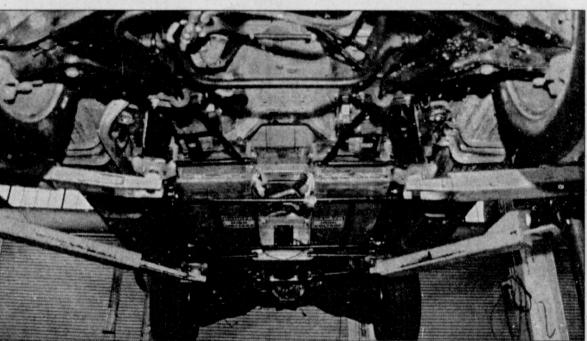
The department originally took a fuel cell car to the competitions and since 2001 has been working on a hydrogen-fueled car, Maxwell said. The new automobile uses a four-cylinder engine that burns hydrogen. The range of a hydrogen tank is equivalent to about two or three gallons of gasoline, which would equal to 75 to 80 miles on the road. However, the vehicle is efficient because it is able to convert energy directly into the wheels.

"It just has to convert hydrogen from chemical energy to mechanical energy, and that goes straight to the wheels," Maxwell said.

One problem the vehicle has is the fuel and air mixture in a hydro-

CAR continued on page 3





PHOTOS BY JENNA HANSEN/Photography Editor

TOP: ANDREW LESLIE, A second-year graduate student from Lufkin studying electrical engineering, works underneath the body of a Ford Explorer that runs off of hydrogen insead of fuel. ABOVE: Underneath the car.

### Shonrock addresses better communication

**OPENING THE LINES:** VP of Student Affairs: role of university to serve students.

By Adam Boedeker/Staff Reporter

Students at Texas Tech have changed dramatically over the last two decades, leading to generational differences between students and staff that need to be overcome, Vice President for Student Affairs Michael Shonrock said at Wednesday's Staff Senate

"We need to understand the generational differences between ourselves and our students," he said. "With today's college fresh-

men you have to realize the CD was introduced when they were born. Popcorn has always been made in a microwave, Jay Leno has always been on 'The Tonight Show' and no one knows, or cares, who shot J.R.

Senate President-elect Brent Guinn said Shonrock was asked to speak about improving communication between staff and students, since students are the reason for staff positions.

Shonrock said the ultimate role of university staff members is to serve the students and make the campus a good environment.

"We all know the role and responsibility we have is to serve the students," he said. "I assure you the majority of students on our campus are wonderful. The reality is, some day they will be taking care of us, so it's important we invest in our future."

Tech has more than 500 staff members and 1,500 student employees, and Tech has a unique place in its students' hearts, he said.

"We work to have an environment that provides a sense of involvement for the students," Shonrock said. "It's always good to hear students considering Tech and Lubbock to be their home. It's not like that at many college campuses, and I think that's unique."

Shonrock said one of the major concerns he hears from students deal with money issues. He said one of the main goals is to change the paradigm involving students and their money.

**SENATE** continued on page 3



PRESIDENT FOR Student Affairs Michael Shonrock jokes with the Staff Senate Wednesday afternoon at Texas Tech's Law School. **TYSON** JEFFREYS/Staff Photographer

VICE



DAVID JOHNSON/Staff Photographer CONGRESSMAN RANDY NEUGEBAUER, left, looks at maps of Vietnam with the founder and director of the vietnam project Dr. James

By Sally Gunter/Staff Reporter U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, announced Wednesday the approval of a one-year \$500,000 federal grant to continue the development of the Texas Tech Vietnam Center's virtual archive.

Neugebauer said he was glad to report the news. He formed an interest in the Vietnam War as a junior high student and created a scrapbook following the events of the war.

"I began an infatuation with it because it was in our daily life," he said. While he lost track of the scrapbook over the years, Neugebauer said the coverage of the Vietnam War was a turning point in media.

"The Vietnam War was the first war where there was very graphic coverage," he said. "Now it's child's play compared to what you see in today's wars." The Vietnam Center and Archive gives closure to some people who experienced the war, Neugebauer said.

"I think this is a great thing," he said. "The virtual technology is probably on the cutting edge of where and how we will remember history."

The Vietnam Archive received federal funding on Dec. 17, 2000, for a

Virtual Vietnam Archive under a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services within the U.S. Department of Education.

The Vietnam Archive hosts 59,000 photographs and slides from the Vietnam War. There are more than 2,000 audiotapes as well as more than 13,000 newsletters and periodicals, Director James Reckner said.

Veterans donated the majority of the items in the archive, he said.

"Our goal was to collect it and hand the information down to younger generations," Reckner said. "It is now not just important for students and faculty.'

National officials have used information inside the archives to locate soldiers missing in action during the Vietnam War, Reckner said.

The transfer of the physical material onto the Internet has allowed people to research topics free of charge and from the convenience of their homes, he

So far, about 25 percent of the material in the archive has been scanned and made available through the virtual archive, said Stephen Maxner, associ-

GRANT continued on page 3

Reckner. The center received \$500,000 for the project.

## Supplements not easy answer to healthy life

By Beth Aaron/Staff Reporter

Jack's magic beans made him rich, but the surprises dietary supplements could bring may not be as pleasant.

Dr. Donna Bacchi, associate professor of clinical neuropsychiatry at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, said because the Food and Drug Administration does not regulate most dietary supplements, taking too many herbals can be hazardous to one's health.

"There's really no regulation of those supplements in this country," she said. "The problem with nutritional supplements is that the supplements advertised don't have rigid studies to them."

Bacchi said people taking supplements without knowing what they are and what they do could experience side effects such as seizures.

whole lot of supplements that we don't have a whole lot of information on, especially in combinations, you could be putting yourself at risk," she said.

Bacchi said many times, doctors and researchers are not sure about the effects of dietary supplements and how they react with medications. There is one study, however, showing some supplements tend to make birth control pills less effective.

"If you don't know that, you could dents said they possibly be putting yourself at risk," she

Supplements most commonly taken by college students are: ginseng and gingko biloba for memory enhancement, vitamin Cand echinacea for an immune system boost and creatine, a supplement that boasts an increase in muscle mass.

Students also are known to take ing ahead of time and getting plenty

"Whenever you start adding a caffeine pills, sometimes containing of rest before exams instead of popephedrine or energy drinks contain- ping pills and cramming. ing large amounts

> caffeine. Bacchi said ephedrine is harmful to the heart, and caffeine in large quantities also can place stress on the heart.

Several stuuse caffeine pills to aid in late night studying, but they declined to give their

Bacchi sug-

gested students deal with the stress of finals by study-

"At some

At some point you're going to come off that high. -don't do that." It could be at the Tyler Tarvet, a same time you're

- DR. DONNA BACCHI Associate professor of clinical neuropsychiatry

taking your exam.

point you're going to come off of that high," she said. "It could be at the same time you're taking your exam. Plan better

freshman mass communications major from Amarillo, said he has never taken caffeine pills.

"I've never felt the need to," he said. "I don't

think they would help." Flax seeds are a recent phenomrecently discovered they can grind up flax seeds and add them to things like cereal and vogurt.

omega-three fatty acid and are supposed to lower the risk of diabetes, or less effective. cancer and heart disease.

Annelise Preston, a sophomore pre-nursing major from Houston, said she often grinds up flax seeds and adds them to oatmeal.

"My mom gave them to me, actuways you can take them. Flax seeds are good for your skin."

Preston said though she eats healthy and tries to stay active, high cholesterol runs in her family. She takes garlic supplements and a daily multivitamin to combat the problem.

"I work out a lot and eat healthy,"

enon in the world of nutritional she said. "I've read that you can't just supplements, Bacchi said. People have depend on supplements. It's better to get the stuff from the food your eating."

Bacchi said people need to consult a physician about dietary supplements Bacchi said flax seeds contain to make sure what they are taking will not render other prescriptions useless

> "When anyone considers taking supplements, they really need to talk to a physician and or a nutritionist, but probably a physician first to see if there are any adverse effects," she said.

Bacchi cautioned students against ally," she said. "There are different using supplements in excess. Taking a multivitamin and eating a healthy diet is more beneficial than relying on di-

etary supplements. "Taking it in supplement form may not give you the same nutrients found in the natural food," she said. "The best thing to do is get your nutrients and minerals in foods."

#### Senate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We need to change the idea from 'here, here's all the fees you're paying,' to 'here's all the investments you're making for yourselves," he

The greatest investment at the university is students, Shonrock said, and for that there needs to be an investment in staff.

most important thing for the university as a whole."

sues between students and staff, as student mediation center to resolve well as between staff members,

He said Tech students are getting better and brighter every year, with standardized test scores increasing.

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At the same time, he said, students have more things to be concerned about these days than previous students have that may cause stressful situations.

"We need to realize that our students are adults," he said. "They are dealing with many issues that we never had to deal with. There's a war going on, there's terrorism and there are many more stressors now than there may have been previously."

Shonrock said many problems "When I have a happy staff, I have that arise could be solved on a onehappy students," he said. "That's the on-one basis, but there are other avenues for resolution if necessary.

"If there are issues that need reso-Shonrock also discussed civility is- lution we have an ombudsman and a those issues," he said.

> However, staff members should never be in a situation where they feel threatened for any reason.

> > **DECEMBER 4**

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6pm Friends 6:30 Everybody Loves Raymond

pm FOX34 News @ Nine

"If someone crosses the line, we students are fine; it's that one percent have a judicial programs office," he said. "All they require is a referral from someone stating the issues they've been confronted with. Sometimes they can be solved informally. but none of us should ever feel threatened - none of us are paid well enough for that."

Shonrock stressed that most students on Tech's campus are phenom-

enal and never present a problem.

that have the issues we're dealing

He said Tech students do a good job representing their school, and it is the best student body with which he has ever worked.

"Our students do a great job," he said. "Well, they either do a really good job, or they do a really good job of not getting caught."

The Senate also passed Senate "It's what I call the 99/1 rule," he Resolution 02.01, which was brought said. "(That means) 99 percent of our up two years ago and never acted on.

It will be presented to Tech President have resigned. Jon Whitmore when Senate President Chance Dragich meets with him

The resolution asks for more time off with pay for staff members through a merit-based award program. These additional hours, which can be up to 16 per year for each employee, are for either rewarding continued service excellence or rewarding singular acts of excellence.

Dragich also said the Senate is in the process of replacing senators who

Sherri Snyder of the library, and Joan Burdine from the school of music, are both leaving, which means there are four vacant positions to fill.

"We only need one election," Dragich said. "Three of them will be automatically filled because only three applied for the clerical positions and there's only three openings so they'll all make it. We'll have to have an election for the administrative executive position that needs to be

#### Car

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gen-fueled car has can ignite before it is ready. This pre-ignition can the intake system. cause the heat inside to increase. To prevent this problem, the department runs a lean mixture of fuel and air in the engine to burn less fuel while making more power, Maxwell said. Without the mixture, could cause the car the car would not perform as well.

To put in half of the fuel that the air can support only gives half of the power," he said.

By only running at half of the a hybrid-electric veavailable power, the car would only hicle, it also uses an cylinder head in the vehicle. This electric engine has full or no power. keeps the heat down because alu-

minum is a better conductor than the cast-iron cylinder head found in most gasoline-powered automobiles.

Maxwell said he also is working on water injection into

Since the heat is so intense within the vehicle, water droplets would be able to absorb the heat and to run at 100 percent of its possible power.

Since the car is

be able to run at 50 horsepower. To electric engine. The department wants kind of energy the wheels need. increase the vehicle's horsepower, to keep the electric engine performhicle has to be decreased. Maxwell cent. Maxwell said this is because the said the group uses an aluminum vehicle will not perform as well if the

"The engine is most efficient when

it is at constant load when the vehicle is constantly going," he said. "The engine is not efficient with all of the starts and stops at traffic lights."

To keep the fuel efficiency in the

vehicle, the car has two control systems. If the car is moving and the wheels are turning, then the electric motor has to be turning. Maxwell said the control system located in the back wheels check the electric system to see what

the heat developed within the ve- ing anywhere between 30 and 80 per- livering torque to the wheels or it is percent more power. With the develtaking it away," he said. Although the Tech team did not

finish as well at the last competition as they have previous times, Maxwell said they are looking to do well in 2004. He said they could accomplish that by making different adjustments to increase the amount of horsepower in the vehicle.

At the competitions, the vehicles are required to perform equally or better than the original model of the car. To do this, Maxwell said it is feasible for the vehicle he and his students are working on to increase horsepower from 50 to 130.

The exhaust drives vehicles and the exhaust acts as a compressor. The air goes into the vehicle and compresses the air. With a supercharger, Maxwell said the vehicle creates a domino effect that can eventually give the car more power.

"It packs twice as much air. This gives more pressure, which burns more fuel. That can give the vehicle two times more power," he said.

The process of the supercharger "The control system is either de- would be able to give the vehicle 50 opment of the camshaft in the near future, the car would be able to create 20 percent more power giving the car 145 horsepower.

> This will be important to the team when they go to the Future Truck competition on June 9-17, 2004. The competition will be held at Ford's Michigan Proving Ground.

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#### Grant

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ate director for the Vietnam archive. There are 1.6 million total pages available online, and more pages are added daily, he said.

"We have already had more than 1.3 million pages requested," Maxner said. "It is very satisfying to know the project is generating this kind of interest."

With the additional funding, Maxner said more video footage and interviews, a microfilm collection, and a complete map collection will be added to the virtual archive.

Reckner said there are plans to construct a \$50 million Vietnam Center building at 4th Street and Quaker

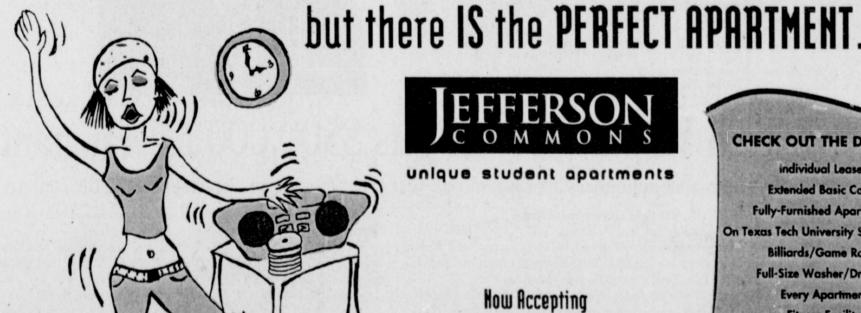
"It will be the No. 1 tourist attraction in West Texas when we get it built," he said.

Construction on the building cannot begin until funding for the project is donated, Reckner said.

A veteran of the Vietnam War and graduate of Tech, Michael Horton said the archive plays an important role in

"I hope it's a place to research, so we don't make every mistake again as soldiers," he said.

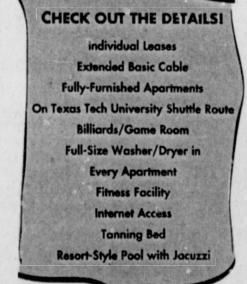




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### 'River' named film of the year

NEW YORK (AP) - "Mystic River" wound its way to the top of the National Board of Review's list of the best films of 2003.

Director Clint Eastwood's intensely moody tale of murder, friendship and lost innocence in a blue-collar Boston neighborhood stars Sean Penn, Tim Robbins, Kevin Bacon, Marcia Gay Harden and Laura Linney.

Penn was the group's choice Wednesday as best actor for his work in both "Mystic River" and "21 Grams." In "Mystic River," he plays a man seeking revenge for his daughter's death; in "21 Grams," he plays a math professor whose life changes after a car crash.

The board named Diane Keaton as best actress for "Something's Gotta Give," in which she plays a divorced playwright who falls for her daughter's boyfriend, played by Jack Nicholson.

Supporting-actor honors went to Alec Baldwin for his role as a sleazy casino owner in "The Cooler" and Patricia Clarkson for her performances in two films: "Pieces of April," in which she plays a mother with cancer, and "The Station Agent" in which she plays a grieving artist.

Rounding out the group's picks for the best films of 2003, in order: "The Last Samurai," "The Station Agent," "21 Grams," "House of Sand and Fog," "Lost in Translation," "Cold Mountain," "In America," "Seabiscuit," and "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World."

"This was a strong year for the studios," said NBR President Annie Schulhof. "They produced films with powerful storylines and characters with their own moral codes.'

For the first time, the National Board of Review also chose its five favorite documentaries of the year, with Errol Morris' "The Fog of War" coming in at No. 1.

The group's pick for best foreign film: "The Barbarian Invasions" by French-Canadian director Denys Arcand.

The National Board of Review is traditionally the first group to name its top films each year, but it's not necessarily a bellwether for the Oscars.

Last year the group chose "The Hours" as best film, and the Academy Award went to "Chicago." In 2001, it picked "Moulin Rouge," and the Oscar went to "A Beautiful Mind."

The National Board of Review will award the winners at a ceremony Jan. 13 in New York.

### Hilton, Richie go to Hollywood

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The debut of "The Simple Life," Fox's reality show about Paris Hilton and pal Nicole Richie roughing it on a farm, drew a solid 13 million viewers Tuesday, according to Nielsen Media Research.

The Hilton hotel heiress' recent publicity from a sex video with a former boyfriend that appeared online may have

Her 8:30 p.m. EST Fox series matched a special Tuesday showing of CBS' "JAG," which also drew 13 million viewers, and was bettered only by NBC's "Law & Order: SVU," which had an audience of 13.6 million.

## 'Bad Santa' is a dirty little present

e're a long way from "Miracle on 34th Street." Where that film found a sweet old man claiming to be Santa Claus, "Bad Santa" has Santa as a sloppy, foul-mouthed, fornicating drunkard who is passed out in the back room when children are not sitting in his lap.

Billy Bob Thornton is Willie T. Stokes, a con man who masquerades as a department store Santa so he can knock over the store's safe on Christmas Eve. He even works with a dwarf named Marcus (Tony Cox) to pose as his elf.

They've been running this gig for years, each Christmas scoring enough cash to last them until next December.

This time they've found a large store managed by a quirky little man (the late John Ritter in his last performance). But they also must reckon with the no-nonsense head of mall security (Bernie Mac, still mumbling about those doggone hand. He hates children, especially kids).

Thornton plays Stokes as a selfdeprecating loser who always has a half-empty bottle of booze in his before the kids even get there.

**James Eppler** 

The point is, holiday comedies are usually reserved for families, but 'Bad Santa' is an ofen hilarious and guilty pleasure for those wanting their eggnog with a little kick.

those who pee in his lap. But at times, Stokes is so drunk in the Santa chair that he pees on himself

(Brett Kelly) visits Stokes in the Santa chair, a small connection is made — at least on the child's end. He truly believes that Stokes is Santa and even follows him to a bar after he gets off work.

Stokes, out of the slight goodness in his heart, decides to give the child a ride home. We learn that the child (we don't find out his real name until nearly the end of the movie) lives in a big house with his grandmother who is way south of senile. Stokes decides to move in with the child after his hotel room is raided by the police.

Meanwhile, he is still going to work drunk every day in his Santa outfit. Stokes curses at the children, belittles their Christmas wishes and even destroys the Santa set.

He also develops a relationship with a bartender (Lauren Graham) who makes him wear his Santa hat during intercourse because she has a Santa fetish.

Make no mistake — this is a dirty Christmas movie strictly for adults. In fact, one of Tony Cox's lines perfectly sums up the entire movie: "It's

But when a chubby little boy a joke — it's a joke just for us adults." "Bad Santa" is twisted, sick, dark, foul-mouthed and filthy - and very

God help me, I liked it.

Beneath all the F-words, kinky sex, boozing and sick humor is a sweet Christmas story. The film does not try to develop a father-son relationship between Stokes and the child, but rather, it is a strange friendship. The child knows this slob is not really Santa, but insists on treating him as if he is. Stokes often wonders what this child's problem is, but soon develops a soft spot for him.

However, the film does not try to completely transform Stokes. While Thornton's character remains a foul-mouthed drunkard to the very end, his character does change in the way he feels about other people and probably about himself.

Thornton has proved before that he can do comedy ("Bandits"), and Willie Stokes is a wholly unlikable character who managed to make me laugh in spite of myself.

Of course, the story is fairly pre- Eppler is The UD's movie critic. posterous, and the film's ending tries to tie a pretty bow on this grimy little James.D.Eppler@ttu.edu.

Christmas present, but that's not really the point.

The point is, holiday comedies are usually reserved for families, but "Bad Santa" is an often hilarious and guilty pleasure for those wanting their eggnog with a little kick.

**EPPLER'S RATING:** 



\*\*\* - Flawless \*\*\* - Excellent \*\*\* - Good

\* - Awful

\*\* - Mediocre

Send comments and questions to

### City seeks funds for Holly festival

By Justin Vallejo/Staff Reporter

Buddy Holly, one of Lubbock's claims to fame, continues to be remembered and celebrated annually.

The legacy Holly left behind is celebrated each fall with the Buddy Holly Symthan Holly's hometown, the Hub City.

Blake Henry, a freshman mechanical engineering major from Lubbock, said he believes the largest celebration in tribute to Buddy Holly should be held in the Hub city.

To create such a celebration, substantial amounts of money and time are

Corbin Pemberton, parks and recreation director for Lubbock, said the Lubbock City Council created the Entertainment Lubbock Task Force, designed primarily to serve the community by promoting entertainment attractions in the city.

Pemberton, who serves as liaison to the Entertainment Lubbock Task Force, said the first recommendation made by the task force to the City Council on Oct. 9 was to reinstate funding to the festival.

The task force requested an increase of \$225,000 for the annual event.

As of mid-November, \$175,000 from the city hotel/motel tax had already been appropriated for the festival, Pemberton said.

The task force is working to acquire the remaining \$50,000 from Market Lubbock Inc., he said. Katherine Prose, director of the

Buddy Holly Center, was involved in the coordination of the symposium part of the festival for the past three years.

Prose said the event does not come cheap; the symposium portion of the festival alone costs more than \$90,000. The symposium is focused primarily on educational aspects of popular music and

"In the past three years, our focus has primarily been education," Prose said. Panel discussions and forums are ar-

ranged between bands in order for those in attendance to become more informed about various aspects of the music intended last year's festival. dustry, she said.

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not just another gig," Prose said.

One of the goals of the festival has been to create an attraction that appeals to the crowd in search of nostalgia while posium and Music Festival in none other at the same time providing entertainment for the younger crowd, she said.

Charlotte Castaneda, a senior sociology major from Corpus Christi, at-

Castaneda said she believes the "It's really unique in the way that it's money granted to the festival will help Lubbock provide a festival that is a step up from other festivals.

"They have to have the right resources to bring it together," she said.

The City Council will meet Monday to determine who will be on the oversight committee for next year's fes-

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FILM FESTIVAL Sunday, December 7th

Student Union - Allen Theater 7:00 PM

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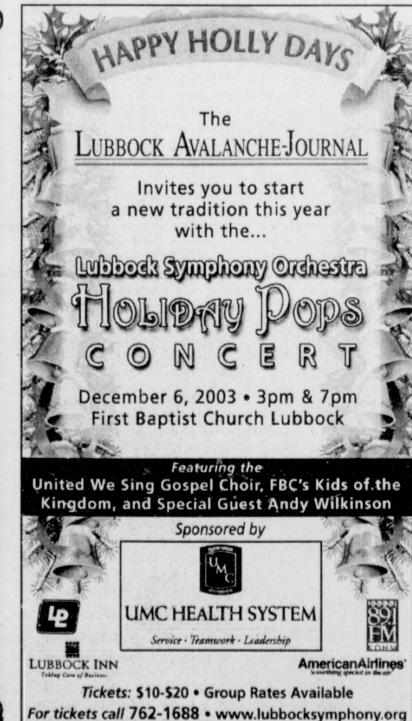
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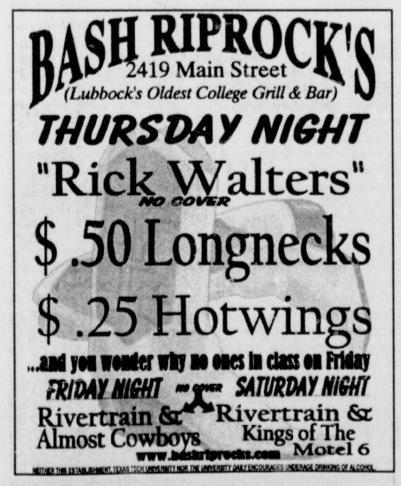




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## Who will accept responsibility?

esponsibility is an attribute that is often claimed to be possessed; yet, the same claimant often denies the acceptance of responsibility in times of potential scrutiny.

We seem to have become accustomed to being people who would rather deny ourselves and defy all we believe in than to consciously take responsibility for our

The phrases "I was wrong" and "It was my fault" seem to have been lost and forgotten in our successful attempts to replace it with the infamous phrase, "It ain't my

Mankind will start war in other countries but find security hiding in bureaucratic regulations when all fingers point back to

Mankind will intentionally kill another human; yet, the plea of "not guilty" rings in courtrooms throughout this country as the integrity of blind justice is tested each and every day.

Mankind even has the power to ruin something so beautiful and sacred as the conceiving of another human being by a man and a woman with the use of paternity tests, court-ordered child support and child abandonment.

These are just a few of the many consequences we as a society are experiencing as a result of our choice to not accept responsibility for our words and actions.

American actor, author and comedian George Burns once said, "No snowflake in an avalanche ever feels responsible."

As individuals, we somehow believe in a big world we don't play a part in the "avalanche" of irresponsibility, which is ever rus, a disease and/or a baby. present in our society.

cause we often do not take the responsibility of standing behind those words we spoke yesterday when we are confronted with the consequences of their power today.

From the actions of people centuries ago that exploited and supported the misuse and abuse of the institution of slavery, to a president who "did not have sexual relations," to a university, which misplaces the burden of funding athletic facilities upon the shoulders of its students, we have evolved into a people who shun the acceptance of responsibility for our actions and words, whether wrong or right, and embrace the opportunity to divert blame (and payment for that matter) someplace else.

We are all so quick to lie for any cause to save our own tails from the fate our words and actions hold for us.

So, is this something we just eventually grow out of? Oh no! You see, our denial of responsibility seems to get more and more prolific with age.

As the stressful tribulations of life increase, it seems our willingness to accept responsibility for our actions tends to decrease. What is this really all about?

This is about a name — your name. Once all is said and done and we are stripped of the superficial substance we boast as being our claim to fame, all we have left is our name. And the way we tarnish that name, which is the root of who we truly are, is by denying responsibility for our words and actions.

The words you speak will always be a part of you; however, whether or not you make the daily decision to be a man or woman of your word is a matter of characteristic accountability.

Whether we accept the challenge or not, we all have an accountability to ourselves to be men and women who stand behind our words and actions no matter what the cost. That is authentic responsibility.

So what's the point? You tell me what



Whether we accept the challenge or not, we all have an accountability to ourselves to be men and women who stand behind our words and actions no matter what the cost.

> That is authentic responsibility.

this world would be like if alcohol abusers made the cognizant decision to take responsibility for themselves and either got professional help or chose to simply put down the bottle before they change titles from "alcoholic" to "murderous drunken driver."

You tell me what this world would be like if unwed sexually active young men and women made the conscious decision to take responsibility for their choices, actions and lives before they get themselves into a real-life scenario with a vi-

You tell me what this world could be On a daily basis, our words lose value be- 'like if parents took responsibility for the proper upbringing of their children before those very same children experience the transition from "juvenile delinquents" to "capital murderers."

> It is time for a change because the old way does not seem to be working.

One of my favorite Michael Jackson songs is "Man in the Mirror." It states, "I'm starting with the man in the mirror; I'm asking him to change his ways, and no message could have been any clearer; if you wanna make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and then make a change."

It seems many of us have become experts at telling others what is wrong in their lives but are unable to use that same discretion with our own actions.

It's time that we started owning up to our actions and taking responsibility for them, as well. This is about being a people of character and moral fiber; this is about

we really are at our very core. Abraham Lincoln once said, "Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing."

Anyone can fool people with a counterfeit that seems to be authentic, but at some point in time, we must make the decision to make responsibility a priority in our lives.

We can no longer just accept a lower standard for our own lives because soon we will be out in the professional world, where responsibility is often nonexistent or well hidden, and with families of our own, where there will be children and spouses looking to us to understand the importance and significance of being men and women who live up to their respon-

■ White is a senior technical communications major from Dallas. E-mail him at di.white@ttu.edu

LETTERS: The UD welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be no longer than 200 words and must include the author's name, signature, phone number, Social Security number and a description of university affiliation. Letters selected for publication have the right to be edited. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. All letters are subject to verification. Letters can be e-mailed to opinions@universitydaily.net or brought to 211 Student Media.

GUEST COLUMNS: The UD accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 600 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university

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### Take care in protecting your identity

n Nov. 21, 2003, I died. I was driving home from work and was in a bad car accident.

Sadly, I did not survive and was pronounced dead at the scene at about 1:15 a.m. All my friends and family were notified of this unfortunate event. I would also like to clarify that they were notified by an iden-

Someone stole my America Online password. They signed on to my AOL Instant Messenger and left a disturbing away message/profile publicizing my demise.

Friends and family were left hysterical and resorted to calling me at 3 a.m., April being the first, getting ready to go to the police with several other friends following.

Guys, I'm still alive and doing fine. Don't worry. Thanks to the idiot who scared my friends to no end, I know who my true friends are, I suppose.

Waking me up at 3 a.m. is not a smart thing to do, but I know that you guys cared enough about me to call.

Nothing of this severity has happened to me before, but my AOL account has been compromised before by spam artists sending out "not-so-nice" e-mails, about penis enlargement and Viagra, in massive

Just three months prior to my death I was told that I had been selected as a finalist for a chance to will an all-paid trip to the Ba-

Sounds good right?

All that was asked of me was a few pieces of information including credit card number, birthday and Social Security number. I'm sure you have all seen these before, and hopefully have not participated in them. I was smart enough to click the "X" on the window corresponding to the "too good to be true" ad, but some are not as bright.

Every time I call to speak with financial aid, I am asked for my Social Security number before anything else. Same thing hapLevi Ham

In this day of technology, there is no such thing as being too careful. When in doubt of what you should do when someone asks you for your personal information, simply ask them for their credentials.

pens when I speak with my adviser. Your Social Security number is just as unique to you as your DNA. Why should we have to give it out so freely?

I used to not be so bothered by the thought. Now it's a different story.

Texas Tech does the thing called a Personal Test Number. This is a great idea. No longer are test grades posted with Social Security numbers. Why can't we get a number to use when

speaking to administrative officials? That's something to think about. If someone has your Social Security num-

ber, they can find out anything, and everything, about you. I'm sorry but my life is personal for the most part. I prefer to keep it Another thing you have to look out for

is your driver's license number. This num- major from Levelland. E-mail him at ber is also unique to you. It is run every time kenneth.l.ham@ttu.edu

you write a check. If this number falls into the hands of the wrong person you can have checks run on your name, and we all know what that means.

Nothing has happened to me that was physically or financially harmful, but I have been a victim of identity theft. I'm sure most Tech students can relate and have some story to tell about how they have been hoaxed into believing some type of scam and have either been smart enough to not fall for it or have been victims.

In this day of technology, there is no such thing as being too careful. When in doubt of what you should do when someone asks you for your personal information, simply ask them for their credentials.

There are so many untrustworthy people in the world. I wouldn't even trust my own mother with my information. But that's not really saying a lot.



Ham is a sophomore public relations

View from another university

### Bush in Iraq: I'm not staying long — but you

By Jess Piskor/Michigan Daily

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. - So President Bush flew to Baghdad for Thanksgiving. He flew in utter secrecy and had a meal with a few troops, then left. You'll notice Bush had a clear personal exit strategy: Spend as little time in Baghdad as possible and then get the

Now I will admit that Bush's visit benefited the situation in Iraq. After all, he did give overworked cafeteria workers some time off by taking over the duty of serving mashed potatoes. Of course, Bush might have better spent the time giving out Kevlar vests. Or assurances that this occupation would end within soldiers' expected lifetimes.

This trip was so risky that officials on Air Force One told reporters that if word got out that Bush was en route, then they would cancel the trip. I imagine the directive went something like this: "If you reporters don't shut up and report what we say, I'll turn this plane around; I swear to God! I'll turn it around! I'm not kidding!"

Imagine the political failure that would have been for Bush. The news would report that Bush was going to Baghdad to visit troops and then would immediately report that Bush could now not go because it was too dangerous to land in that rocket-propelled grenade-strewn nation. That image of Bush running from the chaos of Baghdad would have been the most telling story of the war. The fact that Bush was willing to a big chump in a flight suit.

risk it gives an idea about the importance he gave this trip. Why did he find it so important? Well, it could be that Bush wanted to share Thanksgiving with the troops who are sacrificing their lives daily because of his boastful remarks that terrorists should bring it on.

Maybe he felt their morale would be boosted if the commander in chief gave them an extra big helping of freedom fries. But that can't be the reason. Bush had Thanksgiving with 600 troops. Of the 100,000-plus troops in Iraq, meeting in secret with a few hundred troops doesn't cut it for morale. What do you tell the rest of the soldiers? "Oh yeah, Bush was here last night, but see, he couldn't stay because Iraq is a dangerous place and he might be killed at any moment." Yep, that's gonna boost the ol' morale alright.

Well, maybe he needed to talk with the U.S. advisers in Iraq. Bush did meet with U.S. administrator L. Paul Bremer for a brief meeting. But can't they do that over the phone? Don't we have billion dollar satellites to transmit super-secret messages so our president doesn't have to fly all over the world like a glorified bike messenger?

So Bush didn't go for the troops and he didn't go to speak with Bremer. He went for you and me and a little day on the calendar next November that he's got triple circled in red. Bush went to Iraq because his last cowboy photo-op on the aircraft carrier was a big failure. That footage with the troops is ruined because the mission is not accomplished, and he looks like

We've got a risk-taker for a president. Bush loves the thrill of doing what others deem risky. It makes us unwilling to question his motives. "How can you accuse the president of going to Baghdad for political reasons — he risked his life to support the troops." That's exactly what this thrill-seeking president wants you to think. However, he only went for political gain.

When he flew out to the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln, the story was that he had to make a dramatic carrier landing because the ship was so far out. In reality, the carrier was in sight of land and an easy helicopter ride away. But because the trip appeared risky, it seemed impressive. And for the most part it works. America loves a risk-taker. Remember Bush standing in the rubble of the World Trade Center? It was impressive because it was risky.

Bush has a history that suggests he loves risks. Risking other motorists by driving drunk, risking his life by visiting Iraq, risking U.S. troops by telling terrorists to bring it on and risking international relations by taking unilateralist stances reveal a president who loves his thrills. But for the good of the country can't someone buy this guy some skydiving lessons or take him bungee jumping, so the only person he is risking is himself. This time the risk taking succeeded, and Bush got his nice campaign advertisement clip by keeping the cafeteria missionaccomplished-banner-free. But I wonder what they did with that banner. My guess is they cut it up and used it for napkins. After all, it's not like Bush is going to need it anytime soon.

#### Vote

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"(The position) is not necessarily a replacement for the GPSGA," he said. "They are only one voice, and this is something that we can help get things accomplished for graduate students with this position."

As a graduate student, McAfee said he, along with others, are committed to doing one thing.

"We have about 4,000 grad students, and about 1,000 of those are international students. They are and we are here to dedicate two, six or eight years to learning and nothing else," he said. "This would be a huge benefit for us to have a voice within the current governing body."

To approve this resolution, Brown said the student body will have the ultimate decision.

"Since it is amending our constitution, we have to have a public vote," he said. "We hope that students vote and support this issue because it is not bad for anybody."

The voting will be Web-based on the SGA's Web site, which is www.sga.ttu.edu. It will be available online Dec. 9 and 10.



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## Raiders bounce back against UTEP

By Matt Muench/Managing Editor

Bob Knight took his sweater off at

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

TEXAS TECH: ANDRE EMMETT

STATS: Had 27 points, seven rebounds

NOTES: Has scored more than 20 points

in the Red Raiders' last two games and in

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

and five assists.

half time. Texas Tech's offense followed suit in a familiar fashion Wednesday night at the United Spirit

Arena. Knight and the Red Raiders looked more comfortable in the second half as they rebounded from a sloppy first half to beat Texas- El

Final score: 70-57. In the first

Paso in front of

about 7,000 fans.

four of Tech's seven games this season. half both the

with Tech leading 25-21. Andre Emmett changed the tone though. He had a plain and simple ex- impressed with Emmett. Especially midplanation.

Emmett scored 19 of his game high 27 points in the second half to lead Tech. But that is not all the Big 12 Con-

Blethyn or Fricker Numbskull Sis or bro

15 People of "The Time Machine"

6 Balin or Claire 7 Start of a quip

27 UFO pilots 28 One of Noah's

sons 29 Came in first 30 ABA member 31 Tractor maker

34 Off. underling 35 Part 3 of quip

39 Virginia senator Charles 42 Significant

period
43 \_\_Filipinas
47 TV Tarzan Ron
48 Contingencies
49 Disorderly hair

Nabokov novel

52 Part 4 of quip 55 Roman

historian 56 Egg-shaped 57 Nightstand

sites 59 Capital of

62 End of quip 63 WSW opposite 64 Half of Mork's

sign-off
65 Wake up
66 \_\_\_ Moines
67 James Bond's
alma mater
68 Tours neighbor

1 Talked boastfully 2 Put back in the

Tech Flag for the first 20 leases! 阳阳阳

Like a fossil

pigments 12 Bugs 13 Actress Angela

19 Louis or Carrie 21 \_\_ de plume 25 Thwack

26 Egyptian Christian 28 "For \_\_ a jolly good..." 32 Kid

Rebs' nation DDE opponer

to carry his team.

He also grabbed seven rebounds, dished out five assists and had zero turn-

Enter Knight.

He called it Emmett's best game since the General first met

"I was really impressed," Knight

Knight has been hounding Emmett for three year's to become a better all-around basketball player.

"He has always been a scorer," Knight said. "But

now he is really Miners (3-1) and Raiders (5-2) played concentrating hard on being an allas if the ball was heavier and the hoop around basketball player. It is tremenwas higher as the teams left the floor for dous that he had five assists and no turnhalftime with only 46 combined points overs after we put a big scoring burden on his shoulders.'

UTEP forward Omar Thomas was way in through the second half when "I am a scorer," he said. "That's my Emmett played catch with the net as he reeled in 11 consecutive points for Tech to help it pull away from the Miners.

"Their offense runs through in the season. Emmett," Thomas said. "He got in a

ference defending scoring champion did rhythm and knocked down some shots. Once that happened, it was too late for

> Tech never had a big run to pull away from UTEP, but kept adding to the lead

> UTEP coach Billy Gilliespe summarized the game like this: "We missed way too many shots," he said.

His starting point guard Filberto Rivera agreed.

"We made way too many mistakes, he said. "We missed like nine layups. We didn't execute. Bottom line."

Check the stats: 16 turnovers, nine missed layups and a shooting clip of 36

Chalk it up again for Tech's defense, which allowed fewer than 60 points for the fifth time this season.

"We came out with a lot of energy on defense," Tech guard Ronald Ross said. "We have one goal on offense and

that is to make a stop every possession." Knight was not completely satisfied with the win, which snapped a two-

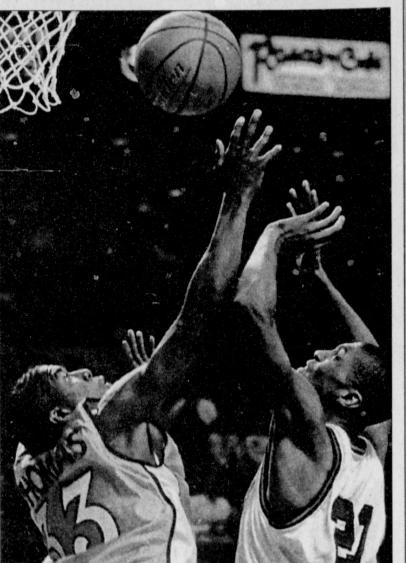
game losing streak. "We are not concentrating enough,"

Here's one reason, Knight said.

"Out of the 200 minutes played by our players, 137 were played by first-year players," he said. "And they are making a lot of mistakes."

But Knight understands it is still early

"Can you write French in three weeks," Knight asked a reporter. "That is what these kids are basically doing. There is still a lot to learn."



JENNA HANSEN/Photography Editor

TEXAS TECH FORWARD Devonne Giles jumps to grab a rebound against UTEP forward Omar Thomas during the first half of the Red Raiders' 70-57 victory against the Miners.

#### Sooners dominate All-Big 12 honors

DALLAS (AP) - Oklahoma quarterback Jason White and linebacker Teddy Lehman led a group of 11 players from the No. 1 Sooners who were first-team selections to the All-Big 12 team picked by the league's coaches.

White, who has 3,446 yards passing and 40 touchdowns, was tabbed as the offensive player of the year. Lehman was picked by the coaches as the defensive



100 tackles with one sack and 12 tackles for losses.

Coach Bob Stoops, whose Sooners play No. 13 Kansas State in the Big 12 championship game Saturday, was picked by his peers as the league's top coach.

The Sooners claimed 11 of the 27 first-team spots on the coaches' team.

Texas and Oklahoma State, who finished behind Oklahoma in the Big 12 South, both had four first-team selections. Kansas State and Nebraska each had three, while and Missouri and Texas Tech both had one.

The coaches chose Texas quarterback Vincent Young as the offensive freshman of the year. Iowa State defensive end Jason Berryman and Texas Tech linebacker Brock Stratton shared freshman defensive player of the year honors.

## Kansas State in way of Oklahoma's quest for title

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb. - and make a run for the Sugar Bowl. Kansas State coach Bill Snyder could looking ahead.

The Wildcats started the year ise forgotten. pegged by many a pundit as the favorite to win the Big 12 Conference title caught up in some of the preseason

One injury to quarterback Ell tell Oklahoma a thing or two about Roberson later, K-State lost three games in a row — its preseason prom-

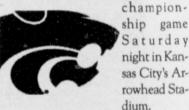
"I think some of our players got happened to us."

of the things you and I know are im- lege football season to Oklahoma, a portant — intrinsic values like disciteam that appears to be sleepwalking pline," Snyder said. "Sometimes it toward an inevitable national title. takes a rude awakening and that's what

KSU now has the task of deliver-

prognostications and lost out on some ing the rudest awakening of this col-

The Wildcats and top-ranked Sooners hook up in the conference



Most Bowl Championship Series experts predict OU will reach the national title game in the Sugar Bowl even with a loss Saturday. But Sooner defensive end Dan Cody said he doesn't expect his team to fall victim to the trap of overlooking the Wildcats.

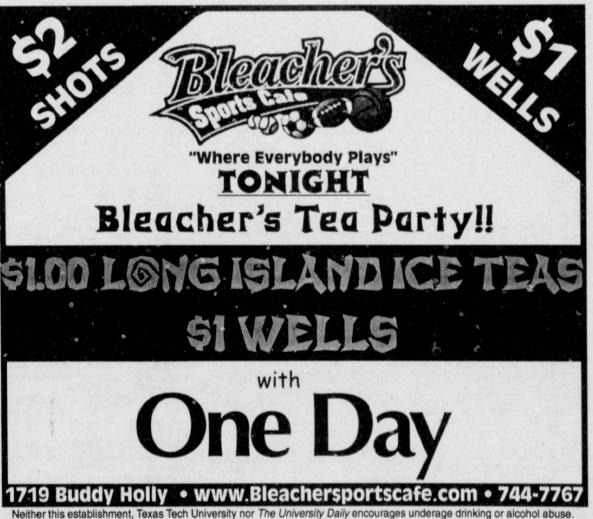
"We're playing Kansas State in their backyard and if they win, they go to a BCS game," Cody said. "I don't think anybody will take this game for granted.

"It would mean a lot more to all of us (to go undefeated). You don't want a ding in your car so to speak. This game means a lot to all of us."

It will mark the second time Oklahoma and K-State have met for the

Big 12 crown.

The Sooners came away with a 27-24 win over the Wildcats in the 2000 conference title game, also in Kansas City, and then went on to win the national championship.



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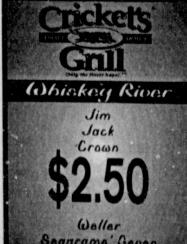
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