

MORNING SNOW/WINDY
High 41 / Low 20
Tomorrow:
High 51 / Low 28

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Thompson Hall out of flu vaccine by Thursday

Student Health Services booked for flu vaccination.

By Beth Aaron/Staff Reporter

Student Health Services is booked through Thursday for flu vaccination appointments. After Thursday, however, Thompson Hall's flu vaccine supply will be completely exhausted, said Evelyn McPherson, health department director.

McPherson said Student Health Services would keep the lines of communication with other student health facilities around the country open just in case any surplus is available.

"It will just be luck if we can tap into any additional supply of the vaccine," she said.

"We've already given almost twice as many shots this year as we gave last year."

McPherson suggested students still in need of a flu shot make an appointment with a family doctor or simply keep a look out for venues offering the vaccine.

"Man, as tight as it is right now, I think you just have to start checking," she said. "Any physician in town is going to be saving his shots for his patients."

McPherson said students may have luck requesting FluMist, a preventative flu nasal

Flu Symptoms:

- High Fever (+101°)
- Headache behind eyes
- Muscle Aches
- Shaking Chills
- Nausea

Source: Dr. David Waagner, Head of Pediatric Infections and Diseases at HSC

spray. FluMist is more expensive than the traditional flu vaccine but offers the same amount of protection from the disease, she said. The Lubbock Health Department has FluMist available for \$50.

Tigi Ward, public health coordinator for surveillance for the Lubbock Health Department, said though FluMist is pricey, it would still cost less than a night in the hospital.

"People who have not gotten a flu shot this year should make every effort to do so," she said.

Dr. David Waagner, head of pediatric infectious diseases at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, said getting a flu shot this year is important because this year's flu strain is a more severe than last year's strain.

"The people who have gotten the flu shot and have gotten the flu have had a less severe flu," he said. "It's a pretty wicked strain this year."

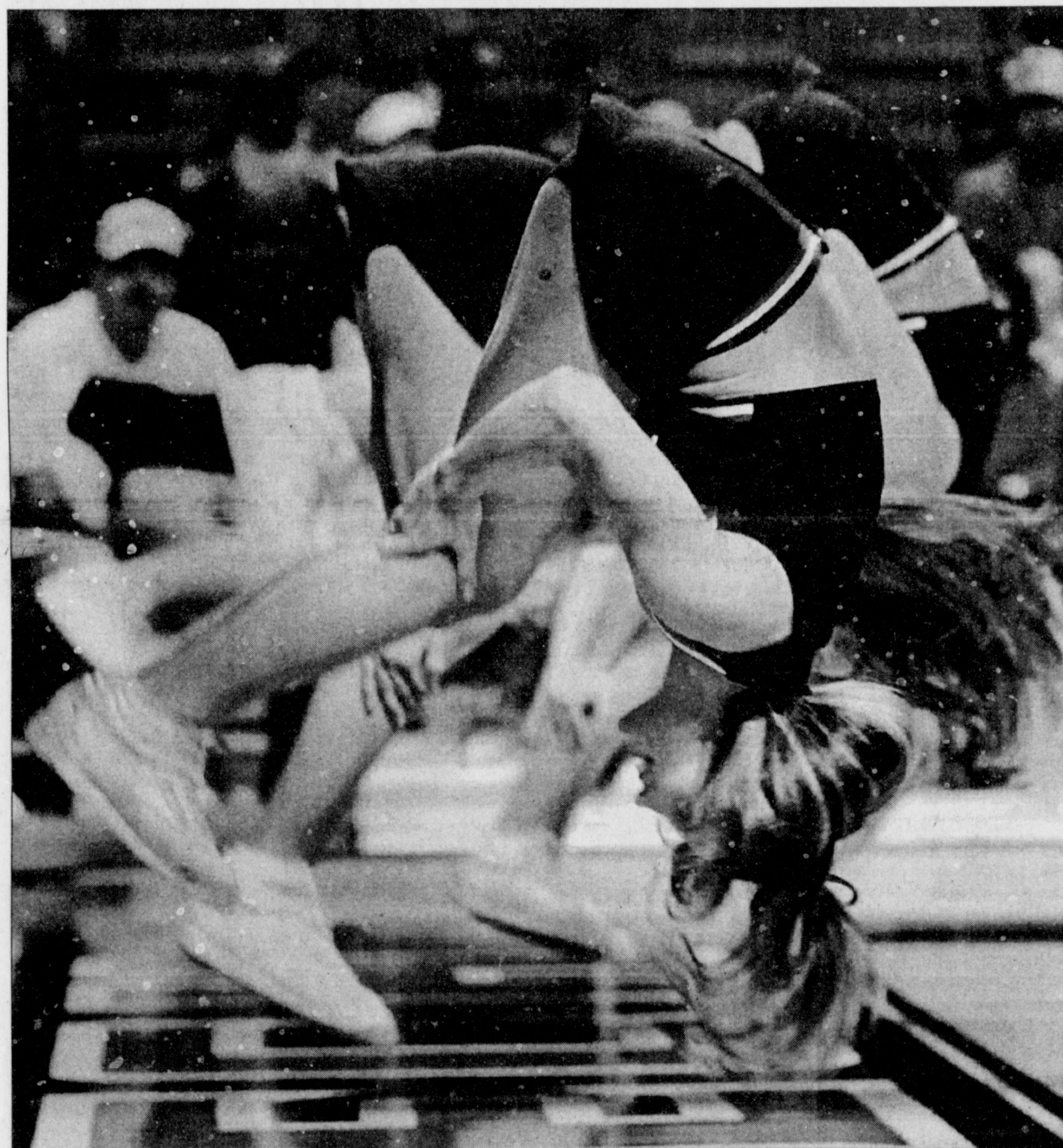
Waagner said the flu vaccine typically takes two to three weeks to take effect, so people should get vaccinated as soon as possible. Other preventive measures include washing hands frequently and limiting contact with ill people.

Waagner said the flu virus mutates every year, so a flu shot from last year will not be helpful for this year. This year's vaccine contains both type A and type B infections, and though it will not completely shield people from the flu, it can reduce the severity of the disease.

"It will provide some cross-reactive immu-

FLU continued on page 5

FREE FLIPPING



JAIME TOMÁS AGUILAR/Staff Photographer

MEMBERS OF THE Texas Tech cheerleading squad entertain the crowd after a Lady Raider made a free throw during Tech's 100-39 win against Pacific on Monday night at the United Spirit Arena. The cheerleaders perform the flip routine after every made free throw by Tech.

Administration supports on-campus bike lane idea

By Joey Kirk/Staff Reporter

Students and the Student Government Association have agreed on a proposal to develop a bicycle transit system throughout campus. The next step is convincing the Texas Tech administration.

Max Hinojosa, vice president of operations, said he does not need any persuasion.

"I think that it is a neat deal," he said. "Now we have to be able to leverage funds to hire a bike lane planning consultant."

Working in conjunction with the Office of Vice President for Student Affairs office and the SGA, Hinojosa said all parties have to "kick in funds" to get the project started.

"We do have folks here that are campus planning, but this project is a little more complex," he said. "A professional can access this stuff, like pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle traffic, to integrate the lanes into the campus."

With a growing number of people on bikes, Hinojosa said watching out for the students' safety is important.

"It is more prevalent today with the number of people on scooters, bikes and skateboards as where it used to not be," he said. "We need safe

BIKE continued on page 3



Texas A&M will not use race as admissions factor

By Adam Boedeker/Staff Reporter

The Texas A&M Board of Regents went forward Friday with a recommendation by A&M President Robert Gates to not use race as an admissions factor for incoming students.

Neither Gates nor the office of university relations returned phone calls.

Instead of focusing on elements such as race, A&M has decided to look only at the merit of each prospective student and improve diversity through better recruitment of minority students.

C. Robert Black, chairman of Texas Tech's Board of Regents, said a better effort could be made by every university to recruit more minority students.

"The efforts of going out and targeting more specific areas to bring in a more diverse student body is an effort that I think all universities should concentrate on," he said.

At Texas Tech's October Board meeting, Tech President Jon Whitmore and Tech Health Sciences Center President M. Roy Wilson brought their

RACE continued on page 5



Palestinians reject peace offer with Israel

Texas Tech students respond to latest failed settlement effort.

By Sally Gunter/Staff Reporter

Palestinian factions rejected a truce with Israel Monday, according to the Associated Press.

The truce could have been a stepping stone to a settlement between the two countries, but the Palestinian side did not agree, said John Barkdull, an associate professor of political science at Texas Tech.

"It has to be mutual," he said. "Both sides are locked into this notion they are defending themselves, and neither side will back down."

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmad Qureia will continue to seek some kind of a truce, but he consulted with Hamas and Islamic Jihad about the truce. The factions disagreed with the truce until Israel agrees to a cease-fire, Barkdull said.

"The Palestinian Authority doesn't have much ability to carry out a truce on its own," he said.

The resistance to the truce is not shocking, Barkdull said.

"It is not a surprise the Palestinians withdrew from the peace talks," he said. "Palestine is seeking a true sovereign state."

The sovereign state would be a secular, non-Jewish country, Barkdull said.

"They want an independent state that is viable,"

he said.

Israel constructed 90 miles of a wall separating it from Palestine and terrorist attacks.

The creation of the wall by Israel establishes its bottom line as holding onto their territory, Barkdull said.

"Building a wall doesn't really seal you off," he said. "I don't think it will bring an end to anything."

Barkdull said it looks as if Israel is trying to establish a new border and seize territory in the West Bank.

This may raise the level of resistance by the Palestinians, he said.

The United Nations' general association called on the International World Court to investigate the legality of the Israeli wall, Barkdull said.



REJECT continued on page 5

Three arrested after SMU hazing incident

Alpha Phi Alpha pledge drank so much water he almost died.

By Penny Cockerell/Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Police on Monday arrested three men with ties to the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and had warrants for five others after a pledge drank so much water he nearly died in what authorities described as a hazing incident.

Arrested were Southern Methodist University students Cornelius Smith, 22, and Brandon Perry, 21; and former student Uche Kalu, 23.

They and the other five were charged with aggravated assault — a charge stronger than hazing with penalties of two to 20 years in prison.

"We felt like it went beyond the pale of hazing because there was some forced use," Dallas police Detective Duane Boy said Monday. "There were circumstances that gave us enough evidence to believe this was a proper charge."

The incident began about midnight Nov. 16 in an off-campus Dallas apartment.

It was the last ritual pledges would undergo to become members.

Braylon Curry, a 21-year-old SMU finance major, and another pledge were required to drink hot sauce, then chug gallons of water, sometimes at force, Boy said. At times, they were physically struck and mentally harassed, police said.

Curry chugged five to six gallons of water within a four-hour period, Boy said. By 4 a.m., he became incoherent, and by 8 a.m. he was hospitalized.

Curry spent a week in the hospital, much of the time unconscious and on a ventilator. He remained in critical condition for two days before starting to recover. He was released from the hospital Nov. 23.

Jim Caswell, SMU's vice president of student affairs, said he expects Curry to make a full recovery and return to SMU next spring.

"How serious this is, is quite evident with the arrests today, and the university will continue to treat it seriously and respond," Caswell said Monday.

The fraternity had been reinstated this year after a three-year suspension for a prior hazing incident. It will face a campus adjudication process, and has been suspended pending the criminal investigation.

Four SMU students involved have been allowed to finish classes and take exams but cannot participate in campus activities.

The fraternity's national leaders have cut ties with the Dallas chapter.



New Oklahoma City federal building opens

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A new Oklahoma City federal building with shatterproof glass, a steel-plated main entrance and concrete plugs outside opened on Monday, 8 1/2 years after the bombing that killed 168 people.

Two dozen employees of the Small Business Administration settled into their new offices, the first tenants of the building, which is kitty-corner from the site where the Alfred P. Murrah Building once stood and a block from the memorial to the dead.

Eleven agencies are scheduled to move in over the next several months. Workers were still putting the finishing touches on the fountain and walkways.

SBA employee Cindi Anderson, a 39-year-old single mother, was nervous about the move until she toured the building and saw its security features.

"With everything going on in the world, it's a little bit scary, but I'm more comfortable now," she said.

Others were excited about getting their own private offices, a rarity in government service, said Dorothy Overal, district SBA director.

Her assistant, Jerry Reese, said it was important to rebuild after the bombing as a show of resolve: "If we didn't do it, the terrorists win."

The SBA had no offices in the Murrah

Building, which was destroyed by a truck bomb driven by Timothy McVeigh on April 19, 1995. He was executed in 2001.

The three-story, horseshoe-shaped building was built at a cost of \$33 million.

The main entrance is enclosed in three-quarter-inch-thick, floor-to-ceiling steel plates. The building is set back from the street, and its windows are specially treated so they will not shatter in an explosion. Waist-high concrete plugs are designed to prevent vehicles from getting too close.

Still, its proximity to the Murrah site prompted several employees of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to say they do not want to move into the building.

About half of HUD's current 103 employees worked in the Murrah building. HUD lost 35 employees in the bombing and is the biggest agency making the move.

HUD officials in Washington have said they are making special arrangements for employees who refuse to move into the building.

No law enforcement agencies will be based in the new building for fear this could make it a target.

The building is to be dedicated next May. No name for it has been announced.

Federal agencies have been scattered throughout Oklahoma City since the bombing. SBA employees had moved out of the

nine-story Murrah building five months before the attack and had been using leased space until Monday.

Matthew Madison, district manager for the General Services Administration, said this is the first federal building, other than a courthouse, built in the United States in more than 15 years.

"It has the greatest possible technology enhancements available," he said.

Other agencies moving in are the Food and Drug Administration, the Social Security Administration, the Department of Agriculture, Veterans Affairs, General Services Administration and offices for the Army and Marines.

The Rundown



Human torso found floating in Galveston Bay

GALVESTON (AP) — Three people were in Houston police custody for questioning Monday, but none had been charged after a case containing a headless torso was found in Galveston Bay, authorities said.

A fisherman found the torso of 30-year-old Ranferi Arizaga of Houston on Sunday near the causeway leading from Houston to Galveston. He also spotted a bobbing plastic bag that contained a head, Galveston County sheriff's detective Ray Tuttoilmondo said.

Houston police spokeswoman Sandra Aponte said Arizaga had been reported missing a few days ago. She said few other details were immediately known. His arms and legs were not among the body parts found, Tuttoilmondo said.

Arizaga was released on parole from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in 1996 after pleading guilty in 1993 to marijuana delivery, said prison spokeswoman Michelle Lyons. He was sentenced to eight years in prison and also had an auto theft conviction in 1990.

Galveston officials are working with Houston police on the investigation.

Galveston County Commissioner Eddie Janek, who lives just east of the causeway and watched as authorities removed the body from the bay, said the torso was wrapped in white plastic.

Janek also witnessed officials remove the dismembered body of 71-year-old Morris Black from Galveston Bay in 2001. The discovery eventually led to the murder trial of real estate heir Robert Durst, who was acquitted in November.

Police have never recovered Black's head, but the defense and prosecution in Durst's murder trial agreed that Black died from a bullet to the head. Durst testified that Black died accidentally as the two struggled over a pistol. He said he panicked and cut up the body to dispose of it.



Rare white tigers return to Ohio zoo

ABILENE (AP) — Two rare white tigers are scheduled to return home to an Ohio zoo after spending a year at the Abilene Zoo.

The tigers' departure marks the end of challenging times for both the animals and their keepers.

Kodi and Kayla came to Abilene on a six-month loan from the African Wildlife Safari Park in Port Clinton, Ohio, in October 2002, but they ended up staying much longer after Kodi became ill with temporary diabetes.

Kodi became sick in November 2002, and needed continued care from the zoo's veterinarians, Dr. Dale Hembree said.

The tiger was listless and had no appetite because of the diabetes. Doctors believe the trip to Abilene and a drug used to sedate him for the trip likely caused the illness, Hembree said in Monday's online edition of the Abilene Reporter-News.

Initial blood tests indicated Kodi had diabetes, an illness that occurs when the pancreas doesn't produce enough insulin.

After a consultation with an internal medicine specialist at Texas A&M University, Hembree discovered Kodi had glucose toxicity, or temporary diabetes, the first such case diagnosed in a large cat.

Hembree and his team treated Kodi by injecting him with insulin, using trial and error to get the proper dosage. The team was diligent about keeping accurate records because their daily treatment would set a precedent.

During Kodi's treatment, zoo officials worried that he wouldn't make it because his glucose level began to fluctuate wildly. Hembree later discovered the tiger no longer needed insulin shots, which were causing the fluctuation.

Kodi's eyesight was affected by the illness, requiring surgery in March. Hembree said the cat has since recov-



Putin's allies push liberal parties out of parliament

MOSCOW (AP) — A sweeping victory by President Vladimir Putin's allies pushed liberal, Western-oriented parties out of parliament for the first time since the Soviet collapse, and the White House expressed concern Monday over the fairness of a vote human rights officials said marked a retreat from democracy in Russia.

The main pro-Kremlin party, United Russia, won nearly three times as many votes in Sunday's elections as its closest rival, according to preliminary results.

Its new power, together with the defeat of liberal parties and a surge by nationalists who have called for strong state control of the economy, raised questions about Putin's plans for what seems certain to be a second term following March presidential elections.

Putin, who has boosted the economy by introducing reforms but has been accused of stifling dissent and tightening control over the media, offered few hints of his plans for the future.

He promised to turn to the liberals for ideas and hinted some of their leaders might be recruited into the government — an effort to ease fears the Kremlin might roll back reforms.

But he also suggested the elections showed liberal views had little support among Russians, who gave most of their votes to parties that emphasized the importance of a resurgence of a powerful Russia rather than to concerns about democracy or rights.

"It is absolutely clear to me that these results reflect the real sympathies of the population," Putin said in a televised interview. "They reflect what the people really think; they reflect the realities of our political life."

Analysts said United Russia and its allies were angling for a two-thirds majority required to make constitutional changes — a lever they could use to extend Putin's term or let him run for a third term, provided the docile upper parliament house, Russia's regional legislatures and the president himself approve.

House OKs \$373 B spending bill; Senate fate uncertain

PACKAGE APPROVED: Republican leaders push measure through by 242-176.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House approved a \$373 billion spending package Monday detailing how nearly every domestic agency will spend its money this year and delivering wins to President Bush on overtime pay, media ownership and other fights.

More than two months after the government's budget year began, Republican leaders pushed the sweeping measure through by 242-176. Its fate remained uncertain in the Senate, where Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., was leaning toward delaying a vote until late January because of opposition and a reluctance by senators, now on recess, to return to the Capitol.

The 1,182-page legislation will finance items from biomedical research to school lunches, from foreign aid to federal subsidies to the District of Columbia. An amalgam of seven bills that are supposed to be approved separately, the package covers 11 Cabinet departments and scores of other agencies.

"We bring about as good a fiscally conservative bill that meets the needs of the country as we possibly could," said House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bill Young, R-Fla.

Though written largely by the GOP, the bill was approved by 58 Democrats along with the 184 Republicans who voted for it. Voting no were 137 Democrats, 38 Republicans and 1 independent.

The bill all but groans with earmarks, or money for museums, industrial parks and other projects for home districts of lawmakers of both parties. Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., top Democrat on the Appropriations panel,

said there were more than 7,000 of them worth more than \$7.5 billion, a long and ever-expanding tradition that prompted some conservative Republicans to oppose the bill.

"We seem to have no shame," said conservative Rep. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz.

Democrats complained that the bill provided too little for schools, veterans and other programs and dictated federal policy that in many cases saw Bush prevail over congressional opposition.

These include provisions that let companies deny overtime to more white-collar workers, allow networks to own more television stations, aided Bush's plan to let private companies do more federal work and required the FBI to destroy gun purchase applications after a day.

"Let the executive department know that this is a democracy," complained No. 2 Democratic leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland. "It is not a kingdom. It is not a dictatorship."

Republicans said the bill, which controls one-sixth of the \$2.2 trillion federal budget, crowned an effort for them to control spending. Young said the bill's price tag would have been even higher had his panel included more of lawmakers' requests for earmarks, which he said exceeded \$50 billion.

Combined with six regular spending bills that have already become law, plus the \$87.5 billion package for Iraq and Afghanistan approved last month, the measure would bring total spending that Congress controls for this year to \$875 billion. That is a 3 percent increase over last year, the smallest increase in years.

"If they were in charge, they'd be spending much more," House

Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, said of Democrats.

Not mentioned was that largely thanks to war and ramped up domestic security efforts, spending controlled by Congress grew by about 15 percent last year, contributing to the record \$374 billion federal deficit for 2003.

Lawmakers decided to provide more than the White House requested for veterans' health care, highway construction projects and even a keynote Bush priority, stepping up the fight against AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean. The president requested \$2 billion for the AIDS battle but got \$2.4 billion.

Also growing were aid to low-income school districts, education for the handicapped, the FBI and the AmeriCorps national service program.

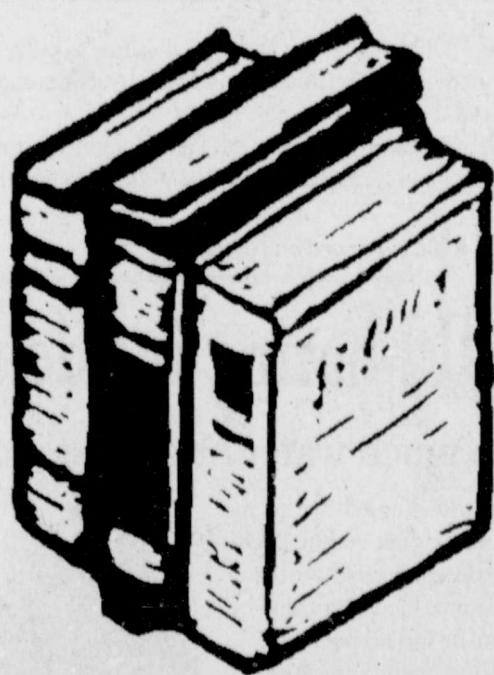
There also was \$1.5 billion to help communities upgrade their election systems and \$25 million each for Boston and New York to provide security at next summer's presidential party conventions.

Agencies whose spending bills have not become law have been operating at last year's spending levels. Their authority to do so runs through January, so the Senate has until then to act on the \$373 billion package.

Democrats said they would object to an effort by Frist, expected Tuesday, to push the legislation through the Senate by voice vote. Like their House counterparts, the anger of Democratic senators was focused on the policy fights with Bush over overtime and other issues.

The \$373 billion includes \$45 billion for highway, aviation and mass transit projects that comes from transportation taxes, such as the federal levy on gasoline.

In addition, the bill triggers the expenditure of \$447 billion for Medicare and other automatically paid benefits for which no congressional decision-making is required.



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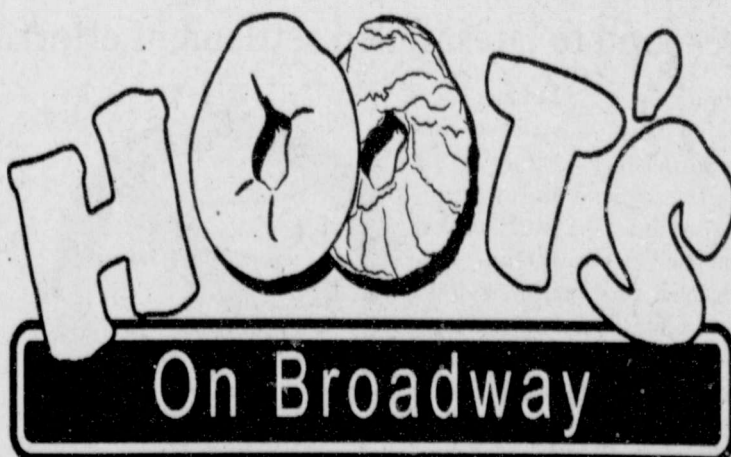
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The lost art of communication

The life Americans lead today is supposed to be one of fast-paced convenience, mobility and a spectrum broadened by worldwide communications and technologies.

This is all well and good — sometimes. Lately my acceptance of these conveniences has dwindled.

It is great we can chat with people in Africa about favorite bands and access up-to-date news. However, as I sat through a recent class lecture about online news writing and how to make it convenient for Internet readers to get through in a matter of minutes, I asked myself one question: what is the big hurry?

Is it really necessary to attempt to get through the biggest news stories of the day in a matter of 10 minutes? I hope not, because that means a whole lot of people out there missing the major points. Are we really too busy for our morning cup of coffee with the actual print newspaper — an experience we could find sitting across from friends or family? I find it hard to believe we are, and it is inexcusable. This is how our nation (which, ideally, should be full of up-to-date information) has become full of ignorance and neglect.

I have witnessed technology chip away at the beauty of society. Children are now sitting in front of computers and video games rather than playing outside and forming important social bonds. People, even in the same city, rely on e-mail communication instead of face-to-face interaction.

I, too, am guilty of avoiding face-to-face interaction. I have hit the "ignore" button on my cell when I feel I am too busy for a friend, telling myself it is OK because I'll just drop an instant message or e-mail later. However, "later" too often turns into never.

I drove away the most incredible guy I have ever met because, after having been too busy for him in the beginning, I offended him with drunken text messaging about important matters — things he thought should have been discussed face-to-face. And he was right. But — along with late-night weariness and liquid courage — I was so accustomed to using informal messaging media as a crutch instead of using personal interaction that I feared asking him things to his face.

The great convenience of cell phones did not bring us closer together. It only hurt worse when the so-called convenience was not utilized and calls were not made or went unanswered.

And in this highly mobile and busy society, people are sure to get fed up and need a quiet night at home every now and again. Recently, while trying to reach my friend Kristen, who has no cell phone, I became highly irritated when I could not reach her at my will at that very second.

Then it occurred to me maybe people should not be so easily reached all the time. People need time alone, phones and computers off. People also have other things to do. If people were meant to be in touch all the time, God, not Sprint, would have made us that way. If Kristen is not at my disposal, that is fine. It is not my decision to make.

As heart-warming as those AT&T commercials are — about on-the-go parents visualizing their children while listening to them on their cell phones from miles away — they ignore one important point. While they can hear or see those children via a fancy cell, they are still not there, in person, for their

Angela Timmons



I drove away the most incredible guy I have ever met because, after having been too busy for him in the beginning, I offended him with drunken text messaging about important matters — things he thought should have been discussed face-to-face. And he was right.

children. Again, does society need to be so on-the-go that we miss vacations with friends, piano recitals, weddings or first birthdays? When one of my tires busted in the middle of nowhere over Thanksgiving break, my signal-less cell phone was no help; three friendly old men in a small town were.

Does this not mean something to today's Americans?

While the immediacy of our technology-driven society should be making us more accountable, it is not. Congratulatory or sympathy e-cards are replacing the thought put into taking time to buy an actual card or picking up the phone for a thoughtful call. Accountability loses out to convenience. Parents placing their children in front of computers let accountability lose out to irresponsibility. Friends who ignore phone calls are letting accountability lose out to irresponsibility; dates who choose to use (or not use) media instead of face-to-face interaction lose out to irresponsibility.

I have often wondered as *University Daily* columnists are swarmed with e-mail responses, how many of the nasty, demeaning responses would have been said in person. Where is the accountability in that? From Internet and video game junkies who never really learned to play well with others slaying innocent classmates in Columbia, to American children facing obesity caused by inactivity and lacking social skills, to my own messaging mistakes, one thing is obvious. We need to put the cell phones down, turn the computers off, get to our feet and face things the way we were designed to face them — in person.

Timmons is a journalism and sociology major from Amarillo and the Lifestyles editor of the UD. E-mail her at angela.n.timmons@ttu.edu, or she can be found in person if you try. She wouldn't mind.



Solutions are within the individual

News flash: a fat man dies in Cincinnati. Wait, that's not newsworthy enough. A fat, black man dies after being beaten down by six white police officers in a hamburger joint parking lot; now that is interesting, except for the hamburger part.

What I'm referring to is the death of Nathaniel Jones, a 350+ pound African-American resident of Cincinnati, after an altercation with Cincinnati police about a week ago. The video of this incident has inspired many debates around the country of whether or not the violence of the police was racially motivated.

One group, the Coalition for a Just Cincinnati, has written letters to President George W. Bush and the Democratic Presidential Candidates pleading for them to do something about this racial injustice. Sorry, CFAJC (my cool acronym for the above), but this incident had nothing to do with race. At all. Period.

First, there was one black officer involved, along with the five white ones. Secondly, Jones attacked one of the officers first and then wouldn't cooperate while they tried to subdue him. While two officers were trying to cuff him and ask him to comply, he repeatedly attempted to get up and grab at the others.

Yes, during this altercation the police hit him with their nightsticks more than 30 times, but this guy was more than 350 pounds, and it took six officers to control him.

If people are looking to blame someone or something other than Jones, they should blame the coke, PCP and embalming fluid he was on at the time.

These drugs are what caused him to a) pass out on the lawn of the restaurant, b) go Mike Tyson on cops and c) make impaired judgments, such as punching people who have weapons and not feeling as much pain from their blows while subsequently continuing to resist arrest.

Moreover, drugs, obesity and fighting are never a healthy mix, which is most likely what caused his heart to stop.

Still, the main reason the five white officers

Spencer Ingram



Hate didn't choose to go quietly into the night; there are still many who harbor these racist beliefs, both white and black alike, and these views affect many of the decisions and judgments they make. It's been 40 years since "I have a dream," but America is yet to hit its REM cycle.

and one black officer beat Nathaniel Jones was because they hate black people, right? Wrong. Nathaniel Jones was not another Rodney King, which was definitely a racial issue. If Jones were white, he would have posed the same threat to police. So, despite its popularity, jumping to conclusions isn't good reasoning.

The jumping occurs when people watch footage of this ordeal or any other and interpret it based on their own agendas. The key is to view things such as these through an objective lens and with an open mind.

There are far too many incidents of racism to easily select one, but a recent scandal, at the opposite end of the spectrum, is the hate mail being received by prominent black athletes, some reportedly mailed from white women.

Incidents like these always remind me of the movie "American History X," a brilliant film that portrays a young Neo-Nazi who, while in prison, realizes the emptiness of his hate and changes his life. One of the most important lines, one that causes his revelation, is when his African-American teacher asks him, "Has anything you've ever done made your life better?"

Hate, by nature, is a detriment to any society, and there is no exception. Nothing good can ever arise from its practice, only from its demise. Hate might have decreased in popularity from past decades, but only on the surface.

Hate didn't choose to go quietly into the night; there are still many who harbor these racist beliefs, both white and black alike, and these views affect many of the decisions and judgments they make. It's been 40 years since "I have a dream," but America is yet to hit its REM cycle.

People who employ this way of thinking live fractured lives through cracked lenses. While affecting others, they mainly hurt themselves by not experiencing other cultures and ideas that this society has to offer. We can hate parts of this world all we want, but they're not going anywhere. We, however, are the temporary ones.

Affirmative Action and other recent efforts like it have done nothing to placate racism and its love-child, reverse racism, because racial equality and unity are not politically, economically or socially based issues. They are issues of the mind, based in the collective mentality of a people.

And the only way to reform is for the minds of the individuals who make up that people to change. We cannot let ourselves be defined by mere differences of color or dialect. We must modify the way we see; not a white man or a black woman, but simply a man and a woman. The solution lies within the individual, who then affects the world around him.

Ingram is a sophomore creative writing and music major from Mesquite. E-mail him at james.s.ingram@ttu.edu

Wake up — Government not out for your interests

\$400 billion dollars. Take a minute to wrap your mind around that number. Read it again.

This is the amount of money the president and his merry band of men received for the defense budget. In one year the Pentagon will find a way to spend \$400 billion dollars.

This number doesn't include, mind you, the \$30 billion allotted to domestic security (or "homeland") if you want to be an idiot about it) and the \$87 billion earmarked for whatever it is we are saying we are doing over in the Middle East.

This is the largest defense budget ever. Now before you people get that little feeling on the top of your stomach that tells you I'm an unpatriotic spoiled little tree hugger who doesn't understand that these are "uncertain times" calling for blah blah blah (my best non-verbal Bush impression), just stop.

No I didn't forget about the attacks. Yes, I know that thousands of men and women died because of the actions of a few cowardly hijackers.

But that does not change the fact that the "leaders" of our country are acting irresponsibly by asking for and accepting such a ridiculously large amount of dinero.

The U.S. military is already the strongest in the world. We have the most complex and expensive combat equipment tax money can buy. The only problem is we simply do not need to.

Take for instance the ballistic missile defense system. There is nearly \$10 billion just for research on one of the most inconsistent if not absolutely ineffective cash cows around. Has it ever worked? No. Well, once. But I doubt that the bad guys will place

Dave Ring



homing devices on their warheads and send them straight at our defenses. Or maybe they will.

But, we have soldiers still losing their lives because their standard-issue service rifles are jamming like Kool Rock Ski in Krush Groove. Really though, the problem isn't that we are spending more money on superfluous military technology than most of the world combined, it is that no one does anything about it and if we let things keep on going like they are, soon we may never have the chance.

Contrary to most people's barely ajar mind, the government is not looking out for your interests. I know it may be hard to take, but you have to face reality. The government is run by white men with money. Plain and simple.

If you think I'm just out to bash on the president or Republicans in general, you're wrong. Members of both parties are to blame. But I struggle to justify why it is that Bush will not release documents dealing with his involvement with Enron.

Then I remember the one mantra that rings louder in politics than any other human endeavor — the truth hurts.

And the truth is we are headed for something bad. If the American system continues down this road, we are not going to make it. We are a country that tries to regulate free-

dom around the globe. If another nation gets out of line the big bad hand of the U.S. military makes sure it gets back in. But back home we still have lobbyists and CEOs making the decisions that not only affect American citizens here in the states or overseas, but the citizens of the world as well.

I know it's going to be a struggle. The system is so entrenched and fortified to serve its own purpose that it seems like a waste of a lifetime to do anything about it. I know most of you reading this understand what I'm saying because everyone else who doesn't put the paper down a long time ago.

That's what it will come down to. Our generation isn't that far away from taking the reigns of the globe. Around the world, 20-somethings are deciding what kind of people they are going to be and what they are going to try and accomplish for humanity. In a dozen years it will be people our age fighting over how many billions we are going to spend on weapons.

Perhaps my words will fall on deaf ears. Perhaps someone will read this and make a choice to start paying attention. Either way, I hope you always remember it is our problem. And it isn't going away on its own.

I however, am going away on my own. I've had a good run here on these pages. It is time to move on past what have been unimaginably entertaining years. Thanks again to all those out there who have expressed their feelings towards my writing. You made it worthwhile.

It's been fun folks. See you on the news.

Ring is a senior philosophy major from Hobbs, N.M. and soon to be graduate. Send him your fan mail farewells at david.j.ring@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 UD@ttu.edu 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 community.

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End of semester means finals, family... and stress!

By Justin Vallejo/Staff Reporter

As the semester draws to a close, students get a break from the stresses of college life. For many others, the stresses of real life intensify.

Dealing with family and friends or the need to travel sometimes amounts to overwhelming stress typical of the final holiday season of the year.

Wanting to make the holidays as enjoyable as possible can lead to just the opposite as people struggle to make those around them happy.

Stephanie Riddle, a sophomore public relations major from Denison, expects to face at least a few stressful issues during the Christmas break.

"It's a break from the norm but not a break from life," she said.

Riddle said she becomes overly concerned with satisfying friends and family.

"I have to make sure I give gifts for family, friends and relatives," Riddle said.

She said with responsibilities such as scoring well on finals, working and making the trek home, finding time to accomplish the task becomes difficult.

Lauren Noble, a freshman advertising major from Trophy Club, also is preparing to deal with stress this coming break.

On top of wanting to give gifts to everyone, re-adjusting to living with her parents for a month after being away at school could definitely be stressful, Noble said, and following her parents' rules at home will be tough.

Another issue she will face is not having her grandmother for Christmas.

"This break is going to be a little crazy because my grandmother just passed away," Noble said.

Her grandmother died during the Thanksgiving weekend, and Noble

said it will probably create a stressful environment for the family.

"It's going to be real difficult without her there," Noble said.



She said it is her responsibility to make the best of the holiday, considering the unfortunate circumstances.

"You have to get back to reality,"

Noble said. "You just have to be happy, be thankful for all the other family members that are present."

Brent Butler, a supervisor for Contact Lubbock, said the holiday season provides more stressors with which individuals must cope.

Contact Lubbock, in coordination with Hopeline International, offers a variety of services for individuals in need, ranging from referrals for counseling to crisis situations and suicide prevention.

Butler said there is an increase in the volume of crisis calls Contact Lubbock receives during the holidays.

Contrary to the popular myth that trouble with being forced to be around family to individuals having to deal with not having family, and everything in between.

Contact Lubbock is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The crisis line is available at 806-765-8393 and the suicide hotline can be reached at 1-800-SUICIDE from anywhere in the United States.

"You just have to be happy, be thankful for all the other family members that are present."

— LAUREN NOBLE
Freshman advertising major from Trophy Club

Festival of Lights: Religious dedication

By Megan LaVoie/Staff Reporter

The Festival of Lights is much more than a funny song.

These famous words might not mean anything to the average person, but the Festival of Lights, otherwise known as Hanukkah, begins at sundown Dec. 19.

According to www.theholidayspot.com, Hanukkah originated when Judah the Maccabee reclaimed the temple from the Syrian King Antiochus IV. When the sacred menorah was lit there was only enough oil to allow it to burn for one day. Instead, the menorah burned for eight days, and today Jews celebrate the eight-day miracle by lighting candles in the menorah every night. Hanukkah means "dedication" in Hebrew.

Jonathan Bernstein, a doctoral student studying history from Hastings, N.Y., and president of the Texas Tech chapter of Hillel, a Jewish organization, said Hanukkah is a fun time to spend with family.

"It's a fun time. It has a religious significance to it, but it also is about being close to your family," he said.

Bernstein said celebrating Hanukkah is unique because he gets to have his own traditions.

"A lot of people celebrate Christmas, but I don't feel like I have missed out on anything because it is nice to have my own traditions yet be able to take part in everyone else's," he said.

Benjamin Schlein, a freshman

undecided major from Sugarland and secretary for Hillel, said the Jewish population at Tech is smaller than at other Texas universities.

"Texas Tech has a very small Jewish population in comparison to UT or A&M; Tech has a Jewish population of about 150," he said.

Hanukkah is often perceived as the biggest Jewish holiday, but Ed Youngblood, an assistant mass communications professor, said that is a misconception.

"Hanukkah is often perceived as the Jew-

ish Christmas. By no means is it that. Yom Kippur or Passover are more holy days in the Jewish religion," he said.

Schlein said gifts are given each day during Hanukkah, but he believes that tradition is fairly new.

"Little kids would complain that their Christian friends were getting presents for Christmas, so gift-giving was added to the holiday probably because Hanukkah falls around Christmas," he said.

Bernstein said along with lighting a candle each night on the menorah until all candles are lit, he

and his family also exchange gifts using the dreidel.

A dreidel is a four-sided toy that holds a Hebrew letter on each side, symbolizing the phrase "a great miracle happened here."

"There are four grandchildren in my family, so each grandchild gets their own letter, and we spin the dreidel and whoever's letter it lands on gets to pick a present from the pile to open," Bernstein said.

The dreidel was first used by the Jews to disguise their religious teachings, Youngblood said.

The Jews were forbidden from studying the Torah and were killed for practicing or teaching their faith. If soldiers approached, the Jews pretended to play a game with the dreidel, thus saving many lives and preserving their religion for future generations, he said.

Today the dreidel's use has changed.

Bernstein said along with choosing presents with the dreidel people use it also to play games with, almost like gambling.

"People play with candy or snack foods. So you could compare it to gambling because you put something in and take something out," he said.

Youngblood said Hanukkah has not always been a huge holiday in the Jewish religion but through the years has come to be a time to spend with your families.

"Because of this giant culture we live in, Hanukkah has changed over the years to be a time to spend with your family. I think it is hard for students when they come to college because usually just as Hanukkah is starting, finals are starting, so it's hard for them to be with their families," he said.



Schlein said gifts are given each day during Hanukkah, but he believes that tradition is fairly new.

'What is the news?' Kwanzaa: Seven ways to celebrate culture

By Nikki Siegrist/Staff Reporter

For seven days after Christmas, Marie Alford will greet her family with, "habau gani?"

This Kiswahili phrase means "what is the news?" and is the traditional greeting during Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Malauna Kareng as a cultural holiday for people to celebrate African heritage.

It is based on African harvest festivals and set in December to coincide with the end of the year in the West. It is not celebrated in Africa, but it is in other parts of the world because it focuses on African influences throughout the world.

"It's a way for African-American people to celebrate the culture, their history and recover their African roots," said Alford, assistant director of admissions.

It is different from African-American history month in February, she said.

"Kwanzaa goes a little deeper and pulls African traditions and merges them," she said. "It emphasizes who we have become in this country."

The holiday celebrates seven principles, one each day. The principles are represented by seven candles; one is lit every night.

The principles are unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, corporate economics, purpose, creativity and faith.



THE ALFORD FAMILY lights the kinara as they stand around the Kwanzaa table. The Kwanzaa table was set up during the African-American holiday celebration of Kwanzaa. The seven candles, or kinara, represent the seven days of the holiday.

Every night, members of the family gather around the kimara, or candleholder, and talk about ways they have upheld that principle throughout the year and ways to continue to

black Christmas, but Christmas in America has become so commercialized," Kwame Alford, Marie Alford's husband, said. "Every attempt should be made for every gift to be hand-made if possible. So it's really an attempt to decommercialize."

The color of the candle lit every night is significant. The three on the left are red, the middle is black and the three on the right are green. The black candle is lit first, followed by alternating between red and green.

The colors are that of the liberation flag made by Marcus Garvey for African-American people.

Marie Alford said the flag was made because Garvey did not think the American flag properly represented the struggle of the African-Americans. His flag had red, black and green stripes.

The red on the flag and the candles symbolizes the blood spilled during passage to the new world and slavery. The green represents the fertility of Africa, the motherland. The black stands for the color of their skin, she said.

The Alford's are special to Lubbock in terms of their celebration.

Marie Alford said it is not as common to find people in Lubbock who celebrate it as in larger cities.

"African Americans are becoming more aware of the holiday, and the numbers of those who celebrate it continue to grow," she said.

Kwanzaa holds a deep spiritual meaning with the Alford's, said Kwame Alford.

"It's all like planting seeds," he said. "It's a rebirth process. As a black person, (black) tells you how you look, not who you are. It tells you what you are given and have given to the world."

His two children said they enjoyed the celebration.

Babatunde Alford, 7, said his favorite part of the celebration was lighting the candle. To him, Kwanzaa means a time for African-American families to gather and celebrate.

Folashade Alford, 12, said her favorite part of the celebration was pouring the libation for her family and for Africa.

"I think it's a time for reflecting on our heritage and on the things you have done," she said.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Monday's Puzzle Solved: A list of words and their corresponding crossword positions.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 9 TV schedule table listing channels, programs, and times.

J&B Coffee advertisement featuring 2701 26th, free internet, open late, and coffee/espresso/mocha options.

FOX34 NEWS @ Nine advertisement featuring 'the simple life' and '7:30PM TONIGHT'.

BOARDWALK APARTMENTS advertisement listing 5540 19TH ST., 793-2214, and amenities like pool and laundry facilities.

Lady Raiders coast against Pacific

By David Wiechmann/Staff Reporter

It was smooth sailing for the Lady Raiders on Monday night as Jia Perkins spent much of the second half on the bench with her legs crossed.

Texas Tech did not need its star the whole night on this day as it made easy work of the Pacific Tigers in its largest win of the season, 100-39. The 61-point victory was sparked by the starters jumping on the Tigers from the beginning with scoring runs of 12 and 16 points to take a 32-11 lead.

It was a start head coach Marsha Sharp was glad to see after a slower one on Saturday.

"I was really pleased with the way we executed tonight," she said. "I told our players at halftime that I thought it might have been the best 20 minutes we've played in a long time at Tech."

The first 20 minutes was just the beginning of the Lady Raider show.

Tech entered the locker room with a 56-18 lead and shooting 65 percent. Point guard Erin Grant had eight of her 13 assists, and Tech had just two turnovers.

Things did not go so well for the Tigers, however. Pacific had 15 turnovers and shot 26 percent from the field.

Again Tech's bench contributed more than half the points on the night, and Saturday's breakout performer, Chesley Dabbs, was one of Tech's leading scorers with 18 points. She followed her perfect night from the field Saturday with an 8-of-12 showing Monday, and was accompanied by Perkins atop the leading scorer list.

Tech made it look easy to score most of the night as the players combined for 30 assists. Finding the open player under the basket and running the offense more effectively aided the Lady Raiders in getting easy shots.

"I think we've worked hard on some timing of our offense," Sharp said. "I think they're beginning to understand how important cuts are and how important it is to wait on picks. I thought we were being unselfish; I felt we made a lot of good passes tonight that turned into easy buckets."

Thirteen of those easy buckets came on account of Grant's flashy

passing. She found her teammates under the hoop by themselves and in traffic with no-look and wrap-around passes. She said it was a product of her teammates doing a good job of getting open and finding lanes in the fast break.

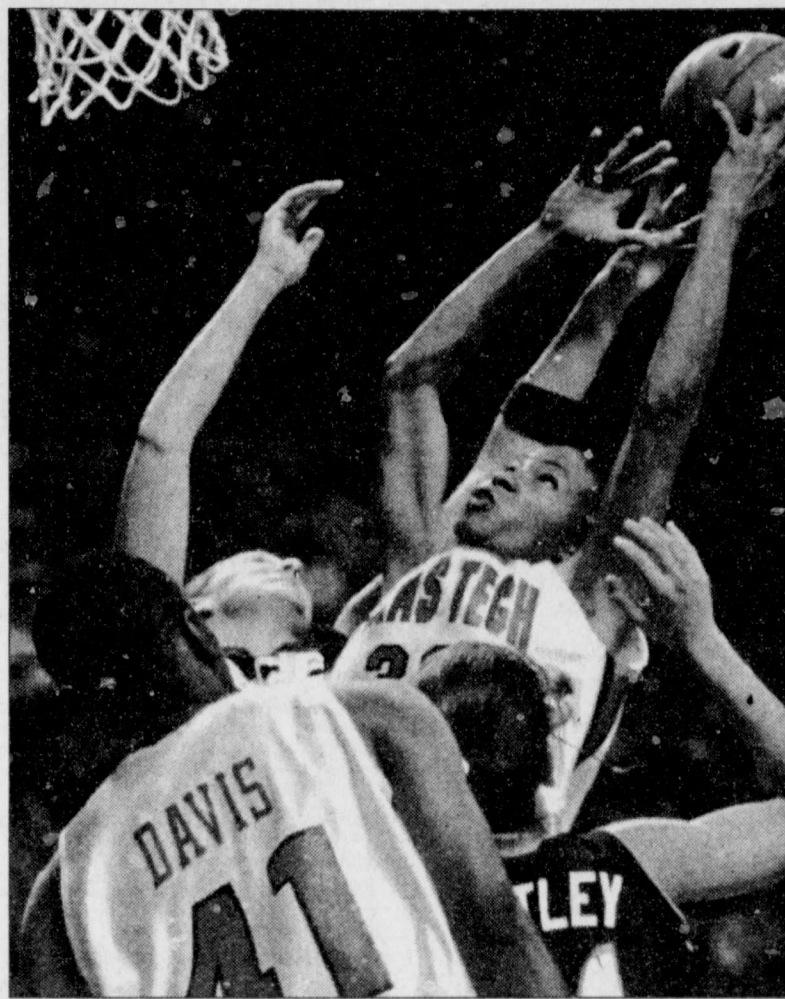
"We really got to run the break a lot tonight, and we wanted to pressure them on the defensive end, which turned into a lot of easy baskets for us," she said. "And I had a lot of players that ran the floor really well for me, so it was easy to get them the ball."

The Lady Raiders find themselves in a place they have not been in a while — No. 4 in the nation. With the University of Texas losing to Penn State last weekend, Tech jumped from No. 5 to No. 4 in Monday's AP Top 25 Poll. The last time Tech was there was 1995. Tech is also 9-0 for the first time since 1999. Perkins said it is a great feeling to be where the Lady Raiders are right now.

"I think we're real excited to be where we are right now we just can't take it for granted" she said. "We're 9-0; I think maybe that's my first time. So, we're just happy and ready to keep playing games. This is a long break for us, and we're looking forward to working hard in practice and finally playing our next game against Washington."

Being 9-0 is something Sharp is enjoying along with the rest of her team, but there is always room for improvement.

"I think we're having fun, and certainly winning makes you have



JENNA HANSEN/Photography Editor

TEXAS TECH FORWARD Casey Jackson shoots the ball while Pacific defenders attempt to block her shot during the Lady Raiders' 100-39 victory against the Tigers in the United Spirit Arena Monday. Tech's scoring total was a season high. The Lady Raiders will face the Washington Huskies at 9:30 p.m. on Friday in Seattle, Wash.

fun; and I think that's the way basketball teams should have fun," she said. "I think we're working hard and we're turning that into some good things; there's still some thing we can get better at."

Playoffs only solution for BCS problem

David Wiechmann



Once again the BCS has proven its worthlessness. A team from the Pac-10 has been given the shaft right where it hurts the most — the chance to play for a national championship. And the Oklahoma Sooners, without a conference championship, will be the favorite to win it all.

What's wrong with this picture? The BCS was supposed to fix all the problems, or at least make them smaller, by deciding which teams should play in the national title game for Division I-A football. All it has done is create more confusion and more controversy.

Yes, Oklahoma is still the best team in the nation as far as I am concerned, but I find it hard to let the Sooners play for a national title when they couldn't even win their conference.

Then there's the argument that USC doesn't have to play one, so how does that justify their deserving to be in the Sugar Bowl?

It doesn't. If the BCS is going to continue to screw things up for people, the least it can try to do is make the playing field level. Why doesn't every conference have a championship game? That would give the team the nation feels got hosed a chance to prove itself.

Also how did LSU surpass USC for the No. 2 slot? It was the Tigers' strength of schedule. The fact that two teams the Trojans played earlier in the season both lost on Saturday (Notre Dame and Hawaii) hurts their strength of schedule.

If one of those teams had won, Trojan head coach Pete Carroll would not have had to take a stroll down Humble Avenue while he was really stuck on Shafted Street.

But the main argument I have against the BCS is this: What does BCS stand for? The Bowl Championship Series, and in actuality it is the furthest thing from a series.

Here is an idea. Do what Divisions I-AA, II and III do — playoffs. I can hear Jim Mora now, "Playoffs! Playoffs!"

Yes, playoffs. Use the BCS as the ranking system for the seeds in the playoffs. Some team may still get screwed, but at least it will have the chance to prove how good it is with an opportunity to reach the championship bowl on its own.

Keep the BCS bowls in the bracket system, pick a different bowl to be the championship bowl every year, like it is now, and add a few bowls to it.

The Wiechmann solution consists of an eight-team playoff with seven bowls. The added BCS bowls can be the Cotton, Holiday and Gator Bowls. Using the playoff system would mean two teams would possibly play 16 games. To fix that, the NCAA can go back to an 11-game schedule.

As far as scheduling the playoffs, do it during normal bowl season. And to avoid sticking it to all the other schools, we can keep the other bowls around.

Sure, the BCS brings money and a big contract with ABC, but there comes a time when integrity needs to overcome greed.

That way the fans, coaches and players get what they want, and the NCAA can still get its wad of cash.

■ Wiechmann is a senior journalism major from Lubbock. E-mail him at kbxtontheporch@hotmail.com.

Lady Raiders climb to No. 4 in Associated Press poll

By Chuck Schoffner/Associated Press

(AP)—Connecticut tied Tennessee for No. 1 at being No. 1.

The Huskies were a unanimous choice for the top spot in The Associ-

ated Press women's college basketball Top 25 Monday, one day after rallying from a 15-point deficit for a 72-69 victory at Southern California.

It's the 90th poll Connecticut has topped, tying Tennessee for the most

appearances at No. 1. UConn gained its first No. 1 ranking on Jan. 17, 1995 — after beating the Lady Vols to replace them atop the rankings.

Tennessee was No. 1 for the first time in the 1977-78 preseason poll and

led the rankings 63 times before Connecticut first reached the top.

Louisiana Tech is third with 83 appearances at No. 1, followed by Texas with 45.

Tennessee replaced Texas at No. 2 in Monday's poll, and No. 23 Boston College was the only newcomer. Rutgers dropped out.

Connecticut (6-0) received all 47 first-place votes from a national media panel and had 1,175 points. The Huskies, who won their first five games by an average of 33 points, trailed USC 37-22 late in the first half before coming back for their 73rd straight regular-season victory.

Tennessee (3-0) had 1,111 points in the voting and moved up one place

after Texas lost for the first time, 79-59 at Penn State on Sunday. The Longhorns (7-1) dropped to fifth.

Tennessee beat Louisiana Tech 85-65 in its only game.

No. 3 Duke (5-1) and No. 4 Texas Tech (8-0) each moved up one spot. Stanford remained sixth and was followed by Penn State, Purdue, Minnesota and Georgia.

Kansas State climbed one spot to 11th, and Louisiana Tech fell two places to 12th. Then it was Ohio State, Oklahoma and UC Santa Barbara, followed by North Carolina, Colorado, LSU, TCU and Virginia Tech.

Utah, Oregon, Boston College, Auburn and Michigan State held the final five places.

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