

MORNING SNOW/WINDY

High 41 / Low 20 Tomorrow:

High 51 / Low 28



**TUESDAY** Dec. 9, 2003

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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

rce: 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,"

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

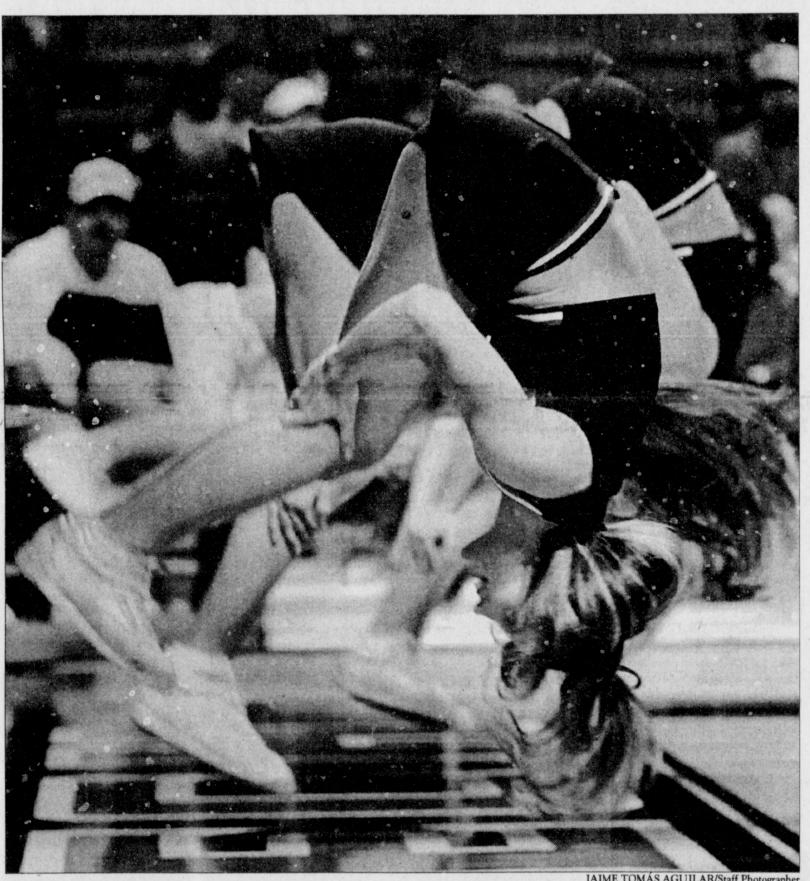
Waagner said the flu vaccine typically takes two to three weeks to take effect, so people should get vaccinated as soon as possible. Other preventive measures include washing hands frequently and limiting contact with ill people.

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

"It will provide some cross-reactive immu-

FLU continued on page 5

## FREEFLIPPI



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 ad-

missions factor for incoming students. Neither Gates nor the office of university re-

lations 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

"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 Ahmend Oureia 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

The sovereign state would be a secular, non-Jew-

ish 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 tacks.

The creation of the wall

by Israel establishes its bot-

tom line as holding onto their territory, Barkdull

"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

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 used," 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

Curry chugged five to six gallons of water within a fourhour 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 threeyear 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 cam-

The fraternity's national leaders have cut ties

with the Dallas chapter.

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struck and mentally harassed, police said. FAX: 806-742-2434

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# New Oklahoma City federal building opens

**NEWS** 

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.

still putting the finishing touches on the win.' fountain and walkways.

SBA employee Cindi Anderson, a 39year-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, ing was built at a cost of \$33 million. 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 di-

Her assistant, Jerry Reese, said it was im-Eleven agencies are scheduled to move in portant to rebuild after the bombing as a show over the next several months. Workers were of resolve: "If we didn't do it, the terrorists

The SBA had no offices in the Murrah do not want to move into the building

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 build-

The main entrance is enclosed in threequarter-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

ees 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 build-

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

About half of HUD's current 103 employ- 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

## The Rundown



## Human torso found Rare white tigers to Putin's allies push liberal floating in Galveston Bay return to Ohio zoo

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 30year-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

Galveston officials are working with enough insulin. Houston police on the investigation,

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 plas-

Janek also witnessed officials remove the dismembered body of 71vear-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

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.

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 dia-

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

After a consultation with an in- might roll back reforms. Galveston County Commissioner ternal 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, 200 officials worried that he wouldn't make it our political life.' because his glucose level began to fluctuate wildly. Hembree later discovered the tiger no longer needed insulin shots, which were causing the fluctua-

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

# 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 democ-

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 when the pancreas doesn't produce might be recruited into the government - an effort to ease fears the Kremlin

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

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) - sald there were more than 7,000 money this year and delivering the bill. 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,

The House approved a \$373 bil- of them worth more than \$7.5 billion spending package Monday lion, a long and ever-expanding detailing how nearly every do- tradition that prompted some conmestic agency will spend its servative Republicans to oppose

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

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 bil-

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 lowincome school districts, education for the handicapped, the FBI and the AmeriCorps national service program.

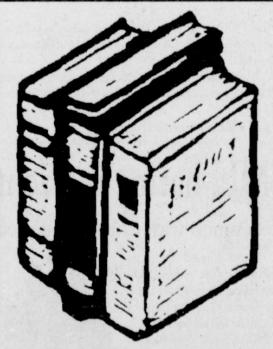
There also was \$1.5 billion to help communities upgrade their election systems and \$25 million each for Boston and New York to provide security at next summer's presidential party conventions.

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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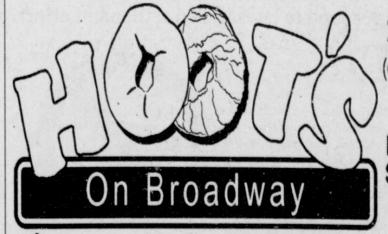
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# Closed classes presenting problem for students

By Jennifer Prieto/Staff Reporter

Many Texas Tech non-business students have had difficulty registering for business classes for the spring semester.

Catherine Duran, assistant dean for the Jerry S. Rawls College of Business Administration, said it is not true students cannot sign up for business classes if they are not a business major.

"The only thing that is different for them is that non-business majors have to fill out a form," she said. "We are working with every program advisor, and we are trying to get as many students registered for classes."

Duran said most classes are full, but the department will do whatever possible to get students registered for classes.

Students who are graduating have priority above those who still have a while to graduate, she said.

There are students who still have time until their graduation date and can take classes in later semesters. There also are students who have a business requirement in their major, and business is also their minor, she said

"We are not going to be delaying anyone's graduation," she said. "But some students may not be able to take the class they want when they want it."

The department is about two-thirds done with students' forms, she said.

The process is taking a long time, but it needs to be done carefully and fairly

College of

Business

She said students are not guaranteed to be able to enroll in a business class for the spring semester, but they will be able to take it during the summer semesters.

"I can't say that every class will

be available during the summer," she said. "But we have opened a lot more classes and sections during the summer than past years, and we have

opened more seats for students."

Duran said the admissions department will continue to work closely with the advisers at the different departments at Tech to make sure every stu-

dent is taken

care of.

"If students don't get signed up for classes for next semester," she said. "we will make sure that every student gets in the classes they need — even if it is during another semes-

Janet Wright, adviser for the school of mass communications, said she is working with the business department to get students registered for classes.

to them, and 99 out of 100 times they will help us," she said. "They are very helpful, and we are trying to do as much as pos-

sible to help our

"I can talk

She said she has to make sure seniors get into their classes before anyone else because they have to graduate.

Students will be able to replace classes if the class they need is not

If students desperately need the and we are trying to find classes that

We are not going wait ar differe to be delaying ter.

to be delaying anyone's graduation. But some students may not be able to take the class they want when they want it.

— CATHERINE DURAN Assistant Dean, Jerry S.

Assistant Dean, Jerry S.
Rawls College of Business
Administration

class they will be able to get in, she said. Some of the students who still

have a long time before graduation may have to wait and take it a different semester.

She said she had about six students signed up for marketing classes, and she will continue to fight for the students.

If a non-business major drops a class, it will still be open for another non-business student.

"I'm going to keep fighting for my students," she said. "I'm having them come in, will fit their schedule.

Mass communication students are not the only ones having problems with business classes.

lems with business classes.

Laurel Martin, a junior education major from Houston, said she is having problems getting into her busi-

"I want to get some type of business minor, and I can't figure out a class to take because they are all closed," she said.

ness classes for her minor.

Students who need certain classes to graduate should be given priority so they do not push back graduation, she said.

It is not fair that some students have to be worried about a class when tuition is going up, and it should be going for hiring more professors, Martin said.

She said she does not need to take the class right now, but she should not have to worry about it.

"I don't know what other department is having a problem with this," she said. "But I know students are having problems."

# Pharmacies use bar codes to protect against mixup errors

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inside hospital pharmacies, tiny bar codes just an eighth of an inch tall adorn the blister packs that hold single-pill doses of certain drugs, like Dilantin for seizures and Lipitor for cholesterol.

With a handheld scanner, health care workers guard against medication mixups by matching each pill's bar code to a hospitalized patient's wristband and medical chart. It is to ensure the right person swallows the right dose of the right drug at the right time. If anything's off, an alarm beeps.

Yet only a few drugs today bear bar codes, and very few hospitals have the scanners needed to read them. That's about to change.

By February, the Food and Drug Administration will issue orders requiring every medication sold to hospitals soon bear supermarket-style bar codes.

It's a major move that, once fully phased in, is expected to protect many of the estimated 7,000 hospitalized patients who die every year because of drug errors.

The impact promises to go beyond routine drug mistakes. For example, printing a matching bar code for the vial of Mr. Jones' blood before the nurse leaves his bedside guards against mixed up samples is crucial in ensuring patients receive the right blood type and other test results.

Patients get the wrong blood in one of every 14,000 transfusions, causing at least 20 deaths a year.

"Those are totally preventable tragedies," says Dr. Gerald Sandler, Georgetown University Hospital's transfusion chief. He began pushing for electronic solutions five years ago when his hospital had a near-miss—two chil-

dren awaiting transfusions switched seats after the nurses double-checked who was supposed to get which bag of blood. But he says hospitals can't afford the systems unless drug and blood safety are paired.

Also, hospitals can buy bar-code scanners that come with even more sophisticated software that flags patients' allergies and other important information, guiding doctors to prescribe the safest treatment choice.

Still, bar-code labeling is just the first step in a promised wave of safety technology. A bar-coded wristband isn't easy to read if the patient gets it wet or is sleeping on top of that arm. It's even harder when the patient is on an emergency room gurney or operating table — busy times when mistakes in medication or blood transfusion can be easy to make.

Next-generation systems promise to pair bar codes with tiny transmitters like those used by highway toll booths to read speed passes, letting nurses identify patients from across the room.

Consider this scenario: An alarm blares if a nurse tries to carry into the operating room the wrong type blood for the patient on the table. Simply hook the radiofrequency chip in the patient's ID to the door, and if the patient chip doesn't match the one on the blood bag, everyone knows.

Next month, Sandler begins studying how well a new transmitter-plusbar code system called SmartBand works and envisions the alarm scenario in the not-too-distant future. "This is the next frontier in patient safety," he said.

First-generation bar coding promises to have a huge impact.

Only about 125 of the nation's 5,000-plus hospitals use bar-code systems now, partly because only about 35 percent of their pharmaceutical supplies come with the codes affixed to them, says Russell Lewis of Bridge Medical Inc., a leading manufacturer of bar-code systems.

But when veterans hospitals adopted bar codes — relabeling their own drugs so they could be electronically identified — medication errors plummeted.

Commercially, two medication giants are leading the way on bar coding. Last year, Pfizer Inc. figured out how to fit tiny versions of supermarket bar codes on the blister packs of Dilantin, Lipitor and other pills sold to hospitals. Abbott Laboratories first put bar codes on injected drugs and will start selling hospitals bar-coded pills early next year.

By February, the FDA wili issue new rules forcing other manufacturers to begin phasing in bar codes on hospital-sold drugs, too.

Hospitals won't be required to use the codes. But the rules do set standards to ensure any scanner will recognize any medicine — good news for cash-strapped hospitals, says FDA pharmacist Tom McGinnis.

"You can do this with minimal equipment," he says. "You don't have to buy the Cadillac, you can buy the Chevy to make this work."

Hospitals know the change is coming; sales of bar-code systems began rising in recent months, says Lewis. The cost ranges from \$200,000 to over \$1 million, depending on the hospital's size and the complexity of the system.

# Psychologist testifies that Malvo showed early signs of problems

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (AP) — As a child, sniper suspect Lee Boyd Malvo hunted and killed cats with a slingshot, one of the first signs of emotional problems in an otherwise "strikingly obedient child," a psychologist testified Monday.

Malvo once had a pet cat but grew to hate cats, said psychologist Dewey Cornell, who has interviewed Malvo 21 times since February.

Cornell said Malvo's mother, Una James, would beat the boy because the pet cat would sleep in Malvo's bed and soil the sheets.

"If he saw a stray cat he would become angry and shoot the stray cat. He hit some of the cats, and probably killed some of the cats," Cornell testified at Malvo's trial. "This was probably the most serious problem in his childhood."

Cornell said when he first began interviewing Malvo, the 18-year-old was still under the influence of John Allen Muhammad, mastermind of last year's sniper spree. Malvo is offering an insanity defense to the crimes.

"At first he was just parroting the political philosophies of John Muhammad and was boastful of what he and John Muhammad had done," Cornell said.

Later, "there came a point at

which he disavowed his allegiance with John Muhammad, and he gave me much more information. ... There was a change in his demeanor, and certainly in his attitude."

Una James moved Malvo from home to home, and was a strict disciplinarian who beat Malvo with sticks and belts, Cornell said.

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Perfect for

Christmas

The judge in the trial restricted some of Cornell's testimony, banning an audio-visual presentation after prosecutors complained it was full of inadmissible evidence, including Malvo's baby pictures.

Prosecutor Robert F. Horan Jr., who was given an advance copy of Cornell's presentation, said it included, among other things, baby pictures intended to soften up the jury. "I've never heard of a psycholo-

gist who bases his opinion on what a baby picture looks like," said Horan, who likened the presentation to the type of brainwashing the defense claims was imposed on Malvo by Muhammad.

Circuit Judge Jane Marum Roush agreed with Horan that Cornell's presentation was "replete with inadmissible evidence" and barred the defense from displaying it.

The judge allowed, though, a 12-minute clip of the film 'The Matrix,' which the defense contends distorted Malvo's view of reality. Cornell said Malvo watched the film more than 100 times.

The film "seemed to represent the situation he was in," Cornell said, with a hero specifically chosen by a father figure to lead a revolution against "an evil government ... that has people oppressed to the point where they don't even know they're oppressed."

Horan objected to the clip, saying it was out of context and irrelevant to Malvo's case.

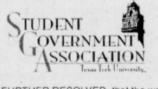
Jurors have seen Malvo as an obedient boy who yearned for a father during a childhood of loneliness and uncertainty. His lawyers say he once complained that he had no one, "not even a dog, not even a bird."

They also have seen the sniper suspect as a teenager obsessed with racial injustice and looking to start a violent revolution to transform society. On interrogation tapes, they heard him chuckle while telling police how he chose his victims and how the rifle used in the shootings inflicted horrendous damage on human bodies.

Malvo's attorneys are trying to convince the jury that his participation in the attacks that killed 10 in the Washington, D.C., area in October 2002 amounted to legal insanity.

Muhammad was convicted in the slaying of Dean Harold Meyers, shot while pumping gas in Manassas during the three-week sniper spree that terrified the Washington region. Jurors recommended a death sentence.

Malvo is being tried in another of the 10 killings, that of FBI analyst Linda Franklin, shot outside a Falls Church store. The two men also are accused in earlier shootings in Washington state, Arizona, Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana.



SGA Proposed Constitutional Amendment

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the wording on the ballot shall be read to wit:

Article III. Executive, Section 2. Shall be amended to read: Section 2. Election of Student Government Association Executive Officers:

The Student Government Association President, along with the Vice President for Internal Affairs and the Vice President for External Affairs, shall be elected by an all-campus election to be held in the spring.

The Student Government Association Vice President for Graduate Affairs shall.

all-campus election to be held in the spring.

2. The Student Government Association Vice President for Graduate Affairs shall be elected by the enrolled graduate population in an election to be held in the spring.

"He shall be required to be enrolled in at least six (6) semester hours of residence credit courses during their term of office. He must have a grade point of at least 2.25 for both the whole of his college work and for the semester preceding his election."

A tick III. From the Seating 2. Subscript 2. Shall add the words.

Article III. Executive, Section 3. Subsection 1. Shall add the words:

Article III. Executive, Section 3. Subsection 2. Shall add the words: "He shall be required to be enrolled in at least six (6) semester hours of residence credit courses during their term of office. He must have a grade point of at least 2.25 for both the whole of his college work and for the semester preceding his election."

Article III. Executive, Section 3. Subsection 3. Shall be amended to read:
3. Vice President for Graduate Affairs: The Vice President for Graduate Affairs shall have a graduate standing according to university policy at the time of filing to run for election. He shall be required to be enrolled in at least three (3) semester hours of graduate coursework during his term. He must have a grade point of at least 3.00 at the time of filing to run for election and must maintain a grade point of

Article III. Executive, Section 7. Shall be amended with the following substitution "Section 7." shall be substituted with the words "Section 8."

Article III. Executive, Section 8. Shall be amended with the following substitution: "Section 8." shall be substituted with the words "Section 9."

Article III. Executive, Section 9. Shall be amended with the following substitution "Section 9." shall be substituted with the words "Section 10."

Article III. Executive, Section 10. Shall be amended with the following

substitution:
"Section 10." shall be substituted with the words "Section 11."

Article III. Executive, Section 11. Shall be amended with the following

bstitution:
"Section 11." shall be substituted with the words "Section 12."

Article III. Executive, Section 7. Shall be amended to read:

Section 7. Duties of the Vice President for Graduate Affairs shall include:

Serve as a liaison between the Student Government Association and graduate

Implement and oversee programs and services of the Student Government Association offered to graduate students.

Article III. Executive, Section 11. Shall be amended to read:
Section 11. The President, Vice President for Internal Affairs, Vice President for External Affairs, and Vice President for Graduate Affairs may be removed from office. Reasons for removal are malfeasance, neglect of duty, or improper conduct The removal shall be made by a 3/4 vote of the total membership of the Senate.

## News around the state

# Police find 3 dead in Plano residence

PLANO (AP) — Three people were found dead with gunshot wounds Monday morning after police went to a home to check on the residents' welfare.

Police discovered the bodies of an

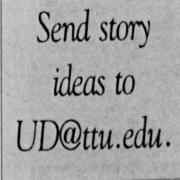
adult woman, an adult man and a woman in her late teens, all in different bedrooms, police spokesman Carl Duke said.

A handgun was found in the

home and the adult female appeared to have a self-inflicted gunshot wound, Duke said.

Officers found no sign of forced entry, Duke said.

Identities have not been released. Police went to the home after receiving a call from a co-worker who said that one of the victims had not shown up for work, Duke said.



# Driver in botched smuggling attempt could get death penalty

HOUSTON (AP) — The U.S. Department of Justice will decide by Feb. 1 whether to seek the death penalty against the driver of a truck in an immigrant smuggling attempt that left 19 people dead, a prosecutor said Monday.

Prosecutors decided last week not to seek the death penalty against five others charged in the smuggling ring, but the same decision is pending for the truck's driver, Tyrone Williams, and four others who remain at large.

Federal prosecutor Daniel

Rodriguez also told U.S. District

Judge Vanessa Gilmore prepara-

tions for the June 7 trial of all the

defendants are on track.

Gilmore scheduled a Feb. 23 hearing to discuss the status of Williams' prosecution.

More than 70 immigrants from

Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic were being transported by truck last May from the Rio Grande Valley to Houston.

The trailer was found abandoned May 14 at a truck stop in

Victoria, 100 miles southwest of Houston.

Seventeen people were found dead in the trailer and two others died later of dehydration, hyper-

tim was a 5-year-old boy.

Defendants not facing the death penalty face up to life in prison if convicted.

thermia and suffocation. One vic-

## PROBLEM PREGNANCY

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# Dec. 9, 2003 The lost art of

ne 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 upto-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 share 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 thoughtful call. Accountability loses out should have been discussed face-to-face. to convenience. Parents placing their chil-And he was right. But - along with late- dren in front of computers let accountnight weariness and liquid courage — I was ability lose out to irresponsibility. Friends so accustomed to using informal messaging 'who ignore phone calls are letting ac-

media as a crutch instead of using personal interaction that I feared askhim ing things to his face.

The great conve nience of

cell phones did not bring us closer together. ability and don't build personal relation-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 cells 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 She wouldn't mind.



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-

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.

to-face. And he was right.

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 countability lose out to

> irresponsibility; daters who choose to use (or not use) media instead of face-to-

face interaction lose account-

ships. Students finding term papers on the Internet lose accountability as well as honesty and integrity.

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 Columbine, 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.

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@tru.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

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# Solutions are within the indi

ews 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 ham-

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 Iones 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 askshim, "Has anything you've ever done made your life better?"

Hate, by nature, is a detriment to any society, and ours 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 sephomore creative writing and music major from Mesquite. Email him at james.s.ingram@ttu.edu

## Wake up — Government not out for your interests

1 400 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 highjackers.

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



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

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

# Honors tackles recent Medicare changes

By Andrew Bell/Staff Reporter

In the last current events discussion of the semester, members of the Honors College tackled the issue of Medicare in the nation and the recent passage by President George W. Bush of a \$400 billion overhaul of the program.

Medicare came into effect in 1965 during President Andrew Johnson's administration.

The legislation is an overhaul in the program that anticipates to change the nation's health care system involving senior citizens and the disabled.

According to CBSNews.com, the compromise will place \$400 billion during a period of ten years into the purchase of prescription drugs, which will not go into effect until January 2006.

With the rise of better technology, more Americans are able to become their own doctor through certain Web sites. Sara Hughes, a junior natural history and humanities major from Levelland, said Web sites like webMD.com give a person the opportunity to click on a body part and explain the symptoms to find possible ailments in

Recent technology and the structure of the health care system have caused people to shift from general practitioners to others because by changing health care providers, people are forced to change doctors, said Kambra Bolch, associate academic dean of the Honors College.

Instead of going to a general practitioner who would know the complete medical history of a patient, many people looking for medical attention have to go to doctors who may not know the correct medication to give to the pa-

With the new law, beneficiaries will have more control over health care options.

This is because the government will encourage insurance companies to offer private plans to millions of senior citizens who now

receive health care benefits under terms by the federal government, according to the Associated

Since the change of control will move from the government to private industry, Bolch asked if the government should have a greater responsibility for the disparity of its citizens or allow private enterprise to

take that responsibility. In response, Bolch said the

situation is a practical effect. The people will not let the government deal in this situation, so it is given to industries in the private sector. From

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said The devil is in the people would not be able to details. By the time be treated for things all of the details should. The first rebecome known, it sult of the law will be prescripwill be far, far in tion drug dis-

KAMBRA BOLCH Associate Academic Dean of the Honors College

the future.

ceive a mailing that explains the card, which would cost no more than \$30 a year. Future discounts could range from 10 to 25 percent off retail prices for seniors who need prescription drugs.

Within the law, medical providers would receive a one percent increase in the money Medicare pays physicians, according to CBSNews.com. Gary Bell, dean of the Honors College, said this is a problem because some doctors only. seem to be concerned with the money that is being made in the

"When an appendix is taken out, is the doctor taking it out to pay for his Mercedes payment or does it even need to come out?" Bell asked.

Senior citizens who rely on supplemental insurance to lower the cost of prescription drugs will be forced to make a change in the future, since the supplemental insurance policies will not be able to offer a prescription drug benefit when the law is enacted in 2006, according to the AP.

"For people who have supplemental insurance now, they won't be able to use it in the future," Bolch said.

Under certain types of health care, a patient would not be able to see a doctor they need to see in order to help cure an ailment. Jim Clopton, a psychology and Honors course professor, said under his managed care he could no longer see a specialist without going through his primary care physician

With the massive changes made to Medicare, Bell said he believes it is a way for Republicans in Congress and the Bush administration to take the issue away from Democrats since the presidential election will occur next year.

As for the future, Bolch said the answers are far away.

"The devil is in the details," she said. "By the time all of the details become known, it will be far, far in the future."

## Flu

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

nization and reduce the severity of the disease, but it is not as protective as we'd like it to be," he said. "One out of every 10 people who get the shot will still get the flu.'

Flu symptoms come on quickly, Waagner said. The disease is characterized by: high fever, chills, nausea, headache prominently radiating behind the eyes and muscle aches.

Contrary to popular belief, the flu cannot be contracted from the vaccine, he said.

"It can occasionally make some people ill and give them a sore arm, but that pales in comparison to the flu," he said.

Waagner said in medical history, the flu has killed more people in a shorter amount of time than the Black Death.

He said an average of 20,000 to 30,000 people die every year in the United States from flu or flu-related

"We don't know what it will be this year," he said. "It's too early to tell. The worst could be yet to come. We think it's peaking right now, and we hope it's tapering off."

Waagner said Texas and Colorado have been hit the hardest by the flu, and Thanksgiving weekend travels amplified the epidemic.

For help locating clinics offering flu vaccinations, call the Lubbock Health Department at (806) 775-

## Race

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

respective proposed admissions policies to the Board.

change to private enterprise in this

Black said the policies outlined a plan to include race as an element in admitting prospective students.

"I believe they will come again not at the December meeting, but at the February meeting," he said. "They will come forward with proposed admissions policies for the Board to agree or disagree with. I know Presidents Whitmore and Wilson are now looking at those proposed poli-

Black said the two policies, for Tech and for the HSC, could feasibly be different.

"In medical school you're generally looking for graduate students," he said. "So it could be different than just looking for the university when you're looking for undergraduate students."

Whitmore said he was not familiar with the exact terms of A&M's policy proposal but Tech will do what it sees fit.

"We do plan, at Tech, on incorporating race and ethnicity as one factor in admissions," Whitmore said. "The exact details haven't been worked out yet, but the Board has approved it in principle."

Ronald Phillips, chief of staff for Whitmore, said Tech will soon move forward with a recommendation to consider a diversity of experiences for admission standards.

Diversity of experience includes study abroad, knowledge of other cultures, proficiency in other languages, experience with college preparatory programs and race or ethnicity, Phillips said.

"Texas Tech University is currently reviewing our admissions policy," he said. "In light of the direction we have received from our Board of Regents, we expect recommendations from our Office of Admissions to be forthcoming. These will allow the university to consider the diversity of experiences."

Tech will not be using race as a sole factor in admissions, but rather an element among many others, Phillips said.

"We want people to understand that it's really more than just race," he said. "At least we're expanding it to more than just race."

Lara Amis, a sophomore public relations major from Cleburne, said she sees both sides of the issue but believes it is better to admit students based on academics alone.

"It makes sense to use it just to get diversity, but I don't know that it would be fair if someone got in just because of their race because the university needs to be more diverse," she said. "When it comes

down to it, I don't think using race to let people into college is right."

Matt Spitsberg, a freshman vocal performance major from El Paso, said he does not believe race should be used at all when dealing with college admissions.

"I support A&M's take on it," he said. "I don't think race should be a factor. It's an academic institution. We don't want to become a university that lets people in not based on academics. I know they said it wasn't a big factor, but I don't think it's fair."

Tech should try to improve diversity through better recruitment of minority students, he said.

"I'm from El Paso," he said. "I'm the minority there so it was kind of a culture shock coming here. I think if they branched out to recruiting more minorities there'd be more minority applications, and then the admissions could be based strictly on academics like they should be."

## Reject

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The U.S. does not support the wall," he said. Israel's wall would not prevent

individuals from crossing into the country, said Jordan Green, a freshman architecture major from Hous-

"We've seen it with the war against us," he said. "Individuals think they can make a difference when they really can't."

Green said the wall might deter some individuals, but it will not stop all of the terrorist attacks. Lauren Hall, a sophomore restau-

rant and hotel management major from Fort Worth, agreed the wall might decrease the number of suicide bombings.

"If they keep fighting over the same things I don't think they'll ever stop," she said. "You never know how it's going to work."

Despite peace talk efforts, Victor Diaz, a senior international business major from El Paso, said fighting between Palestine and Israel will not

many years," he said. "They will keep fighting over land as long as they're both around." Diaz said a wall is pointless be-

"This has been going on for many,

cause it can be torn down or climbed A lack of support for the Pales-

tinian prime minister proves citizens do not believe in him, Diaz said. "Unless there is godly intervention, I don't think it's going to

change," he said. Barkdull said the Palestinians will continue with their violent actions

to prove their point until they take control of land they believe is theirs.

"The Palestinians will prevent normal life from prevailing as long as the political situation is in place," he said.

## Bike

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

traffic ways to stop dangerous crossings and roadways.'

For more than two years the process of a new park and ride system has been in the planning process and building stages. As of Jan. 1, students can look forward to an extra 1,000 parking spots near the west side of Health Sciences Cen-

Hinojosa said students can park their cars and ride buses to the center of campus starting next fall.

"We have a bike trail that will follow the new parkway that is being built," he said. "Also, students can ride the buses that have bike racks on them into the campus it-

Art Glick, executive associate to the vice president of operations, said he supports bike lanes as well.

"Along with the park and ride, there will be a joint use trail for pedestrians and bicycles," he said. "The system will follow the new parkway that is being constructed."

The parkway will stretch from the park and ride parking lot near the HSC, south to the intramural baseball fields on their west side, curve around to run perpendicular to Brownfield Highway and then to the west side of the Tech Credit Union. Glick said the project is about

halfway done. "Many of the parts are already in

concrete," he said. "I would say it's about 50 percent done." To complete this project, Glick

said the problems will not be in the designing phase but rather the management of the system.

"We have to alert them of the changes that would be made," he said. "Pedestrians don't want to be terrorized by bikers, and bikers don't want to be terrorized by cars."

Understanding the importance of the bicycle transit system is hard for other Tech administrators, Glick said, because the university has not had this problem for a long time. "If we had a 30- to 40-year his-

tory, I think they would come to understand," he said. "We don't have that here." Tech President Jon Whitmore

said riding bicycles are a legitimate mode of transportation, and Tech needs some way to accommodate those who bike. "Right now, I know we don't

know all the implications for building the bike lanes, but we would develop a system for bike-only traffic to accommodate the growing number of riders," he said.

If the project begins, Whitmore said it will not be an overnight pro-

"We have to get information first of all," he said. "Then we can determine how to get to the next step with

careful study. There's not much to do

Some administrators believe bikers are not a major problem on campus, but Hinojosa thought differently, and believes something needs to be done to ensure their safety. "It is up near the top of my list,"

he said. "Bikers have to know how to get around campus, and we have the solution in hand, we just have to implement it."

Like the major roadway systems around campus, Hinojosa said bikers need to feel safe while traveling to

"Around 19th Street, or 4th Street or University — those are not safe for bikers to ride," he said. "If we could put bikers out of the vehicular routes, it would be a lot safer for students to ride."

## Pope begins busy holiday season despite ailing health

ROME (AP) — Bundled in a red cloak against a blustery evening chill, Pope John Paul II on Monday kept his annual appointment to start the holiday season despite concerns about his health.

The ailing, 83-year-old pontiff greeted storekeepers on Via Condotti, a chic shopping street in the heart of downtown Rome, and led thousands of Romans and tourists in prayer at the foot of the Spanish Steps.

Dec. 8 is a Catholic holiday marking the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. For Italians, the holiday kicks off the Christmas shopping

John Paul's voice was hoarse and often halting, but he read his entire, twopage speech.

In past months, John Paul has often let aides read homilies and prayers to save energy. The pope has Parkinson's disease, which makes it difficult for him to speak as well as walk

John Paul arrived in a white "popemobile," whose open sides were covered with plastic sheeting to keep out the cold. Overnight, springlike temperatures in Rome had plunged to a nippy 45 degrees.

When he stopped briefly to greet retailers, he spoke to them from inside the vehicle, kissing a baby passed to him.

The crowd showed its appreciation with shouts of "Viva il papa!" (long live

"This pope has entered into the hearts of Romans," said Marinella Baldoni, who comes every year to see him at the Spanish Steps, where a towering column is topped by a statue of the Virgin Mary.

John Paul said he came to the square as a sign of his "sincere devotion" to Mary.

"It is a gesture in which countless Romans, whose affection has always accompanied me in all the years of my service ... are united with me in this square," the pope said.

Saying current times "are marked by not a few uncertainties and fears for the present and future fate of our planet," John Paul prayed that Mary would "listen to the cry of sorrow from the victims of wars and of so many forms of violence, which bloody the Earth."

He named no conflicts.

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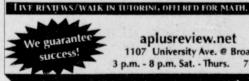
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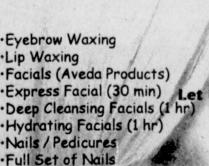
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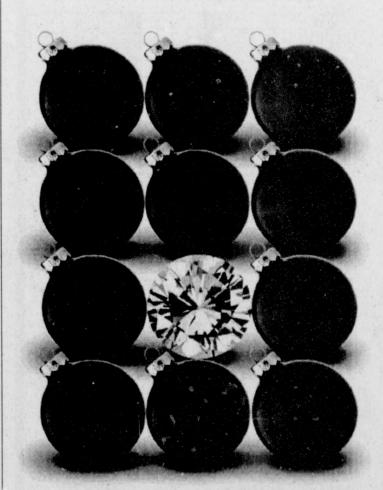
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## End of semester means finals, family. She said with responsibilities such said it will probably create a stressful Noble said. "You just have to be happy, By Justin Vallejo/Staff Reporter

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.

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 com-

On top of wanting to give gifts to said. 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

Another issue she will face is not having her grandmother for

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

Her grandmother died during the fortunate circumstances. Thanksgiving weekend, and Noble

environment for the family.



said it is her responsibility to make the best of the holiday, considering the un-

"You have to get back to reality,"

be thankful for all the other family mem-

> that are resent." Brent Butler, a supervisor for Contact Lubbock, said the holiday season provides more

which individuals must cope. Contact Lubbock, in coordinawith Hopeline International, offers a variety

She 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

You just have to

be happy, be

other family

present.

- LAUREN NOBLE

from Trophy Club

Freshman advertising major

members that are

suicide statistics rise up during the Christmas holiday, he said the main types of calls generally received are referral calls.

"We have larger numbers of information and referral calls having to do with physical needs," he said.

Butler said people use the service for a wide array of different stressors, from people having

family to individuals having to deal with not having family, and everything in between. Contact Lubthankful for all the

bock 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.

# Festival f 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, butThe Festival of Lights, otherwise known as Hanukkah, begins at sundown Dec. 19.

Accordingto 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 ish Christ-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.

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Benjamin Schlein, a freshman

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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.

"Hanuk-

kah is often

perceived as the Jew-

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

Schliein 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 lews 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.

# 'What is the news?' Kwanzaa:

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 Febru- out the year and ways to continue to be made for every gift to be hand-made ary, 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, cor-

porative economics, purpose, cre- uphold it in the next year. ativity and faith.

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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 fam- black Christmas, but Christmas in ily gather around the kimara, or America has become so commercialcandleholder, and talk about ways they ized," Kwame Alford, Marie Alford's have upheld that principle through- husband, said. "Every attempt should

The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa

2. Kujichagulia (koo-jee-cha-goo-Lee-ah)

Collective work and responsibility

6. Kuumba (koo-OOM-bah) - Creativity

Around the kimara are other items

symbolic of Kwanzaa. The candle

holder is placed on a straw mat called a

mkeka. Corn or muhindi is placed on

the table to represent the number of

children in the family. If there are no

children, corn is still placed on the table

to represent children in the community.

kikombe cha umoja. The cup is used

to pour libation in honor of ancestors

the table to represent the harvest time.

gifts are called zawadi and are usually hand-made. Although gifts are ex-

changed, Kwanzaa is not meant to

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"This was not meant to become a

substitute for any other holiday.

Finally gifts are exchanged. The

There also is a unity cup, or

1. Umoja (oo-Moe-jah) - Unity

Self-determination

3. Ujima (oo-JEE-mah)

4. Ujamaa (oo-Jah-mah)

Cooperative economics

7. Imani (ee-MAH-nee) - Faith

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5. Nia (nee-AH) - Purpose

if possible. So it's really an attempt

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, fol-

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

lowed by alternating be-

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 Alfords are special to Lubbock in terms of their celebration.

who have inspired the family. The li-Marie Alford said it is not as common to find people in Lubbock who bation is usually water and is poured onto a plant. A basket of fruits and celebrate it as in larger cities. vegetables called a mazao is placed on "African Americans are becoming

more an 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 Alfords, said Kwame Alford. "It's all like planting seeds," he said.

"It's a rebirth process. As a black people, (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

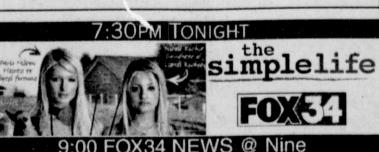
the celebration.

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 fa-

vorite part of the celebration was pouring the libation for her family and for

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





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# Gators new No. 1 in men's basketball poll

By Jim O'Connell/Associated Press

(AP) - Three weeks, three No. 1s. Florida moved into the top spot in the Associated Press college basketball poll Monday, the third straight week there has been a new No. 1 team.

The Gators (5-0) moved up one spot to replace Kansas, which lost 64-58 to Stanford on Saturday. The Jayhawks held the No. 1 ranking for just one week after replacing Connecticut; the Huskies were on top for the a stay on top in the final three polls. preseason and the first two

weeks of the regular season. Stanford, which beat a No. 1 team for the third time in school history, had the NCAA

week's biggest jump, moving from 21st to 13th. The last time there were three No. 1 teams in as many weeks was the end of the 1999-00 season, when

Stanford, Cincinnati and Duke each had

The record for consecutive polls with a different No. 1 is seven. From Jan. 3 to Feb. 14, 1994, the top teams were: Arkansas, North Carolina, Kansas, UCLA, Duke, North Carolina and Arkansas.

Florida was No. 1 for the first time in school history last season, holding that spot for one week. The Gators

lost 70-55 to Kentucky in their first game as a No. 1 team then.

The Gators host Maryland on Wednesday, and they play at Louisville on Saturday.

"We're in the middle of a long race, and it's just started. It's very early in the season, and I feel like we're still learning who we are as a team," Florida coach Billy Donovan said Monday:

"We moved to No. 1, which is always great, but my total focus is for our team to continue to improve regardless of what our ranking is. We've got two very difficult tests this week, and our sole focus is on improving as a basketball team."

Florida received 46 first-place votes and 1,732 points from the national media panel.

No. 2 Connecticut (6-1) and No. 3 Missouri (3-0) each moved up one place in the rankings. The Huskies got nine first-place votes and 1,593 points, while the Tigers were No. 1 on six ballots and drew 1,512 points.

Duke (5-1) moved up two places to fourth, and Kansas (3-1) - which last week soared from No. 6 to No. 1 - fell back to fifth.

Texas, North Carolina, Kentucky, Arizona and Georgia Tech rounded out the Top 10.

Seven teams received first-place votes this week, two fewer than last week.

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# Lady Raiders coast against Pacific

By David Wiechmann/Staff Reporter

It was smooth sailing for the Lady Raiders on Monday night as Jia

PLAYER OF THE GAME

TEXAS TECH: CHESLEY DABBS

STATS: Had 18 points, six rebounds and

NOTES: Beat her average score by 14

points in the win against Pacific. Dabbs pre-

viously was averaging four points per game.

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 61point 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 Perkins spent much of the second half more than half the points on the

> night, 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

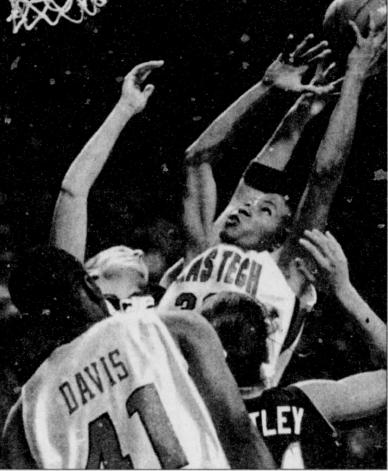
"We really got to run the break a lot tonight, and we wanted to pressure them on the defensive end, which turned into a lot of easy baskets for us," she said. "And I had a lot of players that ran the floor really well for me, so it was easy to get them the ball."

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



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.

ketball teams should have fun," she good things; there's still some thing certainly winning makes you have said. "I think we're working hard we can get better at."

fun; and I think that's the way bas- and we're turning that into some

# Lady Raiders climb to No. 4 in Associated Press poll

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

The Huskies were a unanimous

By Chuck Schoffner/Associated Press ated Press women's college basketball appearances at No. 1. UConn gained led the rankings 63 times before Con- after Texas lost for the first time, 79-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 choice for the top spot in The Associtopped, tying Tennessee for the most time in the 1977-78 preseason poll and

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its first No. 1 ranking on Jan. 17, 1995 necticut first reached the top. — after beating the Lady Vols to re- Louisiana Tech is third with 83 place them atop the rankings.

appearances at No. 1, followed by

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 sota and Georgia. first-place votes from a national megames by an average of 33 points, trailed USC 37-22 late in the first half before coming back for their 73rd LSU, TCU and Virginia Tech. straight regular-season victory.

59 at Penn State on Sunday. The Longhorns (7-1) dropped to fifth.

Tennessee beat Louisiana Tech 85-5 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, Minne-

Kansas State climbed one spot to dia panel and had 1,175 points. The 11th, and Louisiana Tech fell two Huskies, who won their first five places to 12th. Then it was Ohio State, Oklahoma and UC Santa Barbara, followed by North Carolina, Colorado,

Utah, Oregon, Boston College, Tennessee (3-0) had 1,111 points Auburn and Michigan State held the



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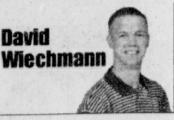
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## Playoffs only solution for BCS problem



nce 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 game 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 ktxtontheporch@hotmail.com.

