

MOSTLY CLOUDY High 60 / Low 37 Friday:

High 52 / Low 23

The Iniversity

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Texas Tech police chief transfers posts

MOVING ON: Jay Parchman transfers to administration job with Tech; search for replacement is under way.

By Sally Gunter/The University Daily

The search is on for a new Texas Tech police chief, as former Chief Jay Parchman transferred last week to a position within Tech's administration.

Parchman will serve as executive director of public safety and emergency management.

However, he will continue to act as chief of police until a replacement is hired, said Sally Logue Post, interim director of News and Publications.

Parchman declined to comment to The

University Daily.

Jim Brunjes, vice chancellor of fiscal affairs, will assemble a search committee to hire a new chief, Post said.

Brunjes referred all questions and comments to Post.

The search will be open to eligible applicants, including those within the Tech Police Department.

While Post said the university hopes to have a replacement for Parchman by the end

of spring or early summer, a timeline has not been set.

Once a replacement is hired, Parchman will act as a consultant, offering advice to his replacement when needed, Post said.

"He's happy about it," she said. "He is really excited about this new opportunity." The development of

Parchman's new position was not im-

"It is a need the university has had for a long time, especially after 9/11 and public safety became a hot topic," Post said.

As Tech continues to develop facilities in

areas such as El Paso, she said the university needs someone to focus on regional crime pre-

vention and security issues. The new position will take pressure off of the police department about security concerns at on-campus

events, Post said. "It will allow the police department to focus more on police work," she said. "There will be someone to focus directly (on public safety) and

not be pulled in other ways." Parchman began working for the Tech Police Department in 1980 and became police chief in 1991. He has 30 years of experience as a police officer.

"It meets nicely," Post said. "It gives him a new challenge and helps fill a void for us."

Effective at the beginning of January, all employees of the Tech Police Department will receive a 9 percent salary increase. This increase did not apply to Parchman, Post said.

As chief, Parchman received an annual salary of about \$89,900, Post said. He will receive equal pay in his new job.

Parchman's transition is not related to the October release of survey results from the Texas Municipal Police Association showing employees at the Tech Police Department had no confidence in the administration and

POLICE continued on page 3

Student Affairs

On-campus housing project in planning

By Andrew Bell/The University Daily

In the first phase of the housing and hospitality master plan, Texas Tech will expand its housing by building a suite complex for students to live on campus.

The \$24 million project will be equipped with 500 beds, Director of

Housing and Residence Life Sean Duggan said. Four people would share a suite, but each individual will be given a larger amount of privacy than

he or she would receive in the regular residence halls. "We wanted to build what a student would want to live in," Duggan

said. "It's our understanding that students want privacy."

Although two students would be required to share a bathroom, each student in the suite would have his or her own bedroom. The suites also will come equipped with a full-size refrigerator and microwave. Duggan said because Tech is furnishing appliances, students would not have to move appliances across town or campus.

The concept of having part of the suite furnished appealed to Kristen Hester, a junior broadcast journalism major from Tomball.

"It sounds like a good idea. Having some of the place furnished would

help with the moving process," she said. The first floor of the suite complex would have a Sam's Place for the convenience of the students. Most Sam's Places on campus are about 1,800 square feet, Duggan said. The Sam's Place proposed for the new complex would be 7,000 square feet and contain market dining and a

HOUSE continued on page 2

National News

Extremely dangerous' winter storm hits East with cold wind

By Tania Fuentez/Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A blustery snowstorm combined with painfully cold arctic air descended on the Northeast on Thursday, trapping New York-bound ferries in the ice, grounding hundreds of flights and prompting warnings to bundle up from Maine to Pennsylvania.

Fine, powdery snow fell across much of the region, with the mercury dipping into the single digits in some places, and 20 and 30 degrees below zero in others - a combination that closed schools, disabled car batteries, produced spinouts and fender-benders, and forced even ski resorts to

In Yonkers, N.Y., retired construction worker Thomas Robbins, 66, pulled over to the side of the slippery Bronx River Parkway. "Mostly I'm resting my hands," he said. "I'm gripping the wheel so tight because I'm afraid of skidding."

The bitter cold was expected to continue or worsen into Friday.

"Any exposed skin can freeze in less than 30 minutes," warned Scott Reynolds, a National Weather Service forecaster in New York City.

Some ferries linking New Jersey and New York City were iced in,

RAIN DELAY

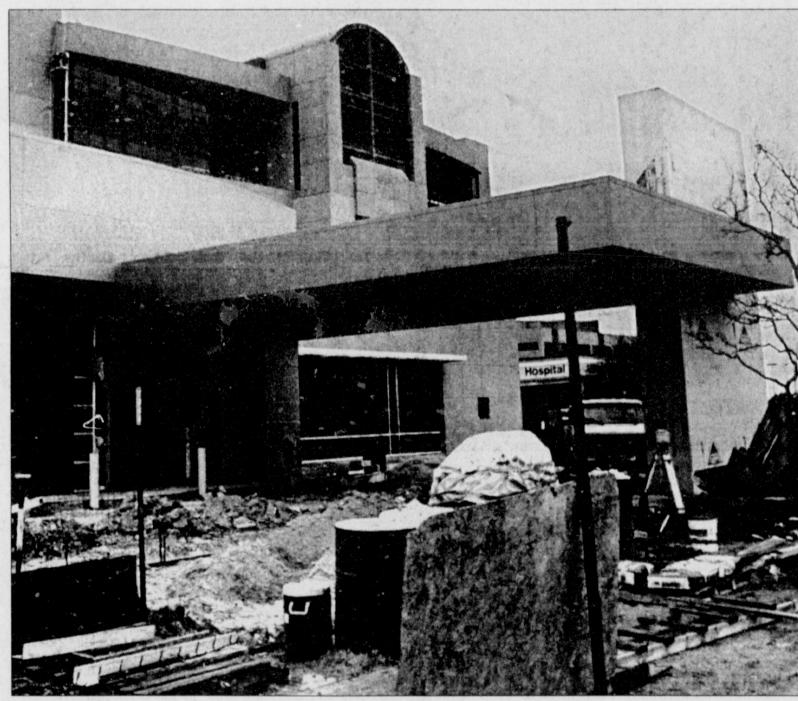
STORM continued on page 3



TRAVIS GLODT/The University Daily IUNIOR ARCHITECTURE MAJORS Corey Champman from Dallas and Jessica Lee from El Paso enjoy coffee while avoiding the rain.



Health Sciences Center in SURGERY



HSC continues growth as many construction projects begin, end

By Beth Aaron/The University Daily

Texas Tech Health Sciences Center is one of the fastest growing medical schools in the state. In keeping with the growth of the HSC student body, HSC is in the process of growing as well.

Elmo Cavin, executive vice president of HSC, said there are three projects going on at Lubbock's campus, including a new wellness center for the school of nursing, costing about \$1.1 million.

"It's a school of nursing project — it's not a huge building," he said. "It will be built on the east side of HSC and will take the place of the current wellness center, which is on leased land."

Planning has begun for the wellness center; funding for the building came from a federal grant and a community development grant, Cavin said. After the new wellness center is built, Tech will own the land on which it stands.

Chris Esperat, associate dean for research and planning in the school of nursing, said the new wellness center would better accommodate the increasing numbers of medically underserved patients in the area.

"We're looking forward to it," she said. "It's a very good thing for us, but even more so for the community."

Land is being cleared for a \$5 million infrastructure project, which includes a new clinical facility similar to the academic building that was officially opened last semester.

Dr. Richard Homan, dean of the school of medicine, said the academic classroom building has added needed extra room for the HSC students, and he said he believes further projects will continue to im-

"The new clinical tower on the northeast side of HSC will provide an excellent new clinical practice cite," he said. "It will be much more conve-

Homan said the new clinical tower would house seven specialties in one location. This, coupled with the re-routing of the road system at HSC, will make access for both patients and students simpler.

Cavin said the infrastructure project should improve the flow of traffic at



ANDREW WEATHERL/The University Daily

TOP: THE HEALTH Sciences Center's future cancer center make its way to completion. ABOVE: An Allen-Butler Construction Company crane places large concrete pipes to be used in the HSC's new parking lot.

HSC, and new parking lots also will be created.

"There are only two ways to get on campus," he said. "When the clinic is built, it will be on top of the current route so the infrastructure project will create a new entrance to the campus and create parking lots for the new

Cavin said he is pleased to see expansion on HSC campus because in

CONSTRUCTION continued on page 2

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HOUSTON (AP) — The future of Big Thicket National Preserve is threatened by increasing exploration for oil and gas and land sales by major timber companies, a conservation organization says.

More than 1.5 million acres of East Texas timber company land surrounding the 15 scattered units of the preserve have been sold off since 2001, opening the way for clear-cutting and development, the National Parks Conservation Association said.

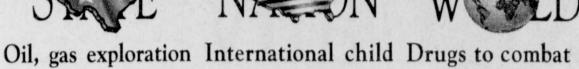
It's the second year in a row that the preserve scattered across Southeast Texas has been on the association's list of endangered parks.

"These units have for years been enveloped by forest land owned by the timber companies, which has acted as a natural buffer," Craig Obey, the association's vice president for government affairs, said Wednesday. "Suddenly, this land is being sold off, and the preserve is on the brink of being ruined."

He said other threats to the Big Thicket include insufficient funding for the national parks system as a whole, and by road projects that will cut through the Texas Corridor Project.

The Rundown





agencies are undermining the battle

against malaria by funding cheaper and

less-effective drugs, contributing to tens

of thousands of deaths of children in

cet medical journal, accused WHO and

the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculo-

sis and Malaria of promoting programs

that use the wrong drugs because they

are a tenth the cost of better medicines.

tions, saying they cannot dictate coun-

tries' drug policies and that many are

them children, die every year from

malaria. One reason propelling the

deadly mosquito-borne epidemic is that

the bug has become immune to the

conventional drugs, chloriquine and

class combination therapy, or ACT, are

considered the best treatment in areas

where resistance has become wide-

Attaran from the London-based Royal

Institute of International Affairs and

colleagues from Africa, Asia and Eu-

rope cited many examples where the

old drugs were funded for countries with

drug-resistant malaria.

In the Lancet, health scholar Amir

Newer drugs, known as artemisinin-

sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine.

changing to the new drugs.

Both agencies defended their posi-

At least 1 million people, most of

The scientists, writing in The Lan-

Africa, researchers asserted.

threatening preserve porn ring shut down malaria questioned NEWARK, N.J. (AP) - Federal LONDON (AP) - The World Health Organization and other aid

officials on Thursday announced they had cracked an international child pornography ring with arrests in New Jersey, France, Spain and Belarus.

The cases stem from an Internet processor of Web site subscriptions in Minsk, Belarus, which collected fees for memberships to child pornography Web sites that brought in millions of dollars, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

An executive with a Florida company has pleaded guilty in the case.

"When we followed the money, we ended up getting both the operators of this outfit ... and meanwhile back here at home we were doing search warrants on people's computers who had subscribed via credit card to these child pornographic Web sites," said Michael Drewniak, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's

About two dozen people in New Jersey and 20 others around the nation have been charged with downloading child pornography, including preserve, including the Interstate 69 Trans a doctor, a minister and a teacher, the

office said.

West Texas Largest Selection of Engagement Rings



MICHAEL **JACKSON** Senior Communication Studies major from Dallas

Depending on what Michael Jackson was going through, I would hear jokes about it. Like the time he held the baby over the rail; I heard about it.

House CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

convenience store.

The complex would be built north of the Carpenter/Wells apartments, near the apartments and the track, Vice President for Student Affairs Michael Shonrock said.

Laura Ailshire, a junior public relations major from Sherman, said she attended another university before she came to Tech that had a similar building on campus.

"It's good because you don't have to wait in line for the showers," she said. "You can take one when you want to."

The department does not have all of the details concerning parkthe building next year. However, cause those involved are already far Duggan said he believes the situation can be resolved.

To pay for the project and make sure students would want to live in the complex, the rates for the suites would be as competitive as possible. Duggan said living on campus does have a convenience cost, but the department would like to provide students with the best place to live with the best possible costs.

Students living on campus would get first pick for the new rooms in the complex, Duggan said. The goal is to fill the new complex with students while opening up rooms in other residence halls for incoming freshmen.

Shonrock said he guarantees the project will be ready for students by

ing for the students who would live in Aug. 1, 2005. Duggan said this is bealong in the process.

The architect and the contractor team have been hired for the construction. Although the contract is in the process of being finalized, Duggan said the firm undertaking the construction guaranteed the project would be on time and within budget.

In future phases, Duggan said the department might consider more apartment style living on campus to support the increase in enrollment expected in the upcoming years.

"The master plan is a road map for the next 10 years," he said.

Groundbreaking at the site will commence during the summer and will be ready for students before classes begin in fall 2005, Shonrock said.

Construction CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

creating better facilities for stu-

dents, HSC can produce greater numbers of qualified nurses and physicians.

"I feel that with growth of the student body, we are positioning ourselves to better meet the needs of the state by graduating health care professionals," he said. "Becare professionals."

Cavin said he believes graduating more men and women working in health care could help to improve the quality of life for the citizens of

"By building a separate resource tower, it will e much more accessible for patient use," he said. "This continues the development for our campus master plan at HSC.'

The master plan for the HSC campus is to divide the space up into quadrants, so the medical campus is more organized, with students in the

cause there is a shortage of health northwest quadrant and patients in the northeast.

> Plans for constructional growth on Tech's medical campus in El Paso are also in the works.

In December, ground was broken on a new research tower linked to the four-year medical school in El Paso, which is expected to be finished in August 2005.

Cavin said the Odessa and Amarillo campuses have not yet seen any tangible sign of change, but longterm plans include creating an undergraduate medical school in Odessa.

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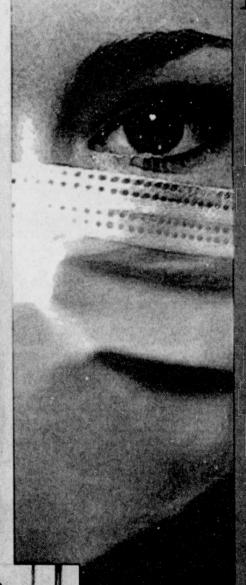
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Area group working to combat nursing shortage

By Katie Hepburn/ The University Daily

The South Plains Nursing Coalition, which includes the School of Nursing at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, is making significant strides to diminish the nation's nursing shortage.

On Dec. 10, Lynda Billings, special project director for Tech's School of Nursing, said the program received the Texas Higher Education Star Award. According to the award's Web site, the award recognizes institutions for superior contributions toward the goal of "Closing the Gaps by 2015," a Texas higher education plan.

The South Plains Nursing Coalition, which, in addition to Tech's School of Nursing, includes the CovSchool of Nursing, South Plains College School of Nursing, University Medical Center and Lubbock Christian University School of Nursing, received the Star Award because of a \$2.9 million grant it received in 2002, Billings said.

Barbara Johnston, associate dean for graduate programs at the School of Nursing, addressed one of the ways the grant has aided in alleviated the nursing shortage in Lubbock.

"Besides just the shortage of practicing nurses, we have a shortage in faculty," Johnston said. "We can't take the students if we don't have the faculty to teach them."

The grant enabled the school to offer scholarships for nurses pursuing their master's degrees in nursing,

master's degrees will go on to teach other nursing students.

After the South Plains Nursing Coalition received the grant in 2002, Tech was able to enroll 25 master's students on the nursing education track. Prior to this time, Johnston said the master's program only had about four students. She said she hopes the increased enrollment will attract more legislative dollars.

And finding more funding is certainly a priority, according to Lynda Billings, who said the current grant expires in June of 2004. In order for the Nursing Coalition to continue filling gaps in the nursing

enant Health System, Covenant Johnston said. These nurses with field, Billings said the Nursing Coalition will have to receive another

> Billings said she has authored a new grant, the Technical Skills Training

> > Grant, currently under review by the Texas Department of Labor. She hopes the results will be released by the end of January or in Feb-

Billings said the new grant will decrease nursing shortages in three ways: money will be available for recruitment of nursing students, there will be money for scholarships, plus there will be money for a new online nursing pro-

"It's in the plans," Billings said of the online program. "We just need to find the funding."

The online program, called the one-year online accelerated BSN for people with prior degrees, will allow those with generic nursing degrees to pursue higher degrees from their homes, she said.

This is important because currently, raising families or living in rural areas hinders many people that might want to pursue higher degrees.

"It's a great program," Billings said of the online program.

Receiving the grant will allow the program to begin soon, rather than having to wait until more funding is

Billings said Tech is a leader statewide in nursing, and the Star Award shows this to the rest of the state.

"I think anytime you win an award, it increases people's awareness that you're doing a good job," said Billings. "I think it will expand recruitment efforts and awareness of

nursing shortages." Billings said that the reason Lubbock has been able to excel in nursing is because of the South Plains

Nursing Coalition. "It's just a great partnership," she

2002, the year the \$2.9 million grant was received, was the first time all the area nursing programs partnered together, and Billings said because of its success, the various programs will continue the coalition.

For more information go to www.thecb.state.tx.us.

Storm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

forcing commuters to hop buses or find other ways to work. Two New York-airports, La Guardia and Newark Liberty, reported more than 200 flights canceled.

New York City reached a high of 14 degrees and got 5 inches of snow before it tapered off to flurries at midmorning. With a wind chill of 20 below zero in the forecast for Thursday night, the city planned to search the streets for homeless people and bring those in danger indoors — against their will, if necessary.

Dennis Schiraldi of New York City, a marketing rep who does business throughout Long Island, said he spent 2 1/2 hours on a trip that usually takes him 75 minutes. "It was a crawl the whole way here," he said.

Philadelphia got 4 inches of snow and reached a high temperature of 22,



the purchase of a lotion Awesome Sun Co. 4009 19th Street 438-5742

but the mercury was expected to drop to zero for the first time in a decade Thurs-

Boston saw only a dusting of snow, but Harwich, Mass., on Cape Cod received 4 inches. The low for Boston

came in at minus 4. In Uxbridge, Mass., near Worcester, school buses had trouble running because the cold caused their diesel fuel to congeal. School officials finally told par-

ents to keep their children home. Maine Gov. John Baldacci declared a civil emergency, waiving certain trucking regulations so that fuel oil delivery drivers could work overtime. The temperature hit 31 below at Ninemile

Police

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

found the working conditions intolerable, Post said.

"They started discussions before all that stuff," she said.

Kevin Lawrence, deputy executive director of TMPA, said he has received e-mails from three Tech

Police Department employees. The employees are encouraged that the department appears to be moving in a new direction with the replacement of Parchman,

TMPA did not conduct the August survey as a direct assault on Parchman, the results proved employees felt the majority of issues stemmed from the chief.

In the survey of 61 current and former Tech Police Department employees, TMPA found a 75 percent disapproval rate Parchman's management style.

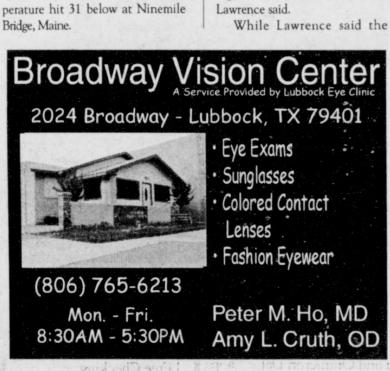
"We don't care how they got to

the solution just as long as they get to a solution," he said. "We just wanted the problem within the police department to be resolved."

Lawrence said while he does not believe the 9 percent salary increase was enough to bring it up to competitive wage, the combination of a salary increase and a change in the administration should make it easier for the department to retain and recruit employees.

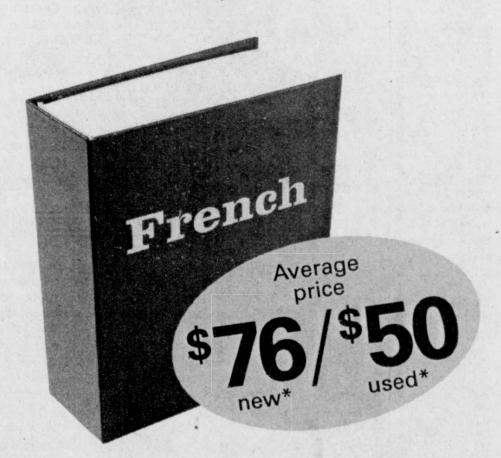
"It should correct the problem," he said. "But only if the new chief is allowed to manage in a fashion appropriate."

www.universitydaily.net

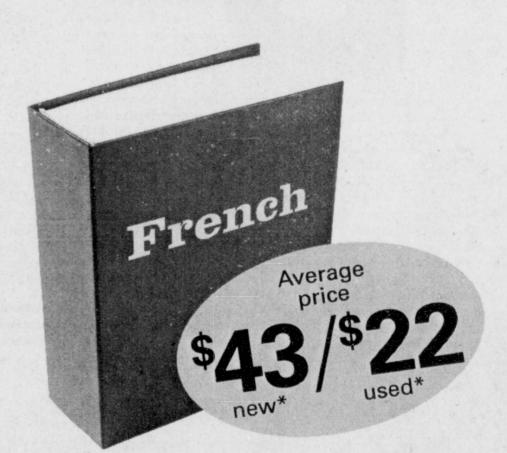




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Guest column

Reasons U.S. should shoot for Mars

a rather startling announcement — he wants to go to Mars. Okay, not him personally, but he does want to make it a goal of NASA to eventually send a manned space vehicle to Mars.

Well, why not? It's not like this is a new idea; people have been writing about going to Mars for a long time now. Granted, most of those people are science fiction writers and they were not writing about reality, nor making any proposal that humans should actually go to Mars, just writing fiction, from their imagination? But isn't that where most good ideas come from, someone's imagination. Before they came about someone had to dream about cars, planes, rockets and even the computer that sits on my desk at home.

These ideas might have been called absurd or a waste of money at first too, but then what is innovation if everybody can conceive of it? So I think the president's idea to go to Mars is ambitious and not completely in touch with the present reality, but one that should be seriously considered and worked toward.

Aside from the rather fanciful reasons I do think this proposal will have rather obvious but important benefits long before we ever reach Mars.

First, this program has the potential to create more jobs for engineers and scientists. NASA will need people to design a new kind of spacecraft, deal with the possible difficulties first of creating an installation on the moon, and then the very real difficulties of landing on Mars. Although NASA already has qualified people to do this, I think this project will be of such a magnitude that it will require more skilled people to work on and analyze the new ideas and problems as they come up.

Another benefit of the space program is

Tednesday President Bush made the development of new technology and products. As Jay Leno pointed out, the space program developed Tang (although I hope we all know it was not mined from the moon). Although this seems rather minor there is other technology that was first developed for the space program. If NASA is preparing for a prolonged stay on the moon or to Mars it will require some new and different technology, and this technology or the by-products could be available to the American consumer for personal use before its use

> My other reasons for supporting landing on Mars as a goal are somewhat farfetched, but I don't think they are completely off base. President Thomas Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark on a trip across the continent, to map

> > it, contact native groups and identify potential benefits. After they came back the American people started moving west, fulfilling their "manifest destiny" to populate the continent from ocean to ocean.

Now, President Bush is proposing a mission to Mars with a very similar goal, a mission of discovery. While I don't think he or

anyone else expects to find Martians to make treaties with, the potential of Mars, and even the moon are unknown. Who knows, maybe they will find raw materials that can be used, or even discover a way for humans to live on these desolate

They aren't Earth, and it may be impossible to make either Mars or the moon habitable, but right now can anyone say for sure that they are not? Maybe they aren't with present technology, but by the time humans get to Mars, maybe we would have developed the technology to live on the moon, or even Mars. After all, humans already live

So, I think we should support the president's idea to go to Mars. Yes, it will be expensive and yes, that money could be used elsewhere, but should we be so caught up in the present reality that we forget about the future?

My last reason is I think the most idealistic of all. This proposal caught my fancy, not only because I am a science fiction fan, but also because I think it gives the nation something to go for. In recent years the United States has lacked a positive goal on which we can all be focused, and I think this program gives us that. It's not to beat the Russians or anybody else, but to go out and learn more about our universe and better humanity in the process.

It gives children something to dream about, and it gives adults something to inspire them, not because each of us will be working on it, but because as a nation it is a worthy goal that can make us proud. Our nation will be working to build hopes and dreams into reality, instead of tearing down.

So I think we should support the president's idea to go to Mars. Yes, it will be expensive, and yes, that money could be used elsewhere, but should we be so caught up in the present reality that we forget about the future?

This program will provide short — and long-term benefits, but it will also inspire the dreamer to once again look toward the sky and wonder what lies beyond.

■ Jennifer Mcintyre is a graduate student from Lubbock studying history. E-mail her at Jennifer.L.Mcintyre@ttu.edu.

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Change only sure bet



This is first in a three week long series on change. Next Friday read a column about changing the world.

From majors to minds, college careers are all about cramming down change. While on the fringe of his college graduation Anthony J. D'Angelo spoke wisdom he had learned during four years into a tape recorder. Months later he wrote a bestselling book called "The College Blue Book" in

He writes, "Become a student of change. is the only thing that will remain constant." We notice this reality every day in our nation, our state, our city, ourselves.

which he teaches students what he wishes

he would have known from day one.

But, how often do we think about it, study it and learn how to deal with it? Most often we just sit back in denial sipping our energybooster wishing things would slow down.

If we could stop change we could find solace and seclusion in our closed-off comfort zones. Life would be simpler and easier to understand — easier to predict. But, unlike what credit reports and risk

assessments would have us believe, life is unpredictable and nothing, except change, is permanent.

Sometimes the top-ranked Lady Raiders will break their winning streak and lose to a team like Iowa State against all odds.

Sometimes a dictator sitting on top of his throne in Iraq is knocked down and ends up living in a hole in the ground.

Sometimes the angelic Suzie Sunday School, who you were married to and stood by you at church for years, has an affair and turns into well, anything but Suzie Sunday School.

Sometimes change is political, and sometimes it is deeply personal. But always, it is the one thing in our lives that is predictable.

During the holidays I talked to a friend from high school that I haven't seen in four years. She was the first to introduce me to (aka peer pressure me into) vodka. I remember her saying, "Oh come on, you won't even taste it with all that coke mixed in. Just try it."

I remember choking on what to me tasted like really, really bad cough medicine.

Now, she said she rarely drinks and never gets drunk, while I've learned to not just endure, but enjoy the taste of vodka.

Most of our conversation was, "Did you hear so and so got married?" or "Can you believe so and so already got divorced and has two kids?"

We talked about one of the smartest guys in the class who once had big-city, big-bucks aspirations becoming a small-town, small-income high school choir director. And we wondered what had changed and we almost spoke as if he had settled. But what people want changes too,



But, unlike what credit reports and risk assessments would have us believe, life is unpredictable and nothing, except change, is permanent.

and with everything lost something is gained; every end is a beginning.

This year someone was absent around our family's tree Christmas morning. My brother got married in August and was spending the holiday with the in-laws. As we watched videos from the '90s of past Christmas's, I missed him.

Then, I looked over at my boyfriend sipping hot chocolate as he talked with my dad and I realized this was also the first year I had brought someone special home for Christmas.

No, people aren't replaced. They could never be. But, even when you lose someone you love through death or betrayal, there is always something else added to your life if you look for it.

Still, we are all scared of any kind of change. So much so, that we hold on to things or people so tightly that we suffocate the very life, or spirit, out of them.

When I think about the angry protestors who were in town last weekend picketing local businesses for being "gay-friendly," I know the root of their hate for gays can be found in fear. As they carry their signs claiming, "God hates fags," and "Thank God for Sept. 11," they really are preaching their fear of progress.

When they talk about "God never changing," they are stuck in a time machine transporting them with a one-way ticket to a time and place when there was limited knowledge about our universe and therefore, God. Many people use religious scriptures as a way to find structure in a world that is constantly adapting.

In order to be a student of change you must begin by studying what happens to those who refuse to embrace it. This new year don't make limiting resolutions. Instead, decide to grow by getting out of your comfort zone and seeing what else is out there. Don't shrink in the presence of change; don't go further into your cocoon. Branch out and become the butterfly you were meant to become. Add color to your life by seeing the blessings change has to offer.

■ Gilbreth is a senior communication studies major from Brownwood and the opinions editor of The UD. E-mail her at Kristen.D.Gilbreth@ttu.edu.

View from another university

Stay out of space; come down to earth

By Antonio Raimundo/Daily Bruin

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES - A friend of mine told me a new joke is going around in Italy about the Bush administration's new outer space plans: "The Americans are sending people to Mars to make sure it's red."

George W. Bush will soon officially announce his vision for NASA, the centerpieces of which will be a human settlement on the moon and a manned mission to Mars. Not many details are available yet, but the White House has indicated that the lunar station may not be finished until the next decade, and U.S. astronauts would not reach the red planet until much later.

Flights to Mars and other planets might potentially be launched from the moon station, which could serve as a testing ground for new technologies and procedures. Should this initiative pass, NASA will begin what could be decades of work and missions.

This is a mistake. Don't misunderstand me I believe space exploration is a noble and worthy endeavor that merits the U.S. government's effort and money. The idea that we could have people go to Mars or live on the moon would surely be something to see.

However, the high cost of this plan makes it a bad idea. The administration is not offering an exact price tag because, they claim, estimating the bill for such a gargantuan undertaking is impossible. Furthermore, it's clear the missions would not be completed until long after Bush, and even the next president, are no longer in charge. It is safe to say, however, that we are talking about a lot of money. It will cost billions.

Thus, the guestion is: Is this the best use of U.S. tax dollars? It seems to be. But are there better, more important uses for that money? Consider, for example, that in the United States right now, according to a 2002 U.S. Census study,

12.1 percent of the population — about 34.6 million people — live below the poverty line. The Census defines poverty as a single, childless individual earning less than \$9,359 per year, or a couple with two kids which collectively earns \$18,244 or less. Consider that between 3.8 and 6.3 million American adults go hungry at some point during the year, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture study. Between 256,000 and 567,000 children don't have enough to at eat some point in the year.

The Food Research and Action Center, an organization working to eliminate hunger in the United States, reports that in 2002, 34.9 million people lived in "food insecure" households. A household is food insecure if it has "limited or uncertain availability of food" or limited ability to "acquire food ... without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing or other unusual coping strategies." And this number is up from 31 million in 1999. In other words, the number of Americans unsure of where their next meal is coming from is

Former U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, along with economists Peter Orszag and Allan Sinai, recently presented a paper to the American Economic Association in which they write that "substantial ongoing deficits may severely and adversely affect expectations and confidence." Rubin also warns of a potential confidence crisis that could tear the American economy to pieces. The catastrophic consequences of such a meltdown lead him to advise an immediate reduction of the budget deficit.

This issue is about priorities. What's more important: Helping those 34.6 million Americans make ends meet, paying for food to insure that 34.9 million don't go hungry, shrinking a dangerous deficit that is undeniably a threat to our economy, or putting a base on the moon?

Man charged in two deaths, police investigating others

McKEESPORT, Pa. (AP) — A man was charged Thursday with killing two brothers during a fight over a half-ounce of crack cocaine, and authorities were investigating whether he also shot his ex-girl-friend and her daughter.

Keith Howard, 38, was charged with homicide in the deaths of Jamar Hooper, 27, and Ondrea Hooper, 23, the county coroner's office said.

The men were found shot late Wednesday in Jamar Hooper's house in suburban Pittsburgh, where Howard had been staying. Earlier that day, the bodies of Jane Moyer, 42, and Kinisha Knight, 15, had been found in their home about a block away.

Police Chief Joseph Pero said police had been called to Moyer's home about a half-dozen times since December for domestic matters involving Howard and Moyer.

He did not know if Howard had yet been charged in any of those in-

Howard, who police described as a crack abuser, was stopped Wednesday in his mother's car. Po-

lice said that a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun was found under the front seat, and that Howard confessed to using it to shoot both brothers after Jamar Hooper accused him of stealing crack.

A witness, unidentified in court records, told police Howard had been in the home smoking crack and watching television while the witness and Jamar Hooper shot pool.

"There were always people going in and out of there at all hours. A lot of traffic," said Harry Sopranuk, who lives two doors down from Jamar Hooper. "The police had to know there was something going on there."

Autopsies were planned for all four victims Thursday afternoon.

Howard was being held at the Allegheny County Jail. It was unclear if he had an attorney.

Phillisa Hooper said her sons had been friends with Howard.

"My boys, they were always together. They were always around each other, just like they were that day," said Hooper, who was making plans Thursday for their funerals.

Bush's 2005 budget to include tax breaks, more for defense and domestic security

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush will propose an election-year budget Feb. 2 in a world starkly changed since his first White House bid, with recession, tax cuts, war and terrorism having transformed soaring surpluses into huge deficits.

Bush's \$2.3 trillion budget for 2005 will woo voters by proposing to make already enacted tax cuts permanent, and probably seeking tax breaks for savers and for low-income people's health costs. It will also call for more money for defense, domestic security, education, space and the global fight against AIDS, according to administration officials, congressional aides and lobbyists.

His overall proposals, however, are sure to be less ambitious than those in his first budget in 2001, when he and others envisioned \$5.6 trillion in surpluses over the next decade.

Bush used that blueprint to seek 10-year tax reductions totaling \$1.6 trillion; \$2.6 trillion for reducing the national debt and shoring up Social Security; and \$153 billion for expanding Medicare.

How things have changed. The most recent estimates from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office are for 10-year deficits totaling \$1.4 trillion. Private groups say the shortfalls could exceed \$5 trillion if fresh tax cuts and spending increases are enacted, as many analysts expect.

"It really is night and day, or day and night really. It's an amazing transformation" of the budget landscape, said Robert Reischauer, president of the Urban Institute and former CBO director.

The administration says tax cuts it has pushed through Congress will spur the economy and help make deficits smaller, along with proposed spending restraints. Even so, the budget's deterioration is certain to become a battleground in this year's presidential election.

"He inherited one of the greatest gifts any president in American history could inherit, surpluses of unprecedented amounts," said Thomas Kahn, Democratic chief of staff of the House Budget Committee. "And within a couple of years, thanks most significantly to his large tax cuts, we're now facing the biggest deficits in American history."

"The president inherited a very weak economy and the beginning stages of a collapse of the stock market" and corporate scandals, said White House budget office spokesman Chad Kolton. "What he has done is come in with a bold plan to deal with that situation."

Bush's 2000 bid for the White House came at a time of unprecedented federal black ink. The government amassed a \$124 billion surplus in 1999 and would run a record \$236 billion surplus in 2000.

The big budget debate that year was over what to do with the extra cash. Both parties favored using much of it to reduce the national debt, but their other priorities differed. Bush's plan featured a large tax cut, while Democratic Vice President Al Gore proposed higher spending and deeper reductions in the national debt.

Today, the surpluses are gone and the fight over how to use them is over. Last year saw a \$374 billion shortfall, the largest ever in dollar terms, and analysts expect a deficit approaching \$500 billion this year and more red ink to follow.

Bush wrote his first budget at a time when the economy still seemed to be booming, though economists have since concluded that it had already begun to stall. Today, the economy is recovering from a recession, a stock market collapse and a parade of job losses.

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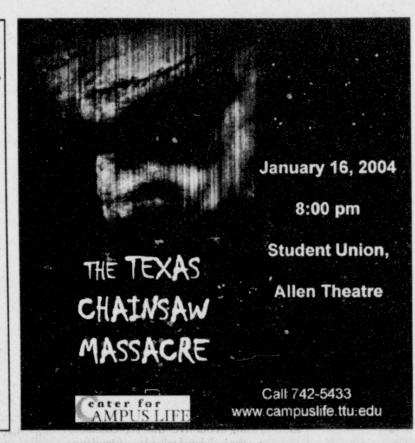
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'Big Fish' a fantastic catch

Im Burton's "Big Fish" is a film that makes you fall in love with watching movies all over again. Burton, a master of fantasy film, has grasped two of the main things we love about film: beautiful imagery and fantastic stories.

The term "fantasy film" brings certain connotations along with it, whether it be magic, fairies, witches, goblins or the like.

While most movies are fantasy to an extent, a fantasy film gives the audience special permission to disregard reason and logic.

Suddenly, the impossible is possible and the world looks brighter and sweeter in every frame. In short, fantasy films take what we love about films as a whole to the nth degree.

"Big Fish" is a fantasy film of a different sort. While it tells wildly imaginative fantasy stories, we are never given permission to turn loose completely of reality. It shows us how fantasy can be damaging and how it can have the power to mend.

"Big Fish" centers on Edward Bloom, an old man (Albert Finney is marvelous) who has lived his life

He has wondrous stories to tell about his life involving his adventures with giants, circus freaks, hidden cities and falling in love with or fish stories, possibly) are magical and admittedly, a little far ries" are true.



Burton's film is well paced and makes us feel like a child that has been tucked into bed just waiting to hear the next story. Visually, the film gives "Return of the King" a challenge in the areas of special effects and cinematography.

fetched. His son, Will (Billy Crudup from "Almost Famous"), ues to worsen. has been told these stories repeatedly for his entire life.

He has grown estranged from his his bride. These stories (tall tales father during the years because the old man insists that these "fish sto-

ther is dying and decides to try to is full of bright colors, dazzling scenget to the bottom of this mystery ery and marvelous visuals. once and for all. He still has the feeling he does not know who his father really is.

Throughout the film, old Edries to those who will listen. It seems like Edward's life story, but only the magical highlights. In these stories tree branches are homicidal, time can come to a complete stop, and the future can be seen through the eye of a witch.

Young Edward is played with delightful fervor by Ewan McGregor, whose ear-to-ear smile can nearly serve as a metaphor for the entire film. McGregor's Edward is a wideeyed young man who is never surprised by the supernatural. That is, until he first sees Sandra (Alison Lohman). The story of how Edward courts Sandra may be my personal favorite in the bunch.

Though much of the film focuses on the telling of these stories, there are breaks in between them that keep us anchored in reality as Will continues to investigate his father's stories and Edward's health contin-

Burton's film is well paced and makes us feel like a child that has been tucked into bed just waiting to hear the next story. Visually, the film gives "Return of the King" a challenge in the areas of special ef-

SATURDAY

Will soon receives news his fa- fects and cinematography. The film

"Big Fish" is no doubt the most beautiful film of the year, but it may also be the most emotionally involving. As we see these stories play ward recounts some of his best sto- out, we develop a connection with the old Edward (largely thanks to Finney's fine performance) and we desperately want to believe that these stories are true.

Burton has proved that he is every bit the equal storyteller as the old Edward character. We sense that he is reveling in his fantasy world and dares us to take the plunge with him in "Big Fish."

Take the bait. It's one of the best films of the year.

Eppler's Rating: ***

*** - Flawless *** - Excellent *** - Good * - Mediocre * - Awful

Eppler is The UD's movie and film review critic. E-mail questions and comments to James.D.Eppler @ttu.edu

JANUARY 17

Kutcher promises he's not 'punking' MTV fans

I've become the

- ASHTON KUTCHER

Actor

promises that his MTV practical joke show is really and truly fin- Frankie Muniz). ished.

public skepticism, Kutcher says of "Punk'd" can get their fix Tues-

he's not playing one of his signature pranks on fans. He really is boy who cried wolf. all punk'd out.

"I've become the boy who cried wolf," he ac-

Press while offering some assurance that his decision to end the show after two seasons isn't just another had been seized by the Internal

"Let's put it this way," he said. "I'm getting ready to start shooting two movies, I'm still working on 'That '70s Show,' I'm producing two other shows for MTV and creating a one-hour drama pilot for Fox ... I don't have the time."

That won't leave much time for making monkeys out of his celebrity pals with tricks such as moving fake hillbilly relatives onto the grounds of their mansions (like he did to "Newlyweds" stars Nick Lachey and Jessica Simpson, who

SUNDAY

LOS ANGELES (AP) - helped play the joke on her hus-Ashton Kutcher knows he's the band) or stealing a \$200,000-plus boy who cried "Punk'd!" - but he automobile (the fate that befell "Malcolm in the Middle" star

Fans who feel they will be un-Despite the understandable able to survive without a fresh dose

> day when the first season of the prank show comes out on DVD.

The twodisc set includes previously unseen footage and

knowledged to the Associated extended scenes of pranks on stars including Justin Timberlake, who thought his home and possessions Revenue Service.

Kutcher said he started the show by springing jokes on pals he knew would be willing to let him highlight their gullibility on national television. Then it became a status symbol for young stars to be the victim of a "Punk'd" gag.

"People were really skeptical about this show in its first season," Kutcher said: "What I always said was, 'You don't look like a fool, you look like a human being.' It's humanizing. It brings you back down to a relatable level."

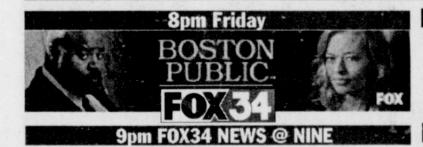
JANUARY 18

LUI	DAY	JANUARY 16				
STAT. CHAN. AFFIL.	KTXT & PBS	KCBD	KLBK CBS	KUPT 7 UPN	KAMC = ABC	C FOX
CITY	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubboc
7:00	Body Elec. Caillou	Today Show	News "	K. Copeland Paid Program	Good Morning	Paid Program Spin City
8:00	Berenstain Barney	:	Early Show	Paid Program Paid Program	America	Grace/Fire Roseanne
9:00	Dragon Tales Arthur	Today Show	Paid Program Paid Program	Judge Mathis	Regis & Kelly	Family Feud Family Feud
10:00	Sesame Street	Martha Stewart	Price is Right	Hatchett Hatchett	View "	Dharma/Greg Dharma/Greg
11:00	Mr. Rogers Teletubbles	Hlywd Square Jeopardy	Young & the Restless	Paid Program Paid Program	Home Impr. Paid Program	Access Extra
12:00	Workshop Quilt Day	News Days of Our	News Beautiful	Jerry Springer	All My Children	Good Day Live
1:00	Sew Nancy Dragon Tales	Lives Passions	As the World Turns	Paid Program Paid Program	One Life to Live	People's Court
2:00	Zoom Betw./Lions	In/Edition	Guiding Light	Street Smart Street Smart	General Hospital	Divorce Court
3:00	R. Rainbow Cyberchase	Oprah Winfrey	Maury Povich	Ryan Seacrest	Wayne Brady	Joe Brown Joe Brown
4:00	Clifford Arthur	Dr. Phil	Judge Judy Judge Judy	Sabrina That 70's	Montel Willaims	News & More
5:00	Liberty Nightly Bus.	News NBC News	News CBS News	Pyramid Pyramid	News ABC News	That 70's Simpsons
6:00	Newshour	News W/Fortune	News Millionaire	Access Extra	News E.T.	Friends Raymond
7:00	Wash. Week Wall St. Wk.	Dateline	Joan of Arcadia	UPN Movie: "Gossip"	G. Lopez *PG Marry/Kelly	Out. Crazy Video
8:00	Now w/Bill Moyers	Ed *PG	JAG *PG	:	Hope/Faith Life/Bonnle	Boston Public
9:00	Perilous Fight	Third Watch *TV14	Handler *PG	King/Hill King/Hill	20/20	News
10:00	Nightly Bus.	News . Tonight Show	News David	Friends Magnum P.I.	News Nightline	Seinfeld Frasier
11:00		Conen	Letterman Craig	Blind Date	MASH E.T.	Raymond Shoot Me
12:00		O'Brien Last Call	Kilborn Paid Program	Ext. Dating Paid Program	Jimmy Kimmel	HS Extra

STAT.	KTXT	KCBD	KLBK	KUPT 7	KAMC	KJTV
AFFIL.	PBS	NBC	CBS	UPN	ABC	FOX
CITY	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock Bob Vila	Lubbock Lilo/Stitch	Lubbock
7:00		Today	Saturday	Old House	Recess	TMNT
8:00	Zoboomafoo Jakers!		Dora Blue's Clues	Wild/Animals Anim. Rescue	Fillmore Proud Family	Kirby Sonic X
9:00	Jay Jay G. Shrinks	M. Stewart Kenny Shark	Chalkzone Little Bill	Wild Moments Jack Hanna	L. McGuire Raven	Shaman King TMNT
10:00	Dragonfly Find	Tutenstein Trade	Paid Program Home Show	Pollard Saturn Show	Kim Possible Ninja Storm	Ult. Muscle Sonic X
11:00	Rick Steves V. Garden	Endurance Strange	Paid Programs	Afterburn	Ninja Storm Inside Stuff	UTH Seturn
12:00	Allen Smith Old House	Scout Paid Program	-	Movie: 'Child's	Basketball: Missouri @	Paid Program Big 12 BKB:
1:00	NY Workshop Hometime	Paid Program TBA	Police &	Play'	Oklahoma "	Nebraska 0 Texas
2:00	Woodwright Antiques		Fire Game Basketball:	Paid Program Pyramid	Basketball: Minnesota	
3:00	Roadshow Motorweek	Champions Tour	Teams TBA	Livin' Large	Houston "	Big 12 BKB: lowa St. @
4:00	Fine Art One Plate	Vans #1	*	Hot Ticket Ebert/Roeper	" "	Colorado
5:00	Julia/Jacque Handyma'am	Hlywd NBC News	Paid Program CBS News	Access Hollywood	Pollard Ford ABC News	Becker Shoot Me
6:00	Viewpoint Windmill	News W/Fortune	Love Lucy	Big 12 Basketball:	News MASH	Friends Raymond
7:00	Lawrence Welk	NBC Movie: "As Good	Star Search	Okla. St. Ø Kansas	West Texas Rehab '04	Cops Cops *PG
8:00	Appearances Being Served	As it Gets"	Hack "	Extra	Telethon	AMW
9:00	1 - 1 - 01	:	District *PG	X-Files	:	News Sports OT
10:00		News Saturday	News I Love Lucy	Mutant X	:	Seinfeld MAD TV
11:00		Night Live "TV14	I Love Lucy Paid Program	Unexplained Mysteries	4	Access
12:00		Practice	3rd Rock Paid Program	Outer Limits	E.T.	Hollywood She Spies

CHAN. AFFIL. CITY	PBS Lubbock	NBC Lubbock	CBS Lubbock	7 UPN Lubbock	ABC Lubbock	E FOX
7:00		Sunday Today	Thornberrys Hey Arnold	Paid Program Awaken'g	Paid Program In Search	Kids News HS Xtra
8:00	Kids Bookworm	TX Reporter 1st	CBS Sunday Morning	TBA Cowboy	Feed/Child Prophecy	K. Copeland Eddle Trice
9:00		Methodist Meet the	News Face/Nation	HS Extra Buck McNeely	In Touch	FOX News Sunday
10:00	Nature "	Press What's On	Hour of Power	Beastmaster	Si Se Puede This Week	South Crest Baptist
11 30	Latinos Let's Talk	Que Pasa Lub. Schools	Paid Program Paid Program	Extra	Basketball:	Paid Program Paid Program
12:00	Small Bus. Wall Street	Paid Programs	Paid Program Paid Program	Movie: 'Tank Girl'	San Antonio @	Paid Program She Spies
1:00	Rel/Ethics McLaughlin		Pre-Game		Boston "	Andromeda
2:00	Manor House	:	NFL AFC Championshi	Movie: 'Rich	Speed Skat'g	Movie: 'Get
3:00	Manor House	:	P	Man's Wife'	Movie	On The Bus'
4:00	Globe Trekker	:	:	Stargate		
5:00	TX Talks Texas Parks	Paid Program NBC News	CBS News	Mutant X	ABC News Coach Bob	Pre-Game NFC
6:00	Lawrence Welk	Dateline "	60 Minutes	Maximum Exposure	Home Videos	Champ'ship
7:00	American Family	Anierican Dreams *PG	Cold Case	Movie: 'Welcome	10-8 *PG	
8:00	Nature	Law & Order: Cl	CBS Movie: "Double	To Sarajevo'	Alias *TV14	Post Game
9:00	Masterpiece Theatre	Law & Order: CI	Jeopardy"	Enterprise	Practice *PG	News Marsha Sharp
10 :00	DNA	News In/Edition	News	Blind Date Mike Leach	News Coach Bob	Seinfeld Shoot Me
11:00	Appearance Being Served	Providence "	Movie: 'For Us, The	Blind Date Paid Program	E.T. Weekend	That 70's Paid Program
12:00		Practice "	Living'	Maximum Exposure	Resurrection Blvd.	G. Michaels Paid Program

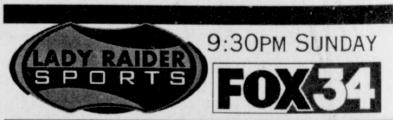
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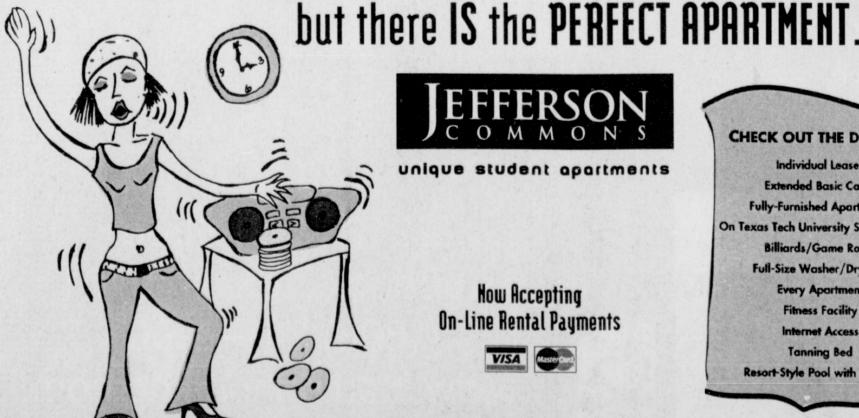
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ordinary people FAMOUS NAMES

EXAS TECH UNIVERSITY Michael Jackson 12345678902468

By Nikki Siegrist/The University Daily

Steve Martin was active while he vas an undergraduate at Texas Tech. He sang in the choir with fellow student James Brown and enjoyed his time at Tech so much he works for the university today.

Martin, the program coordinator, not the actor, said he has heard the jokes all his life.

"At the beginning of his career, Martin called himself a wild and crazy guy," he said. "People would ask me if was wild and crazy when I was young."

But the number of people who comment on his name has decreased as the actor has become less popular.

"I don't quite have as many people ask as I once did," he said. It's not overly frequent anymore."

Martin said he has heard the comments since junior high and usually knows what people are going to say before they finish. When he was younger, it was irritating, but now he said he enjoys the jokes and laughs with others.

"I've heard the comments for so many years," he said. "There are certainly worse names I could have. When I was young, I found it annoying, but I just had to get a better sense of humor about it.'

His credit cards read "Steven Martin," but it does not throw off many cashiers or clerks. He said he

University Daily

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(806)742-3388 Subscription Rates: \$120 annually;

single issues: 25 cents. Postmaster: send address changes to The University Daily, Box 43081 Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas still gets comments and questions.

Martin said he enjoys watching his namesake's movies but hasn't seen one since 2001's "Novocaine."

Martin is not the only famous name walking on campus. Sara McLaughlin is a lecturer in the English department. This woman is not a singer, but

she said her name is pronounced much like the singer's, and students wherever she goes laugh and joke with her about it.

About four years ago was the first time any of her students asked her about her name. Before then, McLaughlin made a name for herself

writing for the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, but now, Sarah McLachlan has made McLaughlin's name popular around town again.

"In the East, people pronounce it just like the singer," she said. "A lot of the students laugh about it."

Once she said she called the bank asking to order some more checks, and when she told the teller her name, he started laughing and said, 'Yeah, right.' When she read her bank account number to him, he realized his mistake and apologized

The first time McLaughlin learned of her Hollywood double, a student heard McLachlan on the radio and came to class the next morning and jokingly asked her about it.

"I think it's funny," she said, and laughed. "People started seeing my name again, but it wasn't me."

People also hear and read Michael lackson's name frequently in the me-

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dia, but not the Jackson who attends

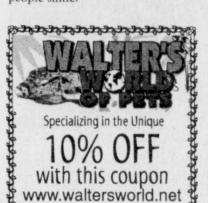
Red Raiders talk about going through daily life with a notorious name.

Jackson, a senior communication studies major from Dallas, said whenever the famous singer does something to stir the media, he hears about

"Depending on what Michael Jackson was going through, I would hear jokes about it," he said. "Like the time he held the baby over the rail; I heard about it."

Jackson said his parents named him without realizing how popular the name would become. Having such a well-known name caused him to be reserved as a child.

"I grew up really shy just because of that," Jackson said. "Now I'm past that, and I laugh. It makes people smile."



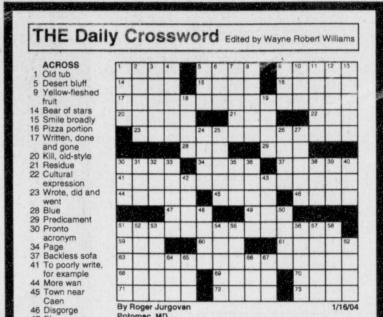


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He said his name gave him many opportunities he might not have had otherwise.

People remember him more readily, and he once got to go backstage for an Ozzy Osbourne concert when he showed the bouncer his

He said he aspires to be a disc jockey and would like to be called "Vanilla thriller," paying homage to his famous forbearer.



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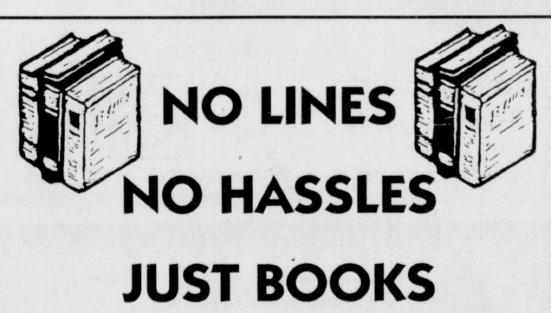
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Big XII Preview BIG 12 CONFERENCE



Lady Raiders, Red Raiders have eyes locked on conference title

By Matt Muench/The University Daily

ob Knight is not ready to say it. His old nemesis is. Enter long-time Big Ten coaching foe Eddie

"I think this could be Bob's best team since he has been here," said Sutton, who now coaches Oklahoma State. "They are one of the best teams in our conference. And they have a go to guy in Andre Emmett who they screen for a lot to get him open shots."

Sutton is no idiot. He is one of the winningest coaches in the land. Knight is still waiting to believe it.

"To be good as we can be, we have a long ways to go," Knight said. "It's such a difficult road and there are so many turns. We just have to keep going and going."

Can they continue to go? Tech's first Big 12 game this season showed implications that they can.

They beat Big 12 power Oklahoma State by 21 points Saturday led by Emmett's 32 points.

His performance helped him earn Big 12 Player of the Week for the third consecutive week.

That had never happened since the Big 12 Conference's inception seven years ago.

"Emmett is certainly the best player in our conference,"

His numbers prove it. He leads the Big 12 in scoring for the third consecutive season with 22.2 points per game. When asked if he was the best player in the Big 12 and told of Sutton's comments, Emmett smiled.

"Dang, I like coach Sutton," he said.

And Tech fans like Emmett. The Raiders are in position to contend for the Big 12 title according to national analysts. Tech freshman Jarrius Jackson agrees.

"We have a legitimate shot at winning the conference," he said. "We are as good as anybody."

Tech center Robert Tomaszek has been in this position before. He realizes the difficulty of playing in a league full of talent. He witnessed it last year when Tech finished 6-10 in conference play and reached the semifinals of the Big 12 Tournament.

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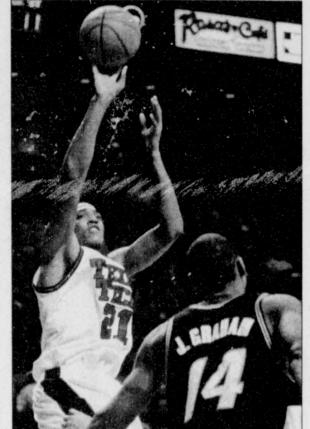
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JAIME TOMÁS AGUILAR/The University Daily

TEXAS TECH FORWARD Devonne Giles releases a jump shot during Tech's victory against Oklahoma State.

"I'm not sure what we can do in this league," he said. "But we know it is tough. We just have to focus on one game at a time.'

Kansas and Missouri are the two preseason favorites. But neither team has blown anyone's mind away. Kansas coach Bill Self said Tech is one of the four best teams in the country.

"I think they are playing as well as anybody," he told ESPN.com. "They are very athletic. They had a couple of games where they didn't play well, but other

> than that they are rock solid. I think they're going to do a lot of great things." But can they win it.

"I certainly think so," he said. "They are one of the premiere teams

in this league." Tech's next Big 12 game is Saturday at 8 p.m. against Baylor in Waco.

The Raiders' home games this year include Oklahoma, Texas, Baylor, Texas A&M, Missouri, Iowa State and Kansas State. They face Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas, Texas A&M, Colo

By David Wiechmann/The University Daily

exas Tech center Jolee Ayers-Curry has deemed it, "the war that is the Big 12 Conference."

And for good reason. The conference that is argued by many to be the best conference in the nation for women's basketball has six teams ranked in the Associated Press Top 25.

Texas Tech head coach Marsha Sharp won't argue the conference being the best. She said she knows her Lady Raiders have a great challenge set in front of them, and they are willing and ready to meet it head on in

their quest for their first conference title since 1999. "When you consider the caliber opponents we're going to have night in and night out in the Big 12, I think it is a continual process of finding everything you can to get better at and making sure you try to go to your strengths and cover your weaknesses as much as possible and continue to make progress in every area," she

The caliber teams Sharp speaks of are: Texas (3), Kansas State, (10), Colorado (15), Oklahoma (15) and Baylor (24).

Examining Tech's schedule and seeing how many times the Lady Raiders have to play top teams could shine some light on how difficult it will be to get through the 16-game schedule of conference play.

"I think we know that most every team in the Big 12 Conference will be better than most every body we play in non-conference, and that's gonna be the case all the time," Sharp said. "We play so many teams that

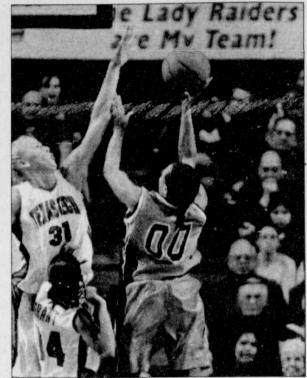
are ranked in the conference, and when you play someone who might not be ranked at that moment you go to their place to play you know what kind of a challenge you have."

A closer look at Tech's schedule shows the gamut the Lady Raiders will have to run through mid-way into conference play as Texas and Oklahoma are both in February twice, along with a road game to Baylor.

"We'll know a lot more about ourselves when we get through Big 12 play," Sharp said. "January is brutal, but February is the killer."

ing into conference play undefeated, Tech will be high on people's list to knock off. The Lady Raiders have already fallen victim to Iowa State, but are hoping to not have another slip up during the season. Sharp's players know the importance of playing well in the Big 12 and setting the stage for the NCAA Tournament, even the freshmen know it will be hard to make a push for a Big 12 Championship.

"I'm sure it's gonna be difficult because there's six any other, and that is Big 12 Conference play. teams in the Top 25," said freshman guard Brooke Baughman. "Every night's gonna be tough and we're thing that's driving this team," she said.



IAIME TOMAS AGUILAR/The University Daily LADY RAIDER CENTER Cisti Greenwalt jumps for a block attempt on Oklahoma State guard Nina Stones' shot during Tech's victory against the Cowgirls.

not gonna have any easy nights. I think that will make us

stronger in the long run." Getting to the Promised Land in the Big 12 is going to

take two things: focus and determination. Senior guard Jia Perkins said if she and her teammates cannot keep their

heads clear during the season, Tech will not be able to claim the Big 12 as theirs. And responded with one word for what it will take to win - focus. "I think we just have to focus every

game and not look over anybody and play hard every game, and that's about it," she said. Fellow senior Casey Jackson had a

one-word answer as well: determination. "In the Big 12 Conference it comes down to who wants With such a strong conference and high hopes comit the most, and your body gets tired, of course, by the end of it all," she said. "It's just a matter of who wants it the

> most and lay it on the line to get it." No one on the roster has won a Big 12 Championship or the Big 12 Tournament, and all said in the preseason it was a goal of theirs this season. They do not want to leave

> empty handed, and their quest has begun. The team may have some higher goals, but Sharp said there is one thing that keeps this team going more than

"I think the urgency of playing well in the Big 12 is the

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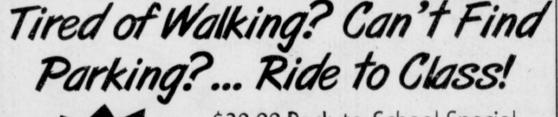
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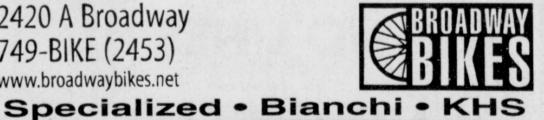


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Cowboys in contention, Cowgirls' Skibbe dominating Oklahoma basketball squads

The Oklahoma State Cowboys enter conference play under the guidance of coach Eddie Sutton, the fourth winningest coach in NCAA Division I history.

The Cowboys are 11-2 and have posted a 1-1 conference record with a 83-62 loss to No. 22 Texas Tech and a 77-56 upset of No. 11 Oklahoma.

Point guard John Lucas transferred from Baylor to run the floor and is averaging 10.8 points and 5.3 assists per contest. He had a game high 22 points in the win against Okla-

7.6 rebounds per game and

has a total of 19 steals this

season. Senior guard Tim

Ellis is adding 13.2 points

27th consecutive game to

intrastate rival Kansas 73-

hattan, Kan.

per game and has 34 assists.

Kansas State lost its

consecutive rivalry game

The Kansas State Wildcats are off to a better start from

Leading in scoring for the Wildcats is junior forward

last season's 13-17 overall record with a 8-3 mark thus far.

Jeremiah Massey, who is averaging 14.5 points per game,

67 Wednesday to begin conference play and will play

Oklahoma State at 6 p.m. Saturday in Manhattan, Kan.

ers from last season and are 11-2 overall, 2-0 in Big 12 play.

the year last season and this year is averaging 15.8 points

per game, 6.8 rebounds per game and has 18 blocks.

Women

The Kansas State Wildcats did not lose any of its play-

Senior center Nicole Ohlde was the Big 12 player of

Kansas State defeated Oklahoma State 76-44 Tuesday.

The team will face Kansas at 2 p.m. Saturday in Man-

in scoring, averaging 15.6 points and tan, Kan. to face Kansas State at 6 4.7 boards per

Forward Ivan McFarlin is contributing 12.1 points and 7.3 rebounds. Forward Joey Graham also averages 10.8

points to give the Cowboys four players averaging double figures in scor-

The Cowboys will look for the team's second consecutive confer-

Guard Tony Allen leads the team ence win as they travel to Manhat-

p.m. Saturday. Women

Second year coach Julie Goodenough began the Cowgirls' season with eight new faces; five junior

college transfers and three freshmen. So far the team is 6-8 with a 1-2 record in Big 12 play after being dominated by Texas Tech and Kansas State and squeaking out a two-point victory over Texas A&M.

Aside from the fresh faces Goodenough has her star back in Trisha Skibbe, an All-Big 12 performer a season ago.

The 6'2" senior center is averaging 22.2 points and 8.8 rebounds

Guard Nina Stone, a junior college transfer, is another scoring threat. She averages 10.9 points and 4.5 rebounds per game.

The new look Cowgirls travel to Norman to face their intrastate rival Oklahoma Saturday for a 6 p.m. tip-off.

Women

Gary Blair, the Texas A&M women's bas-

The tradition continues this season as the Sooners are off to a 10-2 start with the squad's losses to No. 1 ranked Connecticut and Big 12 counterpart Oklahoma State. The Sooners were

UConn 86-59 Sunday and followed Cowboys Wednesday.

scoring ranks for the Sooners. Freshman guard Drew Lavender is averaging 12.5 points per game while sophomore guard De'Angelo Alexander is close behind with 12.4 points per game. With 50 assists and 18 steals, Lav-

The Sooners will play the Mis-Norman, Okla.

both feature two loss records

Oklahoma has had a winning basketball team ever since head coach Kelvin Sampson took over the reigns of the Sooners 10 years ago. Since then, he has led the team to nine consecutive NCAA tourna-

ments appearances including last year's Elite Eight finish.

thwarted by

that up with a 77-56 loss to the Two underclassmen lead the

ender has shown an aggressive streak as well as an ability to get the ball in the hands of his teammates. Alexander and senior center Jabahri Brown lead the team in rebounds, with 5.6 rebounds per game and 5.9 rebounds per game, respectively.

souri Tigers at noon Saturday in

After tearing her ACL in the first game of the season last year, senior forward Caton Hill was given a medical redshirt and able to return this season.

Since her return, Hill has become the second

highest scorer on the team and has added pressure to the Sooners' opponents.

Oklahoma is 12-2 overall, and 2-1 in the Big 12. The team's conference loss came Saturday against Texas, 63-58. On Jan. 7, the Sooners defeated Nebraska 70-51 and beat Texas A&M 65-56 Wednes-

day in an overtime victory. Senior guard Maria Villarroel leads

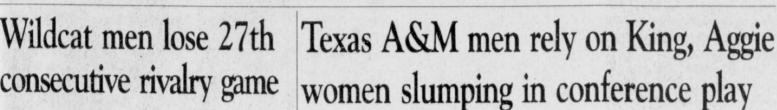
the team in average points with 15.2 per game and has a .572 shooting per-Hill has had 19 steals, 24 assists and

averages 14.2 points per game to put her second in scoring behind Villarroel.

Junior guard Dionnah Jackson is the leader in assists with 66 this season and has had a strong defensive stand with 34 blocks. The Sooners have outscored their opponents by an average of 20

Oklahoma will play Oklahoma State at 6 p.m. Saturday in Norman,

The Sooners will face Texas Tech at 7 p.m. Deb. 10 in Lubbock and will play the Lady Raiders again at 7 p.m. Feb. 25 in Norman, Okla.



Texas A&M has started out sluggish this season, suffering five losses in only 12 games,

including its first game in Big 12 play against Missouri, which the Aggies lost 82-77.

The top scorer for the Aggies is not one of the eight seniors on the cam, but is considered a leader in several aspects of the game. Sophomore forward Antoine Wright is averaging 15 points per game and had a season

high of 32 against Grambling. Senior forward Jesse King falls right behind Wright with 13 points per game and 5.9 rebounds per game.

Senior guard Kevin Turner is averaging 8 points a game, but is over .500 in threepointers and leads the team in 3-point goals.

The Aggies return to action against the No. 14 Kansas Jayhawks at 3 p.m. Saturday

ketball team's new head coach, boasts an impressive win-loss record in his 18-year career of coaching, 408-163. But in his first year in College Station, the former Arkansas coach Blair has already had trouble retaining that record, going 7-7 and 0-3 in the Big

in College Station.

The Aggies still outscore their opponents by an average of 5.5 points per game. Senior guard Toccara Williams is the leading scorer, averaging 13.5 points per game. Janae Derrick, a senior forward is averaging about 6.9 rebounds per game. The Aggies lost to the No. 15 Sooners,

65-56 in overtime Wednesday. Texas A&M will play Nebraska at 7:05 p.m. Saturday in Lincoln, Neb.



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Kansas men overcome obstacles; Jayhawk women 1-2 in Big 12

season with some familiar faces pushing the ball up the court, but with an points in the nine games he has played. unfamiliar face blowing a whistle.

Former Illinois coach Bill Self is in his first season as Jayhawk head coach after former Kansas coach Roy Williams left for North Carolina last year.

With the coaching Jayhawks are 9-2 and are ranked No. 14 in the nation.

Kansas is led by forward Keith Langford, who is averaging 16.7 points per game and four rebounds per game. Forward Wayne Simien, who was plagued points and nine rebounds per game.

Jayhawks' backcourt with 10.7 points day to earn the Jayhawks 27th consecu-

and 5.5 assists per game. Freshman tive defeat of its intrastate rival. The Kansas Jayhawks began this guard J.R. Giddens has made an immediate impact with an average of 10.6

> The team suffered a loss December 12 when Self suspended forward Jeff Graves indefinitely for a lack of respect for the basketball pro-

gram. Graves has since returned and had 11 points and nine rebounds against Kansas State Wednesday. Kansas has also had to endure an

injury to guard Michael Lee this season. Lee also returned to the lineup against the Wildcats and scored a career high 16 points. The Jayhawks defeated Colorado

by injuries last season, is averaging 16 77-62 in Boulder Saturday for the team's first conference victory and then Guard Aaron Miles leads the defeated Kansas State 73-67 Wednes-

Kansas will play Texas A&M at 3 p.m. Saturday in College Station.

Women The Kansas women's basketball team is 8-5 this season in head coach Marian

Henderson 31st season leading the team. Forward Crystal Kemp, who is aver-

aging 13.8 points and 4.8 rebounds a game, leads the Jayhawks. Kansas has also been helped by the contributions of guard Aquanita Burrass and center Tamara Ransburg. Both players are averaging more than nine points and five rebounds The Jayhawks are 1-2 in conference

play after games against Texas, Missouri and Colorado. Kansas began its conference schedule with a 73-55 loss to the Longhorns, but rebounded with 55-52 win against Missouri. The Jayhawks then followed up with a 59-49 loss to Colo-

Kansas will play Kansas State at 2 p.m. Saturday in Manhattan, Kan.

Baylor men perform despite tragedy; women upset Texas

This year can be described as a rebuilding year for the Baylor Bears.

After a summer that saw a player murdered, a coach encouraging players to lie, severe NCAA violations and the resignation

of head coach Dave Bliss and the program's athletic director, the Bears are attempting to move on. Players were given per-

mission to transfer without losing a year of eligibility if they so desired. Many players took the NCAA up on the offer, including star point guard John Lucas, who

Senior guard Matt Sayman returns as the Bear with the most experience on the team.

Baylor ran into more trouble this mas were deemed academically in- 3 Texas.

eligible. Thomas was averaging 18.6

Women

The Lady Bears entered Big 12 play at 12-1 and closed their nonconference schedule with a 100-47 win over Sam Houston

In Kim Mulkey-Robertson's fourth year at Baylor she has brought the team back to the Top 25. She led the team to the NCAA Tournament her

first two years at Baylor and to the WNIT Finals last season. The Lady Bears are led by

crossed the border to Oklahoma sophomore Sophia Young, who was Big 12 co-Freshman of the Year last season. Young is averaging 8.4 rebounds a game; she also brings 16.7 points a game for Baylor.

The team opened conference season as senior center R.T. Guinn play with a loss to No. 15 Colorado and senior forward Terrance Tho- and followed it with a win over No.

Cornhusker men, women vastly improved squads

The Nebraska Cornhuskers are improved team this season under fourth year head coach Barry Collier.

Nebraska is 10-3 this season. Despite an improved overall record, the Cornhuskers dropped their first two Big 12 Conference games.

Nebraska opened conference play with an 89-74 loss to Iowa State and lost to the Buffaloes 68-60 Wednes-

day in Lincoln, Neb. The Cornhuskers are led by senior guard Nate Johnson, who is averaging

per game. Johnson is .600 from beyond the 3point line this season.

13.2 points

Junior forward

John Turek leads the Cornhuskers in rebounding with seven rebounds per game while adding 9.6 points per contest.

The team will return to action at 12:30 p.m. Saturday against the Texas Longhorns in Austin.

Women

Second year head coach Corri Yanni has improved the Cornhuskers dramatically from last season's 8-20 record. Nebraska has a 12-2 mark this season and is 8-0 at home.

Nebraska lost its first conference game 70-51 loss to Oklahoma.

The 'Huskers have since beaten Iowa State and Missouri to improve the teams' conference record to 2-1. The Cornhuskers are led offen-

sively by senior guard Keasha Cannon-Johnson, who is averaging 11.2 points and 8.9 rebounds per game. Senior guard Margaret Richards

and senior forward Alexa Johnson are averaging 10.9 and 10.7 points per game, respectively.

Nebraska will face Texas A&M Saturday at 7:05 p.m. in College Station.

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Cyclones riding last second win against Raiders

The Iowa State Cyclones began the 2003-2004 campaign with new coach Wayne Morgan at the helm after former coach Larry Eustachy's dismissal after pictures surfaced of him at a college party after a road loss.

Morgan's transition has so far been a successful one with the Cyclone sitting atop the Big 12 Conference with a 10-2 overall record and a 2-0 Big 12 mark.

The scoring is led by guard Curtis Stinson, who is averaging 15.3 points

per game while pulling down 6.3

bounds. Transfer center Jared Homan is

averaging 13.3 points and 7.1 rebounds per game.

The Cyclones hit the floor again Saturday when they travel to Boulder to take on Colorado at 3 p.m. Women

The Cyclones are 8-6 this season with a 1-1 Big 12 Conference mark after a loss to Nebraska and a victory on a buzzer beater by guard Anne O'Neil to upset No. 2 ranked Texas Tech.

The team is led on the floor by O'Neil, who is averaging 13 points and five assists per game. Guard Erica Junod and center Lisa Kriener are both averaging more than ten points and five rebounds per game.

Iowa State will look to start a winning streak when the team travels to Austin to face the No. 3 ranked Texas Longhorns. Tip-off is set for Saturday

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Tiger men not living up to preseason expectations

Quin Snyder's Missouri Tigers began the season ranked No. 5 by Associated Press with arguably Snyder's most talented group so far in his tenure.

The Tigers have since disappeared from the polls after starting the season 6-6 with a 1-1 Big 12 Conference record. The Tigers beat MISSO Texas A&M 82-77

and lost to conference leader lowa State 70-65 to begin conference play. Missouri is led by guard Ricky Paulding, who is averaging 15.3 per

Arthur Johnson averaging 13.2 points and 7.8 boards per game, while freshman forward Linas Kleiza is averaging 11 points and nine

boards respectively. The Tigers will face the Oklahoma Sooners Saturday at noon in Norman, Okla.

Women

With two consecutive Women's NIT tournament appearances under her belt, Tigers

coach Cindy Stein is looking to improve with senior leadership and make it the NCAA tournament. So far this season

the Tigers are 9-5 with a winless conference mark after losses to Kansas, Kansas State and Nebraska.

The Tigers are led by senior first team All-Big 12 forward Evan Unrau, who is averaging 18.2 points and 9 rebounds per game.

Her counterpart at forward, senior Stretch James, is averaging 13.6 points and 7 rebounds per game.

The Tigers will face Colorado at 3 p.m. Sunday looking to tally their first conference win of the season.

Colorado squads towering over opponents

It is not just the mountains in Colorado that are tall. The Buffaloes' game is, too.

The men and women both boast towers in the middle that de-

attention. David Harrison stands

7 feet

tall for the men and is one of the Big 12 Conference's leading scorers at 16.7 points a game, fourth in the league. But his gigantic size, 250 pounds, and his height help aide in his 8.8 rebounds per game, also fourth in the conference.

Michael Morandais and Blair Wilson both average double figures in points as well, taking some of the scoring load away from Harrison.

Harrison, however, has helped lead the Buffaloes to a 9-5 record and opened Big 12 play 1-1.

The women put Tera Bjorklund under the basket as she towers at 6 feet 5 inches tall and was named to the first team Big 12 Conference Tournament team last season. She pulls down 8.2 boards a game. She is

the second leading scorer in the Big 12 also with 19.5 points per game.

Colorado started conference play with a win at Baylor and followed it with a loss to Kansas State at home. The Lady Buffs are now 13-2 (2-1) and welcome Texas Tech on Feb. 28.



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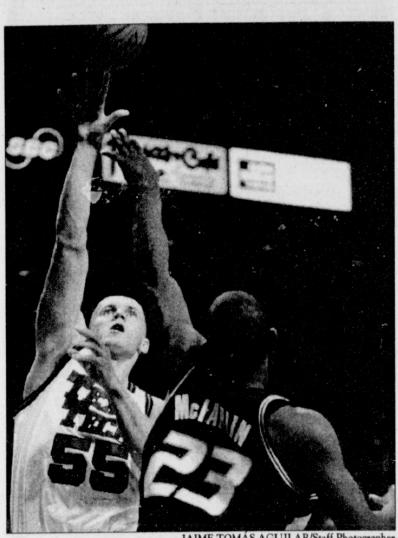


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Tech aware of rigors of Big 12 road games



JAIME TOMÁS AGUILAR/Staff Photographer

TEXAS TECH FORWARD Robert Tomaszek shoots a ball over an outstretched defender's arms during Tech's victory against Oklahoma State. The Red Raiders will face Baylor at 8 p.m. Saturday in Waco. Tech will then face Oklahoma at 8 p.m. Monday at the United Spirit Arena.

By Matt Muench/The University Daily

Texas Tech center Robert Tomaszek is not like most Tech students. He likes taking math and history tests.

"That's easy," he said.

Compared to what? Playing on the road in the Big 12 Conference.

"It does not get any tougher

than that," he said. The difficulty he is talking about begins for him and the Red Raiders when they face Baylor at 8 p.m. Saturday in Waco.

Tech (13-2, 1-0) is the hottest team in the Big 12 Conference. They have won nine consecutive games since dropping two in a row earlier this season to Georgia Tech and SMU.

"We are exited right now," freshman guard Jarrius Jackson said. "We think we are as good as anyone in the Big 12 right now."

But that does not mean Baylor will be a pushover. Just ask Tomaszek. He does not want to even think of the word overlook.

"Overlook? No way," he said. 'You can't overlook anybody in the country. Not Baylor. Not anybody. Once you go into the game with a fried mind like that, you will lose."

in Waco to most likely knock Tech out of NCAA Tournament con-

But Tomaszek is not thinking about last year,

"Why worry about that," he said. "This is a new season. We worry about one game at a time."

Despite Baylor's slow start of 5-9 and 0-1 in Big 12 play, Jackson said Tech still has to worry about what the Bears are capable of doing.

They may not be the most talented team in the country, he said, but they have gelled well this season. The Bear have only five scholarship players this year because of the events surrounding the death of former player, Patrick Dennehy and the firing of coach Dave Bliss. Baylor lost two of their stars because of the incidents. But Jackson said that has kind of helped them.

"They are pretty good," he said. "They have a close niche with each other.'

Tomaszek agrees.

"They are looking good despite all that stuff that happened to them," he said. "They look like a unit. There is no room for error. to play Monday night. Especially on the road."

Just like the Raiders did last Knight said has improved from last worried about Baylor."

March when the Bears upset Tech year, will likely be counted on as a valuable part of the lineup in Big 12 play.

He is passing the ball better and defensively he has improved, Knight said.

"One thing I have noticed is Robert's help defense has been a big factor in winning games for us this year," Knight said after Tech's Big 12 opening win against Oklahoma State.

Baylor has lost three consecutive games and five of six games.

The two players Tech will have to eye for defensively are Terrance Thomas and?

"We have to watch out for Harvey Thomas," Jackson said The two combine to score 35

points per game. Jackson said Tech will play

man-to-man to maintain pressure in the backcourt to keep the ball from going inside.

"We have to be patient," he said. "We must pressure the

Following Tech's game in Waco, the Raiders will have only one day to prepare for Oklahoma as the Sooners come to Lubbock

"One game at a time," Tomaszek, who Tech coach Bob Tomaszek reiterated. "We are only

PLAYER TO WATCH

TEXAS TECH: ANDRE EMMETT



STATS: Averaging 22 points per game this season.

NOTES: Is leading the Big 12 Conference in scoring. Was named Big 12 Player of the Week for the third consecutive week, which has never happened in Big 12 history.

TECH BIG XII ROAD SCHEDULE

1/17 Baylor Texas A&M 1/24 1/31 Oklahoma State Kansas

2/7 2/11 Oklahoma Colorado 2/18 2/24 Nebraska 2/28 Texas

Tech also has seven home games remaining on its schedule and will face Oklahoma at 8 p.m. Monday in the United Spirit Arena.



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Lady Raiders trying to forget Iowa State loss pointing her team did not take advan-

By David Wiechmann/ The University Daily

Five days removed from her record setting performance against Oklahoma State Natalie Ritchie was not all smiles in practice Thursday.

Following the Lady Raiders last-secnight, she and the rest of her teammates had something else on their mind -Point guard Erin Grant said the

only thing Texas Tech (15-1, 1-1 Big 12 Conference play) can do is forget about the loss and prepare for Baylor (14-2, 2-1) on Saturday. "We have to put that game behind

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everything they have, and we have to plays to win.' try to win the rest of our ball games," she said.

Forgetting about losing their first road game in the conference may be difficult for the Lady Raiders, considering how the game ended.

game to put Tech up 63-62, but the the next day. Cyclones had an answer in Anne O'Neil, who drove the court and hit a jumper of her own with 0.4 seconds left on the clock to seal the win.

Add the dramatic ending to what Grant said was not the Lady Raiders' best showing, and you have a formula for disappointment.

"It was a rough one," she said. "We just didn't have enough to win the ball game, and just didn't make enough

Tech shot 41 percent from the field and made just one-of-four 3-point at-

Getting over the hump will be a challenge, but forward Casey Jackson and Sharp said her team needs to utisaid she and her teammates have no lize the opportunities that were missed Guard Jia Perkins hit a jump shot choice in that matter. It is either let against Iowa State. ond loss to Iowa State on Wednesday with eight seconds remaining in the the loss bother you, or get ready for

She is choosing the latter.

"We really can't let that loss get us down," Jackson said. "We really do have to focus and get ready for Baylor, and Baylor's gonna be coming in with a lot of confidence because they just did beat Texas. We really do have to focus and not dwell on this loss, and life goes on."

What life goes on to is a matchup with a team that beat No. 3 Texas the same night Tech fell. The Lady Bears dropped the Longhorns 78-64 in Waco, and No. 24 Baylor is ranked for the first time since the 2001-2002

With Texas losing to Baylor the door was opened for Tech to take command of the Big 12 South, and head coach Marsha Sharp said it was disap-

tage of that.

Now, Tech knows the Lady Bears will be fired up to face Tech, and the Lady Raiders say they will be ready,

"That's just Big 12 basketball," she said of how tough the conference is. "When you're on the road it's very difficult to win, and we didn't take care of business the way we needed to. We didn't make free throws in critical situations. We needed some individuals to step up and make some plays for us that we just didn't get made."

Sharp talks a lot about finding a "warrior mentality," and she finds herself looking for it again. She said it was missing from her team against Iowa State, and will need to be there from here on out.

"It's a mentality that you have to develop, and I'm disappointed we didn't handle (being on the road)," she said. "We'll talk about it, and we gotta learn from it. The next time we're on the road next week at Oklahoma State we'll try to perform better."





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