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The University Daily

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THURSDAY
Jan. 22, 2004

Volume 79 ■ Issue 75
Lubbock, Texas
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Floyd resigns, takes job at Mercer University

MOVING ON: Former law professor, associate dean cites job transfer as reason for withdrawing her suit.

By Michael Castellon/The University Daily

A Texas Tech law professor and former associate dean of the university's School of Law spoke out Wednesday on her decision to withdraw a lawsuit that alleges a system-wide culture of discrimination at the university.

On Tuesday, Tech law professor and former associate dean of the university's School of Law Daisy Floyd announced the withdrawal of a lawsuit that followed a controversial dean search in 2001, in which an outlined search process was not followed by university administrators.

Floyd cited the desire to accept an upcoming appointment as dean at Mercer University's School of Law as the reason for withdrawing the lawsuit, but maintained there is a need for Tech administrators to address issues raised in her complaint.

"I'm very excited about this new position at Mercer University," she said. "The decision to withdraw the lawsuit was based on a desire to have a successful transition to that position."

Floyd's attorney, Mark Perlmutter, echoed his client's sentiment. Perlmutter said Floyd has a strong desire to focus more attention on her upcoming duties at Mercer, which will begin this summer.

Floyd declined to discuss specific allegations related to her lawsuit but maintained that her allegations are not without merit.

According to her lawsuit filed in 2002, Floyd alleges the university engaged in a culture of discrimination and retaliation, allegations that reached the highest ranks of the university's administration.

The suit alleged university administrators systematically failed to commit to stated intents to increase diversity in administrative hires, positions that go primarily to pre-selected white males.

According to the suit, Dean of the School of Law Gen. Walter Huffman caused damage to her personal and professional reputation by engaging "in gender stereotyping in response to her allegations, stating that she is acting out of irrational emotional reaction rather than in response to rational analysis of

facts indicating discrimination."

The suit also alleges Huffman "chilled the discussion of issues related to discrimination ... and created a climate of fear."

Huffman declined to comment on the allegations.

In an e-mail sent to law school faculty on Tuesday, Floyd wrote, "I continue to believe that addressing issues of diversity, lack of integrity between stated and actual processes, and intolerance of dissent is vital to the health of Texas Tech and the law school."

Cass Callaway, a third-year law student from La Vernia, said he is saddened by Floyd's resignation and hopes to see university officials address diversity issues.

"The student body knows there's a prob-

lem, and we count the days until we leave this law school," he said. "When everyone in class is white, it's clear that the record says (university officials) don't foster a culture of diverse students. Our best faculty is leaving because of discrimination."

Callaway said he primarily blames the law schools leadership in part for the alleged administrative shortcomings.

"There is discrimination at Tech law and no one is doing anything about it," he said.

"Huffman just doesn't care at all and, that's why it's so hard to recruit people. He took sides, and while I don't think he's a bad man, he just doesn't get it."

Tech Chancellor Dr. David Smith declined to comment on the allegations.



the CHOICE of LIFE

Local women protest on campus against abortion practice

By Sally Gunter/The University Daily

While holding graphic posters of fetuses being aborted, two activists protested the 31st anniversary of Roe vs. Wade in the free speech area Wednesday at Texas Tech.

Decided on Jan. 22, 1973, Roe vs. Wade ruled the government cannot infringe on the right of women to have an abortion.

Dorothy Boyett, a registered nurse at Covenant, said she strongly disagrees with the ruling.

"31 years ago the federal courts released bloodshed and the killing of unborn babies," she said.

According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute's Web site, from 1996 until 2000 the number of women having abortions decreased from 24 in every 1,000 women to 21.

Although the statistics decreased, Judy Kreller, a registered nurse at Covenant, said abortion still influences people emotionally.

"Everyone's been touched by abortion in some way," Kreller said. "Every student is an abortion survivor."

Kreller had been protesting abortion publicly for a year and a half when she learned her daughter had an abortion.

"It touches close to home," she said. "I feel like my heart is now open to women and men of the hurt they feel."

Kreller and Boyett also protest in front of Family Planning Information Service, what they call the "abortion mill," on Thursdays and two Tuesdays during the month.

Both said they saw several Tech students at the clinic while they protested.

College women are prone to have abortions, Kreller said, because they are quick to make decisions without realizing it will affect the rest of their lives.

"There is a silence on campus, in churches, everywhere," she said. "The little voices of unborn babies are asking us to speak out."

In his State of the Union address Tuesday night, President George W. Bush, a pro-life supporter, proposed doubling the funding of abstinence programs to lower the number of abortions and sexually transmitted diseases.

Boyett said Bush will not overturn the Roe vs Wade ruling because he does not have enough support to do so.



PHOTOS BY HEATHER DOUGHERTY/The University Daily

TOP: LILIANNE MOSHIER, a senior sociology major from Fort Collins, Colo., holds a pamphlet while Judy Kreller holds anti-abortion signs of babies on Wednesday morning in the free speech area. ABOVE: Counselor Dorothy Boyett hands out fliers at the free speech area to Brandon Weir, a sophomore exercise sports sciences major from Clifton.

Pro-choice supporters argue it is a woman's right to have an abortion because it is her body.

Kreller disagreed.

"There is no such thing as their choice," she said. "The creator didn't give the choice to search and destroy."

Abortion is a gospel issue, Boyett said.

"It is either - my body, my choice or thy will be done," she said. "God is the author of life."

By the age of 40, 45 percent of women have had at least one abortion, Boyett said.

As a registered nurse, Kreller said she witnesses the physical harm caused by abortions.

Abortions cause bleeding that eventually scars the cervix, and future babies are more likely to be born prematurely. Women who have had abortions

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News Reaction

Tech students, profs react to Union address

By Katie Hepburn/The University Daily

President Bush delivered his third State of the Union speech Tuesday night to a nation coming off a year of controversial war, economic lows and highs, and changing social values.

Clarke Cochran, professor of political science, and Jeffrey Karp, assistant professor of political science, offered their viewpoints on the president's speech.

Karp said State of the Union addresses generally aim to set the year's agenda, but in an election year, the speech serves more as a campaign opener.

"I think it provides a nice, I wanna say glimpse or foreshadowing of what President Bush's campaign will look like in the fall," Karp said.

Cochran agreed.

"As a campaign speech, it was very effective," Cochran said. "He defended his economic policy and appealed to business conservatives that support him."

Cochran said Bush also appealed to family groups and said the speech should garner enthusiasm for those who already support him.

However, the speech likely did not change anyone's opinion of the president.

"Bush has turned out to be, contrary to initial beliefs, a very polarizing figure," Cochran said.

He said there was not much Bush could have said in the speech to change people's opinion of him, be it good or bad.

"When you ask people if it's a good speech or a bad speech," Jeffrey Karp said, "it depends on how they feel."

He said most people who tune in to watch the annual address generally

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Student Affairs

Student Senate to meet for first spring meeting

By Andrew Bell/The University Daily

Texas Tech's Student Government Association will have its first Student Senate meeting of the spring semester at 7 p.m. today in the Lankford Lab of the Electrical Engineering building.

Nathan Nash, a senior civil engineering major from Lubbock, senator and journal clerk, said there is a lot of legislation in the works for the spring semester.

A resolution to be discussed at the tonight's meeting is a solution to creating more communication between the SGA, the administration and students.

The Student Organization Advisory Congress was created to have a representative from every student organization come together to discuss issues and develop lines of communication between students and the administration, according to Senate Resolution 39.12.

Bringing representatives from different organizations could help students and their organizations in many different ways, Nash said.

"It helps to get money to student organizations," he said. "We can get them together, get them through the seminar and get the budget packet together," he said. "It could unify student organizations."

The Senate also will vote for the approval of the appointment of the interim vice president for graduate affairs. The position, created in the fall semester with a referendum vote, is a way for graduate students to voice their concerns on education and university issues, Chris Carr, a senior mechanical engineering major from Killeen, said.

"The student body has (SGA President Jeremy) Brown. Now the graduate students will have someone," the senator at large said.

Jacque Steinmetz, SGA internal vice president and president of the Student Senate, said students would continue to see development in



SGA continued on page 5

The Rundown



Zimmerman becomes third execution of year

HUNTSVILLE(AP) — Capital murder defendant Kevin Lee Zimmerman left a lasting impression on the judge who presided over his trial.

"He sent me a letter from the jail," State District Judge Larry Gist recalled. "He threatened to kill me and described in great detail how he would accomplish that."

"Not only did he describe it verbally, but he drew a picture of him holding this enormous ax," Gist continued. "But the most shocking thing of all was that he drew the picture using his own blood as the ink."

The letter was used against Zimmerman as evidence in the punishment phase of his trial in Jefferson County, where a jury took only 15 minutes to decide he should be condemned for the 1987 robbery and stabbing death of a Louisiana oil field worker at a Beaumont motel. Leslie Hooks Jr., 33, was stabbed 31 times.

Zimmerman, 42, from Lafayette Parish, La., was set to be executed Wednesday night. The lethal injection would be carried out about six weeks after he received a reprieve sparing his life less than a half hour before he could have been put to death.

"I was ready to go," an annoyed Zimmerman told prison officials Dec. 10 after getting word of the postponement. "The stay only means 18 more months of this crap."

But it was only five days later that the U.S. Supreme Court rejected an appeal in his case, clearing the way for State District Judge Charles Carver to quickly set a new death date for him.

Zimmerman would be the third condemned inmate to die this year in Texas, the nation's most active death penalty state. Another lethal injection is set for next week, one of at least nine on the execution schedule for Texas in the first quarter of the year.

Zimmerman's December execution date initially was put off after lawyers filed a suit contending the combination of drugs used in lethal injections contributes to unconstitutional pain and suffering.

College endowments averaging increase

BOSTON (AP) — University endowments earned an average of 3 percent on their investments last year, reversing declines seen in 2001 and 2002.

When inflation and spending from endowments were taken into account, schools were probably worse off on average in the year ending June 30 than a year earlier, according to figures released Tuesday by the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

Their investment performance was better than in 2001 and 2002, which saw declines of 3.6 percent and 6 percent. Since June, many endowments have risen considerably with the rising stock market.

"The good news is we turned the corner," said John Griswold, executive director of Commonfund Institute, a research center associated with non-profit fund manager Commonfund. "The bad news is, it's not enough to cover the increases in costs and the spending that is normally taken out of the endowment."

The better performers in 2003 included the University of South Carolina system, which earned more than 5 percent on its investments and saw its endowment grow 6.8 percent to \$312.5 million.

Overall, however, the wealthiest schools fared best.

The 39 schools with assets over \$1 billion earned on average 4.1 percent, while schools between \$51 million and \$1 billion earned on average between 2 percent and 3 percent, according to association's survey of 723 schools. The smallest endowments earned on average 3.5 percent.

Schools depend on their endowments for as much as one-third of their budgets. Most schools spend around 5 percent of their endowment per year, requiring them to replenish at least that much through the markets and donations just to stay even.

Harvard, the world's wealthiest university, saw its endowment grow 9.8 percent to \$18.8 billion. In September, Harvard disclosed its investments earned 12.5 percent.

Scientists trying to stop claims of cloning

LONDON (AP) — Some of Britain's leading scientists have appealed to the news media to curtail coverage of maverick scientists who claim to have cloned the first human being.

Prompted by huge media attention given to last weekend's announcement in London by U.S. fertility specialist Panos Zavos that he has implanted a cloned embryo in a 35-year-old woman, prominent reproductive biology experts said they were dismayed at repeatedly having to respond to such claims.

"Over the past two years such announcements have grabbed headlines, despite the fact that none of those involved have produced a shred of evidence to substantiate their assertions," the scientists wrote in an open letter to media editors sent out Wednesday.

Cloning claims intensified in November 2002, when Italian fertility specialist Severino Antinori asserted that three women had been impregnated with cloned embryos and that the births were due in January 2003. The due date came and went.

Then in December 2002, Clonaid, a company founded by the leader of a religious sect that believes space aliens created life on Earth, announced the first cloned baby had been born. The group later claimed it had produced five babies through cloning.

The company reneged on promises to prove the claim through DNA testing, fueling speculation that the whole thing was a hoax.

The claim by Zavos, a fertility doctor from Kentucky, is the latest to surface.

"Despite the lack of evidence forthcoming on each occasion, we are still expected to respond every time a bogus claim is made," the experts said.

Chris Higgins, director of the clinical science center at Imperial College in London, said that while journalists did their best to challenge these scientists about why they choose to go public before submitting their work to the scrutiny of other scientists in the usual way, "the very fact that the story achieved such prominence will have suggested that this is mainstream work."

The University Daily

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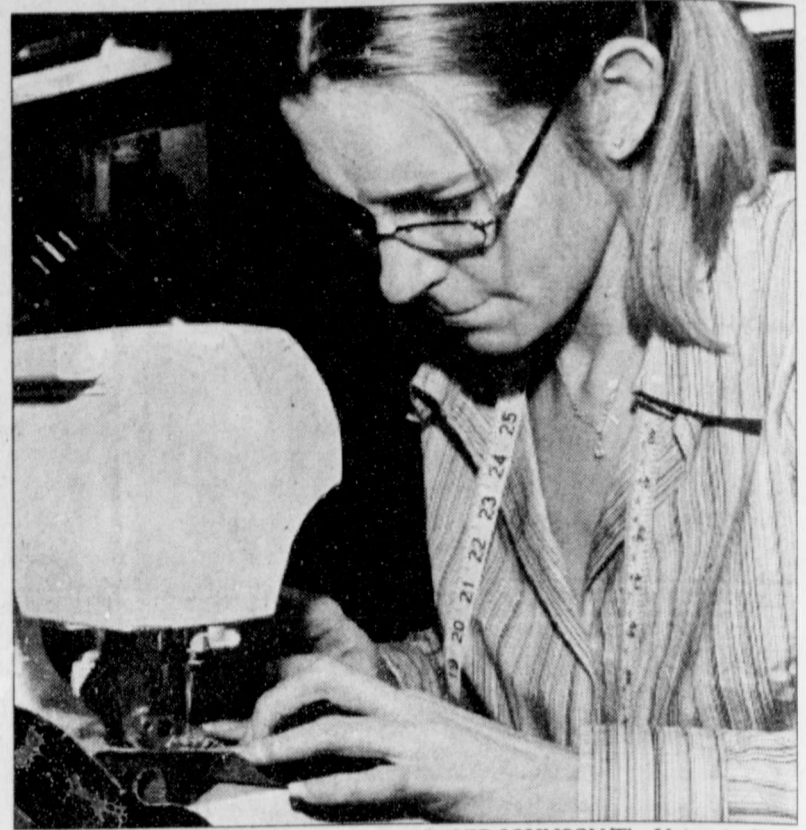
Publishing information

Periodical Postage paid by The University Daily, Student Media building, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409. Publication number: 766480. The UD is a student newspaper published Monday through Friday, September through May; Tuesdays and Fridays June through August, except during university examination and vacation periods. The UD is funded primarily through advertising revenues generated by the student sales staff with free campus distribution resulting from student service fees.

Subscriptions

Call: (806)742-3388
Subscription Rates: \$120 annually; single issues: 25 cents. Postmaster: send address changes

AN EYE FOR SEWING



DAVID JOHNSON/The University Daily

ROSE FOX, A senior theater design major from McAllen, makes a mockup corset for the character Darcy Snelgrave in "One Flea Spare," which opens Feb. 16 and plays until Feb. 22. Fox is a stitcher for the theater's costume shop.

CORRECTION

In response to misinformation in "Floyd drops latest lawsuit against law school," The University Daily, Jan. 21, Texas Tech law professor Daisy Floyd voluntarily withdrew her lawsuit, which was filed against the university. This lawsuit was the only suit Floyd had filed. The UD regrets the error.

Court postpones hearing in trial for Pearl's murder

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — An appeals court Wednesday again postponed a hearing on appeals by four Islamic militants convicted in the killing of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, a lawyer said.

The Sindh High court ordered the latest postponement because the prosecution and a lawyer for three of the convicts failed to appear at the hearing, said Abdul Waheed Katpar, a lawyer for Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, who has been sentenced to death in Pearl's killing.

It was unclear why the prosecution and the attorney representing the three other convicted militants — Fahad Naseem, Salman Saqib and Sheikh Mohammed Adeel, who received

25-year prison terms — did not appear at the court.

No hearing has been held on the appeals since they were filed in December 2002.

The court set the hearing for Feb. 17, Katpar said. On Jan. 27, the court will hear an application that Sheikh be allowed to attend the hearing.

Sheikh is said to have lured Pearl into a deadly trap in the back lanes of this port city, where he was kidnapped Jan. 23, 2002, and later killed.

All of the convicted men were involved in the kidnapping phase of the case. Seven more suspects, including those who allegedly killed Pearl, slitting his throat while a video camera rolled, remain at large.

Practice suspended after cheerleader breaks her neck

HOUSTON (AP) — Prairie View A&M University has suspended cheerleading practice while the school investigates how a cheerleader broke her neck in a fall while performing stunts, a newspaper reported.

Bethany Norwood's parents have questioned whether the squad was properly supervised when Norwood fell to the gym floor head-first last week, damaging her spinal column and breaking her neck in six places.

The 22-year-old is believed to be paralyzed from the neck down, her father told the Houston Chronicle.

University spokeswoman Diana Fallis did not immediately return a call from The Associated Press on Wednesday.

She told the paper that university officials were trying to determine what happened.

"We're sorry that it occurred and our hearts go out to the family," she said. "Obviously, there is a great deal of concern about what happened."

Cheerleading accounts for most sports-related injuries to females in high school and college, said Sally S. Harris, an expert in children and sports medicine at California's Palo Alto Medical Foundation.

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Organ donation a way to give of yourself

By Beth Aaron/
The University Daily

You can't take it with you — at least, that's what they say. Money, clothes and other possessions become obsolete in death. Organs and tissue, however, can live on through others in need.

Dr. Baird Helfrich, director of kidney transplantation at Texas Tech's Health Sciences Center, said there are two kinds of organ donations: solid organs, including the heart, kidneys, lungs and liver, and tissue donations, including corneas, the inner ear and sometimes, bone.

"More people know about organ donation than who the vice president is," he said. "The sad part is there are all of these people waiting."

Bobby Dagnel, pastor for First Baptist Church, Lubbock, said he re-

searched organ donation for a doctoral project aimed at promoting and increase in response to the issue.

"I've never encountered anyone who regretted the decision to donate the organs of a loved one," he said.

Research has shown the grief period for families who have lost loved ones, but choose to donate is shorter compared to those who do not, Dagnel said. He said he believes the reason for this lies in turning a tragedy into something good for someone else.

"It's an opportunity to do something positive," he said. "It's a redemptive act."

Dagnel said he is in the process of preparing to educate his congregation about organ donation through a series of sermons, study groups and surveys. He said he be-

lieves the only way to educate people about the issue is to encourage discussion about it.

"A vast majority of people are humanitarians in their views toward organ donation," he said. "A large percentage disseminate on their drivers license that they want to be an organ donor, but unless family concedes that, it just doesn't happen."

There are 800 to 1,000 college students in the First Baptist, Lubbock congregation, Dagnel said.

"College age is a good time for them to confront their own mortality," he said.

In the United States, there are 80,000 people on a transplant waiting list, Dagnel said. More than 3,000 of these people are in Texas.

"This may be something that I think is so unique that I take two Sundays to speak to the university group about," he

said. Most families are reluctant to discuss organ donation, Dagnel said,

because the thought of losing a loved one is difficult to imagine.

"It's something that has to be discussed with family," he said. "There's nothing morbid about that since dying is a part of living."

Dagnel estimates a high percentage of college students in his congregation are willing donors, but the reality of the situation is less than 10 percent of these intentions will be followed through with because of the lack of family cooperation.

"University students seem to be more socially aware of needs," he said. "I think a large percentage would be willing to be donors, they just need to tell their parent."

Mary Gonzalez, patient service specialist for the department of surgery at HSC, often counsels people debating transplant surgery.

"One of the reasons God put us

on this earth is to help one another," she said. "It's a very unselfish thing for someone to do."

Gonzalez said she donated one of her kidneys to her mother when her health started to fail 11 years ago. After some convincing, Gonzalez and her mother underwent living relation donation.

"It was the most wonderful thing my mother allowed me to do for her," she said. "Or — the most wonderful thing my mother did for me, I guess."

Gonzalez said she is a proponent of organ donation, particularly living relation donation, because of her personal experience.

"I don't think there's enough of organ donation," she said. "It's a huge need — there are so many people on a waiting list."

For more information about organ donation, visit www.lifegift.org.

College age is a good time for people to confront their own mortality.

— BOBBY DAGNEL
Pastor, First Baptist Church
in Lubbock

Address

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

support the president.

However, Karp said a CNN survey revealed this address had the least-positive public response in comparison to Bush's two prior State of the Union speeches.

"It was a conservative speech, not in the sense of ideology, but in the sense of strategy," Karp said.

The president did not announce any bold new initiatives, probably because he knows that any new initiative requires a new source of funding.

The president did not mention his Mars initiative, which he announced last week, because it was not received with great popularity and because of the high cost to fund it.

"The war on terror is one of his strongest points so he wants to emphasize that," Karp said.

But he sees inconsistencies with Bush's proposals.

"We're fighting a war on terrorism and putting forth a lot of money," Karp said.

Bush also is promising the military as much money as is necessary to carry out the tasks overseas; but at the same time he is proposing permanent tax cuts.

Karp questioned how Bush can cut the input of government funds while increasing the amount of money spent, especially when the

military is already facing financial shortcomings.

However, despite budget uncertainties, Cochran said Bush can rely on Congress to pass whatever military initiatives he proposes.

"The military stuff, yes, that will go through, whatever it is," Cochran said.

He said Bush did not reveal any details of his plans for the military.

Cochran said while Bush's speech was rhetorically effective, portraying Bush as a confident leader with patriotic appeal, its substance was not sound.

"He presents the war as something we had no choice in," Cochran said.

Bush defended the Iraq war by talking of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program. He should quit using that defense because Iraq had no such program, Cochran said.

Also, he said Bush's idea of making the tax cuts passed in 2003 permanent, if passed by Congress, would be a public policy disaster. This would create an even larger budget deficit than what the nation is facing.

"I think that's very irresponsible to want to make all those permanent," Cochran said of the tax cuts.

Bush also said he would like to cut the budget deficit by half within five years.

"It took him two years to create the highest deficits in history," Cochran said.

He criticized the idea that tax

cuts can be made permanent while the budget deficit is simultaneously reduced.

Cochran said the reason Bush proposed tax cuts is because it appeals to conservatives; he called it their "red meat."

"Long term consequences of deficit are harder to see [than immediate benefits]," he said.

Karp said Bush proposed several initiatives in hopes of portraying himself as a compassionate conservative, such as a proposal to help newly-released prisoners obtain jobs and skills once they re-enter society.

Cochran likes that proposal. "That was actually a big surprise to me," he said. "I like it. It makes a lot of sense."

He said it appeals to Democrats who want to "do right by prisoners," as well as Republicans who want to see former prisoners employed and helping themselves.

Bush also proposed what he called a Temporary Worker Pro-

gram, which would allow willing illegal immigrants to hold jobs Americans are unwilling to fill. Bush said this will spur the economy while allowing border patrol to focus on true threats. However, Bush said he is not offering the immi-

grants amnesty.

Karp said allowing immigrants in while not providing amnesty is an effort to appeal to the middle ground, which, in light of politics' increasingly polar nature, might not be effective.

"He thinks the compromise is in the center, but there might not be anyone there," Karp said.

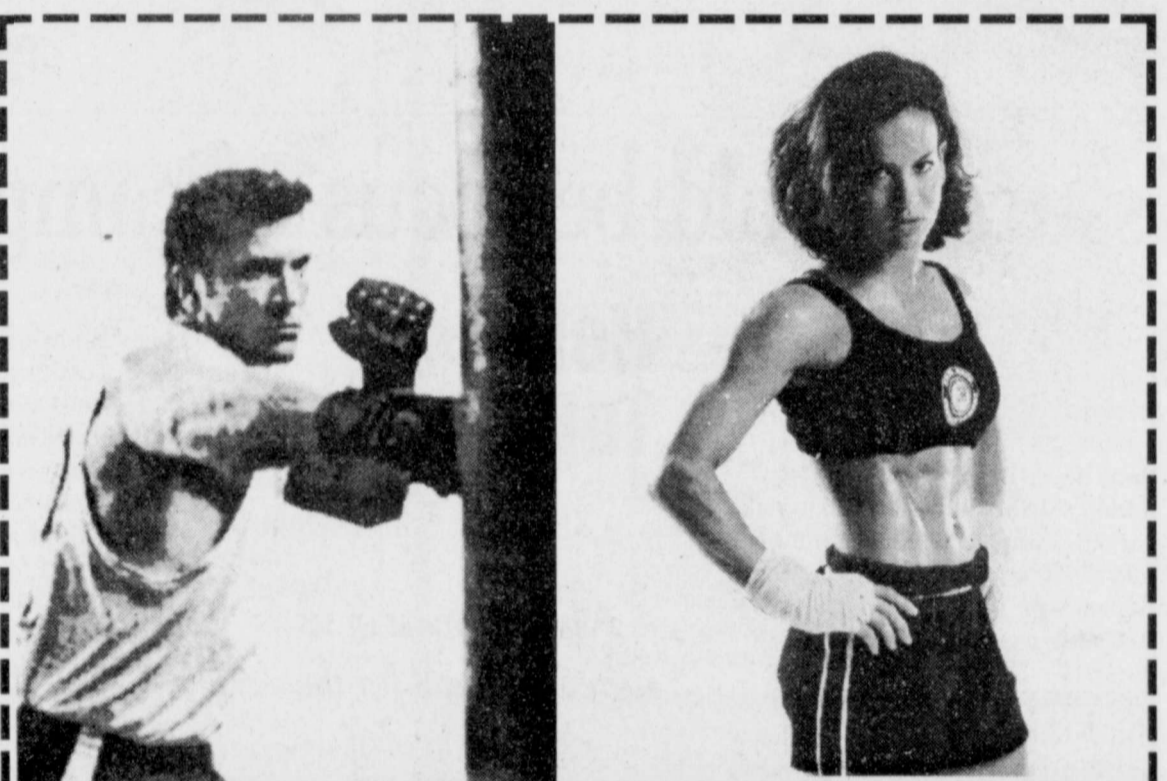
No matter the feelings toward Bush or Tuesday night's speech, Karp said he faces a hard re-election fight.

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For more information, visit www.redraidercamp.ttu.edu or call 742-LIFE (5433).



Issues should be focus of campaigns

It's 2004, presidential election year! Aren't you excited? I know I am. As a journalist, events like these are what I live for. Judging from historical elections—and you know what I'm talking about—this one should be a doozy.

Ideally, I'd like for this election to make history in several ways. First, I think we should shoot for not knowing the winner until next year. Well, maybe just Dec. 31. That'll really make someone's New Year's party grand.

Second, I think at least five states should find their voting technique just absolutely unusable after the election. Last time we had Florida completely screw up and New Mexico lose a few hundred votes, but this year we should aim bigger. New York, California and Texas should all turn in votes for Ralph Nader. That'll liven things up.

Thirdly, I think it would be a great moment in history if for once we saw a clean campaign that focused in problems and resolutions.

I'm not a big fan of mudslinging. I've talked to several political people about dirty campaigning, and all defended it as a way for a candidate to set himself apart from his opponents. Shouldn't things like the candidate's record do that?

We all got a firsthand experience during last year's elections. The gubernatorial race absolutely took the cake, with Rick Perry accusing Tony Sanchez of dishonest banking practices, and Sanchez running video of Perry being rude to a police officer who stopped him for speeding. Come on, is this really supposed to help me decide who's going to be a better governor?

The presidential campaigning is just heating up, and I'm sure we're going to get many faces full of mud by November. It's already getting a little ugly. Howard Dean, the early Democratic frontrunner, ran to the Democratic Party national chairman asking the chairman to make all the other guys stop picking on him.

All of the candidates have attacked President Bush, obviously. I understand that it's important for candidates to tell all of us, the

Heidi Toth



All right, most of us weren't around for the good old days of campaigning, but I want them back. I'm kind of tired of hearing about which candidate tried drugs 25 years ago or how during a late night discussion what candidate made a comment that wasn't politically correct but also wasn't important.

public, what they stand for. But I want to know what they're going to do in office, not that Bush is doing everything wrong. Gen. Wesley Clark has been very vocal about Bush's foreign policy. OK, I see the disagreement. But where's the solution, Wes? You may not like what Bush is doing, but at least he's doing something.

I don't want to know why everything Bush does is wrong, and why (fill in the blank with the alternate candidate of your choice) knows all the answers. I want to hear the answers. The economy's not too hot. Fine, Bush isn't doing a great job. What are John Kerry, John Edwards, Dean or Clark going to do if we give them the White

House?

Up to this moment I have seen one presidential campaign commercial, and it was for Howard Dean. It didn't really stick on my mind very much because it wasn't really an attention-getting thing. It was one of those commercials that you use to refill your soda glass or go to the bathroom during your favorite TV show, not one that you sat and watched because it was as entertaining as the show.

I have to wonder what happened to the good old days of campaigning, when candidates walked up and down streets or rode trains across the country, shaking hands, kissing babies and playing checkers.

All right, most of us weren't around for the good old days of campaigning, but I want them back. I'm kind of tired of hearing about which candidate tried drugs 25 years ago or how during a late night discussion what candidate made a comment that wasn't politically correct but also wasn't important.

Character assassination is way overdone. I could use this space to tell you that Dean is a whiner and Bush is a slacker and Kerry and Edwards are useless pretty boys and Clark is trying to ride his war fame into the White House, but that doesn't help you make a decision about who the best president would be.

Debates are no longer a forum for candidates to discuss their platforms but instead are a chance to preen in front of the cameras and show off their dazzlingly white teeth, perfectly manicured hands and easygoing manner.

Can you tell me what any of the major candidates stand for, because I don't know. All I know is Bush thinks he's right and all the rest of them think he's wrong. Call me crazy, but I'd rather not make a decision on that information.

Toth is a graduate student from Roswell, N.M., studying business and The UD's news editor. E-mail her at news@universitydaily.net

View from another university

Jello-O provides life with shot of absurdity

By Naureen Shah/Daily Nebraskan

Shots of Jell-O intoxicate me. They are like life. Blue, green and red powders are mixed with vodka and poured into tiny 2-inch cups that are decorated with Sesame Street icons or Disney characters.

On Friday night I opened my refrigerator door to a rainbow of Jell-O shots. I gawked at the captivating sight of at least 300 cups of Jell-O packed into several makeshift trays — cake pans, Tupperware and miscellaneous lids.

Our party began at 11 p.m., and after making several rounds to ensure that no one was being trampled to death or playing obnoxious music, I offered Jell-O shots to anyone who would take them.

As I watched my guests slurp their shots eagerly, I felt alternately like a perverted voyeur and Santa Claus. Most liquor shots are graceful — a delightful swig from the

hand to the mouth and down the liquor goes — but Jell-O shots necessitate goofy movements. The sticky gelatin rarely plops into one's mouth like a gum drop, but rather it glues itself to the cup.

The drinkers squeeze the cup or tear it apart, depending on how inebriated they are. I handed shots to my friends. I expertly served them to crushes, crushes' girlfriends, crushes' ex-girlfriends and people who had crushes on me.

Indiscriminately, I rescued partygoers from the boredom of rancid beer. Gone were my frustration, jealousy, nervousness and ever-present indie rock angst.

Their expressions of fearfulness and resignation gave way to that look of giddy weakness one has after the first kiss. For a few hours, alcohol frosted seeming the menace of the belching frat boy and became a single wonder in an otherwise dirty and poorly lit place.

That's because Jell-O shots are childish. They're the meeting of father figure Bill Cosby and toddler-sized cups. They're a release from the solemnity of college parties, which too often go from awkward socializing to awkward sex.

Elementary, my dear Watson: Jell-O shots are transformative. They turn episodic evenings into Super Mario-esque adventures.

Crushing his Jell-O cup and making a grab for another, a dark-haired fellow went from faux-artsy brooder to jolly conversation-maker. Later that night he made a play for one of my friends. She turned him down, but the six Jell-O shots in his stomach charged him with such oomph that he stayed for hours more.

Here's the disclaimer: I don't take drugs. Or Jell-O shots. Silly, frilly — there's nothing truer than that. This is life and the absurd fuels its functions.

Financial aid frustrations

Employees should be more courteous

When you think of any collegiate institution you think of money. This is a huge part of getting an upper education. Hence the name "higher cost of education."

They aren't lying when they call it this. With our growing university, it's inevitable we are going to have to pay more. That's fine with me; I don't mind.

What I do mind is having to come up with this outrageous amount of money every six months.

Come on, I'm 20 years old. I'm sorry that I don't have \$8,000 to throw around every year. Being the poor college student that I am, I'm sure that most everyone here can relate, I have to rely on our financial aid department to get me the funds I need.

It is no surprise to most Raiders when I state that it is a well-known belief that we don't exactly have the most courteous Financial Aid department.

Of all the people I know, I would say 99.99 percent of them have had a run-in with Financial Aid at some point during their college career. Some of them have been deemed pleasant experiences, while others have been on a nastier level.

OK, I'm not a math major, but something doesn't quite add up. Let's use these numbers for example: There are about 30,000 students who attend this university, and about 60 percent receive some sort of financial aid.

There are TWO people behind the front desk of the financial aid office. If we have ANY type of problem, we have to first deal with one of these TWO people. Each of these two people has to deal with about 9,000 students. Does that sum sound good to you? I don't think anyone in his or her right mind would think so.

Does it help, also, that after standing in line for two or more hours, we are greeted with disrespectful, impolite people? Are we here to be humiliated? Be made to feel like children?

The last thing we want to feel, after fighting through a long line, is like we have to fight with a person that is supposed to help us.

I think it is simply pointless to call the office. I have to hold for 10 minutes or longer only to speak to someone that is rude and uncouth. I don't pay these people's salaries for them to ask for my Social Security number, tell me I have to wait for my file to be reviewed by one of the advisers and then try to get me to hang up. I have questions, and I want them answered.

I'm sorry there may be 3,000 students on hold, but I waited my turn and I want you to be patient with me.

There was a story that ran in *The Uni-*

Levi Ham



The Financial Aid department needs its own building or at least its own floor. Do something to get us in and out more quickly.

versity Daily in the fall of 2001 regarding financial aid and how Tech was happy to have moved two people up to the front desk to help alleviate some of the stress students had with having to make appointments to see advisers.

Well, what do you say to this for this year? I'm referring to the hellacious line I had to stand in (three stories long); the day fall classes were to be paid for.

It wasn't my fault, either, that I had to stand in that line. I was told, that very day, I needed to submit my birth certificate. The majority of the time I feel like I should have to take a number or go get a little device that lights up and vibrates when it's my turn to talk to someone.

The Financial Aid department needs its own building or at least its own floor. Do something to get us in and out more quickly. There is no need to cram us in this little room and crank us out like you're running a factory or something.

I will be the first to admit, however, that there are some friendly people in that department. I have been greeted with smiles, Texan accents and humor. More often than not, though, that has not been the case.

I can't imagine dealing with other people's money all day. Filling out the same form over and over again. I can see how it could be tiresome and tedious. Something I have learned through my work etiquette is that yes, someone may ask you a question, but remember even though you may have heard that question 50 times that day, it just may be that person's first time to ask. You should then act accordingly.

Ham is a sophomore public relations major from Levelland. E-mail him your financial aid frustrations at Kenneth.L.Ham@ttu.edu

Letter to the Editor

Red Raider fans still classless

Congratulations to our basketball team for beating the Sooners by 20 points on Monday evening. Too bad our student section could not show a little more class. The game began by a number of fans completely disrespecting their country and poorly representing their university by not taking off their hats during the national anthem.

Take off your hat, look at the American flag, place your right hand over your heart and shut your mouth or sing the national anthem — it's really not that hard.

When the visiting team is announced, clap as they enter the court or field. Why not welcome them and thank them for coming all the way to Lubbock just to lose? Make all the noise and distractions you want during the opposing team's free throws, but attempting to mock Native American war cries focused at Kelvin Sampson's heritage or whistling during our free throws is just a distraction for our team.

The "OU Sucks" cheer lacks any sense of dignity. It's not creative or even entertaining. Yelling "air ball" repeatedly to an opposing player who completely misses the rim is appropriate, but let's draw the line. The foam "Shock-em" fingers speak for

themselves in terms of inappropriate gestures.

We have a first-class internationally renowned coach, who has done nothing but good things for Texas Tech, including national recognition. We should support this national recognition by showing a little modesty and making our alumni proud. Proud alumni will be more willing to participate and associate with Tech, by purchasing season tickets, setting up funds and scholarships and making generous donations.

Let's not kid ourselves, running a university is a business, and with the favoritism that already exists in the state, Texas Tech needs all the financial support we can get. That's another subject. This financial support is vital in hopes of climbing to a tier one status.

A status such as this will make all degrees from Tech more appealing to the corporate world, therefore more valuable to you as potential alumnus of Tech

— Nathan Henry
Senior, architecture and business major from Dallas

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 and a description of university affiliation. Letters selected for publication have the right to be edited. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. All letters are subject to verification. Letters can be e-mailed to ud@ttu.edu or brought to 211 Student Media.

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

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Construction

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are at risk for breast cancer, but because of politics no one mentions the connection between the two, Kreller said.

While she held graphic pictures of an unborn baby after an abortion, Kreller said the pictures deeply hurt some people, but society refuses to address the hurt caused by abortions.

"Denial keeps them surviving," she said. "It's a silent holocaust, and we remind them."

The bluntness with which Boyett addressed abortion with passersby is not intended to offend or hurt.

"You have to love people enough to tell them the truth," Boyett said.

Kreller and Boyett will protest Thursday at the Lubbock County Courthouse.

Heather Thompson, a freshman pre-law major from Fort Worth, said she believes in a woman's right to choose.

"It all has to do with the situation," she said. "If someone was raped, she should not feel guilty about having an abortion."

Despite her religious objections to abortion, Bridget Daresh, a sophomore early childhood major from El Paso, said she agrees with the Roe

It's freedom of speech to choose what you do or don't do to your body and how you remedy a problem.

— JULIE DARLING
Junior Early Childhood major from Flower Mound

vs. Wade ruling. "I think it's a person's choice," she said.

Julie Darling, a junior early childhood major from Flower Mound, said she has similar feelings concerning abortion.

"It's America," she said. "It's a freedom of speech to choose what you do or don't do to

SGA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

changes to the "Tech shuffle." The shuffle refers to students having to go to many different buildings on campus to take care of activities, Steinmetz said.

"Students have to go all around campus to get things done," she said. "We are trying to put many things in a central location."

SGA Vice President for External Affairs Colton Batchelor said he wants to see the new semester begin with a strong start not only from the senators, but from students as well.

"We would like to see student input to hear their concerns and to see if any changes need to be made," Batchelor said.

One way students could have their concerns heard is by voting in the SGA election later in the semester. Carr said he under-

stands the main issues with students are tuition and parking.

Many students do not vote in the annual elections because they believe there is no reason to vote, or they do not know when the elections are, Carr said.

To help in the process, he said he encourages senators to let the students know how they feel about situations on campus. During the election process, students should approach those running for office and express their concerns.

The SGA also would like to bring the voting to the students instead of the students having to search for voting booths, Steinmetz said. One idea is to take voting booths to the Robert H. Ewalt Rec-

reational Center.

Although the SGA election is important for students at Tech, Steinmetz said she also would like to continue getting students registered to vote for the primary and presidential elections.

However, Steinmetz said the SGA would publicize the Student Senate elections as much as possible for the benefits of the students.

"It makes it better when the people know what's happening and the issues," she said.

Any students who would like to have their voice heard should turn in their application for SGA positions by 5 p.m. on Jan. 30. Applications can be printed off of the SGA link to www.ttu.edu.

Ohio legislators closer to allow same-sex marriages

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — After seven years of debate, lawmakers moved closer Wednesday to passing a law that would bar Ohio from recognizing same-sex marriages and keep some state employees from getting benefits for their domestic partners.

A Senate committee approved the measure Wednesday morning, and it was likely to go before the full Senate as early as Wednesday afternoon. If a version that passed the House last month is not amended, the legislation would go to Gov. Bob Taft, who has indicated he supports it.

The bill, considered one of the most far-reaching in the nation, puts into law that same-sex marriages would be "against the strong public policy of the state."

That language is necessary because of a 1934 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that requires states to recognize marriages from other states in most circumstances.

Ohio may be only the second state, besides Nebraska, that would prohibit benefits for state employees' unmarried partners, said lawyer Michael Adams of Lambda Legal Defense.

The Legislature has struggled with the issue since then-Rep. Jay Hottinger introduced a bill in the House seven years ago.

Similar bills have been introduced

in each legislative session since then, but former Senate President Richard Finan, a Republican, blocked its passage. He said state law already took care of the matter.

After Finan left the Senate in 2003 because of term limits, Republican Rep. Bill Seitz sponsored the current bill and told the committee that a ruling in Massachusetts that declared the state's gay marriage ban unconstitutional could affect Ohio.

"My concern is the cost of the courts rewriting statutes in ways we did not intend," Seitz told the committee.

Although the bill would prohibit unmarried partners of state employees from receiving benefits received by married partners, it would allow exceptions, including employees who gain such rights in negotiating under collective bargaining, he said. It would not apply to local governments or private companies.





Adams, of Lambda Legal Defense, said the legislation is not needed and places burdens on the partners of gays that are not found in other states that have banned same-sex marriages.

"There is no evidence that any couples besides man-woman couples are trying to get married. It seems to be unnecessary," Adams said.

Seitz denied that the bill targets gays and lesbians.

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Science & Reason,
Peace & Social Justice
Nursery available 9:45-12:15

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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

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By Janet R. Bender
Somerset, PA 1/22/04

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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URGE	SCREECHOWL	
TEE	MOO	ROAN
PEALE	NUDIST	
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Misplaced funding for forensics team restored

FOUND FUNDS: Speech and debate team gets \$20,000 for national competitions.

By Andrew Bell/The University Daily

Last summer, the Texas Tech forensics team was told they no longer had funding to compete in national speech and debate championships. However, not only does the team now have funds, they are back in competition with the university's support.

"The money is there now," Ric Shafer, director of forensics, said. "Apparently the money was in a different account."

The forensics team has been at Tech since the 1930s and has been a consistent national competitor, Shafer said. In the past, the team would receive \$20,000 to help cover the costs of competitions.

Last summer Shafer said he was informed the team's funding dropped from \$20,000 to zero. The change in funding came from a decrease in interest where the money originated.

The original funds for the team came from interest from endowments at Tech, Provost William Marcy said. In recent years, the interest from the endowments had decreased considerably.

Since the interest had become low, the funding for the team had been dropped. The problem came in finding another source of income for the forensics team, Marcy said.

Before Lynda Gilbert, former vice president for fiscal affairs, left for a similar post at the University of Alabama, she was able to find funding for the team from tuition revenue funds that the university receives, Marcy said.

Shafer and Marcy were unaware of the change to the tuition funds until recently, Marcy said.

During the fall semester to raise money, the forensics team held many fund raisers to save the team, Shafer said. Previously, the team held high school workshops on campus to raise funds.

This weekend, the team will hold a high school tournament for the same cause.

Shafer said the tournament would include 30 high schools from throughout the state and will begin 3 p.m. Friday and continue from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday.

Recently, the team put in a bid to the National Parliamentary Debate Association to host an international Speech and Debate tournament at Tech for the spring of

2005, Shafer said.

Now that the bid has been accepted, Shafer said he and the team have been working closely with the Lubbock Convention of Visitors Bureau.

"They are providing resources to help host the tournament," he said. "People to help put it together, hotel rooms and accommodations."

In the meantime, the team and Shafer will continue to find support for the team and prepare for the tournament next year.

Now, he said is just thankful for the opportunity.

"We are very thankful we get to continue to exist," Shafer said.



Lone Star state residents may get break from paying out-of-state tuition at NMSU

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP) — Texas residents attending New Mexico State University under a tuition waiver would not have to pay out-of-state rates under proposals to change the program, but the university wants the waivers left alone.

The Legislative Finance Committee has recommended capping funding for the state's tuition waiver program at last year's level, \$8.6 million. Gov. Bill Richardson has suggested raising tuition for students on the waiver by 15 percent.

Neither proposal would eliminate the waiver or require students on the

program to pay out-of-state tuition, Jim McDonough, NMSU vice president for business and finance, said Wednesday.

However, he said, "we are in favor of maintaining the tuition waiver program as it is, and we believe there is strong support for doing so."

The program allows out-of-state residents who live within 135 miles of a New Mexico university to enroll in that school at in-state tuition rates. To qualify, out-of-state freshmen must have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average from high school. Transfer students must have a 2.5

GPA or higher.

The LFC said in a report on the program that New Mexico is subsidizing the education of Texas students for nearly as much as it provides in financial aid to New Mexico's own neediest students.

Undergraduate in-state tuition at NMSU is \$1,686, compared to \$5,625 for out-of-state residents. Some 1,200 Texas undergraduates and 100 Texas graduate students attend NMSU.

Eastern New Mexico University also opposes changes in the program. ENMU President Steven Gamble

has said Texans who pay in-state tuition bring more money to New Mexico's economy than the state allocates for their education.

The 258 Texans who attend Eastern brought \$3.7 million to eastern New Mexico's economy, according to figures from a waiver study group.

Eastern faces competition from Texas universities that let students in bordering states pay in-state tuition there. In the fall of 2002, 1,159 New Mexicans registered at Texas Tech University, West Texas A&M or South Plains College. Only 230 Texans attended ENMU that fall.

THURSDAY JANUARY 22						
STAT. CHAN. AFFIL. CITY	KTXT P Lubbock	KCBD NBC Lubbock	KLBK CBS Lubbock	KUPT 7 UPN Lubbock	KAMC ABC Lubbock	KJTV C FOX Lubbock
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8:00	Berenstain Barney	Early Show	Early Show	Paid Program	GraceFire Roseanne	Family Feud
9:00	Dragon Tales Arthur	Today Show	Paid Program	Judge Mathis	Regis & Kelly	Family Feud
10:00	Sesame Street	Martha Stewart	Price is Right	Hatchett	View	Dharma/Greg
11:00	Mr. Rogers Teletubbies	Hilary Square Jeopardy	Young & the Restless	Paid Program	Home Impr. Paid Program	Access Extra
12:00	Old House Watercolor	News Days of Our	News Beautiful	Jerry Springer	All My Children	Good Day Live
1:00	Needle Arts Dragon Tales	Lives Passions	As the World Turns	Paid Program	One Life to Live	People's Court
2:00	Zoom Bette/Lions	in/Edition	Guiding Light	Street Smart Street Smart	General Hospital	Divorce Court
3:00	R. Rainbow Cyberchase	Oprah Winfrey	Maury Povitch	Ryan Seacrest	Wayne Brady	Joe Brown
4:00	Clifford Arthur	Dr. Phil	Judge Judy Judge Judy	Sabrina That '70s	Montel Williams	News & More
5:00	Liberty Newshour	News NBC News	News CBS News	Pyramid	News ABC News	That '70s Simpsons
6:00	This Old House	Friends Good	Without A Trace	WWE Smackdown	Threat Matrix	Tru Calling
8:00	Ed Sullivan	Will/Grace Scrubs TV14	C.S.I. TV14	King/Hill King/Hill	PrimeTime Thursday	News
9:00	Nightly Bus. Destinios	News Tonight Show	News David Letterman	Blind Date	MASH E.T.	Raymond Shoot Me
11:00	Conan	O'Brien Last Call	Kilborn Paid Program	Ext. Dating Paid Program	Jimmy Kimmel	Becker Paid Program

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Iranian elected officials resigning in large numbers; vice president warns Iran will face many domestic problems

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's worst political crisis in years deepened Wednesday, with the government saying most of its ministers and vice presidents have submitted resignations to protest the barring of thousands of would-be candidates from upcoming

elections. Vice President Mohammad Ali Abtahi warned that unless the candidates are reinstated, "the country will face many problems, both at home and abroad."

"Such disqualifications of prospective candidates is against democracy," Abtahi said after a Cabinet meeting. "The 1979 Islamic revolution was based on democracy, and such methods damage our Islamic democracy and turn elections into sham elections."

Government spokesman Abdollah Ramezanzadeh told The Associated

Press that most of Iran's six vice presidents and 24 ministers have handed letters of resignation to President Mohammad Khatami. He didn't identify them.

The officials accuse conservatives of trying to skew the Feb. 20 parliamentary elections in their favor. Hard-liners control the Guardian Council, the powerful unelected body that disqualified more than a third of the 8,200 people who applied.

State media controlled by hard-liners say those disqualified failed to meet the legal criteria for candidacy. They include 80 liberal members of

parliament, who have been holding sit-ins and dawn-to-dusk fasts to protest the decision.

The council on Tuesday reinstated 200 of the disqualified candidates and said it would reconsider the rest.

Reformists said the reinstatements were not enough. Interior Minister Abdolvahed Mousavi Lari presented a report during Wednesday's Cabinet session saying the hard-liners want to secure at least 180 seats in the 290-seat parliament.

"A number of Cabinet ministers and a number of vice presidents have resigned," Abtahi said. "Naturally, they are waiting to see how things go. The Cabinet ministers are very serious in their resignation."

Khatami, a leading reformer, must approve the resignations for them to take effect.



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— Andre Gide

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TAX SEASON *in full swing*

Library offers help, forms to students doing thier taxes

By Nikki Siegrist/Staff Reporter

A large tax return is not their only reason students should plan to file their taxes early. If students file their taxes now, they may avoid the last-minute rush.

"Everyone needs to file a tax return and find out the big magic number," Angela Hightower, a tax preparer with Angela Hightower Income Tax Service said. "Do you get a refund or do you owe money? Plus, you're getting it over with."

W2 forms should be mailed out by employers no later than Jan. 31, said David Cordell, an associate professor with personal and financial planning.

When students receive their W2, they can get other forms they need free of charge from Texas Tech's library.

Tom Rohrig, an associate librarian, said the library has offered this service for the past 10 or 15 years for the Tech community.

Forms that may not be available at the library are available online at the IRS's Web site, www.irs.gov, and the library will print them free of charge.

Students who have questions may look online or get help from the Red to Black program.

Students have other incentives to file their taxes early. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid requires students to have their taxes done when they apply.

Paul Blake, assistant director for operations in the Texas Tech Office of Financial Aid, said some scholarships require students to have their FAFSA filed. The scholarship deadline is 5 p.m. March 1, but FAFSA can take four to six weeks to process if mailed in. If the form is done electronically, it can

take less than a week.

Students can file their FAFSA in the financial aid office, Blake said. While he recommends filing the form by March 1, the priority date is not until April 1. After that, money is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Friday was the first day to file taxes electronically. If a student files electronically and decides to receive the refund via direct deposit, he or she could get it in 14 business days.

The refund could be mailed back in two to three weeks. If the return is mailed in, it could take four to six weeks. The sooner the tax refund is turned in before the deadline, the faster the refund should come.

Aside from the shorter time getting a refund, Hightower said there are other reasons one should file electronically.

"It's a safer method of assurance," she said. "You know it's accepted, and you know when you're getting it back, and it's less paperwork."

Despite the perks of filing one's taxes early, many Tech students have not yet filed.

Will Allensworth said he has not even thought about filing his taxes.

"I've been busy, and it's not one of those things I think about," the junior philosophy major from Austin said. "It hasn't been a priority."

But he said it is something he plans to do the next time he visits home.

"I (file them) with my parents," he said. "I absolutely can always use money."

Many students are not aware of all the tax benefits they can receive, Hightower said.

Students who pay for their educations are

eligible for either a Hope Credit or a Lifetime Learning credit for going to school. If parents paid for the student's education, the parents are eligible for the credit as are grandparents, she said.

The Hope and Lifetime Credits, or 8863, are a way for the government to award those who continue their education, Hightower said, but few students take advantage of it.

For the student to be eligible for this credit one has to be a dependent and not on his or her parent's tax return. If students are on their parent's tax returns, the parents can get the refund.

According to the "1040 Quickfinder Handbook" the Hope credit is specifically for freshmen and sophomores. It can only be used twice, and the maximum credit is \$1,500. The student must be enrolled in at least six hours and not have any felony drug convictions.

The Lifetime credit is for juniors, seniors and graduate students, and the maximum credit is \$2,000. This credit is available to students enrolled in one or more classes and can be toward any degree.

The credit takes away from any tax liability or money owed to the government. If the student has no tax liability, he or she may not qualify for the Hope and Lifetime credits.

If a student decides to have a tax preparer handle his or her taxes, the tax office should know a little bit about the student to maximize the refund. If the preparer asks few questions of the student, the student may not be getting the maximum refund possible.

'Along Came Polly' a dim light in a dark alley

The month of January is typically the time of the year when Hollywood studios decide to take out their trash and turn movie theaters into a stinking garbage heap.

Having blown their collective loads in December with their award contenders, studios then start releasing movies so that they can dust off the shelves they have been sitting on.

"Along Came Polly," however, is not quite as bad as it has every reason to be. It's an aimless romantic comedy starring Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston, both of which are capable of good work in the comedy arena.

Stiller stars as Reuben Feffer, an insurance risk assessor who has decided to play it safe (as usual) and marry the seemingly perfect bride, Lisa (Debra Messing, whose talent is completely wasted here). On their honeymoon in Hawaii, however, Reuben catches Lisa getting some special lessons from their scuba instructor (Hank Azaria still doing annoying foreign accents).

Rueben comes back to the mainland and runs into an old school friend named Polly Prince (Jennifer Aniston). Rueben, who suffers from Irritable Bowel Syndrome, lets Polly take him to a spicy African food restaurant, which only serves as a set-up to get Ben Stiller in the bathroom - again. The scene wants to play like Jeff Daniels' hilarious scene in "Dumb and Dumber," but doesn't quite measure up. In fact, Rueben is caught by Polly with his pants down.

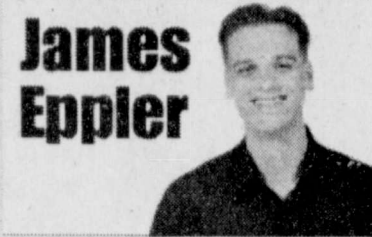
But if this wasn't dumb enough, Polly decides to give this awkward disaster a second chance - even after he has flooded her bathroom and besmirched an expensive bathroom accessory.

There's very little time spent in Rueben's pursuit of Polly. In fact, the couple is together no less than 40 minutes into the movie. This means that writer/director John Hamburg must keep coming up with things for these characters to do for the last hour. It quickly becomes obvious that Hamburg is flying by the seat of his pants. The charm of the relationship wears off, and the pratfalls are more miss than hit later in the film.

As negative as this all sounds, "Polly" does have a few small successes. When I laughed at the movie - and there were several times that I did - it was for two main reasons.

The first is the casting of the great Philip Seymour Hoffman (the lecherous priest from "Cold Mountain") as Sandy, Reuben's best friend. Sandy is a former child star (only much funnier than David Spade's "Dickie Roberts") and has hired a crew to film an "E! True Hollywood Story" about him. Hoffman is so obviously better than the material in this film that it just tickles me to watch him work with it. It's like watching a military captain play with G.I. Joes in a sandbox.

The second reason to laugh at the movie is



James Eppler
In a month that is infamous for one-star movies, you could do a lot worse than 'Along Came Polly.' When you're dying of thirst in the desert, even slightly sour milk is mildly acceptable.

supplied Alec Baldwin, who I was sure had committed career suicide with "Cat in the Hat" but is now receiving Oscar buzz for his work in "The Cooler." Baldwin, who plays Stiller's boss as a gruff and blunt-speaking go-getter, is quite funny.

Unfortunately, Stiller and Aniston are not blessed with as much to work with. The "romantic comedy" part of the movie is rarely romantic or funny - or believable. Why Aniston's Polly would ever be attracted to Stiller's awkward, pessimistic and compulsive Reuben is beyond understanding.

The film could easily be renamed, "There's Something About Polly," as viewers will be able to draw more than a few parallels.

In a month that is infamous for one-star movies, you could do a lot worse than "Along Came Polly." When you're dying of thirst in the desert, even slightly sour milk is mildly acceptable.

EPPLER'S RATING: ★★

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

'American Idol' a big winner in season debut

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fox's "American Idol" hit impressively high ratings notes in its third season premiere.

The talent show drew 29 million viewers Monday, the best start for any series in the 2003-04 season, according to preliminary Nielsen Media Research figures released Tuesday by Fox.

Fox also enjoyed a solid debut for "My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiance," a reality series that debuted after "American Idol." The new series was watched by 19.6 million viewers.

Final figures for both series, which

helped Fox win the night among total viewers as well as advertiser-coveted younger ones, will be available Wednesday.

"American Idol," which has produced three instant music stars in Kelly Clarkson, Ruben Studdard and Clay Aiken, was expected to provide a boost for the struggling network.

Gail Berman, Fox's entertainment president, recently called the show Fox's "engine" and said it's as important to the network as "Friends" is to NBC or "Survivor" is to CBS.

Last May's finale, in which Studdard

narrowly beat out Aiken in nationwide voting, drew more than 38 million viewers.

This year, an estimated 80,000 aspiring stars applied to be on the show. Contestants are again being judged by Paula Abdul, Randy Jackson and Simon Cowell, with Ryan Seacrest back as host.

"My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiance" features a woman out to convince her family she's serious about a questionable mate to win a prize. She's unaware that her "fiance" is, in fact, an actor making the task as difficult as possible.

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Physical Phenom

Senior discus thrower Jason Young has Olympic goals

By Adam Boedeker/
The University Daily

Championships.

Young excels in the discus, where he has a great shot at making the U.S.

In the classic battle of man vs. machine, the machine usually prevails.

Luckily, for Texas Tech discus thrower Jason Young a machine will never make the perfect throw, at least not in a competition.

"I'm not the prototype guy as far as biomechanics to do this kind of stuff," Young said. "But a machine and a human being are two totally different things. No one makes perfect throws. If everyone out there was a perfect machine they'd all throw the same and there would be no point for competition."

Young's performances, however, have been anything but typical.

Last season he garnered All-American status in the discus with five first-place finishes, a fourth-place finish at the NCAA Championships and a seventh place finish at the U.S.

YOUNG FILE

Name: Jason Young
Classification: Senior
Position: Discus Thrower
Hometown: Dallas
High School: Samuell High
2003 Results: Had five first place finishes in discus for the Red Raiders. Also set a school record with a 202' 0" throw at the Midwest Regional. Also finished fourth at the NCAA Championships. Had three consecutive first place finishes at the Drake Relays, Texas Tech Open and the ACU Open.
Notes: Finished seventh at the U.S. Championships last year and will attempt to earn a spot on the U.S. Olympic team this year. He hopes to train at the U.S. Olympic training center after this season.

There are 102 precise movements a discus thrower must execute in a one-second time frame, Felkins said.

"You have to have a great nervous system to perform those movements properly," he said. "You're basically just a human cannon."

Young is a "freak" when it comes to physical tools, Felkins said.

"He has an 800-pound squat, a 40-inch vertical, which makes him very explosive and (he has) incredibly long arms which give him fantastic leverage," he said. "But most of all, he's a student of the game. He wants to study everything."

Young has many things to attempt to accomplish during his senior season, including an NCAA championship and an Olympic berth, but there is one goal he must accomplish before anything else can happen.

"I just want to be consistent with throwing and training," Young said. "That consistency will turn into longer throws, and then I'll have a shot at doing a lot of good things."

While some throwers are associated with over-the-top antics to pump themselves up or psych out opponents, Young does not buy into that philosophy - he keeps it simple.

"I think all the banging your head against posts stuff is basically a load of crap," he said. "If you've trained yourself for 11 months to compete you're either ready or you're not, it won't help. I like to just perform, nothing more."

Young is looking forward to his shot at the Olympics, and he hopes to train at the Olympic training center in Chula Vista, Calif., after his collegiate career ends.

He said most world-class throwers are between the ages of 26 and 30 because of the need to develop technique over time. But he feels he is ready to compete.

"I think I can develop those skills and compete with world-class athletes," he said. "I think I have an awesome shot of making the Olympics if I can continue to improve my consistency."

He also said the key to success in discus is a simple one.

"I try to use what I have better than others do because no one does every little thing exactly right," he said.

Young compared his pre-throw ritual to that of a golfer - visualization.

"Besides my long arms and strength my best attribute is that I study all my throws," he said. "If you can visualize yourself making the movements in first person, not third, you will be able to do it."

Young said his visual preparation pays off with good performances.



JAIME TOMAS AGUILAR/The University Daily

TEXAS TECH SENIOR discus thrower Jason Young returns to the ring for the Red Raiders this season as one of the top five throwers in NCAA Division 1-A track and field.

"If you can't see yourself doing it, you don't have much of a chance. I think I do that very well with my repetitiveness and hours of practice."

The Red Raiders will begin the 2004 track season at home Friday in the Red Raider All Corners meet.

Tech will continue competition Saturday against Baylor and Texas-El Paso in the NTX Quad.

Tech also will host the Red Raider Classic and Meters on Jan. 31 and will

host the Red Raider Invitational meet on Feb. 7.

The Red Raiders finished 17th in Nationals last season with Young's performance being one of the driving forces behind the team's promising results.

Tech began this season ranked No. 12 in the NCAA, but slipped one spot to No. 13 this week after not competing during the weekend.

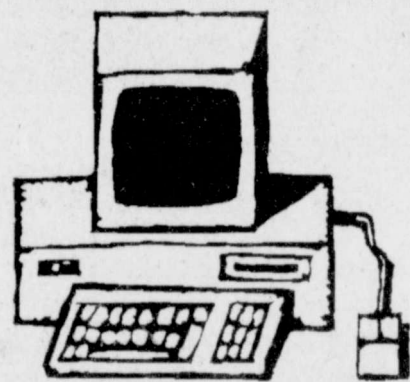
When Young speaks of his indi-

vidual goals for his senior year he does so modestly.

The same cannot be said for Coach Felkins.

"I predict he'll win conference, win regionals, win nationals and make the Olympic team," Felkins said. "I think he can win at every meet he goes to, regardless of who's throwing; collegiate or post-collegiate, it doesn't matter."

Young just laughed. "That'd be nice," he said.



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New England squad different than 2002 Super Bowl team

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) — Two years after their only Super Bowl victory, the New England Patriots are heavy favorites with an established quarterback and little controversy.

How things have changed. The Patriots engineered one of the game's biggest upsets in 2002, beating the St. Louis Rams and an offense known as the "Greatest Show on Turf" 20-17 on Adam Vinatieri's 48-yard field goal as time expired.

Tom Brady led New England on a methodical drive to set up the game-winner and earn Super Bowl MVP honors, capping a season that he started as the backup to Drew Bledsoe.

"That first year, that first Super Bowl, I don't know what the heck was going on," Brady said this week after the Patriots won their second AFC title in three years and earned the right to play the Carolina Panthers in Houston on Feb. 1.

"I mean, from the first game I started right on through, so much had changed. And to really realize and put things in perspective is hard to do because I was figuring, 'Oh, yeah, this is kind of what I expected to happen.'"

If Brady expected it, he was the

only one. After going 5-11 in 2000, the Patriots had a rough start to the next season.

Quarterbacks coach Dick Rehbein, 45, died of heart failure in training camp. Wide receiver Terry Glenn missed most of the season because of injuries and suspensions. The Patriots lost their first two games; Bledsoe was knocked out of the second one with a hit that filled his chest with blood.

Brady, a sixth-round draft pick who jumped from No. 4 to No. 2 on the depth chart in training camp, came in and helped New England improve to 5-5 by the time Bledsoe was ready to return. Coach Bill Belichick went against conventional wisdom and kept Brady as his starter.

And when the Patriots won the last six games of the regular season, Belichick was rewarded.

In their first playoff game, a sloppy, snowy affair that was the finale for the old Foxboro Stadium, Brady appeared to doom New England's chances when he coughed the ball up late against the Oakland Raiders. But referee Walt Coleman invoked the now-infamous "Tuck Rule" and declared

the play an incomplete pass instead of a fumble.

Brady led the Patriots into position for Vinatieri's 45-yarder that sent the game into overtime. Once there, Vinatieri kicked a 23-yarder to win it.

The outcome did little to convince the Raiders they lost to a better team. Pittsburgh would leave the AFC championship game feeling the same way.

Brady hurt his ankle in the first half, and this time it was Bledsoe who came on in relief to lead the Patriots. Troy Brown scored two touchdowns on special teams in a 24-17 victory that sent New England to the Super Bowl.

When the Patriots arrived in New Orleans, no one knew how seriously Brady was hurt or whether Bledsoe would get his starting job back. It wasn't until the Wednesday before the game that Belichick announced he would go with Brady.

The Rams were 14-point favorites, and New England was supposed to be overmatched against the team that won the Super Bowl two years earlier. Brady was in his second year, with less than a full season of starting

behind him; Rams quarterback Kurt Warner was the Super Bowl MVP in 2000.

But the Patriots' defense forced three turnovers and turned them into two touchdowns and a field goal. The only other score they needed was Vinatieri's game-winner.

This year, it is New England that goes into the game as the betting favorite. The Patriots - behind their Super Bowl MVP from two years earlier - are riding a 14-game winning streak and facing an upstart team with an untested quarterback who came into the season as a backup.

"I see the same things," said Panthers tight end Jermaine Wiggins,

who was with the Patriots two years ago. "Everybody's already saying, 'Carolina Who?' It's all about New England, New England."

But Belichick refused to get caught up in the comparison. Asked about the

similarity between Carolina this year and the Patriots from 2002, he pointed to the only one that mattered.

"They won a lot of games and they are in the Super Bowl," he said, "so I guess you could start there."



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JEFFERSON COMMONS Apartment. Personal bath. Has 3 responsible roommates. Leave message at 325-762-9241.

UNFURNISHED FOR RENT \$800 A MONTH
 New 3 BDRM Duplex, fence yard, W/D connections, 5 minutes from Tech, NW Lubbock Call toll free 1-866-290-9320 or 799-4200.

2 BEDROOM 1 Bath Totally remodeled \$700/month. \$400 deposit. 2306 26th St. Call 441-4868.

TWO, THREE, four bedroom rentals available. Very nice. \$625 to \$1250. Call for details. 791-0993.

2/1/1 DUPLEX, C/H/A. New appliances. Near Covenant & TTU. \$600/mo. 3301 23rd. Frank 548-4370.

2/1 PLUS OFFICE.
 Monitored security system and washer/dryer. No pets. 2304 31st \$750 per month. Call Michelle at 535-1252.

2/1 PLUS Study area, 1200 sq ft. \$600/mo. hardwood floors, private parking, walk to Tech. 2218 14th. 469-688-6855.

2010 26TH C 1/1. Wood floors, Tommy 777-2159. \$325/mo. \$200 deposit.

2323 MAIN 2/1 in fourplex, appliances, W/D hook up, three years old, water paid, \$700/mo. John Nelson Realtors 794-7471.

2012 16TH ST 3/1 All appliances. Central H/A. W/D Connections. \$660 plus utilities. 2002 26th St. 2/1 with garage. All appliances. W/D Connections. \$480 plus utilities. Call 787-8635.

2214 28TH 2/1. \$400/mo. \$100 deposit, available 1/15. 4402 75th drive A. 3/2/2, appliances included, \$895/mo. \$450 deposit, available 2/1. 2008 26th 3/1 new paint inside, \$695/mo. \$300 deposit, available now. 2418 21st 3/1, \$595/mo. \$300 deposit, available 1/15. 3119 44th 2/2 1 car garage, large backyard, hardwood floors, \$725/mo. \$400 deposit, available 3/1. 2017 15th rear, large 1/1, fully remodeled all appliances included, \$525/mo. \$350 deposit, available now. Call between 9-5 747-5236, after 5 Call JASON 441-5816 or Daniel 441-3788.

3/2/2 CHINA Garage openers, stove, dishwasher, fireplace, nice fenced yard. 3712 43rd. \$895/mo. Washer/Dryer available. 794-5241.

3/2/2 IN new area. Close to Tech & med school. W/D connections. Nice yard with sprinkler system. Northwest Lubbock. 790-3320.

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5415 8TH place, 3/2/2 outside pet o.k., February 6th. John Nelson Realtors 794-7471.

9613 BEAUFORT 3/2/2, fireplace, outside pet o.k., February 12th, \$825/mo. John Nelson Realtors 794-7471.

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HURRY! NICE Efficiency apt, close to Tech. \$350/mo. plus bills. Laundry on property. Call 781-4733 or 687-6025. Alison.

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FEMALE ROOMMATE needed for 4/4 Raiders Pass, \$410 all bills paid. Lease now-Aug. Call Lindsey 806-441-6048.

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ROOMMATES NEEDED for nice home in quiet neighborhood. \$375/mo., ABP, grads, non smoking preferred. Call 438-8328.

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Greenwalt spurs victory against Nebraska

By David Wiechmann/
The University Daily

The Lady Raiders' opponents never know what to expect, and Texas Tech likes it that way. The Lady Raider players said that is the way it should be.

"That's a big part of the Big 12 to be able to score from a bunch of different positions," said forward Cisti Greenwalt. "Because if you can't have a shooter (because of the defense) and you need to be able to score in the paint."

Greenwalt was the show stopper this time around against Nebraska on Wednesday night with 16 points and eight rebounds to lead Tech to a 68-55 win.

She scored 14 of her points in the second half and at one point had 10 consecutive points. It was a performance that garnered her a standing ovation from the crowd when she fouled out with 18.3 seconds left in the game.

The Cornhuskers came into the game 13-2 overall and 3-1 in Big 12 play, and they gave Tech a run for its money early in the game, claiming a lead with nine minutes left in the first half and held it until there was less than a minute left before the break.

But Tech made a run in the clos-

ing minutes of the opening frame going on a 10-2 run to close the half and taking the momentum to the locker room.

The struggles in the first half and her team's response made head coach Marsha Sharp happy and she said she hopes her players will continue to play as hard defensively as they did Wednesday.

"I thought we had to do some things tonight to win that I'm really impressed with our basketball team," she said. "Something we talk about all the time that you have to continue to do is play defense and rebound it."

The Lady Raiders did just that and proved their defense is deserving of its No. 1 ranking. Tech boasts the top ranked defense in opponent shooting percentage and held Nebraska to 44.3 percent. It is a higher percentage that Tech is used to giving up, but it was the Lady Raiders' effort on the defensive glass that made a difference in the game.

Nebraska missed 32 shots on the night, and Tech came down with 24 of those rebound opportunities.

"We're the best defensive team in the nation, as far as shooting percentage goes," Sharp said. "We need to make sure that is the end we stay the strongest on."

Tech did not only rebound well on

defense but the offense turned 14 offensive rebounds into 20 second chance points for the Lady Raiders.

Keeping Tech off the glass was difficult for the Cornhuskers and Nebraska head coach Connie Yori said that impacted the game tremendously.

"We told our players the battle of the boards was going to largely determine the outcome of this game," she said. "We felt if we could keep them from rebounding we would be in good shape. And statistically that enabled them to win."

A performance Sharp said she did not want to go unnoticed was Casey

Jackson's. Sharp said the forward may not have had the best numbers but her hustle and her ability to shut down Nebraska's best player deserved recognition.

Jackson held Alexa Johnson to eight points and three rebounds, and she contributed 12 points of her own to Tech's effort, pulled down eight rebounds and snatched away four steals.

"You think about all the hard work and blue-collar type stuff she does, and sometimes I forget to come in here and say it, but I don't want to ever, ever overlook what she does because she is the heart and soul of a lot of things that go on on the floor for us," Sharp said.

PLAYERS OF THE GAME

TEXAS TECH: ALESHA ROBERTSON



STATS: Had 19 points, one rebound and two steals.

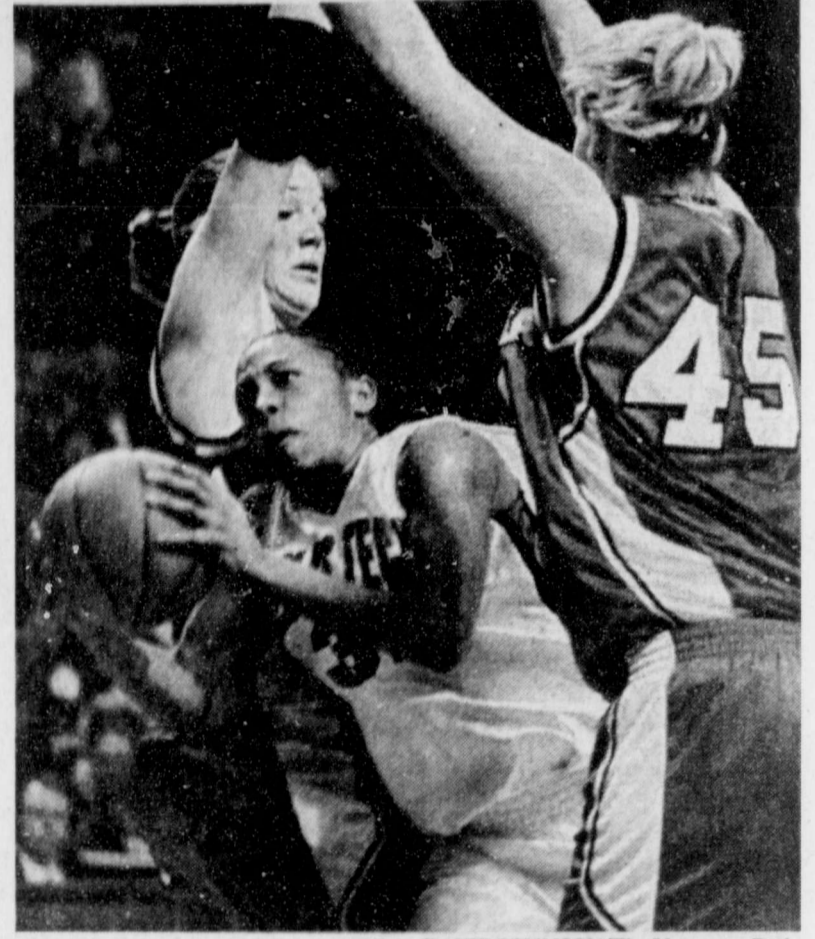
NOTES: Has scored in double figures in both games Tech has played without former leading scorer Jia Perkins.

TEXAS TECH: CISTI GREENWALT



STATS: Had 16 points, eight rebounds and one block.

NOTES: Scored 12 of her 16 points during the second half of the Lady Raiders' win against Nebraska.



DAVID JOHNSON/The University Daily

TEXAS TECH FORWARD Casey Jackson splits two Nebraska Cornhusker defenders during the Lady Raiders 68-55 victory Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena. Tech is 2-0 without former leading scorer Jia Perkins. The Lady Raiders will attempt to remain undefeated minus Perkins against Oklahoma State at 2 p.m. on Saturday in Stillwater, Okla.

Houston police department expects to pay \$1.2 million in overtime during Super Bowl

HOUSTON (AP)—As big as the Super Bowl is, far fewer Houston police officers will be needed than for two major political events the city hosted more than a decade ago.

The Houston Police Department expects it will cost \$1.2 million in overtime to keep everyone safe. However, executive assistant police chief Dennis Storemski said the first President Bush's Economic Summit for In-

dustrialized Nations in 1990, followed by the Republican National Convention two years later, were much larger security headaches.

Still, 25 federal, state and local agencies are working to address the challenges of a major sporting event in the post-Sept. 11 era.

"The threat has always been there," Storemski said. "It is just a matter that it has finally manifested

itself and we're more conscious of it."

The federal government has provided resources, such as materials needed for decontamination, just in case anyone targets the Feb. 1 game between the Carolina Panthers and New England Patriots.

"There is no specific information (of a threat)," Storemski said. "All I would suggest to you is that could be an ideal target and you take the steps

to harden it and prevent it. Obviously, our first goal is prevention. And if we make the target a little harder to deal with and pay attention to intelligence, I don't think we have anything to worry about."

Because of the vast chain of important chemical plants and refineries along the Houston Ship Channel, not to mention the city's symbolic significance as a world energy capital, area law enforcement has been acutely wary since the 2001 attacks.

The Houston police SWAT team and other divisions have gone through a number of training exercises, Storemski said. He said a command center will be set up and officers will

be able to monitor people via closed-circuit cameras throughout the city.

"We feel very confident about our abilities," he said. "We began our planning process over a year ago when we attended (last year's Super Bowl) in San Diego. We did that primarily for the purpose of determining what kind of issues that we might be dealing with, what kind of problems are associated with a Super Bowl that we may not have been aware of."

Once back in Houston, police forged a comprehensive plan to deal with security, crowd control and traffic management.

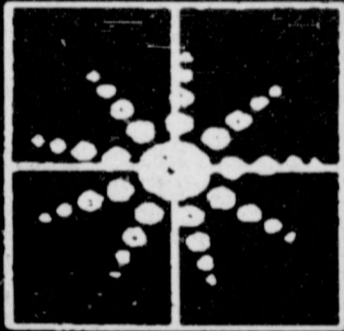
A fence has been built around the Reliant Stadium complex while metal

detectors, bomb sweeps and a 12-hour no-fly zone in the area will be used to secure the area, Storemski said.

"We really anticipate it is going to be a calm day for everybody to enjoy the game," Storemski said.

Milt Ahlerich, NFL vice president for security, said on game day several layers of checkpoints will surround the stadium. Everyone entering will be subject to a pat search, and credentials and tickets will be scrutinized.

Storemski said many of those attending the game also will have their own personal security detail. He wouldn't say whether former President Bush, a Houston resident, or the current president would attend.



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