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Shuttle panel urges return to safety-first policy

Group lays blame for disaster on rocket joint

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Rogers Commission said Monday a breached booster rocket joint, whose weaknesses were known but ignored, destroyed the space shuttle Challenger and that NASA must return to the safety-first policy of the Apollo moonflight days.

James C. Fletcher, a former head of NASA only five weeks into his second stint at the helm, promised to respond to the conclusions "with an open mind and without reservations."

The commission called the Jan. 28 Challenger tragedy, which claimed seven lives, "an accident rooted in history."

William P. Rogers, chairman of the presidential investigative panel, said, "We know exactly how this accident occurred. I certainly hope there will be no nagging questions."

The commission was not asked to assess blame, "and we have not assessed blame," Rogers told a news conference. "Obviously, there was a serious failure. We are not going to go beyond that."

President Reagan, formally accepting the report, said that because of the commission's work "our shuttle program will be safer and better prepared for the challenges that lie ahead."

Because Americans "don't hide our mistakes, we are not condemned to repeat them," Reagan told members of the commission and others gathered in the Rose Garden.

"There's enough blame to go around," he said. "The fault was not with any single person or group. It was NASA's fault. I don't think we should be assigning blame. We should be assigning people to fix what went wrong, and make sure it doesn't happen again."

Reagan had been given a copy of the report last week.

Fletcher told a late afternoon news conference that the space agency regards July 1987 as a realistic goal — "not an optimistic one" — for resumption of shuttle flights, based on all the recommendations made by the commission.

One of the commission's recommendations, the appointment of an independent committee of experts to review any new booster designs, came into fruition Monday, when the National Research Council announced formation of a panel of experts in the fields of propulsion, materials, reliability and aerospace engineering.

"The unrelenting pressure to meet the demands of an accelerating flight schedule might have been adequately handled by NASA if it had insisted upon the existing thorough procedures that

See related story, page 5

were its hallmark during the Apollo program," the report said in a chapter titled "The Silent Safety Program."

The commission said the rocket joints' problems came to be regarded as "unavoidable and an acceptable flight risk," showing that safety had taken a back seat at NASA — the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Five men and two women, including schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe, perished in the accident — the first during a space mission after 55 successes.

"The NASA shuttle program had no focal point for flight safety," said the panel in its 256-page report to Reagan.

Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, the first American to orbit the Earth, said the commission showed that "the mindset of a few people in key positions at NASA had gone from an optimistic and super safety-conscious 'can-do' attitude, when I was in the program, to an arrogant 'can't fail' attitude on the day the Challenger exploded."

On Capitol Hill, the commission's report generally was well received, although some lawmakers said they felt it was up to Congress to answer any lingering questions about space safety.

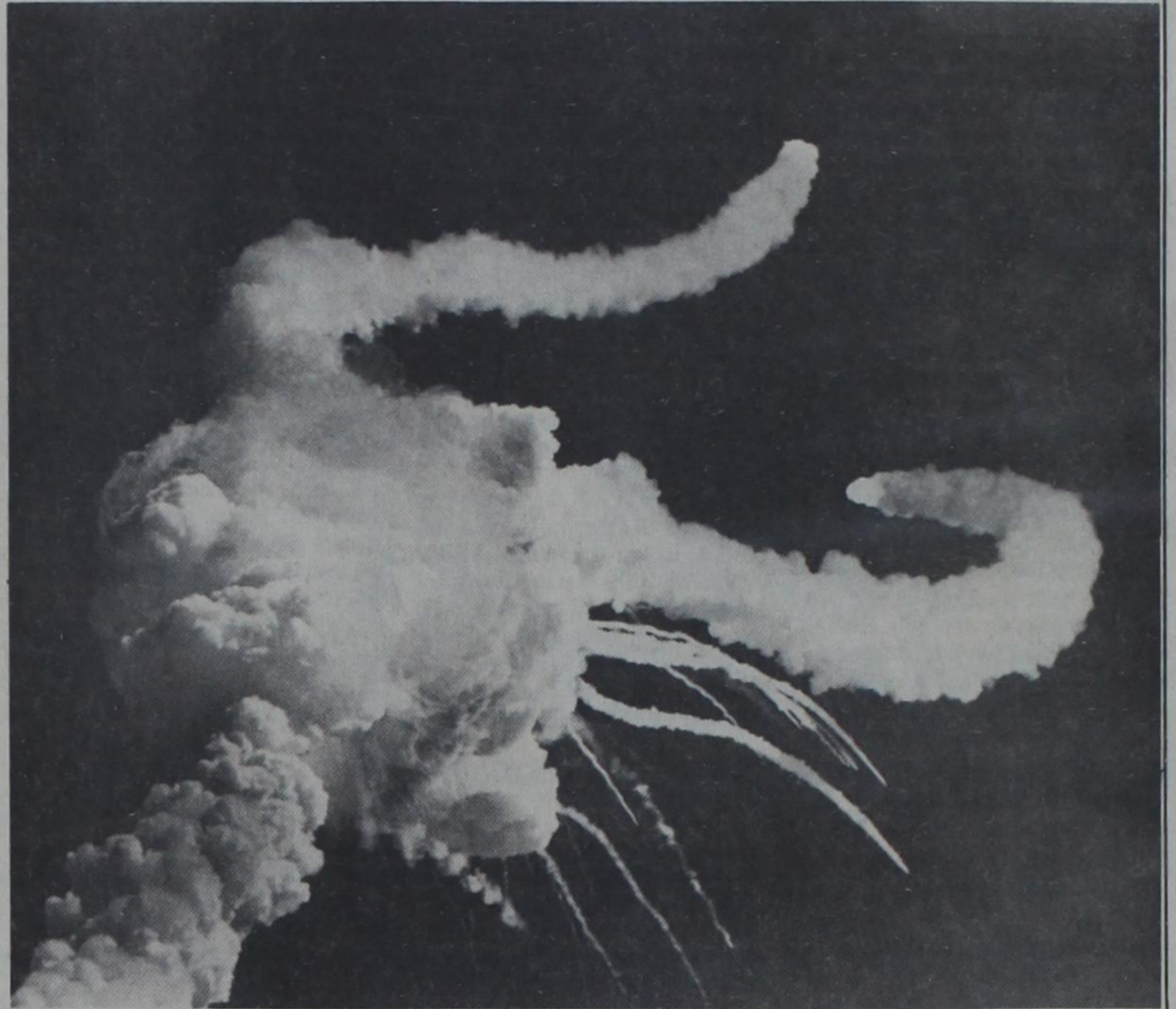


Image of history

The presidential commission on the Challenger disaster called Monday for NASA to return to a

safety-first policy after the Jan. 28 explosion of the Challenger 73 seconds into flight.

University presidents asked to study possible mergers to cut costs

By JOHNNA BROWN
University Daily Reporter

Group suggests combining Tech, other West Texas colleges

Texas Tech President Lauro Cavazos still has not received a letter from the Select Committee on Higher Education sent to college presidents around the state suggesting that they study mergers with other schools.

Proposals involving the university suggest merging Tech with Midwestern State University, Sul Ross University or West Texas State University. Another combination includes Tech and the University of Texas-Permian Basin.

The panel also proposed merging the eight state dental and allied

health centers into one system, which would affect Tech's Health Sciences Center.

According to Cavazos, the reason for possible university revamping for Texas universities is to provide better education and to save money.

"The select committee is looking for a natural combination of universities," Cavazos said.

"The proposed new university system would have one governing board, cutting down on expenses.

"As of now, Texas Tech is the largest non-system school in the

state," Cavazos said. "We tried to get Tech into a system the last time the Legislature convened, but it did not go through."

Cavazos said the possibility of university merging is an ongoing discussion in the Legislature.

"At this stage, there are a variety of different proposals. The Legislature has the final action on the subject, but many different suggestions will be handed down between now and the first of the year," he said.

The University Daily tried Monday to reach the presidents of the other

universities involved in the possible merging, but they were unavailable for comment.

Cavazos already has spoken out against the possibility of merging the eight health centers into one program.

"That is not a good approach because the strength of the health center is in the university system," Cavazos said.

"It would not be a positive move.

"In addition, our medical school has a different mission from the other Texas health centers. We are here to

train health officials for the West Texas area. Other schools are more involved in research."

Among the proposals included in the Select Committee's letter are the closing of Texas A&M University at Galveston and the possible conversion of branch study centers of Lamar University at Port Arthur, Lamar at Orange and the University of Houston-Victoria.

Other proposals suggested for study include closing the University of Texas-Permian Basin at Odessa, Sul Ross University at Alpine and East

Texas State University at Commerce.

Another suggested merger involves Texas Southern University, the University of Houston and Texas Women's Houston Center with the University of Texas Health Science Center.

"The proposals are aimed at the possibility of restructuring higher education, but for now they are just proposals and have to be presented to the Legislature," Cavazos said.

The 23-member committee, composed of legislators, educators and business people, was an outgrowth of the 1985 Legislature. The Legislature charged the panel with studying the state's universities.



Water sport

Candy Mathers/The University Daily

Jessie Jalamo, a freshman engineering major from Lubbock, makes a water volleyball play Monday at the Student Recreation Center.

'Baby Doe' regulations defeated in 5-2 Supreme Court decision

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court, striking down the Reagan administration's "Baby Doe" regulations, said Monday the federal government cannot challenge life-or-death decisions that parents make for babies with severe birth defects.

By a 5-3 vote, the court said the administration improperly attempted to override parental wishes and pressure hospitals and doctors to provide medical care that might extend the lives of deformed or gravely ill babies.

The decision, sparked by highly publicized cases in Indiana and New York, will not affect existing state laws that regulate decisions made by doctors and parents in such cases. Officials in some states may override parental wishes.

Justice Department lawyers had urged the court to rule that the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 gives federal regulators the power to make sure no hospital receiving federal money denies nourishment or medical treatment to a child "solely because of its handicap."

Rejecting that argument, the court said the 1973 law does not apply — and the federal government can play no role — when parents do not consent to treatment for their child.

"The court has vindicated the position we've taken all along against government intrusion in the hospital nursery," said Richard L. Epstein of the American Hospital Association.

But Thomas J. Marzen of the National Legal Center for the Medically Dependent and Disabled said, "I think you can anticipate there will be some attempt to amend the federal law."

Reaction from the Reagan administration was not immediately available. Charles Cooper, the Justice Department lawyer who argued the case before the Supreme Court, did not return a reporter's telephone call.

Writing for four members of the court, Justice John Paul Stevens said the administration's view of the law amounted to a "manifestly incorrect perception."

Stevens said hospitals do not violate federal law when complying with parental wishes to withhold treatment. And he added hospitals are not required by federal law to report parental refusal of life-saving treatments for their infants.

He was joined by Justices Thurgood Marshall, Harry A. Blackmun and Lewis F. Powell.

Chief Justice Warren E. Burger voted to strike down the "Baby Doe" regulations but did not sign Stevens' opinion.

Witnesses recall shooting death of Tech student

By CRAIG ELLIOTT
University Daily Reporter

Two witnesses to the May 31 shooting deaths of a Texas Tech student and a Shallowater man said Friday in an examination trial that they saw the suspect in the incident shoot at the victims outside a north Lubbock bar.

The witnesses said they saw Kenneth Wayne First, 26, of Plainview shoot at the victims outside the Lubbock Mining Co. nightclub. Kimberly Sue Holley, 22, of 5308-A 13th St. and J. Luke Davis, 26, of Shallowater were

killed in the incident. Holley was listed as a freshman at Tech from Austin.

Justice of the Peace Bill Ross continued the bond of \$100,000 he initially set for First after Vernon Ethan Bartley, an employee at Lubbock Mining Co., and Pedro Zavala, a customer, said they saw First shoot at the victims.

Holley died after she was shot in the back. The bullet penetrated her heart. Davis died from a gunshot wound to the abdomen. Each had been shot with a .38-caliber gun. Emergency medical personnel found no vital

signs on Holley at the scene. Davis died later at Lubbock General Hospital.

Police recovered a .38-caliber handgun after an officer saw First and a companion put the gun in a flower bed.

Bartley said he saw First shoot at Davis, and Zavala said he saw First fire in the direction of both Davis and Holley. Bartley said the victims, as well as First and his companion, were regular customers of the club. An argument reportedly began between First and Davis over a pool game about 1 a.m. Friday.

The four went outside, and Zavala said Davis fought with First while Holley held off First's companion with a knife, according to testimony. First's companion, also of Plainview, had a large quantity of jewelry in his car, police said. First reportedly thought he was being robbed.

First is charged with capital murder under a recent state law that allows capital murder charges to be filed when more than one person is killed during one incident. Capital murder is punishable upon conviction by life in prison or death by lethal injection.

TUESDAY



In today's UD

The Boston Celtics, winners of the 1986 NBA championship with a 114-97 victory over the Houston Rockets Sunday, have the kind of team reputation that inspires players to new heights. "Everyone who wears the uniform wants to play his best to live up to these standards," one player said. Story on page eight.

Weather

Today's forecast calls for partly cloudy skies with a high near 90 and a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. The low will be in the mid-60s. Winds will out of the south at 10-20 mph.

Tax reform debate best, worst of American politics



Damon Pearce
University Daily
Editor

In some ways, the battle over tax reform on Capitol Hill represents the best and the worst of the American political process.

At the very least, the debate could be an interesting, if confusing, civics lesson for any high school student crazy enough to want to try to make any sense of the countless positions of the senators, congressmen and President Reagan.

And that's just the elected officials. Add to them an entire herd of lobbyists for multitudinous special interest groups, each with a list of demands and legislative blood in his or her eyes.

Perhaps the person in the worst position is the poor clerk who has to try to keep track of all the proceedings. Surely the only tougher job in the world would be that of Imelda Marcos's personal dress and

shoe accountant.

This vociferous debate, and the fact that it all will be conducted in public under the watchful eye of television cameras, represents the best of the American political process.

That is not the case in many nations. Elsewhere, a decision like that the Senate will make on the tax reform proposal easily could be made with no public discussion at all. It would be easy for leaders in some other nation to arbitrarily make the decision to do whatever they wanted on tax policy.

Although this may sound trite, it is something that Americans take for granted. All you have to do is look at the percentage of people voting in the last election to see how much Americans appreciate what actually is a very special governmental system.

The tragedy of the American system is that some people appreciate it more than others. That is evidenced by the fact that covets of lobbyists for special interest groups descended on Washington in time for the debate on tax reform.

Some people know how to use the

system.

It is the sad truth that most of the time, the people who use the political system are the people who need it the least, the wealthy and educated. Who lobbies for the unfortunate middle class taxpayer?

This dichotomy is perfectly evident in the tax reform debate. The poor and middle classes evidently would benefit from the bill, but by the time the corporate lobbyists and other special interest groups get through on Capitol Hill, many of the benefits could be erased.

However, the simple fact that a tax bill ever made it to the Senate floor, a bill that would help the individual, is encouraging. That in itself indicates somebody up there is thinking about the little man.

It also is entirely possible that the senators, never heretofore known for their resistance to lobbyists, could resist those special interests. Senate leaders all last week pleaded with their colleagues to pass the bill intact.

If they do, it will be clear that the best and worst of U.S. politics still are in working order.



Airport blues

Airline deregulation causes assortment of problems for weary frequent traveler



Russell Baker
Syndicated
Columnist

NEW YORK — Economists say airline deregulation is the best thing to happen to customers since the invention of the electronic salami slicer, and they have figures to prove it.

Economists always have figures to prove what they say, and figures don't lie, so three cheers for free marketing in the sky, say I.

Yet why does my heart grow heavy when I arrive at the airport?

Is it because there are 29 customers ahead of me in line, and the flight for which I need a ticket is scheduled to leave in 35 minutes, and the man at the head of the line already has spent 15 minutes to search his luggage for his checkbook, and there isn't another ticket seller on duty because having two working on the same day would run up labor costs?

No, that is not why my heart grows heavy, for I know I can leave this line and race with my suitcases to the faraway gate where the airplane awaits and, there, find other authorities who will put me aboard before it leaves.

Then maybe my heart grows heavy because I realize I am not so young as I used to be and, therefore, while racing through the airport with my suitcases, I probably will trip over one of the family groups, college sorority chapters or sleeping (possibly dead) individuals who camp on airport floors because flying is so cheap they can't afford to go by bus.

No, that is not what makes my heart grow heavy, for I realize that even if I trip over several such people and fracture them, they will not become cross because they realize that to benefit from the low cost of flying they must be willing to put up with a lot of inconvenience.

Perhaps, then, the reason my heart grows heavy is fear that I will arrive at the faraway gate exhausted by my luggage-laden race and the exertions of picking myself up from fellow travelers on whose sleeping bags I have fallen, only to find that there is no plane because the flight has been canceled.

No, that is not what makes my heart grow heavy, for a flight never is canceled unless there are too few passengers for it to be profitable, and this flight, as indicated by the line of 29 persons and the presence of 163 others who will be waiting at the gate to board, is going to be so packed that passengers will need treaty arrangements among themselves to determine whose turn it is to breathe.

Perhaps my heart grows heavy because a loathsome elitism makes me dislike being squashed haunch-to-haunch against so much steamy humanity after the last seat is filled, the last knapsack placed in the overhead luggage racks or under the seat in obedience to FAA command and we all sit contained, elbows to ribs, worrying about being caught by our flight attendants with our seats not in the upright position for taxiing.

No, it is not loathsome elitism that makes my heart grow heavy, for if my loathsome elitism took that outlet, why did it never make my heart grow heavy in bus-riding days long ago, when I enjoyed being packed closely into the human comedy because it seemed to create among us bus

travelers a camaraderie in which we swapped fried chicken and apples for ham sandwiches and cookies and occasionally even passed the time in group singing?

Then maybe my heart grows heavy because I know almost everyone on the plane will be too tense, too drugged, too angry, too lonely, too devoted to misery chic, too sophisticated or too sick of it all to dispel the misery inside this deregulated human transport device by offering grapes in trade for some cheese or by joining in a sing-along.

No, it is not knowing that the plane's cargo will be sodden with misery that makes my heart grow heavy, for what does that tell us except that my fellow passengers will be my spiritual brothers and sisters, or, to put it otherwise, that their hearts too have grown heavy upon arriving at the airport.

Could it be that my heart is made heavy by suspicion that these incredibly cheap prices can be made possible only by dangerous economies in the maintenance shop?

No, this does not make my heart heavy, for though I have heard that the law of life requires that every person eventually must leave it, I believe an exception will be made for me. If this be so, then why does my heart become laden when I look up the aisle where the pilot is entering the plane and see that he is not the reassuring grizzled gray veteran of the TV commercials who has been flying since Errol Flynn sent his men up in those old crates held together with nothing by baling wire and chewing gum, but a stripling who can't possibly be a day older than 17?

Let's not think about that. Let's think about how lucky we are to have these fruits of deregulation.

Bloom County

By Berke Breathed



Doonesbury

By Garry Trudeau



The University Daily

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New prison

White dedicates new facility, but Mattox says funding illegal

By The Associated Press

TENNESSEE COLONY — Gov. Mark White planned Monday to dedicate the site for a new maximum security prison — a project the attorney general has ruled the state legally can't pay for.

The event at the new Michael Unit, originally billed as a groundbreaking ceremony, hastily was changed to a site dedication after Attorney General Jim Mattox ruled Friday that a proposed bond issue to finance the unit was illegal.

"It's not just ceremonial," Mattox said Monday. "We are moving forward with the unit. It's just we are not moving as rapid as we like because we don't have the money."

The proposal he ruled invalid would have allowed the Texas Board of Corrections to use \$78 million in private money to build the prison, which then would be leased to the state. The bonds would have been issued under the state Health Facilities Development Act.

Mattox, however, ruled Friday the bonds could not be used because although the prison would have some

medical capabilities, "using that method of financing would violate the intent of the Legislature."

"We're moving ahead and we're still working hard to find a way to fund the units," he said Monday. "We think we will find a way through a bonding process probably. It's not that we think we can figure out ways to find additional funds throughout the state government to do so."

Prison spokesman Phil Guthrie said the entire ceremony Monday was not scrapped because many of the relatives of Mark Michael, the former Texas prison warden for whom the

new unit is being named, had come from various parts of the country to attend.

Michael, a highly respected warden at the Hilltop Unit, died about a year ago of cancer.

The new prison, which would house 2,250 inmates, is needed to meet federal court orders requiring an end to overcrowding in Texas prisons.

Prison Board Chairman Al Hughes said Mattox's ruling last week meant the state would miss a federal court deadline to reduce prison crowding by Sept. 1, 1987.

NEWS BRIEFS

Rival factions clash in South Africa

CROSSROADS, South Africa (AP) — Thousands of rival black squatters clashed in bloody battles at Crossroads and nearby shantytowns on Monday for the second time in a month, killing at least six people and wounding more than 20.

In raging, daylong fights using guns, clubs and knives, several thousand conservative vigilantes burst through police lines to charge against young anti-apartheid radicals and refugees, police said. The rampagers set fire to hundreds of the wood, tin and plastic homes in the KTC section of Crossroads and nearby Nyanga.

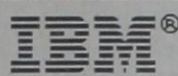
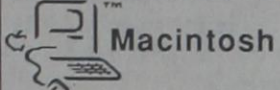
The structures which were burned down included a clinic and relief center housing 2,500 of the approximately 30,000 people left homeless after last month's clashes.

Five people were hacked to death and one died from bullet wounds, police said. Officers said the toll was probably higher.

Police in Pretoria, the capital, reported four more blacks slain, all burned to death, in new outbreaks of violence in eight centers around the country. Anti-apartheid unrest and spinoff violence has killed about 1,600 people in 21 months.

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Profs 'adopt' Lubbock students

By JOHNNA BROWN
University Daily Reporter

Texas Tech University will be more in touch with the public school system starting in the fall when professors "adopt" classes from the Lubbock Independent School District.

More than 140 faculty members from Tech's two schools and seven colleges have signed up for "Adopt a Classroom." The project was designed by a team of university and public school officials to encourage collaboration between public schools and institutions of higher education.

According to Richard E. Ishler, dean of the College of Education, faculty members will adopt LISD classes of interest to them and develop individual plans for interaction with the teachers.

The idea for university/public

school interaction evolved from a Commissioner's Conference on Teacher Education, sponsored jointly by the commissioners of the Texas Education Agency and the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System.

Ishler, a member of the Coordinating Board committee that planned the conference, said committee members wanted to develop a system to incorporate interaction between public schools and universities.

Sixty-seven universities from around the state sent teams to the conference. A team of Tech President Lauro Cavazos, Vice President for Academic Affairs Donald Haragan, Arts and Science Dean Charles Kellogg, Ishler and LISD Superintendent E.C. Leslie represented Lubbock at the conference.

According to Ishler, team members

listened to speakers from around the nation, lecturing on ways to better mesh the university and public school systems.

"We were then given a homework assignment of developing a collaborative effort," Ishler said.

Tech's answer to the problem of an "Adopt a Classroom" project will begin in the fall and last throughout the year. Professors will be available to the public school teacher on a voluntary basis, Ishler said.

The professor and public school teacher who are paired together will work out a regular schedule for visitation. In some cases, the professor and teacher may want to exchange teaching positions.

"The professor would serve as a role model for students and teachers who are interested in the professor's field," he said.

"Collaboration between public school teachers and university professors will be as open as the instructors want it to be. It all depends on the creativity of the instructors."

Ishler said the program also will help recruit students to Tech.

"It is an unstated goal, but one reason for the 'Adopt a Classroom' program is student recruitment," Ishler said.

The program has received support from a diversified group of faculty members. The planning committee also is getting involved, with all five members joining in the adoption program.

"The 'Adopt a Classroom' project does more than help educate future teachers," Cavazos said. "In combining university and public school resources, there can be added inspiration for every student."



Maestro at work

Candy Mathers/The University Daily

Curbs on campus are getting a fresh coat of paint to remind drivers not to leave vehicles parked along the roadside. Keith Gill, a senior from Lubbock majoring in computer science, puts the finishing touches on a curb next to the baseball field. Gill works for Tech physical grounds maintenance.

Economy, strong dollar hurt wheat prices

By KAY HOPKINS
University Daily Reporter

Poor economic conditions worldwide coupled with a strong dollar have caused problems for the American wheat farmer, according to a Texas Tech agricultural economics professor.

"The strength of the dollar gained 30 percent against other currencies while they (wheat farmers) were

already in distress," said Kary Mathis, chairman of the agricultural economics department. "Then wheat exports dropped 20 percent. All this has really hurt the farmers."

"Basically, the supply and demand is affecting the market. It's putting everyone in equally poor shape in all major commodities in the area."

U.S. winter wheat production is expected to total 1.6 billion bushels, 12 percent below production last year,

Mathis said, and the smallest crop since 1979. Most of the decrease is the result of an 11 percent reduction in domestic harvested acreage.

"Prices are below production costs at this time because it is harvest time," he said. "But the dollar value has dropped some, so perhaps this summer exports will pick up."

According to the Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, Texas wheat production was down 36 percent from last year's record crop and 28 percent from the April estimate.

May survey results show wheat production is forecast at 119.6 million bushels with a statewide yield

average of 26 bushels an acre.

Mathis said that because of the continuing dry weather in the state, he doesn't see any prospects for improvement.

"The High Plains (West Texas down to Childress) grows about half of all of the Texas wheat," Mathis said. "There has been a 35 percent drop (in demand) for plains wheat."

"There were 400 million bushels in storage going into this year," Mathis said. "In May 1985, we had a year's supply of wheat on hand."

"This year, we'll produce a total of 2.4 billion bushels."

SSLGF appeals judge's ruling

By CRAIG ELLIOTT
University Daily Reporter

Student Services for Lesbians, Gays and Friends is continuing its fight with Texas Tech University, appealing last month's decision against the group by U.S. Judge Halbert O. Woodward.

The group is claiming civil rights violations by Tech officials. The case now will be transferred to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

Woodward ruled in May that the group was not entitled to any monetary damages or compensation for the time it was denied recognition by the university.

The group claimed it had been discriminated against when Tech refused to grant recognition. Woodward ruled that Tech officials were immune from damage recovery in the case.

The group was granted official status in April 1985 after Texas A&M

lost a similar lawsuit before the U.S. Supreme Court. Tech officials withdrew the ban on the group after that decision. SSLGF originally sought official status in July 1984. Woodward ruled that the legal standard had not been clearly established when Tech refused official status to SSLGF at that time.

Woodward said legal precedents had been more clearly established in other circuits but were not as clear in the 5th Circuit. He said Tech officials were prevented from determining a legal standard because of the confusing situation and had acted "reasonably and in good faith" in the matter.

SSLGF filed the lawsuit in December 1984 against the Tech Board of Regents, President Lauro Cavazos, Vice President for Student Affairs Robert Ewalt and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Larry Ludewig.



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Celtic traditions motivate players to excel

By The Associated Press

BOSTON — Three fans cloaked in white bedsheets drifted ominously behind the Houston Rockets' bench before the game. The ghosts of the Boston Celtics' glorious tradition are very real.

The eerie welcome for the intruders who dared threaten that tradition preceded a 114-97 NBA title-clinching victory Sunday that Boston dominated from the opening tap to the

final buzzer.

"It's a case of the standards being set high here for so long," said Celtics' guard Jerry Sichting. "Everyone who wears the uniform wants to play his best to live up to these standards."

They were set by three NBA greats — Bob Cousy, Bill Russell and John Havlicek — and the teams they played on. Those same standards are being met and enhanced by Larry Bird and his teammates, who will be honored today at a downtown parade

and City Hall rally.

From Cousy, who was on the first Celtics' championship team in 1957, through Bird, the leader of the team that won Boston's 16th title Sunday, the standards of excellence rarely wavered.

Sichting, who was obtained before the season from the lowly Indiana Pacers, found out that "the Celtics have such a winning history that if you finish as runner-up, you've had a lousy year."

"The Celtics measure their success

by winning the championship," he said. "Other teams measure their success by getting into the playoffs."

The club's tradition has been marked by a sense of purpose and determination. Both assets helped the Celtics respond to an embarrassing 111-96 loss in Thursday night's fifth game that got them mad at themselves.

"Everyone knows what we had to do," Bird said after Boston won the series, four games to two. "We had a great opportunity to win it."

Houston fans not disappointed in Rockets

By The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets came home Monday without the NBA championship, but that did not discourage more than 500 cheering fans who greeted the team at Intercontinental Airport.

"You've been the best fans in the

NBA, and next year, we will come back with fire in our eyes and the NBA championship on our minds," reserve center Jim Petersen told the crowd.

The Boston Celtics, heavy favorites from the start of the title series, won their 16th NBA title Sunday when they defeated the Rockets 114-97 to capture the best-of-seven series, 4-2.

Rockets star Akeem Olajuwon, who had predicted victory in Houston, left the fans with one more forecast.

"We proved this year that we belong, and next year we're going to do it," Olajuwon said. "And we are still unbeatable."

Hundreds of fans jammed the airport terminal as the Rockets deplaned. They shouted Rocket cheers and

waved banners of encouragement.

"Boston's getting old and we're getting better," said Bo Farrill, 22, who had waited four hours for the team to arrive. "We've been here since 10:30 this morning, and it was well worth the wait."

Mayor Kathy Whitmire and some city council members also were on hand to welcome the team home.

Runners named All-American

By CRAIG ELLIOTT
University Daily Reporter

Texas Tech's men's 400-meter relay team gained All-America status with a time of 39.03 at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships last week.

The team of Keith Stubblefield, Jimmy Jones, Gary Brown and Carl Carter placed fourth in the race behind TCU, Texas A&M and Southern California. Teams finishing in the first six places gain All-America honors.

TCU's team set the collegiate record with a time of 38.46, beating the record of 38.53, which was set by Houston in 1982. Texas A&M was clocked at 38.63, while USC finished the race at 38.90. TCU's team recorded the world's best time in the event this year.

Tech's time of 39.03 was the fastest the team had run this year and was a school record for the event. The team had run the relay in 39.11 earlier this season.

Finishing behind Tech were SMU

(39.04), North Carolina State (39.25), Mississippi State (39.37), Baylor (39.63) and Tennessee (dropped baton). North Carolina State was the defending champion in the event.

The All-America finish broke a string of bad luck suffered by Tech at the meet. Earlier in the meet, freshman Jimmy Jones failed to qualify for the 400-meter final after finishing sixth with a time of 46.91. Later in the day, Jones was running his leg of the 1,600-meter relay when the baton was jarred loosed by another runner.

The 400-meter relay team of Stubblefield, Jones, Brown and Carter became the first from Tech to gain All-America status in the outdoor meet since 1981. That year, James Mays placed fourth in the 800-meter run.

Tech's only female competitor, Maria Medina, finished fifth in her heat in the 3,000-meter run with a time of 9:35.17. Medina qualified for the NCAAs with a time of 9:19.60 in the Southwest Conference meet.

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