

THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION
Texas Tech University
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

Thursday, December 3, 1992

Volume 68 Number 65

8 pages



WORLD

Gaidar defends economic policy

MOSCOW (AP) — Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar told a jeering Congress on Wednesday that the Russian people are smarter and more patient than the hard-liners who are trying to dump his government and block reforms.

Gaidar, fighting for his job and the economic policy he has championed for President Boris Yeltsin, conceded that the government's program had failed to tame inflation, now 25 percent a month.

But he said a declining number of strikes and public protests indicated growing public acceptance of the switch from seven decades of communism toward a free-market economy.

"There is no threat of hunger and cold. We have passed through the period of adaptation to reforms without social upheaval," Gaidar said.



STATE

House to vote on school finance plan

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas House plans a showdown vote Thursday on a proposed constitutional amendment on school finance that's backed by Democratic leaders but has been blocked by Republicans.

"It's time to fish or cut bait," said Gov. Ann Richards, who convened the lame-duck legislative session on Nov. 10.

She and other Democratic leaders back the proposed amendment to allow some local property tax money to be shifted from property-rich to poor school districts.

Rep. Tom Craddick of Midland, head of the House GOP caucus, said most Republicans still appear to oppose it. He said they were working on a different measure, which wouldn't shift money among districts, that they planned to offer as a substitute.



State treasurer debates position

AUSTIN (AP) — State Treasurer Kay Bailey Hutchison says she is mulling over a bid for Sen. Lloyd Bentsen's seat should the Texan become part of president-elect Clinton's cabinet, it was reported Wednesday.

In an interview with the San Antonio Light, Ms. Hutchison said many supporters have asked her to run, and the statewide organization from her 1990 campaign is ready to go.

"I'd be very interested in it," she told the newspaper, but she added that she is waiting to see what happens before making a decision.

Bentsen, a senator since 1971, has been rumored to be a possible choice as treasury secretary in a Clinton cabinet.

Should he resign his seat, it could set off a political domino game.



INSIDE

News Tech professor Zane Curry is researching alternative housing options for the elderly in rural areas. **page 3**

Features "The Nutcracker" returns once again for the Christmas season, only this time its new and improved. **page 5**

Council campaigns for half-cent sales tax

BY KENDRA CASEY
THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

The Lubbock City Council will gear up campaign efforts next week to pass a half-cent sales tax that would finance a prospective Department of Defense project in Lubbock, Mayor David Langston said Wednesday.

The half-cent sales tax is Lubbock's only means of funding an incentive package that would bring the DOD finance and accounting center to the Hub City, Langston said.

The city will put the sales tax proposal, and ultimately the project, before voters Jan. 16.

Approving the financing proposal will be a primary step in securing or denying the project, Langston said.

"We have to decide as a community what we want," he said.

If voters approve the tax, the funds generated from the increased revenue would be limited to the project, Langston said.

If the tax proposal is passed and Lubbock is not chosen as a project site, the money will be redirected at the voters' discretion.

The facility is expected to promote growth in Lubbock by bringing about 4,500 jobs to the city and creating spin-off jobs and revenue,

Langston said.

"We've been looking for a breakthrough like this for years," he said. "It provides a wonderful opportunity in so far as our economy. It adds a new dimension."

Langston also said the city council will ensure that the Defense Department carries through with its plans for the facility if Lubbock is chosen as a site.

Langston said he thinks the release of the short list shows the Pentagon is serious about the project.

A campaign committee, comprised of community members and supported by private funds,

will inform voters about the project and the role the half-cent sales tax will play in funding building costs and in maintaining the facility, Langston said.

He said the city stands a good chance of securing the facility with the support of U.S. congressmen Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, and Phil Gramm, R-Texas.

Lubbock is the only Texas city to appear on the short list released Tuesday by the Defense Department. Eight Texas cities applied for the center.

The mayor called on various community

see TAX, page 3



SHARON STEINMAN: THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

Get your guns up

Grayson and Jamie Harris try to "hold up" Raider Red at the Wal-Mart on South Loop 289 and Quaker Avenue Wednesday night. Raider Red was at Wal-Mart to audition for the position next semester.

Traditionally, Saddle Tramps who wish to serve as Raider Red must go to a public place and "perform" for judges. The identity of Raider Red is a secret until he retires from the position.

Fetal tissue helping cure Parkinson's patients

BY JAMES DAVID
THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

Parkinson's disease patients have a renewed sense of hope for a cure, thanks to fetal-tissue transplants.

The procedure, new in the United States, involves the injection of fetal brain cells into the brains of Parkinson's patients in advanced stages of the disease.

The University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver and the Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, Conn., received positive results from research conducted on the transplants.

Evelyn Kriek, a clinical coordina-

tor of Colorado's Parkinson's research program, said the university's program was the first to perform the procedure in the United States.

"We did the first fetal dopamine cell implantation surgery in November of 1988," Kriek said. "When the patient first came in to see us, he couldn't even walk, all he could manage was a crawl."

"Now, four years later, he drives, walks and has resumed his old hobby of model train-making. He feels that his condition has regressed 10 years," she said.

Neurosurgeons Curt Freed and Robert Breeze, who conduct the operations at UCHSC, were the first to

perform the transplants in the United States.

"After Dr. Freed appeared on '60 Minutes,' I had 3,000 phone calls the next day from people who wanted the surgery yesterday," Kriek said.

The University of Colorado and Yale School of Medicine have performed 12 and 11 fetus dopamine implantations, respectively, since 1988. "The only other place in the world where the procedure is done is in Sweden, and they have performed four," Kriek said.

Not every Parkinson's patient is a candidate for the procedure.

"We require that they be under age 70, in the advanced stages of

Parkinson's and be free of cancer, stroke, seizures, diabetes and heart disease," Kriek said.

A chief problem in the surgery is that the long-term effects have not been determined.

"We've tracked our first seven patients," Kriek said. "The last five were operated on within the last three months, and it is too soon to assess their prognosis."

Colorado's first seven patients have made significant progress with the exception of one.

"Patient No. 2 did not have the normal response to L-Dopa therapy to begin with, so he really wasn't a likely

see TISSUE, page 3

Christmas season not only brings cheer, but increased crime rates

BY LYDIA GUAJARDO
THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

The holiday season and the week of semester finals bring festive moods, busy times and higher crime rates to the Texas Tech campus and Lubbock area.

"A lot of theft goes on during this time and some it can be blamed on stress that is going on in the students' lives," said Bob Moyer, a crime prevention officer at the University Police Department.

Stress from finals and a lack of money near the end of the semester causes people to steal items that are sold easily, Moyer said.

Students should lock their doors when they leave their rooms or homes even for a few minutes, he said.

Crime occurs more often in apartment complexes than in residence halls because the complexes are not patrolled as well as the halls, Moyer said.

Moyer suggested that students who leave Lubbock for the entire break between semesters take their belongings home or to a storage unit for safety reasons.

"We don't take any responsibility for the items left in the rooms, and we make sure the students rooms are left secure before the staff members leave," said Nyla Ptomey, associate director of Tech's Housing and Dining Services. To reduce the risk of crime, the locks on the

residence halls' outer doors are changed and a limited number of keys are distributed to students and staff members who leave Lubbock late in the month, Ptomey said.

"A lot of people will go away and forget to lock the windows or (they will) leave personal items out in the open for people to see," Moyer said.

Students should remove large articles, such as TVs, stereos and VCRs, from visibility to discourage people passing by from breaking and entering.

Often theft in the residence halls is considered small because books, jewelry and other small items are stolen, but the value of those items usually are greater than large items.

Students who return to the area before others also should take precautions for their personal safety.

Those who use the campus during the break for jogging or other activities should be aware of their surroundings.

"Often times while I am patrolling, I see people running around the campus and they have their headphones on and are not aware of what is going on around them," Moyer said. "People need to use the track at the recreation center that is well lighted and know who is around them."

People walking on campus during the holiday season also should know what is occurring around them.



SHARON STEINMAN: THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

Lubbock firefighters try to get 82-year-old Lubbock resident Clarence Woods out of his vehicle after it flipped Wednesday night at 50th and University. Accord-

ing to witnesses the automobile's motor accelerated, sending the car into the concrete curb, and causing it to roll. Woods suffered minor injuries.

Financial aid sees changes in laws

BY KRISTIE DAVIS
THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

Students receiving financial aid can expect changes in the applications, loan limits and the types of loans offered to students in the 1993 fall semester.

Students no longer will have to pay the \$6.75 processing fee to complete financial aid applications because they will be able to apply free of

charge as of Jan. 1.

A non-subsidized Stafford Loan, aimed at middle-income students, will become effective in the fall and will enable more students to be eligible for the loan.

"We expect to see a lot of students take advantage of that," said Financial Aid Director Ronny Barnes.

The federal government pays the interest on

see AID, page 3

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Opinions expressed in this editorial column represent the views of the editor and/or The University Daily editorial board.



Reality of life

To the editor:
 There is nothing I could add to Mr. Osborne's letter except to ask your permission to tell you a story. A story about a young lady named Jessica.

Jessica was 19, a high school dropout, unemployed and living with her mother. Jessica became pregnant, and the boyfriend left town. (Just like us men, huh?) Jessica's mom begged her to abort the child. She even offered to pay for it. But Jessica said she couldn't kill something that she could feel inside her. Something that had a heartbeat and was growing more and more every day. Jessica's mom eventually kicked her out of the house, but Jessica know she had made the right decision.

On Thanksgiving Day, that piece of tissue celebrated her seventh birthday. For you see, that was no piece of tissue, that was no choice. That was my adopted daughter.

She is reality!

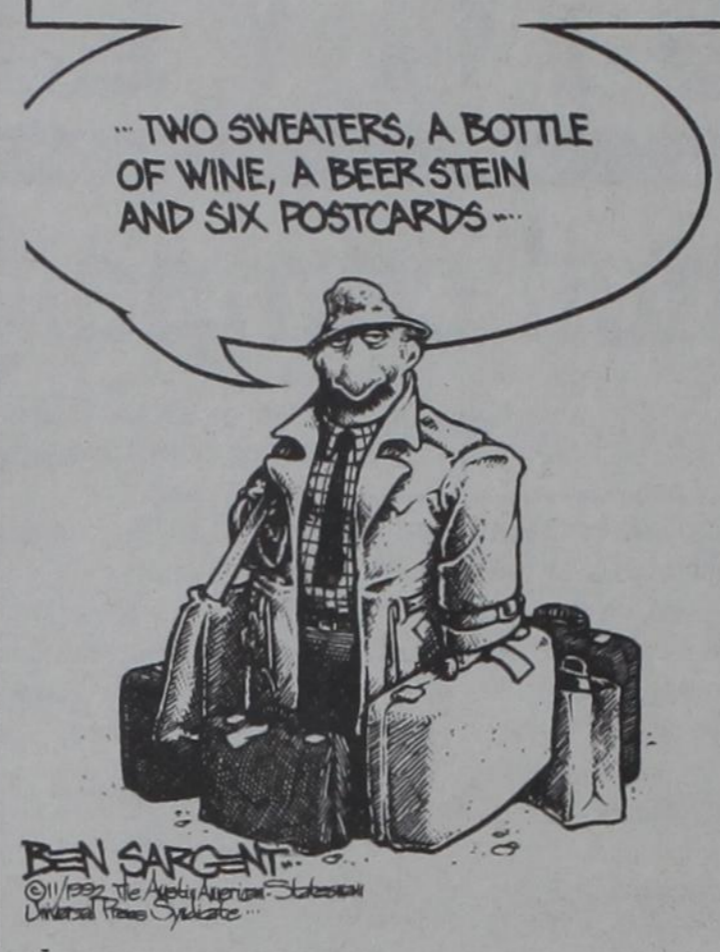
Stephen J. Naylor

Opposition, part two

To the editor:
 I feel a need to respond to Ms. Robertson's letter Monday. You state that the reality of pro-life is death for the mother. The reality of maternal death, however, is brought about by her conscious choice to 1) have sexual intercourse and 2) get an abortion. You see, it is the mother's choice that endangers her life, not any anti-abortion/pro-life stance.

Did you know that at least 97 percent of all abortions in this country are done for the sole reason of birth control. People, if you are not ready to accept the consequences of your sexual actions, then you have no right to go out and kill

WHAT AMERICANS BRING BACK FROM A FLIGHT TO EUROPE



WHAT EUROPEANS BRING BACK FROM A FLIGHT TO AMERICA



editorial
 Fairness, law and order

The scandal surrounding former Lubbock pathologist Ralph Erdmann and District Attorney Travis Ware's possible involvement in it have gone nationwide.

Several prominent attorneys have voiced backing for two police officers and one Atlanta attorney indicted in the case after criticizing Erdmann and Ware's association with Erdmann. Most notable are Houston's Richard "Racehorse" Haynes and the presidents of the state and national Associations of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Before delving further in the current situation, a brief synopsis of events thus far is necessary.

Erdmann received 10 years probation after being found guilty of falsifying autopsy reports and tampering with a corpse earlier this year. Bill Hubbard and Pat Kelly of the Lubbock Police Department and attorney Millard Farmer were indicted in recent months for their testimony against Erdmann. Last week, Lubbock attorneys Rod Hobson and Brian Murray were subpoenaed by a Randall County grand jury. They, too, were critical of Ware's handling of the case.

With the subpoenas of Hobson and Murray, a pattern is evolving, best stated to the Lubbock *Avalanche-Journal* by New York attorney Steven Losch: "Even though they're separate cases with separate issues, prosecutorial vindictiveness is the thread that runs through all of them."

More succinctly, five vocal critics of Erdmann and Ware's possible knowledge of Erdmann's illegal practices — which remain secret — have been subpoenaed. Three have been indicted, and the other two are still under scrutiny, facing possible indictments.

Nancy Hollander, president of the NACDL, told *The A-J*, "It appears to be retaliation against lawyers and police officers for doing their job and telling the truth."

Jonathan Gradess, executive director of the New York State Defenders Association, is also backing the indictees. "The idea that a prosecutor has a hunting license to pick off witnesses because he doesn't like their testimony is an outrage," Gradess said in Wednesday's *A-J*.

These statements paint the same picture: A perception is forming that Ware has a problem with those critical of him and he is abusing his power to correct the problem.

Whether that perception is reality has yet to be discovered. All bets have been placed, and Ware has been called. As a public servant, he is obligated to lay his hand on the table for all to see. Then justice will determine what wrongdoing, if any, has occurred.

Ware's career and personal integrity are on the line.

Benefits from the DOD

Tuesday, the city of Lubbock was named on the short list for a Department of Defense regional accounting center.

This is good news for the city and the area, but, as with all good news, there is a price to the tune of \$60 million.

Lubbock is the only city in Texas to be chosen on the short list, with eight other cities in the state applying for the center.

This project calls for a 1/2 cent sales tax increase, which Lubbockites will vote on Jan. 16. This is a chance for the city of Lubbock to have something in the city that will benefit everybody involved, including the businesses. This center will bring new people in and put millions of dollars into the local economy.

Lubbock must vote for the sales tax and get the money needed to put this center in Lubbock. If the sales tax is not approved, Lubbock will drop out of contention for the center.

However, if the city approves the increase and is not chosen for the center, the city government should figure out a good way to use the funds. Namely, implement an economic development plan that, unlike the former Board of Community Development, will reap visible results.

The Accounting Center is a regional center, which will employ some 4,000 to 4,500 employees on a payroll of about \$175 million.

This will be a great boost to the slow economy that exists in Lubbock, but the passing of the sales tax is the next step in attracting the center. The city has to have the money before it can get a chance at the center.

Now here we go again, the dreaded sales tax that many people fear paying. But the results, even if only possible, are well worth the risks.

Sens. Lloyd Bentsen and Phil Gramm, along with local Rep. Larry Combest, are putting their full efforts into the push for the center. The whole state is rallying behind Lubbock to get this much-needed economic boost.

It is up to the people of Lubbock to see whether they want this center, and show they are willing to pay more in sales tax to help boost the economy. Come January, the answer should resoundingly be yes.

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Thi ... uhhh, I forget



RUSSELL BAKER

I have a wonderful idea for today's article and will write it down as soon as I remember what it is. You are certain to be enthralled by it. That's what I said to myself when the idea came to mind.

"Now that," I said to myself, "is an idea that will enthrall every reader." That much I remember with some accuracy because I was in the midst of saying it to myself when the phone rang.

Naturally I interrupted myself to answer the phone. I constantly interrupt conversations with people far more interesting than myself when the phone rings. Why should myself deserve more courtesy than I would give somebody interesting?

Well, a human voice, female, asks if I am who I am. Her mention of my name immediately brings it back to me. She is right. That is my name. Odd how easy it becomes to forget a name.

It must have something to do with everybody named Jason or Samantha nowadays. Don't try forgetting your Social Security number though, or officious drones will clean your clock. Or is "hang you out to dry" the idiom I'm looking for? "Pump you up," maybe? Or could it be "leave you twisting slowly in the wind"?

Remember when everybody used to say — well, whatever it was they used to say?

The voice says, "How are you today? This is Jo Ann, speaking for the United Sufferers of the World. We'd like to find out whether you have a heart as big as all outdoors or whether you are a cheap, selfish, penny-pinching ..."

Those were not her precise words. I can't remember anybody's precise words anymore, not even my own. Precise words were the first thing I started forgetting, and it's made me a happier man.

It makes me intensely happy at this very instant to realize that I can't remember a single precise word spoken by anybody in that presidential thing we had here some time back of the Jack Paar Show. As long as I get their drift, precise words don't matter.

Since flocks of Jo Anns are constantly phoning me up, their drift is so familiar to me that I don't have to listen anymore. They are itching to give me light bulbs or plastic trash bags if I will send money to fight suffering.

I apparently got her off the phone somehow, because I just looked over at the telephone and noticed I wasn't talking on it. Let's hope I haven't ordered bulbs and trash bags because they'd have to be stored in the pantry, which means searching the house from top to bottom to find where I left it.

Last time, it turned out to be right on top of my eyeglasses. "If it had been a snake it would have bit me," I told my son, happily echoing my mother's famous words of long ago.

"Panties don't bite anymore, Dad," he said, but not in those precise words of course.

That boy is a block right off the old chip. From the age of 5 to 9 he could never remember where he'd left his shoes. Though maybe that was his sister.

Anyhow when Sallie Lou finished shattering my concentration with her light-bulb chatter, my wonderful idea for today's article had gone into hiding. Having dealt with this problem before, I knew how to recover it. The trick is to go to the place where the idea first came to mind: a second-floor bathroom in this case.

I went upstairs and, entering the bedroom, stubbed my toe on a volume of Marcel Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past," which must have fallen from my limp hands after narcotizing me the night before.

Upon setting Proust upright, I remembered that I had come upstairs for some purpose, and had now forgotten what the purpose was. Experience had taught me how to deal with that too:

Go back downstairs to the very place where you decided to go upstairs, and the purpose for going upstairs would instantly become clear.

Now I sit here processing words. Either halfway up or halfway down the staircase, waiting for that wonderful idea to return. Meantime I've forgotten whether I should be going up the stairs or down.

Somebody does something for some kind of news service, but I've forgotten.
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other opinions

Here is a sampling of editorial opinion from Texas newspapers:

El Paso Herald-Post on anti-foreigner violence in Germany:

The latest anti-foreigner violence in Germany has ratcheted national and international concern to new heights ...

These horrible acts brought an outpouring of indignation and sympathy for the victims ...

In numerous cities, Germans are holding candlelight vigils and protest marches. Necessary as these human gestures are, they must be accompanied by more effective police action against the few extremist provocateurs. Federal authorities are stepping up surveillance and arrests of far-right activists.

Parliament must also amend the constitution, making reasonable control of the country's borders possible. The task of distinguishing between economic migrants and refugees fleeing persecution is often difficult, as this country's Haiti dilemma shows.

But at present anyone who arrives at the German border and utters the word asylum is granted free lodging and generous social assistance while legal proceedings drag on for years. Some 370,000 people have arrived this year alone, mostly from former-communist lands. With Germany's economy strained by reunification, resentments fester.

For the long term, hope lies in the rebuilding of the east, restoring health to the economy. Material and psychological reconstruction won't be complete for a generation or more, but pressures could begin to ease as soon as next year, when economists foresee the first signs of growth.

San Antonio Light on cash-for-clunkers program:

Two traditional adversaries have launched an innovative program to steer some of the nation's worst-polluting vehicles off the road. General Motors and the Environmental Defense Fund joined forces in July to work on narrow areas of mutual concern.

Their Mobile Emission Reduction Crediting is about to get its first test in Illinois.

The program will use high technology and market economics to allow companies to meet pollution reduction requirements of the 1990 Clean Air Act by financing the purchase and destruction of old cars.

Even in the experimental stage, such alliances are encouraging. The long struggle to clean up the nation's air and water has been so often polarized that little attention was paid to cultivating common ground. The adversarial relationship that too often exists between industry and environmentalists prevents the sharing of ideas that could yield useful progress. ...

Such programs will only be a stopgap measure for polluters. While cash-for-clunkers might help companies make an initial 10 percent cut in pollutants, the federal law over time will require more complex and expensive measures. In the meantime, there is no harm trying innovating and potentially less expensive approaches.

Second class postage paid by The University Daily, journalism building, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.
 Publication Number 768480.
 The University Daily, a student newspaper at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, is published daily except Saturday and Sunday, September through May, and twice a week June through August except during review, examination and vacation periods.
 As a student activity, The University Daily is independent of the academic School of Mass Communications.
 Subscription rate is \$30 per year for non-students and \$1.50 per semester for students. Single copies are 25 cents.
 Opinions expressed in The University Daily are those of the editor or writer of the column and are not necessarily those of the administration or of the Board of Regents.
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The University Daily, journalism building, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

Prof researching alternative housing for elderly

BY JULIE ANN ANDRES
THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

The quality of life of elderly people could improve through a Texas Tech professor's research into the housing needs of those living in rural communities.

Zane Curry, an environmental design and consumer economics professor, said the study will update his 1989 research of alternative housing for elderly people in rural areas.

His research also will help develop design criteria for a proposed independent living facility in Lynn County, of which Tahoka is a part.

The county's hospital will fund the five-month research.

Curry said an alternative form of living is needed for many older adults because they do not need to be institutionalized, but need care that is not available while living alone.

Lynn County has one nursing home and no independent living facilities for elderly people.

Wes-Tex Resource Conservation and Development may help fund the proposed facility, which would be adjacent to and operated by the county hospital.

"I recognized the need for a facility of this type from the experience I've gained being a designer and builder and by my experience with the needs of the older people in my community," Curry said.

The facility will be based on the elderly residents' preferences, which include an emer-

gency call system, a meal service, a single-story structure and a location near a hospital, Curry said.

"Their input will be an integral part of the design," he said. "This type of facility would not be for all people, but there are many who would benefit because of the quality of life that would be offered. It would also be designed to promote social interactions."

The population of Lynn County is about 8,600, and almost 1,200 people are more than 65 years old. Most rural communities have a higher concentration of elderly people.

Curry said construction of the project will depend on the state of the economy and available funding after the study is completed in May.

Foreign

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teacher's assistant programs which attract students. The more money which is available for these programs, the more students we can draw."

He said Chinese and Indian students make up the largest portion of foreign students at Tech, although students from Taiwan made up the largest group two years ago.

Asian students comprise 59 percent of the foreign student population, the largest geographic region represented at U.S. universities. Asian student enrollment increased 7 percent at Tech from the 1990-91 academic year.

China sent 43,940 students to higher education institutions in the United States last year, the largest amount sent by one country.

According to the Nov. 25 "Chronicle of Higher Education," Chinese students are extending their enrollment at universities in the United States because of an executive order signed by President George Bush in 1990.

The order allowed Chinese students studying in the United States during the Tiananmen Massacre to remain in the country until Jan. 1, 1994.

Europeans comprise one-eighth of the foreign student population in the United States, with the largest number from Unified Germany.

Aid

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fully-subsidized Stafford Loans for a designated period of time. Students pay all the interest, without government help, for non-subsidized loans.

Students must apply for the fully-subsidized loan before applying for the non-subsidized loan.

The loan limits on Stafford Loans also will be raised to \$3,500 for sophomores and \$5,500 for juniors and seniors.

During the 1992-93 school year, the Stafford Loan limit for freshmen

and sophomores was \$2,625, the limit for juniors and seniors was \$4,000 and the limit for graduate students was \$7,500.

The loan limit for graduate students will be raised to \$8,500 for the 1994 fall semester.

The loan limit on the Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students will be removed, and a student will be able to borrow as much as \$8,600, the cost of housing and tuition. However, the amount will be decreased based on the sum of any additional aid the student receives.

The PLUS loan's limit was \$4,000 for the 1992-93 academic year.

Tissue

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candidate," Kriek said. "He didn't get any worse. He just didn't show any improvement."

Diminishing returns may occur after 5 to 10 years with L-Dopa, the standard drug therapy.

"Those patients who are no longer responding to L-Dopa are the patients we consider for this procedure," Kriek said. "Most of our patients have had their L-Dopa dosage reduced by 40 percent after surgery."

The fetal-tissue transplant pro-

cedure is still experimental.

"Insurance companies won't touch it," Kriek said. "It costs \$30,000, plus \$10,000 in fetal tissue acquisition and doctors' fees."

The research has been sustained in the United States by private donations because federal funding for fetal-tissue research is prohibited.

"Our first four patients were funded through private donations," Kriek said.

"The last eight have been self-funded by the individual. The future for fetal-tissue transplantation looks promising. However, it needs further study on long-term effects," she said.

U.N. to oversee Somalian peacekeeping efforts

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—U.S. military commanders will have to give up the free rein they had in the Persian Gulf War and accept some U.N. oversight of troops in Somalia, diplomats said Wednesday.

But a U.S. draft resolution for the Security Council leaves the door open for a U.S. general to command a proposed American force in the famine-ravaged nation. Diplomats also said daily operations will probably be left to field commanders.

"The United States is likely to be commanding the operation," Sir David Hannay, Britain's ambassador, told reporters on Tuesday. Pentagon sources have said 12,000 to 20,000 U.S. troops might be sent to Somalia to get food to more than 1 million Somalis threatened by starvation. The Bush

administration had offered up to 30,000 troops.

An international relief operation has been hamstrung by feuding Somali warlords and bandits in the lawless East African nation. The State Department says 1,000 people in Somalia are dying every day of starvation and disease. The death toll already exceeds 300,000.

The draft resolution is part of a compromise Washington is forging to win the support of China, which has threatened to veto a free-wheeling U.S.-led operation. African nations are also worried about U.S. domination of their continent.

The compromise was one of the issues to be discussed in a closed-door Security Council meeting Wednesday.

The Pentagon had sought complete control over

its forces, including the right to decide when to withdraw. But U.S. diplomats realized it might be opposed by some Security Council members and indicated they would accept some degree of U.N. oversight.

The United States met earlier in the day with representatives of the other permanent council members: China, Russia, Britain and France.

The 15-nation Security Council was expected to adopt a resolution Thursday or Friday authorizing a U.S.-led multinational force to safeguard emergency food and medical shipments.

According to an early U.S. draft of the resolution, member states could use troops in Somalia "after consultations with the secretary-general for the command and control of their forces."

Tax

continued from page 1

groups, including Texas Tech, to develop incentives that will be presented to Defense Department officials during a Dec. 10 site visit.

Tech President Robert Lawless said that although the university does not have any concrete incentives to offer, Tech serves as a quality educational center with its health sciences center and main campus, a criterion for the department's facility site.

The project also could bring ben-

efits to Tech, Lawless said.

"In general, it really benefits the community," he said. "It would increase the cadre of professional people in Lubbock available to Texas Tech."

Tech's College of Architecture is involved hands-on with the potential project.

Marc Giaccardo, an assistant architecture professor, and his classes have been working on designs for the proposed 800,000 square-foot facility.

Project construction will be completed by September 1995 if Lubbock is chosen as the facility site.

Cambodian guerrillas hold U.N. officials

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Khmer Rouge guerrillas refused Wednesday to release six unarmed U.N. peacekeepers, escalating tensions that threaten an accord on ending Cambodia's 13-year civil war.

U.N. officials said a helicopter sent to look for the truce monitors was hit by gunfire, and a French officer on the craft suffered a back wound.

"This is very unfortunate and very surprising," U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said. "Certainly the eyes of the world, the international community, are going to be looking at this episode very carefully."

"I'm sure (the Khmer Rouge) un-

derstands that it will have repercussions."

In another development, Falt said six U.N. police were wounded Wednesday when their vehicles ran over newly laid anti-tank mines on a road near Siem Reap, 140 miles northwest of Phnom Penh. He said Khmer Rouge and government troops both operate in the area, so it was unclear who laid the mines.

The U.N. Security Council voted to impose economic sanctions on the Khmer Rouge for refusing to disarm under terms of the peace accord signed a year ago with Cambodia's government and two other rebel groups.

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New drug possible treatment for breast, ovarian cancer

HOUSTON (AP) — The first phase of a two-year study of the semi-synthetic drug taxotere, a close relative of taxol, indicates the drug has promise in treating ovarian and breast cancer, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center said Tuesday.

Results of the study by Dr. Richard Pazdur, associate professor of medicine at M.D. Anderson in Houston, will be published in Wednesday's issue of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

Pazdur reports that taxotere, which is derived from the needles of the European yew tree, stalled tumor growth in six of 10 ovarian cancer patients and produced a partial remission of breast cancer in another patient in the first phase of a two-year study.

"It is highly unusual to Phase I study since most of these patients had been heavily treated and their cancer was still progressing," Pazdur said. "We are very encouraged by these results."

The drug is manufactured by the French pharmaceutical company of Rhone-Poulenc Rorer which has its U.S. headquarters in Collegeville, Pa. M.D. Anderson is one of several centers nationwide conducting clinical tests on the drug under funding from the Cooperative Research and Development Agreement established by the National Cancer Institute and pharmaceutical companies.

"It's encouraging," said Dr. Robert C. Young, president of Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia and an expert on ovarian cancer. "In a Phase I trial, it's unusual to have a significant number of responders. Occasionally, you have a few, but usually you're just looking for a dose."

The first phase of the study was designed to determine the maximum dose of taxotere that can be administered safely to patients.

Thirty-nine patients enrolled in the clinical study were treated with different levels of taxotere for up to 12 months. All had advanced

cancers including ovarian, colon, breast and uterine and previous treatments for all of the patients had failed.

In five-day therapy courses of one-hour infusion dosages that were repeated every 21 days with successive groups of three patients, Pazdur and his colleagues determined that the dosage of taxotere should not exceed 14 milligrams per square meter of body surface for each daily treatment. Side effects for higher doses included low white blood cell counts, mouth sores and hair loss.

"This study seems to back up pre-clinical evidence suggesting taxotere, like taxol, may be an effective anti-cancer drug," Pazdur said.

Daniel Von Hoff, a researcher at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio where other trials are being conducted, said he believed taxotere will be "an excellent cancer drug."

Young said while Fox Chase researchers are "not involved in the clinical studies of

taxotere at this time, we have done previous studies with taxol."

Eric Rosenthal of Fox Chase said the Philadelphia center is one of only two in the nation to have conducted three trials of taxol on ovarian cancer.

Taxol is a promising, yet controversial anti-cancer drug derived from the bark of the rare western Pacific yew tree. Taxotere is derived from the needles of the European yew tree, providing a more abundant and renewable source for the drug.

"Obviously, the drug was derived from leaves, rather than extracting the bark and will be more readily available," Young said. But he added, the two drugs are different. "There are different patterns of response and different tumor patterns" that only will be discernible through more testing.

"It's always encouraging whenever you find a new drug that is active against cancer and common cancers like ovarian and breast

cancer," Young said. "But much more studies will have to be done. It's always encouraging to physicians who treat cancer patients when a new drug comes along that appears to have activity and promise."

Rosenthal said cancer researchers are always looking for new chemotherapies because frequently a body's cells become resistant to effective drug therapies. Taxol and taxotere, he said, are offering a new direction for drug therapy.

Pazdur and other researcher at M.D. Anderson already have begun the second phase of the study which tests the effectiveness of taxotere in fighting specific cancers including colon, breast, lung and melanoma.

Young said while the early results of Pazdur's studies are promising, it is important to note "none of them (the patients) had complete disappearance of their tumors. So it's encouraging, but apparently not long lasting.... It's not something like penicillin."

Accused killer admits premeditation in confession

HOUSTON (AP) — A man accused of killing his family and burning his parent's home had planned the slayings for three months and had talked about it for years, according to a confession presented Tuesday.

Jared Lee Althaus' 3 1/2-page typed confession to the Nov. 13 slayings was admitted into evidence in a pre-trial hearing before State District Judge John Ackerman.

Althaus and Robert Otis Coulson,

24, each has been charged with capital murder and are being held without bond in the Harris County Jail.

Althaus, Coulson's roommate, gave police the statement four days after five members of the Otis Coulson family were found smothered and burned in his west Houston home.

Those killed included Coulson's parents, Otis Bullard Coulson, 66, and Mary Coulson, 54; his sisters Sarah Lucinda Coulson, 21, and Robin

Wentworth, 25; and his brother-in-law, Richard Robert Wentworth, 27.

In his statement, Althaus said Robert Coulson had brought tools for the murders to his parents' house, hiding them in an attic in advance. Among the items were a pistol, a stun gun, zip cords, clippers and trash compactor bags.

Althaus said he bought a can of gasoline to start the fires and Robert Coulson persuaded his parents to keep the can in their garage. He told police he dropped off Coulson off near the house about 4:15 p.m. on Nov. 13 and then picked him up shortly after 6 p.m. at a prearranged location.

"Bob jumped into the car and said, 'It went all wrong. It didn't go the way I planned it,'" Althaus told police.

"Bob told me he hit Robin and Rick on the back of the neck with a crow bar. Bob told me the stun gun did not work like he thought it would," Althaus said. "Bob told me he had to put a pillow over his mother's face to suffocate her and that she fought more than the others."

Prosecutor Chuck Rosenthal maintains Coulson bound the family's hands with plastic zip cords and placed trash bags over their heads before pouring gasoline over them and igniting it.

Chiropractor retaliates with charges

AUSTIN (AP) — An El Paso chiropractor accused by Attorney General Dan Morales of deceptive trade practices is fighting back with a lawsuit and billboards that suggest the state's chief legal officer is hiding something.

"Why did the Attorney General plead the 5th Amendment in El Paso?" ask billboards in Austin and El Paso. "Ask him. 463-2100."

The Fifth Amendment is the constitutional defense for refusing to testify against oneself in criminal actions.

The attorney general's office has received nearly two dozen calls generated by the billboards, officials said.

A spokesman for Morales, Ron Dusek, said that "no one at the attorney general's office has pleaded the Fifth to anything."

But a deposition taken from Assistant Attorney



General Jose Gonzalez in El Paso suggests otherwise, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported Wednesday.

Behind the billboards and a similar full-page advertisement that ran recently in the *American-Statesman* is Dr. W.C. LaRock of El Paso. He and Dr. Joseph Ira Superville, owners of Coronado Chiropractic Clinic in El Paso, were sued by Morales in March at the request of the Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

The state accused them of concocting "an elaborately orchestrated scheme" to collect payments from insurance companies and patients for treatment that wasn't needed.

The state alleged that LaRock and Superville used "misrepresentations and oppressive tactics to convince patients who no longer wanted or required chiropractic treatment" to keep getting it.

LaRock said the accusations were "all trumped up—there's no truth to any of those charges in the suit."

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Wives of men killed with Vaughan receive \$2 million settlement

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Attorneys say the wives of two men killed with blues guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughan in a helicopter crash near East Troy in 1990 will receive more than \$2 million in a settlement.

Omniflight Helicopters Inc. of Dallas will pay the women lifetime annual incomes at least equal to the incomes their husbands earned at the time of death, the attorneys said. The

exact settlement was confidential.

The men, Nigel Browne, 30, guitarist Eric Clapton's bodyguard, and Colin Smythe-Park, 48, Clapton's tour manager, were killed with Vaughan, 35, when their helicopter crashed Aug. 27, 1990, as it left Alpine Valley Music Theater for Chicago.

The pilot and another member of Clapton's entourage also were killed. The National Transportation Safety

Board cited pilot error as one of the reasons for the crash. The helicopter was owned by Omniflight.

The women, Sonia Browne, 32, and Yukiko Smythe-Park, 33, both of London, were represented by James T. Crouse and Katherine Braden of the San Antonio office of Speiser, Krause, Madole and Mendelsohn.

The lawsuit was filed in State District Court in Dallas County, Texas.

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Lubbock celebrates holiday with 'Nutcracker'

BY JENNIFER SANDER
THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

"The Nutcracker" ballet turned 100 years old this year, and in celebration, new costumes, sets and dances will add to the ballet's Christmas sparkle. Texas Tech students will have the chance to enjoy this year's "Nutcracker" for a cheaper price as well.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. Friday, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. Tickets are available at all Select-A-Seat locations for \$12 and \$10 plus a \$1.25 service charge.

If Tech students and senior citizens arrive 30 minutes before the show, they can receive tickets for \$5 plus the service charge, depending upon availability. Student tickets cost \$8 for Sunday matinees only.

Richard Swift of Ballet Lubbock said there are many international dancers this year performing in Lubbock's "Nutcracker," and most are independent, freelance dancers. There also is a large number of high school dancers from Lubbock this year. He said some perform up to five "Nutcracker" ballets in a year.

A former Ballet Lubbock dancer, Yvonne Racz, is dancing the part of the Snow Queen and Dew Drop. She said that what makes this year's "Nutcracker" different from the rest are the new costumes and sets.

"The rehearsals have been going really well," Racz said. "It's been kind of crazy because there are new dancers and the sets are new, but that is great for Lubbock. It's more of a real theatrical experience this way."

Racz said she first danced in the "Nutcracker" at 11 when she danced the role of Clara, a role Swift described as the most sought after role of the younger female dancers.

"I've been away in Canada for a while and had to do much of my rehearsing through videos," Racz said. "It's a long process rehearsing for this. The dancers come every day and practice for hours. It's great to dance in Lubbock again, though. It is always more special when you come home and you know the audience. It's a different, better feeling."

The new costumes and sets were designed by Lubbock artists Chris Caddell and Trampas Thompson. The ballet is based on the story by E.T.A Hoffman, and Lubbock's

production is choreographed and staged by artistic director, Victor Moreno.

Other special guest artists have been signed, such as Leeanne Chernova from Australia who is dancing the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy. Cornel Crabtree, with the Miami City Ballet, will dance the parts of the Prince and the Nutcracker. Karl Warkentien of California will dance the parts of a toy soldier and the Nutcracker and prince in the first act and dance the Chinese variation in the second act.

"This is my first time to dance in Lubbock," Warkentien said. "I think it's excellent that there are new costumes and sets. It makes it much more exciting to have something for the first time."

The Nutcracker's music is by Tchaikovsky and will be performed by the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra under the direction of James Sudduth.

"The show looks like a sellout this year," Swift said. "'The Nutcracker' is still popular because it has a little bit of something for everyone, not just the kids."

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Tech faculty, students star gazing through new, improved observatory

BY MIGUEL BONILLA
THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

THE NEW ONE HAS BETTER OPTICS. IT'S GOT A BETTER ASTRONOMICAL MOUNT THAT STAYS IN FOCUS ...

David Lamp

Watching the stars has always been the exciting part for students in astronomy classes on campus. Now students and faculty will be able to take advantage of a new observatory near Shallowater.

David Lamp, an assistant Texas Tech professor of physics, said the Skyview Observatory is better than the observatory adjacent to the Heath Sciences Center.

"The new one has better optics. It's got a better astronomical mount that stays in focus, unlike the one on campus that has a naval gun mount which has to be constantly adjusted," he said. "And you can also see the stars better because it is out towards Shallowater (where there are fewer lights) and you can see the deep dark sky objects."

Lamp said the observatory has several uses such as variable star photometry, an astronomical tool that can be used for research. VSPs act as a chain across the country, which aid in studying the stars.

Ginger Kerrick, a graduate physics student from El Paso, said the new observatory has several capabilities the older one does not have.

"We could learn so much stuff," she said. "We can take pictures, hook up the spectroscope or even a CCD camera, a camera that takes really detailed pictures based on light."

Walter Borst, a professor of physics, said the new observatory is in-

tended for students but will also be used for research.

Borst said the telescope was singlehandedly made for the new observatory by Kerrick, when she was an undergraduate student. Borst was the professor in charge of the project at the time.

Kerrick said she started rebuilding the telescope in the summer of 1990 and did not finish until she graduated.

Kerrick found an old picture from an old magazine, and like a jigsaw puzzle, assembled the whole telescope in the basement of the administration building.

Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



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Commission to promote Hub City as filming location

BY JENNIFER SANDER
THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

WE HAVE A LOT OF THINGS IN LUBBOCK THAT EXCITE PEOPLE.

Lights, camera, action. These three words may ring through the streets of Lubbock in the future if the Lubbock Film and Music Commission can attract film-makers to the Hub City.

The commission was organized in early November and is comprised of Lubbock Chamber of Commerce staff members. The goal of the commission is to package and promote Lubbock as a place to make movies, television shows, commercials and music videos.

"The chamber has always served as a liaison to the film industry," said Russell Autry, president of the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce. "We like to be the primary point of contact if a production company is interested in this area for film-making."

Autry said members of the commission will take a trip to Hollywood next year and "knock on doors" to get production companies interested in Lubbock. He said Lubbock has been used in filming projects before, but

not multimillion dollar feature films. Autry said commission members will try to promote the idea of a spin-off series of "Route 66," a television show popular in the early '60s. The show's premise was built around two men who traveled from town to town in a convertible finding action and adventure.

"We thought it would be neat if Lubbock could be one of those cities, but there has been more interest in using Lubbock as the permanent opening scene and opening credits of the show," Autry said. "The scenery most talked about is using our Buddy Holly statue."

Autry said the commission also will promote the West Texas music industry by using local bands and musicians to provide music for films. He said promoting music is just as important as promoting television and movie prospects.

Russell Autry

Tom Copeland, production director of the Texas Film Commission in Austin, said he is excited about Lubbock's film commission, but does not want Lubbock citizens to expect film crews roaming the streets of Lubbock anytime soon.

"I think the movie, 'Leap of Faith' filmed in Plainview sparked an interest for this in Lubbock," Copeland said. "We tried to sell a portion of the film to Lubbock because there was talk of using the (Lubbock Municipal) coliseum for a tent scene, but it never worked out."

"I don't think Lubbock is going to be getting a great number of films, but maybe commercials and music videos," Copeland said. "The commission is great though because now there will be people with movie savvy that can be a point of contact and reference for us if a production company calls."

Marlene Sartizky, director of the Texas Film Commission in Austin, said creating a film commission in a city the size of Lubbock is a step in the right direction.

"It's more economical for a city when they can work together with the state," she said. "This has been the best year ever in the state as far as television production goes. However, there are only so many feature films made a year, so there is a lot of competition."

Copeland added that if a production company is not interested in dry, agricultural landscapes, then West Texas most likely will not be used.

"We have a lot of things in Lubbock that excite people," Autry said. "We are part of the Texas mystique. Country music and country attire is fashionable again. People like to grab hold of that mystique."

Autry said Lubbock's large student population is advantageous because it can provide extras for movie sets. He said, however, that the West Texas area lacks in production work-for-us if a production company calls."

W e E k E n D e R

J&B Coffee Company
Susan Grisanti
Saturday, 8:30 p.m.
No cover

Chelsea Street Pub
Reed Boyd
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
9 p.m.
No cover

Copper Caboose
The Craven Moorehead Band
Thursday, 9 p.m.
No cover

Depot Warehouse
King Bee Tour
Thursday, 10 p.m.
\$6 advance, \$7 at door

Juan In A Million
Cary Swinney
Friday, 9:30 p.m.
\$3 cover

Tonda and the Homewreckers
Saturday, 9:30 p.m.
\$3 cover

Main Street Saloon
Third Degree
Friday, 10 p.m.
\$3 cover

Main Street Annex
Ed Hall
REO Speed Dealer
Saturday, 10 p.m.
\$6 cover

Texas Cafe
Squarehead
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
9:30 p.m.
\$3 cover on Thursday, \$4 cover
Friday, Saturday

Town Draw
Quazi and the Motos
Saturday, 10 p.m.
\$3 per person, \$5 per couple

W.W. Coyote
Karaoke
Friday, 10 p.m.
No cover

Depot Baggage Room
Mike Pritchard and the Cathouse Blues
Friday, 10 p.m.
No cover
Robert Earl King Jr.
Saturday, 9:30 p.m.
\$10 cover

Kitchen Club
Spirithouse
Friday, 10:30 p.m.
\$3 cover
Naussa Project
Saturday, midnight
\$5 cover

Czech artist experiences freedom

SAN ANGELO (AP) — "Freedom." The word crops up often in conversation with Frank Dubek. He uses it to describe his five years in the United States, to explain the inspiration behind his art, to illustrate why he never wants to leave this country.

And in the back yard of his San Angelo home recently, "freedom" fell just short of a yell as he spread his arms in the late-afternoon West Texas sun.

"I am very happy here. It is beautiful," he announced. The 37-year-old savors the privileges that seem like luxuries after living 30 years under communism — privileges like practicing Roman Catholicism openly, traveling, painting.

Meanwhile, he awaits word of his pending U.S. citizenship.

Dubek came to the United States as a political refugee from the Central European country of Czechoslovakia. Through illegally obtained tickets and paperwork, in 1984 he left behind the country of his birth; Secovec, his hometown of 10,000 people; most of what little money he had; his possessions; and his family.

Dubek went immediately to Austria, hoping for political asylum but receiving not much more than tolerance. Without asylum, Dubek was ineligible for any "regular jobs" and "had to do anything that he could, just to eat," as explained now by his wife of three years, Lynda Conley.

Corrections

An article in Tuesday's UD incorrectly reported the background of the sociology department at Texas Tech. Sociology first began in the 1950s as a part of the department of history, anthropology and sociology. Sociology became a separate department in 1960 and rejoined the anthropology department in 1963 exclusive from the history department. The departments were then split in 1972 before the recent merger. Also, Walter J. Cartwright, a sociology professor, was not one of the first four faculty members in sociology because he did not begin teaching at Tech until 1962.

An article in Tuesday's UD contained errors regarding David Bell, a philosophy graduate student, and the Texas Tech philosophy department. Bell will not be teaching Asian philosophy in the spring, and a Ph.D. in philosophy is not available at Tech.

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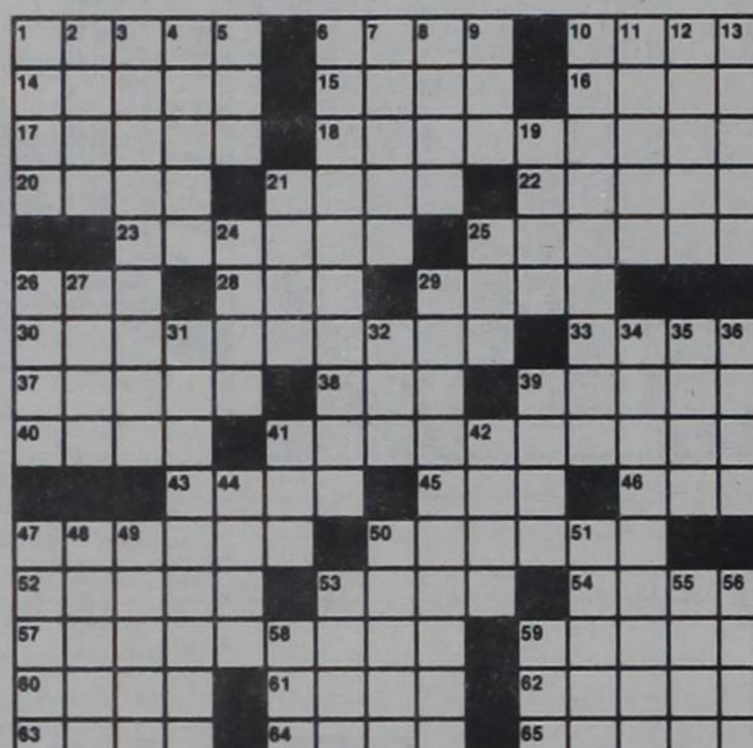
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THE Daily Crossword by Hank Harrington

- ACROSS**
1 The Big —
6 A Fonda
10 Anjou, e.g.
14 Moslem quarters
15 Alien craft?
16 Indian princess
17 Zones
18 Zeros
20 A Truman
21 Conflict, in literature
22 Stone marker
23 Surreptitious
25 Cubic meters
26 Singer Rawls
28 Publicize
29 Bearing
30 Not very amorous
33 Double
37 An Alien
38 Loser to DDE
39 Before nome or dome
40 Socks
41 Matched wits successfully
43 Monthly bill
45 Comparative ending
46 Natives: suff.
47 Pure
50 One
52 Funny Marx
53 Force
54 Sharp remark
57 Cordoba's country
59 Pirogue
60 Whirled
61 At an end
62 Happen
63 Looked at
64 Lenient
65 Trapshooting



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

AREA DODO WAIST
CURL EXIT ENDTO
IDOL PENT ATEAM
DESTROY'S GROANS
HONEY GRIN
ELUDE COIN CAN
ATLIDE ALOT SOLO
THEBOYSOFSUMMER
EONS ARMY SABRA
ESS PREP BURST
LADD SEAT
MANORS OUTLAWED
ALIBI FRIT LOVE
PIPES ASTO ERIN
STASH DOER CELT

- DOWN**
1 Fictional captain
2 Shave
3 Forces
4 Rent paper
5 Double ens
6 Irresistible force
7 In progress
8 Lunchtime

- 9 Curve
10 Imposter
11 Zealous
12 Fish
13 Gets up
19 It, city
21 Melody
24 Arrived
25 Thus
26 Opulent
27 Informed about
29 Propagandist
31 Go broke
32 Asian holiday
34 Something said
35 War god
36 Mineral ore vein
39 Loam
41 Person
42 Thaw
44 Eng. school
47 Pursue
48 Predatory one
49 Wrangle
50 Has a meal
51 Taken — (started)

- 53 Prima donna
55 Sensualist
56 Funny Lahr
58 — the line (obey)
59 Lettuce

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Aggies playing for more than just national title on Jan. 1



LEN HAYWARD

This Saturday will be a landmark day in college football. Not only will Army and Navy meet for near the 100th time, Florida and Alabama will meet in the first Southeastern Conference championship game.

All of you Aggie fans out there are hoping for an upset in this game, so A&M can play No. 1 Miami in the Cotton Bowl. A lot of questions have been raised about the performance of the Aggies, like they don't belong in the top five and they played a weak schedule. The fact of the matter is they have won all their games, which raises another question. Should A&M be

given a shot at the national title? According to the voters in the latest Associated Press Top 25 poll, they feel Florida State is better than the Aggies.

The class of this country obviously is Miami and Alabama, but why does everybody count out Florida State in the national championship picture just because they have one loss.

The Seminoles currently are playing their best football of the season and quarterback/guard Charlie Ward got better after his rough start. But let's just keep this in mind: If Florida State had a field goal kicker, then they would be No. 1. People still say A&M should be ranked ahead of the Seminoles because they have won all their games.

Granted the Aggies have won 12

games, but this team just is not the caliber of the three teams ranked above them.

The Aggies' offense has yet to face a really strong defense this season, and how will freshman sensation Corey Pullig handle his first Cotton Bowl?

If the Aggies play either Florida State or Notre Dame, Pullig may have trouble with all the pressure that will be put on him. Some say A&M's running game can't be stopped, but the defenses of the Seminoles and the Irish go against the strengths of teams and stop them.

Another scenario to keep in mind is if Florida does beat Alabama, it does not necessarily mean Miami will play A&M. If the coalition has its way, then Florida State will play Miami in the Fiesta Bowl. Once again, the

Aggies scream about being shunned, but they don't belong on the same field with these teams. Miami would have fun with the Aggies — both on offense and defense.

A&M is a good team, and the Aggies do deserve a shot at the national title.

But what hurts the team from College Station is not the strength of its non-conference schedule, but the lack of strength of the conference schedule itself.

The teams in this conference have tarnished the image of the Aggies' wins in the minds of the voters, and that is the main reason Florida State is ahead of them. The Atlantic Coast Conference is simply a tougher league than the Southwest Conference, where teams beat up on each other while not

faring well outside the confines of the state.

Football followers from outside the Lone Star State have a poor image of the conference because of the problems of the past, and many even question the future of the league. Adding to this perception problem is that the SWC was not as strong this year as it has been. A fact not lost on AP voters.

When Jan. 1 rolls around, A&M may still have a shot at the title, but more than just a national championship is on the line. What is at stake is the respectability of the SWC, and A&M can help bring a little of that elusive respectability back by beating whoever they should play in the Cotton Bowl.

Len Hayward is the sports editor for The University Daily.

Tide players trying to stay focused for SEC Championship

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Alabama would have loved a playoff game for the Southeastern Conference championship the last two years. Now that there finally is one, it doesn't seem like such a good idea.

The second-ranked Crimson Tide is 11-0 overall and 8-0 in the SEC, good enough for a conference title and trip to the Sugar Bowl in previous years, but only enough for the Western Division title so far this season.

"If this was like any other year, we'd already be in the Sugar Bowl," safety Chris Donnelly said. "It's scary. We've won 11 ballgames and have nothing to show for it."

The SEC is the first NCAA Division I-A conference to institute a football playoff. The league added Arkansas and South Carolina this season, split into two six-team divisions and decreed that the Eastern and Western winners would meet for the championship.

Alabama easily captured the West to set up a title game Saturday at Legion Field in Birmingham with Eastern

champ Florida, which comes in three games behind in the overall standings (8-3) and two games worse in league play (6-2).

"It would be a shame to go this far and not get anything out of it," Donnelly said.

Ironically, the shoe would have been on Alabama's other foot in either of the previous two seasons.

In 1990, Alabama lost its first three games but rebounded to finish at 7-4 and tied for second in the SEC at 5-2. The Tide was second again in 1991, with only a 35-0 loss to Florida early in the season marring a 10-1 record.

"Two years ago and last year the SEC championship game would have been a great thing," fullback Martin Houston said. "This year, it's great for Florida. It's all according to which side you're on."

If there has to be a championship game, from Alabama's point of view, at least the opponent is Florida. The Tide is still smarting from its last game against the Gators.

U.S. looking to dominate Davis Cup again

FORT WORTH (AP) — With John McEnroe's marital problems hitting the headlines this week, it may be up to Andre Agassi to provide leadership for the U.S. team trying to win the Davis Cup final against Switzerland.

McEnroe practiced in closed session Wednesday. On Tuesday, he skipped a news conference after reports surfaced that his marriage to actress Tatum O'Neal is in trouble.

U.S. Davis Cup team captain Tom Gorman said McEnroe intends to play in the finals that begin Friday.

Joining McEnroe and defending Wimbledon champion Agassi on the U.S. team are Jim Courier, ranked No. 1 in the world, and Pete Sampras, ranked No. 3. Agassi is No. 9 and McEnroe is No. 20.

The United States, 28-time winners of the Davis Cup, is making its 57th appearance in the finals. The United States and Switzerland have never met in Davis Cup play.

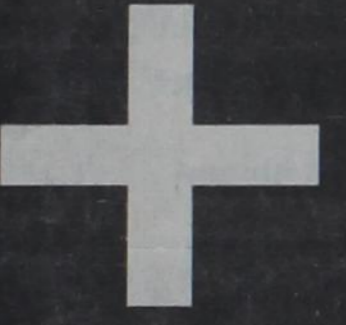
The Swiss have reached the Davis Cup finals for the first time. Their team consists of Jakob Hlasek (No. 34) and Marc Rosset (No. 36).

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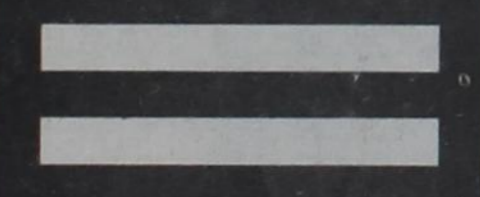


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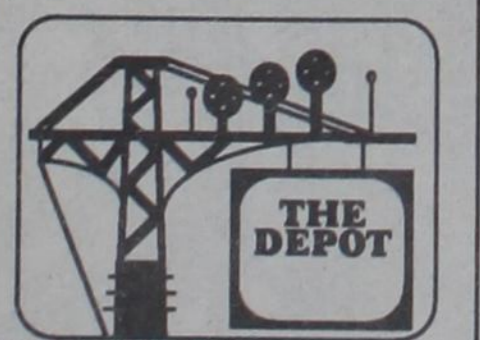
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