

WEATHER

TODAY:  
High - 92 / Low - 69  
TOMORROW:  
High - 92 / Low - 69

# THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

SERVING THE TEXAS TECH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

FRIDAY  
AUG. 2, 2002

VOLUME 77  
ISSUE 158  
universitydaily.net

## First lady to visit Saturday

By APRIL TAMPLIN  
STAFF WRITER

First lady Laura Bush will be in Lubbock on Saturday to view the Vatican exhibit at the Texas Tech Museum.

A White House spokeswoman said the reason for the first lady's visit is to view the art exhibit. Bush will tour the Vatican exhibit Saturday afternoon.

Gary Edson, director of the Tech Museum, said the appropriate authorities will be in charge of security measures when Bush comes to the museum.

"I am just a local person, and I just handle the plans locally," he said.

Steve Barker, senior residence agent of the Secret Service, said the Secret Service will accompany

Bush on her trip to Lubbock.

"We cannot make any comments about security at the Vatican (exhibit) because making a comment would be a security caution," he said.

Tech Police Capt. Gordon Hoffman also said he could not comment about security at the Vatican exhibit.

Edson said visitors to the exhibit will not be denied when the first lady takes her tour.

"Anyone who comes to see the exhibit will see it. Other visitors might be delayed a little while, but it will not be an inconvenience," he said. "Anyone who comes to the museum will have the full opportunity to see the frescoes."

Edson said he is excited Bush is coming to Tech to view the Vatican exhibit.

"It is great that she is willing to take time out of her busy schedule to come and visit Lubbock and Texas Tech," he said. "I think this speaks very highly of her."

Dave Walker, project director of the Vatican exhibit, said the first lady also will be visiting her friend Mike Weiss, a Lubbock lawyer.

"The Weiss' are longtime friends of the president and his wife," he said. "I think it is great that she is coming to see them and the Vatican exhibit."

Walker said Tech will receive national recognition because the national press will follow the first lady to Lubbock.

Edson said more than 65,000 visitors have seen the Vatican exhibit since it opened June 2.

see **VISIT**, page 5

## Planned parkway to eliminate parking lots

### ■ Spaces to be replaced with park and ride

By APRIL TAMPLIN  
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Parkway will take away more than 1,000 commuter parking spots when it is constructed during the next year.

Bill Droll, associate vice chancellor for project management, said the Tech Parkway will eliminate the C-7, C-8 and C-9 commuter parking lots, located by the Tech Credit Union.

"The parking that is taken away because of the Tech Parkway will be replaced with a park and ride lot and temporary parking lots," he said.

Eric Crouch, manager of Traffic and Parking for Tech, said 1,000 parking spots will be re-

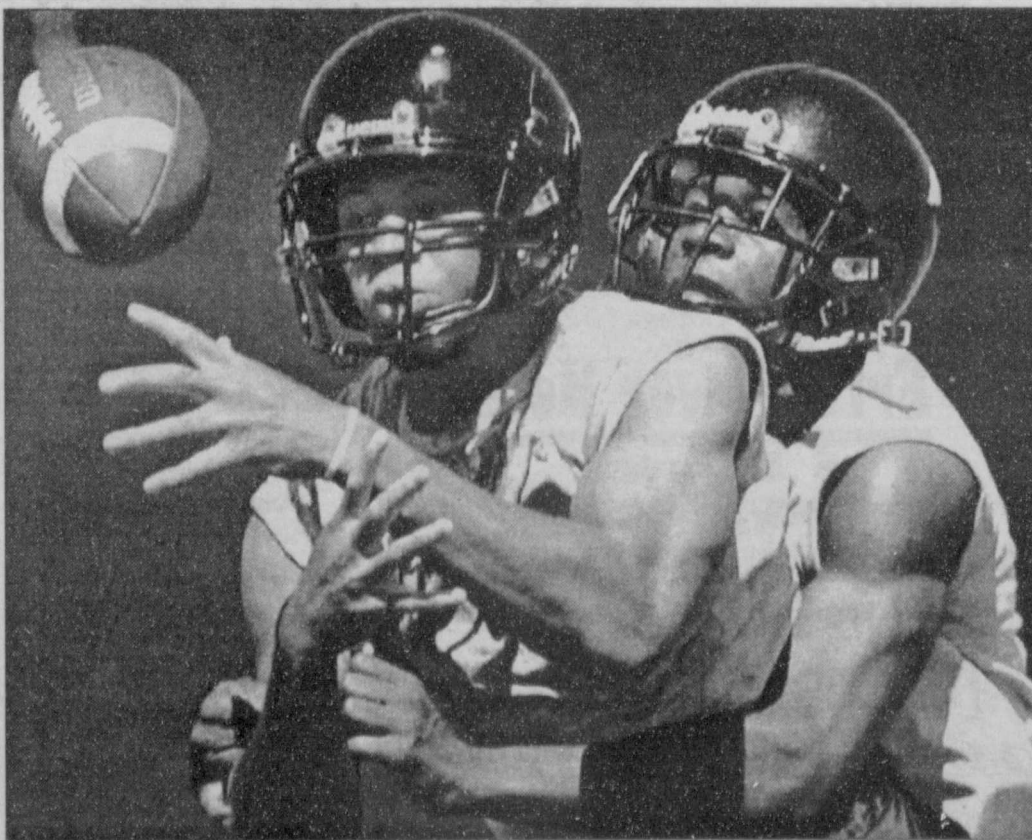


moved when the C-7, C-8 and C-9 parking lots are eliminated. He said the park and ride will be a parking lot located by the Health Sciences Center and will replace most of the parking spots lost because of the Tech Parkway. Citibus will transfer students back and forth to campus from the park and ride.

"The park and ride is a collaborated effort with Citibus and Tech funded by federal grants," he said.

see **PARKING**, page 5

## FRESH START



CRAIG SWANSON/The University Daily

Freshmen football practice began Thursday morning at the Texas Tech practice field located south of Jones SBC Stadium. The freshmen went through a variety of drills including the pass and catch drill against the defense. Full team practice begins Saturday. Tech opens the season against Ohio State on Aug. 24 in Columbus, Ohio. The game is the annual Pigskin Classic.

## Texas' Tax-free holiday hits Hub City through Sunday

By KELI JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER

Beginning as early as midnight today, shoppers will be taking advantage of the Texas tax-free weekend.

In its fourth consecutive year, several items are tax free to give Texans an opportunity to save some money. Items include nearly all clothing, some sportswear, baby clothes and school uniforms.

Although Texas is not the only state that participates in a tax-free holiday, during the Aug. 2-4 weekend, many people anticipate that shoppers from surrounding states will come to Texas to take advantage of the holiday.

Texas State Comptroller of Public Accounts Carole Keeton

Rylander said the weekend gives the Texas economy a boost and helps out the public.

"I love the tax-free weekend because it's one time of the year that hardworking Texans can save their hard-earned money when they go shopping," Rylander said.

Texans are expected to save \$42 million this weekend on tax savings. Millions of people are expected to turnout for the holiday, she said.

"I strongly recommend everyone to take advantage of the tax holiday because it's such a better bargain because many stores are also putting on sales," Rylander said. "I think that taxpayers should be rewarded for their efforts, and this is a great opportunity."

Lubbock retail stores like Old

see **TAX FREE**, page 5



# Student Union building burglarized

By KRISTEN GILBRETH  
STAFF WRITER

More than \$3,000 worth of computer equipment was stolen from the Ombudsman office, Room 210, of the Student Union at 4:28 a.m. Wednesday.

Everything has been recovered from the forcible entry, except one laptop computer, which Texas Tech Police Capt. Gordon Hoffman said police are in the process of looking for.

Hoffman said leads on suspects are being followed up.

"They have got an idea of some suspects," he said. "They have questioned one person and released him pending the filing of charges. They have leads on possibly two other people."

According to the police report, when spotted by Tech security, the male suspect put the computer equipment down next to a tree and drove away from the scene. Later, he was stopped at the 2500 block of Broadway Avenue.

According to the report, the suspect confessed to the crime when questioned. He admitted the

two other suspects were his friends and they had burglarized the Student Union earlier in the evening. He stated they had contacted him for use of his vehicle to assist in getting the equipment off the campus.

Kathryn Quilliam, Ombudsman, said entry to the second-floor room was made by climbing a tree on the north side.

"They came in through the window," she said. "It would be pretty precarious to climb up and get to the roof. These were pretty athletic people who did that. And they even closed the window behind them."

Quilliam said someone must have unlocked the window during the day.

"Probably whoever did it, unlocked it when we were not looking," she said. "It looks like it wasn't a random thing. It was someone who was familiar with this area and knew exactly what they were looking for."

Nothing else was touched and fingerprints were left on the computers, she said.

Hoffman said within the next few days the police department will process fingerprints and do follow-ups before the computers are returned.

In the mean time Quilliam said it is difficult for the office to operate without the computers.

"Everything is on those computers, so until I get them back I'm taking this opportunity to clean up the top of my desk and talk more with students," she said.

*"It was someone who was familiar with this area and knew exactly what they were looking for."*

Kathryn Quilliam  
OMBUDSMAN

# Texas lawmaker, others decry use of death penalty against those under 18

AUSTIN (AP) — A Texas lawmaker joined by a leading psychiatrist and a legal scholar vowed Thursday to fight for a state ban on the death penalty for defendants who were under age 18 when they killed.

But the two candidates for Texas governor weren't going along with that idea. Both Republican Gov. Rick Perry and Democrat Tony Sanchez said they want to stick with the state's current law, which treats people 17 and older as adults and eligible for execution.

"Internationally, we are thought of as being barbaric because of our failure to reform the death penalty," said state Rep. Lon Burnam, D-Fort Worth. He said he will file a bill in the 2003 legislative session that would ban the execution of people who committed capital crimes before they were 18.

The push for such a ban comes as Texas prepares this month to execute two men who committed capital crimes at age 17.

T.J. Jones of Gregg County has an Aug. 8 death date, and Toronto Patterson of Dallas County is scheduled to die by lethal injection Aug. 28. In May, the state executed Napoleon Beazley of Grapeland, who was 17 when he committed a fatal carjacking in Tyler in 1994.

Last year, Burnam sponsored

a bill that would have banned executing people who were 17 or under when their crimes were committed. It passed the Texas House, but died in the Senate after Perry's office worked to block it, Burnam said.

Perry spokeswoman Kathy Walt said she does not recall whether the governor's office worked against the bill.

The governor favors the existing law, Walt said. But she said if the Texas Legislature approved such a ban the governor would give it "serious consideration" if it could improve the criminal justice system.

Mark Sanders, a spokesman for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Tony Sanchez, said Sanchez — even though he supports banning executions of the mentally retarded — doesn't want to change the way the death penalty is applied to 17-year-olds.

"Someone who is 17-years-old who commits a hideous crime who is judged by his peers to have committed a crime that is so horrid he should not be allowed to live, we're not going to override what that jury thinks proper punishment should be," Sanders said.

Burnam noted that people under 18 are not allowed to drink alcohol or be drafted by the military, but they can be put to death.

Texas has 28, or about one-third, of the 81 "juvenile offenders" on death rows in the United States, he said. Texas has executed 11 of the 19 such offenders in the United States since 1984.

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## The University Daily

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### Publishing information

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



# Jury selection begins for Birdsall murder case

By Keli Johnson  
Staff Writer

Jury selection began Wednesday for the capital murder trail for Vaughn Ross. If convicted, Ross could face the death penalty for the January 2001 double homicide of former Texas Tech associate dean of libraries Douglas Birdsall and Viola Ross McVade.

Ross is a former architecture major who attended Tech from 1997 to 2000. He is accused of murdering Birdsall and McVade, sister of Ross' former girlfriend. In a sworn affidavit, McVade's sister, Liza McVade, said Ross had threatened her sister the night of the murder.

Birdsall and McVade sustained gunshot wounds to the head. They were found inside Birdsall's black Saab in a gully in Canyon Lake Park No.6 by a bicyclist.

Ross was indicted in February 2001 after DNA evidence allegedly linked him to the crime scene.

Jean Anne Stratton, district clerk, said the extensive interview process for each prospective jury member is scheduled to begin Wednesday.

In Texas, a double homicide warrants a capital murder charge, which means the prosecution may seek the death penalty, Stratton said. If convicted, Ross faces either death by lethal injection or life imprisonment.

The 150-member jury pool was randomly selected by computer to report to jury duty for this case and fill out a 19-page questionnaire as well as participate in the interview process.

"A collaboration between the two parties, the prosecu-

tion and defense, and the judge determine the selection of jury members," Stratton said.

Failure to attend jury duty warrants action by the court to track down the absent individuals.

The *voir dire*, literally meaning, speak the truth, is the interview process the lawyers and judge will conduct Wednesday to determine if the individuals

are able to objectively hear the case.

Mary Lou Elms, courtroom coordinator, said the process to seat the jury could take at least five to six weeks.

"We're looking at a death penalty case here, which is why the selection will take so long," she said. "In a typical case, the time taken to seat the jury would take considerably less, but it all depends on the two parties and the judge."

Hearing the case is 137th District Judge Cecil Puryear. He has declared the courtroom open to the public during the *voir dire*.

The *voir dire* will be held in the 137th courtroom, and the 150 interviewees will be called into the courtroom 50 at a time in order for the selection process to be more thorough and efficient, Elms said. "The defense and prosecution each have a certain number of strikes," Elms said. "They can choose to dismiss a certain amount of the jury throughout the selection process."

The potential jurors will be asked a variety of general questions as well as those that apply specifically to the case, Elms said. They might be asked about their views on the death penalty and life imprisonment.

**“We’re looking at a death penalty case here, which is why the selection will take so long.”**

Mary Lou Elms  
COURTROOM COORDINATOR

## Kidnapped teenage girls are found safe; suspect shot to death

LANCASTER, Calif. (AP) — Two teenage girls abducted at gunpoint early Thursday from a lovers' lane were rescued 12 hours later and their kidnapper was shot to death by law officers, authorities said.

"The girls are safe in the custody of Kern County," said Los Angeles County Assistant Sheriff Larry Waldie.

Tamara Brooks, 16, and Jacqueline Marris, 17, were abducted about 1 a.m. in the Quartz Hill area of Los Angeles County by a gunman who left the girls' dates bound with duct tape. The crime set off a manhunt across the Southwest.

The kidnapper was identified as Roy Ratliff, who was wanted on unrelated rape charges.

Kern County sheriff's Cmdr. Chris Davis said Kern County officers, acting on a tip, spotted the kidnapper's Bronco and pursued it. Ratliff resisted and was shot by officers, Davis said.

The girls were found near Lake Isabella in Kern County.

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## Depot District displays modern mating rituals

As a newspaper columnist I think am obliged to write at least one frivolous piece a year. Partying how-tos, Mike Leach and parking have all already been recorded. What's left? Perhaps a take on the Lubbock nightlife I've come to know and love will fill the quota.

My tour of our after hours contains fewer levels than Dante's hell, and less poetry, but as a guide to the unspeakable, it'll suffice.

First — paradoxes. This is a dry town that exalts its mediocre Llano vineyards and civic pride in all that antifreeze can do. Here, enforced sobriety has all the moral import of speeding laws — publicly on the books but privately not in the heart. Our taverns, where you'll spend a majority of your education and parents' money, have the Cancun charm of cruise ship lounges. Lubbock's drinking quarter is anachronistically but appropriately named "the Depot District" — trains (of undergrads) are still loaded (with booze), day in, day out along recently named Buddy Holly Avenue. "Vomit-filled Gutter Boulevard" was considered, but the city bowed to fame over truth. Locally, the term "college bar" is redundant. The dance clubs also disappoint; they have all the entry and dress requirements of a strip joint, and as much groping.

The university distances itself from student inebriation, although a dulling of the wits is required to root for Texas Tech Football. However, I believe the school is missing a fantastic chance for anthropological study. Lubbock saloons exist mainly as arenas for the mating dance. Bar romance, in this form, takes on the mytho-religious significance of a pagan fertility ritual. Indeed, all the trappings of primitive courtship can be witnessed on weekends; from



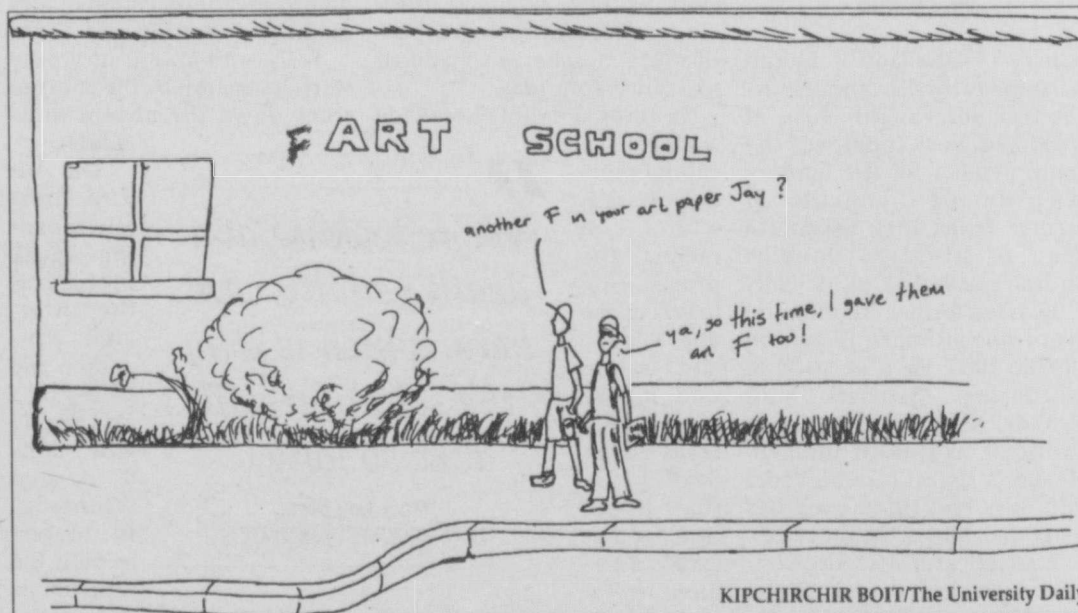
**Jason Rhode**

rhodecolumn@hotmail.com

male assertion brawling to grunting entreaties of affection: "What's yer major? Bein' fine?" The conversation between the drunken men and women from suburban Dallas and Houston approaches poetry.

As an observer, I'm intrigued. Lubbock mating flouts Darwin. Theoretically, natural selection states every generation is more attractive, intelligent and disease-resistant than the previous one. At Tech, the evolutionary tree has branched. Never before have stunning beauty and mental ability been so mutually exclusive. Why? My explanation — colleges are breeding centers.

America, with its research-funded undergraduate systems, standardized testing and college-going population, has unintentionally created a society-wide specialized procreation program, like anthills producing queens, workers and soldiers. The GI Bill brought America to school; the SAT sorted them. Untapped minds from Inner America were discovered and shipped off the farm to the most fitting campus. Silicon Valley was born from intermingling at Caltech, Stanford and MIT; sports prosper from the products of UCLA, UNC and Florida. Tech, prodigious cradle of trophy wives and Meatloaf, speaks for itself. Such is the depth, purpose and product of our barhopping. Doctoral candidates, don't tarry! It's the sociological wonder of the age: beta males, alpha females, plumage — who could ask for more? All for the price of a watered-down Long Island Ice Tea. Ah, the college life!



## Doak change shows disrespect for students

### [ LETTER TO THE EDITOR ]

Once again housing and dining has shown me how they really feel about students at Texas Tech. It's funny I hear that students are Tech's No. 1 concern, but when it comes right down to it, you wave money in Tech's face in any shape or form, and the students don't have a say in what goes on.

Why do we need a \$36 million experimental sciences building when we don't have enough housing for the freshmen attending this school? Why doesn't Tech build more housing? This letter is in response to the changes that are being made on campus, namely the Doak Hall changes.

I am not the only person who is being uprooted out of Doak that feels this way either. As an upper-classman transfer student, I feel I am overlooked by Tech and its administration. This is not the first time I have felt overlooked, and I have only been attending Tech since January 2002.

In order to make room for freshmen males, I am moved out of the place I chose to live in. If I wanted to live in Gaston Hall, I would have signed up to live in Gaston Hall. The rooms in Gaston Hall are the same size as a freshman

dorm room, which is 13-by-15. The rooms in Doak Hall are considerably larger, 13-by-25. Some say size doesn't matter, but I do believe I would rather have a large room. Doak has moveable furniture, and Gaston does not. We can argue about room specifics until the sun goes down, but it's about principle.

Another reason I chose to live in Doak is because it is centrally located. It is the only upperclassmen dorm that is in the middle of campus next to the things students are always using. When you are a freshman you take what you get. When you are an upperclassman, you have put your time, money and effort into this school. We are given priority in every other way such as registering for classes. Why should this be any different? You want to live somewhere you feel comfortable.

Why are all freshmen required to live on campus? I ask Tech, do we have an overrun of freshman boys that we don't have room for?

Why are they admitting more people than they have room for? Can Sean Duggan assure me totally that every freshman boy is assigned a roommate and that every room in every single freshman male dorm is occupied with two males?

I speak for myself right now, but go around and ask anyone who lived

in Doak and was planning on living there in the fall. We liked living in Doak. That's where we signed up to live, and that's where we want to continue to live.

I know that I am totally spinning my wheels and nothing is going to be done about this change. Why do I say this? Because housing and dining has already made up their minds and moved us to Gaston Hall.

The reasoning behind this whole thing is Tech admitted too many freshmen (their fault), and instead of moving 100 people they chose to move 50 or so. There are always going to be freshmen moving in and out of Tech. Transfer students are a different story; if Tech continues their tradition of treating us like crap, people aren't going to want to come to this school.

I just wish we were given an option, or even told about this change sooner. I will not let this be swept under the rug as something that, oops, just happened, and oops, now you have to move.

I do believe Tech will see they are going to lose some residents over this decision. But hey, what are one or two residents that are going to be here for three more years when you can house 200 freshmen boys that might not be here in the spring?

- Nicole O'Dell, a senior photography major from Midland

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GUEST COLUMNS: *The UD* accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 450 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community.



## ■ PARKING

from page 1

The construction for the park and ride lot will commence this fall.

Crouch said the park and ride lot must be completed before the C-7, C-8 and C-9 commuter lots can be torn down.

"We cannot just take away 1,000 parking spots and have no other place to put them," he said. "It is part of the agreement to complete the park and ride before the second phase of the Tech Parkway is constructed."

Jeremy Brown, internal vice president for the Student Government Association at Tech, said the park and ride is the best option presented so far to accommodate the students' needs for parking on campus.

"The park and ride is a little

farther for students to walk, and it will take awhile for students to get used to that idea," he said. "We are working constantly to make parking on campus better for students, and so far this is the best idea we have come up with."

Tech officials and the Department of Transportation answered questions at a public hearing Tuesday concerning the Tech Parkway.

Mike Ellicott, vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction, said the Tech Parkway will be an alternate route through campus which starts at 19th Street and ends at North Loop 289.

The construction on the Tech Parkway is planned to occur in two phases. The first phase of construction will be north of Brownfield Highway and the second phase will be south of

Brownfield and include the Tech campus.

Ellicott said the Tech Parkway construction will not affect any homes or businesses in Lubbock.

"The Federal Highway Administration has approved the construction plans that we have," he said. "The land the parkway will be built on includes 60 acres of university-owned land."

Droll said the construction on Indiana Avenue, in front of the United Spirit Arena, can only be done before basketball season begins in October 2003.

The Tech Parkway project costs \$9.2 million.

Ellicott said 80 percent of the cost comes from federal funds and 20 percent comes from Tech. Money for the project was allocated in 1997.

Construction of the Tech Parkway is scheduled for completion by the end of 2003.

## ■ VISIT

from page 1

"Everyone who comes to see the exhibit has a ticket, we tear off the ticket stub and count the number of stubs we have at the end of the day," he said. "We are expected an increase in visitors between now and the end of the exhibit, so by September, we hope to have had 130,000 visitors come to see the Vatican (exhibit)."

Edson said while he does not have any sound figures on if the exhibit has influenced the Lubbock economy, he believes it has made a significant

contribution.

"Some people may have stayed in a hotel and some people may have driven home after they saw the exhibit," he said. "But I think the contribution to the economy would be when people by gas, food or even go shopping."

The exhibit features 31 medieval frescoes from the Vatican Museums in Rome. The frescoes tell a story of various saints from the Catholic Church. The frescoes left the Vatican for the first time when they came to Lubbock. When the art returns to Rome on Sept. 15, the public will not view them again until 2025.

Admission to the Vatican exhibit is free.

FOR QUESTIONS & COMMENTS  
E-MAIL THE UD AT UD@TTU.EDU

## ■ TAX FREE

from page 1

Navy are gearing up in preparation for the weekend.

Patricia Virgili, a manager at Old Navy, said they are expecting a good crowd. She said the store will be open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

"Our hours are extended," she said. "We're going to have just about everyone working, but no one will be working for more than eight-hour shifts."

Heather Pierce, an assistant manager at Abercrombie and Fitch, said she expects this weekend to be an overwhelming event.

"Right now we're putting everything we have on display in the store and marking a lot of items down. Our back room is basically entirely sale items," she said. "I suspect that it could be worse than Christmas holiday shopping."

Pierce said the busiest time will be mid-afternoon, but the best time to come is early in the morning when the mall opens at 9 a.m.

Mall hours are to be extended this weekend from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and to 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.

Some Tech students will be braving the mass of people at the mall to save some money this weekend.

Breiane Cage, a senior political science and psychology major from Plano, said the crowds usually are not too bad. She said it may be crazy, but not unbearable.

"I'll save a lot of money because there are sales on top of the tax-free holiday. If you buy more, you'll save more," she said. "I'll probably go around closing time when everyone is tired and ready to go home."

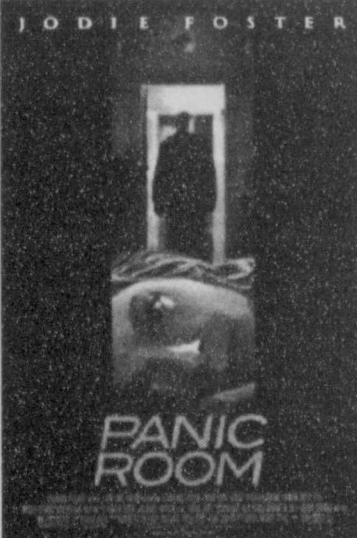
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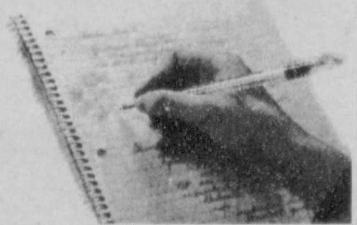
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
DESIGN CHANGES TO THE MARSHA SHARP FREEWAY  
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND CITY OF LUBBOCK

Public Hearing: Thursday, August 29, 2002  
Cavazos Junior High School Auditorium at 210 North University Avenue in Lubbock

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the City of Lubbock will host an Open House beginning at 6:30 P.M. and conduct a Public Hearing beginning at 7:00 P.M., Thursday, August 29, 2002. The Open House and Public Hearing will be held in the auditorium of Cavazos Junior High School located at 210 North University Avenue in Lubbock. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to present proposed changes to the current and approved design of the new Marsha Sharp (U.S. Highway 82/East-West) Freeway in Lubbock. The original environmental documentation for the freeway was approved in July 1995. A new environmental document re-evaluating the project's potential environmental impacts to the human and natural environments in light of the proposed design changes to the freeway has been prepared. These design changes are intended to more closely customize the design of the Marsha Sharp Freeway to the character and needs of Lubbock.

The limits of the freeway project extend approximately 8.75 miles across the city of Lubbock from approximately 1.25 miles southwest of Southwest Loop 289 to approximately 0.5 mile east of Interstate Highway 27. Project limits also extend along Southwest Loop 289 from Slide Road to just north of 34th Street.

The freeway design is comprised of two main lane roadways (each with two travel lanes) separated from major cross arterial streets by highway (grade separation) bridges. The freeway design permits uninterrupted flow of traffic on the main lanes within the limits of the project. Complementing the main travel lanes, freeway frontage roads will typically be comprised of two and three one-way lanes.

The freeway design changes to be presented at the public hearing are intended to emphasize local access to properties adjoining and on the periphery of the freeway, to accommodate changes in the Master Land Use Plan of Texas Tech University, reduce the cost of building the freeway, and improve the operational efficiency of traffic interchanges among other design improvements. Although the proposed design changes for the most part upgrade local access to and from the freeway, there are a few changes that reduce this access. While a few changes may reduce local access to and from the freeway, the principal trade-offs are overall improved access to the freeway's main travel lanes and improved operational efficiency of the freeway.

Before the start of freeway right-of-way acquisitions, the right-of-way boundaries along U.S. Highway 82 were typically 110 to 120 feet in width. The right-of-way width of the new freeway varies substantially within the project limits. These variations in right-of-way widths range from approximately 270 feet through undeveloped segments of Texas Tech University to approximately 450 feet at other locations. Still greater right-of-way widths are necessary at large traffic interchanges such as Loop 289 where right-of-way widths are more than 860 feet at some locations. Approximately 90 percent of the right-of-way needed to build the freeway has been purchased. As a result of the proposed design changes, approximately 3.26 fewer acres of right-of-way will be purchased than was planned for in the 1995 Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Copies of the freeway's Environmental Re-evaluation of the 1995 Final Environmental Impact Statement which includes maps and drawings showing the freeway's location and proposed freeway design changes are available for inspection and copying at the Lubbock District of the Texas Department of Transportation at 135 Slaton Road in Lubbock. Maps and drawings showing the project's location and geometric design are also on file with the City of Lubbock at the Lubbock Municipal Building at 1625 13th Street in Lubbock.

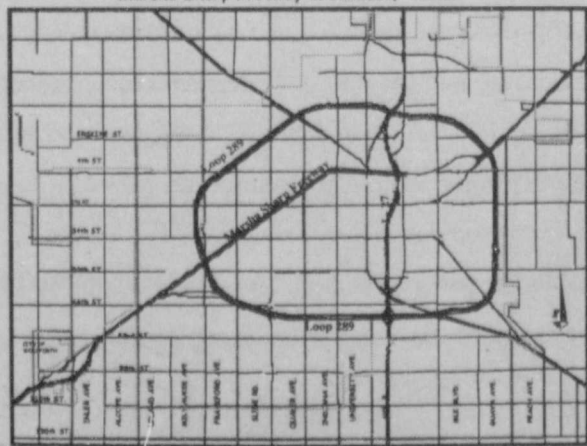
Following the approval of the Final Environmental Impact Statement in 1995, TxDOT began the process of purchasing right-of-way and relocating businesses, families, and individuals. Approximately 700 relocations have occurred to date. The freeway's proposed design changes would cause the relocation of an additional business near the western end of the project while one less business relocation would occur near Slide Road. Approximately seven additional families would be relocated as a result of the proposed design changes. Relocation assistance is available to all businesses, families, and individuals displaced by this project. Information about the state's Relocation Assistance Program, the benefits and services for displacees and information concerning the relocation assistance office as well as information about the on-going schedule for right-of-way acquisition and tentative construction schedule can be obtained at the Lubbock District of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) located at 135 Slaton Road in Lubbock.

Verbal and written comments may be presented at the Open House, Public Hearing, or submitted to TxDOT by Monday, September 9, 2002 at 5:00 P.M. to Mr. Wm. Frank Phillips, P.E., Consultant Contract Administrator, Texas Department of Transportation, at 135 Slaton Road in Lubbock. Comments can also be mailed to Mr. Wm. Frank Phillips, P.E., Consultant Contract Administrator, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 771, Lubbock, Texas 79408-0771 (mail must be received by the Texas Department of Transportation by 5:00 p.m. Monday, September 9, 2002.)

The freeway would encroach on two floodplains and lie adjacent to a third floodplain. The freeway crosses a portion of one wetland playa lake and drains storm and runoff waters to wetlands in the Yellow House Canyon in Lubbock.

Persons interested in attending the hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact Davis Melton, Environmental Coordinator, at 806-748-4416 by 5:00 P.M., Friday, August 23, 2002. Because the public hearing will be conducted in English, any requests for language interpreters or other special communication needs should also be made by 5:00 P.M., Friday, August 23, 2002. The Texas Department of Transportation will make every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs.

Marsha Sharp Freeway in Lubbock, Texas



# 'K:9-Widowmaker' boring with no effort

[ MOVIE REVIEW ]



James Eppler

jeppler@hotmail.com

In "K:19," Harrison Ford stars as Russian Captain Vostrikov who is assigned by the government to take over a submarine for test drills in the Atlantic.

The sub, the K:19, is currently headed by Captain Polenin (Liam Neeson) who must now take a step down to executive officer. This, of course, creates tension between the old captain and his crew and the new hardnosed captain.

The submarine is full of problems and in fact, several men die even before the sub leaves the dock. The men begin to think grimly of the mission and begin calling the sub "The Widowmaker."

The film takes place in 1961, the height of the Cold War. The mission is to demonstrate to the U.S. the Soviet's nuclear subma-

rine capabilities.

The first half of the film focuses on drill after drill being run and different problems arising on board as tension between Vostrikov and Polenin escalates. But then the film takes a major turn as the nuclear reactor begins to overheat. The original reactor officer was fired for alcoholism and was replaced by a recent academy graduate named Vadim (Peter Sarsgaard, who gives the best performance in the film). Men must enter the reactor core for 10 minutes at a time to try to weld a leak that has sprung. They should be wearing radiation suits, but the factory was out and gave them chemical suits instead. "We might as well wear raincoats," says Polenin.

The last half of the film details the crew handling the reactor problem. If the reactor were to explode it would trigger a nuclear explosion, which could be considered an act of war if it destroys the nearby U.S. battleship.

Scenes involving the repair are difficult to watch as men suffer from radiation poisoning and other crewmembers begin to feel claustrophobic trapped inside a small sub that is leaking

radiation.

Neeson is extremely talented (see the wonderful "Michael Collins") and does a fine job with his role here. The problem is Ford. Aside from the lousy accent, he never quite makes us believe that he takes the character seriously. He never shows us anything below the surface of his character.

The film itself begins to make viewers feel trapped with the crewmen making it an uncomfortable viewing experience. It is also hard to identify or sympathize with these men because, after all, they were our enemies at the time.

Here's a better idea for a movie: there was a film in 1958 called "The Enemy Below." It stars Robert Mitchum as a U.S. Battleship commander and Curt Jurgens as a German U-Boat captain. The two play a deadly game of chess with one captain constantly trying to outwit his opponent as they pursue each other across the Atlantic in WWII. Cast Ford in the Mitchum role, and Neeson in the Jurgens role. This remake of a great movie would be better than this bland, uncomfortable and drawn-out effort.

EPPLER'S RATING: ★★

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## Nicole Smith joins reality show craze

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When last seen by America, Anna Nicole Smith was locked in a seven-year legal battle over her late husband's Texas oil fortune.

The former Playboy Playmate, who has yet to collect a dime, has decided it's time to get back to work.

So instead of seeing Smith in courtroom footage on the evening news, viewers can peep at her bizarre world when E! Entertainment Television debuts "The Anna Nicole Show" on Sunday at 10 p.m. EDT.

The 13 episodes are an attempt by E! to cash in on the celebrity reality craze initiated with great success by MTV's "The Osbournes."

"We've been trying to figure out what we can do with Anna because we know there's this fascination that people have with her," said Mark Sonnenberg, E! executive vice president of entertainment.

"When 'The Osbournes' came out, it was a no-brainer to us. Let's put the cameras on her and let's do a show."

Since May, cameras have been trailing the 34-year-old former stripper and Guess? model.



# Cowboys, Texans face off tonight

HOUSTON (AP)—The rivalry between the Dallas Cowboys and expansion Houston Texans begins on the field with a scrimmage Friday night, but don't expect to see the full game plans of the state's two pro football teams.

They'll save that for their regular season opener Sept. 8 in Reliant Stadium.

The Texans will be facing another team for the first time in their history as they prepare to play their first pre-season game Aug. 5 against the New York Giants in the Hall of Fame game.

The Cowboys are playing only four preseason games instead of the usual five, so the scrimmage takes on added importance.

"It will be good to line up against someone else for a change," Texans coach Dom Capers said. "We've been working against each other for the past two weeks."

A sold-out crowd of 30,000 fans will be at Robertson Stadium on the University of Houston campus. The two teams will work out together early Friday and return for the night drill.

The format will include 10-play

drives for each team. If a team has downs remaining when it reaches the 20-yard line, it can continue, either kicking a field goal or going for a touchdown.

Both camps are hoping the two teams become big rivals and create more interest for pro football in the state.

"It's Texas against Texas," Cowboys coach Dave Campo said. "So we're looking forward to that rivalry, as I'm sure they are. It's good for football and the state of Texas, and I think it helps all of us."

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# Tech's Ritchie named Big 12 Sports person of the Year

By KRISTEN GILBRETH  
STAFF WRITER

Lady Raider guard Natalie Ritchie proves her presence on and off the court makes a supreme difference.

Ritchie, a junior communications major from Amarillo, was recently named female Big 12 Sports person of the Year.

The award, which is in its second year, honors student-athletes who excel in athletics, while also showing sportsmanship through community service, ethical conduct and citizenship.

"I couldn't believe it at first," Ritchie said. "I didn't even know they had an award like this. It blew me away because it is a very high honor."

She averaged 10.6 points in 32 games played last season with eight starts and aided Texas Tech to its 2002 NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 appearance.

Lance White, assistant coach for the Lady Raiders, said he was excited one of his athletes received the award.

"We think this is an incredible honor, not just for her, but for the program as well," he said. "She does so much in our community that she is deserving of the honor."

Ritchie said her position in life

is beyond being a shooting guard for a basketball team — she guards the hearts of those around her.

Ritchie said as a devout Christian she likes speaking at youth groups such as Fellowship Christian Athletes.

"I try to reach a lot of kids that are in high school and middle school because I know at that age they are trying to figure out who they are and what they can be," she said. "I try to talk to them through spiritual eyes and let them see who God created them to be."

She said she wants her life to be filled with integrity others can look up to.

"This is how I live — when I step on the floor and off the floor I want to be the same person. I live to love God and to serve others," Ritchie said. "I think that God puts a plan in everybody's life, and I know that God put in my heart a faith that wants to serve others, and I am just trying to reach as many people as I can"

Her volunteer work includes Race for the Cure, Ronald McDonald House and the Special Olympics. Beyond that, she visits hospitals, churches and other organizations.

Lady Raider guard Casey Jackson, a junior business major from Amarillo, said Ritchie is an inspiration to her.

"Her personality is really good," Jackson said. "She is a really sweet person who is good at talking to fans. She gets really involved, so she is a really good person for this award. She is an inspiration for me because her walk with God inspires me to be better with mine."

Ritchie cites her grandfather Jack Ritchie as a motivation for her life.

Jack Ritchie said he hopes he encouraged his granddaughter to work hard and have good values, but she deserves all the credit.

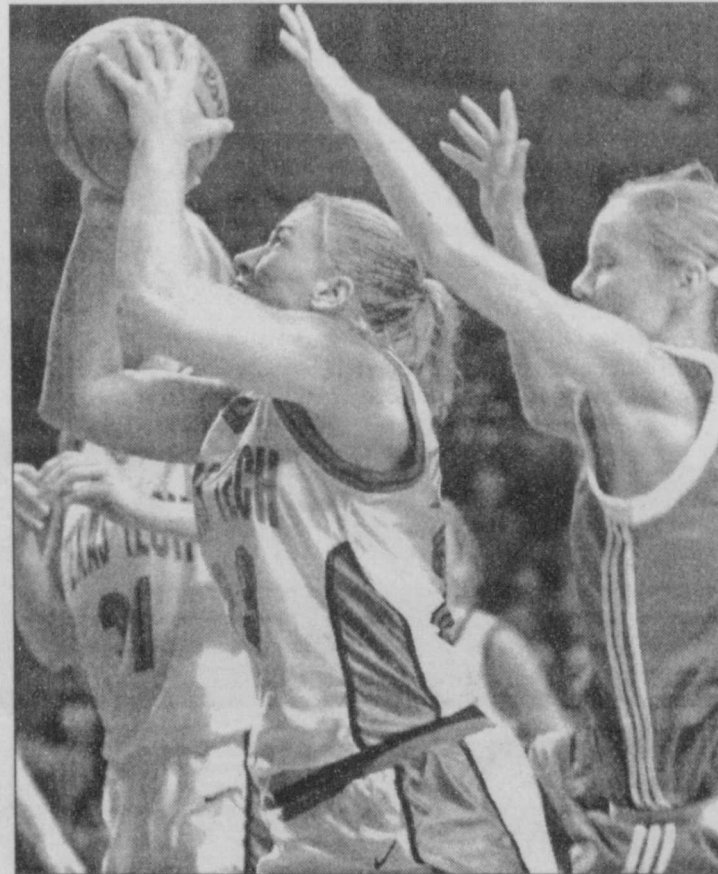
He said he had polio when he was young, but still persevered against all odds.

"She saw that I had difficulties, and she was inspired to do the best she could," Jack Ritchie said. "She has a very strong religious faith that permeates everything she does. That makes her feel she should do the best she can whether it is in sports, or school or with other people."

Felicia Martin, coordinator for NCAA CHAMPS life-skills program at Tech, recommended Ritchie for the award.

"Once I got the nomination form, I could think of no one else who could fit the qualifications," she said. "We have a lot of good student-athletes, but when it comes to someone who is worthy of sports person of the year, she was the person."

Natalie Ritchie will be honored at halftime during the Big 12 football championship in Houston on Dec. 7.



FILE PHOTO/The University Daily  
Texas Tech guard Natalie Ritchie attempts a running jump shot during a game last season against Oklahoma at the United Spirit Arena. Ritchie was recently named Big 12 Sports person of the Year for her work off and on the court. Ritchie will be honored at the Big 12 football Championship game Dec. 7 in Houston.

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