



SUNNY
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TUESDAY
Nov. 12, 2002

Volume 78 ■ Issue 56
Lubbock, Texas
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Association partners to offer consolidation

By Michael Castellon/Staff Reporter

The Texas Tech Alumni Association has announced plans to partner with a national financial service to offer loan consolidation services to all Tech graduates.

Through the National Education Loan Network, also known as Nelnet, Tech alumni will be able to consolidate student loans and lock in low interest rates for the life of the loans.

Bill Dean, executive vice president of the Tech Alumni Association, said the partnership will benefit all alumni.

"The major advantage to alumni is that it allows them the opportunity to consolidate all

their student loans under much lower interest rates," he said.

Associate Vice President of the Tech Alumni Association Derrick Morgan said the partnership also benefits the university.

"Another benefit of this partnership is it provides income to the Alumni Association," Morgan said. "Any partnership that we have like this not only benefits the Alumni Association but also provides residual income that can be used to finance programs like scholarships, Red Raider Camp and construction that the Alumni Association takes part in across the university."

Morgan said details of the program were recently sent out in 20,000 e-mails to Tech alumni.

"This kind of support is a win-win situation for everyone involved," he said.

Mark Schilmoeller, marketing manager for Nelnet, said current variable rates for student loans are 3.46 percent for loans that allow 10 years for repayment.

"With consolidation we can lock that rate for a longer period," he said.

Schilmoeller said alumni wishing to consolidate their loans must meet certain criteria.

"To qualify, you must have federally-backed loans that are not in default, and you must have at least \$7500 in loans," he said.

However, Schilmoeller said Nelnet is currently offering incentives to loan holders that

may reduce their interest rates further.

"We're offering a 1 percent discount for loan holders that make 60 consecutive payment on time," he said. "We also offer a .25 percent discount for loan holders that make their payments electronically through a checking or savings account."

Loan consolidation through the partnership will be available to all Tech alumni, Morgan said.

"With interest rates as low as they are now on student loans and as high as they were a few years ago this can benefit any alumni," Morgan said. "You don't need to be an Alumni Association member to take advantage of this, but if it helps or encour-

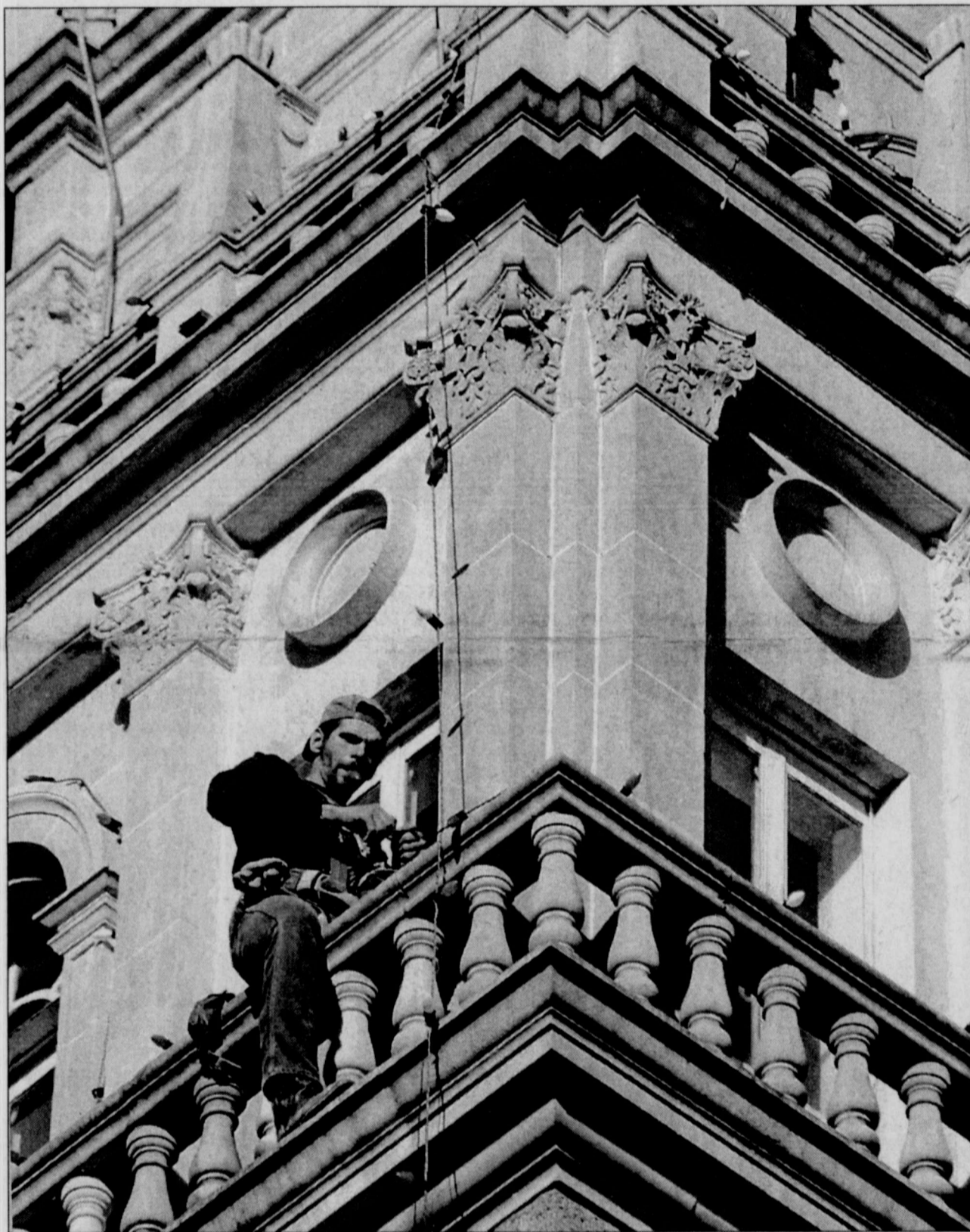
ages people to join, that's just another benefit."

Schilmoeller said Nelnet has worked in conjunction with several universities across the nation to offer student loan consolidation.

"We're the third largest holder of student loans in the country," he said. "We've been very successful working with alumni associations. We don't sell our loans which means when the loan is made with us we have it for life."

Other institutions participating in a partnership include the University of Illinois, Indiana University, Georgia State University and Oklahoma State University.

LIGHT IT UP



DAVID JOHNSON/Staff Photographer

LEE GARCIA WITH Labor Ready puts lights on the top edge of the Administration tower Monday afternoon. The lights are being added in preparation for the Carol of Lights ceremony to take place Dec. 6.

Overton project continues as planned



JENNA HANSEN/Staff Photographer

STERLING UNIVERSITY TRAILS apartments, located in the North Overton area, are being constructed for college students.

By Heidi Toth/Staff Reporter

McDougal Properties's revamp of the North Overton area is proceeding as planned, said Mark Murdock, vice president of marketing for the company.

"We're just delighted with the way things are transpiring," he said.

The company is still clearing land and has started building, he said. The project has generated interested nationwide; last weekend a group visited Lubbock to look to possible retail projects in Overton.

About 80 percent of the land acquisition is complete, he said. He expects phase one of the project to take another year to 18 months.

The project, which should be complete by 2007 or 2008, is primarily residential development. He said a large percentage is single-family housing, such as houses, duplexes, town homes

and garden homes.

A major complaint about the Overton project is the houses will be out of most people's price range. However, Murdock said the houses will be affordable. There will be some in the \$120,000 to \$130,000 range, while most will be between \$150,000 and \$180,000.

There also will be several apartment complexes geared toward Texas Tech students because it is largely a student-designed project, he said. One of the construction projects, The Centre, is a student-oriented building, with retail stores and restaurants on the first floor and apartments throughout the rest of the facility.

Victor Hernandez, the city councilman representing the Overton area, said he hoped the project would accomplish many things for the city. He

OVERTON continued on page 3

Iraqi lawmaker urges rejection of resolution

By Sameer N. Yaacoub/Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's parliament condemned a tough, new U.N. resolution as full of lies and ill intentions during a special session Monday in which a senior lawmaker urged rejection of the Security Council directive — a prospect that could prompt an attack by the United States and Britain.

President Saddam Hussein has used the rubber-stamp parliament as cover for difficult decisions in the past, and the tough language does not necessarily mean parliament will reject the proposal.

After opening speeches, during which lawmakers applauded every time Saddam's name was mentioned, members went into closed session for two hours, before adjourning until Tuesday. The opening of the emergency meeting was broadcast live on satellite television.

Saddam ordered parliament to recommend a formal Iraqi response. Iraq has until Friday to accept or reject the resolution, approved unanimously last week by the U.N. Security

Council in a fresh attempt to rid Iraq of weapons of mass destruction or prove that it has none.

Salim al-Koubaisi, head of parliament's foreign relations committee, recommended the legislature follow the "wise Iraqi leadership," but advised lawmakers to reject the resolution.

"The committee advises ... the rejection of Security Council Resolution 1441," al-Koubaisi told lawmakers.

Parliament's advice on the new U.N. resolution, which demands Iraq cooperate with U.N. weapons inspectors or face "serious consequences," will be go to the Revolutionary Command Council, Iraq's major executive body headed by Saddam.

Should parliament recommend acceptance, as expected, it would allow Saddam to claim the decision was the will of the Iraqi people. He could then more easily retreat from previous objections to any new resolution governing weapons inspections.

RESOLUTION continued on page 3

Drowsy driving week begins with memorial

By Angela Timmons/Staff Reporter

Drowsy Driving Awareness week began Monday night at Greek Circle with a memorial and guest speakers.

Despite the inclement weather, more than 100 people arrived at the Chi Omega house at Greek Circle for the memorial.

The event began with a singing performance by the Kappa Pickers, the singing group for the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Two Kappa Kappa Gamma sisters, junior Kendall McCully from Katy and junior Molly Dutch from Marble Falls, spoke about losing their friend and sister Susan Chiodo to a drowsy driving accident over spring break.

McCully remembered Chiodo by saying she was her best friend.

"You don't think things like this will happen to you or that you and your sisters will get a call about your best friend," she said. "But be

careful — a lot is at stake."

Dutch said the loss of life to drowsy driving is not fair.

"No one knows how bad it hurts to lose a best friend until it happens," she said. Be careful when you drive. It's not a lot to ask."

Tau Kappa Epsilon Vice President and Senior Will Turner of San Antonio spoke on behalf of the loss of Kappa Epsilon Freshman new member Clay Warren of Plainview to drowsy driving in September, and Chiodo, one of his best friends.

"It's senseless," Turner said. "There's no reason for it. We can all stop this."

Jo Henderson, health education coordinator for Student Health Services gave advice on stopping Drowsy Driving, dispelling myths and citing what really works to prevent drowsy driving accidents. She said drivers should get

MEMORIAL continued on page 3



KAPPA SINGERS SING 'How do you explain' outside the Chi Omega lodge Monday evening in remembrance of students who died because of drowsy driving. HEATHER DOUGHERTY/Staff Photographer

WRITING SEMINAR BEING HELD FOR GRADS NEWS, PAGE 2



TECH STUDENT QUALIFIES FOR 'AMERICAN IDOL' LIFE & LEISURE, PAGE 5



HUNT CAPTURES BIG 12 SACK RECORD SPORTS, PAGE 8



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Symposium aids students with dissertations

By Jacqueline Marshall/Staff Reporter

The Graduate School and the Graduate and Professional Student Government Association are sponsoring two sessions of a Dissertation/Thesis Symposium on Wednesday in the Double T Room in the Student Union.

The morning session will start at 9 a.m. and run until 11:30 a.m. The afternoon session will start at 1 p.m. and end at 4 p.m.

Wendell Aycock, associate dean of Tech's Graduate School, said both sessions will have guest speaker Thomas Darwin, a professor at the University of Texas in Austin, speak on

"Writings on Dissertation and Thesis as a Creating Venture."

Deidre Parish, president of GPSGA, said Darwin is an incredible motivator. She said he will give students direction and focus toward completion of their dissertation or thesis.

Aycock said Darwin is an expert in writing thesis and dissertations. He travels throughout the United States to discuss the process to students who are in need of knowledge and guidance.

"Dealing with these topics that are very complex can be very frustrating," Aycock said.

He said Darwin will speak for about 45 minutes each session, fol-

lowed by a question-and-answer session. The morning session will have

a panel discussion comprised of four faculty members and one student beginning at 10:15 a.m. The panel will provide explanations of what is expected, what elements should be contained and some examples of work to show students.

Aycock said the morning panel is

comprised of Paul Carlson, professor of history; Michael Giesselmann, professor of electrical engineering; Carolyn Rude, professor of English; Michael Stoune, professor of music and Chad Davis, a second-year doctoral student in agriculture

education. Aycock said the panel will use their knowledge and experience to

tell students about their work.

"It is a way of us providing help or support," Aycock said.

The afternoon panel will comprise of Rodger Barnard, professor of mathematics and statistics; Hansel Burley, professor of education and psychology; Karlene Hoo, professor of chemical engineering; Leslie Thompson, professor of animal science and food technology and Deidre Parish, a fourth-year doctoral student in biological science from Lubbock.

Aycock said he wanted to make sure the panel was diverse in order to get students the best information from a professor in a similar field of study.

Davis said the dissertation and

thesis process is complex; there is a lot of work involved and each department has different requirements and number of credit hours needed to receive a degree.

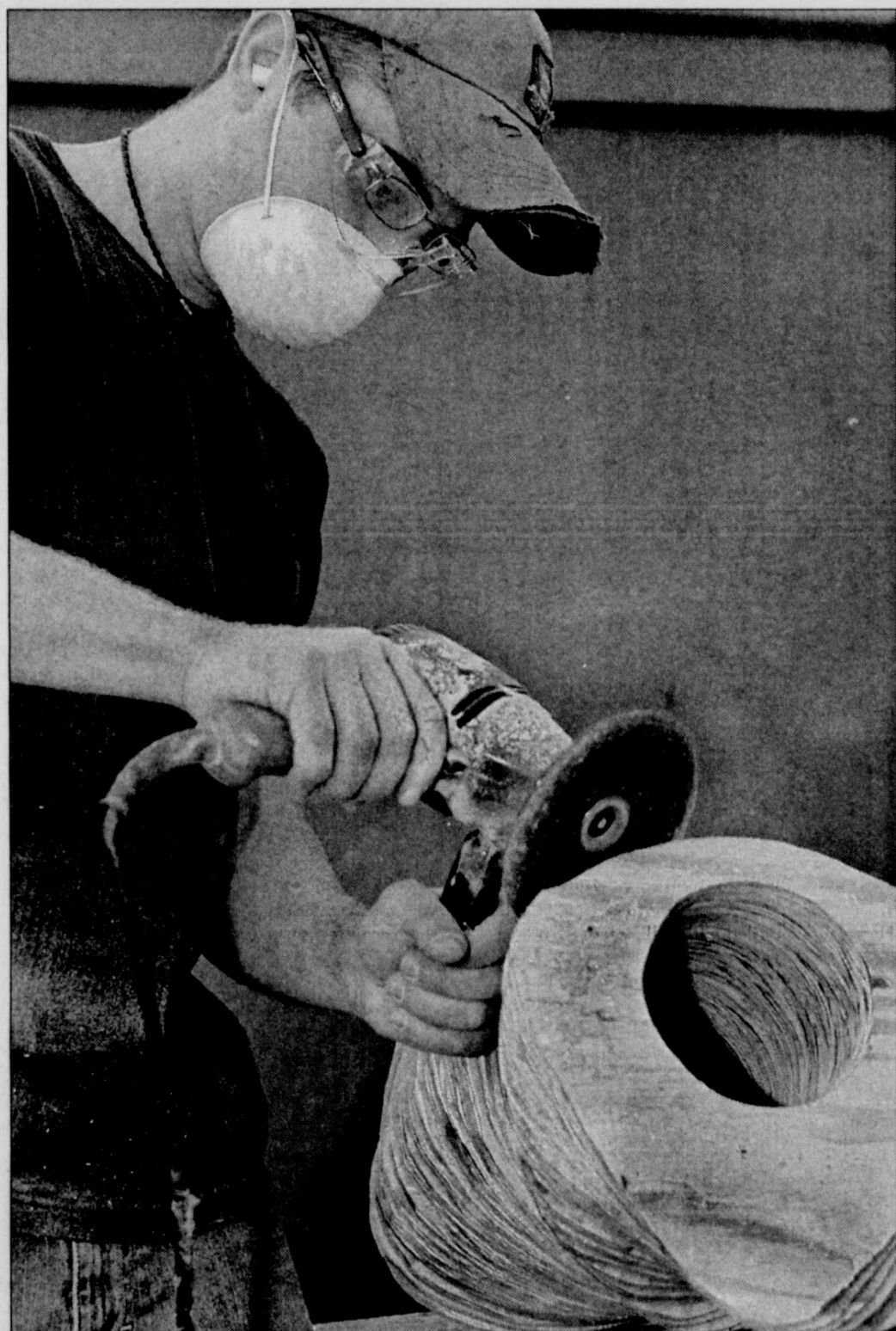
Upon finishing course work, there is a series of comprehensive oral exams, which will determine the entrance of the dissertation stage, when students will enter a proposal and have to defend their research, he said.

Parish said the symposium is to get students focused on what they are doing. She said a lot of students get discouraged and drop out, and the symposium is a way to encourage them.

"It is that final motivational push," Parish said.



SAND BOX



DAVID JOHNSON/Staff Photographer

MATTHEW GORE, A senior photo communications major from Carrollton, sands the outside of a box he is making for his design class with a power tool outside the Art building by the metal shop Monday.



Registration for spring semester classes continues this week. Sophomores with last names Ff-Mh register today and last names Mi-Wa Wednesday. Freshmen with last names

Wb-Fe register Thursday, last names Ff-Mh register Friday and last names Mi-Wa register Monday.

The Spirit of Sharing program to assist Lubbock area families in need during the holidays has begun. For ways to donate and volunteer opportunities, visit or contact the Center for Campus Life in 228 Student Union or (806) 742-3621. The program ends Dec. 12.

Raider Gate Schedule: Gates will open at 10:30 a.m. This week's band plays at 11:30 a.m. The gate to the student section of Jones SBC Stadium will open at 12:30 p.m. for the

game. Kickoff is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. For more information on Raider Gate, call the SGA office at (806) 742-3631.

Rowdy Raiders coming soon: Students who think they have what it takes to be a dedicated and rowdy fan can apply to be part of a new student organization. Rowdy Raiders are looking for students that are outgoing, energetic and willing to show Tech spirit. Thirty members will be selected, and the spirit group will have special seating at home basketball games. For more information pick up an application in 230 Student Union.

The Rundown



Farmers, state reach interim deal on renewal

AUSTIN (AP) — Farmers Insurance Group has reached an interim deal with state officials on the eve of its scheduled pullout, agreeing to renew homeowner policies for another 30 days as negotiations continue.

State officials had been trying to keep the state's second-largest homeowner insurer from following through on its threat to stop renewing policies for its customers starting Monday. As many as 60,000 customers stood to lose their coverage this month if no deal had been reached, a state lawmaker had predicted.

Under the temporary agreement finalized Monday, Farmers will give a 6.8 percent rate cut for renewals for existing customers whose policies expire Nov. 11 through Dec. 10, the governor's office said.

Gov. Rick Perry, in a prepared statement, said that he was pleased that Farmers took this "small step" while negotiations continue.

"This standstill agreement benefits Farmers' customers in the short term while providing additional time for both sides to reach a resolution," Perry said.

Farmers Texas executive director John Hageman said the company was committed to resolving the matter.



Many al-Qaida leaders are hiding in Pakistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. intelligence believes most of al-Qaida's surviving leaders have relocated to Pakistan, although a few have slipped away to countries in Asia and North Africa, defense and counterterrorism officials say.

Last week's CIA strike on al-Qaida's chief operative in Yemen crossed one "top 20" target off U.S. lists. But several key members of the terror group's leadership remain alive and free, although U.S. officials believe many are laying low in Pakistan to avoid the worldwide dragnet.

Pakistan was the obvious rallying site once U.S. and anti-Taliban forces overran Afghanistan last year: It is easy to reach but difficult to police. Because of concerns that a U.S. military presence would anger the Pakistani populace, U.S. forces cannot operate with the impunity they enjoy in Afghanistan.

But some of al-Qaida's senior operatives have been on the move — presenting a danger and an opportunity, say U.S. counterterrorism officials. As mobile operatives cross borders to meet with cells to plot attacks, they often must pass through airports and security checkpoints, spend money and make phone calls, all of which expose them to potential detection and capture.



Bill Gates gives \$100 million to fight AIDS

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates pledged \$100 million Monday to fight AIDS in India, a dramatic initiative he said would focus on helping women protect themselves from careless partners.

The \$100 million contribution from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is the largest grant the organization has given to a country to fight the deadly virus. Gates, who wore a "tika," the deep red Hindu mark, on his forehead, started his four-day trip through India with a visit to a private hospice in New Delhi.

"It's a very brave thing to speak out and it's a problem that needs a lot of brave people," Gates told Naveen Kumar, an HIV-positive activist who said India's public health facilities had refused to treat him and his wife.

Kumar said his HIV-positive wife was turned away from public hospitals when she was pregnant. Doctors at one government-run hospital suggested she have an abortion.

"The hospital actually asked my wife to leave. They said it was useless to have the baby," he told Gates. Their daughter is healthy and virus-free, he said.

Gates said his initiative would focus on women, because of their vulnerability to the virus and their lack of access to treatment in India.

Sniper defense criticizes teen's interrogation

McLEAN, Va. (AP) — Lawyers for the sniper suspects criticized the police interrogation of 17-year-old John Lee Malvo and said they would seek to bar his alleged confession from court.

Malvo reportedly confessed to being the triggerman in several of the Washington-area sniper shootings, including the Virginia slaying in which his alleged accomplice, 41-year-old John Allen Muhammad, is charged with murder.

Malvo's lawyer, Michael Arif, criticized police for questioning Malvo without his court-appointed guardian or attorney and for leaking the alleged confession to *The Washington Post*.

"The police are flooding the media and poisoning the jury pool with their own paraphrasing and subjective interpretations of state-

ments made during an unconstitutional interrogation," Arif said.

He said the leak "suggests an insecurity on the part of the commonwealth with the admissibility of these statements."

Malvo talked to investigators for seven hours after he and Muhammad were handed over to Virginia authorities Thursday for prosecution on death-penalty murder charges. Sources told the *Post* that Malvo was talkative and even bragged in some of his responses, but kept quiet about Muhammad.

For a murder conviction, prosecutors must show that the defendant was the triggerman. However, under the state's post-Sept. 11 anti-terrorism law, Muhammad could face the death penalty even if he is not found to be the gunman.

A Fairfax County police spokesman declined to comment on the in-

terrogation, and Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Robert E. Horan Jr. did not return calls.

One of the shootings for which Malvo reportedly took responsibility is the Oct. 14 slaying of FBI analyst Linda Franklin. Fairfax County prosecutors charged Malvo with capital murder in that killing.

Muhammad is being prosecuted in Prince William County for the Oct. 9 slaying of Dean Harold Meyers. It is unclear how Malvo's alleged confession to that crime might affect Muhammad's case.

Muhammad's attorney, Peter Greenspun, declined to comment on the case directly, but said the interrogation of Malvo without his court-appointed representatives was wrong.

"I think everybody should be concerned about that, not just lawyers," he said.

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Sharp's success should be praised

Did you hear the good news? Texas Tech's head women's basketball coach Marsha Sharp was elected to the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. The announcement was made during the Tip Off Classic over the weekend.

The honor is well-deserved and shows the immense respect that the national basketball community has for Sharp. This is all the more amazing when you consider how far Sharp has brought the Lady Raiders' program.

When Sharp became head coach in 1982 the program was almost an afterthought on campus. What Sharp did first was build a winning, competitive program. Soon the fans discovered that something special was being built and support steadily grew. What was needed was an impact player.

When Sheryl Swoopes transferred to Tech in 1991, things got really exciting. Swoopes dominated

women's college basketball, and the 1993 National Championship stands as the greatest achievement by any team ever to wear a Tech uniform. Beating Ohio State in the 1993 NCAA Championship game was as good as it gets, but the success has continued.

The list of Sharp's on-court achievements is stunning and Sharp needs 21 more wins to surpass the 500-career wins plateau. This season looks to be another successful one for Sharp's squad. She has top players like Plenette Pierson, Jia Perkins and Cisti Greenwalt, and a freshman named Erin Grant promises to make great things happen for years to come.

Sharp's dedication to her players shows in her 99 percent graduation rate and the fact so many players come from Texas and remain in the area after graduating. Clearly the lives of many young people have been positively impacted by Sharp.

The Lubbock community has em-



William Mattiford
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braced the Lady Raiders and Tech's home attendance is always one of the best in the nation. Many fans travel with the Lady Raiders on road trips and the next major highway project in Lubbock will be named after Sharp. Now that's love.

Why do so many people speak highly of Sharp? I can tell you from personal experience that Sharp is one of the nicest people on this campus. When I first got to Tech (a few years ago) I didn't have much interest in attending a women's basketball game, but one of the Tech Hecklers told me

the Lady Raiders' games were a lot of fun. I gave it a try, and I've been hooked since. Sharp has actually taken the time to thank me personally for attending games.

All too often, coaches who have a great deal of success develop large egos. I don't sense that at all from Sharp. In fact, she treats every fan as an important part of her program. She knows that Tech's loud home advantage intimidates visiting teams that are used to playing in front of small crowds.

But there's something more important to her than her relationship with the Lady Raider fans. She listens to people and her kindness is as genuine as her West Texas accent. Folks around here can tell when someone is a phony, and they know that Sharp really cares about the fans. Little things are done to make games fun for everyone.

In case you haven't been to a Lady Raiders game, I'd like to tell you about

an example of this. At halftime, red and black balloons are passed out to Tech students and to the children that attend the games. While this is primarily done so students can wave balloons when opponents are trying to make free throws it also makes games more fun for Tech students and kids. It doesn't cost much and you don't know how many kids smile the rest of the game. This is the kind of friendly, fun atmosphere that surrounds home Lady Raiders' games.

Sharp has accomplished so much over the course of her amazing career, but being elected into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame has to rank up there as being one of the best. Later this season she'll get her 500th career win, and I'm hoping she gets it right here in the United Spirit Arena. She has brought glory to herself, her program, Tech and the state of Texas. I only hope she feels up to coaching for another 20 seasons. She's the best coach Tech has ever had.

War on terrorists justified, not divine right

The British poet David Bowie once said, "God is an American; I'm afraid of Americans." This is a belief that seems to be instilled in the majority of U.S. citizens here and abroad. A wide-spread assumption of divine sponsorship of American policies, particularly by the conservative right, is very egotistical, not to mention that it goes against the whole concept of religion and makes me ask: When did God start flying the Stars and Stripes?

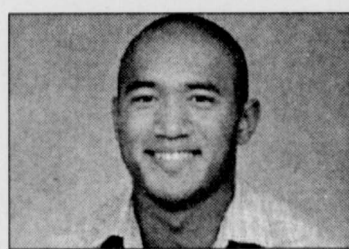
You cannot drive down the street swinging your dead cat without hitting a car with a bumper sticker proclaiming, "God bless America" or "In God we trust" or even "I brake for Hooters Girls." (Readers should be aware that operating a motor vehicle and swinging any animal, deceased or otherwise can be buckets of fun but requires practice and lots of tape, so do so responsibly.) People seem to love the idea that the ultimate power rocks the red, white and blue.

The main argument for God's backing for the United States, especially in recent times, is the claim

that no loving god would promote the annihilation of innocents; therefore, retributive actions by our government are warranted. So naturally, it is our right to assume God approves. But you know what they say about the words "assume." It makes an "ass" out of "u" and "me."

Think about this. Before a football game between two teams, players on both sides are praying for a win. Who is God to choose? Does She have to choose since both teams are asking and God answers all prayers? Does She even care? Whichever team wins always ends up praising God for Her help in their triumph, usually through incoherent and fragmented sentences ending in "ya know?" It's true, teams do pray for the health of the athletes and what not, but remember, you can't win games with a team full of gimps, so what is it that they are really praying for I ask?

So follow me on this transition. Name me a culture that said "Yeah, you may have God on your side, but we have quicker-drying socks! Prepare to be smoked!" No. Every time two or more countries decide to square off, they both hold "God's will" as part of their sovereign right to act as they



Dave Ring

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 please. Does anyone else see the problem with this?

Maybe you don't think governments, i.e. the United States, use God as a policy figurehead. Well, I hope that rock you live under doesn't fall on your stupid, ugly head. Religious threads are woven not only into American culture but the whole of human history.

Every influential civilization in humanity's brief, yet entertaining past has held some sort of higher/otherworldly dimension as a basis for their values and beliefs. Look at paganism, polytheism, ancestralism, monotheism or any other doctrine you fancy and you can attribute some group who were in power to each and every one of them.

All great nations have adopted some sort of supernatural bodyguards to give them credibility. America, my

friends, is no different.

Now in this war against an abstract term called "evil" we see a consolidation of efforts spanning different religious doctrines in the "patriotic" support for American justice. Believers in a one-true-"I am" the "God of Abraham," realized that no matter what you are, Jew, Baptist, Catholic or anything in between, we are still fellow citizens who went through a terrible transgression.

But wait, there are other believers in a one-true-"I am" the "God of Abraham" who realized that getting behind the stick of three-passenger jets and ramming them into the sides of buildings is what God commanded them to do. Yes, the doctrinal differences between Christians, Jews and Muslims differ greatly, but Abraham is held as a key player in all three histories. So it seems to me that God isn't choosing sides, it's humanity who's picking sides for Her.

I am admittedly a quasi-cultural relativist, but it is true, "nobody is right, if everybody is wrong." We as Americans have to realize that by justifying our actions with a close-minded belief that we are that sparkling-white city

on the hill, established by the Ultimate Power to watch over and bring all heathens to enlightenment, we are thinking in the exact same way that those we call "terrorists" are thinking.

You may not like that idea, but that doesn't mean it isn't true. It is hard for me to think the God who said, "Love thy neighbor as thy self" appreciates Americans using Her as an excuse to attack anyone at all.

I do think we are justified in hunting down those responsible for the attacks and making sure we do all we can to keep it from happening again. I don't think we are right in saying that God has anything to do with it.

I know I'm probably losing half my readers by addressing a "serious" issue, but I hope that the other three of you (besides you mom and dad) will keep in mind that life is not all fun and games. Well, it's mostly fun and games, but there are times when those with a voice need to speak up for what they believe in. But in the cases where those people don't speak, you can count on bumbling scribes like myself to step up to bat. I hope you all have a great week, and please don't set fire to my car until the weekend.

Letters to the Editor

Requiring two IDs ridiculous, illogical

This letter is to address the continuing shenanigans of Texas Tech's Student Government Association. Their latest genius idea is to require two forms of ID to get into all Tech sporting events. Their reasoning is to get more Tech students to the games. Let's look at this logically; if someone doesn't want to go to the game (which is a very common situ-

ation around here), they can give their ticket to someone else to get more people in the seats. With this idea if someone doesn't want to go, no one goes. They will try to tell us that they have a "limited number" of paper tickets to pick up in exchange for an ID, so why not just go back to the paper tickets for all games like we used to? I can understand if they implemented this policy for the Texas game, since it will be sold out. But to do this for every game is simply ridiculous and defeats its own logic.

Also, on a side note, why the hell can we not take bottled water into Jones SBC Stadium; I'm pretty sure

it's the only stadium in the Big 12 Conference with such a policy.

- Adam Boedeker is a senior advertising major from Flower Mound.

Comment irrelevant, issue is discrimination

In his letter to the editor, Mechanical Engineering Chairman Thomas Burton said if former law school Dean Frank Newton was haunted by the possibility that he may have misunderstood President David Schmidly's comment, he should have "issued a retraction to his original statement."

Dr. Burton is correct. If Newton was uncertain, he should have offered a retraction. But he didn't. Perhaps this reflects not equivocation or uncertainty on his part but pressure to recant.

To me, whether Schmidly made this comment is irrelevant. President Schmidly's record speaks volumes on his receptivity to appointing women in general and men and women of color in particular to leadership positions at this university. Dr. Burton argues that President Schmidly's record of promoting diversity at Tech is "impeccable" and that ample evidence supports this conclusion. Dr. Burton,

what evidence? A cursory glance at this university's statistics reveals an embarrassing lack of diversity.

It is time for the administration to stop focusing an inordinate amount of attention on whether President Schmidly made this comment and begin taking affirmative steps to rectify the rampant sex- and race-based discrimination that is epidemic in its proportions. Dr. Burton, if you are looking for evidence of race- and gender-based discrimination, according to the EEOC, you need not look any further than your own academic department. - Mandy Reichel is a third-year law student.



Tech student gains 'Idol'istic future prospect

By Erica Gonzales/Staff Reporter

Another Texan is heading to Hollywood for a shot at being the next 'American Idol.' Texas Tech student Jerome Bell will perform on the next 'American Idol' TV show in January. His journey to stardom began at the FOX34 Idol auditions in Lubbock, but he did not make the final cut. Bell said he decided to audition on his own in Austin. Now, Bell is going to Hollywood for the opportunity to sign a record contract on the hit TV show.

At the 'American Idol' auditions in Austin on Sunday, Bell, a sophomore undecided major and Lubbock native, auditioned in front of the 'American Idol' show judges, Paula Abdul, Randy Jackson and Simon Cowell.

"It was so weird seeing them in person," he said.

When Bell walked in the auditioning room, he said it was nothing like it appears on television.

He said there were cameras everywhere, and it was very bright.

He said auditioning for them seemed unreal, but they were very friendly.

"They made me feel so comfortable," he said.

He sang 'Always and Forever' by Luther Vandross. Bell said he was only required to sing one verse of the song, but the judges allowed him to continue singing the entire song. He said it was the responses from Abdul, Jackson and Cowell that gave him confidence.

"Randy said 'Man, I would give you a record deal right now,' Paula said 'You sounded amazing,' and Simon said 'You sounded fantastic,'" Bell said.

Bell said he walked out of the room ecstatic.

"I was yelling at the top of my lungs," he said.

Immediately following the audition, Bell said the producers of the show were praising him.

He said the producers reassured him the 'America Idol' judges like him because they let him sing the entire song.

"The producers said, 'That was the best response we've seen all day from the judges,'" Bell said. "I couldn't believe it."

Later on, Bell said he saw Cowell and Jackson having lunch and walked up to them to thank them.

He said Cowell and Jackson praised him again on his performance and reassured him he would do well on the upcoming show.

Now, Bell is focusing on completing this semester of school and heading to Hollywood in January. He said he is debating on whether he should take next semester off from school in hopes of continuing on the show.

Bell said he never imagined he would go to Hollywood. He was not even the local FOX34 Idol finalist.

"I didn't even make it in the top three in Lubbock," he said.

Before the FOX34 Idol held auditions for the final three, Bell said he was in Florida singing at a wedding reception and was coming down with a cold.

By the time the auditions rolled around, Bell had a sore throat and his voice cracked when he sang.

"I didn't expect to make it in Lubbock because I didn't sing my heart out," he said.

FOX34 paid for the accommodations for the FOX34 Idol winner to go to the 'American Idol' auditions in Austin and guaranteed the finalist a spot to audition. But anyone who did not make the cut had to go to Austin on their own.

"After I lost, I told myself 'I am going to sing my butt off in Austin,'" he said.

Bell said he and his family drove down to Austin on Nov. 3 and stayed

for a week. Bell said he camped out overnight at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin for the first set of auditions in front of the producers of the show.

He said he was one of the 500 people who made it in the first round out of 2,000 people who auditioned.

Bell said he was eligible for the next stage of auditions in front of the show's executive producer, which was Saturday, and he passed it.

"I was really nervous, but I felt better when I made it," he said.

Bell said he is one of the 15 people who passed the audition in front of the 'American Idol' judges.

Bell's mother, Thelma Davis from Lubbock, said it has been worth the wait to find out her son is going to Hollywood.

"We're starting to breathe now," she said. "It was a long haul."

When auditions for FOX Idol were announced in Lubbock in October, Davis said she was already making arrangements to take her son to Austin for the 'American Idol' auditions.

She said she has been aware of his great talent for singing since he was young.

"When he was 5, he would cry at church to sing with the choir and would not stop until I let him," she said.



Courtesy Photo
JEROME BELL, A sophomore undecided major from Lubbock poses with Clarence Davis, his stepfather (far left), Thelma Davis, his mother, Paula Abdul and Chris Vu, a friend Bell met while auditioning for 'American Idol.'

She said she was not worried about him auditioning.

"After we got there and heard everyone sing, I knew Jerome would make it," his mother said.

Bryan Hughes, FOX34 anchorman, came to Austin as soon as he found out Bell was auditioning in front of Abdul, Jackson and Cowell.

"It was really an awesome experience," he said.

Hughes was able to get interviews with Abdul, Jackson and Cowell who were all extremely friendly, he said.

The judges told Hughes great comments about Bell's performance and he said they were praising him even after the audition.

Hughes said FOX34 is will more than likely to follow Bell to Hollywood to cover his performance in the 'American Idol' show.

Acclaimed philosopher reveals meanings behind movie music

By Harvey A. Mireles/
Staff Reporter

The Philosophy Colloquium Series welcomed a discussion on philosophy, politics and "Wayne's World" Monday evening to about 100 Tech students in the English lecture hall.

Acclaimed pioneering "rock 'n' roll philosopher," Professor Theodore Gracyk, a professor of philosophy at Minnesota State University, brought his lecture "Wayne and Garth and the Politics of Identity" to the campus. He was the first and remains the leading authority on the philosophy of rock music.

The lecture touched on one of the chapters in Gracyk's latest book, "I

Wanna Be Me: Rock Music and the Politics of Identity." His newest publication was recently selected a co-winner of the 2002 International Association of the Study of Popular Music and was selected as one of last year's top books by the Library Journal.

Gracyk's book discusses the effects popular culture has on the individual.

"The idea is based on how we, as culture, go interpreting art," Gracyk said.

He said when people discuss popular culture, many make "bad assumptions" when interpreting it.

"When people view popular art and fine art, most audiences think there is a difference," he said.

Gracyk said when people deal with

pop culture like the way Wayne and Garth do in "Wayne's World," they are able to apply it to their everyday lives.

"Getting through pop culture is much more complex than most think it is," said Gracyk.

He has been studying and researching his idea of philosophy of rock 'n' roll music for about 10 years.

Gracyk said his primary reason for entering the field of philosophy of art stems from his desire to know more than the average rock fan.

"I was tired of how many stupid things people would state about rock music and the superficial things that people would say that don't get challenged," he said.

Aaron Meskin, associate professor

of philosophy at Tech, said he was really excited to have Gracyk speaking for the Philosophy Colloquium Series.

"Gracyk's ideas are very worth while," Meskin said. "I'm very sympathetic that we should take rock and films seriously as forms of art."

Meskin said he first met Gracyk and heard his work at conferences. He said they have known each other for about three years.

"Getting the money, working with Ted's schedule was how we were able to bring him to Tech," Meskin said.

The Tech Department of Philosophy, Tech's Fine Arts Doctoral Program and the College of Visual and Performing Arts sponsored the event.

"Ted is the leading philosopher of

rock music," Meskin said. "He's the man of philosophy and rock 'n' roll."

Daniel Nathan, associate professor of philosophy at Tech, said he believes Gracyk brings an important and extraordinarily unique view among philosophers.

"We invite speakers from around the country and around the world," Nathan said. "The speakers range all different types of philosophy, including legal, ethics and arts."

He said the committee who selects the guest lecturers looks for speakers who "cross diplomacy interest."

"We want (the speakers) to show how philosophy is a part of other parts of our lives," Nathan said.

Gracyk said he believes the most

gratifying part of his research has not been the awards but the responses he has received from those who follow it.

"Two years ago I created a Web site, and since then I've received an e-mail a week from those with ages ranging from high school students to college students to college professors," he said. "It's kind of fun."

Recently, two additional philosophers have published books about the philosophy of rock. Gracyk said the total number of professors in this field is now at four.

"It's very gratifying that they are teaching my philosophy," Gracyk said. "The general field of studying popular music is a growing interdisciplinary field."

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NOVEMBER 4 THROUGH DECEMBER 12

Hunt for Big 12 sack record accomplished

By Kyle Clark/Staff Reporter

Texas Tech defensive end Aaron Hunt had almost given up Saturday against Oklahoma State, but there was a twinkling hope that he could still make the one play that would define his career.

Hunt's sack of Josh Fields with only minutes remaining in the final quarter gave him the overall Big 12 Conference sack record over former record holder Kansas State defensive end Darren Howard, now a starting lineman for the New Orleans Saints. Hunt's sack on Saturday gave him a total of 30 in his career.

The day after the game Hunt spoke about the frustration of having to wait the entire game to get to the quarterback.

"It took a while, until the fourth quarter, but I'm happy that it happened," Hunt said. "They just kept throwing it, and they were double teaming me the whole game so I thought maybe it's not going to happen, but I still had a little hope in me."

Climbing the Big 12 ladder over some of the great ends to play in this league is an accomplishment all in itself, and defensive coordinator Greg McMackin said the achievement is a tremendous one.

"It's a great accomplishment to be

the career leader not only at the university but also in the Big 12," McMackin said. "There have been some great pass rushers to come through this league."

The record gives Tech another achievement to go with the offensive records Kliff Kingsbury and his offensive teammates have put up.

Kingsbury said he was pleased with what his defensive teammate was able to do.

"It was awesome," Kingsbury said. "He's an amazing player. Teams have been game planning him and double-teaming him. Seeing him get that record is great to see."

Hunt, over the span of his career, has made impacts on a state and national scale. He has made an all-star team every season since he came to Tech ranging from second-team freshman All-American in 1999 to the 2002 pre-season *Playboy* All-American team. The coaches who have worked with him consider him to be a top-notch player.

McMackin has Hunt at the top of his list with the best players he has coached in his career. That is quite a feat considering McMackin worked with Warren Sapp, Kenny Holmes and Kenard Lang while at Miami. McMackin spoke highly of Hunt on and off the field.

"He's a great team player," McMackin said. "He has done everything we've asked of him. You like to see good things happen to good people, and he's a great person. I can't say enough good things about Aaron. He's a class act."

Hunt's head coach Mike Leach further elaborated on Hunt's character saying he was a down-to-earth player with a humorous comment.

"Did you tell him that he did it yet, because he might not know," Leach said. "He's a pretty level-headed guy."

Leach also spoke about what kind of player the defensive end was and what the coach thought of the way he looks while he plays the game.

"He's a really explosive player," Leach said. "I think it's great to see a guy that big run that fast. Plus he's got that little No. 9 on his chest, and he's a big old guy. I think that's great."

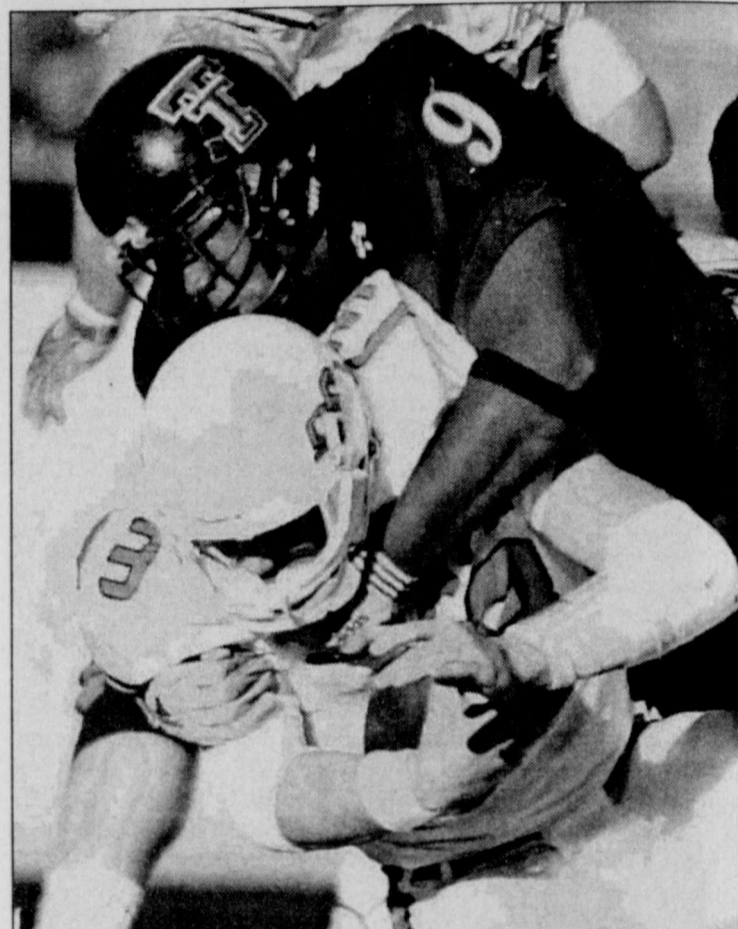
Now that Hunt is the all-time sack leader, Hunt said he is relieved to be rid of the sack-record monkey on his back and happy to be able to concentrate on giving his best performance against Texas and Oklahoma. Getting the record against OSU was a goal not only to concentrate on the run at the Big 12 South championship but also to get the record in front of Tech's fans.

"I wanted to get it out of the way in front of the home crowd, and it worked out for me," Hunt said.

McMackin echoed the importance of Hunt earning the record in front of the Tech crowd.

"I think that's what makes it so special," McMackin said. "The fans have been so supportive, especially the students. It's great for him to have achieved this in front of his fellow students and fans."

Hunt will try and add to his sack total when the Raiders face rival Texas at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Jones SBC Stadium. Tech can win the Big 12 South and advance to the Big 12 Championship game if it wins Saturday and next week against Oklahoma in Norman, Okla.



GREG KRELLER/Staff Photographer
TEXAS TECH DEFENSIVE end Aaron Hunt sacks Oklahoma State quarterback Josh Fields to set the Big 12 Conference sack record on Saturday at Jones SBC Stadium. Hunt now has 30 career sacks.

HUNT FILE

NAME: Aaron Hunt
CLASSIFICATION: Senior
POSITION: Defensive End
HOMETOWN: Denison
HIGH SCHOOL: Denison High
2001-02 STATS: •Has started all 11 games this season. •First on the team five sacks •Third on the team with 88 tackles. •First on the team with 15 tackles for a loss.
NOTES: Set the Big 12 Conference record on Saturday with 30 sacks in a career.

Freshman McNeal will start at quarterback for Aggies

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — One week after looking like the true freshman that he is, Texas A&M quarterback Reggie McNeal came off the bench and led the Aggies to an upset of No. 1 ranked Oklahoma.

The Aggies' quarterback of the future has arrived.

After getting spot duty throughout the season, McNeal got his most extensive playing time under the spot-

light against the top-ranked Sooners and threw four touchdown passes in a 30-26 victory that dented Oklahoma's national championship hopes.

"Yes," coach R.C. Slocum said without hesitation Monday when asked if McNeal would start Saturday's game against the Missouri Tigers. "Based on his performance last week, I think he's earned it."

McNeal played briefly in A&M's

upset loss to Oklahoma State Nov. 2. He threw three incomplete passes, two of which could have been intercepted. A week later, McNeal shellshocked the Sooners with his running and passing.

"I had to stay calm," McNeal said. "If the team sees me panic, even though I'm just a freshman, they see the quarterback panic and not feeling comfortable with himself; that would make them feel something was wrong."

"I just had to stay cool about the whole situation."

McNeal hit Terrance Murphy with a 61-yard touchdown pass midway in the second quarter and closed out the half with a 40-yard touchdown pass to Greg Porter in the back of the end zone.

He completed eight of 13 passes for 191 yards, four touchdowns and one interception. He rushed 16 times for 89 yards.

For his efforts, McNeal was named the Big 12 Conference offensive player of the week.

"Reggie coming into the game sparked us," Porter said. "I don't think Oklahoma was ready for Reggie to drop back and at the first sight of an open hole to take off running."

Ohio State tops new BCS standings

(AP) — Miami is No. 1 in two polls, but Ohio State is atop the Bowl Championship Series standings.

The Buckeyes (11-0) have 3.41 points to lead Monday's chart, while Miami (9-0) is No. 2 with 4.10 points. Each moved up one spot after previous BCS leader Oklahoma lost to Texas A&M 30-26 Saturday.

If Ohio State and Miami — the only unbeaten teams remaining — win the rest of their games, they will play for the national championship. The top two teams in the final BCS standings released Dec. 8 will play in the national title game at the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., on Jan. 3.

Miami, the defending national champion, temporarily lost the top

spot in the AP media poll last week but is now a unanimous No. 1 following a 26-3 win over Tennessee.

The Buckeyes are ahead of Miami for one reason — quality win points. Ohio State has a 4.21 composite total, compared with Miami's 4.10. But the Buckeyes got a 0.8 deduction for a 25-7 victory over Washington State on Sept. 14.

Ohio State's deduction went from 0.6 points last week to 0.8 points this week because the Cougars jumped two spots to No. 3 in the new BCS standings. Washington State (9-1) has 8.77 points, followed by Oklahoma (8-1) with 10.05 points, and Texas (9-1) with 11.50 points.

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