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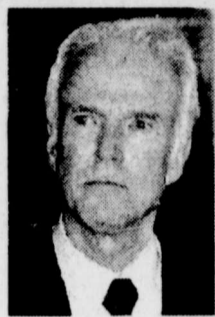
Butler transported to federal prison

By Beth Aaron/The University Daily

For the next two years, former Texas Tech Health Sciences Center professor and internationally known plague researcher Dr. Thomas Butler will be known in prison as inmate number 30011-177.

Butler voluntarily surrendered and was transported to Federal Medical Center in Fort Worth on Wednesday, said Dick Baker, assistant U.S. attorney.

Butler was convicted of 47 felony counts of embezzlement and mail and wire fraud in December. His convictions related to a bubonic plague scare that prompted an FBI in-



Butler

vestigation in January 2003.

Butler was arrested after falsely reporting 30 vials of bubonic plague missing to FBI officials. He reported the vials stolen, but later wrote a letter confessing they had been mistakenly destroyed.

Although he was not convicted of destroying the infected vials, he was convicted of exporting hazardous materials to Tanzania via Federal Express. He was also fined \$250,000

for engaging in shadow contracts with pharmaceutical companies while employed by Texas Tech.

Chuck Meadows, Butler's attorney, said an appeal of the convictions has been filed.

Baker said the prosecution has also filed a cross appeal to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, La. A briefing schedule, which is the next step in the appeals process, has not yet been set, Baker said.

Butler's sentencing was held on March 10 and was decided by U.S. District Court Judge Sam Cummings, who declined to comment.

Butler retired from his position of tenured professor at the university on Jan. 23. He sur-

rendered his medical license to the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners, the body that licenses medical doctors in Texas, on Feb. 6.

Federal Medical Center is a low-security prison that provides administrative services to inmates in need of medical attention, said Sean Marler, alternate public information officer for the South Central Regulations Office for the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

The prison also holds inmates of general population.

Marler said an offender such as Butler who has been convicted of a first offense and reporting to a low-security facility, will probably

be placed in a cell with other inmates.

Upon arrival to a correctional facility, incoming prisoners can expect a lengthy processing, Marler said.

"When they're processed in," he said, "they're socially and medically screened to determine they're appropriate for general population."

According to the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons Receiving and Discharge Manual, processing of new inmates also includes a pat search, separation of personal property, mug shots and fingerprinting and the issue of a standard khaki uniform.

Public Affairs

Today last day to file federal income taxes

By Sally Gunter/The University Daily

Death and taxes may be the two things guaranteed in life, but a late penalty is guaranteed for anyone who does not file a tax with the Internal Revenue Service return by today.

Many people wait until the last minute to file a tax return because they will not receive a refund, said Cynthia Watson, assistant comptroller for Texas Tech's Office of Financial Affairs.

People receiving a refund tend to file sooner, she said.

It is important to have all information needed to complete the filing before starting to complete the form.

"We're just suggesting they have all their records before they begin," Watson said.

These records include tuition statements, wages reported on W2 forms and scholarship taxability forms.

Watson said the office of financial affairs has received numerous calls regarding tax filing information. The majority of calls were from parents regarding their child's taxes.

While Watson said she could not provide tax advice, she can be of assistance.

"I can explain whatever appears on the forms provided," she said.

Thursday also is the last day to request a four-month extension of time to file a return. The extension of time to file is not an extension of time to pay, according to www.irs.gov.

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Student Affairs

Whitmore addresses student concerns at coffee meeting

By Andrew Bell/The University Daily

As the semester begins to wind down, students were given the opportunity to ask Texas Tech President Jon Whitmore questions about the upcoming school year and voice any concerns they may have had Wednesday morning.

Vice President for Student Affairs Michael Shonrock and executive officers of the Student Government Association were also present, as early risers were given free coffee in the Starbucks of the Student Union building.

Students used the opportunity to ask Whitmore a variety of questions ranging from the university's budget to the inflation of textbook prices.

Whitmore said the administration is in the process of putting together the budget for the fall, but he wanted the students to know the energy rates of Tech are rising. Next year, the rising rates will cost the university an extra million dollars.

Currently, Tech has specialists looking at ways the university could conserve energy, but Whitmore said the specialists have told him it would be hard for the university to save any more money.

"They said we have done a good job," he said. "We have a good general system."

Statewide, there is a \$2 increase in state tuition every year. The increase provides some money to the university and, Whitmore said, the increase is one resource that Tech could use to cover part of the increased cost.

Another method would be through cost savings. As an example, Whitmore said buildings throughout the campus shut off the air conditioning units at 4 p.m. during the summer.

In the next year, the university also plans to hire more faculty and develop plans to construct a classroom building. Hopefully, Whitmore said, the resources for the new building would come from the state. Technologically, the classroom facility would be equipped to handle wireless Internet services so students would be able to bring their laptops to class.

After the initial introduction of plans for the coming year, the seven students who attended the meeting were given the opportunity to ask their questions to Whitmore. One of the first questions asked concerned the allocation of funds from the SGA to various student organizations throughout the campus.

The student's concern was some of the funds allocated went to student organizations that do not focus on the education of the student body. In response, Whitmore explained his opinion about what groups should be supported through the SGA.

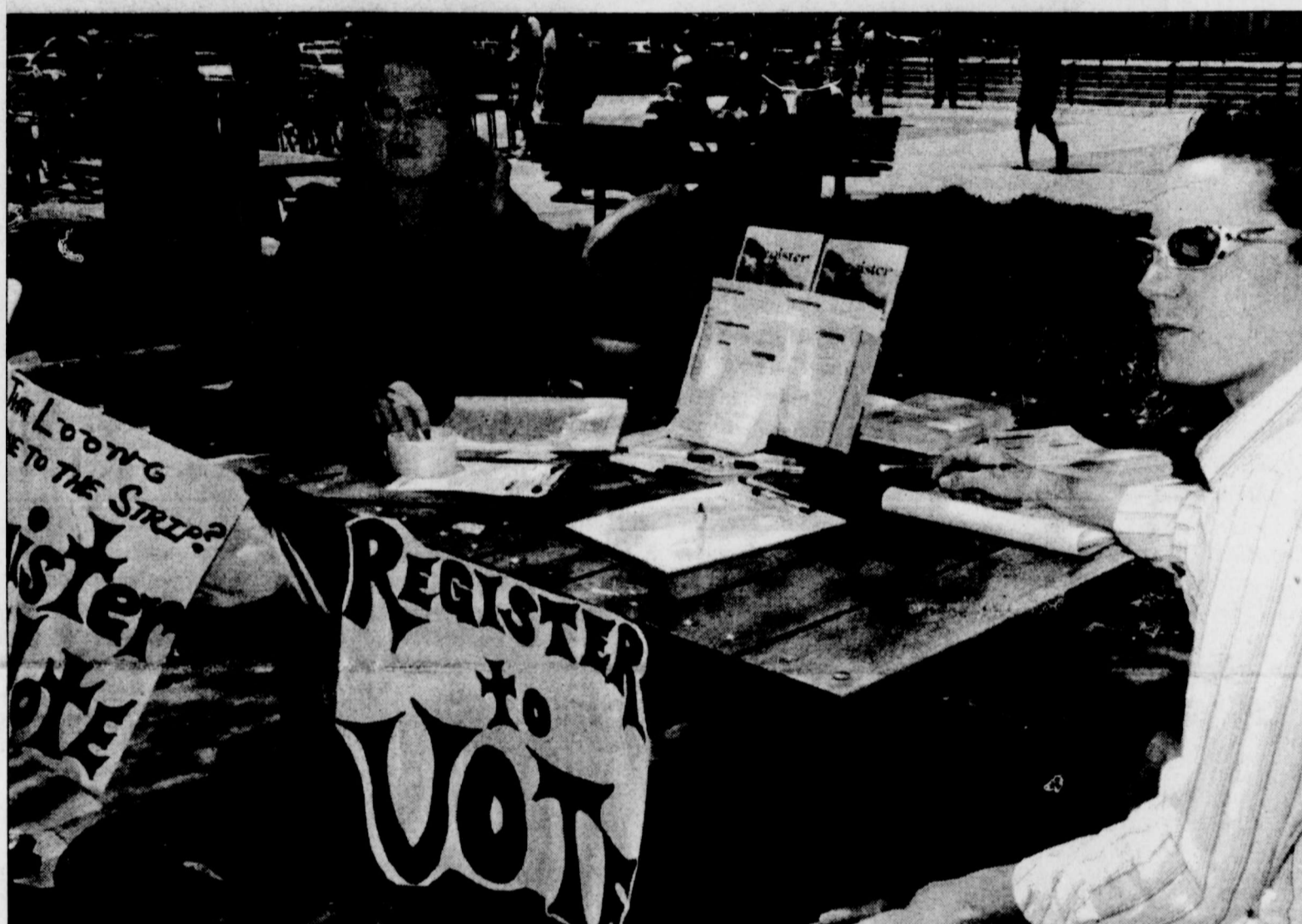


Whitmore



WHITMORE continued on page 5

VOTING VIGOR



HEATHER DOUGHERTY/The University Daily

(ABOVE): MEGAN JOHNSON, a junior restaurant and hotel institutional management major from Austin and Chris Vinson, a senior electrical engineering technology major from Plano, offer voter registration cards at a table outside of the Mass Communications building Wednesday afternoon.

Student Affairs

Tech faculty propose new policy for excused absences

By Michael Castellon/The University Daily

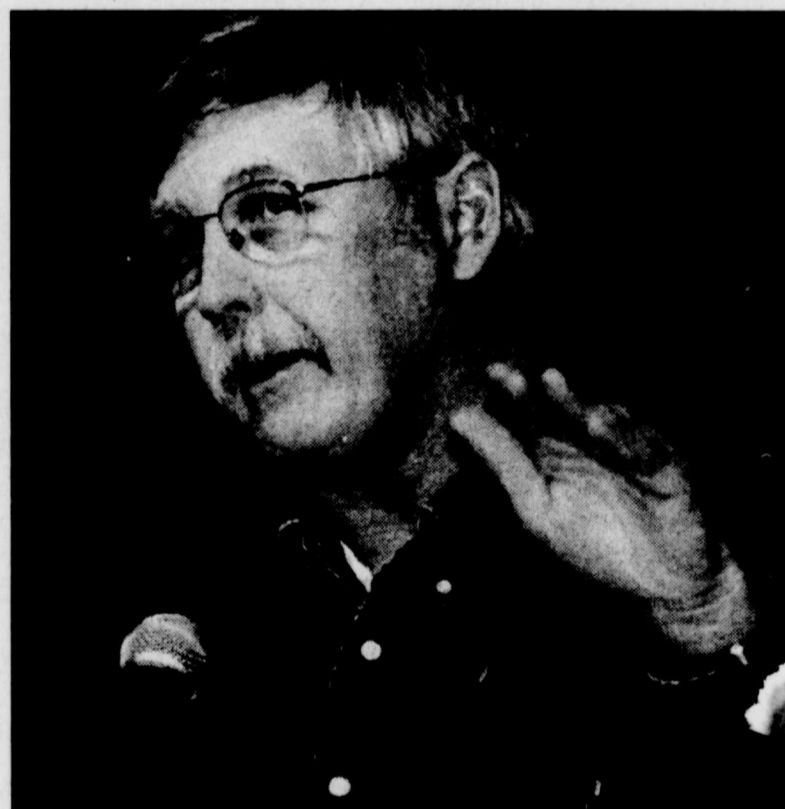
The Texas Tech Faculty Senate passed a resolution on Wednesday that recommends university administrators change the wording of a university policy that dictates how students notify instructors of an excused absence.

Faculty Senator Phillip Johnson said a committee was formed to analyze and discuss the university's current operating policy 34.04, which states in the event of an excused absence, a student "should notify" his or her instructor or academic dean. The recommendation coming from the Senate states the policy should be changed to specifically require the student to notify the instructor or academic dean in the event of an excused absence.

"There was a pretty good discussion at the meeting when the committee meant to discuss this," Johnson said. "We felt there would be nothing wrong in making the changes, and we also discussed the fact that a student should notify the instructor in person. It's good for the student to visit with the professor and notify him in person, and it's the student's responsibility to notify the instructor in advance."

The committee also discussed the possibility of creating a uniform, official form students use to declare an excused absence, and examined the possibility of creating a limit to the number of excused absences a student

FACULTY continued on page 5



DAVID JOHNSON/The University Daily

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF agriculture and applied economics Phillip Johnson describes a proposed resolution regarding a new absence policy whereby students must contact their professor in person to receive an excused absence in the Escondito room of the Student Union building Wednesday afternoon.

National News

Wisconsin student charged with obstruction for faking abduction

By Jenny Price/Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Audrey Seiler, the University of Wisconsin sophomore accused of staging her own disappearance last month, was charged Wednesday with two misdemeanor counts of obstructing officers.

Each charge carries a jail sentence up to nine months and a maximum fine of \$10,000.

Dane County District Attorney

Brian Blanchard filed the 16-page criminal complaint two weeks after Seiler, 20, was discovered in a marshy area within a mile of her campus apartment, when she told police a man with a knife and a gun was in the area. She was reported missing March 27 and found March 31.

When officers attempted to assist Seiler to her feet she said "I can't leave the woods — a bad man will kill me," according to the complaint. She told officers the man had a knife and a gun.

Her claim touched off a major manhunt, which authorities said accounted for most of the money they spent on the case. The Madison police department last week estimated its costs at \$96,000.

According to the criminal complaint, Seiler told police on March 31 and April 1 that a man had entered her room at 2:15 a.m. March 27 while she was doing homework and forced her from her room at knifepoint, telling her to leave the building.

Seiler told police that once outside, the same man grabbed her and put her into a car with threats that he had a gun, according to the complaint. She also said the man used duct tape over her mouth and would sometimes give her Nyquil pills.

Police concluded Seiler's story was fake after obtaining a videotape that showed her buying the knife, duct tape, rope and cold medicine she

ABDUCTION continued on page 5

The Rundown



Confessed serial killer gives in to extradition

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Confessed serial killer Coral Eugene Watts, who is set to be released from a Texas prison in less than two years, agreed Wednesday to be transported to Michigan to face a murder charge for a 1979 slaying.

But state District Judge William McAdams placed a condition on the extradition request, allowing Watts to finish medical treatment he is scheduled to receive in Texas before Michigan authorities can retrieve him.

Rudolph Brothers, an attorney for the State Counsel for Offenders, which offers legal counsel to inmates, told the judge on Watts' behalf that he had recently undergone major surgery and was on medicine to "address some mental health issues that he has."

"He is concerned that he be able to complete his medical (treatment) before returning to the state of Michigan," Brothers said.

Walker County District Attorney David Weeks, who represented Michigan during the extradition hearing, said Watts could complete the treatment and be returned to Michigan within days.

Watts moved from Michigan to Houston in 1981. In 1982, he confessed to Houston police that he killed 13 women. He received immunity for the slayings in exchange for a 60-year sentence for burglary with intent to commit murder.

Fewer multiple births caused by test tubes

BOSTON (AP) — A worrisome national surge in multiple births linked to test-tube technology is easing, largely because doctors are implanting fewer embryos during each attempt to make a woman pregnant, a study suggests.

Doctors routinely place several embryos in the womb at once to improve the odds of producing a baby.

Technical advances and the advent of professional guidelines appear to have led to more sparing use of embryos, the study's researchers reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

The findings are likely to stoke the debate about whether the government should put a cap on the number of embryos that can be used for each attempt.

"It's so rapidly evolving that, to put it in the hands of legislation, is clearly to temper and limit progress," said Dr. Robert Rebar, director of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. "The guidelines are working."

Researchers at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital analyzed federal data on in-vitro fertilization cases in which women had their own eggs fertilized with sperm in the laboratory and then had them implanted. The technique accounts for the vast majority of laboratory-assisted fertility procedures.

Fallujah continues to be hotbed of fighting

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) — U.S. warplanes and helicopters firing heavy machine-guns, rockets and cannons hammered fighters in the besieged city of Fallujah, and the commander of Marines here warned Wednesday a fragile, often-shaken truce will not last much longer.

With four more dead Marines reported, more U.S. troops have been killed halfway into April — a total of at least 87 — than in any month since the military set foot in Iraq.

A top U.N. envoy tried to keep the vital political process moving forward amid the violence, with a proposal that deviated from a plan favored by the United States.

Lakhdar Brahimi called for the creation of a caretaker government led by respected national figures to run the country from the handover of power by the Americans on June 30 until national elections in January.

Under the Brahimi plan, the U.S.-picked Governing Council would be dissolved June 30, rather than expanded to form an assembly as called for in an earlier U.S.-favored proposal.

"We welcome and appreciate Mr. Brahimi's comments, and we appreciated the United Nations' help in moving forward on our strategy to transfer sovereignty to the Iraqi people by June 30," said White House press secretary Scott McClellan.

Mattel issues recall after several children injured by Batmobile

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of Batman Batmobiles by Mattel are being recalled after reports that more than a dozen children have been hurt by the toys, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said Wednesday.

Mattel, based in El Segundo, Calif., agreed to recall 314,000 of the blue-and-gray toy cars. The rear tail wings of the Batmobile are made of a hard plastic that rises to a sharp point and poses a hazard to young children, the safety commission said.

The CPSC also is recalling some 70,000 ride-on toy trucks by Tek Nek Toys International of Grapevine, Texas. CPSC said the screw and nut assembly attaching the steering wheel to the toy can come loose, posing a potential choking hazard. The company has

received a report that an 18-month-old boy died after ingesting a screw that became caught in his lungs.

According to the commission, Mattel has received 14 reports of cuts, scrapes and other injuries from the Batmobiles. Four of the injuries required medical treatment.

The agency announced the toy recalls as it launched an awareness campaign about older recalled products that may still be lurking in consumers' homes.

Among some of the biggest hidden hazards: children's jackets with drawstrings that present a strangulation danger and baby cribs that do not meet federal safety standards.

"It is often the oldest products that present the most serious hazards," said CPSC chairman Hal Stratton. "Hand-me downs and old children's products may have sentimental value to parents and consum-

ers, but more importantly they may no longer be safe to use."

Stratton also urged resale, consignment and thrift stores to check their stocks to make certain these older products aren't being sold to consumers.

The Batmobiles were sold for about \$30 at retail and toy stores nationwide from June 2003 to this past February. Parents are advised to take the toys away from children and contact Mattel at 888-271-9891 for free replacement wings.

The ride-on toys by Tek Nek were sold for about \$30 nationwide beginning in December of 2002. They were bought under five model names: Butterfly Girl, Fire Rescue, Mermaid, Police Car and Tonka Construction Crew.

Consumers can contact the company at 888-661-0222 for free replacement parts.

Kerry campaign hits a snag — criticizing Bush while still supporting U.S. troops

BOSTON (AP) — John Kerry is caught in a political quagmire: How do you criticize the Bush administration's policy in Iraq without undermining the American troops fighting — and losing their lives — there?

With the Democratic presidential nomination locked up, Kerry is adjusting his message for a general-election campaign rather than a primary effort aimed at die-hard Democrats who are vehemently anti-war.

Yet Kerry does not want to appear to be speaking against U.S. forces when he contends, as he did Tuesday in Rhode Island, "The way the president went about this was more than a mistake, in the sense that the president broke promises. ... He promised he would go to war as a last resort. He broke every one of those promises."

Kerry wrote in a column for The Washington Post that he is committed to building a stable government in Iraq — even increasing U.S. troops if necessary — but chided Bush for failing to gather the international support needed to make the country more secure and gain the trust of the Iraqi people.

"Because of the way the White House has run the war, we are left with the United States bearing most of the costs and risks associated with every aspect of the Iraqi transition," Kerry wrote. "We have lost lives, time, momentum and credibility. And we are seeing increasing numbers of Iraqis lashing out at the United States to express their frustration over what the Bush administration has and hasn't done."

Kerry continued that line Tues-

day night, complaining Bush failed to explain how he would stabilize Iraq when he met with reporters at the White House in a prime-time news conference that dealt heavily with the war.

"We need to set a new course in Iraq," Kerry said in a statement.

While they don't make up a majority of the electorate, Democratic activists are a key financial and political base for Kerry. If he appears too supportive of the war, his base vote turns sourly. At the same time, being rabidly anti-war risks turning off swing voters likely to decide a close election.

"The problem in general in politics when a candidate chooses to be critical of something happening internationally is it can be seen as not supporting the troops or being weak internationally," Michigan State University political science professor David Rohde said. "He's got to worry that his criticism is being taken as a lack of support for the troops."

In a nod to that sentiment, Kerry always opens his remarks with praise for American troops in Iraq.

When students at the University of New Hampshire on Monday asked Kerry to explain his Iraq positions, his responses reflected subtle if important distinctions with Bush policies rather than direct opposition.

For instance, Kerry told them Bush should involve other countries in the

war, but said he would leave the United States in charge of military operations. Although he was critical of an "arbitrary" June 30 deadline to turn over authority in the country, he said he would support the move because of increasing restiveness in Iraq about the U.S. occupation.

"I think it was a mistake to set an arbitrary deadline because the measurement is the stability of Iraq," Kerry told the students. "Now the date has somewhat taken hold in Iraq."

Jeffrey Goldfarb, with the New School for Social Research in New York, said part of the problem Kerry faces is his position on the war is not easy to explain.

"I think Kerry has some inconsistencies," Goldfarb said. "He appears to be on both sides of the issue. He recognizes some justification for the war, but is deeply critical of the way the war has been carried out."

Complicating Kerry's rhetorical mission is his own record: He voted against the 1991 Gulf War, voted in 1992 to authorize the first President Bush to use force in Iraq, then voted last year against spending an additional \$87 billion on the war. Not only must he take time to explain why he believes these positions are not contradictory, Kerry has left himself open to charges from Republicans that he's trying to have it both ways on the war.

He's got to worry that his criticism is being taken as lack of support for the troops.

— DAVID ROHDE
Political Science Professor,
Michigan State University

The University Daily

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Market ready for birth control pills for men

(AP) — More than 40 years after The Pill hit the market for women, scientists are still trying to come up with a version for men.

"Why?" some women might ask. Men don't get pregnant.

Men do account for nearly a third of all contraceptive use in the United States and worldwide. And right now, they're basically limited to condoms and vasectomies.

So experts see a market for a male Pill, even if it's not actually a pill, and some large studies to develop one are in progress. In China, hundreds of men are getting injections once a month. In Europe, more than 300 men are signing up to get 2-inch rods implanted in their arms and take injections every three months.

The research quest is hardly new but it could get its own shot in the arm later this year. The federal government plans to gather researchers, representatives of drug companies and federal regulators to figure out where the research should be going.

"We're pushing to move it forward," said Robert Spirtas, chief of the contraception and reproductive health branch of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

New contraceptives for men would be welcome, experts say.

"The more options that are available, the more likely a couple will find an option that fits very neatly into their particular lifestyle," said Dr. Vanessa Cullins, vice president for medical affairs of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

The focus for developing contraceptives has been on women for some time, she noted, but "men are partners in heterosexual sexual activity, and in heterosexual attempts to prevent pregnancy. So it's only right that there be more options that men can consider."

"The shocker for most people is that men are interested in contraception, are actually using a lot of contraception," said researcher Dr. John Amory of University of Washington in Seattle.

Noting that men provide nearly a third of all contraceptive use despite "pretty limited options," Amory said, "I think there's a market there."

Besides condoms and vasectomy, men recently gained another contraceptive option: the "Vasclip," a device about the size of a grain of rice that a physician can install in the testes to block the flow of sperm. It's considered permanent. Of

course, there is also abstinence.

Researchers generally envision a male version of the Pill used by men in committed relationships. Other couples should be using a condom anyway to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, experts say.

Besides, the hormonal approach that has attracted the most research so far takes about three months to shut off fertility, hardly fast enough for a man who's just landed a hot date.

The male Pill might not really be a pill at all, at least at first. It might instead require a long-lasting injection or a small implant given under local anesthesia, or both. That's mostly a result of the biology, but

experts say it's not entirely a bad thing. An injection that lasts for, say, three months or more would take away the pressure of remembering to take a pill regularly, notes Diana Blithe, director of a male contraceptive development program at NICHD. And an implant in a man's arm a woman could feel would "provide ready proof that he is taking the contraceptive," said Bernard Robaire of McGill University.

Apparently that's no drawback for men. Amory recalls in a study some time ago, "the guys were proud of their implants. They were conversation starters at cocktail parties. They would have a woman feel their arm."

Scientists have known for 50 years that it should be possible to fiddle with a man's hormones and make him sterile for a while. That hasn't produced a marketed product for lots of reasons, like sporadic research funding, cultural concerns and limited interest by drug companies, a report from the Institute of Medi-

cine noted. "I think there may have been a social feeling that men would be less willing to do this (practice contraception), that they aren't the ones who end up with the responsibility of the pregnancy if it occurs," Blithe said. "So the women needed at least initially to be able to control their own bodies, since they're the ones who ultimately end up with the consequences."

"I think that's why drug companies initially at least didn't have as much of an interest. The feeling was it was already taken care of, more or less. They didn't see a big profit margin in it." Then there's the biology. Consider the challenge a contraceptive drug faces. If you block one egg a month in a woman, you've done your job. A man produces about 100 million sperm a day. "Probably, as little as 5 percent of those sperm are enough to maintain fertility," Robaire said. If so, a drug that blocks even 95 percent of sperm production wouldn't help. Men wouldn't be willing to accept much in the way of side effects. So you want an extremely high degree of effectiveness with few if any side effects, Robaire said. "You couldn't ask more of a drug," he said. "It's really the ultimate challenge."

The shocker for most people is that men are interested in contraception, are actually using a lot of contraception.

— DR. JOHN AMORY
Professor, University of Washington

Tenet, Mueller: America needs time to fully combat terrorism

WASHINGTON (AP) — Enormous intelligence and law enforcement gaps that contributed to the Sept. 11 attacks are being filled, but it will take years more for America to build the needed systems to effectively combat terrorists, the heads of the FBI and CIA said Wednesday.

CIA Director George Tenet and FBI Director Robert Mueller went before the commission investigating the 2001 hijackings after the panel's staff released statements harshly criticizing the CIA for failing to fully appreciate the threat posed by al-Qaida prior to Sept. 11 and questioning the FBI's reorganization efforts.

"It was a damning report of a system that's broken, that doesn't function," said commission member John Lehman, a former Navy secretary, referring to flaws found in the intelligence system.

Tenet, making his second appearance before the commission in three weeks, said that in the 1990s the CIA lost 25 percent of its personnel, was not hiring new analysts and faced disarray in its training of clandestine officers who work overseas to penetrate terror cells and recruit secret informants.

Although strides have been made since the attacks, Tenet said it would take five more years to "have the kind of clandestine service our country

needs." The National Security Agency, which handles electronic surveillance, and U.S. mapping and analytic intelligence agencies also need time and sustained funding to improve, he said.

"You can't build this community in fits and starts. It won't happen and the country will suffer," Tenet said.

Mueller recounted a range of steps the FBI has taken since the Sept. 11 attacks to improve its intelligence capabilities, sharpen its focus on terrorism and replace outmoded technology. He urged the panel to let those improvements continue and not to risk derailing them by recommending creation of a new domestic intelligence agency outside the FBI.

"We don't want to have historians look back and say, 'OK, you won the war on terrorism but you lost your civil liberties,'" Mueller said. "We have become, since Sept. 11, a member of the intelligence community in ways we were not in the past."

The commission has been gathering information for more than a year and will release a final report in July. Among the issues it will consider is whether fundamental changes in U.S. intelligence gathering is needed.

The staff report on the CIA credited the agency with collecting a vast array of intelligence on Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida, which resulted in

thousands of individual reports circulated at the highest U.S. government levels.

These carried titles such as "Bin Laden Threatening to Attack U.S. Aircraft" in June 1998 and "Bin Laden's Interest in Biological and Radiological Weapons" in February 2001.

Despite this intelligence, the CIA never produced an authoritative summary of al-Qaida's involvement in past terrorist attacks, nor did it fully appreciate bin Laden's role as the leader of a growing extremist movement. Even though al-Qaida had been formed in 1988 after the Soviet Union abandoned Afghanistan, the CIA didn't recognize it as an organization until 1999, the report said.

"Before the attack we found uncertainty among senior officials about whether this was just a new and especially venomous version of the ordinary terrorist threat America had lived with for decades, or was radically new, posing a threat beyond any yet experienced," the commission statement said.

Tenet strenuously took issue with that conclusion — "That's flat wrong," he said — noting that the CIA put in place a plan to combat al-Qaida in 1999 that included clandestine intelligence inside Afghanistan using 25 people and movement of a spy satellite to increase coverage of the terror training camps.

Parents who lost daughter in combat request that other children not be sent back to Iraq

NEW BERLIN, Wis. (AP) — With three daughters in Iraq, John and Lori Witmer had a family Web site with photos from Baghdad, notes to home and messages of encouragement.

"Keep praying! They're almost home!" a recent entry says.

The top notice, dated Sunday, carried grim news: "We regret to inform you that Michelle Witmer was killed in action April 9th ..."

The 20-year-old private died when her Humvee was ambushed in Baghdad, making her the first woman in the Wisconsin National Guard to die in combat.

Her family is asking the military to stop her sisters from being sent back to Iraq after this week's funeral.

"I can't live another year like I've lived this one," John Witmer told The Associated Press. "The sacrifice that this family's made can never be understood by someone who hasn't gone through it... It's a burden I can't bear. My family can't bear it."

The sisters arrived home Monday, two days before Michelle's funeral, and indicated they would need a week to mull over their options, he said. "In the end, it is going to be my girls' decision."

Michelle's 24-year-old sister, Rachel, served in the same unit, the 32nd Military Police Company, which was expected to leave Iraq shortly but just had its duty extended 120 days.

Charity Witmer, Michelle's twin, was sent to Iraq late last year as a medic with Company B of the Wisconsin Guard's 118th Medical Battalion. The Witmers also have two sons.

Army spokesman Lt. Col. Kevin Curry said Defense Department policy states if a soldier dies while serving in a hostile area, other soldiers of the same family are exempt from serving in a hostile area if they request. The request must come from the soldiers themselves.

John Witmer acknowledged the final decision of whether to return will be

up to his daughters. But he said they would have to understand "how terribly we need to know they're not going back."

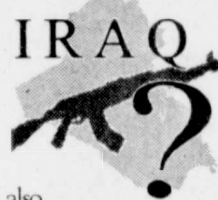
Witmer said he worried about his daughters joining the military but felt duty with the National Guard would be relatively safe, especially with a military police unit.

"My daughters wanted the freedom of being able to call their shots with their education," he said. "They were using that to go to school."

Asked on NBC's "Today" whether U.S. actions in Iraq were justified, Witmer said it

was a difficult issue to sort out, but he recalled daughter Michelle's comments.

"She felt that she had made a difference in that culture and that there was a liberation that went on," he said. "She was also very concerned that if we had a knee-jerk reaction to some of these horrible things that were happening, that thousands of Iraqi people would suffer from a swift exit."



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Some Tech departments need to refocus

I was going through paperwork I had to fill out for graduation Tuesday night, just in case I had to turn it in on Wednesday (which I did), and included in the paperwork was a post-graduate survey about my experience at Texas Tech.

The form asked me to rate my experiences with different departments and then asked for general comments about the administration of the university.

These questions actually caused about two minutes of thought that night as I was filling it out, but the next morning as I took the long walk from my car to Holden Hall I started thinking about it more and realized although I have had good experiences with some departments at Texas Tech, my contact with other departments has been consistently negative, and there is one underlying reason for these bad experiences.

That reason is the focus of these departments is not on serving the student population and facilitating the simplest, quickest method of getting through the academic process but somewhere else. Now, this may come as a shock to some departments, but the primary purpose of the university is actually to give students an education, so most university departments should be geared toward customer (i.e. student) service.

As I said, not all the departments lack this focus. I have not really had problems with the graduate school, history department or Student Business Services; they have all been friendly and helpful, so this column is not all about trashing Tech bureaucracy in general, just pointing out an area that could use some improvement.

The financial aid office is one office where the focus seems to have shifted from serving students to moving students through with a minimum of fuss and not allowing people and individual problems to get in the way of their carefully structured machine.

I once called them to make an appointment so I could ask questions and get clar-

Jennifer McIntyre



ification about a problem I was having with my financial aid. Not only did they not want to make an appointment, the representative I spoke to didn't want me to come in and proceeded to give me the same information over the phone I already had in the letter that had raised the questions in the first place, getting ruder throughout the few minutes of the phone call.

My few other contacts with financial aid have left me feeling similarly dismissed as irrelevant to the process, which is funny, because my financial aid process should revolve around me.

And just so the administrative departments don't feel picked on, I have had an equally terrible experience with one of the academic departments. I wanted to do heritage management as my minor, which is under the museum science program. However, that department refused to allow me to take only the requirements to meet my degree plan, but insisted I take more hours than necessary to meet their program requirements even though I would receive no certification or recognition at all from their department, other than having the courses listed on my transcript.

A professor in the department also is the only one I have ever had who made it perfectly clear the professor's other work was more important than teaching, and consequently didn't have office hours because he or she wouldn't be there for them anyway.

It would be simple enough for anyone in the museum science program to find the professor, but for those of us outside the department it would have been difficult to just

stop by the professor's office regularly until he or she was available.

I also had to chase this professor down the hall after class to discuss a personal matter, as the professor had already left the class by the time I got to the front of the room. Again, the focus on the student was subverted to other programs within the department.

These are the two departments where their other-than-student orientation has caused me the most headaches, but I know these are not the only two. I have had dealings with a few other departments that have a similar problem, and I have heard from other students about other departments that manifest the same lack of proper focus. One problem is there is a lot of bureaucracy involved in a university that its staff deals with, but obviously there is a way to handle that without "handling" students because some departments work well with students.

Going to college is a difficult enough experience for many of us as it is. We have to deal with the shock of the price of books and tuition, learning self-discipline, meeting deadlines and passing some classes about which we don't have a clue.

The university departments should function in such a way to make this all easier, not just another headache to deal with, because the student body is its customer base and the university's primary focus should be getting them a quality education without forcing the students to jump through multiple hoops just to make sure their tuition is paid and they can graduate.

All it would take is a simple evaluation of the department and an adjustment to realign the department to meet students' needs as individuals, not as cogs in the machine.

■ **McIntyre is a graduate student studying history from Lubbock. E-mail her at jennifer.l.mcintyre@ttu.edu.**

View from another university

Pointing fingers at Bush administration wrong

By Stacey Schneider/
Rocky Mountain Collegian

(U-WIRE) FORT COLLINS, Colo. — My mother always taught me it was impolite to point. Apparently, some mothers missed this chapter in the guidebook to motherhood, and this is the reason we have politicians.

In recent weeks, the government has seen so much finger pointing it is a wonder an eye has not been poked out. With a presidential election looming in the near future, it is unfortunate that President Bush and his administration are at the end of these fingertips.

The surge of the current blame game can be attributed to Richard Clarke, the former White House terrorism adviser. Clarke went public with information and a book to discredit the president's role in fighting terrorism and preventing the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy. Since this uprising, the media have been anxious to ravage any inkling of information supporting this claim and have called vehemently for the testimony of National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice at the Sept. 11 committee hearings.

Last week, Rice testified before the committee investigating the Sept. 11 attacks and stated the Bush administration did not have any specific warnings al-Qaeda was planning this attack on the United States.

Meant to be an information-gathering

session, the questioning took a more political turn as Democrats grilled her about the information received in 2001. The recent outcome of this testimony is the public release on Sunday of a confidential briefing from Aug. 6, 2001, titled "bin Laden determined to strike in the U.S." In this memo, the public is presumably supposed to find clear-cut evidence the Bush administration knew enough information to take action and avoid the Sept. 11 occurrences.

Although the Democrats will attack this document and dissect it for evidence of their case, the information they are looking for is just not there. The information in this briefing did not warn of the attacks but rather referred to the possibility of occurrences.

Of the statements made in this briefing, much of the information provided to the president was from the past and discussed intentions, such as Osama bin Laden's desire to attack the United States. The FBI had already been handling dozens of bin Laden investigations, the statements inside this briefing included. There were also two statements that indicated more recent findings regarding threats, such as an anonymous call to a U.S. embassy warning of a bomb possibility.

These, too, were under investigation and did not provide any information related to the date of the Sept. 11 attacks. As this information was known to the president to be under FBI investigation, and no information leading to an attack on Sept. 11 was found, a full-

blown search did not seem warranted at the time.

It sure is easy now to look back and say, "The president could have done more." As they say, hindsight is 20/20, and in this case many pointing fingers are accompanying hindsight. This blame for lack of attention and action in the summer of 2001 is ridiculous. The government receives thousands of tips regarding national security, and it does its best to investigate those that pose a serious threat. It is obvious that there were investigations into bin Laden and his activities, and it is unfortunate that the government was not able to stop the horrible tragedy.

Would Bush and his administration let threats go without investigations or let an attack of this magnitude occur if the information was there? The answer is a resounding "no." Blaming Bush is not going to make this tragedy disappear. Instead, it is being used as a diversion tool to help the Democrats in the November election.

If we want to continue this blame game, let us point our fingers at bin Laden, the leader behind Sept. 11, or at al Qaeda, the executor of these attacks. Or better yet, let us turn those fingers around and point them at those who have to stir up trouble in order to gain popularity and always seem to have an answer after the fact. It always is easier when you have the answer key in front of you before a big test. Best of all, let everyone drop the finger pointing; it is, after all, rude.

Bush's tax cuts too good to be true

Tax cuts won't help the typical student who grows up to be the typical taxpayer.

April 15. The day that makes accountants giddy and Willie Nelson cringe.

Tax day isn't just the day your income taxes are due, it's a day that represents what our government is all about.

If you ever had any doubt about a party's principals, April 15 is the day that lets you know exactly what they think of you.

Just so we are on the same page, we should get some facts straight.

Income tax is what you pay to the federal government. Income can come from many places. The two main sources of income are from salary and investments. Salary income is what you make at your job and investment income is dividends and capital gains. Profit from selling illegal substances or prostitution is not something you would report as income.

Salary makes up 80 percent of income for most people. As for investment income, you have to first make enough money to invest, and then you have to invest enough that you make some back.

Not surprisingly, it's the people with higher incomes that make the most money from investments. It's worth noting; investment income makes up more than half the income of the top 1 percent of tax filers.

In the past few years, George W. Bush has passed through more than \$3 trillion in tax cuts. Bush said an average American family with two children and mean income of \$40,000 would have a 98-percent income tax cut.

That sounds really nice. It sounds wonderful and too good to be true. Not surprising, it is. There are all sorts of problems with Bush's ideal situation. First, Bush's "average" family is not at all average.

Fewer than a quarter of households are made up of a couple and two kids. And that stuff about a \$40,000 mean income — very misleading. It is a mean income, meaning half of Americans make more and half of Americans make less. This example might be average, but it's not at all typical.

The biggest lie is the 98 percent tax cut. Bush might be cutting income tax by 98 percent, but in reality, there is only a 24 percent cut in total taxes.

"Total taxes?" you say. "What else is out there besides income taxes?"

Well ... there are those little things called Social Security and Medicare.

These whittle down your paycheck to nothing. If you think income taxes are bad, it gets worse. About 75 percent of Americans pay more in payroll taxes (Social Security and Medicare) than income taxes.

On average, payroll taxes are a huge

Sarah Looten



15.3 percent on the first \$87,900 of salary. There's a lot of people out there — more than half — that don't make \$87,900 a year. Those people pay a big chunk in payroll taxes and then another big chunk in income tax from salaries.

Not to sound bitter about being a poor college student, but the people helped the most are the rich, those people whose income comes not from working, but from investments. Those people don't have to pay salary tax, as they don't have a salary. Those people don't have to pay payroll tax, as they are not on a payroll. Now those people get a hell of a tax break.

Bush reports \$822,126 in adjusted gross income. He owes \$227,490 in federal income taxes. That's a lot of money — 28 percent of his income actually. His tax cuts didn't necessarily help him out a whole lot.

But let's look at another rich man. Take, for example, Dick Cheney. His salary is \$178,437. His reported adjusted gross income — \$1.3 million.

Granted, some of that income is his wife's,

as they file jointly. But they paid \$253,067 in federal taxes — only 20 percent of his income. Cheney cashed in, that's for sure. The system worked for him.

What does this mean for the average student? Not much at all.

Though you might hear about the child prodigy who invested his lemonade money wisely and by age 21 is a billionaire, that is not at all the norm. Some students don't file taxes, some students let their parents file their taxes for them and some just do it all by their lonesome. Odds are you weren't affected by the tax cuts.

However, you should realize when you join the work force, it probably wouldn't be as the vice president. Hell, it probably won't be anything near that glamorous and certainly will not pay as well. These tax cuts won't help the typical student who grows up to be the typical taxpayer. Just remember it will get worse, a lot worse.

But on a lighter note, there are people out there who realize April 15 is indeed a black day for many people. To help combat the "I-have-to-pay-my-government-lots-of-money-that-I-can't-afford" blues, Subway is giving away one free cookie to everyone that comes in on April 15.

Savor it while it lasts. A little sweetness is no cure for bad politics, but it will make the trip to the post office a little better.

■ **Looten is a senior political science and sociology major from Panhandle. E-mail her at sarah.n.looten@ttu.edu.**

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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 600 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community.

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Taxes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The penalties for not filing a tax return vary depending on whether the form was late or if it was fraudulent tax evasion, according to the IRS Web site.

Tax return forms will continue to be available to students, faculty and community members in the basement of the Tech library.

Thomas T. Rohrig, assistant head of government documents and maps at the Tech library, said the Tech library has provided the forms for more than 15 years.

"A lot of people come to expect having these forms out here," he said.

The forms also are available online at the IRS Web site.

There are three basic kinds of personal income tax forms available. Rohrig said students normally qualify to file the 1040EZ, which is the most basic tax return form offered.

Which form to file depends on the circumstances of each individual, Rohrig said.

Informational tax filing booklets also are available in the basement of the library beside the tax return forms.

"It is one of the services we will still continue to offer as long as they continue to provide us with the paperwork," he said. "It directly benefits so many people."

While Rohrig said the library cannot answer tax questions directly, the students are referred to the IRS Web site.

These days more Tech students might be filing taxes themselves.

"It is my impression that most students do their own income tax," Rohrig said. "There are so many picking up forms for themselves."

The Monterey Station Lubbock Post Office at 5014 Gary Ave. will remain open until 10 p.m. Thursday night.

The Coalition Community Assistance Volunteers will be available at the branch from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m.

The mail will be collected until midnight, according to a press release from the United States Postal Service.

Watson said this is a courtesy done by the post office she has witnessed for many years.

"It's just pretty handy," she said. "It gives them extra time to mail their forms."

Whitmore

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I don't think the role of the SGA is to fund academic programs," he said. "It is to support student organizations."

When an undergraduate comes to Tech, they are able to not only take classes, but also be a part of student organizations, Whitmore said. The main concern of the student was the funds allocated to graduate student organizations.

"Not to say that graduate students shouldn't get a fair share, but the SGA is not a major source for that," Whitmore said. "The primary function of the SGA is to support a variety of student organizations."

Another student questioned the increase in salary for football

coach Mike Leach. His concern focused about whether the money would be used better for the improvement of education at Tech instead of being used for the athletic program.

Despite the concern, Whitmore assured the student the revenue for the salary increase does not come from the tuition or fees students pay each semester. Instead, the revenue mostly comes from ticket sales and donations.

In fact, 94 to 95 percent of the athletic budget is self-produced, while 4 to 5 percent comes from the university.

Of the \$500 million budget for Tech, \$35 million goes to the athletic department, Whitmore said.

Another topic at the event was textbook prices. When students begin classes in the summer and

fall, they may notice the price for textbooks has increased. One student expressed concern because the publishers of textbooks create new editions each year for minimal changes in the text.

Some fields, such as biology, change so rapidly that it is necessary to print a new edition, Whitmore said.

"It would be a disservice to have a three-year-old book," he said. To assure the changes are of substantial value, Whitmore said he could speak with faculty members to check on the situation.

Although the coffee with the president meeting was the last of the semester, students with questions and concerns can contact the SGA on the third floor of the Student Union building or call (806) 742-3631.

Faculty

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

could claim throughout a semester.

"We looked at the possibility of putting a limit on the number of approved absences, but we came to the conclusion that to have a set number of absences (a student could claim) would be problematic," Johnson told the Senate. "There's a lot of different situations that can arise that need to be considered."

Vice Provost Liz Hall asked the Senate to clarify the language of the proposal. Warning that the changing of any operating policy to mandate a process is often difficult.

"When an OP says 'must,' what happens when (instructors) don't?" she asked. "What if an instructor doesn't have an absence policy? 'Must' is a very strong word."

The issue was later clarified when the Senate agreed instructors are typically given freedom to set

their own attendance policies, and an officially excused absence would only guarantee a student's ability to make up missed class work.

In other business, the Senate agreed to resend a letter asking Tech President Jon Whitmore to review a proposal that allows for the inclusion of sexual orientation in the university's EEOC statement regarding discrimination.

Last November, the Senate sent a letter to Whitmore asking for a review of the proposal, but a response has yet been received.

Senator Clifton Ellis outlined the goal of the Senate's recommendation to include sexual orientation as a component of the university's EEOC statement.

"We wrote to (Whitmore) and have received no response," he said.

"The University of Texas has sexual orientation included in their EEOC statement so we want to know what the problem is with Texas Tech having one."

Man driving stolen cars allegedly runs down pedestrians, killing one

FUQUAY-VARINA, N.C. (AP) — A man drove a pair of stolen vehicles across three counties Wednesday and apparently went out of his way to hit at least five pedestrians along the way, killing one of them, police said.

A suspect wearing a T-shirt and boxer shorts was eventually arrested in Fuquay-Varina, where he had driven a pickup truck that apparently was stolen from one of the pedestrians after the first vehicle was abandoned, police said.

Police said they had not been able to identify him.

"It looks like he pulled into neighborhoods looking for people," Bryant said. "He didn't stay on main streets."

The violence started with the theft of a van belonging to the city of Fayetteville, authorities said.

Bryant said a maintenance department employee started the van to warm up the engine and left it parked. No one saw the van being taken, she said.

Over the next hour and 45 minutes, the thief drove from Fayetteville to the Raleigh area, apparently deliberately running

down pedestrians, according to Fayetteville police and the state highway patrol.

The first victim was hit within minutes after the van was stolen, Fayetteville police said. David McCaskill, who is in his 70s, was walking his dog when he was hit, police said.

The driver put the van in reverse and tried run over McCaskill a second time, but missed, authorities said. Witnesses said the driver got out of the van and beat McCaskill with his hands, then drove away when neighbors came out of their houses, Fayetteville police said.

McCaskill was hospitalized for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

The van was later found in Cumberland County. Fayetteville police said the one person known to have been killed was found pinned under the van, but it was not clear when or where the person was struck. At least two other people also had been struck after McCaskill.

After the van was abandoned, the driver apparently stole a pickup truck, which struck at least one person, and was arrested on foot in Fuquay-Varina after the pickup hit another vehicle and went off a road.

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7:00	Body Elec. Callow	Today Show	Early Show	K. Copeland Paid Program	Good Morning	K. Copeland Paid Program	7:00	Berenstein Barney		Early Show	J. Robison Cross/Over	America	Grace/Fire Roseanne
8:00	Dragon Tales Arthur	Today Show	Paid Program	Judge Mathis	Regis & Kelly	Family Feud	9:00	Sesame Street	Martha Stewart	Price Is Right	Hatchett	View	John Walsh
9:00	Mr. Rogers Telelubies	Hynd Square Jeopardy	Young & the Restless	Paid Program	Home Impr. Paid Program	Access Extra	10:00	Did House Watercolors	News Days of Our	News Beautiful	Jerry Springer	All My Children	Good Day Live
10:00	Needle Arts Dragon Tales	Lives Passions	As the World Turns	Paid Program	One Life to Live	People's Court	11:00	Zoom Betw./Lions	In/Edtion	Guiding Light	Street Smart	General Hospital	Divorce Court
11:00	R. Rainbow Cyberchase	Oprah Winfrey	Mauri Povich	Ryan Seacrest	Wayne Brady	Joe Brown	12:00	Clifford Arthur	Dr. Phil	Judge Judy Judge Judy	Sabrina That 70's	Monte Williams	News & More
12:00	Liberty Nightly Bus.	News NBC News	News CBS News	Pyramid Pyramid	News ABC News	That 70's Simpsons	1:00	News Hour	News W/Fortune	News Millionaire	Survivor: All-Stars	News E.T.	Friends Raymond
1:00	This Old House	Friends '98 Friends	Survivor: All-Stars	WWE Smackdown	Extreme Makeover	Tru Calling	2:00	Ed Sullivan Show	Apprentice '03	C.S.I. 'TV14	Kingdom Hospital	MASH E.T.	Wonderfalls
2:00	Frontline		Without a Trace	King/Hill King/Hill	Prisettine Thursday	News	3:00	Nightly Bus. Destinios	News Tonight Show	News David	Friends Magnum P.I.	News Nightline	Seinfeld Frasier
3:00	Raidernet	Conan	Letterman Craig	Blind Date	MASH E.T.	Raymond Shoot Me	4:00	O'Brien Last Call	Kilborn Paid Program	Ext. Dating Paid Program	Jimmy Kimmel	Becker Paid Program	

Abduction

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

claimed her abductor used to restrain her. They also obtained a warrant to search her laptop computer and cell phone records.

Seiler had also reported an unexplained attack in February, saying she was struck from behind and left unconscious, but the complaint does not say whether police believe that attack was also fabricated.

A message left at Seiler's home in Rockford, Minn., wasn't immediately

returned. The family's attorney, Randy Hopper, was traveling and didn't immediately return messages left at his office and on his cell phone.

Seiler had been under a doctor's care since she was found, but returned home to Rockford, Minn., last week.

Hopper did not release any details of Seiler's condition or say what type of treatment she was receiving. "Dateline NBC" reported that Seiler was in a psychiatric facility.

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'The Whole Ten Yards' gets penalty flags

It becomes glaringly obvious after the first 15 minutes of "The Whole Ten Yards," a sequel to 2000's "The Whole Nine Yards," the film has no reason to exist.

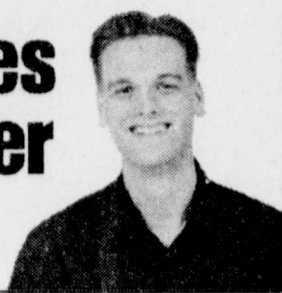
The original film, about a dentist (Matthew Perry) who finds a retired hit man (Bruce Willis) has moved in next door to him, was mildly charming and only halfway succeeded because of the charming Amanda Peet as a wannabe assassin.

"Ten Yards" does not stand on its own — it is necessary for viewers to see "The Whole Nine Yards" to understand the relationships between characters and jokes that refer to the original movie.

But the new film has almost completely lost touch with the original characters, and what's worse is they aren't given much to do.

In the original film, Oz Oseranski (Perry) and Jimmy "The Tulip" Tudeski (Willis) knocked off gangster Jani Gogolak (Kevin

James Eppler



Pollak).

In the new film, Gogolak's father, Lazlo (Pollak again), has just gotten out of the slammer and is on a mission of revenge. Pollak is probably the only aspect of the film that ever inspires chuckles, as his character is so obviously over the top. He's the comic relief in the midst of a myriad of unfunny sequences.

Tudeski and his wife Jill (Peet) are hiding out in Mexico. She is still trying to get her

first real kill, and he stays home dressed in an apron and head cloth and seems to have gone nuts. He obsesses over making dinner, cleaning the house and making sure no one messes up the floor rug.

It would have been a funny gag, but there's never a reason given for it, and the joke is repeatedly rammed down our throats.

When Lazlo kidnaps Oz's wife, Cynthia (Natasha Henstridge), who still inexplicably has the hots for The Tulip, her ex-husband, Oz goes to Jimmy for help.

Jimmy, Jill and Oz decide to go after Cynthia. But there's also a scheme going on here, we discover, that isn't fully explained until the last five minutes of the movie.

The characters all play like milked-cow versions of their former selves. Willis looks bored as The Tulip and spends most of the movie yelling at or smacking Perry around, and even Peet's talents are grossly wasted

here.

The jokes are more miss than hit, even though there are a few slight chuckles to be had. But the bad jokes are more easily remembered — a scene that rips off a joke from "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles" but takes it further into gay sex territory is awful, as is an embarrassing sequence where Peet clumsily seduces Perry.

There's also an old woman with noisy gas, two idiot brothers who love to fight and a dim-witted hit man who locks himself in a car trunk.

There are several action sequences, other than characters repeatedly smacking one another, but they fail to generate any laughs or excitement.

Perry tries to compensate for the misfired jokes by running into or tripping over everything in sight. Once again, he's brought his Chandler Bing character from "Friends" to

the big screen, which is already a tired character on the series.

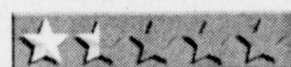
One only hopes with "Friends" ending, he can break out of his Chandler shell and explore other avenues. His work on "The West Wing" proves he has other options.

The fact Pollak decided to return for this pointless sequel is probably the film's only saving grace.

His accent, along with his mannerisms and line delivery, are never hilarious, but they do occasionally bring chuckles.

"The Whole Ten Yards" is a constipated comedy that tries to breathe life into used characters but only yields slightly obnoxious flatulence.

EPPLER'S RATING



Omega Psi Phi hosts Step Show in Allen Theatre

A time-honored tradition will step into the campus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity will host the third annual Baby Steps Step Show in the

Allen Theatre in the Student Union building.

Fraternity president Anthony Garner said although the historical side of the African-American tradi-

tion will be presented, the overall atmosphere of the show will impress the audience.

"We're intertwining with other nationalities and races, where we can share our culture," he said. "It allows us to come together, and it shows the courage of the people involved to participate and have enthusiasm."

With months of preparation developing the routines the groups perform, Garner said a lot of work goes into the event.

"It takes a lot of time and a lot of effort to do these shows," he said. "And a lot of it is having support from the student body."

The show begins at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$7 for all attendees. With messages being presented in between the show, Garner said it is a time to come out and have fun.

"Not only will people learn about the tradition, but it's fun, there's a lot of excitement, and a lot of humor in it," he said. "It's great to see for a good laugh and good fun."

The proceeds from the show go to benefit high school students around the South Plains area as well as the Boys and Girls Club. With the shows building up at other universities, Garner said Tech is another one in the making.

"We're just getting started," he said. "So far, our turnouts have been great, and it gives the sororities a chance to defend their titles."

Several groups from Kappa Kappa Gamma, Alpha Phi and other sororities will compete to take home the 2004 title.

Perry declares Child Abuse Prevention, Awareness month

By Lucas Flores/
Contributing Writer

According to national statistics provided by Child Protective Services, the United States spends \$258 million each day as a direct and indirect result of the abuse and neglect of the nation's children.

To bring attention to the problem in Texas, Gov. Rick Perry declared April 2004 as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month.

"Children are the embodiment of our dreams and aspirations for the future, and they have every right to mature in environments that are safe and healthy, free of fear and victimization," the proclamation said. "All Texans have the duty to protect children from abuse and neglect."

One local organization is asking for help from Texas Tech students to make sure abused children have a safe place to be.

The Court Appointed Special Advocates of the South Plains trains volunteers to advocate care for children in foster care.

Amy Nicholson-Paiva, executive director of CASA of the South Plains, said one of CASA's main goals is to help children get through the system as quickly and safely as possible.

"While the children are in foster care, they are probably as safe as

ever," Nicholson-Paiva said. "But the state is not a good parent."

Nicholson-Paiva said state wide in 2003, when a child left foster care, the average of 25 months was spent in the state's care, but under CASA of the South Plains, the average dropped to 17 months.

She said the cases are appointed to CASA because of federal law.

CASA is a non-profit organization, and is funded by state and federal taxes and by donations and fundraisers, according to Nicholson-Paiva.

"It takes about \$1,100 per month per child in foster care," Nicholson-Paiva said. "We are funded by taxes and fundraisers. We are also a part of the United Way, which helps with funds from Plainview and Brownfield."

She said volunteers are needed.

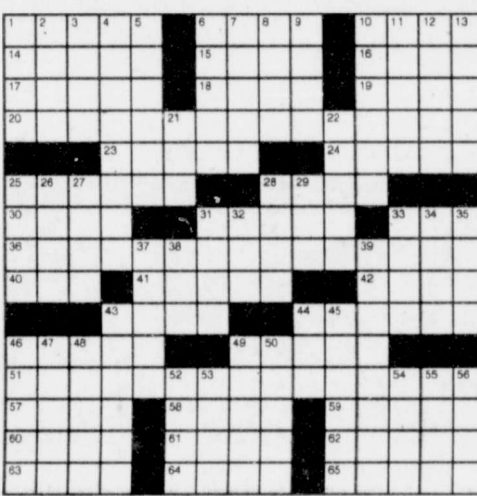
"Many of our volunteers are Tech students involved with an organization," Nicholson-Paiva said. "Recently, we are also seeing a lot of Tech law students because CASA involvement gives some experience in family law."

Nicholson-Paiva said volunteers must commit one year to CASA. During the time as a volunteer, visits will be made to the child and everyone involved in the case must be in contact.

For more information about CASA, call (806) 763-2372. For more information about child abuse, visit reportabuse.ws. For the toll-free line to report abuse call 1 (800) 252-5400.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
- 1 Springs
 - 6 Fit
 - 10 "poor Yonck"
 - 14 Lace cap
 - 15 Litaroid ride
 - 16 Brass band member
 - 17 "Truly Deeply"
 - 18 Dye
 - 19 Spoken
 - 20 Start of an Evan Esar quip
 - 23 Office notes
 - 24 Made further remarks
 - 25 Manage to get by
 - 28 Gear teeth
 - 30 Track shape
 - 31 Fido's warning
 - 33 Goddess of the harvest
 - 36 Part 2 of quip
 - 40 Sheepish she
 - 41 Cast a ballot
 - 42 Move like The Blob
 - 43 Con artist's mark
 - 46 Desert spring
 - 49 Entry
 - 51 End of quip
 - 57 All affluter
 - 58 Ring signal
 - 59 Zodiac sign
 - 60 Toy with a tail
 - 61 Largest Aleutian Island
 - 62 Downward measurement
 - 63 Part of P.A.
 - 64 Flue
 - 65 Bordens' accumulation
 - 66 Spokes-cow



By Arian & Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL 4/15/04

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

- 9 1999 Ron Howard satire
- 10 In conflict
- 11 Gruesome
- 12 Humiliate
- 13 Three-bean or Waldorf
- 21 Latin primer word
- 22 Front half of a griffin
- 25 Manner
- 26 Declare openly
- 27 Crinkly cabbage
- 28 Firewood unit
- 29 Acknowledge
- 31 Saxophonist Stan
- 32 "Norma"
- 33 Shawm's descendant
- 34 Author of "The Godfather"
- 35 Anna of "Mama"
- 37 Dispatch boat
- 38 Peri on "Frasier"
- 39 Greeting-card verse
- 43 Squirr
- 44 Slapstick missile
- 45 Cross a border
- 46 Honshu port
- 47 Sponsorship
- 48 Assigned places
- 49 Silvers' TV role
- 50 Renown
- 52 Business degs.
- 53 Presidential rejection
- 54 Spirits roughly
- 55 Successor of Ramses I
- 56 Court legend Arthur

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Raiders roped by Cowgirls in doubleheader



JAIME TOMÁS AGUILAR/The University Daily

CATCHER LISA LAWLER tags out an Oklahoma State base runner during Tech's doubleheader against the Cowgirls. The Raiders lost 4-2 and 8-7 in extra innings.

By Adam Boedeker/
The University Daily

Some people may call sports' teams "machines." The Cincinnati Reds were called the "Big Red Machine." If the Texas Tech softball team were a machine coach Bobby Reeves would not know which buttons to push to get it going.

"I really don't know what buttons I need to push," he said after his team's two losses to Oklahoma State (24-21, 4-5 Big 12) Wednesday. "In the last three innings (of the second game) we finally came around but we have to be ready to play all the time."

The spurt Reeves was referring to occurred when Tech (19-16, 1-7) was trailing 4-1 in the bottom of the seventh inning. The ninth batter in the order Heather Parker walked to lead off the inning then her twin sister Ashley Parker singled to move her to second. An error by Cowgirl third baseman Shianne Cruce allowed pinch hitter Andrea Joachims to reach first and load the bases with no outs in Tech's final chance.

Tech's next batter was designated player Elyssa Sigala, the team's leading hitter, who had been struggling recently since ending her school-record hitting streak.

Earlier, in the sixth inning, Sigala got what could have been Tech's only run when she hit her ninth homerun of the year to dead center.

The homerun was the spark Sigala needed as she doubled in the seventh to drive home the Parker tandem for her second and third RBIs of the game, putting Tech down by one run.

Tech's next batter, Kelly Rhyne, was intentionally walked to load the bases with no outs and a chance to win the game. First baseman Brandy Moulin was walked two batters later to walk in the game-tying run, but Tech would fail to score again with only one out.

The Cowgirls would strike back quickly in the top of the eighth when shortstop Stephanie Nicholson hit a grand slam off Tech reliever Keely Tucker to seemingly put Tech out of contention. Tech would come back in the bot-

tom of the inning when an error by OSU second baseman Lauren Kitchens off a routine ground ball by Moulin scored two runs to put Tech down 8-7 with one out.

Unfortunately for the Red Raiders, they would fail once again to bring home runs with one out and the bases loaded and the game ended in an 8-7 loss.

Reeves said Tech's problem is one that is as much mental as physical, and must be fixed for his team to be successful.

"It's all about our mindset," he said. "Sometimes you have to take your hat off to the pitcher for throwing good, but she wasn't throwing nothing that we couldn't hit. We just have to get to the point where we say 'we can do

this' instead of 'I hope we can do this.'"

Ashley Parker said the loss was an especially tough one to take, but the team must move on and prepare for the long week ahead of them.

"It's real tough to take the way we came out in those last three innings," she said. "We have the ability, we just need to put it all together in order to win."

Tech will play the Texas Longhorns today in a doubleheader at 5 and 7 p.m.

Reeves said although Texas is 0-7 in Big 12 play the Longhorns will be a formidable opponent.

"Who cares what they're doing record-wise," he said. "They're like they are in any other sport—they're Texas."

Send story ideas to UD@ttu.edu.

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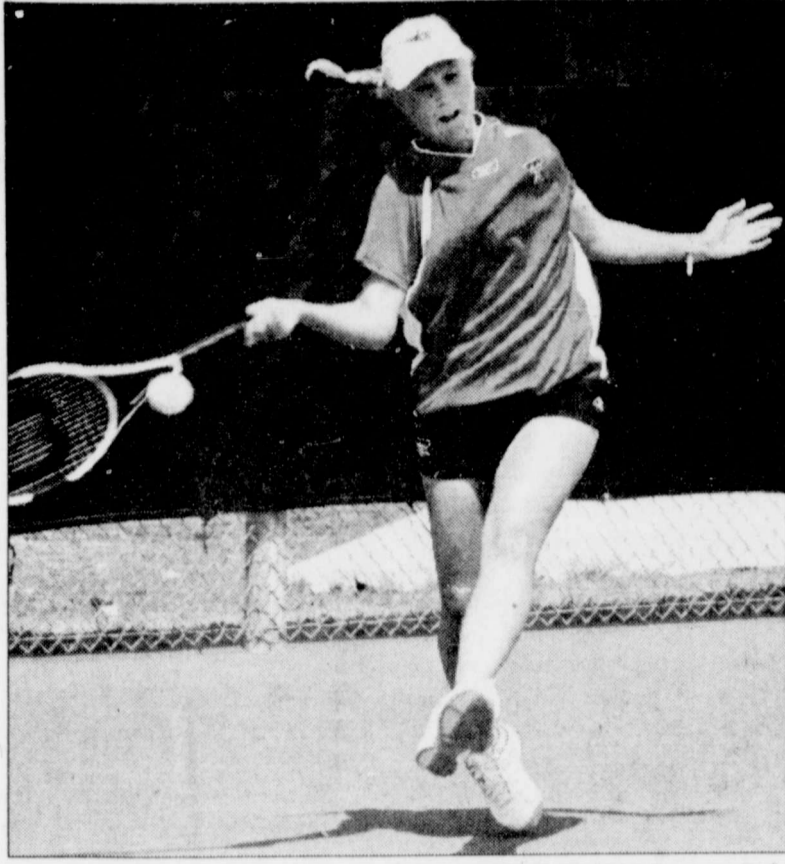
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Raiders close home schedule against OU



FILE PHOTO/The University Daily

SARIZE COETZEE HITS the ball against Abilene Christian. The Raiders play their last home match of the season against Oklahoma.

By Joey Kirk/The University Daily

Cari Groce said her feelings about this season are simple and justified.

"I can't be anything but satisfied," she said. "The team at this point last year was 3-17, and we have turned it around completely."

The Texas Tech women's tennis team (11-7, 4-5 Big 12) will play its last home match of the 2004 season against No. 18 Oklahoma at 10 a.m. Sunday at the McLeod Tennis Center.

But head coach Groce said win or lose, the Red Raiders will remain strong.

"Whether we win or lose, it will not affect our confidence level," she said. "We're more ahead this season than we've ever been."

The next step Groce said Tech has to take is winning its next match.

"It's gonna be a good match. We'll definitely have to play good tennis, and the level of play will be high," she said. "They're well-coached and strong."

Oklahoma may be strong with the No. 1 player in the national rankings on its squad, Groce said, but senior Irina Tereschenko has been on a roll.

"There is no reason we can't pull off an upset," she said. "Irina and our other two top players win big matches in singles, we just have to pull off wins in doubles."

Tereschenko said with the last matches of her last year at Tech closing in, she wants to finish on a good note.

"I'm excited. But we're focused more on the competition," she said. "We have good experience, and

we've been performing well, the wins will come about."

The wins have already come in greater number than last season, Tereschenko said, and it is due to the fact that the team has a good attitude on the court.

"We have transformed since last year," she said. "We're put into an environment where we're challenged, and we're determined to play and win."

Senior Kendall Brooks said with the last home match in sight, the thought of her tennis career as a Raider ending has not sunk

in yet. "I'm excited, but it hasn't set in yet," she said. "I think it's just another big school on our schedule, and we're gonna beat them."

After suffering through losing seasons during her three previous years at Tech, Brooks said the 2004 season is a big change.

"It is a huge difference because we're ending in a better way," she said. "I've had more positive experience this year than in the past and I've enjoyed it more."

Groce said she could not have agreed more with Brooks' point of view on the season.

"We have to make a big home stand this weekend before traveling to Austin to face Texas next weekend," she said. "All we can ask for is to finish off the season well."

But before they can finish the season, Groce said the Raiders have to play a tough team in Oklahoma.

"It's gonna be another good battle," she said. "We have to dig our heels in and secure a win, and a trip to the Big 12 and NCAA tournaments."

We have transformed since last year. We're put into an environment where we're challenged, and we're determined to play and win.

— IRINA TERESCHENKO
Texas Tech
Women's Tennis Player

sports@universitydaily.net

Tech wants better seed in Big 12 tournament

By Joey Kirk/The University Daily

If there has ever been a time when a win is most crucial, junior Jakob Paulsen said the time is now.

The Texas Tech men's tennis team closes its regular season against No. 29 Oklahoma State and Oklahoma this weekend before getting the opportunity to face conference leaders again at the Big 12 tournament. Paulsen said with Baylor topping the charts, the Red Raiders must win to miss facing them in the first round.

"If we do good this weekend, we'll get seeded in the conference tournament," he said. "And we don't want to see Baylor right away. They're brutal."

Tech lost to Baylor 6-1 on March

27 in Waco. But before they can look toward the Big 12 tournament, Paulsen said the Raiders have to take care of what is ahead of them.

"This week, we're playing Oklahoma State, and they beat Rice," he said. "It will be a good test for us, but we want to win and finish the season strong."

Assistant coach Efe Ustundag said Tech's success (11-9, 2-3 Big 12) will be determined by its next two matches, and there is one place it does not want to end up.

"We're not gonna end up as the sixth best team in conference," he said. "But if we lose both, we will end up that way. If we win both, we'll be sitting pretty at fourth."

And if Tech splits the matches, it

will finish in the fifth spot in the Big 12. No matter the outcome, Ustundag said the team's progress is a complete turnaround from last season.

"We had a few unfortunate events that made us finish badly last year," he said. "And this year, we want to finish on a good note."

And ending the season successfully, junior Esat Tanik said, is an opportunity the Raiders have this weekend.

"(The Cowboys) are strong, but we are too, and I think we have great chances to win," he said. "They are ranked ahead of us, but it doesn't mean anything."

With Oklahoma State as a top 30 team and Oklahoma ranked higher than Tech in the national standings,

Tanik said the Raiders will probably have an easier time against the latter of the two.

"We have a better chance against OU," he said. "But we still have to get ready, mentally at least, because we're already there physically."

With the possibility of two wins this weekend, Tanik said it will provide a complement to Tech's postseason success and its national status.

"These matches are all about the prestige and rankings," he said. "That is the most important thing. We've played a tough season, but it's not over. We'll continue to fight in these last matches."

Paulsen said as the No. 1 player for the Raiders, he has to fight to keep in every match.

"I've played at the No. 1 spot in every match except for one," he said. "I haven't had any time to relax, and it comes down to these matches."

Tech will travel to Stillwater, Okla., to face Oklahoma State at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. At 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, the Raiders will seek their last regular season win against Oklahoma in Norman, Okla.

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Cowboys to play five times on national TV

IRVING (AP) — Bill Parcells got the Dallas Cowboys back in the playoffs last season. Now everybody wants to see if he can do it again.

The Cowboys' 2004 schedule released Wednesday includes five national television appearances. That will be the most for Dallas since appearing in a franchise-high six in 1999, when the team made its last playoff appearance before Parcells took over last year.

Dallas will play on Monday Night Football three times, including a home game for the first time since 2001 when Philadelphia visits Nov. 15. The Cowboys also play on the ABC-TV national telecast Sept. 27 at Washington and Dec. 6 at Seattle, plus an exhibition game against Tennessee on the network.

The other nationally televised games will be their Thanksgiving Day home game against Chicago on Nov. 25, and the Jan. 2 regular season finale at the New York Giants on ESPN's Sunday night game.

"The national television appearances certainly give us an indication of the interest level in our team for next year," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said Wednesday.

"Those national games always bring about a heightened sense of excitement, and I'm hopeful that our team can continue to progress to the level where the networks and the schedule-makers think we should be."

Dallas will open the season Sept. 12 at Minnesota, then the following week plays its home opener against Cleveland.

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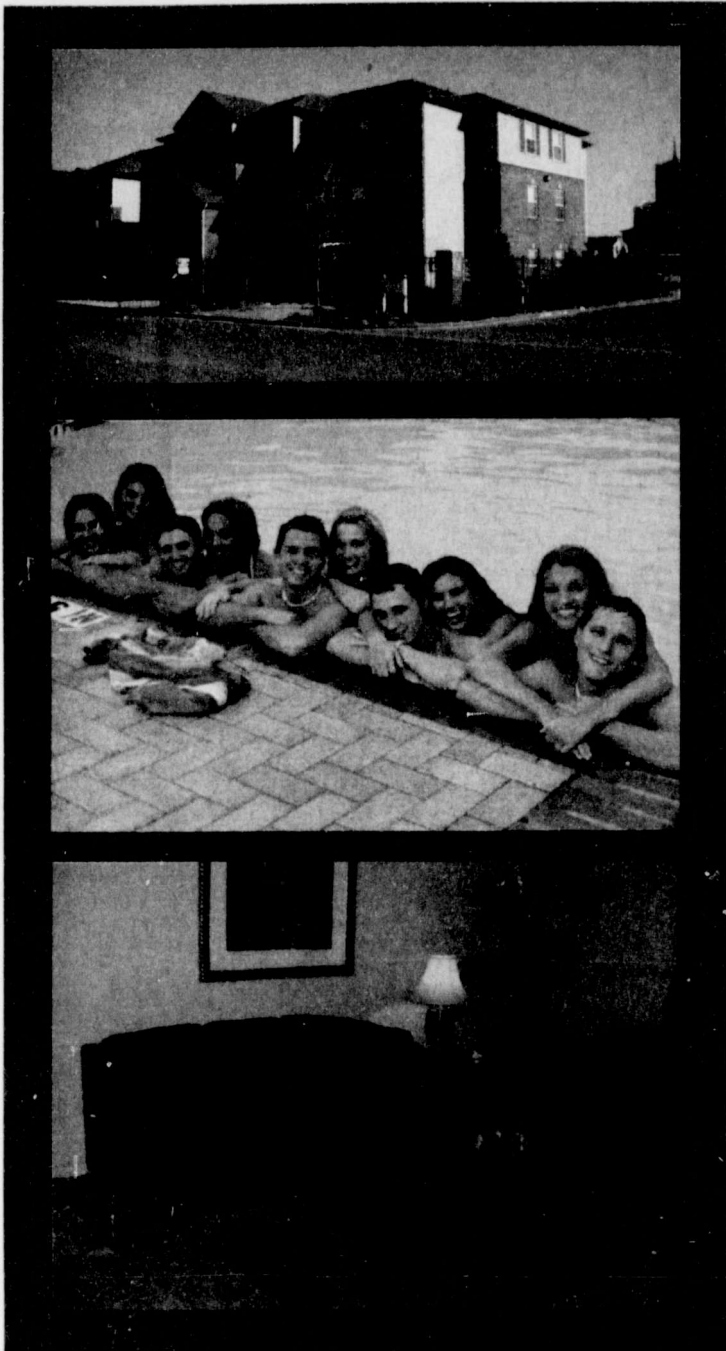
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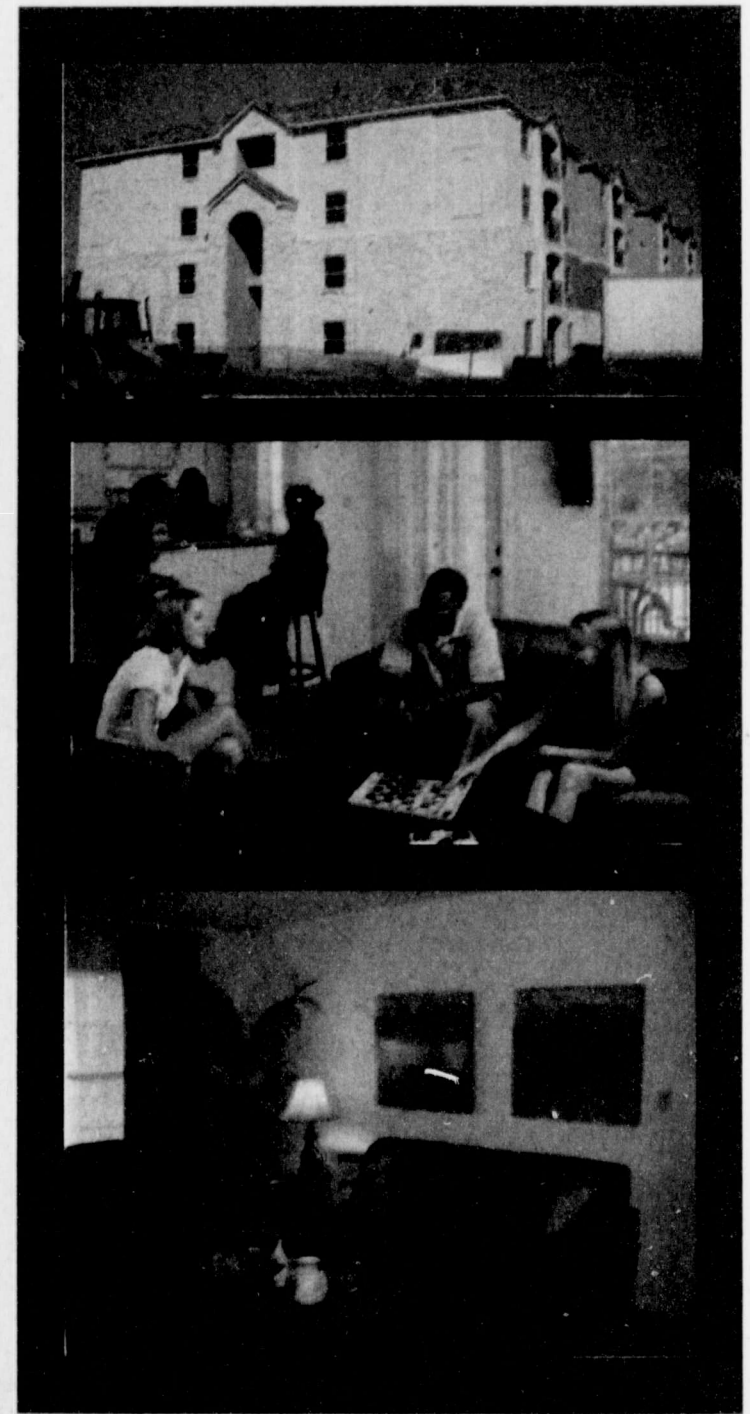
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