



NO MORE — The WTC drama department's dinner theatre production of 'Play It Again, Sam' was cancelled as evidenced by this marquee on the campus.

DINNER THEATRE CANNED

'Play It Again' Won't!

by Tracy Moore

Title: Western Texas College, community junior college. **Definition:** Community - unified body of individuals living in a particular area; college - an institution offering instruction, usually in a professional, vocational, or technical field.

But the big "what the hey" concerns the question: Where is the line drawn between learning activities of the college and moral interests within the community? That is quite the question haunting those associated with the controversy over the recent WTC drama production, "Play It Again, Sam."

Final three performances of the play were cancelled after the first presentations held February 21-23 in a dinner theatre atmosphere were not well-received in Snyder.

Charles Holland, assistant professor of speech and drama and director of the show, said of the opening night, "You could have heard a pin drop. I stood by the door after the performance and on the way out, people wouldn't even speak to me."

"We thought it was us," said Cindy Hanson, Fort Worth

sophomore, starring in the play. "We thought maybe we'd done really bad or something until Charles told us it was them."

Friday and Saturday the show played to audiences Holland said "rolled in the aisles." However, complaints continued and a decision was forthcoming.

Holland cancelled the play. He said, "Several board members said they were personally offended, plus the many phone calls I myself, Dr. Brock, and Dr. Clinton received, the influential citizens talking with the administration...put them all together and what good would it have done for me to go ahead?"

Following Monday the Board of Trustees met. WTC Vice-President Dr. Ben Brock said it had been planned two weeks prior to the play. "Monday afternoon Charles came in and asked if he could cancel it and that night he presented his reasons to the board." He stated the play was not scheduled for discussion until Holland asked to cancel.

Holland seemed disappointed he did not receive more encouragement "from the top."

"No one ever said 'Charles, you must cancel the play' nor did they ever insinuate it. However, they never said 'we're gonna back you all the way, because you're good and we know you can justify it academically and we're with you 100 percent, which is what I wanted to hear.'"

Academic freedom seems to be a major issue in the controversy. Holland said, "Right now, the dinner theatre's the thing and my students must learn how to play to a dinner theatre audience. The comedy is the big hit of these theatres and I don't feel that I could've proven my point as to the justification of it educationally."

He continued, "I think I could have to someone open-minded although I don't feel this play has enough social redeeming quality to fight it out. This was 'pure-d' entertainment that was meant to offend no one."

According to Dr. Brock, academic freedom was never considered. "When Mr. Holland came to us and asked us to cancel the program, I think academic freedom was not considered." He added, however, "After the phone calls began coming in, we realized that the easiest way would be to stop it. But we decided to ride it out because the students were involved in a good theatrical experience."

Also concerned with academic freedom was the WTC Faculty Association. President Jerry Corkran called a meeting February 26 after being approached by some members who felt it would be good to hear both sides of the issue and clear the air on many rumors being circulated.

Corkran said, "Most of us were in the dark about what was happening." Both Holland and Dr. Robert Clinton, President of WTC, attended the meeting and explained the issue.

A resolution supporting academic freedom and academic responsibility was adopted after almost two hours of discussion.

The resolution presented by the Texas Public Community/Junior College Association, provides guiding principles evaluating the conditions of academic freedom, responsibility, and tenure. Corkran felt it expressed to their satisfaction how the faculty felt concerning academic freedom.

"We felt this statement, entitling free full freedom to the faculty member, would cover

Author Jerry Lackey Will Address Writers

Jerry Frank Lackey, agriculture editor of the San Angelo Standard Times and author of two books, will speak in the Student Center, Room 105, Wednesday, March 17 at 11 a.m.

A guest of Mike McBride, assistant professor of journalism, Lackey will address a creative writing class, but the public is invited to attend. A question and answer session will follow.

Lackey formerly served as editor of *The Ranch Magazine* in San Angelo, associate editor of the *West Texas Livestock Weekly*, consultant for the *Rio Concho Manor News*, a monthly newspaper for the elderly, staff writer for *The Cattleman Magazine* in Fort Worth, and editor and publisher of the *Hill Country Gazette*.

His journalistic and writing career began early as Lackey wrote, mimeographed, and distributed *Jumbo Weekly* (later the *Copper's Creek Times*) at age 12 on his ranch near Junction, Texas. He rode horseback to neighboring ranches to deliver the local news!

He worked as a printers devil for his hometown newspaper, the *Junction Eagle*, and later

wrote for the *Kerrville Daily Times* and *San Angelo Standard Times*. Columns to his credit include "Lackey's Scruples," "Ranch Country," and "Rounder's Mill." He has also done commercial photography.

The former executive secretary of the Mohair Council of America and free lancer for *True West*, *Frontier Times*, *Old West*, and *Newsweek* magazines has authored two books. One, *Papa Didn't Spare the Rod*, concerns life in the Texas Hill Country, and the other, *Unto Our Times*, relates personal experiences involving important state and national political dignitaries.

For Lackey, politics also seems to be a way of life. He is cousin to the former Texas governor, Coke Stevenson, and has visited with three American Presidents, including Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and Dwight Eisenhower, the President of Mexico, and a host of governors, senators, and representatives.

Lackey is married to the former Deanna Lorfing. They have three children, Melanie, Angela, and Maree.

The Western Texan

OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION OF WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE

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Thursday, March 4, 1976

POET'S RELATIVE

Prominent Actor Wordsworth To Appear Monday, Tuesday

Richard Wordsworth, an accomplished actor who has performed in classical theater, modern drama and musicals for over 30 years is coming to WTC Monday and Tuesday, as a special guest honoring the American Bicentennial.

The great, great grandson of the poet William Wordsworth, he has played such roles as Roderigo in "Othello" and Slender in "The Merry Wives of Windsor." His first appearance on stage was in 1938 at the Old Victorian Theatre in England when he played Rosencrantz in "Hamlet."

In 1947, Wordsworth made his first appearance on the New York stage at the Theatre Royale, playing Lane in "The Importance of Being Earnest." He won the Clarence Derwent Award for the best supporting performance of 1953 for his portrayal of Antonio in "Venice Preserved."

Since 1954, among several other professional stage performances, Wordsworth has characterized the role of Captain Hook in "Peter Pan" three times, as well as directing that James Barrie play in 1961 and 1968.

For the bicentennial year, Wordsworth has prepared special performances, including "An Interview with Thomas Jefferson," written and devised by Dorene Weaver Angeles, with Jefferson's words taken from his own writings.

Expected to arrive in Abilene Sunday afternoon, Wordsworth will be honored locally at a reception at 7:30 p.m.

Wordsworth's appearances in Snyder have been arranged by

the Division of Communications and Letters in coordination with the Western Texas College Forum on National Affairs.

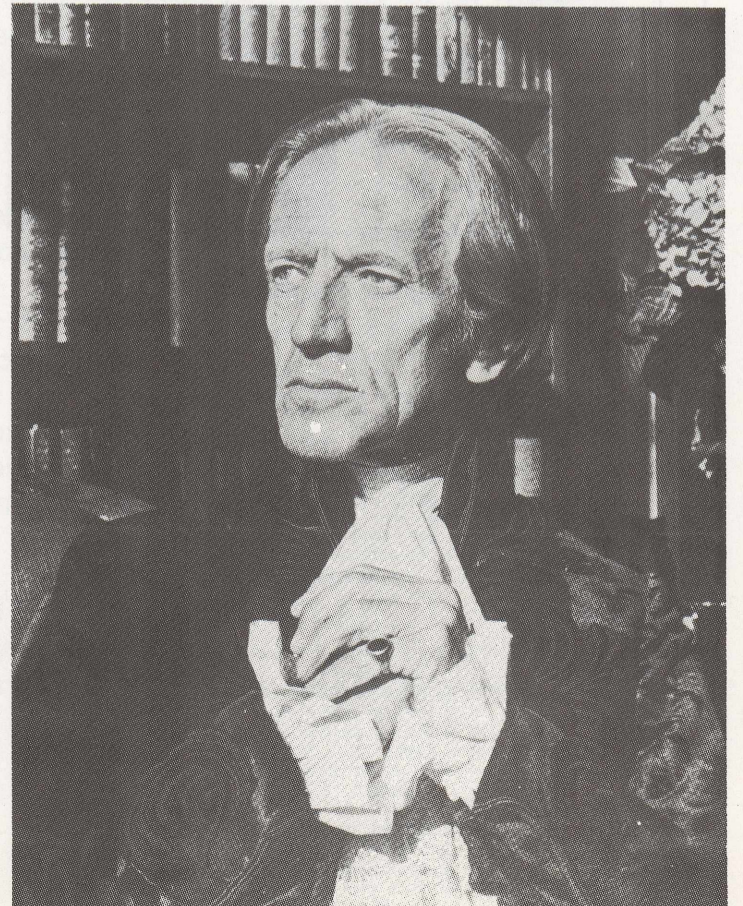
Monday, the British actor will appear for an assembly program at Snyder High School, followed by a program, "Poetry and Prose of the Wordsworth Circle" to be presented to Dr. Sue Coffman's English classes, and other classes. Rest of the day will be spent getting acquainted with members of the community.

At 7:30 p.m. Monday, Wordsworth will be in the Student Center for a buffet dinner where he will present a lecture entitled "Taxation no Tyranny; the British Reaction to the Declaration of Independence." Cost for attending is \$5 per person.

"Let Me Play the Lion Too," a program centered on Shakespeare, will be given by Wordsworth at 9 a.m. Tuesday in Richard Lancaster's English class, followed by a meeting with Charles Holland and the drama department for a run-through of "An Interview with Thomas Jefferson."

At noon, Tuesday, Wordsworth will attend lunch with local civic clubs and hold an informal talk.

In the WTC Fine Arts Theatre at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Wordsworth will perform, in costume, "An Interview with Thomas Jefferson." Cost is \$2 per person and \$1 for students with ID. Special bicentennial music will accompany this performance, under the direction of James Lamb, WTC choir instructor and fine arts division chairman.



Richard Wordsworth

editorially

Re-Runs Already?

by Jill Groff

Re-runs! They're starting early this year, but this type, we don't mind!

Yep, the Dusters played the same song last week, it's just the second verse! Sure a few names were changed but the score was almost the same!

Congratulations, girls...After all, this is only our second year to have a team and both have been Region runner-ups (to the same school, Weatherford!)

This time last year, both teams were in the exact spot they are now.

The guys start play tonight against Frank Phillips in the Regional Tournament.

This is only the fourth year for the Westerners to compete. Their record: the regional title, national championship, the Governor's Cup, and one loss (the first try at regionals).

Fantastic record for both, especially since we're only five years old!

Who knows, the wheat fields of Kansas may become WTC's permanent "March Home!"

Controversy — Boy have we had our share of that in the last few months!

As for my feelings on what happened? For one, I'm taking the "politician's way out!" Another thing, I haven't been able to check all the facts with everyone involved.

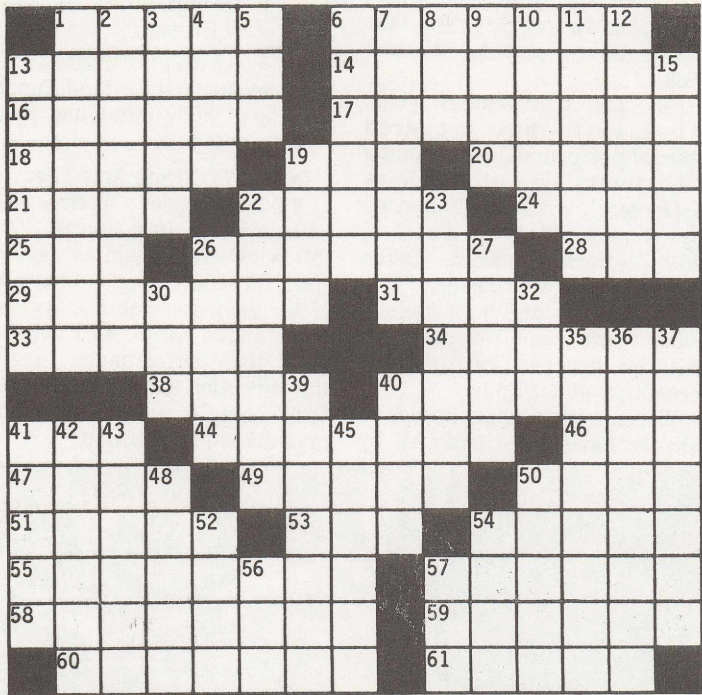
Only thing I want to say, to everyone concerned, is this: "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged..." Matthew 7:1 and 2; New Scofield Reference Bible.

I think this message can apply to every day we live. What Christ said, basically, is, "Practice what you teach." In other words, if you speak out for or against something, live by what you say.

Right or wrong...It's not really for us to decide who is or isn't.

My grandmother always told me, "Do your best. That's all any darn fool can do!"

collegiate crossword



© Edward Julius, 1975 Collegiate CW75-3

ACROSS

- 1 Tom and —
- 6 Requests made to God
- 13 Have another show of hands
- 14 Press into thin layers
- 16 Flowers
- 17 Excessive self-conceit
- 18 Yields
- 19 Corrupt
- 20 "It won't cost you —"
- 21 The — Brothers
- 22 Jazz Count
- 24 —-a-tete
- 25 — Tin Tin
- 26 Temple of — at Ephesus
- 28 Soviet region
- 29 Repeated musical parts (2 wds.)
- 31 Vigor
- 33 City in Texas
- 34 Make evident
- 38 Children
- 40 Seesaws
- 41 Psychedelic drug
- 44 Adds spices

- 46 Type of doctor, for short
- 47 Nautical cry
- 49 Crosspieces
- 50 Lillian or Dorothy
- 51 Couple in marriage
- 53 Bill and —
- 54 La — Vita
- 55 — Cooke's "America"
- 57 Golfer Johnny —
- 58 W. — Maugham
- 59 Eve, and family
- 60 Litterbugs
- 61 Leavening agent in baking

DOWN

- 13 Mr. Montalban
- 15 Lotus—
- 19 Stride pianist
- 22 Wider
- 23 Soprano Farrell, et al.
- 26 Orbit point
- 27 Rescues
- 30 Query
- 32 Insect egg
- 35 Chamberlain and Brand
- 36 Emblem of Moslem power
- 37 Miss Williams, et al.
- 39 More impudent
- 40 Ham on rye —
- 41 Buddhist priests
- 42 Israeli greeting
- 43 Serve a sentence (2 wds.)
- 45 Small drinks of liquor
- 48 Affirmatives
- 50 Mrs. Meir
- 52 Orchestra sections (abbr.)
- 54 Fateful
- 56 Ibsen character
- 57 Actress Edna — Oliver

Letters To The Editor

Open letter to Students, Faculty and Administration of WTC:

Human. Student. Adult. Citizen. None of these terms are mutually exclusive. However, you have been denied several basic rights inherently contained in these titles. The basic human rights of "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" were not set down in the Declaration of Independence on a theoretical basis. The right of students to study what is relevant and contemporary is necessary to maintain a growing and maturing educational system. The rights of adult citizens in our society are broad enough to allow him to do as he wishes as long as it does not interfere with another's rights.

In the case of the WTC Drama Dept. production, "Play It Again, Sam," the rights of students and of the citizens of the community were violated. The power of the political elite dominated and the result was a decision based on the beliefs and feelings of a few, rather than of the people.

Academic freedom is necessary in an institution offering a quality education. Without it, the desire to learn, the thirst for knowledge, the curiosity necessary for a student. Our academic is lessened and jeopardized with each small-minded, undemocratic act.

Acts of this nature can neither be tolerated nor continued if WTC wishes to maintain even a veneer of excellence in education. Considering a totalitarian act as this, don't play it again, WTC.

Joe R. Woolsey

TO THE EDITOR:

I personally would like to thank the students and faculty for their support of our last production, "Play It Again, Sam," but I would like to also call attention to those who were against it.

It seems there are but a few who took it in their hands to make sure our show was cancelled (censored I would think)! They didn't take into consideration the time, effort and pain put into the show. Not only do we learn lines and blocking, but we spend many hours a week building sets, meeting publication deadlines, designing posters, selling tickets, taking reservations, etc. Plus, we put our lives into it because it's what we love more than anything else. I wish a lot of the townspeople could come and watch the making of a production from start to finish. They wouldn't complain as much about having to go to the office, making sure the dishes are washed, keeping up with the Joneses. They might have second thoughts about the whole thing. Theatre does not end in the classroom. You would be surprised at how late acting students stay up learning lines, thinking of better ways to improve their performances and constantly concentrating all their time to the characters they are portraying. And loving it the whole time, because they put all they have into it.

And the director. Not only does he have to direct a play, but must work out blocking, help each performer on different scenes, plan for dates of performances, knock his guts out so the play will be as close to perfection as it can be. How many people take these things into consideration?

We work our hearts out for weeks on a fantastic production and a few narrow-minded people take it away in a moment's flash. They look at a few scenes

and immediately become offended instead of looking at the whole play and appreciating the message trying to be brought out. No one seemed to notice that Allan Felix was totally lost in a state of neurosis until a relationship helped him face reality. Reality being that he loved being himself, being loved and loving. Yes, the message was there.

I am thankful, though, that there are some people out there that can take life as it is. Because things like that really do happen, folks. It's nice to know that a few of us live openly in the twentieth century, instead of clinging to past ideas which are totally obsolete. Without letting go of yesterday and living for today, we certainly can't face tomorrow.

Stacy Payne

To the editor:

The recent controversy on campus has, to say the least, aroused many people. The Baptist Student Union does not condemn the morality presented by "Play It Again, Sam."

We would, however, like to commend Charles Holland. Placed in an extremely difficult situation, he made a decision that he felt was the only possible one. Though unpopular on campus he stood by his decision.

Mr. Holland realized that the choice of the play was not in keeping with the moral standards set by this particular community. Rather than to create an irreparable rift between certain members of the community and the college, Mr. Holland admitted a mistake had been made and set forth to rectify it. This took much more courage than it would have to continue the production and let the chips fall where they may.

We commend Mr. Holland on his action to cancel the three remaining performances.

The Baptist Student Union Executive Council

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On Tuesday evening, February 24th, there was a meeting of the cast and crew of "Play It Again, Sam," and it was announced that the show had been cancelled. Exactly what are the facts? Who, why, where? What is being done?

It began all on opening night of the play when the board members and their families attended. The cast was not exactly received warmly and at intermission began to realize their audience disliked the show. At the end of the show not one person came backstage and the audience seemed to rush out of the cafeteria. It was then understood that some audience

members were shocked at "Play It Again, Sam". Phones began to ring the next day and several following of complaints to administrators and board members. Community pressures grew and mushroomed to the point of a great deal of discussion in the administration and consultation with Mr. Holland. Pressures mounted and suddenly his department and job were in jeopardy. Numerous reservations were cancelled in groups. Charles Holland was not backing down, but merely acting in the best interest of himself and all concerned in his department by making the decision to cancel WTC's 3rd Annual Dinner Theatre.

Since the cancellation was announced the students have banded together to form a petition of 300 to show the power that is felt among them. Posters of complaint, letters to the editor, and demands of freedom of education from the faculty all show the enormous degree of public concern.

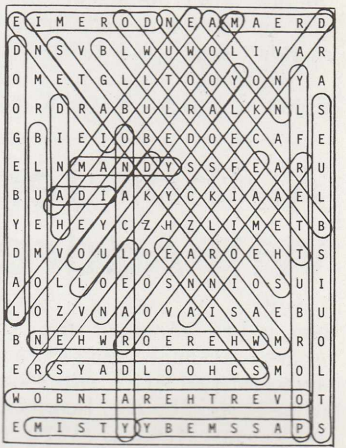
Now it seems that any of the plays that the drama department considers will have to be okayed by the administration.

Is that not interfering with education? It is one of the mounting forms of censorship that is being forced on this community.

Many may wonder what the last production of the year will be and will it have to be approved? The department has come to the conclusion that the fourth production of the year will be a night-student directed one-acts. This will be an evening of three one-act, student-directed, student-acted laboratory shows under the stars. The production night will be planned to be performed in the courtyard open air amphitheatre. The three directors have not yet been chosen, but will soon be when each student turns in his choice of a show and a rough draft of a set.

See LETTERS, Page 9

(Answers To Last Puzzle)



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★ DINNER THEATRE:

Continued from page 1
any situation were it to rise again." The resolution passed 22-0 in favor of adoption.

Regarding how moral views should enter into a learning process and who should decide these values, Dr. Brock said, "I want to do what is right for the college, but also do what is right for the community since we are a community college."

Holland was upset that many citizens mistook actions in the play. "We were satirizing these problems, not exploiting them."

Numerous callers felt the play contained sacriligious and blasphemous statements that were personally offensive. One supporter is Rev. Ken Address of the First Baptist Church. Address has repeatedly stated he did not see the play but was contacted by many callers asking him to do something. In turn, he relayed messages to Dr. Brock.

Rev. Address was first associated with the controversy when he mentioned it in his ser-

mon Sunday night, February 24. Since he has received considerable credit for having the play cancelled, but he doesn't want credit for something he says he didn't do.

"I had nothing to do with the cancellation of the play although I probably should have." One thing distressing Address is that he is being criticized for things he has not said or done. "I spoke maybe 45-60 seconds about the play and I have been shocked at some of the reports that have gotten back to me about what I supposedly said."

After Holland heard of Address' sermon he offered Address the script to read. Address refused, saying he did not fill his mind with such trash. Since, because of misunderstandings, Address has read the script.

"I was hesitant to read the script because I try not to read that which I believe will be detrimental to my mental and spiritual processes. What goes into your mind will come out in one form or another, sooner or

later. But because of the misunderstandings, I felt it would be best to read the play."

Address stated he was most offended by the way sacred concepts were made humorous. "To me, sex is a very sacred thing and the very lightly stepping astray from your marriage is offensive."

Holland said, "I don't feel like I have done anything immoral or unethical. Never once did I think, imagine, or ever conceive I was making a poor choice for the community." He stated he was so preoccupied with protecting the community from the way the real world is that he cut three scenes from the original script before presentation.

Holland has been contacted that a club planning to give a scholarship decided not to after the play was cancelled. He was to attend a luncheon Wednesday and learn the reason for the withdrawal.

Students are also concerned. Miss Hanson originated a petition currently circulating around campus. She feels students should have been considered in the beginning. "For once the students are unified. Through this petition we are saying we realize what's going on and we realize the power tactics involved. Maybe next time we'll be considered."

She had 325 signatures Tuesday. "For once the cowboys are with the drama department, the

basketball team has backed us all the way...the students have stood together."

Next step for the petition is the Student Senate meeting set March 9. "We want to find out where they stand as the governing body and let them know what exactly we're doing," she said.

The petition will then be presented to the Board of Trustees during their March 15 meeting. "We want to present the petition and have each organization be represented at this meeting. Our purpose is to tell them what the petition says and what we hope to gain as students in the future," she said.

The petition reads, "The following people recognize that unfair pressures were applied concerning the cancellation of the WTC dinner theatre production "Play It Again, Sam" by specific members of the community and the college administration."

Miss Hanson asks that anyone who hasn't signed may contact her at extension 255 in the residence hall.

Holland feels the petition

could help. "I think it will tell the administration 'Hey, we're here, remember us, the students?'"

Dr. Brock insists the time will never come when plays will be censored. "I have the utmost confidence in Charles and will never censor any play." Holland says he will do no more plays until this controversy has "cleared the air" and he can select a play both the administration and board will back.

"I want my support before I start."

Holland has his students' support. According to Miss Hanson, "We all respect Charles an awful lot. We back him 100 percent now and always will."

According to Holland, a line of confidences decided not to be passed down before students will benefit. "The community has to place trust in the board and the board must place trust in the administration. They in turn must have enough confidence in the professional personnel they hired to run the academics and then filter down to the individual teachers. After this long line of transfer, then will the student gain."

Rodeo Teams Fifth Feb. 13-14

WTC's rodeo teams finished in fifth place with 190 points in the Sul Ross University NIRA rodeo held in Fort Stockton February 13-14, Van Rigby, rodeo advisor, said.

In men's events, Eastern New Mexico University took first place with 305 points. Second went to Texas Tech with 260 points, third to Howard College with 210 points, fourth to New Mexico State University with 200 points, and fifth to WTC.

ENMU's women's team won first with 295 points. Other teams standings were: Tarleton, second, 160; NMSU, third, 120; Howard College, fourth, 105; and WTC, fifth, 60.

Mike Pettigrew from ENMU was All-Around Cowboy with 170 points, while Jo Nell Epperson from Tarleton was All-Around Cowgirl with 150 points.

WT's Brady Crumpler, who is currently top saddle bronc rider in the NIRA Southwest Region, finished fifth in the average at the SRU rodeo. He marked 54 points for ninth place in the long go and 71 points for second in the short go.

Westerner John Crain finished second in the average with 78 points in the first go, good enough for first place, and 67 points for fifth in the short go.

Rick Bradley took third in the average in steer wrestling with 75 seconds in the long go, seventh place, and 59 seconds in the short go, second. Bradley is leading the Southwest region and national standings.

Other WTC contestants included Jimbo Murff, bareback rider who suffered cuts and bruises after bucking off.

Also Mark Beauregard marked 56 in the long go, not enough to make finals.

In calf roping, Keith Rowan finished fourth in the average. He timed 11.1 seconds for second first place in the first go and 14 seconds in the short go.

Kenny LeMond tied his first calf in 15.1 seconds, not enough to make the short go. Terry Arnold had 18.3 seconds on his first calf, also too much to make the finals.

Bull rider Randy Jackson scored 66 points on his first ride. Larry Turner scored 75 for seventh place in the first go. He got a mark of 69 in the short go and had third place in the average.

JoAnn Whitehead finished third in the average in barrel racing. She had 15.2 seconds in the first go, splitting third and fourth places, and also had 15.2 in the second race, splitting second and third. In goat tying, Ms. Whitehead finished fifth in the average after turning in times of 14.1 and 12 in the first and second go-rounds. For ninth and fifth places, respectively.

Next rodeo for WTC contestants will be at Angelo State University in San Angelo March 18-20.

WTC will host an NIRA rodeo April 29-30 and May 1 in the Scurry County Coliseum, Rigby said. No producer has been named.

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A STATEMENT FROM KEN ADDRESS regarding "Play It Again, Sam"

I have, over the past few days, been severely misquoted and misrepresented over a statement that I made last Sunday evening regarding the dramatic production of "Play It Again, Sam." First of all, let me make it plain that what I said was to illustrate a point in my sermon and not as an end within itself. Incidentally, copies of that sermon are available in my office for any who desire to hear, "what I really said".

Prior to the sermon, I had received numerous calls from people who had seen the production and were upset by what they had seen and heard there. I plainly stated (you may check the recording) that I had not seen the production; that my feelings were based on what had been told me, but that, if this were so, productions of this sort should not be held on our college campus.

I did not make any effort, though I probably should have, to have the play canceled. That took place, to the best of my understanding, in a board meeting which was prompted by some concerned citizens who had seen the play. I did not send the people, nor did the First Baptist Church send any people to have the play canceled. There was no action on the part of the First Baptist Church to have the play canceled. The people who went to the college went as concerned citizens--entirely on their own.

My statements were not meant to be judgemental upon WTC, or the drama department and its members, but rather to carry out what I feel is my responsibility as a minister. I feel that I am responsible to uphold that which is good, moral, and ethical, and on the other hand, denounce that which is immoral, ungodly and wrong. That is my role as a minister. Jesus said "Ye are the salt of the earth" and salt is a preservative. Christians are to preserve that which is good and right.

I would welcome a personal conference with anyone or would welcome you to listen to the tape. You may condemn or criticize me for what I did say, if you feel I am wrong, but please do not criticize me for what I did not say.

In closing, let me say I believe I have that same right. I know for a fact that some of the things in "Play It Again, Sam" are Biblically wrong. I believe I have the right to express my feelings against what was said.

Sincerely,
Ken Address

Positive Thinking Overcomes Handicap

by Sally Smith

Whoever said a physical handicap is the end of a fruitful life? Just ask WTC freshman Ralph Carrasco.

"Don't ever put yourself down because there's always somebody worse off than you. It's true, there will always be somebody worse off than me!" he says.

Seven and a half years ago, Ralph was involved in a tragic accident leaving him paralyzed from the neck down. He relates the story this way:

"It was on Saturday. I just went to the swimming pool to clown around. I was going down the slide on my knees. About halfway down I saw this little girl stand up in front of the slide. So instead of hitting her, my legs acted like springs and shot me straight over her. The way I landed in the water broke my neck!"

Next thing Ralph remembered was seeing his arms and legs, but he couldn't

move them. "I couldn't figure out why."

Someone who worked at the pool carried Ralph to the hospital. After taking x-rays, doctors rushed him to a specialist in Abilene, where he stayed for four months.

"I got out of there for two days, then I went to Gonzales, Texas for 11 months." This long period of convalescence caused Ralph to miss almost two years of school.

Now, seven and a half years later, the courageous young man still has no use of his legs. He says, "When I was in Abilene, I couldn't move my arms at all. I was paralyzed from the neck down — completely!"

Ralph can use his arms, but his hands have no grip. "I can do certain things with them, but grip a pencil? Can't do it!"

He has taken therapy for paralysis, but has discontinued the treatment because he feels he didn't make much progress.

Why did Ralph put himself in jeopardy for the little girl?

"Some say, 'I would've hit her to see what happened.' I think nine times out of ten you would've been hurt anyway, even if you did hurt her. When you hurt people, that's no good."

Ralph really didn't think about the split-second decision at the time. "I was trying to get out of her way!"

The optimistic student has a positive attitude toward being handicapped. "It's just something that happened. It was a freaky accident, and there's nothing I can do about it. I'm stuck with it so I'm going to live with it." Ralph's disability is purely physical — not at all mental.

He describes the faculty and students as "very helpful," adding, "If you ask people to do something for you, they just do it automatically. They don't hesitate or say 'I'm busy.'"

They aid him because they want to, not just to be nice. "I guess it gives them a good feeling to help somebody else," Ralph says. But those who don't want to take time to help him are easily "spotted", so he just doesn't ask them.

Teachers take time to assist him with studies and exams. Some tests are taken orally, while others have only letters to underline.

"When things get tough," he simply asks his instructors for guidance. In giving Ralph a test, he says, "First, they have to know what to expect, then go from there."

Quite often Ralph visits Mickey Baird's office in the Student Center. Why? "I'm just nosy! I like to help if I can. If there's anything I can do to help anybody, I try."

A bright sunny day will coax Ralph outdoors. He searches the campus until he finds a 'parking spot' out of the West Texas wind, but that's also flooded with Southern sunshine. "I just sit there and study, or relax."

"I like to talk to people," he says. He converses openly and freely, and is far from shy. Ralph also enjoys making acquaintances. "At first it's a little hard, but you get used to it."

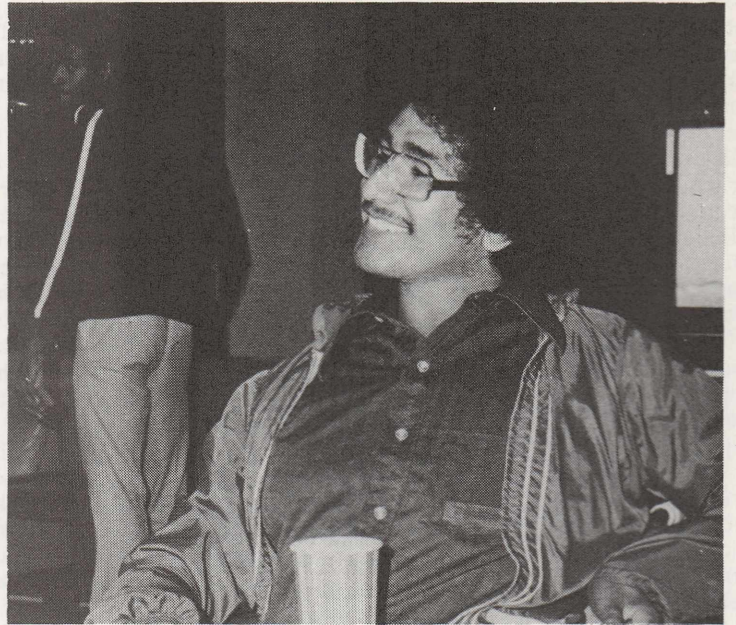
College Major

"That's one thing I can't pinpoint," he says about his college major. In this first year at WTC, it's quite a problem trying to decide on a profession. "I have to find something I like to do that I CAN do."

Counselors are helping him, trying to get him started in the "right direction." Currently, Ralph is studying sociology, English literature, and Texas politics. After graduating from WTC, he isn't certain which four-year school he'll attend, but inclinations lean toward East Texas State University.

Finding subjects to take is an age-old problem for Ralph. He quit high school two years ago because he couldn't earn enough credits to graduate and he became "tired of the same old routine." Even in junior high school counselors couldn't find courses for him.

While in high school, he



RELAXING! — Freshman Ralph Carrasco 'does his thing' in the Student Center.

couldn't take physical education or driver's education, so it was impossible to meet credit requirements. "I took just about everything they had to offer," he says.

Poor blood circulation and pneumonia are major problems for Ralph. He gets hot or cold easily, depending upon the weather. "I like to stay where it's warm. I catch colds easily." Colds go into pneumonia in about two or three days. "In the last five years, I've had pneumonia ten times," he says.

To Gonzales

When illness strikes, Ralph travels to Gonzales to a hospital for the handicapped where only specialists are employed. He says of general practitioners, "They really don't know how to work on somebody that's physically handicapped. Specialists know what to look for."

When it's time for a checkup, Ralph receives a letter from Gonzales. If his temperature rises very much (as it is prone to do), he also makes the trip for a couple of days, comes back, then gets started again.

Ralph takes shots in his legs so he can't feel them, but recalls a favorite trick he recently played on a new nurse at Gonzales. When there with pneumonia, a nurse "fresh out of school" was giving him an injection, unaware that he couldn't feel a thing.

"She didn't bother to ask me, so I didn't bother to tell her. When she stuck me, I started yelling like it was about to kill me!" She was so shaken she hastily departed. Doctors tell him that's the best way to welcome new nurses. "You've got to be crazy when you come here, and if you're not, you gotta be crazy when you leave!" he says.

The hospital is combined with dormitory facilities and classrooms. It is a junior college branch out of Victoria. Ralph says everything is planned in advance.

"The first semester you take 15 hours. During the summer you take 12 hours. What you take here in two years you take there in a year and a half." The state provides facilities and teachers, but the Texas Jaycees own the buildings.

The state will soon provide Ralph with a new wheelchair. His is five years old and ready to retire. "They don't work like they used to!" he says.

Besides the chair, he requires no other special facilities at home. But his grandfather constructed a ramp from the driveway to the front door. "That way there's no bumps or anything in my way."

What does Ralph do in his spare time? "I like to listen to music, watch TV, go to the movies, and take pictures every once in a while."

He enjoys action — chase scenes, murder stories, and mysteries. But the energetic young man declares it would take 24 hours to describe his favorite foods. Still, chili and beans top the list.

No Outside Help

Who helps Ralph with his homework? "I can type pretty good, so I do that myself!" and he accomplishes most of it on campus in his free time.

During summer months, he anticipates "roaming around town or in the park." He also enjoys visiting the swimming pool. "I love swimming!" he says, but hasn't been lately. After returning from his long stay in the hospital, though, he went four or five times.

Ralph's basic philosophy of life? "Sometimes I think it's a big joke, and other times I think it's not. I just take things as they come."

He continues, "I've made a lot of mistakes since I've been hurt, but I guarantee I'll never make the same ones twice." He has gleaned considerable knowledge since the accident, most from personal experiences. "You've got to learn to be tough, not physically, and take things as they come, or you'll never make it."

People don't ask Ralph about his handicap. Yet he says he's not sensitive about it, and never has been. "After a while it just grows on you."

He doesn't sit at home feeling sorry for himself, either, since this would take all of the pleasure out of living.

"I'm enjoying myself too much to get bored and stay home!"



QUICK NOW! — Ralph gives moral support to Jerry Williamson and A. K. Heartfield in a foosball match in the game room.



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Who in that



MR. AND MISS TRAILHAND '76 — Darryl Smith and Stacy Payne were named during Friday night's WTC-Howard College game. Duster Beau is Randy King and Westerner Sweetheart is Debra Collins. Theresa Bigham, Frank Ortegon, and Tracy Moore received spirit awards. Other Trailhand candidates were John Crain, Michele Graves, Randy Jackson, Grant Knipe, Tracy Moore, Ronnie Wilcox, Debbie Young, and JoAnn Whitehead.

South Dakota BSU Visits Campus

"We were told you didn't have showers in Texas, that you just stepped outside and got sand-blasted," said Dana Martin, Baptist Student Union President from South Dakota State University.

The Northern visitors were on their way Monday to Fort Worth for a Missions Conference this weekend. "This is their spring break," said Mickey Porter, WTC BSU Director.

WTC's Baptist group traveled northward during the Christmas break to hold a retreat on God's Will and a mini-session on BSU leadership. Returning the favor, the SDSU students put on the program for the weekly luncheon at the Baptist Student Center.

The South Dakotans staged a puppet show in the Student Center at 10:30 as well as a program for the weekly Tuesday night BSU meeting.

Woody Northcutt, SDSU BSU Director, said, "Up there (South Dakota) you lay in the sun forever and never get a suntan. It's a lot different than West Texas."

"I told the kids the people are

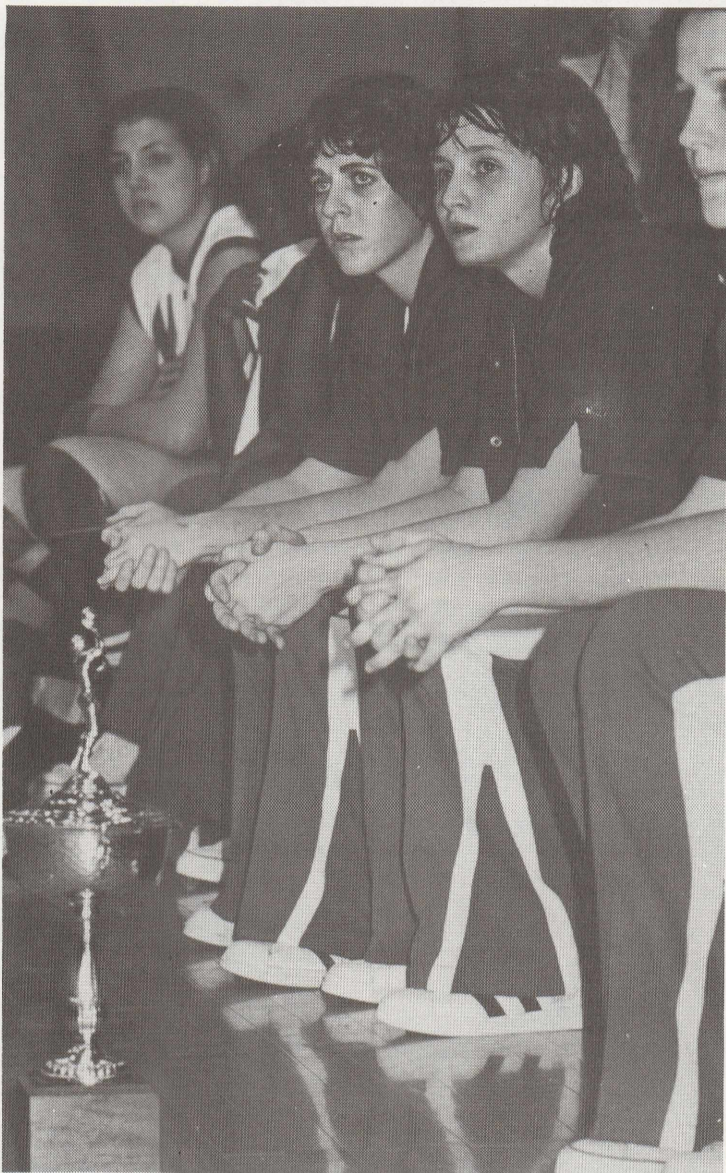
much friendlier here than they are back home. South Dakotans don't show emotions — they wait for you to start something. Texans are open."

"Our purpose for this trip is three-fold. One, to meet those here in Texas who support us financially and in other ways. Two, to expose ourselves to student work in other areas and see the heritage we have, and three, to attend the Missions

Conference."

Several Christian workers will be from overseas and relate experiences in spreading the Gospel to varying nationalities and cultures different from those in the United States.

The South Dakotans will be taking a little bit of West Texas back home as one student commented, "This dust, it's everywhere! In my nose, my mouth, my hair, everywhere!"



CHAMPS STILL — Dusters look solemn after receiving the runner-up trophy in the regional women's tournament in the coliseum.

News Briefs

Photo Exhibit

A black-and-white and color photograph exhibit is being staged in the museum week days from 8-5 and 8-4 on Friday. Also, the work may be viewed Sunday from 1-5 pm.

Included are about 50 pictures made by Dr. Robert Clinton, WTC president; Dr. and Mrs. James Tully, Joe Carter, Van Rigby, and Robert Patterson.

Also, Indian artifacts are being shown from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. John Portis.

Banking Exhibit

A banking seminar arranged through the community services program will be held March 8 by Robert Pinkston, assistant cashier at Snyder National Bank.

Class will meet from 7-9 p.m. in AcSC-105. Fee is \$4 and interested students may call 573-8511, extension 237 for more information.

Board Meeting

WTC's Board of Trustees recently discussed proposals for expanding welding class facilities.

Soon they will further evaluate methods for providing additional space after inspecting the present facilities.

WTC's Explorer Post recently elected new officers. President is Sharon Prince, first vice-president is Mike Baker, second vice-president is Ed Balderas, treasurer is Minette Geeslin, and secretary is Temi Baker.

Annual dues are being collected. According to Balderas, each member must pay \$3.50 yearly as a registration fee. Membership in the organization is open to any interested student.

Present plans call for either a back-packing trip to the Grand Canyon or a skiing trip during spring break.

Anyone wishing more information may contact professors Toni Turk or Dr. Glenn Keener.

Kappa Chi Trip Set

Members of Kappa Chi will travel to Ceta Canyon in the Panhandle for a weekend of fun and fellowship, March 12-14.

Events scheduled include discussion groups, recreation, group competition in volleyball, races, rope pull, hiking, Bible studies, singing, and devotionals.

Departure will be from the Christian Student Center Friday, March 12 at 1 p.m. with return, Sunday afternoon. All students are welcome to attend.

For more information contact Darilynn Stewart or Dean Morgan at the CSC. Sponsors for the trip are Charles Mickey and Milton Jones, campus ministers at Texas Tech; Mike Washburn, campus minister at Lubbock Christian; and Morgan, WTC campus minister.

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LEAGUE ACTION

WT Takes Western Conference Title!



WJAC CHAMPS — Members of the winning team are (top) Lawrence Butler, Butch Person, Tyrone Clopton, Larry Orton, Darryl Smith, Chris Tisdale, Coach Mike Mitchell, (bottom) Eagle Covington, Alan Corder, Walter Benjamin, and Harrison Johnson.



HOLD IT! — Butch Person (10) and Darryl Smith (43) put the stops on a Howard College player in the Scurry County Coliseum.



PUT YOUR LITTLE FOOT — Larry Orton (51) vies for the loose ball with two Amarillo College foes. WTC whipped the Badgers twice this season.

Make it two in a row for the Westerners. Two conference crowns, that is!

A combination shot with WTC defeating Odessa 77-71 in Odessa February and New Mexico JC downing Amarillo 98-86 in season finales, gave Western Texas the loop throne with a two-game spread.

"We didn't play too well the first half," said WTC Coach Mike Mitchell of the Odessa affair. Intermission score stood at 35-22. Shortly after the final period began OC knotted the score and the Westerners had to fight for the win.

"I thought we played well in spurts," commented Mitchell. "It was a case of where we played just good enough to win. It wasn't one of our better games."

A fastbreaking team, Odessa found themselves slowed down by the Green Machine. The Westerners got the tempo the way they wanted it, and controlled the game. "71 points is not much for their type of offense," said Mitchell. "I was disappointed in our rebounding. They're small and we didn't dominate the boards like we should have."

Tyrone Clopton led the Green attack with a collegiate career high of 25 points. Lawrence Butler poured in 16 while Darryl Smith hit for 14. David Wood led the losing effort, aided by teammate Anthony Forche.

Howard College fell earlier in the week to WTC 76-67 in the Scurry County Coliseum. The win turned the loop race into a two-team run.

New Mexico Military Institute fell to South Plains the same night, giving only Amarillo a chance to catch up with the Westerners and tie for the loop throne.

The win was far from easy as the J-Hawks led by six with 59 seconds remaining in the initial period of play. WTC suddenly became hot and looked impregnable as they poured in seven unanswered shots to take a 36-35 edge into the dressing room.

With the start of the second half, both teams exchanged baskets. Slowly, yet steadily, the hosts began to leave the Big Spring quint behind.

"Defense was the big factor," said Mitchell. "We played poorly at first but improved in the second half."

WT dominated the boards as Larry Orton nabbed the sphere 18 times. Howard is the nation's leading scoring team with a 103-point average. They boast the nation's leading individual scorer in Marvin Johnson with a 32.1 mean.

Both Johnson and the J-Hawks were held far below their average. Johnson hit for only 25 tallies as one other HC player, Martin, hit in double figures with 14. Butler traded point for point with Johnson as he pumped in 25. Clopton and Orton each hit for 14 followed by Smith with 13.

The Westerners blew their chance to cinch the conference crown when they fell to New Mexico Military 76-70 in Roswell. It marked WTC's third loss to NMMI in as many contests.

As was the case in the two squads' second meeting, WT lost their poise. The Broncos took an early lead and for awhile it appeared the hosts would blow the Texan visitors away. The Institute scored 11 points before WTC could find the basket.

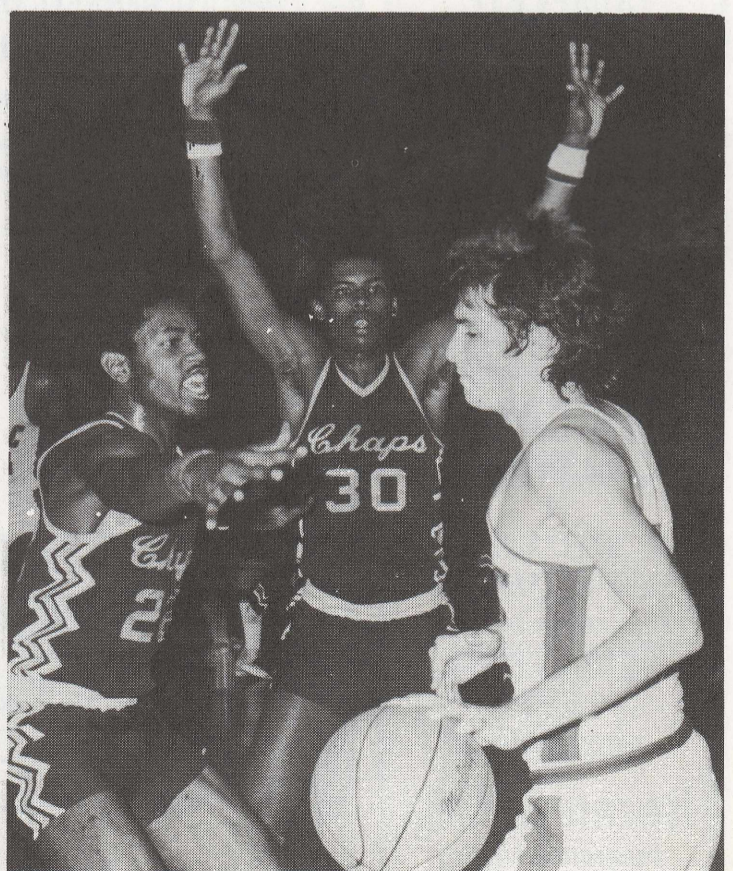
The Westerners made a run at the Broncos in the second half, hitting eight quick points before NMMI could retaliate.

Smith ignited a last-minute drive as WT added 11 points to their tally while the Institute was held to two free throws. The effort was in vain as the Westerners lost their chance to win.

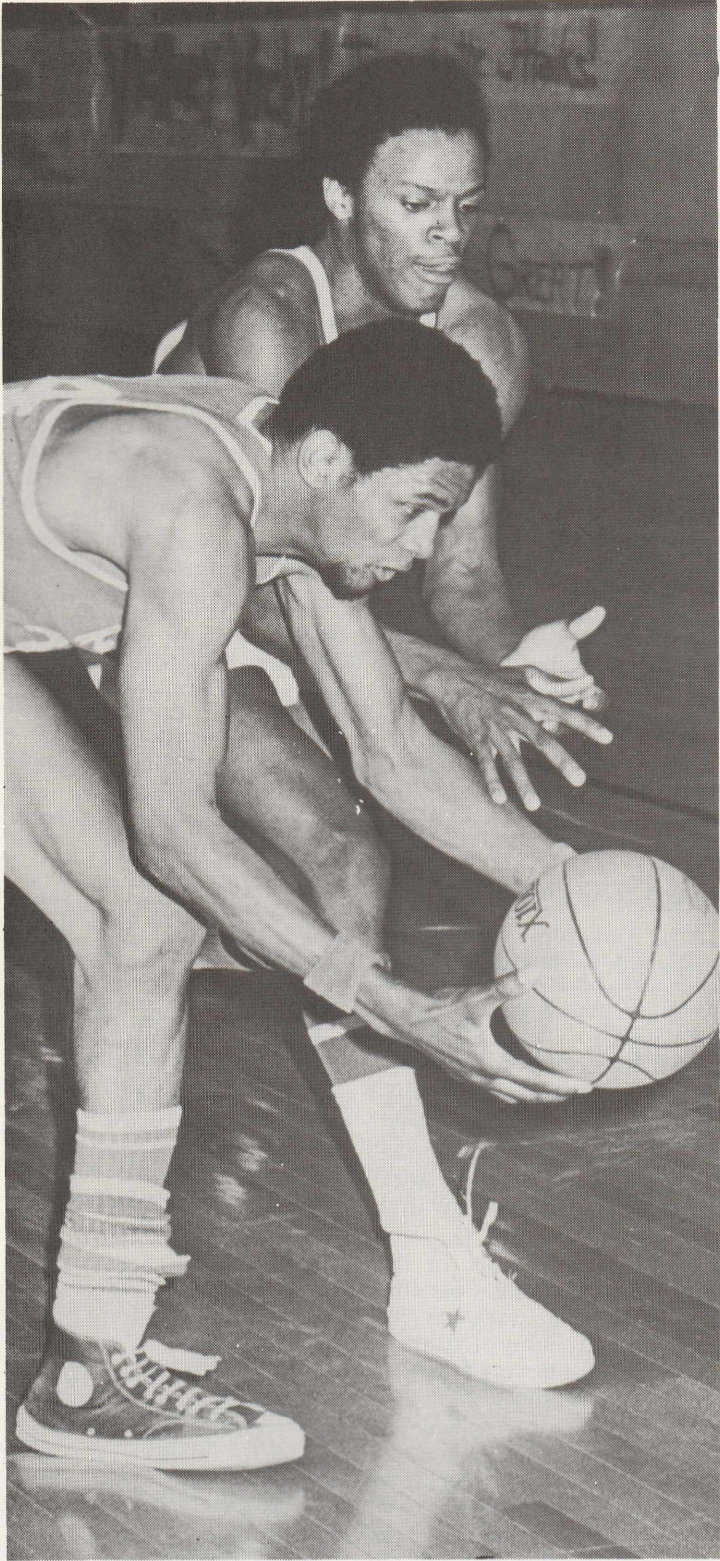
Dave McConico led all scoring with 31 points for the winning effort. Butler added 26 for the Green followed by Smith with 16 and Butch Person with 14.

Final conference standings are, with loop and season marks, respectively: WTC, first, 25-5 and 14-4; NMMI and Amarillo, second, 21-7 and 12-6, 19-8 and 12-6; Howard and Frank Phillips, fourth 24-7 and 11-7, 16-11 and 11-7; Midland and South Plains, sixth, 18-12 and 8-10, 17-14 and 8-10; NMJC, eighth, 14-17 and 6-12; Odessa, ninth, 8-16 and 5-13; and Clarendon, tenth, 8-20 and 3-15.

Butler closed the season ranked second behind Johnson in scoring with 714 points and a 24.6 mean. Other Westerners scoring in double digits were Smith with 398 and 13.2, and Clopton with 352 and 12.1.



STOP RIGHT THERE! — A Midland College duo closes in on Westerner Alan Corder, but WTC still won the game.



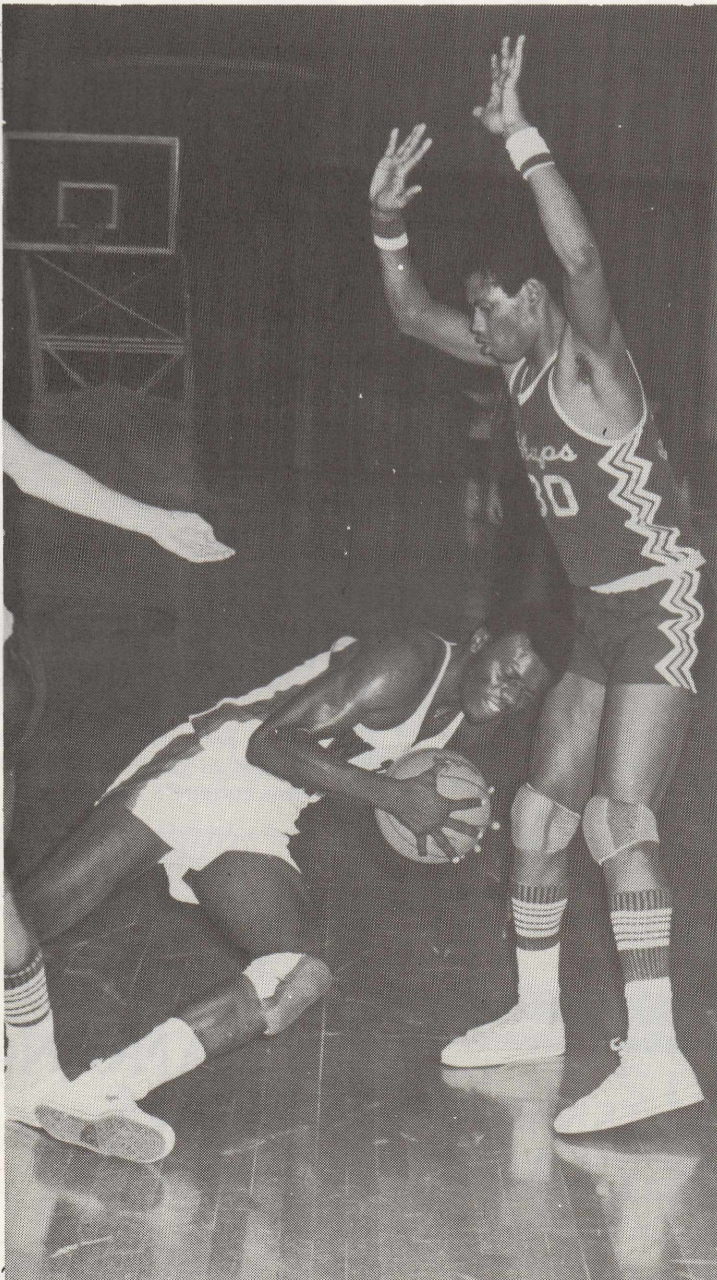
GIMME! — WT's Lawrence Butler makes a grab for the ball against a Howard College Hawk.



ON THE GO! — A determined Hawk forces Westerner Alan Corder outside. WTC defeated HC in the critical loop match.



BETWEEN THE GREEN — An NMMI Cadet gets that boxed-in feeling between WTC's Alan Corder (24) and Larry Orton (51) in a game in Roswell, NM.



GET DOWN! — Western Larry Orton faces a near immovable object in Midland's No. 30. WTC defeated the Chaps twice this year.



SCRAMBLE — Larry Orton reaches for a missed pass, but NMMI blocks him out. One Cadet (14) apparently missed out on the play!



LOOP LEADERS — WTC's golf team holds a host of trophies after the 7th Conference Tournament at the Snyder Country Club. Included are (L to R) Bryan Hargrove, Ross Wortham, Jeff Richardson, Arnold Madril, and Coach O'Day. Not pictured is Donnie Loerwald.

MADRIL MEDALIST

Linksters Gain Conference Lead

Coach Bob O'Day's golf team started their spring schedule with competition in two conference meets back-to-back February 27 and 28 in Big Spring and Snyder, respectively. And now they're in first place!

Weather conditions at the Big Spring Country Club were warm with 15 mile-per-hour winds from the south.

Midland College captured the sixth meet with a 2-under par, 282. WTC followed with 287, and New Mexico took third place with 288.

Odessa and Howard tied for fifth with 295, followed by Amarillo with 307.

South Plains, Clarendon, Frank Phippips, and NMMI rounded out the tally with 308, 322, 329, and 335.

The Chapparels scored 10 points for first place, while WTC's linksters made 9 to take second.

Participating colleges played five golfers, and the four lowest scores from each school were counted in medal play.

Bryan Hargrove led WTC and was runner-up medalist with a 2-under 69, followed by Arnold Madril's 1-over 72. Ross Wortham tied Donnie Loerwald for third with 2-over 73, and Jeff Richardson was 7-over 78.

The Green entered the tourney in third place. In five conference games during the fall, WT trailed Odessa by 4½ points, and Midland by ½ point.

Host team WTC moved into the lead in the seventh Western Conference tournament at the Snyder Country Club by 14 strokes with 5-over 285. Second place South Plains scored 299 and Midland dropped to third with a 300.

New Mexico Junior College trailed 1 point with 301, Odessa got 304, Amarillo 305, Howard 307, Frank Phippips 312, Clarendon 327, and New Mexico Military Institute 330.

WTC linksters totaled 10 points with South Plains in sec-

ond place with 9. Midland had 8, New Mexico 7, Odessa 6, Amarillo 5, Howard 4, Frank Phillips 3, Clarendon 2, and NMMI 1.

Medalist Arnold Madril shot 36, 1-over on the front nine, and 3-under 32 on the back, totaling a 2-under 68. WTC's Jeff Richardson tied for runner-up medalist with 1-over 71, along with Odessa's Ed Jones and Midland's Wally Brodskik.

Donnie Loerwald was 2-over 72, Bryan Hargrove 4-over 74, and Ross Wortham 9-over 79.

Next action for the Westerners will be the 54-hole Twenty-fifth Annual Border Olympics Golf Tournament at Laredo today through Saturday. Last year, WTC placed seventh out of 32 university, senior college and junior college squads in the meet.

Also, three conference tournaments remain this semester: April 1 in Borger, April 23 in Hobbs, and April 30 in Roswell.

SPRING GOLF SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Place
March 4-6	25th Border Olympics Intercollegiate Tournament	Laredo
March 23-26	Galveston Intercollegiate Golf Tournament	Galveston
April 1	Conference Tournament	Borger
April 1-2	18th Annual Great Plains Tournament-Conjunction with Conference Tournament	Borger
April 9-10	Schreiner Junior College Dual Match	Snyder
April 23	Conference Tournament	Hobbs, N.M.
April 30	Conference Tournament	Roswell, N.M.
April 30-May 1	Region Five Golf Tournament-Conjunction with Conference Tour.	Roswell, N.M.
June 7-11	National Junior College Golf Tournament	Galveston

WT's 'Nicklaus' Works On Game

by Terry Bruner

One week he's the upcoming Jack Nicklaus. The next he's the Fonze. The man is WTC golfer Ross Wortham.

Today he has only a few major objectives, but the two most important are his education and golf.

Ross has great interest in becoming a game warden. "I've always enjoyed the outdoors and I know there's a lot of injustice being done concerning our wildlife, and I'd like to help."

His other interest is the present and future of golf. "I've been playing golf steady now for the last twelve years."

Ross began playing the game at age seven. He recalled his early experiences on the golf course. "I remember when I first began playing, I'd wait all day at the course, just waiting for someone to ask me to play."

After the first few years of learning, Ross began playing the brand of golf every youngster dreams of. After his first few competitive rounds, he began winning and hasn't quit yet.

The stocky blonde began his college golf career struggling. His freshman year of wearing the blue and green of WTC was filled with frustration. Ross couldn't get into the swing of

things during the first few months. "Before I came to WTC I worked all day during the summer and never did any work on my game. It showed my first year!"

After a slow start in the college ranks, Ross became determined to work on his game. "After my freshman year I decided to work real hard during the summer."

He returned his sophomore year ready to play. "I've never been so determined in my life as I was the fall semester." Determined was right as Ross concluded his first semester of the sophomore year with the best semester of golf in the college's history — a 72.8 average per competitive round. Ross's performance during the fall raised the eye-brows of several major college coaches.

Except for some early moves, he's lived in Iraan, Texas, all his life. "Being from a small town like Iraan, I had to learn to have respect and to be friendly to everyone I came into contact with."

Son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Q. Wortham, Ross is the youngest of three children. His father works for an oilfield company and his mother is a housewife. "My father is a hard-working

man who brought me up with the attitude that hard work is the only answer to success. But sometimes I believe that attitude has been lost in this easy-going college life."

This week Ross and his teammates will play at the Border Olympics in Laredo.



SWINGER — Westerner Ross Wortham shot the best competitive average round of golf last term in the college's history.

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Coyettes Down Dusters In Tournament Finals

How do you stop someone standing 6-3, who's dynamite on the boards and is hitting better than 60 percent of her field goal attempts?

That was the dilemma of the WTC Dusters Saturday night as they fell to Weatherford College and Sarah Williams in the Region V championship game, 72-62, in the Scurry County Coliseum.

Williams scored an amazing 39 points to lead her team to victory in the tournament finals.

Annie Tillman tallied first points of the battle for the Dusters, but Weatherford retaliated. Five minutes later the Coyettes increased the margin to 8-3, biggest bulge of the first half.

Duster Theresa Beal hit a shot from the top of the key, followed by two free throws by Marilyn Payton to put WTC back in the game at 13:07.

However, Williams kept Weatherford alive, scoring 22 points in the initial period.

First half saw the lead change hands 16 times. Neither squad seemed to be able to find the handle, as defensive strategy constantly changed.

Score at half-time was knotted at 33-33.

Weatherford had its three top

players in foul trouble with three each, including Williams.

The second half started not unlike the first, with baskets traded. WTC fell behind 37-36 at 18:51. They pulled within one again at 40-41, but Weatherford began to pull away.

The lead gradually increased until it was 54-44 at 9:48. WTC managed to close it to four points at 50-54, but they couldn't get closer.

"They played great," said WTC mentor Sid Simpson. "Sarah was fantastic."

Weatherford Coach Betty Jo Crumm commented that Williams' 39 points was her second highest tally of the year. She has the reputation of playing extremely well under pressure.

Midway through the second half, Williams, Cathy Burns and Gloria Benavidez had four fouls each.

"We kept trying to get her (Williams) to foul out, but she wouldn't," said Duster Marilyn Payton.

"She was unstoppable," said Simpson. "She wouldn't foul."

Coach Crumm said Saturday night's game was Weatherford's top performance all season.

"If they don't get into foul or injury trouble, they could win it all," said Simpson. "They've

got to get past Panola in their first game (in the national meet)."

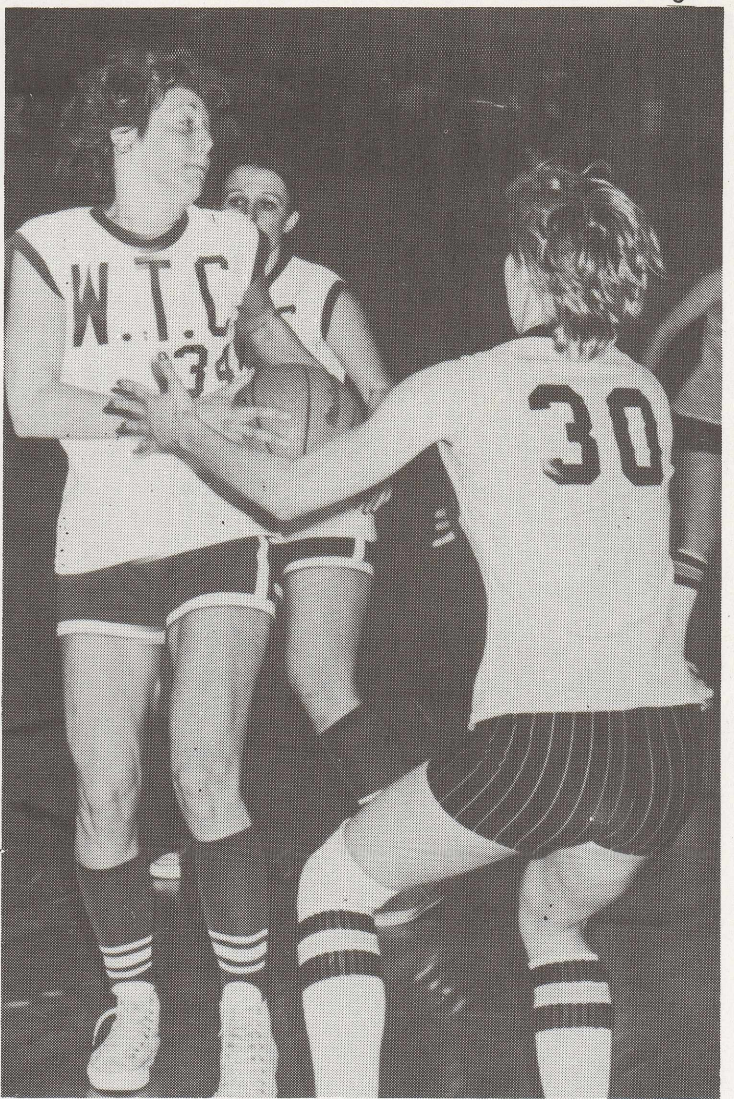
Named to the all tournament team were Payton and Beal of WTC, Primrose Miles and Burns of Weatherford, Jane Goheen and Lisa Risinger of South Plains, Carol Benson and Micky Henderson of Clarendon, Nancy Pribyla of Ranger and Sheree Griffin of Howard.

Williams was named the tournament's most valuable player.

Closing out their season with a 23-4 record, Simpson said the Dusters were "not ashamed of our record, but when you know you could have won it and didn't that hurts."

Although the air had the smell of possible upsets, it was not to be as favorites Western Texas and Weatherford downed Clarendon and South Plains, 78-64 and 57-50, respectively, Friday night to put them both in the finals for the second year in a row.

High point for WTC in the Weatherford and Clarendon matches, respectively, were Beal with 20 and 22, and Payton with 14 and 15.



NOPE! — Theresa Beal, WTC sparkplug, battles Weatherford's Cathy Burns (30) for the ball. The Dusters fell to the Coyettes, 72-62, in the region finals.

Dusters Defeat HC, ENMU

Howard College fell to the Dusters 84-46, February 24 in WTC's final regular season action. The victory gave the fems a 22-3 record for the year and a 6-0 loop mark.

The Dusters have yet to lose a conference game in their two-year history.

WTC played the second string most of the second half. The victory marked the second time this year HC fell to Coach Sid Simpson's forces. In their initial meeting, the Big Spring quint was downed 105-35.

Marilyn Payton led the Green attack with 19 tallies, aided by Theresa Beal and Brenda Jurecek with 16 and 15 respectively. Howard's Sherry Griffin led all scoring with 25 points.

WTC downed a much improved Eastern New Mexico University squad 72-43 in Portales, New Mexico February 19.

It was Green all the way as the Dusters poured in 11 points before the Houndettes could find the target. Not to be discounted, ENMU pulled within four, 24-20. Dale Mitchell hit an inside shot and Eastern never got closer to the fast-moving Texan.

New Mexico's big gun, Rhonda Thornhill, fouled out midway through the second portion of play. At one time, WT held a 30-point, 70-40, advantage.

Beal led WT scoring with 15 points, while Jurecek and Payton hit for 11 and 10, respectively.

★ LETTERS

Continued from Page 2

This has been a big issue, as well it should be, and if you want to do something about it...do exactly that. In whatever way you can, written letters, posters, verbal protests or whatever will let someone hear your voice. Don't let this die out if you care. The department they step on next may be yours.

Julie Jones

A Letter to the Editor regarding the cancellation of "Play It Again, Sam"

To Whom It May Concern:

It is sad occasion when a few people can tell the rest of us what we can or can not do.

I am not writing this letter to pass judgment on the play. My point is that just because I personally do, or do not, like something, doesn't give me the right to give it to, or keep it away, from someone else. It is the lack of our freedom of choice that bothers me, and that is why I am writing this letter in protest.

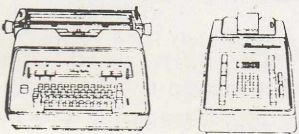
Sincerely yours,
Jean Gusta
Rt. 1, Hermleigh

P.S. The Snyder area is my home also, and I feel that we all have a right to speak up and be heard, and may the majority win.



DEFENSE! — Duster Dale Mitchel (10) crowds a Howard College Hawkette in recent conference action in the coliseum.

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MINE — WT's Tyrone Clopton contests Howard's "Cowboy" Johnson (33) for the elusive ball. The Westerners whipped the Hawks 76-67 and are in Abilene tonight for the first round of the regional tournament. Defending national titlist WTC will seek a repeat of last year against loop foe Frank Phillips at 7 p.m.

SEEDED NO. 2

WTC Faces F-Phillips In Regional Tonight

by Jeff Box

The Westerners face Frank Phillips College tonight at 7 p.m. in the opening round of the Region V Basketball Tournament held on the McMurry College campus in Abilene.

New Mexico Military Institute squares off against Hill County at 2 p.m. to open tournament play, followed by Amarillo and Grayson College at 4 p.m.

Northern Conference champ McLennan County of Waco tangles with Howard immediately following the WTC-FPC battle.

"The Institute and Howard will probably be the most even matched in the first round," commented WTC coach Mike Mitchell. About the other games Mitchell said, "Grayson should beat Amarillo and McLennan will take Howard, but it won't be easy. Howard is an explosive team and McLennan will have a game on their hands."

Nationally-ranked McLennan is seeded number one. WTC is picked second, followed by Grayson in third. NMMI is fourth, Amarillo fifth, Hill sixth, Howard seventh, and Frank Phillips eighth.

Commenting on his own game, Mitchell expressed displeasure about playing Frank Phillips. "They beat us down here. They played great. They could've beaten the Celtics. Yet when we went up there to play them, they did lousy."

Frank Phillips is not without its share of talent. Henry Crawford is leading scorer with an 18.9 average and is ranked number eight in conference. Charles Smith is another big gun with a 14.4 average and 16th in loop ratings.

"They (Frank Phillips) can really score," said Mitchell. "We're going to have to defense them to stop them."

Early this year, FPC lost their top scorer, Joe Holmes. "It didn't seem to hurt them much," said Mitchell. "Before they lost him, their conference record was 7-3. After he left they only lost two conference games and won five. Besides, they have four players who score in double figures."

An experienced team, Frank Phillips has four starters returning from last year's squad. Probable starters for the Borger quint will be guards Harold Holland, 6-2, and Smith, 6-5. Forwards will be Crawford, 6-6, and Joe Kirven, 6-5. Center position will be held down by James Lyons, 6-8.

Top five for the Green will be Allan Corder, Tyrone Clopton, Lawrence Butler, Larry Orton and Darryl Smith.

Should the Westerners win they will face either Grayson or Amarillo tomorrow at 7 p.m. The Howard-McLennan winner faces the champion of the NMMI-Hill fight. Saturday at 7 p.m. the Western Conference All-Stars face the Northern Conference Stars. The Regional Championship game will follow.

Grayson holds a 14-15 season tally and a 10-4 loop mark. "Their record is deceiving," said Mitchell. "They had three guys become eligible to play at mid-term. Since then their record is 11-3."

"We're not going into the game with the attitude that we're going to lose. We're going to win, but it'll be tough."

Hit by injuries, the Westerners are back up to full strength. Both Harrison Johnson and Walter Benjamin are up to either 100 percent strength or close to it, according to Mitchell.

Butler is leading the Green attack with a 24.6 average and is ranked number two in the conference. Smith, with a 13.2 average, is rated in the 19th position.

WTC has four players hitting better than .500 from the floor. Orton leads the way hitting 56.6 per cent of his shots. Smith isn't far behind with 56.3. Chris Tisdale connects on 54.1 per cent as Butler hits 51.7.

Orton is the Green's dynamo on the boards, nabbing a season total of 310 rebounds, averaging 10.3. Smith averages 9.8, followed by Tyrone Clopton with 7.4.

Overall, the Westerners are hitting 48.8 per cent of their shots from the court and 67.1 from the charity line. Averaging 39.3 rebounds a game, they have had 16 players foul out during the season and have stolen the sphere 388 times. Averaging 79.5 points a game, the Green defense is holding their opponents to 65.7 tallies per tilt.

A fast-breaking team, McLennan beat them by one point.

McLennan is the team to worry about. Boasting a 27-3 season tally and a 13-2 loop mark, at last report, they were ranked fourth nationally.

Basically the same team WTC beat 101-84 in last year's regional finals, they have added an outstanding freshman in Vinnie Johnson. Averaging approximately 27 points a game and standing in at 6-2, he is rated as one of the nation's top five JuCo scorers.

McLennan also boasts veteran post player John Derrick. First All-Region and second All-American, 6-8 Derrick averages 20 points a game. A great leaper and defensive player, he is known for his ability to intimidate opponents.

According to Mitchell, McLennan is "SUPER! I've never seen a greater collection of talent! They're great."

The Westerners have anything but an easy road ahead of them. Their spirit seems high and enthusiasm is unbounding.

Coach Mitchell looked into his crystal basketball and made the following 'fearless predictions':

Hill over Institute — a close game. The best one in the first round.

The final game? The ball clouded up and all Mitchell would say was, "We can do it if we play one game at a time and do our best."

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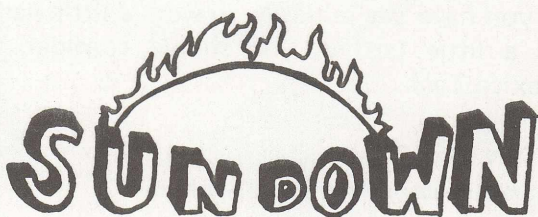
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