

State



**It's ticket time again**

Staff photo by Brian Tate

Lines in front of G. Rollie White Coliseum will be a common sight this week as students pick up their tickets to the first home football game Saturday. For all home games, tickets will be distributed on the basis of student classifica-

tion. Graduate students and seniors pick up tickets on the Monday prior to the game. Juniors get their tickets on Tuesday, sophomores on Wednesday and freshmen on Thursday. Non-ticketbook holders pick up tickets on Friday.

**Dorm fire kills one**

**United Press International**  
**TYLER** — Investigators are trying to determine if the cause of a fire that swept an old brick dormitory at Texas College, killing one student and injuring eight others, is the same as in a dorm fire seven years ago.

Freshman Tom N. Davis, 19, of Los Angeles arrived on campus last Friday and was killed Sunday in the pre-dawn blaze at the three-story Wiley Hall. Most of the 69 students slept while the fire broke out about 2:50 a.m.

Eight other students were injured by jumping from second-floor windows and from smoke inhalation, but none were hurt seriously.

Dean L.B. Knowles said Sunday the cause of the blaze still was under investigation, but officials believe it may have started in a room that housed air conditioning and heating units in the dorm built in 1916.

Knowles said a fire that destroyed another old dorm at the east Texas school seven years ago also started in a room housing such units. No one was injured in that blaze.

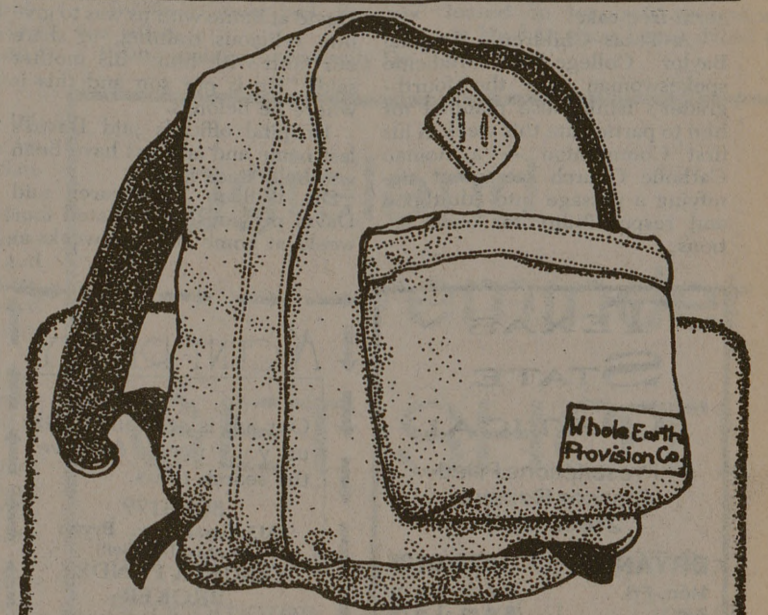
"We have not definitely determined the cause of the fire, but we do know it was in the vicinity of the utility room," said Fire Marshal Jack Hawkins.

Hawkins said Davis burned to death in his third-floor room but his roommate escaped.

"All of them got out except him (Davis)," said Knowles. "He was on the third floor. His roommate got out OK."

Five students suffered smoke inhalation, including Earl Mulligan rescued from the dormitory roof and admitted to a hospital. Students receiving minor injuries were James McCormick,

Bobby Peters and Paul Lee. Damage to the dormitory at the four-year, predominately black college was estimated at \$300,000. He said classes would continue as scheduled Monday.



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**Insurance practices questioned**

**United Press International**  
**HURST** — A financially troubled minister's insurance program, which a state agency believes gave preferential treatment to Moral Majority founder Jerry Falwell's organizations, knew it had a chance for success but continued to collect premiums, a court-appointed receiver contends.

The now-defunct Minister's Baptist Trust was formed in July 1978 to provide major medical insurance to 1,500 Baptist, Methodist and Church of Christ ministers. It was headquartered in Hurst, located between Dallas and Fort Worth.

Records show Browning Corp. International charged ministers and church employees about \$75,000 during a two-year period administering the MBT while the trust collected about \$2.5 million in premiums.

Receiver Anthony Harris said the administration fee amounted to nearly 40 percent while the annual administration charge is about 10 percent.

But BCI owner Robert Browning said the amount was not excessive and the profit rate was "not anything exciting to us."

Harris filed suit against Browning in July, claiming BCI knew about a year after the trust was formed that it was insolvent and had "no reasonable prospect for financial success." However, Harris said BCI did not divulge its insolvent status and continued to collect premiums.

The State Board of Insurance recently released a preliminary analysis of its investigation of MBT, indicating that before it became insolvent the trust paid \$114,000 to Falwell employees for pre-existing medical claims but did not pay \$300,000 worth of insurance claims made by ministers across the nation.

The insurance board said it had received complaints from ministers nationwide about MBT's failure to pay claims.

Records show Falwell organizations, including "The Old Time Gospel Hour," were members of the MBT for an 18-month period,

the Dallas Morning News reported in its Sunday editions.

Officials of Falwell's organization and the MBT deny special consideration was given to Falwell's people.

"Let me assure we did not get preferential treatment," said DeWitt Braud, chief executive officer and board chairman of Falwell's "Old Time Gospel Hour."

Harris said he did not know why Falwell employees received special treatment, but said Browning may have helped Falwell obtain a \$5.5 million loan from Heitner Corp. of St. Louis.

The insurance board analysis determined that although Falwell employees accounted for about one-third of the total average MBT membership, more than half of total claims paid in some months were to Falwell employees.

Auditors said they found most Falwell employee claims were 100 percent reimbursement while claims paid to other ministers were repaid at 80 percent as specified in the contract with the trust.

Browning said Falwell had a different plan document.

"When Falwell came into the plan, he said he wanted the exact coverage he had with Blue Cross duplicated," he said.

A state judge last October stopped MBT from doing business in Texas.

After poring over 2,000 MBT files, the investigators reportedly also found notations such as "priority pay" and "executive" written in red ink on claims forms and file folders of some Falwell employees.

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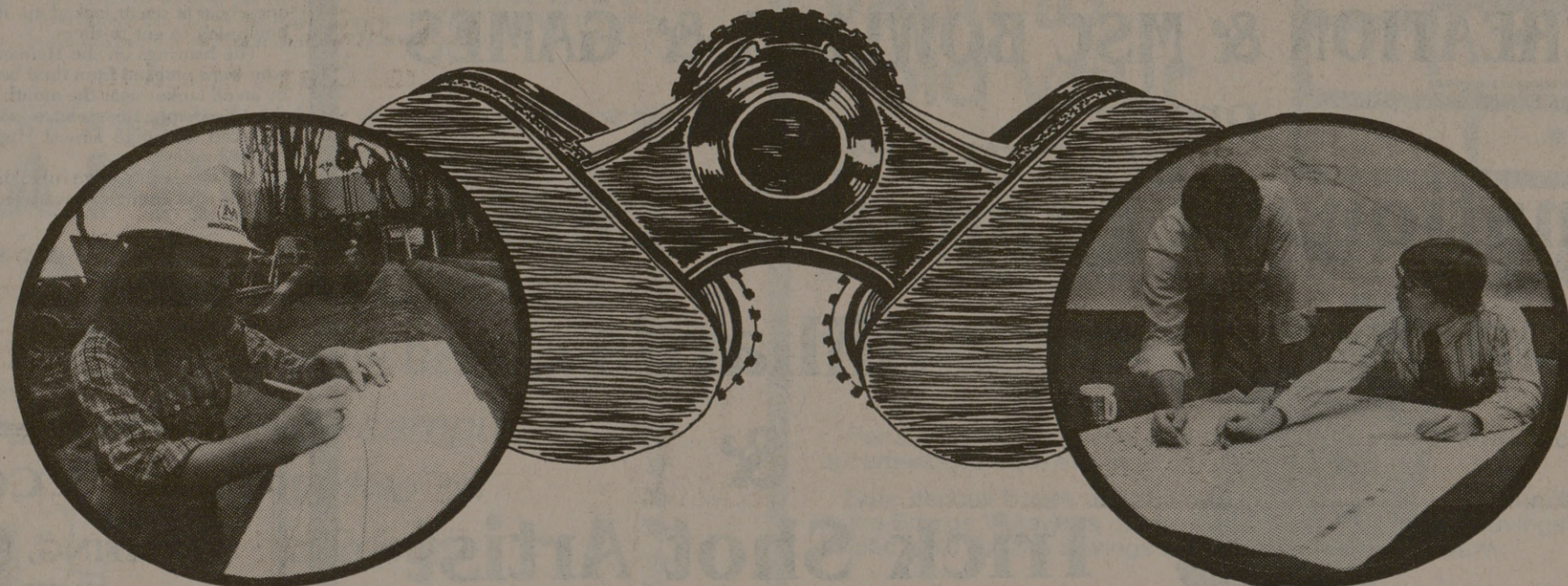
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