Victim cautions drinkers

y Olivier Uyttebrouck sky will speak on

tors assumed Rusty Combes following an alcohol-related accident in 1981 that hurled rainst a brick wall, damaged t side of his brain and put him ma for 53 days.

t today, Combes lives in Dallas' and Park area, staying in the he purchased with part of the ion he received in a legal setnt after the accident.

CIETY: will men his business card, Combes m. in 115 Klebalhers Against Drunk Drivers — a very different from the one bes had envisioned for himself to his accident, which occurred he was a finance major at the ersity of Texas. But it would be to imagine a more effective tesman against drunken driving, ombes is spending this weeking and talking around the as A&M campus, speaking with one who will listen but targeting IATION: will take

me who will listen but targeting this groups in particular.

e began regaining his voice tyears ago and is now deterded to use it to prevent the same of accident that befell him five ons at 9:30 pm as ago from happening to some-telse. Far from being an impedi-nt, his slow and halting speech 22 Rudder.

s his words an impact no actor or itician could hope to match.

through Frida Damage to the left side of Compre information:

brain has rendered the right

"It's something that could have happened anytime to anybody.

- Rusty Combes, commenting on his accident

half of his body all but useless. He can walk now, be it slowly and with great effort, with the help of an or-

But in spite of the frailty of his body and voice, there is an unmis-takable strength in his words. People-look comfortable in Combes' presence - not only with Combes himself, but with one another. As he talks and jokes with the people around him, it's clear that he has a skill for galvanizing a group of strangers into a purposeful body.

"I'm a very determined, hardworking young man," Combes says.
"It's a lot of hard effort — very hard today still — but it's no big deal. I

just love challenges."

Combes' accident happened during a big spring celebration, "Old South," his fraternity holds every year in Austin. For this reason, Kappa Alpha bore much of the \$21 million settlement Combes received in compensation for the accident. But remarkably, there is no bad blood between Combes and his fra-

"It's something that could have

happened anytime to anybody," Combes says, implying that for a group of men to pile into the back of a pick-up truck after a night of heavy drinking is not exclusively fraternity behavior.

In Combes' words, "dangerous horseplay" was going on in the cab of the truck that carried himself and several of his fraternity brothers away after the "Old South" cele-

The driver had been unable to reach the brake pedal and the truck sped through an intersection, down a hill and collided with a brick wall at 40 mph. Combes, the only person injured seriously in the crash, was hurled out the back of the truck.

According to a November 1985 article in Newsweek, the fraternity provided 40 percent of the \$21 million compensation, the driver paid \$10,000 of the settlement and another fraternity member, who was on the floor jerking the accelerator up and down, was liable for the rest. In the end, insurance companies covered nearly the whole settlement.

chase his Highland Park home, even after his lawyers collected their \$2 million share from the settlement. On the other hand, he lost the girlfriend he had gone out with for five years prior to the accident.

"I think I've hit the nail on the head," says Combes in regard to the new career he is contemplating, as a

Deadline is First enate budget negotiators offer er from 10 am i o increase total spending cuts

nents for audic rease total Senate spending cuts lestra are being 1987 by \$153 million. We think the Senate stands ready split the difference," said Senant Jones, D-Abilene, chief Senate nitecture will support the comprotor. He noted that comproefforts were about \$326 million when the first special session unsuccessfully

his is our effort to reach a midound," Jones told a meeting of ppropriations conference com-ethat served in the first special n. in 305A-B Rep. Jim Rudd, D-Brownfield,

ISTIN (AP) — Senate budget trying to put a plan together. We've lion from the governor's office utility contingency fund; \$20 million tom line vet.

The meeting of the Senate and House negotiators was unofficial because the House has not acted on its appropriations bill, which makes \$739 million in spending cuts from the 1987 budget. The bill will be presented to the entire House Wednesday, and a House conference committee cannot be appointed until the House acts on the bill.

The Senate approved a bill Monday that would reduce spending by \$413 million.

Jim Rudd, D-Brownfield, Jones said the Senate's compro-ouse negotiator, said, "We're mise plan would cut another \$5 mil-

ity contingency fund; \$20 million from special fund balances except those for insurance regulation, crime victims and fish and wildlife; \$23 million savings in the Mental Health and Mental Retardation department brought on by new revenue sources; \$24.6 million from the tate highway department's voluntary savings in 1986; \$4 million from personnel losses; \$10 million from the College Coordinating Board in reduction of the twiting shortfall. reduction of the tuition shortfall; \$13.4 million from junior college funds; \$20 million increased collections at state medical schools and an additional \$33 million cut in state funds for higher education.

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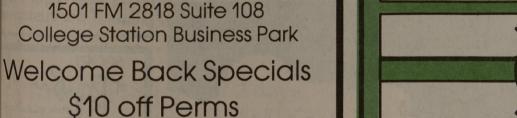
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