

NASA

Continued from page 1A

unrealistic." O'Keefe said he told the panel to "take whatever time you need."

Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, asked O'Keefe why NASA didn't arrange for a military satellite or a ground telescope to photograph the underside of the shuttle's wing during flight to check for possible tile damage. O'Keefe noted the lack of damage in previous incidents in which foam insulation hit the shuttle.

Sen. John Breaux, D-La., asked how many times heat tiles had come off the shuttle during launch.

"It's no more than half a dozen times," said O'Keefe.

Was age a factor in the accident, Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., asked.

The Columbia was "half the age of the average bomber that flew in Afghanistan a year ago" and the airframe condition of the two is "essentially the same," O'Keefe replied. Regarding age, he said, "The investigation may prove that was a contributor, but in terms of our efforts to make sure that wasn't a factor, it appears every element of diligence was done."

Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., a former astronaut, said that over the past nine years, "Congress whacked about \$600 million out of the space shuttle" budget and "NASA whacked another \$750 million."

O'Keefe said that efficiencies had been coupled with safety improvements.

Of tight budgets, O'Keefe said that "if this appears to be a contributing factor" to the Columbia accident, the agency will make the necessary changes to ensure there are no more disasters.

During the hearing, seven senators and congressmen said they were concerned that NASA may have too much influence over the investigating panel.

"I hope you hear what Congress is saying" that the Gehman commission be "truly independent," said Boehlert. Rep. Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., said the investigating commission is dependent on NASA staff, adding, "I'm afraid this won't pass anybody's smell test." Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., said NASA cannot very well "investigate itself."

O'Keefe said there will be no interference and he pledged that the findings of the independent panel will be made public "as soon as the ink is dry." He said he would not add anything to the panel's report before its release. Members of Congress want the commission's charter changed to ensure the panel's work is sent to Capitol Hill and the president at the same time it is sent to NASA.

After the hearing, O'Keefe said he and NASA would do some "soul-searching" on ensuring the investigating commission's independence.

Nation

Continued from page 1A

urges police to be extra vigilant for possible chemical, biological and radiological attacks. The bulletin asks local officials to consult a CIA handbook on how to respond to dangerous substances should such an attack occur.

In addition, the National Infrastructure Protection Center, which assesses and warns about threats to critical U.S. infrastructure, issued an advisory describing a heightened chance of global computer hacking as tensions increase with Iraq.

White House security was not noticeably tighter but presidential aides said they were spooked by the intelligence and felt more vulnerable than they had since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. Many were taking the government's advice, stocking away water and food at home and making plans to meet up with family in the event of an attack.

On the so-called bin Laden tape, which was a major source of concern, the voice tells bin

Laden's followers to help Saddam Hussein stage suicide attacks and lure American troops into bloody urban battles to inflict "big casualties." The speaker said Iraq was governed by socialist "infidels, including Saddam, but said it was acceptable for Muslims to fight for Iraq because their interests "intersect in fighting against the Crusaders," or Christians.

Even without further evidence or confirmation that the voice was bin Laden's, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer seized on the tape as evidence that Saddam and al-Qaida are linked.

"This is the nightmare that people have warned about, the linking up of Iraq with al-Qaida," Fleischer said, denouncing what he called "an unholy partnership."

The tape was released Tuesday, just as Bush was trying to build public opinion against Saddam.

Fleischer expressed far less alarm about North Korea's aggressive actions, reflecting Bush's desire to keep attention on Iraq.

Game

Continued from page 1A

averaging 16.9 points per game, King's ability to demand a triple-team in the waning seconds of the game allowed Jackson to bank home the winning shot.

"The play was supposed to be designed for Bernard (King), but I saw everyone going to him. When the lane opened up, I took the shot," said Jackson, who finished with 10 points.

The Aggies were able to win the game despite a lethargic outing by freshman stand-out Antoine Wright. After being named Big 12 Freshman of the week for a fourth time, Wright finished the game with six points after a 25 point outburst against The University of Texas.

The Aggies' next action will be on the road against the Colorado Buffaloes on Feb. 15th. Tip-off is scheduled for 8 p.m.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Celebrate a day of love and romance...



...and benefit a charitable cause...

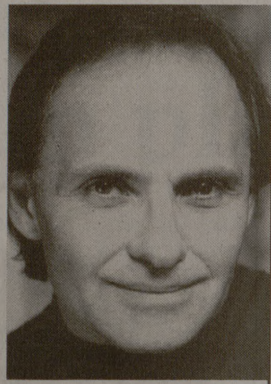
Purchase flowers Friday at the MSC from the Young Conservatives of Texas and 100% of the proceeds of your purchase will benefit Phoebe's Home, a shelter for women and their children serving the Brazos Valley.

YOUNG CONSERVATIVES OF TEXAS
yct.tamu.edu

Valentine's Eve

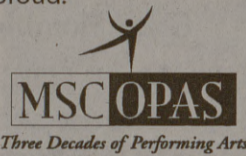
Intimate Gatherings

The evening before Valentine's Day, what could be more romantic than a classical music concert by an award-winning string quartet and an acclaimed pianist? With student tickets only \$10, you and yours will experience an inspiring concert at a great ticket price. Cupid would be proud.



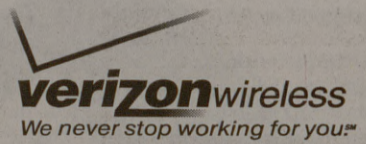
JAMES DICK, pianist

Support Provided By:



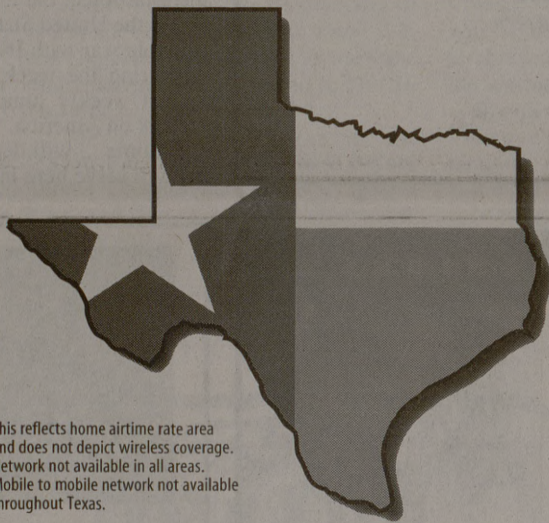
THE DUBUSSY QUARTET with JAMES DICK, pianist
Performance to be followed by Q&A with audience members
Thursday Evening February 13 at 7:30 PM
Rudder Theatre

TICKETS
845-1234
www.MSCOPAS.org



An all-Texas, border to border plan. Can your wireless company say that?

Switch today and start connecting on America's best national wireless network.



This reflects home airtime rate area and does not depict wireless coverage. Network not available in all areas. Mobile to mobile network not available throughout Texas.

Unlimited Night & Weekend Minutes

Now with 500 anytime minutes all when calling throughout Texas.

plus 1000 anytime mobile to mobile minutes on our mobile to mobile network.

NEW! Texas DigitalChoice Plan now just **\$39.99** monthly access with annual agreement.

- NO roaming fees in Texas
- NO domestic long distance charges, from ANYWHERE in your Texas-wide, home airtime rate area

CDMA tri-mode phone with specified software required. Calls placed outside home airtime rate area are 69¢/min.

Get a Motorola V120e FREE when you buy any of these phones.



Motorola V120e NOW JUST \$29.99 (FREE color faceplate after mail-in rebate.)

LG VX-10 NOW JUST \$49.99 After mail-in rebate \$99.99 regular price -\$50.00 mail-in rebate

LG 4400 NOW JUST \$99.99 After mail-in rebate Regular price \$199.99. Now \$99.99 after \$100 mail-in rebate and trade-in any working mobile phone with battery.

New two year agreement and activation required on each phone. While supplies last.

Test the Best

VERIZON WIRELESS HAS THE BEST NATIONAL WIRELESS NETWORK IN AMERICA. But don't just take our word for it. Test it for yourself and if you're not 100% satisfied during your first 15 days, simply return your phone and pay for only the service you've used. It's all a part of our Worry Free Guarantee to you.

HTB

CALL 1.800.2 JOIN IN

CLICK verizonwireless.com

VISIT any of our stores

VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORES

Open Sundays
COLLEGE STATION
1901 Texas Ave., South
In the new Hobby Lobby
Shopping Center
979-696-3112

BUSINESS CUSTOMERS, PLEASE CALL 1-800-323-4045

AUTHORIZED RETAILERS

Service and equipment offer and prices may vary at these locations.

VERIZON PHONE MART
979-846-1271

RadioShack
You've got questions. We've got answers.



Night & Weekend hours: Mon-Fri. 9:01pm-5:59am Sat. 12am-Sun. 11:59pm.

Important Consumer Information: Subject to Customer Agreement and Calling Plan. Offers not available if under contractual obligations to another service provider. \$35 activation fee applies per line. \$175 early termination fee applies per line after 15 days. Requires credit approval. Not available in all markets. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Usage rounded to next full minute. Unused allowances lost. See Worry Free Guarantee Brochure and our Return/Exchange policy for full details. Allow 10-12 weeks for rebate check. Must be a customer for 30 consecutive days for rebate. Phone may not be returned after rebate form has been submitted. Mobile to mobile calls made during Night and Weekend hours will deplete mobile to mobile allowance. Geographic and other restrictions apply. Subject to taxes, charges, and other restrictions. Network not available in all areas. See store for details. Best Network claim based on reliability studies and network advantages. See www.verizonwireless.com/bestnetwork for details. Limited time offers. ©2003 Verizon Wireless.



Pharmacia & Upjohn