

New Student Government officers elected

SUCCESSFUL SELECTION: Nash, Harmon, Worley to take over positions for SGA; graduate vice president not yet determined.

By Brandi Fleming/The University Daily

Announcement of the Student Government Association election results yielded a surprising turn of events for one executive position.

Wednesday at 8:45 p.m. in the basement of the Student Union building, it was announced a glitch in the SGA election vote recording system failed to tally any votes for vice president of graduate affairs.

John Hanson is the only candidate running for vice president of student affairs; however, another election for the position will be held March 1-2 because of the computer malfunction. A run-off for one of three law school senate seats also will be held.

Nathan Nash was elected as president of the SGA with 65 percent of the votes. Nash currently serves as SGA internal vice president.

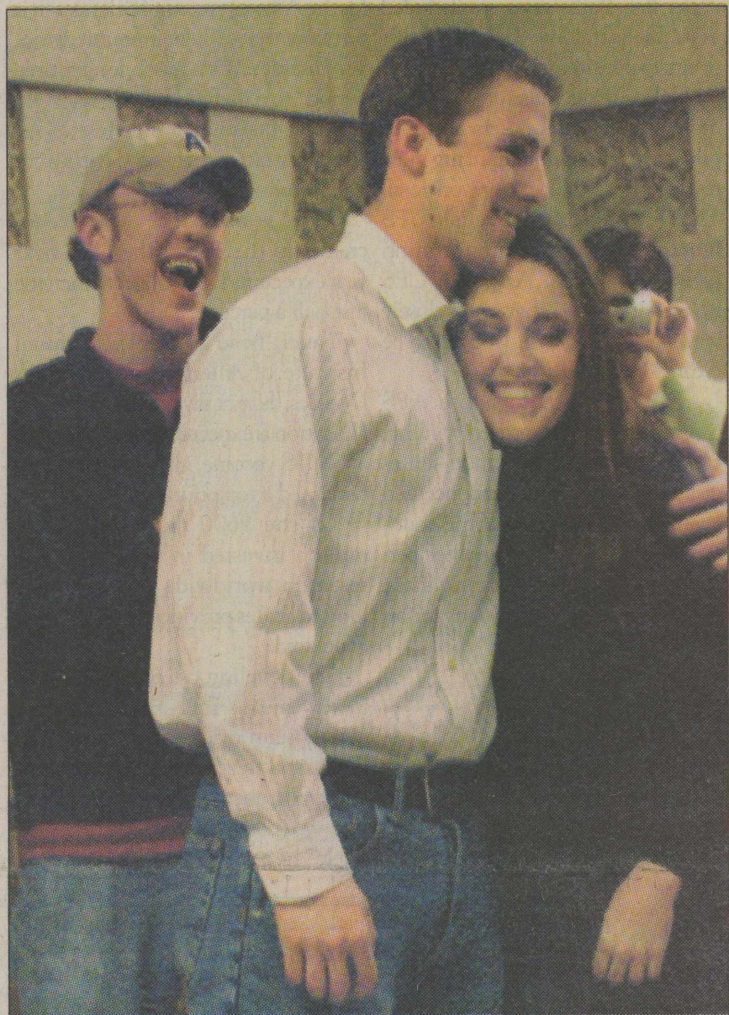
"I am very excited about this opportunity," he said.

SGA continued on page 6

SGA ELECTIONS RESULTS

- President:**
Nathan Nash
(65 percent of votes)
- Internal Vice President:**
Casey Harmon
(84 percent of votes)
- External Vice President:**
Ryan Worley
(56 percent of votes)
- Vice President of Graduate Affairs:**
John Hanson — only candidate running; computer glitch causing another election for position.

*Election results based on Internet voting by Texas Tech students.



LEFT: NATHAN NASH, Student Government Association president-elect, hugs Casey Harmon, SGA internal vice president-elect, as the two celebrate their victories with friends Wednesday night in the basement of the Student Union building. RIGHT: Drew Slater (center), a junior agricultural economics major from Boerne and candidate, and Jacob Reach (left of Slater), a junior political science and sociology major from Plano, encourage students to vote in the Student Government Association elections outside the Student Union building Wednesday afternoon.



STEVE LEWIS/The University Daily

Abercrombie lawsuit causing no problem for Lubbock store

By Brittany Barrientos/The University Daily

Discrimination lawsuits have been plaguing a popular clothing store, but local employees say they have not felt discriminated against in Lubbock.

According to an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission press release, a lawsuit was filed Nov. 11 alleging Abercrombie & Fitch stores used hiring practices that exclude minorities and women.

According to a Web site set up by the lawyers who prosecuted the Abercrombie & Fitch discrimination lawsuits, on Nov. 16, Abercrombie

& Fitch granted an initial settlement of more than \$40 million to Latino, black, Asian and female applicants and employees who felt the retailer discriminated against them.

Ashley Kirker, a junior public relations major from Cypress, said she has worked at Abercrombie stores for nearly three years in both Houston and Lubbock and just received her forms to join the lawsuits.

Kirker said she understands how people could feel they are being discriminated against while

LAWSUIT continued on page 6



DAVID JOHNSON/The University Daily

ABERCROMBIE & FITCH had a lawsuit filed against it Nov. 11 for discrimination in its hiring processes. According to employees at the Lubbock store, it has not been affected by the case against the company.

Lubbock's Depot District set to change name

By Katherine Amerson/The University Daily

The Depot District by any other name would still sound as sweet, and maybe even sweeter if the proposed name change to the Depot Entertainment District increases Lubbock tourism.

Owner of Bleacher's Sports Café Kurt Macmillan said he supports the name change.

"The Lubbock Convention and Visitors Bureau commissioned a private research group to do a study of people coming to Lubbock," he said.

While the Depot District was one of the top five places the bureau visited, Macmillan said, tourists and residents surveyed said Lubbock needs an entertainment district.

"For those people that are just driving down the interstate, they don't know what the Depot District is," he said.

Marcy Jarrett, executive director of the Lubbock Convention and Visi-

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LINC ARMES/The University Daily

LUBBOCK IS PROPOSING to rename the Depot District. To possibly increase tourism, the name will change to the Depot Entertainment District.

Sex education policy at LISD remains controversial

By Katherine Amerson/The University Daily

Teaching an abstinence-only education policy in the Lubbock Independent School System, as well as across Texas, has proved to have an adverse effect on teenagers, said Planned Parenthood Development Officer Tina Brogan.

The unwanted pregnancy rate and the sexually transmitted disease rate in Lubbock is disturbing, Brogan said.

"Lubbock has one of the highest rates of teen pregnancy in Texas, and Texas has one of the highest rates of teen pregnancy in the country," she said. "I think abstinence-only educa-

tion is criminal — it's not realistic. What it leads to is higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases."

According to www.siecus.org, in 2003, 46 percent of female high school students and 57 percent of male high school students in Texas reported having had sexual intercourse, as opposed to 45 percent of female high school students and 48 percent

of male high school students nationwide.

"I think abstinence-only education is criminal — it's not realistic."

— TINA BROGAN
Planned Parenthood Development Officer

Although the law makes abstinence-only sex education the approach taught in schools, Brogan said, comprehensive sex education is recommended by the American Medical Association.

Jane Tustin, a representative for the Lubbock Independent School District, said little can be done to fix

the situation at a local level.

"It's a state law that abstinence be a preferred method of instruction," she said. "(The state provides the textbooks). Our textbooks do talk about STDs, but it doesn't go into birth control or condoms."

According to the Web site, the Texas Sexuality Education Law does not require sexuality education, but if a school district does teach sexuality education they must present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relationship to all sexual activity for unmarried persons of school age.

"Quite frankly, abstinence-only

ABSTINENCE continued on page 6

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Wall Street at a Glance

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Traveling ranch horse team established at Tech

By Kelly Gooch/
The University Daily

The first traveling ranch horse team in the United States was started at Texas Tech this semester.

Kris Wilson, the ranch horse coach, said the team has 12 members and they meet for class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Caprock Equestrian Center. Attending the class is the only requirement to be on the team, he said.

Ranch horse team members work on classes at different competitions, Wilson said, including Western Pleasure, Trail Reining and Working Cow Horse.

Wilson said the ranch team had its first competition two weekends ago in College Station and won 21 different awards.

He said he started the ranch horse team and is coaching the team this semester because he wanted to give students a unique opportunity.

"It's something I've wanted to do for while," he said.

Professors from other colleges including New Mexico State, Wilson said, have talked with him because they want to start their own ranch horse team.

He said he is going to a clinic in a couple of weeks in Odessa, and the ranch horse team will have professional trainers come to their class including Mark Stowe from Slaton.

Wilson also said the 12 members of the ranch horse team have all improved.

"It's been a really good experience for them," he said.

All entry, lodging and travel fees have been donated by different corporations or individuals, he said.

Kevin Burns, a freshman animal science major from Clovis, N.M., said the ranch horse team improved his cow horse skills.

"It's improved my overall skills as a rider and trainer," he said. "We have a pretty good coach."

All events at the competitions are individual, Burns said.

Another member of the ranch horse team, Colton Daniels, got fifth place in the overall non-professional at the last competition, Burns said.

Janene Evans, a senior animal science major from El Paso, said she loves being a member of the ranch horse team.

Evans said she has ridden horses her whole life, but this class is one of her favorites.

Being on the ranch horse team has improved her reining and she has never done cow horse before, Evans said. However, she got second and fourth place in cow horse at the competition.

Evans said she chose to take this class and join the ranch horse team because she needed an agriculture elective, and a friend told her the team was starting.

Evans said she enjoys the class because she gets to ride her own horses.

"I would recommend it to anyone," she said.

Wilson said the team has a competition next week in Abilene, one on March 25 in Fort Worth and one on April 9 in Lubbock.



U. Florida groups host PETA parody

By Kylie Craig/
Independent Florida Alligator

(U-WIRE) GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Hungry University of Florida students ate more than 100 pounds of meat in less than two hours at Tuesday's People Enjoying Tasty Animals, or PETA, Barbecue.

The barbecue, which was hosted by UF's College Republicans, was held to raise awareness about the extreme efforts used by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and demonstrate that the consumption of meat is not inhumane, according to a release.

The event took place at the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity house, where visitors snacked on beef, pork, venison and bratwurst. T-shirts displaying a cartoon

picture of a pig roasting over a fire were on sale, and visitors were given fliers listing "problems" with the PETA organization.

Ashley Black, secretary of UF College Republicans, said she wanted the event to help people recognize the "extreme" views of PETA.

"A lot of people are joining it because of its nice person appeal, but it's not nice at all. It's a bunch of extremists," Black said.

Hunter Williams, chairman of the College Republicans, said no complaints about the event were received.

Instead, a letter was sent from PETA to the College Republicans thanking them for holding the event.

The letter read, "Parody is the most sincere form of flattery."

Thanks for honoring us with your parody of the vegetarian organization.

Williams said Alpha Gamma Rho was asked to help host the event because the event, in part, is about supporting agriculture, and he knew the fraternity was agriculture-based.

"A lot of our guys do work in the beef industry," fraternity president Andrew Walmsley said, adding he did not know of any members of the fraternity who were vegetarians.

The event, which was open to the public, brought in a variety of UF students and other members of the Gainesville community. UF law student Arturo Armand, 22, said he was amused

"Parody is the most sincere form of flattery. Thanks for honoring us with your event."

— PETA ORGANIZATION
Statement to the U. Florida
College Republicans

"It's all in good fun. I had a good laugh when I saw it," he said.

Black said she first got the idea for the event after hearing about it taking place at other colleges, adding that it has been done many times before.

She said she was impressed with the event's success at UF.

"We didn't expect anything like this," Black said. "We thought 100 pounds of meat would be enough for two hours but we ended up having to make two trips to get more."

Sea of ice found on Mars

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Images relayed by a European space probe reveal the existence of a sea of ice close to the equator of Mars, scientists said Tuesday at a conference in the Netherlands.

The existence of water or ice would significantly increase the chance that microscopic life may also be found on Mars. Photographs from the Mars Express showing what ESA scientists said was the most direct evidence yet of water in the form of ice on the red planet have been sent back and analyzed over the past few months.

The evidence comes from photographs — not yet published — taken last year by the European Space Agency's Mars Express probe currently orbiting the red planet.

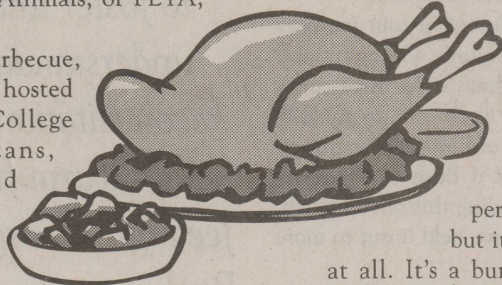
Scientists have long theorized there was once water on Mars, and data from NASA's Mars Rovers has recently appeared to confirm it. But

most scientists believed the water had evaporated into the atmosphere early in the planet's history.

"The point is that the ice is very recent: it appears to still be there, covered beneath a layer of dust and ash," John Murray of Britain's Open University told the Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Photographs from the Mars Express showing what ESA scientists said was the most direct evidence yet of water in the form of ice on the red planet have been sent back and analyzed over the past few months.

Murray co-authored a paper detailing the findings which was to be published in the March 17 issue of Nature.



Students paid for cleaning

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Some University of Michigan students are cleaning up — in more ways than one.

They are getting cash payments for keeping their dormitory rooms presentable and available for tours by prospective students and their parents.

Eighteen students in nine residence halls are participating in the Michigan Campus Day tour program, according to Randi Johnson, the university's housing outreach coordinator.

The rules for Campus Day participants technically do not require a clean room. Participants do, however, have to be dressed and out of bed if they are home, and must let tour groups see their room from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

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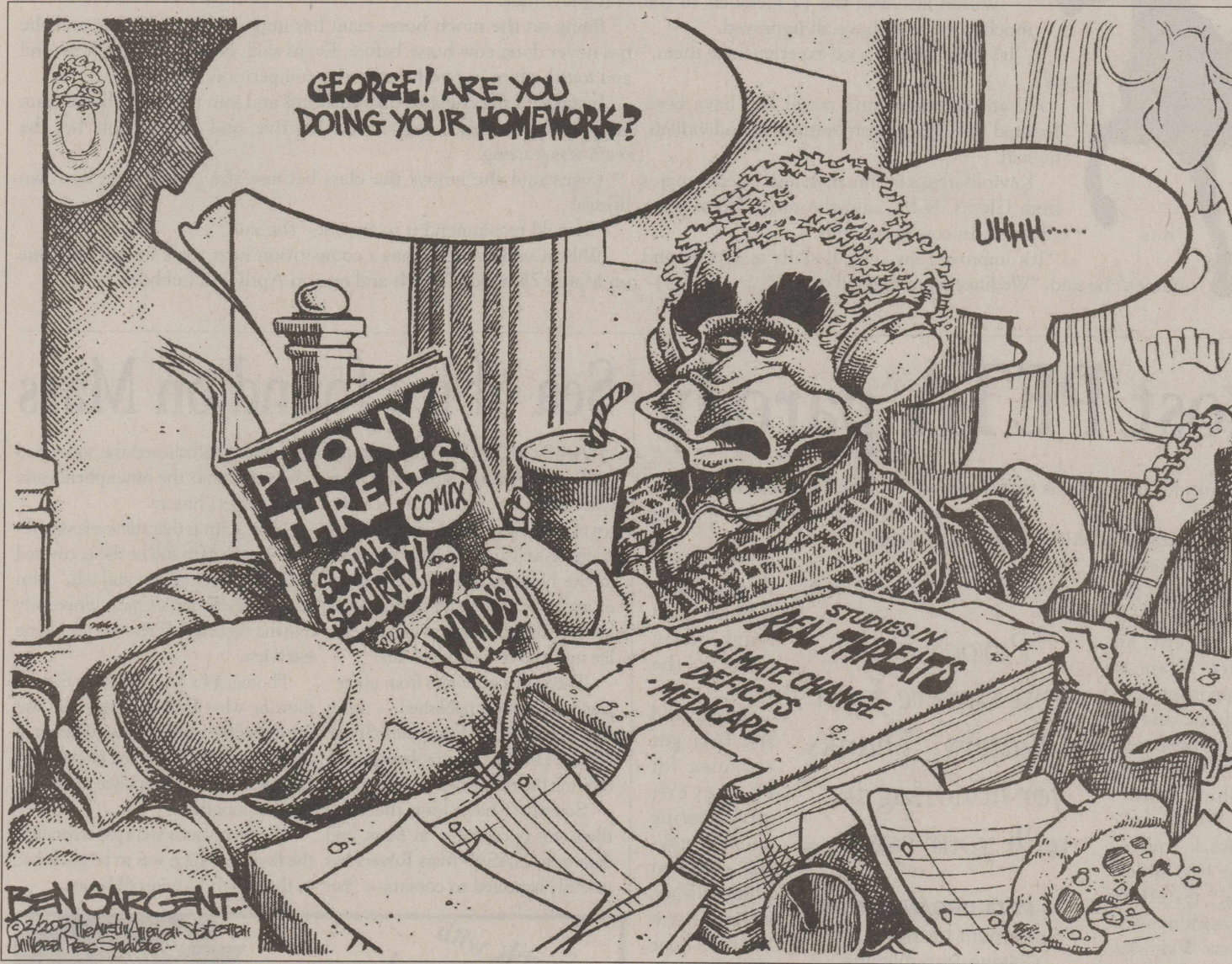
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Opinions

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Bush's agenda in ol' Europe

Sarah Looten



You want to insult me, ignore me and then come on over for a cup of tea? Oh, Dubya, were you not paying attention in Ms. Manners' class? That's no way to win friends and influence Europeans — but nice try.

Our president has embarked on a tour of Europe hoping to foster unity, understanding, reconciliation and other warm fuzzy feelings. George W. Bush is my president and I'm skeptical about the whole attempt — I can only imagine how Europeans feel about him.

Bush's European tour includes stops in Belgium, Germany and Slovakia. That's it — three countries. That works out to roughly six percent of European countries. You'd think if Bush were serious about extending this olive branch, he would have held it out to more people.

Bush is trying to "normalize relations" with "old Europe." "Old Europe" being Bush's somewhat insulting name for any country who didn't unquestionably support the Iraq war. I don't think I need to be the one to point out he only has to normalize relations because he was the one who made them abnormal.

Our president is focusing his energies talking about Iran and its possible nuclear situation. Bush also plans on having a stern talking-to with Vladimir Putin about the current state of affairs in Russia. He's trying to tell Europeans what they should and shouldn't trade with China. And he'll be mumbling something about global warming. Otherwise, he'll concentrate on sucking up, kissing butt and otherwise brown nosing.

Bush has put considerable effort into selling the Iran agenda. He's trying his hardest to convince Europe it's a threat and should be dealt with. More specifically, Iran should be dealt with in a bilateral manner. Just because they have funny accents in Europe doesn't make them stupid.

Bush presented a strong case for going to war with Iraq. Unfortunately, the strong case was all a bunch of hogwash. Europe wasn't buying it then. I can't imagine why they would buy it now. It's a little insulting to show up late in the game and go, "Iraq, Iran? What's the difference? Like one letter, that's all. Let's go!"

Bush also will be talking with Putin about the "rolling back of democratic reform" in Russia. Dubya is worried because the Russian

Our president has embarked on a tour of Europe hoping to foster unity, understanding, reconciliation and other warm fuzzy feelings. George W. Bush is my president and I'm skeptical about the whole attempt — I can only imagine how Europeans feel about him.

government has taken over the free press, restricted citizens rights and otherwise backslid. Who better to be upset about such atrocities as a man who has Fox News in his pocket, pays columnists, supports the Patriot Act, ignores the rights of detainees and does what he wants regardless of principals? The talk should go over quite well.

But mainly, Bush is there to reach out to the Europeans. It's not quite groveling, but it certainly is a far cry from the Mr. Unilateral of a couple of years ago. Frankly it's a little mind-boggling that he is bothering with the whole European mess at all. After all, he does have a mandate and no re-election to worry about. Maybe he really is contrite about the whole situation.

It's nice Bush and his administration are trying to be contrite and do things the right way. I hope it's not too little or too late. Maybe it can be taken for more than it appears to be.

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

TECH TALKS BACK

University Daily article regarding Hanson unnecessary, damaging

Hanson qualified and trustworthy for SGA position

This is in response to the Feb. 23 UD article concerning a vice presidential candidate for the Student Government Association and his past.

I have worked with John Hanson for about three years now in the department of biological sciences. He is a valuable graduate student, collaborator and one of my closest friends. In fact, he was my chief of staff for some time and is well respected by myself and his co-workers.

I would never have selected him to be my chief of staff or supported his candidacy if I didn't feel he was competent and completely dedicated to the service of

not only graduate students but the entire Texas Tech community.

His ability to serve graduate students will in no way be negatively affected by his past.

It was difficult for me to understand what the editor of *The UD* was hoping to accomplish by printing a story of this type. It was clear in the text of the article there is no violation in his running for an office and that he is following his probation to the letter.

This story appears to be nothing more than an attempt at character defamation and sensationalist reporting.

I find this practice abhorable and unacceptable. Under the "leadership" of the current editor, the students of Tech have witnessed a pattern of irresponsible reporting this year.

The article on Hanson is only the most recent, but perfect example, of this irresponsibility.

Finally, graduate biology students who know and have worked with Hanson have elected him to leadership positions in our graduate student organization for the past two years.

This demonstrates my and other graduate students' confidence in his integrity and skills as a leader.

I want to reiterate I still believe he will make an excellent graduate vice president and he has and will continue to have my support.

— Alisa Abuzeineh, graduate student studying biology from Wichita, Kan.

Despite offense's complicated nature, Hanson is honest

Regarding John Hanson and the Student Government Association:

I've known Hanson for several years. For what it is worth,

he is one of the most honest, diligent, and intelligent people with whom I've had the pleasure to interact.

I know Hanson well, and consider him a good friend.

Sex offenses range from heinous acts on one extreme to simple misunderstandings on the other.

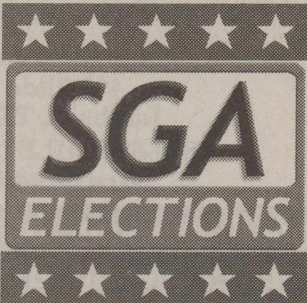
In brief, I believe there are a great many people who have been falsely accused of sex offense crimes, and one should not jump too quickly to conclusions regarding these issues.

This issue simply does not cross my mind when I interact with Hanson.

Hanson, if elected, will make an excellent VP for graduate affairs.

— Carl W. Dick, doctoral candidate in zoology from Mount Lake, Minn.

Send letters to ud@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 650 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community. Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification and submission.

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Sarah Looten
Feb 22, 2005

Changes to SAT will not affect admission standards

By Meghann Lora/
The University Daily

High school students taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test after March will have an added stress factor when preparing for the test.

College Board, the creator of SAT, has changed the test to better reflect what students are learning in high school and to include writing, which is an important skill for success in college, according to www.collegeboard.com. Changes to the test include an essay, more advanced math and no analogies.

The new SAT will have a separate writing section in which students will have 25 minutes to write an essay on a provided topic, according to the College Board Web site. The writing section will also include multiple-choice questions on writing

and grammar.

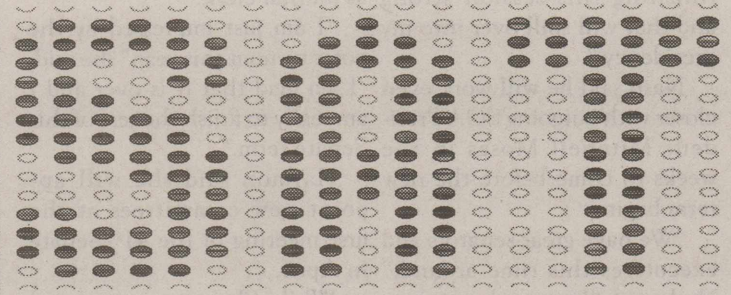
Gale Latimer, a counselor at Monterey High School, said students from Texas high schools will be prepared for the new SAT.

"I think our students, especially in Texas, are going to be well-prepared for it," she said. "I think our kids in Texas will have great success."

Latimer said students in Texas have been taking standardized tests with writing portions since fourth grade.

Latimer said the writing portion of the test would aid colleges in the admissions process.

"A professor at a college is going to want a student who can make a clear thought," she said. "I think especially for a college-bound student, they need to be able to put their



thoughts on paper."

The math section of the SAT will now include topics from third-year high school math such as exponential growth, functional notation and absolute value, according to the College Board Web site.

Latimer said Texas students are prepared for the higher-level math that has been added to the test.

"In the state of Texas, every student has to have algebra 1, algebra 2

and geometry," she said. "We encourage all our college-bound students to enroll in more advanced math."

Latimer said the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test will also have some changes, but there will not be an essay section.

Monterey High School is adding a PSAT prep class next year to assist students with preparing for the SAT, Latimer said.

"We're trying to work with those

changes and do the best to prepare the students," she said.

The critical reading section of the test, previously known as the verbal section, will no longer include analogies, according to the College Board Web site. The section will also include short reading passages in addition to the long passages.

Djuana Young, managing director of the office of admissions, said Texas Tech would not take the writing section of the SAT into account for students taking the test this year. She said the writing section would only affect students applying in 2007.

"Because it is new, we're going to hold off for one year," she said. "We will be evaluating the new test."

Young said the writing section will assist the admissions office in

determining which applications to accept.

"Taking that additional test — it will just be another piece of information for us to use to see if students should be admitted to the university or not," she said.

Tech will not make any changes to current SAT requirements for admissions or merit scholarships until after the evaluation process, Young said.

"Once we have evaluated, we will make a determination on what the next step will be," she said.

Young said she thinks the new SAT is an improvement and should improve the quality of students at Tech.

"I think it's going to be good all around," she said. "Hopefully, we will see stronger students applying to the university."

First jurors chosen in smuggling deaths trial

HOUSTON (AP) — Issues of race filtered into the first day because he alone had the power of jury selection in the trial of a truck driver who could face the death penalty if convicted for his role in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants.

The question of whether prosecutors are seeking the death penalty because Tyrone Williams is black has been a key issue. He is the only one of 14 defendants in the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt who faces the death penalty.

On Tuesday, his attorneys questioned whether some of the minorities in the jury pool were being unfairly excluded from a seat on the jury panel.

"If they pick a jury like this, they are going to eliminate all the minorities and that is what they are doing," Craig Washington, Williams' lead attorney, said after prosecutors had objected to several of the black and Hispanic individuals who were interviewed Tuesday.

But prosecutors said they objected because those individuals stated they could not impose the death penalty in the case under any circumstances.

Jury selection ended for the day on Tuesday with attorneys for both sides choosing four of the 12 jurors and four alternates needed. One of the jurors chosen was a black man. Jury selection was to resume Wednesday with the trial expected to begin by Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.

The first 24 people in a jury pool of 250, including a priest who wore his cleric collar and was later excluded, were questioned.

U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore asked them basic questions about what they had seen or read about the case and if the coverage would influence them.

Prosecutors and defense lawyers, as well as Gilmore, then questioned them individually, focusing on jurors' thoughts about the death penalty.

Some jurors said their beliefs prevented them from imposing the death penalty on anybody, while others said they had no problems with capital punishment.

Authorities say Williams, 34, of Schenectady, N.Y., was hired by a smuggling ring to transport more than 70 illegal immigrants in his hot, airless tractor-trailer from South Texas to Houston in May 2003.

Williams, a Jamaican citizen, abandoned the trailer at a truck stop near Victoria, about 100 miles southwest of Houston, after the immigrants began succumbing to the deadly heat inside, prosecutors say. Seventeen immigrants died inside the trailer. Two others died later.

He was indicted on 58 counts of harboring and transporting illegal immigrants. Federal law allows the death penalty in fatal smuggling cases.

His defense attorneys say he is the only one to face the death penalty in the case because he is black.

But prosecutors have said Wil-

iams faces such a punishment to free the immigrants in his tractor-trailer.

An appeal is pending before the U.S. Supreme Court on this issue.

A 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel has said the trial could continue in the meantime.

Williams' trial had been postponed four times since its original Jan. 5 start date because of appeals over the race issue.

In December, two other defendants in the case were convicted of various smuggling charges while a woman had all charges against her dismissed.

The trial of another defendant in the case is on hold. Five others previously pleaded guilty. One man remains a fugitive. Prosecutors have not decided whether to seek the death penalty against three others who were recently returned to the country after fleeing to Mexico.

"If they pick a jury like this, they are going to eliminate all the minorities and that is what they are doing."

— CRAIG WASHINGTON
Tyrone Williams
Lead Attorney

Prairie chickens an endangered species

By Kelly Gooch/
The University Daily

Although they carry a similar name, prairie chickens are closely related to chickens and were formerly common in sand hills.

However, prairie chickens can now be found in the west-coun- ties of Texas near Sudan and Muleshoe, Hewetson said.

There are greater and lesser prairie chickens who cannot breed with each other, and the male prairie chickens of each species have different breeding packages, Hewetson said.

David Haukos, adjunct professor, said he has been doing research on prairie chickens since 1986. He said prairie chickens

are considered prairie grouse and reside in grasslands. Because some Texas grasslands are being changed to accommodate farming, the prevalence of prairie chickens is declining, Haukos said.

Tech did research on prairie chickens in the 1980s, Haukos said, including reproduction, where they nest and if it is successful, survival, how and why they survive and respond to changes in habitat.

He said prairie chickens seem to be adapting to grasslands well, and it is fortunate to have examples of the prairie chickens close to Lubbock.

Prairie chickens survive in harsh conditions and have been around for centuries, Haukos said.

"We need to continue to do research on them," he said.

Anthony Hewetson, president of the Llano Estacado Audubon Society, said prairie chickens are closely related to chickens and were formerly common in sand hills.

However, prairie chickens can now be found in the west-coun- ties of Texas near Sudan and Muleshoe, Hewetson said.

There are greater and lesser prairie chickens who cannot breed with each other, and the male prairie chickens of each species have different breeding packages, Hewetson said.

David Haukos, adjunct professor, said he has been doing research on prairie chickens since 1986. He said prairie chickens

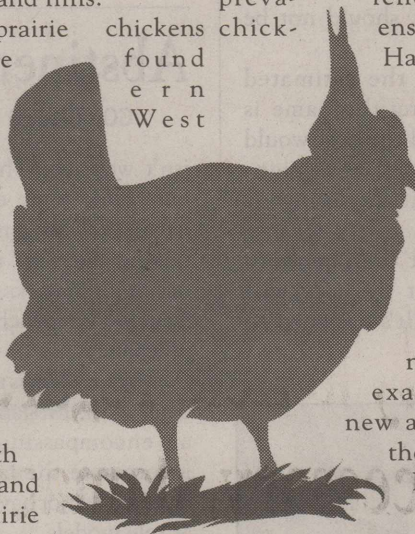
are considered prairie grouse and reside in grasslands. Because some Texas grasslands are being changed to accommodate farming, the prevalence of prairie chickens is declining, Haukos said.

Tech did research on prairie chickens in the 1980s, Haukos said, including reproduction, where they nest and if it is successful, survival, how and why they survive and respond to changes in habitat.

He said prairie chickens seem to be adapting to grasslands well, and it is fortunate to have examples of the prairie chickens close to Lubbock.

Prairie chickens survive in harsh conditions and have been around for centuries, Haukos said.

"We need to continue to do research on them," he said.



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The University Daily

WHEEL of FORTUNE

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By Clara Cobb/
The University Daily

Leslie Brockman jumped out of her seat and the crowd clapped as she got her guns up and pretended to spin the wheel.

Brockman, a sophomore advertising major from Flower Mound, was among many "Wheel of Fortune" hopefuls auditioning for a spot on the show's Big 12 College Week Wednesday.

"I've been watching 'Wheel of Fortune' since I was 7 with my grandparents," Brockman said. "I thought it would be really awesome to be on the show instead of watching it."

Like many Texas Tech students auditioning to be a contestant on the show, Brockman said she skipped work to go through the selection process at the Four Point Sheraton Hotel on Avenue Q.

"I don't have class today, but I should be at work," Brockman said. "It's 'Wheel of Fortune' though; they understand."

The audition process began at 10 a.m. with a simulation game. Student contestant hopefuls were required to prove they had personality, good projection, good enunciation and excitement to add to the show.

The first game round was followed by a 5-minute test to see how applicants solved puzzles under pressure. After the second round, several students were cut from the audition process, and a third round with another simulation game allowed contestant executives to make their final decision.

"A lot of people weren't very excited. From watching the show for so long, I know what people look like when they are on the show," Brockman said. "I just tried to be really excited like I was winning money."

Brockman won a T-shirt and an autographed picture of Pat Sajak and Vanna White for solving the puzzle.

In the first round, students who solved the puzzle during the random-selection simulation game received "Wheel of Fortune" hats, T-shirts, commuter mugs, tote bags and other show paraphernalia.

"I was excited when I solved it, and I hoped it would give me a leg up, but I'm not sure," Brockman said. "I didn't get nervous till I got here. I was like 'I'll be OK,' but I got nervous when I walked through the doors."

Gary O'Brien, contestant executive, said the show made a special trip to Lubbock to select a contestant from Tech. The other Big 12 schools in Texas had auditions in Austin. O'Brien said about 700 Tech students applied online for an opportunity to be on the show.

"College Week is one of our favorite weeks," O'Brien said. "We try to find someone with a good natural presence, who can solve puzzles under pressure and is a good representative of the university."

According to the "Wheel of Fortune" Web site, www.sonypictures.com/tv/shows/wheel, because of the large number of applications, not every applicant will be able to audition. O'Brien said the audition selection is random, and confirmations for auditions were e-mailed to selected applicants.

An eligible contestant must be a full-time student and be at least 18 years old. Also, he cannot have appeared on any version of the

show or any game, reality or relationship/dating show in the past year, according to the Web site.

Dustin Harbert, a junior mechanical engineering technology from Alice, said he was excited to be auditioning for the show because he is a big fan.

"I got an e-mail saying I'd been selected; I was pretty excited," Harbert said. "I couldn't believe I was chosen. None of my friends got picked, so I was pretty excited, although I am sure it was random."

Harbert said he skipped higher math for engineers and quad mechanics II to be at the audition.

"It's going to kill me, but I

haven't missed a class all semester. I thought it would be worth it to audition for 'Wheel of Fortune,'" he said. "I thought it would be a great opportunity. I watch 'Wheel of Fortune' all the time, so I thought I'd

"I don't have class today, but I should be at work. It's 'Wheel of Fortune' though; they understand."

— LESLIE BROCKMAN
Sophomore Advertising Major
from Flower Mound

give it a shot."

Harbert said he is good at word puzzles, but his biggest weakness is being in front of a crowd. He said he did his best to make an impression in the first round.

"I think I did pretty good," Harbert said. "I didn't get a letter wrong, but I lost a turn on

Graphic by Frank Vaculin

STEVE LEWIS/The University Daily

SHANNON GEACH, A graduate student from El Paso studying audiology, auditions for Wheel of Fortune Big 12 Week Wednesday morning. Matthew Kalka, a graduate student from Yankton, S.D., studying industrial engineering, waits for his turn.

the spin. I only got one chance, versus two, but I think I did pretty good."

O'Brien said the show had some people in mind. The show will send out letters in two weeks for the regular show in Los Angeles. The Tech contestant for Big 12 week will be contacted by phone about that same time.

The Big 12 College Week edition will be taped in Kansas City,

Mo., April 10.

Brockman said she hopes she has a good chance.

If she wins the Tech selection, the first person she will call is her grandmother.

"My grandma is in Flower Mound and she just had knee surgery," Brockman said. "I'd call her because that's who I first watched 'Wheel of Fortune' with. She'll be like, 'Oh, Les, that's great.'"

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Race for Oscar gold is wide open

James Eppler



There are no Hobbits; there is no 'American Beauty' or 'Chicago.' Film geeks' minds are bustling. Will politics or performance prevail?

Best Picture

This year finds a two-way race for Best Picture. "The Aviator" and "Million Dollar Baby" are battling hard. We can dismiss "Ray" and "Finding Neverland," as neither deserves to be nominated in the first place. Ray Charles will be honored through Jamie Foxx's win for Best Actor, and the Michael Jackson/J.M. Barrie/pedophile/Neverland connections are a little iffy. "Sideways" will only stand a chance if voters want to honor a comedy, and the spirit of small but effective films. It would be terrific, but don't count on it.

"The Aviator" has 11 nominations, which, by the numbers, would make it the frontrunner. But those extra nods come from the vast technical aspects of "Aviator." "Baby" does not have all the extra flash, but it deserves to win.

It is the best film of the year, relying on characterization, story and terrific direction from Clint Eastwood. Add to that the controversy over the film's ending being raised by radical righties. The Academy loves controversy, but they also love big spectacles and stories about mental disability. That bodes well for "The Aviator."

In the end, I believe the Academy will go for substance. "The Aviator" is a very good film but not a great one. I look for "Million Dollar Baby" to cash in.

Will win: "Million Dollar Baby"
Should win: "Million Dollar Baby"

The Big Shaft: "The Passion of the Christ," "Kill Bill vol. 2," "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"

Best Director

It's a fight between Clint Eastwood for "Baby" and Martin Scorsese for "The Aviator." Scorsese is one of the finest directors in Hollywood history, but he has never won an Oscar. Eastwood won the Oscar in 1991 for "Unforgiven," and was nominated for "Mystic River" last year. He also won the Directors Guild award, which predicts the Oscar winner almost every time.

But can Oscar shut out Scorsese again? I doubt it. Even though "The Aviator" would not rank in the top five films of the esteemed director's career, I simply believe the time has come.

Eastwood, however, has the better

film in "Baby." But I don't think I can continue to live in a world in which Scorsese has no Oscar.

Will win: Scorsese
Should win: Scorsese, based solely on politics.

The Big Shaft: Marc Forster, for Best Picture nominee, "Finding Neverland"

Best Actor

J. Foxx for "Ray." End of story. While all of the nominees in this category are deserving, save for Johnny Depp ("Finding Neverland"), Foxx has both the politics and the performance going for him. Besides being the best, Foxx is playing a musical legend who died this year—a death was overshadowed by Ronald Reagan's. Look for the Academy to pay homage, and award the best performance in the bunch.

Will win: Foxx
Should win: Foxx
The Big Shaft: Paul Giamatti, "Sideways" (I'll never forgive you, Academy).

Best Actress

Most feel this is a re-match between Annette Bening ("Being Julia") and Hilary Swank ("Million Dollar Baby"). The two faced off in 1999 with Swank ("Boys Don't Cry") beating Bening ("American Beauty"). While Swank was amazing in "Baby," I don't think she stands a chance. Swank is young, and I do not believe the Academy is ready

to make her a two-timer.

Instead, watch for Imelda Staunton ("Vera Drake") to challenge Bening. "Being Julia" opened in Lubbock Friday, and "Vera Drake" a movie about a woman who performs abortions in secret, hits DVD March 28. Judging on what I know about both films, I believe these two older, more respected actresses will shut out Swank. Watch for a Staunton win to be the surprise of the evening.

Will win: Staunton
Should Win: Swank
The Big Shaft: Uma Thurman, "Kill Bill vol. 2"

Best Supporting Actor

While Morgan Freeman ("Million Dollar Baby") is not doing anything he hasn't done before in movies like "The Shawshank Redemption," there is no denying that he is one of Hollywood's finest. He deserves the win for his reliable and fine work in "Million," but faces stiff competition. Thomas Hayden Church ("Sideways") stands a considerable chance against the veteran actor. But if Church does win, it will be another huge slap in the face to Giamatti who was snubbed for his leading work in "Sideways."

I also loved Clive Owen's work in "Closer," and he has the chance of pulling an upset.

Will win: Freeman
Should win: Freeman
The Big Shaft: David Carradine, "Kill Bill Vol. 2"

Best Supporting Actress

Here is another horse race category. Virginia Madsen is getting a lot of buzz for her terrific work in "Sideways," as is Cate Blanchett for her works as Katherine Hepburn in "The Aviator." Blanchett has been nominated before ("Elizabeth") and she is playing a Hollywood icon who won four Oscars. The Academy thinks highly of Blanchett, and I believe she will win.

My favorite, however, is Sophie Okonedo's wonderful work in "Hotel Rwanda." With a wide array of emotions, she blew me away. Her role represents feminine empowerment, and the necessity for a strong husband to have, at times, a stronger wife.

Will win: Blanchett
Should win: Okonedo
The Big Shaft: Maia Morgenstern, "The Passion of the Christ"

Predictions in more categories:
Animated Feature Film: "The Incredibles," hands-down.
Art Direction: "The Aviator"
Cinematography: "The Aviator" because "House of Flying Daggers" is

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too good for voters.
Costume Design: "The Aviator"
Documentary Feature: "Born into Brothels," but "Super Size Me" is my pick.
Film Editing: "The Aviator"
Foreign Language Film: "The Sea Inside," to make up for Javier Bardem's snub in the Best Actor category.
Makeup: "The Passion of the Christ" because voters will feel the pressure to give Jesus at least one Oscar.
Music Score: John Denby, "The Passion of the Christ." OK, give him two.
Music (Song): Andrew Lloyd Webber for his add-on to "Phantom of the Opera," which he wrote just to get an Oscar. Voters will fall for it.
Sound Editing: "The Incredibles"
Sound Mixing: "The Incredibles"
Visual Effects: "Spider-Man 2"
Writing (Adapted): "Sideways," without question, but I love the "Before Sunset" nod.
Writing (Original): "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" because the brilliant Charlie Kaufman is overdue.

■ Eppler is *The UD's* movie critic. E-mail comments and questions to James.D.Eppler@ttu.edu.

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Lady Raiders drop Sooners

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Erin Grant scored a season-high 21 points, and LaToya Davis had 16 of her 20 in the second half as No. 14 Texas Tech beat Oklahoma 83-70 Wednesday night.

Davis scored six points during a 16-4 surge to start the second half and put Tech in control.

She hit a pair of free throws to start a string of eight straight points for the Lady Raiders

(20-5, 11-3) and finished the decisive spurt with a putback of Cisti Greenwalt's miss to make it 59-41.

Beginning with that offensive rebound, Davis scored the Lady Raiders' next 12 points.

She added another offensive rebound putback, hit two baskets from the post and nailed all four of her high-arching foul shots.

When Greenwalt scored to end Davis' run, it stretched the lead to 71-52 — Tech's biggest advantage.

But the Sooners (15-10, 7-7) — playing on senior night — came back to make it interesting.

Lauren Shoush hit a 3-pointer from the left wing to start an 11-0 run that pulled Oklahoma within striking distance.

Erin Higgins scored underneath and Dionnah Jackson followed with a jumper in the lane and a spinning layup before Beky Preston's layup

brought Oklahoma to 71-63.

Tech scored the next four points, and the Sooners would never get closer than nine thereafter.

Greenwalt finished with 19 points, Chesley Dabbs scored 15 and Alesha Robertson eight as Tech's starters combined for all of the Lady Raiders' points.

Tech has won at least 20 games in each of the last 16 seasons.

Jackson finished with 23 points for Oklahoma and Shoush had 10.

The Lady Raiders hit 13 of their first 17 shots and led 34-25 after Davis scored in the lane over Oklahoma's Leah Rush.

Tech scored on 14 of its first 18 possessions — several times hitting against the Sooners' pressing zone with only a few seconds left on the 30-second shot clock.

The Sooners got within 43-37 at halftime, but they were never as close at any time after the break.

Women's tennis looks for success in Vegas

By Anne Gepford/
The University Daily

Texas Tech's women's tennis team is not looking for love in Las Vegas this weekend. The team is looking for something it wants more right now: wins.

The Red Raiders travel to the city of bright lights and casinos looking to improve upon their 0-4 record.

Of the eight teams traveling to Las Vegas this weekend, coach Cari Groce said only two are not ranked in the top 75.

"The thing that concerns me is we need to not get down on ourselves," Groce said. "We want to be playing at that level. You take some loss early on. Eventually, on paper, things start to turn." Groce said the warm weather and typical tourism sites are secondary to the competition the team will face.

"It's going to be another challenging weekend," Groce said. "We're there to take care of business on the tennis court."

Groce said the team's traveling is important because the players

will face many different national competitors. The tough schedule the Raiders have this year, she said, will prepare them for years to come, as their schedule is already set through 2007.

"We need to keep fighting hard," Groce said.

The University of Nevada-Las Vegas Lady Rebel Classic spans three days, from Feb. 25 to Feb. 27.

Katja Kovacic said the Raiders are looking forward to the competition after a break from action last weekend.

"I'm excited to play again," Kovacic said. "We've had almost two weeks to practice. We're looking for competition with other people. It's a great feeling — the adrenaline, the pressure. It's the most exciting part."

While their record may not include any wins, the Raiders fell to ranked teams, including then-No. 27 Oregon and then-No. 38 Rice.

Kovacic said the early losses have a role in how the team plays.

"The hardest part's going to be getting down on yourself," Kovacic

said. "Somebody has to win. All eight teams are really good and playing at a high level of tennis."

Kovacic said she hopes the results of the weekend would turn out differently.

"I think we're ready to bring some wins home," she said. "I know each and every one of us will work hard."

The two weeks off has Janet Durham ready to compete with someone else besides her own team.

"The competition's going to be tough," Durham said. "We can't slack off at all. There's not going to be an easy match."

Competition includes No. 15 Tulane, No. 21 Fresno State, No. 33 New Mexico and No. 46 UNLV. Durham said the singles points are going to be a key part of the tournament.

"We're playing great doubles," Durham said. "I think singles is going to be a big part of this tournament. We're going to have to put 100 percent effort into every match. We're just going to play our best and everyone is going to have to come together as a team."



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THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA 2/24/05

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8 Christmas in Paris
9 Besets
10 Follow up a deletion
11 Fateful day
12 Belgrade resident
13 Coastal bird
21 Negative responses
22 Flour grain
25 Lashes
26 Basketball game
27 Brookner or Baker
28 Jolly pirate?
29 Numerical endings
30 Shout of encouragement
31 Powerful person
32 Tent peg
34 Astronaut Sally
37 Broadcasted again

38 Manning the helm
40 Most serene
41 Fricassee
43 More equitable
44 Straying
46 Incognita
47 Asks for alms
48 College credit

49 Big band tote
50 Shade trees
51 Stringed instrument
52 Melange
53 NPR reporter
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54 Scottish Highlander

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

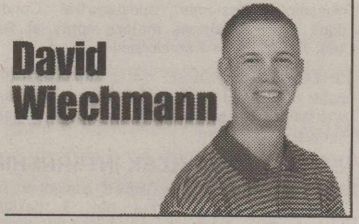
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Raiders struggle with erratic play following big wins



David Wiechmann

In the Old Testament, God sent seven of them to the Egyptians, and now in A.D. 2005, he has sent one to the Red Raiders — a plague. But this one is much worse than locusts or the

plague of locusts.

Texas Tech's basketball team has been stricken with inconsistency. Coach Bob Knight's crew finds itself in the middle of a race for second or third place in the Big 12 Conference, and that race would be much more interesting if the Raiders could string together a series of games with solid play and not slip up a few times on the journey to Kansas City and the conference tournament.

The first slip up of the season came immediately when the Raiders followed a 119-55 torturing of UNC-Asheville with a 15-point loss at TCU.

Then, it was back to the winning track for Tech with four more wins until the Raiders looked like they forgot how to play basketball altogether against the General's alma mater, Ohio State.

In Dallas, on national television, the Raiders took on the Buckeyes in a game where Tech tied the game at 71 with three minutes remaining, only to let OSU roll out six points to close the game at 77-71.

The Raiders were scoreless thanks to

hurried shots; Tech missed five shots in a row and added a turnover to close the game. Good basketball teams find ways to win in the clutch, and Tech failed miserably on this occasion.

Knight's team followed this game with another marquee match-up: Knight vs. Alford, coach vs. student.

Alford played for Knight at Indiana, and he must have learned a lot from him because his Hawkeyes ran over the Raiders for an 83-53 win again on national television. Tech never had a chance in this game, and up to this point, back-to-back embarrassments could be the only sign of consistency from the Raiders.

But the Raiders have a knack for inconsistency and salvaged their pride by stringing together some wins against a soft nonconference schedule. Then Oklahoma State rolled into town, and the contradiction continued.

Tech blew a seven-point halftime lead to lose by 10. Last-second heroics saved them at Kansas State and brought the Raiders back into the limelight and showed promise that they can bounce back from a disappointing loss.

But that confidence was short-lived when Texas defeated the Raiders just days after losing its leading scorer to academic ineligibility. Even Metamucil couldn't keep this team regular.

Back to the top of their game, the Raiders would climb to upset No. 14 Oklahoma on the road. But this too was short-lived as Tech fell a week later at Iowa State by 10 points.

No. 2 Kansas comes to town, and nobody (except the students and fans) gave Tech a chance to win this game. Common sense would say the Jayhawks could have rock-chalked and jayhawked all over the Raiders, but Nostradamus couldn't have predicted the outcome.

The unpredictability continued in Stillwater, Okla., Saturday when Tech was again embarrassed on national TV by the Cowboys. Oklahoma State handily defeated Tech when the Raiders had a perfect opportunity to force a second-place tie with the Pokes in the Big 12.

Tech's rematch with Texas, a team Knight has beaten only once since coming to Lubbock, proved it's a coin toss when it comes to how well the Raiders play. Tech performed well and defeated the Longhorns during the regular season for the first time since 1997.

Why is it Tech seems to play well after a huge loss? Darryl Dora says "because we don't want to keep Coach Knight mad. He's really a nice guy when he's happy and smiling."

Keep him smiling, Dora, and keep winning. That's what Tech needs if it hopes to make any type of a run in the conference tournament or even the NCAA Tournament.

One big win cannot be followed by an unexplainable loss. Knight's team needs to discover what it is like to play 40 minutes of solid basketball, or the Raiders could find themselves coming home very early when the Madness begins.

■ Wiechmann is a senior journalism major from Lubbock. Send your predictions and comments to david.m.wiechmann@ttu.edu.

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50¢ Well Drinks / Can Beer 11-2

NO COVER WITH AD (HALF OFF FOR MINORS)

2202 BUDDY HOLLY 749-4466

DJ CRUZ IN THE CHAMPAGNE ROOM

This establishment, Texas Tech University & The University Daily do not encourage underage drinking or alcohol abuse.