

Assad announces two-stage Lebanese pullback

By Bassem Mroue/Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — President Bashar Assad on Saturday announced a two-stage pullback of Syrian forces to the Lebanese border, but failed to address broad international demands that he completely withdraw Syria's 15,000 troops after nearly 30 years in the country.

Assad also did not respond to President Bush's demand just a day earlier that Syria withdraw all its troops and intelligence agents from Lebanon before its parliamentary elections in May.

Instead, Assad said his plan would put Syria in full compliance with international agreements and U.N. demands.

"By carrying out this measure, Syria will have fulfilled requirements of

the Taif agreement and implemented U.N. Resolution 1559," the Syrian leader said in a rare address to parliament.

Assad was vague about the pullback, leaving it unclear if Syrian forces would eventually leave Lebanon or remain inside the country near the Syrian frontier. He said Syrian and Lebanese authorities would negotiate this week.

Later Saturday, however, Syrian Immigrant Affairs Minister Buthaina Shaaban told Lebanese Broadcast Corp. television that withdrawal would be complete. "The matter is very clear. When an army withdraws it withdraws to inside the country's border."

The United States issued a strong statement of dissatisfaction with Assad's most recent comments, which came after four weeks of political turmoil in

Lebanon set off by the assassination of a popular former prime minister.

"As President Bush said Friday, when the United States and France say withdraw, we mean complete withdrawal — no halfhearted measures," the statement said.

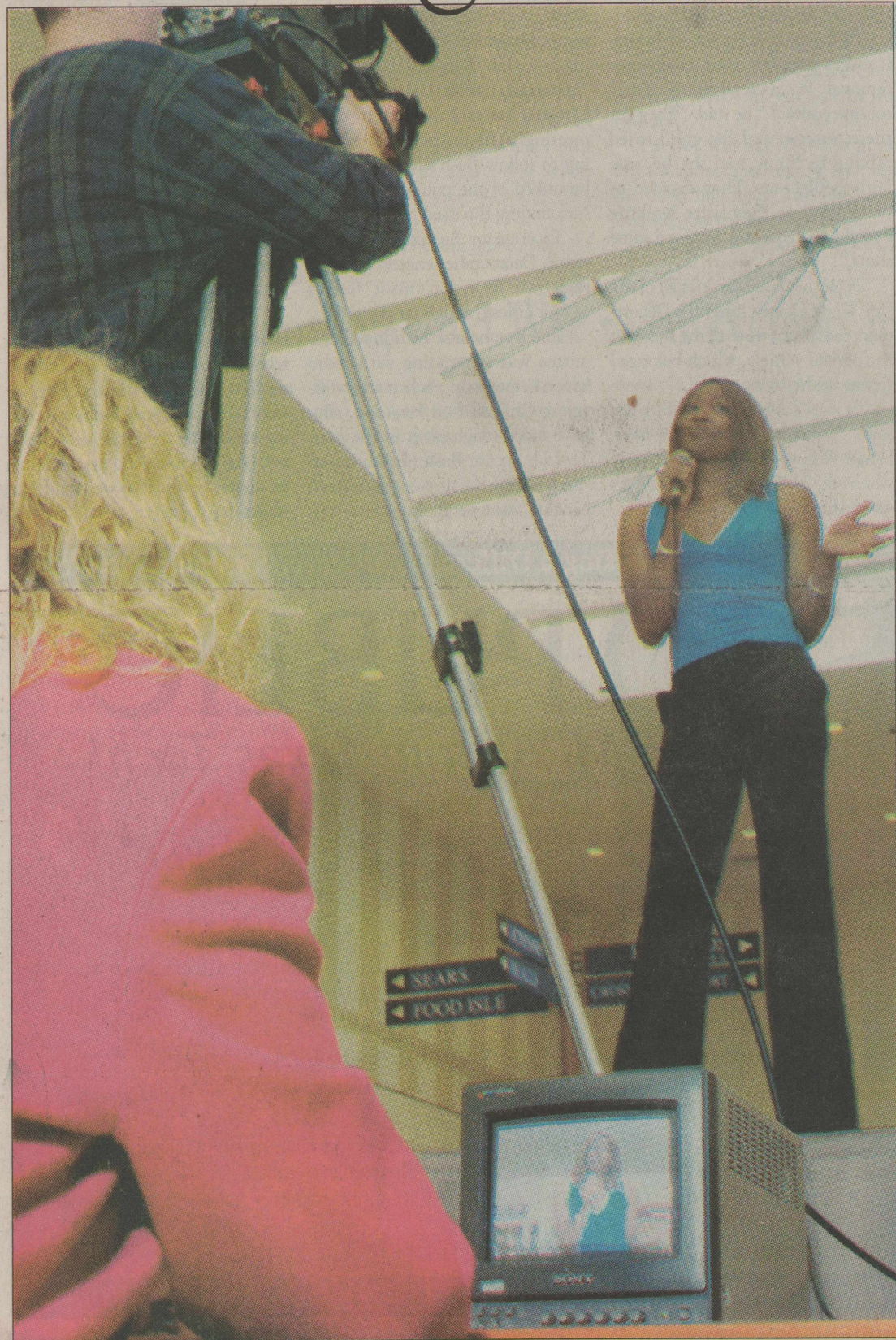
France, which co-authored with Washington a U.N. resolution demanding Syrian withdrawal, also stood by its demands.

Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom dismissed the Syrian president's speech as failing to meet international requirements, which he said include "a complete withdrawal of all Syrian troops from Lebanon."

Outside Damascus' People's Assembly, thousands of Syrians watching the

TROOPS continued on page 6

Modeling Moment



STEVE LEWIS/The University Daily

CORNELIA ABANOBI, A 2004 nursing graduate from Lubbock, takes part in the "America's Next Top Model" TV show tryouts, Saturday morning at South Plains Mall.

South Plains gets dose of the runway with tryouts for 'America's Next Top Model'

By Clara Cobb/The University Daily

Lindsay Alvarado is serious about modeling and may become "America's Next Top Model." The show, nationally broadcast on UPN, held a casting call Saturday in the Grand Court of the South Plains Mall.

Alvarado, a junior advertising major from Houston, said she has been to modeling conventions in the past and is moving to Miami in August to pursue her dream of a modeling career.

"Getting on the show would be the best thing that ever happened," she said. "It's like one of my favorite shows. I just wanted to take a chance. At first, I didn't want to audition, then I was like, why not? I'm a pretty daring person. I am for anything, as long as I am not going to regret it at the end."

She said she found out about the audition from her friends. Although she woke up late Saturday, she came out to the casting call and was able to audition.

"The walking was fun, no fear, whatever, but when I got to the microphone, I was nervous," Alvarado said. "I'm not a very good speaker."

The audition process included walking a mini runway while being videotaped. At the end of the runway, questions were asked of the participants, such as: "What is the craziest thing you have ever done? What is your best feature?" and "What do you think you will bring to the show that other girls have not in past seasons?"

Alvarado said she hoped she was unique enough to stand out in the audition process.

MODEL continued on page 6

Perry visits Tech to discuss Emerging Technology Fund

By Meghann Lora/The University Daily

Gov. Rick Perry visited some of Texas Tech's premier research facilities Saturday to illustrate how his proposed \$300 million Emerging Technology Fund has the potential to foster technology innovation at universities.

The Emerging Technology Fund would have three components, according to a news release from the governor's office. The first component would be to create collaborative efforts between institutions of higher education and the private sector. Creating these partnerships will amount to \$150 million of the fund.

Perry said great advancements have been made through partnerships between the government and the private sector. VidaCare, a biotechnology company, recently collaborated with the University of Texas Health Sciences Center to develop a new intravenous device. This device is helping doctors, emergency medical technicians and soldiers save lives by administering medicine and fluids an average of 10 minutes faster to trauma victims whose



STEVE LEWIS/The University Daily

HENRYK TEMKIN, RIGHT, professor of electrical and computer engineering, Jongsin Yun (seated), an electrical engineering graduate student from Seoul, South Korea, and Lu Tian, a physics graduate student from Beijing, China, talk to Gov. Rick Perry about nanotechnology at the Nano Tech Center Saturday.

veins have collapsed, according to the news release.

Perry said there has never been a better time for Texas to build partnerships.

"Now's the time for Texas to invest in this type of technology," he said.

VidaCare secured much of its funding from investors

PERRY continued on page 6

TABC focusing on public safety

By Brittany Barrientos/The University Daily

With spring break nearing, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission has its work ready.

But dealing with alcohol inconsistencies is not an act to be performed only over spring break, as several local bars have realized throughout the last couple of months.

TABC Lt. Harry Schreffler said despite the public impression, the TABC is going after minors, the main focus of the TABC is public safety.

"We are looking for any violation of Texas law or the alcoholic beverage code," he said. "As widely

known as our stance is against minors, (what) we want to be newly widely known is our stance against intoxicating people."

Schreffler said the TABC also catches prostitutes, drugs, gambling, selling to intoxicated people and other regular crimes as well, but their primary purpose is to enforce the alcoholic beverage code.

"We want to keep people off the roads to help prevent property damage or death," he said.

The TABC district Lubbock is in includes 19 other counties; 75 percent of the counties are dry. Schreffler

TABC continued on page 6

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE



TYSON JEFFREYS/The University Daily

AUBRY SERVANTEZ AND Melissa Reynaboth, both from Lubbock, perform in the dance "Las Abajenas" with the Ballet Folkloico Nuestra Herencia at the Daughters of the Republic Texas Independence Day Celebration.

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U.S. Army releases 1,200 pages of documents in prison abuse scandal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The unidentified Florida National Guardsman called it "Ramadi Madness" — a compilation of videos depicting his unit's time in Iraq. But some of the images were investigated as possible detainee abuse, including one recording of a soldier kicking a wounded, moaning Iraqi.

But investigators found no cause to charge anyone in connection with the videos, according to documents released by the Army Friday.

The description of the video was among 1,200 pages of documents released in response to a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union, which is seeking information on prisoner abuse in Iraq.

Army officials said the documents summarized 13 investigations, none of which resulted in abuse charges. Some were closed because of insufficient evidence. The Army, which says it is committed to finding and correcting problems in prison operations, so far has released the results of 129 investigations to the ACLU.

In total, the Army said, it has opened 341 investigations into alleged abuse. Of the 226 that are complete, 69 resulted in some kind of action against a soldier. At least 109 soldiers have been punished, including 32 tried by court-martial.

Jameel Jaffer, an attorney with the ACLU, called the latest Army documents "further evidence that abuse of detainees was widespread in Iraq and Afghanistan."

The ACLU, along with the group Human Rights First, sued Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld this week in connection with some alleged abuses of prisoners.

Previously, the Army had been providing the documents to the ACLU, which in turn made them public. On Friday, the Army provided copies of its latest releases to the news media as well.

The "Ramadi Madness" video was a compilation of recordings taken of the actions of B Company, 1st Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment, a unit of the Florida

National Guard that was in Iraq in 2003 and early 2004, according to investigation documents. The company is based in West Palm Beach.

"The video is definitely inappropriate," the company's commander, Maj. Joseph Lyon, told the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*. "... However, we were still in a very tight situation, a stressful situation ... Until you've lived that, it's very difficult for anyone to play armchair quarterback."

Lyon said the video led to disciplinary action against a soldier or soldiers. He would not specify whom, what or how many.

The investigation began after a civilian public affairs officer in Florida saw some of the video while other soldiers were watching it.

The video itself was not released. Investigation documents describe efforts to prevent it from being leaked to the news media.

The investigation found that "Ramadi Madness" contained footage of "inappropriate rather than criminal behavior," according to a summary of the investigation, dated Dec. 28, 2004. Ramadi is a restive city in Iraq's Sunni Triangle.

One part of the video showed an Iraqi lying on the ground, handcuffed and moaning, when a soldier kicked him.

The prisoner had been shot through the abdomen because he raised a gun toward American soldiers during a raid, investigators said.

Investigators found one soldier, whose name was blacked out in the documents, who acknowledged he looked like the one in the video, although his face was obscured.

The soldier said he didn't remember kicking the Iraqi.

The fate of the detainee is unclear; several officers said they didn't believe the kick constituted an assault.

The Rundown



Woman opens fire on CPS workers

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The mother of a 9-year-old boy is accused of firing a shotgun at two state Child Protective Services caseworkers who visited her home south of Alice this week.

Vera Miller, 46, is being held in the Jim Wells County jail on two counts of attempted capital murder.

The caseworkers, neither of whom was hit, fled the scene on foot, leaving behind a vehicle damaged by shotgun pellets. After reaching a store about a mile away, the pair called authorities.

"It was a scary thing," said Aaron Reed, an agency spokesman. "Even for our caseworkers, it's not what you expect when you go to work. Certainly they walk into some dicey situations, but it's unusual for someone to fire shots."

Miller was arrested shortly after the incident late Wednesday. Her son was taken into CPS custody.

According to Reed, a complaint about Miller was received earlier that evening, but when caseworkers visited her home at about 10:15 p.m., they had no plans to take the child.

"We make visits at all hours. It didn't start out as an emergency removal. It was really just a fairly routine contact," he said. "They got there, interviewed the child, tried talking to Mom, and she became fairly belligerent. They decided to leave, and as they were walking out, she pulled a gun and fired some shots."

Detective Jose Martinez III of the Jim Wells County Sheriff's Department said about three of the shots hit the parked vehicle, which belonged to one of the caseworkers.

"It was real serious," Martinez said. "Someone could have been killed. They were by the vehicle when she fired the first shot. That's when they decided to run."

Bush talks Social Security with voters

WESTFIELD, N.J. (AP) — President Bush kept pitching his Social Security overhaul Friday, undaunted by Democratic opposition, frayed Republican support and less than enthusiastic backing from the public.

"I'm going to keep telling people we've got a problem until it sinks in, because we've got one," Bush said, underscoring estimates that say Social Security will begin paying out more than it collects in taxes as early as 2018.

Bush's visits to New Jersey and South Bend, Ind., began a two-month blitz in which he and other administration officials are visiting 29 states. The road trip ended a week in which the administration lost momentum on the president's call to revamp the government's 70-year-old retirement system.

The stops Friday were targeted specifically for Reps. Mike Ferguson of New Jersey and Chris Choccola of Indiana, two Republican congressmen who are taking heat on the issue.

Ferguson, who has not taken a position on the private accounts Bush wants, introduced the president, saying only that Bush has launched an "important national conversation." Choccola has said that recent town meetings in his district left him willing to follow Bush's lead, although he talked of the political problems surrounding the issue.

To counter Bush's nationwide swing, Democratic senators planned their own "fix it, don't nix it" forums in four cities throughout two days.

The Democratic National Committee was responding with radio advertisements in each market targeting Choccola and Ferguson, who have faced tough races in the past. The ads accuse Bush of wanting to "end Social Security's guaranteed benefits" and tie them to the "ups

Italians angry about journalist's shooting

ROME (AP) — Italy demanded answers Saturday as former hostage Giuliana Sgrena was taken off a flight from Iraq hooked to an intravenous drip for a shoulder wound inflicted when American troops fired on a car taking her to the Baghdad airport. The Italian agent who negotiated her freedom was hit and died in her arms.

The shooting at a U.S. checkpoint in Baghdad stoked anti-war sentiment in Italy, where the public was widely opposed to the government's decision to send 3,000 troops to help U.S.-led efforts to secure the country from a violent insurgency. President Bush promised a full investigation.

About 100 demonstrators outside the U.S. Embassy in Rome blocked traffic and one banner read: "USA, war criminals." A few dozen communist demonstrators at the U.S. Consulate in Milan handed out leaflets reading, "Shame on you, Bush."

Sgrena, a 56-year-old journalist for the communist newspaper *Il Manifesto*, was flown from Baghdad on an Italian government plane.

She was taken by ambulance to a military hospital in Rome, a day after undergoing surgery at a U.S. military hospital in Iraq to remove shrapnel from her shoulder. Doctors said late Saturday that another operation was not needed.

From her hospital bed, Sgrena recounted the ordeal that unfolded shortly after she was released by insurgents in Iraq after a month in captivity. She gave no details about the circumstances surrounding her release.

"We thought the danger was over after my rescue," she told RAI News 24 television by telephone. "And instead suddenly there was this shooting, we were hit by a spray of fire. I was talking to Nicola ... when he leaned over me, probably to defend me, and then he slumped over. That was a truly terrible thing."


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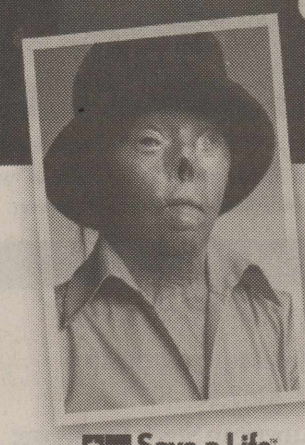
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Reggie Stephey, now 23, is spending his college years in prison for driving drunk. In 1999, he crashed his SUV into a car with five people, killing two and burning Jacqui Saburido beyond recognition. He'll be 28 when he is released. Jacqui will deal with her injuries for the rest of her life.

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Horticulturists team with NASA to grow onions in space

Kelly Gooch/
The University Daily

Having onions may not seem like a big deal, but in the distant future, astronauts will consider them a luxury they will not want to be without.

Ellen Peffley, professor of horticulture at Texas Tech, said she started growing onions about four years ago, hoping to alter the amount of biomass in an onion to better suit growth on space shuttles.

The program is called "Spicing up Space," and it now can recommend to NASA how to grow onions on space shuttles.

NASA gave a \$1.3 million grant, Peffley said, for the plant part of "Spicing up Space."

"We were the first to work with onions," she said.

Peffley said NASA wants the most biomass in a specific area, so the bulb onion is not a good use of space.

Amanda Broome, a horticulture graduate student from Tyler, said the onions are moved from the greenhouse to environmental growth chambers where researchers can monitor light, temperature, relative humidity and carbon dioxide.

Broome said one of the goals of

the project is to give NASA a set parameter for growing onions, which will determine how many astronauts can be fed per harvest.

Astronauts usually do not get to eat natural food while in space, she said.

Space shuttles have an elevated carbon dioxide level, Broome said, and so far an increased carbon dioxide level has raised onion production by 20 percent.

However, the carbon dioxide level could get too high, causing stunted growth.

"(Astronauts) really miss being with plants. Plants are a connection back to the earth."

— ELLEN PEFFLEY
Professor of Horticulture

Peffley said the onions are grown in a water nutrient solution.

Growing onions will be beneficial in space, she said, because they have a distinct flavor and can spice up the typical space menu.

Peffley also said in space, astronaut's taste buds are less sensitive, and onions will add a lot more flavor to their diet.

Another benefit onions have for

astronauts, she said, is having plants on a gray space shuttle, and currently they even take grass seeds to grow in space.

"(Astronauts) really miss being with plants," Peffley said. "Plants are a connection back to earth."

Peffley said after the Columbia space shuttle exploded two years ago, NASA stopped all scientific experiments.

Now, the space shuttle has more safety features, making less space for experiments. Plus, to make an addition to a shuttle, such as a vegetable garden, some other item has to go.

"People wait years to get their one experiment in the shuttle," she said.

James Smith, director for the Center for Space Sciences, said NASA is interested in what food can be grown on shuttles.

They previously have looked at tomatoes, lettuce and soybeans as possible space plants.

"It's going to boil down to a matter of space," he said.

Broome said she received a \$24,000 fellowship from NASA through the Kennedy Space Center in July 2004 for her part in the research.

Part of the \$24,000 has gone toward tuition and fees, she said, and the other half helps with purchases that support the onion research.

Broome said graduate students



AMANDA BROOME, A horticulture graduate student from Tyler, stands beside an environmental growth chamber, in the horticulture greenhouse Friday afternoon. Broome was given a \$24,000 grant from NASA to study hydroponically grown onions for use on either the moon or Mars within the next 20 years.

who apply must give a proposal explaining the experiments they are conducting, and she has already re-applied for the 2005-2006 academic year.

"I didn't know if I would get it or

not," she said. In the future, she said she wants to work at Kennedy Space Center or any other NASA job.

"I don't think we would have made the progress we've been mak-

ing without Amanda heading it up," Peffley said.

The United States is planning to land on the moon in 2015, she said, and a landing on Mars in 2025 or 2030.

Military dismantling Cold War radar systems in Maine, Oregon

MOSCOW, Maine (AP) — It's a dinosaur of the Cold War: a three-mile-long radar system spread across hundreds of rural acres and designed to detect Soviet bombers screaming across the Atlantic.

When operational, it could monitor a massive swath of ocean and warn of a threat 1,700 miles away — leaving plenty of time to scramble U.S. military jets in response.

But like warhead silos and other relics of the post-World War

II arms race, the military is scrapping the wire-and-steel monolith and offering the expanse of land to private industry.

"The world changed," said Steve Hinds, manager of the OTH-B radar program at Air Combat Command, which oversees U.S. fighter and bomber wings. "This will not be used for what it was intended. Ever."

The backscatter radar in Maine, and a similar system reaching out into the Pacific from Oregon, could bounce a beam off the

ionosphere, which sent a scattered detection signal back to the Earth's surface. The systems were so sensitive, they could note changes in ocean currents.

The radar in Maine, nestled in the woods in a place that bears little resemblance to the Russian capital for which the nearby town

was named, cost \$1.5 billion to develop. It was operational for a mere year in early 1990, before being mothballed in favor of more advanced Navy technology.

The Air Force maintained the ability to restart the radars until late last year, when dismantling of both got under way.

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How far have we come?

Feminism has made strides, but not quite enough

In the midst of Women's History Month, I encourage you to practice abstinence. Say no to Dick and Bush, and don't forget to head to the library to read up on the latest accomplishments of women.

Robin Milstead



So here's the point: Feminism was created so women know who they are, where they come from and as a reminder that when things are going wrong, you turn to sisters and brothers who share your pain.

OK, so all jokes aside and with all our cards on the table, how far has feminism really taken us? Women's History Month is a time to celebrate, reminisce and plan for the future, but what are we really planning for?

Early in 2003, *The New York Times* printed an article titled "The War Against Women" which stated "Tommy Thompson, the secretary of health and human services, was following the same drumbeat when he made 'unborn children' rather than pregnant women eligible for coverage under the Children's Health Insurance Program."

The article continued to remind us on the first day of Dubya's presidency, he reinstated the global "gag" rule that "bars health providers receiving American family planning assistance from counseling women about abortion, engaging political services, even with their own money."

This is just scratching the surface of the wiped-out lottery ticket held by this gambling administration — that we as women have allowed to happen.

So where does feminism, that dirty 'F' word, fit into all of this? Well, feminists' reproductive success had a huge gain in 1973 with *Roe v. Wade*. Since then, they have been clinging onto it with all their strength and with the same old tactics. While many women morphed into a united front for that cause — yes, our mothers and grandmothers — today, feminism seems to have divided women.

What have we done, especially here in Texas, when pharmacies in Plano, other small towns and beyond, are denying women birth control because pharmacists don't get that warm and fuzzy feeling inside that some call being moral? We watch the news, we are shocked and then we start our day again.

It doesn't seem to bother many of us that insurance companies will cover Viagra but less than 50 percent will cover birth control. Or how about that necessary evil, Wal-Mart? They refuse to sell emergency contraception but are OK with Viagra.

It's a shame the day we protected our donor United Supermarkets when they refused to sell tickets under Select-A-Seat for "Vagina Monologues." Vagina is a sick and offensive word, yet all women have one and all the money went to the Rape Crisis Center. Instead of raising this point, we stood behind our men, giving them the benefit of the doubt. We claim, "Well, maybe they just didn't know." Right.

Dark clouds cover campuses the day sororities refuse to associate with any feminist organization. Who do they think founded their organization in response to male fraternities? Feminists.

The same goes for the feminists in their "radical" clothing who judge women who choose to wear a little more make-up and sport their letters. Isn't that what feminists fought for, the ability of women to be who they want to be?

How about feminists and unbelievers alike getting a teaching

certificate so no matter where their husband goes they can always have a job, if they need one? Nothing against teachers, as my mom is one, but don't forget these days, there is always alternative certification if your true career doesn't work out.

In the most recent election, more women voted for "American Idol" than in the general election. They must have forgotten about our great-grandmothers who fought so hard for our right to bubble in Democrat, Republican, Green Party and so on.

While I owe so much to the invention of women's studies, what has sitting in those classes semester after semester taught me? Well, many would say I bought "gender glasses."

I can point out sexism from any angle. I can see the injustices of our world, and I can't ignore them. I can write a darn good research paper on female sexuality and the romanticism of rape in literature, and I hate every minute of it.

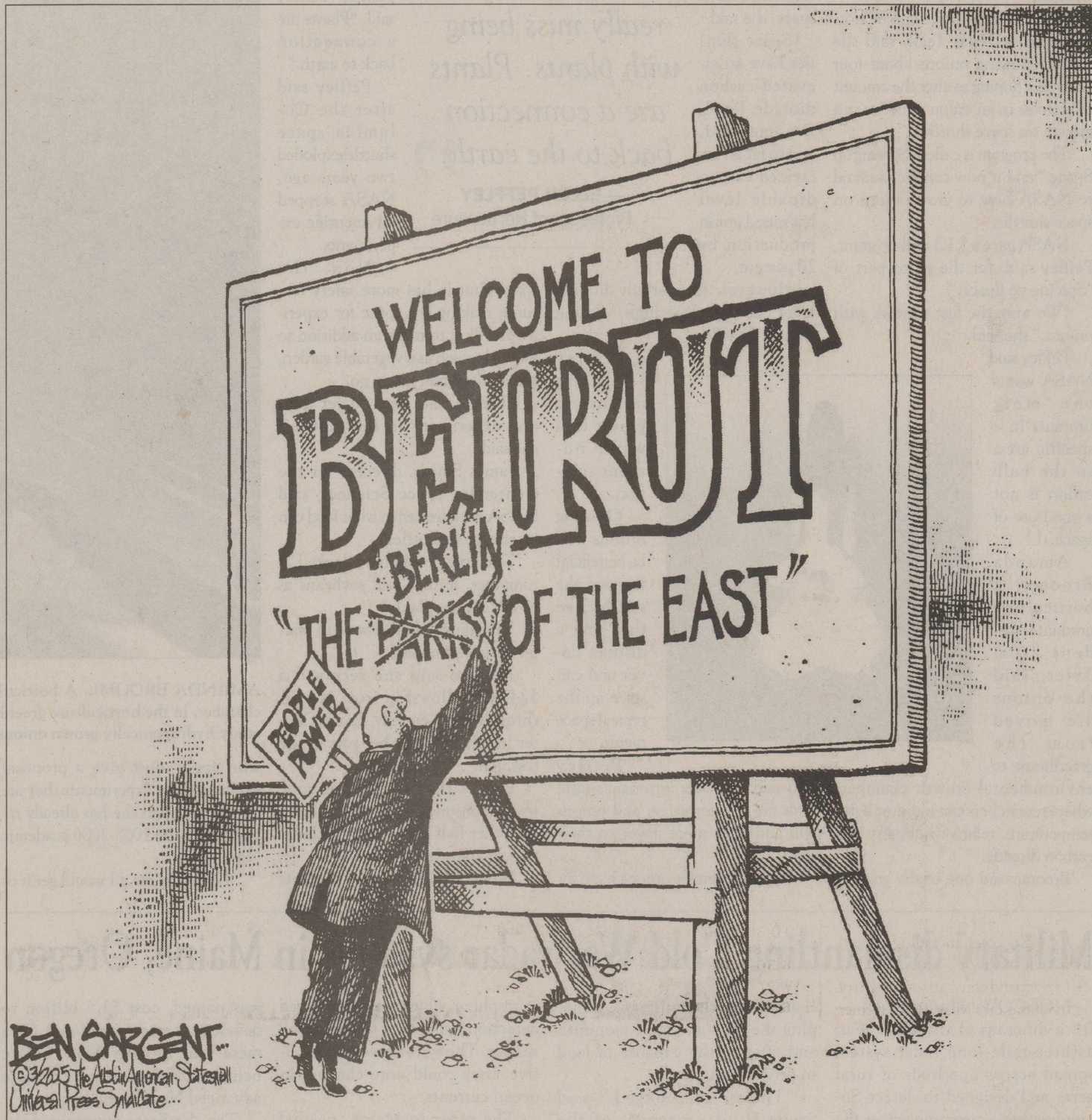
I want to return those glasses. They give me migraines. Were there any classes titled women running for campaigns, women and money, women and negotiation or how about women dealing with men who think we all belong in the kitchen?

Feminism — well, it's a catch-22. When we give ourselves a voice and demand better for our daughters than we have, we are difficult. When we are quiet and stand by our man, we are controlled. When we think Bill O'Reilly is sometimes right, we are wishy-washy liberals. When we don't vote straight Republican, we are traitors. So where does feminism stand? Well, you are either with 'em or against 'em.

So here's the point: Feminism was created so women know who they are, where they come from and as a reminder that when things are going wrong, you turn to sisters and brothers who share your pain.

Like I said, it's a catch-22, so you decide — because feminism fought for you to make that decision.

■ Milstead is a senior English major from Houston. E-mail her at robin.c.milstead@ttu.edu.



Bush's big hammer of freedom nails the Middle East

All action brings about change. Some good, some bad. Does the Bush administration deserve credit, then, for the apparent great changes in the Middle East of which we might be on the verge?

Bush and his team are the original bulls in the china shop. To the extent that, in that part of the world, any change would be good, then yes, some credit is deserved.

It goes to show no matter how badly you mislead the American people, regardless of how god-awful your plan for rebuilding the country you've occupied, it's hard to screw up the appeal American ideals have to people around the world. Even people oppressed and ground down by the weight of tyranny and religious zealotry.

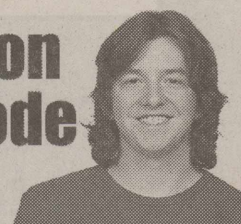
By American ideals, I mean the appeal of human ideals — freedom, rule of law, tolerance — have to people around the world.

What's truly impressive about the developments of the last four weeks — Lebanon on the edge of a political turnover, a successful election in Iraq, possible new hopes for peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis — is not how the Bush administration brought them about through some sort of genius planning.

It instead is how America is, for the moment, appearing to once again change the world for the better, regardless of the incompetent and occasional criminal bungling of its leaders.

But — and here's where I have to give the president credit — the steadfast application of American force, in an area of the world that, sadly, seems only to understand brute strength as an argument, may be enough to help win the day for our friends and harm our enemies. If Leonard Nimoy's famous proverb "Only Nixon

Jason Rhode



The scandals at Abu Ghraib and all the other plots and petty underhanded dealings of the crooks in the White House couldn't stop the appeal of freedom to Iraqis. Again, more credit to America and less to her president. They're voting for freedom, not Dick Cheney.

could go to China" still holds some water, maybe "Only Bush could go to the desert" will remain true for our time. Maybe.

What a surprise that would be. The scandals at Abu Ghraib and all the other plots and petty underhanded dealings of the crooks in the White House couldn't stop the appeal of freedom to Iraqis. Again, more credit to America and less to its president. They're voting for freedom, not Dick Cheney.

But if this administration, after all its dark ways, falls backward into real, positive change in the Mideast, not only will it prove Bush is the luckiest human being ever to live, but it will be the greatest miracle since manna in the desert, or at least

since Marisa Tomei won her Oscar. It would mean, as they say, a blind pig can find an acorn.

So given this war had a birth that was misconceived and a delivery that, at least on the planning scale, seems painfully botched, what are we doing right? Why do we seem to be, as Thomas Friedman wrote in *The New York Times*, on the verge of not one, but three tipping points in the Middle East?

First, the successful elections in Iraq with 8 million votes cast.

This, as Friedman points out, has recast the story there from the conventional tale of an occupying force of lessening resolve fighting against a vigorous insurgency to the much more interesting — and true — drama of an Iraqi people trying to build a country with our help.

Second, the way in which the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has opened the way for his successor, Mahmoud Abbas, to make possible peace with Israel.

Third, Lebanon — which went nuts after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri (probably by Syria, the country that occupies it) and has been carrying out an inspiring and largely peaceful revolution ever since. Lebanon has been silent under Syrian occupation for 30 years — and now, no longer.

Are all three of these amazing changes results of America's influence?

Well, I suspect regardless of America's involvement in Iraq, the new Palestinian leadership would have made a play for some kind of peace overture. The degree might have varied, but it still would have been there. Who can say, though? However, certainly the momentous turnouts in Iraq and Lebanon are direct corollaries of our presence there.

The reason? Culture determines how we respond to action. And, yes, regardless of the power of American values, Bush and Mideast culture are apparently an unusually good fit.

What we've been seeing around the world is how every other country responds to this activist United States. We saw this happen last week, when Bush tried to lecture "Czar of all Russias" Vladimir Putin on how great democracy is and got a sneer as thanks. Bush won't make Russia reform, because it's Russia and they need a different treatment — what that is, I don't know.

And the Bush Steamroller sure didn't work in Europe, by a mile; basically what Europe's always wanted is for us to pretend like they matter and humor them, which we're only doing just now.

You can't strong-arm them, and the White House was moronic to try. But the Middle East understands a different kind of language; that is, the idiocy of sheer force. Which is the natural idiom of the White House at this time. It wouldn't work anywhere else. Wouldn't play in Asia or Europe. But it seems — seems being the key word — to be working in the desert.

The sort of serendipity here is too incredible to be random. It's as if the Great Architect of the Universe had made plans a millenia ago to craft Bush and the Near East together to fit perfectly, like overlapping fingers, like glasses and the nose they sit on; the Mideast was waiting until, like a drunk staggering home, the Bush administration, with its disregard for habeas corpus, human rights, and international law, ambled and stumbled into the embrace of history.

Here comes your man. There's also the old maxim about how to someone who has a hammer, every problem looks like a nail. All Bush has ever had in his toolbox is a hammer. But perhaps the Middle East is the place where that finally succeeds.

■ Rhode is a senior philosophy major from Lubbock. E-mail him at jasonrhode@gmail.com.

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Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification and submission.

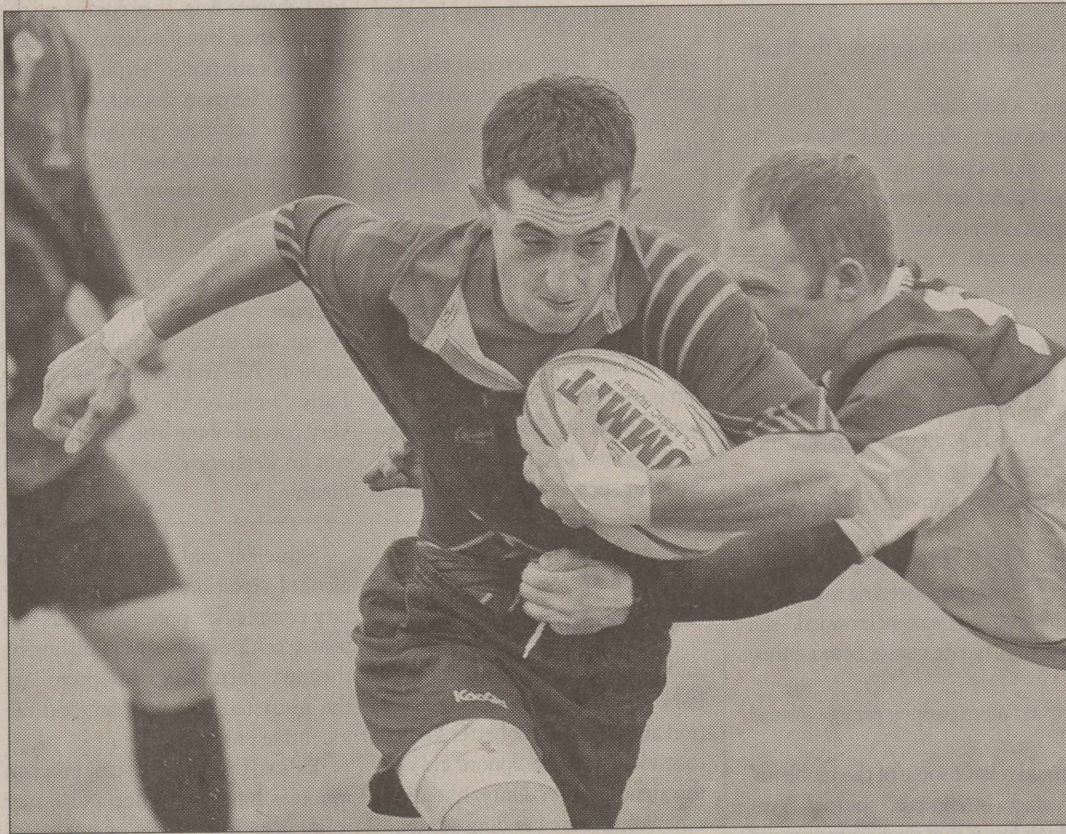
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RUGBY RUMBLE



CHARLIE GREMILLION, A junior exercise and sport sciences major from Katy, breaks a tackle in a game against Angelo State at the Tech rugby field Sunday. Tech lost the game, 15-5, but will advance to the western finals in Greeley, Colo., April 2-3. Tech is ranked No. 2 and, at 11-1, has the best record in the Texas Rugby Union.

STEVE LEWIS/The University Daily

Bush pardons bootlegger, seven others

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush pardoned eight people, including a man convicted of bootlegging 45 years ago, the Justice Department announced Friday.

The first round of clemency in Bush's second term brings his total to 39 pardons and sentence commutations.

Bush's father, President George H.W. Bush, issued 77 pardons during his term from 1989 to 1993, according to statistics collected by the University of Pittsburgh law school.

President Clinton, by contrast, granted clemency to 456 people during his eight years, including 176 on his last day at the White House. One of those was the contentious pardon of fugitive financier Marc Rich, former husband of Democratic Party donor Denise Rich.

Proverbs 1:5 A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel. Suggested Daily Proverbs 3/7-Pr: 7:4-5 3/8-Pr: 8:1,4 • 3/9-Pr: 9:1,3 3/10-Pr: 10:3 • 3/11-Pr: 11:3 sponsored by CFS • www.leader.org

Most presidents since the beginning of the 20th century have granted hundreds if not thousands of pardons and sentence commutations, led by Franklin D. Roosevelt's 3,687 during his four terms. Only two presidents never granted clemency: James Garfield and William H. Harrison. Both died before serving a year in office.

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Shooting kills two on Mexican border

NUEVO LAREDO, Mexico (AP) — A gunman on a bicycle opened fire on a group of men in a parked car and two bystanders in this border city, killing two people and wounding a third, investigators said Saturday.

The killings took place around 11:30 p.m. Friday in the Colonia Victoria neighborhood, said Juan Antonio Varela, head of the ministerial police for Nuevo Leon state, which includes Nuevo Laredo.

He said a group of young men was drinking beer and smoking marijuana in a parked car when an assailant pedaled up and started shooting. Witnesses said he targeted passengers in the car as well as a couple that was standing nearby.

A 24-year-old man in the car was shot six times in the face, neck and shoulder and died immediately. Another passenger, age 22, sustained two gunshot wounds to the chest and died while being treated at the city's General Hospital. Police said he was carrying a bag of marijuana at the time of his death.

A third victim, identified by police as 19-year-old Cipriano Jimenez, from the Gulf Coast state

of Veracruz, was injured by a bullet that struck him in the left arm. Varela said Jimenez was standing with his girlfriend near the parked car when the shooting began.

Early Saturday, police arrested two unidentified men and were working to link them to the shooting, Varela said.

The two deaths bring to 18 the number of people shot and killed in ambush-styled attacks in Nuevo Laredo so far this year. The city is across the border from Laredo.

The border region in Mexico's northeast has seen an increase in drug-related slayings after the area's alleged drug lord, Osiel Cardenas, was arrested in 2003 in the border city of Matamoros.

Authorities say the violence has intensified in recent months because another reputed drug lord, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, has been fighting smugglers loyal to Cardenas to gain access to the drug smuggling routes in Nuevo Laredo.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS
1 \$ dispensers
5 Early computer language
10 Fashion
14 Gravy server
15 Oranjestad's country
16 Cain's brother
17 Singer James
18 Conjuraton
20 Offshoot group
21 Overhead RRs
22 Chorus voices
23 Flings
25 "Finding ___"
27 References
29 Cinch
33 ___ out (declined)
34 Dashed
35 Falco of "The Sopranos"
36 Singer
37 DiFranco
38 Mike or Helmut
40 Undivided
41 Parts of a min.
43 Goes in a hurry
44 Tower of ___
46 Participate
48 Those who make a bundle?
49 Cooking fat
50 Gulf of Mex. neighbor
51 "U Don't Have to Call" singer
54 Half the UAR
55 Composer Khachaturian
58 Cinematic weeper
61 California valley
62 Pre-Easter period
63 Three on a par five
64 MBA course
65 Throws in
66 Divided into sectors
67 Vaudeville bit
DOWN
1 Vigoda and Lincoln
2 Lug along
3 Sulphur-tipped splinter
4 Legislative act
5 Bactrian and dromedary
6 Face-to-face exams
7 Insects
8 Kimono sash
9 Fond du ___ WI
10 Chandler's private eye
11 Final notice?
12 Art ___
13 Wapitis
19 Bring to heel
24 Scarlet and crimson
25 Nostril
26 ___ out a living (scrapped by)
27 L'chaim, e.g.
28 Sleep disorder
29 Celestial transient
30 Homemade building block
31 Vacation boat
32 Hull stabilizers
34 "The ___ Man"
38 Burn slightly
39 Skier's lift
42 Picks out
45 Cover names
47 City oasis
48 Spoke sharply
50 Periodical sequence
51 Bruins' sch.
52 Tool building
53 Posterior
54 Talk with one's hands
56 Mine in Marseilles
57 Money factory
59 Tasseled hat
60 Thai Buddhist

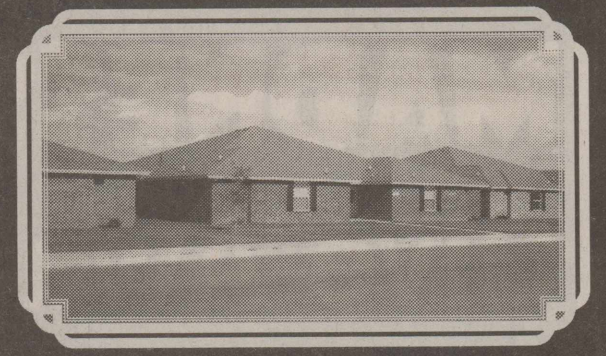
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A NIGHT IN AFRICA

CELEBRATING CULTURE

By Jeremy Martin/
The University Daily

Christianah Layode is from Nigeria, but she said despite what many students may think, she grew up in a house, not a hut. She was not an underprivileged child on a late-night television commercial with her face covered in flies and her ribs poking at her skin. She had a swimming pool.

Layode, a junior chemistry major, said people often judge her based on negative and false stereotypes about Africa.

"When I was a freshman, somebody asked me, 'Do you guys actually live in trees?'" she said. "They asked me, 'Do you have a pet leopard?' We're normal people, you know. I don't live in a zoo."

Layode is a member of the African Student Organization. On Friday, the organization presented "A Night in Africa," a celebration of traditional and contemporary African culture.

The show also was an attempt to educate people and put an end to these negative stereotypes.

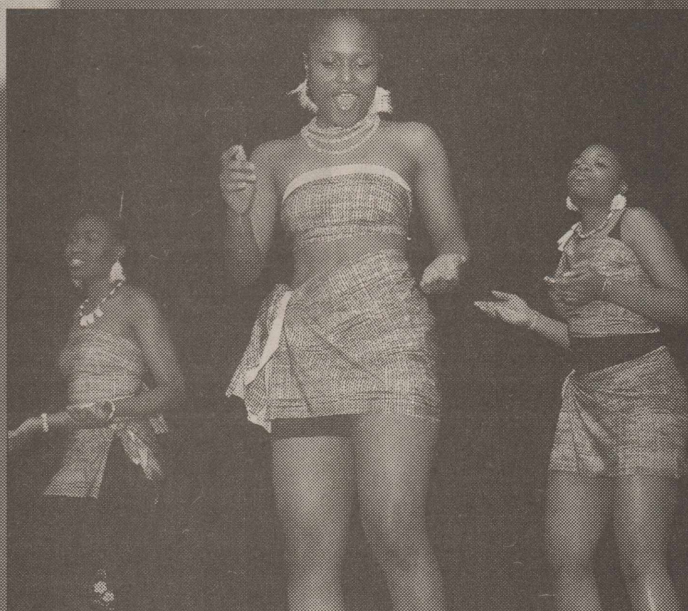
The organization's president, Bertrand Affanaambomo, said one of the most common false beliefs people have is that Africa is one country, and the same throughout the region. In fact, Africa is a continent full of diverse people and geography.

Affanaambomo, a senior petroleum engineering major from Cameroon, said many people have an image of Africa they got from documentaries on cable television about the poorest regions.

"They think it's like the Discovery Channel," he said, "people living in forests and dancing around naked."

Friday's program included an extensive fashion show, displaying both traditional and contemporary clothing worn in African countries. The presentation also included an informational program featuring the native countries of students in the organization, poetry readings, dance routines and a skit which took a humorous look at the stereotypes students from Africa face.

Jackie Garza, a sophomore communications



VANESSA VELA/The University Daily
MEMBERS OF THE African Student Organization dance to native music of Africa during Friday night's presentation of "Night in Africa."

major from San Antonio said she came to the program to see one of her friends perform but left a little more enlightened than she came in.

"The skit was cute," she said. "I learned a little bit more about the culture."

Affanaambomo said the purpose of the evening was to entertain but also to educate. The organization wanted to provide a positive image of Africa to contrast the depressing depiction people often see on television and in movies.

"In some parts of Africa people do still live in forests, but that's only the poorest places," he said. "They always show the negative on TV. We wanted to bring out the good stuff."

He said, perhaps contrary to what many people believe, there are cities in Africa full of skyscrapers, just like in the United States.

There also are many different ethnic groups and

countries in Africa. People there speak in French, English and Arabic, not clicks and pops.

Layode said she wants people to know she loves her native land. She did not come to America because it is a better country, but to diversify her education. While she acknowledged the African continent has many problems such as overpopulation and an HIV epidemic, she noted people often focus so much on the negative they cannot see the positive side of things.

She compared the many documentaries and commercials about hungry children to judging the United States based on footage of its poorest ghettos. She also encouraged people to visit Nigeria and other countries to experience them firsthand.

"I tell everybody they have to go study abroad," she said. "Think outside of America. Don't just watch TV and think that's all there is out there."

Patrick Udoewa, a junior advertising major from Houston, is a member of the African Student Organization because his parents came from Nigeria. He takes pride in his heritage and said others with African roots should do the same.

But sometimes, he said, he thinks the image of the primitive, poverty-stricken African discourages students from taking pride in their ancestry.

"I hope people got educated here tonight," he said. "On campus, there's a lot of people of African ethnicity who won't claim it."

Have a story or event you want covered? E-mail lifestyles@universitydaily.net

How prison helped Martha Stewart design new image

NEW YORK (AP) — At trial, she came off as Mean Martha: rude, demanding, cheap, the kind of person who would threaten to pull her business from a brokerage because she didn't like the music she heard when her call was on hold.

Then she went to prison and turned into St. Martha: advocate for the oppressed, friend to the lonely and forager for wild greens to spice up the jailhouse food. On Friday, her first day outside the lockup, she waved graciously, chatted amiably and served hot cocoa to the press.

The transformation of Martha Stewart's image dates to five months ago, when she called a news conference to announce she was reporting to prison early, despite a pending legal appeal.

Wearing a white suit against a backdrop of color swatches, Stewart projected a change in attitude that has helped repair her reputation and propel her company forward again.

"Going to jail was a good thing," says Paul Argenti, a professor at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth. "She had to do that, and fighting it was a bad idea."

Indeed, stock prices for Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, which had lagged, quickly doubled. And as she worked off time in a West Virginia prison, scrubbing floors and picking dandelion greens, she found herself popular enough to be given starring roles in two upcoming TV shows.

"The thing about Americans is we like throwing you to the ground, and making you cry uncle," image consultant Eric Dezenhall said. "But if you do cry uncle we'll let you up."

Stewart's tasteful, if chilly, image had taken a beating in trial testimony. Jurors laughed when Douglas Faneuil, an assistant to Stewart's stockbroker, told the court she went into a tirade when she was put on hold, complaining about how bad the music was and threatening to leave if it was not changed.

The daily news coverage of her entering the courthouse, accompanied by details about her pricey handbags or stylish heels, didn't help.

"People already knew she was a perfectionist," said Melissa Click, a research instructor at the University of Missouri-Columbia who is writing a book about Stewart. "But they didn't necessarily want to hear that

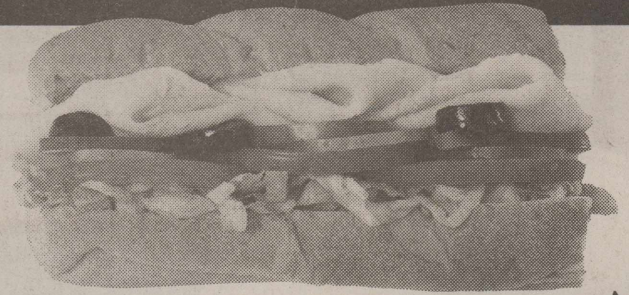
she was mean."

When she was sentenced in July, an unrepentant Stewart said her "small personal matter" had become "an almost fatal circus event of unprecedented proportions." She also took the opportunity to boldly pitch her products and magazine.

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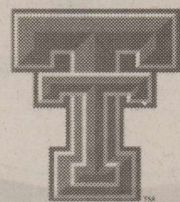


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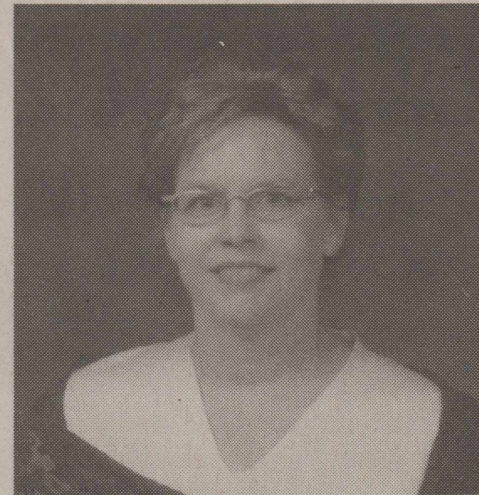


The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal




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Linda Wickersham - Lubbock High School
Becky Weatherly - Monterey High School
Christina Barela - Atkins Junior High
Jennifer Brown - Cavazos Junior High
Dennis May - Dunbar Junior High

Cindi Newlin - Irons Junior High
Connie Avery - Hutchinson Junior High
Randy Rushing - Mackenzie Junior High
Shannon O'Pry - O.L. Slaton Junior High
Gerry Wolf - Smylie Wilson Junior High

Chili stays 'Cool' in recycled sequel

The opening scene of "Be Cool" finds John Travolta's Miami loan shark-turned Hollywood movie producer, Chili Palmer, complaining about sequels. He's also annoyed a PG-13 movie only can use the F-word once. So immediately he burns up this film's only chance to say it.

The scene actually is poking fun at the film itself, which is what the entire film is doing. "Be Cool" is a PG-13, 10-years-later sequel to "Get Shorty," a hip, smart, R-rated comedy with an acid tongue and undying adoration for Hollywood. "Get Shorty" found loan shark Chili Palmer, a huge movie buff, deciding to get into the movie business and leave his leg-breaking, head-busting career behind.

In this sequel, Chili has grown bored with the movie business — because it is just that, a business — and decides to tackle the music industry. After his music producer friend, Tommy (James Woods) is gunned down, Chili pairs up with Tommy's wife, Edie (a sex-saturated

James Eppler



"Be Cool" does, however, trip up at times. An Aerosmith concert scene is eye-roll worthy, some of the thugs that are supposed to be threatening feel cartoonish and the awards show ending feels too trite.

Uma Thurman) to help him launch the career of a new discovery, Linda Moon (Christina Milian).

Chili will have to wiggle Linda out of the grasp of her producer, Nick Carr (Harvey Keitel), her manager, Raji (Vince Vaughn), and Raji's bodyguard, Eliot (The Rock).

Meanwhile, Edie's production company is being hassled by a gang, led by Sin LaSalle (Cedric the Entertainer) who says she owes him a stack of cash.

There also are the gangsters who killed Tommy and still proving to be a problem for Chili.

Most of this should sound familiar to "Get Shorty" fans.

"Be Cool" has a counterpart for nearly every character in "Get Shorty," Thurman subs in for Gene Hackman, Cedric the Entertainer plays Delroy Lindo's part, The Rock is in for James Gandolfini, and Aerosmith's Steven Tyler replaces Danny DeVito.

There also are references to and rehashes of key scenes and lines of dialogue from the first film that are glaringly obvious to "Get Shorty" fans.

It shouldn't work at all, but "Be Cool" knows exactly what it is doing. The film serves as a clever parody of itself, and other meaningless sequels that actually take themselves seriously.

Plus, "Be Cool" throws in some hilarious characters played by talented actors — most of which are playing against type.

Vaughn earns consistent big laughs as Raji, a bling-covered poser



UMA THURMAN AND John Travolta engage in a "Pulp Fiction" dance floor romp in the film "Be Cool," the 10-years-later sequel to "Get Shorty."

who wishes he were black.

Even better is The Rock, who dons his bad-boy wrestling façade and plays a gay bodyguard who sings, but really wants to act. A scene finding The Rock reciting a monologue from the film "Bring it On" as an audition piece is hilarious. It almost makes me want to take him off probation for "Walking Tall."

Watch, also, for Outkast member Andre 3000 as the leader of hip-hop group "Dub MDs." He's a hard-core gangster who sips tea out his cup with his pinkie sticking up.

Travolta, 51, has not outgrown his coolness, even when I feared he had with embarrassing career-killers

like "Battlefield Earth" and "The Punisher." Here, Travolta slips back into his post "Pulp Fiction" groove.

Speaking of which, there's several "Fiction" references in "Be Cool," with no less than four cast members that were involved with "Fiction," another Travolta/Thurman dance floor romp, and a character named Pumpkin — a sly reference to die-hard fans.

"Be Cool," does, however, trip up at times. An Aerosmith concert scene is eye-roll worthy, some of the thugs that are supposed to feel threatening feel cartoon-ish, and the awards show ending feels too trite.

Nope, "Be Cool" is nowhere

near as smooth and stylish as "Get Shorty." But it's not trying to be.

"Be Cool" is another example of some A-list actors getting together to have fun making a sequel, much like "Ocean's Twelve." The difference: "Be Cool" is smart, much more entertaining, and sets out to parody movies like itself.

Now isn't that cool?

EPPLER'S RATING:



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

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The University Daily
March 7, 2005

SPORTS SPECIAL SECTION

MADNESS OF MARCH



Photo by
Linc Arnes/
The University
Daily

Red Raiders march into Big 12 Tournney following Knight's largest home loss

By Joey Kirk/The University Daily



exas Tech knew the game was over when Oklahoma forward Taj Gray took a leap over Joey Hawkins for an alley-oop dunk midway through the second half, putting the Sooners ahead by 14 points.

From that point on, Oklahoma stretched its lead to 20, ending in a 74-54 victory Saturday at the United Spirit Arena for the Red Raiders' second home loss of the regular season.

The 20-point loss marks the worst at home since coach Bob Knight took over in the 2001-2002 season. But Tech (18-9, 10-6 Big 12) was able to clinch the fourth seed and a first-round bye in the conference tournament, which begins Thursday in Kansas City, Mo.

It is the highest seed the Raiders have earned since the Big 12 conference was established in 1996.

Trailing by one at halftime, Tech failed to convert on its first six possessions of the second half, allowing the Sooners a 12-0 run.

Knight said the missed shots early in the second half was the turning point of the game.

"We did the same thing today what we did a week ago at A&M, and that reduced the game to 20 minutes, and we got hammered in those 20 minutes," he said. "It's like we were just dominated in that 20-minute period. In two minutes we went from 2 down to 10 down."

Against Texas A&M Feb. 26, the Raiders led 35-34 at the half before losing by 22 points in College Station.

Even after Saturday's loss, Knight was pleased with some things his team did, including finishing fourth in the conference.

"I think that, hopefully at some point, I'd like to be able to look back on this regular season feeling that we had some sense of accomplishment," he said. "We did a couple of things that we haven't done before."

Another notch Tech can etch in its record book is that it won 10 conference games, only the second time the Raiders have done so since Knight came to Lubbock.

Guard Ronald Ross finished with 14 points to lead the Raiders, and he said he was disappointed with the closing game of the regular season — especially being his last as a senior.

"It was tough because you come put in a lot of work, and you're so acquainted with everybody in this area," he said. "And the last game you don't want to go out like that."

With the senior day festivities happening after the game, Ross said it was hard to be honored after losing by 20 points.

"We had some bad losses, and when we lose, it's usually not too good," he said.

During the course of the season, Tech has suffered its biggest regular season loss to Iowa in Chicago Dec. 21, 83-53. On Feb. 19, the Raiders dropped behind by 29 points to Oklahoma State in Stillwater, Okla.

BIG 12 continued on page 2B

Texas Tech REGULAR SEASON

This season marked the second time the Red Raiders have won 10 conference games since Bob Knight became coach in 2001.

Basketball

BIG 12 TOURNAMENT

The Texas Tech men's basketball team qualified for the No. 4 seed in the Big 12 Conference tournament.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Watch ESPN on Selection Sunday for the status of Tech's postseason tournament schedule and matchups.

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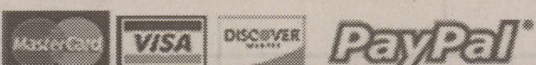
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Big 12

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

The lack of intensity on the court is why Tech has lost big in many of its games, Ross said.

"There's no need in showing up if you're not gonna want it as much as the other team," he said.

Big 12, NCAA Tournaments

No Texas Tech player or coach had answers after the 20-point loss to Oklahoma Saturday evening.

Getting ready for the Big 12 Tournament in Kansas City, Mo., which begins Thursday, is in the thoughts of the Red Raiders. Ross said he does not know what is going to happen.

"If I had the answer to that, I would tell y'all," he said. "We gotta have our good team show up and stop having our bad team show up."

Foreign affairs could be solved if Knight had the solution to winning a conference championship.

"If I knew that, I'd be talking to George Bush right now," he said. "Because it would be a little bit more important to help him than it would turning the team around, if I was capable of doing that."

With No. 7 Kansas losing to Missouri Sunday and No. 8 Oklahoma State falling to Texas Saturday, Oklahoma's win Saturday against the Red Raiders puts it atop the Big 12 standings.

Sooner coach Kelvin Sampson is proud of what his team has accomplished thus far this season. Oklahoma has had nine consecutive NCAA tournament appearances since Sampson began in 1994, with the exception of last season when the Sooners went to the NIT tournament.

Sampson said his program is used to being a powerhouse in the Big 12 and in the nation, and this year should be no different.

"This program is used to being at this point in March," he said. "We're really looking forward to March. You want to play your best basketball of the year in March."

Tech earned itself a No. 4 seed in the conference tournament, the highest since Knight began in 2001.

But Ross said he has not caught March Madness because he believes it does not come until after Tech finishes the Big 12 tournament.

"Not yet," Ross said. "I was thinking about it a little bit, but I'm sure after the Big 12 tournament is over with, I'm gonna be pretty

hyped about it."

The Raiders will not find out whether they made the 64-team roster for the NCAA tournament until selection night, which is Sunday after the Big 12 Championship game.

Even that will not stop Ross from keeping his focus on this week's conference tournament though.

"We can't put too much emphasis on (the NCAA tournament)," he said.

With preparation and practice for both the Big 12 and NCAA tournament, Ross said he hopes Tech will gain more experience out from its possible accomplishments.

"We have to prepare ourselves because we want to have some success," he said. "If we're just gonna let it all go to waste, we're gonna have to change that so it doesn't happen."

Forward Curtis Marshall said the team has to come together in the next few weeks to gain that success Ross describes.

"We have to get on each other every time it happens," he said.

March is upon the basketball season, and tournament time is here. Hopefully for Tech's sake, Knight and his team can solve the problems it has faced this season to achieve what the players wish.

Softball team splits four games in weekend tourney

By Anne Gepford/The University Daily

Weather in Lubbock did it again as the Texas Tech softball team played four of six scheduled games in a tournament this weekend.

The Red Raiders went 2-2 this weekend, making them 8-8 on the season.

In game one, Tech faced off against No. 38 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. In a 2-0 loss, the game remained scoreless until the top of the sixth inning, where the Islanders were able to make a play against junior pitcher Erin Crawford.

In Friday's game against UC-Riverside, freshman Jennifer Corkin gave Tech an early start with a three-run home run in the first inning. In the bottom of the fourth, the Raiders were able to score six more before

the game was called because of rain at the top of the fifth inning.

The 10-2 win was the first home win for the Raiders.

Saturday brought a second home win for Tech against New Mexico, as sophomore Ashley Parker went three for four. The Raiders were able to bring six across the plate in the first inning. Tech added two more in the sixth to make the game 8-0.

The rest of Saturday's tournament schedule was canceled because of rain.

Sunday morning the Raiders resumed play against UC Riverside, and this time fell 5-3, as senior Natalie Enderlin went two for three at the plate with 2 RBIs.

Tech next travels to the Wichita State Tournament March 11-13.

No. 1 Illinois loses undefeated record

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — For the first time this season Illinois has to bounce back from a loss.

Ohio State reserve forward Matt Sylvester hit a 3-pointer with 5.1 seconds left on Sunday to hand the top-ranked Illini their first defeat, 65-64.

The Illini (29-1, 15-1) were trying to cap the Big Ten's first unbeaten season in 29 years. Instead, they frittered away a 12-point lead in the second half and didn't score over the final 3 minutes.

"Everyone says a loss will help. We'll find out," coach Bruce Weber said. "We'll learn from it and move on. This next

stretch is the most important of the year and that's what people are going to remember."

Sylvester scored a career-high 25 points — eight more than his previous best — for a team that was banned by its own administrators from the postseason two months ago to mitigate possible NCAA violations committed under former coach Jim O'Brien.

"We were in the huddle and Coach told us, 'We're not going halfway. We're going for the win,'" Sylvester said.

First-year coach Thad Matta drew up a play in which center Terence Dials set a pick and rolled to the

basket and guard Tony Stockman was used as a decoy. The Illini bit on the deception.

"As we left the huddle, Matt said, 'I'll make the shot,'" Matta said. "And he did."

Ohio State (19-12, 8-8), a team with problems all year hanging onto the ball, didn't have a turnover in the second half. The Illini, who had hurdled tough games in loud environments all season, had seven turnovers after halftime.

"We didn't take care of the ball and they made all the plays at the end," Illinois center Jack Ingram said. "They won it."













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BATTLE CRY

Lady Raiders ready to roar in postseason

By David Wiechmann/The University Daily



The Lady Raiders are headed to Kansas City, Mo., for the Big 12 Conference Tournament and will go to battle in Municipal Auditorium. No. 13 Texas Tech will have to bring the warrior mentality coach Marsha Sharp talks about, and she hopes her team's battle cry can be heard loud and clear on the quest for a conference tournament title.

"We're just excited to play. Wherever we have to go, we will, and see if we can make some noise," Sharp said.

Her squad made noise throughout the regular season as one of the top offenses and defenses in the nation. Four players averaged double-figure scoring, and Tech was the only team to have its entire starting lineup receive All-Big 12 honors.

Now the postseason begins, and it starts with the Big 12 Tournament. Junior forward LaToya Davis said the team knows what must be done to come home from Kansas City victorious before moving on to the NCAA Tournament next week in Dallas, and Tech hopes to gain some steam heading into the Big Dance.

"It's gonna do a lot for this team to be able to go on a roll and gain confidence," Davis said. "We have to take it one game at a time and have that fire. Like coach said that warrior mentality will get it done."

Last year, Oklahoma won the tournament as the No. 6 seed, upsetting No. 3 Colorado, No. 2 Kansas State in the semifinals and blowing away No. 1 Texas in the championship game by 18 points.

This year, Tech has a first-round bye as the No. 4 seed and likely will face No. 5 Iowa State in the quarterfinals at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday. It is a game for which junior guard Chesley Dabbs said the team is ready. The Lady Raiders want to take it to whoever gets in their way so they can add to the trophy case at United Spirit Arena.

"I think we learned we have to take care of home court, and if we had taken care of our home court it would be a different story," Dabbs said of the regular season. "I think we learned a lesson with that, and we want to go down there and whoever we play, we just want to get as many wins as we can and hopefully take home the title from the Big 12 Tournament."

No player on Tech's roster has won a regular season or tournament title, and that is adding to its intensity going into each of the tournaments. Davis said the team is looking forward to the opportunity to check something off its to-do list of the season. The team is playing for lone senior Cisti Greenwalt because the Lady Raiders are not ready to say goodbye to her and see the end of her career.

"We pretty much want to get one because my whole career, we haven't got to experience that," she said. "We don't want to lose and we don't want our season to end, and we want to do a good job for Cisti so she can keep playing for a long time."

After losing by 10 to Baylor in the last game of the season, Tech wants to get back on the winning side of things. Sharp said her team wants to do that more than anything else. Her team let a couple of games slip away during the regular season and missed its chance for a share of the conference title. Now the Lady Raiders are on a mission for some hardware.

"I think they want to get a trophy, and I felt that (Saturday) that we have to let that first one go and move on to the second round," she said.

The Big 12 Tournament will be just a preview for the Lady Raiders as they will head to Dallas afterward for the NCAA Tournament. That is when the real March Madness will begin and when the adage "win or go home" will take effect.

"I think it kinda is starting now — win or go home, because if we lose in the Big 12 we're gone, but I think we just are really focused," Dabbs said. "One game at a time is how we're gonna look at it."



Photo by David Johnson/
The University Daily

Texas Tech REGULAR SEASON

The Lady Raiders are fourth in the nation in field-goal percentage defense at 33.4, and ninth in scoring defense at 53.0 points per game.

Basketball

BIG 12 TOURNAMENT

The Texas Tech women's basketball team enters the Big 12 Conference Tournament in Kansas City, Mo., as the No. 4 seed.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

The Lady Raiders will co-host the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament in Dallas along with Texas beginning March 19-21.