



THURSDAY, March 24, 2005

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14 dead, more than 100 injured in blast

By Pam Easton/The University Daily

TEXAS CITY (AP) — An explosion at a BP oil refinery that sent flames and billowing smoke into the sky and rattled homes as far as five miles away Wednesday left at least 14 workers dead and more than 100 employees and residents injured.

Refinery manager Don Parus said BP was waiting on official confirmation from the medical examiner's office, but the company's preliminary investigation indicated multiple deaths.

"It's my deep regret that we believe we have 14 losses of life," Parus said.

He said search and recovery teams were still sifting through the rubble looking for bodies or survivors. The refinery employs about 1,800 people, and there are still workers unaccounted for, Parus said.

"We're going through a comprehensive process. We want to account for everyone," Parus said.

The Galveston County Medical Examiner's office was not releasing information on the deaths late Wednesday.

The blast, which occurred about 1:20 p.m., left a gaping hole in the earth, mangled nearby trailer offices, and covered cars and trucks in an employee parking lot with ash and chunks of charred metal.

The resulting fire shot flames as much as 70 feet into the sky and created black, billowing smoke that could be seen for miles in this city 35 miles southeast of Houston, witnesses said.

The fire was extinguished in a couple of hours, Parus said. The cause of the explosion, which occurred in a part of the plant used to boost the octane level of gasoline, remains under investigation.

Federal investigators were sent to the scene, said Daniel Horowitz, spokesman for the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board. The Coast Guard will investigate the possibility of terrorism, although BP spokeswoman Annie Smith said terrorism "is not a

primary focus."

About 100 people were treated at area hospitals, most in stable condition late Wednesday with broken bones, cuts, concussions and other injuries. At least one person was being treated at a burn unit.

Plant worker Charles Gregory said he and several co-workers were inside a trailer about 40 yards from the blast and getting ready to clean a tank when the floor started rumbling. "After that is when it exploded," he said.

"It was real scary," said Gregory, still wearing his blue jumpsuit and goggles after the company sent him

EXPLOSION continued on page 7

TIME TO 'ANTE' UP



VANESSA VELA/The University Daily

DANIEL STEVENS, A freshman mechanical engineering major from Austin, finishes revealing the final card, as Brett Rockelmann (left), a junior finance major from McAllen, and Ryan Havenhill, a freshman pre-medicine major from Austin, gasp in regret for folding their cards during a Texas Hold'Em poker tournament hosted by the Society of Petroleum Engineers to raise money for the Relay for Life Wednesday evening.

Society of Petroleum Engineers play cards to raise money to help fight to save lives

By Clara Cobb/The University Daily

Jose Rosales plans to do more than shuffle cards for Texas Tech's Relay for Life event. He plans to run.

"(Cancer is) not a one day or one-week sickness," Rosales said. "I've been through it. If your family has gone through it, you understand it. You have respect for it."

Rosales, a senior petroleum engineering major from Booker, said his little brother

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Withdrawals shorten, incompletes change

ALTERING ACADEMICS: Tech undergrads face changes next fall with dropping classes.

By Meghann Lora/The University Daily

Brink said.

Two new academic regulations will affect Texas Tech undergraduate students beginning next fall. Incomplete grades will turn into an F after one calendar year, and the period to withdraw from a course will shorten.

Senior Vice Provost Jim Brink said the new regulations are part of the university's effort to get students to take control of their academic success.

The university's attitude toward academics is changing and students' attitudes also should be changing, Brink said. Students need to read their catalog, see their academic adviser and map out each semester carefully.

"Students have to take charge," he said.

The regulations that will go into effect beginning fall 2005 are aimed to encourage all students to be more responsible for their academics,

According to the current policy, a student can drop a class and receive an automatic W, regardless of progress, through the 30th day of class. After the 30th day of class, the grades W or WF will be given, depending on the student's progress. A student can drop a course up until five days before the first day of final examinations.

"The drop period has been very, very generous up to this point," Brink said. "That's a really long period to decide whether to drop a course."

The new policy regarding withdrawing from a course will allow students to withdraw up until the 45th day of class and receive an automatic W, Brink said. The grade of WF no longer will be given to students.

Brink said midterm grades are due the 40th day of class. Allowing withdrawals through the 45th day of class will give students enough time to judge their own progress and make

ACADEMICS continued on page 7

TOOTING HIS HORN



LINC ARMES/The University Daily

MICHAEL FRANTZ, A first-year graduate studying music performance from Baltimore, Md., practices on the trombone for an upcoming recital outside the Music building Wednesday afternoon.

Wood-burning stove cause of two-alarm fire

By Brandi Fleming/The University Daily

The investigation into a two-alarm fire at 1113 29th Street March 10 has revealed the fire was started by a wood-burning stove.

Bob Bailey, an investigator for the Lubbock Fire Marshal's office, said the building looked like a warehouse, but actually was a shop and residence.

"The owner of the building is Steve Lopez, and his parents were living in the residence," he said. "It was a very large structure, and there was a shop area inside where they were working on small engines."

Lopez was unavailable for comment.

Fire patterns show the fire started in the attic of the structure and spread quickly, Bailey said.

"There was an RV parked next to the structure and it looked like the RV was on fire and just blowing onto the building, but it was actually the attic of the structure," he said.

The wood-burning stove was not properly insulated, and the escaping heat started the fire, Bailey said.

"Single wall pipe was used to pipe the heat out through the attic," he said. "Usually, double wall is used."

Bailey said the pipe went into the attic where it stretched about 20 to 30 feet horizontally.

"The fire had been burning for about an hour by the time the fire department arrived," he said. "It didn't look like it from the outside, but the fire was very large and the firefighters had a lot to deal with when they arrived."

Jessie Lopez and his wife, the elderly couple living in the residence, were referred to the Red Cross for assistance, Bailey said.

Tim Hill, director of disaster services for the Lubbock Red Cross, said the Lopez family was assisted March 11.

"We gave them clothing and food to take care of their immediate needs, but they did have a place to stay with two of their children," he said. "All their children are grown and they have been taking care of the couple and housing them."

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Weather

Today MOSTLY SUNNY High 71 / Low 42	Tomorrow PM SHOWERS High 67 / Low 38
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Wall Street at a Glance

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Truck driver avoids death penalty in smuggling case

HOUSTON (AP) — A truck driver accused in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants crammed into his sweltering tractor-trailer was convicted Wednesday of smuggling but was spared the death penalty.

The 2003 journey from the Mexico border was the deadliest human smuggling attempt in U.S. history. Tyrone Williams, 34, transported more than 70 illegal immigrants who screamed and clawed at the walls of his stifling, tomb-like tractor-trailer before he abandoned them at a truck stop 100 miles south of Houston.

Williams, a Jamaican citizen who lives in Schenectady, N.Y., was convicted on 38 counts of transporting illegal immigrants. But because the jury could not agree on whether he bears direct responsibility for the deaths, U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore took the death penalty off the table.

The judge also declared a mistrial on the remaining 20 counts of conspiracy and harboring after the jury deadlocked.

Jurors deliberated for a little more than two days when they announced Wednesday they were deadlocked and couldn't agree on answers to the underlying questions on the 38 counts on which Williams was convicted.

Gilmore sent them back to deliberate further, but after about two hours, they gave up on reaching a verdict on the harboring and

conspiracy counts.

Gilmore said she would hear from attorneys about how to proceed with sentencing. She also said she would allow prosecutors to argue but to replace the death penalty as a possible sentence. If the death penalty was an option, the jury would decide on his sentence. Without the death penalty, Gilmore would sentence him.

Prosecutors said during the 10-day trial that Williams was paid \$7,500 by a smuggling ring to transport the immigrants from Harlingen to Houston in May 2003. However, the refrigeration unit on Williams' trailer was not turned on for the trip, and authorities said temperatures inside eventually reached 173 degrees.

Survivors testified that as the heat in the trailer became unbearable, the immigrants took off their sweat-drenched clothes and crowded around holes they punched out of the truck so they could breathe. They also kicked out a signal light to try to get the attention of passing motorists.

One survivor said he used a cell phone to call 911 twice. The first call was answered in English. Even when he called back and got a Spanish-speaking dispatcher, no help arrived.

Prosecutors said Williams ignored their screams and banging and even called the operators of the smuggling ring on his cell phone to

demand more money when he discovered the immigrants had punched out a tail light to get some air into the trailer.

Williams eventually abandoned the trailer in Victoria after opening the doors and finding some of the immigrants lying in the trailer. Williams was arrested a few hours later at a Houston hospital.

Seventeen people, including a 5-year-old boy, died inside the trailer of dehydration, overheating and suffocation. Two others died later.

Authorities who found the trailer at the truck stop described seeing piles of half naked bodies piled 4 feet high on the vomit-covered floor and bloody claw marks on its doors where the immigrants had tried to get out.

Defense attorneys argued that while Williams was guilty of transporting the immigrants, the ring's other members were responsible for the deaths because they packed too many people into the trailer.

Craig Washington, Williams' lead attorney, said his client couldn't understand the immigrants' pleas because he doesn't speak Spanish, but when Williams found out what was happening, he bought 55 bottles of water for them at a truck stop and shoved them through the hole in the trailer.

The Rundown



State court blocks scheduled execution

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals stopped the scheduled execution of a Colorado man Wednesday about five hours before he could have been put to death.

Steven Kenneth Staley is convicted of slaying Bob Read, a Fort Worth Steak and Ale restaurant manager, during a botched robbery. At the time, Staley was an escapee from a Denver halfway house.

The state court ruling came as the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans was considering an appeal from the Texas attorney general's office to remove a reprieve a federal judge issued earlier Tuesday.

In that appeal, state attorneys opposed arguments from Strickland who contended Staley should not receive lethal injection until questions about his mental competency were fully reviewed in court.

In their motion, state lawyers argued the state courts were correct in denying a reprieve for Staley.

Staley was examined last week by psychiatrists who determined he was aware of his punishment and why he was being put to death. Those are the criteria the U.S. Supreme Court established in 1986 as the standards for allowing execution of people whose competency is at issue.

Army recruiting expected to slump

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army expects to miss its recruiting goals this month and next and is working on a revised sales pitch appealing to the patriotism of parents, Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey said Wednesday.

Whether that boosts enlistment numbers or not, Harvey said he sees no chance of a military draft.

"The 'D' word is the farthest thing from my mind," the former defense company executive told a Pentagon news conference, his first since becoming the Army's top civilian official last November.

Because of the military manpower strains caused by simultaneous wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, some in Congress have raised the possibility of re-instituting the draft, although there is a strong consensus against it among Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and the military chiefs.

This time is the first the United States has been in a sustained period of combat since the all-volunteer force was introduced in 1973. The Air Force and Navy, which have relatively smaller roles in Iraq and Afghanistan, have no recruiting problems, but the Army and Marines are hard pressed.

The Army missed its recruiting goal for February by 27 percent, and that was the first time it had missed a monthly goal since May 2000. The last time it missed its full-year goal was 1999.

Government may force restored order

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP) — Authorities raised the stakes Wednesday in a standoff with opposition groups that have seized control of large parts of southern Kyrgyzstan, with riot police breaking up a protest in the capital and top officials warning they may use force to restore order elsewhere.

Hints of a potential crackdown came from two tough-talking new law enforcement officials appointed by President Askar Akayev after he fired their predecessors because of the unrest in the Central Asian nation of mainly Turkic-speaking people.

Protesters angered about allegedly fraudulent parliamentary elections have seized government administration buildings in three of Kyrgyzstan's seven regions and in smaller districts within two other regions.

Most are in the south, where opposition to Akayev historically has been strongest, but one is in Talas, in the north, where his base of support generally had been more firm.

Seizure of the buildings does not mean protesters have control of a region, but opposition forces clearly appeared to be in charge in Osh, the former Soviet republic's second-largest city, and in the sizable town of Jalal-Abad.

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IRAQ

THE IRAQ EDUCATION PROJECT

OPEN FORUMS and DISCUSSIONS on the Iraq War

1. "The Human Costs of the Iraq War" Thurs., March 24th at 7 p.m. in HH 76
2. "The Moral Dilemmas of Pre-emptive War, Torture and Occupation" Tues., March 29th at 7 p.m. in HH 150
3. "When is an Election Not an Election? Problems of Democracy and Credibility in Iraq" Tues., April 5th at 7 p.m. in HH 150
4. "America's Future in Iraq and Iraq's Future: Is there a Moral Exit Strategy?" Tues., April 12th at 7 p.m. in HH 150

The University Daily

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Hazing questions raised after prank

By Brittany Barrientos/
The University Daily

A recent incident on the Texas Tech campus, thought to be a fraternity-related prank, has again brought up a topic familiar to many of the nation's college campuses.

According to a Tech police daily report, between midnight and 6 a.m. Monday morning, a forceful kidnapping incident was reported to the Tech Police Department. Upon investigation, the report stated the incident was revealed to be a fraternity prank.

Both the abductors and abductee were located shortly after calls were made to the police department, regarding a student who was seen bound in duct tape and appeared to be getting abducted from the Z-4M parking lot.

Maj. Gordon Hoffman of the Tech Police Department said a police report has been filed but has not yet been released. He said the investigation is ongoing.

Jennifer Hammat, managing director of the Student Judicial Program, said Residence Life staff have been looking into the incident to see if they can gather more information before the report is released.

"The challenge with the alleged hazing is that there were a lot of witnesses who thought they were seeing a (forceful kidnapping)," she said. "The police were contacted, and the university responded in a timely fashion."

Hammat believes hazing is a cultural issue seen differently by men and women.

"For guys, they do brotherhood activities," she said. "With women it is really different. Men look for meaningful ways to connect, and many times the way (men) earn respect among each other is through endurance."

Coordinator for student organizations and fraternities Steve Hirst said the idea hazing forms bonds is a myth.

"(The idea that hazing) is a bond is false," he said. "There are plenty of other activities that can achieve the same bonding, if

not more."

Hirst said the university's hazing policy is strict and clearly defines hazing.

"There is no need for a Greek-specific hazing policy," he said. "The university and state laws entail all the major (definitions)."

The hazing policy is defined in the Texas Education Code, sections 37.151 through 37.157 and section 51.936. The policy states hazing is any intentional, knowing or reckless act directed against a student occurring on or off the campus by a person or persons that may endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, associating, being initiated into, holding office in or seeking membership into any organization whose members include students.

The definition more narrowly defines hazing as physical brutality, physical activity, activities involving consumption or intimidating or threatening actions that are either condoned, encouraged or aided by an organization with student members.

Hirst said he believes there is more hazing occurs on the Tech campus than the staff would like, but the ideal amount of hazing is none. Hazing is a consistently dis-

cussed issue among Inter-Fraternity Council fraternity chapters.

"We are constantly addressing the issue of hazing," he said. "We still need to constantly educate all (fraternity) members of the anti-hazing policies."

Mike Gunn, assistant director for Campus Life and student and

Greek organizations, said hazing is not only a problem with fraternities, but also with sororities and other non-Greek organizations.

"We don't have a huge problem with hazing at Tech," he said. "But students need to get away from the cultural norm

of thinking to be a part of an organization, there needs to be some type of struggle. Meeting the general requirements is struggle enough."

Gunn said students need to understand not only does the university have a hazing policy, but the state and the national levels of the organization also have policies. He said Tech strongly enforces the university's hazing policy, as does the state, and punishment will be given for all hazing practices.

"It all starts someplace," he said. "Once we allow some things to slide, people try to push the limits."

Preston Files, a senior public relations major from Plano

“There is no need for a Greek-specific hazing policy.”

—STEVE HIRST
Coordinator for Student Organizations and Fraternities

RIGHTEOUS ROOFING



STEVE LEWIS/The University Daily

RANDY WELCH, (CENTER), of Hamilton Roofing Company prepares to install tiles on the roof of the Student Union building Wednesday, while employees of Mid-Continental Restoration spray sealant on the brick.

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www.universitydaily.net

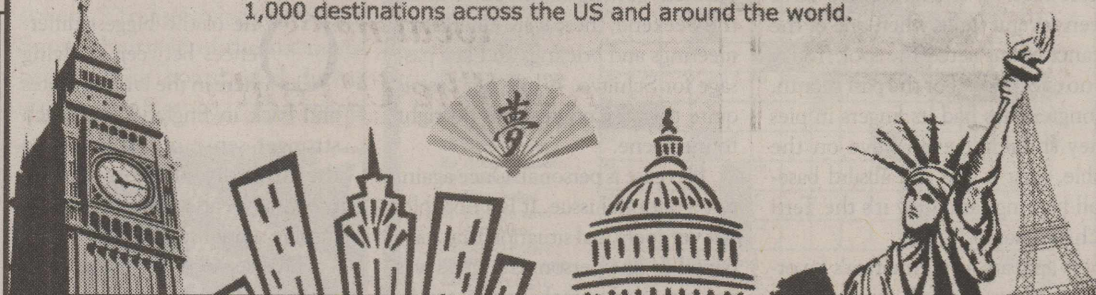
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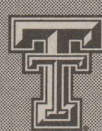
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Budget, pay-to-print on tonight's SGA agenda

By Brandi Fleming/
The University Daily

The allocation of funds to student organizations and possible alternatives to the pay-to-print fee are slated to be discussed at tonight's Student Government Association meeting.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. today in the Lankford Lab in the Electrical Engineering building.

Matt Fowler, senator for the College of Engineering and member of the Budget and Finance committee, said a bill as well as three resolutions will be discussed at Thursday's meeting.

"According to our records at this point in time, there are 27 appeals to the budget and finance bill," he said. "All those will be discussed at this meeting."

Student organizations often miss the deadline and forget to turn in

packets on time, so they have to go through the appeals process to be considered for funding, Fowler said.

"The organizations needing to go through appeals have contacted senators, and those senators will present and argue their appeals at the meeting tomorrow night," he said. "We will decide at that point if the organizations deserve funding, and if they do, we will add them to the bill."

Another issue on the agenda is the pay-to-print fee at the Texas Tech University Library. A student receives 50 free prints a semester; each additional print is 5 cents.

"We have created a resolution to

deal with the double printing fee in the library, and we will discuss it at the meeting," Fowler said. "We are proposing that students use their e-raider name and password to log on to print, and then have them verify their name and password again each time they print something."

By verifying the name and password each time a student wants to print something, the

system is more secure and it is less likely someone could log on and abuse the account, Fowler said.

"This system might be able to curb the problem of excess printing, but still give the students the freedom to print on campus," he said.

Library fees have been increasing throughout recent years, and

the SGA has authored a bill to address the issue, Fowler said.

"Unfortunately, the library fee is at the discretion of the administration," he said. "In 2001 the library fee was \$60, in 2002 it was \$75, and in 2003 it increased to the current cost of \$225."

The proposed committee would consist of four administrators, including Dean of Libraries Don Dyal, four undergraduate students and one graduate student,

Fowler said.

"This committee would give students the opportunity to be involved and would make more accountability for the administration," he said.

The Tech Alumni Association spoke to the SGA last month about the class ring tradition, and the SGA has authored a resolution to support the program, Fowler said.

"The legislation we are working on would help to relieve some of the financial burden for the student

when buying a class ring," he said. "We don't want the price to prohibit participation for any student."

A good refund policy if a student transfers or leaves the university is the biggest problem with the current program, Fowler said.

Casey Harmon, SGA journal clerk, authored the class ring resolution.

"This program is basically a way for students to pay a little at a time for their ring and not have to pay for it all at once," she said. "We hope to make the rings more accessible and affordable for students."

The new class ring program would put the SGA in a position to contribute to the class ring tradition, Harmon said.

"All this resolution does right now is say that SGA is in support of the program and we would like to be involved in the process," she said.



Unfortunately, the library fee is at the discretion of the administration.

— MATT FOWLER
Senator and SGA Budget and Finance Committee Member

Conservatives, liberals fight reauthorization of Patriot Act

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conservative and liberal groups normally at each other's throats over the direction of government are finding common cause in wanting to gut major provisions of the government's premier anti-terrorism law.

The American Civil Liberties Union, the American Conservative Union, Americans for Tax Reform and the Free Congress Foundation are among several groups that formed a coalition — Patriots to Restore Checks and Balances — to lobby Congress to repeal three key provisions of the USA Patriot Act.

Having people from all sides of the political spectrum working together will keep politicians from calling Patriot Act opponents un-American or willing to help terrorists, which happened during the original debate over the law, the groups said.

"We don't want this argument to be obscured by those who would suggest that anyone who is for more and more government power is somehow on the side of the right, and those who are against it or are skeptical of such grants are on the side of the wrong," said David Keene of the American Conservative Union. "This is an important question of all Americans on the left, the right or in the middle."

For liberals, partnering with conservatives will ensure the GOP-dominated Congress and the Bush administration will have to listen to their concerns, said Laura W. Murphy, outgoing director of the ACLU's Washington legislative office.

"Given the number of people in this room wearing elephant lapel pins, I don't think it will be easy for the administration to discount

our message," she said at the news conference Tuesday announcing the coalition.

The coalition wants Congress to repeal or let expire prosecutors' Patriot Act ability to easily obtain records in terrorism-related cases from businesses and other entities, including libraries; the provision that allows "sneak and peek" searches conducted without a property owner's or resident's knowledge and with warrants delivered afterward; and what they called an overbroad definition of "terrorists" that could include non-terrorism suspects.

The coalition highlighted the provisions in a letter to the president which also said, "We agree that much of the Patriot Act was necessary to provide law enforcement with the resources they need to defeat terrorism."

Social Security go-broke date 2041

WASHINGTON (AP) — Social Security will begin paying out more in benefits than it receives in taxes in 2017, 12 years from now and a year earlier than previously estimated, trustees said Wednesday in a forecast adding fuel to the debate about changes President Bush wants.

The trustees estimated that the program, which is about to be inundated with baby boom retirees, would go broke in 2041, also a year earlier than in their prior annual report.

The Bush administration said both findings underscored the urgency of its effort to overhaul Social Security this year, in part by creating retirement investment accounts for younger workers. Democrats said the

trustees' report undercut the president's efforts to portray the program as in immediate crisis.

That label would appear to apply to Medicare, the health care program for the elderly and disabled. The trustees, who also oversee that New Deal program, noted that Medicare began paying out more in benefits than it received in taxes as of last year. They also predicted it would go broke in 2020, one year later than they estimated in 2004, but more than two decades before Social Security.

"The numbers leave nothing to doubt about the financial condition of the Social Security system," Treasury Secretary John Snow, chairman of the six-member trustees' board, said during a news conference. "The report

underscores the fact that we need to do something."

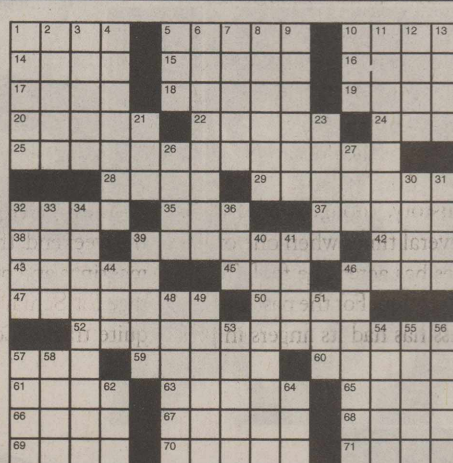
Mike Leavitt, the new Health and Human Services secretary and another trustee, said Medicare and Medicaid — the health insurance program for the elderly at the state level — face daunting

financial problems.

Leavitt said the administration had begun to address Medicare in 2003 with new performance standards for doctors, as well as programs that encourage better health through things as simple as an annual physical.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS
1 Sugar source
5 Coarse files
10 Bridge coup
14 Idyllic meadows
15 Braid
16 Conduit
17 Idle of Monty Python
18 Ancient region on the Euphrates
19 All over again
20 Adversary
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46 Cincinnati nine
47 Venice craft
50 Mechanical routine
52 End of quote
57 Take the odds
59 "Oklahoma" aunt
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61 Bankrupt
63 Henry VIII's last name
65 Actor Morales
66 Territory
67 Plant fungus
68 Narrate
69 Middle-some
70 Considers
71 Latin being



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
3/24/05

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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39 "Dred" author
40 Developer's area
41 Medicinal plant
44 L.A. summer hrs.
45 Certain graduate exams
48 Sang merrily
49 Drawing power
51 Actress Leoni
53 Rock shelf
54 Words of approval
55 Certain graduate exams
56 Functional
57 Whole-grain cereal component
58 Continental currency
62 Vote against
64 Some NFL linemen

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Planned Parenthood works to improve image

By Travis Cram/
The University Daily

The growing debate of pro-life vs. pro-choice was the topic in Wednesday's Tech Council for Family Relations as guest speakers from Planned Parenthood, Lubbock tried to better inform students about abortion.

Tony Thornton, CEO of Planned Parenthood Association of Lubbock, tried to create an outline of what the service is all about.

"We do lots of good work for the community and provides lots of good services for the people of Lubbock and the surrounding areas," he said.

The discussion focused on an ongoing problem of Texas and the education it provides to the students at all levels when it comes to sex education and reproductive health services.

Lindsey Qi, president of Tech the Council for Family Relations, said a lot of debate about Planned

Parenthood's reputation has to do with being misinformed.

"The problem is that when people think of Planned Parenthood and what they can provide, it's almost like they have blinders on their eyes and can only see abortion related services," she said.

Beth Shapiro, head of the Board of Directors for Planned Parenthood in Lubbock, tried to show students they identify information associated with Planned Parenthood that is false.

"People seem to think that we provide abortion services at our clinic, and we don't," she said.

Shapiro also touched on the false fact that people seem to believe the funding for Planned Parenthood agencies also helps pay for abortions.

"The only money that is for abortion services is self-pay," she said. "People would not be allowed to use the funds from Title X if it were for abortion."

According to Texas Legislature,

Title X has to do with federal money for family planning. The Texas Department of Health states Title X is the only federal legislation relating solely to family planning. Congress passed the Family Planning Services and Population Research Act in 1970, which added Title X to the Public Services Health Act.

Wednesday's lecture aimed at many issues involving Planned Parenthood and women's rights as well. One issue was to support measures requiring health insurance companies provide prescription drug coverage for all FDA-approved contraception methods and to cover prenatal care.

Shapiro said most companies provide funding for products such as Viagra or Cialis for sexual male enhancement, but will not provide help in paying for services such as birth control pills. Shapiro cited instances where pharmacies have even denied the pills, because of their political views, to women wanting to

purchase them.

Amber Mahan, a senior human development and family studies major from Mineral Wells, said she believes the reason funding is not provided for birth control is because of a false view of women.

"People automatically make the assumption that you are sexually active if you're on birth control," she said. "They don't realize that a lot of women use birth control to regulate their periods before they are ever sexually active."

Shapiro also discussed the "Pro Life Activists Encyclopedia," which refers to Planned Parenthood as the "anti-life organization."

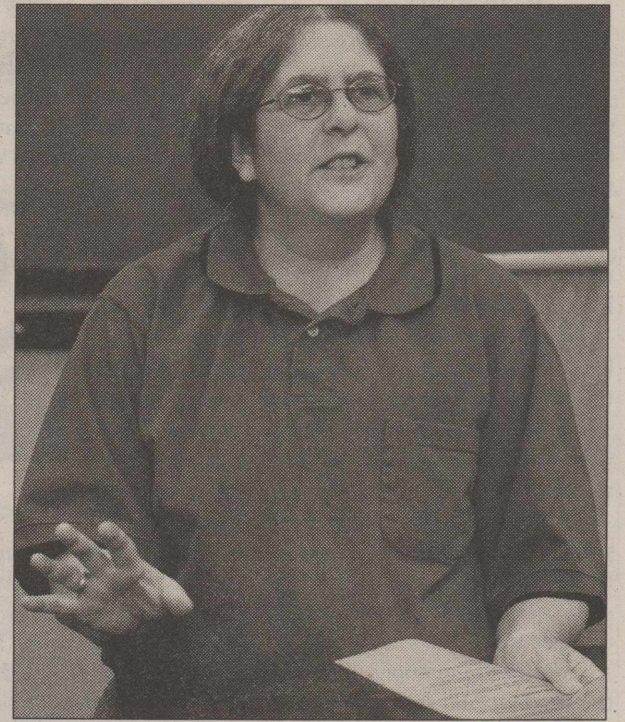
Irving native Amanda Hill, a senior majoring in human development and family studies, said the idea about Planned Parenthood is a misunderstanding.

"It seems like if you say you are pro-choice people look at you and think you want to kill babies," she

said.

Shapiro said the debate about abortion has been increasing because President George W. Bush made Texas an abstinent state when he was governor of Texas.

Liana Bustillos, a junior child education student from Meadow, said Bush's abstinence ruling confuses her.



ANDREW WEATHERL/The University Daily
ELIZABETH SHAPIRO, CHAIRWOMAN of the Lubbock Planned Parenthood Committee discusses recent and future state legislation affecting the Planned Parenthood program in the Human Sciences building Wednesday evening.

can we be pro-life but we are still supporting the death penalty here in Texas," she said.

Bustillos also discussed the issue on the new textbooks for health classes in Texas schools and the fact that abstinence is all they support.

"All it seems to say is no," she said. "No information regarding the use of condoms or even how to protect yourself from sexually transmitted diseases."

Planned Parenthood provides tests and counseling for those who are HIV positive or may have other STDs.

"We have around 172 people in our program here in Lubbock who are HIV positive and range between the ages of 12 and 63," Thornton said. "Some people did not realize that when Viagra and all these other medicines came out that they did not protect against transmitted diseases."

Shapiro and Thornton also said they are fighting against such legislation that would violate client/physi-

cian relationships for minors such as whether or not they are sexually active and if they are allowed to have an abortion. One of the biggest issues is emergency contraception for women in the emergency room.

"Only 40 percent of hospitals in the state provide any type of services for those who need emergency contraception such as survivors of sexual assault," Shapiro said.

Emergency contraception, Shapiro said, is kind of like taking a "double-dose" of a birth control pill at once in where it prevents implantation of a fertilized egg in the woman's body.

Thornton said he hopes people's views on Planned Parenthood will become more positive.

"We provide information and knowledge so that people may have children one day when they want to," he said. "We give them all the options so that they may make the right choice for themselves. That's why we're called Planned Parenthood."

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Texas bill may force students to pay more at checkout aisle

By Jennifer Warner/The University Star

(U-WIRE) SAN MARCOS — It is 2 a.m. the night before a midterm, and instead of snoozing comfortably in their beds, many college students are burning the midnight oil in an all-night cram session.

In addition to the obvious exhaustion these students will face the following day, they may also have a sudden attack of the munchies or the need for a caffeinated soda to help them make the final push toward dawn.

With the possible passage of a new bill in the Texas Legislature, many students may think twice before hitting the snack aisles of the grocery store.

House Bill 3, introduced by the House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee, would bring in an additional \$5.4 million each year in taxable revenue to combat rising state property taxes. A portion of this revenue would come from a 3 percent snack tax on cookies, candy, chips and soft drinks.

The bill was approved in the House of Representatives March 15 by a vote of 73-68 and has now moved on to the Senate for debate. The bill's author, Rep. Jim Keffer, R-Eastland, said the senate is likely to approve a different version of the bill.

If approved, the bill would decrease property taxes by one-third, from \$1.50 to \$1 per \$100 valuation.

Keffer said he believes property taxes have a significant impact on the state.

"Property taxes cause a significant drag on the economy, and they

discourage home ownership," Keffer said.

To account for the \$5.4 million decrease in property taxes, the bill would increase state sales taxes from 6.25 percent to 7.25 percent, which would put Texas' tax among the highest sales taxes in the nation. The bill would also increase cigarette taxes to \$1.01 per pack and would expand sales taxes to several items and services not currently taxed, including bottled water and car repair.

The legislature is calling the tax cut the largest in Texas history, and is expected to even out current school finance methods after the Robin Hood Bill was declared unconstitutional. Under Robin Hood, property tax revenue was taken from richer school districts and redistributed to lower-income districts.

The state redistributed \$1.1 billion per year through Robin Hood. HB3 is expected to reduce this number to only \$150 million, and it would place a 35 percent cap on the amount that can be reallocated.

The Robin Hood Bill was found to be unconstitutional in 2004 because taxpayers in property-rich districts are forced to pay high taxes that will not benefit schools in the district in which they live. Texas legislators set to work during the 2004-2005 legislative session to replace Robin Hood with a constitutional alternative.

If HB3 is passed, a large portion of school funding will come directly from the state instead of from local property taxes; therefore, less redistribution of funds will be necessary.

But HB3 is not without controversy.

The bill's opponents have called it regressive, meaning it puts the primary tax burden on lower-income individuals.

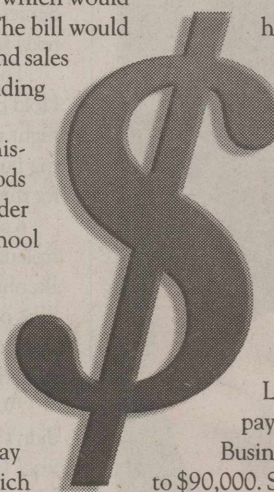
Reduced property taxes mean that the more value property has, the greater the tax break is for the owners of the property.

Keffer said studies have proven the bill to be regressive and could cost lower income individuals less than \$1 a day by 2007. He said he believes what Texas residents get in exchange for a small tax increase will make it worth it. "For some, HB3 will cost more," Keffer said. "But what they buy with less than \$1 a day is greater economic prosperity and a greater likelihood of being able to afford their own home."

Texas State University economics associate professor Dean Showalter said the bill would shift much of the tax burden from individuals to businesses. According to the Texas Legislature, approximately 83 percent of businesses currently pay nothing to state taxes.

Businesses will begin paying a payroll tax of 1.15 percent on wages up to \$90,000. Showalter said the low property taxes would help the economy by bringing in more businesses despite the small payroll tax.

"When businesses are determining whether to locate in Texas, property taxes are a big issue," Showalter said. "Lower property taxes would encourage businesses to build and encourage people to buy homes, so the housing industry would be stimulated, and it would be easier for people to afford a house."



Government's gauge of inflation experiences jump

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer prices in February registered their biggest increase in four months, forcing people to shell out more to cover energy, medical and education bills.

The latest snapshot of inflation, released by the Labor Department on Wednesday, raised the chances that the Federal Reserve might have to be more aggressive in its interest rate-raising campaign, economists said.

The government's most closely watched inflation barometer, the consumer price index, jumped 0.4 percent in February. That was a fresh signal inflation is gaining momentum now that the economic expansion is firmly entrenched.

The pickup in inflation came after consumer prices were flat in December and increased by just 0.1 percent in January. The February increase confirmed the more hawkish tone about inflation that Fed policy-makers took on Tuesday.

"Pressures on inflation have picked up in recent months," Fed policy-makers said. They also noted that pricing power — the ability of companies to raise prices to customers — is "more evident."

That assessment accompanied their decision to boost a key short-term interest rate by one-quarter of percentage point, to 2.75 percent. It was the seventh such increase since the Fed began bumping up rates last June in an effort to prevent inflation from hurting the economy.

"It's clear that Fed members saw this coming their way," Oscar Gonzalez, economist at John Hancock Financial Services, said about inflation accelerating. "Inflation is rising, but the sky isn't falling."

Sharp increases in energy costs, including gasoline, led the way in February. But many other prices, including those for air travel,

medical care, education and lodging also climbed.

Excluding energy and food prices, core prices rose 0.3 percent in February. That compared with a 0.2 percent increase in January and was the largest increase since September.

For the 12 months ending February, core prices rose 2.4 percent, the fastest pace since August 2002.

The CPI report, along with the Fed's new concerns about inflation, led some economists to say they believe the Fed's credit tightening probably will last well into 2006. They also spoke of the possibility the Fed might order a bolder, one-half of a percentage point increase later this year if inflation were to worsen, analysts said.

"Inflation is percolating higher, and the Fed will aggressively respond to that," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com. He predicted the Fed's key interest rate, now at 2.75 percent, will climb to around 5 percent by late next year.

With the economy expanding, some companies are finding it easier to boost prices, analysts said. A weaker U.S. dollar also is putting pressure on prices of imported goods, which gives American companies more room to raise prices.

Rising inflation can strain the family budget. After adjusting for inflation, weekly earnings of nonsupervisory workers dropped 0.4 percent in February, compared with a 0.2 percent increase in January.

In February, energy prices jumped 2 percent last month, compared with a 1.1 percent decline registered in January. Gasoline prices in February rose 3.2 percent, natural gas prices were up 2.5 percent and fuel oil costs increased 2.4 percent.

Academics

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a determination about whether to drop a class.

The new policy regarding incomplete grades will force students to take care of incomplete grades within one calendar year from the date they are given or the student will be given an F for that course, Brink said.

A grade of I is given to any student who cannot complete a course because of conditions beyond that student's control. The professor tells the student what is needed to complete the grade, sometimes a project or examinations. According to the current policy, a student could retain a grade of I indefinitely.

Brink said students should be expected to complete a course in which they chose to enroll. If a student chooses not to complete that course within one year, he will be given a failing grade for the work that was not completed.

Chris Condon, a freshman from Houston, believes the new regulations will be positive for students, even if some do not like it at first. He said the new regulations sound like a form of tough love to help students focus on their education.

"I think a lot of people kind of forget the reason why they are in college," he said. "Everybody can always use a bit of help."

Condon said he understands why some people might not like the new regulations. "It is your money, but it's kind of a waste

of time if you take an entire class and then drop at the last second," he said.

Marisa Varela, a junior sociology major from Dallas, believes the new regulations are a great way to help students be more serious and graduate on time.

"It'll motivate students to work on their grade more or get out," she said. "I think it's a great idea."

Along with new regulations that went into effect for students who entered the university after fall 2004 regarding the number of times a student can drop a class, the new regulations for fall 2005 are aimed to help students achieve success and graduate, Brink said.

"Our job is to encourage students to do well," he said. "We needed to set some parameters that will aid the students to reach those goals."

Explosion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and others home. "Have you ever heard the thunder real loud? It was like 10 times that."

Wenceslado de la Cerda, a 50-year-old retired firefighter, said the blast shook the ground, rattled windows and knocked ceiling panels to the floor.

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8 AM	Bears	Barney	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Roseanne
9 AM	Dragon Tales	Arthur	Paid Program	Judge Mathis	Home Delivery	Becker
10 AM	Sesame Street	Regis & Kelly	Price Is Right	Judge Joe Judge Joe	The View Tina Turner	Ambush
11 AM	Mister Rogers	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Paid Program	Home Impro	Starting Over
12 PM	This Old House	News	KLBK 13 News	Jerry Springer	All My Children	Access Hollywd Extra
1 PM	Needle Arts	Zoom	Passions	As the World Turns	One Life to Live	People's Court
2 PM	The Lions	Reading	Inside Edition	Animal Adv	General Hospital	Divorce Court
3 PM	Buster	Cyberchase	Oprah Winfrey	Maury	Dharma & Greg	Montel Williams
4 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judge Judy	That '70s Show	Jane Pauley	Fox 34 News First@Four
5 PM	Maya Miguel	Nightly Business	Nightly News	Evening News	Family Feud	World News
6 PM	Newshour with Jim Lehrer	Wheel Fortune	NCAA Basketball Tournament Regional Semifinals (Live) (HD)	WWE SmackDown!	Extra	Entertainment
7 PM	Peter and Paul	(59) ER "Back in the World" (HD)	King of the Hill	PrimeTime Live	Fox 34 News@Nine	Friends
8 PM	Nightly Business	Destinos	(35) Jay Leno (HD)	Magnum, P.I.	(35) Nightline	Seinfeld
9 PM	GED	Charlie Rose	Conan O'Brien Kings of Leon.	(35) David Letterman	Blind Date	Paid Program
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SEW SPECIAL



DAVID JOHNSON/The University Daily

LYNNSEY SMIT, A junior human development and family studies and personal finance double major from Houston sews pirate's gold coins on a head dress for a tribal member costume for the play, "Malaria, The Musical *Not Actually a Musical," in the costume shop of the Charles E. Magden Theater building Wednesday afternoon. The play is one of the Red Raider one act plays running April 11-17.

Breaking news?
Call The UD newsroom at
(806) 742-3393

Fund-raiser

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was sick with cancer, which had a profound effect on him. For this reason, Rosales chose to make a difference as a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers' relay team.

The engineers hosted a Texas Hold'Em tournament Wednesday night in the Petroleum Engineering building to help raise money for the event.

Kass Copelin, a senior petroleum engineering major from Brenham and internal vice president of the Society for Petroleum Engineers, said the engineers committed to Relay for Life last fall.

"We got a phone call. I really didn't know how big of an event it was," Copelin said. "We set a really high goal for raising money."

He said the engineers set a \$5,000 goal for the event, and added he was glad the goal was set high because he had three family members affected by cancer.

"If we can't reach the goal, hopefully we can get really close," Copelin said. "It'd be really awesome to exceed the goal."

Copelin said the engineers chose to host the tournament because of poker's popularity.

"Since we can't give away money anymore, we decided to play for Relay for Life," he said. "It's a relatively low buy-in. Poker is really hot right now. A lot of people want to play."

The tournament buy-in was \$10 and open to all Tech students. About 40 students participated in the tournament, and the engineers were able to raise \$500.

"Like many organizations on campus, we're trying to get stu-

dents involved in the school and the industry, as well as reaching out to the community," Copelin said. "We hope to make our petroleum engineers better and give them pride in what they do by giving back to the community."

Copelin said the engineers had a 34-member team drawn from a membership base of more than 250. Since the event is a relay, teams and individuals will continue to cycle R. P. Fuller track for the entire 12 hours the event takes place.

Kathy Winn, executive director of the Lubbock American Cancer Society, said she is excited and grateful groups like the engineers are participating in the event.

"Relay for Life is the national fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society," Winn said. "We anticipate raising \$60,000 for research and patient care."

She said 65 teams have committed to be a part of the event. The society encourages teams to raise \$100 per team member.

The event is 6 p.m. April 2 and lasts until 6 a.m. April 3. Individuals and groups still can participate in the relay event by contacting the society at (806) 742-7128. Volunteers are still needed to help at the event.

Donations can be made on the society Web site, www.cancer.org, at the event or by contacting the society.

"It spans a spectrum of organizations and people on campus," Winn said. "It's lots and lots of different groups, which makes it lots of fun."

Winn said Tech is the first college or university in Texas to hold a relay event. This is the third annual event at Tech.

"I am extremely proud of Tech. Tech really took a leadership role, and it's been noted nationwide; they set the standard for universities in Texas," she said. "The philosophy behind the all-night event is that cancer never

sleeps, so for one night, we're not going to sleep."

Kelly Blackwood, senior petroleum engineering major from Crane and president of the organization, said the engineers' organization is nationally recognized, partially because of their community service efforts.

"We are really big on community service," Blackwood said. "We do more community service than a majority of organizations on campus."

He said the engineers have more than 1,000 hours of community service planned.

Justin Niederhofer, a junior petroleum engineering major from Farmington, N.M., said the engineers are one of the most active professional organizations on campus. He said it was important to him to help the cause. His grandmother died with three different types of cancer, and his aunt is a cancer survivor.

"You're always fighting," Niederhofer said. "This is something we could do to help the cause."

He said being involved in the engineers and the community is important to his professional development.

"Companies are part of the community wherever you are," Niederhofer said. "Why not be active in the community?"

Jeff Robertson, a civil engineering major from Tolar, said he arrived at 6 p.m. to play his favorite game: Texas Hold 'Em.

"I survived the first buy-in," he said. "I wasn't the first to get knocked out of my table."

Robertson said both his grandmother and grandfather had cancer.

"I just came to play cards—I like to play cards. I didn't have any homework, and I wanted to support Relay for Life," Robertson said. "It is for a good cause."

Investigation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Many Lubbock citizens called and asked how they could help the Lopez family and \$250 was donated to the couple, Hill said.

"A lot of clothing has been donated to them and they have received furniture like beds, appliances, dressers and things like that from people," he said. "We have now referred them to other places like the Salvation Army for further assistance. Right now they are in the process of finding a new place to live."

"They are holding up very well for a 74-year-old . . . couple, and Mr. Lopez is a very strong man who takes care of his wife."

—TIM HILL

Director of Disaster Services for Red Cross

Hill said the family called last week and told him they had found a new residence for the couple and they planned to use the donated money as a deposit, Hill said.

"I would assume they are moving into their new place right now," he said. "They are holding up very well for a 74-year-old . . . couple, and Mr. Lopez is a very strong man who takes care of his wife."

Nazi doctor not tried for murder

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — A doctor who worked at a clinic where the Nazis killed thousands of children deemed "unworthy" will not be put on trial because he suffers from severe dementia, Austria's justice minister said.

Dr. Heinrich Gross, who faced charges in the deaths of nine children, is not mentally capable of following court proceedings, Justice Minister Karin Miklantsch said in a document released Tuesday. Three previous cases against Gross dating to the 1950s have been dismissed.

Experts found that Gross, 89, had a limited ability "to understand and analyze new information and to participate in complex communication processes with several participants — such as a court hearing," Miklantsch said.

Miklantsch cited a court's decision in November 2003 that Gross was unfit to stand trial and said no further evaluation was needed.

The charges against Gross will remain pending, said Viktor Eggert, head of the Justice Ministry's political and war crimes department.

"The process is only suspended. It will end at some point with the suspect's death," he said.

Gross was a leading doctor in Vienna's notorious Am Spiegelgrund clinic. Historians and survivors of the clinic have accused him of participating in clinic experiments on thousands of children deemed by the Nazis to be physically, mentally or otherwise unfit. The Nazis called such children "unworthy lives."

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Congress crosses lines

Steroids, Schiavo — our legislative branch has confused its powers

The government's role in individuals' lives has been discussed, debated and argued about ever since man could talk. From Aristotle to Alexander Hamilton, how much power and control a government could exert on individuals has been an issue. Big government, small government, no government — everyone has an opinion.

Sarah Looten



The legislative branch serves the populace, not small elite groups or individuals.

their hero-worship.

While consensus on particulars is hard to come by, there remains standards upon which most can agree. One such standard is the belief all branches have their specific purpose. The three branches — executive, legislative and judicial — all have jobs to do. And thanks to checks and balances, no one branch can ever get too out of control or do anything too ridiculous.

Apparently tired of being given the run around by baseball's superstars, Congress decided to champion another cause in which it had no business getting involved. During the weekend, there were emergency meetings and briefings and law passage for Schiavo. While her case is quite tragic, Congress has no right to intervene.

Throughout America's relatively short history, though, there have been several times when one of the branches has acted the fool. Today is no exception. For the past month, Congress has had its fingers in pies they shouldn't even have on the table. First it was the absurd baseball hearings and now it's the Terri Schiavo fiasco.

Her case is personal. Once again, not a national issue. It is a horrible, but very personal situation that happened to one person. Congress was not intended to make laws for individuals. There are not to be specific speed limits for Mr. Joe Anybody. Congress makes laws for the people, not the individual.

It appears as if America's favorites pastime is much more than a game. It's a congressional interest. Worried about steroid use among baseball players, Congress decided to do something about it — talk. This is asinine on so many levels, to know where to begin is difficult.

But more importantly, Schiavo's situation already has been played out in the courts. The judicial branch has been busy doing its job. Many rulings, appeals and other legal jargon have been at work for more than a year in Terri's case. Congress should not be able to undermine the courts' responsibilities or authority because a few congressmen are looking for political gain.

First, baseball has nothing to do with any national concerns. This has nothing to do with the fifth of the population who live in poverty. It has nothing to do with a blatantly racist judicial system. It has nothing to do with the education crisis our country is facing. It has nothing to do with homeland security, the war in Iraq or a dying Social Security system.

The legislative branch serves the populace, not small elite groups or individuals. While Congress' job description can be hazy at times, and its exact powers are never absolute — clearly they crossed lines this time. Checks and balances exist for a reason. One of the checks is not allowing Congress to get too big for their britches.

Arguably, a few rich white guys doing drugs harms some people. Themselves mainly — but you could argue there are adverse effects for their families, managers, agents, teammates and their heartbroken, disappointed fans. However, there already are laws regarding illegal drug use. There are government agencies that deal with the domestic situations. All those making money off said rich white druggies can find other talent. As for the fans — they'll have to be responsible in

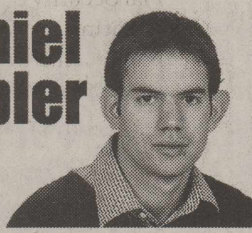
Looten is a senior political science and sociology major from Panhandle. E-mail her at sarah.n.looten@ttu.edu.



Appreciate advantages of American athletics

One of the biggest differences between studying here in the United States and back in England is a much stronger sense of affiliation to the university. Students here are proud to wear school colors and display school spirit.

Daniel Kubler



One motivating factor behind the sense of belonging has to be the performance of the university sports teams.

This sense of spirit creates a sense of unity amongst the student body that is sadly lacking in the United Kingdom. One motivating factor behind the sense of belonging has to be the performance of the university sports teams.

sport is great and can see why so much money and effort is put into the football and basketball programs, it is time the athletic department here at Texas Tech looked beyond the sports it does support.

Athletes here have a system that supports them and allows them to concentrate on their chosen sport, while still getting an education. This undoubtedly plays a key role in the nation's continued sporting successes.

There are many more student athletes at Tech who do not receive the support or recognition they deserve at the university. Sports that are full-fledged NCAA sports at other universities are just club sports here, such as the lacrosse team that practices every evening, the wrestlers who I see practicing late at night — whenever they can find space at the Robert H. Ewalt Recreational Center.

I have a younger brother who is a very talented rugby player. In a year's time, he is going to have to make that tough decision I saw a couple classmates go through — trying to make it professionally or deciding if furthering his education is more important.

Now, I'm realistic. I know this team will never get the support the football or basketball program gets, but it is about time these clubs

But while I think collegiate

One of the teams I have been involved with during my time at Tech is the equestrian team. This club competes with NCAA teams with some success, but they have no coach, virtually no budget, make their own travel arrangements and recently had to put on a show of their own with support only from an already overstretched faculty adviser.

started getting the support and recognition their effort deserves. It is not only the old boys in the athletic departments' fault — Student Media also needs to do more to support all the representatives of Tech out there, be they riding a bull, ice skating or even playing chess.

Imagine if Ronald Ross had to coach the basketball team, drive them to games, sort out where the team was staying and organize everything from cleaning the United Spirit Arena to making sure the other team had everything they need before the game. Well, that's what the captains of the equestrian team had to do — and they still managed to qualify for regional finals against competition who have programs funded by athletic departments and who can concentrate solely on their riding.

It's not just a problem at Tech that smaller sports are not supported. Last week the NCAA fencing championships were hosted in Houston. Not a single school in Texas has a NCAA fencing team.

How can Tech not justify having a top-ranked team when it has one of the best university facilities in the country for an equestrian team? Other Big 12 schools and even smaller schools like West Texas A&M have NCAA teams — why not Tech? The sport is huge in this area of the country, so having a successful team would surely bring more good students and recognition to Tech.

This is a sport for which the United States won a gold medal at the last Olympics. Where are the future medals going to come from if the schools continue to support just those few sports that generate revenue?

Now, I'm realistic. I know this team will never get the support the football or basketball program gets, but it is about time these clubs

Or perhaps the United States will become like Britain, where so few athletes are supported that most have to curb their training in order to get an education and make a living, and where just a handful of medals are won at each Olympics. It is time Tech supported all its athletes. Being associated with a winning team gives some pride to us all no matter what the game.

Kubler is a visiting undergraduate student studying international equine and agricultural business management major from Beaconsfield, U.K. E-mail him at daniel.kubler@hotmail.com.

TECH TALKS BACK

Liberal dialogue, errors in article skew issue of abortion vs. day-after pill

Regarding the article "Let's talk about safe sex," (UD, March 22) there are some grossly inaccurate statements in the article.

pill (as many forms of oral contraception do) can cause the lining of the uterus to reject a fertilized egg, it is then flushed out of the system. This is a chemical abortion. No redefinition of terms will change the biological and chemical facts.

The article states "The main thing to remember is if you are pregnant, the pill will only prevent pregnancy," Mann said. "It will not cause you to abort, it will not do anything (if you are pregnant)."

Therefore, by redefining "pregnancy" the advocates of abortion are trying to hide these facts. Don't let them fool you.

This is absolutely false. The pro-abortion activists in this country have attempted to redefine "pregnancy" from conception to the time when a fertilized egg implants in the uterus.

It doesn't amaze me that such statements are thrown around lightly.

These linguistic puzzles are an attempt to hide truth from the public by distorting the facts. Because these

What would amaze me is if this letter is printed without editing.

— Marcel LeJeune, Lubbock resident

EDITORIAL

Government should follow designations set forth by America's founding fathers

The editorial board of *The University Daily* believes Terri Schiavo's appeal has gone too far.

The Constitution is explicit in the powers granted to the federal government. The founding fathers did not want a big federal government; one reason they fought England was to avoid the pitfalls of big government.

In the last 36 hours, a federal judge denied Schiavo's parents' request to reinsert her feeding tube, a three-judge panel upheld that judgment and the entire appeals court declined to hear the case.

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution grants Congress the power to: tax; borrow money; regulate interstate commerce; establish naturalization and bankruptcy laws; print money; provide for punishment of counterfeiting money; post offices; promote progress and useful arts; constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court; define and punish piracy; declare war; raise and support armies; provide and maintain a Navy; regulate land and naval forces; organizing and arming militias; exercise legislation in areas ceded by the states and make the laws necessary to carry out those powers.

We will not discuss a person's right to live or right to die. Instead, we are disappointed with how the Constitution and states' rights are being abused and ignored by a politically motivated president and Congress.

These are all of the legislative powers granted to Congress. All other power is granted to the state or to the people.

According to the U.S. Constitution, by which everyone is bound, this case never should have entered the federal court system.

Nowhere in that list is the power to pass a bill that removes a case out of state court but will not set a precedent for any other case. Congress' involvement, and the president's involvement, is a political move made because enough people of clout and power appealed to the federal government. They did so not because they thought the state courts were being unfair, but because they weren't getting the desired results in the state courts.

It should have stayed in state court, without Florida Gov. Jeb Bush granting stays, without intervention from the state legislature and without bills from the U.S. Congress.

The bill itself reads, "The (U.S.) district court shall entertain and determine the suit without any delay or abstention in favor of state court proceedings, and regardless of whether remedies available in the state courts have been exhausted."

unconcerned with whether the appropriate process is being followed. The bill essentially allows Schiavo's parents to find a more sympathetic judge, because those Florida judges were not returning the right answer.

The Constitution also sets out a judicial process. The federal courts are used when the appeal had made it through all of the state courts. Congress clearly stated in its bill that it is

This kind of political roulette, despite what the bill might say, does set a precedent. Congress has demonstrated that it will step outside of its bounds and into a matter over which it has no bearing.

These are all of the legislative powers granted to Congress. All other power is granted to the state or to the people.

States' rights are being squashed again by an overreager federal government that is wasting its time on matters related to one family instead of taking care of the nation as a whole, as each of the officials were elected to do.

Who's to stop the next family in a similar situation from running to Congress for relief? Nothing. Congress has set a precedent with which it has crippled its effectiveness as well as the credibility of the state governments and the president.

Read page 4 tomorrow for a Freedom Forum about Schiavo

LETTERS: The UD welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be no longer than 300 words and must include the author's name, signature, phone number, Social Security number and a description of university affiliation. Students should include year in school, major and hometown. We reserve the right to edit letters. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. All letters will be verified before they are published. Letters can be e-mailed to UD@ttu.edu or brought to 211 Student Media. Letters should be sent in before 3 p.m. to ensure the editors have enough time to verify and edit the submission.

GUEST COLUMNISTS: 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.

UNSIGNED EDITORIALS: appearing on this page represent the opinion of the editorial board, Texas Tech University, its employees, its student body or the Board of Regents. The UD is independent of the School of Mass Communications. Responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies with the student editors.

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Like father, like Daughter

TECH FAMILY TREE: Emily Griffin talks about what it's like being a student on the same campus where her dad is an executive.

By Brittany Barrientos/
The University Daily

The term "big man on campus" often is used to describe a star athlete or class officer, but as of Monday, Texas Tech has a new icon. This time the title goes to a woman — freshman Emily Griffin.

Griffin's father, Mark Griffin, was appointed earlier this week to the Tech Board of Regents. She said she could not be happier that her dad will be such a major part of Tech life.

"I'm really excited for him," she said. "My whole life he has been on the school board, so I'm glad he is going to be a part of my school here, too."

Emily Griffin, a human development and family studies major from Lubbock, said she can see how this could bother other students, especially freshmen, but believes having her father be the recipient of such an honor is a privilege.

"I don't think they could have picked a better person," she said. "I just can't wait to see what he will do."

Mark Griffin said he also is very pleased to have received such an honor,

especially in the town where he was born and bred.

"I was born and raised here," he said. "My family is here. It was a great opportunity and I didn't want to pass that up."

Mark Griffin graduated from Tech Law School and said many other members of his family have gone to Tech as well.

"I am the president of Lubbock ISD and have always had a high interest in education," he said. "Emily being here is just an added benefit; it gives me more insight to what's going on at Tech."

He said he enjoyed his Tech experience and hopes his daughter will do the same.

"I am absolutely excited for her to continue to advance both educationally and socially at Texas Tech," he said.

Though she realizes the amount of power her father will hold, Emily Griffin

said she does not believe any added perks will be in it for her.

"I don't think I will get any special treatment," she said.

Her mother, Claudia Griffin, said she does not believe Emily will take advantage of the privilege her father has been given.

"I am very excited for both of them," she said. "Knowing Emily, though, I don't think she will take advantage of the situation. (Mark) wouldn't let her."

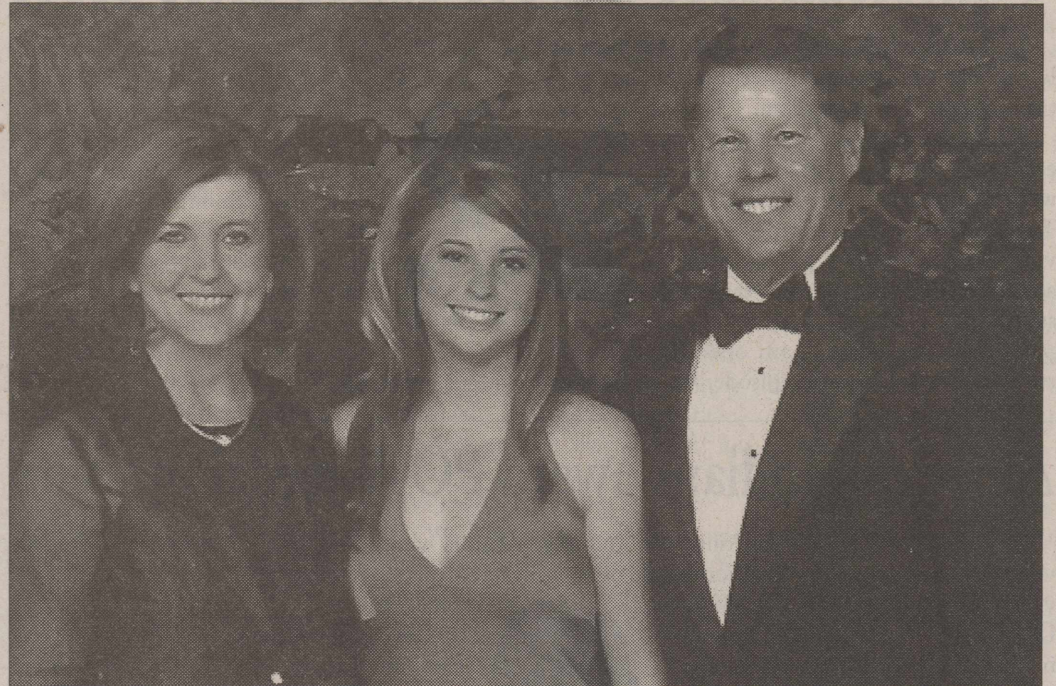
She said she thinks Mark Griffin having a daughter who attends Tech will be beneficial for everyone on campus.

"I think he will ask her opinion and he will always be able to see things from the parents' side of it," Claudia Griffin said. "(I think) it will make for a better understanding of campus issues."

She said she is excited and cannot wait to go through this experience with

“Knowing Emily, though, I don't think she will take advantage of the situation. (Mark) wouldn't let her.”

— CLAUDIA GRIFFIN
Emily Griffin's Mother



EMILY GRIFFIN (CENTER), poses with her parents, Claudia and Mark, at a 2004 Chi Omega event.

her family.

Emily Griffin said if her dad was given ultimate power on campus, there are some things she would like to see him fix.

"Tuition is a big thing for a lot of students. I hope he will be able to improve that," she said. "Parking is also a big problem. The parking situation can lead to security and safety issues for students, especially girls."

Mark Griffin had the same idea. He said many of the major issues he wants

to work toward are obvious ones related directly to students.

"Tuition deregulation is a big issue," he said. "We need to make sure we don't price ourselves out of the market. We want Tech to be both attractive and affordable."

He also said he wants to focus on interactions and partnerships with school districts in the area. Ideally they will be

able to upgrade local recruiting and offer college-level classes, which will in turn tie more students to Tech.

Emily Griffin is in her second semester at Tech and is really enjoying her time here and does not believe her dad being on the Board of Regents will change that.

"I don't think anyone in my classes will even know who I am," she said.




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Halo 2 tournament set for Friday

The Tech Gaming League will be hosting a Halo 2 tournament and open gaming night Friday at the Carpenter/Wells residence hall.

The gaming begins at 7 p.m. and is scheduled to last until 6 a.m. Saturday.

Gamers will be able to form teams of two for the death match tournament and teams of three and four for the capture the flag and team assault tournaments.

Gaming over the network is free for everyone, but there is a \$10 per person entry fee for the

tournaments. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top two teams.

Gamers should supply their own television sets, Xboxes, power strips, networking cables and copies of Halo 2. The systems will be linked over the local area network, so a subscription to Xbox Live is not required to play.

The tournament will take place in the meeting room on the second floor. Gamers can register for a place in the tournament by e-mail at daniel.sneed@ttu.edu or sign up at the event.

'American Idol' revote called after error

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The 11 contestants left on Fox's reality hit "American Idol" are getting another shot at stardom.

Phone numbers that allowed viewers to pick their favorite contestant were incorrectly displayed during Tuesday's show, prompting a re-vote during the show scheduled to air Wednesday, the network said in a statement.

Phone lines will remain open for two hours following the episode, when another

singer will be booted off this week by viewers. The contestant with the fewest votes goes home.



In the running are Bo Bice, Anthony Fedorov, Constantine Maroulis, Anwar Robinson, Scott Savol, Nikko Smith, Mikalah Gordon, Jessica Sierra, Vonzell Solomon, Nadia Turner and Carrie Underwood.

The series, which is in its fourth season, draws nearly 30 million viewers an episode.

American Indians award POW medal of valor

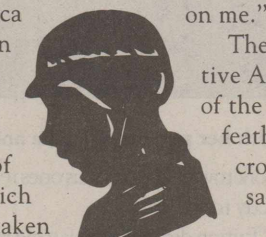
PHOENIX (AP) — An American Indian veterans group awarded a "warriors medal of valor" Wednesday to former POW Jessica Lynch in a ceremony on the mountain named after her best friend and fallen comrade, Army Spc. Lori Piestewa.

The ceremony on Piestewa Peak marked the two-year anniversary of the ambush on a convoy in Iraq in which Piestewa was killed and Lynch was taken prisoner.

Piestewa, a Hopi, is believed to be the first American Indian woman killed while fighting for the U.S. military.

"She was a very strong-minded woman," said Lynch, the former Army supply clerk from West

Virginia who is still recovering from injuries suffered in the ambush. "Her strength rubbed off on me."



The medal was presented to her by the Native American Veterans Council. A member of the Havasupai-Grand Canyon tribe used feathers to send sage smoke through the crowd, and members of the Sioux nations sang to the rhythm of a drum.

Lynch, 21, and Piestewa, 23, served together in the 507th Maintenance Company, based at Fort Bliss and were roommates there and tentmates in Iraq.

With proceeds from a book deal, Lynch created a foundation to help Piestewa's two children, 6-year-Brandon and 5-year-old Carla.

'Purpose Driven' preacher, writer spreads Bible in post-MTV world

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (AP) — The Rev. Rick Warren wrote his best-selling "The Purpose Driven Life" to save souls, but even he was surprised when the man suspected of shooting his way out of an Atlanta courthouse heard God in his words and surrendered.

Warren's role in the Georgia hostage drama earlier this month illustrates just how effectively the charismatic preacher has helped bring Christian evangelism to mainstream America.

After 22 years spent building one of the nation's largest megachurches in suburban Orange County, Warren rocketed to fame in 2002 with his no-frills primer on what it takes to be a Christian in the 21st century.

His book has sold 21 million copies and made Warren an instant celebrity, a standard-bearer for a new generation of evangelists who has caught the attention of President Bush and other national policy-makers.

With his well-trimmed goatee and spiked hair, Warren seems more like a polished CEO than a cheerleader for Jesus. He speaks emphatically, peppering his conversation with precise statistics and one-liners.

Yet Warren, who wears Hawaiian shirts and sandals when he preaches, also tries to keep things simple for his audience. He says he's just telling timeless stories in a contemporary voice.

"When David said, 'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want,' why did he say that? Well, because David was a shepherd," Warren says in an interview at Saddleback Church, a sprawling campus of manicured lawns, airy buildings and vast parking lots.

"Today, I don't think it's any less appropriate for the businessman to say, 'The Lord is my CEO' or 'The Lord is my manager.' You can't just assume terminology today is understandable. I work very hard at being a translator."

He is quick to defend his ministry from traditionalists who say he commercializes faith and makes salvation too easy with one-line exhortations.

"I'm never going to deny what I believe, but I've got to say it in a way that makes sense to the MTV generation in a postmodern world," Warren says. "Traditional churches think I'm changing the message, but all I'm

doing is changing the method."

That method apparently paid off for Ashley Smith, the young mother taken hostage by suspected courthouse shooter Brian Nichols.

During her seven-hour captivity, Smith read aloud from the chapter on serving others in "The Purpose Driven Life" and later credited the passage with softening her captor's heart.

Raised a Southern Baptist in tiny Redwood Valley, population 500, Warren was fascinated with the dynamics of church growth as a seminary student in the late 1970s.

The fourth-generation pastor wrote letters to colleagues at the 100 biggest U.S. churches and sifted through demographic data for the perfect city in which to launch his own megachurch.

He settled on Orange County's Saddleback Valley because at the time his analysis showed it was the fastest growing region in the nation's fastest growing county.

Along with San Francisco, San Diego and Seattle, it also had one of the largest "unchurched" populations in the country, he says.

Warren says he sent out 15,000 hand-addressed invitations, but only 205 people showed up at his first Easter service at a local high school. Only five were regular churchgoers.

"It was like speaking at a Kiwanis Club. I said, 'Open your Bible,' and nobody had a Bible. I said, 'Let's sing a hymn' and nobody knew the song,"

says Warren, now 50. "It was exactly who I was going after — the unchurched Southern Californian. We really hit our target."

In the 25 years since, Warren has hit his target again and again — and widened the mark far beyond Southern California.

Nearly 22,000 people attend Saddleback regularly and the church has baptized 14,000 people in the past 10 years — including 2,029 in 2004. The Web site for Warren's book says it's been named the fastest growing Baptist church in history.

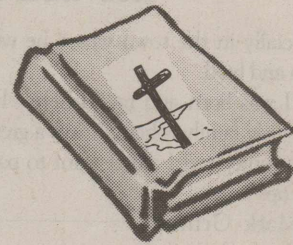
Starting in the 1990s, what he calls his "national decade," Warren began expanding his influence beyond Orange County.

In an ever-widening circle, Warren and his staff trained more than 300,000 pastors in his church-growth philosophy and send a weekly e-newsletter, The Ministry ToolBox, to 138,000 pastors worldwide. His first book, "The Purpose Driven Church," published in 1995, sold a half-million copies — most to other preachers.

Today, Warren isn't shy about using his newfound clout to launch what he calls his ministry's "global decade."

"He's a person of extraordinary ability and could be the CEO of a major organization. He reinterprets the tradition and he does so brilliantly," says Edmund Gibbs, professor of church growth at the Fuller Seminary in Pasadena.

Warren's emphasis on approachable Christianity is reflected at Saddleback, where worshippers can choose from nearly two dozen services that feature different styles of live music, from heavy metal to reggae to hula. Pastors preach in T-shirts and hand out fill-in-the-blank flashcards that dovetail with the day's sermon.



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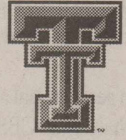
2005 Summer Reading Program

The Storyteller's Daughter
by Saira Shah has been selected as the 2005 Summer Reading Program Book for incoming freshmen.

For more information, please contact the Center for Campus Life at 742-LIFE.

Center for Campus Life
Produced by Marketing and Promotions for Student Affairs

Sixteen is sweet, but Tech aims to be elite



Red Raiders face West Virginia Mountaineers in NCAA Regional Semifinals



APPROX. 8:40 P.M. TODAY, CBS AND KKAM (1340-AM)

By Joey Kirk/
The University Daily

Neither was supposed to make it this far. But look what happened.

Doubted from the beginning of the season, both Texas Tech and West Virginia have a similar story — one that brings them together at 8:40 p.m. today at University Arena, better known as The Pit, in Albuquerque, N.M.

"We know they're a team just like us," senior guard Ronald Ross said. "Nobody expected them really to do too much."

Sixth-seeded Tech (22-10), picked to finish seventh or worse in the Big 12 Conference before the

season started, is one of only two teams from the conference left in the NCAA Tournament, with six earning seeds.

The other — Oklahoma State — is the team to which the Raiders lost in the conference tournament championship at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo., March 13.

The Mountaineers' run in the Big East parallels that of Tech's in the Big 12.

Seventh-seeded West Virginia (23-10) finished seventh in its conference but remains alive in postseason along with conference-counterpart Villanova. Six teams from the Big East also were selected in the field of 65.

The difference in the two is Syracuse, eliminated by Vermont in the first round, defeated the Mountaineers in the conference championship game March 12 in New York City.

Now each team has made it to the Sweet 16, with Tech defeating third-seeded Gonzaga in Tucson, Ariz., Saturday and West Virginia beating second-seeded Wake Forest in double-overtime in Cleveland, Ohio.

This time is the first Tech has made it this far since 1996, and the first since 1998 for the Mountaineers.

Knight said both teams' accomplishments amaze him. "From a coaching standpoint,

you're really pleased for the players first of all," he said. "I don't think that you all really appreciate just what it is getting in this tournament."

Matching up for the first time, one of their seasons must come to an end. But with what has happened throughout the tournament, forward Devonne Giles said it could be a toss up for who continues and who goes home.

"We know this is a good opportunity for us," he said. "We just want to come out here and play our hearts out."

For Tech to advance to the Elite Eight against West Virginia's big men, Giles said, will not be easy. "(Six-foot-11 center Kevin

Pittsnogle)'s a good player," he said. "I'm not going to get into advantages or any of that stuff."

For a player who averages 11.2 points per game and 3.5 rebounds per contest, Giles said he enjoys getting the chance to play against Pittsnogle.

"I'm looking forward to matching up with him," he said. "I just have to play hard and do the best I can."

To do that, Giles said no Tech player can let up on any Mountaineer during the game — not at any time. "Just continue playing hard," he said. "We have to go out there and give it 110 percent."

Working as hard as each player can is something Knight said the

Raiders have done all year long no matter what the outcome of each game was.

"These kids have worked hard like I think West Virginia has or Louisville or Washington have," he said.

Who will stand out in this game, Tech or West Virginia?

Ross said the Raiders have to continue doing exactly what the Mountaineers have done thus far in the tournament.

"They just went out and proved people wrong," he said.

— Troy Phillips of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram contributed to this report.

Tech among nation's best across Division I athletic spectrum

By David Wiechmann/
The University Daily

Texas Tech is the only Division I university to have both its men's and women's basketball teams in the Sweet 16 and to have won a bowl game.

That accomplishment puts the Raiders near the top among power programs such as Stanford and Texas who have been powerhouses when it comes to athletics.

But Tech officials and players believe the athletic department can survive amongst those schools.

"I do think some people might be surprised with it," said Lady Raider point guard Erin Grant. "We have a lot of tradition here, but I think we're still building and still building on what we've all started here."

The success of revenue sports at Tech is nothing new to the Raiders, and it is something the department has been working to make a commitment to for some time now.

Mike Leach's hiring as the football coach in 2000 has resulted in record attendance, strong recruiting classes, high graduation rates among the conference and big wins. Leach is the only Tech coach to have won three consecutive bowl games and take his team to a bowl game in each of his first five seasons.

Bob Knight immediately made an impact, turning the program around and participating in postseason play every season.

The Raiders have won 20 or more games every season he has been at Tech, and star guard Ronald Ross is scoring 26 points a game in the NCAA Tournament.

The women's program is regularly in the spotlight with Hall of Fame coach Marsha Sharp at the helm.

She has now taken her team to 11 Sweet 16s in 18 tries.

Senior Associate Athletic Director Judi Henry said Tech may not be No. 1 on a lot of people's list when it comes to athletics, but no one can predict the future,

and no one probably would have guessed years ago Tech would stand where it does now — alone and at the top.

"With what's happened here in the past five or 10 years, I don't think anybody would have looked at a crystal ball and this is what they would have predicted," she said. "This puts a spring in everybody's step."

Sharp said the reason Tech has been able to climb to the top is a direct result of the commitment

Athletic Director Gerald Myers has made to making Tech a major player in sports and improving the department as a whole.

"I think we've made a great movement and we have a lot of respect for the other programs at Tech," Sharp said. "Certainly, Gerald has done a great job trying to provide the things that we need to attempt to make it happen. There's a certain com-

mitment that the university has to make to a sports team to give them

a chance to make things happen on a national level, and I think that's happened here and we're really proud to be a part of it."

Things are not just happening for the major sports, however. The Raiders are seeing success and improvement in a number of other sports this year.

Tim Siegel has taken the men's tennis team to national prowess this year with a 17-0 record and a No. 12 ranking. Larry Hays has continued to show why he is one of the winningest coaches in baseball as the team is again ranked and won a series against No. 8 Texas A&M last weekend.

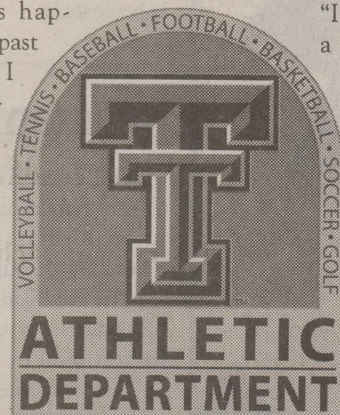
The softball team has turned around under new coach Teresa Wilson. At this point last year

the team was 4-13, and now the squad is 18-9.

Track and field has begun to make a well-earned push for recognition with Olympian and defending national champion Jonathan Johnson.

The men's team ended the indoor season ranked No. 17, and is expected to be higher when outdoor rankings are released as the team's strength is outdoor competition.

Henry told *The UD* of a recruit's father who said on a visit to the campus he had been impressed with the improvements Tech had made calling them "significant strides" and predicting Tech would begin to make the "climb to national prominence."



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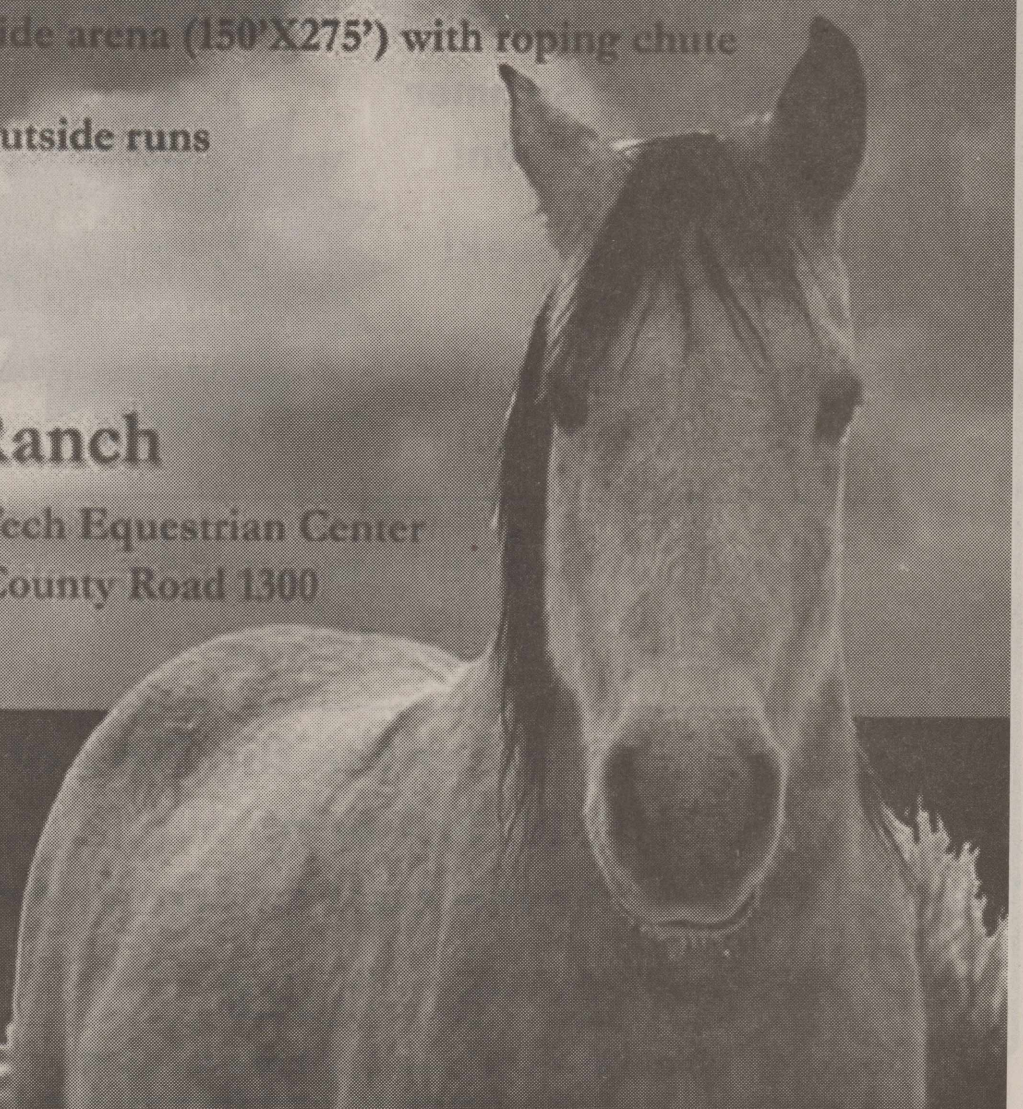
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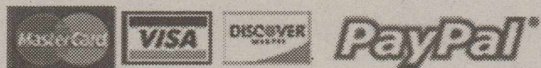
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THAT'S A RAP

Ronald Ross lends vocal talent to "Sweet" rap song

By David Wiechmann/
The University Daily

Senior guard and former walk-on Ronald Ross is known by teammates for his freestyle skills in the locker room, and now his talents are being pushed through the airwaves in "Make 'em Believe" produced by Patton Production.

The Patton brothers, Mitchell and Sherman, are back in action with another song about Texas Tech athletics, and this time, they are rapping about the success of Ross and the Raiders in the NCAA Tournament.

Ross is featured in the song as a backup vocalist and has an intro and outro monologue on the song.

The song has brought attention to Tech from across the nation, and boasts the Red Raiders are believers in themselves and out to convert the rest of the basketball world to their side.

Mitchell Patton, a senior telecommunications major from Tyler, said he and his brother wanted to work with Ross on a song for some time now, but because of his schedule Tech's leading scorer was not able to contribute. With the team reaching the Sweet 16 and the breakdown of the tournament's schedule, the brothers knew they had a chance to make a hit.

"We knew right then that we would be back in school before the next game came up. We wrote the words on or way back from spring break," Patton said. "We've been trying to do some music with Ronald for ages."

Ross jumped at the chance to spit some lyrics on the song, and it didn't take long for him to get in the Patton's in-house studio.

"He knew we had done some football things," Patton said. "He was just excited we had put something together. He was all about it — we called him and he was at our house in 20 minutes."

Being able to squeeze the Pattons into his busy schedule during his short stay in Lubbock before heading to Albuquerque, N.M., was important to Ross because it is people like them who keep athletes in check.

"You always gotta make time for the people you know. You can never overlook them," Ross said. "They're the people that keep you on track."

With low expectations of the Raiders coming into the tournament, "Make 'em Believe" plays off that and boasts "the tournament's in for a rude awakening." Tech overcame an 11-point halftime deficit to beat No. 3 seed Gonzaga to reach the Sweet 16 after commentators wrote the Raiders off during the halftime show.

Ross said he enjoyed working on the production with the Patton brothers and the message is plain and simple to no longer doubt the Raiders. "The song is called 'Make 'em Believe.' It's talking about how people always doubted us and never believed that we could even make it to the tournament," he said. "I talk in the song about us over-

achieving and doing the things people didn't expect us to do."

The song is garnering attention everywhere. Patton said it was to debut on The Beat 104.9 Wednesday evening. KTXF-FM is playing the song, and Mark Finkner played on his show "Cafe" on KKAM 1340.

It may even get national airtime. Patton said a woman from CBS contacted him about the song, and asked if it could be played when the game fades in and out of commercial breaks.

"They're gonna try to put it on the station during the Tech game," he said. "They've heard about it and wanted to have it regardless if they could use it or not. They've never heard of anything like it."

The brothers are marketing the song through friends, and Patton said it has had good reception from students and professors on campus.

The success and popularity of "Make 'em Believe" could bring more publicity for the Patton brothers and their production company, but the true goal of "Make 'em Believe" is to get fans ready for the Sweet 16.

"Hopefully, it'll build excitement about some other things," he said. "Of course the main thing is to get everybody pumped up (Thursday)."

"We make 'em believe by makin' 'em leave. Teams that blind, now we making 'em see."

— LYRICS FROM
"MAKE 'EM BELIEVE"
Patton Productions

Women's golf team journeys to Boerne for tourney

The Texas Tech women's golf team will hit the road to participate in the Baylor-Tapatio Springs Intercollegiate Shootout in Boerne on Thursday through Saturday.

The Red Raiders are coming off a 17th-place finish at the Betsy Rawls Longhorn Invitational in Austin last week.

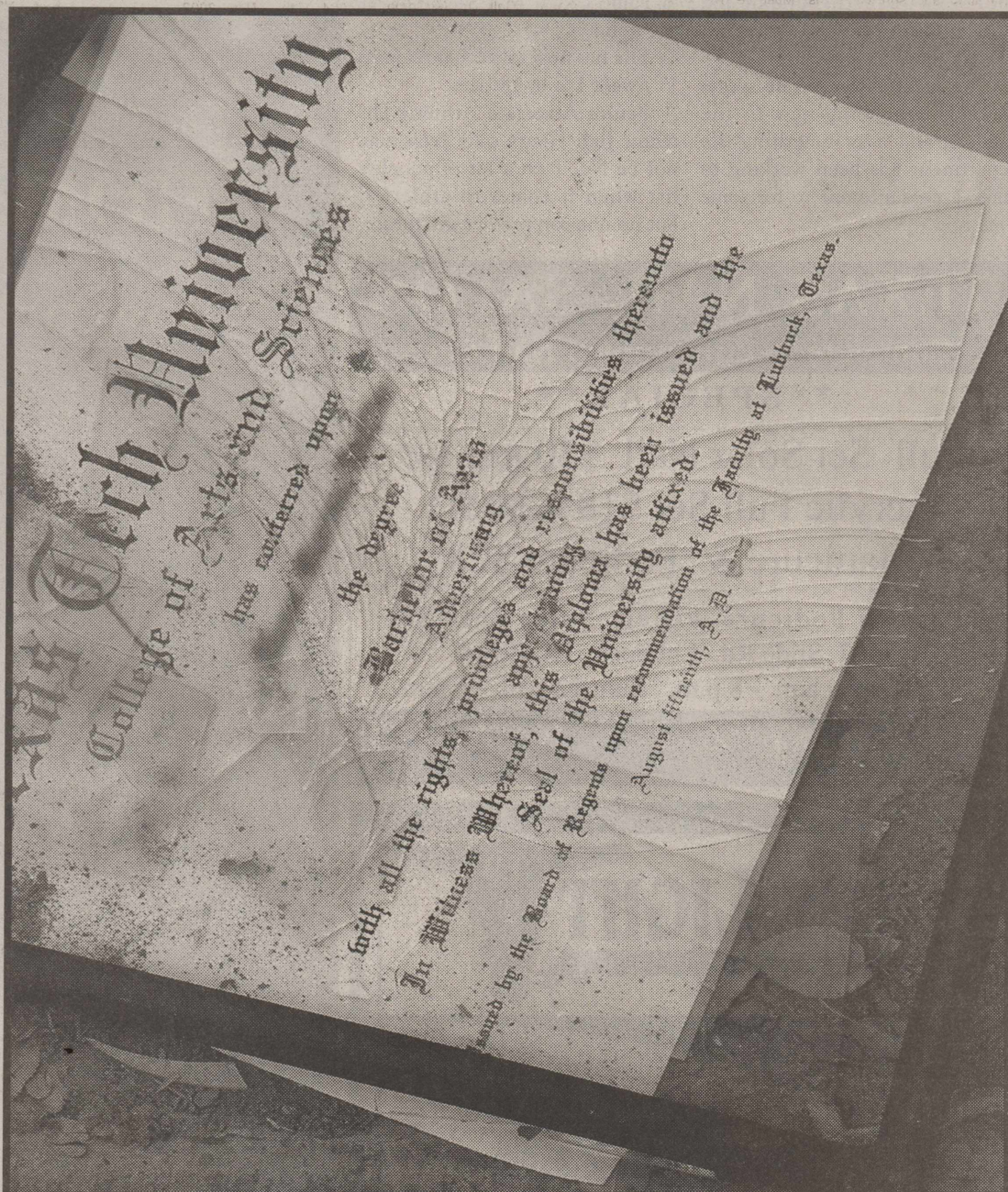
Coach Stacey Totman's crew finished third in this event last season in a field of 19, and took the crown two year's ago.

This year's tournament has 18 teams competing and has some familiar faces for the Raiders to swing with as Big 12 Conference rivals Baylor and Oklahoma will tee-off as well.



Other teams in the field are Arkansas-Little Rock, Arkansas State, Eastern Michigan, Florida International, McLennan CC, Memphis, Michigan, Sam Houston State, SMU, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Texas-Pan American, Toledo, UTEP, Wisconsin and Xavier.

— David Wiechmann



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Sharp: Growth, change good for women's basketball

By David Wiechmann/
The University Daily

DALLAS—When the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament first started, it did not garner the attention it receives today. There was no selection show on ESPN, and only half as many teams got in.

Texas Tech coach Marsha Sharp said the direction the game is going and the changes made to the tournament this year is only helping women's basketball become more of a player in capturing American's love for sports and competition.

Upsets have been present throughout the season, and have played a role in the opening rounds of the tournament as well.

The parity that has taken the game by storm this season resulted in powerhouse Texas equaling its total number of losses last season midway through this year.

Tennessee and UConn both dropped out of the Top 10 for the first time in years, and

teams like Baylor, LSU and Michigan State cracked the Top Five. Sharp said that parity will help her sport.

"Yes, I think the women's game recognizes that," she said of parity being good for women's basketball. "I think that's why we're trying to take it to more neutral sites."

This year only five teams played on their home court for the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament.

In the past to boost attendance at the women's tournament higher seeds hosted the opening rounds. Tech hosted frequently, until last year when the NCAA went a different direction.

Last year's tournament had predetermined sites when the season started. Sixteen schools hosted the tournament's first two rounds, and it resulted in Tech traveling to Missoula, Mont., Tech could have faced lower seeded Montana on its home floor if the Grizzlies had upset Louisiana Tech.

That system was not well-liked by

Sharp, who said teams should deserve the home court advantage in the postseason if it is going to exist.

She did say, however, she is in favor of the continued growth of the game and moving to a system more like the men's tournament.

"I'm a big proponent of what we've done this weekend," she said. "I think to take it to a more neutral site and give people an opportunity to play away from home court is probably the direction to take. The more you do that I think the more upsets will occur."

The tournament has cut down its host sites from 16 to eight, just like the men's tournament, and for the first time in a long time a favorite for the title

is hard to pick.

Sharp said the fact that the crown is anyone's at this point makes this year's tournament especially attractive to those who don't follow women's basketball on a regular basis.

"For the first time, there's not a clear-cut choice for a champion, at least within the top three or four, and usually the last 10 years or so you knew who you were gonna have to knock off specifically every single time just to get a chance to play," she said. "That's changed a little bit that's because programs are getting stronger all the way through the country. That's the only way the game's gonna grow."

The growth can be seen in the success of

the Dallas sub-regional co-hosted by Texas and Tech at Reunion Arena.

The attendance marks are among the highest in the nation this weekend, and it has brought together a class of coaches that would have never played on the same floor this early in the tournament.

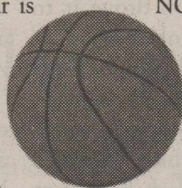
Sharp, a hall of famer, and Texas coach Jody Conradt were leaders in getting the event in Dallas this year, and muster more than 1,300 career wins together.

That's not to mention Georgia coach Andy Landers (633-198) and NC State coach Kay Yow (674-308).

Conradt said this season has been a success all around women's basketball because interest has grown from the parity.

The fact Tennessee and UConn are not runaway favorites spawns interest because it means competition within the sport is growing.

And that's exactly what Sharp and Conradt had in mind when they began coaching women's basketball decades ago—growth for women's basketball and women's athletics.



Knight's wife adds perspective to coaching

LUBBOCK (AP)—When Bob Knight coaches his first Sweet 16 game in more than a decade Thursday night, one of his most trusted advisers won't be on the Texas Tech bench.

The Hall of Fame coach brings a seasoned staff, 39 years of coaching, 854 victories and 27 NCAA tournament appearances into the game against West Virginia.

But when he really needs perspective, he turns to his wife, Karen Knight, a former standout high school coach who observes keenly from the stands.

"It's a different set of eyes with a really good mind, is what we're talking about," Knight said. "It's been great for me to have somebody right there all the time."

Karen Knight made a rare public appearance — and offered a glimpse of her husband's soft side — after Tech upset Gonzaga on Saturday. The emotional coach brought her down from the stands, and she hugged him throughout a nationally televised interview, tears streaming down her face.

But Karen Knight offers much more than emotional support. In fact, the Oklahoma Girls' Basketball Hall of Fame member has been a key part of the braintrust that has helped turn around the Tech program.

Karen Knight, who has been married to

Bob Knight since 1988, serves as the coach's hoops sounding board. Her husband says she's the better coach of the two Knights, and she suggests defensive strategy and helps players with technique during practice.

"The first time I ever talked to her about (basketball), I understood how much she knew," Bog Knight said. "I knew that immediately."

The marriage is Knight's second. He has two sons — Tech associate basketball coach Pat Knight and Tim Knight, the school's assistant athletic director for men's basketball special projects — from his first marriage.

Knight declined to talk about how he and Karen Knight met.

Karen Knight does not do media interviews.

"She's been really good," Knight said. "And not the least of it is her understanding about the whole thing, about how difficult this is, and how hard losing is. She has experienced all that."

She also has known the good and bad times during Bob Knight's career.

He won three national championships and 662 games at Indiana, but things turned sour when school officials said the coach known for his temper violated a zero-tolerance behavior policy.

Even before then, the Hoosiers had struggled on the court. Indiana made it to the

Sweet 16 in 1994 but struggled afterward, losing in the first round four times.

In those final years, Karen Knight knew her husband was unhappy.

"And she had to live with that, and I don't think that was easy for her, my disposition toward the whole thing," Bob Knight said.

Even now, bad feelings remain. In a national radio interview after the Gonzaga win, he was critical in response to a question about his replacement there, Mike Davis. He said he was planning to fire Davis if he stayed at Indiana.

"There's no way I would have kept the guy any longer than that," Bob Knight said. "That's their problem."

The problems have been few and far between in Lubbock, where fans have embraced Bob Knight since his arrival in 2001.

He has taken a team coming off four straight losing seasons and produced four consecutive seasons of 20-plus wins. Tech's Sweet 16 appearance is its first since 1996.

"I really think that she probably was hoping that we could do something in coaching in a situation that we would enjoy, that she would like and that I would like," Bob Knight said. "And that's really basically what we've had here."

Bonds crosses 'foul' line

The media finally did it. The media finally got what it wanted. The media pushed Barry Bonds to his breaking point, and he is just plain tired. He's tired of the questions. He's tired of the speculations, and he's tired.

Bonds told reporters Tuesday he was fed up with just about everything and possibly could miss the rest of the season after a second surgery on his right knee and claimed to be emotionally and physically drained from the whole ordeal.

But did the media really want Bonds to quit weeks before the season in which he was expected to surpass Babe Ruth on the career home runs list? He is just 52 short of taking over Hammerin' Hank Aaron for the title.

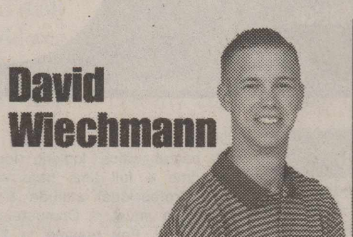
Do the media really have it out for Bonds?

Well, when the player hitting more home runs than anybody in the game is suspected of steroid use thanks to a grand jury testimony leak to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and is not subpoenaed to speak in front of Congress last week, it does raise questions. Reporters only were doing their jobs trying to get information from him, since that wouldn't happen on Capitol Hill.

But Bonds thinks the media has been headhunting him for a while now, and he made it clear he was tired of their game.

"I'm tired of my kids crying. You wanted me to jump off a bridge; I finally did," Bonds told reporters Tuesday. "You finally brought me and my family down. ... So now go pick a different person."

By walking away, Bonds only opens the door for



David Wiechmann

If Bonds never returns to the game, that could be more damaging to him because no doubt fans would assume him guilty. But if he returns and breaks the record he is chasing, will the fans truly appreciate it?

more persecution from media and fans because no one likes a quitter.

This will raise speculation of his alleged steroid use because he is trying to run from the questions and approaching darkness.

But Peter Pan he is not. Bonds' shadow travels with him everywhere, and he should realize that sooner or later as the steroid questions, rumors and speculations will not disappear any time soon.

The media proved its power by pushing Bonds to the edge of his mental capacity to handle tough times and testing questions, but he will not be able to escape the damage his ride into the sunset will do to his image.

In a time when America's youth is looking for a new role model in baseball and someone to look up to, who can tomorrow's baseball players trust today? Bonds wasn't asked to testify and is running from the issue, and Mark McGwire basically pleaded the Fifth Amendment. The two are jointly responsible for the boom of interest the game has received in recent years.

If Bonds never returns to the game, that could be more damaging to him because no doubt fans would assume him guilty.

But will the fans truly appreciate it if he returns and breaks the record he is chasing?

The damage done might never be repaired, and a lot of it could have been avoided if Tuesday, Bonds hadn't traded his cleats for running shoes.

■ **Wiechmann is a senior journalism major from Lubbock. E-mail comments to david.m.wiechmann@ttu.edu.**

LSU star Seimone Augustus heads women's AP All-America team

(AP) — Seimone Augustus plays with dazzling skill, a crowd-pleasing flair and, according to her coach, plenty of smarts.

With that combination, it's no wonder the LSU star was a unanimous All-American.

Augustus led The Associated Press women's basketball All-America team, which was announced Wednesday.

Augustus, a 6-foot-1 junior, received the maximum 225 points in the voting and was joined on the first team by Kansas State's Kendra Wecker (192), Duke's Monique Currie (180), Ohio State's Jessica Davenport (163) and TCU's Sandora Irvin (153).

Wecker received 36 first-team votes, Currie 29, Davenport 22 and Irvin 20.

Temeka Johnson, LSU's feisty 5-3 point guard, was a second-team pick. Baylor had Sophia Young on the second team and Steffanie Blackmon on the third.

Also on the second team were Minnesota's Janel McCarville, Stanford freshman Candice Wiggins and Mississippi State's Tan White.

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