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WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY SUNNY HIGH 57 / LOW 28 SATURDAY CLOUDY HIGH 65 / LOW 38 SUNDAY CLOUDY HIGH 68 / LOW 36

It's not over for Tech basketball; it's only just begun.
SECTION B

ON PAGE 7



The Beef Mobile has a new face.

STATE

Perry wrapping up 12-city campaign tour

AUSTIN (AP) — Republican Gov. Rick Perry was heading for the finish line Thursday in his 12-city sprint across Texas to kick off his campaign for re-election.

Perry, his wife Anita and their entourage started their three-day "Proud of Texas" tour Tuesday in Lubbock, then flew to all regions of the state. On Thursday, they visited El Paso, Midland and Abilene before heading to a final stop in Round Rock.

A veteran campaigner who has never lost a race, Perry is emphasizing his record on job creation, budget cutting and lawsuit limitation. He also tells audiences that he has taken action on his own using executive authority to improve schools, even though the Legislature has failed to overhaul the school funding system.

Perry faces Larry Kilgore, Rhett R. Smith and Star Locke in the March 7 Republican primary, but Perry is the favorite by far.

Republican Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn opted out of the GOP primary and is running as an independent. Perry made it clear during campaign stops that he still views Strayhorn as his biggest threat in the November general election.

NATION

Michigan man jailed after shaking hands

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A man has been jailed on assault charges after a prosecutor, police officer and courtroom bailiff became seriously ill after shaking hands with him.

During a Dec. 21 court appearance on a traffic charge, John Ridgeway pulled out a vial of an unknown liquid, rubbed his hands with the contents and insisted on shaking hands with the three people, authorities said.

All of them got sick within an hour, suffering from nausea, headaches, numbness and tingling that lasted about a day. Two sought treatment at a hospital.

The FBI was running tests on the substance to identify it.

Ridgeway, 41, told the Associated Press in a telephone interview from jail Thursday that the substance was olive oil. He questioned whether the three officials were sick at all, and charged that the allegations were fabricated.

WORLD

Europe says Iran nuke talks have been stalled

BERLIN (AP) — The British, French and German foreign ministers said Thursday that negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program had reached a "dead end" and the Islamic republic should be referred to the U.N. Security Council.

The ministers did not specify what action should be taken by the Security Council, which could impose sanctions. French diplomats refused to discuss potential options and bristled at the talk of sanctions, saying they were not that stage.

The ministers called for a special session of the International Atomic Energy Agency to decide the referral.

The action came two days after Iran broke U.N. seals at a uranium enrichment plant and said it was resuming nuclear research after a two-year freeze.

Enriched uranium can be used as a fuel for both nuclear energy and nuclear weapons. Iran says its nuclear program is only for fuel.

In Washington, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called on the United Nations to confront Iran's "defiance."

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Stampede breaks out at Muslim ritual

At least 345 dead at crowded religious event

By SALAH NASRAWI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MINA, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Muslim pilgrims tripped over luggage while hurrying to ritually stone the devil Thursday, causing a crush that trampled at least 345 people to death in the latest stampede to mark Islam's annual hajj.

Saudi authorities have sought for years to ease the flow of increasingly mammoth crowds, but the tragedy underlined the difficulty in managing one of the biggest religious events in the world, which this time drew more than

2.5 million pilgrims.

The deaths on the final day of stoning came a week after another hajj disaster — the Jan. 5 collapse of a building being used as a pilgrims' hotel that killed 76 people in Mecca.

In the stoning ritual, all the pilgrims must pass a series of three "pillars" called al-Jamarat, which represent the devil and which the faithful pelt with stones to purge themselves of sin.

The site in the desert of Mina outside

STAMPEDE continued on Page 2

Hajj pilgrimage has deep roots for Islamic faith

By DANIELLE NOVY
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The annual hajj pilgrimage claimed more than 345 lives Thursday as the stream of thousands of Muslim pilgrims armed with bulking suitcases turned into a stampede, according to *The Associated Press*.

The victims were trampled while en route to a symbolic stoning ritual at al-Jamarat, a series of three pillars representing the devil that the pilgrims throw stones at

to purge themselves of sin.

Stampedes are nothing new for the hajj pilgrimage, which is one of the five pillars of the Islamic faith. According to *The Associated Press*, 251 pilgrims were trampled to death two years ago during the pilgrimage. This figure pales in comparison to the worst recorded stampede, which took the lives of 1,426 pilgrims in 1990.

The interior ministry said Thursday's

HAJJ continued on Page 5



LINC ARMES/The Daily Toreador

Scouting out New Heroes

Scouts look to Tech women for leadership

By ABBY STONE
FEATURES WRITER

The Girl Scouts of America think college women are the way to go when it comes to recruiting new troop leaders.

Maye Deanda, director of membership for the Girl Scouts of Caprock Council, said the most important goal of a Girl Scout leader could be found in the mission statement: "We dedicate ourselves to the purpose of inspiring girls with the highest ideals of character."

Deanda said she loves getting college students involved because the girls are fascinated with them and it adds to their Girl Scout experience.

When these young girls hear about and learn about the different things their college leaders are doing, she said, it is empowering.

College students act as role models to young girls, she said. They can instill things in children that will stay with them for the rest of their

GIRL SCOUTS continued on Page 3



LEFT, A MANNEQUIN displays a Girl Scouts sash. RIGHT, CINDY HERTEL, a sophomore interior design major from Fort Worth and a Girl Scouts volunteer, participates in activities with local Girl Scouts.

Courtesy Photo

Investigation into multiple shootings suspect progresses

By PAUL ROBERTS
STAFF WRITER

The Lubbock Sheriff's Department and the Lubbock Police Department have teamed up to investigate a multiple shootings incident that took place Jan. 8.

Alvin Morriel, 62, was taken into custody for the alleged shootings of multiple victims.

An investigation is still in process, said Capt. Kevin Overstreet of the Lubbock Sheriff Department.

Sgt. John Gomez of the Lubbock Police Department said the incident started at a pool hall where Morriel apparently was angered about his wife playing pool with other people.

Morriel shot two victims at the pool hall, Overstreet said.

One of the two victims of the pool hall incident, Kevin Nash, is in critical condition, Overstreet said.

He said Morriel left by himself

for his residence where another shooting took place.

According to police reports, police were called for a civil disturbance when Morriel allegedly shot his wife in the leg then fled the scene.

Gomez said Morriel arrived at the home of his ex-wife, Willie Rosenthal where she lived with her current husband, Gerald Rosenthal.

Gomez said the shooting spree continued with Morriel shooting numerous times at Andrea Bluiitt and Michael Parrish. He continued firing several rounds at Rosenthal's house, then again fled the scene.

Bluiitt was shot in the chest and was rushed to the University Medical Center. She remains in critical condition.

Gomez said Morriel was arrested when he returned to his ex-wife's home. He said Morriel currently is facing second-degree charges on several counts, but his fate is up to the District Attorney's Office.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY — MONDAY, JAN. 16 Monday's holiday is more than just a vacation day for some Tech students

By ANDREW WOOD
STAFF WRITER

To some Tech students, Monday will be a chance to relax and enjoy their day without school. But for others, it will be a day of service in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

Students, faculty and staff on the Tech campus, will join others around the country on Monday to honor the political activist and one of the most recognized figures in the American civil rights movement during the 1960s. Others will celebrate their day off school.

"I've never really thought about it before. I guess it's just a day off," said Katy Watson, a sophomore French major from Hurst. "If you take the time to think about it, it's a real holiday, but most people don't."

Watson said she plans to spend her day off looking for a job.

Some students said they are glad to have the day off, but others said the day still needs to be celebrated respectively.

Laura Pavlovich, a junior architecture major from Double Oak, said Monday is a free day, but King is to be

remembered for the way he gave people the realization that everyone deserves to be treated fairly.

"I definitely think it is a day of reflection and not just a day off," she said.

While honoring King, Kay Elssesser, a senior business major from Tiffin, Ohio, said Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a chance for people to celebrate the decrease of racism in America. For the holiday's 21st anniversary, she said more people are recognizing the day's importance.

"As we go further in time, I think people are accepting it more and more," she said.

Although universities and federal agencies across the country will be closed Monday, this does not mean others will use the day for rest and relaxation. To some, it is a day of service.

The Web site, www.mlkd.org, says the day will be "a day on, not a day off."

The site listed several projects that different organizations across the nation are doing, one of which is Martin Luther King Jr. Reading Day in Lubbock.

The Volunteer Center of Lubbock's United Way

MLK DAY continued on Page 6

State of City address provides insight to Lubbock past, future

By MICHELLE CASADY
STAFF WRITER

Mayor Marc McDougal gave the city of Lubbock the annual State of the City address Wednesday, covering topics ranging from city finances to hurricane relief.

"Our economy is on its way up and I don't see it going anywhere but up for a long time," said Kenny McKay from the office of the Lubbock Economic Development Alliance.

McDougal gave reports of progress in all areas of city affairs.

"Agriculture. I would say agriculture is our biggest achievement this year. Thanks to the moisture we've had the last two years our farmers have been able to bring in record breaking crops," McDougal said.

According to McDougal's address, the economic growth that will ensue as a result of the cotton crops will total \$4.9 billion.

McDougal also commended the city's performance in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

"I want to brag on the Lubbock Apartment Association. It was the

work of this organization that enabled the city to move the evacuees out of the temporary shelter at Reese and into permanent housing so quickly," McDougal said.

The water supply problem facing Lubbock, which was resolved, also is something McDougal said he is proud of.

"I think being able to secure 100 years worth of water for our community is an outstanding achievement," he said.

McDougal also discussed the city's plan to irrigate with ground-water instead of drinking water, which he claims will save the city more than \$90,000 each year.

The Marsha Sharp Freeway project, which previously was slated to be completed after the year 2024, has been moved up in completion by 12 years.

"Lubbock is experiencing great economic growth. We are in a position to continue growing well into the future," McDougal said.

The Lubbock Economic Development Alliance also helped the city grow this year.

"We (gave incentives to create) about 300 jobs but we really helped create closer to 1,000," McKay said.

He went on to say 1,000 new jobs in a year is about average for the city of Lubbock and also commended the work ethic of the citizens of Lubbock.

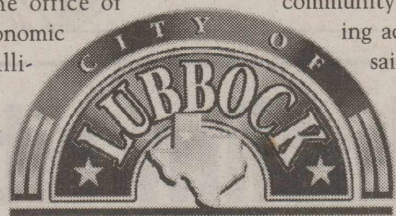
"Our work ethic here is just amazing. It's not just outside companies but our local businesses that are to thank for that. They really keep us going," McKay said.

One more area of pride for McDougal was the turn-around of Lubbock Power and Lighting.

"Four years ago there was some serious financial trouble with LP&L. Three years ago they were headed for a \$35 million deficit. We brought in some new people though, like Carroll McDonald, and Gary Zheng and they really deserve the credit for the current \$15 million surplus."

The numbers agree with McDougal and McKay. Sales tax receipts went up 6 percent this year from last year, while property taxes were reduced and appraisal values went up.

► michelle.casady@ttu.edu
► brittany.a.barrientos@ttu.edu



Stampede

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the holy city of Mecca is a notorious bottleneck in the weeklong pilgrimage and has seen deadly incidents in seven of the past 17 years, including a stampede in 1990 that killed 1,426 people and one in 2004 that killed 244.

"I heard screaming and ... saw people jumping over each other," said Suad Abu Hamada, an Egyptian pilgrim. "Police starting pulling out bodies. The bodies were piled up. I couldn't count them, they were too many."

Bodies covered in white sheets lined the pavement near the ramp where the stampede occurred, and emergency workers rushed the injured away on stretchers. Police cleared part of the site, but thousands of pilgrims continued the stoning ritual.

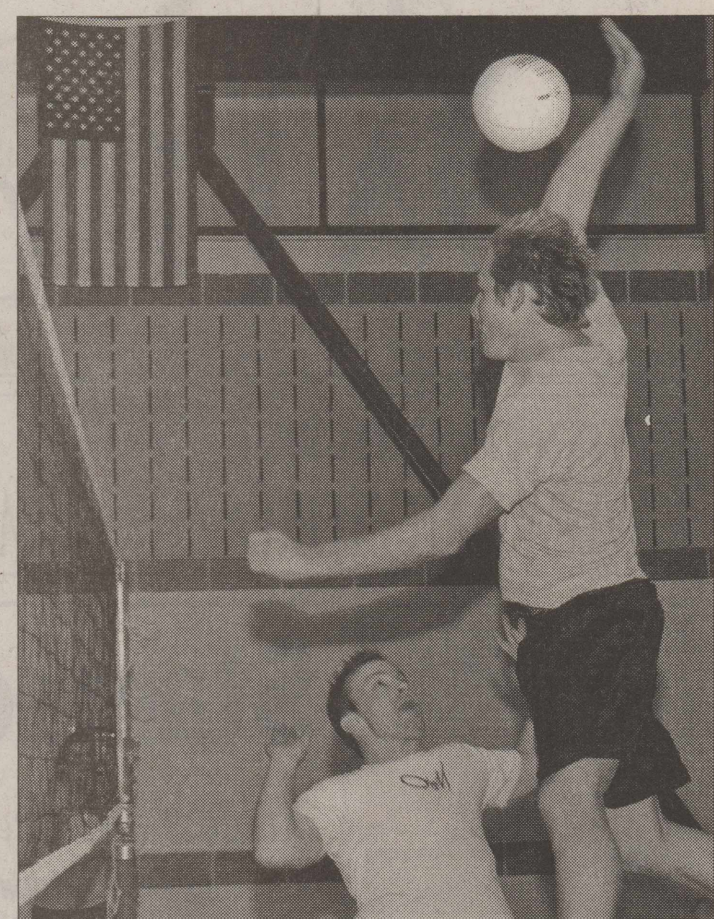
The Interior Ministry put the death toll at 345, and the Health Ministry said 289 people were injured. State-run Al-Ekhabriyah television said most of the victims were from South Asia.

Thousands of pilgrims were rushing to complete the last of the three days of the stoning ritual before sunset when some of them began to trip over dropped baggage, causing a large pileup, said Maj. Gen. Mansour al-Turki, spokesman for the Interior Ministry.

"This was fate destined by God," al-Turki said. "Some of the pilgrims were undisciplined and hasty to finish the ritual as soon as possible."

► brittany.a.barrientos@ttu.edu

SPIKED!



CAITY COLVARD/The Daily Toreador

NICHOLAS GAY, A senior marketing major from Rockwall, watches fellow Texas Tech Club Volleyball Team member Tyler Garner, a sophomore exercise and sport sciences major from Lampasas, spike the ball he set during practice at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center Thursday afternoon.

Robertson apologizes for suggesting Sharon's stroke was divine punishment

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Christian broadcaster Pat Robertson has sent a letter apologizing for suggesting that Ariel Sharon's massive stroke was divine punishment for pulling Israel out of the Gaza Strip.

Robertson's comments drew widespread condemnation from other Christian leaders, President Bush and Israeli officials, who canceled plans to include the American evangelist in the construction of a Christian tourist center in northern Israel.

In a letter dated Wednesday and marked for hand delivery to Sharon's son Omri, Robertson called the Israeli prime minister a "kind, gracious and gentle man" who was "carrying an almost insurmountable burden of making decisions for his nation."

"My concern for the future safety of your nation led me to make

remarks which I can now view in retrospect as inappropriate and insensitive in light of a national grief experienced because of your father's illness," the letter said.

"I ask your forgiveness and the forgiveness of the people of Israel," Robertson wrote.

The 77-year-old prime minister suffered a devastating stroke Jan. 4 and remained hospitalized Thursday in critical but stable condition.

The day after Sharon's stroke, Robertson suggested he was being punished for pulling Israel out of the Gaza Strip last summer. The pullout was seen by many evangelical groups as a retreat from biblical prophecy of Jewish sovereignty over the area.

Despite the apology, it was doubtful Robertson would be brought back into the fold of the proposed Christian Heritage Center in the northern Galilee region, where tradition says Jesus lived and taught.

THE DAILY TOREADOR

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Breaking News

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Tech Notes

Tech Notes is a service provided to Texas Tech students by the Student Government Association and The Daily Toreador. To have your student organization event listed, please call 742-3631 or e-mail dailytoreador@ttu.edu.

Corrections

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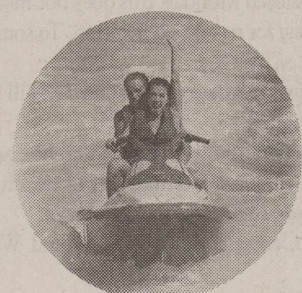
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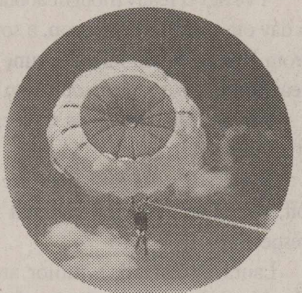
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SGA campaign raises \$700K in fall semester

Eventual \$5 million effort aims to even out plateaued scholarship funds with rising tuition costs

By **MICHAEL CARDELL**
STAFF WRITER

The Student Government Association and Department of Institutional Advancement have teamed up on a scholarship campaign to boost recruiting, strengthen reputation and keep tuition low.

According to the SGA Web

site, the scholarship campaign is a student-led effort to raise \$5 million for merit an opportunity scholarships.

SGA External Vice President Ryan Worley said Texas Tech is trying to build a reputation to compete with Texas A&M and the University of Texas while recruiting.

"The way we do that is by offer-

ing students at the top of their class four-year presidential scholarships to come to Tech," he said. "It is very difficult to recruit against UT and A&M when they have limitless funds to provide full scholarships for students."

Mary Saathoff, senior director of Corporations, Foundations and Scholarships, said scholarships are a funding priority at Tech.

"With rising cost of tuition, we need more money for scholarships," she said.

Saathoff said the purpose of the campaign is to raise money so there may be more scholarships and in turn, Tech can bring in more students.

"There are a variety of scholarship opportunities," Saathoff said. "There is the Merit Scholarship for incoming freshmen based on their GPA, SAT scores and academic record."

On the other hand, there is an opportunity scholarship for students already enrolled, she said.

"The Opportunity Scholarship is based on a wide set of criteria,"

Saathoff said. "It focuses on financial need, talents or gifts in certain fields, and other sets of criteria, such as the accomplishments and grades while attending university."

SGA Internal Vice President Casey Harmon said the campaign has brought in approximately \$700,000 in gifts and pledges since the campaign started in Fall 2005.

Harmon said Tech will raise funds by selling bricks with the donors name on it, which will be used to build a walkway from the Administration building to the Memorial Circle.

"We didn't want to increase tuition just to keep up with scholarship funds," she said.

Since tuition has been increasing, the value of scholarships have gone down, Harmon said, meaning the amount of money given to the student does not cover everything it did in the past.

She said the campaign has paved the way for the future stability of scholarships.

"When donors give \$10,000 or more, they can designate that

money to go into an endowment, which means the interest gained from the donation goes toward scholarships," Harmon said. "However, to gain enough interest to support a scholarship fund, you need a lot of money."

Worley said the university had to dip into tuition and endowment funds to keep up, because the scholarship funds haven't been able to grow with the inflation of tuition over the past five years.

"This program is designed so we don't have to do that anymore," Worley said. "This will help all-around with tuition, because we will no longer have to use tuition and fees to cover scholarships."

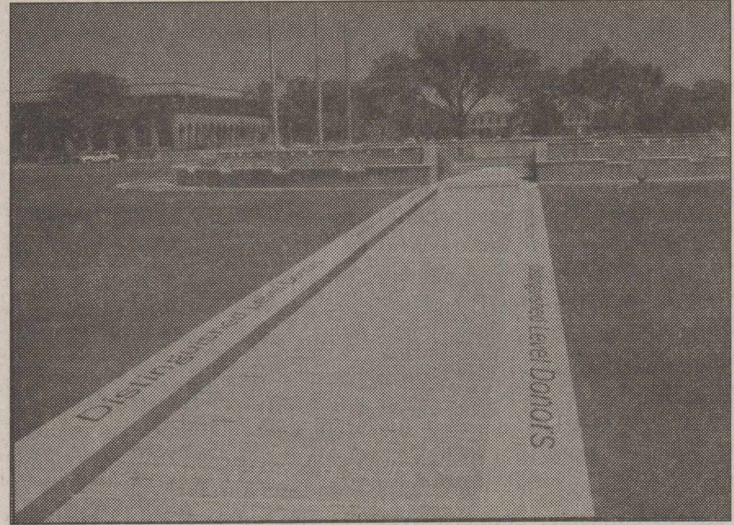
He said, although the goal of \$5 million may not be reached by the end of the year, the campaign has

laid the foundation for future officers to follow through on.

"We'll have more of a game plan next year," Worley said. "And hopefully we will have the opportunity to continue towards our goal of \$5 million."

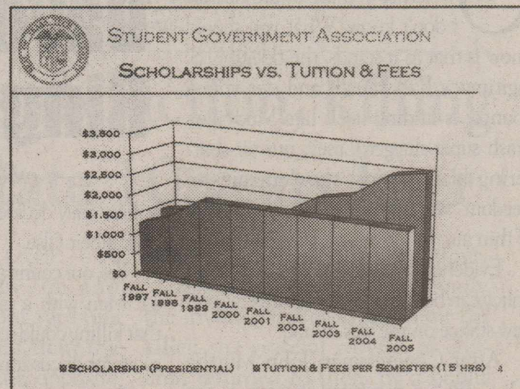
The application deadline for most opportunity scholarships for Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 is Feb. 1. To apply for a scholarship, visit www.financialaid.ttu.edu/soi2.asp or visit the scholarship office in West Hall Room 305.

► michael.w.cardell@ttu.edu
► brittany.a.barrientos@ttu.edu



COURTESY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

THE PROJECTED NEW walkway around Memorial Circle when brick initiative is complete. The campaign aims to raise \$5 million.



Explosion damages lab at Texas A&M, cause unknown

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Windows were shattered and walls displaced after a laboratory explosion at Texas A&M University early Thursday, authorities said.

No one was injured or in the building at the time of the explosion, said Bart Humphreys, a spokesman for the College Station Fire Department. He said the explosion happened on the third floor of the school's chemistry building and didn't damage other rooms.

The cause of the explosion is under investigation, and damage estimates haven't been made, Texas A&M spokesman Lane Stephenson said.

Humphreys said the blast was reported around 6 a.m., and there were no flames when firefighters arrived.

The investigation is ongoing.

Girl Scouts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lives.

"Nowadays, role models are so key because parents work so much," Deanda said.

Shea Peluso, a freshman from Montgomery, recently got involved with the Girl Scouts in Lubbock.

She said she is a troop leader for the youngest age group of girls, the Daisies.

"I just love working with the little ones," Peluso said.

Peluso, who was both a Daisy and a Brownie Girl Scout growing up, said she believes this program is a positive one for these girls to be involved in.

"There are a lot of bad things in this world, and I want this to be a good thing," she said.

When playing games like "Duck Duck Goose" and "Red Rover" with five-year-old girls, Peluso said she loves being able to be a kid again.

"We just got to be silly for a little bit," Peluso said.

Great leaders are not necessarily outgoing people, Deanda said. To be a great leader, one needs to have

a fun personality and a passion for what they are doing.

According to an advertisement for troop leaders, new leaders are required to complete New Troop Leader Orientation, pick an age-level, First-Aid, and CPR trainings.

She said troop leaders do not have to wear the uniform when they are working with the children; however, they have made the outfits more up to speed with the fashion world. Either way though, she said everyone should be a positive representative of the troop.

"You are technically in uniform as long as you are wearing the Girl Scout pin," Deanda said.

There are other volunteer opportunities in Girl Scouts besides being a troop leader, Deanda said, but troop leaders are essential to this program.

"If we don't have a leader, then that little girl doesn't have an opportunity to be a Girl Scout," she said.

► abby.stone@ttu.edu
► clara.cobb@ttu.edu

Tech board of regents approve parking garage, luxury boxes, façade for stadium

By **KATIE KINNEY**
STAFF WRITER

On Dec. 16, the Texas Tech board of regents approved spending to plan to build a new parking garage, stadium luxury boxes and a façade at Jones SBC stadium.

The plan has not been approved formally and is still in the planning stages. The building will take place mostly on the east side of the stadium, since that is one part of the stadium that has not been improved upon in some years.

The parking garage will provide much-needed additional parking for fans.

There also is talk that the

garage will serve as a bus stop to be used by many students and faculty who park or live near the stadium.

"We will have a bus route which would be closer for some faculty and students," Regent Robert Black said. "I would like to keep Texas Tech a pedestrian campus, so that students can meet and greet people on their way to class. That is a great about this campus."

The plan also calls for luxury boxes to be added to the stadium since there seems to be an undeniable demand for them.

"There is already a waiting list for the boxes," Black said. "That is just one example of the enthusiasm that Tech generates with its

alumni associates and fans."

If the façade is put in on the east side, it will bring the seating numbers up to more than 60,000 seats.

"We are reaching seating capacity already so expansion is needed," Black said.

Overall, Black said he is confident about the decision to expand the stadium.

"It has been a good process so far," he said. "We now have a good way to generate revenue to Tech."

Black said the formal decision to approve this plan is scheduled for Feb. 3.

► ann.kinney@ttu.edu
► brittany.a.barrientos@ttu.edu

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Bush's strike-out

President's poor decisions endanger American way of life

Our country is not in good shape. Whether you are aware of this, I don't know. What you should know is that as it stands, the tide of U.S. legitimacy has waned, and our young country is finding itself like Mudville's brash super-slugger Casey; our air-shattering blow against the "enemies of freedom" was nothing more than a whiff of thin air.

Evidence of the failure of U.S. foreign policy can be seen in the Administration's new stance on the war in Iraq.

After Congressman John Murtha (D—PA), a decorated veteran of the United States Marine Corps and long-time member of the House of Representatives announced publicly that the prosecution of military operations in Iraq is in need of a course change, the White House engaged in its all too familiar fear-and-sneer campaign. Everyone from Vice President Cheney to Bill O'Reilly denounced his position "aiding the enemy" and Murtha himself as "cowardly" and "unpatriotic."

This, of course, was before Rove and Co. could get their feelers out into the American public. Once Bush's approval rating started dropping that same gang was out in full force trying to spin their talking points to make it seem as if withdrawing troops sooner than later was their idea all along.

One might ponder the rationale behind the Bush administration denouncing troop draw-downs one day and announcing troop draw-downs the next day, but as with most of 43's presidency, trying to make sense of anything will likely lead to a heart attack and a couple of light strokes.

Like Casey, our nation finds itself standing at the plate, wondering where it all went wrong.

In 2002, we were supposed to be greeted as liberators. Iraq's oil industry was supposed to fund the entire war within two years of production, since at the time it was only supposed to run about \$100-200 billion, according to then-White House Budget Director Mitch Daniels.

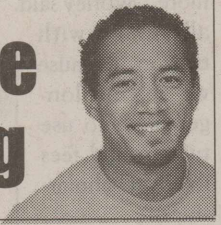
But now the U.S. finds itself stuck in the hornet's nest that is the Middle East. Instead of flowers in our rifles we have sectarian militia infiltrating the Iraqi Army and police. Instead of petrol flowing out of the sand back into the pockets of American tax payers, Iraq's oil production is down from pre-war levels of 2.3 million barrels per day to 1.9 million, according to the Energy Information Agency.

The most recent revelation is that the Iraq War could cost upwards of \$2 trillion, an estimate that includes the very real price of taking care of our veterans who return with physical and emotional injuries.

This brings us back to our biggest problem; accountability—or lack thereof—by the administration for its handling of Iraq. The White House started this war under admittedly false pretenses. I even will give the benefit of the doubt to the government in that they were truly ignorant of the truth.

Where I draw the line on mercy stops

Dave Ring



at how they decided to use this information, albeit false.

Yes, our country was attacked on Sept. 11. Men with a radical agenda thought that killing could solve their problems. No room for discussion, no time for dissent.

Anyone who tries to discuss the shortcomings of war on terror, such as inadequate body armor, unwarranted domestic spying or even torture, is suddenly a friend of the terrorists who doesn't have the security of the homeland in their best interest.

But those who throw these accusations at critics of the Bush White House are forgetting that the real encouragement to the terrorists comes in the form of an under-equipped fighting force, and illegal and immoral practices such as we've seen in Abu Ghraib (and will one day see from Cuba and "dark sites" used by the U.S. to torture) by the very forces which are meant to be spreading liberty and democracy.

The administration wants you to forget that this is a war of choice. They want you to forget that they rushed into Iraq without proper justification. They want you to forget that they ignored the U.N. weapons inspectors when they concluded Baghdad was not trying to reconstitute its nonconventional weapons programs.

Like Mighty Casey, the project of America was the great hope of liberal democracies. We may have our little domestic inconsistencies and occasional foreign policy blunder, but on the grand arc of things the rights, and responsibilities championed by our nation and our constitution was something to be proud of and depend on.

But now, with more than 2,200 U.S. service personnel killed and upwards of 10 to 50 times as many Iraqi civilians (depending on Pentagon or Doctors Without Borders estimates) dead, we no longer can allow such a free pass as was given to Bush after 9-11.

The only conclusion is that sadly, the terrorists are winning. Those who struck our country 3½ years ago wanted to change America and make the world turn against us. Since then we have allowed extraordinary perversions of our values to take place.

The great thing about baseball is people don't die when you strike out. The great thing about politics is the game never is over. But as long as Bush and Co. continue to disregard everything that has made this country great, we'll be like the over-confident Casey, standing at the plate with an empty stadium.

■ Ring is a graduate student from Hobbs, N.M. studying international affairs. E-mail him at david.r.jring@ttu.edu.

Rising energy costs benefit students

Unless you live in the residence halls, you've probably noticed that despite record high temperatures (80 degrees in January!) heating bills are a little scary this winter. The high natural gas prices and the effect of the high bills imposed on families have created a stir across the nation.

Energy companies such as Exxon have been criticized for their high prices and many have been accused of increasing their profits. The Bush administration has taken some heat for not being able to alleviate the burden that high gas and oil prices create.

Closer to home, City Councilman Gary Boren wants to go up against the "800 lb gorilla" Atmos Energy by litigating a full rate case, saying that the company is a monopoly that needs to be held accountable for their spike in rates. The litigation could cost millions.

What people like Councilman Boren and others may not realize is that by increasing rates on natural gas prices, companies like Atmos Energy may actually be doing the public and the environment an incredible favor.

While it's doubtful that these companies have the public's best interest at heart, by making filling up a car or heating up a home cost-prohibitive companies actually increase incentive to develop more sustainable,

Sarai Brinker



renewable and of course cheaper forms of energy.

As a college student with a part-time job, I know about juggling income with bills and food. I've been known to occasionally (read: semi-frequently) drop one of those balls in favor of keeping the other two in the air. In other words, I'm the first to acknowledge that a lower energy bill would be nice.

That is, lower energy bills would be nice right now. But sometimes what seems like it would be nice in the short term is actually not what is beneficial in the long term. Sometimes that second or even first slice of cheesecake would be better off left untouched.

It's about time that we started getting serious about alternative energy. The technology has existed for a long time, so why aren't we seeing houses being built standard with solar panels on the roofs? With the improvements being made in nanotechnology to extend battery life, solar power is becoming more cost-effective and reliable than ever.

Not to worry, though; with energy bills as they are, I wouldn't be surprised if we see an increase in the number of homes built with

solar energy in the near future in response to consumer demand.

It's already happening in the automobile industry. In many of the larger cities it is becoming more common to see ethanol pumps next to the gasoline pumps. Recently, I was in Santa Fe, N.M., and at one gas station there were an equal number of ethanol pumps and gasoline pumps. The cost of the ethanol fuel was slightly cheaper than regular gasoline.

Most automobile companies are increasing production of hybrid, crossover and "Flex-Fuel" cars due to consumer concern over high gas prices. Flex-Fuel cars can run on regular gasoline as well as E85, which is 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gas. Some of the 2006 models of cars are capable of running on this fuel include the Ford F150, Chevy Tahoe, Mercury Grand Marquis and Chevrolet Impala, just to name a few.

While ethanol pump stations are currently few and far between, you can expect to see many more in the near future; complaints by consumers about high gas prices seems to have finally pushed car companies into seeking and producing alternatives to gas.

In Brazil, 67 percent of cars can now run on sugarcane-based ethanol fuel. I'm no expert, but this seems like a good idea. We always can grow more sugarcane.

Fuel cells, homes that run on solar energy and gas made from sugarcane may seem too futuris-

tic. But remember, 150 years ago chopping wood to heat your home seemed like a pretty good deal. One hundred or even 50 years ago, it would have been impossible to imagine the technology that is commonplace today.

Who could have dreamt of electric stoves or cars that run on hydrogen before they were invented? Only the visionaries who helped create them. We won't be mining coal and drilling oil forever, and it could turn out that the sudden spike in prices is what we needed to turn tangible concepts into reality.

Times change and sometimes economics can help speed things along. It's good that people are getting fed up with high prices of gas and it's good that people are demanding something better. It is because of this that we are seeing a response from the automobile industry. Sooner or later, we will expect to see a response from builders as well.

None of this really helps the high bills the public will be paying for the next couple of months, but at least we can find consolation in the better alternatives in the future that the high prices are causing now. Being less dependent on foreign oil is good for everyone and using less of it is good for the planet we live on.

■ Brinker is a senior music and environmental studies major from Levelland. E-mail her at sara.hughes@ttu.edu.

VIEW FROM THE BIG 12

Homosexual marriage won't make being gay easier

By LEE HEERTEN
DAILY NEBRASKAN
(U. NEBRASKA)

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb. — I can't understand the opposition to gay marriage. I simply cannot wrap my mind around the religious-right's arguments concerning the "sanctity of marriage."

However, regardless of whether gay marriage ever becomes legal in the U.S., homosexual couples will still be forced to overcome challenges.

Anyone who knows a homosexual couple knows homosexual relationships are fundamentally the same as heterosexual relationships.

However, the burden society places on homosexuals makes having a successful relationship more difficult. Homosexual relationships are faced with challenges that are nonexistent for straight couples.

For example, very few

straight individuals must "come out" as straight to their family, friends or coworkers.

Being open with one family or group of friends and silent with another adds a type of stress that most heterosexual couples never have to experience.

Even if both partners are completely out, they may never receive support. For example, while in a yearlong relationship, my parents never once asked me about my boyfriend. Though my parents met and interacted with him, they didn't feel comfortable discussing my relationship in the same way that they did my sisters' relationships.

Their silence not only expressed their disapproval with my homosexuality, but it was also a sign they felt unprepared to support a relationship they viewed as fundamentally different from their own.

Gay couples often lack the support and mentoring heterosexual couples receive - support all relationships need to survive.

Homosexual relationships also lack the defined social patterns, which exist for straight couples. Successful heterosexual relationships, with few exceptions, follow a well-mapped pattern defined by family, the media and society: dating, engagement and marriage.

No such pattern exists for homosexual relationships. Without any pattern to follow, or even intentionally break, gay couples are left to fend for themselves. In the heterosexual world, relationships are celebrated in engagement parties, weddings and anniversaries. With the exception of "commitment ceremonies" homosexual couples are excluded from these celebrations.

Though these traditions in no way insure a successful relationship, they do have a solidifying effect on couples. Public, formal announcements of togetherness give couples a sense of optimism and commitment that often help to strengthen their relationship.

Homosexual couples, excluded from these traditions, are on their own to create defining moments and expressions of their commitment and love for each other. Perhaps this could be viewed as an advantage or simply a unique characteristic of homosexual relationships, but I think that it ultimately leaves a sense of incompleteness and abridgment.

Homosexual relationships are fundamentally the same as heterosexual relationships. In the end, it comes down to two people trying to find their way in the world together. The fact remains that homosexual couples, in trying to find their way, are sent on a more treacherous, uncharted path.

Inevitably, homosexuals have faced enough challenges in their lives, based solely on their sexuality, to understand this inequality exists and that they can overcome it. The rewards of a successful relationship, gay or straight, make the path, no matter how difficult, worthwhile.

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Survey proves in-game ads effective, could be a new source of revenue for video games

By CARLOS BERGFELD
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Increasingly realistic video games have been able to make players scared, mad or sad, but some have succeeded in making gamers feel a different kind of sensation: hunger.

Engage In-Game Advertising, a new in-game advertising company, launched Tuesday after testing their services with ads for Subway sandwiches implanted in the PC game "Counter Strike: Source."

A post ad-campaign survey by Subway revealed a 94 percent ad recall rate among 18-34 year old males, the target audience.

Other companies like IGA Partners, Double Fusion and Massive Inc. have been offering in-game ad services to advertisers already, and research by Nielson Interactive Entertainment has revealed a favorable market for the businesses.

Commissioned by Double Fusion, Nielson found a 60 percent rise in new brand awareness sparked by in-game ads, based on tests of in-game advertising in the PC game "London Taxi."

Half of those surveyed in the study

said in-game ads increase a game's realism.

Game developer and publisher Activision commissioned Nielson to do an additional report in December, which showed not only that in-game ads increase brand awareness, but a majority of players actually prefer games with ads in them when they have relevance.

Of those surveyed, some gamers said the in-game ads made the game more fun, according to the study, although a specific figure was not given.

"If consumers don't like it, they're not going to keep doing it," said Shannon Bichard, an assistant professor of advertising. "It's got to be relevant. It's got to be natural. It has to be a natural fit so it's not obtrusive."

Nielson conducted the Activision study on 1,350 male gamers ages 13 to 44 by having them play versions of "MTX Motortrax," "Tony Hawk's Underground 2," "Need For Speed Underground 2" and "NHL 2K6" with and without in-game ads.

"You almost expect it in sports games," said Brent Hix, a sophomore public relations major from Canyon.

Hix said in-game ads can increase a game's realism, although they don't necessarily make him more likely to purchase a product.

The in-game ad companies act as middlemen between advertisers and game companies, showing advertisers which outlets are available to them and giving publishers and developers access to willing advertisers.

According to Engage, there are approximately 108 million gamers 13 or older in the U.S.

Engage claims the decline in television viewership and the increase in video game use of men ages 18-34 shows a prime opportunity for advertisers.

The increased funds from advertising could potentially allow game companies to pass the savings on to the consumers with cheaper game prices or a better product, although they also could just pocket the additional earnings.

"I just don't think they're going to use the money to benefit us," said John Lammers, a marketing and management sophomore from Houston.

Product placement in other areas of entertainment, like film, has yet to provide any sort of economic benefit for consumers, Lammers said.

In the past, in-game advertising was embedded in the code for a game, meaning the ads would be static and unchanging for the player in every situation.

Engage and other in-game advertisers offer dynamic advertisements for in-game ads, where the in-game ad-space can change based on advertisers' wishes.

In addition, advertisements can be region-specific, allowing advertisers to target only the geographical area they wish to increase their marketing efforts in.

These options may give consumers at least some benefit if game publishers decide to keep advertising earnings to themselves.

"The one benefit would be that it's more likely that you're interested in the product or service they're advertising," Bichard said.

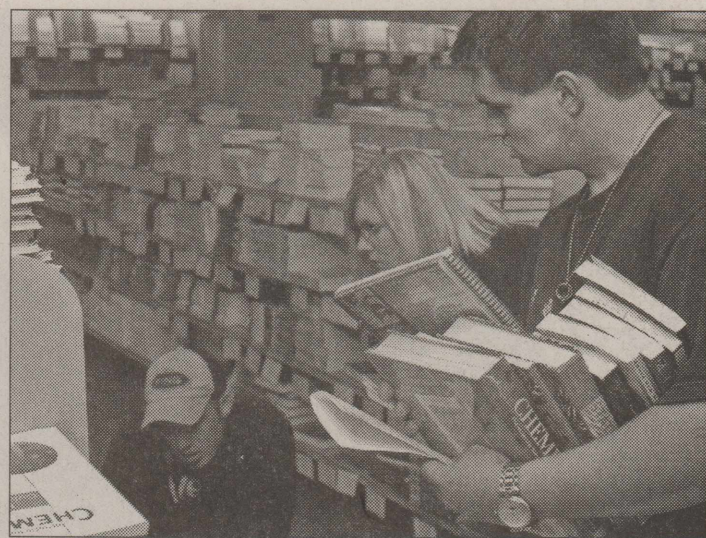
This would eliminate the use of advertisements in areas where certain products are unavailable, such as a food chain only established on the East Coast.

A game that stays successful long after launch may have advertisers scrambling to get their advertisements in the game, and the fees associated with advertising in the title may be higher as well, increasing the advertiser's and game company's earnings.

In-game ad company Massive Inc. already boasts game companies like Sony Online Entertainment, Ubisoft, Atari and THQ among its partners.

carlos.a.bergfeld@ttu.edu
brittany.a.barrientos@ttu.edu

BOOK LOOK



STEVE LEWIS/The Daily Treador

BEN SIMON, LEFT, a senior art major from Lubbock, Morgan Smiley, center, a sophomore food nutrition major from Lubbock and Andrew McDaniel, a sophomore from Tulia, look for chemistry books at the Barnes & Noble bookstore on campus.

Amber's abduction, killing reverberate 10 years later

FORT WORTH (AP) — A branch on a tree in Jim and Glenda Whitson's front yard juts off to the south, lower than the other limbs and in the opposite direction, conspicuous in how it hangs alone.

The branch has needed trimming for years, but the couple's granddaughter, Amber Hagerman, liked to climb the tree and sit on that branch. So it stays.

In Hurst, her mother keeps 27 Barbie dolls in a box near a scrapbook with Amber's school certificates, principal's awards and report cards.

Her clothes are folded in drawers, and her pink bicycle is in storage.

"We just can't bring ourselves to throw it away," Glenda Whitson said.

Friday, national Amber Alert Day, is the 10th anniversary of her abduction, and the death still reverberates. The new Amber Alert postage stamp will be unveiled in Washington on Friday.

Through the alert system named for the Berry Elementary School third-grader, broadcasters nationwide have volunteered to interrupt programming to transmit descriptions and suspect

information after child abductions.

Amber's death binds her family, the investigators who still hunt her killer, the grateful parents of children returned to them by a public alert system named for the Arlington girl and the faceless man in a black truck who set all this in motion.

Around 3 p.m. Jan. 13, 1996, Amber rode off on her bike from her grandparents' central Arlington home. Eight minutes later, a man yanked the 9-year-old from the bike and into a black pickup.

Her body was found four days later on the bank of a north Arlington creek east of Texas 360 and north of Green Oaks Boulevard Northeast. Her throat had been slashed. She wore only a sock on her right foot.

Amber's mother Donna Whitson, now Donna Norris, gives speeches around the country on child safety and the Amber Alert system when she can afford to take time off from her job cleaning houses.

Her husband of five years, Randy, writes her speeches. He works on oil rigs by trade, but she said his words have moved many to tears.

"He never met Amber, but it's still hard for him," Donna Norris said. "He cries and he has to stop. But he likes to help me, and her."

Hajj

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

trampling was the product of the pilgrims crowding at the eastern edge of a bridge leading to site of the stoning, according to *The AP*. The bridge, which is as wide as an eight-lane highway, hovers over the desert plain of Mina.

Saudi officials reported that roughly 60,000 security personnel had been dispatched to supervise the crowds, according to *The AP*.

Ahmed El-Hattab, the executive director of the Islamic Society of North America Development Foundation, said although similar incidents to Thursday's stampede have happened in previous years, the

number of people who go on hajj each year continues to climb.

El-Hattab said he believes safety measures must be studied carefully in order to make the pilgrimage as safe as possible for everyone involved.

The pilgrimage creates a sense of belonging and support, he said. It spreads the message of peace, unity, tranquility and sacrifice.

"We are commemorating Abraham and bringing him back to life as a symbol of sacrifice," El-Hattab said.

El-Hattab, who said he has gone on hajj at least 10 times, said he estimates that at least 10,000 Americans do the pilgrimage each year.

He said although in the past most of the Muslims who went on hajj tended to be elderly people, now people of many ages partake in the

event.

"You see the young, the middle-aged and families," he said.

According to the Web site, www.religioustolerance.org, one of a Muslim's duties is to go on hajj at least once during his or her lifetime. The Web site indicated that the number of Americans participating in the pilgrimage is continually increasing.

The hajj includes several ceremonies, which dually represent the essential concepts of the Islamic faith and commemorate the trials of Abraham.

Imran Memon, a sophomore premed major from Houston, said one of his aunts recently went on the hajj pilgrimage.

"It's part of the Islamic religion," he said. "It is the pilgrimage back to

Mecca; it's pretty much going back to the roots of Islam."

Memon said the deaths that occur during the hajj pilgrimage do not deter the pilgrims from making the journey because the focus is on the religious aspect rather than the resulting stampedes.

The number of deaths involved with the annual pilgrimage is not actually as staggering it appears, considering how many millions upon millions of people have taken the journey, Memon said.

For more information about the hajj, visit the Web site <http://about.beliefnet.com/religion/islam/hajj/>.

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BRIDGE BUILDING



COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Treador

CRAIG KENWORTHY, LEFT, a senior civil engineering major from Odessa, David Jackson, center left, a junior civil engineering major from Schertz, Thomas Coronado, center right, a junior civil engineering major from Red Oak and Derek Hammond, a junior civil engineering major from Colorado Springs, Colo., assemble a bridge they designed for the Engineering Society. The Engineering Society will participate in a contest in Kingsville on Saturday where their design will be tested.

As Sharon lies unconscious, debate intensifies over doctors' decisions

JERUSALEM (AP) — Ariel Sharon's doctors faced new criticism Thursday for failing to divulge a brain disease discovered after the prime minister's initial stroke and for prescribing blood thinners that may have contributed to a massive second stroke.

The criticism added to a growing chorus of questions about Sharon's treatment. Some experts, however, said there was no clear-cut answer.

As Sharon lay comatose for an eighth day Thursday, a brain scan showed the remnants of the blood in his brain from a Jan. 4 stroke have been absorbed, hospital officials said in a statement.

In response, doctors removed a tube they had inserted into Sharon's skull to relieve pressure on his brain, the statement said.

In coming days, doctors may have to cut a hole in Sharon's neck to assist breathing, while still waiting for the clearest sign of

improvement: the moment he opens his eyes.

After Sharon, 77, suffered an initial, minor stroke Dec. 18, doctors put him on Cloxane, an anticoagulant. At a news conference a few days later, doctors acknowledged blood thinners increased the risk of brain hemorrhage, but said the fear of a clot leading to another stroke was greater in this case.

The debate gained momentum after the Haaretz daily revealed that Sharon also suffered from cerebral amyloid angiopathy, known as CAA, a disease common in the elderly that weakens the blood vessels in the brain and increases the risk of hemorrhage.

Doctors confirmed they knew about the disease after the first stroke, but prescribed the blood thinners anyway, a move outside experts criticized Thursday.

"If someone has a disease that caused bleeding, that causes bleeding, that could cause bleeding in the future,

giving anticoagulants ... is certainly an undesirable situation," said Amos Korczyn, head of the Tel Aviv University Medical School's neurology department.

Doctors were prescribing the Cloxane until they could seal a small hole in Sharon's heart they said caused Sharon's first stroke.

But some experts questioned that theory and said the initial stroke was more likely caused by Sharon's brain condition. Sharon suffered his massive stroke a day before he was to undergo the procedure to seal the hole in his heart.

"The likelihood is that the hole in the heart was of no relevance," said Dr. Anthony Rudd, a stroke specialist at London's St. Thomas' Hospital. He said CAA could have caused the first stroke.

Doctors did not disclose the condition in December, and several Israeli media outlets chided Sharon's medical team for keeping it under wraps.

Top 6

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"The Departed" is the story of a young Boston police officer played by Leonardo DiCaprio who goes undercover inside the mob. While he is infiltrating the organization, he learns that the boss of The Family, Jack Nicholson, has assigned his own man to infiltrate the Boston police department. The rest of the film is a race against time as DiCaprio tries to find out who among his brothers in blue is a traitor, and the mob infiltrator, Matt Damon ("Good-will Hunting") tries to find out who is the mole inside The Family.

There are many other great films coming out in 2006 such as "The Da Vinci Code," "Lady in the Water" and "Lucky You," but these six are at the top of my list for 2006.

Reynolds is The DT's movie critic. E-mail him at Jeremy.N.Reynolds@ttu.edu.

DNA tests confirm man executed in Va. in 1992 was guilty

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — New DNA tests confirmed the guilt of a man who went to his death in Virginia's electric chair in 1992 proclaiming his innocence, the governor said Thursday.

The case had been closely watched by both sides in the death penalty debate because no executed convict in the United States has ever been exonerated by scientific testing.

The tests, announced by the governor earlier this month, prove Roger Keith Coleman was guilty of the 1981 rape and murder of his sister-in-law, Gov. Mark R. Warner said.

Coleman was convicted and sentenced to death in 1982 for the murder of 19-year-old Wanda Mc-

Coy, his wife's sister, who was found raped, stabbed and nearly beheaded in her home in the coal mining town of Grundy.

The report from the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto concluded there was almost no conceivable doubt that Coleman was the source of the sperm found in the victim.

"The probability that a randomly selected individual unrelated to Roger Coleman would coincidentally share the observed DNA profile is estimated to be 1 in 19 million," the report said.

A finding of innocence would have been explosive news and almost certainly would have had a powerful effect on the public's attitude toward capital punishment. Death penalty opponents have argued for years that

the risk of a grave and irreversible mistake by the criminal justice system is too great to allow capital punishment.

"We have sought the truth using DNA technology not available at the time the commonwealth carried out the ultimate criminal sanction," Warner said in a statement. "The confirmation that Roger Coleman's DNA was present reaffirms the verdict and the sanction. Again, my prayers are with the family of Wanda McCoy at this time."

Initial DNA and blood tests in 1990 placed Coleman within the 0.2 percent of the population who could have produced the semen at the crime scene. But his lawyers said the expert they hired to conduct those initial DNA tests misinterpreted

the results.

The governor agreed to a new round of more sophisticated DNA tests in one of his last official acts. Warner, who has been mentioned as a possible Democratic candidate for president in 2008, leaves office on Saturday.

Coleman's case drew international attention as the well-spoken inmate pleaded his case on talk shows and in magazines and newspapers. Time magazine featured the coal miner on its cover. Pope John Paul II tried to block the execution. Then-Gov. L. Douglas Wilder's office was flooded with thousands of calls and letters of protest from around the world.

Coleman's attorneys argued that he did not have time to commit the crime, that tests showed semen from

two men was found inside McCoy and that another man bragged about murdering her.

"An innocent man is going to be murdered tonight," the 33-year-old said moments before he was electrocuted on May 20, 1992. "When my innocence is proven, I hope America will realize the injustice of the death penalty as all other civilized countries have."

A former prosecutor in the case said the results, while not surprising, were a relief.

"Quite frankly, I feel like the weight of the world has been lifted off of my shoulders," Grundy attorney Tom Scott said. "You can imagine, had it turned out differently, (the other prosecutor) and I certainly would have been scapegoats."

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 1-9. Includes text: 'Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9 with no numbers repeated in any row, column or box.' Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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MLK Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Youth Division will commemorate his legacy by reading books about King to children.

"Mostly what we'll focus on is how important his words were," said Erin Kainer, the program director. "The day is to be a day of service, rather than just a day to stay home."

Kainer said as many as 25 volunteers have signed up to read to the children 9 a.m. Monday at Erskine Early Learning Center, 2714 Erskine St. and Vanda Early Learning Center, 1301 Vanda Ave.

Other activities will be held throughout the Lubbock community.

"I feel that we've had more of a community become a part of it," said Donnie Wright, vice president of the MLK Commemorative Council, which will be hosting a four-day, community-wide celebration in honor of King.

An awards banquet, gospel music concert, talent show and a citywide church service are some activities the council has planned.

Kicking off the festivities will be

the Black Pearl Award presented to Lubbock's first three black elected officials. The awards banquet will be 6:30 p.m. Friday at the McInturff Conference Center at the University Medical Center.

The celebration will carry over into the weekend with Gospel Extravaganza, featuring Church choirs in Lubbock coming together to put on a musical. The extravaganza will begin 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Full Armor Ministries, 42nd Street and Interstate 27.

The next evening, a community church service will be held at LakeRidge United Methodist Church, 4701 82nd St. Congressman Randy Neugebauer and some members of the Lubbock City Council will be in attendance.

The service held at LakeRidge, located in a higher-income part of Lubbock, is a sign of how the treatment of minorities has progressed. He said he is pleased how a service held in that part of town has become a reality.

The festivities will conclude Monday night with a youth-based talent show that will begin 6 p.m. at Estacado High School.

The holiday is set for the third

Monday in January, because it falls closest to his birthday, Jan. 15. Martin Luther King Jr. Day was established in 1983, when President Ronald Reagan passed a bill to have a federal holiday in King's honor. Martin Luther King Jr. Day first was celebrated in 1986.

For decades, King has been recognized for his "I Have a Dream" speech that he gave on Aug. 28, 1963, at the Lincoln Memorial monument in Washington, D.C.

King's strive for racial equality won him the Nobel Peace Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

King was assassinated April 4, 1968 at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., now the site of the National Civil Rights Museum.

"Is he pleased?" is the theme of the four-day community-wide celebration. Although some believe the treatment of minorities has improved during the last four decades, others believe progress still needs to be made.

"As for minorities, I think we still have a long way to go," Wright said. "There's some things we still have work to do."

andrew.wood@ttu.edu brittany.a.barrionos@ttu.edu

FRIDAY JANUARY 13, 2006. Table with columns for station, time, program, and description. Includes shows like Jay Jay, It's Big World, Sesame Street, etc.

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Minding manners

Students, Professionals discuss the perhaps lost art of etiquette

By JEREMY REYNOLDS
FEATURES WRITER

A man laying his jacket in the mud so a woman does not dirty her dress might have been common and mannerly at one time, but nowadays it has become more of a gesture of mocking than love.

A person suiting in front of a boardroom in a three-piece suit with sweaty palms as he or she gives a presentation can now be substituted for someone lounging around in a ratty bathrobe eating takeout while giving the same presentation over the Internet.

Tiffany Hartley, a freshman pre-med major from Lovington, N.M., said manners and etiquette are not necessarily dead, but they are heading down the drain.

"Kids don't think they have to do what their parents tell them to, and when they get spanked they call the cops," Hartley said.

The manners of today's society have changed drastically since those of the "Leave-it-to-Beave" age, Hartley said. People take for granted a lot of things these days, such as please and thank you remarks.

Paul Siddle, owner of the Executive Protocol Group, an etiquette consultant group that travels the country giving seminars on business etiquette, said manners overall have taken a nose dive when compared to those of previous generations.

"I think part of the problem is the dot-com business," Siddle said.

Once the Internet started up, people are having less and less face-to-face contact than ever before, which causes this decline in overall manners.

Siddle's job is to go into a company and give a seminar about how to present one's self to others. He has spoken at Bank One, Anheuser-Busch and the Yum Corporation, which owns Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell.

"These businesses detected a lack of knowledge on how you should behave in the business world," Siddle said.

In this business world, Siddle said first impressions are based on three things: how the person looks, how they talk and what they say. Out of the three, how the person looks rates as the most important — 55 percent of the first impression. He said how the person talks rates at 38 percent, and what he or she says rates at 7 percent.

"First impressions take between four and seven seconds," he said.

Some of Siddle's work takes him to university campuses where he speaks with graduate students who are about to enter into the business world. While on the campuses, he said he sees a lack of etiquette from professors around the various campuses, especially in how they dress.

"People tend to dress more casual these days,"

Siddle said. "I think the academic world has become laid back."

Other problems Siddle said he has seen include people writing e-mails instead of handwritten thank-you notes, more people eating fast food than sitting at a table and people taking a more laid-back approach to dress. Among the techniques Siddle teaches at these seminars are business dinner techniques that he calls Plate and Utensil Management.

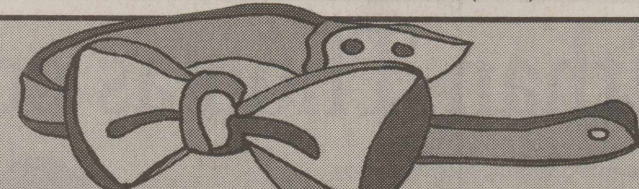
Rich Hamming, a senior history major from Brownfield, said most of his meals are fast food and he never learned the proper way to behave at the dinner table. While he did say that he judged a woman on how she ate on a date, he does not grade too harshly.

"I don't have good table manners so I'm not going to hold the girl to higher standards," Hamming said.

Depending on who a person talks to, Hamming said manners and etiquette are dead overall. He said he feels they died a while ago, and looking at Siddle's profession is proof of that.

"I think that shows where our society is heading," Hamming said. "Fifty years ago I'm sure professors like that didn't even exist."

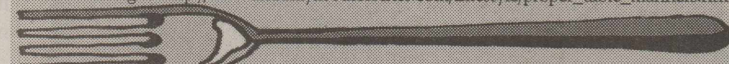
jeremy.n.reynolds@ttu.edu
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DINNER MANNERS

1. As soon as you're seated, unfold your napkin and put it in your lap.
2. Put your liquids on the right and your solids on the left.
3. When placing silverware, place the first used on the outside and the last used on the inside so a person can always start on the outside and work their way in.
4. Once silverware is picked up from the table, it should never touch it again.
5. When to start eating: With smaller gatherings, start after everyone is served. When dining with larger groups like a banquet, start after the first four or five people have been served.
6. Break bread and rolls off in small bite size pieces.
7. Dishes are passed left to right around the table.
8. Always pass salt and pepper together.
9. Hold a stemmed glass by the stem.
10. When you're finished do not push the plate away. Put the forks on the plate in a diagonal direction. Think of a clock: 11 to 5. This lets the waiter know you are done.

According to http://www.askandyaboutclothes.com/Lifestyle/proper_table_manners.htm



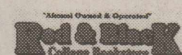
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Tech grad knows minivan doesn't mean soccer practice

By CHRIS ATWOOD
FEATURES WRITER

A van plastered with images of favorite beef products and some excited wranglers can only mean one thing: Beef Mobile.

The newest Beef Mobile Wrangler is Holly Branecky, a Texas Tech graduate from Boerne with a degree in agriculture communication.

The Beef Mobiles work with the Beef Checkoff program to tell beef producers how their money is being spent.

"Now our goal, which has always been our goal, is for them to make a decision as to whether or not it's a good program," Branecky said.

The program, which is run by



Branecky

cattle producers, created a mandatory fee of \$1 per head of cattle sold in order to pay for marketing, advertising and beef research.

Wranglers inform beef producers how their money is being spent.

"We act as their bank statements," Branecky said. "We tell them exactly how their money is being spent."

The van is covered with images of hamburger patties and steaks being grilled.

"From the people on the streets, I get a lot of stares, especially at

stoplights," Branecky said. "It gets a lot of laughs; it's a great conversation starter."

Since high school, it has been Branecky's dream to work in producer and consumer information for the livestock industry. With the beef mobile, she dove right into informing the producers about where their Checkoff money goes.

"I can't persuade, I can just educate," Branecky said.

The Beef Mobile program has three vans like the one Branecky drives all across America informing cattle producers about the mandatory payment of fees. They all drive

the "Beef Mobile" vans to make a statement about beef — it's here and ready to eat.

"I never thought I'd be so excited to drive a minivan, but I'm really excited to work for the producers and be able to educate them on what the money is currently being used for," Branecky said in a news release.

To checkup on Branecky and her Beef Mobile, check www.beefmobile.com. Otherwise, enjoy burgers and steaks — without the beef mobile, they wouldn't be nearly as enjoyable.

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ACROSS
1 Alum
5 Asking price
9 Fanatical
14 Stir up
15 Actor Sharif
16 Stir over
17 Self-images
18 Burrowing mammal
19 Niamey's place
20 Typical TV addict
23 Give the ax to
24 Trying time
25 Leg segment
27 "Bye Bye Bye" band
30 Familiarize
33 QB Favre
36 Acorns, later
38 Will of "The Waltons"
39 Designer Claiborne
40 Bronx nine
43 Great Lakes canal
44 Bushy do
46 Profound
47 Make changes
49 Batting position
51 Off, skill
53 Gdansk populace
55 Accent
59 Letters on a G's letter
61 Quadrennial yachting competition
64 Goat/man creature
66 Ashcroft's predecessor
67 Director Kazan
68 De Mille of dance
69 Actress Teri
70 Plaster backing strip
71 "Angie Baby" singer
72 Send forth
73 British gun

DOWN
1 ...Roman wrestling
2 Exactitude
3 So to be heard
4 Way down
5 Go along with
6 "Types" sequel
7 Shaker contents
8 Pay for
9 "Luncheon of the Boating Party" painter
10 Clay, nowadays
11 Grand pooch-bah
12 Invention origination
13 Actress Laura
21 Precipitous
22 ...Were the Days?
26 Singer's engagement
28 Zich
29 Word following 20A, 61A, 11D and 35D
31 Light gas
32 Took steps
33 "Gil"
34 Great ... Valley
35 16-ounce poet?
37 Retained
41 Revoked, once
42 Stocking stuffer
45 Lennon's Yoko
48 Tasty tidbits
50 Elegant
52 Accompany
54 Suit material
56 Brilliance
57 Connecting rooms
58 Brave lefty
59 Way off
60 Use a beeper
62 Paper quantity
63 Calvary letters
65 Buntline or Beatty

By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH
1/13/06

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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Ethan Thomas comes alive in Xbox 360's 'Condemned'

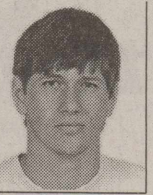
I'm in a disgusting-looking subway in the dank bowels of a large city. It's not very well lit in some places, but my flashlight helps. I come to a chained-off escalator leading one level below. Doesn't look too promising, but I don't really have anywhere else to go.

I get my right leg over the chain and lift my left as I turn and look back. I see a hideous face, then the ceiling, then the escalator steps. The blow sends me tumbling down the entire escalator to the level below. With every hit I grunt, and finally I crash onto the concrete. Lights out.

Seconds later I pull myself up. I'm groggy and my vision's blurry, but I can see my assailant coming down the stairs to finish the job. I'm mad.

I shoot him with my taser and

Carlos Bergfeld



8.5/10

Video games are rated on a scale from 1 to ten, 1 being "digital feces" and 10 being "the best thing ever."

he writhes, seizure-like. While he's stunned, I take away the subway sign he's using as a weapon. Then I give it back to him: once in the teeth, a second time in the back of the head as he spins, reeling. A kick brings him to his knees. I grab his face with both hands and slam my head into his skull. Good night, friend.

This gameplay excerpt from Sega and Monolith's "Condemned: Criminal Origins" for the Xbox 360 highlights what sets the game apart and really

makes for a thrilling ride through some of the most beautifully disturbing environments in video game history. The game's combination of visceral action, claustrophobic environments and frightening surprises elicited so much fear-driven excitement in me that I couldn't stop playing, no matter how badly I wanted to. Hands down, I've never been more scared by a game before.

As FBI Agent Ethan Thomas, you must hunt down a serial killer who, in turn, hunts and kills other serial killers. Your job becomes difficult in that you're framed for the murder of two policemen, so almost everyone is actually

against you. In addition, many of the city's residents have become homicidal. What this boils down to is lots and lots of running through derelict environments in search for clues while bashing crazies with blunt objects on the way. You could call it a first-person-shooter, although you'll hardly be doing any shooting, as guns are scanty and extra ammo is nonexistent.

No, most of the game's action comes through the use of pipes, conduits, two-by-fours and other makeshift-melee weapons, which you can pick up throughout the environments. You've also got your trusty taser, with which you can stun enemies for a short period of time.

The combat is raw, brutal and terrifying. Foes will grunt, shout and scream expletives at you during fights, and most battles begin with attackers rushing out from a hidden area to surprise you. When you strike an adversary with a

weapon, it looks incredibly painful. The heavy weapons actually make realistic "thud" sounds when they hit home, as well as a definite impression in the opponent's clothing (or body). Blocking and running are your defensive maneuvers, and you will need to use them well to survive, as enemy's blows hurt you just as much as yours hurt them.

Again, the eerie atmosphere created by the realistic environments gives the game most of its wonderfully frightful personality. The locales you must search through are usually tight and maze-like, and littered with garbage. Trash, blood, creepy sounds w—every characteristic of these areas makes you want to get out of them as soon as possible.

You'll use some cool forensic tools and crime scene gear to look for clues in the levels, although there's really no skill involved in using these tools, which serve more to move the story

along. The game actually has an interesting plot, although it's hard to figure out at times, especially the somewhat confusing ending. Other flaws come from loose hit detection, which can be annoying when using firearms. Also, the title isn't terribly lengthy and can get repetitive, but you'll still probably want more when it's over (while secretly being relieved it's all done).

If you don't have a 360 yet and are wondering whether this title merits purchasing one, I would probably say it does, although it would be hard for any game to make \$400 easy to spend. However, "Condemned" is an incredibly solid title among several others for the recently released (and most likely now easier to find) next-gen console.

Bergfeld is The DT's senior video game expert-scholar. E-mail him at Carlos.A.Bergfeld@ttu.edu.

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Top 6 for 2006

The film industry saw one of its worst years in recent history in 2005 with bombs such as "Stealth," "The Island" and "XXX: State of the Union." As far as 2006 goes, it's still too early to tell if Hollywood will regain its crown as everyone's favorite Friday night pastime, but until then, here are my six most-anticipated films of 2006.

Traditionally, TV shows have not had a smooth transition to the big screen, but all that might change with

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Jeremy Reynolds



"Miami Vice." As far as the summer goes, this is the film that is No. 1 on my list.

"Miami Vice" is written and directed by, in my opinion, the top director working in Hollywood today, Michael Mann ("Heat" and "Collateral"). The film is a hard-core and gritty look at two undercover cops in Miami, and what happens when their cover gets so deep that the reality between their fictional life and their real life becomes blurred.

Clint Eastwood is going for a hat trick this fall after scoring Oscar praise with his last two films, "Mystic River" and "Million Dollar Baby." His next will be the World War II film "Flags of Our Fathers."

The film is written by Paul Haggis ("Crash") and is the story of a young man who discovers his father was keeping secrets from him, which

included being one of the men holding up the American flag during the famous Iwo Jima battle.

Immediately after filming the movie, Eastwood will establish an all-Japanese cast, and shoot the film "Red Sun, Black Sand," which is the same film only told from the Japanese point of view.

Haggis' writing talents will be seen again in the fall in the new James Bond film "Casino Royale." This will not be the typical Bond type affair. Director Martin Campbell ("Goldeneye") wants to reinvent the franchise by starting at the beginning.

Daniel Craig ("Layer Cake") will be the one wearing the tux in the film, and Campbell has described the movie as taking on a more "Batman Begins" type approach.

The film will tell why Bond drives the cars he does, why he takes his martini shaken and not stirred and where all those quick one-liners came from.

Another big film of the summer that ranks as one of the most anticipated films of the year in Hollywood

is "Zodiac." Director David Fincher ("Fight Club") returns to the genre he created with "Seven" serial killers.

The movie tells the story about the four men whose lives are built and destroyed by the endless trail of clues surrounding the case of the Zodiac Killer who captured the nation's attention. Mark Ruffalo, Jake Gyllenhaal, Robert Downey Jr. and Anthony Edwards star in the film.

Writer/director Oliver Stone always has been one on the edge of controversy with his films "Born on the Fourth of July" and "JFK." He returns to that spotlight in the fall with the film "World Trade Center." Do not be fooled by the title, this is not a film about the overall events of Sept. 11. This is the story about two Port Authority workers who get trapped inside the building when it collapses. Nicholas Cage and Michael Pena ("Crash") star in it.

Martin Scorsese is once again back to what made his famous: the gangster film.

TOP 6 continued on Page 6

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FRIDAY, JAN. 13, 2006

SPECIAL BIG 12 BASKETBALL PREVIEW SECTION

SECTION

B



BREAKING

WILL THEY RISE TO THE CHALLENGE OR WILL THEY CRACK UNDER THE PRESSURE?

THE DAILY TOREADOR SPORTS DESK TAKES AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE FUTURE OF TEXAS TECH BASKETBALL FOR THE 2005-06 SEASON. SEE PAGE 4B.

MEN'S TEAMS THAT WILL RISE

Texas Longhorns (13-2, 2-0 Big 12)
Key Players: SO/F LaMarcus Aldridge (17.1 ppg, 10.3 rpg), SR/F P.J. Tucker (18.4 ppg)
About the 'Horns: Despite back-to-back December losses to Duke and Tennessee, most college basketball experts agree the Longhorn men will be a tough team to beat in March. Forwards LaMarcus Aldridge and P.J. Tucker rank one and two in the Big 12 in rebounds with 10.3 and 9.1 rebounds per game respectively. Tucker also ranks fourth in the conference in scoring with 18.4 points per game.
When they play Tech: Texas hosts Tech Tuesday and comes to Lubbock on February 6.

Nebraska Cornhuskers (13-3 Overall, 2-0 Big 12)
Players to watch: SR/F Wes Wilkinson (12.2 ppg), SO/G Joe McCray (10.8 ppg)
About the Huskers: Their record speaks for itself, including wins against OU (10-4) and Kansas State (9-4). The offense seems to be getting into a rhythm, averaging 43 percent from the field, but getting as high as 52 percent. The team also has seven returning letterman and currently ranks second in the Big 12 behind Texas. Senior Wes Wilkinson has stepped into a leadership role and almost doubled his seven-point scoring average from last season.
When they play Tech: Feb. 18 in Lincoln.

Iowa State (11-4, 1-1 Big 12)
Players to watch: JR/G Curtis Stinson (17.9ppg), JR/G Will Blalock (14.4 ppg)
About the Cyclones: The Cyclones are looking to invade the upper echelon of the Big 12 conference that has been primarily owned by south division teams the last couple of years. The dual threat of Will Blalock and Curtis Stinson gives coach Wayne Morgan a powerful one-two punch and could make Iowa State a top team in the Big 12 tournament and the NCAA tourney.
When they play Tech: Saturday in Lubbock.

Missouri (9-4, 2-0 Big 12)
Players to watch: JR/G Thomas Gardner (20.2 ppg)
About the Tigers: In previous seasons, the Missouri men's basketball team has been known to be a late-starting team by not playing its best basketball until February and March. But after starting Big 12 play with two consecutive upset wins against No. 22 Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, the Tigers are getting recognized early in conference play. It's the first time since 1998 since Quin Snyder's program has started 2-0. Thomas Gardner's 20.2 points per game leads the conference in scoring average.
When they play Tech: Feb. 4 in Lubbock.

WOMEN'S TEAMS THAT WILL RISE

Missouri (13-2, 3-0 Big 12)
Players to watch: SR/G LaToya Bond (18.6 ppg), SR/C Chistelle N'Garsanet (12.3 ppg)
About the Lady Tigers: The Missouri women's basketball team has made some noise this season after a dismal last year. The No. 24 Tigers have won 12 consecutive games and are nationally ranked for the first time in 21 years. The Tigers (13-2, 3-0) are also in sole possession of first place in the Big 12 for the first time since 1989. One of their wins includes a victory over defending champion Baylor.
When they play Tech: Jan. 23 in Columbia, Mo.

Oklahoma Sooners (12-4, 2-0 Big 12)
Players to watch: FR/F Courtney Paris (21.4 ppg, 14.7 rpg)
About the Sooners: The 20th ranked Sooners (12-4, 2-0) are led by freshman forward Courtney Paris. Paris, the national player of the month for December, leads the Big 12 in both scoring average and rebounds per game and ranks second in field goal percentage and blocked shots.
When they play Tech: Wednesday in Norman and March 1 in Lubbock.

MEN'S TEAMS THAT WILL CRACK

Colorado (10-3, 0-2 Big 12)
Players to watch: JR/G Richard Roby (15.7 ppg), SR FW Chris Copeland (13.3 ppg)
About the Buffs: After opening the season 12-1 heading into Big 12 play last week, the Colorado men's basketball team looked like a premiere rising team in the conference. Now the Buffaloes' backs are against the wall after they dropped their first two games of the conference season to powerhouses Texas and Kansas. Fans of the 'Buffs should not have to worry about low scoring games though. Colorado leads the Big 12 in scoring with almost 85 points per game.
When they play Tech: Feb. 11 in Boulder, Colo.

Oklahoma Sooners (9-4, 0-2 Big 12)
Players to watch: SR/F Taj Gray (15.5 ppg), SR/F Kevin Bookout (12.8 ppg)
About the Sooners: The Oklahoma Sooners, a pre-season Top 10 team, has started the Big 12 season with two surprising losses to Nebraska and Missouri. Of Oklahoma's nine wins, only one came against a team currently ranked among college basketball's Top 50 teams.
Oklahoma has four players in double figures including a team high 15.5 points per game by senior forward Taj Gray.
When they play Tech: Jan. 21 in Norman and Feb. 20 in Lubbock.

Kansas Jayhawks (10-4, 1-0 Big 12)
Players to watch: FR/G Brandon Rush (13.1 ppg)
About the Jayhawks: The Kansas men are currently on a seven-game winning streak including a 27-point blowout of No. 21 Kentucky Jan. 6. The Jayhawks do not have a player ranked in the Top 5 of the Big 12 in any offensive category. However, Kansas ranks in the Top 5 as a team in scoring, rebounds, field goal percentage and 3-point shooting. Kansas is led in scoring by freshman guard Brandon Rush with 13.1 points per game.
When they play Tech: Jan. 30 in Lawrence, Kan.

Texas A&M (11-2, 1-1)
Players to watch: SO/F Joseph Jones (16.6ppg), JR/G Acie Law (16.3 ppg)
About the Aggies: Texas A&M returns this year after its most successful season in nearly a decade thanks to new head coach Billy Gillespie. He took an Aggie squad that did not win a single Big 12 game the year before to having a .500 record in 2004-05 conference play.
A&M will have to rely on sophomore forward Joseph Jones to create points without the help of Antoine Wright, who was picked up in the first round of this year's NBA draft.
When they play Tech: The Aggies defeated the Raiders 63-55 in College Station. The two squads meet again March 4, in Lubbock.

Lady Bears (12-1, 2-1 Big 12)
Players to watch: SR/F Sophia Young (21.2 ppg, 10.5 rpg), SO/G Angela Tisdale (13.8 ppg)
About the Lady Bears: They beat three No. 1 seeds last year on their road to becoming national champions — and three of their starters are back. The team has scored more than 80 points in eight games this season and their offensive dominance seems to have returned. Player of the Year and All-American candidate Sophia Young leads the group of returning starters Abiola Wabara and Chameka Scott in an effort to keep their national championship status.
When they play Tech: Sunday in Lubbock and Feb. 19 in Waco.

Nebraska Cornhuskers (10-4 Overall, 2-1 Big 12)
Players to watch: JR/G Kiera Hardy (18.2 ppg), FR/F Kelsey Griffin (14.2 ppg)
About the 'Huskies: The team already has gone on an eight-game win streak this season and outscored opponents by nearly 15 points per game. That shows the dominance of both their offense and defense. They have held seven teams to less than 60 points and have scored more than 80 points four times this season. Junior Kiera Hardy was selected to the All-Big 12 first team her sophomore year after averaging 19 points per game.
When they play Tech: Jan. 21 in Lubbock.

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Oklahoma State (11-5, 1-1 Big 12)
Players to watch: SO/G James On Curry (13.4 ppg), JR/C Mario Bogans (14.2 ppg)
About the Cowboys: Eddie Sutton returns for his 35th season in the NCAA and 15th as head coach at Oklahoma State but will be rebuilding this year after losing four starters to the NBA draft. The Cowboys are led by sophomore guard James On Curry, who averaged 9.4 points per game last season as a freshman starter.
When they play Tech: Jan. 28 in Lubbock and Feb. 25 in Stillwater, Okla.

Baylor Bears (0-1 overall, 0-1 Big 12)
Players to watch: SO/G Aaron Bruce (Nation's top scoring freshman in 2004-05)
About the Bears: After playing their first game in 307 days because of NCAA penalties made by the 2003 coaching staff, the Bears all but failed to show up in the second half against the Texas Tech Red Raiders, making that their 15th consecutive loss. The team is young, with six freshmen, but returns four starters

from last year's squad. Sophomore Aaron Bruce scored 20 in Baylor's debut and it wouldn't be going out on a limb to say he could step up as a leader — last summer he was captain of the Australian under-21 national team.
When they play Tech: March 1 in Waco.

Kansas State (11-4, 0-2 Big 12)
Players to watch: JR G/F Cartier Martin (19.6 ppg)
About the Wildcats: The Wildcat men's basketball team has yet

to make the postseason since the inception of the Big 12. It may continue this year after the team as already dropped its first two conference games of the year: One to Iowa State followed by a letdown against Nebraska. K-State opened the season on a promising note by starting 9-2 with five seniors on the squad, but Big 12 play brought them back to reality. They do have three players averaging double figures in scoring lead by sharp shooter Cartier Martin. He also is the Wildcats' inside threat with 7.5 rebounds per game.
When they play Tech: Feb. 15 in Lubbock.

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Texas Lady Longhorns (7-6, 1-2 Big 12)
Players to watch: JR/F Tiffany Jackson (14.3 ppg)

About the Lady 'Horns: The Lady Longhorns have been plagued by early season inconsistency. The team ranks in the bottom of the Big 12 in all of offensive categories including 11th in both points per game and margin of victory, and last in the conference in field goal percentage.

When they play Tech: Feb. 1 in Lubbock, and Feb. 26 in Austin.

Texas A&M (13-3, 2-1 Big 12)
Players to watch: SO/F Morenike Atunrase (12.5 ppg), FR/G Tasia Starks (11.4 ppg)

About the Aggies: The women are off to a fast start winning ten games in a row before dropping its first conference game to Tech Jan. 7. The Aggies boast the Big 12's top defensive scoring unit.

When they play Tech: The Lady Raiders defeated the Aggies 56-55, Jan. 7 in Lubbock. The two squads meet again Feb. 5 in College Station.

Kansas State (11-3, 1-2 Big 12)
Players to watch: JR G/F Claire Coggins (11.7 ppg)

About the Wildcats: Despite losing five players from last year's NCAA Tournament team, and three of its highest scorers, Kansas State opened the season with 11 wins in 12 tries. But the Wildcats have dropped two consecutive games since, bringing their conference record to 1-2. Seven of the 11 Wildcats are underclassmen.

When they play Tech: The Wildcats defeated the Lady Raiders 53-51, Jan. 4 in Manhattan, Kan.

Kansas Lady Jayhawks (12-2, 1-2 Big 12)
Players to watch: SR/C Crystal Kemp (19.0 ppg), SR/G Erica Hallman (14.6 ppg)

About the Lady Jayhawks: The Lady Jayhawks lead the Big 12 in the all-important assist to turnover ratio. Kansas ranks near the top in most offensive categories including a conference best 3-point field goal percentage of .312. The Jayhawks are led by seniors Crystal Kemp, Erica Hallman and Kaylee Brown. All three average in double figures in scoring with Kemp leading the team with 19.0 points per game.

When they play Tech: Feb. 22 in Lubbock.

Iowa State (10-4, 1-2 Big 12)
Players to watch: JR/G Lyndsee Medders (15.1 ppg), SR/C Brittany Wilkins (14.1 ppg)

About the Cyclones: The women's team is looking to continue on the success of a 23-7 season the year before and make a second consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance for the first time since appearing in six straight (1996-01). When they play Tech: Feb. 14 in Ames, Iowa.

Colorado (6-9, 1-2 Big 12)
Players to watch: SO FW Jackie McFarland (18.4 ppg), SO G Jasmina Ilic (18.3 ppg)

About the Lady Buffs: The Lady Buffaloes continue to struggle in the Big 12 like in previous years even though they returned eight players from last year's squad. Colorado only has two threats in sophomores Jackie McFarland and junior Jasmina Ilic. McFarland also is a threat in the paint with 10 rebounds per game.

When they play Tech: Feb. 11 in Lubbock.

Oklahoma State (6-8, 0-3 Big 12)
Players to watch: FR/F Shaunte' Smith (10.6 ppg)

About the Cowgirls: The Lady Cowgirls have struggled in the first part of the season, putting up a 6-8 record while losing their first three conference games. Shaunte' Smith leads the team with 10.6 ppg but will need help in order to get the Cowgirls in the upper part of a tough Big 12 conference.

When they play Tech: Jan. 25 in Stillwater Okla., Feb. 8 in Lubbock.

Sooners get boost from returning player

NORMAN, Okla. (AP)—Walking to his office at 7:30 on a summer morning, Kelvin Sampson would hear a sound that's music to his ears: a player already dribbling in the Sooners' practice gym.

He'd peek through the blinds and see Michael Neal, a junior college transfer, working on his shot. Or more specifically, he'd see the sharpshooter knocking down 10, 12 or even 14 shots in a row.

At 9:30 or even 10:30 at night, Sampson would check again and find Neal in the gym then, too.

Now that Big 12 Conference play has begun, those pleasing sights and sounds are no longer present for Sampson. Neal, the top 3-point shooter for the No. 22 Sooners, has missed the past two games with an Achilles injury and Oklahoma has dropped to 0-2 in Big 12 play for only the second time in Sampson's tenure.

Without Neal, the Sooners (9-4) have gone 8-for-35 from 3-point range in losses to Nebraska and Missouri by a combined three points.

Sampson doesn't blame the losses on Neal's absence, noting that the Sooners have committed too many turnovers and missed opportunities to extend leads and win those games.

"We should still be 2-0 without him,"

Sampson said before practice Thursday. Sampson said Neal may be cleared to play on Saturday at Texas A&M (11-2, 1-1 Big 12), but he's unsure how effective Neal would be after missing a full week of practice. But he knows how valuable Neal can be.

In Oklahoma's most recent win, Neal hit two 3-pointers during an 11-4 second-half run that put the Sooners ahead of Alabama to stay.

With the Sooners' top perimeter shooter out of the lineup, opponents are able to play a sagging zone defense against Oklahoma and limit the damage done by leading scorers Taj Gray (15.5) and Kevin Bookout (12.8) inside.

When Neal is on the floor, defenders must respect his outside shot and that gives Gray and Bookout more room to operate.

"Michael Neal is a huge part of our team when teams zone us," Sampson said.

Sampson conceded that the Sooners—who once were ranked as high as No. 4—haven't played up to their ranking, but he believes they still have a chance to develop into the contender they were billed as at the beginning of the season.

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The dividing line: Tech trying to get back on track

Lady Raiders looking to turn table in conference play

Raiders searching for new definition in Big 12 play

By **TRAVIS CRAM**
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER

After a rough start to a hopeful season, coach Marsha Sharp and the Lady Raiders finally feel like they are beginning to find their marks and finish out games.

Finishing out games is something Tech will have to continue to do as the team progresses into Big 12 play.

Tech (6-7, 1-1 Big 12) lost its opening conference game against Kansas State 63-61 when four free throws fell for the Lady Wildcats in the final five seconds to give them the win.

Tech would turn the tables in its next game against A&M, winning the game in the same scenario but this time it was the Lady Raiders hitting free throws to seal a one-point win.

Sharp said it's funny how often it has come down to making shots from 15 feet away this season.

"It's the reason we won against A&M and it's the reason we didn't win against Kansas State," she said.

The Lady Raiders shot a dismal 52 percent against K-State but then made more than 83 percent of their shots against A&M, proving to be the difference in the game.

The first true test will be this weekend when the Lady Raiders face their first Top 25 team since losing to No. 3 LSU in the season opener.

No. 5 Baylor (12-1, 2-1) marches into Lubbock this weekend, continuing its quest for a second-consecutive national championship.

The Lady Bears lost a close game to No. 24 Missouri last week, ending the 30-game winning streak for the defending champs.

Senior forward LaToya Davis said it's hard to think about Baylor without thinking about Player of the Year candidate Sophia Young.

"Sophia is the first thing that comes to mind," she said. "You can't stop her, but if we contain her and make them shoot from the outside we should be OK."



LINC ARMES/The Daily Treador

LADY RAIDER SENIOR guard Erin Grant goes up for a shot during a game earlier this season. Texas Tech is 6-7 overall, 1-1 in Big 12 Conference play thus far this season.

Young is second in the conference in points per game, averaging 21.2 this season, and is a constant threat inside and outside the paint.

Sharp said the defensive game will have to be at its best in order to stop a team like Baylor and take control of the game. She said Erin Myrick will play a key role in defending the inside game and keeping her out of foul trouble will be the toughest part.

"It's a huge challenge for our whole defense," she said. "She'll have to stay out of foul trouble so that we aren't forced to go too deep into our bench."

Tech last played Baylor in the 2005 Big 12 Tournament semifinals and the result of that game left a

sour taste in the Lady Raiders' mouths.

The see-saw battle throughout the game gave Tech a one-point advantage with under a minute left in the game, but Chelsea Whitaker hit a layup with 2.1 seconds remaining to give Baylor a 58-57 victory on its way to a conference and national championship.

Junior forward Alesha Robertson remembers the game vividly and said nothing would be better for this team than to beat the Lady Bears.

"I really have fun playing against them," she said. "It'll be great if we beat them."

► travis.cram@ttu.edu
► trey.shipman@ttu.edu

By **MATT MUENCH**
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER

Texas Tech guard Jarrius Jackson smiles when he hears the word underdog.

Merriam-Webster defines it as a loser or a predicted loser in a struggle or contest.

Jackson does not believe in the word. He's heard it numerous times during his tenure at Tech, now in his third year.

"We don't listen to that stuff," he said. "People can say whatever they want. We take it as motivation."

His freshman year, critics said the Raiders would not finish in the top tier of the Big 12 Conference. The Raiders answered by almost knocking off a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

His sophomore year, preseason writers said it was Tech coach Bob Knight's weakest team after losing its star Andre Emmett. Wrong again. Tech was runner-up in the Big 12 Conference Tournament and then advanced to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA.

"Yes, I enjoy proving people wrong," Jackson, the Louisiana product said with a big smile on his face.

He'll get another chance this year. Critics are at it again during his junior year this season. Without a true leader yet to surface, and Knight's youngest team in five years since he embarked the Hub City, the critics may be right. Right now, forward Darryl Dora agrees.

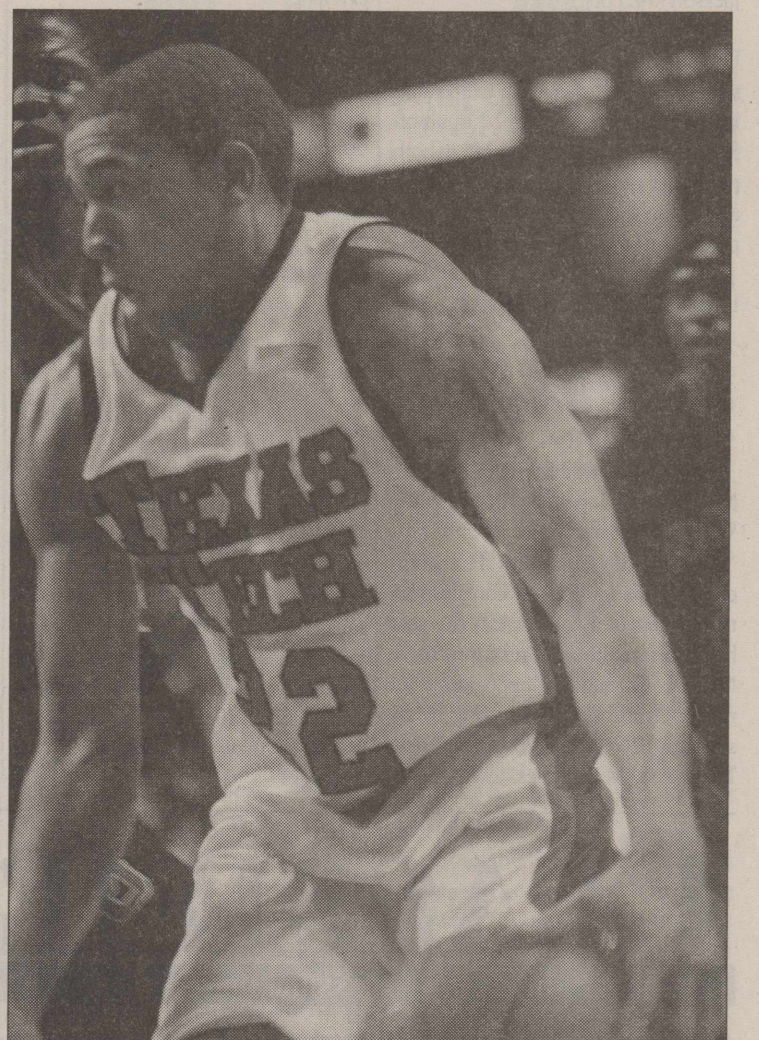
"We have put ourselves in a real big hole by losing early games," he said. "Right now we are probably not in the tournament. We are just going to keep working on it and go from there."

Tech sophomore Martin Zeno also wants to wipe out another word in his mind: rebuilding.

Re-enter Merriam-Webster. Rebuilding: To make extensive changes or to restore to a previous state.

Zeno is not a fan of the word. "If people think we are rebuilding then they think we are just going to lose, Zeno said. "We don't think that."

Tech should know where they stand as far as reaching the Big Dance in two weeks, after it plays through its toughest stretch of games of the season. Beginning Tuesday, the Raiders will play six consecutive games against the Big 12's elite, beginning with national title contender Texas in Austin.



LINC ARMES/The Daily Treador

TEXAS TECH JUNIOR guard Jarrius Jackson tries to work around a defender from Baylor Wednesday night at the United Spirit Arena. The Red Raiders earned their first Big 12 Conference win against the Bears.

Check the schedule. They next are at Oklahoma, home against Oklahoma State, back on the road in Kansas (Tech never has won there), at home against Missouri and close the stretch the way it started by facing Texas in Lubbock.

"This is a really tough conference," Zeno said. "It's the hardest basketball I've ever had to play. Especially on the road. Everybody has good home crowds and it is hard when you don't have support like you do at home."

Tech split its first two conference games by losing a close one to rival Texas A&M on the road.

"That was a tough one," Dora said. "We really should have had that one. But we still gained confidence after seeing what our mistakes were on film. Now we can fix them."

Tech rebounded with a win against

Baylor Wednesday night. It next faces Iowa State at 11 a.m. Saturday in Lubbock before going through the six game-gauntlet.

Jackson has learned since his first Big 12 game is any team can and will beat you.

"I've learned that any team can beat you any night," he said. "This conference is very competitive. I have gotten used to that."

All in all there is only one good thing about playing in the Big 12, Jackson said simply.

"When we win," he said. "That's always fun."

Dora's ready for the challenge. "It's going to be difficult," he said, "but we have a team that can."

► matt.muench@ttu.edu
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RED RAIDERS' STARTING FIVE

22	3	44	32	30
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