

THE DAILY FOREADOR

Black & Red

Tuesday, July 25, 2006
Volume 80 • Issue 158



Energy bills

Find tips on how to save during
West Texas' heat wave

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE DETAILS.

as
heat
rises

Rice visit aims to bolster Lebanon government

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — In a surprise visit to a battered Beirut, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice praised the prime minister of Lebanon on Monday for trying to contain the fighting between the Hezbollah militia and Israel, but there were signs that her trip disappointed Lebanese leaders.

Prime Minister Fuad Saniora told Rice that Israel's bombardment was taking his country "backwards 50 years" and called for a "swift cease-fire," his office said.

Man dead after morning shooting

By **PAUL ROBERTS**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A Lubbock man was pronounced dead at University Medical Center Monday morning from gunshot wounds to his chest that occurred at 2:30 a.m. on the 400 block of 59th Street, police said.

Police said the man was shot twice in the chest after a fight broke out between him and another man.

A man living at the residence was sleeping when he heard the two fighting. Police said he left his room and saw a man fighting with his friend. He went back to his room to retrieve a gun and when he came

back to the fight, he shot the suspect twice in the chest, police said. One of his shots accidentally caught the leg of his friend.

The man was sent to the UMC where he was pronounced dead, police said.

Lubbock police said they have more investigating to do before an official statement can be released.

The *Daily Toreador* will provide more information concerning the shooting when it comes available.

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LISD approves pay increase for teachers

The Lubbock ISD School Board recently approved a new salary schedule with raises totaling \$8.9 million. The raises, mostly state funded, will give teachers, librarians, nurses and counselors a \$2,000 increase in pay and a \$500 health-care contribution. The school board also approved increases to the district's "step" program, which compensates based on experience.

—David Abercia/Staff Writer

TxDOT to set up cameras to monitor South Loop

An Intelligent Transportation System will soon monitor the South Loop. Through a partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation and the City of Lubbock, cameras and message boards will be installed on the South Loop from West 34th Street to Interstate 27 to monitor traffic flow. Construction on the project will begin during the summer of 2007.

Stocks surge on HCA buyout, earnings

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street rallied sharply Monday as the multibillion-dollar buyout of HCA Inc. and upbeat earnings reports from a pair of drugmakers tempered fears of an economic slowdown. The Dow Jones industrial average soared more than 170 points. Acquisitions led the day's headlines, with three equity firms agreeing to take hospital operator HCA private for \$21.3 billion of cash and the assumption of \$11.7 billion in debt, marking the largest-ever leveraged buyout.



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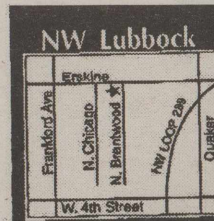
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Soaring heat increasing energy costs

By DANIELLE NOVY
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

With soaring temperatures across the South Plains, the consequential record-breaking energy consumption is causing the region's major energy supplier to urge customers to cut back on their energy usage — especially where their air conditioners are involved.

Wes Reeves, a spokesman for Xcel Energy, said the root of the region's unprecedented energy consumption is a combination of economic growth in the area and especially hot weather.

"Air conditioning accounts for roughly half of the (energy) costs and usage," he said. "People should raise their thermostats to 78 degrees when they are at home and about 85 degrees when they leave the home."

Reeves said adjusting one's thermostat will dually save on energy and help to prevent potential problems in the future.

Because the company has a limited amount of power it can use,

Reeves said if an occasion arose in which Xcel did not have enough power to serve the needs of the customers, controlled outages might be a possible ramification.

A controlled outage, also known as a "rolling blackout" occurs when utilities turn off electricity to selected areas to save power, according to www.cityofdavis.org.

"If it ever came to that, we would follow a certain plan, but it will most likely not come to this point," he said. "We are trying to communicate that information to our customers."

Reeves said West Texas is having heightened problems with energy consumption thanks to the area's relatively low energy prices.

"Power in this region is the second cheapest that you can buy in Texas," he said. "If you don't live in the South Plains or the Panhandle then you probably pay a lot more for power."

Xcel's Web site, www.xcelenergy.com, offers a link with advice on how individuals can save both

money and energy by following a few simple guidelines. Installing low-flow showerheads, washing clothes in cold water and cleaning one's refrigerator coils were among simplest tips doled out by the site.

"We are all used to being very comfortable," Reeves said in summation. "You are actually cold when you go inside a lot of businesses; they can start by just bumping those thermostats up a few notches."

Some Texas Tech students are already taking precautions to conserve energy during the summer months.

Matt McGowan, a junior journalism major from Arlington, said he has seen increases in his energy bill as the weather has heated up.

"My big thing is ceiling fans," he said. "They conserve a lot more energy than people think."

Additionally, McGowan said he tries to turn off the air conditioner if he is going to be out of the house for 10 or more hours at a time.

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QUICK HITS

Heat prompts power emergency in Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Power companies worked to restore electricity to thousands of customers throughout California early Monday as a scorching heat wave threatened to push the state into a power emergency with the potential for more blackouts. Authorities were looking into several deaths possibly related to the high temperatures, which hit the triple digits in some areas on Sunday.

Ind. Police scour roads for sniper clues

SEYMOUR, Ind. (AP) — Investigators scoured hundreds of miles of highway for clues to a killer after two sets of sniper attacks within hours of each other left one man dead, another wounded and four vehicles peppered with bullet holes. A day after the attacks, police were still trying to identify potential suspects and searching for any witnesses who might have seen the shooter.

Fighting rages at Lebanon-Israel border

SIDON, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli ground forces pushed deeper into Lebanon on Monday in heavy fighting and captured two Hezbollah guerrillas, while two aid convoys carrying food, generators and other badly needed supplies left Beirut for two southern cities. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made a surprise visit to Beirut to launch diplomatic efforts aimed at ending 13 days of warfare. Prime Minister Fuad Saniora told her his government is hoping to "put an end to the war being inflicted on Lebanon."

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'Truth,' Gore express no sense of real truth

"An Inconvenient Truth" is the latest attempt by Hollywood, the liberal media, environmentalists and every fear-monger from here to Timbuktu to perpetuate the "disaster" of global-warming, which is supposedly upon us.

Despite the title, which alludes to some sort of wisdom it might impart to anyone who would see it, there is no truth contained within. In fact, the only thing that's truly inconvenient about this movie is that it was released in the first place.

Before I attempt to convince you into unbelieving the "truth" of global warming, you first need to understand that those in favor of destroying America's economy, industry and your lives in the name of "science" will stop at nothing from pretty much inventing proof.

As where legitimate scientists follow the scientific method (they form a hypothesis, perform experiments and then gather data to prove or disprove their hypothesis), environmental nuts (or as Al Gore calls them, a consensus of the scientific community) automatically announced that global warming was indeed a fact, and then point out that every thing that goes bad in the world as continued proof of global warming.

If that logic shocks you, then you should know it's not the only time such reasoning is employed. Much like global warming, evolution is proved by and the same.

Can we really afford to use that kind of backwards, and wrong, logic? Trillions of dollars are at stake in American business and personal interests, so wouldn't it seem to reason that we make sure we know what exactly is going on before we start?

Therein is the fallacy with global warming. Proponents of global warming state that Hurricane Katrina, hot temperatures, floods, droughts, wildfires, death, famine and Ted Kennedy's blood-alcohol level are all effects of

Trey Caliva



global warming. These are true not because they have been proven to be, but because they have to be, that's the only answer, end of story. Yet these are the claims made in "An Inconvenient Truth."

Is the world getting warmer? Most likely. That's an easy answer. Is that warming a bad thing? Absolutely not. Earth's climate changes frequently and has so for a few billion of years (although much of the data Gore generates in his documentary only goes back to the early 1880s when records began to be kept, but hey, who's counting?).

So why does climate fluctuate? Most legitimate research indicates that climate is more influenced by changes in the amount of solar radiation generated by the sun than anything else. But that kind of research isn't important in a movie like this.

The point of this movie is to scare and intimidate you into allowing the environmentalists to strip your life away.

"An Inconvenient Truth" is a lie. Al Gore should refund the money of every person who has had to endure his movie, and his books should be recycled and made into toilet paper. If he was truly concerned about the welfare of the world, he would be focusing on fixing problems that matter instead of peddling the 21st century version of alchemy. And to think, this man almost became president.

■ **Caliva is a senior mathematics major from San Antonio. E-mail him at trey.caliva@ttu.edu.**



Lose-lose situation

Hezbollah, Israel both need to take blame for Mideast problems

In the middle of the 1800s, Sicilian farmers became fed up with being overly taxed on the fruit they grew by the Italian government. As a means of retaliation, they formed what is now known as the Mafia, an organization that used whatever means necessary to secure fair treatment for themselves and their family, both legal and illegal. Though the Mafia became infamous for their criminal activity, one finds reluctant admiration for those willing to stand up for themselves in the face of oppression.

Currently, violence between the Israeli army and the Lebanese militia known as Hezbollah has grabbed the attention of the world and its leaders. Though Hezbollah is demonized by the media as a militant Islamic group, they are in some ways similar to those men of Sicily who took a stand against mistreatment. Hezbollah operates schools and hospitals in southern Lebanon, gaining popular support among the people. At the same time, it is impossible to ignore

James Hershberger



the violent activity carried out by the organization.

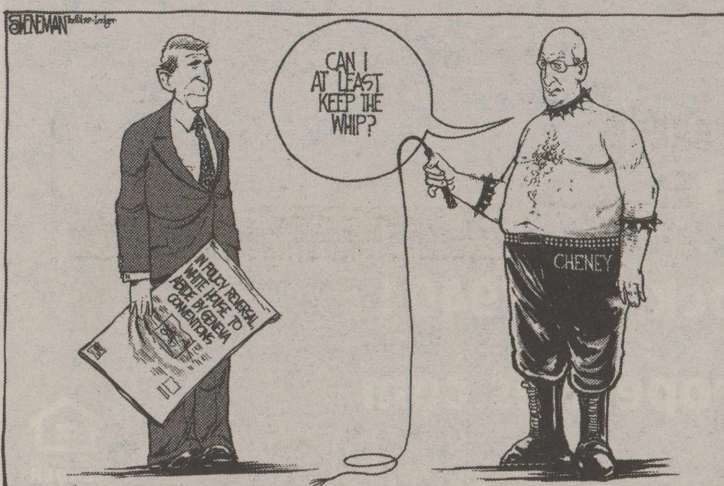
While combat operations by Hezbollah are wrong, the aggression by Israel is too often ignored by the American public. Israel allows its military to carry out unprovoked attacks against both the Lebanese and the Palestinians in the Gaza strip. Both the Israelis and Hezbollah launch excessive bombing campaigns in which women and children are killed.

Regardless of these facts, many world leaders still view Israel as a country defending itself with Hezbollah as the aggressors. As reported in the July 17 issue of Newsweek, President Bush

commented to British Prime Minister Tony Blair at the G-8 conference, "what they need to do is get Syria to get Hezbollah to stop doing this shit, and it's over," what a classy guy our president is. But the reality is both sides are overly violent, and it is ridiculous to demand that Hezbollah stop when Israel refuses to.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice currently is in the Middle East, meeting with officials on both sides and trying to broker a peace. She will not be successful unless she acknowledges that both sides have been unjustly violent and that it must be ceased by both sides. To believe that one side is entirely good and the other entirely bad is wrong. Both Israel and Hezbollah are to blame for the bombing and killing and that must be recognized for a lasting peace.

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Breaking News

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Vietnam Center receives grant to restore records

By **DAVID ABERCIA**
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech's Vietnam Center was awarded a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to restore the records of thousands of Vietnamese political prisoners.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission, which awards grants for the National Archives and Records Administration, awarded The Vietnam Center \$48,565 that will help pay for one archivist and two student positions.

The archivist and student assistants will arrange, re-house and perform basic preservation care on the records as well as prepare a comprehensive finding aid for the

collection.

"The goal of the project is to organize the collection of documents so that it can be used by researchers," said Mary Saffell, associate archivist at The Vietnam Center.

The project will process and preserve 135 linear feet of the papers of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association. The papers were donated to the Vietnam Center by the Vietnamese American Heritage Foundation last year.

Saffell said the project is expected to start Sept. 1 and is expected to last a year — the length of the grant.

"The documents are not organized well and it's not easy to find people," said Saffell.

The Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association assisted

and kept detailed paper records on at least 10,000 Vietnamese in their immigration and resettlement in the United States for 20 years.

Once the project is completed it will be available to the public.

"When the project is completed, we will have a full catalogued record," said Saffell.

According to The Vietnam Center's Web site, www.vietnam.ttu.edu, the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association was founded in 1977 in Arlington, Va. The organization worked toward the release of reeducation camp detainees in Vietnam and assisted applicants for the Orderly Departure Program, a program created to stem illegal and dangerous departures from Vietnam.

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Woman safe after Dallas 18-wheeler chase

DALLAS (AP) — A man accused of carjacking an 18-wheeler and holding the driver hostage for four hours faces an additional charge in the police chase that ended after officers shot the vehicle's radiator and tires and fired tear gas into the cab.

Samuel Scott Jones, 32, of Dallas, remained in Collin County jail Monday on the charge of aggravated kidnapping and the new charge of aggravated assault, sheriff's Lt. John Norton said. Jones was to be arraigned Monday.

Fire crews battle SoCal wildfires in sizzling heat

CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST, Calif. (AP) — A fast-growing wildfire turned away from homes in San Diego County early Monday after prompting calls for evacuations, as hot, windy weather sapped the endurance of firefighters.

The blaze in Cleveland National Forest had grown to 6,000 acres — about 9 square miles — and prompted voluntary evacuations of hundreds of homes near Lake Morena, said Roxanne Provaznik of the California Department of Forestry.

The blaze was moving south to southeast and away from homes, but it

was moving rapidly, Provaznik said.

Fire crews had to cope with California's heat wave that has sent temperatures above 100 degrees. At dawn Monday, the temperature in the area was 74 degrees, but it was expected to reach at least 95.

"It's making it really rough for our firefighters," Provaznik said.

Off the coast, a blaze had charred nearly 2 square miles of brush on Santa Catalina Island, a popular, 76-square-mile recreation spot southwest of Los Angeles with several hotels and homes. Officials hoped to have the fire there fully contained by Tuesday.

Judge chastises defendants in Saddam trial

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The chief judge in Saddam Hussein's trial accused defense lawyers Monday of wasting the tribunal's time and then snapped at the defendants, telling them

their "hands are soaked with the blood of Iraqis" as the session convened for closing arguments. Saddam had not been scheduled to appear at Monday's session, one day after the former Iraqi

leader was hospitalized and fed with a tube after a 16-day hunger strike to demand better security for his lawyers. Three defense lawyers have been slain since the trial started.

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CLERKS II

Smith's brand of humor we've all come to love

"Clerks II" may not win any awards at the end of the year, and Kevin Smith probably will not go down in history as one of the all-time greatest filmmakers, but overall his newest film is relatively flawless.

It's been 12 years since Smith changed the course and history of Hollywood when he released the film "Clerks" at the Cannes Festival. The film opened the door for millions of independent filmmakers and launched Smith's cult phenomenon.

It would have appeared from his last film, "Jersey Girl," that Smith decided to grow up a bit and do something with a little more meaning, but then he decides to return to his roots and make a sequel to "Clerks."

The film is not quiet as brilliant as the original, but it does deliver a lot more than the 1994 film. "Clerks II" is funnier, and it has a decently sweet story at the heart of it.

In the new film, the main characters from the original, Dante and Randal, find themselves out of a job when Randal leaves a coffee pot on and burns down the Quick Stop where both men work.

Jump to them a few years later while

both are working at a fast food restaurant on Dante's last day before he moves down to Florida with his girlfriend. Much like the original film, the movie takes place across a single-wild day.

"Clerks II" is raunchier, cruder, and more over the top than a lot of the comedies that have come out recently. But, where those other films fell short, the plot and story, "Clerks II" excels tremendously.

Smith is probably the best screenwriter in Hollywood when it comes to two rejects just sitting around and talking about nothing in particular. For example, in "Clerks II" two of the main characters argue about which is a better trilogy, "Star Wars" or "Lord of the Rings."

Some of the material in film goes a bit too far. For instance, there is a donkey scene; I won't spoil the surprise about what that entails. Smith takes the scene way too far for too long. I think he saw the logical spot to cut it off, but instead decided to continue the scene for another two minutes.

The ending of the film was predictable from the beginning, however, the way Smith gets there is a fun ride and worth the price of admission.

As always, all the usual suspects pop up for cameos in the film including Jason Lee and Ben Affleck. Pay close attention and someone can even find Smith's daughter in one scene.

Smith never will be an action director. He even quit writing the script to a superhero movie half way in. He's brilliant at the funny and simplistic everyday conversations.

The movie is a running dialogue on our culture, which is sad, and I know I've had many of the same conversations as the ones Smith puts into his script.

"Clerks II" is not the best film in the Jersey Lineup, which is the collection of films Smith has made around the same characters, but it further proves that Smith is a talented and genius screenwriter who is undoubtedly one of the top writers in the United States today in any field, just read his book and someone can tell that this man knows how to use words.

Smith might be older, wiser and richer, but that does not mean he has forgotten what made him popular: penis and fart jokes.

5 out of 6 - GREAT

'Lady' drowns

Shyamalan's latest release falls short of expectations

M. Night Shyamalan is probably one of the better-rounded storytellers in Hollywood. His creative and unique characters have become his trademark, and his vastly lavish imagination has become his muse. However, his newest film — "Lady in the Water" — drowns in his mundane pacing.

The film is a great story that takes the fantasy world of "Lord of the Rings" and puts it into present day. The blending of the two worlds and genres is seamlessly done, however, Shyamalan tells the story on a straight and linear path that does not offer very much in the form of excitement.

The film stars Paul Giamatti, probably one of the more watchable actors in Hollywood today, as a superintendent in an apartment complex in Philadelphia. Like all of Shyamalan's characters he has that rocky back-story that slowly unravels throughout the film. I would have liked if Shyamalan would have expanded a bit on this back-story and given the audience more of a conflict because of it.

Shyamalan takes a Hitchcock approach to filling out the apartment complex. Each character is thoroughly thought through, as if it took Shyamalan time and effort to draw up these men and women. After he finished drawing up the characters, he fills them out with some of the fastest growing stars in Hollywood.

There's Freddy Rodriguez who only works out the right side of his body, which makes him look extremely lopsided. There's Jeffery Wright, who has a unique ability with solving crossword puzzles, and there is of course Shyamalan himself, who lives with his sister and is struggling to write a novel.

I think out of all of Shyamalan's

films, "Lady in the Water" has the most interesting characters. Shyamalan obviously spent a lot of time coming up with each of the traits for these men and women, and his hard work shows in the final product.

In the film, Giamatti finds a mythical sea creature, played by Bryce Dallas Howard, swimming in the community's pool. Through a series of interviews with a resident at the complex, Giamatti starts to believe Howard's story about needing to get back to the Blue World and her family of narfs.

To make matters a bit more complicated, creatures with grass for hair and a body like a werewolf are sent to prevent her from accomplishing this task. In order to get back, she needs a specific set of people to help her out. These people include: a translator, a guardian, a healer and a group of individuals known only as the guild.

Does this sound a little bit like a bedtime story, yet? The story actually came about from a series of bedtime stories Shyamalan told his children over the course of a few weeks. But, some bedtime stories are better left in the bedroom.

There is nothing spectacular about the film. I think it fails where it could have succeeded. There were so many points the movie could have made, but instead decided to pass over. Why was the lady there to begin with? Did Giamatti's past have anything to do with this?

The movie moves along with the help of clever dialogue, creative characters, comedic moments and a few truly scary frights. Who would have known water sprinklers could make someone jump?

3 out of 6 - FAIR

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

'Survivor' Hatch sent to federal prison in Okla.

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Richard Hatch has been sent to a federal prison in Oklahoma as he serves a 51-month sentence for failing to pay taxes on the \$1 million he won on the debut season of "Survivor."

Hatch, 45, of Newport, arrived last week at the Federal Transfer Center in Oklahoma City. It wasn't immediately clear why Hatch was moved or whether he will serve out his prison sentence at the facility, which is a hub for prisoners transferring through the federal system.



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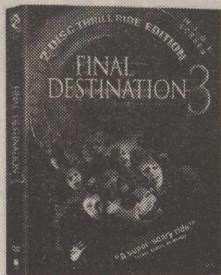
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DVD PREVIEW

Final Destination 3



The second sequel in the "Final Destination" trilogy brings back the original writers and directors of the franchise. The movie is clever in that B-genre sort of way and although the acting is on par with what someone might expect from a horror flick, the directing is slightly better.

The Benchwarmers



As a general rule of mine, I tend to stay away from basically everything Adam Sandler has to do with; this includes his producing credits. The film "The Benchwarmers," which bombed in theaters, will hit shelves on Tuesday and I'm sure all the stupid laughs that someone comes to expect from a Happy Madison Production will be evident. Act like an adult and skip this film. There are far better comedies out there.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

NEW YORK (AP) — Christina Aguilera says she's toned down the sexuality on her new double-disc album, "Back to Basics," but has no regrets about the sultry image she's projected in the past.

"The sexuality coming forward on this record is more softened," the 25-year-old singer says in the July 24 issue of Newsweek. "It's more pinup, tongue-in-cheek. It's playful. People take sex far too seriously."

Aguilera said she was proud of the image she projected on her last album, "Stripped," in part because it elicited strong opinions.

"If you liked it, you wanted to root for me — 'Look, she's empowered.' If not, well, you'd stick all those labels on me."

Aguilera also told the magazine there was never a feud between her and a fellow ex-Mousketeer, Britney Spears.

"We were like best friends, but the media saw a navel and blond hair and had to create some drama," she said.

"Back to Basics" is set for release Aug. 15.

NEW YORK (AP) — Morgan Spurlock, who created the documentary "Super Size Me" and the television show "30 Days," says the reality TV boom has been good for documentaries.

"It's opened the door for people to be more accepting of documentaries," he says in the July 31 issue of Time. "I don't think 'Super Size Me' would have done as well as it did in theaters had it not been for reality TV. But I really don't watch a lot of TV. I watch the news, and once in awhile 'Entourage' or 'The Sopranos.'"

He also promised more unusual switches in the second season of his own reality show, FX's "30 Days," in which people on different sides of an issue trade lives for 30 days.

But he said one person who won't be making more switches is his wife, who last season lived with him on minimum wage for the show's debut episode.

"She said, 'You're on your own this time, pal.' In this season's finale, I get locked up in jail for 30 days. She sees me off before I go, visits me and greets me when I get out. So she makes cameos."

The new season of "30 Days" premieres at 9 p.m. Wednesday.

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Hollywood actresses: then and now

The other day, while watching an interview with Hollywood playgirl Jessica Simpson, I started to wonder about the image and overall persona of today's actress.

I'm sorry, but seriously what happened to the Hollywood actress over the years? What happened to the Audrey Hepburn's and Grace Kelly's? Since when did plastic surgery guarantee you a spot in the next Universal Pictures film?

I think over the years, the idea of the Hollywood actress has changed so much that they've now become the Hollywood poster-board cutout. A lot of actresses these days pretend they are major players in the film business but in reality they are simply there for their looks.

At the Academy Awards every year, the race for best lead actor is always closer than the one for best lead female. On average, one actress will run away with the award, while the others give decent performances, but should have been considered for a supporting actress nomination because that is all they are. Supporting.

I'm not saying all actresses are as dumb as the third hair on my left big toe, but it seems these days

Jeremy Reynolds



women are relying more on their beauty than their overall appeal.

Back in the glory days of the silver screen when beauty was a real thing and not a special effect added after the fact with Photoshop, actresses seemed to carry themselves better and have more depth and range.

One of the most sought after actresses of our time is Angelina Jolie. The "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" star is a walking definition of lust and beauty, but can she act? Sure, Joli is a spectacular actress . . . as long as she is playing the bad ass. Put her in a comedy, such as "Pushing Tin," and she is nothing but background noise with big lips.

I think actresses these days, on average, lack the classical beauty that so many previous women had. Nowadays women are going for the lustful beauty that make them look more like ladies of the night, than ladies of a generation.

There are, of course, exceptions to this. There are plenty of actresses in Hollywood who are smart, beauti-

ful and friendly. But, on average, I think actresses of 20 and 40 years ago were much better looking in their youth because they went for the simplistic beauty.

Film premiers used to be about what an actress was wearing; now it is all about what an actress is not wearing. Remember Jennifer Lopez? Romantic comedies of 40 years ago, used to show brilliant women who actually knew something about romance. Nowadays, romantic comedies are about the dumb-career-oriented women who are too busy to have a relationship and are completely taken off guard by the free-spirited, surfer-type man they meet.

I think more actresses should take the lead from the graceful ones of old. Not only did Hepburn and Kelly actually give coherent speeches when they spoke, unlike the dumb-as-a-shovel Natalie Portman, but they also were much better looking.

Sure Jessica Alba and Jessica Biel could teach a class about how to walk sexy in a pair of Wranglers, but, as far as looks go, I'd much rather be sitting across from Kelly, Hepburn, Ava Gardner or Faye Dunaway.

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

Have a story idea? Send it to dailytoreador@ttu.edu.

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The Curse of the A-Rod

Yankee third baseman Rodriguez could be even unluckier than his number

The Devil may venture to Georgia or wear Prada, but to New York Yankee fans, he may wear No. 13.

And what is associated with satanic demons? Curses of course, and A-Rod is divvying out his curse to Major League Baseball organizations around the country.

His MLB record \$252 million dollar contract reeks of greed – which is also a deadly sin if I am not mistaken.

All tridents should point to A-Rod as the most prevalent curse next to the Curse of the Billy Goat owned by the Chicago Cubs – and only because this curse has yet to be broken. The Curse of the Bambino and the Black Sox curse have been broken in consecutive years since both clubs each won the World Series in 2004 and 2005.

The Cubbies, I am afraid, will re-

Stephen Monahan



main cursed for decades to come. Not even a Wrigley Field séance before each game will rid the Cubs of any demons, ghosts or any other form of ghastly and devilish notions.

And if the latest rumor of an A-Rod trade to the Cubs becomes reality, Chicago fans should join Harry Caray in rolling over in his grave.

The Cubs would then have three curses plaguing any attempt of a World Series bid in the future. The aforementioned Billy Goat curse, the Steve Bartman curse, thanks to his

nostalgic attempt to catch a fly ball in the NLCS versus the Marlins, and then the trade for A-Rod would create the Bermuda Triangle of curses which the Windy City could not navigate itself through.

Now, why is A-Rod a curse? It's a simple history lesson.

Rodriguez blew up on the MLB scene as a rookie with the Seattle Mariners in 1996. That year, he batted .358 with 36 home runs and 123 RBI and was eventually named Rookie of the Year.

A-Rod played for the Mariners from 1994 through the 2000 season, but only played in 65 games during the '94 and 1995 seasons, making him eligible to be a rookie in 1996.

From his rookie year to his departure to the Texas Rangers in 2001, the Mariners made the playoffs twice, once as the American League West Champions in 1997 and then as an AL Wild Card in 2000. In both playoff seasons, the Mariners were bounced from the postseason after the first round. In the

other three seasons, Seattle's combined record was 240-244.

Because of his contributions to the Mariners "success" in his seven years in Seattle, A-Rod sought after the oh-so gullible managerial framework known as the Texas Rangers, luring them into giving him a 10-year \$252 million dollar contract.

In 2001, the Mariners set an MLB record for wins in a single season with 116 – without A-Rod. That year, Rodriguez led the Rangers to an astounding 73-89 record. In 2002, Rodriguez won the AL MVP, but Texas digressed with a 72-90 season and in 2003, the Rangers yet again posted a 70-win season (71-91). The Rangers decided to let "The Boss" carry the weight of A-Rod's monetary gluttony, and traded him to the Yankees in 2004 for infielder Alfonso Soriano. Texas had realized they made a worse mistake than signing Chan Ho Park.

And of course in 2004, A-Rod successfully led the Yankees to the most catastrophic choke in sports history. Up

3-0 in the ALCS versus the Red Sox, New York botched the next four games, allowing Boston to win the series 4-3 and eventually win their first World Series Championship since trading George "Babe" Ruth. In that series, A-Rod hit .258 with two home runs and five RBI.

And in 2006, Rodriguez is in the midst of a New York fan tirade. He has been booed seemingly every time he takes the plate at Yankee Stadium or commits one of his AL-leading 18 errors. As of Monday, Rodriguez is in a 4-for-27 slump and now trade rumors are abound.

Does everyone else but A-Rod realize he is a curse?

My word of advice to any team willing to take on this baggage: you are in for a world of hurt. A-Rod will never win a World Series.

■ Monahan is a senior broadcast journalism major from Gainesville. E-mail him at stephen.monahan@ttu.edu.

Hicks, Ramirez selected to preseason All-Big 12

By **STEPHEN MONAHAN**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech senior offensive lineman Manuel Ramirez and senior wide-out Jarrett Hicks were recently named to the Big 12 Conference Preseason First Team by the conference's media representatives.

According to a press release, Tech coach Mike Leach said both athletes are deserving of any awards they receive.

"These two guys deserve all of the accolades that come their way," Leach said in the press release. "I thought we should have had more players named, but Manny and Jarrett are definitely deserving."

Ramirez was also selected recently as a member of the Outland Trophy preseason watch list. Hicks, who caught 65 passes for 865 yards and 10 touchdowns in 2005, received his third preseason nomination in four years.

Hicks is just one player in the highly-recognized wide redeiving corp at Tech which includes seniors Joel Filani and Robert Johnson as

well as junior inside receiver Danny Amendola.

The quartet of receivers combined for more than 3,200 yards last season and 25 scores with quarterback Cody Hodges under center.

Hicks' top performance came in 2004 when he caught eight passes for 211 yards and one touchdown against TCU.

The Red Raiders have also been picked by Big 12 media to finish third overall in the South division. The University of Oklahoma and the University of Texas were selected to finish first and second in front of Tech.

Texas A&M was selected to finish fourth, Oklahoma State fifth and Baylor sixth to round out the South division.

In the north, Nebraska was selected to finish first overall followed by Iowa State, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri and Kansas State.

The Red Raiders open the 2006 season Sept. 2 against Southern Methodist University at Jones AT&T Stadium.

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From football to TV land Potts to appear in ESPN reality show

By **STEPHEN MONAHAN**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Incoming Texas Tech freshman quarterback Taylor Potts, of Abilene, is scheduled to appear in the series "Summer House" on ESPN-U beginning at 6:30 p.m. today.

The ESPN original series pits six incoming freshman football athletes together in a competition to see who becomes the "Big Man on Campus."

According to www.espn.com, the athletes will live together for one week in a house in Chicago. Through a series of challenges designed to test a variety of talents, the players will have to work together, as well as compete against each other, to show everyone who is among the best.

Each challenge will test the athletes' toughness, leadership, athleticism and other attributes needed in college football. Former Detroit Lions linebacker Chris Spielman is the mentor or "House

Dad" and provides the athletes with life lessons, according to the Web site.

Other competitors in the series include Arkansas wide receiver London Crawford, Florida wideout Jarred Fayson, defensive back Cart Kelly of Princeton, UCLA receiver Terrence Austin and Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins, the son of Buffaloes coach Dan Hawkins.

Potts is described by the espn.com Web site as a classic pocket passer with great size and a powerful arm, and he is one of the better deep ball passers in this class who makes the most of his opportunities. The site also said that Potts is unique because of his unorthodox, and has a timely release with above average accuracy.

The series is slated to air at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday and consists of eight episodes.

► stephen.monahan@ttu.edu



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PART-TIME childcare providers needed. Children's Orchard Development center is looking for part time childcare providers for the Fall semester. Must be available to work Monday thru Friday, 2:00-6:00p.m. and have experience working with children in group settings. Come by 54th & Elgin Avenue between 9:00a.m. and 5:00p.m. to complete an application.

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TECH TERRACE 1 bedroom 2514-28th. \$395. 797-6358.

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TECH TERRACE 3/3 2514-28th. \$379/student. 797-6358.

TECH TERRACE 4 or 5 bedroom home. 2 story brick. Hardwood floors. 2513 23rd. \$395/student. 797-6358.

TECH TERRACE. 3 & 4 bedrooms. Oak floors. Large yards. Reasonably priced. 797-6358.

UNFURNISHED

TECH TERRACE
Go to TechTerra.com or visit the Tech Terrace leasing office on Boston Ave. between 26th and 27th Streets to get a list of houses.

TOTALLY REMODELED 3/2. Awesome condition. 1905 28th Street. \$1125/month. 806-441-4868.

TWO BEDROOM house for rent. Big backyard, close to Tech at 2313 20th St. \$700/month. 806-928-1740, 806-9281740.

ULTIMATE COLLEGE HOUSE!
5/3/2 for rent close to campus and downtown. Washer/dryer, all appliances, new carpet, awesome party patio. \$1550/month with \$1000 deposit. 2223 18th. Call Greg 806-789-2556 or Chris 806-789-7483.

WELCOME STUDENTS! 4 bedroom for lease. 2220 38th Street. All appliances furnished. Patio, corner lot. Available June. 806-863-4781 leave message.

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FOR SALE

\$139 QUEEN pillowtop mattress set. Brand new in plastic. Can Deliver. 806-549-3110.

1992 MITSUBISHI Eclipse. \$599. 2 door coup, sporty. Impound. For listing 800-749-8104 xn922.

1994 CHRYSLER Concord. \$499. 4 door. Dependable. Impound. For listings 800-749-8104 Xn923.

1994 HONDA Civic. \$995. 4 door. Impound. For listings 800-749-8104 xn919.

1994 PONTIAC Sunfire. \$499. 2 door coup. Auto. Impound. For listings 800-749-8104 xn924.

1996 ACURA TL \$850. 4 door. Sunroof. Impound. For Listings 800-749-8104 x 4490.

1996 NISSAN Altima. \$850. 4 door. Great gas. AC. Impound. For listings 800-749-8104 Xn921.

1997 SATURN SC. \$450. Ac, red, all power. Impound. For listings 800-749-8104 Xn920.

DESIGNER LAMINATED flooring- still in box, must sell. \$.79/sq ft. 30% thicker. 748-0786.

GREAT COLLEGE House for sale. 1724 24th St; great for college kids or couple, close to TTU, 2/1, W/D hookups, big back yard; small shop; clean and cute; Call 806-862-5101 evenings. Leave message.

HANDSOME LEATHER sofa & love seat. New in crate, lifetime warranty, sacrifice \$699. 549-3110.

INCREDIBLE 4 poster bed, massive posts with marble-like tops. \$499. 806-549-3110.

INVESTOR HAS prime Tech area homes that can be sold with owner financing. 797-6358.

MISCELLANEOUS

EASY DEFENSIVE DRIVING
C1664. Free Dinner! \$25.95. Monday/Tuesday 6 PM. Saturdays 9 AM. Home Plate Diner, 7615 University. 781-2931. Visa

STORAGE NEAR Tech. 10x20 for \$55/mo. Students/senior special. Broker owner. 687-7100.

ROOMMATES

2 ROOMMATES WANTED
Males. 4Br/2Ba. W/D. Cable/Intranet paid. Close to campus. 26th & Quaker. \$340 + 1/4 bills. 325/338-3079.

DESPERATE FOR ROOMMATE
One roommate needed at The Exchange Luxury Apartments. \$400/month. Beginning in August. Furnished. 4 bed 4 bath. Help. 817-223-8634.

MISCELLANEOUS

FEMALE ROOMMATE needed in a 2 BR apt. \$265/mo + bills. Available NOW. Will negotiate! Call Kalee at 817-308-2286.

FEMALE ROOMMATE needed: share beautiful 1800 sq. ft. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home. 2 blocks off 4th in Shadow Hills (has DSL). \$375 plus 1/3 bills. \$150 deposit. Email lmsmith12@hotmail.com or call 806-687-8796.

LOOKING FOR roommate 4/2/2 3 year old house off 4th and Milwaukee. \$350/month + utilities. Fully furnished. Only 8 minutes to Tech! 713-291-2243.

NEED FEMALE roommate. Tech Terrace, \$350/month, 1/4 bills, 12 month lease. \$250 deposit. 214-334-7530.

NICE 3/2 CLOSE TO TECH 3 bedroom/2 bath house just 3 miles from Tech. Need 2 roommates, \$425 a month all bills paid, mostly furnished!!! Call Wes at 817-657-1766

ROOMMATE NEEDED 3/2. 2308 28th. Contact Jeremy 214-205-7258.

ROOMMATE NEEDED in new Shadow Hills house (524 N. Kline). 2 car garage, \$400/mo. 806-792-4922.

ROOMMATE NEEDED
1 room available Aug. 15th. 5420 45th. Wireless internet, new pool table, big screen. Pets welcome. No deposit. \$300/mon + 1/3 utilities. Call Micah 325-669-1258.

ROOMMATE WANTED share 3/3/2. \$400 all bills paid. Off of Erskine. Call 505-302-3560.

ROOMMATE WANTED. House in Tech Terrace at 31st and Gary. \$400+1/3 bills. Pets allowed call: 512-635-7919.

ROOMMATE WANTED
Female Tech student to share Tech Terrace house. No pets. No smoking. \$300/mo +1/3 utilities. 745-2894.

ROOMMATE WANTED
Tech student to share 2/2 house on 30th & University. All bills paid. \$475/mo. 210-724-3894.

ROOMMATES WANTED. 4br/2b, all bills paid. \$365/mo. W/D, internet, 940-357-1893, 940-553-1674.

SERVICES

MATTRESS, FURNITURE
Discounted prices. 5127 34th Street (34th & Slide). 785-7253.

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pool party

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see office for details

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