

Night Lights



TOP: THE SADDLE Tramps walk around Memorial Circle up to the Physics/Geosciences building during the annual Carol of Lights Friday night (Photo by Kelly Matherly/The Daily Treador). ABOVE: THE LIGHTS on the Administration Building bell tower are lit for Carol of Lights Friday night (Photo by Caitly Colvard/The Daily Treador).

Texas Tech campus
glows during annual Carol of Lights

By KATIE HARRIS
STAFF WRITER

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION
Texas Tech University
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

Cell phones and glow sticks illuminated the crowd as students, alumni and members of the Hub City community anxiously awaited the beginning of the 48th annual Carol of Lights tradition Friday evening.

"In the Moment" was the theme for the year's ceremony, and children and adults of all ages were in attendance to celebrate the lighting of the Texas Tech campus.

Holding flares that created a red glow, the Saddle Tramps, another Tech tradition, walked the path around Memorial Circle while Christmas music played. Both the university choir and trombone choir performed holiday songs at the Science Quadrangle before more than 25,000 red, white and orange lights turned on.

Gerald Dolter, the director of Tech Music Theatre and associate professor of music, sang "Oh Holy Night" for those in attendance.

Kathryn Wright, a junior human development and family studies major from Southlake, said she came to the Carol of Lights before she transferred to Tech, which meant Friday evening marked her fourth year to attend the ceremony.

"I love the music, the Tech tradition and being with friends," Wright said. "Those are my favorite things."

Kelsey Chappell, a freshman sociology major from Argyle, said it was her first time to take part of the tradition.

"I anticipate it's going to be cool from what I've heard people say," Chappell said.

Kandis Wenk, a senior exercise and sport

sciences major from San Marcos, said this was her fourth year to attend.

"I love Christmas, and I love Christmas music," Wenk said. "I start playing Christmas music in August."

She said one of her favorite memories was during her freshman year when a professor sang "Oh Holy Night."

Robby Groff, a senior wildlife management major from Hondo, said his favorite part is when the lights switch on.

"This is my first year to be here because

CAROL OF LIGHTS continued on page 11

(INSIDE)



Somewhat artificial intelligence
SEE PAGE 3

(IN BRIEF)

STATE

Texas woman gets life for suffocating 2-year-old

AUSTIN (AP) — A woman convicted of suffocating a 2-year-old girl by forcing food down her throat has been sentenced to life in prison.

Saraí Gomez, 22, received an automatic life sentence Friday from state District Judge Billy Ray Stubblefield after jurors convicted her of capital murder in the death last year of Sandra Martinez. She will be eligible for parole in 40 years. Prosecutors chose not to pursue the death penalty.

NATION

Discovery's astronauts will rewire space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Several days after space shuttle Discovery arrives at the international space station, some of the lights will go out. Some communications with Mission Control will stop. Backup power will be lost.

That may sound scary for the astronauts orbiting 220 miles above Earth, but they'll be ready for it. The space lab is only getting rewired.

WORLD

Pinochet suffers life threatening heart attack

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Gen. Augusto Pinochet, the Chilean dictator whose regime was responsible for widespread killings and other abuses, suffered a heart attack Sunday and state television said he was expected to undergo bypass surgery.

The decision to perform bypass surgery came after the 91-year-old Pinochet received an emergency angioplasty that his son said "virtually rescued him from death." In bypass surgery, the chest is cut open and blood vessels are moved to create detours around blockages.

DEATH TOLL

2897

U.S. Military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by Department of Defense

WEATHER

Today



SUNNY
HIGH 51/
LOW 24

Tuesday



SUNNY
HIGH 59/
LOW 30

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U.S. forces in Iraq kill 6 militants

By THOMAS WAGNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — American soldiers destroyed two buildings being used by insurgents in a town in Anbar province, killing six militants, two women and a toddler, the military said Sunday.

It was the latest of several recent raids during which women or children have been killed or wounded as U.S. forces attacked insurgents in residential areas. In some of the attacks, the U.S. command accused the militants of taking

over buildings for use as safe houses and of using civilians as human shields.

Elsewhere, the U.S. military said three American soldiers were killed Saturday by roadside bombs — two in the insurgent stronghold of Anbar province west of Baghdad and one near Taji, north of the capital. The U.S. Air Force confirmed that an American pilot whose F-16 went down in Anbar on Nov. 27 was killed, using DNA analysis to identify his remains.

In Baghdad, the death toll from Saturday's triple car bombing at a food market in a pre-

dominantly Shiite area rose to 53 civilians dead and 121 wounded, said police Col. Nabil Abdul Kadir.

Three parked cars blew up nearly simultaneously as shoppers were buying fruit, vegetables, meat and other items in the busy al-Sadriyah district. The blasts clouds of smoke over concrete high-rises in the area, which has narrow alleys that made it difficult for ambulances and fire trucks to navigate.

It was one of the worst incidents since a bombing and mortar attack killed 215 people and wounded more than 200 in the Shiite

district of Sadr City in Baghdad on Nov. 23 amid increasing retaliatory attacks between Shiites and Sunnis.

Nobody claimed responsibility for the market attack, but it followed a Friday raid by Iraqi forces backed by U.S. helicopters targeting Sunni insurgents in al-Fadhil, less than a half-mile away.

The Sunni Association of Muslim Scholars in Iraq condemned the al-Fadhil raid in a statement Saturday, alleging six people were killed

IRAQ continued on page 2

Saddam's lawyers appeal death sentence

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Saddam Hussein's lawyers on Sunday formally appealed the death sentence against their client for the killing of 148 Shiites, a court spokesman said.

Five Iraqi judges sentenced Saddam and two other senior members of his regime to death by hanging on Nov. 5 for the killings in the town of Dujail, north of Baghdad, following a 1982 attempt there on the life of the ousted leader.

Under Iraqi law, death sentences are automatically appealed before a higher court within 10 days of their passage. But defense lawyers must file a formal appeal within 30 days, detailing the legal grounds for

SADDAM continued on page 2

Judge dismisses case against one university official

By ANNA SCHUMANN
STAFF WRITER

In a case involving a lawsuit against four Texas Tech employees and a lawsuit against the university, state District Judge Sam Medina decided Friday to throw out all complaints against one employee but left all remaining complaints to be decided by a jury.

Scott Phelan, a former assistant professor of civil engineering at Tech, filed a lawsuit against Scott

Norville, the chair of the civil engineering department, Pamela Eibeck, the dean of the College of Engineering, Elizabeth Hall, the assistant provost for academic affairs, and Victor Mellinger, a senior associate general counsel for Tech.

According to the defendants' motion for summary judgment, Phelan sued each of the four defendants for conspiracy to violate due process rights or interfere with his contract with Tech. Norville and Eibeck were sued for defamation and invasion of

privacy, and Norville was sued for assault for allegedly slapping Phelan across the face.

Medina dropped all complaints against Mellinger.

Background information

Editor's Note: All quotations from documents cited come from documents provided by a Web site maintained by the plaintiff. The defendants' motion for summary judgment was provided by a representative from the Texas Attorney General's Office.

The motions for summary judgment from both the plaintiff and the defendants include evidence found in e-mails between the employees as well as court depositions and affidavits.

According to the defendants' motion for summary judgment, "the relationship between Phelan and Norville was strained almost from the beginning."

Phelan, a Tech graduate, was

LAWSUIT continued on page 3

Tech graduate, Air Force pilot confirmed dead in Iraq crash

By JOSH HULL
STAFF WRITER

U.S. Department of Defense officials confirmed the pilot of an Air Force fighter jet that crashed Nov. 27 in Iraq is dead.

Maj. Troy L. Gilbert, 34, was

supporting coalition troops 20 miles northwest of Baghdad when his F-16 fighter went down. An investigation into the cause of the crash is still under way, though Air Force officials said it is unlikely insurgents were involved.

Gilbert was a member of the 56th

Fighter Wing based out of Luke Air Force Base in Arizona. A graduate of Texas Tech, Gilbert had served in the Air Force for more than 12 years, piloting more than 300 hours of combat time.

Brig. Gen. Tom Jones, commander of the 56th Fighter Wing,

released a public statement to offer condolences to the Gilbert family regarding their loss.

"Today's news and the deep sense of sorrow we feel here at Luke (Air Force Base) should

PILOT continued on page 3

SPORTS | 7
BCS CHAMPIONSHIP COMES ALIVE, TECH GETS INSIGHT

Tech police blotter

By PAUL ROBERTS
STAFF WRITER

Nov. 30

Texas Tech police investigated an incident where an unknown suspect vandalized a section of the Administration building. Tech police said someone wrote on the wall of the northeast corner with a permanent marker.

A traffic accident occurred in the 1800 block of Indiana Avenue. Police said no injuries were reported.

A Tech student was arrested by Tech police for possession of marijuana in a room in Bledsoe Hall. Tech police said they were called to the residence hall after an odor of burning marijuana was reported. The student was transported to the Lubbock County Jail.

Tech police reported an injury of an employee at the Tech Police Department in the north side of Bledsoe Hall. Police said the employee slipped and fell. The employee said she did not need medical attention.

Tech police investigated damage to property in a room in Murray Hall. Reports state an alarm clock was broken. Police did not locate any suspects.

Tech police investigated criminal mischief in the lobby of Gordon/Bledsoe dining hall. Police said a window in the lobby was broken by an unknown object.

Tech police were called to the Art building after two people were involved in an argument. Police said the two individuals were involved in a verbal altercation. Police did not arrest the two individuals.

Nov. 29

Tech police investigated a traffic accident in the visitor parking lot of the Tech Police Department. Reports state a vehicle struck a concrete parking barricade. Police said no injuries were reported.

A female student fainted in the Horn/Knapp dining hall. Police responded to the 911 medical emergency call at the dining hall. When police arrived the female student refused medical treatment.

Tech police responded to a 911 medical emergency call from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Reports state a student was suffering from an asthma attack. Tech

police said the student refused medical treatment.

A nonstudent female tripped and fell on the curb at the front entrance of the HSC. Tech police responded to the 911 medical emergency call. Tech police said the nonstudent was transported to the Covenant Hospital emergency room.

An unknown suspect stole a wallet in a lounge room of Murray Hall. Police said the wallet was left unsecured at the time of the theft.

A Tech student was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia in Weymouth Hall. The student was released pending the filing of charges with the Lubbock County District Attorney's Office.

Tech police investigated a fire in a room in Weymouth Hall. After the Lubbock Fire Department responded to the fire alarm, the fire was extinguished by the residence hall's sprinkler system.

Tech police investigated criminal mischief in a room of Stangel Hall. Tech police said a window was shattered by unknown suspects.

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Iraq

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and 13 detained.

In Washington, it was disclosed that Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld had submitted a classified memo to the White House two days before he resigned, calling for major changes in the Bush administration's Iraq strategy.

"In my view it is time for a major adjustment," Rumsfeld wrote in the Nov. 6 memo. "Clearly, what U.S. forces are currently doing in Iraq is not working well enough or fast enough."

On Saturday night in the town of Karmah, coalition ground and air forces killed six insurgents while destroying two buildings that militants were using, the military said. Searching through one of the destroyed buildings, coalition forces also found a weapons cache and the bodies of

two women and a boy who was believed to be under 2 years old, the military said. Three suspected insurgents also were detained.

Dr. Abdul-Hakim al-Dulaimi, director of the emergency room at Karmah Hospital, said 12 bodies were brought there on Sunday morning: nine Iraqi men, two women in their 40s and a 3-year-old boy.

The town, 50 miles west of Baghdad, is in Anbar province, the large area of western Iraq where many of the country's Sunni Arab insurgent groups operate.

"Coalition forces take precautions to mitigate risks to civilians while in pursuit of terrorists. However, terrorists continue to put innocent civilians in danger by operating among them," the U.S. military statement said.

Two roadside bomb attacks on Saturday — one north of Baghdad near the Taji Air Force base and the other in the western province

of Anbar — killed three American soldiers.

The U.S. Air Force on Sunday announced the death of Maj. Troy L. Gilbert, 34, whose F-16 fighter crashed in Anbar on Nov. 27. U.S. forces have said insurgents reached the crash site before American forces. The cause of the crash is under investigation, but officials said they did not believe Gilbert was shot down.

Seven Iraqis were killed and 12 wounded in other violence on Sunday. Among the deaths were three policemen killed by a suicide bomber at a checkpoint near the northern city of Kirkuk.

On Saturday night, gunmen in two cars intercepted a vehicle carrying Haithem Yassin, a Shiite adviser to Iraq's minister of electricity, in northeast Baghdad, kidnapping him, his driver and two bodyguards, Karim Sultan Jassim, a ministry spokesman, said Sunday.

Saddam

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

their action and presenting new evidence that could support their clients' claims of innocence. The lawyers could also make a plea for leniency.

"Today, defense lawyers came to the court and filed an appeal against the death sentence passed against Saddam Hussein and other sentences in the Dujail case," Iraqi High Tribunal spokesman Raid Juhfi told *The Associated Press*.

Saddam's chief lawyer, Khalil al-Dulaimi, said two lawyers on the defense team had submitted the papers. He complained that defense

lawyers had not received copies of the verdict until Nov. 23, delaying the appeal process.

"Finally we were able to do it," al-Dulaimi said. "We had to hastily prepare the appeal because the court procrastinated in giving us the documents necessary for the submission in a bid to obstruct the appeal process."

Also sentenced to death by hanging was Barzan Ibrahim, Saddam's half brother and Iraq's former intelligence chief, and Awad Hamed al-Bandar, who was head of Iraq's Revolutionary Court when it condemned the Dujail residents to death following the assassination attempt.

Iraq's former Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan was convicted of

premeditated murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Three defendants were given up to 15 years in prison for torture and premeditated murder. The three — Abdullah Kazim Ruwayyid, Mizhar Abdullah Ruwayyid and Ali Dayih Ali — were party officials in Dujail who were believed responsible for the mass arrests.

A local Baath Party official, Mohammed Azawi Ali, was acquitted for lack of evidence.

The nine-judge, higher court does not have a time limit for ruling on the appeal. But the death sentences passed against Saddam, Ibrahim and al-Bandar must be carried out within a maximum of 30 days from the day they are upheld by the higher court.

Clinton, Bayh step up exploratory efforts for White House

NEW YORK (AP) — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton met on Sunday with New York's Democratic governor-elect to solicit his support for her likely White House bid, the latest indication she is stepping up plans to join a growing field of potential contenders for 2008.

One rival, Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh, announced Sunday he was establishing an exploratory committee to raise money for a possible presidential run. He expects to decide over the Christmas holidays whether to seek his party's nomination.

A top aide to Clinton said he did not know when the former first lady would decide about pursuing the presidency or set up an exploratory committee. Clinton aides, however, have begun interviewing

possible campaign staffers in recent weeks, Howard Wolfson said.

Clinton, who long has topped national polls of Democratic hopefuls, spent two hours with Gov.-elect Eliot Spitzer at his Manhattan home.

"We just had a great, wide-ranging meeting on so many issues that affect the city, the state and the country," Clinton said as she left the meeting.

Last week she contacted leading state lawmakers, including Democratic Reps. Charles Rangel and Nita Lowey, and the state party chairman, Denny Farrell, to assess her prospects and seek their support.

Clinton's Senate colleague, Chuck Schumer, told reporters Sunday that Clinton had called him to arrange a meeting next week. But he was coy about the purpose of the get-together.

"She wants to sit down and talk next week, which we're going to do. It could be about legislation. I have no idea what it's about, and until we sit down and talk that's all I'm going to say about it," said Schumer. He added, "I think she'd make a very good president but let's wait and see. Everyone's sort of jumping the gun."

Wolfson told *The Associated Press* that Clinton "is reaching out to her colleagues in the New York delegation and asking for their advice and counsel and their support if she decides to make a run."

Clinton easily won re-election last month to a second term in the Senate. Wolfson noted that Clinton long has said she would begin actively considering a presidential bid after that election. "That process has begun," Wolfson said.

Chavez seeks 6 more years in Venezuela presidential vote

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Hugo Chavez sought another six-year term Sunday in an election that once again highlighted Venezuela's class divisions and could further entrench one of the Bush administration's most defiant Latin American critics.

Chavez led in various pre-election polls over Manuel Rosales, a tough-talking former state governor who has galvanized the opposition by promising to unseat a leader he accuses of steering Venezuela toward Cuba-style, one-man rule.

The Venezuelan president waved and blew kisses to a crowd of cheering supporters after arriving in a red Volkswagen Beetle to vote in a Caracas slum.

"I'm absolutely sure that the process is and will be totally trans-

parent," Chavez said after casting his ballot. "Let's vote, leave calmly and wait for the results."

Voting in his hometown of Maracaibo in western Venezuela, Rosales complained about delays in opening voting stations in areas traditionally favoring Chavez opponents and urged officials to speed the process.

"Today the future of Venezuela is at stake," said Rosales. A crowd of supporters shouted, "Manuel, president!"

Lines formed outside many polling centers in the morning darkness, and Chavez supporters played recordings of bugle calls over loudspeakers in spots across the capital. Election officials predicted a record turnout.

The former paratrooper has won loyal support from the poor by using the country's oil wealth to fund multibillion-dollar programs offering subsidized food, free university education, cash benefits for single mothers and other aid.

"Chavez is the first president who has done a lot for the people. He's given us socialism, which means

equality," said Johnny Parody, a 31-year-old police officer waiting in the darkness to vote in Maracaibo.

The campaign has been hostile, with Chavez calling Rosales a pawn of Washington and Rosales saying his supporters would be alert for fraud.

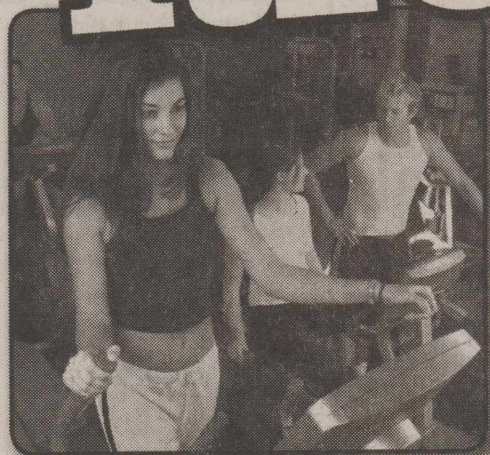
Alicia Primera, a 54-year-old housewife voting in Caracas, was among voters so passionate that they spent all night in line.

"I voted for Chavez previously. I cried for him," said Primera. "Now I'm crying for him to leave. He's sown a lot of hate."

Conflict and ambition have marked the rise of Chavez, 52, from a boy selling homemade sweets in a dusty backwater to a failed coup commander in 1992 and now a leader who, if re-elected, promises to set the tone of politics in Latin America for years to come.

He has called President Bush the devil, allied himself with Iran and affected election races across Latin America while clashing at home with business leaders and opposition-aligned media.

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Lawsuit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hired as a research assistant professor at Tech in 1999. He was placed on the tenure track as an assistant professor in fall 2001. Phelan's mother is a Paul Whitfield Horn Professor of Law at Tech's law school.

Norville was named interim chair of the civil engineering department in September 2003, then appointed chair in 2004.

According to Phelan's affidavit, a sworn statement filed in the case, he became concerned about Norville's performance as department chair and notified Eibeck and Ernst Kiesling, the senior associate dean, of his concerns as to behavior and possible illegal activity regarding Norville's use of university property for private business.

"To my knowledge, neither Kiesling nor Eibeck investigated my concerns," Phelan said in his affidavit. "Both, however, reported to Dr. Norville the fact that I had expressed concerns about Dr. Norville's activities to them because after Dr. Norville learned of my having reported possible illegal activity on his part, it appeared that Dr. Norville began attempting to find a means to force me to resign my position at Texas Tech and/or to convince officials at Texas Tech to terminate me."

According to the defendants' motion for summary judgment, in March 2005, Norville reviewed Phelan's work, commended him for improved teaching and expressed concern for his lack of scholarly papers and lack of funding outside of the Texas Department of Transportation.

"Phelan ranted at what he perceived to be a biased evaluation," the motion states. "The meeting resulted in a flurry of antagonistic e-mails between Phelan and Norville and culminated in a meeting on March 29, 2005, in which Phelan accused Norville of assaulting him back in October or November of 2004."

In regards to the alleged assault, Phelan said in his affidavit that it occurred when Norville was explaining "blast research" to him and another employee.

"Dr. Norville attempted to demonstrate blast research by striking me on the cheek without warning and with a rather hard hit," Phelan said in his affidavit. "Dr. Norville then hit me a second time on the cheek. The second hit was more forceful than the first. I thought at the time that I should hit him in return, but then decided I would not engage in this type of behavior, and I eventually walked away."

Norville gave his side of the story in his deposition.

The touch was to "get his attention with respect to the difference between static and the dynamic loading," Norville said. "I intended no punitive action. I intended no pain. I didn't think I was behaving inappropriately. In retrospect, I wish I would not have done it."

A nomination letter from Eibeck, signed by Eibeck and Norville, recites the events of March and April 2005.

"In March of this year, Dr. Phelan was selected as Civil Engineering's Teacher of the Year based on student course evaluations and senior exit interviews," Eibeck wrote. "This represents a high honor in our college as our departments place a strong emphasis on effective teaching."

In the same letter, Eibeck nominates Phelan for an award.

"As Dean of the College of Engineering, it is my distinct honor to support the nomination of Dr. R. Scott Phelan, assistant professor in Civil Engineering, for the National Society of Professional Engineers Engineering Excellence Award in 2005," Eibeck wrote. "His strong accomplishments and dedication in supporting the professional progress of students in academics distinguish him in academia."

The defendants' motion for summary judgment states what happened next.

"In early May 2005, Norville approached Eibeck and expressed his concern that Phelan was not working out as a faculty member in the department. Norville informed Eibeck of Phelan's marginal third-year review, his lack of publications, his meager research funding outside of TxDOT, his combative and abrasive dealings with Norville, and the fact that Phelan had admitted to having been late in providing up to eight reports to TxDOT."

The motion states Eibeck agreed with Norville's assessment that Phelan's reappointment as an assistant professor should not be renewed. According to the motion, Eibeck suggested Norville give Phelan the chance to resign to avoid not being reappointed. Eibeck suggested Norville speak with Hall to ensure all proper measures were taken regarding Phelan.

According to the motion, Hall, "concurrent both with the decision to issue a nonreappointment and the decision to give Phelan the opportunity to resign first."

The motion states on May 9, 2005, Norville had lunch with Phelan and Heyward Ramsey.

"At the lunch Norville asked Phelan for his resignation. Norville further instructed Phelan that if he did not resign by May 13, 2005, Norville would institute the proceedings necessary to issue him a notice of nonreappointment," the motion states.

In his affidavit, Phelan explained his thoughts about the lunch.

"Over lunch, in a loud voice while other restaurant patrons and workers were listening, Dr. Norville told me that I must either resign by that Friday, May 13, 2005, or he would terminate me," Phelan said in his affidavit. "When I asked him for a reason why he would want to terminate me, Dr. Norville told me that he was not required to give a reason. ... Dr. Norville called the meeting at the most inopportune time for me to respond as I was in the middle of administering and grading numerous final exams and written team project reports."

Both parties said Phelan did not resign by May 13. The defendants' motion for summary judgment claims what happened next.

"In the days following this lunch meeting

Phelan and Norville exchanged a series of e-mails culminating in a threat from Phelan to sue Norville. ... Norville traveled on business the following week, but set up an appointment to meet with Hall, Eibeck, Provost William Marcy, and Associate General Counsel Victor Mellinger to discuss the procedures that would be needed to issue the notice of nonreappointment under Texas Tech policy."

During the meeting, the motion states, a Tech police officer delivered a copy of Phelan's charges of assault against Norville.

"The meeting participants agreed that the police report had no bearing on the decision not to reappoint Phelan as Norville had been given that authority weeks earlier," the motion states.

Phelan's accusations of libel stem from an e-mail from Eibeck to Norville sent on May 19. In the e-mail, Eibeck responds to Norville's statement of nonreappointment for Phelan.

"My suggestion is that you change the introduction to be more of an executive summary that gives a succinct set of reasons to let Phelan go," she wrote. "Too much of the document sounds like, 'I couldn't get along with the creep so I am firing him.' Make it clear that 1. He is minimally performing on the job with examples and 2. His actions reflect dysfunctional behavior with examples."

On May 26, 2005, Norville and Eibeck delivered the notice of nonreappointment to Phelan at his office, the motion states. The notice gave Phelan a terminal year of employment from August 2005 to May 2006.

Phelan submitted his letter of resignation Aug. 16, 2005. He works as an engineer in Seattle.

Court and legal proceedings-

The four Tech employees, represented by the Texas Attorney General's Office, served the plaintiff's attorney with a motion for summary judgment Oct. 26. In response the plaintiff, represented by his brother Pat Phelan, an attorney from Levelland, filed a motion for summary judgment. The hearing over the case was Friday.

Dan Perkins, an assistant Texas attorney general in Austin, represents the defendants. He was the first to present his argument to Medina.

Perkins began by clarifying to the court that the defendants' motion for summary judgment deals only with the issue of official immunity. Perkins argued that each defendant acted in official capacity, that each of his or her actions were a part of discretionary duties and that each defendant acted in good faith.

It is because of these reasons, Perkins said, the state represents the defendants.

Regarding the accusations of libel through e-mails between Norville and Eibeck, Perkins said the plaintiff took words out of context.

"The context is two officials who have a duty to make personnel decisions," Perkins said. "It is required by their job responsibilities. Did they say them in good faith? That's where the majority of the argument should be centered."

In a situation where an accusation of libel may be more accurate, Perkins said if the

defendants were not acting in official capacity, they are not covered by the state's defense.

He said the only question that should be asked is if a reasonable official in the same situation could have acted the same way.

The same question, he said, applies to the charges of invasion of privacy against Norville and Eibeck.

"It may or may not be bad management," Perkins said, "but where's the revelation of private fact? There isn't one."

Regarding the charges of conspiracy and aiding and abetting against all four defendants, Perkins said he feels the plaintiff keeps changing his reasoning.

"I feel like we're a moving target here," he said.

When discussing the rules applying to Scott Phelan's official position at the university — including whether or not he was on tenure track and could be dismissed with adequate cause — Perkins said the rule is very clear but was being distorted by the plaintiff. Medina said he agreed the rule was clear.

"The fact that we're having this discussion," Perkins said, "pretty much proves my official immunity argument."

Perkins concluded his argument by saying if it is proven the defendants acted tortiously, they get immunity for it.

"Whether they said anything libelous and slanderous doesn't matter," he said. "It was done in official capacity."

Perkins said he agreed the issue of assault is a tough call, and he asked the court to dismiss all charges except for assault in a summary judgment because of immunity.

Pat Phelan then presented his brother's case and motion for summary judgment.

Scott Phelan's brother began his argument by answering Medina's question of how Mellinger was involved in the case other than by giving what could be seen as bad advice.

Pat Phelan argued Mellinger was part of the conspiracy to rid the university of Scott Phelan.

Medina said he didn't buy the argument.

"I'm having a really tough time seeing how an attorney's advice, no matter how bad, can subject him to conspiracy," he said. "I can only imagine the floodgates we open — none of us had ever been wrong."

Pat Phelan argued that the four defendants got together to deny due process based not only on state laws but under Tech's own rules.

He argued Scott Phelan was the first to ever undergo mid-tenure review. The reviewer, Pat Phelan said, worked for Norville. When Scott Phelan "passed the review with flying colors," Pat Phelan said Norville had to find another way to get rid of Scott Phelan.

He said Eibeck is included in the conspiracy charges because she admits in her deposition that she did no investigation when Norville made accusations against Scott Phelan. Pat Phelan said Eibeck admitted to taking Norville at his word. Because of this, Pat Phelan concluded, Eibeck was not acting in good faith and therefore cannot be given immunity. *Loge, v. Texas Tech University*

"The motion for immunity fails miserably," Pat Phelan said.

Perkins said the plaintiff did not present enough evidence for their case.

"I'm still looking for whatever evidence, whatever fact they have that shows a reasonable person could not have acted the same way," he said.

Medina denied the motion for summary judgment on the assault charges against Norville and on all counts against Norville, Eibeck and Hall and said he wanted to review the case against them further. He said he had to grant summary judgment regarding Mellinger.

"As to Mellinger, I'm sorry. I just don't see it at all," Medina said.

In response, Pat Phelan moved for summary judgment, which Medina denied.

"I'm going to go read," he said, regarding his further review of the case.

The case is set for jury trial April 4,

2007.

Scott Phelan is also suing Tech regarding his acts as a whistleblower. In the plaintiff's court documents, Tech's Board of Regents rules are cited.

"Employees who, in good faith, report unlawful activity are protected by the Texas Whistleblower Act against any retaliation by the TTU system for making such a report," the rule states.

The case against Tech is set to be heard in Austin Dec. 11.

Perkins left immediately after the hearing, which began 45 minutes late, to try to make his flight back to Austin.

After the hearing, Pat Phelan said he was only surprised by one thing.

"We were surprised that he really needs to review whether or not immunity applies to the three individuals," he said. "We knew that was going to happen with Mellinger."

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Pilot

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

serve as a reminder to Americans about the sacrifice borne by the men and women of our Armed Forces," Jones said in a news release. "Major Gilbert will be remembered here as a patriot, a warrior, and a proud American who volunteered to serve in his nation's Air Force."

The Gilbert family issued an official statement about the news of Gilbert's death.

"As previously stated, Maj. Troy Gilbert's family has been overwhelmed by the prayers and support received from the Air Force community and friends from across the

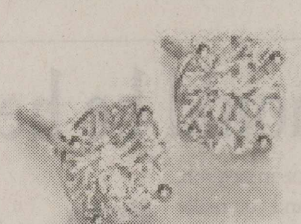
world," the statement said. "Words cannot express our true measure of gratitude."

A fund has been set up by the Fighter County Partnership for those interested in assisting the Gilbert family. The Fighter County Partnership is a community support organization that serves the families of Luke Air Force Base.

In their statement, the Gilbert family expressed gratitude to the many people and organizations that have shown support since Gilbert's death.

For more information about the Gilbert Family Memorial Fund, contact Steve Yamamori at (602) 369-3531.
► josh.hull@ttu.edu

The small box under the Christmas Tree isn't what she thinks...



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Jesus Christ Savior Lord Friend

God on Earth? Why would God send His Son to live as a man, allow Him to be executed as if He were a vicious criminal, and ultimately raise Him from the dead? The simple answer is God's great love for His creation. As faculty and staff, we come from many departments and backgrounds, but we share a common bond: knowing Jesus Christ personally and accepting His great love and forgiveness for us. He's our Saviour, Lord and Friend. If you want to know how Jesus has changed our lives, just ask. We'll be glad to share the reasons for our hope.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." - John 3:16

Texas Tech Christian Faculty and Staff Association

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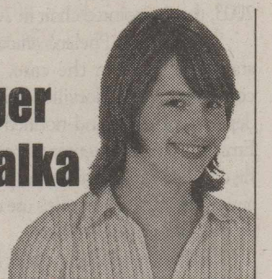
OPINIONS

PAGE 4
MONDAY, DEC. 4, 2006

Share beliefs with others

Does anyone like evangelists? They stand on street corners and yell. They insult and belittle. They force their opinions and won't listen to other views. But this stereotypical evangelist is not the only way. Others are preachers, missionaries or ordinary people talking with their friends. Is there a right way to share your faith?

Ginger Kapalka



I can't tell you how to express your personal relationship with God, but consider a biblical viewpoint. There are two reasons to verbally share your beliefs. The first is for the benefit of others. "[Jesus] said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.'" (Mark 16:15) The second is that it will help you to grow as well. "I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." (Philemon 1:6) Essentially, when God has loved you and blessed you and changed your life, you will want to share that with others. If God is the center of your life, you want to talk about him.

But most people have contempt for the concept of evangelism because they've seen few good examples. How can this be done in a way that is loving? There are many ways to share your faith. Seek God's way for you and your circumstances through prayer.

Prayer is the foundation and guide for any actions you desire to take for God. "Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel." (Ephesians 6:19)

Then you will be prepared to speak God's words. When sharing, avoid using scare tactics. Don't tell people to believe in God primarily as an escape from hell. "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment." (1 John 4:18a)

If you want to have a meaningful conversation, you cannot force your faith on anyone. Let them explain their beliefs first. Don't look for loopholes or prepare a defensive argument. Try to understand their beliefs and why they are important to them. Then ask if you can share what you believe.

It is important to understand your beliefs and explain the gospel message. It is a concise version of God's love for us and how to accept it. These are the basic beliefs of Christianity. An example:

When we sin, we separate ourselves from God. But God loves

us and wants us to come to him. He provided a way for our sins to be taken away through his son. Jesus lived the perfect life on earth but was killed by men. He was a sacrifice, punished for crimes he didn't commit. He took all our sins on himself, and they died with him. But death couldn't hold him because he was innocent. He came back to life and appeared to many people, telling them to believe and follow him. To follow Jesus, we accept his sacrifice and God's forgiveness. We repent of our sins by turning away from them and asking for God's help to never repeat them. We give our life to following God.

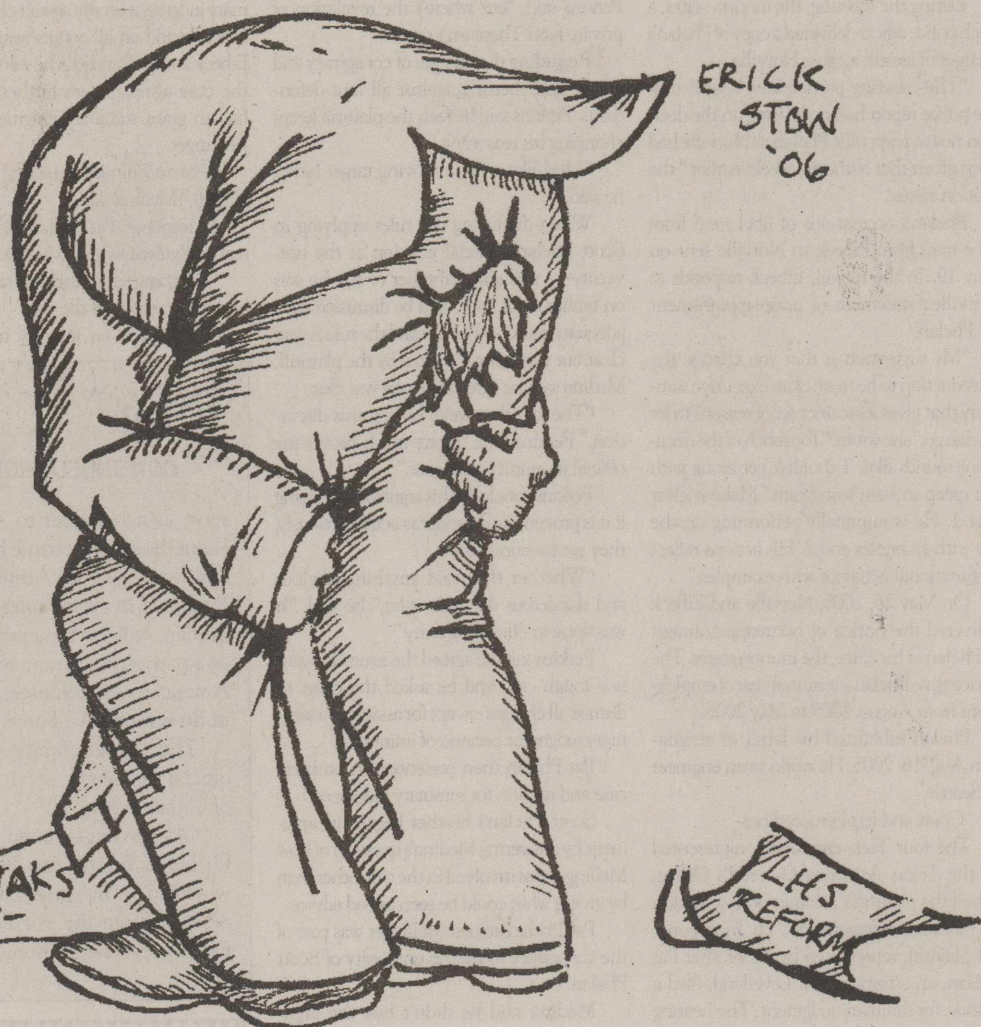
Second, you may want to share your testimony. This is an account of how you decided to follow Jesus. It doesn't need to be dramatic and miraculous, simply honest. Although I've been a Christian my whole life, I could tell about a time when I truly deepened my faith. Try to avoid using arguments, scientific facts or stories that you've read. Tell what God personally means to you.

Remember to give each other time to ask questions. "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15b) Despite best efforts, you can't always avoid offending some people. Don't let that fear keep you from sharing. Be respectful, but stand for the truth.

Also, respect that some people won't want to talk about God now. Just continue to be a good friend, but be open about your love for God. Even friends who want to discuss God aren't likely to change their minds immediately. Continue to make sharing God part of your everyday life. Don't do it to earn points with God, only do it out of love.

"You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." (2 Corinthians 3:2)

Kapalka is a junior architecture major from Billings, Mont. E-mail her at ginger.kapalka@ttu.edu.



LISD SUPERINTENDENT WAYNE HAVENS

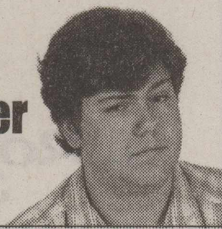
LISD should be held accountable for poor education

Being a teacher is not an easy job. If it's done right, and you really care about your students, you'll be in for lots of work and long hours in a job where trying to impart knowledge can be hit or miss. Even if teachers manage to imbue their students with the information they're teaching, there always will be administrations getting in the way. Not all administrations are bad, of course. They're a necessity for any educational system. The Lubbock Independent School District, however, does not fall into the "good" category.

I spent my entire public schooling career in LISD, and in that time I had teachers that I absolutely loathed and teachers I still admire to this day. Finding public school teachers who are truly dedicated to their profession for long hours and mediocre pay is increasingly difficult, and many teachers aren't finding it worth it to stay in LISD anymore. They knew the problems with the profession going in but did it anyway. Now the administration is making it unbearable.

High schools in LISD are run on block schedules, which is fairly common. Before this year, the teachers had two conference periods, coming out to one per day. This gave them a chance to talk with parents, help other students, get their lessons ready and grade a few hundred papers. Someone

Cole Shooter



within the confines of the LISD central office, or the "Ivory Tower" as I like to call it, decided to take away one conference period per eight classes to give the teachers one extra class.

This not only increases their workloads, but reduces their time in which to do it. This results in ticked off teachers who unfortunately either take out their angst on their students or leave the district entirely. This not only makes the teachers' lives much more difficult, but it affects the education given to the students of LISD.

I visited my old high school recently and talked with some of my former teachers. None were happy with their situations, and the general mood of the school was angry. Not only did LISD integrate the ninth grade students into the high schools when the campuses were not ready, but it's cutting work time as well. The general teacher malaise is districtwide. This affects the students as well, but then again, I don't remember when the students actually mattered for the

administration of LISD.

LISD is not interested in teachers and administrators who are passionate about their jobs, but the advancement opportunities for "yes men" (those that are more interested in promoting the district's pet projects, whether they're harmful or not) are endless. The administration is way out of touch with what the teachers and students need and can't see outside of its own interests.

The district is also less successful than many others in the area, despite having a good amount of money. In the 2006 State Public School Accountability Rankings — based on students' performance on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test, graduation and dropout rates — LISD only had 6 percent ranked exemplary, in comparison to San Angelo's 17 percent. LISD had 35 percent ranked as recognized, 53 percent acceptable and 6 percent unacceptable.

While I don't really like standardized testing, these numbers show that something isn't working in LISD, and the administration is allowing the teachers to fix the problems. Quite a few teachers are required to follow a certain curriculum that has been consistently unsuccessful, and the district apparently doesn't appreciate the calls to change the system resulting in these low scores.

Even in the light of these low scores, LISD superintendent Wayne Havens, who technically isn't qualified to be a superintendent, claims he's happy these results top 2005's. I'd love to get paid \$200,000 a year as he does in his job to continue the glorious standard of mediocrity that Lubbock LISD has held. I'm sure that the dingy standard will be upheld with Haven's successor next year.

If this district wants to keep any decent teachers, it must get its act together and start working with the teachers and for the students. When the teachers take orders from people who don't care about them or their students' educations, it affects the entire district. When the LISD administration begins giving a damn about its students and teachers, the district will get better. Until then, it can keep living down to its current standards.

Shooter is a political science major from Lubbock. E-mail him at cole.shooter@ttu.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Iraq war not comparable to Vietnam conflict

The war in Iraq is not the war in Vietnam — different peoples, different cultures, and a completely different generation of American government. Yes, it is easy to draw comparisons between the two conflicts, but it is also important to recognize their varying distinctions. In a recent opinions column, Matt Wisniewski mentioned several points of similarity he has observed between Iraq and Vietnam. One point in particular that I would like to clarify is the issue of blame. To try and place blame upon any party involved is ineffective and ultimately fairly pointless. There are so many people involved in policy decisions, and to insinuate that one carries full responsibility is absurd. As

for facts of the case? You can't even begin to try and peg the Vietnam War on one president, let alone on President Johnson. Policy for Vietnam began with President Truman, carried into the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations, and followed through in Johnson's and finally Nixon's. It was a long string of policy passed from one administration to the next, a policy based largely on honoring public international agreements and the perceived necessity of preventing further spread of communism. When you try and compare the two wars, you have compared them in terms of death and devastation. War is hell, there is no way around that. War is a waste of life and humanity. It is a tragedy in every vil-

form, but it is a reality we cannot seem to escape. The Vietnam War caused catastrophic physical and emotional damage, and the Iraq War has done the same, but on every level they are two entirely different conflicts. If you are going to criticize policy and practice, that's your right; however, do so with a bit more consideration and, more importantly, understanding about what you are discussing. It is vital to study both wars for their individual importance, and to try and lump the two together as one mess is a disservice to their separate histories and future repercussions.

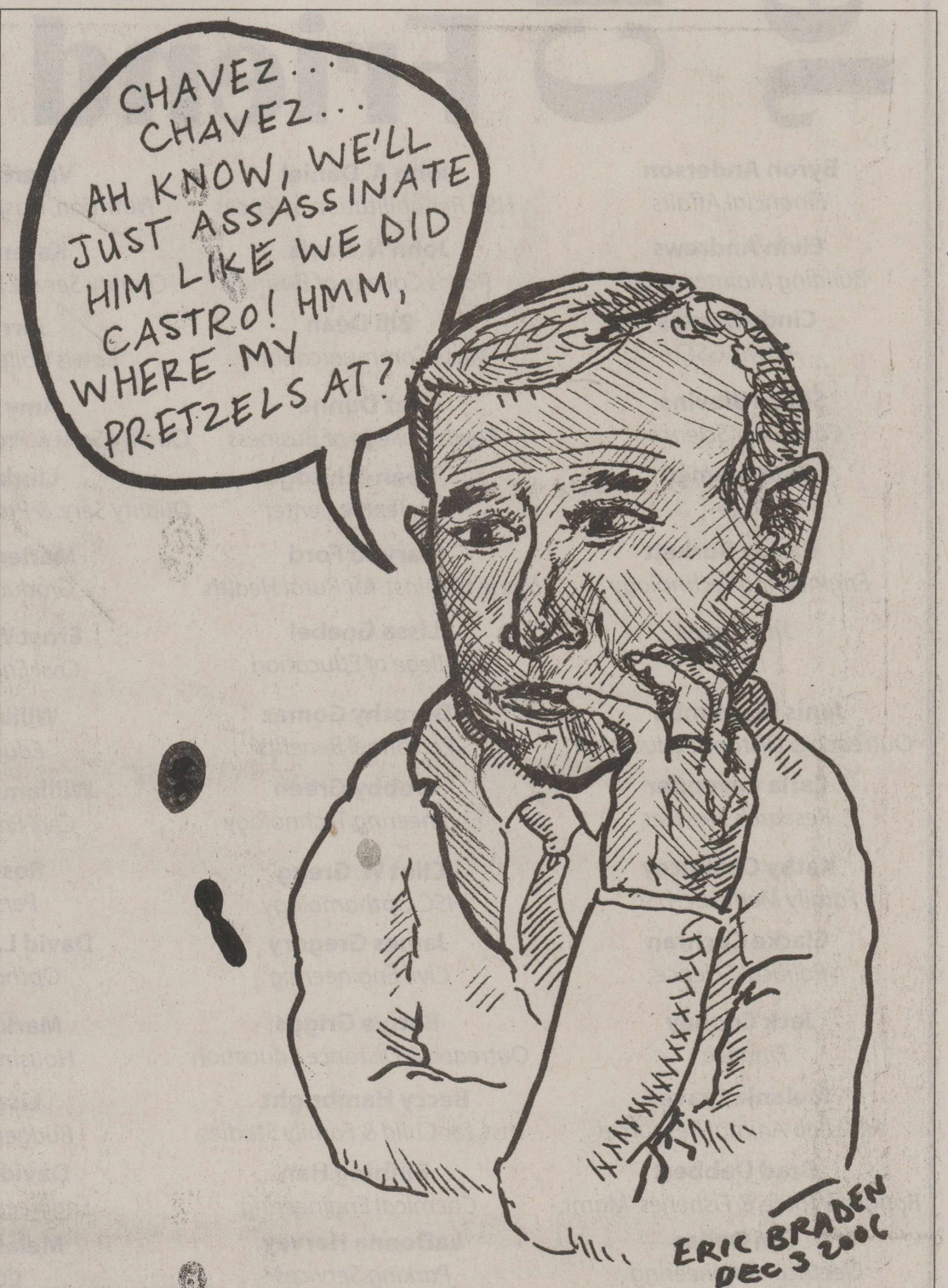
Danielle Mossbarger is a senior history and political science major from Houston.

Tech not concerned with students' safety

I would like to know who is in charge of canceling classes whenever road conditions are bad. Does anyone else see the stupidity in waiting until the afternoon on Thursday to cancel evening classes when most roads were OK to drive on? And then they postpone classes until 10am on Friday when the roads are, again, not bad. There was this person Thursday morning when it took over an hour for most people to make their commute

because you couldn't get enough traction to go over 15 mph? The higher-ups at this university are lacking in common judgment. The lives of many students were put in harms way Thursday morning because someone does not know how to do his or her job. However, this doesn't surprise me given the way this university has treated it's students in the past.

Craig Harris is a senior Exercise and Sports Science major from McAdoo.



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Pediatricians blast ads

CHICAGO (AP) — Inappropriate advertising contributes to many kids' ills, from obesity to anorexia, to drinking booze and having sex too soon, and Congress should crack down on it, the American Academy of Pediatrics says.

The influential doctors' group issued a new policy statement in response to what it calls a rising tide of advertising aimed at children. The policy appears in December's Pediatrics, scheduled for release Monday.

"Young people view more than 40,000 ads per year on television alone and increasingly are being exposed to advertising on the Internet, in magazines, and in schools," the policy says.

Advertising examples cited in the statement include TV commercials for sugary breakfast cereals and high calorie snacks shown during children's programs and ads for Viagra and other

erectile dysfunction drugs shown during televised sports games.

The statement also is critical of alcohol ads that feature cartoonish animal characters; fast-food ads on educational TV shown in schools; magazine ads with stick-thin models and toy and other product "tie-ins" between popular movie characters and fast-food restaurants.

These pervasive ads influence kids to demand poor food choices, and to think drinking is cool, sex is a recreational activity and anorexia is fashionable, the academy says.

Interactive digital TV, expected to arrive in a few years, will spread the problem, allowing kids to click on-screen links to Web-based promotions, the new policy says.

In response, the academy says doctors should ask Congress and federal agencies to:

— ban junk-food ads during shows geared toward young children;

— limit commercial advertising to no more than 6 minutes per hour, a decrease of 50 percent;

— restrict alcohol ads to showing only the product, not cartoon characters or attractive young women;

— prohibit interactive advertising to children on digital TV.

The academy also says TV ads for erectile dysfunction drugs should be shown only after 10 p.m.

Jeff Becker, president of the Beer Institute, an industry group for breweries, said parents have more influence than advertising on teens' decisions to drink. He also said brewers work to ensure that beer ads appear in adult-oriented media. For much of the sports programming where beer ads appear, most viewers are at least 21, Becker said.

Fines bring new perspective for chairman 'appreciation gifts'

DALLAS (AP) — Two legislative leaders have been fined \$1,000 each for failing to report "appreciation gifts," an internal practice that has been part of the state House and Senate committee process for generations.

Rep. Allan Ritter, D-Nederland, and Rep. Phil King, R-Weatherford, were assessed the fines in recent weeks in a possible sign that the Texas Ethics Commission is taking seriously criticism that it has lacked the will to enforce ethics laws.

The commission penalized the two House committee chairmen for not reporting their 2005 committee gifts — one a \$600 gift certificate and the other a pair of cowboy boots displaying the state seal — on per-

sonal financial statements this year, *The Dallas Morning News* reported in Saturday editions.

The two were fined even though they reported the error themselves. They made corrections after seeing a news report earlier this year.

The fines signal a change in course for an ethics commission that has been criticized recently for determining that descriptions for gifts weren't required when reporting them. For instance, a gift of money could be described as merely a "check" or "cash."

"It's not a real popular thing that the commission is doing right now," said Vice Chairman Raymond "Tripp" Davenport III. "But it's consistent with what we're trying to do,

which is to move the commission in the direction of enforcing the law to a higher standard on the legislators who pass the law in the first place."

Gifts to legislators are legal, with no limits on costs, but those worth more than \$250 from nonfamily members must be disclosed. Legislative leaders said they didn't know the disclosure requirement pertained to committee gifts. They said they would start reporting them after the 2007 session.

House Speaker Tom Craddick, R-Midland, who received a crystal eagle and a bronze Indian head statue last year from all members, said the fines were the first time the commission has indicated that the law includes legislator-to-legislator gifts.

Mexican-American son of cotton farmers reaches top post

WASHINGTON (AP) — Silvestre Reyes was unable to speak English until he was 6 years old. Now the Texas congressman must master the lingo of the nation's spy agencies and the politics of the war in Iraq.

The son of West Texas cotton farmers, Reyes was held back in school along with other Mexican-American children because of limited English. Both Reyes' parents were born in the U.S. His father was a successful farmer and both parents were avid readers who instilled a love for reading in him.

"I always look back and am amused," Reyes said, recalling his school days. "I was tagged as (one day)

being a chicken farmer (and) a high school counselor said I was good with my hands and could be a welder."

Instead, he became a combat soldier, a Border Patrol agent and chief and then was elected to Congress. This week, he added one more achievement: chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

Reyes, 62, takes over the key post next year, becoming the first Hispanic to serve in the job.

He'll head the panel, in part, because Democrats capitalized at the ballot box on the dissatisfaction among American voters with the war in Iraq and what some believe was faulty and politically manipulated intelligence

that led the nation into war.

"We're going to do the oversight, with the administration about how we proceed and what are the options. How does intelligence play into that and how will we be able to operationally support what we are trying to accomplish getting out of Iraq," Reyes said about his agenda as chairman.

Reyes voted against the Iraq war resolution and has supported setting a timetable for withdrawal. He said he voted against the war because he thought intelligence was being "cherry picked" and "manipulated" to make the case for war. He supports fighting the war on terror, but warns against relinquishing individual rights.

May the BEST 'bot' win

By JOSH HULL
STAFF WRITER

A lot of blood, sweat and tears have been shed by athletes in the United Spirit Arena, but on Saturday the competitors were more likely to leak oil and battery acid.

Texas Tech hosted the 14th Texas BEST competition, which stands for Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology. Students from 48 schools came to the regional competition with their robots to compete in various categories.

Founded in 1993, the competition allows students from more than 700 middle schools and high schools in Texas and New Mexico to participate in challenges focusing on science, math and engineering.

This year's competition had the theme "Laundry Quandary," which put teams and their robots in a contest to see who could retrieve dry clothes from a clothesline and replace them with wet clothes in a three-minute time limit.

Kambra Bolch, associate vice provost and Texas BEST director, said the opportunity for Tech to host the event came about when the previous host for the event canceled.

"A number of people in the College of Engineering have been involved in the competition on the local level," Bolch said. "The previous university was no longer able to host, so we were able to step in for hosting."

Aside from the competition, Bolch said the event gives students the opportunity to better understand what jobs in the engineering and technology fields are like.

"Simultaneously with that robotics stuff, we're doing things related to engineering," she said. "What this program is really designed to do is get students interested in careers in science, engineering and technology early on by getting them involved in that process."

Bolch said part of the event includes making presentations of the student's engineering knowledge and the process used to construct their robots. Volunteers from the College of Engineering gave tours and answered questions for the students.

"They helped future engineers get a glimpse of what they'll be doing when they come to a university," she said. "What a great experience it is for the



COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador

DAVID NEWELL, FOREGROUND, and Michael Bulkley, background, both members of the St. Mark's robotics team, compete in the Texas Best Robotics Competition.

students because they get to work with volunteers in the technology and engineering careers."

Steve Marum, co-founder of Texas BEST, said he and co-founder Ted Mahler decided to start the BEST competition as a recruitment tool for Texas Instruments in Dallas while he was an employee there. One day while giving a tour to a group of school children, Marum said he noticed the interest the group took to a robotics presentation.

"We were watching the kids and they were just fascinated by it," he said. "We looked at each other and said, 'Hey, we could do this.'"

Marum said he cannot believe how the contest has grown since the first competition in 1993, in which 14 schools participated.

"I'm amazed at the growth," he said. "I would've never thought it at the time we started it, but people saw it and liked it and duplicated it."

Though he said he values the other aspects of the event, Marum said he believes the construction of the robot for the contest is the most important learning aspect of the competition.

"I find when I build something, I made myself you get this great feeling of accomplishment," he said. "Engineering is kind of an unsung profession. We're just trying to make it a little more wide known and give students an idea of what it is."

Coaches and teams filled the floor of the arena, known as the pit, with tools and equipment to keep their robots competition ready.

Robert Acosta, coach of the two-man team from Shema Christian Academy, said his primary role is to give his team members, brothers Josh and Caleb Slinkard,



COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador

THE TEXAS BEST Robotics Competition was held Saturday morning at the United Spirit Arena.

the support and expertise they need to compete.

"Overall I just help them get through the project," Acosta said. "We take what they want to incorporate into the robot and help them do that."

Josh Slinkard said he and his twin brother, Caleb, got involved with robotics while building with LEGOs when they were young.

"At first we were kind of unsure since we had never done this before," Slinkard said. "We started small, and now we've been doing two robotics competitions for the last two years."

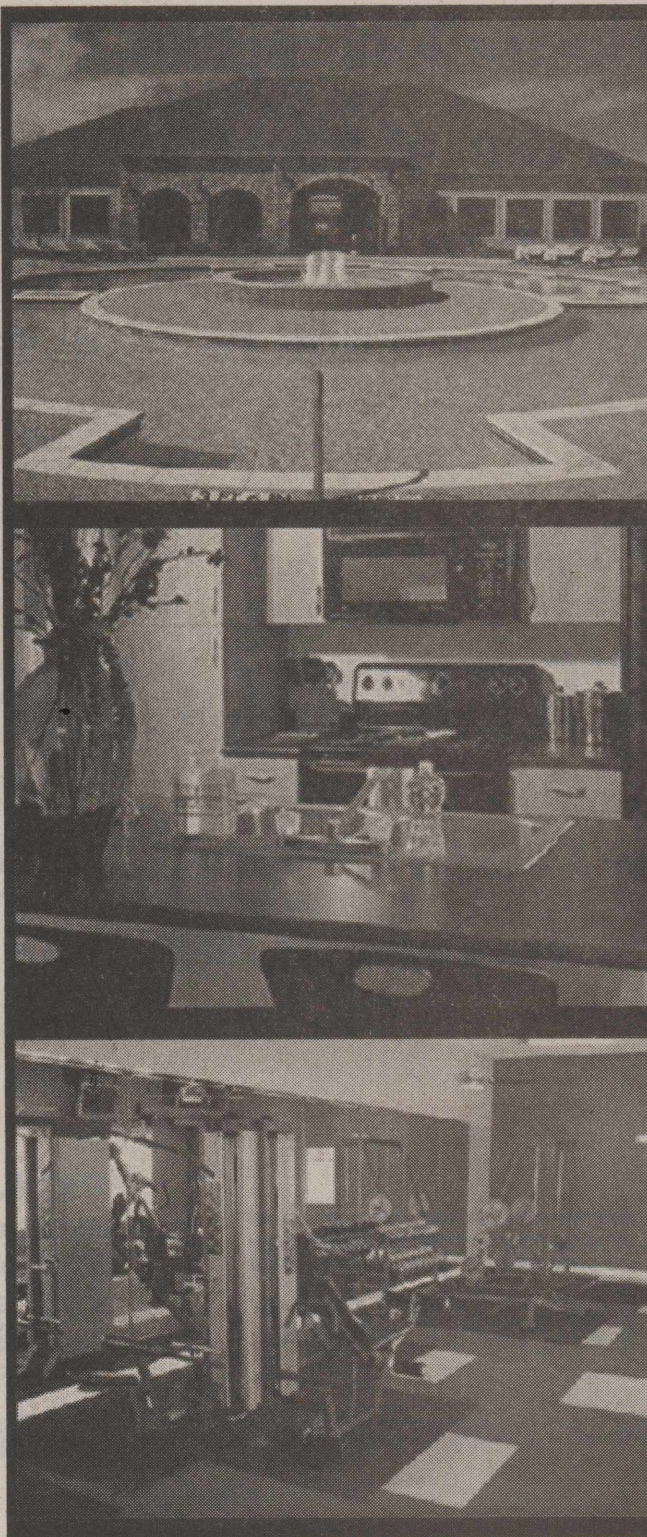
Slinkard said when he and his brother are not competing, they like to help elementary students involved in robotics.

Bolch said she believes it is encouraging for the future of engineering to see students and professionals interacting in a competitive atmosphere.

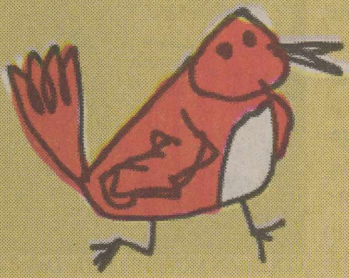
"It's a very symbiotic relationship," she said. "The students of today will be the engineers of tomorrow."

► josh.hull@ttu.edu

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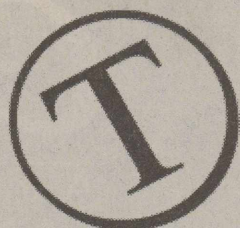
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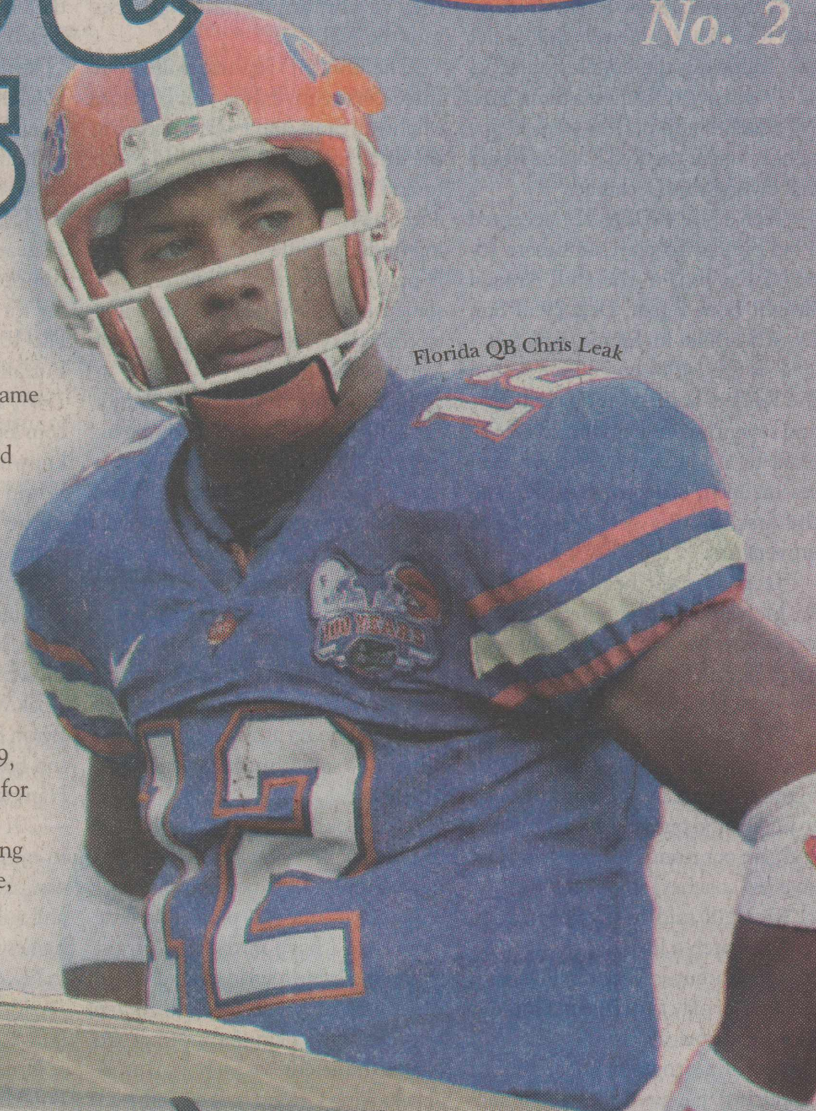
The Dust Settles



No. 2



Ohio St. QB Troy Smith



Florida QB Chris Leak

Florida overcomes Michigan to earn BCS Championship game bid against Buckeyes

(AP) — Florida beat Michigan on Sunday in the only game that mattered.

The Gators, who lobbied hard for this victory, were picked to play No. 1 Ohio State for college football's national championship, ending any chance for the Wolverines to get the rematch they so desired and thought they deserved.

The close selection was sure to set off renewed calls to scrap the Bowl Championship Series and go to a playoff.

Southern California was a step away from the title game if only it had beaten UCLA on Saturday. Instead, the second-ranked Trojans were upset 13-9, dropping in the standings and clearing the way for Florida (12-1) or Michigan (11-1).

The Gators leapfrogged idle Michigan by winning the Southeastern Conference championship game, 38-28, over Arkansas.

CHAMPIONSHIP continued on page 8

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION AND DESIGN BY JOEY KIRK/The Daily Toreador

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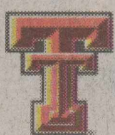
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BOWL SELECTION

Raiding Arizona

Texas Tech takes Insight Bowl bid, Tempe bound

By **TRAVIS CRAM**
MANAGING EDITOR

Although Texas Tech's preparation for a bowl game was well under way following the conclusion of its 31-27 win over Oklahoma State Nov. 18, coaches and players were happy to hear where the Red Raiders would be bowling this December.

Tech (7-5, 4-4 Big 12) accepted a bid Sunday to play Minnesota (6-6, 3-5 Big Ten) in the 18th Annual Insight Bowl 7 p.m. Dec. 29 at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz.

It is the 14th-consecutive season the Raiders have been bowl eligible and seventh consecutive trip for the team to a bowl game, one for each season under coach Mike Leach and the first meeting between the two universities.

Tech assistant head coach Ruffin McNeill said the relief of finally knowing where the team is headed helps he and the staff start preparing the team for what is to come.

"There is always speculation over which bowl, but it's good to finally get to the final choice," he said. "It's good to finally find out who we are playing and give our team some direction and give us (coaches) some direction."

McNeill said he has only been able to watch a little bit of film over Minnesota but is very familiar with the style of play the Golden Gophers like to throw at teams and what players the program is capable of producing. He cited the recent success in the NFL of former Minnesota running backs Marion Barber of the Dallas Cowboys and New England Patriot Laurence Maroney — both prime examples of what McNeill said was hard-nosed running football at Minnesota.

"Coach (Glen) Mason has estab-

lished himself very well over there in the Big Ten," he said. "Minnesota is a run football team this year and they've always put running backs into the NFL."

The Golden Gophers pulled out three-consecutive wins over Indiana, Michigan State and Iowa, outscoring the three schools a combined 128-68 to end the season. They are ranked 45th in NCAA Division I-A in rushing yards per game with 151 and 44th in passing yards per game with 217.6, something McNeill said is attributed to the well-balanced attack used at Minnesota.

The rushing attack is led by junior running back Amir Pinnix, who has 1,093 yards on 218 carries this season for nine touchdowns. What may be even more impressive to Tech coaches and players is the fact that the junior back has never fumbled during his 322 career carries since first playing in 2004.

Tech linebacker Brock Stratton said it will be a good test for the defense to go up against the running attack — something he personally likes more.

"I'm looking forward to going out to Phoenix and playing against Minnesota," he said. "I know I'm excited. I enjoy playing the run, probably a little more than I have in the past. It just makes the game a little more physical when they try to run the ball. So, me personally I'm looking forward to it and I know the defense, as a whole, is probably looking forward to it as well."

According to a statement by Tech Athletics, Leach, who is on his way to New York for the College Hall of Fame Awards, said the effort to make another bowl appearance this year is all part of what the university and its student athletes and coaches strive to do each year while competing during

the season.

"This selection is a credit to our team, coaching staff and fans for all of the hard work they put in this season," Leach said in the press release. "The Insight Bowl is a great bowl in a great location that provides a great match-up with the Big 12 and Big Ten conferences."

This is the first year a Big 12 team has been invited to the bowl game, traditionally set for a Big Ten, Big East or Pac-10 match-up or Notre Dame. Initially named the Copper Bowl in 1989, the game became the Insight.com Bowl in 1997 becoming the first known sporting event named after a World Wide Web site. It then switched to the Insight Bowl in 2002 under current bowl sponsor Insight Enterprises.

According to the bowl's Web site, Tech first appeared in the Copper Bowl in 1995, playing in what became an offensive showcase against Air Force with 1996 Doak Walker Award Winner and tailback Byron Hanspard shattering several Tucson bowl records in Tech's 55-41 win. Hanspard ran for 260 yards in the game — 201 which came in the second half to earn him MVP honors. The game was played in front of 41,004 fans and still ranks as one of the highest-scoring bowl games in NCAA history.

Although the game is a step down from a Holiday or Cotton Bowl bid, which came over the last two seasons, Tech associate athletic director and chief of staff Craig Wells said it is still a special opportunity to go play in a bowl game and the program is extremely excited about it.

"Texas Tech got chosen for the Insight Bowl because of what our student athletes and our coaches



TEXAS TECH RECEIVER
Joel Filani

STEVE LEWIS/The Daily Toreador

were able to do this year and that is perform at a high level of competition," he said. "But another thing that was a contributing factor was our fan base and what we have been able to take each year to a bowl game over the last five years. We're very, very proud of that and we hope that our fans realize that the Insight Bowl

and Phoenix are a great destination to be at in December and that they'll take advantage of it."

Tickets are available beginning today through the Tech ticket office. Fans can go by the office at Jones AT&T Stadium, call 742-TECH or visit www.texastech.com.

► travis.f.cram@ttu.edu

BOWL GAMES 2006-2007 Bowl game schedule

San Diego Federal Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl
7 p.m. Dec. 19, San Diego, Calif.
TCU vs. Northern Illinois

Pioneer PureVision Las Vegas Bowl
7 p.m. Dec. 21, Las Vegas
No. 20 BYU vs. Oregon

R&L Carriers New Orleans Bowl
7 p.m. Dec. 22, New Orleans
Troy vs. Rice

Papajohns.com Bowl
Noon Dec. 23, Birmingham, Ala.
East Carolina vs. South Florida

New Mexico Bowl
1:30 p.m. Dec. 23, Albuquerque
New Mexico vs. San Jose State

Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl
7 p.m. Dec. 23, Fort Worth
Tulsa vs. Utah

Sheraton Hawaii Bowl
11 a.m. Dec. 23, Honolulu
Hawaii vs. Arizona State

Motor City Bowl
7:30 p.m. Dec. 26, Detroit
Central Michigan vs. Middle Tennessee State

Emerald Bowl
7 p.m. Dec. 27, San Francisco
No. 25 UCLA vs. Florida State

PetroSun Independence Bowl
3:30 p.m. Dec. 28, Shreveport, La.
Alabama vs. Oklahoma State

Pacific Life Holiday Bowl
5 p.m. Dec. 28, San Diego
No. 18 California vs. No. 21 Texas A&M

Texas Bowl
7 p.m. Dec. 28, Houston
No. 16 Rutgers vs. Kansas State

Champs Sports Bowl
8 p.m. Dec. 28, Orlando, Fla.
Maryland vs. Purdue

Brut Sun Bowl
11 a.m. Dec. 29, El Paso
No. 22 Oregon State vs. Missouri

Gaylords Hotels Music City Bowl
Noon Dec. 29, Nashville, Tenn.
Clemson vs. Kentucky

AutoZone Liberty Bowl
3:30 p.m. Dec. 29, Memphis, Tenn.
Houston vs. South Carolina

Insight Bowl
7 p.m. Dec. 29, Tempe, Ariz.
Texas Tech vs. Minnesota

Meineke Car Care Bowl
Noon Dec. 30, Charlotte, N.C.
No. 24 Boston College vs. Navy

Alamo Bowl
3:30 p.m. Dec. 30, San Antonio
No. 19 Texas vs. Iowa

Chick-fil-A Bowl
7 p.m. Dec. 30, Atlanta
No. 15 Virginia Tech vs. Georgia

MPC Computers Bowl
6:30 p.m. Dec. 31, Boise, Idaho
Miami (Fla.) vs. Nevada

Outback Bowl
10 a.m. Jan. 1, Tampa, Fla.
No. 17 Tennessee vs. Penn State

AT&T Cotton Bowl
10:40 a.m. Jan. 1, Dallas
No. 9 Auburn vs. No. 23 Nebraska

Capital One Bowl
Noon Jan. 1, Orlando, Fla.
No. 7 Wisconsin vs. No. 12 Arkansas

Toyota Gator Bowl
Noon Jan. 1, Jacksonville, Fla.
No. 13 West Virginia vs. Georgia Tech

Rose Bowl presented by Citl
4 p.m. Jan. 1, Pasadena, Calif.
No. 3 Michigan vs. No. 5 Southern Cal

Tostitos Fiesta Bowl
7 p.m. Jan. 2, Glendale, Ariz.
No. 8 Boise State vs. No. 10 Oklahoma

FedEx Orange Bowl
7 p.m. Jan. 2, Miami
No. 6 Louisville vs. No. 14 Wake Forest

Allstate Sugar Bowl
7 p.m. Jan. 3, New Orleans
No. 4 LSU vs. No. 11 Notre Dame

International Bowl
Noon, Jan. 6, Toronto, Ontario
Western Michigan vs. Cincinnati

GMAC Bowl
7 p.m. Jan. 7, Mobile, Ala.
Ohio vs. Southern Miss

Tostitos BCS Championship
7 p.m. Jan. 8, Glendale, Ariz.
No. 1 Ohio State vs. No. 2 Florida

BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP

Sooners boom past Nebraska for title

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — So what if it's a week earlier than Oklahoma had hoped for?

The eighth-ranked Sooners will still finish their season in Glendale, Ariz., and that's good enough for coach Bob Stoops.

The Sooners' 21-7 victory over No. 19 Nebraska in the Big 12 title game Saturday night earned them a berth in the Fiesta Bowl on New Year's Day.

But combined with UCLA's 13-9 upset of No. 2 Southern California earlier Saturday, Oklahoma's win

also raised questions of what might have been had a blown outside kick call not led to a 34-33 loss at Oregon on Sept. 16.

Stoops was in no mood to play what-if, though, after his team won its fourth Big 12 title.

"You know what? We can't do anything about it," Stoops said. "For us to sit here and make an issue of it is not going to come off the right way."

"You guys call it what you want," he said. "We're going to get ready to play the next game."

COACHING CHANGES AT TEXAS TECH

Dykes set to join Arizona coaching staff

By **TRAVIS CRAM**
MANAGING EDITOR



DYKES

Texas Tech assistant head coach Ruffin McNeill said Tech co-offensive coordinator Sonny Dykes will be missed after he takes the offensive coordinator position at the University of Arizona.

The hiring of the coach was first reported last week by a FOX-affiliate TV station in Tucson, Ariz. after coach Mike Stoops announced former-offensive coordinator Mike Canales resigned from his position and left the Wildcat staff Nov. 27.

McNeill said at a press conference Sunday to announce Tech's bid to the Insight Bowl that Dykes would be someone would be missed dearly by the coaching staff and his players.

"He'll do a great job of play-calling for coach Stoops and it's a great opportunity for him to get out on his own," he said. "We'll miss him a lot, I know I will. We recruited a lot together

and I'll miss that with him but I'm sure I'll see him out on the road when he comes to Texas."

Dykes is the son of former Tech coach Spike Dykes and a graduate of Tech in 1993, completing his post-graduate work at Kentucky as a grad-assistant before returning to Lubbock in 2000 at the beginning of the Mike Leach era.

He helped recruit many of the top receivers as the wide receivers coach for five seasons before being named co-offensive coordinator in 2005. He was also honored with the All-American Football Foundation's Mike Campbell Top Assistant Award this past spring.

McNeill, who said he was traditionally a run-type of coach, said one his best memories was

when he first met Dykes.

"I've been around the whole three yards and a cloud of dust type offenses," he said. "And so I asked him, 'How many yards do you think we might throw for? Think we'll maybe 3,000 yards in the season?' And he said, 'We'll do that in sixth game.'"

Dykes could not be reached for a comment.

Coaching Experience

2005-06: Texas Tech — Co-offensive coordinator

2000-04: Texas Tech — Wide receivers

1999: University of Kentucky — Inside receivers/Special teams

1998: Northeast Louisiana — Wide receivers

1997: University of Kentucky — Grad Assistant/Tight ends

1996: Navarro Junior College — Passing game

1995: Navarro Junior College — Running Backs

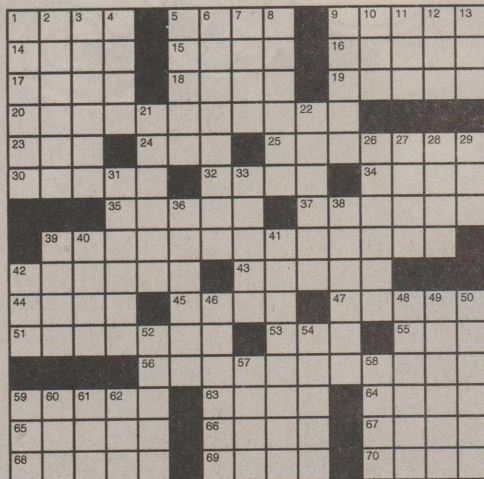
1994: Pearce High School — Assistant

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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- 1 Bloke
- 5 Small vipers
- 9 L.L. Bean rival
- 14 Sole
- 15 Persian ruler
- 16 Express a view
- 17 NASA affirmatives
- 18 ___ Scotia
- 19 Bald raptor
- 20 Catch phrase of 39A
- 23 Corn serving
- 24 Exist
- 25 "Please Mr. ___" (1961 Marvelettes hit)
- 30 Abu ___ UAE
- 32 U.S. 1 and 195
- 34 Punjabi princess
- 35 Befuddled
- 37 Ancient German
- 39 Character in 56A
- 42 Young cow
- 43 Off-quoted Yogi
- 44 Shrinking Asian sea
- 45 Switch addition?
- 47 Wound up
- 51 Any individual
- 53 Back of a beat?
- 55 NFLer Manning
- 56 Harvey Kuntzman's periodical
- 59 Legal defense
- 63 Roman orator
- 64 Issue forth
- 65 EDS founder
- 66 Part of USA
- 67 Pitch of a phrase
- 68 Child-adult bridge
- 69 Free admission
- 70 Hebrew zither



By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

12/4/06

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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E R E N O W E T I E N N E
V E R D I T A R T E O N
I N N S B R U C K
A N D A E R Y H A B L A
R E A D A P T D E R A I L
B U D A P E S T O Z A R K S
A M I E A S T T O E
N O I S E S C H E Y E N N E
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- 41 Newborns
- 42 Gives birth to
- 46 Porter
- 48 Mars satellite
- 49 Weather phenomenon
- 50 Scale watcher
- 52 Skips over
- 54 Stravinsky and Sikorsky
- 57 Cradle call
- 58 Catherine ___ Jones
- 59 Exactly suitable
- 60 David ___ Roth
- 61 Cholera
- 62 Half a candy?

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Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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Championship

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

"It's well deserved, and I'm proud of it," said Florida coach Urban Meyer on the Gators' selection.

The championship game is Jan. 8 in Glendale, Ariz.

Michigan's consolation prize is a Rose Bowl bid to play USC (10-2), a classic Big Ten vs. Pac-10 matchup of teams left to wonder what could have been.

In other bowls:

— Big 12 champion Oklahoma will meet unbeaten Boise State in the Fiesta on Jan. 1.

— Big East champion Louisville will play ACC champion Wake Forest in the Orange on Jan. 2.

— LSU will take Florida's spot in the Sugar and play Notre Dame on Jan. 3.

For the first time in the BCS's eight-year history, the championship matchup was a mystery heading into selection Sunday.

After the numbers were crunched, the margin between Florida and Michigan couldn't have been much closer. The Gators had a BCS average of .944. The Wolverines were at .934. They were tied in the computer rating, and Florida had a 38-point lead in the Harris poll and a 26-point advantage in the coaches' poll.

When the Wolverines ended their regular season with a 42-39 loss to the Buckeyes two weeks ago, they talked about getting another swing at their Big Ten rivals.

While Michigan was left to wait and hope, the other contenders still had games to play.

Florida made its final case by beating Arkansas, but second-year coach Meyer became very vocal about getting a chance to play Ohio State, especially when it appeared the Gators would be left out.

Losing only once in what's regarded as the nation's toughest conference and not playing for a national championship—especially if Michigan got a mulligan—was more than Meyer could take.

He called for a playoff and suggested the BCS should be imploded if the SEC champ again was left out of the championship game—the way undefeated Auburn was in 2004.

"It's an imperfect system," said Meyer of the BCS. "If you want a true national championship, the only way to do it is on the field."

Ohio State coach Jim Tressel, however, is not in favor of a playoff.

"With a 12 game season, it would be next to impossible to have a 16-team playoff," he said Sunday. "We'll continually improve the system. As you look at it over the past few years, it has gotten better and better."

It's always something with the BCS. The system was created to make sure No. 1 and No. 2 played in the final game of the season, but rarely has there been a title game everybody agreed upon. If it's not too many unbeaten teams, which was the case in '04 when USC beat Oklahoma for the title, it's not enough, which has usually been the case. Last year, when USC and Texas were the only undefeateds, was an aberration.

"I think we will continue to talk about the format ... to see if there isn't a different format to serve the game better," said Mike Slive, BCS coordinator and SEC commissioner.

This year, it worked out for the Gators, who can focus on winning their second national championship. The first came in 1996, when Steve Spurrier's Gators beat Florida State in the Sugar Bowl a rematch, coincidentally, of a November regular-season game won by the

Seminoles.

Michigan had hoped for a similar scenario, but Wolverines coach Lloyd Carr chose not to publicly pitch for his team.

It's unclear whether that would have helped or whether Meyer swayed some poll voters. Maybe when faced with the possibility of a Michigan-Ohio State rematch, the voters, like Meyer, cringed.

Tressel decided not to get involved at all. He has a vote in the coaches poll but abstained.

"After consultation with my director of athletics, Gene Smith, and based upon our unique position in the BCS standings, I believe it is only fair that we not participate (in) the final poll," Tressel said in a statement.

Upon learning the Buckeyes would face Florida, Tressel praised his opponent.

"They have a great football team," he said. "When you can win the SEC championship, you're a great football team."

Instead of the 104th meeting between the Wolverines and the Buckeyes, Florida and Ohio State will play for the first time ever.

The Buckeyes have won four national titles, including the 2002 title under Tressel. Ohio State upset Miami 31-24 in an overtime classic at the Fiesta Bowl.

Last year, Ohio State beat Notre Dame 34-20 in the Fiesta Bowl, giving the country a taste of what was to come this season.

The Buckeyes have been No. 1 since the preseason. Led by Heisman Trophy front-runner Troy Smith, they've run roughshod over their competition. Only Michigan and Illinois have stayed within 17 points of Ohio State this season.

Senior quarterback Smith capped his season with four touchdown passes against the Wolverines. He finished with 30 TD passes and only five interceptions.

Florida, meanwhile, seemed to struggle almost every week. The Gators won at Tennessee by one in September, and none of their last five victories have been by more than 10 points.

The Gators mostly relied on their defense, a unit ranked 10th nationally in yards allowed and sixth in scoring.

Florida's senior quarterback, Chris Leak, entered the season as a Heisman contender but ended up sharing the job with freshman sensation Tim Tebow.

Tebow's tough running has complemented Leak's passing, but unlike the explosive Buckeyes, Florida's offense has had its ups and downs. The Gators' only loss came Oct. 18 at Auburn, a 27-17 setback that was a four-point game until the Tigers scored on the final play.

The Gators are back in the BCS for the first time since Spurrier left after the 2002 Orange Bowl, but Boise State, Louisville (11-1) and Wake Forest (11-2) will make their BCS debuts. Oklahoma (10-2) is a BCS veteran, making its fifth appearance since the 2000 season.

Unbeaten Boise State (12-0) from the Western Athletic Conference is the second team from outside the original six BCS conferences to play in the big-money bowl games. Meyer's Utah was the first in 2004.

Notre Dame (10-2) is making its second straight BCS appearance under coach Charlie Weis. The Fighting Irish will be trying to snap an eight-game bowl losing streak against LSU (10-2).

The Tigers were set to make their first Rose Bowl appearance, but USC's loss has them playing in their home state. The Sugar Bowl returns to New Orleans this season after being temporarily relocated to Atlanta last season because of Hurricane Katrina.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

ONE SHY KNIGHT

Red Raiders fall to Stanford, keeping Tech coach from tying Rupp's record

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Stanford prevented Bob Knight from winning his 876th game Sunday, with Lawrence Hill scoring 19 points in the Cardinal's 70-59 victory over Texas Tech in the opening game of the Pete Newell Challenge.

Knight was unable to tie Kentucky's Adolph Rupp for second place in NCAA Division I coaching history when his Red Raiders (6-3) couldn't catch up to the Cardinal, who held a steady second-half lead. Stanford remained unbeaten in nine appearances in the annual doubleheader honoring Newell, the Hall of Fame coach and Knight's good friend.

Freshman Brook Lopez scored 18 points in his second collegiate game and Anthony Goods added 11 as Stanford (6-1) won its fourth straight game with a solid second

half despite a full-court press from Knight's Red Raiders.

Jarrius Jackson scored 21 points and Martin Zeno had 16 before fouling out for Texas Tech, which had its two-game winning streak snapped. The Red Raiders were outrebounded 45-32 and never got closer to Stanford than seven points in the closing minutes.

While Knight closes in on Rupp's mark, he is just four wins shy of catching North Carolina's Dean Smith, the career record-holder with 879.

After falling short on a temporary court in a hockey rink in San Jose, Knight gets his next chance to equal Rupp's mark in another unlikely spot: Ruston, La., in a meeting with Louisiana Tech on Wednesday night.

Knight is as feisty as ever at 66,

jumping up to interact with players — and occasionally skewer the referees, as he did when Goods drew a two-shot foul with 8:27 to play.

"There was no attempt to shoot!" Knight screamed in the nearly silent rink. "That's ridiculous!"

Moments later, Knight singled out forward Darryl Dora for a furious demonstration of low-post defense techniques during a timeout.

Knight began his coaching career at Army in 1965, when he was just 24. He moved to Indiana in 1971, racking up one remarkable record after another on the way to three national championships.

Knight has always generated controversy along with the victories, from his infamous chair-throwing tirade in 1985 to the long series of incidents that led to his acrimonious departure from Bloomington.

Knight received criticism already this season when he aggressively lifted forward Michael Prince's chin to get his attention during a game — but his teaching made little difference in the first loss of his career to Stanford.

As always, Newell sat at court-side with friends and family members for the 10th edition of the annual Bay Area doubleheader bearing his name.

The 91-year-old coach won an NIT title with San Francisco, an NCAA championship with California and the 1960 Olympic gold medal for the U.S. team, making many friends along the way — including Knight, who coached the Hoosiers in the inaugural Pete Newell Challenge in 1997.

Cal faced No. 24 Nevada in the second game of the Challenge.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Stanford halt Lady Raiders in Top 25 battle

STANFORD, Calif. (AP) — Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer liked the way her team responded to the challenge of another nationally ranked opponent: the 15th-ranked Cardinal got its first quality win.

"We've made a lot of improvement in one week," VanDerveer said after Stanford beat Texas Tech 73-49 on Sunday. "I'm excited to come out and play the kind of defense we played, especially in the second half."

Candice Wiggins scored 19 points as Stanford won its second straight game following consecutive road losses to top 10 teams Tennessee and Georgia. The Cardinal also lost at home to No. 24 Brigham Young in the second round of the Women's Preseason NIT.

Brooke Smith added 14 points as the Cardinal (4-3) won their third straight over the Lady Raiders. Jayne Appel added 11 points, seven rebounds and blocked four shots.

"This game was important to us," VanDerveer said. "Texas Tech is a top team and we wanted to show we're also a top team."

Stanford takes a two-week break before returning to action on Dec. 16 against Utah.

Chesley Dabbs and Alesha Richardson each scored nine points to lead Texas Tech (6-3), which lost two in a row for the first time this season.

"It's extremely disappointing," Dabbs said. "We should never lose to any team by this much."

The Lady Raiders hurt themselves with poor shooting to open both halves. They were held to five points in the first 13 minutes and were 2-of-19 from the field to open the second half. They shot just under 29 percent for the game.

The teams combined to commit 45 turnovers, with the Lady Raiders turning it over 23 times.

"I think we've improved a lot over the season," Wiggins said. "I think we're only going to get better and better. This was very promising."

Texas Tech's Erin Myrick entered the game averaging 13.1 points and 10.4 rebounds, shooting over 54 percent. She grabbed a game-high 10 rebounds but was limited to 1-of-8 shooting from the floor. Richardson also averaged a double-double.

"She was our focus defensively," VanDerveer said. "She's a top post player for them. It didn't

hurt that she was in foul trouble early."

The Lady Raiders returned to the top 25 last week for the first time in almost a year. Texas Tech had been ranked for 248 consecutive weeks prior to opening the season with two wins in its first seven games.

First-year coach Kristy Curry has the Lady Raiders back on track after missing the NCAA tournament for the first time in 17 years last year.

"They were able to throw the first punch and we never recovered," Curry said. "For whatever reason things caught up to us. What can I say? Six games in 10 days and we finally ran out of gas."

Wiggins triggered Stanford's 21-2 run to open the second half that broke the game open. She connected on a 3-pointer from the corner and followed that with a driving lay-up that led to a three-point play that gave the Cardinal a 57-32 edge.

Texas Tech missed its first eight shots but rallied to take a 20-17 midway through the first half.

Stanford roared back with a 14-2 run to push its lead to 31-22 en route to a 36-30 halftime advantage.

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

Gramatica hits game-winning field goal for Cowboys

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Bill Parcells has never been crazy about kickers.

Martin Gramatica may have changed the Dallas coach's opinion.

Gramatica, signed last Monday after Parcells cut the enigmatic Mike Vanderjagt, kicked a 46-yard field goal with a second left Sunday to give the Dallas Cowboys a 23-20 win over the New York Giants and a two-game lead in the NFC East.

"I've got to thank the Cowboys for giving me a second chance," said Gramatica, once a top kicker who had just one field goal in three games since 2004.

"It's been a rough couple of years for me," the journeyman said, "being out all last year and then not making any teams this year."

The winning score was set up by a 42-yard pass by Tony Romo to Jason Witten and came just over a

minute after the Giants, wearing their red jerseys for the first and only time this season, had tied the game at 20-all on a 5-yard TD pass from Eli Manning to Plaxico Burress.

Gramatica, who also kicked field goals of 41 and 35 yards, was signed last week after the Cowboys cut Vanderjagt, who had received a three-year \$5.3 million contract in the offseason.

But being the new guy didn't keep Gramatica from bursting into one of his over-the-top celebrations: The diminutive

kicker leaped into the arms of his teammates, while coach Bill Parcells broke into a wide smile on the sidelines as the ball sailed through.

"Gramatica made me look good," Parcells said with a smile. "For a first game back in the league, you can't get more pressure than that for the division lead."

It didn't look so good for Parcells on Gramatica's first kick, a 44-yard attempt on the Cowboys' opening drive. But the last kick, which went right down the

middle with power to spare, more than made up for it.

"For a guy who hadn't been kicking with regularity," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said, "it was a difficult thing to do."

It was the fourth straight loss for the Giants (6-6) and the fourth win in five games for Dallas (8-4) since Romo replaced Drew Bledsoe at quarterback at halftime of a 36-22 loss to New York on Oct. 23. He finished 20-of-34 for 257 yards with two interceptions.

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Don't 'Deck' these 'Halls'

Latest holiday film lacks originality — and humor

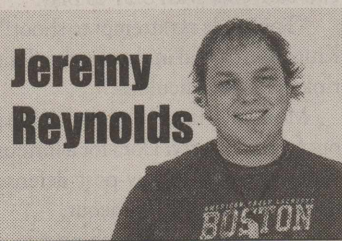
What is it with Hollywood and its inability to produce a good Christmas flick?

In the last few years, studios have thrown together Christmas packages like "Christmas with the Kranks," "Surviving Christmas" and "Elf" without a single shred of creativity or comedy.

The latest tragedy to tackle the holidays is "Deck the Halls." This is the type of movie you can smell coming. Like the rest of the holiday flicks that have tried to cash in on the Christmas season, "Deck the Halls" relies on pratfalls — like when a character falls down for no reason — and computer-generated effects on scenes that don't need any.

Matthew Broderick stars in the film, though he should stick to his strong suit: he's a great stage actor because he displays comedic timing that works perfectly with a live audience.

Broderick stars alongside Danny DeVito in this family film. Broderick and DeVito's characters live in a quaint Massachusetts city that resembles one of those toy towns seen in department



Jeremy Reynolds

store windows during the holidays.

The biggest problem come December is not criminals or suicides in the city, but which color lights to decorate the town tree with.

In this little snow globe-like existence, Broderick considers himself the king when it comes holiday festivities — that is until his new neighbor, DeVito, moves in.

DeVito, missing that certain something someone should feel during the holidays, decides to spice up his life (and house) with a wide range of Christmas lights and other decorations. The lights and all-night carols keep Broderick from sleeping and dreaming his sugarpump dreams.

Broderick decides DeVito has to be stopped before he gets too out of hand, which leads to an entire film of

middle-school pranks and jokes that even a cartoon would cut for lack of originality.

If a studio wants to make a good holiday flick, then stop using all the second-grade jokes audiences have heard since elementary school. Is there anything still funny about a camel spitting in a man's face? Or how about a man who falls through a patch of thin ice? Is that still funny?

The only people who would laugh at a movie like "Deck the Halls" are the ones who still laugh when someone says "penis" or "vagina." Studios need to either grow up or wake up because after this film, I have lost all hope for a decent comedy about the Christmas season to ever come out.

Holiday movies should represent the holiday. They should not offer all these computer-generated effects and recycled jokes.

"Deck the Halls" tries to tap into that special Christmas magic that Chevy Chase was able to find in "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," but Broderick is no Chase.

Like with any other type of film, a

movie relies on solid acting and a decent eye for directing. This film has neither of those qualities.

Director John Whitesell, the "genius" behind "Big Momma's House 2," helms this fiasco. He has no control over his actors; it's as if DeVito and Broderick are trying to show each other up on seeing who is the more washed-up star.

Whitesell should stick to directing television shows that get canceled after two weeks on the air. That seems to be where his talent lies.

Kristen Davis, Broderick's wife, stands in the background with a P.R. smile plastered across her face as her husband and DeVito try to one-up each other throughout the entire film. For anyone keeping score at home, Davis is 0-4 after her role in "Sex and the City" ended in 2004.

1 out of 6 — AWFUL

■ Reynolds is *The DT's* movie critic. E-mail him at jeremy.n.reynolds@ttu.edu.

Poetry event proves to be 'Heart'-warming

By JESSICA HENDRICKS
STAFF WRITER

The back room at J&B Coffee House was packed Friday night as organizers of the Poetry by Heart event searched for more chairs to accommodate the heavy crowd. Students, faculty and staff members took the stage one at a time to recite memorized poetry at the event, which was sponsored by Texas Tech's Department of English.

A full range of tones and topics emanated from the poetry, as the only limit set for the event was a length restriction.

"This is our third year to do it together, and we always do a Dr. Seuss poem," said Julie Couch, an assistant professor in the English department who delivered her poem with associate professor Colleen Fitzgerald.

Many of Seuss' popular poems are long, Couch said, but "ABC," the pair's poem of choice for this year's event, fit the length requirement.

"The poetry runs the gamut from sad and serious to fun and lighthearted," she said.

The two professors agreed they were the comic relief for the evening, a fact echoed by the audience members as they laughed and joined in the recitation of the alphabet.

Fitzgerald explained why the pair chooses to perform a Dr. Seuss poem each year.

"Dr. Seuss is a master of rhythmic organization; he's a master of meter," she said.

Twenty-three individuals participated in the event, many of them creative writing students and professors, Fitzgerald said.

"It's a great way to show support of the creative side of the English department," she said.

Sarah Brinker, a graduate musicology student from Levelland, recited "Between the Jigs and the Reels," an Irish poem by Moya Cannon.

"A friend of mine is a Celtic flute player; she was doing a set of jigs and

reels, and she read (the poem) before one of her performances," Brinker said. "I thought it was really powerful, and I decided to memorize it."

She said memorizing the poetry made the event unique.

"I like any event that has to do with poetry, but it's nice to hear it without people just reading it," she said. "You get to hear emotion that you wouldn't normally see."

This is a busy time of year, and it was nice that people took time to memorize and perform the poetry at the end of the semester, Brinker said.

"It was neat that it was a low-pressure environment," she said. "Some people would mess up, but the audience was really encouraging."

One of the goals of the event was to raise money for the ESL (English as a Second Language) Initiative, a program housed in the English department in collaboration with the College of Education and the Honors College.

"Basically, Tech students are earning academic credit by a service learning course which pairs community service reflection, and traditional class activities," Fitzgerald said.

Students can take the course as an English class or an honors seminar. Teamed with Literacy Lubbock, students in the course become tutors for individuals in the community who desire to learn English.

The money raised from donations at the Poetry by Heart event will help with tutors and materials for the ESL initiative, Fitzgerald said.

"People should take advantage of opportunities in the English department," she said. "We try to get out of our building. We are able to do that when we teach literacy and when we recite Poetry by Heart."

Fitzgerald said the event was a celebration of poetry as a spoken form — a verbal art.

"Language is spoken and was spoken before it was ever written," she said. "It's a return to the source."

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Theme parties fail to create interesting atmospheres

By IAN KLUMPP
STAFF WRITER

It seems to me, at this point in my college career, theme parties have become a bit of an absurdity.

The average 22-year-old college male who is in regular attendance at parties has acquired more costumes than most 7-year-old girls. When is it that we decide enough is enough?

I also do not understand why the major point of these parties is to degrade women as much as possible and why each theme must be able to rhyme with "hoes" ("Golf Pros and Tennis Hoes" or "CEOs and Secretary Hoes"). The specific night of the party transforms the same women preaching feminism into nothing more than a product of hypocrisy. On an average day, referring to these party-attending ladies in some derogatory form, such as "hoe," would bring an open-handed awakening across any individual's face.

Going to Savers every Thursday to clean out the store's ridiculous accumulation of merchandise is becoming an embarrassment to our generation. How often can we continue to dress as complete asses and simultaneously prepare ourselves for the professional world? I believe it is time for theme-party

creators to either brainstorm new ideas or give up; on that note, I bring a list of ideas that I would like to see utilized.

Popular High School Kids Party: The party theme requires the male guests to put on their high school letter jackets and walk around with their chests puffed out. Partygoers should converse about how they do not associate with people from other Texas high schools as well as how they like to work out.

The women of this party will wear an absurd amount of makeup, immediately form cliques and gossip within their groups about what other girls are wearing, who they came to the party with and how many people fellow "students" may have slept with. The person hosting the party would have the most important duty: he/she would play the role of the principal, which means the host would walk around assigning detentions and finding ways to get away with talking dirty to the female students. He/she also would have the responsibility of choosing favorites and then making sure the rest of the night for those people went more smoothly than the rest of the "student body."

Meth Addicts Party: The key

to this party is all in the location. It should be held in a trailer park or some dirty house where garbage and dog feces litter the ground and the air smells of burning plastic. The guys should let their facial hair grow out in order to provide a scraggly look. Die-hard theme partygoers could actually go the week without shaving, brushing their teeth or bathing so they may perfectly fit the mold. The male attire would consist of an oversized hoodie (preferably stained) and extremely baggy jeans worn just below the buttocks (detailed with large holes around the knee area and bleach stains), which could have either stemmed from actual clothing bleach or some other unknown chemical.

The ladies would come to the party with teased hair pulled back into a messy pony tail and makeup only under the eyes in order to provide a look of not sleeping. To properly prepare, the women could rub oil on their face weeks in advance so an odd trail of acne forms on both their lower chin and cheek bone areas. Also, the women would need to wear a tube top with awkwardly placed tattoos around their stomach area and tight cutoff jeans. The look these women are going for is that of a prostitute willing to cut prices in order to get her "fix."

Them: The only definite attire for males is Hurley clothing, a cockeyed, oversized hat and some big, space-age moon-hopping shoes — preferably Etnies. A good model for the dress is Rob Dyrek from MTV's "Rob & Big."

The only definite for the women is they must be loud and obnoxious. They should tell the men of the party how cool they are, how they are also into extreme sports and how they want to try skateboarding.

■ Klumpp is *The DT's* music critic. E-mail him at ian.klumpp@ttu.edu.

MONDAY							
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7 AM	Curious	Today (HD)	Early Show	Believer	(\$500) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	J. Hanna
7:30 AM	Clifford			Life Today		Paid Program	
8 AM	Dragon Tales			Awesome Adv.	Costly Show	Megan Mullally Show	
8:30 AM	It's Big World			Eye for an Eye	Costly Show		
9 AM	Sesame Street		700 Club	Judge Mathis	Roseanne	Rachael Ray	Martha
10 AM	Callou	Rags and Kinky	Price Is Right	Divorce Court	Paid Program	The View (HD)	Tyra Banks
10:30 AM	Bammy			Divorce Court	Paid Program		
11 AM	Tales of the Crypt	Jacquard!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
11:30 AM	Mister Rogers	Jacquard!		Paid Program			
12 PM	Quilt	News	KLBK 13 News	Jerry Springer	Grag Behrend's Show	All My Children	Access
12:30 PM	Gary Spitz	Days of Our Lives	Bold & Beautiful				Extra
1 PM	Scrappy Doo	As the World Turns		Maury	Judge Lopez	One Life to Live	People's Court
1:30 PM	Jay Jay	Passions			Judge Lopez		
2 PM	Puppy	Guarding Light		Good	I Like "Tankin"	General Hospital	Cristina Court
2:30 PM	The Lions	Inside Edition		Paid Program	I Like		Court
3 PM	Reading	Oprah Winfrey	Judge Joe	Jerry Springer	Reba	Montel	Ellen DeGeneres
3:30 PM	Cyberchase		Judge Joe		Reba		
4 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judge Judy	Maury	Bernie Mac	Genieo	Fox 34 News First @ Four
4:30 PM	Arthur		Judge Judy		Bernie Mac	Insider	
5 PM	Maya & Miguel	News	KLBK 13 News	Access	Still Standing	News	Friends
5:30 PM	Bus Report	News	CBS News	Family Feud	Still Standing	ABC News	Simpsons
6 PM	NewsHour with Jim Lehrer	Wheal Fortune	KLBK 13 News	700	King Q.	News	Jim
7 PM	Antiques Roadshow	Deal or No Deal	How I Met (HD) Class (HD)	Desire	Everybody All of Us (HD)	Wife Swap	Billboard Music Awards
8 PM	Tim Janis: The American	Harcees' Fairer (HD)	Two & 12 (HD) New Adv. (HD)	Fashion House (HD)	Gliffends (HD)	Game (HD)	Supernanny
9 PM	Holiday Music Gala	(01) Studio 60 Sunset Strip	CSI: Miami "Rio" (HD)	Jim	Will & Grace	What About Brian (HD)	Fox 34 News @ Nine
10 PM	Bus Report	News	KLBK 13 News	700	Sex and City	News	Seinfeld
11 PM	Charlie Rose	(35) Jay Leno (HD)	King of Hill Show	Malcolm	The Nanny	(45) ET	Friends
12 AM	News	(35) Late Night (HD)	(35) Craig Ferguson	Becker	Mad About	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live	Cheers
12:30 AM	Destinos	(35) Last Call	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program

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Brand New evolves with 'The Devil and God'

By CANDACE PARKER
DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN (U. MISSISSIPPI)

(U-WIRE) OXFORD, Miss. — Critics and cynics alike scoff at Brand New, claiming that the band's name is nothing but contradictory for a band that, in their opinions, produces music that is nothing short of generic and cliché.

However, after three years, maybe the captivating tracks on "The Devil and God Are Raging Inside of Me" will fall on ears who always misjudged and underestimated what they heard. Silly cynics.

Brand New's 2003 release, "Deja

Entendu," proved to be one of the most original releases of the year in the band's respectable scene. After the soaring success of that release, throngs of MySpace addicts and bloggers latched onto the band, waiting patiently yet eagerly for what would be somewhat of an 11-track masterpiece.

Currently signed to Interscope Records, this four-piece rock outfit from Long Island, N.Y., consists of vocalist/guitarist Jesse Lacey, drummer Brian Lane, bassist Garrett Tierney and guitarist Vinnie Accardi. And they don't feel like they have anything to prove, but they've already proven something.

The first track on the album, "Sowing Season (Yeah)," seems to pick up where "Okay I Believe You But My Tommy Gun Don't" from the band's previous album left off, taking it a step further. And no, that is not repetition, just progression from one point to another, or an obvious evolution.

Track two, "Millstone," is a mid-tempo river flowing with long-strung notes and straightforward vocals in which Lacey seems to be disturbed by something he once was and lost, singing, "I used to be such a burning example. I used to be so original/ I used to be the glue that held my friends together, but they don't talk and we don't go out."

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KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Treador

ALEX KRUS, A freshman theater major from Fort Worth, sings with Raider Red at the Carol of Lights Friday.

Carol of Lights

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

if everyone heard me sing, they'd cancel the tradition," Groff said.

Like Groff, Jonathan Hogan, a junior electrical engineering major from Lubbock who said he has attended the ceremony in the past, selected a single moment in the night's festivities as the best part of the event.

"My favorite part is the moment they flip on the switch, and everyone looks around at the buildings and the bell tower," Hogan said.

Brianna Gerardi, a junior interior design major from Bedford, said she had a different outlook on the ceremony this year because she has always sang in the choir during past ceremonies.

"I'm looking forward to hearing the

choir," Gerardi said. "You can't really hear the music when you are in it."

Phil Dobbs, a senior business management major from Arlington, said this was his last year to attend the Carol of Lights before graduating in December.

"I've always enjoyed singing like a Christmas rock star with the choir," Dobbs said. "The wind is so cold, but once the lights turn on, it will be glorious."

According to the Tech Web site, the Carol of Lights tradition started in 1959 when Harold Hinn came up with the idea and provided the funds to cover the Science Quadrangle and the Administration building with lights. Unfortunately, students were away on Christmas break and did not see the display. The next year the Residence Hall Association created the Christmas Sing, which is now known as the Carol of Lights.

► mary.k.harris@ttu.edu

"I've always enjoyed singing like a Christmas rock star with the choir."

— PHIL DOBBS
Senior Business
Management Major from
Arlington

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CHILD CARE PROVIDERS needed. Children's Orchard Child Development center is taking applications for childcare providers. Openings available working with various age groups of children. Part-time positions available beginning immediately afternoons 2:00-2:30-3:00-6:00, Monday thru Friday. Substitute positions also available if your schedule does not allow you to work every day. Salary is based on education and experience. Please apply in person at 5302 Elgin Ave. Lubbock, 795-4048.

COPPER CABOOSE, 56th & Avenue C. Free Texas Hold'em tournaments nightly. NTN Trivia. 744-0183. Apply!

DO YOU have a passion for coffee? Become a Barista at Market Street. If you have a love for people and a desire to serve up the perfect cup of coffee, pick up an application at any United location and submit it to the Store Support Center at 7830 Orlando Avenue, Lubbock, Texas 79423, or fax it to 791-6349. No experience necessary. www.unitedtexas.com. EOE.

ENHANCE MORTGAGE
Office/general help needed. Flexible hours, clean driving record, and few weekends. Truck a plus. Some heavy lifting required. Please call 806-745-9965.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL Assistant part time, flexible hours, will work with your schedule. \$6.50+ to start, no experience required. Clean driving record a must. 794-7004.

GINGER EXPRESS
Asian Diner. Need all positions including managers. Fax resume to 806-795-8889, 5510 4th Street. Call 412-519-5002. Opening December.

GREAT STUDENT Job. Earn up to \$10.00/hr. Phone interviews wanted. Parttime. Evening and weekend shifts. Scholarships available. Apply in person. Opinion Resources, 3602 Slide B-26.

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KID'S KINGDOM
Rewarding environment! Hiring p/t staff for M-F, 2-6 working with children birth through school age. Apply @ 5320 50th.

LEGAL ASSISTANT- Job duties include: Filing; receptionist; typing; computer entry; calendaring; some driving. We do driver license check. Please fax resume to 687-0325.

LIFEGUARDS AND Swim instructors needed for morning and evening shifts. Come by 3101 35th St. or call YWCA 792-2723 for details.

LIQUOR STORE looking for part time workers. \$7.00/hr. 20-25 hours per week. Must be 21. Come out to 98th & MKL. M-F, 10-6 to fill out application. 745-8674

LOOKING FOR a fun job? YWCA after school counselor. M-F, 2:45-6 PM. Must work thru December 22. APPLY NOW at 35th & Flint.

PAID INTERNSHIP.
Position is responsible for maintaining computer applications. Programming experience with any Microsoft Visual language is required. Visual Foxpro and SQL Server knowledge is preferred. Email resume to dgyyear@kicorp.com

PART TIME baby sitter needed. 3pm-6pm. Child experience preferable. 698-0818.

PART TIME lunch and evening waitstaff needed. Apply in person at Lubbock Country Club 3400 Mesa Rd. Ask for Shawn. 762-0414

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LEASE: DEC 15 - MAY.
Back yard efficiency 3 blocks off campus. Appliances. Private parking. \$175. RR. For appointment to view see Anne 4211 34th.

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1 BR \$500/mo 16th & quaker December-May. Ask manager about no. 19. Furnished \$530/mo. 4314 16th Street. Lubbock, TX 79416. 806-799-1821, 806-799-1421 fax.

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Available end of December. 1 Bedroom with separate living areas. Renovated with designer paint colors, appliances & wood floors. Security system. Locally owned & managed. Water bill paid & lawn maintained by landlord. \$350 per month (\$350 security deposit). No pets. Call Michelle 806-535-125

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1/1 GAR apt- 2020 17th- \$450- close to campus. Huge. Great condition. Hardwood floors. Refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, disposal. Available mid-December. Also 2418 30th- 1/1 back house \$400. Private Properties, 512-695-2002.

15TH FLOOR penthouse 2400 sqft or 2600 sqft. 2-3 bedrooms. Only \$500 each. Call 747-5236 for a private viewing.

2, 3 & 4 bedroom houses for rent. 771-4056, 778-7225. www.lubbockrentz.com.

2/2 DUPLEX, nice, central h/a, close to Tech, yard maintained, pet friendly, 1808 Ave. V. \$600/mo. \$500/dep. Call Joe (806)441-0611.

2/2/2 DUPLEX. 1200 sq ft. Ceramic tile throughout. Freshly remodeled. \$800/mo. 3304 A 81st. 548-0709

2218-15TH #B, newly remodeled 1 bed 1 bath, central heat & air, washer, dryer, dishwasher, fenced patio, close to Tech, \$425. Call 797-9839 or 543-4223.

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2BR 2BA 1/2 mile from Tech Avail. 1/1/07 Quite Complex w/ on site laundry, gym and business center. Take over lease thru 8/30/07 \$569 plus utils. Will reimburse \$25 app. fee upon approval by complex. Leave Msg 806-252-6681 806-252-6681 806-252-6681

3 BEDROOM 2 bath 2 car garage. Owner maintains yard. 10 minutes from campus. 806-548-0401.

3/1.5/1 CLOSE TO TECH 3506 23rd \$595/mo, \$300 Dep, Central H/A, W/D Connections. Pets OK 806-794-6969.

3/1/1 HUGE ROOMS! 2705 39th, New paint/tile, nice deck. \$315/month. Available Mid-December. Call Jeff @ 806-773-4311

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3 bedroom, 2 bath, carport, washer/dryer/frig supplied, fenced back yard. 4202 39th St. \$825/mo. \$450/dep. 795-5009 or 773-4248.

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St. 1/1 all bills paid	\$450.	1201
36th St. 1/1 \$325.	2420	39th 2/2/2
2 living areas \$795.	3207	1st Place
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82nd St. 2/1, C/H/A	\$550.	3408
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ship school district	\$895.	5909 13th
3/2/2 + fireplace in Frenship School		
District	\$850.	2503 30th St. 3/2
\$695.	6103 18th St. 4/3/2 + fire-	
place, appliances including W/D		
\$1100.	3304 32nd St. 4/2, \$850.	Wilson-Night Property services 8212
thrace #8. 797-2212.		

BIG 2/2. 2421 30th. Close to Tech. Completely remodeled. Hardwood floors, central h/a. 2 closets in each room, big living room. \$850/mo. 806-781-3357.

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2406 Slide road: Rear house, 1 bedroom efficiency. Water paid. Dec 1. \$350 +. 794-7471.

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CLOSE TO TECH. Nice 2/2 house. Central heat-central air, dining room, hardwood, 2503-21st \$775/month. \$400/dep. 787-2323, 544-3600

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CUTE DUPLEX
3501 Elgin. 2/1. Washer/dryer connection. Like new. January 1. \$595. 793-8759

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EFFICIENCY APARTMENT. 2204 29th Rear. \$275/mo + bills. 535-1905.

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3/3/2, 529 A Chicago, \$795/month; 3/3/2, 526 A Clinton, \$795/month; 3/2, 2211 23rd, \$795/month. FIRSTMARK. We Have More Rentals! Call Us: 806-793-8759!

FOR LEASE AVAILABLE JAN 1.
6 month or 1 year lease: 2622 26th Street, nice 3/2, \$1125; 2218 20th Street, 3/2, 2 story house, \$1050; 2201 20th Apt B, nice large 2/1, \$500. Call Bill 470-7037.

FOR RENT: 2523 21st, Walking Distance to Tech! 4/2, Completely Renovated, All Appliances, C/H/A, Ceramic, Carpet, HW, Available to view 12-7. Available to rent 1-1-08, \$1600 rent, \$800 deposit. ALSO 1/1/1 Butlers Apt. available 1-1-06 at rear of property, restoration in process. 574-825-4447.

GARAGE APARTMENT
December 15 - May. One bedroom, separate living, kitchen. 3 blocks off campus. Appliances, W/D hookups. \$285. Private fenced yard. Parking. See Ann at 4211 34th. 795-2011.

GREAT HOUSE. Take over Lease, 3/1, \$750/mo, pets, 4108 33rd Street. 214-893-1782.

HALF BLOCK Tech. Small, remodeled garage type efficiency apartment. No pets. Parking. Serious Students only. A/C. \$325/month, bills paid. 792-3118.

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HARDWOOD FLOORS
Bear Flats: 4204 17th. New 2006. Loft style 1 bedroom. Hardwood floors, metal ceilings, stucco walls. Washer/Dryer connections. Exterior: Stucco, iron rails, metal roof. Virtual tour @ www.lubbockapartments.com. 806-792-0828.

HOME FOR RENT 3/2/2
Very clean house. 15th and Slide. Large bedrooms. \$950/ month. \$100 off first month if signed by Dec. 12th. Brenton (205) 451-6984.

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LARGE 3/2 2 story house. Carport, yard, dining, hardwood, Ch/ca. 2008-26th. \$825/mo. \$400/dep. 787-2323, 544-3600.

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1 bedroom house near 23rd & Boston. 3 blocks off campus. Separate living, bedroom. Appliances. W/D. Extra 10 x 20 storage building. Private yard, parking. \$425. For appointment to view see Anne 4211 34th. 795-2011.

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NEWLY REMODELED 1, 2 & 3 & 4 bedroom houses for lease. Convenient to Tech. Call 771-1890.

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NICE ONE bedroom house near campus. 796-0774.

ONE BEDROOM HOUSE.
Available December 1. Five blocks off campus on 21st. Appliances. W/D. Security system. New carpet, paint. \$355. Private parking. See Ann at 4211 34th. 795-2011.

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TECH TERRACE AREA
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CLOTHING/JEWELRY

Taj doesn't rise — the film falls spectacularly

By RUDI GREENBERG
THE DIAMONDBACK (U. MARYLAND)

(U-WIRE) COLLEGE PARK, Md. — When a film shoots a sequel without its original star and without its original director, the end result can't be good. "Van Wilder 2: The

Rise of Taj" lives up to that assertion, giving audiences more of a re-hashing of the original "Van Wilder's" plot than a new story.

In a conference call with The Diamondback, lead actor Kal Penn — known for his roles in "Malibu's Most Wanted" and "Harold and Ku-

mar Go to White Castle" — discussed why he originally took the role of Taj and the responsibility of executive producer on The Rise of Taj.

"The Rise of Taj" picks up four years after the original "Van Wilder" and follows Taj as he moves on to graduate school at his father's alma

mater, the fictional Camford University in England. In this film, Taj has grown as a character and now claims the proverbial Van Wilder title, Penn says.

Upon arriving at Camford, Taj thinks he is going to join his father's former fraternity, the Fox and

Hounds, but is denied admission due to a "typographical error" in his acceptance letter. He is instead sent to be the Resident Adviser at the Barn, a dorm full of campus castaways. Gethin (Anthony Cozens) is the nerdy kid; Sadie (Holly Davidson) is a larger-chested, foul-mouthed

Cockney girl who no guy wants to date seriously; Seamus O'Toole (Glen Barry) is a whiskey-guzzling, rugby-playing Irishman; and Simon (Steven Rathman) is the shy kid who won't speak. All the members of the Barn crew were also denied admission to the Fox and Hounds due to "typographical errors."

The students all lack self-confidence and feel like outcasts — much like Taj did before he met Van in the series' first installment. Taj takes it upon himself to follow Van's teachings and make the group into the best fraternity on the campus, dubbing them the Cock and Bulls. To do this, they must beat the Fox and Hounds in the Hastings Cup, a series of academic, beer-drinking and athletic competitions. Memories of "Revenge of the Nerds", anyone?

What follows is nearly the same plot as "Van Wilder": Main character finds conflict with snobby fraternity and falls in love with his nemesis' girlfriend, all while learning valuable life lessons and lifting the spirit of the underdog.

The formula worked in "Van Wilder," but that movie — if you overlooked its glaring similarities to "Revenge of the Nerds" — was an original story. But "The Rise of Taj" is no more than "Van Wilder" with Kal Penn as the main character instead of Ryan Reynolds.

Still, the film doesn't fail on every level. It's evident that Penn is an actor who should be doing more than stereotypical comedic roles. He actually gives a good performance as Taj because he plays to the character's quirkiness and not his ethnicity. In fact, the only thing overtly ethnic in Penn's depiction of Taj is his fake Indian accent, which even Penn breaks a few times during the film.

Penn originally took the role because Taj was more than a stereotype, he says.

"Even though Taj had a racist name, he advanced the plot. He was integral. Without him, Van never would have graduated," Penn said.

Penn also served as executive producer for "The Rise of Taj," adding input into the humor and character development in the film, he says.

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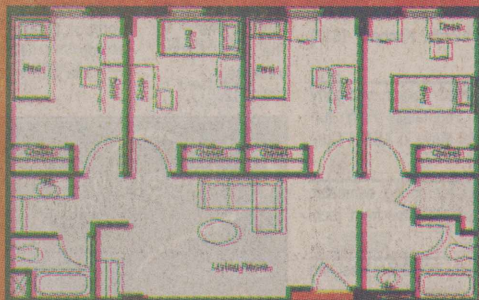
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