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THURSDAY, JAN. 25, 2007  
VOLUME 81 ■ ISSUE 80

(INSIDE)



ABBOTT TO MAKE SPEECH TODAY  
SEE PAGE 2

(IN BRIEF)

STATE

Enron released from investor lawsuit

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal judge on Wednesday granted a request by former shareholders and investors suing Enron Corp. to drop several individuals and firms, including deceased company founder Kenneth Lay, from their lawsuit.

The Regents of the University of California, the lead plaintiffs in securities litigation against Enron and several banks, asked for the dismissals last year.

U.S. District Judge Melinda Harmon approved the request in the class action lawsuit.

NATION

Ray gun makes targets feel as if they are on fire

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AP) — The military calls its new weapon an "active denial system," but that's an understatement. It's a ray gun that shoots a beam that makes people feel as if they are about to catch fire.

Apart from causing that terrifying sensation, the technology is supposed to be harmless — a non-lethal way to get enemies to drop their weapons.

Military officials say it could save the lives of innocent civilians and service members in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

WORLD

Georgian sting seizes bomb grade uranium

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republic of Georgia authorities, aided by the CIA, set up a sting operation last summer that led to the arrest of Russian man who tried to sell a small amount of nuclear-bomb grade uranium in a plastic bag in his jacket pocket, U.S. and Georgian officials said. The operation, which neither government has publicized, represents one of the most serious cases of smuggling of nuclear material in recent years, according to analysts and officials.

DEATH TOLL

3067

U.S. Military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press confirmed by the Department of Defense

WEATHER

Today



SUNNY  
HIGH 50/  
LOW 29

Friday



PARTLY CLOUDY  
HIGH 50/  
LOW 33

INSIDE

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## Senators lash Bush's Iraq plans

By DAVID ESPO  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a calculated snub of President Bush, the Democratic-controlled Senate Foreign Relations Committee dismissed plans for a troop buildup in Iraq on Wednesday as "not in the national interest" of the United States.

"The president has made his decision," Vice President Dick

Cheney fired back, a response that made it clear the administration would go ahead anyway. "We need to get the job done."

The committee vote, 12-9 along party lines, capped hours of debate in which Republicans and Democrats vented their frustration and anger — both with the administration and their own past unwillingness to change the course of a war that has claimed the lives of more than 3,000 U.S. troops.

"There is no strategy. This is a pingpong game with American lives," said Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska.

"This Congress was never meant to be a rubber stamp," added Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif. "Read the Constitution. The Congress has the power to declare war. And on multiple occasions, we used our power to end conflicts."

Hagel was the only one of 10 committee Republicans to support

the nonbinding measure. Several of the panel's 11 Democrats said they favored stronger legislation to register their opposition to the war.

In the wake of midterm election losses, Bush announced two weeks that he would order an additional 21,500 troops into the war zone. In Tuesday night's State of the Union address, he implored skeptical lawmakers to give the strategy a chance.

Bush got his answer in less than 24

hours, the timing dictated by Democrats, and Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., the panel's chairman, said tougher measures were likely to follow.

"Unless the president demonstrates very quickly that he is unlikely to continue down the road he's on, this will be only the first step. ... I will be introducing ... constitutionally legitimate, binding pieces of legislation. We will bring them up,"

BUSH continued on page 6

"It was a really hard-played game and we had a lot of players that made plays and they did too. But the people that made the greatest play were our students."

— BOB KNIGHT, TEXAS TECH COACH



KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH FANS storm the court after Tech upsets No. 6 Texas A&M 70-68 Wednesday night at the United Spirit Arena. Story on Page 8.

## FAN-TASTIC

Tech knocks-off second top 10 team in five days

### Democratic party reacts to presidential address

By NAOMI KASKELA  
STAFF WRITER

Pencils and "Bush Bingo" cards in hand, various members of the Lubbock Democratic Party gathered around the television in the home of Susan Barrick, the Democratic candidate for county judge in November, to watch the 2007 State of the Union Address.

Before the speech began, the 30-plus attendees of the event took part in a nationwide conference call to hear Congressman Peter Welch, D-Vt., speak.

The conference call was organized through Democracy for America. Groups from different cities around the country participated in the event.

"It's incredible to be in Washington because change is in the wind," Welch said. "I just have to tell you that this is going to be an exciting two years."

He spoke about his expectations concerning the speech and answered questions from two of the groups listening in.

"What I am expecting is he (Bush) is going to talk about some issues that need to be addressed," he said. "But, if past is prologue, his actions will not match his rhetoric."

Feelings before President George W. Bush took the stage were mixed at the Lubbock watch party, with some individuals expecting the same speech as last year and others hoping for change.

"I felt" like the balance of power has changed so much that this is going to be an interesting speech," Barrick said.

The Bush Bingo cards contained words, phrases and names of individuals who were expected to come up during the speech, she said.

DEMOCRATS continued on page 3

### Tech Republicans pleased with presidential address

By MAGGIE KIELY  
STAFF WRITER

Nearly two dozen Republican Texas Tech students gathered on Tuesday night to watch President George W. Bush give his annual State of the Union Address. Among those who watched the speech together were members of the College Republicans of Tech.

Cole Shooter, president of Tech's College Republicans, said he was surprised by the president's request to increase the active Army and Marine Corps by 92,000 troops within the next five years. Bush said he is deploying more than 20,000 soldiers and Marines to Iraq.

"I was not expecting that he would ask for the military expansion," Shooter said. "I thought he would lay low with the 21,000."

Shooter said he thinks increasing troop numbers is a good idea because not enough were sent over to begin with.

"He focused a lot on bipartisanship," Shooter said. "I think that is the only choice he's got now that the democrats have majority."

Shooter said reform for health insurance is a great idea.

"I think it will help a lot of middle-class citizens look after the general well being of their families," Shooter said.

As for the border, Shooter said he was glad Bush addressed the issue and agreed with the fact that illegal immigrants should not be granted full amnesty.

Matt Roth, a junior math and computer science major from Amarillo and a member of College Republicans, said he agrees the speech appealed to both Republicans and Democrats.

REPUBLICANS continued on page 3

GAS continued on page 2

# Texas Tech police blotter

By PAUL ROBERTS  
STAFF WRITER

**Jan. 19**  
A non-student was arrested in the 500 block of Indiana Avenue for four outstanding Lubbock Police Department warrants. Tech police said the non-student was issued a citation for failing to present insurance during the traffic stop. Police transported the suspect to the Lubbock County Jail.

Tech police detained four students in the Z5-C parking lot for consumption of alcohol by a minor and possession of alcohol by a minor. Three of the students were issued citations for consumption of alcohol by a minor. The fourth student received a citation for minor in possession of alcohol. All students were released after charges were filed.

A Tech student was arrested for public intoxication and possession of alcohol by a minor in a hallway of Coleman Residence Hall. Police issued the student a Lubbock County citation. The student was released to a responsible party pending the filing of charges.

A Tech police officer investigated an assault incident in Hulen Residence Hall.

**Jan. 20**

Tech police detained five students in a residence room of Coleman Residence Hall for consumption of alcohol by a minor. Police said three students were issued Lubbock County citations for consumption of alcohol by a minor. The other two students

received citations for possession of alcohol by a minor.

A Tech student was arrested for possession of marijuana in a residence room of Coleman Residence Hall. Police transported the student to the Lubbock County Jail.

Tech police documented information concerning a Tech student locking a vehicle's keys inside the student's vehicle. According to reports, the student was unable to return to campus to have the vehicle unlocked because the student was under the influence of alcohol. The student's vehicle was towed to the impound lot.

**Jan. 22**

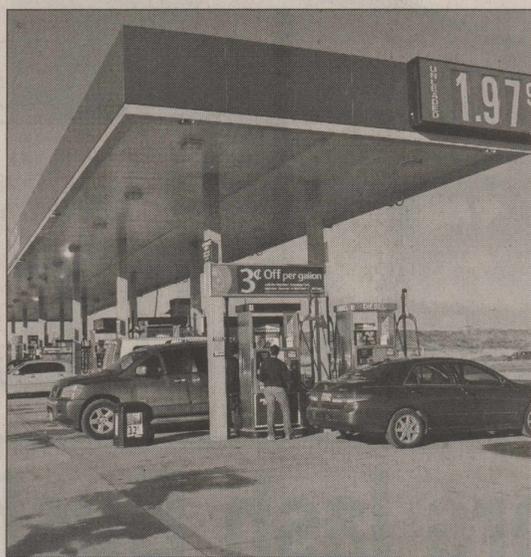
Tech police investigated a theft in the Z-4P parking lot. According to reports, two tail-light lenses were stolen from a victim's pickup.

Tech police were called to Holden Residence Hall to investigate a dispute between two students.

A Tech student was detained in the Flint Avenue parking garage for possession of alcohol by a minor and possession of drug paraphernalia. Police issued the student a Lubbock County citation, and the student was released.

Tech police responded to a medical emergency call in the C-11 parking lot. A staff member was having abdominal pain. According to reports, the staff member was transported to the University Medical Center for treatment.

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SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

CUSTOMERS PUMP GAS at the Wal-Mart gas station located at Fourth Street and Avenue Q.

## Gas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

go up," he said. "However, the American economy consumes more oil than any other economy so the American economy benefits more."

Loretta Deleon, the evening assistant manager at the Phillips 66 Food Plaza at 34th Street and Indiana Avenue, said the store's sales have increased by an estimated 75 percent to 80 percent since the price of regular gasoline dropped below \$2 per gallon at the store Tuesday.

"There are more people here, and they are spending more per person," she said. "They are also spending more when they come inside, too."

Deleon said people have been spending so much more the printer that runs all outside credit-card purchases has run out of paper twice since the price drop Tuesday. Usually, she said, the store's employees only change the printer's paper every other week.

Tyler Bridge, a senior vocal performance major from Denton and customer at Phillips 66, said he is excited about the price change.

"I think it's awesome," he said. "It means I can not feel bad every time I go out driving around. I've started saving all my extra money

for post-graduation plans, and this makes it even better."

Molly Mabery, a freshman psychology major from Granbury, said despite the decrease in prices, she does not drive any more than she did before.

"I think the decrease and prices are great," she said. "They should keep getting lower."

Mabery said she is using the extra money she saves on gas to go out to eat.

Erika Miller, a freshman art major from Lubbock, said the decrease in prices is especially helpful because of the vehicle she drives.

"It's great because my truck isn't as expensive anymore," she said.

Because Miller is from Lubbock, she said she drives all of her friends around, but the gas prices make it better.

Miller said she is saving the money she now does not spend on gas.

Rahnama said he believes gas prices fluctuate with the war in Iraq.

"An increase will depend on the Middle East," he said. "If we don't attack Iraq and Iran, in the long run, a barrel of oil I think can be \$45 to \$50 — in the long run, when there's no political turmoil."

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# Attorney General speaks out about online predators

By BEN MAKI  
STAFF WRITER

When an Internet predator attacks, he or she can affect an entire community.

Texas State Attorney General Greg Abbott is scheduled to speak at 6:30 p.m. today at the Coronado High School Auditorium to discuss Internet safety in an ongoing effort to educate parents concerning the dangers of chat rooms and blog Web sites like www.myspace.com.

According to the press release, Abbott will discuss online risks for both children and teens; he will also discuss how child predators are finding their victims.

Jerry Strickland, spokesman for the

attorney general, said members of the Cyber Crimes Unit will assist Abbott and speak about specific first-hand knowledge. The unit has arrested more than 92 men in connection with cyber crimes in the three and a half years the unit has been in existence.

"He quickly realized that this problem is too big and we needed public awareness," Strickland said. "These guys are parents themselves, and they will talk about how they take that information from their job and translate it into teaching their kids."

Strickland said this is not just for parents teaching their younger children safety, but this is also crucial for college and high school students because they are attacked too.

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KAT HILSABECK/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL Greg Abbott plans to speak today at Coronado High School about the dangers of online predators.

## MEET THE GREEKS

A Walk on Mount Olympus

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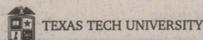
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# AG says doctors can't face death penalty for abortions

AUSTIN (AP) — The death penalty cannot be used against doctors who perform abortions without parental approval or during the third trimester, according to an opinion released Wednesday by Attorney General Greg Abbott.

A state lawmaker asked Abbott to clarify the available punishments after a prosecutors group contended that a law passed in 2005 had the unintended consequence of allowing doctors to be charged with capital murder in those scenarios. In Texas, capital murder is punishable by life in prison or the death sentence.

No doctors have been charged with capital murder, and it's difficult to imagine a prosecutor using that tactic, said Shannon Edmonds, the Texas District and County Attorneys Association official who came up with the interpretation.

But Rep. David Swinford said he wanted Abbott to clarify the law before any cases arose because he did not believe the Legislature wanted doctors to be prosecuted in that way.

"We never discussed a capital murder deal at any time, so I know that was not anybody's opinion about the thing," said Swinford, a Republican from Amarillo.

The disagreement centered on a law passed in 2003 that made killing an "unborn child" at any stage capital murder. That law also said performing a lawful medical procedure could be a defense against the capital murder charge.

Last year, however, lawmakers defined performing an abortion on an unmarried girl under age 18 without proper consent or performing an abortion in the third trimester that isn't covered by certain exceptions as a "prohibited practice" in medicine.

While the prosecutors association said that means doctors actually can be charged with capital murder, Swinford said the Legislature intended for them to be punished under the Occupations Code. That code provides for no greater than a third-degree felony charge.

Abbott agreed with Swinford, saying the state Penal Code defers to criminal punishments established by the Occupations Code. Edmonds stood by his interpretation on Wednesday and pointed out that opinions from the attorney general are not binding on a court or a district attorney. But he said he was surprised the issue had gotten so much attention.

"Until this situation actually occurred, it makes for good debate around the water cooler but that's about it," he said.

## Some SMU professors now accept library but not think tank

DALLAS (AP) — Two leading opponents have softened their stance against building George W. Bush's presidential library and museum at Southern Methodist University but said Wednesday they still object to the accompanying public policy institute.

Susanne Johnson, associate professor of Christian education, and William McElvaney, a retired theology professor, said SMU's president addressed some concerns at faculty meetings last week and Wednesday. In November they wrote an opinion piece entitled "The George W. Bush Library: asset or albatross?" for the campus newspaper.

"I think the library is not the offensive issue that the institute remains to be with a number of the faculty," McElvaney said after the meeting, which was closed to the media.

However, SMU President R. Gerald Turner said the library, museum and institute were a package deal that would benefit the university.

"It's all or nothing," Turner said after the meeting. "The question is, does the asset outweigh what you consider the liabilities? I think it does."

He said most faculty and others on campus support the project but that he would consider professors' concerns when setting up the agreement with the Bush Foundation, which will run the institute.

SMU became the front-runner in the library competition last month when the site selection committee said it was entering into further discussions with the 11,000-student, private university, which is first lady Laura Bush's alma mater. The Bushes are Methodists.

Johnson said she wanted to encourage other opponents to join her in a compromise, supporting only the library and museum, until she heard that the project must include the think tank that will further the views of the Bush administration.

"That's a difficult position to put the faculty in," she said, adding that many questions about the project remain unanswered.

Johnson said some concerns raised at the meeting were how some faculty would be able to counter the viewpoints of the Bush Foundation when the agenda would already be set. She said institute fellows will be published automatically, while that's not the case for SMU professors.

But Rebekah Miles, an ethicist in SMU's Perkins School of Theology, said she attended the meeting to show her support of the project, which she called a "gold mine" for graduate students and others.

"I welcome this kind of debate for the same reason I welcome the Bush library," Miles said. "We need to take on these ideas."

Turner said some professors asked why the entire faculty had not been informed of SMU's proposal — and told that Bush wanted a think tank — from the beginning. He said some faculty members on planning committees knew but were tightlipped because it was a competitive process.

"We were considered the front-runner, and everybody was interested in competing against us," Turner said. "You just cannot negotiate in public."

Turner said he will meet "within days or weeks" with the library site selection committee to discuss exactly where the library complex would be built at SMU.

A final decision on the library is expected within months after Bush receives a recommendation from the committee.

If negotiations with SMU fail, the library will go to Baylor University in Waco. The other finalist, the University of Dallas, recently withdrew its bid for the project.



(FAR RIGHT) COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR Precinct 3, Ysidro Gutierrez, joined fellow Democratic members to watch the State of the Union Tuesday night.

## Democrats

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The only part I thought may be contentious was the 92,000 member increase (request)," Roth said. "This concerns me because I have no interest in joining the military."

Roth said he hopes Congress approves the health-care tax-deduction proposal.

Andy Martin, external vice president of College Republicans, said he appreciated the fact that Bush let the country know what has been going on as far as changes in Congress.

"I think he did a better job of outlining specifics than in the past," Martin said. "He told Americans where we're at and where we're going."

Martin said he was glad to hear the president say the budget can be decreased

without increasing taxes. He said he does not think the United States should pull out of Iraq, but he is not sure if a specific number increase will get the job done.

Meg Carroll, internal vice president for College Republicans, said she thinks the president did a great job trying to keep partisanship at a minimum and was impressed and surprised by the Democratic support.

"I think the Democrats will do the best they can at being supportive," Carroll said. "Pelosi seems to be a good leader."

Carroll said she believes sending more troops to Iraq would help the war end more quickly.

"We should send more troops and quicker," she said. "We are being too timid — we need to get the job done and stop worrying about what people think."

She said she thought Bush has definitely improved his speaking skills and

looks forward to what will become of his proposals.

Donald May, president of The Center of Global Understanding, said Bush was right on target when addressing the issues of nuclear energy and health care.

"We cannot continue to tax people for health care," May said. "Tax deductions would allow more people to purchase insurance."

May said he thinks prepaid health care will discourage people from purchasing top care insurance and nuclear energy is the key.

Geoffrey Puryear, president of Tech Law Students, said he was impressed by the address.

"The speech was more of a reflected and considerate approach to how things need to be in the next two years," Puryear said. "I think the best two years are yet to come."

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## Republicans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Things we expect to hear, things we hope to hear, things we're afraid to hear and people we expect to be in the audience," she said.

In terms of specific topics likely to be discussed, Barrick said she expected to hear Bush discuss bipartisan politics.

"I know that he probably is going to be talking about bipartisan politics and I hope he's sincere," she said, "for the good of the country."

Johnnie Jones, Lubbock County Democratic chair, had lower expectations.

She said she is not expecting much out of the speech because she said very little of Bush's State of the Union address in 2006 had followed through.

"Unfortunately the expectations are that it's going to be more of the same rhetoric," she said.

Watching the State of the Union address is important for college students, Jones said.

"What college students need to listen for is a touch of reality," she said.

Jones, Barrick and Kenny Ketner, organizer for Lubbock Democracy for America, said they decided to attend the event because they liked being able to watch the State of the Union address

with others.

"I've actually been coming to State of the Union watch parties for a couple of years now," Ketner said. "It just makes the whole thing much more bearable when you're watching it with friends."

He said he liked to do more than simply watch the speech, he also likes to discuss it with others.

After the State of the Union Address, the reactions were mixed concerning the points Bush made throughout the speech.

Some things, such as the recognition of American citizens at the very end of the speech garnered a warm reaction, but others, especially talk pertaining to the war in Iraq, did not.

"It was a disappointment," Jones said. "So much of what he said was said in 2006. Unfortunately, I really thought he would make an effort to lay out achievable goals to work with the Democratic Congress."

She said the focus of the speech seemed to be the war in Iraq and Bush's speech from two weeks ago concerning the escalation of troop deployment, which she said was a concern.

Ysidro Gutierrez, county commissioner for Precinct 3, said overall he was disappointed as well.

"I wanted [Bush] to take us down a road so all America would unite together to do what's right for the country," he said, "but he didn't do that."

He said he especially disagreed with Bush's strategy in Iraq.

"We don't disagree with the war on terror," he said, "but we disagree with his strategy in Iraq. We think that's wrong."

The Democratic Response by Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., was met with enthusiasm and surprise at the watch party.

"He had a lot of credibility because his son is in the combat zone and is likely to have an extended stay in combat because of the president's proposal," Gutierrez said.

Barrick said she had never heard Webb speak before and was impressed by what he had to say and how he said it.

She said she thinks the administration should start listening to people like Webb who have experience in war.

Despite the points Bush made during the speech that received good reactions from the Lubbock Democratic watch party, the overall feeling of the end remained that of disappointment.

"Tomorrow we'll be back to where we were yesterday," Gutierrez said.

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## World's oldest person dies at age 115 at home in Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Emiliano Mercado del Toro was born when Puerto Rico was still a Spanish colony and trained as a soldier the year World War I ended.

On Wednesday, having spent just a month as the world's oldest person, he died at his home on the northern coast of Puerto Rico, his grandniece, Dolores Martinez told The Associated Press. He was 115.

"He died like a little angel," Martinez said.

Mercado del Toro never married and had no children.

In the seaside town of Isabela, he became a local celebrity after he was recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records for his longevity.

"We're all crying, but we knew this day would come," said town spokeswoman Rosa Luciano.

Mercado del Toro, who was born on Aug. 21, 1891, became the oldest known person in the world last month when 116-year-old Elizabeth "Lizzie" Bolden died in December in a nursing home in Tennessee.

A 114-year-old Connecticut woman, Emma Faust Tillman, is now believed to be the oldest living person. She was born Nov. 22, 1892.

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## My god can beat your god

Are you reading this because the big words in bold print angered you to interest? Or were you amused? Perhaps you know someone who reflects the sentiment in his or her life. Perhaps you do and don't acknowledge it. Maybe Jesus Christ herself led you to this moment, to read this article written by a guy who is continually disappointed by the way most Americans seem to be warping Christianity.

Whatever it was, I need you to know that I respect you and love you (it makes it easier that we haven't formally met, you see), but some of the things in print below — some of the things I thought, and felt, and then typed — may convince you otherwise. Pay no attention to these feelings, for they are just sins: "A wrathful man stirreth up strife; but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife." (Proverbs 15:18)

I don't know. I was just drawn to that one. Let's talk about it.

I don't want to get too long-winded about how Christians are hypocrites, and church is more of a fashion show than a spiritual experience. To me, these are generalizations of people who consider themselves to be Christians but are

**Alan Brown**



in fact just ignorant. We all grow up with different takes on Christianity, but the one thing I took away from it (besides all of that offering money that I stole) was that we should love each other. Easy enough, right? Not necessarily.

"That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children. To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." (Titus 2:4, 5) Ladies?

For some reason, I feel more alienated around "Christians" than I do around prostitutes and drug addicts. It's as if the religious folk are in a trance of some sort. You can't have a discussion about religion because when they get backed into a corner their reply is, "Well, just put your faith in Jesus." Thanks. I'll make sure and do that. Maybe I'll get to

it right after I learn to love someone that I don't.

I especially enjoy when people refer to "God's plan," which can be viewed on microfiche at the Southwest Collections/Special Collections Library on the Texas Tech campus: "These are the beasts which ye shall eat: the ox, the sheep and the goat..." (Deuteronomy 14:4)

Many people who claim to be Christian and to love their fellow man do so only on their terms. Many of these narrow-minded individuals have had limited contact with people of different backgrounds, races and cultures. They have been sheltered so their minds do not grow and question.

It's just easier to accept Christianity when there's not all that other information in the way. Not to say an educated and well-traveled individual wouldn't choose Jesus Christ, but they should at least be given the chance to learn of other belief systems: "So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood." (2 Kings 6:4)

Also, can we please stop quoting scripture in the attempts to prove a point? I don't care what you found within the pages of the Bible. Give

me 24 hours, some coffee and high-speed access to Internet porn (also known as spiritual fuel), and I will find you a passage that contradicts the original. This is a text written by men — modified by history and context.

Can you seriously expect to apply the "teachings" of the Bible to modern society? This glorious book is being manipulated worse than the Constitution. Therefore, I'll now quote the *Book of Mormon*: "For it is not written that Zenos alone spake of these things, but Zenock also spake of these things." (Alma 33:15)

Lastly, though a person may not subscribe to your religious views, how about getting to know them without judging them. No, I'm actually serious. I'm quite offended when someone feels bad for me, or views me as a "poor soul" because I don't feel like I need a religious entity to spoon-feed me life. It would be a shame if you didn't make it in because you failed to save me. Guess you'll have to deal with that one when the time comes.

**Brown is a junior journalism major from Gatesville. E-mail him at alan.brown@ttu.edu.**

## What about the state of Tech?

Considering the amount of slacking I've been doing this semester, it is no surprise I have dubious amounts of free time. I usually spend this free time watching television (especially the new program "MTV Exposed"), but Tuesday night had different results.

There was absolutely nothing on the tele Tuesday. It was so bad I broke my three-week streak of slackerism and devoted at least 25 minutes to homework. I know the president delivered his State of the Union speech Tuesday night, but I was actively trying to avoid that as well. That is something very difficult to do when sitting in a newsroom.

I try to stay interested in politics, but events like the annual "State of What Bush Believes the Union To Be" address suppresses any motivation I may have previously harbored. Besides the actual address, the CNN coverage kills me. There isn't even a speech for the first hour of the broadcast.

The coverage started with full-screen shots of what looked like a who's-who list of political patheticness congratulating each other on a job well done (I hope the SGA was taking notes). Somebody should tell the Dems that, sure, they passed a couple of bills in the first 100 hours they've controlled Congress, but they still have two years of work ahead. It's a long road to travel before righting this ship — or else we're going to be back in this boat in 2008. So please, for the sake of the American public, don't be so quick with the backslaps.

After the Dems deflated their heads and sat down, the show was ready to begin. But first, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi had to say something. Then the Supreme Court had to be introduced. And it took two people to introduce the president: Government spending is already out of hand; why are we paying two people to introduce the president? Surely this is a job he can do himself.

I'm sure the president did manage to say something, but I wouldn't know. I wasn't paying attention — the television was on mute. I spent most of the address trying to read his lips, but all I could make out was "goo-goo" and "ga-ga" — just the type of Republican fodder I expected.

When I arrived in the newsroom this morning, I was told Bush recognized Houston Rockets star Dikembe Mutombo in his annual "I have to recognize at least one sports

**Justin Dove**



superstar" portion of the speech. (On a more serious note: the work Mutombo does is incredible for Africans and rightly should be congratulated.) With all the sports accomplishments Texas Tech has earned recently, where was our recognition? What about the state of Tech?

So after taking the longest route ever to make a point, I have decided it is up to me to address the state of Tech. And I will do so sans needless interruption via standing ovations (although, I do feel as though I deserve a couple).

First, I feel as if there are too many students. This concerns me because according to *The Daily Toreador*, the administration has plans to increase enrollment from the current 27,996 students to 40,000 students by 2020. As if my classes with 300-plus students aren't bad enough, why would we want to add to them?

If there was anything I learned from The Great Beanie Baby Rush of 1997 (or was it 1996?), it's that a restriction in supply brings about a serious increase in demand. If we restrict the number of kids we accept, this will then result in a more qualified freshman class. Ideally, if we raise admissions standards, we'll get better kids to enroll. (This is just a theory, but all the test runs in my head returned positive results.) And going after Texas' best and brightest is the goal of the university, right?

While I'm on the topic of the administration, I have a bubbling feeling in the pit of my stomach that the admins are waiting for the summer months to announce the future home of the Tech versus Texas A&M football game. (However, the feeling could've been the burrito earlier.) I sense fear of student mutiny, but all indicators point to this hypothetical situation becoming a reality (i.e., Tech officials have already expressed interest in moving the game, and they want to increase Tech's appeal in Dallas).

Aside from more students enrolling and more students having to drive to Dallas to see a football game, the state of Tech isn't that bad around. But, of course, I have to write that because somebody in the bell towers is holding my diploma.

**Dove is a senior public relations major from Blackwell. E-mail him at justin.dove@ttu.edu.**

## Recycling everyday items not just for hippies

(U-WIRE) WACO — Tree-hugger, environmentalist, whatever you want to call it, I have never considered myself one. Sure, I cared about the environment, but I didn't live my life trying to protect it.

During the Fall, I was part of the Baylor in New York program.

I lived there for a few months and while the entire experience opened my eyes to so many new experiences, one thing I brought back with me was my new appreciation for our environment and how precious it is.

It may sound abnormal: Usually when people gain a new admiration for nature, it's after they have visited some tropical paradise — not New York.

When you think of the Big Apple's tall buildings, concrete usually comes to mind. This is exactly why I started to change my point of view.

If you have ever visited New York, you may be familiar with what I'm about describe.

New York is home to roughly 8.1 million people in a land area of only 303 square miles. That's about 26,732 people per square mile!

Because of this high density of people, lots of trash builds up. For an outsider its more than noticeable.

Night after night trash would line up along the streets rising several feet high. It was an appalling sight. Every single night, trash trucks would make their rounds picking it up.

Here in Waco, trash pickup is only once a week. It was unbelievable thinking about how much trash could be produced.

While I was up there, I made a decision to alter my life. It wasn't anything major, I only chose to be a little more conscious about what

I was dumping in the wastebasket. I just couldn't stand the thought of all that trash being thrown out. So I took baby steps.

I found a cloth bag to take to the grocery store each time I went.

The fact is, if you take your own bag to the store, that is one less bag being thrown out later. That is one less bag being taken to the dump to sit and decompose. The standard plastic bag on average can take anywhere from 500 to 1,000 years to decompose.

If you are a water-bottle drinker like myself, it is astonishing to think about how many water bottles you go through a day, a week, even a month. Chances are, it's a pretty high number. If the average person drinks about three liters of water a day, that is six half-liter water bottles per day, or 42 bottles a week. Recycling is a

great option in this particular case.

In Waco there are places to take your paper, plastics and glass.

The city of Waco provides recycling services through the Cobb's Citizen Collection Center at 4214 Cobbs Drive.

Many people, as I used to, think there is no reason to be environmentally conscious and recycle. What difference could one person make?

With all the rolling hills of trees and miles of shoreline, it would be hard to convince anyone Texas is not a beautiful place.

Because of the size and the luxury of space, we sometimes forget how many people there are. Not to mention how much trash is produced.

So why not make an effort? Change one small thing about your life, and you may be saving something much larger — our environment.

## Students need to develop a habit of saving

By **JENNIFER LI**  
DAILY NEBRASKAN (U. NEBRASKA)

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb. — Two out of three college students graduate with debt, and those who graduate from public schools owe an average of about \$18,000.

With student loans to worry about for many years after graduation, it's important to not run up too much credit card debt as well. However, besides paying off the bills in a timely manner, students should be mindful of saving for the future.

Saving money is definitely not one of those things that Americans do best compared to other developed nations. Personal savings rates have been negative for the last two years, with many people struggling to pay off debt. We have not been saving this little since 1933, the era of the Great Depression.

Yet personal and public savings are very important for the growth of our economy. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke warned the nation last Friday of a "calm before the storm." While our parents are concerned about their retirement plans, our generation needs to be prepared to be more responsible about saving than we've been used to.

As a full-time college student, I worked 13 hours a week last semester and expected a reasonable income. Yet every time I got my bank statement, I would be disappointed to find that my checking account was hardly growing at all.

Although I made enough to pay for my personal expenses, I was also hoping to save up for a car and the ability to travel more. With the tax season upon us, I've been more reflective about my finances, so recently, I resolved to put more money

into saving.

Advice columnists always say to set specific and attainable goals, so I broke down my goal into smaller goals of keeping better records of my income and spending, making fewer impulsive purchases, learning to invest and budget ahead. Lofty dreams, perhaps, but I'd like to challenge my fellow students to try with me.

It's hard to think about saving money as college students, and by saving, I don't mean buying the generic brand instead of the name brand. What I mean is that putting away a small percentage of your extra money instead of spending it on whatever first catches our attention.

We have a reputation of being broke, which is convenient when our tattered appearance forces family and relatives to throw their pocket change at us. However, many of us

are not as poor as we think.

By keeping better track of our spending, we can figure out our purchase patterns, which will help us eliminate unnecessary spending and develop strategies to lower the cost of our necessary spending.

Then, we'll have more money to put away, whether in a savings account or some sort of investment that provides a higher return. Before long, we'll be surprised to find that we can afford to buy a car or the designer handbag that we've been dreaming of.

We all hear or know about those crazy people who make fortunes from the stock market even as college students. It may seem possible only for those who come from rich families, but with some determination and financial savvy, even average people like you and me can have money in our bank accounts.



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**Publishing information**  
Periodical Postage paid by The Daily Toreador, Student Media building, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, 79409. Publication number: 765480. The DT is a student newspaper published Monday through Friday, September through May, Tuesdays and Fridays June through August, except during university examination and vacation periods. The DT is funded primarily through advertising revenues generated by the student sales staff with free campus distribution resulting from student service fees.

**Subscriptions**  
Call: (806) 742-3388  
Subscription Rates: \$120 annually; single issues: 25 cents.  
Postmaster: send address changes to The Daily

Toreador, Box 43081 Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

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# U.S. and Iraqi troops clash in central Baghdad; new details emerge about helicopter crash

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — U.S. and Iraqi troops battled Sunni insurgents hiding in high-rise buildings on Haifa Street in the heart of Baghdad Wednesday, with snipers on roofs taking aim at gunmen in open windows as Apache attack helicopters hovered overhead.

Iraq said 30 militants were killed and 27 captured.

New details also emerged about the downing of a private U.S. security company helicopter on Tuesday, with U.S. and Iraqi officials saying four of five Americans who died in the incident were shot execution-style. Violence was unrelenting in Iraq on Wednesday, with at least 69 people killed or found dead, including 33 tortured bodies found in separate locations in Baghdad.

With President Bush pushing a controversial plan to increase troops strength in Iraq, government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said the latest joint raid was aimed at clearing the Haifa Street area of "terrorists and outlaws" targeting residents. He promised such operations would continue as U.S. and Iraqi troops prepare for a broader security crackdown to stanch the sectarian bloodletting that has turned Baghdad into a battlefield.

At 5 a.m. Wednesday, Iraqi army and American troops moved into the Sunni stronghold to launch targeted raids in a third bid this month to clear the neighborhood of militants. Armored vehicles massed along Haifa Street, where a median with trees separates four lanes of traffic lined by tall apartment houses built by Saddam Hussein for loyalists and dissidents from other Arab countries, mainly Syria.

The U.S.-Iraqi force faced fierce resistance from insurgents using hand-grenades, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms from the high-rises, the American military said. The explosions were so loud they could be heard across the capital. Black smoke rose from the area, located on the west bank of the Tigris River about a mile north of the Green Zone, site of the U.S. and British embassies as well as the Iraqi government headquarters.

At one point, U.S. and Iraqi forces rushed into an office building on the edge of Haifa Street and told all the employees to go home as they fanned out and sent snipers to the roof, according to Jabbar al-Mashhadani, a Cultural Ministry spokesman.

The U.S. military said the combined force in the operation, dubbed Tomahawk Strike II, detained seven suspected insurgents and seized heavy weapons, including many rocket-propelled grenades, anti-tank rounds and 155 mm artillery rounds. The Iraqi Defense Ministry said 30 insurgents were killed and 27 captured, including four Egyptians and a Sudanese.

At least one civilian was killed and seven were wounded, hospital and police officials said.

The military reported separately that an American soldier was killed Wednesday in clashes near the city's center, but officials declined to give more specifics or say whether the death was connected to the Haifa Street fighting. Two U.S. Marines also were reported killed on Tuesday during combat in Anbar province, the military said.

Haifa Street, a major avenue in central Baghdad, was built in the late 1970s and cuts through the neighborhood where Saddam attended school as a teenager and where he once lived with his maternal uncle and future father-in-law.

It has been the site of repeated clashes, including a major battle Jan. 9, just three days after Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki announced his new security plan for pacifying Baghdad. Fighting broke out again about a week later.

A bronze statue of Iraq's late King Faisal on horseback sits at one end of the broad avenue. During a visit to the neighborhood after the 1991 Gulf war, residents complained to Saddam about their poverty, prompting him to order homes demolished and new apartment complexes built.

Just off Haifa Street is a square where a large statue for Saddam's cousin and brother-in-law, Adnan Khairallah, still stands. It was widely believed that Saddam was behind Khairallah's death in a helicopter crash in 1989 because the defense minister was becoming too popular.

U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, meanwhile, offered condolences for the five Americans killed in the helicopter crash in Baghdad, called them good men and said he had traveled with them. The aircraft, belonging to the Blackwater USA security company, went down as it flew over a dangerous Sunni neighborhood while a gunfight was raging.

Confusion still cloaked the circumstances of the crash.

A senior Iraqi military official said a machine gunner downed the helicopter and four of the men were shot execution-style on the ground, but a U.S. military official in Washington said there were no indications the aircraft had been shot out of the sky. Three Sunni insurgent groups separately claimed responsibility for the crash, with one posting on its Web site the ID cards of one of the Americans.

In Washington, a U.S. defense official said four of the five were shot in the back of the head, but he did not know whether they were alive when shot. The defense official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record.

The helicopter went down after racing to help a U.S. Embassy ground convoy that came under fire in a neighborhood on the east side of the Tigris, said a U.S. diplomatic official in Washington.

The doomed helicopter swooped into electrical wires before the crash. U.S. officials said it was not clear if gunfire brought down the aircraft or caused its pilot to veer into the wires during evasive maneuvers.

A second helicopter also was struck, but there were no casualties among its crew, said the diplomatic official, who spoke anonymously because he was not authorized to make statements.

An American official in Baghdad, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said three Blackwater helicopters were involved. One had landed for an unknown reason and one of the Blackwater employees was shot at that point, he said. That helicopter apparently was able to take off but a second one then crashed in the same area, he added without explaining the involvement of the third helicopter. It was unclear whether the wounded employee survived.

Al-Jazeera television said the 1920 Revolution Brigades, a Sunni insurgent group, claimed responsibility for shooting down the helicopter and showed a video taken by a cell phone of a mass of smoldering twisted metal that it was said was the wreckage of the chopper.

The Islamic Army, in a statement posted on the Internet, said it downed a helicopter at about 1 p.m. Tuesday in the nearby Maydan area.

Another Sunni insurgent group, the Ansar al-Sunnah Army, also claimed responsibility and posted identity cards of men who were on the helicopter on a Web site, including at least two that bore the name of Arthur Laguna, who was later identified by his mother as among those killed.

Laguna was a 52-year-old pilot for Blackwater who previously served in the Army and the California National Guard, his mother, Lydia Laguna of Rio Linda, Calif., told the AP.

It was the second helicopter crash in Iraq in four days. A U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter went down Saturday northeast of Baghdad, killing all 12 service members on board. The American military in Baghdad has refused to confirm a report by a Pentagon official that debris at the crash site indicated the helicopter was downed by a surface-to-air missile.

# New program welcomes Mass Comm students to Spain

By LINDSEY DUNCAN  
STAFF WRITER

Bienvenidos a España. The College of Mass Communication will offer two classes for elective credit this summer in Seville, Spain.

Kenton Wilkinson, Regents professor in Hispanic and International Communications, said he believes the classes in Spain will be a good opportunity for students to exercise the skills they have been learning. One of the classes will focus on special problems in mass communication. The other class will focus on individual studies in public relations.

"Studying abroad will allow students to gain experience in communicating and interacting with an international audience," Wilkinson said. "Students will be better-prepared for jobs when they graduate. Companies want to hire people who understand the way communication works in the United States but are also able to apply that education to a global audience. The class I'm teaching will focus on exploring the ways that language and culture can affect media markets. It's important to have exposure to different communities and societies, and the best way to do that is through immersion."

Although the classes are targeted to students enrolled in the College of Mass Communication, students from other colleges are welcome to sign up, Wilkinson said.

"Students don't necessarily have to be mass comm. majors to enroll in these courses," he said. "You don't have to be able to speak Spanish either, although there are Spanish courses available if you want to learn the language."

Douglas Ingles, director and research professor of history, who has been overseeing the study abroad operations in Spain since 2001, said he enjoys welcoming new col-

leges into the program. "This is what we call a first effort, and first efforts are always exciting," he said. "This is a faculty-led program, which means that the faculty of the College of Mass Comm. will be responsible for showing an interest and recruiting students and staff, but we will provide the support, housing, supplies and logistics. We also monitor the health and safety issues. We can even set up excursions for them if they want to include that as part of the class."

The Texas Tech campus in Seville, Spain, has offered courses in English, chemistry, music, art, theater, anthropology, history and chemistry, Ingles said.

"It's a very flexible program; that's one of our key features," he said. "It's great because we are very adaptable, and you get Tech credit for everything you do. The difference is that maybe we'll be studying Roman history and we can say, 'Hey, let's go look at the Roman ruins.' That kind of thing."

Ingles said students who study abroad will find life is not better or worse in Spain — it is just different.

"Not everybody has the same world view, they vary across cultures," he said. "We do have that thread that runs through all people, which is a human-

istic thread. You will find a lot of things that are different, but you will also learn to harmonize and appreciate those differences and how they work."

Students who study in Spain will find their world view changes dramatically in a short amount of time, Ingles said.

"They will become more international and more global," he said of students who study abroad. "They will actually perceive and accept cultures."

Baylie Hurt, a senior public relations major from Odessa, said she wants to study abroad in Spain.

"I want to work in hospital administration for St. Jude," she said. "I think studying in Spain will help me kind of be aware of other cultures. We're taught American views, and learning how to communicate without speaking the language will be interesting."

Donna Wright, coordinator for the Tech Center in Seville, said she believes students should go to Spain to learn a different way of thinking.

"It's not that they're all right or we're all wrong, it's just all so different, and once you can process that and not be derogative, that's when you can really grow," she said. "Everywhere you leave a piece of your heart, you have had success."

lindsey.e.duncan@ttu.edu

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### THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Weighty plop
- Larger-than-life stories
- Animal hide
- Sari wearer
- Soup server
- Pitcher Tiant
- Env. additions
- Man from Manila or Manchuria
- Environ
- Start of Evan Esar quip
- Part 2 of quip
- Prepare to take notice?
- Prepare for return
- Bread seed
- Tears
- Polka followers
- Little devil
- Resident-to-be
- Hula instrument
- Part 3 of quip
- Honolulu garland
- Formulated beliefs
- Theol. belief
- Slight mistake
- Sri Lankan separatist
- Convincing
- Nevada
- Sentence subjects
- Part 4 of quip
- End of quip
- Bring up
- Open
- Continent
- Indigenous people of Japan
- Spy Hari
- Mary Poppins, a.g.
- Hoof sound
- Lone guy
- Hitches
- British pianist
- Myra
- Low cards
- Vietnam capital

3 Completely intact

4 Talk over

5 Distinctive flair

6 Dail offering

7 Amin of Uganda

8 Contract component

9 Have a gut feeling

10 Short theatrical offering

11 Continental change

12 In — of

13 Romanov ruler

21 Orangutan or gibbon

23 Merits

26 Sovereign ruler

28 Gentlemen

30 Jodie Foster film

31 Three, in Berlin

32 Clip

33 Conduit

34 Gumbo veggie

35 Abound

37 At rest

39 Leaflike layers

40 Making invalid

43 Washcloth

45 Belly

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48 Vane dir.

50 Dale of oaters

52 Functional

53 Taboos

54 Liquid courses

55 Shirtsleeves

56 Spick-and-span

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62 Genetic letters

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TEAM	AMIN	UNCLE
INN	EDIT	SATEEN
ALI	AAR	
THECAIN	EMUTINY	
BALMY	OMAR	MOST
ALLEN	TINE	ILLER
REISE	ETAL	TORY

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

The Student Union is proud to have the opportunity to sponsor the daily crossword in the Daily Toreador. If you are looking for a place to relax and do this crossword, we have just the place...

# Tech's El Paso campus may receive \$43 million for HSC

By **BEN MAKI**  
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech Health Sciences Center at El Paso may be getting a facelift.

In the state budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, there is an appropriation for a \$43 million budget for a medical school at the Tech HSC in El Paso.

Chris Cutrone, deputy press secretary for the Texas Speaker of the House Tom Craddick, said this funding is not the beginning but just another step in the process.

"We had to phase it in gradually," Cutrone said. "The El Paso campus has been funded for a number of years. Last year, there was a proposal by the governor to get it added to the emergency legislative budget board. If it went on the emergency-budget board, it would not have been voted on. The speaker felt it needed to go to the legislature to be voted on."

Rich Parsons, press secretary for Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, said Dewhurst tried to help push the legislation through in 2006 and cannot wait to see it get through this year.

"The Lt. Governor has been anxious to get this funding," Parson said, "and the legislature won't get it passed until late May."

Robert Suskind, regional dean for Tech HSC at El Paso, said the previous funding helped to build new facilities in preparation for the opening of the medical school.

"The state has put \$100 million in buildings on the El Paso campus, including a state-of-the-art research facility and a new education building set to open in September of '07," he said.

Suskind said in preparation for the new school, the HSC in El Paso has been slowly adding medical students and looks to have a large increase in medical students when the school receives accreditation.

"We have been a regional campus for over 30 years and, in the past couple

years, we have been accepting between 55 and 60 medical students each year to build a strong infrastructure. When we do open, we want to expand that to about 320 students total, which will be a major increase."

Suskind said adding a medical school is no small feat — it will be only the second new medical school in the United States in the past 25 years. This is something that has been long awaited by the citizens of El Paso.

"It has been a dream for El Paso for at least the past 30 years to get a free-standing medical school," Suskind said. "What it will mean is new opportunities for education, and there will be students from West Texas who will hopefully practice in El Paso. It has one of the lowest ratios of physicians per capita in the nation, and the ratio is significantly lower than any in the state of Texas."

Suskind said the new medical school will have five centers of specific study: obesity, infectious diseases, cancer, cardiovascular disease and neuro-degenerative diseases.

In anticipation of the new medical school opening, Suskind said there is a lot of work still to do.

"We have a long road ahead of us," he said. "We will be recruiting six clinical chairs, five center directors and 25 scientists. We will have at least 100 interviews for the top positions. Each of these interviews takes at least two days. It will take at least a year of interviewing two people a week just to fill the senior positions."

Suskind said the process for accreditation begins with writing a document with all of the supporting information. The Liaison Committee on Medical Education will read the document in June, followed by a visit in September.

If the school gets everything in on time, Suskind said he believes the school will be accredited in February 2009, and class will begin the next fall.

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# 5 Americans killed in helicopter crash in central Baghdad amid fighting

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Four of the five Americans killed when a U.S. security company's helicopter crashed in a dangerous Sunni neighborhood in central Baghdad were shot execution style in the back of the head, Iraqi and U.S. officials said Wednesday.

A senior Iraqi military official said a machine gunner downed the helicopter, but a U.S. military official in Washington said there were no indications that the aircraft, owned by Blackwater USA, had been shot out of the sky. Two Sunni insurgent groups, separately, claimed responsibility for the crash.

In Washington, a U.S. defense official said four of the five killed were shot in the back of the head but did not know whether they were still alive when they were shot. The defense official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record.

The helicopter was shot down after responding to assist a U.S. Embassy ground convoy that came under fire in a Sunni neighborhood in central Baghdad, said a U.S. diplomatic official in Washington.

A second helicopter also was struck, but there were no casualties among its crew, said the diplomatic official, who spoke anonymously because he was not authorized to make statements.

The doomed helicopter swooped into electrical wires before the crash. U.S. officials said it was not clear if gunfire brought the aircraft down or caused its pilot to veer into the wires during evasive maneuvers.

The Iraqi official, who also declined to be identified because details had not been made public, said the four were shot in the back of the head while they were on the ground. The crash occurred in an old neighborhood of narrow streets on the east bank of the Tigris River,

north of the central city.

In separate fighting Wednesday, U.S. and Iraqi troops battled gunmen firing heavy weapons from concrete high-rises in another Sunni insurgent stronghold, on the west bank of the Tigris north of the heavily fortified Green Zone. Iraq's defense minister said as many as 30 militants were killed and 27 captured.

Apache attack helicopters buzzed past the tall buildings and radio towers along Haifa Street, while several Humvees drove on the tree-lined street below. Gunfire rang in the background as shells fell, according to AP Television News footage.

The U.S. military said the targeted raids were intended to clear the area of militants, dubbing the operation Tomahawk Strike 11. The clashes were the second major fighting to break out in the area in less than a month.

The military reported separately that an American soldier was killed Wednesday in fighting near the city's center, but officials declined to say whether it was connected to the Haifa Street fighting. The military also said that two Marines were killed Tuesday in western Anbar province.

In the aftermath of Tuesday's Blackwater helicopter crash, U.S. forces were planning to blow up the wreckage to prevent people from scavenging equipment, the Iraqi official said.

Blackwater USA confirmed that five Americans employed by the North Carolina-based company as security professionals were killed, but provided no identities or other details.

On Wednesday, U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad offered condolences for the five Americans killed.

"We lost five fine men," Khalil-

zad told reporters during a round-table discussion at the embassy in the heavily fortified Green Zone in Baghdad.

He said he had traveled with the men who were killed and had gone to the morgue to view the bodies, but offered no further details beyond saying that it was difficult to determine what happened because of "the fog of war."

Another American official in Baghdad, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said three Blackwater helicopters were involved. One had landed for an unknown reason and one of the Blackwater employees was shot at that point, he said.

That helicopter apparently was able to take off but a second one then crashed in the same area, he added without explaining the involvement of the third helicopter.

The Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television said the 1920 Revolution Brigades insurgent group claimed responsibility for shooting down the helicopter and showed a video taken by a cell phone of a mass of still-smoldering twisted metal that it was said was the wreckage of the chopper.

Another Sunni insurgent group, the Ansar al-Sunnah Army, also claimed responsibility and posted identity cards of men who were on the helicopter on a Web site, including at least two that bore the name of Arthur Laguna, who was later identified by his mother as among those killed.

Laguna was a 52-year-old pilot for Blackwater who previously served in the Army and the California National Guard, his mother, Lydia Laguna, of Rio Linda, Calif., told the AP. She said she received a call from her other son, also a Blackwater pilot in Baghdad, notifying her of Arthur's death.

Witnesses in the Fadhil neighborhood told the AP that they

saw the helicopter go down after gunmen on the ground opened fire. Accounts varied, but all were consistent that at least one person operating the aircraft had been shot and badly hurt before the crash.

Blackwater USA provides security for State Department officials in Iraq, trains military units from around the world, and works for corporate clients.

"These untimely deaths are a reminder of the extraordinary circumstances under which our professionals voluntarily serve to bring freedom and democracy to the Iraqi people," the Blackwater statement said.

Katy Helvenston, mother of Scott Helvenston, a Blackwater employee who died in March 2004 when a frenzied mob of insurgents ambushed a supply convoy they were escorting through Fallujah, said Tuesday's crash "just breaks my heart."

"I'm so sick of these kids dying," she said.

Before Tuesday's crash, at least 22 employees of Blackwater Security Consulting or Blackwater USA had died in Iraq as a result of war related violence, according to the Web site iCasualties.org, which tracks foreign troop fatalities in Iraq.

The crash of the small surveillance helicopter, believed to be a version of the Hughes Defender that was developed during the Vietnam War, was the second associated with the U.S. war effort in Iraq in four days.

A U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter went down Saturday northeast of Baghdad, killing all 12 service members on board. The American military in Baghdad has refused to confirm a report by a Pentagon official that debris at the crash site indicated the helicopter was shot out of the air by a surface-to-air missile.

## Bush

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

he said. Taken together, the committee's vote and Cheney's response suggested the Democrats and the White House were on a collision course — lawmakers drafting ever-stronger measures to change policy in Iraq, and the president exercising

his prerogatives as commander in chief — and his veto pen.

"We are moving forward," Cheney said in an interview with CNN in which he was asked about the troop buildup.

"The Congress has control over the purse strings. They have the right, obviously, if they want, to cut off funding. But in terms of this effort, the president has made his decision."

The vice president added: "We've

consulted extensively with them. We'll continue to consult with the Congress. But the fact of the matter is, we need to get the job done."

In the Senate committee, all Republicans but Hagel opposed the measure, denying Democrats the strong bipartisan vote they had sought.

Biden, who has announced he intends to run for president in 2008, said the legislation is "not an attempt to embarrass the president. ... It's an attempt to save the president from making a significant mistake with regard to our policy in Iraq."

Democrats intend to bring the measure to the Senate floor for a vote next week, and Biden said he is willing, in the interim, to make changes in the hopes of gaining additional Republican support.

Some committee Republicans sought unsuccessfully to temper the measure before it was approved. Additionally, more than a half-dozen GOP lawmakers in the Senate have signaled interest in an alternative that merely expresses disagreement with the president's policy rather than deeming it not in the national interest.

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7 AM Curious	Today (HD)	Early Show	Believer	Life Today	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	J. Hanna
:30 Clifford			Animal Rescue	Eye for an Eye	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Paid Program
8 AM Dragon Tales			Judge Mathis	Roseanne	Montel Williams	Martha	Megan Mullally Show
:30 It's Big World		700 Club	Divorce Court	Divorce Court	The View	Tyra Banks	
9 AM Sesame Street			Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
			Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
10 AM Callou	Regis and Kelly	Price Is Right	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
:30 Barney	Julianne Moore	Divorce Court	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
11 AM Teletubbies			Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
:30 Mister Rogers			Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
12 PM News	News	KLBK 13 News	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
:30 Watercolor	Days of Our Lives	Bold & Beautiful	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
1 PM Dawberry	As the World Turns	Mauri	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
:30 Jay Jay	Passions	Guiding Light	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
2 PM Puppy	Inside Edition	Judge Joe	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
:30 The Lions	Oprah Winfrey	Judge Joe	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
3 PM Reading	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
:30 Cyberchase	Dr. Phil	Mauri	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
4 PM Clifford	News	KLBK 13 News	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
:30 Arthur	News	CBS News	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
5 PM Maya & Miguel	News	KLBK 13 News	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
:30 Bus Report	News	KLBK 13 News	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
6 PM Newshour with Jim Lehrer	Wheel Fortune	Millionaire	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
7 PM This Old House Hour	Earl (HD)	CBS: Miami "Urban Heatraisers"	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
:30 The Office	CSI: Miami "Urban Heatraisers"	Wicked Wicked Games (HD)	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
8 PM Storytellers	Scubs	CSI: Crime Soane	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
:30 Storytellers	30 Rock (HD)	Watch Over Me "Altnmath"	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
9 PM Soundstage "Fister Frampin"	The Office	Shark "Dial M for Monica" (HD)	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
:30 The Office	Shark "Dial M for Monica" (HD)	Wits and Kids	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
10 PM Bus Report	News	KLBK 13 News	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
:30 Charlie Rose (HD)	(3:35) Jay Leno Show (HD)	(3:35) Late Show (HD)	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
11 PM News	(3:35) Late Night (HD)	(3:35) Craig Ferguson	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
:30 AM Destinies	(3:35) Last Call	Paid Program	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
12:30 GED	(3:35) Last Call	Paid Program	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow

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## Big Fat Greek Fun

By ANNE M. SHEPHERD  
STAFF WRITER

Pre-occupied drivers heading north on University Avenue can look to their right just before reaching the loop and see the words "It's Greek to Me!" blaring from one end of a small plaza. The phrase is not a slogan for confused physics students, but the name of one of Lubbock's family-owned restaurants.

A few things caught my eye when I entered It's Greek to Me! to conduct *The Daily Toreador's* second restaurant review: bright colors, Greek murals on the walls and a poster for Cheryl the Belly Dancer.

When my friend and I ordered our meals, the manager taking our order joked with us, smiled with us and complained about the cold weather outside. The staff at the restaurant have a talent for making customers feel at home.

I must confess that not far into my first visit to It's Greek to Me, scenes from the movie "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" began running through my mind.

It's Greek to Me!'s menu contains almost as many American selections as it does Greek. Greek choices include appetizers of humus dip, "dolmas" and "baba ghanouj" dip, a few salad options, kafta kabob and falafel sandwiches and three platter choices. For those unfamiliar with Greek food, some of the menu's American

tastes include: hamburgers, chili cheese dogs, turkey melts and cheese sticks served with ranch.

Not being overly familiar with Greek food myself, I decided to go with the item I recognized: the gyro. While chicken was offered, I chose the traditional beef and lamb.

I sat down at a table and watched TV, waiting 15 to 20 minutes before one of the owners emerged from the back and served me my gyro and fries.

Well, what can I say? The food was hot and fresh and tasted wonderful! While one might leave Spanky's feeling he or she had just eaten a hamburger comparable to those served at a number of other restaurants, It's Greek to Me!'s gyros are memorable. The gyro is described in the menu as: "Broiled sliced strips of gyro meat, stuffed in a fresh pita bread, topped with tomatoes, lettuce and sour cream-cucumber sauce." The meat had great flavor and the homemade dressing made the difference between It's Greek to Me's gyros and other restaurant gyros.

The fries were not unique, but I greatly enjoyed them. My one complaint on that score was my table's ketchup bottle was empty, and I picked up a bottle from a nearby table only to see it also squirt its last drop (or drops, rather — the ketchup exploded from the bottle and left red speckles all over the table).

It's Greek to Me! gets my bonus

points because not only is the food fresh and tasty, but the atmosphere is excellent. Workers are conversational and friendly, and the restaurant has a family-owned feel. If customers want a particularly memorable and entertaining experience, the restaurant even showcases a belly dancer every other Friday.

The gyro combination plate is \$7, the same price as most of the other meals. In my opinion, the experience, the food and the people are all worth it. The restaurant is located at 7006 University Ave.

It's Greek to Me! garners an EXTREME thumbs up.

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SAM GRENAIER/The Daily Toreador

IT'S GREEK TO ME sits on the corner of University and Loop 289. It serves a mix of Greek and American foods with a menu including gyro sandwiches and All-American burgers.



SAM GRENAIER/The Daily Toreador

## College students given opportunity to create their own TV show

By KATIE HARRIS  
STAFF WRITER

Comcast is welcoming creative college students with a new contest in which the winner will be given the opportunity to produce a TV pilot or perform live at HBO's U.S. Comedy Arts Festival.

Ziddio, Comcast's new user-generated Web site, is offering "Ten Day Take" and "No Talent Nation" as a pair of contests to measure which student has the best creation.

Caroline Marks, general manager of Ziddio at Comcast Interactive Media, said Ziddio is committed to providing a great platform online and through television for today's young users to express their views and creativity.

"We're excited about bringing these opportunities to college students and other young users through contests offering both fun call-outs and prizes," Marks said, "like career-making opportunities such as 'Ten Day Take' and 'No Talent Nation.'"

According to the press release, for "Ten Day Take," Ziddio and Endemol, the world's largest production company, have partnered to offer users the opportunity to transform their creative ideas into a real television show. The winner will have the chance to have his or her video submission fast-tracked into production in Hollywood with the support

of Endemol's production resources and a \$50,000 production budget.

The "Ten Day Take's" pilot winner and shoot will be completed in 10 days and documented "reality-style" in a series available on Ziddio and on TV through Comcast's signature ON DEMAND service, according to the press release.

Marks said the "Ten Day Take" competition is open to any applicants with pilot concepts that have TV-production potential.

"It is an extraordinary chance to make a pilot," Marks said.

The deadline for submitting a con-

cept for "Ten Day Take" is Feb. 5, and the deadline for the "No Talent Nation" competition is Feb. 28.

Jon Vlassopoulos, vice president of business development, digital media and strategic planning for Endemol USA, said he and his associates are thrilled to launch their first broadband show with Comcast.

"This new partnership now allows anyone with a great concept for a show to take it from idea to broadcast, which is indicative of where we see the industry moving," Vlassopoulos said.

According to the press release, Ziddio

also is collaborating with HBO's U.S. Comedy Arts Festival to feature "No Talent Nation," a search for comedic talent. The contest's officials are asking for aspiring comedians to submit short comedy or musical parody videos, which will be featured online and ON DEMAND.

Ten winners will be announced, according to the press release, and they will get the chance to perform live at the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen from Feb. 28 to March 4. The contest is

being sponsored by the online digital music service, Rhapsody.com.

Marks said "Bowling For Soup" will be at the arts festival to headline the line-up for the winners of "No Talent Nation."

"They will also have the chance to party with the band after and any other celebs who hang out in Aspen around this time," she said.

Marks said there are a few submissions that have already come in.

"The videos come in, they get

screened, then go up," she said.

Students who want to submit entries for either contest can go to [www.ziddio.com](http://www.ziddio.com), and click on the "contests" icon for "Ten Day Take," "No Talent Nation" and a variety of other other contests.

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# SPORTS

## Red Raider fans a factor in win over A&M

By JAY LANGLEY  
News Editor

With less than a minute to play in Texas Tech's 70-68 victory over No. 6 Texas A&M Wednesday, Red Raider announcer Rick Gilbert warned Tech fans not to rush the floor.

Thanks to clutch free-throw shooting and a key steal by Martin Zeno the fans got to rush the court for the second time in five days.

"It was a really hard-played game and we had a lot of players that made plays and they did too," Tech coach Bob Knight said. "But the people that made the greatest play were our students."

Wednesday's crowd included the largest number of students to ever see a game at the United Spirit Arena at 5,898.

"I said today to somebody that I'm not sure that I've ever been at a basketball game where we were the home team when a crowd was louder than it was Saturday," Knight said. "I think tonight I heard a louder crowd."

With Wednesday's win and Saturday's upset of then-No. 5 Kansas, a Knight-coached team defeated two top-10 teams in back-to-back

games for the first time since the 2001-2002 season.

Zeno led Tech with 22 points including 13-of-14 from the free-throw line. But Zeno's biggest play came with eight seconds left in regulation and Tech up 69-67. A&M's Dominique Kirk inbounded the ball but Zeno picked off the pass.

"He just made a play that he didn't throw it over there hard enough," A&M coach Billy Gillespie said of Kirk's turnover. "He's all down about it but he played about as hard and as well as anybody could possibly play. If he doesn't play like he did we had no chance because they were really given it to us in the first half and he basically kept us in the game by himself."

Tech (15-5, 4-1 Big 12) jumped out to an early 7-0 lead. But A&M managed to even the score at the half behind eight first half points from Acie Law and six first half points from Kirk. For the game Law led A&M (16-3, 4-1) with 26 points.

"We just gotta go to practice and continue to work hard," Law said. "We made a lot of mistakes tonight, things you can't do to win on the road against a good team.

But we gotta hold our heads high and bounce back."

Law said the motion of defense of Tech was tough to defend.

"They're constantly moving," Law said. "Everybody's back screening and down screening and nobody's stationary. It's really tough to help guys because your guy's always running around and you try to stay stationary a little bit so you can see the ball but your guys back cutting and it's very difficult to do. We're capable of doing it because we've done it before. We've just gotta bounce back and the next time we see them we've gotta do a better job."

In the second half neither team grabbed a lead of more than five points. Tech went without a field goal for almost 10 minutes until Darryl Dora hit a 3-pointer to give Tech 67-66 lead. The Raiders managed to stay afloat by hitting 17 second-half free throws, including three by Zeno in the final 40 seconds, to secure the victory.

The win matches Tech's season total of 15 from the 2005-2006 campaign.

"They're more healthy," Gillespie said of Tech's improvement from a year ago. "They were good last year. Zeno was probably hurt a



TEXAS TECH FORWARD Michael Prince celebrates with fans after a 70-68 victory over Texas A&M Wednesday night at the United Spirit Arena.

little bit and (Jon) Plefka got hurt at the end. Those guys have always been really good players. They've got a bunch more guys probably contributing more. They're really sound defensively when they're healthy. They were really good last year and they're really good this year."

In a teleconference Monday, Knight said he's never favored the 3-point line in basketball. After his team shot 55 percent from beyond the arc, including 5-of-8 in the second half, his thoughts seemingly remained constant.

"That doesn't make me feel

better about 3-point shots," Knight said of Tech's 3-point percentage in Wednesday's game. "I don't like it. I didn't like it, not going to like it — it was good tonight though."

Tech next travels to Missouri for a 3 p.m. tip-off Saturday at the Mizzou Arena.

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# Women's tennis ready for start of Spring season

By ADAM COLEMAN  
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech women's tennis team will be ready to start the spring season as it goes into action at 5 p.m. Friday against No. 42 Oregon at the at the Lubbock Country Club.

The Red Raiders capped of their fall season competing in various tournaments and going up against some of the top players in the country. They were last in action this fall in the Western Michigan Super Challenge in Kalamazoo, Mich., where four nationally ranked teams were also competing. Those teams comprised No. 44 Indiana, No. 67 Virginia Tech and No. 8 Northwestern.

The Western Michigan Super Challenge consisted of six single flights and three double flights. In singles play, senior Lakann Wagley, junior Janet Durham and sophomore Anne Sophie Fankam all went 1-2. In doubles action, Wagley and freshman Kerryn Potgieter went 1-2 against Wisconsin's Kaylan Caiati and Morgan Tuttle, while Dur-

ham and Fankam lost their matches. The last duo, Brenna Jackson and Samantha van der Drift, won their last two matches against Indiana's Marah Calvo and Erin Clark, and Jennifer Tylor from Northwestern and Milica Zivanovic from Western Michigan.

Cari Groce, coach for the women's team, said she is about the strategy for the upcoming season.

"You have to regroup with somewhat of a new team, and we do have some returners, but for the most part, you have young players who we have to immediately get into the fold and go through and teach them our strategies," Groce said. "I think they are going to be tough tennis-wise on our home court, and we just need to get up there and get ready to fight hard."

One of the spotlights on the team this year is on senior team captain Wagley, who said she is proud to accept the responsibility of that title and looks forward to this season's opener as a challenge.

"I think mainly I should be a role model on the team, always be energetic

and enthusiastic and always get everyone pumped up," Wagley said. In agreement with Groce, Wagley said the singles play is something that needs to be improved on.

"We always been very solid in doubles; I think this year coach has seen the stress that we need to continue to improve our singles," the captain said.

Newcomer Potgieter, from Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, said she enjoys the challenge of playing in a new country and also looks forward to this season.

"It is a privilege," Potgieter said. "I never would've had this experience back home to play college tennis. I heard about the program; it's a really great program that coach is running here, and it's been an easy transition."

Potgieter said she has a simple goal this season to help her team.

"My goal is to win as many matches personally and work up the ladder," Potgieter said, "do what's best for the team."

adam.coleman@ttu.edu

# Fans arrive early for A&M game

Texas Tech students were waiting outside the United Spirit Arena to see the Red Raider basketball team take on the No. 6 Texas A&M Aggies hours before the doors opened.

Fans started lining up Tuesday afternoon for a game that was slated for a 7:00 p.m. tip-off on Wednesday.

Coach Bob Knight showed his appreciation to these loyal Tech fans by purchasing pizza and hot chocolate and having it brought to those waiting outside the USA Tuesday afternoon.

Andrew Pope, a junior accounting major from Arlington who started waiting for the game Wednesday afternoon, said this game is more important than the previous match up of Tech and No. 5 Kansas.

"I just hope we can get another victory over a top-10 team," Pope said. "It's also the Aggies, so it should be a pretty exciting game."

More than 11,000 fans were at the USA to witness the Red Raiders 69-64 upset victory over No. 5 Kansas Saturday; past attendances figures at the USA for this annual game have also been impressive. In 2006, the game brought in 15,048 fans; in 2005, it brought in 12,135 fans; in the 2002-2003 season, it brought in 12,029 fans.

Perhaps the high turnout figures can be attributed to a history of close games at the USA as well. With finishes like 70-69 at home in 2003 and an 80-78 victory over the Aggies in 2004, there is always a reason for both Tech and Aggie fans to show up.

Pope said he started waiting at the door of the USA around 12:15 p.m. and could not wait to get in.

"I'm probably the third person here," Pope said. "I'm trying to get in early to get some good seats."

adam.coleman@ttu.edu

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Cashier position available at Scoggin-Dickey Chevrolet. We are seeking a hard working individual who can quickly adapt to the fast paced atmosphere of our Administrative Office. Applicants must have organizational skills and be self-motivated. Hours are M-F 7 am - 2 pm/ Some Saturdays 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Competitive hourly pay. Apply in person 5901 Spur 327. 806-798-4000.

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**PART-TIME** Clerical Position **PART TIME** CLERICAL POSITION Project REAL A part time clerical position [10 hours+] is available with Project REAL [Recruiting Educators through Alternative Licensing] in the College of Education at Texas Tech University. Work hours will be scheduled during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Responsibilities include answering phone calls, sending recruiting materials to applicants, basic filing, preparing work documents, and working closely with 5 faculty members. Interested applicants should submit a resume and a brief statement explaining interest in this position. Application deadline is February 2, 2007. Contact person: Dr. Peggie Price Associate Professor College of Education Box 41071 Lubbock, TX 79409 peggieprice@ttu.edu 806.742.1997 x 318 806-742-1997.

**PART-TIME** nanny wanted daytime hours for 2 and 4 year old. MWF send resume and photo to randkargill@sbcglobal.net or 1122 33rd, 79411.

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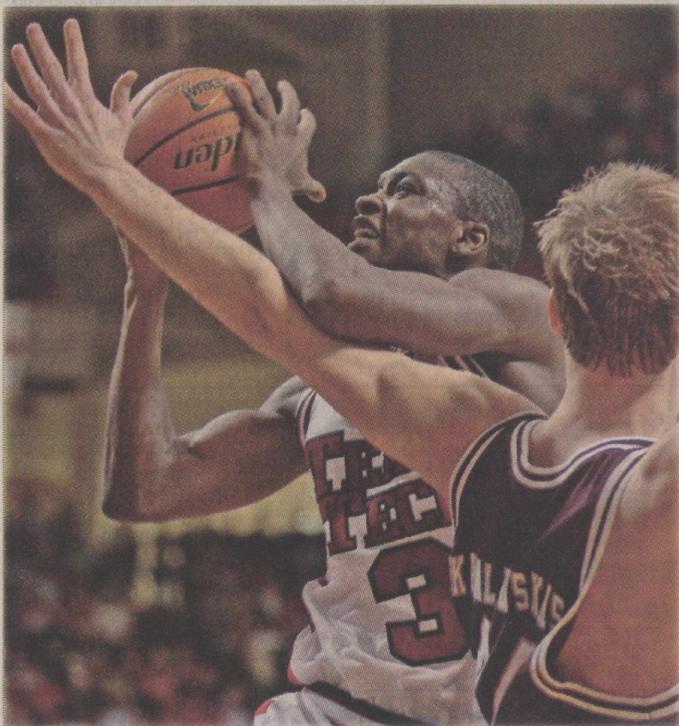
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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: TEXAS TECH COACH Bob Knight; Tech guard Jay Jackson; Tech guard Martin Zeno; Tech forward Jon Plefka; Tech guard Charlie Burgess; Tech Fro Bros; Tech guard Martin Zeno.



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