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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31, 2007
VOLUME 81 ■ ISSUE 84

(INSIDE)



STUDENTS LOSE FOURTH STREET ROUTE
SEE PAGE 2

(INBRIEF)

STATE

32 injured when train collides with bus

HOUSTON (AP) — At least 32 Shell Oil Co. workers were injured early Tuesday when a train collided with a bus carrying contract employees at the company's Deer Park refinery.

The workers were all conscious and taken to area hospitals for treatment or further evaluation, with injuries ranging from bumps and bruises to a possible hip dislocation, a company spokesman said.

About 30 to 40 contractors were aboard the school-type bus when a Port Terminal Rail Authority train crashed into the vehicle, company officials said.

NATION

EPA plans to tighten smog standards

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal scientists want to tighten smog standards, a step that would allow tens of millions of Americans to breathe easier. The plan also would run head-on into President Bush's hopes of weaning Americans from gasoline by using more smog-producing ethanol.

Environmental Protection Agency scientists on Wednesday say that tougher standards "would provide greater health protection for sensitive groups, including asthmatic children and other people with lung disease."

WORLD

Palestinian cease-fire takes hold

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Gaza's warring factions began to hold their fire Tuesday as a truce took effect across the volatile territory and brought hopes for an end to the infighting that has left 36 people dead in five days.

But the killing of a Hamas militant by rival Palestinians — combined with an Israeli airstrike on a smuggling tunnel following a suicide bombing — underscored the fragility of any lull in Gaza's bloodshed.

DEATH TOLL

3080

U.S. Military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press (compiled by the Department of Defense)

WEATHER

Today



RAIN/SNOW
HIGH 46/
LOW 30

Thursday



CLOUDY
HIGH 49/
LOW 32

INSIDE

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Bombers target Shiite worshippers

By BASSEM MROUE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Bombers struck Shiite worshippers in two cities Tuesday and gunmen ambushed a busload of pilgrims in a series of attacks that killed at least 58 people as more than 2 million Shiites jammed major shrines for ceremonies marking Ashoura, the holiest day of the Shiite calendar.

The bloodshed took place despite heightened security fol-

lowing a battle with messianic Shiites who authorities said planned a large assault on Ashoura ceremonies. With security so intense at the main venues, extremists chose targets in smaller cities where safety measures were less stringent.

In the deadliest attack, a suicide bomber blew himself up among a crowd of worshippers entering a Shiite mosque in Mandali near the Iranian border, killing 26 people and wounding 47, according to police. At least 12 more died and 28 were

wounded when a bomb exploded in a garbage can as Shiites were performing outdoor rituals in the largely Kurdish city of Khanaqin, police said.

In Baghdad, gunmen in two cars opened fire on a bus carrying pilgrims to the capital's most important Shiite shrine, killing seven and wounding seven, police said. Hours later, mortar shells rained down on two mostly Sunni neighborhoods, killing nine and wounding 30 in what police said appeared to be a reprisal attack.

One person was killed in a mortar attack on a Shiite neighborhood, police said. A Shiite man was shot dead in Baghdad and two policemen were killed in a bombing in Mosul, police said. At an Arab League meeting in Tunisia, Iraqi Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani asked other Arab countries to set aside room in their hospitals for wounded Iraqi police.

Intense security prevented major violence in the Shiite holy cities of Karbala and Najaf, venues for the biggest and most important Ashoura

commemorations. Police found eight bodies Tuesday of people slain by sectarian death squads in Baghdad, the lowest single-day total in months.

Ashoura ceremonies mark the 7th-century death of Imam Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Mohammad, in a battle near Karbala that cemented the Sunni-Shiite schism. Worshippers beat themselves with chains, slice their heads with knives and pound their chests in expres-

BOMBERS continued on page 5

RUSHING RAIDERS



WALTER ROSADO/The Daily Toreador

Officials prepare for possibility of fans rushing court

By PAUL ROBERTS
STAFF WRITER

As the Texas Tech men's basketball team prepares to face University of Texas Wednesday at the United Spirit Arena, event coordinators prepare for a potential record breaking crowd and fans who want nothing more than to exchange high fives with the team at half court after the game.

Nathan Horrell, event coordinator for the United Spirit Arena, said the event's staff are taking precautions for a large crowd, but do not expect fans to rush the court like they did in the games against Kansas University and Texas A&M University.

"We are not going to the extreme, but we are prepared in case Tech fans do decide to rush the court," Horrell said. "Texas is not ranked as high as they usually are and the fans already

did it twice this year."

Horrell said Tech police are going to be at tomorrow's game, but they assist in security in all events at the United Spirit Arena.

He said the event staff has a specific procedure in the event fans do run down the stands to celebrate in the middle of the court.

"Our first priority is to protect the court," Horrell said. "But you can't stop a crowd of 6,000 students, so the game officials are our next priority. Then we protect their team and our coaches. As for our players, they tend to get involved in the celebration."

He said in both of the upsets against Kansas and A&M, only one injury was reported.

"A young lady suffered a minor injury," he said. "We took her to the hospital and she was

RUSHING continued on page 3

Day Zero: revolutionary procedure changes man's life

By ANNA SCHUMANN
STAFF WRITER

Tuesday was "day zero" for one patient who underwent what doctors have called a "risky procedure" at the University Medical Center.

The patient, Lionel Garcia, 33, of Abilene, said he was diagnosed with adenocarcinoma, a form of cancer, months ago. Side effects of the chemotherapy left him with damaged bone marrow.

Weldon Kolb, a bone-marrow transplant-cell engineer at UMC, said Tuesday's procedure, one of two taking place at UMC this week, engrafts two types of blood from the umbilical cord and placenta taken during normal childbirths and stored in cord-blood banks nationwide.

Kolb and Brenda Williams, bone marrow transplant coordinator at UMC, performed the procedure at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday.

The cord-blood units were transported to the patient's room from Kolb's laboratory in a case of liquid nitrogen. Kolb said if the units were not kept cold, the cells in the blood would not work properly. From the case of liquid nitrogen, the units were taken out of metal containers so only the bags of blood were exposed. The bags of blood were then examined for cracks and placed in a tub of room-temperature water, which Kolb said had

anti-bacterial and anti-fungal solution in it.

The units of cord-blood were transplanted one at a time; the first was dripped into the body, the second was infused directly.

Williams said the second was infused because the first unit was not dripping as quickly as the nurses wanted it to, and with infusion, the nurses have more control.

During the procedure, the nurses frequently asked how Garcia was doing. He was awake for both halves of the procedure.

Williams said during the first half of the procedure, Garcia became nauseous and anxious.

"It's a result of the DMSO preservative used to protect the cord blood," she said. "It was normal and expected."

Williams said before the procedure, Garcia was given medicine to minimize his reaction to the preservative.

After the first half of the procedure, Williams said the patient was in good condition physically but feeling anxious.

At 11:50 a.m., Kolb, Williams and the bone-marrow-transplant nursing staff prepared for the second transplant. A transplant-unit nurse performed the second transplant.

Though medicine was supposed to allow Garcia to sleep through the second half of the procedure, he remained



SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

LEFT: CELL ENGINEER WELDON Kolb, and nurse Eva Hinejosa Perez pump cord blood into Lionel Garcia's catheter, Tuesday at University Medical Center.

DAY ZERO continued on page 3

Day Zero

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

awake.

Nurses took Garcia's body temperature throughout the procedure.

"We monitor his temperature frequently," Williams said. "Because the units are stored in liquid nitrogen, they are very cold. If the blood is infused too quickly, because it's cold, it could lead to hypothermia which could lead to cardiac arrhythmias."

Halfway through the second part of the procedure, Garcia, who wore a beanie to keep warm, said his stomach was feeling well.

During the procedure, Garcia alternated between looking at his wife, who was in the room, and watching the procedure.

About 20 minutes into the procedure, nurses noticed a rash had developed on Garcia's shoulder.

Williams said this is not unusual.

"It could be a reaction to the blood or to the DMSO that caused the nausea earlier," she said.

Garcia's wife, Leslie Garcia, said the rash scared her.

"The whole thing is kind of scary," she said. "And I don't know what's

going on with that rash."

She said all she could wish for was for her husband to make it through the procedure safely.

"I think God's got a plan for him," she said.

Leslie Garcia said she plans to stay with her husband until he is released from the hospital—a time period that could stretch between four weeks and five weeks from day zero.

Williams said Lionel Garcia will feel the effects of the transplant soon.

She said Lionel Garcia will be able to walk around and may be able to eat directly following the procedure. However, she said Garcia will feel worse before he feels better.

"In a couple of weeks, when they start getting engrafted, he can start feeling better from his original illness," Williams said.

After the procedure was over, Williams said the patient was doing well.

Kolb said he had to leave immediately to fill out the paperwork about the transplants, some of the only work he said he actually did Wednesday.

"Day zero is kind of anticlimactic," he said. "All the work went into it before today. The day of, we just thaw it and use it."

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Rushing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fine."

Horrell said he is not opposed to students rushing the court, but only in special circumstances.

"Monumental wins, like last week's Kansas game, do call for a court rushing," he said. "But, students should not do it every game."

Horrell is not the only one in favor of special celebration.

Robert Cavazos, a junior business marketing major from San Antonio, said he rushed the court in both the Kansas game and A&M game, but will remain in the stands after tomorrow's game.

"They are not a top ten team, like Kansas and A&M were," Cavazos said.

There is no other feeling like upsetting a top ranked team then celebrating with other fans at half-court of the United Spirit Arena, Cavazos said.

"It's weird," he said. "Your team just won and you rush the court to exchange high fives and hugs with total strangers. You know,

you're jumping up and down, the adrenaline is still running and you're sharing this with people you've never seen before."

He said the moment before charging the court is almost as exciting as the act itself.

"It's the anticipation factor," Cavazos said. "It's knowing what your team is about to do, knocking off a top team in the nation. I love the thrill and excitement. Upsets like these are stuff you dream of as a kid."

Students and fans should be praised for continuing the tradition of rushing the court after an upset, Cavazos said, like Wednesday's game against Texas A&M.

"Anytime your team knocks off a top ten team in the nation, you should have the right to rush the court," he said.

Despite all the excitement and emotion that comes with a big win, Cavazos said he realizes the danger students face when rushing the court.

"That's the risk you take," Cavazos said.

During his freshman year, he said he recalls falling out of the walk way and into a row of seats following a Tech victory.

"So, luckily I did not get trampled," he said.

Cavazos is not alone when sharing stories of rushing the court after a big upset.

Justin Jones, a junior marketing and management major from West Des Moines, Iowa, said he lost his shoe during the victory celebration after the Kansas game.

"I was jumping around exchanging high fives and looking for my shoe at the same time. But still, it was a lot of fun," Jones said.

After watching the highlights of the game against A&M on Sportscenter, Jones said he was thrilled to see the excitement on a nationally televised show.

"Anytime you make Sportscenter for rushing the court, that's good publicity," he said.

Though his team was defeated by Tech last week, Texas A&M coach Billy Gillispie said he was thrilled to see the amount of passion Tech fans had.

"I think it's great for college basketball," Gillispie said. "I know I'm in the minority and I think it's great. And I guess I'm supposed to say something else probably but I think it's great. I think when you go and support

your team like they did tonight and you help them win, they need to experience some of the exhilaration that the players and coaches and everyone involved with Texas Tech basketball should be feeling tonight."

Jones and Horrell said Gillispie is not the only coach who enjoys fans supporting their team.

Jones said though he saw Tech coach Bob Knight asking students to be careful after Wednesday's win, he believes Knight enjoys the abundance of fans at the basketball games this season.

"I think he absolutely loves the fans here," Cavazos said. "He is finally seeing the excitement that he saw in Indiana. Once we win our national championship, then we will always have fans on that same level of excitement."

Horrell, United Spirit Arena coordinator, said he also feels Knight loves the added excitement.

"I think he absolutely loves his fans, and he has acknowledged this," he said. "The Kansas game set a record for attendance only to be smashed in the Texas A&M game. I think this makes coach Knight extremely happy."

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Report alleges widespread political interference in climate science

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic chairman of a House panel examining the government's response to climate change said Tuesday there is evidence that senior Bush administration officials sought repeatedly "to mislead the public by injecting doubt into the science of global warming."

Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., said he and the top Republican on his oversight committee, Rep. Tom Davis of Virginia, have sought documents from the administration on climate policy, but repeatedly been rebuffed.

"The committee isn't trying to obtain state secrets or documents that could affect our immediate national security," said Waxman, opening the hearing. "We are simply seeking answers to whether the White House's political staff is inappropriately censoring impartial government scientists."

"We know that the White House possesses documents that contain evidence of an attempt by senior administration officials to mislead the public by injecting doubt into the science of global warming and minimize the potential danger," Waxman said.

Administration officials were not scheduled to testify before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. In the past the White House has said it has only sought to inject balance into reports on climate change. Present Bush has acknowledged concerns about global warming, but strongly opposes mandatory caps of greenhouse gas emissions, arguing that approach would be too costly.

Waxman said his committee had not received documents it requested from the White House and other agencies, and that a handful of papers received on the eve of the hearing "add nothing to our inquiry."

Two private advocacy groups, meanwhile, presented to the panel a

survey of government climate scientists showing that many of them say they have been subjected to political pressure aimed at downplaying the threat of global warming.

The groups presented a survey that shows two in five of the 279 climate scientists who responded to a questionnaire complained that some of their scientific papers had been edited in a way that changed their meaning. Nearly half of the 279 said in response to another question that at some point they had been told to delete reference to "global warming" or "climate change" from a report.

The questionnaire was sent by the Union of Concerned Scientists, a private advocacy group. The report also was based on "firsthand experiences" described in interviews with the Government Accountability Project, which helps government whistleblowers, lawmakers were told.

At the same time, Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., sought to gauge her colleague's sentiment on climate change. She opened a meeting where senators were to express their views on global warming in advance of a broader set of hearings on the issue.

Among those scheduled to make comments were two presidential hopefuls — Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Barack Obama, D-Ill. Both lawmakers favor mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, something opposed by President Bush, who argues such requirements would threaten economic growth.

The intense interest about climate change comes as some 500 climate scientists gather in Paris this week to put the final touches on a United Nations report on how warming, as a result of a growing concentration of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere, is likely to affect sea levels.


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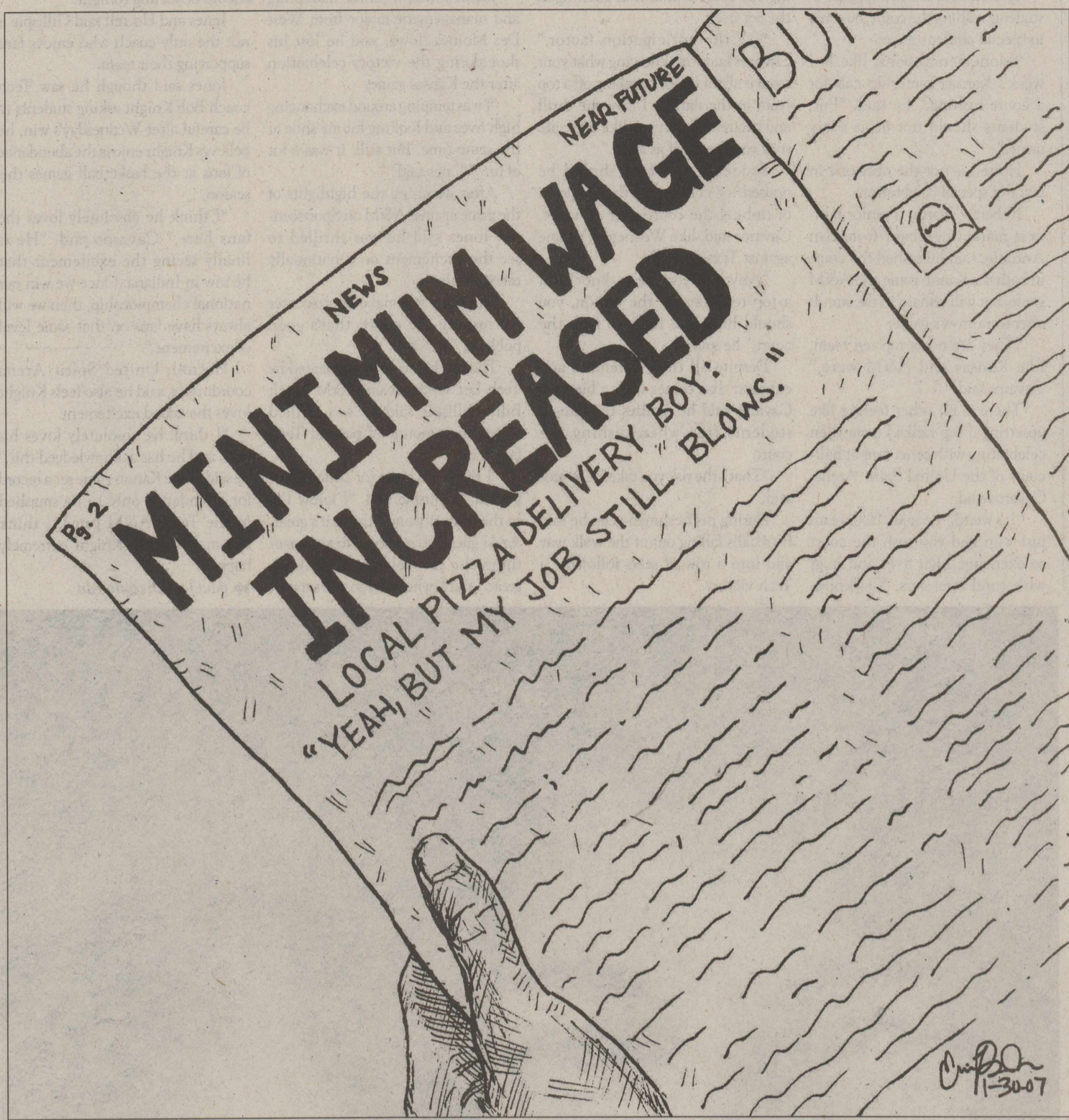
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OPINIONS



Barack Obama has the audacity of hope

Last summer's most anticipated speaker in the Congressional Intern Lecture Series was a senator for less than two years — his inexperience was a blemish in the eyes of the beltway establishment. But to the 1,500 starry-eyed interns in attendance, Barack Obama spoke with a vision and understanding not heard in the city Hollywood sent Mr. Smith to in 1939.

Matt Wisnewski



the true stripes of what Republican supremacy cost America.

Their policies' catastrophes dominate the front page. Our borders are not secure, the federal debt continues to skyrocket, and Bush has lost all credibility in Middle Eastern affairs (especially in Iraq).

What many American heartlanders and secularists realize is this era of cut-throat partisanship requires a politician who demonstrates civility and diplomacy. Obama is the light at the end of the tunnel.

America's politically disillusioned youth have not gravitated toward a politico since Bobby Kennedy. Obama's new-aged political approach seeks to reclaim this constituency that has become uncaring as the result of the poisons of lobbyists, fundraisers and absolutism.

The tone of a book is set by the cover art. The colors are neutral and inviting. Obama's eyes stare at you from a face that has not been sullied by Washington's style of excess. His posture, leaning confidently forward, conveys a personal

message he wants to share with you — a belief in your ability to be the change America's needs.

The book starts not by what separates us, but by what Americans have in common: "We need a new kind of politics; one that can excavate and build upon those shared understandings that pull us together." Notice how similar this sounds to bipartisanship.

Obama recognizes the importance of a differing point of view in political dialogue, whereas today's politician sees this as a divider: "Our democracy might work a bit better if we recognize that all of us possess values that are worth of respect."

Most importantly, he differentiates between principles (values) and dogma (ideology): "Values are faithfully applied to the facts before us, while ideology overrides whatever facts call theory into question."

Come Aug. 25, 2008, when the Democrat National Conventional begins, I expect the party's nominee and America's next president to be Barack Hussein Obama.

To appreciate this man's brilliance, pick up his book and dissect it like a generation before us did with Barry Goldwater's "The Conscience of a Conservative."

When done properly, politics can bring people together. It can instill pride in us. Then you see George W.

Bush on TV — the man who made Americans feel ashamed of their national government. America's best and worst in the same city.

Successful politicians must reach out to all their bases. As one respected Republican staffer used to tell me, "Politics is the art of compromise."

Our nation is diverse in its people and interests. Agriculture is very important to U.S. Congressional District 19 (27 West Texas counties including Lubbock); 30 percent of America's cotton is produced here.

Social issues are extremely important to evangelical Christians. Global warming is extremely important to your eco-friendly voter. Businesses care about taxes, and elderly residents are concerned over Social Security and Medicare.

America's executive-branch officials have failed to display the fortitude needed to compromise, and our country is hurting as a result.

I know where my vote's going come March 4, 2008, (Texas' Democratic Presidential Primary). After you read this book, you'll think the same.

Wisnewski is a junior general business major from Plano. E-mail him at matt.wisnewski@ttu.edu.

My brother's truck and other reasons why the world is ending

Nope, no biblical revelations here folks, just a few comments from a casual observer — I hope you're not too disappointed. I planned on writing something different this week, but the other night my brother's truck received the screwed end of a hit and run, and I had a change of heart.

And believe me, we're not talking just a couple scratches and a broken tail light here. My roommate heard the impact and ran outside in time to see the sad excuse of a human being put the truck in drive (a white, newer model, extended-cab Dodge or Chevrolet with a newly crumpled front end — e-mail me if you know this person) and rattle away down the street trailing transmission fluid.

If you've ever been victimized — victim, what an ugly word to have to pin on yourself, no? — you are probably familiar with the overwhelming frustration of not being in control of an aspect of your own life. You tire yourself out working to stay on top of your responsibilities just to have some jerk come speeding around the corner and crash into your finally stable life.

Standing in the street among the broken pieces of grill and tail light, all I could do was wonder what kind of person could cause such devastation and then just flee? (To hearken back to last week, undoubtedly a drunken GenNexter.) I again was disgusted with how rarely we are able to count on our fellow man to do the right thing.

Even though I think we all have to be accountable for our own actions, I don't believe in innate knowledge. Being able to recognize and act on the right decision (versus the wrong one) is something we must initially be taught. A major problem with that rather obvious fact is one of the main places people gain this fundamental knowledge is in church — and churches are teaching it wrong. (Don't mind that noise; it's just the rush of hate mail streaming in to my inbox. Geez, they haven't even read the rest of the article yet.)

There is a misconception the Bible contains the adage, "God helps those who help themselves" (I looked it up — it isn't so). However, it is a fantastic message that has somehow been linked with contemporary Christianity. But is that what is really propagated among Christians? I don't think so. Not

Taryn Chesshire



consistently. And as I've previously made clear, I find consistency in leaders to be highly important.

I looked this question up on the Web site gotquestions.org. Yes, I am aware the Internet is not the most reliable of sources to find answers to subjective questions. However, if I were personally considering accepting Christianity and wanted to check out a few questions, the Internet would be a likely first bet for me, as it would be for you.

According to the Web site, God will not help you if you sit back and wait for him to do everything for you. Good so far. Then the site contained the following text: "In terms of salvation, we are all utterly helpless. We are all infected by sin, (Romans 3:23) and condemned as a result of that sin. (Romans 6:23) Nothing we can do on our own can remedy this situation. (Isaiah 64:6) We are helpless! Thankfully, God is the helper of the helpless."

My main issue here is we've been hearing this all our lives. We have been taught — and are teaching — man is unavoidably weak and needs to rely on a higher power for daily support.

What we should be teaching is that we must be able to depend on ourselves. Not in a negative way, like the world is a big scary place where nothing matters because only death waits looming in your future. That's just as wrong as saying it's OK to be weak and dependent.

When we start learning to be self-reliant and stop waiting for help to rain from above, we will have a society of people who can be counted on to do the right thing.

Look, it's not like the hit and run happened on someone's way to church (I'm clearly just linking the two thoughts in order to place an APB — All Points Bulletin — out for the responsible truck).

But seriously, in this stronger society, my brother would have been greeted by an honest confession and a promise to pay. Instead, he got a twisted truck bed and a hefty bill — all because some jerk was too weak to know how to handle a mistake.

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Policy: The Daily Treador strives for accuracy and fairness in the reporting of news. If a report is wrong or misleading, a request for a correction or a clarification may be made.

Publishing information
Periodical Postage paid by The Daily Treador, Student Media building, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, 79409. Publication number: 766480. 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 Treador, Box 43081 Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

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Blaming MySpace won't solve sex-offender issues

STAFF EDITORIAL
THE DAILY IOWAN (U. IOWA)

(U-WIRE) IOWA CITY, Iowa — The dangers of the Internet have again arisen, and this time they've taken the form of a 14-year-old Iowa girl who was allegedly lured away by two men she met through MySpace.com and assaulted. The popular networking Web site has received the brunt of the criticism, and the incident raises familiar and serious issues we face in our networked society. Much of the blame, and thus much of the attention, is focused on the Web site that sexual predators use to approach their victims. However, a more reasonable place to start addressing this issue would be with parenting or the ways in which sex offenders are dealt with by our society.

Of the social networking Web

sites out there, such as Facebook, Xanga, and LiveJournal, MySpace is getting all the press, much of it negative. MySpace is being sued by several families as a result of assaults allegedly stemming from use of the site. It's an unrealistic imposition for a Web site to so strictly police everything that occurs on the site. There's a cost in time and money, as well as a logistical cost. How exactly do you regulate the exchange of information by people? It's easy to blame a site such as MySpace because it shifts attention away from more difficult problems, such as handling sex offenders or increasing parental awareness and responsibility. A more disconcerting aspect of the case in Iowa was that both men were convicted sex offenders and living with three other offenders. Iowa's ineffectual residency restrictions for sex offenders likely

resulted in this cluster. Effective answers are needed in this situation, not irrational reactions to MySpace.

MySpace is not unique to any other common area in which people may gather — a predator could easily operate in a public place. Granted, there is the relative anonymity and categorization capabilities that makes disseminating personal information easier online, but that is the service MySpace is attempting to provide. MySpace is more threatening to parents because of the gap that has grown between the tech-savvy children of today and their parents.

The argument is that MySpace needs to provide better protection for children not mature enough to make responsible decisions when using the site. At the same time, however, parents are often allowing their children to use

these sites unsupervised. Being a parent isn't easy, but there must be expectations made of them, as well. Knowing that Web sites such as MySpace exist, parents must not simply require improvements be made on the site's end but assess their own situations and monitor their children's online activities. Once the novelty wears off, MySpace will likely go the way of cell phones, cars, and the mall in terms of need for parental concern.

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Bombers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sions of grief over the death of Imam Hussein.

More than 1.5 million pilgrims, mostly Iraqis but from as far away as India and Pakistan, jammed the southern city of Karbala for the Ashoura commemorations, according to provincial Gov. Akeel al-Khazaali. Hundreds of thousands more joined rituals in Najaf, Baghdad and other cities.

In Karbala, all private transport was banned — including bicycles — and pilgrims had to submit to body-searches at dozens of checkpoints before reaching the two golden-domed shrines of Imam Hussein and his half brother Imam Abbas. U.S. unmanned surveillance aircraft flew over the city to look for signs of trouble, al-Khazaali said.

"Even if the terrorists tear us to pieces, we will not stop coming to visit Imam Hussein," said Abbas Karim, 27, a laborer from Nasiriyah.

Security has been tight at Ashoura commemorations since a string of bombings and suicide attacks killed at least 181 people at Shiite shrines in Baghdad and Karbala in 2004. Last year's Ashoura commemorations were largely peaceful, but suicide bombers killed 55 Shiites in 2005.

This year, fears of sectarian attacks were running high because of ongoing

Sunni-Shiite violence, which surged after last February's bombing of a major Shiite shrine in the mostly Sunni city of Samarra.

Security measures were further tightened after U.S.-backed Iraqi forces fought a fierce, all-day battle last weekend with hundreds of messianic Shiites who officials said were planning to slaughter pilgrims and clerics during Ashoura commemorations in Najaf.

In Najaf, deputy Gov. Abdul-Hussein Abtan said that more than 300 militants were killed and 650 captured in the battle, which ended Monday. He said 11 Iraqi troops were killed and 30 wounded. Two U.S. soldiers died when their helicopter crashed during the fighting.

Both of Tuesday's bombings took place in Diyala province, where Sunni-Shiite violence is raging.

In Khanaqin, Abed Jassim Hassan said he was participating in the rituals with his 11-year-old son when "all of a sudden the bloodshed struck." Hassan spoke as he held the boy, whose right leg was broken and bleeding.

Nawal Hassan said she pleaded with her husband not to go to the ceremonies but went with him when he refused to stay home. Her husband was wounded.

"I had a feeling that something might happen because terrorists are always targeting Shiites," she said.

Khanaqin's mayor, Mohammed Mulla Hassan, said no outdoor re-

ligious events would be held in the city until further notice to avoid more bloodshed. He was referring to the anniversary Friday of Imam Hussein's burial and ceremonies marking the 40th day after his death.

Under Saddam Hussein, pilgrims from Iran were banned and even Iraq's Shiites, who comprise about 60 percent of the country's 27 million people, were restricted from performing the Ashoura rituals. After Shiites gained political power following his ouster, Shiite political parties have encouraged large turnouts as an affirmation of Shiite clout.

That has embittered many Sunni Muslims, who frown on Shiite rituals of self-flagellation and public grief.

Also Tuesday, the government announced the arrest of a provincial leader of al-Qaida in Iraq. The terror group's late leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi encouraged attacks on Shiite civilians, considering them heretics and collaborators with the Americans. Government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said the arrest took place in Beiji in Saddam's home province of Salahuddin.

He said 59 others, including a Libyan, were arrested in a series of raids in Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said in remarks published Tuesday that he hopes sectarian militias will be dissolved and the Sunni insurgency ended within six months.

Local school districts target bus safety as top priority

By BEN MAKI
STAFF WRITER

With an abundance of school bus accidents across the nation in January, area school districts are making sure their busses are safe.

Despite all the attention these recent accidents have received, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Web site, students are eight times safer riding a bus to school than they are riding to school with their parents.

Jolie Haines, safety and training supervisor for Durham Transportation Services for the Lubbock Independent School District, said Durham is safety-minded, and safety is the top priority of the company. It starts with making sure the employees are safe and fit to handle driving buses filled with students, she said.

"We perform extensive background checks and training of our employees," Haines said. "We train them for two to three weeks before they even get to start driving. We then have a safety meeting every month to be more proactive about

safety issues."

She said Durham does not hire anyone who has received a DWI citation or has been convicted with a felony or any crimes that involve abuse, violence or anything to do with a child. The company will not hire anyone who has more than two moving violations in the previous three years or any "big crimes" like evading police or drag racing, she said. Potential employees are given a safety survey Haines deemed a "psychological test" on their ideas of driving.

Training includes a defensive-driving course and a 20-hour certification course.

"By the time we're done training them," Haines said, "they will be backing up, and parallel parking and backing through serpentine."

Haines said backing through serpentine is a drill in which the driver has to back up around five cones that are placed 40 feet apart.

The company does not believe seat belts are the answer to keep students safe while on the bus, she said.

"Durham believes the safest seating is compartmentalized seating," Haines said, "which means students are sitting

in their seats properly, using absorbent seat-backs and the seat are placed closely together. We don't use seat belts, because if there is a fire, we don't have to cut the seat belts to get the students out."

In a 2002 report, the NHTSA found lap belts could cause severe neck and abdominal damage in a frontal crash.

Faye Barbian, spokesperson for Abilene Independent School District, said the school district runs its own bus service. She said the school district has had about five accidents during the current school year.

"It's a random thing and we've only had a couple drivers who were at fault," Barbian said.

She said the school district uses a common system, as do the other school districts in the state.

"We work on the same point system as everybody in the state where if you have over 10 points, you can't drive a bus," Barbian said. "If it's your fault, you get three points and then you get two points just for being involved. So, if you were at fault you would get five points, and if it wasn't your fault you automatically get two."

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Senate Republican challenges Bush on war powers

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate Republican on Tuesday directly challenged President Bush's declaration that "I am the decision-maker" on issues of war.

"I would suggest respectfully to the president that he is not the sole decider," Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said during a hearing on Congress' war powers amid an increasingly harsh debate over Iraq war policy. "The decider is a shared and joint responsibility," Specter said.

The question of whether to use its power over the government's purse strings to force an end to the war in Iraq, and under what conditions, is among the issues faced by the newly empowered Democratic majority in Congress, and even some of the president's political allies as well.

No one challenges the notion that Congress can stop a war by canceling its funding. In fact, Vice President Dick Cheney challenged Congress to back up its objections to Bush's plan to put 21,500 more troops in Iraq by zeroing out the war budget.

Underlying Cheney's gambit is the consensus understanding that such a drastic move is doubtful because it would be fraught with political peril.

But there are other legislative options to force the war's end, say majority Democrats and some of Bush's

traditional Republican allies.

The alternatives range from capping the number of troops permitted in Iraq to cutting off funding for troop deployments beyond a certain date or setting an end date for the war.

"The Constitution makes Congress a coequal branch of government. It's time we start acting like it," said Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis., who presided over a hearing Tuesday on Congress' war powers. He also is pushing legislation to end the war by eventually prohibiting funding for the deployment of troops to Iraq.

His proposal, like many others designed to force an end to U.S. involvement in the bloody conflict, is far from having enough support even to come up for a vote on the Senate floor.

Closer to that threshold is a non-binding resolution declaring that Bush's proposal to send 21,500 more troops to Baghdad and Anbar province is "not in the national interest." The Senate could take up that measure early next month.

But some senators, complaining that the resolution is symbolic, are forwarding tougher bills.

Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer of California, for example, is a sponsor of a bill that would call for troops to come home in 180 days and allow for a minimum number of forces to be left behind to hunt down terrorists and train Iraqi security forces.

"Read the Constitution," Boxer told her colleagues last week. "The Congress has the power to declare war. And on multiple occasions, we used our power to end conflicts."

Congress used its war powers to cut off or put conditions on funding for the Vietnam war and conflicts in Cambodia, Somalia and Bosnia.

Under the Constitution, lawmakers have the ability to declare war and fund military operations, while the president has control of military forces.

But presidents also can veto legislation and Bush likely has enough support in Congress on Iraq to withstand any veto override attempts.

Explosion levels W.Va. gas station, killing 4 people; at least 5 others hurt

GHENT, W.Va. (AP) — Fumes from a leaking propane tank exploded inside a convenience store near a ski resort Tuesday, shattering the building into a pile of debris and killing at least four people, authorities said.

At least five other people were seriously hurt at the Flat Top Little General Store, where scarcely anything remained except twisted metal and a sign showing the price of gasoline.

The blast was felt at least a mile away at a store selling skiing gear.

"I thought we got struck by lightning. The whole building shook. The power went off," said Ben Monast,

manager of the Ski Shop.

Authorities said the explosion happened just as a fire truck was pulling into the station in response to a reported gas leak. The fatalities included a paramedic and a retired firefighter who was also a building inspector.

State Fire Marshal Sterling Lewis said an above-ground tank capable of holding 500 pounds of propane was being worked on at the time of the blast. The gas apparently drifted into the business and exploded.

"It is our initial thought that the fumes entered into the building and had to have an ignition point," Lewis said.

The propane tank and the store's

underground gasoline tanks did not explode, he said.

"Imagine putting off an explosion in your home and when you walked up to your home, the only thing you have left is toothpicks," Lewis said.

William Manning, a bartender at the nearby Bear's Den, said he heard the explosion at his home four miles away. Manning drove to the store because his next-door neighbor works there. He helped carry the woman to an ambulance.

"I barely recognized her. I couldn't believe it was her," said Manning, who cried as he talked to The Associated Press.

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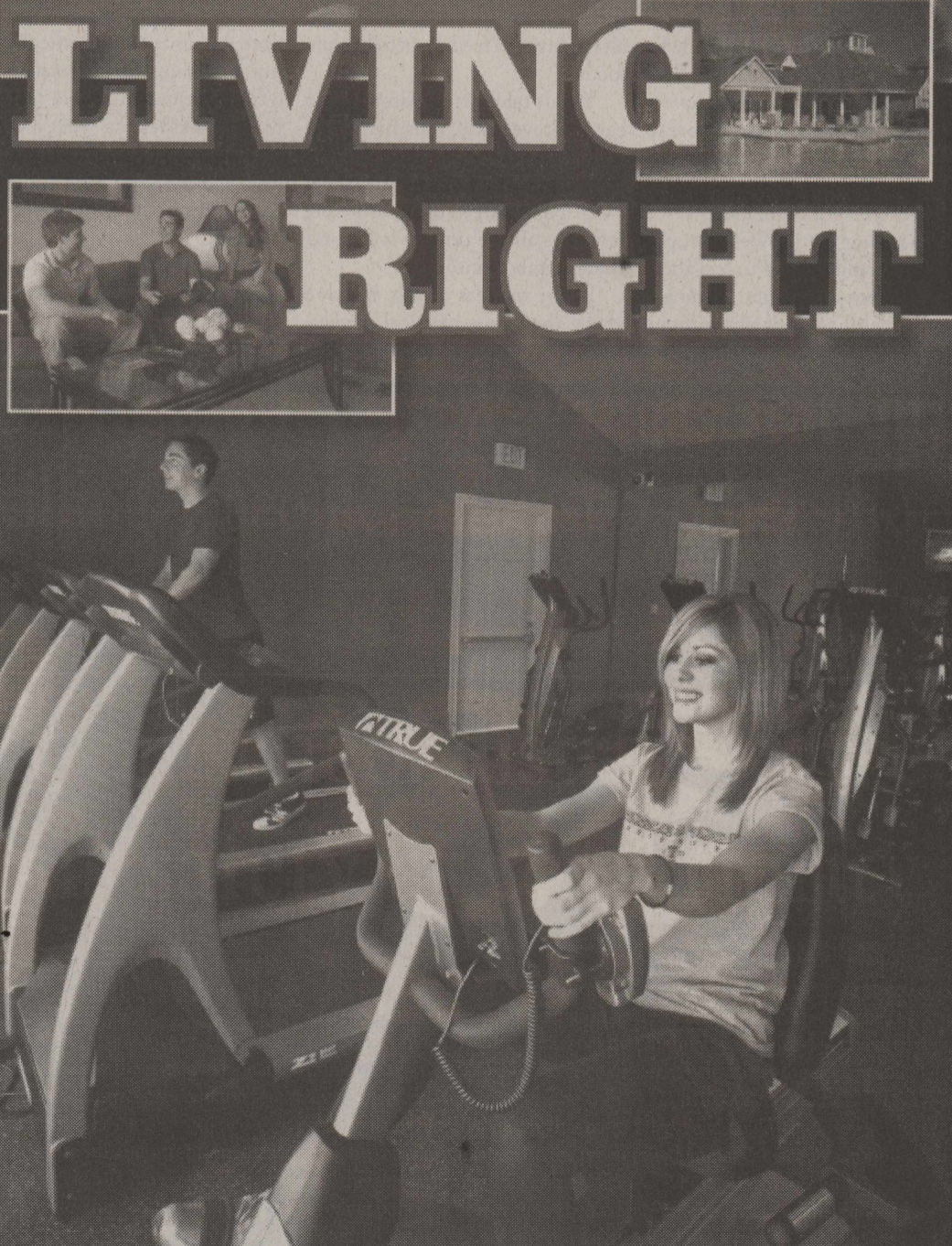
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F.I.T. Tech: Unique way to get healthy

By ALLISON LOWE
STAFF WRITER

Some Texas Tech students, faculty and staff members may need a little extra motivation from one another to get in shape this semester. Luckily, there is a program designed specifically for that purpose.

Debra Reed, Helen Devitt Jones chair of nutrition in the College of Human Sciences, is partnering with Tech's first lady Jennifer Whitmore, in putting on the third annual F.I.T. Tech program.

F.I.T. Tech is an eight-week program in which organized teams are formed; each team walks 830 miles, the distance across Texas. The program, which will take place between Feb. 5 and April 2, was created to offer an opportunity for team members to work together to increase physical activity and eat more fruits and vegetables.

Whitmore said she has never been a self-motivated exerciser and is frightened by the statistics she sees across the country.

"There was never any hesitation in supporting it (the program) because how can you not support better health?" Whitmore said.

"Across the country, if we can attack the obesity problem, one of the places to do it is in a large institution that can reach a lot of people."

Each team involved in the program will consist of six members working together to reach a designated goal, Reed said. Students, faculty and staff can participate with one another on teams; they can create a mixed team or choose to create an unmixed team and work within their social groups.

Reed said 62 percent of Texans are overweight, and the purpose of the program is to improve physical fitness and eating habits across the Tech campus.

"This is Tech's response to obesity in the news," Reed said.

The physical activity required of the program is not confined to a gym setting, she said. It can include activities such as walking, swimming, yoga classes or any other means of recreational activity students can think of.

Each team will have a captain, and each member will report his or her individual daily-workout minutes to the captain, Reed said. The captain will enter weekly minutes onto an Excel spreadsheet for the whole team.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LESLI BIEDIGER

RIGHT: FIRST LADY JENNIFER Whitmore with other FIT Tech walkers at one of the Fall 2006 weekly celebrity walks. Walkers were treated to free Texas Grapefruit.

Team members can workout together or workout on their own. An advantage of the program is friends can workout together and use one another as motivation to get healthy.

While the program encourages

keeping track of fruits and vegetables eaten, it is not a requirement. Reed said extra seminars on various nutrition topics, healthier food choices and ways to increase physical activity will be held weekly. Participants in the program can

choose to attend these seminars and receive extra minutes.

Chris Gibson, a senior exercise and sport sciences major from Brownwood, said exercise has a huge impact on stress. He said he strongly encourages student involvement in the program.

"It is not going to be the same run-of-the-mill fitness seminar," Gibson said.

Laura Hager, a senior exercise and sports sciences major from Snyder, said she thinks most Tech students are in too big of a hurry to eat correctly, and she said she believes the program will give them the right information and will put them on a team that will motivate them. She said students will both do better in school and sleep better if they eat correctly and exercise.

"The program is an easy way for students, staff and faculty to exercise and have fun together," Hager said.

Reed said faculty and staff members should join the program for their own health because of the increasing rates of cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. She said if faculty and staff can prevent these disorders by taking care of their bodies, they will be

healthier employees and parents — and have a healthier future.

She also said healthier students make healthier future employers and healthier parents, and Tech students should keep this in mind.

"The reason why we want students to do this is because healthy habits are one of the top 10 things employers want students to learn in college," Reed said.

The past two F.I.T. Tech programs had a combined total of 1,400 participants who have walked a total of 140,000 miles. The focus of this year's program is to get students involved.

Registration forms for the program are available online at www.ttu.edu/fittech. They also can be found in the Student Union Building, the President's Office, the Robert H. Ewalt Recreation Center and the Human Sciences Building. The registration cost is \$8 for students and \$10 for faculty and staff members, and all registration forms are due by 2 p.m. Feb. 2 in Room 112 in the Human Sciences building.

"If you don't want to find time for exercise, then you may have to have time for illness," Reed said.

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Overweight pets present heavy problem for owners

By HALEY DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech students whose pets have extra junk in their trunks may be hurting their animals without even knowing it.

Eric Cunningham, a veterinarian at Acres North Veterinary Hospital, said the majority of pets he sees at his office are overweight.

"Probably about 50 percent to 60 percent of pets that come in here are overweight," he said. "It's pretty common."

There are resources available to students who are unsure whether or not their furry friends are overweight; the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Web site lists a few ways to check pets for extra fat.

According to the Web site, pet owners should be able to feel their pets' backbones and ribs. If owners cannot feel their pet's ribs without pressing, there is too much fat.

Still, pet owners shouldn't blame their pets for their over-indulgence; Cunningham said the pets' owners are to blame when their animals are packing extra pounds.

"Around here, we call it 'killing them with kindness' because owners don't think that they are doing anything wrong when they feed them table scraps or extra treats," Cunningham said.

If pet owners have healthy pets and would like to keep them that way, Cunningham suggested some alternatives to feeding pets "people food."

"Limit table scraps; dogs like to eat whatever is in your hand," he said. "Give them baby carrots and frozen green beans, and feed them twice a day instead of leaving a big bowl out all the time. It will boost their metabolism."

If pet owners aren't worried about their pets physical appearance, Cunningham said their pet's

health should be a concern.

"Arthritis is the main issue, especially larger breeds," he said. "It causes different breathing problems in chihuahuas and pugs because the extra weight puts pressure on the chest. Diabetes is also a problem."

According to the ASPCA Web site, an overweight pet can have many added stresses on its body. Along with diabetes and joint problems, liver problems also can be a risk factor.

However, not all pet owners have unhealthy pets. Matthew Starr, a junior mechanical engineering major from Houston who owns a weimaraner, said he keeps his dog Buddy on a strict diet.

"We feed him all-natural dog food," Starr said. "We're against feeding him anything other than dog food."

Along with diet, Starr said he likes to keep Buddy healthy with exercise.

"We take him to the park as

often as we can," he said. "I try to get him out every day."

On the other hand, Anne Pfeiffer, a sophomore microbiology major from Castroville, said she will not take the blame for her fat cat, Ramses.

"He sits in the window and meows, so my mom thinks that's him being hungry," she said. "My mom feeds him all the time." Pfeiffer said she has a few suggestions to help pets with their waistlines.

"Cut food back," he said. "Reduce calorie intake, and it will increase weight reduction."

According to the ASPCA Web site, once a pet is obese, it still may remain obese even after excessive caloric intake stops. According to the Web site, the majority of pet-obesity cases can simply be attributed to a lack of exercise coupled with overfeeding.

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Nutritional tips for overweight pets

- A pet should have a waist that starts at the end of its rib cage and ends at the hips. When looking at a pet from the side, there should be an indentation in the stomach. A healthy pet should have an indentation from the abdomen to the inside of the thigh. Pets without these attributes may be overweight.
- Preventing cats from hunting by keeping them inside can be a good way to prevent any unwanted weight gain.
- Work with a veterinarian to assess a proper diet for a pet. There should be certain ingredients in the pet's diet to make sure it is getting the proper nutrients.
- The simple increase of a pet's physical activity can have many advantages. Exercise not only burns calories, increases metabolism and reduces appetite, but it also helps the pet maintain a healthy weight.
- Always remove a pet from a room when a person is eating a meal; that way, there is no temptation to give a pet "people food" or anything other than cat food or dog food.

Source: www.aspc.org

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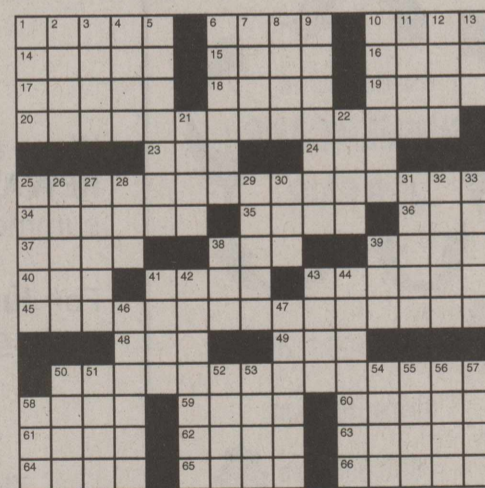
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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
- Starchy ground meal
 - Entrance
 - First second son
 - "Jacouse" author Zola
 - Option in a threat
 - Pop in Paris
 - Unverified info
 - Shuttle grp.
 - Cambodia's neighbor
 - Winners and losers (XXXII)
 - Wonderment
 - Male turkey
 - Winners and losers (X)
 - Pops in Peru
 - Basketball great Monroe
 - Leading ISP
 - Latin being
 - Shady tree
 - Predatory shorebird
 - Compass dir.
 - Give a hoot
 - Giving off light
 - Winners and losers (VIII)
 - Barn's river
 - Miscalculate
 - Winners and losers (XXXIX)
 - Bee abode
 - Freudian study
 - Seething
 - Portent
 - Withered
 - Tots in Acapulco
 - Pub projectile
 - Freshwater duck
 - Utopias



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

1/31/07

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

LOSER VESTA TOY
CARLO TNERAT ACE
DRIED AND CUT KEN
MEREST ATEAT
SILENTS TIGUANA
PRINTS DESIGN
RAFT MIXER DBL
ITE SPANIEL GEE
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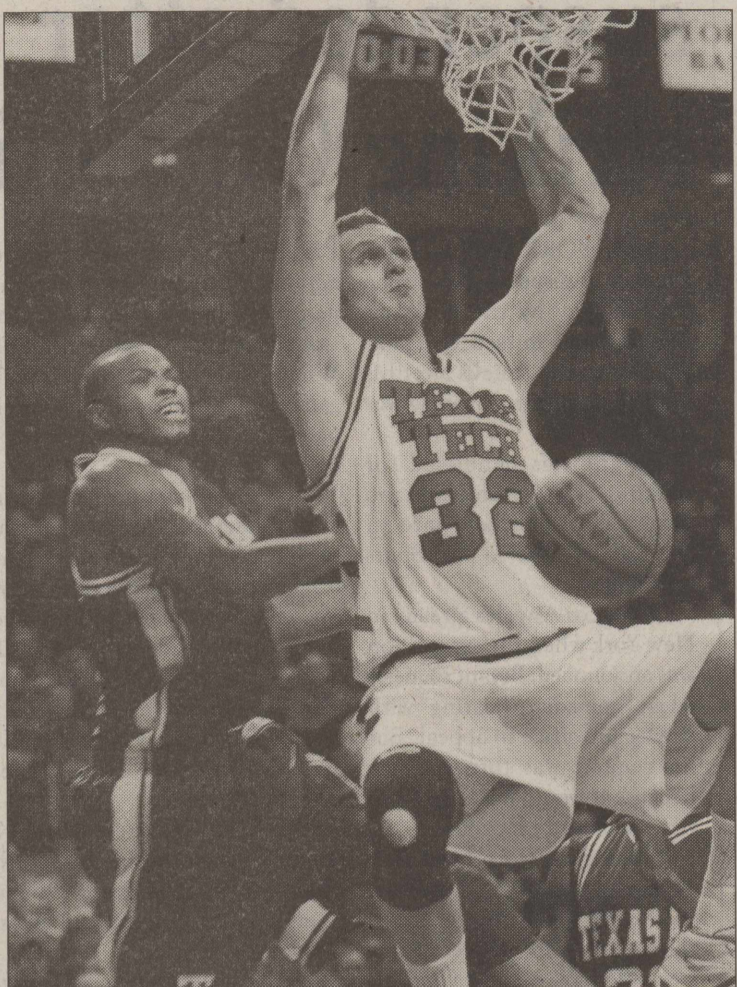
- DOWN**
- Croat's neighbor
 - Siberian river
 - Prom ride
 - North Carolina school
 - Cotton fabric
 - More tightly packed
 - Norwegian saint
 - Greek peak
 - Dealer in lots of houses
 - Poise
 - Noodle
 - God of love
 - Guitarist Paul
 - Has debts
 - Monk's hood
 - Risk a ticket
 - Jerusalem Deliverer poet
 - Ford flop
 - Afore
 - Monica of tennis
 - Machine part
 - Like some old buckets
 - Cy of baseball
 - Louver parts
 - Sea eagle
 - H.S. class
 - Scotch
 - Most open to the breeze
 - Old Cassino cash

- Kiev's country
- Inventor's WWII movie?
- Crossword document
- Ship
- High-grade cotton
- State with conviction
- Fancy molding
- One-third of a mortar
- WWII movie?
- Crossword pattern
- Rustic road
- Jacket or collar
- Legis. meeting
- Trough for mortar



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SPORTS



Kelly Matherly/The Daily Toreador

Tech forward Jon Plefka dunks against Texas A&M in the game Jan. 24 at the United Spirit Arena.

Texas Tech men's basketball searching for consistency

By JAY LANGLEY
NEWS EDITOR

With the Texas Longhorns coming to town Wednesday, followers of the Texas Tech men's basketball team might be wondering which team will show up.

First, there was the Raiders team that won back-to-back home games against Top-10 teams Kansas and Texas A&M. Then there was the Raiders team that lost at Baylor Jan. 13 and at Missouri Saturday. Between them, Baylor and Missouri have won just three conference games.

Fortunately for Tech (15-6, 4-2), Wednesday's game is at the United Spirit Arena, where the Raiders boast a 10-1 record this season.

"Every team should win at home," Tech forward Martin Zeno said. "On the road you gotta concentrate more because the crowd is against you and I don't think we've been doing that. But we have to take advantage of the home games and win as many on our court as

we can."

Saturday against Missouri, Tech went scoreless for the first ten minutes of the second half en route to a 13-point loss. Charlie Burgess and Jon Plefka were out with an ankle injury and a knee injury, respectively. The status for both players is up in the air as both are a game-time decision.

"It set us back a little bit because we knew how big that game was," senior guard Jarrius Jackson said of the Missouri loss. "I think we're still in pretty good position though. We just didn't come in and execute the game plan as well as we should have."

Jackson leads Tech in scoring and is third in the Big 12 with 19.7 points per game. But in his last two games, Jackson has scored just 15 and 13 points, respectively.

"They've been playing really good defense on me, and I know they're going to be keying in on me," Jackson said. "I just have to exaggerate everything. I just have to cut a lot better and move a lot faster and quicker on the offensive

end."

Texas (15-5, 5-1 in Big 12) boasts one of the youngest teams in the Big 12, starting four freshmen and a sophomore. Kevin Durant is not only the top freshman in the conference, but the 6-foot-9 forward is arguably the best all-around player in the Big 12, leading the conference in both scoring (24.4 ppg.) and rebounding (11.0 rpg.).

"He's 6-9 and he can do everything," Zeno said of Durant. "You name it, he can do it."

In any other season, Durant's teammate D.J. Augustin would be a lock for conference freshman of the year. The point guard averages 13.4 points per game and a league-high 6.9 assists per game.

Jackson said the match-up with Texas could prove to be Tech's toughest to date.

"They have very good guards and obviously we have to contain Durant," he said. "Really, he (Durant) can do it all. He can take you in the post and then he can take you outside."

Tech coach Bob Knight said

he looks forward to going head-to-head with Texas coach Rick Barnes.

"I just really like him," Knight said of Barnes. "I like the way he goes about things. I like the job he does with his team. He was really, really nice to Pat (Knight) when we first came here. I didn't know him that well before we came here but people that I did know really liked him. We kind of hit it off right away. I enjoy his company and how he goes about coaching the game."

Barnes said he thinks his young team has matured over the course of the season.

"We have definitely gotten better," Barnes said. "We still have some break downs with some things that we shouldn't be breaking down with. I think the biggest thing they've learned is just how hard you've got to play and that you can't take any time off."

Tip-off is scheduled for 8 p.m. Wednesday at the United Spirit Arena.

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Sosa looking to earn spot with Rangers

ARLINGTON (AP) — Sammy Sosa has a contract with the Texas Rangers and a chance to get back to the major leagues. Now the former slugger has to go to spring training and earn a spot on the roster.

Sosa and the Rangers finalized a minor league contract Tuesday. If added to the major league roster, he would get a \$500,000, one-year deal with the chance to earn \$2.1 million more in performance bonuses.

"I am not going to let you guys down," Sosa said during a conference call that included team executives. "So trust me. I've got to go to spring training ready. I know I have to make the team. (I've heard) that about 20 times."

"I wanted to come back in 2006, but I was beaten mentally," he added. "I'm fresh. I'm relaxed. I've got my game face again, and I feel great. My body's in shape. I'm ready to go."

Sosa said his chance of failing to be added to the big league roster was "one in a million."

"Believe me, I'm going to make that team," he said.

The 38-year-old Sosa, who began his career with the Rangers, hasn't played in the major leagues since 2005 with the Baltimore Orioles.

"For me this is about giving an opportunity to a guy who has done a lot for the game over the last 10, 15 years," said Rangers general manager Jon Daniels. "What really came across to us was that Sammy wanted an opportunity, in the true sense of the word, to prove himself. He still thinks he has something left to give and wants to prove it to the industry, to the Rangers, to himself."

Sosa is fifth on the career list with 588 home runs. Like Mark McGwire, Sosa is suspected by some of having used steroids before they were banned by baseball after the 2002 season.

Lady Raiders looking to shoot down Jayhawks

By STEPHEN MONAHAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Nearing the halfway point of Big 12 conference play, the Texas Tech Lady Raiders have yet to flatline.

With eight losses on the season and a conference record just above .500, the Tech women's team could easily pull the plug on the rest of the season. But for Tech coach Kristy Curry and her team, throwing in the towel is not an option.

"You try to check their heartbeat, see if they've got a pulse, and these kids have a pulse right now and I like that about them," Curry said. "I think the worst thing you can have as a coach are a bunch of kids that maybe aren't affected by winning or losing."

Against Texas, the Lady Raiders shot a season-low 26.3 percent from the floor. That figure could have been the result of the team's overzealous nature to face the Longhorns, senior forward Alesha Robertson said, adding after the game, when she hit her game-winning shot with .06.1 left, she prematurely celebrated — realizing Texas still had enough time to drive the floor for a final shot.

The Longhorns missed their final two shots of the game, allowing Tech to squeak by for the 49-48 victory Saturday. But Robertson said she feels with each game, the team needs to calm its nerves in hopes to close the casket on the rest of its Big 12 opponents.

"We just kind of needed to relax and play our own game," she said. "I think that had a lot to do with our shots. We were just too excited. That's hard to do

on the court, when you're all pumped up for a game — you just gotta not have funerals or not have parties. I think that was just one of those games where we couldn't hit anything and I think that was a big factor."

With three down-to-the-wire finishes in a row, including the win over then-No. 24 Texas, Robertson said today's road game against Kansas is something that cannot be overlooked just because the team is without a conference win.

"They don't have the best record right now," she said, "but that's not a reason for us to go in there and overlook them 'cause that's gotten us into trouble in the past. The worst thing we can do is go down there and overlook them and go down there and screw that game up."

Senior point guard Brooke Baughman said assistant coach Bill Brock told the team Monday beating Kansas could be the game that makes or breaks the team's season.

"Coach Brock put it today 'this is going to be the game that puts you in the playoffs,'" Baughman said. "I think that's a good way to look at it, because if we win against Kansas, maybe that's the win that puts us over."

In five of its seven Big 12 games this season, Tech (13-8, 4-3) has either won or lost by a total of six points or less, and with tournament time around the corner, Curry said focusing on the current game is all that should matter.

"I don't think that there is any question that when you start looking at NCAA Tournament time there are good losses, there are bad losses, there



Karl Anderson/The Daily Toreador

Jordan Murphree goes up for a shot against Ashley Lindsey Saturday afternoon at the United Spirit Arena

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Bonds signs new deal with Giants

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Barry Bonds never wanted to leave the Giants. They have been his team for more than a decade. They were the team of his late father and also his godfather, Hall of Famer Willie Mays.

After nearly two months of negotiations, Bonds finally has his new deal — to stay put right where he believes he belongs.

Bonds and San Francisco completed a \$15.8 million, one-year contract Monday night after the slugger spent hours at the ballpark being examined by team doctors.

The club announced the deal, which took significant time to finish after the sides agreed on financial terms Dec. 7 on the last day of baseball's winter meetings.

Now, the 42-year-old Bonds can focus on the upcoming season. He has 734 home runs, 22 from breaking Hank Aaron's career record, and he plans to play beyond this year if he fails to set the mark in 2007.

"I think I'll be around until I'm 100, or at least try to," Bonds said.

Before the contract was completed, Bonds had to pass a physical and the parties had to work out complicated language regarding his behavior and what would happen if he were to be indicted.

A federal grand jury is investigating whether Bonds perjured himself when he testified in 2003 in the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative steroid distribution case that he hadn't knowingly taken any performance-enhancing drugs.

"I knew things would work out. This is where I always wanted to play and always loved to play," Bonds said. "The city of San Francisco is what I love. The people of San Francisco are who I love. There's no better place for me to be. This is my history. The people in San Francisco deserve it all."

On a conference call late Monday night, Bonds was asked why it took so long for his contract to be completed.

"I was on a skiing vacation," he said, laughing. "It didn't take any time. It's normal procedure."

As part of the deal, Bonds' trainers — Harvey Shields and Greg Oliver — will no longer be allowed in the clubhouse, where they previously had their own lockers next to Bonds' space.

"I have no problems with it," Bonds

said. "(Oliver) and Harvey will be with me, just outside the ballpark."

Shields and Oliver will no longer be on the Giants' payroll and they won't be permitted in restricted areas in any big league ballpark. If they were to make road trips, it would be on Bonds' dime or their own, two baseball officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of such details in the contract.

Bonds, who traveled to the Bay Area from his offseason home in Southern California, underwent X-rays and many other tests from multiple team doctors Monday.

The seven-time NL MVP waved and smiled as he left the stadium and then quickly drove away, with agent Jeff Borris in the passenger seat.

Lakers' Bryant suspended after striking Ginobili

NEW YORK (AP) — Kobe Bryant was suspended one game without pay by the NBA on Tuesday and missed the Lakers' loss to the Knicks after his long-shot bid for a hearing was denied.

Bryant was penalized for striking San Antonio's Manu Ginobili in the face late in the Lakers' loss to the Spurs on Sunday.

With Los Angeles already in New York when the suspension was announced, Bryant requested an "immediate hearing" with the league office to appeal. But his request was turned down because it would have deviated from standard procedure.

"This is not the process that we use at the NBA. Certainly, in theory, given the fact that the Lakers were in New York, we could have heard an appeal. But again, we never have, as it's not part of our process," said Stu Jackson, the league's chief disciplinarian for on-court actions. "He does have the right to an appeal at a later date. If he were to win that appeal, he would get his money back."

Bryant's absence left the Lakers without their leading scorer when they opened an eight-game road trip with a 99-94 loss.

"If you follow this team, we had to play in the beginning of the year without Kobe," teammate Lamar Odom said. "Of course he's a great player, but for us to win, to win regularly, we need everybody."

Bryant was prevented from coming to the game at Madison Square Garden, which he has called his favorite place to play.

"I've been waiting to play here. It's always been a fun place for me to play here, and

I'm surprised. Shocked, by it, actually," Bryant said after the morning shootaround. "I unintentionally caught Manu Ginobili. What do you say? It's a basketball game. You unintentionally catch people with elbows every once in a while."

Players association spokesman Dan Wasserman said a letter was sent on Bryant's behalf to the league office requesting the hearing, and that Bryant volunteered to review the videotape and talk to commissioner David Stern or the "appropriate league official."

"I'm blown away by it. I really am," Bryant said. "It just makes no sense."

The play occurred with 2.7 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter of the Lakers' 96-94 overtime loss to the Spurs on Sunday.

"It's just unintentional," Bryant added. "I felt horrible about it. It's just basketball, it happens."

Jackson disagreed, and offered the NBA's explanation on a conference call.

"Some of the determining factors were the fact that there was contact made with Ginobili above the shoulders and the fact that this particular action by Kobe was an unnatural basketball motion. Following a shot, he drove a stiff arm in a backward motion and struck Ginobili in the head," Jackson said. "We did not view this as an inadvertent action."

No foul was called on the play.

"This blow was so swift in real time that it's understandable why, in fact, an official would have missed the contact," Jackson said. "In our view, this was not an attempt to draw a foul."

Bryant is averaging 28.4 points, 5.5 assists and 5.4 rebounds.

Bryant scored 40 points in his only visit last season to Madison Square Garden. Sasha Vujacic started in his place to the disappointment of a sellout crowd that booed when it was announced during pregame introductions that Bryant was not with the team because of the suspension.

"We have one appearance in Madison Square Garden," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said earlier Tuesday. "People obviously look forward to this game because Kobe last year was being chanted 'MVP!' on this court during the course of a game in which he had a great game. The crowd obviously likes him here and likes to watch him play. To miss this game cheats the fans."

Last season, Bryant was suspended for two games without pay for elbowing Mike Miller of the Memphis Grizzlies in the throat — but Stu Jackson said that incident was not a factor in Tuesday's penalty.

SUPER MEDIA FRENZY



JIMMY DEFLIPPO/US Presswire

LEFT: INDIANAPOLIS COLTS QUARTERBACK Peyton Manning talks to reporters during media day for Super Bowl XLI Tuesday at Dolphin Stadium in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

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 Feb. 9th & 10th

Next week's event:
SHOOTING YOUR SKIING WITH US!
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CLIMBING COMPETITION
 FRIDAY, FEB. 9TH
 Join the OPC as we take the day to climb in one of the most popular weekend activities of the semester. This climbing competition has nearly 100 participants every year from all over the Southwest. All participants get a t-shirt and entry into one of the largest drawings around, with tons of prizes provided by our sponsors. Everyone is sure to have a great time!

FITNESS/WELLNESS

FIT TECH ...Need some motivation to start or continue your physical activity? Get your team of six students, faculty and/or staff together for eight weeks of commitment and fun! By joining FIT Tech, you can have fun with your team while you participate in physical activity together or separately, but report your minutes as a team. You will have the option of keeping track of your fruits and vegetables and weight/inches lost. Also, optional seminars will be held on healthy food choices and fitness information for added bonus minutes. Teams will compete for prizes and build Raider spirit! Log onto www.ttu.edu/fittech for registration forms or email fittech@ttu.edu.



Take charge of your health! Sign up for our Wellness Blood Screenings!

Wellness Blood Screenings, Thursday, February 8
 How are those New Year's resolutions working? Get some solid proof of your health profile and make 2007 a year of change! Covenant Corporate Services will draw blood. Results of Blood tests include Lipid Profile (\$10), Glucose (\$5), Wellness Chemistry profile (\$25), CBC (\$20), Thyroid (\$15), PSA (\$20), H. pylori (\$15), C-Reactive Protein (\$30) and Homocysteine (\$35). Colon Cancer Screening Kit (\$10) and Bone Density (\$15) will also be offered but do not require a blood draw. For descriptions, please go to www.recsports.ttu.edu. Rec Center membership is NOT required. Please register by Wednesday, February 7 at noon by calling 742.3828. Payment (cash or check) is due the morning of the tests. FirstCare participants need to bring a copy of their insurance card. Please come fasting (no food or beverages 10 hours prior). Make a commitment to better health!

Throw Like a Girl, Lead Like a Champion...10th Annual Girls annual Women in Sports Play Day set for February 10th! Texas Tech's Departments of Athletics, Recreational Sports and Health/Exercise Sports Science are once again hosting a playday for elementary (K-6) grade girls and their moms on Saturday, February 10, 2007 in recognition of the National Girls and Women in Sports Day. Girls and moms will actively participate in sports and game activities from 8:45-11:30 a.m. in the Student Recreation Center on the Tech Campus. A light lunch will be served, everyone receives a t-shirt and two tickets to the Lady Raider game on Sunday afternoon against the Kansas State Wildcats. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY CALLING 742.3828.** Spots are limited. The following information is needed: girl's name, mom's (or other female adult mentor) name, girl's grade and phone number.

INTRAMURALS

Don't be a pin
 just come play
 Feb 1 - 10pm
 Feb 5 - 10pm
 Feb 11 - 9pm

INNER TUBE WATER POLO REGISTRATION
 Only two days left to play the wettest most exciting sport that Intramurals has to offer this semester - Inner Tube Water Polo. Get your friends together, look for your spring break bathing suit, and jump into the Rec Center Pool on Sundays - the first game will not be until the Sunday after Super Bowl Sunday. No skill needed, just bathing suits and a good time!

The Intramural Racquetball League is coming!! The 2nd annual spring Racquetball League will be held on Fridays with dates of February 2nd, 9th, 16th. Playoffs will be held Feb. 23rd & March 2nd (if needed). Entries will be taken through 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 1st at the Intramural Sports Office, Room 203 of the Rec Center. You come and sign-up for your own time slot (play times are from 6 pm - 9 pm every Friday). There is **no entry fee for you to play so everyone can afford it and we have LEAGUES for everyone from A-divisions (very good) to C-divisions (just starting).** So if you are just learning how to play or a seasoned veteran, sign up and come have an enjoyable evening of Racquetball at the Rec.

Heartbeats

A quick pulse around the Rec Sports World...
Partnering Valentine's Plans
 The FitWell has a great idea for Valentine's Day! Come to the Partner Yoga & Couples Massage Workshop on February 13th from 6:00-8:30 pm. Find a new way to connect with your friend or partner. Experience one for \$6 or BOTH for \$10. Space is limited, so sign up today!

Want to try? Sign up for the Iron Man triathlon challenge!
 Need motivation to continue exercising through February? Enter the Iron Man Triathlon Challenge! Participants have two weeks (3 weekends) to complete—swim 2.4 miles, Cycle 112 miles and walk/run 26.2 miles. Enter in the Fit/Well by Feb. 2nd!

Want to earn extra cash?
 Are you looking for an easy way to earn some extra cash? Become a softball official! Interested? Attend the softball officials meeting on Feb. 15 at 5 pm in Room 201.

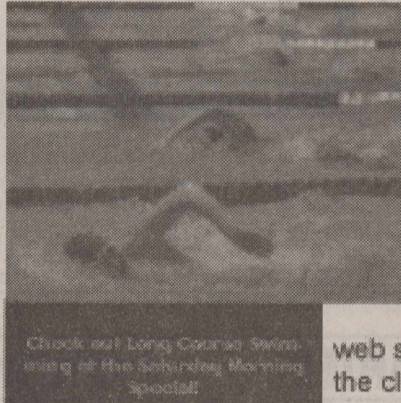
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 This course includes Life-guarding, Standard First Aid, and CPR for the Professional Rescuer. See the web site for class times. Sign up in the Aquatic Center! Call 742.3896 for more details.

Mark your calendars! The Big Kahuna is coming! Mark your calendars for the 6th Annual Spring Softball Tournament - The Big Kahuna - on Feb. 24th! Stay tuned for more details!

X marks the spot for fitness fun! Play Raider Xscape and win cool prizes just for attending fitness classes! Pick up your card around the Rec and start playing by attending fitness classes. See FitWell for more details.

Did you know that the Outdoor Pursuits Center offers many exciting workshops for all interests? Our Spring workshops include kayaking, rappelling, fly fishing, bike maintenance, dutch oven cooking and trail running. Call 742.2949 for more information!

Questions? Comments? Call 742.3351 or email us at recsports@ttu.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!



Check out Long Course Swimming at the Saturday Morning Special!

Aquatic Center

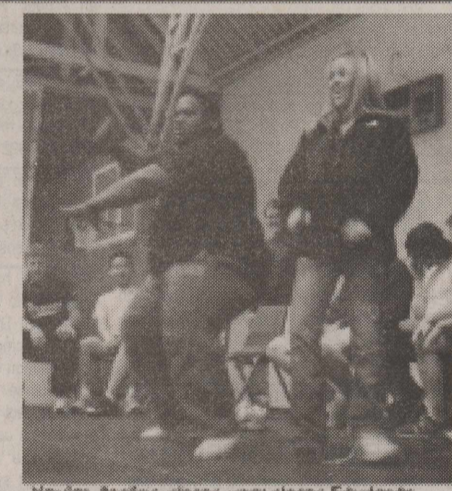
Sign up NOW for the Saturday Morning Special! Do you want to learn how to swim? Do you know how to swim but want to improve your strokes? Are you training for a triathlon? We have all levels of swim classes to meet your needs. Call 742-3896 or check out the web site for more details. Register now before the classes fill up!

Saturday Morning Special...Saturday is Long Course swim. Join us at 10 AM and swim the entire length of the Olympic size pool!

Youth Learn to Swim classes still available. Be sure to sign up your little one before space runs out! Lessons are given by a certified instructor. Call 742.3896 for more information.

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 - 3 on 3 Basketball Women: C'Ville Girls
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 - Play Station II: Devoy House
 - Table Tennis: Edison Dy (Men's Competitive), Colin Haley (Men's Recreational), Brenna Jackson (Women's)
 - Squash: Daniel Hilaro
 - Racquetball: Jonathan Crocker (Men's Competitive), Charlie Winfrey (Men's Recreational), Megan Dickey (Women's)



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