

Is there something missing?



The DT's movie critic reviews Meg Ryan's latest



Kansas downs Tech softball



THE DAILY TORREADOR

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(INSIDE)



STUDENTS HOMELESS FOR A NIGHT
SEE PAGE 3

(IN BRIEF)

STATE

Jury awards \$9 million in damages to man

LINDEN (AP) — A jury awarded \$9 million to a black man who suffered permanent brain damage after being beaten and dumped in a field by four white men in 2003.

Billy Ray Johnson, 46, lives in a nursing home because of the injuries he suffered in the beating. In the criminal case, the men accused of assaulting him were fined and sentenced to probation and jail time, but none served more than 60 days behind bars.

In a four-day civil trial in District Court that ended Friday, jurors found James Cory Hicks and Christopher Colt Amox responsible for Johnson's injuries.

NATION

Blue Angel jet crashes in South Carolina

BEAUFORT, S.C. (AP) — A somber crowd watched as six jets flew overhead in formation at an air show where a Navy Blue Angel pilot died in a crash the day before.

Smoke streamed behind one of the jets as it peeled away from the others to complete the "missing man formation," the traditional salute for a lost military aviator.

Sunday's air show began with a tribute to the Navy Blue Angel pilot whose aircraft plunged to the ground Saturday as the aviators were coming together for their final formation.

WORLD

Polls open in French presidential election

PARIS (AP) — France began choosing a new president Sunday with millions of voters undecided and millions more voting for the first time, making the selection of two final candidates highly unpredictable.

The successor to Jacques Chirac, ending 12 years as head of state at the close of his second term, will face a large and listless economy and an alienated young Muslim population, among a host of problems.

Only four of the 12 candidates had a real chance of making it to a final round of voting May 6.

DEATH TOLL

3319

U.S. Military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

WEATHER

Today



PARTLY CLOUDY
HIGH 83
LOW 57

Tuesday



WINDY
HIGH 73
LOW 48

INSIDE

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Gunmen execute 23 in Northern Iraq

By LAUREN FRAYER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD (AP) — Gunmen in northern Iraq stopped a bus filled with Christians and members of a tiny Kurdish religious sect, police said, separating out the groups and taking 23 of the passengers away to be shot.

Police said the execution-style killings of the Yazidis — a primarily Kurdish sect that worships an angel figure considered to be the

devil by some Muslims and Christians — appeared to be in response to the stoning death of a Yazidi woman who had recently converted to Islam.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, on a tour abroad to ask the mostly Sunni-led governments of the Arab world to help his struggling government stop the violence in Iraq, said he told Egypt's president that Iraq's reality is "not a civil or sectarian war."

In the northern Iraq killings, armed men in several cars stopped

the bus as it was carrying workers from the Mosul Textile Factory to their hometown of Bashika, which has a mixed population of Christians and Yazidis — a primarily Kurdish sect that worships an angel figure considered to be the devil by some Muslims and Christians.

The gunmen checked passengers' identification, then asked the Christians to get off the bus, said police Brig. Mohammed al-Wagga.

With the Yazidis still inside, the gunmen drove them to eastern

Mosul, where they were lined up along a wall and shot to death, al-Wagga said.

After the killings, hundreds of Yazidis took to the streets of Bashika, a town in Ninevah province that is 80 percent Yazidi, 15 percent Christian and about five percent Muslim. Shops were shuttered and many Muslims closed themselves in their homes, fearing reprisal attacks.

Abdul-Karim Khalaf, a police spokesman for Ninevah province said the executions were in response to

the killing two weeks ago of a Yazidi woman who had recently converted to Islam.

The woman fell in love with a Muslim, converted to Islam and ran off with him, Khalaf said. Disapproving relatives dragged her back to Bashika, where she was stoned to death, he said. A grainy video showing gruesome scenes of the stoning was distributed on Iraqi Web sites in recent weeks.

IRAQ continued on page 5



By JEREMY REYNOLDS
STAFF WRITER

The smell of the open lake gingerly met Lubbock's smell of the open stockyard Friday night as the Southern-most part of Buddy Holly Avenue became a scene from the ESPN X-Games.

A giant tank of water with two kink rails built in the center sat in the middle of Buddy Holly Avenue as a part of the Rip Tank Rail Jam, hosted by the Beer Garden and Daquiri Lounge.

After announcers issued a quick warning that audience members in the first two rows would get wet, the riders strapped themselves in, and the fun began to unfold.

Wakeboarders were pulled through the water and grinded across two kink rails to the sounds of the cheering crowd around them.

Jojo Lemberg said he and the other 10 riders on hand were invited by the Beer Garden to perform as a part of the Rip Tank Rail Jam.

In addition to the wakeboarding show, a live concert featuring 1990s rap sensation Vanilla Ice, Hero Factor, Falling Jupiter and Crimson Envy kept the crowd entertained throughout the night.

"We don't have anything to do with the bands," Lemberg said. "They were invited separately."

Lemberg said the wakeboarding team typically travels to a different city every other weekend.

"Next week we're going to be in Austin doing this on Sixth Street," he said, shivering as he stood in



BMX WAKEBOARDER GABE Lucas shows off his moves at the Daquiri Lounge Friday night before the Vanilla Ice concert.

dripping wet swim trunks.

The boarders entertained the crowd throughout the night by being pulled off the bed of a Nissan truck, riding

Rap legend, wakeboarders exhibit talents in Depot District

down a kink rail and landing in a pool of water. With each splash, a small

VANILLA continued on page 6

Age to purchase cigarettes could increase to 19

By GLENYS BOLLS
STAFF WRITER

If a new senate bill is passed and signed into law, some Texas Tech students will not be able to purchase cigarettes.

The Texas State Senate passed a bill Thursday that would raise the legal smoking age to 19.

Senate Bill 448 would raise the legal smoking age by raising the legal age to buy tobacco products.

"I truly believe there's enough government in our world," said Tammie Biggs, manager at Nothin' Butt Smokes No. 13. "Eighteen-year-olds are smoking now and they always will. This will probably just create more problems."

Sen. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio, who introduced the bill in early February, said one goal of the bill is to reduce tobacco consumption by high school students.

"There are many high school students who are legally able to purchase tobacco products, and these students are in a position to provide tobacco products to their underage peers in school," Uresti said in a press release from his office. "By raising the tobacco purchasing age to 19, we are removing another conduit for underage tobacco consumption."

Although the legislation could have some effect in schools, most high school students still

CIGARETTES continued on page 5

Pastor urges Va. Tech students, faculty to return to campus

By ADAM GELLER AND CHRIS KAHN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — As pastor of Blacksburg Baptist Church, Tommy McDearis was called on to tell more than 20 families a loved one had fallen victim to Virginia Tech gunman Seung-Hui Cho.

On Sunday, he urged his congregation and the university to put the pain of the rampage behind them by returning to classes Monday.

"If we give up in the face of this situation, if we quit doing all of the things that really matter in life because this darkness has visited us, then we are going to surrender to the darkness," McDearis said.

McDearis delivered his sermon Sunday as students who had left school following the massacre returned to campus. He told the story of a professor devastated by the deaths of several of his students at Norris Hall, where Cho killed 30 students and faculty members before turning the gun on himself.

The professor said he didn't know if he could come back. But failing to do so, he said, would be a betrayal of the memories, hopes and dreams of the victims.

"There is no way that any of them would ever look at us and want us to give up," McDearis said. "We owe them more than to just throw in the towel."

In getting ready for the resumption of classes, the university's student government asked hundreds of reporters to leave campus by Monday morning.

VA. TECH continued on page 5

Tech blotter: police investigate burglaries, public intoxications

By PAUL ROBERTS
STAFF WRITER

April 16

Texas Tech police investigated a burglary of a habitation from an off-campus location. Police said a Tech computer was stolen from the location by an unknown suspect.

Tech police arrested a suspect and issued a criminal trespass violation. When the suspect decided to flee from police, he was charged with failure to identify and evading arrest.

Tech police investigated a burglary of contents inside a vehicle in the F-2 Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center parking lot. Police said the passenger-side window was broken, and a purse and its contents were stolen.

Tech police investigated burglary at the Tech HSC. According to reports, a black wallet containing cash and personal items was stolen from an unsecured purse.

Tech police arrested a non-student for driving without a valid license, one outstanding Lubbock County Sheriff's Office warrant and one outstanding Texas Crime Information Center warrant. Police transported the suspect to the Lubbock County Jail.

Tech police responded to a medical emergency in the Tech Aquatic Center. According to reports, a female student lost consciousness while at the aquatic center. Police said the victim refused medical transport to the hospital.

April 17

Tech police responded to a fire alarm in the Sam's Place of Sneed Residence Hall when a smoke detector sounded because of an opened oven. The building was evacuated, but the Lubbock Fire Department did not respond.

Tech police investigated criminal mischief in the R-9 parking lot when a passenger-side window of a vehicle was broken.

Tech police investigated a burglary of contents inside a vehicle in the R-19 parking lot when a parking tag was stolen from the vehicle.

Tech police arrested a non-student for public intoxication outside the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center. Police transported the non-student to the Lubbock County Jail.

Tech police arrested three students for public intoxication in the Z-5C parking lot. Police said the students were transported to the Lubbock County Jail.

April 18

Tech police arrested two students for public intoxication in the first floor of Hulen Residence Hall. Police said the students were transported to the Lubbock County Jail.

April 19

Tech police issued a criminal trespass warning to a former Tech staff member who was terminated from employment at Tech.

Tech police investigated theft of contents inside a vehicle in the Z6-A parking lot. Police said a secured decorative license plate was stolen from a vehicle.

Tech police arrested a non-student for driving while intoxicated, driving with invalid license and two Lubbock Police Department warrants following a traffic stop in the 800 block of Akron Avenue. Police said the non-student was transported to the Lubbock County Jail, and his vehicle was towed. The non-student was issued a criminal trespass warning for all of Tech property.

A Tech student was arrested for public intoxication in Coleman Residence Hall. Police said the student was transported to the Lubbock County Jail.

Tech police arrested two Tech students for public intoxication in the lobby of Chitwood Residence Hall. The female students were released to a responsible party.

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'Blood Diamonds' author visits Tech

By ADAM YOUNG
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech International Cultural Center hosted a lecture by the journalist and author of the book that inspired the 2006 movie "Blood Diamond" Friday.

Greg Campbell, editor in chief of *The Fort Collins Weekly* and author of "Blood Diamonds: Tracing the Path of the World's Most Precious Stones," which inspired the movie starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Connelly, said he was invited to the ICC as a guest speaker at a banquet for students and faculty being inducted into Tech's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. Campbell's book focuses on how conflict diamonds were sold to fund rebel armies during the civil war in Sierra Leone, which lasted from the late 1990s to 2002.

"The thing I wanted to do with the book is raise awareness," Campbell said.

Campbell said after viewing a television news report about the conflict in Sierra Leone, he wanted to report on the conflict.

"On one hand you have this horrific war where children are being used to fight, and on the other hand you have diamonds," Campbell said. "The first thing that comes to your head are those very well-done De Beers diamond commercials."

Because he did not think people would want to talk about controversial conflict diamonds with him, Campbell said he was not confident he would be able to cover the story when he arrived in Sierra Leone. He defined conflict diamonds as being mined and sold to fund a rebel insurgency that is counter to an indigenous government.

Campbell said diamonds were being used to fund the rebel armies, who would amputate people's hands, limbs and breasts as scare tactics to drive them out of diamond-rich regions of the country.

"One kid who refused to kill his parents as part of an initiation was roasted over a fire on a spit," Campbell said.

Although the child survived,

Campbell said the death toll from the conflict was in the hundreds of thousands.

Campbell said the United Nations created the Kimberly Process, a system of issuing certificates to diamonds in response to the conflict to prevent diamonds from being traded illegally.

He said 4 to 5 percent of the diamonds sold globally are conflict diamonds from Africa.

Annette Duarte, a student at South Plains College from Carlsbad, N.M., who attended Campbell's lecture, said she is familiar with the Kimberly Process and has an interest in diamonds because she works at a local jewelry store.

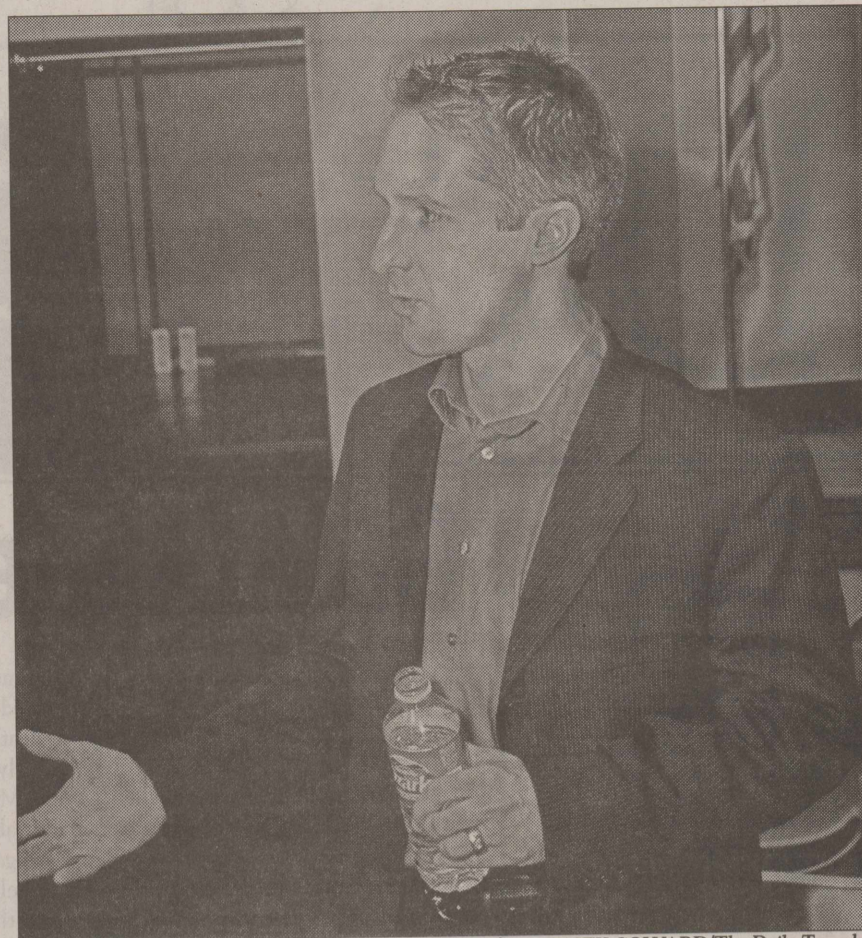
Duarte said if customers ask where a diamond comes from, she is required to show them a pamphlet and certificate tracing its origins. She said it is not a perfect system because people find ways to secretly transport diamonds from countries like Sierra Leone, where the U.N. banned diamond exports during the conflict.

"You still can't really guarantee that the diamond you have isn't a conflict diamond even though they're trying to do as much as they possibly can," Duarte said.

Campbell said the war in Sierra Leone is finished, but conflicts in countries like Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Ivory Coast are being funded in-part by conflict diamonds.

Campbell said he began his international coverage in war zones as a lone reporter for a newspaper in Boulder, Colo., with three full-time employees when he convinced his editors to let him cover the war in Bosnia in the mid-1990s.

He traveled to Sierra Leone sev-



CAITY COLVARD/The Daily Toreador

GREG CAMPBELL, EDITOR in chief of *The Fort Collins Weekly* and author of "Blood Diamonds: Tracing the Path of the World's Most Precious Stones," spoke at a Phi Beta Kappa banquet Friday.

eral times in 2001 to investigate the conflict diamond trade and intended to write a book about it. He said he did not foresee his research inspiring a movie.

"I was joking with a reporter in Sierra Leone, and one of us made a comment that Hollywood could never do justice to what we were seeing and experiencing and what the people of Sierra Leone had seen and experienced," Campbell said.

Campbell said he also joked about the potential movie focusing on white actors and was nervous when he heard DiCaprio and Connelly would be cast in the film.

"You sweat and put yourself in all of these dangerous situations and you really work hard on this book to get it accurate and you hear that Hollywood is coming out to give it the Hollywood treatment," Campbell said.

Despite initial concerns, Campbell said he was pleasantly surprised

when he finally saw the film, and he believes Hollywood did justice to portraying the conflict diamond trade and the use of child soldiers.

Cody Nelson, a junior accounting major from Carlsbad, N.M., said he saw the movie "Blood Diamond" and initially believed it over-sensationalized the conflict.

After attending Campbell's lecture, Nelson said he "didn't realize the conflict was so brutal."

Campbell said he does not have suggestions for preventing future conflicts about natural resources, but his main objective in writing "Blood Diamonds" was to raise public awareness about the civil war in Sierra Leone and the conflict diamond trade.

"Knowledge is power and the more that consumers know about where some of their commodities come from, the better," Campbell said.

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Together We Mourn

Join the effort to support those affected by the recent events at Virginia Tech.

Stop by the following locations to write a note of encouragement, pick up a Hokie Support ribbon or purchase a t-shirt to help support the

Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund.

- Student Union Building
- Business Administration
- Student Rec Center
- Engineering Key

All notes and letters will be delivered to the Virginia Tech Campus and Community. For more information or to volunteer at a table, stop by the SGA Office or call 806-742-3631.

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Habitat for Humanity raises awareness of poverty

By **BEN MAKI**
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech chapter of Habitat for Humanity hosted Sleep Out and Speak Out for Poverty Friday night at Urbanovsky Park as a part of Act! Speak! Build! Week.

The organization conducted a volleyball tournament, an ultimate Frisbee game and a trivia tournament about Habitat for Humanity and poverty, with winners receiving various gift certificates to restaurants around Lubbock.

About 20 people showed up to take part in the activities.

Joseph Bush, a freshman business major from Allen, said he believes the function, which was open to the public, would have been more effective if more students not involved with the organization were present.

"I think it was a good idea, but I don't think they raised enough awareness," Bush said. "Most of the people there were Habitat members."

Sarah McCauley, the Tech chapter vice president, said she was anticipating a higher turnout, but the timing of the decision to conduct the event hampered the organization's ability to garner a strong crowd. The organization did not begin planning the event until February.

"We were hoping for somewhere around 100 people, but this is the first time we have done this," McCauley said. "I see this as a success, because this is all about awareness. We got a late start this year, but we will have more time to prepare for next year."

In addition to the activities, the group had plans to sleep in cardboard boxes, and the only refreshment available was water to help simulate what a homeless person experiences.

Shantae Conliff, a member of Habitat for Humanity International, said she observed a similar event at the University of North Texas, where students made elaborate houses out of cardboard that fit five-to-six people.

"If they end up spending the night, they will get a more accurate experience of being homeless than those at North Texas," Conliff said.

The event was originally planned to last until 7 a.m. Saturday morning, but Tech Chapter President Aaron Mellinger said the event ended at 2 a.m. for security reasons.

Conliff said her office did not tell the Habitat for Humanity chapter what to do for Act! Speak! Build! Week because the members of the chapter know how to reach Tech students better than the international office.

"When it comes to youth groups, we have found that it is better to let



TRENT BARNES/The Daily Toreador

FROM LEFT: JAMES Holt, a freshman theatre major from Corpus Christi, sits with Jaime Foster, a sophomore psychology major from Houston and Karen McCauley, a junior math major from Borger, during Habitat for Humanities Sleep Out and Speak Out for Poverty Friday night in Urbanovsky Park.

them develop their own events so they can take ownership of them," she said. "That isn't to say we don't give them ideas of what they could do, but (Tech chapter members) are on campus and they analyze the best way to reach their peers."

Amy Jarmon, Habitat for Humanity faculty adviser and assistant dean of the Tech School of Law, said she considers the entire week a success.

"We had a table at the (Student Union Building) where we handed out information and Wednesday, we

were able to finish two sheds and start another," Jarmon said. "Those sheds will go to houses we are building right now. The folks (at the event Friday) seem to be enjoying the trivia and we rescheduled the scavenger hunt for next week."

In 2004, 12.7 percent of the U.S. population, 37 million people, lived in poverty

Nearly 90 percent of renters today live in counties where working 40 hours a week and 52 weeks a year is insufficient to cover the cost of a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent.

According to a 1999 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development report, 4.9 million households and 10.9 million individuals face "worst-case housing needs." These families:

- 1) Are renters receiving no government assistance
 - 2) Make less than 50 percent of the area median income
 - 3) Pay more than 50 percent of their income for rent and utilities, and/or
- Live-in housing with severe deficiencies, such as having no hot water, no electricity, no toilet, or neither a bathtub nor shower.

Sources:

www.uscensus.gov
www.nihc.org/or2005/
www.huduser.org/publications/affhsq/wc99.pdf

Mellinger said a scavenger hunt was planned for Tuesday, but inclement weather forced it to be rescheduled.

Conliff said the Tech chapter raised nearly \$300 in donations throughout Act! Speak! Build! Week.

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Tech professor helps break the poverty cycle

By **RICHARD CAMPANARO**
STAFF WRITER

Ever since she worked as a camp counselor during college, Karen Meaney knew she wanted to teach.

Now she is teaching teachers.

After almost 15 years at Texas Tech, the associate professor in the Department of Health, Exercise and Sports Sciences said Lubbock children are facing barriers she never had to experience.

Meaney said poverty is responsible for many health problems among youth.

"It's not their fault," Meaney said. "The kids need a break."

Meaney said she — along with the Lubbock Independent School District — developed the Fun and Fit program for 8-year-old to 12-year-old children living in low-income neighborhoods in Lubbock. The program intends to educate young students about making more informed decisions regarding their diet and physical activities.

"It's a pain in the butt sometimes," Meaney said, "but it pays off."

She said the majority of children raised in poverty-stricken homes in Lubbock are black and Hispanic and have the highest risk for academic failure and health disparities.

"We all believe that our job as professors, and working with (Tech) students," Meaney said, "is to work with the kids that we consider under-served."

The best way to break the poverty cycle is through education, she said.

Having a variety of experiences with various people eliminates stereotypes.

Cassie Roberts, a junior early childhood education major from San Marcos, said she thinks Meaney is outgoing and passionate.

"Dr. Meaney's passion for her work makes us passionate about learning," Roberts said.

Meaney said growing up in Ohio, she could be classified as a tomboy who loved playing all types of sports and staying active.

"I remember career days in high school," she said. "They always said you should try to do something you love because then it's not a job."

She started her career as a physical education teacher at an elementary school.

"I thought, 'Well, this is fun, but do I want to do this until I'm 65?'" she said.

At that time, she began working on her graduate degree at the University of Houston.

"Then I thought, 'Wow, there's this whole world out there,'" she said. "I could be doing what my professors do. I could be teaching teachers."

Meaney, who has a doctorate in education, said she is involved in several community outreach programs. She helped Tech and the LISD obtain

a \$313,000 grant to be used over three years to enhance children's physical education programs. The grant paid for the Fun and Fit program, new equipment for LISD elementary schools and outside consultants to teach the CATCH — coordinated approach to child health — program to local educators.

"What we want to happen in elementary P.E. is for the kids to be more active," Meaney said. "If we have more equipment, there's a higher probability that kids will be more active."

Meaney said the programs serve a dual purpose by giving future educators and children worthwhile experiences as well as creating a way to collect qualitative and quantitative research data. The analysis of data collected from the work she and her associates, Melanie Hart and Kent Griffin, are doing shows the programs are helping to make a difference in the community.

The researchers record information about the children's heart rates, movement, food choices and various other statistics. Data collected shows 20 percent of the children in the program

are pre-diabetic.

According to the National Center for Children in Poverty's Web site, 49 percent of children in Texas live below the national poverty level — \$20,000 per year for a family of four. According to the Web site, on average, families require twice the amount of income defined by the poverty level to meet their basic needs.

Meaney said she wants more people, especially younger generations, to appreciate her cause.

"I'm not blaming younger generations," she said. "I think they just don't get it."

Erin Fry, a junior early childhood education major from Lubbock, said Meaney gets excited and energetic while she is working with students and children. She said the children respond well to Meaney, who allows Tech students to teach the children, which Fry said is a great experience.

Meaney said she thinks people have forgotten the importance of undergraduate education.

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Democrats weigh options on Iraq after expected Bush veto

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats are considering their next step after President Bush's inevitable veto of their war spending proposal, including a possible short-term funding bill that would force Congress to revisit the issue this summer.

Another alternative is providing the Pentagon the money it needs for the war but insisting that the Iraqi government live up to certain political promises. Or, the congressional Democrats could send Bush what he wants for now and set their sights on 2008 spending legislation.

The options are being weighed as Bush and Congress head toward a showdown this week on his Iraq policy. House and Senate appropriations meet Monday to negotiate a final bill that, if approved by both chambers, could reach the president's desk as early as the end of the week.

Army Gen. David Petraeus,

commander of the Iraq war, is expected to brief lawmakers behind closed doors as they cast their final vote.

The legislation is expected to fund the Iraq war but call for combat troops to leave, probably by March 31, 2008. Bush has promised to reject it and Republicans say they will back him, leaving Democrats short of the two-thirds majority support needed to override the veto.

Setting an end date to the war before it's won "would be a death blow to forces of moderation throughout the Middle East," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

Democratic leaders have been reluctant to discuss their next step, focusing instead on their ability to send Bush legislation rebuking his Iraq policy. But other lawmakers say there is no denying that Democrats do not have the two-thirds majority needed to override Bush's veto. And soon enough, everyone will be asking what happens next.

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OPINIONS

PAGE 4
MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2007

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I have never seen a more classless cartoon in my life as the one that appeared in *The Daily Toreador* Friday (April 20). How sick to use the Virginia Tech tragedy as part of your cartoon. You have no respect for the dead, no respect for the families of the dead and no respect for Texas Tech (which is clearly apparent by your lack of concern for what you put in our paper). This cartoon never should have made it to the pages of *The DT*, but I can't say I'm surprised. There are countless mistakes in this paper everyday and even the occasional day when the same article is printed on two different pages under two different titles. Does anyone even read the paper before it is printed? At least your normal mistakes only make yourselves look like asses, though. This cartoon laughs at the tragedy that occurred April 16 on the Virginia Tech campus, but death should never be funny. I hope whoever made this cartoon and whoever approved it get fired. You will be lucky if this sick cartoon doesn't end up on CNN. Thanks for making Texas Tech look stupid and heartless.

Adrian Sinnacher, senior psychology major from Corpus Christi

As the editor, you are responsible for what gets printed on the pages of our paper. Letting such a distasteful cartoon appear on anything that represents our university was an embarrassment to every Techsan in the country. With the state of our national media, I would think you would be trying to teach our young journalists the values they should have and not contribute to the whoring and scheming that currently exists in your profession. The one positive thing that I can take from this is that the artist does not have enough talent to be successful in his poorly chosen field even though he shares the same ethics and values as most of your colleagues. I know my thoughts on this are not in the minority, and I only hope that proper action will be taken and apologies will be swift and sincere.

Eric Wing, Class of 2003

Editor, please tell me what exactly your job is if you let that disgusting excuse for humor to be published. As an alumnus of Texas Tech, I am ashamed this made it to print. This newspaper represents my college and has embarrassed me. This was bad taste on a new level. If Don Imus was fired for his remarks, no doubt your cartoonist should be let go as well. Clean up your act and stop making a mockery of Tech!

Jeffrey S. Peeples

To whom it may concern:

The cartoon depicted in reference to President Bush and the Virginia Tech shootings is unbelievable. The comic is absolutely stupid, not funny and totally inappropriate. The approving official should be reprimanded and possibly fired. I cannot believe something like this has been printed in a publication that represents such a fine university. Pull this cartoon immediately! What an insult to the victims and families of Virginia Tech. I and many others currently are writing letters to the senior leadership at Texas Tech. It is possibly in your best interest to start working on damage control.

Allen W. Goodwin, Class of 1996

The cartoon in Friday's paper was completely tasteless. How dare you feel that you are above this tragedy. How dare you use such a tragedy as a political device. I don't care what your feelings are concerning our president or gun control; this is the wrong time, the wrong forum, the wrong event to use. I am disgusted anyone would draw such a cartoon, but more disgusted that Travis Cram, the editor, actually put this into the paper. The Student Government Association and other organizations on campus have done so much to try and show Virginia Tech we are there for them; we keep saying "From One Tech to Another." So this is the way our official newspaper has decided to show their support. Wow, that's just great. I am ashamed my university paper has chosen to make light of this terrible situation. This is why I hardly ever read the paper anymore.

Amelia Sieloff, senior music education major from Georgetown

CARTOONIST'S EXPLANATION

It has come to my attention that some of my peers were offended by my cartoon on Friday, and I've been asked to write an explanation. I certainly understand where concerned parties are coming from. The wound of Virginia Tech is still raw, and sensitivity is warranted. I was as shocked, as the rest of the world was, to see such senseless violence, and I would never intend to demean the value of the lives lost, nor the lives forever damaged.

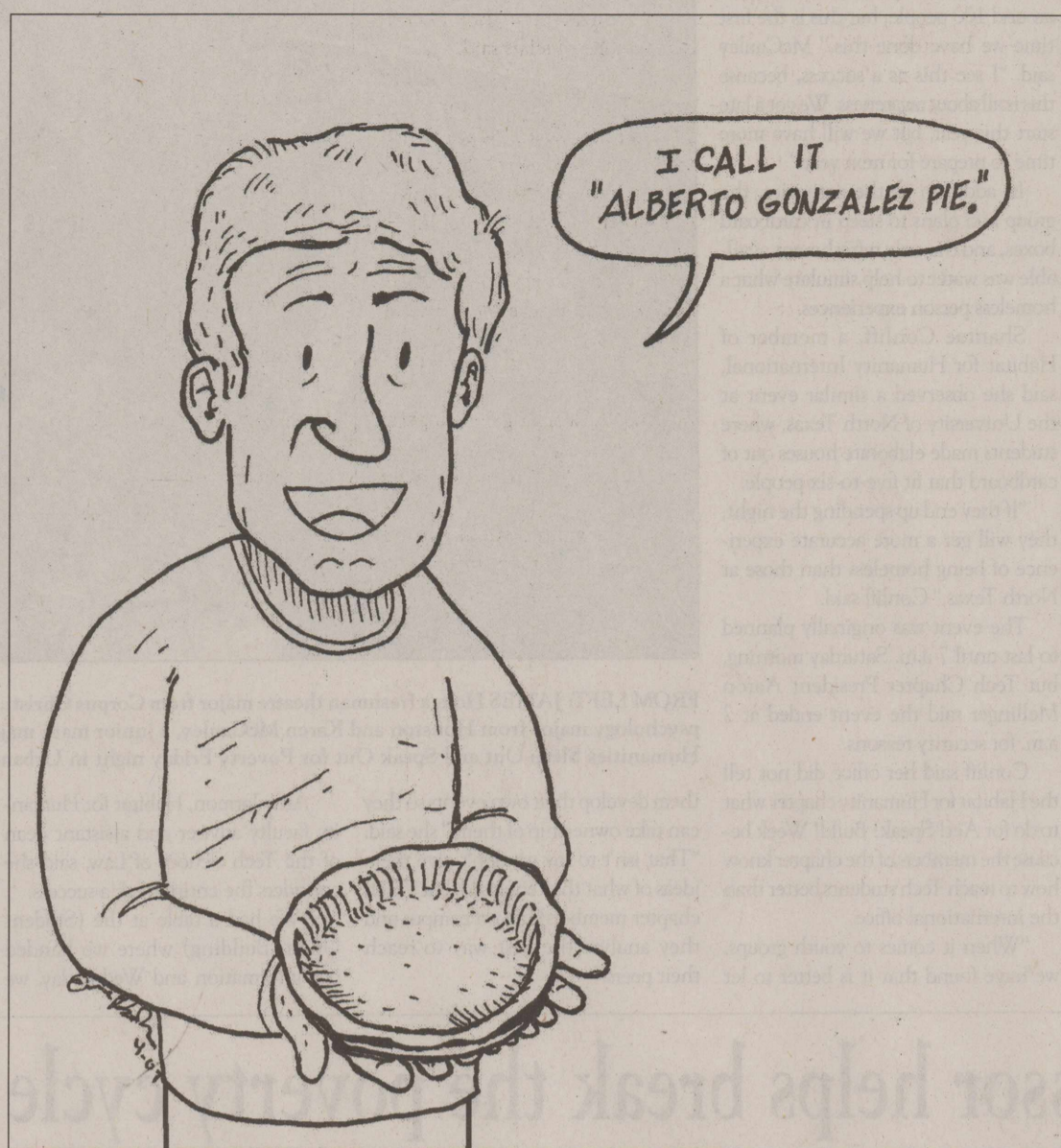
That said, I stand by my cartoon. Our current president is the most ardently pro-gun president we've had in a long time, and his administration has let the few recent pieces of gun legislation wither to almost nothing. No one but the young man in Virginia pulled the trigger, but I strongly believe that our gun-crazy culture is shameful, and not free from blame. I also think it's hypocritical to mourn a tragic event without seriously thinking about why it happened, without doing everything you can to make sure it doesn't happen again. This, as painful as it may be, means critically examining our culture, and ourselves.

Friday's cartoon was deliberately ridiculous, as many of them are. Obviously, the president wouldn't stop in the middle of a speech to hunt a turkey, much less a cartoon mascot. It serves to make a point, however, that our politicians consistently portray the attitude of "Do as I say, not as I do" to young Americans and to the rest of the world. This is how we solve our problems: 600,000 dead civilians in Iraq since 2003, according to the *New York Times*. And many are OK with "Well, you know, we made a mistake." My cartoon was aimed at the president and those who, like him, promote a culture in which gun violence is excused and glamorized — no one else.

As a cartoonist, I have no delusions that what I do solves problems this big. Nor do I expect everyone to agree with my views. Certainly, a newspaper has a great responsibility to be sensitive. But by questioning those in power, especially when to do so is unpopular, is just as great a responsibility, and one I hope this paper continues to uphold.

Eric Braden
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Columns, letters and artwork represent the opinions of their creators and are not necessarily representative of the editorial board, Texas Tech, its employees, its student body or the Board of Regents.



Global warming needs fair debate

Imagine you begin to feel ill one day. You make an appointment with a doctor and make your way to his or her office. You wait in the waiting room like everyone else, fill out those annoying forms and try to guess the ailments of those around you in a morbidly entertaining way.

Finally, you get to go into the doctor's office. Sitting there with your pants around your ankles, the doctor examines you for clues as to what might be wrong. After a lengthy invasion of your personal space — for your own good, of course — the doctor solemnly tells you what anyone would be frightened to hear. It's cancer, it's incurable and you've got six months to live.

What would your first reaction be? Would you start digging your own grave and go size yourself for a casket? Surely not. You ask for a second opinion. You always seek out another doctor or expert just to make sure. What if the first doctor was mistaken? What if he or she was just off his or her game? What if the doctor is just crazy, or worse, an environmentalist?

OK, maybe that was uncalled for.

Unfortunately, many governments in this world don't feel it's necessary to seek out a second opinion, even if that opinion is banging down their doors. After all, who could argue with an intimidating group such as the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change? Even the acronym IPCC is enough to make oil executives tremble in their \$1,000 boots.

But in all seriousness, the whole situation has become one of the most brilliant displays of hypocrisy I have ever seen. During the 17th century, great thinkers like Galileo Galilei were persecuted and silenced by religious entities such as the Catholic Church for their promotion of then-unpopular ideas. Now, scientists are silencing other scientists for going against the grain.

Adrian Martinez



While many governments have begun the rush to regulate their nations' greenhouse gas emissions, many scientists are complaining they're finding it difficult to be heard by governments if they maintain the opinion global warming is not being caused by humans — or even if they

“Some would argue any scientist who doubts the severity of global warming or the human race's responsibility for it is simply a bad scientist who doesn't deserve a job or funding.”

have doubts about the catastrophic effects the IPCC has predicted.

This isn't Exxon-Mobil we're talking about. These are honest, hard-working scientists who are putting their reputations on the line. Many have found it incredibly difficult or even impossible to have their work published in scientific journals, and still others have been unable to get funding or jobs unless they agree with the “scientific consensus.”

Some would argue any scientist who doubts the severity of global warming or the human race's responsibility for it is simply a bad scientist who doesn't deserve a job or

funding. Unfortunately for global warming-theory proponents, these scientists have rational thought to back up their claims. Roy Spencer, a top research scientist at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Ala., recently has voiced his views about global warming.

Spencer said the scientific community's understanding of the earth's climate and atmosphere is limited at best, and the models scientists are using to predict the effects of climate change are faulty because of those limitations. Spencer is aware his views are unpopular, but that's not the point.

How are we to know just how small that minority is if scientists who think like Roy Spencer are finding it hard to be heard? How can we really get a second opinion?

Instead of running out and crippling every major economy in the world with carbon dioxide-emission regulations, we should be running out to better understand the world we live in and how it works. Or better yet, we might better understand our sun and how it affects our climate. Maybe then we could make more sense of the fact Earth isn't the only planet in our solar system showing signs of climate change and melting ice caps.

Maybe that's asking too much. I guess the first step would be to let scientists be scientists. We might try to fund them so they can do their jobs well, and we might then print their discoveries in scientific journals so other scientists can see their work. And, perhaps we should leave politics out of it. That is how this whole thing is supposed to work, isn't it?

■ **Martinez is a senior music major from San Antonio. E-mail him at adrian.martinez@ttu.edu.**

Let Cho die as he lived, anonymously

By **DAN SHEEHAN**
THE COLLEGIATE TIMES (VIRGINIA TECH)

(U-WIRE) BLACKSBURG, Va. — I had been telling my family and friends at other schools (even a reporter) how respectful I thought the media had been toward the students and their families; then I saw the pictures of Cho Seung-Hui and heard an audio clip of him ranting while I was driving home. I had to pull off to the side of the road, I was so furious.

At first, it was like listening to talk radio being broadcast from hell. It was as if he was finally getting what he wanted: people to know his name and know who he was. I say let that man die as he lived: anonymously. At first, I wanted to see the pictures and watch his video clips, with the hope that I could extract some sort of meaning, some sort of reason for why he would do such a thing. After further deliberation, it occurred to me that we can never understand why, because there simply is no reason. Nothing he can say will ever remotely justify his actions.

All of the news media, not just NBC (the recipients of his package), should be ashamed of themselves. As if it weren't enough that he murdered 32 members of our community, as if what we imagined in our minds of what those people saw in their last moments wasn't awful enough. For the survivors, that their first encounter with him wasn't enough, that they had to see and hear him again. The Virginia Tech community had to face Cho again, and it was the media, who is “so sorry for what happened” that made us face him again. They chose ratings over healing. They chose video hits over real people struggling with real loss.

What's worse is that the editing teams' decisions to air the contents of the package gave Cho exactly what he wanted: freedom from anonymity. The media, again, has proven to Cho and those capable of doing like he did that if you commit atrocity, you will become famous; so the cycle will continue.

When are we going to get over our curiosity and start listening to our conscience? Its human nature to wonder about these people and its normal to want to know more about them, but our fascination with people like Cho is only making more of them. Maybe I wouldn't be saying all of this if it weren't affecting me so personally. I'm guilty of watching the stuff about the Columbine kids (I want name them — its what they wanted) and other sociopaths in American history, but I'm stopping now, out of fear that this could happen to another school, to another 32 people who were guilty of nothing more than going to school and teaching school.

I don't ever want to see another picture of Cho Seung-Hui. This is the last time I will speak his name. He wanted to be heard, to be remembered... don't give him the satisfaction. I will never forget April 16th. I will never forget the story of Dr. Librescu, or the students who risked their own lives to save others. I will always remember the names of those we lost. As time fades, my memories of that day will remain intact, but I will do the victims their final honor, and forget the name of their assailant. I will let him die as he lived: nothing to nobody. I hope the media will, too.

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NASA shooting suspect received poor job review

HOUSTON (AP) — The gunman in an apparent murder-suicide at the Johnson Space Center targeted a NASA worker he feared could get him fired, police said Saturday.

William Phillips had received a poor job review a month before authorities said he smuggled a revolver into the space center, shot David Beverly and barricaded himself with a hostage before killing himself in a building that houses communications and tracking systems for the space shuttle. The hostage escaped.

Police Chief Harold Hurtt said

Phillips bought the .38-caliber revolver March 18, two days after receiving an e-mail citing deficiencies in his job performance.

A copy of the e-mail was found in Phillips' lunch bag on the day of the shootings, police Lt. Larry Baimbridge said.

Phillips had lunch with Beverly and another man on Friday, police said. That afternoon, Phillips entered Beverly's office with the snub-nosed revolver in his hand and said "You're the one who's going to get me fired," Baimbridge said.

After Beverly talked with Phillips for several minutes, Phillips shot him twice, police said. He then returned and shot Beverly twice more, officials said.

Phillips duct-taped a woman to a chair, holding her for hours, police said. Officers entered the room and freed her after hearing the gunshot that killed Phillips.

The hostage, identified by NASA as Fran Crenshaw, a contract worker with MRI Technologies, worked in the same general area.

Iraq

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In a religiously mixed neighborhood of Baghdad, two suicide car bombers attacked a police station, police said, killing at least 13 people and turning nearby buildings into piles of rubble.

The first driver raced through a police checkpoint guarding the station and exploded his vehicle just outside the two-story building, police said. Moments later, a second suicide car bomber aimed at the checkpoint's concrete barriers and exploded just outside them, police said.

The blasts collapsed nearby buildings, smashing windows and burying at least four cars under piles of concrete. Metal roofs were peeled back by the force of the explosions. Pools of blood made red mud of a dusty driveway.

A man who was among the 82 wounded in Sunday's attack staggered through the wreckage.

"All our belongings and money were smashed and are gone. What kind of life is this? Where is the government?" he asked. "There are no jobs, and things are very bad. Is this fair?"

Iraqi police stations often are the target of attacks by insurgents who accuse the officers of betray-

ing Iraq by working in cooperation with its U.S.-backed Shiite government and the American military.

A policeman, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media, said 13 people died — five policemen and eight civilians — and that 82 were wounded.

Elsewhere the capital's southwest, a parked car bomb exploded, killing three civilians and wounding 10, police said.

A top U.S. general said Sunday that American forces had no technology capable of detecting all suicide bombers before they strike.

Cigarettes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

would be able to acquire tobacco, Biggs said.

"I agree with that; it might reduce it in high schools," Biggs said. "But if they're 18, they probably have friends who are 19 and 20. I know I did when I was that age."

Marco Ortegren, a 27-year-old accounting graduate student from East Alton, Ill., who has smoked since he was 16, said he agrees with the idea of trying to reduce underage smoking.

"It's probably a good idea in general," Ortegren said. "I don't know that it would have any major effect, but any effect is a good effect when it comes to smoking."

Amanda Harkey, a senior architecture and civil engineering major from Dallas who does not smoke, said she thinks 18 years old should remain the legal age because at that

age, an individual is mature enough to make his or her own decisions.

"I think the age is fine at 18," said Amanda Harkey. "It's not as much of a maturity issue as it is just a personal choice."

According to the press release, tobacco-related illnesses contribute \$5.83 billion in Texas health care costs each year, \$1.6 billion of which is covered by the state's Medicaid system.

"Ninety percent of all adult smokers begin smoking while they are in their teens," Uresti said in the press release. "Studies indicate that the longer we keep teens from smoking, the fewer adult smokers we will have in the future. This bill is good public health policy, and it is an excellent health promotion tool for our youth."

Ortegren said he thinks the bill might be a measure in a non-smokers crusade to eliminate smoking.

"I'd like to know how many members of the legislature are

smokers," Ortegren said. "Birds of a feather flock together, right?"

The bill was passed by a vote of 26 to four. The four senators who opposed the bill were Bob Deuell, R-Greenville, Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls, Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, and Dan Patrick, R-Houston.

On April 1, 1998, the sale of tobacco products was prohibited to people younger than 18 years old in all 50 states, according to the press release. The legal purchasing age has since risen to 19 in Alabama, Alaska, New Jersey, Utah and several counties in New York.

"If 18 is the voting age," Harkey said, "by golly, you should be able to go buy cigarettes if you want to."

Although the bill has passed in the state senate, it still has to pass in the Texas House of Representatives and be signed by Gov. Rick Perry before becoming effective. If Perry signs the bill, it will go into effect Sept. 1.

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Va. Tech

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Student government spokeswoman Liz Hart said the campus appreciates the reporting on the Virginia Tech story, but students are ready to move forward.

"The best way to know how to do that is get the campus back to normal," she said. "That includes being able to go back to class, to get back into our normal routine as much as a possible without being held back by anything external, reminding us that it will be a difficult road. We already know it."

Yellow crime-scene tape still surrounded the perimeter of Norris Hall, which will be closed for the rest of the semester. Some people snapped photos of the building; others gazed at it solemnly, with bowed heads.

Elsewhere on campus, students toiled laundry and suitcases as they headed for their dorms. On the Drillfield at the center of campus, sophomore Ashleigh Shifflett sat with her sister Regan, a 2005 graduate.

Shifflett left campus Tuesday for her home in Maryland and returned to campus Saturday.

"When we ... could see the campus, we both started crying," Shifflett said. "I was happy to see my family, but I felt like I needed to be here, and when I came back here, it was like I'm home."

Meanwhile, state medical examiners completed autopsies on all 32 victims and Cho. Dr. William Massello, the assistant medical examiner based in Roanoke, said he

was not sure whether all the bodies had been released to families, but all were ready.

Cho was not especially accurate with his shots, Massello said, but hit many of the victims several times. His shots caused more than 100 wounds.

The investigation into Cho continues, with computer forensics appearing to play a key role. The gunman, a sullen loner who appeared to have few if any friends, bought ammunition clips on eBay designed for one of two handguns used to kill 32 people and himself.

The eBay account and other Internet activities provide insight into how Cho may have plotted for the rampage, including the purchase of several empty ammo clips about three weeks before the attack.

Hani Durzy, an eBay spokesman, said the purchase of the clips from a Web vendor based in Idaho was legal and that the company has cooperated with authorities. Attempts to reach the Idaho dealer were unsuccessful.

Authorities are also examining the personal computers found in Cho's dorm room and seeking his cell-phone records.

Cho, 23, also used the eBay account to sell items ranging from Hokies football tickets to horror-themed books, some of which were assigned in one of his classes.

A search warrant affidavit filed Friday stated that investigators wanted to search Cho's e-mail accounts, including the address Blazers5505@hotmail.com. Durzy confirmed Cho used the same blazers5505 handle on eBay.

One question investigators hope to answer is whether Cho had any e-mail contact with Emily Hilscher, one of the first two victims. Investigators plan to search her Virginia Tech e-mail account.

On March 22, Cho bought at least two 10-round magazines for the Walther P22. A day later, he made a purchase from a vendor named "oneclickshooting," which sells gun accessories and other items. It appears that he bought three Walther P22 clips in that purchase, but the seller could not be reached for comment.

Cho sold tickets to Virginia Tech sporting events, including last year's Peach Bowl. He sold a Texas Instruments graphics calculator that contained several games, most of them with mild themes.

"The calculator was used for less than one semester then I dropped the class," Cho wrote on the site.

He also sold many books about violence, death and mayhem. Several of those books were used in his English classes, meaning Cho simply could have been selling used books at the end of the semester.

Andy Koch, Cho's roommate from 2005-06, said he never saw Cho receive or send a package, although he didn't have much interaction with the shooter. Students can sign up for a free lottery on a game-by-game basis, and the tickets are free.

"We took him to one football game," he said. "We told him to sign up for the lottery, and he went and he left like in the third quarter, and that was it. He never went again. He never went to another game."

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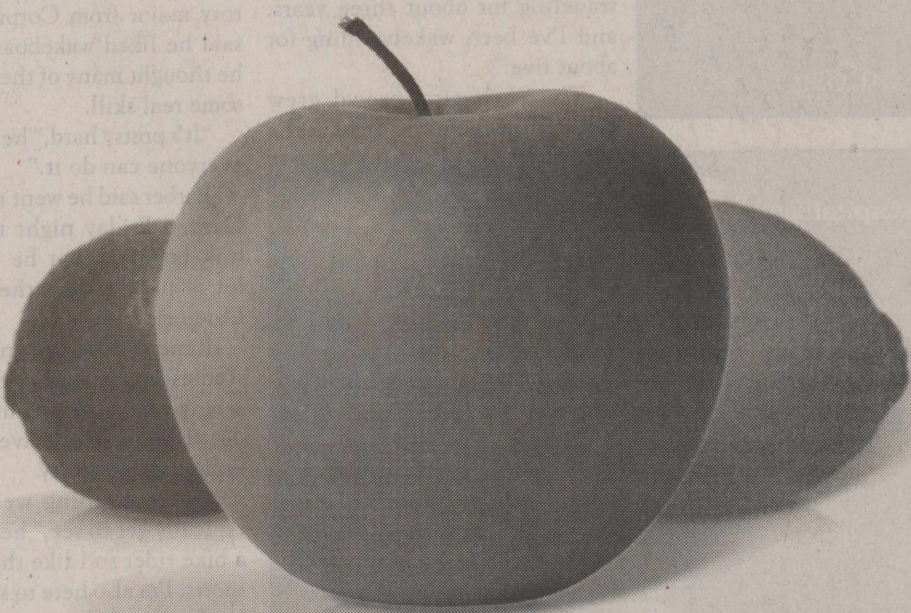


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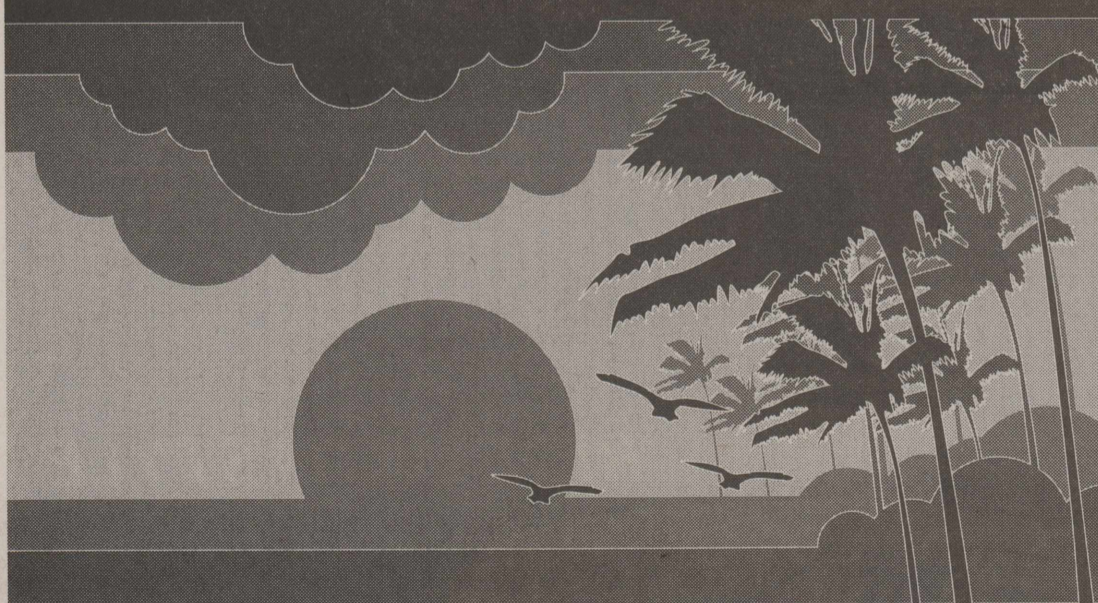
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LA VIDA

14th Annual Austin Reggae Fest celebrates music, diversity

By **MAGGIE KIELY**
STAFF WRITER

AUSTIN — Reggae music, assorted vendors and a diverse audience are the essential ingredients to a truly Austin experience.

Saturday and Sunday, thousands of people gathered to celebrate the 14th Annual Austin Reggae Fest at Auditorium Shores in downtown Austin. The event, benefiting the Capital Area Food Bank of Texas, is described on the Web site <http://myspace.com/austinreggaefest>, as an event that "celebrates positive vibrations, peace, tolerance and the miracle of spring"

by featuring "amazing world music, ethnic food, exotic arts and crafts and premium people-watching."

About 15 musical guests played at the fest, including Mystic Bowie of Jamaica, New York's Easy Star All Stars and Jah Roots of Springfield, Mo.

Stephen Hernandez, a junior mathematics major at the University of Texas, said he has attended the Austin Reggae Fest for about four years and comes to have a good time with his friends.

"It's a nice musical event," Hernandez said. "I'm a musician myself; I enjoy all different types of music, and I'm enjoying my new privilege of being 21 (years old)

and drinking beer." Hernandez said he enjoys the atmosphere the fest produces.

"It's the music, it's the environment, it's the people, it's everything," Hernandez said. "Everyone here has been so friendly, it's purely Austin."

Frankie Ruiz, a junior radio, television and film major at UT, said he used to host a local television show called "Frankie Goes to High School" that provided an outlet for high school students to promote their music. This was his fifth year to attend the festival.

"It is a celebration of life and music," Ruiz said, "and everyone just feeling

good and celebrating the spirit of Bob Marley."

Ruiz said he still refers to the fest as "Marley Fest," although the name was changed years ago. He said he wishes it was still known as "Marley Fest," but he does not let the name ruin his experience.

"It's hard to be bitter towards something that celebrates something good," Ruiz said. "It's very rare that you get so many people that come together and are happy and peaceful."

Leslie Cochran, a former mayoral candidate and a cross-dressing celebrity, said he attends the event annually to mingle with the local ladies.

"I'm drinking and partying with all of the beautiful women of Austin," said Cochran, who was dressed in high heels, a bikini thong and a cowboy hat.

Michael Randell, a sophomore economics and finance major from Austin, said he took the six-hour journey from Lubbock to Austin to attend the festival to re-immers himself in the local culture.

"I go every year; I think it is a fun cultural thing to do for Austin," Randell said. "It brings a lot of people who really appreciate the Austin culture together and reminds people about what Austin is all about."

Randell said this was his fourth year

attending the event, and he plans to attend future fests.

Rachel Flores, an Austin native, said this was her first year to attend the event, and she thoroughly enjoyed the ambience.

"I come because of the environment, people are chill and it has good food," Flores said. "It is a laid-back, kind of Reggae environment."

Ruiz said this is an event he looks forward to every year.

"It's a unique Austin event owned by Austin, but it is open to anybody," he said.

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TEA PARTY



Coleman Morefield/The Daily Toreador

NOI VOLKOV'S TEAPOT entitled Picasso sits in the Texas Tech Museum Special Exhibits Gallery Friday morning in anticipation of the opening of Teapots: Object to Subject, which opened Sunday.

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'Hot Fuzz' heats up comedy-action genre

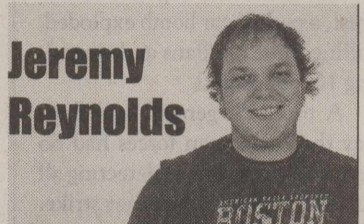
"Hot Fuzz" is a non-stop action comedy with all the dips and chills of a 10-ticket carnival thrill ride.

All right, so I know that's a corny way to describe a movie, but I thought it went along with the overall theme of the newest picture by the writer/director of "Shaun of the Dead."

"Hot Fuzz" doesn't actually spoof Hollywood action films because "spoo" implies the director is making fun of something. Director Edgar Wright, instead, pays tribute to films like "Point Break" and "Bad Boys II" in a satirically delicious way.

The movie is filled with pure ice cream-like joy from the opening scene to the ending credits. I've seen better flicks through the years, but it's been a long time since I've seen one this entertaining.

"Hot Fuzz" is the combination of



the murder rate has been holding at zero for 20 years. Like with any good mystery worth the price of admission, everything is not what it seems, and there's a deeper motivation behind everyone's false smiles. The first half of "Hot Fuzz" plays out like a Sherlock Holmes novel with an eerie score composed by David Arnold ("Casino Royale") and Italian-style cinematography shot by newcomer Jess Hall. The setup is nice for the second half of the film, which is all about bullets and gunfights. Simon Pegg stars as the by-the-book, clean-nosed London police officer who has relocated to the quiet life in Sanford, England, because his arrest numbers were putting other officers in the department to shame. Upon arriving in Sanford, Pegg begins to ooze his big-city training all over the placid streets of what's called the "safest" village in a country where the accident rate is incredibly high, but

funny and breathtaking. None of the characters are safe in the film, as Pegg beats on crippled men and drop-kicks elderly ladies.

"Hot Fuzz" is the type of film that renews my faith in the comedy genre. It's simply an action-comedy that doesn't try to become "Beverly Hills Cop" or "Rush Hour."

The film stands alone as an original action-comedy that should lay the ground for a whole slew of knock-offs in years to come. Why is it the British know more about comedy and action these days than the land that spawned such great masterpieces as "Die Hard" and "Bullitt?"

5 out of 6 GREAT

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

The action sequences are creative,

'Disturbia' takes in \$13.5 million to repeat as top weekend flick

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The face of Hannibal Lecter was no match for Shia LaBeouf in a box-office battle of murder thrillers.

DreamWorks and Paramount's "Disturbia," starring LaBeouf as a teen who suspects a neighbor of murder, took in \$13.5 million to hold the top weekend movie spot for a second straight weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

New Line Cinema's "Fracture" starring Anthony Hopkins — who played serial killer Lecter in three films — debuted at No. 2 with \$11.2 million. Hopkins plays a sly defendant accused of killing his unfaithful wife, with Ryan Gosling co-starring as the prosecutor.

DreamWorks and Paramount's figure-skating comedy "Blades of Glory," starring Will Ferrell and Jon Heder, was No. 3 with \$7.8 million

in its fourth weekend to cross the \$100 million mark.

Sony Screen Gems' horror flick "Vacancy," starring Kate Beckinsale and Luke Wilson as a couple marked for grisly death at a sleazy motel, led a rush of other new wide releases, opening at No. 4 with \$7.6 million.

The buddy-cop comedy "Hot Fuzz," released by Focus Features' Rogue Pictures unit, had a strong

start in narrower release, premiering at No. 6 with \$5.8 million in 825 theaters, about a third the number of cinemas where "Fracture" and "Vacancy" played.

"Hot Fuzz" comes from the "Shaun of the Dead" team of director Edgar Wright and his co-writer and star Simon Pegg, who plays a London super-cop exiled to a sleepy British town, where he encounters a series of grisly deaths.

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Vanilla
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
the tank and onto the viewing audience members. "This is awesome," Lemberg said. "I love doing it. I've been traveling for about three years, and I've been wakeboarding for about five." The gathering crowd grew larger throughout the night as the

long line waiting to gain entrance shortened.

"It's a good crowd," Lemberg said of the Hub City turnout. "When we did this in Dallas, we got a slightly larger crowd, but this is a good turnout."

Caleb Barber, a sophomore history major from Corpus Christi, said he liked wakeboarding, and he thought many of the riders had some real skill.

"It's pretty hard," he said. "Not everyone can do it."

Barber said he went to the Beer Garden Friday night to see the wakeboarders, but he thought a lot of people were there for the Daiquiri Lounge.

Rene Rocha, a junior visual studies major from Odessa, said seeing wakeboarding in the middle of Buddy Holy Avenue was a unique opportunity.

"It's something we wouldn't typically get to see," he said. "I'm a bike rider so I like the extreme sports. I'm also here to see Vanilla Ice for sure."

The bands didn't start until almost 11 p.m., and Vanilla Ice didn't take the stage until well after midnight.

"I kind of see him as a B-star that's just trying to get his name back out there," Rocha said. "I saw him on 'The Surreal Life.'"

Adrian Davis, a Lubbock resident and long-time admirer of extreme sports, said he loved the fact the Beer Garden brought wakeboarding to the Hub City because many people would never get to see something like that otherwise.

"It's cool, man," he said. "We need more stuff like this. Extreme sports are the way to go."

Todd Bauer, a junior biology major from Plano, said he received free tickets to the block party through his work.

"I've seen wakeboarding before," he said. "I've just never seen it done on a street venue before."

► jeremy.n.reynolds@ttu.edu

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No woman's land: Meg Ryan film falls flat in tangle of dramatic plot lines

"In the Land of Women" is a film that would work much better as a Lifetime Television movie in which the expectations for quality are considerably low.

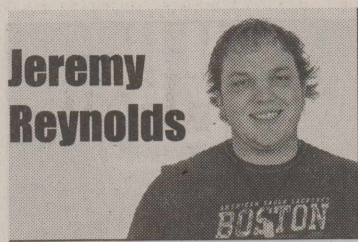
The movie suffers from Attention Deficit Disorder because it can't pick one topic and stay with it.

The movie stars Adam Brody as a soft-core porn writer out of Los Angeles who travels to John Hughes country to be with his dying grandmother. He believes the fresh air and small-town atmosphere will help him finally write that novel he's been promising himself he'd start since high school.

He's recently been dumped by his girlfriend, who's a famous actress though it's never explained how they met, and he's still not ready to move on from that heartbreak.

Once he moves in with his grandmother, he meets Meg Ryan, his neighbor from across the street, and her high-school daughter Kristen Stewart.

Ryan recently has been diagnosed



Jeremy Reynolds

with breast cancer, and she's slowly adapting to that fact. I would continue to explain the plot of the film, but it just gets too confusing.

The director has a problem throughout the movie of introducing new angles that soon get lost in the mixture of incoherent thoughts. Is this film a mother-daughter story between Ryan and Stewart? Is it a story about a young man trying to figure out his life? Or is the film about a love triangle between Ryan, Brody and Stewart?

The entire movie is a spectacular mess audiences are supposed to look at and figure out for themselves what's important.

Don't go see this film in hopes of watching a romantic comedy with that quirky woman from "Sleepless in Seattle." The film is a straight drama.

Audiences know it's a drama because the director chunks it full of dramatic storylines. There's the breast cancer storyline, the dying-and-demented-grandmother storyline, the cheating-husband storyline, the high school-love tragedy storyline, the mother-daughter storyline, the broken-heart storyline and for some unknown reason, there's a scene in which Stewart talks about a little show-and-tell game she played with her friend when she was 11 years old.

The movie is just too difficult to get a solid foothold on.

I loved that Brody's character wrote soft-core porn because it's something original someone wouldn't expect to



COURTESY PHOTO/Warner Bros. ADAM BRODY AND Meg Ryan star in the film "In the Land of Women," a drama lacking a solid plot line.

see in a drama. However, director Jon Kasdan decided not to explore this little character trait, which would have been interesting considering Brody is supposedly "in the land of women." Brody might as well have been a stockbroker or a bum from the street wanting to mooch off his grandmother.

A good drama is composed of witty, snappy dialogue, such as that found in "In Her Shoes" or "The Notebook," but "In the Land of Women" is scripted with awkward scenes followed by uncomfortable silence.

Through the pure, meaningless nothing that enveloped the plot, there were a few things I enjoyed about the movie.

It's nice to go see a romantic drama that isn't layered with the soundtrack to "Garden State." I liked the classic-rock music that underlines a lot of the scenes, and I even enjoyed bits of Ryan's performance as the suburban housewife.

Still, nothing could save this movie from becoming a cheesy Lifetime Television film only the unemployed and flu-stricken high school females would watch.

2 out of 6 POOR

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



COURTESY PHOTO/Warner Bros. MEG RYAN

MONDAY		APRIL 23, 2007						
STAT. CHAN. AFFIL. CITY	KTXT 5 PBS Lubbock	KCBD 11 NBC Lubbock	KLBK 13 CBS Lubbock	KMYL 14 MYN Lubbock	KLCW 22 CW Lubbock	KAMC 28 ABC Lubbock	KJTV 34 FOX Lubbock	
7 AM	Curious Clifford	Today Food and Feels	Early Show	Believer	5:00 Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	J. Harina	
8 AM	Dragon Tales	Farmelia Druckerman ("Lust In Transition") (HD)	700 Club	Eye for an Eye	Judge Lopez	Montel Williams	Martha Matt Lauer	
9 AM	Sesame Street	Regie and Kelly	Price Is Right	Divorce Court	Divorce Court	The View (HD)	Tyra Banks	
10 AM	Callou	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Divorce Court	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow	
11 AM	Mister Rogers	News	KLBK 13 News	Jerry Springer	Cosby Show	All My Children	Access Extra	
12 PM	Gary Spetz	Days of Our Lives	Bold & Beautiful	Maury	Roseanne	One Life to Live	People's Court	
1 PM	Scrap	Passions	Guiding Light	Paid Program	What I Like	General Hospital	Cristina	
2 PM	Puppy	The Lions	Inside Edition	Paid Program	What I Like	Reba	Ellen DeGeneres	
3 PM	Reading	Cyberchase	C Oprah Winfrey	Brown	Jerry Springer	Reba	Ellen DeGeneres	
4 PM	Clifford	Arthur	Dr. Phil	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Bernie Mac	Fox 34 News First@Four	
5 PM	Maya & Miguel	Bus Report	NBC News	CBS News	Family Feud	Still Standing	ABC News	
6 PM	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Wheel (HD)	Millionaire	How I Met (HD)	King Qu.	Extra	Entertainment	
7 PM	Antiques Roadshow	Deal or No Deal	How I Met (HD)	New Adv. (HD)	King Qu. (HD)	Extra	Entertainment	
8 PM	American Experience	Heroes "07%" (HD)	Two & 1/2 (HD)	King Qu. (HD)	Game (HD)	Game (HD)	Game (HD)	
9 PM	Oke Noodling	(81) Real W. Crasher	CSI: Miami	Jim	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	
10 PM	Bus Report	Charlie Rose	(35) Jay Leno (HD)	(35) Late Show (HD)	King of Hill	Sex and City	(35) Nightline	
11 PM	News	(35) Late Night	(35) Craig Ferguson	Malcolm	Becker	Mad About	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live	
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Tech tennis teams earn key victories heading into Big 12 Tournament

By **ADAM COLEMAN**
STAFF WRITER

Both Texas Tech men's and women's tennis teams may have received the boost they needed to make a successful run in the Big 12 Tournament. In its last home matches of the year, both teams came away with conference wins leading into tournament play.

The Tech women (10-10, 3-7 Big 12) defeated Iowa State 6-1 Sunday at the McLeod Tennis Complex. In what was their first win in four matches, the Tech women started the match taking advantage of the doubles point, taking a 4-0 lead to clinch the victory with three matches remaining.

Tech coach Cari Groce said she felt this was a good win to gain heading into the Big 12 Tournament where, if successful, the team can clinch a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

"I think it's a very good match for us to win going into the Big 12 Tournament," Groce said. "We still (have to) work on No. 3 doubles and get going before Wednesday, so we'll do some drilling. They got a little bit better and we need to get a little bit more (better)."

Tech's No. 1 duo of Samantha van der Drift and Janet Durham started their match



CAITY COLVARD/The Daily Toreador

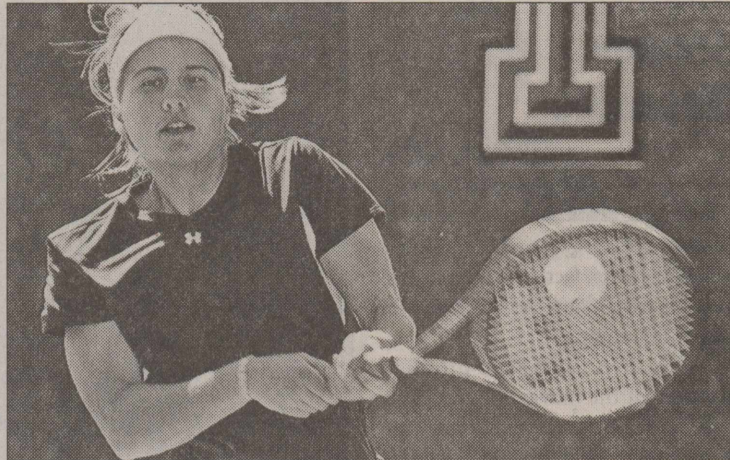
CHRISTIAN ROJMAR RETURNS a serve while doubles partner Bojan Szumanski rushes over to assist during the tennis match against Oklahoma State Sunday afternoon at the McLeod Tennis Complex.

taking care of Iowa State's Kara Hickey and Eve Soriano, 8-5. Janet Durham finished the fall and spring seasons with a doubles record of 20-14. The doubles point eventually was clinched as senior Lakann Wagley and Brenna Jackson defeated the Cyclones' Jill Palen and Caitlin Loprinzi.

In singles competition, Durham gave the advantage to Tech as she took down Loprinzi, 6-1, 6-1. Durham was in the lead for most of the match and gave Tech the early 2-0 lead. Andres also contributed with a win, defeating Danielle Uscinski 6-0, 6-2.

The win — which gave the women their 10th win of the season — was sealed with a win by van der Drift, defeating ISU's Jill Palen, 6-1, 6-0. Wagley defeated Hickey in the only match to go to three sets, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4. Wagley said while there have been many different experiences in her career at Tech, she looks forward to life after tennis.

"It's here and it's gone," Wagley said. "I'm sad, I think I've done good and bad stuff while I've been here. I'm excited to start a new chapter of my life."



CAITY COLVARD/The Daily Toreador

SAMANTHA VAN DER DRIFT returns a serve during her match against Iowa State Sunday morning at the McLeod Tennis Complex.

The Tech men (13-7, 2-3) had their match with No. 28 Oklahoma postponed because of excessive winds. That left Sunday's match with No. 7 Oklahoma State as an important win for making a case to be in the NCAA Tournament. The Tech men triumphed and upset the Cowboys, 4-3 at the McLeod Tennis Complex.

The doubles play did not get off to the start the Red Raiders may have hoped for. Seniors Teddy DiBlasi and Dimitrio Martinez in the No. 3 spot failed to win their match against OSU's Ivan Puchkarov and

Dmytro Petrov, 8-3, taking their sixth loss as a duo. It seemed the Cowboys were in place to take the doubles point, but Bojan Szumanski and Christian Rojmar defeated the Cowboys' No. 1 duo in Daniel Byrnes and Oleksandr Nedovyyesov, 8-4. Michael Breler and Sinisa Markovic gave Tech the doubles point. Breler and Moarkovic were down 7-2 against OSU's Artsem Burmis-trau and Nathan Byrnes, but rallied to win seven straight sets for a 9-7 win.

The Tech men went on to split the singles matches with the Cowboys, mak-

ing the doubles point an important part of the match. Rojmar and Markovic set up Martinez to clinch the match for the Red Raiders. Martinez fought his way to a win against Puchkarov, 6-4, 7-6 (8-6) to cap off his senior season and give Tech the upset victory.

After his final home match of his career, Martinez said this was an experience he will always draw on.

"(It was a) great trip for me, great experience in my life," Martinez said. "These past four years I have been learning so much from being out here belonging to a tennis team and getting my degree. I've been surrounded by a great group of guys and great coaches."

Senior Greg Jones said his teammates have become more than teammates to him over the years.

"The guys here have been like a family and each year we grow," Jones said.

DiBlasi said upsetting a highly-ranked opponent such as Oklahoma State was the best way to end his career as a Red Raider.

"This has been a tremendous four years, especially ending it like this," DiBlasi said. "(It was a) huge win, top 10 win. I'm so proud of everyone and all the fight that we gave today, it was amazing."

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Tech track adds more Regional qualifying marks at TCU Invitational

By **PAUL ROBERTS**
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech track team added 13 regional marks during

the TCU Invitational in Fort Worth Saturday — including six first-place finishes.

The men's pole vault swept the top-three spots with Seth

Harris, Brian Porter and Chris Ashcraft finishing first, second and third, respectively. Harris finished first, reaching a height of 17-2 3/4.

Freshman Porter finished just under Harris' mark with a 16-10 3/4 mark. A height of 16-6 3/4

was good enough to place Ashcraft in third.

In field events, the Red Raiders championed in the women's discus and hammer throws. Sophomore D'Andra Carter titled the women's discus with a regionally qualifying throw of

166-6. In the women's hammer throw, redshirt freshman Ozie Okolie placed first in the event with a throw of 174-2.

Earning his first regional mark of the season in the javelin throw was junior transfer Michael Cast with a personal best toss of 203-8.

In hurdling, Red Raider freshman and Lubbock native Omo Osaghee earned his first-ever regional mark in the 110-meter hurdles when he ran a personal best of 14.18 to finish fifth in the event.

Senior Marlon Odom, last

week's Big 12 Male Athlete of the Week, clocked the fastest collegiate time in the 110-meter hurdles with a 13.50. The time marks Odom's fastest of the 2007 season and second fastest ever at Tech.

Jansen Hyde added his second regional mark of the season in the 110-meter hurdles. Nathan Lowry added a regional mark in the event, finishing with a time of 14.17.

Senior Byran Scott added another regional mark for the season as he championed the 400-meter hurdles, clocking a time of 51.04.

The Red Raiders added three regional marks in jumping events.

Bobby Evers and Lyle Leong earned qualifications in the long jump with leaps of 24-6 1/2 and 24-4 1/2, respectively.

Lacy Wilson earned her fourth qualification of the year in the high jump with a leap of 5-10 3/4.

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20 Take place
21 Redo a column
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23 Mystery award
25 Wide receiver
27 Terrell
27 Gordon and Sheila
30 Male voice
32 "Frome"
33 Southwest art mecca
35 Crystal balls, e.g.
38 Exist
39 Wood coating
42 One Gershwin
43 Rendered fat
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46 Best and Buchanan
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50 Impairs
52 Goller Stewart
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55 Cause friction
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59 Start to breathe
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64 American wading bird
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69 Unruly crowd
70 Wields the broom
71 ___-bitsy
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1 Engrave
2 Distinctive air
3 Clip with scissors
4 Poster paint
5 Mooch
6 Scam
7 Fall blossom
8 Actress Beryl
9 Autobahn auto
10 French poet
11 Misdirection
12 Edible bulb
13 Periphery
18 Family cars
24 Aftward
26 Court
27 Supper, e.g.
28 Gillette blade
29 July 4th noisemaker
30 Holy city?
31 NASA's ISS partner
34 "Sting like a bee" boxer
36 Slope by a loch
37 Unwanted lip
40 SHO alternative
41 Driveway material
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47 African tunic
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53 Sound reproduction
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62 Catch a glimpse of
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Tech drops final game against Kansas, but wins series 2-1

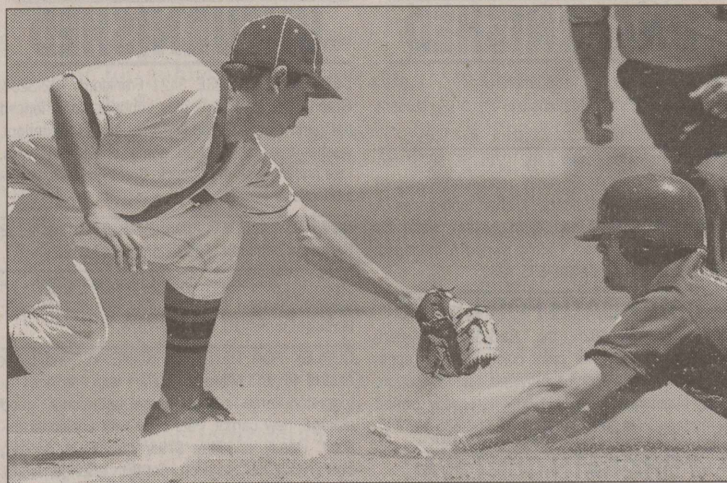
By WES SKIPWITH
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech baseball team failed to get the series sweep against Kansas Sunday, losing 8-1 to the Jayhawks at Dan Law Field.

After winning the first two games of the series with consistent pitching performances from A.J. Ramos, Colt Hynes and Travis Young over the weekend, Tech was unable to find any pitchers from the bullpen to stop Kansas' offense Sunday.

Starting pitcher Cory Large logged in the start Sunday by throwing five innings and allowing one earned run on four hits.

Tech (24-17, 7-10 Big 12) coach Larry Hays said since Large was on a pitch count, he was not able to go in the sixth inning.



KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH'S BEN Baker beats Kyle Murphy to third base Sunday afternoon at Dan Law Field.

"We're trying to keep him safe during conference and we really liked the way he competed," Hays said. "We

probably went a little longer than we should of with him."

Tech ran four different pitchers up to

the mound after sitting Large and none were able to keep Kansas from scoring.

"We pitched really well the whole weekend until the sixth inning," Hays said. "We just needed someone else to step up and help us out, but we didn't get that."

Kansas took its first lead of the series in the top of the second inning Sunday. With two outs and no one on base, Large threw what would have been an inning-ending strikeout past Kansas' Ryne Price, but the pitch got away from catcher Matt Smith, allowing Price to reach first base safely. Large then gave up a single, advancing Price to second and then a double plated Price to put Kansas up 1-0.

With one swing of the bat, Tech designated hitter Chris Richburg tied the game. Richburg took Kansas' Wally Marciel's two-strike pitch deep over the

wall in left-center for a solo home run, making the score 1-1.

The Jayhawks (20-25, 6-12) reclaimed the lead in the top of the sixth inning. Tech relief pitcher Chris Ortmeier started the inning by hitting the first batter he faced then gave up an RBI-double to Kansas' Erik Morrison.

Ortmeier walked the next batter before being replaced by reliever Josh Scofield, who walked the first batter he saw to load the bases and then walked the next batter to drive in a run. Tech brought in reliever Paul Gonzalez but Kansas was able to plate one more before Gonzalez retired the next two batters to end the inning. After six, the Jayhawks led 4-0.

Kansas added three more in the seventh while holding Tech scoreless to win the game 8-1.

Ortmeier picked up the loss after

pitching one-third of an inning allowing three runs on one hit with one walk. Kansas' Wally Marciel received the win after logging 5 2/3 innings and giving up only one run.

Tech won the series despite scoring only five total runs in all three games. The Red Raiders struggled to drive in runs when runners were on base — stranding 25 runners over the entire series — including 10 Sunday.

Richburg said the team had some unlucky breaks which contributed to its lack of RBIs.

"I felt like we hit a few balls hard today with guys in scoring position," Richburg said. "They didn't fall for us unfortunately."

The Red Raiders will take on College of the Southwest at 2 p.m. today in a make-up game at Dan Law Field.

► wesley.a.skipwith@ttu.edu

Tech softball loses final home series to defending Big 12 champion Kansas

By JEREMY REYNOLDS
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech senior softball players said goodbye to Rocky Johnson Field to a crowd of 360 fans and a 2007 home record of 0-7.

The Red Raiders lost both games to the Kansas Jayhawks over the weekend, 4-1 and 5-3.

Kansas (29-18-1, 5-8 Big 12) pitcher Kassie Humphreys pitched in both games, allowing a single hit Saturday afternoon and six hits throughout Sunday's contest.

Tech freshman pitcher Ashly

Jacobs (13-13) took the loss, though she pitched only 3 1/3 innings. Sarah Losleben (5-9) finished the game for the Raiders.

Kansas kept up with the Raiders hit-for-hit throughout the game. Jayhawks' second baseman Sara Ramirez hit her fifth home run of the season in the second inning, giving Kansas an early 3-0 lead. In the fourth, Ramirez hit her sixth home run — once again a solo shot.

Designated player Jennifer Corkin led Tech offensively in Sunday's game. Corkin connected for the Raiders' first hit of the

game when she knocked a home run over the left-field fence for her sixth of the year to cut the lead to 3-1.

"I had an all right game," said Corkin, who hit two home runs in Sunday's game. "I think we had some good plays, but we left some runners on base. We need to execute."

With Ramirez's home run in the sixth, the Jayhawks padded their lead at 5-2. Tech went on to score in the seventh but left a runner on base when Corkin grounded out to end the game. Heather Parker said it "sucked"

not winning a single game at home this year.

"We can't wait until the sixth to score runs," Parker said.

Parker played in her final home game of her career, and she said it was hard to say goodbye.

"We should have won that game," she said. "We had more hits than them and just the same amount of errors."

Saturday, the Raiders lost 4-1 in a one-hit effort by Kansas pitcher Humphreys (14-10).

Tech (18-23, 1-9 Big 12) notched its only run of the game in the first inning. Ashley Park-

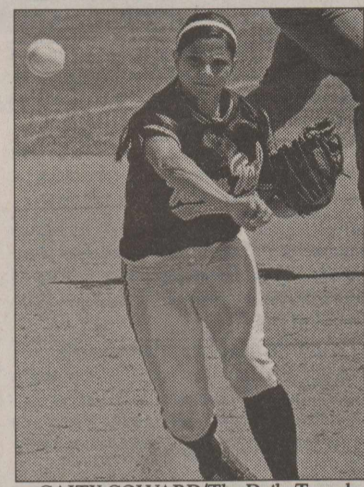
er walked to lead the inning off, and then she stole second and third base. She scored on a dropped third strike by the Kansas catcher.

Corkin connected on Tech's lone hit of the game in the first with a line drive to right field.

Humphreys evened the score at the top of the second when she knocked a ball beyond the left-field fence for her fourth home run of the season.

The Jayhawks added three unearned runs in the fifth to bring the score to 4-1, where it stayed.

► jeremy.n.reynolds@ttu.edu



CAITY COLVARD/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH INFILDER Natalie Kula returns a line drive during the game against Kansas Sunday afternoon at Rocky Johnson Field.

Classifieds continued.

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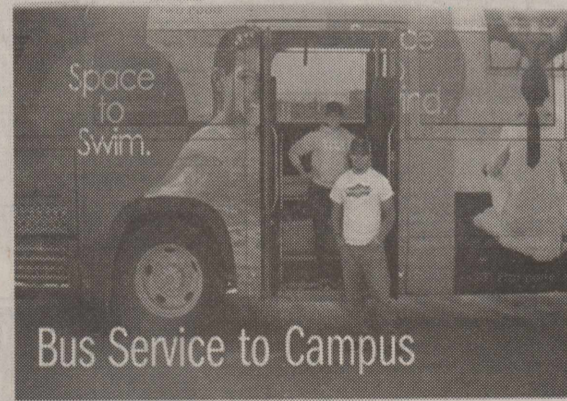
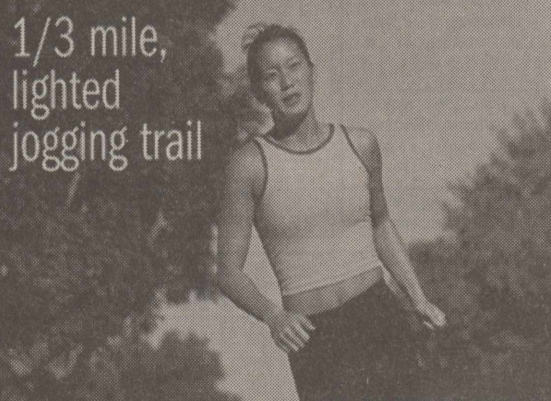
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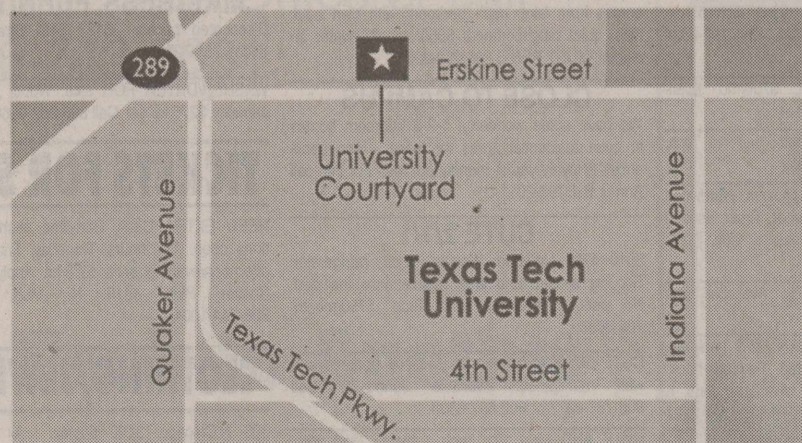
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