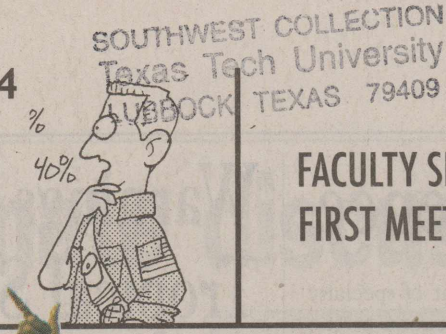


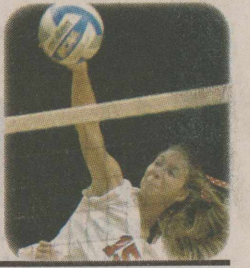
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THURSDAY, SEPT. 13, 2007
VOLUME 82 ■ ISSUE 13

THE DAILY T O R E A D O R

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(INSIDE)



TEXAS TECH POLICE TRAIN ON CAMPUS
SEE PAGE 5

(INBRIEF)

STATE

Wounded officers die

LUBBOCK (AP) — A West Texas police officer who was shot in the face during a weekend gun battle died Wednesday, making him the third lawman to die in the standoff.

Cpl. Abel Marquez, 32, died from wounds sustained when he was shot in the face Saturday evening, said University Medical Center spokesman Greg Bruce.

Marquez died a day before his two brothers, fellow police officers in Odessa, were planning to take him off life support as part of a pact the three made long ago. Marquez never regained consciousness after the shooting.

NATION

New developments in torture case

BIG CREEK, W.Va. (AP) — Authorities decided Wednesday not to pursue hate crime charges in the kidnapping and weeklong torture of a black woman, instead going after the suspects, who are white, on state charges that carry stiffer penalties.

While federal civil rights or state hate crime charges remain an option, a state kidnapping count that carries a sentence of up to life in prison will provide the best chance for successful prosecution, officials said.

"As a practical matter, sentenced to life, what else can be done?" U.S. Attorney Charles T. Miller told The Associated Press.

WORLD

Earthquake shakes western Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A powerful earthquake shook Indonesia on Wednesday, killing 10 people, injuring at least 100 and triggering a small tsunami that hit one city on the island of Sumatra, authorities said.

The 8.4-magnitude quake off Sumatra badly damaged buildings along the coast and could be felt in at least four countries, with tall buildings swaying as far as 1,200 miles away.

It was followed by a series of aftershocks, the strongest of which registered at a magnitude of 6.6.

DEATH TOLL

3773
U.S. Military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

WEATHER

Today
SUNNY
HIGH 89
LOW 61

Friday
SUNNY
HIGH 88
LOW 60

INSIDE

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Senate Democrats reject general's plan

By ANNE FLAHERTY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — A day before President Bush's war address, Senate Democrats rejected a four-star general's recommendation to keep some 130,000 troops in Iraq through next summer and sought legislation that would limit the mission of U.S. forces.

Their proposal was not expected to set a deadline to end the war, as many Democrats want, but restrict troops to narrow objectives: training Iraq's military and police, protecting U.S. assets and fighting terrorists, Democratic party officials told The Associated Press.

The goal is to attract enough Republicans to break the 60-vote threshold in the Senate needed to

end a filibuster. Democrats have proved unable to do that since they took control of Congress eight months ago.

"I call on the Senate Republicans to not walk lockstep as they have with the president for years in this war," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said at a news conference. "It's time to change. It's the president's war. At this point it

also appears clear it's also the Senate Republicans' war."

Democrats struggled to regain momentum in the war debate after two days of testimony by Gen. David Petraeus, the top commander in Iraq, and Ambassador Ryan Crocker.

Petraeus said the 30,000 troop buildup begun this year had yielded some gains and needed more time. He recommended slowly reversing

the buildup, drawing down about 5,500 soldiers and Marines by year's end and aiming for a force of 130,000 next summer.

Reid and other Democrats said that proposal does not go far enough.

"It creates and provides an illusion of change in an effort to take

DEMOCRATS continued on page 2

Road to recovery

Despite losing family, possessions, one Tech professor carries on

PART THREE OF A THREE-PART SERIES HIGHLIGHTING LIFE IN LUBBOCK AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA



PHOTO BY WALTER ROSADO/The Daily Treador
CLASSICS PROFESSOR DONALD Lavigne poses in front of a piece of his New Orleans memorabilia in his office at the Foreign Language building Wednesday afternoon.

By ELLIOTT COCHRAN
STAFF WRITER

While most of the damages from Hurricane Katrina were in New Orleans, many New Orleans migrants living in distant locations also felt the aftermath of the storm. One such person is Lubbock resident and Texas Tech associate professor Don Lavigne, who was born and raised in the Big Easy.

Lavigne said Hurricane Katrina made his first semester teaching at Tech surreal, but helping New Orleans evacuees was as close to home as he felt he could get.

"I never thought four people from New Orleans — much less 400 — would end up sharing Lubbock with me," he said. "I thought that

KATRINA continued on page 5

Texas Department of Agriculture grants research money to Tech

By MATT MCGOWAN
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Department of Agriculture announced Monday it will be granting just over \$457,000, the largest portion of a \$1.2 million statewide research grant, to Texas Tech's College of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources.

Todd Staples, commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture, made the announcement at Tech's International Textile Center. The International Textile Center is a part of the college and the primary recipient of the funds.

The grant, Staples said, will fund 15 research projects at Tech, including the evaluation of fiber properties of cotton, imparting antibacterial properties to cotton fabric, developing chemical-warfare protective fabrics and making peanuts

a profitable crop in arid West Texas.

Dean Ethridge, the managing director of the International Textile Center, said he believes Tech has received approximately \$3.2 million in agricultural research grants from the state throughout the last 10 years. This year alone, the International Textile Center has received approximately \$300,000 in state research grants.

"They have enough faith in our ability to produce that they give us money to do things that allow us to build our programs," he said. "These funds have helped us reach thresholds that have made us internationally known in certain areas. This money is very, very important."

Ethridge said the state grant gives researchers more discretion in deciding where and how to apply the funds, which is not always the case for research grants.

"It's been a very important program-building source of funds," he said. "It continues in that capacity. Some of the projects we do are not that; they are purely at the desire or the felt need of the cotton production sector."

Ethridge said the grant will do two things: It will provide results of significant value to the West Texas cotton sector, and it also will enable faster development of new programs.

"This money is very, very important to us because it is some of the most creative, some of the most goal-objective type of funding that we get," he said. "This money has been invaluable over the years to help us to develop programs up to a threshold level, where we can sort of demonstrate proof of concept and are able to get substantial additional research funds."

GRANTS continued on page 2

Lubbock hosting international cotton conference

By ADAM YOUNG
STAFF WRITER

Cotton researchers from around the world have congregated this week in Lubbock for the World Cotton Research Conference.

Roughly 650 scientists and researchers from the United States and more than 15 other countries are attending the week-long conference, said Dean Ethridge, chairman of the conference's U.S. organizing committee and managing director of the International Textile Center at Texas Tech.

"The purpose of the conference is to promote the well-being of cotton production and consumption to try to help global scientists that have a focus on cotton and to transfer knowledge and understanding between the countries and the

scientists in them," he said.

This is the fourth time the International Cotton Advisory Committee in Washington D.C. has organized the conference, and the first time it has been hosted in the U.S., according to the WCRC Web site, www.icac.org.

"As a result of this, we have brought the biggest part of U.S. cotton researchers from coast to coast and from around the world into Lubbock," Ethridge said.

The ICAC wanted to organize this year's conference in Lubbock because it is in the middle of the most concentrated cotton producing area in the world, he said.

"The cotton world knows about this part of Texas because of the very large production that we have," Ethridge said.

Last season, the state of Texas

accounted for 38 percent of the total U.S. cotton crop, he said. The Texas panhandle accounted for 70 percent of that total.

"If the Texas plains were a separate country, we would be about the fifth or sixth largest cotton producing country in the world," Ethridge said.

Because of Tech's presence in cotton research, conference attendees toured the International Textile Center and Tech's experimental farm Wednesday.

Ethridge said the center's research extends into many fields of cotton-fiber quality and production, including chemistry and nanotechnology.

"Over the past decade, we've become the world's foremost experts in issues of stickiness in cotton fiber," he said. "And, we've been involved

in the development of specialty finishes that are aimed at the cellulose of the cotton fiber to give them different performance qualities."

Ethridge said having the conference in Lubbock could provide opportunities for Tech in the future.

"When they go back home, they will always know of us and think of us, and it could result in opportunities for collaboration that otherwise would not have happened if we hadn't made the connections," he said.

On Friday, conference attendees will visit research farms, cotton gins and a dairy in the Lubbock area as part of an all-day cotton tour, according to the ICAC Web site.

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Warnings issued concerning Tropical Storm Humberto

HOUSTON (AP) — Tropical Storm Humberto formed off the Texas coast Wednesday and forecasters warned residents along a 270-mile stretch of the coastline extending into southwestern Louisiana to brace for heavy rains and possible flooding.

Tropical storm warnings were posted from Port O'Connor to Intra-coastal City, La., with the center of Humberto predicted to slosh ashore overnight Wednesday, probably in the Freeport or Galveston areas, south of Houston. The storm was expected to track south and east of Houston, then veer to the northeast into Louisiana through Thursday. Heaviest rain was expected along and to the east of the storm track.

By late afternoon Wednesday, Humberto was packing nearly 50 mph winds about 50 miles southwest of Galveston, moving to the north at 7 mph.

"This obviously isn't an evacuation event or hurricane," John Simsen, emergency coordinator for Galveston County, said. "It's too close to be in a position where it's going to develop that much."

"However, it looks to be a prolonged rain event and some pretty substantial tropical storm-force winds."

Texas has had one of the wettest summers on record, with Houston soaked under the most rain it's had in a summer since 1942. With the ground already saturated, flooding was likely.

Forecasters were anticipating 5 to 10 inches of rain with some spots pos-

sibly getting as much as 15 inches.

Tropical storms typically are significant rainmakers. Last month, at least six deaths were blamed on Tropical Storm Erin, which dropped nearly a foot of rain in parts of San Antonio, Houston and the Texas Hill Country. In 2001, slow-moving Tropical Storm Allison soaked Houston, dumping about 20 inches of rain in eight hours. Some two dozen people died, sections of the city were paralyzed and damage was estimated at some \$5 billion.

Brazoria County Sheriff Charles Wagner said low-lying areas in his coastal county, which includes Freeport, could present problems for residents and "put water into a lot of houses."

No evacuations, however, were recommended.

Just last Saturday, Galveston marked the 107th anniversary of the great 1900 storm where more than 6,000 people were killed in what remains the nation's deadliest natural disaster.

"Be prepared for any kind of serious weather threat is what we ask our people all year long," Galveston Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas said. "And I believe they have done that and are continuing to do that."

In Austin, Gov. Rick Perry activated 50 high-profile military vehicles with 200 soldiers, plus a half-dozen helicopters and two swift-water teams, boats and personnel from the state's Parks and Wildlife Department, the General Land Office and a team from the Texas Forest Service.

Democrats

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the wind out of the sails of those of us who want to truly change course in Iraq," said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

In a bold challenge to Petraeus' assessment, Reid said the "situation on the ground in Iraq has not changed at all." He later acknowledged gains in Anbar province, "but it's like the big balloon that you push on one side and it comes out someplace else."

Petraeus' assessment inflamed Democrats, but assuaged many Republicans. It did lead to tough ques-

tions from several Republican skeptics, including Sens. John Warner of Virginia and Susan Collins of Maine, but most GOP lawmakers said they were reluctant to impose a firm timetable.

Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn., seen as another potential swing vote, said he was working with Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Ark., on legislation that would put Petraeus' recommendations into law.

Absent a new political climate, Democrats are in a tough position: They can continue to insist on a hardline position and fail, letting weeks go by without passing anti-war legislation, or they soften their stance.

At issue in talks among Reid and Senate Democrats was how far they should go in forcing a new mission for troops without losing support from various political sides, according to congressional aides familiar with the meeting in Reid's office.

If the legislation were nonbinding and only urged Bush to refocus the mission, the bill could lose support from more liberal Democrats such as Sens. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., John Kerry, D-Mass., and Barbara Boxer, D-Calif.

On the contrary, if the bill ordered the mission changed by a certain date, it might turn off Warner, Collins, Coleman and other GOP moderates.


Reid declined to discuss details, saying only that Democrats would offer four to six amendments "to change the course of the war" when the Senate takes up a defense bill next week. One probably would come from Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., requiring

that troops spend as much time home as they do in combat.

Among the Republicans working with Reid and Levin are Sens. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., and Gordon Smith, R-Ore., both long ago turned against the war.

Bush planned a 15-minute address from the White House at 9 p.m. EDT Thursday to endorse Petraeus' recommendations, according to administration officials. The White House planned to release a written status report Friday on the troop buildup, they said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because Bush's speech was not yet final.

While mirroring Petraeus' strategy, Bush will place more conditions on reductions than his general did, insisting that conditions on the ground must warrant cuts and unforeseen events could change the plan.



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Grants

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Michael Stephens, the communications coordinator for the International Textile Center, said the grant will directly effect the agricultural industry in Texas.

"There is some specific end-use oriented research that's going on that's very helpful to Texas producers and merchants, etc., because it's really about the viability and the economic use of this raw material," he said. "The Texas Department of Agriculture does a great job of supporting realistic applications for this raw material."

Sukant Misra, associate dean for research at the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, said state grants have historically helped Tech programs bring in about \$5 for every \$1 in grant money.

"What happens is, when we do a research project we come up with more questions that need to be answered," he said. "As we increase our knowledge base, we are more qualified and gain

more expertise. The research findings of the past are then packaged into another proposal, so every proposal from these funds gives us a chance for more funding."

Bryan Black, the assistant commissioner for communications at the Texas Department of Agriculture, said Tech always has been a worthy recipient of state agricultural grants in the minds of those on the review board in charge of appropriating the funds.

"That is why we continue to give to Texas Tech," he said. "We want them to continue to develop these programs. They've always been responsible with the money and have always showed great results."

The remainder of the state's \$1.2 million in grant money will go to four other Texas universities: Texas A&M will receive approximately \$446,000; Texas Women's University will receive \$273,000; The University of Texas at Austin will receive \$2,444 to transfer an agricultural database to Tech; and the University of Texas at Arlington will receive \$30,000.

► matthew.mcgowan@ttu.edu

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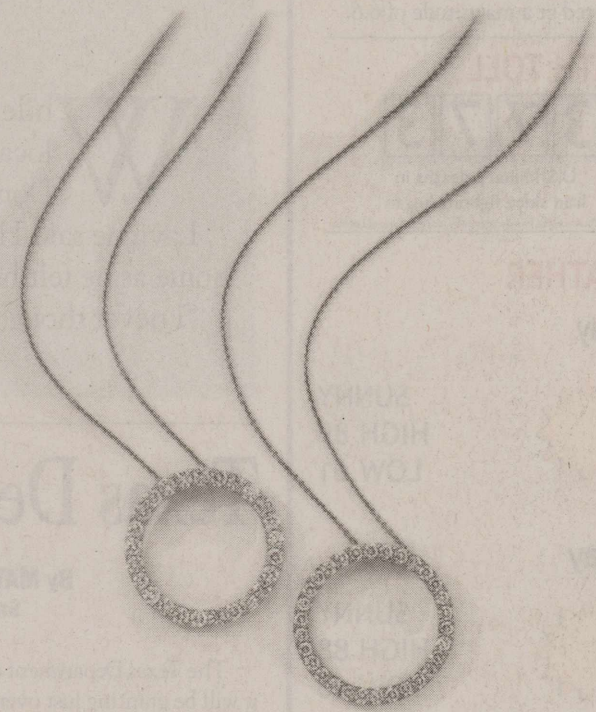
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Faculty senate discusses hiring faculty ombudsman

By **MAGGIE KIELY**
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Faculty Senate members conducted their first meeting of the semester Wednesday.

Before discussions began, new faculty senate members were acknowledged.

The first item on the agenda called for the discussion of creating a position for a faculty ombudsman. Faculty Senator Bill Gelber motioned to hire a full-time faculty ombudsman, and the motion passed. Currently there is an ombudsman for students and one for staff members.

Nathanael Haddox, ombudsman for staff members, said his position was created two years ago.

"I came in case there were questions about duties and roles of ombudsman, to provide information so they could make an informed decision," he said.

The main role of the ombudsman is to provide informal, confidential assistance when there is a conflict.

"I'm not here to tell the Faculty Senate that they need one or don't need one," Haddox said.

Gene Wilde, president of the Faculty Senate, said the faculty ombudsman would serve to help faculty members express issues.

"It's a way of addressing concerns,"

he said, "and finding out about how the university works and looking for solutions to a problem before it gets out of hand."

He said faculty members have problems that are often never expressed, which can lead to a faculty member leaving the university.

"There is a movement under way to make the ombudsman contact confidential," he said.

The next step toward creating the faculty ombudsman position is meeting with William Marcy, provost at Tech, to make sure the position is financially conceivable, Wilde said.

"By the next meeting," he said, "we'll come up with a job description, how the position would be overseen, what the budget type issues would be and what any operating procedures would be."

Wilde said more discussion on the ombudsman position will come up in the next Faculty Senate meeting Oct. 1.

Another item on the agenda was the discussion of data evaluation for upper-level administrators.



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador
FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT Gene Wilde conducts the first meeting for the 2007 fall semester. The meeting focused on creating faculty ombudsman.

"About five years ago, when Provost Marcy first began his job," Wilde said, "he began to look at how upper administrators can be evaluated."

Wilde said an electronic survey was created for faculty members to evaluate

the upper-level administrators.

"We have an electronic survey kind of a thing," he said, "where they go in and evaluate their chairmen, their dean, provost and so on, kind of a five-part scale."

The data has been collected and is now available to the faculty members online.

"It's more a way of saying 'we heard you,'" he said. "If you never saw it people would be thinking, 'yeah, well we heard it, but we never saw anything.'"

Wilde assigned a committee to discuss exit interviews for faculty members, which he said will help administrators better understand why faculty members leave the university.

"There is a requirement that faculty of the university be interviewed as to why they are leaving," he said. "We have lots of people leave and very little information as to why."

Another issue Wilde assigned a faculty senate committee for is the

issue of travel fees and shortening the procedure to attain reimbursement.

Wilde also assigned a committee to research which local businesses offer faculty member discounts.

The president assigned a final committee to look at university operating procedures before they are revised.

The committee will present the operating procedures that are pertinent to the Faculty Senate. Often the operating procedures are changed before the senate has a chance to have input, Wilde said.

"What we'll do is take that to the provost or whoever is in charge of changing that OP and try to negotiate with them to get us in the loop," he said.

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CORRECTION:

There was an error in a photo caption on page 3 of Wednesday's edition. The caption should have read "Mitchell Fish, a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Flower Mound, and Casey Amis, a freshman architecture major from Arlington, observe a moment of silence as the bells ring at 9:11 a.m. Tuesday in Memorial Circle." The Daily Toreador regrets this error.

HSC offers aging parents seminar

By **GLENYS BOLLS**
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Health Sciences Center has opened registration for its annual "Caring for Aging Parents" seminar to employees of the Texas Tech system and the Lubbock Independent School District.

The four-part seminar will focus on aspects of elder caring, said Alan Korinek, senior director of Neuropsychiatry. The first session, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 18, deals with recognizing, and planning for, the time parents can no longer care for themselves.

"Often people wait until there's a crisis and then react to it," Korinek said. "When that happens, they're not prepared to deal with it."

Korinek said children need to be able to recognize when parents need assistance because the parents are not likely to admit it.

"There's a certain denial about getting older," he said. "If you have time to work toward that, you can make a better decision."

The second session will focus more on negotiating roles within the family structure.

"We'll discuss family rules and boundaries and (other topics leading up to) grieving," said Faith Drew, assistant director of neuropsychiatry.

The session, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 25, will touch on making the transition easier for all family members.

"We also focus on family dynamics," Korinek said. "Who takes the lead? Perhaps just one or two people, particularly in a crisis. That can create conflict."

The third part in the series, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 1, emphasizes the legal and monetary aspects of caring for aging parents.

"We'll have someone there from the community talking about the financial and legal considerations," Korinek said. "There's various options for assistance and living situations."

The option a family chooses can be a factor in its financial impact, he said.

"The person can live alone, get assistance in residential care or a retirement or nursing home, or they can live with the child," he said. "We'll do a decision tree for what options they might consider and ultimately choose."

The final session — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 8 — addresses the issue of death.

"The fourth part is dealing with grief and loss," Korinek said. "It's about helping you grieve well."

After a death, family members sometimes feel cut off from people around them, Drew said. The seminar is designed to help people experiencing loss.

"It helps them find community resources so they don't feel alone," Drew said. "It also lets them know what kind of issues might be faced in that situation."

The final session is not just about dealing with the death of the aging parent, Korinek said.

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Big tip, no trouble: Gimme your money

(Dedicated to my colleagues still walking the garden of olives — In great reverence and allegiance to our kind.)

Food is a big deal amongst college folk. Clearly, you don't get a nickname for gaining 15 pounds your freshman year if it isn't a common staple.

I remember during my freshman year, my friends could get me to go anywhere if they mentioned there was going to be free food. I might have been lazily trying to nap in the middle of the day when I would hear the news of a free meal at a local eatery and quickly throw on a pair of jeans.

By and large, we may be a little food-happy as a culture, but if you've walked casually through the Student Union Building around noon each day, you can see food drives a college student's social power. Not to mention the various sizes of meal plans, midnight breakfasts in the dining halls, trips to IHOP at 4 a.m. or that enticing lifetime supply of Ramen you got as a pseudo hand-me-down.

Britney Drumm



Dining out has always been the food-related experience I enjoy best. Sitting down to relax while somebody else caters to my every wish can sometimes evoke those fond memories of, well, my mother. It also allows for some excellent sit-chat-and-rant moments with a close friend, all in the presence of food and unlimited soda.

Basically, for me, eating out allows my disregard for domesticity to continue while impressively retaining my inability to cook a decent meal.

As college students, we like to eat out at restaurants on a regular basis, but our etiquette has a distasteful sort of stigma attached to it.

I speak from experience — one long, draining year of experience

— where I waited tables.

It's a highly stressful job that includes running around on your feet for hours at a time and fighting with coworkers for space in the side-stations. All these duties must be managed while maintaining an aura of sanity for dealing with some of the most difficult costumers one can find — hungry ones.

It becomes an art form of habit. After about six months, your experiences seem to be on a continuous wash-rinse-repeat cycle. Coworkers, although infested with drama like a sixth-grade gym class, become a cult of fellow conspirators with whom you rally like a tight knit, very dysfunctional family of sorts. The social politics are too hard to explain... although it could make an ingenious HBO sitcom one day.

Regardless, having spent time in the kitchen, I can dish out a few guidelines for the typical college student consumer.

These tips apply only at a restaurant where you have a person physically serving you. These people in ties and aprons

or perhaps scandalously tight hot pants, usually are college students too. Deep inside, they are praying you might be kind enough to tip them generously so they can make rent or pay their bar tab that night — whichever comes first.

1. Fifteen percent is bare minimum, but 20 percent is polite.

A calculator, usually located somewhere in the tools section of your cell phone, can help in this matter. I think many people don't know that servers are paid \$2.13 an hour, which means after taxes they can get a paycheck every week that's anywhere from \$5 to \$15; therefore, your charitable generosity is vital to their survival.

2. You are not the server's only table.

Remember this when you're wondering why the waiter hasn't gotten your sixth refill yet. Most times, asking and being patient will alleviate the problem. Sometimes, for whatever reason, things in the kitchen can go awry and the server can get behind.

This, by the way, is usually out of his or her control. When a cook screws up your meal, and you decide to pass on the tip because of the error, the cook still gets paid his or her hourly salary while your waiter fantasizes about your imminent demise.

3. Servers actually are human beings.

Sometimes they make mistakes. Clearly, if a waiter is rude to you or has screwed up your dining experience to the extent you refuse to eat at the restaurant ever again, the tip should suffer. But, not to the point of not actually leaving a tip.

"Stiffing" is the ultimate insult. Unless a waiter has threatened to shank you in the back parking lot (and at that point perhaps a manager should be called) you should still leave some sort of merciful percentage.

4. If you have great service and no complaints, ask to speak to a manager.

In our society we are far too apt to complain than deliver praise. Sometimes I enjoyed verbal comments more

than the tip I received. However, that doesn't give you an excuse to pat your server on the back and leave nothing. Reward good service with a good reward! It's like puppy training, but less stressful.

5. Bartenders, by proxy, are the minions of the underworld.

The same tipping rules apply, but don't look him or her directly in the eye for fear of your soul being literally ripped from your body.

6. I know the life of a college student is generally an impoverished one; but you have to be able to figure the tip into the overall price of the meal before you decide to eat at a restaurant. If you cannot afford the aforementioned 20 percent for mere politeness, you should not be eating at a restaurant where such payment is required.

■ **Drumm is a senior English major from Albuquerque, N.M. E-mail her at britney.drumm@ttu.edu.**

A LETTER TO READERS

The *Daily Toreador* and Texas Tech Student Media have strict policies required for employment. Our policy states that "all employees must be enrolled in classes at the university while employed by the Student Media Department." Trey Caliva, the opinions editor for the Fall 2007 semester, has been removed from his aforementioned position for violating Student Media's policy. We at *The DT* regret this oversight, and as a policy, we are obligated to inform our readers of all indiscretions.

CALIVA'S LETTER TO READERS

Dear readers,

When I first started writing for *The Daily Toreador*, it was a side thing; a chance to have my voice heard and get my own ideas into the public.

Yet, as I continued to work for the paper and eventually became opinions editor, everything changed. What was once a side hobby turned quickly into a personal love.

I know this because to truly understand how much you enjoy and love something, you must first live without it. The feeling I have at the thought of not writing for *The DT* is indescribable. But that feeling itself doesn't begin to describe how awful I feel about deceiving you, the reader.

A strong, trusting bond between a journalist and a reader is vital. As journalists, we hope you will read our stories and columns with objectivity and an open mind. In return, we offer accurate information and unswerving integrity.

My deception, and the consequences that come with it, is my burden to bear. It should in no way influence your perception of *The DT* or its staff.

Day after day, they find themselves in the extraordinarily difficult situation of writing, editing and laying out a full daily newspaper. That you even see *The DT* on campus newsstands is a testament to their hard work and dedication. I sincerely believe these individuals are among the finest college journalists in the nation.

We are measured as people by the way we handle the challenges life throws at us. I will meet my own challenges head on. I apologize for misleading you, and look forward to the day when I can regain your trust.

Sincerely,
Trey Caliva

When Stephen met random girl in Murray

I have a difficult time talking to the opposite sex with regards to being more than just friends.

Maybe it's because I'm a 280-pound, pear-shaped man beast with a baby face, or it's because of my inability to communicate. I'm going to go with the latter.

When encountered by an attractive woman (because men tend to notice the two lumps on a woman's body first), I have this tendency to play possum. For example, I was in Murray Residence Hall the other day when a girl came up behind me in line and spouted off the question, "where are you from?"

Initially, I became a deaf-mute with an exasperated look on my face resembling Kevin McAllister's in "Home Alone" after he puts on aftershave in the mirror.

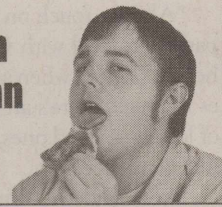
I was dumbfounded and caught off guard by the question.

The words "I'm from Gainesville" sputtered from my mouth and the ephemeral, glass-is-half-empty conversation continued.

She was around the 5'5" range and weighed possibly no more than 120 pounds, (I'm sorry if you are the aforementioned female and you are now reading this, but I'm bad at judging weight, which is why I was never in FFA in high school and why I hate pork).

Being from Gainesville was a disappointment for this chick,

Stephen Monahan



as she had thought (and I know prayed) I was from San Antonio (but she didn't know that I absolutely despise the San Antonio Spurs).

Her reasoning for stereotyping me as a San Antonian — I guess that's what you people are called — (when I say "you people" my intentions were not to racially stereotype, so please do not send me hate mail dubbing me a racist bastard or anything like that; I love Mexican food and the Riverwalk) was the burrito and 20 oz. Big Red I had in my hands.

After completing our two-minute conversation, a silence ensued, and I kept thinking about how I was a complete idiot for not asking her name or making the conversation continue elsewhere.

I swear I felt like a 40-year-old virgin looking through his porn collection and not knowing which "Babes in Toyland" to pop into the DVD player.

After my Tony Romo fumble at the goal line, I decided to go for the rebound.

I paid for my food and non-charitably made sure I appeared that I

was checking for my belongings (i.e., keys, driver's license, etc.). My gut told me not to say anything else to her, but, being the nice guy I am, I wanted to make sure she didn't think that I dubbed her as a psycho hosebeast.

I "overheard" her telling the cashier that she had eggrolls and some Asian cuisine cooked in a wok. Being the "ladies" man that I am, I threw out the phrase "Oh, well that's not a very San Antonian thing for you to choose, either," and added a light chuckle afterward.

I got a response, but it was the most popular phrase in the book, "Yeah, I know, right?" Then she walked away.

I knew I had blown it.

I had just received the proverbial hand-to-the-face with five fingers discounting my attempt to strike up a relationship out of thin air. But she most likely wasn't interested anyway, possibly she was just a genuinely nice person.

With that in mind, how is a guy to know when a girl is flirting with him or if she is just being nice? Well, obviously, I do not know the answer to that, but I can dish out a few ways for you women to know when a guy is interested in you (these are in no particular order).

A. Communication — If a guy is talking to you and asking you questions that are genuinely

devoted to getting to know you better personally, then he's flirting with you. I can't guarantee the guy might have an ulterior motive (like inviting you to a pants party), so don't hold that against me.

Ultimately, asking you for a phone number is a good indication that he wants to get to know you better (duh, right?).

B. Sarcasm — Nothing says "I want you" like a good, old-fashioned sarcasm battle. If a guy is a sarcasm aficionado (meaning, he's really good at spitting out quick-witted one liners) and you can go toe-to-toe with him, he most likely will become a fond of you because a guy wants a challenge, and nothing irks a guy more in this situation than you upending him (and I don't mean in bed).

C. Physical touching — A light slap or elbow nudge to the arm, or you know, a blatant, invasive smooch is another sign a man is interested.

Also, look for eye contact. While this is not exactly physical touching, it is contact through optic nerves. Next time you are walking around campus, look up and see who is watching you. If you see a male gawking at you, and you get this extrasensory feeling that you are being stalked, then he is interested.

■ **Monahan is The DT's Features Editor. E-mail him at stephen.monahan@ttu.edu.**

People should use profanity with responsibility

By **CHRISTINE CAPLINGER**
KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN (KANSAS STATE U.)

(U-WIRE) MANHATTAN, Kan. —The United States is based on the idea of freedom of speech and expression.

Foul language crosses the line between the freedom of speech of one and the freedom of expression of another. We might cross the line by using these obscenities around other people, but that does not mean anyone should be restricted from what they want to say.

During a recent floor meeting at an

unnamed residence hall on campus, it became apparent that today is not like it used to be. Today we can use foul language almost anywhere; in the workplace, school, and to some, it is even acceptable in the home. These derogatory statements in our society usually further stereotypes and prejudices.

According to Citizens for Community Values, the definition of broadcast indecency stated by the U.S. Supreme Court is described as "language that, in context, depicts or describes, in terms patently offensive as measured by contemporary community standards in the

broadcast medium, sexual or excretory activities or organs."

Citizens for Community Values states they are "diligent in our efforts to encourage and affect legislation that protects family, and oppose legislation that is harmful to those Judeo-Christian moral values upon which this country was founded."

Even though there are rules against obscenity, many words still are allowed in public media. Most are in good taste; however, ideas of sex and deeper plots with more vulgar words usually are reserved for late-night television.

Foul language is used on television to convey many different messages. It can portray class or the severity of what is being said. It doesn't matter what the reasons for it are -- kids have been watching too much television and believe it is socially acceptable in all cases.

Take for example the K-State vs. San Jose State game last week. There were a few questionable calls made by the referees and what seemed like the entire student section yelled obscene language at the field. One could even hear the ever-discriminating "that's retarded" or "that's gay."

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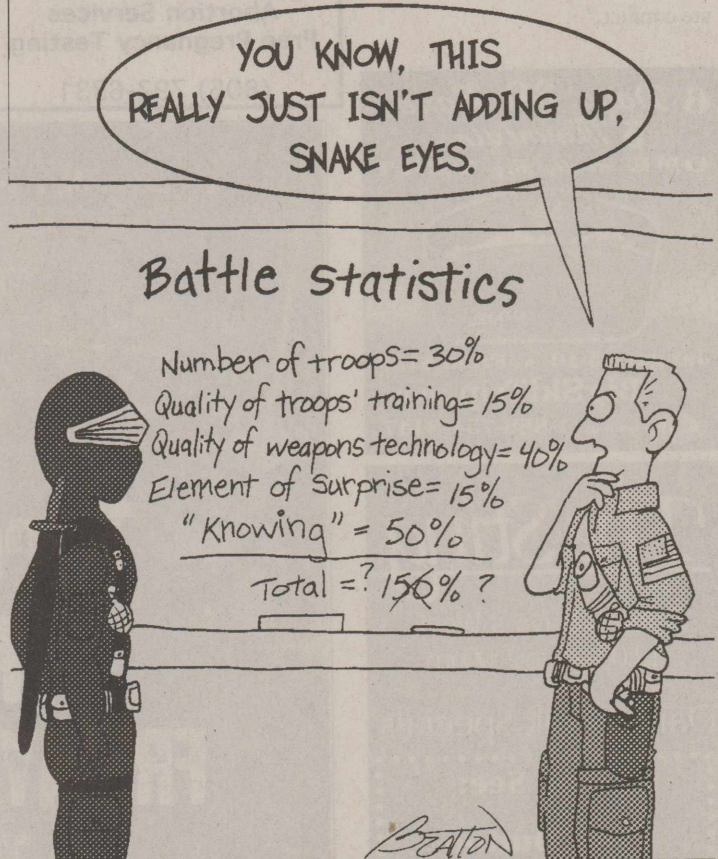
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Letters
The Daily Toreador welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be no longer than 300 words and must include the author's name, signature, phone number, Social Security number and a description of university affiliation. Students should include year in school, major and hometown. We reserve the right to edit letters. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. All letters will be verified before they are published. Letters can be e-mailed to dailytoreador@ttu.edu or brought to 211 Student Media. Letters should be sent in before 3 p.m. to ensure the editors have enough time to verify and edit the submission.

Guest Columns
The Daily Toreador accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 650 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community. Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification and submittal.

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The Moment When G.I. Joe First Realized that Knowing *isn't* Half the Battle

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SWAT TEAM

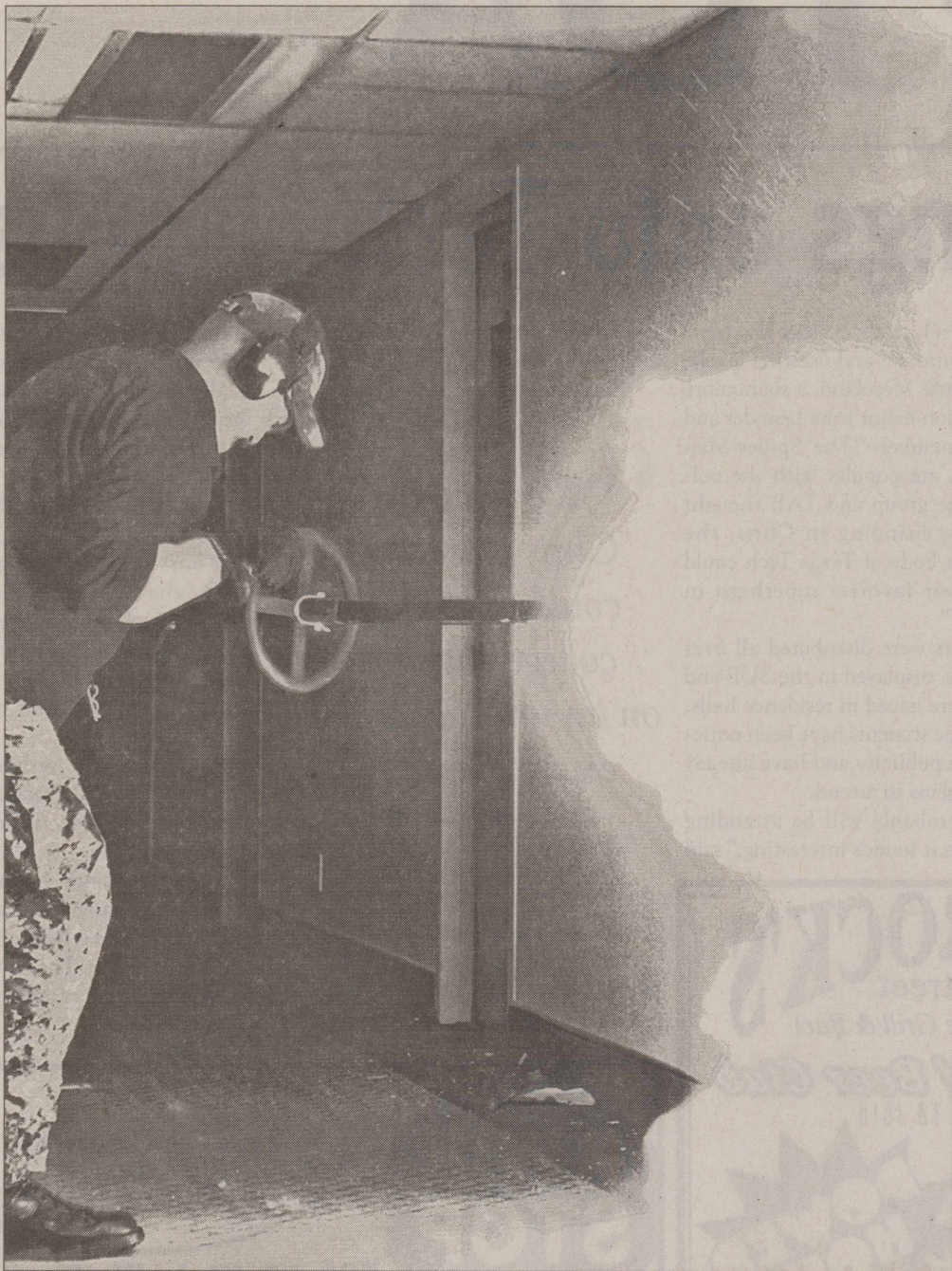


PHOTO BY KELLY MATHERLY/The Daily Treador

TEXAS TECH POLICE officer Eric Williams pulls a pin in the Door Key, which sets off an explosion to safely open a locked door inside Gaston Hall Wednesday afternoon. Police SWAT from Abilene, Amarillo, Lubbock and Tech police officers were at Gaston Hall learning how to use different tools such as the Door Key and the Wallbanger to safely get into locked spaces.

Katrina

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

any help I could lend to my fellow New Orleanians who were here in Lubbock was the least I could do, especially as I couldn't really do anything to help out down in New Orleans."

It was not until mid-November of 2005 that Lavigne could make time to return home to New Orleans. He said his first trip back to his neighborhood was formidable.

"When I first went back, and things were still pretty bad, it seemed as if the town had receded in a way; as if New Orleans had become some sort of backwater overnight," he said. "To see the prominence of the city diminished in such a stark way was very, very sad."

While Lavigne was teaching classes at Tech, his family was forced to deal with the destruction of Katrina first hand by having to flee the city.

Lavigne's youngest brother, Kenneth Bordes, said he was lucky enough to receive news of the storm early, allowing him and his family to leave earlier than most.

"I was out with friends and got home around 3 a.m. and checked out the weather, that's when I woke everyone up and decided to leave immediately," he said. "We spent the better part of four hours getting out of Louisiana, which was pretty good compared to most other families who had slept and awoke to the new predictions that morning. After leaving and watching what then unfolded on TV, I was shocked."

Lavigne said his greatest concern was contacting his family and making sure everyone was safe.

"Just calling people was hard; I was the easiest person in my family to get in touch with because I lived here," he said. "Everyone else was dealing with

cell phone reception, so I couldn't just call people. I had to keep calling, trying to get in touch with them."

Despite the loss of personal possessions, Lavigne's family escaped Katrina without elevated losses, but in the week following their departure, catastrophe set in. Joseph Lavigne said his mother's death was his family's greatest loss and the foremost memory he has of Katrina.

"When I think of Katrina, the first thing that comes to my mind is my mother, who we lost," he said. "Her death was unexpected and caused, at least to some extent, by the stress associated with the storm and evacuation. This was obviously a great personal loss to me and my family, but many other families suffered similar or worse losses."

Although his family suffered, Joseph Lavigne said he still considers himself fortunate.

"Despite these great losses, I consider myself lucky compared to others who lost everything they owned and everyone they loved," he said. "That's why when anyone ever asks, 'How did you do after the storm?' I simply respond 'We were lucky, it could have been a lot worse.'"

After the storm dissipated, Joseph Lavigne returned to the city about a week later, to drive through the damage the storm left. The damages totaled roughly \$4.8 billion, according to the FEMA Web site, <http://www.fema.gov>. He said the remnants of New Orleans were bizarre.

"I returned to the city about one week after the storm; the city was still under evacuation," Joseph Lavigne said. "I arrived in the city, and the best way to describe it is dead calm. The smell of the air was stagnant death, and it seemed like we were in the scene of a movie depict-

ing a major city after a nuclear attack. No picture or video could convey the eerie nature of New Orleans right after the storm."

As Joseph Lavigne made his way back into the city, several other groups formed to evaluate their losses and reclaim their properties.

Bordes said some New Orleanians were anxious to get back to their homes — and begin starting over — despite the evacuations.

"Some groups of people decided they didn't want to wait on the local, state or federal government, and they rebuilt entire communities with only themselves," he said. "There are some great examples of courage and humanity even today in recovering."

Recovery and rebuilding efforts continue throughout the state of Louisiana, but Don Lavigne said he is not worried about the city regressing. Rather, he is encouraged by the efforts of New Orleanians.

"Every time I go back — and I've been back several times since — things get better, and it looks nicer," he said. "People are rebuilding, people are working to get things back, so it's encouraging, every time. It's been more and more encouraging."

Bordes is not as encouraged by the community reaction to Katrina, and said New Orleans will need to make changes to survive.

"Once we have a community that cares for itself, elects honest politicians based on success and holds them accountable, and starts educating our youth, then we will be on a good start," he said. "Our laissez-faire attitudes have gotten us into a world of water. We need to change as a city."

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9 with no numbers repeated in any row, column or box.

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By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA 9/13/07

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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- 1 Hood's guns
 - 2 Longing
 - 3 Three, in Berlin
 - 4 Stitched
 - 5 Nimitz or Goude
 - 6 Abu Dhabi, Dubai et al.
 - 7 Songstress Fitzgerald
 - 8 Puts down
 - 9 Put to a purpose
 - 10 Stock character
 - 11 Make off with
 - 12 Shoshones
 - 13 Filippant
 - 14 Make sound
 - 22 Word from a pro?
 - 25 Norse saga
 - 27 Type of poker
 - 28 Writer Jong
 - 29 Singer Jones
 - 30 Love Italian-style
 - 31 "Anatomy of a Murder" co-star
 - 32 "Luncheon on the Grass" painter
 - 33 Soviet labor camp
 - 34 Muse of poetry
 - 35 Principle
 - 40 Luke's Jedi mentor
 - 42 Simon or Young
 - 45 Like warm weather
 - 47 Garments
 - 50 "Miss Saigon" setting, briefly
 - 51 Spy Mata
 - 54 Fabric stuffing
 - 55 Declare
 - 56 Emerald Isle
 - 58 Auction milieu
 - 60 Not taken in by
 - 61 Stench
 - 62 Related to yew?
 - 63 Underworld river
 - 65 Little one
 - 67 Eden evictee

the MAN BEHIND THE MASK

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7 AM	Curious	Today Sched. Clifford	The Early Show	Animal Rescue Eye for an Eye	The Daily Buzz	Good Morning America	Jack Hanna
8 AM	Super Why!	Dragon Tales	Sesame Street	The 700 Club	Divorce Court	Montel Williams	Martha Cooking
9 AM	Big World (HD)	WordWorld	The Price Is Right	Judge Alex	Temptation	The View	The Morning Show
11 AM	Bamey	Jeopardy! (HD)	Young and the Restless (HD)	Jerry Springer	Cosby	Paid Programs	The Tyra Banks Show
12 PM	Sews	News	News	Maury	Cosby	All My Children	Family Feud
1 PM	Dewberry	Place	Jeopardy! (HD)	Jerry Springer	I Like (HD)	General Hospital	Judge Mathis
2 PM	Teletubbies	Crosswords	Guiding Light	Jerry Springer	I Like (HD)	General Hospital	Judge Mathis
3 PM	Reading	The Oprah Winfrey Show	Brown	Maury	I Like (HD)	Paid Program	Ellen DeGeneres
4 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil Chang	Judge Judy	Access	The Steve Wilkos Show	Rachael Ray	FOX 34 First @ Four
5 PM	Mays & Miguel	News	News	Family Feud	Still Standing	News	Raymond
6 PM	The NewsHour	News	News	★ ★ 1/2 "U.S. Marshals"	Queens (HD)	News	Family Guy
7 PM	Old House	Earl "GED"	Big Brother 8	Millionaire?	(98, Thriller)	Smallville "Phantom"	Ugly Betty
8 PM	Story "Misty"	The Office	CSI: Crime Scene	Wife and Kids	Supernatural	Grey's Anatomy	Don't Forget the Lyrics!
9 PM	Old House	ER "Sea Change"	Without a Trace	King of Hill	Fall Preview	(31) Men in Tress (HD)	FOX 34 News @ Nine
10 PM	Bus. Rpt	(59) News	News	Malcolm	Will & Grace	News	Two & 1/2 (HD)
11 PM	Charlie Rose	(35) The Tonight Show (HD)	Becker	Sex and City	(06) ET	Friends	Scrubs
12 AM	Destinos	(35) Late Night Show	Paid Program	Shop at Home Programming	Paid Programs	Paid Program	Paid Program

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LA VIDA

Spider-Man stuntman swings onto Tech campus

By ANN LUU
STAFF WRITER

Evil villains have not invaded Texas Tech, but the man who is used to fighting evil-doers on-screen comes to campus 8 p.m. today at the Allen Theatre in the Student Union Building.

The Tech Activities Board is hosting "The Man Behind the Mask," an event featuring Chris Daniels, the stuntman for the "Spi-

der-Man" movie series.

"I think it will be really exciting," Tech Activities Board Coordinator Kara Stringer said. "It's going to be more than a lecture. He's going to be acting things out and showing us stuff."

Today's event, as with all Tech Activities Board events, is free with a valid student ID.

"Students can get their tickets downstairs in the SUB at the ticket office," said Stringer, a junior public

relations major from San Antonio. "Every student can get two tickets per ID."

Chris Daniels has been the stuntman for the Spider-Man movies since 2001 when the series began. Since then, two additional on-screen featurettes have been released nationwide.

Daniels will be demonstrating a Hollywood "fight scene," showing the contents of his props bag, sharing some behind-the-scenes clips of his work and introducing students to some of the most "heart-stopping, jaw-dropping stunts of his career," according to a promotional flier for the event.

"We felt that Chris Daniels

could relate to college students on an unusual and exciting level," said Katie Moreland, a sophomore education major from Leander and TAB member. "The Spider-Man movies are popular with the college-age group and TAB thought that by bringing in Chris, the student body of Texas Tech could see their favorite superhero in action."

Fliers were distributed all over campus, displayed in the SUB and also were issued in residence halls.

Some students have been noticing the publicity and have already made plans to attend.

"I probably will be attending because it sounds interesting," said

Allen Joiner, a freshman psychology major from Carrollton.

Moreland said she believes this

"We felt that Chris Daniels could relate to college students on an unusual and exciting level."

— KATIE MORELAND
SOHPOMORE EDUCATION
MAJOR FROM LEANDER

Although all Tech Activities Board events are free and available to all students, Stringer said TAB has events that attract more attention from the female demographic.

"We usually have events that more girls are interested in, so hopefully boys will find this one interesting," she said.

Frank Garcia, a freshman chemistry major from El Paso, said he is planning to attend because of the stunts Daniels performs on-screen.

Josias Zavala, also a freshman chemistry major from El Paso, said it is surreal to see someone famous here on campus.

"It's kind of amazing," he said, "because you see a movie, but you don't really know who is behind all the complicated moves. The movie portrays that the actor is doing it, but it's really this guy."

vinh-an.luu@ttu.edu

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18th: Peter & The Wolf
19th: Corb Lund
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Tech women's cross country begins season Friday

By ALEX YBARRA
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech women's cross country team was ranked No. 13 nationally heading in to the NCAA Championships in 2006. Tech placed sixth and defeated seven teams of higher rank at the championships.

Despite last season's success, the women's team is ranked No. 25 by the U.S. Track and Field Cross Country Coaches Association.

The polls were announced two days before Tech hosts their annual Red Raider Jackrabbit Open 1 p.m. Friday in Lubbock.

Coach John Murray said this weekend's meet will provide stiffer competition than the first meet of the season.

"There's some good individual runners coming in here," he said. "It just kind of helps us see where we are in our training and our shape."

The team began the season with a third place finish at the Buffalo Stampede race Aug. 31 in Canyon.

Two freshmen finished in the top 10 at Canyon, as Katherine Priebe finished third with a time of 19:51, and Chelsea Ervi placed eighth in 20:38.

Priebe said she's happy to run with people who share her excitement for the sport.

"I'm not used to it," she said. "It's a lot of competition. This is the first time I've actually had a team that likes

running."

Murray said he believes young runners such as Priebe will continue to solidify the team as a national powerhouse throughout the season if they can adapt to the pressures of running at the NCAA level.

"How they handle this first year of work and how they handle the first year of competition, that's going to help determine the depth of our success," he said.

The roles of each young runner remain to be seen, Murray said.

"I don't think it's been totally set who our one through five is," he said. "There's still people kind of jockeying for positions there. It was a lot of hard work last week, and we'll see how that work's paying off."

The team returns top runners junior Sally Kipyego, fifth-year senior Irene Kimaiyo, senior Asia Diaz, and junior Gladys Kipsang. Kimaiyo's return surprised many after the NCAA decided to grant her a fifth year of eligibility this summer for an injury she suffered three years ago.

Kipyego, Tech's only female cross country athlete to win an individual national championship, and Kimaiyo placed in the top 20 at nationals last season to finish the season with All-American status.

Kipyego has not lost a race in cross country competition to date.

Diaz is a two-time All Big 12 Con-



PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador

THE TEXAS TECH women's cross country team finished the 2006 season ranked 13th but begins the 2007 season Friday ranked 25th.

ference runner in the 800 indoors and outdoors.

Murray said the team's depth was overlooked by the NCAA when rankings were announced, and he thinks the team now has something to prove.

"We still don't have the respect of the nation," Murray said. "They ranked us fifth in the region already. There's not that respect out there. So we have to continue working hard, and continue doing well in competitions before we get that respect."

Kimaiyo said she believes the team needs one or two more meets before she knows how successful the team

can be in 2007.

"Right now it's hard to predict because we need five people to make the team, and we have the top four from last year, and we have the freshman to fill out the fifth person," she said.

Kipyego said she sees a potentially deep team that can go further than last season.

"We have great girls, and I think we're going to have a great year," she said. "I just hope that the young runners come into college and adjust to compete. I'm just hoping everyone runs well; we may end up having a better season."

► daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu

Doctors say Everett likely to walk again

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Patricia Dugas reached out, touched Kevin Everett's arm and asked her son if he could feel her hand. Everett — lying in a hospital bed, barely awake and hooked to life support systems — nodded yes.

"I can't even explain it to you, he's like a miracle," Dugas said, her voice breaking in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

Everett's mother spoke publicly for the first time Wednesday, one day after doctors reversed Everett's grim prognosis when he voluntarily moved his arms and legs.

"That's right. They're surprised themselves," Dugas said. "They don't know Kevin Everett. Oh, man, I always told him when he was a little boy, 'You show them better than you can tell them.' He's going to be fine. I really believe it."

She said Everett can shake his head, even throw it back in laughter. He has trouble speaking because of a breathing tube, so instead she said Everett is using a device to spell out words on a screen by hitting letters with a pen in his mouth.

Dugas left her home in Port Arthur, Texas, on Monday not knowing whether her son, the Bills reserve tight end, would ever walk again after sustaining a life-threatening spinal cord injury.

On Tuesday, everything changed as she watched her son move his limbs and feel her touch when he was partially awakened from a sedated state.

"Based on our experience, the fact he's moving so well, so early after such a catastrophic injury means he will walk again," said Dr. Barth Green, chairman of the department of neurological surgery at the University of Miami school of medicine. "It's totally spectacular, totally unexpected."

Emotionally drained yet genuinely upbeat, Dugas let out a big laugh in discussing how difficult the last four days have been.

"Happy," said Dugas, who joined her son at his bedside at Buffalo's Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital on Monday. "I'm extremely happy. I'm grateful."

Everett sustained the injury Sunday after ducking his head while tackling the Denver Broncos' Domenik Hixon during the second-half kickoff of the Bills' season opener.

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GREAT HOME for the money in tech terrace. Close to Tech. 3/2/2 New floors, paint and countertops. 3112 32nd street. Call Donna Isbell at 577-6040.

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SPORTS

Tech opens Big 12 play with win against Colorado

By COLBY KENNEDY
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech volleyball team pulled out a win in five games its first Big 12 Conference game of the season Wednesday against Colorado at the United Spirit Arena.

Tech won games one and two 30-19 and 30-24, respectively, behind senior setter Emily Ziegler, who had a .600 hitting percentage, 18 assists and one error.

"(Ziegler) always comes out and does a great job for us," Tech junior middle blocker Brandi Hood said.

Tech had 10 team blocks in the first two games and Ziegler said working on defense has paid dividends.

"There are long rallies," she said. "We're well conditioned and we can outlast them. If you just play defense

and keep digging balls up — keep digging balls up — the other team is eventually gonna make an error."

Tech recorded 23 assists through the first two games against Colorado. The Red Raiders also had .264 more percentage points of hitting in two games.

Hood said passing was the most important factor in winning the match.

"Our passing was on tonight," she said.

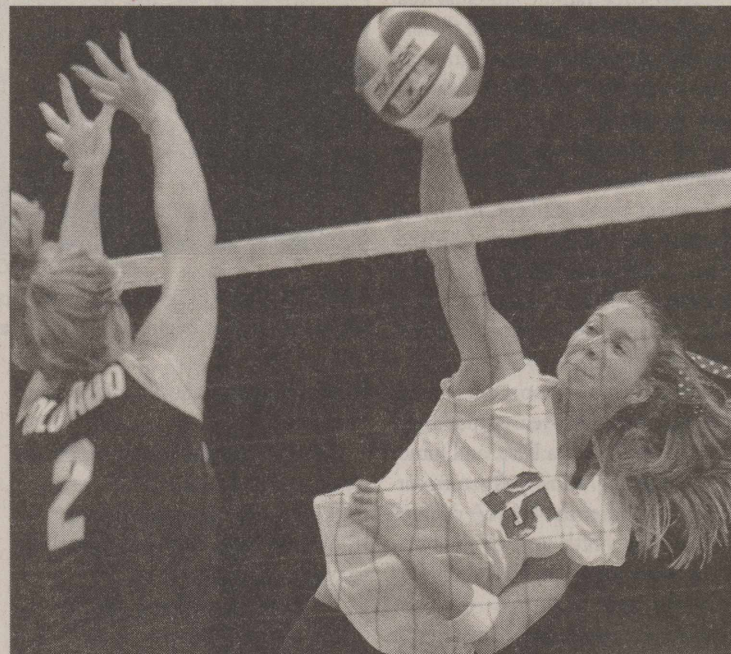
Tech stumbled in games three and four, losing 30-24 and 30-27, but held on in game five 15-12. Hood said the Raiders lost their intensity in games three and four, but were able to rebound in the final game to win.

"I think we let up we're like 'we're up two games'" she said. "We got our intensity back and we just knew

that this is our game and this is our home court," she said. Official stats were not available for games three, four and five.

Tech's next game is against No. 1 Nebraska 7 p.m. Saturday at the United Spirit Arena.

► colby.kennedy@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH'S SENIOR middle blocker Alicia Ostmeyer spikes the ball in Wednesday's match against Colorado, the team's first Big 12 match of the season. Ostmeyer recorded a season-high .722 attack percentage Saturday against Princeton in the Big Orange Tournament in Syracuse, N.Y. The volleyball team will play No. 1 ranked Nebraska 7 p.m. Saturday at the United Spirit Arena.

PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/
The Daily Toreador

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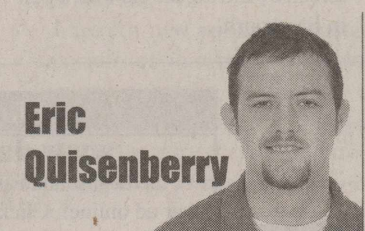
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Professional sports feats need to be questioned, not blindly accepted

Once upon a time, sports provided Americans with heroes. Rule breakers were the exception to the rule. These days, no good story in sports can be accepted without skepticism.

No single player personifies this problem more than Rick Ankiel, the St. Louis Cardinals pitcher-turned-hitter who put up amazing numbers during the past few months. His performance vitalized the Cardinals in

the middle of a race for the playoffs before alleged links to performance-enhancing substances shrouded his



Eric Quisenberry

story in controversy. Although no concrete evidence provides a definite link between Ankiel and performance enhancers, the mere mention of it erodes his legitimacy. No absolute evidence has surfaced against Barry Bonds, but the San Francisco slugger remains a lightning rod for the steroid issue. Public opinion needs no evidence.

Despite the serious nature of the accusations against Ankiel, the majority of sports fans look easily past the transgressions of one player in a sport rapidly losing its appeal in this country. After all, steroids have been a suspected part of baseball for the past decade.

When the news broke that the New England Patriots face accusations of using video cameras to cheat during their victory over rival New York Jets on Sunday, the NFL was no longer immune to the bad-news epidemic spreading through sports.

The Patriots allegedly filmed the signals of Jets defensive coaches and used the footage to gain an unfair advantage for the New England offense.

The NFL is familiar with similar issues on a smaller level. San Diego linebacker Shawne Merriman tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs and still was elected to the Pro Bowl after the 2006-07 season. The league changed the rules for the 2007-

08 season to prohibit such elections.

Potential Hall of Fame safety Rodney Harrison of the Patriots is currently serving a four-game suspension for admitting to use of banned substances.

Still, those are individual players who can be overlooked by focusing on the achievements of teams. With the accusations facing the Patriots, fans can no longer ignore the decline of integrity in sports.

The Patriots present their side of the story to the league office today, meaning NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell probably will announce the severity of punishments to be levied on the Patriots sometime early next week.

Provided that the evidence we have been presented in the media is accurate and the charges against the Patriots are true, Goodell must act with haste and severity to send a message to the rest of the sporting world.

Forcing the Patriots to forfeit their win on Sunday against the Jets and stripping them of both first round draft choices and their second round selection in the 2008 NFL Draft is only fair.

Cheating is cheating. Whether

the Patriots would have defeated the Jets without cheating is irrelevant. If a person or team cheats, that person or team should face full penalty of the law and the regulations of the sporting league in which they play.

Goodell provides a wonderful start for the movement. His suspensions of troublesome players like Adam "Pacman" Jones and Chris Henry set a strong precedent for his administration and shape the mold for commissioners in the National Basketball Association and Major League Baseball.

He needs to follow that up with a stern approach toward the New England Patriots.

Officials in charge of their respective sports in the United States need to clean up their acts. The world of athletics is spinning out of control and soon may find itself without a fan base willing to tolerate the cheating, lying and deception. A little honesty will go a long way toward repairing the torn image of professional athletes and their conduct on and off the field.

■ Quisenberry is a junior broadcast journalism major from Quanah. E-mail him at eric.quisenberry@ttu.edu

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