

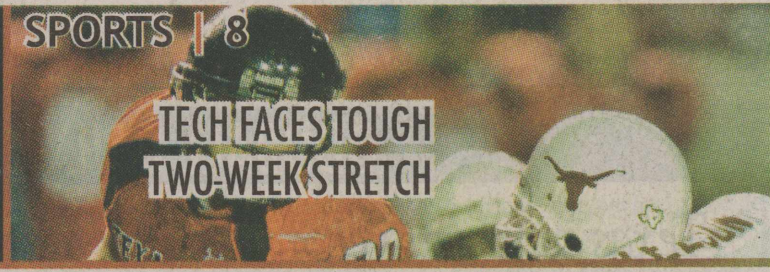
PRESIDENT BUSH GOES TO LAS VEGAS



THE DT'S CRITIC REVIEWS 'AMERICAN GANGSTER'



TECH FACES TOUGH TWO-WEEK STRETCH

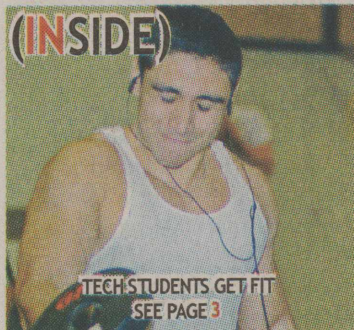


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TUESDAY, NOV. 6, 2007
VOLUME 82 ■ ISSUE 50

THE DAILY T OREADOR

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(INSIDE)

(INBRIEF)

STATE
Memorial conducted for "Baby Grace"

TIKI ISLAND (AP) — Residents held a memorial service to help focus attention on the case of "Baby Grace," the young girl whose remains were discovered inside a storage box that washed ashore on Galveston Bay.

Hundreds of tips from around the country have poured in since authorities released sketches of the unidentified child on Friday. A fisherman found the toddler's body a week ago along the Intercoastal Waterway.

NATION
Man accused of shooting wife, judge makes deal

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A man accused of killing his wife and shooting the judge who was handling their bitter divorce reached a plea deal Monday, bringing an abrupt end to his trial.

Darren Mack, 46, pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and entered an Alford plea to a charge of attempted murder as the defense was to begin calling witnesses.

Mack was on trial for the June 12, 2006, stabbing of his estranged wife, Charla, at Mack's town house in south Reno.

WORLD
20,000 Mexican flood victims remain stranded

VILLAHERMOSA, Mexico (AP) — Hungry and dehydrated victims of one of the worst floods in Mexico's history scrambled for government packages of food and medicine, while at least 20,000 people remained trapped Monday on the rooftops of homes swallowed by water.

Residents were running dangerously short of food and water after nearly a week of floods left 80 percent of the Gulf Coast state of Tabasco under water and destroyed or damaged the homes of about half a million people.

DEATH TOLL

3850

U.S. Military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

WEATHER

Today

CLOUDY
HIGH 60
LOW 35

Wednesday

SUNNY
HIGH 72
LOW 46

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SLEEPY HEADS

Student sleep deprivation hinders brain function

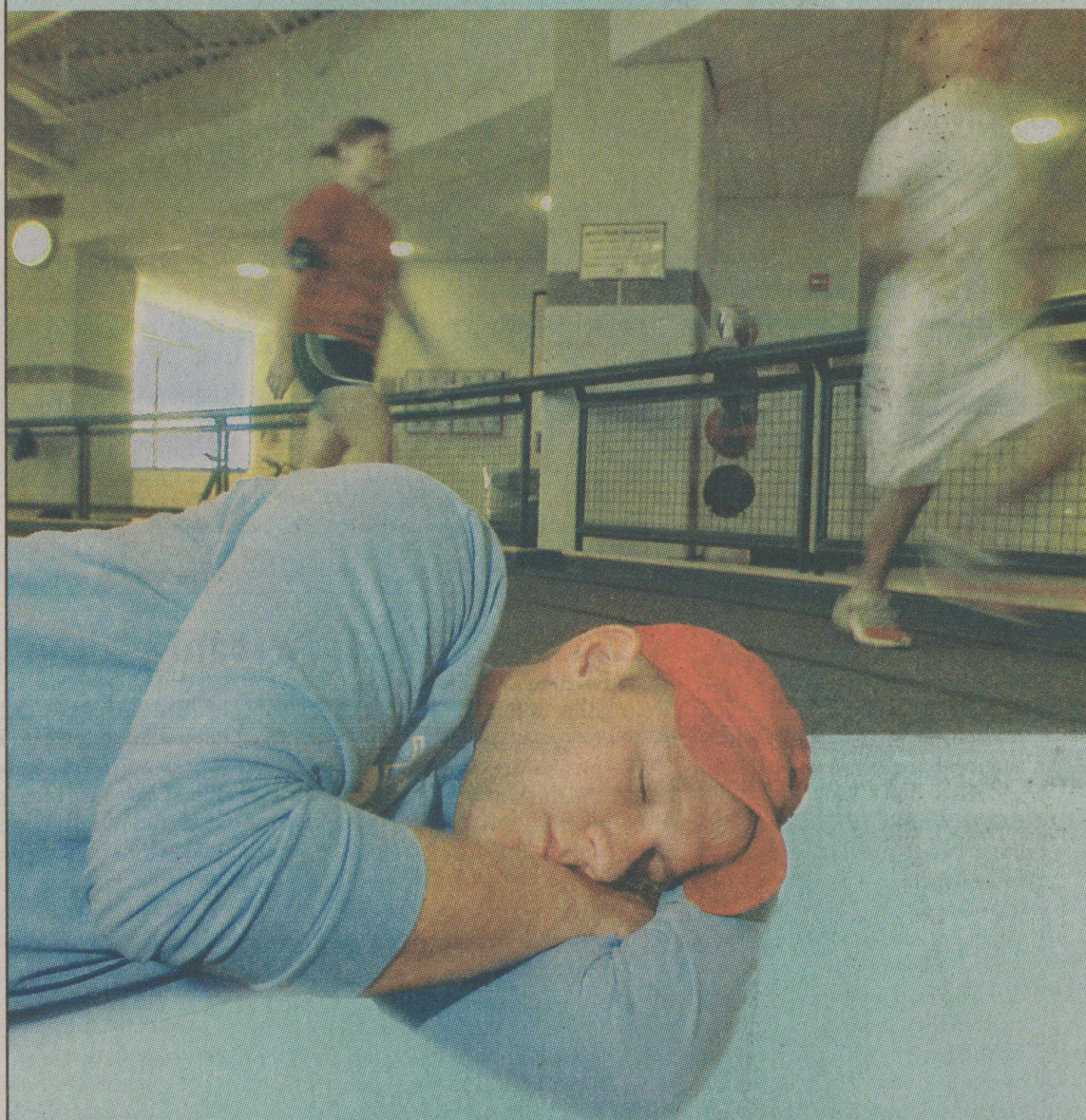


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KELLY MATHERLY/The Daily Toreador

By **MATT MCGOWAN**
STAFF WRITER

A lack of sleep may have an obvious effect on brain functions, but many Texas Tech students may be surprised by the consequences of sleep deprivation.

In 2005, according to a National Sleep Foundation poll, the average American reported needing at least 6 1/2 hours of sleep each night to feel refreshed the next day. Twenty-one percent of respondents between the ages 18 and 29 years old reported getting less sleep than they need. Within that 18 to 29 year-old age group, 18 percent reported getting an average of less than 6 hours of sleep per night.

Dr. Ralph Downey, a spokesperson for the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, said actual sleep-deprivation statistics for the entire population, especially for those between the ages of 18 and 29 years old, probably are higher than the poll indicates.

"I think that's a really conservative number," he said. "My feeling on it is simply that we, in this society until recent years and even now, most of us regard sleep as a negotiable thing."

Although they may not realize it, most Americans need more sleep, said Ed Deaver, a sleep specialist at the Covenant Sleep Center. Falling asleep during the day is not normal, contrary to common belief.

"Falling asleep on Sunday during the ballgame is not normal," he said. "Falling asleep during church or in the movie house is not normal. If you talk with most people who are chronically exhausted, they believe that these are normal things because that's what they've had to do to survive."

SLEEP continued on page 5

Police clash in Pakistan results in 3,500 arrests

By **MUNIR AHMAD**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Police fired tear gas and clubbed thousands of lawyers protesting President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's decision to impose emergency rule, as Western allies threatened to review aid to the troubled Muslim nation. Opposition groups put the number of arrests at 3,500, although the government reported half that.

Musharraf, who took power in a 1999 coup and is also head of Pakistan's army, suspended the constitution on Saturday ahead of a Supreme Court ruling on whether his recent re-election as president was legal. He ousted independent-minded judges, put a stranglehold on independent media and granted sweeping powers to authorities to crush dissent.

The attorney general called Monday for the polls to be held on time, but Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz left open the possibility for a delay.

Under intense pressure from the United States and other Western allies to hold elections as scheduled in January, Musharraf said Monday he would relinquish control of the military and return the country to "the same track as we were moving" but he gave no indication when the vote would take place.

"I am determined to remove my uniform once we correct these pillars — the judiciary, the executive, and the parliament," Musharraf was quoted by state-run Pakistan Television as telling foreign ambassadors Monday.

"I can assure you there will be harmony ... confidence will come back into the government, into law enforcement agencies and Pakistan will start moving again on the same track as we

PAKISTAN continued on page 5

Weather conditions result in near-record cotton harvest projections for local farmers



PHOTO COURTESY OF TEXAS TECH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

By **MATT MCGOWAN**
STAFF WRITER

With local farmers projecting this year's cotton harvest to be one of the highest on record for the South Plains region, local cotton growers can thank a wet spring and warm summer for the yield.

Shawn Wade, director of communications at Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., said cotton growers from 41 West Texas counties are expected to yield 4.9 million bales of cotton this year because of optimal weather conditions, which is the second-highest yield for the region. Thus far, approximately 10 percent of the harvest has been processed.

"Primarily, we had really good early-season moisture," he said. "We had above-average rainfall in the late winter and early spring time period, which just set us up for a really good start."

Eddie McBride, president of the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, said this year's harvest could have as much as, or even

COTTON continued on page 3

Tech police say student awareness necessary in preventing assaults

By **ADAM YOUNG**
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech police recommend students take precautions after a student was allegedly assaulted Friday in the Engineering Key.

A female student allegedly was approached by three males and attacked by one at approximately 3:05 a.m. Friday, according to a message on TechAnnounce posted by Cpl. Jack Floyd with the Tech police department.

"We just want to make sure that the campus was aware of the situation and that we have an outstanding assault suspect on campus that could strike again," Floyd said. "We just want to keep everyone on their toes, basically, as a precautionary measure."

Although the alleged victim refused to cooperate with responding officers and did not wish to file a report or participate in prosecution of any offenders, Floyd said Tech police released her description

of a suspect, a Hispanic male wearing a black and white coat, as a precautionary measure.

"We have to cover our bases, basically," he said. "The victim didn't really give us that much information about it, and I know it fits probably about a third of the population but, you know, we just have to be safe than sorry."

Floyd said he is not aware of any similarities between the alleged assault on Friday and the aggravated robbery of a female student Sept. 11 near the Frazier Alumni Pavilion.

"I just hope it isn't a copy-cat incident," he said. "If the guy is caught, we stick him in prison for the charges, but hopefully this is an isolated incident."

To prevent themselves from becoming victims, Floyd said he recommends people walking on campus stay on the beaten path,

ASSAULT continued on page 2

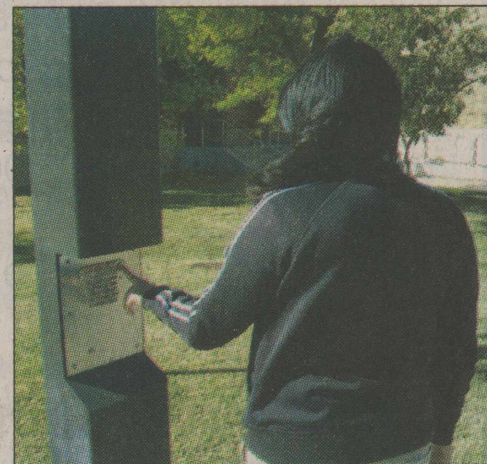


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ADAM YOUNG/The Daily Toreador

ODDBALL DAILY

Texas man sets record with 87 rattlers in bathtub

DUBLIN, Texas (AP) — Another day, another bizarre world record for Jackie Bibby, "The Texas Snake Man."

Bibby spent about 45 minutes in a see-through bathtub with 87 rattlesnakes Monday, shattering his own record by 12 snakes just in time for Guinness World Records Day, which is Thursday. The record was certified by a Guinness official.

Bibby said the snakes crawled under his arms, between his legs and anywhere else they could slither. None of the snakes bit him.

"They can go wherever they want as long as they don't start biting," Bibby said. "The key to not biting is for me to stay still. Rapid movement scares a rattlesnake. If

you move real slow and gentle, that doesn't seem to bother them."

Bibby sat in the dry tub with a pillow propped behind him to make him more comfortable. He wore regular clothing, and the snakes were not defanged and still contained their venom, he said. Workers placed the snakes in one at a time and removed them one at a time.

The clear bathtub was specially made several years ago for Bibby by the Guinness folks for a televised segment. He's used the tub for subsequent attempts at the record for sitting in a tub with snakes.

"I have set several world records in that bathtub," Bibby said.

The record was Bibby's latest grab at glory. Last year he set a

Guinness-certified record by holding 10 rattlesnakes by their tails in his mouth at once. He said he plans to break that record Tuesday by squeezing in an 11th.

The Texas Snake Man also said he holds non-sanctioned records for climbing into a sleeping bag head first with 20 rattlesnakes and going in feet first with 112. The latter record, Bibby said, is the answer to a question in the board game Trivial Pursuit.

Bibby also claims numerous movie, TV and theater credits, playing such roles as Hostage on Plane, Hillbilly, Liquor Store Owner and Irate Bar Patron.

The acting and the snakes are ways for Bibby to stay in the limelight, he said.

WORLD EVENTS IN BRIEF

Panel head tells White House to answer subpoenas

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats threatened Monday to hold President Bush's key confidants in contempt of Congress unless they comply with subpoenas for information on the Justice Department's purge of federal prosecutors last winter.

The White House shrugged off the ultimatum, saying the information is off-limits under executive privilege and that the aides in ques-

tion — White House Chief of Staff Joshua Bolten and former presidential counselor Harriet Miers — are immune from prosecution.

"It won't go anywhere," predicted White House press secretary Dana Perino.

Congressional Democrats nonetheless submitted their 102-page report, and a Republican rebuttal, to the House clerk on Monday afternoon. The report accused

Miers of contempt for failing to appear and testify as subpoenaed. She and Bolten were charged with failing to produce documents on whether the prosecutors were fired at the White House's behest.

Also in the sights of House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers, D-Mich.: Karl Rove, the architect of Bush's rise to the White House and a top political adviser who left last summer.

Ex-NY police commissioner's results outweigh errors

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Rudy Giuliani said Monday that if his achievements as president are as good as the crime-reduction results of his New York police commissioner, a man now under criminal investigation himself, "this country will be in great shape."

Giuliani, in an interview with The Associated Press, acknowledged mistakes by Bernard Kerik, who was police commissioner when Giuliani was mayor. But he said crime reduction for the city

was more important.

Kerik, whom Giuliani pushed to head the federal Department of Homeland Security, is under investigation on what could be multiple felony charges. Giuliani said he hadn't spoken to his friend and one-time business partner recently and had no idea what implication a Kerik indictment or plea deal could have on his presidential campaign.

"I have no idea what's going to happen, first of all, nor do I have

any idea what he's going to do," the Republican contender said.

Giuliani has accepted responsibility for his role in Kerik's embarrassing 2004 withdrawal as President Bush's Homeland Security nominee after revelation of tax problems. Ethics questions and corruption allegations also have swirled around Kerik. But the former New York mayor said the results of the commissioner's time in New York far outweigh isolated incidences.

Couple win \$115,001 prize in Halloween drawing

HELL, Mich. (AP) — Life in Hell just got a little easier for John and Sue Wilson.

The couple, who live in the unincorporated town 45 miles west of Detroit, were blessed with a \$115,001 windfall from

the Michigan Lottery.

They won the big prize in the Fantasy 5 drawing held Wednesday — that is, Halloween.

"How cool is that?" said Sue Wilson, 43, a teacher's aide. Her husband is an electrician.

The couple said they plan to use their winnings to pay off bills, make some home improvements, buy a video game system for their 13-year-old son and possibly visit relatives in Georgia.

Woman takes out newspaper ad to sell breast milk

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) — A woman who doesn't want her breast milk to go to waste has taken out a newspaper ad in hopes of selling it.

Martha Heller, 22, took out an ad in The Gazette newspaper offering 100 ounces of her breast milk for \$200 or the best offer.

Heller said her freezer is overflowing with breast milk she has pumped since August. Her 4-month-old daughter won't drink from a bottle

and the supply is piling up.

Heller now donates to the University of Iowa's Mother's Milk Bank, but the 100 ounces of milk she wants to sell were pumped before she went through the screening process for the bank and cannot be donated.

Linda Klein, a lactation consultant at Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids, said breast milk can generally be stored in a freezer for up to six months.

Heller said she researched laws regarding the sale of breast milk and couldn't find any in Iowa.

Don McCormick, a spokesman for the Iowa Department of Public Health, said he was not aware of any laws in Iowa restricting the sale of breast milk, but that state health officials advised against it.

Heller said she hasn't received any legitimate calls about her ad. "There was one prank caller," she said.

'Super X-ray' shows promise for finding heart disease

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A type of "super X-ray" showed promise in its first big test as a potentially cheaper, faster and painless way to find out whether certain people with signs of heart disease actually have it and need treatment. The scans might eliminate the need for some of the 1.3 million cardiac catheterizations done each year in the United States to check for clogged arteries, said Dr. Julie Miller of Johns Hopkins University.

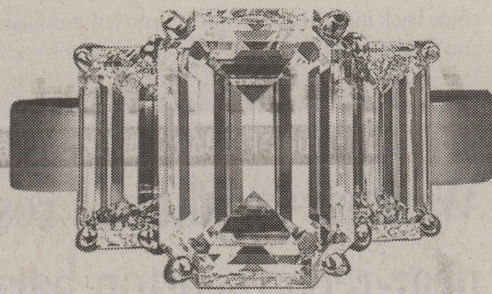
But the newer scans are controversial: Medicare and private insurers

are debating whether to pay for them, and many heart specialists oppose them, partly because they supply a big dose of radiation. That raises the risk of cancer and might spur thousands of additional cases if the scans were widely used in the population, said Dr. Michael Lauer of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

Speaking at an American Heart Association conference where study results of the scan were presented Monday, he called on doctors not to use the scans until research proves they save lives.

"I think he went a little overboard" and was reacting to worries the scans would be used to screen people with no symptoms, rather than the more limited use tested in the study, said Miller, who led the research.

This new CT scan technology came on the market two years ago and is already used by many hospitals. Because it uses 64 detectors to produce and combine images, the scans are called "64-slice CT." The images are so detailed that one doctor described them as an almost surgical view.



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Assaults

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

remaining on sidewalks rather than walking between buildings. "Also, don't walk like you're sleepy or fatigued," he said. "You might want to walk with a skip step. You want to give off the impression that you're not an easy target because people are looking for the easy targets."

Floyd said he warns all people on the Tech campus to familiarize themselves with the locations of the 82 emergency intercom stations located in buildings, parking lots and parking garages on campus, which provide a direct phone link to a Tech police dispatcher.

"Our normal response to any report on campus is within about two minutes," he said. "We can't

run over people to get to you, the administration doesn't like that, but if it's an emergency we're going to run hot — lights and sirens and stuff like that."

To ensure the emergency intercom stations work when they are needed, Floyd said Tech police test them on a weekly basis.

Despite two incidents this semester, the number of aggravated assaults reported on all Tech campuses decreased by more than 60 percent between 2004 and 2006, with eight in 2004, six in 2005 and three in 2006, according to the Tech police department Web site, www.depts.ttu.edu/ttprd.

A complete list of all 82 blue phones on the Tech campus can be found at the Web site. adam.young@ttu.edu

Servant testifies about alleged abuse

CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y. (AP) — An Indonesian servant for a millionaire couple accused of modern-day slavery testified Monday she was forced to eat her own vomit and was scalded with hot water for misdeeds such as sleeping late and pilfering food.

The 51-year-old woman, identified only as Samirah, said through an interpreter that she was also repeatedly poked with a knife and that her ears were twisted until they bled.

The fear of being abused caused her to involuntarily urinate, she said, for which she was punished further.

"I said, 'Mrs., just send me home to Indonesia,'" Samirah said.

Samirah's testimony began last week in the trial of Mahender Murlidhar Sabhnani, 51, and his wife, Varsha Mahender Sabhnani,

45. The couple have pleaded not guilty to all charges in a 12-count federal indictment, including conspiracy, involuntary servitude and other offenses.

They are accused of bringing Samirah and another Indonesian woman, Enung, to the United States to work as housekeepers but enslaving them instead in their Long Island mansion, sending \$100 a month home to their families but subjecting them to psychological and physical abuse.

The Sabhnanis — who operate a worldwide perfume business out of their home — were arrested in May after Samirah, wearing tattered clothes, was found at a doughnut shop, pleading for help after apparently escaping while taking out the trash.

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PUMP ME UP

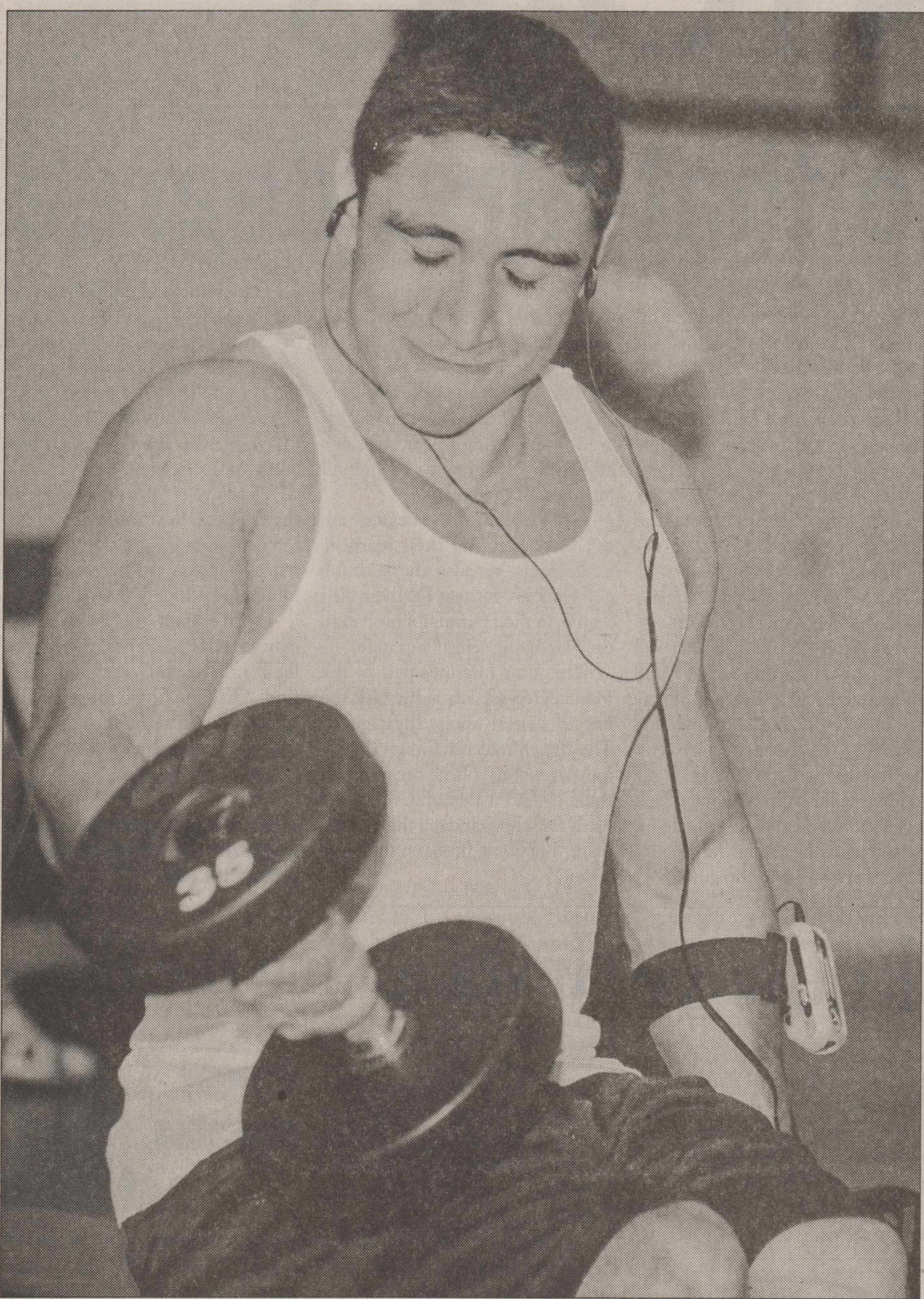


PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador
ADRIAN ALFARO, A senior exercise and sport science major from Lubbock, lifts weights Monday afternoon in the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center.

Discovery astronauts check wings for ride home

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Shuttle Discovery's astronauts surveyed the wings of their ship Monday to ensure a safe descent over the American heartland after leaving the international space station. On the ride home Wednesday, the space shuttle will make the first coast-to-coast re-entry since Columbia shattered in the sky over Texas in 2003 and sent tens of thousands of pounds of wreckage raining down on at least two states.

enter over the entire United States — just Florida after zooming up from the southwest over Central America and the Caribbean. But that original plan would have entailed a pre-dawn landing, and shuttle commander Pamela Melroy preferred a safer, easier touchdown in daylight, said shuttle

program manager Wayne Hale. This 15-day mission is longer than most — and more stressful, too, with the astronauts' impromptu repair to the torn solar wing at the space station. As a result, crew fatigue must be considered, Hale said.

Cotton

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

more than a \$5 billion impact on the local economy.

"That money that circulates through our economy goes into several areas, whether it be restaurants, whether it be sales tax collected at the mall," he said. "It just cycles around everywhere in our community, so the actual economic impact that \$5 billion has — well, I don't know what that figure is."

The last five years have produced four of the five largest yields in the region, Wade said, which can be attributed to better production technology. The technology not only helps produce a better yield, but also better quality.

"I'd say, quality wise, this is probably one of the better crops in the last few years," Wade said. "They may not be quite as long, but it has got some other attributes that are superior. That variety, that combination of moisture and summer weather, just kind of came together and did real good, so the plants were able to produce up to their potential."

Cotton producers initially were apprehensive about a potentially poor harvest because of too much rain in the early spring, he said, during which time many of the cotton plants are too premature to survive excessive water.

"You never want to turn down good rain, but on young cotton and baby crops like that, a heavy rain can be pretty damaging," Wade said. "We had some concern that some of the crop might get sick, but we managed to get through it. We didn't have any major problems."

Linda Taylor, co-owner of Buster's Gin and a cotton producer, said local farmers anticipate the success of this year's harvest. Buster's Gin expects to process about a 100,000 bales this year, which is a lot for the gin, and considerably more than the approximately 58,000 bales ginned after the drier growing season in 2006.

This year's crop, despite its high yield and quality, will not necessarily guarantee that any producer will see a significant increase in earnings, she said.

"It's very difficult to give a gen-

eral assessment of that type, because even though they have outstanding production, their associated costs have increased just like everything else — the price of diesel, the price of fertilizer," Taylor said. "Everything they deal with has increased, and the cash price of cotton is not following that scale upward."

anywhere on the South Plains, so the sense of relief really comes when it has all been harvested, put into a module, and ready for the gin."

It is hard to gauge how successful next year's crop will be, she said, because there are so many unknowable factors involved in successfully producing crops.

"There's no way I can look into the future, in that crystal ball, and say it's going to be good or bad," Taylor said. "We will definitely have to have rainfall at sometime before planting if we hope to produce another bumper crop."

Some farmers may need to artificially enhance the soil after this year's harvest, Taylor said, because cotton does tend to extract much of the soil's nutrition from one year to the next.

"The quality and amount of production that 2007 has produced will definitely use up nutrients," Taylor said. "Yes, cotton always requires, the following year, a new supply — of especially nitrogen — to make a bumper crop, but other nutrients as well."

Beverley Boyd, a spokesperson for the Texas Department of Agriculture, said the statewide cotton harvest is projected to be approximately 7.5 million bales of cotton, most of which will come from producers in the South Plains region.

"We're the leading state in the nation as far as cotton production, and most of that comes from the Lubbock and the Southern High Plains areas," she said. "Cotton is a very important crop for Texas, and we definitely want to encourage everybody to think of Texas when you think of cotton."

► matt.mcgowan@ttu.edu

“We're the leading state in the nation as far as cotton production, and most of that comes from Lubbock...”

— BEVERLEY BOYD
SPOKESPERSON
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Several factors still threaten the well-being of the cotton plants, she said.

"The biggest relief is when you get it all off the stalk though, and know that it's ready to go to the gin," Taylor said. "You would know if you were here this fall. Back in late September, October, Hale County had a very devastating hail, and it can happen

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OPINIONS

PAGE 4
TUESDAY, NOV. 6, 2007

Ladies: Do not frame that Mrs. degree

Hypothetically, every student comes to Texas Tech with dreams of attaining a college degree. However, there are a few (female) students who seek a degree that does not require any form of academic achievement. What is this?

The Mrs. degree.

Those of you who have not heard this phrase before might wonder what it means. Well, if you want to attain a Mrs. degree, your main goals in life are to get married and to put that "Mrs." in front of your new last name.

Therefore, the countless girls on campus who attend class, only to be seen by boys and flirt with boys, are in pursuit of their Mrs. degrees. These girls have come to college with one goal: to get a husband.

Girls in pursuit of Mrs. degrees dress in a variety of ways. Some girls wear outfits that should be worn at a

Allison Griest



night club. Other girls wear so much makeup that when they sneeze, a puff of powder leaves their face. The one thing these girls have in common is that they try very hard to look extremely "put together" for their classes.

Now, I'm not saying that looking presentable for school is a bad thing. I would much rather see a girl wearing too much makeup than see a girl who looks like she hasn't changed clothes in three days.

I'm also not saying that flirting and dating are wrong — in any sense. Flirting and dating are fun,

social things to do. What I do find perplexing, however, is the idea that some girls see college as the "end-all, be-all." They seem to think if they do not find a suitable mate in college, they will be alone forever.

Well, this assumption is completely flawed. I'm at a loss as to what these girls think happens to boys after college. Optimistically, boys usually become mature and responsible men. Even if this maturation does not happen, boys do not disappear after college.

After graduation, students enter the real world. In order to survive, they have to get a job. People get jobs because of their qualifications, and a degree from Texas Tech should make an individual appear qualified to an employer.

However, getting a job could be difficult for a girl whose only aspiration has been to attain an

Mrs. degree.

If girls have never focused on school and have only focused on boys, the idea of the real world is terrifying to them. Throughout college they have pursued Mrs. degrees with such vigor that they have failed to pay attention in their classes. They have been so caught up in finding "the one" in college that they have not retained any useful information from professors.

If a girl is unsuccessful in achieving a Mrs. degree during her college career, after graduation she will be reliant on an unidentified and undiscovered man who may or may not provide for her. A girl should not have to be provided for by a guy. I'm not saying it's wrong for a guy to provide for a girl, I simply think a girl should be able to provide for herself no matter what the circumstances are — guy or no guy.

Several classes require group work, and I have often heard guys talk about the girls who are in class groups. I hear guys say the girls in their classes flirt and never focus on the assignments. Because these girls are so busy trying to get any guy's attention, they fail to be helpful members of the groups.

Girls seeking Mrs. degrees are not only affecting their learning experiences but also the learning experiences of others. Do these girls realize, in their pursuit for husbands, they are being selfish and rude?

The most hilarious part of the Mrs. degree-seekers is the girls are not in denial about their goals. They laughingly tell friends they're only attending college because they want to find a husband. They get ready for school and tell their roommate "I'm going husband shopping today."

This frame of mind is particularly insulting to guys. While guys often enjoy non-monomorous relationships and are stereotyped as "players," I have never heard a guy say he is going "wife shopping." I haven't even heard a guy say he's going "girl shopping."

The phrase "shopping" suggests that humans have monetary value. I'm sure this connotation is offensive to many people. Even eBay prohibits the selling of individuals.

I wish you all, the girls who are searching for husbands, the best of luck. Just remember, if you don't find "the one" in college, make sure you have a way of supporting yourself after graduation. An Mrs. degree isn't everything.

Griest is an English major from Sugarland. E-mail her at allison.griest@ttu.edu.

Stephen Colbert, we hardly knew ye

Last Thursday in a vote of 13 to three, the South Carolina Democratic Party voted not to include Dr. Stephen T. Colbert, D.E.A., on the Democratic Primary ballot, citing "He does not appear to be campaigning to win if he is only running in one state." In order to be placed on the ballot, the state party's executive council said, each candidate must be seen as nationally viable.

Nonetheless, despite the impression their national viabilities rank somewhere around polio, the committee still included Bill Richardson, Mike Gravel, Dennis Kucinich, Christopher Dodd, and Joe Biden on the ballot. In fact, if you want to be honest, the democratic primaries have basically become a tiresome three-way between Clinton, Obama, and Edwards, with the latter two only trying to position themselves for a vice-presidential spot.

Well, I can think of no one who is more nationally viable than Stephen Colbert, and while he may not be what political scientists call

Jonathan Hanson



"electable," his campaign, which has been a satirical, genuine reflection of the ridiculousness and inanity of our electoral system, would have had an insightful impact on both the way we choose our candidates and how we view our political structures.

Granted his campaign, which lasted a little more than two weeks, was a joke. But, it was a joke that needed to be told from the inside of the election. Colbert's speech at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner, in which he ridiculed everything from Bush's low approval ratings to Dick Cheney shooting a man in the face to their policies on torture, was very funny. Yet, it was because he gave it within 10 feet of the president that it was hilarious.

Some of this country's founding principles are the ability to question our leaders and the constant scrutiny of our institutions, and when there is no one left with the guts to do that, it takes a man like Stephen Colbert to demonstrate what America actually is and what it is supposed to be. He does this well, using a rich blend of sarcasm and derision.

If we can only bear to see the absurdity in the establishment through the comforting shelter of humor, why not give a master of such the chance to show us the hypocrisy of our democracy during the election? Why not now, while things can actually be changed, rather than waiting to find out afterwards we've bent over and allowed hollow politicians, divided pansies and ideological religious fanatics to screw us over once again.

Though Stephen Colbert, as featured on the "Colbert Report" may be a hodgepodge of caricatures that have been blended into one persona rather than an actual person, but how does he differ from any other candidate who has been heavily coached, focus-grouped and homogenized to the point that his or her actual personality has become an alter-ego — hidden from the public at all costs?

These aren't superheroes, but actors, who have been given a guise under which their handlers find they're most electable, leaving no trace of their genuine human qualities. Are you going to tell me that Rudolph Giuliani's actual personality would have this native Brooklynite standing in front of a grill, with an apron and flipping pancakes in Palooka-Ville USA? I've seen more valid authenticity in baseball cards signed by Jesus.

And what really are the differences between Stephen Colbert and the other candidates? Colbert reads jokes, written by a crack team of writers, off a teleprompter. The candidates read carefully written statements, written by speech writers, off a piece of paper. On his show, Colbert discusses issues with celebrities, authors and politicians. The candidates do the same with people like Stephen Colbert. The only fundamental difference is Colbert's joke is on the system, and the candidates' joke is on us.

Now, you may not be able to

see the "Colbert Report" this week because of a planned strike by the Writers Guild of America (writers are so damn lazy!), but that's no reason to forget what his brief campaign stood for: not for a chance to promote change by being president, but a chance to promote change



through clever remarks and witty observations. If we remember his riffs on Election '08 were symbolic of a greater American ideal, then his campaign — short as it was — was a success. As he told Cara Fowler, the South Carolina Democratic Party Chair, as she called to inform him he would not be on the ballot, "Give my best to everybody in South Carolina, say hello to the other members of the Democratic Council, and tell the candidates I'll see them in hell."

Yes, Stephen Colbert made a mockery of the American electoral process.

And I can't see anything wrong with that.

Hanson is a political science major from Plano. E-mail him at jonathan.hanson@ttu.edu.

Investigating the Bible

A belief in God's word, expressed through the Bible, is foundational to the Christian faith. Without acknowledging this book as a source of truth, a person is dependent on his or her own emotional interpretations. This doubt weakens a community that could be bound together.

There are several understandable reasons for doubting or disliking the Bible, which I'll explore in three columns.

The first concern regards the accuracy of the Bible's authenticity to the original events. Because it is at least 2000 years old, we suspect it's probably been selfishly re-translated many times. These thoughts are logical concerns but do not represent critical thinking alone. If a doubter wants to answer these questions, analysis and research should be done.

There also are positive assumptions. People who greatly value a text will try to preserve it as much as possible. And a dedicated translator who makes studying another language his or her life's work will try to present scripture in the most accurate or understandable way.

Still, suspicions are weak without facts. The events of the New Testament took place in the first 100 years of AD. These events were recorded on paper and were in circulation within 30 years of their occurrence. This is a short amount of time, which increases the accuracy of the copies. Furthermore, the texts are mostly eye-witness accounts, rather than stories passed down through generations by word of mouth.

Most of the New Testament is a series of letters. Upon delivery, the letters were almost immediately copied and shared with others.

With thousands of historical copies, the New Testament is better recorded than any other ancient text. Bible translators work from texts, which were copied around 300 AD, less than 200 years from the time they original were written. Thus, the assumption that the New Testament has had 2000 years of re-writing cannot be valid.

The second concern is whether or not the Bible is a truthful record of actual events. Again, I will just focus on the New Testament. The first four books are an account of Jesus, his ministry, death and resurrection. Three of the books were written by men who knew Jesus personally, traveled with him and saw his work first hand. The other book is written by a doctor who interviewed many eye-witnesses and attempted to piece the stories together scientifically.

Ginger Kapalka



He states his intentions in the first few verses: "Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." (Luke 1:3-4)

The letters of the New Testament were written by early Christian leaders to new churches growing around that part of the world. The letters include advice, confrontation, revelations and teachings. Because letters are immediately recorded by the author, there is little error of expression.

Of course, we cannot travel back in time to find out what actually happened. So, do we trust the writers?

By reading these accounts, one can be assured these men believed what they wrote. They were not trying to deceive for money or power — in fact, several of them were killed for their beliefs.

Jesus did not come for power either. He would have had a greater following if he had not claimed to be God. This claim was very offensive to the Jewish ruling council. Also, many other followers left him in response to difficult teachings, such as, we must love our enemies and give our possessions to the poor.

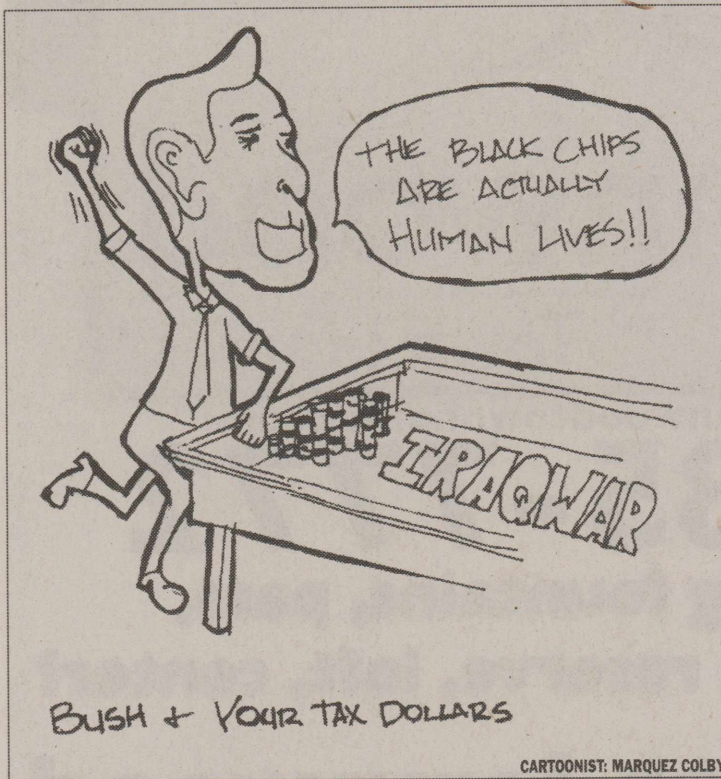
Jesus frequently withdrew from large crowds who came to hear him; he was not a man seeking power on Earth. Jesus came to Earth to teach the truth, whether people liked it or not. Most importantly, Jesus came to die — the sacrifice of greatest love.

Bible study is a challenge, an intellectual, historical and philosophical pursuit. There are many resources that will aid understanding. Don't trust in yourself alone. Don't read a couple verses and reject them with, "This doesn't make sense." Our lack of understanding does not negate the possibility of finding great truth. It is rash to reject the Bible based on doubt.

I cannot prove the Bible is true. I only hope to encourage investigation that can overcome assumption.

References: Is the Bible Intolerant? By Amy Orr-Ewing and The Da Vinci Deception, Erwin W. Lutzer.

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



CARTOONIST: MARQUEZ COLBY

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I just wanted to drop by and say how much sweeter our victory against Baylor was since all of you picked us to lose. I wish at least one of *The Daily Toreador* writers who gets to do football picks wasn't a fair-weather fan. How could you guys even pick Baylor over us? They are ranked dead last in the conference and are ranked 110 in pass defense.

I hope all of you are happy to add another loss to your overall records. What a shame that members of the football team had to see that you have no faith in them. Maybe you guys should transfer to a school in the Big 12 South that hasn't lost yet, since you can't handle being a fan when a team loses.

Oh wait, what's that? There isn't a team in the Big 12 South that hasn't lost yet? I guess you guys are just going to have to stay here, put your big-boy pants on and try supporting the Red Raiders.

Adrian Simmacher is a senior psychology major from Robstown. E-mail her at adrian.simmacher@ttu.edu.

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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 submission.

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WHO NOSE?



PHOTO BY WALTER ROSADO/The Daily Toreador

JESSI SAILORS, A junior studio art major from Bastrop, forges metal for her design of a human nose Monday morning at the Art building.

Critics say fragmented system can't ensure food is safe from contamination

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Peanut butter is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. But chicken pot pies are the U.S. Department of Agriculture's responsibility. Frozen cheese pizzas — FDA. But if there's pepperoni on them, USDA has jurisdiction, too.

Critics of the nation's food safety system say that it is too fragmented and marked by overlapping authority, and they say that may help explain why dangerous foods keep slipping through and why contamination scares are handled in sometimes inconsistent ways.

"One of the underlying problems is the bifurcation of the regulatory system," said Caroline Smith DeWaal, director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest's food safety division.

Critics also complain that the food safety system suffers from a shortage of money and inspectors and inadequate enforcement powers.

In the months ahead, Congress will consider several proposals to reform the system, including creation of a single food safety agency, an idea both the FDA and USDA oppose. A top FDA official said the agencies cooperate well now.

"We do not believe a single food safety agency would give us the efficiencies you can have from having two agencies responsible for 99 percent of the food that we eat in this country, both domestic and imported," said Richard Raymond, USDA undersecretary for food safety.

The government structure that protects the food supply took shape piecemeal over the past 101 years. The results could be seen in the way

two recalls were handled over the past year.

When Peter Pan peanut butter was linked to a salmonella outbreak in February, ConAgra Foods Inc. recalled it as soon as federal health officials raised questions. But when ConAgra's Banquet-brand chicken and turkey pot pies were tied to a similar salmonella outbreak in October, the Omaha company waited two days to recall them, first issuing only a consumer health warning.

Peanut butter is regulated by the FDA, while pot pies are regulated by the USDA, because USDA has long had authority over meat and poultry.

Ready-to-eat foods like peanut butter, which is eaten right out of the jar, receive closer scrutiny because there is greater danger if harmful bacteria are present in those foods. Products like pot pies must be cooked first, and proper cooking kills most bacteria.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the pot pies sickened more than 270 people, the peanut butter at least 625.

Neither the FDA nor the USDA had the authority to order ConAgra to recall the products. In fact, all food recalls, except for those involving infant formula, are voluntary. Often, the government gets a product recalled by warning the company it could face bad publicity if it does not withdraw the food.

At least a dozen federal agencies share responsibility for keeping America's food safe, with the FDA and the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service playing the biggest roles. But none of the agencies use the same rule book.

Sleep

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Effects of short-term sleep deprivation may impair college students' ability to function properly on a cognitive and physical level, said Dr. Randolph Schiffer, chairperson of the Department of Neuropsychiatry at Tech's Health Sciences Center.

"For college students, short-term sleep deprivation impairs performance, both physical — like sports or whatever — but also cognitive-test delivery performance, oral presentation performance, whatever, emotional regulation, impulse control," he said. "Things like that."

According to the 2005 poll, 22 percent of respondents between the ages of 18 and 29 years old said sleep disorders have caused problems in their relationships.

Inadequate sleep often induces depression, self-depreciation and an unpredictable temperament, Deaver said, which often promotes and increases feelings of isolation. Consequently, sleep deprivation contributes to the deterioration of personal relationships and affects college students' social aptitude.

"I know alcohol is a factor at football games, but I wonder sometimes about when opposing teams' fans get into fights," he said. "We know from studies done in New Orleans that alcohol is a factor — aggressiveness increases with alcohol consumption — but what if they're sleep-deprived?"

According to the poll, 75 percent of respondents reported suffering from symptoms of any sleep disorder — a 13 percent increase from 1999 — and 18 percent of 18 to 29 year-olds said they think they have a sleep problem.

Downey said students should be careful not to underestimate the importance of their sleep habits. If students regularly have trouble sleeping for two or more weeks — difficulty going to sleep, diffi-

culty staying asleep or waking up too early — they may have at least one of 84 known sleep disorders and should consult a physician.

"If your primary care physician is really not up on the sleep specialty part, really, you should see a sleep specialist who is certified by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine," he said. "Sometimes doctors just put people on an Ambien and say, 'You have a nice day.' That is not the correct approach in the long run."

Sleep medications do not directly address the causes of sleep disorders, Schiffer said, and may even be counterproductive, much like alcohol.

"If you just drink 5 ounces of Scotch whisky, you'll fall asleep, but two or three hours later you will wake up, and you won't feel that good, or the next morning you won't feel that good, and your performance won't be good," he said. "Drugs do not solve the problems of insomnia, and drugs do not improve sleep pattern in my opinion."

According to the poll, 11 percent of respondents reported using alcohol to help them fall asleep at least a few nights each month.

Students who consume narcotics or alcohol before going to sleep sabotage the regenerative nature of sleeping, Deaver said.

"Even though we're asleep, the brain is still self-protective, and it is still doing much more than people realize," he said. "When the brain is under the influence of either drugs or alcohol, that does prevent it from going through the normal survival mechanisms."

According to the poll, when it comes to staying up later than planned on weeknights, 47 percent of respondents said they did so a few nights per week.

Establishing and adhering to a sleep rhythm is challenging for college students, Deaver said, because of their unpredictable social lives and rigorous academic obligations.

"That's all a part of the college experience, but from a sleep standpoint, it's all very bad for good sleep habits," he said.

Every person's brain wiring reacts differently to his or her establishment of a regular sleep schedule, Schiffer said, which is why some people suffer from abnormal sleep patterns more than others.

"There is an oscillator in the brain stem that is on a 26- to 28-hour cycle that generates these sleep cycles," he said. "It's not on a 24-hour cycle, even though we have 24-hour days. Well, evolution did its best, but it didn't quite hit it. People who have a longer oscillator are often the ones who have a harder time regulating sleep patterns. Their brain is chronically out-of-sync with the world."

Without adequate sleep, students should not drive, Downey said, because drowsy driving is comparable to drunk driving.

"In college students, this is the thing I worry about most, is when college students are sleep deprived by Friday, and if they add alcohol to the mix, it's double trouble," he said.

According to the poll, approximately half of the participants said it takes them 15 minutes or less to fall asleep.

After lying in bed for 20 minutes without being able to sleep, Downey said it is best to condition oneself by getting out of bed and leaving the room, returning after another 20 minutes of non-stimulating activity.

"What that does is it sort of breaks that learning pattern of 'My bedroom is a place where I can't sleep,' and then every time somebody goes to bed they go, 'OK, the war begins,'" he said.

Trying to sleep and stressing about not being able to do so is a bad idea, Schiffer said.

"The other thing, of course, which I always tell people, your brain will take all the sleep that it needs," he said. "You don't have to worry if you don't fall asleep. Your brain is not going to be harmed, you will just feel bad the next day."

► matthew.mcgowan@ttu.edu

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Vineyard Vines
Zegna
Burberry
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SBU
Lacoste
7 for All Mankind
Puma 96 Hours
Cole Haan
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Nicole Miller
Etro
Taryn Rose
Zegna
Burberry
Rock & Republic
SBU
Lacoste
7 for All Mankind
Puma 96 Hours
Cole Haan
Ugg
Tory Burch
Nicole Miller
Etro
Taryn Rose
Burberry
Vineyard Vines

Pakistan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

were moving."

Public anger was mounting in the nation of 160 million people, which has been under military rule for much of its 60-year history, but demonstrations so far have been limited largely to activists, rights workers and lawyers — angered by his attacks on the judiciary. All have been quickly and sometimes brutally stamped out.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Washington was reviewing its assistance to Pakistan, which has received billions of dollars in aid since Musharraf threw his support behind the U.S.-led war on terror after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

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Can't feel pity for an 'AMERICAN GANGSTER'

In Hollywood, there's a term called "Oscar bait." It refers to movies that are clearly trying to win Oscars.

"American Gangster" is the epitome of this concept, with the exception of "Charlie Wilson's War," which is scheduled for a December release. "American Gangster" has two huge stars as its lead actors, a famous director, an end-of-the-year release and a theme the Oscars love, organized crime.

These movies sometimes are doomed to fail because expectations are too high. "American Gangster" is one of those movies. The story isn't as powerful as it's built up to be, the performances aren't spectacular and it's too long. Very little about this movie is Oscar material.

Frank Lucas (Denzel Washington) is a driver and body man for Harlem gangster Ellsworth "Bumpy" Johnson in the 1970s. When Bumpy dies, Frank decides to replace Bumpy. He goes directly to Bangkok and buys pure heroin to smuggle into the country. He

Chris Kellerman



then sells it in small packages labeled "Blue Magic" for \$10—in other words, heroin that is "twice as good for half the price."

As Harlem gets drugged up, Frank rakes in the cash and becomes one of Harlem's most famous residents. He hands out turkeys on Thanksgiving. He buys his mother (Ruby Dee) a mansion. He marries Miss Puerto Rico, and he does it all very quietly. He never wears pimp clothes at big parties as his friends do, and that's why he never gets caught.

Meanwhile, Richie Roberts (Russell Crowe) is a detective assigned to take down drug kingpins. His relationship with his wife and son is struggling, and

between that and his new job, he's trying to pass the bar exam. When Frank slips one night and wears a loud, fur coat to the fight between Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali (making it even worse by having third row seats), Richie takes his picture and begins investigating Frank.

"American Gangster" is not a normal gangster movie, because it is entirely based on a true story. Frank Lucas is not as powerful and confident as Vito Corleone or Frank Costello, but he's more interesting because of it. His brothers and cousins who work for him aren't as sharp as he is, and they make big mistakes. Frank is one of the biggest crime bosses in Harlem, but he has worthy competitors.

Washington does a good job of portraying Frank's vulnerability and nervousness throughout the film. He's one of the best actors alive, but this isn't an Oscar-worthy role, so it's hard to find an Oscar-worthy performance in it. Once again, it's too real life—not as sexy as "The Godfather" or "The Departed." Washington is very good, but not great.

Crowe was miscast. Not that he does a bad job or anything, this just wasn't his role. He's too big a star for it. We never get the feeling Richie's not going to catch Frank. Of course he'll catch him—he's being played by Russell Crowe! A newer actor should have played Richie.

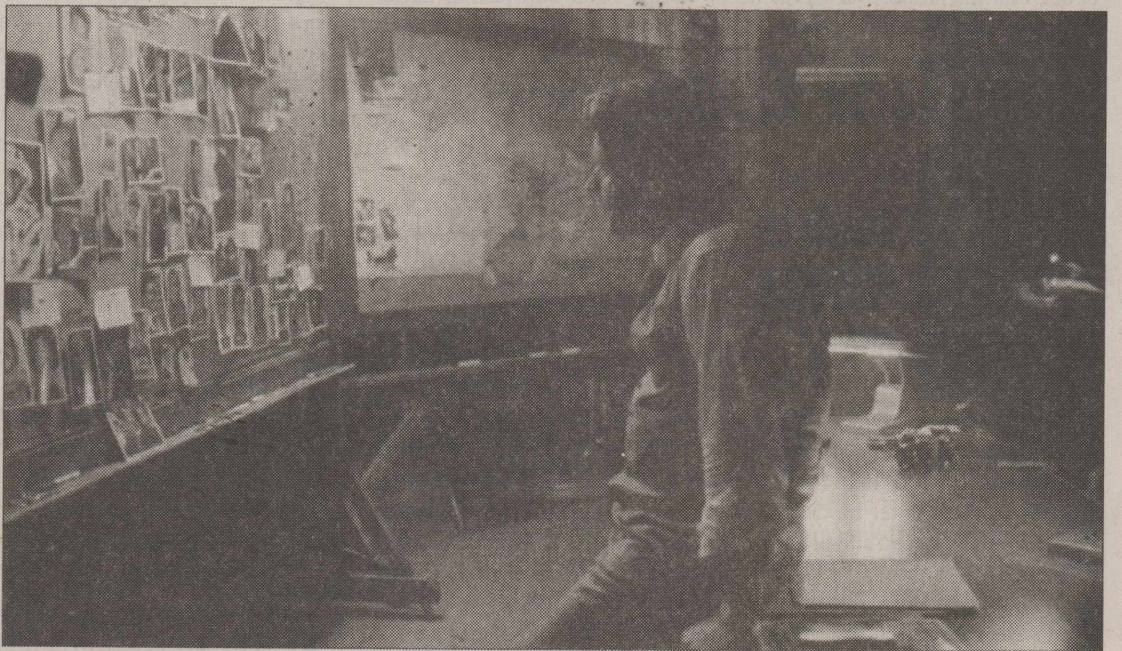
Ruby Dee is the only person in the film who completely rises above the script and gives a magical performance. She gives the Oscar performance of the film.

The main problem is Ridley Scott, the director, simply fumbles throughout. The beginning of the film is boring and messy. A ridiculous scene where cops shoot naked women preparing heroin almost screams "Look! Sex, drugs, and violence!"

What should be the final scene, which is an amazing sequence with



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL STUDIOS



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

"Amazing Grace" playing loudly, is followed by a stupid ending which asks us to consider Frank an OK person and

feel bad for him.

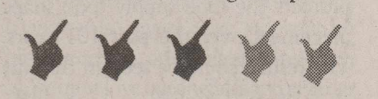
We should pity a gangster? Come on. You're supposed to hate a gangster

for being evil, and love him for being so powerful and sexy. You're not supposed to feel pity for him. No doubt this was the screenwriter's fault, but Scott should have fixed it—along with removing the boring subplot involving Richie's family problems.

Most of these flaws wouldn't be a big deal if this film weren't advertised as the greatest crime movie since "The Maltese Falcon."

It's very entertaining, even thrilling at points. Gangster film enthusiasts will enjoy it, but it won't make their top-10 lists. "American Gangster" is good. Unfortunately, it's not close to great.

Three out of five guns up



■ Kellerman is *The DT's* movie critic. E-mail him at chris.kellerman@ttu.edu.

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7 AM	Curious	Today Schedule	The Early Show	Copeland Lite Today	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	J. Harina Paid Program
7:30 AM	Clifford	Ends of the Earth: musician Chris Brown performs. (HD)	The 700 Club	Athlete Eye	Steve Wilkos	Montel Williams	Martina Cooking.
8 AM	Spider Why		The Price is Right	Divorce	Divorce	The View (HD)	The Morning Show
8:30 AM	Dragon		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
9 AM	Sesame Street		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
9:30 AM	Big World		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
10 AM	Word		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
11 AM	Barney		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
11:30 AM	Callou		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
12 PM	Sewing		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
12:30 PM	Painting		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
1 PM	Creative		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
1:30 PM	Place		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
2 PM	Tekitub		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
2:30 PM	Betw. Lion		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
3 PM	Reading		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
3:30 PM	Clifford		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
4 PM	Arthur		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
5 PM	Maya		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
5:30 PM	Bus. Rpt		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
6 PM	NewsHour		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
7 PM	NOVA (HD)		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
7:30 PM	Frontline: World		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
8 PM	History Project		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
8:30 PM	Bus. Rpt		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
9 PM	Charlie Rose		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
9:30 PM	News		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
10 AM	Destinos		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show
10:30 AM	GED		Jeopardy!	Revelist (HD)	Alex	Paid Programs	Tina Banks Show

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

11/6/07

By Michael T. Williams Clearwater, FL

6 Point of view
7 Bear hands
8 Bedouin
9 Mandrake
10 Violin maker of note
11 Oregon capital
12 Type of daisy
13 Set in position
14 Margaret
15 B&O and Reading
16 Russell or Cameron
17 Kind of code or colony
18 O.K. Corral
19 Pain in the neck, e.g.
20 One Astaire
21 Rob or Chad
22 PC mouse target
23 Uplight
24 Cheerful tunes
25 Sergeant fish
26 Extreme pain
27 Strep movie
28 Width of a circle

44 Opp. from SSW
45 What the wasail goes
46 Banjo beat
47 "Star Trek" character
48 Dispatches
49 Aberdeen breed

50 Bivouacs
51 Bump off
52 Remove a peel
53 Actor Calhoun
54 Parseghian of football
55 Ho of Hawaii
56 Calendar meas.

FREE TO BE TONIGHT

Beauty and the GEEK 7:00PM

REAPER 8:00PM

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SPORTS

PAGE 8
TUESDAY, NOV. 6, 2007

Tech faces challenges in final 2 games

By ADAM COLEMAN
STAFF WRITER

Texas and Oklahoma are high-profile games, but few teams face the task of playing them back-to-back as the season comes to a close.

Texas Tech has that honor this season as it will travel Saturday to Austin to face No. 15 Texas and return home against No. 4 Oklahoma Nov. 17.

"I think some players get a little more excited when you play those teams," Tech defensive back Chris Parker said. "That's something we just (have to) control this week and just be ready to play them. They're another team, it's nothing special."

Tech coach Mike Leach is a combined 2-12 against the Sooners and the Longhorns.

Tech will face a Longhorn team that has controlled the series recently. In the past 20 meetings between the two teams, Texas has a 13-7 edge over Tech, including winning eight of the last 10 matchups.

Tech's last win over Texas in Austin occurred in 1997 on a 24-10

win for the Red Raiders.

Oklahoma holds a similar advantage against Tech. The Red Raiders and the Sooners have competed against each other 14 times, with Oklahoma winning 11 of those games.

The Red Raiders will welcome the Sooners to Lubbock, the site of Tech's last win over Oklahoma in 2005. In that game, former Tech running back Taurean Henderson scored a last-second touchdown, handing Oklahoma a 23-21 loss in front of more than 52,000 fans.

Focusing on the Longhorns, Tech quarterback Graham Harrell said facing the two teams is what the Big 12 Conference is all about.

"We have two tough games coming up," Harrell said. "That's part of playing Big 12 football. You're going to hit two tough places where you're going to play two tough teams. It's the final two games, so it should be fun for us. We've had the whole season, just about, to get ready. It'll be two fun games. We get to go down to Austin, and OU (which is) ranked really high right now, (is going to) come down here next week, so we

look forward to the challenge."

In 2006, Tech led 21-0 after the first quarter and 31-21 at the half, but the Longhorns managed their second-largest come-from-behind win in school history, winning 35-31.

Texas and Oklahoma are two teams sitting on top of the Big 12 South, separated by half a game.

The two teams have winning histories, as Texas is the third all-time winningest team in NCAA history followed by Oklahoma at Nov. 5.

Harrell said although Texas and Oklahoma seem to be ahead of the pack annually, Tech does not measure its success by wins against these two teams.

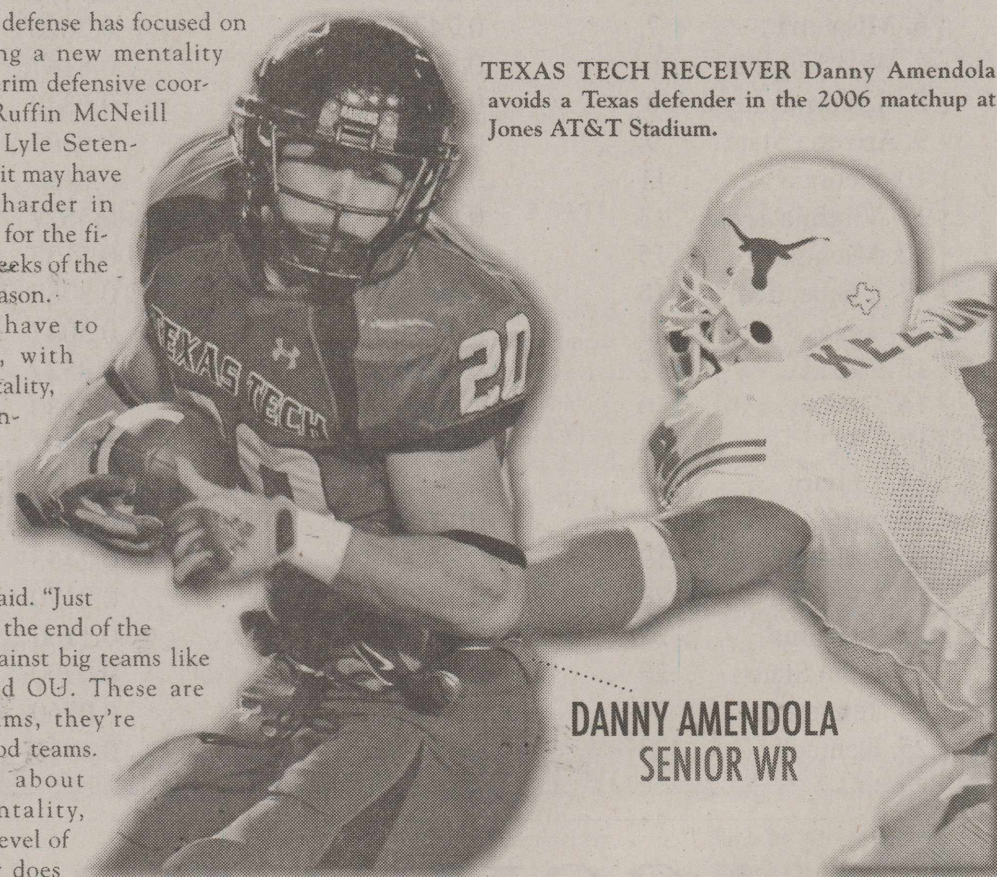
"Those two teams have played in national championships over the past few years," he said. "I know both of them have won one pretty recently and at least played in one more recently, as far as Oklahoma goes. I don't think we look at it 'That's how everyone's going to be graded, or that's what everyone's going to be (looking) at how they do against those two teams.'"

Tech's defense has focused on developing a new mentality since interim defensive coordinator Ruffin McNeill replaced Lyle Setencich, and it may have to work harder in preparing for the final two weeks of the regular season.

"I do have to say that, with that mentality, it does increase," Tech line-backer Brian Duncan said. "Just getting at the end of the season against big teams like Texas and OU. These are great teams, they're pretty good teams. It's just about that mentality, how the level of mentality does increase."

► adam.coleman@ttu.edu

TEXAS TECH RECEIVER Danny Amendola avoids a Texas defender in the 2006 matchup at Jones AT&T Stadium.



DANNY AMENDOLA
SENIOR WR

FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

A&M says Franchione will be evaluated at end of season

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas A&M said Monday it would wait until the end of the football season before deciding Coach Dennis Franchione's fate.

CBS Sportsline and the Houston Chronicle reported Monday that Franchione and the school were working on a buyout deal that

would end his tenure at the end of this season.

The Aggies have underachieved in Franchione's five seasons, losing ground to the elite teams in the Big 12 and slipping out of the national spotlight. He was also bruised by the discovery of subscription emails to boosters that gave infor-

mation about players.

Franchione's contract paid him over \$2 million per year and ran through 2012. The two media Web sites reported that Franchione and the school were ironing out the details of a buyout. The Chronicle said Franchione will remain A&M's coach until the end of the season.

"There are several false rumors circulating regarding the Texas A&M football program," the school said in an emailed statement.

Athletics department spokesman Alan Cannon said athletics director Bill Byrne would wait until the end of the season to evaluate Franchione, as he does with all coaches.

Cannon added, "I have received no indication that he has changed his stance." Cannon said Franchione is still A&M's coach and is preparing the team to play Missouri on Saturday.

Franchione, 56, has a 31-28 record at A&M and is 2-12 against main rivals Texas, Texas Tech and Oklahoma.

His stormy tenure took another big hit on Sept. 20, when the Aggies lost 34-17 to Miami on national television.

A week later, a newspaper revealed a series of e-mails that Franchione had been sending to boosters, who paid \$1,200 to receive them. The e-mails, dubbed "The VIP Connection,"

contained news about players' injuries, their academic standing and Franchione's blunt assessments of their skills.

Byrne was never aware of the e-mails until a newspaper reporter asked about them. On Oct. 11, Byrne admonished Franchione, ordered him to shut down his personal Web site and fired Mike McKenzie, Franchione's longtime personal assistant and author of the e-mails.

The school launched an internal investigation and reported the findings to the NCAA, acknowledging possible rules violations. A&M is still awaiting a response from the NCAA.

Byrne vowed the ugly scandal would be part of Franchione's postseason evaluation.

"The Aggies are embarrassed

right now," Byrne said on Oct. 11. "This has been a very unfortunate incident we do not want to experience again."

While fans flooded radio sports-talk shows calling for Franchione's job, the players stood by their coach, filling an auditorium and applauding him a few days after the e-mails became public.

Their support never translated into victories. The Aggies (6-4, 3-3 Big 12) have lost three of their last four games heading into Saturday's game at Missouri.

Franchione was under pressure this time last year, but he probably saved his job by beating Texas, A&M's first win in Austin since 1994. He boldly set high expectations for this season, but the loss to Miami exposed A&M's lack of speed and athleticism.

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LB Collins leaves Oklahoma State for trial

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — Starting linebacker Chris Collins has left Oklahoma State's football team to attend his assault trial in Texas this week, and he may not return in time to play Saturday against No. 5 Kansas.

Cowboys coach Mike Gundy said Monday that he wasn't sure when Collins, who is due to stand trial Tuesday in Texarkana, Texas, on an aggravated sexual assault charge stemming from an after-prom party in 2004, would return to the team.

"I don't know anything about what's going on there. It doesn't matter. Either he shows back up here or he doesn't," Gundy said.

Oklahoma State has a policy that injured players who do not participate in practice by at least Wednesday will not play in that week's games. Gundy said that policy would also hold true in Collins' situation.

"If he doesn't show up in a couple days, we're not going to play him in the game for two reasons," Gundy said. "The first reason is he wouldn't be effective. The second reason is it wouldn't be fair to the team."

Collins, a sophomore, was the Cowboys' leading tackler through six games last year before an injury forced him to miss the second half of the season. He had also missed Oklahoma

State's last four games before returning Saturday to record five tackles in a 38-35 loss to No. 14 Texas. He has 31 tackles in five games this season.

"He hasn't been out there on the field. He hasn't been actually in a totally hitting situation, playing against a team like Texas, so he was a little bit rusty in the fact that he hadn't played in a little bit," defensive coordinator Tim Beckman said.

With another starting linebacker, Jeremy Nethon, expected to miss a second straight game due to injury, Collins' presence would be an even bigger lift for the Cowboys, who moved Rodrick Johnson back to the position from defensive end and also used safety Andre Sexton at linebacker against the Longhorns. Coaches said that doesn't change the practice policy.

"You're going to practice Tuesday and Wednesday if you're going to plan on playing in the game," Beckman said. "I've seen it too long and too many times where you play a kid who practices sparingly on Wednesday and they don't play up to their caliber."

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