

DEMONS FIND GAMING IRONY



THE DT'S MOVIE CRITIC
REVIEWS 'NO COUNTRY'



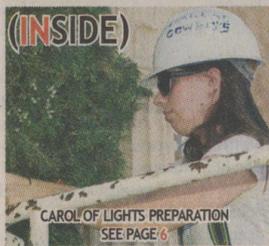
LADY RAIDERS
HOST BEARKATS



TUESDAY, NOV. 27, 2007
VOLUME 82 ■ ISSUE 62

THE DAILY T O R E A D O R

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(INBRIEF)

STATE

Police tentatively ID 'Baby Grace'

GALVESTON (AP) — Investigators said Monday they are "fairly confident" that a toddler whose body washed ashore in a plastic box is the same little girl whom authorities dubbed "Baby Grace."

Police were awaiting DNA test results to confirm the child's identity. Meanwhile, the mother and stepfather of 2-year-old Riley Ann Sawyers were in custody on charges of hurting the girl.

NATION

Ex-officer who stole identity gets probation

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A former police officer who stole his dead cousin's identity to get on the force will not go to prison but must leave the country, a judge decided Monday.

Oscar Ayala-Cornejo, 25, was charged in federal court with falsely representing himself as an American citizen after an anonymous tip led the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to him.

He was arrested May 31 and agreed to a plea deal about two weeks later. He was fired from the department in June.

He was sentenced to a year of probation.

WORLD

Chadian army claims to have killed hundreds

N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP) — Chad's army said its soldiers killed several hundred rebels in fighting Monday in the country's east, an area in turmoil from domestic unrest as well as spillover conflict from the neighboring Darfur region in Sudan.

The battle at Abougouleigne, about 60 miles east of the town of Abeche, left "several hundred (rebels) dead, several injured and several prisoners of war" in military custody, according to the statement from the general staff.

DEATH TOLL

3876

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

WEATHER

Today



SUNNY
HIGH 60
LOW 37

Wednesday



CLOUDY
HIGH 66
LOW 31

INSIDE

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Syrian to attend Mideast summit

Seen as victory for Bush, expectations for breakthrough still low

By ANNE GEARAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Arab holdout Syria agreed Sunday to attend a Mideast peace conference called by President Bush to restart talks to resolve the six-decade conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, yet expectations for the summit remained low. The two sides came to Washington without agreeing on basic terms for their negotiations.

Bush invited the Israeli and Palestinian

leaders to separate meetings at the White House on Monday to prepare for the centerpiece of his Mideast gathering — an all-day session Tuesday in Annapolis, Md. It is to be the only time that Bush, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas meet together, and their three-way handshake is expected to be the conference's symbolic high point. Bush closes the U.S. effort with a second set of separate Israeli and Palestinian meetings at the White House on Wednesday.

"The broad attendance at this conference by regional states and other key international participants demonstrates the international resolve to seize this important opportunity to advance freedom and peace in the Middle East," Bush said in a statement Sunday.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators were meeting with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and her deputy for the Mideast region, still trying to write a framework for talks that their U.S. hosts had hoped would be complete by now. Rice's spokesman said the last-minute

work is not surprising.

"We're confident there will be a document and we'll get to Annapolis in good shape on that," but bargaining may well continue behind the scenes during the session Tuesday, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said in an interview.

"It will memorialize their common understandings to this point," and look ahead to negotiations the two sides expect to begin

SYRIAN continued on page 2

FRESH OFF THE BENCH

Roberson, other freshmen make early impact for Red Raiders

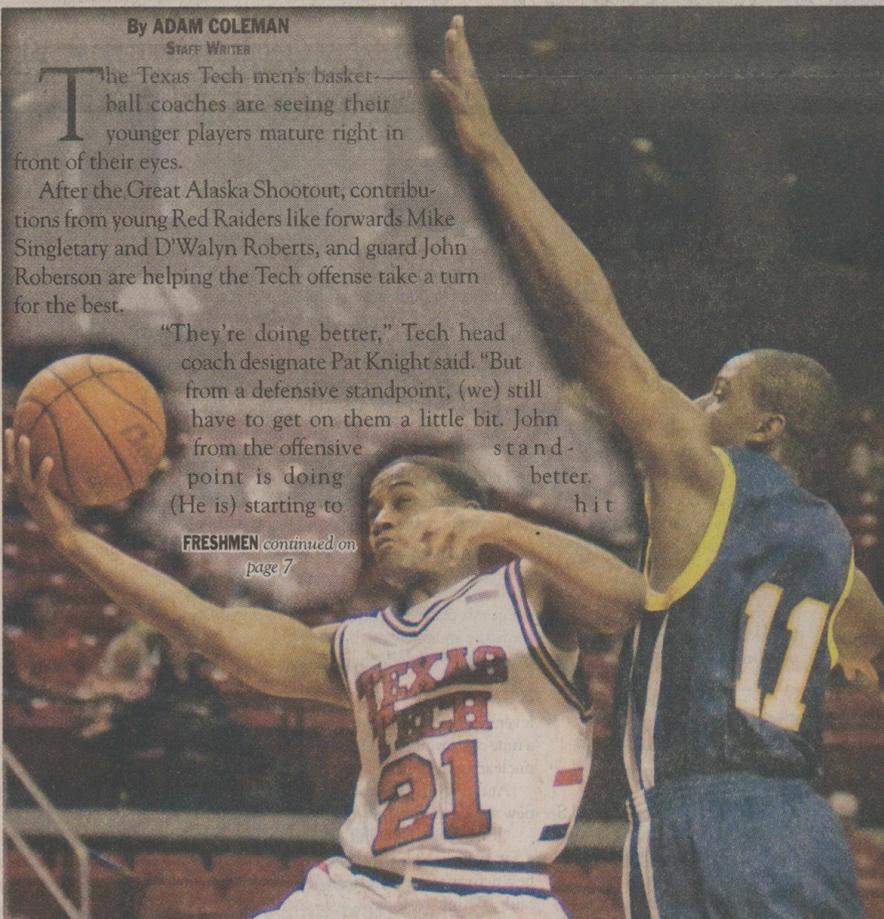
By ADAM COLEMAN
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech men's basketball coaches are seeing their younger players mature right in front of their eyes.

After the Great Alaska Shootout, contributions from young Red Raiders like forwards Mike Singletary and D'Walyn Roberts, and guard John Roberson are helping the Tech offense take a turn for the best.

"They're doing better," Tech head coach designate Pat Knight said. "But from a defensive standpoint, (we) still have to get on them a little bit. John from the offensive standpoint is doing better. (He is) starting to hit."

FRESHMEN continued on page 7



Iraqi government prepared to offer US long-term presence in return for security

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's government, seeking protection against foreign threats and internal coups, will offer the U.S. a long-term troop presence in Iraq in return for U.S. security guarantees as part of a strategic partnership, two Iraqi officials said Monday.

The proposal, described to The Associated Press by two senior Iraqi officials familiar with the issue, is one of the first indications that the United States and Iraq are beginning to explore what their relationship might look like once the U.S. significantly draws down its troop presence.

In Washington, President Bush's adviser on the Iraqi war, Lt. Gen. Douglas Lute, confirmed the proposal, calling it "a set of principles from which to begin formal negotiations."

As part of the package, the Iraqis want an end to the current U.N.-mandated multinational forces mission, and also an end to all U.N.-ordered restrictions on Iraq's sovereignty.

In a televised address Monday, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said his government will ask the U.N. to renew the mandate for the multinational force for one final time, with its authorization to end in 2008. He insisted that the U.N. remove all restrictions on Iraqi sovereignty.

Iraq has been living under some form of U.N. restriction since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, the officials said.

U.S. troops and other foreign forces operate in Iraq under a U.N. Security Council mandate, which has been renewed annually since 2003. Iraqi officials have said they want that next renewal — which must be approved by the U.N. Security Council by the end of this year — to be the last.

The two senior Iraqi officials said Iraqi authorities had discussed the broad outlines of the proposal with U.S. military and diplomatic representatives. The Americans appeared generally favorable subject to negotiations on the details, which include preferential treatment for American investments, according to the Iraqi officials involved in the discussions.

The two Iraqi officials, who are from two different political parties, spoke on condition of anonymity because the subject is sensitive. Members of parliament were briefed on the plan during a three-hour closed-door meeting Sunday, during which lawmakers loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr objected to the formula.

SECURITY continued on page 2

Texas Tech awarded \$6.6 million for defense research

By ADAM YOUNG
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech researchers have been awarded \$6.6 million in federal defense research funding to continue their efforts in developing technology with military, civilian and homeland security applications.

The \$6.6 million in funding doubles Tech's amount of federal defense dollars and was appropriated as part of the Fiscal Year 2008 Defense Appropriation Bill, which was signed into law Nov. 14 by President George W. Bush, according to a Tech press release.

"This increase can be attributed to the recognition by Congress and the Pentagon that Texas Tech's research is important to protecting our troops who are in harm's way," Tech Chancellor Kent Hance said in a press release.

Tech's Pulsed Power Electronics Laboratory will receive \$4 million of the funding to finance its development of compact electrical generators that can be integrated into standard weapons systems with the purpose of disabling enemy electronic systems, such as improvised explosive

devices, according to the release.

Hance said Tech's pulsed power laboratory is working with other universities, including Stanford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to develop the technology designed to freeze I.E.D.s before they become a danger to U.S. military personnel.

"We now can freeze them, but the problem is we freeze everything within a quarter mile, even our own vehicles," he said.

About 92 percent of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan last year were victims of I.E.D.s, Hance said.

Also included in the federal funding is \$1 million secured for the Zumwalt National Program for Countermeasures to Biological and Chemical Threats at The Institute for Environmental and Human Health at Tech.

Steve Presley, research coordinator with the Zumwalt Program, said the \$1 million his program is receiving is the final installment of a three-year, \$4.1 million grant from the Department of Defense to research biological and

DEFENSE continued on page 3



COURTESY PHOTO/U.S. Government

AN EXAMPLE OF an improvised explosive device.

Syrian

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in earnest after the session, McCormack told The Associated Press.

Separately, Palestinian negotiators Ahmed Qureia and Saeb Erekat met with Tzipi Livni, Israel's lead negotiator, for unscheduled talks Sunday evening. Asked if they were optimistic about the prospect for reaching a consensus on a joint declaration, Qureia replied, "You don't meet if you're not optimistic."

Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs David Welch also met with Palestinian negotiators Sunday in an attempt to reach a breakthrough, a member of the Palestinian delegation said.

Bush's national security adviser, Stephen Hadley, said the joint statement was not as important as it might have seemed when it was first broached. The two sides took the unexpected step of seeking negotiations, and the declaration no longer needed to serve as a vehicle to prod them to do so, Hadley said.

"If we get something, if they can agree on some things as an input to the negotiations, that would be fine," Hadley said. "But I think it is really no longer on the critical path to a successful conference."

The Bush administration, which has largely taken a hands-off approach to the nitty-gritty of Mideast peacemaking until now, says the goal is to set up an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. Israeli and Palestinian leaders have said they want to do that by the time Bush leaves office in January 2009. While there are widespread doubts in the administration about that time line, Rice has said she is game to try.

"This is not a negotiation session, it is to launch negotiations," Hadley said.

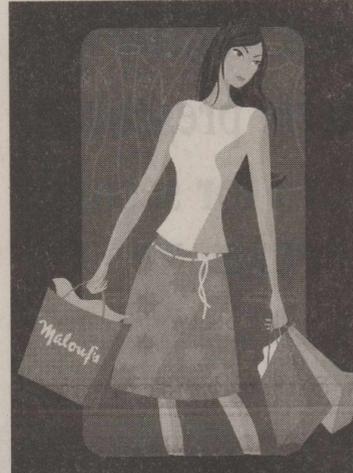
Hadley said that during his address to the conference Tuesday, Bush will make clear that the Mideast peace process has his support, and that it is a top priority for the rest of his time

in office. But he is not expected to use his speech to advance any of his own ideas on how to achieve that by wading into the issues that have kept the parties bitterly divided.

The conference is meant to draw Arab and other outside backing for what will be difficult negotiations. The idea is also to let Arab states have their say alongside Bush, making it more difficult for them to complain that Washington is not doing enough or is not listening to good advice from those closest to the conflict.

"I think it is really no longer on the critical path to a successful conference."

—STEPHEN HADLEY
BUSH'S NATIONAL
SECURITY ADVISER



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Vineyard Vines
Zegna
Burberry
Rock & Republic
SBU
Lacoste

7 for All Mankind
Puma 96 Hours
Cole Haan
Ugg
Tory Burch
Nicole Miller
Etro

Taryn Rose
Zegna
Burberry
Rock & Republic
SBU
Lacoste

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Puma 96 Hours
Cole Haan
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TECH POLICE BLOTTER

Organized robbery ring found on campus

By ADAM YOUNG
STAFF WRITER

Nov. 14

An officer detained a male non-student after he was observed going through a trash can at the Administration building. He was issued a criminal trespass warning from all Texas Tech property.

An officer arrested a male student and non-student for possession of marijuana after an observed traffic violation in the 700 block of Canton Avenue. Both men were transported to the Lubbock County Jail, and the vehicle was impounded by Lubbock Wrecker Service.

An officer investigated the report of a disturbing phone call that occurred at an off-campus location. The phone call was regarding a report of a student who seemed depressed and gave the impression he had suicidal thoughts. The Lubbock Police Department conducted a welfare check on the student.

Nov. 15

An officer investigated six non-students for engaging in organized criminal activity. The suspects were allegedly involved in multiple burglaries on and off campus from Sept. 16 through Oct. 31.

An officer investigated a hit-and-run traffic accident and duty upon striking an unattended vehicle in the Z5B parking lot. A female student's vehicle was hit by an unknown vehicle.

A male student was arrested for driving while intoxicated in the C1 parking lot after an officer conducted a welfare check. The officer arrested a female passenger for consumption of alcohol by a minor and failure to identify. Both people were transported to the Lubbock County Jail, and the vehicle was left legally parked.

An officer investigated the burglary of a satellite radio, Kenwood faceplate and compact discs from an unsecured vehicle in the Z1B parking lot.

Officers investigated graffiti, which occurred at the Bledsoe Residence Hall on the outside of the buildings and in the third floor men's restroom. Black indelible marker was used in the restroom and red spray paint was used on the outside.

An officer investigated the theft of an unsecured computer and carry case left in a hallway in the basement of the Music building.

A male student was detained in the Bledsoe Residence Hall, issued a Lubbock County citation for possession of drug paraphernalia and released.

An officer detained a female student for public intoxication in the lobby of the Weymouth Residence Hall. The student was released to a responsible person.

An officer arrested a male student for public intoxication in the Z3K parking lot. The student was transported to the Lubbock County Jail.

Nov. 16

An officer detained a male non-student in the Psychology building after a report of him seeking assistance. He was offered assistance but refused. Because he was not a danger to himself or others, he was issued a criminal trespass warning from all Tech property.

An officer responded to a medical emergency in the Weymouth Residence Hall after a student cut his hands while opening a can.

Officers arrested two students for alcohol related charges after an observed traffic violation in the 3100 block of 18th Street. A male student was released pending the filing of charges with the Justice of the Peace for driving under the influence of alcohol by a minor and possession of alcohol by a minor. A passenger in the vehicle, a

female student, was arrested for public intoxication.

An officer arrested a female student for public intoxication in the 1600 block of Flint Avenue. She was transported to the Lubbock County Jail.

An officer arrested a female non-student after a report of her being intoxicated in the lobby of the Chitwood Residence Hall. She was issued a Lubbock County citation for possession of a fictitious or altered driver's license and released to her father.

Nov. 17

An officer responded to a medical emergency at the southwest entrance of Jones AT&T Stadium after a female student fell and injured her elbow.

A male student hit his head on a stop sign pole while trying to catch a football in the R1 parking lot. An officer responded to the incident as a medical emergency.

Officers arrested 14 students and non-students for public intoxication or consumption of alcohol by a minor at Jones AT&T Stadium.

An officer documented information concerning recovered Tech football tickets that were reported stolen to the Odessa Police Department.

A state trooper arrested a male non-student for possession of a prohibited weapon (a switchblade knife,) which occurred at gate six of Jones AT&T Stadium. He was transported to the Lubbock County Jail.

A trooper arrested a male student for assault on a public servant, which occurred on the playing field of Jones AT&T Stadium. He was transported to the Lubbock County Jail.

An officer detained two non-students after a verbal dispute in the 2400 block of 19th Street. A male was arrested for public intoxication and an outstanding Gains County Sheriff Department warrant. A female was arrested for public intoxication.

Both were transported to the Lubbock County Jail.

An officer investigated criminal mischief, which occurred on the 10th floor of the Coleman Residence Hall. A glass jar was thrown against a wall, breaking the glass.

Nov. 18

An officer investigated the odor of marijuana in the Coleman Residence Hall. A male student was issued a Lubbock County citation for possession of drug paraphernalia, and another student was released pending the filing of charges with the Lubbock County District Attorney's Office for possession of marijuana.

An officer investigated assault and domestic violence in the Sneed Residence Hall following a 911 call regarding a report of a domestic disturbance between a male and a female who were dating. The male student was issued a criminal trespass warning letter for the Horn/Knapp Residence Halls and the female student was issued a criminal trespass warning letter for the Sneed Residence Hall. During the investigation, two students were arrested for public intoxication and transported to the Lubbock County Jail.

Nov. 24

An officer documented information concerning a defective water line in the Bledsoe Residence Hall. A waterline came loose from the sink, which caused flood damage to occur in several rooms in a hallway.

An officer detained two students in the R8 parking lot. A male was arrested for consumption of alcohol by a minor and transported to the Lubbock County Jail. A female was released pending the filing of charges with the Justice of the Peace for public intoxication and then transported to University Medical Center by Emergency Medical Services.

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Gunmen kill 11 relatives of Iraqi journalist associated with Saddam

BAGHDAD (AP) — Masked gunmen stormed the family home of a journalist who was associated with Saddam Hussein's party and critical of the Iraqi government, killing 11 relatives as they ate breakfast in a neighborhood known as a Shiite militia stronghold, colleagues said Monday.

Dhia al-Kawaz, editor of the Jordan-based Asawat al-Iraq news agency, was in Jordan when his sisters, their husbands and children were reportedly killed Sunday in north Baghdad's Shaab district.

According to the news agency's Web site, witnesses said more than five masked men broke into the home and opened fire, then planted a bomb inside.

"Sectarian militias killed 11 family members of Dhia al-Kawaz," the agency's statement said, apparently referring to Shiite death squads that frequently target minority Sunnis and their supporters.

The media advocacy group Reporters Without Borders said Iraqi police at a nearby checkpoint failed to intervene as the family — al-Kawaz's sisters, their husbands and their seven children — was slaughtered. Al-Kawaz, his wife and their children live elsewhere.

Mohammed Salman, a colleague of al-Kawaz in the Jordanian capital of Amman, confirmed the attack in Shaab, a Shiite militia stronghold where a group of Sunni and Shiite tribal sheiks was kidnapped last month before being freed in a U.S. and Iraqi rescue operation.

Another colleague, who refused to be named because he feared reprisal, said al-Kawaz has received threats for his stance against the U.S. occupation and sectarian strife in Iraq. The colleague refused to say whether al-Kawaz was Sunni or Shiite.

That colleague said an SUV without license plates stopped at the gate of the house and threw two bombs as the two couples and their children aged 5

to 10 were eating breakfast.

Reporters Without Borders, based in Paris, said al-Kawaz had recently received threats from the Badr Brigade, the militant arm of Iraq's largest Shiite party the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council.

Al-Kawaz, who declined to comment Monday, has rejected the U.S. occupation and accused majority-Shiite Iran of seeking to dominate the Iraqi government. The journalist is known as an advocate for Saddam's banned Baath Party.

Officials with the Shiite-dominated Interior Ministry, which oversees Iraqi police, said they had no information about the attack, and local police refused to comment.

The attack, which could not be independently confirmed, is the latest to raise concerns about how long a lull in violence in the capital can last.

"The impunity reigning in Baghdad for the past five years encourages attacks on journalists and their families,"

Reporters Without Borders said. "It is even more disturbing when security forces see what is happening and yet take no action."

At least 206 journalists and media assistants have been killed in Iraq since the U.S. invasion in March 2003, Reporters Without Borders said.

Separately, Iraqi soldiers thwarted terrorism suspects disguised as a bride and groom trying to pass through a checkpoint along with their "wedding procession" north of the Iraqi capital, the Iraqi Defense Ministry said.

The procession Sunday near Taji, about 12 miles north of Baghdad, raised suspicion because most of those celebrating were men, an official in the ministry told The Associated Press. Soldiers searched the car carrying the purported bride and groom and discovered the "couple" were two wanted men: Haider al-Bahadli and Abbas Latif. Two other suspects were detained along with them, according to the Defense Ministry.

Security

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Preferential treatment for U.S. investors could provide a huge windfall if Iraq can achieve enough stability to exploit its vast oil resources. Such a deal would also enable the United States to maintain

leverage against Iranian expansion at a time of growing fears about Tehran's nuclear aspirations.

At the White House, Lute said the new agreement was not binding.

"It's not a treaty, but it's rather a set of principles from which to begin formal negotiations," Lute said. "Think of today's agreement as setting the agenda for the formal

bilateral negotiations."

Those negotiations will take place during the course of 2008, with the goal of completion by July, Lute said.

The new agreement on principles spells out what the formal, final document will contain regarding political, economic and security matters.

"We believe, and Iraqis' national leaders believe, that a long-term relationship with the United States is in our mutual interest," Lute said.

From the Iraqi side, Lute said, having the U.S. as a "reliable, enduring partner with Iraq will cause different sects inside the Iraqi political

structure not to have to hedge their bets in a go-it-alone-like setting, but rather they'll be able to bet on the reliable partnership with the United States."

When asked about the plan, U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Miremba Nantongo noted that Iraqi officials had expressed a desire for a strategic partnership with the U.S. in a political declaration in August and an end to the U.N.-mandated force.

"Thereafter then, the question becomes one of bilateral relationships between Iraq and the countries of the multinational forces," she said. "At that point we need to be considering long-term bilateral relationships and we're following the Iraqi thinking on this one and we agree with their thinking on this and we'll be looking at setting up a long-term partnership with different aspects to it, political, economic, security and so forth."

She said any detailed discussion of bases and investment preferences was "way, way, way ahead of where we are at the moment."

The Iraqi officials said that under the proposed formula, Iraq would get full responsibility for internal security and U.S. troops would relocate to bases outside the cities. Iraqi officials foresee a long-term presence of about 50,000 U.S. troops, down from the current figure of more than 160,000.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2007

STAT. CHAN. AFFIL. CITY	KTXT 5 PBS Lubbock	KCBD 11 NBC Lubbock	KLBK 13 CBS Lubbock	KMYL 14 MYN Lubbock	KLCW 22 CW Lubbock	KAMC 28 ABC Lubbock	KJTV 34 FOX Lubbock
7 AM	Curious Clifford	Today Sched. used from "My Name is Earl," actor Jason Lee, chef Paula Deen, the Brian Setzer Orchestra performs. (HD)	The Early Show	Copeland Life Today	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	J. Hanna Paid Programs
8 AM	Super Why			Awesome Eye	Lopez		
9 AM	Sesame Street		The 700 Club	Cristina Cristina	Steve Wilkos	Montel Williams	Martha
10 AM	Big World		The Price Is Right	Divorce Divorce	Temptation	The View (HD)	Morning Show
11 AM	Barney	Jeopardy	Restless (HD)	Alex		Paid Programs	Tyra Banks Show
12 PM	Sewing	News		Jerry Springer	Cosby	All My Children	Faust
1 PM	Creative	Jeopardy	As the World	Jerry Springer	Roseanne	One Life to Live	People's Court
2 PM	Teleclub	Crosswords	Guiding Light	Paid Programs	All of Us	General Hospital	Judge Mathis
3 PM	Reading	Oprah Winfrey	Brown	Maury	Riba	Paid Prog.	Ellen DeGeneres
4 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Insider	News
5 PM	Maya	News	News	TMZ	Standing	News	Raymond
6 PM	NewsHour	News	News	Access	Standing	News	Simpsons
7 PM	NOVA (HD)	The Biggest Loser Viewers' challenge	NCIS (HD)	Wom. College Basketball (Live)	Beauty and Geek	Charlie Brown	Bones (HD)
8 PM	Frontline		Unit (HD)		Reaper (HD)	Dancing With the Stars "Results Show"	House "Games"
9 PM	History Project	Law & Order: SVU	Cane "Time Away"	The Academy	Bernie Bernie		News
10 PM	Bus. Rpt	News	News	Jail	Will (HD)	News	Two & 1/2
11 PM	News	The Tonight Show	(10:35) Late Show	Jail	Will (HD)	Nightline	Seinfeld
12 AM	Destinos	Late Late Show	70s	Lopez	Sex City	Jimmy Kimmel	Friends
	GED	Last Call	Paid Prog.	King	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Fraser

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7:00PM TONIGHT

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SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED



PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador

IRBY PACE, A senior studio photography major from Odessa, works to assemble a video installation he created as part of an independent study Monday afternoon in the sub-basement of the Art building.

Defense

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

chemical threats.

"The importance of our involvement in the global war on terror really kind of speaks for itself," he said. "The threat posed particularly by biological agents, but chemical agents as well, they're a great tool for terrorists to use because they're inexpensive, easily deployed and cause terror — a large number of people can be disrupted with one event."

Presley said the Zumwalt program currently is working on 11 projects monitored and sponsored by the U.S.

Army Research Development and Engineering Command, including a non-woven fabric that can be used to protect against exposure to chemical and biological agents, therapeutics for exposure and pre-exposure, and detecting and sensing methods for biological and chemical agents.

Though much of the program's research is focused on protecting soldiers overseas from biological and chemical attacks, Presley said some projects are evolving to have civilian and homeland security applications, including identifying pathogens more rapidly.

"If somebody comes in sick to a hospital — something that used to take 24 to 48 hours to isolate the pathogen

— some of our technologies allow, or can allow, that same pathogen to be, at least initially, identified within a couple of hours," he said. "It's those kind of spin-off technologies that hold probably the greatest benefit to society from this type of research."

As part of the \$6.6 million, Tech will receive \$1.6 million in funding to support the continuation of research of nanophotonic technology, which also has military, civilian and homeland security applications including the development of a new generation of lighting devices designed to be lightweight and energy efficient, according to the release.

► adam.young@ttu.edu

Guard, robbery suspect shot in Georgia shopping mall

DOUGLASVILLE, Ga. (AP) — A gunman tried to rob a security guard at a shopping mall Monday, and both men were shot as a panicked lunchtime crowd ran and ducked for cover, officials and witnesses said.

The guard's injuries were not believed to be life-threatening, said Bill Ball, general manager of the Arbor Place Mall. Police said the suspect's wounds were more severe.

Shoppers and mall workers ran from the food court "with terror on their faces," said Diana Shasta, manager of

a marketing company that has an office at the mall.

"I've never been so frightened in my life," the 30-year-old said. "Everybody was running for their lives, grabbing their babies, pulling their friends."

One bullet tore through a laminated sign at the Auntie Anne's pretzel stand, narrowly missing employee Catrina Lemley and manager Sharon Wilson.

"I heard gunshots and I saw pieces of the sign flying out. My manager told me to get down," said Lemley,

19, who is eight months pregnant. "It was scary."

The Brinks guard was in the mall to service ATM machines, Ball said. The guard was on the second floor when the robber approached and put a gun to his head, police said.

They scuffled and both men fired, with the guard hit in the leg and suspect in the mouth, Douglasville Police Chief Joe Whisenant said.

Neither man's identity was immediately released. Whisenant said the suspect is 41 years old.

3 die in interstate bus crash

FORREST CITY, Ark. (AP) — A passenger bus driving in late-night rain veered across an interstate highway and collided with a tractor-trailer and a pickup truck, killing three people. At least 19 others were hospitalized.

The Tornado Bus Co. bus was westbound on Interstate 40, headed from Chicago to Dallas, when it veered across the median about 10 p.m. Sunday. The bus slammed into the oncoming eastbound pickup, and then the 18-wheeler slammed into the bus, Arkansas State Police spokesman Bill Sadler said.

Authorities said the pickup's driver Danny Okurily, 40, of Hot Springs, Ark., was killed, as were two bus passengers, Raul Lopez, 58, of West Chicago, Ill., and a second passenger whose name was not immediately released.

State police were still trying at midday Monday to determine the number of people injured. The bus company caters primarily to Hispanic travelers, and Sadler said the Mexican consulate in Little Rock provided interpreters to help authorities interview the dozens of people aboard the bus.

"We're still trying to account for everyone," Sadler said. "Much of the delay is attributed to some communication issues."

Twenty-one people were taken to a West Memphis, Ark., hospital where five were admitted and in satisfactory condition. Seven people were taken to a Memphis hospital where one person was in critical condition and the others were in serious condition. Three children were admitted to a Memphis children's hospital, but their conditions were not released. Conditions also were not released for four people admitted to

a Forrest City hospital.

It wasn't clear whether some passengers went first to one hospital then were sent to another.

The bus driver, Felix Tapia, 28, of Brownsville, Texas, suffered minor injuries, as did the tractor-trailer driver, David Rice, 45, of Mars Hill, N.C. Sadler said troopers were interviewing Tapia and other witnesses.

Sadler said the bus manifest listed 44 passengers and the driver. Later, authorities revised the count on the bus to 47, including two children not listed on the manifest.

Tornado Bus spokeswoman Jennifer Rodriguez said the Dallas-based company, which began operating in 1993, had no previous crashes involving its 75 buses. She said the company was working with authorities but declined to provide further details on the crash or the driver.

Neighbor not yet charged in shootings of suspected burglars

HOUSTON (AP) — A man who told police he planned to kill two men he believed were burglarizing his neighbor's house shot them only when they came on his property and he felt threatened, his attorney said Monday.

Tom Lambright, who represents Joe Horn of Pasadena, said his client was just going to take a look around when he went outside after hearing glass break at his neighbor's house. He had seen Miguel Antonio DeJesus, 38, and Diego Ortiz, 30, crawling into and then out of a window.

Horn went outside, armed with a 12-gauge shotgun, to see where the burglars were heading when he came face-to-face with them in Horn's front yard, Lambright said.

Horn is 61 and heavyset. The suspected burglars were young and strong enough to beat him to death with their bare hands, Lambright said. So when one or both of them "made lunging movements," Horn fired.

"He's trying to protect his own life," Lambright said. "He's scared."

Pasadena police were still compiling their report on the shooting and planned to present the case to Harris County prosecutors within

the next two weeks, police spokesman Vance Mitchell said Monday. From there it is expected to be presented to a grand jury. In the meantime, Horn remains uncharged.

Lambright's description is partly at odds with the 911 call in which a dispatcher urges Horn to stay inside his house and not risk lives.

"Don't go outside the house," the 911 operator pleaded. "You're gonna

get yourself shot if you go outside that house with a gun. I don't care what you think."

"You wanna make a bet?" Horn answered. "I'm gonna kill 'em."

After the shooting, he redialed 911.

"I had no choice," he said, his voice shaking. "They came in the front yard with me, man. I had no choice. Get somebody over here quick."

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University rankings should count for nothing

Many people argue that society could not function without competition. While competition has its place, in today's world — specifically today's academic world — there is too much competition.

Competition is completely overemphasized in every aspect of the college atmosphere and is particularly prominent in the academic system. Elements such as the application process, the scholarship nomination and award process, and the internship and class placement process all exist because they embody competition.

Each academic institution strives to attain the best professors, researchers and students.

Why? Because the better the faculty members and the better the student body, the greater the prestige and, of course, the greater the funding.

Countless prospective students

Allison Griest



choose a university by researching various university rankings. High school students are exposed to "The Princeton Review's 2008 Best 366 College Rankings" or "U.S. News and World Report's America's Best Colleges 2008." Every academic institution exists because it provides an education. Sure, some schools allocate more funding to specific concentrations than others, but rankings are not necessary.

Society has managed to warp our minds. (What's new, right?) Still, we should be able to see past these shallow rankings. Does the school ranked ninth really offer a better education than the school ranked

37th? I have met parents who have told their child he or she can apply only to universities ranked in the top 25. This frame of mind is not sensible. Let's say a student really likes a university with a unique graphic design program, but that university is not ranked because it is a small academic institution. Does the fact this small university is unranked make it a failure as an academic institution? Of course not.

Every academic institution has a reputation, and even college reputations are ranked. Again, competition spans all facets of college life. Some universities are "party schools" and other universities are "snobby schools." Oftentimes, party schools are large state universities. Does this mean small schools do not have a social scene? Once again, of course not.

One "party school" list claimed to base its rankings on the number of police arrests a school had in a

certain year. OK, let's think about this. The school was called a "party school" because students partied and weren't responsible. The ranking has nothing to do with the social life at the school.

The rankings of any institution should not, and do not, affect the institution's academic abilities.

There is absolutely no possible way that all good universities can be ranked. Universities wouldn't be in existence unless students continued to enroll in them, and state universities wouldn't receive government funding if students weren't being provided with an education.

Let's examine the 2006 film "Accepted." While the plot is a bit far-fetched, the movie's message is valid. Because Justin Long's character is so scared of disappointing his parents, he literally creates a school that will accept him. Ultimately, every student at the "university" benefits from his or her experience

there. Long's character creates a university with a welcoming atmosphere, and the atmosphere allows students to "find themselves" and develop life goals. This university wasn't ranked, but it still provided its students with a worthwhile education.

I firmly believe people should take university rankings with a grain of salt. I am now a soon-to-be graduate of Texas Tech's English program. Outside the state of Texas, Tech's English program is not particularly well known. This fact does not mean Tech's English program is less than par in any sense.

I could not be happier with my academic experiences at Tech.

Sadly, many college-seeking students fail to recognize unranked programs. Prospective students research university rankings when they should read books like "Fiske Guide to Colleges." The Fiske Guide provides prospective students

with the ability to research every established academic institution in North America.

Rankings are subjective. While aspects of the rankings are based on facts, the majority of rankings are based on surveys completed by small groups at universities.

For example, perhaps the Student Government Association at a university participated in a survey conducted by the Princeton Review. While an SGA represents a student body, realistically, it can never completely represent the feelings held by every member of a student body.

The rankings are fallible. Individuals in today's world need to remember that a university is not inadequate just because it is not ranked.

■ Griest is a senior English major from Sugar Land. E-mail her at allison.griest@ttu.edu.

Where country music goes to die

Forget hip hop music — I think country music is dead. Popular hip hop has slightly lost its focus, but popular country music doesn't even sound like country music anymore.

Living in West Texas allows listeners a wide range of twangs and blues. The country stations here are the popular stations, and local businesses play country music while you're on hold or sitting in a waiting room. Even the radios in tanning booths are set to country. It's everywhere here, and to be honest I love music, so it wouldn't be so bad being surrounded by it throughout my day.

But, I've had enough with country music.

Hank Williams is one of my favorite songwriters of all time. His intuition with music and heartfelt pain made his short life one of the most recognizable in history.

Williams has been covered by rock, jazz, blues and of course, country musicians. What he did

Sonya Gonzales



before the age of 30 some people won't accomplish in a lifetime. And, I bet he would have hated Big and Rich's "Save A Horse (Ride A Cowboy)."

It goes without saying that any genre of music will have its detrimental artists — decaying the sounds of music. But, popular country is sounding more and more like, well, pop. And I'm not talking Maroon 5 pop, where there are pianos and layers of melodies, but Nickelback pop, where the same four chords are used throughout many different songs.

Popular country artists either sound like Carrie Underwood or Toby Keith, both of whom I'm not a fan of (she doesn't write most of her

songs, and if I hear another truck commercial with him telling me I need to be tough and buy a truck, I'll shoot myself in the foot).

Where are the country artists like Nickel Creek or Willie Nelson who have a distinct sound and presence? That's what's missing in country music. I once heard it was the white man's version of blues, so why are popular country artists singing about a woman's "badonkadonk?"

I've made my peace with hip hop, finding true artists like Mos Def and A Tribe Called Quest who can make music for the sake of making music, not just money.

Where are the country artists who do that? I had to go back in time to find real country music — knowing Loretta Lynn would never be heard on any truck commercial telling us her music is real, so now you should go buy a car. And maybe this is just a natural progression with any kind of music, since we live in such a capitalistic society.

But I miss country music. I miss the real heartbreak and the despondent lyrics, where songs could be mistaken for anyone's life. There's no living in the distorted perceptions that Kenny Chesney sings about in "She Thinks My Tractor's Sexy."

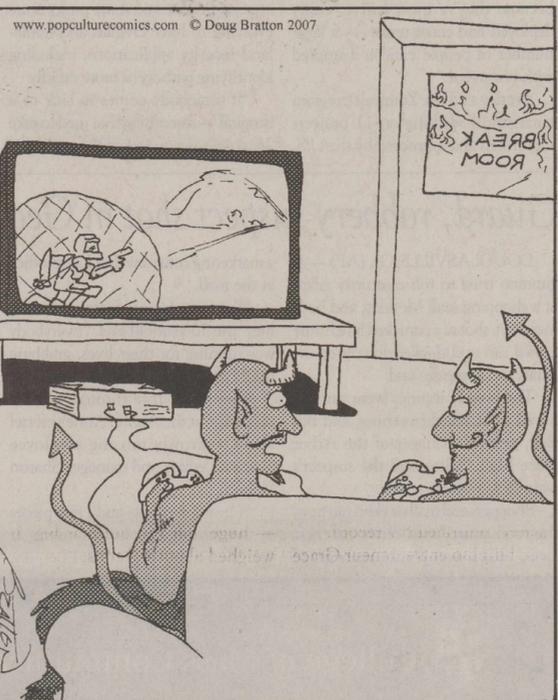
What woman thinks that anyway? (We're talking about a large machine, people.)

I need real artists and real music to be moved. I need an honest shape and sound to make me believe.

And right now, all I believe about country music is that it's made to just fill the air.

To me, popular country music is just the background music to a time gone by, making me wish that that time would have stuck around a little longer.

■ Gonzales is a senior English major from Austin. E-mail her at sonya.m.gonzales@ttu.edu.



"There's something ironic about how much we love to play 'Halo.'"

Vote in this week's online poll.

What bowl game do you anticipate the Red Raider football team to attend?

Check out *The DT* online at www.dailytoreador.com

Chuck Norris helps boost candidate popularity

By **JIM TUTTLE**
DAILY COLLEGIAN (PENN STATE)

(U-WIRE) UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Chuck Norris has decided to broaden the scope of his career in product endorsement to include a presidential candidate in addition to the Total Gym home workout system.

Norris, who became well-known for his 90's TV series, "Walker Texas Ranger," and more recently, for allegedly doing all kinds of manly things that make for silly T-shirts, now appears in a campaign ad for Republican candidate Mike Huckabee.

The ad, which appeared on YouTube more than a week ago, is called "Huck Chuck Facts" and features Norris and Huckabee going back and forth, making statements about the other's attributes.

For instance, Norris says that, "Mike Huckabee is a lifelong hunter who will protect our second amendment rights."

The camera then cuts to the candidate, who says with a straight face that, "There's not a chin underneath Chuck

Norris' beard; there's another fist."

It's a short commercial, without a lot of real substance, but it is easily one of the most unusual campaign ads I have ever seen.

First of all, the ad speaks to the new role the Internet plays in major politics.

Of course, all of the candidates have well polished Web sites, but it goes much further than that. They also have a presence on social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace, allowing politically conscious young people to show their support by "friending" their favorite politicians.

I see this trend as little more than a high-tech version of the age-old lawn signs which have sprung up in America's suburban front yards for years, but the attention being given to younger voters is encouraging and a political imperative for anyone who wants a fighting chance next November.

More substantial is the emergence of YouTube as a political forum for candidates and the people who vote for them. Presidential hopefuls like Huckabee are now producing ads spe-

cifically for this medium. His strategy, utilizing a joke that started on the Internet by young people to produce a "viral video" is an interesting one.

Huckabee's a very conservative, southern Baptist minister struggling to compete in a very fierce election.

Is Huckabee just pandering to young people with this gimmicky ad? To an extent, yes, but its purpose is to interest young Republicans with the Chuck Norris gag.

This, in turn, will theoretically draw them to Huckabee's Web site, where they can learn all about his belief in creationism and his goals as president, like overturning Roe v. Wade and preventing gay marriage.

It's hard to tell if any stunt will actually make a difference. On most opinion polls, Huckabee is shown in third, fourth or fifth place among the candidates. But he has made some gains since the release of the Chuck Norris ad.

Whether Chuck Norris had anything to do with the rise in Huckabee's rise in popularity is hard to tell, but Chuck Norris has been known to do some pretty impressive things.

Hollywood has nothing without its writers

By **LAUREN MUELLER**
DAILY UTAH CHRONICLE (U. UTAH)

(U-WIRE) SALT LAKE CITY — Bloating with mulled wine and green bean casserole, it would have been nice to spend my holiday weekend sprawled in front of the television. Unfortunately, my TiVo queue is looking pretty dismal these days. Of course, I have a stockpile of "Masterpiece Theatre" and "Battlestar Galactica," but I never thought it would come to that.

Now entering its third week, the writers' strike in Hollywood has forced the cancellation of most worthwhile programming on TV. "The Office" shut down production after one week, and nightly broadcasts such as "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" and "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" fell into reruns almost immediately.

The Writers Guild of America and its subsequent union leaders halted production after the group became gridlocked in talks with major studios over DVD and digital media profits. So, with the creative well suddenly tapped, television and even some movie productions have come to a virtual standstill. The release of the movie adaptation of "Angels and Demons," prequel to that dime-store romance novel, "The Da Vinci Code," has been delayed more than a year because of lingering issues with the script.

With economic losses estimated at \$21 million each day the strike progresses, studio executives and the public at large must finally confront the reality that the most under-appreciated segment of the entertainment industry might be its most vital. You can't do much in Hollywood without money, but without an idea you do even less.

Forty-four hour-long dramas and 21 sitcoms may get the axe in December because the studios refuse to acknowledge the changing landscape of media. Like most disputes in Hollywood, this has less to do with the plight of the starving artist than with the resistance of autocratic media moguls to embrace the digital revolution.

Currently, writers receive next to nothing from DVD sales and literally nothing for downloads from sites such as iTunes. The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers is looking to keep it that way. I guess audiences will just learn to live with vintage Leno while these primetime billionaires wait out the Internet fad.

Pro-WGA sentiment is even spreading into the political realm, with news writers from CBS threatening to walk out on their parent corporations. This could potentially derail the next Democratic presidential debate, with no one around to write questions for candidates to

ignore or misinterpret. Hillary Clinton was quick in pledging not to cross picket lines and the others soon followed suit.

While more than 10,000 lower-level workers in the industry stand idle, fearing for their own livelihood, negotiations are set to resume this week. Hopefully, the Alliance can take a moment away from being self-congratulatory social progressives to end a labor dispute over pennies on the dollar.

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ODDBALL DAILY

Britain's pigeon racers petition Queen to become sport

LONDON (AP) — Pigeon racers are petitioning Queen Elizabeth II to have their activity officially classified as a sport.

The Belford Racing Pigeon Club hopes the British monarch, the patron of the Royal Pigeon Racing Association, will intervene in a dispute that could see them pay millions of dollars in taxes, chairman Eric Sim said.

Racers, known as "pigeon fanciers," house their birds in sheds — buildings the British government now wants to tax,

beginning in April. Sports clubs can get tax relief, but pigeon racing is not classified as a sport, which would leave racers footing a hefty tax bill.

Even if it's not officially classified a sport, "pigeon racing has been recognized as a sport for well over 100 years and this latest turn of events will cause many clubs to struggle to make ends meet," Sim said.

Local representative Geoff O'Connell said he wanted to raise the matter with British tax authorities.

"During World War II, owners gave more than a quarter of a million pigeons to our defense forces and they were used most effectively to carry messages from battlefronts and to save lives from sinking ships and downed aircraft," O'Connell said.

"It is little to ask the government to show some sympathy towards this group of people by reversing this latest decision and recognizing this activity is a sport."

Voice of London's subway system fired after getting scared

LONDON (AP) — The woman behind the gentle, even voice which warns London's subway commuters to "Mind the gap" was fired after telling a newspaper she thought the transit network was dreadful.

Emma Clarke has been recording messages for London's sprawling subway network, popularly known as the Tube, since 1999. In addition to warning passengers to watch their step in walking between subway cars and the platform, she also reads the trains' stops, tells Londoners how long they have to wait until their next ride, and delivers service updates.

Transport for London, the body responsible for running the subway, said Monday that Clarke, 36, was fired for telling The Mail on Sunday she avoided using the subway whenever possible.

"The thought of being stuck in the Tube with strangers for minutes on end and having to listen to endless repeated messages of my own voice fills me with horror," she told the paper.

She said using the service every day had been "dreadful."

The paper also featured Clarke's Web site, which hosts a series of spoof Tube announcements, including one warning a passenger not to stare at

a woman's chest and another telling American tourists, "You are almost certainly talking too loud."

Transport for London noted that some of the spoof announcements were quite funny, but spokesman Dan Hodges said Clarke's attack on the subway itself had crossed the line.

"We wouldn't employ somebody to promote our services who simultaneously criticizes those services," Hodges said.

Clarke's voice will continue to fill London's subway cars until a replacement is needed, he said.

Israeli flag breaks world record for largest in world

MASADA, Israel (AP) — The record for the world's largest flag now belongs to an Israeli banner produced by a Filipino evangelical Christian.

The huge blue and white flag, measuring 2,165 feet long and 330 feet wide and weighing 5.7 tons, breaks the record for the world's largest, according to the Israeli Ministry of Tourism.

The flag was unfurled Sunday beneath the ancient Jewish desert fortress of Masada. Representatives of the Guinness Book of Records measured the flag and later confirmed the record.

Filipino entrepreneur Grace

Galindez-Gupana said she decided two years ago to produce a giant Israeli flag as a testament to her love for Israel and the Jewish people and as a celebration of 50 years of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Israel.

"God spoke to me in thunder and lightning," Galindez-Gupana said. "The Lord said, 'Make the flag of Israel, the standard of my people.'"

"This is a tall order," she said, breaking down in tears.

The Israeli flag was accompanied by a giant Philippines flag — huge, but not quite as big. It weighed about 4.2 tons.

Large stones anchored both flags as they billowed in the desert winds.

There are about 31,000 Filipinos in Israel, most of whom are foreign workers, said Gilberto Asuque, consul general of the Philippine Embassy in Israel.

"This flag expresses the friendship between the Philippines and the state of Israel, and also the friendship between Jewish and Christian communities," said Shaul Zemach, director of the Israeli Ministry of Tourism.

PAINTING TIME



PHOTO BY CAITY COLVARD/The Daily Toreador
SENIOR INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING majors Oscar Ramirez, from Kress, and Ryan Conklin, from Amarillo, paint the faces of the clocks they're manufacturing for their CAD/CAM lab, Monday afternoon in the industrial engineering building.

West Texas newspaper concerned about court's ban on cameras

LUBBOCK (AP) — An attorney representing a small West Texas newspaper is looking into whether a ban on cameras in a county courthouse earlier this month violated First Amendment press protections.

Law enforcement officials told a photographer from The Post Dispatch, a weekly paper in Post, and two photographers from Lubbock television stations they could not bring their equipment into the Garza County Courthouse on Nov. 8 as the punishment phase of a murder trial was nearing completion.

Reporters were allowed in the courtroom to hear testimony during the four-day trial but 106th District Judge Carter Schildknecht said security concerns prompted her to prohibit cameras inside the courthouse on the final day.

It is not unusual in Texas for cameras to be banned from criminal courtrooms. But Wesley Burnett, the paper's publisher, said the judge's order was too broad, extending to other parts of the courthouse and even its grounds.

The sign on the courthouse front door forbids weapons, not cameras, he said.

"A camera is not a weapon and not a threat to courthouse security," he said. "How does a camera in the hands of the news media pose a threat?"

Burnett said two media representatives with cameras were told they could not use them on courthouse grounds.

Schildknecht said her security concerns were based on a lack of space outside the second-story courtroom and the narrow stairway leading to the first floor.

There were family members of

the victim and the defendant to consider, she said.

Schildknecht said her order never was intended to restrict the use of cameras outside the courthouse.

"But they can be outside on the grounds," Schildknecht said, recalling what she told law enforcement

"It's not our practice to misput the press or infringe on the job they have to do."

— LEE NORMAN
COUNTY JUDGE
GARZA COUNTY

officials Nov. 8. "I just felt concerned for everyone's safety and to try to get things done without any emotional outbursts at the end that might cause trouble."

The order came during the penalty phase in the trial of Pablo Torres Soto, charged in the May 2005 death of Socorro Storie. Storie died after a car she was driving collided head-on with one driven by Soto

in a Post cemetery. Jurors sentenced Soto to 30 years in prison.

Don Richards, the lawyer retained by the paper, said hallways and other areas in the courthouse are "removed from the integrity of the trial and security." He said the restriction could be "an outright violation of First Amendment."

But whether that proves to be the case is "probably going to depend on the circumstances," said Richards, who is continuing to investigate the incident.

"For the future we need to have the rules clarified so it doesn't happen again," Richards said.

Schildknecht said the public, including news media, have a right to enter the courthouse.

"But that doesn't mean that they can bring in anything in there that they want to," she said.

Lee Norman, the county judge in Garza County, said restrictions on cameras, cell phones, purses and other personal belongings applied to everyone entering the courthouse during the trial.

"I'm supporting everything," Norman said of the courthouse camera prohibition. "It's not our practice to misput the press or infringe on the job they have to do."

Post is about 38 miles southeast of Lubbock.

The president and the prize-winner: Bush and Gore, together again

WASHINGTON (AP) — Talk about an inconvenient truth.

Al Gore finally won his place in the Oval Office on Monday — right next to George W. Bush.

Forever linked by the closest and craziest presidential race in history, the two men were reunited by, of all things, White House tradition. Gore was among the 2007 Nobel Prize winners who were invited in for a photo and some chatter with the president; Gore got the recognition for his work on global warming.

The two men stood next to other, sharing uncomfortable grins for photographers and reporters, who were quickly ushered in and out.

"Familiar faces," the former vice president said of the media. Bush, still smiling, added nothing.

The two also had a 40-minute meeting in the Oval Office, part of Bush's effort to show some outreach to his longtime rival.

Bush aides said it was private and would not comment on it.

Gore, trailed by the press as he left the White House very publicly on foot, allowed that he and Bush spent the whole time talking about global warming.

"He was very gracious in setting up

the meeting and it was a very good and substantive conversation," Gore said. "And that's all I want to say about it."

Gore's presence added unlikely buzz to a photo op that normally would have been buried by Bush's Mideast peace forays. It is not like these two cross paths much. They have not met privately since then-President-elect Bush paid a visit — short, and not that sweet — to Gore's residence in December 2000.

That was back when the acrimony was fresh, in a country still in disbelief over an election that seemed never-ending. Ultimately, the U.S. Supreme Court certified Bush's 537-vote victory margin over Gore in Florida to settle the outcome.

Since then, Gore has not shied away from criticizing Bush; his latest book, "The Assault on Reason," is a relentless attack against the administration. And the White House's response when Gore won the Nobel Prize was less than giddy.

Never mind all that. "I know that this president does not harbor any resentments," White House press secretary Dana Perino said. "Never has."

Indeed, the White House tried to

make clear that Bush was hosting Gore not out of obligation, but genuine interest.

Bush personally invited Gore. The White House changed its original date to accommodate Gore. And then there was the private Bush-Gore meeting, too.

When it was over, the scene took a bit of turn for the weird.

Gore said he didn't want to comment. But with the media waiting for him, Gore and his wife, Tipper, walked out along Pennsylvania Avenue and up 17th Street, toward his nearby office — even though the White House is adept at helping people slip away unnoticed if they want.

The media horde followed the Gores for several minutes. When a veteran reporter asked Gore if he missed all the attention, he adeptly turned the question around. "When you leave this beat," he said, "I'm gonna ask you."

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Puzzles by Pappocorn

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La Ventana is a publication produced by Student Media, a department in the Division of Student Affairs at Texas Tech University.

LA VIDA

WREATHING THE REWARDS



PHOTO BY KELLY MATHERLY/The Daily Toreador

KRISTEN DELISLE, A senior journalism major from Houston, places branches in the upper part of a wreath attached to the Physics building in preparation for Friday's Carol of Lights ceremony.

'Enchanted' nets \$50 million in box-office debut

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Audiences fell under the spell of "Enchanted," a fairy-tale romance that debuted as the No. 1 movie and led Hollywood out of its recent box-office doldrums with solid business over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Starring Amy Adams as a cartoon princess exiled to real-world Manhattan by her fiancée's wicked stepmother (Susan Sarandon), Disney's "Enchanted" took in \$35.3 million over the weekend and \$50.05 million since debuting Wednesday, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Sony Screen Gems' family reunion holiday tale "This Christmas," whose ensemble cast includes Delroy Lindo, Regina King, Mekhi Phifer and Idris Elba, opened at No. 2 with \$18.6 million for the weekend and \$27.1 million since Wednesday.

Hollywood had been in a box-office funk this fall, but the two movies paced the industry to a healthy Thanksgiving, with the top-12 movies pulling in \$218.1 million from Wednesday to Sunday, up 6 percent from the holiday period last year.

"That's good for an industry that's been in a downtrend for almost two months," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media By Numbers. "Thanksgiving sets the tone for the rest of the year and the holiday season in general. This was a key weekend, and it delivered."

"Enchanted" had the second-best five-day Thanksgiving debut ever, behind the \$80.1 million haul of Disney's "Toy Story 2." Disney released all five of the top-grossing movie debuts over Thanksgiving, with "Unbreakable," "A Bug's Life"

and "101 Dalmatians" trailing "Toy Story 2" and "Enchanted."

"It's a really good place to launch a movie," said Chuck Viane, head of distribution for Disney. "When you get a movie as strong and well-playing as this, it bodes well for us right through the Christmas holiday."

Among other new wide releases, 20th Century Fox's video-game adaptation "Hitman" debuted at No. 4 with \$13 million over the weekend and \$21 million since Wednesday. The movie follows the exploits of a genetically engineered assassin (Timothy Olyphant).

The Warner Bros. drama "August Rush" opened in seventh-place with \$9.4 million for the weekend and \$13.3 million since Wednesday. "August Rush" stars Freddie Highmore, Keri Russell, Jonathan Rhys Meyers and Robin Williams in the tale of an orphaned musical prodigy seeking his parents.

Coen heads: Filmmakers give magic touch in 'No Country'

When I finished reading Cormac McCarthy's "No Country for Old Men" a couple years ago, all I could think was, "Uh oh, here comes another mediocre movie adaptation." Not that McCarthy's book reads like a screenplay, but any plot involving guns, drugs and a wicked villain is going to be picked up by a director.

As a huge McCarthy fan, I'm skeptical of anybody trying to put his work on the big screen. Billy Bob Thornton tried to do it with "All the Pretty Horses," starring Matt Damon and Penelope Cruz, but it didn't capture the McCarthy spirit. McCarthy writes in long sentences of countless clauses strung together with "and." His imagery is full of Biblical allusions and poetic similes — it's hard to make that into a movie.

However, Joel and Ethan Coen have succeeded with "No Country for Old Men." Not only is the McCarthy style there; the Coens have added their magic touch to create one of the best films I've seen in the past half-decade.

Llewellyn Moss (Josh Brolin) is a West Texas hunter who misfires one hot afternoon and stumbles upon a drug deal gone wrong. A half-dozen dead bodies are strewn across the bloody scene, and one

Chris Kellerman



living man asks Moss for water. Moss finds a suitcase full of cash, takes it and goes home.

He feels guilty and leaves in the middle of the night to take a jug of water back to the man, which turns out to be a bad idea. Moss is discovered, and so begins an exciting, shocking chase across the prairie. The villain is Anton Chigurh (Javier Bardem), a cold-blooded monster who wields a deadly, uncommon weapon to kill anyone who gets in his way of the money. Ed Tom Bell (the excellent Tommy Lee Jones) is the aging sheriff trying to protect Moss and his wife while stopping Chigurh.

I don't want to give away anything else. Even though the movie sticks to the book, my heart was pounding the whole time, and every scene was shocking. I can't imagine how much fun this will be for someone who hasn't read it.

The first thing Texas Tech students should remember when seeing this movie is that it is indeed based

on a book, so it ends like a piece of modern literature. The final scenes are not a huge shootout or a shocking twist. McCarthy writes bloody, exciting novels, but they're also philosophical and explore the battle between good and evil.

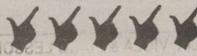
"No Country for Old Men" explores that battle, along with the role of God in the world and the effects of chance. As long as you go in expecting this, and not a James Bond flick, you'll enjoy yourself thoroughly.

Much talk has been made of Bardem's wicked and chilling performance, but most of it is because of the Coen Brothers' genius directing techniques. In one of the opening scenes, a deputy who has just arrested Chigurh, is on the phone with a superior to say he has everything under control. Chigurh is completely out of focus in the background, but we see him creep up behind the deputy and choke him to death. It's a perfect way to introduce this ghost-like character, and it sets the tone for the rest of the film.

Wide shots of the Texas prairie are gorgeous, and the near lack of a musical score is brilliant. The film is sure to garner many Oscar nominations, and I won't be surprised if it wins Best Picture.

In the past few years, it seems like movies have been shoved into two categories: popcorn and artsy. It makes you wonder, can a movie be scary, philosophical, artistic and entertaining all at the same time? I think the Coen brothers just answered with a resounding "yes."

Five out of five guns up



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



COURTESY PHOTO

High-octane energy drinks causing concern

(U-WIRE) IOWA CITY, Iowa — Drinking a Jager bomb or two could double your chances of being taken advantage of sexually,

among other dangerous behaviors, according to a new study from the Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

The study, which focused on 4,271 North Carolina college students, found those who consumed caffeinated alcohol were around twice as likely to be taken advantage of sexually or take advantage of someone else sexually, be injured, require medical attention, or ride with a drunk driver.

Researcher Mary Claire O'Brien said the combination of caffeine and alcohol can cause people to consume more alcohol than they normally would, causing skewed perceptions of their intoxication level. On average, students who drank energy drinks with alcohol binge drank 2.9 times more each month and consumed 2.2 times more drinks when bingeing.

O'Brien's research found that students who imbibed spiked energy drinks -- 24 percent of drinkers -- were most often white, male, athletes, or members of fraternities or sororities.

"If you're drinking to get drunk, that's not good, but at least you should know when you're drunk," O'Brien said. "But with this, you

might not know when you're at that point, and that's scary. You need to know when you've had too much."

The urge to examine the effects of mixing alcohol with energy drinks came to O'Brien, an emergency physician for 20 years, when she found herself taking care of an intoxicated patient two years ago who told her he'd been drinking spiked energy drinks.

"I wasn't even aware that this was a phenomenon and that everyone was doing this."

— MARY CLAIRE O'BRIEN RESEARCHER

"I wasn't even aware that this was a phenomenon and that everyone was doing this," she said. "Apparently, it's a really popular behavior if one in four college students who drink are doing it."

Nick McClure, a bartender at Formosa, 241 E. College St., said he sees people buy energy-drink cocktails frequently, most often when the bar

offers specials on vodka drinks.

"I think it's just a popular drink because Red Bull is so expensive anyway, you're getting a deal on that," he said, noting that there also aren't as many sodas that mix as well with vodka and people love "the caffeine factor."

There aren't many energy drink-alcohol combinations, he said, people most commonly just order a Jager bomb -- Red Bull mixed with a shot of Jagermeister.

"I've seen people drink Red Bull and vodka after Red Bull and vodka, and at the end of the night, they're a mess," he said.

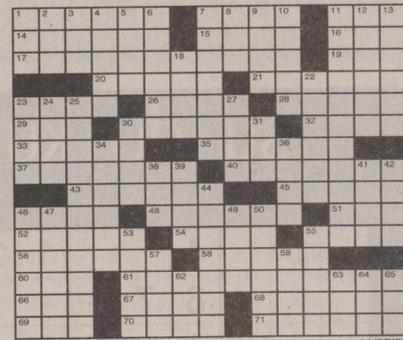
O'Brien said students gave various reasons for combining the two substances when drinking.

"Some students wanted to hide the flavor of alcohol, which given the flavor of energy drinks is kind of a surprise to me," she said. "Some wanted to drink more and not feel as much, and some thought they wouldn't get a hangover, which isn't true."

Currently, energy drinks are not under the jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration, which does not allow more than 65 milligrams of caffeine per serving of a food or beverage. Some brand-name energy drinks contain up to 300 milligrams of caffeine per serving, causing 29 state attorneys general to publicly condemn alcoholic energy drinks, O'Brien said.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
- Actress
 - Address
 - Gangster's gal
 - Greek X
 - Poem of 14 lines
 - Tony's cousin?
 - Fowl female
 - Motherly command
 - Aerial FRS
 - Plant swelling
 - Doolfus
 - Royal ruler
 - a one (none)
 - Plumed velvet cap
 - One in Toledo
 - Surgical cutter
 - Hinquarters
 - Use a divining rod
 - Five-O
 - Rude
 - Wireless devices
 - Computer of 1951
 - Shop machine
 - Against
 - Rushed forward
 - Do-over serve
 - Elevate
 - Laura or Bruce
 - Old assents
 - Be present at
 - TV sound
 - Short life?
 - Motherly command
 - Letters of debt
 - Fencer's sword
 - Discerning
 - Picnic pest
 - Feat
 - Lion, at times



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

11/27/07

- Monday's Puzzle Solved**
- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 5 Licentious | 6 Greek goddess | 7 Sovereign | 8 Sapporo sash | 9 The Swedish |
| 10 On the up-and-up | 11 Motherly command | 12 Blimp filler | 13 Shoe part | 14 Somali supermodel |
| 15 Pat of "Happy Days" | 16 African antelope | 17 Privy to | 18 Motherly command | 19 Twelve months |
| 20 First name in denim? | 21 Gary of "CSI: New York" | 22 "Lang Syne" | 23 Med. feeders | 24 Praise |
| 25 Syngman of Korea | 26 TV's | 27 Made | 28 Saudi | 29 Country abbr. |
| 30 Fr. holy woman | 31 Of a female | 32 Born in Cannes | 33 Continental | 34 Blood channel |
| 35 Info | 36 Should that be the case | 37 62 Born in Cannes | 38 Continental | 39 Of a female |

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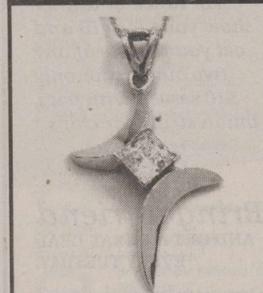
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Hulk Hogan's wife wants property, alimony, in divorce

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — Hulk Hogan's wife said in a divorce petition that she wants a share of the family's two multimil-

lion-dollar Florida properties plus alimony and child support for their 17-year-old son.

Linda Bollea filed for divorce from

Hogan — whose real name is Terry Bollea — last week after 24 years of marriage. The petition says the marriage is "irretrievably broken."

The marital assets that need to be equitably divided include the nearly 17,000-square-foot mansion in Belleair where the family lives and a 3,474-square-foot home on Clearwater Beach.

Pinellas County records place the market value of the Belleair mansion at more than \$7.2 million and the Clearwater house at more than \$2.2 million. The Bolleas also have a condominium under construction in Las Vegas.

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Redskins safety Taylor shot in Florida

PALMETTO BAY, Fla. (AP) — Washington Redskins star safety Sean Taylor was in critical condition Monday after he was shot during what police are investigating as a possible armed robbery at his home.

The 24-year-old player was in the intensive care unit following several hours of surgery at Jackson Memorial Hospital, said family friend Richard Sharpstein, his former lawyer. He remained unconscious early Monday evening.

Taylor lost a "significant" amount of blood because the bullet damaged his femoral artery, and doctors are worried about blood flow to the brain, added Sharpstein, who was at the hospital with the player's family and friends.

Taylor has had problems on and off the field, and two years ago was accused of brandishing a gun. The shooting came eight days after another invasion was reported at his home. According to police records, someone pried open a front window, rifled through drawers and left a kitchen knife on a bed.

Officers were sent to Taylor's home at about 1:45 a.m. Monday after his girlfriend called 911 and said he was shot in his lower body, Miami-Dade Police Lt. Nancy Perez said. Taylor had missed the last two games because of a knee injury and was at home recuperating. He was

airlifted to the hospital. Investigators were still interviewing the girlfriend and other relatives in the home, Perez said. No arrests have been made.

"It could have been a possible burglary; it could have been a possible robbery," Perez said. "It has not been confirmed as yet."

Sharpstein said Taylor's girlfriend told him the couple was awakened by loud noises, and Taylor grabbed a machete he keeps in the bedroom for protection. Someone then broke through the bedroom door and fired two shots, one missing and one hitting Taylor, the lawyer said.

"It was clearly a burglary, an armed burglary," Sharpstein said, adding nothing appeared to have been stolen.

The shooting happened at the pale yellow house Taylor bought two years ago in the Miami suburb of Palmetto Bay. Taylor is in his fourth season with the Redskins after playing at the University of Miami, where he was an All-American in 2003. Despite his injury, he is tied for the NFC lead with five interceptions.

Redskins owner Dan Snyder arrived in Miami on his private plane with running back Clinton Portis, vice president of football operations Vinny Cerrato and trainer Bubba Tyler.

Taylor called coach Joe Gibbs on Nov. 19 to let him know he'd miss that morning's regular team meeting because he was in Florida dealing with the first break-in on Nov. 17.

"I said, 'I understand that.' I said, 'Take care of your house and everything you have to there,'" Gibbs recalled.

Taylor was at team headquarters Saturday to treat his knee, Gibbs said, adding he wasn't aware the player then returned to Florida.

A group of Taylor's fans planned a two-hour vigil Monday evening outside Redskins Park in Ashburn, Va.

"This is not just a member of the Washington Redskins," said Redskins safety Pierson Prioleau, one of a few players made available to reporters. "But we're talking about a dad, a brother, a friend of ours, and that's where we're at with this right now."

Gibbs was joined by the team chaplain at the Redskins' usual Monday meeting. A small group of players held a separate prayer gathering.

The Redskins (5-6) lost 19-13 at Tampa on Sunday. Taylor did not travel with the team to the game because of his injury. Taylor sprained a ligament in his right knee in the second half of the Nov. 11 loss to Philadelphia. He was expected to miss at least two games.

Freshmen

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

shots. I thought all the freshmen — D'Walyn, Singletary and Roberson — got good minutes against good quality teams."

The trio's playing time continues to increase as the season progresses.

Roberson is among the team leaders in minutes played per game, averaging 29.7 per game.

He also has four starts so far this season. Singletary and Roberts each have two.

Singletary, Roberts and Roberson average a combined 17.9 minutes per game.

Roberson's best game scoring-wise was in Tech's 27-point win over Alaska-Anchorage, when he led the team in scoring with 22 points in 32 minutes.

Singletary followed with scoring 15 points of his own along with six rebounds.

In this game, both players received the start, as the offense shot one of its highest percentages of the season from the field.

"(Roberts and Singletary) stepped up," Roberson said. "You can tell they were getting use to the system also and just knowing from being on the court. As long as we keep getting in the game, I

think we'll continue to get better." After his performance at the Great Alaska Shootout, Roberson is third on the team in scoring, averaging 11.3 per game.

Roberson said a key for younger players to contribute to Tech's offense is knowing it well, which takes time.

"With this system, you just need experience," he said. "Every game, you learn something from it. I think as the games go on, I (will) get more experience and hopefully I get better in this system."

Knight said he would like to see Roberson and the younger players' defense continue to stay at a consistent level.

"You look at the Butler game, (Roberson) allowed about three or four (3-pointers) each shot right on. So he's gotta learn that everyone can play at this level. You just can't dare somebody to shoot."

Throughout The Great Alaska Shootout, Tech senior Martin Zeno struggled offensively until the championship game, scoring 11 points in the first two games of the tournament.

Tech's younger players stepped up on different occasions.

Roberson's 22 points against Alaska-Anchorage helped minimize the impact of Zeno's two points.

Tech junior guard Alan Voskuil's and Roberts' performances — 28 and 11 points, respectively — against then-ranked No. 14 Gonzaga helped Zeno, who managed nine points.

With more experience than Singletary, Roberts and Roberson, Voskuil leads the team in scoring so far with 14.5 per game.

Tech guard Charlie Burgess said he believes Roberson and Voskuil have been impressive this season.

"John and Alan (stand out), especially Alan," Burgess said. "It's not a surprise to see, because they have the talent."

The Red Raiders take on TCU at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the United Spirit Arena.

► adam.coleman@ttu.edu

“With this system, you just need experience. Every game, you learn something from it.”

— JOHN ROBERSON
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2822 36TH Rear. Efficiency includes stove and refrigerator. Only \$300. Wilson-Night properties. 797-2212. www.wilson-night.com.

2822 36TH. 3/1, completely remodeled. Stove, central h/a, dishwasher and W/D connections. \$895. Wilson-Night Property Services. 797-2212. www.wilson-night.com.

3 BEDROOM + gameroom. 5318 39th. \$850/mo. Call Stacy at 793-8111.

3 BEDROOM + garage conversion. 4811 54th. \$850/mo. Call Stacy 793-8111.

3 BEDROOM, 2 bath, 2 cars garage: 2325 7th Street. \$950/mo. Only 2 years old. Call Shawn 792-1859 or 239-6409.

3/1 2205 20th St. \$850/mo. Apartment 2201 20th St. \$550. 2218 20th St. 3/2 \$1050/mo. Call Bill 470-7037.

3/1 REMODELED inside. New paint. Doors. Bathroom. Security alarm. New fence. Storage house in backyard. 2206 49th. \$700/month. Deposit \$600. 745-1614.

3/2/1 COMPLETELY remodeled. New kitchen with new counter tops, cabinets, and appliances. New central h/a and paint inside and out. 2515 36th. Call 806-781-3357.

3304 32ND. 4/2 with stove, central h/a, dishwasher and W/D connections. \$895. Wilson-Night Property Services. 797-2212. www.wilson-night.com.

3810 B 33rd. 1/1. Stove, W/D connections. \$395. Wilson-Night Property Services. 797-2212. www.wilson-night.com.

4609 44TH. 4/1. Stove, central h/a, dishwasher, W/D connection. \$895. 797-2212. Wilson-Night Property Services. www.wilson-night.com.

4902 41ST. 3/3 with stove, central h/a, W/D connection. \$975. Wilson-Night Property Services. 797-2212. www.wilson-night.com.

5726 89TH. 3/2/2. Stove, central h/a, dishwasher, W/D connection, hot tub. \$1400. Wilson-Night Property Services. 797-2212. www.wilson-night.com.

6812 HYDEN. 3 bed/2 bath all brick home with two car garage & fenced back yard. Available Jan 1st. \$1000/mo. (806)790-9000.

805 N. Evanston Ave. 3/2/2 duplex. Fireplace. Appliances + w/d. \$850. John Nelson Realtors 794-7471.

ATTENTION STUDENTS your choice of the following houses and apartments: 4902 41st; 3304 32nd; 2612 21st; 2604 B 21st; 3810 B 33rd. 797-2212.

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Lease today. Large 1 bedroom duplex. Appliances. W/D. Fenced yard. 2200 block of 21st. Call Ann or B. J. at 795-2100.

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Lease today. We have some wonderful 1, 2, 3 bedroom homes close to campus. Nice Appliances. Lovely decor, yard. To view see Ann or B. J. at 4211 34th. 795-2011.

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AVAILABLE DEC 1ST
3/2/2. Lovely brick home. Nice appliances. Convenient to South Plain Mall near 94th & Slide. 5417 94th. \$800/mo. Call Ann or B. J. 795-2011.

AVAILABLE DEC 1ST
Lease today. Quiet efficiency on 26th Street. Nice appliances. Private parking. Alley entrance. \$265/mo. To view see Ann or B. J. at 4211 34th. 795-2011.

AVAILABLE DECEMBER 15TH
Lovely 3/2/2 brick home. Appliances. W/D. Near Memphis-Quaker. Lovely decor, yard. Lawn care furnished. \$825/monthly. 6310 Nashville Drive. Call Ann or B.J. at 795-2011.

AVAILABLE NOW
Houses, duplexes, townhouses. Visit www.lubbook4rent.com. Call 535-0827 WestMark Property Management.

AWESOME TECH HOUSE
4/2, two story, W/D connection, alarm, large backyard, Pets ok. Available now. 2218 27th. 214-592-5334.

BACK YARD EFFICIENCY
Available DEC 1st. Lease today. 3 block off campus. Alley entrance. Private parking. Appliances. \$265/mo. 2604 Rear 23rd To view see Ann or B. J. at 4211 34th. 795-2011.

BARGAIN UNIQUE. 3/2. Tech 3 blocks. Tile, all the extras. Price negotiable. 2213 21st. 797-6358.

FOR RENT: 3/2/1 with formal living and dining. It has a washer/dryer and refrigerator. Available January 1, 2008. \$500 deposit, \$995/month with a 1 year lease. Located at 2605 43rd. Call 806-798-3716

FOR SALE or Lease. Will carry papers. 5402 31st St. Leave message at 806-863-4781.

HALF BLOCK Tech. Small, remodeled garage type efficiency apartment. No pets. Parking. Serious Students only. A/C. \$325/month, utilities paid. 792-3110.

HARDWOOD FLOORS
Bear Flats. 4204 17th. Loft style 1 bedroom. Metal ceilings, stucco walls. Washer/Dryer connections. Exterior. Stucco, iron rails, metal roof. Virtual tour @www.lubbookapartments.com/jtl 806-792-0828. Available in December.

LYNNWOODTOWNHOMES.COM pre-leasing and immediate move-ins available for 4/4/3 and 3/3/2. 785-7772.

MOVE IN SPECIALS
1, 2, 3 Bedroom duplexes and houses. BBC Properties. 787-2323, 544-3600.

MOVE IN SPECIALS
2/1 House, Hardwood, dining rooms, Central Heat/Air, appliances, W/D connection. 2011-27th St. \$575/300. 787-2323, 544-3600.

NEWLY RENOVATED! 1, 2, & 3 bedroom houses for lease. Convenient to Tech. Call 771-1890.

REAR HOUSE
Lease today. Available December 15th. 1 bedroom house. Appliances. W/D. Private parking. Alley entrance. 1 block off of campus. \$375/mo. 2620 Rear 21st. See Ann or B. J. at 4211 34th. 795-2011.

SOUTH OF Tech Close to class! 2/1, loft, garage, central h/a, W/D, dishwasher, fireplace. 3010 29th. Deposit \$450, rent \$800/month. 543-6764.

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2 bedroom apartments, so large you will never see your roommates. 4110 17th. 792-0828. Virtual tour @www.lubbookapartments.com/jtl

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WAY TOO Cute! 2216 28th: 3 bedroom, 1 bath. 3409 33rd: 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 1 car garage. Both Available Dec 11 First Mark 793-8759.

Unbeaten Lady Raiders host struggling Bearkats

By ALEX YBARRA
STAFF WRITER

Two teams in the midst of two particularly contrasting seasons will meet when the Lady Raiders play Sam Houston State at 7 p.m. today at the United Spirit Arena.

Texas Tech, who is on a seven-game winning streak, has outscored its opposition by nearly 22 points this season, while Sam Houston State has lost by an average of 24 points per game in its five losses.

Tech (7-0) can put pressure on the other teams' defense because of the ability to move without the ball and find the open player.

So far this season, four or more players have in double-digit scoring in six of seven games.

Through 32 games in the 2006-07 season, Tech had it happen 12 times.

"We're at our best when we have good balance," Tech coach Kristy Curry said. "When we can get that fourth, fifth player in double figures its even better. (The players) do a nice job of looking for one another."

Junior forward Dominic Seals said sharing the basketball results from the unselfish relationship the frontcourt and backcourt have created.

"It helps when you have outside perimeter (players) that can shoot," she said, "and then when you have the perimeter guards that can get it into the post."

Tech's post play has been dominant this season.

Senior center Erin Myrick leads the team in scoring with 14.3 points per game, with Seals averaging 14.1 points per game and leading the team with 9.4 rebounds per game.

Junior forward Stancia Graham provides a spark off the bench with 8.4 points and 6.3 rebounds per game.

Sam Houston State (1-5) started the season on a five-game losing streak, but recorded its first victory of the season by edging Western Illinois 72-69 in the third-place game of the Holiday Inn Select Thanksgiving Classic Saturday.

Sam Houston coach Brenda Welch-Nichols is in her second year at Sam Houston State, where she went 5-24 a year ago.

"I know that Brenda does a good job, she's a Louisiana girl, she works really hard," Olla, La., native Curry said. "She has inherited a really tough rebuilding situation. They're building that back up and it's going to be a mat-

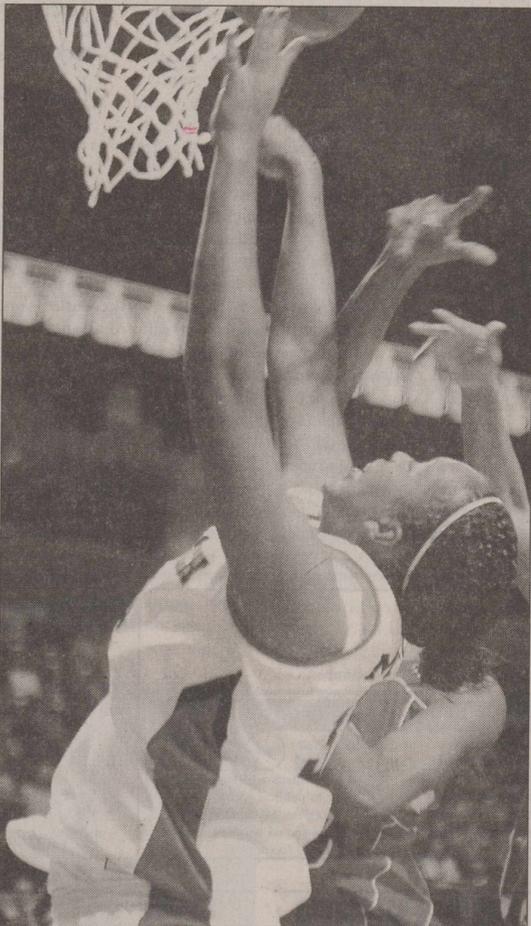


PHOTO BY CAITY COLVARD/The Daily Toreador

LADY RAIDER CENTER Erin Myrick makes a basket in an exhibition game against the Houston Jaguars Nov. 11 at the United Spirit Arena.

ter of time." Curry said junior forward Lydia Gonzalez, who averages 13.2 points and 8.7 rebounds per game, presents a legitimate inside-outside threat for the Bearkats and could become a matchup problem for Tech's forwards.

Behind Gonzalez, sophomore forward Whitney Smith, leads the team in scoring with 13.3 points per game.

The game against Tech will be the second Big 12 Conference team for the Bearkats this season, who were crushed by Oklahoma State 90-36 Nov. 17 in Stillwater, Okla.

Curry said Tech cannot consider Sam Houston State the underdog and needs to play the team with the same intensity the Lady Raiders show

against a Big 12 opponent or in practice.

Tech is 2-0 against Sam Houston State all-time, with the last meeting coming in 1990.

Sophomore guard Jordan Murphree said rather than the team's unbeaten streak adding pressure to win games, players take the initiative to put the burden on their shoulders every game.

"There's a lot of pressure," she said. "We can't think of it as 'we're 7-0.' We got to keep getting better, and we don't need a loss to show us that we shouldn't have been 7-0, and that we should have been improving each game."

► daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu

BCS College Football Standings

	Harris Poll		USA Today Poll		Computer Polls		BCS	
	Rk	Pct	Rk	Pct	Rk	Pct	Avg	Pv
1. Missouri	1	0.9751	2	0.9693	1	0.990	0.9781	4
2. West Virginia	2	0.9660	1	0.9780	2	0.970	0.9713	3
3. Ohio State	3	0.9256	3	0.9220	3	0.910	0.9192	5
4. Georgia	4	0.8309	4	0.8213	5	0.830	0.8274	7
5. Kansas	6	0.7614	5	0.7740	4	0.840	0.7918	2
6. Virginia Tech	7	0.7593	5	0.7740	6	0.810	0.7811	8
7. LSU	5	0.7772	7	0.7560	7	0.790	0.7744	1
8. USC	9	0.7225	9	0.7153	10	0.640	0.6926	11
9. Oklahoma	8	0.7481	8	0.7507	12	0.550	0.6829	10
10. Florida	11	0.6165	11	0.5987	10	0.640	0.6184	12
11. Boston College	12	0.5568	12	0.5740	8	0.720	0.6169	14
12. Hawaii	10	0.6418	10	0.6387	14	0.470	0.5835	15
13. Arizona State	13	0.5074	13	0.5040	9	0.660	0.5571	6
14. Tennessee	15	0.4382	15	0.4360	13	0.510	0.4614	18
15. Illinois	14	0.4400	14	0.4493	17	0.370	0.4198	17
16. Clemson	18	0.3147	17	0.3127	16	0.380	0.3358	22
17. Oregon	19	0.2512	20	0.2107	18	0.350	0.2706	9
18. Wisconsin	16	0.3196	16	0.3287	23	0.140	0.2628	21
19. BYU	20	0.2277	19	0.2180	19	0.230	0.2252	25
20. Texas	17	0.3168	18	0.2780	25	0.070	0.2216	13
21. South Florida	25	0.0874	27	0.0667	15	0.410	0.1880	23
22. Virginia	23	0.1677	21	0.1807	20	0.190	0.1795	16
23. Cincinnati	21	0.1796	24	0.0973	21	0.170	0.1490	24
24. Auburn	24	0.1411	21	0.1807	24	0.120	0.1472	NR
25. Boise State	22	0.1730	23	0.1647	NR	0.000	0.1125	19

A&M hires Texans assistant Sherman to replace Franchione

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas A&M turned to a former assistant to lead the program back to prominence.

Former Green Bay Packers coach Mike Sherman was hired at A&M Monday, three days after Dennis Franchione resigned.

Sherman, an assistant head coach with the Houston Texans for two seasons, will return to the school where he was the offensive line coach from 1989-93 and in 1995-96 under R.C. Slocum.

"It's like coming back home," Sherman said. "I told my wife, you can unpack the boxes on this move. I've moved about 10 times in my career. You can put up the pictures and throw the boxes away, because we're going to be here awhile."

Sherman signed a seven-year contract that will pay him \$1.8 million a year.

"I've had opportunities at other jobs I didn't take," Sherman said. "I've been a head coach. I know what it's going to take to be a head coach. I understand the commitment and sacrifice my family's going to have to make. So I'm not going to delve into something unless I feel like we have a legitimate chance to win championships."

The formal announcement came with plenty of symbolism.

Current and former players packed an auditorium to see Sherman introduced. John David Crow, the 1957 Heisman Trophy winner for A&M, shook hands with Sherman after the news conference, and Slocum and Sherman posed for pictures.

Franchione alienated himself from many of the program's old guard, and athletic director Bill Byrne said he hoped to rebuild some of those connections by bringing

Sherman back.

"We have a wonderful, rich tradition here," Byrne said. "I wanted to make sure that whoever we had come in here would be able to bridge the issues we had previously and build on strengths we had in the past. Mike can certainly do that."

Slocum and Franchione had an icy relationship and Slocum didn't pass up a chance to bring up A&M's successes before Franchione arrived.

"If you look at the history of this school, in the decade of the 1990s, we won almost 77 percent of our games," Slocum said. "I also happen to think our best days are ahead of us. There is an expectation that we take it a notch higher than what it's been."

Franchione, who earned about \$2 million annually, took a contract buyout and stepped down Friday, less than an hour after Texas A&M upset rival Texas 38-30. Defensive coordinator Gary Darnell was made the interim coach Saturday and will lead the Aggies (7-5, 4-4 Big 12) through their bowl game.

On Monday, players were still stinging from Franchione's resignation, especially junior quarterback Stephen McGee. He canceled a weekend hunting trip and visited with Franchione at his home Saturday.

"He's been the coach now for

four years, so you can imagine the relationship I've built with him over this time," McGee said. "When you lose a guy like that, you can't just show up on Monday, you've got a new coach and, 'Here we go.' It's going to take some time for me to move on."

The 52-year-old Sherman hasn't coached in college since leaving A&M to become an assistant in Green Bay in 1996. He'll coach the remainder of the season for the

Texans (5-6).

Byrne said Sherman was the only coach interviewed for the vacancy. The two talked on the phone shortly after A&M's win Friday.

Sherman met with the Aggies on Monday morning. He has yet to start assembling his staff.

"I want to get it in place as quickly as possible, but not at the expense

of making a bad decision," Sherman said. "These are decisions that you want to last a long time and you want them to be the right ones."

Sherman sat down individually with McGee later on Monday.

"He knew the relationship I had with Coach Fran," McGee said. "He understood my loyalty and knew this time was really tough on me. He respected that and certainly I appreciate him acknowledging that, reaching out and taking the time. I know he's extremely busy. For him to do that meant a lot to me."

So I'm not going to delve into something unless I feel like we have a legitimate chance to win championships.

— MIKE SHERMAN
TEXAS A&M
HEAD COACH

Crayton practices, ready to play for Cowboys

IRVING (AP) — Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Patrick Crayton was back at practice Monday and expects to play in the NFC showdown against Green Bay after missing last week's game with a sprained left ankle.

"I'm good to go," Crayton said. Crayton made his comment before practice. But after the two-hour workout, coach Wade Phillips sounded optimistic about Crayton being able to play Thursday night in the matchup of 10-1 teams.

"Patrick Crayton practiced today, started out a little slow but looked good as the practice went on," Phillips said. "It looks real positive for him as

far as playing."

Crayton hurt his ankle during a punt return early in the Nov. 18 game against Washington. While he still played most of that game, the short week before the Thanksgiving Day kept him from getting ready to play in the 34-3 victory over the New York Jets.

Crayton has 31 catches for 466 yards and five touchdowns this season, taking advantage of defenses worrying more about Terrell Owens and tight end Jason Witten. The third receiver last year, Crayton started the first 10 games in place of the injured Terry Glenn.

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