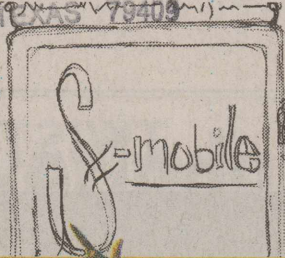


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TUESDAY, NOV. 4, 2007
VOLUME 82 ■ ISSUE 67

THE DAILY TOREADOR

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Military leaders: al-Qaida increasing activity

Senior defense official reveals al-Qaida activities in Afghanistan could be on rise

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The U.S. military is seeing early signs that al-Qaida may be stepping up its activities in Afghanistan, a senior defense official revealed for the first time Monday as Secretary Robert Gates made his third trip to this country.

Gates said he has not yet seen data on any uptick in al-Qaida ac-

tivity, but he said increasing levels of violence in the country are a concern and he plans to talk about it with other defense leaders from NATO nations operating in Afghanistan.

"I'm not worried about a backslide as much as I am (about) how we continue the momentum going forward," Gates told reporters in Djibouti on Monday just before he left for Kabul. "One of the clear concerns that we all have is that in the last two or three years there has

been a continuing increase in the overall level of violence."

The senior defense official said the U.S. military is concerned and is looking for definitive signs of greater activity by al-Qaida and foreign fighters, but the U.S. has not seen enough proof to draw any final conclusions. The official discussed the terrorist network on condition of anonymity because of the security concerns.

As Gates headed to Kabul, U.S. officials also said they are now con-

sidering the possibility of providing arms to local tribes in Afghanistan, along with training, equipment and other support. The effort would be modeled after successful efforts in Iraq to empower the locals to police their own neighborhoods.

While no decisions have been made, officials said the plan is under review.

The U.S. military has been pushing the idea that more attention must be paid to tribal leaders in the

provinces in both Afghanistan and Iraq, rather than focusing all the attention on buttressing the central governments of those two wartorn nations. The thinking is that the locals are closer to the community and their people, and thus can better police their own streets.

Military officials have said they believe that the Taliban in Afghanistan is being refueled, possibly by

AFGHANISTAN continued on page 3

(INSIDE)



HOUSE GETS MAKEOVER
SEE PAGE 5

(IN BRIEF)

STATE

Advocates urge against use of pepper spray

AUSTIN (AP) — Advocates for juvenile inmates on Monday urged the Texas Youth Commission to reject a proposal they say would boost the use of pepper spray against inmates, arguing that it should be used only as a last resort if at all.

Several advocacy groups argued against the proposed rule at a public hearing. A decision whether to adopt the rule could be weeks away, TYC spokesman Jim Hurley said.

NATION

Hostage taker had been drinking

ROCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — The man accused of taking hostages at a Hillary Rodham Clinton campaign office had been drinking heavily before the stand-off and talked about his problems getting medical care, according to family interviews and a court document released Monday.

Leeland Eisenberg, 46, is accused of walking into the Clinton office on Friday with what appeared to be explosives strapped to his body and holding campaign workers hostage for hours after demanding to speak to Clinton about mental health care, authorities said.

WORLD

Chavez admits proposal was intense

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Humbled by his first electoral defeat ever, President Hugo Chavez said Monday he may have been too ambitious in asking voters to let him stand indefinitely for re-election and endorse a huge leap to a socialist state.

"I understand and accept that the proposal I made was quite profound and intense," he said after voters narrowly rejected the sweeping constitutional reforms by 51 percent to 49 percent.

DEATH TOLL

3882

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

WEATHER

Today



SUNNY
HIGH 76
LOW 41

Wednesday



SUNNY
HIGH 68
LOW 38

INSIDE

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It's in his KISS

Tech students analyze the importance of a first kiss

By **ADAM YOUNG**
STAFF WRITER



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CAITY COLVARD/The Daily Toreador

A recent study found that the first kiss is one of the most important aspects in determining relationship compatibility, and some Texas Tech students agree.

According to a study of more than 1,000 college-aged adults published in the scientific journal "Evolutionary Psychology," 59 percent of men and 66 percent of women said they have been in the position of being attracted to someone until they kissed the person.

"What we've discovered is that a substantial number, indeed a majority number, of both male and female college students indicate having found themselves attracted to somebody in the past only to discover that after they kissed them for the first time, they were no longer interested," said Gordon Gallup, a co-author of the study and a professor of psychology at the State University of New York at Albany.

Though Gallup said the study did not conclude why those surveyed were no longer interested in the other person after their first kiss, he believes it likely involves the operation of evolved, hard-wired unconscious mechanisms in the brain.

"At the moment of the kiss, there's a very complicated exchange of information involving tactile cues, and postural adjustments, and factory cues and even saliva exchange that may serve to impact unconscious mechanisms that assess the extent to which there's genetic incom-

KISS continued on page 2

Report: Violence hampering Iraqi ability to develop its security forces

By **PAULINE JELINEK**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

(AP) — Iraqis have not made enough progress toward learning to manage their security forces because they've had to divert too much attention to continued violence and sectarianism, congressional investigators said Monday.

For example, Iraqi recruits to the Army who were designated for training as logistics specialists have been diverted to combat roles, said the report by the Government Accountability Office.

The report said the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior have made some progress in the last year. The defense ministry has developed lower echelon logistics units for the military and the interior ministry has established an intelligence organization.

"While the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior, with coalition assistance, made some progress since August

2006 in developing their respective logistics, command and control, and intelligence capabilities ... persistent violence and sectarianism, along with immature ministerial capacity, continue to impede this progress," the report said.

It said the Ministry of Defense has yet to develop adequate personnel management and support functions, Iraqi support specialists are not being employed in the positions for which they were trained, and schools for training those specialists lack fuel, equipment and supplies.

At the Ministry of Interior, violence has prevented contractors from completing the installation of a command and control network and hampered intelligence capabilities, the report said.

The report also criticized the terminology the Pentagon uses for assessing the progress of Iraqi forces.

While the Defense Department has, in multiple reports, stated that a certain number of (Iraqi) units are either "in-

dependent" or "fully independent," it is unclear how the military arrived at the determination, the report said.

It noted that in a number of reports in which the Department of Defense has asserted that a certain number of Iraqi units are independent, it has appeared to contradict itself by adding qualifiers. For example, defense officials reported in June that a certain number of units were either "in the lead" or "fully independent" — then added the forces "often do not get the support they require without substantial coalition assistance."

"As a result of DOD's lack of clarity, Congress and other decision makers may not obtain a clear picture of the progress" of the Iraqi forces toward becoming independent of U.S. forces, the report said.

Also, the report suggested that the Iraqi forces cannot be considered independent as long as neither of the ministries in charge of them have developed the abilities to logistically sustain their forces, effectively command and control their forces, and provide intelligence to their forces.

Kiss

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

patibility between two people," he said.

However, Briana Russell, a sophomore photocommunications major from Keller, said she sees kissing as a person's way of expressing how they feel about their mate, and she disagrees with people who lose interest after the first kiss.

"I could see that, but I'd still probably give them another chance after that," Russell said. "I wouldn't give up on it just because the first kiss isn't a good kiss."

Russell said a bad first kiss could be the result of a person getting cold feet in a hot situation.

"That's actually what happened in the relationship I just got out of," she said. "The first kiss wasn't that great ... but it was fine after the first

couple of kisses."

Along with being less likely to judge a relationship based on the first kiss, Gallup said men are more willing than women to engage in sexual activity with someone without kissing, if they are not attracted to the person or if they consider the person a bad kisser.

Andrew Christesson, a junior mechanical engineering major from Clovis, N.M., said it does not matter to him whether a person is a good kisser and likes the practice "because it feels good, duh!"

"A kiss always makes it better, not worse," he said. "It's not a make or break thing, it's a physical thing,

but it's fun."

Angela Adamson, a junior business major from Paris, said she believes kissing is the most important part of a relationship because it describes a lot about a person and does not put as much stock in the purely physical aspects of kissing.

"I've never been serious with someone that I didn't think was a good kisser," she said. "I think passion is the main thing. If someone is a passionate kisser and there's a chemistry there — that's the most important."

Gallup said he believes one difference between how men and women view kissing is the end result. "Clearly, it's the case, based on our research, that males are more likely than females to use kissing as a means to an end: That is, males attempt to use kissing to receive sexual favors," he said.

The study found that males also are more likely to use kissing as an attempt at reconciliation in a relationship, Gallup said. "Females, on the other hand, use kissing as an assessment device not only in terms of initial mate assessment, but once females are in a committed relationship they continue to use kissing to monitor moment-to-moment, day-to-day changes in the status of that relationship," he said.

According to the survey, men

show a greater preference for tongue contact and open-mouth kisses, which creates another set of criteria a first kiss can be analyzed by: breath and taste.

"I don't give a damn what they eat — just not too much alcohol and no smoking," Christesson said.

"Chicks that smoke, it's like licking an ash tray," he said. "Chicks that are drunk — they're probably about to throw up anyway — so that really affects it. It's better without the alcohol, way better without the smoking."

Kerissa Arrington, a sophomore dance major from Houston, said men are not alone when it comes to analyzing a kiss based on physical attributes, mentioning her own pet peeve: lip size.

"Not too small, not too big," she said. "I would rather their lips match mine or maybe a little bigger. I wouldn't want someone with huge lips because it's hard to kiss like that."

Russell said women can be concerned with how a kiss feels, describing a middle school experience.

"My first kiss was a little gross, as far as saliva ... there was a lot of it," she said. "It was probably the worst kiss I've had."

But not all ratings of the physical attributes of a kiss are negative, as Russell described her favorite characteristic of a good kiss: softness.

"I don't like the aggressive kisses," she said. "I like tongue, I just don't like it when, I just like a softer kiss, not like they're, like, forcing their tongue around in your mouth."

"I've never been serious with someone that I didn't think was a good kisser."

— ANGELA ADAMSON
JUNIOR FROM PARIS

TWISTED METAL



PHOTO BY KELLY MATHERLY/The Daily Toreador
ADAM MULSOW, A junior communications design major from Lubbock, twists wires in his hand for a tree house piece that will be submitted as his final soldering project in his metal and jewelry design class Thursday in the Art 3D Annex building.

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Time running out for Putin to stake position

MOSCOW (AP) — Vladimir Putin claimed Monday that parliamentary elections handed him the mandate he sought to remain Russia's leader after his presidency ends next spring. But he needs to decide quickly how to use that mandate or risk seeing his influence erode.

In just two weeks, his United Russia party is to pick a candidate for Putin's replacement. In three months, the next president will be chosen in another election. In May, Putin must step down.

For years, Russia's political leaders have speculated about what would happen in the final months of Putin's last term. Now the endgame is here, but the riddle of Putin's future remains.

He has promised to respect the constitution's limit of two consecutive terms and give up the presidency. But few expect him to simply relinquish his enormous power, which is underpinned by his widespread popularity over Russia's

stability and economic growth.

Will he serve as prime minister? Or perhaps chief of the governing party? Might he become head of the Security Council, a presidential advisory body? Some of his supporters are touting a new, so-far undefined post of "national leader."

All seem unlikely or at least awkward answers to the problem of succession. Worse, perhaps, there is a conviction among many here that Putin himself hasn't decided what to do — creating a growing sense of uncertainty and fear of a power vacuum.

Things may not have gone as smoothly for Putin as he hoped in recent months.

In engineering the victory for United Russia, he may have expended more political capital than he expected. Many Russians reacted with anger at sometimes clumsy efforts to manipulate the vote, and Putin seemed uneasy in a taped TV address pleading for Russians to vote for him and his party.

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Beaver Creek	18"	4"
Breckenridge	20"	2"
Copper Mtn.	18"	6"
Crested Butte	34"	Free Lift Tickets thru 12-15
Keystone	20"	2"
Loveland	22"	2"
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Holiday overindulgence may be health risk for students

By GLENYS BOLLS
STAFF WRITER

As winter break approaches, many students may be looking forward to eating and drinking their fill over the holidays. Some Texas Tech faculty, however, say this may not be the safest way to go.

Dr. Lynn Bickley, a professor of Internal Medicine at the Tech Health Sciences Center, said the holidays are not a good reason to push health to the back burner.

"It's just as important to take care of your health then as during any other time of the year," Bickley said. "Food in moderation is OK, but drinking is more dangerous."

Jim Clopton, a professor in the Department of Psychology who studies eating disorders, said the main things to be concerned about for food during the holidays are long-term effects rather than the short-term.

"In the short run, you may feel overfull, and that's unpleasant,"

Clopton said. "But, in the long run, there are a lot of high-calorie foods around during the holidays, and you may put on extra weight. Almost everywhere you go during the holidays has food. There are more sweets and desserts around; there's more of a possibility for overindulgence."

Bickley said what differentiates the holidays from other times of the year is the plethora of opportunities to overeat.

"Basically, the thing that's different about the holidays is that there are so many opportunities to combine eating and drinking," she said. "Drinking is associated with celebrating and being festive."

Dr. Rajat Bhatt, an assistant professor of Internal Medicine at the Health Sciences Center, said he believes increased alcohol consumption is a bigger problem than overeating.

"If a person overeats for a few days, it won't be that far reaching," Bhatt said. "Alcohol can have lots of

other problems. It can even mess up relationships in the family. It happens more often than is reported."

One way people can control eating habits during the holidays is just to plan ahead, Clopton said.

"If you know you're going to be tempted to nibble, you may go light on your other meals," he said. "Planning can help. Be honest with yourself, and avoid situations where you may be tempted to overeat. Just be respectful of the situations where you may have a hard time saying no."

Although drinking is usually considered an easy way to let loose during the holidays, Bickley said drinking may have some serious consequences.

"Drinking increases your blood alcohol level and changes your heart rhythm, and you can end up in the emergency room," she said. "Your heart starts fibrillating, starts palpitations. With binge drinking, you can pass out. Most people don't drink so much that they get to the point of

seizures, but that would be a serious side effect."

A good rule of thumb, Bickley said, is to have two drinks.

"Two drinks in an evening is safe," she said. "Two drinks in an hour increases your blood alcohol level. Hopefully no student is drinking two drinks in an hour. That could cause intoxication, drunken driving, poor judgment. Two drinks in an evening is a good goal."

It is not so easy to give an estimate for how much food a person should consume, Clopton said.

"People eat different amounts," he said. "Over time, they just have to learn what is an appropriate amount of food for them. It's really a matter of each person being honest and listening to their own hunger needs. When there's attractive food around, it's easy to eat when you're not really hungry."

Bickley said although combining alcohol with food will decrease the alcohol's effects, it does not fix the



COURTESY PHOTO

problem completely.

"That helps, but only to a point," she said. "The alcohol is absorbed directly from the stomach. The problem is that each person metabolizes alcohol a little differently, so there's no blanket rule on what's safe."

Although it is easy to overindulge during the holidays, Clopton said he

hopes students can control themselves and still enjoy the break.

"With some planning and determination for moderation, people can enjoy the holidays," he said. "My goal for everyone is that they can have fun and come back in January feeling OK about how they spent the break."

► glenys.bolls@ttu.edu

Afghanistan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

militants in Pakistan crossing the border, or through support from other countries in the region sympathetic to the militants.

Insurgents are also finding more financing, including by taxing the widespread poppy crops that are used to make opium drugs.

Senior officials with Gates said they are troubled by the overall increase in violence in Afghanistan, particularly in the south. And they said it will be a key topic of discussion when Gates and other defense leaders from countries involved in the coalition in that region meet in Scotland later this month.

This year has been the most violent since the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. Insurgency-related violence has claimed nearly 6,200 lives, according to a tally of figures from Afghan and Western officials.

The number of attacks has surged, including roadside bombings and suicide assaults.

Currently there are about 26,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, including 13,000 with the NATO-led coalition. The other 13,000 U.S. troops are training the Afghan forces and hunting al-Qaida terrorists.

Defense officials said that while NATO is still looking for at least a battalion of troops to supplement the fight in Afghanistan, the U.S. is not, at this point, moving to fill that need. Gates pressed NATO leaders earlier this year to fill some of the gaps in equipment and troops in Afghanistan, but got only a lukewarm response.

Gates is expected to meet with key country leaders, including President Hamid Karzai, during his visit, as well as talk to commanders about the conditions across the provinces.

He also is hoping to gauge what impact, if any, the internal problems in Pakistan have had on the ability of that country's military to adequately monitor the volatile border region.

Gates' visit coincides with the release of a new poll that found Afghans are increasingly critical of U.S. military efforts, with just over half of Afghans still having confidence in the ability of U.S. and NATO forces to provide security — down from two-thirds a year ago.

The survey — conducted for ABC News, the BBC and the German public TV station ARD — noted that Afghans overwhelmingly prefer the government of Karzai to the Taliban, but they also believe that government should negotiate with the Taliban to end the war.

In southwestern Afghanistan, support for NATO-led forces has plummeted to 45 percent this year, from 83 percent a year ago, it found.

"Civilian casualties blamed on these forces is a prime complaint," the survey said.

US officials say Iran nuclear weapons program stopped in 2003, sharp change from earlier view

(AP) — A new U.S. intelligence report concludes that Iran's nuclear weapons development program has been halted since the fall of 2003 because of international pressure — a stark contrast to the conclusions U.S. spy agencies drew just two years ago.

The finding is part of a National Intelligence Estimate on Iran that also cautions that Tehran continues to enrich uranium and still could develop a bomb between 2010 and 2015 if it decided to do so.

The conclusion that Iran's weapons program was still frozen, through at least mid-2007, represents a sharp turnaround from the previous intelligence assessment in 2005. Then, U.S. intelligence agencies believed Tehran was determined to develop a nuclear weapons capability and was continuing its weapons development program. The new report concludes that Iran's decisions are rational and pragmatic, and that Tehran is more susceptible to diplomatic and financial pressure than previously thought.

"Tehran's decision to halt its nuclear weapons program suggests it is less determined to develop nuclear

weapons than we have been judging since 2005," says the unclassified summary of the secret report.

The findings come at a time of escalating tensions between the United States and Iran, which President Bush has labeled part of an "axis of evil," along with Iraq and North Korea. At an Oct. 17 news conference, Bush said, "If you're interested in avoiding World War III, it seems like you ought to be interested in preventing them (Iran) from having the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon."

Rand Beers, who resigned from Bush's National Security Council just before the Iraq war, said the report should derail any appetite for war on the administration's part, and should reinvigorate regional diplomacy. "The new NIE throws

cold water on the efforts of those urging military confrontation with Iran," he said.

Senior intelligence officials said Monday they failed to detect Iran's fall 2003 halt in nuclear weapons development in time to reflect it in the 2005 estimate.

One of the officials said Iran is the most challenging country to spy on — harder even than North Korea, a notoriously closed society. "We put a lot more collection assets against this," the official said, "but gaps remain." The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

Some of the changes in the new report reflect the use of "open source" intelligence — public information from sources such as the news media and international

organizations. An official said, for example, that photos taken at Iran's Natanz nuclear facility during U.N. inspections in 2002 were particularly useful in assessing the capabilities of the civilian uranium enrichment program.

U.S. National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley, said the risk of Iran acquiring a nuclear weapon remains "a serious problem." The estimate suggests Bush "has the right strategy: intensified international pressure along with a willingness to negotiate a solution that serves Iranian interests, while ensuring the world will never have to face a nuclear armed Iran," Hadley said. He was less interested in what the 2005 assessment missed than what it got right: that Iran had a covert nuclear program.

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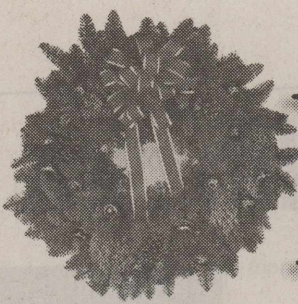
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PINIONS

¡Vámonos Republicanos!

Last week the major Republican residential candidates met for the CNN-YouTube debate, in which video questions were submitted through YouTube to be answered by the candidates directly. However, despite concerns among the candidates regarding the seriousness of the debate, all the major players turned up after the success of the Democratic CNN-YouTube debate held back in July.

While questions ranged from abortion (no, none of them has ever had one) to the Yankees vs. Red Sox rivalry (because the candidates needed at least one question to make them look human), by far, the biggest issue of the evening was immigration.

While the candidates sniped and criticized one another on their records, I was reminded of both the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections, during which President Bush mangled the Spanish language at Hispanic voter rallies in an effort to gain their support for the Republican Party as part of his "Compassionate Conservatism." But, with Republican Candidates in the 2008 election such as Fred Thompson saying things like, "I think we've all had people, probably, that we have hired that in retrospect probably was a bad decision," (see 2004 Presidential election) it's a pretty safe bet the Party has decided to go a different way on this one.

Not only have the Republicans decided not to actively seek the Hispanic vote, but by turning an issue that has been a continuing problem for the last few decades into a hot-button crisis concern, they have managed to shoot themselves in the foot by placing a complex and intricate problem, like illegal immigration (to which there are no easy answers) front and center, thereby diverting attention away from more pressing concerns such as health care and Iraq.

Ironically, this batch of candidates is only suffering from a hysteria that began when a few pundits started blaming illegal aliens for everything from putting lead in our toys, to raising our gas prices, to hiding our keys (actually, it was China, OPEC and Gremlins respectively). And now, the candidates have no choice but to advocate easy-to-understand solutions that just end up making them look ridiculous.

The problem itself can be broken down into two parts: how to stop illegal aliens from coming into the country, and what to do with the



Jonathan Hanson

ones who are already here. For the problem of illegal entrance, candidates Rudolph Giuliani and Duncan Hunter have said they will "build a fence" (despite the fact most Latin-American countries possess advanced ladder technology) while others, such as Fred Thompson, have said they will "secure our borders and enforce the law" (whatever that means). In the end, no one has offered a real solution that involves tackling the economic roots of the problem, which involve Latin-American unemployment and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The second part of the problem can only be solved one of two ways: making illegal immigrants leave, or letting them stay. Since none of the candidates have advocated the mass deportation of 12 million illegal aliens (only because it's logistically impossible), the real question is the level of amnesty that should be afforded to them. And while the word amnesty is treated by the candidates with the same distaste normally reserved for the Clintons, none of them have suggested a practical solution that does not involve letting at least some of the immigrants remain in the country. The rest is in the details, with various plans concerning levels of government assistance, health care, scholarships, work visas, etc.

Yet to understand the overall predicament, I believe we should look at the reasons behind the sudden frenzy that has been worked up over illegal immigration. Some have claimed that fear of illegal aliens taking American jobs is just racism disguised as economics. While this may be true in some instances, I feel as though it is more an issue of cultural intrusion causing massive, low-level paranoia.

The current situation has been compared to the massive influx of immigrants from Europe during the early 20th century, and though there was apprehension and fear among established citizens about the number and class of the newcomers, there was no widespread effort made to secure Ellis Island. Perhaps one of the reasons for this is the new cultures coming into the country were diverse and numer-

ous, so Americans never felt their own culture was being affronted, dissolved or absorbed, but instead blending into a much larger melting pot.

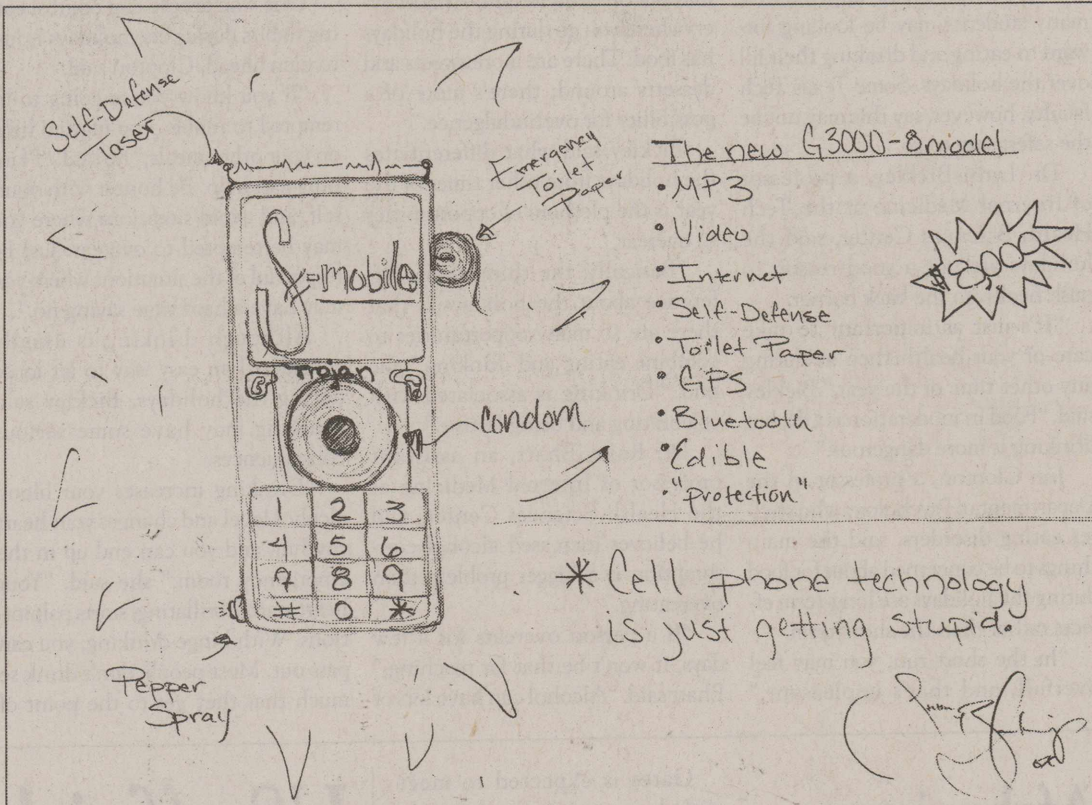
The current situation is much different in that there is a massive influx of immigrants from only one culture, tempting Americans to view them as an invading cultural force rather than an infusion of variety. On some level, this is understandable. When I was in elementary school, one of my Mother's duties in the PTA was to put announcements on the sign in front of the school. The same announcement went on both sides, sometimes causing shortages of letters. Recently, I drove past my old school and saw that one side now had the announcements in English, the other side in Spanish.

It is often easy to feel as though Americans are sometimes bending over backwards to accommodate Hispanic culture by translating English into Spanish. After all, when in Rome, shouldn't we do as the Romans do? I myself would never go to France and simply expect the French to speak English (though many Americans do, which is one of the reasons we're so well liked abroad). To do so would be the apex of rudeness.

However, pulling away culturally, and doing things such as declaring English to be the national language and building tall fences with moats will, on top of making us look foolish, only cause immigrants to do the same by pulling away from our culture, making them less likely to assimilate and foster an atmosphere of confrontation rather than incorporation. If we want immigrants to adapt to our culture, while at the same time adding elements of their own, we must stop treating them as outsiders coming to our country and start treating them as our countrymen.

If the 2008 candidates want any hope of actually solving the issue, rather than just using it to foster fear and galvanize voters, (terrorism just doesn't work like it used to), they will have to tackle the underlying problems that cause both the dilemma and the hysteria. If not, I hope there are plenty of legal American workers willing to build an enormous fence on the cheap.

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



Final BCS rankings fail again

STAFF EDITORIAL
OKLAHOMA DAILY (U. OKLAHOMA)

(U-WIRE) NORMAN, Okla. — Whew. The 2007 college football season has been a doozy, with more jaw-dropping upsets than we can count.

Both the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in the Bowl Championship Series rankings fell this weekend, further muddying up an already hazy national championship picture.

But apparently, the BCS computers — with all their fancy algorithms — spit out a title game that is, arguably, worth watching.

We say "arguably" because the question of who should participate in the championship game is (once again) the subject of heated debate.

With Ohio State and LSU edging out the competition, several teams are left with legitimate claims to the title game.

Consider Kansas, whose only loss came from former No. 1 Missouri. But the Jayhawks' failure to win the Big 12 and their weak strength of schedule throw a wrench into their case.

Then there's two-loss Georgia, which has impressive wins over SEC foes Florida and Auburn but also failed to win its conference championship.

PAC-10 champ USC finished the season strong but has only two

wins over winning teams. Virginia Tech won its conference, but it's hard to overlook its 41-point loss to LSU.

Oh, and don't forget undefeated Hawaii, which, despite playing a subpar schedule, is the only squad to survive the season unscathed.

Finally, there's OU.

At the risk of crying over spilled beer, the Sooners' thorough drubbing of No. 1 Missouri to win the Big 12 championship made a strong statement. Why shouldn't OU play for all the marbles?

Besides, were it not for OU redshirt freshman QB Sam Bradford's game-ending injury in the contest versus Texas Tech, OU would have been virtually guaranteed a place in the title game (though injury-stricken Oregon could make a similar argument).

It's in this situation — where several teams are genuine national title contenders — that the BCS has failed miserably time and again. For years, people have clamored for the BCS to be abolished and a playoff system to take its place.

Although a playoff would be ideal, it's a pipe dream as long as the powers that be are invested in a rigid bowl structure.

Money speaks louder than words. Words will likely remain the currency of the national title hunt. As long as seasons end in controversy, coaches will continue to lobby their cases in print and on the airwaves,

hoping to catapult their teams into the big game.

This year is no exception. Both USC coach Pete Carroll and LSU coach Les Miles called into ESPN's Sportscenter to chat up their squads after OU knocked out Missouri this weekend — a testament to the war of words the BCS inspires.

Unfortunately, this is the system we football fans have and are largely stuck with. But there are a couple of ways to improve the situation.

One method would be to require all conferences hold a championship game (only the Big 12, SEC and ACC currently do). As it stands now, comparing Big 12 champ OU to, say, USC is a bit like comparing apples to oranges.

Is OU the better team because it had to play an extra game? Is it fair to penalize USC because it did not? Having all teams play a conference championship game would clear up these questions.

Next, eliminating preseason polls and waiting until halfway through the season to start polling would help matters. Teams ranked highly in the preseason would no longer have an unfair advantage over lower-ranked teams. Performance, not hype, would dictate the final BCS rankings.

Making these changes would be relatively easy and have marked benefits. Ultimately though, they're just Band-Aids for a broken system. Short of a playoff, nothing is likely to satisfy fans or athletes.

It's OK if you don't know everything

Goodness gracious — the time is finally here. For many Texas Tech students only weeks remain until graduation. What are the overwhelming emotions expressed by these soon-to-be graduates? Relief and excitement.

Nearly everyone has heard someone say, "I can't wait to get out of this place." However, I think my fellow graduates should pause before jumping to this escapist conclusion.

As a reader, you're currently thinking, "Oh dear. This is going to be one of those 'think back and enjoy your memories' articles."

Wrong. Hate your memories and cherish your memories. Catalogue your darn memories. Honestly, what you do with them is completely up to you. However, do take a moment to remember them.

As commencement approaches, every graduate feels a tiny bit of nostalgia. College has been our safety net, our training world. Everything's mapped out for us in college. Our schedules are provided, our classes are structured, our food choices are limited but available, and our sports functions are meticulously planned.

Nothing is mapped out in the real world. The real world is hard core: it doesn't give extra credit opportunities. Graduating students have to at least feel a smidge of fear when forced to think about the unforgiving and un-caring real world awaiting them.

Is this fear bad? Certainly not. Fear is what pushes us to our limits. It's what makes us stronger — so, thank college for teaching us fear. I bet you hadn't reflected on that thought yet.

You might say, "I've feared nothing in college." Oh, my friends, yes you



Allison Griest

have. You're going to fail a test. You're going to get sick. You're going to get dumped. You're going to get caught. You're going to forget, or often times worse, you're going to remember.

Our friends and musicians Pat Green and Brad Paisley have some validity when they sing about our years in college being the best years of our lives. But, why? Maybe our years in college are our best years because they teach us about life. Hypothetically, college has taught us about a particular academic discipline, but we can never successfully employ our academic knowledge unless we know how to function in life.

So, good call Pat and Brad, we've "learned everything we need to know without ever gainin' knowledge," because college provides, "a time and place for just about everything."

Honestly, what haven't we experienced in college? We've had frustrating tests, bad group projects, hilariously ridiculous teachers, early morning fire alarms, campus flash floods, random snow storms, disgusting dust storms, priceless sports games, dramatic social moments, parties and formals. We're always going to remember these experiences, so why not do something with them?

Don't simply be nostalgic. Do something with your thoughts and "don't act like you know when you don't know. It's OK if you don't know everything." (Thanks for that, Ben Folds).

In his solo album, Ben Folds sings "Kids today gettin' old too fast, they can't wait to grow up so they can get some ass. They get nostalgic about the last 10 years, before the last 10 years have passed."

The real world is here — are you going to kick some ass? Will you fall flat on your face, meet an amazing person, win everything or lose everything? Everything's so blasted overwhelming.

Take the fear your college experiences have taught you, and use it to make yourself flexible. Fear has a way of influencing us. We either attack fear, like chasing a ridiculous thunderstorm, or we succumb to fear, like letting our friends convince us asking that person to dance really is a good idea.

If you're capable of deciphering between when fear is helpful and when fear is harmful, props to you.

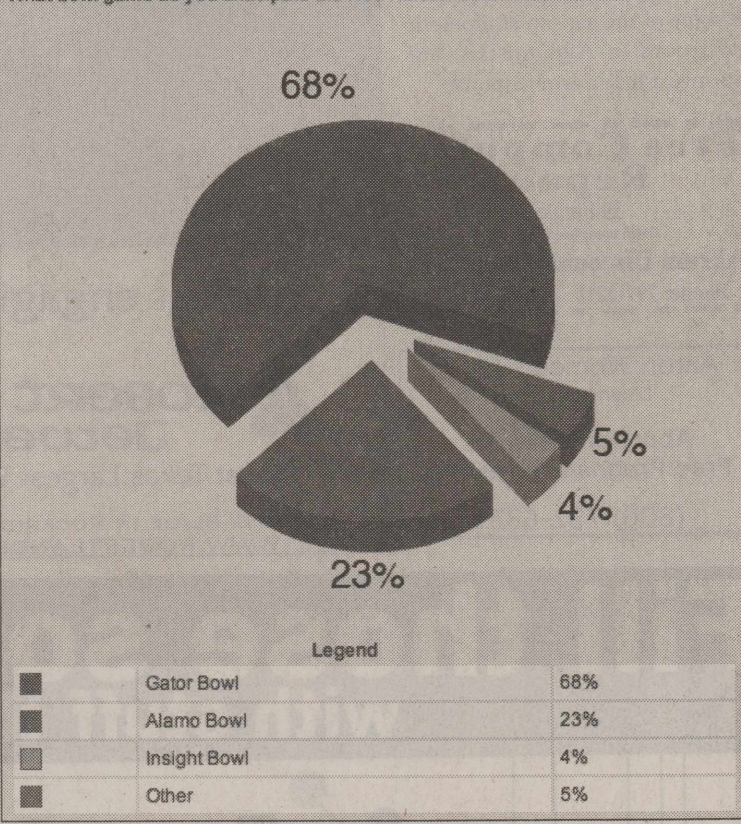
This means you can take what the real world throws at you and run with it.

What happens when we graduate? No one knows. Approach the real world with vigor and determination, and if the fear is too overwhelming, think back on college. Listen to the lyrics of the songs you used to blast in your car driving to a class, to a party, or to your hometown. Musicians write some poignant stuff. Turn to the music when you feel overwhelmed, and then pick yourself up and attack the fear you feel.

Fear the real world, and then dominate it.

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

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



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HEAD BANGING



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

PEJMON ABRARPOUR, A freshman mechanical engineering major from Houston, and Scott Fairdosi, a sophomore music education major also from Houston, practice for their upcoming auditions for the Drum and Bugle Corps Monday afternoon outside the Texas Tech Student Studies Center.

Unrelated to weather, cold sores spring up at wintertime

By GABRIELLE BLUESTONE
THE GW HATCHET
(GEORGE WASHINGTON U.)

(U-WIRE) WASHINGTON — As the winter months turn colder, all types of illnesses can start to appear. Cold sores, despite the reference to the outside temperature, have nothing to do with the weather.

Cold sores are small, painful and infectious blisters that appear on the outer lip, which are often triggered by physical or emotional stress, said Susan Haney, the outreach coordinator at George Washington University's Student Health Service. The virus enters the system orally or through breaks in the skin, she said, and often people feel an itching or tingling in the spot days before a cold sore occurs.

According to WebMD.com, the skin around the blisters is often red and inflamed and can break open to release a clear fluid. Nine out of 10 Americans have been exposed to the herpes simplex virus type one, known as HSV-1, which is the source of the viral infection. The antibodies to the virus can lay dormant, although it is not entirely understood what causes outbreaks.

Haney said cold sores are easy to diagnose. Most of the time, if it looks like a cold sore then it probably is a cold sore.

If you are unsure, she said there are blood tests that can be administered to test if the blister contains the antibodies to the herpes virus.

The appearance of a cold sore is largely unvarying, although the size and discomfort caused by the lesions can differ from person to person. Some canker sores (sores on the inside

of the mouth) can also be caused by HSV-1, Haney said.

HSV-1, which can be transmitted as easily as sharing a bottle of water, is incurable for those who have contracted the virus, but keeping your resistance up can help to keep away cold sores, Haney said.

But what can start as an innocent cold sore can quickly develop into something more than a blemish on the mouth.

"Even though it starts out as something we each have in our system, it can be transmitted genitally. If you perform oral sex, your partner can develop genital herpes," Haney said.

Only about 40 percent of those affected with HSV-1 have repeated cold sores after the first outbreak, according to WebMD.com. The initial outbreak is characterized by mouth soreness, fever, sore throat or swollen lymph glands.

5 U.S. artists honored by Kennedy Center for their careers

WASHINGTON (AP) — From "Good Vibrations" to "GoodFellas," Brian Wilson and Martin Scorsese scored. Steve Martin strutted as one

of the "wild and crazy guys." Diana Ross sang to Motown stardom. Pianist Leon Fleisher surmounted a debilitating injury.

Their contributions to American culture won them a visit Sunday to the White House and recognition by President Bush, followed by an evening of celebration at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. For their career achievements, the five were named in September as members of the 30th class of Kennedy Center honorees.

Robert De Niro, who starred in Scorsese's "Mean Streets," "Taxi Driver" and "Raging Bull," told the

director: "You still have the same passion, drive and intensity you had when we were starting out together. And as for me, well, I'm doing comedy. But don't worry, Marty — I still have enough misery in me for us to do a few more pictures together."

Steve Carell, star of NBC's "The Office," said: "I am in awe of Steve Martin. I admire his career. I respect him more than anyone, with the possible exception of

Martin Scorsese."

During the tribute to Ross, Ciara sang "I'm Coming Out," Yolanda Adams sang "Reach Out and Touch (Somebody's Hand)" and Vanessa Williams sang "Touch Me in the Morning."

Art Garfunkel described Beach Boys founder Wilson's music as "this unique crazy creation, a mix of rock 'n' roll and heartfelt prayer." Lyle Lovett sang the Beach Boys' "God Only Knows" and Hootie and the Blowfish performed "I Get Around."

Cellist Yo-Yo Ma told a story about hearing a recording, when he was in college, of Fleisher performing Brahms' first piano concerto. "That music is still seared in my memory," Ma said. Jonathan Biss, a one-time student of Fleisher's, joined the Peabody Conservatory Orchestra for a performance of Beethoven's Choral Fantasy.

Fleisher, 79, lost the use of his right hand for much of his career

because of a rare neurological disease but fought to return to two-handed playing.

The two-hour event will air Dec. 26 on CBS.

Recipients are cited for their excellence in the performing arts — dance, music, theater, opera, motion pictures or television — and selected by the center's board of trustees.

As he stood for photos in the White House East Wing, Fleisher told reporters he had gotten a classic dose of Martin's humor. The two saw each other as they left their hotel, and Martin joked to Fleisher, "I hope you win." Fortunately, unlike at the Academy Awards, the Kennedy Center honorees have no such worries.

Still, actor and comedian Martin Short gave his pal some ribbing. Asked what he thought about the Kennedy Center honor for Steve Martin, Short said: "It's fantastic. It's amazing what bribery will do."

TUESDAY		DECEMBER 4, 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 Scheduled: chef Laurent	The Early Show	Copeland Life Today	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	J. Hanna Paid Program	
8 AM	Super Why	Tourondet; "Blueprint" magazine presents hot-day gift wrapping. (HD)	The 700 Club	Awesome Eye	Lopez			
9 AM	Sesame Street		The Price Is Right	Divorce	Temptation	The View (HD)	The Morning Show	
10 AM	Barney	Jeopardy	Restless (HD)	Alex		Paid Programs	Tyra Banks Show	
11 AM	Caillou	Crosswords		Jerry Springer	Roseanne	One Life to Live	The People's Court	
12 PM	Sewing	News	Beautiful	Jerry Springer	Degrassi		Extra	
1 PM	Creative	Jeopardy	As the World	Jerry Springer	Roseanne	One Life to Live	The People's Court	
2 PM	Telelub	Crosswords	Guiding Light	Paid Programs	All of Us	General Hospital	Judge Mathis	
3 PM	Reading	Oprah Winfrey	Brown	Maury	Reba	Paid Prog.	Ellen DeGeneres	
4 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Insider	Rachael Ray	
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 Pizza temptation.	Rudolph (HD)	Christmas Glory	Beauty and Geek	Home Videos	Bones (HD)	
8 PM	Good to Great		NCIS "Sandblast"	Christmas	Reaper "Cash Out"	Jim (HD)	House "Airborne"	
9 PM	History Project	Law & Order: SVU	Victoria's Secret	Jim (HD)	Bernie	Boston Legal (HD)	News	
10 PM	Bus. Ppt	News	News	70s	Will (HD)	News	Two & 1/2	
11 PM	Charlie Rose	The Tonight Show	(3:35) Late Show	King	Will (HD)	Nightline	Sahelad	
12 AM	Destino	(3:35) Late Night Show	Late Late Show	Wife	Sex City	(06) ET	Friends	
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Cowboys LB James 'looking forward' to seeing Kitna on field

IRVING (AP) — Note to Jon Kitna: Dallas Cowboys linebacker Bradie James can't wait to see you Sunday.

That would be No. 56, which is how the Detroit quarterback referred to James instead of by name in some disparaging remarks in January. Those came after the Lions finished a three-win regular season with a victory over

the playoff-bound Cowboys.

"It has been circled on my calendar the whole year and here we are and I'm looking forward to it," James said Monday. "I thought it was classless... Yeah, they beat us, so what? It was over with. He was at home and we were still playing."

Kitna threw for 306 yards and four touchdowns in the Lions' 39-31 victory

at Texas Stadium last season.

His comments came the following week during an interview with a radio station in Seattle, where Kitna began his career from 1997-2000. That was also before the Seahawks played Dallas in the playoffs.

"We didn't feel like their interior linebackers were very effective," Kitna said during the interview.

"There were some times that we were watching on film before we played Dallas that we really felt like No. 56, sometimes I don't know that he knew where he was at." It wasn't until February that

someone called James and told him about Kitna's comments.

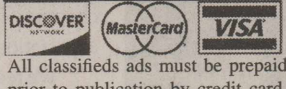
"He didn't say nothing before the game, then all of a sudden, we hear him saying something," James said. "I don't know him and don't want to know him, but he's going to get to know me. I'm going to talk before and back it up."

With a victory Sunday at Detroit, the Cowboys (11-1) would clinch their

first NFC East title since 1998. Still, James appears to be thinking more about Kitna.

"It's not in the back of my brain. It's on my brain," James said. "Just to hear a quarterback talking about another player, it breaks the code. We don't talk about each other. It's like a blindside. I was like, 'Where did that come from, and I don't even know the guy.'"

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SOUTH PLAINS Electric Cooperative is accepting applications for part-time office help. Duties include answering the phone, filing, data entry, Good computer skills required. Need someone to work 20 hours per week. Must be able to work Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1-5. Other hours flexible. Starting pay is \$6.50 per hour. You may apply in person at South Plains Electric Cooperative - North District Office located at 110 N. I-27 anytime from 8-5 M-F. EOE.

SOUTH PLAINS Electric Cooperative is accepting applications for part-time IT help. Must have excellent computer skills. This position will assist the IT Manager in setting up PC's, loading software and networking. Hours are flexible. Must be able to work at least 20 hrs per week. Starting pay is \$10 per hour for qualified person. You may fill out an application at our office located at 110 N. I-27. EOE

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2321 MAIN. Front house. 2/1. Appliances, hookups. December 18. \$550 water paid. Yard maintained. John Nelson Realtors 794-7471.

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2517 28TH. Tech Terrace. 3/2/2. Completely remodeled. 2 living areas + sun room w/wet bar. \$1195/month. 806-773-4311.

2604 21ST. 1/1. Stove, refrigerator, W/D connections. \$395. Wilson-Night Property Services. 797-2212. www.wilson-night.com.

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3 BEDROOM, 2 bath, 2 cars garage: 2325 77th Street. \$950/mo. Only 2 years old. Call Shawn 792-1859 or 239-6409.

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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.

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6812 HYDEN. 3 bed/2 bath all brick home with two car garage & fenced back yard. Available Jan 1st. \$950/mo. (806)790-9000.

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SPORTS

Gator Bowl officials explain choosing Tech for game



PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH QUARTERBACK Graham Harrell throws a football during the game against Oklahoma Nov. 17 at Jones AT&T Stadium. Tech will play in the Gator Bowl at noon on Jan. 1 in Jacksonville, Fla.

By ADAM COLEMAN
STAFF WRITER

Konica Minolta Gator Bowl officials have no regrets about choosing the Texas Tech football team and No. 21 Virginia for their bowl.

Officials made their way to Lubbock Monday to explain their reasons for choosing Tech and Virginia and their expectations for the game.

"We're thrilled to be here to extend an official invitation to Texas Tech to join us for the Konica Minolta Gator Bowl on Jan. 1," Gator Bowl chairman Kelly Madden said. "We're excited about the matchup. (Tech is) making (its) fourth appearance in the Gator Bowl, and we think it's going to be a great event. We're looking forward to having this wonderful team and their fans join us in Jacksonville on New Year's Day."

Gator Bowl officials said they chose the Red Raiders not only because of their ability on the field, but also the officials' desire for a Big 12 Conference

team to participate in the latest edition of the Gator Bowl.

Officials had the option of choosing teams from the Big East Conference or Notre Dame. With West Virginia making an appearance in last year's Gator Bowl, officials felt Tech and Virginia were the best teams to pick for this year's game.

"We took a Big East team last year," Gator Bowl president Rick Catlett said. "We were thinking that, obviously, it was time to do Big 12, so we were focused on the Big 12 for some time."

With Tech being one of the nation's leading offenses and Virginia's success on defense, the officials said they are excited to feature this particular matchup.

Tech's win against then-ranked No. 4 Oklahoma also pushed Gator Bowl officials to select the Red Raiders, as they were impressed with the spirit of the fans, Catlett said.

"The offensive firepower that this football team has, obviously, leading in a number of categories for the NCAA," he said, "putting them up against a

really strong defense is something we would really like to see. Our committee watched the Oklahoma game and saw the enthusiasm and excitement that (Tech) fans exhibited in that game to beat the champion of a conference. I think that was the clinching issue that made us really decide then that that's where we wanted to go."

Virginia's success on defense features a Cavalier team ranked No. 6 in the nation in sacks. All-American defensive end Chris Long, son of NFL Hall-of-Famer Howie Long, leads the team and is No. 3 in the nation with 14 sacks.

"I know his dad's Howie Long," Texas Tech quarterback Graham Harrell said. "Obviously, he's a great player. He's going to be a challenge for our offensive line, but we have some great big guys up there that I think will be up to the challenge."

Gator Bowl officials said they have enjoyed the accomplishments of the coaches involved with the game.

Catlett said Tech coach Mike Leach

has a personality he would welcome anytime.

"He's the kind of guy you want to be around, isn't he?, he said." "You're not worried about him sticking to the normal coaches' speak. He's going to say what he thinks. He's going to do what he thinks is best for his football team. It can get boring if it's not that way."

Konica Minolta representative James Norberto said he personally enjoyed watching the connection between Tech's Graham Harrell and Michael Crabtree.

"To see Graham throw the ball 70 times to Crabtree is something I take great delight in," Norberto said.

Gator Bowl officials also aim to attract fans by featuring events for fans to participate in leading up to the game. These events include fireworks shows and other events to help bring in the New Year.

The game is scheduled to start at noon on New Year's Day at Alltel Stadium in Jacksonville, Fla.

► adam.coleman@ttu.edu

Cougar hunting: Lady Raiders set to play Houston at home

By DANIEL YBARRA
STAFF WRITER

As each game goes by, the Lady Raider basketball team seems to become more comfortable with coach Kristy Curry's system, as well as with each other.

Coming off an 89-45 pounding of the Washington State Cougars, Tech (9-0) is off to its best start since the 2003-04 season, and only No. 3 Maryland (10-0) holds a better winning streak.

Curry said the record only matters when tournament time rolls around, other than that, she said she believes the Washington State game showed consistent improvement.

"I thought that this weekend was a really good win," she said. "The way we played was good, you can win and

not feel good about it. I think our kids have to walk away saying, "We really did some nice things. We were able to sustain momentum throughout the game. Our runs are longer. I'll be happy about (the record) in March."

Against Washington State, forward Stanecia Graham matched her season high with 19 points, and four players reached double-digit scoring for the sixth consecutive game.

Graham said she had an issue with coming off the bench at the beginning of the season, but she spoke with the coaches and realized how important her role is to the team.

"It's about my team," she said. "To me, it's not about starting anymore. I'm not going to lie, it was in my head at first, but now it's just go out there and help

the team win."

It was arguably Tech's best performance this season, out-shooting Washington State 57 percent to 21 percent from the field, and controlling the glass with a 48-31 rebounding advantage.

Most fast-tempo offenses in basketball have a point guard who fuels the offensive engine with good decisions and pinpoint passes. Maria Moore, who averages 8.8 points, five assists, and 3.3 turnovers per game, relentlessly provides a push throughout the game.

Moore had her best game of the season with a 10-point, nine-assist, six-rebound night. The 5-foot-5 transfer from the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, Idaho said Curry's system gets easier for her every time she steps on the court.

"It was difficult at first," Moore said of her transition from scorer to passer, "but now, I'm finally reading that people are going to learn that I will find them if they run the floor, and that's what we've been doing."

For the second time in as many games, Tech will play against a Cougar squad when Houston (2-6) rolls into town for a 7 p.m. tip-off today at the United Spirit Arena.

Tech won the 2006 meeting between the schools, 69-51, and holds a 33-13 series lead over UH.

Houston's interim head coach Danny Hughes said his Cougars possess equal talent to Tech's guards, but will need to play exceptionally well defensively in order to slow down the scoring of the Lady Raider post play,

which makes up 40 points of Tech's offensive production each game.

"Certainly, from our standpoint, I feel we've got just as good of athletes as (Curry) does in spots," he said. "Our ability to be able to hit shots is going to be a big factor in the game, and we're going to have to do a better job of defending down low. (Erin) Myrick, Stanecia Graham, and Dominic Seals all present a problem. They're different type matchups for us."

Hughes stepped in as interim coach when head coach Joe Curl suffered a heart attack on a recruiting trip prior to the start of the season.

Houston's backcourt includes one of the best offensive guards in the nation, Tye Jackson, who finished fifth

in the nation in scoring with 22.5 points per game in 2006-07.

This season Jackson averages 13.3 points and 4.2 rebounds per game, despite missing the last two games because of injury.

Jackson has a history with Curry — she played for the former Purdue coach as a freshman in 2004-05, but Curry said the Westfield High graduate from Houston got so homesick that she transferred to play for UH.

"She's a rhythm player," Curry said of the scorer. "She can get 30 before you blink."

Curry said she maintains a good relationship with Jackson and believes Jackson will suit up, even if she is still slightly injured.

► daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu

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