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(INSIDE)



ODDBALL DAILY

(INBRIEF)

STATE

Border residents worry about violence spilling over

HOUSTON (AP) — Deadly gun battles in two Mexican border cities last week left their sister communities in the Rio Grande Valley hoping that the brutal cross-border violence plaguing Nuevo Laredo for years had not spread downstream permanently.

Five people died in fierce firefights between suspected Gulf Cartel gunmen and Mexican troops and federal agents in Rio Bravo and Reynosa.

Those cities sit just across the Rio Grande from lucrative havens for so-called Winter Texans, setting the multi-billion dollar drug trade on a collision course with a growing tourism industry.

NATION

Veterans linked to killings in the U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — At least 121 Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans have committed a killing or been charged in one in the United States after returning from combat, The New York Times reported Sunday.

The newspaper said it also logged 349 homicides involving all active-duty military personnel and new veterans in the six years since military action began in Afghanistan, and later Iraq. That represents an 89-percent increase over the previous six-year period, the newspaper said.

WORLD

Iran to provide answers on nuclear questions

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Iran's leaders agreed to answer all remaining questions about their country's past nuclear activities within four weeks in talks with the U.N.'s chief nuclear inspector, his spokeswoman said Sunday.

The spokeswoman also said International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei received new information on Iran's "new generation of centrifuges" — a priority as the agency tries to establish how far advanced Iran is in developing the technology, which could be used in a weapons program.

DEATH TOLL

Iraq since fighting began

WEATHER

Today



SUNNY HIGH 55 **LOW 26**



SUNNY HIGH 59 **LOW 29**

INSIDE Classifieds.....9 Crossword.....6 La Vida.....7 Opinions.....4 Sports.....8

Bush: Iran threatens world security

By ANNE GEARAN ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — President Bush said Sunday that Iran is threatening the security of the world, and that the United States and Arab allies must join together to confront the danger "before it's too late."

extremists, undermines stability he said whose "time has come." in Lebanon, sends arms to the

sponsor of terror," Bush said in a oppressive practices. speech about democracy that he delivered about midway through his eight-day Mideast trip, which began with a renewed push for an Israeli-Bush said Iran funds terrorist Palestinian peace pact — an accord

Chiding U.S. allies who have you do not allow people to voice their

hardline Taliban regime, intimidates withheld civil liberties, Bush said legitimate criticisms." its neighbors with alarming rhetoric governments will never build trust by and defies the United Nations by harassing or imprisoning candidates for democracy in the Middle East refusing to be open about its nuclear and protesters. But his rebuke was that he made in his second inaugural "Iran is the world's leading state any U.S. partner in the region for few countries in the region — the to help make an Israeli-Palestinian

believe in the promise of a better future when they are jailed for peacefully petitioning their government," Bush said. "And you cannot stand up a modern, confident nation when controversial.

Bush's speech, reprising the call Emirates — where democracy has agreement stick. 'You cannot expect people to not been a vital issue. In other countries in the region, especially Egypt, the fight between democracy activists and autocratic governments has been much more pointed and

The president lauded some demo-

cratic reforms among Arab nations. He urged the Arab leaders to show support for the fragile Iraqi government, open their societies and progeneral, and he did not single out address, was delivered in one of the vide backing, and possible funding,

"Leaders on both sides still have many tough decisions ahead, and they will need to back these decisions with real commitments," Bush said, "but the time has come for a holy

IRAN continued on page 3

ENCE CAMPAIGN

Lubbock area Democrats kick off 2008 election season, consider potential candidates

By MAGGIE KIELY

campaign kick off Friday evening. Among the guests at the campaign kick

Student Democrats. math major from Levelland, said he organized about a few local candidates. the democratic student group because there was not one at the time and he wanted to sition are Ronnie R. Vasquez for Lubbock issues." make sure Democratic students could have County constable, Precinct 3; John Miller a part in the political process.

but also as normal citizens to be involved Flores for Lubbock County commissioner,

in civic life," he said. "I think we here Precinct 3. at Texas Tech, especially the Democratic feel like we are a part of the change."

Jordan Nightingale, a member of Tech Joshua Nuñez, a senior bio-chemistry and kickoff was beneficial in enlightening him ployees receive a just salary" last year.

"It's our responsibility not only as students cinct 1; and Ysidro Gutierrez and Gilbert

Miller said being a successful leader is a ocal Democrats came together to group, want to feel like we're contributing matter of wrong and right, and he would support candidates in the state-wide our part to the entire process. We want to refuse to take "a penny more than that job pays when I start in office."

Gutierrez said he would like to see state off were representatives of the Texas Tech Student Democrats and a graduate stu- employees receive a salary raise and "marched dent from Port Neches, said the campaign in the streets of Austin demanding state em-

"I'm a die-hard, yellow-dog Democrat," Among those running for a Lubbock po- Flores said, "and my concern is about county

County issues Flores said he wants to adfor Lubbock County commissioner, Pre-dress are Child Protective Services, Women's

DEMOCRATS continued on page 5



PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador JOE HEFLIN OF the Texas House of Representatives talks with Pamela Brink, a Lubbock resident who is running for County Chair over Precinct 28 during the democratic campaign kickoff.



PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador IGNACIO LOPEZ, a senior political science major from Midland, shakes hands with democratic candidate Baltasar Cruz, who is running for Justice on the Texas Supreme Court, Friday evening at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Towers.



PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreadon AMY MORALES, A senior policitcal science and history major from El Paso and a member of the Texas Tech Student Democrats, listens to Charles Dunn, who is running for Lubbock democratic chair.

Experts analyze U.S. economy's ability to survive strains

By JEANNINE AVERSA AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — The unemployment rate leaps to a two-year high, record Chairman Ben Bernanke pledged to lower week. "We are forecasting slow growth." numbers of people are forced from their homes interest rates as needed. and Wall Street nose-dives again. Such is the fallout from a housing meltdown that threatens to slingshot the country into a recession.

The big economic question these days is activity. whether the weakening economy will survive the strains or collapse under them.

The odds have grown that the economy will to avert a recession?" asked Brian Bethune, slip into a recession. At the beginning of last economist at Global Insight. "We think has climbed to around 50-50. Goldman Sachs, about it." the biggest investment bank on Wall Street even thinks a recession is inevitable this year.

Hopeful it can be avoided, President Bush Congress or the White House could agree on Bernanke since taking over the Fed nearly two and the Democrat-controlled Congress are and deliver an economic boost. exploring economic rescue measures, in-

"The recession gorilla is there. The question is can the Federal Reserve do enough

Much hope rides on the Fed. By drop-

The idea is to induce people to boost come this month. Many economists believe a public and investor confidence. spending, especially on big-ticket items such key rate, now at 4.25 percent, could fall by as to millions of consumers and businesses for January. many different types of loans.

Trying to put the fragile economy back ping rates, it can act quickly — faster than on firm footing is the biggest challenge for

years ago. His job requires a deft reading of the 'The Federal Reserve is not currently economy's vital signs and keen insights into cluding possible tax rebates. Federal Reserve forecasting a recession," Bernanke said last what makes people and businesses tick. It is their behavior that shapes the economy. And it is in Bernanke signaled that a rate cut would turbulent times that the Fed chief needs to bolster

Still, Wall Street is on edge. The Dow Jones as homes and cars, and revitalize economic much as one-half of a percentage point. Such industrials plunged nearly 250 points on Friday. a cut would lower the rates that are charged Also, consumer confidence tumbled in early

Bill Cheney, chief economist at John Han-Analysts predict the Fed will keep do- cock Financial Services, puts the odds of a ing that in the months ahead as part of a recession as high as 40 percent. "There are a year, many economists put that chance at less the odds are close to 50 percent that there campaign that started in September, when lot of headwinds and the economy probably has than 1-in-3; now an increasing number says it will be a recession. It is high — no question the central bank cut rates for the first time enough momentum to get through, but when things get rough, there are a lot of ways things

ECONOMY continued on page 5

Students learn importance of risk management

By MATT MCGOWAN STAFF WRITER

Approximately 260 representatives of Texas Tech's student organizations attended a risk management retreat Saturday at Tech's School of Law to learn about safe practices and behaviors as they pertain to college students and their potentially risky behavior.

This semester marks the fourth Clay R. Warren Memorial Risk Management Retreat, which is sponsored by the Center for Campus Life and funded in part by endowments from Mark and Freada Warren, a Plainview couple whose son, Clay, a Red Raider, died after an automobile accident

Mark Warren said the circumstances of his son's death prompted the couple to sponsor the retreat in an effort to educate Tech students about the risks involved with, but not limited to, alcohol consumption and possession, sexual abuse, hazing and travel.

"As we got more into the facts of the accident, we learned the accident was probably avoidable if we could have had some good risk management involved," he said. "We felt compelled to provide a program here at Texas Tech that would provide risk management communication and foundation."

Attendance at the event is manda-

tory for representatives of all student organizations at Tech, said Elizabeth Massengale, unit associate director for the Center for Campus Life. Recent state legislation requires institutions such as Tech to provide students with seminars addressing risk management

The event is hosted once during each semester, she said. This semester's attendance was significantly higher than the typical 115 students who have attended each event in the

The retreat, Massengale said, conveys important messages to students.

"Risk management is important," she said. "Think about your actions and the effects they could have, and take care of one another."

During Saturday's retreat, Massengale said representatives attended large-group sessions, after which they attended smaller sessions pertaining directly to their type of organization. The three types of specialized sessions were for general student organizations, sports clubs and fraternities/sorori-

Taylor Hutcherson, president of Tech's Interfraternity Council who attended the meeting, said the seminar is important for students for many reasons. Alcohol-related fatalities are very real threats to safety for Tech students. Proactively informing students

about the dangers involved with risky behaviors is vital from a health and wellness standpoint.

"It's something that we definitely need to be aware of and try to prevent as much as possible," he said. "Especially when you talk about safety, there is no higher priority."

how successful the seminars have been thus far, Mark Warren said he has little doubt the retreats have positively impacted attendees because they are required to fill out "solid" risk management plans for their organizations for. the upcoming semester, which is the first step toward taking action.

"Our hope is that it saves young >> matthew.mcgowan@ttu.edu

men's and young women's lives, or at least causes them not to experience any kind of accident," Mark Warren

Planning for safety greatly can reduce the risks inherent in many student activities, Freada Warren said. If safety is accounted for in the initial Although it is hard to evaluate stages of planning for an event, the risk factor is diminished greatly.

> "It occurred to us that students need to understand that there are consequences for their actions that they need to think about when they're planning things," she said. "We don't want to take the fun away. We just want it to be a safer environment."

Iraqi Shiite, Sunni politicians join to criticize Kurdish authorities over oil

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi lawmakers across a wide political spectrum chastised what they claim is overreaching by the Kurdish north, issuing a declaration Sunday opposing the self-ruled region's foreign oil deals and its ambitions in the disputed city of Kirkuk.

The declaration avoided mentioning the Kurdish government by name, but could create a new source of tension between Sunni Arab, Shiite and Kurdish groups, especially because a major Shiite party is now lobbying for the creation in southern Iraq of a self-ruled region modeled after the Kurdish one.

"There must be a formula for maintaining the unity of Iraq and the distribution of its wealth," said secular lawmaker Osama al-Nijifi, reading from the declaration at a news conference. "Oil and gas are a national wealth and we are concerned about those who want to go it alone when it comes to signing deals," he said.

The Kurds are a key group within the governing coalition and have been Washington's most reliable allies in Iraq. Since the ouster of Saddam Hussein they have forged a close relationship with the majority

But recent assertive acts by the Kurds, such as the refusal to fly the Iraqi national flag in the region, have irritated the Shiite-dominated government in Baghdad along with many Sunni Arabs. Many see such

threat to national unity.

Kurdish politicians are taking increasingly tough stands on the dispute over the fate of Kirkuk. Arab and Turkomen residents oppose the Kurdish claim to the city, 180 miles north of Baghdad.

There must be a formula for maintaining the unity of Iraq and the distribution of its wealth.

> - OSAMA AL-NIJIFI SECULAR LAWMAKER

A resolution of the Kirkuk dispute was supposed to have been reached by the end of 2007 with a referendum among its inhabitants on whether it should remain ruled by Baghdad or be annexed to Kurdistan. The deadline has been extended by six months, with a them. vote now expected before the end

Arab bloc, told the news confer-

gestures and the recent oil deals as a ence the declaration did not mean the creation of an ethnic Arab alliance opposed to Iraq's Kurdish minority. "We are working for the unity of the country and that takes precedence over anything else,"

The other major point of conten-

With a proposed national oil and gas law bogged down in dispute between the Kurds and the government over who has the final say in managing oil and gas fields, the Kurds have signed 15 production-sharing contracts with 20 international oil companies, most of them obscure.

Those contracts are considered illegal by the Iraqi Oil Ministry, which has threatened to exclude and blacklist participating international oil companies from future opportunities in other parts of Iraq.

The ministry has said it would stop all crude exports to South Korea if that nation proceeds with a deal last November between a stateowned consortium and the Kurdish

A spokesman for the Kurdish region, Jamal Abdullah, said Sunday the contracts are legal and that no one has the authority to annul

"We are going forward to develop this sector to serve our people, and Saleh al-Mutlaq, leader of anyone who has any complaint parliament's second largest Sunni should file it to the federal court,' he told The Associated Press.

Repairs to Blackwater vehicles could complicate Baghdad shooting inquiry

WASHINGTON (AP) -Blackwater Worldwide repaired and repainted its trucks immediately after a deadly September shooting in Baghdad, making it difficult to determine whether enemy gunfire provoked the attack, according to people familiar with the government's investigation of

Damage to the vehicles in the convoy has been held up by Blackwater as proof that its security guards were defending themselves against an insurgent ambush when they fired into a busy intersection, leaving 17 Iraqi civilians dead.

U.S. military investigators initially found "no enemy activity involved" and the Iraqi government concluded the shootings were

The repairs essentially destroyed evidence that Justice Department investigators hoped to examine in a criminal case that has drawn worldwide attention. The Sept. 16 shooting has strained U.S. relations with the Iraqi government, which wants Blackwater expelled from the country. It also has become a flash point in the debate over whether contractors are immune from legal consequences for their actions in a of the case.

Blackwater's four armored vehicles were repaired or repainted within days of the shooting, and before FBI teams went to Baghdad to collect evidence, people close to the case said. The work included repairs to a damaged radiator that Blackwater says is central to its defense.

The damage and subsequent repairs were described to The Associated Press by five people familiar with the case who discussed it in separate interviews over the past month. All spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity

Second body found in search for 4 kids thrown from bridge

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — A Luong to report them missing Monday The search resumed Sunday mornsecond body was recovered Sunday evening. in the search for four children allegedly thrown from a coastal bridge by their father, the sheriff said.

team near where a duck hunter found west of the bridge in a marshy area on Island bridge." and mechanic and as Saturday, said Mobile County sheriff's Sgt. Jerry Taylor.

The search for the children to 3 years — began Tuesday near were unable to get to the location. after an argument with his wife. Luong, confessed.

The children's mother, 23year-old Kieu Phan, had gone with

"The inevitable nightmare we have feared has now been confirmed," the body of an infant about five miles threw these children off the Dauphin without parole.

expanded the search zone westward that the strong currents may have moved the bodies in that direction. Friday.

Luong, 37, a shrimp boat worker who lives in Irvington, was being Mobile County Sheriff Sam Cochran held without bond on four counts of The body was found by a search said Saturday. "We believe, certainly capital murder. If convicted, he could now, that the father of these children be sentenced to death or life in prison

District Attorney John Tyson Jr. Cochran said searchers using sonar said Luong had confessed to throwtechnology saw images Friday that ing Ryan Phan, 3, Hannah Luong, 2, they believed were three bodies, but Lindsey Luong, 1, and Danny Luong, 4 ranging in age from a few months the currents were so strong the divers months, off the three-mile-long bridge

the mouth of Mobile Bay after Divers re-entered the water Satur- Luong later recanted, claiming prosecutors said the father. Lam day and worked until darkness forced two Asian women took the children them out of the water without finding and never returned them. But a witthe other three bodies. Authorities ness saw Luong on the 80-foot-tall two-lane bridge with the children, toward Pascagoula, Miss., believing and another saw him leave the area without the children, Cochran said

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The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid? - Psalm 27:1 NKJV

<u>Daily Proverbs</u> 1/14 - Pr.14:1, 1/15 - Pr.15.1, 1/16 - Pr. 16:1 1/17 - Pr.17:1, 1/18 - Pr.18:2

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Baghdad gallery owner wages personal war for artists

be a casualty of war.

painting or sculpture being sold. The gallery's cafe — once a noisy telligentsia - now sees just a few good. hardy regulars.

BAGHDAD (AP) — By all were a gift from a friend in his native troupes, from abandoning Baghdad rights, the Hewar art gallery should Anbar province to the west. They during the years of fighting and grazed on weeds and hedges outside upheaval. Months go by without a single the gallery in north Baghdad's Waziriyah neighborhood.

meeting ground for Baghdad's in- Sabti from locking the doors for could someday return and the dis-

It's part stubbornness, part nos-The owner's balance sheet shows talgia and a dash of belief that, just rather than the latest troubles. losses of up to \$400 a month — a maybe, better times are ahead — the sum considered a good monthly same recipe that kept a handful of other cultural guardians, such On the plus side: three sheep that as book sellers, poets and theater crossroads in Iraq.

Now, with violence on the wane, the city's struggling artist commu-But something keeps Qassim nity looks for signs that their patrons cussions in the coffee houses could

Sabti's gallery is a bellwether.

perhaps the best known cultural

sein in 2003, the two-story building the sectarian bloodletting. became the main salon for debates and exhibitions basking in the heady freedoms that were long bottled up are out of Iraq. by the regime.

But as the insurgency took hold in Baghdad, the gallery's fate miragain be about their latest works rored the rest of the capital. People with some savings left for Syria from childhood polio. or Jordan. Checkpoints and blast The Hewar, or Dialogue, is walls rose up in the gallery's neighborhood. Sunni and Shiite artists

After the fall of Saddam Hus- - took pains to avoid discussing he sighed.

Sabti estimates at least 70 percent of Iraq's artists and intellectuals

"My gallery, like Baghdad, is under siege," said the silver-haired Sabti, a Sunni Arab married to a

But Sabti, 54, has not stopped since 2003. "The Iraqis kept com-— bound by lifetime friendships ing but none can afford to buy art,"

Sabti arranges for financial support to artists from an association of painters he runs, and some of the artists who exhibit at Hewar have taken advances against the future sale of their work. Dozens of pieces are stored in back rooms under a Shiite. He still walks with a limp layer of dust — like the rows of empty chairs in the gallery's top floor where young people occasionorganizing exhibitions — 29 in all ally take music and painting classes funded by a private U.S.-based

Sicilian businessmen defying the Mafia in rebellion shaking Cosa

PALERMO, Sicily (AP) — When could always count on fear.

No more.

In a rebellion shaking the Sicilian Mafia to its centuries-old roots, businesses are joining forces in refusing to submit to demands for protection money called "pizzo."

And they're getting away with it, threatening to sap an already weakened crime syndicate of one of its steadiest sources of revenue.

it came down to business, Cosa Nostra back from defeat, but this time it is up Maurizio De Lucia, who has investigated against something entirely new: a Web extortion cases for years. "If it works, we site is still tiny compared to Palermo's site where businessmen are finding safety will have a great advantage in the fight in numbers to say no to the mob.

> At the same time, businessmen ranging from neighborhood shopkeepers cesses in the fight to break Cosa Nostra's to industrialists are being emboldened discovery in raids of meticulous Mafia by testimony from turncoats, who helped bookkeeping on who paid the "pizzo"

"This rebellion goes to the heart down a decade later after bombs killed Mafia by signing on to a Web site called

The Mafia has a history of bouncing of the Mafia," said Palermo prosecutor two Palermo anti-Mafia prosecutors. against the Mafia.'

These latest gains build on other sucstranglehold on Sicily. In the last two by arrests of fugitive bosses, and the decades, the syndicate has been battered send hundreds of mobsters to prison in the late 1980s, and a fierce state crack-

The number of rebels on the Web businesses overall, but their movement conditioned to believe that defiance would bring ruin or a death sentence. And any consistent crumbling of that culture of fear could ultimately lead to Cosa Nostra's undoing.

The businesses are openly defying the

"Addiopizzo" (Goodbye Pizzo), which brings together businesses in the Sicilian capital that are resisting extortion.

The campaign was launched in 2004 has helped to chip away at the Mafia's by a group of youths thinking of openpsychological hold on Sicilians — long ing a pub. They started off by plastering Palermo with anti-pizzo fliers, reading "An ENTIRE PEOPLE WHO PAYS THE PIZZO IS A PEOPLE WITHOUT DIGNITY," and eventually brought their campaign online where it struck a profound chord with Sicilians fed up with Mafia bullying.

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Iran

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

land where Palestinians and Israelis

live together in peace." He called on the Palestinians to reject extremists, although he did not specifically mention the Islamic radicontrol of the Gaza Strip.

"The dignity and sovereignty that danger before it is too late." is your right is within your reach," Palestinians.

On Iran, Bush is privately trying to allay the concerns of Persian Gulf allies nervous about Iran's military might and spreading influence. Gulf allies are jittery after the Jan. 6 confrontation between U.S. and Iranian naval vessels off their shores, but seek assurance that Bush doesn't want war. Any attack on Iran could bring retaliation against military bases on Arab were preparing to open fire.

soil or choke the lucrative oil trade through the Strait of Hormuz.

"Iran's actions threaten the security of nations everywhere," Bush said, calling on the Iranian government to make itself more accountable to its citizens. "So the United States is strengthening our long-standing security commitments with our friends cal group Hamas, which has gained in the Gulf, and rallying friends around the world to confront this

Earlier Sunday in Bahrain, Bush said in a direct appeal to the U.S. Vice Adm. Kevin Cosgriff, commander of the U.S. Navv's 5th Fleet, which patrols the Gulf, told Bush that he took it "deadly seriously" when an Iranian fleet of high-speed boats charged at and U.S. Navy convoy passing near Yemen in October 2000. Iranian waters.

The Iranian naval forces vanished as the American ship commanders

he had a breakfast of pancakes and end to end and has a 1.3 kilometer bacon with troops of the U.S. 5th Fleet based in Bahrain.

"The media may be free to second-guess the military decision, but his (Bush's) captains are not and they take it very seriously," White House press secretary Perino told reporters in Arabic clothes — white robes aboard Air Force One en route to and headdresses for men and black the United Arab Emirates. "They abayas, many with jeweled edges, have deliberate and measured ways to engage other traffic there in the Strait of Hormuz, which they did. But all the military people remember what tion to seed democracy around the happened in the past, such as the globe — the president declared: USS. Cole ... The vice admiral said they take it deadly seriously."

threatened to blow up a three-ship terrorist attack on the USS Cole in peace and stability."

Bush spoke at the Emirates Palace, at an opulent, gold-trimmed country, the Emirates, where an hotel where a suite goes for \$2,450 a night. Built at a cost of \$3 billion, all the decisions.

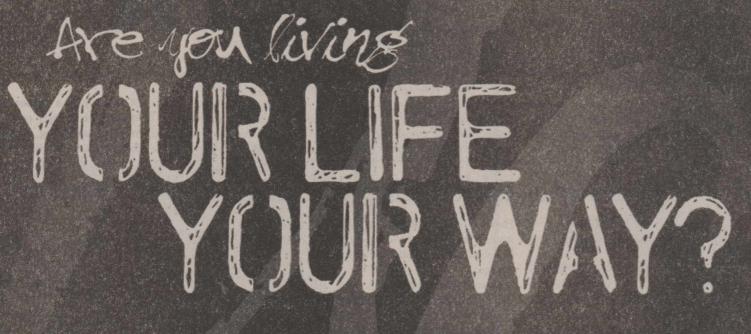
Bush spoke with Cosgriff after the hotel is a kilometer long from white sand beach — every grain of it imported from Algeria, according to Steven Pike, a spokesman at the U.S. Embassy here.

> Half the audience was dressed in western attire and the other half In renewing his "Freedom

Agenda" - Bush's grand ambi-"We know from experience that democracy is the only system of Seventeen sailors were killed in a government that yields lasting

Yet he was speaking about democracy in a deeply undemocratic elite of royal rulers makes virtually





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OPINIONS

Writers? We don't need no stinking writers

hen the Writers Guild of America went on strike, I'm sure it was with the hope that all television would come to a dead stand-still, forcing the networks to air re-run after re-run thus angering the general audience and winning the writers' public relations overestimated their usefulness.

Though a strike puts them in their writers. a pinch, the networks aren't the only ones that suffer during a strike. didn't mention nightly they were Nightly television shows depend on a small army of cameramen, cue card holders, makeup artists, producers, directors, security guards, electricians Daly, Jimmy Kimmel, David Letterand a slew of others to make their man, Craig Ferguson, Jon Stewart shows watchable. However, when a and Stephen Colbert all returned to one is suddenly out of work.

www.popculturecomics.com © Doug Bratton 2008



battle against the major studios and claimed solidarity with the Writers forced to go back on the air without

The interesting thing is, if they doing shows without their writers, I doubt whether anyone would notice. Jay Leno, Conan O'Brien, Carson the exception of Daly, who was never And so, while they still profunny to begin with — all have been

can return with their writers).

little hot water with the Guild.

Before the shows' returns, it was strike shuts down production, every- their late-night spots, and — with widely assumed that because their giving us a glimpse of what TV is the public a greater appreciation for science major from Plano. Ewritten opening pieces were smaller like without them — for only a small their comedic talent and gifts that mail him at jonathan.hanson@ parts of the program, the network piece of the DVD pie, no less — is ex- have been diluted for so long.

at the top of their games, despite shows could rely more heavily on pose themselves as a bunch of having to write most of the show their interviews with celebrities, already-overpaid Ivy-Leaguthemselves (though Letterman and while Stewart and Colbert — having ers who are basically the Ferguson recently made a deal so they mostly written material and only one frosting on the host's guest - would be screwed. However, cake. Without I think the mistake the writers much the opposite has proven to be them, the made was fooling themselves into true. Though the shows' opening acts hosts have believing they were somehow the have been at their strongest in years, been able brains behind these shows. It seems so A-List celebrities — not wanting to to expand corporations. It's only a shame they Guild, the nighttime TV hosts were blatantly obvious now that the writ- look as if they've "crossed the line" themselves ers exist not for the creative edge they — have been hesitant to appear on creatively offer or the satire they can deliver, but the network shows, forcing them to because they no longer for the convenience of the host. Even invite C-list guests such as Howard are able to use the writers as a crutch, of new episodes to air, it does give the Leno and Conan, whose monologues Stern, Hulk Hogan and (God help feeding their bosses silly one-liners public a taste of what the late bit of have never been the strongest aspects us) Howie Mandel, while Stewart and Britney Spears jokes. By hosting of their shows have, if anything, and Colbert, who don't rely on big- and writing the show on their own, And other than having to endure the improved their acts by writing their name celebrity guests, have thrived the late night crowd has reminded us constant mentioning of the strike, I own material — getting them into a by inviting authors, politicians and why they were hired by the networks couldn't miss them less. so forth.

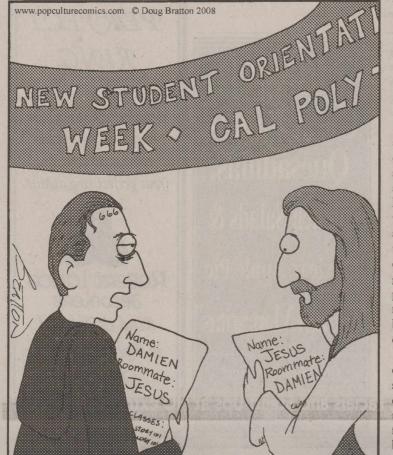
What the writers have done by and wit as purely their own has given Hanson is a senior political

sion, which quickly is running out TV would be like without the writers. in the first place. Seeing their humor

Though this example of a world

without writers may not ex-

tend to prime time



"I'm not sure our fathers would approve of this little arrangement."

GOP needs John McCain

By NATHAN DIXON INDIANA DAILY STUDENT (INDIANA U.)

considering myself slightly leftmuch more engrossed by the race is a real threat. for the Republican presidential nomination.

frontrunner, I have often wondered the John McCain of 2000. In an if there was a candidate up to the effort to secure the 2008 nominatask of saving the party after it had

McCain was one of the few Republican critics to speak out about the current administration when it mattered.

failed at all the important tasks of governing. John McCain has continued to catch my eye.

Part of his appeal to me goes back to his reputation as a maverick stateslina primary in 2000. The man was, on the Republican Party. If blaming president. 9/11 on gays and lesbians doesn't ance," I'm not sure what does.

He also spoke out against torture, the growing corruption of lobbyists and the logic of trying (U-WIRE) BLOOMINGTON, to secure Iraq without enough Ind. — I must be honest. Despite troops on the ground. He was right across the board. He was even of-center and usually favoring the one of the few Republicans to Democratic Party, I have been acknowledge that global warming

That isn't to say McCain is perfect. In my more nostalgic In a race still lacking a clear moments, I wish I could root for tion, the "Straight Talk Express" has moved to appease many of the groups he previously offended.

> He spoke to many radical evangelical moralist groups and offered them his sympathy. He never really got the Bush administration to clearly define what torture is and isn't, making it impossible to ban. He's even become a believer in voodoo economics by subscribing to the (incorrect) notion that Bush's tax cuts actually raised more revenue.

I am also not thrilled about his foreign policy. I am glad he called for more troops in Iraq initially. After all, while I was against the war, if it had to happen it should have been done right. But now hardly seems like the time to massively increase our troop presence. He is certainly less apocalyptic man, as well as a feeling that he was than Rudy Giuliani, but, much horribly wronged in the South Caro- to my dismay, the compliments McCain offers "America's Mayor" in my opinion, quite frank about the lead me to wonder if Giuliani is influence of people like Jerry Farwell McCain's likely choice for vice

This is not an endorsement of qualify you as an "agent of intoler- McCain for president. When the general election comes around, McCain was one of the few Re- it's more than likely I will send publican critics to speak out about my liberal vote toward the Demothe current administration when it crats. This is, however, an affirmattered. He questioned the logic mation that the man deserved to of the Bush tax cuts because he was win New Hampshire, that he best skeptical about whether spending represents the individualistic and would be reined in. Not only was free-enterprising part of his party spending not reduced, it was in and that he deserves the Repubfact increased, which led to huge lican nomination for President of the United States.

Catch the bouquet, assure happiness

ast week, I was invited to a wedding as someone's strict-Iy-platonic date, and I was able to be an objective observer of one of western society's most sacred traditions. This experience allowed me to finally verify what I have thought since I was about 12 years old. The bouquet toss is the absolute most important event at the wedding. Forget the exchange of vows; I have now resolved to go to every wedding with the sole ever man will have me.

I only have been fortunate enough to catch this holy grail of single women and bridesmaids evto my mother's chagrin.

However, my sister soon grew

"be happy without a man" phase.

Fortunately, my sister was aware of my silly notions of being content with my friends, family and education, and she for the fact that boudecided to help me out. Forgoing the quet-catching is too purpose of catching the bride's over-the-shoulder tradition of throw-dangerous and contains flowers to guarantee my happiness ing the bouquet, she turned around, more violence than a by forever binding myself to what- looked me in the eye and chunked Quentin Tarantino movthe bouquet at my chest. Now I look back at the incident, I believe it was my hesitance that ing classes in anticipation has delayed my matrimonial — and of the next wedding I will

erywhere twice in my life, and both general — happiness. From now attend. That way, if any of times, I thank my big sister. The on, I will try with extreme fervor to those tacky dressed bridesfirst time, she dodged the flowers catch every bouquet that comes my maids tries to take the prize because she was in that silly phase way until my prince comes to me on of the wedding from me, I can of her life where she didn't want his white horse to sweep me off my simply show her my left hook. to get married. "Why get hitched feet. Unfortunately, my mother and I am searching for a wrestling when you are happy being single?" silly notions of planning a career coach to help me with the was her mentality. The flowers and letting life and love take care wrangling of the bouquet, and then landed in my hands, much of themselves have hindered my playing catch everyday is the progress in the pursuit of the roses. My mother would not allow me to out of her silly independent phase participate in bouquet tosses until and decided to pursue the true road after I was 18 years old. She never to happiness by getting married to said the words, "I forbid you to grab a handsome young man. At the those flowers," but her body blockmentality, because I was in my enough to prevent my participation. they make me taller, but I can use melissa.k.medley@ttu.edu.

I guess she thought I was too young what I have learned from other to start thinking about marriage, but bridesmaids to subtly stab someone everyone-knows the only way to be with the shoes before or after the happy is to have a spouse and the sooner, the better.

My previous experience with the stubbornness to not catch the bouquet also has

made me out of practice for what would be an Olympic sport, except

I'm starting to take boxmost important preparation for my future. I have forgone studying showed me that higher education

because I need to obtain something is a means to great man. more important than knowledge.

Investing in a pair of heels is another important preparation I reception, I was not of the correct ing me from the crowd of girls was have undertaken. Not only will

toss, depending on my perception of my competition and whether or not I need to get the bouquet after the toss.

> Some might think this tradition is a bit barbaric, but it is all perfectly acceptable behavior at a wedding. I am excited about this year because 100 of my closest friends will be married by August, so I will be able to secure the bouquet during at least one of these gatherings and, soon afterwards, a man. If I don't meet a man at the wedding, I can always meet him at whatever medical or graduate school I find myself in August. Some see higher education as a means to great career and knowledge, and I used to be in that class. But the clarity that hit me at the wedding I went to

■ Medley is a senior cell and molecular biology and Spanish major from Spring. E-mail her at

Harvard leads tuition remedy

THE LANTERN (OHIO STATE U.)

(U-WIRE) COLUMBUS, Ohio — The price to attend before. In the past decade, tuition has risen by at least 5 percent a year -- a rate almost twice that of inflation. A recent decision by Harvard University helps put this into perspective. Harvard announced that families with incomes of less than \$180,000 will pay no more than 10 percent of their annual income on tuition. Previously, the school instituted a policy allowing families with incomes of less than \$60,000 to pay nothing to attend.

many of the world's most successful and influential people, the school is one of the most respected in

Harvard is making changes like this, it seems pretty clear that there exists a problem with the affordability of

Many might wonder why policies college is higher today than ever such as this aren't more common. If tuition can be reduced at a place such as Harvard, why can't it be reduced at schools across the country? The answer is found in endowment funds. Schools such as Harvard have massive, multi-billion dollar endowment affordable tuition while the majorfunds that can be used to significantly ity of other schools, both public schools avoid the problem is not lower tuition costs. Unfortunately, many schools do not have this luxury, at least not to the same degree. In a tuitions to become more affordrecent New York Times interview, William Durden, the president of and with recession looming, it Dickinson College, was very honest doesn't appear the economy is Keep in mind this is Harvard about the difficulties many schools going to be the catalyst for that we're talking about. Connected to will face. Durden noted that "a lot of change. With that in mind, it's us are going to be under huge pressure up to Congress to fix the problem to do things that we just can't do."

the world. When a school such as seems wealthier schools such as ing is allocated to higher education

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and private, will lag behind.

In order for American college able, something needs to change, of rising college tuition. Congress Assuming Durden is right, it must ensure that additional fund-

Harvard will be able to offer more in order to reduce tuition costs. Standing by while only a few

an acceptable response. Many people in this country are negatively affected by the current college tuition situation and if things continue to progress as they have for decades, the situation will only get worse. Tough choices will have to be made with respect to budgeting in the near future but there can be no mistake: Making college more affordable needs to be a top priority in America.

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Economy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

could go wrong," Cheney said.

The fear is that people will clamp down on the spending and businesses will put a lid on hiring and capital investment, sending the economy

By one rough rule of thumb, a recession occurs when there are two consecutive quarters — six straight months — when the economy shrinks.

The National Bureau of Economic Research, the recognized arbiters for dating recessions, uses a more the final three months of last year Sept. 11 attacks.

March and ending in November.

Tax rebates aimed at stimulating recession short and mild.

The current housing slump, made worse by a credit crunch, is weighing to 5 percent in December from 4.7 heavily on economic activity.

complicated formula. It takes into ac- and will be weak in the first part of count such things as employment and 2008. Consumers, whose spending is income growth. By that measure, the indispensable to a healthy economy, last recession was in 2001, starting in are expected to have tightened their

High energy prices, weaker home the economy were part of Bush's \$1.35 values that make people feel less trillion in tax cuts in 2001. They were wealthy, and a deteriorating jobs marcredited with helping to make the ket all figure into more caution on the

The unemployment rate jumped percent, fanning recession fears. It Upcoming reports are expected to was the biggest one-month gain since show the economy grew at a feeble October 2001, during a time of massive pace of just 1.5 percent or less in layoffs in the travel industry after the

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Democrats

Protective Services and the juvenile District.

Nuñez said the candidates impressed him.

"I think that all have a lot of potential," he said. "It is exciting to congressman. think about the future of not only Lubbock but the entire district, the Texas district, and even the U.S."

Nuñez and Nightingale both said they were impressed with the speech given by Art Hall, one of the candidates running for Texas Railroad Commissioner.

Hall, a Lubbock native, said he grew up in a disadvantaged home where he learned early that hard work pays off.

He said environmental issues are very important to him, and as commissioner, he would work to protect the environment.

"If you're ashamed that if Texas were a nation, we'd be the seventh largest polluter in the world," he said, "the railroad commission matters."

Dale Henry, was unable to attend Republican."

the function.

Nightingale said another candirepublican. date who struck his fancy was Rufus Mark, running for U.S. Congress, 19th

Mark, a Tech Health Sciences Center faculty member, said the health care system, education and energy policies would be among his top concerns as a

A proponent of nationalized health reason some people are against such senator, he would be the first career an idea is because they believe innovation cannot come from a country with nationalized health care.

"Not true. In Europe, every single nation operates under a national health care system," he said. "Who proved chemotherapy can cure early stages of breast cancer? The Italians."

Dwight Fullingim is running as Mark's Democratic opponent for the 19th District seat.

"The goal of my campaign is first of all connect with you, the Democrats," Fullingim said. "I think that what we're looking at is a country that is puzzled right now, and I'm trying to think it through as to how we're going to appeal Hall's Democratic opponent, to the people who are used to voting

Nightingale said he used to vote

"I've had a change of heart," he said. "I believe strongly we need to get out of the Iraq war, and we need change in

our country." Another candidate who said he agrees that troops should be pulled out of Iraq is Ray McMurrey, running for

U.S. Senate. McMurrey said he has a plan to insurance, Mark said he believes the withdraw troops within a year. As

> teacher elected. His opponent, Rick Noriega, was unable to attend the kickoff.

Other candidates attending the kickoff included Joe Heflin for Texas House of Representatives, 85th District; Baltasar Cruz for Texas Supreme Court, Place 7; and Susan Criss and Linda Yañez for Texas Supreme Court,

"I think that this election cycle, because of what's going on at the national level, is going to have some serious implications at the state level," Nuñez said. "I think people will come out to

vote who otherwise wouldn't have." The Texas primaries are scheduled

mag8240@hotmail.com

Lawmakers agree to bill reinstating ex-supporters of Saddam

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's parliament passed a benchmark law Saturday allowing lower-ranking former members of Saddam Hussein's Baath party to reclaim government jobs, the first it has adopted.

Traveling in Manama, Bahrain, President Bush hailed the law as "an important step toward reconcilia-

tion." "It's an important sign that the leaders of that country understand that they must work together to meet the aspirations of the Iraqi people," he said.

The seismic piece of legislation had been demanded by the United States since November 2006 and represented the first legislative payoff for Bush's decision to deploy 30,000 additional troops to the country to quell violence.

In announcing the troop buildup more than a year ago, Bush said it would

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ing space" to begin tackling legislation were fired after 35 years of Baath designed to reconcile Iraq's Shiite and party rule. Sunni Arabs as well as Kurds.

Other benchmarks languish, though, including legislation to divvy 2003, had effectively stripped key govmajor piece of U.S.-backed legislation up the country's vast oil wealth, constitutional amendments demanded by the Sunni Arabs and a bill spelling out rules for local elections.

> many former Baathists would benefit that took root in the late summer of from the new legislation, titled the 2003, under the leadership of ousted Accountability and Justice law. But Sunni Baathists who sought venthe move was seen as a key step in the geance against what they saw as their reconciliation process.

> Before the party was outlawed the first official act of L. Paul Bremer's marily from the Sunni Muslim com-Coalition Provisional Authority — its munity, reflecting Saddam's sectarian membership was estimated at between base — a minority in Iraq. Because 2 million and 6 million.

called de-Baathification rules meant dam era depended on Baath Party that many senior bureaucrats who membership, majority Shiites also knew how to run ministries, univermade up a large portion of the party provide the Iraqi government "breath- sity departments and state companies rank-and-file.

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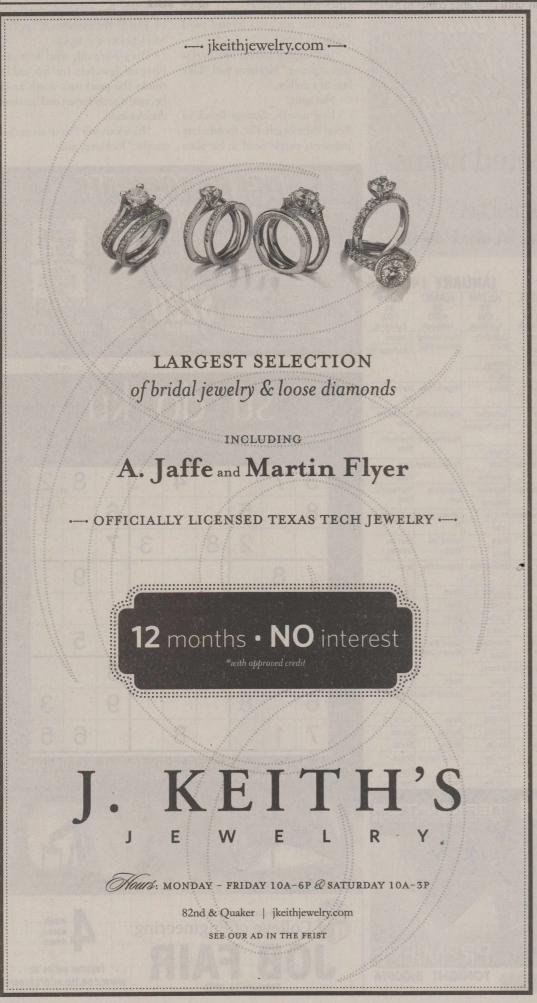
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Bremer's Coalition Provisional Authority order No. 1 of May 16, ernment ministries, the military and top economic institutions of centuries of cumulative experience.

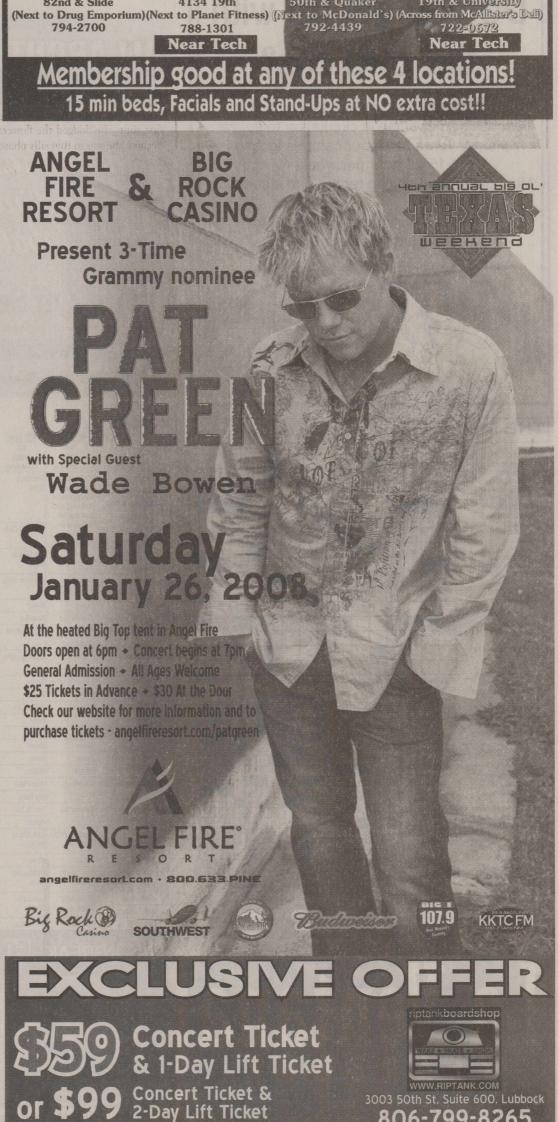
The order also was blamed for fuel-It was not immediately clear how ing the Sunni-dominated insurgency American tormentors.

The leadership cadres drew priadvancement in government and The strict implementation of so-professional circles during the Sad-









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Police: Suspect in slain N.C. Marine case spotted in Louisiana and may be headed to Texas

- The key suspect in the brutal examiner's office in Chapel Hill slaying of a 20-year-old pregnant for a formal identification. Marine was spotted in Louisiana and could be headed into Texas, time after Dec. 14, not long after would be a dangerous and violent authorities said Sunday.

Laurean was seen getting on or that Laurean raped her. Naval inoff a Greyhound bus in Shreveport, La., Saturday night, said case was progressing and Laurean Shreveport police Chief Henry Whitehorn Sr.

"We're working with the U.S. Marshal's Service and other law enforcement agencies trying to locate him," Whitehorn told The Associated Press. "We don't know if he is still in the area. We bethrough. We received information the Texas border. he may be headed into Texas."

her body. Those remains have custody soon.

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. (AP) been sent to the state medical

she met with military prosecutors Marine Cpl. Cesar Armando to talk about her April allegation vestigators said Saturday the rape was under a protective order to stay away from Lauterbach.

In Louisiana, Whitehorn said he didn't know whether it was another passenger on the bus who had spotted Laurean and notified police. Shreveport is roughly 950 miles southwest of Jacksonville, lieve it may have just been a pass and is about two dozen miles from

Earlier Sunday, Onslow County On Saturday, authorities said Sheriff Ed Brown said Laurean was sued an arrest warrant on murder they recovered what they believe seen by a member of the general to be the burnt remains of Marine public, describing it only as a "tran-Lance Cpl. Maria Lauterbach sit" sighting. Authorities said they and her unborn child from a fire may be less than two hours behind day after leaving behind a note in pit in Laurean's backyard, where the fugitive, and Brown expressed they suspect he burned and buried hope that Laurean would be in body, but said Lauterbach cut her

"I do feel comfortable that Mr. Laurean will be located," Brown said, adding that the evidence in Lauterbach disappeared somethe case "leads us to believe that he person if put in a corner."

Brown said the FBI, federal Marshals, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation are hunting for Laurean. Sheriff's investigators at the scene are spending much of their time on developing evidence in the investigation, he said.

"While finding him is a main concern, the major concern is that we continue the investigation to clearly find the truth in what happened," he said.

Authorities on Saturday ischarges for Laurean, 21, of the Las Vegas area. They believe he fled Jacksonville before dawn on Friwhich he admitted to burying her own throat in a suicide.

ODDBALL DAILY

Pa. man apologizes for vulgarity on parking ticket check

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. (AP) — A man who wrote a vulgar message on the memo line of a check he used to pay a \$5 parking ticket has apologized in writing, leading police to drop a disorderly conduct

charge against him.

Clerks were offended by the message, and the disorderly conduct charge was filed because the comment was obscene, police Chief

James Donnelly said.

"He was contrite enough to offer an apology, and I think that satisfies the people who were insulted by

The lawyer for David Binner, 45, said his client would have prevailed if he went through a trial.

"The F-word isn't what it used to be," attorney Keith Williams said. It doesn't have a sexual connotation

anymore and so can't be considered obscene, he said.

Williams said his client felt bad about what he did and will pay the parking fine and court costs.

"This is not my normal nature and admittedly was a temporary lapse of judgment on my part, vented in a moment of frustration," Binner wrote in his letter of

Columbus Zoo pays breeder \$35,000 to keep large python

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) - Fluffy, a 24-foot python billed as the largest snake in captivity, is staying put to lure visitors into the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

The zoo paid \$35,000 to the snake's breeder in Oklahoma to keep the reticulated python on permanent display. While on loan last year, the python helped draw 1.53 million visitors, just under the zoo's attendance record of 1.56 million set in 2006, said Pete Fingerhut, the zoo's associate director.

Fluffy is about as long as a moving van and thick as a telephone

Bob Clark, the breeder from Oklahoma City who raised the python from a hatchling, initially resisted the zoo's purchase offer but said he's happy with the out-

"I really love that snake; I think

it's a special animal," he said. "It's so big and tame and wonderful. But I have to deal with the realities of life like everyone else. I like to have the money, and I know she's got a great place to live there."

The Columbus Zoo doesn't buy animals very often, said Executive Director Jerry Borin. Its animals generally come as exchanges from other zoos or through breeding loans or donations, he said.

Fluffy is on display in a 25foot enclosure with a pool and a few plants, where he eats two 10-pound rabbits a week. In the wild, pythons native to Asia eat whatever they can catch, starting with mice and lizards when they're small and graduating to pigs and goats. There are a few reports of human victims.

The largest known reticulated python, named for the cross-hatching patterns on their skin, was 32 feet, 9 1/2 inches when killed in 1912 in Indonesia.

Judge accused of sexual harassment breaks public silence

judge who served a four-month mitted by the Houston Chronicle. frustrating for me, my family and suspension and has been reas- However, he did not address my staff not to be able to speak in signed from Galveston to Hous- specifics of the misconduct allegaton while the Justice Department tions against him, citing federal investigates a sexual harassment laws that make judicial investigacomplaint told a newspaper he tions secret. struggled with alcohol abuse after his first wife's death.

public silence in a seven-page appropriate time," Kent told the people close to her have told the

troversy, there are absolutely U.S. District Judge Samuel two sides to this one, and I will Kent broke nearly a four-month vigorously present mine at the

DAILY TOREADOR

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal written response to questions sub-newspaper. "It has been extremely my defense.'

> Kent, 58, returned to the bench last week in Houston and was met by protesters supporting "As with every human con- Cathy McBroom, who has accused Kent of repeatedly harassing her over four years. McBroom has declined to comment, but newspaper that the harassment culminated in March when Kent allegedly pulled up her blouse and bra and tried to escalate contact until they were interrupted.

Long Island doctor gets building violations after home burns

WEST HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP) — An obstetrician saved his wife and six children from a fire that ravaged their home, delivered a baby while the house was still smoldering and then got cited with building violations.

"was just my day."

The 37-year-old awoke around 3 a.m. to the screech of a smoke detector and the sight of flames inching up an outside wall of his Long Island home. He got his family to safety, then was paged and went Dr. Herman Weiss said Friday to a hospital to deliver an infant

The fire brought scrutiny from building inspectors, who cited the Weisses with a discrepancy in plumbing plans and living in the house without a certificate of occupancy. Weiss said the family had hired a lawyer to get one.

NJ man finds pearl in plate of fried oysters

WASHINGTON BOROUGH, eating fried ovsters. N.J. (AP) — Two weeks after a Florida man found a rare pearl in his seafood, it's happened again — this time to a New Jersey man who was

Mike McHenry thought he had chomped down on a piece of shell Wednesday night and instead spit out a pea-sized pearl.

"You might break your teeth on it if you crunch down too hard," the 60-year-old Washington Township man said of his discovery at Russo's Ristorante in Washington Borough.

McHenry's find was rare, according to Gef Flimlin, a marine extension agent with Rutgers Cooperative Extension, who said 95 percent of pearls are cultured for production, unlike the naturally formed pearl

McHenry found. "It's unusual to find one in this pe of oyster." McHenry said. "Like one in a million.

Not quite.

KJTV

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NBC

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Last month, George Brock of Royal Palm Beach, Fla., found a rare iridescent purple pearl in his plate

of steamed clams while dining in South Florida.

Russo's owner, Rick Giacobbe, said McHenry's discovery marked the first time in his 33 years in the restaurant business that a customer found a pearl in an order of oysters. He said the guy he orders seafood from is flummoxed, too.

of years his girls will find something and it's a teeny tiny thing," Giacobbe said. "This was half the size of a jel-

"He said maybe once in a couple

While Brock's purple pearl may be worth thousands, it appears McHenry isn't so lucky.

Greg Fliegauf, who manages Fliegauf lewelers for his uncle, thinks the pearl isn't worth much because it's misshapen and has some discoloration.

"It's a souvenir I'll put on my bar, maybe," McHenry said.

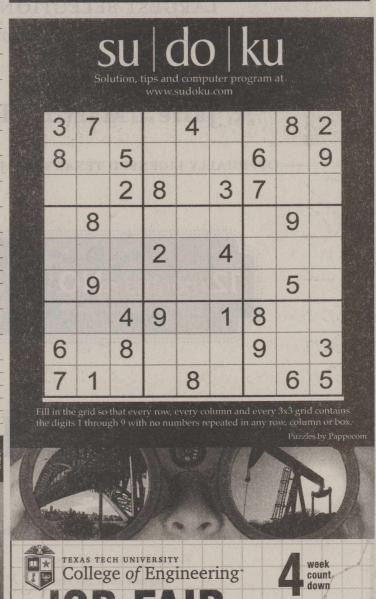




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Dance company graces the South Plains

By LAYLA KHOSHNOUDI STAFF WRITER

put Texas Tech's dance department Caldera.' on its toes, literally, offering classes in Friday and Saturday in the Student visibility of Tech's dance department, Union Building Allen Theatre.

The dance company arrived at size over the past four years. Tech Thursday, offering open master and performed six modern dance is immeasurable. pieces Friday and Saturday evening in the Allen Theatre.

professional modern dancers.

A.J. Warren; a senior dance selves as dancers," Durham said. major from Casper, Wyo., said she university this year.

"I felt extremely privileged to be able to take class and experience caliber on campus demonstrates the ship. a professional company," Warren university's commitment to expossaid.

Having an interest in modern field," she said. dance, Warren said she took full

advantage of the master classes. "It was one of the best experi- the company as well.

ences I've had as far as dance at The Paul Taylor Dance Company world renowned dances, Piazzola a joy for the dancers.

which has increased nearly tenfold in erous with their spirit and time."

Genevieve Durham, the head classes in which company members of the dance program at Tech, said taught Taylor's movement at levels the positive impact of having master schedule is as hard as can be and the of the university. ranging from beginner to advanced, classes like this available to students

"Our students come away with of the people." different understandings of move-Dance students were excited to ment and dance, different ways of danced for Taylor since 1996, said have the opportunity to work with perceiving and knowing dance, and new ways of understanding them-

The Taylor Dance Company's was thrilled when she found out residency was a highly significant to extract as much information as the dance company was visiting the event for university as a whole, possible," he said. Durham said.

Lubbock students and faculty made an impression on members of

John Tomlinson, general manager serves as secretary for the Faculty learn a whole section of one of their the experience in Lubbock has been university-wide committees.

"We've been loving it," Tomlin-The visit from the dance company son said. "Its funny, we're in a sort university's openness to art. modern dance and then performing contributes to the already-increasing of hidden corner here, but for some reason, people are so much more gen-

Tomlinson said it's been no walk among the staff.

level of intensity is very high, but

he's been impressed with the enthu- obligation is of great value to the siasm from the students, which makes university." the hard work pay off.

"Having a dance company of this great attitude stems from leader-

'Genevieve (Durham) has a heart ing its community to the best in the of gold," he said. "I've seen five people working at other universities to do a part of what Genevieve does."

Aside from teaching and heading the dance program, Durham also

Texas Tech," she said. "We got to of the Taylor Dance Company, said Senate and sits on various college and

Tomlinson also credited Tech President Jon Whitmore for the

"The president of the university believes in culture and arts," he said, "and that position disseminates

Durham said she believes recogni-"Its not easy here," he said. "The tion of art should be a central focus

"Increasing awareness of and exit's so worth it because of the spirit posure to the arts as ways of making meaning of the world should be at Michael Trusnovec, who has the heart of any educational system's mission," she said. "Fulfilling this

For over 50 years, modern dance "The students have been so eager legend Taylor has produced awardwinning dances, according to information provided by the dance Tomlinson said he believes the company. Among his achievements are the National Medal of Arts and a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. > layla.khoshnoudi@ttu.edu



Sapped of star glitz amid Hollywood writers strike, Golden Globes to quietly announce winners

with seven nominations.

taken a back seat to the business television. side of show business — intractable nounce winners.

On strike since Nov. 5, the Writunion members work on the starrather than cross picket lines.

Although the guild called off news conference, the strike left one for lead actors Keira Knightley

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — of Hollywood's brightest and giddi- and James McAvoy, director Joe In case anyone's still keeping count est nights in shambles. Despite the Wright and screenwriter Christoamid the writers strike that has gowns and formal wear, the Globes pher Hampton. hobbled Hollywood's awards season, are known as a freewheeling cousin the tragic romance "Atonement" led of the Academy Awards, a place the thought of avoiding scrutiny by the pack for Sunday's Golden Globes where stars can have a few drinks and cut loose as they celebrate the Films and performances have year's achievements in film and of being on television is what's so

management and unyielding writ- an hour-long announcement that of 1988's "Dangerous Liaisons." "It ers, the latter taking a hardball would feature TV news personalities was terrifying, the Oscars, with 1 stance that forced Globe organizers disclosing the winners in between billion people watching them. I to scrap their swanky telecast for a clips of nominated movies and didn't want to think about that. It humdrum news conference to an- shows. The news conference format paralyzes you, sitting there for three star wattage would have been powers Guild of America refused to let ered by the likes of Julia Roberts, Tom Hanks, George Clooney, Dennight, the Feb. 24 Oscars, remains studded banquet-style show, prompt- zel Washington, Cate Blanchett, uncertain. Guild leader Patric Vering actors to boycott the ceremony Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie, rone has said writers would not be who all had acting nominations.

pickets it had planned outside the cluded best drama, plus honors even tougher choice on whether to

Some nominees were relieved at TV audiences.

"Frankly, for me, the prospect frightening about it," said Hampton, Sunday's event was recast as an Oscar winner for the screenplay was a far cry from a ceremony whose hours terrified, waiting to find out whether you've won.

The fate of Hollywood's biggest allowed to work on that show, either, The nods for "Atonement" in- which could force stars to make an stay away or cross the picket line.



PHOTOS BY TRENT BARNES/The Daily Toreador

MEMBERS OF THE Paul Taylor Dance Company perform Friday evening in the Allen Theater of the Student Union Building.







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SPORTS

Tech football sets goals, begins offseason

By ADAM COLEMAN STAFF WRITER

The celebration of Texas Tech's

Gator Bowl win is over. Now, the Red Raiders get back son conditioning program today in offseason. preparation for spring workouts and

next season.

faster, get them stronger."

Diet also is a key component

Although there are dieting plans for some players, the coaches try to teach all players how to use dietto work as they begin their offsea- ing to their advantage during the

"You try to, but they're college guys," Wylie said. "They're 18, 19 "This actually is my really busy and 20 years old. You do as much time of the year," said Bennie Wy- as you can. We have strict plans for lie, Tech strength and conditioning some guys who need to lose weight. coach. "For the guys, this is one or We (have) strict plans for other guys two opportunities for them to actu- who need to gain weight. If you can ally get in shape. There's not a lot of kind of educate them. I think that's we try put to size on them, get them and what's not."

Getting stronger or faster are goals. Wylie said he helps those play- and defensive linemen. not the only goals during these ers keep their goals in mind by keep-

ing a record.

but sometimes that can be difficult goals, Wylie said, allowing the play- there will be special lifts for special for the coaches to push on their ers to compare at the end of each positions. A lot of the work we do he is glad to help seniors

> "We started this in '04," he said. "After the guys write their goals down, I put them in the computer. We'll test at the end of spring. Then seven." they have the numbers that they hit, and they can kind of match up their goals to the number they should hit in the summer."

Offseason does not include only weight training for the Red Raiders.

Even though the players do most do it." of the same workouts together, each position has its own unique workouts time that the guys have to train. This the best thing you can do for them, as well. These workouts involve no

"We specialize a lot," Tech re-The players recently have split of the core stuff that we do during system and train graduating seniors us." for some players in the off-season, their goals into spring and summer the period is a lot similar, but then for Pro Day or the NFL Combine.

after the workouts will be special. train for the next level, he The receivers will catch tennis balls. suggests they take another The O-line, they box. D-line boxes. route. All the skill people play seven-on-

Tech offensive linemen Louis recommend those guys go Vasquez said boxing during the off- off and train so they can season does more than give players be more focused, be more the chance to showcase strength.

"It works on hand speed," he said. "Usually us and the D-line will son as a whole also is an

With conditioning being the first to bond. phase of offseason workouts for the Red Raiders, it is usually a period a good win with the bowl is one of our eight-week periods that so they know what's good for them weight training but involve other when the players can get their bodexercise concentrating on catching ies prepared for weight training and trying to keep the fam-Tech players usually set personal for receivers or speed for offensive other intensive workouts coming ily atmosphere here and later in the spring.

This period also is a chance for that are coming up and ceiver Landon Hoefer said. "A lot Wylie to introduce new players to the get them to jump on with

Even though Wylie said "Some go off and train,

which is great," he said. "I disciplined."

Vasquez said the offseaopportunity for the players

"Especially coming off game," Vasquez said. "Just bringing all the new guys

→ adam.coleman@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH STRENGTH and Conditioning coach Bennie Wylie oversees the offseason program for the football team.

Tech men's track filled with youth, confidence

By BRAD DUFF STAFF WRITER

letes of the men's track team aim to warm up right. Also, keeping anything about our freshman beto cause some noise in the Big 12 that positive attitude because cause they don't take them into Conference this season.

The Texas Tech track team where you don't feel good, but enters the season with 38 underclassmen on a squad of 53. Returning senior Shawon Harris, one of five seniors on the team, says youth is not going to be a problem.

"A lot of our (younger) guys have already been to the big meets before," Harris said. "They'll go in and be shell shocked at first, but it will settle down with them."

Harris' accolades include three All American honors, five allconference titles, and he is the current school record holder in the 55M and 60M hurdles. After Harris suffered an injury in the 2007 season, Tech track coach Wes Kittley redshirted Harris, you have to go out there.' giving him an additional year of eligibility.

"I'm a little anxious to get on the team. started," Harris said. "The main stay healthy.'

Now the self-proclaimed "old interesting." man" of the team, Harris said he

"I like to lead by example, like Despite their youth, the ath- warming up," he said. "You have low," he said. "They don't know you're going to have those days account.'

> On both sides, we can win the Big 12 Indoor and Outdoor Championship.

> > ZACH PLINARIO TEXAS TECH HURDLER

Hurdler Zach Plinario said he

"It's pretty fun now," he said. go with every single team." thing is we're just going to try and "We got to learn from all the

Plinario said he believes the brad.duff@ttu.edu

has certain responsibilities as a youth on the team will not have any negative effects this season.

"They have us ranked real

The veterans have set an example to follow, Plinario said, both in the classroom and on the track.

"We look up to them a lot because they've been to nationals," he said. "Shawon (Harris) pulled through on a lot of events for us. He's not just a really good runner, he makes his grades."

Kittley said he plans to work the men in slowly for the early meets this season.

"I might limit them to one or two things whereas, with the women's team, I'm going to turn them loose," he said.

Plinario said he believes the men have enough talent to win a championship this season.

"On both sides, we can win enjoys being an underclassmen the Big 12 Indoor and Outdoor Championship," he said. "We can

The Red Raiders begin the veterans last year. It's always indoor track season Friday in the Texas Tech Invitational.

Lawrence leads Missouri to 97-84 win over No. 12 UT COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - A

teams from the Big 10, Southeastern Conference and other power a bunch of early season patsies.

the Big 12 opener for both teams, free throws. consider that theory all but obsolete.

It was Missouri's first win over Texas in 10 tries dating to 1999, Norm Stewart's final season as coach of the

"We weren't in awe," Missouri coach Mike Anderson said. "Our nonconference schedule prepped us a lot better this year.'

Among Missouri's out-of-conference opponents were Maryland, State. Of that group, the Tigers beat only Maryland and Purdue.

scored a season-high 18 points to get beat." lead six players in double figures for Missouri (11-5). Starting guards both had season highs — 16 for Horton and 15 for Hannah.

succession of narrow losses to top with 27 points, while A.J. Abrams had 21 and D.J. Augustin 17.

The starting guards for Texas had would have been better served with 3-point range, while Augustin — the than six points in the second half. preseason choice as Big 12 player of After Saturday's convincing the year — was just 6-of-16 from the added 14 points for Missouri, DeMarre 97-84 victory over No. 12 Texas in field and made just two of his seven Carroll had 12 and Leo Lyons 10.

> "We just came out flat, Abrams said. "If you come out flat in a big conference game, or any conference game, you're going to get beat.'

Missouri shot 56.1 percent from the field, including 12-of-26 from 3point range. Texas shot 43.8 percent from the field, making 9-of-25 of its 3-point attempts.

The 97 points scored were a season another level," he said. Michigan State, Purdue, California, high for Missouri, which shot 70.4 Arkansas, Illinois and Mississippi percent in the second half, including 38-10. b-of-10 from beyond the arc.

Reserve guard Keon Lawrence Rick Barnes said. "We deserved to

5 minutes with scoring, allowing of the second half.

Damion James led Texas (13-3) Missouri to remain within 40-38 at halftime.

Missouri opened a 10-point lead with a 14-2 run to start the second leagues had some Missouri fans uncharacteristically poor shooting half. The lead grew to as many as 16 wondering whether the Tigers games. Abrams finished 3-of-11 from points, with Texas getting no closer

Reserve forward Marshall Brown

Both Brown and Horton are na-Texans, with Horton growing up in Dallas and Brown hailing from Austin.

Anderson said the Lone Star State connection gave extra incentives to the two seniors. Missouri attracted a season-high

13,085 fans to Mizzou Arena and Anderson said the crowd's energy helped fuel the Tigers as they pulled ahead in the second half.

"Their energy took our guys to-

Missouri's bench outscored Texas'

Starting center Connor Atchley's "We played horrible," Texas coach foul trouble, along with Barnes' decision to limit freshman forward Gary Johnson's minutes, led the Longhorns Texas controlled the first half to rely on little-used reserves Clint behind 19 points and seven rebounds Chapman, Dexter Pittman and Ian Jason Horton and Stefhon Hannah from James. The Longhorns led by as Mooney — a walk-on who transferred many as eight but went more than from Saint Louis — for long stretches

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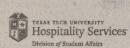
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OSU's victory over Texas Tech denies Knight 900th win Cowboys LB Ellis voted AP

I bull for those

guys to win every

night out, except

for the few times

they play us.

- SEAN SUTTON

OKLAHOMA STATE

BASKETBALL COACH

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — It utes to call off the celebration.

Muonelo hit four straight 3-pointers in a 95-second stretch, and Oklahoma a career-high 16 State throttled down in the second points and Anderhalf to deny Knight his 900th career son ended up with win with a 74-55 defeat of Texas Tech 13 after taking a on Saturday.

"It was Bob Knight's 900th win, and break in the first we shut that down," Muonelo said. "We 3 minutes of the didn't let him get that."

Muonelo, who had a season-high 21 scored 10 points. points, broke open a close game midway through the second half when he hit scored 10 points two 3s from the left side and then two and Esmir Rizvic more from the top of the key. Fresh- had nine points man James Anderson drained a 3 from and a career-high the right side, and that drew a timeout 12 rebounds for the from Knight, Division I basketball's Red Raiders. winningest coach.

Muonelo flapped his arms to encour- was very good and crowd of the season, while Knight just took the game away from us pretty opposite sideline.

"Before the game, that's all we were happen in Gallagher-Iba."

The Cowboys (10-5, 1-0 Big 12) took Bob Knight 42 seasons to get to scored the next six points and held Tex-comes Wednesday night, when the Red the brink of 900 wins. Oklahoma State's as Tech (9-6, 0-1) scoreless for another Raiders host No. 11 Texas A&M. Obi Muonelo needed less than 2 min- 4 minutes after the timeout to extend a 21-2 run and build a 67-41 lead.

> hard fall on a fast game. Marcus Dove

> Martin Zeno

"Their shooting

need to add much more than that."

Knight was seeking to become five possessions. talking about in the locker room. Bobby only the third Division I coach with talking about how we didn't want him men's game. Tennessee women's coach point. to just come in here and get his 900th Pat Summitt has won 959 games, and win and then have a celebration on our former Texas women's coach Jody court," Muonelo said. "We can't let that Conradt won exactly 900 before retiring

Knight's next chance at No. 900 had. He's been a real disappointment."

(Mike) Krzyzewski coaches a long time, the line 16 times in the opening half. Freshman Ibrahima Thomas added you'll ever see anybody win 900 games,"

> Cowbovs coach few times they play us." Rizvic had

and his layup started an 18-5 Tech a 24-16 by 21. lead. Oklahoma State responded

age Oklahoma State's largest home their play was good," Knight said. "They reeling off nine straight points to get back in the game, and was able to take slowly entered his team's huddle on the quick in the second half. I don't think I a 35-32 halftime lead after Zeno com-up!" chant from the crowd as he spoke mitted three turnovers in the span of to an official after Tech's John Roberson

Knight's a great coach, but we were just 900 career wins, and the first in the utes of the first half to be the turning than 3 minutes into the game.

good feel for what he's doing, or hasn't game.

The Cowboys turned the tide by crashing the boards and avoiding the "I don't think, unless (Duke) Coach ticky-tack fouls that sent Texas Tech to

> And then Muonelo got hot. The sophomore who missed nearly

Sean Sutton all of Big 12 regular season play last said. "I pull for season after leg surgery hit his first five those guys to win 3-pointers and seven of his first eight every night out, shots. He hit eight 3-pointers in a loss except for the to Nebraska last season.

"He's a guy that can score and he's capable of getting on a roll," Sutton said. "I'm not sure he'll do that many night, 10 rebounds in where he hits four in that amount of the opening half, time, but he can score the basketball."

He got a standing ovation from the crowd he was replaced in the final 3 run that gave minutes with Oklahoma State leading

One game after drawing his first technical foul in over a year, Knight immediately by sat calmly on the Red Raiders' bench for most of the game.

He drew an early "Sit down! Shut undercut Anderson, the Cowboys' lead-Knight considered the final min- ing scorer, on a fast-break chance less

He watched in disgust as Tech "Zeno made a lot of misrakes for a let the shot clock expire shortly after four-year player today, a lot of mistakes," his timeout, and walked to halfcourt Knight said. "... He just doesn't have a -to shake the Sutton's hand after the

Comeback Player of Year

NEW YORK (AP) — Players make an impact.

Saturday was voted The Associ- lisberger, selected on seven. ated Press 2007 NFL Comeback Player of the Year.

Ellis went from nonfactor in Dallas to a dominator in his new position after spending most of his career as a defensive end. He had 121/2 sacks, forming a dynamic pass-rushing

force with All-Pro line- backer get any award on a national level DeMarcus Ware.

a good support group, starting he's right. from the doctors. We have good out there and do it."

He did it so well that Ellis drew entering their 10th season, com- 12 votes from a nationwide panel ing off a major injury and in the of 50 media members who regularly midst of a position change rarely cover the league. In a season marked by strong comebacks, Ellis beat New Greg Ellis made a major im- England wide receiver Randy Moss, pact for the Dallas Cowboys who was chosen on 10 ballots, and at outside linebacker and on Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roeth-

Ellis is the first Cowboy and also the first linebacker to win the award, which went to Jets

quarterback Chad Pennington last season.

"Guys will tell you the correct thing - you don't seek after those awards," Ellis said. "But when you're blessed to

.. our (linebackers) coach, Paul "It's been great," Ellis said. "I Pasqualoni, says the respect of thank God for blessing me, let- the game is one of the reasons ting me get out there and have everybody in the NFL plays. And

"So once you've got the respect people here, the coaches have of everybody in the country, if you done a good job working me back will, at doing something — whether into it. They've been telling me it's for your efforts on coming back 'You're fine, you're fine.' It was or for your just play on the field, just getting the confidence to get whatever it is — it's a great award to get, obviously."

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33509 25TH ST. 3/1 with garage. \$800/mo, \$400 denosit Pet friendly For information call 687-7228 3414 25TH ST. 3/1. \$900/mo, \$450 deposit. Remodeled interior. For information call 687-7228. 3502 26TH ST. 3/2. \$825/mo, \$350 deposit. Pet friendly. Call 687-7228 for information

rior remodeled. Pets allowed. Call 687-7728 for information. 3609 29TH ST. 2/2 with garage. \$725/mo, \$350 deposit. Pet friendly. For information call 687-7228. 3702 25TH ST. 3/2/1. Central h/a. W/D hookups.

3509 23RD ST. 2/1. \$850/mo, \$425 deposit. Inte-

\$500/Dep. Call 799-2237 or 392-3715. 3810 31ST ST. 3/2. \$900/mo, \$350 deposit. Hardwood floors. Pets allowed. For information call 687

4503 39TH ST. 3/2 with garage. \$795/mo, \$400 deposit. Pet friendly. For information call 687-7228. 9609 ELMWOOD #A. 2/2. \$650/mo, \$350 deposit Pet friendly. For information, call 687-7228.

APTS FOR RENT Great location to campus. Private bedroom/bath-room, furnished, w/d, fitness center. Pre-leasing for fall 2008-09. (806) 762-5500.

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Deposit and references required, 797-4471 NEWLY RENOVATED! 2 & 3 bedroom houses for lease. Convenient to Tech. Call 771-1890.

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NICE 3/2/1 with W/D close to Tech. 3508 38th ST. Negotiable rates, Call 787-0800. SOUTH OF Tech close to class! 2/1, loft, garage,

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December! Deposit \$450, rent \$750/month. 3010

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electric & cable. James 972-839-2369. ROOMMATE NEEDED! one bed/bath available in 4/4 apartment at Raiders Pass across from Tech. All bills paid! Call Danielle 806-685-0101.

ROOMMATE WANTED: ed. 4BR, 2B. 940-357-1893 or 940-357-1842.

ROOMMATES NEEDED! females for Spring. \$379/mo. All bills paid

Briana 682-472-6345. ROOMMATES WANTED - Beautiful 5-bedroom house on 2 acres, close to Tech, all amenities \$375 per room, including utilities. Call Jimmy at 602-770-5168.

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