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LATE NIGHT SUFFERS WITHOUT WRITERS

MYRICK SUCCEEDS BOTH ON AND OFF COURT

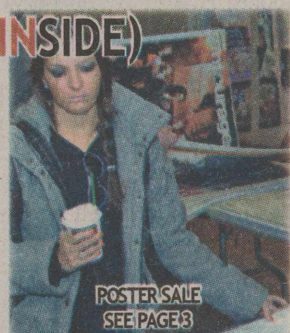
THE DAILY TOREADOR

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(INSIDE)



POSTER SALE
SEE PAGE 3

(IN BRIEF)

STATE

Residents of Texas town buzz over reported UFO

STEPHENVILLE (AP)—In this farming community where nightfall usually brings clear, starry skies, residents are abuzz over reported sightings of what many believe is a UFO.

Several dozen people—including a pilot, county constable and business owners—insist they have seen a large silent object with bright lights flying low and fast. Some reported seeing fighter jets chasing it.

"People wonder what in the world it is because this is the Bible Belt, and everyone is afraid it's the end of times," said Steve Allen, a freight company owner and pilot who said the object he saw last week was a mile long and half a mile wide. "It was positively, absolutely nothing from these parts."

NATION

Search for suspect in Marine's killing grows

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. (AP)—Federal authorities planned to post billboards nationwide with the picture of a Marine wanted in the slaying of a pregnant colleague, and the sheriff announced a \$25,000 reward Monday for information leading to his arrest.

Authorities are looking for Marine Cpl. Cesar Armando Laurean, wanted in the death of Marine Lance Cpl. Maria Lauterbach, who had accused him of rape.

WORLD

Israeli prime minister blocks Iran from nuclear arms

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told a powerful parliamentary panel on Monday that Israel rejects "no options" to block Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, a meeting participant said.

The statement was the Israeli leader's clearest indication yet that he is willing to use military force against Iran.

"Israel clearly will not reconcile itself to a nuclear Iran," the meeting participant quoted Olmert as telling the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

DEATH TOLL

2343

U.S. Military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press confirmed by the Department of Defense

WEATHER

Today



SUNNY
HIGH 58
LOW 29

Wednesday



CLOUDY
HIGH 44
LOW 18

INSIDE

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Gunfire at Afghanistan hotel kills 6

By JASON STRAZIUSO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Militants stormed Kabul's most popular luxury hotel Monday, killing at least six people as they hunted down Westerners who cowered in a gym—a coordinated assault that could signal a new era of brazen Taliban attacks.

The gunmen threw grenades and fired AK-47s, and one even blew himself up despite heavy security at

the Serena Hotel. One American and a Norwegian journalist were among the dead, officials said.

More than 30 U.S. soldiers in a half-dozen Humvees rushed to the hotel as part of a quick reaction force, and security personnel from the nearby U.S. Embassy ran through the building looking for U.S. citizens.

"There was blood on the floor all the way to the kitchen. There was a lot of blood in the lobby," said Suzanne Griffin of Seattle, who had

been in the hotel gym at the time of the attack.

"There were empty shell casings outside," added Griffin, 62, who was working for Save the Children.

She said she had to step over the lifeless body of a woman when evacuated from the locker room.

"Thank God I didn't get into the shower because then we heard gunfire, a lot of it. It was very close, close enough that plaster came off the ceiling," Griffin, her voice shaking, told The Associated Press

shortly after the attack. "We all just sat on the floor and got as far as we could from any glass. ... We turned our phones on silent."

It was the deadliest direct attack on a hotel in Kabul since the fall of the Taliban in 2001.

The assailants appeared to concentrate their assault on the Serena's gym and spa, where foreigners relax and work out at night, suggesting the militants had cased the hotel in advance.

The Taliban has targeted aid

workers and civilian contractors with kidnappings and killings, but this was the most daring and sophisticated attack yet and was aimed at a prominent symbol of foreign presence in the country, apparently designed to point out the vulnerability of the Western presence.

Taliban attacks have typically targeted Western and Afghan government or security personnel, not Western civilians.

AFGHANISTAN continued on page 5

PERSONAL information?

Student records available to variety of people

By GLENYS BOLLS
COPY EDITOR

Students' personal information may be available to more people than students are aware of.

The Texas Tech Student Handbook lists 10 groups of people who can get access to a student's records without the student's written consent. These groups include accrediting agencies, parents who need the information for tax purposes and individuals needing the information for the student's financial aid.

However, some of the groups are not as clearly defined as these.

Other people who, according to the Student Handbook, could receive student records without a student's written consent include "appropriate per-



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TRENT BARNES//The Daily Toreador

NAMES, ADDRESSES, PHONE numbers, and majors are among the Student Directory Information available to those who request it.

sons, if necessary, to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons."

"That's generally determined by the General Counsel," said Tech Registrar Don Wickard. "We

don't make that decision. We don't know who that appropriate person might be."

Victor Mellinger, the senior associate general counsel for Tech, said the "appropriate persons"

title could cover a variety of people ranging from parents to medical professionals.

"It could be either, depending on the situation," Mellinger said. "It could be law enforcement. It

would just depend on what's going on."

Aside from medical or law enforcement professionals, there are other entities outside of the

RECORDS continued on page 3

Road improvements, playground renovations top choices of proposed bond items

By ADAM YOUNG
NEWS EDITOR

Citywide road improvements and playground renovations were among top potential bond items for city improvements in a survey conducted by the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce earlier this month.

The non-scientific survey of approximately 600 Chamber of Commerce members found 62.9 percent supported paving unpaved streets citywide, and 59.3 percent supported city park playground renovations at eight parks as well as other items that could be part of a potential bond election in May.

"Although our results are not scientific, they do give us a glimpse of what our members think about these issues," said Chamber Chairman Gary Gregory in a press release. "These results will be extremely helpful as we continue to develop our stance so that we can represent our membership."

Norma Ritz Johnson, vice president for legislative affairs with the Chamber of Commerce, said because one of the core purposes of the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce is to advocate on behalf of its members on the local, state and federal level, she believes the "best kind of advocacy is to ask members what they need, what they're concerned about and what their positions are on all kinds of issues such as proposed bond items."

Johnson said the results of the survey provide the Chamber of Com-



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ//The Daily Toreador

AN ANIMAL CAROUSEL sits empty at the Elmore Park near 66th Street and Slide Road.

merce with a source of information on which to base its recommendations to the City Council to decide in February what bond items will be on a potential May ballot.

"It's not the only source of decision making that we have,

but it's part of the information that we present to our board when we decide what to go forward and what

BOND continued on page 2

Bush visits ally Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — President Bush delivered a sophisticated weapons sale for Saudi Arabia on Monday, trying to bolster defenses against threats from U.S. adversary Iran and muster support in this oil-rich kingdom for a long-stalled Mideast peace agreement.

On a surprisingly cold day with blustery winds, Bush received a warm embrace from King Abdullah, whose family wields almost absolute rule. Among ordinary Saudis and across much of the Mideast, Bush is unpopular, particularly because of the Iraq war and unflinching U.S. support for Israel.

Bush and Abdullah were going to some lengths over two days to emphasize their strong personal ties.

Saudi Arabia holds the world's largest oil reserves and surging fuel costs are putting a major strain on the troubled U.S. economy. But White House officials said it was unclear if Bush raised the subject with the king. The issue has come up in earlier stops on Bush's eight-day trip, largely in the context of his quest for alternate fuels and sources of energy, the officials said.

White House counselor Ed Gillespie

said Mideast leaders have "talked about the nature of the market and the vast demand that's on the world market today for oil." He said that was "a legitimate and accurate point."

Bush, who dislikes late nights, also stayed up well past his regular 9:30 p.m. bedtime for after-dinner talks with the king in the walled compound of his opulent palace. Its marble floors and walls contain sheets of gold, colored with precious stones and embedded jewels.

In a show of hospitality, the king invited Bush to come Tuesday to his lavish horse farm where 150 Arabian stallions are stabled. The visit, including an overnight by Bush, is a payback for the president hosting Abdullah at his Texas ranch.

U.S. officials said much of conversation over Monday's palace dinner was about chill temperatures that dropped into the 40s. Gillespie said there were predictions for snow Tuesday, the first to fall here since 1968.

Coinciding with Bush's arrival, the administration officially notified Congress it will offer Saudi Arabia sophisticated Joint Direct Attack Munitions — or "smart bomb" — technology and

related equipment. The deal envisions the transfer of 900 of the precision-guided bomb kits, worth \$123 million, that would give Saudi forces highly accurate targeting abilities.

Some lawmakers fear the systems could be used against Israel but Congress appears unlikely to block the deal because of Saudi Arabia's cooperation in the war on terror and in deterring aggression from Iran.

The United States already has notified Congress of five other packages to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, including Patriot missiles. The total amount of eventual sales as part of the Gulf Security Dialogue is estimated at \$20 billion, a figure subject to actual purchases.

The sales are a key element in Bush's strategy to shore up defenses against Iran, which the president has deemed the world's top state sponsor of terrorism. Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, with majority Sunni Muslim populations, harbor deep suspicions about Shiite Iran's rising power and want to make sure the U.S. remains committed to keeping Tehran's ambitions in check. At the same time, Arab allies are worried that

the world economy would suffer heavily if the U.S. dispute with Iran turns into a military confrontation.

On Mideast peace, Saudi Arabia handed Bush a coup by taking part in the U.S.-sponsored Mideast peace conference in Annapolis, Md., in November. Bush was expected to encourage Saudi Arabia during his visit to use some of its vast wealth to help struggling Palestinians build the foundations of a future state. Bush also sees support from Arab neighbors as crucial to the Palestinian leadership being able to successfully negotiate with Israel over borders and other contentious issues.

Posing for pictures, the king and the president did not speak about political matters. Abdullah presented Bush with what appeared to be a medallion of gold with white and green stones, suspended from a gold palm tree emblem with crossed swords.

"The least we can do in providing you hospitality is to provide you with the highest order of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and that is the Order of the late King Abdul Aziz, founder of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," Abdullah said, speaking through a translator.

Atlanta terrorism suspects met with suspects arrested in Canadian sweep

ATLANTA (AP) — Two U.S. citizens accused of plotting to attack civilian and government targets shot "casing videos" of Washington landmarks that were found on a terrorism suspect's computer in Britain and met with suspects in a Canadian terrorism case, an FBI agent testified Monday.

Agent Mark Richards testified that the videos of the U.S. Capitol and other Washington landmarks taken by Syed Ahmed and Ehsanul Sadeque were found on a computer belonging to Younis Tsouli, a Moroccan-born man who pleaded guilty in Britain in July to inciting others to commit acts of terrorism.

Richards also said Ahmed and Sadeque, during a trip to Toronto in March 2005, met with several of the 17 people charged in a June 2006 Canadian terrorism sweep. Charges against the suspects in the Canadian case include participating in a terrorist group, importing weapons and planning a bombing.

Ahmed and Sadeque wanted to plan attacks for "defense of Muslims or retaliation for acts committed against Muslims," authorities have said. They

have pleaded not guilty to a July 19, 2006, indictment charging them with providing material support to terrorists and related conspiracy counts. No trial date has been set.

At a hearing Monday that was expected to last three days, Jack Martin, an attorney for Ahmed, asked U.S. Magistrate Judge Gerylyn G. Brill to throw out tapes of interviews Ahmed gave investigators or abide by a purported agreement not to prosecute him.

Martin argued that FBI agents who questioned Ahmed over five days in March 2006 promised him immunity if he cooperated. Martin suggested the statements should be considered involuntary because Ahmed was later charged.

But Richards testified that agents neither promised Ahmed anything nor threatened him. He said that the interviews were conducted at Ahmed's home, a hotel and an FBI office, and that Ahmed was never in custody. He testified that Ahmed was not truthful during some interviews.

It wasn't immediately clear when Brill would rule on Ahmed's suppression motion.

Bond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to advocate to our City Council," she said. "The other thing that we really hope the survey serves a purpose for is to help not only our board, but the City Council with their decision making process."

In 2006, the City Council appointed a 35-member Citizen's Advisory Committee to research and gather community input on what community improvement projects should be included in a potential bond election.

Included in the Chamber of Commerce's survey were recommendations the 2007 Citizen's Advisory Committee gave the city council in 2007, of which none received more than 50 percent

support from those surveyed.

Vicki Nixon, co-chair of the 2007 Citizen's Advisory Committee, said she was not surprised the top results of the survey included street improvements.

"Everybody is concerned about our streets and how run down they've become," she said.

However, Nixon said she was surprised with the lack of support for items proposed by her committee, including the construction of a Southwest branch in the Lub-

bock Public library system and Youth Sports Complex soccer fields.

Bill Miller, co-chair of the committee, said he believes bond items such as park improvements and soccer fields should take a back seat to projects more closely related to the city's infrastructure, and he hopes the City Council considers the results of the survey.

"I hope they read them, I hope they talk about them, and I hope they come to an informed consensus that's

driven by what's best for Lubbock," Miller said, "and not what is best for any particular council person or persons."

He said he believes the Chamber of Commerce "is probably the leading resource that we have to get good, balanced input on how people who are investing in Lubbock feel about it."

Nixon said she believes it is important to have a citizen's committee because "as an elected official, sometimes you don't hear what everybody else is hearing on the street."

"People either tell you what you want to hear, or they're not talking at all," she said, "and I think that having a citizen's committee allows us to reach out to more people."

But Miller said he is concerned about having a potential bond election coincide with political elections for the Lubbock City Council in May.

Because some voters might not like a particular City Council member for personal reasons, Miller said he believes there is the possibility a bond item supported by a City Council member could fail solely because of the council person's lack of popularity.

"I would really like to see the projects stand on their own merits and not be tied to any person or persons," he said.

adam.young@ttu.edu

Everyone is concerned about our streets and how run down they've become.

— VICKI NIXON
CO-CHAIR 2007 CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

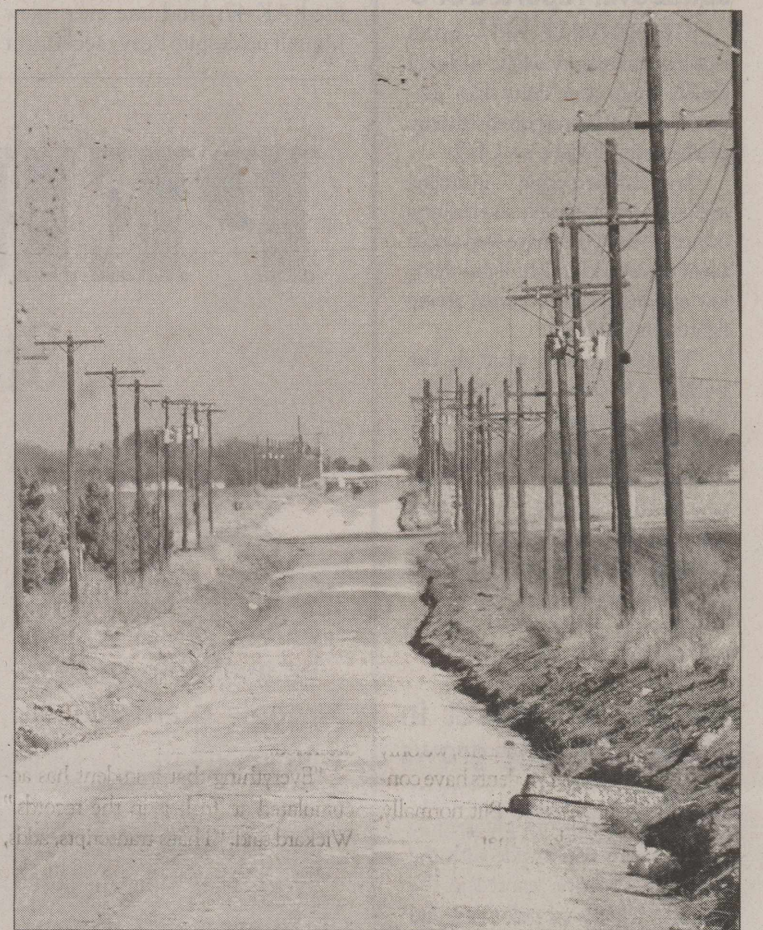


PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador
114TH STREET NEAR Quaker Avenue lies stripped and waiting to be repaved.

Judge gunned down in Baghdad in latest killing of Iraqi professional

BAGHDAD (AP) — Gunmen assassinated a high-ranking Sunni judge as he headed to work in Baghdad on Monday, the latest of thousands of professionals killed in unsolved cases since the ouster of Saddam Hussein's regime in 2003.

Appeals Court Judge Amir Jawdat al-Naeib was slain a week after police arrested a group of militants who specialized in intimidating or

killing doctors, academics and judges, according to an Interior Ministry official.

The aim of such attacks is to empty the country of professionals and scientists, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Under Saddam's Sunni-led regime, members of the now-dissolved

Baathist party made up much of Iraq's professional class, including senior bureaucrats who knew how to run ministries, university departments and state companies. After his overthrow, senior Baathists were purged from their jobs, some were assassinated and many fled the country.

A key piece of legislation adopted Sunday by Iraq's parliament would allow thousands of low-ranking former Baathists to return to government jobs. But many former Baathists say they would not take such positions back, fearing Shiite death squads would hunt them down.

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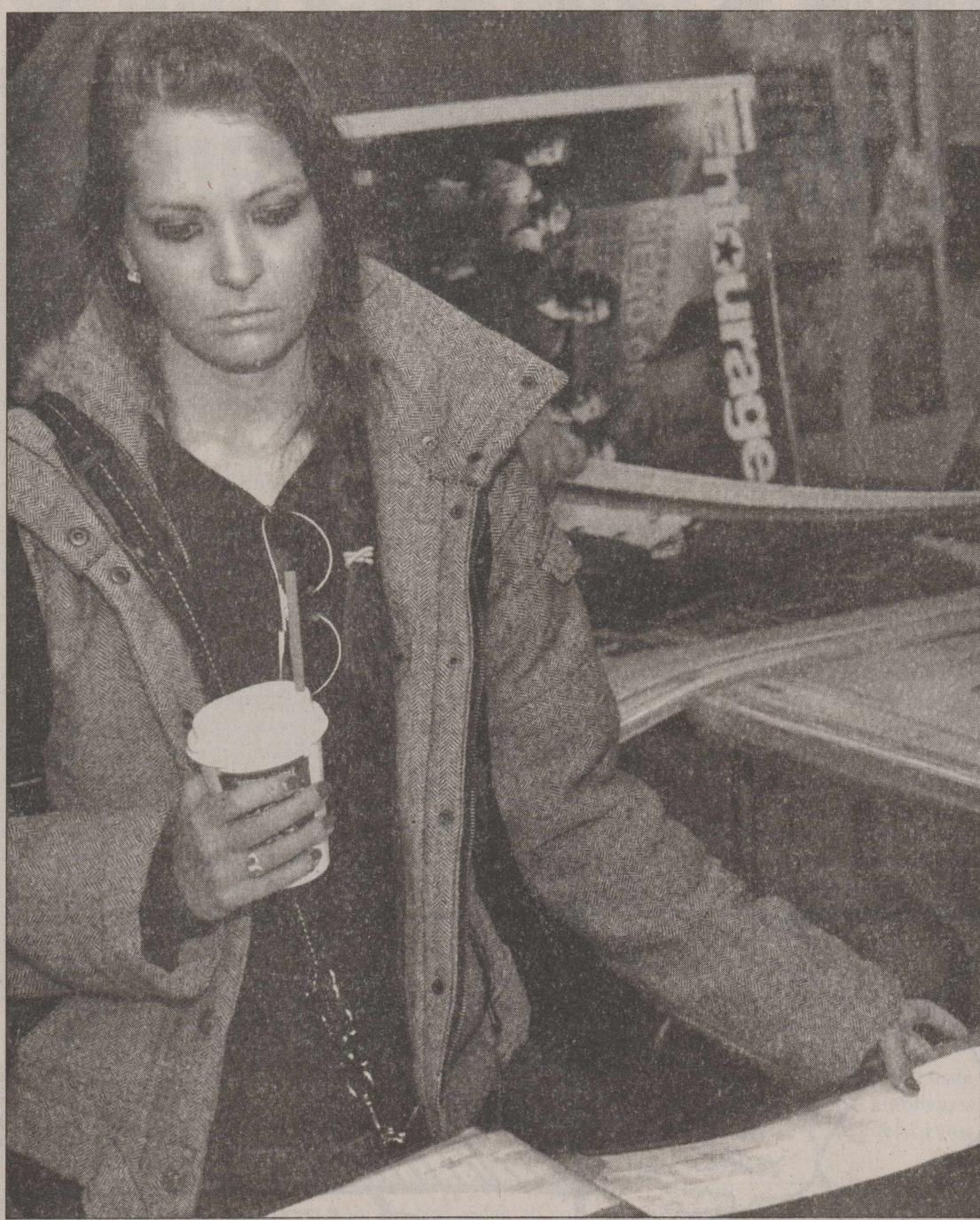


PHOTO BY TRENT BARNES/The Daily Toreador

Ashlee Hiers, a sophomore from Arlington, browses through posters Monday at the Poster Sale located in the Red Raider Lounge of the Student Union Building. The sale will go on until Friday the 18th.

MySpace agrees to adopt safety measures to protect young users

NEW YORK (AP) — Under mounting pressure from law enforcement and parents, MySpace agreed Monday to take steps to protect youngsters from online sexual predators and bullies, including searching for ways to better verify users' ages.

The hugely popular online hangout will create a task force of industry professionals to watch over its operations, and other social-networking sites will be invited to participate.

"We must keep telling children that they're not just typing into a computer. They're sharing themselves with the world," said North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper.

The deal comes as sites such as MySpace and Facebook have grown exponentially in recent years, with teenagers making up a large part of their membership. This has created a new venue for sexual predators who lie about their age to lure young victims and for cyber bullies who send threatening and anonymous messages.

But Monday's announcement was short on specifics about how improvements would be carried out. Skeptics are doubtful that MySpace and similar sites can eliminate the problem because age-verification technology is difficult to implement and predators are good at circumventing restrictions.

Parry Aftab, executive direc-

tor of WiredSafety.org, a children's Internet safety group, said the agreement was a good first step but could have unforeseen consequences.

"There's no system that will work for age verification without putting kids at risk," she said. "Age verification requires that you have a database of kids and if you do, that database is available to hackers and anyone who can get into it."

Aftab estimates that 20 percent of teens have met someone online that they had never met in person, and there are numerous examples of sexual abuse arising from MySpace encounters.

A 15-year-old girl from Texas was allegedly lured to a meeting, drugged and assaulted in 2006 by an adult MySpace user. In another case, a man got 14 years in prison for using MySpace to set up a sexual encounter with an 11-year-old Connecticut girl. A 16-year-old New York girl ran away to Puerto Rico with a man she met on MySpace.

And a 13-year-old girl in Missouri hanged herself in 2006 after receiving mean messages on MySpace

from a person she thought was another teen, but it later turned out that the messages were all a hoax.

The only state not joining the agreement was Texas, where the attorney general said he cannot support the effort unless it takes action to verify people's ages.

"We do not believe that MySpace.com — or any other social-networking site — can adequately protect minors" without an age-verification system, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said. "We are concerned that our signing the joint statement would be misperceived as an enforcement of the inad-

"We must keep telling children that they're not just typing into a computer. They're sharing themselves with the world."

— ROY COOPER
NORTH CAROLINA
ATTORNEY GENERAL

equately safety measures."

MySpace, which is owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., has more than 200 million registered users worldwide, and Facebook claims more than 61 million active users.

Investigators have grown increasingly interested in the sites in their search for sexual offenders. New York investigators said they set up Facebook profiles last year as 12- to 14-year olds and were quickly

contacted by users looking for sex.

Records

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tech community that could get access to students' records: businesses.

"It depends what they're asking for," Wickard said. "If a company sends us a notice saying it wants the addresses and telephone numbers of students, we only give them those that students have consented to have released. But normally, businesses don't ask for that."

If a business requests such information, Mellinger said the university is allowed to distribute it.

"That's all directory information," Mellinger said. "If the request is for directory information, we always give it. If it's not directory information, we don't give it at all."

According to the Student Hand-

book, the title "directory information" comprises names, addresses, telephone numbers, majors, classification, birth date, birth place, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of athletes, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received and the student's most recent previous education agency or institution attended.

"Everything that a student has accumulated at Tech is in the records," Wickard said. "That's transcripts, adds, drops, everything we have in the information system. If we go through another system, that could even include letters from professors and things of that nature."

Wickard said the Registrar's Office normally forwards records requests to the Office of the General Counsel for final approval.

"Before any information is released, we run it through the general counsel's office," he said. "Mostly, information can be released unless the student tells us not to. They can do an information release form or they can inform us in writing that they don't want any information released, and we honor that."

On the TechSIS Web for Students Web site, techsis.tosm.ttu.edu/student, students have the option to have their addresses, telephone numbers, activities and home newspapers included or not included in their Tech records. According to the TechSIS Web site, "Items checked will not be released to anyone outside the university." However, even information students have opted not to have released can be shared within the university community.

Under the Student Records section of the Student Handbook, "Educational

records (or personally identifiable information within a record) may be released without the written consent of the students to officials, faculty and staff employed by the university if they have a 'legitimate educational interest.'"

"University employees would have an educational interest," Wickard said. "Advisers, faculty members and staff members have the authority to get that."

Students who want to know or

change what information currently is available about themselves can go to the TechSIS Web site and sign into their student account. On the Student Services page, a link to the Information Release Restrictions can be found under the Personal Information heading. After clicking on the link, students can determine what information will be included in the printed campus directory.

Information included in the online directory can be altered by visiting

the eRaider Web site, eraider.ttu.edu, and clicking on Manage Your eRaider Account. When the account manager loads, the TTU Directory Info tab will allow students to choose what information will be available through Tech's online directory, info.ttu.edu.

"If you haven't checked the Web site, you need to go there and look," Wickard said. "That's the information you can request not to release."

glenys.bolls@ttu.edu

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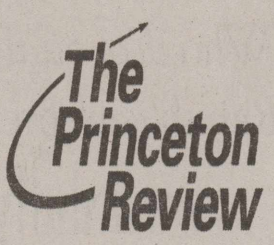
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Experience vs. Hope: Who really cares?

I once received an e-mail with the subject line "Forget the election, get an erection."

That doesn't sound like a bad idea. Not only has the presidential election been too long, it's been devastating. Republicans are being just as dishonest and uncompassionate as usual. There's no clear front runner, when clearly Sen. John McCain is the best man for the job. Unfortunately for McCain, he doesn't hate Mexicans, so it's going to be tough for conservatives to vote for him. Of course, the Democratic candidates are no better, having muddled each other beyond recognition.

I can't wait to see Inspiration Boy campaign for Queen Hillary in the fall.

"Thank you, friends. I'm so glad to be here today to support Sen. Clinton, the next president of the United States. This is the most important election in our lifetime. We as Americans must

Chris Kellerman



come together to reject the ways of the past and vote for change.

"Sen. Clinton is a woman who represents that change. After all, she is not a man, and she isn't a Republican. Both of these qualities will be a huge change. Take a look at President George W. Bush. Not only is he a man, he is also a Republican. It's inspiring to imagine a Democratic woman like Clinton in the White House.

"Sen. Clinton may have supported Bush's war in Iraq, voted for the Iran resolution and been a member of the Washington establishment for 15 years, but I don't think any of these are that

big of a deal. Politics is politics, right? I can barely remember why I said any of those things a few months ago.

"We need a president who talks about hope, change and has a positive attitude.

"Her opponent, Gov. Mike Huckabee, clearly is not that president. He may be a Washington outsider, a Republican who cares more about the middle class than big business and a strong critic of the Bush foreign policy, but hey, he's a man. And he's a Republican. Do you see change there? Do you see hope? I certainly do not. Plus, we already had a president from Hope, Arkansas. We need change.

"When I look into the future, I see a great America led once again by the Clintons. I talked so much in my own campaign about unity. If there's one thing for which Hillary Rodham Clinton is known, it's unity. Who doesn't love the Clintons? I can't think of

anybody. Let's make change and unity happen. Vote for Hillary Clinton."

The opposite is even more disastrous to imagine.

"Sen. Clinton is a woman who represents that change. After all, she is not a man, and she isn't a Republican."

"Dear fellow Democrats, I am honored and excited to join Sen. Obama on the campaign trail beginning today.

We had a long and difficult journey to get here, but now we need to take Barack Obama straight to the White House.

"We all know I criticized Sen. Obama quite a lot during the primaries. I said he was not qualified and inexperienced. I said his idealist foreign policy statements were juvenile. I told Americans not to support a candidate who did not know what he would do on the first day of the job. I told you not to have false hopes.

"I think we can all agree, however, all of those criticisms were just a necessary part of the political game. I didn't actually believe all that. I mean, take a look at his opponent. Does anybody think John McCain is qualified and experienced?

"He was a war hero and a member of the Senate for a few decades, but it's not like the guy has learned anything. He may have run for president twice, but I

could hardly imagine during that time he has contemplated what he would do on his first day of office.

"And sure, while his foreign policy statements seem remarkably close to mine, Sen. Obama certainly would handle crises better than John McCain. John McCain is very old. I'm not entirely sure he can walk. Vote for experience, stability, realism and for somebody with whom you'll always know what you're getting: Obama for President!"

It would be funny if it weren't so depressing. With thousands of U.S. soldiers and innocent Iraqis dead, millions of Americans without health care and an economy on the brink of recession, the Democrats have turned a blind eye and made it all about themselves.

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

Lost literary love

The college life irritates me.

Not in that usual, customary sort of way — what with the annoying 'Animal House' party types or the whole nightly scholastic exercise. It's nothing so generalized or broad as those more natural excuses of what constitutes "the college life."

No, I just miss reading... for pure enjoyment.

You see, a long time ago, in a city a mere five hours away, I used to sit on the

Britney Drumm



porch of reading in order to gain knowledge and analyze, rather than picking up a book to enjoy while bundled up in a comfy chair because everything on TV sucks? Does your brain recognize the

difference, when you're reading a book because you desire it and when you read it because someone is forcing your hand?

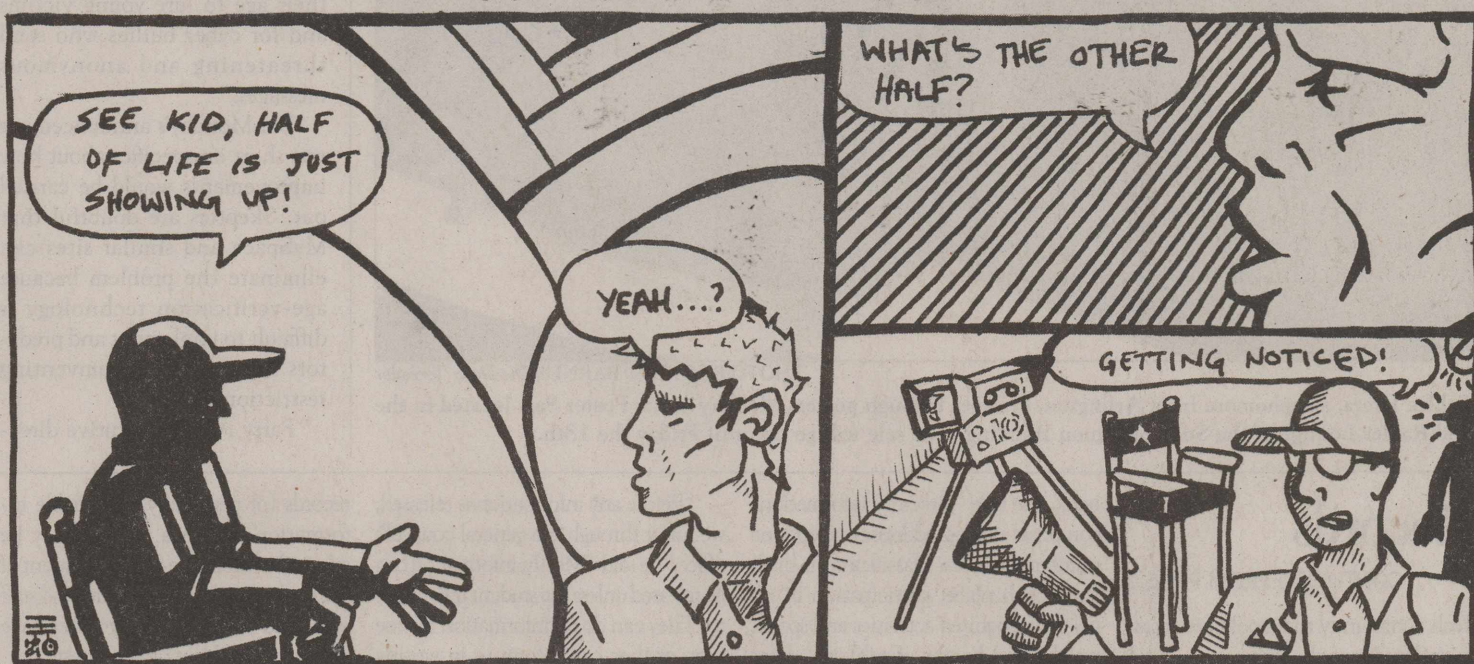
I think the amount of books a college student is expected to read can be, I dare say, absolutely asinine (though sometimes depending on the area of study). I understand in my major, by sheer obviousness, that a large book list is coming. Though every time I enroll in two to three English classes and am somehow expected to read around the sum of 20 to 30 novels, I sort of squint my eyes in supreme doubt. How, with an attempt at a social life and a job, can a full-time student prevail in actually getting through so many books, much less enjoy them?

Still... I love the feel of a book in my hands, regardless of whose will has put it there. Storytelling, more than any other human tradition still manages to captivate what I can only describe as my soul. Movies and TV can get close in attempting to allow the mind an experience of escape from reality, but none is as successful as that of a well-written, engaging story, where your own imagination and perception come into play.

I wonder if primary and even higher education, by force of number, rob the academic of their natural desire to read and therefore learn — or if, as stated before, it's a personal, subconscious issue that should either be fixed or forced into submission.

I, for my part, genuinely cannot wait for the day when I am graduated, if only so I can browse a Barnes and Noble for hours on end, once again, without a direct purpose in subject matter or title.

Drumm is The DT's opinions editor. E-mail her at britney.drumm@ttu.edu.



Tanning bed risks outweigh the benefits

By **ALLISON FORMANACK**
DAILY NEBRASKAN (U. NEBRASKA)

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb. — Growing up, I may not have had to walk 15 miles to school, uphill both ways, in my bare feet through more than 10 feet of snow on the ground. But being a Nebraska native, I've learned to live through some pretty unpleasant wintry weather in this state. Blizzards, negative temperatures and ice storms come and go every season, and the only positive that comes from suffering through these are those glorious snow days (if your learning institution believes in granting such days off).

January is one of the darkest and coldest months of the year here in the Cornhusker state, yet glancing at the crowds shivering around the buildings and classrooms on campus paints a slightly confusing picture.

More and more, buried beneath layers of scarves and wool, are individuals who are sporting deep, golden tans.

Given the sparse sunlight and the expense of traveling down to Mexico to catch some rays, it's quite obvious where most of them are getting such a color.

The tanning industry, which rakes in more than \$5 billion each year, sees its largest increase in customers during the winter months, particularly in the six weeks before spring break unofficially dubbed "tanning season." Advertisements for tanning salons clutter the radio airwaves year-round, urging people to get a "healthy, sexy tan" that will supposedly boost their self-confidence.

Seventy percent of all frequent tanners are adult women. However, increasing numbers of teenagers and men are joining the orange-hued ranks. Many of these individuals choose to "fake bake" for various reasons: Along with boosting how they feel about their looks by darkening their skin, many choose to tan to look more fashionable or appear healthier.

The tanning industry says ultraviolet radiation supplies us with vitamin D, known as the "sun vitamin," and provides our skin with a natural SPF, which protects against sun burning.

Of course, there is a darker side to the picture. One can become addicted to tanning, or "tanorexic," as a side effect of body dysmorphic disorder. In addition, a 2005 article in the Archives of Dermatology surmised that overuse of tanning facilities is similar to other types of substance abuse. Both of these can be viewed as markers for serious psychological disorders that could lead to death.

Tanners also should consider the physical side effects of indoor tanning. Individuals who use indoor tanning beds not only expose themselves to public lice and infections from improper cleaning, they also increase their chances of getting melanoma — the deadliest form of skin cancer — from the UVA radiation from tanning bulbs.

Melanoma, which was once a

far rarer form of cancer, has become increasingly more common in conjunction with the more widespread use of indoor tanning beds. In 1997, it became the sixth most common type of cancer, and it is projected to be the most prevalent form of cancer by 2022.

As worrisome as cancer can be, it's not the only consequence of tanning. The Food and Drug Administration also linked premature aging, eye damage and immune system repression to overexposure to

ultraviolet rays through tanning. Despite all of the risks, many people still choose to pay for visible skin damage. At the end of the day, what individuals choose to do to their bodies is ultimately up to them, and that includes setting themselves up for skin cancer.

There is no need to outlaw the tanning industry or make it more difficult to obtain a tan if that is what people truly want.

But, just as it is illegal to purchase cigarettes under the age of 18, so too should it be illegal for individuals under the age of 18 to use indoor tanning beds. It has been estimated that 2 million teenagers used tanning beds last year; use of these facilities is contributing to skin cancer rates appearing at younger ages and in increasing numbers.

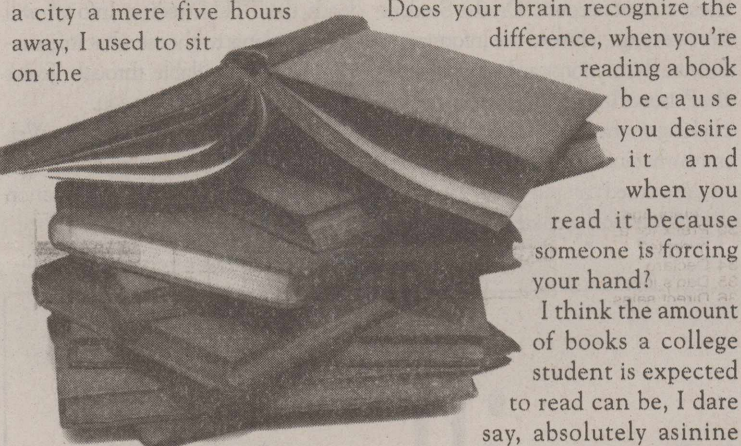
Three

states — Texas, Illinois and Wisconsin — currently have laws that prevent children and teenagers from using tanning beds. In addition, a Coolibar survey of dermatologists conducted in 2005 showed that 76 percent of respondents favored a tax on tanning salons that would fund sun protection education in schools.

Having tanned skin may be in fashion for now, but is it really worth the risks later? What good is it to look great in a swimsuit while in your twenties but be forced to cover up your leathery or cancer-riddled skin in your forties or fifties? And seriously, what is wrong with having pale skin and freckles if that's what you were born with?

There are safe alternatives to getting a tan — ones that won't potentially kill you later on — such as using spray-on tans and buying darker clothes to naturally contrast pale skin. It just makes more sense to avoid tanning facilities and to stop buying into the false advertisements of the tanning industry.

After all, it's winter. No one can even see your tan when you're bundled up under at least five layers of clothing. Save up that tanning money for something that is actually useful, like a wool hat and some gloves.



hardwood floor of my school's gymnasium to stretch before basketball games — always accompanied by a wide open book placed at my side. The volleyball team gave me the nickname of "Human Dictionary" while bowling once, and there was just a general acknowledgment from everyone who knew me that Britney Drumm always had a book in tow.

It was just my thing, I guess.

But, I feel like college academia has robbed me of that pure delight. The more textbooks, or even required novels, that are piled upon my workload, the more I resent every inch of every book I'm forced to touch. I've been assigned brilliant, extraordinary pieces of literature — but I still can't find that wholesome enthusiasm for them like I once did.

I have a feeling this problem has some sort of deep, psychological connection with the fact that I don't like when people tell me what to do. It stems, I believe, from being an only child. If you're an only child you grow up in a household where your parents treat you like a pseudo-equal, and there are no other children around to make you believe otherwise or keep you rooted in your own adolescence.

Obviously, I was told what to do by my parents and teachers, and more times than not I would comply, but perhaps it's a more subconscious bitterness of being told what I must read, rather than what I myself would choose. Or, is it more to do with the differ-

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Group considers biomass, waste reduction



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF agricultural economics Michael Farmer leads a discussion on bio fuels Monday afternoon at the Tech Renewable Energy Society meeting in human sciences room 169.

By **MAGGIE KIELY**
STAFF WRITER

During the first Texas Tech Renewable Energy Society meeting of the semester Monday, members were informed on the use of biomass energy and alternative ideas of waste reduction.

Michael Farmer, an associate professor of Agricultural Economics, presented members of the society with information on his research regarding the biomass energy industry.

"Anything is biomass if it has carbon in it," he said. "What we're talking about is taking things that are recently dead and dying and turning into energy."

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists Web site, uscusa.org, biomass energy derived from dead material originally comes from the sun and "through the process of photosynthesis, chlorophyll in plants captures the sun's energy by converting carbon dioxide from the air and water from the ground into carbohydrates, complex compounds composed of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen. When these carbohydrates are burned, they turn back into carbon dioxide and water and release the sun's energy they contain."

While using biomass to create energy may seem like an obvious alternative to fossil fuels, guest

speaker Jack Seay — a Lubbock coordinator of Freecycle, a waste-reduction network — said barriers such as a lack of research and management glitches get in the way.

"Our way of looking for renewable fuel is by looking for a really, really big plant, and a really, really big plant means that you have to move the biomass a really long way," he said. "So from a business point of view, it may not be a safe investment."

Farmer suggested creating numerous smaller plants close to sites with large amounts of biomass, such as gineries, in order to cut back on transportation costs. Costs can be cut other places as well.

"It's not hard to turn it into an oil and ship it first — In other words, I don't have to move the paper, I can liquefy it," he said. "What we want is the carbon. I can reduce the weight to maybe a fourth, but keep all the carbon, then ship that. If I only ship it about 10 miles and reduce the

weight, I'm in good shape."

Farmer said the advantage of the smaller power plants is once the plant and the management infrastructure are created, it will be easier to adapt to newer technologies.

"Instead of saying 'what can we do to move to hydrogen today,'" he said, "what can we do to move to hydrogen 20 years from now?"

Tim Samsone, a senior civil engineering major from San Antonio, said though he found the information interesting, he is not sure how practical the idea is right now.

By the time all of the kinks are worked out of the biomass energy industry, Samsone said he believes "the nation will find different ways to use energy and how to find it and how to make it."

Seay attended the meeting to inform students on Freecycle, the waste-reduction network he is a part of.

"Local cities will create a yahoo group, which is an e-mail group, and if you have something that you want to get rid of that can still be used, you can send an e-mail to the group," he said. "If you think someone else has something you want, you can send out an e-mail asking for the item."

Once e-mails go out, members of the network can contact the sender and arrange to pick up or give away the item listed.

The network is similar to Web sites such as craigslist, but the items received or given up are free.

The Lubbock Freecycle network, which Seay created in 2004, has accumulated almost 23,000 members exchanging about 18,000 messages.

Seay said Freecycle networks have been created in eight countries. Across the world, Freecycle networks reduce waste by about 400 tons a day.

"If that much is kept out of landfills," he said, "it would be about 300 million pounds a year."

People can offer to give away almost anything, Seay said, from "furniture, computers, books, clothing, even pets — dogs and cats."

"I used Freecycle when I moved here, and I got rid of 90 percent of the things I was worried about," Farmer said.

► mag8240@hotmail.com

Afghanistan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The multipronged assault began around 6 p.m., when the Norwegian Embassy was hosting a meeting at the Serena for visiting Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon described Støre as the target of the attack.

Witnesses said they first heard gunfire, then several explosions — likely from hand grenades — and also one large blast — the suicide bomb.

"There were two or three bombs and there was complete chaos," Stian L. Solum, a photographer

from the Norwegian photo agency Scanpix, told Norway's state radio network NRK. "When I started to walk out (of the elevator), a bomb went off a little way from me. There were shots fired by what I think was an ANA (Afghan National Army) soldier."

The attack killed six people and wounded six, said Interior Ministry spokesman Zemer Bashary. He spoke before news of the Norwegian journalist's death and it was not clear whether he was counted among the six dead.

One of the militants was shot to death and a Taliban spokesman said a second died in the suicide explosion. It was not clear what happened to the

other attackers.

Zabiullah Mujahid, the Taliban spokesman, told AP that four militants with suicide vests attacked the hotel — one bomber who detonated his explosives and three militants who threw grenades and fired guns. The claim could not be verified but came very soon after the attack. The

bomber was not included among the count of the dead.

In Washington, two State Department officials said that one American citizen had been killed. The victim's identity was being withheld pending notification of relatives, the official said on condition of anonymity ahead of a formal

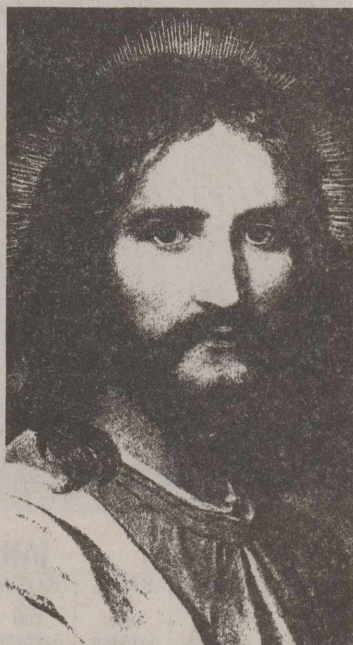
announcement.

White House press secretary Dana Perino said the attack was

carried out by extremists "killing innocent people to pursue their political objectives."

He died to take away your sins. Not your mind.

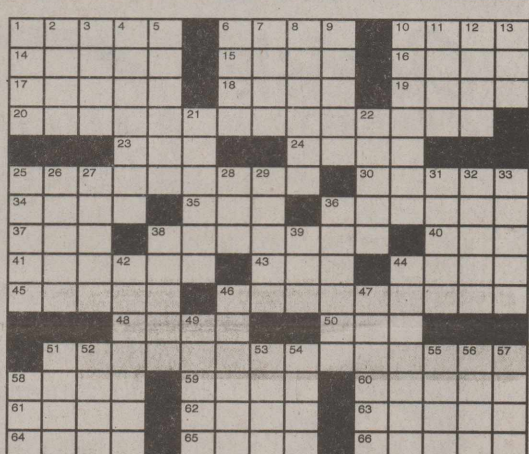
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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
1 Split second
6 High crags
10 Tramp
14 Liquid measure
15 Aid in a felony
16 Building branches
17 Close, in poetry
18 Crazy
19 Dregs
20 Financial TV personage
23 O.J.'s judge
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25 Financial TV personage
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34 Declare
35 Dad's love
36 Direct sales
37 Bird's beak
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40 Rumsfeld's old org.
41 Of the ankle
43 LIRR destination
44 Weighty book
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48 Chief Rombauer
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51 Financial TV personage
58 Hoodwink
59 Where puts and calls trade in IL
60 Exclude
61 Encourage
62 Split apart
63 Writer Zola
64 Highway
65 Keats output
66 Heated argument



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL
1/15/08

Monday's Puzzle Solved

AMMO SCRAM SCOT
LEAF PAULA TAPE
PARFOTHECOURSE
NEER ARP
OFFICER TRAITOR
PRUNES SHOTDOWN
TORT BOONE PEA
NOSURPRISES
EVA ANTON ROOT
LITIGENSER MERTINO
FRICER PARSLEY
ATE CADS
THESAMEOLDTHING
EIRE LYCEE ARIA
NEAR YEARN YELP
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- DOWN**
1 Newborn horse
2 Moon goddess
3 From the top
4 More frightening
5 Where attachments are attached?
6 After-shower powder
7 Orchestra member
8 Calculate
9 Nero Wolfe's creator
10 She-devil
11 Imitation butter
12 Huffed and puffed
13 Forerunner of the CIA
21 Typical
22 Chops up
25 December VIP
26 Of part of the eye
27 Striped equine
28 African nat.
29 Essential acid
31 Heaviest noble gas
32 Ecological region
33 Of times gone by
36 Noise
38 New Zealand Polynesian

- 39 "Bill... the Science Guy"
42 Smiled smugly
44 Roman galley
46 Poked
47 Slurs over
49 Large, pref.
51 Spanish painter Joan

- 52 Pond scum
53 Top-drawer
54 Cerise and crimson
55 Death notice, briefly
56 Brewer's grain
57 Popular cookie
58 Prickly husk

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LA VIDA

Writers' strike affects night-time television

By DREW BELLE ZERBY
THE DAILY REVEILLE (LSU)

(U-WIRE) BATON ROUGE, La. — Television viewers should expect an upcoming surge of reality television shows this spring.

Although the reality television industry was already successful, the writers' strike will effect the amount of reality shows appearing on television this season according to Mari Kornhauser, LSU screenwriting professor and Writers Guild of America member.

"[Reality television] is ironically the center of the storm of the strike," she said.

Kornhauser said the reality writers are not members of the WGA, but they want to join the strike the Alliance of Motion Pictures and Television Producers is preventing

them from organizing, Kornhauser said.

Grant Morris, screenwriter and the WGA's strike captain for Louisiana, said the AMPTP is not concerned with reality television writers organizing because "they do not have the power or force of will."

Morris said if the reality writers organize, they will lose their jobs. They are easily replaced by upcoming writers because of the high number of writers who want to work for reality television. So reality television writers have no choice but to refrain from joining the writers' union and to continue to create more reality shows, Morris said.

Meanwhile, many reality shows are set to return for subsequent seasons, including "American Idol"

and "America's Next Top Model."

VH1 recently confirmed that Poison's frontman Bret Michaels will star in a second round of "Rock of Love." VH1 will also feature another season of Scott Baio's show as well as Adrienne Curry and Christopher Knight's series, both of which deal with the possibility of pregnancies.

MTV will air a second season of "A Shot at Love," the top-rated dating show because Tila Tequila's relationship with winner Bobby Barnhart did not work out, according to People magazine.

MTV will also feature a spinoff entitled "Amore," starring former contestant Dominic, according to Variety.

Many new reality shows will also premiere within the next couple of months. NBC has at least four

new reality shows scheduled to air

this spring, including "Celebrity Apprentice" and "American Gladiators," according to tvguide.com.

CMT is even following the reality television trend.

According to realitytvworld.com, upcoming reality shows for the network include "My Big Fat Redneck Wedding" and "Gone Country," which chronicles celebrities such as Julio Iglesias Jr. and Sisqo trying to concoct the

best country song.

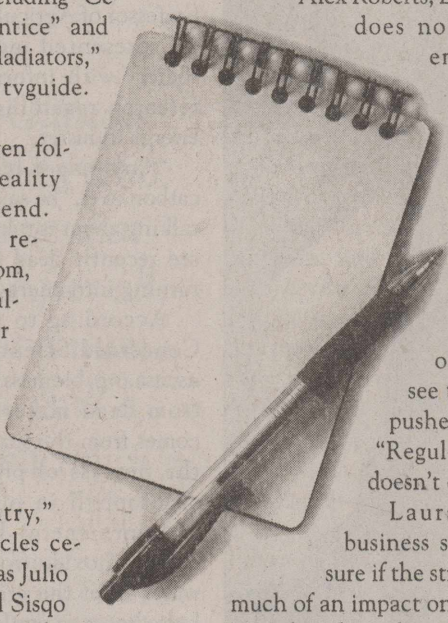
Alex Roberts, English junior, does not think the emergence of reality shows is directly affected by the writers' strike. "The shows are just getting racier and everyone wants to see the limits get pushed," she said. "Regular television doesn't offer that."

Laura Tillman, business senior, is not sure if the strike is having much of an impact on the increase in reality shows because this year's

shows are not much different from last year's shows, she said. "Reality shows are an interesting way to overcome the strike and to keep ratings up," Tillman said.

Roberts said she thinks that people are watching reality shows because nothing else worth watching is on television right now. "Before the strike, people watched shows like 'Survivor' and 'Grey's Anatomy,'" Roberts said. "Now there is no variety."

Kornhauser said the writers' strike is definitely having a positive effect on reality television, but the genre's future may still become bleak. If the strike lasts another couple of months, Kornhauser said television will start to suffer. She predicts a backlash of the reality show. People will eventually tire of reality television, she said.



BOOK REVIEW

BORAT: WASSAPP PEOPLES OF U.S. AND A?

By JEREMY BARNETT
FSVIEW & FLORIDA FLAMBEAU
(FLORIDA STATE U.)

(U-WIRE) TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — It was thought that everyone's favorite Kazakh would deace after his

let's-make-Borat-so-famous-he-cant-do-his-thing-anymore-mega-hit-blockbuster "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan."

Turns out the horny-quirky Kazakh, who ranks as the fourth most

popular man in his nation, had one more trick up his grey suit sleeve.

In his double-sided "volume of literatures," "Borat: Touristic Guidings to Minor Nation of U.S. and A." and "Borat: Touristic Guidings to Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan," the mustached media persona jumps deep into American society, explains how the U.S. and his home land differ, and chronicles an informative encyclopedia of the unknown and (to us) backwards world of Kazakhstan.

"Borat's Touristic Guidings to Minor Nation of U.S. and A." does just that with a few hundred grammatical errors. In an educative endeavor, Borat delivers a half-hard-cover guidebook that breaks down our beloved country into four "sectors of volume." The first being the History, Geographies and System of Politik of US and A.

This sector includes what looks to be a hand drawn map of the U.S. equipped with a helpful key that not

only gives "accurate" boundaries and geographical information of the "Unit of States and America" but breaks down exactly where important landmarks exist and the demographics of the populated and diverse United States.

If you want a comparison, think about the map that hangs on the wall in kindergarten class but instead of marking where the nation's capitol is, it highlights where all the machines that release "water for drink," prostitutes and "lavolatory for make a s-t" are located.

Sector 1 also gives Borat the opportunity to divulge into facts your high school history and government classes never taught you. Did you know that the U.S. was discovered by the great Kazakh explorer Yiltan Yuranambev in the year 1825? Or that the smallest state in the United States is Alabama and the biggest is Waterworld? And, out of these states, the most powerful leader of them is California's Arnold the Barbarian? Yeah, it's news to me too.

Sector of Volume 2 entitled The Peoples of US and A distinguishes the U.S. population into seven categories: cowboys, redindians (Native

Americans), chocolate faces (African Americans), American womens, loolee loolees (homosexuals), prostitutes and the Jew (Borat just might be slightly anti-Semitic).

During his cover-the-country adventure, he describes each kind of American, where you can find them, how to tell who is who and his shock in the style these different ethnicities are all governed. (There is no law preventing women from speaking unless they are spoken to and homosexuals don't need to wear blue hats; something he had to learn the hard way in his travels).

Delicious Foods of US and A, the third sector of volume gives Borat a taste of American culture — literally. The main focus of this section is reserved for "the most delicious food in the whole world," called a hamboorger, where you can get these "types of meat cakes" and his large obsession with a "small egg that look like a potato, which have name peanuts."

According to Borat, peanuts are the most delicious thing he has ever tasted. He even includes a drawing of one so if anyone knows where to find them, they can enlighten him.

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7 AM	Curious Clifford	Today Scheduled: Andrew Morton discusses the new Tom Cruise biography; chef Jose Andres.	The Early Show	Copeland Robinson	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	J. Hanna Paid Programs
8 AM	Super Why Dragon		The 700 Club	Awesome Eye	Lopez	Regis & Kelly	Martha Cooking
9 AM	Sesame Street		The Price Is Right	Cristina	Steve Wilkos		
10 AM	Big World		Divorce	Temptation	The View (HD)	The Morning Show	
11 AM	Barney	Jeopardy	Restless (HD)	Alex	Cosby	Paid Programs	Tyra Banks Show
12 PM	Callou	Crosswords	Beautiful	Jerry Springer	Roseanne	All My Children	Faud Extra
1 PM	Creative	Jeopardy	As the World	Jerry Springer	Roseanne	One Life to Live	The People's Court
2 PM	Teletub	Crosswords	Guiding Light	Paid Programs	All of Us	General Hospital	Judge Mathis
3 PM	Reading	Oprah Winfrey	Brown	Maury	Reba	Montel Williams	Ellen DeGeneres
4 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray "Cojo"	News
5 PM	Maya	News	News	TMZ	Standing	News	Raymond Simpsons
6 PM	NewsHour (HD)	News	News	Law Order "Crown"	Queens	News	Family
7 PM	NOVA (HD)	The Biggest Loser Immunity challenge.	"Comanche Moon" Tracking bandits.	St. Patrol	Reaper "Pilot" (HD)	Laughs	American Idol "Auditions #1: San Diego"
8 PM	Frontline (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Jim (HD)	Jim (HD)	Bernie	Boston Legal (HD)	News
9 PM	Bus. Rot	News	News	'70s	Will (HD)	News	Two & 1/2
10 PM	Charlie Rose	The Tonight Show	King (11:35) Late Show	Malcolm	Sex City	Insider	Friends
11 PM	News	(11:35) Late Night	Late Late Show	Wife	Sex City	Jimmy Kimmel	Scrubs
12 AM	Destinos	News	News	King	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.

American Idol

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

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Men's basketball searches for intensity from upperclassmen

By **ADAM COLEMAN**
STAFF WRITER

In Texas Tech's 74-55 loss at Oklahoma State Saturday, the Red Raiders lacked several facets of their game, most notably: intensity.

"Our defense, we were playing pretty well in the first half," Tech guard John Roberson said. "In the second half, we just let up. That's when they started hitting all those shots. I think if we just would've stayed fired up and just played with more intensity on defense, then that wouldn't have happened."

In the first half, Tech kept the game close, but OSU guard Obi Muonelo scored 21 points off the bench, including 20 in the second half, to help stretch the Cowboy lead to 22.

The Red Raiders could not keep up the intensity on defense to prevent Oklahoma State improving its shooting percentage in the second half. Tech held the Cowboys to 44 percent shooting in the first half, but Oklahoma State bounced back to shoot 56 percent in the second half.

Oklahoma State kept its aggression

at a high level throughout the game in front of 13,395 fans at Gallagher-Iba Arena.

OSU assistant coach James Dickey said the Cowboys' intensity turned out to be a key to winning the game.

"The big thing for us was our level of intensity and our defense," Dickey said. "Tech's very hard to defend. They've got some balance and guys that can really score."

The Red Raiders will need to find the emotion and intensity they did not have Saturday when they face No. 10 Texas A&M.

Roberson said he believes his team will run on high emotions for its matchup against the Aggies.

"We should be fired up," he said. "If we (are not), something's wrong. I

think we're going to come out ready to play. Hopefully we can come out and get this W because we really need it."

The Red Raiders are looking for more production from their veteran players to prepare for the Aggies and more conference games down the road.

Tech head coach designate Pat Knight said in order for Tech to prevent an early slump in conference play, the team has to find leadership and intensity from two

of its seniors.

"We need (leadership) to come from (Charlie) Burgess and (Martin) Zeno," Knight said. "Our two seniors, they have the most experience. It's just these two seniors we relied upon a lot last year as juniors we thought were going to come in here and really be

great leaders for us. Not just from on the court standpoint from their play, but also in the locker room. We just haven't had it."

Along with more production from veteran players, Tech still is looking for its freshman class to continue to develop while getting used to Big 12 Conference play.

"We really like our freshman class," Knight said. "Got three very talented kids, but the freshmen — it's obvious we went up to Oklahoma State, and all three of them didn't play very well. It was kind of like they got thrown into the boiler pretty quick up there. That's going to happen to them."

Roberson said the Red Raiders were uncomfortable on the road to start conference play, but it is no excuse.

"I was a little nervous," Roberson said. "I know all of us (were) pretty nervous, but we didn't bring our A-game. That's what we gotta do when we go on the road."

Tech takes on No. 10 Texas A&M 8:30 p.m. Wednesday at the United Spirit Arena.

► adam.coleman@ttu.edu



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH GUARD Alan Voskuil and the Red Raiders will play Texas A&M 8:30 p.m. Wednesday at the United Spirit Arena.

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SPORTS

PAGE 8
TUESDAY, JAN. 15, 2008

Made for TV: Myrick follows dreams in final season

By ALEX YBARRA
STAFF WRITER

Erin Myrick wants a phone call.

"If you need somebody to work for your public relations agency, call me," Myrick said laughing.

The Lady Raiders' senior center graduated with a degree in broadcast journalism in May 2007 and is in the process of obtaining a public relations degree this semester.

Myrick envisions her future as a broadcaster in Los Angeles, but the Duarte, Calif., native said she knows it could take years to break into a market of that size, which is why she went with public relations.

"I'm just trying to get my feet wet in whatever I can first," she said.

With a hard work ethic, a call could be around the corner for Myrick, but this season she wants to accomplish something not done since her freshman year: make the NCAA Tournament.

Myrick scored four points and had four rebounds against Tennessee in Tech's trip to the Sweet 16 in the 2004-05 season, the year Baylor won the national championship.

After the Lady Raiders (12-4, 0-2 in Big 12 Conference play) soared to their best start in three seasons,

the team has hit a slump during an inopportune stretch of play — losing three in a row and falling into a tie for last place in the Big 12 standings next to No. 19 Texas A&M and No. 24 Texas.

Myrick, the only senior on the team, said she knows the predicament her young Lady Raiders face when the team faces the squad that knocked off the Aggies and the Longhorns: Kansas State, (10-5, 2-0) Wednesday.

"You can't really practice experience, it's something that comes," Myrick said of a Tech team with nine newcomers. "It comes with the game. Keep playing, and you keep learning. I know I'm a lot different than when I was a freshman or when I was a sophomore, and a lot of (my teammates) are juniors and sophomores, but they haven't played Big 12 yet. They don't know what it's like. The more they get to learn, the better we're going to be."

Myrick, who has a 3.6 grade point average, has started all 16 games this season, hitting 53 percent of her shots, a career high.

"She realizes it's her last season in Big 12 Conference to play," sophomore guard Jordan Murphree said. "She's got to give it everything she's got, she can't get her head down if people are coming to double

her or if she's missing shots. She's got to keep coming after it."

Coach Kristy Curry said Myrick's improvement this season, her 12.1 points per game are also a career-high, comes from what Curry calls a "sense of urgency."

"That's what seniors do — seniors that really have a passion and a concern, and really want to go out the right way," Curry said. "I've seen a growth in her sense of urgency, and I think it's been contagious with her team."

If Myrick can maintain a 3.6 GPA off the court, then she can pass every test that Curry throws at her.

"One thing about her game that I absolutely love is she understands every single thing," Curry said. "She's a smart player, you never have to worry about her knowing where to be and what to be doing, you say it once and she gets it. She's very court smart, and that's something I've always been impressed with."

An Academic All-Big 12 First Team performer, Myrick's wisdom helps her balance a heavy basketball schedule with the urgency of a field such as the media.

She said her organizational skills — being able to balance basketball and two degrees — can only help her in the future.

"I think it'll help me when I get into the job market," she said. "Trying to juggle different things at the same time and just trying to organize those things."

The ideal student-athlete — one who gets just as much work done off the court as on it — Curry said is what Myrick brings to the Lady Raiders, and the coach could not be any prouder.

"You're probably going to see her on a major news channel in Los Angeles," Curry said. "I give it six to eight years. Erin Myrick is going to be a Red Raider that we can all say, 'Hey, she went out and was very successful.' She represents what it's really about. We could lose every ball game we play, and Erin Myrick gets it. She's going to be a great representative. She's done things the right way."

Myrick remembers when she would ask a senior, "What time is practice?" or what to do in general.

Now, she's the one taking questions.

"You just have to grow up and be able to lead a pack," she said.

Soon enough, Myrick will have to leave the pack, but she will not be lonely, just as long as she receives that phone call.

▶ daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu



PHOTO BY TRENT BARNES/The Daily Torcador
ERIN MYRICK SENIOR graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism and is finishing her public relations degree. The Duarte, Calif. native also plays center for the Lady Raiders and averages 12.1 points per game this season.

Flowers leaves team to pursue teaching certification

By ALEX YBARRA
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Raider basketball team will continue the 2007-08 season without senior forward Tawanna Flowers.

Flowers leaves the team after receiving her bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies in December.

According to a press release, the 5-foot-10 forward from Levelland decided to continue her education in pursuit of her teaching certification this semester.

"Tawanna has decided to spend the spring semester focused on her desire to obtain her teacher's certification," coach Kristy Curry said. "We support her and know that she has a very bright future ahead of her."

Flowers' senior season was cut short when she suffered an ACL injury before the season began.

In a press release Friday, Flowers



FLOWERS

said she remains grateful for the opportunities she received while playing for the Lady Raiders, and she thanked the supporters from the past.

"I really want to thank the community for all of the love and support that was given to me throughout my career," Flowers said in the press

release. "Texas Tech and the Lady Raider program have given me opportunities to do and experience things I never dreamed of doing. I wish the team the best. Thanks again for all of your support."

Flowers played 76 games with three starts in her three seasons and could not receive a fifth-year of eligibility after her injury because she was redshirted her freshman year.

As a junior, she played in 29 games with three starts and averaged .8 points per game to go along with 1.7 rebounds per game.

Flowers is now the second senior to leave the team during the Big 12 Conference schedule.

Last season, senior guard Chesley Dabbs forfeited her playing career for personal reasons, but similar to Flowers' case, she remained involved with the Lady Raider program.

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AP Top 25 NCAA Basketball Rankings

MEN				WOMEN			
Team	Record	Pts	Pvs	Team	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. North Carolina	17-0	1,765	1	1. Connecticut	15-0	1,250	1
2. Memphis	15-0	1,739	2	2. Tennessee	14-1	1,192	2
3. Kansas	16-0	1,678	3	3. North Carolina	16-1	1,133	3
4. UCLA	16-1	1,578	5	4. Maryland	19-1	1,101	4
5. Georgetown	13-1	1,439	7	5. Rutgers	13-2	1,065	5
6. Tennessee	14-1	1,404	8	6. Baylor	14-1	950	8
7. Duke	13-1	1,362	9	7. Stanford	14-3	943	7
8. Washington St.	14-1	1,342	4	8. California	15-2	877	9
9. Indiana	14-1	1,215	10	9. LSU	13-3	858	11
10. Texas A&M	15-1	1,184	11	10. Duke	13-3	808	12
11. Michigan St.	14-2	988*	6	11. Oklahoma	10-3	759	6
12. Butler	16-1	985	14	12. Georgia	14-2	603	10
13. Marquette	13-2	955	15	13. George Washington	13-3	555	17
14. Dayton	14-1	793	17	14. West Virginia	12-3	538	16
15. Pittsburgh	14-2	670	20	15. Old Dominion	12-3	504	18
16. Vanderbilt	16-1	658	13	16. Ohio St.	13-3	447	19
17. Wisconsin	13-2	649	21	17. Notre Dame	13-3	431	14
18. Mississippi	14-1	612	16	18. Oklahoma St.	14-1	378	25
19. Texas	13-3	592	12	19. Texas A&M	12-4	349	13
20. Xavier	14-3	395	24	20. Wyoming	14-1	301	21
21. Miami	14-1	286	25	21. Auburn	13-4	278	22
22. Arizona St.	13-2	257	—	22. Pittsburgh	13-3	194	—
23. Rhode Island	15-2	196	22	23. DePaul	12-3	177	24
24. Clemson	13-3	187	18	24. Texas	12-4	154	15
25. Villanova	11-3	140	19	25. Colorado	12-3	98	23

QB Mallett's father says no commitment decision yet

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Former Michigan quarterback Ryan Mallett is still deciding where to resume his college football career.

"We haven't made a decision yet, but everybody and their dog is saying my son has done this or that," Jim Mallett said Monday in an interview with The Associated Press. "I can

tell you, we visited Arkansas and we've talked to Texas A&M and Tennessee. But we're not sure what is going on at Tennessee because they hired an offensive coordinator that has run the spread. I can also tell you we considered UCLA, but just decided that's too far away."

Arkansas, on the other hand,

is close to Texarkana, Texas, where Mallett played high school football. Arkansas compliance director Marvin Caston said the school has received permission from Michigan to talk to Mallett — but he stopped short of saying any transfer process was complete.

"That's where we are," Caston said. "I can't confirm whether or not he's enrolled."

Mallett's father said last week, shortly after it became clear his son was leaving Michigan, that it was a good possibility his son would transfer to Tennessee if the school hired former Michigan offensive coordinator Mike DeBord and quarterbacks coach Scot Loeffler, both of whom were considered for jobs.

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IAAF rules amputee sprinter Oscar Pistorius ineligible for Olympics because of his racing blades

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The IAAF ruled Monday that double-amputee sprinter Oscar Pistorius is ineligible to compete in the Beijing Olympics because his prosthetic racing legs give him a clear competitive advantage.

The International Association of Athletics Federations had twice postponed the ruling, but the executive Council said the South African runner's curved, prosthetic "Cheetah" blades were considered a technical aid in violation of the rules.

"As a result, Oscar Pistorius is ineligible to compete in competitions organized under IAAF rules," the IAAF said in a statement from Monte Carlo, Monaco.

Pistorius, known as the "blade runner," announced last week that he

planned to appeal any adverse decision, including taking the case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Athletics South Africa said it would immediately apply the decision, further complicating Pistorius' future since he will not be able to set legal Olympic qualifying times in his own country.

"That's a huge blow," said Pistorius' manager, Peet Van Zyl. "He has been competing in South African able-bodied competition for the past three years. At this stage it looks like he is out of any able-bodied event."

The decision was reached in an e-mail vote by the 27-member IAAF Council. The vote count was not disclosed but was believed to be unanimous.

The IAAF endorsed studies by

German professor Gert-Peter Brueggemann, who conducted tests on the prosthetic limbs and said they give Pistorius a clear competitive advantage over able-bodied runners.

"An athlete using this prosthetic blade has a demonstrable mechanical advantage (more than 30 percent) when compared to someone not using the blade," the IAAF said.

The federation said Pistorius had been allowed to compete in some able-bodied events until now because his case was so unique that such artificial prostheses had not been properly studied.

"We did not have the science," IAAF spokesman Nick Davies said. "Now we have the science. We are only interested in competitions that we govern."

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