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(INBRIEF)

STATE

Prisoners on verge of phone privileges

AUSTIN (AP) — Tens of thousands of Texas prison inmates are close to getting routine access to telephones for the first time. The Texas Board of Criminal Justice on Wednesday approved rules governing use of telephones, and agency officials said they would draw up within a few days proposals for bids from companies hoping to land a contract to install and manage the phones in the nation's second-largest corrections system.

NATION

Drought could force nuclear plants to close

LAKE NORMAN, N.C. (AP) — Nuclear reactors across the Southeast could be forced to throttle back or temporarily shut down later this year because drought is drying up the rivers and lakes that supply power plants with the awesome amounts of cooling water they need to operate. Utility officials say such shutdowns probably wouldn't result in blackouts. But they could lead to shockingly higher electric bills for millions of Southerners, because the region's utilities may be forced to buy expensive replacement power from other energy companies.

WORLD

Blast rocks building in Iraqi city; 17 killed

BAGHDAD (AP) — A thunderous blast tore through a vacant apartment building in northern Iraq on Wednesday, killing at least 17 civilians and wounding more than 130 in adjacent houses just minutes after the Iraqi army arrived to investigate tips about a weapons cache. Rescue crews searched under toppled walls, collapsed ceilings and piles of debris tossed by the explosion that blew apart the empty building, which Iraqi authorities said was used by insurgents to stash weapons and bombs.

DEATH TOLL

3931

U.S. Military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

WEATHER

Today
CLOUDY
HIGH 36
LOW 25

Friday
SHOWERS
HIGH 46
LOW 32

INSIDE

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facebook follies

Potential employers monitoring student social networking Web sites

By Matt McGowan
staff writer

The next time a student learns he or she has been tagged in a photo from the last weekend's party on www.facebook.com or www.myspace.com, it may be in his or her best interest to take a look.

With more than 37,000 people on Facebook's Texas Tech network and countless more on MySpace, students clearly are using social networking sites, but so are their future bosses.

According to a 2006 study conducted by CareerBuilder.com, 12 percent of hiring managers searched their applicants' social networking profiles before hiring them. Of those who checked job candidates' online network profiles, 63 percent did not hire an applicant based on what they had found on those sites.

CareerBuilder offers three tips when it comes to personal Web pages, said Theresa Chu, senior career adviser for the company: be careful, be prepared and be discreet.

Students can be careful by not posting anything on their own or their friends' sites that they would not want an employer to see, she said. They can be prepared by anticipating any questions employers might have after investigating their personal pages.

FACEBOOK continued on page 3

Red-light camera fate undecided

By MAGGIE KIELY
STAFF WRITER

After seven controversial months of operation, the future of red-light cameras once again lies in the hands of Lubbock City Council members.

The Lubbock Citizens Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement Commission voted 4-2 in favor of removing the cameras. Council members will vote on the ultimate decision.

David Spears, chairman of the Lubbock Citizens Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement Commission, said he voted in favor of taking the cameras down based on his evaluation of the data collected from the red-light cameras after a six-month period.

"The state wisely created this commission independent of the Citizens Traffic Commission to take an objective look at the cameras and if they are working," he said. "We looked at it using common sense, and if you look at it, the data shows they're not working."

According to the Public Works Safety Campaign Second Quarter Report, rear-end crashes have increased more than 50 percent when comparing the months of July through December of 2006 and 2007.

Spears said he believes proponents of the cameras who argue that intersections without cameras have a higher rate of collisions than those with cameras contradict the safety goal of the cameras.

"That's bogus because the whole purpose is to change city-wide driving behavior," he said, "not just at intersections with cameras."

Councilwoman Linda DeLeon of District 1 said she was not surprised by the results of the vote.

"I know that some of the members that were appointed were against cameras from the beginning," DeLeon said. "In my opinion, some of them already had a negative attitude about it."

Spears, who was appointed to the com-

CAMERAS continued on page 2

Thousands of Palestinians cross into Egypt as border breached

By IBRAHIM BARZAK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — On foot, in cars and in donkey carts, tens of thousands of Gazans flooded into Egypt on Wednesday through a border fence blown up by militants — puncturing a gaping hole in Israel's airtight closure of the Gaza Strip and giving a boost to Hamas.

In a shopping spree that was both festive and frenzied, Gazans cleared out stores in an Egyptian border town, buying up everything from TV sets to soft drinks to cigarettes.

As waves of people swarmed through the destroyed barrier — some estimated the crowd in the hundreds of thousands — Egyptian security forces lined up on one side of the border and Hamas forces lined up on the other side. None of them interfered in any way, and it appeared Hamas militants actively participated in the

border breach.

That breach, though likely temporary, seemed certain to strengthen Hamas in its showdown with Israel, the West and its Fatah rivals — relieving some of the pain of an international blockade of the Gaza Strip following Hamas' violent takeover of the coastal territory in June.

It also raised Israeli fears of an influx of weapons and militants to Gaza and threatened to undermine crucial Egyptian participation in a Mideast peace push by President Bush.

Official reaction to the day's events ranged from dismay to embarrassment to outright anger.

The United States expressed concern about the border breach. Israel demanded that Egypt take control of its border. Hamas called on its rivals to help come up with new arrangements for Gaza's crossings. And

Egypt's leader said he had no choice but to let in the beleaguered Palestinians.

For ordinary Gazans, it was a day of joy and plenty.

Osama Hassan, 25, said the border opening will enable him to marry his 17-year-old fiancée next week, because they were able to get items they need to set up a household. He bought a special mattress for his injured back and she assembled kitchen supplies.

Hassan said he belongs to Fatah, not Hamas, but still wants to "kiss the forehead" of Gaza's Hamas prime minister.

Hamas did not take responsibility for a series of explosions that destroyed the fence, but it seemed unlikely the systematic operation could have happened without its approval, if not active involvement. Residents said Hamas-linked militants cut

EGYPT continued on page 6

Wall Street pulls off comeback from yet another sharp decline

By MADLEN READ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street pulled off a stunning comeback Wednesday, surging higher in late trading and wiping out what looked to be yet another massive decline. The Dow Jones industrials, down more than 323 points in earlier trading, ended the day with an advance of just under 300 points.

Such volatility has become a hallmark of Wall Street's performance in recent months amid the ongoing housing and credit crisis and growing fears of recession. And, after five straight days of pullbacks, a rebound was to be expected. But analysts saw some positive signs in the day's trading.

The Federal Reserve's decision Tuesday to lower its benchmark federal funds rate by 0.75 percentage point to 3.5 percent, while met with some skepticism, did give intrepid investors a reason to buy Wednesday.

"You might say this is a belated reaction to what the Fed did this week, compounded by hopes for the Fed to do more next week," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Avalon Partners. Traders who bet on the Fed's target fed funds rate were pricing in on Wednesday a 100 percent chance of a 0.50 percentage-point cut by the central bank when it meets next Tuesday and Wednesday.

Rate cuts are designed to stimulate borrowing and, in turn, business activity and the overall economy. They also will eventually boost profit margins for banks and other lenders, which have been working to lower costs and raise cash levels through layoffs and stock sales after having lost billions of dollars to bad mortgages and mortgage-related investments. Those companies — including Citigroup Inc., Washington Mutual Inc. and Merrill Lynch — were the big winners Wednesday.

"The early leaders in a market recovery tend to be banks, REITs

WALL STREET continued on page 2

Rice presses Musharraf on Pakistan elections

By MATTHEW LEE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice pressed Pakistani leader Pervez Musharraf on Wednesday to ensure that next month's elections are free and fair and urged him to boost counterterrorism cooperation with the U.S. and neighboring Afghanistan.

Meeting with Musharraf here on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, Rice praised him as a steadfast ally in the war on terror whose country would continue to receive substantial U.S. support. But she stressed that he must uphold his stated commitment to democracy.

The meeting was the highest-level, face-to-face U.S. contact with the Pakistani leader since last month's assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, and it came as Musharraf faces growing discontent at home and the Bush administration fights congressional efforts to curb its backing.

Separately, Rice and Afghan President Hamid Karzai, also in Davos, discussed counterterrorism and narcotics challenges as well as NATO's role in combatting extremists in Afghanistan. The alliance has faced recent U.S. criticism.

"NATO is not performing perfectly," Rice said in a speech to the forum. "We are engaged in a real war in Afghanistan. ... This is not just a peacekeeping operation, and the stakes could not be higher for the Afghan people, for our alliance, and for our security."

In remarks to the same audience, Karzai warned of the global danger from a "wildfire spread of terrorism" in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Tech police blotter: Arrest made for possession of prohibited weapon

Jan. 16
Two officers investigated the burglary of a vehicle in the Z-4R parking lot. A CD player was taken from the vehicle, which was secured at the time of the burglary. An officer investigated a false alarm in the basement of the Music building. A fire alarm pull station had been activated by an unknown person. An officer investigated the burglary of a vehicle in the Z-3F parking lot. The passenger-side window was shattered and the stereo was taken out of the vehicle.

Jan. 17
Two officers responded to a traffic accident in the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center B-2 parking lot. There were no injuries. An officer investigated a vehicle that had been keyed in the Z-6B parking lot. An officer investigated a disturbance on the eighth floor of Weymouth Residence Hall in which someone cracked a door by throwing an unknown object at it. An officer arrested a student for driving while intoxicated in the

3100 block of 18th Street. An officer arrested two students in the Z5-C parking lot. One student was arrested for public intoxication and possession of alcohol by a minor and the other for public intoxication and possessing a fictitious license. An officer investigated the theft of \$62 that occurred at Sam's Place in Murray Residence Hall. An officer detained a student on the second floor of Horn Residence Hall for possession of

drug paraphernalia. The student was released pending the filing of charges with the Lubbock County District Attorney's Office. An officer arrested a student for public intoxication and possession of alcohol by a minor in the Z5-C parking lot. An officer arrested a non-student in the R-7 parking lot for possession of a prohibited weapon and an outstanding warrant for the issuance of a bad check. john.vanderlan@ttu.edu

Wall Street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(real estate investment trusts) and homebuilders, as these are the groups that typically would benefit first from a turnaround. And those have been the market leaders this week," said Steve Goldman, chief market strategist at Weeden & Co. "What has happened is the Fed is flooding the system with liquidity and eventually we should see some traction in the economy. And stocks tend to respond first."

Still, analysts were mindful that in the past months, Wall Street has been known to soar one day and succumb the next, and that there are still many economic unknowns for the market to weather. And, given that stocks are so badly beaten down, bargain hunting played a part in Wednesday's turnaround.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 298.98, or 2.50 percent, to 12,270.17, having fallen as much as 323.29 earlier. Before Wednesday's session, the Dow had fallen nearly 10 percent since the start of the year, and it was down more than 15 percent since its record close of 14,164.53 on Oct. 9.

Wednesday's swing from negative to positive territory of 631.86 points is the largest point swing since July 24, 2002, according to Dow Jones Indexes. The largest intraday point swing, a metric that Dow started calculating in July 1995, was a 721-point swing on April 14, 2000.

Broader stock indicators also surged Wednesday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 28.10, or 2.14 percent, to 1,338.60, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 24.14, or 1.05 percent, to 2,316.41.

Advancing issues were ahead of decliners by about 3 to 1 on the

New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to a heavy 2.83 billion shares.

Bond prices turned lower as stocks rebounded. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell in earlier trading but then recovered to 3.55 percent, up from 3.41 percent late Tuesday.

At its lowest point Tuesday, the Dow was 17.9 percent below its October closing high, meaning that the stock market has come perilously close to the bear market threshold of 20 percent. It's unclear whether Wall Street will indeed keep falling and officially enter a bear period, or whether it is bottoming out.

Buying, like selling, can feed on itself and investors may go into the market to be sure they don't miss out on a rally. What needs to be seen is whether these gains will easily be knocked down again.

"Volatility is certainly the norm now and not the exception," said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at Jefferies & Co. "We have had 14 trading days so far this year and only two of them have been without a triple-digit swing (in the Dow). Three of those days have had 300-point swings."

Wall Street faces several months of uncertainty, with the bulk of fourth-quarter earnings reports still to come and with economic reports likely to be disappointing. When it's more clear that companies and consumers are spending freely, investors might relax.

However, with consumers burdened by debt and in the process of cutting back their spending, it's impossible to predict when that relief will come.

The dollar was mixed against other major currencies Wednesday, while gold prices fell.

Battered small-cap companies — which rely heavily on borrowing to grow their businesses — got a lift Wednesday. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 21.86, or 3.26 percent, to 693.43.

Taliban attacks on students up; 147 students, teachers killed in past year

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The number of students and teachers killed in Taliban attacks has tripled in the past year in a campaign to close schools and force teenage boys to join the Islamic militia, Afghanistan's education minister says. While the overall state of Afghan education shows improvement, Education Ministry numbers point to a sharp decline in security for students, teachers and schools in the south, where the Taliban thrives: The number of students out of classes because of security concerns has hit 300,000 since March 2007, compared with 200,000 in the previous 12 months, while the number of schools closing has risen from 350 to 590. The Taliban strategy is deliberate: "to close these schools down so that the children and primarily the teenagers that are going to the schools — the boys — have no other option but to join the Taliban," Education Minister Mohammad Hanif Atmar told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday. The Taliban know that educated

Afghans won't join the militants, so a closed school leaves students with two options — to join the Taliban or "to cross the border and go into those hate madrassas," Atmar said, referring to Islamic seminaries in Pakistan where "they will be professionally trained as terrorists." Wakil Ahmad Khan, a top official at Pakistan's religious affairs ministry, said Pakistani "madrassas are doing a wonderful job by providing education to millions of students" and "if the Afghan officials have any such information, they should share it with Pakistan's Foreign Ministry." Attacks on schools still in operation have actually fallen in the last 10 months — to 98 from

187 in the same period of 2006, Atmar said, attributing the drop to a community defense initiative. But the Taliban have switched to targeting students on their way to and from school or in other places where they congregate. The U.N. said it couldn't confirm that Taliban fighters were upping efforts to recruit schoolboys, and no educational aid organizations that could confirm Atmar's claims are working in provinces such as Helmand in the dangerous south. Adam Rutland, a spokesman at the British reconstruction team in Helmand province, said the perception in Helmand province was that more schools were open than in the past, although he added that

it's well known that disaffected and poor young men are a recruiting base for the Taliban. Atmar said 147 students and teachers have been killed in Taliban attacks since mid-March, compared with 46 in the previous year. The 147 include 58 students and teachers killed in a single bombing and gunfire attack in Baghlan province in November. The number of students and teachers wounded has gone from 46 to 200, he said. Most of the schools closed for security reasons are in the south. In Helmand, the world's largest opium poppy growing region, 177 schools are closed, along with 150 in nearby Kandahar province, Atmar said. He said dozens of students he talked with in Helmand province recently told him the Taliban are pushing them to enlist. Some 1,100 students from outlying areas are traveling to the relative safety of the Helmand provincial capital of Lashkar Gah to attend class. Atmar said he hopes soon to provide housing and food for these students.

"Madrassas are doing a wonderful job by providing education to millions of students."

— WAKIL AHMAD KHAN
OFFICIAL AT PAKISTAN'S
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Cameras

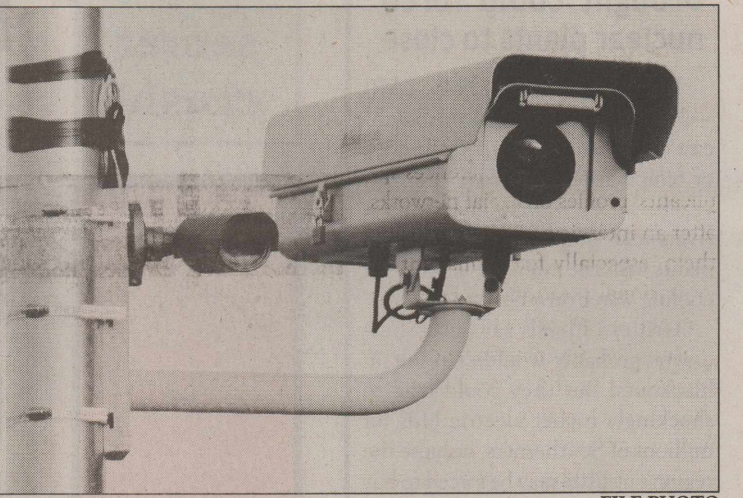
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mission by Lubbock Mayor David Miller, said he was concerned about the cameras from the beginning. "I will admit to being skeptical going

into it because I felt like it was about money, and I'm a conservative business man; I think we need to have the least government that we can stand," he said. "The revenue can kind of be considered a tax on bad drivers." Spears said he believes the establishment of the Lubbock Citizens Photo-

graphic Traffic Signal Enforcement Commission is important and necessary because the members Citizens Traffic Commission have been involved with the red-light camera implementation process. "Those people are too close to the situation to be objective about it," he said. "They've gotten together with this

for-profit business and so they want to see their solution succeed." The business Spears referred to is American Traffic Solutions, the company managing the red-light cameras for the city. Josh Weiss, director of communications and public affairs for ATS, said in an e-mail the company urged the city to keep the cameras up for 12 months to see positive results. He said it often takes a year to see positive results from red-light cameras in cities similar in size to Lubbock. Spears said one of the votes to keep the cameras up came from a member of the Citizens Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement Commission who also sits on the Citizens Traffic Commission. Floyd Price, councilman of District 2, said he wants to wait to hear from members of the Citizens Traffic Commission before making a decision. "A lot of time, we get a lot of hype on things, and we don't get the whole truth," he said. "Right now, it is unfair because we don't have the complete data yet." DeLeon said she has received a lot of mixed messages from residents about the cameras.



FILE PHOTO

THE LUBBOCK CITIZENS Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement Commission is recommending that red-light cameras be removed.

"I've seen letters to the editor that have been written thinking that the cameras are a good thing," she said. "I asked the Women's Club what they wanted, and the majority of them wanted them removed." DeLeon said she will base her vote on the opinions of Lubbock residents and the recommendation made by the Citizens Traffic Commission. Members of both the Citizens Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement Commission and the Citizens Traffic Commission are scheduled to make their recommendations to the City Council regarding the future of the red-light

cameras Feb. 14. The decision to remove the cameras would require votes from four of the seven council members. Lubbock red-light cameras were placed at 12 intersections around the city in May 2007, though full operation of the cameras began in July. Red-light cameras work by taking a photo of the license plates of the car running the red light. The car's owner then will be notified by mail of the violation, and he or she will be asked to pay a \$75 fee. Since the violation is a civil offense, it will not go on the person's driving record. mag8240@hotmail.com

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Prominent author Alan Weisman speaks at Tech

By MATT MCGOWAN
STAFF WRITER

With an eloquence that could put any photograph to shame, one prominent journalist painted a picture for a packed house of what the world would be like if humans suddenly were to disappear tomorrow.

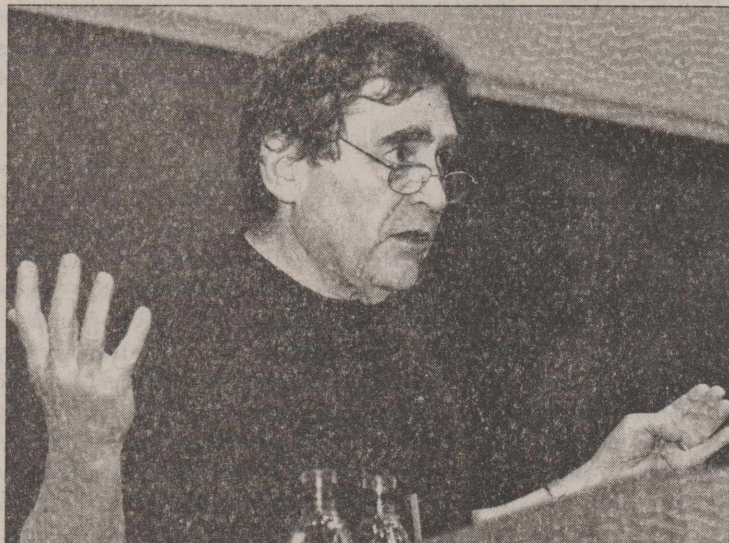


PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/The Daily Treador

AUTHOR ALAN WEISMAN speaks about his book "The World Without Us" in the English building Wednesday night.

Alan Weisman, author of the best-selling book "The World Without Us," summarized his book in the English building Wednesday evening as the first of the English Department's spring 2008 literary reading series.

Laying the foundation for the audience of Texas Tech students and faculty, Weisman said his book is a "creative

experiment."

"We suppose that the worst has already happened, that human extinction is an accomplished fact," he said. "But we're not talking a nuclear calamity or an asteroid collision, or anything so ruinous that it wipes out most everything, leaving whatever remains in some radically altered or reduced state."

With his book, Weisman said he intended, through extensive research and travel, to provide an account of what would occur on Earth thereafter.

In the event of humanity's hypothetical disappearance, he said, the persistence of water would persevere first, destroying the integrity of most man-made structures. Rivers would flow along the boulevards in Manhattan. Without anybody to maintain them, the roofs and walls of houses would be the first to collapse from the onslaught of nature's sprawl, a struggle that many homeowners already have experienced.

"Back when they told you what your house would cost, nobody mentioned what you would also be paying so that nature wouldn't repossess it long before the bank," Weisman said, reading from the book.

Skyscrapers, too, would crumble, he said. Basically, nature would reclaim the planet. Some aspects of the landscape, however, may never be quite the same.

The growth overtaking New York City, for instance, would be much more diverse, an aftereffect of all the foreign plants mankind had brought to the region, Weisman said.

After a detailed account of some of the most contaminated places on the planet Weisman had seen while writing the book — places such as lakes so polluted that corroded aluminum boat hulls had to be replaced monthly — he said nature always finds a way to return and, in some cases, thrive.

"All of these places that I would go to, nature finds a way to get something to grow there again if human beings

aren't there messing with it," Weisman said. "That would certainly happen to the rivers, to these new rivers in New York."

Essentially, the planet would become green and blue again, he said, though it may take time and some adaptation, such as micro-organisms evolving so they can break down plastics or genetic transformation from the radioactive fallout of neglected nuclear reactors.

Returning to humanity in an ailing world, Weisman said, habits need to change if humans want to endure as a species. With 1 million babies being born every four days, nature will force a human population decline if humans do not take the initiative on their own terms.

"What I'm hoping that people will get from this book: In realizing how

quickly, if given a little space to breathe, nature will restore itself with surprising speed," he said. "In fact, it's truly miraculous."

Providing it with that space, Weisman said, can be accomplished through modest changes, such as the illegalization of plastic grocery bags, plastic soda bottles and other sources of trivial waste. A return to a pre-industrial lifestyle is not necessary, only a return to our grandparents' lifestyle — that of 50 years ago.

After the presentation, nobody was depressed by Weisman's message as is so often the case with environmental discussion, said Dennis Covington, a Tech English professor who helped organize the event. The audience even seemed "charged-up" afterward.

Jordan Martin, a junior microbiology and philosophy major from Dallas, said Weisman was very knowledgeable and informative.

"It was definitely a hopeful thing, whichever way it goes with humanity," Martin said, reflecting on the presentation. "It's not a depressing message at all."

► matthew.mcgowan@ttu.edu

"It was definitely a hopeful thing, whichever way it goes with humanity."

— JORDAN MARTIN
JUNIOR MICROBIOLOGY
MAJOR

Facebook

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Discreetness, Chu said, comes through closely monitoring who has access to their online profiles and access to what applicants write on others' profiles.

"You can control what you put on your site, but you can't always control your friends," she said. "In terms of the comment function or being able to write on your wall on Facebook, you just want to make sure you're monitoring those comments. If you find that it's getting out of control, completely turn that function off."

Carol Albert, operations manager at the Eastridge Group, a multi-state group of staffing companies, said she has been in the hiring business for 16 years and routinely references applicants' profiles on social networks after an interview and before hiring them, especially for permanent or professional positions — positions college students often fill.

"For our permanent staff, our professional staff, it's worth a look," she said. "It's one of the tools, and it's becoming more and more useful now, because practically everybody has a MySpace page."

During a study conducted in 2005 by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, 11 percent of employers reported referencing an applicant's social networking site before hiring him or her, said Andrea Konec, employment information manager for the association.

In a similar study conducted by the association in 2007, the number rose to 17 percent.

David Kraus, managing director of University Career Services at Tech, said employers are turning to social networking sites more and more to take a closer look at job candidates, a trend that has and will continue to grow.

Because networking sites like Facebook and MySpace have become more popular in recent years, Kraus said, employers have caught wind and are utilizing their potential for background checks.

"Five years from now, or one year from now, who's to say there won't be something else that replaces that?" Kraus asked. "I don't know what it'll be, and it might take employers a few years to latch on to that, too."

When it comes to the content of social network profiles, Jay Killough, employer relations coordinator for the university's career service, said common sense and good judgment often are good indicators of where to draw the line between acceptable and scandalous. He recommends not post anything "your grandmother wouldn't approve of."

"The threshold there could vary from individual and from employer to employer," he said. "Obviously, you want to keep it somewhat clean. It's better to err on the side of conservative."

As an employer, Albert said she does not look for anything in particular when she checks social profiles. The point is to get a better feel for the applicant's character, though she realizes people are entitled to their fun. In the hiring process, profiles are "another piece of the puzzle."

"Obviously, we know people have a life," she said. "(We look for) just something that is contradictory to what they said. Maybe looking for

something that's just too over the top, but it's not used as a deal breaker. We know that people party, but if their entire MySpace page is dedicated to the habit, then probably they wouldn't be a good fit."

One example of what is best left

be competitive in the job market, they may want to consider taking a close look at their lifestyles.

"What I always tell college students is that the moment you get your first resume out there, you have to get into game mode," she said. "If

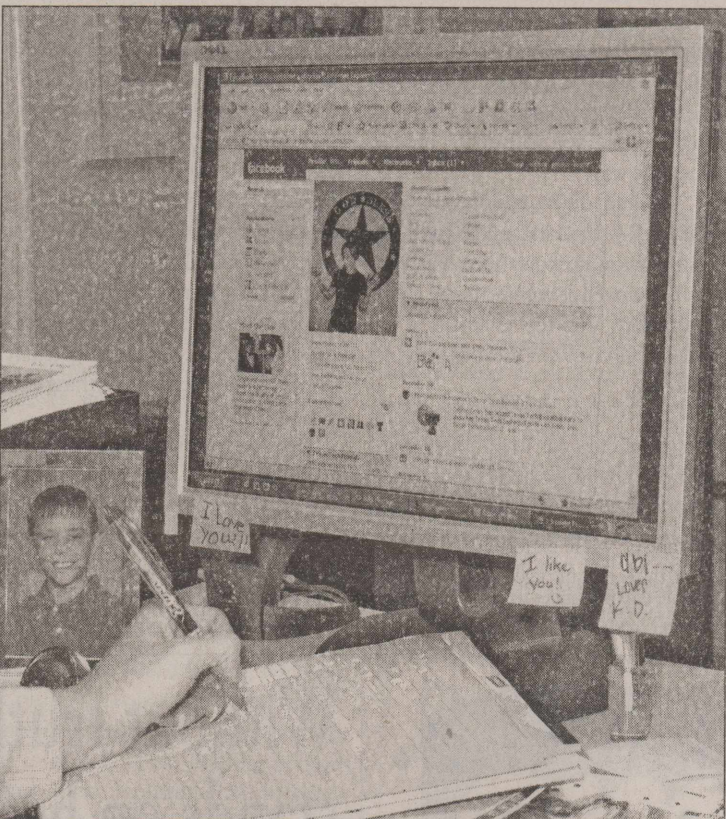


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Treador

POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS USE Facebook and other social networking Web sites as a means of investigating job applicants.

unsaid on such sites, Kraus said, is anything that reflects negatively on a person's current or previous employer. Hiring managers who come across derogatory remarks about other employers may begin to believe an applicant chronically has trouble getting along in a workplace.

"That may not be the story at all," he said, "but if they see you or another student speaking poorly of the place they work or once worked, it doesn't leave a good taste in their mouth."

Often times, college students should approach their graduation thinking professional thoughts, Albert said. Employers not only are looking at social profiles but also such seemingly tedious things as unconventional e-mail addresses. If graduates wants to

you're serious about getting a good job, you have to get your game face on and that might be toning down your MySpace page and having a professional page to refer people to."

While sites such as Facebook and MySpace provide social networking, sites like LinkedIn offer professional utility, said Kay Luo, director of corporate communication for the company. The site, which began in 2003, now connects more than

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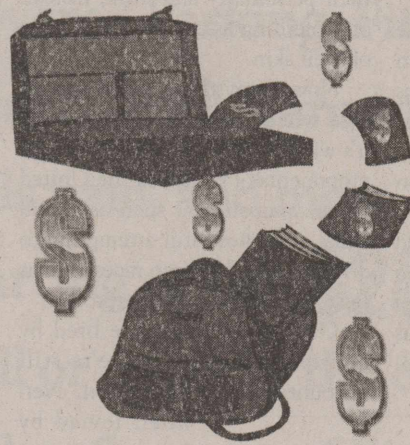
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OPINIONS

PAGE 4
THURSDAY, JAN. 24, 2008

Industry not at fault

The video game industry seems to come under attack from just about every side these days.

Religious organizations, parent organizations, lawyers and even many politicians (such as Hillary Clinton) have condemned video games for one reason or another.

Probably the most famous example of this in recent memory was the "Hot Coffee" scandal that affected TakeTwo Interactive Software, Rockstar Games and their game "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas." The issue involved a user-created hack of the game that accessed a "hidden" sex scene which was, for obvious reasons, not intended for release in the final version of the game.

Rockstar, the developer of the game, unfortunately neglected to notice or remove this content before the game shipped, and it paid dearly for the mistake.

Now, uninformed masses are convinced something similar is happening with the recent Microsoft-published title "Mass Effect." From Canadian developer Bioware, the Xbox-360/PC Sci-Fi RPG takes gamers on an epic adventure across several galaxies, where there's lots of story, conversation, customization and action.

As is a Bioware standard — it's probably most famous for the "Neverwinter Nights" and "Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic" games — the game itself presents you with many choices along the way.

You start off by customizing your character — choosing gender and many basic physical attributes (race, hair color, etc.) — as well as naming it and giving it a history. Was this character a war hero? A survivor of a great tragedy? It's up to you.

Once you're actually in the game, you get choices for what you're going to say to characters and how you treat several situations. This means you either can be good and noble, a savior of the galaxy, or you can be evil and bring people to their knees in fear. The choice — and story — is entirely yours.

Britton Peele



In one completely optional part of the game — it's dependant on your actions — your character may participate in the now-infamous "sex scene."

The scene involves you, a human — who is either male or female — engaging in what is no doubt sexual intercourse with an alien female, though human-like and blue. Many things have been said of this scene. Some call it "porn." Others, like columnist Kevin McCullough, have gone as far as to call it "virtual orgasmic rape."

No, quite honestly. Don't get me wrong, it's definitely not something suitable for children, but it's also not the worst thing to grace television screens by any stretch of the imagination. You'll see far worse in R-rated movies and even much of today's TV.

Which brings me to the next point: "Mass Effect" is rated "M for Mature" by the Entertainment Software Rating Board. This means no one under the age of 17 should be able to purchase it. It's most commonly compared to the "R" rating used by the MPAA for movies. Yet it appears most people in the media right now just don't get that.

News site Cybercast said, "There are cultural implications for feeding porn to kids in this way," and "When you do this, you're teaching them a distorted lesson about human sexuality and human dignity." Now my question is this: Who the heck said anything about feeding this game to kids?

The mass media it seems, still doesn't realize that video games aren't just for kids anymore. They haven't been for a long, long time. I know, it's apparently quite shocking, but adults may actually find enjoyment in virtual worlds.

Whether it's joining Tom Clancy's

counter-terrorism unit in "Rainbow Six," playing some football in "Madden," or enjoying an epic like "Mass Effect," a great many adults play games frequently, and as such, there are a lot of games out there that simply aren't made for kids.

This isn't some new, mysterious phenomenon, though. Game ratings from the ESRB have been around for quite some time and clearly are displayed on the front of every game box — something even DVDs can't lay claim to.

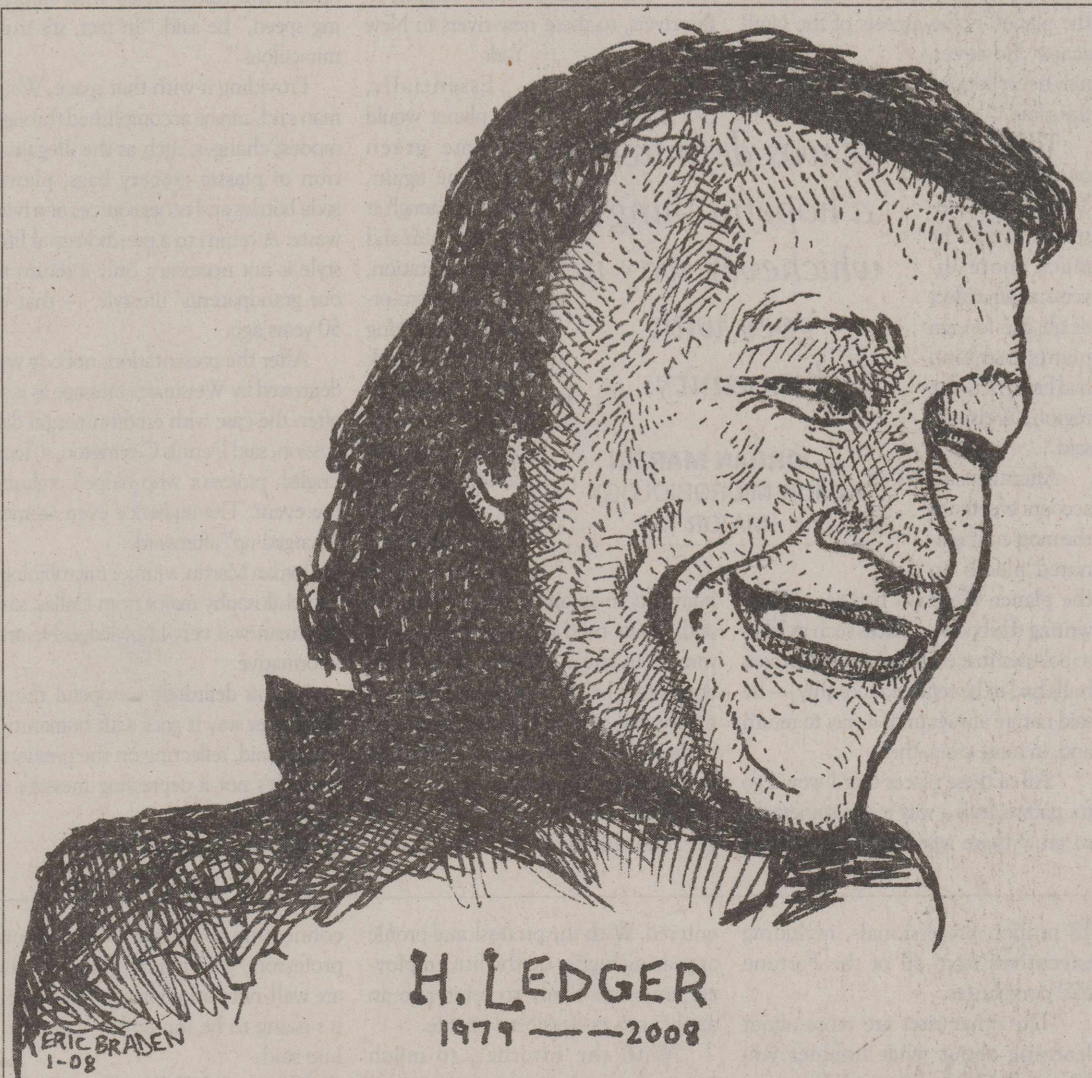
In fact, in a recent study done by the Federal Trade Commission, the video game industry has been making "significant progress" in limiting the sale of M-rated games to minors. It seems it now would be easier for a minor to walk out of a store with an R-rated — or even Unrated — DVD or a CD with explicit lyrics than it would be for them to walk out with an M-rated video game.

The job falls, as always, on parents to regulate what their children are watching, playing and/or listening to, and not all parents are idiots. According to the same FTC study, of parents surveyed, 87 percent knew about the ESRB ratings, 70 percent used them and three-quarters of them understand and use the content descriptors on the back of game boxes.

So, if a parent or someone on the media wants to complain about children playing games like "Mass Effect" or even something like "Grand Theft Auto," they shouldn't blame the developers of the game, the gaming industry or even the government for not regulating the industry, because the gaming industry is self-regulated just like the movie industry.

They should blame the parents for not keeping a closer eye on the kids or the kids themselves for being clever enough to slip under their parents' radar. And trust me, a lot of kids are, in fact, that clever. But it's not the game

■ Peele is a freshman Valley E-mail major from Union Valley. E-mail him at britton.peele@ttu.edu.



H. LEDGER
1979 — 2008

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Text messaging is beginning the downfall of Western civilization.

What is this society coming to when we can't leave our sorority sisters alone for more than half a day without asking them which North Face jacket to wear with our black tights and brown UGG Boots through a text message during trigonometry.

It is absolutely ridiculous that the students rely on their text messaging so much that they have to do it during an important history lecture. Every day in each of my classes there are several students who entirely are self-sufficient upon their cell phones.

The entire class consists of the constant click of plastic buttons clicking away and that annoying sending and receiving beep and vibration. I am not talking about one or two people; there are more than 30 or 40 people typing the entire lectures away.

It is distracting to the people who are around the ones wasting their time. In one of my classes, the teacher implemented a new rule that says if a phone goes off, every member of the class will lose five total points on their final grades. This is enough to pass or fail a class.

There should be extra rules like this in every class. I hope there will be more actions taken to take care of this nuisance. So please just wait a couple of hours to figure out what to wear tomorrow.

■ Tyler Cooper is a sophomore Tech student residing in Lubbock. E-mail him at jtrc4@yahoo.com.



Closer look at racism, bigotry in U.S.

It's incredibly sad that in this day and age, racism and bigotry still exist. Not a single race, color or creed is solely guilty, because there are racists and bigots in every subset of people. No one group is totally innocent, even though there are some that would like the public to think they are.

My mind keeps going to this subject, especially with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day being earlier this week and the media coverage turning more to the racial strife we're encountering now, instead of the example the man himself set.

One large issue that's been in the news is the incidents occurring in Jena, La. One of the biggest problems with this — outside of the absolute racial chaos occurring there — is that nobody can get a straight story on what has actually happened.

A Website that has ways to add your name to petitions, such as a petition to the governor of Louisiana wanting the Jena 6 freed, also has some information about what supposedly happened.

The problem is, the story that was put up by the site was so terribly slanted it's nearly impossible to pick out the truth from the embellishment. News organizations reporting on the case aren't much better.

Many news outlets are now only covering the protests and proceedings from the case, but don't give background information on the facts — possibly because they're unsure about what is real and what is embellishment from emotionally charged residents and witnesses.

And unfortunately, on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, white supremacists protested in Jena. The whole mess seems like something that could only come out of a "South Park" episode. I can just hear all these nutbag racists making the "rabble rabble rabble" noise that's often heard in

Cole Shooter



angry crowds on that show. However, this isn't funny.

I guess it's harder for me to understand how racism is bred, because I was raised knowing that racism was a terrible thing on any level and that people should be recognized on their personality and work, instead of something as trivial as the color of their skin.

Now, many things are based on race when they shouldn't be and it's widely accepted. We've still got proponents of racism in the United States mainstream, such as David Duke, and those still attempting to drive a wedge between races such as Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton.

Outside of ignorance bred by multiple generations, we're still encountering discrimination, even when levied by our own government.

Things such as affirmative action and any sort of "leg up" program based solely on race are only working to promote racism. I've heard numerous arguments for affirmative action and none make any sense or help to work toward the goal of equality.

For those proponents of such a system, equality isn't the goal. Demands such as reparations for terrible atrocities that happened to relatives are commonplace as well. It seems that anger has taken the place of the work for equality.

Look at what happened to Don Imus. He said three words on his radio show and was taken off the air. However, some widely accepted rappers' lyrics have illustrated much more terrible things, only to be rewarded with wealth.

Take the rapper "Apache" from the 1990s. He published a rap piece with the lyrics "Kill the white people; we gonna make them hurt; kill the white people; but buy my record first; ha, ha, ha." The moral outrage from all people did not occur as it should have, and was written off as "humor."

One of my favorite people, Bill Cosby, seems to have it all together.

Equality should be the absolute goal now, because in the grand scheme of things, color doesn't matter in how well someone can do in school, or how well someone can do at a job.

It can factor into who someone is, and their pride in their heritage, but it doesn't affect their how well they can do in life. Success comes from work and dedication, factors that know no color.

Mainly because he doesn't play the blame game. Everyone plays that at some point, from blaming insomnia for poor performance on a test or missing class, all the way to a lifetime of poor choices.

Cosby said on May 17th, 2004 at a rally celebrating the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, "I am talking about

these people who cry when their son is standing there in an orange [prison] suit," Cosby said. "Where were you when he was two? Where were you when he was 12? Where were you when he was 18 and how come you didn't know that he had a pistol? In all of this work, we cannot blame white people."

Equality should be the absolute goal now, because in the grand scheme of things, color doesn't matter in how well someone can do in school, or how well someone can do at a job.

It can factor into who someone is, and their pride in their heritage, but it doesn't affect their how well they can do in life. Success comes from work and dedication, factors that know no color.

■ Shooter is a senior political science major from Lubbock. E-mail him at cole.shooter@ttu.edu.

Without truth, Roe v. Wade stands on bedrock of deceit

By DAVID MORRIS
THE BATTALION (TEXAS A&M)

(U-WIRE) COLLEGE STATION — "We'll never go back," "Never again" and "Rolling back the clock," are mainstays of abortion rights supporters, chanted like cries of, "Remember the Alamo!"

These bumper sticker slogans all harken back to the bad old days of abortion — pre-Roe v. Wade — reminding us of the holocaust against women that resulted in more than 1 million illegal abortions a year and more than 10,000 deaths. The only difference is, the Alamo actually happened.

In 1940, Dr. Frederick Joseph Taussig estimated that 681,600 illegal abortions were performed in that year — this number was adjusted to account for population growth to reach the seven figure number used today. The major problem is that Dr. Taussig's numbers were based on a sample of 10,000 patients of the Margaret Sanger Birth Control Clinic in New York and assumed to be representative of the general population — an assumption with no basis in reality. Many anti-abortion activists cite a number around 100,000 as more likely. The problem is, there's no way to know how many illegal abortions

were performed — they were never reported.

The "10,000 women dying every year from illegal abortions" figure was widely circulated in the lead up to Roe by organizations such as The National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws — but it wasn't true. Bernard Nathanson, a former abortionist and co-founder and first president of NARAL, admitted in his book, "Aborting America," that, "When we spoke of [mass statistics] it was always '5,000 to 10,000 deaths a year.' I confess that I knew the figures were totally false, and I suppose the others did too if they stopped to think of it. But in the 'morality' of our revolution, it was a useful figure, widely accepted, so why go out of our way to correct it with honest statistics?"

Roe ought to be overturned and the responsibility of regulating abortion returned to the states. We will not, as these appeals to fear suggest, experience the reproductive rights version of Armageddon, and we will not have an onslaught of women committing seuku-by-clothes-hanger in the streets — it didn't happen then, it won't happen now. Ultimately, Roe v. Wade is little more than shoddy case law built on a bedrock of lies. The ultimate irony of the pro-choice movement is that without the truth, there is no choice.

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Growing up is hard to do

I've been wondering when exactly you know you have reached adulthood.

This question — posed by my creative writing professor in an attempt to inspire a class discussion — received short, almost unconscious answers like: "When you turn 18," "when you get a job," or "when you get married."

Then, a fuzzy haired boy blurted out "when you are dead," in an obvious and successful attempt to incite laughter. It was the latter response that got me thinking, and I began to ponder humans' inevitable and obscure leap into adulthood.

First off, it seems to me this whole adulthood stage is not as easily identified as its predecessors, and moreover, identifying these past physical and mental categories of maturity served no purpose while we were in them because they were just parts of an adolescent whole.

Subcategories of being a child or a juvenile allowed us for years to avert from the nasty connotations and consequences associated with adulthood. We were free to play the cards of the juvenile state by pleading youthful ignorance or a later phase of rebellion and testing boundaries.

Unfortunately, the identification and procurement of our adulthood is a necessary evil that must be conquered to get through college and beyond. There comes a time when we can't use the aforementioned excuses, because they are no longer acceptable. Eventually, adulthood finishes counting to 100 and yells, "Ready or not, here I come!"

College signifies the end of our

Juliet Azarani



allotted hiding time and initiates the feelings of anticipation before we are caught.

Also, there is that whole thing about being considered an adult in the eyes of the law once we turn 18. For most people, the big one-eight does not turn them magically from toilet papering permit holders to card carrying members of the grown-ups' club. I don't think we can rely solely on that milestone to bring us all into adulthood.

I have a friend who, like many of us, is not aware her time is up. Like many college students, the realities of adulthood have caught up to her in the form of a court date, six months probation and a hefty fine for consuming alcohol, namely vodka, before the law allows.

In a perfectly rational world, it would seem that her situation would cause an epiphany of some sort where the onset of an adult life is fully embraced. Then again, there are those of us who pay the fine and continue our recidivistic behavior in an attempt to procrastinate on adulthood, behavior that only adds to the blurred line between being a child and an adult.

Are we running from the inevitable or just living out our college years before we have to go out into that unforgiving place called the

real world?

The way I see it, our 100 seconds of hiding time may be up, but that doesn't mean we have to get caught just yet. So, exercise caution by inviting the basic aspects of adulthood into your life — in the form of common sense — for the protection of your future. Then get back to the wonders of college life: the limbo that exists between complete adolescence and complete adulthood.

Like I said before, it is inevitable that adulthood will catch up to us and force our youthful ways into submission, but for the time being, run as hard and as fast as you can to remain in that comfortable crossroads between our past teen years and our future mid-life crisis ones.

It's all a balancing act, or so I've been told by former college students who have turned into full-fledged adults; try not to tip the scales too far left or right or else you might end up with a \$400 fine and routine meetings with a probation officer.

When do you know you have reached adulthood? You'll know when it happens: When you don't have the ability to run anymore, and you get tagged by the adult implications of graduation, student loan payment plans and getting a job you won't hate for the rest of your life — hopefully before you are dead.

Perhaps the state of being an adult is like puberty — different for everyone and based on their maturity; sexual or otherwise.

■ Azarani is a sophomore from Austin. E-mail her at juliet.azarani@ttu.edu.



Professors should post syllabuses online

(U-WIRE) NEW YORK — Requiring professors to post their syllabuses online prior to the start of classes is a quick and simple way to address student concerns over a myriad of issues, including the effectiveness of preregistration, the cost of books, and the difficulty of transferring credit.

At present, many professors neglect to post syllabuses with pertinent information on Courseworks in a timely manner. Even when they do, posted syllabi are often accessible only to students registered for those courses. These inconsistencies inconvenience students trying to choose courses and plan their schedules based on the books used and the type of work required by a course. All professors should be required to post their course syllabuses, including course materials used, projected

exam dates and paper deadlines, and grade breakdowns. The updated syllabuses should be posted before classes start that semester, ideally before registration reopens prior to the semester, and old syllabuses should be organized online in an easily-available database.

Such a policy would yield numerous benefits. Most importantly, students would find it easier to choose courses in preregistration and to plan ahead for the semester. Course titles are often ambiguous, and even when the course content is relatively clear, grading policies and course requirements influence students who are deciding which courses to take. Especially given Columbia's short add/drop period, accessible syllabi are needed if students are not to be trapped, by dint of poor information, into

courses that are too difficult or are otherwise unwanted—when a course differs from a student's expectations, it is difficult to find a suitable replacement midway through the add/drop period. Making syllabuses public would also benefit students who wish to purchase books at a discount or check them out before the class has started but cannot risk falling behind on the reading.

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College of Agriculture career expo brings students, employers together

By LILIANA GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources hosted its annual career fair Wednesday in the Student Union Building Ballroom.

Jared Lay, assistant director of University Career Services for the college, said approximately 40 companies from around the country participated to seek future employees and possible interns.

"This is the most we've had in several years," Lay said. "It was a good turnout."

The purpose of the event, he said, was to bring potential employers in the agriculture industry to Tech to consider hiring graduates from all majors within the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Lay said students who take advantage of the opportunities the University Career Center offers tend to be more prepared and ready in these events, because people in the center help them prepare their resumes and conduct

mock interviews.

Cathy Vaughn, a representative with Murphy-Brown LLC, said her company, which attended the career fair, is a division of Smithfield Foods, the world's largest producer of pork.

She said the company is interested in May graduates in agriculture or animal science who are looking for a career in pork production.

"We ask for their resumes and visit their background," Vaughn said, "and see if they are interested in relocating and what their future plans are."

Ashley Roberts, a senior animal science major from Henrietta, said the career fair is a great opportunity for students because many do not know

what companies are out there.

"I think it is nice for students to come here," Roberts said, "because a lot of students don't know where to start."

Brad Bellah, a junior agricultural communications major from Throckmorton, said he attended the career fair to introduce himself to potential employers.

"It's a really easy way for people in the agriculture industry to find students," Bellah said, "and for students to find a career in the industry."

He said it is hard to know what he wants to do because agriculture is a broad industry; the career fair helps to narrow it down.

"I appreciate everyone that put this together," Bellah said. "It has grown from last year — There are more students and companies, so I really appreciate them for their hard work."

Capt. Victor Cruz of the U.S. Marine Corps said he has attended Tech's career fairs since 2005.

Cruz said the Marine Corps is looking for future leaders regardless of what degree students get as long as it is a degree from Tech.

"We have to make sure they are physically, mentally, morally and medically fit," he said, "and we also do a background check, which is where the morally part will check in."

Cruz said the Marine Corps offers an internship program aimed at students who want to join after they graduate, though there is no obligation or commitment to join the corps.

"It is a great internship-leadership program, and in the end," he said, "you decide if you want to join, because it is your choice not ours."

lg_3red@hotmail.com



PHOTO BY JESSICA RIVERA/The Daily Toreador
AT THE CAREER fair Wednesday afternoon in the ballroom, Jasper Devos, a senior agriculture economics major from Plainview, discusses career opportunities with an industry representative.

...a lot of students don't know where to start.

— ASHLEY ROBERTS
SENIOR ANIMAL SCIENCE
MAJOR FROM HENRIETTA

Egypt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

through the metal wall with blow torches a month ago — weakening the structure so that it could fall easily when the blasts went off.

The appearance of the fallen wall backed up that assertion. It was neatly sliced at knee-level, with the bottom section still standing and the rest toppled over.

Hamas police quickly took control of the shopping exodus, channeling the crowds through two sections

of the frontier.

"Freedom is good. We need no border after today," said Mohammed Abu Ghazal, a 29-year-old out-of-work Gazan.

Children bought soft drinks and chocolate, women scooped up cheese and cleaning products, and men stocked up on cigarettes — all expensive or simply unavailable in Gaza because of Israel's shutdown of cargo crossings.

Other Palestinians staggered over topped metal plates that once made up the border fence, carrying TV sets, cell phones, tires and plastic bottles

filled with fuel. Some brought in goats and chickens.

Four Palestinians in wheelchairs were pushed over the border, where ambulances picked them up for treatment in Egypt. At one point, a dozen people crowded around a motorcycle to lift it over a low border wall in Egypt.

Shoppers depleted stores in the border town of Rafah, prompting Ashraf el-Sayyid, an Egyptian, to ride his motorbike into the Gaza Strip — going against both traffic and logic.

"I need to buy bread for my children," he said. "The Palestinians left us with nothing. It's true, they are dear to us, but today, they were like locusts."

Masked gunmen used 17 explosive charges before dawn to tear down the border fence — erected in 2001 by Israel when it controlled Gaza.

After news of the breach spread, people across Gaza boarded buses and piled into rickety pickup trucks head-

ing for Egypt. It was a rare chance to escape Gaza's isolation.

Moussa Zuroub, 28, carried his young daughter, Aseel, on his shoulders through the muddy streets of Rafah, which is divided by a wall into Egyptian and Gazan segments. "I'm coming just to break that ice — that all my life, I'd never left Gaza before," he said.

Egypt is in a bind over how to respond. It has largely kept its border with Gaza closed since the Hamas takeover amid concerns of a spillover of Hamas-style militancy into Egypt. But Egypt's government is also under popular pressure at home to help impoverished Gazans.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said he told his border officials to let the Palestinians cross because they were "starving" under the Israeli blockade. However, not only have there been no cases of starvation reported, but there are no claims of starvation from officials or aid workers, and none are visible to anyone who lives or works in Gaza.

Former Police Commander convicted of drug smuggling for Gulf cartel in Mexico

McALLEN (AP) — A former Mexican police commander was convicted Wednesday of helping run the notorious Gulf cartel's drug smuggling operation.

Carlos Landin Martinez was found guilty of nine counts including drug trafficking, conspiracy and money laundering over alleged cartel activities from 2005 to 2007.

Prosecutors said Landin oversaw an operation in which traffickers wanting to use lucrative smuggling routes across the border into South Texas had to pay Landin a "piso," or tax, to move drugs in cartel territory. Landin was the Gulf cartel's second-in-command in Reynosa, a Mexican city south of McAllen, prosecutors say.

Drugs came across on people, on rafts and through a tunnel that opened up through a manhole in Hidalgo, Texas, among other means, according to investigators. The proceeds from drug sales all over the United States were then smuggled back into Mexico, authorities said.

Government witnesses, arrested on similar charges and hoping for leniency in their own cases, testified about the operations but did not have firsthand knowledge of Landin, also known as "The Puma."

An exception was Antonio Parra Saenz, who testified last week that he saw Landin in a black Suburban in Mexico before he was taken away to be tortured for 15 days after a large load of drugs was seized from his stash house in Pharr, Texas.

Landin's attorneys contended the government relied on "stories

from jailbirds" for evidence that did not directly link Landin to the charges. Eric Jarvis, one of Landin's attorneys, said in closing arguments that the charges involve crimes other people were arrested for.

"(Landin) doesn't feel the evidence was there to convict him, but he accepts the jury's verdict and he's weighing his options," said another Landin attorney, Oscar Alvarez.

Luis Martinez Robledo, on trial with Landin, also was convicted on all counts.

The jury deliberated more than eight hours over two days. Landin faces sentencing April 17.

Each of the nine counts against Landin could come with a minimum 10-year sentence, Alvarez said.

Members of Landin's family cried outside the courtroom Wednesday.

"He's the best father and the best grandfather," said his eldest daughter, Sandra Landin of Reynosa.

Landin faces more charges in another case. He is scheduled to be arraigned Friday on drug trafficking and money laundering conspiracy charges related to the July 2006 seizure of cocaine and methamphetamine at the Pharr stash house.

Landin, 52, had been a police commander in Tamaulipas state until his retirement about nine years ago.

He was arrested last year after an off-duty Drug Enforcement Administration agent spotted him buying watermelon in a McAllen supermarket. The agency had been building a case against him for two years.

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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.

Puzzles by Pappocom

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STEADY HANDS



David W. Belt, a graduate student from San Antonio, tweaks with a counter-IED antenna under contract for the Department of Defense.

Police: rolled-up \$20 bill found in Ledger's apartment, no illegal drugs

NEW YORK (AP) — A rolled-up \$20 bill was found near Heath Ledger's body, though no illegal drugs were found in his apartment, police said Wednesday — the same day an autopsy on the "Brokeback Mountain" actor came back inconclusive.

Authorities found six different types of prescription drugs in Ledger's apartment, including pills to treat insomnia and anxiety and an antihistamine, according to two law enforcement officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing. Three of the drugs were prescribed in Europe.

The \$20 bill was to be taken to a lab for testing, though no visible drug residue was found on it, police said. At a Manhattan news conference, NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly did not elaborate on whether police think the bill,

discovered on the floor near Ledger's bed, may have been used to snort drugs.

The Australian-born actor was found dead Tuesday by his housekeeper and a massage therapist — lying naked and face-down on his bed, police said. The prescription sleeping pills and anti-anxiety pills were found in bottles in Ledger's bedroom and bathroom, and police said the death was caused by a possible drug overdose and appeared to be accidental.

Ellen Borakove, a spokeswoman for the medical examiner's office, said the autopsy on the 28-year-old actor was inconclusive and that more would be known after more thorough tests can be completed. That process was expected to take about 10 days.

Fans left flowers and candles outside his Manhattan apartment on Wednesday. News of the

death stunned family, fans and colleagues.

"Working with Heath was one of the purest joys of my life," said Ang Lee, who directed Ledger in "Brokeback Mountain."

"He brought to the role of Ennis more than any of us could have imagined — a thirst for life, for love and for truth, and a vulnerability that made everyone who knew him love him. His death is heartbreaking."

Lee Daniels, who produced the critically acclaimed "Monster's Ball" in which Ledger starred, strongly disputed any notion that Ledger had a drug problem.

"The definition of substance abuse is really up to one's perspective," Daniels said. "I didn't see him as a drug addict. I saw him as someone who enjoyed life. I know drug addicts, he was not a drug addict."

Directors Guild of America strikes deal

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES — Following the agreement made Thursday between the Directors Guild of America and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, film and television writers and studios began informal talks Tuesday in hopes to return to formal negotiations over the Writers Guild of America strike.

With speculation about the many upcoming award shows hanging in the balance because of the 12-week-long strike, resolution is now looking like much more of a possibility after negotiations last broke down Dec. 7.

While no date has been confirmed, writers were invited to enter new talks with the studio soon after

the directors' deal was announced. A guild-wide meeting for all writers was held to decide their next step later in the day, following informal talks with the studios.

The directors' deal covers many of the main issues the writers have been striking for since Nov. 5, including increased residuals for paid Internet downloads, the mapping out of directors' jurisdiction over material created specifically for the Internet, and residuals established for free, ad-supported Internet streaming.

Many within Hollywood are hoping that agreement will help break new ground in negotiations with the writers and possibly put an end to the strike once and for all.

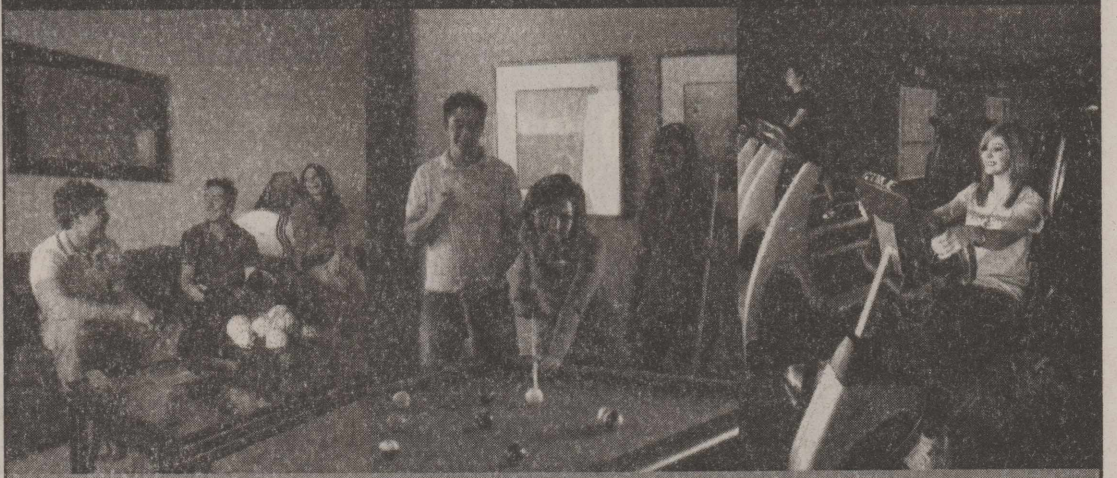
Howard Suber, a professor in the School of Theater, Film and Television producers program, commented on the negotiations' impact on the strike last week before the deal was announced.

"The minute one major guild signs an agreement, it then becomes the model for the other guilds," he said. "The (directors guild) contracts tend to be the model that the other guilds had to fall in line with."

Longtime writers' guild member Richard Walter, a UCLA screenwriting professor, said he found the news encouraging.


"I have to say this encourages me to believe there is a light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

STUDENT LIVING DONE RIGHT

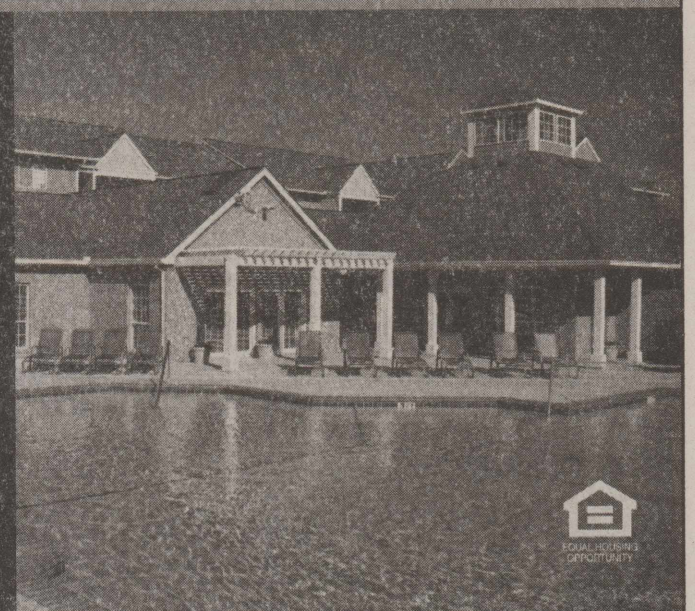



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McCarthy's work acquired at Texas State-San Marcos

(U-WIRE) SAN MARCOS — Texas State has acquired the archives of Cormac McCarthy, who is considered one of the most significant living literary figures.

The university plans to showcase McCarthy's work in The Southwestern Writers Collection.

Glenn Horowitz, a rare book dealer, represented McCarthy during negotiations. Bill Wittliff, who founded the Southwestern Writers Collection in 1986, represented Texas State.

Wittliff said the acquisition is important to the collection.

"Cormac McCarthy is one of the big guys. He's one of the immortals," Wittliff said. "This is a landmark for the university."

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Men's golf enters spring season No. 15 in nation by Golfweek

By KEVIN CULLEN
STAFF WRITER

After a strong fall season, the Texas Tech men's golf team enters the spring ranked No. 15 in the nation, according to *Golfweek*.

Golf coach Greg Sands said the fall season helped the team's confidence, but he believes it is time to look to the future.

"We are definitely pleased with our fall season, but now we really are looking to put it behind us and move forward," he said.

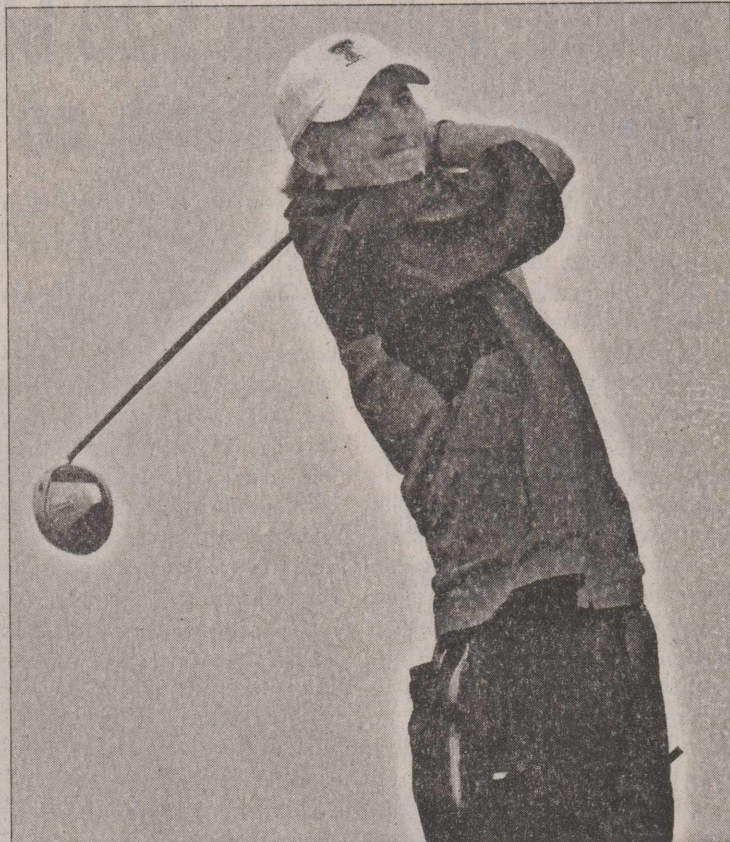
After a fall season that saw the Red Raiders ranked as high as 11th at one point, the team is preparing for a spring season with high expectations.

"We expect to be in contention for the national championship until the last day of the season," Sands said. "We just need to get better everyday. We don't just have a wish to win the national championship, we came into the year with a plan to get it done. Now we are working hard to do that."

After losing former PING First Team All-American golfer Oscar Floren to graduation, the team did not have a true leader, but Sands said the entire team has stepped up to replace Floren's production.

"This season, players are now stepping up instead of waiting around for Oscar (Floren) to do something," Sands said. "The team has actually performed better this season than last season. It's something we weren't necessarily expecting."

The team looks to two of its veteran players for leadership: juniors Santiago



COURTESY PHOTO/Texas Tech Media Relations

TEXAS TECH GOLFER Will Griffin is the No. 32-ranked golfer in the nation by *Golfweek* magazine.

Rivas and Garrett Merrell.

"Those two have been around the block," Sands said. "They are our most experienced players and the ones we look to when we need something."

Tech also has the No. 32-ranked individual golfer in the nation, sophomore Will Griffin, who boasts the lowest scoring average on the team and won the individual title at the Shoal Creek

Invitational Sept. 25.

Sands said the Red Raiders expect to be in contention for the Big 12 Conference title. Tech is second in the conference heading into the spring season, while Oklahoma State is first in the Big 12 and No. 6 in the nation.

"Oklahoma State is tough," Sands said. "They are a Top 10 team. Texas A&M will be better this spring, and Texas is always sneaky. We just need keep our short game sharp whether it's chipping, pitching or putting, it needs to stay sharp."

The team returns to action Feb. 6 through Feb. 8 at the UH Hilo Hawaii Invitational in Waikoloa, Hawaii.

► kevin.cullen@ttu.edu

5 rules to follow to contend in NFL

Over the next three weeks, you are going to hear the names Roger Clemens, Brian McNamee and George Mitchell so much it is going to make Mike Gundy want to puke.

Given, the steroid coverage may not hit full steam until the Tuesday after the Super Bowl, but when it does, it will be rehashed over and over again. So to avoid adding to the overexposure, let's stay away from the Clemens story until the Congressional hearing is over.

Speaking of media coverage overkill, have you heard that the Patriots are 18-0? Most of you have, so let's avoid the NFL's sweetheart as well this week.

Instead, let's talk about what it takes to be an annual playoff team/Super Bowl contender in the NFL. Here are five basic rules all NFL teams should live by:

No. 1: Find a quarterback. The importance of this rule cannot be overstated. To be a contender, you have to have a solid quarterback. Eight quarterbacks had a passer rating in the 2007 regular season above 90. Care to guess how many played in the playoffs? You guessed it, all eight. Sure, Eli Manning's regular season passer rating was 73.9, and he's playing in the Super Bowl, but in the playoffs he has averaged a 107.3 rating in three games. Unfortunately, quarterbacks are a scarcity, and drafting them is a guessing game at best, so be happy if your team lands a good one.

Teams that would be contenders if they followed this rule: Vikings and Bears.

No. 2: Have a competent coach. Art Shell (who humanized the "deer-in-the-headlights" face), Jim

Brett Talley



Mora Sr. ("Playoffs? Don't talk about playoffs. You kidding me?") and Dennis Green ("They are who we thought they were.") were all incompetent, though highly quotable, or in Shell's case, completely devoid of football knowledge. Consequently, none of them have head coaching jobs anymore.

Two teams that would be contenders, or at least a little bit better, if they followed this rule: the Kansas City Chiefs and the Buffalo Bills.

No. 3: Dominate the draft and accumulate depth. The NFL Draft provides two ways to improve a team. The first round allows your team an opportunity to address a need immediately and/or acquire a superstar. Later rounds provide a pool of players that can add depth to your team. You can draft players in the defensive front seven to allow rotation in and out of games to keep players fresh, multiple players at the same position to compete for a job and insurance against injuries to key players on your team.

Teams that need to improve on draft day? The Detroit Lions, Miami Dolphins and the Oakland Raiders.

No. 4: Dominate in the trenches. Teams that are capable of stopping the run and having a power ground game are generally playoff contenders and scary if they reach the playoffs. This allows teams to control field position and time of possession, wear down the opposing defense and put games away by managing the clock properly late in games—i.e., the New England Patriots getting the ball with eight minutes

remaining in the fourth quarter ahead by nine and never giving the ball back to San Diego.

Teams that would be contenders if they followed this rule: the Houston Texans and Cincinnati Bengals.

No. 5: Have a positive turnover margin. This rule is simple but unexplainably crucial. This season, nine out of 12 playoff teams had a positive turnover margin in the regular season, while in 2006 eight out of 12 were positive, and in 2005 10 out of 12 were positive.

A team that would be a contender if it followed this rule: Texans — 25 turnover margin since 2005.

Evaluating the rules can be done by looking at two good teams and using the rules as a checklist for both. I've chosen the Patriots and Colts; sorry, the Giants play in a weaker conference and have the lesser of the Manning brothers. Where these two teams struggle is up front in the running game on both sides of the ball. Both teams are much too good in the passing game so the running game suffers statistically, and if either team has a weakness, it is defending the run.

However, both teams check out with a solid QB: Tom Brady and Peyton Manning; competent coaches: Bill Belichick and Tony Dungy; domination on draft day — the Pats have seven of their last eight first-rounders starting, not to mention they drafted Brady in the sixth, and the Colts have all seven of their last seven first-rounders starting; and turnover margins well on the positive end year in and year out.

You probably knew the Colts and Pats were the NFL's two best teams, but now you know why.

► **Talley is a junior marketing major from Odessa. E-mail him at brett.talley@ttu.edu.**

Pasqualoni among 3 Cowboys assistants to join Dolphins

MIAMI (AP) — New Miami Dolphins coach Tony Sparano hired three assistants Wednesday from his

former team, the Dallas Cowboys.

Joining Miami were Paul Pasqualoni as defensive coordinator, Todd Bowles as assistant head coach and secondary coach, and Kacy Rodgers as defensive line coach. All worked in Dallas with Sparano, who was the Cowboys' assistant head coach before taking the Miami job last week.

New Dolphins executive vice president of football operations Bill Parcells and new general manager Jeff Ireland also formerly worked for the Cowboys.

VMI head coach Jim Reid accepted an offer to become the Dolphins' line-

backers coach, the school said. Reid had a 3-19 record in two years trying to rebuild VMI's program. He was on Pasqualoni's staff at Syracuse in 2004.

David Corrao, who coached linebackers at Mississippi in 2007, joined Miami as defensive quality control coach.

Pasqualoni was head coach at Syracuse from 1991-2004, leading the Orangemen to a record 107-59-1 record and nine bowl appearances. He spent the past three years with the Cowboys as tight ends coach and then linebackers coach.

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7 AM	Curious Clifford	Today Sched-uled: Diane Lane; travel tipping guide; 'America's Test Kitchens' (HD)	The Early Show	Copeland Robinson	(\$:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	J. Hanna	
8 AM	Super Why		The 700 Club	Animal Eye	Lopez		Paid Program Sponsored television prog ramming.	
9 AM	Sesame Street (HD)		The Price Is Right	Cristina	Steve Wilkos	Regis & Kelly	Martha Cook-ing.	
10 AM	Big World		Divorce	Divorce	Temptation	The View (HD)	The Morning Show	
11 AM	Barney	Jeopardy	Restless (HD)	Alex		Paid Programs	Tyra Banks Show	
12 PM	Sews	News		Jerry Springer	Cosby		Extra	
1 PM	Pet Vet	Days of Our Lives	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 Hospi-tal	Judge Mathis	
3 PM	Reading	Oprah Winfrey	Brown	Maury	Reba	Montel Wil-liams	Ellen De-Generes	
4 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	
5 PM	Maya	News	News	TMZ	Standing	News	Raymond	
6 PM	NewsHour (HD)	Wheel	Million.	Law Order (HD)	Queens	ET	Two & 1/2	
7 PM	Old House	Chuck (HD)	CSI: NY (HD)	"Movie"	Smallville "Blue"	Ugly Betty (HD)	Smarter Than 5th Grader	
8 PM	Story	Apprentice	CSI: Crime (HD)		Supernatural (HD)	Grey's Anat-omy		
9 PM	Soundstage (HD)	(9:11) Chuck (HD)	Without Trace (HD)	Jim (HD)	Sex City	(9:02) Big Shots	News	
10 PM	Bus. Rpt	News	News	70s	WII (HD)	News	Two & 1/2	
11 PM	News	(11:35) Late Night	Late Late Show	Wife	Bernie	Jimmy Kimmel	Scrubs	
12 AM	Destinos	Last Call	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Frasier	

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1/24/08

By Alan P. Olschewski
Huntington Beach, CA

ACROSS

- Mist from an admirer
- I say!
- SSS classification
- Chicago airport
- Vega's constellation
- Flip through
- Start of a quip
- Actor Wallach
- Flavorful
- Penetrating pictures?
- Writer Ogden
- Abu Dhabi, Dubai et al.
- Vag's -Z Camaro
- Part 2 of quip
- Jose of dance
- Conversation opener
- Andean tuber
- Standoff
- Roman greeting
- Image produced by ultrasound
- Paint additive
- Part 3 of quip
- Meesses up
- Golfer Ernie
- South African currency
- Before, before
- Undemanding
- Expunge
- Harem room
- End of quip
- Kind of cheese
- Five-star review
- Bit of info
- Not avec
- High peaks
- Pert

DOWN

- Fillet fish
- Singer Collins
- Sitarist Shankar
- "Exodus" hero
- Cossipy woman
- Cook of "The Maltese Falcon"
- "Peer"
- Bohemian
- Lah-cl---
- Fish-eating hawks
- Golfer Ernie
- March Madness org.
- Undemanding
- Pismires
- Harem room
- End of quip
- Sgt. or cpl.
- Merkel and O'Connor
- Admission of defeat
- Copier brand
- Man from Muscat
- Hindu teacher
- Expressions of surprise
- Studio sign
- Sitarist Shankar
- "Exodus" hero
- Wide-mouth woman
- Cook of "The Maltese Falcon"
- Give a rotten review to
- Burdensome
- Funnyman
- Vestiges
- Pageant band
- Requisites
- Andrews and Keeler
- FDR's dog
- Hot chamber
- List endor
- Invitation abbr.
- Takes two from Column B
- ex machina
- Military force
- Nest-egg S
- Drivers' org.

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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R E T O O L E V I T A
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A D J U R E E L M S T R E
M I A M I W R I T I S T S
K N E C K E D B E R R I A T A
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Thompson scores 16, No. 11 Oklahoma routs Texas Tech

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Four games into Big 12 Conference play, the Oklahoma Sooners were 2-2 and, in their own words, not having much fun.

But even as her team struggled, coach Sherri Coale knew the Sooners weren't far away from a dominating performance like the one they recorded Wednesday night.

Amanda Thompson scored 16 points and four other players reached double figures as No. 11 Oklahoma rebounded from a rare home loss by routing Texas Tech 78-39.

"We played hard on both ends of the floor," Coale said, noting the Sooners "shared the basketball (and) moved the basketball probably better than we have all season. Defensively I thought we just set our jaw and guarded them."

"Now, granted, they missed some shots, which we haven't seen people do lately, but for whatever the reason, it gave us some life. It gave us some energy and a little bit of confidence in our ability to defend. It didn't take much of that to really take it up another notch."

Oklahoma (12-4, 3-2 Big 12) lost to conference rival Baylor on Sunday to fall two games behind the conference-leading Bears, but the Sooners rebounded nicely by beating Texas Tech (13-6, 1-4) for the fifth straight time.

Unlike the previous four wins in that streak, which came by a combined 15 points, Wednesday's game was lopsided from the start. The loss was Texas Tech's worst since falling 95-54 to Louisiana Tech on Jan. 11, 1990, and the Lady Raiders' point

total was their lowest since scoring 37 in a loss to Iowa State on Jan. 2, 2000.

It was the second time in the last three games the Lady Raiders had scored 45 points or less. Tech shot 25.5 percent from the field (14-of-55) and had 23 turnovers, 18 of which were Oklahoma steals.

The Sooners also reached double digits in blocked shots, with 11, including five from 6-foot-4 junior center Courtney Paris and three by freshman Carlee Roethlisberger.

"We had a great weekend and came out tonight and we were not the same basketball team that I have seen," Texas Tech coach Kristy Curry said. "We dug ourselves a hole early and really never got out of it. I think tonight is one of those nights where you just have to put a check next

to Oklahoma and give them credit for having energy and playing well early."

Oklahoma led by double digits after eight minutes, build a 40-18 halftime advantage and cruised in the second half, building its lead to as many as 40 points. The Sooners haven't lost consecutive Big 12 games at home in almost three years.

"We didn't take the loss and sob," Thompson said. "We went back in the gym and worked and got better. We worked on defense a lot more and took more shots. We definitely made more shots and layups. We had a good approach to our loss. It worked. We came out strong today."

Paris had 10 points and 10 rebounds for her 77th straight double-double, sealing it with a basket with 9:05 left. The 10 points matched her

career low, although she played only 24 minutes.

Despite posting double-figure point totals six times this season, Thompson had struggled with her shot and entered Wednesday's game shooting 40.7 percent. Against Texas Tech, she made seven of her first eight attempts and finished 8-of-13 from the field. She missed her career high by two points.

"I've been working off the court a lot to get my jump shot right," Thompson said. "It felt good to make shots in a game. ... Shooting also opens up my passing. If I look more aggressive shooting, then I can look more aggressive passing."

Coale said that's right.

"I think she's more poised on the offensive end. I think she's more sure of all of the elements of her game,"

Coale said of Thompson.

"Some of that comes from feeling confident in being a triple threat player. She can drive it to the rim, she can shoot it if they back up or she can pass it and find the open guy. So much of that stems from being able to knock down a shot and knowing that you can knock down a shot."

Maria Moore led Texas Tech with 15 points. Dominic Seals, who scored 27 points in the Lady Raiders' 70-58 win over Texas on Sunday, had only 3 points on 1-of-5 shooting against Oklahoma.

Three other players scored in double figures for Oklahoma — Jenna Plumley and Danielle Robinson, who had 12 points each, and Ashley Paris, who had 10 points. Oklahoma shot 47 percent from the field (31-of-66) and outbounded Texas Tech 51-34.

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REDRAIDERSNEEDJOBS.COM Paid survey takers needed in Lubbock. 100% free to join. Click on Surveys.

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3/2/1. 5309 47th. \$750/mo. C/H/A, W/D connection. Appliances. Shown 4-6 PM. Call 781-6921.

3101 33RD ST. 4/4. \$990/mo, first month free. W/D included, dishwasher, security gate. 441-8886.

3119 29TH 2/1/1. Large backyard, comes with fridge, dishwasher, RO water, oven. Hardwood floors. \$700/\$350. Pets welcome. 632-1203.

APTS FOR RENT Great location to campus. Private bedroom/bathroom, furnished, W/D, fitness center. Pre-leasing for fall 2008-09. (806) 762-5500.

CLOSE TO CAMPUS Nifty 1 bedroom efficiency garage apartment on 24th. Appliances. Central heat. Private fenced yard. Private parking. Alley entrance. \$255. See Ann or B.J at 4211 34th. 795-2011.

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FOR LEASE 3/2/2, appliances furnished, fireplace, cellar. 5402 31st St. Leave message at 806-863-4781. Welcome students!

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HARDWOOD FLOORS Bear Flats: 4204 17th. Loft style 1 bedroom. Metal ceilings, stucco walls. Washer/Dryer connections. Exterior: Stucco, iron rails, metal roof. Virtual tour [www.lubbock](http://www.lubbockapartments.com/jfji)

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, JAN. 24, 2008

TIGER BY THE TAIL

Tech pushes through Missouri's press to win 92-84

By ADAM COLEMAN
STAFF WRITER

Check out a video at
<http://www.dailytoreador.com>

The Texas Tech coaching staff wanted to see Tech guard Martin Zeno play at higher level.

With a season-high 33 points in the 92-84 win against Missouri, the Red Raiders saw the best he could offer.

"Went out there and just played, and it came," Zeno said. "It's motivation and also just made me go out there and try to do my best. It motivated me just to prove them wrong. Give me the edge right there."

Along with Zeno's 33 points, the Red Raiders managed an all-around effort, as all five starters scored in double figures. Guard John Roberson followed Zeno's performance by scoring 25 points, while Alan Voskuil had 13 points. Damir Suljagic claimed 10 points of his own and Charlie Burgess had 11 points. Zeno got to the free-throw line with 19 of his 33 points coming from free throws.

The Red Raiders jumped out to a lead with the help of Tech guard Alan Voskuil. His two 3-point shots kept the pressure on the Tigers and allowed Tech to build its early lead.

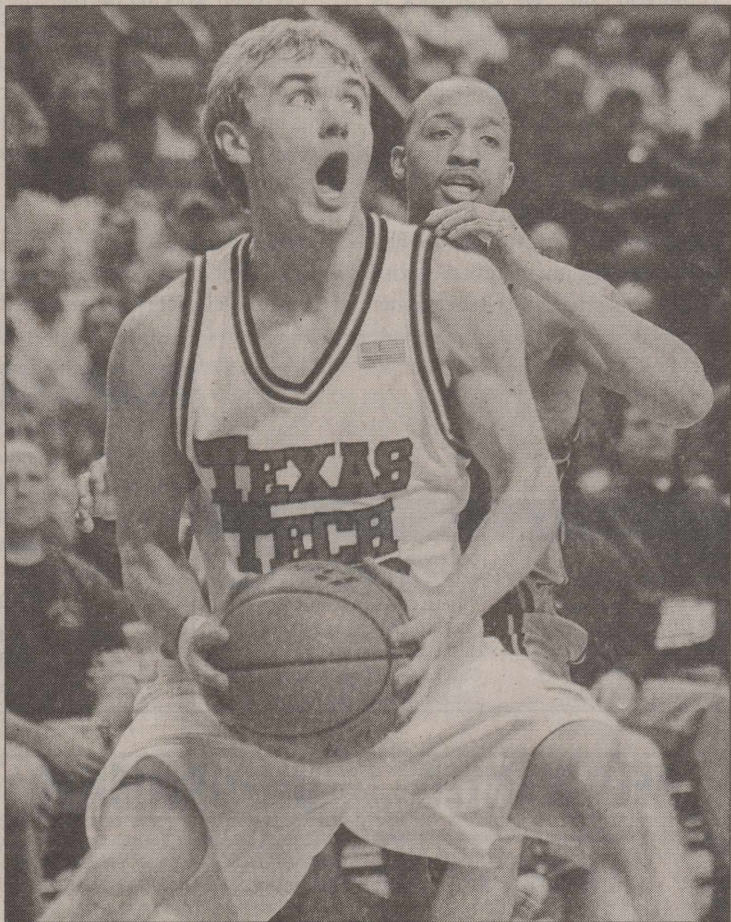


PHOTO BY SAM GREINADIER/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH GUARD Alan Voskuil scored 13 points in the Red Raiders' 92-84 victory over Missouri Wednesday at the United Spirit Arena.

"At the beginning, we handled it pretty decent to the point where we started rushing," Burgess said. "Then we started turning the ball over, and then we got our composure back. Coach (Bob Knight) gave us some words of encouragement on the game then we just stepped it up after that."

Missouri tried to match Tech's speed by bringing the ball up the court with a fast pace. The speed did not matter for the Tigers, as turnovers and production from key players such as Stephon Hannah were unavailable to start the game. Hannah finished with 17 points; the Tigers' leading scorer committed four turnovers. Tech scored 22 points on turnovers from Missouri.

The tide started to change for the Tigers in the closing minutes of the first half. The Tigers' full-court press began to work in their favor as Missouri went on a 13-2 run to take its first lead since the beginning of the game. During this 13-2 run, the Tigers grabbed three steals.

A 3-pointer by Hannah proved to be detrimental to the Red Raiders, as it gave Missouri a 40-37 lead heading into halftime.

"I thought the first half went probably about how you expect (and) want it to go," Missouri coach Mike Anderson said. "Our guard play has got to be a lot better. If you (are) going to have a chance to win on the road, we always talk about the things you gotta do. You gotta take care of the basketball."

Hannah caught on in the second half, hitting a 3-pointer early to give Missouri a five point lead, its largest of the game.

Later in the second half, a 12-0 run by Tech put the Red Raiders back on top 67-55. Zeno was the architect of this run, scoring nine of those points. During the run, he grabbed a steal and brought the ball up the court for a two with a foul shot, giving Tech the lead.

The run was the foundation for the Red Raiders to maintain a lead, despite Missouri's persistence with the press.

"I thought the press was our best offense," Knight said. "I thought that we were able to do, and move, and score, and get fouls. All in all, I thought we handled the press pretty well."

► adam.coleman@ttu.edu

Ruffin McNeill improved Tech defense, rewarded with D-coordinator position

By ADAM COLEMAN
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Red Raiders made a new addition that was long awaited by Tech defensive players.

Ruffin McNeill had the interim tag taken off and was named defensive coordinator for the Red Raiders. The announcement was made Tuesday night by Tech coach Mike Leach while all the coaches were out recruiting.

"I'm happy," Tech linebacker Marlon Williams said. "I like the way he coaches, the style of defense that he uses. I like the fact that he makes everything simple. When you go out there, you're not thinking or you're not worried about all this other stuff. You (are) just worried about playing."

McNeill is officially the third defensive coordinator under Leach. He took over the defensive coordinator position after Tech's game against Oklahoma State Sept. 23, in which the defense allowed three 100-yard rushers.

After McNeill took over the Red Raider defense and turned it around, Tech finished first in various defensive categories in the Big 12 Conference. The Red Raiders finished with the best pass defense in the Big 12. In the final eight regular-season games, which were during McNeill's tenure, Tech finished first in total defense in the Big 12. Seven of those last eight games came against Big 12 opponents.

With McNeill as coordinator, the Red Raiders forced an average of 5.7 punts opposed to four to start the season. Tech also allowed fewer rushing and passing yards per game during the eight-game period, averaging 157.1 and 190.8, respectively.

"Ruffin took the reins of our

defense and made it a more aggressive, successful unit than it had been," Leach said in a press release. "The players responded and played with enthusiasm the rest of the year. In nine games, Ruffin took our defense to the top of the Big 12 Conference rankings."

Former Tech safety Joe Garcia said with McNeill's work ethic last season, he deserves to be named Tech's defensive coordinator.

"It's exciting, basically," he said. "He's done right. He's worked really hard to get where he's at. It pays off when you work that hard. The players love him. The staff apparently love him. So he's been doing a good job."

This is McNeill's third job as defensive coordinator. He had previous stints with UNLV and Appalachian State. The year McNeill was defensive coordinator for UNLV, the Rebels went 1-10. Holding the same position with Appalachian State gave McNeill a chance to help coach former NFL linebacker Dexter Coakley to a Buck Buchanan Award, given to the top defensive player of the year in Division I-Football Championship Subdivision two years in a row.

Younger Tech defensive players had a chance to work themselves into the rotation under McNeill. True freshman Colby Whitlock and redshirt freshman Brian Duncan improved under McNeill and found themselves on the freshman All-American team at season's end.

Williams said he believes there will not be much change in the Tech defense, but McNeill will focus on improving his players rather than the scheme.

"Coach Ruff is going to do what he knows," Williams said. "I think he's

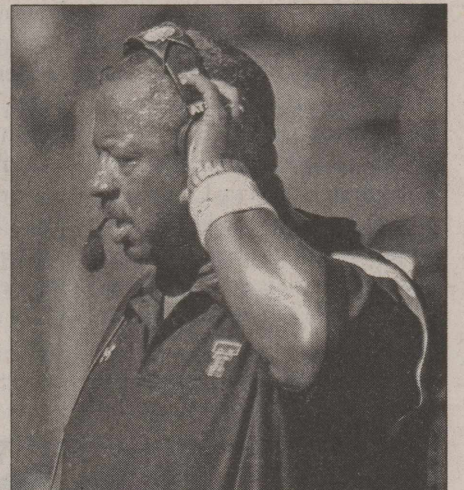


PHOTO BY TRENT BARNES/The Daily Toreador
TECH DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR Ruffin McNeill helped the Red Raiders become the No. 1 ranked defense in the Big 12.

probably going to stick with what we (have) been doing. Now that he has an entire year to really mold people and really instill the things that he wants us to do, we're only going to get better."

McNeill has been coaching at the collegiate level for 22 years. Starting his career as a graduate assistant, McNeill also coached at Clemson, Austin Peay, North Alabama and Fresno State before making his stop at Tech.

The East Carolina alumnus was a three-year starter for the Pirates at defensive back and obtained his master's degree in counseling.

Tech linebacker Sandy Riley said McNeill gave the players a certain motivation to play with.

"It was great to me, just for one, the way he turned around the program," Riley said. "He kind of gave us the fire to (play with motivation). Once he came along, told us how things were going to change and how we're going to do things, to me, it was kind of a little kick in our butt."

► adam.coleman@ttu.edu

"We went out there and just played, and it came. It's motivation."

— MARTIN ZENO
TEXAS TECH GUARD

Ten of Voskuil's 13 points came eight minutes into the game.

Missouri finished the game with 21 turnovers, adding to Tech's recent home opponents' struggle to take care of the ball. At home against Texas A&M, the Aggies had 20 turnovers. Tech forced 23 turnovers from UTEP Jan 5.

The Tigers used a full-court press from the start, but it seemed Tech was prepared for it as the Red Raiders continued to beat the Tigers up the court for quick baskets.

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