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IT TAKES A STEADY HAND...



PETTITE COULD CORROBORATE HIGH ACCUSATION

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SOUTHWEST COLLECTION THURSDAY, JAN. 31, 2008
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(INSIDE)



(INBRIEF)

STATE

More fires flare in Texas, cleanup starts for some

FORT WORTH (AP) — A day after wildfires burned almost 30 square miles across Texas, a few more blazes sprang up Wednesday while victims sifted through the charred remnants of their homes.

Gary Karr spent the day moving debris from his blackened mobile home moving business near Reno, west of Fort Worth. The building sustained about \$100,000 in damage but was not destroyed, although much of his equipment and hundreds of tires were.

NATION

Storms, wind push Lake Erie over banks

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Lake Erie surged over its eastern shore Wednesday, adding flooding to the headaches delivered by a windy storm that tipped tractor-trailers, disrupted flights, and toppled trees and power lines across a wide swath of the nation.

A cold front and arctic air roared into New York before dawn, sending Tuesday's spring-like temperatures plummeting. Buffalo went from 53 degrees at 3 a.m. Wednesday to 15 degrees by noon. Classes were canceled at most area schools.

WORLD

Report on war leaves Olmert unscathed

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Ehud Olmert emerged relatively unscathed from the final report Wednesday on his handling of Israel's 2006 war in Lebanon, even though the inquiry criticized both the government and the army for "serious failings and flaws."

The report stopped short of blaming Olmert personally for what many Israelis saw as a stunning debacle that emboldened the Jewish state's enemies.

DEATH TOLL

3941

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

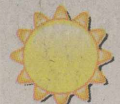
WEATHER

Today



WINDY
HIGH 48
LOW 23

Friday



SUNNY
HIGH 63
LOW 31

INSIDE

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Fed cuts interest rates bold half-point

By JEANNINE AVERSA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve delivered powerful new relief to people and businesses squeezed by the ailing economy Wednesday, cutting interest rates ever deeper in an effort to avert or at least soften the blow of a recession.

The bold, half-point reduction approved by Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and all but one of his

colleagues came as President Bush and Congress raced to enact a separate rescue package — including tax rebates for individuals and tax breaks for companies — to help energize an economy in danger of stalling.

Heartened by the Fed's newfound aggressiveness, Wall Street rallied but then pulled back, still wary. The Dow Jones industrials jumped more than 200 points after the announcement but ended up down 37.47.

Commercial banks followed the Fed action by lowering their prime

lending rate by the same half percentage point — to 6 percent, the lowest in nearly three years. That prime rate applies to certain credit cards, home equity lines of credit and other loans.

Hours before the Fed's action, the government reported that the nation's economic growth had stumbled to a virtual halt. The economy grew at just a 0.6 percent pace from October through December, and for all of 2007 it logged its weakest performance in five years.

The collapse of the housing market, sour mortgage investments and much harder-to-get credit are weighing on people and businesses alike. Foreclosures have hit record highs, and banks have racked up multibillion-dollar losses. The fallout has shaken Wall Street, catapulted the economy to Topic A among worried families and galvanized political figures, including those vying to be the next president.

"The economy is hanging by a thread," said Stuart Hoffman, chief

economist at PNC Financial Services Group.

While Wednesday's interest rate cut was welcome, the Fed's blunt new assessment of the economy was sobering for everyone from business owners to people worried about debts to anyone without a job — or fearful of losing one.

"Credit has tightened further for some businesses and households," the Fed said. "Moreover, recent informa-

FED continued on page 2



HEADS

VS.

FEDS

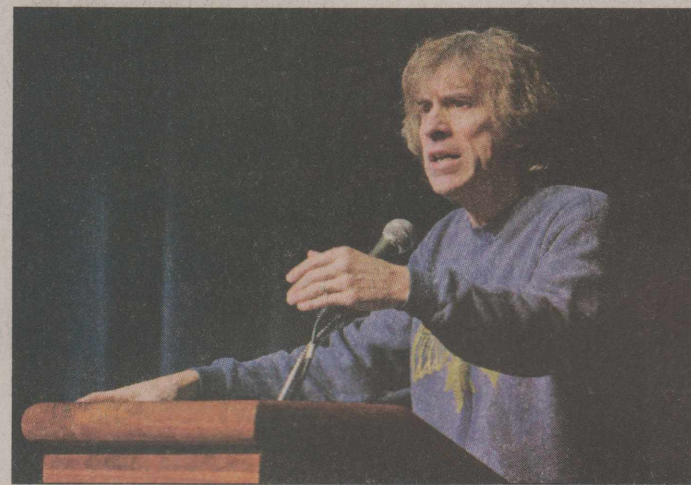


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Treador
STEVE HAGER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF of "High Times," delivers his closing statement in the Heads vs. Feds debate Wednesday in the Allen Theatre.

Marijuana legalization haze dazes campus

By MATT MCGOWAN
STAFF WRITER

Some call it "grass," while others call it "pot," and yet some are reluctant to call it a "drug."

Two experts debated the highly controversial issues surrounding the legalization of marijuana in a toe-to-toe discussion Wednesday evening in the Texas Tech Student Union Building Allen Theatre.

In a presentation by the Tech Activities Board, Bob Stutman, a former senior member of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and a prominent expert on drug issues in the United States, explained his opposition to the national movement calling for legalization of the narcotic. His opponent, Steve Hager, is the editor of the pro-marijuana magazine "High Times" and a published advocate of the plant's decriminalization.

Marijuana, admittedly, is not the worst narcotic known to man, Stutman said, noting growing trends of adolescents abusing pharmaceutical drugs. Other intoxicants that are legal, such as alcohol, already cause enough problems. Marijuana legalization would equate to more usage.

"It's an intoxicant that we don't need added to the already-legal intoxicants," Stutman said. "We don't need to make a terrible problem worse by adding to it."

Hager called for a radical change in the way current U.S. legislation treats both marijuana and those who use it.

Current public policy regarding marijuana is "onerous," he said, and in his opening remarks, he outlined several reasons why cannabis should be decriminalized. People who smoke marijuana "eat better, sleep better and have better sex."

Replying to those who argue that marijuana is a gateway drug, Hager said it is more of a "keyhole" drug, citing statistics that indicate there are 30 million marijuana users in the United States, while there are only 1 million users of harder drugs like cocaine and heroin. The gateway theory about marijuana is much like the domino theory that led the United States into the war with Vietnam.

DEBATE continued on page 7

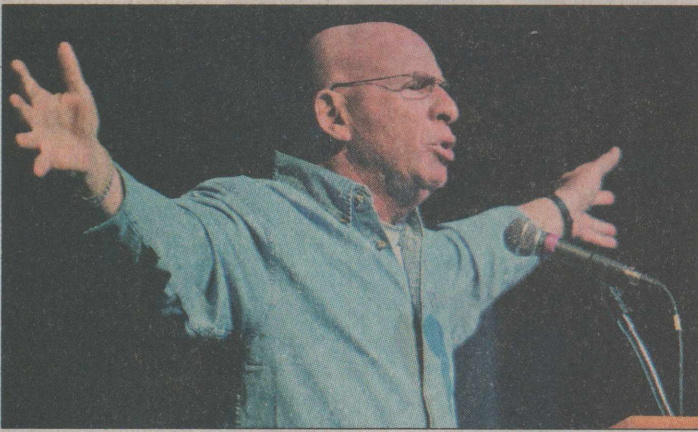


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Treador
BOB STUTMAN, A retired DEA agent, makes his opening statement in the Heads vs. Feds debate Wednesday in the Allen Theatre.



New state standards aim to prepare students for college

By MAGGIE KIELY
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopted new College-Readiness Standards Jan. 24 as a way of better preparing students for their college careers.

According to a College-Readiness Standards information sheet provided by the coordinating board, the standards "define what students should know and be able to accomplish in order to succeed in entry-level courses."

To develop the standards, the THECB put together teams of teachers and faculty who are experts on knowledge of the subject matter and experiences in public high schools and colleges.

New standards were set in English/language arts, science, social sciences, mathematics and cross-disciplinary areas. However, the new standards do not affect high school graduation requirements.

Elizabeth Teagan, director of the Texas Tech Advising Center, said until now, high schools have not focused on making a student college-ready.

"In the past, the job of high schools was seen by some to prepare students to graduate from high school," Teagan said. "Anything that communicates that the job of a high school is to prepare students for college is beneficial."

Teagan said many students enter college with the academic skills necessary, but not the self-management skills required to be successful, and she hopes the standards will change that.

"It's being able to take new information and see it in new ways," she said. "How do people manage information and knowledge? Those are key skills that high school graduates should have, and we're hoping the public schools will help develop that foundation."

Joshua Barron, associate director of the Advising Center at Tech, said he believes some freshmen do not have the skills necessary to make it through college without dropping out.

"There are lots of reasons that cause someone to be called away," Barron said, "but generally if you are going to undertake something that is going to be four or five years in the process and is a significant financial and time commitment, do you really begin to build a tower and walk away before getting a roof on it?"

He said he believes the standards will give students the skills needed to earn a bachelor's degree.

"All you've done in high school is take notes," he said. "When was the last time you were in an English class and wrote a paper communicating a complicated math theory? Do you need to be able to do that? Yeah you do. You need to be able to communicate complicated concepts and processes and procedures in the language that you work with."

He said he believes many entering freshmen view college merely as a life stepping-stone, not as an opportunity to explore and develop.

"The kind of thinking that bugs me is that 'I'm here to get a credential, what barriers do I have to clear so that I can get that credential and move on with my life?'" he said. "It doesn't necessarily mean that you are ready for college just because you demonstrate proficiency to graduate from high school. The college-readiness standards say 'not only am I proficient in this area, but I'm ready for college.'"

Teagan said she hopes the new standards will affect the

COLLEGE continued on page 6

Bush raising more money for the GOP even as his influence declines in final year

TORRANCE, Calif. (AP) — President Bush pressured Congress to jump-start the economy and pass free trade deals with U.S. allies on Wednesday while tackling one other piece of unfinished business: making millions for the Republican Party before he leaves office.

The president's popularity is sagging and the rise of Sen. John McCain's profile after his victory in Tuesday's Florida primary — coupled with Rudy Giuliani's exit from the presidential race — only underscore Bush's declining influence.

Yet, the two-term president re-

mains the top moneymaker of the GOP. He is raking in at least \$4.7 million for Republicans in a three-day swing through California, Nevada, Colorado and Missouri while highlighting themes of his State of the Union address.

Bush's push to get Congress to pass an economic stimulus package was fueled by Wednesday's report that the Gross Domestic Product in the final quarter of last year rose only 0.6 percent, half the pace economists expected.

"There are signs that our economy is slowing. There's some uncertainty

in the economy," Bush told workers at Robinson Helicopter Co. in the Los Angeles area.

But he fended off fears of recession.

"In the long run, you've got to be confident about your economy," Bush said against a backdrop of red, orange and yellow helicopters polished to a high shine. "Inflation is down. Interest rates are low. Productivity is high. Our economy is flexible. It is resilient."

Bush praised the House for passing a \$146 billion stimulus package, which has hit snags in the Senate.

ODDBALL DAILY

A real 'sweet' room made of chocolate is unveiled

NEW YORK (AP) — Don't lick the walls.

An all-chocolate room was unveiled in Manhattan on Tuesday — a pre-Valentine's Day creation complete with furniture and artwork made of the sweet stuff.

"It's the perfect bit of sin," said Ali Larter, star of TV's "Heroes," of the Godiva chocolate "pearls" that are her private daily indulgence.

Here, they were dripping off the chandeliers above the dining table, which was a sea of stars, truffles and crescents — all chocolate, of course, under glass.

Larter is the celebrity face hired by the Belgian chocolatier for its annual Valentine's Day promotion contest.

This year, anyone who buys the winning box of chocolates — for \$23 and up — may win the chocolate room. It is to be re-created in a suite of Manhattan's Bryant Park Hotel for a pampered getaway weekend for two in May.

The winning box — sold only in North America — will contain a note informing the buyer of his or her good luck.

While no doubt a shameless commercial promotion — created by Los Angeles designer Larry Abel — the demo chocolate room set up on the sixth floor of an East Village building packed a tasteful, artsy punch.

Hanging in the "living room" was a painting built entirely of multicolored chocolate pieces inspired by Gustav

Klimt's painting "The Kiss." Above the dining table was a "canvas" dripping with brown and white chocolate — a takeoff on Jackson Pollock's signature "drip" paintings.

And instead of words, books opened to a mound of chocolates.

You could actually sit on the plush sofa, which was chocolate-graced only on its sides, and the walls are made of chocolate.

There were a couple of "don'ts" in the room: lighting the fireplace (with its chocolate logs and mantle) and the candles (all chocolate).

In addition, sinking into the easy chairs was discouraged — unless you wanted to rise with a chocolate-covered derriere.

Touching nose to refer to Thailand's new PM is no joke

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Sign language interpreters in Thailand have run afoul of some ruling party supporters by holding their noses to refer to the new prime minister.

Samak Sundaravej, chosen in parliament Monday as the first elected prime minister since a Sept. 2006 coup, has been nicknamed "Mr. Rose Apple Nose" because many claim his nose resembles the fruit.

Thai sign language interpreters often indicate prominent facial features as shorthand for dignitaries, and during a live broadcast of Monday's parliamentary session,

they held their noses between two fingers numerous times to refer to Samak.

One interpreter, Kanittha Rattanasin, said this gesture has long been used for Samak but is drawing wide notice only now.

"It is not meant as a nose joke," she said. "We have touched our noses for years to refer to Samak but people noticed this time because we had to repeat the movement over 300 times."

Juthamas Suthonwattanacharoen, another interpreter, said Samak supporters have called the National Association of the Deaf in Thailand to say the sign does not besit the country

leader, and the Thai daily newspaper Matichon said the gesture angered some members of Samak's party.

Samak, 72, a combative right-wing politician, easily beat Democrat party candidate Abhisit Vejjajiva, 43, to head the country.

"We refer to a person's most unique physical appearance and for Abhisit, it's his good looks," Juthamas said. "If someone has very long eyelashes, or prominent ears, we use those."

Kanittha said some reference to Samak's popular cooking show might work as a new sign for him. But for now, there are no plans to change it, Juthamas said.

Tech Law student to help disabled through fellowship

By JON VANDERLAAN
STAFF WRITER

A Texas Tech law school student plans to use a two-year fellowship to help court-involved juveniles with mental, emotional and developmental disabilities.

Colleen Wisdom, a juris doctoral candidate from Lubbock with a master's degree in marriage and family therapy, received the Equal Justice Works Fellowship for her project, which she will begin work on in the fall.

Wisdom said she plans to establish a pro-bono support system in Lubbock to provide a referral list for competent legal counsel to families of court-involved children with disabilities.

"Texas is a very pro-punishment state, and I have a different view on how to handle juveniles, especially with special needs," said Wisdom, who graduates from law school in May. "Sometimes regular punishment doesn't work as well as it would for children without disabilities."

She said local support was part of the reason her project was chosen for the fellowship.

"The project that I created has gotten a lot of community interest," Wisdom said. "What the sponsors really wanted to see is that the community is going to support this."

There are several supporters of Wisdom's project in Lubbock, including Advocacy Incorporated, Dispute Resolution Center of Lubbock, the Lubbock Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Center, several judges and attorneys in town and the probation office at the Lubbock County Juvenile Justice Center.

According to the Equal Justice Works Fellowship Web site, www.equaljusticeworks.org, Equal Justice Works is an organization with "a mission to create a just society by mobilizing the next generation of lawyers committed to equal justice." The organization's fellowship program was created to address the

shortage of attorneys working for traditionally under-served populations and causes.

Along with the \$37,000 annual salary Wisdom will receive from Equal Justice Works, Wisdom also will receive \$13,000 from Advocacy Incorporated, her sponsor agency, to fund the project.

James Carroll, communications director for Equal Justice Works, said out of 300 applicants nationwide for the Equal Justice Works Fellowship, only 50 are chosen to receive funding for their projects and become fellows.

In addition to the Equal Justice

Works Fellowship, Carroll said the organization has several other programs for law students committed to legal justice, including the AmeriCorps National Service Network and Summer Corps.

Wisdom said she is glad her project was chosen and believes it is good that somebody on a nationwide level was willing to put money into a relatively rural community.

"Apparently, I was able to communicate that there is a need and that there are these children that are falling through the cracks," Wisdom said.

jon.vanderlaan@ttu.edu



PHOTO BY TRENT BARNES/The Daily Treador
COLLEEN WISDOM, A third-year law school student, received a fellowship from the State of Texas that she plans to use to help disabled, court-involved children and establish a pro-bono support system here in Lubbock.

Fed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion indicates a deepening of the housing contraction as well as some

softening in labor markets."

In its 9-1 decision, the Federal Reserve dropped its key rate to 3 percent at the end of a two-day meeting. Richard Fisher, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas was the sole dissenter. He preferred no change.

It was the second Fed rate cut in just over a week, and the policymakers signaled they were prepared to keep going lower if needed.

There had been a rare, three-quarter point reduction last Tuesday. Bernanke had convened an emergency session after stocks worldwide plummeted, intensifying recession fears. The cuts have helped to restore some confidence among skittish investors, but financial markets remain fragile.

In the gravest challenge to his leadership since becoming Fed chief nearly two years ago, Bernanke must help stem the fallout from both the housing bust and a credit crunch. Wall Street critics and others have taken Bernanke to task for waiting until September of last year to embark on a rate-cutting campaign, accusing the Fed chief of being behind the curve in dealing with the economy's problems.

Bernanke also must be mindful of not letting inflation get out of hand — a delicate and tricky maneuver. Oil prices have receded from \$100 a barrel but still remain high. The Fed said it expects inflation to ease in coming quarters but added that it is imperative to monitor developments carefully.

Still, more rate cuts are expected at the Fed's next scheduled meeting in

March and beyond. Some economists predict the key rate could drop as low as 2 percent this year, which would be the lowest in four years.

"The Fed needs to throw out a life raft to the economy pending the fiscal stimulus measures," said Brian Bethune, economist at Global Insight.

Even further action might not avert a recession but rather limit the damage. The interest rate cuts will take months to affect the economy, as will any stimulus package approved by the government. Neither effort will quickly cure the root cause of the economy's troubles: a severely depressed housing market and bad mortgage investments.

The economy may actually be declining now. Under one rough rule, it would have to contract for six months in a row for the country to be considered in a recession. The likelihood of a recession has risen sharply over the past year, and analysts increasingly believe the U.S. will be in one during the first half of 2008. The worry is that people and businesses — which turned more cautious at the end of the year — will hunker down, sending the economy into a tailspin.

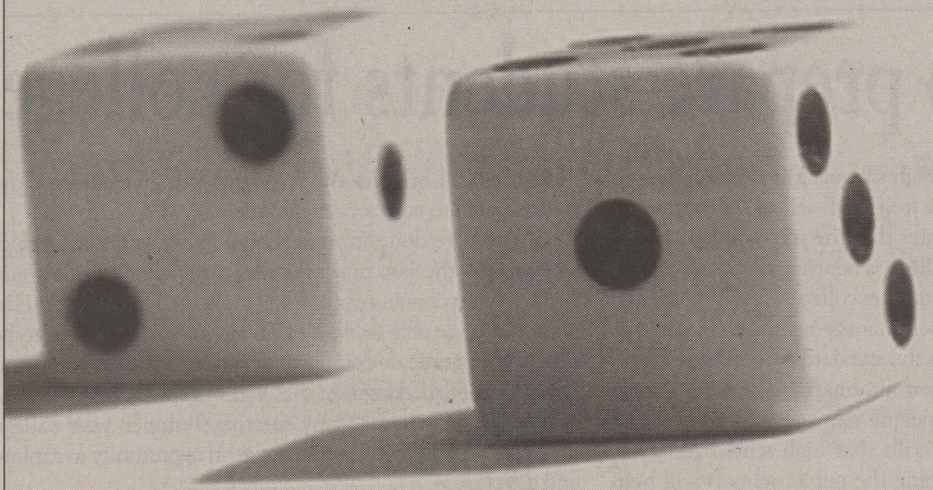
Bernanke is not expected to cut rates as deeply as did his predecessor, Alan Greenspan, when Greenspan took on the 2001 recession, the economic fallout of the Sept. 11 attacks, a series of accounting scandals that rocked Wall Street and the uncertainty that gripped the country leading up to the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

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WORLD EVENTS IN BRIEF

Japan's dolphin hunt sags under protests

TAIJI, Japan (AP) — Every autumn and winter, hunters from this craggy Japanese fishing village corral thousands of dolphins into a tiny, isolated cove and kill them for meat and fertilizer, turning the water red with their blood.

And every year, foreign animal rights protesters converge on the town, interfering with the slaughter, clashing with fishermen and broadcasting grisly photographs of the slayings around the world — all without stopping the hunt.

Now, Japan's dolphin hunters face a new, powerful opponent: mercury contamination.

A series of scientific studies in re-

cent years in Japan have documented high levels of the toxic heavy metal in dolphin meat, and a group of city councilmen in Taiji launched an unprecedented campaign against the hunt several months ago after doing their own tests.

A leading regional supermarket chain has pulled dolphin from its shelves over the health concerns, and hunt critics in the town say villagers are shunning it. Meat from pilot whales — a type of dolphin — was taken off local school lunch menus in October.

"The mayor says we've caused 100 million yen (\$1 million) in damages to the industry, but I don't know how that's calculated," said Junichiro Yamashita, a

city councilman spearheading the anti-hunt movement. "They say the business is important for Taiji, but we say that health is more important."

Indeed, while animal rights arguments against the hunt have fallen on deaf ears in Japan, the threat of mercury contamination strikes a chord in a country where food safety is rapidly becoming a paramount public concern.

Though no mercury poisoning cases from dolphin meat have been publicly documented in Taiji, such contamination resonates loudly in Japan, where thousands were killed or crippled by mercury poisoning in Minamata in the 1950s and 60s.

Internet outages from damaged undersea cables disrupt businesses

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Internet outages disrupted business and personal usage across a wide swathe of the Middle East on Wednesday after two undersea cables in the Mediterranean were damaged, government officials and Internet service providers said.

In Cairo, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology said the cut of the international communications cables Flag and Seamew 4 had led to a partial disruption of Internet services and other telecommunications across much of Egypt.

Emergency teams were quickly trying to find alternative routes, including satellite connections, to end the disrupt-

tions, Minister Tariq Kamel said.

A telecommunications expert at the Egyptian communications ministry, Rifaat Hindy, cautioned that "solving this could take days."

TeleGeography, a U.S. research group that tracks submarine cables around the world, said the severed lines account for 75 percent of the capacity connecting Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries to Europe.

It would take "a few days up to one week before submarine cable operators deploy ships to bring the cables up and fix the fault," said Eric Schoonover, senior research analyst at TeleGeography.

It was not clear what caused the damage to the cable.

Schoonover said there has been speculation by others that an illegally or improperly anchored ship caused the problem. Cables get damaged all the time but Schoonover believes this was the first time two undersea cables near each other were cut at the same time.

Phone lines in Egypt still work, indicating "network operators in the area are rerouting traffic through emergency channels," Schoonover said. He said alternate paths include going "around India and back through Asia to the U.S."

Roadside bomb kills cameraman, driver in latest blow

BAGHDAD (AP) — A roadside bomb blast killed an Iraqi television cameraman and his driver as the crew worked on a report for the upcoming anniversary of one of the most stunning attacks blamed on Sunni extremists, the station reported Wednesday.

Alaa Abdul-Karim al-Fartoosi, 29, was part of an Al-Forat television team collecting reports to mark the February 2006 bombing that damaged the gold-domed Shiite shrine in Samarra — an attack that set off some of Iraq's worst sectarian bloodshed.

The roadside blast Tuesday struck

the journalists' car in Balad, about 50 miles north of Baghdad and near the Samarra site, said Haider Kadhum, news editor of Al-Forat television. An Al-Forat correspondent and camera assistant were wounded.

It was not clear whether the television crew was specifically targeted, but Iraqi journalists face some of the most dangerous working conditions in the world — random violence as well as attacks for their reports or contacts with foreign media.

Al-Forat TV is affiliated with a powerful Shiite political party, the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council.

The Feb. 23, 2006 shrine bomb-

ing — blamed on Sunni insurgents — touched off a wave of clashes between Shiites and Sunnis around Iraq, claiming thousands of lives and raising worries that Iraq was heading for civil war.

The sectarian tensions began easing last year as Sunni tribes and the Shiite-led government increasingly found a common enemy in al-Qaida in Iraq and its sympathizers.

According to the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders, at least 207 journalists and media workers were killed in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003 — not counting the latest deaths.

GENTLE HANDS



PHOTO BY JESSICA RIVERA/The Daily Toreador
JUAN GRANADOS INSTRUCTS Seth Teeters, a senior graphic design major from Lubbock, on designing a pot in ceramics class Tuesday morning.

New photos show planet Mercury in different light

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first pictures from the un-

seen side of Mercury reveal the wrinkles of a shrinking, aging planet with scars from volcanic eruptions and a birthmark shaped like a spider.

Some of the 1,213 photos taken by NASA's Messenger probe and unveiled Wednesday

help support the case that ancient volcanoes dot Mercury and that it is shrinking as it gets older, forming wrinkle-like ridges. But other images are surprising and puzzling. The spidery shape captured in a photo is "unlike anything we've seen anywhere in the solar system," said mission chief scientist Sean Solomon of the Carnegie Institution of

Washington. The image shows what looks like a large crater with faint lines radiating out from it.

Mercury, the closest planet to the sun, has often been compared to Earth's dull black-and-white moon.

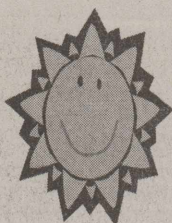
But the new photos, which reveal parts of Mercury never seen, show the tiny planet is more colorful and once had volcanic activity.



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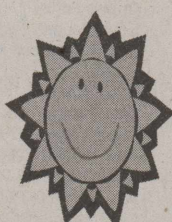
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OPINIONS

PAGE 4
THURSDAY, JAN. 31, 2008

STAFF EDITORIAL

The *Montclairian*, the student-run newspaper at Montclair State University in Montclair, N.J., was forced to stop publishing beginning Jan. 24 by its parent organization, the university's Student Government Association.

We feel the decision made by the Montclair SGA was an overreaction that could have been avoided through less drastic measures.

The Montclair SGA told the printer of *The Montclairian* to suspend publishing after the executive board of the government association found the newspaper to be in violation of "illegally spend-

ing funds [and] disregarding policies." The funds in question were used by *The Montclairian* to hire outside legal counsel to look into whether the SGA possibly had violated state open meeting laws.

The issue of free speech and free press on college campuses across the nation often has been met by ambiguity from lawmakers.

In the 1980s, the U.S. Supreme Court made a decision that allowed high school principals the power of censorship and prior review over their respective schools' publications. This action has been considered by many First Amendment

advocates as a damaging blow against free press for future generations.

One of the fundamental duties of the press is to operate as a watchdog to keep governing agencies accountable to the people they represent. By suspending the student newspaper, the Montclair SGA has robbed its student body of the opportunity to participate in one of the essential freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.

The lack of separation between the SGA and the university's paper raises the alarming question of why any governing agency at a state university would be given the power to

literally stop the presses. This oversight creates a fundamental conflict of interest since *The Montclairian* is responsible for reporting the actions of the SGA.

It is evident that *The Montclairian* may have been in violation of an agreement with the SGA regarding the use of funds. From this perspective, it is apparent the issue should be resolved as an internal matter that may result in some kind of disciplinary action for the violation of the agreement.

However, we feel the governing agency of any collegiate campus should not have the power to censor or the power of

prior review over any journalistic endeavor. The freedom of the press is clearly stated in the First Amendment. Considering the damning implications for a nation whose press has been held under the choke hold of a governing agency, we believe the framers of the Constitution were correct in putting it first.

Do not underestimate the power of free speech and what it means for society. It is this freedom that separates America from so many totalitarian states around the world. The decisions made here, today, have far reaching consequences that may never be understood until it is too late. Allow-

ing ourselves to fall into the stereotypes of apathetic college students may cause irrevocable damage not only to the freedoms we enjoy as Texas Tech students, but to the freedom of America and democracies like it across the globe.

We do not print this editorial as a warning to the Tech Student Government Association, but rather to the students who enjoy the right to a student publication unhindered by the administrative system, something no longer available to the students of Montclair University.

'Cowboy' rides into the sunset

Last Sunday, the Lubbock area lost a truly good person. Cowboy Fred Ortiz grew up in a fairly poor area of South El Paso, which made a deep impact on his life. He dedicated much of his life to helping kids in the area succeed.

He was president of the Lubbock Area Children Empowerment, a non-profit children's leadership organization. Ortiz also founded "Up and Coming Scholars," an organization designed to help teenagers planning to go to college with scholarship opportunities and extra guidance.

According to his wife and the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, he added the "Cowboy" to his name after telling an elementary school teacher he wanted to be a cowboy. The teacher then asked the class if they'd heard "anything more ridiculous than a Mexican cowboy."

I first met Ortiz about eight or nine years ago, when I served on the Lubbock Youth Commission. Always impeccably dressed, Ortiz wore large western-cut suits and a cowboy hat wherever he went, large glasses, an earring, a well trimmed salt-and-pepper beard and he topped it all off with a ponytail. After getting to know him, we knew he totally was dedicated to the organization and to all of us. That sort of dedication was a rare thing, and we all knew it.

Long after I left the organization, and even after it was dissolved, Ortiz kept working with kids to help them have a better life. I was never in the position of many of the kids Ortiz worked with, being firmly well-planted in the middle class, but I was able to appreciate and admire the guidance and friendship he offered to kids in less-than-comfortable economic and familial situations. He could have spent his retirement years focusing on himself and his own hobbies, but his goal was to help kids forge better lives for themselves.

Every time I saw him after being on the Youth Commission, I always was greeted with a firm handshake and news of what he was working on next. When I'd see him at the front desk of GAP Broadcasting where I work as a news anchor, he always was jubilant about his next project.

Ortiz would be taking care of some business with one of the radio stations there and would sometimes be surrounded by kids while doing it.

He was also an unabashed conservative who wrote opinions pieces once a month for the *Avalanche-Journal*. Ortiz annoyed quite a few

Cole Shooter

people with his views on immigration, religion and family involvement. One of his articles that ran in the *Avalanche-Journal* brought forth his views on parental obligation in comparison with Hillary Clinton's book, "It Takes a Village."

Ortiz said "There is no bigger pile of junk than 'It Takes a Village.' It is your kid, you bring him up. The village thing is just yet another excuse for parents to use when they don't do their job as parents." The statement may not have sat well with some readers, but helped to illustrate how Ortiz believed and lived his life.

I last saw him a month or so ago while at work. He was no longer the robust man I had known through my teenage years. He was considerably smaller, which just made his western-cut suit seem even larger. His voice was also a bit hoarse. I just assumed that he had a cold, as many did around that time of the year.

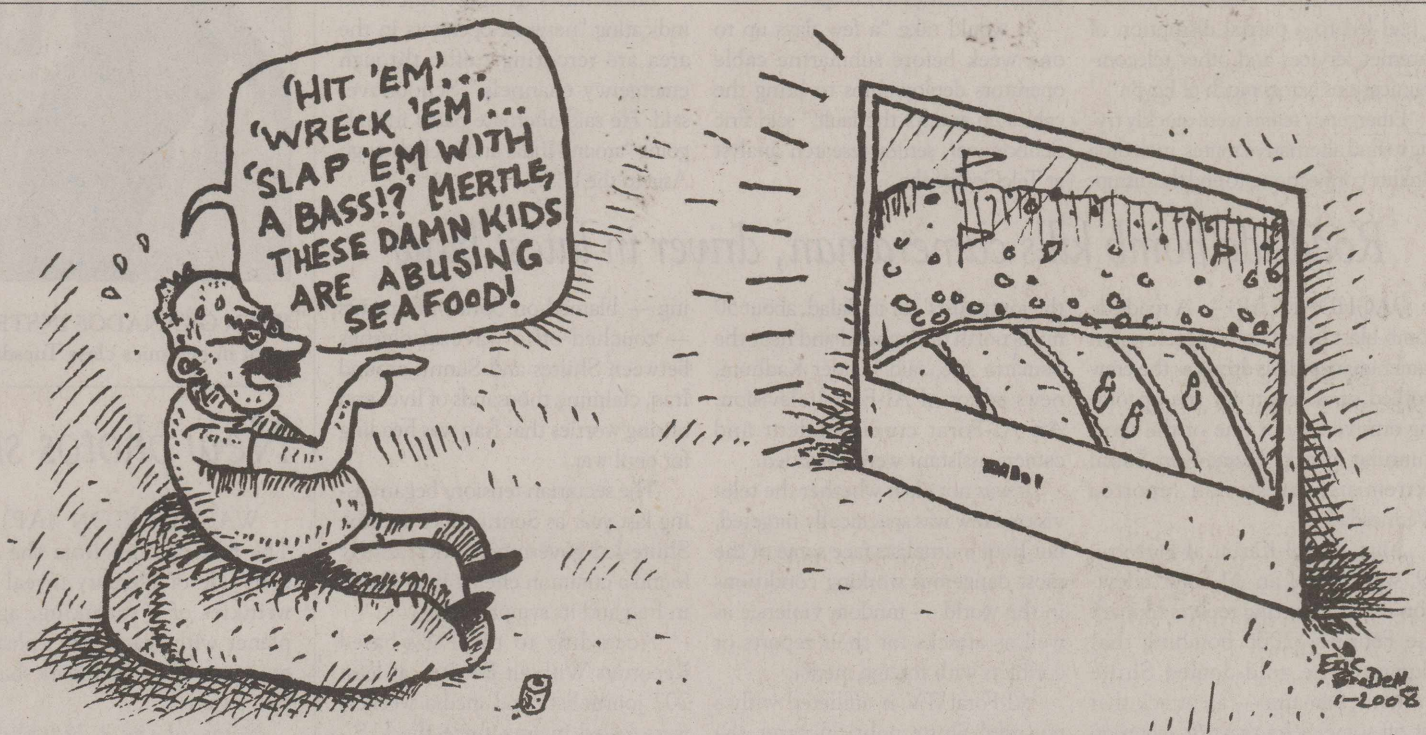
We talked for five or six minutes, and he updated me on his latest projects, and what his groups had been doing to help make some kids' lives better. Ortiz still had his usual excitement to talk about what he'd been doing, even if he couldn't do it quite as loudly as usual.

He never mentioned that he was ill. We shook hands one last time, and I went back to work. This selflessness was typical of Ortiz, however. He wasn't interested in talking about himself or how he was feeling. He just wanted to spread the word about what his organizations would be doing for people.

Ortiz died Sunday morning of sarcoma at age 65. The Lubbock area lost more than just a man; he was a noble and dedicated servant of the people. To me, Ortiz represents the gold standard of what it is to be a true Christian and an all-around good person.

I'll close with a small portion of a "cowboy prayer" Ortiz posted online in 2002. "That ol' trail's gotta be a mite straighter from here on in to that Last Corral. Help me unroll that last bedroll on soft ground. I reckon I can use a hand." Rest in peace, Fred.

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



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE COUNCIL FOR OLD PEOPLE TO LIGHTEN UP

Shh! Liberals do not want equality

By JENNIFER GILMORE
MUSTANG DAILY (CAL POLY)

(U-WIRE) SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. — Ah, equality... doesn't the word make you feel all fuzzy inside? Equality is one of those things we know to be inherently right, something we should stand up for. Equality is typically equated with civil rights parades and movements, things typically associated with liberals. However, since I joined the Republican Party, I've met more people that are willing to stand up for equality than I ever did while a registered Democrat (*shudder*).

Equality in this country would mean that all our citizens would be treated equally. However, sometimes equality and diversity are mixed up. As of 2005, Cal Poly was about 65 percent white. This is a problem to those who would like a wider mixture of cultures. Diversity's about people's minds and backgrounds, not just their ethnicities. People seem to strive so much for physical diversity that they forget that equality's more important.

A liberal's answer to a lack of diversity on campus is affirmative action. That's where somebody with a lower grade point average and fewer extracurricular activities gets preferential treatment because they can't be described as Caucasian.

This kind of policy was ruled illegal by the Supreme Court in 2003 against the University of Michigan, which had used an admissions point system that granted extra points to minorities.

The legal alternatives are programs that increase equal opportunity. Since the 1980s, Cal Poly has had community outreach programs in which students go to low-income schools and talk to kids about college. These programs are great; they open kids' eyes to all of their potentials and opportunities. However, when we still end up with a mostly white campus, liberal students get up in arms.

News flash: Cal Poly accepts the brightest kids in the state. Then those bright kids decide which school they want to go to. That's how our education system works. If those kids, whom we've tried so hard to get to come here, don't get in or -- gasp -- choose a different university, that's not the school's fault. (As a side note, Cal Poly ranks fourth nationwide for the number of engineering degrees granted to students with a Hispanic background, so take that, Berkeley!)

Kids should be admitted based on their minds and potentials, not their ethnicity. Do you want to tell a white high-schooler that they weren't accepted because of the color of their skin? That defeats the point of equality.

Liberals also are a little schizo-

phrenic when it comes to freedom of speech. You know, the first amendment? I love the first amendment. It's what allows me to say whatever I want in this column and not have disciplinary action taken against me. Well... almost. Liberals believe in freedom of speech as long as it's not against minorities or, in some deranged outer universe, offensive to minorities. However, if you want to talk about people who are white, have at it. Tsk tsk, that's not equality! Either anyone can say whatever he or she wants, or you need to condemn anything that would ever be offensive to anyone. That second one sounds like a lot of work to me. So why don't you just calm down and fully support the first amendment? Everyone, no matter the color of their skin or their background, can say anything they want and not be punished. You don't have to like it, but that's the cool thing about the first amendment: being able to talk back.

The Declaration of Independence has a few things to say about equality, too. It states that "all men are created equal" and we all have the rights of "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." It's become a practice in this country of getting in the way of people's pursuit of their own happiness in order to provide for less fortunate people. This evens the playing field, if you will. Scholars like to call this strategy "socialism."

It seems that that first quote from the Declaration of Independence, the document upon which our country was built, becomes forgotten. Liberals choose to "help" the lower class (i.e. their bread and butter during elections) by proposing higher taxes for the upper classes and corporations. Those people earned their money by hard work and intelligence. Yes, it sucks to be the guy whose mp3 player didn't survive the market because the iPod is better, but that's a free market. If your job/business fails, that's on your shoulders and others shouldn't be punished for that. Equality fails in our economy when others are expected to provide for those less fortunate than them by carrying them on their backs.

If equality's so important in social issues surrounding us today, why is it forgotten when it comes to our money? Why do liberals insist on taking a much higher percentage from those who are successful? The government should not sacrifice equal treatment of their citizens because that leads to a much more dangerous kind of equality: socialism.

So please, next time you're complaining about the lack of diversity on campus or how much the upper class makes in a year, remember this: We built our country on equality. Don't you want to stand up for it?

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WHO DO YOU THINK WILL WIN
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Political waters are muddier after Florida

In Florida Tuesday, the presidential candidates got down and dirty as the race to Super Tuesday reached its final leg.

The Democratic Primary saw a resounding win for Hillary Clinton; at least that's what the Clinton campaign wants you to think. The reality of the Clinton win is that it was both hollow and questionable.

The Florida Democratic Primary should not have been a contest at all, seeing as the Democratic National Committee has denied the Florida Democratic Party its seats at the nominating convention for holding an early primary.

The candidates pledged not to campaign in Florida but from time to time they came to hold private fund-raisers. So what we saw happen was essentially the Clinton campaign ambushing Barack Obama who labeled the Florida primary as a "beauty contest" and put forth no effort in the state.

Before leaving Memphis Tennessee to come to Florida to "collect her prize," Clinton said: "hundreds of thousands of people have already voted in Florida, and I want them to know I will be there to be part of what they have tried to do to make sure their voices are heard."

While Clinton received no delegates for the upcoming convention, what she did win was momentum. After being routed by Obama in South

Derek Johnston



Carolina, Clinton needed this win as a photo opportunity before Tuesday's "Super Tuesday" primary election. Holding a victory rally in Florida Tuesday night, the Clinton campaign played up its victory out of proportion hoping that the win will propel them into a win this coming Tuesday.

On the Republican side of the Florida contest, the campaigning turned nasty as John McCain and Mitt Romney turned their guns on each other in some of the most vicious mudslinging we have seen in this election on both sides of aisle. In the days leading up to the Florida contest, accusations of being flip-flopers, liberals and lacking in leadership came from both candidates.

McCain claimed Romney consistently flip-flops on every issue that comes before him and referred to his opponent as "the liberal governor of Massachusetts." Romney in return has suggested McCain has set America on a "liberal democratic course." Romney also called McCain's statements on Romney's war position both "wrong" and "dishonest."

Even after the polls opened in Florida the mudslinging did not cease. They traded attacks on each other's economic policies and their abilities to keep America safe. McCain said,

"The real key, I think, here in Florida, is who can keep America safe. Who is it that has got the experience and background and knowledge to take on the challenge of radical Islamic extremism? Governor Romney has no experience there."

Romney came back at McCain vaguely but obviously saying, "one of the candidates out there running for president said that the economy is not his strong suit; well, it's my strong suit." This attack claims the economy, not national security, is the cornerstone issue facing Americans today.

So what does a person make of the political scene after the debacle in Florida?

Well on the Democratic side, Obama should be concerned greatly after his loss to Clinton.

Even though the contest was meaningless in the sense of the fight for delegates, the Clinton campaign is and will continue to play this win up in the coming week, showing her ability to win among a diverse and populous electorate.

Obama needs to come back strong in Thursday's California debate and show he can compete with a competitor who is not afraid to play dirty and play hard.

For the Republicans, Giuliani lost in a crushing defeat that forced him to drop out of the race. This loss wasn't a surprise seeing that Giuliani ran probably the worst-planned campaign in the history of American politics.

Putting all his eggs in the Florida basket, he didn't campaign at all in any of the earlier contests. This caused him not to get a single positive headline leading up to the contest in game that is all about momentum.

Lacking any positive momentum, he did not even make a good showing in Florida where he spent all his time and money.

Between Romney and McCain, I think this winner-take-all victory for McCain mixed with his win in South Carolina will make McCain a sure front runner going into the Super Tuesday primary election, and we most likely will see him become the Republican nominee for president.

But all in all, after the dust has settled in Florida, we still have no nominees for president, not even a front runner. In the days leading up to the Super Tuesday primary, we will see the candidates on both sides of the aisle get dirty and get mean, and even then, we still may not have nominees from either party.

Johnston is a freshman philosophy major from Lubbock. Email him at derek.a.johnston@ttu.edu.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In regards to Brian Ridley's column, creating a professor watch list does nothing more than propagate intolerance rather than an open-minded university system. Professors should be revered and remunerated for their dedication to academia, rather than alienated for expressing their ideas. Students should be committed to seeking knowledge from multiple facets with differing opinions in order to make a more informed decision on their own belief system. Ostracizing professors based on their opinions is a regressive step

much like the Jewish sympathizer lists used in Nazi Germany. If anything, the students of Texas Tech should take progressive steps and not fear opinions that are different than their own, but rather respect and celebrate each other's unique identity. In the words of Aristotle, "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."

Sanjeet Baidwan is a senior cellular and molecular biology major from Lubbock. E-mail her at sanjeet.baidwan@ttu.edu.

Killer deserves to die, but Mexico stands in the way

By LISA LEWIS
DAILY O'COLLEGIAN (OKLAHOMA STATE U.)

(U-WIRE) STILLWATER, Okla. — A grand jury indicted a marine this past Thursday on a first-degree murder charge in the death of a fellow marine. However, he is thought to have been sighted in Mexico and may not have to face the death penalty if arrested there.

A warrant for Marine Cpl. Cesar Armando Laurean's arrest was issued in Mexico on Tuesday. The country does not allow capital punishment.

Lance Cpl. Maria Lauterbach, 20, was reported missing from North Carolina on Dec. 19. She was in the third trimester of pregnancy and had filed rape charges against Laurean earlier in the year. Laurean may or may not have been the baby's father.

Although considered a possible suspect, Laurean was not considered to be a flight risk because Onslow County Sheriff Ed Brown said he was told the two carried on a "friendly relationship" after the reported rape. Laurean subsequently disappeared.

Laurean wrote a letter that his wife handed over to authorities after he fled, stating that Lauterbach slit her own throat and that he buried her behind his house.

However, an autopsy found that Lauterbach died of blunt force trauma to the head.

Also, upon a search of his house, authorities reportedly found a room with massive amounts of blood on the walls and ceiling that had apparently been attempted to be cleaned off and painted over.

A search of Laurean's backyard on Jan. 11 turned up the most grisly discovery of all — a fire pit with a charred body, later determined to be the remains of Lauterbach and her unborn baby. One investigator described seeing a curled up little fist.

Surveillance video from a hardware store on Dec. 16 — two days after Lauterbach is believed to have been killed — shows Laurean buying paint, concrete blocks and a wheelbarrow, according to CNN. The supplies could have been used to cover up the murder, a sheriff's department spokesperson told the network.

By the way, this man is the same age as many of the students here — only 21 years old.

Laurean is now on the FBI's most wanted list and has a reward offering of up to \$25,000. The prosecutor said he would not seek the death penalty if the man is arrested in Mexico.

Mexico refuses to send anyone back to the United States unless provided assurances they won't face the death penalty.

Mexico does not allow capital punishment and has a long-standing record of refusing to extradite to the U.S. suspected murderers who face possible death penalties after conviction, according to CNN.

Professors, what books do students actually need?

By ROSS STEWART
UNIVERSITY DAILY KANSAN (U. KANSAS)

(U-WIRE) LAWRENCE, Kan. — When my roommate and I aren't out being venture capitalists trying to give back to the community, we like to light up a couple stogies, stand around in my bathroom and flush \$5 bills down the toilet until the fire alarm in our apartment building goes off.

This is a basic parallel to the common practice of professors not informing their students which required texts are not necessarily "required" for their course.

It's an easily solved problem to an all-too-regular situation. Yet no professor I've encountered feels it necessary to forewarn his or her students about the possibility of wasting of money.

How could I keep the fire alarms from going off in my apartment building?

Easy. Dismantle them.

How could professors keep us from wasting money?

By using Blackboard. It exists for a reason.

Saving money is one of my top priorities, as it is to most of my classmates, so I make sure to buy my books in advance. Many students,

like myself, don't use the bookstore on campus for all of their required text needs. I use half.com and amazon.com along with the marketplace application on Facebook.

I arrived at my sociology course on the first day only to find out an \$80 book that the bookstore told me I needed was not in fact needed.

I felt a sense of loss for the good time my roommate and I could've had flushing \$80 worth of Lincolns.

I know it was supposed to be a nice gesture on the professor's part. I'm all about nice gestures. I blow kisses to people instead of flipping them off. I call bad drivers "Cupcake."

I like nice gestures, gestures that mean something, nice gestures that follow through — nice gestures that cook breakfast the morning after.

If a professor isn't going to require some of the texts, it would be best if the professor would post a notice on Blackboard. Every student of the class automatically has the chance to see this information far in advance, and it allows them to save money. There isn't a drawback, other than a professor having to use some of his or her "office hours" (during which hardly any students show up).



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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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- CIA's Soviet counterpart
- Supped
- Side-to-side
- Subsist
- Greek letter
- Start of a quip
- Cooked with dry heat
- Most rational
- Hood of tennis
- Dublin's land
- Part 2 of quip
- 2005 AL MVP
- Alternative to ready?
- Owens
- San Italy
- Fractional ending
- Faux pas
- Part 3 of quip
- "JFK" director
- Regret
- Greek letters
- Body of water
- Arikara
- See socially
- Part 4 of quip
- All-inclusive
- Beret or beanie
- Rely on
- Heaven's gatekeeper
- End of quip
- Tiger's peg
- Cockney
- Wreaths for the head
- JFO crew
- English exports
- Clean-air watchdog grp.
- Giving the business to
- RSVP in the affirmative
- Discrimination
- River frolicker
- Aspirations
- Jackrabbits
- Fountain orders
- Peculiar
- "Twittering Machine" painter
- Office helper
- Peak in Thessaly
- Shoe's tip
- Aries animal

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA 1/31/08

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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Accreditation a focus of new leadership at HSC

By CHINELO IKPEAMA & ADAM YOUNG
THE DAILY TOREADOR

Of three new leadership positions appointed by Texas Tech Health Sciences Center President John Baldwin earlier this month, one will focus on maintaining the center's academic accreditation.

Rial Rolfe, who has served as the founding dean for the Office of Faculty Affairs and Development in the School of Medicine, was promoted to vice president of academic services, according to a university news release.

"(Rolfe's) many contributions to the Health Sciences Center over numerous years demonstrates his in-depth knowledge of this institution," Baldwin said in a press release. "He has a tremendous commitment to the students, faculty and academic

programs of the Health Sciences Center."

As vice president of academic services, Rolfe said he will be responsible for maintaining the Health Sciences Center's accreditation status with agencies including the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the organization that put Texas Tech on accreditation probation in December.

Though Rolfe said the university's accreditation probation calls attention to the Health Sciences Center SACS accreditation, which is up for reaffirmation in 2009, he believes the Health Sciences Center is on track to submit a compliance report due to the accrediting agency in September.

"I don't think there's any more pressure," he said. "We put tremendous pressure on ourselves whenever there's an accreditation involved."

While focusing on SACS ac-

creditation, Rolfe said another area he intends to focus on is expansion of the HSC by increasing student enrollment to 4,000 by 2020.

An increase to 4,000 students would require a more than 50-percent increase from the HSC's fall 2007 enrollment of 2,616, according to the HSC Web site, www.ttuhsc.edu/hsc/factbook.

To accommodate such an increase in student enrollment, Rolfe said part of his job as vice president will be to ensure the Student Affairs office and other student facilities, including the HSC library, can accommodate the growth.

In the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, German Nunez was promoted to oversee the new Center for International and Multicultural Affairs.

"I feel this new center reflects our increasing involvement in in-

ternational matters," Baldwin said in the release.

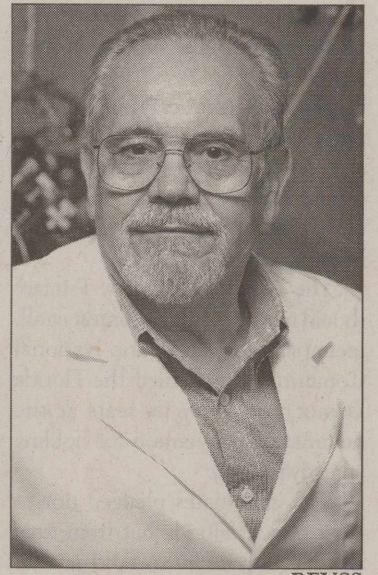
According to the Web site, a purpose of the office is to increase the participation of minority students in health sciences education. Before he arrived at TTUHSC, Nunez had appointments in Industrial and Systems Engineering, Neurosurgery, Aerospace Engineering Science, Engineering Management and Biomedical Engineering. He also oversees the Center for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and is responsible for developing and implementing programs to increase the enrollment and retention of under-represented minority students.

Luis Reuss, a professor and chairman of the Department of Physiology at the HSC, was promoted to dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Although Reuss was promoted to



NUNEZ



REUSS

dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, he will continue to maintain his position as chairman in

the physiology department.

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ABRA-CADABRA

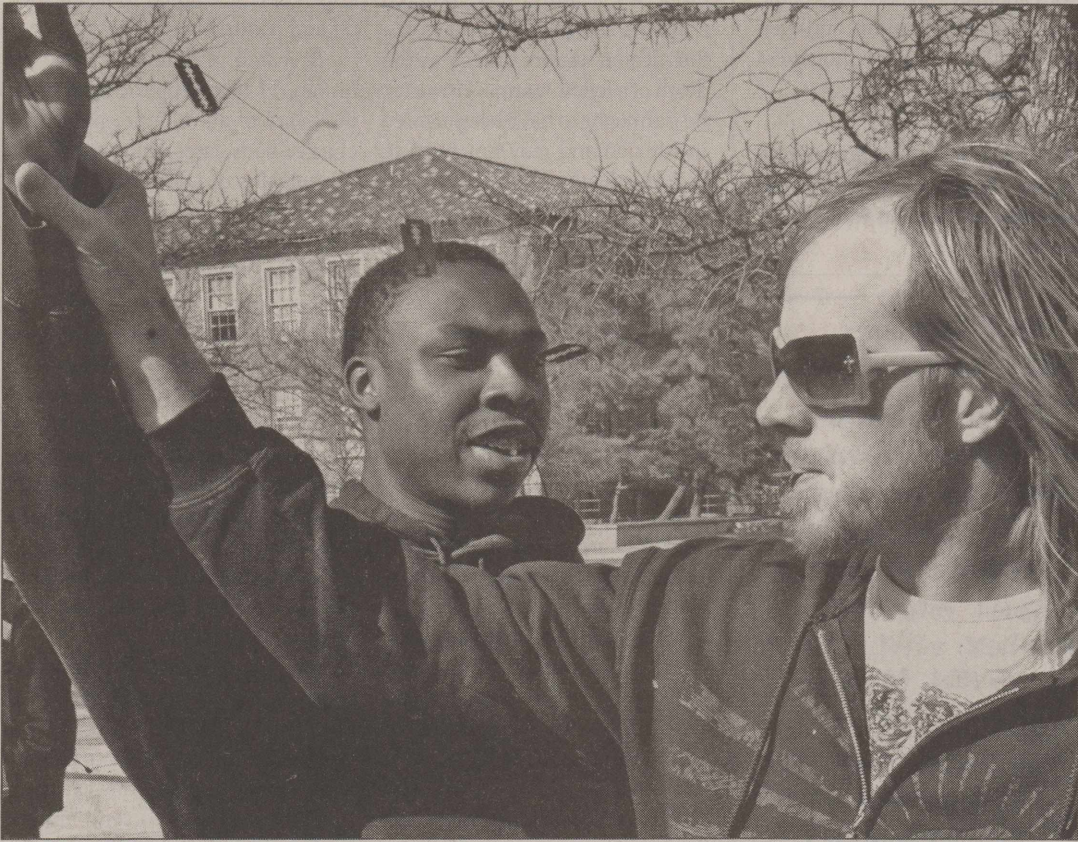


PHOTO BY JESSICA RIVERA/The Daily Toreador

ILLUSIONIST BROCK GILL lets Gerald Pennie, a sophomore psychology major from Houston, pull razor blades and string from his mouth outside the Student Union Building Wednesday.

Officials set to vote on financial responsibility for cleanup

LUBBOCK (AP) — State environmental officials are to vote to allow the parent company of a radioactive waste operator to guarantee there will be money available to decommission the West Texas site once it closes.

That's at odds with a recommendation by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's own staff, said state Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock.

"I don't understand why the staff recommendation was ignored," said Duncan, who last year authored a bill giving the commission the authority to regulate and license radioactive wastes. "It seems like to me that (a parent company guarantee) is not what I would call financial assurance."

Staff recommended that the company, Dallas-based Waste Control Specialists, provide the guarantee.

The commission is scheduled to take up the issue of financial responsibility Wednesday in Austin.

Commission officials have already granted the company a preliminary license to dispose of Cold War-era uranium byproduct waste in Andrews County near the New

Mexico border. Final licensing approval could come next month.

The materials came from a shuttered government plant in Ohio that processed uranium for use in reactors, producing plutonium for nuclear weapons from the 1950s until 1989. Other wastes the site can take include uranium or thorium mill tailings as well as contaminated equipment, pipe and other items.

Waste Control Specialists is a subsidiary of Valhi, Inc., owned by Dallas billionaire and major Republican donor Harold Simmons.

Company spokesman Chuck McDonald said Valhi is valued at more than \$3 billion and is well able to cover the costs of shutting down the site when that time comes.

"The State of Texas is equally or better protected by the parent company guarantee because WCS' parent company has much more financial strength and value than does WCS with a wider range of assets that would be available to perform on WCS' future obligations," McDonald said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Duncan said it could have been

Glenn Shankle, the commission's executive director, or another official there who recommended the rule change allowing Valhi to assume financial responsibility for decommissioning the site.

"Ultimately, the commission gets to decide this," Susan Jablonski, head of the state environmental agency's radioactive materials division, said.

Duncan said he remains hopeful the commission will "do the the right thing. I'm going to wait to see what the commission does. I think there are more options out there that will work."

"Self insuring is not necessarily what I would call financial assurance."

The Lone Star chapter of the Sierra Club wants the commission to follow a staff recommendation that would have required Waste Control Specialists to find ways to pay decommissioning costs without help from the parent company.

The environmental group's Cyrus Reed said that would ensure that taxpayers won't be stuck with site costs — estimated at under \$10 million — after its license expires.

College

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

way students entering college think about things.

"Most students enter with the either-or thinking, and there is no gray area," she said, "and let me tell you, life is about gray."

Barron said he believes the college-readiness standards will not only improve graduation rates, but

also help more students graduate on time, decrease academic-probation rates and decrease costs by students not having to re-take classes.

"I hope whenever college freshmen get to campus," he said, "they're hungry to learn."

Teagan said she agreed and hopes the standards will encourage students to go to college to become well-rounded, not just for the social aspects.

"There are students who come to new student orientation who say 'I can't come to that because I have to go to my sorority or fraternity meeting,'" she said. "Stop wasting our time, stop wasting your money; go grow up and come back."

According to the information sheet, the college-readiness standards are expected to take several years to become successful as so many people are involved.

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Race narrows to 2-way fights as Edwards bows out, Giuliani next

WASHINGTON (AP) — The race for the White House narrowed abruptly Wednesday to twin two-way battles, party maverick John McCain the man to beat for the Republican nomination while the Democrats faced a historic choice between a woman and a black man.

"I have the leadership and the conservative record," declared McCain, closing in on the prize he has sought for most of a decade following his Florida primary triumph over Mitt Romney.

Big names were falling fast. After more than a year of almost constant campaigning, Democrat John Edwards was suddenly out of the race, and Republican Rudy Giuliani wasn't far behind, the latest casualties as the survivors sprinted toward next week's Super Tuesday slew of primaries and caucuses across more than 20 states.

Edwards said he was stepping aside "so that history can blaze its path," a reference to a riveting contest between Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama for the 2,025 delegates needed for the

Democratic nomination.

Giuliani, a former front-runner whose candidacy collapsed quickly once the primaries and caucuses began, endorsed McCain in glowing terms. The Arizona senator "is the most qualified candidate to be the next commander in chief of the United States. He is an American hero," Giuliani said with McCain at his side in California.

That left Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, confronting a decision on how many millions more of his own fortune — if any — to spend on an increasingly long-shot bid for the White House. Officials said options prepared for his consideration ran from a bare-bones effort costing less than \$1 million to a robust \$7 million commitment, much of it ticketed for television commercials in California.

Republicans converged on California for an evening debate involving McCain, Romney, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and Texas Rep. Ron Paul. Republicans in 22 states select a total of 1,023 convention delegates next week.



JARRED DODD, A sophomore music education major from Sulphur Springs, and Russell Barbee, a senior music ed major from San Antonio, were in an intense game of Mario Kart Wednesday morning in the Music building.

Debate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It's kind of like the domino theory, isn't it?" he asked. "Doesn't it kind of sound the same? It's like, 'you can't let this door open because it'll be over.' It's the same argument. Now, did we have to go to Vietnam? Was the whole world going to go communist? No way. No way. Think about all those lives, destroyed."

Marijuana, Hager said, has medicinal benefits that could benefit millions of people if they were given the opportunity to produce it for themselves as an alternative to prescription medications.

Pharmaceutical companies, on the other hand, dread such decriminalization because independent cultivation would hinder their control over any benefits the plant may have, he said.

"It's all about money," Hager said. "Most people don't realize that pharmaceuticals are the most profitable industry in America. People think oil companies make money; pharmaceuticals make twice the money as oil companies."

In rebuttal, Stutman said the medicinal benefits of marijuana still partially elude modern medicine. Regardless, pharmaceutical companies currently extract medicinal compounds directly from the plants that produce them, which he believes nullifies Hager's argument that such companies would lose control.

"Any doctor who tells you to smoke something because it will improve your health is a fool," Stutman said.

As his second argument for policy change, Hager said cannabis produces products that offer environmentally friendly alternatives to many commodities widely used today, such as paper, rope and clothing, which can be produced from hemp more efficiently and with less pollution than many petrochemical products currently being mass produced.

Such hemp products, alone, already have been legalized in Canada, Stutman said, and companies that began producing hemp for such products went bankrupt, proving through economic principles that hemp is not really a more viable option.

"Either Steve exaggerated the good of (hemp)," he said, "or it's not price-worthy."

Hager's third argument — marijuana laws are overcrowding U.S. prisons and vilifying many otherwise

innocent people — Stutman said he understood. While marijuana should remain illegal because that is the standard set by the American people, marijuana offenders do not deserve jail time and they are, in fact, causing bloated prisons, he said.

Regular abusers of any intoxicants, Hager said, "need help, not a jail cell and handcuffs."

Also, he said marijuana users should be entitled to their way of life, which was a more personal argument to him. The counterculture — a culture often embodied by marijuana users — after all, brought the environmental movement to the United States in the 1960s, for example, and is a vital part of a healthy society.

"There's a side of marijuana I'll bet Bob is not familiar with," Hager said. "It's what I call 'enhancement.'"

Stutman said it doesn't take personal experience to grasp the notion of most things, citing an example that 78 percent of the obstetricians in Texas are males. While not one has ever birthed a child, that doesn't mean they are bad at examining and treating pregnant women.

Responding to an audience member who asked about the right of an individual to do whatever they want to their own body, he said the notion of victimless crimes often are misguided.

"If you think regular users of intoxicants only affect themselves, then you don't have one in your family," Stutman said. "Using an intoxicant on a regular basis does not only affect you."

Hager, in conclusion, said he did not want the audience to leave the debate and get high. The point of his argument was to encourage change through appropriate avenues of action, such as the formation of an on-campus advocacy group. His intent was not to motivate the audience to smoke more marijuana or to glamorize its consumption.

"If you don't agree with my position — if you don't like what I say — and you're 21 years old and you don't vote," Stutman said, "then sit down and shut up."

Kara Stringer, a junior public relations major from San Antonio and the member of Tech Activities Board

who coordinated the event, said the debate accomplished what she hoped it would, with both speakers arguing their perspective well enough to spark genuine thought about the issue in the minds of audience members.

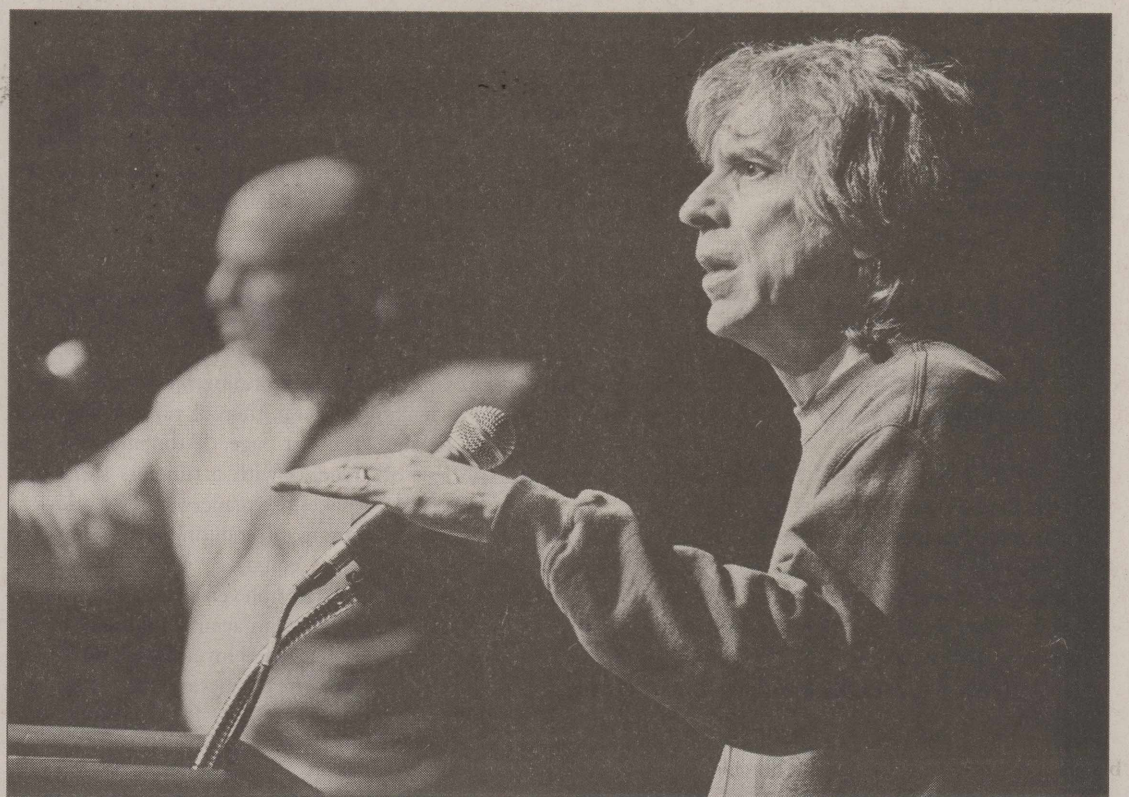
As a non-marijuana user, Onkar Mujumdar, a junior accounting major from Baroda, India, said the debate piqued his interest and added perspective.

"It was pretty amazing to hear a side of the Stutman," he said. "Not all things that God made are useful. Not everyone knows how to use some stuff."

Being a marijuana user, said Erin Dickinson, a freshman nursing major from Houston, the debate instilled a desire to work for changes in the laws, though only to a certain extent.

"Personally, if there is an organization, I will definitely, definitely join and promote (legalization) as much as possible," she said, "but I don't think I have the ability to start that. If people want to help me out, I'm definitely down for that."

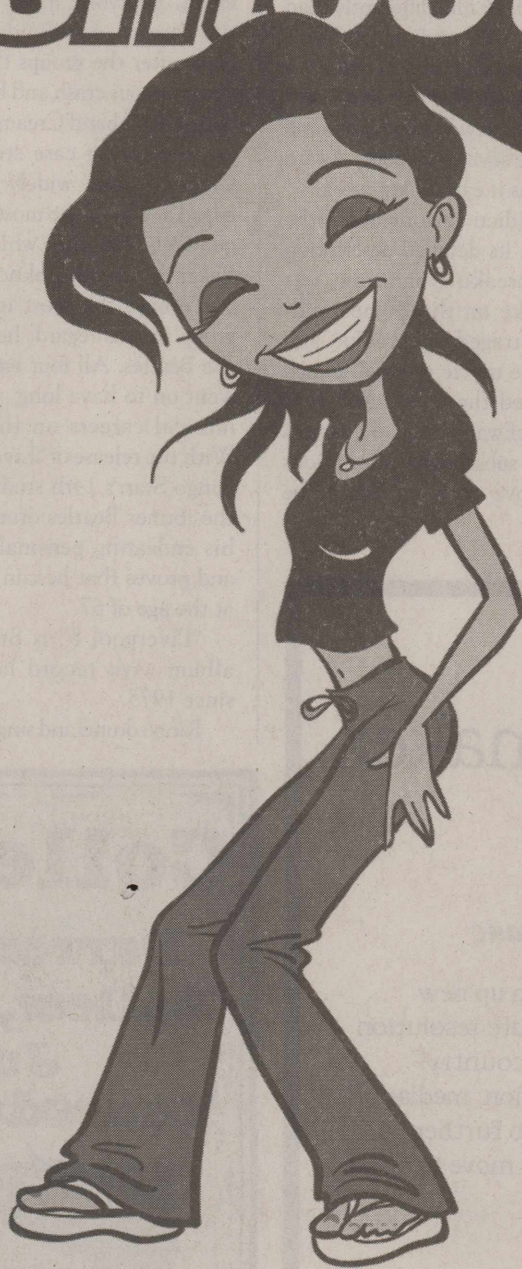
► matthew.mcgowan@ttu.edu



STEVE HAGER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF of "High Times," gives his opening statement in the Heads vs. Feds debate of the legalization of marijuana, Wednesday in the Allen Theatre.

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Looking beyond the loss of Ledger

By KATE STANHOPE
DAILY BRUIN (UCLA)

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES —Last Tuesday afternoon, massive text messages were sent, Facebook statuses were updated, and movie fans across the country and world seemed to collectively gasp in shock over the tragic death of Academy Award-nominated actor Heath Ledger, who was found dead in his apartment at the young age of 28.

While the Australian-born actor's stateside career was a mishmash of teen comedies, period adventure films, indie dramas and summer action blockbusters, in his nine years on screen it seems he made a significant mark. The outpouring of shock and sentiment after his death from family, friends and, most notably, legions of fans who never even personally knew him demonstrates just how many he touched with the talent and care he brought to his craft.

Our culture's addiction to celebrity is clear week in and week out with the sheer amount of minute-by-minute Britney Spears coverage and the bulk of VH1's programming schedule (minus those endless "America's Next Top Model" marathons). However, it is when we lose

someone as prevalent in our mass media as Ledger that the true impact of movies and actors specifically in our entertainment-centric society is felt.

Unfortunately in Hollywood, it seems Heath's story is an old one. Like Brad Renfro (who also died recently), not all young promising talents are able to stay away from the temptations and opportunities afforded to one in the inner circles of show business.

For example, when people think of James Dean, they think of the ideal '50s poster boy. Some people may know he was in "Rebel Without a Cause" and "East of Eden," but most just know he was a young "it" boy in Hollywood who lost his life in a tragic car accident.

The same goes for the late River Phoenix. The last name may ring up his brother Joaquin of "Walk the Line" and most recently "We Own the Night," but those familiar with River specifically know the sad story of Halloween 1993 when River died in front of the Viper Room from drug-induced heart failure. Unfortunately, they don't usually know about his Oscar nomination for 1988's "Running on Empty" or one of his first awe-inspiring breakout moments

in "Stand by Me."

While it is important to keep the tragic circumstances of death in perspective to hopefully keep others in the future from making the same mistake, it is the work these actors left behind and the stories told through acting that we should focus on rather than the stories of their tragic and sudden fall.

Though only "few had the pleasure of truly knowing him," as his father Kim Ledger said in a statement released last week, having seen his image plastered on billboards and big screens for almost a decade makes the loss more personal.

It's a tragedy in and of itself that people seem to be more concerned with the still unanswered questions of suicide and the presence of additional substances rather than what the acting community has lost.

Daniel Day-Lewis got it right on Sunday at the Screen Actors Guild Awards when he mentioned Ledger's role in "Monster's Ball" in addition to his more widely known role as Ennis in "Brokeback Mountain."

To honor Ledger best, instead of focusing on his personal and dark ending, we should try to remember Ledger for how we've only known him: a talented actor.

'Atonement' from the pages to the screen

By JEN MCCAFFREY
DAILY ORANGE (SYRACUSE)

(U-WIRE) SYRACUSE, N.Y. —It was just one moment — one lie. But as a result, two people's lives were destroyed forever. And the culprit is forced to carry around the guilt of this one instant for the rest of his or her life. Ian McEwan weaves a tale out of this tragedy in his eighth novel "Atonement."

When Briony Tallis, a curious and dramatic 13-year-old, witnesses a secret moment of intimacy between her older sister Cecilia and their

house servant's son Robbie Turner, a fit of jealousy forces her to make false and damaging accusations that haunt all of them for the rest of their lives.

The book is split into four parts and takes its readers through the lives of each of these characters and the repercussions of Briony's actions. The division of the book in this way is a bit confusing at times, but McEwan brings the reader back by masterfully detailing scenes of World War II, France and its emotional victims.

The plot of the book is slow-going

in the beginning, but once the action picks up, there is no stopping until the last page. "Atonement" leaves readers with a timeless story that makes the reader yearn for a love as strong and enduring as that of Robbie and Cecilia.

The film version of "Atonement" remains an accurate account of the tragic tale of lovers Cecilia and Robbie. The characters and setting were all appropriate for the World War II era setting. Keira Knightley and James McAvoy, who play Cecilia and Robbie respectively, convey the love and distress of their situation beautifully.

The time restraints of a Hollywood film prevented the story from being played out in the detail a novel allows. Therefore, it made it difficult for those who had not read McEwan's bestseller to follow the plot. Joe Wright, the movie's director, also chose to end the film differently than McEwan's novel, yet it worked with the movie's tone and the viewer's comprehension. The movie is as accurate to the novel as possible and deserves the seven Academy Award nominations it earned last week.

The Verdict: "Atonement" the novel, with its detailed description and heartbreaking emotion, was a better take on the Romeo-and-Juliet-like tragedy of Robbie and Cecilia. The movie was well filmed and captured the essence of their love, yet McEwan's prose, the novel's length and subsequent descriptions created a love story not soon to be forgotten.

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STEADY HAND



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

CHARLOTTE MORELAND, A freshman apparel design and manufacturing major from Houston, lifts the presser foot on her sewing machine to release her fabric from the machine during her Intermediate Clothing Construction class Tuesday evening in the Human Sciences building.

Ringo Starr guards Beatles' legacy with 'Liverpool 8'

By MARIELLE BATTISTONI
THE DARTMOUTH (DARTMOUTH)

(U-WIRE) HANOVER, N.H. —It's the "Where are they now?" effect. Everyone loves to watch the careers of individual musicians after the groups that made them famous crash and burn. The classic rock band Cream provides an interesting case study: Eric Clapton is now widely acknowledged as one of the most talented guitarists of all time while Ginger Baker is virtually unknown. Perhaps the most impressive group in this regard, however, is the Beatles. All four band-mates went on to have long, successful musical careers on their own. With the release of "Liverpool 8," Ringo Starr's 14th studio album, the former Beatles drummer lets his endearing personality shine and proves that he can still rock at the age of 67.

"Liverpool 8" is Starr's first album with record label EMI since 1975.

Ringo drums and sings on all of

the album's 12 tracks. He also wrote and produced the album alongside Mark Hudson and Dave Stewart.

"Liverpool 8" offers a solid mix of country and blues-flavored pop. The most successful songs on the album are the least produced though, carrying on the tried-and-true tradition of simple, twanging country melodies. Starr's signature steady drumbeat - cited as an influence by musicians as different as Phil Collins and Dave Grohl - underscores each song and is especially prominent on the faster blues numbers such as "Now That She's Gone Away."

Some of the song-writing on "Liverpool 8" leaves something to be desired, such as several kindergarten-quality rhymes in the title track: "In the U.S.A. when we played Shea, we were number ne, and it was fun. When I look back, it sure was cool, for those four boys from Liverpool."

But even the silliest lyrics, when sung in Ringo's distinctive baritone, create an unexpected level of wistful nostalgia. Despite years of smoking, Starr's deep voice sounds clear and

better than ever, tinged with doleful reflection on days gone by.

Contemplation of the past continues in the somber "Gone are the Days," which features a psychedelic sound similar to that of the Beatles' experimental "Sergeant Pepper and Magical Mystery Tour" (1967).

The musical influence of the Beatles is evident in the style of many of the tracks on "Liverpool 8," not to mention many of the lyrics. The album's title track, which refers to the neighborhood in Liverpool, England where Starr grew up, is perhaps a bit too autobiographical. He mentions the other members of the band by name and refers overtly to specific events. The music video of the song even intersperses old clips of Ringo as a Beatle with a present-day live performance.

But Beatles fans will delight in the allusions to the British band's heyday in the 1960s, and Starr's sweetly reminiscent tone is guaranteed to stir the hearts of all those who admire his former bandmates, especially the late John Lennon and George Harrison.

Not all of the songs on the album are sentimental tributes, however. "Think About You" is a hard-rocking blues number that showcases Ringo's talent as a drummer and sounds as if it came straight out of Texas, a la Stevie Ray Vaughan. "Harry's Song," written for Starr's old friend, the 1960s American songwriter Harry Nilsson, features simple lyrics and bouncy rhythms that drench the song in charismatic cheer.

In the Spanish number "Pasodobles" — a unique genre experiment — Ringo delivers throaty vocals in an almost unrecognizable voice, backed by bongos and classical guitar.

Although it concerns serious subject matter, the album's last song "R U Ready?" ends the record on an upbeat tone. The song is a meditation on his own impending mortality, but Ringo's voice is technologically altered to sound like it's emanating from a car radio: "So why hold on, hold on; it's good that you believe, but it's better if you don't." The track plays like a heartwarming old American folk song, emphasized by slide guitar and a plucky mandolin solo.

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Filmmaker, movie travel from San Jose to film festival

By **KIMBERLY TSAO**
SPARTAN DAILY (SAN JOSE STATE U.)

(U-WIRE) SAN JOSE, Calif. — Paul Encinas was a regular SJSU student until Spring 2006. Today, the SJSU alumnus is a rising filmmaker.

"When I think of San Jose State, I think of doing a lot of student films and just shooting movies with my friends and late night edit sessions," he recalled.

Encinas will most likely also remember that the Slamdance Film Festival was held last week, from Jan. 17 to Jan. 25.

Barnaby Dallas, SJSU director of productions, said, "What sets Paul apart is that he's also the most genuine and the nicest. There's no hidden agenda. He just really wants to make his art."

Scott Sublett, an SJSU film professor added, "He's mad about beauty - photography, clothes, breakdancing, whatever - and that aesthetic passion comes through in his exquisitely composed shots."

Encinas' talent didn't go unrecognized. The university's production company, Spartan Film Studios, chose to co-produce his film, "Glory Boy Days," with Encinas' own company, Radar Scope Reworked.

"The title means that time in your life when you just turned 21 and you're not a kid anymore, but you're technically still not an adult," the SJSU graduate said.

Encinas wrote "Glory Boy Days" in one of his SJSU classes, Film and Television Writing.

"All our film majors are required to

take a screenwriting class where they outline a feature-length script," Sublett explained. "Then they finish it the following semester if they want to."

That is just what Encinas did. "When it comes to writing-directing for me," Encinas said, "it seems like it's just one process. I think the whole thing is just telling one story, and I really can't do one anything without doing the other."

The result prompted Sublett to give his student an A+.

"It had high literary quality and an absence of expensive car chases," Sublett said.

Dallas added, "I've seen it, and I love it. I think it's the best film. I'd compare it to 'Clerks' or 'American Graffiti.' You know, it's that generational-defining film."

Encinas' movie was part of the weeklong Slamdance Film Festival. This was Slamdance's 14th year supporting first-time directors who work with a budget under \$1,000,000.

Even though Slamdance is similar to the Sundance Film Festival, the 26-year-old writer-director chose the former because "Sundance lost that indie edge. Slamdance is probably what Sundance was 10 years ago."

According to its Web site, more than 1,000 movies were submitted to the Slamdance Film Festival, but Encinas' debut was one of the 29 films that was handpicked to be a part of the Utah-based event.

In February, the movie will also be a part of Cinequest, San Jose's film festival.

Encinas' picture was filmed right

here in San Jose. Audiences will be able to catch a glimpse of several local haunts, such as Connoisseur 533, Iguana's Taqueria, San Carlos Street, Big Al's Record Barn and Willow Glen Liquors.

Part of the movie's finances came from Encinas' parents, who won the cash at a casino. Still, the production team's budget was under \$250,000. Even if the budget wasn't an issue, however, the filmmaker said they still would have shot in the Silicon Valley.

After all, Encinas said the movie itself is "about San Jose - that culture."

Sublett agreed, "Students succeed best when they write what they know, and Paul knew the hipster, hip-hop, B-boy culture he depicted in the film."

In order to fill his debut with the sound of music, Encinas turned to the

local music acts, ranging from DJs to punk rock bands.

To play the parts of Bohemian characters, the director enlisted his fellow Spartans. He hopes the audience will find someone they can relate to in the movie.

At the festival, Encinas entered his project under the narrative feature category. He made a conscious choice to do so because with a documentary, he said, "you figure out everything after you shoot, whereas with a narrative, you kind of know what you're going to shoot before you do anything."

Right now, Encinas is focusing on getting a distributor for "Glory Boy Days," but in the future, he said, "I would like to do enough to work for my living, but I would only like to do honest films."

POSTER SALE

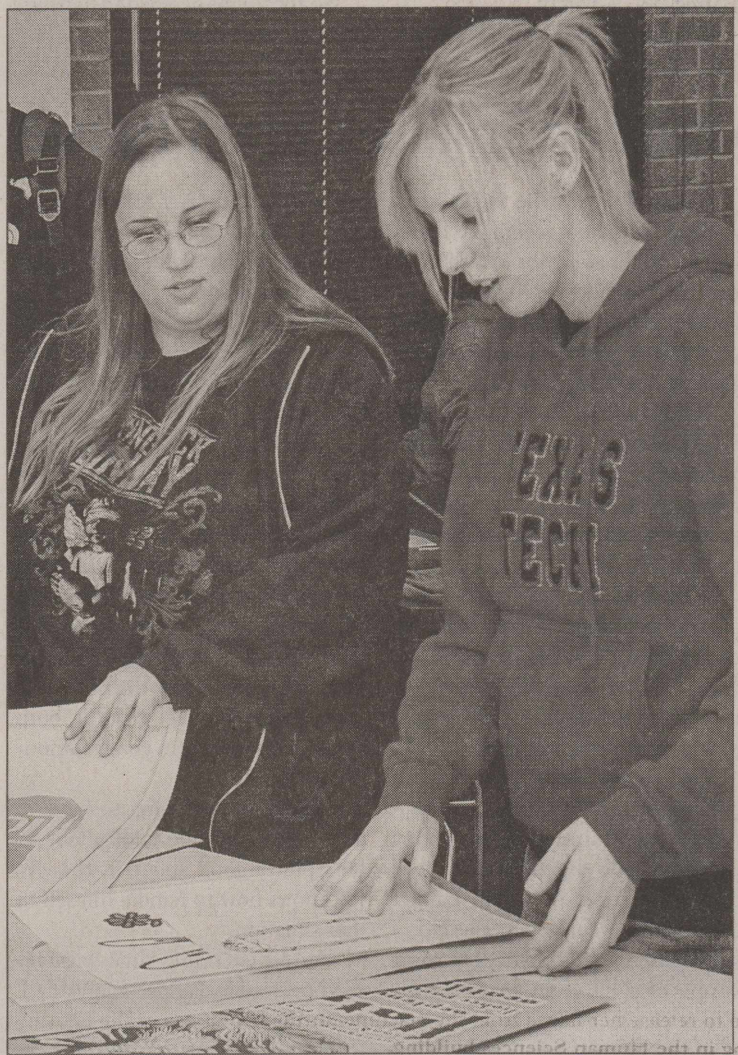


PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador

ASHLEY SHIELDS, A senior graphic design major from Garland, and Nicole Clark, a junior graphic design major from Mission, look at posters from the poster sale held at the Art building, Tuesday afternoon.

Web site dedicated to commercials

By **ALEXANDER FARIS**
DAILY O'COLLEGIAN (OKLAHOMA STATE U.)

(U-WIRE) STILLWATER, Okla. — Some sigh with impatience as they have to watch commercials on television, but imagine a Web site devoted to advertisements. <http://www.zadzadz.com>, launched out of Los Angeles, is ad heaven.

"Nothing's more American than the ad," co-founder Russell Griffin said. "It powers our economy, drives our culture and makes us one, big, happy, free-market society."

Many media Web sites - such as YouTube, which gets an average of 100 million video hits a day - host ads along with other videos. ZADZADZ groups the commercials into categories such as autos, restaurants, home theaters and pets.

Co-founder Chandos Erwin said commercials obviously influence what we buy.

With new technology such as DVR's and TiVo individuals can

skip over commercials. In many ways ZADZADZ was created as a response to the TiVos of the world.

"For years, consumers have been able to skip commercials. Why shouldn't they be able to find them again?" Griffin said. "Staring today, now they can. ZADZADZ represents the next evolution of advertising and commerce."

With the introduction of ZADZADZ the equation has once again been balanced.

With TiVo and DVR, consumers can skip ads to get to their TV shows — with ZADZADZ, consumers can choose which ads to watch when the ads are the desired content.

"ZADZADZ is innovative and an interesting concept, but I am not sure it will be a hit as long as it only hosts commercials," said Dustyn Womack, a mechanical engineering sophomore at Oklahoma State University.

Harvard Law looks into RIAA piracy suits

By **CRISTINA ROJAS**
THE DAILY FREE PRESS (BOSTON U.)

(U-WIRE) BOSTON — While universities are still caught in the middle of the Recording Industry Association of America's nearly year-long effort to punish music piracy on campuses across the country, some students are beginning to strike back against the RIAA with legal investigations of their own.

A Harvard University law class is currently exploring the legal indications for universities caught

between a responsibility to protect their file-sharing students and their accountability to an industry crusading to make examples out of students violating piracy laws.

Harvard Law School professor Charles Nesson's class has been working to formulate arguments on the schools' behalf.

The RIAA started sending letters to university administrators in February 2007, requesting they forward the settlement letters to the file-sharing students, according to the RIAA's website.

Nineteen Massachusetts Institute of Technology students received letters in the latest round of letters this year.

When the RIAA tracks down a file-sharing student, it files a "John Doe" lawsuit and then tries to use the court's discovery process to find out who uses a certain IP address, said Nesson. The RIAA gets permission to subpoena a university with access to IP-address information to find out individual student names.

Nesson said the lawsuits are unfair fights.

"Students are completely overwhelmed by the legal apparatus behind the enforcement that the RIAA is bringing to bear," he said.

He said schools should not necessarily protect their students, but act in their own interest by staying neutral in the RIAA's campaign.

"I think the university has a huge interest at stake here," Nesson said. "It has to deal with the responsibility and mission of a university to provide an environment in which young students learn about and come to terms with legal authority."

New Web site combines social networking with charity

By **BRETT THORNE**
THE UNIVERSITY STAR (TEXAS STATE U.-SAN MARCOS)

(U-WIRE) SAN MARCOS, Texas — There have been great combinations throughout history: Peanut butter and jelly, Beavis and Butthead and chips and queso.

Beavis and Butthead have been syndicated for over a decade. Peanut butter and jelly and chips and queso are not part of the South Beach Diet. The world needs a new combination.

Look no further than Yobiverse, part social networking, part talent show web site. Imagine American Idol and MySpace or The Apprentice, and Facebook.

Jen O'Meara, co-founder of Yobiverse, stressed Yobiverse members' control on the Web site's contests.

"Unlike just watching a reality TV show, our members will be the judges for our contests," O'Meara said. "They also have many opportunities to turn their ideas and talents into cash."

With the rise of Internet sites such as YouTube and MySpace, and the popularity of shows like American Idol, it was a matter of time before someone combined the two. Yobiverse.com features sections devoted to American Idol-style "Sing Awards," Last Comic Standing-style "Smile Awards" and an animal competition called the "Pet-Show Awards," with plans to branch out into short film, writing, art and

fashion design. Winners will also have the chance to advance their careers through the site.

"Winners of our reality show contests will also have the opportunity to promote their new

careers through our sites," O'Meara said. "Winners in the Sing Awards contest, for example, will be able to promote and sell their music on our site without the usual high costs of record label promotions."

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Johan Santana trade is no brainer for Mets

NEW YORK (AP) — Any team in baseball would want Johan Santana. The New York Mets need him.

Perhaps the only thing that kept the Mets out of the last two World Series was this: Their rotation lacked a durable, dominant ace.

Of course, they weren't the only club without one. In the big leagues, legitimate No. 1 starters are the hardest commodity to find.

So when the Mets had a chance Tuesday to trade for Santana, they jumped at it. Omar Minaya has always been an aggressive general manager, and he wasn't about to pass up an opportunity to land arguably the game's best pitcher.

The Mets agreed to send Minnesota four prospects, including three pitchers, for a guy who could cost them \$120 million or more to sign to a contract extension of five to seven years.

That's a steep price, especially

considering Santana could have become a free agent after this year's World Series and the Twins don't have the budget to re-sign him. Next offseason, he might have been available to the highest bidder — without having to give up any players in return.

Still, this deal was a no-brainer for the Mets, who are trying to win a championship right now.

Carlos Delgado, Moises Alou, Pedro Martinez and Orlando Hernandez have one year left on their contracts. Carlos Beltran is in his prime, David Wright and Jose Reyes will soon enter theirs. All-Star closer Billy Wagner is 36.

And New York has the financial resources to sign Santana, with its own regional sports network and a new ballpark on the way in 2009.

"We're going to welcome him with open arms," Wright said. "He's a competitor on the mound. He doesn't like to lose. He wants the

ball, and that's what you want out of your ace."

Before Minaya took over, the Mets made a huge mistake in July 2004 by trading young lefty Scott Kazmir

to Tampa Bay as part of a deal for pitcher Victor Zambrano. By 2006, Kazmir was an All-Star. Last year, he led the AL with 239 strikeouts.

This swap of prospects is much different for New York. Johan Santana is not Victor Zambrano.

The question is, did the Twins get the best possible deal for their

star lefty? Probably not.

The New York Yankees offered the best package of talent earlier this offseason, proposing a deal that would have sent pitcher Phil Hughes, center fielder Melky Cabrera and a minor leaguer to Minnesota.

Considered one of the premier prospects in baseball, Hughes has already shown he can get major league hitters out and he projects as a front-line starter. He went 5-3 with a 4.46 ERA as a rookie last year and took a no-hitter into the seventh inning

of his second big league start, against Texas.

The 23-year-old Cabrera is an excellent defensive outfielder and a switch-hitter who holds his own with the bat. Don't be surprised if he develops more power as he gains experience.

But new Twins general manager Bill Smith waited, perhaps trying to play the Yankees against the Boston Red Sox, who also made a bid for Santana. Neither team upped its offer, however, and New York pulled out of talks at the winter meetings in December.

When the Twins went back to those clubs last weekend, the Yankees and Red Sox held onto their youngsters. Santana fell to the Mets, who didn't even have to part with their top overall prospect, outfielder Fernando Martinez. They also retained right-hander Mike Pelfrey, drafted No. 9 overall in 2005.

Minnesota could have kept San-

tana for one final season, hoping to make a run at the World Series. The Twins have some dangerous hitters, and left-hander Francisco Liriano is coming back from reconstructive elbow surgery. But winning the AL pennant will be a tough chore — the Tigers, Red Sox, Indians, Yankees and Angels all look stacked.

Plus, if Santana were to leave as a free agent, the Twins would only get draft picks as compensation.

The other option Minnesota had was to hang onto Santana for now and wait until the July 31 trade deadline approached in the hope that a bidding war would start among teams that viewed him as the final piece to a championship season.

But that would be risky. What if he got hurt before that? What if he refused to waive his no-trade clause? What if the summer trade offers were much less attractive?

So the Twins decided they needed to move Santana now.



THURSDAY		JANUARY 31, 2008						
STAT. CHAN. AFFIL. CITY	KTXT 5 PBS Lubbock	KCBD 11 NBC Lubbock	KLBK 13 CBS Lubbock	KMYL 14 MYN Lubbock	KLOW 22 CW Lubbock	KAMC 28 ABC Lubbock	KJTV 34 FOX Lubbock	
7 AM	Curious Clifford	Today Sched-uled: romantic getaways; hair tricks for kids presented by	The Early Show	Copeland Robinson	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	J. Hanna	
8 AM	Super Why Dragon	Sesame Street	The 700 Club	Cristina	Steve Wilkos	Regis & Kelly	Martha Cook-ing.	
9 AM	Big World	Word	The Price Is Right	Divorce	Temptation	The View (HD)	The Morning Show	
11 AM	Bamey	Jeopardy	Restless (HD)	Alex	Paid Prog.	Paid Programs	Tyra Banks Show	
12 PM	Sews	News	News	Jerry Springer	Cosby	Cosby	All My Children	
1 PM	Pet Vet	Jeopardy	As the World	Jerry Springer	Roseanne	One Life to Live	The People's Court	
2 PM	Teleub	Crosswords	Guiding Light	Paid Programs	All of Us	General Hospi-tal	Judge Mathis	
3 PM	Reading	Oprah Winfrey	Brown	Mauri	Reba	Montel Wil-liams	Ellen De-Generes	
4 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Mauri	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	
5 PM	Maya	News	News	TMZ	Standing	News	Raymond Simpsons	
6 PM	NewsHour (HD)	News	Wheel	Million.	Law Order (HD)	Queens	Family Two & 1/2	
7 PM	Old House	Earl (HD)	CSI: NY (HD)	"Gone in 60 Seconds" Auto theft deal	Smallville (HD)	Lost Series-recap.	Smart 5th Grade	
8 PM	Story	The Celebrity Apprentice	CSI: Crime (HD)	Without Trace (HD)	Jim (HD)	Sex City	Eli Stone "Ph-lor"	
9 PM	Soundstage (HD)	Without Trace (HD)	Without Trace (HD)	Jim (HD)	Lopez	Sex City	News	
10 PM	Bus. Rpt	News	News	70s	Will (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.	Paid Prog.	

Bengals sign QB Jordan Palmer to back up brother Carson Palmer

CINCINNATI (AP) — Jordan Palmer was packed for Phoenix, ready to take his career to the Arena Football League, when he got a most unusual offer.

The Cincinnati Bengals wanted to know if he would like to try to earn a spot as his brother's backup. They didn't have to wait long for an answer.

He signed a two-year deal Wednesday that will give him a chance to play behind his brother, quarterback Carson Palmer. Although brother tandems have been common in the NFL, it's rare that two of them get to throw passes for the same team.

"Someday we'll look back and laugh about it and think it was pretty cool," Jordan said in a phone interview.

It's certainly unusual. There have been dozens of brother tandems on NFL teams. Akin and Remi Ayodele in Dallas, Chris

and Nic Clemons in Washington, Jake Reed and Dale Carter in New Orleans, Andre and Kevin Dyson in Tennessee are recent examples.

Having two brothers at quarterback is rare. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, no brothers have played quarterback for the same team during the Super Bowl era. Koy Detmer was on injured reserve for Philadelphia while his brother, Ty, played for the Eagles in 1977.

The Bengals have had two sets of brothers play at the same time: Jim and Ross Browner in 1979-80, and Ray and Archie Griffin from 1978-83.

So far, Carson Palmer has had the more accomplished career, winning the Heisman Trophy at Southern California before becoming the No. 1 overall pick in the 2003 draft. He led the Bengals to the playoffs in 2005 before a severe knee injury temporarily set him back.

Jordan Palmer, who is five years younger, set school records at Texas-El Paso by throwing for 11,084 yards and 88 touchdowns. Washington drafted him in the sixth round last year, and he played in one preseason game before being waived Sept. 1.

He stayed in shape and hoped to get another chance in the NFL. When that didn't come, he signed with the Arizona Rattlers and was about to head there when the Bengals made their offer.

Cincinnati already has a No. 2 quarterback: Ryan Fitzpatrick, obtained from St. Louis in a trade on Sept. 1. The third-string quarterback is Jeff Rowe, who was a fifth-round pick from Nevada last season.

Like other teams, the Bengals add a fourth quarterback for mini-camps and training camp, giving them someone else to throw the ball during practice. If Jordan Palmer does well, he could win the No. 3 job or improve his chances of going to another NFL team instead of the Arena League.

"We both understand that this is a job," Jordan Palmer said. "We need to keep it very professional. The fact

that we're brothers is something for on the side. My job is trying to make the team, which is different from his job as the starter."

The two of them understand there could be some awkward moments now that they're reunited in Cincinnati.

"If you've got two brothers and something happens on the team that's not positive, from not playing enough to getting cut or having an issue with somebody, you don't want it to spill over into their relationship with each other," their father, Bill Palmer, said in a phone interview. "You don't know how the other two quarterbacks will feel about it, both of whom Carson has a good relationship with."

"Jordan is just going to have to go in there and be cool about it. He's pretty good about it, though. He knows how to handle himself in that situation."

Besides spending time with his brother, Jordan Palmer figures he'll get to learn from one of the best.

"I know I'm biased, but I think pretty highly of him as a player," he said.

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\$10 Domestic Buckets 9pm-Close
\$1 Power Hour 10pm-11pm

FRIDAY
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\$2 Frozen & Wells 9pm-Close

SATURDAY
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SPORTS

PAGE 12
THURSDAY, JAN. 31, 2008

Pettitte could corroborate HGH accusation against Clemens

WASHINGTON (AP) — So far, Roger Clemens and his former personal trainer Brian McNamee have engaged in a he-said, he-said, with no third party providing evidence to back either account.

A lawyer for McNamee believes that could change next week, when New York Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte — Clemens' former teammate and workout partner — speaks to a House committee.

The lawyer, Earl Ward, said Tuesday night he thinks Pettitte will tell Congress he discussed human growth hormone with Clemens between the 2001 and 2002 seasons.

Ward said Pettitte talked about human growth hormone with McNamee following a conversation

with Clemens, who has denied McNamee's allegations he injected the seven-time Cy Young Award winner with HGH and steroids. McNamee worked with both Clemens and Pettitte.

"We're hopeful based on Andy's reputation that he will corroborate Brian's statements with regard to Roger," Ward said in a telephone interview.

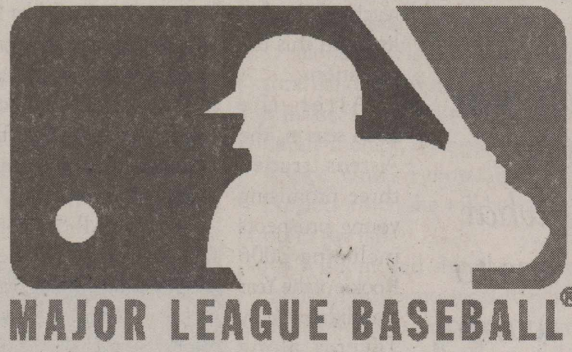
Clemens, McNamee and Pettitte are among five witnesses the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee invited to testify Feb. 13. The witnesses also were asked to submit to a deposition or transcribed interview before that hearing.

Pettitte's meeting with committee staff was postponed until Monday. He

originally was slated to appear for a deposition or transcribed interview Wednesday, but the committee changed the date Tuesday.

McNamee said in last month's Mitchell Report on drug use in baseball that he injected Clemens at least 16 times with steroids or HGH in 1998, 2000 and 2001. Clemens' attorney Lanny Breuer said Tuesday the

eight-winningest pitcher in major league history stood by his previous denials.



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"Roger Clemens' remarkable success as a pitcher has everything to do with his extraordinary work ethic

and his innate abilities, and nothing to do with HGH or steroids," Breuer said in a statement. "Let me be clear: Roger Clemens never took HGH and he never took steroids."

McNamee also told former Senate majority leader George Mitchell he injected Pettitte two to four times with HGH. Pettitte acknowledged two days after Mitchell's findings were released that he took HGH for two days in 2002, before it was banned by the sport.

Ward said the discussion he was referring to occurred at Clemens' house.

"Based on what we know, there was a situation where Andy was speaking to Roger in Brian's presence, then Andy came over to Brian and

essentially said, 'Why didn't you tell me about this stuff?' He referred to HGH," Ward said. "Brian discouraged him and then several months later, when he (Pettitte) got injured, he came back and asked Brian about it, and that's when Brian injected him. We believe that based on the fact that Andy came to Brian and asked him about HGH, it was Roger who told Andy about HGH and that's why he asked Brian about it."

Richard Emery, another lawyer for McNamee, said his client and Pettitte also discussed steroids use by Clemens.

"Pettitte is certainly going to tell the truth, and if he tells the truth, everything will be fine," Emery said. "There are a number of conversa-

Roger Clemens shows up at Astros training camp

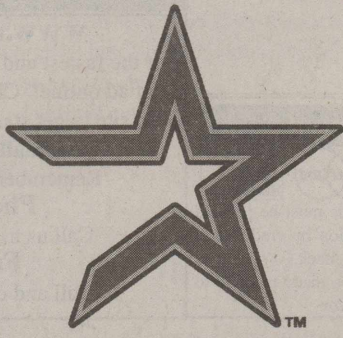
HOUSTON (AP) — Roger Clemens showed up at the Houston Astros' minicamp on Wednesday and sidestepped a question about his upcoming appearance before a House committee investigation performance-enhancing drugs in baseball.

"I'm not going to talk about that," said Clemens, dressed in jogging pants, a hooded sweatshirt and a baseball cap. "I'm doing it the right way and do what I need to do. We're going to do it the right way."

The seven-time Cy Young Award winner has been invited to testify before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee for a deposition or transcribed statement on Feb. 5 and public testimony eight days later. His former personal trainer, Brian McNamee, and former teammate Andy Pettitte have also been invited.

McNamee said in last month's Mitchell Report on drug use in baseball that he injected Clemens at least 16 times with steroids or HGH in 1998,

2000 and 2001. Clemens has repeatedly denied the accusations and Lanny Breuer, one of the pitcher's lawyers, said Tuesday that his client stood by his previous denials.



Clemens has a personal services contract with the Astros that starts following his retirement as a player. His oldest son, Koby, is a minor leaguer in the Astros system and is participating in the camp.

Not even Koby was sure whether

his father would show this week. Clemens said the attention focused on him now was never going to deter him.

"Like I said, I'm not going anywhere," he said. "I think my track record is what it is. I think there's enough of you standing in front of me that have known me for a long, long time. It is what it is."

The Astros kept an open invitation for Clemens to participate in the minicamp, a precursor to spring training next month. Clemens planned to throw batting practice and talk to the Astros prospects.

"I'm doing everything I love to do, I mean, I'm not going anywhere," he said. "So I love to do these things, and the Astros and the other teams that I've worked with have always been real supportive. And like I said, if I can share any insight to these young kids at this level while they're trying to reach their goals, reach their dreams, it's all the more better."

Tom Brady wonders why Plaxico Burress' prediction was just 23-17

PHOENIX (AP) — Tom Brady scoffed. Plaxico Burress wondered what all the attention was about.

Brady was puzzled by Burress' prediction that the New York Giants would beat the New England Patriots 23-17 in Sunday's Super Bowl. The fact Burress picked the Giants hardly surprised the league's MVP. The score certainly did.

"We're only going to score 17 points?" Brady said Wednesday morning before chucking. "OK. Is Plax playing defense?"

"I wish he had said 45-42 and gave us a little credit for more points."

Considering the Patriots set an NFL record by scoring 589 points, Brady's 50 touchdown passes were the most ever for one season, and Randy Moss broke Jerry Rice's mark with 23 TD catches, Burress might have been a bit chintzy.

"I know they have confidence. They should have confidence," Brady said. "They are the NFC champions."

"I learned a lesson early in my career: No matter what you say during the week — and God knows we say a lot this week — we're going to be focused on going out and winning this game.

We're confident, but I don't think we share our thoughts with everybody."

Burress did. And when he showed up 33 minutes late for the

"I wish he had said 45-42 and given us a little credit for more points."

— TOM BRADY
QUARTERBACK FOR
PATRIOTS

Giants' media session Wednesday morning, there was speculation the wide receiver was trying to avoid the spotlight.

Turns out Burress was spending time with his 1-year-old son and family at breakfast, claiming he was unaware so many people wanted to interrogate him about his prediction.

Nor was he aware, he said, that a hefty fine comes with missing a

Super Bowl week media session.

"I don't understand what the fuss is about," Burress said, surrounded by at least as many TV cameras, microphones and notepads as Brady was two hours earlier. "Nobody wants to lose."

"All this is entertainment, it's sports and sports are entertainment. So 23-17 is the prediction I made, but the game still has to be played."

Told about Brady's reaction to that score, Burress said he wasn't dissing anyone.

"I'm not taking anything away from what those guys accomplished," he said. "They set all the records you could possibly imagine. They have a great quarterback, the MVP, who threw for a record (50) touchdowns. Randy set a TD record for catches. They had two receivers with over 100 catches."

"The numbers don't lie about what they have done."

Nor do the numbers 23-17 lie about what Burress thinks.

"Hey, look how much fun everybody is having with it," he said. "It makes national, international headlines. But the game still has to be played."

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