

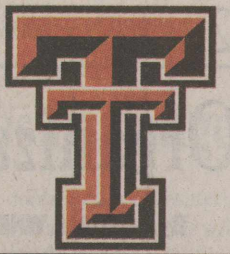
WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO AFTER GRADUATION



LA VIDA | 5  
RENOWNED POET RECITES ON VALENTINE'S DAY



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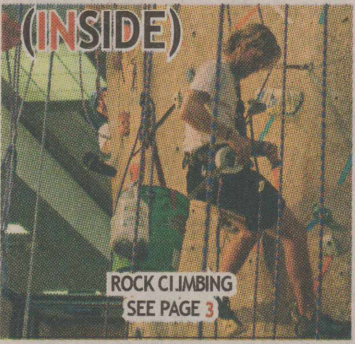


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**(INSIDE)**  
**(INBRIEF)**  
**STATE**  
**Dem. leader endorses Obama**

AUSTIN (AP) — Two prominent Texas lawmakers endorsed Sen. Barack Obama for president Thursday.

**NATION**  
**Bush could delay Africa trip**

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a day of political brinkmanship, President Bush pressured the House on Thursday to finish a bill giving the government more leeway to eavesdrop on phone calls and e-mails of suspected terrorists.

**WORLD**  
**Kenyan's political rivals sign agreement**

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Political rivals trying to lead Kenya out of weeks of violence that left more than 1,000 people dead signed an agreement Thursday, a U.N. spokesman said.

**DEATH TOLL**  
**3961**  
U.S. Military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

**WEATHER**  
**Today**  
CLOUDY  
HIGH 44  
LOW 26  
**Saturday**  
WINTRY MIX  
HIGH 37  
LOW 30

**INSIDE**  
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## Gunman kills 5 at N. Illinois University

By CARYN ROUSSEAU  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEKALB, Ill. (AP) — A man dressed in black opened fire with a shotgun and two handguns from the stage of a lecture hall at Northern Illinois University on Thursday, killing five students and injuring 16 others before committing suicide, authorities said.

University President John Peters said. Four of the six total dead died at the scene, and the other two died at a hospital, he said.

"I personally Army-crawled half-way up the aisle," said Carr, a 20-year-old sophomore. "I said I could get up and run or I could die here."

Seventeen victims were brought to Kishwaukee Community Hospital in DeKalb, according to spokeswoman Theresa Komitas. One died, two were admitted and three were discharged; five are being evaluated and six others were transferred to other hospitals in critical condition.

George Gaynor, a senior geography student, who was in Cole Hall when the shooting happened, told the student newspaper the Northern Star that the shooter was "a skinny white guy with a stocking cap on."

## APPEAL?

Court of appeals declares Texas statute restricting sexual toys unconstitutional

By MATT MCGOWAN  
STAFF WRITER

To students who found themselves single this Valentine's Day, the federal court system may have just handed over some satisfaction.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals declared Tuesday that a Texas statute banning the sale or promotion of sexual devices, otherwise known as sex toys, is unconstitutional.

The case, *Reliable Consultants, Inc. v. Abbott*, began in 2004 when the plaintiff, Reliable Consultants, Inc., a company that operates four sexual retail shops in Texas, challenged the state's statute, the violation of which is a felony carrying a punishment of possible jail time.

Another sexual-toy-oriented business, PHE, Inc. — an online retailer without any facilities in Texas — joined Reliable Consultants, Inc. Greg Abbott, the attorney general of Texas, picked up the case. After a district court ruled in favor of the state "because there is no constitutionally protected right to publicly promote obscene devices," according to the appellate court's decision, the plaintiffs appealed.

## Black lawmakers rethink support for Clinton in her race against Obama

By DAVID ESPO  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a fresh sign of trouble for Hillary Rodham Clinton, one of the former first lady's congressional black supporters intends to vote for Barack Obama at the Democratic National Convention, and a second, more prominent lawmaker is openly discussing a possible switch.

Rep. David Scott's defection and Rep. John Lewis' remarks highlight one of the challenges confronting Clinton in a campaign that pits a black man against a woman for a nomination that historically has been the exclusive property of white men.

## Red-light cameras get red light from City Council

By MAGGIE KIELY  
STAFF WRITER

After controversy among the public and the municipal government, Lubbock City Council members voted 4-3 to remove red-light cameras and rescind the ordinance calling for the installation of the cameras.

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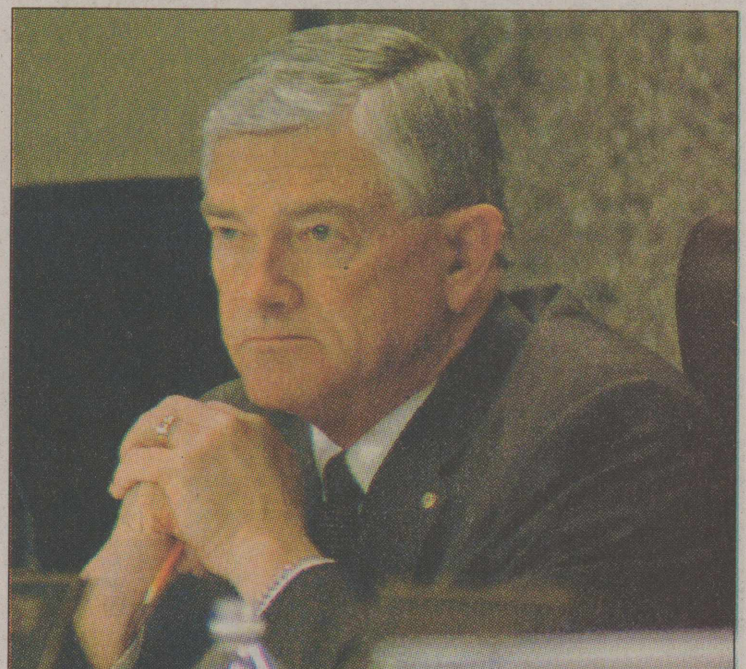


PHOTO BY TRENT BARNES/The Daily Treador  
MAYOR DAVID MILLER voted to rescind the ordinance and take down the red-light cameras.



ROCKIN' OUT

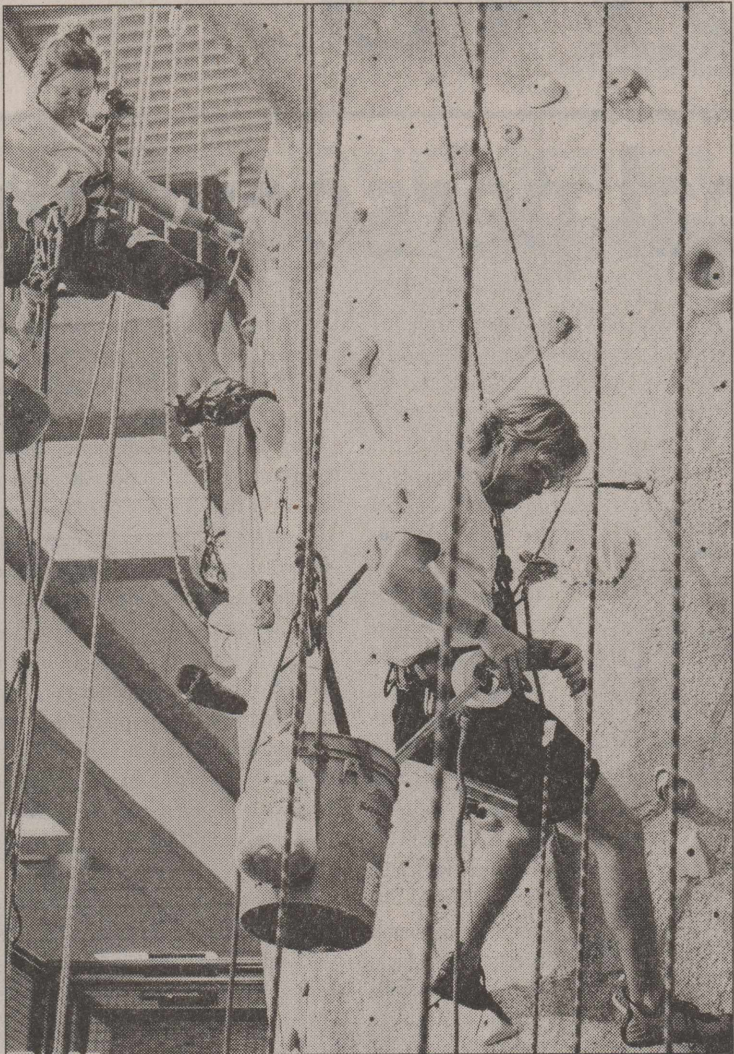


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

FOREST SAVILLE, A senior geology major from Fulsher, and Nikki Shuping, a senior english major from Lubbock, work on replacing the wall face with new holds before the Vertical Plains Climbing Competition Saturday in the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation center. The rock face is redone once a year.

Shooting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

before class ended too."

Witnesses said the young man carried a shotgun and a pistol. Student Edward Robinson told WLS that the gunman appeared to target students in one part of the lecture hall.

"It was almost like he knew who he wanted to shoot," Robinson said. "He knew who and where he wanted to be firing at."

Jillian Martinez, a freshman from Carpentersville, told the Chicago Tribune she was in the auditorium when the gunman entered through a door to the right of the lectern and opened fire about 3 p.m. "He just started shooting

at all the kids," she said. "He just started shooting at people, and I ran out of there as fast as I could. I ran all the way to the student center, when I got there I could still hear shooting (from the classroom)."

Agents with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were assisting local authorities at the scene, spokesman Thomas Ahern told the Chicago Tribune.

"We will be urgently tracing the firearms and learning the history of the weapons," Ahern said.

All classes were canceled Thursday night and the campus was closed on Friday. Students were urged to call their parents "as soon as possible" and were offered counseling at any residence hall, according to the school Web site.

Report shows more than 3 million Texas wetland acres in danger

EL PASO (AP) — More than 3 million acres of Texas wetlands are in danger of being polluted or destroyed, according to a report from the National Wildlife Federation.

The risk, according to the report released Thursday, is posed by a series of federal policy changes that leave almost no protection for many wetlands and isolated waters, including shallow lakes that often only have water during rainy periods and streams or river headwaters that don't always flow.

If the situation isn't changed soon, Texas could see coastal wet-

lands dredged and developed with no oversight, said Janice Bezanson, of the Texas Conservation Alliance. And in far West Texas, where water is often among the most valuable resources and upward of 75 percent of identified wetlands are considered isolated, the policy change could mean the loss of vital fresh water sources.

"This is a major thing," Bezanson said. "If they (federal officials) don't restore the previous protections there is going to be a continued and steady loss and degradation of coastal and isolated wetlands."

In the case of the coastal areas,

Bezanson said, barrier islands that protect both ocean waters from mainland pollution and the mainland from coastal surges could be so degraded that they no longer serve their natural roles.

For drought-ridden areas of West Texas, the loss could ultimately mean that aquifers relied on for fresh drinking water could dry up sooner than anticipated.

Rollin MacRae, a wetland program leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said the report's estimates of endangered wetlands is "probably an extreme guess."

But if the policy changes limiting

oversight continue, groundwater supplies in Texas and other states will be in danger in the future, he said.

MacRae said "simple science" shows that the now unprotected channels feed water into aquifers that can span multiple states and should be protected to ensure clean drinking water.

In neighboring New Mexico, which also struggles with water issues, several closed basins that serve as freshwater sources are also endangered, according to the report. Closed basins don't connect with larger rivers or the ocean.

Romney Endorses McCain, Asks National Convention Delegates to Swing Behind the Likely Nominee

BOSTON (AP) — Republican campaign dropout Mitt Romney endorsed John McCain for the party's presidential nomination and asked his national convention delegates to swing behind the likely nominee.

"Even when the contest was close and our disagreements were debated, the caliber of the man was apparent," the former Massachusetts governor said, standing alongside his one-time rival at his now-defunct campaign's headquarters. "This is a man capable of leading our country at a dangerous hour."

"Primaries are tough," said McCain, referring to their earlier rancor. "We know it was a hard campaign and now we move forward, we move forward together for the good of our party and the nation."

The two met privately before appearing together at a news conference. McCain had campaigned in Vermont and Rhode Island but added a flight to Boston to accept the endorsement.

McCain effectively sealed the nomination last week when Romney withdrew from the race; only former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and libertarian-leaning Texas Rep. Ron Paul remain. But neither has a chance to catch McCain in the convention delegate hunt.

In early primaries and caucuses, Romney collected 280 delegates.

The number is enough to move McCain close to the total of 1,191 needed to clinch the nomination a full nine months before the November general election.

Huckabee was not ready to bow out.

"Right now there's a great big 'me, too' crowd coming together (for McCain)," Huckabee said in LaCrosse, Wis. "There's a lot of folks, sort of, in the establishment of the party that is not now wanting to be left out." He added, "I'm just not willing to be part of the coronation yet."

Romney's nod of support capped a bitter yearlong rivalry between the two men over the party's nomination. Romney criticized McCain in television ads in New Hampshire, and both candidates mixed it up almost daily during campaign events and debates. Neither is especially fond of the other.

Over the past year, Romney cast McCain as outside of the GOP's conservative mainstream and a Washington insider who contributed to the problems plaguing a broken system. McCain, in turn, argued that Romney's

equivocations and reversals on several issues indicated a willingness to change his positions to fit his political goals.

The clash effectively ended on Feb. 5, when McCain won a string of big-state primaries from coast to coast.

Officials said the former Massachusetts governor made his decision to back McCain earlier in the day, citing a desire to help the Arizona senator wrap up the nomination before too much more time passed and while Democrats still did not have a nominee.

McCain is on a steady march toward amassing the 1,191 delegates he needs, but Huckabee has proven an unexpectedly durable challenger. With a strong appeal to evangelical conservatives, Huckabee defeated McCain in two out of three states that chose delegates last weekend, and ran a far stronger race than expected before losing the Virginia primary on Tuesday.

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