

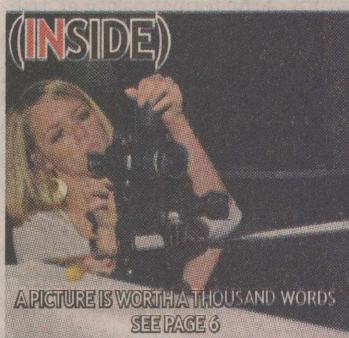
SEE PAGES 1B-6B FOR A SPECIAL SECTION HONORING THE 4,000 MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO DIED IN IRAQ

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LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

THURSDAY, MAR. 27, 2008
VOLUME 82 ■ ISSUE 119



PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS
SEE PAGE 6

(INBRIEF)

STATE

CVS, Texas settle lawsuit over customers' records

HOUSTON (AP) — CVS Caremark Corp. will overhaul its information security system and pay the state of Texas \$315,000 to settle a lawsuit that accused the drugstore operator of dumping credit card numbers, medical information and other material from more than 1,000 customers into a garbage container.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, who sued CVS in April, announced the agreement Wednesday.

NATION

Pilot: I was trying to stow gun when it fired

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — A US Airways pilot whose gun fired inside a cockpit said he was trying to stow the weapon as the crew got ready to land, according to a police report obtained Wednesday.

The pilot didn't tell air traffic control about the shooting or say the bullet had punctured the cockpit until after the plane landed safely at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport on Saturday, the report said. Photos obtained by The Associated Press show a small exit hole on the plane's exterior below the cockpit window.

WORLD

Patience running out over N. Korea declaration

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and South Korea said Wednesday that patience is wearing thin among international negotiators pressing North Korea to hand over a promised declaration of nuclear weapon efforts.

A spat over the North's declaration, which was due by the end of last year, has deadlocked six-nation nuclear talks. Disarmament negotiators insist that it address claims of a secret uranium enrichment program and allegations that the North transferred nuclear technology to Syria.

DEATH TOLL

4000

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the White House

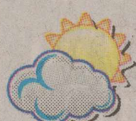
WEATHER

Today



SUNNY
HIGH 87
LOW 46

Friday



WINDY
HIGH 67
LOW 40

INSIDE

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- Opinions.....4
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Bush: 'mistake' made in missile shipment

By **TERRENCE HUNT**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, addressing an embarrassing flap that has strained U.S.-China relations, told Chinese President Hu Jintao on Wednesday that the shipment of nuclear missile fuses to Taiwan was a mistake.

The president's national security adviser, Stephen Hadley, said the matter came up when Bush called Hu.

"It came up very briefly," Hadley told reporters. "Basically, the

president indicated that a mistake had been made. There was very little discussion about it."

The U.S. military's mistaken delivery to Taiwan of electrical fuses for an intercontinental ballistic missile has raised concerns over U.S.-China ties. It has also triggered a broad investigation into the security of Pentagon weapons.

China on Wednesday strongly protested the mistaken delivery.

In a statement posted on the Foreign Ministry's Web site, spokesman Qin Gang said China sent a protest to Washington expressing "strong

displeasure."

"We ... demand the U.S. side thoroughly investigate this matter," and report to China in a timely manner the details of the situation and "eliminate the negative effects and disastrous consequences created by this incident," Qin said.

Bush's conversation with Hu also covered Tibet, North Korea and Myanmar.

"It was a serious conversation on really all of these issues," Hadley said.

Bush told Hu he was concerned about the crackdown in Tibet, join-

ing a growing chorus of international protests about Beijing's tough tactics. Bush encouraged Hu to engage in "substantive dialogue" with representatives of the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet.

China's crackdown in Tibet is in response to the most sustained uprising against Chinese rule in almost two decades — a challenge that has put China's human rights record in the international spotlight, embarrassing and frustrating a Communist leadership that had hoped for a smooth run-up to the Olympic Games.

The White House has said that Bush would not boycott the Beijing Olympics because of the crackdown, arguing that the games are an event that are supposed to be about the athletes, not politics.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy has suggested he might boycott the opening ceremony of the Olympics. Sarkozy, visiting the Houses of Parliament in London on Wednesday, said France and Britain should struggle together for human rights and religious and cultural identity. Sarkozy called

MISSILE continued on page 2

HOPE SPRINGS...

Tech football begins practices with higher expectations

By **ADAM COLEMAN**
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech began spring practice with full knowledge that expectations are higher than usual.

The only people the Red Raiders are worried about are themselves as Wednesday was the start of Tech's road to the 2008 season.

"I thought it was pretty good for the first day," Tech quarterback Graham Harrell said. "I thought we moved around well. With that many players coming back, we should be pretty sharp offensively. I think we were pretty sharp,

but we have a lot of room to get better. There's no question about that. We weren't as sharp as we can be. We were still kinda sloppy at times. We just have to keep getting better. If we improve every day, we're going to be a really special unit and really special team, and I think we know that. That's going to be our goal. Just get better every day."

Eight starters return on defense and 10 return on offense from last season.

Wednesday's practice focused more on skill and knowledge than contact. Tech players were in jerseys and shorts and participated in walking through plays and drills.

The practice also gave a chance for many injured players from the 2007 season to return to the field after a season of rehab. Receiver Todd Walker and running back Baron Batch were two of those players. Both Batch and Walker received repetitions on offense in hopes to make contributions to the team this season.

There also were many new faces being worked into the lineup.

With the spring depth chart being released before practice Wednesday, players such as Detron Lewis received many reps. On the depth chart, Lewis is slated as one of the starting receivers.

FOOTBALL continued on page 9

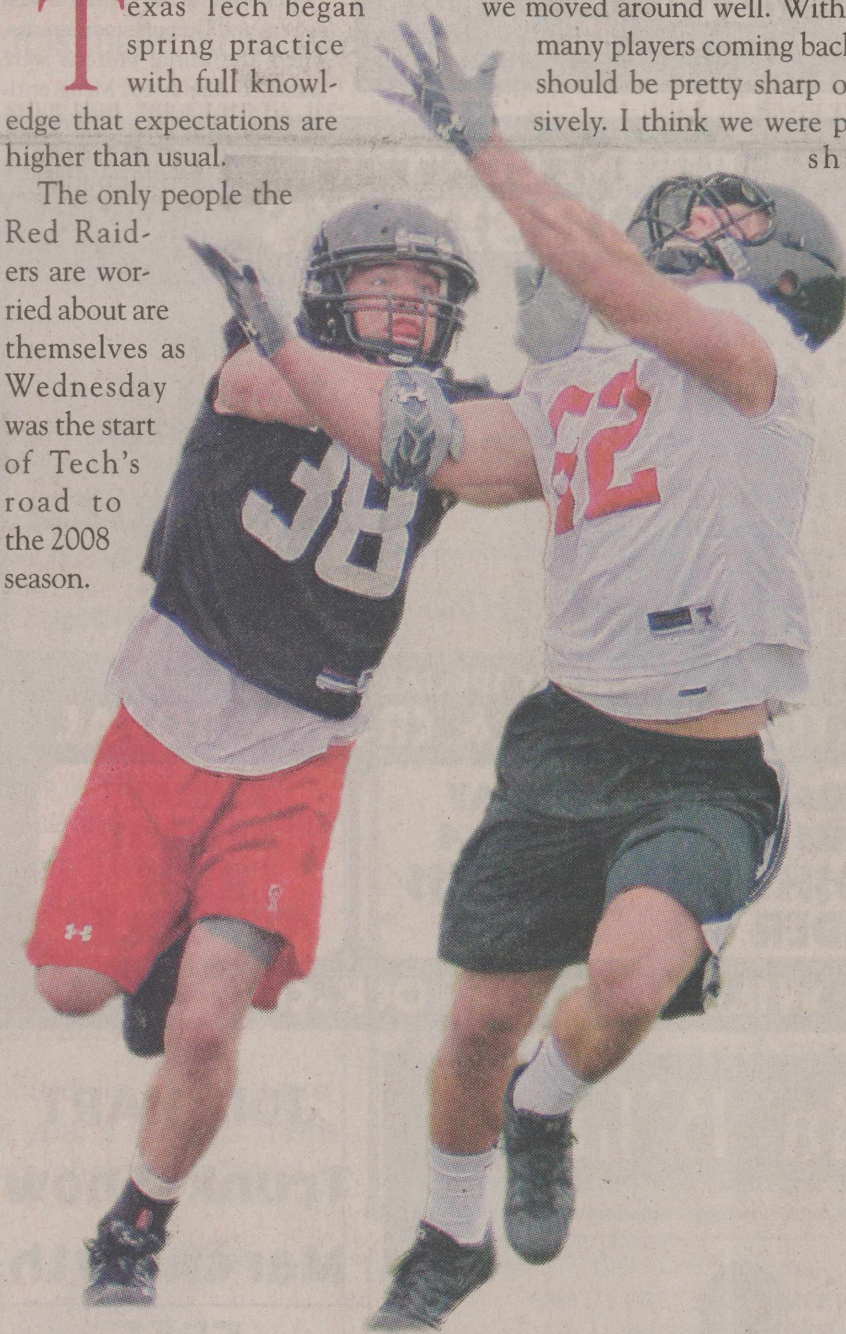


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

SAFETY JORDY ROWLAND tries to stop inside receiver Adam James from catching the ball during a catching drill on the first day of spring practice Wednesday on the practice field.

Iraqi prime minister gives Basra gunmen 3-day ultimatum

By **KIM GAMEL**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's prime minister warned gunmen in the oil port of Basra to surrender their weapons by Friday or face harsher measures, as clashes between security forces and Shiite militia fighters spread throughout the south and in Baghdad.

Despite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's ultimatum Wednesday, government troops in Basra were having trouble making inroads into neighborhoods that the radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army has controlled for years. Residents spoke of militiamen using mortar shells, sniper fire, roadside bombs and rocket-propelled grenades to fight off security forces.

Al-Maliki, a Shiite, remained in Basra to supervise a crackdown against the spiraling violence between militia factions vying for control of the center of Iraq's vast oil industry, located near the Iranian border. The events threatened to unravel a Mahdi

Army cease-fire and spark a dramatic escalation in violence after a monthslong period of relative calm.

Street battles that broke out Tuesday in Basra and Baghdad's main Shiite district of Sadr City spread to several other neighborhoods and southern cities, leaving at least 119 dead, including civilians, Iraqi security forces and militants. That figure was a rough estimate provided by police and hospital officials who could not give a more specific breakdown.

In Baghdad, several volleys of rockets slammed into the U.S.-protected Green Zone for the third day this week, and the U.S. Embassy said three Americans were seriously wounded. At least eight Iraqis were killed elsewhere in the capital by rounds that apparently fell short, police said.

Two American soldiers were killed Wednesday in separate attacks in Baghdad, the military said, raising the overall U.S. death toll since the war started more than five years ago to at least 4,003, according to an Associated Press count.

The Sadrists are angry over recent raids and detentions, saying U.S. and Iraqi forces have taken advantage of the August cease-fire to crack down on the movement.

They have accused rival Shiite parties, which control Iraqi security forces, of engineering the arrests to prevent them from mounting an effective campaign after the Iraqi parliament agreed in February to hold provincial elections by the fall.

Anthony Cordesman, an analyst at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, cautioned against dismissing those concerns.

"The current fighting is as much a power struggle for control of the south, and the Shiite parts of Baghdad and the rest of the country, as an effort to establish central government authority and legitimate rule," he said in an analysis.

The U.S. military insisted the fight was not against al-Sadr's movement but breakaway factions believed to be funded and trained by Iran, which has denied the allegations.

Learning assessments utilized to ensure accreditation standards

By **ASHLIE WAGGANER**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Texas Tech has developed new assessments and data research including an Online Senior Assessment to fulfill the Commission on Colleges in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation standards.

The Online Senior Assessment is a brief test consisting of essay and multiple-choice questions about core-curriculum knowledge. Four separate survey forms were administered on the Internet with each form covering two curriculum areas, according to the e-mail sent to seniors from Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs William Marcy.

Students nearing graduation, having 90 or more credit hours, received one of the forms at random. The assessment was administered between Feb. 29 and March 17, and 1,481 students participated for a 20.1 percent overall response rate.

Valerie Paton, associate vice provost for academic affairs, said the university engages in multiple

assessments every year, though not all offer cash awards.

"We start with the freshmen here, and it goes throughout every year that they are here," Paton said, "all the way through the senior year and alumni status. We ask them what they learned and how they assess their learning while they were at Texas Tech."

The Online Senior Assessment was developed by faculty from each of the subject areas of the core curriculum. Paton said the test attempted to assess students' learning on core curriculum confidence.

The core curriculum is designed to give all graduating students the opportunity to acquire general knowledge of study areas that have traditionally been regarded as basic to a university education. This general knowledge base requires study in the natural and applied sciences, social sciences, mathematics, humanities, visual and performing arts and the tools of language and thought, according to the university catalog.

The Online Senior Assessment was divided into four areas: Visual

and Performing Arts, Humanities and Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology, and Social and Behavioral Sciences. Students who chose to participate in the assessment were given one of the four sections at random.

According to an e-mail sent to seniors, three students will be awarded \$1,500 to show the university's appreciation of submission of the Online Senior Assessment.

Paton said if a student is graduating and already has paid his or her entire bill, the award will go through his or her account and generate a check for the student.

Award recipients will be notified by e-mail by April 15.

"We are in the process right now of rolling up all the results and analyzing them," Paton said. "The Institutional Research and Institutional Management team will begin to review the data and decide how students performed against these questions and what it means for them, in terms of competency of our students in each of these general education areas."

Paton stressed the only way to

get a good assessment is through multiple assessments.

"We have multiple levels of assessment going on," Paton said, "and that is really important in trying to understand what students know and how they can use that knowledge. You don't get it one way, under one test."

This is the first time the university has used the Online Senior Assessment. The assessment was designed to be specifically focused on general education competency statements, which is specifically what the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools requires.

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is the recognized regional accrediting body in the 11 U.S. Southern states and in Latin America for those institutions of higher education that award associate, baccalaureate, master's or doctoral degrees. The Commission on Colleges is the representative body of the College Delegate Assembly and is charged with carrying out the

accreditation process, according to the organization's Web site, www.sacscoc.org.

"That is exactly what the Online Senior Assessment is about," Paton said. "Again, it is used in combination with many other assessments to provide that recorded evidence. The university has a tremendous amount of assessment data to support compliance with this requirement."

Results and data from past assessments can be found online at the university's Web site, www.irs.ttu.edu. Faculty and students may browse all public records using their e-Raider login and password.

"We are a public institute," said Paton, "This data is all public. Anything we give to the feds or the state can be found on the Web site. It has listings of all Texas Tech's public released data. It is a fabulous resource."

Paton said Tech actively assesses its students in just about every learning environment they might find themselves in.

▶ ashlie.wagganer@ttu.edu

Obama says sound bites don't tell story of his pastor

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama on Wednesday sought to quell concerns over anti-American remarks by his former pastor, saying people are paying too much attention to a small number of "stupid" comments.

Obama gave a sweeping speech on race last week in which he condemned incendiary remarks by the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, but the words of the former pastor at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago continue to dog the candidate. Reflecting the campaign's concern about the fallout, Obama used a question about religion at a town hall forum as an opportunity to address the issue.

"This is somebody that was preaching three sermons at least a week for 30 years and it got boiled down ... into a half-minute sound clip and just played it over and over and over again, partly because it spoke to some of the racial divisions we have in this country," Obama told an audience in this central North Carolina city.

China tightens grip on Tibetan monasteries with expanded 'patriotic education' campaign

BEIJING (AP) — A top Chinese security official has criticized Tibetan Buddhist monks for taking part in anti-government protests, touring three key monasteries in Lhasa to

drive home China's message.

Public Security Minister Meng Jianzhu announced that "patriotic education" classes would be expanded at monasteries, the Tibet

Daily reported Tuesday. His visit was the first by a high-level central government official since protests in the Tibetan capital turned violent this month.

Unrest among Buddhist clergy has been blamed in part on the widely reviled classes, which force monks to make ritual denunciations of their

spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, and declare loyalty to Beijing.

Monks and nuns who refuse to cooperate can be jailed. The U.S. State Department said in its 2007 report on religious freedom around the world that dozens of Tibetan clergy were serving prison terms for their resistance to "patriotic" or political

education.

Despite such complaints — and repeated government claims that all Tibetans support the Chinese government's stance — Meng said during his trip to Lhasa on Monday that the campaign should be expanded in a bid to "grasp and direct public opinion in the correct direction."

"Deeply enact propaganda education in ethnic and religious policies and the legal system among all the temples," he was quoted as saying. "Let all people at home and abroad and all ethnic groups thoroughly understand the true facts of the matter."

In visits to Jokhang Temple, Tibet's most sacred shrine, as well as Sera and Drepung monasteries, where the initial protests were launched March 10, Meng criti-

Missile

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for dialogue between China's government and the Dalai Lama.

China on Wednesday showed some signs of relenting, allowing the first group of foreign journalists to visit Lhasa, the regional capital, since the violence began. The reporters were taken to Potala Square, below the Potala Palace, the traditional seat of Tibetan rulers, which reopened Wednesday for the first time since March 14. Then reporters were taken a few blocks away where many shops had been burned out during the rioting.

An account of the talks by Xinhua, the official Chinese news agency, said Hu told Bush that protests in Tibet were by no means "peaceful demonstrations" or activities of "non-violence."

According to the account, Hu said that "no responsible government would sit by and watch when faced with this kind of violent crime, which gravely violated human rights, seriously disrupted social order, and seriously endangered the safety of public life and property."

Bush said the election in Taiwan of Ma Ying-jeou, who has promised to defuse tensions and expand trade with China, would provide "a fresh opportunity for both sides to reach out and engage one another in peacefully resolving their differences."

Xinhua said Hu voiced appreciation to Bush of the oft-stated U.S. position of a one-China policy that opposes Taiwan independence or a referendum on Taiwan's U.N. membership.

THURSDAY		MARCH 27, 2008							
STATION	TIME	KTXT 5	KCBD 11	KLBK 13	KMYL 14	KLCW 22	KAMC 28	KJTV 34	
CHANN.		PBS	NBC	CBS	MYN	CW	ABC	FOX	
CITY		Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock	
7 AM	Curious Clifford	Today Scheduled: Today's Travel! features the best travel websites and mother-daughter get-aways. (HD)	The Early Show	Copeland Robinson	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	J. Hanna		
8 AM	Super Why			Animal Eye	Lopez				
9 AM	Sesame Street			The 700 Club	Cristina	Steve Wilkos	Regis & Kelly	Martha Cooking	
10 AM	Big World			The Price Is Right	Divorce	Temptation	The View (HD)	The Morning Show	
11 AM	Barney	Jeopardy	Restless (HD)	Alex	Paid Prog.	Cosby	Tyra Banks Show		
12 PM	Sews	News	News	Jerry Springer	Cosby	All My Children	Feud		
1 PM	Pet Vet	Days of Our Lives	Beautiful	Jerry Springer	Roseanne	Extra			
2 PM	Teletub	Crosswords	Guiding Light	Paid Programs	All of Us	General Hospital	Judge Mathis		
3 PM	Reading	Oprah Winfrey	Brown	Maury	Reba	Montel Williams	Ellen DeGeneres		
4 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News		
5 PM	Maya	News	News	TMZ	Standing	News	Raymond		
6 PM	NewsHour (HD)	Wheel	2008 NCAA Basketball Tournament (Teams TBA)	*1/2 "Anti-Trust" (01, Thriller) Dream job.	Smellville "Ver-las"	Ms. Guided	Smart 5th Grade		
7 PM	Old House	Deal or No Deal	2008 NCAA Basketball Tournament (Teams TBA)	Jim (HD)	Sex City	(9:02) Eli Stone	News		
8 PM	Story	The Celebrity Apprentice	2008 NCAA Basketball Tournament (Teams TBA)	70s	Will (HD)	Nightline	Seinfeld		
9 PM	Old House	News	2008 NCAA Basketball Tournament (Teams TBA)	King	Will (HD)	Insider	Friends		
10 PM	Bus. Rpt	News	2008 NCAA Basketball Tournament (Teams TBA)	Malcolm	Bernie	Jimmy Kimmel	Scrubs		
11 PM	Charlie Rose	The Tonight Show	News	Wife	Cops	Paid Prog.	Frasier		
12 AM	Destinos	(11:35) Late Night	News	Wife	Cops	Paid Prog.	Frasier		
	GED	Last Call	Late Late	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.		

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ODDBALL DAILY

Swan to be reunited with swan-shaped paddleboat

BERLIN (AP) — Petra the swan has a new home and so does her beloved swan-shaped paddleboat.

In 2006, Petra, a black swan, became so attached to the boat — shaped like an outsized white swan — that she refused to leave its side at a lake near a zoo in the

German city of Muenster.

Petra and her paddleboat were taken to the zoo.

Zoo officials finally parted bird and boat last week after Petra settled down with a real white swan and the boat was returned to the lake. But the romance was short-lived. The zoo says that, on

Saturday, her new beau flew off and sought out the company of other black swans.

A zoo statement says that Petra "appears to feel lonely" and is swimming around in an agitated state. The solution? On Friday, she will be taken back to the nearby lake and her faithful paddleboat.

Teen's \$500 tip will mean big night at the prom

CINCINNATI (AP) — An 18-year-old in Indiana will have the prom night she was dreaming of, thanks to a mystery man's Easter tip.

Kelsey Tolliver was selling newspapers inside Cincinnati's University Hospital last Sunday when she says a customer in his mid-20s wished

her Happy Easter and said to keep the change.

At first, she thought he'd given her \$4 for a Sunday paper costing \$1.50. But then she realized the wad of bills was too thick — and she had \$500 in twenties, plus four \$1 bills.

She says she'd never seen the

man before and couldn't find him afterward.

The student at Switzerland County Senior High in Patriot, Ind., says she gave half the money to her stepfather. The rest she's using for a dress, shoes, purse and limo for her senior prom.

Volkswagon Beetle turned into police cruiser

MARYVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Blount County's newest police cruiser has been turning heads, but whether it could keep up in a high-speed chase seems unlikely.

Assistant Chief Deputy Archie Garner retrofitted a 1973 Volkswagen Beetle to add to the sheriff's fleet of police interceptors, but with

a top-end speed of about 70 mph, he's not writing a lot of speeding tickets.

The "bug-ceptor" was seized in a DUI case and boasts a new paint job, sheriff's decals and tags, a siren, radio, barred rear side windows, a side-mounted spotlight and police lights.

The car even has the same number, 53, as Herbie the Volkswagen race car in the movie "The Love Bug."

Garner said the car will be used mostly as a public relations tool for the department, making appearances in parades and at school events.

Bottled message from Wa. found 21 years later

SEATTLE (AP) — Merle Brandell and his black lab Slapsey were beachcombing along the Bering Sea when he spied a plastic bottle among the Japanese glass floats he often finds along the shore of his tiny Alaskan fishing village.

He walked over and saw an envelope tucked inside. After slicing the bottle open, Brandell found a message from an elementary school student in a suburb of Seattle. The fact that the letter traveled 1,735 miles without any help from the U.S. postal service is unusual, but that's only the beginning of the mystery.

About 21 years passed between the time Emily Hwaung put the message in a soda bottle and Merle Brandell picked it up on the beach.

"This letter is part of our science project to study oceans and learn about people in distant lands," she wrote. "Please send the date and location of the bottle with your address. I will send you my picture and tell you when and where the bottle was placed in the ocean. Your friend, Emily Hwaung."

Brandell, 34, a bear hunting guide and manager of a water plant, said many of the 70-plus residents

of Nelson Lagoon were intrigued by his find. Beachcombing is a popular activity in remote western Alaska. Among the recent discoveries was a sail boat that washed onto shore last October.

"It's kind of a sport. It keeps us occupied. It's one of the pleasures of living here," Brandell said of the village reachable only by plane or boat that is too small to have its own store.

Brandell tried to track down the sender: a fourth grader from the North City School in the Shoreline School District.

In tiny Wash. town, discovery of parachute stirs new buzz over legend of D.B. Cooper

AMBOY, Wash. (AP) — A tattered, half-buried parachute unearthed by kids had D.B. Cooper country chattering Wednesday over the fate of the skyjacker, who leaped from a plane 36 years ago and into the lore of the Pacific Northwest.

The parachute is about all most people in this neck of the south-western Washington woods ever expected would be found as evidence of Cooper's daredevil escape attempt.

"Hunters are all through here," Idy Gilbert said Wednesday as she served drinks at Nick's Bar and Grill. "They find lots of bodies up here all the time, people who are missing. They would have found some bones. All they found was a chute."

In November 1971, a man identifying himself as Dan Cooper, later mistakenly identified as D.B. Cooper, hijacked a Northwest Orient flight, claiming he had a bomb. He demanded and got \$200,000, then jumped out the back of the plane somewhere near the Oregon line.

He may have landed around Amboy, not 30 miles from Portland, Ore. That's the same area where children playing outside their home recently found fabric sticking up from the ground where their father had been grading a road, FBI agent Larry Carr said Tuesday.

The children, responding to a publicity campaign, urged their father to call the FBI, Carr said, and when their find became public this week, it reignited talk of the region's favorite folk hero.

In Ariel, about 20 miles northwest of Amboy, the Ariel Store has an annual D.B. Cooper party.

Dona Elliot, owner of the store, said Wednesday she thinks Cooper hid out in brush and trees for an accomplice to take him to the airport in Portland, about 60 miles south. "It's the perfect place; no one

would have looked for him there," she said.

The T-shirt for this year's party will have a parachute theme, she said, even though she's skeptical that the artifact the kids found is Cooper's.

"It will be 37 years in November," she said. "There can't be too much left of that parachute."

The FBI doesn't want to excavate the property until it confirms, either through an expert's examination or scientific analysis of the fabric, whether the chute is the right kind.

If it is Cooper's parachute, that will solve one mystery — where he apparently landed — but it will raise another, Carr said.

In 1980, a family on a picnic found \$5,880 of Cooper's money in a bag on a Columbia River beach, near Vancouver. Some investigators believed it might have been washed

down to the beach by the Washougal River. But if Cooper landed near Amboy and stashed the money bag there, there's no way it could have naturally reached the Washougal.

"If this is D.B. Cooper's parachute, the money could not have arrived at its discovery location by natural means," Carr said. "That whole theory is out the window."

Retired FBI agent Ralph Himmelsbach, of Woodburn, Ore., who worked the Cooper case, said Wednesday he doubts the remnant found near Amboy could be the nylon parachute Cooper carried when he jumped into poor conditions over rough terrain.

"Lying in the mud, mostly wet, would not be the kind of environment that would be good for a parachute," he said, though he conceded he could offer few alternate explanations for how the chute got there.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS
 1 Valise
 4 Earthquake
 9 Car lifts
 14 Make a miscalculation
 15 Banks of baseball
 16 Square
 17 Seltzer or Sargasso
 18 Faces the day
 19 Saturn of Mercury
 20 Start of Evan Esar quip
 23 Ashlye
 24 Turns right
 25 Poetic meadow
 28 Cowboy movie
 31 Lay waste to
 34 The best plans...
 36 Designer Ashley
 37 Part 2 of quip
 43 Actress Witherspoon
 44 Fencer's instrument
 45 Adjusts the pitch
 46 Comebacks
 53 Seine
 54 Unsolicited ms. encl.
 56 Viral lump
 57 End of quip
 62 Bloodsucker
 64 Transmitter
 65 Drs. group
 66 Come to terms
 70 Bubbly
 71 Big Band, for one

DOWN
 1 Confer
 2 Interstice of a leaf
 3 Fray of charge
 4 Desiccated
 5 Poetic name for Ireland
 6 Badge of honor
 7 Blockade
 8 Interlocked
 9 Self-defense system
 10 All over again
 11 Cool lit
 12 Set of parts
 13 Mata Hari, for one
 21 Steaming
 22 Half an African fly
 26 Emerald Isle
 27 Winged
 29 Actress Barkin
 30 Unpleasantly chilly
 32 Icy rain
 33 Touch with tenderness
 35 Coloring agent
 37 Taborian's country
 38 Beret filler
 39 Residents of a new region
 40 Temp sch.
 41 Spatula
 42 Speller's contest
 46 Compass dir.
 47 Petty dictator
 49 Be obligated
 50 Devastate
 51 Nervous vibration
 52 Horizontal layers
 55 Sedimentary rock
 58 Hot pair in poker
 59 Collective pronoun
 60 Small notch
 61 Intrusive
 62 Scientist's office
 63 Prideliveness

By Alan P. Olshiwang
 Huntington Beach, CA
 3/27/08

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

STAFF PLIE MEAT
 LAURA LADS ELMO
 IKNEADAVACATION
 META ATE APIARY
 KOTO BPOE
 ADVICE REA RAGS
 ROOST BEADS NEO
 SOWHATELSEIGNU
 ONE DAVIT STERN
 NELL PET PAIRED
 OREL MALT
 BOONES AIT CHAT
 IMKNOTONTHEHELM
 KILO RATE VERSA
 ETAL YSER ADDON

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Texas Tech judging teams make clean sweep at Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

By LILIANNA GONZALEZ
 STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech livestock, meat and wool judging teams won all three judging competitions March 16 at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The three Tech teams placed first in their divisions, beating contestants from other universities such as Texas A&M, Oklahoma State and Colorado State, according to a university news release.

Jennifer Blackburn, a junior agriculture communications major from Grady, N.M., participated in the livestock judging contest and has

been judging since she was 9.

Blackburn said this was her first year participating on the judging team at Tech and said the team practiced almost everyday to prepare for the contests.

"It was very satisfying to see that our hard work had paid off," she said. "We swept all categories, and I was very excited. We put a lot of time and effort, and it takes a little bit of luck. I'm glad we won. We have a very talented team."

Tech's teams won the livestock judging contest by 117 points, the meat evaluation contest by 20 points and the wool judging competition by a four-point margin, according to the

news release.

Shandon Rankin, meat lab operation manager for Tech's Department of Animal and Food Sciences, said the team was well prepared going into the competition.

"They put in a lot of hours of practice," Rankin said. "They really wanted to win the contest, and that's what they were thinking of, and that's what they got done."

Collin Corbin, a freshman animal science major from League City, participated with the wool judging team.

Corbin said the team members spent many hours practicing and traveling to different schools, such as Angelo State University, to help improve their skills.

"It was a really neat deal for every team winning," he said. "For the wool team, it was awesome because we hadn't had a wool team win in a while."

Corbin said the meat animal evaluation team will compete for the national title in Oklahoma City this weekend.

liliana.gonzalez@ttu.edu

The DT Reader's Choice Awards has just gotten easier. The survey will be available only online, so don't miss your chance to choose Lubbock's best. Use the link provided and give us your opinion. The survey will be available until April 20, 2008.

The most popular answers will be published in the April 25 edition of The Daily Toreador.

Many questions have options listed that were popular choices from last year's survey. There is also a field to write in a choice not listed.

Reader's CHOICE

AWARDS

THE DAILY TOREADOR

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Jr79zd49WjvuHj2_2fEsYASg_3d_3d or visit

www.dailytoreador.com and click the survey link

All entries become property of The DT, which reserves the right to publish survey answers & comments. Final decisions on survey, categories & winning entries will be made by The DT.

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'One nation, under God'

Guilt by association is not a tricky subject. In fact, it's usually cut and dry.

Barack Obama finally is getting scrutinized about the associations he has had in the past, including with Tony Rezko, Lewis Farrakhan and now most prominently, Jeremiah Wright — Obama's pastor and spiritual advisor for more than 20 years.

Imagine with me, for a moment, about the repercussions of a Republican candidate, or any candidate for that matter, using a motto like "unabashedly white," persistently supporting of a "white" community or being an outspoken member of a solely "white" church.

Yet those are the exact reciprocal terms used by the Trinity United Church of Christ and by Obama in his speech last Tuesday.

The closeness of Obama and Wright, his pastor since the '80s, is undisputed. Not only was he

Obama's minister, but Wright also headed a special black committee for the Obama campaign.

And he has served as Obama's spiritual mentor throughout the campaign, providing religious insight into dealing with political policies.

After advancing solely in the ambiguities of "change," and stimulating almost blind political support, the screws are tightening on Obama's campaign, and what is being disclosed is not as appealing to the ears of the public.

Wright is quoted with some of the most racially insensitive and defamatory anti-American speeches that can be heard anywhere on the globe.

Emphatically blasting everything from the United States still being a white-supremacist nation, the "U.S. of KKKA," to actually damning the country that gave him the right to speak.

"It is not enough to abruptly separate yourself from a man whom you have so trusted for over two decades."

Derek Coulson



Wright still is combating racism like it is 1965, and the nation still is rent by discrimination. But in so doing, he only is debilitating a gap that actually has healed progressively the past 40 years.

Yes there are pockets of racists, both black and white, and for them, justice has been provided. But this nation, as a majority, had prepared to reconcile the breach.

The momentum headed by Obama's glorified "change" mantra is evidence enough of the fact that millions were willing to overlook race and elect based on what they perceived as ability and conscience.

But the outspoken ideals of a mentor can erase all that. Especially if said ideals include a sermon almost immediately after 9/11 that declares America deserved — and, in part, was responsible for — the most devastating terrorist attack on our mainland.

And as to the unabashed anti-Semitism, perhaps The Reverend overlooked the fact that for the last six decades, it has been America alone that has supported an Israeli state after the world turned its back to the horrors of the Holocaust.

We did not, and do not, remain supportive to spite and incite war among Muslim nations; instead, we do it because we fulfill our commitments to nations that adhere to political freedom.

By conveniently "forgetting" those sermons and now mishandling a volatile situation, Obama has immersed this campaign in a 1960s-like

racial debate.

It is not enough abruptly to separate yourself from a man whom you have so trusted for more than two decades. That comes off more as political expediency than honest recollection.

Obama has serious questions to answer of his stances on the anti-America, anti-Semitic and black separatist language used by Wright.

The dialogue will not permit anything but straightforward and direct responses rather than the dubious and cryptic "favorite uncle" answers.

Perhaps then we should consult with a man who lived in one of America's eras of greatest turmoil.

"I have a dream that one day my children will live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Martin Luther King Jr. foresaw much of what has made this nation great.

But while previously forgoing former differences, we now are mired in quandary and uncertainty about racial divide and questionable associations of a man who supposedly could have united on harmony of those issues.

Obama quoted the Constitution to begin his speech March 18. Allow me to take from another important document, our Declaration of Independence.

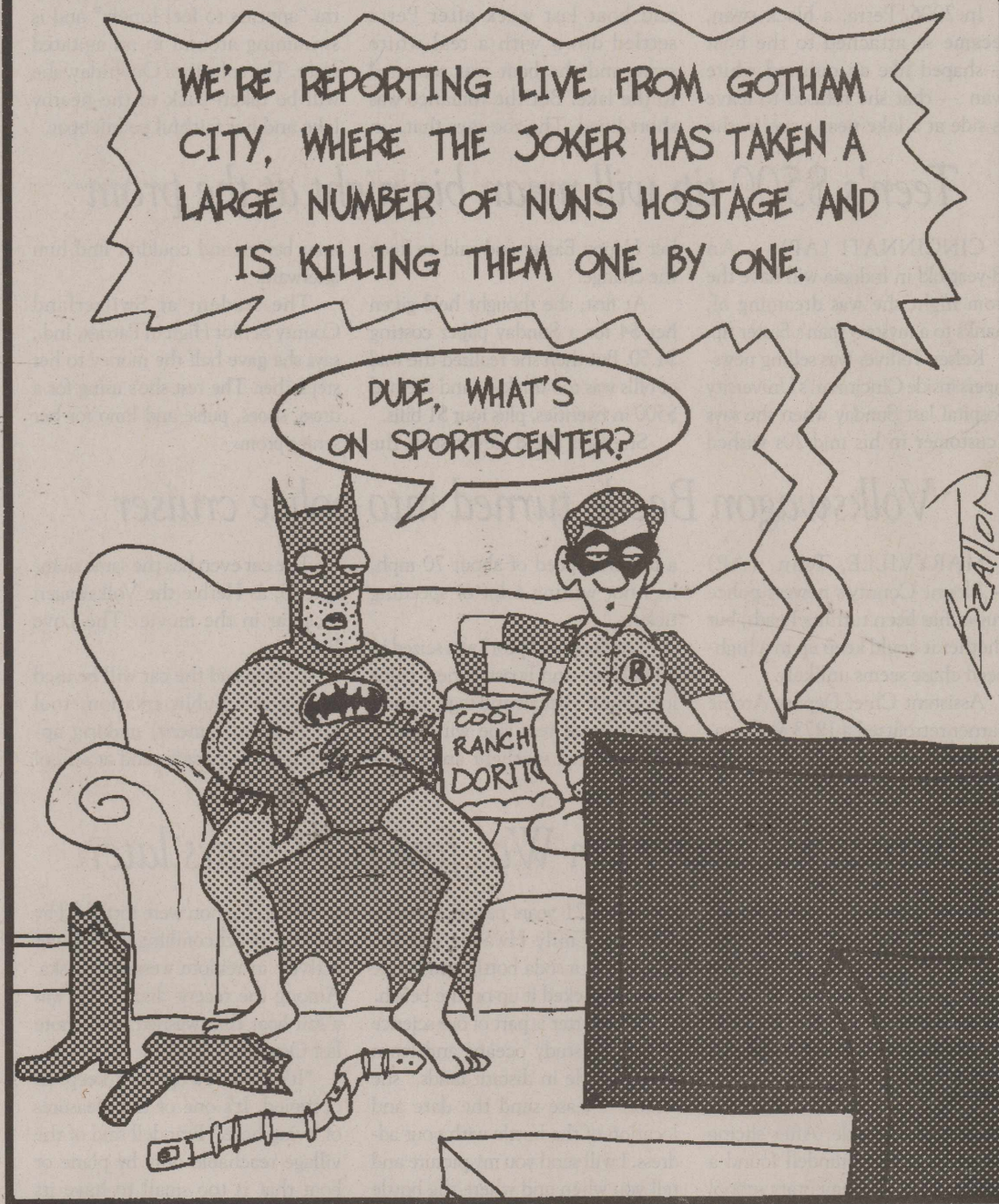
"...All men are created equal [and] are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Let me assure you, there is nothing happy in the racist-charged remarks of Wright or in the socially divisive ones of Obama.

Perhaps some have forgotten the simple pledge we used to give every day in school. It was not to the flag of a black nation or a white one, but to one nation, under God, indivisible.

■ Coulson is a junior history major from Waxahachie. E-mail him at derek.coulson@ttu.edu.

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When Superheroes Lose Their Motivation

Countries should boycott Olympics

By LUKE FISCHER
DAILY NEBRASKAN (U. NEBRASKA)

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb. — For as long as I can remember, the Summer Olympics has always been one of my favorite sporting events.

I remember being eight or nine years old, and every day during the games, I would alternate between being glued to the television watching the competitions and running around pretending to be a participant in the various events myself.

I was always, of course, a gold medalist.

It always was for me, and still is, an opportunity for healthy, spirited patriotism.

But we have to remember the Olympic games are much more than a showcase for athletic talent.

They are an opportunity for the nations of the world to come together and celebrate their great diversity alongside the essential humanness that we all share (the opening ceremony is always a great example of this). They provide a time to look past disputes and conflicts and to forget, for maybe just a moment, how broken our world is.

This in mind, I must say that it is sickeningly ironic that the 2008 Summer Olympic games are scheduled to be in Beijing.

There has been a lot on the news lately about the situation in Tibet and odds are you know the basic story. The media has had a lot to say, but one of the most eye-opening things I have heard was from Brad Adams, the Asia director at Human Rights Watch,

a non-government organization that monitors human rights around the world.

Referencing the hundreds of peaceful protestors that have been arrested, he said, "Given the long and well-documented history of torture of political activists by China's security forces there is every reason to fear for the safety of those recently detained."

While this certainly sheds some light on the seriousness of the present situation, it is important to recognize that the key word in the quote by Adams is "history."

Despite what the Chinese government would have us believe — and many have been either buying into this or at least feigning ignorance — China has had quite a history of harsh oppression and blatant disregard for human rights.

During the Cold War, most Americans and much of Europe held fairly negative views toward China, which was and still is communist. However, in recent years public perception has changed a great deal.

As China's economic development has boomed, there seems to be a general feeling that China is becoming more open and more democratic. Unfortunately, this is nothing more than the confusion of capitalism with democracy.

Chinese society is far from open and far from democratic.

As an officially atheist country, religious beliefs and practices are discouraged and highly regulated. Where it is unable to root out and destroy religion, the government has instead tried to control it.

Churches and houses of worship are required to register with the government and are highly regulated.

Individuals and communities that refuse to comply with strict policies are harshly persecuted.

A perfect example of this is the Chinese government's treatment of the Catholic Church. In 1957, realizing that the Catholic Church was not going to bow to their restrictions, the government arrested and removed much of the church leadership and attempted to install their own people in order to gain control. The real Catholic Church — which was still independent from the government — was forced underground and its adherents, particularly its priests and bishops, faced terrible persecution.

But this is not ancient history. The Chinese government continues to prop up the state-sponsored Catholic church — it actually even claims to have the blessing of the pope — and has continued to persecute, imprison and even torture members of the underground Catholic Church.

The government's treatment of Protestants and Buddhists, and really any other religion which refuses to accept its control, has been just as harsh. Religious freedom is apparently nothing more than a joke. The government has even had the gall to ban athletes at the coming Olympics from bringing Bibles into the Olympic village.

The really crazy thing is that the Chinese constitution supposedly provides for freedom of belief.

The state of freedom of expression and speech in China is similarly dismal.

The government controls all the major news sources and radio, television, books, magazines and newspapers that have not received the blessing of the government are heavily restricted.

Guys do not ever want to be 'just friends'

By RYAN PEUGH

DAILY EVERGREEN (WASHINGTON STATE U.)

(U-WIRE) PULLMAN, Wash. — College is really the last barrier to overcome before we all enter what is most commonly described as "the real world." During our time here we are constantly tested on various materials intended to prepare and give us insight into our future careers. Underneath this stressful learning environment is an even more important aspect of the college life: The forming of relationships.

A need to feel wanted and desired by another individual is in everyone, whether they choose to acknowledge it or not. This is why we socialize and try to meet new people all the time. There is a hope, each and every time we go out on the weekends, of meeting the one amazing person who seems genuinely interested in us.

Of course, life is unfair so this may not occur all too often to us average individuals. For people like me, what we tend to experience is a wonderful night with an attractive woman able to carry on a conversation.

Interest and feelings begin to build for this individual until she begins

to ramble on about this other guy she just met and how amazing he is. When this happens, those ideas of intimate romance are ripped from your thoughts and all that is left is the question, "When did I enter the friendship zone?"

Relationships can be very tricky because it's hard to know another person's feelings without their telling us. Women are especially difficult to understand in these situations, because they have this idea that men and women can be just friends.

It is this belief that can leave men to misconstrue general conversation as flirting, thus further complicating their understanding of the relationship at hand. The idea that a guy who meets a girl at a party wants nothing more than to be friends is absolutely ludicrous.

Honestly women, get a clue. If any guy asks a girl for her phone number it's not so he can call her up later to ask her out shopping, or even to discuss that good-looking guy in your sociology class. No, instead men are hoping that she will want to come hang out and get to know him better — with the hope that over time an intimate relationship will be formed.

I realize it's not uncommon for males and females to have friends of the opposite sex, but for the most part such friendships result from a lack of success, since the friendship is the direct result of the decision by one person that a romantic connection doesn't exist. This is the main cause of confusion for women, and leads them to believe that in fact a true male-female friendship can exist.

Women, the next time you find yourself in a social setting where a man begins to start a conversation with you, realize that he is not talking to you in hopes of becoming friends. He finds you attractive and wants to see if there is any connection between the two of you. If you come to the conclusion that there isn't any romantic interest in him, be kind and let him know your feelings toward him.

Men and women will never be able to be just friends initially, because men aren't looking for more friends; they are looking for someone who likes and wants to be with them. So if things aren't meant to be, then hang out and get to know him better at the start when they've stuck in the friend zone.

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The Daily Treador accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 650 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community. Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification and submission.

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Bicyclist involved in accident with vehicle, piece of a statue reported stolen

By JON VANDERLAAN
STAFF WRITER

March 11

The front driver-side door of a vehicle was damaged in the C-15 parking lot, and two officers investigated the report of criminal mischief.

An unknown person wrote "08/08/08 BOOM" on the wall in a men's restroom in Holden Hall. An officer documented the situation.

Two officers documented information on a welfare check of an off-campus student by the Lubbock Police Department.

Officers documented damage to vehicles in the Z-3F and Texas Tech Plaza parking lots.

A plastic gold-plated letter "E" was reported stolen from a wall-mounted sign on the south entrance of the Tech Health Sciences Center Physician's Medical Pavilion.

A student witnessed a burglary of a vehicle, and an unknown suspect pointed a gun at the student. An officer investigated this reported aggravated assault, which occurred in the Z-5C parking lot.

March 12

A student was detained on the 700 block of Akron Avenue after an observed traffic violation on the 2500 block of Drive of Champions. The student was released pending the filing of charges for the possession of a switchblade knife, which is a prohibited weapon.

A non-student was arrested for a previous Lubbock County citation and

driving with an invalid license after an observed traffic violation on the 2900 block of 18th Street.

An officer investigated the reported theft of a piece from a statue on the south side of the Gordon Residence Hall.

After being stopped for an observed traffic violation on the 1800 block of Flint Avenue, a non-student was arrested for an outstanding Lubbock Police Department warrant and Lubbock County citation.

An officer investigated fraudulent use or possession of identifying information at the Wall Residence Hall.

Two officers documented unwanted text and telephone messages a student was receiving.

March 13

Two officers performed a welfare check on a student who had been reported being upset and making comments about suicide. The student was transported to the Tech Counseling Center from Chitwood Residence Hall.

An officer referred a student who reported being harassed by another student at an off-campus location to the Lubbock Police Department.

A student's wallet was reported stolen from his room in the Murdough Residence Hall.

A student hit a parked vehicle in the C-11 parking lot, and an officer responded to the traffic accident. There were no injuries as a result of the accident.

During Spring Break inspections, community advisers reported a student was in possession of marijuana

and drug paraphernalia. An officer responded to the call in the Carpenter/Wells Complex and released the student pending the filing of charges.

An officer investigated criminal mischief on the second floor of the Coleman Residence Hall in which pictures were drawn on the wall with an erasable black marker.

A student was issued a Lubbock County citation for the possession of drug paraphernalia in the Murray Residence Hall.

An officer arrested a student for driving while intoxicated. The student was stopped on the 900 block of Flint Avenue.

March 14

An officer arrested a student for public intoxication in the lobby of the Engineering Center.

March 15

A non-student was arrested for public intoxication on the first floor of the Flint Avenue parking garage.

The windshield of a vehicle was cracked by an unknown person in the Z-5C parking lot, and an officer responded and investigated.

March 16

An officer investigated criminal mischief in the Murdough Residence Hall in which ceiling tiles were damaged in the elevator lobby.

March 17

Two non-student juveniles were issued a criminal trespass warning from Tech after being detained on the 2500 block of Main Street.

An officer investigated the report of a burglary of a habitation in the Weymouth Residence Hall. A Dell laptop computer was reported stolen from the room, and the officer reported no signs of forced entry.

A student reported two CDs were stolen from a secured vehicle in the Z-6A parking lot.

March 18

Two officers investigated the theft of a textbook from an unsecured room in the Chemistry building.

An officer investigated a traffic accident in which an unknown vehicle struck a yellow protective post and a parking lot sign in the R-19 parking lot.

March 19

A non-student was issued a Lubbock County citation for speeding, driving with an invalid license and driving without insurance. The non-student was stopped on the 3300 block of 18th Street and was released after she signed the citation.

Two officers investigated the theft of a wallet and its contents from the Ranching Heritage Center.

A student and non-student were issued Lubbock County citations. The student was issued citations for speeding, possession of drug paraphernalia, and disregarding a stop sign. The non-student was issued a citation for possession of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

Two officers investigated two holes in the wall of the south study lounge on the second floor and damaged ceiling tiles on the first and fourth

floors in Murdough Residence Hall

March 20

An officer investigated the theft of an unsecured video camera from the University Library.

An officer investigated a hit-and-run accident in the C-1S parking lot.

March 21

The driver-side window of a vehicle in the Z-4R parking lot was broken, and a Kenwood stereo was reported stolen from the vehicle.

March 22

After being caught sleeping in the grass near the 2800 block of 18th Street, a non-student was issued a criminal trespass warning.

An officer arrested a non-student for driving while intoxicated after a traffic stop on the 2900 block of 18th Street.

March 23

A non-student was arrested for possession of marijuana, three outstanding Lubbock Police Department warrants, an outstanding Lubbock County Sheriff's Department warrant, driving with an invalid license and a Lubbock County citation for disregarding a stop sign. The non-student was stopped following a traffic stop on the 2600 block of 4th Street.

March 24

Two officers documented information concerning stolen charity donation papers from the Student Wellness Center.

A student was issued Lubbock County citations in the Z-4R parking lot for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of alcohol by a minor.

A student was arrested in the Bledsoe Residence Hall for possession of marijuana and was issued a Lubbock County citation for possession of drug paraphernalia.

An officer investigated the burglary of a vehicle, which occurred in the Z-2B parking lot. An iPod and two backpacks containing laptops and their contents were taken from the vehicle. The officer reported no sign of forced entry.

March 25

Two officers investigated two vehicle burglaries. In the first vehicle, the passenger-side window was shattered and a CD case was reported stolen. The second vehicle's driver-side window was shattered and an XBOX was reported stolen. Both burglaries occurred in the Z-1B parking lot.

An accident involving a bicyclist and a vehicle occurred at the intersection of 18th Street and Boston Avenue. The bicyclist refused treatment from Emergency Medical Services after being evaluated.

An officer documented information on a student who wrote a possible suicide note on a memory card found in the hallway on the second floor of the Clement Residence Hall. The student claimed that the memory card was old and is currently being seen at the Student Counseling Center.

jon.vanderlaan@ttu.edu

Russia seems to soften its stance, but US missile defense still faces obstacles

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russia has failed to shoot down the Bush administration's missile defense ambitions. But the high-priced project — a derivative of the "Star Wars" plan that President Reagan unveiled 25 years ago this week — still faces hostile political forces at home and abroad.

The aim of developing a missile shield is at the core of President Bush's defense policy,

although the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, showed that an enemy does not need rocket science to penetrate U.S. defenses.

After high-level meetings in Moscow last week, the Russians remained opposed to the newest twist in U.S. missile defense — extending the network of missile interceptors and radars to central Europe. But there also were strong signs that Moscow is

now resigned to living with it on its doorstep.

On Wednesday Bush announced he had accepted an invitation to meet with President Vladimir Putin in Russia next week, after Bush attends a NATO summit in Romania, to further discuss missile defense.

"Hopefully we could advance our dialogue so that at some point in time we could reach agreement on this important

matter," Bush said.

This week a Russian delegation is in Washington to hold follow-up talks with officials from the Pentagon and State Department — a further indication that Moscow is taking a less confrontational approach.

On Wednesday the State Department said those talks are expected to continue on Thursday.

Less clear are answers to other

key questions: Will the next U.S. president keep the project on track? And, if the system eventually is completed, will it work in the event of a real attack by long-range missiles?

Of the three leading presidential candidates, Sen. John McCain is a clear supporter of missile defense. He has described it as critical to protection of the United States from adversaries like North Korea and Iran,

and as a "hedge against potential threats" from Russia and China.

Sen. Barack Obama has spoken skeptically of missile defense as developed during the Bush administration, saying it requires much more vigorous testing to ensure that it would work and be cost-effective. He has not said he would stop the planned European sites, but he has questioned the timing.



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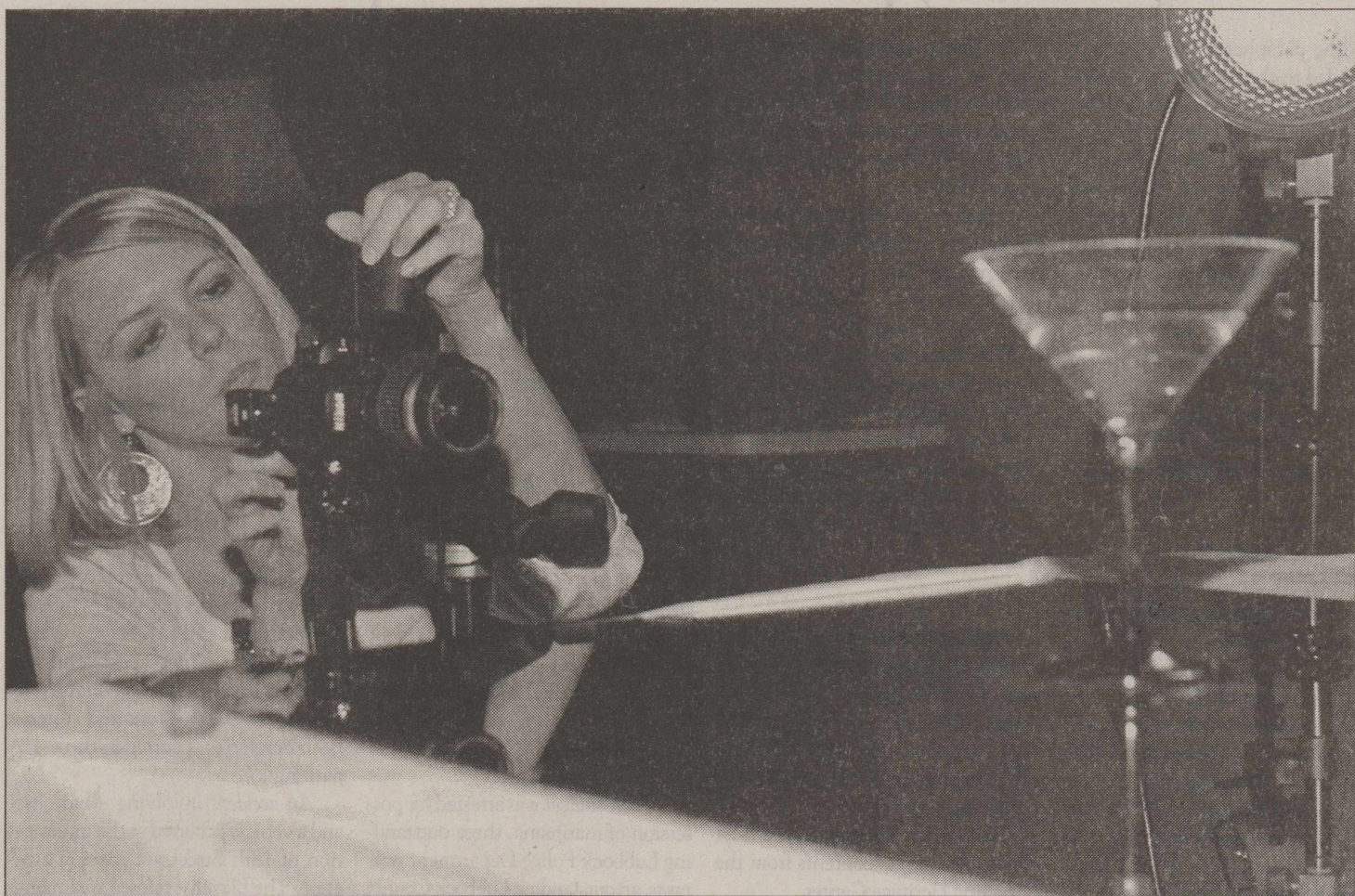


PHOTO BY JESSICA RIVERA/The Daily Toreador

SOPHOMORE ADVERTISING MAJOR Loren Lundgren from Standford, works in the Mass Communications studio Wednesday to capture a drink splash for her photography class.

Obama chides McCain for 'sit back and watch' approach to economy

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Democrat Barack Obama ridiculed Republican presidential rival John McCain on Wednesday for what he called a "sit back and watch" approach to the economic troubles gripping the nation.

Back campaigning after a brief family vacation in the Caribbean, the presidential candidate focused on the housing crisis that has rocked Wall Street and the economic downturn that has forced the Federal Reserve to intervene. And after days of sniping with rival Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign, Obama turned his attention to McCain.

On Tuesday, McCain derided government intervention to save and reward banks or small borrowers who behave irresponsibly and offered few immediate alternatives for fixing the country's growing housing crisis.

"John McCain has admitted he doesn't understand the economy as well as he should, and yesterday he proved it in giving a speech on the housing crisis," Obama told an auditorium of supporters.

Obama pointed out that McCain "said the best way for us to address the fact that millions of Americans are losing their homes is to just sit back and watch it happen. In his entire speech yesterday, he offered not one policy, not one idea, not one bit of relief to the nearly 35,000 North Carolinians who are forced to foreclose on their dreams in the last three months."

North Carolina holds its primary May 6 with 115 delegates at stake.

"John McCain may call helping struggling homeowners pandering, but I don't think the families in North Carolina who are losing their homes would see it that way," said Obama,

who is due to give what aides are billing as a major economic speech Thursday in New York.

In response, McCain said he clearly is in favor of doing more for homeowners.

"I'll do whatever's necessary to help the homeowner, the legitimate homeowner, and we may have to do more," McCain told reporters in California. "But raise taxes as Senator Obama wants to do or some kind of massive bailout that is a needless expenditure of taxpayer dollars is obviously something that I don't support."

In California on Tuesday, McCain said he wants to leave the door open to an array of proposals to address the problems and seemed to suggest he might even be open to solutions that stray from the GOP line.

"I will not play election-year

politics with the housing crisis," he said, adding he would evaluate all proposals. "I will not allow dogma to override commonsense."

But the small-government advocate and four-term Arizona senator also put restrictions on how far he was willing to go, saying: "it is not the duty of government to bail out and reward those who act irresponsibly, whether they are big banks or small borrowers."

In Greensboro, Obama used a question about his Christianity to again address the incendiary comments made by his former Chicago pastor, Jeremiah Wright.

"We can't afford to be distracted ... every time somebody somewhere says something stupid that everybody gets up in arms and we forget about the war in Iraq and we forget about the economy," Obama said.

Prosecutors: Saddam's intelligence agency financed US lawmakers' trip to Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Saddam Hussein's intelligence agency secretly financed a trip to Iraq for three U.S. lawmakers during the run-up to the U.S.-led invasion, federal prosecutors said Wednesday.

The three anti-war Democrats made the trip in October 2002, while the Bush administration was trying to persuade Congress to au-

thorize military action against Iraq. While traveling, they called for a diplomatic solution.

Prosecutors say that trip was arranged by Muthanna Al-Hanooti, a Michigan charity official, who was charged Wednesday with setting up the junket at the behest of Saddam's regime. Iraqi intelligence officials allegedly paid for the trip through an intermediary and rewarded Al-Hanooti with 2 million barrels of Iraqi oil.

The lawmakers are not named in the indictment but the dates correspond to a trip by Democratic Reps.

Jim McDermott of Washington, David Bonior of Michigan and Mike Thompson of California. None was charged and Justice Department spokesman Dean Boyd said investigators "have no information whatsoever" any of them knew the trip was underwritten by Saddam.

"Obviously, we didn't know it at the time," McDermott spokesman Michael DeCesare said Wednesday. "The trip was to see the plight of the Iraqi children. That's the only reason we went."

WORLD EVENTS IN BRIEF

Iraqi military spokesman says 40 dead, 200 wounded in Basra fighting

BAGHDAD (AP) — An Iraqi military spokesman says 40 people have been killed and 200 wounded in two days of fighting between Shiite militias and government forces in the southern city of Basra.

Col. Karim al-Zaidi has given the figure to reporters Wednesday but is not saying how many were militiamen, Iraqi soldiers or civil-

ians caught up in the fighting. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has taken personal charge of the effort to rid the city of militias, some of whom have ties to nearby Iran.

Followers of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr have been fighting U.S. and Iraqi forces in Baghdad and other cities in reaction to the Basra crackdown.

Brazil scientists claim discovery of new prehistoric sea crocodile

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Pointy-nosed crocodiles may have joined sharks as the dominant predators in the world's oceans some 62 million years ago, according to Brazilian scientists who on Wednesday unveiled one of the most complete skeletons found yet of the prehistoric animals.

Scientists called it a new species, "Guarinisuchus munizi," and said it sheds new light on the

evolutionary history of modern crocodiles.

The fossil includes a skull, jaw bone and vertebrae, making it one of the most complete examples of marine crocodylomorphs collected so far in South America, said Alexander Kellner of the National Museum of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. He and other scientists unveiled fossils and a model of the 10-foot-long crocodile at the museum.

Blast at Dubai fireworks warehouse sparks fire that engulfs industrial zone

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A massive explosion at a fireworks warehouse sparked a raging fire that raced through an industrial zone in Dubai on Wednesday, killing at least two people.

When the fire first erupted, ambulances and fire engines struggled to the scene through the city's dense morning rush hour, while helicopters hovered above the ruined warehouse in Dubai's al-Qouz Industrial Zone.

Heavy winds spread the flames quickly, engulfing at least 20 other warehouses and raising a pall of smoke visible for miles.

Five hours later, Dennis Boll, training manager for Quick Intervention Firefighting units, said "the fire was getting worse." After nightfall, the fire was still raging.

"There was one big explosion and then some small ones," said Sunber Raj, a laborer from India who was heading to the bus stop to go to work when the explosion shook this city of 1.5 million people. "The fire spread really quickly and the sun disappeared behind terrible smoke."

Two people were killed and two others were hurt, the Civil Defense said.

McCain renews calls for US to collaborate more with allies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Republican John McCain on Wednesday called anew for the United States to work more collegially with democratic allies and live up to its duties as a world leader, drawing a sharp contrast to the past eight years under President Bush.

"Our great power does not mean we can do whatever we want whenever we want, nor should we assume we have all the wisdom and knowledge necessary to succeed," the likely presidential nominee said in a speech to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council. "We need to listen to the views and respect the collective will of our democratic allies," McCain added.

Coming days after his trip to the Middle East and Europe, McCain's speech was intended to signal to leaders abroad — and voters at home — that he would end an era of what critics have called Bush's cowboy diplomacy. McCain never mentioned Bush's name, though he evoked former Democratic Presidents Truman and Kennedy.

It was, in effect, a fresh acknowledgment from the Arizona senator that the United States' standing on the world stage has been tarnished and that the country has an image problem

under Bush. "We know that we have work to do," McCain told reporters later.

Critics at home and abroad have accused Bush of employing a go-it-alone foreign policy in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks when the administration spurned international calls for caution and led the invasion into Iraq.

"The United States cannot lead by virtue of its power alone," McCain said in the speech, noting that the United States did not single-handedly win the Cold War or other conflicts in its history. Instead, he said, the country must lead by attracting others to its cause, demonstrating the virtues of freedom and democracy, defending the rules of an international civilized society and creating new international institutions.

He said the United States must set an example for other democracies and renewed his call for creating a new global compact of more than 100 democratic countries to advance shared values and defend shared interests. Later, he told reporters he discussed his League of Democracies idea last week with French President Nicolas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

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The Haven provides pet options for college students

By TAYLOR WHITE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's a big decision when a college student decides to get an animal. The financial responsibility and time commitment are only two factors to consider, but one Lubbock animal shelter has a strategy to solve this problem.

Joe Wilbanks, Haven Animal Care Shelter co-owner, said the Haven offers potential animal adopters a trial adoption before fully committing to an animal.

"We like to make sure the animal and person adopting the animal mix," he said, "and if they don't fit, they can bring them back."

He said if a person has any fear about adopting an animal, the shelter will lend the animal out with no charge, this way the animal and owner can see how things will work out.

"If a student has any doubt about the dog, they can take it without giving us any money," Wilbanks said, "as long as we have an address where the dog will be."

Wilbanks said the Haven has 170 dogs, 80 cats, five horses and two pot-belly-pigs. The shelter cares for homeless animals that typically are left on the side of the road near the shelter.

"It's \$75 for a dog and \$75 for a cat," he said of the expense when an animal is adopted, "and this includes them being spayed or neutered and having up-to-

"We like to make sure the animal and person adopting the animal mix, and if they don't fit, they can bring them back."

— JOE WILBANKS
HAVEN ANIMAL SHELTER
CO-OWNER

date shots."

To adopt an animal, a person must be 21 years old, he said, although exceptions are made. An application also must be filled out, including personal information, animal history and a brief questionnaire about the veterinarian used.

"If we have time, we like to make house calls," Wilbanks said.

"That way, we can check out the yard and make sure the animal will be in a good environment, but that doesn't always happen."

Wilbanks said college kids make good animal owners, and he encourages students to consider adopting a pet.

"Our experience with college-age students is good," he said. "They're energetic and

mature, which gives the animal a loving home."

Jennifer Wyke, a junior nursing major from McKinney, said she adopted her dog from the Haven in August.

"I was really nervous about getting a dog," she said. "With starting nursing school and having to study and clinical rotations, I wasn't sure if I would have enough time."

Wyke said she visited the shelter looking for a dog, but had no plans of actually adopting one.

"My roommates and I went to the Haven to just look around, but I never thought I'd find Bailey," said Wyke, petting her dog. "Even though I really wanted her, I still wasn't sure about it all."

She said employees from the

shelter explained the trial run process, and that made her more comfortable about getting a dog.

"After they said I could bring her back if things didn't work out," Wyke said, "I was positive I was going to adopt her."

She said she officially adopted her dog that day, but said it was temporary in case it did not work out.

"I didn't want to get too attached to her, in case I couldn't handle everything," she said. "So I kept telling everyone, and myself, it was only a test."

Wyke said the first couple of weeks were difficult, but with time, everything worked fine.

"At the Haven, Bailey was really outgoing and playful, but when I brought her home, she became distant, and I couldn't connect with her," she said. "I thought about taking her back, but after time she opened up and now is the sweetest dog ever."

She said having a dog takes time and commitment, but in the end the work is worth it.

"My roommates have been a big help because, if I'm at school all day, they let her outside or take her on walks," Wyke said. "She is more like everyone's dog, which is a big help."

Wilbanks said the Texas Tech community has helped the Haven in many ways.

"We have different groups come play with the dogs or take them to the park," he said. "If students miss their pets back at home, they can come up here and play with the animals or take them home for a couple of hours."

He said program helps the animals get used to people and become more outgoing.

"The dogs become more sociable around humans," Wilbanks said, "which helps them get adopted."

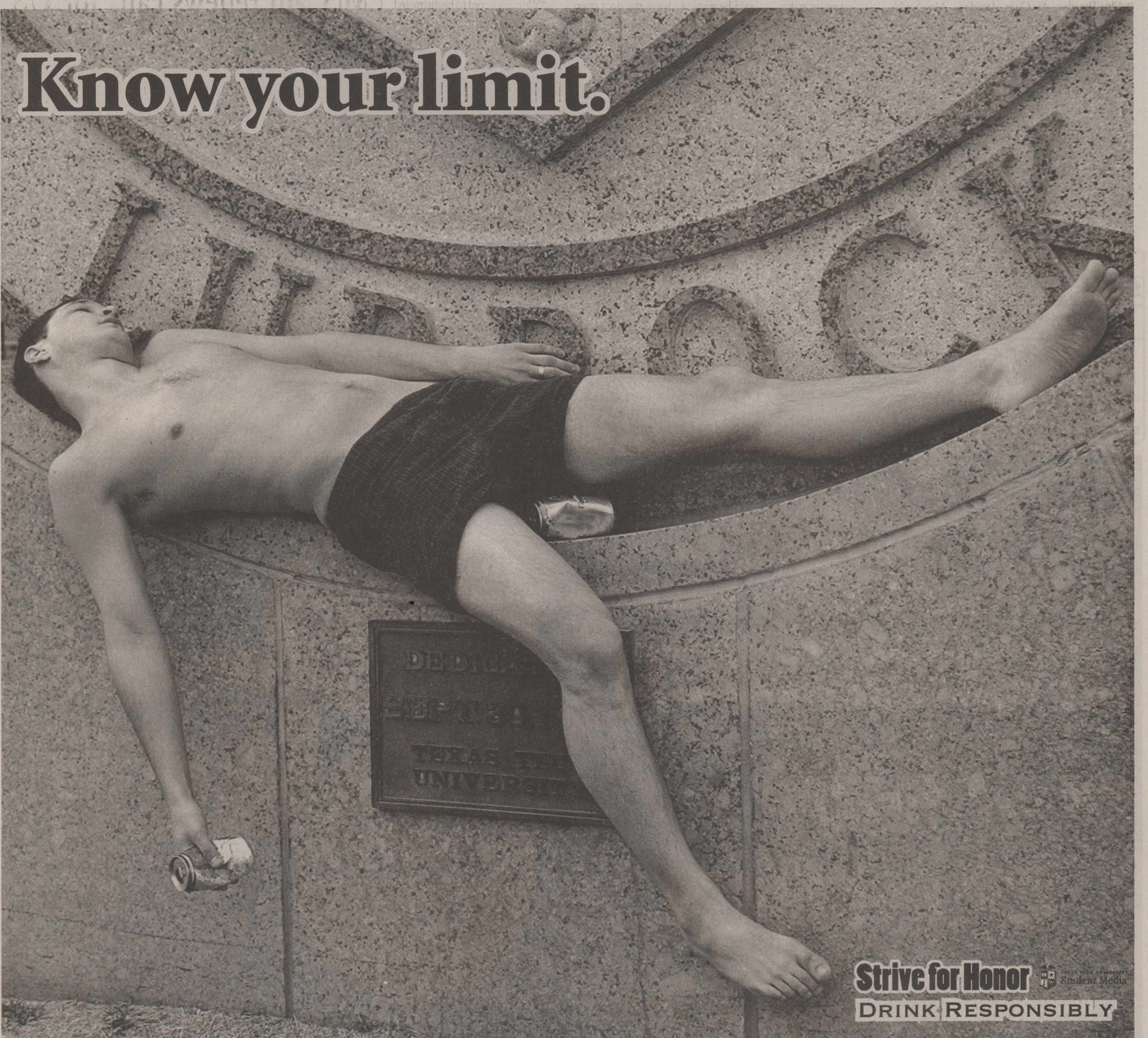
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'Horton' offers humor, lacks message

By RYAN KATHMAN
DAILY NEBRASKAN (U. NEBRASKA)

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb. — With computer-generated imagery now the norm for animated films, the discerning cartoon fan has to start paying attention to the studios churning out consistent charmers and the ones that might as well just produce flipbooks instead of the flimsy, flat films they subject audiences to.

Boasting an unbroken record for animated flicks with both art and heart that include "Finding Nemo," "The Incredibles" and its most recent "Ratatouille," Disney's Pixar is the undisputed CGI champ.

In the losers bracket, there's Dreamworks, which has't made a great film since 2001's "Shrek." Close exceptions include "Over the Hedge" and "Wallace and Gromit," but you shan't be forgiven yet for "Madagascar" or "Shrek Tale," Dreamworks.

There are a few upstart studios challenging the supremacy of these two goliaths, most notably Blue Sky. While "Ice Age" and "Robots" mixed impressive visuals, zany comedy and pathos successfully, the 2006 sequel to "Ice Age" fell into the same traps as

those "Shrek" sequels: rehashing the same gags while sacrificing originality and substance.

That's why Blue Sky's latest effort, "Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!" had Pixar potential for quality, but could also be doomed like Dreamworks to mediocrity. The result is somewhere in the middle: you don't have to be a child to enjoy this bright and bubbly parable, but you may find yourself pandered to as though you were one.

Big screen adaptations of the iconic children's author Theodore Geisel's — a.k.a. Dr. Seuss — classic stories have had mixed results. Ron Howard's "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" nailed Seuss' colorful charm while adding just the right dash of Hollywood snark. But a few years later, "The Cat in the Hat," starring an unbearable Mike Myers, turned a childhood classic into one giant litterbox.

Conceptually, "Horton" would appear to be a step in the right direction, pulling back from the live action of "Grinch" and "Cat" and using the vast possibilities of computer generated animation to bring Seuss' vibrant and fiercely original

Whoville to life.

Thankfully, the attempt is a success, with gorgeous visuals of Horton's Jungle of Nool and creatures of all shapes, sizes and speeds — like Morton, the tiny field mouse whose quickness is comically contrasted by the sloth-like voice of Seth Rogen.

Horton, of course, is literature's most loyal and trustworthy elephant — sorry, Babar — and his dilemma begins when he happens to hear what sounds like a teeny, tiny cry for help emitting from a microscopic speck floating past him.

Jim Carrey, the maestro of manic whose unique talents were a perfect fit for the green ham (and eggs) that was the Grinch, seems at first an odd choice for the sweet and na'Ve pachyderm. But, for the most part, Carrey makes Horton a cute, daydreaming goofball, which still lets him explore his usual vocal histrionics.

Meanwhile, on the tiny floating speck, Steve Carell voices the Mayor of Whoville, a miniature metropolis undergoing all kinds of jolts and jostles due to Horton's overeager movements escaping marauding monkeys or vicious vultures named Vlad (a hilarious Will Arnett).

'The Office' reopens its doors in April

By JEFFY MAI
THE LANTERN (OHIO STATE U.)

(U-WIRE) COLUMBUS, Ohio — Fear not, "Office" fans-your favorite paper company is back from hiatus.

NBC's award-winning comedy "The Office" returns to TV April 10. The show has been on break due to the Writers Guild's strike, but six new episodes are on the way to close out the season.

"People had time to recharge their batteries in a good way," producer-writer Greg Daniels said in a conference call.

"The Office" is a documentary-style look into the 9-to-5 world of small-time paper supply company Dunder Mifflin. Regional manager Michael Scott, played by Steve Carell, is the socially awkward, often inappropriate boss who is completely unaware his employees only tolerate his antics because he signs their paychecks. Obsessed with being cool and liked, he instead comes off as pathetic and absurd.

"I think (the success) is a lot about trying to be original and funny and not being scared of being emotional," Daniels said.

The show delves into the lives

of the workers and their inter-office affairs and relationship drama as well as Michael's own incompetence. Not content with selling paper, Michael always has the office involved in extracurricular activities such as beach day, casino night or a booze cruise.

"We had an aim to be a more satirical comedy," Daniels said.

Complimenting the realism of the office environment is the cast's incredible chemistry.

"On the first day back, it was like our other family got together," actor Rainn Wilson said, adding, "we all go a little mad, even in the office setting."

Wilson plays Dwight Schrute, the arrogant assistant to the regional manager. Using his faux position as a symbol of authority, Dwight irritates the other workers of the office with his obnoxious behavior and ridiculous rules. As a result, fellow salesman Jim Halpert spends much of his time

finding new, interesting ways to drive Dwight crazy.

Sprinkled between all the hijinks is the relationship between Jim and receptionist Pam Beasley, played by Jenna Fischer. The unconsummated romance between the couple finally

came to fruition this season when both were finally single.

Other office Vromances include Michael's continually rocky relationship with former boss Jan Levinson, and Dwight and Andy Bernard vying for accountant Angela Martin's affection.

"We'll see some more facets of Dwight when it comes to dating and women," Daniels said.

And despite a shortened season, Daniels promised the strike had no effect on the overarching storylines. The show will pick up right where it left off on its return with a dinner party thrown by Michael and Jan, which is attended by Jim and Pam.

"People had time to recharge their batteries in a good way."

— GREG DANIELS
PRODUCER-WRITER FOR
'THE OFFICE'

Hindu celebration comes to Tech

The South Asian Student Organization will celebrate Holi at noon Friday at the Student Union Building North Plaza.

The festivities will continue from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday with the Festival of Colors at the Tech soccer fields at 19th Street and Boston Avenue.

Jobi Martinez, director of the Cross Cultural Academic Advancement Center, said this is the first year for the organization to celebrate Holi, and she hopes the event will spread the word about the organization and encourage diversity at Tech.

"Holi is an annual festival celebrated on the day after the full moon in the Hindu month of Phalguna," Martinez said. "Holi celebrates spring, commemorates Hindu mythology and is a time of disregarding social norms and indulging in general merrymaking."

She said the ceremonial event Friday will feature several speakers. Rajan Gadhia, the president of the South Asian Student Organization,

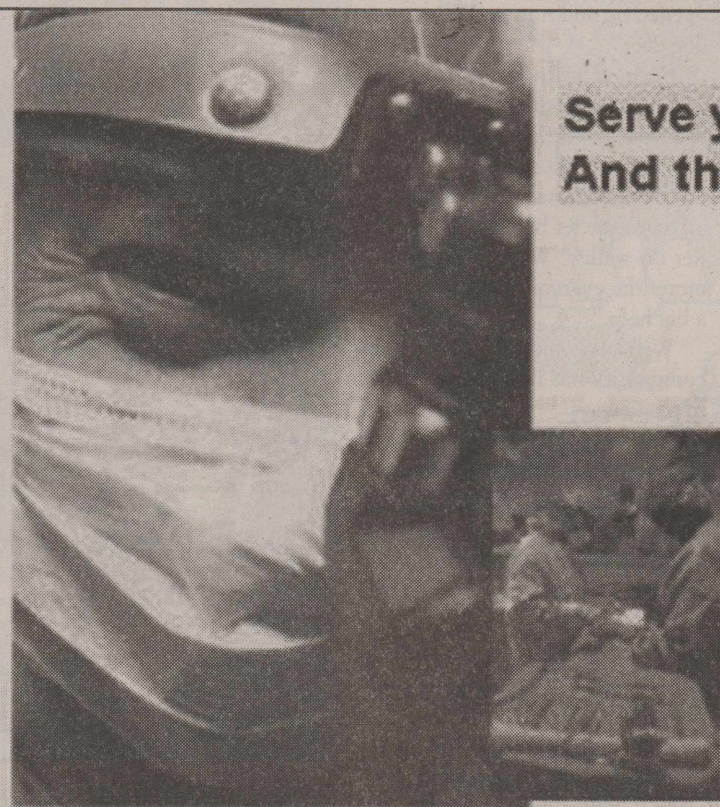
will speak about the history of Holi and what the event represents, and Juan Munoz, a special assistant to the president on diversity, will speak about the importance of diversity at Tech.

The two-day event will conclude with the Festival of Colors, hosted by SASO. The organization will give out free, white, imprinted Holi T-shirts Friday for students to wear to the Festival of Colors Saturday. Anyone is welcome at this event, but participants should wear clothing they do not mind getting paint on as the paint does stain.

Meghna Gupta, a member of the executive board of SASO, said the central ritual of Holi is the throwing and applying of colored water and powders on friends and family.

"We use a colored powder extracted from roses," Gupta said. "You rub the powder on a person's cheek and say 'Happy Holi.' It is a coming together of family and friends and throwing in habitations into the wind."

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Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The return of Batch adds to Tech's depth at running back. The Red Raiders welcome back Aaron Crawford, Kobey Lewis and Shannon Woods at halfback, all of which saw significant playing time last season.

Tech defensive coordinator Ruffin McNeill, who took over the position in the middle of the 2007 season, enters his first full season as Tech's coordinator.

The Tech defense returns many young players who devel-

oped last season including Brian Duncan, Brandon Williams, Jamar Wall and Colby Whitlock.

One of the most notable changes to the defense may be L.A. Reed's move from receiver to strong safety.

"I thought it was a good start," McNeill said. "I think the guys had a great mentality, approached (Wednesday) with a great mentality which is what we expected. I think they expected, too. Not a lot of contact can happen these first two days without pads, but I really thought the speed — they played fast, they practiced fast, they really had some carry over

from the bowl practices. They grasp the new little twinks that we put in and that we added as well."

Williams, who led the team in sacks in 2007 with five, said Wednesday was about listening more than anything else.

"It was good," he said. "Everybody moving around real good. It's a lot of teaching going on. It was OK for the first day."

Leach said it is vital the Red Raiders do not pay attention to how others feel about this year's team.

"They need to do a good job of that," he said. "That's one thing. A smart player does a good job of that. Ignore what's said and all the rest because the opinions that count are the ones that we have in a team meeting. The only thing that we can really improve is improvement

from one day to the next. If we do that, then we'll be as good as we can be anyway."

The Red Raiders will practice for 15 days, including April 19 — the day of the Red-Black Spring Game.

Friday is the last day the players will practice in jerseys and shorts, as Saturday is the first day they suit up in pads.

Harrell said now that practice has started, the excitement has done the same for the Red Raiders.

"It's still a long ways to the season," he said. "I think a lot of people are anxious for it.

Everyone in the locker room is ready to go, ready to play. I think everyone's excited. That's going to be big, and I think it's because everyone realizes how good we can be. If we get on the same page, if we play together, and if we really get together, then I think everyone realizes this team can be really, really good."

Tech practices every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, and works on conditioning drills every Tuesday and Thursday until April 21, the last day of spring practices. Tech practices are open to the public.

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Hiring: Servers, bartenders. All-u-can eat fajilla buffet 11-3. 56th & Ave Q. 744-0183.

HELP WANTED

DEPARTMENT OF Political Science at Texas Tech University is hiring a person to maintain its department website. Must have experience with HTML and PHP coding. Must be willing to work one-on-one with professors and staff to make appropriate text and design changes. Will need to have own computer or access to a computer with webpage editing software such as FrontPage or Dreamweaver. Experience with Texas Tech template desired, but not required. Experience with electronic forms and secure transactions desired, but not required. References required. Contact Frank Thames at frank.thames@ttu.edu.

DIRECTOR OF children ministry part time First Presbyterian Church of Lubbock. Re birthing at 130th Street (Fm 1585 & Memphis). 806-763-0401. pastorbob@fpcubook.org
www.fpcubook.org. Up to 8 hours weekly. \$500/mo start. Come grow with the church. Qualification: a growing Christian who is able to work within the reformed traditions; experience teaching children; organization skills and able to build and train a team of volunteers; implement our teaching goals.

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Local Property Management Company seeking part time landscapers. Will work around college schedule. Send resume to PO Box 53533, Lubbock, TX 79453 or email to michaelamberts@suddenlink.net.

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EARN UP to \$12.00/hr. Conduct Phone surveys. Parttime. Evening/Weekend. Opinion Resources, 3602 Slide B-26.
www.myspace.com/OpinionResourcesLubbock.

FULL/PART TIME positions available at the YWCA Child Development Center. Working with newborns and toddlers. APPLY at 35th & Flint.

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PLAINS PRESORT an established mail service company is seeking a part-time mail clerk. Responsibilities include data entry and Meter Clerk support. Must be able to type, pay attention to detail, and work in a fast pace environment. Hours will be 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday - Friday. Apply in person at 1419 Crickets Ave. just north of the Buddy Holly Center.

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STONELAKE Apartments seeking leasing consultant. Applicant must be outgoing and have positive attitude. M&W 9-4, Sat 10-5 and Sun 1-4. Drug screen and background check a must. Apply in person or send resume by email or fax. 7414 Elgin Ave., 748-1602 (fax). stonlake@am.net.

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\$419/MONTH. WE are looking for two people to take over our lease for Fall 08-Spring 09 at The Reserve at Frankford. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, all bills paid, fully furnished, full size washer and dryer.

EBUZZ.COM seeking Tech students from different majors to write short articles on topics they are familiar with. Relaxed work environment. E-mail ecovlin@ebuzz.com for details.

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3/1/5 1904 28th. Large two story. Completely remodeled. Pet friendly. \$1100/900. June 1st. Joe 806-441-0611.

3/2 3312 27th. Nice Tech Terrace house. Renovated, pet friendly. \$1125/900. June 1st. Joe 806-441-0611.

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Home for sale or rent. 5004 18th St. Near Higginbotham Park. Just a few blocks from Texas Tech campus. Please call Chris @ (806) 773-3730.

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3714 25TH. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Nice neighborhood. \$695/month, \$500/deposit. 773-5249 or 632-2114.

4/2 2415 25th. Close to Tech, remodeled, pet friendly. \$1500/\$1100. June 1st. Joe 806-441-0611.

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www.lambertsproperties.com.

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All bills paid, full kitchen, \$425/\$300. June 1st. Joe 806-441-0611.

FOR LEASE: 3/1 2205 20th St. \$750. 4/2 2218 20th St. \$900. Very nice large 4/2, 4 blocks from Tech, hardwood floors, designer paint, \$1500. Call Bill at 470-7037.

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lori@v-platinum.com. GO RED RAIDERS!!!

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SPORTS

PAGE 10
THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2008

TCU ends Lady Raiders' season with 81-74 victory

By ALEX YBARRA
STAFF WRITER

TCU earned its first-ever victory against the Texas Tech Lady Raiders, ending a 37-game losing streak, with an 81-74 victory in the third round of the WNIT Wednesday at the United Spirit Arena.

Adrienne Ross, sister of former Tech guard Ronald Ross, scored 23 points and Lori Rayford-Butler had 15 points and 15 rebounds to lead the TCU Lady Frogs (23-11), who will advance to the fourth round to play either Colorado or Villanova.

TCU's Helena Sverrisdottir, the Mountain West Conference Freshman of the Year, added 16 points, five rebounds and three assists.

Keisha Walker scored 16 points and Jordan Murphree added 14 points and five rebounds for Tech.

Tech's leading scorer in forward Dominic Seals, had six points and three rebounds.

In a first half that went back and forth with six lead changes and five ties, Tech entered half time with a 46-42 lead.

Tech (17-16) shot 48.6 percent from the field and 5-for-8 from behind the 3-point line, but TCU stayed in the game with 48.6 percent shooting from the field as well.

Tech forward Stanecia Graham made up for any lost time she missed in the Texas State game, scoring all 11 of her points in the first half.

Tech coach Kristy Curry sat Graham in the second round game of the WNIT due to disciplinary reasons.

TCU took control early on, jumping out to a 19-7 lead with 13:20 to go in the half.

Curry recently discussed the hesitant 3-point shooting from guards Walker and Maddy Brown, who answered their coaches challenge with six of the team's nine 3-pointers on the night.

Walker went 3-for-5 from 3-point range in the first half, and hit her first two from deep during a 17-2 run that gave the Lady Raiders a 24-21 lead with just 8:49 remaining.

Tech got its largest lead of the game when Walker hit her final three of the half with under 3 minutes remaining to give the Lady Raiders a 42-37 lead.

Walker came out in the second half with five quick points to give Tech a 51-44 lead, but a flurry of turnovers allowed TCU to go on a 9-0 run. The Lady Frogs regained the lead for the first time since the six minute mark of the first half, 53-51.

Tech forward Ashlee Roberson hit a three from the corner to give Tech

a 54-53 lead just minutes later, but once again TCU had an answer.

Roberson, who had 22 points and 12 rebounds against Texas State Saturday, finished with four points and seven rebounds.

With 8:39 to go, Brown hit a 3-pointer to give Tech a 62-60 lead. After TCU hit three consecutive free throws, Brown nailed another 3-pointer, tying the game, 65-65.

Sverrisdottir sparked a 10-2 run with a layup inside, and eventually

TCU went up 75-67 with 3:23 remaining in the game.

A jumper from Murphree with 17 seconds remaining brought Tech within 80-74, but TCU held Tech off for the win.

Tech shot just 42.9 percent from the field in the second half, and was out-rebounded 24-12.

TCU coach Jeff Mittie's 500th game was the first meeting between the former Southwest Conference foes in nearly 10 years.

► daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu

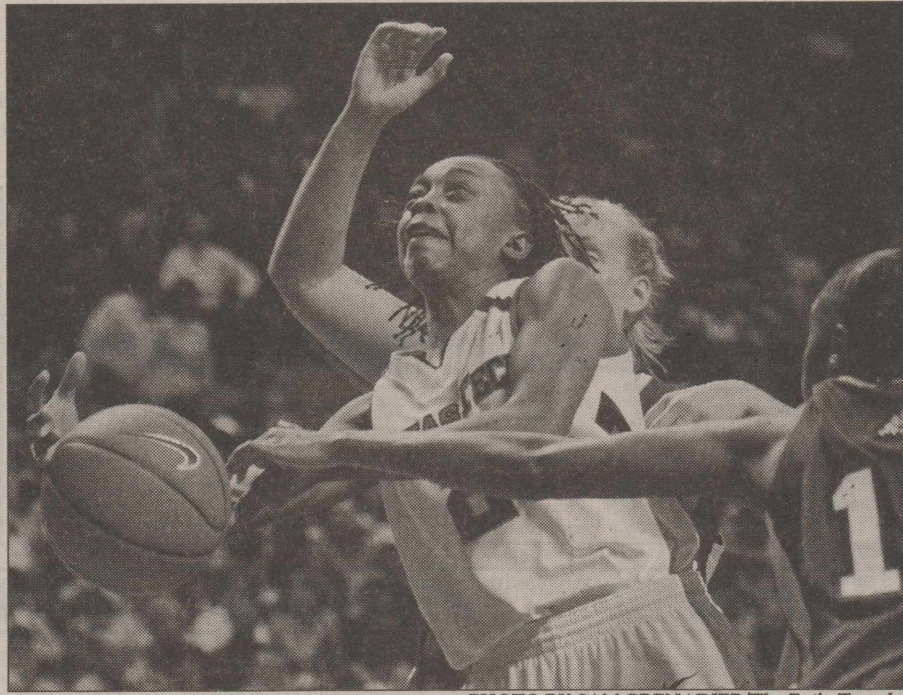


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH GUARD Keisha Walker tries to hold on to the ball while fighting off TCU defenders during the third round of the WNIT tournament Wednesday evening in the United Spirit Arena.

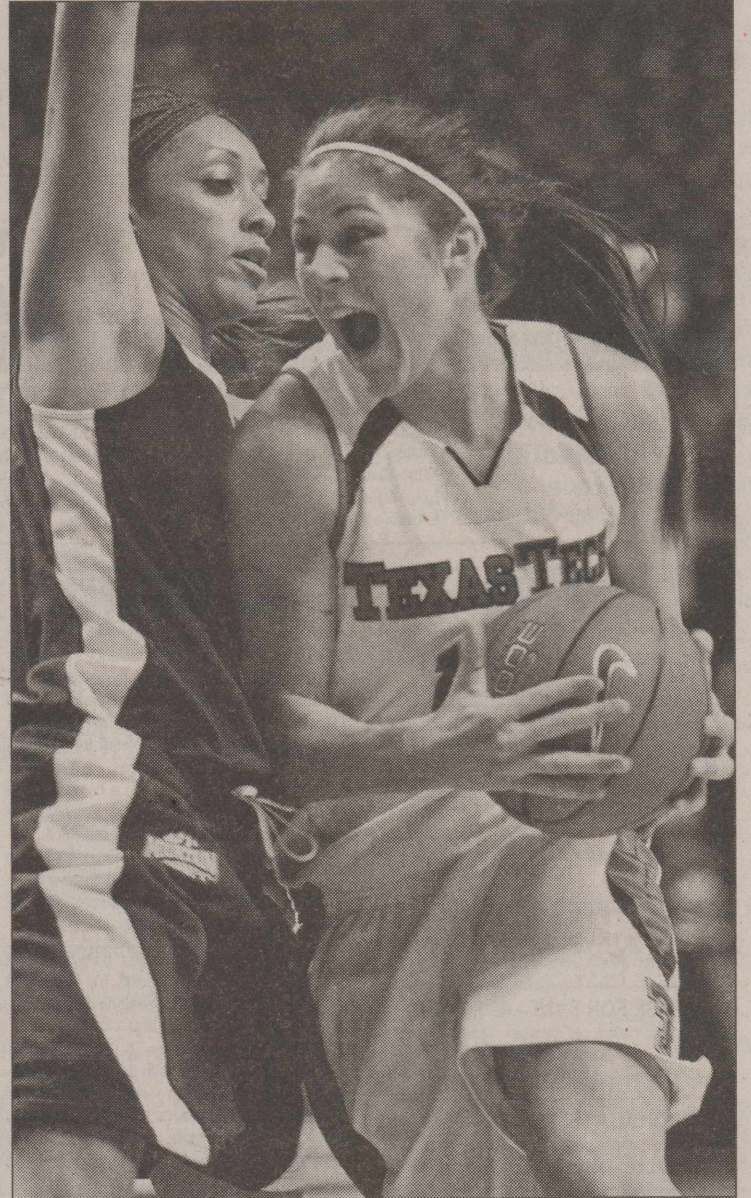


PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH SOPHOMORE guard Jordan Murphree takes on a TCU defender Wednesday night in the United Spirit Arena.

Despite minor injuries, Tech soccer moves forward in spring season

By ALEX YBARRA
STAFF WRITER

Ironically, the Texas Tech women's soccer team has benefited from several minor injuries during the spring season.

Tech coach Aaron Gordon said the lack of healthy players on the roster has allowed more players to develop their game.

"We're a little shorthanded as far as numbers and injuries," Gordon said, "but we basically got 11 healthy players or 10 healthy players right now. So it's kind of a good news, bad news thing. The bad news is we're short handed; the good news is the players who are healthy get to play the entire game."

No players on the team have suffered any serious injuries, except for redshirt freshman Taylor Lytle, who tore her ACL in August.

Coach Tom Stone said with seniors Priscilla Esquivel and Kim Cypert having graduated, the squad was two players short already, so minor injuries have kept some players off the field.

Fielding a smaller squad, after Tech beat an NCAA Tournament team in Central Florida, Tech defeated West Texas A&M, 2-1, in Canyon Mar. 8. Gordon said the Lady Buffs played the Red Raiders like a team on a mission.

"We played a Central Florida

team, which is a very good team," Gordon said. "Then we played West Texas A&M, which is an inferior opponent talent-wise, but they play extremely hard; they give us a great game."

Gordon dismissed the idea that a target is on Tech's back after one of the most successful seasons in team history, in which the Red Raiders reached the Big 12 Conference Tournament for the first time since 1999.

He said the reason West Texas A&M played so well against Tech was a combination of things.

"Any time a Division I school plays a lesser school, or a Division II school," he said, "the lesser school is always going to come out and have something to prove. You have players who play at West Texas A&M who might have gotten passed over at our school, and they feel like it's their opportunity to show why they should be playing here."

Gordon said because the coaching staff has not worried about a fluctuating mentality this spring, each individual on the team has shown steady progress.

"The foundation of attitude and mentality that we laid down in the fall has transferred to the spring," Gordon said.

Assistant coach Ashley Gordon said the team will continue practices before taking on TCU April 5 at Pizza

Hut Park in Frisco.

After TCU, the Red Raiders finish up the spring schedule with Arizona State and UTEP April 12-13 in El Paso, which Ashley Gordon said are two teams that can help Tech prepare for the fall.

"We want to make sure that this spring we were challenged, (that) we were playing against NCAA playoff teams, (that) we're playing against top teams in specific conferences," Ashley Gordon said. "You're only gonna get better, certainly, by playing other competitive opponents."

Ashley Gordon and Aaron Gordon, who are married, have handled the coaching duties while Stone helped out with the United States Under-20 Women's National Team.

The Under-20 team recently played four games against full women's national teams, beating Scotland and Holland, while losing its matches to Russia and Canada.

Stone, who is back in Lubbock, said he still kept in touch with the coaching staff and the players while overseas, but he acknowledged a mental struggle to a certain degree.

"It was an interesting feeling



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

because, first and foremost, Tech is my team, and these are the players that I'm most heavily invested in,"

he said. "The other thing about it is we have such a great staff, they work great with Aaron and Ashley, so I

knew the team would be well taken care of." ► daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu

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THE DAILY TOREADOR

THURSDAY MARCH 27, 2008 www.dailytoreador.com VOLUME 82 ■ ISSUE 119



U.S. CASUALTIES OF WAR
SEE PAGES **4B-5B**



MESSAGES FROM A SOLDIER
SEE PAGE **6B**



4,000 IN PERSPECTIVE
SEE PAGE **2B**

Remembering...
4,000

See pages **2B-6B** for exclusive stories from the soldiers themselves, photographs from the war zone and informative articles about the current conflict in Iraq.

PHOTO BY NADIA BOROWSKI SCOTT/AP Photo

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EDITOR'S NOTE

As I began looking through the list of the 4,000 military personnel who lost their lives in Iraq, I was humbled. Several of those listed were college-aged individuals. Most of those listed had hopes and dreams of what they would do after their tour was over. In realizing this, the faceless names, the two-page list, became real people to me, and it impacted me in a way I never will forget.

This war is not Vietnam; this war is not something you are reading about in a history book. This is a war that directly affects our generation. The men and women who are serving our country in Iraq are our age — They are our peers, our brothers, our sisters, our mothers and our fathers.

The purpose of this section is not to offend those who support the war, nor to side with those who oppose it. When making the decision to honor the 4,000 military men and women who lost their lives in the war, *The Daily Toreador* editorial board wanted to make sure whatever was done was done with tact and integrity.

It doesn't matter if you support or oppose the war, the effects of it are far reaching, and it has an impact on all U.S. citizens. That is the message we wanted to convey with this section.

In commemorating the 4,000 U.S. casualties, we also wanted to take special care and let our readers know: The death of 4,000 is no less important than the death of one. The death of every U.S. soldier deserves recognition and remembrance. That being said, I hope you can read the stories and look at the photographs included in this section and remember the sacrifices that have been made for us.

■ Michelle Casady is *The DT's* editor-in-chief. E-mail her at michelle.casady@ttu.edu

Memorial Circle is place of remembrance, respect

By ANN LUU
STAFF WRITER

Memorial Circle is one of the more renowned landmarks on the Texas Tech campus. Memorial Circle is the one place on campus where walking on the grass is not allowed. This may seem annoying, especially when it's the easiest way to get to class, but it is a tradition of honor.

Memorial Circle always has been a tranquil place of remembrance and respect, especially in times of war.

The unwritten rule about not walking on the grass traces back to 1948 when the Tech War Veterans Association donated the land area to be built for such a memorial.

Heather Soyka, assistant archivist in the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library, keeps track of the university archives.

According to records found in the library, the memorial was dedicated as a living memorial to all Tech students who served in World War II.

Books and documents found in the library show the area always has been a

part of campus, but the veteran's association started the meaning behind it.

Records also showed students used to be fined 25 cents for walking on the grass. The rule was repealed as the university wanted students to avoid the grass out of a sign of respect, not because of the penalties they would receive.

Memorial Circle also has been a place of anti-war demonstrations, as seen in 1971, as well as a place of honor.

Many services have been conducted in Memorial Circle.

Files of the university's past showed in 1986, in honor of Veteran's Day, a ceremony was put on as a local Lubbock citizen read all the names of Lubbock veterans who were ever considered Missing in Action.

Amy Hooker, assistant archivist in the Vietnam Center, helps to keep historical records and online data.

A summer 2005 issue of "Friends of the Vietnam Center," reported in spring 2005, "The Moving Wall" exhibit came to Tech and Memorial Circle.

"The Moving Wall" is a half-size

replica of the actual Vietnam Veteran Memorial located in Washington, D.C., which lists all the names of the fallen soldiers in the Vietnam War.

The nationally recognized memorial was localized as Lubbock's own Marine Corps Reserve Unit marines, fresh out of Iraq, showed their respect by standing guard every night through The Moving Wall's six-day visit.

Though Tech honors soldiers and veterans, students and employees who have passed away also are recognized.

According to the university's Operating Policy and Procedure manual, for 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the United States flag, the state of Texas flag, and the university flag fly at full-staff, unless university administrators are aware of a death in the Raider family.

In that case, the Texas Tech flag will fly at half-staff. Other dates when the flags are flown half-staff are Peace Officers Memorial Day, Memorial Day, National Korean War Armistice Day, Patriot Day and National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

■ vinh-an.luu@ttu.edu

U.S. death toll in Iraq reaches 4,000

By ADAM YOUNG
News Editor

Sunday marked a grim milestone in the United States war in Iraq when the 4,000th U.S. military personnel died, less than one week after the fifth anniversary of the U.S.-led coalition's invasion of Iraq.

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since March 2003 reached 4,000 on Sunday, with the death of four soldiers who were on patrol when their vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb in southern Baghdad, according to the Associated Press.

It has been 15 months since U.S. casualty levels reached 3,000 in December 2006. The levels reached 2,000 in October 2005 and 1,000 in September 2004, and approximately 97 percent of all U.S. casualties have come since President George W. Bush proclaimed the end of major combat operations in Iraq in May 2003, according to the AP.

Though the rate of U.S. military casualties has decreased by approximately 60 percent since the surge in troops to 158,000 in summer 2007, and troop levels are expected to decrease to 140,000 by this summer, according to the AP, there is no clear end to the war in the foreseeable future.

As the war enters its sixth year, Ron Milam, an assistant professor of military history at Texas Tech, said he believes many Americans are becoming frustrated with the progress of the war, the lack of a decisive victory and the uncertainty of what a victory in Iraq would entail.

"This war has gone on now

longer than World War II for Americans," Milam said, "and no one believed it would last that long, and that's frustrating to Americans."

The American public, Milam said, is starting to treat the ongoing war in Iraq in similar fashion to the public reaction to the Vietnam War of the 1960s and '70s, which resulted in the deaths of more than 58,000 U.S. military personnel.

"We don't have a lot of patience as a nation," he said. "The wars themselves are hardly comparable, but America's reaction to it is very similar."

As a contrast between the wars, Milam said, soldiers and militants the U.S. military is fighting in Iraq are part of an insurgency representing different groups and ideologies and not of an established government, as was the case with North Vietnamese soldiers in the Vietnam War.

Milam said military personnel are dying who, in previous wars, typically have not been in the high-risk roles such as the infantry, artillery, armor and combat engineers.

"The people that are getting killed are the transportation people, logistics supply people," he said, "and so you have a whole different kind of soldier that's at risk in this war than you did in Vietnam or previous wars."

U.S. soldiers, who often are protected only by their armored Humvees and Bradley Fighting Vehicles, Milam said, often are vulnerable to attacks from improvised explosive devices, commonly known as I.E.D.s.

"None of these vehicles were designed to withstand 155-millimeter artillery shells that have been rigged up to be command detonated by someone's cell phone," he said.

"That makes this so depressing from both the soldiers' viewpoints, who are fighting there, and those of us who are worried about them."

However, Tech Chancellor Kent Hance said the university's Center for Pulsed Power and Electronics is working on a project to detect and deactivate I.E.D.s before soldiers get to them.

He said the Department of Defense also is working with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the California Institute of Technology and Stanford University on the project to safely disable I.E.D.s, but believes it could take a year or more to perfect the technology.

In contrast with conventional wars of the past, Milam said the U.S. military faces new obstacles in Iraq, including I.E.D.s and suicide bombers at checkpoints in urban areas.

"Those are things that American military are just now starting to think about — profiling everyone that comes through a checkpoint — and it's very difficult, very difficult," he said. "It's a different kind of war."

Though fighting in Iraq poses new challenges to the U.S. military, Milam said the Iraq war death toll likely will not compare with those of wars in the past.

"These casualty numbers — and again, I cry over every one of them, as a former soldier myself — but, in terms of historical wars America has fought for long periods of time, these numbers are very low," he said.

In comparison with World War II, of the more than 400,000 U.S. military personnel killed during the war, approximately 4,900 died on the beaches of France during the D-Day offensive in June 1944, according to the U.S. Library of Congress.

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A closer look at U.S. military deaths in Iraq

- PERCENTAGES BY SERVICE BRANCH: ARMY: 72 PERCENT; MARINES: 24 PERCENT; NAVY: 2 PERCENT; AIR FORCE: 1 PERCENT — COAST GUARD HAD ONE DEATH.
- PERCENTAGES BY SERVICE FORCE: ACTIVE DUTY: 83 PERCENT; NATIONAL GUARD: 10 PERCENT; RESERVE: 6 PERCENT.
- PERCENT WHO DIED SINCE PRESIDENT BUSH DECLARED MAJOR COMBAT ENDED: 97 PERCENT
- MONTHS WITH THE MOST DEATHS SINCE THE START OF THE WAR: NOVEMBER 2004: 137; APRIL 2004: 135; MAY 2007: 126; DECEMBER 2006: 112; JANUARY 2005: 107
- IRAQ PROVINCES WITH MOST DEATHS SINCE THE START OF WAR: BAGHDAD: 1,107; ANBAR: 1,099; SALAHEDDIN: 512; NINEVEH: 220; DIYALA: 135
- PERCENTAGE KILLED BY AN IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE: 44 PERCENT IN 2007; 55 PERCENT TO DATE IN 2008
- PERCENT OF DEATHS THAT WERE NON-HOSTILE: 18 PERCENT
- NUMBER WHO DIED OF ILLNESS: 66
- PERCENT WHO WERE OFFICERS: 9 PERCENT
- NUMBER OLDER THAN 45 YEARS: 83
- NUMBER WHO WERE AGE 18: 33
- NUMBER OF WOMEN: 98
- PERCENT OF THE DEAD WHO WERE WOMEN: 2 PERCENT
- PERCENTAGES BY ETHNIC GROUP: WHITE: 75 PERCENT; HISPANIC OR LATINO: 11 PERCENT; BLACK: 9 PERCENT; ASIAN: 2 PERCENT; MULTIPLE RACES, PENDING OR UNKNOWN: 1 PERCENT; AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE: 1 PERCENT; NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER: 1 PERCENT
- NUMBER FROM CALIFORNIA, THE MOST OF ANY HOME STATE: 429
- NUMBER FROM TEXAS: 370
- PERCENT FROM THE SOUTH (REGION ACCORDING TO U.S. CENSUS BUREAU): 36 PERCENT
- PERCENT FROM THE NORTHEAST (REGION ACCORDING TO U.S. CENSUS BUREAU): 15 PERCENT
- HIGHEST DEATHS PER CAPITA (BASED ON U.S. CENSUS BUREAU POPULATION ESTIMATES): VERMONT: 3.22; NEBRASKA: 2.42, ALASKA: 2.34; MONTANA AND WYOMING: 2.30; SOUTH DAKOTA: 2.26

• NOTE ON NUMBERS: THE NUMBERS ARE BASED ON COUNTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND ASSOCIATED PRESS. MOST ITEMS ARE BASED ON INFORMATION OBTAINED BY THE DOD FOR 3,980 DEATHS, AS OF MARCH 10, 2008. THE AP'S COUNT, WHICH INCLUDES DEATHS REPORTED BY NEWS STAFF IN IRAQ, CONSISTENTLY HAS BEEN AHEAD OF THE DOD'S. THE AP'S COUNT REACHED 4,000 SUNDAY. THE PERCENTAGES FOR MINORITIES AND OFFICERS AND NUMBER OF NON-HOSTILE ILLNESSES WERE UPDATED AS OF MARCH 1, 2008. TOTAL DEATHS IN AP'S CALCULATIONS INCLUDE EIGHT CIVILIANS WORKING FOR THE MILITARY.



FILE PHOTO/*The Daily Toreador*

SEVERAL FLAGS WERE used to decorate Memorial Circle in remembrance of the Sept. 11 attacks. Flags were placed there by the members of the Young Conservatives organization.

BAND OF BROTHERS



PHOTO BY LAURA RAUCH/AP Photo

SGT. MICHAEL BITZ of Ventura, Calif., carries Cpl. Barry Lange of Portland, Ore. off the battlefield after Lange injured his leg while running, as members of India Co., 3rd Batt., 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division engage Iraqi soldiers in gunfire at the headquarters of the Iraqi 51st and 32nd mechanized infantry divisions near Az Bayer, Iraq.

Tech student remembers service in Fallujah

By MATT MCGOWAN
STAFF WRITER

It is autumn 2005, and a young U.S. Marine patrols the unpaved streets of Fallujah, an Iraqi town west of Baghdad which, in the years prior, saw some of the Iraq War's bloodiest siege-like fighting — a town for which many Marines fought and, ultimately, in which many Marines died.

It was Bryan Wilson's first patrol in Iraq, but the insurgent snipers waited without regard for the faces in their crosshairs, whether the faces therein belonged to experienced squad leaders or new recruits.

Discrimination, it seems, rarely fits into the puzzle of war.

The sniper loaded his weapon, pressed its stock to his shoulder, ducked his head and waited for his enemy to walk into view.

It is late March 2003, and, after several days of U.S. air strikes, the first American boots touched Iraqi soil, bringing with them the full military might of the American-led coalition. Tanks, warships and other war machines of many shapes and sizes, missiles and more than 150,000 troops from America and its allies converged on the Middle Eastern country which, aware of imminent attack, already had entrenched itself.

Back home, Americans held their breath and waited for the coalition to crumble.

It fell as mechanized military units sliced through the sands of a faraway desert.

Back home, the invasion appeared surreal and foreign as it glowed through millions of television screens into millions of climate-controlled living rooms.

It was as if the country itself gently crouched where it stood while drawing and holding a long, deep breath. America held that breath and watched.

Looking at him today, Wilson shines through his disciplined-yet-unassuming eyes. He keeps his hair short underneath a baseball cap, sunglasses perched on the bill, but his posture alone tells a gripping, unique story.

Now a Texas Tech student, Wilson is a political science and English major from Pearsall who joined the Marines in 2004 after the war began.

He held his head high as he told

his story, proud but ostensibly reserved. With a clean-cut appearance, Wilson looks as though he not only is a big kid who knows how to throw a football, but also is a warrior who knows, if need be, how to throw a hand grenade at the enemy.

A distinct line deep within Wilson, however, divides his football-playing self from the sharp-eyed Lance Cpl. Wilson. As imperceptible as it may seem at first, both the soldier and student in Wilson resonated through his calm and cordial voice. His duality punctuated his sentences as if it lived on the tip of his tongue.

Sitting near a fountain in the lobby of Tech's University Library, Wilson remembered his not-too-distant life as a Marine. There, in front of that fountain, he sat comfortably, at times even with the slightest trace of a toothy grin.

His story might sound very familiar to millions of others all over the country.

Growing up in his hometown of Pearsall, south of San Antonio, Wilson played football in high school. Even then, enlistment in the Marine Corps enticed him time and again.

With high school diploma in hand, he again considered the life of a Marine. His parents, however, urged him to attend college first. Again, he put his plans on the back burner and moved to San Antonio to begin classes.

For the next few years, he lived the life of a civilian college student in San Antonio, majoring in what he now calls "having fun, more than anything else at that time." On Halloween of 2003, Wilson even met and began dating Jessica McCosker, the girl he one day would marry.

Neither of the two could foresee, however, what would happen next.

When the war began, some of Wilson's high-school friends deployed, and he reconsidered his studies. He then decided it was time. If his peers would fight, so would he.

"I had some buddies who I played high-school football with," he said. "They couldn't really afford college, and they were out there during the invasion. I figured, I wasn't really doing my part, so, much to my parents' dismay, I quit school and joined the Marines."

The skills Wilson said he learned

during military training drastically changed the way he saw the world. The transition from civilian to Marine, to him, was absolute.

"It's definitely eye-opening," Wilson said. "You notice things you never noticed before. You stand up a little straighter, and you definitely have a lot of pride. Guys from other branches, they would call us 'cocky' and everything, but I think we earned it."

Halfway through specialty training at infantry school, Wilson said, the Marine Corps assigned him his unit in the 1st Division's 7th regiment. Allocation to that unit brought with it a great deal of additional news.

He was glad to learn others with whom he trained had the same assignment. The assignment, however, also assured deployment, which, he recalled with absolute eyes, came as no surprise.

"That's why I joined," Wilson said. "I'm not sure what to say about how it felt. It was a different feeling, like, 'Oh, shit. You wanted it; here it comes.' It's excitement, a little bit of fear, anticipation. It's pretty indescribable, to tell you the truth, but you definitely know you're alive."

Before shipping out, he proposed to McCosker. She became his fiancée, and, within months, Wilson left for Iraq.

"(What worried me most) was not knowing if he would come back," she said, "and, if he did come back, that he would be a different person — completely affected by it miserably."

When he looks back to his service in Iraq, Wilson said he first remembers the heat, but not the heat alone. The consequences of heat get grimmer with the realities of war and the austerity of Marine life in the field. Showers were infrequent, and electricity was shoddy, at best.

Multiply the heat by the lack of amenities, Wilson said with a smirk, and it was a recipe for odor. Troops begin "missing those showers pretty bad."

He and the others in his unit, he added, did what they could with what they had: several bottles of water, baby wipes, some Radiohead music on an iPod and a shaded place to sit.

"It takes a while for your body



COURTESY PHOTO/Bryan Wilson

BRYAN WILSON POSES with his weapon as a Marine while stationed in Iraq. Wilson spent much of his time stationed near the city of Fallujah before coming back to Texas.

to get used to the heat," he said, going back to his first day in Fallujah, back to the moments before his first patrol.

Because the Marines wanted to have a constant presence in the city, he said, one patrol would leave the platoon's small operating base immediately after the return of another.

Wilson watched with interest that afternoon as the preceding patrol returned from the town.

"We saw these first guys come back, and they were soaked all the way through their blouses, their flack jackets, their boots, their Kevlar's — you know, their helmets," he said. "I thought, 'Oh my God. And I'm wearing all of my gear.' I didn't know what to expect, so I had on everything I could think of."

As his squad left on that patrol, the heat soon dropped to the bottom of Wilson's list of concerns.

Meanwhile, McCosker wondered if her fiancé was okay. Still in college, she avoided the news and prayed for a phone call. She said they would not speak for long periods of time, some even lasting as long as three weeks. In the meantime, she would make regular visits to see Wilson's parents.

"The biggest trick was just to keep busy," she said. "I had a full-time job, and I went to school full-time. Basically, all I had time to do was just sleep and eat. I just had to keep busy because I couldn't think about it. If I did, all these negative thoughts would come into my head and take over, and that was never good."

As a Marine in Fallujah, Wilson's day-to-day duties varied. He said duties rotated between various activities, ranging from providing security roadblocks to guarding the platoon's forward operating base; from patrolling the streets of the town in vehicles to patrolling them on foot.

Snipers crouched in the buildings surrounding the forward operating bases, Wilson said, waiting for a shot at any Marine on-guard at the time. For those who guarded the operating bases, a keen eye and alert mind could save one's life.

"You'd get sniper shots and random (rocket-propelled grenade) shots and mortar rounds," he said.

Other duties called upon Wilson to be at-the-ready in case a patrol came under attack in town. The duty was called "Quick Reaction Force." If their fellow Marines signaled an attack, he and his squad "would spring into action" and, in cases where a man was wounded, start "flying out of there in Humvees ... to wherever they are and get that person out of there and get them to medical attention."

These reaction teams, he continued, would be standing by to bring patrols more ammunition or manpower — "get our guns to the fight" — in case of an unexpected skirmish. Fallujah's highly combative climate never failed to keep the quick reaction forces very busy.

The duty of a foot patrol, however, awaited him on his first day there. As the first patrol returned, the heat seemed to disappear and survival took the reigns.

The insurgents had prepared a welcome.

"It was my first dismounted patrol," Wilson said, almost to himself. "A sniper action shot at me — well, either me or the guy next to me; you know, we got distance in between us. I was walking along, and I just heard a 'Pap,' just like that, and it hit the wall, and I heard it (ricochet) against the wall later. We all dropped down and were trying to figure out where the hell it came from."

Later, toward the end of the same patrol, another bullet flew at Wilson's squad as it neared the forward operating base. The team,

flustered, signaled their location to the base and opted for a different route.

"We cut through houses and alleys trying to get back without letting the sniper get a good shot on us," Wilson said. The team soon made it back to the base without injuries or casualties, "but, you know, that was my first time out, so it was just a 'of things to come,' I guess."

Bullets continued to fly at Wilson throughout his deployment, but bullets only comprised some of the threat. Insurgents huddled, potentially, in every crowded square or within every abandoned house.

But improvised explosive devices, too, potentially loomed in every roadside gutter. In one instance, he said he and his squad found themselves standing directly over a burlap sack near the road. When they looked inside, the blood drained from their faces as they slowly backed away from two large metallic canisters wired together — a close encounter with almost certain death.

Finally, in February 2006, Wilson's unit returned home, where his family and fiancée awaited him on an airstrip.

In July of that year, Jessica McCosker became Jessica Wilson.

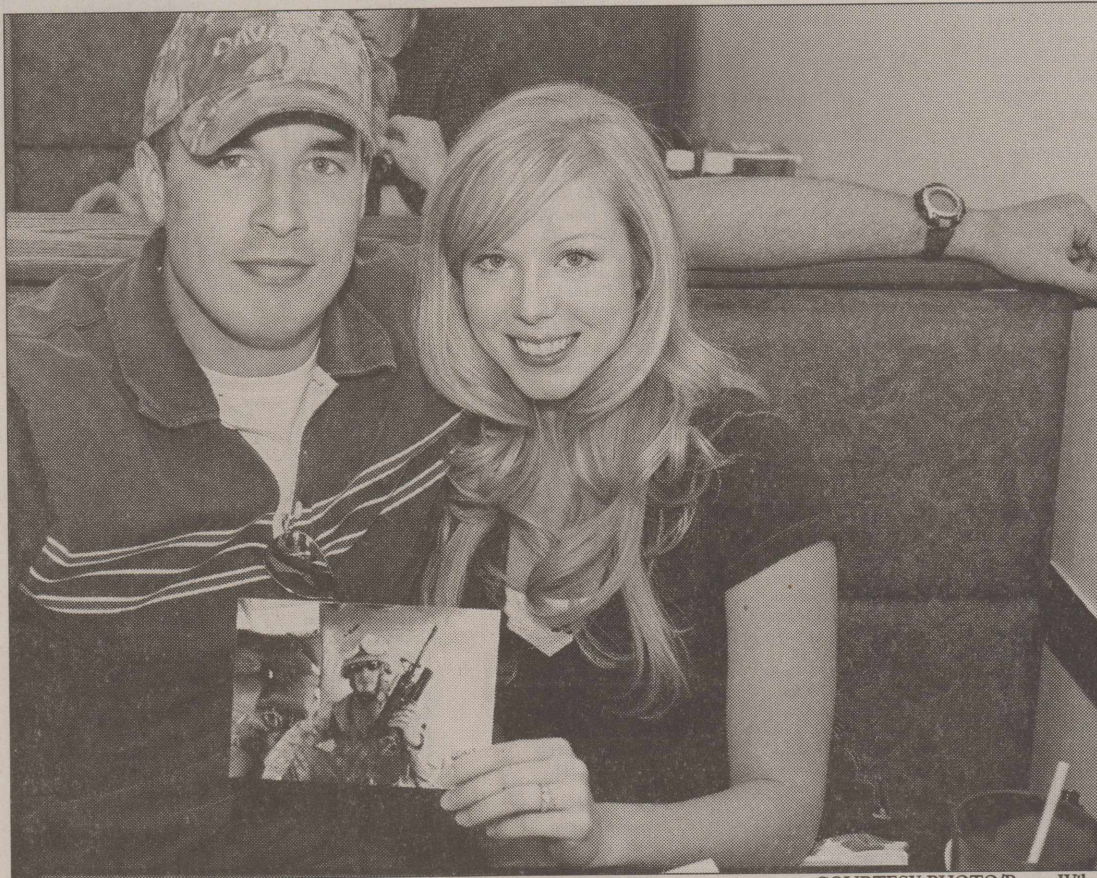
"For a while after I got back, I couldn't sit like this," Bryan Wilson said, motioning his arm at the café around him. "I had to sit with my back, like, against a wall."

Today, Bryan Wilson is out of active duty and currently is serving in the reserves. As a Tech student, he and his wife live in Lubbock together.

There is a rumor, he said, that his reserve unit may be deployed to Iraq in May.

In the meantime, Jessica Wilson said, the two don't like to talk about it.

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COURTESY PHOTO/Bryan Wilson

BRYAN WILSON SITS with his wife Jessica Wilson at Tech Cafe Wednesday more than a year after returning from his tour of duty in Iraq.

Tech professor Mayer shares his views on Iraq war

By BRIDGET DE STEFANO
STAFF WRITER

As a well-accomplished Texas Tech professor with years of experience in the Army ROTC, Lawrence Mayer knows a thing or two about the U.S. military and politics.

Mayer recalled growing up as a child during World War II and his years in the reserves. In lieu of today's war in Iraq, Mayer distinguished some of the strategic and casualty differences in comparison to World War II.

Mayer said while the 4,000 deaths in Iraq are a tragedy, thousands more occurred during World War II.

"Without them," he said, "we would be speaking German or Japanese."

Mayer challenged the report that there was no direct evidence that former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sponsored al-Qaida.

"There is evidence that was reported by the secretary of state,

that there were some 50 meetings between Iraqi Intelligence and various sponsors of Arab terrorism," Mayer said. "Hussein knew we were coming and had weapons of mass destruction. He was just defying the West."

While he said he understood the importance of taking Hussein out of power, he believes "we also took on a task that we should not have taken on — trying to build a democracy."

As a comparative politics professor, Mayer discusses the requisites of democracy — social and cultural factors — that need to be in place for democracies to flourish.

"To go into the Arab world, where there has never been a successful democracy," Mayer said, "we are taking on an impossible task with too few troops."

He said it is vital for the United States to handle the looming issue and not argue about whether we should be there. Now that Ameri-

cans have Shiites and some Sunni militias siding with them, "we owe it to them to finish this task," Mayer said. "The consequences of pulling out and handing them a victory would be catastrophic for America."

Mayer joined ROTC in his last year at the University of California and later switched to the Army ROTC. His first interest was in the U.S. Air Force, with hopes of becoming a pilot. However, the extended tour-of-duty, which lasted up to eight years, would interfere with his plans of attending graduate school. Anyone who was not in school or on break could be drafted. With the possibility of being drafted, it was in his defense to join the ROTC.

"It's not fashionable to like the military," Mayer said, "but without it, we would not be sitting here today with the kinds of criticisms we can make of our government."

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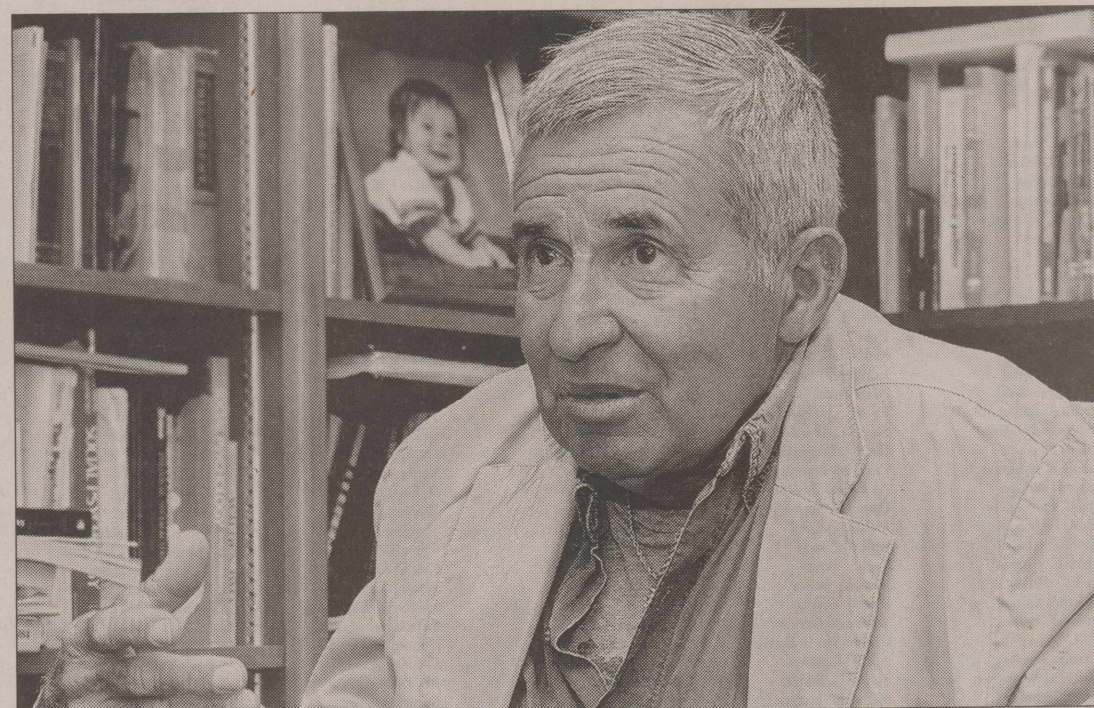


PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador

LAWRENCE MAYER, A political science professor, discusses his stories about his term in the military and the military issues of today.

U.S. Casualties of the War in Iraq

- Roberto Abad, Joseph Acevedo, Ramon A. Acevedo-Portante, Michael D. Adkins, Steven Acosta, Genaro Acosta, James L. Adair, James F. Adamowski, Thomas Mullen Adams, Almeron Adams, Michael R. Adams, Clarence Adams, Brandon E. Adams, Leonard W. Adams, Mark P. Adams, Brent A. Adams, Michael S. Adams, Shawn G. Adams, Shane T. Adcock, Jamaal R. Addison, Jason J. Addis, Patrick R. Adie, Christopher S. Adlesperger, Daniel J. Agami, Andres Aguilar, Nathaniel A. Aguirre, Anthony Aguirre, James M. Ahearn, Jeremy W. Ahlquist, Clinton A. Ailes, Tishan N. Aitken, Spencer C. Akers, James C. Akin, Segun Frederick Akintade, Paul C. Alaniz, Ivan V. Alarcon, Jesse B. Albrecht, Juan M. Alcantara, Christopher M. Alcozer, Zachary M. Alday, Nickolas N. Aldrich, Eugene H.E. Alex, George T. Alexander, Matthew L. Alexander, Alexander A. Alexeev, Tracy Lynn Alger, Michael A. Algrim, Ashraf Ali, Rafael Aliceaivera, Jeremy D. Allbaugh, Jacob H. Allcott, Ronald D. Allen, Louis E. Allen, Howard P. Allen, Lonnie C. Allen, Chad M. Allen, John E. Allen, Terrence F. Allen, William A. Allers, Brian D. Allgood, Glenn R. Allison, Daniel J. Allison II, Jeremy O. Allison, Michael Allied, Eric L. Allton, David J. Almaan, Joseph D. Almar, Joshua C. Alonso, Nicmar Alvarez, Conrad Alvarez, Daniel R. Amaya, Jason E. Ames, Brian E. Amos, Michael E. Anderson, Carl L. Anderson, Nathan R. Anderson, Nicholas H. Anderson, Michael D. Anderson, Danny L. Anderson, Travis W. Anderson, Victor A. Anderson, Norman W. Anderson, Andy D. Anderson, Stuart M. Anderson, Christopher A. Anderson, Ian C. Anderson, Joshua R. Anderson, Phillip R. Anderson, Edwin A. Andino, Michael Andrade, Joseph E. Andra, Harley D. Andrews, Yoe M. Aneciros, Levi T. Angell, Edwain J. Angiano, Bert E. Angus, Matthew J. Anzack, Joseph S. Apuan, Kurtis D.K. Arcala, Elden D. Arcand, Michael A. Arciola, Brian D. Andron, Julian M. Arechaga, James J. Arellano, Derek Argel, Roberto Arzola, Reynold Armand, Santos Raymond Armiijo, Bradley T. Arms, David C. Armstrong, Travis M. Arndt, Jason R. Arnette, Andrew Todd Arnold, Larry R. Arnold, Daniel L. Arnold, James L. Arnold, Alexander S. Arredondo, Carlos Arellano-Parada, Richard Arroya, Jimmy J. Arroyave, Robert R. Arsiaga, Nicholas A. Arvanitis, Brandon S. Asbury, Evan Asa Ashcraft, Benjamin J. Ashley, Trevor D. Aston, Shawn M. Atkins, Julia V. Atkins, Travis W. Atkins, Jay Thomas Aubin, Steven E. Auchman, Matthew August, Corey J. Ault, Aaron C. Austin, Shane R. Austin, Garrison C. Avery, Jeffrey A. Avery, Tyanna S. Avery-Felder, Andrew Julian Aviles, Luis G. Ayala, Alejandro Ayala, Eric A. Ayon, Robert T. Ayres, Lionel Ayro, Brock A. Babb, Travis A. Babbitt, Howard E. Babcock, Christopher J. Babin, David J. Babineau, Andrew J. Babovich, Saleem Bachar, Travis S. Bachman, Henry A. Bacon, Andrew Joseph Badlick, Daniel A. Bader, Cesar O. Baez, Roberto C. Baez, Miguel A. Baez, Nathan J. Bailey, William L. Bailey, Joe L. Baines, Ryan Travis Baker, Sherwood R. Baker, Brian K. Baker, Riley E. Baker, Ronald W. Baker, Zachary D. Baker, Dane R. Balcon, Joel E. Baldwin, Stephen P. Baldwin, Chad E. Bales, Paul Balcer, Terry W. Ball, Kenneth Michael Ballard, Ryan A. Balmer, Michael A. Baloga, Michael C. Balesky, Debra A. Banasak, Scott M. Bandhold, Metcadio A. Bandonillo, Solomon C. Bangayan, Derek R. Banks, Dominic R. Baragona, Thomas J. Barhert, Felipe C. Barbosa, Mark A. Barbert, Collier E. Barcus, Michael C. Barkey, Patrick O. Barlow, Jonathan P. Barnes, Matthew R. Barnes, Eric M. Barnes, Nathan S. Barnes, Christopher W. Barnett, Jeremy D. Barnett, Edward C. Barnhill, Jeremiah A. Baro, Lester D. Baroncini, Aric J. Barr, Ricardo Barraz, Michael Paul Barrera, Chad A. Barrett, Bryan Edward Barron, John Barza, Daniel D. Bartels, Benjamin B. Bartlett, Douglas E. Bascom, Robert J. Basham, David A. Bass, Aram J. Bass, Todd M. Bates, Michael Battles, Phillip E. Baucus, Nathaniel S. Baughman, Ronald E. Baum, Ryan J. Baum, Matthew E. Baylis, Steven G. Bayow, Jason J. Beales, Alan N. Bean, Matthew A. Bean, Bradley S. Beard, William J. Beardsley, Jonathan S. Beatty, Beau R. Beaulieu, Ryan Anthony Beaurpe, Michael A. Becht, Gunnar D. Becker, Shane R. Becker, James L. Beckstrand, Andrew D. Bedard, Brent E. Beeler, Brock A. Beery, Scott J. Behnke, David W. Behrte, Gregory W. Beisel, Jacob A. Belanger, Christopher Belchik, Aubrey D. Bell, Timothy M. Bell, Rusty W. Bell, Ryan M. Bell, Rickley L. Bell, Wilfred D. Bellard, Joseph P. Bellavia, Katrina L. Bell-Johnson, Dominic R. Belser, Jason A. Belkoff, Stephen C. Benish, William M. Bennett, Richard A. Bennett, Keith A. Bennett, Robert T. Benson, Michael A. Benson, Darryl Benson, Johnathan L. Benson, Anthony K. Benzo, David J. Bentz, Ryan R. Berg, Bradley J. Bergeron, Joseph R. Berlin, Eric J. Bernholtz, Travis W. Bernstein, Sean B. Berry, David R. Berry, Joel L. Bertolillo, Stephen A. Bertolino, Marvin Best, Bradley H. Beste, Ray M. Bevel, Allan R. Bevington, John D. Ames, Paul A. Beyer, Mark A. Bibby, Stephen D. 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Caldwell, Derek A. Calhoun, Bobby T. Callahan, Keith A. Callahan, William J. Callahan, Kelly Baker, Lesteroy A. Camacho, Anamarie Sannicolas Camacho, Carlos M. Camacho-Rivera, Joseph Camara, Lyle J. Cambridge, Rachames Camilomatos, Ryan M. Campbell, Michael G. Campbell, Jeremy M. Campbell, Jaime L. Campbell, Juan F. Campos, Marvin A. Camposites, Isaac Campoy, David C. Canegata, Adam L. Cann, Kelly M. Cannon, Wesley J. Cannon, Jakeshene Cannon, Ryan J. Canziano, Samuel M. Boswell, Brian A. Borello, Nathan K. Bouchard, Jeremy P. Bouffard, Miguel A. Boule, Michael E. Bourdon, Elvis E. Boutch, Jeremy D. Bow, Matthew C. Bowe, Samuel R. Bowen, Theodore A. Bowling, Jonathan W. Bowling, William G. Bowling, Jon E. Bowman, Larry R. Bowman, Robert M. Carr, Jocelyn L. Carrasquillo, Miguel Carrasquillo, Casey S. Carraker, Rafael A. Carrillo, Alejandro Carrillo, James D. Carroll, John A. Carroll, Justin B. Carter, Lawrence J. Carter, Mark T. Carter, David M. Casuso, Dana O. Caswell, Mitchell K. 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U.S. Casualties of the War in Iraq

- Christopher D. Leon
Charles A. Leonard
Jesus S. Leon-Perez
Brian S. Leland
Fano K. Letufuga
William J. Leustik
Lee A. Lewis
Dwayne P. R. Lewis
Bryan A. Lewis
Adrian J. Lewis
Joel W. Lewis
Jason Dale Lewis
Dustin L. Lewis
Jesse M. Liochka
Dustin J. Libby
Michael L. Licati
Wilgenre T. Lieto
Victor P. Liqueur
Robert A. Liggett
Robbie G. Light
Daniel R. Lightner
Nicholas J. Lightner
Eric A. Lill
Henry W. Linck
John D. Linde
Michael B. Lindemuth
Troy C. Linden
Justin W. Linden
Darryl W. Linder
James T. Lindsey
Roger P. Lindsey
David C. Ling
Joey D. Link
Karl R. Linn
Terry M. Lisk
Joseph L. Lister
Tommy S. Little
Jason T. Little
Kyle A. Little
Nino D. Livadais
Dale T. Lloyd
Michael C. Lloyd
Keith E. Loyd
Jeffrey S. Loy
Kenneth E. Locker
Jon M. Lockey
Velton Locklear
Eric A. Loggins
Elizabeth A. Loncki
Daniel J. Londono
Jonker Long
Loney Long
Zachariah W. Long
William A. Long
Jeremy Z. Long
Bunny Long
Thomas M. Long
Bradley J. Long
John M. Longoria
Duane E. Longstreth
Jonathan E. Loontjes
Edgar E. Lopez
Hilario F. Lopez
Manuel Lopez
Juan Lopez
Edward J. Lopez
Juan Lopez Reyes
William Lopez-Feliciano
Hugo R. Lopez-Lopez
Richard M. Lord
Christopher E. Lord
Matthew Scott Lourey
Joseph L. Love
Scott M. Love
Robert L. Love
Jeremy M. Loveliss
Jonathan A. Lowery
David L. Loyd
Angelo L. Lozada
Victor R. Lu
Kevin A. Lucas
Joseph A. Lucas
John A. Lucente
Robert L. Lucero
Eric A. Lucero
Bryan C. Luckey
Jason C. Ludlam
Eric R. Luken
Caleb A. Lukin
Jacob R. Lugo
John Lulack
Kevin M. Luna
James E. Lundin
Brett L. Lundstrom
Audrey Daron Lunsford
Joe F. Lusk
Derrick J. Lutters
George A. Lutz
Wai F. Lwin
Sean E. Lyster
Matthew D. Lynch
Jason N. Lynch
Robert A. Lynch
Christopher P. Lyons
James N. Lyons
Christopher D. Mabry
Gregory E. MacDonold
Cesar E. Machado-Olmos
Fred L. Maciel
Yon J. Mack
Brian A. Mack
Kenneth N. Mack
Robert R. MacKenzie
Byant W. Mackey
Michael J. Mackinnon
Richard D. Macrum
Nicholas A. Madaras
Joshua B. Madden
Stephen R. Maddies
Vincent A. Madero
Ronnie G. Madre
Blake A. Magayo
Joseph B. Maghione
Shane R. Mahaffee
Marcus Mahdee
William J. Maher
Jarrod L. Maher
Sean P. Maher
David P. Mahlenbrock
Mark A. Maids
Russell M. Makowski
Dan T. Malcom
Torre R. Mallard
Toby W. Mallet
Jimmy M. Malone
John W. Maloney
Adam Malone
Raul Mamarr Garcia
Michael T. Manibog
Travis L. Manion
Nicholas J. Manoukian
Ian D. Manuel
William F. Manuel
Pablo Manzano
Myla L. Maravillosa
Howard S. March
Jason N. Marchand
Miguel A. Marcial
Luigi Marcantoni
Joshua S. Marcum
Lyndon A. Marcus
Paul C. Mardis
Douglas Jose Marcocoreyes
Jeremy E. Maresh
Jude C. Mariano
Atanacio Haro Martin
Javier Martin
Jose S. Martin Dominguez
Christopher L. Martin
Keith R. Mariotti
Jonathan A. Markham
Gentian Marku
Chad E. Marsh
John W. Marshall
James E. Marshall
Randall T. Marshall
Bradley W. Marshall
Evan A. Marshall
Robert N. Martens
Stephen G. Martin
Ryan A. Martin
David J. Martin
Jay E. Martin
Shawn P. Martin
Thomas M. Martin
Jonathan L. Martin
Timothy F. Martin
Francisco Martinez
Jesse J. Martinez
Michael A. Martinez
Oscar A. Martinez
Victor A. Martinez
Francisco G. Martinez
Joseph L. Martinez
Rene Martinez
Robert A. Martinez
Michael R. Martinez
Missel Martinez
Virgil C. Martinez
Anselmo Martinez
Michael J. Martinez
Francisco A. Martinez Flores
Roberto L. Martinez Salazar
Trinidad R. Martinez
Phillip J. Martini
Michael D. Martino
Jacob D. Martine
Justin R. Martini
Michael A. Marzano

This listing of military personnel has been confirmed by the Department of Defense and was compiled by the Associated Press

Messages from a soldier/Tech graduate in Iraq

By **MAGGIE KIELY**
STAFF WRITER

Capt. Gary Jones resides in Baghdad and describes himself as a "fobbit," leaving the base only on rare occasions, tending to projects.

After corresponding with him through e-mail and reading about his experiences, one might conclude that Jones was being modest in his self description, for the Web site www.army.com defines a fobbit as "a soldier or other person stationed at a secure forward operating base who is reluctant or afraid to leave confines of the base."

But Jones, who earned his master's degree at Texas Tech in international affairs, has been in Baghdad since December. He is the project manager for the 335th Signal Command. He and his men are responsible for providing communication infrastructure for all Combat Operation Bases in Iraq, as well as supporting communication infrastructures to the Multi-National Force.

In the e-mails, Jones had little to complain about except the weather.

"The sand gets into everything and anything. You actually have to cover your electronics when you go out," he said through e-mail. "In the rainy season, the mud sticks to everything and is even more miserable because it's an aggressive kind of stick that you would think it is actually out looking for you."

Jones, originally from Corpus Christi, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in May 2003 and was promoted to captain July 2006. He served various positions in Korea from March 2004 until August 2006.

A seasoned soldier, Jones said one upside to his job is all the support he receives from back home.

"When I would go to Starbucks and see that they were collecting coffee for the troops, I would think to myself, 'Yeah right, it will probably wind up in some crazy place consumed by some bureaucracy and never make it over,'" Jones said through e-mail.

Being in Iraq, Jones said he realizes how much stuff really is sent over, making his job a more pleasant one.

"The dining facility here is like a Golden Corral on crack," Jones said

through e-mail. "There's an Indian and a Greek section, as well as a stir-fry bar. There are other alternatives, though, as we have a Pizza Hut, Cinnabon, Popeyes, Burger King, Subway and Taco Bell. Those get old after a while, so one has to get creative with mealtimes."

The following entries were taken from e-mails sent by Jones about his daily and weekly experiences.

Jan. 11, 2008:

"Wow! Snow in Baghdad! Imagine that!!! I am sitting here freezing at my desk ... Something I never thought I'd be doing in a million years. To top it off, the heater in my trailer does not work, and then the water in the shower decides for itself when it wants to be hot and cold."

"I have yet to have to 'run and hide' from any of the indirect fire attacks yet, though I know I will. I saw some photos from some of the other guys here, and the damage is massive ... and the holes are in a direct route of the walk I make every day. I had lunch with one of my soldiers from Korea yesterday who has been here for 10 months, and she said that the insurgents are morning folk ... that is, they almost always attack between 6:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. She said there were some mornings when the barrage was eight rounds long and all she did was cry in the bunker from being so scared."

"Hmm ... Oh yeah! Tactically speaking, it's kind of freaky at night here because nothing is lit up, so it's pitch black, and you have to have a flashlight to go anywhere. Luckily, I've got my mini-mag to guide the way. There has only one been soldier killed in the last six months due to direct fire (sniper) and that, as I mentioned earlier, was on his way to the gym. Other than that, life is a paradise since everything is free from the laundry services to the DFAC. Tonight is surf & turf ('steak' and lobster), and I am told that the lobster is really good."

Jan. 25, 2008:

"Greetings from Jafar / Doh ... I mean afar ... (pun intended)..."

"The last couple of weeks have gone by pretty quick. Funny how some things came to mind that I had intended to share, but forgot..."

"First of all, I think it's funny how all of our contract laborers are what we call third-country nationals (TCNs). We have probably around 2,000 to 3,000 various middle east-

erners, Filipinos, Indians and a collective hodgepodge of folks who are our janitors and maintenance folks. Anyway, they have to be strictly supervised because, as it turns out, they are TCNs and it would be rather difficult to conduct NSA background checks on all of them. A few days ago, there were four arrested for pacing out distances from the wall to various major landmarks around base as they are 'suspected' to be IDF (indirect fire) targeting. Anyway, when they come and clean, we have to do strict supervision and literally watch them as they vacuum and take out the trash."

"Last week, I got to go through my first series of rocket attacks, a two-round hit on Tuesday and then a four-round hit on Thursday. It literally shook the whole entire ground and felt like an earthquake. I didn't hear or feel the ones on Tuesday because I was in my trailer with the heater on, watching a movie. Thursday, however, was completely different as I woke up at about 7:15 a.m. and heard the first, then second, then third and fourth one. I actually jumped out of bed after the second one because you could feel that they were 'walking in' the hits towards the center of the base. The third one scared me the most as it was the closest to us, and I initially jumped out of my bed. Then I thought it really wouldn't be worth running outside to go to the bunker, as it if it was gonna hit me, I was just as safe in bed as I would be running outside."

Feb. 18, 2008:

"So I was walking to dinner this evening with two of our civilians who work next door and one other guy that works with me and was about a quarter of my five-minute walk to the dining facility. It was a great spring day, with the wind blowing nice and strong and quite hazy and overcast, when all of a sudden, we heard two simultaneous explosions. We crouch behind a concrete wall that was exposed on one side to the wide open, and then another three explosions, one impacting - no shit - 75 yards away. At this time, we start yelling, 'face down on the ground!' because these ones were coming in close! So here I was, lying face down in the ground, all the while listening to little whizzes and whirrs up in the sky as friggin' rockets went by. We started

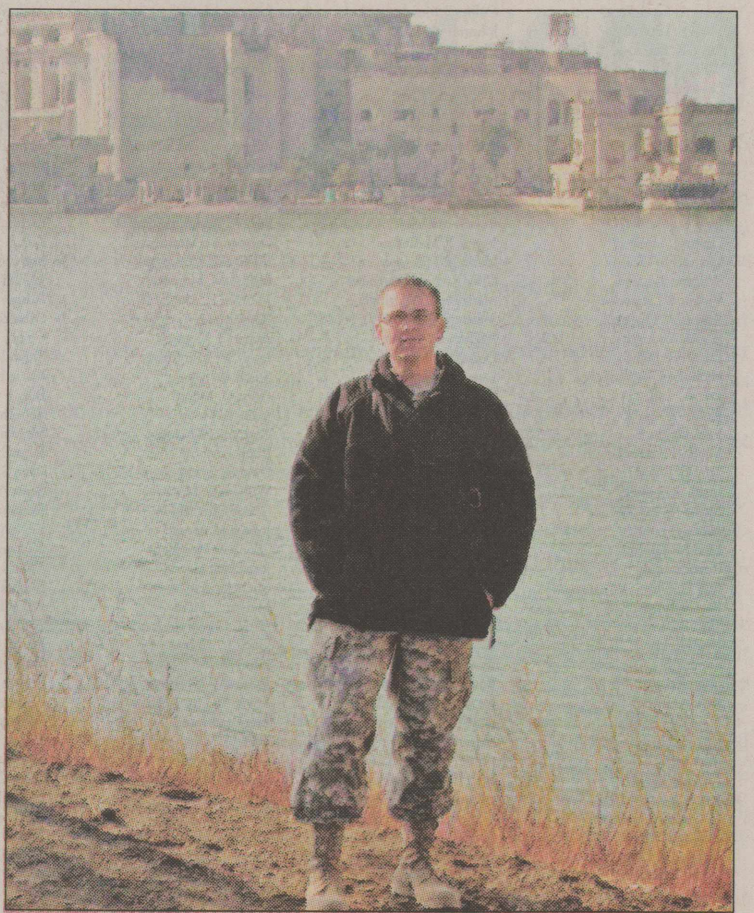
counting the impacts and, after about seven minutes, the all clear sounded. A total of 31 explosions that we counted blew up all around and the ground was a-shakin'! This was actually the first time I shook in fear and started crying ... for about two minutes, then I got over it."

"If I were an insurgent, today was the perfect day to launch a barrage of rockets because (in their minds) the hazy air would probably make it difficult to locate them. And the wind was blowing nice and strong too, so that gave an them an extra lift. But I'm OK now ... Just lost my appetite for dinner and probably a couple of-meals tomorrow as well. All had been quiet for about two weeks now, but damn they made a comeback, and the worst attack since I have been here."

Feb. 25, 2008:

"Well, OK, every now and then we gotta inflate our own egos, but I've managed to impress even myself with what I have accomplished in just two-and-a-half months. I've been able to kick enough ass and make some stuff happen to be asked to assume command of E Company, 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, in April. The company itself is located in Basrah, down south close to the Iraq/Kuwait border, and consists of 31 soldiers and 72 civilian equipment operators and provides communications support to the Um Qasr Prison, which has close to 3,000 detainees and is commanded by a one-star general. We also provide communications support to the southern part of Iraq below Talil, and we make sure that everyone down in the south can communicate both in and out of the theater. It has its challenges, especially since it's pretty remote, and now that Al-Sadr has announced an extension of its cease-fire, many of his coalition groups are beginning to break away, angered with his decisions, and begin to mount their own attacks. I will begin my change of command inventories in mid-March and then will move down to Basrah (with the Brits, nonetheless) in April."

"After last week, I found myself 'jumping' after several large booms and bangs of heavy machinery working throughout the base, but thankfully I was only alarming myself. I did complete the Combat Lifesaver Course and am now certified as a combat lifesaver, which means I have Army authority to perform 'advanced first aid' on the battlefield to include application of tourniquets and IVs and saline lock sticks. It was fun. I got to practice sticking IVs in 3 people, and I was



COURTESY PHOTO/Capt. Gary Jones
Capt. Gary Jones standing in front of a palace in the Victory Base Center in Baghdad, Iraq.

stuck myself four times by one person trying to find a vein.

"Aside from the negative stuff you hear in the news, we really are doing some great things over here. Take, for instance, my team here. We build commercialized communications infrastructure in and around various bases throughout the country and have them all interconnected. One day, when we do pull out, there is no plan to rip up all of the cabling and microwave towers and whatnot that we have established."

March 15, 2008:

"I finally got to go on my first convoy yesterday through downtown Baghdad to the 'heavily fortified' Green Zone. I just hopped on board the Rhino Bus. We call it a Rhino because it is built to withstand any attack and is also heavy enough to just barge right through anything, should it come under attack. We left early yesterday morning from the Al-Faw palace parking lot along with four Humvee escort trucks, all with gunners on top. The last vehicle in every convoy has a sign both in both English and Arabic on the back that reads, 'stay back 100 meters or you will be shot.' It was quite obvious that these were paid much heed because there were 'wolf packs' of civilian cars driving slowly behind the convoys out and

about that all had their emergency blinkers on. Once we got into the Green Zone (officially named the International Zone or IZ), we had to go through three checkpoints just break into the main drag. Oftentimes, the news media has their own way of exaggerating stories, but when they say heavily fortified, that sure ain't no joke! The IZ is full of compounds within compounds. You had to go through an additional four checkpoints just to get into the U.S. Embassy compound where the Embassy is at. In addition, at every checkpoint, we had to dismount the vehicle and clear our weapons (dry fire them into a barrel to make sure there is no round chambered), as we were required to have a magazine loaded with your weapon. If you have an 'accidental discharge,' then you are pretty much sent packing home and UCMJ is sure to follow you. At any rate, once I met up with an old friend of mine, I got a grand tour of the whole area.

"All in all, when 'they' say ... the heavily fortified green zone ... 'They ain't jokin'! It is still more dangerous because it is much smaller and more compact than the Victory Base Complex, and thus easier subjected to damage from rocket attacks."

► mag8240@hotmail.com



COURTESY PHOTO/Capt. Gary Jones
A look inside the New Baath Party Headquarters inside the "heavily fortified Green Zone" Capt. Gary Jones visited.



COURTESY PHOTO/Capt. Gary Jones
An example of damage done to a road after being hit by indirect fire — one part of Capt. Gary Jones' daily life.



COURTESY PHOTO/Capt. Gary Jones
A skyline view of Baghdad, Iraq where Capt. Gary Jones is stationed.



COURTESY PHOTO/Capt. Gary Jones
Capt. Gary Jones sitting in a playground outside of a palace in the Victory Base Center in Baghdad, Iraq.