

THE ART OF PONG

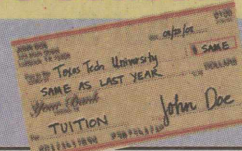
Students create beer pong tables
LA VIDA, C1

Tech football takes on great expectations for 2008 season

SPORTS, D1

Tuition freeze, faculty raises

CAMPUS, B1

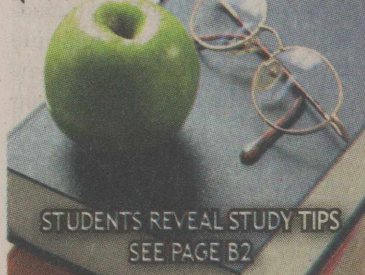


MONDAY, AUG. 25, 2008
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THE DAILY T O R E A D O R

Serving the Texas Tech University community since 1925

(INSIDE)



STUDENTS REVEAL STUDY TIPS
SEE PAGE B2

(INBRIEF)

STATE

Court declines to throw out indictments

AUSTIN (AP) — An appeals court has declined to throw out money-laundering indictments against two of former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay's political operatives, who had claimed that state elections law used to charge them was too confusing to proceed.

Attorneys for Jim Ellis and John Colyandro, who operated Texans for a Republican Majority during the 2002 campaign, argued that the 3rd Court of Appeals should toss out their indictments because the laws used against them were vague and overbroad.

NATION

Bush blames Democrats for high gas prices

CRAWFORD (AP) — President Bush on Saturday blamed the Democratic-led Congress for the high cost of gasoline and renewed his call for expanded offshore drilling to increase U.S. oil supplies.

"To reduce pressure on prices, we need to increase the supply of oil, especially oil produced here at home," Bush said in his weekly radio address.

Congress left for the August recess without a solution to fuel prices. In a bid to force a vote on offshore drilling, Republicans blocked Democratic proposals to use the nation's petroleum reserve, curb oil speculation and require oil companies to drill on already leased federal lands.

WORLD

US Navy warship arrives with aid for Georgia

BATUMI, Georgia (AP) — A U.S. Navy warship carrying humanitarian aid for Georgia has anchored in the southern Georgian port of Batumi.

The arrival of the guided-missile destroyer USS McFaul on Sunday is a strong signal of support for an embattled ally.

The McFaul is loaded with 72 pallets of humanitarian aid, and is also outfitted with an array of weaponry, including Tomahawk cruise missiles. It's the first of five American ships scheduled to arrive this week with supplies.

DEATH TOLL

4146

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

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Chamber sponsors alcohol sales petition

By MIKE GRAHAM
STAFF WRITER



PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Treador

CARS TRAVEL DOWN the short road at the Strip off of Highway 87.

For the first time in 36 years, the process to attempt changing alcohol sales laws in the city of Lubbock is underway.

In 1972, Lubbock began selling alcohol by the container in restaurants and clubs. In 2009, packaged beer and liquor may be sold throughout the city limits of Lubbock for the first time since prohibition.

The chamber is seeking to initiate a petition which, if signed by enough registered Lubbock voters, would put a proposal on the May 2009 county ballot to legalize alcohol sales in Lubbock.

In July, the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce issued a survey to its approximately 2,200 members in Lubbock. The survey's response has led to the chamber considering drafting a petition to legalize the sale of alcohol in Lubbock and possibly in all of Lubbock County.

"Over the years, we've had several members express their desire to have the chamber look into this issue," said Norma Johnson, vice president of legislative affairs at the chamber. "Beginning around June, we had a large amount of members come up to us and bring this up as a business issue."

Johnson said, about the same time, Lubbock City Council began a zoning study to see where alcohol could potentially be permitted for sale in the city.

In July, the chamber issued a survey to its members. The main question was: Regardless of how store owners would vote in the

ALCOHOL SALES continued on page 2 >>

Students cope with crowding

By ADAM YOUNG
NEWS EDITOR

Sophomore David Miller spent the first nights of his second year at Texas Tech sleeping in the third-floor study lounge of Weymouth Residence Hall with United States and Texas flags draped over his bunk bed to give him privacy and block out the light.

"I guess they're not going to let me stay here all semester," said Miller, a chemical engineering major from Argyle, while sitting in the makeshift living quarters that also have been assigned to three other students who hadn't arrived by Thursday. "I'd be totally OK with it if I have the room to myself

CROWDING continued on page 5 >>



KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Treador

SOPHOMORE DAVID MILLER, a chemical engineering major from Argyle, uploads photos while in his temporary room, a study lounge in Weymouth Residence Hall.

Early numbers show increase in freshmen, minorities

By JON VANDERLAAN
STAFF WRITER

After boasting record numbers for freshman enrollment in 2007, the 2008 early enrollment numbers suggest Texas Tech will welcome 530 more freshmen than last year.

James Burkhalter, Tech senior associate vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, said the increase in freshman population is part of the effort to reach 40,000 students.

The early enrollment report released during the Board of Regents meeting Aug. 7 predicted a freshman class of 5,045, an 11.7 percent increase from last year and the largest freshman class in Tech history according to the report.

"We're in a competitive environment," he said, "we're hoping for fairly consistent small increases that will allow us to grow to 40,000."

Although Burkhalter said the numbers are a small-to-medium increase in freshmen enrollment,

he said the total population of the university would remain about the same because recent graduates made up a large class.

However, these numbers are only speculation he said, and the official numbers will not be released until the 20th class day.

Juan Muñoz, special assistant to the president for diversity and equity, said as the state's highest achievers become more diverse, Tech is natu-

ENROLLMENT continued on page 2 >>

Tech football ticket sales sets new school record

By ADAM COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Texas Tech Athletics achieved a new milestone by passing the 40,000 mark with 41,080 tickets sold for the 2008 football season.

This is the second time the Tech Athletics Department passed the 40,000 mark. In 2005, 40,430 tickets were sold. During that season the Red Raiders finished 9-2 with an appearance in the Cotton Bowl.

Senior Associate Athletic Director Craig Wells said the Red Raiders' public expectations helped the department with ticket sales.

"We hope every year to sell as many as possible," Wells said, "but based on what we had coming back in the fall — what you hear around town and various other towns across West Texas — we thought we had a pretty good chance to sell a good amount of tickets."

Wells said extra publicity helps sell tickets, but there also is a growing popularity for Tech football games.

"What we try to push for is the fact that coming to a Texas Tech football game is a fun experience for a family, for individuals," he said. "The game is great, but the whole gameday experience is something that is fun."

Coming into the 2005 season,

the Red Raiders finished the previous season with an 8-4 record and a Holiday Bowl win over California. This season, Tech is coming off a Gator Bowl win over Virginia, finishing 8-4.

Dave Welsh, associate athletic director, said the similarities between the 2005 and 2007 seasons contribute to the ticket sales.

"Both years there were seven home games," he said. "In fact, 2005 was the last year of the 11-game season. We actually had all three of our non-conference (games) at home. So we had seven total coming off the Holiday Bowl win the year before. The fact that there's a lot of excitement, it's very similar this year with the Gator Bowl win. I think they have a lot more starters coming back this season than the Cotton Bowl team. There's a lot of similarities."

All season ticket packages sold out on Aug. 20. The final number of season tickets sold is 41,732. There still are tickets on sell for individual games, except Texas on Nov. 1.

The Red Raiders also play Eastern Washington, SMU, UMass, Nebraska, Oklahoma State and Baylor at home this season.

The season starts when Tech faces Eastern Washington at 6 p.m. Saturday at Jones AT&T Stadium.

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Expansion of Jones AT&T Stadium expected to bring more than appeal

By ADAM COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Texas Tech's Board of Regents hopes the completion of a \$25 million expansion to Jones AT&T Stadium will attract students and faculty to the university.

On Aug. 7, the board announced the expansion of the east side of Jones AT&T Stadium. Administrators believe the addition to the stadium will not only add to the appeal of the stadium, but attract students and faculty to Tech in coming years.

"This is just one of the things that's going to make Texas Tech one of the best places in the country for students to come and live and study and have a good time," Tech President Guy Bailey said.

The project is in the final stages of funding

with approximately \$19 million already raised. Tech Athletics Director Gerald Myers said \$15 million of the \$19 million was given by AT&T. He said \$14 million of that donation will go toward construction and the remaining \$1 million will be put into sponsorships and marketing. Administrators still need approximately \$6 million to complete the fundraising project, which is expected to be raised by donations.

The board plans to continue the Spanish Renaissance style of the west side of the building with the east side expansion. There will be an addition of 500 club seats with more than 20 new suites. This is expected to increase capacity at the stadium from 52,700 to 53,700. Construction on the additions is expected to start following Tech's last home football game against Baylor on Nov. 29. The



COURTESY OF TEXAS TECH FACILITIES AND PLANNING

THE STADIUM EXPANSION is expected to be completed by 2009.

stadium is expected to be completed to some extent by 2009, said David McClure, assistant vice chancellor of communications.

Jones AT&T Stadium's current capacity

is the eighth highest in the Big 12 Conference. Tech coach Mike Leach said he believes the

STADIUM continued on page 5 >>

	TODAY Mostly Sunny High 90 Low 65		Tuesday Mostly Sunny High 91 Low 67		Wednesday Isolated T-Storms High 92 Low 66		Thursday Sunny High 91 Low 65		Friday Isolated T-Storms High 85 Low 63
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Alcohol Sales

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

general election, should the issue of legalizing alcohol sales in Lubbock come to a vote? Johnson said a larger than normal percentage of its members — 26 percent — responded to the survey. Of those respondents, 87 percent of businesses said they were in favor of having an election to determine whether Lubbock should allow packaged alcohol sales.

"Our strong position right now is that (expansion of alcohol sales) needs to come before the voters," Johnson said.

The chamber is neutral on whether or not alcohol sales should be permitted in the city, Johnson said, but believes it is time for Lubbock voters to reconsider the issue.

The chamber estimates it will take about 16,000 signatures to put the proposal on the May ballot, but is waiting to hear back from the county to receive an exact number.

Johnson said the Chamber of Commerce believes there are more than 16,000 registered voters in Lubbock who would be in favor of signing a petition for the issue to come to a general election vote.

However, the scope of the petition has not been defined yet. While

the city of Lubbock would definitely be included in the petition, it could include all of Lubbock County.

Currently, the only city in Lubbock County with legalized packaged alcohol sales is the city of Wolfforth. In 2006, a proposal passed which legalized the sale of beer and wine exclusively.

Wolfforth's process to become a wet city started when 10 registered voters in Wolfforth applied for a petition with the city. The petition received enough signatures for a proposal to be put on the ballot and the proposal was voted into law.

Wolfforth City Secretary Debbie Youngblood said stores that sell alcoholic beverages must have a Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission permit, must be in a commercial zone in the city and must be more than 300 feet away from a school or church. The only exception to the 300 feet law is convenience stores with a monthly income that is less than 50 percent in alcohol sales.

The prospect of a petition for legalizing the sale of alcohol in Lubbock has already met its share of opposition.

Companies along The Strip and on the outskirts of Lubbock are less than excited about the idea of a petition and subsequent proposal passing and allowing alcohol sales in the city

of Lubbock.

"It's going to affect all the beer stores," Shrona Williams, manager of Wayne's liquor store said. "[We have] been a family business for 35 years. It would hurt if it passed. We'd be able to sell liquor but our beer sales would go down."

Williams said she did not believe many of the stores on The Strip would survive if a proposition passed.

"It would just be hard to compete with Wal-Mart, Sam's and United," Williams said.

Williams added that petitions to legalize alcohol sales in the Lubbock area have been attempted in the past and have always failed.

The Lubbock Area Baptist Association has passed a resolution to encourage citizens not to sign a petition legalizing alcohol sales. Larry Jones, the director of missions with the association, is forming a political action committee to counter the Chamber of Commerce.

"The petition is a business decision," Jones said. "It's simply profiteering. The availability of alcohol increases the rate of crime, the number of people in our county hospitals for alcohol related reasons and domestic violence all of which increases costs for taxpayers. That outweighs the income of a few people (selling alcohol)."

Wolfforth police chief Rick Scott said there has been no significant increase of crime in his city since the legalization of packaged alcohol.

The issue also polarizes Texas Tech students.

"It's inconvenient to go to The Strip," said Leah Crosby, a horticulture graduate student from Belton. "Overall though, I like Lubbock being dry because I think it reduces alcohol use. If you want to drink alcohol in Lubbock you can go to Chili's or somewhere. I'm all for having a drink so often but I think getting drunk is wrong."

But other students are in favor of legalizing alcohol sales in Lubbock as long as drinkers are responsible.

Ronjan Mathur, a senior electrical engineering major from Houston, said convenience and vehicle safety is the main reason legalizing alcohol sales in Lubbock would be good for the community.

"It also seems like it would be safer," Mathur said. "Having the alcohol distributors so far away encourages people to drive drunk."

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Rights group: 78 Afghans killed; US to investigate

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— Scores of Afghan civilians who had gathered in a small village for the memorial ceremony of a militia commander were killed when U.S. and Afghan soldiers launched an attack in the middle of the night, officials and villagers said Saturday.

President Hamid Karzai condemned the early Friday operation in western Afghanistan and said most of the dead were civilians. The U.S. coalition, however, said it believed only five civilians were among those killed and said that it would investigate the Afghan claims.

An Afghan human rights group that visited the site of the operation said Saturday that at least 78 people were killed. The Ministry of Interior has said 76 civilians died, including 50 children under the age of 15, though the Ministry of Defense said 25 militants and five civilians

were killed.

Meanwhile, a school principal and police official said Afghan soldiers tried to hand out food and clothes Saturday in Azizabad — the village in Herat province where the operation took place. But villagers started throwing stones at the soldiers, who then fired on the villagers and wounded up to eight people.

An Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission researcher visited Azizabad in Herat province and found that 15 houses had been destroyed and others were damaged, said Ahmad Nader Nadery, the group's commissioner.

Nadery said the information was preliminary and the group would publish a final report. He did not provide a breakdown of how many were civilians or militants, and said 20 women were among the dead and that children also were killed.

Nadery confirmed reports from

villagers that a memorial ceremony was being held for a deputy militia commander allied with the Afghan police named Timor Shah, who had died in a personal dispute several months ago. Because of the memorial, relatives and friends from outside Azizabad were staying overnight in village homes, he said.

An AP photographer who visited Azizabad on Saturday said he saw at least 20 graves, including some graves with multiple bodies in them. He said he saw around 20 houses that had been destroyed.

Originally the U.S. coalition said the battle killed 30 militants, including a wanted Taliban commander, but U.S. coalition spokeswoman Rumi Nielson-Green said Saturday that five civilians — two women and three children connected to the militants — were among the dead.

Plane crash kills pilot, 9 clinic workers

MOAB, Utah (AP) — It had already been a long day when Dr. Lansing Ellsworth and his team of dermatology specialists climbed aboard a twin-engine plane in southeastern Utah, ready to return home to their families 200 miles away.

But shortly after takeoff Friday evening, their Beech King Air A-100 crashed in the nearby hills and exploded. All 10 people on board were killed.

National Transportation Safety Board investigator Tealeye Cornejo said the investigation will be difficult because much of the plane burned.

"The fire was so intense, there's not a lot of it left," she said.

On board were employees of Southwest Skin and Cancer/Red Canyon Aesthetics & Medical Spa, a dermatology company based in Cedar City. Moab was one of nine regular stops the team made traveling in Utah, northern Arizona and Nevada, providing skin treatment that might not otherwise be available in small, remote communities.

They had gotten an early start Friday, flying east to Moab so they could spend the day at a clinic there dedi-

cated to the prevention and treatment of skin cancer.

"They felt it was a need they could service," said Dane Leavitt, a friend of many on the trip and CEO of the company that owned the plane. "Our hearts are broken."

Grand County Sheriff James Nyland identified the dead as pilot David White; the company's director, Lansing Ellsworth, 50, and his son Dallin, 23; David Goddard, 60, and his daughter Cecilee, 31; Mandy Johnson; Marcie Tillery, 29; Valerie Imlay, 52; Keith Shumway, 29; and Camie Vigil, 25.

"It is with disbelief that we struggle to comprehend the events of yesterday," the Ellsworth family said in a statement Saturday. Those on the trip with Southwest Skin and Cancer "provided much needed dermatology care to patients who might otherwise go without."

Linda Snow, the company's office manager in Cedar City, said, "We are just deeply saddened. These are individuals that were highly skilled and very professional in what they do, and they will be missed."

Enrollment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rally going to attract a percentage of that pool.

The freshman class this year is projected to have a 4 percent increase in black students and a 17.1 percent increase in Hispanic students from last year.

Muñoz said Tech is trying to make the campus a university of choice to all students, and certainly to students of color.

"I think any university that is

perceived to be academically excellent and inclusive is going to have an advantage at attracting the very best students in the country," Muñoz said. "And I certainly believe that Texas Tech attracts the very best students in the nation."

He said research supports that a diversity of experience, background, philosophy and worldview in the university creates a more robust and intellectually engaging environment.

Tech expects to bring in more of the best students from across the state, including students who have not traditionally come to the

university, Muñoz said. He said he believes Tech is the best place for those students to be academically successful.

In order to help students of different races and cultures acclimate to Tech, Muñoz said the university has activities, student organizations and student programming to make them feel welcome.

"I think Texas Tech is enjoying a new reputation of being a campus that wants to attract and support all students equally," Muñoz said, "and the numbers absolutely suggest this type of reputation."

>>> jon.vanderlaan@ttu.edu

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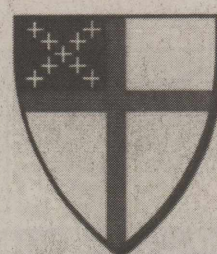
8:00 am and 10:30 am Worship (Holy Communion)
9:30 am Christian Formation class for all ages

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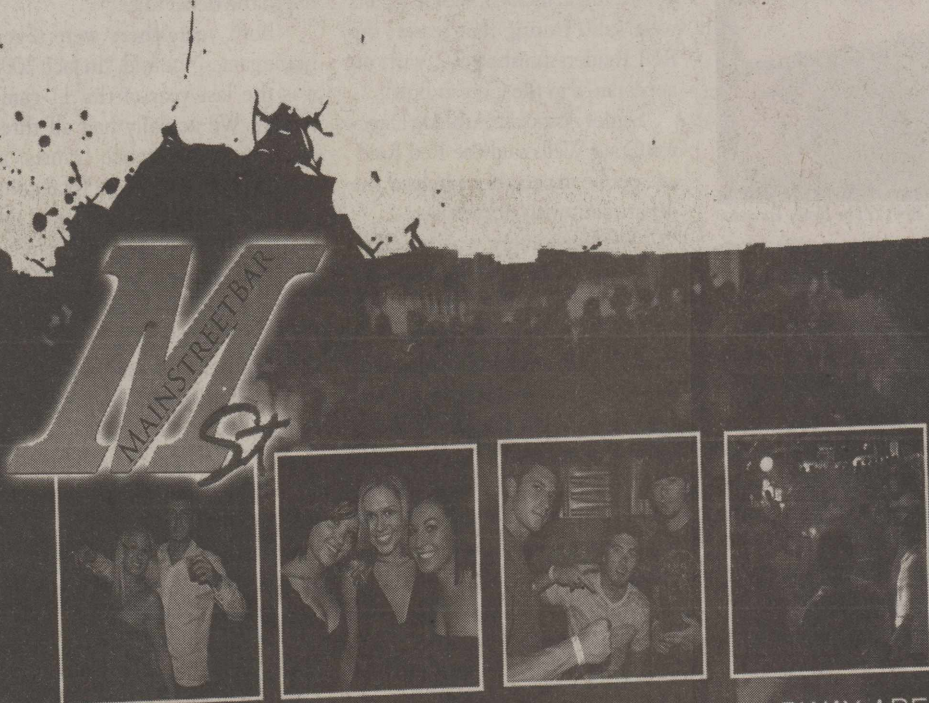


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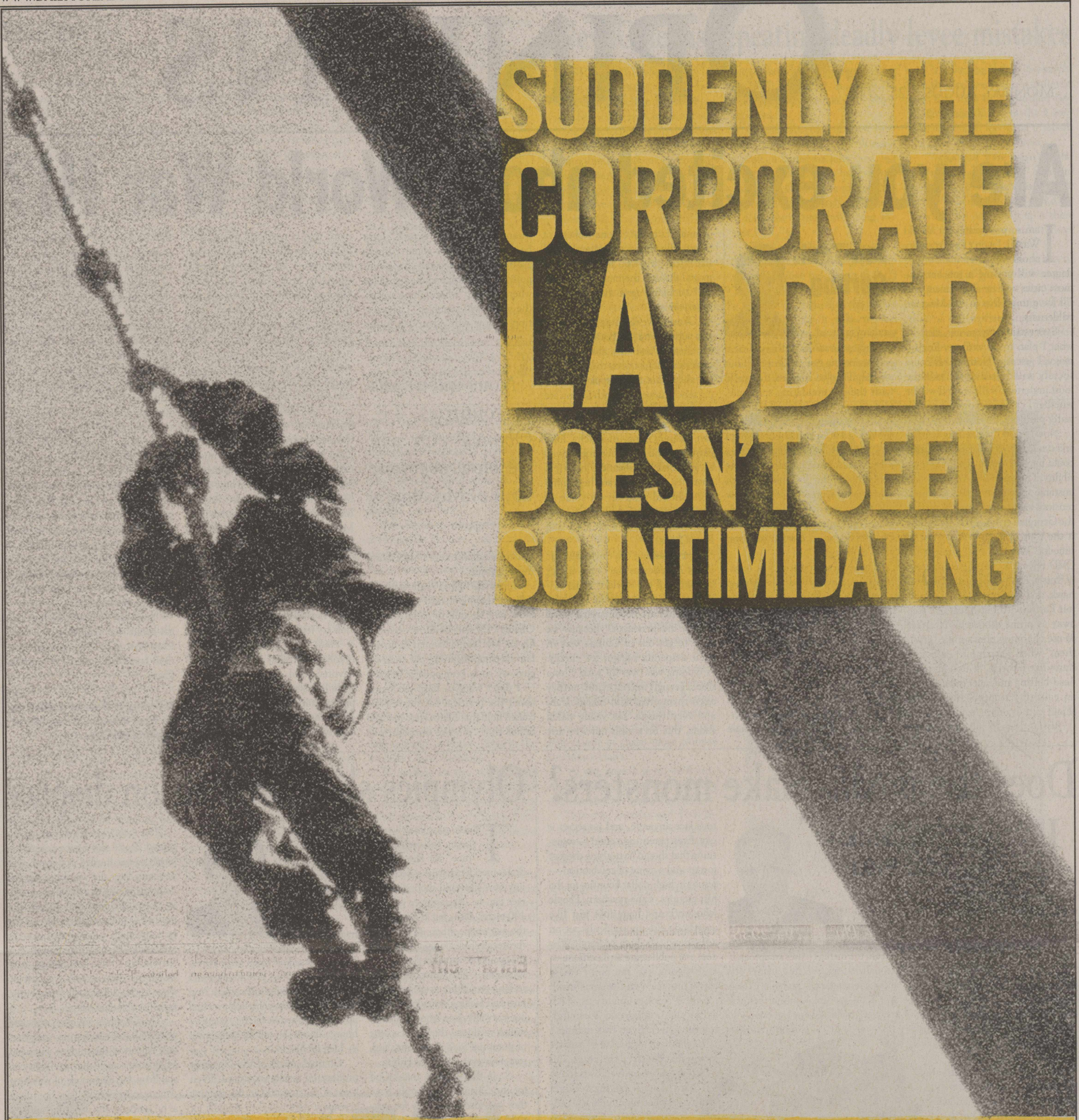
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Are you excited about World War III?

I am so pumped about World War III. I won't have to worry about whether my college degree will get me a job because most cities will be abandoned, and I'll have to go live in the Mexican wilderness.

Every time my mom asks me what I plan to do with my English major, I just say, "Nothing," because society will break down and the most important skills around will be whether I can grow potatoes and fix water purifiers.

Now I know I'm painting a cliché and cynical Hollywood image of what could happen, but it really is a possibility. The world is in a precariously unstable state right now. US-Russia tensions are at an all-time high with the Georgian crisis. Some are calling it the start of Cold War II (just in time for "War Games 2" straight-to-DVD release!). The new president of Russia, Dmitry Medvedev, is a war hawk, and a scary protégé of Vladimir Putin (with Putin still one step away as prime minister). He likes to use charming phrases like "crush them" when referring to ex-Soviet states like Georgia. Watch for more head-butting and saber rattling over an eastern European anti-missile shield in the coming months.

Just as dramatically, the Beijing

Jan-Tosh Gerling



Olympics have made the political and economic rise of China all but official. They've stunned the world with their intimidating spectacle. Can we say Berlin 1936? Not that I'm comparing China to Nazi Germany... though some human rights groups like Amnesty International or Free Tibet would agree happily with the comparison. But I think the 29th Olympiad is representative of a new global era, an era that directly challenges the United States. As George Orwell said, sports is really just "war without shooting."

The United States has a hilariously complicated relationship with China. They hold us economically by the balls and we can't say a damn thing about their treatment of Tibet or religious dissident groups, media clamp downs, the Taiwan issue, their propping of the Sudanese government (Darfur anyone!). Hell, we can't even call them out when they're cheating in the Olympics. Seriously, did you see their female

gymnastics team? Selena Roberts of Sports Illustrated said they looked like little girls who had "just rummaged through their mothers' make-up." I couldn't agree more with that observation.

Okay, so we're not going to go to war with China just because they're big cheaters and have absolutely no understanding of what the Olympics are about, but the unspoken political tensions we hold with China are swelling like a tumor — a tumor made up of control over oil, American Treasury notes (of which China can dump and wreak currency havoc at any time), Taiwanese political charades, and corporate hegemony (you should read up on some of China's state-controlled oil companies like CNPC, CNOOC, and PetroChina).

But regarding oil, obviously, the era of America as the obese energy consumer of the world is in its twilight. Why do you think all these politicians have been harping about 'energy independence?' Because we have to get out of China's way in their desperate hunger for energy. A bidding war over oil with China would get ugly fast, especially as they align themselves with Sudan, Iran, and even Russia. But yadda yadda yadda, this isn't fresh news by any

means. Pundits and "experts" have been writing books about China's ascendancy for decades. Even Napoleon Bonaparte had the right idea when he said "when China wakes, the world will tremble." The question is how will America's future

"Now, will we talk to countries, i.e. Obama? Or will we blow everyone up, i.e. McCain?"

leaders handle China's cranky morning grogginess.

Yup, that's right, I'm going to start talking about political candidates. Now, will we talk to countries, i.e. Obama? Or will we blow everyone up, i.e. McCain? That may be an unfair oversimplification, but come on guys, we gotta keep politics simple.

I don't want to harp too much about the political candidates, because I hold that South Park-mocked belief that "it's the corporations

mean" that control the world. But I do find McCain's hawkish rhetoric alarming — like when he says he wants to kick Russia out of the G8 (an illuminati of nations that includes the US, Germany, Italy, Canada, Japan, Russia, Britain, and France — where leaders talk about how to economically control the world). Kicking Russia out of the G8 would cool our relations to absolute zero (we're hovering around freezing point right now). I'd rather not be at absolute zero with a nation that has thousands of nukes. How would McCain handle a new Russian missile crisis? (I'd rather have a Kennedy-type handling that.) Or how about McCain's rhetoric on Iran? Regardless, if John "Bomb bomb Iran" McCain isn't the one that blows up the world (he's only going to be a one-term president), then his successor will — hopefully Mike "the next thing you see will be the gates of hell" Huckabee. Did I just hear the Huckabee/Chuck Norris fan club cry foul?

And Obama? Even though I'm an optimistic drinker of the "change" flavored Kool-Aid (which tastes a little like strawberry with a dash of platitude and hope), the cynical side of me worries that he lives in his Harvard ivory tower world of photo-ops,

handshakes, and speeches and not so much functional politicking. But the world likes him. Over 200,000 people gathered in Berlin just to hear him speak. That's a big asset. Charisma is gold for a president. Charisma awarded the inexperienced Bill Clinton in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with the somewhat successful Oslo Accords in 1993, a cease-fire in Northern Ireland, solutions for Yugoslavia, a warm relationship with Russian president Boris Yeltsin and even a blowjob.

But can popularity and pomp prevent future destabilizing global conflict? Can it prevent World War III? That question can only be answered by an election. We have a peacenik and a war hawk. I'm not saying Obama is some war-stopping messiah — he's just a politician — but logically, I'll take the peacenik with pretty words, because words are better than the heat blast of a 100 megaton nuclear bomb.

However, if I'm still feeling cynical about that English major and I learn how to live in the wilderness, then come November I'll vote McCain.

Gerling is a senior English major from Houston. E-mail him at j.gerling@ttu.edu.

Does the media make monsters?

Imagine walking down decrepit big city streets and alleys, feeling alone at three in the morning. You feel lost, confused, and oh so tired. The daughter you love more than life itself is nowhere within your grasp — halfway across the country with her mother, the woman you once loved. As alone as you feel, you can't even begin to find peace with the cameras flashing at you even at this ungodly hour. They will go to any length for a scoop, a story, a scandal... but all you want is sleep.

This was the life of Heath Ledger in the months leading up to his death.

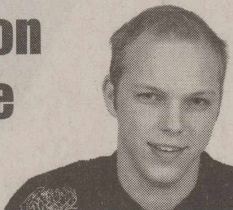
Whether Ledger's death was truly accidental or suicide is still, and may always be, unknown. However, the toll that his fame took on his health was unmistakable. For a man who came alive and dominated on the screen, he was never comfortable in an interview setting.

This might have been fine had the public and media not always demanded every bit of "juicy" celebrity gossip they could get their hands on.

To quote "Spider-Man's" Green Goblin, "The one thing they love more than a hero is to see a hero fall." What are the biggest news stories every year? Not oil or global warming or Darfur. Rather, the things that draw the most attention are scandals: members of public office having affairs; divas having verbal fights with each other outside of night clubs; the possibility of actresses being lesbian or simply shaving their head.

This can go from the seemingly reasonable to the outright insane. If teen queen Miley Cyrus isn't wearing

Britton Peele



a seat belt for a couple of seconds on screen, the media creates an uproar. If a somewhat risqué Vanity Fair photo shoot doesn't stir up enough of a frenzy, photos are leaked of her being a teenage girl and posing in less clothing than she

should) for pictures not intended for anyone outside of a small circle. Anything can and will be used in order to tear someone's image down, simply because it sells magazines.

To some extent, it's not entirely the media's fault. Their job is to report news, so if someone is involved in an accident related to drunk driving, they should report it, whether or not the person involved is Shia LaBeouf. It's just a shame that it's seen as a much bigger scoop than it should be.

There's no mystery behind an actor's face anymore, and no secret is safe. Even parenting a child — something that should be nothing short of joyous and a cause of celebration — results in high-dollar bounties for the first pictures of the newborn. People who work and have jobs just like everybody else are suddenly put on a thousand foot-high pedestal. Why does the public care so much?

It's gotten to the point where many movies aren't seen as much for their story or quality as much as for the controversy surrounding the actors. Even this summer's "The Dark Knight," a fantastic movie that deserved the praise and attention it received, was likely carried in its opening weekend solely because of Heath Ledger's death. Even with a performance as stunning as his "Joker," the disconnect between actor and character is fading. Are you going to see "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus" because the plot interests you, or because Ledger only finished filming half of it before his untimely death? Perhaps more important to ask: Is the studio behind the film going to capitalize on this fact just to sell tickets?

Of course, that's not to say that you shouldn't give credit where credit is due. Many of these actors put on amazing performances, and deserve the attention they receive. Just as we acknowledge great authors and thinkers, it makes sense to recognize great acting, singing and so on. You just have to wonder: How far is too far?

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

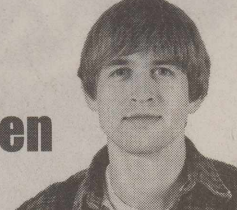
Olympics show animals on display

These past few weeks, those following the "race" for the United States presidency have experienced just how slow and monotonous a race can be. (It certainly isn't the 100-meter dash, but it's not quite the marathon, either; it's more like the steeplechase, because sometimes the competitors tumble sloppily into water pits.) The American media, seeking profundity in meaninglessness and lacking water pits, reeled out story after non-story about Hawaiian vacations, the handicapping of potential vice presidents, and, somehow even still, Paris Hilton.

So in that context, thank God for the Olympics. Not only have they provided bountifully for awkward metaphors in newspaper columns (see the previous paragraph), but, more importantly, they have distracted us briefly from the vacuity of American politics. I was quite distracted by the Olympics — not obsessively, but I did set my alarm a couple times to make sure I didn't miss an event. I'm not sure why. We may be fascinated by sports because of all the emotions on display. There was a story on NPR recently about the science of self-awareness. Previously thought only to occur in humans, this trait, which also occurs in chimpanzees, some dolphins and a few other mammals, was shown to occur for the first time in a bird, the magpie. Self-awareness turns out to be the key to empathy, see. So when we watch sports, we empathize — we literally imagine what it's like to be the person we're watching — and thus, well, we really get into it. Incidentally, that's also why magpies like soap operas.

When it comes to the Olympics, we even get into sports heretofore unknown to us. I spent a lovely afternoon taking in the trampoline competition, for instance. It was quite meditative to watch the competitors bounce up and down and aiming for the same spot, flipping

Eric Braden



like acrobats. And when one of them achieved a flawless performance and beamed at the camera, I beamed. And when one of them completely messed up and forced a smile for the camera — how easily we can tell the difference! — I felt for her, too.

Granted, much of the Olympics production is manufactured. Even some of the fireworks in the opening ceremony were added in digitally for the sake of the billion-plus television audience. (The real fireworks didn't show up so well in the smog, the organizers said.) And the schmaltzy performance of NBC commentators like the ever-chipper Bob Costas can become grating. ("Michael Phelps is perhaps the greatest... human... to ever... live. Ever.") But even without the hype, all the little Olympic stories would still intrigue.

So, Dara Torres is 41 years old. This year she competed in the Olympics for the fifth time; she had never won an individual gold medal, and was hoping for one this time. The first time I saw her in action was during the semifinals of the 50-meter freestyle, or as the commentators kept calling it, "the splash and dash." But before she or any of the other racers could even splash, much less dash, she had walked away from the starting block, and was talking to a judge. "What's going on?" we all wondered. Turns out she was making sure that the race would wait for Sweden's Therese Alshammar, who had ran off to replace her torn swimsuit. It was an amazing showing of sportsmanship but also of empathy. Torres knew how she would feel if it were her missing an important race because of some silly wardrobe malfunction.

The race waited, Alshammar returned, Torres said a few encouraging words to her frazzled opponent, and moments later she was splashing and dashing her way to a first-place finish. In the medal round, however, she finished second, losing to a 24-year-old by .01 seconds. Coming that close to something, but not quite getting it is terrible, but it's also very human. And we felt that, just as much as we felt joy when Michael Phelps won a race by the same horribly slim margin.

The Olympics are often criticized as trivial and saccharine, and that may be part of the truth — but what a human spectacle they are! How can you deny the magnitude of watching American sprinter Wallace Spearman as he learns several agonizing minutes after the audience does that he has been disqualified for stepping out of his lane, his bronze medal dissolving into a blank footnote. As he slowly pulls the American flag from off his back, he stares incredulously at the scoreboard, walking with the swagger of a man who doesn't want to believe it. That moment held within it everything about the Olympics that's great, and what makes it human: joy and pain, gain and loss, belief and disbelief.

At its worst, yes, the Olympics can shield us from awful truths, human rights violations, and all sorts of nasty things. At its best, though, they show us that life is not always about vanquishing an enemy. Nor are they only about the competitions, but also about the millions of people watching in unison, feeling the emotions of the competitors, countrymen or not. We are blessedly complex creatures and capable of great compassion. Is such a thing possible, too, for the great nations sending these golden scions into battle? Could they ever achieve that animal accomplishment, empathy?

Braden is a senior natural history and humanities major from Katy. E-mail him at eric.braden@ttu.edu.



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Stadium

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stadium draws more than it can hold and the expansion will only continue that trend.

"I think that you want to accommodate as many people as possible and I think this is all the result of the efforts of some great coaches before me," he said. "I think our coaching staff, our players have put together a great product on the field. I think that's a big, significant part of what's led to this."

Myers said although Jones AT&T Stadium may not be the largest stadium in the conference, it still will serve an important purpose for the university after construction is complete.

"It may not be the biggest stadium," he said, "but it will be a stadium that'll help us to continue to attract top athletes. It also helps us to attract staff members, faculty."

Bailey said he understands the correlation between a university's athletic program and enrollment. But athletics is not the only program benefitting from the expansion.

"The athletics program in general is a big draw for students," he said. "It's a big part of student life. This expansion will be a very exciting part of building our entire university and our student life."

Selling club seats and suites is a restrained plan to raise the rest of the money, Tech Chancellor Kent Hance said.

The demand for the suites is high, which Hance said helps when trying to raise the money.

"We're very conservative on something like this," he said. "We projected that if we sold half the suites, that's what it would raise and that's what it would fund. We didn't have trouble selling all the suites and we've got a waiting list long."

Administrators also believe club

seats and suites add to the experience of the game for fans.

The fans' enjoyment of the current club seats and suites on the west side means the east side should be just as popular, Hance said.

"You can ask anyone that has been to a game at Texas Tech in the west side where the club suites are, that the difference it's made in just going to a football game," he said. "When you drive up that stadium on the west side, we bring investors all the time. They are overwhelmed that it doesn't look like a football stadium. It'll be the same way on the east side."

This will be the third expansion for Jones AT&T Stadium in the last eight years.

Hance said the next step of building onto the stadium includes expanding the north end. He said anywhere between 12,000 to 15,000 seats club seats will be added.

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New Orleans repeating deadly levee mistakes

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Signs are emerging that history is repeating itself in the Big Easy, still healing from Katrina: People have forgotten a lesson from four decades ago and believe once again that the federal government is constructing a levee system they can prosper behind.

In a yearlong review of levee work here, The Associated Press has tracked a pattern of public misperception, political jockeying and legal fighting, along with economic and engineering miscalculations since Katrina, that threaten to make New Orleans the scene of another devastating flood.

Dozens of interviews with engineers, historians, policymakers and flood zone residents confirmed many have not learned from public policy

mistakes made after Hurricane Betsy in 1965, which set the stage for Katrina; many mistakes are being repeated.

"People forget, but they can't afford to forget," said Wendell Curole, a Louisiana hurricane and levee expert. "If you believe you can't flood, that's when you increase the risk of flooding. In New Orleans, I don't think they talk about the risk."

Tyrone Marshall, a 48-year-old bread vendor, is one person who doesn't believe he's going to flood again.

"They've heightened the levees. They're raised up. It makes me feel safe," he said as he toiled outside his home in hard-hit Gentilly, a formerly flooded property refashioned into a California-style bungalow.

Geneva Stanford, a 76-year-old health care worker, is a believer, too. She lives in a trim and tidy prefabricated house in the Lower 9th Ward, 200 feet from a rebuilt floodwall that Katrina broke.

"This wall here wasn't there when we had the flood," Stanford said, radiant in a bright kanga-style dress. "When I look at it now, I say maybe if we had had it up it there then, maybe we wouldn't have flooded."

They're not alone. A recent University of New Orleans survey of residents found concern about levee safety was dropping off the list of top worries, replaced by crime, incompetent leadership and corruption.

This sense of security, though, may be dangerously naive.

Crowding

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

all semester—I can go without a sink and a mirror."

Miller is one of several Tech students assigned to temporary housing in residence halls during a semester projected to see a 12 percent increase in new freshmen, according to a report presented to the university's Board of Regents earlier this month.

Though he arrived Aug. 23—the first day to move into residence halls—Miller was placed in temporary housing while others were not. He admittedly attributes this to not knowing about a \$400 advance payment for housing due in July, which cancelled his contract for this semester.

Sean Duggan, managing director of University Student Housing, said there are a number of reasons residence hall rooms are a hot commodity at Tech this year, including a more than 12 percent increase from 2007 in the number of students projected to return to on-campus housing—up 167 to 1,550.

"We're pretty full. Pretty much, if we have a bed, we have a head in it," he said.

About 6,550 students are projected to live on campus this semester as of Friday, an increase of more than 600 compared to the same date last year, according to University Student Housing data.

Duggan said current residence hall capacity is about 6,600, though this number is fluid and can change depending on the number of single-occupancy assignments and rooms requiring maintenance.

About 140 student staff, including community advisers, and fewer

than 10 other students live in single rooms—compared with about 220 last year, he said.

Students are required to live on campus until they receive 30 credit hours or reside in a permanent residence, according to university guidelines.

But Duggan said he believes more students are moving to residence halls for the convenience of living on campus, less commute time, increasing gas prices and affordability.

Also, room and dining rates at Tech stayed constant with 2007-2008 prices because of the Board of Regent's decision to freeze tuition and fees in May.

"But, we had that many students sign up long before the room and board rates were set," Duggan said. "They're reaping that benefit, but that wasn't the reason they signed up."

Another factor contributing to packed residence halls, he said, is the ratio of men to women moving to campus.

Though Duggan said data showing students living on campus by sex is not yet available, Fall 2007 enrollment at Tech included undergraduate enrollment of 12,826 males and 10,186 females—nearly 26 percent more males than females—according to a university enrollment report.

The disproportionate ratio of men to women creates vacancies in female rooms while male rooms are booked, Duggan said.

Despite the increase in students and logistics of accommodating them, Duggan said he is confident in the university's ability to provide temporary housing and quickly situate all students in permanent rooms.

"We put them in temporary hous-

ing so that they're able to come to Tech—and maybe be inconvenienced for a week to 10 days—and then get into their permanent location," he said. "We'd rather do that than say 'The inn is full. You can't come to Texas Tech.'"

Sam Bennett, managing director of Hospitality Services, said he is not concerned with the university's ability to accommodate and feed the projected growth in students living on campus.

"We're more prepared this year than we were last year," Bennett said, but "if the numbers continue to grow and we have limited square feet, it's going to be very difficult to provide good service."

After being 300 students over budget last year, Housing Services made several changes and additions to facilities, he said, including adding cash registers to Union Plaza in the Student Union Building.

To prepare for this year's growth and update facilities, Bennett said Hospitality Services remodeled and added capacity to Sam's Place in Wall/Gates Residence Halls, replacing equipment and adding two concept lines.

Minor remodeling in Hulen/Clement Dining Hall removed built-in service units to add space, while Horn/Knapp Dining Hall will focus on its most popular theme lines to increase speed.

To prepare for future growth, Housing Services plans to move Sam's Place in Chitwood/Weymouth Residence Halls to the previous location of Wiggin's Dining Hall, providing about a 5,000 square foot increase and more than doubling the facility to 8,000 square feet next summer. Hospitality Services also plans to add

several food kiosks to the SUB in the near future.

However, the university is having trouble hiring employees to work in the remodeled facilities.

Housing Services currently employs about 575 workers and needs 50 to 75 more to adequately meet demand, which Bennett said will be targeted through increased recruiting efforts.

To accommodate the university's goal of having 40,000 students by the year 2020, Duggan said University Student Housing is considering construction of new facilities as well as remodeling existing ones.

To maintain housing at its current level—accommodating 22 percent of students on campus—Duggan said the university needs to increase housing by about 1,500 beds—the equivalent of three more Murray Residence Hall's.

"As the growth goes, we'll continue to look at construction and see what needs to be built," he said.

This year, Duggan said Tech invested \$9 million in renovations to residence halls and is offering fewer single-occupancy rooms.

As for students currently living in temporary housing, Duggan said residence hall staff are available 24/7 and will be flexible with student's schedules when rooms become available for move-ins.

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HOUSING NUMBERS

It is projected there will be 6,549 students living on campus in 2008.

Of those 4,285 are freshmen and 1,550 are returning students.

In 2007, there were 4,100 freshmen living on campus. This year that number has increased by 4.5 percent.

Transfer students made the largest percentage of growth in to the residence halls with 220 moving on campus.

Returning students are projected to have a 12.1 percent increase over 2007 numbers.

In 2007 there were approximately 1,380 returning students living in residence halls.

Between 2007 and 2008, it is projected there will be an increase of about 600 students living on campus.

In 2008, it is projected there will be a 10.2 percent increase in the number of students living on campus.

SOURCE: UNIVERSITY STUDENT HOUSING

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Courses cut to meet accreditation standards

By **MATTHEW PAYNE**
STAFF WRITER

In response to being placed on probation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in December 2007, Texas Tech administrators eliminated 215 courses from the general education curriculum to provide a more focused education for students in the fall semester.

According to a statement released by the university's provost in July, removing classes from the curriculum is not the only step the university has taken to remove its probation status.

The university has taken several steps to regain full accreditation. Expectations for graduating students have been clarified and courses have been modified to meet SACS assessment standards.

"These changes will help the university provide evidence to the assessments that we have made," said Valerie Paton, interim provost for the university.

SACS is one of 25 agencies that accredit the university. Of 81 academic standards set by SACS, Tech failed to meet one, according to a disclosure statement issued by the association.

According to SACS, Tech did

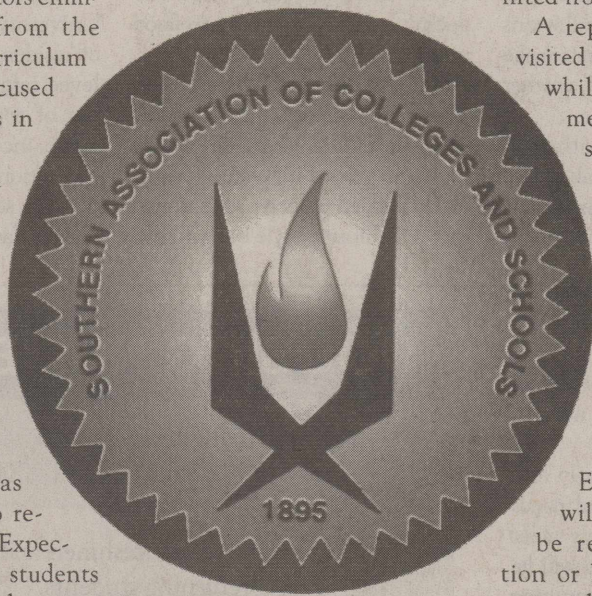
not provide the evidence the committee will perform another assessment of the university's compliance with the agency's academic standards. As previously reported by The Daily Toreador, university officials are confident the probationary status will be lifted from the university.

A representative of SACS visited the campus in June, and while the disclosure statement released by SACS states that the staff is not permitted to speculate on what decision the commission might make, the university's provost claimed that the evaluation was very positive.

SACS' assessment has three possible outcomes in December: Either the university will remain on probation, be removed from probation or have its accreditation removed.

"We are very vigilant about the evaluation in December," said Paton. "If we are not removed from probation, we will continue to build in institutional effectiveness."

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not provide the evidence the committee will perform another assessment of the university's compliance with the agency's academic standards. As previously reported by The Daily Toreador, university officials are confident the probationary status will be lifted from the university.

Pedestrian walkways to provide easier access to north campus



PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador

MARSHA SHARP FREEWAY construction across from Jones AT&T Stadium, including several pedestrian walkways, will provide easier access to the north side of campus.

By **MATT COBB**
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech students no longer will have to brave their way across construction sites to get to campus.

The completion of several pedestrian walkways across the Marsha Sharp Freeway, along with the completion of other construction, will provide easier access to the north side of campus this fall.

Construction crews are focusing on the walkway that will stretch from Jones AT&T Stadium to the north side of the freeway, said Will Barnett, assistant area engineer of the Lubbock District of the Texas Department of Transportation.

"We've been working around the clock the past couple of weeks to finish it," he said. "We really want to get that bridge open for the first football game of the season."

Four new pedestrian walkways are being built across the freeway; two of which are located near the football stadium, Barnett said. Until the walkways near campus are complete, students can cross the freeway at the protected intersection at University Avenue and 4th Street.

In addition to the walkways, a bridge

connecting 4th Street to University Avenue is opened to traffic, Barnett said. The bridge goes across the freeway and is located next to the football stadium parking lot. There is currently only one lane on the bridge, but another should be added within a few weeks.

A section of Fourth Street between Indiana Avenue and University Avenue also has been widened several lanes, he said.

Construction of the Marsha Sharp Freeway has been divided into five phases, according to the Texas Department of Transportation Web site.

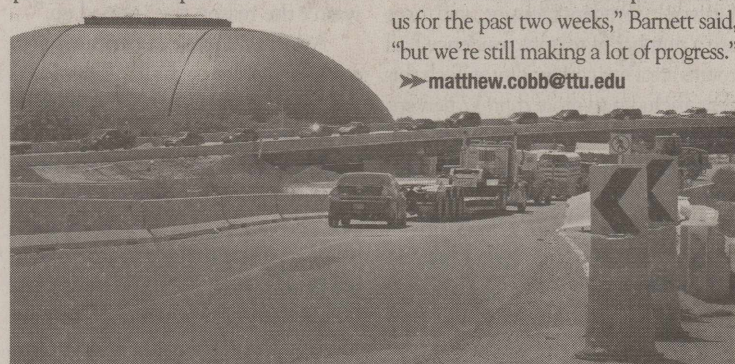


PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador

FOUR NEW PEDESTRIAN walkways are being built across the Marsha Sharp Freeway.

Crews currently are working on phase two, which involves the completion of the freeway from Salem Avenue to Avenue L. The phase will cost \$131 million and its construction began in spring 2005 and is expected to be complete in the middle of 2009.

As of the end of July, phase two of the freeway has totaled more than \$116 million, Barnett said, with freeway expenses averaging \$2 million per month.

The project is between 20 and 25 days behind schedule, due to weather complications.

"The weather hasn't cooperated with us for the past two weeks," Barnett said, "but we're still making a lot of progress."

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ACCREDITATION TIMELINE

Dec. 10, 2007	Texas Tech placed on probation.
Dec. 20, 2007	Disclosure statement released by SACS.
June 2008	A representative from SACS visited the university, leaving a positive report.
July 2008	Tech released a statement explaining the results of the evaluation in June, and the steps the university took to meet accreditation criteria.
December 2008	SACS is scheduled to pay the campus another visit and evaluate Tech's progress.

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SGA, Citibus cut off-campus bus routes

By JON VANDERLAAN
STAFF WRITER

Students hoping to rely on buses going to and from their apartment complexes will find themselves waiting up to 24 minutes to catch the next bus.

Two apartment complexes will not receive bus service during the 2008-2009 school year. Buses were cut from several off-campus routes and many routes will be experiencing longer wait times than usual.

Austin Pennington, Student Government Association external vice president, said rising gas prices was the main reason the university cut down bus routes.

"Because of gas prices and because student fees stayed the same, we've had to make some cuts on the buses," Pennington said.

He acknowledged that, while this year's frozen tuition rate was a good thing for students, some services needed to be cut as a result.

Students are charged \$3.50 per credit hour — up to 12 credit hours — for the transportation fund. He said a large graduating class left the university in 2007-2008 and took revenue with it, which hindered the SGA's ability to provide transportation services.

The two apartment complexes that opted out of their contracts — The Grove and University Fountains — also put a financial burden on the university, as it no longer had the revenue coming in from those apartment complexes.

The SGA negotiates contracts with apartment complexes and renegotiates the contracts every year. Apartment complexes pay a certain fee based on how far away they are from campus and how difficult it is to get to the location.

After Tech is billed for Citibus services, they will pass bill on to the apartment complexes.

While Pennington said he expected no increases in tuition and fees, he expects to hear many complaints from students regarding the bus route changes.

He said he thinks many students



A CITIBUS WAITS to be loaded up at the Citibus terminal downtown at Buddy Holly Avenue and Broadway Street.

PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

do not know why bus routes are cut and are angry without knowing the full story. When he explains to them what happened, most are more understanding of the problems the SGA has when helping students.

However, because of the unique contract with Citibus, the campus is able to adjust routes and change details of how and where the buses run — even midway through the year.

"If we get enough money back from fuel decreasing enough, I would love to add some (of the total hours the on-campus buses run) back on where we can," Pennington said. "That's one of the beautiful things about our relationship with Citibus — is that we can adjust it as we go through the year."

He also said the bus routes on campus are expected to remain about the same, and during bad weather

days routes will gain extra buses to help those who would normally ride a bike to campus.

John Wilson, Citibus general manager, said routes were cut from the normal Tech-affiliated routes that run off-campus because the university went over its budget as a result of rising fuel costs.

The fuel cost adjustment agreement between Tech and Citibus adjusts the price Tech pays if gas prices rise or fall during the year. The adjustment is based on 4 miles per gallon at 10 miles per hour for the buses using ultra-low sulfur-diesel fuel.

Wilson said Tech is paying \$50.38 per bus, per hour, for Citibus service. That number is up from \$44.65 during the 2007-2008 school year. The increase is partially due to the 5 percent increase for inflation the company incurs once every two years.

Citibus originally budgeted for gas prices remaining around \$2.40 in 2007-2008 and will be budgeting for gas prices being around \$3.80 in 2008-2009.

The total gas budget for the company in 2007-2008 was \$1.3 million and will be around \$1.9 million in 2008-2009 — an increase of approximately \$677,000.

Citibus also made an agreement with Greyhound Bus Lines through which Citibus took control on Aug. 1 of Greyhound's freight and passengers passing through Lubbock.

Ten buses from Greyhound will be running through the Citibus terminal every day, but only three of them will be running during the day and will not affect normal operation for Citibus.

The deal will give Citibus an estimated \$200,000 in extra revenue

because they will be collecting 10 percent of revenues from tickets they sell to Greyhound passengers and also will collect commission on freight. The operating cost of running the Greyhound buses is \$70,000.

Despite the \$130,000 in extra revenue for Citibus, the bus rates for both Tech and the city of Lubbock are rising.

The cost for Tech rose to \$50.38, and Lubbock's rate is expected to rise from \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Wilson said the extra revenue from the Greyhound contract mainly would be going to pay for modifications to the Citibus terminal, and to raise wages for drivers and additional charges on shipping parts due to the rise in gas prices.

The extra money Citibus will receive has already been allocated, he said, and even the amount of money

they receive is still just speculation.

"That's a big unknown, we have never operated Greyhound before. We may make much more than \$130,000," Wilson said. "But I won't know until we've had a few months of operation."

In addition, Wilson said, the contract for Tech already was signed when Citibus and Greyhound signed their agreement, making it impossible for Citibus to pass any savings on to Tech after the fact.

If gas prices continue to drop and revenues from Greyhound are on target, he said Tech could begin feeling those savings as early as next year.

» jon.vanderlaan@ttu.edu

TAKING THE BUS?

Bus schedule changes: Masked Rider, Double T and Red Raider route buses will start running at 7:30 a.m.

Expected time between pickups for on-campus service are about 6 minutes.

From 4 to 7 p.m., the time between pickups gradually will increase to 12 minutes.

The Overton Route, running to and from University Pointe and University Trails, will have only one bus. The route's expected time between pickups is approximately 22 minutes.

On bad-weather days, an extra bus will be added to the Overton Route, reducing time between pickups to about 11 minutes.

The Northwest Route, running to and from Lynwood Townhomes and The Gateway, will be reduced to two buses with expected time between pickups at approximately 24 minutes.

University Courtyard will be on the North Indiana Route, along with Raiders Pass and Indiana Village, with time between pickups at about 16 minutes.

University Fountains will not be receiving bus service this year because the complex opted out of their contract.

US regulators shut Columbian Bank in Kansas

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators on Friday shut down Kansas bank Columbian Bank and Trust Company.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. was appointed receiver of Columbian Bank of Topeka, Kan., which had \$752 million in assets and \$622 million in deposits as of June 30.

The FDIC said the bank's deposits will be assumed by Citizens Bank and Trust of Chillicothe, Mo. Its nine offices will reopen Monday as branches of Citizens Bank. Depositors of Columbian Bank will continue to have full access to their deposits, the agency said.

It was the ninth failure this year of an FDIC-insured bank.

That compares with three failures in all of 2007. More banks are in danger of failing this year, agency officials have said.

The FDIC estimated the resolution of Columbian Bank will cost the deposit insurance fund around \$60 million.

Regular deposit accounts are insured up to \$100,000.

There were about \$46 million

in uninsured deposits held in 610 accounts at Columbian Bank that potentially exceeded the insurance limit, the FDIC said.

Concern has been growing over the solvency of some banks amid the housing slump and the steep slide in the mortgage market. The pressures of tighter credit, tumbling home prices and rising foreclosures have been battering many banks, large and small, across the nation.

The FDIC has been beefing up its staff of examiners to handle the anticipated spike in bank failures this year, agency.

The largest bank failure by far this year has been that of savings and loan IndyMac Bank, which was seized by regulators on July 11 with about \$32 billion in assets and deposits of \$19 billion.

The seizure of Pasadena, Calif.-based IndyMac, which was the largest regulated thrift to fail in the United States, prompted hundreds of angry customers to line up for hours in Southern California to demand their money. IndyMac also was the second-largest financial institution to close in

U.S. history, after Continental Illinois National Bank in 1984.

The FDIC has been operating the bank, now called IndyMac Federal Bank, under a conservatorship.

FDIC officials have said the agency expects to raise insurance premiums paid by banks and thrifts to replenish its reserve fund after paying out billions of dollars to depositors at IndyMac. The fund, currently at \$53 billion, is expected to take a hit from IndyMac of \$4 billion to \$8 billion.

FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair said recently she expects turbulence in the banking industry to continue well into next year, and more banks to appear on the agency's internal list of troubled institutions.

Of the 8,500 or so banks in the country, 90 were considered to be in trouble in the first quarter. The FDIC doesn't disclose the banks' names.

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Debate continues on proposed animal shelter location

By **KELSEY FLETCHER**
STAFF WRITER

It could be "third time's a charm" or "strike three, you're out" for a proposed Lubbock animal shelter.

After debates about everything from price to location, the Lubbock Animal Services committee is trying to find support for its third proposed location at 6302 Iola Ave. — the former location of the Club Rodeo building.

At an Aug. 18 Animal Shelter Advisory Board meeting, the committee was presented 22 different land options in and around Lubbock. Examples of suggested sites included several lots neighboring I-27, several adjuncts to different portions of Loop

289, and one located in Mackenzie Park.

"After I tally our favorites, the top six sites will be passed on to city council for a vote," said Larry Phillippe, committee chairman.

Phillippe said after the committee makes its recommendation, there will be a site search committee formed to see if the land owners are willing to sell. Also, the committee will determine utilities options and overall accessibility to Lubbock citizens. The next committee meeting will be held Sept. 9 and will focus on better techniques to result in more animal adoptions.

Two previous locations were considered, but later ruled out, Phillippe said. First,

it was suggested the building be placed in McAllister Park off Milwaukee Avenue, but voters pushed for a more central location. Clapp Park off University Avenue was suggested to house the new facility, but residents in the surrounding area resisted



PHOTO BY KAT HILSABECK/The Daily Treador
A CAT WAITS with her kittens to be adopted from the Lubbock Animal Shelter Wednesday morning.

and the proposal was scratched.

If the Iola Avenue location is accepted, the facility might cost the city more than \$6 million despite being originally budgeted at \$3.4 million, according to Lubbock City Council minutes and the advisory board.

The 25,000 square-foot plot will house not only an adoption area, but also a pet mall, cat condo, staff facilities, vaccination center and possibly a dog park.

According to the committee, this will be a much-needed upgrade from the current overcrowded facilities located behind Mackenzie Park, which currently is home to

more than 150 animals.

There are more than 20,000 service requests for Animal Control every year, according to the Lubbock Animal Services Web site.

The animals are normally kept an average of 10 days if tagged and three days if not tagged, said Kevin Overstreet, Lubbock Animal Services manager.

The proposed animal shelter could hold up to 200 dogs and an additional 100 cats. The new facility also would implement a new "low kill" program to hopefully ease the overcrowding issue.

► kelsey.fletcher@ttu.edu

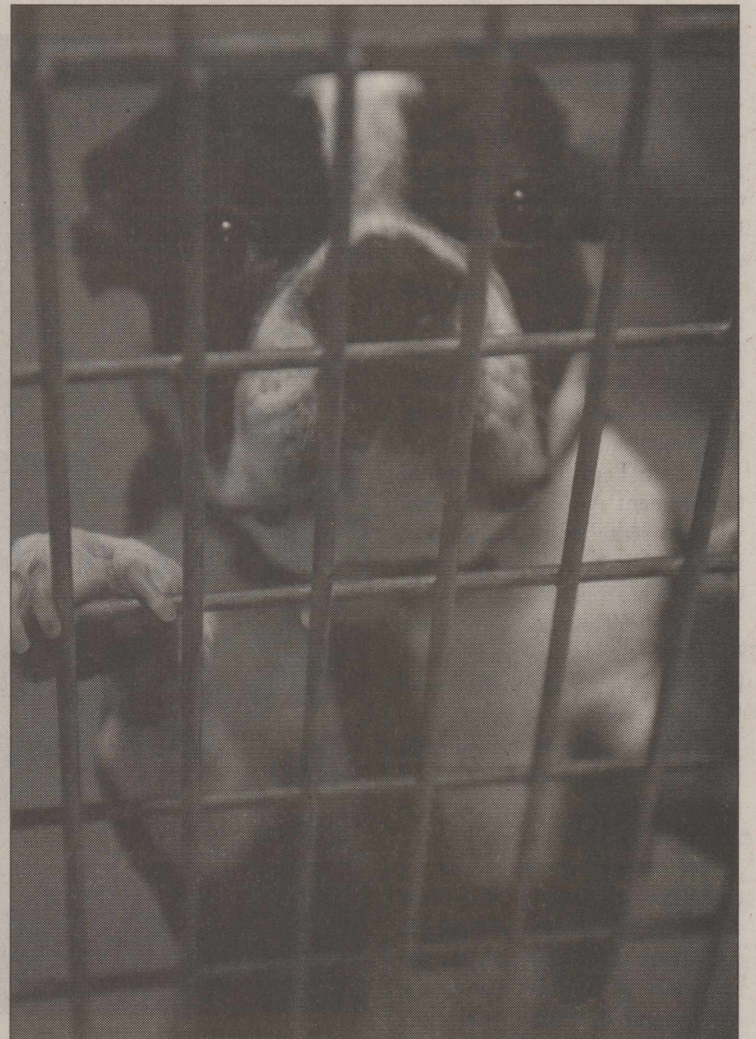
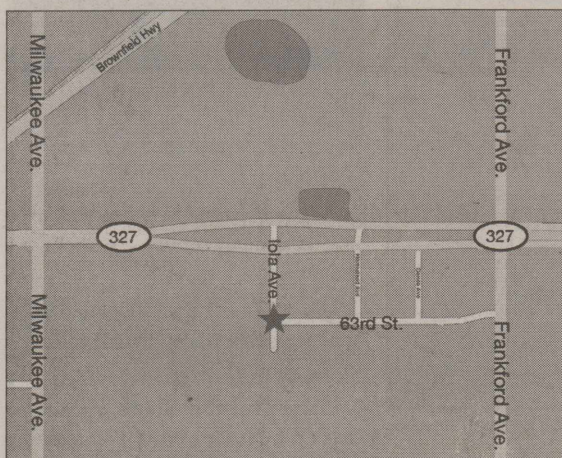


PHOTO BY KAT HILSABECK/The Daily Treador
THIS DOG WAITS to be claimed by its owner at the Lubbock Animal Shelter Wednesday morning.



THE PROPOSED LOCATION for the Lubbock Animal Shelter is 6302 Iola Avenue.

Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke: Financial crisis taking toll on economy

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Friday the financial crisis that has pounded the country — coupled with higher inflation — is taking a toll on the economy and poses a major challenge to Fed policymakers as they try to restore stability.

"Although we have seen improved functioning in some markets, the financial storm that reached gale force" around this time last year "has not yet subsided, and its effects on the broader economy are becoming apparent in the form of softening economic activity and rising unemployment," Bernanke said in a speech to a high-profile economic

conference here.

While Bernanke welcomed the recent drops in oil and other commodities' prices, and believes inflation will moderate this year and next, the Fed chief also warned the inflation outlook remains highly uncertain.

The Fed, he said, would monitor the situation closely and will "act as necessary" to make sure that inflation doesn't get out of hand.

The current financial and economic environment is one of the most challenging to Fed policymakers "in memory," he acknowledged.

Given those dueling economic cross-currents—weak economic growth

and higher inflation — many economists believe the Fed will leave rates where they are at its next meeting on Sept. 16, and probably through the rest of this year.

"They won't act until the coast is clear on financial stability and the state of the economy," said Allen Sinai, chief global economist at Decision Economics Inc. Many fear the

"Although we have seen improved functioning in some markets, the financial storm that reached gale force has not yet subsided."

BEN BERNANKE
FEDERAL RESERVE
CHAIRMAN

economy will hit a rough patch later this year as the bracing effect of the government's tax-rebate checks fades.

Wall Street was buoyed by Bernanke's hope that inflation will calm down, a dip in oil prices and growing speculation that Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. could be sold. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 197.85 points at 11,628.06. Broader stock

indicators also posted gains.

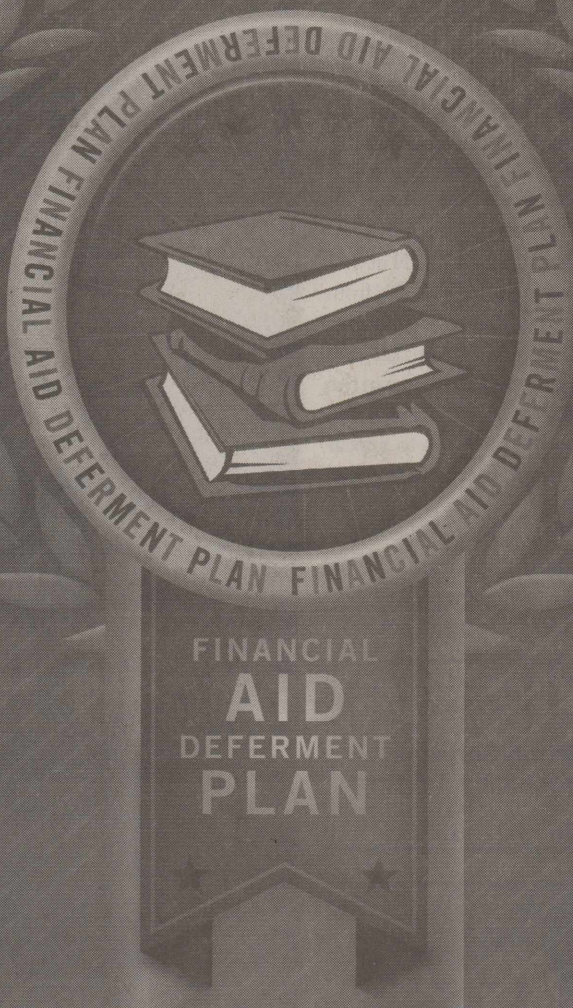
The economy is the top concern for voters and of keen interest to presidential contenders Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain, who are gearing up for their party's conventions. Financial and credit problems are expected to smolder into next year. And, the unemployment rate, which jumped to a four-year high of 5.7 percent in July, is expected to keep rising.

The bulk of Bernanke's speech dealt with the need to bolster oversight of the nation's financial system to make it better able in the future to withstand future shocks.

To that end, Bernanke recom-


mended that regulators work on ways to assess the health of the entire financial system, rather than the condition of individual banks, Wall Street investment firms or other financial companies — as is currently the focus.

"Such an approach would appear well justified as our financial system has become less bank centered," he said. "Some caution is in order, however, as this more comprehensive approach would be technically demanding and possibly very costly both for the regulators and the firms they supervise." He added that "stress tests" for a range of financial firms might also be helpful.



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Despite design changes, delays, leisure pool set for completion next year

By **KELSEY FLETCHER**
STAFF WRITER

Many students may be wondering what is going on in that large construction site directly behind the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center.

Even though the leisure pool was rumored to be scheduled for completion by last spring break, the only visible sign that there will be a pool there is the large "under construction" sign in the front of the building.

Although project planning for the leisure pool began in December 2005, with a ground-breaking in October 2007, it took until May 15 of this year for construction to get underway, according to the university's Web site.

The pool is currently scheduled to be finished June 15, 2009.

Mike Ellicott, vice chancellor for Facilities Planning and Construction at Tech, said the original cost was over budget and the pool had to be redesigned to fit the budget.

Though the pool was redesigned to be less expensive,

the original budget of \$7.5 million has grown during the past three years to \$8,250,000, he said.

In February, the Student Government Association voted to raise the Student Recreational Fee from \$10 to \$15 to fund construction of the pool.

Still being built by the same contractor, Brinkley Sargent Architects, many parts of the former design were kept intact, he said.

"This will be primarily a recreational pool with a lazy river, bubble couches, splash pads, wet decks, a drop slide and a diving board," Ellicott said.

The leisure pool will be a complementary addition to the current indoor lap pool because there is an eight-lane lap pool in the design meant for use when the indoor pool is too hot. More detailed in-

"This (pool) will be primarily a recreational pool with a lazy river, bubble couches."

MIKE ELLICOTT
VICE CHANCELLOR FOR FACILITIES PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

formation on the leisure pool's construction can be found at the university's Facilities Planning and Construction Web site.

► kelsey.e.fletcher@ttu.edu



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

THE FUTURE HOME of the new leisure lap pool (bottom) and the new diving well (top) wait for rainwater to dry up so construction can continue.

Bhutto widower proposed for Pakistan president

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's main ruling party on Friday proposed the widower of assassinated former premier Benazir Bhutto as Pakistan's next president, making Asif Ali Zardari the clear front-runner.

The move could hasten the collapse of a ruling coalition that has struggled to tackle the growing strength of Taliban militants. The Taliban has claimed responsibility for twin suicide bombings Thursday that left 67 people dead.

On Friday, Pakistan's election commission announced that federal and provincial lawmakers will elect U.S. ally Pervez Musharraf's successor in simultaneous votes on Sept. 6. Candidates must file their nomination papers on Aug. 26.

Sherry Rehman, a spokeswoman for the Pakistan People's Party, said the group's top decision-making body unanimously backed Zardari for president.

"If the major political party believes that he is the most talented person, then he is the most eligible person for this post," said Nabeel Gabol, another party leader.

"Now it depends on him whether he himself becomes (president) or nominates someone else," Gabol said.

Rehman said Zardari told the gathering that he would announce whether to accept the nomination within 24 hours.

Zardari has played down his ambitions in public. However, he has done nothing to prevent a growing band of backers from touting his name for the post. Analysts say he looks assured of victory if he runs.

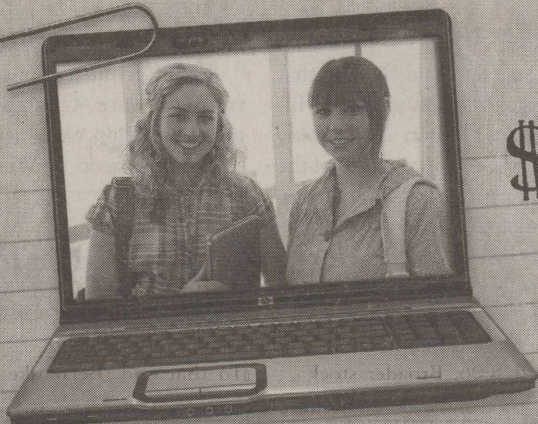
Zardari leads a coalition that swept Musharraf's supporters aside in February parliamentary elections. Musharraf resigned Monday to avoid impeachment charges.

The alliance vowed to strip the presidency of the powers accumulated by Musharraf, including the right to dissolve parliament and appoint the chiefs of Pakistan's powerful military.

But it quickly became mired in wrangling over other issues, principally how to restore judges purged from the Supreme Court when Musharraf imposed emergency rule last year.

Zardari's nomination comes as a crisis over the reinstatement of judges fired by Musharraf was narrowly averted Friday.

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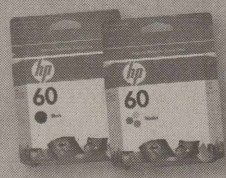


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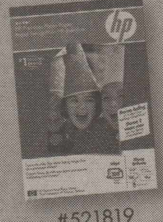


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Tech gives e-mail system updates, modifications

By MATTHEW PAYNE
STAFF WRITER

In the past few weeks, members of the Texas Tech community have been checking their e-mail and noticing a few changes.

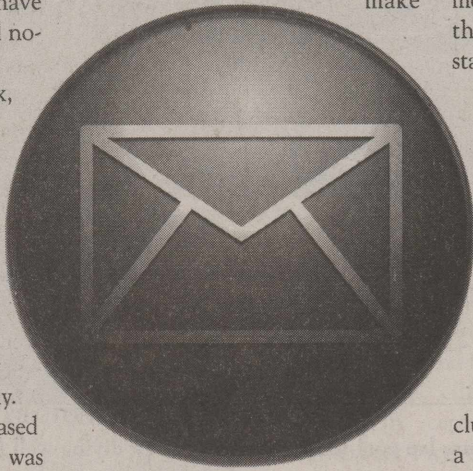
"When I was using Firefox, I didn't notice any changes at all," said Jonathan Elliot, assistant director for the Sports Club at the Rec Center. "It wasn't until I got home that I realized TechMail was more user-friendly."

Elliot isn't the only person on campus who thinks the new TechMail is more user-friendly. According to a statement released by the Tech IT Division, that was one of the goals of the switch.

The new e-mail interface provides enhanced scheduling features, a greater functionality in Outlook Web Access, improved and redesigned out-of-office auto reply system and easier remote access, according to the statement.

"This was a normally scheduled

update," said Sam Segran, Associate Vice President of IT and the CIO at Tech. "Whenever Microsoft has a major version update, we make



sure it will work for the university environment first before implementing it. Making the switch wasn't very easy."

The transition of mailboxes from Exchange 2003 to Exchange 2007 began July 28 and will continue through August between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Monday through Friday, and

all 48 hours of the weekend. People will be able to access their mailboxes except during the 30 minutes that a person's particular mailbox is being moved. No mail will be lost during the transition, according to the statement.

Segran explained that the update took months of testing, and the process was difficult because the mailing system is complex. Though it was tedious, Segran said the version upgrade process was inexpensive because these updates are "part of the package" the university has with Microsoft.

"Some of the new features include a better looking interface and a more effective spam filter," said Segran, adding to the list of new features that the IT Division's statement listed.

Segran said there are no anticipated changes coming anytime soon, but that changes likely will be made whenever Microsoft puts out a new update that fits with Tech.

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Mixed legacy likely as China's Olympic games conclude

BEIJING (AP)—With help from British star power, China concluded its debut as Olympic host Sunday after 16 days of near-flawless logistics and superlative athletic achievement — coexisting awkwardly with the government's wariness of dissent and free speech.

A spectacular closing ceremony opened with torrents of fireworks and included a pulsating show-within-a-show by London, host of the 2012 Games. From a stage formed from a red double-decker bus, Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page played classic rock hit "Whole Lotta Love" and soccer icon David Beckham booted a ball into the surrounding throng of athletes on the stadium floor.

Then more lyrical music returned, and the Olympic flame atop the stadium was extinguished. A carnival-themed segment completed the show, featuring a duet by Spanish tenor Placido Domingo and Chinese soprano Song Zuying. There was another, noisier barrage of fireworks and confetti filled the air.

To a large extent, China, an emergent superpower, got what it had craved from these long-sought games: a dominant effort by its

athletes to top the gold-medal standings for the first time and almost glitch-free organizing that showcased world-class venues and cheerful volunteers to the largest-ever peaceful influx of foreign visitors.

As a bonus, not just one but two athletes gave arguably the greatest performances in Olympic history — Michael Phelps with his eight gold medals in swimming, Jamaica's ebullient Usain Bolt with three golds and three world records in the sprints.

The International Olympic Committee, whose selection of Beijing as host back in 2001 was widely questioned, insisted its choice had been vindicated.

"Tonight, we come to the end of 16 glorious days which we will cherish forever," IOC President Jacques Rogge told the capacity crowd of 91,000 at the National Outdoor Stadium, and a global TV audience. "Through these Games, the world learned more about China, and China learned more about the world."

"These were truly exceptional games," he said, before declaring them formally closed.

The head of the Beijing organizing

committee, Liu Qi, said the games were "testimony to the fact that the world has rested its trust in China." He called them "a grand celebration of sport, of peace and friendship."

Rogge and the IOC were criticized by human rights groups for their reluctance to publicly challenge the Chinese as various controversies arose over press freedom and detention of dissidents. Athletes shied away from making political statements, and "protest zones" established in Beijing went unused as the authorities refused to issue permits for them.

But the atmosphere was festive at the stadium as fireworks burst from its top rim — and from locations across Beijing — to begin the closing ceremony.

After an army band played the Chinese national anthem, hundreds of gayly dressed dancers, acrobats and drummers swirled onto the field, then made room for the athletes, strolling in casually and exuberantly from four different entrances.

China invested more than \$40 billion in the games, which it viewed as a chance to show the world its dramatic economic progress.

STUDENTS WEIGH IN

Changing bus routes affect students



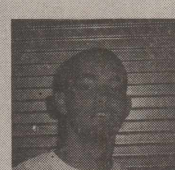
Paul Kinunen — freshman geosciences major from Grapevine
"Time is very important. If your bus isn't there on time, you're not going to get to where you go on time. If the buses are going to be late, I'm not going to be willing to catch them. I'll find some other way to get around."



John Sullivan — freshman exercise and sport sciences major from Plano
"Just because you're waiting for a few minutes doesn't mean you should be waiting for hours. I think they should run a little bit more frequently."



Carolyn Hockaday — freshman nursing student from Rome, Italy
"(It would be) really scary for me as a woman if I don't have any other transportation and if my friends can't drive, and I can't take the bus, then how am I going to get to where I'm going safely. It's a safety hazard."



Trevor Mickens — freshman from Houston
"I don't think it should be a burden for students to take the bus, but nowadays, all kids can't bring their cars up here. We're going to need a bus service to do that. If some kids have to take the bus, you gotta provide that for them. During anytime, or a later time, missing the bus — that's a bad deal."



Glenn Burns — senior landscape architecture major from Snyder
"If you're going off-campus, it can be kind of hazardous. I know I've been stuck here before. It's kind of frustrating if you can't get back home, especially if you had to work or something like that."



Miguel Yanez — sophomore mechanical engineering major from Big Spring
"You gotta go home. You got things to do, a job maybe. You got homework. You have to wait on a bus 30 minutes. That's 30 minutes out of your day. Take that out of a week. That's a couple hours a week that you spend trying to get on a bus."

Obama, McCain camps spar over VP pick

DENVER (AP) — John McCain's campaign said Sunday that rival Barack Obama snubbed Hillary Rodham Clinton as a running mate because of her criticism of the Democratic presidential candidate, a claim the Obama campaign immediately dismissed.

A new McCain ad, the second since Obama revealed his choice of fellow Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware on Saturday, challenges Obama's motives in passing over his former top rival and settling on Biden, who dropped out of the presidential contest after a poor showing in Iowa, the first contest. Chief Obama strategist David Axelrod insisted Biden was "a better fit."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Biden offered "the full package." She said he "has challenged the status quo. And he's even criticized Senator Obama, so it's a tribute to Senator Obama that he's not just choosing a yes man but a person who will speak what

he believes." Fresh from announcing his running mate, Obama resumed pre-convention campaigning with a scheduled stop in Wisconsin in

"...He's even criticized Senator Obama, so it's a tribute to Senator Obama that he's not just choosing a yes man..."

NANCY PELOSI
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

the run-up to accepting the Democratic nomination for president. He was also campaigning in Iowa, Missouri and Montana before the nomination becomes his Thursday

in Denver. Also Sunday, the party's credentials committee was poised to restore full voting rights at the convention to delegates from Florida and Michigan, initially stripped of all delegates for holding their primaries too early. With his nomination assured, Obama sought the show of unity to shore up support in those two important states.

Since Biden's selection, the McCain campaign has come out with two campaign ads addressing the Democratic candidate's choice of a running mate.

The latest ad, released by the campaign early Sunday, features clips of Clinton during the primary battle saying critical things about Obama, including, "Senator Obama's campaign has become increasingly negative."

A voiceover announcer says, "She won millions of votes but isn't on the ticket. Why? For speaking the truth."

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Melting Arctic Ocean opens new shipping frontier

BARROW, Alaska (AP) — Rapidly melting ice on Alaska's Arctic is opening up a new navigable ocean in the extreme north, allowing oil tankers, fishing vessels and even cruise ships to venture into a realm once trolled mostly by indigenous hunters.

The Coast Guard expects so much traffic that it opened two temporary stations on the nation's northernmost waters, anticipating the day when an ocean the size of the contiguous United States could be ice-free for most of the summer.

"We have to prepare for the world coming to the Arctic," said Rear Adm. Gene Brooks, commander of the Coast Guard's Alaska district.

Scientists say global warming has melted the polar sea ice each summer to half the size it was in the 1960s, opening vast stretches of water. Last year, it thawed to its lowest level on record.

The rapid melting has raised speculation that Canada's Northwest Passage linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans could one day become a regular shipping lane. And there is a huge potential for natural resources in a region that may contain as much as 25 percent of the world's undiscovered oil and gas.

But scientists caution that it could be centuries before the Arctic is completely ice-free all year round.

Still, conservative estimates indicate the Arctic Ocean will be ice-free in the summer within 20 years, although some scientists believe that will occur much sooner.

As it thaws, the receding ice has made ocean travel along Alaska's northern coast increasingly alluring, but ships can still be trapped by ice.

Earlier in August, three oil industry vessels bound for Canada became stuck in ice about 60 miles north of Point Barrow. The Coast Guard sent the icebreaker Healy to help, but before it could arrive from 300 miles away, the wind shifted and pushed the ice apart, freeing the vessels.

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TECH POLICE BLOTTER

Several bags of onions reported stolen from Quaker Avenue Research Farm

August 1
An officer investigated a traffic accident with no injuries at 7:33 a.m. on the 700 block of Texas Tech Parkway.

A non-student was arrested at 9:06 a.m. on the 1800 block of Tech Parkway for an outstanding Lubbock County warrant.

An officer investigated burglary of a vehicle at 4 p.m. in the 1-B parking lot in which a gray Dell Latitude D360 laptop was reported stolen from an unsecured vehicle.

August 2
A student was arrested for public intoxication at 5:58 a.m. outside of Weymouth Residence Hall. The student was unconscious in the grass in front of the building.

August 5
An officer investigated a theft at 12:15 a.m. in the Health Sciences Pavilion in which a Nintendo DS was reported stolen.

A non-student was arrested at 7:57 p.m. on the 2500 block of Fourth Street for four instant citations — driving with an invalid license, no liability insurance, displaying expired license plates and an expired driver's license — one Lubbock County Sheriff's Office warrant and 13 Lubbock Police Department warrants.

August 6
An officer documented a confrontation between a University Medical Center employee and a Health Sciences Center employee.

An officer investigated a theft at 1:30 p.m. at Murray Residence Hall in which a bicycle was reported stolen.

August 7
An officer investigated criminal mischief at 1:30 p.m. at the intersection of 18th Street and Boston Avenue in which a window was broken on the Traffic and Parking entry station.

An employee received an anonymous phone call at 3:35 p.m. in Bledsoe Residence Hall. The person who called the hall said they saw employees removing ceiling fans from the hall.

August 8
A student was arrested for public intoxication at 2:02 a.m. on the 900 block of University Avenue.

A non-student was arrested at 1:01 p.m. on the 1100 block of Avenue M for two outstanding Lubbock Police Department warrants.

An officer documented information in reference to a damaged mattress at 3:27 p.m. in a building on campus.

A non-student was arrested at 4:02 p.m. on the 3000 block of 18th Street for failure to identify, possession of marijuana and two outstanding Lubbock Police department warrants.

An officer documented information about a housing contract issue at 11:45 p.m. in Sneed Residence Hall.

August 9
A suspicious drip was reported and located at 2:49 p.m. in Murray Residence Hall. The drip was discovered by University Student Housing staff and investigated by a Tech officer. After further investigation, the student formerly living in the room was located and issued a Lubbock County citation for possession of drug paraphernalia.

August 11
An officer documented an emergency medical services call at 11:27 a.m. at the Health Sciences Center in which a student fainted and was transported to University Medical Center.

An officer investigated a theft at 1:19 p.m. at the Quaker Avenue Research Farm in which several bags of onions were reported stolen.

An officer investigated a theft at 8:40 p.m. in the Art building in which a wallet and its contents were reported stolen.

August 12
An officer documented information concerning possible employee misconduct at 5:06 p.m. at the Tech Health Sciences Center.

August 13
An officer issued a criminal trespass warning at 9:06 a.m. to a homeless person sleeping on the stairs of the Athletic Ticket Office.

A non-student was arrested for driving with an invalid license at 3:48 p.m. in the R-10 parking lot.

An officer investigated a hit-and-run accident at 4:56 p.m. in the Z-1B parking lot in which a vehicle hit an unattended vehicle.

August 14
An officer documented a disputed at 8:30 a.m. at the physical plant involving a supervisor and an employee.

August 15
A non-student was issued a criminal trespass warning at 4 p.m. for all Tech property.

August 16
An officer investigated an accident at 3:50 p.m. in the Z-4R parking lot.

August 17
A non-student was arrested at 10:56 a.m. for failure to identify and an outstanding Lubbock County Sheriff Department warrant.

August 18
Two officers documented damaged property at 8:05 a.m. to the Tech bonfire pit. Lightning reportedly struck the top of the pit and cracked some of the stone.

A wallet was reported stolen from an unsecured purse at 1 p.m. in the Human Sciences building.

A non-student was arrested at 11:24 p.m. on the 3700 block of 10th Street for an observed traffic violation, two outstanding Lubbock Sheriff's Office warrants, one outstanding Lubbock Police Department traffic warrant, and two instan-

tered citations — for possession of drug paraphernalia and driving with an invalid license.

August 19
A student was arrested at 2:12 a.m. in the Z-4R parking lot for public intoxication. The student was transported to the University Medical Center emergency room due to his intoxication level.

Two officers investigated a reported hit-and-run accident at 11:10 a.m. in the Z-5C parking lot in which the vehicle struck an unattended vehicle.

An officer investigated a reported burglary of vehicle at 11:15 a.m. in the R-1 parking lot in which a Tech parking permit was stolen from the vehicle at an unknown date and time in July.

An unsecured student identification card was reported stolen at 1:45 p.m. in the Student Union Building.

An officer investigated theft at 2:15 p.m. in the Student Union Building in which a wallet and its contents were reported stolen.

An officer arrested a student at 2:48 p.m. in Stangel Residence Hall for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

An accident without injuries was reported at 3:01 p.m. on the 500 block of Tech Parkway.

An officer investigated a theft at 4:22 p.m. in the Art Building in which a refrigerator was reported stolen.

An officer investigated an accident at 5:15 p.m. in the A-3 parking lot at the Health Sciences Center in which a vehicle struck an unattended vehicle.

August 20
An emergency medical call was reported at 8:17 a.m. in the Health Sciences Center in which a woman was having chest pain and was transported to the UMC emergency room.

An officer investigated forgery at 2:31 p.m. on an off-campus location using credit documentation from the Tech Federal Credit Union.

An officer investigated burglary of a building at 3:54 p.m. in the McLeod Tennis Complex in which six Sony video cameras, six video camera bags, six tripod stands and one tennis racket stringer were reported stolen.

August 21
A non-student was arrested for public intoxication at 1:20 a.m. in the R-18 parking lot.

An officer investigated burglary of a motor vehicle at 10:38 a.m. at the National Ranching Heritage Center. The officer reported the state-owned pickup was damaged from the inside during an attempted theft.

An officer investigated criminal mischief at 11:45 a.m. in the Z-4M parking lot in which a vehicle was keyed.

August 22
Two officers responded to a traffic accident at 12:12 a.m. on the intersection of 18th Street and Flint Avenue.

Telecom rollouts raise ire over utility boxes

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The road to advanced video, Internet and phone services is bumpy — and the bumps can be almost as big as refrigerators.

As cable and phone companies race to upgrade services or offer video for the first time, they're doing it by installing equipment in boxes on lawns, easements and curbs all over American neighborhoods. Telecommunications rollouts have always been messy, but several towns and residents are fighting back with cries of "Not in my front yard!"

AT&T Inc.'s nearly fridge-sized units, which route its new U-verse video product to customers, are drawing particular ire. A few caught fire or even exploded. AT&T said it has fixed that by replacing the units' backup batteries.

That's not much comfort to David Crommie, who thinks the boxes are an eyesore. Crommie, who is president of a San Francisco neighborhood group called the Cole Valley Improvement Association, complained after seeing some boxes sprout in town and managed to delay AT&T's plans to install up to 850. AT&T now is expected to reap-apply for an exemption to the city's environmental-review procedures.

"We have nothing against the technology. We just don't want that delivery system," Crommie said. "It's 19th century packaging for 21st century technology."

AT&T's rival Comcast Corp., the nation's largest cable company, apparently thought so too. It ran ads in Illinois calling the cabinets "giant utility boxes." In most locations, U-verse cabinets are 4 feet tall, 4 feet wide and 2 feet deep.

AT&T didn't think it was funny and sued Comcast in March for running a "false, deceptive and disparaging advertising campaign." The companies signed a standstill agreement in May.

But Comcast has utility box problems of its own.

Several residents in Lower Makefield Township, about 30 miles northeast of Philadelphia, got upset when new green boxes from Comcast popped up around town, sometimes between driveways.

"All of a sudden we have cable boxes appear," said 64-year-old resident Bernie Goldberg. "They seem to think our community is their open job site."

He wants to know why Comcast can't bury the new boxes, which are about a foot tall and wide, and 2 feet long.

Texas courts to monitor truant students by using GPS ankle bracelets; some fear privacy laws may be violated

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Court authorities will be able to track students with a history of skipping school under a new program requiring them to wear ankle bracelets with Global Positioning System monitoring.

But at least one group is worried the ankle bracelets will infringe on students' privacy.

Linda Penn, a Bexar County justice of the peace, said she anticipates that about 50 students — likely to be mostly high schoolers — will wear the thick ankle bracelets during the six-month pilot program announced Friday. She said the time students wear the anklets will be on a case-by-case basis, but she doubted any will wear them the entire half-year.

"We are at a critical point in our time where we can either educate or incarcerate," Penn said, linking truancy with juvenile delinquency and later criminal activity. "We can teach them now or run the risk of possible incarceration later on life. I don't want to see the latter."

Penn said students in the program will wear the ankle bracelets full-time and will not be able to remove them. They'll be selected as they come through her court and Penn will target truant students with gang affiliations, those with

a history of running away and skipping school and those who have been through her court multiple times.

"Students and parents must understand that attending school is not optional," Penn said. "When they fail to attend school, they are breaking the law."

Penn said the electronic monitoring is part of a comprehensive program she started four years ago to reduce truancy. She cited programs in Midland and Dallas as having success with similar electronic monitoring measures.

But Terri Burke, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas, said requiring students to wear the GPS bracelets full-time raises privacy concerns.

"We're all for keeping kids in school and we applaud any efforts to make that happen," Burke said. "But the privacy issue: What happens with the bracelet or ankle after school is out? Is that appropriate for the school or courts to know where and what this person is doing outside of school?"

Asked why the students have to wear the ankle bracelet all the time instead of just the school day, Penn cited problems with runaways.

"Sometimes, as I said, students are runaways. Parents don't know where they are," Penn said. "So it's for the safety of the child, as well as the safety of the community."

Burke said truant students and runaway kids are different issues.

Asked specifically about privacy concerns, Penn said she didn't have a comment. But, she added, her priority is "looking for the good of making these children accountable ... it's for the concern of these children getting an education."

Sometimes... students are runaways... So, it's for the safety of the child, as well as the safety of the community.

LINDA PENN
BEXAR COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Proverbs 1:5-7 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain to wise counsels: To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Suggested Daily Proverbs
8/25 - Pr. 25:12 • 8/26 - Pr. 26:8
8/27 - Pr. 27:8 • 8/28 - Pr. 28:8
8/29 - Pr. 29:8 • 8/30 - Pr. 30:13,14
8/31 - Pr. 31:10,14 • 9/1 - Pr. 1:18,19

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7 AM Curious Clifford	Today Scheduled: Janice Dickinson, Mally Roncal, David Zuczenko; money makeovers (HD)	The Early Show	Copeland (5:00) Daily Buzz	Robison	Awesome Lopez	Eye Lopez	Regis & Kelly
8 AM Super Why	Sesame Street	The Price Is Right	Divorce	Temptation	The View (HD)	The Morning Show	Martha Stewart
9 AM Sesame Street	Jeopardy	Restless (HD)	Alex	Cosby	Paid Prog.	Tyra Banks Show	Feud
10 AM Big World	Crosswords	Beautiful	Jerry Springer	Roseanne	One Life to Live	The People's Court	Extra
11 AM Barney	Days of Our Lives	As the World Turns	Jerry Springer	Roseanne	Degrassi	General Hospital	Judge Mathis
12 PM Quilt	Jeopardy	Guiding Light	Paid Prog.	I Like	Reba	Montel	Ellen DeGeneres
1 PM Scrap	Jeopardy	Maury	Reba	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	News
2 PM Teletub	Jeopardy	Maury	Reba	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	News
3 PM Reading	Jeopardy	Maury	Reba	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	News
4 PM Clifford	Jeopardy	Maury	Reba	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	News
5 PM Maya	Jeopardy	Maury	Reba	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	News
6 PM NewsHour	Jeopardy	Maury	Reba	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	News
7 PM PBS Convention Coverage	Jeopardy	Maury	Reba	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	News
8 PM NewsHour	Jeopardy	Maury	Reba	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	News
9 PM Reading	Jeopardy	Maury	Reba	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	News
10 PM Bus. Rpt	Jeopardy	Maury	Reba	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	News
11 PM News	Jeopardy	Maury	Reba	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	News
12 AM TV411	Jeopardy	Maury	Reba	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	News

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Tech researchers receive funding for sign-related wind testing

By JON VANDERLAAN
STAFF WRITER

There is at least one reason Lubbock wind is beneficial: It allows the university to catch the attention of companies looking for wind research.

The International Sign Association gave Tech's Wind Science and Engineering Research Center an initial \$60,000 in funding to determine the wind load capacity of signs, such as the ones in front of restaurants or gas stations.

Bill Dundas, ISA's director of technical and regulatory affairs, said the company represents on-premise sign companies, which means the association does not represent billboard companies, only those companies whose signs appear on company property.

The research is being conducted because the 2006 sign code required by the American Society of Civil Engineers increased the wind load requirement from previous years, he said, which made the signs cost more money.

If the research results are favorable to ISA, Dundas said, they would propose them to the society in hopes to have the

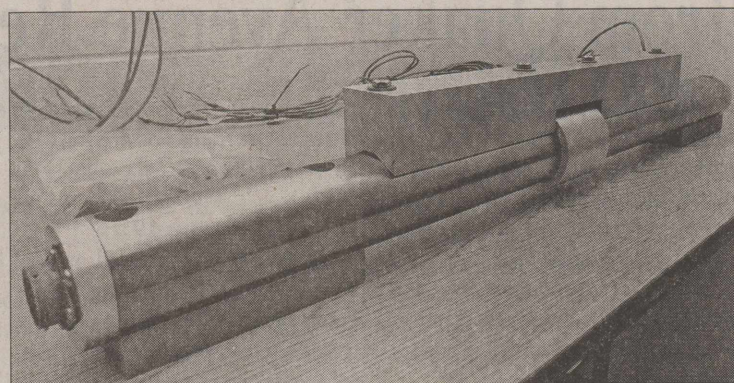


PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

THE STRAIN GAUGE measures vibrations and will be paced on the test billboard to help researchers gauge the stability of the billboard.

code changed.

"We would take the research from Texas Tech, if it's favorable for us, and we would present it to the committee at ASCE that governs this," Dundas said, "and we would petition them for appropriate changes."

The association chose which organization to use for research through a mechanical and sub-structural committee. It chose Tech because the university's proposal was the best and because it would conduct the research that aligned best with the association's needs.

Dundas said the \$60,000 from the ISA for the initial phase was

granted to find preliminary results. Once the ISA receives the preliminary results, it has the option to continue the contract, but only if it feels the results are favorable. The possible continuance would result in ISA giving an extra \$40,000 to Tech.

Doug Smith, associate professor in the College of Engineering, said the college will be conducting full-scale and wind-tunnel testing on the signs to establish their wind loads, or the amount of wind a sign can endure.

The research, Smith said, takes about a year and the research will be used to verify or modify the

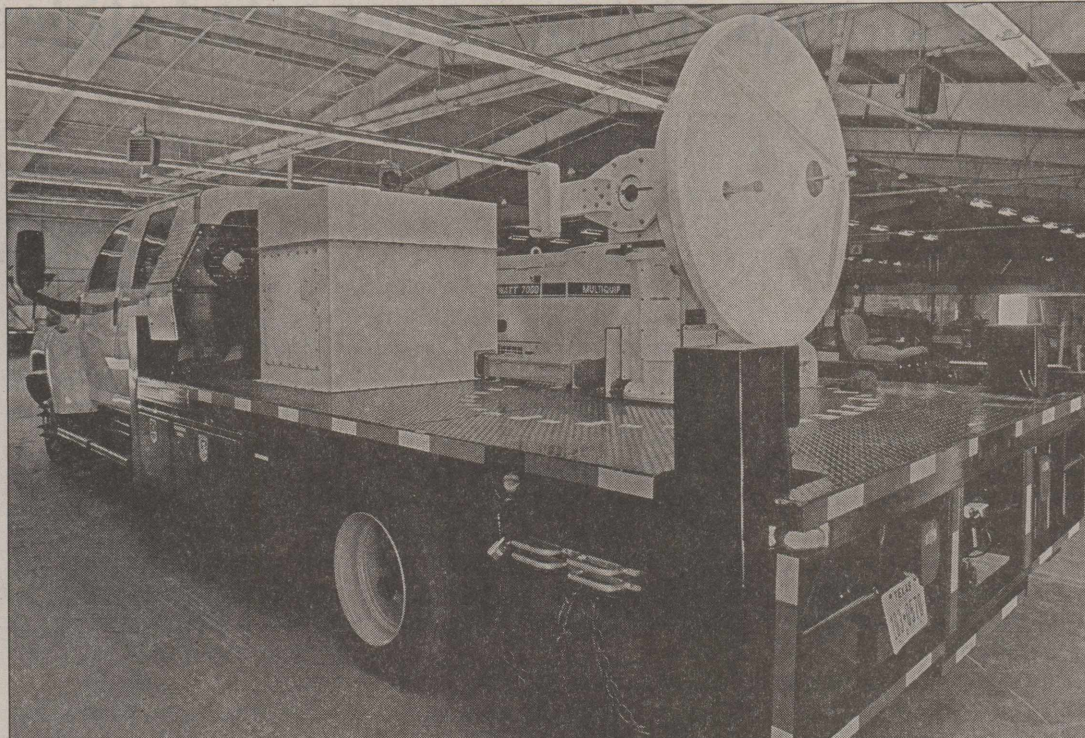


PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

THE TTU KA1 or more commonly known as a storm chaser vehicle sits inside the Wind Research Center waiting to be used. This vehicle is used to measure wind strength and density changes when driven to a storm's location.

codes of signs by establishing their wind signs.

He said Tech was a prime candidate for this type of research because the university has the only

full-scale test site necessary for this type of research.

The full-scale testing involves a 200-meter tower measuring wind loads on a sign and a strain gauge instrument

attached to the sign that measures its vibrations. The other portion of the testing will take place in a wind tunnel at the WISE center.

>>>jon.vanderlaan@ttu.edu

Fitch cuts Tribune ratings deeper in 'junk' status

NEW YORK (AP) — Fitch Ratings on Friday cut Tribune Co.'s credit rating further into "junk" status and said more reductions may come if newspaper advertising revenue declines keep accelerating.

Fitch sliced Tribune's rating two

notches to "CCC" from "B-" and gave it a "negative" outlook, which means the rating could fall again in the next eight to 12 months.

A "CCC" rating means "default is a real possibility, and the capacity to meet financial commitments is vulner-

able to deterioration in business and economic conditions," Fitch said. Its ratings reflect a company's likely ability to repay debt. Lenders use them to set loan terms.

Tribune, whose papers include the Chicago Tribune and the Los Angeles Times, owes about \$13.4 billion, Fitch said. The bulk was incurred when real estate mogul Sam Zell led an \$8.2 billion buyout last year, taking the company private.

The company expected its newspaper and broadcast revenue to cover interest and principal on the debt. But advertising revenue has fallen by double-digit percentages at most Tribune newspapers this year, forcing Tribune to cut costs, including staff, and to sell assets to raise money.

Fitch said it is "cautious" about newspaper companies' "prospects for capturing and monetizing the significant volume of advertising dollars that are migrating toward the Internet."

Most publishers have been growing their online ad revenues, but they still can't charge nearly as much for online ads as they used to for print.

Fitch analyst Mike Simonton downplayed media reports Thursday that quoted Zell saying the company's liquidity — its revenue minus operating expenses — won't be a concern for the next seven years.

"Liquidity isn't a pressing concern over the next two to three quarters," Simonton said. "But it is difficult to foresee how the company would have the capacity to meet its interest obligations beyond three or four quarters without selling more assets."

If ad revenue continues falling at its current pace, Simonton said, the company will be forced to liquidate more of what he calls "valuable" holdings.

Tribune officials declined to comment on the downgrade and have

generally declined to comment on the company's plans for its assets.

Tribune has already sold the Long Island daily Newsday to Cablevision Systems Corp. for more than \$600 million. It used the proceeds from that sale to help repay \$807 million in principal in the second quarter.

Tribune is reportedly considering the sale of its headquarters building in Chicago and its Times Mirror Square building in Los Angeles.

Tribune has a principal payment of \$593 million due in June. To raise cash, Zell plans to sell the Chicago Cubs baseball team and its Wrigley Field stadium, along with its 25 percent stake in Comcast Corp.'s Chicago sports channel.

Even if that sale goes through by the end of this year, as Zell plans, and it helps cover payments through the next few quarters, Tribune's revenue may fall too fast for it to keep up with what it owes beyond 2009, Fitch said.

Bidding for the sports properties has entered a second round, after Tribune whittled a field of more than 10 bidders down to five major groups that each offered at least \$1 billion, according to people familiar with the situation who declined to be named because of confidentiality agreements.

Internet billionaire Mark Cuban, who owns basketball's Dallas Mavericks, and the Ricketts family, which founded the brokerage that is now TD Ameritrade Holding Corp., are considered the two front-runners because they are thought to have the best funding.

A group led by Hersch Klaff, who owns a Chicago commercial real estate firm, also made the cut.

Another finalist, Leo Hindery, the cable pioneer who runs InterMedia Partners and set up YES Network, which carries New York Yankees games, is thought to be eyeing the sports channel in particular.

Battle against lawmakers' pork barrel spending fades

WASHINGTON (AP) — Whatever happened to the Republican Party's war on pork?

It never was the full-fledged assault envisioned by conservatives, but the GOP's battle against parochial home-state projects sought by members of Congress has faded into oblivion.

Just months ago, most Republicans in the House swore off pork barrel projects — at least until new reforms could be put in place. The moratorium on such "earmarks" was to be a key plank in the House GOP's fall platform, issues Republican candidates will emphasize in their campaigns.

Since then, it's been supplanted by high gasoline prices and the weak economy as dominant campaign issues.

But there's another factor, too. The appetite for home state earmarks among Republicans — including some party leaders — is almost as great as ever, despite warnings from some conservatives that GOP lawmakers' refusal to give up their earmarks is costing support among core constituencies.

For example, Roy Blunt, the Missouri lawmaker who's the No. 2 Republican in the House, last February was touting the GOP's "desire for change (on earmarks) and our commitment to get it done."

Last month, Blunt claimed credit for a host of projects, including \$500,000 for an energy efficient roof on a local courthouse and a \$1 million renewable energy research grant

for a community college, saying the "funding will send your tax dollars back to be used in your neighborhood — where it belongs."

All told, Blunt obtained about \$10 million for his southwest Missouri district from the handful of bills revealed by the Appropriations panel, which doles out the largess.

More are certainly on the way once bills funding the Pentagon and its many contractors, transportation projects and economic development grants are approved.

Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, doesn't ask for earmarks. But after leading a big charge on earmarks early this year, he now mostly raises the topic when addressing smaller groups of GOP

activists. He's not one to criticize Republicans who grab pork.

"Not every earmark is bad, but my goodness, they ought to pass the straight face test," Boehner said.

The issue had such traction earlier this year that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., was entertaining the idea of a temporary moratorium on pet projects and grants. Strong resistance from rank-and-file Democrats dissuaded her. Democrats then blocked a plan by House Republicans to impose a temporary ban on earmarks until new bipartisan reforms could be proposed.

The Senate in March voted overwhelmingly, 71-29, to reject a one-year ban on earmarks, even though all three major presidential candidates then supported the idea.

“Not every earmark is bad, but my goodness, they ought to pass the straight face test.”

JOHN BOEHNER
MINORITY LEADER, R-OHIO

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Puzzles by PageFiller

Solution in tomorrow's paper

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

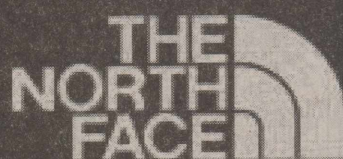


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Attack forces Indonesian Christians off campus

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Hundreds of Christian theology students have been living in tents since a mob of angry Muslim neighbors stormed their campus last month wielding bamboo spears and hurling Molotov cocktails.

The incident comes amid growing concern that Indonesia's tradition of religious tolerance is under threat from Islamic hard-liners.

In talks since the attack, the Arastamar Evangelical School of Theology has reluctantly agreed to shut its 20-year-old campus in east Jakarta, accepting an offer this week to move to a small office building on the other side of the Indonesian capital.

"Why should we be forced from our house while our attackers can walk freely?" asked the Rev. Matheus Mangentang, chairman of the 1,400-student school.

The government of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, which relies on the support of Islamic parties in Parliament, is struggling to balance deep Islamic traditions and a secular constitution. With elections coming next April, the government seems unwilling to

defend religious minorities, lest it be portrayed as anti-Islamic in what is the world's most populous Muslim-majority country.

The July 25 attack, which injured 18 students, was the culmination of years of simmering tensions between the school and residents of the Kampung Pulo neighborhood.

Senny Manave, a spokesman for the Christian school, said complaints were received from neighbors about prayers and the singing of hymns, which they considered disturbing evangelical activity.

Several neighbors refused to comment, saying they feared that could further strain relations. A prominent banner, signed by scores of people, has been hung over an entrance to the neighborhood.

"We the community of Kampung Pulo demand the campus be closed and dissolved," it says.

The assault began around midnight, when students woke to the crash of stones falling on their dormitory roof as a voice over a loudspeaker at a nearby mosque cried "Allah Akbar," or "God is great" in Arabic.

The unidentified speaker urged

residents to rise up against their "unwanted neighbors," said Sairin, the head of campus security, who goes by a single name.

The attack followed a claim that a student had broken into a resident's house, but police dismissed the charge.

Uneasy relations date to 2003, when neighbors began to protest the school's presence. Last year, residents set fire to shelters for construction workers to try to stop the campus from expanding deeper into the neighborhood. Some also questioned the legality of the school's permit.

Christian lawmaker Karol Daniel Kadang accused property speculators of provoking last month's incident to clear the land for more profitable use, after the school refused to sell out.

He also blamed the government for failing to build interfaith relations, which he and others believe are beginning to fray.

"People are still tolerant, but there is a growing suspicion among Muslims of others," said Prof. Franz Magnis-Suseno, a Jesuit priest who has lived in Indonesia for half a century.

CLOWNING AROUND



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

AT THE PATIENT Celebration hosted by Texas Tech Physicians, Sparkle the clown makes a pegasus for five-year-old Samantha Brock (pictured right), while her younger sister three-year-old Alex Brock (middle) and her friend five-year-old Kaitlin Devault watch Friday afternoon in front of the Health Sciences Center.

Tech parking goes mobile

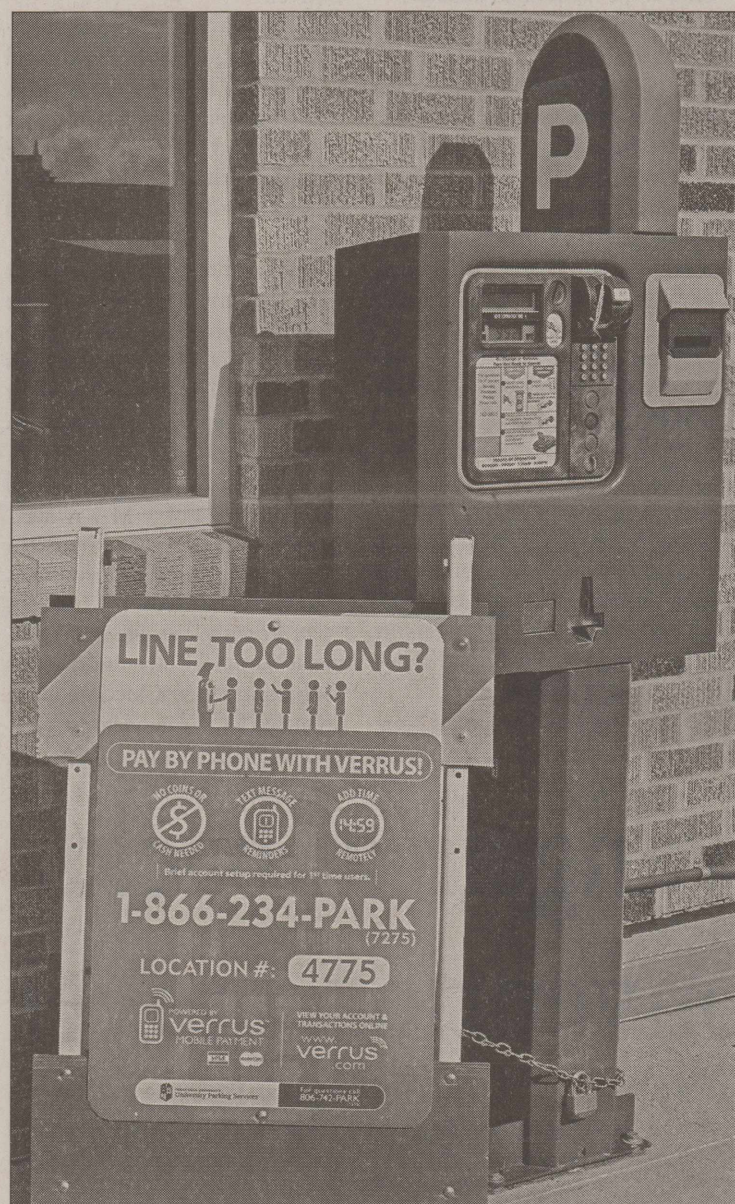


PHOTO BY JON VANDERLAAN/The Daily Toreador

THE VERRUS MOBILE payment system is being tested on the fourth floor of the Flint parking garage.

By JON VANDERLAAN
STAFF WRITER

The "park and pay" system on campus is saving time and trees by testing a procedure that would favor a mobile pay system over the ticket-taking system.

Brian Brand, Texas Tech's parking enforcement manager, said the university began a three-month trial contract with Verrus, a mobile payment company, in late July.

The service requires drivers to call the phone number 866-234-7275 to register their vehicle, give credit card information, and identify the space they are parking in for that day. After the first registration, the person will no longer need to register the credit card or vehicle. The driver also may create an online account.

The person then must tell the service how long they intend to occupy the spot, and the service will send a text message to the user when he or she only has five minutes left on their time. The text-message alert will give them an opportunity to extend

their time, or they can call the phone number to extend.

Although there is no extra charge to drivers for the service, Brand said the university is charged 40 cents for each transaction. It is not a full 40 cents charged to the university,

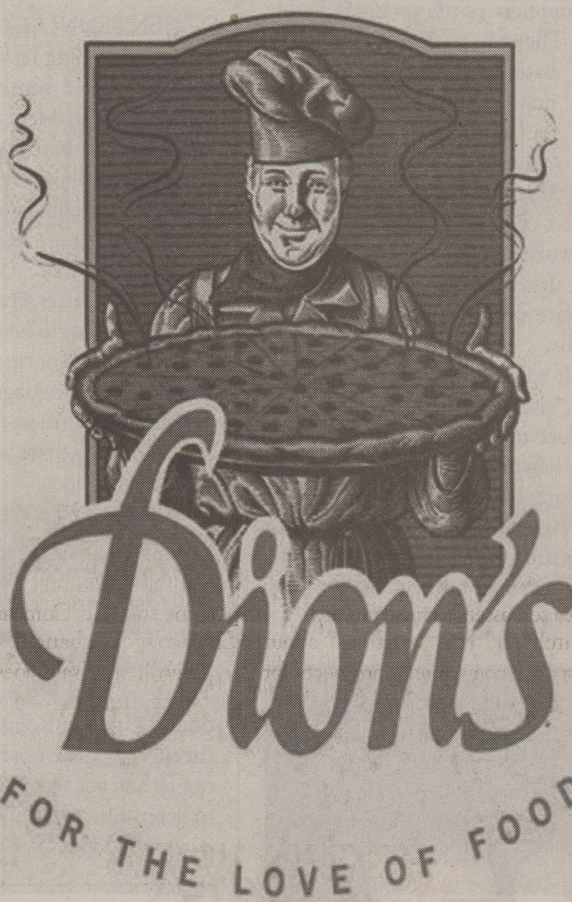
however, because credit card transactions at pay stations already cost the university 25 cents per transaction, meaning the actual additional cost to the university per transaction through the new service is only 15 cents.

The pay-by-cash option still will be available.

He said the department plans to send a mass text message survey to those who have used the service. If implemented, the system would be campus wide and utilized at five pay lots during the day and an additional four reserved lots that become pay lots after 5:30 p.m.

"I see it as just being a great convenience," Brand said. "My only thought was, 'How many people are out there that don't have cell phones to use to pay with a credit card these days?'"

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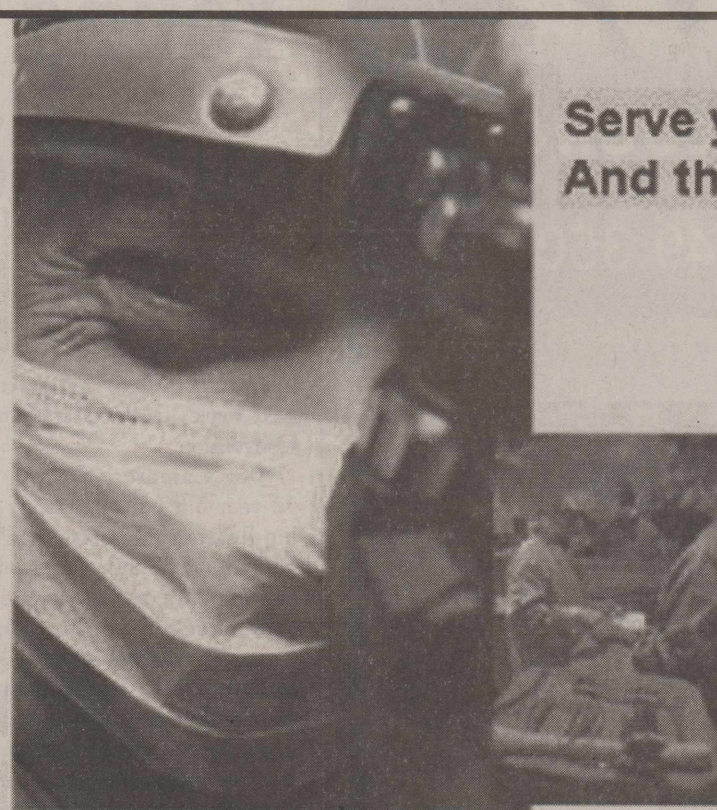
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Tech officials prepared for potential food recalls

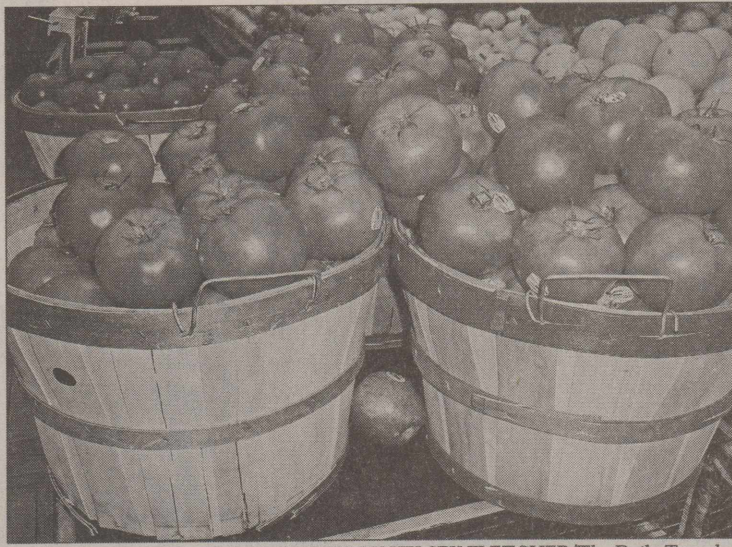


PHOTO BY KELSEY FLETCHER/The Daily Toreador
GROCERY STORES PULLED tomatoes and peppers from shelves during a salmonella scare this summer.

By KELSEY FLETCHER
STAFF WRITER

Five years ago, if Texas Tech students were asked what tomatoes and peanut butter had in common, most would be puzzled.

Now, these foods are associated with danger and contamination. The recent absence of these items in all Lubbock-area grocery stores and Tech dining halls due to salmonella scares and subsequent FDA recalls.

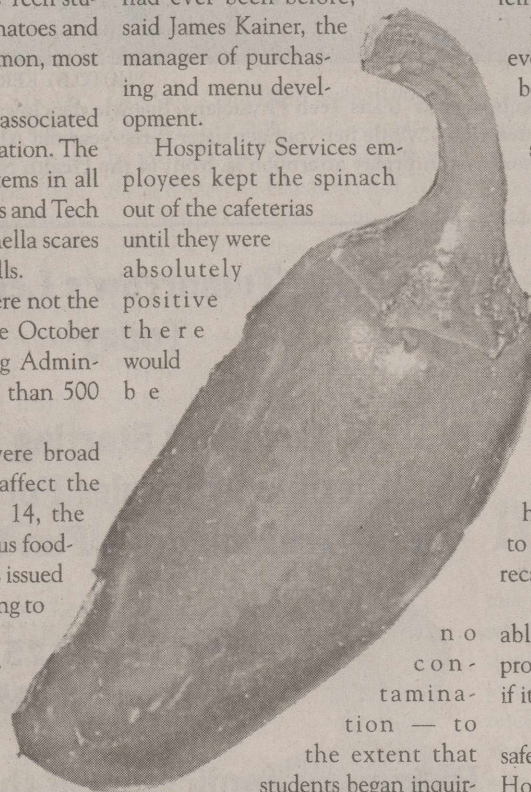
These two products were not the only items affected. Since October 2006, the Food and Drug Administration has issued more than 500 warnings and recalls.

Of these, only five were broad and general enough to affect the Tech Campus. On Sept. 14, the first notification of a serious food-borne E.Coli outbreak was issued through the FDA, according to the FDA's Web site.

After that initial notification, there were more than six additional recalls spanning spinach farms across the entire country. All over the country and Lubbock, spinach was removed from

store shelves until its status could be verified. At Tech, spinach was absent from the menu longer than any food had ever been before, said James Kainer, the manager of purchasing and menu development.

Hospitality Services employees kept the spinach out of the cafeterias until they were absolutely positive there would be



no contamination — to the extent that students began inquiring as to when the spinach would return, Kainer said.

"But ultimately, the students were glad that we had acted in their best interests," he said.

Not long after the country had finally recovered from the spinach recall, on Feb. 14, 2007, all Peter Pan and Great Value peanut butter containing certain product numbers were recalled and news broadcasts urged customers to discard tainted peanut butter immediately, according to the FDA Web site. Tech Hospitality had actually purchased some of the peanut butter in question, but "completely switched to a different brand permanently because of the recall," Kainer said.

During summer, various foods have fallen prey to FDA recalls due to salmonella outbreaks, including raw red plum tomatoes, red Roma, red round tomatoes, jalapeños, Serrano peppers and avocados.

Due to fast-acting workers on Tech campus, Kainer said no student fell ill from contaminated products.

Kainer said the university does everything it can to keep the student body safe.

"We work through reputable suppliers, primarily US Food Service," said Kainer. "If anyone issues any kind of warning, our suppliers notify us immediately. They can track every single case back to the farm it was produced ... If we have the product in question, we will pull them completely off our shelves and discard them."

The hospitality department works closely with a campus health inspector who is kept up to date of the latest warnings and recalls.

"If something is even questionable," Kainer said, "we'll pull the product temporarily until we know if it's safe or not."

Students concerned about food safety information can visit the Tech's Hospitality Services Web site for more information.

>>> kelsey.e.fletcher@ttu.edu

SUIT UP

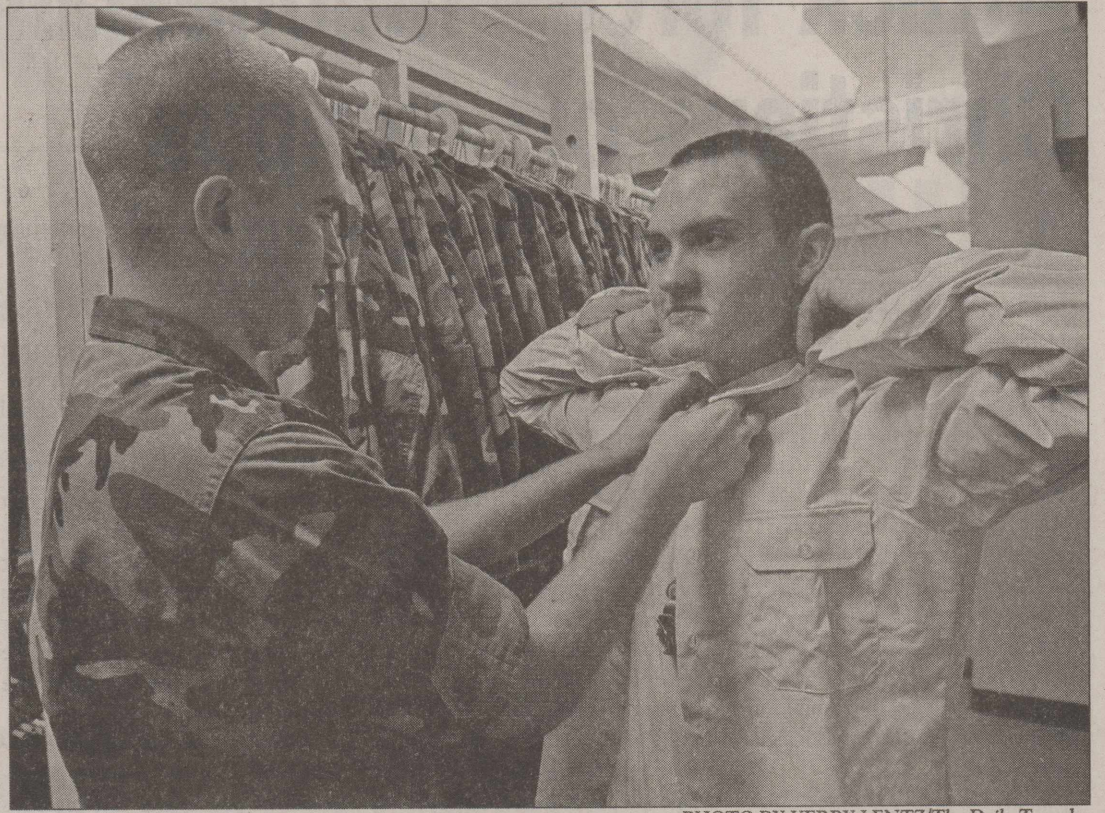


PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador
RYAN CARROLL, A senior electrical engineering major from Uvalde helps freshman Nathan Wrzesinski, a mechanical engineering major from Austin, try on a long sleeve shirt while getting the rest of his reserve officer's training core uniform Friday afternoon.

Officials: Threat sent to McCain's Colorado office

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP) — A threatening letter containing an unidentified white powder was sent to a John McCain campaign office in this south Denver suburb Thursday, authorities said. No injuries were immediately reported. Authorities later said the substance was not hazardous.

A second letter sent to a McCain campaign office in New Hampshire initially was reported to contain threatening language and white powder. Authorities said that was a false alarm and there was no powder in that envelope.

At least 19 people were examined at hospitals or were quarantined outside the Colorado office while authorities tried to determine whether the powder was hazardous. Everyone was sent home by late Thursday, said Arapahoe County Sheriff Grayson Robinson. He said the substance was not hazardous and not lethal, but that it will take days to determine what it was.

Andy Lyon of Parker South

Metro Fire Rescue Authority said the return address on the envelope listed the Arapahoe Detention Center and the name of an inmate.

Sheriff's officials said the inmate suspected of sending the letter is Marc Harold Ramsey, 39, who has been incarcerated since September 2007 on investigation of felony menacing, harassment and second-degree assault on a peace officer. Ramsey may face federal felony charges for Thursday's incident, sheriff's officials said.

Lyon said the first line of the letter used threatening language. He refused to give any details.

Malcolm Wiley, a Secret Service spokesman in Colorado, said there was no powder in the New Hampshire envelope. He said he did not know about the content of the letter, which had a Denver return address. That alarmed staffers in Manchester, who had heard about the Colorado incident.

Jim Barnett, McCain's New

England campaign manager, said it's unusual for the New Hampshire office to get a letter from Denver.

"That was really the only suspicious thing about the letter, and our national headquarters advised, out of an abundance of caution for our staff and volunteers, that we have the authorities check it out," he said. "We did and it was deemed safe."

A government official familiar with the investigation said the New Hampshire letter was a false alarm. The official said authorities believe the Denver letter was a hoax because it appeared to have been sent from a jail.

Both the New Hampshire and Colorado offices were evacuated.

Bruce Williamson of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department said authorities took the incident "very seriously" because the Democratic National Convention begins Monday in Denver. McCain is the presumed GOP candidate.

Young evangelical backs out of convention prayer

DENVER (AP) — It was a coup for Democrats: An emerging young evangelical voice, a registered Republican no less, accepted their invitation to deliver a prayer at next week's Democratic National Convention.

But Cameron Strang, the 32-year-old editor of edgy and hip Relevant Magazine, had second thoughts and pulled out of delivering the benediction on the convention's first night, Monday. Citing fears that his bridge-building gesture would be wrongly construed as an endorsement, Strang said he instead hopes to take a lower-profile role, participating in a convention caucus meeting on religion later in the week.

"Through Relevant, I reach a demographic that has strong faith, morals and passion, but disagreements politically," Strang wrote on his blog. "It wouldn't be wise for me to be seen as picking a political side when I've consistently said both sides are right in some areas and wrong in some areas."

Little known to outsiders, the Strang name carries weight with evangelicals, especially in the fast-growing charismatic and Pentecostal branches. Cameron's father, Steven, who like his son is based in the Orlando, Fla., area, founded a magazine, Charisma, that spawned a publishing empire. The elder Strang has endorsed Republican Sen. John McCain.

Democratic Sen. Barack Obama's presidential campaign has aggressively courted the young evangelical vote, and the younger Strang has been part of it. He was on the guest list when religious leaders met with Obama in June in Chicago, consulted the campaign on Christian issues and interviewed Obama for his magazine, which claims a print circulation of 80,000 and 450,000 unique Web site visitors per month.

Yet Strang's reticence to play such a high-profile role shows such relationships are a work in progress: While Democratic leaders are reaching out to more diverse religious groups, many younger

evangelicals are striving for political independence and common ground without compromising on core issues like abortion.

The convention's schedule is studded with faith-themed events, including the first interfaith gathering to open a Democratic convention. Those delivering invocations and benedictions during the four-night convention include a Greek Orthodox archbishop, a Catholic nun, a rabbi from Judaism's Reform tradition and Joel Hunter, a Republican and Florida megachurch pastor who has made the environment a signature issue.

In his blog post, Strang wrote that he initially accepted the benediction invitation, in part, so he could pray in a forum where faith isn't typically emphasized. He also wanted to provide tangible evidence that "this generation of values voters doesn't necessarily need to draw political battle lines the way previous generations have, and that we can work through areas of disagreement toward common goals."

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Extra pounds mean insurance fees for Alabama workers

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Alabama, pushed to second in national obesity rankings by deep-fried Southern favorites, is cracking down on state workers who are too fat.

The state has given its 37,527 employees a year to start getting fit — or they'll pay \$25 a month for insurance that otherwise is free.

Alabama will be the first state to charge overweight state workers who don't work on slimming down, while a handful of other states reward employees who adopt healthy behaviors.

Alabama already charges workers who smoke — and has seen some success in getting them to quit — but now has turned its attention to a problem that plagues many in the Deep South: obesity.

The State Employees' Insurance Board this week approved a plan

to charge state workers starting in January 2010 if they don't have free health screenings.

If the screenings turn up serious problems with blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose or obesity, employees will have a year to see a doctor at no cost, enroll in a wellness program, or take steps on their own to improve their health. If they show progress in a follow-up screening, they won't be charged. But if they don't, they must pay starting in January 2011.

"We are trying to get individuals to become more aware of their health," said state worker Robert Wagstaff, who serves on the insurance board.

Not all state employees see it that way.

"It's terrible," said health department employee Chequela Motley. "Some people come into this world

with a big weight problem. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 30.3 percent are now obese, ranking the state behind only Mississippi.

E-K. Daufin of Montgomery, a college professor and founder of Love Your Body, Love Yourself, which holds body acceptance workshops, said the new policy will be stressful for people like her.

"I'm big and beautiful and doing my best to keep my stress levels down so I can stay healthy," Daufin said. "That's big, not lazy, not a glutton and certainly not deserving of the pompous, poisonous disrespect served up daily to those of us with more bounce to the ounce."

A recent study suggested that about half of overweight people and nearly a third of obese people have normal blood pressure and chole-

sterol levels, while about a quarter of people considered to be normal weight suffer from the ills associated with obesity.

Walter Lindstrom, founder of the Obesity Law and Advocacy Center in California, said he's concerned that all overweight Alabama employees will get it worse to walk more and broil their chicken.

"The state will feel good about itself for offering something and the person of size will end up paying \$300 a year for the bad luck of having a chronic disease his/her state-sponsored insurance program failed to cover in an appropriate and meaningful fashion," he said.

William Ashmore, executive director of the State Employees' Insurance Board, said the state will spend an extra \$1.6 million next year on screenings and wellness programs,

but should see significant long-term savings.

Ashmore said research shows someone with a body mass index of 35 to 39 generates \$1,748 more in annual medical expenses than someone with a BMI less than 25, considered normal.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, a few states offer one-time financial incentives for pursuing healthy lifestyles. Ohio workers, for instance, get \$50 for having health assessments and another \$50 for following through with the advice.

Arkansas and Missouri go a step further, offering monthly discounts on premiums for employees who take health risk assessments and participate in wellness programs to reduce obesity, stress and other health problems.

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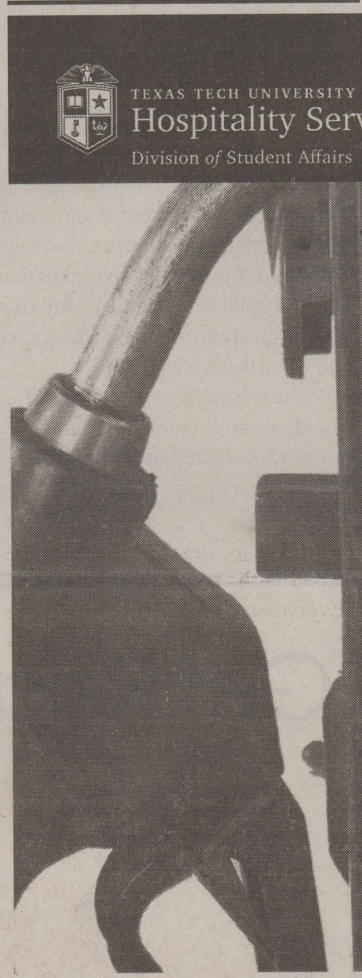
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ODDBALL DAILY

McCain beats Obama in race of hissing cockroaches

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP) — This presidential race was no contest: John McCain sped to the finish while Barack Obama was reluctant to leave the starting point.

But there's no guarantee giant Madagascar hissing cockroaches will predict the real result in November.

The roach race Thursday was part of the New Jersey

Pest Management Association's annual clinic and trade show.

Organizers liken the race's prediction success to that of Punxsutawney Phil on Groundhog Day.

Association Executive Director Leonard Douglan says the 2000 roach race came close. The Gore roach won by an antenna, hanging chads not included.

Woman cuffed, booked for not paying library fines

GRAFTON, Wis. (AP) — A Wisconsin woman has been arrested and booked for failing to pay her library fines.

Twenty-year-old Heidi Dalibor told the News Graphic in Cedarburg that she ignored the library's calls and letters as well as a notice to appear in court.

Still, she was surprised when officers with a warrant knocked on her door, cuffed her and took her to the police station to be fingerprinted

and photographed.

Police Capt. Joe Gabrish says officers follow the same procedure with every warrant.

Library director John Hanson says a couple of dozen people are cited each year for failure to return materials or pay fines.

The incident cost Dalibor about \$30 for the two overdue paperbacks. It cost her mother \$172 to free her.

Utah politician seals deal with horse kiss

FARMINGTON, Utah (AP) — Lose a bet, kiss a horse.

That's how Davis County Commissioner Alan Hansen found himself kissing a 3-year-old sand-colored horse named Reno.

The smooch stemmed from a contest between employees at Davis County and the Davis Hospital and Medical Center. The rules: Members of the team that lost the most weight got to watch their boss kiss a farm animal. This year, the county employees won — county

staffers lost 397.6 pounds, just slightly trimmer than the hospital workers.

Hansen missed out when his fellow commissioners locked lips with a cow over the weekend.

So on Tuesday, Hansen met Reno on the front steps of the county courthouse and puckered up for what became a quick peck.

But not before he slathered on some lip balm and popped a breath mint.

He told the mare: "This is more for you than me."

Calif. says green cars need more noise pollution

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Electric and hybrid vehicles may be better for the environment, but the California Legislature says they're bad for the blind.

It has passed a bill to ensure that the vehicles make enough noise to be heard by visually impaired people about to cross a street.

The measure would establish a committee to study

the issue and recommend ways the vehicles could make more noise.

The state Department of Motor Vehicles says more than 300,000 of the vehicles are on state roads. Officials say they don't keep statistics on pedestrian accidents involving those vehicles.

The bill has been sent to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has not taken a position.

Typo fixers get probation for damaging rare sign

PHOENIX (AP) — When it comes to marking up historic signs, good grammar is a bad defense.

Two self-styled vigilantes against typos who defaced a more than 60-year-old, hand-painted sign at Grand Canyon National Park were sentenced to probation and banned from national parks for a year.

Jeff Deck and Benjamin Herson pleaded guilty Aug. 11 for the damage done March 28 at the park's Desert View Watchtower. The sign was made by Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter, the architect who designed the rustic 1930s

watchtower and other Grand Canyon-area landmarks.

Deck and Herson, both 28, toured the United States this spring, wiping out errors on government and private signs. They were interviewed by NPR and the Chicago Tribune, which called them "a pair of Kerouacs armed with Sharpies and erasers and righteous indignation."

An affidavit by National Park Service agent Christopher A. Smith said investigators learned of the vandalism from an Internet site operated by Deck on behalf of the Typo Eradication Advancement League, or TEAL.

WORLD EVENTS IN BRIEF

US: 30 militants killed in west Afghanistan clash

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — U.S.-led troops attacked a compound where Taliban leaders were meeting in western Afghanistan, killing 30 militants, American and Afghan military officials said Friday.

The coalition was striking back against insurgents opposed to the Western-backed government of President Hamid Karzai who have stepped up attacks on foreign and Afghan troops.

The coalition said its troops called in airstrikes

on the compound in the Shindand district of Herat province on Thursday.

Some 30 militants were killed and five others were detained, spokesman 1st Lt. Nathan Perry said. The troops found a haul of weapons and ammunition inside the compound, he said.

Afghan officials issued contradictory statements about what had happened and it was not immediately clear why they offered such differing accounts.

Sadrist denounce emerging US-Iraq deal

BAGHDAD (AP) — Several thousand supporters of anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr protested Friday against an emerging U.S.-Iraqi security agreement, saying it would turn Iraq into a U.S. colony.

The march in the southern city of Kufa came a day after U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met with Iraqi leaders in Baghdad to discuss the deal, which includes a gradual withdrawal of U.S. forces.

Under a draft agreement, American combat troops would pull out of major Iraqi cities by next June and

leave Iraq by 2011, according to Iraqi officials familiar with the document.

The schedule could be modified if the two governments agree, and the pact has not been approved by either the Iraqi Cabinet or the parliament, which has the final decision.

Al-Sadr, who lives in Iran but retains significant political clout in Iraq, strongly opposes the U.S. military presence. Al-Sadr and other critics fear that the pullout deal will bind the U.S. and Iraq in a long-term security relationship, instead of restoring Iraqi sovereignty.

Suicide bombers kill 67 at Pakistani arms factory

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Suicide bombers killed 67 people at Pakistan's largest arms factory Thursday in one of the country's deadliest terror attacks, adding to turmoil from political squabbling that is threatening to tear apart the ruling coalition now that Pervez Musharraf has quit as president.

The twin bombings, which also wounded more than 100 people, hit one of Pakistan's most sensitive and heavily guarded military installations, underlining the threat posed by Islamic militants to the Muslim world's only nuclear-armed nation as well as its war-ravaged neighbor, Afghanistan.

Authorities have arrested a man they believe would have been a third bomber in the blasts. He was detained shortly after the blasts. Police also seized several other suspects and found an explosives-laden jacket in a nearby mosque, local police official Mohammed Saeed said.

"The army and police arrested a suspected bomber not far away from scene of the attack," Saeed said. "They also recovered a suicide jacket from a nearby mosque and seized explosives."

It was unclear whether the suspect was found with the explosives.

Face transplant patient can smile, blink again

LONDON (AP) — Transplanting faces may seem like science fiction, but doctors say the experimental surgeries could one day become routine.

Two of the world's three teams that have done partial face transplants reported Friday that their techniques were surprisingly effective, though complications exist and more work is still needed.

"There is no reason to think these face transplants would not be as common as kidney or liver transplants one day," said Dr. Laurent Lantieri, one of the French doctors who operated on a man severely disfigured by

a genetic disease.

In Friday's issue of the British medical journal *Lancet*, Lantieri and colleagues reported on their patient's status one year after the transplant. Chinese doctors also reported on their patient, two years after his surgery.

Last year, the French team operated on a 29-year-old man with tumors that blurred his features in a face that looked almost monstrous. They transplanted a new lower face from a donor, giving the patient new cheeks, a nose and mouth. Six months later, he could smile and blink.

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Dartmouth profs: Political parties polarized

By VICTORIA BOGGIANO
THE DARTMOUTH (DARTMOUTH COLLEGE)

Increased political polarization may not only limit bipartisan legislation, but also reduce voter participation and the fairness of the judiciary, according to scholars and politicians who participated in a three-day Rockefeller Center conference that ended Saturday. The researchers, who came from across the country, presented 14 papers analyzing polarization and how it may have changed the composition of the political center, according to Dartmouth government professor Ronald Shaiko, the conference's organizer.

This phenomenon may contribute to students' disaffection with politics, Shaiko said.

"It's always struck me that if there's a majority of students, they're in the moderate range, and yet they're bombarded from the left and the right," he said. "That's not exactly the best way to be socialized into politics — hearing extreme voices on either side and no one really reflecting how you feel."

Thursday's session featured presentations by Dartmouth government professor Joseph Bafumi and Emory University professor Alan Abramowitz, with Dartmouth government professor Dean Lacy serving as the discussant. E.J. Dionne,

an affiliate with The Washington Post and professor at Georgetown University, delivered a lecture to the participants at dinner.

Bafumi argued that ideology has become an increasingly strong predictor of party affiliation. This development reduces the likelihood of split-ticket voting, when an individual votes for candidates from both of the major parties in one election, he said.

"I'm finding that today's partisanship is more ideological than partisanship of the past," Bafumi said in an interview. "Moderates still exist, but there are fewer of them. That's both true of elected officials, and there seem to be fewer in the electorate too."

Abramowitz came to a similar conclusion.

Lacy, critiquing the papers, asked the authors to provide supporting evidence for their arguments.

"The theory in both papers is that you have ideology or issue positions, which causes party [identification], which then causes evaluations of either the economy or presidential performance or anything else," Lacy said. "Are you sure that this is the right model, and how can you prove it?"

Friday's presentations examined the effects of polarization on Congress, the presidency and the judicial system. Former Rep. Nancy

Johnson, R-Conn., argued that growing polarization in the House — increased by the influence of outside organizations and interest groups — discourages members from crafting bipartisan legislation.

"When you look at the conflict between the essential need of each party to be able to appeal to the independent voters and their need within the process to control everything so they don't tick off one of their existing groups of supporters, you can see the tension that the process of policymaking is now fraught with," Johnson said.

Peter Burns, a research associate at the Rockefeller Center, served as Saturday's discussant, asking the conference's participants whether the electorate or the parties are primarily responsible for the polarization.

"I wonder about the direction arrow," he said. "Is the direction arrow that the people are becoming more polarized and, therefore, Congress is reflecting this, or is it that the parties and Congress are becoming more polarized and then the people are the dependent variable?"

The conference is part of the 25th anniversary celebration of the Rockefeller Center. The majority of the center's programming focuses on students, Shaiko explained, so the senior leadership decided to have one faculty-centered event as part

of the celebration.

"I think the theme of going to extremes is very fitting in the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center, as the term 'Rockefeller Republican' refers to a branch of the Republican party that is much more moderate to liberal than where the contemporary party leadership is today," Shaiko said.

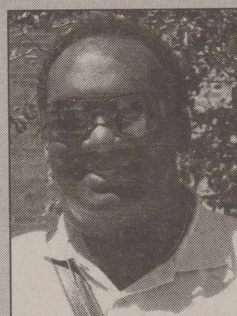
Shaiko solicited submissions from researchers last year and chose the 14 topics that complemented each other, he said. Shaiko will edit the papers into one volume for publication, which he hopes professors will use in their introductory government and public policy courses, he said.

"The papers presented now have some rather sophisticated models in them," Shaiko said. "What I will tell [the researchers] after the conference is, 'Now make that readable to a student who doesn't know how to read multiple regression.'"

The Rockefeller Center hopes to sponsor additional collaborative conferences, spanning a range of disciplines, in the future, Shaiko said.

"This conference tends to be drawing only among the political community," he said. "Hopefully, in the future we'll have more process-oriented kinds of things, and we could draw on economists, sociologists, all disciplines."

STUDENTS WEIGH IN TIPS FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS



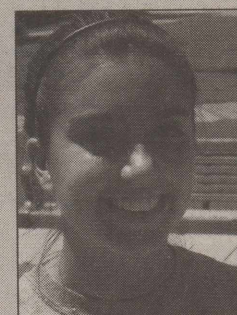
"Build a schedule. That helps a lot. And get to know your professors. That will help you create your study habits, because some professors test certain ways."

— Brian Horton, junior political science major from San Angelo



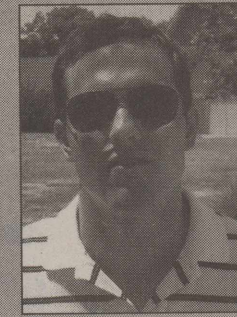
"Stay on top of your homework. (Don't) wait until the last moment to study for your test. Know why you're here. Know college is to learn. Have fun but remember why you're here."

— Erin Skjelstad, graduate student from Seattle, Wash.



"It's important to go back to your room after class to study what you've just learned. Instead of cramming for the test, it's like actually studying it."

— Rebekah DeLong, freshman early childhood education major from Quanaah



"I always study in the library. It's better for distractions away from the computer. There are just too many distractions on the computer, so I always go up to the library so I don't get distracted away from the textbook. That usually works, going somewhere quiet."

— Tyler Owens, junior business finance major from Tyler

Compiled by Matthew McGowan

Survey shows electronic textbook use on rise

By THOMAS FROBISHER
FSVIEW & FLORIDA FLAMBEAU (FLORIDA STATE U.)

A recent survey by Internet book retailer AbeBooks indicates that the use of electronic textbooks is on the rise against more traditional paper-based books.

The survey, which polled more than 1,500 university-attending customers of AbeBooks in July, surprised the retailer with the resulting information that 21 percent of the students had already bought electronic textbooks in some form.

"The vast majority of students

still want a paper-based book," said Richard Davies, press and publicity manager for AbeBooks. "But we're talking about 20 percent who have already used electronic textbooks. That's quite a big number."

The presiding problem of price — an issue with which paper-based retailers are increasingly going to have to deal — Davies said, is partially the intrinsic expenses of publishing, but also comes from the frequent reissuing of new editions of the same texts, which become required reading in many classrooms. As recently as 2005, studies from both government-affiliated groups and the

"Make Textbooks Affordable" independent lobbying group have shown that, despite regulative legislation, textbook prices continue to rise.

"I think it is very interesting to see that people are not sure whether legislation is reducing prices," Davies said.

Online sellers of electronic textbooks, in the meantime, are able to charge much lower prices than traditional textbook sellers. Services such as Universal Digital Textbooks and zinio.com can offer textbooks at half the regular retail price and are seeing a steady increase in the purchase of electronic textbooks

each year. Universal Textbooks, a service of MBS textbook wholesaler, reported last spring a 35 percent increase over sales in the previous semester. MBS Director of Advertising Joseph Burns said that this is typical.

"Students are very interested in e-books," Burns said. "They're a cost-effective alternative."

In addition to its "Distance Learning Program," which allows textbooks to be downloaded directly to a personal computer, MBS partners with local university bookstores across the country to sell electronic textbooks in-store.

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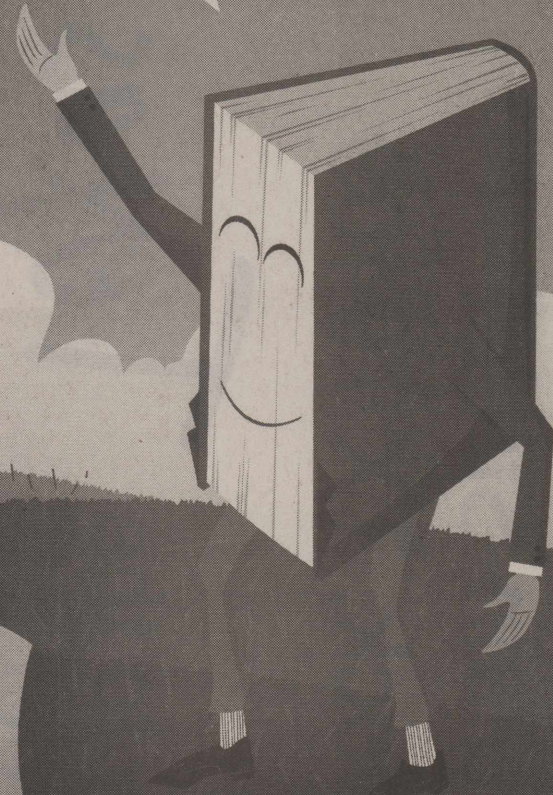
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Tech budget offers double benefit with tuition freeze, raises

By ADAM YOUNG
News Editor

Texas Tech students, faculty, staff and administrators come out ahead in the 2008-2009 budget.

Tech's Board of Regents approved a freeze on tuition and fees in May, and a pay raise averaging 2 percent for faculty, staff and administrators in August.

The tuition freeze follows five years of tuition-rate increases at the university, which increased tuition approximately \$2,000 since 2003 to its current price of \$7,083 for a full-time-student course load. The board previously raised tuition approximately 5 percent for the 2007-2008 academic year, according to Tech's Web site.

"This gives the board, the administration and the school itself time to look at how we can best choose our

dollars — try to slow down the increases on the backs of the students," said Scott Dueser chairman of the Board of Regents.

The university chose to freeze tuition and fees partially out of a concern that students from middle-class backgrounds are being priced out of a college education, said David McClure, assistant vice chancellor for communications.

"The goal is to have affordable, quality education," he said. "We need to continue to push the bar on the quality of education and the quality of students who come in, but affordability, we think, is a key component of attracting students to come here."

As a result of its efforts in providing affordability, university administrators are left with the task of funding the raises and operations without the \$5.6 million the univer-

sity would have gained through an initial proposed tuition increase of 4.4 percent.

Gene Wilde, professor of fish biology, said half of the faculty merit raise will come from fund balances, or leftover monies in the budget, while the other half will be funded by individual departments.

Departments are financing their share of the raises in a number of ways, including through a process of attrition — leaving about 40 faculty

positions open, McClure said.

Despite a 12 percent increase of incoming freshmen projected in a report to the board earlier this month, Wilde said he does not anticipate immediate problems in Tech's student-faculty ratio, but believes it is "one thing you would expect to hear if enrollment increased a lot and the faculty numbers were held in line."

Regardless of other cutbacks that departments plan to make in

the upcoming semester, Wilde said the raise is a feature of the budget welcomed by Tech faculty.

"It is something, and I think people are grateful for that," Wilde said of the raise, though he admitted "it is rather modest."

Tech faculty received a 3 percent raise in 2007-2008 — more than two percentage points less than the national average for faculty raises, according to information provided by the American Association of University Professors.

The highest-paid faculty members, full professors, last year had an average salary of almost \$100,000 — making them the 10th-highest-paid professors on AAUP's list, which includes data from 52 Texas public and private institutions.

"I think if you look at the demographics on that, we're certainly not the worst, but we're not the

best," Dueser said regarding salary comparisons with other universities. "You just continue to do the best you can and get the most to them."

"Our faculty and staff need to have raises, they deserve to have raises, and that's something we need to continue to do."

While the raise is part of an effort to make the university more attractive to current and prospective faculty, McClure said the tuition freeze already could be playing a role in attracting more students to Tech.

With the influx of new freshmen and with an expected rise in student body enrollment, McClure said the university could soon benefit from increased state funding based on the number of student hours taught at the university.

>>adam.young@ttu.edu

"This gives the board, the administration and the school itself time to look at how we can best choose our dollars..."

SCOTT DUESER
CHAIRMAN OF THE
BOARD OF REGENTS

Addition to Tech law school gives students high-tech opportunities

By ALEX YBARRA
Staff Writer

Texas Tech law students now have the opportunity to work and learn in the courtroom of the future.

Walter Huffman, dean of the Tech School of Law, said he believes the addition of the Mark and Becky Lanier Professional Development Center provides students with the "finest legal education facility in the nation."

"It has all the most cutting-edge technology that any advocate can find anywhere in the world," he said. "It allows us to train our aspiring young advocates with the very highest level of technology that they could possibly see anywhere."

The \$13.6 million Mark and Becky Lanier Professional Development Center is a 34,560-square foot addition that was officially opened on April 22, 2008 when the Supreme Court of Texas heard two cases, according to a university news release.

Included in the building is the 130-seat Donald Hunt courtroom, which integrates laptop connections

and two large projection screens that create an opportunity to electronically present evidence to the entire audience, Huffman said.

Another addition was a 300-seat auditorium that Huffman said is twice the size of the largest classroom previously used by the law school, and he added that just having more space is an advantage in itself.

"We were able to move a number of our administrative functions into the new building," he said, "which freed up more faculty space in the old building, which we needed badly."

Frank Ramos, assistant dean for administration and finance at the school of law, said the addition immediately elevates the atmosphere surrounding Tech law students to that of some of the best schools in the nation.

"The Mark & Becky Lanier Professional Development center brings the law school facilities up to the level of quality education that our students have received for years," Ramos said. "With advances in technology, facilities are an even more integral part of education in any field."

Huffman said the construction was made possible by a \$6 million donation from Mark and Becky Lanier, who were able to make the largest donation the law school has ever received.

Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Texas, found matching funds from tuition revenue bonds through the legislature to make ends meet for the facility, Huffman said.

A 1984 graduate from Tech, Mark Lanier is the founder and senior partner of The Lanier Law Firm, a national firm with offices in Houston, New York and Los Angeles, according to the practice's Web site.

Ramos said new students have already gotten a taste of the new facility.

"For the first time, our entering class attended orientation in the law school," Ramos said. "The Center provides additional study space, seminar rooms and an Academic Success Center. The Career Services Center contains interview rooms so that students can interview with law firms without leaving the school."

>>daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu



COURTESY PHOTO

THE DONALD M. Hunt courtroom inside the Mark and Becky Lanier Professional Development Center. On April 22 the Supreme Court of Texas inaugurated the courtroom by hearing two cases. Hunt, the courtroom's namesake, has been an adjunct professor of law, appellate advocacy adviser and moot court competition coach for the Texas Tech School of Law since 1974.

September 8, 2008
David Callahan Lecture
■ Allen Theatre
■ 3:30 pm
■ Free & open to the public
David Callahan, author of *The Cheating Culture* and other books, will speak about his work with a book signing prior to the lecture. Cosponsored by the Graduate School through funding from the Helen Jones Foundation, and presented in support of TTU's Ethics Initiative.

September 16, 2008
From the Top - with Christopher O'Riley
■ Allen Theatre
■ 7:00 pm
■ Tickets @ Select-A-Seat 770-2000
General Admission - \$20
Students - \$15
(Plus Select-A-Seat Fee)
"From the Top with Christopher O'Riley" will tape a performance of outstanding young musicians which will be broadcast nationally at a later date. Presented in partnership with KOHM.

October 19, 2008
Marc-André Hamelin, Pianist
■ Hemmle Recital Hall
■ 7:30 pm
■ Tickets @ Select-A-Seat 770-2000
General Admission - \$12
TTU Students - \$3
(Plus Select-A-Seat Fee)
Marc-André Hamelin, first place winner at the 1985 Carnegie Hall Competition, is one of today's most acclaimed pianists.
"dazzling acumen... ethereal beauty... a rare and bracing dose of sophistication and grace."
— from reviews in *The New York Times*

October 28, 2008
Panel of President's Book Award Winners
■ Matador Room of the Student Union
■ 3:30 pm
■ Free & open to the public
■ Reception immediately following
Drs. Michael Borshuk, John Beusterien, and Stefan Estreicher, the most recent winners of the President's Book Award, will discuss their books and their research in a panel discussion with a book-signing and reception to follow.

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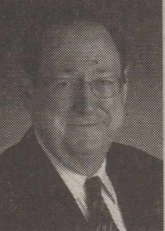
WHILE YOU WERE OUT...

May 19

Thomas Anderes, Tech's executive vice president of administration and finance, announced his resignation and intent to leave the position before the 2008-2009 academic year. Anderes vacated the position Aug. 1 to go work in the University of Wisconsin System as the senior vice president for administration and fiscal affairs.

Anderes, who filled the position at Tech in 2004, said the February resignation of Jon Whitmore, Tech's former president, factored heavily into his decision to leave.

June 20



Lubbock native William Marcy announced his resignation from his post as Tech's provost. After about 30 years at Tech — first as an associate professor in the College of Engineering and then as dean of the college, becoming the university's provost in 2002 — Marcy will leave his post no later than Aug. 31.

June 24

Walter B. Huffman, dean of Tech's School of Law, announced he would be vacating his post no later than Aug. 29, 2009.

June 27



Texas Tech law student Kelli Stumbo was sworn in as Tech's third student regent.

While a student regent does not have the authority to vote in the board's decisions, he or she acts as a liaison between the board and its students. The student regent is a governor-appointed position that began at Tech in 2006.

July 2

After a six-month search, the Board of Regents announced a sole finalist for outgoing President Jon Whitmore's replacement: 57-year-old Guy Bailey, who formerly was the chancellor of the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Bailey's wife, Jan Bailey, received a degree from Tech in 1974.

By law, the university had to wait at least 21 days before officially appointing Bailey.

July 15

Tech Provost William Marcy announced the university was well on its way to regaining full accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which put Tech on accreditation probation in December 2007 for failing to prove its core-curriculum requirements were properly educating students.

University officials said a SACS official gave the university a satisfactory preliminary evaluation in June and they expect to regain full SACS accreditation during the agency's Dec. 7 meeting.

July 22

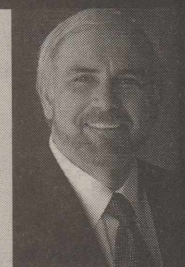
Dean Smith, Tech's vice president for research since 2005, announced he would resign from his position no later than Oct. 1 to travel to Germany, where he said he intended to fill a visiting professorship within the medical faculty at the University of Heidelberg.

He said he will return to Tech to become a biology professor in October of 2009 after his year-long leave.

July 23

Guy Bailey officially was appointed as Tech's new president:

His three-year contract included a stipulation of a \$350,000 annual salary, an \$18,000 annual car allowance and a \$42,000 yearly housing allowance.



Aug. 1

Guy Bailey was sworn in as Tech's new president.

Whitmore, Tech's former president, officially began his term as the president of California's San Jose State University.

Aug. 4

The Princeton Review, an educational services company based in New York, designated Tech as one of the best universities in the western United States. The company designates 632 universities from across the country, including 132 in the West, Tech's region.

Compiled by Matt McGowan



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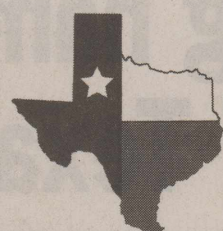
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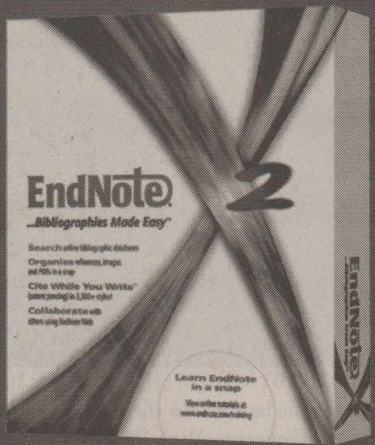
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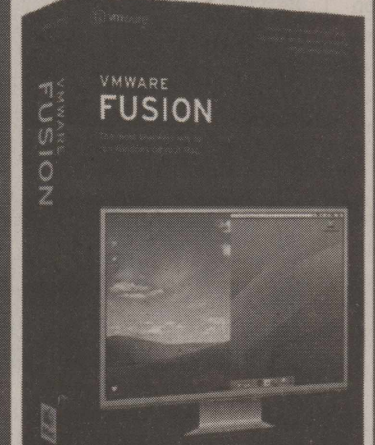
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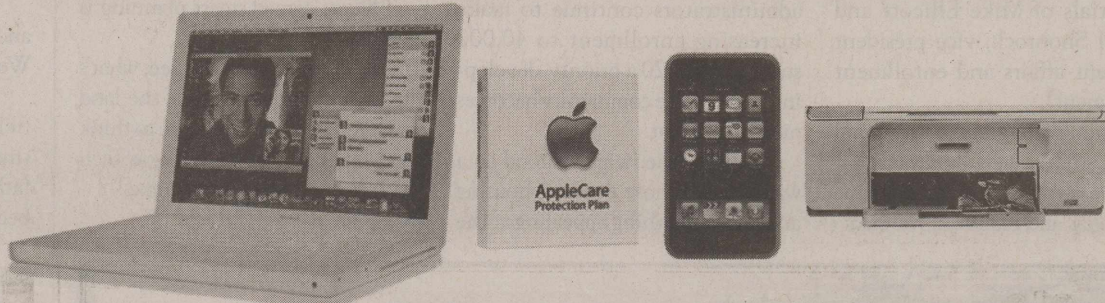
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Proposed mixed-use neighborhood to appeal to urban students, generate income for Tech

By MICHELLE CASADY
EDITOR

For Texas Tech students who call the major metropolitan areas of Dallas, Houston, San Antonio or Austin home, Lubbock might be lacking a little in the area of convenience. That could soon change as some administrators are looking to develop a master-planned Tech community.

The proposed neighborhood would be located on 30 acres of land near the Texas Tech Federal Credit Union and across the street from Covenant Medical Center.

The mixed-use neighborhood would include residential areas, restaurants, entertainment options, retail stores and perhaps even business offices. The target market would be Tech students at the junior level or higher.

Vice Chancellor of Facilities Planning and Construction Mike Ellicott made the proposal to the Board of Regents at a meeting that took place on July 10. Reactions to the proposed neighborhood were mixed.

"Well, there's 10 members on the board and there were about 10 different opinions on the matter," he said.

Some members of the board were a little concerned about spending university dollars on something that is not directly related to the university. Others on the board are looking at the proposal with cautious optimism.

"It's certainly something the board is interested in studying and seeing what we can do," said Scott Dueser, chairman of the Board of Regents. "It's a neat concept and it could be very good for Texas Tech."

Ellicott said at this point, the concept is still just an "emerging idea" and joked that it was the product of "M&M Consulting" (from the initials of Mike Ellicott and Michael Shonrock, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management).

"It would be great if we could create a student neighborhood that would be attractive to the students from Dallas and Houston," he said.

Planning, however, is essential to the success of such an endeavor, and Ellicott wants to make sure if the proposal goes through, the execution is perfect.

"You don't build on all 30 acres at once," he said. "If you do the first one right then the land becomes more valuable and attractive. But there are risks, and if you guess wrong, it's an eyesore."

A priority in creating the mixed-use community, Ellicott said, is that

"As we look to the future and look to grow to 40,000 students by 2020, obviously we'll have to look at a number of different things at Texas Tech University, especially the economic impact that's going to have."

MICHAEL SHONROCK
VP OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

it looks like an extension of the university. This would mean mainly that the Spanish architecture style already prominent on campus, is extended into the new community.

Under the direction of Chancellor Kent Hance, if university administrators continue to make increasing enrollment to 40,000 students by 2020 a priority, developing a mixed-use community becomes more important.

"I think (the neighborhood is) a way to meet those needs of housing and offer something appealing at the

same time," Ellicott said. "You want to create a neat place. It's about creating a place, not building a project."

Ellicott has seen similar communities at William & Mary in Virginia and said Texas A&M University is in the middle of a nearly 80-acre project along those lines. This October while attending a conference in California, he plans to stop by Stanford University and take a closer look at the mixed-use community there.

Shonrock agreed with Ellicott and believes the community could be a good use of land already owned by the university. He said the reconstructed area of North Overton and other areas east of campus have provided "wonderful opportunities for both living and learning for our students." But as enrollment continues to rise, more areas like that will be needed.

"As we look to the future and look to grow to 40,000 students by 2020, obviously we'll have to look at a number of different things at Texas Tech University, especially the economic impact that's going to have," he said.

Another factor that will determine the success of the mixed-use community, is the economy.

"A lot of this is going to have to do with the timing of it and the state of the economy," Ellicott said.

The process of turning the emerging idea into a functioning community might take lots of planning, research and studying but both Shonrock and Ellicott hope the results will be worth it.

"The first step is to do some master planning for the university as a whole," Shonrock said. "And then as you look at the growth of the university, especially in the academic area, then you look at land that you have and what the potential other uses are for that land."

Ellicott agreed smart planning is essential.

"You have to look and see, what's the highest and best use of the land we have," he said. "You have to think about what we can put on Texas Tech land that will generate income."

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School of Nursing named after first lady of Texas



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

ALEXIA GREEN (RIGHT), Dean of the School of Nursing, introduces the banner for the recently renamed Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing while Chancellor Kent Hance, Governor Rick Perry and first lady Anita Thigpen Perry look on Thursday evening.

By JON VANDERLAAN
STAFF WRITER

View a related video at
www.dailytoreador.com

Texas Tech's School of Nursing was named after the first lady of Texas during a ceremony Thursday in the Academic building of the Health Sciences Center.



PERRY

and earned her bachelor's degree at West Texas State University.

She worked in the health care field for 17 years, and said the things she saw at the hospital her father worked at inspired her to become a nurse.

Perry, who held nursing positions in the areas of surgery, pediatrics, intensive care, administration and teaching, said during her speech that she hopes nursing school students will see her name on their diploma as a personal "thank you" from Perry for their dedication to helping others. She said she experienced the ups

and downs of a nurse, but ultimately was pleased with her career choice.

"Above all, I felt the solidarity and satisfaction of standing with some of the finest professionals and knowing I chose one of the most demanding and rewarding professions there is: nursing," Perry said.

When she became the first lady of Texas, she said she was afforded a great opportunity to be both first lady and a nurse.

"While I am so incredibly proud of all the work we've achieved with immunizations and women's awareness of heart

disease, abuse prevention and other areas, I believe the most memorable and rewarding times have been talking to Texans about nursing."

Kent Hance, Tech chancellor, said the several people he asked about naming the nursing school after Perry were enthusiastic because she loves people, was involved in health care and attended Tech.

"It's an honor to her to have this school named after her," Hance said. "But let me tell you: It's an honor to us to have this school, the School of Nursing, the Anita Thigpen (Perry) School of Nursing."

Lindsey Harland, a second degree accelerated nursing program student, said she was happy the school was named after Perry because the first lady has experienced many of the

same things the students will experience.

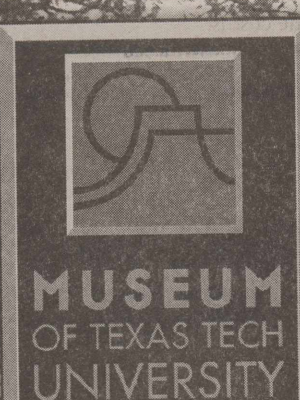
"I think it really makes it special when you have someone who can sympathize with your experiences and who's genuinely backing you in your education," Harland said.

The nursing school, founded in 1981, was ranked by U.S. News & World Report as a top nursing school between 2003 and 2006, and had 450 students graduate in 2007 — the second highest number of students earning nursing degrees in the state, according to a news release from the office of the first lady.

» jon.vanderlaan@ttu.edu

"...It's an honor to... have the Anita Thigpen (Perry) School of Nursing."

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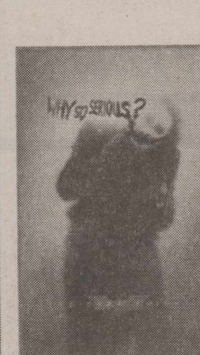


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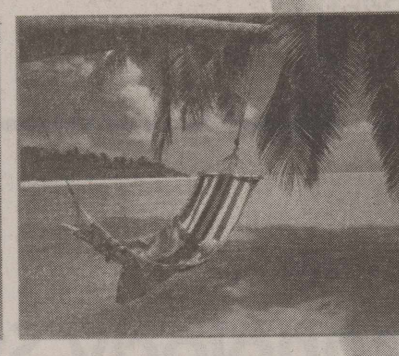
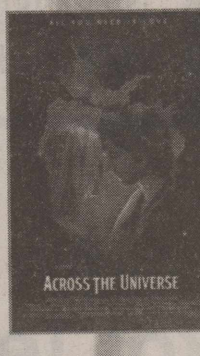
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SGA officers see increased student interaction as top priority

By **MATT MCGOWAN**
FEATURES EDITOR

The Texas Tech Student Government Association has its work cut out for it, including a shrinking transportation budget and an administration in transition, but the association's main focus is to foster more communication between the student senate, the student population and SGA officers.

Lee Bobbitt, James Baumgartner and Austin Pennington — the SGA president, internal vice president and external vice president, respectively — all expressed a strong desire to make it easier for students to make their voices heard and make their voices count.

"(Student interaction with the SGA) hasn't necessarily been lacking," Baumgartner said, "but it can always get better. We'll probably have some big pieces of legislation going through in the first session or two. Because we won't have our

senate retreat yet, so a lot of things we'll be in the dark about."

All three SGA officers said they plan to work closely with the Student Organizations Advisory Committee to create a stronger bridge between elected student officials and the thousands of students associated with the university's 400 student organizations.

"They're such a diverse group of people," Bobbitt said. "It's a unique opportunity to meet with that many Tech students that represent so many strong organizations and different student populations and all of the different Texas Tech students. I really want to work to empower them."

SGA Internal Vice President James Baumgartner said he plans to achieve more student interaction through, among other things, a new point system designed to reward student senators who actively participate in legislative sessions.

Other plans include the use of a new Transfer Student Commit-

tee that, like its Freshman Council counterpart, will help transfer students feel more at home at Tech and more open and connected to their elected student officials.

Despite all of the changes that occurred within Tech's administration, Baumgartner said, SGA officials have confidence the university's new administrators will be very receptive to student representatives, who he hopes will propose more meaningful legislation that successfully will get passed.

"Even Student Services has gotten flipped upside down, so nobody's really sure who's in charge of what," he said. "I think there's a lot of good changes going around. I think that it might take a few weeks to get adjusted — a few months to get adjusted — but I think that everything will continue to run smoothly, and hopefully students won't notice it on a student level."

"I think they're getting a lot of good people in the right spots."

For Pennington, cuts in transportation funding have prompted him to seek funding for a pilot bus program that will bring an alternatively fueled bus to campus.

He said he encourages students to use new programs that help them get bicycles.

While Pennington agreed the university's bike lanes are lacking in some areas and further bike-lane construction is doubtful in the near future, he said current lanes should be enough to handle an influx of new riders.

"I think it can handle additional bike traffic," he said, "but I definitely think there's a lot of room for improvement when it comes to bike traffic. There is room for improvement of that infrastructure, to improve it and make it safer to bike on campus."

"The problem is, at this point, all of the bike lanes that could have been constructed by painting have been constructed, so now to construct bike lanes we'd have to start

knocking out and pouring concrete, and that's extremely expensive."

With student fees and tuition remaining the same this semester, funding for new bike lanes would have to come from an outside source or from state funding.

After working with SGA officials who are coming at the issue of transportation fees from a different angle, Citibus officials agreed to consider donating an older bus that the company would otherwise retire, Pennington said, which then would be given to engineering students for alternative-fuel modification.

"That is something that, if we can come up with the funding to try it out, I'd be really interested to see what kind of results we would get," Pennington said.

With all of the construction on and around campus, he said, the next few months may prove difficult for students who walk to campus, especially those who walk to campus from north of the Marsha Sharp

Freeway construction.

"The pedestrian bridges cannot get up fast enough, in my opinion," Pennington said. "I really need those to get up as soon as possible because it really is dangerous for some of those students to walk over there."

Pennington said he is working to establish a construction bus route that will bring these students to campus, much like the route implemented in the spring. "Most likely," the temporary routes will be up and running until the pedestrian bridges are complete.

"I think it's great that there wasn't an increase in tuition, because it has caused all of the departments and everyone on campus to go back and really reevaluate their budgets, and you know, and be so much more cost-effective and efficient," Bobbitt said. "That is crucial to operate in a great university, but the transportation budget is going to be tight."

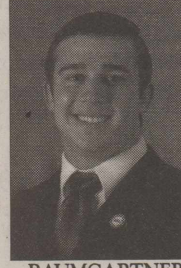
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BOBBITT



PENNINGTON



BAUMGARTNER

Cleaning up Penn State fraternity image

By **ADAM CLARK**
DAILY COLLEGIAN (PENN STATE)

Roy Baker considers "frat" to be the equivalent of a four-letter word.

"Let's try to get that word out of our vocabulary," said Baker, the Penn State director of fraternity and sorority life. "People never use it with a positive connotation."

Baker and the Interfraternity Council (IFC) believe the stereotypical "frat boy" image, perceived by students and reinforced by the media, has hindered recruitment numbers in the past.

Through a revised recruiting policy that focuses on organized, alcohol-free events, they hope to increase the size of future recruitment classes by changing the public perception of fraternity life at Penn State — a perception Baker believes has been hurt by a string of incidents that occurred during the past year.

One such instance that received national attention occurred in October. A YouTube video depicted Penn State fans shouting obscenities and throwing beer cans at two Ohio State fans in front of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, 417 E. Prospect Ave.

The username of the YouTube account that posted the video was the same as the AOL Instant Messenger screen name of Pi Kappa Alpha's vice president at the time.

The incident resulted in the chapter's suspension by the Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity as well as by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

Another Penn State fraternity, Phi Delta Theta, had its national charter suspended in December after a violation of a dry-house policy that also occurred during the weekend of the Ohio State football game, Jesse Moyer, director of chapter services, said in January.

Last month, Daniel Costenbader (junior-electrical engineering), who is not a member of a Penn State fraternity chapter but is associated with the national fraternity Phi Sigma Kappa, was charged with burglary, criminal trespass, criminal mischief, theft by unlawful taking, receiving stolen property and public drunkenness after police say he caused \$5,000 of damage to the Lasch Building in a 21st birthday romp.

"Any of these events are just simply opportunities for people to confirm what they believe about fraternities and sororities," Baker said. "When we behave that way, we make their perception a reality."

Baker and the IFC believe they can improve upon that perception.

"I think that we're trying to make steps as a fraternity system, so that it doesn't matter what term you use, people will think of us in a good light," IFC President Kelsey

Gingrich said.

Pending official approval by the IFC, a new recruitment plan this fall will be highlighted by non-drinking recruitment events, held during specified hours and only on designated nights.

Baker hopes the new methods will show potential members fraternities are not just a place to party but a brotherhood that participates in service and philanthropy.

Fraternity parties are supposed to be the reward for joining the organization and participating in service activities, but the incentive to join a fraternity is diminished by the fact too many non-members are welcomed into parties, Baker said.

The new recruitment methods are designed to help fraternities depart from the stereotypical image of a "frat" and "frat boys."

"Frat' brings that kind of Animal House image that some people have," Gingrich said.

Mattison Ford, IFC vice president for communications, agreed with Gingrich's Animal House reference, saying "frat" conjures the image of people who "get drunk all the time and don't do anything good."

"When they just hear 'frat,' they think of a frat party or a bunch of frat boys acting stupid," Ford said. "Whenever you say fraternity, people more tend to think about all

FRATERNITY continued on page 9 ►►

University program offers safe alternative to driving drunk

By **TINA L. ARONS**
STAFF WRITER

Drunk? Need a ride home?

Not drunk? Need a ride home?

Safe Ride, also known as 742-RIDE, began as a safe way for students to get home after drinking, but it can be utilized by more than intoxicated individuals.

"It's free and can be used for any reason," said Kerri Pike, account manager and coordinator for the Student Government Association.

Stephen Sheppard, a wildlife management major from Grapevine, said he has used Safe Ride several times when he was not drinking.

Sheppard said he lived off campus last year and rode the bus to class, but the bus didn't run late at night.

"I was on campus until 11 or 12 at night sometimes," he said, "and

I would call them to come pick me up."

Although the number of students who use Safe Ride has declined almost 18 percent in the last two years, the number of riders who are picked up on campus has increased slightly — almost 4 percent — between fall 2006 and spring 2008.

The Safe Ride taxis are available between the hours of 8 p.m. and 4 a.m., seven days a week, by calling 742-RIDE. The service is only available to Tech students with a valid student ID, but guests may ride too.

The taxis will pick up and drop off students anywhere within Lubbock city limits, but the service cannot be used to go from place to place. It is only for transportation to a residence hall or to an off-campus residence.

Also, the service is not avail-

able when school is not in session. This includes long holidays, such as winter break.

And it's completely confidential.

In the beginning, Pike said, letters were sent to parents if their child used the service often, but that is not done anymore.

"And you can use them as many times as you want or need to," she said.

The Safe Ride taxis are contracted by the Student Government Association through Yellow Cab in Lubbock, and the service is funded by the transportation fee in student tuition.

"If we can keep one person safe," said Steve Sexton, owner of Yellow Cab, "we feel like it's worth whatever the cost is."

►tina.aronson@ttu.edu

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
Texas Tech University

Freshman Involvement Opportunities

Get involved with your education!

Freshman Council – A body of 25 freshman elected by the incoming Class of 2012. They will tackle freshman concerns and learn about student issues across campus. Freshman Council members will also work on several community service projects and leadership building exercises that will prepare them to be leaders on our campus.

Freshman Leadership Association (FLA) – Through applications and interviews, 10 freshmen will be chosen to shadow executive members of SGA as interns in our office. They will hold regular office hours and learn firsthand the 'ins and outs' of student government. Interns will meet student leaders around campus and gain important knowledge about Texas Tech University.

Applications are available in our office on the 3rd floor of the SUB.
Call us (742-3631) or visit our website (www.sga.ttu.edu) if you have any questions!

2008 RAIDERGATE

SAFE RIDE TO HOME
GENE MESSER TOYOTA

09-13 - SOUTHERN METHODIST - BLEU EDMONDSON
10-11 - NEBRASKA - HATES CARLL
11-01 - TEXAS - JOHNNY COOPER
11-08 - OKLAHOMA STATE - BART CROW BAND
11-29 - BAYLOR - WILLIAM CLARK GREEN BAND AND SOUTHERN DRIVE

Be a DJ.
Hiring Meeting on August 25th

**Chemistry Building
Room 049 @ 6:00PM**

KTXT 88.1

WWW.KTXT.NET

New semester, new strategy to increase student involvement at Rec. Center

By **MATTHEW PAYNE AND HANNAH BOEN**
THE DAILY TOREADOR

Whether it's homework, tests, socializing or rushing, students can easily find an excuse to skimp out on their exercise routine.

However, with the variety of activities available at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center, students might find it easier to stay in the habit.

The center is providing new classes and equipment, and for those who prefer to exercise outside, the center will rent out road and mountain bikes to students and faculty.

Approximately 4,500 people come through the center each day, including faculty, students and guests, said Pee Wee Roberson, senior associate director of facilities and operations at the center. In a year, the center has close to a million visitors.

"Last year was the first time I actually saw people standing in line to get on a treadmill," Roberson said. "And last year was the first time I heard a student say that he thought the free weight room was too small."

Jeff Key, coordinator for the Personal Fitness and Wellness Program, said he plans to increase the number

of teaching assistants to keep pace with growth of the university.

He said he would also like to implement more online classes to better suit students with challenging schedules.

"The idea of offering online courses would be to offer activity classes to those students that need more flexibility in their schedules due to family and working commitments," he said.

Since last year, six TAs have been hired, bringing the total to 22. This move will allow for smaller class sizes.

"We hired more assistants because we want graduate students to focus more on their own classes," he said. "They already teach more classes than any other graduate student on campus."

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>> hannah.boen@ttu.edu

Last year was the first time I actually saw people standing in line to get on a treadmill.

PEE WEE ROBERSON
SENIOR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
OF FACILITIES/OPERATIONS

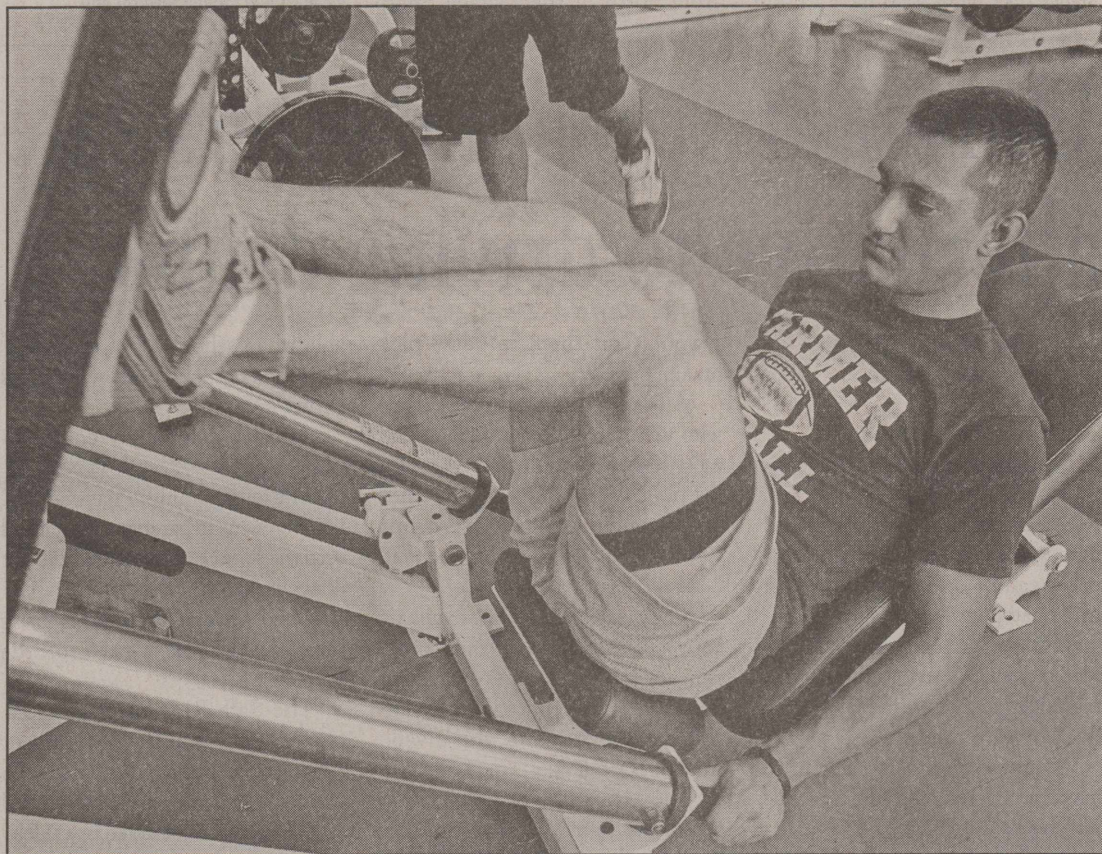


PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

FRESHMAN PRESTON LONG, a wildlife management major from Lewisville, works out his legs at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center last Wednesday.

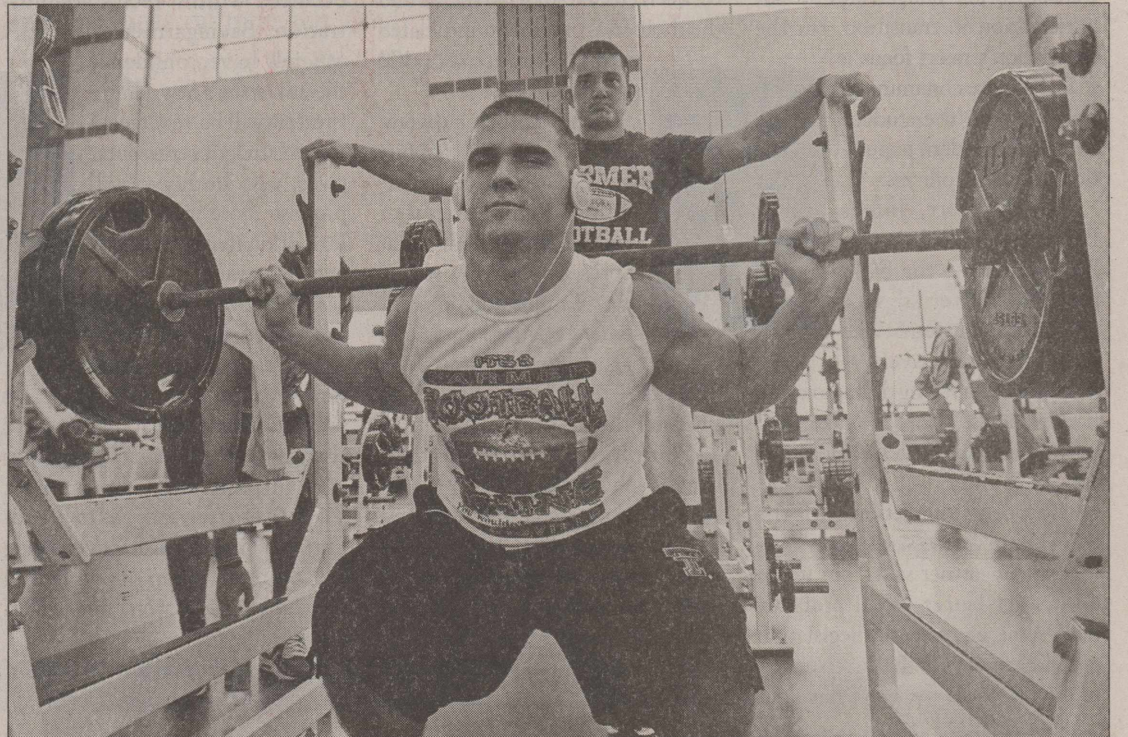


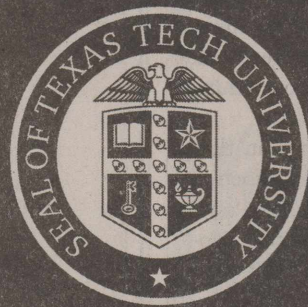
PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

KYLE MCKANNA, A freshman business major from Lewisville, works on his quadriceps by doing squats last Wednesday in the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center while his friend Preston Long, a freshman wildlife management major also from Lewisville looks on.



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

A GROUP OF students plays a game of volleyball inside the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center Thursday afternoon.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY™

CONVOCATION AND PRESIDENT'S PICNIC

Tuesday, September 9, 2008
5 p.m., United Spirit Arena

The Center for Campus Life and Office of the Provost
invite all students to attend Convocation!

Convocation marks the official beginning
of a student's college experience.

Free food at the President's picnic following ceremony.

All students are encouraged to attend.

www.convocation.ttu.edu or 742-5433



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY



Fraternity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

of the other things we do."

State College Police Cpt. Dana Leonard said for the most part, fraternities are well behaved. He said the State College Police Department has had recurring issues with less than a dozen of the about 50 fraternities at Penn State.

"More often than not, fraternities and their members are good neighbors. A percentage of them are not," Leonard said.

Leonard said he understood the negative connotation of the word "frat."

"I can see the value of that. I'm in a business where some people call a police officer a cop, and some abbreviations are less than flattering. It is a fraternity," Leonard said.

State College Borough Council President Elizabeth Goreham called Baker's definition of the word "interesting," though she said both "frat" and "fraternity" have a negative connotation "when a neighboring fraternity creates a problem."

While some fraternities are good members of the community, others are not, she said.

"I think some of them are quite good members of our community and are very helpful in our community, and others have a pattern of bad behavior," Goreham said.

In February 2007, Phi Kappa Tau fraternity, 408 E. Fairmount Ave., was evicted from its house for six months based on violations of borough ordinances and state laws, borough manager Tom Fountaine said at the time.

Another fraternity, Tau Kappa Epsilon, 346 E. Prospect Ave., also faced eviction at the same time because, like Phi Kappa Tau, it was labeled a "nuisance propert[y]." Tau Kappa Epsilon was not evicted after it signed a consent agreement, Fountaine said at the time.

Baker said he understands some people use "frat" as an abbreviation just like any other slang, and that's why he can't get upset with people.

"I don't want you to think

that if you use the word 'frat' you're a bad person," Baker said. "I just use the opportunity to educate."

As the director of Penn State's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community and its Allies Student Resource Center, Allison Subasic deals with the ongoing issue of educating students about derogatory terms.

Subasic never considered "frat" a derogatory term but after thinking about the word, she said it's similar to the phrase "that's so gay."

"A lot of people don't understand why 'that's so gay' could be harmful," Subasic said. "You need to respect the voices of people within the groups who are offended by language."

One fraternity member offended by the word "frat" is Daniel Alexander of Kappa Alpha Order.

"The context that it's used in most often is a negative context," Alexander said. "When it's used often in a negative way, the word itself starts to become negative. You never hear someone refer to 'frat boy' when they are linking it to the positive things we do."

Goreham said the movement to eliminate "frat" could create self-awareness.

"I know words are powerful. That's a good idea; if that will create a more civilized self-awareness -- then good," she said.

Baker said the media, including the ABC Family show *Greek*, play into the negative stereotype of fraternities -- a lifestyle he doesn't want recruits to expect at Penn State.

There is currently a petition to cancel *Greek* on www.ipetitions.com, but Baker said he wants to see the program more accurately depict fraternity and sorority life rather than have it canceled.

"People need to join because of the right reasons," Baker said of students' incentives to join fraternities. "I think the word 'frat' and 'frat boy' conjure up an image we don't want to be portrayed by."

JAM SESSION



PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador

MICHAEL COLEMAN, A freshman music education major from Katy, plays the xylophone during band practice Thursday afternoon outside of the Music building.

Tech continues lending wheels

By MATT COBB
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech students fretting about fuel costs and looking to dump their gas-guzzlers still have time to receive relief from a university program.

Tech's Outdoor Pursuits Center kicked off a program Aug. 1 that gives students who cannot immediately afford a bicycle the opportunity to receive a \$500 interest-free one year loan to purchase one, said Jordan Messerer, assistant director of the Outdoor Pursuits Center.

Students can apply for the loan at the Tech Federal Credit Union, which can then be used at any bicycle shop in Lubbock.

The credit union plans to issue approximately 100 loans by the end of the year, said Whitney Paschall, marketing coordinator of the Credit Union.

"So far, we've had eight (students) that have applied for a loan," she said. "All of them have been approved."

Messerer said he expects high gas prices and easier access to bikes to contribute to a significant increase in cyclists

on campus this year.

In addition to the fuel saving benefits, this program will provide students with an opportunity to start building their credit report, Paschall said. Many students have not established a good line of credit by the time they graduate college, and this program will help them begin that process.

"This is a lot of students' first time to ever take out a loan," she said. "I think it's a really good experience for them."

The Outdoor Pursuits Center is going to promote the loan program as much as possible, said Curt Howell, coordinator of the center. Brochures and posters will be distributed in local bicycle shops as well as numerous places around campus.

"All the bike shops in town are ready, the brochures are done, and we have posters that are completed," he said. "Everything is in order and ready to go."

The Pursuits Center will have a booth to provide information about the program and how to receive the loan from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday in the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center.

► matthew.cobb@ttu.edu



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

MOUNTAIN BIKES and road bikes are available to rent from the Outdoor Pursuits Center for a daily rate of \$15. A helmet and bike lock is included in the rental.

SAND AND SUN

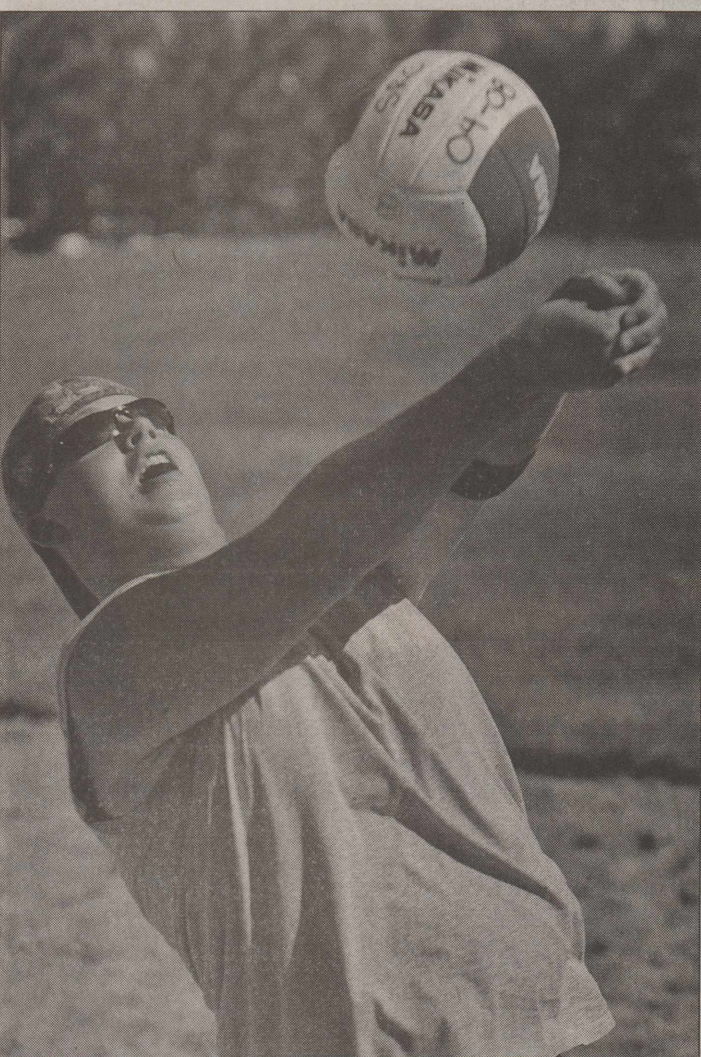


PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador

AARON CLEMENTS, A junior mechanical engineering major from Flint, participates in a game of sand volleyball Thursday afternoon in Urbanovsky Park.

Not everyone happy with tobacco-free policy at Oklahoma State U.

By JUSTIN YEARWOOD
DAILY O'COLLEGIAN
(OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY)

Some might see them as rebels without a cause.

But for student smokers, not following the policy is just as resistive as breaking any other rule. For them, Oklahoma State University's "Breathe Easy" policy is nothing more than words on paper.

It's hard for students to miss the message -- e-mails, video messages and tobacco-free signs.

The campus went tobacco-free July 1, but students and faculty still light up. OSU is the first university in the Big 12 to enact a tobacco-free policy.

"This is a very important step in making Oklahoma State University a cleaner, healthier and more attractive campus," President Hargis said in a video message July 1.

The policy may have been developed with good intentions, but after only three days into the new semester

many students have yet to join the program. Shane Rickman, an economics senior, said he feels the policy is absurd.

"It's the administration looking like they are doing something to improve something, but it doesn't really do anything," he said. "I think all it is going to do is create unnecessary tension on campus."

Rickman, who started smoking this year, is not a lone rebel who feels the need to light up on campus.

April Helms, who has smoked five years, wasn't happy when she heard about the "Breathe Easy" policy.

"I was a little upset because I enjoy smoking on campus," said Helms, a math education junior. "It is outdoors and I don't see any reason why I can't."

Helms continues to smoke on campus despite the policy.

Without police enforcement, other students, like William Kennedy, a liberal studies sophomore, don't feel threatened.

"I smoked on campus anyway (once hearing the new policy)," Kennedy said. "I don't know how they can enforce it."

The policy is not a law. Campus police won't cite smokers as long as they follow state law to stay 25 feet away from building entrances.

OSU adopted the policy in response to the Oklahoma Smoking in Public Places and Indoor Workplaces Act, which the Oklahoma state legislature passed in 2003. The act requires OSU to adopt regulations for smoking

in facilities owned, leased or under the control of the university.

Without police enforcement, responsibility for disciplinary action is put in the hands of a dean in cases of multiple time offenders.

Helms said she continues to enjoy the occasional campus smoke without fear.

"As far as I know it is not being enforced by OSU police, and as far as I know the only thing anyone can do is shake their finger at me, which that doesn't scare me," Helms said.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Student Union & Activities
Division of Student Affairs

The Student Union provides an environment for relaxation, social interaction, education and exchange of thoughts. It serves Tech students, staff, faculty, alumni and the greater Lubbock community.

Student Activities complements the university's academic programs by enhancing the overall educational experiences of students through participation in social, multicultural, intellectual, community service and campus governance programs.

Student Union & Activities offers:

- Places to Eat
- Wireless Internet Connections
- The Official University Bookstore
- 400 Student Organizations
- Meeting and Study Rooms
- Mail Services
- Banking and ATM Machines
- TV Lounges and Games Area

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Would You Like to Win Free Gas and an iPod?

Then come up with the best idea for creating a new name for "TechSIS Web for Students." The TTU System is conducting a contest for all currently enrolled TTU and TTUHSC students to participate in by creating a new name for "TechSIS Web for Students."

Names will be narrowed down to the top five contestants. Students will then vote on what they think would be the best name.

The winner will receive a \$50 Valero gasoline gift card and an iPod.

For contest information and online submission forms visit www.depts.ttu.edu/registrar/namingcontest or submit this form to TTU Office of the Registrar, West Hall room 112, MS 5015.

Student's name _____

TTU or TTUHSC e-mail address _____

"TechSIS Web for Students" new name _____

*Submission deadline is September 15th, 2008.

DID YOU KNOW? FACTS ABOUT TEXAS TECH

At Texas Tech, there are 10 colleges, two schools, 150 degree plans, 150 master's programs, and 50 doctoral programs.

More than 70 percent of the degrees are designed to help students graduate on time. In the fall of 2007, there were 4,622 total bachelor degrees conferred by a major, 1,093 master's, 199 doctoral degrees and 230 law degrees.

In fall and summer 2007, 13,976 students applied and 10,759 were admitted. The College of Arts and Sciences had 5,508 apply while it admitted 4,445.

1,092 of the students received their degree in four years. 858 received theirs in five. 220 received theirs in six.

The College of Arts and Sciences had 973 people graduate in six years or less, the most of any college during this time period. The College of Arts and Sciences had 478 people graduate in four years, 398 in five years and 97 in six years. The College of Education had the lowest number of graduates during this time period with 30, but has the highest percentage of students graduating (70 percent).

Tech's overall enrollment was 28,260 in the fall of 2007.

Some of the colleges with the most students included The College of Arts and Sciences, Rawls College of Business and Administration, The College of Engineering and The College of Human Sciences. Arts and Sciences had the most students enrolled with 9,238.

Texas Tech had 1,560 foreign students. 384 of those students came from India. Students come to Tech from bordering states as well, with 641 coming from New Mexico, 75 came from Oklahoma and 23 from Louisiana in the fall of 2007. In total, Tech had 1,484 out-of-state students while 24,070 came from Texas.

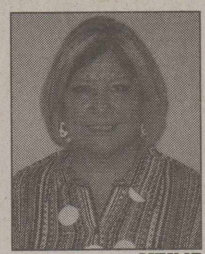
There were 925 black students, 654 Asian students, 166 American Indian, 2,966 Hispanics, 220 non-resident aliens and 17,999 whites in the fall of 2007.

Sources: www.ttu.edu, www.irim.ttu.edu

Shh: The DT sits down with Tech librarian

By KEVIN CULLEN
STAFF WRITER

Laura Heinz is the Head of Information Services at Texas Tech Libraries. She received her undergraduate degree from Tech and her masters in Library Sciences from North Texas. Heinz has worked at the library for 23 years.



HEINZ

Q: What does a Tech librarian like to do in her free time?

A: I like to go to Tech sports. I'm a big Red Raider fan. We go to the football games, we tailgate—we being my husband and me. I have a daughter who has graduated from Tech and a daughter who is a senior here at Tech.

Q: What made you want to become a librarian?

A: I enjoy learning and I enjoy helping people continue

their learning beyond the classroom and become lifelong learners. We don't stop learning once we leave the university. We learn continually throughout our entire lifetime.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: What I'm reading right now is "The Shack" (by William P. Young), which is a new book that's out. As far as a favorite book that I read over and over again, I just read everything. I'm an eclectic reader.

Q: What is your favorite genre?

A: I like fantasy literature, science fiction, that kind of stuff.

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: I like Troy. Again, that fantasy-type genre.

Q: What is your favorite TV show?

A: I love the CSI series.

Q: What is the biggest crisis you encounter in the library?

A: The biggest crisis is that

student that waits till the last minute and they need all this research material and their paper is due in the morning. That is the biggest crisis.

Q: What is the weirdest situation you've encountered?

A: The strangest thing was when we had a giant snake in the stacks. It was a big python. Apparently it had been making appearances all over campus. Someone, I guess, smuggled it in in a backpack and stretched it out in the fifth level stacks. It was this huge snake just stretched out across the books. It was a big bookworm.

Q: What would you say is your favorite thing about working in a library?

A: I love working with students. I like the energy of the undergraduates. Everybody is excited about being on campus, especially this time of year when school is starting. I enjoy the students.

Q: If your life were a movie, which actress would play you?

A: Bette Midler

Q: If you could have one superpower, what would it be?

A: The ability to see into the future.

Q: Are you a PC or Mac person?

A: PC

Q: If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be?

A: On a beach.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Just keeping up with my daughters. Keeping up with their activities keeps me busy. I like to travel. I like to go different places and spend time with my friends—just new places and vacationing.

Q: What is your favorite vacation spot?

A: I like to go to the mountains. Ruidoso (New Mexico) is a nice, close place. You can get there easily from Lubbock. It's peaceful and it doesn't look anything like Lubbock. I like anywhere I can go and restore my sanity.

► kevin.cullen@ttu.edu

California bill seeks to protect animal researchers from attack

By TESSA STUART
DAILY CALIFORNIAN (UC BERKELEY)

The California State Assembly is set to hear testimony Thursday about a bill that aims to increase protection of academic researchers, including those in the University of California system, who work with animals.

If passed, the bill would make it illegal to publish the personal information, including photographs and addresses, of animal researchers and their family members with the intent to incite a violent crime.

The bill also has provisions that would make it a misdemeanor to trespass at a researcher's residence in order to intimidate or interfere with the researcher's work.

Wyatt R. Hume, UC provost and executive vice president for

academic and health affairs, and UCPD Sgt. Karen Alberts from UC Berkeley are both set to testify in favor of the bill, which was introduced to the legislature in February by Assemblymember Gene Mullin, D-South San Francisco, at the request of the university.

Though UC Berkeley researchers have long been the targets of animal rights activists, in recent years activists have increasingly shifted the sites of their protests to researchers' homes. Seven UC Berkeley staff members and 24 campus faculty and student researchers were targeted at their homes over the last year, according to Marie Felde, UC Berkeley's director of media relations.

"People do feel threatened," Felde said.

The bill originally only included provisions that would criminalize harassment and trespassing at research-

ers' homes, but additional measures were added to make it unlawful to distribute researchers' personal information as well.

The attacks earlier this month on two UC Santa Cruz researchers have increased pressure from the academic community for harsher penalties on activists who threaten animal researchers.

On Aug. 2, a UC Santa Cruz biology professor and his family were forced to flee from the second floor of their home after a firebomb destroyed the front of their house; a second professor's car was firebombed outside his house the same morning.

The attacks occurred shortly after flyers were distributed at a local coffeehouse containing the addresses of a number of UC Santa Cruz researchers who work with animals.

"Animal abusers everywhere beware; we know where you live; we

know where you work; we will never back down until you end your abuse," the flyers stated.

UC President Mark Yudof said in a statement that the bombings represented a "troubling pattern" at UC campuses in recent years, which the bill aims to address directly. The bill must pass through the Assembly Committee on Public Safety and the Assembly Appropriations Committee before it is heard on the legislature floor.

"We think the bill has been upgraded with the new provisions and we're pleased the bill in its current form is going to be heard ... (on) ... the floor of the Senate," Mullin said. "We are hopeful that we can move the bill as expeditiously as possible."

Angelica Dongallo of The Daily Californian contributed to this report.

STUDENT LIVING REDEFINED

WHY THE COTTAGES OF LUBBOCK?

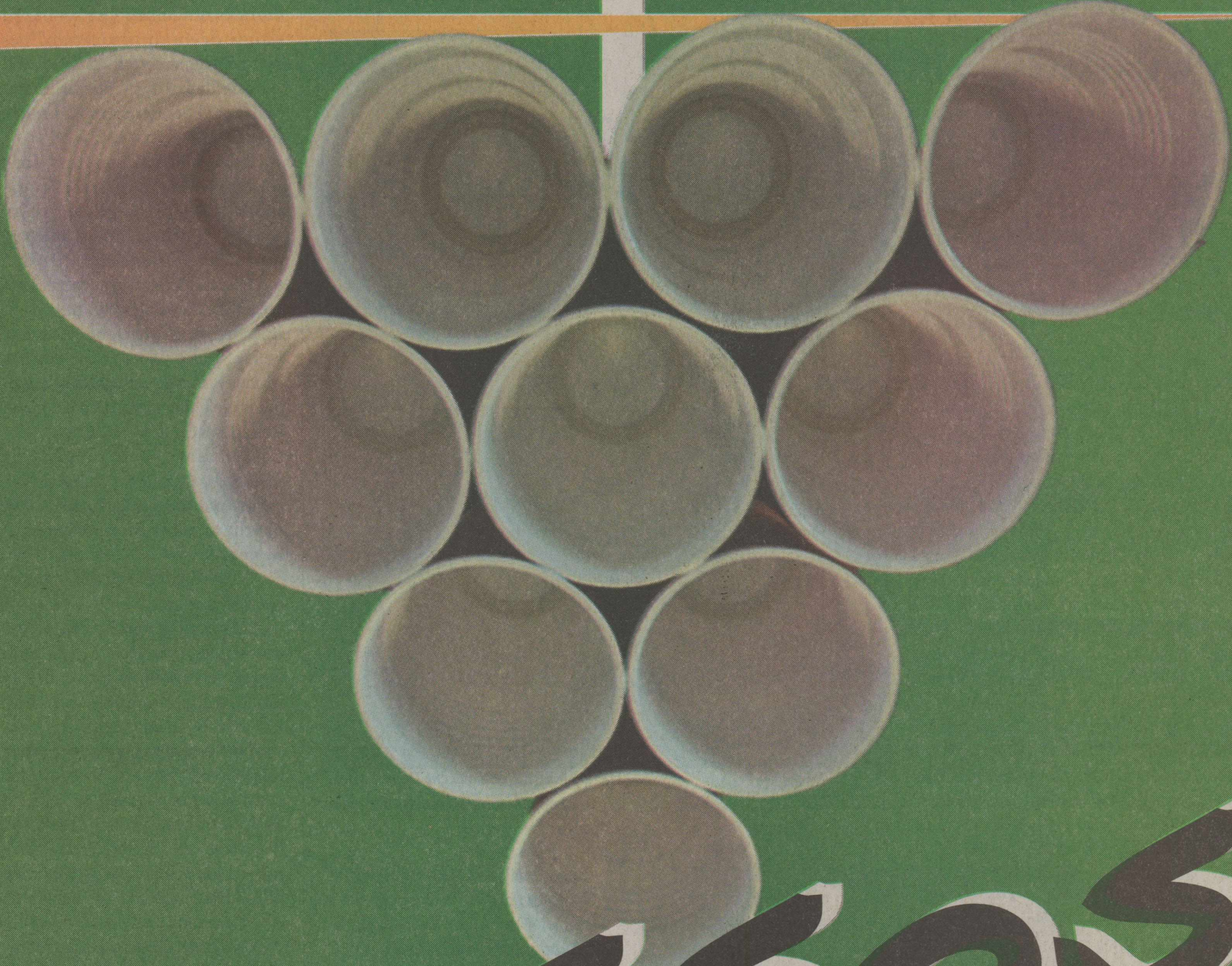
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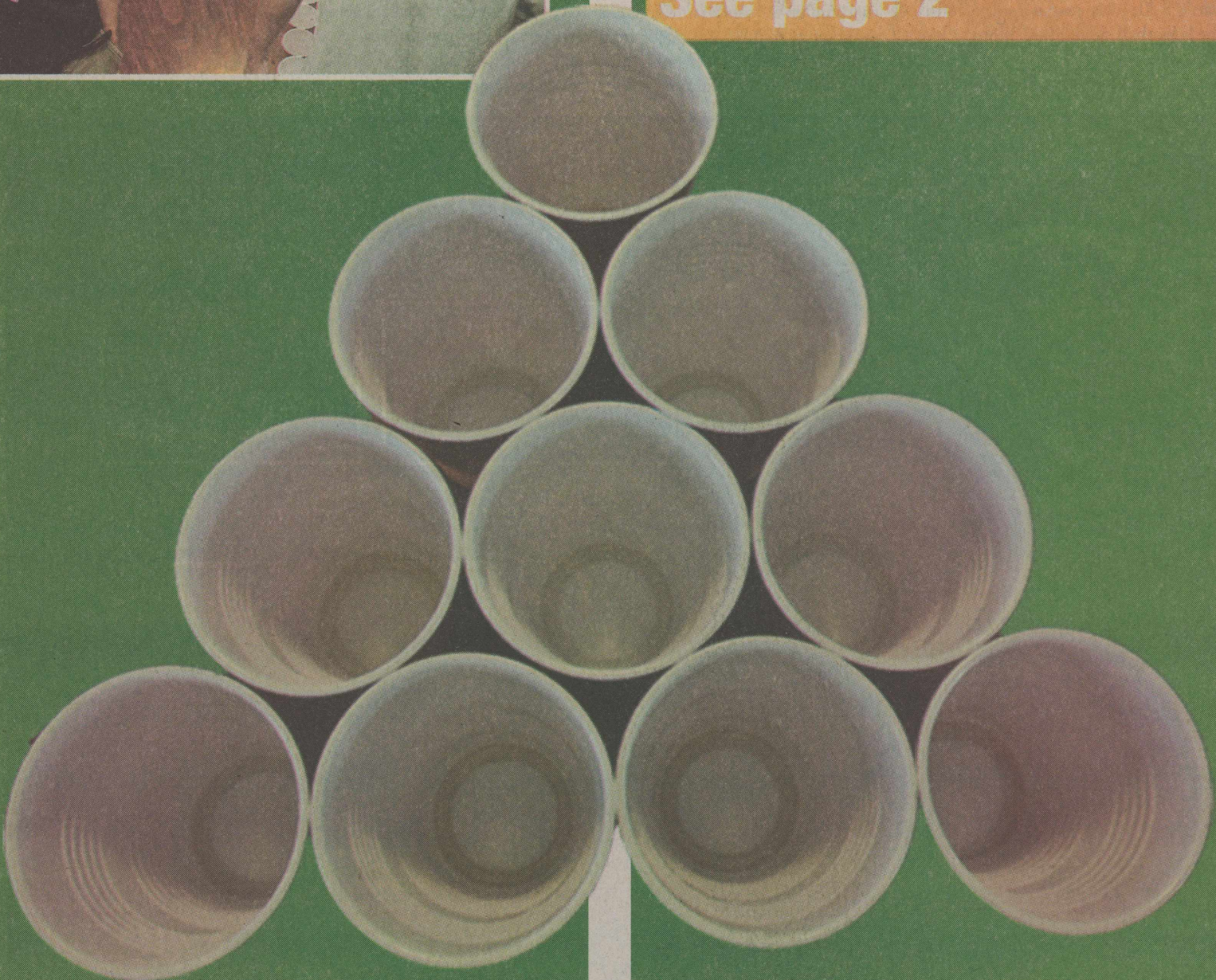


Picassos of PONG



There's more to beer pong than the toss. Local enthusiasts create their own creative tables.

See page 2



Unusual canvas: Tech students create artistic expressions on beer pong tables

By MATT MCGOWAN
FEATURES EDITOR

View a related video at
www.dailytoreador.com

Forget quarters.

When it comes to drinking games at Texas Tech, viva beer pong.

Many Red Raiders love the game so much they build their own beer pong tables.

Beer pong — a game in which teams toss pingpong balls at beer-filled cups on the opposite side of a playing surface to try to force opponents to chug beer — has many variations and can be played on anything from a kitchen counter to a raft bobbing in a pool.

Just ask Red Raiders like Troy Luedeker, Ashleigh Renfro, Kyle Monk, Matt Kendall or Nick Kaviieff — who took matters of beer pong venue into their own hands — and they'll tell you: There is no substitute for a good beer pong table.

"You can take a door off its hinges, but it doesn't have any personality to it," said Monk, a 23-year-old Tech alumna who made two beer pong tables that he sold while he was a student at Tech. "A beer pong table, if you make it yourself, first of all, you get the feeling of 'Ah, I just made something on my own,' which most people haven't felt that. It's a pretty cool little feeling when you build something."

Troy Luedeker — a senior civil engineering major from Crawford who, as a student, restores pianos for a living and makes beer pong tables for grins — spent 40 hours creating a scaled replica of Tech's basketball court in the United Spirit Arena.

He said he tossed \$125 into the creation of the 8-foot-by-4-foot, 7-percent-scale replica of the court.

His roommate at the time, Mike Lewis, a senior civil engineering major from Flower Mound, also sunk \$125 into the table.

"When we first made it, we played (beer pong) every night," Luedeker said, recalling the spring of his junior year at Tech. "We just played every night. Even school nights, we'd just have one beer so we could play."

Lewis and Luedeker said their beer pong table is the "best in town."

"That's what we claim," Lewis

billiards table they bought at a thrift store, which Luedeker later restored and put in the living room of his new house.

"On this table, I pretty much never lose (at beer pong)," said Lewis, who still has the oak beer pong table in his West Lubbock garage. "I don't know if it's the home-court advantage or what."

Later, Luedeker made another table out of a cheap piece of plywood. On it, he put a stylized portrait of himself, which he intends to paint over when he gets a break from studying and piano restoration.

The scaled basketball court table he made first, however, was his favorite.

"(My parents) were like, 'That's ... awesome,'" Luedeker said about their reaction to the table. "I don't think they were excited about me spending \$125 on it. My grandmother really liked it. We had to explain it to them, and then my sister and I played a game with them. We destroyed them."

Monk, who moved back to Lubbock from Colorado this summer, said particle board just does not cut it as a beer pong table. Only plywood,

at the very least, will suffice. Also, a good table will have a lacquer coating across its surface to preserve its paint.

Regulation-sized beer pong tables are 8-foot-long, he said, though their width varies from table to table based on space constraints.

Monk said his first beer pong table creation — a replica of the Jones AT&T Sta-

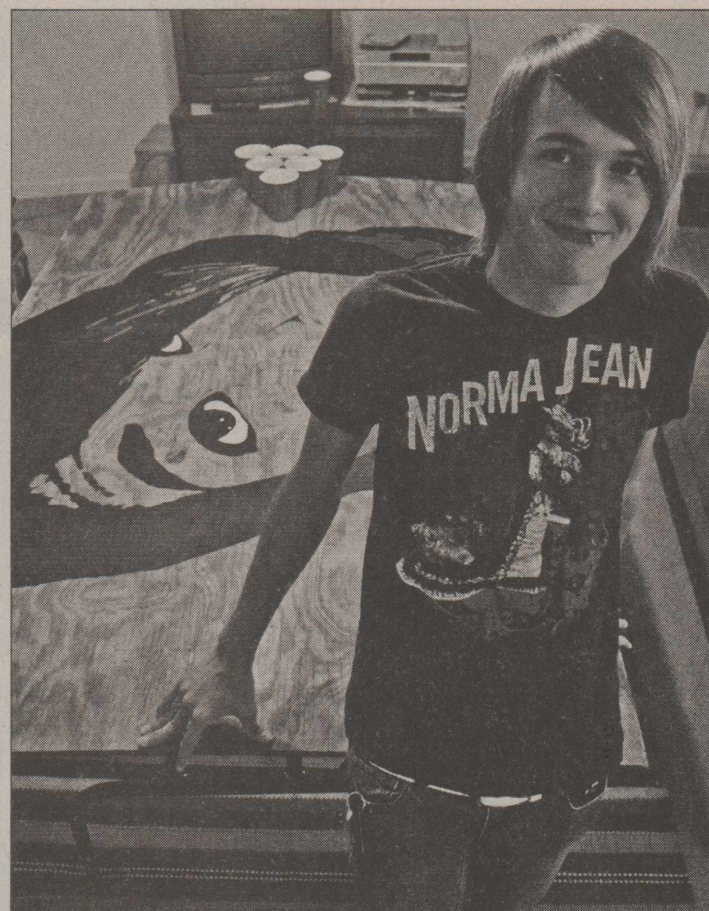


PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador
TROY LUEDEKER STANDS next to his beer pong artwork. He plans to repaint it soon.

BEER PONG RULES

FORMATION: Arrange six cups into a pyramid (3-2-1) where all cups are touching.

THROWING PATTERN: Two balls, two throws per team. If a team hits two cups in a turn, that team gets two more throws until a cup is missed.

REFORMATION: Each team gets to request a "re-rack" twice a game in any formation as long as the cups are touching.

ENDING THE GAME: Redemption is allowed. However, if a team hits the opponents' last cup(s) with both shots (either two cups with two balls or the last cup with both shots), there is no redemption and the game is over.

SOURCE: www.bpong.com

major Nick Kaviieff from Houston. "I just wanted to make one that is real elegant. Like, 'Whoa. That's a beer pong table? Really?'"

"People think we bought it," Kaviieff said, chiming in. "Then we tell them that we made, and they can't believe it."

The pair said they built their table in August of last year, meticulously spending about seven hours and \$80 on the 8-foot-by-4-foot table.

"That's what we tell people (about home-court advantage)," Kaviieff said, referring to an old beer pong rivalry he and his friends had against another building in their old apartment complex. "There was a big rivalry. Every day we'd be like, 'Let's play beer pong. It's going down.' It gets real serious."

Beer pong does not necessarily require beer, either, Kaviieff and Kendall said. The two often will play beer pong with "water to practice sometimes."

Ashleigh Renfro, a Tech alumna who makes customized beer pong tables in her free time, says she sells most of her tables for about \$90 each.

Her customers, she said, range from bars to individuals — mostly college students.

"This is the same wood that they make pingpong tables out of," she said, pointing to table she was working on.

Renfro said she has made tables that are smaller than regulation size to fit smaller spaces.

"I've actually played on tables that are pretty crappy," she said. "I just think it's more fun if you play on a table that has been customized to your own taste. I think it's about the people playing. You can have fun on any table."

▶matthew.mcgowan@ttu.edu

'CSI' gets its man: Laurence Fishburne joins cast this fall

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" has solved the mystery of who will replace departing CBS series star William Petersen: It's Laurence Fishburne.

Fishburne, an Emmy and Tony winner, will be introduced in the ninth episode of the upcoming 10th season, the network told The Associated Press on Monday. He'll play a forensic scientist with a secret.

Fishburne is a "CSI" newcomer in more ways than one. Asked if he's a fan, he told a teleconference Monday that he was embarrassed to admit he'd never watched before he was approached by producers.

"But I am now," he said. He screened past episodes that were engaging and "kind of dark and moody, like the work I've been involved in," he said.

"Wow, this will work," Fishburne recalled thinking.

He was their top choice, said executive producers Carol Mendelsohn and Naren Shankar, with a deeply intelligent approach to his work that matches the drama's spirit.

This is the first ongoing series role for the in-demand film and stage actor since, improbably enough, he played Cowboy Curtis on "Pee-wee's Playhouse" in the late 1980s. He's not stepping away from movies with "CSI," Fishburne said, but embarking on a "welcome change."

Fishburne will play a college lecturer and former pathologist who is

focused on why people commit acts of violence. The character is nameless for now but has been dubbed "The Professor."

The air date for Petersen's final episode has yet to be determined but will be early next year. Petersen has been with the series since it debuted in fall 2000 and will remain a "CSI" executive producer, the network said.

Fishburne's character has a deep connection to his work: "The Professor" shares certain biological characteristics associated with aggressiveness and criminal behavior, Shankar said.

Shankar said the show wasn't backing away from CBS programming chief Nina Tassler's previous description of the character, in which she said he shared the genetic makeup of serial killers.

Subsequent research has since shown that "in reality, there is no such thing," so the character is changing course, Shankar said. How his nature will play out in stories has yet to be determined, he and Mendelsohn said.

Fishburne's character, whom Tassler said was keeping his background to himself, meets members of the "CSI" team during a murder investigation and ends up joining them.

Fishburne, 47, received an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of Ike Turner in 1993's "What's Love Got to Do With It" and a Tony in 1992 for "Two Trains Running."

Exposure: For Ohio U. student, Playboy is big dream

By ANNA HARTENBACH
THE POST (OHIO U.)

Beth Williams just looks like she belongs on the pages of Playboy.

With an hourglass figure, exotic features but a dressed-down look, she embodies the classic "girl next door" look, which is what Tina Manzo, a Playboy spokeswoman, said the magazine searches for when casting girls.

Williams, a health service administration major at Ohio University, said modeling is something she has always wanted to pursue. Her first job was modeling for a cushion supply magazine in Cincinnati.

"I had to pretend that I was eating a grilled chicken salad at a corporate lunch, laughing at a joke," Williams said.

Williams has shot multiple times for Playboy. Her first shoot was in Atlanta.

"I was freaking out because it was my first plane ride, and I hate being in a swimsuit (in front of people), so it was a wake-up call," Williams said.

The second shoot took place in Los Angeles. Williams said she didn't feel as uncomfortable for the second shoot because she was shooting with the same photographer from Atlanta.

"They were really professional," Williams said. "If they had to

adjust something they would say 'OK, now I'm touching this hair,' so they weren't creepy at all," Williams said.

Her most recent endeavor for Playboy was the 55th Anniversary Playmate search, which she entered after learning about the competition from a friend who works as a photographer for the magazine.

The contest began in January and spanned seven cities across the U.S. Women had the opportunity to sign up online for appointments to shoot at the casting calls, Manzo said. The winner will receive a \$55,000 modeling contract and will appear on the January 2009 cover.

As part of the contest, Playboy asked girls to post audition tapes on YouTube. Williams participated in this part of the contest by making a video celebrating the history of Playboy with the help of her roommate and boss.

Although Williams did not win the contest, her time with Playboy is not up yet.

"A lot of times when we have casting calls for specific purposes, we find girls for the special editions along the way," Manzo said.

Williams will appear in the "Fresh Faces" and "Natural Beauties" editions, which will not hit newsstands before September, said Manzo.

Williams said the exposure has spawned adoring "fans," whose advances on MySpace and Playboy chat forums can be somewhat awkward but play an important role in capturing future spreads.

"I've had guys say, 'Hey Beth! I see you like to cook. Let's trade recipes,'" Williams said. Williams said her parents were a little wary at first, but ultimately they were fine with her modeling for Playboy.

"I think it is a good way for her to maybe open up some doors for modeling or something she could say she's done," said her mother, Barb Williams.



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador
ASHLEIGH RENFRO CREATED a beer pong table with an Irish theme.

said. "That's what we tell people. I haven't seen any better, so ..."

Luedeker said he left the table at his old house with Lewis when he moved across town later that year. He chose to take the fixer-upper

dium's football field — cost him more than \$85 to make.

"It was just a really detailed football field," said Monk. "It was awesome."

Like Luedeker, Monk said he gave

the table-sized replica to his roommate for safekeeping, but his love of the game has not faded — even now, eight months after graduating with a degree in economics.

In fact, he said he intends to make more beer pong tables to sell now that he will live in Lubbock again.

"Alcohol will never leave," Monk said, laughing. "Beer pong is a good way to have fun. It's not the cleanest fun because it has alcohol in it and, you know, people get drunk and things like that. But, at the same time, it's a good way to relax and to still have a game to relax to, instead of sitting at the house and drinking yourself stupid."

For roommates, it seems the construction of a beer pong table is what one might call a bonding experience.

"Everybody's beer pong table, it's just black and has graffiti tags and that stuff on it," said Matt Kendall, a sophomore architecture major from Dallas who made a beer pong table with his roommate, junior biology

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Wearing flip-flops may cause health problems

By **TINA L. ARONS**
STAFF WRITER

Wear flip-flops at your own risk. Thonged sandals, a staple in many college students' attire, have always been synonymous with comfortable footwear.

"They're so much more comfortable and easier than tennis shoes," said Rachel Lambert, a junior public relations major, "and I have them in every different color."

However, the lack of support flip-flops provide may cause more problems than comfort.

A study presented at the annual meeting of the American College of Sports Medicine in May suggested that — apart from being counterproductive to foot injuries — the popular footwear could be the cause of some leg and foot pains.

Justin F. Shroyer, a doctoral candidate at Auburn University and the lead author of the study, said many people have heard flip-flops are bad for their feet and don't provide much support, but he and his colleagues were curious to see what a formal study might reveal.

Lambert, a 20-year-old from Keller, said she broke several small bones in her foot during her senior year of high school. When she went to the doctor, he advised her to wear tennis shoes.

She didn't. Instead, she wore flip-flops and that may have caused the bones to heal incorrectly.

"To this day," Lambert said, "it still hurts."

For Shroyer's study, he and his colleagues observed 39 college students, male and female, between the ages of 19 and 25 years old. They compared flip-flops to sneakers by studying the

way the two types of footwear impacted a platform and by measuring the force exerted when participants' feet hit the ground. The participants also were filmed while they walked to study the differences in stride while wearing flip-flops versus sneakers.

Shroyer and his colleagues found that flip-flop wearers exert less force downward than they do when wearing sneakers. They also found that flip-flop wearers shorten their stride. This means they have to move more than people wearing other types of shoes to get from one place to another, which may cause additional stress on the feet.

He also noticed participants used their toes to grip their flip-flops, which may lead to soreness in the toes. This also limits movement, because flip-flop wearers are not able to lift their foot as much as wearers of other shoes when they walk.

These results, Shroyer said, could explain the general belief that people who wear flip-flops change the way they walk and may experience lower leg pain from the shoe.

Shroyer said an interesting observation he made during the study was that people seemed to wear the same pair of flip-flops for a long period of time, which experts say is not healthy.

Runners change their shoes every couple of months, so it makes sense that die-hard flip-flop fans should also, Shroyer said.

Dr. Paul Schwarzentraub, a foot specialist in Lubbock, said he recommends changing flip-flops every three to four months if they are worn often.

Schwarzentraub, who runs a clinic in the orthopedic department of the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, said the most common flip-flop problem he sees with patients is toenail injuries such as bruised toes or toenails

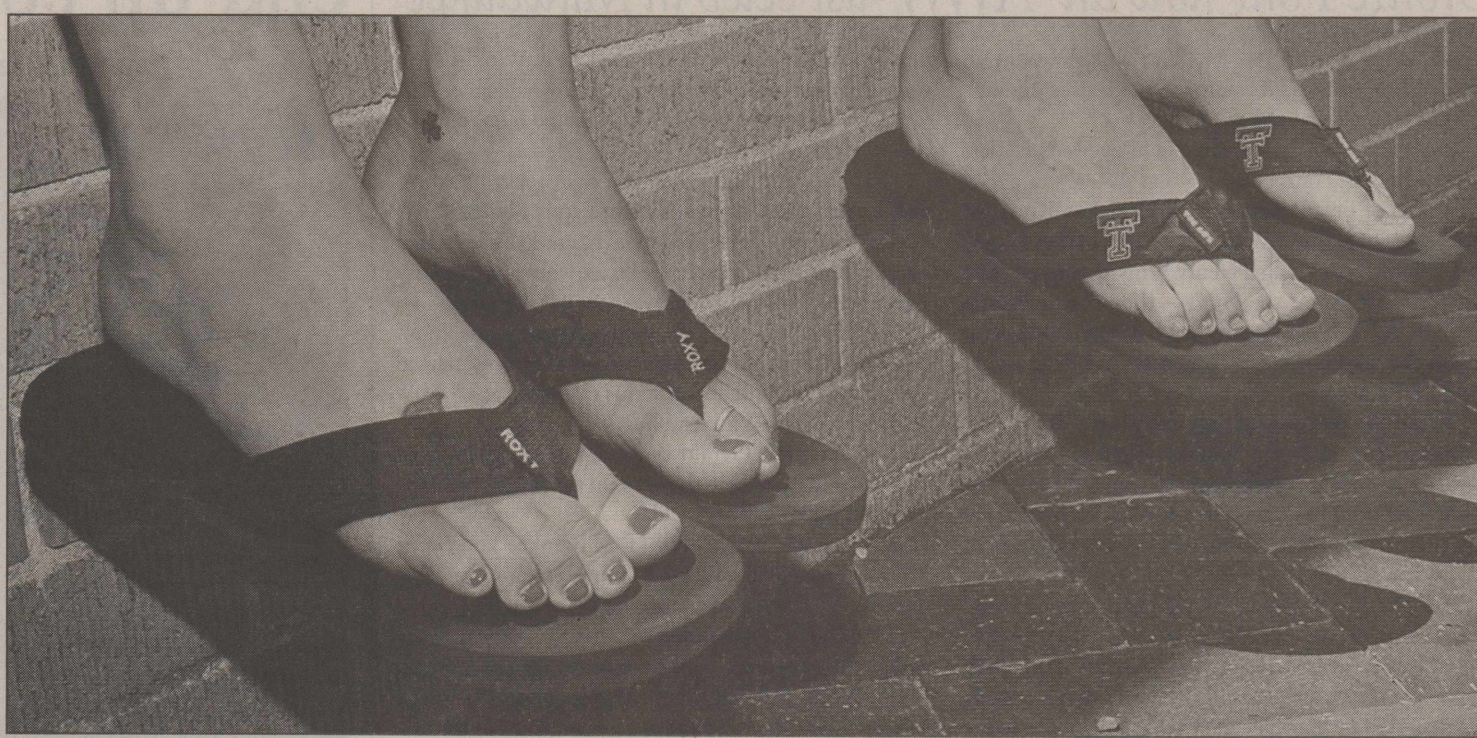


PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

A RECENT AUBURN University study indicates wearing flip-flops may be hazardous to one's health.

that have been ripped off.

"Flip-flops provide no protection whatsoever and they don't give any support," he said. "Around the dorms, they're OK. Outside, they're not."

Shroyer said he and his colleagues plan to continue their research with a more in-depth study to see how active the leg and foot muscles are in flip-flop wearers.

"We expect to find less movement with flip-flops that have more of an arch," Shroyer said.

He said his research may not cause people to abandon their flip-flops, but it may lead to flip-flop manufacturers improving the way they design shoes.

"We're educators, so we want to educate," he said. "Our job is to inform."

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STUDENTS WEIGH IN



"I use to hate (flip-flops) because I didn't like things between my toes, but then I went on a floating trip down the river and my girlfriend converted me."

— Sidney Rehg, a junior advertising major from Swansea, Ill.



"They're convenient, and I didn't have any clean socks for tennis shoes this morning."

— Khandice White, a freshman psychology major from Rancho Cucamonga, Ca.



"They're comfortable and easy to wear. When I leave home, I don't always have time to put other shoes on."

— Jre Bao, a graduate student from Shijiazhuang, China.



"I usually wear them in the summer because I like the free flow of air. There's less sweating and you don't have to lace them up."

— Ram Vinjamury, a doctoral candidate from Tirupati, India.



"They're comfortable, but the worst thing is getting the cheap kind, and then the strap part breaks. They're also really slippery when wet."

— Jessica Martinez, a freshman psychology major from San Antonio.

Experts comment on broader issues surrounding chewing gum

By **MATT MCGOWAN**
FEATURES EDITOR

Chewing gum: Most folks probably don't realize it, but there are strings attached to the stuff.

If anybody knows just how sticky the gum situation can be, it's Charles Leatherwood.

Leatherwood, senior superintendent for the university's grounds maintenance department, said the sidewalks around the Student Union Building are most littered with discarded gum.

"We go over there with pressure washers, razor blade scrapers and things like that," he said. "It's about \$600 dollars worth of labor (each time grounds workers clean the areas around the SUB). You'll see it all around campus, but it's really bad around the SUB. I don't understand that. We have lots of trash receptacles, cigarette urns — I mean there are plenty of places to put it other than on the ground."

Besides, spitting gum out is not the only option.

The human body can handle it. According to the Mayo Clinic Web site, those who swallow their gum — contrary to urban legends — need not worry.

"If you swallow gum, it's true that your body can't digest it," the site reads. "But the gum doesn't sit in your stomach. It progresses relatively intact through your digestive system and is excreted in your stool."

OK. While students obviously are chewing gum, many may not realize it does more than freshen breath.

Research on chewing gum is nothing new, said Lee Cohen, an associate professor at Texas Tech's Department of Psychology. Throughout the last century, researchers across many fields have been gnawing on the science of chewing gum.

"A lot of research was done on gum a long, long time ago," he said. "Just chewing gum, like in the 1920s and 1930s. What they found is that it helps relieve tension. It helps relieve anxiety. It gave chewers a lift and things like that."

Those who are trying to kick a nicotine habit tend to find solace in their chewing gum, Cohen said, which is his area of study.

Between 1996 and 2003, Cohen

FACTS TO CHEW ON

Some facts about chewing gum from the National Association of Chewing Gum Manufacturers

The first patent for chewing gum was issued in 1869 to William F. Semple, a dentist from Mount Vernon, OH.

In the early 1900s, William Wrigley Jr. was one of the first people to promote a brand to consumers through advertising. His spearmint gum quickly became a best seller.

During World War II, U.S. military personnel spread the popularity of chewing gum by trading and giving it to people across Europe, Africa and Asia.

The first trading card packages containing bubble gum were issued in the 1930s. The pictures on the cards included war heroes, Wild West figures and professional athletes. The Topps Company became famous by offering baseball cards in packages of gum and sponsoring bubble gum blowing contests among ball players.

The color of the first successful bubble gum brand was pink because it was the only color the inventor had left. The color "stuck" and today bubble gum is still predominantly pink.

The Guinness Book of World Records reports that the largest bubble ever blown was 23 inches in diameter. The record was set July 19, 1994 by Susan Montgomery Williams of Fresno, CA.

For those who have gum in their hair, if they knead a small amount of peanut butter between their fingers and the gum, the gum will disperse enough to be removed.

Children in North America spend approximately \$500 million on bubble gum each year.

Source: <http://www.nacgm.org/consumer/funfacts.html>

conducted a clinical experiment about the effects of chewing gum on those who were going through various degrees of nicotine withdrawal.

During the ongoing study, he observed 584 college students that he divided into three categories: non-smokers, moderate smokers and heavy smokers. He also categorized them as either gum chewers or non-gum chewers.

The study looked closely at the effects of chewing gum on those participants who were encouraged to

chew gum when they had cigarette cravings.

"I think a lot of people are like, 'Oh, gum gets rid of nicotine withdrawal,'" Cohen said. "Well, it doesn't get rid of it, but it makes it a little bit more manageable for some people."

Exactly why chewing gum often helps smokers with nicotine withdrawal, however, is still hazy to researchers, he said. While gum chewing does help with nicotine withdrawal, most research only has studied its impact during the first 48

hours of withdrawal.

Also, Cohen said there is a correlation between cigarettes and gum consumption. Smokers tend to chew less gum than non-smokers.

He said more research is needed to determine the long-term effects of chewing gum and nicotine addiction — particularly when it comes to quitting permanently, not just abstaining for a couple days.

"We're just kind of taking it one small piece at a time," said Cohen, who plans pursue his research further during the next few years.

When it comes to dental hygiene, chewing gum has little impact, said Michele Hiner, a dental hygienist at Lubbock's Lakeridge Dental, as long as it is sugar-free.

Chewing sugary gum is comparable to drinking a soda for several hours, she said, and could spell C-A-V-I-T-I-E-S.

"Any time you have sugar in anything — whether it's Coke or gum, you know, anything that sits on the teeth long enough — if you're chewing and chewing and chewing sugars on the gum, the sugars get into your teeth," she said. "It's very possible you can get cavities from that, so sugarless is great."

The benefits of sugar-free gum, however, are small, Hiner said. The benefits of chewing sugar free gum are most profound when one has a moist mouth. When one chews gum with a dry mouth, the stickiness helps plaque

stick to teeth a little more easily than it does in a moist mouth.

"It's kind of

like one of those things you do if it's OK," she said. "You know, people are always asking about bleaching, and, you know, 'Is it going to hurt my teeth if I do it?' Well, no, but you don't have to. You don't have to chew gum. It's not going to help you

if you don't. It's not going to hurt you if you don't."

>>> matthew.mcgowan@ttu.edu

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BIZ WEEKLY

Bronze Fonz now an 'Ayyy'-list celeb in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE (AP) — His hair will always be in place, he doesn't mind if you touch the leather and he's far too heavy to jump the shark.

Thought Arthur Fonzarelli couldn't get any cooler? Meet the bronze Fonz.

Dozens of people lined the Milwaukee River on Tuesday to cheer the unveiling of a statue of the "Happy Days" character, including Henry Winkler himself. The man who was cast as the Fonz — then cast in bronze — pretended to comb the statue's hair and put his arm around the smiling, life-size likeness, which is giving two thumbs up.

"To see it in real life and that it exists it's just, it's just unbelievable. It really is," Winkler told the invite-only crowd and others gathered nearby trying to hear.

Milwaukee joins at least six other cities around the nation that have erected statues of classic television or movie characters.

Though no scenes were filmed here, "Happy Days" took place in Milwaukee during its TV run from 1974 to 1984. Most of the cast was on hand Tuesday, along with the show's creator, director and producer Gary Marshall, and actors Penny Marshall and Cindy Williams from the spin-off "Laverne & Shirley."

Ron Howard, who played Richie Cunningham, was

filming a movie and wasn't able to make it. Winkler's two sons, daughter and wife were also in the audience.

Garry Marshall was playful at the podium, making the crowd laugh.

"Hi, I'm Penny's brother," he said, referring to his well-known sister, actress-director Penny Marshall.

The show's executive producer, Thomas L. Miller, talked him out of basing the show in the Bronx, where the Marshalls grew up, Marshall said. Miller was born in Milwaukee.

"To think back and I made up a character, you know, and just made it up but suddenly a man came named Henry Winkler, and he made this character real."

He then gave Winkler a hug.

The sculptor, Gerald Sawyer, put the initials of Winkler and his wife in the veins in the hands, "like the David in Italy," Winkler said.

Two booster groups, VISIT Milwaukee and Spirit Milwaukee, helped raise funds for the statue. The cable network TV Land also contributed.

TV Land fully sponsored six other statues, but since ended the program. Those are Mary Tyler Moore in Minneapolis; Bob Newhart in Chicago; Elvis Presley in Honolulu; Ralph Kramden in New York; Samantha from "Bewitched" in Salem, Mass.; and Andy Griffith in Raleigh, N.C.

Donnie Wahlberg and wife file for divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Donnie Wahlberg and his wife are calling it quits after nearly nine years of marriage.

Wahlberg and his wife, Kim Fey Wahlberg, each filed for divorce last Wednesday in separate counties in the Los Angeles area, court records show.

Kim Wahlberg cited "irreconcilable differences" in her filings in Los Angeles Superior Court. Donnie Wahl-

berg's petition was filed in Ventura County.

The couple were married in August 1999 and separated earlier this year.

The move comes as Wahlberg, 39, prepares to tour with a reunited New Kids on the Block and appears on the big screen in "Righteous Kill," which will be released on Sept. 12.

The former couple have two sons, ages 15 and 7.

Malaysia's Islamists want Lavigne concert canceled

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's Islamic opposition party has urged the government to cancel a concert by Avril Lavigne, saying the Canadian singer's on-stage moves are "too sexy," an official said Monday.

Lavigne, a Grammy-nominated rock singer who burst to fame with her 2002 debut album "Let's Go," plans to start her monthlong Asia tour with a performance in Kuala Lumpur on Aug. 29.

The youth wing of the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party said Lavigne's concert would promote wrong values ahead of Malaysia's Aug. 31 independence day.

"It is considered too sexy for us. ... It's not good for viewers in Malaysia," said Kamarulzaman Mohamed, a party official. "We don't want our people, our teenagers, influenced by their performance. We want clean artists, artists that are good role models."

Kamarulzaman said he sent a protest letter to the Culture, Arts and Heritage Ministry and the Kuala Lumpur mayor last week, calling for the concert to be canceled.

An official from the Culture Ministry's department that vets all foreign artists said the government has not given permission for the concert yet. The department is to meet Tuesday to decide on the organizer's application, which was received last week.

The official declined to be named because she is not

authorized to make public statements.

A spokesman for the concert's organizer, Galaxy Group, denied that Lavigne's show had any "negative elements."

The spokesman, who declined to be named citing protocol, said his company was confident of receiving the permit as feedback from authorities so far had been "very positive."

Malaysia requires all performers to wear clothes without obscene or drug-related images and be covered from chest to knees. They must also refrain from jumping, shouting, hugging and kissing on stage.

Still, members of PAS and other conservative Muslims often protest Western and even Malaysian music shows that they deem to be inappropriate.

Last year, pop singer Gwen Stefani made what she called "a major sacrifice" by donning clothes that revealed little skin at a performance here.

Also last year, Christina Aguilera skipped Malaysia during an Asian tour that included neighboring Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines, while R&B superstar Beyonce scratched a planned concert here, moving it to Indonesia.

A Pussycat Dolls concert in 2006 was fined 10,000 ringgit (US\$2,857) after the U.S. girl group was accused of flouting decency regulations.

Reports: DeGeneres and de Rossi wed in Calif.

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — There was much dancing: Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi are married, according to reports.

In the biggest celebrity union since California legal-

ized same-sex marriage, DeGeneres, 50, and de Rossi, 35, wed Saturday night in an intimate ceremony at their Beverly Hills home, People and Us Magazine reported.

A publicist for DeGeneres confirmed People's report and gave no further comment.

After the California Supreme Court's ruling in May, the talk-show host announced that she and de Rossi would wed after four years together.

The ceremony was attended by 19 guests, including DeGeneres' mom, Betty, and de Rossi's mother, Margaret Rogers, who had flown in from Australia, People.com reported Saturday night.

DeGeneres said after winning her fourth consecutive Daytime Emmy for talk show host in June that a date had not been set, and that she would show "a tiny bit" of the nuptials on her show.

While opponents in California have gathered signatures to put a measure on the November ballot for a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, Hollywood was throwing its support behind the newlyweds.

Some furniture rental plans may end up costing students more



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

COLORTYME RENT-TO-OWN on 34th Street and University Avenue is one place where students can rent furniture.

By TINA L. ARONS STAFF WRITER

The best things in life are free, even when it comes to moving into a new place.

But if mom and dad don't have an extra couch or a washer and dryer available, there are several options for filling an unfurnished apartment or house.

One of them is furniture rental.

Brian Tilben, store manager for ColorTyme Rent-To-Own in Lubbock, said the main reason college students opt to rent or rent-to-own is because it is convenient.

"They don't have to worry about having to deliver or store it," he said.

Callie Overman, store manager and owner of Overman Furniture Rental in Lubbock, said renting furniture also is a good option for students who don't want to have to move furniture after they graduate.

Students can rent furniture for an entire apartment or house or they can rent specific parts, such as a washer and dryer or sofa and chair.

"If you don't have much money in the first place, it makes sense to rent or rent-to-own," said

Mary Gazioglu, a Rent-A-Center spokesperson.

The downside is that renting usually costs more than buying furniture.

Jourdan Johnson, a mechanical engineering major at Texas Tech, went to a furniture rental store in Lubbock with his three roommates intending to rent to own a 42-inch television.

But then they discovered it would cost more than twice as much to rent-to-own the television they wanted than it would be to buy it outright. So they decided to swing by a local electronics retailer and purchase one instead.

A survey of furniture rental stores in Lubbock found that the starting price for a washer and dryer rental is about \$60 per month and would take about 12 months to own on a rent-to-own plan. This would be a total of \$720 before taxes spent on the appliances.

The starting price for a washer and dryer at Home Depot is about \$500 before taxes.

The difference? About \$220. Dustin Parsons, a former employee of two local rent-to-own stores, said the best option many rental stores offer is a 90-days-good-as-cash option. This means the furniture, appliance or electronic device can be purchased with one payment or sev-

eral payments over a 90-day period at the cash price, which is usually much closer to the retail value than the rent-to-own price.

So, instead of \$720 in payments for a washer and dryer that retails around \$500, a renter could pay about \$500 over 90 days.

Parsons said it is a good option for college students who want to own their furniture without too much extra cost.

»tina.aronsttu.edu

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

Some businesses run a credit check. Others don't.

Texas law requires appropriate sanitization for furniture, especially mattresses.

Some rent-to-own plans can be negotiated for lower payments over a longer period of time.

Several companies allow renters to pick up where they left off on a rent-to-own plan, which would be beneficial to students who go home for the summer.

Most furniture rental stores sell used furniture or appliances when they buy new stock.

With few flaws aside, Soulcalibur IV delivers

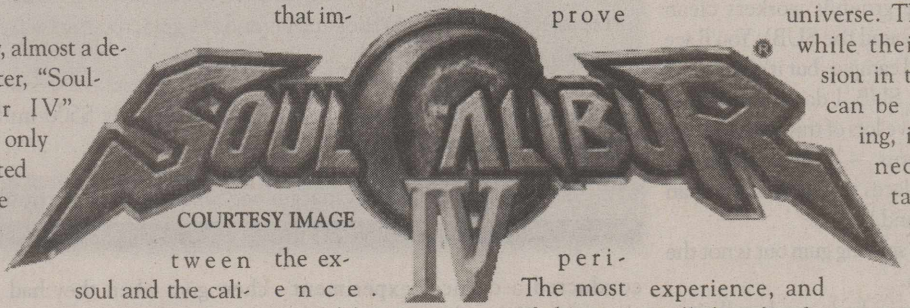
The original "Soul Calibur" was a critical and commercial success when it first hit the Sega Dreamcast in 1999. It also dominated what few arcades were left in an increasingly console-focused world. The 3D fighting game was one of the most popular titles on the Dreamcast system, and is one of the highest rated games of all time.

Britton Peele



fighting experience fans know and love, but the fourth version adds a number of additions that im-

Now, almost a decade later, "Soulcalibur IV" has not only eliminated the space between the soul and the calibur (this creating an even weirder fake word, as "calibur" itself wasn't enough), but has evolved for the new generation of game consoles and been released for the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3. The game is still the same great



COURTESY IMAGE

fighting game fans. For the most part, the game's cast includes few surprises for people who have played the previous games in the series. Notable combatants like Ivy, Sophitia, Astaroth and Mitsurugi all make their return in a character list that exceeds 30 fighters. On top of this, players are given a wealth of options for creating their own custom characters to use in battle. Whether you want try your best to recreate the Hulk or Ronald McDonald to battle with or create a strong, custom warrior straight from your imagination, you have plenty of choices.

However, there are a few character additions that are rubbing a lot of people the wrong way. In the midst of this fantasy world of souls and swords, three Star Wars characters have clumsily found their way into the fray. Yoda appears in the Xbox 360 version of the game, Darth Vader appears in the PlayStation 3 version,

and Darth Vader's "secret apprentice" (from the upcoming LucasArts game, "Star Wars: The Force Unleashed") appears in both versions.

While these characters play well enough and can be fun to use, their appearance in this world is shaky ... at best. The stories of some of these common characters make little enough sense without throwing in weird sci-fi elements from another universe. That said,

while their inclusion in the game can be distracting, it doesn't necessarily take away from the overall

experience, and can actually be a fun thing to mess around with.

Graphically, "Soulcalibur IV" looks fantastic, sporting high-quality environments and character models. The sound, on the other hand, isn't always a strong suit. The music, while often competent, doesn't always feel like it fits, and the voice acting of various characters can be downright bad sometimes.

Unlike certain other fighting games, the gameplay in "Soulcalibur IV" isn't extremely difficult to pick up, and people new to the series can grab a controller and still have fun with it. However, when players want to take their game several steps forward (perhaps to play online), there's a great amount of depth to the fighting system that can lead to some very intense matches.

All told, I find it easy to recommend "Soulcalibur IV" to fans of the series as well as fighting games in general. It's not without its flaws and oddities, but it can be a great deal of fun both by yourself and with a friend.

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

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams. Includes crossword grid and word lists for across and down. Saturday's Puzzle Solved also included.

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U. Maryland students' study: Oprah endorsement earned Obama votes

By **BEN PENN**
THE DIAMONDBACK (U. MARYLAND)

In the midst of a presidential election reaching levels of intensity this summer normally reserved for September or October, two unlikely candidates with close ties to the University of Maryland threw their names into the mix last week — except not as election candidates but as doctorate candidates.

Tim Moore and Craig Garthwaite, second- and third-year economics graduate students respectively, released a study last week that estimated media mogul Oprah Winfrey's endorsement of Barack Obama resulted in more than one million votes for Obama in the Democratic presidential primaries this past year.

Moore and Garthwaite, who focus their studies not on politics but primarily on health economics, thought the project would be creative and interesting but never imagined their names would be featured in the campaign coverage of several national media outlets.

"Craig and I were working for the same professor last year; we were just talking about Oprah and whether her effect on consumers might be the same as on voters," Moore said. "Once we started talking, we thought, 'Why not use the information on commercial products and use that as an analysis of voting behavior?'"

Though Garthwaite is on vacation this week, he explained in an e-mail his study's applicability.

"I think that, in general, the academic community has an unclear view of how endorsements affect politics," Garthwaite wrote in the e-mail. "To the extent that we can further the understanding of this in both the academic community and the general political arena, it is a positive thing."



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Moore and Garthwaite analyzed Oprah's ability to influence consumers through subscriptions of her magazine and sales from her book club, and applied this same impact on voting behavior while factoring in numerous control variables such as age, race, income and unemployment.

"Even after controlling for all those things, we still find a relationship between Oprah's magazine circulation and Barack Obama's share of the votes," said Moore, who placed less emphasis on the reported exact number of votes from Winfrey's endorsement — 1,015,559 — than

on the more general finding that Winfrey's endorsement had an enormous influence.

Economics chair Peter Murrell, who said he read Moore and Garthwaite's 59-page report and was "very convinced by the result," commented on the novelty of such a study.

"It's wonderful because two graduate students produced a very innovative study," Murrell said. "It's not only getting attention because of Obama and Oprah, but also because it's really new. Nobody's been able to get these type of results before on the effect of a celebrity endorsement."

Yet others in the political and economic community are not as impressed as Murrell. When Moore and Garthwaite sent the study to economics professors — including University of Chicago professor and Freakonomics co-author Steve Levitt — who proceeded to report the findings on their blogs, it generated much skeptical reaction.

For example, some people are not convinced that subscribers of O, The Oprah Magazine would not have voted for Obama regardless of Winfrey's endorsement, including CNN senior political analyst Bill Schneider, who sarcastically barked on the air last week, "One-million-fifteen-thousand-five-hundred-fifty-nine votes she brought to Barack Obama. Well, that's a little absurd. How do you get specific to that degree?"

Stellar fall movie lineup shows huge Oscar potential

Chris Kellerman



Fall is upon us, which means Oscar season has begun. Though we've seen a couple great performances so far (particularly Heath Ledger in "The Dark Knight"), most of this year's Oscar contenders will be crammed into the next few months. Here are 10 films to get excited about. Don't mark the release dates on your calendar yet; they often change, and a few won't open in Lubbock until a week or two after they open in big cities.

Burn After Reading (Sept. 12) — Fresh off last year's disturbing but brilliant "No Country for Old Men," Joel and Ethan Coen are back with a comedy. Starring Brad Pitt as a personal trainer who happens upon the personal information of a former CIA agent (John Malkovich). The trailer for this movie is absolutely hilarious. George Clooney, Frances McDormand, and Tilda Swinton also star.

Body of Lies (Oct. 10) — Based on the book by David Ignatius, Ridley Scott's newest film stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Russell Crowe as CIA operatives who try to take down a Jordanian terrorist. The first trailer was a little confusing, but the script is by "The Departed" writer William Monahan, and, with DiCaprio and Crowe, it's hard to go wrong.

Changeling (Oct. 31) — If the critics at this year's Cannes Film Festival are to be trusted, "Changeling" could be Clint Eastwood's best film yet. Starring Angelina Jolie as a mother whose child mysteriously disappears,

the film explores police corruption in Los Angeles in the late 1920s. This should be a major Oscar contender.

Quantum of Solace (Nov. 7) — Agent 007 tries to save the world from an environmentalist? I have a feeling this film won't be quite as great as "Casino Royale," but it's sure to be a worthy addition to the James Bond series — not mention a huge money-maker at the box office.

Australia (Nov. 14) — If you're tired of a bunch of weird indie movies being nominated for Oscars, here's your movie this year. It's a sweeping love epic starring Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman as an aristocrat and stock man trying to escape Japanese bombing during World War II. "Moulin Rouge" director Baz Luhrmann's first film in seven years is expected to be great.

The Road (Nov. 26) — Australian director John Hillcoat's adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's Pulitzer winner is getting a ton of media attention. The book chronicles the journey of a man and his young son trying to survive in a post-apocalyptic world. It has been called the best American novel of the past 25 years, but will the film measure up?

Frost/Nixon (Nov. 5) — Okay, I realize a movie about interviews with

Richard Nixon doesn't sound terribly exciting, but it's based on a critically-acclaimed play by Peter Morgan ("The Queen"), and Ron Howard is directing it. Michael Sheen and Frank Langella, who starred in the play, will be returning as David Frost and Nixon, respectively.

Doubt (Dec. 12) — Also based on a play, this film stars Meryl Streep and Amy Adams as nuns at a Bronx Catholic school in 1964. A new priest (Philip Seymour Hoffman) arrives at their parish and is suspected of abusing a black student. The play isn't anti-Catholic, so most likely, the film won't be as controversial as the plot appears to be.

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (Dec. 19) — Brad Pitt plays a man who ages backwards in this highly anticipated movie directed by David Fincher ("Zodiac," "Fight Club"). It'll be quite an interesting Oscar ceremony if Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie win top honors for their major roles this year.

Revolutionary Road (Dec. 26) — Ever think you'd see Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet back together again (remember "Titanic")? Well, the acting of both has improved considerably since their last film together. Directed by Sam Mendes ("American Beauty," "Jarhead"), this film about a middle-class couple with a miserable marriage should be one of the year's best.

Kellerman is a senior political science and music major from Arlington. E-mail him at chris.kellerman@ttu.edu.

DMB sax player dies at 46 from ATV wreck injuries

LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeRoy Moore, the versatile saxophonist whose signature staccato fused jazz and funk overtones onto the eclectic sound of the Dave Matthews Band, died Aug. 19 of complications from injuries he suffered in an all-terrain vehicle accident, the band said. He was 46.

Moore died at Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, where he was admitted with complications that arose weeks after the June 30 wreck, according to a statement on the band's Web site. It did not specify what led to his death, and nursing supervisor Galina Shinder said the hospital could not release details.

On June 30, Moore crashed his ATV on his farm outside Charlottesville, Va., but was discharged and returned to his Los Angeles home to begin physical therapy. Complications forced him back to the hospital on July 17, the band said.

The band went on with its show Tuesday night at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, where lead singer Dave Matthews dedicated the entire

show to Moore.

"It's always easier to leave than be left," Matthews told the crowd, according to Ambrosia Healy, the band's publicist. "We appreciate you all being here."

It's always easier to leave than to be left. We appreciate you all being here.

DAVE MATTHEWS

Saxophonist Jeff Coffin, who played with Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, had been sitting in for Moore during the band's summer tour.

Moore, who wore dark sunglasses at the bands' many live concerts, had classical training but said jazz was his main musical influence, according to

a biography on the band's Web site.

"But at this stage I don't really consider myself a jazz musician," Moore said in the biography. Playing with the Dave Matthews Band was "almost better than a jazz gig," he said. "I have plenty of space to improvise, to try new ideas."

Lead singer Dave Matthews credited Moore with arranging many of his songs, which combine Cajun fiddle-playing, African-influenced rhythms and Matthews' playful but haunting voice.

The band formed in 1991 in Charlottesville, Va., when Matthews was working as a bartender. He gave a demo tape of his songs to Moore, who liked what he heard and recruited his friend and fellow jazzman Carter Beauford to play drums, and other musicians.

The group broke out of the local music scene with the album "Under the Table and Dreaming." The band won a Grammy Award in 1997 for its hit song "So Much to Say" off its second album "Crash." Other hits include "What Would You Say," "Crash Into Me" and "Satellite."

France bans broadcast of TV shows for babies

PARIS (AP) — France's broadcast authority has banned French channels from marketing TV shows to children under 3 years old, to shield them from developmental risks it says television viewing poses at that age.

The ruling also ordered warning messages for parents on foreign baby channels that are broadcast in France — such as Baby TV, which is owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., and BabyFirstTV, which has ties to News Corp.'s Fox Entertainment.

The High Audiovisual Council, in a ruling published Wednesday, said it wanted to "protect children under 3 from the effects of television."

France's minister for culture and communication, Christine Albanel, issued a "cry of alarm" to parents in June about channels dedicated 24 hours a day to baby-targeted programming. In a newspaper interview, she called them "a danger" and urged parents not to use them to help their children get to sleep.

She was referring to BabyFirstTV and Baby TV, two foreign channels that can be seen in France on cable television.

The council's ruling aims to prevent the development of such programming on French channels, by preventing them from marketing content as suitable for the under-3 age group.

It also orders French cable operators that air foreign channels with programs for babies to broadcast warning messages to parents. The messages will read: "Watching television can slow the development of children under 3, even when it

involves channels aimed specifically at them."

The ruling cites health experts as saying that interaction with other people is crucial to early child development.

"Television viewing hurts the development of children under 3 years old and poses a certain number of risks, encouraging passivity, slow language acquisition, over-excitement, troubles with sleep and concentration as well as dependence on screens," the ruling said.

When BabyFirstTV began airing in the U.S. in 2006, it escalated an already heated national debate.

Applegate calls double mastectomy a 'tough' choice

NEW YORK (AP) — Christina Applegate is taking the long view of her battle with breast cancer — the really long view.

Speaking on ABC News' "Good Morning America" in her first interview since announcing her diagnosis earlier this month, the "Samantha Who?" star said she had a double mastectomy three weeks ago. She'll undergo reconstructive surgery over the next eight months.

"I'm going to have cute boobs 'til I'm 90, so there's that," she joked in the interview, which aired Tuesday. "I'll have the best boobs in the nursing home. I'll be the envy of all the ladies around the bridge table."

The 36-year-old actress elected to remove both breasts even though the disease was contained in one breast. She said she is now cancer-free.

Applegate called the operation a logical decision. Her mother battled breast cancer, and she tested positive for the BRCA1 gene mutation linked to breast and ovarian cancer.

"I just wanted to kind of be rid of it," she said. "So this was the choice I made and it was a tough one."

The experience has been an emotional roller coaster, she said.

"Sometimes, you know, I cry and sometimes I scream and I get really angry and I get really like, you know, into wallowing in self-pity sometimes," she said. "And I think that's — it's all part of healing, and anyone who's going through it out there, it's OK to cry. It's OK to fall on the ground and just scream if you want to."

The Emmy-nominated "Samantha Who?" star has kept her sense of humor intact.

"I've laughed so much in the last

three weeks," she said. "I love living, and I really love my life, and I knew that from this moment on it was only going to be good that was going to be coming. Yeah, I'll face challenges, but you can't get any darker than where I've been. So knowing that in my soul gave me the strength to just say, 'I have to get out there and make this a positive.'"

Applegate's cancer was detected early through a doctor-ordered MRI. She said she's starting a program to help women at high risk for breast

cancer to meet the costs of an MRI, which is not always covered by insurance.

Applegate is scheduled to appear on a one-hour TV special, "Stand Up to Cancer," to be aired on ABC, CBS and NBC on Sept. 5 to raise funds for cancer research.

She has been nominated for an Emmy and a Golden Globe for the ABC show "Samantha Who?," in which she plays a woman who wakes from a coma with no memory of who she is.

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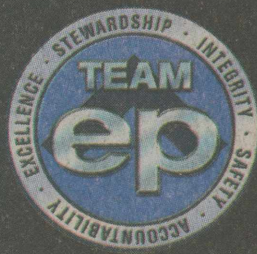
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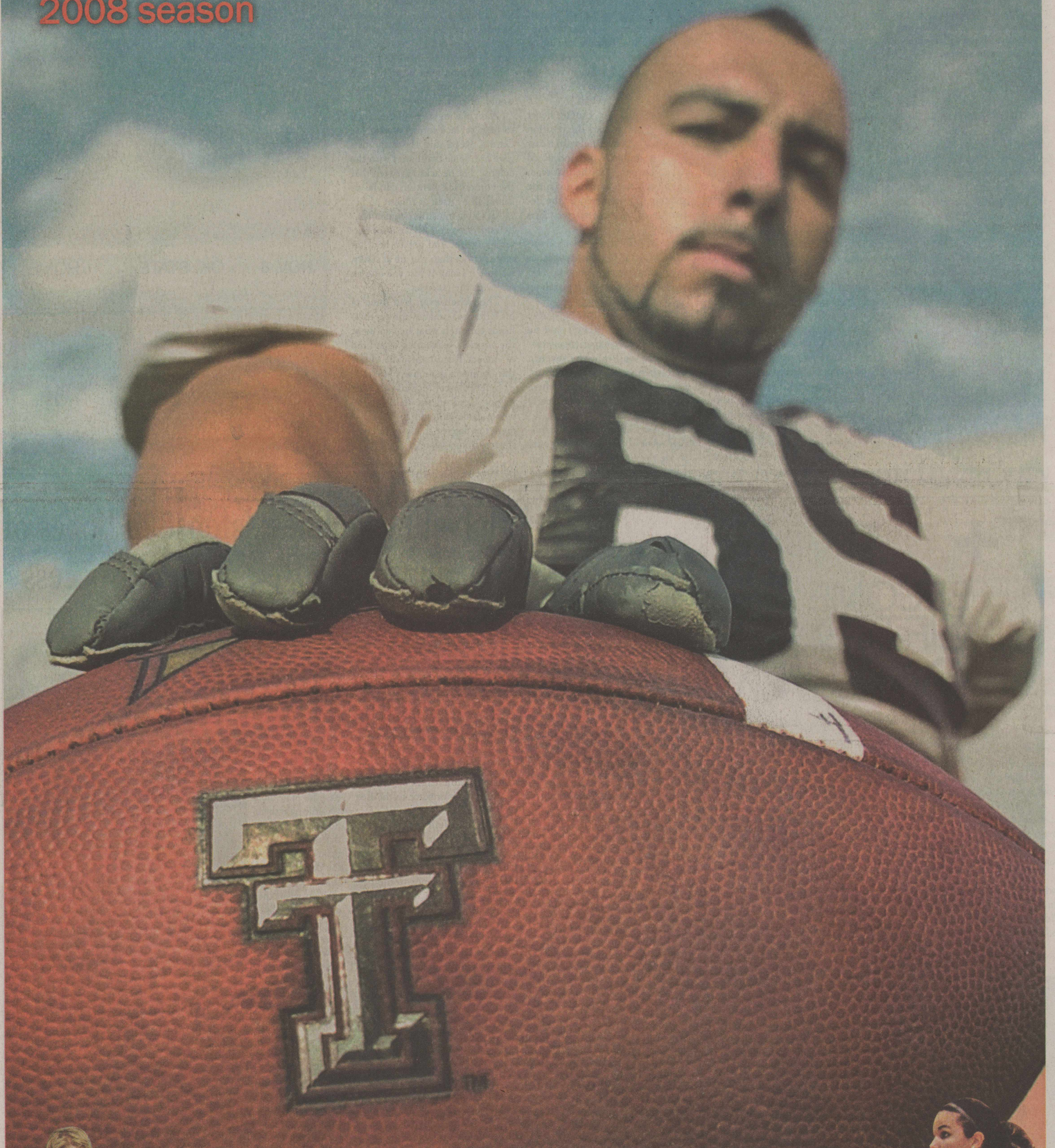
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GOING **BIG** TIME

Tech football receiving extra attention heading into 2008 season



Texas Tech women's tennis coach Cari Groce is replaced by assistant Todd Petty

SEE PAGE 3

R. P. Fuller Stadium undergoes track surface renovations

SEE PAGE 3



Texas Tech volleyball prepares for 2008 season



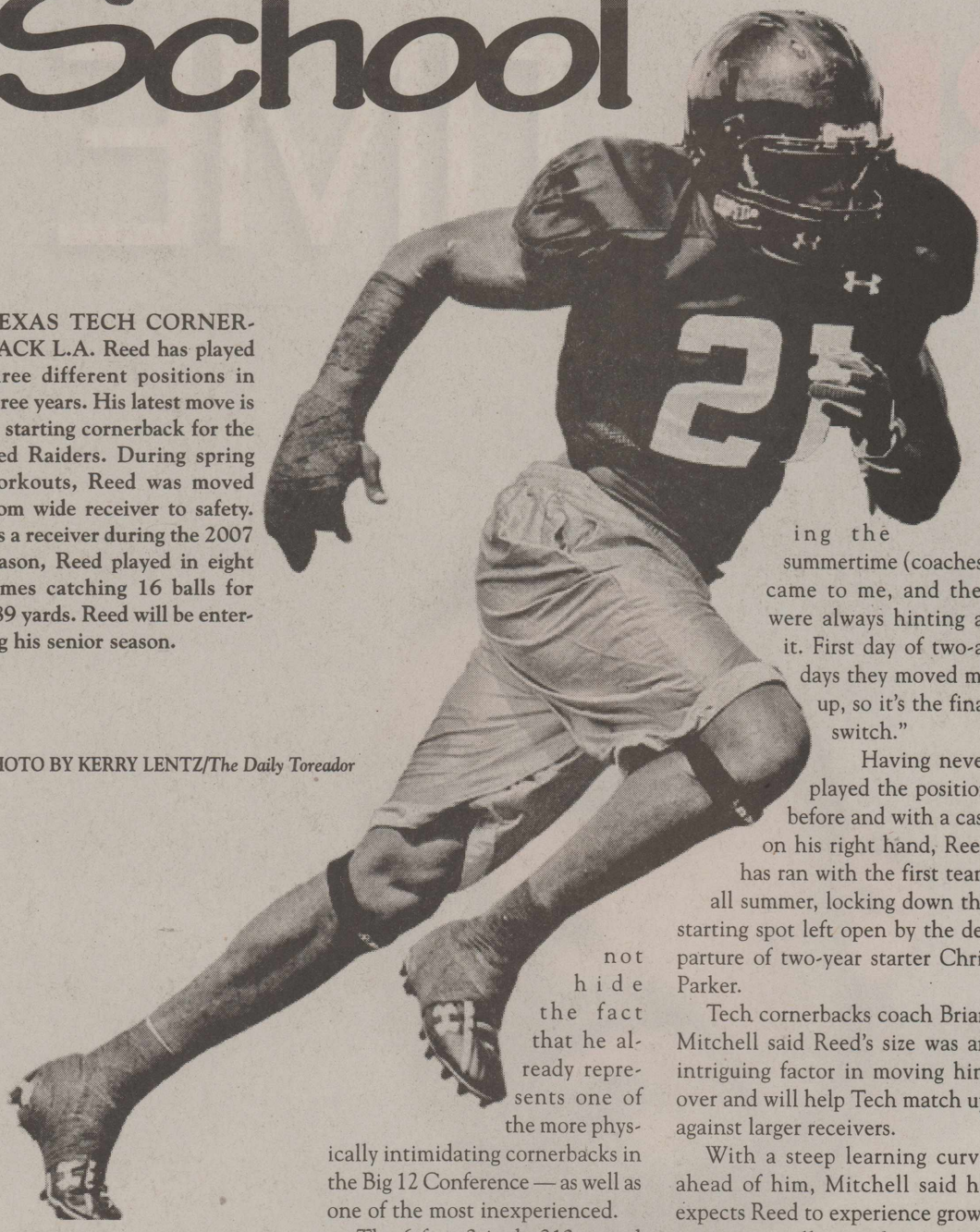
SEE PAGE 3

Back 2 School

Tech's L.A. Reed has 3 weeks to learn new position at corner

TEXAS TECH CORNERBACK L.A. Reed has played three different positions in three years. His latest move is to starting cornerback for the Red Raiders. During spring workouts, Reed was moved from wide receiver to safety. As a receiver during the 2007 season, Reed played in eight games catching 16 balls for 189 yards. Reed will be entering his senior season.

PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador



By **ALEX YBARRA**
STAFF WRITER

View a related video at www.dailytoreador.com

L.A. Reed has yet to play a down at his new position, but that does

not hide the fact that he already represents one of the more physically intimidating cornerbacks in the Big 12 Conference — as well as one of the most inexperienced.

The 6-foot-2-inch, 212-pound senior has played three positions in the past year, moving from receiver to safety last spring before going to corner on the first day of fall practice.

"It was a surprise, but it wasn't that much of a surprise," said Reed, who has 39 career receptions, "Dur-

ing the summertime (coaches) came to me, and they were always hinting at it. First day of two-a-days they moved me up, so it's the final switch."

Having never played the position before and with a cast on his right hand, Reed has ran with the first team all summer, locking down the starting spot left open by the departure of two-year starter Chris Parker.

Tech cornerbacks coach Brian Mitchell said Reed's size was an intriguing factor in moving him over and will help Tech match up against larger receivers.

With a steep learning curve ahead of him, Mitchell said he expects Reed to experience growing pains well into the seventh or eighth game of the season, especially in a conference where teams face a spread offense nearly every week.

"I don't know if we can duplicate everything that he's going to see throughout the season, but we'll do our best," Mitchell said.

"He's going to be challenged with some schemes out there in this conference that may try to expose some of his inexperience, but he'll learn."

Learning has become a repetitive process for Reed, which revealed another reason why Mitchell shows so much confidence in him.

"Everyday there's a new challenge," Mitchell said, "but the kid weathers the storm and continues to work with great effort. His greatest competitive advantage is he is just going to do everything you ask him. He listens, he pertains and he applies it."

Mitchell said hitting and tackling was not a concern, considering Reed's resume of making big plays on special teams.

"He's got corner skills with the safety mentality," Mitchell said. "So he's gonna come down hill and strike a blow just like a linebacker would, or a strong safety would."

After playing safety in the spring to help replace former starter Joe Garcia, Reed said those months gave him some familiarity with the defense, but he acknowledged that the cornerback position can be an island all by itself at times.

"It's a big transition from safety," he said. "You gotta have a lot better footwork. You got to be a lot more perfect than you are at safety, because it's mainly just you one on one with the receiver."

The switch even had some of his fellow teammates turning their heads to watch what he can do at the position, wondering what kind of impact Reed can make at his third position in as many years.

Safety Darcel McBath said just having Reed on the field for the whole game will add another element to a defense that returns eight starters from a year ago.

"To have him on the field for 70, 80, 90 plays," McBath said, "I mean,

you can only imagine how many plays he's gonna make."

At times, Reed said, he begins thinking about what could have been at his original position, but he quickly brushes the notion aside.

"A lot of people, they've been

here three or four years, and they're not even at a position where they can even play yet," Reed said. "As long as I'm still getting my chance to compete and make plays, I'm happy with that."

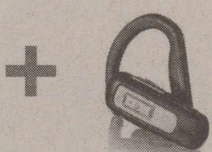
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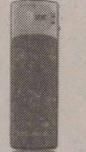
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McNeill simplifies defense in hopes of contributing to Red Raiders' success

By **ALEX YBARRA**
STAFF WRITER

View a related video at www.dailytoreador.com

Mean and simple. That's how Texas Tech defensive coordinator Ruffin McNeill likes his defenses.

With eight returning starters and an easier scheme to follow, the defense aims to enter the 2008 season as a pivotal contributor to the Red Raiders' success.

When McNeill took over the unit after the fourth game of the 2007 season, the defense drastically improved from one of the worst in the Big 12 Conference to the best defense, statistically, over the last nine games.

McNeill said several changes he implemented at linebacker and defensive line should help this unit improve a rushing defense that allowed 177 yards per game, 82nd in the nation a season ago.

"Knowing what to do and where to go, I think a lot of people have told our kids they're playing faster and more aggressive because they know where to go," said McNeill, who began making defensive changes by stripping linebackers of excess responsibilities. "If they're sure and confident where their job is and their fits are on the run, they'll play it faster and they'll be more aggressive, so that's what I'm expecting from them."

Sophomore middle linebacker Brian Duncan said philosophy has taken away a lot of the confusion that was evident early on last season.

"It's a simple defense now," Duncan said. "We've transitioned from a real complicated to a simple defense. We're out here just playing. So it's really important to get all the information down. If we got two backs, we got two gaps. If we got one back, we got one gap. If we're missing one gap, it's a touchdown. If we're missing two gaps, it's a touchdown, so every single play, we have got to know what to do."

Duncan also was one of the changes McNeill made on defense.

Positioned at outside linebacker as a redshirt freshman last season, Duncan has made a smooth transition to middle linebacker, the position he had played his whole life prior to 2007.

"Moving back to the middle, that's my life. I love it," he said. "I'm more versatile right there, I'm a smarter guy at that position. It's just basic quarterback of the defense. I have to know every single position, where they go. When we make a call I have to know where they're going, how they're doing it, when they're dreaming about it."

Alongside Duncan is junior Marlon Williams at weak side linebacker and sophomore Bront Bird at strong side. In 2007, Williams finished with 81 total tackles, while Bird recorded 16 tackles as a true freshman.

McNeill said Bird was an intriguing athlete coming out of high school, having played wideout and defensive back.

"We play so many spread teams that we have to have length and also athleticism as well, and I like that in Bront," McNeill said of the 6-foot-3, 220-pound linebacker out of Permian High School in Odessa. "That enabled us to move Brian Duncan inside."

McNeill said this is easily the deepest defense during his tenure at Tech, with a defensive line that has a mixture of talent, depth, and experience in juniors Brandon Williams and Rajon Henley, sophomore Colby Whitlock, senior Jake Ratliff and newcomers Chris Perry, McKinner Dixon and Brandon Sesay.

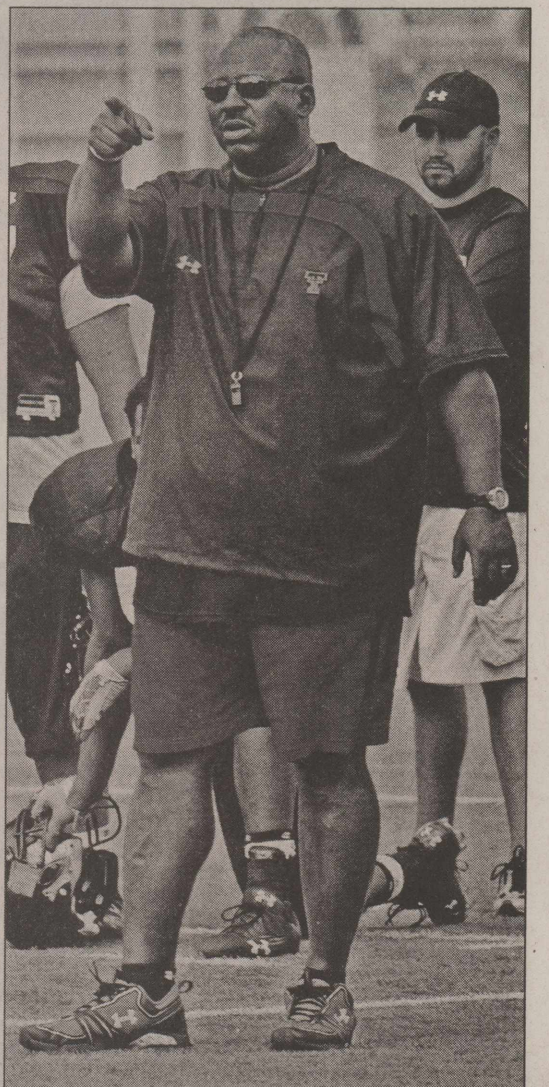


PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH DEFENSIVE coordinator Ruffin McNeill switched the defensive scheme for this season.

Based on what he saw in the spring game and all offseason, McNeill said he expects the defense to improve its average of two sacks per game that had them tied for 64th in the nation in 2007.

However, Duncan said the defense's road to becoming nationally recognized starts with defending the run on a consistent basis.

"Coach Ruff reminds us of that every single day, and it ticks us off," Duncan said. "It really ticks us off to hear that because we don't want to be (82nd in rushing defense). In order for us to be that next level defense we gotta be Top 15, Top 5 defense in the country."

► daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu

Tech Volleyball prepares for new beginnings after struggling in 2007

View a related video at www.dailytoreador.com

By KEVIN CULLEN
STAFF WRITER

The Red Raiders are looking up after being on the bottom last year.

After Tech struggled through a 2007 season 7-22 overall and 1-19 in the Big 12 Conference play, 2008 brings nothing but optimism for the team.

The players hope to use last season's missteps as a motivating factor in their effort to improve this year.

"It's something that started in January, once we started offseason workouts and stuff," said senior outside hitter Michelle Flores. "We really got together and talked about everything and of course we don't wanna go (through) that situation this year. We are very motivated and we are just waiting to see what happens."

While the team lost some key players, most notably, setter Emily Ziegler, the Red Raiders welcome five newcomers.

"We have a really strong middle coming in, Amanda Dowdy, she'll be a big-time player for us," said senior middle blocker Brandi Hood. "Actually, all of our freshman are big players for us and are gonna step up and do some amazing things."

Ziegler led the team with 715 assists in her final season, but Hood said she believes it will not be as difficult to replace her as it may seem.

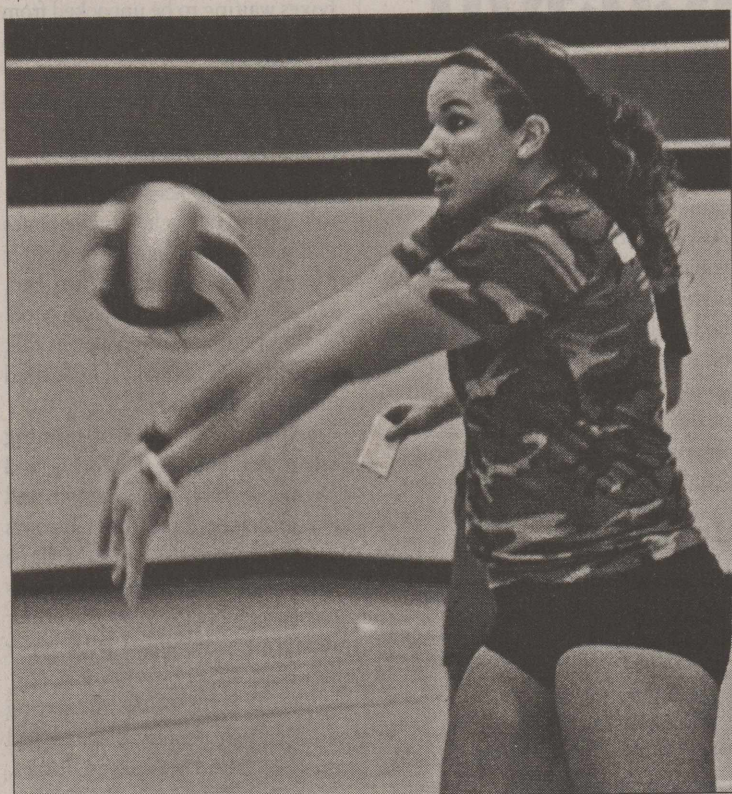


PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH OUTSIDE hitter Michelle Flores and the Red Raider volleyball team won one Big 12 Conference match in 2007.

"I don't want to say it's a big loss because we have the setters that are able to do exactly what she did if not more," she said. "But I mean, she was a great player, a great friend of mine. It's a sad thing, but we're always gonna have other players that are gonna step up and replace her just like people are gonna replace me when I leave."

The highly touted freshmen tandem of Dowdy and Karlyn Meyers will be expected to contribute significantly. Each was a Top 100 recruit according to Prepvolleyball.com.

Dowdy said she hopes her play will help the Red Raiders to improve after last year's season.

"As a team, my expectations for us this year is to be in the NCAA tournament," she said. "It's a big goal because they haven't done it in a few years. Individually, (my goal) is just to play my absolute best and be a team player and then whatever comes along with that."

Meyers will be attempting to replace Ziegler as setter.

TEXAS TECH MIDDLE blocker Brandi Hood will lead the Red Raiders who have many new faces including four incoming freshman.

PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ
The Daily Toreador

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R.P. Fuller stadium receives renovations to track surface



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

The track at R.P. Fuller Stadium is being renovated and will feature the same surface that is being used at the Beijing Olympics.

By KAYLA PARHAM
STAFF WRITER

R.P. Fuller Stadium is now in elite company.

After an 11-year life span, the track surface in R.P. Fuller Stadium is being replaced by the premium track surface Mondo SX, the same track being used in the Beijing Olympics.

Since Tech is hosting the Big 12 Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships in the spring, Tech coach Wes Kittley said that was motivation enough to install the new track.

"This is the best track in the world and that is what we are really excited about," he said. Kittley said two private donors are funding the replacement of

the track surface.

The design will have sprint lanes down the middle along with the pole vault, long jump and triple jump. The javelin and discus will be thrown on another field away from the stadium.

"They have come out with this new product that is called the SX that is soft and fast for training," Kittley said. "It is two for the price of one, you have the fastest track in the world, but you also have a track you can train on and not get injured on."

One of the Mondo SX Track builders, Robert Cohen said this new track surface has more shock absorbance for reducing injuries.

"The Mondo SX is made from virgin vulcanized rubber," he said. "It is softer and faster than any other track because it returns

more energy to the athlete."

With more energy returned to the runner, Cohen said any athlete will have faster times.

Robert Cohen Co. has installed Mondo surfaces for the last 10 years in the Southwest area and completed Arizona State's Mondo track last year.

The new track is costing slightly less than \$2 million, Kittley said.

Cohen said the Mondo track can last up to 20 years and is fully recyclable with no toxic components or heavy metals.

Others schools with Mondo tracks are Arkansas, Nebraska, Arizona State, Drake and Sacramento State.

The track is scheduled to be completed before Thanksgiving.

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Texas Tech women's tennis coach Cari Groce replaced by assistant Todd Petty



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

Former coach Cari Groce led the Lady Raiders for five years.

By KEVIN CULLEN
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech women's tennis team moves in a new direction with a new head coach for the 2008-09 season.

After five years of calling the shots for the Lady Raiders, former Tech coach Cari Groce has been replaced

by Todd Petty, a former first-year assistant under Groce.

Petty said he had a mixed reaction to the situation after a season where the Lady Raiders went 12-12 overall and 4-7 in Big 12 Conference play.

"A little bit of shock," he said. "I'm excited to get the opportunity, but it kinda came really quick and so I was a little bit shocked at first."

In her five years as head coach, Groce led the team to a 58-44 overall record with one winning season in Big 12 play.

Petty said that he cannot speak for Tech Athletics Director Gerald Myers on the reason for the change, but is looking forward to his new position.

"I'm looking forward to getting the chance to lead this team," he said. "I'll definitely be referred to as a player's coach. We've got a great core group of girls returning to a team that I think is going to be very successful with our recruiting class. I think we are gonna be a very successful group."

The Lady Raiders will return six players including Samantha van der Drift who played in the No. 1 and No. 2 singles spots during the 2007-08 season.

The players reacted in a similar fashion to their new coach, Petty said.

"Maybe a little bit of shock," he said. "After talking to them it sounds like they are definitely onboard with this change and seem to be excited about the start of the year."

Tech will start the fall season in the North Texas Invitational on Sept. 12 in Denton. Other tournaments in the fall include the Rice Invitational and the All-American Invitational.

>>> kevin.m.cullen@ttu.edu

Brandi Hood



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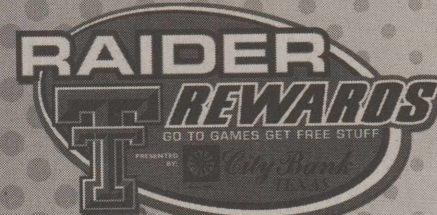
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vs
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Saturday, 08/30 @ 6:00 pm
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Tech football receives national attention heading into season

By **ADAM COLEMAN**
SPORTS EDITOR

Everywhere a Texas Tech football fan turns, it seems the Red Raiders have become the talk of the town — or the college football world for that matter.

Whether it be on the cover of magazines or daytime television, Tech football is getting its 15 minutes of fame.

The Red Raiders enter the 2008 season with many storylines, but the team's No. 12 preseason ranking in the AP Poll — the highest in 31 years — aids in garnering the extra attention.

On the cover of the 2008 edition of Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine, Tech receiver Michael Crabtree, quarterback Graham Harrell and coach Mike Leach make a rare appearance.

"It's really not very often where you've had Tech by itself," Adam Hochfelder, executive director for the magazine said. "It's very unique."

In the 49 years the magazine has been around, Tech has been on the front by itself five times. The last time Tech was on the cover by itself was 1990 when former coach Spike Dykes made the appearance. The last time before that was when former quarterback Rodney Allison made the 1977 cover.

Hochfelder said over the years, some fans have believed Tech has

not had its fair share of attention with the publication, but Crabtree, Harrell and Leach making the cover this year speaks volumes.

Over the years, the magazine has received "creative letters" from Tech fans who wished to see players or Mike Leach on the cover of the magazine, Hochfelder said.

"Most of the reaction in years past has been that we've selected some other story versus Texas Tech," he said. "Everything we've heard from fans (this year) has been really, really positive. The school has been fantastic about promoting it. There's people who get real defensive about it, that we haven't had Tech."

The exposure extends to television as well with Harrell and Crabtree making appearances for interviews on ESPN's College Football Live.

Scott Harves, producer for the show, said it is business-as-usual when choosing the best collegiate players to interview and that Crabtree and Harrell happen to fall into the category.

"We try to have the best players and coaches on and obviously if you're studying the best players in

college football, Michael Crabtree is certainly on your Top 10 list, if not Top 5," he said. "I think, as would all shows would do, we're trying to get the best players on as possible. He's certainly one of them."

The style of football the Red Raiders play is a reason Harves said the team always has attention, but the expectations for the 2008 season only helps.

"I think they're different, so I think people are attracted to the fact that they play a different style of football," he said. "They've had a lot of hype in other seasons as well and have obviously fallen flat in some of their bigger games. As a person who has covered college football for the last eight or nine years, they're exciting to watch. I'll be the first to admit."

Tech's exposure may be at an all-time high heading into this season.

Former Tech quarterback Robert Hall said since his playing days in the 1990s, the school's exposure has changed considerably.

But with the attention, come the opponents hungry for the same exposure, as Hall said the Red Raiders have to stay focused throughout the season even with the extra scrutiny

TECH'S RANKINGS

AP Poll:
No. 12

Coaches Poll:
No. 14

SL.com Poll:
No. 13

Cowboys back home with time to get act together

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Stacked boxes waiting to be unpacked from training camp crammed the Dallas Cowboys' locker room and the adjoining hallways. Players wandered in after finally getting a day off at home.

"Man, it looks so good. We're so happy to be back," Bradie James said with a smile amid the clutter Monday. "I slept in my own bed. I'm all refreshed and feeling good. A lot of guys, we didn't even talk to each other (Sunday). I got tired of seeing everybody."

After three weeks of training camp workouts in California and Denver with only one day off, and two preseason losses, the Cowboys are back home. And they have three more weeks to get things together before the start of a regular season already hyped with super expectations.

While there is no panic setting in after two penalty-plagued and mistake-filled preseason losses, there is a sense that the starters need to play more. Especially defenders who aren't allowed to tackle in practice.

"We need more playing time to come together as a team," coach Wade Phillips said. "You have to play some to tackle better and so we'll play more this week with our starters. The same offensively to get timing, especially in the passing game."

Expect that Friday night in the home preseason opener against

the Houston Texans. The Cowboys' starters will play into the second half, maybe into the fourth quarter.

The Cowboys lost 23-13 at Denver on Saturday night, when they were penalized nine times for 78 yards.

"After looking at the tape, we made too many mental mistakes, offensively and defensively both," Phillips said. "It's not acceptable. We have to clean that up."

That came a week after their 31-17 loss at San Diego, when Tony Romo led Dallas to a touchdown on his only drive before the Chargers scored 24 consecutive points.

"It's a gradual process and we have to embrace the process, win when it's time to win," James said. "But we have got to come together definitely by the end of the preseason, that's our biggest goal. And be hitting on all cylinders at the beginning of the regular season."

Dallas will begin the regular season without Miles Austin, who sprained his right knee on the ensuring kickoff after catching a touchdown pass against the Broncos. Phillips said Austin, a contender for the No. 3 receiver spot behind Terrell Owens and Patrick Crayton, could be out up to six weeks.

But the Cowboys could have Pro Bowl cornerback Terence Newman (groin) and nickel linebacker Kevin Burnett (left knee) back for the Sept. 7 opener at Cleveland.

Sesay aims to make immediate impact while adjusting to Tech football

SCHOOLS SESAY TURNED DOWN

Georgia
Florida
Michigan
Tennessee
California
Oregon
Nebraska
Clemson
LSU
Miami (Fl.)
Mississippi

By **ADAM COLEMAN**
SPORTS EDITOR

Texas Tech defensive end Brandon Sesay chose Texas Tech over several schools. He hasn't regretted it since.

"All my emphasis was into coaching," Sesay said. "I just fell in love with the school — what they had, what they were offering. And to this day, they're still giving me what they told me they were going to give me. They're consistent. That's what made me fall in love with them in the first place."

The arrival of Sesay this summer adds to a defensive line that already has depth. The junior college transfer from Atlanta has spent the summer not only trying to find a way to compete, but getting used to a higher level of collegiate football.

"It was the little things," he said. "Like going inside on certain calls. Little stuff like that. Not knowing the plays. Adjusting to (Division I) atmosphere and D-1 coaching."

Defensive tackle Chris Perry can share Sesay's struggle.

As a transfer from Miami (Fl.),

Perry said he believed the transition would be easy, but learning the playbook and being in shape brought more difficulty than he thought.

"I was already at a disadvantage having to redshirt and not knowing

"I just fell in love with the school — what they had, what they were offering."

BRANDON SESAY
JUNIOR
DEFENSIVE END

the play book at all," he said. "I had to learn all that. I had to get in their shape. I thought I was in shape when I got here and then, Benny (Wylie) got his own definition. I had to get in "Benny" shape. (Sesay) was out of shape too. He went through the same stuff I went through. Had to lose weight. All that."

In his final junior college season, Sesay received more than 70 written scholarships. At the College of the Sequoias, he had 28 tackles and four sacks in six games during the 2007 season. As a freshman during the 2006 season, he claimed 63 tackles and 12 sacks in eight games at Northwest Community College in Mississippi.

Defensive coordinator Ruffin McNeill said Sesay has talent and is wasting no time in achieving his goal of having an impact on the defense this season.

"It's like he's been here for four years," he said. "He's been around the kids. He fits in very well with our team. He knows he has a lot to learn as far as scheme-wise. We're not going to over-complicate it for him either. We're going to try to make the scheme where he can play and play early. We plan on him playing early and he plans on playing early. He'll be a player to make a difference on our team."

Since Sesay did not participate in spring workouts, the summer has been filled with learning and adjustment for the junior 278-pounder.

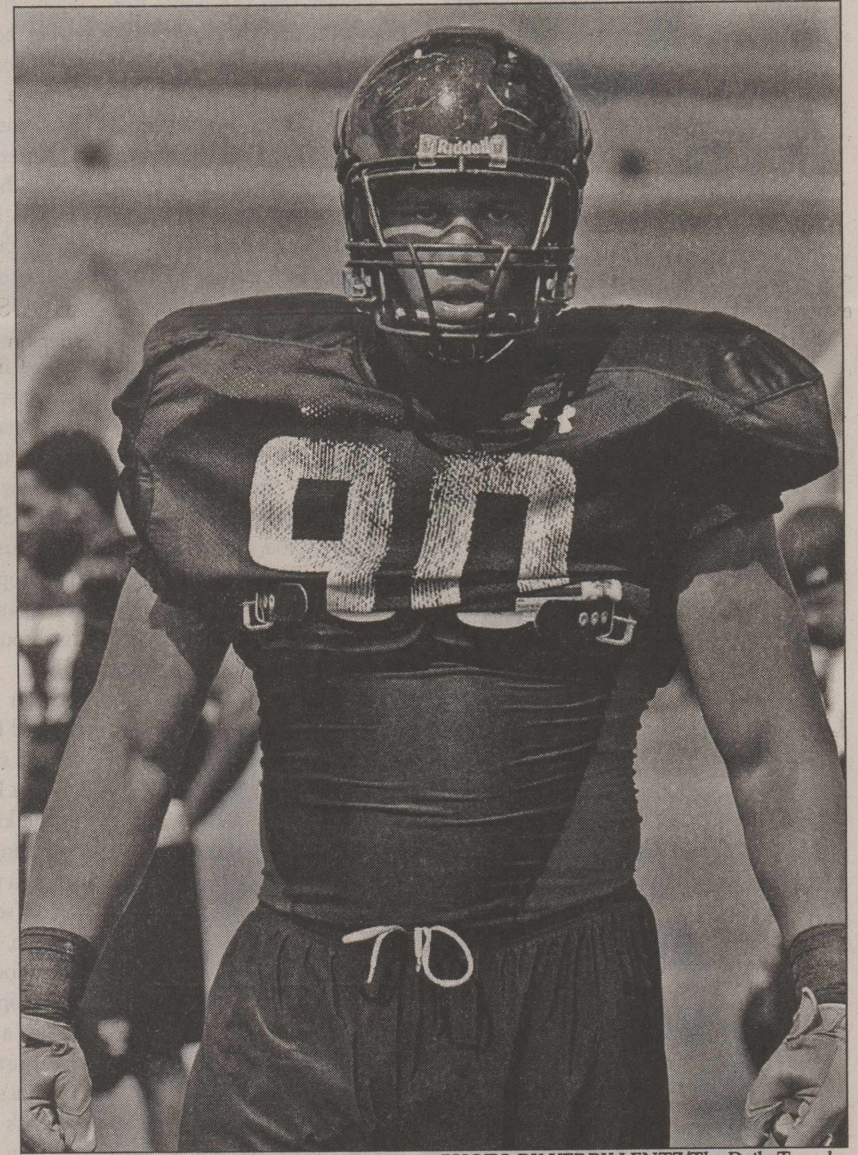


PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH DEFENSIVE end Brandon Sesay has spent this summer competing for a starting position while adjusting to a different level of college football.

Offensive lineman Louis Vasquez said whatever Sesay has to do to adjust, he has no second thoughts

about trying it.

"He's come out here working extra all summer long," Vasquez said. "Working, got his weight down a little bit. He's a real good ball player. From what I've seen, his (junior college) film, he's improved tremendously."

During summer workouts, Sesay not only has lined up at defensive end, but at defensive tackle as well. He adds to a defensive line with defensive end Brandon Williams coming off a 2007 season where he led the team in sacks with six. Other linemen include tackles Rajon Henley and Colby Whitlock, and defensive end Jake Ratliff.

Although the Red Raiders hope Sesay can make a difference on defense this season, Tech coach Mike Leach said the development of a junior college transfer takes patience and time.

"Since he's a (junior college) guy coming here, everybody reads all the press clippings and thinks something miraculous is gonna happen overnight," he said. "I can't think of that ever happening. It's funny because people talk about every year like it's just automatic. I've never seen it happen, hardly. I can't say never, but... there's always an adjustment period."

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Tech's kickers welcome pressure

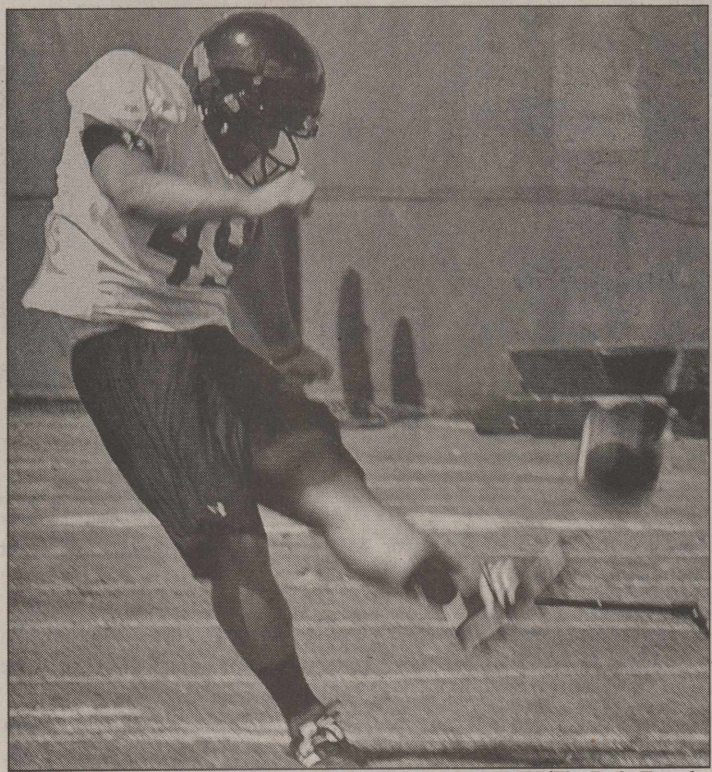


PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

KICKER DONNIE CARONA practices Tuesday afternoon.

By ADAM COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

When Texas Tech kickers Donnie Carona and Cory Fowler practice, all eyes are on them. Teammates and coaches cheer and scream as they consistently make field goals from anywhere on the field.

Throughout practice, Tech's kickers have a chance to impress special teams coordinator Clay McGuire, but during the special teams' session, every teammate and coach is looking for Tech's next best kicker.

In summer workouts, Carona and Fowler have been in an open competition to replace Alex Trilca — one of the few positions the Red Raiders had to fill in during the offseason.

McGuire said the special teams' session not only gives the team a chance to evaluate the new kickers, but it gives his players the much-needed pressure they have not experienced.

"I think they need to get something like that," McGuire said. "There's nothing that can substitute a game experience in practice. (Carona) needs to get some people on his head and see how he reacts with some pressure."

Defensive coordinator Ruffin McNeill has screamed and cheered at Carona in the middle of practice, as he said he has no hesitation in helping McGuire add that pressure.

"(Carona) better kick the ball when we put him in there, he better not miss," he said. "He's got a good name. I know our students may like his name a little bit, but I like him. He's got a good build on him and he's got a strong leg and I'll be there to encourage him when he starts kicking for the team."

Carona joins the Red Raiders as a true freshman. He not only brings the ability to kick to the team, but athleticism as well. At Kelly High School in Beaumont, Carona was not only a kicker and punter, but he was also a linebacker and a running back.

Carona's ability to play multiple positions in high school was something that attracted the Red Raider coaching staff in finding its next kicker.

"One reason we recruited Donnie, obviously his talent and his ability," McGuire said. "He was a football player as well. He was the star running back. Played a little defense. He's not a shaky guy. If he misses a

field goal, he's gonna shake it off and make the next five."

Fowler returns as a senior this season for the Red Raiders. During the 2007 season, Fowler's prominent moment came in the Gator Bowl with a successful outside kick to open the second half against Virginia. The kick helped the Red Raiders in their 31-28 comeback win.

For most of his collegiate career, Fowler has been a backup to Trilca, but he said the 2008 season brings a new opportunity to impress teammates and coaches in team session.

"It is definitely a time to shine in team session because being a kicker, you get one shot," Fowler said. "The whole team's getting to watch you and cheer you on. They know what's going on. It's definitely a time where you really gotta step up."

In comparing the two kickers, McGuire said both have their own strengths and weaknesses as Fowler's experience has brought him improvement and Carona possesses a lot of talent as a freshman.

"Cory's really improved a lot from last year," he said. "His leg's a lot stronger than it was in the spring. He's a lot more accurate. He is getting a lot more height on the ball. Donnie has a very strong leg and has kicked very well, but another thing is, he doesn't have any type of game experience."

During Trilca's career as a Red Raider, he scored 271 points—the most for a kicker in school history.

Fowler said being a backup to Trilca helped him in many ways, but there is no pressure to follow in his footsteps.

"Trilca, I've been with him for three and a half years now," he said. "We were good friends. I learned a lot from Trilca."

"I just gotta do my own thing," he said. "He is a great kicker. Set plenty of records. As long as I go out and take care of myself, I think I should be fine."

As for having a defensive coordinator scream at them while they kick, Carona said he welcomes the pressure and attention.

"He's trying to get me ready," he said. "It's going to be him plus 100,000 out here. It helps out."

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GETTING TO KNOW

"Getting to know Texas Tech athletes" is a once-in-an-occasional series in which members of The DT staff interview Red Raiders about their lives outside of athletics. The first player profile is available online today at www.dailytoreador.com. Today's featured athlete: Tech football center Stephen Hamby.



TEXAS TECH ATHLETES

Tech soccer aims to carry new-found success into this season

By STEVEN RYAN
STAFF WRITER

Proving the experts wrong seems to be the only motivation the Texas Tech women's soccer team needs.

After years of living in the cellar of the Big 12 Conference, the Red Raiders made a significant jump in 2007 by finishing fifth in the conference and clinching a berth in the conference tournament for the first time since 1999. This season the Red Raiders are hoping to show everyone that last year was no fluke.

"Last year we spent so much time just trying to instill a competitive attitude within this team and figure out which players really wanted to be here," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "We just laid the foundation down and basically said 'step over the line if you dare.'"

In 2006, the Red Raiders won two conference games. In a pre-season vote of Big 12 head coaches last season, Tech was picked to finish last. Stone, in his first year of coaching the Red Raiders, led the team to a seven-win season.

Tech defender Brittney Harrison said Stone raising the intensity level in practice is a major reason for last year's surprising turnaround.

"He really pushed us," she said. "He really changed our mentality and made things really tough for us in practice. He made our practice rise which made our game rise. I give him a lot of credit."

With Stone more comfortable with the team in his second season as coach, preseason practices have been calmer than they were last year for a program looking to turn the corner from conference doormat to title contender.

"Last year in preseason, Stone didn't really know us so he had to watch us more and see how we all played since he was new," Harrison said. "This year he already knows how a lot of us play and its more team based instead of individual."

Stone purposely made preseason practices different this year in hope of getting Tech better prepared for a

season of high expectations. He said because of the change, the team has been able to pick up where they left off in the spring.

Even though last year was breakthrough for the program, the team knows they cannot look back at last season if they want to continue the improvement.

After being picked to finish last in the Big 12 in 2007, the Lady Raiders are picked to finish seventh in the latest polls.

Tech goalie Tina Rincon said last season was a big step toward proving the polls wrong, but this team needs to look forward in

order to make another big step this season.

"I think we're basing our season off (last season) and hopefully trying to build off that," Rincon said. "Right now we're picked to finish seventh, we're hoping to go against

the odds and do better than that." Coach Stone enjoys the new expectations his team brings coming into this year and thinks it is much better for the program.

"We want the expectation because that just means we did something right last year," Stone said. "It helps recruiting. It helps the atmosphere of the team. It gets more people to the games. We've had more people at our preseason games then we had for regular season games last year."

The Lady Raiders return Zhaleh Rezaie, who led the team in goals and points with six and 13, respectively. Behind her was Harrison with three and eight points.

With higher expectations also comes higher goals. Stone's goals for this season center around doing well in conference play.

"We want to be a team that is competitive in our conference and once your competitive in you conference, you can start thinking about better things. Last year we hoped to be competitive in our conference. This year we have to be competitive in our conference," Stone said. "We definitely won't be happy if we don't play in the Big 12 Tournament."

steven.ryan@ttu.edu

"Right now we're picked to finish seventh, we're hoping to go against the odds and do better than that."

TINA RINCON
TEXAS TECH SOCCER GOALIE

Texans receiver Anderson still has something to prove

HOUSTON (AP) — David Anderson strutted, swung his arms and high-fived every teammate in sight after catching a touchdown pass in the Houston Texans' preseason opener.

Sure, the game didn't count. But Anderson doesn't know when he'll get the chance to celebrate like that again.

The 5-foot-10, 194-pound receiver is fifth on the Texans' depth chart, behind All-Pro Andre Johnson, Kevin Walter, Andre Davis and Jacoby Jones.

Anderson has stayed on coach Gary Kubiak's radar mostly with pure effort and Kubiak admits that with every practice, Anderson makes a stronger case for more playing time.

"He's become a fine player," Kubiak said. "He's just smart, he understands the game, and has got a lot of confidence. He's an undersized guy so he works well in the slot. Our players just believe in him. He's tough as hell and that helps."

"I don't know how we can keep him off the field right now to be honest with you."

The Texans drafted Anderson out of Colorado State in the seventh round in 2006. He spent the first part of that season on the practice squad, but ended up playing in nine games. He made his first NFL catch and only reception of the season against New England on Dec. 17.

Anderson was left off the final roster before last season, but was recalled three weeks later, after Johnson injured his knee. Anderson caught

12 passes in seven games, including a touchdown. When Johnson came back, Anderson was deactivated for the last five games.

The 25-year-old Anderson spent the offseason studying the Texans' offense and working on his techniques. As a result, he arrived at training camp more optimistic that he would make the final cut this time.

"I had a better grasp of the offense. I had a better grasp of what I could do better," he said. "It was just a matter of coming out, letting it happen, letting loose on the field."

"If you play scared or uncomfortable, you kind of get exposed in the NFL," he said. "If you're on top of everything you do and play your best, a lot of times you shine."

Anderson caught six passes for 67 yards, including the touchdown, in Houston's preseason opener, a 19-16 win over Denver on Aug. 9. He had three more catches for 61 yards in Saturday's 31-27 win in New Orleans.

Anderson hopes he's already done enough to make the team, but he sets out to prove something to Kubiak every day anyway.

"You've got to make sure you don't mess up any routes," he said. "You've got to make plays when the ball is thrown in your direction and that you know all your assignments

in the running game.

"Some receivers are talented enough, that they get away with barely having to block. The rest of us have to make sure we're on top of all our assignments."

Starting quarterback Matt Schaub said Anderson has worked to become one of his most reliable receivers.

"He understands his routes, understands what his strengths are," Schaub said. "When you have a guy who you always know where he's going to be and always know he's going to be in the right spot it allows you to just let the ball go and trust what he's going to do. And he always catches it, he rarely has a drop."

Anderson has no lofty statistical goals in mind for the season. He just wants to make the roster and is motivated every day by last year's snub.

"I'm 0-for-2," he said. "I guess that's the first step, making that opening-day roster, the first and foremost goal. Then, I'm just going from there."

Kubiak said he'll use Anderson in three-receiver sets and also watch him return punts before the end of training camp.

"He's played extremely well," Kubiak said. "It's easy to sit there

Longhorns try to fix lack-luster pass defense

AUSTIN (AP) — The numbers were as glaring as the play on the field was galling.

The Texas Longhorns set school records last season in pass defense futility, giving up the most yards (3,611) and touchdowns (23) and the highest completion percentage (61 percent), ranking 109th nationally, poor by anyone's standards.

So coach Mack Brown made some changes.

He hired a new defensive coordinator in Will Muschamp, snatching him from Auburn, and moved the old one, Duane Akina, back to his familiar role of coaching the secondary.

If Texas is going to challenge for the Big 12 title, it will be their job this season to mold a young and mostly inexperienced secondary into a serviceable one in a league dominated by good quarterbacks and passing offenses.

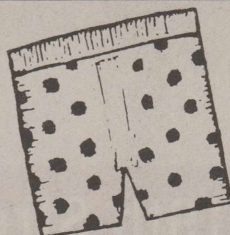
Big 12 opponents averaged 302 yards passing against Texas last season.

"They can't play young," senior linebacker Rashad Bobino said of the secondary. "They have to play like vets."

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Woods, Batch, Crawford headline competitive backfield



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

AARON CRAWFORD STARTED the last four games for the Red Raiders during the 2007 season.

By ALEX YBARRA
STAFF WRITER

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If Texas Tech football fans want a starter named at running back anytime soon, good luck.

Tech coach Mike Leach said the battle for running back supremacy remains deadlocked between senior Shannon Woods and sophomores Baron Batch and Aaron Crawford. For the time being, Leach said he does not expect anything to change until he sees anything different, which could be well into the season.

"Right now they're pretty neck and neck," Leach said. "We're pretty happy with it that way because we're getting tremendous effort out of all three of them. If we go into the season that way, so it goes. Then if somebody flinches or doesn't work real hard, we'll plug in the other guy in a heartbeat, but there's nothing wrong with all three of them working at a high level."

Crawford said going into the sea-

son with three equal running backs just might be the way to go, especially considering the relationship between all of them is a friendly one.

"Whatever happens, happens," said Crawford, who racked up 403 yards and five touchdowns on 76 touches, including his performance against Baylor when he became the first true freshman to score four touchdowns under Leach. "I love trying new things. Whenever we play opposing teams, they don't know what's coming. And who knows what's gonna happen, who knows what the offense is gonna come up with."

Tech running backs coach Seth Littrell said he has a very difficult decision to deal with in the days leading up to the first game. When the strengths and weaknesses overlap in a race this tight, he said it is nearly impossible to set a timetable for when he wants a starter named.

"As of right now, Shannon Woods, I've been really pleased with his blocking over the spring," Littrell said. "His pass pro ability and reading the defense, he's been around a little longer than the other two guys have when it comes down to breaking down a defense, understanding what they're fixing to bring. Then understanding the ins and outs of pass pro, he really does a nice job of that. He's getting a lot better in the pass game on underneath option routes."

Leach said he believes Woods is the most polished of the trio, but was quick to point out that Batch and Crawford could easily become just as all around as Woods if they sure up a few of their weaknesses.

Woods had a breakout sophomore season in 2006 — running for 1,498 yards on 227 touches — but in 2007, he was placed on the scout team and benched in favor of Crawford for the final five games of the season. Woods finished the season with 118 touches for 577 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Littrell said Woods has been "tremendous" in the spring and fall.

"I think he's back to where he was two years ago when he had a chip on his shoulder and wanted to prove himself," Littrell said. "I think if he does that, and if he works hard everyday it's gonna be extremely hard to beat him out and or keep him off the field."

As a true freshman in 2006, Batch played in six games, and he backed up Woods before suffering a season-ending Achilles injury on the practice field. Batch redshirted the 2007 season so



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

BARON BATCH RETURNS after a 2007 season filled d injury.



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

SHANNON WOODS RAN for 439 yards on 84 attempts and eight touchdowns in 2007.

he could recover from the injury.

Crawford had the longest run of the season of 29 yards in 2007. The Red Raiders averaged 3.1 yards per carry last season as well.

One difference Littrell said he wants to see this season from all of his running backs is more production, and getting Batch back and Crawford, with a year of experience, could open up the possibility for a lot more big plays.

"I expect them to make plays, when the plays are to be had," Littrell said. "If we're calling a run and they're putting eight guys in coverage, I expect them to run the ball and get yardage out of it. We need to break a couple. We haven't busted one since Shannon did two years ago. I don't think we had a huge run last

year. That was a little disturbing. In the pass game I don't think we broke anything tremendously big."

This summer, Tech is without running back Kobey Lewis who was suspended from the team for the 2008 season on June 10 for an unspecified reason. This summer also brings true freshman Harrison Jeffers, who has received reps along with Woods, Crawford and Batch.

Jeffers, a four-star recruit on Rivals.com out of Oklahoma, has a chance to play this season, but Littrell said nothing is definite at this point.

"It depends on how much he picks up, and how much he helps us," he said. "I'm not gonna burn anything. If I can redshirt a kid and it's in their best interest, I'll do that."

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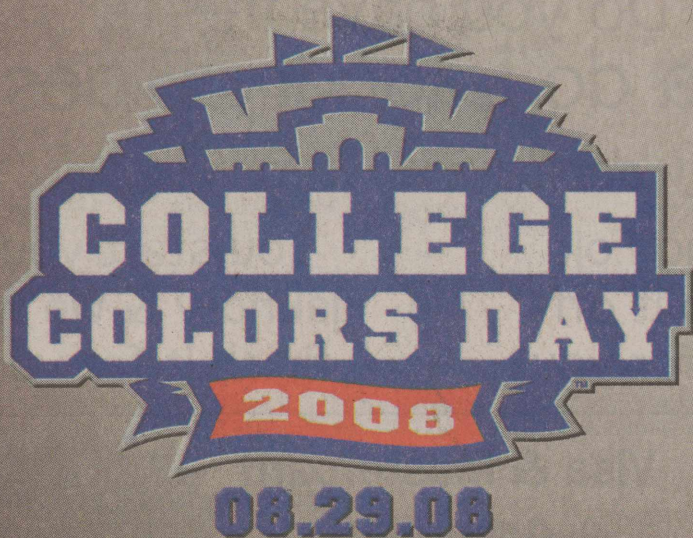
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