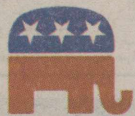


Red Raiders weigh in on pending money design

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Is Palin the new Dick Cheney?

OPINIONS, PAGE 4



UMass quarterback has passion for football

SPORTS, PAGE 12

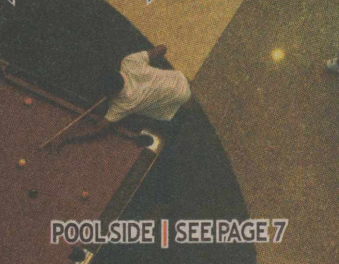
THURSDAY, SEPT. 18, 2008

VOLUME 83 ■ ISSUE 18

THE DAILY T O R E A D O R

Serving the Texas Tech University community since 1925

(INSIDE)



POOLSIDE | SEE PAGE 7

(IN BRIEF)

STATE

Agency says 4 dead in plane crash in Mexico

PRESIDIO (AP) — An inter-governmental agency says all four of those on board a plane that crashed in Mexico after taking off from Texas are dead.

The International Boundary and Water Commission said Wednesday that the dead included the leaders of its U.S. and Mexican branches. The agency maintains the border between the two countries.

The plane had been missing since Monday, when it took off from El Paso to check out flooding on the Rio Grande.

The U.S. Border Patrol says it found the plane's wreckage Wednesday in a rugged section of the Sierra Madre Mountains in Mexico, about 20 miles northwest of Presidio.

NATION

Government bails out AIG with \$85B

WASHINGTON (AP) — Another day, but not just another bailout. This one's a stunning government takeover.

In the most far-reaching intervention into the private sector ever for the Federal Reserve, the government stepped in Tuesday to rescue American International Group Inc. with an \$85 billion injection of taxpayer money. Under the deal, the government will get a 79.9 percent stake in one of the world's largest insurers and the right to remove senior management.

WORLD

Suspected US missile strike kills 6 in Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP) — A suspected U.S. missile strike killed at least six people Wednesday, hours after the top U.S. military officer told Pakistani leaders that America respected Pakistan's sovereignty amid a furor over American strikes into Pakistan's northwest.

Two Pakistani intelligence officials told The Associated Press that several missiles hit a compound in the South Waziristan tribal region early Wednesday evening. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak openly to the media.

DEATH TOLL

4160

U.S. Military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

INSIDE

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All in the mix

Bartenders, health professionals warn of alcohol content in cocktails

By BRIDGET DE STEFANO
STAFF WRITER

Before students hit the bars, they might want to brush up on their Alcohol 101. It doesn't take a mathematician to know how much alcohol students

are consuming, just one's memory and good judgment when deciding what alcoholic drink to order.

The key to knowing what's exactly in a drink is considering the brand of liquor, alcohol content by volume, drink recipes, mixers and bartender's pouring techniques,

according to the Web site of the Beer Institute, a Washington D.C.-based organization that represents the beer industry before Congress, state legislatures and public forums nationwide.

The Web site reports that because of these varying factors there is no "standard" drink.

Slogans made by some hard liquor companies claiming, "a drink is a drink" is false, according to the institute, because of higher levels of alcohol content found in liquor, wine or spirits, rather than the standardized content of beer.

"There's really not a good understanding among students of what a standard drink is," said Juli McCauley, clinical department administrator at the Student Health Services at Texas Tech.

For the average person who wants to keep their blood al-

cohol content at the nationally recognized legal limit of 8 percent or lower, she said, one drink per hour is a standard rule of thumb and "a pretty good guideline to use."

A standard measurement at Bash Riprock's, a local bar near the Tech campus, is one ounce for every mixed drink, said bartender Andy Mitchell. Many bars, including Bash Riprock's use a measuring device called a jigger to measure a shot.

One shot of alcohol equals one-and-a-half ounces, according to drink recipe Web site Drink Street. One cup equals 8 ounces. When bartenders are not using a jigger, he said, they know how many counts are in an ounce when pouring a shot.

After two years of bartending experience, Mitchell said he would recommend students to abstain from certain drinks with a high alcohol content and high proof, such as Everclear, a grain alcohol with alcohol concentrations as high as 95 percent, 190 proof, or Bacardi 151 with 151 proof and 75.5 percent alcohol.

Bash Riprock's is one of the only bars in Lubbock to serve Everclear, he said, but it cannot serve liquors that are illegal to sell in other states.

Students should stay away from doubles drinks, Mitchell said as a word of advice while nearby customers nodded their heads in



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

JOSELY CURRY, A sophomore international business major from The Woodlands pours Tarantula Tequila to make a drink called "The Cowboy" at Chimy's Cerveceria Tuesday.

View a related video at www.dailytoreador.com

RECIPES

Bloody Mary

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 oz vodka
- 3 oz tomato juice
- 1 dash lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 2-3 drops Tabasco sauce
- 1 lime wedge

Mixing instructions:

Shake all ingredients with ice and strain into glass over ice cubes. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add the lime wedge and serve.

Whiskey Sour

Ingredients:

- 2 oz blended whiskey
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 1/2 tsp powdered sugar
- 1 cherry
- 1/2 slice lemon

Mixing instructions:

Shake blended whiskey, juice of lemon and powdered sugar with ice and strain into glass. Decorate with the half-slice of lemon, top with the cherry and serve.

Virgin Strawberry Colada

Ingredients:

- 7 ripe strawberries
- 5 oz pineapple juice
- 1 1/2 oz coconut cream
- 1 cup crushed ice

Mixing instructions:

Combine the strawberries, pineapple juice, coconut cream and crushed ice in a blender at high speed. Pour into glass, garnish with a cherry and pineapple wedge and serve.

Shirley Temple

Ingredients:

- 7 oz Sprite
- 1 oz grenadine syrup

Mixing instructions:

Pour Sprite over a few ice cubes in a glass. Add grenadine and serve.

Source: www.webtender.com and www.drinksmixer.com

DRINKS continued on page 8

Another nightmare on Wall Street: Dow down 450

By ELLEN SIMON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market took another nosedive Wednesday as the American banking system appeared even shakier and investors worried that the financial crisis is spinning so far out of control that even government rescues can't stop it.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which only two days earlier had suffered its steepest drop since the days after the Sept. 11 attacks, lost another 450 points. About \$700 billion in investments vanished.

One day after the Federal Reserve stepped in with an emergency loan to keep American International Group Inc., one of the world's largest insurers, from going under, Wall Street wondered which companies might be the next to falter.

A major investor in ailing Washington Mutual Inc. removed a potential obstacle to a sale of the bank, and stock

in two investment banks, Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs, was pummeled.

It was the fourth consecutive day of extraordinary turmoil for the American financial system, beginning with news on Sunday that another venerable investment house, Lehman Brothers, would be forced to file for bankruptcy.

The 4 percent drop Wednesday in the Dow reflected the stock market's first chance to digest the Fed's decision to issue an \$85 billion taxpayer loan to AIG, which it could convert into a majority stake in the company. AIG is important because it has essentially become a primary source of insurance for the entire financial industry.

As the stock market staggered, the price of gold, which rises in times of panic, spiked as much as \$90.40 an ounce. Bonds, a traditional safe haven for investors, also climbed.

"The economy is not short of money. It is short of confidence," said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at

California State University.

The financial stocks in the Standard & Poor's 500 dropped even more, falling 10 percent, and insurance that backs corporate debt soared for the last two surviving independent U.S. investment banks, Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs.

"It seems as though banks are hoarding cash, no matter what rate they could be lending it at," said David Rosenberg, North American economist at Merrill Lynch.

Markets around the world also tumbled, with stocks dropping from Hong Kong to London. Brazil's benchmark index saw the largest drop, losing nearly 7 percent in a day.

Worse, the short-term credit markets remained frozen, with overnight interest rates soaring for loans between banks and overnight loans to businesses. Long-term loans, however, didn't rise as much.

"The worry on short-term loans is you're not sure who the ultimate borrower is," said Brian Bethune, chief U.S. economist at Global Insight Inc.

Fanboys and fashion: Apple sales stem from good looks, not function

According to recent survey results from ChangeWave, a research group that focuses on emerging consumer trends and technologies, consumers are spending less and less because of a deteriorating market, but techno-chic Apple is actually expecting an increase in sales in the upcoming months.

These are disturbing results, I'm sure, to PC manufacturers like Dell, which is expecting a decline in overall sales. While institutes like ChangeWave attempt to explain this with various analyses of changing market shares between retailers and the like, there are only two real, viable answers: fanboys and fashion.

Try to find any other reasons

Timothy Poon



and you'll come up looking pretty sad. There is nothing you can't do on a Mac or a Windows-based system that you can't comparably do on the other. Clearly, yes, there is give-and-take in some aspects between the two. If there wasn't, then there wouldn't be options, there would just be names.

The only true difference is aesthetics, or the look of it all, and in this day and age, aesthetics play a big part in consumer spending.

No matter the market conditions, people will always be vain enough to be concerned with how they look, and can you guess the biggest accessory in today's increasingly geek-aligned world?

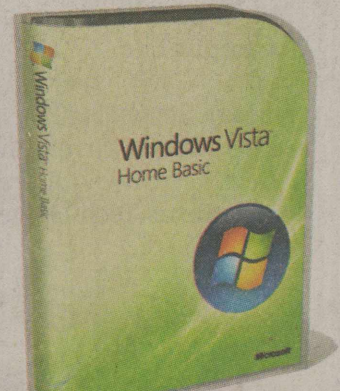
It's technology, namely in the form of what you carry around with you.

Laptops, MP3 players, cell phones and everything else electronic that you put on your person is part of your image and, lucky for Apple, they are the best at making electronics look undeniably delectable.

The company's MacBooks are sleek and some of the most portable one might find, and iPods have become the prototypical portable music player. The iPhone is now the



COURTESY OF APPLE, INC.

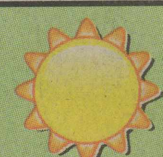


COURTESY OF MICROSOFT

absolute must-have gadget from now until forever. The best part is it's not a team of engineers behind it all, but a legion of designers. Graphics artists, UI designers and workers power the company, purely dedicated to bringing Apple's stylish designs to

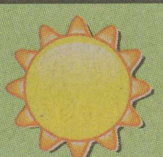
life. Combine that with the fact that, to be an official Mac app, you must follow a stringent set of guidelines in terms of user interface and guise, and

TECHNOLOGY continued on page 8



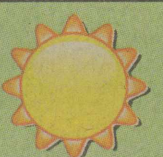
TODAY
Sunny

High 79 Low 53



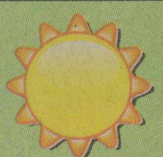
Friday
Sunny

High 80 Low 56



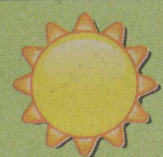
Saturday
Sunny

High 81 Low 57



Sunday
Sunny

High 82 Low 57



Monday
Sunny

High 80 Low 57

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POLICE BLOTTER

Goldfish placed in English/Philosophy fountain

Sept. 11

An officer documented information at 12:30 p.m. in the 1700 block of Akron about a Texas Tech police vehicle striking another vehicle near the crosswalk. No injuries or damage to either vehicle was reported.

An officer investigated an accident at 4:50 p.m. in Z-3G parking lot. No injuries were reported.

An officer investigated an accident at 6 p.m. in Stangel/Murdough R-19 parking lot. No injuries were reported.

A student was arrested at 6:46 p.m. in Weymouth Residence Hall for possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of alcohol by a minor. A second student was arrested for possession of marijuana. The students were transported to the Lubbock County jail.

Sept. 12

Six students were issued Lubbock County citations at 12:34 a.m. in Coleman Residence Hall for consumption of alcohol by a minor. Another student was arrested for possession of marijuana, issued a citation for possession of drug paraphernalia and consumption of alcohol by a minor and transported to the Lubbock County jail.

An officer investigated a theft at 9:44 a.m. in the Z-4R parking lot in which a license plate was reported stolen from a vehicle.

An officer investigated criminal mischief at 4:15 p.m. in the Wiggins R-10 parking lot in which a vehicle was damaged.

Two students were detained at 8:40 p.m. in the 1400 block of Flint Avenue for consumption of alcohol by a minor. The students were issued Lubbock County citations and released.

Five students were cited at 10:32 p.m. in Murray Residence Hall for

possession of alcohol by a minor. Two students were released pending the filing of charges for theft/possession of stolen property.

Sept. 13

Two officers investigated burglaries at 11:53 a.m. in the C-13 parking lot in which two unsecured vehicles were entered and several items were reported stolen.

An officer investigated burglary of habitation at 1:18 p.m. in Murdough Residence Hall in which a calculator and Apple laptop computer were reported stolen.

Eleven students were arrested for public intoxication at Jones AT&T Stadium during the football game. The students were transported to the Lubbock County jail.

A student was arrested at 5:20 p.m. at gate six of Jones AT&T Stadium for consumption of alcohol by a minor. The student was transported to the Lubbock County jail.

A student was arrested at 5:54 p.m. at gate six of Jones AT&T Stadium for public intoxication, evading arrest and possession of a fictitious driver's license. The student was transported to the Lubbock County jail.

A non-student was arrested at 6:03 p.m. at gate six of Jones AT&T Stadium for public intoxication. The non-student was transported to the Lubbock County jail.

A student was detained and released at 5:48 p.m. in the R-8 parking lot pending the filing of charges with the Lubbock County District Attorney's Office for public intoxication and criminal mischief. The student was transported to Covenant Medical Center because he fell and cut his eye.

An officer detained a student at 6:29 p.m. at gate six of Jones AT&T Stadium for consumption

of alcohol by a minor. The student was issued a Lubbock County citation and released.

Three non-students were detained at 7:07 p.m. in the Z-1B parking lot. One non-student was issued a Lubbock County citation for possession of an alcoholic beverage in a motor vehicle, was arrested for driving with an invalid license and littering on a highway. The other two non-students were arrested for public intoxication and consumption of alcohol by a minor, respectively. All three non-students were issued criminal trespass warnings from all Tech property and were transported to the Lubbock County jail.

An officer arrested a non-student at 7:29 p.m. in the C-2 parking lot for disorderly conduct — exposed genitals. The non-student was transported to the Lubbock County jail.

Two students were detained at 7:39 p.m. in the C-2 parking lot and were issued Lubbock County citations for consumption of alcohol by a minor and then were released.

Four non-students — three juveniles and one adult — were detained at 9:11 p.m. in the C-17 parking lot and were released pending the filing of charges with the Lubbock County District Attorney's Office for burglary of vehicles. The four were issued criminal trespass warnings from all Tech property.

An officer arrested a student at 9:31 p.m. at gate four of Jones AT&T Stadium for public intoxication, failure to identify and possession of more than one valid driver's license. The student was transported to the Lubbock County jail.

Sept. 14

An officer investigated criminal mischief at 1:57 a.m. in Wey-

mouth Residence Hall in which two ceiling tiles were damaged. A non-student also was issued a Lubbock County citation for possession of alcohol by a minor and then was released.

A student was detained at 2:52 a.m. in Stangel Residence Hall and was released to a responsible party pending the filing of charges with the Justice of the Peace Precinct 4 for public intoxication.

An officer detained a student at 3:34 a.m. in Wall Residence Hall in which the student was issued a Lubbock County citation for consumption of alcohol by a minor and then was released.

Two officers documented damaged property at 7:17 a.m. at the Agricultural Sciences building in which a brick flower bed was damaged.

A student was arrested at 4:01 p.m. in the R-10 parking lot for driving with an invalid license, no liability insurance and a Lubbock Police Department warrant for an observed traffic violation. The student was transported to the Lubbock County jail.

An officer investigated criminal mischief at 5:13 p.m. in the Z-4P parking lot in which the driver-side door, passenger-side fender, side door, extended cab, quarter panel, hood and roof were damaged on a Chevrolet pickup.

An officer investigated burglary of a vehicle at 8:38 p.m. in the Z-5C parking lot in which a red and black Craftsman toolbox and tools were reported stolen.

Sept. 15

Two officers investigated an accident at 7:30 a.m. at the intersection of 10th Street and Tech Parkway in which a light fixture was struck by a semi trailer.

Two officers investigated criminal mischief at 8 a.m. at the fountain near the English/Philosophy buildings. Goldfish were placed in

the fountain.

Two officers investigated theft at 11:45 a.m. in the Human Sciences building in which a microwave oven was reported stolen.

An officer investigated a theft at 1 p.m. at the south bicycle rack of Murdough Residence Hall in which a secured bicycle was reported stolen.

An officer documented damaged property at 1:45 p.m. in the 500 block of Tech Parkway in which a rock thrown from a lawnmower struck a vehicle.

An experimental project ruptured a water line at 9:02 p.m. in the Chemistry building.

Sept. 16

A non-student was arrested at 7:37 a.m. in the C-1 parking lot for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

An officer investigated theft at 8:45 a.m. in the Human Sciences building in which an unsecured purse and its contents were reported stolen.

Two officers investigated theft at 3:07 p.m. at the bicycle racks at Doak Hall in which a Raleigh mountain bicycle was reported stolen.

Two officers investigated an accident at 3:59 p.m. in the Doak Hall R-19 parking lot. No injuries were reported.

Two students were arrested at 6:37 p.m. in Weymouth Residence Hall. One student was arrested for possession of alcohol by a minor, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana. The other student was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia. Both students were transported to the Lubbock County jail.

An officer investigated an accident at 11:24 p.m. in the Z-4R parking lot in which a vehicle struck an unattended vehicle.

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Ike victims attempt to return to Galveston

GALVESTON (AP) — Residents of this hurricane-wrecked island city launched an ill-advised attempt to return to their crippled hometown Wednesday, but instead fumed in hours of gridlocked traffic only to be turned away at the bridge.

Traffic backed up for 20 miles along Interstate 45, the one route onto Galveston Island, jockeying for position with utility workers, repair crews and police trying to begin repairs to the city wrecked by Hurricane Ike five days ago.

The city announced Tuesday that people could briefly return under a new "look and leave" plan, causing evacuees all over the state to pack up and head for the coast. Hours later, it abruptly halted the policy out of fear of just the sort of roadway chaos occurring on Wednesday.

Some people in the long line angrily complained that they'd never heard the policy was rescinded.

"I don't understand this," Carlos Azucena said Wednesday, motioning toward repair workers after waiting in line three hours before he was rejected in his third try to go home. "You see those other people. They don't even live here; I live in Galveston."

Ike's death toll in the U.S. climbed past 50 Wednesday and appeared to level off in Texas, where search teams pulled out of Galveston having searched the entire island for survivors. The task force had checked on almost 6,000 people and performed more than 3,500 rescues since Friday. Seventeen people have died in the state.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff was reviewing damage during his second stop in the state since Ike.

SUMMER

Reading Program Week

September 22-26, 2008

THE DEVIL'S HIGHWAY

A True Story • LUIS ALBERTO URREA

Check out these events that will assist you in your understanding of *The Devil's Highway: A True Story*.

Monday, September 22

- Essay or Poetry Contest Submissions Due — visit www.depts.ttu.edu/srp for complete contest details
- Luis Alberto Urrea, Author of *The Devil's Highway: A True Story*, to visit Texas Tech University
- Book Signing — 2:00 p.m. — Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Student Union Building
- Dinner with Luis Alberto Urrea — 7:00 p.m. — Tickets are available on September 15 in the Center for Campus Life.

Tuesday, September 23

- Luis Alberto Urrea, Author of *The Devil's Highway: A True Story*, to visit Texas Tech University

Wednesday, September 24

- TAB FREE Movie — "Under the Same Moon" — 8:00 p.m. — SUB Allen Theatre — Discussion to follow

Thursday, September 25

- TAB FREE Movie — "Under the Same Moon" — 3:00 p.m. — SUB Escondido Theatre
- Immigration Panel Discussion — 6:00 p.m. — SUB Red Raider Lounge

Friday, September 26

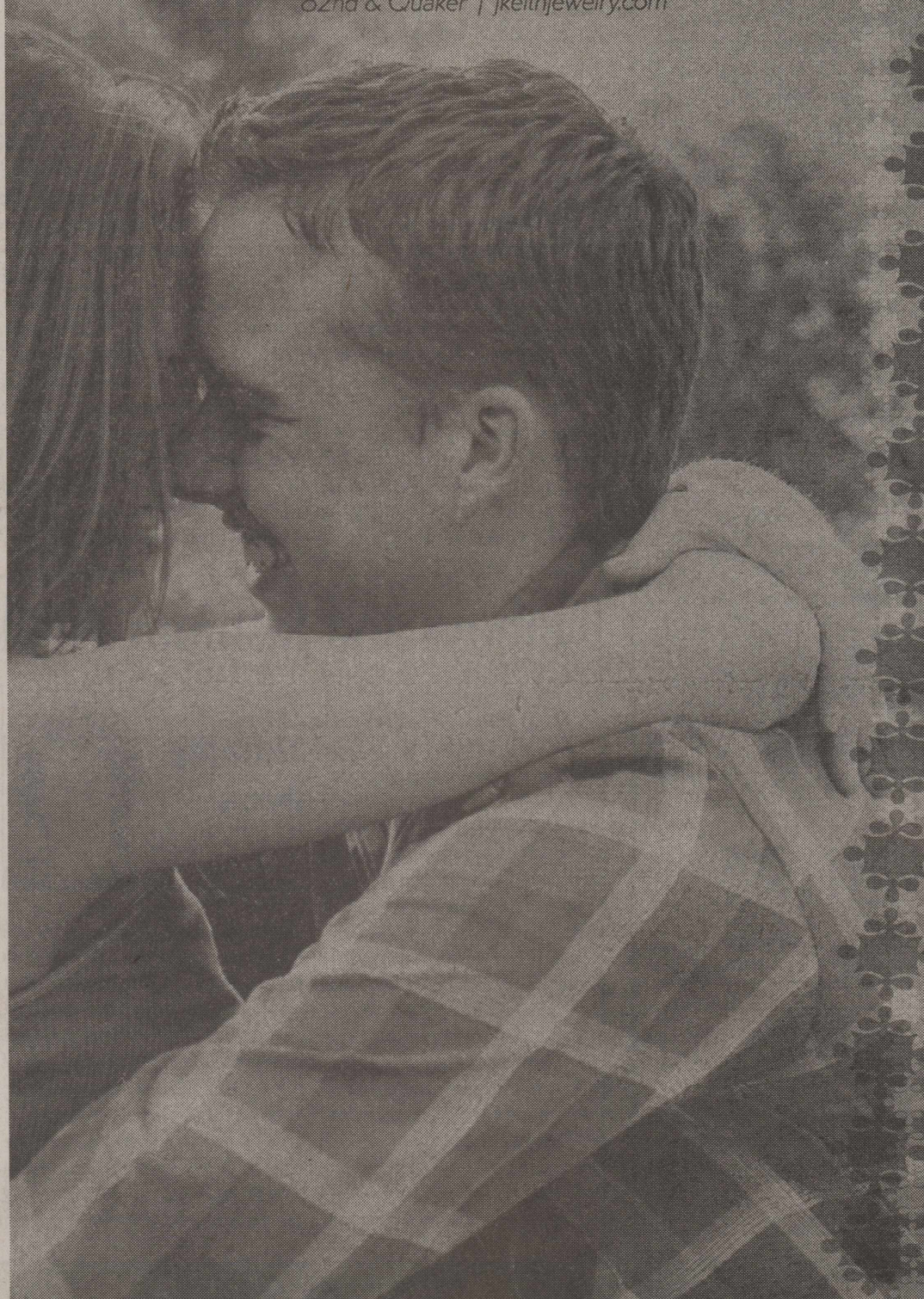
- Film & Discussion — "Crossing Arizona" — 2:00 p.m. — SUB Escondido Theatre — Discussion to follow

Visit www.depts.ttu.edu/srp for complete details on the Summer Reading Program

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State senate holds hearing at Tech's law school

By **MATT COBB**
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Texas State Senate traveled to Lubbock on Wednesday to discuss court reform issues with West Texas residents.

The Texas State Senate Committee on Jurisprudence held a hearing to discuss a number of issues that could have an impact on legislation next year Wednesday at the Texas Tech School of Law.

The overall purpose of the hearing was to discuss courtroom issues that involve jury reform, said Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio. Jury reform deals with the privileges that jurors are given during a trial.

"Some courts allow jurors to take notes during trials, and to ask ques-

tions by writing them down and giving them to the judge, and others don't," Wentworth said.

"We had a bill in the legislature involving these issues last year that didn't pass, and we are talking about whether or not to introduce it again next year."

The committee discussed if lawyers should be able to periodically summarize testimony to a jury during a trial, Wentworth said.

Wentworth, who is a Tech law

school alumnus, is the chairman of the seven-member panel that conducted the hearing.

The chairman has the privilege of choosing the location for the committee hearing, Wentworth said. He chose to hold the hearing in Lubbock so West Texas residents could have an opportunity to meet with members of the state legislature.

The committee members think it is important to hold meetings outside

of the state capital, he said. This gives Texas residents throughout the state a chance to voice their opinions to a legislative panel.

So far, the committee has conducted hearings in McAllen, San Antonio, Fort Worth and Houston, Wentworth said. This is the first time a hearing has been held at a law school.

"There are nine law schools in the state, and this is the only one we've held a hearing at," he said.

There were approximately 60 people who showed up to the meeting, said Kay Fletcher, an assistant dean at Tech's law school. A majority of the attendees were judges and lawyers from West Texas.

"There were statements given from judges and lawyers about jury reform," she said.



PHOTO BY KAT HILSABECK/The Daily Toreador
Senator Robert Duncan (pictured right) meets with West Texas attorneys to discuss jury reforms and trial procedures Wednesday.

The hearing was conducted in the Don Hunt Courtroom of the new Mark and Becky Lanier Professional Development Center.

Having members of the state senate visit and conduct a hearing at Tech reflects positively on the school,

Fletcher said.

"It was a great opportunity for Tech to show the courtroom and how functional it is," Fletcher said. "All of the committee members were impressed with the building and its facilities."

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Midwest thirsts for electricity in aftermath of Hurricane Ike

CINCINNATI (AP) — Officials urged patience Wednesday on the part of Midwesterners waiting for power to be restored as crews worked feverishly to clean up the soggy mess left by the deadly remnants of Hurricane Ike over the weekend.

Fallen trees still blocked roads outside Cincinnati, where Clermont County resident Ted Metcalfe said a five-minute drive to a shopping area had turned into a 20-minute obstacle course.

"Getting there was like driving through a war zone," he said.

Ohio utilities reported nearly 900,000 homes and businesses still without power, down from 2.6 million after the storm Sunday. More than 300,000 customers still lacked power Wednesday in Kentucky, Indiana and Pennsylvania.

Utilities hope to restore power for most people by Thursday, but

some could be in the dark until the weekend.

Power restoration has been delayed because damage from the hurricane-force winds was unprecedented for much of the region and required help from crews in other states, utilities said. In some cases, Ohio-based crews were recalled from Southern states after being sent to help with Ike's aftermath along the Gulf Coast.

"It brought down entire trees, poles and wires, and it's requiring us to rebuild entire sections of our system," said Ellen Raines, spokeswoman for the Ohio utility FirstEnergy. "There really isn't anything you could do as a utility to prevent that."

In the meantime, officials asked residents to avoid downed power lines, throw out spoiled food and use battery-powered lights instead of candles to decrease the risk of

illness and injury.

"It's more of a push to make sure people are being patient and not becoming frustrated and doing something foolish," said Bill Wharton, a spokesman for the Montgomery County health agency in Dayton.

Hospitals in the Dayton area treated patients who had fallen from roofs, strained muscles and suffered chain saw injuries while cleaning up, he said. Health officials also were inspecting reopened restaurants and grocery stores.

Hurricane Ike and its remnants are blamed for more than 50 deaths in 11 states from the Gulf Coast to Michigan. Ohio alone reported at least six deaths.

In Cincinnati's Mount Lookout neighborhood, piles of tree limbs lined the curbs, and morning commuters came to sudden stops at traffic lights that haven't worked in days.

US researchers to drop plans for controversial autism study

CHICAGO (AP) — A government agency has dropped plans for a study of a controversial treatment for autism that critics had called an unethical experiment on children.

The National Institute of Mental Health said in a statement Wednesday that the study of the treatment — called chelation — has been abandoned. The agency decided the money would be better used testing other potential therapies for autism and related disorders, the statement said.

The study had been on hold because of safety concerns after another study published last year linked a drug used in the treatment to lasting brain problems in rats.

Chelation (kee-LAY'-shun) removes heavy metals from the body and is used to treat lead poisoning. Its use as an autism treatment is based on the fringe theory that mercury in vac-

cines triggers autism — a theory never proved and rejected by mainstream science. Mercury hasn't been in childhood vaccines since 2001, except for certain flu shots.

But many parents of autistic children are believers in the treatment, and NIMH agreed to test it.

The researchers had proposed recruiting 120 autistic children ages 4 to 10 and giving half a chelation drug and the other half a dummy pill. The 12-week test would measure before-and-after blood mercury levels and autism symptoms.

The study outline said that failing to find a difference between the two groups would counteract "anecdotal reports and widespread belief" that chelation works.

Autism is a spectrum of disorders

that hamper a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. Most doctors believe there is no cure.

In canceling the study, the agency noted it would take another year to review the study and three years to do it. In the meantime, the agency said, it was likely that other research would "provide deeper understanding of the causes of autism and more refined avenues for developing treatments."

Several scientists praised the decision, including the lead author of the rat study, which found lingering problems in animals that did not have elevated lead levels.

"I think they're making the right decision not to go forward with the study," said Barbara Strupp, a professor of psychology and nutritional sciences at Cornell University.

Flooding threatens West Texas town

PRESIDIO (AP) — A levee holding back the swelling Rio Grande near this West Texas border town is in danger of bursting as the river continues to rise.

Presidio Mayor Lorenzo Hernandez said Tuesday night that the river could top the levee designed for a 25-year flood at any time.

"The levee breaking is our biggest concern. What comes after that we'll have to see," said a tired looking Hernandez, who spent part of Tuesday night answering phone calls at City Hall and listening to news reports of flooding to the south, in neighboring Ojinaga, Mexico.

Officials in Presidio, a dusty border town of about 5,000 people some 250 miles down river from El Paso, have been keeping a close eye

on the Rio Grande for nearly two weeks. The river started swelling, first breaching its banks and then filling the wide channel between two earthen levees, after a series of storms soaked parts of the northern Mexican state of Chihuahua, which shares a border with parts of West Texas.

The flood threat prompted officials in Presidio to go door-to-door urging people to leave. They made the same plea from a helicopter. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials also shut down the interna-

tional bridge connecting Presidio to Ojinaga.

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Puzzles by PageFiller.

8	9	3	2	7	4	1	6	5
6	2	7	1	9	5	4	3	8
5	1	4	8	6	3	2	9	7
2	6	1	5	4	8	9	7	3
9	3	5	7	1	6	8	2	4
4	7	8	9	3	2	5	1	6
1	5	9	3	8	7	6	4	2
7	8	6	4	2	9	3	5	1
3	4	2	6	5	1	7	8	9

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Student Counseling Center

Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

Palin: The next Dick Cheney?

There was a time, before Franklin Delano Roosevelt, when party bosses picked the vice presidential candidates. Now, of course, the presidential candidates choose their own running mates, and the announcement of this choice is carefully timed to create as big a media buzz as possible.

Because of its unexpectedness, perhaps, the media has been especially buzzed about John McCain's choice, the Alaska governor Sarah Palin. Palin is, after all, a bit more of a wild card than Joe Biden. Essentially, this is just what McCain wants to advertise: "I've got guts; I make instinctual choices that might scare the crotchety party leaders, but ultimately prove to be correct."

But what if some people interpret his choice as a sign that McCain is a merely a thoughtless goof, or a maverick for maverick's sake? Well, that's clearly a risk McCain is willing to make.

McCain has been spending a good part of this campaign polishing his maverick image, which is a fairly ridiculous one. In the Senate in 2007, he voted with the president 95 percent of the time. That was an all-time high for him. Even

Eric Braden



more, Sarah Palin isn't a maverick choice at all. In fact, it's insulting that McCain insists upon it.

Roosevelt, along with John F. Kennedy and most other presidents since, used his vice presidential picks as a means of reaching across the aisle, so to speak, or at least toward the moderate center of his party. But the vice president mattered less back then. Or rather, they were only one part of a more influential unit: the presidential cabinet. Roosevelt — a true maverick — built broad, diverse cabinets full of quality thinkers of all stripes, including Republicans and Independents. He even appointed a Republican to chief justice.

Whereas Roosevelt and Kennedy reached for balance with their vice presidential picks, George W. Bush picked Dick Cheney, someone even more right wing and than he is. His cabinet, far from diverse, was chosen based solely on ideology. Cheney notoriously has proven to

be one of the most powerful vice presidents of all time, and his influence on these last eight years is incalculable. This was a huge shift, but we don't know yet whether it will set a precedent.

This brings us back to McCain's choice. McCain wants us to think he's made a "maverick" choice because he's picked a woman. Palin is a woman, yes, but that doesn't make her a maverick choice. Gender shouldn't even be an issue. Palin herself, as well as Hillary Clinton during her campaign, both said they would prefer gender to be kept off the table. There are more important qualities to examine.

Like this, for instance: Palin (who is against abortion, supports gun laws and is eager to talk about her faith) is more right-wing than McCain could ever pretend to be.

This is how McCain tries to have it both ways. He wants to show what a maverick he is, but he's only re-packaging familiar things. Like Bush, he chose a vice president not in order to bridge gaps, but to tip his ticket more toward the right.

Granted, McCain is more moderate than Bush. But as of late, he's only shown how eager he is to tow the party line. The party in

power has a candidate running on the basis that he's nothing like the party in power. This fact is beyond befuddling — it's frightening. The American people cannot accept superficial conciliatory movements toward change — not when we need it more than ever.

Perhaps McCain's choice will prove foolish. Americans aren't stupid, and they might see through his maneuver. The other night in her interview with Charles Gibson, Palin looked anxious and stiffly avoided giving direct answers. This does not bode well for upcoming debates with Joe Biden, whose only real worry must be how to defeat Palin without coming across sexist and arrogant.

But then again, maybe Americans will follow the bright lights of a sparkly-eyed young woman they just met and vote to continue our Great Republican Nightmare. If you're considering it, let me point out one scary difference between the Bush-Cheney ticket and the McCain-Palin one: This time, the Cheney figure is the younger one.

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

Why conservatives dominate talk radio

Yesterday I was driving in my truck listening to my favorite radio program, The Neal Boortz Show, and I was struck with a question: Why don't I ever hear any liberals on the radio?

I got online to see what radio networks broadcast liberal talk show hosts, but to my amazement they are almost nonexistent. In fact the most popular liberal talk show host, Ed Schultz, is only the eighth most "important" host according to industry magazine Talker, and is not even in the top 10 list of largest audiences on a list provided by the same publication. And he is not even a full blown liberal. He has

supported multiple Republican candidates for office and fellow radio host Al Franken claims he is "not liberal enough."

So now that my in depth investigation has found a lack of representation of liberal ideas in the radio market, let's look into why this happens. Conservatives dominate the airwaves. Rush Limbaugh just signed a new contract and it is reported that he will make \$400 million over the next eight years. That is just for his radio program and doesn't include all the income from the product endorsements that he does. For a little perspective, news anchor Katie Couric makes \$15 million a year.

I believe that the success that conservatives experience is because people who listen to the radio for news and commentary are more educated people who have a well developed BS detector. Radio listeners can sense when talk jocks are bending the truth or avoiding a certain perspective that makes more sense. This means when a host presents his opinion he must back it

Trevor White



up with either facts and logic, or just be so outrageously humorous that the listener doesn't care if he is wrong.

This is the downfall of liberal beliefs, actual logic. You see, for the most part, at the fundamental level liberal thoughts are actually not thoughts at all, they are inclinations based on feelings: Feel sorry for the poor; be scared of guns; want equally distributed income so we can all be happy.

Conservative ideas on the other hand are mostly founded on thoughts and reason: Statistics say an armed citizenry reduces crime; the progressive tax system inhibits innovation; effective bureaucracy is supplemented by a strong and intimidating national defense.

These thoughts can be defended by talk show hosts when dissenters call in and the host doesn't have to sound like an idiot defending them. While when a liberal host gets a dissenting caller, he must try and convince others to feel sorry or scared about the same things he does. I can tell you from personal experience that it is much easier to defend rational thoughts instead of feelings.

So unless the Fairness Doctrine is reincarnated, expect to continue to hear conservative and libertarian thoughts broadcast on talk radio for years to come, while liberal radio networks like Air America will only make headlines when they file for bankruptcy.

■ White is a freshman agriculture major from New Home. E-mail him at t.white@ttu.edu.

The worrisome state of American politics today

By RUTHIE KELLY
THE DAILY AZTEC (SAN DIEGO STATU U.)

Last week, I was blending a frappuccino for a mother-daughter pair of customers who were each absorbed in their magazines. The daughter was flipping through her copy of People, which had Republican vice presidential candidate and Gov. Sarah Palin on the cover.

"Sarah Palin is a skank," the daughter commented. Her mom responded in that sweet, borderline clueless demurring tone that moms have when their offspring say something inappropriate.

"Really? I've heard people say she's really pretty."

"Yeah," her daughter replied. "That's because she's a skank."

I couldn't decide whether to break into hysterical laughter or just be depressed. On the one hand, it's highly amusing to me that Palin merits the same level of consideration as Paris Hilton or Lindsay Lohan. At the very least, it proves that most women aren't being fooled by the sudden shift in tactics by the Republican Party. It went from accusing women of being despicable for supporting Hillary Clinton just because she's a woman, to trying to convince women that they would be totally justified in voting for Palin just because she's a woman. She certainly doesn't have much else to justify being the understudy of one of the most powerful and influential positions in the world.

On the other hand, because this kind of conversation is what passes for an informed political discussion it's so pathetic it drives me insane.

No matter how much the columnists and critics in the media, including me, analyze every move, speech and policy of the candidates and their opponents, the vast majority of the American public does not care to go to that level of detail. Candidates are the black guy, the old guy, the other old guy, the veteran, the token chick or the skank. If someone is registered as a Democrat, he or she will vote for Sen. Barack Obama; if someone is registered as a Republican, he or she will vote for Sen. John McCain.

Most citizens are either too busy or too lazy to do the level of research and consideration necessary to make an informed choice about who they want in the highest office in the nation next year. They're the voters who should not be voting because they are ignorant of what's at stake and what their choices really are. They're the people who believe

what they see on TV is real.

Of those who are willing to put time and effort into researching the candidates, most have already decided who to vote for. So now the candidates are forced to pursue the votes of the people who'd rather be watching "American Idol"; the ones who get their news from television commercials or whatever's above the fold while they wait for the bus. The ones with the attention span of a third-grader who say, "I don't really know anything about politics."

You know, the ones who will decide this election. The coveted "swing voters."

The biggest impediment to this process is that Americans — again, including myself — are too self-absorbed. For the most part that translates into voter ignorance and apathy. The letters and comments I get e-mailed to me in response to the columns in this section are proof enough of that.

Several individuals complain that they still "don't know where Obama stands on the issues." To them I respond the same way I do to those annoying leeches in large classes who use Blackboard to mass e-mail everyone the night before the test asking for the answers to the study guide. The information is all out there, on PowerPoint, in textbooks and in the case of Obama, on his Web site, to an almost obscene level of detail. If you actually care, don't be so incredibly lazy and expect him to review a bulleted list of his platform every time he gets shown on TV. Do the homework yourself.

Personally, I think that the inability of Obama to boil down all his positions into a 30-second spot for the evening news is a good thing. If your plans for the future of the nation can be summarized in less time than it takes to microwave Top Ramen, that's an indication that your plans aren't particularly deep, and we need plans that are deep and well thought-out to fix the mess that the country is in — the mess that's growing exponentially by the day.

So as funny as the exchange initially was, I don't think Palin should be called a skank. I think she should be defined by her viewpoints and political history: anti-abortion, regulation-free, pro-Big Oil, scandal-prone, environmental nightmare. But no matter what you call her, be it skank, hockey mom or sign of the coming apocalypse, for the love of America, don't just take me, or anyone, at his or her word. Do your homework. Decide for yourself. Or do a favor to those of us who actually care: Stay home.

Where we went wrong with American economy

By ASHER GRIFFIN
DAILY O'COLLEGIAN (OKLAHOMA STATE U.)

With banks crashing everywhere, stocks plummeting, your Visa bill reaching new heights because of gas prices and house prices continuing to stall, you have to think, "What in the world happened?"

Rest assured, campus, nobody knows what's happening. And if you find an economist who tells you they know why things appear to be in the tank, know that you've just found the new Sinbad.

Boone's oil speculations, economists' growth charts or our beloved government's regulations won't save our economy — they never did. For some reason, Americans believe that the economy means "Wall Street" or "taxes." That's like saying baseball is defined and driven by Alex Rodriguez's on-base percentage or Fenway Park's average daily attendance. Baseball, of course, is about hitting, throwing, fielding and scoring.

So, where did we get the economy wrong? Probably by thinking that the economy is everything but making, selling, buying and saving things that people care about.

For about three weeks now, many Republicans thought they

might have found the female version of Ronald Reagan. But it looks like all John McCain found was an aggressive mother who comes from a state that is literally built off of subsidies, earmarks and oil deposits. Is she smart? Probably. Is she aware? I bet she's read Wikipedia as much as we have.

Is Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin the kind of leader who has experience in becoming McCain's No. 2? Her fiscal policy in Alaska has basically been selling the former governor's jet, jacking up taxes on American oil companies and dispersing government revenues (paid by American oil companies) in a way that would make Hugo Chávez jubilant.

When it comes to the economy, not even Washington or large banks can figure things out.

So who are we to think that the fiscally socialist governor from Alaska will add grace and miracles to the equation? If you're a Republican like I am, you can't just blindly applaud someone because she owns a gun and has a son in the military.

Is our economy so unstable that anyone with enough fame can directly influence the market place?

By voting for someone to be president, am I increasing or decreasing my next paycheck?

We need to realize that the economy will take care of itself (unless we add more regulation) and note that Palin is another ordinary politician.

So, where did we get the economy wrong? Probably by thinking that the economy is everything but making, selling, buying and saving things that people care about.



Life as the Only African-American Peanuts' Character

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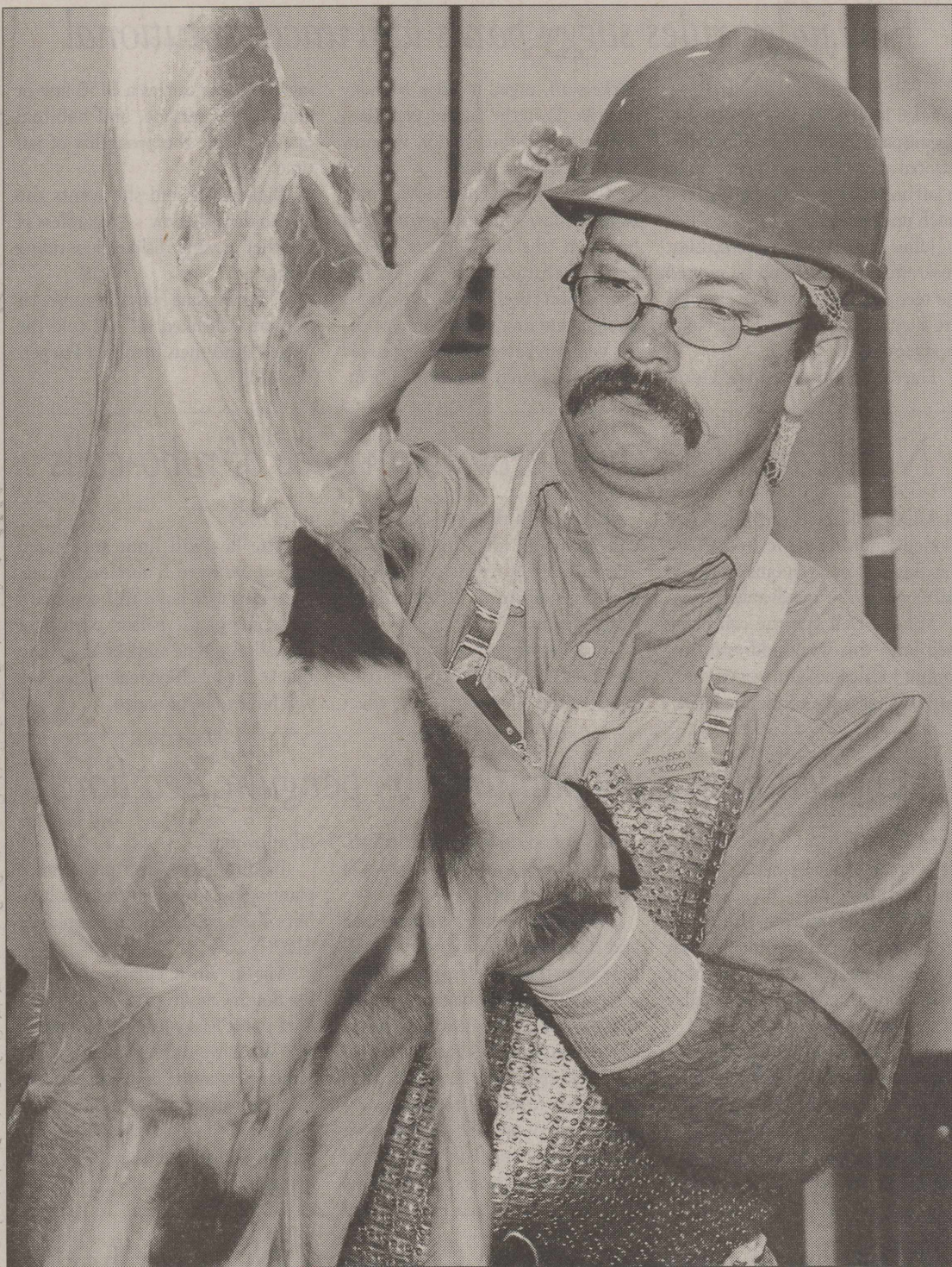


PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador

SHANDON RANKIN, THE assistant meat lab manager, teaches students how to skin the hide off a goat carcass Wednesday in the animal sciences lab.

Four fraternities at Baylor U. sanctioned for hazing

By ASHLEY CORINNE
THE LARIAT (BAYLOR U.)

Baylor University sanctioned four organizations for hazing incidents that occurred in spring 2008: Sigma Chi, Phi Gamma Delta, Alpha Tau Omega and Phi Delta Theta.

In compliance with state law, Baylor released a statement on hazing last week with a list of organizations disciplined in the spring. Details of the hazing violations were not published.

Phi Delta Theta's sanctions included community service and forbiddance from taking a new pledge class this fall.

Denver senior Preston Dunn, president of Phi Delta Theta, said the university's actions taken against his fraternity in connection with the hazing charges were unwarranted. He said he also believed the case was handled improperly during the judicial process.

"It was like being in a knife fight with your hands tied behind your back," he said.

Dunn said he was required to attend three hearings on behalf of his organization to settle the hazing allegations. He said the Student Organizations Judicial Board originally brought up charges of physical abuse, allegations he said were untrue and never proven by Baylor.

Phi Delta Theta was ultimately disciplined for making new members wear blue jeans and a collared shirt one day, he said. He also said they were charged for making new

members run at an intramural practice after finding out some of them had consumed alcohol.

"It was like interrogation room after interrogation room," he said. "I felt like the only way we could get out of it was to tell [the board] they were right and we were wrong."

Dunn noted he had to skip class to attend hearings and write reports for the judicial board. Dunn said they never admitted to the original charges.

"We were treated like experiment animals in the whole situation," he said. With study halls, intramural practices, new member meetings and written tests as their only new member activities, Dunn said Phi Delta Theta was intentionally abiding by Baylor's hazing policy.

Dr. Elizabeth Palacios, dean for student development, said she couldn't specify Phi Delta Theta's hazing violations but denied that they involved clothing.

She also mentioned one charge involving alcohol but confirmed it had been dismissed.

"I don't know why they feel this way," Palacios said. "The evidence presented was pretty overpowering."

Palacios said she didn't want to give any more details regarding the case.

According to Baylor policy and state law, hazing is defined as an intentional or reckless act that endangers the "mental or physical

health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization."

"People say hazing is historical. But that's not how you bond. We want organizations to have a culture of strength, integrity and character," Palacios said.

Most hazing offenses are reported by either the students who feel victimized or from their friends and family. Palacios said most organizations self-report incidents and impose sanctions internally, in addition to those imposed by Baylor.

Once reported, Palacios investigated an incident by speaking to all parties involved, including parents and organization members.

If enough evidence is found, the issue is then brought to the Student Organizations Judicial Board, made up of seven student representatives and two faculty members and chaired by Palacios.

The board delivers a "charge letter" to the president of the organization in question, who is asked to investigate the matter.

After the organization reports its findings, the board reviews the allegation, and, if found substantiated, sanctions are then determined. If the organization feels the decision is arbitrary, they then have the right to appeal.

Public nudity not common at Tech, treated like other crimes

While it is not a common offense, Tech police officers recently have made arrests for disorderly conduct based on a lack of clothing.

According to the Texas Penal Code Title 9, chapter 42.01, subsection (a)(2), a person commits a disorderly conduct crime if they make "an offensive gesture or display in a public place, and the gesture or display tends to incite an immediate breach of the peace." The offense is classified as a Class C misdemeanor.

Col. Gordon Hoffman, deputy chief of the Tech police department, said although the department does not see many of these violations, they handle them the same way as any other arrest.

A non-student was arrested during the Texas Tech vs. Southern Methodist University football game Sept. 13 in the C-2 parking lot, near the Jones AT&T Stadium, for exposing their genitals.

On Sept. 9, a non-student was arrested in the 2500 block of Broadway Avenue for public intoxication after he was seen naked in the fountains.

Hoffman said the responding officer has discretion on whether to jail the person or give them a warning. The officer will give the person something to cover himself or herself with if available, otherwise the person will go to jail naked.

jon.vanderlaan@ttu.edu

Palin's Yahoo! e-mail account hacked

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hackers broke into the Yahoo! e-mail account that Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin used for official business as Alaska's governor, revealing as evidence a few inconsequential personal messages she has received since John McCain selected her as his running mate.

"This is a shocking invasion of the governor's privacy and a violation of law. The matter has been turned over to the appropriate authorities and we hope that anyone

in possession of these e-mails will destroy them," the McCain campaign said in a statement.

The Secret Service contacted The Associated Press on Wednesday and asked for copies of the leaked e-mails, which circulated widely on the Internet. The AP did not comply.

The disclosure Wednesday raises new questions about the propriety of the Palin administration's use of nongovernment e-mail accounts to conduct state business.

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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- IV quantities
- Religious tenet
- Samantha of "The Collector"
- Oneer in a bowl?
- Benefit
- Director of spaghetti westerns
- Raw mineral
- Slowly, in music
- Wide receiver Terrell
- Start of a quip
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- Japanese honorific
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- New business
- Part 2 of quip
- Workday start, often
- Jelson's dog
- Exist
- Part 3 of quip
- Bonus NFL periods
- Ivan of tennis
- Start a new lawn
- Part 4 of quip
- Beset by problems
- Spicy stew
- Egg cells
- PC operator
- End of quip
- Plays' players
- Canadian tribe members
- Recline
- Censor's insert
- Map book
- Aachen article
- Facets
- Coffee confection
- Sounds of hesitation

DOWN

- Regal toppers
- Bugs Bunny snack
- Australian lass
- Famed surrealist
- Stove chamber
- Band of pals
- Catchers' gloves
- Island farewell
- North Carolina university
- Baubles
- Enters
- Sheridan or Sothorn
- Legal thing
- Of two minds
- Mitch, neighbor
- Gossip
- Those, to Tomas
- Proof of ownership
- Durham sch.
- Equal
- Shoot-'em-up
- Writer Burrows
- Network
- Likewise
- Highland dance
- Penned in
- Body of water
- Forced inductee
- Tap on a table
- Dress (up)
- Wagnerian heroine
- More chilling
- Laundry machines
- Out loud
- Main artery
- Cobra's kin
- Shoulder muscle, briefly
- Carnivore's choice
- Latin being
- TV network
- Will Smith biopic

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

9/18/08

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	C	A	M	S	E	N	V	S	S	A	L	T
E	L	I	O	T	N	E	A	T	I	L	I	E
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M	E	A	L	D	O	N	E	O	S	C	A	R
B	A	N	D	S	O	D	A	S	P	O	N	E
E	V	A	D	E	M	E	S	H	O	R	C	A
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WORLD EVENTS IN BRIEF

3 US soldiers charged with murder in Iraq deaths

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The U.S. Army has charged three soldiers with murder for their role in the killing of Iraqis last year.

Authorities say the Iraqi men were blindfolded, shot in the head

and dumped in a Baghdad canal around April 2007 in alleged retribution for casualties within the 172nd Infantry Brigade.

The Army said in a statement released Wednesday that Sgt. John Hatley, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph P.

Mayo and Sgt. Michael P. Leahy Jr. — all formerly assigned to 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment — face charges premeditated murder, conspiracy to commit premeditated murder and obstruction of justice.

Nigeria: Militant attacks cutting oil production

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — A spokesman for Nigeria's state oil company says militant attacks are now cutting the country's daily oil production by 40 percent.

Nigeria's normal production is 2.5 million barrels a day. Militants seeking more revenue for their

impoverished area had already cut the figure to 2.1 million barrels a day, even before the latest spate of attacks by militants began Saturday.

But Nigerian National Petroleum Corp. spokesman Livi Ajuonuma told The Associated

Press on Wednesday that over 1 million barrels of daily production is now being lost. That puts the country's daily output at around 1.5 million barrels produced per day, 40 percent less than normal.

Nigeria is Africa's largest oil producer.

France's first lady sings live on BBC with rock royalty

LONDON (AP) — Carla Bruni-Sarkozy has shared the world stage with Britain's queen, the pope and the Dalai Lama.

But in London on Tuesday night, France's first lady appeared on a different kind of stage, this time with rock royalty — the Kings of Leon and Metallica.

Introduced simply as Carla Bruni, she sang live on the British Broadcasting Corp. television program "Later Live ... With Jools Holland" and was interviewed by the pianist.

Sitting at a grand piano, Bruni-

Sarkozy was asked how she managed to balance her work as a musician with her duties as France's first lady.

"I don't really mix them up. I separate them. I play my music and then I go with my husband when he needs me," the former model said. "He's not really a critic, or a fan, but he's involved in my music."

"I play at home, and I disturb him with it in the middle of the night," Bruni-Sarkozy said. "He's really kind and listens to all my doubts."

During Metallica's performance, Bruni-Sarkozy "tapped her foot and

clapped," the BBC reported.

Bruni-Sarkozy's new album, "Comme si de rien n'était (As if nothing had happened)," was released in July. It went to the top of the charts in France.

She played "Tu es ma came," which she translated as "You're my junk, you're my type, you're my cup of tea." She described it as a song about being addicted to someone in a "toxic way, and in a lovely way."

Holland asked Bruni-Sarkozy if she had been in that situation, to which she replied, "Yes, indeed. Have you?"

Probe finds flap failure on doomed Madrid plane

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Wing flaps that help lift a plane on takeoff failed on the Spanair flight that crashed last month and an alarm to warn pilots of the problem never sounded, according to an initial report Tuesday on the accident that killed 154 people.

The investigators did not say whether they believe the flap problem caused the Aug. 20 crash that killed

all but 18 aboard the MD-82. They offered no theory on what triggered Spain's worst air disaster in 25 years.

Investigators also said they needed to further study a malfunction of an air temperature gauge outside the cockpit, which forced the pilot to abandon a first attempt at takeoff just before the crash. Spanair has described it as a minor glitch that was resolved by turning off the gauge because it was

not essential equipment.

However, the report said the faulty gauge might be linked to the failure of the cockpit alarm horn, which is supposed to sound when a departing plane is not properly configured to get off the ground.

The findings were drawn from the flight data and cockpit voice recorders which showed no evidence of problems with the plane's two engines.

ODDBALL DAILY

Fla. judge rules saggy pants law unconstitutional

RIVIERA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A judge has decided a law banning sagging pants in this town is unconstitutional after a teenager spent a night in jail on accusations he exposed too much underwear.

Julius Hart, 17, was charged last week after an officer said he spotted the teenager riding his bicycle with 4 to 5 inches of blue-and-black boxer shorts revealed.

Hart's public defender, Carol

Bickerstaff, urged a judge Monday to strike down the sagging pants law, telling him: "Your honor, we now have the fashion police."

Circuit Judge Paul Moyle ruled that the law was unconstitutional based on "the limited facts" of the case. Technically, however, the charge hasn't been dropped yet: a new arraignment awaits Hart on Oct. 5.

Voters in Riviera Beach approved the law in March. A first offense for

sagging pants carries a \$150 fine or community service, and habitual offenders face the possibility of jail time.

Bickerstaff said she wants the city to drop the law — regardless of whether anyone dislikes low-riding pants.

"The first time I saw this particular fashion, I disliked it," she told the judge. "And then I realized I'm getting old."

Neb. candidate apologizes in advance of robo-calls

MCCOOK, Neb. (AP) — A city council candidate in McCook, Neb., is apologizing for an automated phone call campaign — in advance.

Mike O'Dell says the call being used later this week addresses important local issues and was the only method that made economic sense.

He says it's the only automated call he'll send out this campaign season. He's sorry if it interrupts someone's dinner or favorite television program.

The Legislature enacted restrictions on so-called robo-calls this year, but the bill won't go into effect

until 2009.

The law will limit automated calls to between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. Messages will have to begin with the name of the person paying for the call. A phone number other than that of the machine making the call will have to be provided.

SC auction to have paintings by penguin, sea lions

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — This art is created not by hands, but by paws and claws.

Paintings featuring the brush strokes and paw prints of animals such as snow leopards and sea lions from zoos around the nation sold Tuesday for surprising amounts of money.

Just a few minutes into the auction, a painting by Cha Cha the Lion already had sold for \$550 while Pinto the Pig's masterpiece sold for \$250.

The sale is part of an online auction at auctionnetwork.com to raise

money for zoo conservation efforts. It is sponsored by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

"Art in some level is storytelling and there's an amazing story to tell here about the great care that animals receive and the conservation programs that the sale of this art will support," spokesman Steve Feldman said.

Zoo keepers have long used painting as a way to mentally stimulate animals. Animal artwork also has been sold for some time, but Feldman said Tuesday marked the first collaborative

effort by zoos.

Bidding began at 5 p.m. with a painting by a penguin from Columbia's Riverbanks Zoo that sold for \$180.

Martin Vince, curator of birds at the South Carolina zoo, said it wasn't hard to get Ricky inspired to paint.

"What we did basically was put some paint on the floor and aim him toward it with a fish on the other side," Vince said. "I would it would call it a special penguin version of abstract painting."

NM ristra stringers say to Guinness HQ: It's hot!

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Men, women and children of all ages stepped right up and twirled together twine and chile pods at the New Mexico State Fair, trying to create the world's largest chile ristra.

Now they hope Londoners appreciate the chiles as much as they do.

In five hours and 45 minutes Sunday, the participants used a whopping 3,250 pounds of red chile pods to create a ristra spanning 157.7 feet, said New Mexico Department of Agriculture spokesman Doug Rains.

The New Mexico Chile Commis-

sion and the Agricultural Department followed Guinness World Record guidelines in creating the ristra and will submit their documentation to Guinness headquarters in London for record consideration. Rains said he did not know how long it would take for Guinness to respond.

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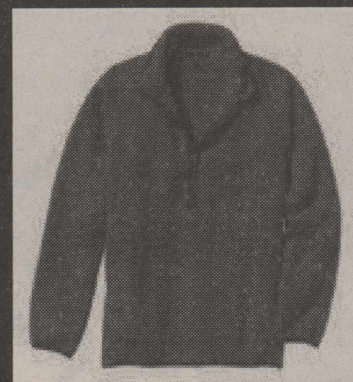


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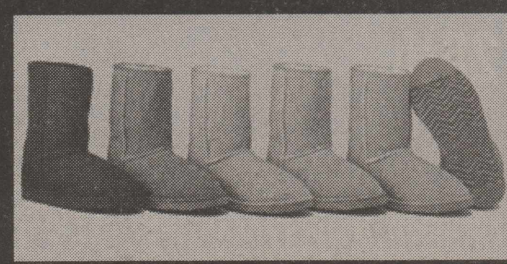
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Federal court to decide more distinguishable currency for visually impaired

By **TINA L. ARONS**
STAFF WRITER

The next generation of dollar bills may not look or feel the same as the ones in your pocket.

An ongoing federal appeals court decision may phase out the current design of American paper money, switching it to a revamped paper currency that is more accessible to the blind and those with limited vision.

Judge James Robertson of the Federal District Court in Washington D.C. ruled in 2006 that the U.S. Treasury Department failed to "design, produce and issue paper currency that is readily distinguishable to

blind and visually impaired" people, which violates federal law under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The currency designs in use are the same size and shape, said Sue Ann Hansford, a counselor for the Division for Blind Services located at Texas Tech.

She said there is no inherent way to distinguish between the different values of paper currency.

When the U.S. Court of Appeals returned the issue back to the district court for further consideration, Judge A. Raymond Randolph said in his dissent that it would cost \$3.5 billion to replace food and beverage vending machines and ATMs.



KAT HILSABECK/*The Daily Toreador*
FAITH PENN, A senior public relations major from Dallas, works in the Media Relations office at Jones AT&T Stadium.

No final decision about whether or not to change U.S. paper currency has been made, but Jeff Lovitky, an attorney for the American Council of the Blind, said he expects Judge James Robertson to issue an order in the next few weeks that will develop the case further.

"I think the only real opposition to it in the past is that it will be a tremendous expense to fix a situation for a small population," said Larry Phillippe, managing director of Tech's Student Disabilities Services.

The 2006 National Health Interview Survey reported a total of 21.2 million people in the United States

responded that they were blind or unable to see at all or had trouble seeing, even when wearing glasses or contact lenses.

The U.S. Census Bureau reported an estimated U.S. population of less than 300 million people in 2006. Thus, blind and visually impaired individuals comprised about 7 percent of the population in that year.

Faith Penn, a visually impaired senior public relations major from Dallas, said she has been able to function adequately without currency that has different sizes, shapes or colors.

Penn was born with glaucoma and lost her working vision in 2006.

She said she has been cheated by dishonest cashiers in the past, but she used the experience to become a stronger, more assertive customer.

"If you're getting change back from a cashier," she said, "and you don't know what you're getting back, ask the cashier."

Also, she said she folds her money so she can recognize the difference between bills of different values.

"I don't think the world needs to cater to us," Penn said.

And it may not.
Lovitky said nothing is certain because the council is "in the middle" of a legal battle.

►► tina.arons@ttu.edu

POOL SIDE



PHOTO BY **KARL ANDERSON**/*The Daily Toreador*

GOVIND HEDGE, LEFT, a graduate student from Goa, India, and **Simon Griffith**, a freshman early childhood education major from Arlington, play pool Wednesday in the Student Union Building basement.

Bidding for coed's virginity passes \$275,000

By **PAUL RIOS AND CODY KITAURA**

THE STATE HORNET (CAL STATE-SACRAMENTO)

A torrent of media coverage is swirling after a Sacramento State graduate announced she was auctioning off her virginity.

The 22-year-old, who is using the pseudonym Natalie Dylan for safety reasons, announced the decision to sell her v-card on the Howard Stern radio show on Sept. 9.

"We live in a capitalist society," Dylan said on the show. "Why shouldn't I be allowed to capitalize on my virginity?"

Dennis Hof, owner of the Nevada brothel Moonlite Bunny Ranch, brought Dylan to Stern's attention. Dylan approached Hof with her sister, Avia, who worked at Hof's ranch for three weeks two years ago.

"I've seen a lot of crazy things, but this is very unique," Hof said in a phone interview.

With hundreds of offers already and bidding up to \$275,000, Hof also claimed that a "rock star" and a "well-known male actor" contacted him and told him that they would outbid any other offers.

The amount of media attention did not surprise Hof, but Dylan, who could not be reached for comment, told CBS13 News that the coverage was a little overwhelming.

"I didn't expect it to take off this much," Dylan said. "I'm a big fan of anonymity and I did not expect any of this happen."

Hof said that Dylan had already passed a polygraph test verifying the authenticity of her chastity, but added that she is also willing to submit to a physical examination.

"I think I'm very intuitive and I can sense if a person is genuine or not, so I'm definitely going to be looking for that," Dylan told CBS13 News.

Dylan said she first got the idea to auction her virginity from a news story she read on the Internet about a Peruvian girl who attempted a similar

cash out. The girl received an offer for \$1.5 million from a Canadian man, but didn't go through with it. Dylan is pursuing the idea largely because of debt incurred when her father allegedly took out student loans in her name.

Dylan earned her bachelor's degree in women's studies from Sacramento State and said she plans to use the money to finance her graduate studies in marriage and family therapy.

Horn professorship program recognizes Tech professors for outstanding work

By **STEPHANIE STEPHENS**
STAFF WRITER

Some of Texas Tech's professors have gained national and international recognition for their research and teaching skills by being named Paul Whitfield Horn Professors.

The most recent Horn Professorships were awarded on March 4 to David Larmour, a professor of classical and modern languages and literature; Warren Ballard, a professor of range, wildlife and fisheries; Daniel Cooke, a professor of computer science; and Susan Saab-Fortney, a professor of law.

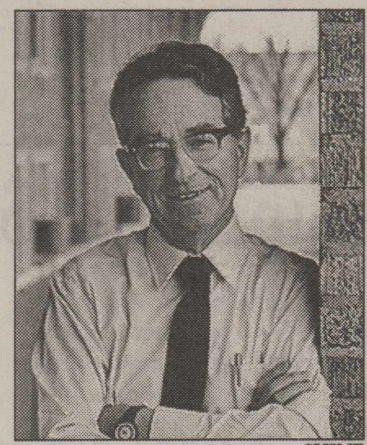
"I was honored and humbled," Ballard said. "I didn't really feel like I was that deserving of it. Its probably the highest thing that can happen to you in your career."

Ballard said he is truly honored to have been chosen out of so many professors at Tech.

"My students seem to have more respect for me now," he said.

The Paul Whitfield Horn Professorship is the highest honor that Tech can award to a professor. The Horn Professorship program was established in 1966 and was named in honor of Paul Whitfield Horn who was the first president of Tech.

The Board of Regents' Academic, Clinical and Student Affairs Committee selects professors who



SHINE

tained a high level of excellence as both a teacher and a researcher for many years."

The first appointment of a recorded Horn Professorship at Tech occurred in 1968 when Henry Shine, a retired-emeritus and professor of chemistry and biochemistry who still at Tech, was recognized for his work on numerous research projects involving organic and physical chemistry.

This honor recognized him internationally for his research reputation, he said.

"I was wonderfully surprised," Shine said. "I didn't know I was being considered; it was kept a secret by the board of regents. I happened to be in Europe at the time I was being nominated and I was surprised when I came back that I had been told to show up at the regents' meeting. At this meeting I was told I was being awarded the Horn Professorship for Chemistry."

Shine said the title of a Paul Whitfield Horn Professor has become a "quotable and recognizable honor."

Since the founding of the Horn Professorship, 76 faculty members have been awarded this professorship and 37 are still with Tech.

►► stephanie.stephens@ttu.edu

have been recognized nationally and internationally for remarkable teaching, research or other academic achievements. These professors must also prove scholarly achievement and outstanding service to Tech and its students.

For more than 40 years these distinguished professors have held themselves to higher standards and have excelled in teaching and research methods at Tech, according to Tech's Office of the Provost's Web site.

"This is not a designation that is awarded lightly," said Tech provost Bill Marcy, on the site. "Becoming a Horn Professor means that a faculty member has main-

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7 AM	Curious (HD)	Today Sched (HD)	The Early Show	Copeland Robison	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	Animal Planet
8 AM	Super Why (HD)	Clifford	Wear 'n' host J. Hanna	Believer's J. Hanna	Steve Wilkos		Animal Planet
9 AM	Sesame Street (HD)	Stacy London (HD)	The 700 Club	Divorce	Cosby	Regis & Kelly	Martha Stewart
10 AM	Dragon World (HD)	Wilde Wilson	The Price Is Right	The Morning Show	Barnie Cops	The View (HD)	Bornie Hunt Show
11 AM	Martha Jeopardy (HD)	TBA	Restless (HD)	Alex Cristina	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Tyra Banks Show
12 PM	Quilling News	Days of Our Lives	Beautiful As the World	The People's Court	Roseanne	All My Children	Paid Prog.
1 PM	Eat This Place	The Doctors	Guiding Light	Mauri	Fam Court	Fam Court	One Life to Live
2 PM	Beth. Lion Reading	Inside	Guiding Light	Mauri	All of Us	General Hospital	Judge Mathis
3 PM	Arthur WordGirl	Oprah Winfrey	Brown Access	Reba	No Deal	No Deal	Ellen DeGeneres
4 PM	FETCH! Cyber	Dr. Phil	Judy Judy	Maury	Standing	Rachael Ray	News
5 PM	Maya Bus. Rpt	News	News	Fam. Feud	Queens	News	Lopez
6 PM	NewsHour (HD)	WHEEL	Million.	Law Order (HD)	'70s ET	Two & 1/2	Family
7 PM	Old House Hour	Talent Ear (HD)	CSI: Crime (HD)	"The Crow" ('94) Dead man awakes. (R)	Supernatural	Grey's Anatomy	Kitchen
8 PM	Story P.O.V.	The Office (HD)	CSI: Crime (HD)	Flashpoint	Jim (HD)	Sex City	Grey's Anatomy
9 PM	"Calavera Highway"	(9-11) ER (HD)	Flashpoint	Jim (HD)	Sex City	Grey's Anatomy	News
10 PM	Bus. Rpt	News	News	King	Will (HD)	News	Two & 1/2
11 PM	Charlie Rose	The Tonight Show	(10:25) Late Show	TMZ	Will (HD)	Nightline	Seinfeld
12 AM	Destiny (GED)	(11:35) Late Show	Late Late Show	Willie	Chesters	Jimmy Kimmel	Playmond
		Last Call	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Cops	Paid Prog.	Frasier
					Paid Prog.	Insider	Paid Prog.

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7:00PM TONIGHT

Thursday Night Movie
THE CROW

Drinks ←

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

approval. "I wouldn't say anything is dangerous," Mitchell said, "if they are serving it right."

Another factor of understanding alcohol consumption is the quality of liquor brands.

Adam Klement, a bartender at the local bar Wild West and a graduate student from Muenster, said he advises against cheap gin and tequila.

"Long Islands are the best bang for your buck," he said before listing off the drink's five liquor ingredients: rum, vodka, triple sec, gin and tequila.

Not all students drink alcohol, but drinkers and non-drinkers alike may take an interest in this week's events for Alcohol Awareness and Recovery Week, hosted by Tech's Student Health Services.

The scheduled events range from alcohol screening tests, a presentation from a convicted drunken driver and a mocktail party.

The event's main focus is supporting students who resist drinking alcohol and informing those who do drink, said Amanda Eldredge, health educator at Student Health Services.

At Saturday's RaiderGate, Eldredge said, she handed out root beer and water for students so they could have a non-alcoholic beverage alternative.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE DRINK?



"I guess a White Russian. Of course The Big Lebowski comes into play — I like coffee a lot and it's milky and creamy. Because of that movie, I mean that's not the first reason, but it definitely makes you feel cool."
— John Redington, junior architecture major from Allen



"Gin and tonic. Just basically there's not a whole lot of flavor, easy to drink. It's not too fruity."
— Kyle Larrison, senior agricultural economics major from Cleburne



"It's called Emerald City. It's whiskey, kiwi and pineapple. It's unique. It's strong but it doesn't make you sick. You can drink a lot and it doesn't make you sick, you can enjoy it."
— Mo Fawaz, graduate student from Lebanon



"I'd say a Tuaca bomb. Tuaca and Red Bull. Because it tastes good and it does the job, too."
— Blake Davis, senior advertising major from Sugarland



"I'm a whiskey-and-sprite guy, I've got to have 7 and 7. Well, the Canadian blends get a little sweeter on the whiskey — it's kind of like the fruity whiskey as opposed to Jack. It's the girls' whiskey."
— Matt Nuckolls, senior general studies major from Harrold

Students may want to have a beverage to fit in with their peers, McCauley said, and they should feel comfortable having a non-alcoholic drink.

"Because we're social creatures, we want to do as others are and drink with them," she said.

If students decide to drink alcohol, McCauley said, it is important to plan ahead by pacing one's speed of consumption, alternating between alcohol and water to stay hydrated, and eat a meal before and while drinking.

And when alcohol gets the best of

students, she said, they need to learn from their past experiences and try not to repeat the mistake of drinking too much.

"There's nothing that can speed up ridding your body of alcohol," McCauley said. "It just takes time."

►► bridget.destefano@ttu.edu

Technology ←

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

get a distinct impression of what top priority is at Apple.

When you buy Apple, you buy your image, just like millions of others.

Take a look at the Mac vs. PC commercials with Justin Long and John Hodgman. Recently, these ads haven't compared Macs and PCs, but rather played out like calumny-filled political ads and simply bored it into the public's mindset that PC users are uptight, pudgy and dim-witted while Mac users are laid-back, easygoing and totally more "with it" than PC users. Clearly, when you buy a Mac, you're cool.

Admittedly though, Apple's innovations are extremely potent in the technology market. The iPod's clickwheel and the iPhone's touchscreen are easily some of the most impressive (and now most imitated) interfaces to ever grace an electronics product. However, it appears they are content to sit idly on their haunches with few innovations and merely mediocre functionality rather than continually innovate as

they are so clearly able.

Apple iPods have consistently had less than stellar audio quality and lack of features like FM radio tuning and line-in recording while other players, like the Iriver Clix with impressive battery life and unbeatable sound quality, lay by the wayside of electronics purchases. The same goes for the iPhone, which sacrifices battery life and call quality for its touchscreen interface and unique look.

Truly, it's the look that sells these functionally sub par products.

The physical appeal of Apple products will continue to add to their current user base, most of whom would qualify as fanboys, people who will defend Apple no matter what, always and forever, and buy absolutely anything with that classy fruit logo emblazoned across the front. This includes such situations as a declining market with rising prices and economic instability.

I guess those commercials really do work.

■ **Poon is a junior computer science major from Carrollton. E-mail him at timothy.poon@ttu.edu**

West Kentucky University lets students throw darts at politicians

By LAUREL WILSON
COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD (WESTERN KENTUCKY U.)

people register to vote and recruited people to throw darts.

Cardwell said she got involved because she needed community service for her university experience class. "If I can encourage somebody else to get involved politically, to me that's the best community service I can do," Cardwell said.

There may be times when a person wants to throw darts at a politician's head, but it doesn't usually happen in reality.

Western Kentucky University students were given that chance to release their frustration outside of Downing University Center on Monday as part of Constitution Week.

For \$1, participants could buy three darts to throw at a picture of the presidential or senatorial candidate of their choice. The money raised was split between the College Republicans and College Democrats, said Sandra Ardrey, head of the political science department.

Bowling Green freshman Britany Cardwell volunteered at the dart-throwing station. She helped

This is the first year that the dart challenge has been a part of Constitution Week, Ardrey said.

Usually, there is a board outside of the center for students to write their opinions. It was replaced by the dart challenge this year because of the presidential election, Ardrey said.

"We're trying to catch the attention of students," she said.

Other Constitution Week events include a reading of the U.S. Constitution and a presentation by artist Mark Burns about how the First Amendment applies to art.

Obama picks up about \$9 million in Hollywood

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Barack Obama partied with Hollywood celebrities Tuesday night and with the help of Oscar-winning singer and actress Barbra Streisand raised an eye-popping \$9 million for his presidential campaign and the Democratic Party.

The night was split into two glitzy events, a reception and dinner costing \$28,500 each at the Greystone Mansion, followed by entertainment by Streisand at the nearby Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel. About 250-300 people were expected at the dinner and about 800 at the entertainment, which cost \$2,500 a ticket.

Dinner guests seen by reporters, or noted by waiters, included Will Ferrell, Jodie Foster, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jamie Lee Curtis and DreamWorks founders Steven Spielberg, David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg.

Obama spent more than an hour before dinner getting his picture taken with guests. He said later that people had encouraged him to be tougher and had questioned why he was so calm in a close race against Republican John McCain.

"I'm skinny but I'm tough," he said. "I'm from Chicago and we don't play. Just keep steady."

"If we can cut through the non-

sense and the lipstick and the pigs and the silliness, then I'm absolutely convinced that we are going to win," Obama said, referring to some of the offbeat charges raised against him.

"The reason I'm calm ... is I've got confidence in the American people," he said. "I really think they want to see us do better." Standing in the courtyard of the palatial estate, he said his campaign was dedicated to people who need jobs and health care and worry about their pensions and sending children to college.

"It's about those who will never see the inside of a building like this," Obama said.

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