



Ombudsman Kathryn Quilliam retires

LA VIDA, PAGE 6

Tech resumes Big 12 play with Oklahoma St.



SPORTS, PAGE 10

Twitter is now part of daily life

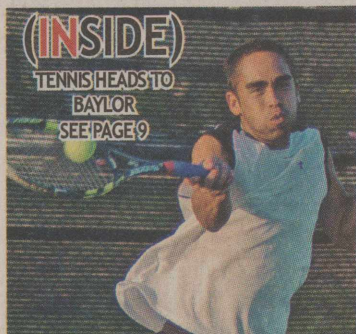
OPINIONS, PAGE 4

# THE DAILY T OREADOR

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 29, 2008  
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(INBRIEF)

## STATE

### PUC bans some electric disconnections

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Public Utility Commission has approved an emergency order banning electric service disconnections for victims of Hurricane Ike until Oct. 10.

The order approved Wednesday also waives deposit requirements for new service until that date and prohibits higher fees for non-business day, same-day service reconnections and priority move-in requests.

It applies to CenterPoint Energy customers in specific ZIP codes that have had the greatest percentage of extended outages in the Houston-Galveston area.

## NATION

### Bush, McCain, Obama meet on economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Key members of Congress claimed agreement Thursday on an outline and crucial details of an urgent multibillion-dollar plan to stave off national economic disaster, but a historic White House meeting with President Bush, the two men fighting to replace him and other congressional leaders broke up with conflicts in plain view.

After six days of intensive talks on the \$700 billion package urgently requested by the Bush administration, with Wall Street tottering and the presidential election nearing, there was more confusion than clarity.

## WORLD

### Putin wants ties with Latin America

MOSCOW (AP) — Prime Minister Vladimir Putin says relations with Latin America will be a foreign policy priority for the Russian government.

Putin, who is meeting with visiting Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, says Russia is willing to discuss further military contacts with Venezuela and help it develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Chavez said during the meeting ties between Venezuela and Russia would strengthen a multi-polar world.

Chavez' visit takes place as a Russian naval squadron sails to Venezuela, across the Caribbean Sea from the United States, in a pointed response to what the Kremlin portrays as threatening U.S. encroachment near its own borders.

## DEATH TOLL

4173

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

## INSIDE

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## CITIZEN GAMERS

Study: Video gaming may benefit teenagers' social abilities

By BRIDGET DE STEFANO  
STAFF WRITER

The key to social activity and political involvement may be in the controller — video game controller, that is.

Adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17 years old participated in random telephone surveys conducted by the Pew Internet & American Life Project called "Teens, Video Games and Civics," which recorded their video game usage and its relation to their civic engagement within the community.

The project is an initiative of the Pew Research Center, a non-profit group that focuses on the issues and trends of the Internet and its effects on society.

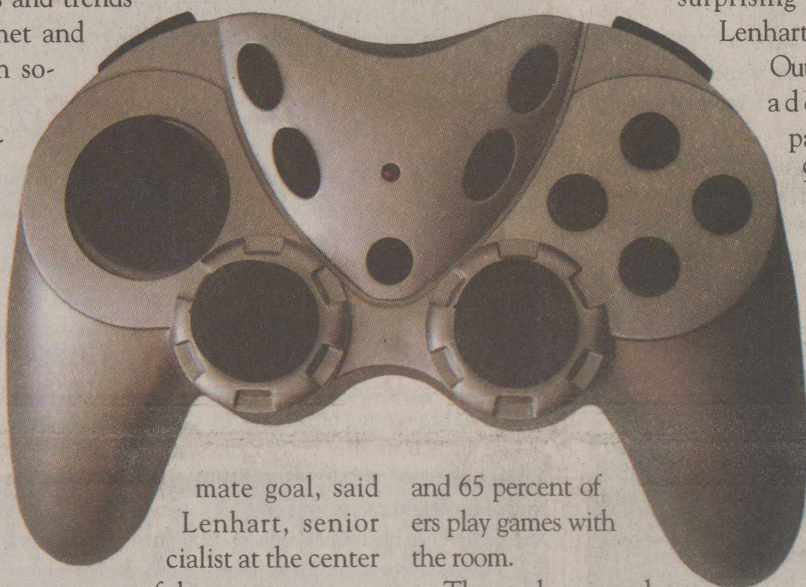
Determining the sociability of gamers and examining video games' influence on adolescents is the ultimate goal, said Lenhart, senior specialist at the center and co-author of the report.

"I think there's this myth that gamers are just generally kind of playing alone in their basement or in their room," she said, "and they're not actually interacting with the people when they play games."

However, Lenhart said, the study shows that three-fourths of gamers claim they play video games with other people. For the most part, it depends on the kinds of games teenagers are playing.

For example, online interactive games, often referred to as massive multi-player online games, may involve using voice connections for communicating and playing against people who are playing anywhere from next door to across the world.

The four-month-long research found some "surprising numbers," Lenhart said.



Out of the 1,102 adolescent participants, 97 percent claimed they have played video games, according to the report's Web site, teenagers in

and 65 percent of gamers play games with the room.

The study covered a wide variety of games, she said. It included computer games, console games, cell phone games, hand-held devices and online games.

The study also researched 14

GAMERS continued on page 7 >>

## A SURVEY OF TEENS WHO PLAY VIDEO GAMES REVEALED:

- 53 percent said they have volunteered in their community.
  - 56 percent said they stay informed on current events and politics.
  - 61 percent said they have contributed to raise money for a charitable cause.
  - 9 percent said they have participated in a peaceful protest, march or demonstration.
  - 23 percent said they talk to others about why they should vote for or against a party or candidate.
- Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project

## Tech hockey without a place to play

By KEVIN CULLEN  
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech hockey team may no longer have a place to call home.

Tech coach and general manager Paul Fioroni was informed Thursday morning that the lease the team had with Lubbock to play in the City Bank Coliseum will not be renewed.

Fioroni said the decision of whether or not to renew the contract came down to \$1,300 the city lost while the team was using the coliseum.

The announcement came one day before Tech was scheduled to host Big 12 Conference opponent Oklahoma. The game has not yet been rescheduled or cancelled.

"I'm just very upset," a teary-eyed Fioroni said to a crowd of Tech hockey supporters, "because I've given everything to this community for this sport. I've watched one organization already leave town, and now we have a non-profit, charity hockey program that runs the kids, adults, figure skaters ... and we're told this morning that they'd rather have this building empty than have hockey in it."

Tech assistant coach Mike Goicoechea said



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH'S HOCKEY team may have to find another place to play after the City of Lubbock refused to renew its contract to play in the City Bank Coliseum.

the decision was especially upsetting because it was strictly monetary, and that the program would have been glad to raise the \$1,300.

Odessa, Amarillo, Wichita Falls and Dallas all have offered to provide Tech with a place to play, Fioroni said, but the program is a club sport without school funding, it would be difficult for players to afford transportation and everything else that comes with the commute to another

HOCKEY continued on page 8 >>

## Regents approve search budget

By JON VANDERLAAN  
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Board of Regents approved two issues on its agenda during a special session Thursday, including a budget for academic search services and a memorandum of understanding between the Tech System and the Angelo State University Foundation.

The regents approved a \$75,000 budget for academic search services that will be conducted to fill the positions of provost and vice president for research. The university hopes to enter in a sole-source contract with Academic Search, Inc., a company that helps universities fill administrative positions.

The memorandum of understanding states that the Tech system and the ASU Foundation will combine their assets in order to receive higher investment returns and greater diversity in their assets.

Kent Hance, chancellor of the university system, said because the budget for the academic search services passed, the university could move forward and start on the process of finding the next provost and vice president for research.

Hance said the university posted a listing for the positions prior to the meeting in hopes that the regents would approve the request. If the regents did not approve the request, he said, they would have had to change the posting and request again.

BUDGET continued on page 2 >>

## \$6 million granted to Tech, partners for math education



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

WAYNE HAVENS, LEFT, Superintendent of Lubbock ISD, Texas Tech President Guy Bailey, and Kyle Wargo, executive director of the Region XVII education Service Center, talk after a press conference at which they announced a \$6.3 million grant to fund the West Texas Middle School Mathematics Partnership Thursday at the Region XVII Education Service Center.

By MATT COBB  
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech and seven regional partners will use a \$6 million grant to improve the mathematics performance of middle school students in West Texas.

The National Science Foundation pledged the grant to the regional partnership to fund the West Texas Middle School Mathematics Partnership.

Funding for the partnership was announced during a ceremony Thursday at the Region 17 Service Center Conference Center in Lubbock.

"The impact of this grant, I think, on this region of this state will be enormous," said Guy Bailey, president of Tech. "We are very proud to be

MATH continued on page 2 >>

## Annual barbecue cookoff attracts thousands of Lubbock residents

By HANNAH BOEN  
STAFF WRITER

Smoke and music filled the air Thursday night at the corner of Broadway Street and Avenue L.

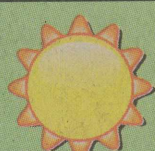
About 4,000 Lubbock residents gathered at the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce for the Seventh Annual Hub City BBQ Cookoff, where 89 teams competed for the status of "best in barbecue."

The teams began preparation for the competition at noon Wednesday, and judging began at noon Thursday. The competition included amateur, corporate and professional divisions. Winners in each division were awarded first, second or third place for ribs, brisket or other meat.

Texas Tech's Meat Science Association took first place in the amateur division for their peppered pork loin. The loin was entered into the other meat category by the Meat Science Association's four-person cooking team.

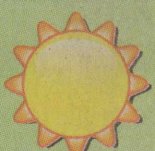
Greg Clark, Jesse Collins, Justin Derington and Brett Gaylord said

COOKOFF continued on page 7 >>



TODAY  
Sunny

High 86 Low 56



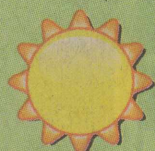
Saturday  
Sunny

High 86 Low 56



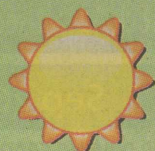
Sunday  
Sunny

High 86 Low 56



Monday  
Sunny

High 88 Low 54



Tuesday  
Sunny

High 83 Low 55

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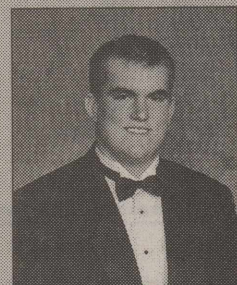
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## Tech savvy, petroleum engineering major missed by family, friends after death

Lane Addison Chandler, a Texas Tech senior majoring in petroleum engineering from Early died Sept. 20 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. He was 22.



CHANDLER

Chandler was born Nov. 29, 1985 in Brownwood. He graduated in 2004 from Early High School and was a National Honor Society student. Also in 2004, Chandler was awarded the annual Kohler Scholarship for his artwork. In 2007, Chandler was accepted into the National Scholars Honor Society at Tech, according to an e-mail sent by the Chandler family to The Daily Toreador.

"He was loved by many," Lisa Chandler, Lane Chandler's mother, said. "He was just a wonderful kid. Everyone loved him."

The Chandler family said Lane Chandler was very intelligent. In addition to majoring in petroleum engineering, Chandler was minoring in mechanical engineering and geology and was very tech savvy.

"Computer problems always seemed so simple to him when others thought them so complex," the family wrote.

Family members said Chandler had a great sense of humor and his one-liners would make the entire room laugh.

Lisa Chandler said Lane Chandler was expected to graduate Tech in May 2009.

"The school has been very nice," she said. "They have sent flowers and letters and so many people showed up here for Lane."

Lane Chandler is immediately survived by his parents Lisa and Carl of Early, his brother Tye of Ennis and his dog, Duke, according to the e-mail.

The family requests Lane Chandler's friends visit an online memorial dedicated to him at the Web site, [www.mem.com](http://www.mem.com).

"We invite you to share your thoughts and fond memories with our family by leaving both written and spoken Guest Book messages," the Chandler family said in the e-mail.

The university's flag will fly at half-staff in memory of Chandler Monday in Memorial Circle.

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## Tech cousins finish third in bass fishing competition

By MIKE GRAHAM  
STAFF WRITER

A two-man team of Texas Tech bass fishers placed third last weekend with a combined total of approximately 45 pounds of bass caught over three days at the Boat U.S. National Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship in Lewisville on the waters of Lake Lewisville.

Ryan Dupriest, a senior marketing major from Midland, and Laramie Coggan, a junior landscape architecture major from Midland, who are cousins, finished third out of 97 two-person teams from 51 universities in 23 states. The team finished in the lead at the close of day two before

invest some of it into buying new fishing equipment. Coggan received a \$1,000 scholarship for hauling in the final day's largest bass, a 4.29 pounder.

"I'm proud," Coggan said. "There's a lot of pride in catching the biggest fish of the day." Coggan, Dupriest and the other Top 5 teams will be featured on Fox Sports Net's coverage of the tournament. The program will air in October at a time and date to be announced, said the Bass Fishing Team's advisor Coy Callison.

"We're excited to see it," Coggan said. "The program revolves around the Top 5 teams. There was a camera on our boat filming everything we did on the final day of the tournament."

Dupriest said he will use his share of the prize money to cover his expenses from the tournament and

teams from the University of Arkansas and Texas A&M University rallied on the tournament's final day to finish first and second respectively.

"We're a good team," said Dupriest, captain of Tech's Bass Fishing Team. "We're family. I will be thinking about what kind of bait and equipment I need to use and I will look over at Laramie and he's using the exact same things."

Dupriest said the \$5,000 prize will be distributed evenly between his team and the other two Tech teams that competed in the tournament.

Dupriest said he will use his share of the prize money to cover his expenses from the tournament and

ment." Coggan, Dupriest and the rest of the team usually practice at Lake Alan Henry and participate in various bass fishing tournaments around Texas.

Coggan and Dupriest's fishing roots run deep. In fact, Dupriest said he intends to fish professionally.

"I've been fishing since I could walk," he said. "Our parents and grandparents fished. To me, fishing is like figuring out a puzzle, that's why I like it. You're going after something with a mind of its own. It can choose to bite or not to bite. I like figuring out what I have to do to make the fish bite."

» [michael.graham@ttu.edu](mailto:michael.graham@ttu.edu)

## Dems, some in GOP question McCain's intervention

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. John McCain's self-portrait as a bold leader willing to set politics aside to save an endangered financial bailout plan took a pounding Thursday from top Democrats and even some fellow Republicans.

His efforts to re-energize his presidential campaign will partly turn on who wins the public relations battle, destined to play out for days.

Top Democrats in Congress ridiculed his role after a chaotic end to a White House summit meeting that McCain had requested, and which included Democratic nominee Barack Obama.

"John McCain did nothing to help," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who attended the meeting. "He only hurt the

process."

Negotiations that for days had centered on a \$700 billion plan the Bush administration presented last Saturday seemed to fall apart. An alternative plan drafted by conservative House Republicans was discussed at the White House meeting, and McCain's level of interest was unclear.

"As far as I know, Sen. McCain has not endorsed this plan," said Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va., its chief sponsor. A senior McCain official said McCain hasn't signed on to any proposal yet.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson sped to Capitol Hill to try to revive or rework the proposal the administration says Congress must approve quickly to stave off economic disaster.

Congressional leaders were to meet with the economic chiefs into the night, and were not happy about it.

"We don't want presidential politics involved in this," Reid told reporters.

Even the House's Republican leader, John Boehner of Ohio, passed up a chance to praise McCain's leadership powers shortly before the two met in the Capitol at midday Thursday. Asked by reporters if McCain could help win House Republican votes for the proposed package, Boehner shrugged and said, "Who knows?"

Boehner later said in a statement that McCain "has a vital role to play in this process, and he has a history of working together with both parties to make things happen."

Other Republicans gave McCain more credit. "They got something done this morning only because McCain came back," said Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C. DeMint later called the administration's proposal "a trillion-dollar Band-Aid that does not contain a single item that will stimulate our economy."

President Bush's biggest worry is House Republicans, many of whom are balking at his plan. Several said it was essential that both McCain and Sen. Obama back some legislative package together.

"If McCain and Obama would stand together and take this off the table" as a sharply partisan issue, then wary House Republicans might get on board, said Rep. Zach Wamp, R-Tenn.

## Math

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a part of it."

The purpose of the partnership is to work with middle school math teachers and find ways to improve their students' performance in the subject, according to a Tech news release. The partnership will give university professors and other education professionals an opportunity to examine how teaching methods and resource constraints faced by rural schools impact student performance.

The partnership is a five-year program that will involve more than 150 teachers and 50,000 students, according to the news release. The program will begin in January 2009.

Other universities involved in

the partnership include Angelo State University, Sul Ross State University and The University of Texas of the Permian Basin. The Lubbock Independent School District and the Texas Education Service Center Regions 15, 17 and 18 also are members.

The program will give regional teachers an opportunity to be involved with creating the framework for a new model of teaching mathematics, said Wayne Havens, superintendent of the Lubbock Independent School District. The teachers will be able to provide their own strategies and ideas.

"We have a lot of students moving into eighth-grade algebra now, and ... many of those maybe are not as prepared as we'd like them to be," he said. "This will enable our

teachers to have those strategies to really impact the sixth and seventh grade."

The Education Service Center will assist in the recruitment of teachers to be involved in the partnership, said Kyle Wargo, executive director for Region 17 of the Education Service Center. The teachers will be chosen from across the region.

A large portion of the partnership will involve research, he said. They are going to analyze different teaching methods teachers use to find out what works and what does not.

"(The partnership) is going to be research based," Wargo said. "We are going to be able to look to see what techniques, what models, what teaching techniques are the most effective in middle school."

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## PETA pushes breast milk in ice cream

WATERBURY, Vt. (AP) — Mooove over, Holsteins. PETA wants world-famous Ben & Jerry's Homemade Ice Cream to tap nursing moms, rather than cows, for the milk used in its ice cream.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is asking the ice cream maker to begin using breast milk in its products instead of cow's milk, saying it would reduce the suffering of cows and calves and give ice cream lovers a healthier product.

The idea got a cool reception Thursday from Ben & Jerry's officials, the company's customers and even La Leche League International, the world's oldest breast-feeding support organiza-

tion, which promotes the practice — for babies, anyway.

PETA wrote a letter to company founders Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield on Tuesday, telling them cow's milk is hazardous and that milking them is cruel.

"If Ben and Jerry's replaced the cow's milk in its ice cream with breast milk, your customers — and cows — would reap the benefits," wrote Tracy Reiman, executive vice president of the animal rights advocacy group. She said dairy products have been linked to juvenile diabetes, allergies and obesity.

Ashley Byrne, a campaign coordinator for PETA, acknowledged the implausibility of substituting breast milk for cow's milk, but said it's no

stranger than humans consuming the milk of another species.

"We're aware this idea is somewhat absurd, and that putting it into practice is a stretch. At the time same, it's pretty absurd for us to be drinking the milk of cows," she said.

It takes about 12 pounds — or 1½ gallons of milk — to make a gallon of ice cream. Ben & Jerry's, which gets its milk exclusively from Vermont cows, won't say how much milk it uses or how much ice cream it sells.

As a standardized product under federal regulations, ice cream must be made with milk from healthy cows. Ice cream made from goat's milk, for example, would have to be labeled as such.

## Budget

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We wanted to move on it as fast as possible," he said, "so we posted in hopes that the regents would agree that was a valid posting."

The university already has post-

ings for the provost and vice president for research positions on Academic Search's Web site.

But Pat Campbell, general counsel for Tech, said the university still will be faced with the decision to accept a proposal from the company.

Campbell said the university will enter into a sole-source contract — a contract in which the company was not selected in a bidding process — with Academic Search.

The board does not sole source a contract unless the company has been used before or is widely known to have the best or only services of its kind, Campbell said. Because the university recently used the company in the university's search for a president this summer and Tech administrators found the service to be "excellent" with a low price, he said, they found

sole sourcing the contract the best route to take.

While the university has approval from the board of regents, Tech President Guy Bailey must approve a contract that will be submitted to the university from Academic Search.

Bailey said help from the company would allow the university to have the largest and best-qualified pool to choose from as well as providing the search committee with the best information possible.

"They can find out information we can't find out; they can build pools in places we can't," he said. "What this does is expedite the search, and it's real important that those interim positions be filled."

If the budget was not approved by the regents, Bailey said, the search would have been set back several months progress.

Scott Dueser, chairman of the Board of Regents, said the board is in favor of the steps Bailey is taking to secure a candidate for the two positions. He also said the memo-

randum of understanding between Tech and ASU will benefit the Tech system.

Because the cost of paying another company to manage the funds at ASU is passed on to Tech, he said, the university system would save that money and only pay the .5 percent rate.

The partnership will provide diversity to the system's funds and help the return, Dueser said, as Tech is already in the top-tier of investment returns.

"I do know our investment numbers continue to be good in light of today's economy," he said.

Chancellor Kent Hance said this agreement would combine ASU and Tech funds, which would ultimately help the entire system.

"It will help them earn more money and it will give us more strength," Hance said.

The system will be among the top-100 schools in endowments in the nation with the addition of ASU funds, he said.

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## DESIGN TIME



PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Treador

JOSEPH VELASQUEZ, OF [drivebypress.com](http://drivebypress.com) lifts a design block off a t-shirt he just printed Thursday outside the Student Union Building.

# U.S. attacks upset Pakistan president

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Angered by U.S. raids into Pakistan in search of terrorists, Pakistan's new president warned Thursday that his country cannot allow its territory to "be violated by our friends."

After placing a picture of his assassinated wife, former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, on the podium, President Asif Ali Zardari told world leaders that such attacks strengthen the extremists the U.S. and others are trying to destroy.

His speech at the U.N. General Assembly, which often emotionally described Pakistan's battle against terrorists, comes at a tense moment in U.S.-Pakistan relations.

Pakistani soldiers fired at U.S. reconnaissance helicopters along the Pakistan-Afghan border Thursday, officials said, sparking a ground battle between American and Pakistani soldiers.

"Just as we will not let Pakistan's territory to be used by terrorists for attacks against our people and our neighbors, we cannot allow our territory and our sovereignty to be violated by our friends," Zardari said.

"Unilateral actions of great powers should not inflame the passions of allies," he said.

Nuclear-armed Pakistan is deemed crucial to U.S.-led efforts to battle extremists in South Asia. The United States has pushed Pakistan to crack down on extremists using the border region with Afghanistan as a safe haven, and has stepped up attacks on suspected militants in Pakistan's frontier area, mostly by missiles fired from unmanned drones operating from Afghanistan.

But the unilateral incursions — especially a ground raid into South Waziristan by American commandos Sept. 3 — have infuriated Pakistanis already wary of their country's ties to the U.S. and have strained ties between Washington and Zardari's new government.

Zardari, in his speech, called on the world to "take notice" that Pakistan is not the cause of terrorism.

Referring to last week's deadly hotel bombing in the Pakistani capital, Zardari said that, "once again, Pakistan is the great victim in the war on terror. And once again our people wonder whether we stand alone."

Pakistan's military has won American praise for a recent offensive against militants. Many in Washington, however, say Pakistan has not done enough with the billions in aid the U.S. has provided to fight terrorists.

Thousands of soldiers and civilians, Zardari said, have died fighting terrorists. "We have lost more soldiers than all 37 countries that have forces

in Afghanistan put together," he said. "We have fought this battle largely alone."

He urged world leaders to "stand with us, just as we stand for the entire civilized world on the front lines of this epic struggle."

Zardari is president of a democratic, civilian government that replaced Pervez Musharraf, a strong U.S. ally and former general who took power in a 1999 coup.

The Bush administration once championed Musharraf as "indispensable." But the U.S. began distancing itself from Musharraf after the election of the civilian government in February and has been careful to signal support for Zardari's rise to power.

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## Yearbook Photos



TOP PHOTO, the official photographer for La Ventana, will be taking yearbook photos in the Canyon Room of the Student Union building:

**Monday through Friday  
10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

*There is no sitting fee.*

*Picture packages can be ordered if desired.  
Seniors and Graduates - business casual attire  
is recommended.*

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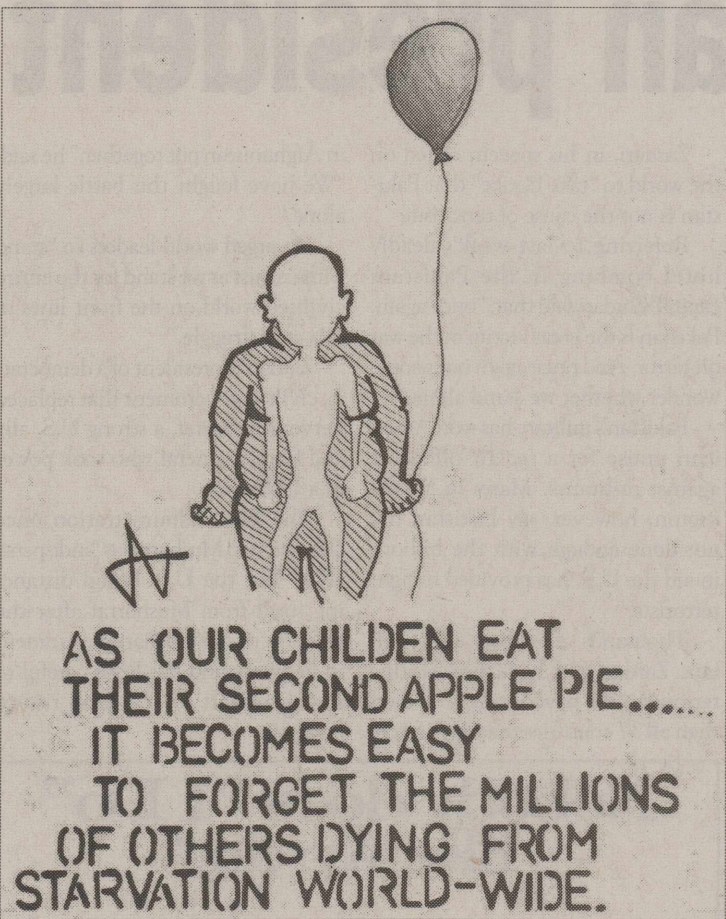
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## Electoral College should be retired

By JUSTIN HUGGINS  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT (U. ARIZONA)

When the masses rush to the polls this November, they won't be voting for president. Thanks to our nation's prehistoric system known as the Electoral College, you and I will be voting for electors, who in turn vote for the president. So after enduring months of endless campaigning, we can't even directly vote for the president. Talk about an anticlimactic ending to months of nonstop campaigning.

The Electoral College was born out of our Founding Fathers' fear of direct elections. They worried that popular regional candidates who lacked broad geographical appeal could divide the nation's vote and thus fracture the newly-formed republic. At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, Delegate Gerry remarked, "The people are uninformed, and would be misled by a few designing men."

Two hundred years ago, in a nation without high-speed Internet and 24-hour news, that was a perfectly valid fear. But today, it is more reasonable and rational to fear the indirect election process we currently have, especially after the 2000 debacle. Shouldn't we trust our citizens to elect the president more than, let's say, a handful of biased Supreme Court justices?

The Electoral College's purpose has waned to nil as American politics and government have evolved over the centuries. It wrestles power from the people and places it in the hands of 538 electors, thereby suppressing the popular vote. In the elections of 1824, 1876, 1888 and 2000, the candidates who won the popular vote failed to win the presidency. Al Gore notably received 543,816 more popular votes than George W. Bush in 2000, but alas, we laypeople do not have the power to control our nation's destiny.

Our current system makes the presidential election not a national event, but one in which only a few states are in play — those "swing states" we watch CNN analyze and re-analyze ad infinitum.

Our current system for electing the president is broken and requires extensive reform in order to meet the current and modern needs of the American people, whose voices this crippled method silences. After all, the presidency should be a national battle in which every vote counts equally, not a contest in a few distant swing states whose citizens are able to outvote those in noncompetitive states. At the end of the day, we should be the electors, not simply voting for them.

McCain will capture all ten of Arizona's electoral votes.

Consequently, the winner-take-all system most states employ is frankly unfair. This strategy discourages voter participation since it is irrelevant whether a candidate loses a state by a million votes or just a handful. As law professors Vikram David Amar, of the University of California, Davis, and Akhil Reed Amar, of Yale, wrote in the Los Angeles Times, "Even today, a state with low voter turnout gets precisely the same number of electoral votes as if it had a high turnout."

One of the goals of the Electoral College is to ensure candidates pay equal attention to each state's needs regardless of population, a reflection of small states' demand for a voice equal to that of the more populous states. But today, candidates must pick and choose in which states they will concentrate their efforts, thereby neglecting many states and issues, a stark contrast to the intent of the Electoral College.

Some states, however, have adopted methods to modernize this archaic system. Maine and Nebraska divvy up their electoral votes proportionally based on the candidates' performances in individual congressional districts. If Obama loses Maine overall, for instance, but still performs well in some areas of the state, he can still claim some electoral votes. If more states adopt this type of proportional allocation, the presidential campaign will become a more national contest and not just a swing state bonanza.

Maryland may be the first state in the union to scrap the College altogether after passing a law that delivers all of its electoral votes to whomever wins the national popular vote. "Actually, Maryland will drop out only if a lot of other states do, too. Maryland's new law will go into effect only if enough states pass similar laws to total 270 electoral votes - the number needed to elect a president," Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley said. Thus the move in Maryland is largely symbolic, but the significance is profound, for it highlights the need for reform.

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## Tweeting our way through life

In these days of financial upheaval and endless election coverage, it's easy to get caught up in and stressed about life.

On the campus-front, many tests are hitting right about now and homework loads are stacking up. To get some of these cares and worries off your mind, I recommend you consider a very simple cure: tweet them away.

No, not like a bird. I'm actually referring to the service Twitter, a Web site where users post morsels of pithy prose about their lives, others' lives, or whatever happens to tickle their fancy — in 140 characters or less. These posts are known as "tweets," which can be seen by anyone "following" the user.

Twitter, which launched around the summer of last year, is part of a growing group of cutting-edge Web 2.0 services that facilitate micro-blogging. Esoteric as this term might sound,

Stephen Torrence



chances are you're doing it already. The Facebook Status Update is a form of micro-blogging, and text messaging (where Twitter originally got its 140 character limit) is closely related as well. Despite many growing pains, Twitter has become the standard-bearer for micro-blogging in the modern digital realm.

Micro-blogging's appeal lies in its short format. Traditional blog posts usually range in length from 50 to 200 words per post, though some get as large as a typical newspaper article or editorial. Thus, blogs are more of a sit-down consumptive experience.

Micro-blogging, on the other hand, caps the typical post length to approximately a sentence or

two, making both consumption and creation a matter of seconds rather than minutes.

The 140 character limit compels users to drop whatever verbosity they might otherwise favor and eliminate unnecessary words. Yet, rather than putting a damper on creativity, this has instead sparked an explosion of micro-masterpieces.

Consider this little gem from Star Trek alumnus Wil Wheaton (aka. Wesley Crusher): "A kid just walked down my street, kicking a can. I looked for other kids rolling a hoop with a stick, but saw none. Timestream: intact."

For some digital mavens, Twitter is just the beginning. Services such as FriendFeed take micro-blogging beyond text and allow you to create a stream of whatever internet activities you wish to share — YouTube videos you favorite, stories you Digg, pictures you upload to Flickr, and of course your tweets as well.

So how is it a stress relief to post and read all this activity?

We're naturally voyeuristic creatures. Living vicariously through others and letting them live vicariously through us via micro-blogging and activity streams is just the latest means the internet has given us to feed that tendency. We might be having a bad day, but it's a sure bet that someone we're following us isn't, and vice versa.

Twitter might not be the next big thing. It isn't really even a big thing right now among more than its relatively small base of dedicated users. Twitter is another cog that many of us have thrown into our digital machines. It's a useful curiosity like Napster or AIM that we flock to because many of our friends have.

So the next time life gets you down or up, tweet it to the world. Chances are you'll get someone tweeting right back.

■ Torrence is a physics and philosophy major from Georgetown. E-mail him at [stephen.torrence@ttu.edu](mailto:stephen.torrence@ttu.edu).

## College students caught in middle of economic storm

By SEAN LUTZMANN  
THE BG NEWS (BOWLING GREEN STATE U.)

Your name doesn't have to be Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac for you to be concerned about the recent economic news.

Although it may seem that the economic collapse that we are hearing about will not have much of a direct impact on college students as much as it is effecting the shareholders of recently bankrupted companies like Lehman Brothers and AIG, there will most definitely be a change in how easily and how cheaply students will be able to apply for loans, especially from private institutions.

We ought to keep this issue in mind as we consider who we vote this November so that the country doesn't see a repeat of what happens when the government allows for unfettered capitalism.

First off, I hope we as young people can now realize what made senior citizens so upset when the Bush administration and Repub-

licans like John McCain proposed privatizing a portion of Social Security Insurance (SSI).

Though it should never be depended on as one's sole source of income once retirement rolls around, this safety net created as a result of the Great Depression (brought about in part because of banks making unwise investments in people and businesses who couldn't pay off their debts) ought not to depend on the whims of the stock market with a potentially unwise and nearsighted mentality spread throughout the country's lending and investing class.

But retirement and SSI checks are a bit further down the road for those of us in college or just starting our careers. A more immediate effect will be our ability to pay for the education that is so crucial to our future careers.

According to The New York Times, most economists are not as worried about access to state or federally-subsidized loans as much as they are concerned with loans from private institutions, which about 10 percent of all students have to

resort to taking if they are not given enough financial aid from government sources.

There is a possibility however, that as the federal government gets deeper and deeper in debt — it has just added over \$400 billion to the trillion dollar bill this year alone, according to the White House (and that's before the extra supplemental funding to the Defense Department as the wars in Afghanistan and especially in Iraq rage on) — financial aid funding may be threatened by the urgent need to restore fiscal sanity to this nation's budget.

Of course, there has been an urgent need to restore fiscal sanity to the budget for a while now, ever since we've been engaged in a war that some economists believe will cost us \$2 trillion. We've had irresponsible tax cuts primarily benefiting the top 5 percent of income earners in this country, which according to the Congressional Budget Office will have cost us \$2.6 trillion by the end of 2010, and with the upcoming mass retirement of the baby-boomers that will drain Social Security, we're only one more big spending splurge away

from being faced with some really serious spending decisions.

That one "splurge," I believe, just happened to come in the form of a \$700 billion bailout our government will so generously provide.

Now for the Ron Paul libertarians out there who think one of the first things to be cut in the federal budget should be the Department of Education (followed closely by a massive cut in defense spending), this won't be a problem. "Let the private sector be in charge of lending money," they might say. But the core reason behind all of this financial chaos is the fact that lenders gave a lot of sub-prime mortgages to people most of them knew darn well would not be able to pay them back. Odds are good that banks in the future are going to learn from this and overcompensate by avoiding risky loans to students.

So what we are seeing here is a potentially perfect storm for financial aid scarcity, with potentially less government funding meeting up with a much more conservative lending environment, which leaves college students caught right in the middle.

## Women's votes should be based on issues in November

By CAITLIN THORNBURGH  
UNIVERSITY DAILY KANSAN (U. KANSAS)

I delete the e-mails I get from the Dole Institute. I volunteered for Rep. Dennis Moore's office as a freshman to register students to vote, and I gave up after about 10 people. I'm sick of watching election coverage because of the numerous comments about lipstick and pit bulls. I know what it's like to be uninterested in politics, but that does not mean I've forgotten the importance of a vote.

In high school, I took a tour of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., and got to see the suffragette sculpture that looks like a miniature Mount Rushmore. It has the faces of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, but it leaves a fourth place empty. Depending on who is giving

the tour, it is supposed to be left for the first female president or to represent the fact that women still have more rights to gain.

In the presidential election, women cannot forget the fight that was won less than 100 years ago. Do not let frustration with the system be the reason you don't vote. Women should vote, but they should vote for the right reasons. Voting for someone just because she is a woman would discredit feminism.

Whenever that fourth space is filled in, the face will be of a woman who fought for the rights of others.

Women have an extremely important role in this election. In order to live up to it, we have to vote, and vote based on the issues.

My Western Civilization teacher brought up vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin saying that "the Republican party assumed the women of America would be voting with their vaginas and not their heads." She's right, and just because Palin is a woman does not mean she gets the votes of everyone with two X chromosomes.

Tina Fey, playing Palin on "Saturday Night Live," said, "No

matter your politics, it's time for a woman in the White House." She outlined the worst problem: Shouldn't it first and foremost be about the politics?

If you're a staunch conservative who believes gays are going straight to hell along with those crazy evolution believers and thinks that we should plow down every foreign nation with the precept of democracy and an extremely realistic machine gun, vote for someone who agrees with you! The constitution says you have the right to express your beliefs through your vote. Whether I agree with you doesn't matter. It doesn't matter who you vote for, as long as you're voting based on the issues.

Believe in it, change it, discuss it, rock it, use it, research it, register it, spread it. In whatever way you choose to say it, vote for the issues you agree with in November.

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## 'Choke' is outrageous, trashy but powerful story

I didn't want to like Clark Gregg's "Choke."

The trailer was incredibly trashy, and all I expected was to see another lousy indie sex comedy that tried too hard to be offensive.

However, my expectations were wrong.

"Choke" is offensive, but it's also laugh-out-loud funny and surprisingly moving. The film opens with a Sex Addicts Anonymous meeting and our protagonist, Victor Mancini (Sam Rockwell), who skips the meeting to have sex with a fellow addict in the hallway.

In fact, it seems the only reason Victor attends meetings is for hook-ups. His opinion on his addiction: "At least this one looks like love, if you squint."

When he's not sleeping with someone, Victor works as a "historical interpreter" for a Colonial Williamsburg-type town. He frequently visits his hospitalized mother (Anjelica Huston) who suffers from dementia because of substance abuse. His best friend and chronic masturbator, Denny (Brad William Henke), is encouraging and lovable, but Victor is incredibly selfish.

He makes himself choke at restaurants so wealthy diners will perform the Heimlich maneuver to save his life, and then he

**Chris Kellerman**



mooches off them for years.

His lifestyle hits a bump when he meets Paige (Kelly Macdonald), his mother's doctor.

Paige is incredibly perceptive of Victor's subconscious attitudes and behaviors, and Victor starts to like her. Paige tells him about a highly experimental and illegal treatment for dementia involving stem cells, but she says the only way to get them is for Victor to have sex with her. For days they attempt to have sex in the hospital's chapel, but Victor is unable to have a "no strings attached" experience with her.

The rest of the film explores Victor's addiction, his childhood and his blossoming relationship with Paige. There is a weird story involving the foreskin of Jesus, and then the film has one of the most shocking twist endings I've seen in a long time.

One of my goals as a film critic is to make sure people don't waste their money,

and sometimes that means telling certain people to see — or to stay away — from a film.

So know this: This is not a date movie. It is also not a screwball, college-guy comedy. This movie is very funny, but it's also very serious.

This is a film for anyone who has dealt with their own or a family member's addiction, who is not easily offended by constant sex scenes and humor and who understands that laughter is essential in times of misery.

And that's the greatest thing about "Choke." The sex scenes and Victor's general situation are funny, but at the same time incredibly sad.

Rockwell does an amazing job blending his devil-may-care attitude with moments of true recognition of his condition. We can't stand Victor's behavior and his attitude toward it at the beginning, but at the same time, we can't help but want to give him a hug.

Rockwell sells it. It's always nice to see a comedy where the lead actor knows how to cry well.

The supporting performances are just as good. Huston is excellent in dramatic or comedic roles, and she is able to show off both in this film.

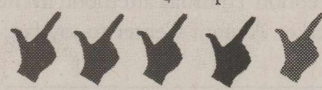
Macdonald, fresh off her excellent

performance in "No Country for Old Men," explodes with brilliance after a stunning revelation at the end. Henke does a good job staying away from the usual movie sidekick clichés and comes off as stronger and more rational than Rockwell's character.

Their interaction during a visit to a

strip club is one of the highlights of the film — even at our dark sides.

Four out of five guns up.



■ **Chris Kellerman is The DT's movie critic. E-mail him at [chris.kellerman@ttu.edu](mailto:chris.kellerman@ttu.edu).**

## U. Iowa students protest 'Don't ask, don't tell' policy

By **MARY HARRINGTON**  
THE DAILY IOWAN (U. IOWA)

Seven protesters, armed with rainbow-colored signs and just one chant, battled current military policy on Wednesday.

"Don't ask, don't tell, that policy don't work so well" was the slogan heard outside Boyd Law Building Wednesday morning as a few University of Iowa students voiced their dissatisfaction with the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy while a military recruiter interviewed students.

"It's discrimination to say people

cannot be who they are," said Daniel Zeno, a third-year law student and coordinator of the event. "Although we have had a history of discrimination in this country, we also have a strong history of saying, 'It's not OK.'"

Calls made to the Judge Advocate General's Corps, which sponsored the interviewers, weren't returned Wednesday.

While Zeno sat at a booth inside the law building collecting signatures for a petition to be sent to the Iowa Legislature, the 28-year-old said he's not protesting the recruiters, or those

being interviewed.

Other students expressed similar sentiments.

"While I don't agree with the war, what [the troops] are doing is truly amazing, and they deserve respect," said law student Melinda Eshbaugh, who made protest signs emblazoned with rainbows, "support the troops - all of them," "stop the double standard."

Instead, the small protest was directed at the military's silencing policy, along with the Solomon Amendment, which denies significant funding to schools that prohibit on-campus military recruiting.

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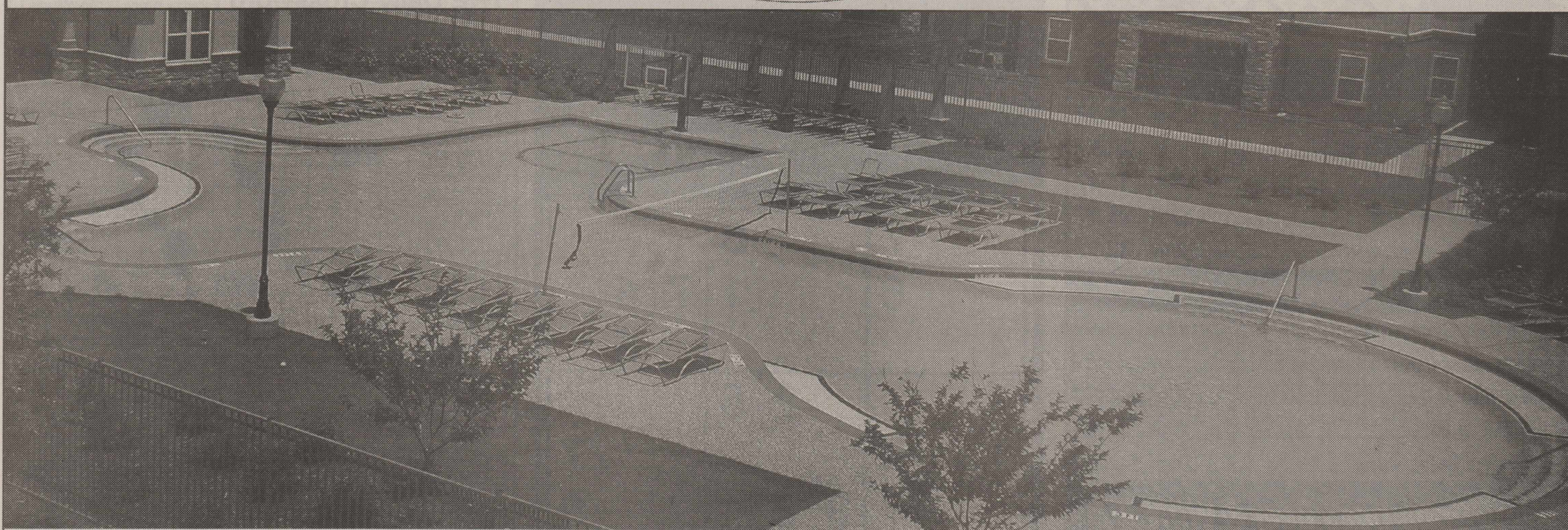
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## Gamers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

specific genres of games, Lenhart said, and found that racing and puzzle games are among the most popular.

Much like movies and television, video games have ratings based on the appropriate audience. Categories are divided into games suitable for everyone, for early-aged children, for elementary-aged children, for teenagers or for adults.

However, Lenhart said, one out of three teenagers admitted to playing games with ratings that were suitable for children and teenagers younger than they are.

The remaining question is whether or not violent video games create negative influences on children and teenagers.

"Video games, on their own, may or may not have negative consequences," said Jeff Larsen, an associate professor of psychology and social psychology specialist, "but violent video games can influence aggressive behavior."

Children learn how to be violent and think it is OK, he said, because players are being rewarded for their violent behavior.

Javier Vasquez, a manager at a local Gamestop, a video game retail store, said a video game's impact depends on the maturity and mindset of the individual playing.

Child or teenage gamers understand that games are not reality, he said. Many parents know what their child is exposed to because of the more defined and "stricter" ratings of video games.

"It's all just a fantasy world,"

Vasquez said. "It's just another form of entertainment."

From a political standpoint, Lenhart said, Pew is trying to see if video games cause teenagers to withdraw from their community or to interact with it more.

The results show that many adolescents are playing games with certain "civic gaming experiences," she said, such as moral or ethical issues, leadership situations and games that organize people into groups and categories.

"We found that those kids who play those games, at least some of the time, are more likely to be involved in their community," Lenhart said. "By that, we meant they are more likely to help raise money for a charity, more likely to volunteer and talk to somebody about how they might vote in an election."

It is plausible that playing video games with friends may lead teenagers to become more socially and politically involved, Larsen said, but teenagers who are already social may be the ones who play video games with their friends.

The time in which a person becomes socially active, he said, is not clear in this study.

There are more ways to enhance civic engagement and socialization, Larsen said, other than playing certain "mindless games."

"My guess is that if we wanted to encourage teenagers' social and political involvement," Larsen said, "it would be better to encourage them to watch the upcoming debates with their friends rather than spending that time playing video games with their friends."

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## Cookoff

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

they have not competed in a cook-off before. The meat science graduate students felt accomplished, attributing their win to the practice they accumulated during tailgates.

Brett Gaylord from Jayton said the win took a lot of experimenting and trial and error, which they worked on while cooking for tailgates.

Greg Clark from Blum said their technique is based on the perfect time, temperature and their Red Raider Rub, which Clark called a "perfect mixture of everyday spices."

The rub was developed by meat science professors and is for sale at Cowamongus, an on-campus meat shop.

Jesse Collins of Oakley, Calif., said he and his team are proud of their win and feel that Tech students should not be afraid to participate in the cook-off.

*Other Tech students should get involved. It doesn't take a professional to cook some damn good meat.*

**JESSE COLLINS**  
COOKOFF  
WINNER

"Other Tech students should get involved," he said. "It doesn't take a professional to cook some damn good meat."

The Chamber hosts the event with help from sponsors, community members and volunteers. Mary Jane Buerkle, vice president of business development for the chamber who helped organize the cook-off, said the only thing that has changed in the past seven years is the increase in the number of cooking teams.

Buerkle said last year's event included 60 competitors.

Each team that competes must cook enough food to feed 50 people, and the purchase of a ticket includes endless barbecue from any of the event's booths.

Rick Boyd, a member of the chamber's board of directors, said the event sprawled down a block and a half on Broadway Avenue to accommodate the event's large attendance.

Boyd, president of the First United Bank who has been involved in the cook-off since 2001, said the 2001 cook-

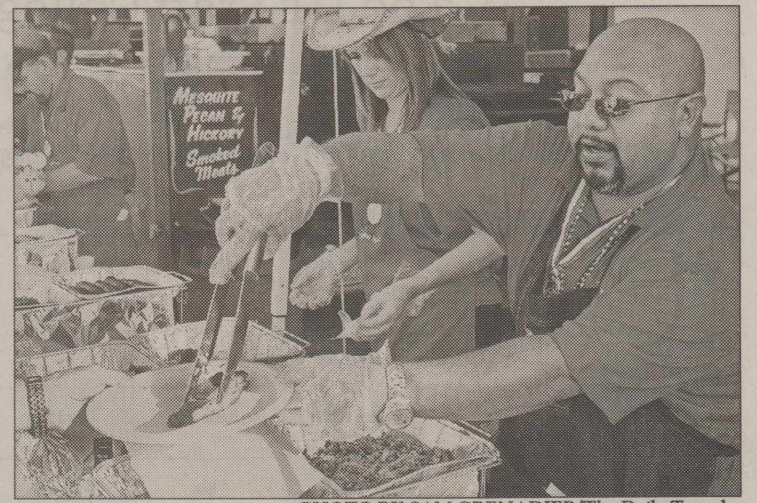


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

**RICK VARGAS** won first place for brisket and second place for ribs. He also served his prize-winning ribs Thursday evening at the 7th annual Chamber Hub City Barbecue Cook-off.

off only included about 15 teams and he believes the event has grown because of its free music and the barbecue.

"Every business in the chamber has at least one employee who thinks they can cook good barbecue," said Boyd.

As the event grows, Boyd said, the chamber plans to provide more space.

The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce is funded by membership dues and non-dues revenue, such as the cook-off.

The chamber's communications director, Shelby Shaw, said the cook-off is one of the top events for non-dues revenue.

Lubbock residents who purchased a ticket for the event enjoyed music by Hogg Maulis, a local band that provided the entertainment for this year's event.

Shaw said the band opened for last year's event, and their popularity brought them back this year.

Boyd said his favorite thing about the event is the fellowship and camaraderie. He and Shaw both said they look forward to seeing the event grow.

"It's a great time," Shaw said, "and it gets bigger and better every year."

hannah.boen@ttu.edu

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# DUE TODAY AT 4 P.M.

The DT Staff College Football Pick 'Em

Table with 10 columns representing staff members and 10 rows of college football matchups. Staff members include Michelle Casady, Ben Maki, Adam Coleman, Jan-Tosh Gerling, Britton Peele, Kristan Lackey, Adam Young, Matt McGowan, and Tye Lewis.

★ indicates "Game to Watch"

Judge tries to keep Simpson's past out of Las Vegas trial

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The judge in the O.J. Simpson kidnapping and robbery trial struggled Thursday to keep jurors from being reminded of his infamous Los Angeles murder case...

ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. Prosecutors David Roger and Chris Owens argued that Gilbert could establish Simpson's "motive" and "mental state" when he went to a Las Vegas casino hotel room...

Simpson's lawyer said the only reason Gilbert was being called was to prejudice the jury by reminding them of the "Trial of the Century" in Los Angeles in the 1990s.

Prosecutors wanted to show that Simpson gave the items to Gilbert to hide after a \$33.5 million wrongful death civil judgment was entered against him.

Clark County District Judge Jackie Glass ruled after impassioned arguments from both sides that Gilbert could talk about his past relationship with Simpson and that

Simpson gave him some property.

"We're not talking about the California case," she said.

She said that if the prosecution wanted to show motive, "The only thing that matters here is Mr. Simpson gave it to Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Gilbert didn't give it back. The California lawsuit, the judgment, the hiding it, we're not going into it."

She told prosecutors: "I'm trying to keep this focused on the issues. I am not trying to hamper your case."

Hockey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

location. "It's embarrassing," Fioroni said, "and the city council should be embarrassed for doing this. I just hope the city of Lubbock rallies behind us. I hope Texas Tech University rallies behind us."

This would not be the first time Lubbock has lost a hockey team.

The Lubbock Cotton Kings, formerly of the Central Hockey League, shut down operations shortly before the 2007-08 season.

"We came here because of the Cotton Kings," Goicoechea said, "and we're here because of Lubbock now."

Goicoechea said the players worked for four nights preparing the rink for Friday's game against the Sooners before the decision was made.

"If we don't get to stay here, at least

our kids have learned a valuable lesson about meaning," Goicoechea said, "about doing what you believe in."

The Red Raiders, who won last year's Big 12 Championship, plan to challenge the decision with every legal option available, Fioroni said.

"One thing I was known for in hockey is fighting," he said, "and by God I'm still gonna fight for this damn thing too."

>>> kevin.m.cullen@ttu.edu

Thomas getting first taste of 'Boys'-Skins

IRVING (AP) — Texas native Zach Thomas has a family divided by the Cowboys-Redskins rivalry before even playing in it.

Still, Thomas' first taste of the matchup won't be quite as bitter as it could have been for Dallas' leading tackler.

Sunday's game was supposed to be the first Thomas played against Jason Taylor, his teammate with the Miami Dolphins the past 11 seasons and his brother-in-law. But Taylor is out after a rare injury sustained after the Washington defensive end was kicked in the lower left leg.

"I hate to see that Jason is not playing, he's been healthy his whole career," Thomas said Thursday. "But if he has to take a week off, I'm cool with him taking this week off, let him get healthy."

Taylor's consecutive games streak will end at 133, seventh longest among active players. Taylor was hurt in Sunday's victory over Arizona and went to the hospital early Monday because of a mass of blood near his ankle. He needed surgery to alleviate the problem.

He hasn't missed a game since 1999.

Thomas said he hasn't spoken this week with Taylor or his sister,

Katina, and wasn't sure if they were even making the trip.

"I'm sure he probably doesn't want to talk to me," Thomas said. "I don't know if I'll get to see him or not. But it will be awkward when I do see him and he's dressed with another team. After playing with him for 11 years, it will be different."

Taylor was sporting crutches and an Ace bandage this week, and could miss more than the Dallas game. Taylor and Thomas get another chance to play against each other Nov. 16 when the Cowboys go to Washington.

Thomas grew up in Pampa, about 340 miles from Texas Stadium, and watched Cowboys games with his father and grandfather. He was a standout at Texas Tech and then a seven-time Pro Bowl linebacker during his 12 seasons in Miami.

As part of Bill Parcells' massive overhaul of the Dolphins in the spring, Taylor, a six-time Pro Bowler, was traded to Washington at the start of training camp.

Thomas has had an immediate impact for the Cowboys (3-0), with game-high totals in tackles the first two games, and a team-leading 30 stops so far.

Rockets match offer, keep Landry

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The Rockets matched the Bobcats' three-year, \$9 million offer sheet for restricted free-agent Carl Landry on Thursday, keeping the forward in Houston.

The Rockets took less than 24 hours to make the move, leaving Charlotte still searching for front-court depth before the start of training camp next week.

"We obviously thought it was a good opportunity to get the guy," Bobcats general manager Rod Hig-

gins said. "But it's part of the business."

The 6-foot-9 Landry had been unable to reach terms with Houston since free agency began this summer. His agent threatened that Landry could sign with an overseas team as the two sides haggled over money.

The Bobcats stepped in with an offer Wednesday. But even with decent depth up front, Houston decided to keep Landry, who can play power forward and center.

Houston acquired the second-round pick in a draft-night trade with Seattle last year. Landry averaged 8.1 points and 4.9 rebounds in 42 games.

"We're really excited to have him back," Rockets general manager Daryl Morey said. "We're going to have a great set of players in for training camp."

His playing time increased late in his rookie season after Rockets center Yao Ming was lost to injury. He scored 22 points in a game at Indiana and was voted to the all-rookie second team.

Landry missed time late last season because of a bruised right knee, and Morey said the former Purdue star will undergo a physical. Morey said the Rockets are willing to take a chance with Landry's health.

"We've got a good sense of the state of the knee," Morey said. "We feel like we're in a season where we've got to take risks and we've got to bring in all the best players possible. We feel like this has a chance to be a special season and we're excited Carl will be a part of it."

DOUBLE DISCOUNT BEER • WINE • LIQUOR Sep 26 - 27, 2008. List of drinks and prices including Jack Daniels, Crown Royal, Captain Morgan, Cuervo, Krol, Woodbridge, Yellowtail, Kendall Jackson, Keystone, Tecate, Budweiser, Coors, Miller, Newcastle, Master Mix.

TV schedule grid for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 26-28, 2008. Columns list stations (KTXT, KCBF, KLBK, KMYL, KLCW, KAMC, KJTV) and programs (Curious Sid, Super Why, Sesame Street, etc.).



Presidential Debate 8:00 PM



## Missouri, Ohio are 0-for-12 in NFL

CINCINNATI (AP) — Three weeks into the season, folks in the Show-Me State can't bear to watch anymore. Pro football fans in Ohio feel like they're living in the Black-eye State.

Why all the angst? Look at the numbers.

Missouri and Ohio have two NFL teams apiece. They've played a combined 12 games. Total number of wins so far: Zero. All four teams — the Chiefs, the Rams, the Browns and the Bengals — are 0-for-'08 in these truly blue states.

"I cannot believe it," Browns coach Romeo Crennel said, referring to what's going on in Ohio. "I can't."

Seeing is disbelieving.

These four teams have gotten off to the worst possible start, and they've done it with aplomb. The quarterbacks change, but not the outcomes. One receiver — Cincinnati's Chad Ocho Cinco — has more surnames than touchdowns. The four teams have scored a combined 12 touchdowns, the same number as Dallas, one less than San Diego, two behind Denver.

All four teams from middle America have gone south, but no 0-3 is more surprising than the one in Cleveland.

The Browns were a trendy pre-season pick for the playoffs. One national football writer gave a commencement address in the state last June 14 and got a cheer from the graduates when he said he thought the Browns would make the playoffs this season.

Time to rethink that. Those hangdog looks are back

in the Dawg Pound. Crennel is getting blamed for an offense that has scored only two touchdowns. He might replace Derek Anderson with Brady Quinn if the Browns struggle again this weekend in Cincinnati, where the only question about the quarterback is whether he'll make it through the next game intact.

"Something's got to turn around soon, you know," Anderson said. No, it doesn't.

Notable moment of the Browns' season so far: Basketball star LeBron James shows up for the opener in Cleveland, heads to the other sideline wearing Cowboys colors and a Yankees cap, and makes merry with the opposition. So much for warm-and-fuzzy civic pride.

Down south, warm-and-fuzzy has given way to hot-and-bothered. It's feeling like old times.

The Bengals are off to their first 0-3 start since 2003, when coach Marvin Lewis arrived and brought hope to one of the NFL's worst franchises. Fans were giddy when the Bengals went to the playoffs in 2005, but slid back into cynical mode as the team slid to 8-8, 7-9 and now nothing but defeats.

"You know, after a while, you've got to assume it's going to be corrected," offensive guard Bobbie Williams said. "But here we are, 0-3."

Quarterback Carson Palmer broke his nose during the preseason and got it bloodied again during an overtime loss to the Giants on Sunday that turned the "Battle of Ohio" into a Weekend of the Winless.

"I wouldn't believe it, definitely wouldn't believe it," Palmer said.

## Tech men's tennis heads to Baylor Intercollegiate

By KEVIN CULLEN  
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech men's tennis team starts play in the HEB Baylor Intercollegiate Invitational today in Waco.

The tournament, which is the Red Raiders' first official fall season tournament, will span two days.

Tech coach Tim Siegel said the competition in Waco is one of the toughest fields the team will see in the fall.

"This is probably the second toughest tournament of the fall," he said. "It's a great opportunity for our new players and our seniors to see how they stand right now. A week from this is the All-American (tournament) so this is gonna be great practice, but it's also gonna be very strong."

Several Red Raiders participated in the Lubbock Challenger this week, including No. 1 singles players Sinisa Markovic, who will not compete in Waco.

The Challenger was a chance for three of Tech's doubles teams to get experience playing with each other against some of the top players in the world.

Because of Markovic's absence in Waco, the doubles teams will feature different tandems, with the exception of Christian Rojmar and Raony Carvalho.

Michael Breler and Joe Hatrup will pair up as will James Wilson and Milos Kustudija.



PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH'S MICHAEL Breler and the Red Raiders will head to the HEB Baylor Intercollegiate Invitational in Waco. This is the first official tournament in the fall season for the Red Raiders.

The Ecuadorian duo of David Gonzalez and Gonzalo Escobar make up the other team.

Rojmar and Carvalho will team up again this weekend with a chance to improve their team chemistry, Siegel said.

"I'm looking forward to seeing them play very strong competition," he said. "They are gonna be in the main draw of the All-American in a week. These are two good events for them. They're still getting to know each other,

but obviously so far I'm pleased. Now it's a question of going out and playing top-level competition."

Siegel said while this tournament is good preparation for the players taking part in the All-American event next week, every tournament counts and gives each player the opportunity to show him what he can do on the court before the spring.

Siegel said he also will pay close attention to how well the players

use what they have learned in preparation for the tournament.

"I expect them to go out and No. 1: play hard," he said. "No. 2: to work on the things that we have been working on in practice. Execute where they've been weak. So this is a great opportunity for me to see what we need to do to get better next week in practice."

Tech players were unavailable to comment for this story.

» kevin.m.cullen@ttu.edu

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LAMBERTS PROPERTIES LLC is looking for part time maintenance personnel. Starting pay is \$10.00 per hour. Flexible hours. Email resume to [lambertsproperties@yahoo.com](mailto:lambertsproperties@yahoo.com) or fax to 687-7230.

LIMO CHAUFFEUR position. PT/FT positions. Must have clean driving record, 21 or older. Professionally trained. Apply at 1413 Texas Avenue between 10-6 PM.

LIFE DRAWING models needed for professional artist group. Tuesdays 7:30 to 9:30pm. \$30 per session. Call 797-2498 after 5pm.

### LOOKING FOR A FUN JOB

working with kids? YWCA now hiring for after school positions. M-F. PT/FT. Apply now at 35th & Flint, or call Carolyn at 806-792-2723.

MAKE UP TO \$75 each taking Online Surveys. [www.CashToSpend.com](http://www.CashToSpend.com)

MAMARITAS HIRING counter staff, bartenders, & cooks. Apply at 6602 Slide Rd.

NOW HIRING wait staff. Apply in person Cujos 4th & Frankford.

NOW HIRING wait staff and delivery drivers. Lunch and dinner shifts available. Apply in person 2402 Ave.Q.

OHANA'S RESTAURANT is seeking experienced waitress, bartenders, manager, and assistant manager. Call Annie at 806-544-2316.

### OTTO'S GRANARY

Specialty store. Coffee, gifts, Godiva. Open 9am - 9pm daily, 12 - 6 Sunday. Flexible shifts. Apply in person only @ Otto's Granary, 4119 Marsha Sharp Freeway (between El Chico restaurant and La Quinta Hotel).

PACKAGE PLUS is hiring for part time help. We are looking for someone that is outgoing, dependable and smart. Please apply in person at 3411 82nd Street.

PAID SECRET shopping opportunity! Get paid to secretly shop local apartment communities. Please call Jessica at (806) 797-3162 or e-mail at [jessica.williams@mcdougal.com](mailto:jessica.williams@mcdougal.com) for more details.

PRESCHOOL INSTRUCTOR. Mondays & Wednesdays. Must be dependable and fun with kids. Call TEGA 866-9765.

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THE LUBBOCK Chapter of the Texas Association of Sports Officials is starting basketball training for new officials. The first of four sessions starts at Evans Junior High School, 4211 58th Street, on Saturday morning at 9 a.m. Individuals interested in officiating basketball can call e-mail Gary at 7896491@att.net or call (806) 789-6491.

### WORK AROUND YOUR SCHEDULE

Caterers needed for events on Oct. 2, Oct. 10, & Oct. 17. Day and evening hours available. Black slacks, black shoes required. Tuxedo shirts will be supplied. Pay is between \$8-\$10 an hour. Candidates must have favorable drug and background screen. Refer your friends & earn additional \$\$\$! Apply in person today. Kelly Services 4601 50th St. Suite 100. Or call 794-2757.

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**BETENBOUGH HOMES**  
Bettenbough Homes is seeking a part-time Communications Intern to assist with marketing communications efforts.  
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1 PERSON. All bills paid. Nice spotless efficiency. Polished oak floors. Lawn kept. No pets. \$465. 2301 18th. 765-7182.

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### UNFURNISHED

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3/2/1 AVAILABLE October 1, 2008. New AC/heating. Close to Tech and a huge backyard. \$800/month. Please call 806-441-0884 for more information.

3416 27TH; 4/2. \$855/mo., \$300 deposit. Central H/A, W/D connections, spacious backyard; Contact 806-778-1847.

3805 TOLEDO. 3/1/1. CH/A. W/D connection. \$795/mo., \$300 deposit. 778-1847.

CLOSE TO Tech. 2/1. Remodeled. \$650/mo, \$500 deposit. Or 1/1 \$300/mo, \$300 deposit. 2319 15th St. Call 806-786-4849.

DOWNTOWN LOFT Apartment. 1600 sq. ft. Two bedroom, one bath. \$850/month. 512-757-7577.

FIRSTMARK REALTORS 793-8759. 1 to 4 bedrooms for lease starting at \$375. All Locations.

FOR LEASE: 3/2 2218 20th Street \$1050; 2/1 2014 Ave W \$750; Rear efficiency 1913 23rd \$450 all bills paid. Call Bill 470-7037.

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\$550. 5 piece microfiber living room set. New in crates. Lifetime warranty. Can deliver. 806-549-3110.

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### 2003 KAWASAKI Z1000

Only 7500 miles and like-new condition. Very fast and gets 45mpg. Must see. \$4900. 325-340-0110.

ADJUSTABLE BED wall-hugger base & mattress, queen size, \$1075, brand new 806-438-0081.

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CALIFORNIA KING orthopedic mattress set. Brand new, \$275. Flame resistant. 806-549-3110.

CLOSE TO Tech. 2/1 Completely remodeled. CH/A. Owner financing available. Call for details. 2118 15th St. 806-786-4849.

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CONSIGNMENT FURNITURE & HOME DECOR Decor And More has it all. Bedroom, living room, and dining room furniture, pictures, accessories, and much more. 7201 Marsha Sharp Fry (Left side of fry in between Milwaukee and Upland. Look for the painted Leopard awning), Tues - Sat.

### DECOR AND MORE

Consignment Furniture and Home Accessories Store (806)771-0636. Pool table, bar stools, and more!

DOUBLE/FULL ORTHOPEDIC mattress set. Flame resistant. Warranty. Can deliver. \$130. 806-549-3110.

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### FINAL WEEKEND

Hawaiian shirts and dresses closing booth number 68 at traders market. Art, Christmas critters, air filters, water filters, and holsters. 84th and Ave. L. Saturday 9-5, Sunday 10-5.

### HOUSE FOR SALE

By Owner. 4319-47th. 1800 sq. ft. 3/2. Walk-in closets. Sunroom. 806-786-1363. See info at MarketTex.com.

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Just For You Resale Confinement Store. Furniture and decor you can afford. Come check us out 5613 Villa Dr. (5 doors South of Copper Cascoose on Ave. Q). Open Wed-Sat. Donna at 928-1690.

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### ROOMMATES

FEMALE ROOMMATE needed ASAP for one bedroom apartment attached to the house. \$465/month. Good home for good student. 806-791-4494.

FEMALE ROOMMATE needed ASAP. 3/2/2. \$600/mo. Dogs ok. Call Chris @ 806-831-8527 for more info.

FEMALE ROOMMATE wanted for 3/1. \$500/mo. All bills paid. No pets.

# SPORTS

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FRIDAY SEPT. 26, 2008

## Tech resumes parity-filled Big 12 play

By STEVEN RYAN  
STAFF WRITER

If parity is good for women's soccer, then last season was great for the Big 12 Conference.

For some teams, 2007 was a ground-breaking season, while for others it was a fall from glory in a year where the landscape of the Big 12 had some major changes.

"Last year was an interesting year for the whole conference," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "Some of the better teams were down and there were some surprises. This year we will see if that trend continues or if it goes back to business as usual."

All three teams who missed the Big 12 Conference tournament in 2006 — Iowa State, Texas Tech and Missouri — came back to qualify for it in 2007. Tech's five conference wins were more than it had in its previous five seasons combined.

Meanwhile, the team with the most league championships, Nebraska, tied for last with a 1-8-1 record and missed out on the conference tournament for the first time in school history.

Last year, the Big 12 was so competitive that the seedings for the conference championship were not decided until the last day of the season. The difference between the third and eighth best team in the conference turned out to be just four points — equivalent to a win and a tie.

"People can win on any given night and home field advantage means so much," said Texas A&M coach G. Guerrieri. "You've got teams like Tech that can beat any team in this conference on their night, so it will be interesting."

Nebraska coach John Walker said the fact that there are so many experienced coaches in this league is what makes the conference so competitive.

Of the 11 coaches in the Big 12 — Kansas State does not have a women's soccer team — six have been collegiate women's soccer head coaches for at least 10 seasons. Of the five other coaches, Stone might be considered the least experienced. He has one full year of being a college head coach under his belt but spent three seasons coaching the Atlanta Beat of the Women's United Soccer Association and has been involved with soccer ever since he quit playing in 1994.

*"People can win on any given night and home field advantage means so much."*

**G. GUERRIERI**  
TEXAS A&M SOCCER  
COACH

Walker and Guerrieri are the most experienced coaches in the Big 12 with 15 seasons each at their respective schools. They are the only two coaches who were in charge of their programs before the Big 12 was started, consistently pushing the two programs to the top of the heap.

The schools claimed a combined nine of the first 10 Big 12 titles. Guerrieri said the entire 1996 All-Big 12 First Team was split between players from those two schools.

Over time, everyone else in the



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH'S BRITTNEY Harrison and the Red Raiders head to Oklahoma State to resume Big 12 play 7 p.m. Friday in Stillwater, Okla.

conference has caught up.

"I think the first couple of years, us and Texas A&M had the strongest programs," Walker said. "There is much more parity now. It was just a matter of time before (the other teams) developed."

Arguably one of those emerging teams is Tech's next opponent: No. 13 Oklahoma State (8-0).

The Cowgirls are led by attacking midfielder Yolanda Odenyo. She was named to the All-Big 12 First Team each of the last two seasons and was on the Soccerbuzz All-American Second Team last year. Odenyo leads the team with eight goals this season.

OSU also sports the No. 1 scoring

offense in the nation, averaging 4.4 goals per game.

"We can't have any mental lapses," Stone said. "We got to pay attention to details because they have enough talented players that if they get the ball in the wrong part of the field and we are not in good shape to defend, then they can hurt you."

The Red Raiders (5-2-1, 0-1 in Big 12 play) take on Oklahoma State 7 p.m., Friday at the Cowgirl Soccer Complex in Stillwater, Okla., before coming back to Lubbock for a match up with the Oklahoma Sooners (1-7) at 1 p.m. Sunday at the John Walker Soccer Complex.

» steven.ryan@ttu.edu

## Tech volleyball prepares for rematch against Oklahoma

By KEVIN CULLEN  
STAFF WRITER

Second chances don't always come so soon.

The Texas Tech volleyball team (5-9, 0-3 in Big 12 Conference play) takes on Oklahoma 2 p.m. Saturday in Norman, Okla.

The match will be the second meeting of the two teams this season as the Sooners (6-6, 2-2 in Big 12) took the last match in five sets (12-25, 25-20, 27-25, 17-25, 15-10) after replacing McNeese State on the schedule for the Red Raider Round-up because of Hurricane Ike earlier this month.

"Going back and playing OU so early (is) a little bit of an advantage, I guess," said Tech middle blocker Brandi Hood, "because they don't really have too much time to change. Neither do we, but ... (it) should be one of those things where we get out there. If everyone does what they're supposed to do, then we are gonna have the win."

The Red Raiders are coming off a loss in straight sets to a Missouri team in which they gave up a 17-10 lead in the second set, leading to the fourth time Tech has been swept this season.

Finishing sets has been a problem for Tech this season as it has been unable to put away opponents on numerous occasions.

Hood said in order to avoid similar situations in the future, the team cannot make mistakes in succession.

"We had a lot of mistakes at the end — communication mistakes," Hood said. "After

you make one mistake the next one has to be better. It can't be another mistake. I believe at the end of that second one we have five mistakes in a row."

After a loss like the one to Missouri, libero Jenn Harrell said Tech should be especially ready to play OU.

"After (Wednesday) night we should be ready and on fire to play them," she said. "It's a great opportunity to get our first conference win. They're definitely beatable; they're a good team, but they're for sure beatable. I feel like we match up very well against Oklahoma, and I think that the last match against Oklahoma when we played them shows that."

Leadership is a key component in determining the Red Raiders' future success, Hood said, and as a senior, that job falls upon her shoulders.

"Just be that strong player," she said, "and if the team — if we're doing bad — then I feel as the senior I have the responsibility to step up. Just talk to the team and get everyone involved or else there's not gonna be a win."

In the first match against OU, the Sooners had two players with double-digit kills and two others with nine. In Wednesday's match, Tech allowed Missouri to put up a .337 team attack percentage.

Team defense had been a strength for the Red Raiders earlier in the season, but Harrell said the team will have to adjust in Big 12 play.

"I have to make sure that me and my fellow passers are on their game," she said, "because if we're not, then we don't stand a chance."

» kevin.m.cullen@ttu.edu

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