Role-playing can be good for you

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MONDAY, NOV. 25, 2008

VOLUME 83 ■ ISSUE 64 OREAD OR

Serving the Texas Tech University community since 1925 (INSIDE)

TEXAS TECH

(INBRIEF)

STATE

Ghost voting might stick around in House

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas House of Representatives is spending more than \$100,000 on a new fingerprint-based voting system, but it won't necessarily stop lawmakers from routinely breaking their own rules by casting votes for each

House members now vote electronically from machines installed on top of their desks. While House rules say it's a violation to reach over and cast a yea or nay for absent

colleagues, the controversial practice of "ghost voting" is widespread.

NATION

Rhodes Scholars named for 2009

WASHINGTON (AP) -Thirty-two men and women from across the United States have been selected as Rhodes Scholars for 2009, the scholarship trust announced Sunday.

The scholars were selected from 769 applicants endorsed by 207 colleges and universities.

The scholars include first-time winners from Augsburg College in Minneapolis and Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, Calif.

The scholarships, the oldest of the international study awards available to American students, provide two or three years of study. The students will enter Oxford University in England next October.

WORLD

US military: 17 insurgents killed in Afghan raid

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The U.S. military says its troops killed 17 insurgents during a raid in southern Afghanistan.

A U.S. statement on Sunday says helicopters carried the troops into the Shah Wali Kot district of Kandahar province, where they clashed with the militants.

It says the clash Saturday killed 17 insurgents, while no U.S. or Afghan troops died.

Southern Afghanistan is the center of the Taliban-led insurgency. More than 5,200 people — mostly militants - have died in insurgency-related violence this year, according to an AP count.

DEATH TOLL

INSIDE Classifieds.....7 Crossword.....2 La Vida.....3 Opinions.....4 Sports.....8

Lubbock unemployment decreases

SBy JON VANDERLAAN STAFF WRITER

Bucking the national and state the area. trend, the unemployment rate for to 3.9 percent between September is growing. and October.

rate increased four-tenths to recession-proof." 6.5 percent in October and also in Texas.

Lubbock Economic Development businesses. Alliance, said the local unemploy-

Local companies also are expand- effects of national trends. Lubbock decreased from 4 percent ing, she said, and the private sector "Knock on wood for Lubbock,"

The national unemployment Patterson said. "We seem to be

workforce development at the good place to expand and start new commission.

local businesses still are hiring and ment rate in Texas is nearly one rate in Texas for October," said Texas catering not just to Lubbock resimass layoffs are not occurring in percent lower than the national rate,

> unemployment in Texas was caused by Hurricane Ike.

The increases in unemployment in the Houston and Beaumont Because the city has a stable Metropolitan Statistical Areas

"The combination of Hurricane unlikely occurrences. Ann Hatchitt, a spokeswoman Ike and adverse national economic ment rate continues to be lower for the Texas Workforce Commistered in a one-half peras as a hub for a larger area than just >>jon.vanderlaan@ttu.edu

Workforce Commission Chairman dents, but to those 100 miles outside the state is beginning to see some Tom Pauken in the release. "While Texas still has nearly a one percent However, some of the increase in lower unemployment rate than the rate of the nation, I would expect continue to track the national trend jobs. upward in the months ahead."

rose four-tenths to 5.6 percent economy and "a lot to offer" in terms represent nearly half the increase the medical, agricultural and educaof building a successful business, she in unemployment statewide, action industries would be some of the into the Texas statistics. Terri Patterson, director of said, companies think Lubbock is a cording to a news release from the few events that would greatly affect

However, the city also serves 9.3 percent in October 1986.

than the national average because sion, said although the unemploy- cent increase in the unemployment Lubbock County, Patterson said, of Lubbock.

> The nation lost about 1 million jobs in the last year, according to a news release from the commission, unemployment rates in Texas to but Texas added about 230,000

Hatchitt said Texas still is resil-Patterson said a steep decline in ient to national trends, but more of those trends are beginning to creep

The lowest recorded unemploythe area's economy, but those are ment rate in Texas was 4.1 percent in April 2008, and the highest was



PHOTOS BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreado TEXAS TECH WIDE receiver Lyle Leong is brought down by Sooner defensive back Lendy Holmes during Oklahoma's 65-21 rout of the Red Raiders Saturday at Oklahoma Memo-

Chancellor's Council presents teaching, research awards

By JON VANDERLAAN STAFF WRITER

Four Texas Tech System professors received the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching and Research awards Friday morning, which recognize individual teacher's success in both teaching and research.

"The award winners receive a plaque, which is nice," Tech Chancellor Kent Hance said. "They also receive \$10,000, which is even nicer."

Hance said he wishes the university had enough money to recognize more professors, but the council had to narrow down what he called one of the best faculties in the The awards, which began eight years ago, recognize an and 2008

outstanding professor and an outstanding researcher from Tech and the Tech Health Sciences Center. William Westney, Horn Professor of Music, and Renee

Bogschutz, of the School of Allied Health Sciences, earned the Distinguished Teaching Awards.

Distinguished Research Awards.

Tech President Guy Bailey and HSC President John Baldwin said they agreed on the importance of professors to academics as well as research as they presented their faculty with the awards.

Westney received the Horn professor honor in 2001, was profiled in the New York Times and consistently receives student evaluations among the top ranks in the School of Music, according to a Tech news release.

Bogschutz is an assistant professor and clinical coordinator for the Master's of Speech-Language Pathology program and received the Outstanding Teacher of the Year award from the HSC Student Senate in 2005, 2006

Poirier's research focuses on quantum mechanics applied to large systems and he received an Early Career Award from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Esperat is an associate dean for research and clinical service at the nursing school and has generated more William Poirier, associate professor in the Department than \$9 million in federal, state and research grants in M. CHRISTINA R. Esperat receives an award from Chanof Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Christina Esperat, of the last eight years.

the Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing, earned the >jon.vanderlaan@ttu.edu



PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreac cellor Kent Hance Friday in the Administration building for her work on obesity and Type 2 Diabetes.



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rial Stadium. (Inset) Oklahoma running back Chris Brown carries the ball into the end zone for a touchdown.

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41

By JON VANDERLAAN STAFF WRITER

ment Fund.

While the contract was not

Chartered Financial Analyst and assistant vice chancellor and Chief Information Officer, said higher education clients and no has good financial advisers.

conflicts of interest. Ratliff said because the uni- university's

versity was still in negotiations, endowment The Texas Tech Board of Re- he could not reveal the name of funds dropped gents met Friday in a teleconfer- the company. However, he said about 15 perence to discuss a new contract the contract will be worth about cent to 20 perpresented to a financial adviser for \$500,000 and the university hopes cent in the rethe university's Long Term Invest- to reach an agreement with the cent economic company by Dec. 1.

The university sent a request Tech's dropped finalized by the time of the meet- for a proposal in August, which about 5 percent, he said, and having Friday, the board approved the returned about 10 candidates for ing good financial advisers for the the financial adviser duty. An university's endowment is one of Gary Ratliff, the university's internal selection committee nar- the most important things the unirowed those 10 to four, who then versity can do for the fund. were interviewed.

the company has been in the in- said the deal was important because the week and announce the comdustry for several years, has several the university wants to make sure it pany by Monday or Tuesday.

downturn, and

Hance said he hopes to have the Tech Chancellor Kent Hance deal completed by the beginning of

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Board of Regents approve financial adviser contract New student IDs phase out SSN

From here, it's possible.

TEXAS TECH

By JON VANDERLAAN STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech University ID Card office will phase out the current student ID cards beginning in the spring semester in favor of a new card that will not contain students' Social Security

Students will have from the beginning of the spring semester until May 31 to make the change.

Dolores Harper, director of the office, said anyone with a magnetic strip card reader could from the current cards, but the new cards will feature a Banner system ID number.

Sam Segran, associate vice president for Information Technology, said the ultimate goal is to take the Social Security number out of daily use for stunumber.

he said, software and applications of their new student ID. may need to be changed, and the deleting and shredding old records that contain the number.

chancellor and system chief spring semester. information officer, said the "R-

TEXAS TECH STUDENTS will be required to switch over to a new student identification card starting in January. read the Social Security numbers an 'R' so it is not confused with a not have to pay a fee for a new card Social Security number.

> The R-number will be used everywhere on campus where a a new ID card will cost \$10. Social Security number would have been used, she said, and no Tech entire semester to make the switch employee should ask for the Social so they do not all have to come on Security number.

dents in favor of the new Banner been changed to reflect this transithe office will be busy. tion, Rhodes said, and if students Because many departments forget their R-number on the day have systems that use the SSN, of a test, they can look at the back

departments also should look at MyTech account at the Raider- entire student body replacing their link Web site to find their new student ID cards. R-number, although the number Kay Rhodes, associate vice will have no significance until the card readers to make sure the new

Harper said old ID cards will not number" on the back of the card work after May 31 and, because the is eight digits and will begin with change is mandatory, students do

as long as they have their old card. Replacement cards after receiving

The office is giving students the one day, she said, and even so she Scantron test forms also have believes the employees working in

Segran said his department is preparing for all known potential problems with the change, but he believes the most serious problems Students also may look on their will be logistical issues with the

Harper said the office has tested cards will work, and will post advertisements to get the word out to students.

>>>ion.vandertaan@ttu.edu

Tech professor killed in car accident

By JON VANDERLAAN STAFF WRITER

Highway 6 in College Station.

Chemistry and Biochemistry, was to remove him from the vehicle. pronounced dead after he was transported to the College Station fire, but he was not burned. Medical Center, according to the College Station Police Depart- A&M University in 1982, and his

Shelly struck a bridge support was in analytiunderneath University Drive in cal chemistry, A Texas Tech professor was College Station while traveling according killed in a single-vehicle car ac- southbound on SH 6, according to to the Tech cident at 5:46 p.m. Friday on State an initial police report. Shelly was trapped in the Ford Escape until Dennis Shelly, an associate the College Station Fire and Police department professor in the department of departments arrived on the scene Web site. His

The vehicle reportedly was on ests were sepa-

Shelly earned his Ph.D. at Texas education.

Chemistry and Biochemistry research inter-

rations, biomaterials and chemical

Bush wraps up final global summit with confidence

LIMA, Peru (AP) — President financial crisis. George W. Bush enlisted another . Spurred by the urgency of that endorsements for an action plan to bloc of world leaders Sunday in his crisis, the group also agreed on a condeal with the economic crisis and effort to revive the world economy crete step toward Bush's more elusive agreement by his partners for a new while still moving to expand free free-trade goal: They will send minis-round of discussions next month

Wrapping up his final summit with foreign heads of government, Bush and the 20 other Pacific Rim they can overcome the financial crisis that threatens to plunge the world into recession. The optimistic forecast was added Sunday to their earlier agreements on steps they

ters to Geneva next month to jump aimed at halting North Korea's start the so-called Doha round of nuclear program. World Trade Organization talks.

Bush hoped to spur those longleaders in the Asia-Pacific Economic stalled talks to agree before the end stabilize the nation's financial system Cooperation forum confidently of the year on a broad framework for and calm the markets. Obama, who predicted that within 18 months expanding free trade, but U.S. offi- will name his economic team on cials have feared other nations might Monday, announced a program over hold back their best offers until after the weekend to save or create 2.5 President-elect Barack Obama takes million jobs by January 2011. office in January.

Earlier in the three-day summit, agree to take in response to the Bush was able to achieve victories

on his two top priorities — winning

Back home, Obama was telling Americans how he plans to help

Bush began his day with a meeting with summit host, Peru's President Alan Garcia. The United States and Peru have a free trade deal about to go into effect between the two nations — one of a string of deals negotiated during Bush's

On Saturday, the APEC leaders issued a statement endorsing a sweeping action plan that had been approved a week ago at an emergency meeting in Washington of the Group of 20, consisting of the world's richest countries and major emerging economies such as China, Brazil and India.

Obama aide promotes job plan, warns automakers

WASHINGTON (AP) tax cuts in January, "a big number" sign it after taking office, top aides

Obama over the weekend outlined the framework of a plan to introduce leaders of his economic team Monday. Aides said they soon would fill in the details and Democratic lawmakers, already working with transition officials, pledged to act quickly when Congress convenes Jan. 6, two weeks before the inauguration.

build criminal cases against some

5,000 detainees it deems danger-

ous - including suspected mem-

prove massive spending and fresh ground running on January 20th." Echoing that, the second-ranking probably far distancing a \$175 bil- House Democrat, Rep. Steny Hoyer consideration when he takes office."

save or create 2.5 million jobs by seeking billions in government help \$250,000. the end of 2010 and prepared to to stave off collapse, to devise a plan he said, "there is very little taxpayers can do to help them.'

During the campaign Obama had proposed a \$175 billion economic recovery package. The new one will be significantly larger and would crease to 2011, when current Bush incorporate his campaign ideas administration tax cuts expire.

"We don't have time to waste for new jobs in environmentally President-elect Barack Obama here, "Obama senior adviser David friendly technologies — the "green wants the new Congress to ap- Axelrod said. "We want to hit the economy." It also would include his proposals for tax relief for middle- and lower-income workers.

But aides said the plan would lion campaign proposal, so he can of Maryland, said, 'We expect to have not offer an immediate tax increase during the first couple of weeks of on wealthy taxpayers. During the January a package for the president's campaign, Obama said he would pay for increased tax relief by raising Axelrod also warned automakers, taxes on people making more than

'There won't be any tax increases to retool and restructure. Otherwise, in the January package," said one Obama aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the details of the Obama package have not been fleshed out.

Obama could delay any tax in-

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8 Down
9 Consecrate with oil with oil

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By Doug Peterson Pasadena, CA 11/24/08 Friday's Puzzle Solved

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49 Type of sprawl or renewal 50 Moth deterrent 53 Lena of "Alias" 54 "The Mod

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CAMP CROPPER, Iraq (AP) bers of al-Qaida in Iraq — because shift to Iraqi authorities. — The U.S. military is rushing to the proposed security pact with Iraq would end its right to hold prisoners U.S. troops could no longer hold without charge.

Iraq security pact poses detainee dilemma for US

American troops to leave Iraq by would have to prosecute prisoners the end of 2011. But it also calls in Iraqi courts or let them go. for control of security matters to

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If passed, the deal would mean people without charge as they have The agreement, which is to since the 2003 invasion that ousted be voted on by Iraqi lawmakers Saddam Hussein. Beginning Jan. Wednesday, is primarily intended 1, all detentions would have to be to set a timetable calling for based on evidence, and the U.S.

> "At the end of the day, if there's not enough facts to justify a court case, then we'll have to release," said Brig. Gen. David Quantock, the commander of the U.S. detention system in Iraq.

The Americans have evidence against only "a few hundred" of the most dangerous detainees, Quantock said, leaving open the possibility that thousands could find themselves back on Iraq's streets

"We have a lot of work to do,"

Part of the challenge stems from differences between the U.S. and Iraqi legal systems. In the United States, forensic evidence is widely used in the courts. Not so in Iraq.

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'Guitar Hero' tournament turns students into virtual rock stars



PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/The Daily Toread

Brad Nemanich, a computer science grad student from Houston, faces off agianst Eric Sablui, a freshmen computer egineering major from Dallas, during a "Guitar Hero" tournament Friday in the Student Union Building.

By BRIDGET DE STEFANO STAFF WRITER

Sounds of heavy metal and sion screen in the Student Union play an instrument.

to rock out to the video game still have to have rhythm." 'Guitar Hero" at a tournament of the Association for Computing the tournament's participants. Machinery.

notes and chords on a handheld songs on an expert-level of difguitar, gave music lovers and aspiring rock stars a chance to the most points moved to the Houston, said the tournament was shine, said Cameron Boykin, a next level. freshman computer science major from Garland.

coordinator of the tournament, ment last year, but was eliminated the tournament, which was free said "Guitar Hero" is not just for by a finalist whom Ico beat this for those who brought equipment "hardcore gamers." The game year. Ico won first place and a gift or attended merely to watch. rock 'n' roll could be heard from also appeals to anyone who loves card from Hastings. a dark, virtual stage on a televi- music but may not know how to

Students gathered Friday night less effort," Boykin said. "But you for this year's challenge.

hosted by the Texas Tech chapter were two elements necessary for touch.

Two players simultaneously The popular game, sporting battled while playing the same the fingers down." ficulty, he said. The players with

cal engineering major from Lub-

Boykin, an ACM member and bock, said he attended the tourna-

"It's the same level of fun with throughout the week to prepare speakers, conferences, banquets

When it comes to playing tion. Rhythm and concentration instruments fast, Ico has the

> He said he plays the violin in the Tech orchestra, so he's "got

ACM member Brad Nemanich, a graduate student from ers a sense of stardom. organized to give people some-Kim Ico, a sophomore electrithing fun to do while entertaining thought of being a rock star." "Guitar Hero" fans.

Participants paid \$5 to play in

About 25 people attended The "Guitar Hero" tourna- the tournament, he said, and ment winner said he practiced the money raised will go toward and other funds for the organiza-

> Many members of ACM enjoy playing video and computer games, Boykin said, but "Guitar Hero" is appealing to all categories of video gamers.

For some, the game gives play-

"I enjoy Guitar Hero," Ico said, "because I've always liked the >>> bridget.destefano@ttu.edu

Part of the advice Lavand

Quant said, because it will func-

pursue a career either performing

as a magician or using his business

"It's what's going to make me the

Abracadabra! Student illusion artist strives for life as professional magician

By TINA L. ARONS STAFF WRITER

Irving Quant is more than meets the eye.

who began practicing his tricks he had them. when he was a child, performed his show "Dreams and Memories" Student Union Building.

"Everything that could go misses.'

The show — his first perfornipulations, bending a fork with nets." his mind and walking on glass.

Quant, a junior business management major, was born in Lub- much success. bock but raised mostly in Mexico. not buy a magic book until eighth grade when he moved back to class.'

The student council president helped him find his locker on his first day at Coronado High School, he said. At the time, Quant was holding two decks of cards and The student illusion artist, the older student asked him why

As it turned out, Quant said, the student was a magician and Friday and Saturday evening in the introduced him to a local magic

Amber Turner, a senior acwrong went wrong, but no one counting major from Lubbock, said seemed to notice." Quant said, she went to junior high and high smiling. "I see what the audience school with Quant but has yet to figure out his secrets.

"I don't know how he does it," mance in Lubbock — included she said, "because it's completely several acts, including card ma- random - no mirrors, no mag-

> Turner said he has attempted to teach her card tricks without

"Even the basic stuff I can't do," He said he discovered his fascina- she said. "But [Quant] is excellent tion with magic as a child but did with cards. He does it all the time - throughout class or walking to

Although he amazes his friends said, after 10 years of practicing



PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreado IRVING QUANT, DEMONSTRATES his mind-reading abilities with Amber Turner, a senior accounting major from Lubbock, during his show Friday in the SUB.

magic tricks, he is his Quant said his favorite place to worst critic.

new pieces, always trying to improve," he said. "The whole show evolves, of meeting many famous magi- as a magician does not pan out. and the next time will be cians, but he admires his mentor However, he said, his goal is to more polished."

Quant said he practicbefore performing it.

"It's always scary," he work."

At first, Quant said, he read books to learn new tricks, but now he creates his own from the principles he learned.

After attending Texas Tech for two years, he said, he took a year off to improve his skills as an illusion artist.

Fall 2008 has been his and audience members, Quant first semester back at Tech.

Of all the places he traveled,

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Screen Actors Guild to seek strike authorization

contract talks in four months with Hol- income, Allen said. lywood studios failed despite the help of a federal mediator.

Federal mediator Juan Carlos Gonzalez adjourned the talks between SAG and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers shortly before 1 a.m. after two marathon sessions failed to produce an agreement. No new talks are scheduled.

The SAG, representing more than 120,000 actors in movies, television and other media, said in a statement that it will launch a "full-scale education campaign in support of a strike authorization."

Talks broke down after the studios sought the right to create productions for new media, such as the Internet, using nonunion actors and without paying residuals, said Doug Allen, SAG national executive director and chief negotiator.

ski PURGATORY

WOLF CREEK, CO

LOS ANGELES (AP) _ The Screen are made every time a production airs, Actors Guild said Saturday it will ask its such as TV reruns. Many SAG members members to authorize a strike after its first rely on residuals for more than half of their





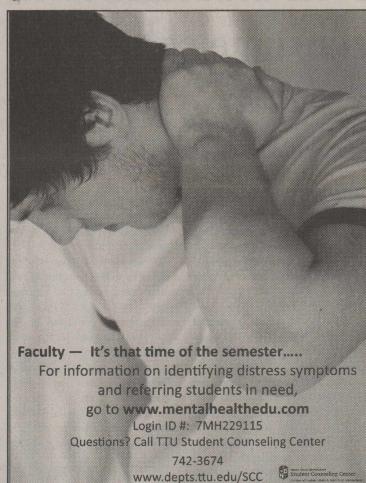
college IDI

perform is Buenos Aires, Argen- imparted to him was to go back "I'm always making tina, because of the people and the to college and finish his degree, atmosphere. He said he has had the privilege tion as a "safety net" if a career

Rene Lavand the most. Lavand — an 80-year-old Ares a new routine between gentinian magician who lost one of management degree to work with three and six months his hands as a child — specializes magicians.

in close-up performances. "He teaches me the philosophy happiest," he said. "Magic is not just said, "because I never of how to present things," Quant about the illusion. Magic is about know if it's going to said. "He never tells me the meth- inspiration." ods, I know the methods."

>>> tina.arons@ttu.edu





PINIONS

Role-playing can be good for you, really

By JOHN BAILEY THE DAILY CAMPUS (U. CONNECTICUT)

kids? Now, if I asked you about "the positive functions of pencil and paper role-playing games," what would you tell me?

good to say, I wouldn't blame you. games — and I'm talking the extrastrength, triple-distilled nerdy kind, rolling dice and drawing maps and whatever — are huge pains in the ass. As far as anyone can tell from most high school gamers, all roleplaying games do is cause you to pants with neon chains on them.

are some of the best things you can be texting in class? do with yourself, although I guess and paper role-playing games well-known, but there are plenty more — are some of the best, most enjoyable educational tools: available to today's disgruntled youth.

Math comes easy to me, because I grew up knowing exactly how many You probably had a bunch paces away that thief is, how much of kids that played "Dun- it'll cost to fix my platinum-plated good book? No, "Twilight" doesn't geons and Dragons" in armor and how much ale we can count, and neither does anything away from the screens and getting your high school. Remember those put on the cart before the wheels from high school English class. At some reading done, RPGs are a prize will break.

learn, and even more of a pain to practice — and RPGs can help with Honestly, if you had nothing that. No, they've got no calculus or to suggest that the linear algebra to teach a college-Many people who play role-playing level mathematician, but they are ual" is fine full of numbers that won't crunch literathemselves.

"I was attracted to the number but cruching," said Joseph Gilbert, a fifth-semester computer science and engineering major. And those numbers are all attached to problems that develop acne and wear those black need solving. Sure, numbers are boring, but solving puzzles isn't — how But try to forget those people. I many hours have you wasted doing know — it's tough. But these games the Sudoku while you're supposed to

"It was almost like a puzzle," volunteering at homeless shelters Gilbert said of his RPG experience. it's is a little more significant. Pencil "You had all these cool character certraits, but at the same time, all these tainly text colloquially, "RPGs," of which elements of good and evil, profes- on a page — and it's "Dungeons and Dragons" is the most sion, all broke down into numbers riddled with lots of big words, — it's a very interesting system."

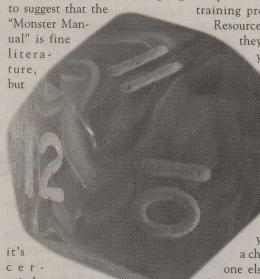
of dice in a kid's hand, and I guaran reading and parsing of difficult top-

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Bookworms

the risk of aging 40 years on the spot, way to do it. Math is generally a pain to kids today don't read enough.

And I mean, they should be reading good books. I'm not going cal problem solving" sound like are many and varied.



classical etymologies and unusual Put a few RPG books and a bag vocabulary. There's a lot of critical

points better on their eventual math you think Foucault is tough, try the yawning lava chasm guarded by the trespasses, their shining successes third edition grappling rules! (Heh, Seven Serpents of the Seranath in and miserable failures. heh. No, seriously, don't make jokes order to slay the Queen Mother of When's the last time you read a like that, it makes people hate you.) If parents really want their children

The "tea" in "team"

training programs in a Human

in pen and paper RPGs. "You get a bet-

ter ability to un-

derstand others

and yourself," said Dave Beattie, a fifth-semester English and psychology double major. "If vou're pretending to be a character — even somethat character real."

Even in fake worlds, empathy and

the night.

group needs to coordinate their storytelling." skills in order to maximize their ass-"Group management" and "criti- kickin' potential, and the challenges character, it's more than just an

Resources department — but "utilize your disparate qualities to living being, with a backstory, hopes, they're exactly the skills manifest the ideally suited and gen- dreams, fears and embarrassing peryou need, and develop, erally desired result preferred by the sonal problems. majority." Today's battleaxe-wielding kid hopped up on Mountain Dew is creativity," Gilbert said. tomorrow's Fortune 500 CEO.

Tell me a story

need to take that parenting equivalent of the 3 a.m. red telephone off the hook. And unless you're getting one else's character — you the concentration in creative writhave to understand what makes ing, there's no class you get to teach you how to tell stories.

teamwork are essential to success. that's what RPGs are all about: and in complete social control. Call Every player brings their own unique protagonists who journey through them up! They'll be glad to show skill set to the table (literally) and a world, meeting their individual you. And what else were you doing tee you he or she will do a good 50 ics involved in these rulebooks — if somehow, you need to get across that ups and downs, their triumphs and tonight — "Halo?"

"[Role-playing games] are a the Firemoth tribe. Or maybe you wonderful outlet for creativity," just need to find a place to sleep for said Sean Carey, a seventh-semester English and philosophy double Whatever the situation, the major. "It's an early experience in

When each player creates a avatar with some rules slung around "Maximize?" We can go further: its shoulders — it's an (imaginary)

"[The games] obviously inspire

So remember: with the right RPG background, you don't have When your daughter looks up at to stutter and stumble your way you with those big brown eyes and through your daughter's first bedasks you to tell her a story, will you time story. You'll always have "that be prepared? You're learning a lot time we escaped the blast furnace in college, but at some point you're in full plate armor and climbed the going to have to build the skills you spire to defeat the ninja lord" to fall

Of course, if you missed the boat growing up, it's not too late - those friends you have? Some of them probably play these games - and they're probably the ones who are And ultimately, if you do it right, otherwise intelligent, attractive

Non-academic tasks consume college life

By SCOTT PEARRING DAILY BRUIN (UCLA)

tion to UCLA back in 2005. Faced to learn material, yet I find myself up with the daunting collegiate process, I at 2 a.m. the night before a test over 90 scribbled that sentence on one of my percent of the time. essays, hoping that it would impress the admissions reader and I would be on my study harder and not procrastinate next way to this school.

It worked. But this passion and eagerness I spoke of never manifested college activities. Likewise, the vast value their organizations more than majority of my friends have fallen into school. I'm convinced that we simply similar habits. As it turns out, education sign up for too much and expect our isn't what it's all about.

UCLA, they are immediately bombarded with clubs, sports and fraternities and sororities who want them. In the midst of all the excitement, most students ting is that it fogs our judgment of what over-commit, not realizing what they're really matters in a college education: getting themselves in to.

Only after the first round of midterms do they start to understand the this craving is suppressed as we struggle impossibility of being pledged to so many organizations. But more often than not, students will continue to uphold these non-academic responsi- coerce us to learn out of necessity. The bilities, even if it means cutting down result is frustrated, discontented students on study time.

But it's not just the pressure to join out of them. other groups that causes most students perfect opportunity for young adults to exactly how this feels. discover their passions and determine what they want to do with their lives. found that most UCLA students are cus on what will be on the next test." either barely involved or in over their heads.

munications student, is a supervisor for pected G.P.A., but an impressive résumé ResTV, an intern for a sports marketing of experience. Four-plus years of noncompany and a secretary for her sorority, not to mention a full time student.

"Because of my broad major that rience which allows me to get a feel for personal statements. different careers."

part-time and writing for the Daily reality of our college experience. Bruin - oh and taking four classes. In many instances, my priorities fall exactly your education in graduate school, you as listed, with school dead last. Only at either must be dedicated to your studies, the end of the day when all my other or you're going to be in a tight spot trying commitments are taken care of am I to convince universities that you truly free to pick up my textbook and jam love learning, but frisbee practice was statistics into my brain.

W.L. Bateman is credited with saying "If you keep on doing what you've always done, you'll keep on getting (I am terribly passionate about what you've always got." Though I fully learning and eagerly await the believe this proverb, I can't bring myself opportunity to study in a uni- to change my studying habits in order to achieve better grades. I am well aware Those are words from my applicathat cramming is likely the worst way

Though I often promise myself to quarter, these aspirations are long gone by first week. Engulfed in other nonacademic activities, procrastinating my itself here in college. The reality is that school work is too convenient to resist. learning has taken a back seat to other Some may say that students simply superhuman abilities to pull us through. When first-year students arrive at But these failed endeavors only leave us with soaring stress, poor grades and demoralizing burnout.

The worst part about over commitlearning. Professing to have a deep desire for knowledge in our entrance essays, to keep up with class work. Even in courses that interest us, fascinating topics are often neglected as upcoming tests who have had the joy of learning sucked

Miles Maassen, a third-year physito over-commit. College presents the ological science student, said he knows

"It's really irritating that I don't have time to learn about what really interests And when most people test the water, me," Maassen said. "Only having so they quickly become sucked in. I have much study time, I'm always forced to fo-

Following these patterns, we will likely approach graduation with hun-Lisa McBride, a third-year com- dreds of gray hairs and a lower-than-exacademic activities taking precedence over school yields a remarkable, albeit different, type of college education. Yet doesn't lead to one career path, my when applying for graduate school, internship and job are just as important it's more than likely that sentences as my academic classes," McBride said, describing a romanticized longing for "because they provide a hands-on expe-knowledge will make their way onto

Out of a highly competitive attitude Likewise, I now find myself leading and a fear that colleges only want pritwo Christian groups, playing ultimate oritized students, we will pretend to be Frisbee four nights a week, working something we are not and overlook the

> So it seems that in order to continue more important than studying.

'Star Wars' and the ridiculous language barrier

By MATT WILLFORD BRANDING IRON (U. WYOMING)

sode IV: A New Hope," I slipped into instant happiness. But this time, when I was watching Han Solo in the cantina with Greedo the bounty hunter, I noticed something different.

Then it hit me, how does Han Solo under- one can understand stand anything that this green goof is saying? Especially when Han Solo talks back to Greedo

in English and apparently they both remember. How do they underunderstand each other perfectly. This kind of behavior does not

on Tatooine conversation know more than think what Lucas is alluding to here one language, they settle on one is that Nien understands Lando language to speak with each other. through a language that doesn't For instance, you don't go to France need translation: love. and ask for directions in English and they acknowledge you and reply in at each other. After narrowly French. Even if you and the French escaping the Death Star together, guy both know English and French, Lando has found a soul mate in a it's just not how people react to each creature that looks like he was creother and behave when it comes to dealing with other languages. I'm sure that is some sweet lovin'. You pick one and use it, if someone

switches the language you switch

The Greedo scene isn't the only he other day, I was sit- case either; there are so many. Of ting around the house course the most obvious example is watching movies and I Han Solo and Chewbacca. He just decided to put in the original "Star makes growling noises that have Wars" trilogy. I mean, any day is a no resemblance to speech patterns great day for the original trilogy, but Han understands him perfectly right? Especially when you have well. What gets me is that he can a test to study for that is in a few fly the Millennium Falcon, shoot hours. Once I started watching "Epi- a gun awesomely and weld, but he

can't make any recognizable speech patterns. Come on George Lucas.

Then there is Lando and a character named Nien Nunb in "Return of the Jedi." Remember Nien Nunb? He looks like some genetic mutation of Super Mario with female genitalia stretched across his face. Yeah, now you

stand each other?

Everyone

understands the

incoherent growls of

Chewbacca and his

nonsense for all of

the movies but no

the language of the

Ewoks.

Apparently, Lando is just so happen in the real world. This is not cool that he is understood in any accepted behavior for either here or language. No one knows what the hell Mario on acid is saying except If people that are having a for Lando, he sure seems to know. I

I've noticed the way they look ated on the Island of Dr. Moreau.

It seems that George may have

taken suggestions about using some has something against the little people translators by the time "Return of the that play the Ewoks. Jedi" rolled around. When the Ewoks everyone has finally met their match with the Ewoks?

Everyone understands the incoherent growls of Chewbacca and his nonsense for all of the movies but no that are not blessed with height, espeone can understand the language of cially in job interviews. It's sometimes the Ewoks. Now why did George Lucas not easily seen, but George Lucas has pick the Ewoks as a species that needs something against those that are smallto be translated and not some of the er than he. I just hope that individuals others that are equally incomprehen- stop following the path of Lucas and sible? Does he have something against listen to the language of the person,

Ridicule against little people has in the forest of Endor surrounded been going on for way too long. I know Han Solo and his crew, no one could as a shorter person that people tend understand what these things were to not take you seriously because of saying except the nerd droid. Wait, your height. And just like the Ewoks, sometimes the languages of those that are not as big are often not understood

Things like this can affect many the Ewoks? Or maybe it's because he not the language of their height.



When it was Snow White & the Nine Dwarves

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e enough time to verify and edit the submission.

Women's cross country team to compete in NCAA Championships

STAFF WRITER

It's not over 'til it's over.

The No. 9 Texas Tech women's cross country team begins its final meet today, and what better way to end the season than at the NCAA Championships in Terre Haute, Ind. that includes the top 31 teams in the

Chep Boit said she hopes Tech Kipyego, two can make a statement in her last col-

It's going to be tough no doubt," she said. "There are really good girls out there working their hardest to the best this year, but so have we. We are looking forward to go in with a big bang and hopefully come out

The Lady Raiders return for race in her coltheir third-straight national championships following two confidenceboosting wins at the Big 12 Conference Championships on Nov. 1 and Mountain Region Championships on Nov. 15.

Tech coach Jon Murray said in the Notre Dame Invitational, where the Lady Raiders saw many ranked teams, Tech did not compete to its potential not having Sally Kipyego.

In Indiana, the cross country team will be led by seventime national champion of which were NCAA cross country championship in the previous two seasons. Kipyego has dominated the sport never losing a

country. **JON MURRAY** TEXAS TECH CROSS COUNTRY COACH

legiate career. "Adding Sally (Kipyego) helped ers have an excellent team spirit that add some confidence to the team," Murray said. "I believe Sally is one of the best runners out there. She has never been defeated in college cross

country. She is the one to win it." Following Kipyego will be Lil-

lian Badaru and Asia Diaz who both received All-Big 12 and All-Region honors. Gladys Kipsang earned All-

Region honors finishing eighth in the regional I believe Sally is one meet and Michelle Guzof the best runners man received out there. She has All-Big 12 after placing 14th at never been defeated the Big 12 meet. Boit earned Allin college cross Region with a 25th place finish and Addison LeMaster is the

> Murray said the Lady Raidcan handle pressure with ease, letting them have the best opportunity to

final member of

the team.

succeed over any other Tech team. "Obviously we won conference,

never done that before," he said. "We won regionals, never done that before. They have been able accomplish something that no other team's done. Since I've been here I would say they have been the most successful."

Tech will be joined at the NCAA Championships with two other Big 12 teams, No. 22 Nebraska and No. 18 Baylor along with two Mountain Region schools in No. 26 Northern Arizona and No. 21 New Mexico.

LeMaster said if the Lady Raiders run to their capabilities, they will get the results they are looking for.

"Anything can happen and we have two great front runners," she said. "It's just going to depend on who has the best day. It's going to be close and we believe we can get top four."

The NCAA Championships will be held at 11:08 a.m. in Terre Haute, Ind. at the LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course.

The meet will be televised on CBS College Sports and on www. ncaasports.com

» kayla.parham@ttu.edu

Southeastern Conference takes top spots in rankings

Southeastern Conference title could have a national championship feel when Alabama faces Florida in the Georgia Dome in two weeks.

No. 1 vs. No. 2, a month before the BCS national championship game is played.

The Gators moved up to No. 2 in the AP Top 25 on Sunday, a spot behind the top-ranked Crimson Tide.

If Florida can win its regularseason finale at Florida State, and Alabama can do the same against Auburn, the SEC will sport the first 1 vs. 2 matchup in a conference title game - with the winner likely off to another 1-2 game in Miami for the BCS championship.

Meanwhile, in the Big 12, Oklahoma moved up two spots to No. 3, barely slipping past Big 12 rival and No. 4 Texas after the Sooners' resounding 65-21 victory against Texas Tech on Saturday night.

The Red Raiders tumbled five spots to No. 7 after their first loss of the season.

Southern California moved up

NEW YORK (AP) — The one spot to No. 5 and Penn State got a bump to No. 6.

Alabama, the only remaining unbeaten team from the six BCS conferences, received 63 of a possible 65 first-place votes and 1,622 points from the AP's media panel. Florida received the other firstplace votes and 1,512 points.

The Tide and the Gators are the 17th set of conference rivals to hold the top two spots in the poll.

The last time it happened was the end of last season, when LSU and Georgia, also of the SEC, did it.

Ohio State and Michigan from the Big Ten were the last conference rivals to do it during the regular season. The Buckeyes and Wolverines were Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, for six weeks in 2006.

In the latest poll, Oklahoma (10-1) received 1,486 points and Texas (10-1) had 1,482, even though the Longhorns handed the Sooners their only loss of the season, 45-35 in October at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

Texas' only loss was to Texas Tech (10-1), 39-33 on a last-second touchdown in Lubbock.

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ARMY STRONG.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 When would Tech beat a ranked Big

12 team on the road? Instead of seizing the moment, the Red Raiders (10-1, 6-1) allowed the most points in school history and never looked like the second-best team in

the nation. "Obviously there's something as a coach that I didn't reach," said Leach, who is 1-15 against ranked Big 12 teams on the road. "I think we really wanted to do well, and then I think we went out and over tried. I think rather than just do routine things, we felt like we had to make the super-play each time."

The ones making the super-plays were the Sooners (10-1, 6-1), who scored more than 60 points for the third straight game. They had 299 rushing yards to Tech's 45, with run-Murray combining for 233 yards and five touchdowns.

OU quarterback Sam Bradford who left last year's game against Tech with a concussion — went 14-for-29 with 304 yards and four touchdowns. giving him a legitimate shot to become thanks in large part to its defense, the second sophomore in history to win which made Tech punt three times the Heisman Trophy.

over and over and does it with precision, failed to score a point on its first five and I admire that," said Leach, who possessions was in a 30-6 loss at Colorecruited Bradford in 2006. "I liked him rado in 2006. when we first got acquainted, probably



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreadon

ning backs Chris Brown and DeMarco TEXAS TECH WIDE receiver Michael Crabtree stiff-arms Oklahoma defensive back Nic Harris during the Sooner's 65-21 rout of the Red Raiders Saturday at Oklahoma Memorial Stadium.

liked him better than I do today, but my feelings will level out, and I'll still like him again here pretty soon."

At halftime, Oklahoma led 42-7, and turn the ball over on downs twice "(He) just does the same simple stuff to start the game. The last time Tech

'We watch TV and ESPN," Okla-

homa linebacker Travis Lewis said. "They weren't really giving our defense a chance and it got under our skin. We came out hungry (Saturday night)."

Tech quarterback Graham Harrell, who had only been sacked five times this season, went down four times against OU — twice in the first quarter. He was hurried countless times and struggled to throw the ball downfield, going 15-for-26 with 154 yards, a touchdown and an interception in

the first half.

After Harrell's 28-yard touchdown pass to receiver Tramain Swindall made it 28-7 midway through the second quarter, Bradford led OU on an 80-yard, 12-play drive that included

After the kickoff and a quick 4-yard run by Baron Batch, Harrell tried to force a throw over the middle to receiver Eric Morris. Lewis was there for the interception, returning it 47 yards

to the 1-yard line, where Murray scored the final touchdown of the half.

"I felt like we squandered the first half trying to make too much happen," said Leach, whose team went 3-for-13 on third down conversions in the game after being tied for first in the nation in that category entering the game. "(We were) trying to be too good, allowing ourselves to get frustrated with the slightest of adversities."

Tech receiver Michael Crabtree

didn't score a touchdown for the first time in 13 games, finishing with six receptions for 62 yards, matching his lowest output of the season.

Tech opened up the second half with an onside kick in hopes of getting back in the game, but OU recovered and turned it into a field goal.

Tech got to Oklahoma territory on its next drive but running back Shannon Woods coughed up the football while breaking a long run. OU linebacker Keenan Clayton scooped it up and ran 53 yards to the 3-yard line, setting up a Brown touchdown — OU led 52-7.

Harrell, bombarded with blitzes most of the night, finished 33-of-55 with 361 yards, three touchdowns and the interception, but two of those touchdowns and most of his yards came during garbage time.

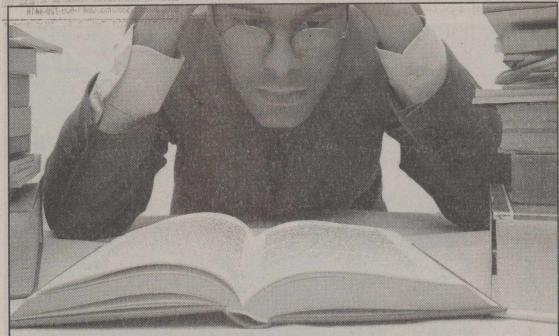
Tech still has a chance to reach the Big 12 Championship game, but it involves rooting for the Oklahoma State Cowboys in Saturday's Bedlam Series against Oklahoma. The game is at OSU, in Stillwater, Okla.

Until then, Tech will lick its wounds before playing Baylor in front of a soldout crowd in Jones AT&T Stadium on

"We gotta learn from it," Batch said. "This is our first loss, it sucks. It's no fun, but it's something that you gotta learn from and we'll build on it. We'll turn this thing into something positive. It's gonna help us the rest of the season."

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You make the memories, we'll do the rest.

Solid performance spotlights Bradford in Heisman race

By ADAM COLEMAN SPORTS EDITOR

When Texas Tech had its win over then-No. 1 Texas, it seemed Graham Harrell all of a sudden outshined Colt McCoy in the Heisman Memorial Trophy race.

What goes around comes around.

With a 65-21 trashing of the Red Raiders, OU quarterback Sam Bradford may have garnered a little extra attention when it comes to who will be named the best player in college football in New York at

At least his coach believes Bradford proved the next Heisman Trophy should have the redshirt sophomore's name on it.

"His name has to be up there at the top with anyone," OU coach Bob Stoops said. "You got to finish out the year. A lot of that determines it as well. How he cannot be right there with anyone, I wouldn't know.'

With a performance like the one he had Saturday, Bradford may have established himself as a consideration of college football's most coveted award, even though Tech's Graham Harrell threw for more

terbacks in the school's history.



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Tore

OKLAHOMA QUARTERBACK SAM Bradford throws as Texas Tech defensive end Brandon Williams brings pressure during the Sooner's 65-21 victory over the Red Raiders, Saturday at Oklahoma Memorial hurt in 2007's game against Tech and looking ahead, whether it is Brad-

On 14-of-19 passing, Bradford had 40 in 2003. The 304 yards was in a season with eight.

yards and completed more passes. passed for 304 yards and four touch- the ninth time the redshirt sopho-

Bradford did not just have a game downs. The four touchdowns gave more reached the mark this season, all season, as the 65-point total case for an appearance in New with outlandish numbers, but he him 42 on the year, a new school re- also a school record. Bradford en- marked the first time in school York. etched his name in the Oklahoma cord for most touchdown passes in a tered the game Saturday tied with history the Sooner offense scored record books as one of the best quar- season. He passed another Heisman former OU quarterback Josh Heupel 60 or more points in three-con- lowest point total of the season and ready to get it," Wilson said. "So we Trophy winner in Jason White, who for the most 300-yard passing games secutive games. They put up 62 receiver Michael Crabtree could not ain't got much right now." on Nebraska on Nov. 1 and 66 on find the end zone with six catches > adam.coleman@ttu.edu

Texas A&M on Nov. 8.

There are more firsts the Sooners accomplished Saturday.

the only thing that matters to him this. is getting Oklahoma to Miami for

win. As long as we win, I'm happy," he said.

Win was something the Sooners did not do last year at Jones AT&T Stadium, as they took a 34-27 loss without Bradford. In the early stages of the game, Bradford suffered a concussion that kept him from competing.

He said Saturday's game had a little ex-

tra motivation considering he was the Sooners should not be caught it made the win more satisfying.

Bradford has been doing this and maybe even helped Bradford's championship berth.

for 62 yards.

His name has o be up

there at the top with

anyone... how he

cannot be there

with anyone, I

BOB STOOPS

OKLAHOMA UNIVERSITY

FOOTBALL COACH

wouldn't know.

But offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson said his quarterback is right But the humble Bradford said for staying humble about a win like

He said when considering the a national championship appear- Heisman race or the race to a national championship, a loss to "That's great, but I'd like for us to rival Oklahoma State next week no longer makes the win over the Red Raiders meaningful.

> With the way Bradford has been performing, Wilson said he is surprised how his quarterback's name is not in the conversation of players up for Heisman Trophy after some of the record performances he has put on this season.

But whether he is or not,

ford and a Heisman Trophy or the Oklahoma's defense held its own Sooners and a possible national

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M2(1) R1 5

Red Raiders stun with record-breaking performances

By MIKE GRAHAM STAFF WRITER

The records are falling one-by-one for the Texas Tech men's basketball team this season.

After the offensive shootout between Tech and East Central — a Alan Voskuil shot a school recordbreaking eight 3-pointers on his way to a 28-point performance as Tech (4-0) defeated Eastern Kentucky 98-84 Saturday in the United Spirit Arena.

The previous school record for shooting capabilities. most 3-pointers made in a game was held by Jayson Mitchell, who scored impressive," he said. "They really do against ECU in the first half. seven against North Texas in 1999.

the first half.

was going in. I just kept shooting."

In addition to Voskuil's performance, guard John Roberson joined early lead in the game, EKU never line with four 3-pointers — all in the remaining in the first. first half. Guards Nick Okorie and 3-pointer apiece.

In total, Tech was 14-of-22 from game Tech won 167-115 — guard the 3-point line, shooting 63.6 per- emphasized defense since the Sam shy of the school record for the most sis showed through the first half. 3-pointers in a game.

> said the Colonels coaching staff had standpoint. been concerned about Tech's 3-point

have a lights-out shooting group. We Three of Voskuil's 3-pointers talked about it for a few days com- attempts in the second half. EKU came within 1:08 of each other in ing into the game; I told our team guard Papa Oppong was 4-for-4 we were going up against one of the "It felt good out there," Voskuil best shooting teams in the country with guard Mike Rose who hit three

With Tech jumping out to an the arc. the party from beyond the 3-point held the lead after a 2-2 tie with 19:02 lead led to the players easing up on

Tech's coaching staff also has Tyree Graham also chipped in one been harping on the defensive side Knight said. "Dealing with 18 is going great but, you know, we've still

Voskuil said the coaching staff has cent. The Red Raiders ended up two Houston State game, and the empha-

EKU head coach Jeff Neubauer tale of two halves from a defensive

"Offensively, they are incredibly than the number of points given up four Voskuil 3-pointers. Forwards

from the 3-point line and, combined

Pat Knight said the big halftime against EKU.

"Our intensity really dropped," through 21 year-olds, it's a pain. They got to work on our defense." get caught up in playing relaxed. Instead of doubling the score, we kind of played lackadaisical out there and that allows teams to get back into the But the game may have been a game. We just have to work on it. We have some young guys."

Fortunately for the Red Raid-In the second half, Tech stifled ers, the offense kept clicking for 50 the EKU offense to 31 less points second-half points, highlighted by Trevor Cook and Mike Singletary EKU hit on 12 of 17 3-point led the rest of the team in scoring in the second half, scoring 10 and nine points, respectively, keeping the point margin relatively in check.

Although concern about defense said. "Everything I was throwing up and they still had a great shooting 3-pointers, scored 33 of EKU's 58 remains, Knight recognizes his team second-half points from beyond is fully capable of playing good

defense like it did in the first half

"If we had two horrendous halves, I'd be worried," he said. "But they're showing me they can do it. The offense

Southeastern Louisiana at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the United Spirit Arena before heading up to Newark, NJ, to No. 6 Pittsburgh and either Mississippi State or Washington State. >>> michael.graham@ttu.edu



PHOTO BY KAT HILSABECK/The Daily Toread NICK OKORIE, A junior from Houston, passes the ball at the game against Eastern Kentucky University Saturday afternoon at the United Spirit Arena.

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