

Tech track leaps into 2009

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Construction closes street near campus

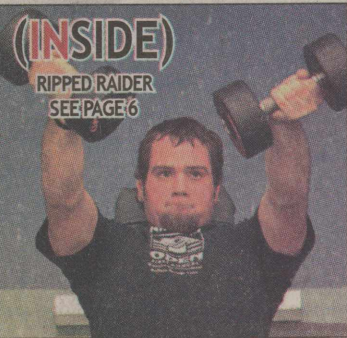
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THE DAILY T O R E A D O R

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(INBRIEF)

STATE

Civil rights group sues DPS over license rule

AUSTIN (AP) — Civil rights advocates are suing the Texas Department of Public Safety to block new driver's license requirements for immigrants, contending they discriminate against people legally in the United States.

The lawsuit filed Wednesday in state district court seeks to force DPS to stop enforcing the rules, which went into effect Oct. 1.

Jim Harrington, the group's director, called the rules "an unconscionable burden on immigrant survivors of domestic abuse and discriminatory against the Hispanic community."

NATION

NM allegedly wastes taxpayers' \$90 million

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A former investment officer for the state's educational pension program claims New Mexico taxpayers lost more than \$90 million in an alleged "pay-to-play" scheme in which political contributions to Gov. Bill Richardson influenced the awarding of investment business.

Frank Foy says in a lawsuit that the Educational Retirement Board made a \$40 million investment through Chicago-based Vanderbilt Capital Advisors and Vanderbilt Financial because of pressure from a Richardson appointee who served as chairman of the pension system's governing board.

WORLD

Venezuela severs ties with Israel over Gaza

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela broke off diplomatic relations with Israel on Wednesday to protest its military offensive in Gaza, the foreign ministry announced.

The decision by President Hugo Chavez's socialist government comes about a week after it expelled the Israeli ambassador in Caracas and seven embassy staff members to protest the Jewish state's actions in Gaza.

Venezuela "has decided to break off diplomatic relations with the state of Israel given the inhumane persecution of the Palestinian people," the foreign ministry said in a statement Wednesday.

DEATH TOLL

4226

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

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Federal, state governments at odds

By MICHAEL HILL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — President-elect Barack Obama wants to jump-start the economy by spending billions on big public works projects and tax cuts. But to the alarm of economists, the nation's governors are working off a different playbook altogether.

States are trying to balance their budgets by raising taxes, chopping programs and cutting spending in 2009. And some economists and lawmakers worry those steps could undercut Obama's efforts to stimulate the economy.

"That directly counters the expansive action that the feds are trying to engage in to keep the economy moving," said House Appropriations

Committee chairman Rep. David Obey, D-Wis.

Most state constitutions require balanced budgets, and states can't print money, so governors have only two choices when tax revenue drops off — raise taxes or cut spending. States are preparing to do both, at a time when many people need the social safety net more than ever.

In a column late last month, New York Times columnist and Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman likened the nation's governors to President Herbert Hoover, who may have worsened the Great Depression by trying to balance the budget.

"The priority right now is to fight off the attack of the 50 Herbert Hoovers, and make sure that the fiscal problems of the states don't make the economic crisis even worse,"

Krugman said.

At least 44 states have shortfalls or will soon face them; midyear shortfalls total \$42 billion, and those gaps are expected to balloon, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reported. States spent \$966 billion in fiscal 2006, compared with \$2.5 trillion in federal spending, according to the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government.

In New York, Gov. David Paterson has proposed higher taxes on cable TV, cigars, sugary drinks — even an "iPod tax" on downloads of music. Meanwhile, the state agency that runs New York City's bus and subway system is considering raising fares from \$2 to \$3. In Ohio, a task force recommended a gasoline tax increase. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed a "nickel-

a-drink" tax for drug abuse programs. Cigarette tax increases have been floated even in tobacco states such as Kentucky and Virginia.

Virginia's public colleges and universities might have to raise tuition to make up for expected budget cuts. And Rhode Island Gov. Don Carcieri proposed increasing the reinstatement fee for driver's licenses from \$75 to \$250.

Across the nation, at least 20 states are either cutting or proposing cuts to public schools, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. In New Jersey, Gov. Jon S. Corzine this month proposed steep cuts to schools and municipalities on top of \$600 million in cutbacks last year. Schwarzenegger wants cuts to the state's welfare-to-work program to stave off what he described as

"financial Armageddon."

"They have no choice," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. "But it hurts the economy."

Russ Sobel, professor of economics at West Virginia University, said state tax increases would hinder the recovery. Think of the smoker paying \$1 more a pack — that's money that smoker won't have to spend on other products, he said.

The risk of undermining the federal government's stimulus efforts could strengthen the case for a Washington bailout of the states.

Five big-state Democratic governors, including Paterson and Corzine, have already asked the government for \$1 trillion for all 50 states that would include \$250 billion for education and \$150 billion in middle-class tax cuts.

WASTE OF MONEY?

Switching college major may cost students time, money

By HANNAH BOEN
STAFF WRITER

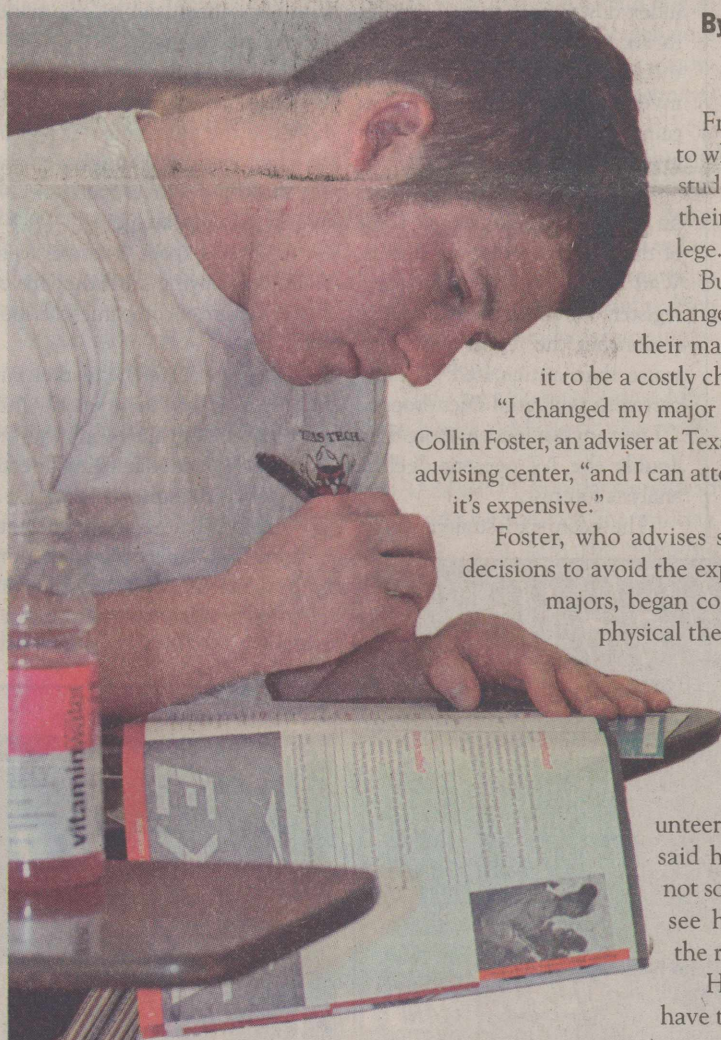


PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador
ALEX AMAVIZCA, A freshman biochemistry major from El Paso, fills out questions designed to assist in picking an academic major at a Discovery! Program workshop hosted Wednesday in Holden Hall.

From who to date to what is fashionable, students often change their minds during college.

But when students change their minds about their major, they may find it to be a costly choice.

"I changed my major three times," said Collin Foster, an adviser at Texas Tech's academic advising center, "and I can attest to the fact that it's expensive."

Foster, who advises students to make decisions to avoid the expense of changing majors, began college to become a physical therapist.

After immersing himself in the physical therapy environment as a volunteer in a clinic, Foster said he decided it was not something he could see himself doing for the rest of his life.

He was lucky to have taken enough core requirements in the beginning of his college career to avoid some of the expense changing majors can cause, Foster said. Only two of his classes did

not count.

Foster said sophomores and juniors who have between 60 to 80 hours could find it costly to change their minds about their majors.

"Had I not been open to changing my major early on," he said, "I would have been in a heap of trouble."

Garrett Schultz, a freshman, said he also was fortunate enough to change his major early, and it saved him money and time.

After one semester and two major-specific courses left him wondering if he was cut out to be an architect, Schultz said he changed his major from architecture to undecided.

According to Tech's Institutional Research and Information Management Web site, one credit hour during the Spring 2009 semester cost \$331.17.

At this rate, Schultz's two three-hour courses translates into \$1,548.02 of course-work

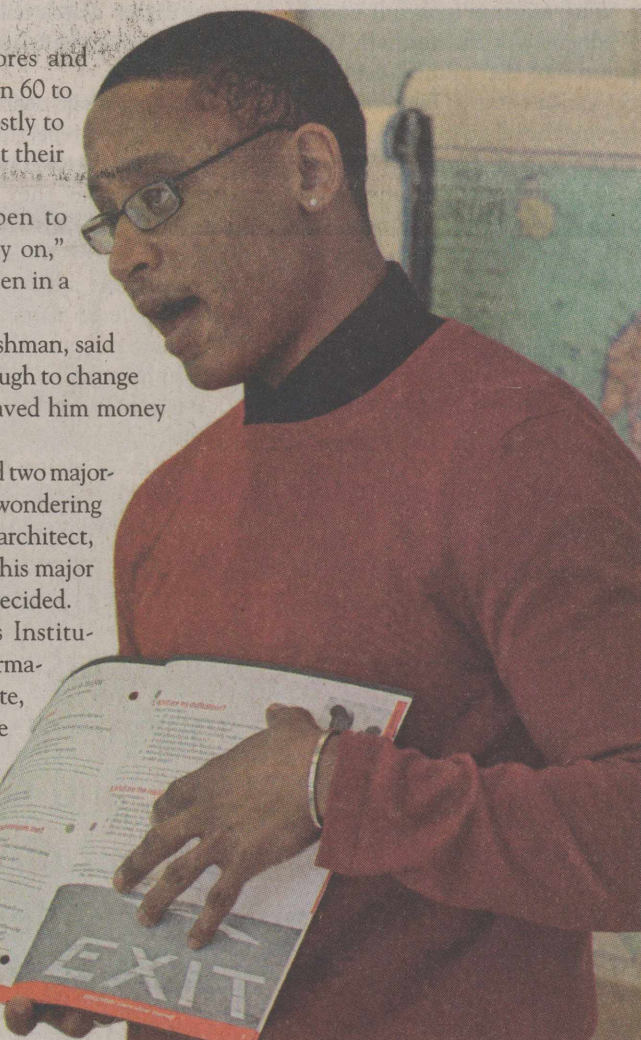


PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador
MICHAEL BROWN, ASSISTANT coordinator of the Discovery! Program, discusses some factors that affect one's degree choice at a workshop designed to help undecided students pick a major. The workshop took place Wednesday in Holden Hall.

WASTE

continued on page 6

Lubbock EDA hosts economic forecast luncheon

By JON VANDERLAAN
NEWS EDITOR

The Lubbock Economic Development Alliance hosted a Lubbock Economic Forecast luncheon and presentations event Wednesday at the Lubbock Civic Center, and one speaker believed Lubbock's economy looks bright in the upcoming year.

Angelos Angelou, the principal executive officer of Angelou Economics and a speaker at the event, said he is "cautiously optimistic" about the financial fortunes of Lubbock in 2009.

Despite a national situation he compared to the Great Depression, he said Lubbock is weathering the storm well and should continue showing positive job and retail growth in the coming year.

"I would say Lubbock is, in many ways,

isolated from the national challenges," Angelou said. "First and foremost, the university here is a stabilizing force year in and year out."

A growth of about 2,000 jobs in Lubbock is expected for the city, which is consistent with the last three or four years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Web site. Angelou said the city of Austin should have about the same growth despite a population of about 400,000 more than Lubbock.

According to the labor statistics Web site, the Austin-Round Rock area gained about 34,000 jobs from 2006 to 2007.

Angelou said Lubbock is in good shape because the Lubbock economy has Texas Tech as a "driving force" and has never been an economy that "goes too fast."

This economic quality also is a reason

why it is easy to recruit people to come work and live in Lubbock, he said, which is good because the city is experiencing a shortage of workers.

During his presentation, Angelou said the Lubbock City Council should diligently use the money President Obama and his administration will be giving to cities around the nation. Renewable energy and the infrastructure of the city are among the projects he said would benefit Lubbock the most.

Angelou said renewable energy is an issue that needs support throughout the State of Texas. While the state is the leading producer of wind energy in the nation, other states with more incentives are growing at a more rapid rate.

Even with the economic numbers around the nation going the opposite direc-

tion, he said, Lubbock might have another year to look forward to good fortunes.

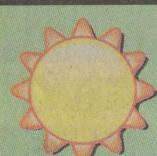
Zanny Beddoes, economics editor for The Economist magazine, presented an overall analysis of the global situation.

In the presentation, she cited several origins of the economic crisis: cheap credit, financial innovation, poor supervision, financial globalization, and government meddling.

Beddoes' presentation related the United States financial crisis to the world financial crisis, as well as set up a recovery situation.

She said some of the "ingredients of recovery" include strengthening banks, lowering interest rates, quantitative easing, fiscal boosts, and rebalancing the world economy.

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TODAY

Sunny

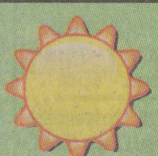
High 38 Low 20



Friday

Partly Cloudy

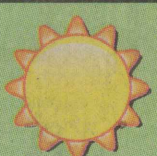
High 54 Low 30



Saturday

Sunny

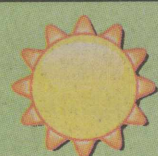
High 65 Low 29



Sunday

Sunny

High 61 Low 31



Monday

Sunny

High 69 Low 31

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Portions of road near campus closed for nine months

By **MIKE GRAHAM**
STAFF WRITER

Many students and Lubbock residents' route to food establishments and stores along Mac Davis Boulevard has been blocked for construction over the last month.

Construction began Dec. 29 on Glenna Goodacre Boulevard between Avenue U and Avenue R to reconstruct the road as well as make it architecturally uniform.

Joe Schaunaman, a civil engineer with the City of Lubbock, said the city envisions the street to be an aesthetically pleasing, four-lane road between Avenue Q and the Texas Tech campus. The work is estimated to take about nine months to complete.

"A lot of the reason we chose to reconstruct a portion of Glenna Goodacre Boulevard is because we want it to be the gateway to and from the Overton Park area," he said.

During the construction phase, the road will be closed between Avenue R and Avenue U as well as Avenue S to Main Street and the intersection of Avenue S and Main Street for the next nine months, according to the City of Lubbock's Web site.

Schaunaman said Armor Asphalt, a Lubbock-based company, has been subcontracted to do the construction work in the Overton area. The construction work will consist of resurfacing the blocked-off sections of road from a brick surface to an asphalt surface as well as constructing a median on the street.

Off-campus apartment residents, such as those living at the University Pointe — which has its main entrance on Glenna Goodacre Boulevard — said they have experienced some of the annoyances the construction has caused.

Daniel Yates, a sophomore molecular biology major from Katy and a resident of the apartments, said he has overheard several complaints about the construction because it prohibits residents driving west towards the apartments from places like Wal-Mart and Avenue Q to get to the apartment's entrance without a complex detour.

"The main annoyance is when you're coming west from (Avenue Q)," he said. "You have to get off Goodacre and turn onto one of the streets running parallel to it, but that's tricky because roads in the area are always being temporarily

blocked off. So, you drive past the apartment complex on the wrong road, then have to turn back onto Glenna Goodacre and drive east to the main entrance. All-in-all, it adds about three or four minutes to any drive coming from the west."

Yates said he does not believe the detours around Glenna Goodacre Boulevard will hurt any of the apartment complexes or condominiums in the Overton area's leasing success for the 2009-2010 school year.

"Most people, when they look at the area, come from the east from campus. Most driving will always be back and forth between the apartment and campus," he said. "So, it won't affect them that much and construction will probably be close to completed by the time it's time for them to move in."

Gail Whitley, office manager for Armor Asphalt, said the company will try to work quickly to open some portions of the roads before all of the construction in the area is complete.

Yates said while the detour is an annoyance, he could see the benefits of a reconstructed road. But, to him, the benefits are not worth the months of detours.



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

A CAR TURNS south at a roadblock at Glenna Goodacre Boulevard and Avenue U Tuesday. Glenna Goodacre Boulevard is closed east of Avenue U because of construction.

"(Glenna Goodacre Boulevard is) not a heavily traveled road," he said. "It's mainly used as a shortcut for people getting from Q to campus and for residents in the area on their way to and from home. I just don't think it's worth it to close big portions of

road near on-campus housing for unnecessary upgrades."

Glenna Goodacre Boulevard, which runs between Avenue Q and Tech's campus, was formerly known as a portion of 8th Street. It was renamed in honor of sculptor and Lubbock native

Glenna Goodacre in 2005.

Goodacre is most well-known for designing the Vietnam Women's Memorial in 1993 and the face of the Sacagawea dollar coin in 1999, according to her biography on her Web site. michael.graham@ttu.edu

Sri Lanka military seizes key northern peninsula

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Government forces have seized a final strip of land from Tamil Tiger rebels in a key northern peninsula of Sri Lanka, securing control of the symbolic heart of the 25-year separatist insurgency, the military said.

The defense secretary, meanwhile, accused some journalists of being "terrorists" trying to save the rebel group from the brink of defeat.

The military took full control Wednesday of the northern Jaffna peninsula, the cultural capital of Sri Lanka's ethnic Tamil minority, leaving the rebels in control of only one remaining district.

The peninsula was fully secured when soldiers captured Chundikulam village, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said. Last week, troops captured the Elephant Pass base, the insurgents' final stronghold on the peninsula.

Nanayakkara said the rebels retreated with their dead and that the military did not suffer any casualties.

Rebel officials could not be

reached for comment.

Sri Lanka's military started this year on a high, seizing the capital of the rebels' de facto state, securing Elephant Pass and forcing the retreating fighters into a small territory in the northeast.

Humanitarian groups say some 230,000 civilians were crammed in the remaining rebel-held district of Mullaittivu. The rebels said they are protecting civilians who voluntarily moved to the district, but Human Rights Watch has accused the rebels of preventing people from fleeing.

Nanayakkara said nearly 800 civilians had defied rebel threats and fled Mullaittivu on Wednesday.

Authorities say they hope to finally crush the Tigers in coming months. The rebels want an independent state for minority Tamils, who have suffered marginalization by governments controlled by majority ethnic Sinhalese. More than 70,000 people have been killed in the violence.

Sri Lanka's Defense Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, in a television interview Wednesday, accused

some journalists of being "terrorists" who take up the profession to shield their activities.

The government, meanwhile, has faced criticism over recent attacks against independent media.

On Jan. 6 more than a dozen men armed with assault rifles raided a private TV and radio network and blew up its control room. Two days later, a newspaper editor who was a harsh critic of the government was shot and killed as he drove to work near Colombo.

Foreign governments have condemned these attacks, and human rights groups said the government has created a climate of impunity for such attacks on perceived critics.

Rajapaksa accused the media company that was gutted of being the "voice" of the rebels and claimed that it burned its own control room to create an international outcry.

According to London-based Amnesty International, at least 14 journalists and Sri Lankans working for the media have been killed since the beginning of 2006.

Stocks tumble as worries grow about banks

NEW YORK (AP) — Volatility is reasserting itself in the stock market.

A darkening outlook for companies from banks to retailers to energy producers pummeled Wall Street Wednesday, sending the Dow Jones industrials down nearly 250 points, or 2.94 percent, and giving the other major indexes a loss of more than 3 percent.

The plunge leaves the Dow and the broader Standard & Poor's 500 index down more than 9 percent in six sessions. The S&P 500, the gauge tracked by professional investors, has now given up half its gains since it closed at an 11-year low on Nov. 20.

A weak government report on retail sales touched off some of the market's latest turbulence. Wall Street knew retailers' cash registers weren't busy this holiday season but the report was much worse than anticipated. The department said retail sales dropped 2.7 percent last month, more than double the 1.2 percent decline analysts forecast.

The record sixth straight month

of declines is only the latest symptom of the economy's ills. Consumers hit by sharp drops in home prices, rising unemployment and difficulty accessing credit have no choice but to pull back. That's troubling for Wall Street because consumer spending makes up more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity. Many analysts predict the year-old recession, already the longest in a quarter-century, will persist at least until late this year — and those disheartening forecasts are bringing sellers back to the market after a late-year rally.

"No doubt the retail sales numbers that came in just reminded us how bad the fourth quarter is going to look," said Jim Dunigan, managing executive of investments at PNC Wealth Management.

Analysts expect investors to refrain from buying until they have a better picture of companies' outlooks for 2009.

"It's once again the market kind of obsessing that there's really little good news about the economy," said Edmund Hyland, managing director and global investments specialist at JPMorgan Private Bank in Atlanta. "I think any time you're in the kind of bear market we're in, you kind of struggle along the bottom for a while."

Investors are increasingly uneasy about the financial industry. Deutsche Bank AG's announcement that it lost an estimated \$6.4 billion in the fourth quarter intensified the market's concerns that banks in general are still suffering and will need more government help.

"People were thinking we were coming toward the end of this financial meltdown, but as you can tell from the news today, we're not even close to the end yet," said Dave Rovelli, managing director of trading at brokerage Canaccord Adams. "Financials are the backbone of the economy. If they aren't stable, you aren't going to see a sustainable rally."

On Wednesday, the Dow fell 248.42, or 2.94 percent, to 8,200.14, its lowest close since Dec. 1. All 30 stocks that make up the Dow fell.

The S&P 500 fell 29.17, or 3.35 percent, to 842.62.

The Nasdaq composite index fell 56.82, or 3.67 percent, to 1,489.64. After the close of trading, Apple Inc. announced that CEO Steve Jobs is taking a medical leave of absence until the end of June because his health problems are more complex than he thought. The news was likely to set off selling in tech stocks when the market reopens Thursday.

Texas Tech University reports annual campus crime statistics to our university community, prospective students, and new employees. To find out more about the annual report, please view the following website: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/tpd/clery.php>



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SGA forms first scholarship initiative for graduate school

By **MATT COBB**
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech's Student Government Association has established a new scholarship initiative geared solely toward the university's graduate students.

The scholarship program, named Step Towards Assisting Graduate Education (STAGE), is the first of its type at Tech and is only available to students enrolled in the graduate school.

Scholarship opportunities will be available to full-time and part-time graduate students through this program, said Arindam Mazumdar, SGA vice president for graduate and professional affairs. Only two scholarships will be awarded for the 2009-2010 academic year.

"One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded for a full-time graduate student, and one \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a part-time graduate student," he said. "We are planning on increasing the number of scholarship we award in future years."

The program's goal is to raise \$1 million for the initiative, Mazumdar said. A \$10,000 endowment already has been raised for the program. Anyone who donates \$1,000 or more to the endowment will be commemorated with an engraved brick in the sidewalk that leads from Memorial Circle to the Administration Building.

The program was established



HARTMEISTER

through the collaborative efforts of the SGA, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, and the graduate school, he said.

The SGA jump-started the initiative, which also is meant to help attract new students to Tech's graduate program, Mazumdar said. Tech hopefully will be able to recruit more "top-quality" graduate students through incentives the scholarship offers.

"Through this program, we are trying to offer more scholarship opportunities to graduate students," he said. "This initiative should help Tech attract, recruit and retain more students to graduate programs."

This new program reflects positively on Tech and its graduate school department, said Fred Hartmeister, dean of the graduate school.

"Tech's graduate school is always looking for new avenues to provide aid to its students," he said. "We try to find as much support as possible."

Tech's graduate school has a higher-than-average retention rate, Hartmeister said. From 2001 to 2007, the school graduated 67 percent of its doctoral candidates across all of its programs, while the na-



BOBBITT

tional average for the same six-year period was 45 percent to 55 percent for specific programs.

The scholarship initiative will only help improve those numbers, he said.

"The persistence of our graduate students here at Tech is at the top in the nation," Hartmeister said.

Other proponents of the initiative share similar feelings of the graduate school students and ways the scholarship program will aid in the recruiting process.

Lee Bobbitt, the SGA president, said the program shows Tech is dedicated to recruiting and sustaining some of the nation's top students.

"It shows that we take pride in our graduate students," she said. "It also says how Texas Tech is really committed to higher learning."

The next step is to hopefully expand the program so more scholarships can be awarded, Bobbitt said. This year is just the beginning.

"I hope the program expands and keeps making a bigger impact every year," Bobbitt said.

Students can access the scholarship application on the Student Government Association's Web site.

>>> matthew.cobb@ttu.edu

10-day truce proposed in talks with Hamas, Israel

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Egypt and Hamas are close to a deal for a 10-day cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinian militant group in Gaza, where the death toll from the Israeli offensive exceeded 1,000, officials said Wednesday.

Egyptian and Hamas officials expressed optimism that an agreement for a temporary halt in fighting could be sealed soon and presented to Israel. But even if all sides sign on, further talks will be needed to resolve contentious disputes over policing Gaza's borders and ensure a longer-term truce.

"We're working with Hamas and we're working with the Israeli side. We hope to reach an outcome soon," Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hossam Zaki told the British Broadcasting Corp.

Nine Israeli human rights groups accused the army of endangering Gazan civilians and called for a war crimes investigation. The groups wrote to Israeli leaders that the Gaza campaign has left civilians with nowhere to flee. Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said Israel supports freedom of expression, even if an opinion "is not based on any solid evidence and even if it is tainted with political bias."

Guerrillas in Lebanon sent rockets crashing into northern Israel on Wednesday for the second time in a week, drawing an Israeli artillery barrage and threatening

to drag the Jewish state into a second front.

Egyptian and Hamas officials held intensive talks in Cairo. Late Wednesday, Salah al-Bardawil, a Gaza-based Hamas official, stopped short of saying Hamas had accepted the Egyptian proposal. He told reporters that "we submitted our points of view" on the proposed deal, adding, "We hope that this Egyptian effort will succeed."

Ghazi Hamad, another Gaza-based Hamas official, told the BBC, "I am optimistic now because I think there is no other choice for us. ... This kind of agreement can be done now, and I think now there is good progress in Egypt. We hope that now Egypt will contact Israel and talk about all issues."

But there were signs Hamas' leadership-in-exile had reservations. Osama Hamdan, a leading Hamas official in Beirut, said there were still points Hamas had not agreed to. "We do not agree with the initiative as it stands now," he told Al-Jazeera TV.

The contradictory comments were the latest sign of cracks between Hamas leaders under fire in Gaza and the leadership-in-exile, which is largely based in Syria and is seen as more hard-line. Hamas officials, however, insist that the movement is unified, and it was not clear if Hamdan's tougher tone was a negotiating tactic or a sign of division.

Israel launched its offensive Dec. 27 to halt years of Palestinian rocket

attacks. It has said it will press forward until Hamas halts the rocket fire and receives guarantees that Hamas will stop smuggling weapons into Gaza through the porous Egyptian border.

The offensive has killed at least 1,025 Palestinians, about half of them civilians, including 300 children and teenagers, said Dr. Moaiya Hassanain of the Gaza Health Ministry. The toll included 68 Palestinians who were killed or died of wounds Wednesday. More than 4,500 Palestinians have been wounded, medical officials said. Thirteen Israelis have also been killed, four by rocket fire from Gaza.

Jakob Kellenberger, head of the international Red Cross, welcomed the three-hour daily lulls in the fighting set by Israelis to let groups send in aid and assist the wounded in Gaza, but he said more time was needed.

"You must have access at any time to people who are wounded," he said.

Israel showed no signs of slowing its bruising offensive as fighting raged early Thursday north and south of Gaza City, where explosions and gunfire could be heard. Hospital officials said seven people were killed — four militants shortly after midnight in southern Gaza and three people an hour later in Gaza City.

On Wednesday, Israel struck some 60 targets. One airstrike hit an overcrowded cemetery, spreading human remains over a wide area. The army said the airstrike targeted a weapons cache hidden near the graveyard.

Basra is focus of Shiite rivalry in southern Iraq

BASRA, Iraq (AP) — Freed last year from the grip of militias, Basra has emerged as the main battleground for rival Shiites in elections for control of the oil-rich south — a race that will test the power of religious parties and the influence of neighboring Iran.

The Jan. 31 ballot, in which voters across the country will choose ruling provincial councils, will be the first since U.S.-backed Iraqi forces wrested control of Basra from Shiite militias and criminal gangs.

American officials will be watching the outcome for any sign that the militias might return in Iraq's second largest city of about 2 million people, located only a few miles from the Iranian border.

More than 1,000 candidates have entered the race for Basra's 35 council seats, filling the city's dusty and traffic-choked streets with campaign posters and flyers that give the city a festive look. The outcome will help shape the political future of the southern Shiite heartland ahead of national elections expected by year's end.

Basra has been relatively quiet

since last year's military crackdown, which ended three years of Shiite militia rule, rampant crime and turmoil. Today, thousands of national police and army soldiers patrol its streets.

At the commercial heart of the city, the soldiers and policemen rub shoulders with the thousands of residents who throng stores until late into the night. With militiamen off the streets, women are out in public again — some unaccompanied by male chaperons and wearing makeup.

Music CDs and DVDs of Western and Egyptian films are back in the stores. Those items were once banned by militias; merchants who defied the gunmen risked death.

The battle for Basra is now being fought politically, with Shiite religious parties more divided than ever following their emergence as Iraq's dominant political force after the ouster of Saddam Hussein's

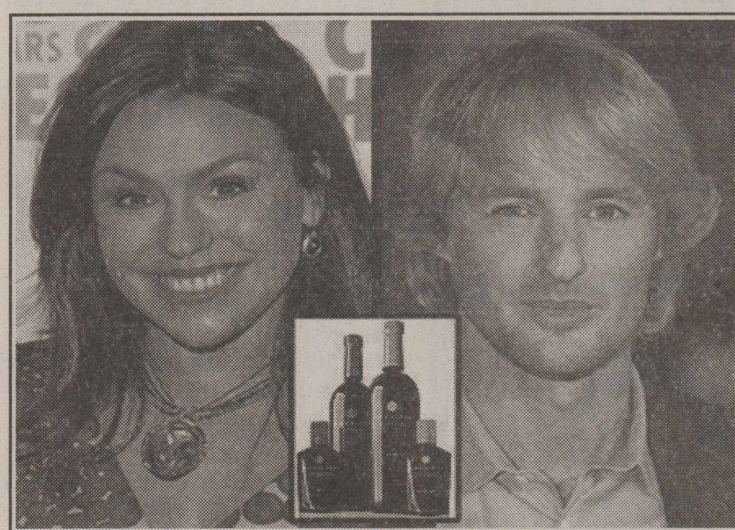
Sunni-led regime in 2003.

Chief among the competitors in Basra are the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council, the country's largest Shiite party and Iran's main ally in Iraq, and Fadhlila, a smaller religious group that has controlled local government since the last provincial elections in January 2005.

Also in the mix are followers of radical Shiite leader Muqtada al-Sadr, whose influence in Basra significantly diminished after last year's crackdown. Al-Sadr, who lives in exile in Iran, is supporting two lists of candidates running as independents.

The Dawa Party of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is also in the race.

Al-Maliki's popularity soared here after he took on the militias. He is at odds with the Supreme Council over distribution of power between provinces and the central government.



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Baltimore works to accommodate crowds for Obama

BALTIMORE (AP) — Barack Obama's train trip Saturday from Philadelphia to Washington offers people who can't make it for the inauguration to catch a glimpse of the next president.

The Presidential Inaugural Committee announced Wednesday that Obama, his family and the group of "everyday Americans" accompanying them on the train plan to gather at the 30th Street

Station in Philadelphia that morning. Tickets for the event where Obama will speak have been distributed.

The train stops in Wilmington, Del., to pick up Vice President-elect Joe Biden and his family. Obama and Biden will speak at an event open to the public at the back of the train station.

The tour continues to Baltimore, where Obama will speak at War Memorial Plaza next to City Hall in

late afternoon before departing for Washington.

Committee spokeswoman Chris Mather said the Obama and Biden will be introduced at each event by one of the "everyday Americans" on the tour. Each has met Obama or Biden at some point and told them a compelling story, Mather said.

Officials in Baltimore are working on overflow sites because 100,000 to 150,000 people are expected.

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Product downsizing cheats consumers

By NATALIE HEIN
DAILY BRUIN (UCLA)

You wouldn't pay the same amount for half a sandwich as you would for a full one. You wouldn't pay for a "supersized" meal and be content with the regular size. So why are you paying for full-sized groceries and receiving minis?

Perhaps you've heard of downsizing in reference to layoffs—a practice that, as students, does not necessarily affect us. But our sinking economy is causing downsizing in areas beyond the job market. Downsizing, in terms of selling less product in a standard package for the same or higher price, is becoming more popular. This means fewer potato chips in a bag, less cereal in a box while you're still paying as high a price as ever. And you thought the recession wasn't affecting you.

As our country's economic activity continues to diminish, the cost of raw materials continues to climb. Over the past few years, manufacturers have made budget cuts everywhere they could, due to the rise in cost of raw materials.

Yet manufacturers have reached the point where there's not much fat left to trim, and so their financial burden has been passed down to us, the consumers. But because of our competitive market, manufacturers and retailers are reluctant to raise the price of their product outright. They fear breaking a popularly accepted price point because doing so would give their competition the upper hand.

Surely, the last time you bought paper towels, you scanned the aisle for the lowest price for the most rolls. Knowing this consumer trend, manufacturers and retailers often opt for a sneakier price-increase tactic: downsizing their product.

Changes in product sizes are virtually unnoticeable to the undiscerning eye. A box of Apple Jacks now holds 15 ounces where it once held 17. Fruit Loops now hold 17 ounces where they once held 19.7. A Hershey's bar that was previously eight ounces is now 6.8 ounces and parades around as a "Giant bar." Frankly, with so many weight-loss-centered New Year's resolutions, a cut in portion sizes isn't really

the worst thing for the American consumer. It is the deceptive nature of these downsizes that is really the key issue.

A sneaky case of Cottonelle bath tissue downsizing was recently unraveled by an online source, mouseprint.org, that works to expose fine print in advertising. They visually compared two packages that both claimed to hold 304 sheet rolls with each sheet measuring 4.2 by 4.0 inches. Yet, one package was noticeably taller than the other.

After contacting the company and learning of the company's downsize from 4.5 inch sheets of bath tissue to 4.2, the site deduced that some of the older 4.5 width rolls were put into a newer wrapper that had the new lowered sheet count and narrower width on the label. They speculated that the

packaging mistake was perhaps "an interim step in the downsizing process to hide the change for anyone comparing the older label to the newer one."

Such hurdles to fair-price-comparisons should not be allowed in our market. What's more is that

in many cases, a downsize cannot even be detected through side-by-side comparison.

I didn't notice downsizing until I was helping my mom cook dinner over break. A box of Dreamfields pasta, weighing one pound, used to fit perfectly into a canister in our kitchen. I watched

my mom empty the contents of the box into the canister, and to my surprise the pasta did not reach the top. Something was wrong. I checked the box. The box that used to read 16 ounces now read 13. There was no discount for the missing three ounces,

but rather a price increase.

What's more troubling is that according to a Nielsen report from this past summer, products like dried pasta are supposed to be unscathed by our economic downturn. The inaccuracy of this assertion supports a different claim that 2009 will hold a commodity cost increase double that of 2008, leaving no product immune to downsizing.

This supermarket shrinkdown is surely shielding us from the reality of our economic situation. We are witnessing few price increases at the grocery store, yet prices have skyrocketed. The American consumer did not consent to having the wool pulled over her eyes.

According to Nielsen, 47 percent of American consumers would prefer to buy larger products for more money than having their normal portions downsized, while only 9 percent of surveyed Americans showed support for downsizing.

Manufacturers are thus not only miniaturizing their products, but also minimizing the consumer's influence in the marketplace by forcing us to comply with a price-increase strategy

that we would otherwise oppose.

Downsizing has more of a downside than just being deceptive. It produces "upsized" waste. With fewer plastic baggies in a box, there is more waste per baggie as the box is more quickly emptied and discarded, and a new box is purchased just to reach the same fate. Downsizing also leads to bungled recipes. A recipe that calls for a can of Starkist tuna will now come out less fishy due to the shrunken content in the cans.

The unknowing consumers don't know to adjust their recipe to the new smaller portions until it's too late, and who has time to calculate conversions for the missing ounce or two here and there?

As college students, our purse strings are already tighter than most, and we tend to rely on price-comparison shopping to help us budget. Yet fair comparisons are far more difficult to make, now that downsizing has confused the market against our will. Manufacturers and retailers should be increasing prices outright instead of trying to sneak them under our noses. They've downsized their product, not my intelligence, and I'm not fooled.

'Meh': Shakespeare's secret saying 2009: Year of the subjunctive case

By WILL GRUNDLER
MICHIGAN DAILY (U. MICHIGAN)

A recent Associated Press article stated lexicographers have become so excited about the informal expression "meh" that the Collins English Dictionary decided to make it an official word. This prompted many people, including me, to wonder:

1. What is a lexicographer?
2. Should we be afraid if informal expressions excite them?

I am, of course, joking. As any dictionary will tell you, a lexicographer is a person who makes maps. And who wouldn't be excited about "meh" as a real phrase? This word—meaning indifference or boredom—has been making a comeback ever since it debuted, if you remember, in Shakespeare's Hamlet:

Claudius: To be or not to be, that is the question.

Gertrude: Meh.
Hamlet: (Stage left, behind potted plant. Whimpers in rage and self-hatred.)

"Meh" went unnoticed for centuries—Shakespearean insults such as "Thou vain, unwash'd bladder!" were much cooler—but now it's gaining popularity, especially here at the University of Michigan. For example, when someone asks you whether you're buying season football tickets next year, a popular response used to be "heck yes," but now we say "meh" instead. "Meh" is also a favorite reply when someone wants to know if you plan on voting in the next Michigan Student Assembly elections. (Note: "What are those?" might be an even more common response.)

Now, I know what you're thinking. You're thinking, "Should I call a Diag preacher a vain, unwash'd bladder?" (No. Refrain from eloquence and call him a dirty bladder, then bite your thumb at him.) You're also thinking, "Well yeah, it really comes as no surprise that 'meh' is a word now—it's basically 'eh' with an 'm'. But what

about other cool slang that we want to see as real words, like 'irregardless'?"

Excellent point. As any decent editor will tell you, the best journalists use Wikipedia to research these important issues. But I wanted to go even further—so I attempted to contact Collins English Dictionary, which is based, inexplicably, in Scotland. (But after a quick Wikipedia search, I discovered that they speak both Scottish and English over there, so it makes sense.)

Before doing so, I did some more research and discovered that the Collins English Dictionary editors, having grown bored from editing dictionaries, had encouraged readers to submit conversational, non-dictionary words and promised one submission would be published as a new word. As a result, many readers who were bored of reading dictionaries sent in their suggestions (even though most of them hadn't had a conversation in years).

It came as no surprise that "meh" was chosen, though there were some interesting candidates. For instance, the term "frenemies" (French for "split personality") was a popular submission. So was "huggles," but since no normal person would ever utter the word in public, it didn't win.

This information changed everything. Suddenly, I knew I had to make a suggestion myself, rather than bore the Collins English Dictionary people to death with journalistic questions. However, picking a slang word that the entire campus would like to see made official is easier said than done.

Finally, after ages of consideration, after thinking of popular books, movies and other entertainment, I had it. What follows is a completely verbatim transcript of an e-mail exchange between Anna MacDermid, a

Collins Dictionary support assistant and myself.

Will: Hello! I recently learned that your 30th anniversary English Dictionary will include "meh" as a word. I think this is very exciting and I also wonder if you will include "muggle," too, a derogatory noun—as in, "Don't lie to me, you filthy muggle." Thank you!

Anna: Hi William—Thank you for your e-mail—we appreciate feedback from our dictionary fans. I will forward your suggestion to our dictionary editors.

I will forward your suggestion. History in the making! Perhaps I wasted my chance by requesting "muggle," but it's such a good insult—whenever you accuse someone of not being a wizard, you know you've crossed a line.

Though compared to "vain, unwash'd bladder," it's a bit meh.

By ANDREW KINDMAN
THE DUKE CHRONICLE (DUKE)

If you've studied language, the title of this column probably sent a little tingle of repulsion and inadequacy down your spine. Loathed by second-language students for its irregular forms and nebulous applications, the subjunctive mood represents an essential part of the grammatical and cultural canon in nearly all Indo-European languages.

The subjunctive is used "to express wishes, commands, emotion, possibility, judgment, opinion, necessity or statements that are contrary to fact at present" (here I shamelessly cite Wikipedia because language belongs to the proletariat, as does Wikipedia Q.E.D.).

Now I don't claim to be a grammar whiz, or even a buff—I too have spent long hours cursing the subjunctive for the hearty chunk of GPA it stole from me—but over the past year, I have come to appreciate the real value of the subjunctive, its diverse uses and, most importantly, the insidious complacency it implies.

I have been out of the country for eight months—four months in Paraguay and another four in Spain. Since May, I have been watching America from the perspective of a spectator, and watching the world in a language that values the subjunctive in a big way. In these several months, one thing became clear to me. Herein I do not use the subjunctive: I do not express doubt, do not negate certainty and do not qualify the forthcoming statement as opinion or judgment. Straight-up indicative mood, present perfect tense: This world has gone crazy.

We watched a presidential election during which the irrelevance of Alaska's visual proximity to the Bering Strait had to be corroborated by pundits before it could be dismissed. We continue to apply sanctions and antagonistic rhetoric against petrol—states like Iran and Venezuela knowing fully well that a crippling blow would be dealt to these oppressive regimes if we were to invest in alternative energy and public transportation.

We listened to lawmakers who told us that budget cuts in public schools and on other social spending was unavoidable, then watched as nearly \$8 trillion appeared out of thin air to save the international monetary system before it crashed through its deregulated floor (don't get comfortable; it's worse than you think, and it isn't nearly over). I could go on. From Iraqi oil field auctions to Madoff's giant Ponzi,

this is an age that begs for outrage, but all I've seen recently is complacency, in the subjunctive.

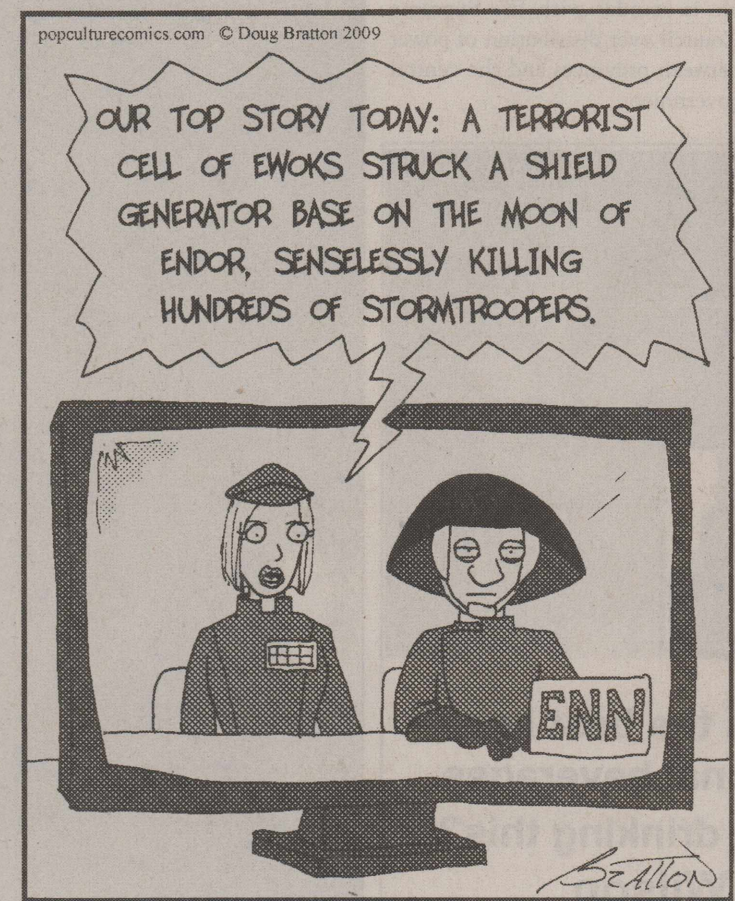
It comes in forms as benign as passive desire. "I wish things were better." "I hope that Barack Obama enacts the change he promised." But then there is the more subtle, though more sinister, if-then statement. "If I weren't so busy, I'd tutor kids in my neighborhood." "If it were more convenient, I'd ride the bus to work." The subjunctive is, in a way, both the most powerful weapon and greatest enemy of our culture.

While we could have used the subjunctive to express doubt in things like weapons of mass destruction that were "definitely" in Iraq, we've become comfortable using the subjunctive to legitimize our self-doubt, our perceived powerlessness and our endless, endless excuses.

Last year, my columns covered campaigns and organizations both on the grassroots and institutional level, and I promise I will get back to it. This is a column about activism, in students, in culture, in abstract and in practice. And although perhaps this first column seems like a grammar lesson wrapped in a wet blanket of "hell-in-a-hand-basket" social criticism, I wanted to use it to open 2009 for this reason:

In this new year, with this new president and administration, on this fresh lap around the sun, humor me as I pose to you one of the more eccentric requests you are likely to have heard lately. Resolve to start questioning your personal use of the subjunctive—maybe even try giving indicative a shot. If you find yourself wishing, ask yourself why you aren't taking action. If you find yourself expressing doubt, let it be against orthodoxy and not against yourself.

It's an abstract resolution, to be sure, but it's simple. Let's stop watching our world as spectators in the subjunctive tense. Ditch the if-then statements and just take action.



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Lubbock Symphony Orchestra to feature Grammy Award-winning Tech professor

The Lubbock Symphony Orchestra will give students an opportunity to hear a professional performance 8 p.m. Jan. 16 and 17 at the Lubbock Civic Center Theatre.

This season's events are a tribute to the city of Lubbock, said marketing director Nicholas Dragga, and weekend performances will celebrate the education community

and offer discounted student tickets. To honor Lubbock education, the event will feature tenor Karl Dent, a Grammy award winner and Texas Tech School of Music professor, Dragga said.

Dragga said the symphony orchestra will offer discounted student tickets at the door for \$5 to give students the opportunity to hear Dent's performance of Gerald Finzi's "Dies

Natalis." "We're trying to offer something that is cheap and fun for students," Dragga said.

The concert "Out of this World!" will feature the annual side-by-side performance that includes the Lubbock Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Texas Tech University Woman's Chorus, Dragga said. The youth orchestra will play along with its Lubbock Sym-

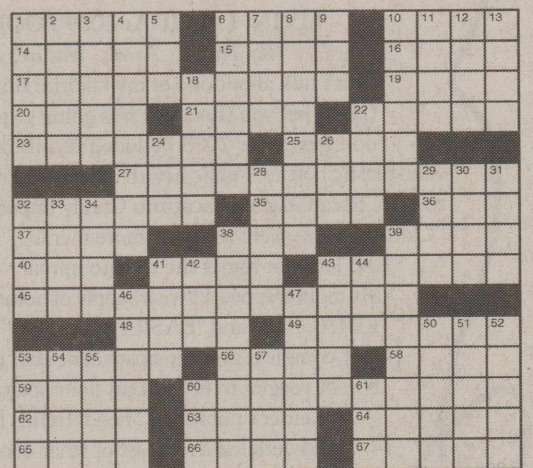
phony Orchestra counterparts. Dragga said the music performance will feature music from the 1968 science fiction movie "2001: A Space Odyssey."

Tickets can be purchased with a credit card by calling the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra at (806) 762-1688 or purchased at the door of the Civic Center Theatre with cash. >>>hannah.boen@ttu.edu

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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
- "Lara ...": Tomb Raider
 - Iron pumper's pride
 - Challenge
 - Palmer of "The Gentle Sex"
 - Japanese box
 - Concluded
 - Start of a quip
 - Big-shot letters
 - Jacob's twin
 - Is not well
 - Center
 - Mack of Keystone films
 - Garden legumes
 - Part 2 of quip
 - Touch tenderly
 - Ruler before Lenin
 - Corp. titan
 - Brought into play
 - Stocks: abbr.
 - Star or wolf modifier
 - Notes of scales
 - Wine region of Italy
 - Indicates the way
 - Part 3 of quip
 - Burn a bit
 - lie of tennis
 - Abrasive cloth
 - Gator relative
 - Award for a sitcom
 - Rain's wrap
 - End of quip
 - Bacon quantity
 - Bellow
 - Orchestral instruments
 - Otherwise
 - Keats works
 - Minotaur's home
 - Small change
 - Garden tools
 - Remedy
 - On a cruise
 - What's left
 - Stiffened, in a way
 - Eavesdropper
 - Sore
 - Mexico Mrs.
 - Quiet partner?
 - Alternatives
 - Professional copyist
 - Small hills
 - Take a stroll
 - Small silvery fish
 - Vocalist Gorme
 - Latin being
 - Shopper's milieu
 - Baseball stats
 - Frodo
 - Color neighbor
 - Former trucking regulating agcy.



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
1/15/09

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

BOARDS SHAW CHAI
ELTON HOPS FAOS
BATTLE OF BULL RUN
OVI ALIF ELA TAT
PICNIC BASKET
ASHY HERSHEY
PERIL ZOE ATE
INFLECTION POINT
END MVP ENLAI
DESKTOP PARE
LONG TERM GOAL
UHAUL IAN ZOO
SETTLED THE SCORE
PREZ MILE TENTS
SONY OXEN PLEASE

Helping others click by click

By LIBBY HOPKINS
THE ORACLE (U. SOUTH FLORIDA)

Giving doesn't have an expiration date. It doesn't come in seasons, and there's no specific time of year when it's best to give — even if the winter holidays seem to be the most common time for sharing one's wealth.

That's the message Cami Walker intends to spread with the 29-Day Giving Challenge, a program that dares participants to spend nearly a month giving something each day. Walker said she started her mission with the realization that in order to revive the spirit of giving, she had to reach out to people. When she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, she said, she almost lost faith entirely.

"I couldn't fathom giving to others at that point," she said. "I was very attached to my struggle and really believed that I had nothing to give anyone."

Her spiritual teacher Mbali Creazzo suggested she give away 29 things in 29 days to help her through her illness.

"I thought the suggestion was crazy at first, but decided it wasn't going to hurt me to try it — things couldn't get much worse," Walker said.

Just by taking up the challenge, Walker said she was shocked at how quickly her life and health began to improve.

She documented her daily observations and what she gave away by posting stories online. She then decided to invite some friends to join her. Within a week, 120 people signed up.

To participate in the challenge,

visitors first fill out a profile about themselves on

29gifts.org similar to those on other social networks like MySpace or Facebook. The difference is what they do next: give away 29 gifts in 29 days.

The gifts don't need to have monetary value. They can be as simple as a kind word or a poem. Participants can post a story, an original piece of artwork, a movie or a song if they choose. Afterward, users are prompted to share how the project has changed their life. The idea is to make selflessness part of one's everyday routine.

Rebecca Drew, a Pennsylvania native and a member of the U.S. Air Force, was referred to the site by a friend last year. Drew is on her second round of the challenge and said it has been a rewarding experience for her from the start.

"I have gotten more love, friends, boosts in self-esteem and blessings beyond any I ever imagined," Drew said.

Though members of the site feel a sense of self-enrichment, Jessica Merrick, a sociology graduate student, said the focus of giving should be enriching others' lives.

"(29 Gifts) is amusingly voyeuristic," she said. "While it is counterproductive to criticize the motives of gift-giving, it does seem to negate the assumed altruism the idea is based on."

Approval beneficial for gay teens

By RACHEL PLOWDEN
THE NEWS RECORD (U. CINCINNATI)

Children and teenagers whose families reacted negatively to their sexual orientation were several times more likely to commit suicide than their heterosexual peers, according to a new San Francisco University study.

Over the course of several studies, SFU researchers have found that even the slightest bit of acceptance of sexual orientation from an individual's family can make all the difference. The studies indicated parental reactions were crucial to a child's mental health development, and a negative reaction could affect the individual well into adulthood.

"A lot [of gay teenagers] are hesitant to tell their parents for fear of their reaction," according to Dr. Janice Singermann, a practicing psychiatrist at the Cincinnati Center for Psychoanalysis, 3001 Highland Ave. "[Gay teens] are definitely more likely to have anxiety and depression [if] they feel unaccepted and unwelcome in their home."

College can provide lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students with opportunities to develop a new sense of community. Supportive families are important to any adolescent and their well-being, according to Dr. Michael Maloney, a psychiatrist with the Cincinnati

Center for Psychoanalysis.

Having a sense of community is important for many, especially those whose families are not accepting of their teenager's identity. Many people turn to their families for comfort and guidance, and a teenager lacking this support may develop depression or turn to suicide.

"I know so many people who, as a result of their parents not accepting them, went into a deep depression," said Nate Wessel, a second-year University of Cincinnati urban planning student and vice president of Out on Campus.

Out on Campus is one of three on-campus student organizations aimed at LGBT individuals in the UC community. GenderBloc and Equality UC are also LGBT organizations at UC.

A new LGBT center, located in the Steger Student Life Center, offers students a place to meet others who may have had similar situations.

Jess Price, a graduate student in the women's studies program, serves as the program coordinator for the new center. She said that "college changes things" for many students whose families are either unaware or not accepting of their sexual orientation.

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THE PRESS BOX

By Alex Ybarra, managing editor

A college football fan couldn't ask for more from this group of quarterbacks. They know the NFL is not going away anytime soon. Plus, their reasoning is hard to argue with, why not rule college ball for one more year? This season's top three quarterbacks in OU's Sam Bradford, Florida's Tim Tebow and Texas' Colt McCoy lead a pack of dynamite signal callers for 2009.



LIVIN' LA VIDA: 2009 FOOD TRENDS

By Tina L. Arons, features editor

Let's talk about one of my favorite things: food. (Ha! I bet you thought I was going to say coffee.)

Food trends for 2008 included recalls of Serrano peppers and plastic bottles. Public health officials warned consumers not to eat Chaca Chaca Chacatrozo Candy imported from Mexico. Calorie counts were added to more menus.

And let's not forget the tomato uproar.

My mom shipped a 5-year supply of homegrown tomatoes and zucchini labeled "TOMATOES" and "EASILY BRUISED" in bold, black letters to my apartment complex, and the apartment staff giggled as I lugged the enormous box of veggies to my second-floor apartment several buildings away.

Reuter's published "Food Trends for 2009" on its Web site Jan. 8 and detailed a forecast of what consumers can expect to see.

<http://blogs.dailytoreador.com>

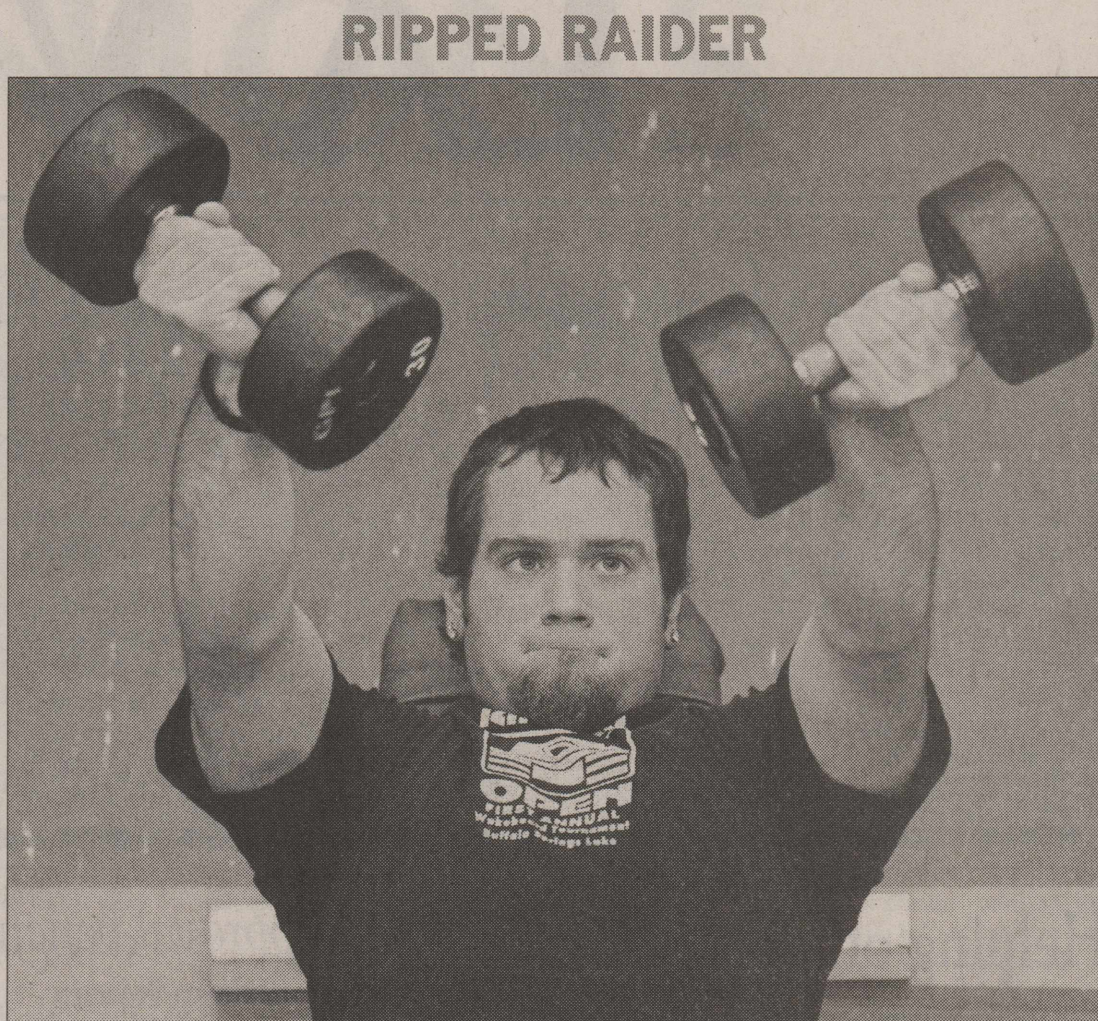


PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador
JORY JARVIS, A junior finance major from Cisco, lifts weights Wednesday in the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center.

Waste

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that may not count toward his degree.

"I really don't feel like I wasted anything," the Houston native said, "because no matter what major I decide on, I'll probably still use what I learned in my architecture courses."

Even though he felt his classes weren't a waste of money, Schultz said he may have spent money on the class supplies that he would have not ordinarily bought and will not use again.

The staff at Tech's academic advising center said they see a lot of students like Schultz who are struggling to decide which degree to pursue.

Elizabeth Teagan, university advising center managing director, said the

center saw 1,938 students in their office last week.

Many of the students are sorting out registration problems incurred before leaving for the holiday break, she said, but some are visiting the center for advice about choosing a major.

Each student must choose one of 150 majors offered at Tech—a decision that is not always easy.

Joshua Barron, the center's associate director, said he began college in pursuit of an accounting degree he chose because it was at the top of an alphabetical list.

"I spent more time deciding between Taco Bell, Taco Bueno and Taco Villa than deciding on a major," Barron said.

He said he and his staff talk to students who change majors for a variety of

reasons, and the money spent acquiring hours that do not count toward a degree is different for every student.

Barron said he encourages students who change their major to avoid considering any classes they have taken to be a waste of time.

"No endeavor in learning is ever a waste of time," he said, "but it's not always pushing them to a degree. The attitude of buying a diploma is a high school mentality."

Barron said that students who change their major usually find they have credit hours that will not count toward their new major, but any class can help students learn more about themselves and the world

around them. However, Tech is committed to helping students move forward to reach a degree, Barron said, and the advising center is interested in helping students obtain a diploma.

Foster said he advises students who are unsure about their major to visit the advising center in the basement of Holden Hall.

"It's a safe place to doubt yourself and to get pointed in directions that are going to help you," he said. "There

are so many different degrees and degree plans that people come in with a very small idea of what their options are. We make those options clear."

>>> hannah.boen@ttu.edu

Study: Electricity savings are possible

WASHINGTON (AP) — Improvements in energy efficiency can be achieved to slow the growth of electricity demand over the next two decades by at least 22 percent, but it will require investments of billions of dollars, says a new study.

The report released Tuesday said there are a wide range of realistic efficiency improvements that can be made so the country by 2030 would require 5 percent to 8 percent less electricity than has been projected.

But the energy savings would come at a price.

The study released Wednesday by the utility-supported Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) said utilities would have to invest between \$19 billion and \$47 billion between now and 2030 to get the maximum power savings that realistically can be achieved. Some of that would be offset by money that isn't spent on new power plants.

Most of the savings would come from new building codes, tougher appliance and lighting standards and a phase-out of less efficient equipment to heat and cool buildings as well as development of a "smart" electric grid that would allow utilities to fine-tune energy use, the report says. And while much of the savings would come from residential use the biggest will

come from better commercial motors and office and factory lighting.

"We have tremendous opportunity to reduce the consumption of electricity," said Michael Howard, an EPRI vice president who presented the findings Tuesday at an energy conference.

Howard said that electricity use has increased on average 2.5 percent a year over the last 35 years and has been projected to increase 1.07 percent annually up to 2030. But he said the EPRI analysis concludes the annual growth in power demand could be cut to 0.83 percent even if not everyone buys the most efficient appliances and equipment.

The EPRI study may, in fact, underestimate the potential for efficiency gains since it assumes no additional efficiency regulations and codes that are already on the books.

President-elect Barack Obama repeatedly has said a core of his energy policy will be to improve energy efficiency including tougher appliance standards. For example he will ask Congress to pump some of the economic stimulus funds into reducing energy use in government buildings.

Obama's choice as energy secretary, Steven Chu, told a Senate hearing on Tuesday that "energy efficiency is the key" to curtailing people's energy costs and also help to address climate change.

Today's su | do | ku

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

Puzzles by PageFiller

In Sudoku, all the numbers 1 to 9 must be in every row, column and 3 x 3 box. Use logic to define the answers.

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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STAT. CHAN. AFFIL. CITY	KTXN 5 PBS Lubbock	KCBD 11 NBC Lubbock	KLBK 13 CBS Lubbock	KMYL 14 MYN Lubbock	KLCW 22 CW Lubbock	KAMC 28 ABC Lubbock	KJTV 34 FOX Lubbock
7 AM	Curious (HD)	Today Sched-uled Dr.	The Early Show	Copeland Robson	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	(6:00) Good Day Lubbock
8 AM	Super Why (HD)	Nancy Snyderman; Bob Beaudine;		Believer's J. Hanna	Wilkos		
9 AM	Sesame Street (HD)	Bob Lipper and Corina Vincent (HD)	The 700 Club	Divorce Payne	Payne	Regis & Kelly	Martha Stewart
10 AM	Dragon Word		Price Is Right (HD)	The Morning Show	Cosby	The View (HD)	Bonnie Hunt Show
11 AM	Martha Jeopardy	Restless (HD)		Alex Cristina	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Tiya Banks Show
12 PM	Outing Watercolor	News	News	The People's Court	Roseanne Roseanne	All My Children	Paid Prog.
1 PM	Holiday Place	The Doctors	As the World	Paid Prog.	Fam Court	One Life to Live	The People's Court
2 PM	Betw. Lion Reading	Inside	Guiding Light	Maury	Judge Jeanine	General Hospi-tal	Judge Mathis
3 PM	Arthur WordGirl	Oprah Winfrey	Brown	Extra	J. Fox	No Deal	Ellen De-Generes
4 PM	FETCH! Cyber	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Standing	Rachael Ray	News
5 PM	Bus. Rpt. News	News	News	Fam. Feud	Queens	News	Lopez Simpsons
6 PM	NewsHour (HD)	Wheel	Millions	"Conners' War" (06)	Smallville "Le-gion"	Ugly Betty (HD)	Bones (HD)
7 PM	Old House Story	Office 30 Rock	CSI: Crime (HD)	Blind CIA agent	Supernatural (HD)	Grey's Anat-omy	Kitchen "Cafe 30"
8 PM	Soundstage (HD)	ERI Neale's dress	Eleventh Hour (HD)	Jim (HD)	Styie Lopez	Sex City	Private Prac-tice
9 PM	Bus. Rpt. WorldFocus	The Tonight Show	(10:35) Late Show	Malcolm Married	Bernie	Jimmy Kimmel	Raymond Scrubs
10 PM	Rose (11:35) Night	Late Late Show	My Lubbock	Cops	Paid Prog.	Insider	Paid Prog.
11 AM	Geography	Last Call	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.		

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No credible terror threats seen for Super Bowl

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. intelligence officials have found no credible threat of terrorist attacks at the Super Bowl scheduled Feb. 1 in Tampa, Fla., but they are nevertheless raising security concerns.

A joint FBI and Homeland Security intelligence assessment obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday cautions that Raymond James Stadium, the Super Bowl site, does not have the typical security features of permanently secure buildings and arenas.

The report, dated Tuesday, says possible attackers could be deterred

by the posting of hundreds of visible security officials, barriers and other measures.

Officials are also concerned that terrorists or criminals could impersonate government or military officials because some Florida law enforcement badges and uniforms were stolen in 2008. The report says there is no credible information about impersonation plots.

The Super Bowl is one of the biggest television events of the year, and more than 100 million people in 232 countries are expected to watch, the

assessment said. Because of the high profile nature of the event, intelligence officials say they cannot discount the potential for a terrorist attack.

Terrorists are expected to continue to see stadiums and arenas as potential targets, according to a March 2008 intelligence assessment.

"Al-Qaida could meet its objectives of mass casualties, economic damage, and psychological impact with an attack against a stadium or arena during an event in the United States," the 2008 assessment said.

Waco star arrested on burglary charge

WACO (AP) — A star high school running back has been arrested on a burglary charge alleging he stole several items, including an iPod that he may have later tried to sell to his coach, police said.

Chris Parr, who helped La Vega reach the 3A Division I state title game, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of burglary of a habitation, the Waco Tribune-Herald reported. Police said an iPod was among the items taken during the Dec.

17 apartment burglary and that shortly afterward Parr tried to sell an iPod to coach Willie Williams.

In a written statement to police, Williams acknowledged that Parr tried to sell him an iPod around the time of the burglary, according to the arrest warrant affidavit. However, the affidavit doesn't say whether it was the same iPod taken from the apartment.

Parr's attorney, Jason Darling, told The Associated Press that his

client "swears" he wasn't involved in the burglary. Darling said Parr told him he was trying to make good decisions so he could receive a football scholarship from one of the major college programs that had been writing him.

Parr, a junior, was arrested in August in connection with an armed robbery of a 19-year-old man of his shoes and hat. The charge was dropped by the McLennan County district attorney's office after Parr passed a polygraph test.

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BABYSITTER NEEDED for two children ages 5 and 8. Will be needed from 2:30 until evenings on weekdays. Must be responsible. Please call (325)-812-3395 or email at searsj_99@yahoo.com.

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Apply in store or online at www.gettasupertan.com. SuperTan 3 locations in Lubbock. 82nd & University, 82nd & Slide or 4th & Slide Road.

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DAY CARE needs part time help. 2:45-6pm M-F. Apply at 5220 75th St. Or at enewc@suddenlink.net.

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Students needed ASAP. Earn up to \$150 per day being a mystery shopper. No Experience Required. Call 1-800-722-4791.

EDIBLE ARRANGEMENTS now hiring for customer service/production/delivery. Apply at 8215 University Ave.

FULL/PART TIME positions for child care specialists. Must have experience working with adolescents/children 5-18. No previous criminal history. To apply: www.southplainschildrensshelter.com.

GENERAL HANDYMAN wanted for 1 day job on Thurs or Fri anytime. Approximately 3-4 hours of work: \$75 cash. 817-992-6772.

HIRING NOW. Texas Creek Grill. 6012 82nd. Apply in person for greeter, wait staff or kitchen staff.

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Immediate opening available for Mortgage Lending Assistant. Works closely with Senior Loan Officer to take and process loan applications and work with customers to get their loans closed in a timely manner. Position is part-time 25-30 hours a week M-F. Will work around class schedules. Prefer a Sophomore or Junior business major. Excellent resume builder or position could lead to permanent employment upon graduation. Please email resume to scott@hometrusted.com if interested. Good opportunity to learn about mortgage banking/finance.

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working with kids? YWCA now hiring to start January 5th for after school positions. M-F. 2:45 to 6 PM. Apply now at 35th & Flint, or call Carolyn at 806-792-2723.

LOOKING FOR someone who could design a web page. Major in IT or computer science is preferred although not required. Portfolio of previous web page design is desirable. Please contact Judy at jhorvat@umich.edu or call 734-358-2471.

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Earn extra money delivering the new Names and Numbers Lubbock area telephone directories. Working as an independent contractor during your available daylight hours. Must be at least 18 years old with valid drivers license and proof of insurance. A great way to earn extra money for yourself, family or locally sponsored organization. If interested call 1-877-878-9445 or email: mtenterprises07@yahoo.com.

MR. AQUARIUM now accepting applications. All positions. 2523 34th.

NOW HIRING: servers, greeters, deli help, line cooks and bussers. Apply in person. M-F, 2-4pm. Stella's 50th and Ulica.

PART & Full time sales associates needed. Apply at Play It Again Sports, 4815 50th. M-F, 10-5. Smoke-free. EOE.

PART TIME evening housekeepers needed. Apply at 5127 34th St. Ask for Mike.

PART TIME help. Teachers aid. 7am-12:30pm, 12:30pm-6pm, or 3pm-6pm. Apply at Hope Lutheran School at 5700 98th.

SECRETARIAL OFFICE help needed. Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:30-3:30/5 varies daily. Children at office, so must be good with kids. 7342 W. 19th Street. Apply Mon-Fri 8:30-3.

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Tech hopes 2009 indoor schedule will bring out team's best

By ADAM WADSWORTH
STAFF WRITER

With nine Big 12 Conference programs ranked in the preseason Top 15, the Texas Tech track team has a competitive schedule in 2009.

Tech's 2009 indoor track season kicks off with the Texas Tech Invitational Friday in the Athletic Training Center. The Red Raiders already have a test in front of them, with a No. 14 men's team from Baylor and a well-respected No. 21 TCU women's team visiting in the season's first meet.

Tech coach Wes Kittley said a good showing by any team could influence the national standings.

"We don't have to go far to find pretty good competition," he said. "Oklahoma, us, Houston and Texas A&M have the only indoor facilities within the area."

In addition to the invitational Friday, Tech has another home meet

in the Athletic Training Center Jan. 24, Feb. 6 and Feb. 7.

The first big road test for the Red Raiders will take place in Albuquerque at New Mexico's Lobo Invitational, which the team is treating as a set up for the first major event at A&M Feb. 13.

The Texas A&M Invitational is not only important because of the caliber of the teams competing, but also because A&M's new indoor facility is hosting the Big 12 and indoor national championships. The Aggie men and women's teams enter the season No. 6 and No. 1, respectively.

After the Texas A&M Invitational, the next time Tech travels to College Station will be for the Big 12 Championships on Feb. 27 and 28. At that point, any athlete who qualifies for the return trip to A&M for nationals will have cleared a major hurdle as the conference has a number of excellent track teams. If the Red Raiders can get

by teams such as A&M, Baylor and No. 7 Texas, they could be a major force at nationals, as they have in years' past.

Kittley said the preseason rankings are usually pretty accurate, but it's hard to tell before an actual meet takes place what teams will actually live up to their predictions and whether the new recruiting classes can live up to their hype.

"That stuff will shake out as you start going," he said. "You'll see those polls change dramatically."

With talent like eight-time national champion Sally Kipyego, the Red Raiders have a chance to improve on their ranking and hope to bring an NCAA title to Lubbock.

Kittley said his team will use its first few meets to work out its strategy and practice competing in a tournament atmosphere before the Big 12 and NCAA championships start in March.

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FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

TRAVON HILL-CHADWICK AND the No. 12 Red Raiders hope the 2009 indoor season will bring much success.

It's time to lower your expectations after stellar 2008 sports year

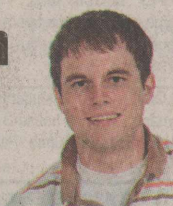
Last year was one of the best years of all time for sports fans, including one of the best Super Bowls ever, an exciting and controversy-laden Olympics, and one of the most unpredictable college football seasons in recent memory.

Additionally, the NBA finals featured two marquee franchises after the league's best regular season in over a decade, and Tiger Woods put together one of the greatest performance's in, well, history. The NHL discovered the lure of outdoor hockey, college basketball finally saw all of its best teams reach the Final Four, and Roger Federer is no longer lonely at the top of the tennis world.

Although it is impossible to expect this year to match the magical year we just bid adieu, looking ahead to the future reveals some exciting times for sports fans in 2009.

The first two burning questions for

Brandon Aday



this coming year are about comebacks.

Can Woods and Lance Armstrong regain their spots atop sport's pinnacle? I think Woods has the better chance of dominating his respective sport. I look for him to make a full recovery over the course of the PGA season. Perhaps he will be more of a force than he was before the surgery now that he can plant full power on a left knee that has hampered him for years. I expect Woods to grab two major trophies, one of which will be in classic dominating Tiger style. Besides, even if he cannot fully recover, Rocco

Mediate knows Tiger can win at least one major on one knee.

One guaranteed victory in Armstrong's return to the Tour de France is that America will regain a sport it has forgotten about for the last four years. I personally feel like a four-year layoff and turning 37 will be too much of a challenge for Lance to tackle. Then again, he has surprised before. I see Lance staying competitive and holding the country's interest for a couple of weeks but ultimately losing to a younger, more "performance-enhanced" cyclist.

In the basketball world, the New Year has been unkind to preseason favorites at both the college and professional level.

The Boston Celtics and North Carolina Tar Heels seem to have lost the unstoppable feeling, as well as the chance for landmark seasons. The Cel-

tics had looked to set the single-season win record, and North Carolina was hoping for the perfect season. Still, it is far too early to write off these hoops giants. I think the Celtics' slide actually helps them in the long run. They are an experienced, talented team that will rebound. Now they can focus solely on winning a title, not on chasing history. The New England Patriots might wish they had that fortune last year. I see the Celtics as repeat NBA champions — their last one before handing the Eastern Conference torch over to LeBron and the Cavs.

The Tar Heels also will successfully rebound because of the same reasons as the Celtics. They too could benefit from not being forced to chase history, and they will be in the Final Four in Detroit. However, they are no longer college basketball's "only contender" as some

seemed to have believed prematurely. Although they are the most talented team, I just don't think they win it all — that's often the nature of the NCAA Tournament. This college basketball season is too young to predict, but I would look for a team from the Atlantic Coast Conference or Big East Conference to cut down the nets come April.

For many Texas Tech fans, 2009 presents a giant question mark on the gridiron.

I for one don't think the team will struggle as much as most probably do. Obviously, the losses stand out: Graham Harrell, Eric Morris, and Michael Crabtree on offense, as well as the stellar safety duo of Darcel McBeth and Daniel Charbonnet on defense. The team won't garner Heisman or BCS talk. Still, the team will bring back eight starters on the fastest-improving defense in the Big

12 Conference, as well as several good receivers, three running backs, and half of a stellar offensive line. Combined with Mike Leach, the best in the country at getting the most out of the talent he has, Tech will be respectable. I expect Tech to go undefeated through its non-conference schedule, followed by a 6-2 conference record, including the annual home upset, this time against Oklahoma. A win in a bowl game would actually match this past year's win total, and looking at next year's schedule, that does not seem unreasonable.

So, sports fans lower your expectations a notch after 2008, and 2009 promises to be an entertaining year.

■ Aday is a junior biology and history major from Las Cruces, N.M. E-mail him at jeffrey.b.aday@ttu.edu.

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