

Tech upsets No. 9 Kansas
on Senior Night

SEE PAGE 8

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009
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THE DAILY T O R E A D O R

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My
Subaru

AN EPIC
ADVENTURE
IN LOCAL
LIVING
(INSIDE)
SEE PAGE 6

(INBRIEF)

STATE

Change to top 10 percent rule clears committee

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class would no longer be guaranteed automatic admission to a public university under a bill that passed a Senate panel Wednesday.

The legislation, passed 4-1 out of the Senate Higher Education Committee, would cap top 10 percent admissions to 50 percent of a school's entering freshman class.

The bill has strong backing from the University of Texas, where more than 80 percent of current freshmen gained admission through the automatic-entry guarantee.

NATION

Obama asks Congress for line-item veto

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama thinks the best way to reduce wasteful spending is for lawmakers in both parties to work with him to do it, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Wednesday.

Gibbs was answering questions about a bill introduced in Congress to give the president line-item veto power.

Currently, presidents can only veto entire spending bills. With the power of a line-item veto, however, he can go through the billion-dollar appropriations bills line by line and kill specific spending items.

WORLD

Iran: Israeli nuclear sites within missile range

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's military chief warned Israel Wednesday that its nuclear facilities are within range of Iranian missiles, the latest message from Tehran that it will strike back if attacked.

Israel, which is itself believed to possess atomic arsenal, has warned that it could attack Iran if it does not abandon its nuclear program, which Israel and the U.S. suspect is a cover for weapons production. Israel's prime minister-designate, Benjamin Netanyahu, is among those taking a tough line and considered likely to keep open the option of a military strike.

DEATH TOLL

4255

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

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Williams wins

Election Commission announces unofficial SGA results

By CYNTHIA RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech's Election Commission announced the unofficial results of the 2009-2010 Student Government Association election Wednesday in the basement of the Student Union Building.

The Election Commission revealed to anxious candidates after an hour and a half delay that Suzanne Williams, journal clerk and president pro tem of the Student Senate, is the projected president of SGA.

Williams said her experience as journal clerk has best prepared her for the role of president.

"It helped a lot to be able to be in the office and know how it works and its procedures," she said. "That's been really good in knowing what type of things I want to put on my platform, what things are realistic and how to serve the students."

Williams said it is important for her to meet with the current executive branch before taking office.

"Before I start trying to make things better," she said, "I need to make sure what's going on."

Williams began as a member of the Freshman Council and has since become the journal clerk, president pro tem of the senate, and the sponsor of the Freshman Involvement committee, as well as the co-chair of the Rules and Administration committee.



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

SUZANNE WILLIAMS IS hugged by her mother, Karen Williams, after Student Government Association election results were announced Wednesday in the Escondido Theatre in the Student Union Building. Williams was elected SGA president, according to the unofficial results.

ELECTIONS continued on page 2 >>

Nursing school to receive \$1 million from fed funds

By KENDYL SEBESTA
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing received \$1 million in federal funding Tuesday, a part of the nearly \$14.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds released to Texas.

Alexia Green, dean of the Tech School of Nursing, said the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is part of a federal initiative to provide health access point grant funding to health centers across the nation.

"We submitted a grant proposal in the spring of last year and got the highest score in the state on it," she said. "At the time, they said they didn't have the money to fund the grant, but with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds available, we got a little over \$1 million for the grant for over two years."

Green said the Tech School of Nursing in collaboration with the Larry Combest Community Health and Wellness Center will receive federal funding during the two-year period.

"The funding will allow the Combest Center to provide care to uninsured and underserved patients in East Lubbock and the community

as a whole," she said. "Funding will also allow the Health Sciences Center to achieve Federally Qualified Health Center status too, which has been a goal of ours for seven years now."

According to the Health and Human Services Web site, Federally Qualified Health Centers are organizations which receive grants under the Public Health Services Act, qualify for certain reimbursements from Medicare and Medicaid, and serve under-served areas or populations.

Green said receiving Federally Qualified Health Center status will allow the Combest Center to make improvements in services and staffing available to patients in East Lubbock as well.

"The Combest Center will probably be able to see double the amount of patients it has seen before and could expand its hours," she said. "That's really important to people in East Lubbock who are underserved already and largely uninsured."

According to the Tech Health Sciences Center Web site, the Larry Combest Community Health and Wellness Center is a non-profit clinic operated by the Tech School of Nursing that provides care to underserved patients in East Lubbock.

The Larry Combest Commu-

nity Health and Wellness Center was not immediately available for comment.

William Davis, federal affairs assistant to Tech HSC President Dr. John Baldwin, said the funding received by the Health Sciences Center is designed specifically for under-served populations and to create a large health care work force.

"The grant money will be used to meet certain parameters like rural health projects," Davis said, "and will act to serve populations that typically do not have access, or limited access, to health care."

Davis said the Health Sciences Center as a whole can receive funds similar to those the School of Nursing obtained and is still in the process of determining the specific areas to allocate the funds toward.

According to the American Investment and Recovery Act Web site, \$155 million in authorized funds were released Tuesday to support 126 new health centers in the United States.

Of the \$155 million in the AIRA funds released Tuesday, Texas received \$14.5 million to be divided among 12 health centers in the state, the Health and Human Service Web site reported, while projecting a total of 415 Texas jobs to be created as a result of the divided money.

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Tech fails to send School of Law enrollment report

By JON VANDERLAAN
NEWS EDITOR

Some students in the Texas Tech School of Law may find unsettling letters from lenders in their mailboxes asking them to pay their financial aid loans because of a reporting mistake by Tech administration.

According to Tech officials, the university did not adjust the financial aid reporting process after the switch to the Banner system. Because of this, law school students were not included with other Tech students in the report to the National Student Loan Clearinghouse, which provides information to lenders for financial aid.

James Burkhalter, senior associate vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, said the university did not account for the fact three different terms — Tech, School of Law and Health Sciences Center — needed to be submitted to the clearinghouse under the new Banner system.

Burkhalter and Kay Rhodes, chief information officer of the Tech system, said because the information was not sent, students were not listed as enrolled in the clearinghouse reports.

"It was an omission that was an honest mistake," Rhodes said, adding she only heard about the mistake Tuesday.

Wesley Cochran, associate dean for academic affairs at the School of Law, said the Tech Office of the Registrar is working to correct the mistake, and in the meantime students can file verification of enrollment with lenders with the help of the school.

The law school either will be submitting their own report in the future or the Tech report will include the school, he said.

"Either way, we're not going to let this happen again," Cochran said.

Burkhalter said Tech did not realize with the new system the university also should have included the law school's report, mainly because the university did not adjust to the added capabilities of the Banner system. However, the registrar's office is working to fix the problem.

"We're also working with the IT staff to make sure this doesn't happen again in the future," he said.

Burkhalter and Rhodes said under the previous system, the university sent both reports as one without having to individually add the separate reports. Because the Banner system is more advanced and allowed the administration to separate School of Law class terms from Tech class terms, enrollment information from the School of Law needed to be added separately from the Tech enrollment information.

LAW continued on page 2 >>



TODAY
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High 89 Low 50



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Sunday
Partly Cloudy
High 74 Low 43



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Covington named endowed chair for Texas Tech School of Nursing

By KENDYL SEBESTA
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing appointed Chandice Covington Tuesday to the Florence Thelma Hall Endowed Chair for Nursing Excellence in Women's Health.

Alexia Green, dean of the Tech School of Nursing, said Covington will work to conduct research, clinical work and educational endeavors.

"Covington will work as a faculty member in the School of Nursing and with the School of Medicine," she said. "She will also work closely with the Laura Bush Institute for Women's Health and is particularly known for her work in cancer research."

Green said Covington began working in January, but the official announcement of her chair position was not made until Tuesday.

Covington said she received official notification of her position in November and has since traveled to Lubbock to begin working.

"I loved my previous job, but it did

not allow me to devote a lot of time to research," Covington said. "I was attracted to Texas Tech because it has had phenomenal growth in size and stature and has grown into a top university in terms of research."

Her position as an endowed chair will allow her to conduct research that focuses on particular aspects of women's health, cancer and prevention, she said.

"I look forward to working with cancer prevention research," Covington said, "and getting that information out there to the public. I'm also working on a study regarding women and sleep issues and hope to travel to Africa again this summer to work on the prevention of HIV in newborns."

She said her work in cancer research will include efforts to inform the community of preventative cancer measures. She also will work



COVINGTON

to inform the community of the disconnect that exists between health care providers and the general population.

"At least 80 percent to 85 percent of cases involving cancer are preventable," Covington said, "which is something that the general population usually doesn't know, but definitely should know."

She was selected by a Tech Health Sciences Center search committee and will operate in a paid position.

"An endowed chair receives funding that is put toward their professional salary and research," she said. "The funding was provided as a gift from the Marie Hall Institute."

Covington recently served as the dean of the College of Nursing at the University of North Dakota, and is the first faculty chair in the School of Nursing at the Health Sciences Center and the Tech School of Medicine, according to a Health Sciences Center news release.

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School of Music hosts increase of applicants

By STEVEN SCHWARTZ
STAFF WRITER

More prospective students than in previous years auditioned in front of professors Saturday as part of the application process into the School of Music.

Carin Wanner, the coordinator of admissions and scholarships in the school, said the auditions have gone well considering the increase of people applying into the department.

The number applicants has increased this year from previous years, with 103 students auditioning Saturday. That number has increased from the 77 prospective students who auditioned Feb. 21.

According to the Office of the Registrar, the college of visual and performing arts has accepted 326 freshmen for fall 2009 as of March 4. The School of Music has accepted 178 through the auditions process, although more private auditions will be hosted in the following weeks.

It is important for the department to receive as many applications as possible from talented students, Wanner said, because the school's reputation depends on the talent of the students that graduate from it.

"When talented students graduate, it brings a lot of recognition to the school," Wanner said.

Jim Decker, a professor of trombone with the School of Music, said he believes the auditions are essential for the application process. Decker was one of the many professors who supervised the



PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/The Daily Treador

THOMAS COBER, A senior from Weatherford High School warms up before his audition Saturday for the Texas Tech Music Program.

auditions on Saturday; he supervised 14 prospective students himself.

"A lot of people want to come to the College of Music," Decker said. "We want to accept the very best players."

Students playing numerous instruments from all over the state and surrounding areas came for the auditions.

Matthew Escalante, a high school senior from El Paso, said he felt that the auditions were run smoothly.

"Going into a room with just a professor is very relaxing, they give you a very welcoming feeling," he said.

The college-level auditions prove

to be much different than playing an instrument at the high-school level, Escalante said. The auditions were held in a one-on-one, closed-in environment, which resulted in a comfortable, personal experience for all of the applicants, he said.

Nearly all of professors who teach instruments in the School of Music conducted auditions on Saturday, Wanner said. The large-scale auditions are finished for the fall 2009 semester. However, the college will be conducting private auditions in the following weeks.

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Three-day Architecture career fair begins

By CHELSEA KIMBLE
STAFF WRITER

The College of Architecture, along with the Texas Tech Career Center, began hosting the Architecture Career Fair Wednesday evening through Friday in the Wiggins Complex.

The fair started with a mixer last night and will continue with previously scheduled professional interviews between architecture firms and students today and Friday.

"The career fair is an opportunity for alumni and friends of the College of Architecture to reconnect to the program and professors," said David Driskill, associate dean of external affairs.

Driskill said the career fair is an essential link to the profession of architecture and the practicing firms for the college, and it also is beneficial for students to secure positions at the firms and gain interviewing experience.

Firms represented are among the largest and most renowned, as well as small but highly qualified firms, he said.

"Texas is an epicenter for architecture and Texas Tech University

is well represented with these firms," Driskill said.

Trish Hart, the coordinator of professional information at the College of Architecture, said 21 firms will be in attendance, almost half of the 55 firms that attended last year.

Because of the current economic situation of the United States, Hart said many firms are not in attendance and three firms dropped their attendance reservation after registering.

Both undergraduate and graduate students were allowed to apply for part-time and full-time positions at the different firms through the ArchWay Web site.

"These are very professional interviews, the students are to be in business attire," Hart said.

This event has been beneficial to architecture students in the past, she said.

Mary Bowhay, an architecture graduate student, said the opportunity presented by the fair, which allows firms to come to students, is a convenient way for students to get the professional experience without going far away.

"In this economy, architecture has

taken a hard hit, so it is nice to have committed firms come to interview us," she said.

Bowhay said the fair is a good way for many students to get started, especially because a number of firms have been impacted by the economy and will not be hiring this year. She was offered nine interviews.

Hart said the job market is tough this year, but she said she believes a high percentage of students will be employed.

The career day is a great opportunity for students to find their next job, she said, as well as summer programs with participating firms.

The fair can be competitive, Bowhay said, but students will be fine if they relax.

Bowhay said she took advantage of the career fair two years ago and took a job that let her receive studio credit and work experience.

Most of the interviewers are the owners or head designers of their firm, she said.

"They've been where we are," Bowhay said.

The career fair is a good, central way to have employers lined up without schedule interference, she said.

Hart said architecture firms were invited in mid-January to register for the fair on the ArchWay software.

ArchWay is the "go-to place" for mentoring, advising and job placement for the College of Architecture, she said.

Students were allowed to place their resumes on the Web site Feb. 7, after all the firms registered, and interested employers then arranged interview times with the students.

The firms are mostly Texas-based, Hart said, but do include a few from New Mexico.

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"Texas is an epicenter for architecture and Texas Tech University is well represented with these firms."

DAVID DRISKILL
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Wanted for war crimes in Darfur: Sudan's president

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The president of Sudan became a wanted man Wednesday when the International Criminal Court charged him with war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur — its first action against a sitting head of state and one that could set the stage for more world leaders to be indicted.

President Omar al-Bashir's government retaliated by expelling 10 humanitarian groups from Darfur and seizing

their assets, threatening lifesaving operations, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said the United States supported the court's action "to hold accountable those who are responsible for the heinous crimes in Darfur." Up to 300,000 people have died and 2.7 million have fled their homes in the region.

U.N. officials in Sudan will continue to deal with al-Bashir because he

remains the president of the country, U.N. spokeswoman Michele Montas said in New York.

In the Sudanese capital of Khartoum, the government denounced the warrant as part of a Western conspiracy aimed at destabilizing the vast oil-rich nation south of Egypt. "There will be no recognition of or dealing with the white man's court, which has no mandate in Sudan or against any of its people," the Information Ministry said.

Elections

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The main issues in her campaign were to create an increased focus on retention, develop leadership councils at colleges, and increase student involvement with organizations.

While the journal clerk position typically is retained by someone not involved as a senator, Williams held the position as a senator and president pro tem of the Student Senate.

Sarah Saunders and Amelia Martin, both Arts and Science senators and

candidates for internal vice president, will have a run-off election March 10 and 11. Runoffs also will take place next week for Jennifer Stout and Rahul Kanungoo, two candidates for vice president of graduate and professional affairs.

Drew Canham, elections commissioner and Ombudsman for Students, said the reason for runoffs in this election was that there was no majority winner.

"In executive positions, if there isn't a majority vote, more than a 50 percent difference (the candidates must have a runoff election)," Canham said.

Dee Jay Wilde, Agriculture senator, was elected as external vice president.

Formal complaints have been filed against undisclosed campaigners, Canham said, which will require further investigation later this week.

"Appeals and formal complaints have been mentioned and need to be filed so that we can further investigate," he said.

Although the official percentages have not yet been calculated, 3,955 votes were recorded in this election by the Tech Election System.

After next week's runoff election and investigations, the official results will be posted on the SGA office door.

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Law

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bobbie Latham, the Tech registrar, said the report was submitted in January and she only was responsible for under-

graduate and graduate reports.

Because various levels are present in the Banner system, she said, she only pulled the Tech undergraduate and graduate reports. The university now is helping the School of Law build a comprehensive report to send to the clearinghouse.

Latham said the registrar office has been working "non-stop" the last two days to try making the report ready for the end of the week.

Cochran said besides the time students will have to take to file the enrollment verifications, most students will not negatively be affected by the issue if they inquire with the registrar about the issue soon.

Although he has not heard any

complaints, he said it is possible a student or students made a payment to a lender immediately, and in that case he said he hopes the lender would work with the student or students to process a refund.

The school has sent out e-mails and the School of Law equivalent of TechAnnounce messages to let students know about the issue, Cochran said.

Burkhalter said the issue should not hinder student finances as long as it is not ignored.

Rhodes said letters will be sent out to students by Monday at the latest.

"They need to make sure they are in touch with their registrar's office," she said.

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THURSDAY		MARCH 5, 2009						
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7:00 AM	Caucus: Today Scheduled: Dr. Sid (HD)	Nancy Snyderman: green clean-ess: the	The 700 Club	Copeland Robson	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	(6:00) Good Day Lubbock	
8:00 AM	Super Why Clifford	Sesame Street	Dragon Word	Martha Jeopardy	Barney Trivial	Quilling News	Watercolor Beads	
9:00 AM	Place Betw. Lion Reading	Arthur Oprah Winfrey	Worship Girl	FETCH! Cyber	Maya Rpt	Bus. Rpt	NewsHour (HD)	
10:00 AM	Old House Hour	Fitness Great Performances (HD)	Charlie Rose	Bus. Rpt	World	AM Destin	GED	

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Professionals show Communication students how skills are used

By **CHELSEA KIMBLE**
STAFF WRITER

The Communication Studies Department of Texas Tech hosted its annual Comms Week this week, hosting several speakers to help give students ideas for future education and careers.

The week began March 3 with speaker Tom Sell and ended Wednesday afternoon with a panel of graduates of the master's degree program from the department.

Tom Sell, a West Texas native and Tech agriculture economics and School of Law graduate, spoke about his experience as a lobbyist in Washington, D.C., in the Formy Room of the Southwest Collections Library. He spoke about the importance of communication skills in his career and other job options.

Joy Anderson, Meredith Craig and Ryan Kinane, graduates of the communication studies master's degree program, discussed the benefits and experiences of a graduate degree in the work force Wednesday in the Mass Communications building.

Patrick Hughes, Communication Studies Department chair, said the Comms Week events were intended to promote creativity in career options and show students the advantages of a graduate degree in communication studies.

"Our desire is students learn advantages of graduate school and how a graduate degree can broaden

career choices," he said. "The speaker event with Tom Sell was for students to get a perspective of how communication studies skills are used at different jobs, and the panel discussion was to help students who are on the fence about graduate school."

Hughes said the department achieved exactly what they wanted, and the turnout for students and alumni was better than previous years.

He said the event also was beneficial to seniors.

"Job options and graduate school should be their primary concerns," Hughes said.

Faculty also can relate the discussions to what is being taught in the classroom, he said.

Meredith Craig, one of the panelists, said this was an opportunity for her to show students a non-professor view of what is expected in graduate school.

"Graduate school pushed me beyond my limits and taught me who I am," Craig said. "The panel is giving students enlightenment from the professional world."

Cameron Moreland, a senior communication studies major from Fort Worth, said he also was looking forward to hearing the panel of masters.

Moreland said he was interested in graduate school, but he needed to hear the pros so he could compare them to the cons he already had.

"It's absolutely beneficial to hear



PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador

MEREDITH CRAIG, ASSISTANT director of the United Spirit Arena, speaks to students about the benefits of pursuing a master's degree Wednesday in the Mass Communications building.

from the speakers, to understand what you can do with this degree," he said.

Mark Gring, associate professor of communication studies, said the hope with the week was for students to learn the degree has a broad array of possible jobs.

"Our program teaches students how to listen, talk well and think critically," he said. "We want students to think creatively about where they are going after graduation."

Sell said at the event that rheto-

ric and argument are important communication studies skills, and advocacy jobs value those skills.

"In any job you can serve your client well by communicating well," he said.

Students must think outside the box for job possibilities, Sell said, because the economy is not as good as previous years.

Jobs in media and education as well as advocacy use the skills they are learning in the Communication Studies program, he said to students during his presentation.

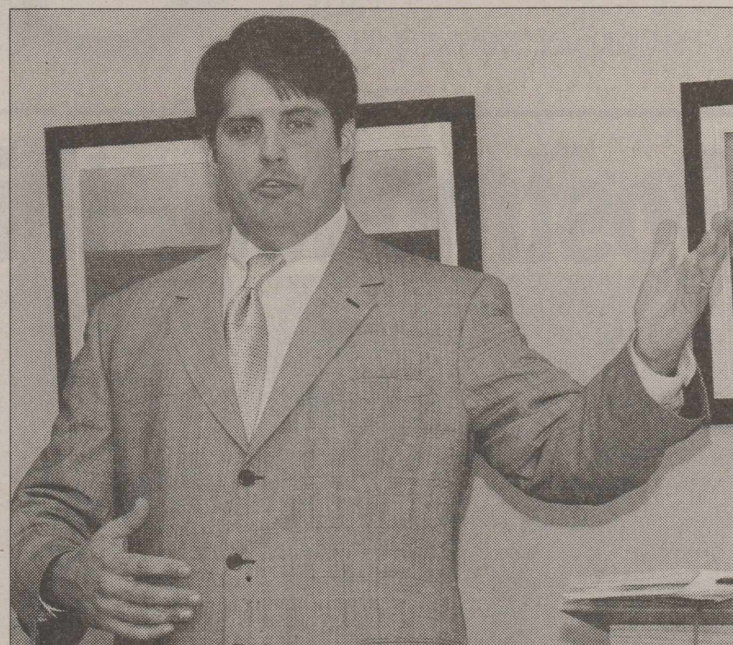


PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador

TOM SELL, A Texas Tech graduate, speaks about his experiences in the communications field to communication studies majors Tuesday in the Southwest Collections Library.

Joy Henderson, a communication studies junior from Midland, said Sell gave students a lot to think about and "food for thought is what college students thrive on."

It was good to hear how communication skills are used from a political science viewpoint, she said, and skills concerning rhetoric and ethics Sell mentioned are applicable to what she is learning in class.

"It was cool to see these ideas and theories applied to career world," she said.

A'Lysia Inderman, a senior com-

munication studies major from Lubbock, said the event with Sell was beneficial for her career goals because Sell showed how communication is important.

"I want to be a teacher and teach students how to speak efficiently and effectively," she said.

The panel discussion also was beneficial for her, Inderman said.

"I'm debating whether grad school is for me, so I'd like to hear what is expected and what the experience is like," she said.

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Suicide bomber kills 3 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — A suicide bomber stalked members of a police intelligence unit, waiting for their night shifts to end, then attacked them outside a Baghdad restaurant Wednesday, killing three.

The blast was one of a spate of attacks around Iraq — including a suicide car bombing at a police checkpoint in the northern city of Mosul and the ambush-slaying of a Sunni sheik and his family north of Baghdad.

Violence in Iraq has dropped dramatically during the past 18 months, and was among the reasons President Barack Obama cited for his decision to end the U.S. combat mission here in August 2010. But there are growing concerns about a possible upward trend in violence after a series of deadly attacks in recent weeks on U.S. and Iraqi troops.

The Baghdad attacker struck the police employees as they stood near a restaurant in the Karradah neighborhood shortly after leaving work, said an aide to Maj. Gen. Qasim al-Mousawi, the Iraqi military spokesman. The aide said three were killed and four were wounded.

Police and hospital officials confirmed the death count but said 11 were wounded, including three civilians. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release information.

A taxi driver, Salam Ali, said the security officials often eat breakfast at the restaurant after their night shifts are over.

Ali, 40, described burned and battered bodies scattered near the restaurant. "I saw human flesh on the ground mixed with blood. It was an awful scene," he said.

Witnesses and officials described an equally gruesome scene in the northern city of Mosul. A suicide car bomb exploded at a crowded police checkpoint, killing at least two policemen and wounding 15 others, including eight policemen, accord-

ing to an Iraqi police official.

The official said the bomber tried to reach the checkpoint by driving around a line of cars waiting to be searched. When policemen started to approach his vehicle, he detonated his explosives, the official said.

Hours later, gunmen killed an Iraqi soldier as he stood guard at a checkpoint in Mosul, a police official said.

The violence came as Iraqi security forces press ahead in the Mosul area with an offensive — dubbed "Operation New Hope" — that was launched last month against al-Qaida in Iraq and other insurgents. U.S. and Iraqi officials have described Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, as one of the insurgents' last urban strongholds.

Elsewhere on Wednesday, gunmen killed a Sunni sheik, his wife and two sons near Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad. The sheik and one of the sons were leaders in the Awakening Council movement opposed to al-Qaida, a police official said.

The officials in both cities spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

Meanwhile, the body of the son of a newspaper editor was found in Kirkuk, 180 miles north of Baghdad, police Brig. Sarhat Gadir said.

The son, identified as Munther Mohammed Shaheen, was found Tuesday more than a week after being kidnapped along with three others from a construction company in Kirkuk, Gadir said.

Shaheen's father is the editor of the now-closed al-Faisal newspaper, which began publishing after the 2003 invasion with assistance from U.S. authorities, Gadir said.

Also Wednesday, the U.S. military freed 20 prisoners a day after saying the number of their detainees has dropped to 13,832 from a peak of 26,000 in 2007.

Ford hopes to cut \$10B in debt with cash, equity offer to shareholders

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — Ford Motor Co. took another step Wednesday to stay cost-competitive with government-financed automakers General Motors and Chrysler when it offered to exchange up to 40 percent of its debt for cash and stock.

The company and its financial arm are putting up \$2.2 billion in cash to entice holders of \$10.4 billion in convertible notes, other unsecured debt and secured term debt to take the offer. The company said reducing the debt will cut the amount it pays in interest and put it

in better position to compete with General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC.

"This is all part of a restructuring plan to make the company healthier in the end," said Ford spokesman Mark Truby.

GM and Chrysler also are trying

to swap debt for equity as a requirement of the \$17.4 billion in government loans they have received.

Ford, which also is trying to restructure amid a severe automotive sales downturn, said Wednesday that it still does not intend to seek federal aid.

Housing plan aims to help 9M

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration's housing plan is intended to help 9 million struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure, but it leaves out tens of thousands of borrowers in the most battered housing markets who won't qualify because their homes have lost too much value.

The program detailed Wednesday offers refinanced mortgages or modified loans with lower monthly payments. Yet its refinancing plan is limited to borrowers who

owe up to 5 percent more than their home's current value.

Loan modifications, supported by \$75 billion in federal funding, are unlikely for severely "underwater" borrowers.

In the California cities of Stockton, Modesto and Merced, more than one out of every 10 homeowners with a mortgage won't qualify for any help because they owe more than 50 percent more than their house's current value, according to data from real-estate Web site Zillow.com.

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By Ed Voile Gillette, WY 3/5/09

ACROSS

- Org. of Toms and Tiger
- Weapon of mass destruction
- Plus feature
- Rower's requirement
- Stan's slapstick partner
- Keep an eye on
- Adam's partner
- Animal dens
- Honolulu greeting
- Part 2 of a quip
- Rotation line
- Bikini piece
- Hay units
- Alternative to treat?
- Diana Ross's group
- Zodiac lion
- Psychic power
- Least illuminated
- End of quip
- Madame Curie
- Italian poet
- Corporate VIP
- Public square
- "Lou Grant"
- Of the ear
- More rational
- Decade segments
- Highest level
- Escortire
- Barbecue fare
- Light tan
- Type of tide
- Contemporary of Agatha
- Florida bay
- Bakery emanation
- Rub over
- Moderates
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- Loading device
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- Shalala
- Disney World attraction
- Take care of
- Move as a through
- Little pranksters
- Samoan currency
- Persia, now
- 6/6/44
- Alleviate

DOWN

- Verses
- French peasant dance
- Game site
- Woud
- Cutting edges
- Potpourris
- Soggy ground
- 8 Porgy's girlfriend
- Bestowed upon
- Oster bar
- Pack away, as cargo
- Rebounding yodel
- Comparison conjunction
- Brought to a close
- "People Play"
- Lets loose
- Minerals in the raw
- Judd Hirsch sitcom
- Legendary
- 31 Barbecue fare
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Postmodern thinkers hinder cultural evolution

In doing my research for upcoming columns, reading e-mails from readers and checking the comments from my writings online, I have made a very interesting observation I feel bares mentioning.

With a few exceptions I have focused my writing this semester on a meshing of secular and religious beliefs in order to explore questions of human evolution. It has seemed this meshing of religion and secular beliefs has upset people on both sides of the fence. But to my surprise, it has been those who align themselves more with the religious perspective who have been more open to my ideas.

As an "evolutionary" writer and thinker I had assumed those who share my own perspective on the nature of the universe would be more open to my inclusion of religious philosophy. This was strikingly not the case.

I observed those among us who claim to be open minded and culturally aware were the least so and those who are stereotypically closed minded were very open to my ideas. Even among people who vehemently disagree with me, those who disagree

Derek Johnston



based on religious reasons were much more classy and thought out in their rebuttals and those who believe I am wrong to include religion in my discussions are very aggressive and quick to attack those who disagree.

This week I chanced upon a magazine by the name of Enlightenment. In the magazine is the article series "The Guru and the Pandit." The articles consist of a dialog between philosophers Ken Wilber and Andrew Cohen and discuss many of the ideas I have explored in my own writing. In this article, Wilber and Cohen discuss the interdynamics of culture and consciousness and their dialog gave me some insight into the confusing paradox I have seen.

Wilbur and Cohen discuss the ideas of early 20th century philosopher Jean Gebser. Gebser believed consciousness, like all things, was

evolving. As a species and as a culture, we have experienced five distinct evolutions of how we interpret reality, with a sixth evolution looming on the horizon.

First, there is the instinctual consciousness. Instinctual consciousness manifests itself most commonly in newborn children. Our consciousness is barely distinct from our environment and life consists mainly of our basic life-sustaining functions.

Second, there is egocentric or magical consciousness. We see this stage of consciousness in both ancient and modern tribal cultures. This level of consciousness leads to nature-based religions and rituals.

Then we move to traditional consciousness. This evolutionary step lends itself to more modern religious beliefs such as Islam or Christianity.

Modern day fundamentalists find themselves in this stage of cultural consciousness.

Next is modern consciousness or the stage of scientific rationality and reason. This level of consciousness believes only in a reality that can be weighed and measured, a reality of objects. The last of the stages is post-modern or pluralistic consciousness. Born in the 1960s, this stage of human consciousness brought with it the civil rights movement and environmentalism.

What make these levels of consciousness interesting are the inter-dynamics between each of them. As a general rule, the levels of consciousness hate and look down on the levels below, and those lower down question but don't hate the levels above.

Interesting still is the fact there is a proposed level of consciousness above post-modern: integral consciousness. Integral consciousness holds with it the values and structures of both modern and post-modern consciousness but also accepts the lower levels.

Wilber and Cohen go on to discuss there is a great barrier in the way of our evolution towards integral consciousness as a society. That barrier is those people who fall under the label of post-modern conscious. For humanity to reach this integral stage of cultural consciousness, individual post-modern thinkers would have to bridge that gap between the levels of consciousness.

The problem with the post-modern stage of consciousness is one of its tenants looks down with disdain upon the lower levels of consciousness. To move beyond the post-modern stage would require a level of effort on the order of acquiring spiritual enlightenment.

We all know these people, those who are obviously intelligent but blatantly look down on the thoughts and beliefs of others. They dispel people

who hold religious beliefs as ignorant and uneducated. They scoff at people who disagree with their philosophy and prefer a petty remark than to an intellectual rebuttal.

This self righteousness comes across in both people's writing and conversation. The irony is, however, almost nobody is free of this train of thought, though some people voice their opinions more loudly than others.

I am guilty of post-modern closed-mindedness; I strongly look down upon the conscious attitudes of the intellectually self-righteous. I fall short of the integral mark, but myself and others are trying to work through this barrier and push for a creative, cultural enlightenment.

Those who are so sure of their intellectual superiority are drastically slowing down our intellectual development. As a collective group they need to get over themselves or get out of the way.

Johnston is a sophomore computer science major from Lubbock. E-mail him at derek.johnston@ttu.edu.

"We all know these people, those who are obviously intelligent but blatantly look down on the thoughts and beliefs of others."

Attention citizen, do not attempt to defend yourself

By **TRAVIS HOLLAND**
THE BATTALION (TEXAS A&M)

Imagine you live in a small border town in southern Arizona. Every day on the news, you hear reports of murders and drug violence in the area, and the body count is alarmingly high.

Now imagine that one day, you come across a group of Mexican nationals who are squatting on your property.

This happened to Roger Barnett, an Arizona rancher. He detained the group at gunpoint for his own safety and called the U.S. Border Patrol.

As a gesture of gratitude, the jury ordered him to pay the illegal aliens \$77,800 in damages.

This has to be one of the most idiotic cases ever tried in an American court. It makes a complete mockery of the judicial system, punishing a man who made a citizen's arrest and contacted the proper authorities.

And Barnett was, indeed, punished.

Of the \$77,800 he was forced to pay, \$60,000 of it was for punitive damages. Punitive damages are charged to punish a defendant for wrongdoing in a civil court case.

This case poses many problems and sets a very dangerous precedent.

First of all, these people were illegal aliens who don't even have a right to enter this country. How could they possibly have the right to damages in an American court? I'm not arguing the decision was flawed; unfortunately, that's how the system works. I'm arguing the system needs to change.

Also, the fact that Barnett had a shotgun played an important role in the accusation that he violated the illegal immigrants' rights. This violates so many legal precedents and personal rights it's insane. The Washington Post said Barnett's property "has become a major corridor for armed drug and immigrant smugglers." That should

be enough reason for Barnett to fear for his safety, absolving him of any liability for having a firearm.

Additionally, Barnett has a legal right to make a citizen's arrest in Arizona. A judge affirmed that right in court, yet the jury awarded the criminals thousands.

This should be a valuable lesson to Americans for two reasons. It shows that the federal government has no intention of securing the border with Mexico, and is in no way concerned about Americans' rights there. If the government really wanted to make the border safe, it would protect people like Barnett in court. He didn't participate in any vigilante justice; he told the criminals to stay put while he contacted the authorities.

Secondly, this ought to ruin the romantic view many have of the justice system in this country. It's no secret that Border Patrol personnel and law enforcement in general are stretched thin in the United States. But until now, most Americans have been confident in the fact that they can at least defend themselves or uphold the law until the authorities can get

there. Unfortunately, those days appear to be numbered.

The blatant disregard for American citizens' rights in this case is nauseating. At a time when the federal government needs its people to be on the lookout for crime more than ever, it has taken away that right.

As icing on the cake, five of the plaintiffs in this case are living in this country illegally. Instead of being deported, they were awarded thousands of dollars from an American rancher trying to uphold the law. This travesty of a court case is disgusting, and the American people ought to take a serious look at the loyalties of their elected officials.

"At a time when the federal government needs its people to be on the lookout for crime more than ever, it has taken away that right."

Obama's unprecedented budget makes George W. Bush look responsible

By **IAN BEZEK**
ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGIAN
(COLORADO STATE U.)

It's jaw-dropping. After reading about President Barack Obama's budget proposal for this year, I sat rubbing my eyes, shaking my head in disbelief.

Obama has proposed a 2009 budget that will run a deficit of \$1.75 trillion dollars and an additional deficit of \$1.2 trillion dollars next year.

Back in 2004, Sen. John Kerry rightly attacked President George W. Bush's spending policies as "reckless." By 2008, the attacks on Bush's record increased.

Democrat Stanley Hoyer, who is second in command behind Nancy Pelosi in the House, said "the Bush

administration is the most fiscally irresponsible administration in American history."

The Bush administration added roughly \$4 trillion to the national debt during its eight years. According to Obama's budget, he will add an additional \$4 trillion to the debt by the end of 2011. Hoyer should be horrified, Obama will cause more fiscal harm to our nation in three years than Bush did in eight.

Obama's Chief of Staff, Rahm

Emmanuel, also weighed in, saying,

"President Bush... ran up record deficits and added nearly \$4 trillion to the national debt. Mr. President, we will be forever in your debt," according to the Los Angeles Times.

The national debt is now \$11 trillion, and, according to USA Today, if Obama's plan is passed, within a decade we're going to have a \$23 trillion debt. Bush's debt is small potatoes compared to what your boss is planning, Mr. Emmanuel.

President Obama, in a display of profound irony, is holding a "fiscal responsibility summit."

Here are a few ideas for his summit. If he really believes in fiscal responsibility, he might not want to blow \$787 billion on a stimulus plan within his first month in office.

Also, his \$634 billion dollar new "health reform reserve" is a bad idea. We shouldn't be reserving money when we don't have funds in the first place.

Also, what's the point of his new tax strategy? Yes, he's raising taxes on the rich, but he's also cutting taxes for everyone else.

Why cut any taxes in a time like this? I know, he's trying to win votes with stale economic class warfare, but it isn't cute anymore. This isn't

the time to be playing games with the tax code. We're running the biggest deficit ever; tax cuts now are utterly irresponsible.

I've written extensively about the problems our national debt will reap. Like California, we will soon have to make draconian budget cuts if Obama's monetary madness continues unchecked.

For fiscal year 2009, the federal government will spend \$3.6 trillion, but will only bring in \$1.8 trillion in taxes. For every dollar in tax receipts,

the government will spend two. Most third-world countries are more fiscally responsible than that.

Maybe Obama doesn't think debt ever has to be repaid. His presidential campaign assured cash-strapped Chicago that it would

reimburse them for the costs of police protection for Obama's victory rally.

As of now, the Obama campaign has become delinquent on that bill. Chicago is owed \$1.7 million by the deadbeat campaign, according to the Chicago Sun Times.

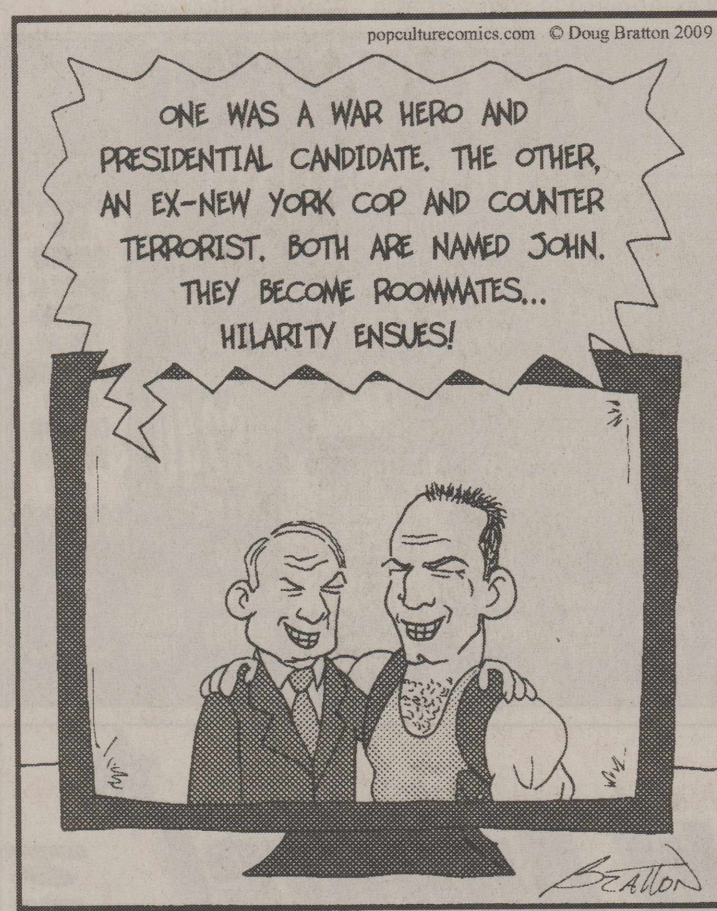
Chicago is forced to fire employees while Obama's campaign team refuses to pay its bills.

I can assure Obama that the Chinese and the Saudis who have lent us money won't be so merciful as his good buddies in the Chicago government; they'll demand repayment of their money with nasty consequences should we fail to pay up.

Anyone who voted for change has got to be disappointed. More failed bailouts, more wasted money on banks and now even worse deficit spending than Bush, who Democrats attacked as the worst ever.

Your grandchildren are going to be paying for Obama's shopping spree. Let's just hope he comes to his senses and stops this nonsense before it's too late.

"Obama will cause more fiscal harm to our nation in three years than Bush did in eight."



NBC's Newest Sitcom: McCain & McClane

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Voice of Violet from 'The Incredibles' speaks at Tech

By **GARRETT SALZMAN**
STAFF WRITER

Author, social observer and Disney voice actress Sarah Vowell performed a reading from her most recent book and answered questions from the audience Tuesday in Texas Tech's Student Union Building.

Vowell, who is known for voicing the character of Violet Parr in the film "The Incredibles," spoke in the Allen Theatre as part of the Presidential Lecture & Performance Series. Her books cover topics including her experience listening to radio programming for a year and a road trip to historical sites dedicated to presidential assassinations.

Vowell began the lecture by reading from her book "The Wordy Shipmates." She said the book chronicles the history of the Puritans' voyage to America and the

development of their settlement in Massachusetts. Her reading included passages giving her take on the Pilgrims and a trip to a historical recreation of an early New England settlement.

"I'm going to start with some Puritanism," Vowell said. "It's a show business kind of way to kick these things off."

Vowell's lecture included her commentary on historical facts she said she found interesting, such as her views on Jonathan Edwards' sermon "Sinners in the Hands of An Angry God." Vowell said she found the language of the famous condemnation of humanity "so diabolical it's cute."

According to her biography, Vowell is also a contributing editor for Chicago Public Radio's "This American Life" and has made multiple appearances on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," "The Colbert Report" and "Late Night With

Conan O'Brien."

During the question and answer portion of the event, Vowell was often asked her opinion of current events. After likening the war in Iraq to the Spanish-American War, she said although she works in a medium that is usually associated with political issues, she does not have any extreme political beliefs.

"I find a very rigid world view very boring," Vowell said in response to a question from an audience member. "That's either left or right."

Vowell said she enjoys researching for her writings by learning as much as she can about historical events interesting to her. Despite this, she said she found having a historical perspective when viewing current events was "pretty dang depressing."

"I'd rather live in less interesting times," she said. "The interesting

times, that usually means a higher body count."

Brendan O'Grady, a communication studies graduate student from Orange County, Calif., said although he was aware of Vowell's work before, he did not call himself a fan before the reading.

"She pops up all over my liberalized life," he said, "but I wasn't expecting the commentary about her historical perspectives on everything she comments about, and that's good to see publicized."

O'Grady said he was encouraged by the work Tech has done to bring enriching and diverse speakers to Lubbock.

"Tech's done a great job of organizing this event and the others in the series," he said. "I think it's excellent they've had such wide-reaching and valuable lectures, and the different perspectives they bring are great."

>>> garrett.salzman@ttu.edu



PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador

SARAH VOWELL, A bestselling author and social observer, reads excerpts from her book on Tuesday in the Allen Theatre.

Producer: 'Bachelor' finale wasn't fixed

NEW YORK (AP) — Was Jason Mesnick's change of heart on "The Bachelor" staged for the cameras to capture big ratings? Not so, according to the show's executive producer.

Mike Fleiss said Wednesday that producers of the ABC dating show did not create the outcome of Monday's season finale that prompted viewer outrage when Mesnick dumped his first choice for the runner-up and was the highest rated show in its time slot, 8-10 p.m. EST, with 15.45 million viewers.

Mesnick, a 32-year-old single dad from Seattle, proposed to Melissa Rycroft in New Zealand. But in the subsequent "After the Final Rose" special, taped six weeks later, he dumped Rycroft because he still had feelings for runner-up Molly Malaney, after weeks of no contact. He and Malaney are now dating.

Fleiss said producers have "zero" influence in selecting the woman who wins the final rose.

"The great thing about unscripted television is that it's unpredictable, and that's what this was," he said of Mesnick's decision to let Rycroft go and rekindle his romance with Malaney. "It caught us off guard. It caught the viewers off guard."

Mesnick has been the target of passionate discussion on Internet message boards and forums for rejecting Rycroft in such an alarmingly public format. An angry torrent of viewers, including Elisabeth Hasselbeck and Trista Rehn, lashed out at Mesnick, throwing verbal stones and questioning his moral character. They overwhelmingly supported Rycroft, a 25-year-old sales rep from Dallas, who'd fallen in love with Mesnick and planned to be step mother to his 3-year-old son, Ty, from a previous marriage.

She bristled with anger as she cursed at Mesnick, gave him back his ring, told him never to call her again and walked off the stage. He then asked Malaney, a 24-year-old

department store buyer from Grand Rapids, Mich., for another chance and she agreed.

Mesnick defended his actions in a post-finale appearance on Jimmy Kimmel's talk show, saying his relationship with Rycroft went sour when the cameras stopped rolling and she "knew exactly what was going on" before her rejection at the "After the Final Rose" taping.

"It just wasn't working out for them," Fleiss said. "She knew it. She didn't know that it was about Molly—I think that was the thing that caught her off guard."

Mesnick said he had to break up with Rycroft on camera because of his contract with the show.

"There was no contractual obligation," Fleiss countered. "You can check the contract. ... How would you put that in a contract anyway? Like, everything you do in your life must be shown on ABC. It's impossible."

Tech theater department to perform 'Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)'

The Texas Tech Department of Theatre and Dance will be performing "Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)," an award-winning Canadian play written by Ann-Marie Macdonald from March 5 to March 8 at the Maedgen Theatre at Tech.

"Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)" is a comedic play that follows the self-discovering journey of Constance Ledbelly, an English professor from Queens University, who believes Shakespearean tragedies, "Romeo and Juliet," were originally comedies, according to a news release.

In the play Ledbelly, is transported into the two Shakespeare plays and ends up saving Juliet and Desdemona, learning about the two women along the way.

The director for the Tech production, Laurin Mann, said "Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)" is about "self validation and finding a part of yourself that you need."

Mann said she cast the show last semester and rehearsals have been going on for six weeks. She said she is confident the cast is ready to perform the play and is excited to see what the final product will look like when they finish setting up the stage for the show.

Courtney Bobo, an actress who helped set up the stage for the play, said Mann has done an excellent job directing the play and hopes to work with her in a future production.

Bobo, a junior theater major from Graham, said the cast seems to really enjoy working with each other and expects the play to be a huge success.

Ledbelly is played by Hannah

McKinney, a graduate student from Dallas, who said she really enjoys playing her character and believes she will portray the character well.

Mann said the "racy" comedy will appeal to anyone who has watched a Shakespeare play and wondered why it could not end happy.

Tickets for the show cost \$12 for adults and \$5 for Tech students with their valid Tech ID.

A sneak-peek show will be performed at 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Mainstage Theatre and will be free to all students with a valid ID.

The performance will begin at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

More information can be obtained by calling the Maedgen Theatre box office at 806-742-3603.

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Speaker to discuss reducing fossil fuel usage without reducing comfort

By HANNAH BOEN
STAFF WRITER

Doug Fine started his journey to independence from fossil fuels in 2005 by installing solar panels and running his vehicle on vegetable oil.

Now he has traveled to Lubbock to share his blunders and successes of a sustainable lifestyle with the Texas Tech community. The author and National Public Radio contributor will give a lecture and book-signing at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Tech's International Cultural Center.

Fine is the author of "Farewell, My Subaru," a book about his experiences while attempting to reduce fossil fuel while still living like an American on the Funky Butte Ranch in southern New Mexico.

"I essentially decided that I wanted to see if it was possible to live without petroleum while still living comfortably," he said about his inspiration for writing the book.

Fine said many people consider the pursuit of that lifestyle to mean living "in the middle of nowhere in the dirt," but he has realized it is not true when he attempted to have a more sustainable lifestyle.

"I wanted to know if it would be possible to still live comfortably," he said, "and the good news is that, yes, it definitely is."

He wasn't successful at living without petroleum at first, but he has eliminated 89 percent of fossil fuels from his life thus far, he said, and wants others to know it is possible and attainable without giving up too many luxuries.

"I want to mention that anybody can do it," he said, "but also that I've given up nothing."

Fine said his pursuit of living sustainably has allowed him to keep

DOUGS FINE TIPS FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

- Try to eat local food in season.
- Think about driving on sustainable biofuels
- Take sustainability one step at a time and don't get discouraged.

For more tips on reducing fossil fuels while still living like an American, visit www.dougfine.com.

his refrigerator, hot and cold water, Internet and a stereo.

His lecture Thursday will include some experiences he wrote about in the book, and he will give people practical ways to change their lifestyles to reduce fossil fuel use. He said he expects people to spend a lot of time laughing and learning during his lecture.

"I hope they gain practical advice by seeing how a regular guy can do this," he said.

Jane Bell, the International Cultural Center's director of operations, said she also expects people to laugh at the event because Fine uses humor rather than guilt to address serious environmental issues.

"People who attend this event are going to learn something and going to have a good time," she said. "It's time to save the planet and with Doug Fine, he'll let us have some fun while we're trying to do it."

Bell said the event is being hosted at the Cultural Center because sustainability is a global issue that needs some local attention, and she is confident Fine will raise awareness to simple things that can be done in the Lubbock area.

"Anybody who lives on the Funky Butte ranch in the back corner of New Mexico and spends the better part of his day keeping his goats out of his rose bushes is a great guy,"

she said. The event will include an award ceremony during which the first G.R.E.E.N. award, which stands for Grass Roots Efforts to Ecologize Neighborhoods, will be presented to Debbie Zak for her recycling efforts at North Ridge Elementary School in Lubbock, Bell said.

Zak teaches in the school's science lab and began a recycling effort 10 years ago in the elementary school. She said she and her students began composting lunch food and putting recycling bins into classrooms.

Zak has encouraged North Ridge Elementary students to also bring recycled items from home, and the recycling project has raised \$3,800 for the school in 2008 alone. The money raised through recycling allows Zak and her students to care for 130 animals on the elementary school's campus.

The funds raised through recycling are used to purchase and sustain the animals that are cared for by the students, Zak said.

"I think that many students have gone from not caring," she said, "whether it be from throwing things away to littering to realizing that if we really want to do something about the Earth."

Since she began recycling at the school, she said she has seen her students go from feeling powerless about the condition of the environment to being enthusiastic about being involved in making a difference.

Much like Fine, Zak said she believes with a little organization and desire, everyone can make a

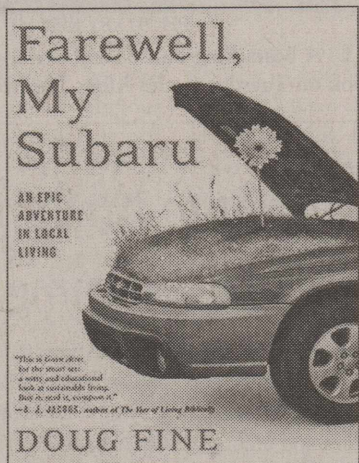


PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

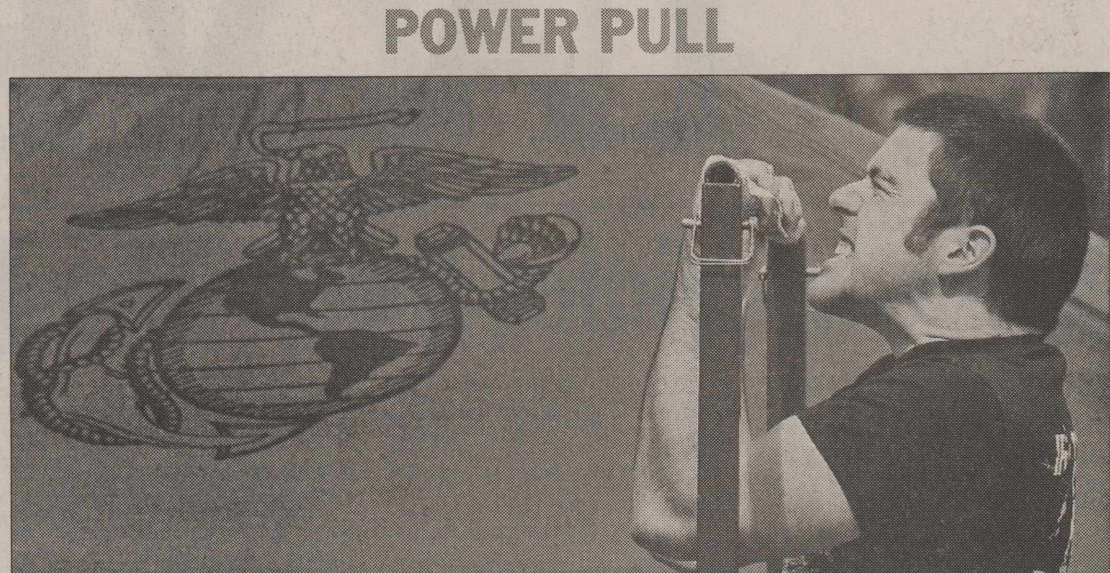


PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador
COREY ZANT, A junior political science major from Mason, does 16 pull-ups for the Marine Corps challenge Tuesday outside the Student Union Building.

Japan PM's reading blunders spark study spree

TOKYO (AP) — Reading Japanese isn't easy — even for the Japanese.

Take Prime Minister Taro Aso. He's made so many public blunders that an opposition lawmaker tried to give him a reading test during a televised session of parliament.

The Japanese leader bungled the word for "frequent," calling Japan-China exchanges "cumber-some" instead. Another time, he misread the word "toshu" (follow), saying "fushu" — or stench — and sounded as if he were saying government policy "stinks."

While the media and Aso's political rivals have been quick to

heap ridicule, many Japanese have seen a bit more of themselves in Aso's goofs than they would like to admit. Since his missteps, books designed to improve reading ability have become all the rage.

Aso's nemesis is his mother tongue's notoriously tricky mish-mash of Chinese characters and its two sets of indigenous syllabaries.

Here is what he — and all Japanese — are up against.

Just reading the newspaper requires knowledge of about 2,000 characters. Another 50,000 are less common but useful to recognize.

And that's just for starters. Most characters have several

different pronunciations depending on the context. For instance, the two characters in the prime minister's surname can be read several ways. The first character, which means linen, is pronounced "asa" or "ma." The second — meaning life, raw, or to occur or grow — can be pronounced "nama," "sei," "sho," or "ki," to list just a few possibilities. And together, they are pronounced "Aso" (Ah-so).

During last month's televised parliament session, opposition lawmaker Hajime Ishii chided Aso for his stumbles, saying: "We'd better discuss Chinese characters."

Obama resuming safeguards for endangered species

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama urged agency heads Tuesday to ignore a Bush administration regulation limiting scientific reviews of projects that might harm endangered wildlife and plants.

During a visit to the Interior Department, Obama said the review process had been undermined by his predecessor.

"For more than three decades, the Endangered Species Act has successfully protected our nation's most threatened wildlife. We should be looking for ways to improve it, not weaken it," Obama said.

A presidential memorandum signed by Obama on Tuesday puts the Bush regulation on hold until the Interior and Com-

merce departments complete a review.

While on the campaign trail, Obama said he would fight to maintain the protections of the Endangered Species Act and work to undo what was then a proposal by the Bush administration.

Finalized in December over the objections of environmentalists, the Bush rule made optional what had previously been mandatory for 35 years — the independent consultations federal scientists have performed on projects.

The reviews were blamed by developers and federal agencies for delays and cost increases on projects such as dams and power plants that were found to pose risks to endangered species or the places

they live.

The changes were pushed through relatively quickly by Bush administration officials who described them as minor. Democrats and environmentalists have argued that the regulations overhauled long-standing policy.

Democratic leaders in Congress who have been attempting to reverse the rule applauded the president's decision.

"I wholeheartedly support the president's proposal to restore the protections for endangered species that the Bush administration spent so many years trying to undermine," said Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., who chairs the House Natural Resources Committee.

Afghan tech boom: Mullah embraces iPhone

KABUL (AP) — Mullah Abdul Salaam Zaeef is a former Taliban ambassador to Pakistan. He spent almost four years in Guantanamo. He wears a black turban, has a thick beard — and is never without his Apple iPhone.

The ultra-conservative Taliban banned modern technology like the Internet and TV during its harsh 1996-2001 rule, but

those items have boomed in Afghanistan since the regime's 2001 ouster, helping to bring the country into the 21st century.

Zaeef, who reconciled with the Afghan government after being released from U.S. custody, says he uses his iPhone to surf the Internet and find difficult locations, employing the built-in GPS. He even checks his bank account balance online.

"It's easy and modern and I love it," Zaeef said as he pinched and pulled his fingers across the iPhone's touch screen last week. "This is necessary in the world today. People want to progress."

Beyond making life easier, some say the country's embrace of technology could help break the cycle of 30 years of relentless warfare. It puts at the tip of a finger many things that were strictly outlawed by Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar — music, movies, pictures of people and games like chess.

Singer Phil Collins finds new passion in the Alamo

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Singer Phil Collins says his new "main thing" is the Alamo.

Collins, who said he has "hundreds" of cannonballs, documents and other artifacts from the Alamo, is in San Antonio this week in conjunction with the anniversary of the March 1836 battle of the Alamo.

The collector and history buff's most prized item is a receipt signed by Alamo commander William Barret Travis for 32 head

of cattle used to feed the Alamo defenders.

"Basically, now I've stopped being Phil Collins the singer. This has become what I do," he said in an online story Tuesday for the San Antonio Express-News.

His interest began in his youth when he saw actor Fess Parker portray Davy Crockett.

The 58-year-old singer, whose hits include "In the Air Tonight" and "One More Night," said he has passed on his appreciation

for the Alamo lore to his five children, especially his youngest sons, ages 4 and 7.

"My youngest two, they can identify Travis, Crockett and Santa Anna when they see their pictures," he said.

Collins narrated the introduction of a 13-minute "Alamo diorama light and sound show" at the History Shop by the Alamo.

He is scheduled to speak to the Alamo Defenders Descendants Association on Saturday.

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Puzzles by PageFiller

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Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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Authors urge organic food for dogs

(AP)—Increased interest in organics has filtered down to the dog world: At least three recent cookbooks tout healthy or organic home-baked goodies for canines.

As Jonna Anne, author of "The Healthy Dog Cookbook" (T.F.H. Publications, 2008), put it: "I want to make sure (my dogs) are healthy as long as they live."

Anne, the executive chef at the State University of New York at Geneseo, cooks for a household that includes seven dogs. One, a Doberman Pinscher, had severe skin problems requiring perpetual antibiotics — until Anne started feeding it some of the meals that ended up in her cookbook: healthy foods high in omega-3 fatty acids (found in some seafood, such as salmon).

She suggests supplementing a good-quality, store-bought kibble with her recipes, which can last several days, depending on how many dogs live in the house.

"Dogs used to eat this way," said Anne. "They ate table scraps. They ate what we ate."

Martha Smith, Director of Veterinary Medical Services at the Animal Rescue League of Boston, said cooking for your dog is fine, but a diet that's exclusively home-cooked can be dangerous.

"I just know there is no well-balanced diet for a cat or dog that you can simply make by adding grocery ingredients," Smith said. "They have specified needs for calcium and other nutrients."

She warned that anyone who wants to replace a dog's nutrient-fortified kibble with home-cooked food ought to have the diet "verified and balanced by a certified veterinarian nutritionist."

Anne's cookbook explains that approach, and includes portion sizes for adding her creations to daily kibble. She worked with a canine nutritionist and a veterinarian while writing the cookbook.

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SPORTS

PAGE 8
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009

Jayhawk Down

Red Raiders take out No. 9 Kansas on Senior Night

By ALEX YBARRA
MANAGING EDITOR

Texas Tech coach Pat Knight said all week he wanted his players to experience a win to remember in the midst of a season full of disappointing losses.

All it took was a little magic on Senior Night to nudge Tech out of a six-game losing streak.

A red-hot Alan Voskuil didn't hurt either.

Voskuil had his best shooting night as a Red Raider—9-of-14 from 3-point range—scoring a career-high 35 points as Tech upset No. 9 Kansas 84-65 Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena.

Forward Mike Singletary scored 18 points and guard Nick Okorie chipped in 17 points.

"We were due for a win, we got it," he said, sitting alongside seniors Rogdrick Craig, Michael Prince, Esmir Rizvic and Damir Suljagic. "It's nice to go out with us

seniors with a win like that, something we won't ever forget."

Voskuil's name was chanted by the crowd with less than 10 seconds remaining as Knight pulled each senior off the court for what was a special moment not only for his players, but for Knight, too.

Knight said it was the best upset win since he's been at Tech because "it's my team," and his team played opposite of how the 11th ranked team in the Big 12 Conference should.

As Voskuil walked off the court, Knight hugged him, but he couldn't find the right words to say, probably because he was about to cry.

"You get too choked up," Knight said.

Tech (13-17, 3-12 in Big 12 play) has beat Kansas (24-6, 13-2) three straight times in Lubbock dating back to 2005. The Red Raiders won in double-overtime in 2005 and another close game in 2007.

Consequently, Kansas coach Bill Self

must cringe at the sight of Tech's United Spirit Arena, even after he admires the aesthetic charm.

"It's a beautiful building, but there's obviously something wrong with it," he said.

What is it about Lubbock that ices the Jayhawks and fires up the Red Raiders?

"I think it's a confidence thing," Craig said. "We knew that we've beaten them twice here and coming in we weren't gonna lose this game."

"Just pretty much confidence and knowing that we can win and believing in ourselves and believing in each other."

Suljagic said it was difficult not to recall last season's 109-51 loss in Lawrence, Kan., in Allen Fieldhouse on Senior Night for the Jayhawks. It was the worst loss in the history of Tech's basketball program.

The seniors and every other player wanted a taste of that, and Voskuil even mentioned a little bulletin-board material may have fueled the Red Raiders as well.



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

Kansas point guard Sherron Collins provided the quote.

"It's a great feeling to clinch on the road," Collins told the *Kansas City Star* prior to the game. "You do it on the road, you get to celebrate in somebody else's locker room."

Collins finished with 11 points on 3-of-19 shooting and 10 percent shooting from 3-point range.

"He couldn't throw the ball in the ocean," Self said.

Guard Tyshawn Taylor and forward Marcus Morris scored 11 points as well.

Tech had to fend off the Jayhawks several times on the night.

After Singletary's third 3-pointer of the night put Tech up 57-47 with 10:49 remaining, Kansas went on a 7-0 run.

Taylor scored a layup on a fastbreak, Tyler Reed hit a 3-pointer, and Morris put in an offensive rebound to make it 57-54.

But Okorie drained a three from the corner, putting Tech up six points.

On KU's next possession, Morris was called for a technical after yelling near the referee.

Self said after the game he would not go into details as to what the official told him Morris shouted.

"I thought he blew the call and I thought it was a big deal," said Self, who received a technical of his own earlier in the game. "Technical don't ever come at opportune times."

But Self acknowledged the technical didn't lose the game for Kansas. It was a team loss for the Jayhawks.

"Let's call it like it is," he said. "Nobody else did anything. We had no post presence inside. We had nobody making shots. Our whole team played poor all around."

Voskuil hit both technical free throws.

On top of that, Okorie sank two more for being fouled by Morris before he was called for the technical.

The sequence of events put Tech up 64-54 with 7:42 to go, and the Red Raiders held on to the lead, earning a season-saving win in the process.

Tech went into halftime with an 11-point lead, but Kansas went on an 18-4 run going back to the first half to come within 41-39 with about 16 minutes left



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

(ABOVE PHOTO) TEXAS Tech guard, Alan Voskuil, waves to the crowd after being presented with a jersey during the Senior Night festivities before the Red Raiders' game against Kansas.

(BELOW PHOTO) TEXAS Tech guard Alan Voskuil shoots a three over Kansas' Tyrel Reed, during the Red Raiders' 84-65 upset against the Jayhawks Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena.

Voskuil said.

It looked like the point where Tech was supposed to let the recurring theme of the season take over and let the win slip away.

But it was Senior Night. "We weren't gonna let it happen,"

"We knew they were gonna have their run," Craig said. "It was just about keeping them under control. They had their run and they did their thing. We came back and got our run in and we won."

>>> daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu

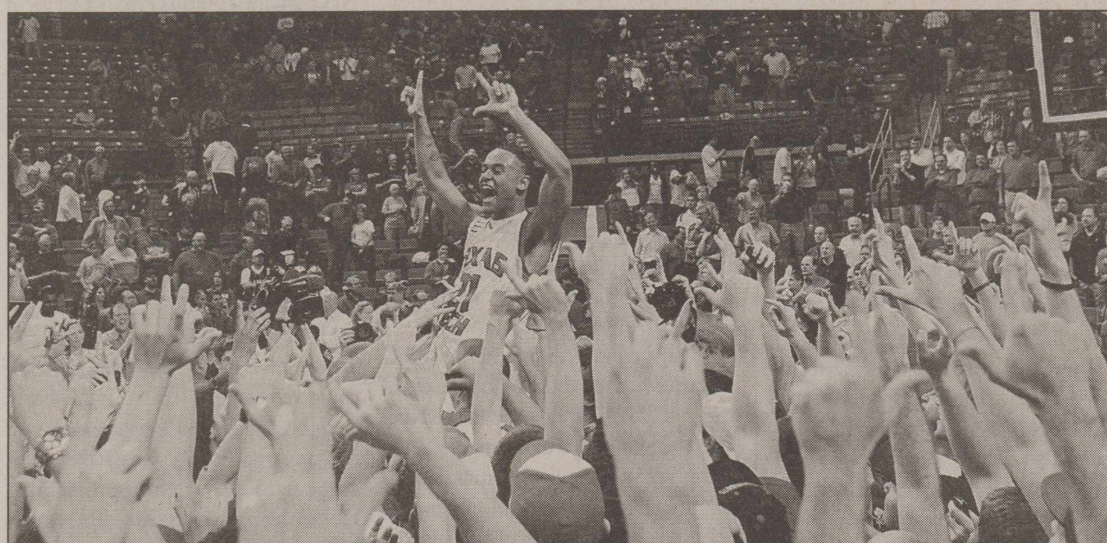


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH'S JOHN Roberson celebrates while hoisted above the crowd by fans after the Red Raiders stunned No. 9 Kansas 84-65 Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena.

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