TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2009 **VOLUME 83** ISSUE 159 exas Toch University LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79408 Serving the Texas Tech University community since 1925

(INBRIEF)

STATE

Police: woman accused of killing baby ate brain

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A woman charged with murdering her 31/2-week-old son used a knife and two swords to dismember the child and ate parts of his body, including his brain, before stabbing herself in the torso and slicing her own throat, police said Monday.

Otty Sanchez, 33, is charged with capital murder in the death of her infant son, Scott Wesley Buchholtz-Sanchez. She was recovering from her wounds at a hospital and was being held on \$1 million bail.

NATION

American al-Quaida given life for Bush plot

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — A U.S. man who became an al-Qaida terrorist while attending college in Saudi Arabia and plotted to assassinate then-President George W. Bush was defiant Monday as he was sentenced to life in prison.

An appeals court had overturned the original 30-year sentence for Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, 28, who was born in Houston and grew up in the Washington suburb of Falls Church. He was convicted in 2005 of joining al-Qaida.

Abu Ali met with top al-Qaida leaders in Saudi Arabia and discussed establishing a sleeper cell in the United States.

WORLD

Israel on Iran: anything to stop nuclear bomb

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel hardened its insistence Monday that it would do anything it felt necessary to stop Iran from getting a nuclear bomb, just the ultimatum the United States hoped not to hear as it tried to nudge Iran to the bargaining table.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates reassured Israel that the new Obama administration was not naive about Iran's intentions, and that Washington would press for new, tougher sanctions against the Iranians if they balk. He didn't say what those might include.

DEATH TOLL

Iraq since fighting began

INSIDE

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WEATHER



Isolated T-Storms



Wednesday



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PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreadon FORMER U.S. ATTORNEY General Alberto Gonzales will teach, recruit and lecture for one year at Texas Tech, which has some faculty

By ALEX YBARRA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Some Texas Tech faculty against Gonzales hiring

In response to a petition objecting to his hiring at Texas Tech University, Gonzales said while the petition's creator fully" disagrees with it.

The petition opposing Texas Tech with the legislature," and he questions Chancellor Kent Hance's acquisition of Gonzales as a teacher, recruiter and guest as of Monday, said petition creator Walter Schaller, a Tech philosophy professor.

The nine-page petition, complete with citations and an appendix, calls attention to Tech's statement of ethical principles and the motto "Do the Right

Thing." According to the petition, the bling example of a 'celebrity hire," the hiring of a "good friend" of Hance's "cannot be seen as a commitment to ethical conduct.

Hance was unavailable for comment former U.S. Attorney General Alberto as he was out of the office until Tuesday. Schaller also said he is troubled by is "entitled to his opinion" he "respect- Hance's involvement in hiring faculty, saying "his job is to raise money and deal

"The idea (to hire Gonzales) came speaker was signed by 70 Tech professors from Hance," Schaller said, "and it's very difficult to say no to the chancellor."

Gonzales' ethical credibility.

The petition highlights in detail Gon-Gonzales will teach a political science zales' controversies, or "ethical failings" as class of 15 students entitled "Contempo- attorney general and White House legal rary Issues in the Executive Branch" and counsel including that he frequently help recruit and retain minority students misled or lied to Congress about the firing beginning Aug. 1, Hance announced in of U.S. attorneys; rejected the Geneva Conventions; denied the Constitutional right of habeas corpus; and appeared to be more loyal to President George W. Bush than to the Constitution.

"Gonzales's appointment is a trou-

petition reads. "It is unclear what Gonzales has done that makes him deserving of employment at Texas Tech. Does he have a noteworthy academic record? Does he have a record of publishing in law reviews? Was his service to his country

particularly distinguished?" Gonzales said he is confident that at the end of his one year professorship, professors and critics will see that "my hiring has been a net gain for the

"We live in a country where, in the academic world, people can express publicly their approval and disapproval of various issues," he said. "What I'm focused on, is demonstrating that I'm serious about this teaching responsibility. I'm also serious about promoting diversity within Texas Tech. I hope that people will treat me fair and give me an opportunity to demonstrate that."

PETITION continued on page 2

Exercise your mind

Texas Tech Chess Park opens, giving students, community members unique opportunity

By ALEX YBARRA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

members objecting by signing a petition.

grabbed a knight and swiftly get fresh air." repositioned it, holding it as

for an enjoyable, rare chess experience.

cause I love playing chess said. and it's outside, and I love combined, basically."

the seven tables available attract chess players to Tech. students were in attendance.

"It was more fun than play-

ing inside," said Alisha Chawla, a third-grader from Fremont, Calif. "It was more entertaining because Calmly observing the inside it's like so quiet and all. chess board, Katie Garvin Outside, it's warm and you also

Located between the Student long as possible before making Union Building and the University Library, Tech students can For Garvin, who is in Lub- use their identification cards to bock for the 2009 Susan check out one of seven chess sets Polgar National Invitational from the information desk in the for Girls, the details of the SUB. Those who want to bring game haven't changed as their own sets can, too, said James she played against her father Brink, associate vice provost for Monday. However, the set- heritage consortium for the Natuting is different, and it makes ral and Historic Southwest.

To accommodate everyone, there is one table with no benches "I really like it here be- that is handicap accessible, Brink

According to a press release, an outside," said the 13-year-old anonymous donation of \$320,000 from Iowa City, Iowa. "It's funded the park, which was injust two of my favorite things spired by the New York Central Park chess court, and the funds Garvin occupied one of also are used for scholarships to

at the new Texas Tech chess "I think it's a wonderful opporpark, the first dedicated chess tunity for Tech students and Tech park at a university in the faculty and staff to spend a relax-United States, which opened ing time playing chess," Brink Monday as young players from said. "The game does sharpen around the country, Tech ad- your intellectual acumen. So this ministrators, city officials and is one of the connections that we

CHESS continued on page 2



PHOTO BY ALEX YBARRA/The Daily Toreadon

ALISHA CHAWLA, A third grader from Fremont, Calif., who is in Lubbock for the 2009 Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls, tests out the new tables at the Texas Tech Chess Park that opened Monday between the Student Union Building and the University Library. Students can rent chess pieces from the information booth in the Student Union Building or anyone who wants to play can bring their own.

Alcohol policy changes on campus possible in near future

By KATE OZMENT MANAGING EDITOR

changes is still up for review.

The expansion of alcohol sales pus, Williams said. in Lubbock County that passed Williams said.

As its name implies, the com- the unofficial tailgating spots. mittee, which includes an SGA representative, reviews the alcohol more appropriate, more safe, and Some changes are on the hori- policies on campus. The committee the policies are effective," she said. zon for Texas Tech students over makes its recommendation to Tech "There's the issue of kegs they are changes under the plan as well. the age of 21, but exactly what President Guy Bailey, who approves looking into." all alcohol-related policies on cam-

Association President Suzanne Stadium and the west side of United been drawn up. Spirit Arena, as these have become

"They want to make sure it's

Williams, a senior advertising ma- would no longer be allowed, Williams SGA did not back the idea. May 9 has influenced the Aca- jor from Arlington, said the commit- said while stressing the plan was still Committee, Student Government lated to the east side of Jones AT&T rough draft of policy changes had

to maybe have this done by football want it to be for the students." season," she said.

tailgating event, would have some the no glass rule, students using

The possible policy change deal- der discussion by the committee was alcohol. ing with kegs was that the objects bringing in an outside vendor, but

"One idea they had was bringing demic Alcohol Policy Review tee mostly is examining policies re- in the discussion stages and only a in a third-party vendor, which SGA does not want because it would condone the use of alcohol," she said. "It

Other policies that would remain

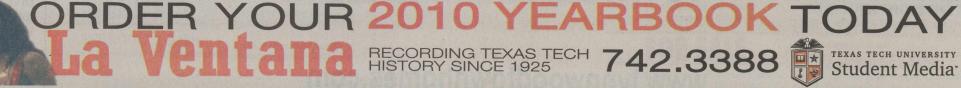
RaiderGate, an SGA-sponsored the same, Williams said, would be RaiderGate cups instead of cans and Williams said one possibility un- only students over 21 consuming

One student who has been to RaiderGate said the rules were a

"I like (the cup rule) because it looks less trashy than with bottles

ALCOHOL continued on page 2

"They are working really hard would cost more for students, and we **EDITORIAL: 806-742-3393** BUSINESS: 806-742-3388 FAX: 806-742-2434 **CIRCULATION: 806-742-3388** E-MAIL: dailytoreador@ttu.edu



deal on health care

WASHINGTON (AP) - After weeks of secretive talks, a bipartisan group in the Senate edged closer Monday to a health care compromise that omits a requirement for businesses to offer coverage to their workers and lacks a government insurance option that President Barack Obama favors, according to numerous officials.

Like bills drafted by Democrats, the proposal under discussion by six members on the Senate Finance Committee would bar insurance companies from denying coverage to any applicant. Nor could insurers charge higher premiums on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions.

But it jettisons other core Democratic provisions in a reach for bipartisanship on an issue that has so far produced little.

The effort received a boost during the day from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, normally a close ally of Republicans. In a letter to committee leaders, the business group called for the panel to "act promptly, preferably before" the Senate's scheduled vacation at the end of next week. In doing so, the business organization dealt a blow to the Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and other GOP lawmakers who have called repeatedly for Democrats to slow down.

Today's

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In yet another boost for the drive to enact legislation, PhRMA, which represents drug companies, has purchased more than \$500,000 worth of television ads to air during the week

Obama's top domestic priority has suffered numerous setbacks in recent weeks, and Republicans have stepped up their criticism. A Senate vote has been postponed until September. Administration and Democratic leaders hope to show significant progress before lawmakers begin their monthlong recess in hopes of regaining

In the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said, "We're on schedule to do it now or do it whenever," when asked whether the House would complete its bill before lawmakers leave at the end of the week. Democrats called a meeting of all their House members late Monday

In the Senate, officials stressed that no agreement has been reached on a bipartisan measure, and said there is no guarantee of one. They also warned that numerous key issues remain to be settled, including several options to pay for the legislation. They spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they were not authorized to discuss matters under private negotiations.

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Senators move for Obama, China talking

ident Barack Obama said Monday that the relationship between the United States and China will shape the history of the 21st century.

Obama, speaking at the start of two days of high-level talks between the two nations, said that Washington and Beijing needed to forge closer ties to address a host of challenges from lifting the global economy out of a deep recession to nuclear proliferation.

"I believe that we are poised to make steady progress on some of the most important issues of our times," the president told diplomats from both countries.

Obama said he was under "no illusions that the United States and China will agree on every issue" but he said closer cooperation in important areas was critical for the world.

The discussions in Washington represent the continuation of a dialogue begun by the Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — Presadministration, which focused on economic tensions between the two nations.

Obama chose to expand the talks to include foreign policy issues as well as economic disputes.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, welcoming the Chinese, said the two nations were "laying brick by brick the foundation for a stronger relationship."

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Vice Premier Wang Qishan, China's top economic policymaker, both spoke of hopeful signs that the global economy was beginning to emerge from its worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.

Geithner said that the so far successful efforts of the two economic superpowers to move quickly to deal. with the downturns with massive stimulus programs marked a historic turning point in the relationship of the two nations.

Correction

In Friday's issue of The Daily Toreador, the article "Texas Tech student shot after helping police in arrests," should have stated that the Lubbock Police Department does not encourage nor discourage people from following a suspect's vehicle to assist the officers, but wants them to understand the inherent danger involved. The DT regrets the error.

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The Daily Toreador welcomes letters from readers. ers must be no longer than 300 words and must include the author's name, signature, phone number, Social Security number and a description of university affiliation. Students should include year in school, major and hometown. We reserve the right to edit letters. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. All letters will be verified before they are published. Letters can be e-mailed to dailytoreador@ttu.edu or brought to 211 Student Media. Letters should be sent in before 3 p.m. to ensure the editors have enough time to verify and edit the submission

Guest Columns

The Daily Toreador accepts submissions of unsolicited quest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication 650 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community. Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification

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PHOTO BY ALEX YBARRA/The Daily Toreador

KATIE GARVIN, FROM Iowa City, Iowa, plays chess Monday in the outdoor chess park near the free speech area against her father, Mike Garvin.

Chess -

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 try to make all the time with the initiative that we have for chess. We're looking for-

ward to it being a constant and important part of our campus." Susan Polgar, director of

SPICE, the Susan Polgar Institute for Chess Excellence, said when she was growing up in Budapest, Hungary, chess tables and boards were common in parks and outdoor areas.

So to bring something to Tech that is not so common in Texas — and the country

for that matter - means a lot to Polgar.

"I'm very glad that I could attract Texas Tech to open such a beautiful facility for all the students and faculty and visitors," she said. "I'm hoping that it will create a buzz even more for chess than we've already did with SPICE and our international and national and local events.

"I think chess is a very positive game. It has only positive elements to it, and I think it's a lot better way to spend time than some other things like video games or poker."

» daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu

Alcohol **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

and cans lying around," said Rebecca Rugg, a junior education major from

Fort Worth. Rugg said prohibiting glass was positive as well because it was a

safety hazard. The increased availability of alcohol sales does not have the Tech

police department worried, however, said Police Chief Ron Seacrist. Seacrist, a 29-year law enforce-

ment veteran, said his experience with students is they will drink if they want to.

"If someone wants alcohol or a drink, they will get it," he said.

While offduty deputy sheriffs patrol RaiderGate and the Tech police cover the rest of

the campus currently, Seacrist said he is unsure if the organization will change with the new policies.

Outside of athletics events, he said the police department does not expect a major change with their primary concerns — drunken driving, public intoxication and domestic disputes involving alcohol — but they will continue their education programs to try and inform students of the dangers of drinking irrespon-

One program, entitled DWI/ Alcohol Awareness, is a one-hour > kate.ozment@ttu.edu

course about DWI statistics, costs and how it may affect your life, according to the department's Web

"Our objective is for people to have good times, but be safe," he said. "We want them to be responsible for their own actions, and we don't want those actions to involve us."

Students living on campus will not experience a policy change.

Even though some on-campus residents are over 21, D'aun Green, senior associate managing direc-

Our objective is for

people to have good

We want them to

be responsible

RON SEACRIST

Chief of Police

Texas Tech Police Department

times, but be safe.

tor with the Department of Student Housing, said the campus is still a dry campus and students are not allowed to have alcohol

the new laws in Lubbock. "If the campus was

in their dorm

rooms despite

wet, then that would be a different story," she said. "They're not of legal drinking age then they don't need to be consuming, then if they make the choice to do so, then they are understanding the consequences of their actions."

Green said the consequences for having alcohol in a residence hall room, if found, leads to a write up to Student Judicial services, which could lead to probation or other consequences depending on the situation.

AWARDS The Daily Toreador

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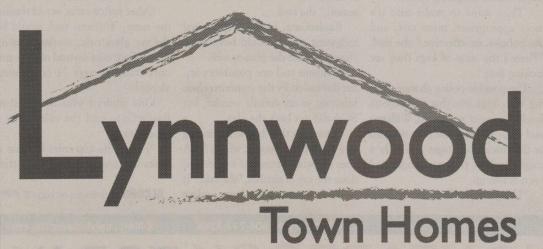
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Petition ←

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Schaller said he believes students will not be taking a good course with Gonzales as professor because "there's so much that he has to be silent about because there's legal issues that could arise if he were to tell the full

In response, Gonzales said he will try to be as candid as possible during classes and that all the ethical questions have been reviewed by various authorities with no finding of wrongdoing.

"I just don't think he'll be honest in a way that a regular faculty member could be," Schaller said. "Too much is at stake. Too much is at stake in what he says. Anything he says can be in the New York Times the next day and Department of Justice, day after that. He's got a lot of secrets he just can't be forthright about."

Schaller said he understands that a binding contract has solidified Gonzales' position at least for the next year, but he hopes that these professors who have taken a stand against the recent hiring will resonate when his initial year is over.

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2009

Wage hike to take toll on students

On Friday, the United States moved the national minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour, up from \$6.55. The change was the third increase in as many years raising minimum wage from the 2006 minimum of \$5.15. Unfortunately for Texas Tech students, this isn't exactly good news.

Minimum wage was first introduced in 1938 as part of the Fair Labor Standards Act as the American labor market began to climb out of the Great Depression. As part of an effort to invigorate the American labor market, President Franklin Roosevelt led a charge through Congress to create a \$0.25 per hour minimum wage (or about \$5.00 per hour in 2009 dollars). Since then, real value of minimum wage has peaked to \$9.00 per hour in 1968 to its current \$7.25 per hour. And through it all, debate has raged over the effectiveness and efficiency of minimum wage.

Basic economic theory states that the supply of an economy's goods and services will meet the demand at their equivalent prices, called equilibrium. However, when a Ken

minimum wage is put into effect, this creates a price floor on the classic supply and demand curves. Since the price of supply increases, this raises the overall price level above equilibrium. The effect of such a raise is felt in both overall employment levels and the final prices of goods and services. But, there remains that potential for both lower prices and higher levels of employment, called a deadweight loss.

While there are certain complications to this basic argument, such as industries that aren't covered by minimum wage and markets where the supply level is actually higher than minimum wage, there are also some definite benefits to a minimum wage. To begin with, by establishing a minimum standard of living for all citizens, every person has the op- entry level service and hospital-

portunity to be held to at least some level of well being. But more importantly, since the effects of minimum wage are seen in overall prices and inflation, it forces consumer spending to increase.

It is this consumer spending for jobs tradeoff most significant at this time. And while Congress certainly didn't anticipate the current economic climate nearly three and a half years ago when it created the current wage hike, it definitely comes at a peculiar time. With the unemployment rate, 9.5 percent, at its highest point in more than 25 years, Americans certainly don't need any more job losses, yet the increase in consumer spending certainly presents a fair tradeoff.

Economists estimate that the recent minimum wage increase will cost Americans about \$300,000 while bringing in an additional \$5.5 billion in consumer spending. In practice however, the losses only affect young adults and teens. Since more than 65 percent of the current workforce at minimum wage is under 25 (the rest being mostly made up

ity workers), nearly all of these job losses are to college-age adults and younger. And with Texas having the highest percentage of minimum wage employees in the nation, the results will most certainly be felt by Lubbockites.

After producing one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country at 6 percent, Lubbock didn't need anything to affect that claim. But this is what makes it so frustrating for college students. While completely disregarding higher level jobs, not to mention the 19 other states that were already above the \$7.25 per hour minimum, the minimum wage hike is a cruise missile aimed directly at students. Nevermind increased productivity and consumer spending, the wage increase is here and now for Tech students. So this is my warning to Tech students wanting a part-time job: Start looking now because those jobs may not be there in a month.

Jones is a sophomore economics major from Lubbock. E-mail him at ben.jones@ttu.edu.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1 Italian ball game
6 Neatnik's bane
10 Sgt. Friday's
force
14 "What __!":
"B-o-o-o-ring!"
15 Forbidden
perfume brand?
16 Arced molding
17 Wasp-waisted
shape
20 Palm phone
21 Tolkien's
Treebeard, for
one

Treebeard, for one
22 Accept reality
23 Emeril catchword
25 Prefix with hertz
26 Cleaning item
29 What a big spender has plenty of
35 Ovid's "I love"
36 How the

36 How the euphoric walk?
37 "Look here, old chap!"
38 Raps with barbs
40 EPA-banned

2 Glade target
3 Rock's Mötley __
4 Poor substitute
for 62-Across
5 Quiche base
6 Baseball's Musial
7 At the end of the
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41 Harry Potter's Potions teacher
42 Dix plus un
43 Moray hunter
45 "Vamoose!"
46 Boardinghouse sign

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birthplace
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12 Gilpin of "Frasier"
13 Insect repellent
compound
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19 "Othello" 99 Wynn and Sullivan 50 Knight titles 51 Thé, basically 53 Snapple product 56 Hollywood VIP 58 "If I Only _____ Brain" 62 Godiva gift 65 The Auld Sod 66 Wait in hiding 67 Meal that can precede the start of 17-, 29-, 46- or 62-Across conniver 24 "Famous" cookie

25 South Carolina's __ Beach 26 Stubble remover 62-Across 68 Head of France? 69 Online auction 27 Kind of protein-building acid 28 Bonkers 30 ___ Raiders:

70 Chap advocates DOWN

52 Ryder rival 31 Down-yielding duck 32 Utilities bill datum

33 Speedy 34 Dmitri's dissents 39 Emerald or ruby

month 47 Lord's holding

"Ugh!"
59 8, for oxygen: Abbr. 60 Pack of cards

55 Sign over a door 56 Cartoon explorer 57 Eliciting an

61 Queens tennis stadium 63 Atlanta, for Delta Airlines 64 Barrister's deg.

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Penn St. takes top party school title in survey

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — Penn State University is now the nation's No. 1 party school.

The school known partly for its football tailgate weekends and fraternity and sorority scene snatched the title from the University of Florida in the 2009 Princeton Review survey of 122,000 students nationwide. Florida, last year's winsurvey released Monday.

It's the first time Penn State has finished first in the dubious category. The school has been on the list the last seven years and ranked third in 2008. The listing covers Penn State's main University Park campus in State College.

"These rankings are not more

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university spokeswoman Annemarie Mountz. She noted that groups on the social networking site Facebook have urged members to make Penn State the top party there were 325 respondents to the

"It's a badge of honor at this point. Nationwide, kids want to pump their schools in these

ner, finished second in the annual than popularity contests," said surveys," Mountz said. "It's not connected to reality."

> The rankings were part of the Princeton Review's "The Best 371 Colleges" annual guide. On average, survey per school, which Mountz said amounted to less than 1 percent of the University Park campus' enrollment of 43,000 students.

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SIPOR IS

Curry hires assistant coach

By ALEX YBARRA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It didn't take long for Texas Tech women's basketball coach Kristy Curry to find a replacement for former assistant coach Bill Brock, who rejoined Baylor in early July.

According to a press release, Curry's new assistant coach is Brooke Stoehr, who spent last season as an assistant coach at Southern Mississippi. Stoehr worked mostly with perimeter players and handled recruiting, scouting and film breakdown duties.

In a prepared statement, Curry said Stoehr is one of the "bright young stars" in the coaching arena and is excited to bring her aboard.

"I've always admired her leadership qualities and pas-

"She will be involved in a lot of different aspects of our program from recruiting, on the floor coaching with an emphasis on

STOEHR

point guard development, scouting, summer camps and community involvement."

Stoehr, who has ties to Curry through Louisiana Tech, said in the release that she is honored to be hired by a coach she admires so much.

"I am truly honored and excited for the opportunity to work for Texas Tech University and Kristy Curry," Stoehr stated. "I have known Kristy for many years and have always respected her work ethic and passion for sion for the game," Curry said. developing student athletes in

all aspects. The vision Kristy and her staff have for the program is very exciting, and I strongly believe Texas Tech is on the verge of something very special."

Stoehr spent three seasons coaching at Lousiana Tech, where she played from 1998 to 2002, before joining Southern Mississippi.

At Louisiana Tech, her priorities included being academic counselor, recruiting with an emphasis in Arkansas and Louisiana, scouting, guard development, summer camps and administering the weight and conditioning program, according to the press release.

Stoehr's work with the guards at Louisiana Tech became apparent after she helped develop three All-Western Athletic Conference selections and a WAC Player of the Year. She also coached during Louisiana Tech's back-to-back WAC regular season titles.

Prior to her coaching position at Louisiana Tech, Stoehr spent two years as assistant coach at Arkansas-Little Rock, where she focused on guard play, recruiting, condition workouts and summer basketball camps.

During her playing days at Louisiana Tech, Stoehr started at point guard as a junior and senior, serving as a two-year captain.

Louisiana Tech played in four NCAA Championships during her career, including reaching the Final Four in 1999 and the Elite Eight two other times.

In addition, Louisiana Tech lost only one conference game on its way to four-regular season conference and tournament titles.

>>> daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu



FUR DRINK SPECIALS & MUSIC DALENDAR

Oklahoma State could be this year's version of Texas Tech

By JON ARNOLD ELECTRONIC MEDIA EDITOR

IRVING — An offense with its star quarterback returning, and star receiver back after choosing not to go pro, a defense that has been shaky in the past but has improved recently and lofty expectations for the team despite being projected third in their division.

Texas Tech fans know the script well.

The 2008 Tech football season was met with pre-season hype from both local and national media outlets. The Red Raiders ended up 11-2 after losing their regular-season finale against Oklahoma and the Cotton Bowl to Missisippi.

This year all of those descriptions fit the Oklahoma State Cowboys, but the similarities don't mean Oklahoma State is using the Red Raiders' 2008 season as a blueprint.

"I really wouldn't say you can learn from anybody else. You always have to learn from your mistakes, learn from things you didn't quite capitalize on," said Russell Okung, a senior offensive lineman for the Cowboys. "We've had guys who were there, learned what it does take to win and what type of mentality you have to have in order to achieve what you want."

Coach Mike Gundy acknowledged the similarities between the two teams, but laughed when he was asked if they could avoid the same outcome Tech ended 2008 with.

"They actually had a pretty good run," he said. "They won 11 games. I want to win 12 and if somebody says you win 11, I mean, I'm good.

Quarterback Zac Robinson leads a Cowboys offense that returns eight starters from last season's 9-4 team. Three of those starters were First Team All-Big 12 Conference last year: Okung, receiver Dez Bryant and running back Kendall Hunter.

Robinson, Bryant and Hunter form a trio that has drawn comparisons to the "triplets" Oklahoma State had in 1988 when Gundy quarterbacked the team with Barry SandFILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreadon

OKLAHOMA STATE QUARTERBACK Zac Robinson returns for another year with receiver Dez Bryant and others for the 2009 season.

Hart Lee Dykes playing receiver.

The defense traditionally has been a weakness for Oklahoma State, but the unit expects to be much improved this year. Much like the Red Raiders, Oklahoma State's offense scores quickly and sometimes fans speculate the defense wears down throughout the game because of the amount of time spent on the field.

"You have to be in great shape to be on our defense," linebacker Andre Sexton said. "It happens so quick because they're moving so fast that we don't get breaks for that long."

Gundy said the leadership that players such as Sexton and cornerback Perrish Cox bring will be the biggest difference for this year's defense, which returns six

have to play in Big 12 South division, which also includes Texas and find a 10-win season.

to be in contention for a national championship.

"We have to go to OU and play, luckily we have Texas to come play us," Sexton said.

"We've just got to take care of one game at a time and keep winning to keep our dream alive right now." The 2009 edition of the Red

Raiders visit Stillwater, Okla., November 14 to play Oklahoma State, and the Cowboys may have last year's 56-20 blowout loss to the Red Raiders in mind.

Sexton said the Cowboys let the hype surrounding the team in big games such as the match up in Lubbock distract them in 2008.

With the hype only continuing to increase, Oklahoma State must learn to overcome the outside factors, or else Cowboys fans will have Still, like Tech, the Cowboys to continue looking back to the years when Gundy was under center to



