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Student senate votes to table oversight bill

By JOEANN BON-JORNO
STAFF WRITER

Fewer than five Texas Tech student senators raised their hands during the student senate meeting Thursday when asked if they had ever seen a copy of the SGA budget, despite the constitution stating every senator has the ability to see a copy.

The questionnaire was part of the discussion for hotly debated Senate Bill 45.12 that suggested a senate review of the budget each year.

Senators voted to table the bill to revisit it at another date. Sen. Mac Smith said the bill is an unnecessary check. He said the bill is going to add two to three more

hours a week to executive officers' already busy schedules because it would require the officers to meet with committee chairs and explain the budget.

"Adding another layer is too much," Smith said. Administrative leaders have not displayed behavior that warrants such a bill, he said.

According to the bill, there is no oversight between the executive and legislative branches of the student senate in terms of the budget. The bill called for executive officers to present the maximum budget of each project to the committee chair council for approval at the beginning of every semester.

Sen. Jenny Mayants said the bill has nothing to do with this year's executive branch and said she

thinks the bill is a good idea.

"It makes sure there is never a problem," she said.

Sen. Tyler Patton, a co-author on the bill, said senators need to put the power of accessing the budget on their own shoulders.

Sen. Colton Smith said the executive branch is elected and senators should trust the people for whom they voted.

He said he trusts the executive branch and administration with handling the budget.

"We should have full trust in our executive officers," Smith said.

Sen. Drew Graham, another co-author on the bill, said he trusts the executive officers as well, but wants to put preventative measures in place for the future.

"I thought as the student government we were students representing the students, not the administration," Graham said.

Sen. Amelia Martin said the money involved in the budget belongs to everyone.

"This is not just the executive officer's money," Martin said, "it's my money and the kid that sits next to me in class' money."

Sen. Ashley Larkin said there are people paid to manage the budget and as a senator she is not qualified to deal with the budget in such a manner.

"We have people who are paid to manage the budget that have training and knowledge," Larkin said.

SENATE continued on Page 2 >>>

AGAINST A WALL

Tech hopes to contain OSU's Anderson in crucial game

By MIKE GRAHAM
STAFF WRITER

Mike Davis and the Texas Tech basketball team know they have to play Oklahoma State better in Lubbock than they did a month ago in Stillwater, Okla.

That means containing OSU's star guard James Anderson, who reeled off 25 points against the Red Raiders — in the first half.

"We'll still have our eye on him," Davis said. "He's a good player. He got on a hot streak last time, so hopefully this time we're able to contain him and come out with a victory."

Tech started strong in its Big 12 Conference opener against Oklahoma State on Jan. 9 in Stillwater.

At the time, just one Big 12 team had lost on its home floor, and it looked like Tech might make OSU the second team, leading 21-15 more than halfway through the first half.

But as the Red Raiders' scoring pace slowed, Anderson caught fire in an 81-52 drubbing of Tech.

Tech will have a chance at revenge when the two teams square off at 12:30 p.m. Saturday in the United Spirit Arena.

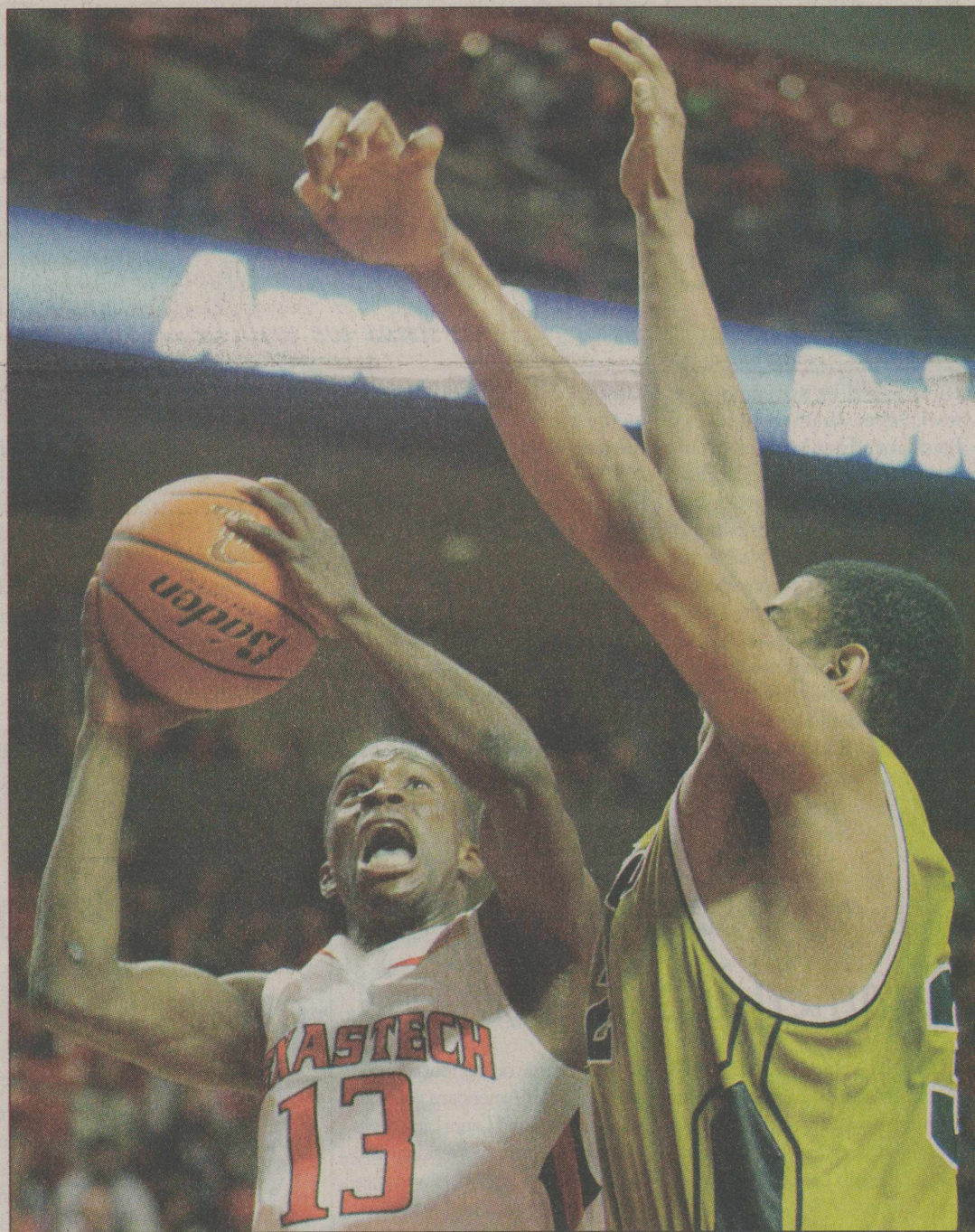
OSU coach Travis Ford said he's lucky to have a player such as Anderson on the floor every week.

"It's been a work in progress," he said Monday during the Big 12 coaches teleconference. "We have so many new players with six freshmen and one transfer. So there's no question we need him. There's no question James Anderson is one of the best players in the country and one of the best players on our team."

Tech guard John Roberson pointed out it's not only the Red Raiders who have struggled with Anderson, a 6-foot-6 junior, in the first half.

Anderson scored 24 points in the first half against No. 9 Texas in a 72-60 loss Monday in Stillwater.

He leads the Cowboys in scoring with 501 points, averaging 22.8 points per game. No one else on the Cowboy roster ranks anywhere near him. OSU's Obi Muonelo ranks second with 279 points on



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

DAVID TAIRU and the Red Raiders have a shot to avenge their 81-52 loss to Oklahoma State earlier this season in Stillwater, Okla., when they take on the Cowboys at 12:30 p.m. Saturday in the United Spirit Arena.

the year. Tech's top scorer, forward Mike Singletary, has 324 points this season.

With no midweek game this week, Tech (14-7, 2-5 in Big 12 play) took some time to consider what can be improved in the final nine regular season games.

The Red Raiders recognized that at times their defense has been less than stellar this season, and that they have been getting outrebounded.

So Tech has used the time to shore up its deficiencies and players expect to come out stronger against the Cowboys (16-6, 4-4).

Saturday's game presents the Red Raiders with their first rematch opportunity of the season as Big 12 teams from the same division play home-and-home series every year.

Roberson said the Red Raiders second meeting with OSU this season will be a more competitive game with Tech playing in front of a

friendly crowd and the fact there should not be many surprises since the two teams already have played each other.

"I think we know what they're going to try to do to us," Roberson said. "They kind of caught us off guard down there in Stillwater. I think we're going to be ready for their defensive pressure, and we'll have a lot of counters to what they have on defense."

>>> michael.graham@ttu.edu

House agrees to \$1.9 trillion more in debt

By ANDREW TAYLOR
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House on Thursday voted to allow the government to go \$1.9 trillion deeper in debt — an increase of about \$6,000 more for every U.S. resident that provided a vivid election-year reminder of the nation's perilous financial condition.

The huge debt increase, approved 217-212, is only enough to keep the government afloat for about another year as it borrows more than 40 cents of every dollar it spends on programs like defense, health care, feeding the poor and protecting the environment. The budget tops \$3.7 trillion this year and the deficit's approaching \$1.6 trillion under the budget submitted by President Barack Obama this week.

The huge increase — to \$14.3 trillion — in the cap on federal borrowing was designed by Democratic leaders to ensure that the rank and file won't have to vote again to run up another increase before facing voters increasingly angry over government spending and debt in the November midterm elections.

Already, the accumulated debt amounts to roughly \$40,000 per person.

"This debt is being piled on the backs of our kids and grandkids with no relief in sight," House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, said.

Economists warn that the rapidly-rising debt could force interest rates higher and, if left unchecked, could have even worse consequences for the economy.

Passage of the bill sends it to Obama, who will sign it to avoid a first-ever, market-rattling default on U.S. obligations.

"I can't think of a more reckless or irresponsible act. Defaulting is not an option," said Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass. "If the United States defaults, investors will lose confidence that the U.S. will honor its debts in the future."

Thirty-seven Democrats, mostly from GOP-leaning districts, voted against the measure. So did every Republican, even though they routinely supported prior increases in the borrowing cap when their party controlled Congress or when Republican George W. Bush was president.

Senate approval last week on a party-line tally was only possible because Massachusetts Republican Scott Brown had yet to assume office. Brown was being seated Thursday.

10 Americans charged in Haiti with kidnapping

By FRANK BAJAK
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Ten U.S. Baptist missionaries were charged with kidnapping Thursday for trying to take 33 children out of Haiti to a hastily arranged refuge just as officials were trying to protect children from predators in the chaos of a great earthquake.

The Haitian lawyer who represents the 10 Americans portrayed nine of his clients as innocents caught up in a scheme they did not understand. But attorney Edwin Coq did not defend the actions of the group leader, Laura Silsby, though he continued to represent her.

"I'm going to do everything I can to get the nine out. They were naive. They had no idea what was going

on and they did not know that they needed official papers to cross the border," Coq said. "But Silsby did."

The Americans, most members of two Idaho churches, said they were rescuing abandoned children and orphans from a nation that UNICEF says had 380,000 even before the catastrophic Jan. 12 quake.

But at least two-thirds of the children, who range in age from 2 to 12, have parents who gave them away because they said the Americans promised the children a better life.

The investigating judge, who interviewed the missionaries Tuesday and Wednesday, found sufficient evidence to charge them for trying to take the children across the border into the Dominican Republic on Jan. 29 without documentation, Coq said.

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WEATHER

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IN BRIEF

STATE

Faith groups meet to help end hunger in Texas

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Baptists have set the table, Episcopalians are hosting, and they're inviting Methodists, Catholics and all other faith groups to join in a quest to end hunger in San Antonio by 2012.

The Texas Hunger Initiative is a collaboration of local, state and federal agencies that have worked together quietly for about a year.

Baylor University's Jeremy Everett leads the initiative, which strives to

wipe out hunger in the entire state by 2015. Texas is No. 1 in childhood hunger and No. 2 in food insecurity overall, he said.

Everett says San Antonio's supportive mayor and strong food bank make it an ideal place to start.

The group is holding a Texas Hunger Initiative Town Hall meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in San Antonio to explain how churches and nonprofits can get involved.

NATION

Toyota woes mount as gov't examines Prius brakes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Toyota faced mounting pressure Thursday as the government opened a probe of brake problems with the Prius, a crown jewel of its lineup. The beleaguered automaker said it was "too soon" to decide whether to add the hybrid to the millions of cars it has recalled.

Some owners of the 2010 Prius have reported their brakes do not always engage immediately when they press the brake pedal, or that the brakes have an inconsistent feel. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it would assess the scope of the problem and

the safety risk to about 37,000 cars that could be affected.

The investigation comes as safety questions surround Toyota, which has already issued broad recalls for millions of its best-selling vehicles, including the Corolla and Camry, because of gas pedals that can become stuck.

U.S. officials have blessed Toyota's solution to that problem, a small piece of steel designed to eliminate excess friction in the pedal mechanism, but have criticized Toyota for being too slow in responding to customer complaints.

WORLD

Officials: Suicide bomb kills 3 in Afghan south

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — Officials say a suicide car bomber has killed at least three people and wounded 15 in southern Afghanistan.

Police say the bomber detonated his explosives-packed vehicle near a hotel in Kandahar, the main city in the province of the same name.

Hospital official Mohammad Ibrahim says the three killed included a child.

The bombing comes as NATO and Afghan forces are preparing for a joint offensive against Taliban militants in the neighboring province of Helmand.

Corrections

The Daily Treador's reporters and editors strive for accuracy in the news-gathering process. However, mistakes are inevitable. It is The DT's policy to correct mis-

takes in this spot as soon as possible. If you feel there is an error in a story, please call Editor-in-Chief Kevin Cullen at 806-742-3395 or e-mail kevin.m.cullen@ttu.edu.

Senate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sen. Laura Stout said student senators should be able to see where the money is going.

"The more representation the better," Stout said.

Patton said the fact 53 percent of the senators did not think an additional effort to be transparent and accountable to students about how a budget of around \$215,000 is spent raises larger questions.

the formation of a constitution being formed for Freshman Council was passed, along with Senate Bill 45.15, which determined the allocation of senators per college for the 2010-2011 elections. Senate Resolution 45.43, congratulating the Tech Meat Judging Team for winning the 2010 National Western Stock show; Senate Resolution 45.44, which stated the sentiments of the senate regarding the naming of the new women's athletic softball field after Jeannine McHaney; and Senate Resolution 45.45 which stated the sentiments of the senate regarding the devastation in Haiti were passed.

► joann.bon-jorno@ttu.edu

ROCK ON

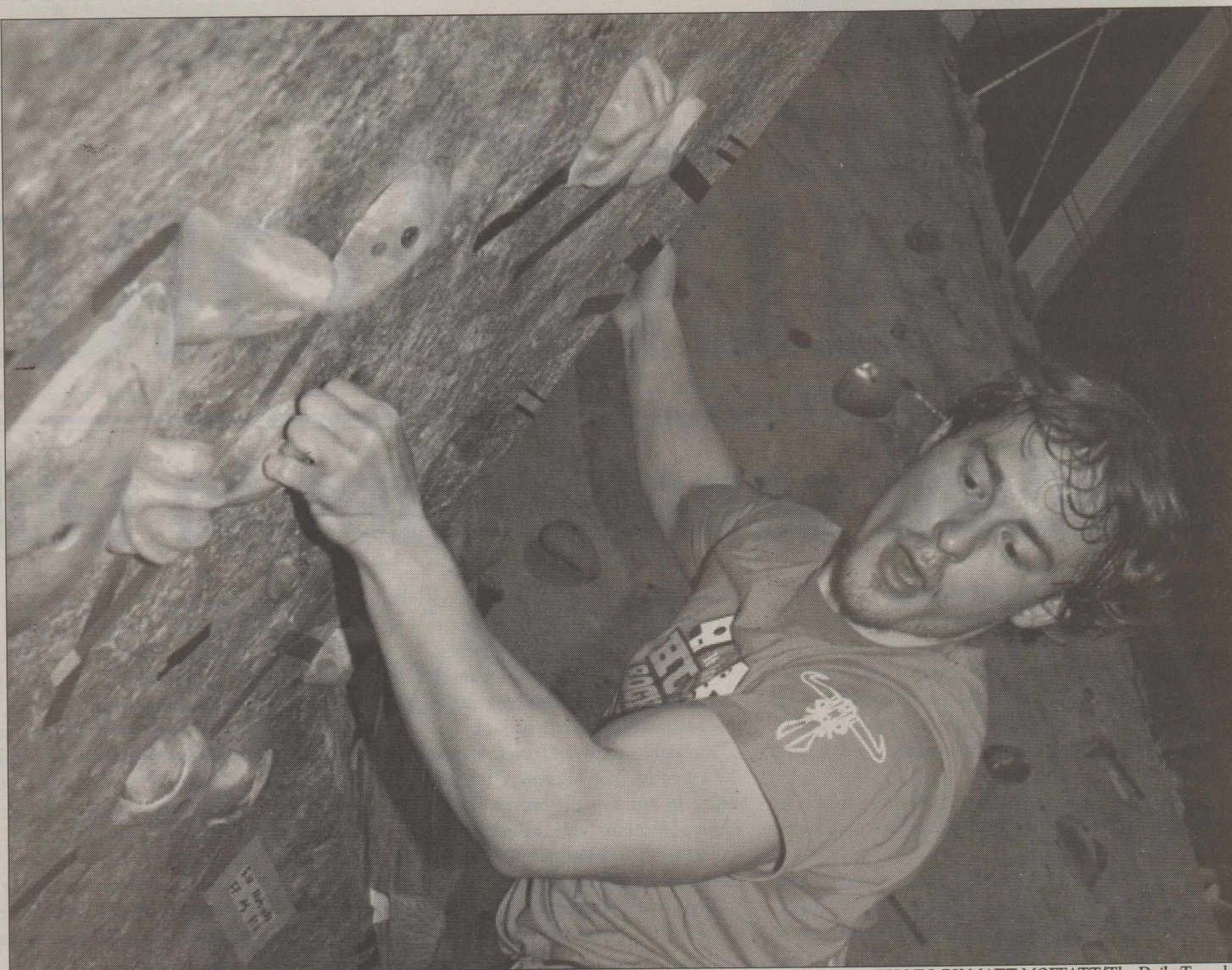


PHOTO BY MATT MOFFATT/The Daily Treador

JOSH TRICK, A graduate student in classical humanities from Vandalia, Ohio, prepares Thursday night at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center for an upcoming rock climbing competition.

Senate to take up rare bipartisan jobs bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate leaders plan to pass a jobs bill next week featuring tax breaks for employers that hire unemployed workers, a rare bipartisan effort in an election-year Congress sharply divided along political lines.

"We want to work with the Republicans and it appears to me, on the jobs program, they want to work with us," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-NeV., told reporters. "We do believe very emphatically that we will be having a bipartisan bill."

The Senate will start work on the bill Monday, Reid said. If the bill is passed by the end of next week, when the Senate takes a President's Day break, it would hand President Barack Obama a badly needed political victory.

Passage of a bipartisan bill would contrast sharply with the way Congress has done business for the past year, reflecting the Democrats' diminished power since Republican Scott Brown scored a stunning victory last month in a special Senate election in Massachusetts. With Brown seated Thursday, Senate Democrats no longer have a filibuster-proof

majority in the body, meaning they need at least some Republican support to pass legislation.

Democrats believe a jobs bill that includes tax breaks Republicans support is a good way to break the ice, while also reflecting Obama's renewed emphasis on creating jobs. Also, lawmakers worried about re-election in the midst of double-digit unemployment want to be seen as helping the 7 million Americans who have lost their jobs in the recession.

"We heard the message of Massachusetts," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "They said focus immediately — and don't take your focus off — jobs, the economy, helping the middle class."

In addition to the tax break for hiring unemployed workers, the bill under discussion Thursday would extend unemployment payments for

those whose benefits have run out, and would renew a program that offers the jobless a subsidy for health insurance premiums under the COBRA program. About \$33 billion in popular tax breaks that expired at the end of 2009, including an income tax deduction for sales and

property taxes and a business tax credit for research and development, would be extended through 2010.

Reid has said he also wants to extend at least three programs for another year: funding for the highway trust fund; tax breaks for

small businesses that buy new equipment; and a bond program to help state and local governments pay for infrastructure projects.

The tax break for hiring unemployed workers would exempt companies from paying the employer's

share of Social Security payroll taxes for new workers hired this year, as long as those people had been unemployed at least 60 days. It would save companies 6.2 percent of the new workers' salaries that are subject to Social Security taxes, and would cost about \$11 billion over 10 years.

The measure is modeled after a proposal by Schumer and Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah. It is an alternative to Obama's proposed tax cut of up to \$5,000 for each new worker that employers hire.

Supporters said the Senate plan is cheaper, simpler and less vulnerable to abuse than Obama's plan, which would cost \$33 billion.

Tax experts, however, question how effective either plan would be as long as consumer demand for products is down.

"There's a feeling among a number of the people that we've talked to and heard from is that this isn't really focused on the real core issue or the core concern," said Rick Klahsen, a tax expert at the accounting firm RSM McGladrey. "In a sense they are saying look, a tax credit isn't going to do me any good if I don't have the need to bring on a new employee."

"We do believe very emphatically that we will be having a bipartisan bill."

HARRY REID
D-NEVADA
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

NKorea says it will free detained US missionary

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea announced Friday that it will free an American missionary detained on Christmas Day for illegally crossing the border from China.

Robert Park, of Tucson, Arizona, slipped across the frozen Tumen River into the North carrying letters calling on North Korean leader Kim Jong Il to close the country's notoriously brutal prison camps and to step down from power, rights activists in Seoul said.

North Korea media reported in a brief dispatch Dec. 29 that authorities had detained an American suspected of illegal entry, but said nothing more about it until Friday, leaving his fate in question for weeks.

The 28-year-old missionary's de-

tainment came nearly four months after two other Americans, journalists Euna Park and Laura Ling, were released with former President Bill Clinton's help after they were arrested at the border and sentenced to prison.

Late last month, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency reported the arrest of another American suspected of illegal entry. He has not been identified.

State media in Pyongyang said Friday that North Korea "decided to leniently forgive and release" Park after "taking his admission and sincere repentance of his wrongdoings into consideration."

No further details about Park's release were available Friday but his family in California said they were thrilled by the prospect.

US war commander sees progress in Afghanistan

ISTANBUL (AP) — A top U.S. military commander offered a hint of optimism on the war in Afghanistan Thursday by declaring, in contrast to other officials, that the security situation in the Central Asian state was no longer "deteriorating" but merely "serious."

Gen. Stanley McChrystal's assessment, a modest upgrade to the nine-year war, runs counter to that of officials in Afghanistan and other nations who say they worry the Taliban has expanded its influence and that the situation has become explosive.

McChrystal says he agrees the Taliban has made strides in recent months and said he is "not prepared to say we've turned a corner." Even so, he told reporters, the Afghan government and U.S. forces are making enough progress to leave him more optimistic about the war than he was last summer, when he declared it backsliding.

"I feel differently now," said McChrystal.

"The situation is serious, but I think we have made significant progress in setting the conditions in 2009 ... and that we'll make real progress in 2010," he added later.

McChrystal's comments stand in contrast to those of officials in Afghanistan and other countries who say the Taliban's influence is expanding and that the situation there has worsened.

Nikolai Bordyuzha, secretary general of the Collective Security Treaty Organization — a federation of Central Asian states created by Moscow — said on Thursday that Afghanistan was

"explosive" and "catastrophically deteriorating." His comments were reported by Itar-Tass, the Russian news agency.

Even if slight, any improvement to the U.S.-led campaign in Afghanistan would bode well for President Barack Obama, who has staked his presidency on defeating the Taliban by widening the U.S. commitment. While anti-war Democrats say they are skeptical, Obama seems to have convinced many Democrats that more troops — 30,000 more are being deployed this year — are critical to ending the war.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates and other Pentagon officials have suggested they need to show clear progress against the insurgents within 12 to 18 months to firm up public confidence in the war effort.

"Right now, the Taliban believe they're winning," Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a Senate panel this week. "Eighteen months from now, if we've executed our strategy, we'll know they aren't, and they will know that they can't."

Ivo Daalder, the U.S. Ambassador to NATO, on Thursday described 2010 as a "year of maximum effort."

"It is a year we are going to do everything we can, so down the road, we have to do less," Daalder said.

McChrystal, Gates and Daalder were part of a senior-level U.S. delegation attending NATO meetings this week in Istanbul. Among the delegation's priorities is ensuring that NATO bridges a shortfall of 4,000 trainers and mentors needed to work with Afghan security forces, U.S. officials said.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- St. Ives:
- Cornwall museum
- Drift
- Caught on video
- "First family" member
- Muppet who testified before Congress
- Spy
- "Old street" singer
- Director De Mille
- Keys
- "Arthur in a dress"
- Orkan sign-off word
- Express gratitude to
- "Receiptacle for choice slips"
- Publisher often seen in PJs
- Park, in NYC
- Cpl.'s superior
- Valuable rock
- Mine entrance
- Cover letter
- Diamond stat
- Demonstrate effectiveness, and a literal hint to the puzzle theme found in the answers to starred clues
- Farm dweller
- Musical ability
- D.C. fundraisers
- "Brit. award"
- Summa — laude
- Eastern principle
- "Murder, ___ wrote"
- "Danseur noble's partner"
- Eucharist plate
- Culinary author
- Rombauer
- 63-Across hdg.
- "Ball honoree"
- Besiege
- "Southwestern horseman"
- Musher's wear
- Abbr. that shortens text
- Gossip columnist
- Cassini

DOWN

- "Sewitched" role
- Hangdog
- Lie
- Actress Barkin
- Ruby and others
- 65-Across's "Bravo!"
- Microscopic organism
- Provencal cuisine delicacies
- Middle x
- One taking a little off the top?
- Street going downhill?
- Emma's "Sense and Sensibility" role
- Rilzy
- Aleutian island
- Course with x's
- Inclination
- Other, in Spain
- Risky undertaking
- Drink from a bag
- Fidel's friend
- Finsteraarhorn, e.g.
- Start of many a story
- "Do I dare to — peach?"
- "Eliot"
- Near-exhaustion metaphor
- Root for
- Radar guns, e.g.
- San Luis, California
- Bill for shots
- Author Leonard
- Chops finely
- European auto
- Carefree
- diversions
- Bard's "below"
- "forgiven"
- Lip soother
- West who said "to err is human, but it feels divine"
- Repeated nursery rhyme opener

By Gary Gee 2/5/10
70 Extra large? 2/5/10
71 Con
72 Three-part nos.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

A M M O T U R F S E D D Y
L A I D A T I L T B A R E
D I D Y O U E V E R B R I G
A L I S T E X A C T I N G
L I V I N E R A I D
P R E V E R A M E C C A
G O T A A M I L N E H U G
A N S E L M O E S A K E
N O L A S W A T T E D
A N D F O R G E T T O
A F L U T T E R T O N G S
T R E S T A R T A G A I N
T O R E O H B O Y E R G O
U S S R F A S T S S C O W

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Researcher unlocks medieval myth, encourages skepticism

By JULIE DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

The myth of the chastity belt is a common medieval image, stirring ideas of fantasy and torture in the modern world. Albrecht Classen, a guest lecturer who spoke Thursday evening in the Qualia Room of the Foreign Languages building, said that notion is a lie.

"It's impossible," said Classen, who has published a book titled "The Myth of the Chastity Belt." "Any woman would die. If you think about the practical applications, infections would start within days; what would you even do with a woman who was menstruating? It's impossible. If you just think in normal, reasonable medical terms of what they thought was possible, it's realistically not."

Classen, a proclaimed feminist and advocate of women's studies, said many researchers in the area mistakenly refer to the chastity belt as a prime example of suppression, but the idea is a hoax.

His goal of the lecture was to promote understanding of any argument before choosing a position. He said his message had strong, underlying political implications as well.

"I want our politicians to see bankers make more judicial and rational decisions," Classen said. "My talking exemplifies how that whole school of thought led to misconceptions and prejudices and stereotypes. I'm coming from the medieval perspective. It's a perfect illustration of what we as researchers actual do, and that's teaching rational thought."

Connie Scarborough, a Texas Tech professor of classical and modern literature and languages and a personal friend of Classen, said she brought the professor to the campus because of his distinguished position as a researcher.

She said Classen demonstrated excellent research in medicine,



PHOTO BY MATT MOFFATT/The Daily Toreador

PROFESSOR ALBRECHT CLASSEN of the University of Arizona gives a lecture on the history and myths of the chastity belt Thursday in the Foreign Languages building.

history and culture to produce most a caricature, a very powerful tool and symbol," Classen said. "There are many objects identified as chastity belts housed in so-called torture museums. My book very much deals with the notion of that preconceived image because the more gruesome, the better. The more death you have, the better. The more sexual deviation you have, people really seem to like it. So the whole concept serves very well modern researchers. It's a most natural thing that I want to share my research. I appreciate the opportunity."

Classen said research is a part of teaching, and teaching is a part of research. He gets a great deal of satisfaction from speaking about the different topics he researches and does so weekly in his hometown.

He said because he is paid tax money to research, he wants the public to see the university is a contributing part of the larger society and researchers are as relevant as engineers and electricians.

"The chastity belt became al-

most a caricature, a very powerful tool and symbol," Classen said. "There are many objects identified as chastity belts housed in so-called torture museums. My book very much deals with the notion of that preconceived image because the more gruesome, the better. The more death you have, the better. The more sexual deviation you have, people really seem to like it. So the whole concept serves very well modern researchers. It's a most natural thing that I want to share my research. I appreciate the opportunity."

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SABER STANCE

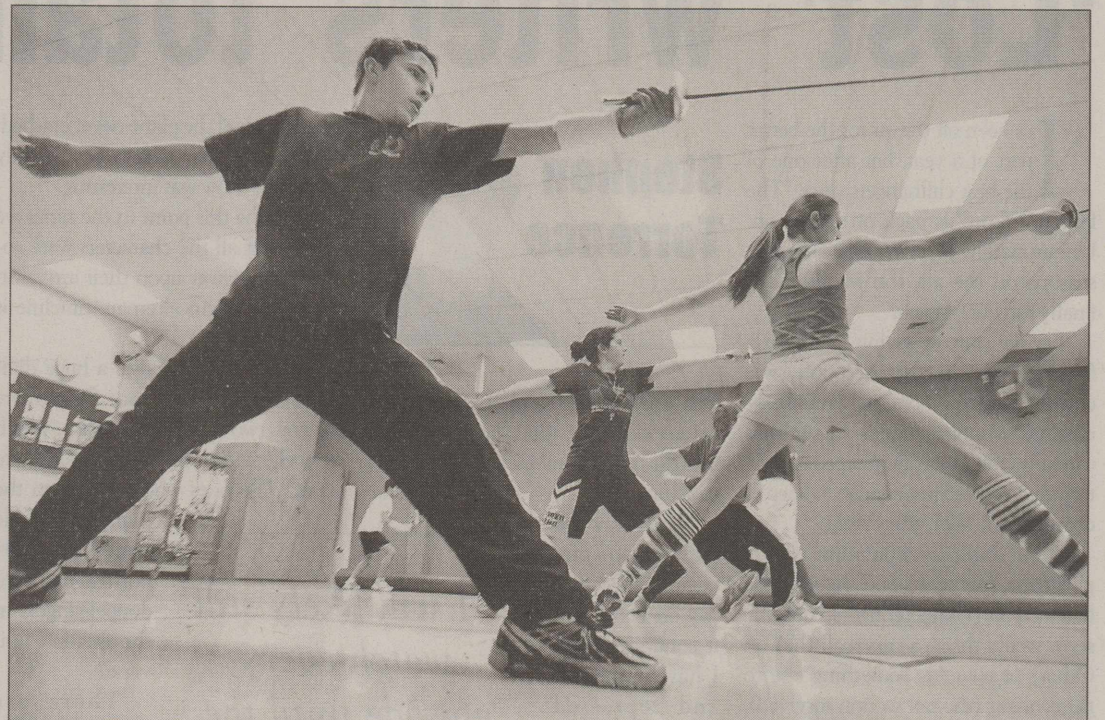


PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

DANIEL TILLOTSON, A freshman with no declared major from Dripping Springs, advances with a saber during a Tech Fencing Club practice Thursday at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreational Center.

Bands rock the house to find a cure

By ALEXANDRA PEDRINI
STAFF WRITER

Local bands and Texas Tech comedy troupe Alternative Fuels plan on rocking the house Saturday night to help find a cure for Parkinson's disease.

After struggling with the disease herself for five years, Event Coordinator Lisa McKinnon enlisted the aid of her son and his band to help find a way to raise money and awareness for the disease. Even before her diagnosis in 2005, she worked with the Parkinson's Society of Lubbock because her mother suffered from the disease as well.

"I've been an advocate for it for a long time, but I've mainly geared my focus for it towards younger people because there's no sense in gearing it towards 70-year-old people because they really can't do anything, but younger people can," McKinnon said. "They can bring awareness to the community about it, they can learn about it, and I think that's where the cure is going to come from."

Rock the House, Find a Cure will take place at the Lubbock Cooper Performing Arts Center

at 7:30 p.m. Saturday night, tickets cost \$5.50 in advance and \$6.50 at the door.

The idea of a benefit concert came from her son's band, Blind Fold Charlie, wanting to get involved in some kind of charity. Because the band knew members from other bands, they decided to reach out and ask for their support as well.

The bands playing include Blind Fold Charlie, Newest Flavor, The Warehouse Pilots and You Said It! Instead of the having the concert feature one genre of music, these groups all have different styles, said Blindfold Charlie guitarist Joe McKinnon, which will attract a larger audience and entertain a larger crowd.

"We're really trying to appeal to our generation," said Lathe Hinch, bassist for You Said It! "It's just a really good cause and it'll be a really fun deal."

In between the bands, Lisa McKinnon wanted to bring in the improv troupe Alternative Fuels to keep the audience entertained, she said.

"I was trying to figure out someone to have in between bands and Joseph said, 'What about Alternative Fuels?'" she

said. "I thought it's a great idea and got Tech involved."

After the improv troupe performs, she plans to show videos about Parkinson's disease and the Michael J. Fox foundation where all the proceeds will go. She said she hopes these videos will help people learn about the disease and how important it is to find a cure.

"I know that it affects more than just the people that have it," Hinch said. "Just from talking to Joe about the concert, it's not just a show to him, it's more of a really cool benefit concert."

The original goal was to sell \$2,000 in tickets, but because of the partnership with Citibank, Lisa McKinnon said, the group already has raised \$5,400. For two days, Citibank donated its ad space in the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal to run advertisements for the concert.

"It's going to be a sell out, so everybody needs to get their tickets because they're selling fast," she said.

One out of 10 people get Parkinson's disease and it's up to the younger generation to find a cure for it, Lisa McKinnon said.

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Adventures in Spain: Enjoying family time

It's been about a month since we arrived in this country of narrow streets and never-ending shade, and I think it's safe to say my host family has become my absolute favorite aspect of this experience.

I cannot speak for my fellow students, but I have fallen in love with my new family. Our mama's name is Esperanza Castillo Villanueva and she has two children, one daughter named Rocio and a son, Juanma. Her husband died from cancer no more than two years ago, and she told us she entered into this program because she was tired of being lonely.

It breaks my heart, but she has such a loving heart. She always tries to make us feel like part of the family. For instance Wednesday was Julianna's birthday. They told her she is now a woman, not a bebé. Anyway, the entire family came over (our extended host family), and we had a giant feast during which I gained at least one more pound.

They gave her presents, and then pulled out another package from under the table and passed it to me. They gave me a present on Julianna's birthday because we won't be in Spain for mine. How sweet is that? They are great, and constantly help Julianna and me in whatever way they can. And they also make sure to let us know

Carrie Thornton



when we mess things up, like when I accidentally forgot to tell Mama Julianna wasn't coming home for lunch. She spanked me.

For my family, at least, being together is most important. We eat every meal together. Even if someone has to eat and run, it's always together.

Well anyway, on another note I am still attempting to plan trips for the remainder of my time here. Why I continue to obsess over spending time in other places while I'm living in this beautiful city is beyond me, but it's like an obsession.

I am searching for affordable flights to Paris. It is much more difficult than I thought to plan these weekends. On top of flights you have to find a decent place to stay, make sure your inexpensive flight takes you to the correct airport and not one an hour outside of town and schedule tours, etc. I can feel the gray hairs coming in already.

Two days ago I went on a jog near the river and finally took the time to

appreciate its magnificence. If you walk on the stone walkway next to the river, you will see the hidden jewels of Seville.

The concentration of the towers gliding by on the river's smooth surface is intense, and I was so impressed that I knelt down by the river's edge and watched their graceful movements for a full 20 minutes. Colorful and detailed graffiti splatters the cement wall supporting the distant street, and this anonymous artwork stretches on for miles.

Bicycles and joggers running at much higher speeds than myself flew past me, and I spotted a small park with bright green crabgrass where children pushed each other around on swings. I sat down in the park's far most corner and admired the river as the setting sun set the drops of water on fire. I squinted from the twinkling light until I noted the grass was damp and my butt was wet, and continued on my way.

On my way home I made a promise to myself I would do that sort of thing more often. My greatest regret would be to spend these four months worrying about what to do next, and not taking the time to bend down and smell the crabgrass.

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Pneumonia, drugs killed Brittany Murphy

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Brittany Murphy died from pneumonia, but anemia and prescription drugs also played a role, coroners' officials said Thursday.

The primary cause of death was community-acquired pneumonia, with contributing factors of iron deficiency anemia and "multiple drug intoxication," according to the Los Angeles County coroner's office.

The death was ruled accidental. Coroner's spokesman Craig Harvey declined to specify what types of drugs were involved but said they were all prescription medications. Details about the drugs the "Clueless" and "8 Mile"

star had in her system will be released in several weeks when a complete report is done.

Murphy died Dec. 20 at age 32 after collapsing at her Hollywood Hills home. Her mother and husband have said the actress didn't abuse prescription medications or have an eating disorder.

Attempts to reach them for further comment were not immediately successful Thursday.

Murphy's husband, Simon Monjack, and mother, Sharon Murphy, told investigators the actress had been experiencing flu-like symptoms in the days before she died.

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