

Softball
season begins
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Tech picks up
big win
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THURSDAY, FEB. 11, 2010
 VOLUME 84 ■ ISSUE 89

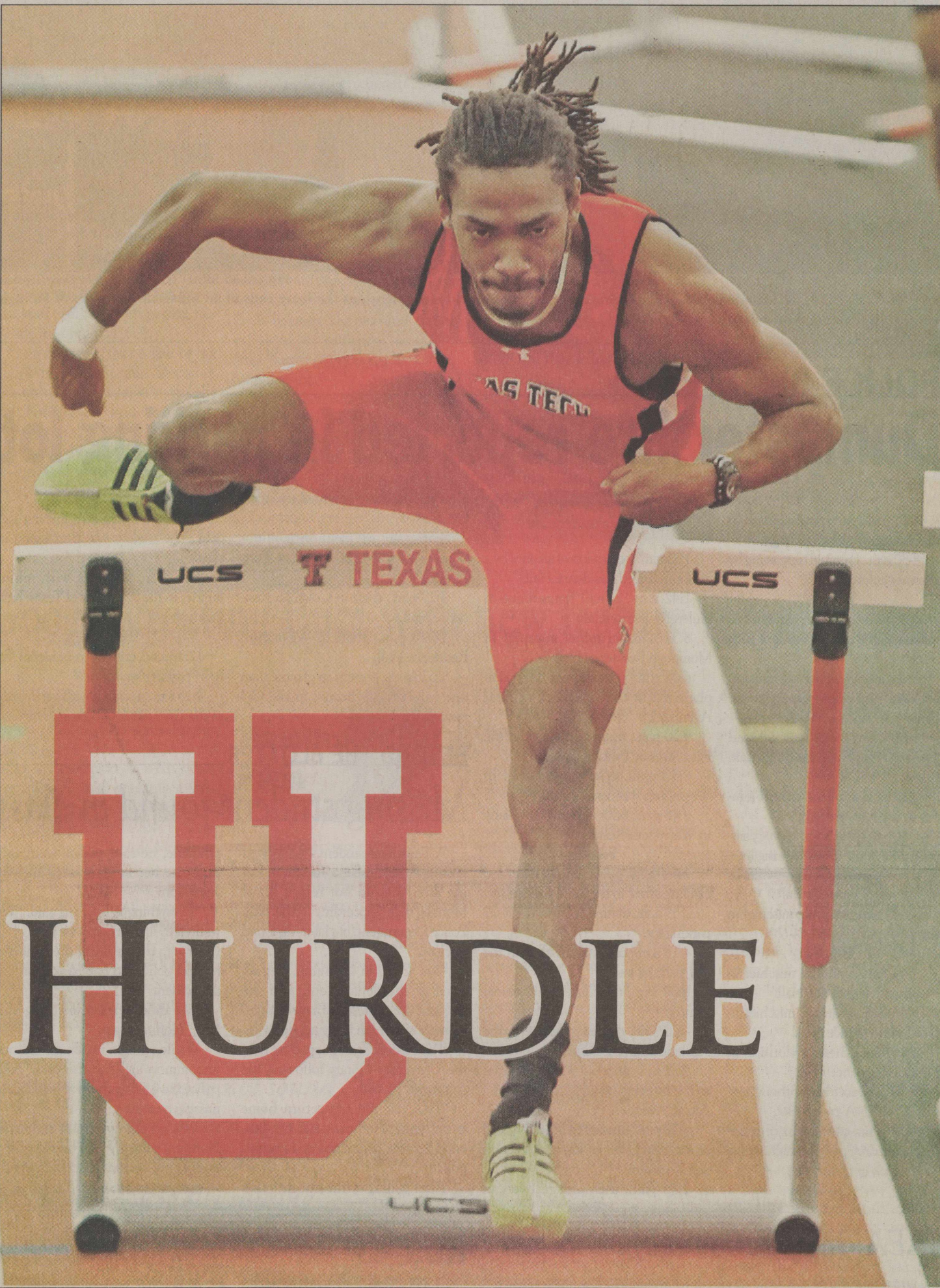
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HURDLE

PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH HURDLER Jansen Hyde is among the elite hurdlers in the nation this season. With the nickname Hurdle Crew, the Tech track hurdlers have earned a reputation as some of the best at their events in the Big 12 Conference and the country.

Tech's Hurdle Crew among nation's best track stars

By TOMMY MAGELSEN
 STAFF WRITER

Setting records, earning provisional marks in the second and third meets of the season, taking the top five spots in the men's 55-meter hurdles — for most schools, this would seem like some of the bigger feats in track and field program history.

But for Texas Tech, it's business as usual. Sophomore hurdler Brandon Tucker said the hurdlers like to call themselves the Hurdle Crew because of how close the teammates are.

But Hurdle Crew has become more than just the name of a group. It's become an attitude.

"I think hurdling is in the top as far as the Big 12 goes," senior All-American Omo Osaghae said. "As far as depth goes, we are

among the best, if not the best in the nation."

Led by Osaghae, the Tech Hurdle Crew has garnered national acclaim during the last five years and looks to continue its success well into the next decade.

Tech is tied for the national lead in number of hurdlers that have set provisional marks this year, as Osaghae, Jansen Hyde, and Bryce Brown have each done so.

This year, Osaghae broke the school record for the 55-meter hurdles — a feat he also accomplished last year.

Assistant coach Dion Miller said it is easier for Tech's younger athletes to transition to Division I hurdling because of the many accomplished hurdlers Tech has.

"For the most part with having good hurdlers in the program, it helps because the younger hurdlers, they learn a lot," he said.

"And having Omo Osaghae, who's pretty much been ranked in the top three the last year and a half, he's doing a good job nationally so it's definitely helping our program."

Osaghae said he and his teammates always are pushing each other to be better and helping one another, which is probably where much of their success comes from.

Hyde, a senior from Dallas, already has set provisional marks in all three meets in which he's run this year.

"Basically, even at practice, it's like having one of the best track meets every day," Hyde said. "A lot of teams will have one or two good hurdlers, but we have four or five every year."

Hyde said he came to Tech to hurdle because the race was already big in his family, and he liked the Red Raider tradition.

HURDLES continued on Page 7

Buses to drive students home for spring break

By RALSTON ROLLO
 STAFF WRITER

Six buses will provide round-trip travel for students to Arlington, Austin, Houston and San Antonio during spring break as part of a collaborative effort between the Texas Tech Parents Association and the Office of Parent and Family Relations.

The buses will depart at 7:30 a.m. March 13 from the Student Union Building and return March 21 at varying times depending upon their original destination, according to the Tech Parents Spring Break Bus Trip Web site.

Ken Gassiot, associate director in the Office of Parent and Family Relations, said the trip was planned after the success of a similar service that was provided for Thanksgiving 2009.

The cost of a round-trip seat is \$100 regardless of destination, he said.

"We want to provide a safe traveling environment at a low cost," Gassiot said.

The Office of Parent and Family Relations does not seek profit in providing this service, he said.

The Office of Parent and Family Relations and Parents Association decided to hire King's Highway for the Thanksgiving trip and again for the spring break trip, Gassiot said.

"It's a great company," he said.

Other departments at Tech, Gassiot said, have worked with the Wolfforth-based company in the past and have given positive feedback.

The buses will be chaperoned by volunteer members of the Tech Parents Association, he said.

The main objective of collaborating with the Tech Parents Association to provide the service, Gassiot said, was to give students an opportunity to go home to their families.

"The overarching goal is to connect students with their families," he said.

BUS continued on Page 2

Faculty senate to evaluate possible budget cut impacts

By JOEANN BON-JORNO
 STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech faculty senate discussed plans to form an ad hoc committee to examine implications of a 5 percent budget cut during its monthly meeting Wednesday.

The committee the senate discussed would examine implications of the impending budget cut and the possible impact on faculty and administrative salaries.

Gov. Perry announced on Jan. 15 in a letter that Texas state agencies will have to form a 5 percent budget reduction plan of state funds by Feb. 15. According to the letter, the agencies are encouraged to be prudent with tax dollars while minimizing the impact on employees, clients and services.

The ad hoc committee also will look into the Option 403b Optional Retirement Plan on behalf of the senate. Janet May, assistant vice president for Human Resources, also spoke about the implementation of background checks on new faculty hires.

"These checks will start on April 1 for new faculty hires," May said.

Job postings will usually state subject to background check, she said.

The base cost of a background fee is \$62, May said, and additional fees can apply.

She said the average response time is three to five days.

Martha Smithey, associate professor of Sociology and chair for the President's Council on Gender Equity, spoke about the council's 2008-2009 report, which said that female associate professors make an average of \$4,784.19 less per year than male associate professors regardless of how many years they have been at Tech.

"Two-thirds of the departments at Tech have less than one-third females in their departments," Smithey said.

A copy of the council report is available at the President's Council Web site.

Smithey requested the faculty senate formally endorse the recommendations for a resolution that calls for the implementation of a three-year plan of resolution for female associate professors and instructors.

Tech officials also hope to refresh the Tech Web site and the visual identity system.

Sally Post, director of Communications and Marketing, and Sam Segran, associate vice president for Information Technology, said they will gather information from people who use the Web site to make changes.

"We've been talking to groups all over campus and navigation is an issue," Post said.

In an effort to receive feedback about the Tech Web site, Segran said he has talked with about 14 to 15 groups and to all deans.

"This will not be a major revamp," he said. "The last time massive changes were done to the Web site was five years ago."

This time more feedback is being engaged, he said, which is being used to determine how the Web site needs to be changed.

The last update date should be on every page, Segran said, and navigation will be improved.

President Richard Meek was not in attendance and Jerry Koch, the vice president, presided over the meeting.

joeann.bon-jorno@ttu.edu

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WEATHER

Today	Rain/snow Showers	Friday	Cloudy
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IN BRIEF

STATE

Group urges Texas to promote more solar power use

FARMERS BRANCH (AP) — With a surplus of both land and sunshine, Texas could easily be the nation's leader in solar power generation but needs more help from state leaders, advocates said Wednesday.

A coalition of environmentalists, politicians and more than 80 businesses held events around the state to release a letter urging Gov. Rick Perry and the Texas Public Utility Commission to take more action promoting solar power use.

The group noted that Texas, which produces and refines a huge portion of the nation's oil, already is home to many companies in the solar business as well as plenty of high-tech and energy industry expertise. So they say there's no reason

only 0.01 percent of the state's power should come from the sun.

"We're here today to call on Governor Perry to use his authority to make Texas go solar," Environment Texas spokesman Sriram Madhusoodanan said at a 5,000-square-foot home in suburban Dallas that produces its own solar energy. "Right now is really the time for Texas to take the lead, to lead the world."

Perry spokeswoman Allison Castle said the governor supports all sorts of alternative energy in Texas, which leads the nation in wind energy production. Three major solar projects are scheduled to begin this year, others are in development and 11 utility companies are already offering rebates for solar energy systems, she said.

NATION

Former Texas Rep. Charlie Wilson dies at 76

DALLAS (AP) — Charlie Wilson, the fun-loving Texas congressman whose backroom dealmaking funneled millions of dollars in weapons to Afghanistan, allowing the country's underdog mujahedeen rebels to beat back the mighty Soviet Red Army, died Wednesday. He was 76.

Wilson died at Memorial Medical Center-Lufkin after having difficulty breathing after attending a meeting in the eastern Texas town where he lived, said hospital spokeswoman

Yana Ogletree. Wilson was pronounced dead on arrival, and the preliminary cause of death was cardiopulmonary arrest, she said.

Wilson represented Texas' 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House from 1973 to 1996 and was known in Washington as "Good Time Charlie" for his reputation as a hard-drinking womanizer. He once called former congresswoman Pat Schroeder "Babycakes," and tried to take a beauty queen with him on a government trip to Afghanistan.

WORLD

Iraq orders former Blackwater security guards out

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq has ordered hundreds of private security guards linked to Blackwater Worldwide to leave the country within seven days or face possible arrest on visa violations, the interior minister said Wednesday.

The order comes in the wake of a U.S. judge's dismissal of criminal charges against five Blackwater guards who were accused in the September 2007 shooting deaths of 17 Iraqis in Baghdad.

It applies to about 250 security contractors who worked for Blackwater in Iraq at the time of the incident, Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani

told The Associated Press.

Some of the guards now work for other security firms in Iraq, while others work for a Blackwater subsidiary, al-Bolani said. He said all "concerned parties" were notified of the order three days ago and now have four days left before they must leave. He did not name the companies.

Blackwater security contractors were protecting U.S. diplomats when the guards opened fire in Nisoor Square, a busy Baghdad intersection, on Sept. 16, 2007. Seventeen people were killed, including women and children, in a shooting that inflamed anti-American sentiment in Iraq.

Corrections

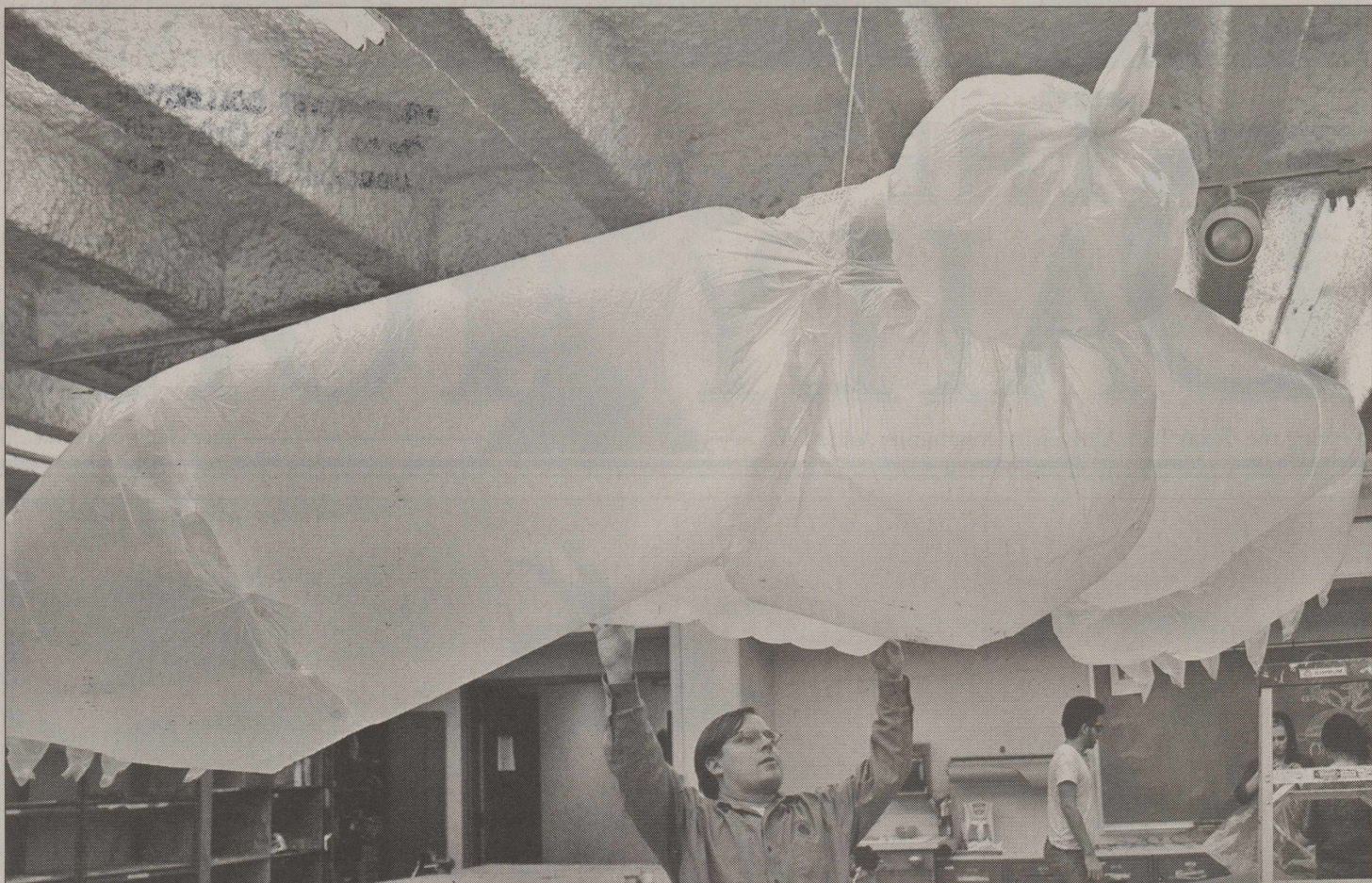
The Daily Toreador's reporters and editors strive for accuracy in the news-gathering process. However, mistakes are inevitable.

It is The DT's policy to correct mis-

takes in this spot as soon as possible.

If you believe 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.

FLYING HIGH



KEVIN STEBBINS, A senior electrical engineering major from Lubbock, straightens out the loose ends of an inflatable sculpture of an eagle Tuesday in the sub basement of the Art building.

POLICE BLOTTER

Dumpster fire reported in parking lot

Feb. 4
4:27 p.m., public intoxication in the Student Union Building.

4:30 p.m., criminal trespassing by a former employee.

Feb. 5
2:13 a.m., driving under the influence in the 3200 block of 18th Street.

3:25 a.m., verbal altercation between two employees in Drane Hall.

11:55 a.m., accident without injuries in the 3200 block of Main Street.

4:19 p.m., accident without injuries in the R-20 parking lot.

5:50 p.m., possession of drug paraphernalia in the Z4-M parking lot.

11:37 p.m., criminal mischief in Weymouth Residence Hall.

11:45 p.m., criminal mischief in the Z6-A parking lot.

Feb. 6
7:44 a.m., criminal mischief in Weymouth Residence Hall.

9:43 a.m., criminal mischief in Gordon Residence Hall.

1:16 p.m., theft of clothing in Stangel Residence Hall.

5:30 p.m., accident without injuries in the Z6-A parking lot.

6:09 p.m., possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia in the 3100 block of 18th Street.

Feb. 7
4:27 p.m., public intoxication in the Student Union Building.

View a related map at www.dailytoreador.com

1:25 a.m., possession of alcohol by a minor in Sneed Residence Hall.

1:42 a.m., e-mail harassment in Hulén Residence Hall.

8:31 a.m., criminal mischief in Murdough Residence Hall.

6:06 p.m., possession of drug paraphernalia in the 900 block of Flint Avenue.

9:20 p.m., property damage in the Flint Avenue Parking Garage.

9:32 p.m., criminal mischief in Weymouth Residence Hall.

9:48 p.m., odor of burnt marijuana in Weymouth Residence Hall.

Feb. 8
12:09 a.m., public intoxication and evading arrest in the Z4-P parking lot.

2:39 a.m., dumpster fire in the R-19 parking lot.

4:18 a.m., criminal mischief in the A-1 parking lot.

8:00 a.m., theft at the Livermore Center.

8:20 a.m., property damage at the Athletic Training Center.

9:52 a.m., accident without injuries at the intersection of 15th Street and Akron Avenue.

1:20 p.m., unwanted telephone call at the Center for Study of Addiction and Recovery.

2:43 p.m., theft and recovery of

a bicycle at the Student Recreation Center.

4:58 p.m., accident with minor injuries in the 1800 block of Flint Avenue.

5:27 p.m., theft in Coleman Residence Hall.

10:18 p.m., theft in Weymouth Residence Hall.

11:28 p.m., possession of more than one valid driver's license in the C-3 parking lot.

Feb. 9
9:00 a.m., report of a missing student. The student was later found in class.

4:23 p.m., accident with minor injuries in the 900 block of Texas Tech Parkway.

Feb. 10
12:32 a.m., criminal mischief in the R-24 parking lot.

4:15 a.m., accident without injuries in the 1800 block of Boston Avenue.

BEYOND THE BLOTTER

Missing student found in class

A Texas Tech student was reported missing by her husband Tuesday morning after she did not return home Monday night, according to the Tech Police Department, but later was found in class.

Col. Gordon Hoffman, deputy chief of the department, said the incident was the result of a verbal argument between the husband and wife.

The student was dropped off near the University Library following the argument, he said.

After she did not return home by morning, Hoffman said, her husband became concerned and notified police.

After pulling up the student's class

schedule, he said, police were able to locate her in class early Tuesday afternoon.

"Everything is OK," he said. "We wanted to find her, and we did."

Due to the nature of the incident, he said, police did not expect harm to the student.

"We didn't expect anything violent," Hoffman said.

While similar incidents are not uncommon at Tech, he said, Tech police have always been able to locate missing persons.

"We see this every now and then" Hoffman said. "We've never had a missing person that we couldn't find."

► ralston.rollo@ttu.edu

IAEA: Iran's new nuke effort modest

VIENNA (AP) — Iran expects to produce its first batch of higher enriched uranium in a few days but its initial effort is modest, using only a small amount of feedstock and a fraction of its capacities, according to a confidential document shared Wednesday with The Associated Press.

But the document also indicated that Iran was keeping

silent on whether or not it would ramp up production, which would bring it closer to the ability to produce the fissile core of nuclear weapons.

The internal International Atomic Energy Agency document was significant in being the first glimpse at Iran's plan to enrich uranium to 20 percent that did not rely on statements from Iranian officials.

Bus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In utilizing this service instead of driving or flying home, Gassiot said, students will have the opportunity to meet and socialize with other students.

Dan Furnish, president of the Greater West Houston chapter of the Tech Parents Association, said the service is an economical alternative to driving or traveling by plane.

"The best thing is the economy of it all," he said.

Furnish said he and the Tech Parents Association share little concern involving the trip.

"We just need to communicate well with students," he said.

Although no registration deadline has been announced, Gassiot said, students should register for their seat by the beginning of March.

To reserve a seat for the trip, he said, students must go to the Tech Parents Spring Break Bus Trip Web site. There, Gassiot said, necessary registration forms, waivers and guidelines are available to be completed and turned in to Parent and Family Relations.

The Web site can be found at <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/parentrelations/bustrips.php>.

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Bible studies attract students with fellowship

By DEVIN SANCHEZ
STAFF WRITER

Bible studies are hosted around the Texas Tech campus and are becoming a growing trend, but many of the students who attend Bible studies have one common goal: fellowship.

Morgan Smiley, a sophomore early childhood education major from Fort Worth, said she attends Paradigm Bible study on Thursday nights. Smiley said her main reason for attending is to reconnect with her Christian roots.

"I grew up in the church," she said, "I wanted to continue the tradition in college as well."

Smiley said she has been attending Paradigm since her freshman year and has even gotten her friends involved as well.

"I've started to get a few of my friends to go with me," she said. "We enjoy it because it's straight out of the Bible and is non-denominational."

The Catholic Student Association also makes sure students have the opportunity to "receive the Word of God," if they so choose. The CSA hosts mass

12:10 p.m. Wednesdays in the Student Union Building. In addition to mass, the CSA has men's and women's Bible studies that meet every Sunday and hosts retreats throughout the year.

Greg Ramzinski, the director of campus ministry at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Youth Center, said staying involved in the Tech community is important to the CSA.

"We are involved in intramurals, we do service projects, we work with other Christian organizations," he said, "we are involved in everything."

Kim Silverman, a Tech alumna from Houston, is an intern for Campus Crusade for Christ. Silverman said she became involved with CRU her freshman year at Tech because she wanted to stay involved in ministry in college after being part of Young Life in high school.

"I think having the opportunity to be involved in a Bible study is very important, especially for freshmen," she said. "Having something on campus that is already in place for students is key to helping them get involved."

Silverman said she is active in

the freshman ministry on campus and often leads Bible studies at the dorms. The Bible studies hosted at the dorms are coed and focus on making people feel comfortable attending the studies.

"So many students aren't sure how to get involved in a study," she said, "so meeting them where they are is crucial."

Appealing to college age students can be a challenge to many religious groups, but that is not holding these organizations back. The groups try to think of new ways to get students involved. The Catholic Student Association hosts a mass aimed specifically at students at 5:30 p.m. Sundays, whereas Paradigm offers two Bible studies, Thursday and Sunday.

Different ministries cater to various groups including Greek Wide Student Ministries.

Jace Estes, a junior energy commerce major from Longview and the president of the Greek Wide Student Ministries, said having a Bible study aimed specifically at Greek organizations is important for the fellowship it brings.

"We reach out to the Greek community and try to provide a

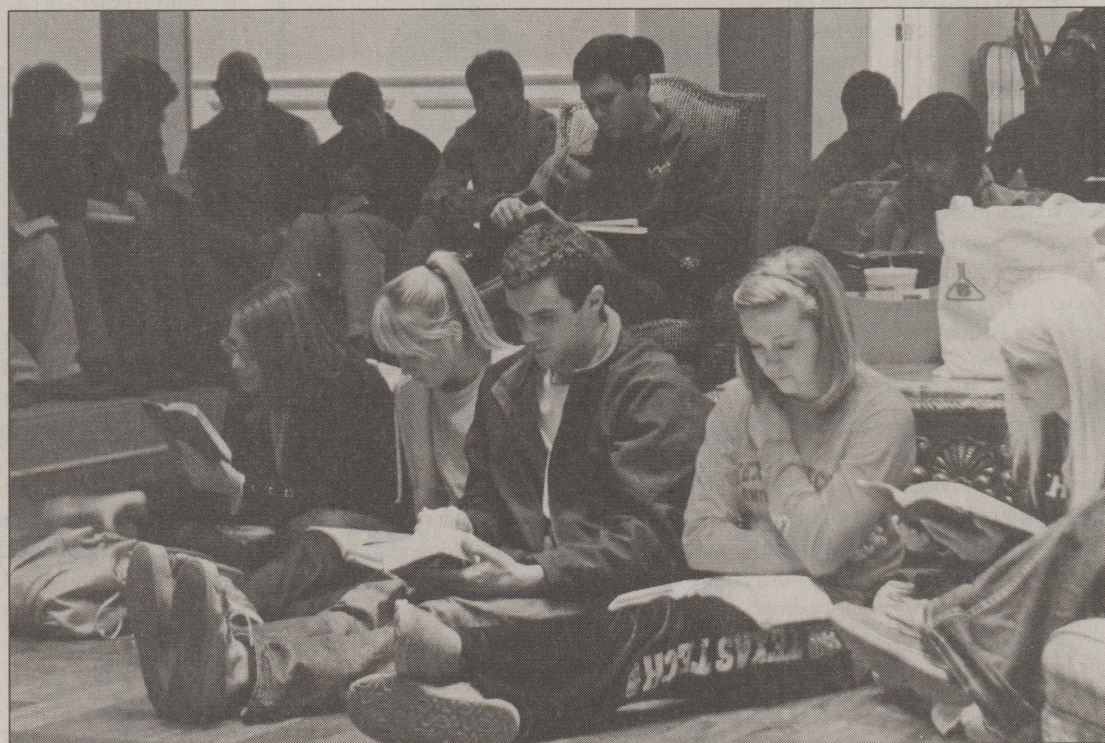


PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Toreador

MEMBERS OF DIFFERENT Greek organizations join each other for a bible study Wednesday at the Kappa Kappa Gamma house.

comfortable place," he said. "We are all struggling with the same things, and we just want people to know that they are not alone."

Greek Wide meets 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays at the Kappa Kappa

Gamma lodge at, and meetings usually last an hour.

Fellowship is something that is important to each of these groups, and the main focus is making sure everyone is comfortable, no mat-

ter their religious background.

"Anyone is welcome. We are here to enjoy fellowship," Estes said. "We really encourage everyone to attend."

>>>devin.sanchez@ttu.edu

Google creating Buzz with new feature

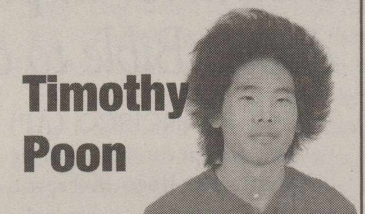
Goodness gracious, Google, what have you done?

If you didn't hear, Google opened up a massive can of ravenous worms Tuesday at its Mountain View headquarters by announcing a new product called Google Buzz. It's to be used primarily within Gmail and is slowly being rolled out to users, though you may be able to jump the gun by going to Google Mobile or Mobile Maps.

Buzz is essentially an amalgam of a number of different social applications — but what isn't nowadays — like Twitter for updates, Brightkite for location, and the long gone but never forgotten Pownce for media. You can even toss in a little FriendFeed and Tumblr for safe measure, too, but they all share at least a few common elements so it's not terribly important where we attribute the inspiration and should instead focus on the end result.

Your updates can either be sent out globally or just to a select few of your friends (which defaults to people you exchange e-mails with in Gmail, so some initial pruning of who you follow may be required) with the updates being either a quick little blurb about your current activities or a significantly more lengthy post about a video you found which highlights the steps to subduing a bear with a bag of Twizzlers.

Twitter-esque @mentions will be available if you feel so inclined in comments and posts with the ability to check into locations à la Foursquare as an option when you update, though the game aspect



isn't within Buzz's scope (yet). However, much like Foursquare and Brightkite, you can view who else has checked in at or near your location to see what else is happening around you.

The Buzz interface looks an awful lot like Google Reader in that users can "like" updates and leave comments beneath the post. The way the updates are presented to you also feels very much like perusing a feed in Reader, too, which may or may not be your cup of tea (Helvetireader users have been warned).

Along with Google Reader, users also can integrate a number of social media accounts into their Buzz such as Flickr, Twitter and Picasa, along with presumably other Google-owned sites like YouTube and Blogger. Buzz actually integrates automatically with your Gmail account so updates, comments and whatnot are sent to your inbox as they are posted.

This may not sound like much to you now, but it's actually causing quite a stir among some big names. Buzz has a lot of features that could bring it to the forefront of the social product race like recommended Buzz, bad or lame Buzz filters, and everything happens in real-time. Along

with Google's already dominant reach in the online world, this has a couple of companies spooked and quick to dismiss Buzz.

Yahoo actually took an almost comically defensive position about Buzz, though it has a mildly good reason since they already have a product called Buzz which works like Digg or Reddit with no bury or downvote option. However, it was released more than two years ago and has yet to catch on.

Suffice to say, Google Buzz is already beating Yahoo Buzz and it hasn't even finished deploying. The Yahoo Twitter account tweeted, "Two years after Yahoo launched Buzz, Google follows suit. Check out the original." Check out those passive-aggressive hashtags and it's clear they're bitter.

Microsoft took a more direct approach and pretty much assaulted Google for Buzz. Their statement says, "busy people don't want another social network" and would prefer aggregation. They go on to boast, "Flickr, Facebook, Twitter and 75 other partners" on Hotmail since 2008.

As TechCrunch points out, since companies usually just ride out the initial wave of excitement when competitors announce new products, the open malevolence from Yahoo and Microsoft might as well be pleas for help. However, with Microsoft entering the search game via Bing and taking a slice away from Google's profit pie (is Yahoo still relevant in search?), Buzz may be stoking the fire under the impending social media war too fast and too soon. At least we have Buzz now to tell us when something happens.

■ Poon is The DT's tech critic.
>>>timothy.poon@ttu.edu.

Kenya relocates thousands of animals to game park

SOYSAMBU, Kenya (AP) — Kenyan authorities on Wednesday began a plan to restore the predator-prey balance in one of the country's premier game parks after a recent drought — by moving thousands of zebras and wildebeests closer to the lions.

As the sun rose over the 44,000-acre Soysambu Conservancy, a herd of dozens of terrified zebras stampeded as a helicopter buzzed overhead, herding them into a funnel-like trap and into waiting trucks. After three trips, the helicopter had helped capture 88 zebras. Earlier in the week, 49 were herded.

At the end of a three-week operation, the Kenya Wildlife Service aims to relocate 4,000 zebras from different parts of the country to Amboseli National Park. In March, after the wildebeests have finished giving birth, the service plans to move 3,000 of them to the same park.

The more fortunate animals will enjoy the environs of Amboseli, a key sanctuary for animals in southwestern Kenya during the dry season because it usually has pasture and water

when surrounding areas are dry. The less fortunate ones will end up in the stomachs of the park's hungry lions, who have been forced by drought to hunt the goats and cattle kept by the nearby Maasai herders.

"We have been hearing reports of a few carcasses (of livestock) found each day," said Charles Musyoki, a senior scientist at the Kenya Wildlife Service.

"When we move the zebras and wildebeests we will now be increasing the number and thereby making them available to the carnivores and this will make the carnivores reduce their dependence on livestock (for food)," Musyoki said.

Dr. Frances Gakuya of the Kenya Wildlife Services says the relocation process will cost 100 million shillings (\$1.3 million), which will go toward financing transport to and from Amboseli as well as the upkeep of the 22-member team working to move the animals.

Amboseli is among the top revenue earners of Kenya's more than 40 national parks and reserves.

Musyoki said the decline in Amboseli's zebra and wildebeest populations has been as high as 90 percent compared to a peak recorded in 2007.

That year there were an estimated 10,000 zebras. He said that when KWS scientists did a count on Feb. 6 there were 982. Similarly in 2007, there were 7,100 wildebeests compared to 143 on Feb. 6, Musyoki said.

He said such a devastating drought has never been recorded before in Amboseli and elders in surrounding areas have told him they do not remember anything like it.

"We've never seen such drastic climate in recent times," Musyoki said.

"This may not sound like much to you now, but it's actually causing quite a stir among some big names."

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OPINIONS

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GUEST COLUMN

Use your own words in all relationships

It is February, a new month to consider ethics in day-to-day living. Usually, when I think about February, I am drawn to the middle of the month, the 14th. I think about Valentine's Day, Cupid, relationships.

It is a great time to write to those you love and tell them how much they mean to you. Use your own words, not someone else's, even if they are not as eloquent and poetic as you might desire. Your reader will appreciate hearing your thoughts, ideas and perspectives rather than those that they have heard before.

You might find this strange, but as a faculty member, I greatly value the thoughts of my students. Of course, reading papers is not like reading a Valentine's Day card, but there is a special relationship that is developed between the writer and the reader. I enjoy reading students' thoughts and perspectives, and their evaluation of the work of others. I often hear the unique voice of the student speaking through the pages.

I also am heartbroken — yes, really heartbroken — when I read words I know do not belong to the student but are not attributed to the real author. Sometimes the "voice" of the writing changes so much I know I am not reading the student's writing. It is at this point I really struggle with the thought that the student doesn't value our relationship. It would be like me telling you right now, "love means never having to say you're sorry," and you would think, "I have heard that before."

(Yes, you have heard it before, and it

Valerie Paton



might be cited: Love Story (1970); you can even find it in Wikipedia, not that I am recommending this as a reliable source.)

So back to the issue of ethical decision-making in relationships. This special month of relationships, I would like to ask you to consider how you can make ethical choices in writing. Think of your writing as a relationship with your reader and commit to ensuring that your words are your own, and the words of others are appropriately cited.

It might be helpful, when you are tired, cannot come up with a single original thought and consider using someone else's words as your own, to just ask the question: "Do I want to have a conversation with my reader about why I stole someone else's words and used them as my own?"

Being accountable is part of every good relationship, including that between the writer and reader. If you need more information, ask your faculty member or take a look at the Style Guide on the University Writing Center Web site.

Valerie Paton is the Vice Provost for Planning and Assessment and Director of TTU Strategic Planning.

District 84 election clear cut

Like many residents of District 84, I was extremely disappointed to learn longtime state Representative and Conservative bulwark Carl Isett would not run for reelection. Isett has been a strong voice for the area and Texas Tech in the Texas Legislature since 1997 and leaves quite the golden legacy for his successor to live up to.

Three candidates are running for the Republican nomination for the District 84 seat: former Lubbock ISD School Board Trustee and Tech Board of Regents Member Mark Griffin, former Democrat Lubbock County Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez and Lubbock businessman and Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors member John Frullo.

Democrat Carol Morgan is the lone member of her party to run for the nomination in the March 2 primary and will square off against whichever Republican secures the party's nomination for the seat in the November election. In that Morgan is a Democrat running in Lubbock and has the same chance of being elected that Mary Jo Kopechne had of escaping from Kennedy's Oldsmobile at Chappaquiddick, I won't focus on her here.

Same goes with Ysidro Gutierrez. He'll have to spend all his

Cole Shooter



energy trying to convince voters he's not a Democrat anymore and his Conservative roots are why he lost the Democratic nomination for the seat he held on the Lubbock County Commissioner's Court. Gutierrez originally was going to run for Lubbock County judge, but changed his mind when the news of Isett's retirement broke. He seems like a decent guy, but not electable to this position.

On his campaign Web site, Griffin said as a former regent he's better educated on how to promote Tech to Tier 1 status and provide a strong voice for the university. I highly doubt he'll be as strong of a voice as he'd like the voters to believe because he's got a nasty habit of resigning from his positions.

After wasting untold amounts of taxpayer money with the Lubbock ISD Board of Trustees for more than a decade, he decided to resign from his seat with 10 months left in the term, offering no real reason for leaving, except that it was time to move on.

More recently, Griffin announced his resignation from the Board of

Regents after coming out to publicly support pork-barrel princess Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison for governor in 2009. Griffin claimed Gov. Rick Perry's staff leaned on him to resign after he announced support for Hutchison.

According to the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, a former Perry chief of staff called Griffin and asked why he decided to support the senator. Griffin reportedly asked if Perry wanted him to resign, and according to Griffin, the former staffer said, "the governor is not going to ask you to step down, but if you resign he will accept it."

Afterward, Griffin tucked tail and ran, resigning from the position on the Board of Regents he had since 2005. If he were as dedicated to Tech or as tenacious of a man as he would like everyone to believe, he wouldn't have resigned from the Board of Regents after a phone call.

Frullo, however, is about everything a Conservative could ask for in a candidate. Frullo is a successful small-business owner, certified public accountant, former treasurer of the Lubbock County Republican Party and has been involved with many organizations that work to better the business climate and bring more jobs into Lubbock.

Frullo hasn't bounced from elected position to elected position in hopes of finding something better as his opponents have, and rather focused

on building a successful business and ensuring Lubbock is a better place through his civic and business involvement. Many organizations such as the Texas Association of Business PAC, Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, and the Texas Right to Life have endorsed Frullo, realizing quickly he's the only correct choice in this race.

When selecting a representative, it is imperative you choose one who is willing to fight for the district, the constituents and the ideological values they're elected to uphold. If Griffin was willing to flee from the Board of Regents after a short phone call from someone not even formally involved with an officeholder, he won't have the intestinal fortitude to stand up for District 84 against other house members.

In his campaign launch statement, Frullo said, "I know what it takes to build a business with hard work and long hours. And, that experience is your assurance, that I understand the terrible consequences high taxes and oppressive regulation on Texas families. I stand with taxpayers." Early voting begins Tuesday for the March 2 Republican Primary, and if you want to support Tech and West Texas, Frullo is the only choice.

Cole Shooter is a senior political science major from Lubbock.
» cole.shooter@ttu.edu

Obama, Palin trade telling jibes over crib sheets

WASHINGTON (AP) — The jokes about Barack Obama's close relationship with his teleprompter have been constant since he became president.

But now, a year into Obama's administration, the subject has taken on more of an edge — and become a symbol of a larger debate over whether Obama has lost touch with the people.

Republican Sarah Palin mocked Obama over the weekend when she referred to the conservative Tea Party movement as being "much bigger than any charismatic guy with a teleprompter."

And heads turned when Jon Stewart, who hosts Comedy Central's "The

Daily Show," recently displayed footage of Obama ensconced behind a podium, flanked by teleprompter screens during an appearance at a middle school.

"You set up a presidential podium and a teleprompter in a sixth-grade classroom," said an incredulous Stewart, not typically a critic of Obama.

The White House waved off the whole matter as insignificant and pointed out that Obama had used the speaking crutch to address reporters, not school kids.

But Obama's team isn't above taking its own potshots.

On Tuesday, a few days after Palin had mocked Obama, presidential spokesman

Robert Gibbs turned up at the White House briefing with a few talking points — "hope" and "change" — scrawled on his hand.

When Palin spoke Saturday in Nashville, Tenn., she had had her own human crib sheet: "Energy," "tax" and "lift American spirits" were written on her hand. During one question, she looked down at her palm for a cue.

Did Gibbs elevate Palin to Obama's level by taking a swipe at her from the White House?

It all sounds kind of silly. But sometimes, small things take on big meaning when they become emblematic of larger truths.

The viral video of John Edwards primping his hair stuck because of questions about whether he was an empty suit.

Joe the Plumber emerged as a cam-

pan celebrity in 2008 because people were worried about the problems facing everyday.

Obama himself has acknowledged that his political problems of late have been caused in part by his failure to connect with ordinary Americans still feeling economic pain.

"We lost some of that sense of speaking directly to the American people about what their core values are," he said after Democrats lost a crucial Senate seat in Massachusetts last month.

Obama's critics point to his podium and teleprompter as evidence of the disconnect.

Palin's critics point to her flesh-and-ink crib notes as one more sign she's a lightweight.

Or maybe all these two have shown is that they're human and need a little help remembering key points.

Instructor in public college class quotes Bible to condemn abortion

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — An instructor at a public community college in Fresno has been presenting his religious views on homosexuality, abortion and global warming as fact to students in an introductory health science class, the American Civil Liberties Union claims.

Elizabeth Gill, a staff attorney for the ACLU, said at least two students at Fresno City College have complained that health science instructor Bradley Lopez quoted the Bible as proof that human life begins at conception, characterized homosexuality as a mental illness, and discussed apocalyptic Christian prophecies during a

lesson on climate change.

If the students' descriptions are correct, Lopez's teaching methods would violate California laws protecting gays from discrimination and prohibiting religious indoctrination at public schools, Gill said. She sent a letter to college president Cynthia Azaria asking the school "to act immediately to ensure that all its health classes provide only accurate and unbiased information."

An e-mail to Lopez and a telephone message left at his office were not returned.

Azaria said in a statement that confidentiality rules bar the school from comment on the case, but said the college enforces its non-discrimination policy.

Ex-Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich pleads not guilty to revised charges

CHICAGO (AP) — Ousted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich has again pleaded not guilty to federal charges that accuse him of scheming to sell or trade President Barack Obama's old Senate seat and swap official favors for campaign money.

The Illinois Democrat appeared in federal court in Chicago on Wednesday to answer to a revised batch of charges. After Blagojevich's plea, U.S. District Judge James Zagel set a March 17 status hearing in

the case. The new indictment doesn't contain any new allegations of misconduct.

Prosecutors revised the charges in an attempt to ensure that a legal challenge before the U.S. Supreme Court doesn't delay Blagojevich's trial. That dispute involves a federal law that allows charges of denying taxpayers the right to "honest services." The charge appears throughout the previous indictment against Blagojevich.

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Editor-in-Chief: Kevin Cullen
Managing Editor: Alex Ybarra

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Sports: (806) 742-2939
Advertising: (806) 742-3384
Classified: (806) 742-3384
Business: (806) 742-3388
Circulation: (806) 742-3388
Fax: (806) 742-2434
E-mail: dailytreador@ttu.edu

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Policy: The Daily Treador strives for accuracy and fairness in the reporting of news. If a report is wrong or misleading, a request for a correction or a clarification may be made.

Publishing information
Periodical Postage paid by The Daily Treador, Student Media building, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, 79409. Publication number: 766480. The DT is a student newspaper published Monday through Friday, September through May; Tuesdays and Fridays June through August, except during university examination and vacation periods. The DT is funded primarily through advertising revenues generated by the student staff with free campus distribution resulting from student service fees.

Subscriptions
Call: (806) 742-3388
Subscription Rates: \$120 annually; single issues: 25 cents.
Postmaster: send address changes to The Daily

Treador, Box 43081 Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

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THE 7-DAY WEEKEND...

... because 4 holidays in a row aren't enough for 1 week

<p>TODAY Lantern Riddle Game •The Cross-Culture Academic Advancement Center will teach attendees about the traditional lantern riddle game and about other traditions associated with the Chinese spring festival. In addition to copious amounts of free food, free lanterns will be provided. WHEN: Croslin Room at University Library WHERE: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. COST: Free</p>	<p>FRIDAY Telluride Film Festival •Movies about mountaineering (and other themes) will be on display in the Student Union Building Friday night. If you couldn't make it to Colorado during Labor Day weekend, you can check out the highlights of what you missed without a sunburn or a lift ticket. WHEN: 7 p.m. WHERE: Student Union Allen Theatre COST: Free</p>	<p>SATURDAY Tech basketball vs. Texas A&M •Both the Red Raiders and the Aggies are catching fire at the right time, the Red Raiders have won two straight, the Aggies took their last three including Tech's 85-70 loss Jan. 30. The first meeting between these two teams attracted a record crowd to Texas A&M's basketball gym, we should return the favor. WHEN: 4 p.m. WHERE: United Spirit Arena COST: Free with student ID</p>	<p>SUNDAY David Gaschen Sings Songs Of Love •You can't avoid it any longer. You have to take that special someone on some kind of date or you're in big trouble. David Gaschen will croon some love songs, and make your special someone think you really care, even if you don't. Buy one of his CDs and put it on that night with some scented candles and who knows what might happen. WHEN: 7:30 p.m. WHERE: Cactus Theater COST: \$30</p>	<p>MONDAY StrengthsQuest in Your Job Search •A few weeks back we advised you check out a resume seminar. Now that you have that out of the way, it's time to polish your job searching and interviewing skills. The good folks at University Career Services will help you out, so you get that practice before you head to an interview. WHEN: 1 p.m. WHERE: University Career Services Presentation Room COST: Free</p>	<p>TUESDAY "New Moon" •Mardi Gras is all about doing whatever you need to do before Lent starts. So, indulge in that guilty pleasure by watching "New Moon" one more time. Please no sectarian violence between Team Edward and Team Jacob, we all know who Bella ends up with in the end anyway. WHEN: 8 p.m. WHERE: Student Union Allen Theatre COST: Free</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY Blessings on Papers: Try your own Calligraphy •Imagine this scenario: You and the date you just met because you broke up with your last significant other after missing the David Gaschen concert walk into your apartment. He or she notices some lovely Japanese calligraphy on the wall. "Oh, that?" you say slyly. "Just something I wrote." Then, put on your David Gaschen CD. Golden. WHEN: 11 a.m. WHERE: Lubbock Room at the Student Union Building COST: Free</p>
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Smooth albums release for Valentine's weekend

To me, Tuesdays are like Christmas every week.

You see, every day of the week means something to me related to the entertainment industries.

Wednesdays and Fridays are when new movies come out to the theaters (speaking of which, I can't wait to see the new film "Valentine's Day." It looks hilarious and I absolutely love Jennifer Garner). Thursdays mean "The Office." Saturdays are when I get to watch basketball all day and then check out live music at night. Sunday of course is my day of rest and spiritual recuperation, along with quality practice time on the guitar, piano or drum-set. Monday means CBS comedy night, including two of the best TV shows on television: "How I Met Your Mother" and "The Big Bang Theory."

But Tuesdays — oh man — Tuesdays are gold, because new music albums come out on Tuesdays. About 10 to 20 albums will hit the shelves as I wait with baited breath to sample them and see which ones I will enjoy.

However, just like some Christmas presents were better than others (basically any Christmas after my 18th birthday produced less cool, less completely unnecessary presents and more things I will actually use but still secretly think are lame, like clothes and socks), some Tuesdays are better than others.

This week would be one of those weeks where the new albums released weren't all that great. There is a huge lack of a big name or big up-and-comer. But alas, there were two gems this week worth getting, especially for the big day this weekend.

"Special Delivery" by Michael Bublé — This little EP, only six tracks long, is another star in

Noel Bryant



Bublé's long history of solid albums. The album opens with a beautiful ballad, of course sung to perfection by Bublé, called "These Foolish Things."

If that hasn't put your valentine in the mood, continue on to Track 3, another phenomenal slow piece called "Dream a Little Dream of Me." This album really is a perfect Feb. 14 album, with plenty of these slower romantic songs but finishing with the wonderfully upbeat "Mack the Knife" and swingin' "Orange Colored Sky." Michael Bublé is to our generation what Sinatra was to our grandparents and Harry Connick Jr. was to the '90s.

"Another Round" by Jaheim Ladies and gentlemen, we live in the day and age of auto-tune. Everyone and their mothers use it, and it almost doesn't sound "pop" or "club-bangin'" anymore if you don't sing with it. But by the grace of the music industry gods, the R&B/soul artist Jaheim still doesn't use it and yet his newest album, "Another Round" is maybe his best yet.

His voice should never ever be subject to overproduction or auto-tuneism, because it is so smooth and so calm. This album plays like hot butter on a nice biscuit, and is a perfect V-Day play. Highlights include "Ain't Leavin' Without You" and "In My Hands."

■ Bryant is *The DT's* music critic.
» noel.bryant@ttu.edu

Being bored could be bad for your health

LONDON (AP) — Can you really be bored to death?

In a commentary to be published in the International Journal of Epidemiology in April, experts say there's a possibility that the more bored you are, the more likely you are to die early.

Annie Britton and Martin Shipley of University College London caution that boredom alone isn't likely to kill you — but it could be a symptom of other risky behavior like drinking, smoking, taking drugs or having a psychological problem.

The researchers analyzed questionnaires completed between 1985 and 1988 by more than 7,500 London civil servants ages 35 to 55. The civil servants were asked if they had felt bored at work during the previous month.

Britton and Shipley then tracked down how many of the participants had died by April 2009. Those who reported they had been very bored were two

and a half times more likely to die of a heart problem than those who hadn't reported being bored.

But when the authors made a statistical adjustment for other potential risk factors, like physical activity levels and employment grade, the effect was reduced.

Other experts said while the research was preliminary, the link between boredom and increased heart problems was possible — if not direct.

"Someone who is bored may not be motivated to eat well, exercise, and have a heart-healthy lifestyle. That may make them more likely

to have a cardiovascular event," said Dr. Christopher Cannon, an associate professor of medicine at Harvard University and spokesman for the American College of Cardiology.

He also said if people's boredom was ultimately linked to depression, it wouldn't be surprising if they were more susceptible to heart attacks; depression has long been recognized as a risk factor for heart disease. Cannon also said it was possible that when people are bored, dangerous hormones are released in the body that stress the heart.

Britton and Shipley said boredom was probably not in itself that deadly. "The state of boredom is almost certainly a proxy for other risk factors," they wrote. "It is likely that those who were bored were also in poor health."

Others said boredom was potentially as dangerous as stress. "Boredom is not innocuous," said Sandi Mann, a senior lecturer in occupational psychology at the University of Central Lancashire who studies boredom.

She said boredom is linked to anger suppression, which can raise blood pressure and suppress the body's natural immunity. "People who are bored also tend to eat and drink more, and they're probably not eating carrots and celery sticks," she said.

Still, Mann said it was only people who were chronically bored who should be worried.

"Everybody is bored from time to time," she said.

Someone who is bored may not be motivated to eat well, exercise and have a heart healthy lifestyle.

DR. CHRISTOPHER CANNON
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Jillian Michaels sued over diet supplement

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jillian Michaels has been sued for alleged false advertising by a woman who claims she was duped into buying a diet supplement endorsed by the celebrity trainer.

Christie Christensen of Lake Elsinore, Calif., is seeking class-action status for the case she filed Tuesday in Los Angeles. Michaels is a hard-charging, no-nonsense trainer best-known as one of the stars of NBC's hit reality show, "The Biggest Loser."

Christensen's lawsuit claims she bought a product called "Jillian Michaels Maximum Strength Calorie Control" last month and that it has failed to lessen her appetite or cause her to lose weight as advertised.

Michaels' picture and endorsement appear on the packaging, touting her as "America's Toughest Trainer." The product and a Web site advertising include the claim, "Two Capsules Before Main Meals and You Lose Weight ... That's It!"

"Ms. Michaels knows better — taking two pills before eating does not miraculously cause weight loss," the lawsuit states.

The Web site and packaging however note that the statements haven't been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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Puzzles by PageFiller

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

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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Vonn questions whether she will race at Olympics

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Lindsey Vonn is worried a badly bruised right shin will keep her out of the Vancouver Olympics, a startling announcement so close to the start of an event shaping up as a showcase for the U.S. skiing star.

Vonn revealed Wednesday that she was injured in a slalom training run Feb. 2 during pre-Olympic practice in Austria. It was her first trip down the slopes of what was supposed to be three days of practice.

"I'm sitting here today questioning whether, you know, I'll be even able to ski," Vonn said at a news conference. "I have to play it by ear."

As a two-time reigning overall World Cup champion, the 25-year-old who lives and trains in Vail, Colo., has been considered a contender to win multiple medals.

Asked whether she could be forced to sit out altogether, Vonn replied: "Yeah, that's a possibility."

She hasn't skied since getting

hurt and said it's even been painful to simply put on a pair of ski boots in her hotel room to test the leg. Vonn said the bruising covers about a 6-inch swath of her lower right leg — starting from where the top of a boot rests against her body — but she refused to get any X-rays to check whether she broke a bone because she didn't want to know.

"It's probably the worst place that you can have an injury, because you're constantly pushing against your boot, and there's no way around it," Vonn said.

She described her mindset as "very emotional, very scared. Not the positive way you want to be starting the Olympics."

The first women's Alpine race is the super-combined on Sunday. Vonn said she figures she will know a lot more about her status for the Olympics once she takes a run down the slope at Whistler Mountain. The first official training run for women is Thursday. Vonn is slated to compete in all

five women's Alpine events and has been widely seen as the favorite to win gold medals in the speed events: downhill and super-G.

She is no stranger to injuries — or to ignoring them on the slopes.

At the 2006 Turin Olympics, she took a harrowing spill at somewhere around 50 mph in downhill training, a fall that bruised her back and sent her to the hospital. Less than 48 hours later, Vonn — then known as Lindsey Kildow, because she wasn't married — was back in the starting gate and finished eighth in the downhill.

This season, in late December, she lost control during a World Cup giant slalom in Austria, thudded to the ground and worried she had broken her left wrist. It turned out it was a bad bruise, but Vonn was right back out there racing in a slalom the next morning, wearing a brace to protect the tender arm. Less than two weeks later, she was stringing together a three-race winning streak.

Earlier that month, Vonn's knee slammed into her chin as she sped down a downhill in Lake Louise, Alberta, making her teeth chomp on her tongue, causing blood to pour out of a corner of her mouth as she crossed the finish line.

"I've dealt with a lot of injuries in the past, and I've always been able to persevere," Vonn said Wednesday. "I hope I'm able to push through the pain and I'm able to still ski OK. I won't really know until tomorrow, when I actually get on skis, and they can actually assess the situation and see how bad it is."

Tech softball confident heading into season opener in Arizona

By TOMMY MAGELSEN
STAFF WRITER

With temperatures expected to remain in the 40s and 50s in Lubbock for the rest of the week, the Texas Tech softball team should be excited to begin its season in Arizona, where it's a little warmer.

The Red Raiders begin their 2010 campaign against Wisconsin at 6:30 p.m. today in the Arizona State University Kajikawa Classic in Tempe, Ariz.

Tech will play against five different teams from Thursday to Sunday. The other teams Tech will face this weekend consist of Oregon, Southern Utah, San Diego State, and Auburn.

"I'm very anxious to play somebody else besides just inter-squad scrimmages," said first-year coach Sharon Hays. "I'm not sure how we'll fare, I'm anxious to see. But usually if your pitching is solid, it sets you up and gives you a chance to win. So I think we'll pitch well and we'll have a chance to have a really good week."

Hays was hired last July to replace interim coach Amy Suiter after the Red Raiders finished last in the Big 12 Conference.

Hays said his immediate short-term goals for Tech softball include putting his team in a position to make a postseason run late in the season, and he believes it has the capability to do that.

Tech softball's 2009 season was marred with injuries, and the Red Raiders' depth was taken away from them early in the season. Hays brought in 11 new players to help combat the injury bug, and he said their depth is now perhaps their greatest strength.

Newcomer Logan Hall, a sophomore transfer

from Pima Community College in Arizona, is expected to make an immediate impact for the Red Raiders on offense.

"I think we're going to come out and make a statement right off the bat," Hall said. "Just because people have this perspective of us that we're not that great, but we're a whole different team and we're making a new name for the softball program here. So I just think we're just going to come out with a big bang."

The team has been scrimmaging almost every day in the last few weeks to prepare for the season.

Danielle Matthews, a junior from Bellevue, Wash., said the scrimmaging has allowed them to get in the right mindset for the season opener.

But there is a bit of anxiety surrounding opening day.

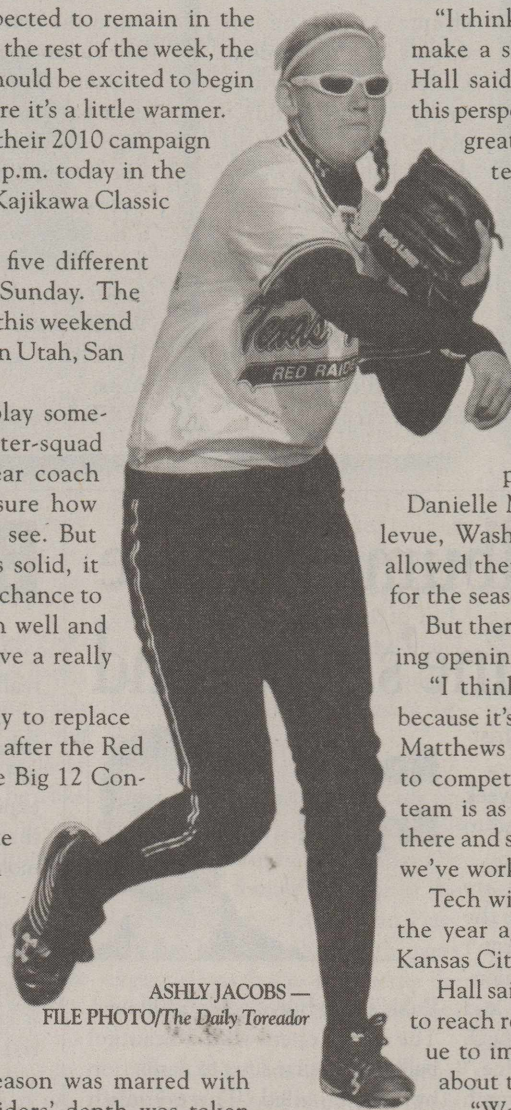
"I think I have the butterflies just because it's the first game of the season," Matthews said. "But mentally I'm ready to compete and I think all the whole team is as well. We're ready to get out there and show our stuff especially since we've worked so hard this offseason."

Tech will host its first home series of the year against Maine and Missouri-Kansas City on Feb. 19-21.

Hall said the main goal of the team is to reach regionals this year and continue to improve. Players are confident about their ability to succeed.

"We have a lot of talent and we have a lot of new mixed with old, so I think that helps a lot because we're all different in our own way and we all just put it together," Hall said.

►thomas.magelsen@ttu.edu



ASHLY JACOBS — FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

"I'm sitting here today questioning whether, you know, I'll be even able to ski."

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- Holy pilgrimage
- Kids' getaway
- "Gimme a break!"
- Nobelist Wiesel
- "This looks like trouble!"
- Leonard Marx, familiarly
- "Get going!"
- Peyotes, e.g.
- She played Donna in the film "Mamma Mia!"
- Sinus specialist, briefly
- Baseball Hall of Famer Speaker
- "1986 Pulitzer-winning Western novel"
- Feel the heat
- Food critic Sheraton
- "Bingo!"
- X-Games bike, briefly
- Run at a red light?
- 1968 Trojans Top 10 hit, and a hint to the hidden puzzle theme in the answers to starred clues
- Jeans joint
- Yield to gravity
- Sportage maker
- Fresh response
- Serious-and-funny show
- "Gunpowder, e.g."
- They're not returned
- Boxer great
- Comforting comment
- Parts partner
- "Duffer's thrill
- Native Alaskan
- Treater's words
- Persian Gulf land and all
- Prime minister before Rabin
- Ancient British Isles settler

DOWN

- Bridge position
- Burn balm
- Fashionable
- Christian physician
- de-sac
- Yellowfin tuna
- Changes places
- Rising star
- N.C. State's conference
- "Who, me?"
- Tiny
- When Brutus sees Caesar's ghost
- Hullabaloo
- Big-time
- "I didn't need to know that," informally
- Birds' bills
- Humorist Bombeck
- Islamic leader
- soda
- Grinch victims
- Place for Christmas lights
- Tee choices
- Gospel writer
- Carnot's lady
- Removes gently
- Eye-opening theater
- Fellows
- Rural prefix
- Beatles' "A ___ in the Life"
- Security threat
- Course for weavers?
- Fired up
- Like some weights
- Bochoo series
- City NW of Orlando
- Brand on a patio, maybe
- Hole site
- Foal's parent
- Link, often
- Canterbury's county
- Some NFL linemen
- Feature of a two-ltr. monogram
- Neighbor of Aus.

Wednesdays' Puzzle Solved

WADE AWLS BADGE
ROAM DEEP ELIAN
ENTOURAGE TORME
NEATNIK AMATEUR
ENTODERIERE
ESAINLEBIT
MASSAGE DIDASET
IMUST PROMENADE
LORAN EAVE IVES
SAYNO WHEN CENT

By Nancy Salomon 2/11/10

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For you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

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with a perfect record, and Michael Redd and Tayshaun Prince, who have battled injuries this season.

The remainder of the roster includes young stars such as Kevin Durant — who nearly made the team that played in the 2007 Olympic qualifier and is considered a lock for this year's — and Derrick Rose. Also returning to the national team are Chauncey Billups and Amare Stoudemire, who played on the U.S. team three years ago.

Krzyzewski and assistants Jim Boeheim, Mike D'Antoni and Nate McMillan already committed to returning last summer.

Stoudemire is perhaps the biggest surprise on the roster. The All-Star forward from Phoenix basically talked himself off the 2008 Olympic team by publicly waffling about his desire to play at the end of the NBA season.

"There was a time when he was really not going to be considered," Colangelo said. "Had he not really reached out through his own efforts personally and his agent about his extreme desire to be part of it. As a result of his expression of great interest, we reconsidered and he is now part of the pool."

moving in the right direction," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said on a conference call, hours before he led his Duke team against rival North Carolina.

Also returning from the 2008 team that ended the Americans' eight-year gold medal drought in major competitions are: Chris Bosh, Chris Paul, Dwight Howard, Carmelo Anthony, Deron Williams and Carlos Boozer.

All of the returning players previously told USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo they were interested in coming back after spending all or parts of three years playing for the team that returned the United States to the top of international basketball.

"The reason they're back is they're deserving of being back," Colangelo said. James, Wade and Bosh are questionable to actually play this summer. All three can become free agents and have said their contract situations are their first priority.

"I really think it's kind of early, but I think guys still want to play," Anthony

said. "Of course we'll have that conversation in the near future, but they've got to take care of what they've got to take care of first, which is their contracts and things like that."

Paul is currently sidelined after knee surgery and Bryant is battling a number of injuries, so Colangelo knows he's not going to get all of his top choices. However, he isn't worried about that now, saying those decisions can wait until the team readies for its minicamp in July.

"Everything is a matter of waiting. Everyone's personal situation we're waiting for next summer. There's nothing but speculation between now and then," Colangelo said. "That's why injuries and family issues and free agency, all of these things play a role. That's why you need a pool as strong as we had and that's why we're happy about it."

The only players not returning from the team that won gold in Beijing are Jason Kidd, who previously said he was retiring from international competition

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MLB prospect Richburg to play against alma mater

By **MIKE GRAHAM**
STAFF WRITER

Cincinnati Reds prospect Chris Richburg has a lot to be thankful for these days.

The former Texas Tech first baseman was drafted by the Reds last June, but will lace up at Dan Law Field again after getting an invitation to play in the Red Raiders' alumni game Saturday.

"It means a lot that they asked me to play," Richburg said. "A lot of great players from recent years are supposed to be there. I'm really excited to participate in it."

After being drafted midway through the professional season, Richburg played for the Billings Mustangs — a short-season team in Montana — until their season ended in September.

Since then, Richburg — a Lubbock resident — has been hanging around his old stomping grounds at Dan Law Field to prepare for his first full season as a professional.

Richburg said Tech coach Dan Spencer has allowed him to use the baseball program's facilities for his training until he has to report to the

Reds' training camp on March 9 in Goodyear, Ariz.

Upon arrival at spring training, Richburg has the opportunity to make the Reds' roster, or he will be relegated to a minor league team within the Reds organization to develop.

"Pretty much all the credit goes to the coaches here at Tech," he said. "The coaches did everything they could for me. They stayed on me, made sure I was doing the right things, and helped me any way they could."

Saturday's alumni game is the first for Tech since 2003.

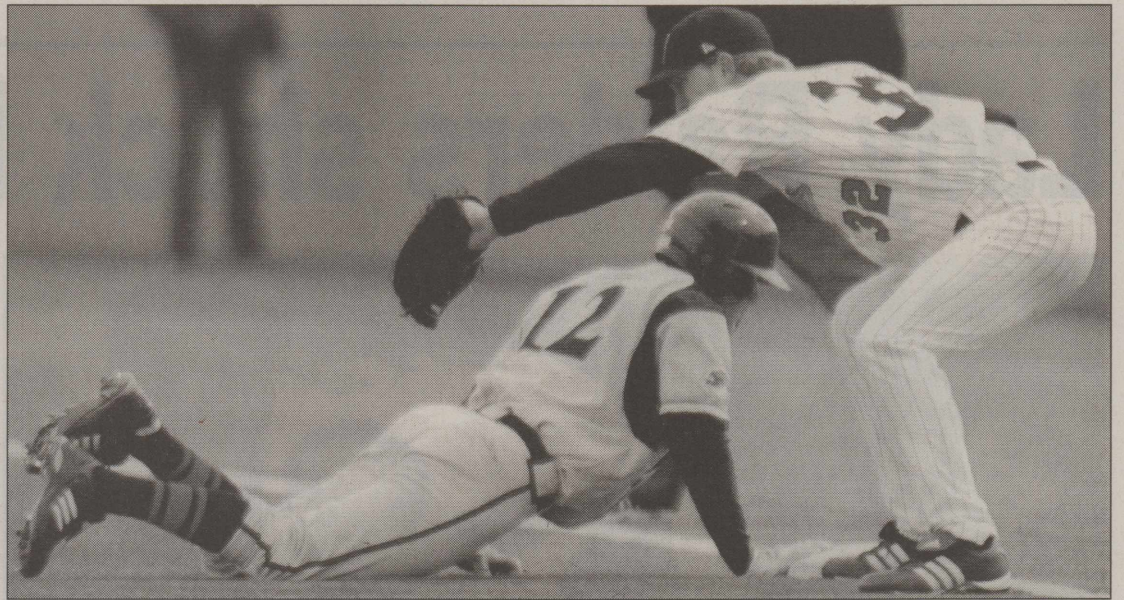
Spencer said the baseball team invited all former players to play in the game.

An official roster will not be released until Friday evening, but according to a Tech athletics press release, 1995 first team All-American Clint Bryant will play in addition to other Red Raider standouts — many of whom were drafted.

Preceding the alumni game will be a two-inning "Old Timer's Game" for older alumni of the baseball program.

The alumni will play against the 2010 Red Raider squad as it prepares for the upcoming season, which begins Feb. 19 against Jacksonville State.

Tech catcher Jeremy Mayo said the players enjoy having Richburg around, and he is a good source of information for collegiate players hoping to play



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

FORMER TEXAS TECH first baseman Chris Richburg (pictured), now a prospect for Major League Baseball's Cincinnati Reds, will participate in the first alumni game since 2003 at 1 p.m. Saturday at Dan Law Field. The alumni team will play the 2010 Red Raiders, who begin their season Feb. 19 against Jacksonville State.

professional baseball.

"We're still good friends," Mayo said. "I like talking to the guys and learning what the next level of baseball is all about."

Shortstop Joey Kenworthy said he expects the alumni to have a solid lineup, but the Red Raiders should be

sharper since they had a few organized practices in the fall and two weeks of consecutive practices under their belts.

But Spencer said he hopes the alumni team gives Tech a competitive game — including on-field heckling. "I hope the alumni run their mouth

because that's part of it," he said. "I hope they make our guys uncomfortable, and I hope they score a couple of runs early and make us press. Most of those alumni guys are pretty good. They've earned the right to run their mouths a little bit in the alumni game."
► michael.graham@ttu.edu

Texans extend Kubiak's contract

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Texans owner Bob McNair watched with admiration as the New Orleans Saints celebrated their first Super Bowl victory.

McNair is confident that Gary Kubiak will lead the Texans to one very soon.

The Texans announced Wednesday that Kubiak has signed a contract extension that runs through the 2012 season, a vote of confidence after the team finished 9-7 — the first winning record in the franchise's eight-year history.

"We have a foundation in place," McNair said. "We don't have to go out and establish the foundation, which is what we've been doing the last eight years. We've got some outstanding players, and we just have to keep building on that."

"In evaluating where we were and looking at our coaching situation," McNair added, "I believe Gary can take us to the Super Bowl."

Houston is 31-33 in Kubiak's four seasons, though the team is still seeking its first playoff berth. The 48-year-old Kubiak took over the Texans in January 2006 after the team finished 2-14. His original contract was due to

expire after the 2010 season.

"Bob has taken a hard look at where we were four years ago and where we are today and with that, made the decision that we're heading in the right direction," Kubiak said. "I want to finish what I started. We still have a long way to go, but I'm enjoying the work, I'm enjoying the challenge."

McNair admitted he was disappointed that the team missed the playoffs again last season. But he said the team has showed "a lot of progress" under Kubiak and he wanted to maintain continuity by keeping him in charge.

"The most disruptive thing you can do is go in every two or three years and change your coaching staff," McNair said. "When you do that, the new coach might have different schemes that he wants to employ and all of a sudden, the players you have don't fit that scheme. It just sets you back several years."

The Texans ranked fourth in total offense last season (383 yards per game), but assistant head coach Alex Gibbs left for Seattle and offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan went to join his father, Mike, in Washington.

Kubiak hired former Denver offensive coordinator Rick Dennison to replace Shanahan and former Atlanta offensive coordinator Greg Knapp to become Houston's quarterbacks coach. Dennison worked on the Broncos' staff during Kubiak's 11 years as Denver's offensive coordinator, and Knapp coached Houston quarterback Matt Schaub for three seasons with the Falcons.

Both Dennison and Knapp are also signed through the 2012 season.

"We have strengthened our coaching staff," McNair said. "I'm pleased we were able to finalize our contractual negotiations with Gary and with our coaches, so everybody will be on the same timeline. That makes everyone feel very good about the situation."

McNair said the Texans need to bolster their offensive and defensive lines and their depth at running back before next season.

Houston ranked 30th in rushing last season (92 yards per game), ahead of only Indianapolis and San Diego. Both those teams won their divisions, but Kubiak said the Texans need a stronger running game to complement their high-powered passing attack.

Texas feels 'singled out' by rule change

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds says the Longhorns football program was 'singled out' by a new NCAA rule that drastically limits recruiting by defensive coordinator Will Muschamp, the Longhorns' head-coach-in-waiting.

The rule states assistants "publicly designated" to be the next head coach are now bound by the same recruiting

rules as the current head coach. That means Muschamp can make only one off-campus visit with a prospect and it can't be during the critical spring evaluation period of April 15-May 31. Other assistants can have multiple off-campus visits.

The only other major college football program impacted by the rule is Maryland, where offensive

coordinator James Franklin has been designated to succeed Ralph Friedgen.

"Obviously, since this legislation impacts only two programs in the country, we feel we are being singled out," said Dodds, who first spoke to Orangebloods.com about the rule and later released a prepared statement Wednesday.

Hurdles

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When Hyde and Osaghae graduate, Tech will lose two top-class athletes, but Hyde said he is not worried about Tech's ability to continue the tradition.

"I see it as just time moving on because that's how it's always been," Hyde said. "We get these young hurdlers and then we move them on to being a great hurdler, and every year we just have somebody step up to the plate to be able to win conference — indoor and outdoor."

The Red Raiders' hurdling program has had an All-American each of the last five years. They continue to bring in top recruits including

Tucker and Jamele Mason, who finished first and second in the Texas 5A 300-meter hurdles championship in 2008, respectively.

Now teammates, Tucker said he and Mason revel in the chance to learn from some of the top hurdlers in the nation.

"Coach always says we should be good when you hurdle with the No. 1 hurdler in the nation," Tucker said. "And just working out with them, Omo gives me feedback in practice every day when I run next to him, asking me how I feel and giving me tips to better my racing."

Tucker said opposing schools often are amazed at meets by how many top-notch hurdlers the Red Raiders have, and are even more surprised when a sea of red crosses the finish line in all

the top spots.

As the Tech men keep up their success, the women hurdlers have started to come around as well.

Sandra Iwunze, a senior hurdler from Houston, has won back-to-back Big 12 Conference titles in the 400-meter hurdles in the outdoor championships.

Iwunze said she and her fellow hurdlers run with a lot of heart, and she expects the Red Raiders to keep up the tradition of excellence by recruiting well.

"Just try to recruit the people who you think have potential, who will work hard and get better at what they do," she said. "For me, I can't say that I had the best form out of high school, but I had heart because I hate to lose."
► thomas.magelssen@ttu.edu

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SPORTS

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Lady Raiders shock No. 13 A&M, 57-54

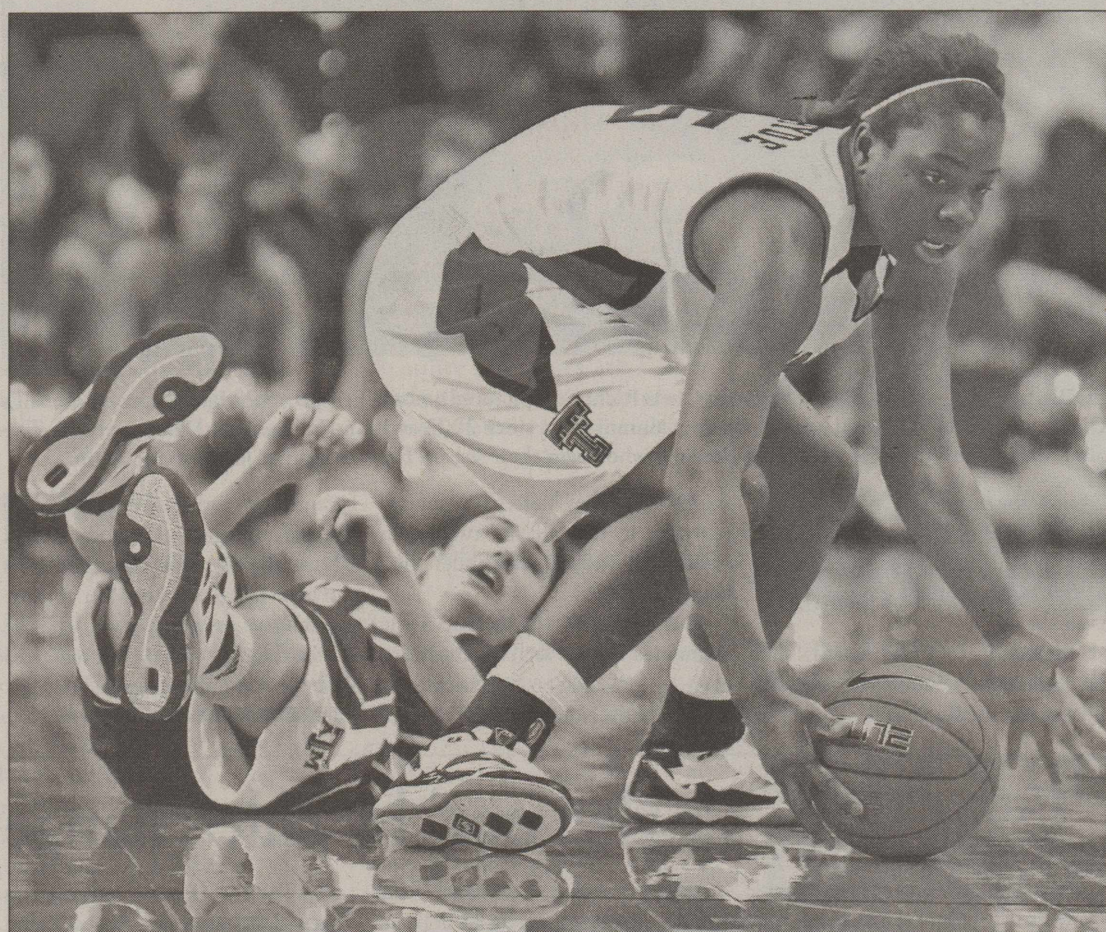


PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH'S CHRISTINE Hyde recovers the ball from Texas A&M's Maryann Baker during the game against Texas A&M on Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena.

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

Short handed probably was the best way to describe the Lady Raiders Wednesday night.

Texas Tech only suited up nine players — Kierra Mallard was out because of suspension and Chynna Brown sat out with an injury.

But the Lady Raiders still found a way to do something they have not done all season: beat a ranked opponent.

"I'd like to give Texas Tech a lot of credit for what they've been going through," Texas A&M head coach Gary Blair said. "Those nine players that they had suited out showed a lot of class and character and played their butts off."

Tech beat No. 13 Texas A&M 57-54 on Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena, giving Tech head coach Kristy Curry just her second win against the Aggies since taking over the program in 2006.

With a limited bench to turn to, Tech (14-9, 2-7 in Big 12 Conference play) relied on its veterans to pull off the upset, while getting a meaningful win amid a tough season.

With fewer than two minutes left in the game, forward Ashlee Roberson received a pass from guard Jordan Murphree for the bucket and a foul to tie the game up at 50.

But the pair of seniors did not waste time following up that sequence.

Murphree dished out another pass to Roberson, who made a 3-pointer to give the Lady Raiders a 53-50 lead with 51 seconds remaining. That lead was Tech's first since 7-6 in the first five minutes of the contest.

Murphree, along with guard Monique Smalls, went 2-for-2 from the free-throw line to seal the big win.

Roberson, who finished with a game-high 25 points, attributes the finish to the team's energy.

"We were just being aggressive and attacking the goal and it opened up some open threes for everybody and penetration," she said.

The win snaps Tech's six-game losing streak and gives the team a marquee win against one of the top squads in the conference.

But it didn't come without a fight, since A&M (16-6, 4-5) led for a majority of the night. The Aggies could not take advantage of the mismatch between Danielle Adams and Tech's pair of Jordan Barncastle and Marissa Ashton, however.

Although it looked like she was

on her way to another 20-point performance against Tech, Adams came away with 17 to lead the Aggies. Roberson was enough to power the Lady Raiders — she was the only Tech player in double figures Wednesday.

"You just have to credit our kids," Curry said. "They played their hearts out. I'm just so happy for them, so proud of them. We've obviously had some tough times but they showed a lot of resiliency tonight, a lot of character. I'm just so happy for them."

The team hopes to use the win as a catapult to more success.

A win against an Associated Press Top 25 team can provide hope, considering the Lady Raiders played six consecutive games against ranked opponents going into Wednesday's victory.

The Lady Raiders were close to defeating ranked opponents such as Texas and Oklahoma at home. Curry said to finally break through provides for optimism.

"It's kind of a numb feeling right now," she said. "We've been so close and we've just got to stay the course. Our goals haven't changed, and where we can end up hasn't changed. So much can happen."

»» jose.l.rodriguez@ttu.edu

Dunn scores 19, No. 24 Baylor beats Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Ekpe Udoh scored the go-ahead basket with 25 seconds left and Quincy Acy made two big defensive plays at the end to give No. 24 Baylor a 55-53 victory over Nebraska on Wednesday night.

LaceDarius Dunn scored 19 points to lead the Bears (18-5, 5-4 Big 12), and Udoh had six blocks to go with eight points and nine rebounds.

Myles Holley scored a career-high 11 points for Nebraska (13-11, 1-8), and Eshaunte Jones and Brandon

Richardson added 10 apiece.

The Cornhuskers led 53-50 after Lance Jeter penetrated the lane and then kicked the ball out to Richardson on the wing for a 3-pointer with 2:20 left.

Udoh made two free throws to pull the Bears within a point, then dumped in a one-handed shot over Jorge Brian Diaz to put the Bears up 54-53.

Acy grabbed a big rebound after Jeter missed a 3-pointer, got fouled and made a free throw, then stuffed Jeter as he tried to launch a long shot

at the buzzer.

The Huskers, who committed just three turnovers, shot a season-low 32 percent and were outrebounded 39-28.

Nebraska led 33-28 early in the second half after Dunn was called for a technical foul and Jones made the free throws.

Baylor tied it 35-all on Tweety Carter's two free throws and went ahead 45-40 midway through the half on consecutive 3-pointers by Dunn and Carter.

Social networking could change Olympics

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — What if the Miracle on Ice players had Twitter accounts?

Or if the sprinters who raised their gloved fists on the medal stand could have shared their thoughts on Facebook?

Thanks to laptops, cell phones and other new technology, social networking could be the route the next transformative Olympian uses to get the word out.

Skaters, skiers, hockey players and the reporters who cover them now have almost instant access to their fans and readers at what has long been, for better and worse, one of the most grandiose stages for message-sending.

When the torch is lit Friday, it will mark the beginning of the Twitter Olympics era — the first games where social networking and sports collide on a global platform that only the Olympics can provide.

"I'm sure I'll be flooding tons of photos and tons of stories and glimpses from behind the scenes," said Shaun White, the defending Olympic halfpipe gold medalist. "Because, really, what an interesting and cool time to be sharing with everyone."

White is among the hundreds of athletes who have Twitter and Facebook accounts — or spaces on similar sites — with plans to use them over the 17-day sports festival.

They will give friends, family, fans and, yes, reporters updates on their training and competition, random musings, pictures, links to their Web sites and other peeks behind the Olympic curtain that the public can't usually see.

It will save them time on the phone, help them build their fan base and allow them to get their message out, unfiltered by the so-called traditional media. It might also serve up a bit of instant gratification when the grind of training and waiting takes its toll.

"I'm not a full addict like some people are," said American Nate Holland, one of the favorites in snowboardcross, a sport added to the Olympic program to appeal to the same, young demographic that inspired the social networking boom.

"But I like to give updates and definitely get those out to people," Holland said. "I can just Facebook 'Best course ever,' and 20 minutes later there are a ton of replies and people cheering you on. It strokes the ego a little bit."

Meanwhile, the traditional media is using social networking to try to build audiences that have been fragmenting of late. Reporters from The Associated Press, for instance, will be tweeting from venues and using those posts to link readers to stories on hundreds of customers' Web sites. The AP also has a Winter Olympics Facebook page that includes a mix of stories from its traditional wire service and short blog entries from on-site reporters.

"Like many media companies, we are trying new methods to disseminate and gather information — in this case from athletes and others attending the Olympics," said Lou Ferrara, AP's managing editor for sports, entertainment and interactive media. "We want to give the audience what it wants and where they want it."

Of course, with technology comes confusion, and there's already been some of that.

Knowing the social networking craze was coming, the International Olympic Committee put out a four-page blogging guideline that supplements Rule 49 of the Olympic charter, which essentially states that only journalists can act as journalists at the games, while athletes and coaches cannot.

The addendum says blogs are permitted, so long as they are diary-like in nature, don't include live action or ceremonies and don't give "newsy" updates, such as injury reports or information about rivaling countries.

Bob Condron, spokesman at the U.S. Olympic Committee, said Twitter posts — with their abbreviation-inducing 140-character limits — are considered allowable by the IOC, which didn't specifically mention that site in its rules.

"The IOC considers blogging, in accordance with these Guidelines, as a legitimate form of personal expression and not as a form of journalism," the rule states.

Prohibited in that personal form of expression, however, are any attempts to promote non-Olympic sponsors — a sticking point between the Olympic powers and the athletes who often struggle to cash in on the success of their Olympic journeys.

Oh, and there is the ever-present reminder not to use the Olympics as a political stage — a rule that has long been the crux of a sticky debate about whether the Olympics are just a simple sports festival, or something much more.

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