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Web site redevelopment to use Tech feedback

By RALSTON ROLLO
STAFF WRITER

For the first time in five years, Texas Tech administrators are making efforts to improve the functionality and design of Tech's Web site.

In an e-mail sent to the Tech community, President Guy Bailey said the changes are necessary as Tech continues to seek status as a National Research University.

Bailey said in the e-mail a Web Executive Committee was formed to ensure the success of efforts to improve the Web site. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to voice their opinions through any of three available forums so the many voices of the Tech community are heard throughout the process.

Sam Segran, vice president of the Division of Information Technology and chief information officer, said much effort during the process of

redeveloping Tech's Web site will be devoted to compliance with Texas House Bill 2504.

The bill was adopted during the 81st Legislature of the Texas House of Representatives and requires certain information and links to be available and easily accessible within the Web sites of all public institutions of higher education, he said.

Sally Post, director of Communications and Marketing and member of the Web Executive Committee, said research for the Web site redevelopment project will not be conducted in the dark.

"We want input, we welcome input, and it's really important that the community has their say," she said.

Jerry Hudson, academic dean of the College of



SEGRAN

Mass Communications, also is a member of the committee and said members of the Information Technology Division working within the college suggested a study to determine the functionality and user friendliness of the Web site.

Post said the study requires subjects to find certain information on the Web site and the manner in which those subjects find that information is closely monitored.

"We are looking for how (the subjects) get (to the information), how long it takes them, and what problems they have," she said.

Segran said one example of a potential adjustment to the user-friendliness of the Web site is the implementation of cross-indexing. The addition of cross-indexing will make search results within Tech's Web site more relevant and up to date.

FEEDBACK METHODS

Web site redevelopment project's open forum

A blog for students, faculty and staff to obtain information and voice their opinions about the Tech Web site. www.refresh.ttu.edu

Refresh.ttu.edu Web Survey

An online survey for students, faculty and staff to provide electronic feedback to the Office of Communications and Marketing and the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

www.depts.ttu.edu/itts/assessments/ttu

Interactive Web site Usability Study

Students, faculty and staff can participate in a hands-on study to help find problems with the user-friendliness and navigation of Tech's Web site.

Registration can be found at the Technology Support Web site.

WEB SITE continued on Page 2 >>

PART TWO OF A FIVE-PART SERIES ABOUT ALCOHOL AND ITS IMPACT

ALCOHOL EFFECTS

Drinking causes short- and long-term effects on body



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SAM GRENIER/The Daily Toreador

By ALEXANDRA PEDRINI
STAFF WRITER

Some consequences of alcohol consumption are less noticeable than slurred speech or a Facebook page of less-than-flattering photos, and can have short- and long-term effects on the body.

Blacking out does not mean losing consciousness, said Sheila Garos, associate professor of psychology. Someone experiencing an alcoholic blackout may appear as if they are aware of his or her actions, but in reality his or her brain is not recording the memories.

"The alcohol is basically

shutting down parts of the brain, one of which is the memory center," Garos said. "You're actually shutting off the part of the brain that records short-term memory."

Alcohol intoxicates the blood flow throughout the body and brain, which initially causes higher thinking and judgment to go away, said Peter Syapin, pharmacology and neuroscience professor. As the amount of alcohol in the blood increases, the areas of the brain affecting motor coordination temporarily stop working because the cerebellum isn't operating correctly.

"It causes mental impair-

ment," said Bryan Stewart, a paramedic shift supervisor. "Alcohol is a depressant and changes the chemistry in the brain. Reactions are slowed, judgment is impaired and depending on the person's tolerance, it causes blackouts and passing out. Their judgment goes out the window."

He said someone's better judgment is affected before the person's coordination because of the sensitivity of areas of the brain. Some are more susceptible to alcohol than others.

Moving down from the brain, high quantities of alcohol affect other parts of the body including the stomach,

heart, kidneys and liver. Gastritis can develop in the stomach when a person consumes large amounts of alcohol, he said.

"When it gets into your stomach, it actually stops emptying of your stomach and so that alcohol sits there in your stomach for a longer period of time and it can erode and cause ulcers within the stomach," Syapin said.

Alcohol's effects on the heart are not all bad, he said. Low levels, such as one to two glasses of wine a day can be beneficial to the heart.

ALCOHOL continued on Page 5 >>

Haiti judge frees 8 of 10 American missionaries

By FRANK BAJAK
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Eight American missionaries were freed from a Haitian jail Wednesday, nearly three weeks after being charged with kidnapping for trying to take a group of children out of the quake-stricken country.

The eight — looking bedraggled and sweaty — walked out of the Haitian jail escorted by U.S. diplomats just after dusk. They waited until they were safely inside a white van before flashing smiles, waving and giving a thumbs up to reporters.

Hours earlier, judge Bernard Saint-Vil told The Associated Press that eight of the 10 missionaries were free to leave without bail or other conditions after parents testified they voluntarily handed their children over to the missionaries.

"The parents of the kids made statements proving that they can be released," he said, adding that still wants to question the group's leader and her nanny.

The group planned to fly out of Haiti late Wednesday, defense attorney Aviol

Fleurant said. Their destination was not immediately known. Kimberly Flowers at the U.S. Embassy would not confirm that the Americans were leaving on a U.S. government chartered plane, citing privacy law. She said that as U.S. citizens, they were entitled to evacuation flights.

The missionaries, most from two Baptist churches in Idaho, are accused of trying to take 33 Haitian children to the Dominican Republic on Jan. 29 without proper documents. Their detentions came just as aid officials were urging a halt to short-cut adoptions in the wake of the earthquake.

The missionaries say they were on a humanitarian mission to rescue child quake victims by taking them to a hastily prepared orphanage in the Dominican Republic and have denied accusations of trafficking.

Group leader Laura Silsby originally said they were taking only orphaned and abandoned children, but reporters found that several of the children were handed over to the group by their parents, who said they hoped the Baptists would give them a better life.

Fed: Unemployment will stay high over next 2 years

By JEANNINE AVERSA
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve expects unemployment will stay high over the next two years because recession-scarred Americans are likely to stay cautious, making for only a moderate-paced economic recovery.

Fed policymakers said in a forecast released Wednesday that it will take "some time" for the economy and the jobs market to get back to normal. They did not spell out how long that would be. Previously they suggested it could take five or six years for economic conditions to return to full health. A "sizable minority," however, thinks it could take more than five or six years for the economy and the job market to return to normal.

In updated economic projections, the Fed said the unemployment rate

this year could hover between 9.5 percent and 9.7 percent. Next year, it will drop to between 8.2 percent and 8.5 percent. By 2012, the jobless rate will range between 6.6 percent and 7.5 percent.

Although those forecasts are little changed from projections the Fed had released in late November, the figures show that unemployment will remain elevated heading into this year's congressional elections as well as the presidential election in 2012. A more normal unemployment rate would be between 5.5 percent and 6 percent.

Fed policymakers "expect that the pace of the economic recovery will be restrained by household and business uncertainty, only gradual improvement in labor market conditions and a slow easing of credit conditions in the banking sector," according to the forecast.

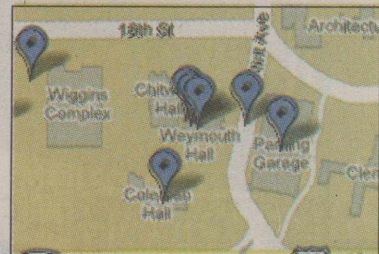
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WEATHER

Today	Mostly Sunny	Friday	Sunny
	61/36		62/32

FIND OUT WHERE THE CRIME IS. CHECK OUT THE DT'S POLICE BLOTTER MAP @ DAILYTOREADOR.COM >>



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BRIEF

STATE

2 Amarillo men die when small plane hits building

AMARILLO (AP) — Authorities say a pilot and his passenger were killed when their twin-engine plane crashed into a concrete storage building in Amarillo.

Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Gabriel Medrano said the two Amarillo men in their 50s died Wednesday morning when their plane went down in the southeast part of the Panhandle city.

Medrano says the cause of the

crash is sought. Federal investigators were being dispatched to the scene.

Names of the victims were not released, pending notification of next of kin.

Medrano says it was not immediately known if the plane left an Amarillo airport or was arriving.

Most of the wreckage was on the ground near the building, but part of the plane remained atop the 30-foot-tall structure.

NATION

US govt to investigate Toyota Corolla

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Transportation Department plans to open a formal investigation into the 2009-2010 Toyota Corolla over potential problems with the car's power steering, a department official said Wednesday.

The preliminary investigation is expected to be opened on Thursday and involves an estimated 500,000 vehicles. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the department had not yet notified Toyota of the probe.

Toyota Motor Corp. said at a news conference in Japan earlier

Wednesday that it was looking into complaints of power steering problems with the Corolla and was considering a recall as one option. Toyota said there have been fewer than 100 complaints.

In the U.S., the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has received about 150 complaints from drivers about the issue. The complaints are small compared to the number of vehicles involved. The department said the investigation involves about 363,000 vehicles from the 2009 model year and about 136,000 vehicles from the 2010 model year.

WORLD

Dutch Cabinet deadlocked over Afghanistan mission

AMSTERDAM (AP) — The Dutch Cabinet was deadlocked Wednesday over extending the Netherlands' mission with NATO in Afghanistan, and it appears likely to reduce its 1,600 troop presence there.

Deputy Prime Minister Wouter Bos said his Labor Party will oppose a formal NATO request to remain in the restive southern province of Uruzgan. The Dutch mission ends in August.

The departure of the Netherlands would be a blow to hopes that NATO's European members will expand operations in Afghanistan

before beginning to withdraw in 2011.

Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende and his Christian Democrats want to extend the mission for a year, possibly in reduced form.

But Bos' highly public stand Wednesday makes it unlikely without risking a political crisis that could bring down the coalition government.

"The promise we made to the Dutch voter two years ago must be kept, that the last Dutch soldier must be gone from Uruzgan by the end of the year," Bos told reporters.

Obama says stimulus bill saved troubled economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama hailed Wednesday's one-year-old economic stimulus law as an accomplishment that staved off another Great Depression and kept up to 2 million people on the job.

Still, with millions still out of work and losing patience, Obama acknowledged that to them, "It doesn't yet feel like much of a recovery."

Marking the anniversary of the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Obama aimed his message at people skeptical about the expensive relief measure and Republican lawmakers who voted against it and continue to hammer him about it.

To the public, Obama explained, as he has many times before, that the stimulus plan was composed of tax cuts for most Americans along with help for state governments, extended social service benefits and huge investments in energy, education and infrastructure.

"One year later, it is largely thanks to the recovery act that a second depression is no longer a possibility," Obama said.

To his Republican critics, who say the bill was a costly, debt-financed blunder that has not delivered on the promise of job creation, Obama challenged them to take up the case with

people who have stayed employed or have found help solely because he and the Democratic-run Congress acted.

Obama even delighted in recounting a section of his State of the Union address last month in which he talked of the tax cuts from the stimulus plan and watched Republican lawmakers fail to applaud the idea.

"They were all kind of squirming in their seats ... It was interesting to watch," Obama said.

And Obama made sure to commend himself and his own team for taking action.

The United States has lost an astounding 8.4 million jobs since this recession began in December 2007.

Obama said the stimulus plan is on target to create or save 1.5 million more jobs, bringing up the estimated total to 3.5 million.

But he sought to remind people that the goal of law was never to restore every job. The government can build confidence and demand and rescue people in hard times during a severe economic slide, Obama said, but it will always be businesses of the private sector that ultimately generate jobs and a recovery.

Obama made repeated references to how well, in his view, his government has done with the stimulus.

SQUAT SESSION

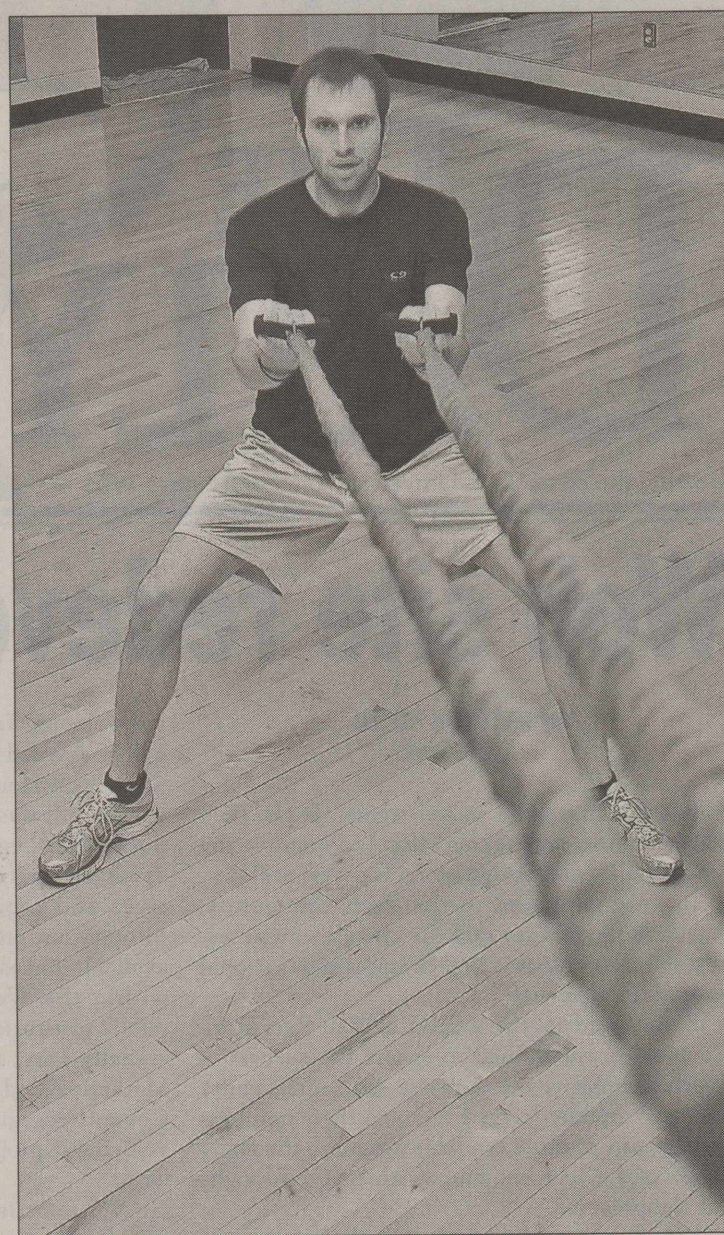


PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador
BLAINE RUCKER, A senior exercise and sport sciences major from Boerne, works out on squats during the weekly Core Pole class Tuesday in the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center.

POLICE BLOTTER

Intoxicated individual attempts to gain entry to Weymouth Residence Hall

- Feb. 10**
11:32 a.m., accident with minor injuries in the 1700 block of Flint Avenue.
12:53 p.m., medical call from the Education Building.
- Feb. 11**
8:25 a.m., accident without injuries in the 3100 block of Marsha Sharp Freeway.
8:47 a.m., medical call from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.
3:31 p.m., theft of a backpack in the Student Union Building.
4:00 p.m., criminal trespass warning issued.
5:45 p.m., theft of an iPod in Stangel/Murdough Residence Hall.
7:42 p.m., criminal mischief in Weymouth Residence Hall.
10:35 p.m., verbal confrontation in the lobby of Coleman Residence Hall.
10:35 p.m., medical call from Clement Residence Hall.
- Feb. 12**
12:15 a.m., accident without injuries in the Z4-M parking lot.
6:20 a.m., accident without injuries in the Z2-D parking lot.
7:10 a.m., criminal mischief in Murdough Residence Hall.
9:13 a.m., criminal mischief in the Z3-B parking lot.
9:15 a.m., documentation of unwanted Facebook comments.
5:36 p.m., breach of computer security via Facebook and e-mail.
8:17 p.m., damage to an unoccupied vehicle in the C-11 parking lot.
- Feb. 13**
1:17 a.m., possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia in the Z5-C parking lot.
2:37 a.m., intoxicated individual attempts to gain access to Weymouth Residence Hall.
4:59 a.m., criminal mischief in Weymouth Residence Hall.
9:48 a.m., criminal mischief in Weymouth Residence Hall.
4:33 p.m., accident without injuries in the Z4-P parking lot.
6:41 p.m., odor of burned marijuana in Coleman Residence Hall.
- Feb. 14**
12:04 a.m., possession of alcohol by a minor in Weymouth Residence Hall.
6:59 a.m., criminal mischief to a vehicle in the Flint Avenue Parking Garage.
8:27 p.m., criminal mischief in Weymouth Residence Hall.
9:10 a.m., criminal mischief in Clement Residence Hall.
7:05 p.m., theft of a debit card at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center.
11:34 p.m., odor of burned marijuana in Murdough Residence Hall.
- Feb. 15**
7:45 a.m., damaged property in the C-10 parking lot.
10:35 a.m., theft of a textbook in Murdough Residence Hall.
10:55 a.m., criminal mischief to a vehicle in the R-19 parking lot.
9:00 p.m., odor of burned marijuana in Weymouth Residence Hall.
- Feb. 16**
1:54 a.m., criminal mischief in Murdough Residence Hall.
12:55 p.m., theft of a purse from a vehicle in the F-3 parking lot.
1:15 p.m., verbal altercation between students in Stangel Residence Hall.
3:49 p.m., odor of burned marijuana in Murdough Residence Hall.
- Feb. 17**
12:12 a.m., public intoxication in Knapp Residence Hall.
12:32 a.m., theft of an iPhone in the library.
1:47 a.m., theft of a decorative rear view mirror cover in the Z5-C parking lot.
2:48 a.m., criminal mischief in the Athletic Dining Hall.
3:47 a.m., criminal mischief in Weymouth Residence Hall.
4:46 a.m., criminal mischief in Chitwood Residence Hall.

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 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.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Office of Communications and Marketing is working in close collaboration with the Information Technology Division, Post said, to ensure the success of the research and the redevelopment project as a whole.

Zach Haskin, a sophomore Spanish major from Wichita Falls, said Tech's Web site is designed designed and other universities have much more user-friendly Web sites and online application processes, especially in terms of housing applications.

Roland Zamarripa, a sophomore pre-engineering major from Austin, said navigation is the main problem with Tech's Web site.

"Sometimes, to avoid the hassle, I have to memorize the exact address of things like Raiderlink," he said.

Zamarripa said although the appearance of Tech's Web site appealed to him while he was applying for admission, he had difficulty finding degree programs and certain university policies.

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Italian TV chef enjoys cat stew, faces suspension

ROME (AP) — Italian state TV has suspended a cooking show host who shocked the nation by saying cat stew is a Tuscan delicacy he swears he has enjoyed many times.

RAI TV confirmed on Wednesday that it had suspended Beppe Bigazzi, the 77-year-old host of a popular morning program that offers food tips and recipes in a country fiercely proud of its cuisine.

When his 27-year-old female co-host looked stunned as Bigazzi said he has eaten cat stew "many times," the white-haired, grandfather figure defended his tastes.

"Why, people maybe don't eat rabbit, chicken, pigeon?" Bigazzi said. He could have added horse meat, which many butchers and supermarket meat departments stock.

"Who's not fat, kills the cat," is how Bigazzi began his lighthearted prattle about cat stew.

Bigazzi claimed cat stew was a Tuscan specialty near the Arno river valley, but co-host Elisa Isoardi looked so embarrassed she ducked behind a cart of fresh salad greens whose healthy virtues the two were supposed to be chatting about.

"Cat, soaked for three days in the running water of a stream" in Tuscany "comes out with its meat white, and I assure you — I have eaten it many times — that it is a delicacy," Bigazzi continued.

His critics included Health Ministry Undersecretary Francesca Martini.

"Cats are pets protected by law," Martini noted, specifically against "cruelty, maltreatment and abandonment."

She lamented in a statement issued by the Health Ministry that Bigazzi's advocating cat stew "hurts sensibility, which is fortunately steadily growing, of citizens toward animals."

The director of the RAI channel the show runs on, Mauro Mazza, called the decision to suspend Bigazzi for an unspecified amount of time as "painful but inevitable."

Ash Wednesday Mass begins Lenten season

By HALLIE DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Facebook and candy would seem to have nothing in common with smoking and being angry, but all are things some Texas Tech students are giving up for the next 40 days.

Ash Wednesday Mass was hosted in the Student Union Building on Wednesday for a full house of students, said Greg Ramsinski of the Catholic Student Association, which hosted the event.

Normal Mass is celebrated every Wednesday in the SUB, giving busy students the opportunity to practice their religion on campus, Ramsinski said. This was a special service marking the start of the Lenten season. The Mass is conducted like a regular Catholic Mass, with the addition of the participants receiving ashes on their foreheads from a Eucharistic minister before communion.

Ash Wednesday begins Lent, and is observed every year 40 days before Easter, which is determined by a complex method involving the equinox and full moons, Ramsinski said.

People observing Lent usually sacrifice something important to them, as well as meat on Fridays, to spend more time with God.

Ramsinski is giving up music in the car to increase his prayer life. He said many students were giving up sodas, TV and Facebook, and he thought most would take it seriously and follow through.

Cassie Coopwood, a junior accounting and pre-nursing major from Austin, is giving up dessert and being angry. This was her first Catholic Ash Wednesday Mass, and Coopwood said she thought it was beautiful.



PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Toreador
RENE PEREZ, A priest at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Lubbock, draws a cross with palm-leaf ashes on the forehead of Brian Prewitt, a graduate student and altar server from Lubbock, during an Ash Wednesday service in the Matador Room of the Student Union Building. Ash Wednesday is a Catholic holiday signifying the first day of Lent, the season leading up to Easter.

Although Coopwood is in the process of converting to Catholicism, she participated in Lent before, she said.

"I'm pretty good at giving up dessert," Coopwood said, "Not being angry will be more of a challenge, but it's a conscious choice."

Some, however don't share with others what they are giving up.

"I choose not to tell people because I see it as personal sacrifice," said Andy Castillo, a senior architecture major from San Antonio.

Castillo, who holds the title of Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion within the Catholic Student Association, said he believed most people would keep up their Lent sacrifices, although

he knew it would be a struggle for some.

Coopwood said she planned to carry out her 40 days, and hoped others would do the same.

"It is something serious," Coopwood said. "It should bring you closer to Christ."

Students left the Mass with ashes on their foreheads, ready to

undertake the next five-and-a-half weeks.

Kelly Fitzgibbons, a CSA member and a junior nursing major from San Antonio, is giving up smoking cigarettes.

"I'm so ready," Fitzgibbons said, "It's a good time to revamp your lifestyle."

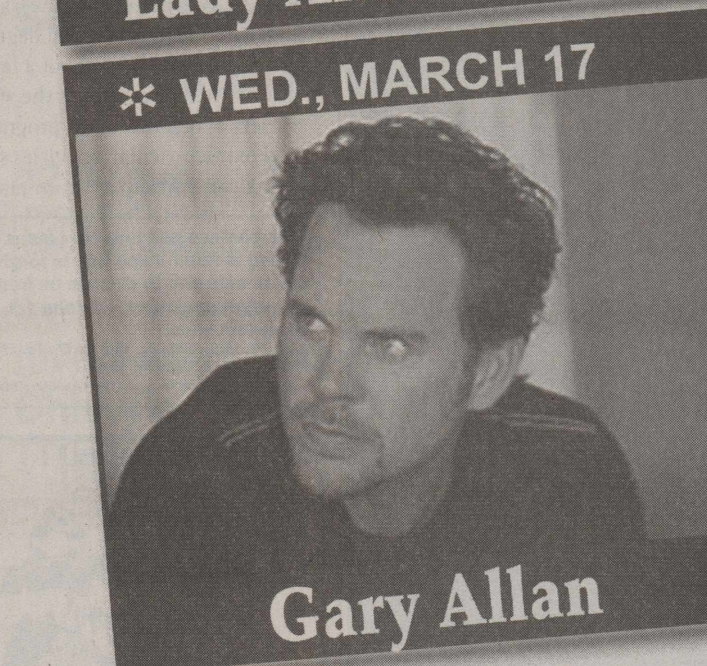
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- Friday, March 5
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- Saturday, March 6
Jason Aldean
- Sunday, March 7
Jonas Brothers
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Demi Lovato
- Monday, March 8
Tim McGraw
- Tuesday, March 9
Darius Rucker
- * Wednesday, March 10
Rascal Flatts
- Thursday, March 11
Brad Paisley
- Friday, March 12
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Toby Keith
- Saturday, March 13
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- Sunday, March 14
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- El Trono De Mexico
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Black Eyed Peas
- Saturday, March 20
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Wednesday, March 17, 10:15 p.m.

Josh Abbott Band

Thursday, March 18, 10:15 p.m.

Candy Coburn

Friday, March 19, 10:15 p.m.

Eleven Hundred Springs

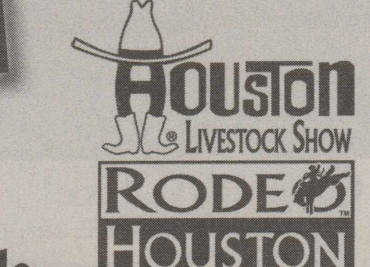
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Sunday, March 21, 8:30 p.m.

Jamie Richards

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- TODAY**
Riverdance
•Celebrate the one month until St. Patrick's Day by channeling your inner Irish and checking out Riverdance. You have mocked it, but you're secretly dying to see the real thing. It's the Farewell tour, so this is your last chance to see the show you meant to see in 2000.
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: City Bank Auditorium
COST: \$25 to \$45
- FRIDAY**
Red Raider Classic Baseball Tournament
•Get your heckling skills ready as Texas Tech's baseball season begins. They are hoping to surprise Big 12 coaches and prove their last-place ranking wrong. Tommy Tuberville will make his first public appearance on a Tech athletic field when he throws out the first pitch.
WHEN: All day
WHERE: Dan Law Field
COST: Free with student ID
- SATURDAY**
Sibling Weekend 2010
•She stole your Barbie and he tore its head off, but you've come to forgive your little sister and brother. Enjoy having a little bit of home with you this weekend as Tech plans for some sibling and school bonding. You'll get to take your siblings to the men's basketball game against Texas on Saturday.
WHEN: Starts 3 p.m. Friday
WHERE: Various Locations
COST: \$45 per participant
- SUNDAY**
Texas Tech Women's Basketball vs. Kansas
•Think pink, cheer for red and black. Put on your best pink top, and put off your homework for a few more hours. Support breast cancer awareness and the Lady Raiders as they take on Kansas in another conference matchup.
WHEN: 5 p.m.
WHERE: United Spirit Arena
COST: Free with student ID
- MONDAY**
Bouldering at the Rock Wall
•Some boots were made for walking; others reach greater heights. Put your climbing shoes on and belay your way into Body and Soul Week on 53 feet of one of the best rock walls in Texas. You can even take home a free T-shirt souvenir to remember your conquest. Just don't look down.
WHEN: Noon
WHERE: Rock wall at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center
COST: Free
- TUESDAY**
Magnetic Street Signs
•You've been eyeing that street sign between 68th and 70th for some time now. So, if you missed the poster sale or your walls are still bare, come by and make your own street sign. There's not even a risk of being caught by the police.
WHEN: 11 a.m.
WHERE: Student Union Building West Basement
COST: Free
- WEDNESDAY**
Ice Skating
•Were you inspired by the figure skating pairs? Is your idol Apollo Ohno? Do you want to try your hand at skating but absolutely hate the cold? TAB is bringing ice skating to the SUB with an artificial rink, and you don't even need to bring skates.
WHEN: 3 p.m.
WHERE: Student Union Red Raider Ballroom
COST: Free

West Hollywood moves to ban dog, cat sales

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP) — The vote to ban the sale of dogs and cats in this famously liberal enclave will likely have more bark than bite, since no pet stores in the city currently sell animals.
But officials hope that Tuesday's unanimous city council vote will be seen beyond West Hollywood as a symbolic stand against puppy mills and kitten factories.
"You have to start somewhere," said Michael Haibach, deputy to Councilman Jeffrey Prang, who sponsored the legislation. "The more people who jump on the bandwagon the better."
This famously quirky city has a reputation as a trailblazer in animal welfare rights.
It became the first city in the country to prohibit cat declawing in 2003, a measure that has since spread to dozens of other cities, including Los Angeles. Another West Hollywood ordinance officially terms pets as "companion animals" and gives their "guardians" a local tax deduction for pet adoption fees.
Since the pet sales ordinance was introduced earlier this month, the city has received dozens of inquiries from other municipalities across the country interested in replicating it, Haibach said. Some information requests came from Europe, he said.
Pet shops would only be permitted to offer animals from shelters for sale once West Hollywood's ordinance goes into effect in September. South Lake Tahoe adopted a similar ban last year.

Tablets, smartbooks aim to fill PC-phone gap

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — If you've got a car and a bicycle, do you need a motorcycle too? Wireless carriers are betting that you do. They're making a big push this year for the motorcycles of the gadget world: devices that are bigger than a phone but smaller than a laptop.
The most famous entrant in the category is Apple Inc.'s iPad, which comes out next month. But many other manufacturers are crowding into the niche, and were planning to do so even before Apple's announcement in January.
Some of them are making keyboard-less "tablet" computers in the vein of the iPad. Others are making small laptop-like things known as "smartbooks" that will sell for a few hundred dollars.
Hewlett-Packard Co. showed its first smartbook this week in Barcelona at Mobile World Congress, the world's largest cell phone trade show. At first glance, HP's Compaq AirLife 100 looks just like a netbook — a small laptop — but the inner workings are quite different.
Rather than using Microsoft Corp.'s Windows software, the smartbook runs Android, which Google Inc. created for mobile devices and gives away for free. Rather than using a computer processor from Intel Corp. or Advanced Micro Devices Inc., the AirLife uses a chip from Qualcomm Inc. that has cell phone heritage.
The AirLife works somewhat like a cell phone as well: It's ready to use as soon as you flip the lid open. Like a phone, it receives your e-mail even when it's in standby mode with the lid closed. Because the Qualcomm chip uses a lot less power than a PC chip, HP says the AirLife can be used for 12 hours between charging.
Smartbooks are like cell phones in another way: Wireless carriers will sell them. Spain's Telefonica will sell the AirLife in Europe and Latin America sometime this spring. There are no plans for a U.S. launch, but HP competitor Lenovo Group has revealed a very similar device, the Skylight, which AT&T Inc. will carry in the U.S. (AT&T will also provide wireless broadband service for the iPad.)
The carriers will sell smartbooks because the devices have built-in modems for Internet access on cellular networks. That means they'll usually come with a monthly service fee, in exchange for which carriers will subsidize the purchase prices, perhaps in the \$200 to \$400 range. (AT&T and Telefonica have not announced their prices yet.)
Dell Inc. is using the same technology — Android software running on a Qualcomm chip — for a tablet computer with a touch screen that is 5 inches on the diagonal. An iPhone screen is 3.5 inches, so the Mini 5 is reminiscent of a big iPhone. It's set to be released in the U.S. later this year.
Freemove Semiconductor Inc. was at the show to demonstrate the types of "in-between" devices that can be made using its chips, including a prototype tablet that slides into a docking station with a keyboard. It also showed the "Qooq," a French tablet designed to show recipes in the kitchen, for things like "les cupcakes."
"There's definitely a space between handsets and laptops, and I think it's great for us that Apple has validated that space, as well as HP," said Freemove spokesman Steve Sperle.
Chip maker Nvidia Corp. brought six tablets and two smartbooks running its chips. They're made by Asian manufacturers that are largely unknown to the public, and the idea is that they'll be sold by wireless carriers, said spokesman Shawn Adamek.

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Alcohol ←

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
"Somehow it protects your heart against heart disease," Syapin said. "We aren't sure why that is, but it seems like at those lower levels of alcohol, it increases the defense mechanisms in your heart. Those lower levels of consumption can be beneficial, but if you start going higher to what an alcoholic drinks, it can be bad."
When alcohol reaches the brain, an antidiuretic hormone is affected, causing the kidneys to produce more urine. This hormone makes the kidneys retain water and the alcohol blocks the release of this from the brain causing a person to urinate more, he said.
"You drink and you pee more, in addition to the fact that you're drinking a fluid, there's an additional component," Syapin said.
The liver serves as a filter system for blood in the body, Stewart said. It also manufactures bile and keeps blood sugar levels constant. Drinking regularly can cause a fatty liver, but the condition can go away if the person stops drinking, Syapin said.
"It takes a while for alcohol to pass through the blood and prolonged drinking can cause cirrhosis of the liver and it doesn't let it function as it is supposed to and can cause long-term medical problems," Stewart said.
Everyone's alcohol tolerance differs, causing the effects on people to be different, he said.
"Some people get drunk off of one beer and some can drink a six-pack and not be drunk," Stewart said. "It all depends on their body build up."
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