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TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011
VOLUME 84 ■ ISSUE 102

Defendants' attorney speaks about Tech Terrace case

By RALSTON ROLLO
STAFF WRITER

In response to a petition filed last week by Sherry Grusendorf and her attorney, Sean Crowley, the Liggett Law Group hosted a news conference Monday at its office in downtown Lubbock.

Ted Liggett, who represents Holden, Thomas and Kelli Jacoby, said the news conference was an effort to clear up what he described as "inconsistencies" in Crowley's petition. The Jacobys are the owners of the residence located at 3202 22nd St. in Tech Terrace, which

was under scrutiny last week because of reports of loud parties and alleged assault outside the residence.

"The (petition) is full of accusations that are not backed up," Liggett said. "We need to take a deep breath and wait for the facts to come out."

He said he and his associate, Christopher Ritter, are comfortable defending the Jacobys against the allegations that have been brought by Grusendorf.

Although Grusendorf's petition concerns events over an extended period of time, Liggett said the Jacobys have hired him for representation only in terms of the events that occurred

Feb. 20.

Bailee Barrett, a 19-year-old Texas Tech student, also was arrested in her dorm room in Stangel Residence Hall at 1:30 p.m. Friday in connection with a reported assault on Grusendorf, according to the Lubbock Police Department.

Lt. Neal Barron, an officer with the department, said Barrett has been charged with assault. He said the offense is considered a class A misdemeanor and, if convicted, Barrett could face a fine of up to \$4,000, up to a year of imprisonment or any combination of the two.

Although the case originally was

considered an aggravated assault, he said, it now is considered an assault case because of the lesser nature of Grusendorf's injuries.

"The classification of (Grusendorf's) injuries and the evidence we have fit an assault," Barron said.

Some evidence proves Barrett was not a guest at the residence, he said, and was only in the neighborhood to pick up a friend when she allegedly assaulted Grusendorf.

Liggett said the Jacobys have been caught in the middle of a political battle attempting to rid the Tech Terrace neighborhood of the tension between

its generationally diverse residents.

"I disagree with that because they are part of the problem," Grusendorf said.

Most importantly, Liggett said, the assault did not occur on the property of the Jacobys and is therefore not their responsibility.

Sean Crowley of Glasheen, Valles, Inderman and DeHoyos represents Grusendorf and said he has no comment on Liggett's opinion of the petition.

He said no hearing has been scheduled for the case because the defendants have not officially responded to the petition.

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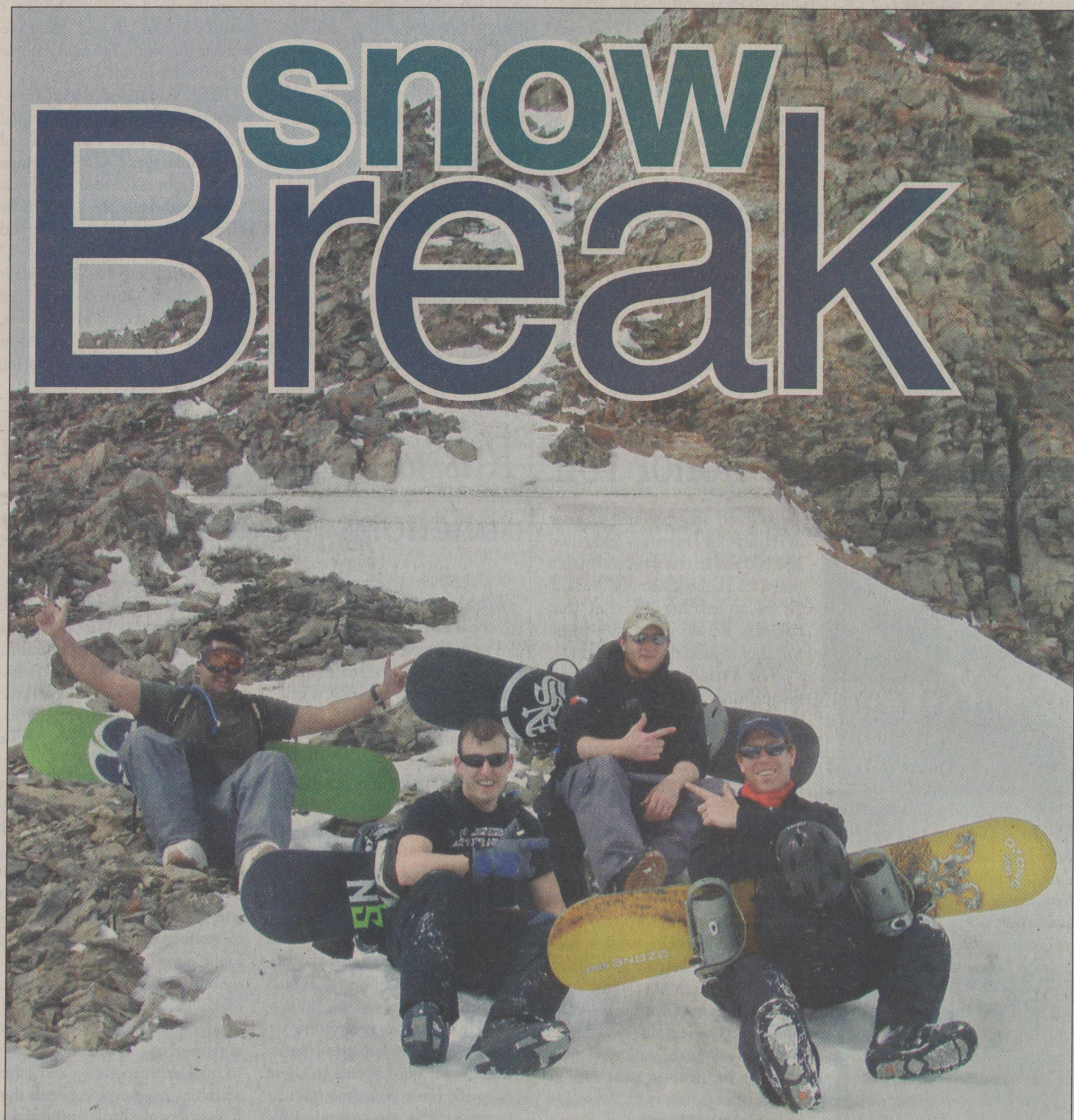


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLIE THUROW
TEXAS TECH SKI and Snowboard Club members, from left, Charlie Thurow, Rick Edwards, Garrett Weaver and Wesley Ford sit at 10,400 feet elevation in Jackson Hole, Wyo., which is the planned location of the club's 2010 Spring Break Trip.

Skiers, snowboarders prepare for chilly spring break

By BROOKE BELLOMY
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Ski and Snowboard Club is gearing up for another spring break trip to Jackson Hole, Wyo.

The club, formed in August 2008, has been taking a big trip each winter and spring break. The club also takes two smaller weekend trips every year.

Jackson Hole is a popular spring break spot for college students across the nation. Wesley Ford, the club president's and a senior geography major from Fort Worth, said he has made friends with students at other universities on these trips and they still keep in touch and take trips together.

"One of the great things about this club is that it connects members with other people at Tech who enjoy the same activities as you," Ford said. "But we also get to meet new people from other schools."

The club has about 30 members; however, Ford said non-members are encouraged to join the club and trips.

A caravan will depart for Jackson Hole on March 14 and will return to Lubbock on March 19 with four full days of skiing and snowboarding in between. Jackson Hole is approximately an 18-hour drive from Lubbock.

Club member Charlie Thurow said the long drive is worth it. Jackson Hole is a great place to ski and there are a lot of unique shops, res-

taurants and bars within walking distance of the hotel, he said.

Thurow, a sophomore nursing major from Austin, is the club's safety officer, a former medic in the U.S. Navy and a trained EMT.

Ford said Thurow is qualified for his position and a valued member of the club.

"It eases the mind of many of the students to know that (Thurow) is nearby to help out should someone fall or injure themselves on the mountain," said Ford.

He said this also makes the trip a safe environment for skiers and snowboarders at all skill levels including beginners.

Polling stations open for Election Day today

Today is Election Day for statewide primaries and Lubbock County elections.

Primaries on the ballot include governor, lieutenant governor and U.S. representative for District 19.

Although the early voting allowed people to cast their votes at any open polling location, Election Day voting requires everyone to vote at their polling place designated by the precinct in which they reside.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., and the two parties could release their results as early as 7:15 p.m. or 7:30 p.m., said Elections Administrator Dorothy Kennedy.

Early voting from Feb. 16 until Friday drew in 24,125 voters, 21,126 of whom completed Republican ballots. The Republican turnout nearly doubles the total turnout from last year's early voting total of 11,941 for both parties.

The Republican candidates for governor are Gov. Rick Perry, U.S. Rep. Kay Bailey Hutchison and Debra Medina.

The Democratic candidates for governor are Bill White, Star Locke, Bill Dear,

Felix Alvarado, Clement E. Glenn, Alma Ludovina Aguado and Farouk Shami.

David Dewhurst is the only Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, but Democrats have Marc Katz, Ronnie Earle and Linda Chavez-Thompson on the ballot.

Those who reside in the Overton area may vote at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at the intersection of 16th Street and Avenue X.

People who live north of Texas Tech between University Avenue and Indiana Avenue can vote at McWhorter Elementary School at 2711 First St.

Students who live on campus between Boston Avenue and Indiana Avenue and between 19th Street and Flint Avenue, Main Street and 18th Street are required to vote at Roscoe Wilson Elementary School at 2807 25th St. and all other residences on campus must vote at Rush Elementary School at 4702 15th St.

For all other locations, visit *The Daily Toreador* Web site for a full map of district boundaries and polling places.

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SGA officers hope for higher voting turnout

By JOEANN BON-JORNO
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech Student Government Association officials hope to see increased voter turnout as terms end and transition begins with the SGA elections today and Wednesday.

Sarah Saunders, SGA internal vice president, said she would like to see a bigger voter turnout this year than last year.

"Our voter turnout is significantly lower than it should be, even compared to other Big 12 schools," Saunders said.

One possible reason for the low turnout is all the candidates running are good candidates, she said, and some people might not think their vote matters.

"SGA is going to be in a good position no matter what happens on Wednesday," Saunders said.

New officers do not take office until they are sworn in April 16, she said,

and they will go through training until that time.

Cari Babitzke, senior business assistant, said the old officers bring the new officers up to speed on what is happening in the office before they take over.

"I definitely want to show them how I organize my files and go through parliament procedure with them," Saunders said.

Most of her committees finish in June, she said, so the new internal vice president will carry on with what she already started.



SAUNDERS



WILLIAMS

SGA continued on Page 3 ►►

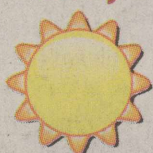
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WEATHER

Today

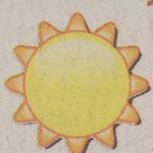
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IN BRIEF

STATE

Washington-on-the-Brazos marks Texas independence

WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS (AP) — Scott McMahon wore early 19th-century clothing from head to toe Sunday afternoon, complete with a brown top hat and gray trousers.

As the Bryan resident waited for government leaders to address the public at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park, he pulled out a silver pocket-watch to check the time.

It was on that site 174 years ago on March 2 that 59 delegates worked overnight to write the Texas Declaration of Independence during the Texas Revolution.

But on the same grounds as the birthplace of Texas almost two centuries later, there was only celebration. And McMahon, a park ranger who teaches visitors about the birthplace of Texas, was there over the weekend to be a part of it all.

NATION

Reports show modest but steady economic recovery

NEW YORK (AP) — Mixed reports Monday on manufacturing, construction and personal income and spending made clear that the economy is enjoying modest growth even though the recovery remains fragile.

Manufacturing output expanded in February for a seventh straight month. Factory output has provided one of the few areas of strength for the economy. Still, the growth in

manufacturing activity slowed compared with January and fell short of economists' expectations.

In addition, construction spending fell for a third straight month in January. And though personal spending rose slightly more than expected, Americans' incomes scarcely budged. In part, that was because Social Security recipients didn't get their usual cost-of-living boost.

WORLD

Hamis leader disowns son who spied for Israel

JERUSALEM (AP) — A senior Hamas leader publicly disowned his son Monday, days after the young man announced he had secretly spied for Israel and helped authorities hunt down members of the Islamic militant group.

Hamas Web sites published a letter late Monday by Sheik Hassan Youssef that the militant group said was smuggled out of

the Israeli prison where he is serving a six-year sentence.

In the letter, he said his family announced its "complete renunciation of the one who was once our eldest son, who is called Mosab." The father said he was sorry to take such a step but said he had no choice after his son "disbelieved in God...and collaborated with our enemies," he said.

Corrections

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

It is The DT's policy to correct mis-

takes in this spot as soon as possible.

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

CRAZY COMBUSTIONS



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Treador

CHARLES CRANE, A graduate mechanical engineering student from Galveston, measures the flame speed of the intermetallic reaction of aluminum-titanium powder Monday in the Mechanical Engineering Combustion lab.

Biden defends bailouts before labor leaders

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Vice President Joe Biden told AFL-CIO leaders Monday that the government bailouts of the banking and auto industries were necessary steps the Obama administration needed to take before it could tackle causes important to organized labor.

Biden told officials of the labor federation representing 11.5 million employees that the bailouts averted an even worse economic collapse and stabilized the economy.

At the top of organized labor's wish list are passage of the Employee Free Choice Act, which would make it easier for workers to unionize, and sympathetic appointments to the

National Labor Relations Board, which administers laws between unions and workers. Business groups strongly oppose the labor bill, which has stalled without the support of some moderate Democrats.

"Had we not done those unpopular things ... we wouldn't have any shot, any shot at all," Biden said at the winter meeting of the AFL-CIO's executive council.

The Obama administration has invested in the creation of jobs in 21st century industries such as green technology and high-speed rail, and it's up to unions to organize in those fields, Biden said.

"That's a new economy. That's

where labor is going to lead. That's where you're going to get to organize," he said.

Earlier in the day, Biden told construction workers outside Orlando that the federal stimulus spending was working.

With piles of broken concrete slabs and asphalt chunks behind him, the vice president told about two dozen road construction workers sitting on large concrete pipes that most economists agree the year-old recovery act has saved or created at least 2 million jobs.

"When you lose 8 million jobs in this Great Recession and you keep it from being 10 (million), that's no

solace to the 8 million who don't have a job, man," he said. "We have to make this work. Too many people are in trouble in this country."

Biden, who appeared with Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., predicted that stimulus spending will continue to create jobs as the year progresses.

"More shovels are going to be going into the ground this spring and this summer than any time last year," Biden said, adding that in Florida it "means 15,000 guys wearing hard hats and engineers and surveyors, people who are able to make a decent wage and raise a family on, are going to be put to work."

Tech named to president's community service honor roll

By KELSEY HECKEL
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech was one of 30 institutes of higher education named to the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for its commitment to and achievement in community service.

Tech was selected to the honor roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service for the third consecutive year.

"I want to commend the faculty and staff involved whose efforts have earned Texas Tech a place on this honor roll," Tech President Guy Bailey said in a news release. "One of our goals at Texas Tech is to create opportunities for involvement in social and community service activities. Achieving this recognition for the third year in a row speaks to the high level of excellence our outreach programs provide."

The focus of the honor roll changes every year but still tries to

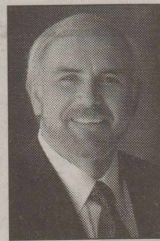
raise awareness for community service, said Irene Arellano, Tech service learning coordinator.

"This year's focus was on student service projects that deal with high school completeness and college readiness for students," she said.

Five Tech projects were submitted to show that Tech emphasizes these issues in different programs around the campus.

The PEGASUS, Team-up for College Knowledge, Project FUTURE, Greek Build Project and the Lowrider/Dream Bikes programs were submitted to the Corporation for National and Community Service for review in the application process.

The PEGASUS program, which helps first-generation college students ease into campus life, is targeting organizations such as the Boys



BAILEY

& Girls Clubs of America, foster care and mentor programs to reach out to a younger audience, said Jodi Gonzalez, unit assistant director with Academic Operations and Services.

Arellano said Project FUTURE focuses on similar goals.

"The other programs like Lowrider Bikes and Team-up for College Knowledge are focusing on high schools and at-risk youths to get them familiar with college and to raise awareness about financial aid opportunities," she said.

Jason Biggs, unit assistant director for the Center of Campus Life, said he thinks the work the Greek Build Project did with Habitat for Humanity contributed to Tech being named to the Honor Roll.

"The greek community came together and partnered with both the



GONZALEZ

Texas Tech and Lubbock chapter of Habitat for Humanity and raised \$60,000 and in one weekend built a house for a Lubbock family," he said. "It was an amazing display of what students can do when they come together to help the community."

The President's Honor Roll distinguishes institutions as leaders in community service and service-learning, according to the Corporation for National and Community Service Web site. This helps schools recruit students, gain recognition, make additional community partnerships and demonstrate commitment to strengthening the community.

"Studies have shown that community service helps schools with retention," Arellano said. "Seventy-five to 80 percent of students come from high school with some community service learning experience. Students want to be somewhere that they can be involved and continue that service."

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Russia moves closer to Iran sanctions for nuke defiance

VIENNA (AP) — Russia's president said Moscow was ready to consider new sanctions on Iran for its nuclear defiance on Monday and the chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency warned that he cannot confirm that all of Tehran's atomic activities are peaceful.

President Dmitry Medvedev emphasized that he still hoped for a settlement with Iran on nuclear issues that would negate any need for a fourth set of U.N. Security Council sanctions. Still, his comments appeared to be the strongest sign to date that the Kremlin was prepared to drop traditional opposition to such penalties if Tehran remain obstinate.

"Unfortunately, everything we have tried to say to the Iranian leaders, all our appeals to them to work on a peaceful nuclear program under the control of the international community, haven't provided any results," Medvedev told reporters in Paris.

"We believe that it's not over yet, that we can still reach an agreement," he said. "But if we don't succeed, Russia is ready — along with our partners, as I have already said — to consider the question of adopting sanctions."

His comments marked a new stage in Russia's slow progression from opposing new sanctions on Tehran to its reluctant acceptance of them because of Iran's growing list of nuclear activities opposed by

the world powers.

Beyond reflecting unity with the U.S., Britain and France — the three Western permanent Security Council members — Russia's endorsement of new sanctions would put strong pressure on China, which continues to openly oppose such measures.

China and Russia have in the past blocked Western attempts for a fourth set of sanctions, with Beijing traditionally following Moscow's lead. But because it depends on Iran for much of its energy needs, China may continue to resist pressure from the other four Council members.

Iran already is under three sets of U.N. Security Council sanctions for refusing to freeze uranium enrichment — a potential pathway to nuclear weapons — and other activities generating concerns that it seeks to make fissile warhead material. It insists, however, that it is enriching only to make nuclear fuel for an envisaged reactor network.

Amid Medvedev's warnings, IAEA chief Yukiya Amano told a meeting of the Vienna-based agency's 35-nation board that he cannot verify that Iran's nuclear activities are peaceful. And international officials revealed a new source of friction between Iran and the agency, telling The Associated Press that Tehran was resisting IAEA efforts to improve monitoring of the Islamic Republic's recently launched higher enrichment program.

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Students selected to Texas Nursing Students' Association

By **DEREK MOY**
STAFF WRITER

Three Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing students were selected to the Texas Nursing Students' Association Board of Directors last month.

Bobby Schnittker was elected president, Elizabeth Tompkins was elected vice president, and Lindsey Bankhead was elected editor.

Tompkins, a 21-year-old nursing major, said so many Tech HSC students getting elected to the TNSA is a rare achievement. Last year only one student was elected to serve on the board.

Four of the four introduced measures were passed at the convention, which helps HSC School of Nursing students gain respect among their peers, she said. The resolutions, which include new provisions for electronic simulation and paperless files, also will be brought up to the Texas Nurses Association

and, if passed, will continue to the American Nurses Association.

"We worked really hard at the state to write resolutions, and then as resolutions were put up to floor for debate, and talk about if we should implement and adopt it," Tompkins said. "And I got to co-author one of the resolutions with the now president, Bobby Schnittker, and it was a great feeling to get that passed and to meet other people and get elected as vice president."

Tompkins said she hopes to gain leadership experience and would like to see more nursing schools participate in the TNSA convention. Managing her responsibilities as

vice president and a nursing student is difficult, she said, she believes she is prepared.

Bankhead, a 22-year-old nursing major, said her job as editor gives the school a voice.

Being recognized at the TNSA is very important, she said, and the Perry School of Nursing looks forward to expanding Tech's influence. Different aspects and perspectives to nursing are sought after and she wants those differences to be heard.

"It all feeds into a huge system of which we all want to make nursing better for everyone," Bankhead said. "We're kind of a smaller thing

to it, but have a big influence and that's why those resolutions were huge that passed because they could eventually be known nationwide that everyone has to implement into their system."

The nursing school also received the Image of Nursing award and the Community Health award for its efforts in the annual Stork's Nest Baby Shower and Teen Straight Talk program, respectively. Sonia Patel won the award for most recruited-TNSA members, and the School of Nursing at El Paso was recognized as the newest TNSA chapter with the most members.

Cynthia O'Neal, Ph.D. and department chairwoman of the Traditional Undergraduate Program, was elected to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee.

As a member of the committee she and 22 other members must provide ideas to help meet Texas' higher education plan, Closing the



PHOTO COURTESY OF TEXAS TECH HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
THREE TEXAS TECH University Health Sciences Center students were selected to the Texas Nursing Students' Association Board of Directors and several others also were honored during a meeting last month.

Gaps by 2015.

O'Neal said she looks to expand the number of students the HSC School of Nursing produces. Last year, three other campuses were added to promote growth of nursing students across Texas.

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Tsunami sweeps away entire towns on Chilean coast after earthquake

TALCAHUANO, Chile (AP) — When the shaking stopped, Marioli Gatica and her extended family huddled in a circle on the floor of their seaside wooden home in this gritty port town, listening to the radio by a lantern's light.

They heard firefighters urging Talcahuano's citizens to stay calm and stay inside. They heard nothing of a tsunami — until it slammed into their house with an unearthly roar about an hour after Saturday's magnitude 8.8 quake.

Gatica's house exploded with water. She and her family were swept below the surface, swirling amid loose ship containers and other massive debris that smashed buildings into oblivion all around them.

"We were sitting there one moment and the next I looked up into the water and saw cables and furniture floating," Gatica said.

She clung to her 11-year-old daughter, Ninoska Elgueta, but the rush of water ripped the girl from her hands. Then the wave retreated as suddenly as it came.

Two of the giant containers crushed Gatica's home. A third landed seaward of where she floated, preventing the retreating tsunami from dragging her and other relatives away.

Soon Ninoska was back in her mother's arms — she had grabbed a tree branch to avoid being swept away and climbed down as soon as the sea receded.

Gatica's son, husband and 76-year-old father were OK as well, as were her sister and her family. The only relative missing was her 76-year-old mother, Nery Valdebenito, Gatica said as she waited in a hundreds-long line outside a school to report her losses.

"I think my mother is trapped be-

neath" the house, Gatica said.

As she spoke, firefighters with search dogs were examining the ruins of her home blocks away. Minutes later, the group leader drew his finger across his neck: No one alive under the house.

Such horrors abound along the devastated beach communities of Chile's south-central coast, which suffered the double tragedy Saturday of the earthquake and the tsunami it caused. Of the quake's 723 victims, most were in the wine-growing Maule region that includes Talcahuano, now a mud-caked, ravaged town of 180,000 just north of Concepcion.

Close to 80 percent of Talcahuano's residents are homeless, with 10,000 homes uninhabitable and hundreds more destroyed, said Mayor Gaston Saavedra.

"The port is destroyed. The streets, collapsed. City buildings, destroyed," Saavedra said.

In Concepcion, the biggest city near the epicenter, rescuers heard the knocking of victims trapped inside a toppled 70-unit apartment building Monday and were drilling through thick concrete to reach them, said fire Commander Juan Carlos Subercaseux. By late Monday, firefighters had pulled 25 survivors and nine bodies from the structure.

"We were sitting there one moment and the next I looked up into the water and saw cables and furniture floating."

MARIOLI GATICA
CHILEAN EARTHQUAKE VICTIM

SGA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Suzanne Williams, SGA president, said the new president will be given a list of 30 names of administration, staff and Lubbock city officials, and during the next month they will meet with all the people on that list.

She said they also will be given detailed instructions on the budget

and using Banner, as well as all the minutes from all the meetings she attended this year.

"The idea is to get the new president just as up to date as everyone else they will be working with is," Williams said.

The process is stringent, she said, but helps the transition tremendously.

Austin Pennington, external vice president from the 2008-2009 school

year, said the month of transition gives new officers time to learn the routine responsibilities for each officer position that they might have not known that position required.

Voting for SGA executive officers and senators begins today at 9 a.m. and lasts until Wednesday at 7 p.m. Voting can be found online at the SGA Web site, sga.ttu.edu.

>>> joeann.bon-jorno@ttu.edu

Africa's Al-Qaida growing in strength and numbers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Al-Qaida's terror network in North Africa is growing more active and attracting new recruits, threatening to further destabilize the continent's already vulnerable Sahara region, according to U.S. defense and counterterrorism officials.

The North African faction, which calls itself Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), is still small and largely isolated, numbering a couple hundred militants based mostly in the vast desert of northern Mali. But signs of stepped-up activity and the group's advancing potential for growth worry analysts familiar with the region.

The rapid recent rise of the al-Qaida group in Yemen — which spawned the Christmas airliner attack — is seen by U.S. officials and counterterrorism analysts as evidence that the North African militants could just as quickly take on a broader jihadi mission and become a serious threat to the U.S. and European allies.

The Mali-based militants have yet

to show a capability to launch such foreign attacks, but are widening their involvement in kidnapping and the narcotics trade, reaping profits that could be used to expand terror operations, officials and analysts said.

Several senior U.S. defense and counterterrorism officials spoke about AQIM on condition of anonymity to discuss internal analysis.

Those advances have set off alarms within the counterterrorism community, which watched as al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula quickly transformed over the past year from militants preoccupied with internal Yemeni strife to a potent group recruiting and training insurgents for terror missions inside the U.S.

That threat was underscored by the failed Christmas airliner attack, which officials say was planned and directed by Yemeni insurgent leaders.

A key fear is that as AQIM expands, its criminal and insurgent operations will continue to destabilize the fragile governments of heavily

Islamic North Africa, much as it has in Mali. The Maghreb includes the North African nations of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania.

As a result, the U.S. has been working to boost poverty-stricken Mali's defenses. Last year, the U.S. gave \$5 million in new trucks and other equipment to its security forces, and Pentagon funds also have been approved to provide training.

But others suggested that non-military aid is also needed.

"For too long, al-Qaida's growth in this critical region of Africa has been overlooked," said Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., on Monday. "Our embassy presence in many of these countries is quite limited, which handicaps our ability to better understand a region that has become a terrorist safe haven. We need a greater non-military, on-the-ground presence devoted to this part of the world in order to better understand local dynamics, identify emerging threats and prevent future attacks."

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ON DISPLAY AT THE GRADUATION FAIR

Official Ring applications will be accepted during the **GRADUATION FAIR at the Frazier Alumni Pavilion (Southwest of Jones AT&T Stadium) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, March 2, 3 & 4.**

Ring orders placed by March 5th will be delivered in time for the Official Ring Ceremonies on April 26 & 27 at the **Frazier Alumni Pavilion.**

Graduates can also order Official Graduation Announcements, Regalia and have their graduate photo taken at the GRADUATION FAIR.

GRADUATION FAIR is sponsored by the Texas Tech Alumni Association, Balfour, Student Alumni Board, Career Services, Classic Photo, Graduate School, La Ventana, Liberty Mutual and the Texas Tech Bookstore.

Students find solace in oddest places

Somewhere among the school-work, past the part-time jobs and in-between traveling, creatures exist. These creatures are often plagued by coffee addiction, frizzy hair and the strong desire for sustenance that does not involve noodles. Sometimes you can even see them surround buildings in what appears to be a rush hour of semi-hungry zombies.

Sound familiar? Why, these creatures are none other than college students.

With all of this pressure, college students must survive by latching onto something within their new environment. Since I transferred in, I never lived in the dorms. So I ended up latching onto my dog, Frisbee. Although I have plenty of friends, Frisbee was always there waiting for me when I got home. It didn't matter whether it was a good day, bad day, rainy

Colleen Gartner



day or sunny day. He was always there.

With the passing of my dog this month, I have come to realize I really loved that dog, and he was more than a dog to me. He was my "crutch." Every time there was a day that just didn't go well, I would hug him. It seemed as though the world didn't matter at all. I also came to realize how much I loved and cared for him, and that I now need to find a new, redirected place for all of that excess attention. I'll probably end

up smothering one of my friends with the attention by the time I figure out how to redistribute it.

Similarly, those who come to college usually find solace in their neighbors, who soon become their friends. Starting off is always the most difficult. There's learning the campus, trying to study with strange new classmates and living without parents. Just as parents have "nest-egg syndrome," students have separation anxiety, too. I wasn't affected too much

by this, but other students can have a hard time adapting to this sort of independence.

Of course, one of the greatest parts of college is the opportunity to dive into extracurricular activities, like sports, clubs or volunteering. I personally find volunteering great for a short-term distraction. I can get away for a few hours.

Then when I need more than a few hours of freedom, I will go on an Outdoor Pursuits trip. Sometimes it's just

a day trip; other times it's a weekend trip. Either way, I have a change of scenery. This helps me refocus not only academically but spiritually. I could even go as far as to call it a stress reliever because I calm down and enjoy the world at a nice, regimented pace.

There are some students who find going to a party to be a great release. Although I am not advocating becoming a party animal, the college students of today are social animals. We meet up at Starbucks, hide in cave-like rooms in the library and text each other constantly.

You don't need alcohol to escape, let alone have a great party. No, I didn't just take all of the fun out of it. The Tech Activities Board has plenty of free events that make for great get-togethers. Fine, the ice skating event shouldn't really be included as one of those great events,

but there are fantastic Hollywood movies shown in the Allen Theatre almost every week.

So, the trick to keeping at least a little bit of sanity in our crazy, random college lives is finding a healthy outlet to forget about all of the stacks of books that have to be read by Monday — maybe even forget about those pesky phone calls from your mom checking to see what she can put in the next care package.

What are you waiting for? Go burn some stress at the gym, wander around the mall, read a book for fun, or hang out at a friend's house for a few hours. After all, your brain deserves a rest every once in a while.

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“With all of this pressure, a college student must survive by latching onto something within their new environment.”

Don't fear inevitable change in opinion

Ralph Waldo Emerson is one of my heroes. I have a well-worn book full of his sayings filled with notes and highlighted passages. I think I agree with him most of the time, which is pretty good for thinkers. I think Nietzsche was a lunatic.

Emerson once warned that our desire for consistency, manifested as a fear of breaking with what we believed or thought in the past, hinders our progress. In “Self-Reliance,” Emerson said the “terror that scares us from (intellectual) self-trust is our consistency ... With consistency, a great soul has simply nothing to do. He may as well concern himself with his shadow on the wall. Speak what you think now in hard words and tomorrow speak what tomorrow thinks in hard words again, though it contradict every thing you said today.”

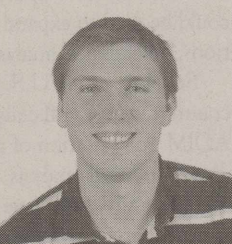
What does he mean by this? He means we should not fear differing in opinion with our earlier beliefs or those of others. As an opinions columnist, I try to give my commoner's opinion on various subjects. After having done this for most of this year, my opinions have changed on a number of issues.

If I could travel in time and re-write those articles, I would change a few of them.

I would be more careful about wording because certain phrases I have used in columns have offended others and caused them to not pay attention to the message of the column.

In other columns, I was flat out wrong. For example, last week's column

Roy Long



on the library was misinformed and my opinion has changed somewhat concerning digital media (although I still prefer books to the Kindle e-reader).

Should I be ashamed I disagree with what I wrote formerly? No. Life is about starting with pre-conceived notions and then separating the truth from the fiction. We should not be afraid about being consistent with our past, as long as we are presently doing the best we can with the knowledge that we have.

However, our society does not act this way. One glaring example is “Climategate.” The scientific community has been afraid to even accept data that might possibly argue the so-called climate change theory is wrong. They intentionally changed data so there would be no opposition to their theories. This is the ultimate appeal to dishonest consistency.

The response to the “intelligent design” theory has also been very similar. Instead of addressing the issues that have arose from Behe's ideas, the scientific community at large has simply dismissed him because he dares question the god of evolution. Science, which was once progressive because it dared to contradict the wrong but established theories of men, has fallen to dogmatism.

Progress, in society as well as in our personal lives, is not about knowing the absolute truth in the beginning.

Progress is about improving one step at a time by rejecting the wrong ideas that we have formerly adhered to in the light of further evidence. In the process of learning new things about the world, we should

also not be ashamed of past beliefs. Education is a process, and without mistakes, we could not make advances.

The geocentric model of the universe worked for thousands of years. Until Copernicus and others noticed and understood retrograde motion (the phenomena when planets actually move backwards for a brief time in the night sky), the theory was flawless. It may not have been astronomically sound, but it led navigators across oceans for thou-

sands of years and taught the Egyptians when to plant their crops.

The theory was only modified when it ceased to work. If Copernicus was afraid to depart from the past, knowing that something was wrong with his former beliefs, we would not realize the Earth actually orbits the sun. To be a critical thinker, we must also be independent thinkers.

We should be proud to say what we believe, in spite of others' differing ideas. The fact that our ideas do not conform with what we formerly thought, or with what others presently think, does not make them incorrect. Speaking up and arguing a false point helps us come to understand the truth better.

So, what should we do about this? Emerson answers this question: “The voyage of the best ship is a zigzag line of a hundred tacks. See the line from a sufficient distance, and it straightens itself ... Your conformity explains nothing. Act singly (according to your beliefs now, in the moment) and what you have already done singly will justify you now. Greatness appeals to the future.”

Do not be afraid to change if it truly is for the better. By constantly re-evaluating our lives, our beliefs and our perspectives, we will approach truth, correct beliefs and a life consistent with those ideas.

■ Long is a junior Russian and area studies major from Lubbock.
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Hiroshima book optioned by ‘Avatar’ director halted

NEW YORK (AP)—Publication has been halted for a disputed book about the atomic bombing of Japan that “Avatar” director James Cameron had optioned for a possible film, The Associated Press has learned.

Publisher Henry Holt and Company, responding to questions from the AP, said Monday that author Charles Pellegrino “was not able to answer” concerns about “The Last Train from Hiroshima,” including whether two men mentioned in the book actually existed.

“It is with deep regret that Henry Holt and Company announces that we will not print, correct or ship copies of Charles Pellegrino's ‘The Last Train from Hiroshima,’” the publisher said in a statement issued to the AP.

Doubts were first raised about the book a week ago after Pellegrino acknowledged that one of his interview subjects had falsely claimed to be on one of the planes accompanying the Enola Gay, from which an atom bomb was dropped by the United States on Hiroshima in 1945. Holt had initially promised to send a corrected edition.

But further doubts about the book emerged. The publisher was unable to determine the existence of a Father Mattias (the first name is not given) who supposedly lived in Hiroshima at the time of the bombing, and John MacQuitty, identified as a Jesuit scholar presiding over Mattias' funeral.

Pellegrino's own background was also questioned. He sometimes refers to himself as Dr. Pellegrino, and his Web site lists him as receiving a Ph.D. in 1982 from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. But in response to a query from the AP, the school said it had no proof that Pellegrino had such a degree.

E-mail to Pellegrino was not immediately answered.

Holt publicist Nicole Dewey said 18,000 copies of the book, published in January, were in print. The publisher “will issue full credit to wholesalers and retailers who wish to return the book. Consumers who seek a refund should return to the retailer from whom they purchased the book,” Monday's statement said.

The book's fate not only means the likely demise of the film deal with Cameron, who provided a blurb for “Last Train,” but complicates the long history of collaboration between the director and Pellegrino, who served as an adviser for “Avatar,” the box-office champ that has been nominated for nine Academy Awards.

Cameron wrote introductions for Pellegrino's “Ghosts of the Titanic,” published in 2000, and for the controversial 2007 release “The Jesus Family Tomb,” co-authored by Pellegrino and strongly questioned by scholars for its assertion that a tomb discovered in Jerusalem contained the remains of Jesus and possible family members.

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

ACROSS
1 Palindromic title
6 Ashen
10 Interrupter of a bad act, on an old game show
14 Word after horse or soap
15 Elvis Presley
16 Mayberry kid
17 Government declaration of its intentions
20 Prefix with gram
21 Modest shelters
22 Madison Square Garden et al.
23 Variety of lily
24 1998 animated bug movie
25 Vietnam War defoliant
29 Speed Wagon maker
32 Velma's rival in “Chicago”
33 Chat room chuckle
34 Detained at the precinct
35 Electrical network
36 Pigs and hogs
38 Elcher's need
39 Lear at
40 Scepter's partner
41 Emulate Cicero
42 Betty Ford, —
43 Gold Rush villain
46 Jockey's tool
47 Hearing requirements
48 Displaying buoyancy
51 Periodic table no. 52
52 Protrude, with “out”
55 High-octane fuel
58 Having all one's marbles
59 Rotary phone feature
60 1988 film farce
61 School on the Thames
62 Bobbies the ball
63 Taboos

DOWN
1 Sulk
2 Each
3 Supermarket section
4 “Entourage” agent Gold
5 Bushwhacker's tool
6 Congregation leader
7 Humanities
8 Mauna
9 Involve, as in a sticky situation
10 Morticia's mate
11 Bid one club, say
12 “Project Runway” judge Garcia
13 Understands
18 90s-90s Serbian auto import
19 One-named Deco designer
23 Insinuating
24 Soon, to the bard
25 Fluorescent bulb gas
26 Stuff (oneself) with food
27 “The Man Without a Country” hero, for one
28 Suspect's excuse
29 Sports show summary

Monday's Puzzle Solved

ORAL	CROCS	PRE
VETO	BEGOT	DEED
AVON	SELMIA	ERNIE
LUNGS	KEFEN	AEON
SEESAW	DOZED	
TIGIE	NAMIBIA	
TITO	SLED	SNARL
USSR	PYROS	TRAP
SLAYS	BAWL	HENS
HERSHEY	NOSE	
HENNA	THWACK	
FIDO	GILD	HAGUE
AVER	AGLOW	TAPE
LENT	GHANA	EVIL
LST	ETHER	REDS

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30 Upper echelon
31 More strange
34 Injuries
36 Isolation
37 Sandwich in a tortilla
41 Thornton Wilder classic
43 Spiced Indian beverage
44 Gold and silver about 15 years
45 Shark flick
46 Part of NOW
48 Church recess
49 Toga party setting
50 Jay seen at night
51 Culture medium
52 Arabian folklore spirit
53 Reverse
54 43-Down et al.
56 Space station for about 15 years
57 Ventianate native

Medvedev demands resignations over Winter Olympics flop

MOSCOW (AP)—President Dmitry Medvedev demanded Monday that Russian sports officials step down over the country's dismal performance at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

Russia, a traditional winter sports powerhouse, won just 15 medals — with only three golds — in one of its worst performances. Officials said before the games that 30 medals and a top-three finish in the medal standings was the target.

Russia placed 11th for golds and sixth in the overall medal count.

In televised comments, Medvedev said if those responsible for preparing the athletes don't resign then the decision will be made for them. He did not mention anyone by name.

“Those who bear the responsibility for Olympic preparations should carry that

responsibility. It's totally clear,” he said. “I think that the individuals responsible, or several of them, who answer for these preparations, should take the courageous decision to hand in their notice. If we don't see such decisiveness, we will help them.”

In post-Soviet history, Russia had never previously finished outside the top five in the medal standings and only won fewer medals once before, in 2002 at Salt Lake City. Russia was the top nation at the 1994 Lillehammer Games, garnering 23 medals — 11 gold.

In nine Winter Olympics between 1956 and 1988, the Soviet Union failed to top the medal standings only twice, finishing runner-up on those occasions.

Medvedev lamented that Russia “has lost the old Soviet school ... and we haven't

created our own school — despite the fact that the amount of money that is invested in sport is unprecedentedly high.”

The results leave Russia particularly red-faced as it takes the torch for the next Winter games in its Black Sea resort of Sochi in 2014.

“Without messing around, we need to start preparations for Sochi. But taking into account what happened in Vancouver, we need to completely change how we prepare our athletes,” Medvedev said.

In an interview with the newspaper Vremya Novostei, sports minister Vitaly

Mutko blamed several factors for the Vancouver flop. New sports such as freestyle skiing that “no one takes seriously” in Russia have allowed other countries to race ahead, he said.

Mutko also claimed luck was not on the country's side, saying in several disciplines Russia lacked “a shot here, a second or a point there,” singling out Evgeni Plushenko, who took silver behind Evan Lysacek of the United States in a closely fought men's figure skating competition.

Doping bans had also deprived Russia of several leading medal contenders, he said.

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Pilobolus turns Allen into dance theater

By **DEVIN SANCHEZ**
STAFF WRITER

They've been described as "imaginative" and "wildly creative" and were featured on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," the "Late Show with Conan O'Brien," and the Academy Awards in 2007.

The Pilobolus Dance Theatre is a dance company in its 40th year and will be at Texas Tech tonight to perform at the Student Union Building Allen Theatre. Jo Moore, the administrator of the Presidential Lecture and Performance Series, said she has seen all of their performances in Dallas since the first time she went.

"It was 30 years ago when I first saw them in Dallas," Moore said, "and ever since, I have been a huge fan."

Moore is responsible for bringing performers, musicians and writers to Tech to be a part of the Presidential Lecture and Performance Series. Moore said many of the original dancers of the company are affiliated with Pilobolus as artistic directors for the group.

"Obviously there work has changed over the years," she said, "but they have maintained the same basic grace and skill that they are known for."

Pilobolus began in 1971 at Dartmouth College and is based in Washington Depot, Conn. They have performed for numerous stage and television audiences, Moore said. The company received the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award in 2000, for lifetime achievement in choreography.

Its works also have appeared in repertoires of many major dance companies, including Italy's Verona Ballet and the Arizona Ballet. She said in addition to the dance com-

pany, Pilobolus has created the Pilobolus Institute, an educational outreach program which encourages creative thinking in both children and adults.

Pilobolus Creative Service is another activity in the company and is a choreographic and performance collective that is aimed at designing and producing commercial applications for businesses and advertisers, she said. Pilobolus Creative Service is responsible for television spots

for Ford, Toyota and Hyundai. The creative service has also produced two books, "Twisted Yoga" and "The Human Alphabet."

The performance tonight,

which is hosted by the Presidential Lecture and Performance Series, has been in the making for about a year. Moore said Pilobolus has been on a wish list of performances to bring to the series.

"They have tremendous sense of humor; they are incredibly strong athletes," Moore said. "They demonstrate a great deal of grace, wit and strength in their performances."

Moore's job as administrator of the series is to bring performers, lecturers and musicians who will appeal to both the students and the community of Lubbock. With Pilobolus, Moore said she looked for something cutting edge and she thought the audience would enjoy.

"They created a whole new genre, a whole new way to move," Moore said. "They broke the ground for groups like Cirque du Soleil."

The performance takes place tonight at the SUB Allen Theatre. It will begin at 8 p.m. and is free to students with a student ID.

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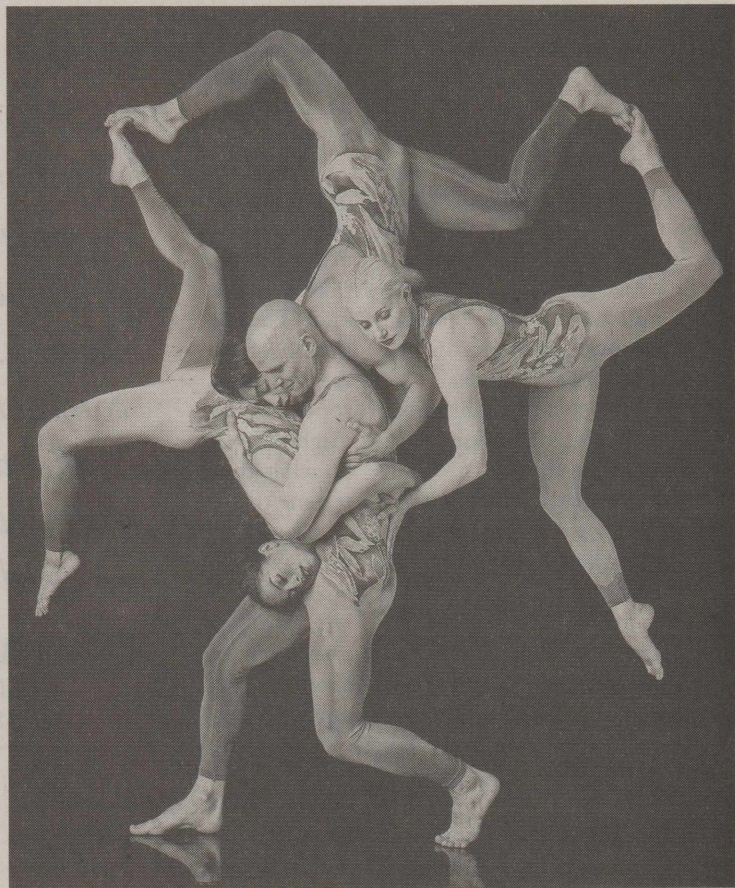


PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN KANE

AS PART OF the Presidential Lecture and Performance Series, Pilobolus Dance Theater will preform at 8 p.m. today in the Sudent Union Building Allen Theater.

Adventures in Spain: Weekend in Lisbon

After spending four days in a beautiful city thick with relentless winds and surviving getting lost by myself, I was ready to return to Seville. And today began the second half of our semester here; our second round of classes has begun.

We left for Lisbon on Thursday by bus and returned Sunday afternoon. Portugal is gorgeous, and Lisbon is such a fun and beautiful city with much more breathing room than Seville. However, some of us found when the school did not provide us with activities during the day, we were left wandering around spending too much money.

That was my problem, at least. I splurged on two big meals: one at a fantastic Italian joint called Valentino's and gorged myself with a massive vegetarian pizza, and another at a Portuguese restaurant. Then I resorted to eating Pringles and apples as my remaining meals.

When we arrived Thursday, after checking into our hotel we took a short trip to the Belem Tower, a military fortress built in 1515 and the starting point for many infamous explorers. Its exterior was breathtaking; even amidst the fierce winds and light drizzle the gray stone still seemed to shine.

Today, it sits at the edge of the Tagus River, but when it was built it was situated in the center. It's strange how the world changes. I don't understand geology or geography, whatever would apply here, but I think it's incredibly interesting.

The river's edge used to reach to the Jeronimos Monastery, our second stop that afternoon. Another product of the 16th century, its towering white stone walls looked breathtaking against the blues and whites of the sky. I remember staring upward for a good five minutes. Once inside, it houses a cathedral

Carrie Thornton



with tall stone columns and sparkling stained-glass windows.

It looked like a lot of other cathedrals I have seen in the past, but I'm a sucker for gothic architecture, so I loved it regardless of its average features. Afterward, a few of us let our grumbling stomachs lead us to a nearby McDonald's, and we stuffed ourselves. Well I know I did. And then after some friendly Portuguese teens stopped by our table requesting our Monopoly pieces for their collection and offered some of their own featuring coupons for free French fries and apple pies, we ate some more. It was delicious.

Afterward the bus dropped some off at the hotel, and the rest at another point in the city to do some walking around.

Professor Inglis led us to the city's cathedral, which was nice to look at but not nearly as impressive as some others I have seen. We trekked up one of the city's many hills to various look-out points where we could take in the line where the city dissolved into water.

Friday we awoke to the most amazing breakfast I have had since I have been in Spain, no lies. Usually in the morning I eat toast because my early-rising roommate likes to take care of me, but most days I don't eat anything. At Hotel Barcelona, we had eggs, bacon, meats, cheese, bread, juice and fruit. I was in heaven.

That day we visited the massive Christ the King statue built in 1959 giving thanks to God for sparing the country during WWII.

At 90 feet, he is one big Jesus. The hill the monument sits on overlooks the river and city, and you can ride an elevator up to the base of the statue's feet, providing an even more impressive view.

After, we went to the city's aquarium and I have to admit, it was nothing new. But I love the ocean and the life forms it is home to, so I was happy. The rest of the trip was filled with museum visits and walks around the city.

At one point, being the adventurous traveler I am, I was trying to catch up with a few friends who decided to break away from our group and look for this big church we saw. Turns out they were farther ahead of me than I thought, and I ended up alone in the streets of Lisbon with the sun already turning the sky shades of violet and rose.

But thankfully my directionally challenged self was pushed aside by the frantically-lost-in-another-country side, and I found my way to the metro and somehow found my way back to the hotel. Saturday night Julianna and I watched "Invictus" at a huge theater in the basement of the mega-store El Corte Ingles.

This may sound strange, but sitting in the dark theater eating my usual bag of popcorn and sipping on a Coke, I felt like I was back at home. The darkness around cloaked all that was different, and for all I knew I could have been back in Lubbock or Houston. Crazy enough, I only have two months until that will be true. Let's hope I can make the best of the time I have left here.

■ Thornton is a DT reporter.
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Tuesdays with Tina: New food, friends

Tina Arons



The women who host the Turkish cooking classes I attend put together a barbecue for everyone in the class Sunday evening.

I was the only one from cooking class who showed up, and I'm really glad I went. It turned out to be a unique experience, especially since it took place at someone's house. I learned more about the other attendees — about nine other women — and about Turkish culture.

The food took up all the space on the dining room table. So, once the barbecue finished cooking, someone spread a plastic tablecloth on the middle of a huge rug in the living room. We helped ourselves buffet-style and then plopped down on the floor to eat.

I had tasted some of the cuisine during cooking classes; other dishes were unfamiliar to me. I tried a little bit of everything and found nothing I didn't like, although my favorites were the grilled mushrooms filled with melted cheese and the seasoned ground meat barbecued on a stick.

Dinner was followed by desert — Noah's pudding and some type of cake with fruit in it — and hot Turkish tea. The tea-drinking part lasted a while because everyone

kept going back for more, including myself.

As this was happening, several of the women slipped off to a back room for evening prayers. I hadn't noticed until one woman, my closest friend at the gathering, said she needed to pray and would return to our conversation in a few minutes. It was intriguing to watch a different religious protocol than that of my Christian family and friends.

Once everyone rejoined the group, someone suggested playing a game. One woman had prepared icebreaker activities, probably because everyone had expected more of the cooking class students to show up.

Even though I was the only one they didn't know very well, the games were fun and elicited lots of giggles. Often the women would have to translate something said in Turkish for me, but I didn't mind.

I found it really curious when

they tried to translate Turkish idioms to English for my benefit. The direct translation often didn't make sense and it was hard for them to find the right words.

I would have been in the same situation if they had asked me to explain what it meant to be "a doubting Thomas" or "a dime a dozen." I found their efforts endearing, although I probably didn't understand the full extent of what they meant.

Sometimes I felt a little awkward answering questions about myself. I was worried it might bother some of them to know I live with my boyfriend. Also, one of the experiences I shared happened to take place at a bar.

But I shouldn't have worried. No one seemed judgmental or put off, even though I gathered that my lifestyle wasn't one any of them shared. It was a privilege to get to know these women and their culture a little better. It's really too bad other people from the cooking class didn't come.

For anyone interested in Turkish culture, I'll try to keep upcoming events posted on my blog.

■ Arons is a graduate student in the College of Education.
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Snow

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Although accidents are sometimes unavoidable, Thurow said trip participants always take safety precautions.

"I wear lots of safety gear including a helmet and wrist guards when I snowboard," he said.

By booking through Lifestylez, the club is able to get hefty discounts on lift tickets and lodging in Jackson Hole, Ford said. Lifestylez is the largest, private

college snow tour operator.

"The accommodations are always amazing," he said, "(Lifestylez) takes care of every detail and hosts events and concerts while we are there."

The club also is working to become a competitive ski and snowboard team through the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association, Thurow said.

"It's going to be a big part of the club next year and in the years to come," he said.

In the summer offseason, Ford said, the club participates in other adrenaline-fueled activities such as mountain biking, hiking and kite surfing.

"We're really more of an adventure sports club than strictly a skiing and snowboarding club," he said.

For more information about Tech Ski and Snowboard Club or the 2010 Spring Break trip to Jackson Hole, contact Thurow at charles.thurow@ttu.edu

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Barncastle key for Lady Raiders as season winds downs

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

Many players have had the opportunity to step up in what has been an up-and-down season for the Lady Raiders.

But it seems like Jordan Barncastle's opportunity to get on the floor has changed Texas Tech's offense.

Barncastle, who was inserted into the starting lineup after Kiera Mallard was suspended last month before the Lady Raiders' game at Texas on Feb. 7, has been key for the Lady Raiders lately.

She has started every game since and hasn't looked back, making .465 percent of her 3-point field goal attempts.

But Tech head coach Kristy Curry said she has done more than just make shots.

"She opens up a lot for us," she said. "The kids are shooting the ball with a lot of confidence right now, hopefully we'll continue to. We shot the ball I thought pretty well from three at Kansas State. We're spending a lot of time, kids are doing a really good job in our 3-point shooting time every day in practice. They're starting to pay off."

More importantly, the team's number of wins have increased since Barncastle became a starter.

After losing to Texas in Austin, the Lady Raiders reeled off back-to-back upsets against Top 25 teams in Texas A&M and Oklahoma State. Barncastle scored 22 points in the two games combined, including a career-

high 19 against the Cowgirls in Stillwater, Okla.

Overall, Tech has won four of seven games with Barncastle in the starting lineup, with the latest result being an 80-70 loss to OSU Sunday in the United Spirit Arena.

Barncastle said a part of the success has had to do with having freedom to pull the trigger.

"Free shot, or if it's available, or if it's a good shot, take it," she said. "They've gotten on to me for that repetitively. Might as well do what they tell me to."

Changes, however, go beyond having better numbers in the win column.

Opposing teams have had to make adjustments and use different schemes in order to match up with the Lady Raiders.

In Tech's first game against Baylor, Brittney Griner blocked one shot, which is considerably low since she ranks second in the nation with 6.1 blocks per contest.

Additionally, Griner's 7-foot-4 wingspan and shot-blocking abil-

ity was negated, as she had to match up with Barncastle, who spends more time around the 3-point line than most centers.

"It brings the post out of the lane," Tech guard Jordan Murphree said. "She's been making those shots, and we hope for her to continue to do that."

But for the most part, Barncastle's performance has injected energy into the team.

Winning four of the last seven after starting 2-7 in Big 12 Conference play has given Tech a legitimate shot at earning a place in the NCAA tournament. If that doesn't happen for the Lady Raiders, they have all but locked up a berth in the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

And Barncastle has a lot to do with that.

"Just being able to hit the open shot," Barncastle said. "It's opened up a lot of other things for our team as a whole. I think our outside game's really developed. It just helps us overall, confidence helps, and I think I'm getting to where I need to be."

» jose.l.rodriguez@ttu.edu

"I think our outside game's really developed. It just helps us overall, confidence helps, and I think I'm getting to where I need to be."

JORDAN BARNCASTLE
CENTER
TEXAS TECH



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH FORWARD Jordan Barncastle and her ability to hit 3-pointers has spread the floor for the Lady Raiders, making offensive possessions more difficult for opposing defenses.

Tech women's tennis dealing with youth

By JOSHUA KOCH
STAFF WRITER

A harsh learning curve and youth still sticks out to Texas Tech women's tennis coach Todd Petty.

Tech defeated San Francisco, 4-3, on Saturday, but fell to Nevada, 4-3, on Sunday.

For the Lady Raiders it has been a season of highs and lows, and Petty said this weekend was no different.

"It was an up-and-down, kind of roller coaster ride of a weekend," he said. "San Francisco put up a fight, but I felt like we didn't play our best tennis. But we were able to brush them off, and I felt like Nevada played very well. It wasn't because the lack of effort — we just weren't able to produce in the court situations."

The season began with a team full of young players who had international experience, but for many, Division I

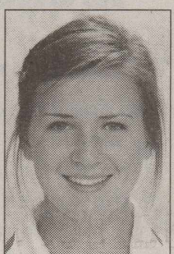
tennis is new.

Even with this obstacle to overcome, the Lady Raiders began the season with three straight home victories against UT-Arlington, Tulane and New Mexico.

But for the past four weekends, the Lady Raiders have been on the road, which means the team has not played a home match in more than a month.

In that stretch, Tech has struggled, having won two of the past seven matches, which were all on the road against tough opponents.

With all these struggles on the road, it is probably good the Lady Raiders have four of the next five matches in Lubbock at the McLeod Tennis Center. Those four matches include



STARCK

Baylor, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Texas A&M, marking the start of Big 12 Conference play.

The Lady Raiders essentially only have one day of practice before playing No. 5 Baylor on Wednesday.

"We knew this was a tough stretch of our schedule, and we've been talking about it," Petty said. "I think it is more just getting excited to start your second half of your season — the important part, which is your conference match ups."

Players were not available for comment. The team spent Monday traveling back to Lubbock, but will hit the courts for practice today.

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GARLAND

Baylor holds edge in Big 12 scramble

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Baylor coach Scott Drew can attest to the difficulty of trying to make a run through the Big 12 tournament without the advantage of having the first day off.

His Bears put up three surprising upsets to reach the championship game last season, only to run out of gas against a fast-paced Missouri team that benefited from a first-round bye.

"I know we've tried it the other way — without the bye — in years past, and we'd like to try the bye and see how that works," said Drew, whose team holds the tiebreaker for the No. 3 seed heading into the final week of the regular season.

"Especially this year with the parity, any game you play is just a war and if you can have one less game and get one extra day of rest, I think every coach realizes how important that is,"

he said. "There's a reason no team has won the tournament that hasn't had the bye yet."

No. 5 Kansas State (24-4, 11-3) can take the tournament's top seed away from No. 2 Kansas (27-2, 13-1) — if it wins the head-to-head matchup on Wednesday night, the Jayhawks lose at rival Missouri on Saturday and the Wildcats win a coin flip.

But behind those two, there's a five-team scramble for the final two byes in this year's Big 12 tournament in Kansas City, Mo.

At 9-5 in Big 12 play, the 21st-ranked Bears have a tiebreaker over No. 23 Texas A&M and Missouri. Texas and Oklahoma State are a game behind with two to play.

Since the first Big 12 tournament in 1997, no team has won it without getting a first-round bye. And Baylor — which was seeded ninth last

year — became only the third team to even make it to the championship game without a bye, joining Missouri's teams from 1997 and 2003.

"I think the numbers speak for themselves in why it's so tough to play four games, especially with this kind of competition and the energy that it takes to win a Big 12 tournament game," said Drew, whose Baylor program is the only Big 12 team never to get a first-round bye.

All seven of the teams in the running for a top-four seed entered the week in the top 40 in the RPI and Oklahoma State — which would currently be the seventh seed — bolstered its NCAA tournament resume with an upset of then-No. 1 Kansas on Saturday. The Big 12 has never had more than six teams make the NCAA bracket, although that has occurred six times — including the last two years.

Today's su | do | ku

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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.

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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NASCAR president says wings coming off soon; no date given

FORT WORTH (AP) — NASCAR is finally about to lose its wings.

"We're hoping within the next two of three races that we'll be able to be at a point where we say it's time to take the wings off and put the spoiler on," NASCAR president Mike Helton said Monday.

While Helton didn't provide a specific date for the expected removal of the wings from the cars, that timeline coincides with the March 28 race

at Martinsville that most teams have expected to be the first with the more traditional-looking rear spoilers.

Speaking at Texas Motor Speedway's media day, Helton said there was a "pretty doggone good chance" that the spoilers would be on the car when the series races at the 1½-mile, high-banked track April 18. The first on-track testing of the new spoiler package was done during a tire test at Texas in January.

"I think by the time we come

here in April, we can have a race or two under our belt with the spoiler," Helton said.

There are two more Sprint Cup races before the series goes to the half-mile Martinsville, which will come only days after NASCAR's planned open test at Charlotte. Texas is the second race after that.

Spoilers were replaced with a wing on the new car model phased in three years ago. That model has been used full-time since 2008, and fans have

complained it has made races boring. NASCAR last May began a series of town hall and individual meetings with teams, and one of the constant cries from participants was a need to alter the car design.

"If the industry benefits from the fans seeing a more traditional piece and that works for us, can we mechanically do the things that the wing presents as an advantage with a spoiler?" Helton said. "During the course of research, we figured out how to do that."

Astros' Lee aims for 100-RBI season

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — Roy Oswalt and Lance Berkman may be the emotional leaders of the Houston Astros, but Carlos Lee has been the team's most consistent and productive player over the last three seasons.

The left fielder is coming off his fifth straight 100-RBI season and eighth in a row with at least 25 home runs. Lee batted .300 in 2009, his fourth consecutive year reaching the benchmark.

The Astros raised eyebrows when they signed Lee to a six-year, \$100 million contract in November 2006. Lee is due \$18.5 million over each of the next three seasons.

But Lee gladly gives up the spotlight to Berkman and Oswalt, two of the last holdovers from Houston's only World Series appearance in 2005.

"These guys have been here forever and grew up in the system," Lee said. "I'm like the baby here. This is the house they grew up in."

Astros general manager Ed Wade thinks Lee is just as valuable to the

franchise as the mainstays, Berkman and Oswalt.

"Our success is going to be predicated upon the 'Big 3' doing what we know they're capable of doing," Wade said. "I equate what Carlos can do offensively to what a guy like Tony Perez did for Cincinnati for all those years. If there's a guy in scoring position, there aren't a whole lot of players in our game who I believe are more reliable than Carlos."

Lee led the Astros in homers (26) and RBIs (102). He ranked seventh in the NL in hits (183) and logged over 600 at-bats for the fourth time in five seasons.

The slugger was having an MVP-caliber season in 2008 before a finger in August broke his season in August. He missed the final 47 games due to the injury but still ended up with 28 home runs, 100 RBIs and a .314 batting average.

"Had it not have been for his fractured finger, we're probably playing in the postseason and he's getting a ton of MVP votes," Wade said.

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Red Raider softball game at North Texas canceled

By **TOMMY MAGELSSSEN**
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech softball's game against North Texas was rained out on Monday, the second weather-related cancellation of the season for the Red Raiders.

Tech had two games canceled against Texas-San Antonio on Feb. 23 and 24 because of poor weather conditions in Lubbock.

In the midst of an 11-game winning streak, Tech coach Shannon Hays said he does not anticipate the extra day off to interfere with his team's ability to come out firing when it returns to the field.

"Right now, since we played yesterday and the day before, getting rained out today doesn't kill us or break our rhythm or anything bad," he said.

The Red Raiders are returning from Arlington after winning the Texas-Arlington tournament with a 3-0 record, with victories against Texas Southern, Wichita State and UTA.

Tech's 13-1 start to the season is the best ever for Red Raider softball.

According to a press release, Tech and North Texas coaches

are looking for a good date to reschedule the game in Denton. However, the series may have to be canceled altogether for the 2010 season because of tight conference schedules.

"It's going to be tough just because the fact — you know the only time we could really reschedule is during conference," Hays said. "And you don't really want to do anything that interferes with your conference play."

However, Hays said he is trying to reschedule the series against UTSA.

The Red Raiders will have Monday off, per NCAA rules, but will be practicing again on Tuesday to prepare for a 15-game homestand.

Tech will open the homestand with a double-header against Houston Baptist at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Rocky Johnson Field. The second game will begin 30 minutes after the first game is completed.

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HAYS

Tech track riding high after Big 12 Indoor Championships

By **TOMMY MAGELSSSEN**
STAFF WRITER

Bryce Lamb told himself if he won the long jump he would run to his teammates and throw his shoes into the stands.

Lamb won the long jump with a distance of 26-8 1/2 inches — but luckily, his teammates were right next to the long-jump pit, cheering him on.

"A lot of my teammates were right there, so that kind of went blank in my mind," he said. "So I just ran around and jumped around and got happy with my teammates. But it was still pretty good."

When Lamb lined up to begin his run, he said he tried to focus on all the things his coaches taught him. However, he said when he runs toward the pit, his body just takes over.

And sometimes, he said the results still surprise him.

At the track and field Indoor Big 12 Conference Championships in Ames, Iowa, Lamb walked away with not only the long jump and triple jump titles, but also the Big 12 high point award on the men's side. Lamb had the highest individual point total for all male competitors with 20.

Although he walked away with two conference championships, Lamb said he is not satisfied.

"Once you meet an expectation, you have to make a new one," he said. "Any athlete should never be satisfied, whether you break the world record or the school record — any record, you should never ever be satisfied and still to this day I'm not."

Teammate LaToy Williams said seeing Lamb win and get a medal made him want to get one of his own.

After finishing with the ninth-fastest time in the preliminaries for

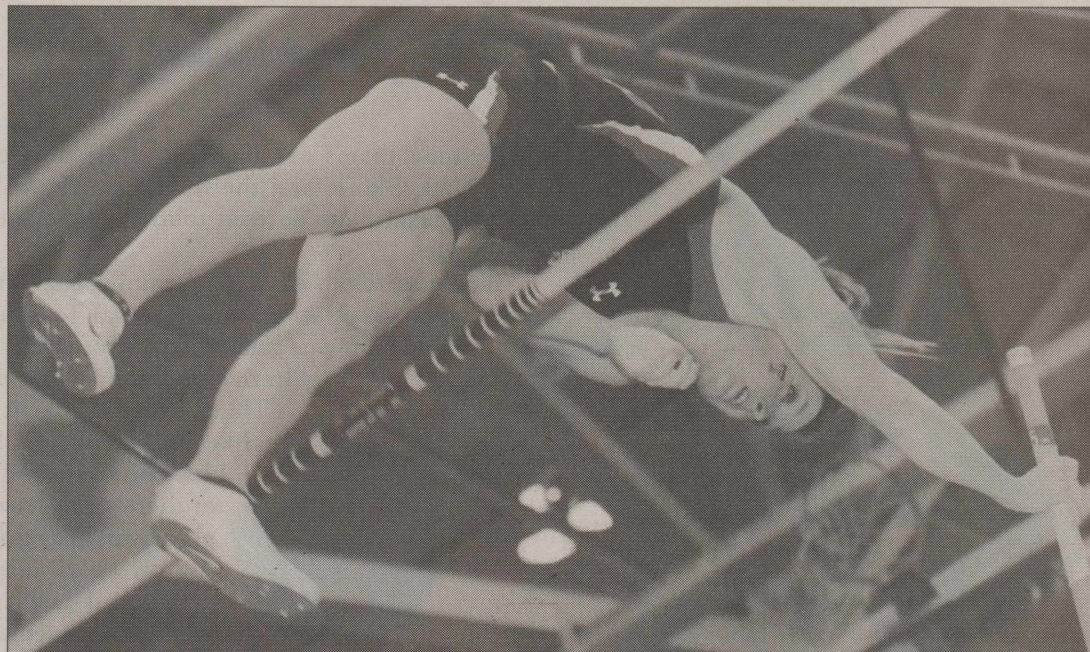


PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG12SPORTS.COM

TEXAS TECH'S AMANDA Alley finished third in women's pole-vaulting at the Big 12 Indoor Championships this weekend. Tech now will move to the Last Chance Meets before the NCAA Championships.

the 600-yard run, Williams stepped it up and won the 600 with a time of 1 minute, 8.52 seconds.

When Williams goes into the blocks before a race, he said he always recites the two same Bible scriptures to get him in the right mindset to compete.

"When I'm in my blocks, it's all between me and God really," he said. "I'm really talking to him, really trying to remember all the things I've been taught in practice, and stuff like that. But it's really about me and God. I'm talking to him really and saying you know, 'I trained hard,' and reminding me that he will give me all my needs."

Williams, a junior transfer from South Plains, said he was nervous about competing in his first conference championship because a lot was expected of him, but he overcame his nerves to bring his team a first-place finish.

The 2010 indoor championships had

12 teams competing in 38 events — 19 for men, and 19 for women.

In the two-day competition, Tech had seven first-place finishes.

In addition to Lamb and Williams, Red Raiders also taking home the gold were Caroline Karunde in the women's mile, Purity Biwott in the women's 800, Shade Weygandt in the women's pole vault, and the women's distance medley relay team. The relay team consisted of Biwott, Karunde, Gladys Kipsang and Taylor Evans.

Not winning a gold medal, but still performing at an elite level was senior hurdler Omo Osaghae.

Osaghae finished second in the 60 hurdles with a time of 7.63 seconds — a new school-record and an NCAA automatic mark.

Osaghae, a two-time All-American, not only helped his team with eight points to add to the team total, but also

helped cheer on Weygandt when she won the pole vault.

Weygandt said Omo came over and helped to settle her down when she was on the brink of winning the pole vault against defending Big 12 champion Natalie Willer of Nebraska.

Weygandt's mark of 4.33 meters is not only a personal best, but also both a school and Big 12 meet record.

The women's pole-vaulting duo of Weygandt and third-place finisher Amanda Alley contributed 16 points to their team and helped the Lady Raiders to a second-place finish.

"I was real excited, I'm so proud of them," Weygandt said of her teammates. "They did so well. There were so many personal bests this past weekend and just people giving it all they had. And you just can't ask for much more than that."

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Harden pleased with outing

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Rich Harden was glad there was no screen in front of him Monday when he pitched a scoreless first inning for the Texas Rangers in an intrasquad game.

Harden had been throwing with the protective screen in batting practice, but that was discarded for the eight-inning intrasquad game.

"I know a lot of guys don't like throwing with the screen in front of them," Harden said. "I'm one of those. It's kind of a distraction. It feels good to get out there on the mound."

Harden gave up a one-out single to Michael Young but ended the inning by inducing Chad Tracy to ground into a double play. The Rangers signed Harden to a one-year \$6.5 million contract after he went 9-9 with a 4.09 ERA and held opponents to a .234 batting average in 26 starts last year with the Chicago Cubs.

"I've been around, so the older you get you don't get up as much for these (intrasquad games), but being with a new team you want to go out and pitch well," Harden said. "This early, I just want to establish my fastball command, and everything comes from

that. If I'm getting good extension and hitting spots then the other pitches will come, too.

"Now it's about getting back on the mound, getting comfortable. There are always some small mechanical things you tweak and you're working on and just getting your arm in position to throw consistent strikes."

Harden is scheduled to throw two innings Thursday in the Rangers exhibition opener against Kansas City.

"Harden was good," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "He had a clean inning. He gave up one hit and then got out of the inning. He threw the ball free and had good velocity."

Non-roster invitee Matt Brown homered on a 3-0 pitch off left-hander Kasey Kiker. Pedro Borbon went 2-for-3 with a triple a bunt single, two stolen bases and scored a run. Mitch Moreland doubled home Kevin Richardson, who led off the eighth with a double, for the game-winning run in Team Jackie Moore defeated Team Bobby Jones 4-3.

Left-fielder Josh Hamilton, who has been slowed by soreness in his left shoulder, was scratched. Hamilton bruised his shoulder Thursday in the first full-squad workout.

Cavaliers' O'Neal undergoes surgery to repair injured thumb

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP) — Cleveland Cavaliers center Shaquille O'Neal had surgery on his injured right thumb Monday and seems likely to miss the rest of the regular season.

If he gets back for the playoffs, though, O'Neal is promising to make up for his time out.

O'Neal will miss about eight weeks, the team said. He was examined Sunday by specialist Dr. Thomas Graham at the National Hand Center in Baltimore, who performed the surgery Monday morning.

"He feels like he let us down, but we understand injuries happen in the game," said teammate Jamario Moon, who got a text from the star center along with the other Cavs. "I think he's really down about being out. ... He let us know it's time to continue playing basketball and he's going to be all right."

The recovery timeline means O'Neal, who turns 38 on Saturday, may not be ready for the start of the playoffs April 17. The Cavaliers acquired him last summer with an eye

toward the postseason, after Dwight Howard and Orlando eliminated them in the Eastern Conference finals.

Cleveland enters its game Monday against the Knicks leading Orlando by six games for the best record in the East. Should the Cavaliers and Magic retain the top two seeds, they wouldn't meet until the Eastern Conference finals, which begin in mid-May.

"Will be out for a min but when I return it is on," O'Neal posted on his

Twitter account Monday morning. "Win da ring for da king! Luv my team, Cavs baby!"

O'Neal has played well for the Cavaliers, averaging 12 points and 6.7 rebounds in 53 games. He injured the thumb Thursday at Boston when his shot was blocked by Glen "Big Baby" Davis with just over 7 minutes left in the first half.

Cavs general manager Danny Ferry said O'Neal will wear a splint for the next two weeks, then begin his rehab.

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SPORTS

Postseason hopes at stake for Tech on Senior Night

By MIKE GRAHAM
STAFF WRITER

While some teams are padding their postseason resumes, Nick Okorie and the rest of the Texas Tech basketball team have entered tournament mode two games early.

Tech must win both of its remaining games to get a chance at a National Invitational Tournament bid including its game against No. 21 Baylor at 7 p.m. today in the United Spirit Arena.

"That's exactly what it feels like," Okorie said. "I feel like we have to get these or there's no postseason play. Everybody is focusing on these last two games and just trying to get a win, especially at home."

Prior to today's game, Okorie and Darko Cohadarevic, both seniors, will be honored for their contributions to the Tech basketball team.

But it's been a rough road for both seniors lately.

Okorie said postseason hopes were high not too long ago but Tech (16-11, 4-9 in Big 12 Conference play) has lost its last four games including the 83-79 double-overtime loss to lowly Nebraska. The loss was Nebraska's second conference win.

Both Okorie and Cohadarevic have postseason experience.

Okorie's South Plains College team won the 2007 NJCAA National Title and Cohadarevic's Seward County Community College made the NJCAA Final Four in 2007 as well.

While the team has slumped, Okorie's play definitely has improved during the past three games, which especially was evident in a big run against Texas that nearly gave Tech a comeback win.

"I think I've been motivated pretty much from the beginning of the year," Okorie said. "Since junior college I've never really been with a losing program and coming to Tech and kind of struggling my first year was different. I want to make the postseason. That's pretty much been my goal since I got here is

to bring Tech into the postseason."

But one of the consequences of not winning games the team was supposed to win — such as the one against Nebraska — is having to win games as an underdog.

Baylor defeated Tech 88-70 on Feb. 16 in Waco behind guard Lace-Darius Dunn's 30-point performance.

Since then, Baylor fell to Oklahoma State, but responded with a win against Texas A&M and a win at Oklahoma while Tech's season has taken a turn for the worse.

"Something is going wrong, and we've got to figure it out," Cohadarevic said. "We have had a couple of really close games that we should have won, but I think we have a good chance of going to the NIT still even though we've got to play Baylor. But we're playing at home so anything is possible."

Tech coach Pat Knight knows he will need production from guard John Roberson and forward Mike Singletary.

During Monday's Big 12 Coaches' Teleconference, Knight said the two must play well for Tech to win.

"My two best players have got to play," he said. "I gotta get Roberson and Singletary playing. I realize some of the other guys are going to struggle because they're new to the program. But if my two best guys are struggling, we're going to lose."

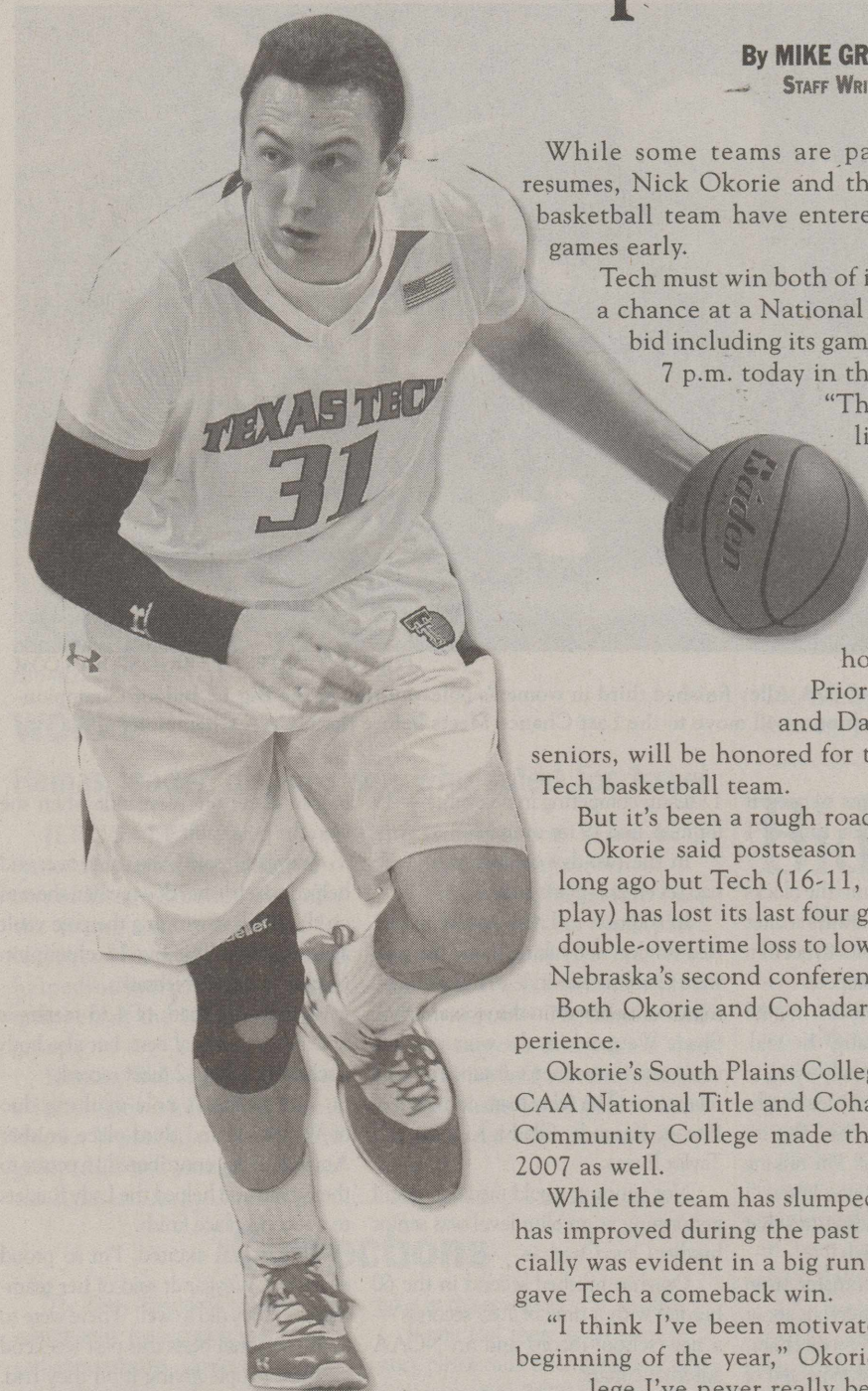
Baylor (22-6, 9-5) is led by Dunn, who is the conference's second leading scorer with 19.2 points per game. Baylor's Toney Carter averages 15.7 points per game and Ekpe Udoh also has double-digit scoring numbers for the Bears with 13.5.

Both Okorie and Cohadarevic said a lot of thoughts are running through their heads regarding their Red Raider careers, and both thank the coaching staff for improving their playing abilities.

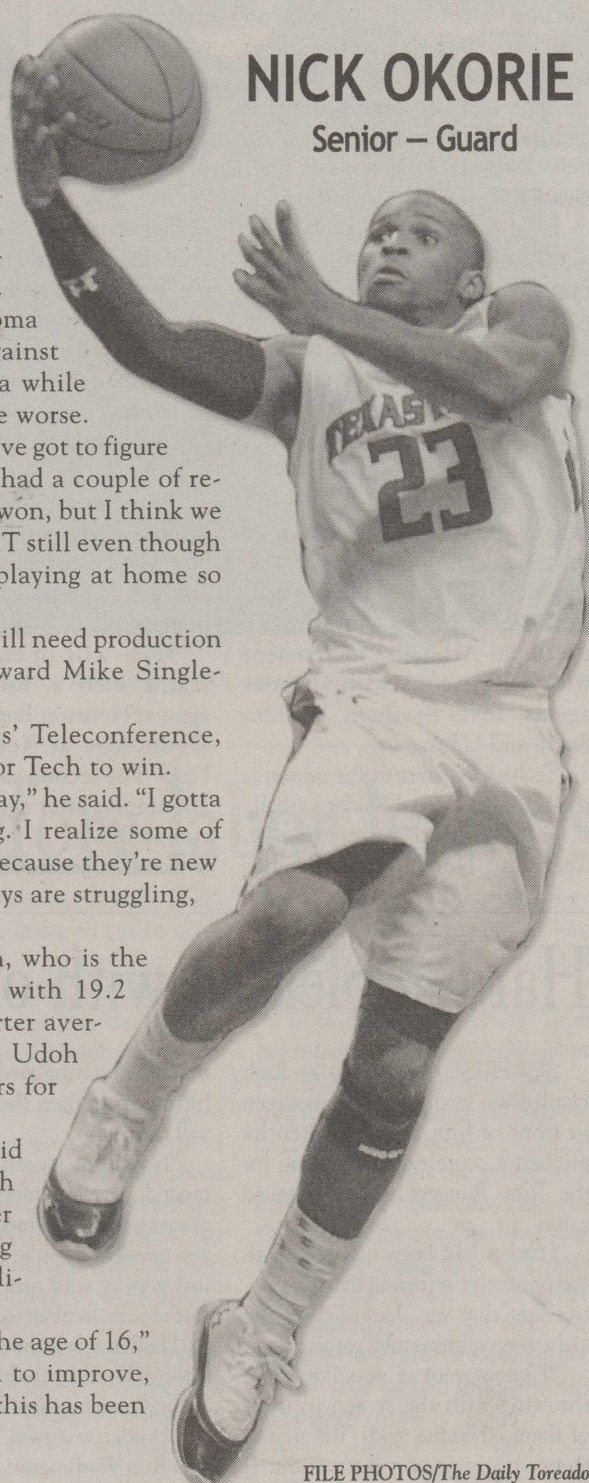
"I started practicing basketball at the age of 16," Cohadarevic said. "I still have room to improve, and I'm looking forward to that, but this has been a great, great journey for me."

►►michael.graham@ttu.edu

NICK OKORIE
Senior — Guard



DARKO COHADAREVIC
Senior — Forward



FILE PHOTOS/The Daily Toreador

Tech faces Dallas Baptist for first mid-week game of season

By ADAM COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

It's the first mid-week game for the Texas Tech baseball team this season and Garrett Totten believes it's a big one considering what lies ahead.

"Very important because this weekend we start up the Houston Classic at Minute Maid (Park)," the sophomore second baseman said. "Play Rice, Houston and TCU — those are all three tough teams."

"I think starting out with a win in the mid-week puts us on a positive note and hopefully it will get us moving going forward."

The Red Raiders do need some momentum heading into the 2010 Houston College Classic, but they'll have to get it by beating Dallas Baptist at 5 p.m. today at Dan Law Field.

Tech is coming off a weekend in which it grabbed two wins against Bethune-Cookman, but also lost twice to Washington State.

Despite the positives for the Red Raiders this weekend, they still have work to do before three games against

some of the top programs in the nation.

But that doesn't mean Dallas Baptist should be overlooked.

Tech split two games against the Patriots last season.

The Tech lineup may have to expect the Patriots' best on the mound today, as Tech coach Dan Spencer said mid-week games are usually when DBU's top pitcher gets the start.

"They're always kind of a veteran bunch," Spencer said. "They've had a lot of success. They win 40 games every year and they play good people, so they're used to good clubs and environments."

"I would expect, the way they've done it in the past, is they run their No. 1 in the mid-week and then go No. 2, No. 3, No. 4 in the weekend."

This is Tech's first mid-week game of the season after the scheduled game against New Mexico on Feb. 23 was canceled because of inclement weather.

And Tech will have Brandon Petite on the mound today.

Petite already has a win under his belt. In a relief outing he allowed three runs and two hits in 2 1/3 innings, notching an 11-8 win against Jacksonville State.

But in that game, and the last two in the Brooks Wallace Memorial Classic, Tech has had to outthit opponents to win games.

Against Bethune-Cookman Saturday, Tech needed 13 RBIs to top the Wildcats, 14-12. In the game against Washington State Sunday, Tech had to battle back from a 7-2 deficit with a four-run sixth, but the Cougars put more runs on the board and the comeback was ended.

"It's fine. That's going to happen from time to time," Tech designated hitter Scott Lejeune said. "There's going to be times when we are struggling on offense and our pitching is going to pick us up. It's going to happen throughout the season, and we're just going to have to push through it."

Lejeune also knows what to expect from Dallas Baptist. He said games against this club are usually close, and the Patriots' lineup is not lacking.

"They're always a solid team," he said. "Every single time we play them, it's down to the wire. They have some hitters, so throw some strikes, and hopefully we can get enough from the pitchers."

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PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH FIRST baseman Garrett Totten puts out the Cougar's Matt Argyropoulos on Sunday against Washington State as part of the Brooks Wallace Memorial Classic at Dan Law Field. The Red Raiders split their four games of the tournament.

Mayo named to Johnny Bench Award Watch List

Texas Tech catcher Jeremy Mayo's early-season efforts landed him on the Johnny Bench Award Watch List on Monday.

The award recognizes the country's top catcher and is presented by The Greater Wichita Area Sports Commission.

The junior has been instrumental to the Tech offense so far this season, but it's his defensive efforts that landed him on the watch list.

Mayo leads the Big 12 Conference with five runners caught stealing and

he has 11 assists on the season. He also is batting .348 with six RBIs this year.

According to a press release, 53 catchers were nominated for the honor by their respective coaches and the watch list will continually be updated with other candidates until May 5.

That watch list will be cut down to 10 semifinalists, which will be announced May 19. Finalists will be announced June 2.

Bench was known for his defensive skills behind the plate, earning the Na-

tional League Rookie of the Year award in 1968, NL Most Valuable Player in 1970 and 1972 and World Series MVP in 1976, among other honors.

Oklahoma's J.T. Wise won the Johnny Bench Award last year, with George Mason's Chris Henderson and Boston College's Tony Sanchez as the other finalists.

Many past winners have translated the award into big league success — 11 former finalists are playing Major League Baseball.

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Spurs waive swingman Finley after nearly 5 seasons

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs waived swingman Michael Finley after nearly five seasons Monday, giving the 15-year veteran a chance to finish the season with more playing time elsewhere.

The Spurs said they honored Finley's request to be released from his contract, which was in its final year after he exercised a \$2.5 million option this season. Finley, who turns 37 this week, will be eligible to sign with a playoff contender.

"I was very surprised, but we granted his request," Spurs head coach Gregg Popovich said before San Antonio played the Hornets. "That's for other teams to decide if they think he can be useful. But we did grant him his release before the deadline so he would have the opportunity to play somewhere in the playoffs if he so desired."

Finley lost his starting job this season and missed several weeks with a sprained ankle. He appeared in only 25 games, averaging 3.7 points and 1.5 rebounds.

The former All-Star joined the Spurs in 2005 in search of an NBA championship, and he finally got one in 2007. He started all but five games last season but became a bench player after the Spurs signed Richard Jefferson last summer.

Although he seemed disappointed that Finley wanted to leave, Popovich had nothing negative to say about him and indicated that Finley maintained his professionalism even as he apparently grew more frustrated with his lack of playing time.

TEXAS TECH
RED RAIDER
BASKETBALL

GAME TONIGHT
VS
BAYLOR

Tuesday, March 2nd
7:00 pm