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SOUTHWEST COLLECTION
Texas Tech University
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2010
VOLUME 84 ■ ISSUE 104

Unofficial results: Graham wins SGA presidency

By JOEANN BON-JORNO
STAFF WRITER

After an hour-long delay and a few complications, Ryan Vasquez, elections coordinator, announced Drew Graham would be the next Texas Tech Student Government Association president with Tyler Patton as the external vice president and Jenny Mayants as the internal vice president.

Vasquez said the results, which are unofficial for a week when candidates can contest the election, come from what he believes was the most civil campaign in years.

Graham won the president position with 51.37 percent of the vote, Mayants won with 57.87 percent of the vote and Patton won with 53.28 percent. After the results were announced, competitors Dee Jay Wilde, Trey Horkey and

Roshan Sharma shook hands with the three winners while congratulating them and wishing the best of luck.

The office of graduate vice president was not announced because of complications and a replacement election date will be announced by 5 p.m. today.

"Law students were unable to vote online," said Deepali Butani, graduate vice president candidate.

More information will be given at a later time when the election is announced.

Graham said he is ready to do some influential work as president toward a better year next year.

Patton said parking and transporta-



PATTON



GRAHAM



MAYANTS

tion are his first priorities when he is sworn in.

"I'm ready to look at what we have and buried in the facts and get to work," Patton said.

For the internal vice president and president of the student senate position, Mayants said she is ready to do well in the position and is honored to have been elected to it.

"Thank you to all the voters, and I'm willing to work my hardest to make this position the best it's been in years," she said.

Something she hopes to accomplish is to have the student senate on the same page in putting the focus on the university.

"I'm planning to make sure every student voice is heard and that every student knows they are only a part of SGA, but are able to make a difference," Mayants said.

This year she said is going to bring a lot of new and exhilarating change and is going to help Tech reach Tier One status.

Suzanne Williams, SGA president, said she would like to congratulate Graham, Patton and Mayants on such a huge accomplishment.

"My advice to them is to serve with their hearts because these offices put you in a position of a servant leader,"

Williams said.

All three of them have passion behind what they wish to accomplish, she said.

"I've learned a lot this year and I'm excited that they have the opportunity to learn as much, if not more than I have," Williams said.

The campaign this year was really clean compared to other campaigns in the past, Graham said, and he attributes that as well as the closeness of the race to all the candidates being great choices.

"Thanks to everyone who voted, we would not have been able to do this without every vote," he said.

Patton said it was not just him and his running mates, Graham and Mayants, in the campaign — it was a combination of many students behind them.

"We had to have students to make this happen and we went from organization to organization meeting students and got to see the human side of campaigning," Patton said.

This has been one of the most cordial and clean races, he said.

"We were running against some really good candidates and both sides did a great job of letting the students decide," Patton said.

There was not a lot of mudslinging, he said, and that is something to respect.

"I'm glad the campaign is over, and I'm ready to get to work with my best friends," Patton said.

The new SGA officers will be sworn into office April 16 and will go through a transition and training period with this year's officers until that time.

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Jane Bad - All

Inspired by derby movie, instructor takes to bouts

By BROOKE BELLOMY
STAFF WRITER

No one would guess at the end of the day that Lauren Whitman, the mild-mannered yet enthusiastic anthropology instructor from Houston, laces up a pair of roller skates, puts in a mouth guard and answers to the name Jane Bad-All, a play on the name of famed anthropologist Jane Goodall.

This is what she has been doing three nights a week since she joined the West Texas Roller Dollz, a local Roller Derby team, in October. Whitman said she first had interest in joining the Roller Dollz after seeing the movie "Whip It."

"I saw a league play in Houston and thought it was really amazing," she said. "Whip It" inspired my friends and me to find out if Lubbock had a team and to our surprise, they did."

Whitman and her friends sent e-mails to the team's president, who encouraged them to try out for the team. All four women are still on the team together.

Whitman's friend Andrea Parker, a human development graduate student from Plano, said initially it was surprising Whitman joined the Roller Dollz, but it was not entirely out of character for her.

"(Whitman) has a fiery spirit," she said, "so the shock that she joined the Roller Dollz wore off quickly."

Whitman said she enjoys roller derby because it allows her to play

a sport competitively, which is rare for adults to be able to find that outlet. She said roller derby allows her to stay active mentally and physically.

"People don't realize there is a huge mental aspect to the game," she said. "It is very intimidating, and I'm still trying to understand it. It is even more intimidating than the physical aspect of the sport."

Concerning the physical aspect of the game, she has had several roller-derby related injuries since joining the team. These include a cracked tailbone, a hand rolled over by a skater, rink rash — a common injury consisting of a burn on the skin from falling and sliding on the rink — and multiple bruises.

"Roller skating was a big challenge, a huge hurdle for me," she said, "but I'm working on it gradually."

Friend and teammate Katherine Ehlers, an interdisciplinary studies graduate student from Lubbock, said Whitman's skating ability has improved since they joined the team together because Whitman is dedicated to everything she does.

Sunil Sathees, Whitman's husband, said her commitment is one of the ways she adds to the team. When most people would have quit from injuries, Whitman keeps going and desires to be better, he said. She also is committed to her students.

"She cares so much about what she does," he said. "She involves students. She relates to students. She really tries to get them interested."



PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador
LAUREN WHITMAN, AN anthropology instructor from Lubbock, goes by the name Jane Bad-All when she bouts as a West Texas Roller Doll.

Weygandt, Lamb honored by Big 12

By TOMMY MAGELSSSEN
STAFF WRITER

The Big 12 Conference recognized two of Texas Tech's top-track and field freshmen with postseason accolades Wednesday.

Pole-vaulter Shade Weygandt earned the women's Big 12 outstanding freshman award, and Bryce Lamb took home both the outstanding freshman award and the Big 12 Men's Indoor Performer of the Year honor.

Both highly-touted recruits coming out of high school, Tech coach Wes Kitley said he knew they would perform well at the collegiate level.

"I knew when I recruited Shade and Bryce that they had an opportunity to be really special," he said. "They've even exceeded what I expected the first part of it. We've only been in indoor season and they've already broke school records and set automatic marks."

Kitley said what they have accomplished is not a surprise, but it is a special moment for the freshmen.

Weygandt is the first Tech athlete to be named the women's Big 12 indoor track and field outstanding freshman. She won the indoor Big 12 championship in the women's pole vault Friday and set both a school and Big 12 meet record.

"I was hoping I was going to get it," Weygandt said of the honor. "But when I

finally got it, it's definitely — I don't know — it just shows to them that all this hard work has paid off, and even as a freshman I don't put limits on my age."

Lamb, an accounting and finance major from Chandler, Ariz., is the first Red Raider to win the Big 12 Men's Indoor Performer of the Year.

It is only the second time an athlete has won both the freshman and indoor performer of the year award in the same season. Lamb won both the triple jump and long jump in the Big 12 indoor championships Friday and Saturday, setting school and Big 12 meet records in both.

"Coach kind of said it to me nonchalant," Lamb said. "Like it was just another one. You know how you get fan mail, here's another bag of fan mail. I was still pretty happy to get it."

Both he and Weygandt will be among some of the Tech athletes representing the Red Raiders at the NCAA Championships on March 12 and March 13.

Lamb and Weygandt are ranked in the top five nationally in their respective events with automatic qualifiers.

Kitley said he is proud of his athletes and he expects great things to come from them in the future.

"They've just barely been in the program," he said. "They're both improving and they both have a lot ahead of them. I guess they have what we call a tremendous upside for years to come."

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FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador
FRESHMAN POLE VAULTER Shade Weygandt was named the women's Big 12 Conference outstanding freshman of the year.

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WEATHER

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POLL: AFTER HITTING A LADY RAIDER WEDNESDAY NIGHT, HOW LONG SHOULD BRITTNEY GRINER BE SUSPENDED? TELL US @ DAILYTOREADOR.COM.

???

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IN BRIEF

STATE

White says Gov. Perry focused on partisan politics

HOUSTON (AP) — Democratic gubernatorial nominee Bill White took aim Wednesday at his GOP opponent, Gov. Rick Perry, saying the state's top politician is more interested in promoting "partisan rhetoric" and "angry headlines" than in improving the lives of Texans.

But a Perry campaign spokesman said the governor has worked to create jobs and improve the quality of life for all Texans, in contrast to White, who is "out of touch with

mainstream Texas values."

Perry used the rising wave of anti-Washington ire to help him easily beat Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison in Tuesday's Republican primary. White, a former Houston mayor who's portraying himself as a calm consensus-builder, easily defeated six opponents to win the Democratic party's nomination. They will face off in November's general election.

NATION

Gov't still hearing complaints about fixed Toyotas

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some Toyota owners say they're still having trouble with unintended acceleration after their recalled cars were repaired, and the Transportation Department said Wednesday it is looking into their complaints.

The complaints raise new questions about whether Toyota's remedy will solve the problem. David Strickland, the administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, said in a statement the agency is reaching out to consumers about the complaints "to get to the bottom of the problem and to make sure Toyota is doing everything possible to

make its vehicles safe."

"If Toyota owners are still experiencing sudden acceleration incidents after taking their cars to the dealership, we want to know about it," Strickland said.

The government has received a limited number of acceleration reports from the Toyota owners whose floor mats or gas pedals have been fixed. Toyota and the government are investigating potential electrical problems as part of the Japanese automaker's recall of more than 8 million vehicles worldwide.

WORLD

Brazil rebuffs US, will go own way on Iran

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Brazil rebuffed a U.S. appeal for new sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program, vowing during a visit from U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton not to "bow down" to gathering international pressure.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva pre-empted Clinton even before she could make the case for new United Nations Security Council penalties. Silva is an outspoken opponent of sanctions, and his country currently sits on the Security Council,

which will be asked to approve its toughest-ever penalties on Iran later this year.

"It is not prudent to push Iran against a wall," Silva told reporters hours before meeting with Clinton. "The prudent thing is to establish negotiations."

Clinton told a news conference she respects Brazil's position but thinks if there is any possibility of negotiating with Iran, it would happen only after a new round of sanctions.

Corrections

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

It is The DT's policy to correct mis-

takes in this spot as soon as possible.

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

50 Ugandans feared dead in landslides

NAMETSI, Uganda (AP) — During heavy rains, village elders told schoolchildren to seek shelter in the hospital. That sanctuary turned into a death trap as a landslide engulfed the building, leaving more than 50 pupils missing and among hundreds feared dead as avalanches of mud slammed into three villages.

When Beatrice Nabuduwa's 12-year-old daughter failed to come home after school Monday, the mother assumed her child had

stayed over at an aunt's because of the rain. By Wednesday, the grieving mother accepted the reality of the situation, and said she wished God would have taken her life instead.

"In the morning I was shocked to learn that the whole village was under mud," she said in Nametsi, where mud debris towered more than 16 feet high in some places. "I have failed to find her or her body."

Researchers hope to give parents positive Down syndrome message

By **KELSEY HECKEL**
STAFF WRITER

Nicole Springer's 21-month-old daughter, Katarina, was not supposed to live past 11 weeks and was born with Down syndrome. But that information did not prevent Springer from making what she calls one of the best decisions of her life.

"She was a very wanted little girl," said Springer, director of Texas Tech's Family Therapy Clinic. "I had had miscarriages after my son was born, so I was getting a more intensive care during my pregnancy. There were some things coming up that we couldn't explain, so we decided to have the test done. We were able to prepare for taking care of a child with special needs because we found out beforehand."

In the hopes that termination will not be the only option presented to parents expecting a child with Down syndrome, Tech and Kansas State University researchers are working to develop a source of information that shows positive and negative sides of raising a child with special needs.

Springer and Briana Nelson Goff, a professor in family studies and human services at Kansas State, said they hope, as a result of their proj-

ect, they will be able to develop pamphlets with a balance of information on how parents can handle the diagnosis and realistic suggestions on how to move forward.

Springer said testing that can tell if a woman is pregnant with a child with Down syndrome is used as a bias for continuing or terminating the pregnancy but is not a fair look at how the child will live.

"So far we have found out that the information given by doctors is generally negative and kind of the worst-case scenario," Springer said. "A procedure to terminate is presented sometimes as an only option. What parents need to know is that there are the options of continuing the pregnancy and adoption as well as termination."

She said the option to terminate a pregnancy is sometimes pushed even after parents rule it out as an option.

"When couples have said no to termination, whether it be for religious reasons or because they know they will love their child no matter



SPRINGER

what, the issue is still being pushed," she said. "Sometimes it goes as far as 23 weeks into the pregnancy, which is about six months. By then you can see defined fingers and toes on an ultrasound. That's a fully formed baby."

Chandice Covington, interim dean of the Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing, said communication techniques are taught to students for when they must speak with a family about their child possibly having Down syndrome. Students who work on genetics teams would mainly be the ones learning that information.

"A major part is how you deliver news, especially bad news," she said. "It can be pretty powerful information, especially when dealing with these people's children, and it has to be done right."

Springer said the interactions between patients and doctors is one thing she and Goff are studying as part of their research.

"We hope we can take note of some of the questions and stories we have received and turn them into training tools for new doctors to study," she said.

She hopes to have enough information by next fall to start putting the pamphlets together, Springer said.

"We have an incredible amount of information so far," she said. "As of Monday we had 355 surveys that were completed. The survey consists of questions on a 1-to-5 scale and then some open-ended questions where they can tell us their story."

After the surveys are complete, Springer and Goff will then sort through the information and will contact some of the survey's participants for face-to-face interviews.

Both Covington and Springer said the problems children with Down syndrome face can make life difficult but still possible.

"There are a broad range of matters that could go wrong," Covington said. "There is no way of predicting the level of retardation the child will have but an ultrasound will be able to tell if the baby will have heart defects or kidney problems."

Springer said she hopes the research she and Goff are doing will make a positive difference and offer guidance to those who are faced with this difficult diagnosis.

"I'm not saying it's easy, but raising any child is hard," Springer said. "This is a do-able journey, but it's not just doable, it's incredible."

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POLICE BLOTTER

Officer issues criminal mischief citation

- Feb. 24**
 - 8:40 a.m., criminal mischief at the South Athletic Training Offices
 - 12:55 a.m., damaged property in the C-1 parking lot.
 - 1:40 p.m., documentation of the recovery of a stolen vehicle.
 - 2:48 p.m., possession of a controlled substance in Gates Residence Hall.
 - 3:46 p.m., possession of a controlled substance and alcohol by a minor in Gates Residence Hall.
 - 4:11 p.m., attempted theft in the Chemical Engineering building.
 - 9:40 p.m., fire in Murray Residence Hall.
- Feb. 25**
 - 5:16 p.m., medical call at Urbanovsky Park.
 - 7:22 p.m., accident without injuries at the intersection of 10th Street and Texas Tech Parkway.
 - 8:15 p.m., possession of alcohol by a minor and drug paraphernalia in the Z4-P parking lot.
 - 10:36 p.m., criminal mischief at the Engineering Center.
- Feb. 26**
 - 1:57 a.m., criminal mischief in Murdough Residence Hall.
 - 2:39 a.m., criminal mischief in Murdough Residence Hall.
- Feb. 27**
 - 1:02 a.m., medical call in Knapp Residence Hall.
 - 1:47 a.m., criminal mischief in Weymouth Residence Hall.
 - 2:20 a.m., citation issued for criminal mischief in Weymouth Residence Hall.
 - 3:25 a.m., criminal mischief in Weymouth Residence Hall.
- Feb. 28**
 - 1:31 a.m., driving while intoxicated in the F-2 parking lot.
 - 2:08 a.m., damaged property in the 300 block of Quaker Avenue.
 - 2:13 a.m., criminal mischief in Murray Residence Hall.
 - 2:32 a.m., possession of alcohol by a minor in the Z1-B parking lot.
 - 3:07 a.m., criminal mischief in Murdough Residence Hall.
 - 3:52 a.m., detention in Bledsoe Residence Hall.
 - 4:41 a.m., assault in Bledsoe Residence Hall with no reported injuries.
- March 1**
 - 1:00 a.m., theft of clothing from a laundry room in Murdough Residence Hall.
 - 3:14 p.m., possession of drug paraphernalia in Weymouth Residence Hall.
 - 6:09 p.m., theft of an iPod in Wall Residence Hall.
- March 2**
 - 12:10 a.m., criminal mischief in Coleman Residence Hall.
 - 10:49 a.m., accident without injuries in the Z3-L parking lot.
 - 12:30 p.m., accident without injuries in the C1-S parking lot.
 - 4:30 p.m., theft of a projector in the Civil Engineering building.
 - 8:23 p.m., possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia in the 2500 block of 15th Street.
 - 10:34 p.m., possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia in Weymouth Residence Hall.
- March 3**
 - 9:42 a.m., documentation of a student being escorted out of class for abnormal behavior.
 - 6:30 p.m., odor of burned marijuana in Bledsoe Residence Hall.
 - 8:48 p.m., theft of a laptop in the Electrical Engineering building.

Chile military delivers aid, but 1st helps its own after deadly earthquake

CONCEPCION, Chile (AP) — Four days after a deadly earthquake, Chile's military finally rolled out a massive humanitarian aid effort Wednesday that promised to improve an image long associated with dictatorship-era repression.

The dump trucks that soldiers spent all night helping fill with bags of food made their first deliveries in a neighborhood of military families who already had enough to eat.

After days of looting, rifle-toting troops occupied nearly every block of hard-hit Concepcion on Wednesday, enforcing a curfew that expired at noon with checkpoints throughout the city. With the streets more secure, they focused on aid.

Soldiers had worked overnight stuffing basics including flour, canned beans, cooking oil and tea into hundreds of plastic bags that volunteers loaded into dump trucks. Municipal workers then distributed the bags to survivors, many of whom had gone without fresh food or drinking water since Saturday's quake.

The convoy rolled minutes after the curfew expired — the first of many to deploy throughout the disaster area, army Lt. Col. Juan Carlos Andrades said.

Its first stop: A neighborhood inhabited by military families, next to army headquarters in Concepcion.

"This entire block belongs to the army," said Yanira Cifuentes, 31, the very first to get aid. She said her husband is an officer.

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5 cast members perform award-winning play

By BROOKE BELLOMY
STAFF WRITER

A family's struggle to cope with the loss of a child and the process of dealing with grief is the subject of the modern-day family drama *Rabbit Hole* presented by Texas Tech's Department of Theatre and Dance on Thursday through Sunday.

The play, written by David Lindsay-Abaire, is the 2007 Pulitzer Prize Winner for Drama. This is an award given to an American author for a distinguished play about American life.

"In *Rabbit Hole*, the audience watches a young couple, living outside of New York City, as they work

their way through pain and loss over the death of their son," Director Bruce Hermann said.

The five-member cast has been rehearsing the drama for six weeks. Cast members Mariel Morgan, a sophomore theater major from Ransom Canyon, and Nathan Jacobs, a graduate student from Baytown, play the characters Becca and Howie Corbett.

"Grief is universal, so you don't have to have experienced the death of a child to personally understand what the characters are feeling."

MARIEL MORGAN
SOPHOMORE THEATER
MAJOR

The Corbetts are the parents of a 4-year-old child who died just eight months prior to the audience being introduced to them.

The other characters in the play are Izzie, Becca's sister; Nat, Becca's mother; and Jason, the 17-year-old boy who killed the Corbett's son in

an automobile accident.

The play focuses on the different ways people deal with the grief that comes as the result of the death of a family member, Jacobs said.

Because everyone will experience grief, Hermann said the audience will be able to identify and relate to at least one character in the play.

"The loss of a loved one and grief is something everyone has or will experience at some point," he said. "By seeing the play, you can experience a situation of human adversity without it personally happening to you."

"Grief is universal," said Morgan, "so you don't have to have experienced the death of a child personally to understand what the characters are feeling."

She said everyone has a different way of coping with death and the same is true with each of the characters in the play.

Morgan, Jacobs and Hermann said Lindsay-Abaire's writing style alone is worth the trip to the Maedgen Mainstage.

"(Lindsay-Abaire) uses conversational writing," said Morgan. "The audience is dropped right into everyday conversation. It is very real



PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Toreador

NATHAN JACOBS, A graduate student in fine arts from Baytown, playing Howie, calms Mariel Morgan, a sophomore theater major from Ransom Canyon who plays his wife, Becca, during an arranged photo shoot of the play "*Rabbit Hole*."

and easy to understand."

Although dealing with grief is not the most entertaining subject matter, Hermann said, the play

promises to have humor and wit.

The play will run at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the Maedgen

Mainstage Theatre. Tickets are \$12 for individuals and \$5 for students with ID.

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US survey finds sharp drop in children's bullying

NEW YORK (AP) — There's been a sharp drop in the percentage of America's children being bullied or beaten up by their peers, according to a new national survey by experts who believe anti-bullying programs are having an impact.

The study, funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, found that the percentage of children who reported being physically bullied over the past year had declined from nearly 22 percent in 2003 to under 15 percent in 2008. The percentage reporting they'd been assaulted by other youths, including their siblings, dropped from 45 percent to 38.4 percent.

The lead author of the study, Professor David Finkelhor, said he was "very encouraged."

"Bullying is the foundation on which a lot of subsequent aggressive behavior gets built," said Finkelhor, director of the University of New Hampshire's Crimes Against Children Research Center. "If it's going down, we will reap benefits in the future in the form of lower rates of violent crime and spousal assault."

Finkelhor noted that anti-bullying programs had proliferated and received funding boosts following the 1999 Columbine High School

shootings in Colorado.

"There is evidence these programs are effective," he said. "I wouldn't be surprised if we're seeing the fruits of that."

One of the largest of these initiatives is the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, which has been implemented in several thousand U.S. schools. It is a comprehensive program that includes forming an anti-bullying committee, training staff to intervene immediately if they observe bullying and meeting with students and parents when problems occur.

'Miracle on the Hudson' pilot Sullenberger retires

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger has flown his final flight.

The pilot who landed a US Airways plane safely on the Hudson River last January said Wednesday he is retiring after 30 years and plans to spend some of his time pressing for more flight safety.

"My message going forward is that I want to remind everyone in the aviation industry - especially those who manage aviation compa-

nies and those who regulate aviation - that we owe it to our passengers to keep learning how to do it better," he said at a news conference shortly after his last flight landed at Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

Sullenberger officially retired at a private ceremony in Charlotte with fellow pilots and other US Airways employees.

The 59-year-old Sullenberger joined US Airways' predecessor airline in 1980.

His final flight, number 1167 from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to his base at Charlotte (N.C.) Douglas International Airport took just under two hours. It arrived at 2:48 p.m. EST — 17 minutes ahead of schedule.

Sullenberger flew on Wednesday with his co-pilot during the Hudson landing, First Officer Jeff Skiles.

As they walked off the plane, people in the airport recognized the pilots and applauded.

Erik Estrada urges Va. officer support

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Erik Estrada played a police officer on television, and now he's asking the Virginia legislature to support investigators who use the Internet to catch sexual predators.

Estrada is best known as "Ponch" on the 1970s motorcycle cop show "CHiPs." He's also a certified member of the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

He appeared at the state Capitol on Wednesday to urge passage of a bill that would add \$10 to every criminal conviction to generate at least \$1.8 million a year. The money would help fund the state's two task forces that focus on Internet crimes against children.

Estrada said that if lawmakers saw images of infants being abused like he had they would make sure investigators had the money to go after predators.

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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.

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OPINIONS

PAGE 4
THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2010

Women skiers get cold shoulder at Winter Games

This year's Winter Olympics brought us some fantastic international sporting events that rarely get any publicity in the years between the Olympics.

Americans got a dose of sports like curling, bobsled and Nordic combined. Can anyone really say they would watch or care about these sports without the Olympics?

The Olympics are supposed to represent a sign of unity amongst nations. A time where focus is on nations getting together for friendly competition. It represents inclusion and all that is (or can be) right with humanity.

But shadowing over the games was exclusion. There is a shroud of discontent and discrimination that puts a black eye on the International Olympic Committee. Their exclusion of Women's Ski Jumping can only be based on discrimination and reasons generally

Paul Williamson



held by 19th century white men. The push for inclusion is being led by Lindsey Vonn, a 25-year-old woman ski jumper who held the record for longest jump at Whistler, British Columbia's normal ski jump (the one used for this year's Olympics), prior to the Olympics according to Time.

The IOC passed a law claiming that all sports must include male and female events. Unfortunately that law does not apply to sports already existing and ski jump is an original dating back to the inaugural winter games in 1924.

So let's examine some of the reasons

the IOC and others claim as the excuse for the exclusion.

One reason is practicality. Joe Lamb, a U.S. ski team representative claims the games can only have so many athletes competing at once so the addition of an event can cause problems, this according to the same Time article. This would make sense, however the IOC did add an event called ski cross. So obviously the IOC did not have too much worry about in terms of practicality.

According to Sports Illustrated, Gian-Franco Kasper, the president of the International Ski Federation, claimed the sport was "too dangerous for women ... (It) seems not to be appropriate for ladies from a medical point of view."

Is it just me or are we not in the year 2010? This seems something you might have heard in another era.

The IOC claims the sport does not meet technical requirements and it is not

participated in enough world-wide. Time reports almost 100 women competed in FIS sanctioned events

last year with 30 top-tier jumpers from 11 different nations. These are numbers that rival that of women's bobsled, which was included in the Salt Lake City games.

In the end, the statement of Gian-Franco Kasper shows the mindset of the world of sport. When he uses words like "ladies" it very subtly paints a picture of weakness and inability. The idea that he and the IOC

can dictate what is and is not "appropriate" for ladies is absolutely ludicrous.

One of the problems that occurs here is the U.S. women ski jump team was jacked off all their funding by the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association because they could no longer justify soaking up money for a non-Olympic event. Visa does continue to sponsor the team but they have considerably less funding and have been asking for dona-

tions to make ends meet. Because it failed to become an

Olympic sport, the chances of it gaining popularity drops significantly. This puts women's ski jump into a cycle of discrimination. They can't gain popularity (and thus prosperity) without the Olympics and the Olympics won't put them in until they become more popular (at least that is its "official" excuse for now).

Today the IOC is dealing with issues that should have been dealt with decades ago. Hopefully by 2014 the IOC will get out of the stone age and allow women their rightful place along men in the Winter Games. After all, it is a woman who owns the record for longest jump off of the same jump they used in Vancouver.

Williamson is a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Crosby. paul.williamson@ttu.edu

'The Bachelor' example of horrible TV

If you have followed some of my previous articles, you probably will be surprised I took the time to write about something as silly as "The Bachelor." It being the only hit show I actually have sat down and watched recently, I decided I would voice my opinion. Surprisingly enough, I know there are many out there that will agree with me.

This show is terrible on so many levels. I was shocked when I found out this latest season, "On the Wings of Love," was the 14th one. However, I know the hypocrisy I am guilty of — just like those who criticize "Jersey Shore" yet continue to show support by tuning in each week.

First of all, the idea a guy has 25 women lined up to date him, long before getting to know him, is beyond belief. Don't mistake my criticisms for jealousy or envy. That would be a terrible misread. Aside from the fact this is fairy-tale land, real world heartbreak is not something anyone should want to live through on a national broadcasting network.

Furthermore, he who holds the rose holds all the power. When was the last time you saw a "good couple" where one person dominated the control within the relationship? That just doesn't happen. There are so many things that must be taken into consideration when falling in love this show doesn't portray.

Travis Ellington



The idea you can take a break from life to fool around with someone who has a strong physical attraction to you is surreal. Here in the real world, the millions of Americans who actually work for a living cannot take time off from work to goof around with a significant other. That's not called searching for a spouse, that's called vacation.

I can't think it would be that difficult to make someone fall in love with you if they are shielded from reality with extravagant dates, wild rides and endless bottles of champagne every night. I laughed my butt off one time when the bachelor told one of the women, "It's almost as if I am living a dream here with you." Wake up dude. You are living a dream.

To think you can have a list of people to choose from, take them anywhere in the world on a date, and have someone else pick up the tab is ludicrous. That brings me to my next point: The whole show is a competition. How can you develop real feelings for someone if they are

competing against a group of others? Now that we've put a national spotlight on those competing, it's just become a professional sport. Tune in later for the highlights.

I do not know if the show is real or staged, but it sure seemed pretty staged to me. ABC couldn't have scripted this season for better ratings than what it has gotten. Leave it to me to provide free press, but who cares? Let's have some fun.

The whole incident with the woman who had the "inappropriate relationship" with the staffer was quite the story. I, like any other guy who watched the show, was sad to see her leave. She had such a great personality.

Another ratings

booster was the heart-breaking story about the woman who had to choose between work and Never-Never Land. That would have broken my heart, too. I can't believe her boss would call right before the magic carpet ride to St. Lucia. We know who's not getting much of a gift on boss appreciation day.

Joking aside, I honestly hope the show was real to some degree. The emotional stress and unimaginable heartbreak those poor women had to go through should not go unnoticed. I can't believe they put themselves out there like that and are walking away with nothing more than a broken heart. Can they get a silver medal or something?

Ellington is a junior business major from Midland. travis.ellington@ttu.edu

Arabs approve indirect Israeli-Palestinian talks

CAIRO (AP) — Arab nations gave the green light Wednesday for Palestinians to enter indirect negotiations with Israel for a preliminary four-month period, a decision likely to break the months-long deadlock over resuming Mideast peace talks.

The United States has proposed indirect negotiations, with American officials mediating, to end the impasse between Israelis and Palestinians over the conditions for resuming negotiations. Israeli-Palestinian peace talks broke down more than a year ago, when Israel launched a bruising offensive against the Gaza Strip's Hamas rulers. The Arab approval gives Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas the political cover he needs to accept the offer. Abbas has staunchly rejected direct talks unless Israel calls a complete halt to construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem — and he had been wary of entering even indirect talks without Arab backing.

The gathering of 14 Arab League foreign ministers in Cairo agreed. "Despite the lack of conviction in the seriousness of the Israeli side, the committee sees that it would give the indirect talks the chance as a last attempt and to facilitate the U.S. role," said Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa, reading from a statement.

Moussa said Arab foreign ministers backed the talks on the condition that they last four months. "This should not be an open-ended process," he said. The ministers also said the indirect

negotiations, which would see U.S. officials shuttling back and forth between the sides, should not turn into direct Israeli-Palestinian talks without a total freeze in settlement construction.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu instituted a 10-month halt on new construction in the West Bank in November, but the measure does not include building that was already started or construction in east Jerusalem, the sector of the city Palestinians claim as the capital of a future state.

Moussa warned that if indirect talks fail to yield results, the Arabs will call for an emergency Security Council meeting to address the Arab-Israeli conflict and would ask Washington not to use its veto. Abbas has been eager to secure U.S. guarantees that Israel will be committed to the outcome of the talks before agreeing to negotiations, but said Tuesday he would adhere to the Arab foreign ministers' decision.

Wednesday's statement did not receive the unanimous support of the 14 Arab nations that took part in the meeting.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem interrupted Moussa while he was reading the statement, insisting that the decision on whether to join indirect talks or not was up to the Palestinians. "The Palestinians are better positioned to know what to do," he said.

The militant Islamic Hamas, which wrested power from Abbas' Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip in 2007, rejected Wednesday's decision.

Cheatham settles religion-in-schools case

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Cheatham County schools have agreed to stop teachers and officials from promoting religion during school hours.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee announced the settlement after the school board approved the deal in a vote Monday night.

"Now the students of Cheatham County can exercise their Constitutional right to make religious decisions with their families and faith communities, free from fear of coercion by school of-

ficials," ACLU cooperating attorney George Barrett said in a news release.

ACLU-TN Executive Director Hedy Weinberg has said not all religious displays in school violate the Constitution, but to be legal it cannot be compulsory and must be student-led.

Representatives of the school district did not return phone calls seeking comment Tuesday.

The ACLU sued the Cheatham County schools last November after six months of negotiations failed.

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THE 7-DAY WEEKEND...

... Because March Madness hasn't fully set in.

<p>TODAY Tech's Got Talent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remember those days of elementary school talent shows and endless on-stage recitations of "Lean on Me" followed by the hula-hooping twins and some kid painstakingly banging out the notes of "My Heart Will Go On" as he pretends to be Stevie Wonder? Yeah, this should be better. <p>WHEN: 7 p.m. WHERE: Student Union Building Allen Theatre COST: Free</p>	<p>FRIDAY Holi Celebration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The South Asian Student Association is hosting a Holi celebration meant to commemorate events in Hindu mythology. Since you won't be in India for this holiday, celebrate disregarding social norms with some merrymaking, free T-shirts and food. <p>WHEN: Noon WHERE: SUB Escondido Theatre COST: Free</p>	<p>SATURDAY See-Saw-A Thon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't worry, you won't get motion sickness just by supporting the event to raise money for Lubbock's Children's Advocacy Center and Prevent Child Abuse America. Just leave the see-sawing up to the professionals in Kappa Delta and Kappa Sigma. <p>WHEN: 9 a.m. today through 9 p.m. Sunday WHERE: Market Street at 50th Street and Indiana COST: Whatever you want to donate</p>	<p>SUNDAY Texas Tech Softball Tournament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tech's softball team is in the middle of a 13-game winning streak, so don't leave the team out of your weekend plans. Be sure to catch at least one of its home-run games this weekend against Wichita State and Boise State. <p>WHEN: All day WHERE: Rocky Johnson Field COST: Free with student ID</p>	<p>MONDAY Make Your Own Lip Balm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check your pockets. Did you wash your Chapstick again? Forget about it because Tech Activities Board is giving your lips a second chance to recover from Lubbock's dirt and wind. You can pick the color, container and — for those of you who want to recover from that ever-present Lubbock smell — scent. <p>WHEN: 11 a.m. WHERE: Student Union Building West Basement COST: Free</p>	<p>TUESDAY Symphonic Band</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take the night off from studying and watching "Tool Academy 3" and give your ears some much-deserved relaxation. Tech's Symphonic Band is sure to impress you with its musical stylings as Christopher Anderson conducts some of the best performers in Tech and West Texas. <p>WHEN: 8 p.m. WHERE: Hemmler Recital Hall COST: Free</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY "Taking Woodstock"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comedy Central loves Demetri Martin, and for the most part, so do you. His show pales in comparison to the raw, comedic power of his routines, but don't let that stop you from attending this TAB event. The two-day showing is free. Just don't bring anything suspicious into the theater. <p>WHEN: 3 p.m. WHERE: Student Union Building Escondido Theatre COST: Free</p>
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Downloadable 'RE5' content draws fans back

If you bought "Resident Evil 5" when it launched in March 2009, you probably played your fill and already shelved it.

It's almost certain the game's first piece of downloadable content — an ill-conceived and poorly executed "Versus" mode — didn't draw you back in, especially when better online hits like "Modern Warfare 2" showed up later in the year.

But there may be a good reason to dig out your copy of the zombie-themed survival horror game, as Capcom's latest attempts at downloadable content seem to be a big improvement over the last.

Capcom's newly released "Lost in Nightmares" downloadable chapter is filled with fan service for long-time followers of the "Resident Evil" franchise. The episode takes place during what was a flashback scene in the main "RE5" campaign, featuring heroes Chris Redfield and Jill Valentine paired up, just like the good old

Britton Peele



days. Whereas "Resident Evil 5" featured a lot of outdoor African landscapes and relatively high-octane action, "Lost in Nightmares" takes things back to the beginning, taking place in a dark, creepy mansion very reminiscent of the Spencer mansion from the original PlayStation classic. The nods to series veterans

don't stop there. In the roughly hour-long chapter, Jill picks a lock, plays "Moonlight Sonata" on a piano to open a secret passage, you turn cranks and place plates to open doors, and there's a hidden Easter egg that allows you to play the entire chapter in fixed camera angles. And that's not all.

If any of the above sounds familiar, "Lost in Nightmares" probably was developed with you in mind.

The chapter requires a copy of "Resident Evil 5" to play, but it stands entirely on its own. No items or weapons from the main game carry over, and you

can't even save your game — not that you'll need to, considering the length.

It's a short experience, but you can replay it to earn achievements and trophies, as well challenge yourself with higher difficulties. It's also light on the wallet, costing a mere \$5. If you're a diehard "Resident Evil" fan, it's probably worth a look.

"Lost in Nightmares" is available now on both Xbox Live and PlayStation Network, and has just been followed by another episode, "Desperate Escape," released this week.

If you don't own "Resident Evil 5" (or already traded it in), Capcom will be releasing a "Gold" edition of the game Tuesday that includes both episodes, as well as the multiplayer "Versus" mode. A good deal if you like killing zombies but haven't played "RE5" yet.

■ Peele is The DT's opinions editor. E-mail him at britton.peele@ttu.edu.

"If you're a diehard 'Resident Evil' fan, it's probably worth a look."

150 same-sex couples seek marriage licenses in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON (AP) — One gay couple met on a Star Trek fan site, another dancing at a country western bar. Some have been together for months, others more than a decade.

About 150 pairs had something in common Wednesday, though, applying for wedding licenses on the first day same-sex unions became legal in the nation's capital.

The mood at the marriage bureau inside the city's Moultrie Courthouse was celebratory. Couples clapped, called out "Congratulations" and cupcakes and tulips were handed out. One family said it was important to show up the first day.

"It sets a good example," said district resident Christine Burkhart, who married Denise Gavin in a ceremony in 2006 in Washington.

The pair stood in line rocking their twin 4-month-olds, Milo and Josephine. "We'll be able to tell them that we all went together as a family."

The District of Columbia became the sixth place in the country permitting same-sex unions. Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont also issue same-sex couples licenses.

Because of a processing period of three business days for all mar-

riage license applicants, the couples won't be able to marry until Tuesday. That's the day they can pick up their licenses.

Sinjoyla Townsend, 41, and her partner of 12 years, Angelisa Young, 47, claimed the first spot in line just after 6 a.m. The district residents are already domestic partners but wanted to marry.

"It's like waking up Christmas morning," said Young, who teared up when she sat down to process their paperwork. "It's really like a dream come true."

Most couples who applied for licenses were from the district and nearby Virginia and Maryland, which said last week it will recognize same-sex unions performed elsewhere until the state Legislature or courts decide otherwise. One couple got on the road at 4 a.m. to drive from West Virginia and another couple was from Delaware. Some said it was symbolic to get married in the nation's capital, but for many D.C. is simply home.

A number of couples worried that the licenses would be short-lived as in California, where same-sex marriage was legal for a time but later overturned by voters.

In D.C., the marriage bureau prepared for the day by making license

applications gender-neutral, asking for the name of each "spouse" rather than the "bride" and "groom." The bureau also brought in temporary employees to help its regular staff. Couples got numbers when they arrived to help with crowd control.

Normally, the bureau handles 10 applications a day. On Wednesday it was 151, though at least four heterosexual couples did show up, including Matt Lawson, 30, and Christine Vander Molen, 27.

They are getting married next weekend and couldn't wait any longer to apply for a license. Vander Molen said she didn't mind being the "odd couple out" and found it funny when one person looked at them quizzically and asked, "You two are getting married to each other?"

The gay marriage law was introduced in the 13-member D.C. Council in October and had near-unanimous support from the beginning. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty signed it in December, but because Washington is a federal district, the law had to undergo a congressional review period that expired March 2.

Opponents have so far been unsuccessful in challenging the law, but they are still attempting to overturn the bill in court. That worries Eric North and Tom French, both 45, who were at the courthouse.

"We want to get in when we can," French said.

"I want to be able to say I'm married," North added.

Child services worker searches for stun gun at Jackson home

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An attorney for Michael Jackson's mother confirms that child services workers are investigating the presence of a stun gun at the Jackson family home, but he says the late singer's children were never exposed to the weapon.

Attorney Adam Streisand confirmed the investigation Tuesday but said the mail-order stun gun delivered to the home was confiscated before any harm was done.

Streisand represents Katherine Jackson, who has custody of her son's three young children, Prince Michael, Paris and Prince Michael II, also known as Blanket. Streisand said the weapon was ordered by the 13-year-old son of Jermaine Jackson, Jafar, and sent to the Jackson family home in the Encino neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Jermaine Jackson's children also live in the home.

"Jafar opened the package in his bathroom and tested it on a piece of paper," Streisand said in a statement. Security and Katherine Jackson heard the sound and confiscated the weapon immediately.

Streisand said Michael Jackson's oldest son, Prince, saw the stun gun after it was taken by security.

"Blanket Jackson never saw or heard the taser," Streisand said. "Neither did Paris Jackson. Prince saw the taser in possession of security."

Streisand said child services workers have not given him or Katherine Jackson an update on the agency's inquiry. A phone message left for the agency was not immediately returned, but it generally does not comment on its cases.

"All of the kids are happy, healthy and wonderful, and that is Mrs. Jackson's only objective and concern," Streisand said.

Katherine Jackson has been caring for the children since their father's death June 25 at age 50. The children range in age from 8 to 13.

Prince Michael and Paris are the children of Michael Jackson's ex-wife Debbie Rowe, who was granted some visitation with them after the singer's death. The identity of Blanket's mother has never been revealed.

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Walters enjoys her last Oscars special

NEW YORK (AP) — Barbara Walters says her last Oscars television special will be her best.

Walters will sit down with actresses Sandra Bullock and Mo'Nique, both nominated for Academy Awards. Bullock is up for Best Actress for "The Blind Side," and Mo'Nique is nominated for Best Supporting Actress for "Precious."

Walters said she believes both will win.

By bidding adieu, Walters is ending a 29-year-old tradition of talking to celebrities on Hollywood's biggest night. It wasn't until 1988, though, that she began interviewing nominees.

"For the first seven years we were not allowed to interview any of the nominees because the (Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) thought it would interfere with their Oscar special," Walters said.

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Baylor beats Petty's Lady Raiders in Big 12 opener

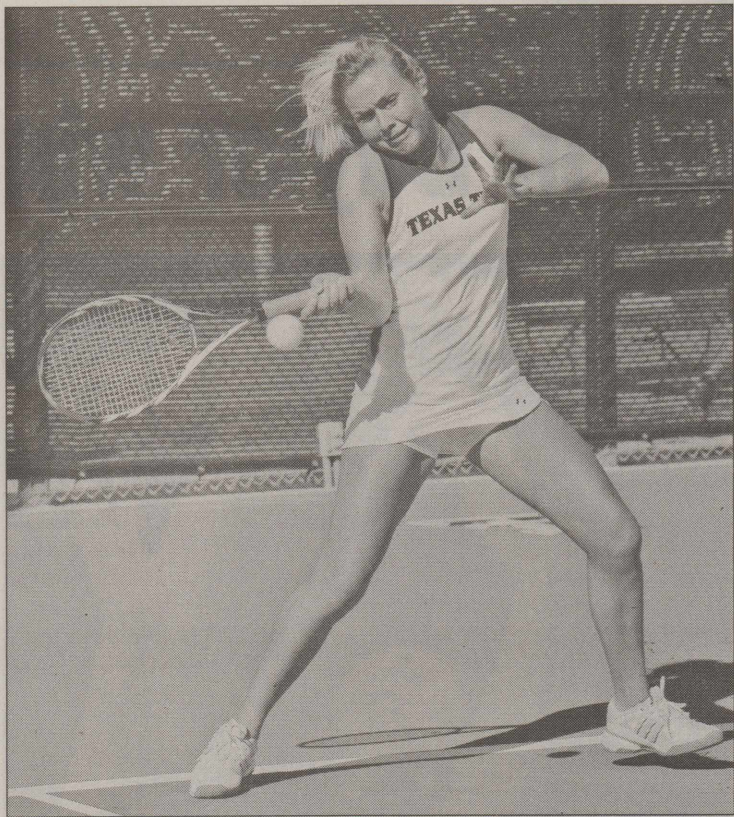


PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Toreador

ELIZABETH ULLATHORNE RETURNS the ball during the match against Baylor Wednesday at the McLeod Tennis Center.

By **JOSHUA KOCH**
STAFF WRITER

A top-notch opponent visiting Lubbock set the stage for a premier Big 12 Conference match, but in the end No. 9 Baylor was too much to handle for Todd Petty's Lady Raiders.

The Texas Tech women's tennis team (5-6, 0-1 in Big 12 play) fell to No. 9 Baylor (7-2, 1-0) 6-1, on Wednesday at the McLeod Tennis Center.

Even though the score was lopsided, Petty said his players still battled against a very good team.

"I think the girls competed hard," he said. "I thought we put ourselves in some positions. I mean you are playing the (No. 9) ranked team, I just think we got tentative in some positions. They got to start believing in themselves and knowing that they belong."

Doubles play started off rough for the Lady Raiders as junior Kelsy Garland and sophomore Natalie Leitch lost 8-1 to Baylor senior duo Lenka Broosova and Csilla Borsanyi.

This gave Baylor a shot at the doubles point and an early lead.

Senior Kerryn Potgieter and freshman Sandra Dynka combined to win only two games as they fell to juniors Taylor Ormond and Karolina Filipiak 8-2, clinching the doubles point for Baylor.

Even with this in mind, freshmen Caroline Starck and Elizabeth Ullathorne went on to win their doubles match 8-2 against freshman Carla Lindlar and sophomore Nina Secerbegovic.

But singles play was dominated by Baylor as the Bears won every match in straight-sets except in the No. 3 spot.

The potential sweep was spoiled as Tech's Leitch battled for the lone

Tech victory against Baylor's Ormond, defeating her 6-3, 3-6, 11-9 (tiebreaker).

This victory didn't win the match, but it was still a good win for the team and Leitch.

"Last year I got smoked (against Baylor)," she said. "So I really just wanted to go out there and win today, because I've always had such close matches with them. So I'm glad I finally pulled it through, it wasn't easy."

Dynka continued her struggles as she fell to Broosova 6-1, 6-0. Fellow freshman Lorena Aviles struggled again, only winning four games in her match, losing to Lindlar 6-3, 6-1.

In the No. 5 spot, Starck was

in each set at some point against Baylor's Filipiak, but in the end, she fell 6-3, 6-4. This gave Baylor a 4-0 lead and clinched the match for the team.

After this Ullathorne lost to Secerbegovic 6-3, 6-2, and Garland lost her match to Borsanyi 6-2, 6-4.

Baylor does not get much rest before getting back to work because its next match is this Saturday against Iowa State in Waco. Baylor then returns to nonconference play against No. 12 USC.

It will be more than two weeks until the Lady Raiders return to the court. Tech's next opponent will be No. 36 Oklahoma on March 19 in Lubbock.

Although the Lady Raiders lost, there was still experience gained by a young team going through a learning curve.

"I'm really proud of our team, we all really competed with obviously a top-ranked team," Starck said. "I think this just shows that we can do really good things this season, so I'm excited."

>> joshua.koch@ttu.edu

They got to start believing in themselves and knowing that they belong.

TODD PETTY
HEAD COACH
WOMEN'S TENNIS

WOMEN'S TENNIS BIG 12 PREVIEW

With the Big 12 opener out of the way, here is what Texas Tech has to look forward to for the rest of the season.

3/19 vs. Oklahoma

David Mullens, who had a solid tenure as Northwestern's coach, is in his first season at the helm at OU. So far this season at 7-1, the No. 36 Sooners' only loss came against No. 15 Arkansas, 6-1. Tech will be OU's first Big 12 match of the season. Ana-Maria Constantinescu is key for the Sooners. She is the defending Big 12 Player of the Year.

"In order for us to take that jump the whole team has to improve in a lot of different areas," Mullens said. "We're just better in every single position."

3/21 vs. Oklahoma State

The Cowgirls are a fairly young team with four freshmen and only one senior in the lineup. No. 61 Oklahoma State, at 4-2, has had its only two losses come against ranked opponents: No. 15 Arkansas and No. 22 SMU. Before facing Tech, Oklahoma State's first Big 12 match is against No. 9 Baylor March 19.

"I just think at Oklahoma State we're definitely improving," said OSU coach Chris Young, who is in his first season. "I think we are just going to try to be a team that nobody in the Big 12 wants to face. And just do our best

each time out."

3/26 at Texas

Last season, Texas advanced to the final 32 teams in the tournament before being knocked off by No. 9 California. This season, No. 33 Texas is 3-3 and has struggled. At one point, Texas lost three straight to ranked opponents, consisting of No. 11 Tennessee, No. 62 TCU and No. 14 Stanford. Texas's first Big 12 match is against Kansas State on March 19.

3/28 vs. Texas A&M

Bobby Kleinecke is in his 25th season as A&M's head coach. In those 25 years he has compiled an impressive resume, which includes more than 300 career victories and 10 straight trips to the NCAA Tournament, making it as far as the second round in that stretch.

"I think we're a scrappy team this year," Kleinecke said. "We've got a shot to beat a lot of good teams, and with a little luck and the hard work they continue on with I think there are bright spots ahead."

4/9 at Nebraska

At 10-1, the overall record might be good for the Cornhuskers, but the most Big 12 wins they've had in a season is nine and that was in 2004. The Cornhuskers have a chance to make some

noise in the conference when they take on Kansas State March 12.

"I think we're almost to where we want to be," Nebraska coach Scott Jacobson said. "Still we're only about halfway through the season."

4/11 at Iowa State

This team has struggled on the court, posting a 10-13 dual record last year. But the Cyclones are .500 so far this season at 5-5. ISU played some tougher nonconference matches with one of its losses coming to No. 29 Virginia Commonwealth. Iowa State begins Big 12 play this weekend against No. 9 Baylor.

4/16 vs. Colorado

No. 51 Colorado is 6-3 with each loss against ranked opponents, including No. 19 Vanderbilt. Colorado begins Big 12 play against Nebraska March 12.

"I think the Big 12 is an improving conference," coach Nicole Kenneally said. "We've got an influx of new coaches at a few programs over the last couple of years, and they're really doing a great job with their programs."

4/18 vs. Missouri

Missouri head coach Blake Starkey is in his 13th season at the helm of the women's tennis program, and right now he is pursuing the 200 win mark for his

career at Missouri. Missouri is 2-4 and has had a tough nonconference schedule, including losses to No. 21 Ohio State and No. 49 Purdue on the road. Big 12 play begins for the Tigers at Iowa State March 12.

"It's (the Big 12) turning into a premier league," Starkey said. "It's tough to do sometimes, but I think if everybody in the league goes aggressive with their schedules I think that's the way for the Big 12 as a whole to move forward."

4/23 at Kansas

The Jayhawks, at 5-3, still have a hefty nonconference schedule left before beginning Big 12 conference play. Big 12 play begins March 19 for the Jayhawks when they travel to College Station to face No. 47 Texas A&M.

4/25 at Kansas State

Steve Bietau is in his 26th season as head coach of the Wildcats. Throughout the past 25 seasons he has compiled more than 200 wins and the past seven of nine seasons, the Wildcats have at least made the Big 12 quarterfinals.

"From top to bottom it's a more difficult league (Big 12) I think than it has ever been," Bietau said. "We just expect a tough go every time out."

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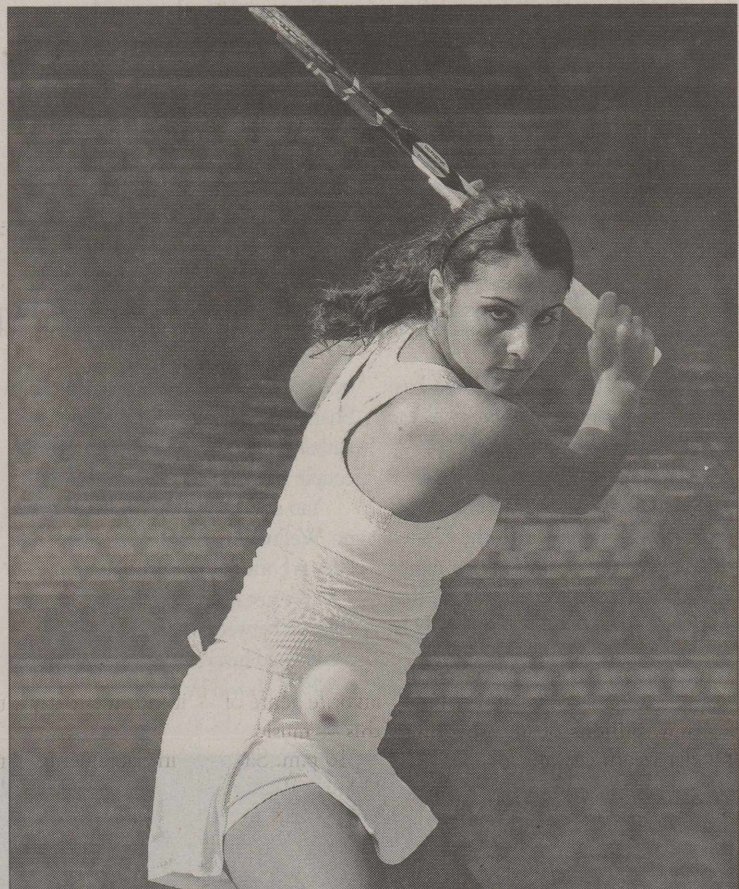



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ATHLETICS
OKLAHOMA'S ANA-MARIA Constantinescu won Big 12 Conference Player of the Year last season.

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SPORTS

PAGE 8
THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2010

Griner ejected for throwing forearm in Baylor win

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Raiders knew they had to disrupt Brittney Griner's offensive game if they wanted to beat No. 14 Baylor.

Although the Lady Bears still slid past Tech for a 69-60 win, one could say the Lady Raiders did their part in bothering the 6-foot-8 phenom.

The heralded center took her frustration to a whole new level with 9:01 remaining in the game when she delivered a forearm to Tech forward Jordan Barncastle's face — and connected — after the two got tangled under the basket.

Both benches cleared, resulting in a delay of about 10 minutes. No. 14 Baylor (22-7, 9-6 in Big 12 Conference play) finished the game without Griner, who was escorted from the court after things settled down. She finished the game with two blocks, four rebounds and a game-high 21 points.

"There's no place for that in sports," said Baylor head coach Kim Mulkey of Griner's behavior. "I will deal with Brittney Griner and it won't be discussed in the media. You saw the game, leave it at that. Not (Tech coach) Kristy (Curry), not me, not any coach, not any player will ever be proud of what took place on that floor tonight."

Additionally, Barncastle appeared

to have been injured during the scuffle, running off the floor and returning minutes later with a tissue up her nose and a different jersey.

Her status for the remainder of the season is uncertain and she is scheduled for a doctor appointment today to receive further evaluation.

"It was very unfortunate, very sad," Curry said. "My only concern right now is Jordan Barncastle because she may be out for the rest of the year. That's my biggest concern."

But instead of letting the actions affect them, the Lady Raiders (18-11, 5-10) used it as a spark.

Tissue up her nose and all, Barncastle stepped up to shoot four free-throws after BU guard Kelli Griffin missed a free-throw off a technical foul. Griffin got the free-throw as a result of Tech clearing its bench during the altercation Barncastle made all four.

The Lady Raiders went on a 16-5 run to narrow the Lady Bears' lead to five points with three minutes remaining.

But missed free-throws and turnovers were too much for Tech to overcome. The Lady Raiders shot 10-of-19 from the charity stripe and turned the ball over 17 times — 14 in the first half.

Nonetheless, Baylor struggled without Griner's presence underneath the basket. Tech forward Ashlee Roberson



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador
BRITTNEY GRINER IS escorted off the court after being ejected for delivering a forearm to Jordan Barncastle.

said her absence made it easier to produce on offense.

"She's what? (6-foot-8), protecting the basket," she said. "You want to attack the basket when she's off the floor. We have a lot of great penetrators that attack the basket, got fouled and that's when we made our little run."

Guards Jordan Murphree and Monique Smalls took advantage, scoring 16 and 13 points, respectively. The 13 points for Smalls tied her career-high.

Besides the potential loss of Barncastle, Tech's chances of earning an NCAA Tournament berth seem over. The Lady Raiders play their final regular

season game at Missouri on Sunday.

But Curry said this group is unlike any other she has ever had the opportunity to coach.

"I walked in one day, probably a month and a half ago, they had huddled and at the end of that they said 'family,'" she said. "This has been the most tightening group since I've been here. I guess that's what families do, they rally through adversity. We rallied down the stretch, but we lost the basketball game."

"None of us feel very good right now. It's a real family atmosphere with this group, they really love each other."

—jose.l.rodriguez@ttu.edu

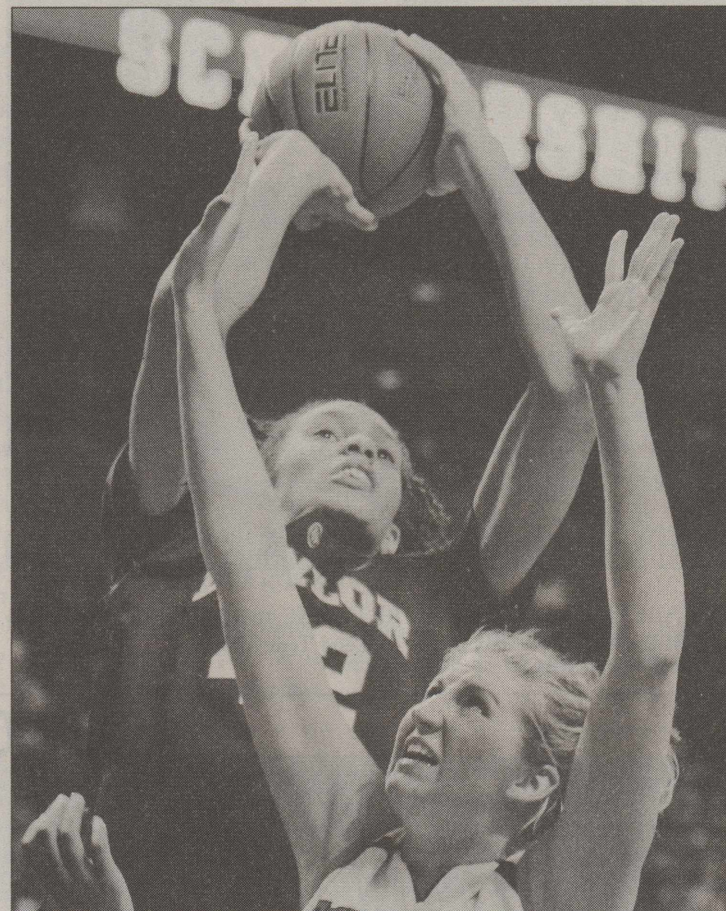


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador
BRITTNEY GRINER SHOOTS over Jordan Barncastle during Texas Tech's 69-60 loss to the Bears Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena. Griner was later ejected for delivering a forearm to Barncastle's face.

China fans ask, will Yao Ming's baby be American?

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese basketball fans want to know — will Yao Ming's baby be an American?

The Houston Rockets center, who is sidelined this season with a broken left foot, recently returned to the United States with wife Ye Li. That prompted speculation among his followers that the baby girl due this summer could be born in America.

Yao's personal life is closely followed

by his many fans at home, from his 2007 Shanghai wedding to the former basketball player to reports last month the couple is expecting a baby girl in July.

Yao said before the Rockets' game on Wednesday night that where the baby is born is a "private" matter.

"We just need some space," he said. "It's just between me and my wife."

He said he appreciated the positive feedback shown by his fans.

"We're excited about a new member of the family," he said. "We appreciate everyone who has given us good wishes. I really want to say thanks for that. It's a good thing for us."

Yao's baby would be an American citizen if born in the U.S. She also could claim Chinese citizenship as the child of Chinese nationals. However, Chinese law does not recognize dual citizenship.

Tech softball ties consecutive wins record

By ADAM COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

A 13-game winning streak that ties for the best in school history might be the talking point for Texas Tech softball fans.

But for Tech coach Shanon Hays, the turnaround this team has made is rarely even brought up.

"I try not to make a big deal out of any of it," he said. "I just say 'Hey, none of that matters. We want to win the next game.' That's all we try to think about is the next game. I think you ask any coach, that's their approach. The next game is the only thing that matters."

It's this approach that has the Red Raiders rolling.

The Red Raiders (15-1) rode Ashly Jacobs' solid pitching to a 4-1 win in the first game against Houston Baptist (4-8) and broke out the bats to end the game early on a run-rule in the second game, 8-0.

The two games had different

themes for both teams. In the first game, the Red Raiders were down 1-0 heading into the fourth.

But in the bottom of the fourth, Emily Bledsoe's RBI single and Mikey Kenney's two-run home run gave the Red Raiders all the scoring they needed to wrap up the first game.

Bledsoe's solo home run in the bottom of the sixth made sure Jacobs got her fourth win.

"I think it took a while for us to kind of get on track in the first game," Bledsoe said. "But in the locker room, coach just told us that we needed to have better at-bats, from at-bat to at-bat, not just kind of be lackadaisical out here."

And the Red Raiders didn't lack anything in the second game of the double header.

Tech exploded for 10 hits and six RBIs against HBU on Wednesday afternoon, getting production from Bledsoe, Kenney, Logan Hall and Ashley Hamada.

The Red Raiders started the game with a two-run double from Ken-

ney after a single from Stephanie Drewry.

In the second inning, an error on HBU pitcher Jammie Weidert allowed two runs to cross the plate, and an RBI single from Bledsoe followed. Hall brought Drewry in from third on the next at-bat to cap a four-run second.

An RBI single from Hall and a RBI double from Hamada put two more runs on the board to invoke the mercy-rule.

Pitching was not lacking in this game either.

Karli Merlich allowed three hits, one walk and struck out two in five innings for her sixth win of the season. Merlich only threw 59 pitches.

Jacobs and Merlich are undefeated at the top of the rotation this season, and teammates are taking notice.

"They both threw really good games," Kenney said. "Karli was keeping the ball low and they were just grounding out a lot. That really was working for this game."

—adam.coleman@ttu.edu

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