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Tech's Dowdy named to All-Big 12 1st Team

Junior is first volleyball player named since '02

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ
SPORTS WRITER

Amanda Dowdy was expected to contribute immediately at Texas Tech upon her arrival as a freshman, and she did, leading the volleyball team in kills every year of her career to this point.

But not until now, as a junior, would she be recognized as a member of the All-Big 12 Conference first team.

The conference made the announcement Monday afternoon, selecting Dowdy to the squad and making her the first Tech volleyball player to earn first-team status since Kelly Johnson did it in 2002. The post-

season honor is the second for Dowdy — she was named to the Big 12 All-Freshmen team in 2008.

Joining Dowdy on the first team are players such as Texas' Juliann Faucette and Iowa State's Ashley Mass. Faucette also was named the Big 12 Player of the Year, while Mass was tabbed Libero of the Year for the third consecutive year.

The honor for Dowdy is warranted, considering the Lexington native racked up a team and career best 424 kills to go along with 243 digs, good for second on the team this season behind Jackie Vincent's 351 digs.

DOWDY continued on Page 5 >>>



DOWDY

Lawsuit changes shape; Leach camp files suit against ESPN

Former coach also files against James' PR firm

By KASSIDY KETRON
STAFF WRITER

Former Texas Tech football coach Mike Leach is continuing litigation following his controversial firing at the end of the 2009 football season.

In the ongoing saga's latest development since a judge ruled Leach couldn't sue individuals affiliated with Tech in his previous lawsuit, Leach filed a separate suit against ESPN and Spaeth Communications.

Leach attorney Ted Liggett said the decision to sue the television

network and the public relations firm had to be made this month due to a one-year statute of limitations.

Both ESPN and Spaeth Communications are being sued for libel and slander, he said. The lawsuit alleges that ESPN broadcasted that Adam James was punished for having a concussion and then locked in an electrical closet.

"Adam James wasn't punished for having a concussion and he wasn't locked anywhere, and he admitted that he was never placed in an electrical closet," Liggett said.

Liggett said the television net-

work gave unfair coverage of the incident and said he hopes to have Leach's name cleared.

"We want ESPN and Spaeth Communications to tell the world what we've already proven, which is that Adam James wasn't locked anywhere and wasn't punished for having a concussion," he said.

The cases against Chancellor Kent Hance, President Guy Bailey, Athletic Director Gerald Meyers and two members of the Board of Regents Larry Anders and Jerry Turner were all dropped



LEACH

earlier this month.

Liggett said Leach never made any decision to drop the individual cases. It was a judges ruling that decided the individual cases would not move forward because Leach's decision to sue Texas Tech University came first.

"There wasn't any kind of any new development in where we made any decision to drop anything," Liggett said. "The judge ruled 'Yes, Mike Leach you can proceed against Texas Tech University for breach of contract and against Craig James.' Texas Tech University appealed saying 'Please, don't make us go to trial' and that's what the seventh court of appeals is deciding right now."

LEACH continued on Page 2 >>>

BUILDING AN EDUCATION



PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Toreador

GARIK ROWE, AN architecture graduate student from Luck, Wis., works on a comprehensive studio model in the Architecture building on Monday.

Increasing diabetes rates makes prevention, treatment top priority

Tech Health Sciences Center seeks to increase awareness

By BRIAN HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center is attempting to raise awareness about the increasing prevalence of diabetes among the American population.

According to a report recently released by UnitedHealth Group, more than half of all Americans will have diabetes or will have pre-diabetic related health issues by the year 2020, putting an economic toll on the health care industry at an estimated cost of \$3.35 trillion.

Surendra Varma, the associate dean for graduate medical education and distinguished professor in the HSC department of pediatrics, said diabetes is a growing concern now and in the future.

"One reason we've seen an alarming rise in diabetes diagnoses is because the general population is growing and health care providers are becoming more aware of diabetes," he said, "and thus, we see an increase in the number of people with diabetes."

Another reason an increasing percentage of the population has diabetes is due our sedentary lifestyles as Americans, Varma said.

"Our eating habits and lack of physical activity reciprocates more diabetes," he said. "For working couples, the convenience of eating fast food, which their children therefore also eat, can lead to many health problems associated with diabetes."

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The Red Raiders host Oral Roberts today before their road showdown with No. 23 Washington on Saturday. SPORTS, Page 6

'Futurist,' author to be guest speaker in lecture series

Kotkin is internationally recognized in economic, global, social trends

By HALLIE DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

With a title like "futurist," it's hard not to think of Joel Kotkin as a fortune teller from an old movie.

The author, speaker and "fu-

turist" will be speaking at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Allen Theatre to end this semester's Presidential Lecture and Performance Series season.

Jo Moore, the administrator of the series, said Kotkin is special guest of Guy Bailey. Though

the president does not always work with the series on a day-to-day basis, Moore said he requested Kotkin because he is a huge fan of the author.

Bailey said he was honored to have Kotkin as a part of the series.



KOTKIN

"Kotkin is in the center of the national dialogue for future economic growth," Bailey said. "The Lubbock community can expect to be impressed by Kotkin's optimistic outlook for West Texas and learn how we can position ourselves to have a competitive advantage."

SPEAKER continued on Page 3 >>>

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THE DAILY TOREADOR

Community Calendar

TODAY

Texas Tech Men's Basketball vs. Oral Roberts
Time: 7 p.m.
Where: United Spirit Arena

From Tenors to Tarantellas
Time: 8 p.m.
Where: Hemmle Recital Hall

So, what is it?
A performance by the World Music and Ragtime ensembles.

TUESDAY

Tech Women's Basketball vs. UTSA
Time: 7 p.m.
Where: United Spirit Arena

To make a calendar submission e-mail features@dailytoreador.com.

Events will be published either the day or the day before they take place. Submissions must be sent in by 4 p.m. on the preceding publication date.

Secretary of State says WikiLeaks acted illegally

WASHINGTON (AP) — Striking back, the Obama administration branded the leak of more than a quarter-million sensitive files an attack on the United States Monday and raised the prospect of criminal prosecution against the online site WikiLeaks. The Pentagon detailed new security safeguards, including restraints on small computer flash drives, to make it harder for any one person to copy and reveal so many secrets.

The young Army Pfc. suspected of stealing the diplomatic memos, many of them classified, and feeding them to WikiLeaks may have defeated Pentagon security systems using little more than a Lady Gaga CD and a portable computer memory stick.

The soldier, Bradley Manning has not been charged in the latest release of internal U.S. government documents. But officials said he is the prime suspect partly because of his own description of how he pulled off a staggering heist of classified and restricted material.

"No one suspected a thing," Manning told a confidant afterward, according to a log of his computer chat published by Wired.com. "I didn't even have to hide anything."

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton asserted Monday that WikiLeaks acted illegally in posting the material. She said the administration was taking "aggressive steps to hold responsible those who stole this information."

Attorney General Eric Holder said the government was mounting a criminal investigation, and the Pentagon was tightening access to information, including restricting the use of computer storage devices such as CDs and flash drives.

"This is not saber-rattling," Holder said. Anyone found to have broken American law "will be held responsible."

Holder said the latest disclosure, involving classified and sensitive State Department documents, jeopardized the security of the nation, its diplomats, intelligence assets and relationships with foreign governments.

A weary-looking Clinton agreed. "I want you to know that we are taking aggressive steps to hold responsible those who stole this information," Clinton said. She spoke in between calls to foreign capitals to make amends for scathing and gossipy memos never meant for foreign eyes.

Manning is charged in military court with taking other classified material later published by the online clearinghouse WikiLeaks. It is not clear whether others such as WikiLeaks executives might be charged separately in civilian courts.

Clinton said the State Department was adding security protections to prevent another breach. The Pentagon, embarrassed by the apparent ease with which secret documents were passed to WikiLeaks, had detailed some of its new precautions Sunday.

Col. Dave Lapan, a Pentagon spokesman, said it was possible that many people could be held accountable if they were found to have ignored security protocols or somehow enabled the download without authorization.

A senior Defense Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the criminal case against Manning is pending, said he was unaware of any firings or other discipline over the security conditions at Manning's post in Iraq.

In his Internet chat, Manning described the conditions as lax to the point that he could bring a homemade music CD to work with him, erase the music and replace it with secrets. He told the computer hacker who would turn him in that he lip-synched along with pop singer Lady Gaga's hit "Telephone" while making off with "possibly the largest data spillage in American history."

Wired.com published a partial log of Manning's discussions with hacker R. Adrian Lamo in June.

"Weak servers, weak logging, weak physical security, weak counterintelligence, inattentive signal analysis," Manning wrote. "A perfect storm."



ALLY ROSSMAN, A junior education major from Plano, trims a boxwood plant into a bonsai tree in the University Greenhouse on Monday. PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador

Country of Fiji at odds with water company

SUVA, Fiji (AP) — The Fiji government has charged the California-based Fiji Water company with making untrue statements about instability in the South Pacific islands nation because it doesn't want to pay higher taxes on the water it extracts there.

Fiji Water on Monday closed its operations in the South Pacific country that gives the popular bottled drink its name, saying it was being singled out by the military-led government for a massive tax increase.

A company statement announcing the decision did not say whether the company was shutting down permanently in Fiji, where an acquirer deep underground has been the source of one of the world's most popular bottled water brands.

The company, owned by California entrepreneurs Lynda and Stewart Resnick, said it was closing its facility in Fiji, canceling orders from suppliers and putting on hold several construction contracts in the country.

But it wanted to keep operating in Fiji and was willing to hold discussions with the government about that, said

the statement, issued from the company's headquarters in Los Angeles.

But the prime minister, Commodore Frank Bainimarama, said Tuesday that the company has paid minimal corporate taxes since it was set up.

The company had had a corporate tax holiday till two years ago and had paid just \$500,000 in corporate taxes since, he said in a statement. In turn, it received \$2.26 million dollars in VAT (value added tax) refunds because it is an export business.

"As usual Fiji Water has adopted tactics that demonstrate (it) does not care about Fiji or Fijians. They have made statements about supposed instability in Fiji and know it is not true, yet do so because they simply do not want to pay the new taxes," he said.

"If Fiji Water is no longer interested in Fiji then the Fijian Government, following cancellation of the (company's land) leases, will call for international tenders from credible and reputable private sector companies to extract this valuable resource," he said.

In its statement, Fiji Water president

John Cochran said Fiji's government announced last week that it was imposing a new tax rate of 15 cents per liter on companies extracting more than 3.5 million liters (920,000 gallons) of water a month — up from the current one-third of one percent rate. Fiji Water is the only company extracting that much water.

"This new tax is untenable and as a consequence, Fiji Water is left with no choice but to close our facility in Fiji," the company, which sells its bottled water in more than 40 countries, said.

The tax rise comes amid a deep downturn in Fiji's economy that is blamed on political instability following a coup in 2006 by armed forces chief Commodore Frank Bainimarama — Fiji's fourth coup since 1987. Key trading partners have imposed various sanctions on the government, including European Union restrictions on the vital sugar industry.

Bainimarama's government has also taken a hard line with foreign companies. Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. in September sold its controlling stake in Fiji's main daily newspaper after the government imposed strict new foreign

ownership limits on media companies. Cochran said Fiji Water was the only company that would be affected by the tax increase.

The government's action "sends a clear and unmistakable message to businesses operating in Fiji or looking to invest there: the country is increasingly unstable, and is becoming a very risky place in which to invest," Cochran's statement said.

He said Fiji Water remained "willing to work through this issue with the Fiji Government, as it would be our preference to keep operating in Fiji."

Fiji Water is a well known brand of bottled water, sold in several dozen countries including the United States where it is one of the top 10 bottled waters.

The Resnick's Roll International Corp. bought Fiji Water in 2004 for an undisclosed sum from Canadian billionaire David Gilmour, a resort owner who founded the water company in 1996. The company has sought to stay clear of Fiji's volatile politics, but recently became embroiled in a dispute between Bainimarama and his deputy.

Defense builds insanity case at Smart trial in UT

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Defense attorneys called a string of witnesses Monday to support an insanity defense for the man charged in the 2002 kidnapping of Elizabeth Smart.

Utah State Hospital therapist Gregory Porter testified that he was initially skeptical about whether defendant Brian David Mitchell was mentally ill.

But Mitchell then spoke freely about his religious revelations about polygamy and details of the kidnapping

— "things he probably shouldn't have told us," said Porter, who was Mitchell's social worker from 2005 to 2008.

Porter and forensic psychiatrist Dr. Paul Whitehead jointly diagnosed Mitchell with a delusional disorder that showed itself in his religious ideas but added that he also had "islands of health" — periods of time when he functioned and acted normally, Porter said.

Mitchell also engaged in periods of silence, refusing to speak to staff mem-

bers and only writing notes when he needed something. He mostly ignored other residents and spent time reading alone or watching TV, according to testimony.

By day, Mitchell exercised, running in circles for two or three hours inside a small courtyard. At night, he sat meditating on a towel on the floor, Porter said.

Although he sometimes preached to new residents, Mitchell wasn't preoccupied with religion, the therapist said.

"We assumed that he would spend hours a day studying, writing and preaching, and that was not the case," Porter testified.

He agreed with prosecutors that Mitchell acted differently at the hospital than in court, where he routinely disrupts proceedings with hymn singing.

"He is unwilling to participate," Porter said. "That would grant tacit approval of the legal system and he was not about to do that."

Leach

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Texas Tech University's attorney, Dickey Grigg said the decision to drop the individual cases was made by Leach's attorneys because they determined they had no case and decided to

dismiss it.

Because of this decision Grigg believes it will benefit Tech's case.

He said he considers Leach's decision to sue ESPN and Spaeth Communications as an act of desperation.

"Well I guess what he's going to do next is sue the manufac-

turer of the shed where he put Adam James for making the shed too dark," Grigg said.

Spaeth Communications released the following statement in regards to Leach's recent decision to sue the firm.

"Because his effort to sue Texas Tech University individuals failed, it now appears that Coach

Leach is looking for someone else to blame, and has shifted his focus to the Craig James family, ESPN and Spaeth Communications. This lawsuit is the predictable strategy of a man who is desperate to avoid accountability for his own behavior."

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Diabetes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There is an increasing rate of diabetes among children as well, Varma said.

"It has less to do with risk factors like family history than many think," he said. "For example, the Texas Legislature only recently mandated physical activity for

children in certain grades of schooling, but I think it should be mandated for all ages, and all groups."

Although diabetes is more common in those who lead unhealthy lifestyles, Varma said, all people should understand the symptoms of diabetes because it is a disease that can affect anyone, even those who are in excellent health.

He said common symptoms of dia-

betes include increased thirst, frequent urination throughout the day and night and consistent lack of energy.

Although diabetes can be caused by genetics, Varma said, it is still generally seen as a disease that is associated with poor health.

"There is an underlying message that people need to hear," he said, "daily physical activity, eating in moderation

and keeping your weight under control is the best way to thwart diabetes."

Janie Garms, program director of the diabetes center at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa, said education should be the top priority in the prevention of diabetes.

"Advanced practitioners of diabetes are greatly lacking in our society," she said. "We have to educate the public."

As director of the diabetes center in Odessa, Garms said she works closely with the local community.

"We do a lot of community outreach," she said, "which involves educating the local population with facts and information through our advisory board."

The Hispanic community is especially at risk for diabetes, Garms said, which is especially important in Texas since the state has such a large Hispanic population.

"Hispanics are two to three times more likely to contract diabetes," she said. "We hold public discussions regarding diabetes that are targeted at Hispanic populations, including at churches, community events and Hispanic celebration events. Prevention is where it's at."

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Today's su | do | ku

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

Puzzles by PageFeller

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.

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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<p>WEDNESDAY CHARLIE ROBISON</p>		<p>SATURDAY BAND OF HEATHENS W/ 6 MKT BLVD</p>

WikiLeaks motives, outcome tough to judge

All of this recent news about WikiLeaks has me feeling pretty torn.

On one hand, I greatly applaud the fact that citizens are doing their part to keep our nation in check. By leaking a multitude of government documents, it could be (and has been) argued that WikiLeaks is doing a great service in helping prevent a "1984"-esque regime, where secrets reign and everything is controlled by the government. It's good to know there are people out there who would do whatever it takes to make sure information stays with the people.

On the other hand, however, I worry that some things are far better left private. Some secrets, after all, are kept to protect people.

I'm not even talking exclusively about the U.S. soldiers that could

Britton Peele



potentially be harmed by certain pieces of intelligence falling into the wrong hands, though that's certainly an issue we should be concerned about. I'm talking about us. You, me, our families... The regular people, as it were.

Not that I endorse most gossip, but have you ever been in a situation with a friend or family member where you want to say something about them — maybe that they got a horrible haircut or that they're

a terrible artist — but you never tell them directly because you know the strife it would cause? Feelings would be hurt, sure, but in some cases you know things might become heated and violence may break out. It's better for everybody around if you just keep your mouth shut, maybe only talking to a couple trusted friends about the issue.

Or say you're in a bar and you see a rather buff and mean looking guy with a pretty hot girl on his arm, you typically keep any comments you have about either of them to yourself. You might

tell your buddies that the girl is really hot, but you certainly don't walk up to the guy or the girl and say it, lest you be punned.

These are the kind of things that the latest WikiLeaks leak is making public. Only the gossip is on a global scale and all the nations involved carry really big sticks. If too many people are angered, we could be looking at some pretty scary times in the future.

So if people and organizations such as WikiLeaks don't exist, we might (but might not) put ourselves

at risk of totalitarian control, where freedom dies and the common man and woman suffers greatly.

But if the likes of WikiLeaks aren't careful and divulge the wrong information, we might (but might not) put ourselves at risk of global war that could devastate our entire planet.

It's like we're living in the tagline for "Alien vs. Predator." No matter who wins, we lose.

This is why I'm torn about the issue. If I had to choose a side right now, I would say that WikiLeaks is at serious risk of going overboard (if they haven't already) and should probably be dealt with. But I can't deny the potential benefits of such an organization existing in the long run. Provided, of course, that the organization itself is moral and truly

has our best interests in mind.

Unfortunately, I think Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is right when she said on Monday that the latest leak is "an attack on the international community" and poses a serious risk to U.S. foreign relations. Whether WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has good intentions or not, there's a very good chance that he's doing more harm than good.

We are extremely lucky to live in a nation where we do elect those in charge of us. We have to hope that those people won't abuse the power we've given them, and trust that sometimes they keep secrets for a reason.

■ **Peele is The DT's opinions editor.**

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"It's like we're living in the tagline for 'Alien vs. Predator.' No matter who wins, we lose."

Despite Tea Party claims, Pilgrims were not socialists

I like Thanksgiving. It's one of those great holidays where we can all come together and celebrate all of the wonderful things we've been blessed with.

Just about everyone who grew up in the United States knows the history of the Thanksgiving holiday as a harvest festival in which the Pilgrims, the first settlers who came to the New World from England, extended their gratitude to the Native Americans who taught them about agriculture and hunting a new and unfamiliar territory.

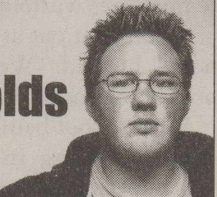
However, according to many in the Tea Party, Thanksgiving is yet another early historical demonstration of how socialism fails and free-markets prevail.

During the Thanksgiving break, I read an article in The New York Times on Nov. 20 by Kate Zernike titled "The Pilgrims were... Socialists?" that explained the idea.

"In the Tea Party view of the holiday, the first settlers were actually early socialists. They realized the error of their collectivist ways and embraced capitalism, producing a bumper year, upon which they decided that it was only right to celebrate the glory of the free market and private property."

The article went on to show many similar versions of the story and differing viewpoints several economic historians

Jakob Reynolds



have on the matter. One of the most commonly held versions that was mentioned comes from the libertarian economic think tank Ludwig von Mises Institute (LMI for short).

In a very emotional article written by Richard J. Maybury, they explain that during the first harvest in 1621, the colonists tried to pool their resources into what settlement governor William Bradford referred to in his "History of Plymouth Plantation" as the "common store." According to the LMI, the "early form of socialism" didn't work as planned, and degraded into a system of corruption and thievery that facilitated general laziness amongst the colonists. Because of this lack of motivation, the settlers starved for years.

Then, according to LMI's interpretation, the Plymouth governor decided to abolish socialism and set up a capitalist free-market system in which everyone received their own land to do with what they pleased. The settlers were then suddenly motivated to work the fields,

resulting in their harvest of more food than they knew what to do with. They then rejoiced with their Native friends and yet again capitalism and the free market saved the day.

Now, due to standards of professionalism, I cannot write what my true reaction to this incredibly inaccurate and misleading version of the history of a perfectly good American holiday was. Instead, I will provide another expert's opinion on the beginnings of the American tradition.

According to Richard Pickering, an early American historian and the deputy director of the Plimoth Plantation museum, William Bradford wouldn't have declared 3 days of sporting and feasting in 1621 had the crops not been adequate and would have instead rationed them to get by. The crops were, in fact, pretty good considering the time period and tools at their disposal.

He also stated that the "socialist" system was not socialist at all, and was instead "directed ultimately to private profit." The Pilgrims were more like shareholders in a corporation. Moreover, he notes, the so-called "early socialist system" was not meant to be a permanent system, rather it was a means for a ragtag group of colonists to survive the first winter in a foreign land.

So, when a bunch of Tea Party fanatics tell you that the Pilgrims were actually socialists that realized the folly of their ways, converted to capitalism and began the Thanksgiving holiday as a celebration of the success of the free-market system, you can take comfort in the fact that they have yet again made complete fools of themselves.

Regardless of whether or not the first Thanksgiving was a harvest celebration or the Pilgrims' version of a thank-you card to the Indians, I'm fairly certain there is no hidden economics lesson in the story of its beginnings.

■ **Reynolds is a freshman history major from Lubbock.**
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Holiday season not about consumerism

By **ANDREW LACY**
DAILY NEBRASKAN (U. NEBRASKA)

If there's one thing I've learned from my time working in retail, it's this: Santa Claus is the anti-Christ.

While many students were at home spending Thanksgiving with their families, I was still in Lincoln, 400 miles from home. I do have some family here, so I wasn't alone, but it's kind of like dancing with someone else's wife: It works OK, but it's just not the same.

And why was I here? Because I had to be to work at 6:45 Friday morning in line the night of Thanksgiving so they can buy a new TV? But it's not like this is anything new. Christmas has been completely stripped of its meaning for years in favor of rampant consumerism. The real significance of the holiday is pushed aside and, for the most part, just gets lip service. People may put up a nativity set in their homes, but then they become preoccupied with what they need to buy.

And these were the same ones. I was fortunate enough to work at a place that didn't open until 7. I feel sorry for the people who work at places like Wal-Mart or Target and

had to be to work ridiculously early. Have people lost their minds?

I don't fault the stores. They're just trying to make money to get into the black for the year. Major sales are simply a way to reach that goal. It's the consumers who are the problem. Do these people really think they have nothing better to do than stand in line the night of Thanksgiving so they can buy a new TV?

But it's not like this is anything new. Christmas has been completely stripped of its meaning for years in favor of rampant consumerism. The real significance of the holiday is pushed aside and, for the most part, just gets lip service. People may put up a nativity set in their homes, but then they become preoccupied with what they need to buy.

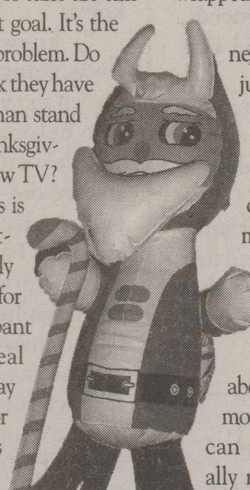
I fail to see how spending money faster than the Obama administration honors a humble carpenter who was born in a stable and never in his life cared about wealth or material possessions. A

fat man in a red suit can hardly measure up to the gifts given to us by a child lying in a manger. Christmas isn't about packages wrapped in paper; it's about a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not necessarily saying people should just stop buying stuff for Christmas.

The economy would be in even bigger trouble if people completely stopped spending money at the time of year that often makes or breaks retail businesses. But that should be a secondary concern.

Stop worrying so much about buying presents, and worry more about the only thing people can give each other that actually matters: love. Family, friends, spouses, significant others. These are the things that matter, not that 40-inch plasma TV you trampled three people and punched an old lady to get for half price. Those are the things I'll be thinking about while I'm at work for a pointless extra hour when there won't be any customers anyway.



Banning earmarks a 'solution to nowhere,' isn't good enough

By **STEVEN ZOELLER**
OKLAHOMA DAILY (U. OKLAHOMA)

There's an old adage of government spending, often attributed to the late Sen. Everett Dirksen: "A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you're talking real money."

The remark still echoes in the halls of Congress, mostly ignored by politicians who would rather waste time trying to ban earmarking, a useful practice which accounts for only 1 percent of the annual federal budget.

Republicans and Democrats alike hail it as a step towards government accountability and a shrinking deficit.

Whether this is lame duck grandstanding or they seriously believe their own claims, it only takes a quick review of facts to realize it's a step backwards.

The very nature of earmarks is distributive. By definition, they are appropriations of funds in a spending bill to benefit local projects.

This means attaching less earmarks doesn't make the original bill any lighter; it only sends the funds in fewer directions.

Recall, as mentioned earlier, that earmarks account for only 1 percent of the annual federal budget, or \$16 billion — not "real" money by any means, and a trifle compared to that wasted in health care spending.

Combine this fact with your knowledge of earmarks, and you'll be strained to make a strong logical link between banning them and shrinking the deficit.

Sen. Mitch McConnell — who until recently championed earmarks to vastly improve the capitol of his state of Kentucky — claims that "the abuse of [earmarking] has caused Americans to view it as a symbol of the waste and out-of-control spending that every Republican in

Washington is determined to fight."

We can agree with everything but his solution. Yes, earmarks are a symbol, but that's it. In a way, he admits a ban would be merely symbolic.

And indeed, there have been cases of abuse; that which comes to mind first is the infamous "bridge to nowhere," an Alaskan bridge connecting the mainland to an island with a population of about fifty.

However, for every useless bridge and beer museum — whether you'll regard that Wisconsin expense as worthwhile or not is a matter of taste — there's a charity or medical institute that receives funding it wouldn't usually get without earmarks.

If the problem is money going to undeserving projects, then why not ban that instead?

If the new Republicans in Congress truly want to start an era of fiscal responsibility and deficit management, a ban on earmarks belongs near the bottom of the list, if it belongs on the list at all. They need to start looking at "real money."

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Rockets' poor start shouldn't come as surprise

The Houston Rockets are a huge disappointment to their fans, but we should have seen this coming.

The Rockets sit dead last in the Southwest division. Yao Ming is hurt. The offense lacks a killer instinct. The defense is atrocious. This all sounds familiar.

Same results, different pieces. It is clear the Yao Ming experiment needs to come to an end in Houston. He no longer has the physical ability to play at a high level without being injured.

I like Yao. I love watching him play when he is healthy. He has come a long way from when I sat and watched Shaq push him around in their first meeting. It is just time for him to move on. It isn't his fault. He has played too much basketball for his body.

Cody Stoots



China's use of him in international competition shortened his career significantly.

The Rockets must move forward as if Yao isn't part of the equation. It isn't extremely difficult to put together a stretch run and get into the playoff hunt in the NBA. The Rockets probably aren't capable of that, however.

This team is awful. There, I said it. It is how I really feel. Houston teams have trouble with defense. The Texans can't stop anyone and neither

can the Rockets.

The Rockets score pretty well for not having a superstar on offense. On the flipside they give up as many points per game as they score. The real problem here, defense doesn't go on cold streaks. There is no player on this team who can play a lick of defense.

Aaron Brooks and Kevin Martin are huge liabilities. Luis Scola and Brad Miller try hard, but don't have the talent to defend well. Shane Battier is showing the wear and tear of a veteran. He is a few steps slower and not the presence on defense he was just two years ago.

No offense in the NBA should fear the Rockets. Teams can beat the Rockets many ways. They don't have a weakness, they have weaknesses.

The real question is who is

to blame for the sad shape of the Rockets.

Every one has the one friend who always wants to do something really fun. You make all the plans, you even get most of the stuff ready to go to that fun thing, and your friend is just never ready to go with you.

General Manager Daryl Morey is that guy right now. Fans have trusted Morey to work

magic with the roster. He has acquired draft picks. He has acquired pieces to trade for a superstar. He has looked to add that final piece to the Rockets, and he hasn't done it.

Frankly, he can't do it now. The Rockets don't possess one piece that a team would exchange a superstar for right now. The draft picks could prove valuable, but the Rockets are so bad, they may

need the picks for themselves.

Daryl Morey can plug all the number he wants into his computer, but this team is bad and not in a position to improve right now. Morey is famous for getting a lot for a little in his trades. Well he has the task of getting something for nothing in the future.

I may have turned a little quick on Morey, but forgive me. The Texans GM put a lot of his guys in a "position to succeed" and look where that got them. The clock is ticking for Morey, we just need to know if it is for an explosive trade, or the Rockets' draft position.

Stoots is a senior broadcast journalism major from Houston. He previously interned at one of Houston's sports radio stations.
 >> cody.stoots@ttu.edu

"No offense in the NBA should fear the Rockets. Teams can beat the Rockets many ways. They don't have a weakness, they have weaknesses."

Dowdy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I couldn't be happier for Amanda," Tech intern head coach Beth Falls said in a news release issued shortly after the announcement. "She had one of the best seasons in school history, and her selection by the Big 12 coaches is very rewarding. Amanda was one of our leaders on the court each and every day, and I think the best is still to come for her."

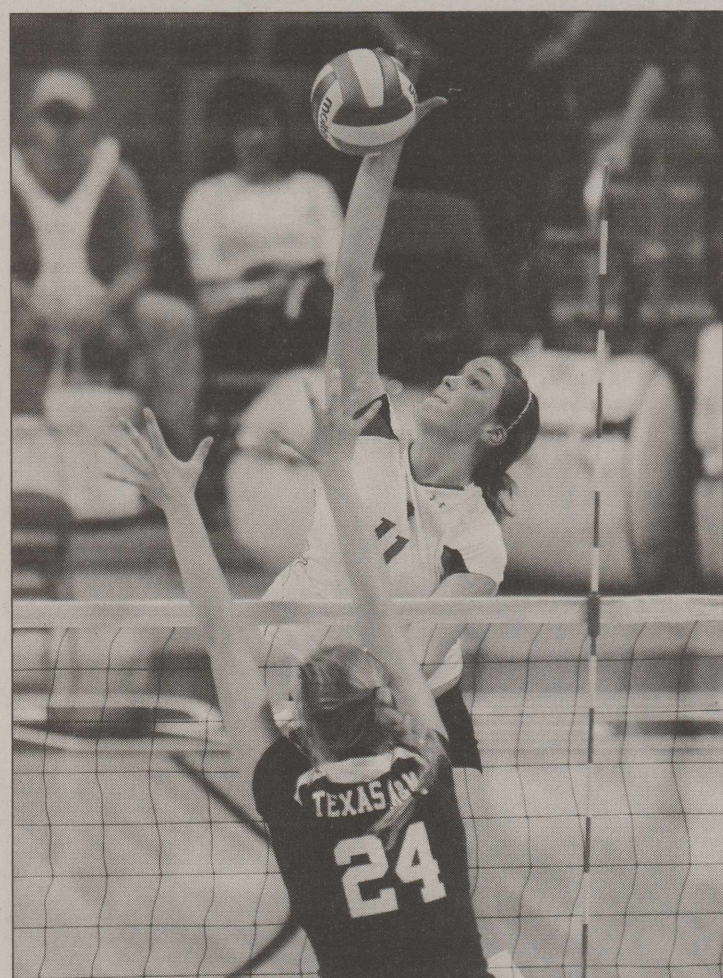
Dowdy's career-best numbers this season helped lift the Red Raiders to new levels this season, such as a 34-kill outing against Colorado in Boulder, Colo., a game which they won 3-2.

That was the first road win for the volleyball program since 2006, when the Red Raiders defeated Kansas 3-2 in Lawrence, Kan.

The 6-foot-3 middle blocker and outside hitter recorded her best performance of the season against those same Buffaloes before that road win, logging 37 kills and 20 digs in a 3-2 loss to the Buffaloes in the United Spirit Arena.

The 37 kills broke the school record for most in a single match, which originally was a 34-kill match by Johnson against Kansas State in 2002.

Dowdy was only one of three players in the Big 12 to record a 30-kill match during the year and her 4.12 kills per set average was second in the conference, behind Iowa State's



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador
AMANDA DOWDY DELIVERS one of her 424 kills she gathered on the year, a number that helped her land on the All-Big 12 first team.

Victoria Henson, who averaged 4.47 kills per set.

Dowdy is just the seventh player

in Tech volleyball's history to earn a first-team honor.

>> jrodriguez@dailytoreador.com

TCU moving to Big East

FORT WORTH (AP) — TCU is getting out of future debates about whether the Horned Frogs deserve to be in a BCS game. They are joining a league with automatic access.

The Frogs won't have to be a BCS buster when they move to the Big East Conference, starting with the 2012 season. Win their new league and they will be guaranteed a spot in one of the big-money games.

In the latest restructuring of the college football landscape, TCU's board of trustees unanimously approved an invitation Monday to join the Big East in football and all other sports. The move from the Mountain West Conference becomes official July 1, 2012.

TCU athletic director Chris Del Conte said gaining automatic-qualifying status "was a big factor" in the move and gives the Horned Frogs "the greatest opportunity to compete for the national championship."

The Big East, currently with eight football teams, has one of six automatic BCS slots.

"Access got easier, not the road," said Frogs coach Gary Patterson, whose third-ranked Frogs (12-0) wrapped up their second consecutive undefeated regular season and Mountain West title with a 66-17

win at New Mexico on Saturday.

TCU is third in the BCS standings — the highest-ranked non-automatic qualifying team — and is in line for a chance to play for the national championship if Auburn or Oregon lose next weekend. The Frogs likely will play in the Rose Bowl if Auburn and Oregon both win.

"Who would have thought five years ago that the guaranteed fallback position is, you're going to the Rose Bowl, and one loss you're in the national championship?" Del Conte told a room filled with supporters and staff. "We're going to Pasadena, let's get fired up. We're going to the Big East, let's get fired up. ... It's a great time to be a Frog."

The pending departure of TCU continues a big shuffle for the Mountain West, which last summer announced that Boise State was leaving the WAC to join its league in 2011. That was expected to bolster the strength of the MWC and put the league in better position for possibly gaining an automatic BCS berth in the future. But now so much has changed.

Utah is leaving the Mountain West for the expanded Pac-12 and BYU is going independent. Fresno State and Nevada, and maybe Hawaii, are going from the WAC to the MWC in 2012 after TCU leaves.

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'Airplane!', 'Forbidden Planet' actor Nielsen dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Despite decades spent playing sober commanders and serious captains, Leslie Nielsen insisted that he was always made for comedy. He proved it in his career's second act.

"Surely you can't be serious," an airline passenger says to Nielsen in "Airplane!," the 1980 hit that turned the actor from dramatic leading man to comic star.

"I am serious," Nielsen replies. "And don't call me Shirley."

The line was probably his most famous — and a perfect distillation of his career.

Nielsen, the dramatic lead in "Forbidden Planet" and "The Poseidon Adventure" and the bumbling detective Frank Drebin in "The Naked Gun" comedies, died on Sunday in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He was 84.

The Canada native died from complications from pneumonia at a hospital near his home, surrounded by his wife, Barbaree, and friends, his agent John S. Kelly said in a statement.

"We can be grateful that his most famous performances are preserved on film and will delight audiences for years to come," Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said in a statement which noted that Nielsen had received one of that nation's highest honors, The Order of Canada.

Speaker

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kotkin will be speaking on the themes of his recently published book "The Next Hundred Million: America in 2050" which lays out his predictions for the next 40 years. Moore said Kotkin is the next best thing to a fortune teller.

The talk will cover everything from social trends to the future of business in America, she said.

Kotkin's credentials include being internationally recognized for his work with economic, social, global and political trends; as well as being published in *The New Yorker* and *Newsweek*.

Moore said he is an esteemed speaker and the College of Visual and Performing Arts was glad to be a part of his visit to Tech.

The talk will be interesting to people in almost every field, she said. Kotkin's background in business and journalism will make it especially good for people in those areas, though it will be about the future of America as a whole and can apply to almost everyone.

"The series is very excited to host a speaker that Dr. Bailey has taken a special interest in," Moore said. "Joel Kotkin has a vision for America; Dr. Bailey has a vision for Texas Tech. Both are positive proponents of Texas and our region's place in the nation's future."

»dhavis@dailytoreador.com

Student balances married life and school

By DEVIN SANCHEZ
STAFF WRITER

Marriage: a word most people correlate with love, family and babies. It is not a word commonly associated with studying and college.

One couple that did marry in college is Trevor and Anna Staff. Their love story is anything but ordinary; in fact, it sounds like it was pulled out of a Nicholas Sparks book.

The two, both from Leander, have known each other since they were 4 years old. They both went to the same

school and same church, and Trevor's mom was Anna's teacher. They began dating in junior high school, and it was at that moment Trevor or said he knew.

"I knew I was going to marry her before we even started dating," he said. "In eighth grade I even put a string on her finger and asked her to marry me."

The two continued to date throughout high school, never breaking up and earning the title of Mr. and Miss Vista Ridge. They said it wasn't until their senior year that marriage was a hot topic in their daily conversation. They said this was an interesting time because the pair was uncertain about where they would be going to college.

"We wanted to get married sooner than we could," Trevor said. "We even talked about not going to school and just getting married."

But that is not what hap-

pened. After high school, Anna came to Lubbock to attend Texas Tech's nursing school, and Trevor enlisted in the Marines and was shipped off to California. The pair was separated and had limited forms of communication. Trevor was in boot camp and did not have the luxury of using a telephone, so they wrote letters instead.

"I thought it was fun to write and receive letters," Anna said. "It's a lost art; nobody gets to write letters anymore, it was romantic."

After Trevor returned from boot camp in June 2009, he proposed to Anna. Before he asked Anna, there was an important person he needed to get permission from: her father.

"I asked him a while before I proposed," he said. "We went to breakfast, I asked, and he gave me his blessing and cried a little bit."

With the two still technically being teenagers, it wouldn't be a surprise to find out not everyone was supportive of their decision. Trevor said his father was the most laid back about the situation, while his mother was a little unsure of the high school sweethearts' decision. Anna said her mother was the most apprehensive of the bunch, however.

"My mom and I had quite a few long conversations," Anna said. "I just had to keep reassuring her that this was what I wanted."

So in the midst of nursing school and sorority life, Anna, a member of Kappa Alpha Theta, got to work on planning her summer wedding. The Staffs set

their wedding date for June 26, 2010. The planning is what was probably the most stressful for Anna, childhood friend Cara Gay said.

"She had so much going on," Gay said. "But I know planning and getting everything ready was really stressful for her, but in the end it was worth it."

Gay, who is also married and from Leander, has known the Staffs since they were toddlers and said no one was surprised to hear the couple was engaged.

"This was something everyone wanted to see," she said. "They had been the perfect couple for forever."

Thirteen months after their engagement, Anna and Trevor became Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Staff. The wedding, which was in the Austin area, was a complete surprise to Trevor.

"I had not been involved in the planning at all," he said. "It was awesome for me; it was such a surprise."

After the wedding and honeymoon were over, the two 20-year-olds were plummeted head first into marriage. Things changed, and soon the reality set in.

"This first two months were really hard," Trevor said. "We both just had different expectations."

The couple said they had to get used to little things that come along with living with someone, such as doing the dishes, but for the most part they compromise.

"We were both raised differently," Anna said. "And we are just going to have to get used to certain things."

As of right now, Anna is in the middle of nursing school and Trevor is working, supporting both him and Anna. As the



PHOTO COURTESY OF TREVOR AND ANNA STAFF
TREVOR AND ANNA Staff got married in June 2010 and now Anna juggles her studies with married life.

sole provider, there are luxuries he now does without.

"I can't eat out as much anymore," he said. "We now cook most of our meals."

With school being their reason for staying in Lubbock, Anna doesn't let being married get in the way of her schooling; if anything, she said Trevor makes her stay on top of her work.

"He always asks about my homework and is making sure I'm getting it done," she said. "If he didn't care about it, then I probably wouldn't either."

School is definitely something that is important to the

couple, with Trevor hoping to get back into school once Anna is finished. Though it may seem as if the couple has been on the fast track, getting married so young, they aren't in any hurry to add to their family.

"We want kids eventually," Trevor said. "Not for a while though; once we are established." The Staffs do have advice for those looking to take the plunge into marriage, no matter the age.

"Just make sure you are ready," Anna said.

"There will be plenty of people telling you you're making a mistake," Trevor said. "Don't let other people's opinions affect you."

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Strot Rezwana Talukder Stephanie Taylor Aspen Teague Domenique Dekay Rachel Delgado Laura Desrochers Scott Dewar Alexandra Diamantopoulos Joseph Dillon Rory Dobbs Holly Donahoo James Walls Nathan Wilkinson Austin Williams Jacob Williams Jeremy Yarrington Anthony Yost Joanne Young Bridget Youngblood	Joseph Carona Justin Cave Harold Chou Rachel Cleverger Hunter Collins Kyndra Cooper Andrew Correll Lauren Cowling Kaitlyn Culbertson Lance Cunningham Amy Cushing Samuel D'Amico Brandon Danna David Darr Sara Davila Trent Deboyos Domenique Dekay Rachel Delgado Laura Desrochers Scott Dewar Alexandra Diamantopoulos Joseph Dillon Rory Dobbs Holly Donahoo Melissa Dorgant Christa Edwards Zane Elkins Blake Emerit Samuel Emmerson Ana Encontra Eric Erdeljac Adam Evans Andrew Evans Jasmine Fearn Chrystal Ferguson Landon Fischer Robert Fontana Andrew Fore Ashley Francisco Cynthia Fuentes Michael Gaiser Alexandra Galle Fabian Garcia Michael Gardner Erik Garza Matthew Geng Laurie Gilbert Elizabeth Gonzales Michael Gonzalez Bradlen Gore Taylor Gromatzky Charles Gronos Rebecca Grubbs Kyle Grunwald Stephen Gutleber Joseph Guzman Kurt Harris Sharod Harris Brett Hartig Shabricea Hawkins Christopher Hefner Shane Heinz Devin Henning Tanner Hensel Lauren Hickman Brian Hobratschick Lauren Hogan Carly Holland Garret Holubar Monika Hooi-Rodriguez Bridgett Howath Kassie Houwh Claire Palacios Justin Parker Joseph Patterson Nerissa Patton Patrick Pilgram Joshua Pitman Angela Pittman Joshua Platt Nicole Plummer Nathan Poese Scott Porter	Brett Jeske Robert Johnson Jaryn Jones Mary Jones Joshua Juries William Karper Jake Keeling Rebecca Keiffer Tanya Keithley Patrick Kelly Harun Khalid Matthew Kidd Macy Rae King Matt King Shamekia Kirkin Billy Kittleman John Kleuser Christopher Knappe Jarrett Kral Kyle Krueger Priyesh Kumar Vijay Kumar Kendrick Lange Cody Denton Lanier Pallavi Laxane Jose Lemus Jordan Leverett Ashley Lindsay Jon Link Robert Lockett Ii Julian Lopez Eric Lundberg Stephen Makuta Michael Mansour Matthew Maranuk Meredith Marshall Clarie Martin Laura Martin Preston Martin Isaac Martinez Victoria Martiat Holly Matthews Cody McCabe Paige McCain Sarah McCall William McCarty Ray McCulloch Krystal McDonald Evan McFadden Ryan McKean Wesley McKeehan Charles McLaurin Randi McMillin Rachel McMurry James Meaders Miguel Medrano Christopher Meinzer Leanne Mihelich Tyler Milam Kyle Miller Lauren Miller William Milligan Ryan Morrison Krystal Mott Elizabeth Myers Jennifer Nesloney Bryce Newell Ashlee Noack Staci Oglesby Meagan Oliver Lindsay Ormbaum Adam Owens Edgar Palacios Justin Parker Joseph Patterson Nerissa Patton Patrick Pilgram Joshua Pitman Angela Pittman Joshua Platt Nicole Plummer Nathan Poese Scott Porter	John Pruitt Eric Probandt Kristina Quintero Jordan Qualls Isabel Quintero Ii Erin Rainey Alec Ramirez Derek Ramirez Terra Ramps Anthony Randle David Redd Stephen Regan Priscilla Reyna Megan Riccardi John Richardson Blake Rigby Justin Rivera Christopher Rubio Alex Saez Ronald Sargent Kayla Sayegh Justin Schlegel Katherine Schlosser Stephen Schneider Caron Schreiber Daniel Schweder Brady Schulte Michael Seal Aaron Sellars Martin Shaw Anna Shelton Linsay Sheldon Allison Simcak Brittney Simmons Nicole Slocum Seth Smith Juan Sosa Anthony Soto Samantha Spillman Gable Sprague Chase Stearnes Bryce Stewart John Robin Stewart John B. 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Rockets' poor start shouldn't come as surprise

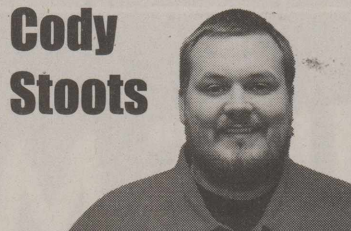
The Houston Rockets are a huge disappointment to their fans, but we should have seen this coming.

The Rockets sit dead last in the Southwest division. Yao Ming is hurt. The offense lacks a killer instinct. The defense is atrocious. This all sounds familiar.

Same results, different pieces. It is clear the Yao Ming experiment needs to come to an end in Houston. He no longer has the physical ability to play at a high level without being injured.

I like Yao. I love watching him play when he is healthy. He has come a long way from when I sat and watched Shaq push him around in their first meeting. It is just time for him to move on. It isn't his fault. He has played too much basketball for his body.

Cody Stoots



China's use of him in international competition shortened his career significantly.

The Rockets must move forward as if Yao isn't part of the equation. It isn't extremely difficult to put together a stretch run and get into the playoff hunt in the NBA. The Rockets probably aren't capable of that, however.

This team is awful. There, I said. It is how I really feel. Houston teams have trouble with defense. The Texans can't stop anyone and neither

can the Rockets. The Rockets score pretty well for not having a superstar on offense. On the flipside they give up as many points per game as they score. The real problem here, defense doesn't go on cold streaks. There is no player on this team who can play a lick of defense.

Aaron Brooks and Kevin Martin are huge liabilities. Luis Scola and Brad Miller try hard, but don't have the talent to defend well. Shane Battier is showing the wear and tear of a veteran. He is a few steps slower and not the presence on defense he was just two years ago.

No offense in the NBA should fear the Rockets. Teams can beat the Rockets many ways. They don't have a weakness, they have weaknesses.

The real question is who is

to blame for the sad shape of the Rockets.

Every one has the one friend who always wants to do something really fun. You make all the plans, you even get most of the stuff ready to go to do that fun thing, and your friend is just never ready to go with you.

General Manager Daryl Morey is that guy right now. Fans have trusted Morey to work

magic with the roster. He has acquired draft picks. He has acquired pieces to trade for a superstar. He has looked to add that final piece to the Rockets, and he hasn't done it.

Frankly, he can't do it now. The Rockets don't possess one piece that a team would exchange a superstar for right now. The draft picks could prove valuable, but the Rockets are so bad, they may

need the picks for themselves. Daryl Morey can plug all the number he wants into his computer, but this team is bad and not in a position to improve right now. Morey is famous for getting a lot for a little in his trades. Well he has the task of getting something for nothing in the future.

I may have turned a little quick on Morey, but forgive me. The Texans GM put a lot of his guys in a "position to succeed" and look where that got them. The clock is ticking for Morey, we just need to know if it is for an explosive trade, or the Rockets' draft position.

Stoots is a senior broadcast journalism major in Houston. He previously interned at one of Houston's sports radio stations. >>cody.stoots@ttu.edu.

Dowdy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I couldn't be happier for Amanda," Tech intern head coach Beth Falls said in a news release issued shortly after the announcement. "She had one of the best seasons in school history, and her selection by the Big 12 coaches is very rewarding. Amanda was one of our leaders on the court each and every day, and I think the best is still to come for her."

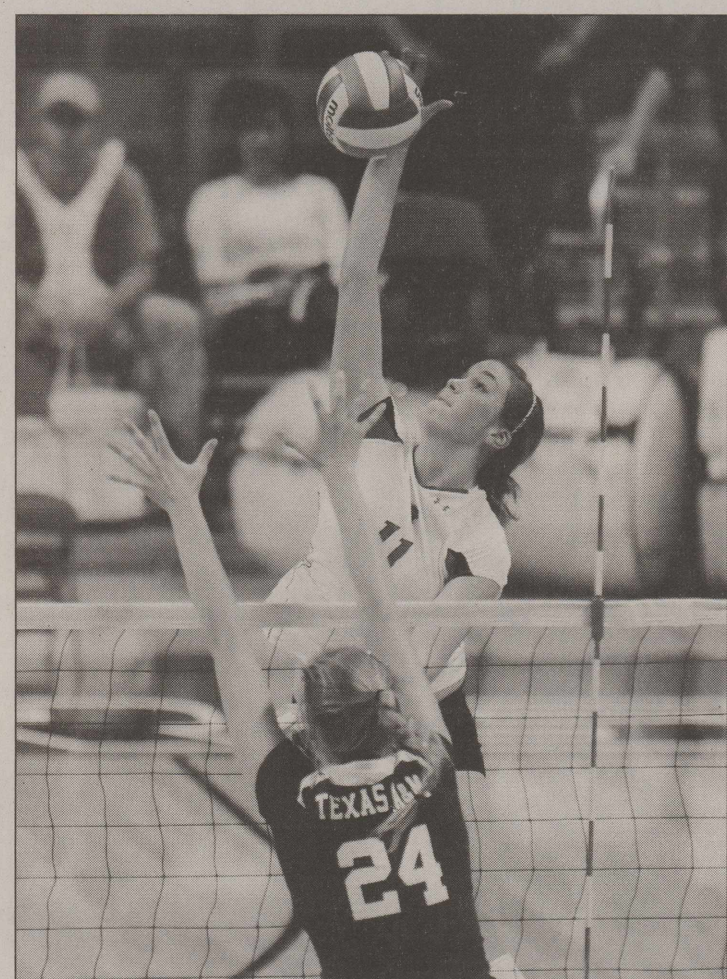
Dowdy's career-best numbers this season helped lift the Red Raiders to new levels this season, such as a 34-kill outing against Colorado in Boulder, Colo., a game which they won 3-2.

That was the first road win for the volleyball program since 2006, when the Red Raiders defeated Kansas 3-2 in Lawrence, Kan.

The 6-foot-3 middle blocker and outside hitter recorded her best performance of the season against those same Buffaloes before that road win, logging 37 kills and 20 digs in a 3-2 loss to the Buffaloes in the United Spirit Arena.

The 37 kills broke the school record for most in a single match, which originally was a 34-kill match by Johnson against Kansas State in 2002.

Dowdy was only one of three players in the Big 12 to record a 30-kill match during the year and her 4.12 kills per set average was second in the conference, behind Iowa State's



AMANDA DOWDY DELIVERS one of her 424 kills she gathered on the year, a number that helped her land on the All-Big 12 first team.

Victoria Henson, who averaged 4.47 kills per set. Dowdy is just the seventh player in Tech volleyball's history to earn a first-team honor. >>jrodriguez@dailytoreador.com

TCU moving to Big East

FORT WORTH (AP) — TCU is getting out of future debates about whether the Horned Frogs deserve to be in a BCS game. They are joining a league with automatic access.

The Frogs won't have to be a BCS buster when they move to the Big East Conference, starting with the 2012 season. Win their new league and they will be guaranteed a spot in one of the big-money games.

In the latest restructuring of the college football landscape, TCU's board of trustees unanimously approved an invitation Monday to join the Big East in football and all other sports. The move from the Mountain West Conference becomes official July 1, 2012.

TCU athletic director Chris Del Conte said gaining automatic-qualifying status "was a big factor" in the move and gives the Horned Frogs "the greatest opportunity to compete for the national championship."

The Big East, currently with eight football teams, has one of six automatic BCS slots.

"Access got easier, not the road," said Frogs coach Gary Patterson, whose third-ranked Frogs (12-0) wrapped up their second consecutive undefeated regular season and Mountain West title with a 66-17

win at New Mexico on Saturday.

TCU is third in the BCS standings — the highest-ranked non-automatic qualifying team — and is in line for a chance to play for the national championship if Auburn or Oregon lose next weekend. The Frogs likely will play in the Rose Bowl if Auburn and Oregon both win.

"Who would have thought five years ago that the guaranteed fallback position is, you're going to the Rose Bowl, and one loss you're in the national championship?" Del Conte told a room filled with supporters and staff. "We're going to Pasadena, let's get fired up. We're going to the Big East, let's get fired up. ... It's a great time to be a Frog."

The pending departure of TCU continues a big shuffle for the Mountain West, which last summer announced that Boise State was leaving the WAC to join its league in 2011. That was expected to bolster the strength of the MWC and put the league in better position for possibly gaining an automatic BCS berth in the future. But now so much has changed.

Utah is leaving the Mountain West for the expanded Pac-12 and BYU is going independent. Fresno State and Nevada, and maybe Hawaii, are going from the WAC to the MWC in 2012 after TCU leaves.

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