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Two U.S. soldiers killed, one injured in slew of attacks in Iraq

By Jamie Tarabay/Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Insurgents launched fresh assaults on U.S. soldiers in Iraq, killing at least two servicemen and wounding a third in shootings and rocket-propelled grenade attacks, the military said Thursday.

A soldier was fatally shot Wednesday evening near the city of Mahmudiyah, 15 miles south of Baghdad, said Spc. Nicci Trent, a spokeswoman for the military.

Another soldier was killed and one wounded Wednesday in a rocket-propelled grenade attack on a five-vehicle convoy near Baqouba, 45 miles northeast of Baghdad, said Lt. Col. Bill MacDonald of the Army's 4th Infantry Division.

The soldiers were evacuated to a nearby medical facility, but one of them died. The military had said earlier that the attack occurred near Tikrit, further to the northeast.

In the city of Ramadi, 60 miles west of the capital, three separate mortar attacks targeted U.S. troops, but there were no reports of casualties, the military said.

The military also reported that a soldier died Wednesday in what it described as a non-hostile gunshot incident. The military gave no more details. The names of the dead and wounded were withheld pending notification of next of kin.

An American soldier attached to the 101st Airborne Division died Monday in another non-hostile gunshot incident near Balad, 55 miles north of the capital. Soldiers at an air

base near Balad said on condition of anonymity that the soldier had taken his own life.

Since President Bush declared major combat operations over May 1, a total of 77 American soldiers have been killed — 31 by hostile fire and 46 in accidents and other non-hostile circumstances.

U.S. forces have come under increasing attack by insurgents loyal to Saddam Hussein in recent weeks, hampering efforts to return security to the country. The insurgents have also targeted vital infrastructure, delaying the return of vital services like electricity in the capital.

Tikrit, Saddam's hometown, and Ramadi are part of the so-called "Sunni triangle," a swath of land west and north of Baghdad across the Euphrates and Tigris rivers that has been

the scene of almost daily attacks on U.S. occupation forces. The area is known to be a stronghold of Saddam supporters, although many residents deny that the former dictator still enjoys a following among them.

Capt. Michael Calvert, a spokesman for the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, which is responsible for Ramadi, said the regiment's base in a former Saddam palace by the Euphrates River received a mortar round on Wednesday night. He said he knew of no casualties among troops on the base.

Saddam's has not been seen since the overthrow of his regime in April, though several tapes purportedly of the ousted dictator have

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Governor's wife announces scholarship from Texas Conference for Women

By David Wiechmann/Editor

for Women.

The First Lady of Texas made a stop in the hub city to announce a new scholarship from the Texas Conference for Women on Wednesday morning at the Lubbock Club.

Anita Perry of the Texas Conference for Women said she has been wanting to start a scholarship program, and she is happy to see the dream become a reality for women in the fields of business, education, health care and math, science and technology.

"My hope is the Texas Conference for Women can take education to new levels, break barriers and fulfill more women to their potential," she said.

The scholarships will be \$5,000, and Perry will announce the recipients at the conference October 1 in Austin.

Conference Director Laurie Dalton-White said Perry has played a big role in the Texas Conference for Women and also was instrumental in getting the scholarship program started.

"As a mother of a daughter and having a master's (degree) in nursing, she understands the importance of professional and personal development," she said.

In a time when higher education is getting more and more expensive, Dalton-White said she hopes the scholarship program will make a significant impact on those who receive money from the Texas Conference

"With the economy being tight right now the need for financial aid drives up," she said. "And any aid we can generate to help women achieve their educational goals is great."

Former Lubbock Mayor Windy Sitton introduced Perry at the media conference and said she was glad to know such a wonderful woman who does so much for women's education.

"I am fortunate enough to know the First Lady on a personal basis," Sitton said. "And I understand her commitment to empowering women."

Perry said she hopes her devotion to giving women opportunities may enable them to one day be leaders.

"Women are making a difference in a number of fields," she said. "And by extending financial support to them we hope they can become leaders in their own field."

Lubbock was one of three cities Perry visited to announce the scholarship program, and Dalton-White said Perry has taken a great initiative to spread the word about the scholarships.

"She's taken it upon herself to travel across the state, and she encompasses what the Conference is all about," Dalton-White said.

Perry said she thought of one of America's leading women when she spoke of opportunity and the future.

SCHOLARSHIP continued on page 3

Rating Routes

Citibus puts local officials on buses for auditing

By Sabra Jennings/Staff Reporter

It is time for Citibus's yearly audit, and this year, Lubbock citizens were allowed to be involved with the evaluation process.

In previous years, Citibus contracted with a Florida company to do their yearly audit. Undercover passengers rode the buses as "mystery shoppers" and completed evaluations on such things as bus cleanliness and if the routes run on schedule, said Lesli Hernandez, director of transportation.

Recently, Citibus decided to do the yearly audit in a different way, she said. This time, a Lubbock business would be running the evaluations and key members of the Lubbock community would be the mystery shoppers.

"We have always done mystery shopping," Hernandez said. "Three or four months ago we looked at ways to keep our money local. We wanted someone with a stake in the community who was about more than getting paid."

First Impressions, a service audit company, approached Citibus about using members of the Lubbock community to complete the



CRAIG SWANSON/Staff Photographer

This Citibus decked out with Tech spirit makes a stop on campus Thursday afternoon. SGA President Jeremy Brown participated in auditing Citibus' performance.

evaluations. Using Lubbock leaders stood out to Citibus as a great idea, Hernandez said.

"It occurred to me that (First Impressions) had something I don't have," she said. "I have people with needs and who really don't have a political voice. In addition, we're getting an audit from people who know how to run a business."

First Impressions does mystery shopping for businesses such as McDougal, Overton and various restaurants. A lot of shoppers are

prominent people, said Tina Armstrong, owner and president of First Impressions.

"We'll put prominent people on the buses and get really good evaluations from people who probably haven't ridden the buses before," she said. "We can see how some of the movers and shakers (of Lubbock) feel about the transit system."

As well as receiving evaluations on the bus system, Hernandez said

CITIBUS continued on page 2

Selected high school students test robotic creations

By Andrew Evans/Staff Reporter

High school and junior high students who participate in the TexPREP-Lubbock program at Texas Tech tested their robotic creations Tuesday in the Mathematics and Statistics building. TexPREP, which is sponsored by Tech's Mathematics and Statistics department, is a math-based engineering program for students who have not yet graduated high school.

The students who are participating in the robotics class get to program and build several robots during the semester. The students involved spend their summer learning about engineering, math and science while having a good time.

"During this session, the students will learn basic programming, and they won't mind because they get to play with toys the whole class period," said Kristin Norville, a junior computer engineering major at Purdue University. "It promotes engineering, and anyone can come as long as they have the grades."

Kristin Norville, the daughter of Scott Norville, a civil engineering professor at Tech, has been working with TexPREP for several years. She is working on her degree and considers herself to be part teacher and part PREP assistant at the moment.

The carefully constructed Lego robots, which are equipped with a light sensor, are designed to follow a

thick black line that zigs and zags across several pieces of white paper. The students spent about four weeks programming the robots and one week building them.

Students in the robotics section are testing the robots with light sensors now, and in a couple weeks, will be experimenting with other breeds of robots.

"In the next two weeks, they're going to be using some touch sensors instead of the light sensors," Kristin Norville said. "The robots will have to navigate their way through a maze using the sensors to find their way."

Students who are chosen to participate in TexPREP, based on their academic ability, generally come

from Lubbock and surrounding areas.

"The competition isn't too fierce," said Sean Norville, a high school student here in Lubbock. "It's been a lot of fun, and we're just trying to see who gets their's done first."

TexPREP is targeted to, but not limited to, students who are either female or a member of a minority group. Of the 744 students who have completed one or more levels of the program, 50.9 percent have been female and 62.2 percent have been minorities according to enrollment data issued by TexPREP-Lubbock.

Anicia Montgomery, a junior at Idalou High School, said that working with the robots is fun, but it

takes a lot of effort.

"Yeah, I do like it, but it's been very tedious work," Montgomery said. "It's really time consuming. I just finished mine up last night."

Thanks to financial support from private industries, state and federal government agencies, foundations and Texas Tech, these students can participate in all of these activities for free and gain valuable knowledge and experience to help them in their future careers.

TexPREP offers classes in math logic, engineering and even aviation during the eight week summer session. These students take field trips, participate in hands-on projects and listen to various speeches concerning math and science.



Today is the last day to drop a Summer II session class and receive a refund. This does not apply to students who drop to zero class hours.

The 10th annual Lunar Lope 5K and 1 mile run/walk will take place at 10 p.m. Sunday on campus.

Runners can register at the Fitness and Wellness Center and costs \$8 for students, faculty and staff. The general public may participate for \$10. Check in on race night is 9 p.m.

Student organizations still seeking a cubicle in the Student Union building for the fall of 2003 may still have their applications evaluated on a space-available basis. Applications were due July 1, but anyone still wanting to apply can find the form online at www.uc.ttu.edu/officespace or pick up a hard copy in the Student Union.

Citibus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

this project could educate city members about the people who are likely to use public transportation.

"They can say, 'I saw 15 people on the bus, and before, I might have stereotyped them, but I saw students, I saw grandmas, I saw people I didn't expect,'" she said. "We felt this would give (community leaders) a lot of perspective."

Although Citibus is not doing anything dramatically different, Hernandez said the company has a different focus on its audit, one of customer service.

"Things we check for are: are

we greeting people? Are we smiling and acting as if we care that people are riding the bus? Do (passengers) generally feel welcome?" she said. "We want to make passengers feel like they're getting a value for their money."

Evaluations were completed by Lubbock community members, including representatives from United Supermarkets, Covenant and Texas Commission for the Blind, Armstrong said.

Student Government Association President Jeremy Brown also took part in the project.

Riding the No. 5 bus that comes through campus, Brown said he wrote down everything he observed including who was on

the bus and what time each of the stops were made.

Riding the bus showed Brown the important role public transportation plays in the community, he said.

"The most interesting thing when I was coming back was two Tech students who are blind got on," he said. "I visited with them, and they told me they ride the bus everyday. It helped me remember the importance that Citibus plays to the community, as well as Tech students."

In the spring, the board of regents passed a \$3 per credit hour transportation fee that allows Texas Tech students to ride Citibus fixed routes anywhere in Lubbock with their Tech IDs.

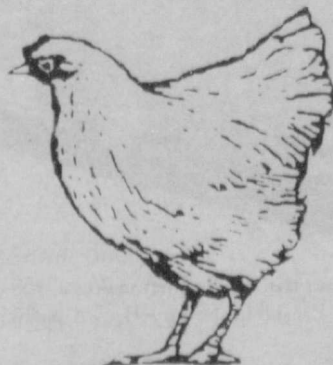
Brown said he feels good knowing that he can rely on the bus service to get to campus if the need arises, such as if his truck broke down. Students can budget and save a lot of money, just by riding the buses, he said.

Hernandez said the most important thing about the project is making sure Citibus provides excellent customer service.

"We want to make sure we're being safe. We want to make sure we have the right drivers for the job," she said. "It will make it more comfortable for passengers if we make sure we treat everyone right."

Recently, Citibus had also considered cutting Saturday services for economic reasons, but SGA External Vice President Colton Bachelor said Thursday that Citibus had announced the continuation of Saturday services.

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HSC professor receives award for research

By Andrew Evans/Staff Reporter

An associate professor in the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology received a national award on June 22 because of his excellence in teaching. Dr. Sam Prien, a graduate of the Texas Tech Animal Science department, received the award at the 49th annual conference of the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture.

The award he received, the Teacher Fellow Award, is an award in which the candidates competing for it are nominated by students and faculty.

"It's quite a humbling experience," Prien said. "It was overwhelm-

ing to be nominated by my students."

Prien, who spends most of his time conducting research at the Texas Tech Health Science Center, comes to the main campus to teach reproductive physiology and anatomy and physiology.

"How I got started teaching is actually a strange story," he said. "The person who was teaching reproductive physiology left with literally two days notice, and being a graduate of the department, I felt a certain obligation to go over and say 'I can help with this.'"

Prien said he enjoys teaching, and the students rave about his class, so he will continue doing what he is doing now.

Dustie Johnson, a graduate student in the department of Animal

and Food Sciences, said Prien is her favorite teacher.

"He is probably the best instructor I've ever had," Johnson said. "He can make everybody understand. He doesn't lower the bar so students can go over it. He keeps the bar steady and raises the students up. He really cares about the students, and is great at giving real-world examples."

Along with teaching, Prien experiments with technology designed to improve artificial insemination techniques in both animals and humans.

"Many of the techniques that are used with animals can later be applied to people," Prien said. "We can develop techniques that are helpful to both."

Prien and Johnson developed a new semen collection device that will improve the quality of semen used in fertility treatments and improve pregnancy rates for livestock that are artificially inseminated.

"He is fantastic to work with," Johnson said. "He understands what comes first in people's lives, and is always willing to compromise. I really don't have anything bad to say about him as a teacher or a co-worker."

The technology developed by Prien and Johnson is currently in the process of being patented. Once this product is patented, several parties can make money.

"The funding for the project is

from some leftover money I had from some other research projects that I'm working on," Prien said. "Tech is paying the patent costs, and in the end, hopefully, Tech as a whole will benefit from the patent."

Prien said the research he is conducting will be helpful to many people, and the money made from a patent could impact Tech.

"Dustie and I will benefit, the university will benefit, and hopefully, mankind as an entity benefits from the patent. That money will come back and hopefully improve classroom settings, and it will improve the quality of labs at the Health Science Center."

Iraq

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

been aired on Arabic television. American officials are offering \$25 million for information leading to the arrest of Saddam, and \$15 million for each of his sons.

Also in the city, several dozen Iraqi police officers, most dressed in their new U.S.-provided uniforms, marched on the mayor's office to demand that U.S. forces leave the police station, where they have been staying. The police, who say they will quit their posts if the soldiers don't leave by the weekend, claim the soldiers' presence is putting them in danger because they are frequently targeted by insurgents.

The military, meanwhile, said it had seized several large weapons caches at checkpoints around the country.

The largest — including 400 to 500 rocket-propelled grenades — was found in a vehicle on Tuesday on a road between Ramadi and Asad, west of the capital. The military said it had conducted more than 2,000 patrols and arrested 213 suspects since Tuesday. Most were suspected of common crimes, though some were wanted on murder charges.

The U.S.-led government announced it would begin recruiting members of a new Iraqi army on July 19. Maj. Gen. Paul Eaton, in charge of training the new army, said the coalition hoped to have 1,000 soldiers training by August, and 12,000 by the end of the year. They hope to have

40,000 by an unspecified date in 2004.

Establishing an Iraqi army and police is a main goal of the U.S.-led provisional government, which hopes the Iraqi forces will be able to take over at least some of the country's security needs.

In Washington, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Wednesday that the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, which played a central role in capturing Baghdad in April, is beginning to withdraw from Iraq, and will be back in the United States by September.

He did not say whether the troops would be replaced by another American unit, although he said he expects thousands of international soldiers to begin operating in Iraq by late summer or early fall.

Scholarship

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I can't help but think of a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt when I talk about this," she said. "'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.' And an investment in Texas women is an investment in Texas' future."

For breaking news, call the UD newsroom at 742-3393

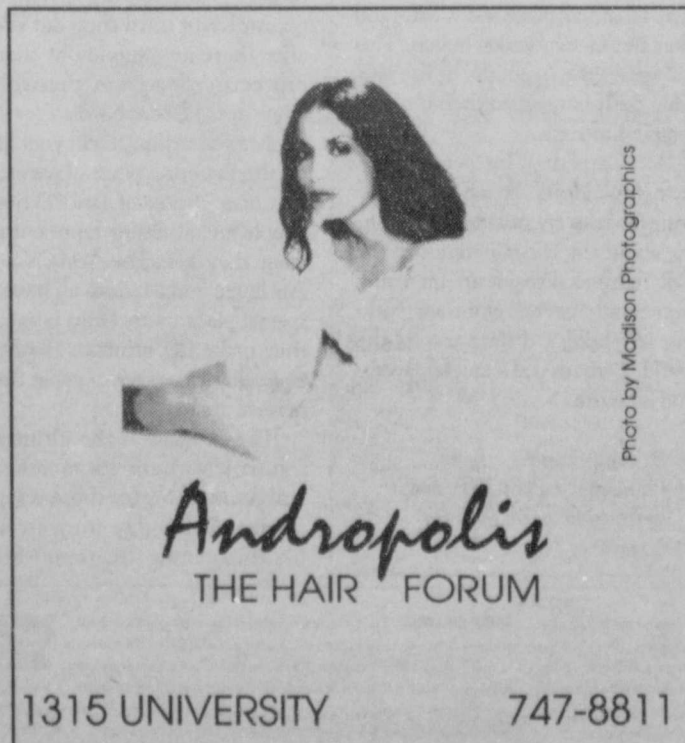


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Supreme Court affirms wrong action

Imagine this. Tommy and Lance have both applied to the same university. Their academic credentials are nearly identical, but only one can be admitted. How does the admissions officer break this tie between the two? He looks at the section marked "Race" on their applications. Tommy marked "Caucasian." Lance marked "Black." Lance is in while poor little Tombo has to try and find another school to go to. Did I mention that Lance is from an upper-middle class family while Tommy has the chance to be the first in his family to go to college?

This scenario was made possible by two Supreme Court decisions concerning affirmative action policies at the University of Michigan that allow race to be a factor in the admission of a student. The purpose of such affirmative action policies is to "level the playing field" for minority applicants. I am all for leveling the field, but let's make sure we are adjusting it for the right circumstances.

A person's race should not be a determining factor in their acceptance into higher education. Any claim to the contrary is foolhardy. The primary focus of affirmative action should not be the color of a man's skin but the socioeconomic



Cody Ruth

situation from which he comes.

I've always enjoyed the term "affirmative action." It amuses me. Like "freedom fighters," it's one of those alliterative political catch phrases immersed completely in ambiguity. I constantly find myself questioning what exactly affirmative action is supposed to affirm.

The only idea it seems to uphold is that minorities are inferior and need to have the bar lowered in order for them to gain access to higher education. Is this the case? Are minorities inferior? Of course not. All races are just variations on an original theme and come blessed with the same faculties. It is out of one's social situation that inequality is born.

Social and economic strife are colorblind. They can hit any person of any color. They do not discriminate. If we were to adjust the admissions scale for a person overcoming hard financial situations or difficult living

conditions, we would be rewarding those who persevered through difficult times. If we adjust the scale for race, we reward those who happen to have the right genetic makeup. One could say that race-based affirmative action acts like a mild form of reverse Nazism in that sense.

As an interesting side note, minorities would still be the primary beneficiaries of a revamped affirmative action system. Because of the current social conditions in America, most of those that would require affirmative action based on economic standing would be minorities.

I'm reminded of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech when he dreams that his children would one day be judged "not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." The continued use of racially based affirmative action aids in preventing this dream from becoming a reality. As long as a preference is shown to any race, religion, creed or sex in activities such as college admissions, there can be no true equality.

Cody is a senior music education major from Lubbock. Affirmations can be sent to him at MrEuphTTU@hotmail.com.

Never underestimate sacrifice

The war in Iraq is over, and the soldiers get to go home. If only that were the truth, our world would be so much better and there would be less and less criticism of our president.

The point is the work has only just begun in Iraq, and soldiers will be there for years to come. Our brave men and women may be there so long the American public will forget about them.

Did you know we still have troops in Kosovo? Our troops first went there before I was shaving, and they are still there.

I was not aware of this until a close friend of mine stationed in Germany told me of his life-changing experiences in Kosovo. Maybe if everyone had someone close to them in the military everything would be different.

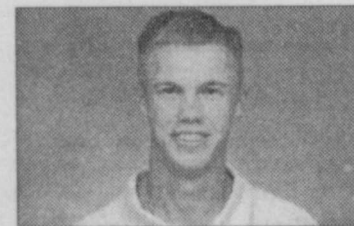
Maybe everyone could look past whatever reason they believe we went to war and see the people who actually fought it.

Never mind if Bush wanted oil, Hussein had weapons of mass destruction or Hussein tortured and killed his own people by the tens of thousands. Someone you love is sacrificing everything for something this country's leaders believe is important.

I never really understood that sacrifice until my friend severely broke his arm serving this great country. Not until then did I realize there are people out there protecting me from the wolf. They are the shepherds.

Are you willing to put your life on the line for a piece of paper, a flag or a chunk of land? These people are, and they represent us when they do it. The Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines all have a special place in my heart because they make the ultimate sacrifice every day for a piece of paper that says we are free.

The military is the ultimate fraternity where its members will do anything for those it represents. Every day they are in life-threatening situations while



David Wiechmann

we sit back and relax in the freedoms our military protects for us.

A broken arm may not sound like much when you consider there are soldiers who have died for this country, but it's enough for me to rethink what this country and the military means to me. There are thousands of people out there serving this country and protecting me from the hatred many have for America, and they've never met me.

There are dangers we don't even know about the troops in Iraq, Kuwait, Kosovo, Germany, Turkey, Africa and all over the world keep us safe from.

It is my personal opinion that saying harsh words about the war in Iraq questions the reason for our men and women to be there. American soldiers are in Iraq, and there is nothing we can do about it. All we can do is show them the love and appreciation we have for all they do for us on the mainland.

Our soldiers have a job to do, and they do it - day in and day out. They follow orders, and I love that about them because the servicemen and women are both the shepherds and the sheep at the same time.

The soldiers in Iraq went there because they were told to do so. President Bush said the United States of America has an interest in Iraq, and our soldiers went there - no questions asked.

Can you say that about yourself? Thanks C.J. Hooah. Bravo Zulu. Aim High. Semper Fi. God Bless America.

David is a senior journalism major from Lubbock. Comments and support for our troops overseas can be sent to wreckem_d_man@hotmail.com.

Letter to the Editor

Thesaurus not a weapon

This letter is in response to Mr. Carpenter's article in the 6/27 UD entitled "Iraqi democracy starry-eyed dream."

First, I would like to congratulate Mr. Carpenter for his creative use of the Microsoft Word thesaurus. Perhaps he believes his overutilization of "five-dollar" words will create a smoke screen thick enough to disguise the groundless nature of his editorial comments concerning Iraqi freedom. Frankly, the fancy liberal wordsmithing doesn't impress me.

Mr. Carpenter compares the war effort in Iraq with his "struggling artist-friends going to Seattle or Greenwich Village" to pursue their careers as "musicians or po-

ets" and returning home only to lick the wounds of their failed efforts to achieve grandeur.

His editorial is yet another example of a baseless left-wing tongue lashing of the Bush Administration. Liberals are petrified that the political pendulum will continue to swing farther to the right, so they conjure up catchy analogies like "the food-court beatnik" and "the Disillusioned Suburbanite" in an attempt to bastardize our efforts abroad.

Mr. Carpenter seems to have forgotten that this is a coalition effort with military and humanitarian support from dozens of nations around the world. Western and Arab nations alike have made it clear that the intentions of the coalition were to disarm the Hussein regime and to create an opportunity for the Iraqi

people to have a voice in their government. Ironically, there was no liberal uproar when Bill Clinton asserted that Iraq possessed WMDs and launched tactical strikes in Iraq. This showcases the hypocrisy of the left-wing Bush-haters and their childish temper tantrums.

Mr. Carpenter, the pendulum is swinging indeed. So while the left-wing fanatics are pissing and moaning about the incompetence of the evil redneck President, men and women all over the globe are working to make a difference in the world. Perhaps you should gripe less and do more.

Bryan Zschiesche
Graduate Student, MBA/MS
personal financial planning
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New copyright law may affect Tech students' downloading

By Sabra Jennings/Staff Reporter

The Recording Industry Association of America is cracking down on people who illegally swap copyrighted music online, and this could affect Texas Tech.

Congress passed an amendment in 1998 to the Federal Copyright Law, Title 17 called the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. The DMCA applies copyright law directly to the Internet, according to the Texas Tech Web site.

The RIAA issued a subpoena to Verizon on July 24, 2002 citing section 512 of the DMCA. The RIAA demanded the company disclose the name of a Verizon Internet subscriber who used peer-to-peer software to share various sound files containing music copyrighted by RIAA members, according to court documents.

Under section 512(h) of the

DMCA, a copyright owner can obtain a subpoena from a federal court demanding a service provider to disclose the identity of a subscriber who is allegedly engaging in copyright violations.

After a year of court battles, Verizon has agreed to surrender the names of four individual subscribers to the RIAA, but no word has been given on what happens next, said Bill Kula, director of Verizon media relations for the Western Bureau.

"We agreed to it in late June," he said. "Saying we would provide the names was the last episodic event."

The case between Verizon and RIAA has caused concern among some Tech officials.

Don Dyal, director of Tech libraries, said different library groups, such as the Association of College and Research Libraries and The American Association of Libraries are concerned about the affects this issue has on privacy.

"The library is one of the few institutions who cares about public privacy," Dyal said. "They care about it in a deep, profound way. If (the RIAA) can do this to Verizon, what can they do to Tech?"

Under the USA Patriot Act passed by Congress, the Federal government can ask for the names of anyone and which books they have checked out.

Privacy and confidentiality for users is one of the main tenants for libraries, said Sheila Curl, associate dean of Tech libraries.

The university library ensures the privacy of its users by not keeping records of borrowed materials longer than the term the records are needed for, Curl said.

"We know that the book was checked out and returned," she said. "We have statistical information, but we can't tell who checked the book

out (after a certain period of time)."

Tech does not give out the names of people who use the university system to pirate copyrighted music, said Sam Segran, associate vice president for information technology.

If the (RIAA) files a complaint against the university, it is turned over to the police, and they start an investigation. Some times students' computers may be taken away, he said.

"We just make sure the university's network and state resources aren't used to break the law," Segran said. "We try to easily and painlessly make sure students are educated. We give them the benefit of a doubt so they can correct their actions."

Information on the DMCA and copyright laws can be accessed by going to www.ttu.edu and clicking on the "TTU Compliance with the

DMCA" link at the bottom of the page, Segran said.

This issue is not something only libraries or students should be concerned with because it affects everyone, Dyal said.

"This is a bigger issue than the library," he said. "There is a movement in society-contractions of basic types of freedoms. People need to be aware."

Dyal said he believes in the protection of works under copyright, but people should be informed of the consequences their actions may hold.

"We are apprising people of what's going on; libraries provide info and services," he said. "People have the right to do what they want to do, but 99.99 percent of students would not know this passed. They could get a subpoena to court because they'd been downloading."

New Mexico wildfire burning near river considered sacred

TAOS PUEBLO, N.M. (AP) — Firefighters battled a blaze Thursday in the mountains of northern New Mexico that is threatening a river considered sacred by an American Indian community.

The fire has burned 5,000 acres, including patches of the Rio Pueblo watershed, since it started July 4 by lightning. It was 10 percent contained Thursday morning.

"The Rio Pueblo is 100 percent of our drinking water. It is spiri-

tual water for us. Religion and everything is tied to it," said Mark Lujan, the Taos Pueblo governor's secretary. "We are looking at protecting this watershed."

Because the area is sacred, only American Indians were fighting the fire as it nears the waterway. Nearly 900 firefighters and other personnel were assigned to the fire.

The firefighters were also building firelines in nearby Taos Canyon, home to nearly 400 families. The

canyon is about 2 miles south of the fire, and officials say residences there could be threatened.

Helicopters were dumping water from ponds formed by the Rio Pueblo to control the fire, but Lujan said the pueblo was concerned about dropping fire retardant since the river is used for drinking water.

No evacuations have been ordered in Taos Pueblo, which has about 1,200 people. The community is about a half-mile west of the fire.

The University Daily

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'Pirates of the Caribbean' a moviegoer's treasure chest

Who would have thought that a movie based on a theme park ride would be so much fun? Alright, I understand that sounds silly, but I can recall other disastrous movies based on rides—"The Country Bears" comes to mind. But director Gore Verbinski ("The Ring") makes "Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl" an absolute blast from start to finish, just as a good theme park ride should be.

But forget the fact that a Disney Land ride inspired this movie. On its

own, "Pirates" introduces fun characters, fast action and a decent story. It holds true to pirate movie form—ships, treasure, parrots, planks and pirate songs. But the movie still has sparks of originality.

Johnny Depp stars as Captain Jack Sparrow—a cool-heeled pirate captain who suffered a mutiny aboard his ship and was left on an island for dead. Somehow, he escaped and is now on a mission to take vengeance against his muti-

FILM REVIEW



James Eppler
jeppler@hotmail.com

neers. He makes it to the mainland where he is immediately arrested for piracy. Never mind that before he was arrested, he rescued the governor's daughter, Elizabeth (Keira Knightly).

Elizabeth is in love with Will Turner (Orlando Bloom from "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy), but is being forced to marry Norrington (Jack Davenport), a tightwad army commander. Elizabeth is also in the possession of a necklace with a gold emblem attached to it.

It is the emblem that brings the Black Pearl, a pirate ship thought to be a myth, to the shore one evening. Captained by a fierce pirate named Barbossa, (Geoffrey Rush), they kidnap Elizabeth along with the em-

blem. The crew of the Black Pearl is a far cry from the tune-crooning "Pirates of Penzance."

In fact, Barbossa explains that they are cursed men. Sure, in the sunlight they appear as ordinary bloodthirsty barbarians, but in the moonlight, they turn into living skeletons, incapable of feeling or being killed. Barbossa believes that Elizabeth's emblem and her spilt blood will break the curse.

When Will learns of Elizabeth's kidnapping, he springs Capt. Sparrow from his jail cell in exchange for his services in rescuing her.

The screenwriters keep things interesting by throwing in a few plot twists along the way, but the real credit here belongs to the perfectly cast leads. Depp, who is turning into a fine young actor, is obviously having a great time playing the smooth-talking Sparrow with the fluid movements of a drunken sailor. He certainly may be one of the coolest pirates ever to hit the big screen.

Rush also hams it up nicely as the "argh, matey" type pirate with a monkey on his back—literally. Bloom is also well-cast as the straight-shooting hero, and the gor-

geous Knightly is a damsel to be reckoned with.

Verbinski's sweeping direction is also worthy of note, as is the work by the special effects team. The pirate skeletons are nicely constructed, and look more real than other special effects seen this summer—namely "Hulk." It's especially good during a sword fight in which two pirates go in and out of the moonlight.

Even if the film gets to feeling a bit long during the final scenes, as it reaches the 143 minute mark, it's still more fun than most movies of that length have any right to be ("Hulk", again).

What could have easily been a ghastly shipwreck of a movie turns out to be a pirate's treasure of a summer movie.

EPPLER'S RATING: ★★★ 1/2

- ★★★★★ - Flawless
- ★★★★ - Excellent
- ★★★ - Good
- ★★ - Mediocre
- ★ - Awful

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ABC news anchor announces American citizenship

NEW YORK (AP)—He's been reporting the news to Americans for nearly 40 years, and now Peter Jennings can say he's one of them.

The Canadian native quietly became a U.S. citizen more than a month ago at a ceremony in Manhattan, and revealed it to

friends at a Fourth of July party last weekend.

The 64-year-old anchor of ABC's "World News Tonight," who was born in Toronto and raised in Ottawa, will retain his Canadian citizenship.

He began considering the dual citizenship in the months after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack, feeling a deeper sense of connection to the United States. Still, the words don't come easily when he was asked Tuesday to explain why.

"Not to sound too corny about it, but love, respect, gratitude, time," he said. "I've been thinking about this for so long. This is not the kind of thing you can do overnight."

Or easily. One of his requirements when applying for citizenship was to detail the times he's left and returned to the United States over the past five years—a challenge for a journalist who frequently travels overseas.

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Groce returns as head women's tennis coach

Cari Groce, the former head coach of the women's tennis team at Washington State University, was officially announced Thursday as the new women's tennis coach at Texas Tech.

Groce led the Cougars to four NCAA Tournament appearances in the last six years and was named Pacific-10 Conference coach of the year in 2002. She was also given the honor of Intercollegiate Tennis Association Northwest Re-

gion Coach of the Year, and among the five finalists for the ITA National Coach of the Year.

Prior to Washington State, Groce was head coach for a season at the University of Tulsa and an assistant coach at Oklahoma State and at Tech.

As a player, Groce was the first All-American tennis player at Nebraska. Her father Ike Groce coached tennis at Coronado High School here in Lubbock.

Pirates' Simon questioned after hitting mascot

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Pittsburgh first baseman Randall Simon was questioned by sheriff's officers after hitting one of the Milwaukee Brewers' sausage mascots with his bat during a game.

Simon insists he was simply trying to play along with the mascots, calling himself a "fun player."

Deputy District Attorney Jon Reddin said he was reviewing tape of Wednesday night's sausage race and would decide later Thursday whether to file charges.

"Right now it's in the hands of the authorities," major league baseball spokesman Rich Levin said. "We'll wait and see what happens."

Simon was cited by the sheriff's department for disorderly conduct and fined \$432. He can contest the citation at a Sept. 3 hearing, Sheriff David Clarke said.

Simon maintains he did not deliberately try to knock down the female mascot.

"That wasn't my intention in my heart for that to happen," he said before Thursday's Brewers-Pi-

rates game. "I was just trying to get a tap at the costume and for her to finish the race."

Simon said he hopes to apologize to the woman before he leaves Milwaukee.

"I thought at the moment they were trying to play with us. They were running right next to the players," he said. "I'm a fun player, and I've never hurt anyone in my life."

Simon was taken to the Milwaukee County Jail after the game, won 2-1 by the Brewers in 12 innings. He was booked, released and ordered to appear in the district attorney's office.

Simon had been handcuffed in what is standard procedure for those taken to jail, Deputy Inspector Sherry Warichak of the sheriff's department said. She said he was "totally cooperative."

Four people in sausage costumes race around the infield warning track between the sixth and seventh innings at Brewers' games to entertain fans.

When the group went past the Pirates' dugout, Simon took a half swing at the Italian sausage charac-

ter, hitting her from behind and causing her to tumble. When she fell, she knocked over the woman dressed as the hot dog.

"They both were treated at the scene for scraped knees, but at this point I don't think they have any other complaints," Warichak said.

Warichak identified the person in the Italian sausage costume as a 19-year-old woman from South Milwaukee whose first name is Mandy, and the person in the hot dog costume as a 21-year-old woman whose first name is Veronica.

The deputy inspector and Brewers spokesman Jon Greenberg declined to identify them further.

"The Pittsburgh Pirates apologize to the Milwaukee Brewers organization and to the Brewers' fans for this unfortunate incident," the team said.

Rick Schlessinger, Brewers' executive vice president for business operations, called Simon's conduct "one of the most outrageous things I've ever seen inside a ballpark or outside a ballpark. It sickened me to see it."



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Kansas' Collison, UT's Osterman named Big 12 athletes of year

DALLAS (AP) — Kansas basketball player Nick Collison and Texas softball player Cat Osterman were named Wednesday as the Big

12 Conference's athletes of the year.

Osterman, a left-hander from Houston, was named the top collegiate player in the nation last season

as a sophomore, when she was the Big 12 pitcher of the year for the second time and led the nation with 14.1 strikeouts per seven innings. She led NCAA Division I with an 0.38 ERA with a 32-6 record with 18 shutouts, 27 complete games and 488 strikeouts.

Collison, the Big 12's career leading scorer with 2,097 points, was second in the league with 18.5 points per game and third with 10.0 rebounds per game this season.

Female and male athletes of the year were chosen by a panel of athletic administrators from each conference institution and media. Athletic directors from each school nominated one female and one male athlete for the awards, based upon athletic performance and academic achievement with citizenship as a tiebreaker.

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• CARPET
• CERAMIC TILE
• PETS ACCEPTED
• PRE-LEASING NOW

\$2 Margaritas

Bleacher's Sports Cafe

"Where Everybody Plays"
This Weekend

50¢ Wells Friday 9-11
\$3 Jager and Tuaca

Saturday
\$2 Long Islands and Hurricanes

Sunday \$2 U-Call-Its All Day

Friday Night Alligator Dave

Saturday Night Moya

1719 Buddy Holly • www.Bleachersportscafe.com • 744-7767

Neither this establishment, Texas Tech University nor The University Daily encourages underage drinking or alcohol abuse.

PATRIOT
FIREARMS

Family Shooting Center
Welcomes Tech students w/ ID.
\$5 daily. Rental guns available.
Open Mon, Sat 9-8 & Sun 1-5
5840 49th St. 796-2858