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Gunman wounds two, killed by police

THE END: 26-year-old gunman holds Tennessee college classroom hostage for 9 hours before police take action.

By Woody Baird/Associated Press

DYERSBURG, Tenn. (AP) — A gunman took at least a dozen people hostage in a college classroom Wednesday afternoon before he was shot by police. Two hostages were wounded during the nine-hour standoff.

Police heard gunshots from inside the building at Dyersburg State Community College around 11 p.m. EDT. The gunman, 26-year-old Harold Kilpatrick Jr., had left a note saying he "wanted to kill some people and die today." Dyersburg Police Chief Bobby Williamson

initially said Kilpatrick fatally shot himself, but he later confirmed that officers shot him.

"Our people shot one — the hostage-taker — and two others were wounded," Williamson said.

It was not immediately clear whether the two hostages were wounded by police or Kilpatrick. Williamson said the injuries to the hostages were not serious.

Four ambulances were at the college building in Dyersburg, about 75 miles northeast of Memphis. Two people were carried out of the building on stretchers. Police escorted several

other people from the building.

The gunman, believed to have had a 9mm pistol and what looked like a butcher knife, made no demands — aside from food and drink — during the standoff. In the evening, he asked for six pepperoni pizzas and two six-packs of soft drinks, which police delivered.

The gunman claimed to be a member of al-Qaida, and Williamson said that although authorities had no reason to believe the claim, the FBI had been called in. Justice Department officials in Washington also said they had no evidence that the gunman was a member of the terrorist organization.

Authorities said Kilpatrick, of Memphis, was staying with his sister in Dyersburg. In the suicide note, left at his sister's house, he also

said he didn't like Americans and had spoken with al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, Williamson said.

Kilpatrick faced criminal charges of assault and kidnapping in another case, Dyersburg police spokesman Charles Maxey said. He had no details but said Kilpatrick had been scheduled to appear in a Memphis courtroom Wednesday.

Williamson said there were 12 to 16 people in the basic math classroom when the standoff began. About three hours later, three students were released — all women, one of whom was pregnant. The teacher remained in the classroom.

Officers communicated with the gunman through student hostages on their cell phones,

but Kilpatrick wouldn't speak directly to police, Williamson said.

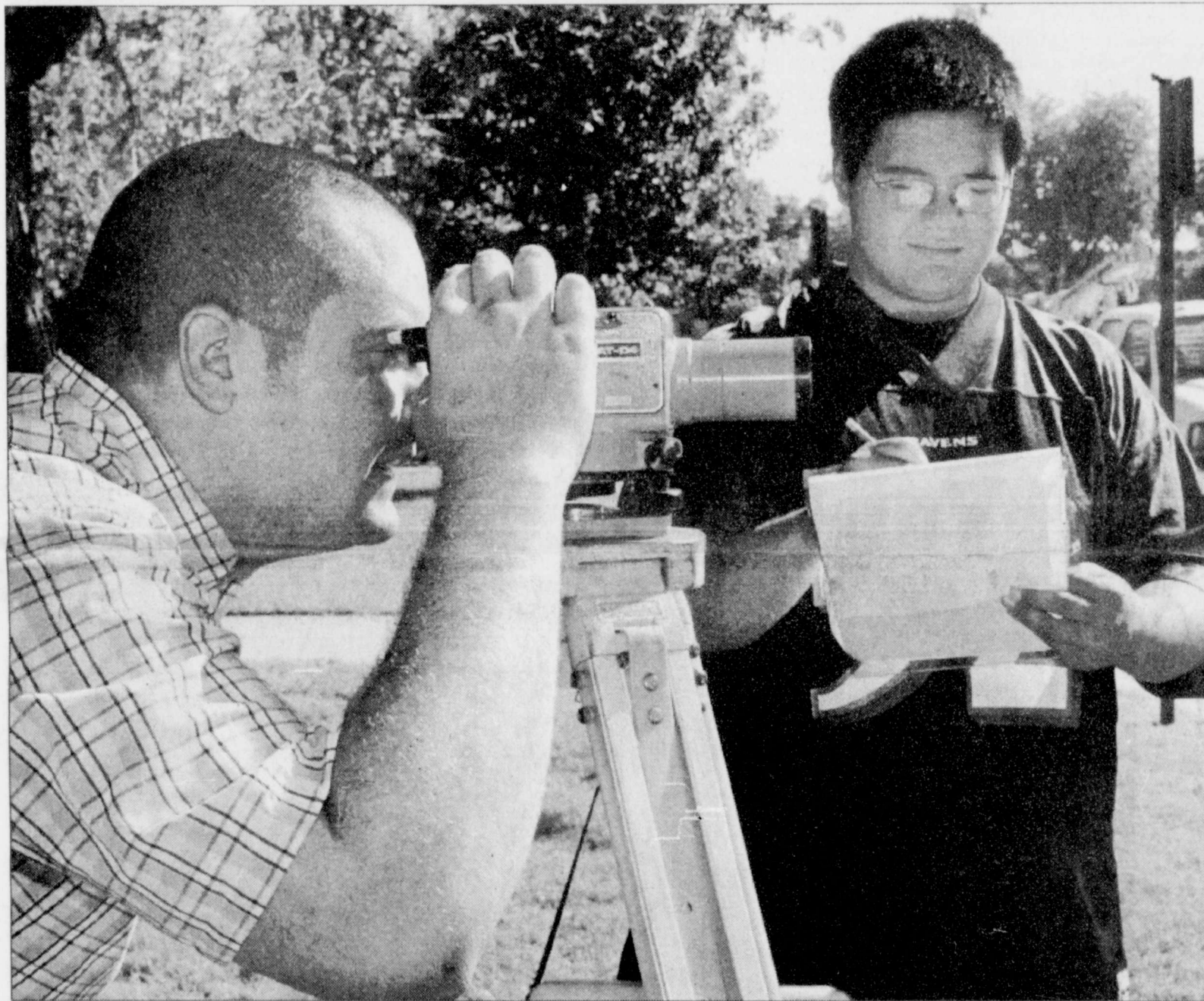
Police said Kilpatrick was not a student or college employee. They talked to his sister at the scene, but the gunman wouldn't talk to her, Williamson said.

A SWAT team and about five hostage negotiators were among the officers called to the scene.

"Police ordered all students to evacuate, but employees could stay," Athletic Director Alan Barnett said in a telephone interview. "We had students coming in since it happened, but everyone is gone now."

From his office, Ken Teutsch, a media specialist at the campus Learning Resource Center, could see police cars near where the building where the standoff occurred.

JOB SITE SEEING



JENNA HANSEN/Staff Photographer

JUSTIN KENDALL, A senior civil engineering major from Lubbock takes elevation readings of the Engineering Key through a transit while Conrad Ege, a sophomore civil engineering major from Baltimore, Md records the measurements during their survey class Wednesday afternoon.

Tech research team to survey storm damage

By Andrew Bell/Staff Reporter

Although Hurricane Isabel is currently moving toward North Carolina, the wind event will affect Texas Tech in more than one way.

If the storm permits, the football team may not be the only Red Raiders going to North Carolina. After the storm has passed, the Wind Engineering department will be sending a team to survey the damage caused by the hurricane.

On Tuesday and Wednesday more than 230,000 people were told to evacuate the North Carolina coast. Many area citizens did so because the National Hurricane Center posted a hurricane watch for Little River Inlet, S.C., to Chincoteague, Va., according to the Associated Press.

The storm is on course to hit the North Carolina coast today and then move through eastern Virginia. On Monday, the winds from the storm died down to 125 mph. The day before, the winds had reached 160 mph, which would classify it as a Category 5 storm, according to the Associated Press. The AP reported late Wednesday that the storm has weakened to a Category 2 storm. However Isabel is still expected to be dangerous.

Chad Morris, associate director of the wind science engineering and research center, explained that variation in a storm is common.

"The temperature of the water and the air, as the storm approaches the coast, affects the intensity," Morris said.

Doug Smith, a professor for the wind engineering department at Tech, explained the seriousness of a Category 5 storm.

"The damage would be extensive and widespread if a Category 5 storm hit a population center. It would be similar to Hurricane Andrew if it hit a populated area," he said.

Depending on the condition of the soil, the hurricane could cause damage to any trees that are affected by the storm. If the ground is already wet



ISABEL continued on page 3

Texas Tech student fights West Nile Virus

By Beth Aaron/Staff Reporter

There are 46 confirmed cases of West Nile Virus in Lubbock. Two people have died from the virus, including a 29-year-old woman. The virus is not to be passed off as toxic only to the elderly, because young college students are catching it too.

Danielle Swet, a 20-year-old senior education major from Lubbock, was a member of the Texas Tech flag line for several years, and enjoys dancing and working out with her mother at the gym. Swet is currently undergoing rehabilitation, working to strengthen her muscles after a near-

deadly bout with West Nile.

Swet said she believes she contracted West Nile from a mosquito bite she got at home working in her flowerbed in the middle of the day. She said she did not think to put on insect repellent before tending to her garden.

"I had several mosquito bites when I came inside," she said.

Swet said she felt nauseas and tired

for about two weeks. Thinking she might be pregnant, she and her husband went to Lake Ridge Primary Health Center and requested a pregnancy test. Her blood work was normal so she went home.

"When I woke up the next morning, I couldn't walk," she said. "I called my mom, and we went back to the doctor."

Swet developed a severe headache when she arrived at the hospital, and because she normally does not suffer from headaches, her mother sensed something was wrong.

"My mom asked the doctor what the chances of West Nile were," she said. "The doctor just shrugged it off."

Swet said she needed a wheelchair to get out of the office. That evening, she and her mother asked a family friend, who is also a physician, for a second opinion.

"Immediately, he told me I needed to go to the emergency room," she

VIRUS continued on page 3



Animal research at HSC hoping to help mankind

By Beth Aaron/Staff Reporter

There is a difference between animal testing and bio-medical research using animals, said Dr. Barbara Pence, assistant vice president for research at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. While one can develop a cure for cancer, the other allows a cosmetics company to market a new shade of lipstick.

"Animal testing is when they're used to test cosmetics and things like that," she said. "Bio-medical research is very focused, not used for frivolous purposes."

Pence stressed that "testing" im-

plies a living thing is being used just as some warm body other than a human to poke and prod for commercial purposes, while "research" means any tests done on the animals has a far greater purpose than whether or not a new type of eyeliner will irritate a woman's skin.

Animals used in research at the HSC are used in experimentation that will, in the long run, greatly benefit mankind, Pence said. Animal research has led to discoveries in the areas of heart disease, cancer and vaccines.

"Modern heart surgery was developed with animal research," she said. "Anyone you know who has had by-

pass surgery—that was first done on an animal."

Pence said research animals at the HSC are treated very well. They are fed regularly, given medical attention when it is necessary, and if they do have a terminal illness, they are euthanized to minimize suffering.

"There are very strict federal regulations and guidelines pertaining to this," she said. "We do not deviate from that. Everything's done as humanely as possible, with as few animals as possible."

Pence said various animal models are used for various diseases. Rodents are most often used as surrogates for

humans because the structure of their internal organs is similar to the human body's structure.

"Predominantly rats and mice are used in bio-medical testing," she said. "Rabbits have been used, and there is minimal research in using primates."

Pence said for one of her research experiments, she would feed her mice different diets and then expose them to something similar to a tanning bed to see whether or not diet effects the growth of skin tumors.

Pence said aside from use in biological research, animals are used in

ANIMAL continued on page 5

Student Senate to meet for first time this fall

By Jennifer Prieto/Staff Reporter

The 39th Session of the Texas Tech Student Senate will have its second meeting in Room 205 of the library at 7 p.m. today. Jacque Steinmetz, internal vice president for the Student Government Association and president of the Senate, will preside over the meeting.

The Senate will have the first reading of Senate Resolution 39.01 and Senate Bill 39.01.

Senate Resolution 39.01 states the sentiments of the Student Senate concerning changes to the rules involving the subpoena process.

Chris Carr, senator-at-large, said the resolution explains that senators who fail to turn in an absentee form before the senate meeting will receive an unexcused absence.

He said the Senators will be required to appear before the Rules and Administration Committee or they will receive another unexcused absence. "If they have more than two absences they will be neglecting their duties, and they could be up for impeachment," Carr said. "By being present, you really find out who really cares and who doesn't."

He said the senate had problems with senators being absent because of Greek functions, leaving early for the weekend and other activities.

"I know our students are involved or may be leaders of a variety of activities," Carr said. "None of those things are going to be an excuse this year."

He said it is hard to make decisions about excused absences, but when senators signed up for the committee, it was a symbol they were going to be committed to the organization.

Carr said if senators prove they have a test, they will be excused from the meeting.

"We are students first and senators second," he said. "That is something that will always be excused."

Senate Bill 39.01 has to be entitled as an act before the changes can amend the constitution.

SENATE continued on page 5

The Rundown



Dotson will not go to extradition hearing

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Carlton Dotson, indicted for the murder of a former Baylor University basketball teammate, notified state officials Wednesday that he would not appear at an extradition hearing scheduled for Thursday.

Aja Foster, spokeswoman for the office of Maryland's secretary of state, said the office received a letter from Dotson's lawyers, Purcell Luke and Sherwood Westcott of Salisbury, saying neither they nor their client would appear before a hearing officer who will determine whether Dotson will be sent to Texas for trial on murder charges.

Dotson refused to return voluntarily to Texas to stand trial in the death of his former roommate, Patrick Dennehy.

Foster said Assistant Attorney General Stuart Buppert will review the files in the case and make a recommendation to Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich as to whether Dotson should be extradited to Texas to stand trial. Maryland usually grants the extradition requests of other states.

The letter did not say why Dotson and his lawyers decided not to attend the hearing, which they had requested. Luke and Westcott did not return calls from The Associated Press to their office.

Isabel closes in on North Carolina banks

NAGS HEAD, N.C. (AP) — Hurricane Isabel closed in on North Carolina's Outer Banks on Wednesday with 105 mph winds and the potential for up to a foot of rain, threatening to cause ruinous flooding across a huge swath of the already soggy East.

Isabel had weakened to a Category 2 hurricane from a Category 5, 160-mph monster, but was still expected to be dangerous when it hit the barrier islands Thursday morning with a storm surge of up to 11 feet.

More than 230,000 people in North Carolina and Virginia were urged to move to higher ground, leaving the vulnerable Outer Banks mostly evacuated. Evacuation orders were also posted for low-lying inland areas and islands of the Chesapeake Bay, which could get a 7-foot surge.

After days of warnings, anxiety over the onrushing hurricane finally appeared to take hold, even among longtime Outer Banks residents who pride themselves on their ability to ride out big storms.

"There's probably no one in the area within a quarter-mile," said Jason Ribeiro.

Expert: Ozone hole reaches record size

GENEVA (AP) — The ozone hole over the Antarctic this year has reached the record size of 10.8 million square miles set three years ago, the United Nations' weather organization said Wednesday.

Measurements over and near Antarctica show that ozone decreased more rapidly this year than in previous years and that the size of the ozone hole is now as large as it was in September 2000, the World Meteorological Organization said.

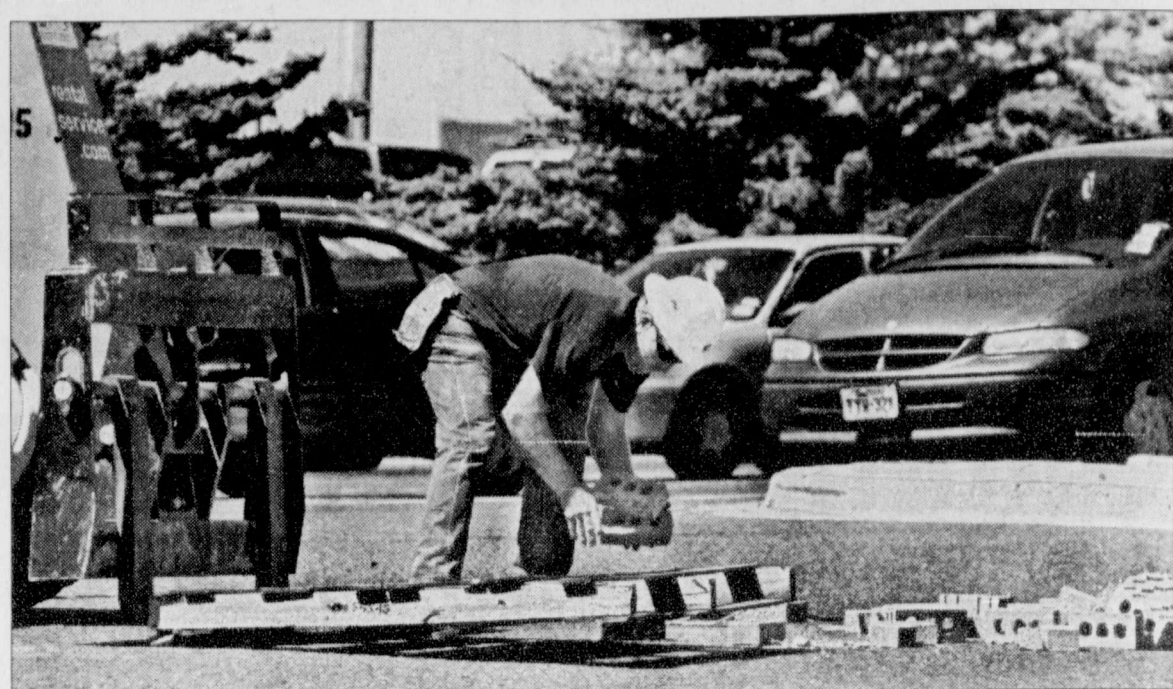
The hole could continue to grow to its largest size ever in the next couple of weeks, the WMO said, but it also could suddenly decrease.

"It's impossible to predict," said Michael Proffitt, a leading expert on the ozone hole at WMO. "Judging from previous years it usually continues to increase for one or two weeks at this point."

"But I don't think it will increase by that much," he added. "It would be very surprising if it increased by 20-30 percent."

The hole, a thinner-than-normal area in the protective layer of gas high up in the earth's atmosphere, has started forming at the end of Antarctic winter every year since the mid-1980s. In August, when the sun starts to rise again over Antarctica, it triggers accelerated ozone loss following extremely cold South Pole winters when the area remains in darkness.

BRICK BLUNDER



DAVID JOHNSON/Staff Photographer
DON REID, WITH Brazos Masonary, picks up bricks and loads them onto a forklift, in the intersection of Indiana Avenue and 18th Street on Wednesday afternoon. The bricks had fallen off of the forklift when a bundle broke apart after hitting a dip in the road five or six minutes earlier.

University student dies after binge drinking

PEORIA, Ill. (AP) — As Bradley University accepted another award this week for its efforts to curb binge drinking, students on campus mourned a senior who authorities say had been drinking for more than 12 hours before he died.

Robert Schmalz, 22, died Sunday. He was not breathing when friends found him in his room at an on-campus house.

Chief Deputy Coroner Johnna Ingersoll said she was awaiting toxicology results to determine the cause of death. But students said Schmalz and his Phi Kappa Tau fraternity were celebrating the end of the fall pledge process, known as rush, with a party where alcohol flowed freely. Schmalz, who majored in psy-

chology, was scheduled to graduate in December from the 6,100-student university. He had been arrested Aug. 31 for driving under the influence and his license was suspended.

His death cast a pall over the campus, where a candle burned in front of the fraternity house and an American flag flew at half-staff at a neighboring frat.

A university spokeswoman said administrators had not decided whether to take any action against Schmalz's fraternity.

On Tuesday, university officials picked up the school's sixth consecutive award from the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse.

For several years, Bradley has tried

to reduce binge drinking by emphasizing moderation, said Ray Baker, director of the school's Center for Wellness and Counseling. Students are also urged to use designated drivers.

"For us to say you can't drink would probably have the opposite effect that we would want," Baker said.

The efforts have worked, he said. Studies show nearly 70 percent of Bradley students say they do not drive after drinking and drink five or fewer drinks at a time.

Ultimately, though, students are responsible for their alcohol use, Baker said. He added that Schmalz's death has had a profound effect on campus.

"Students have vowed to change some of their behavior," Baker said.



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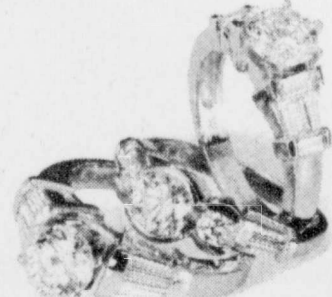
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City practices emergency procedures in drill

By Jeff Lotspeich/Staff Reporter

The city of Lubbock has been in a state of emergency the past two days and was not declared safe until 5 p.m. Wednesday, said Ken Olson, emergency management coordinator.

Olson was in charge of a functional exercise that tested the city's emergency procedures for terrorist or non-terrorist attacks on the city and county.

A functional exercise is a test of emergency procedures that exists only on paper. All steps are followed as if an actual emergency arose, but no emergency vehicles are deployed in the exercise.

Bob Goodwin, corporate committee manager for the city, said the emergency was an explosion at Broadway and University avenues.

The exercises carried out Tuesday and Wednesday were to test the standing emergency procedures held by the city and county.

"It is extremely beneficial," Olson said. "You develop a plan and you never know if it will work until you exercise it."

Several scenarios were acted out and various departments and agencies attempted to solve the situation as if the scenarios were real.

Police and fire departments, as well as city officials, played a major role in the exercise.

"The fire department always assists in making a central command system," said Lynn Smith, deputy chief of support services of the Lubbock Fire Department. "We were acting as if it were a real scenario, but we are not dispatching engines, bulldozers or street vehicles."

Lynn said the fire and police departments and emergency medical services play a large role at the operation command post.

When asked about the involvement of the Tech Police Department, Maj. Gordon Hoffman said some of the scenarios do involve the Tech police.

"We would send any of our resources that we could to the agencies involved, especially if it were

close to campus perimeters," Hoffman said.

Olson said that conducting exercises is crucial to developing successful emergency plans.

"Exercises are labor intensive and resource intensive, but they allow us to take a step back and see what's going on," he said.

Lubbock Mayor Marc McDougal said until a situation

actually arises, it is hard to know how to handle it.

"You develop a plan and you never know if it will work until you exercise it."

— KEN OLSON
City Emergency
Management Coordinator

Virus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to go to the emergency room," she said.

Ultimately, blood tests confirmed Swet had West Nile. She was admitted to Southwest Diagnostic Clinic on July 14.

"I had lightning pain shooting up and down both of my legs, and headaches to the point where I lost my eyesight," she said.

Swet said because she her immune system was so weak, she contracted spinal meningitis and a type of influenza in addition to West Nile and had to have a spinal tap.

"Oh my gosh, it was the worst thing ever," she said. "I thought I was going to die."

Swet said she lost her eyesight and lay in the hospital in a coma-like

state. A close friend of hers visited and announced her engagement, but Swet was unable to comprehend the good news.

Erin Robison, a senior public relations major from San Angelo, is Swet's best friend. She came to visit every day Swet was in the hospital.

"It was just really hard," she said. "One time she was running a fever of 104 degrees, her vision was blurring and she was just crying."

Robison said she felt almost powerless to help her friend.

"I remember I just got on the elevator and left," she said. "I just cried because I felt so bad for her. There wasn't a whole lot I could do for her."

Swet said she was released from the hospital after three weeks, but at the time was still unable to walk. Her doctor prescribed Benedryl and Ambien, a sleeping pill prescribed to patients with chronic insomnia.

"I couldn't even bathe myself," she said. "My husband used all of his vacation to stay home and take care of me, and my mom didn't go to work. They were very supportive."

Swet said she lost 22 pounds because of the virus.

"If you would have seen me a month ago, you wouldn't even imagine me walking on a crutch," she said. "They're saying I've made a lot more progress than they expected."

Robison is relieved her friend is in better health.

"She's doing awesome compared to how she was before," Robison said.

Swet said her doctors expect she will be walking normally by Christmas and estimate full recovery by February. Swet still carries the West Nile Virus antibodies in her blood.

Swet said she refuses to let this experience keep her from enjoying the outdoors. She advises students to

be cautious when going outside during dawn and dusk hours.

"I know it stinks, but it's worth using the repellent," Swet said. "If you start getting muscle weakness or really bad headaches, that's a distinctive sign."

Dr. Kelly Bennett, chief of staff at Student Health Services, said symptoms to look out for are high fever (103 degrees or higher), neck stiffness (primarily at the top of the spinal cord), muscle weakness, and disoriented behavior. Anyone with these symptoms should go to the emergency room right away.

Sonja Wood, Swet's mother, said she is concerned because people are not taking the West Nile threat seriously.

"People don't have a clue," she said. "We had a \$60,000 hospital bill, but the money doesn't even matter; we almost lost Danielle."

"We go through these procedures to find flaws in order to better prepare ourselves for an actual state of emergency," McDougal said. "It's kind of like the football team; they practice so they can be good."

The city and county have three different types of exercises: full-scale, functional and tabletop. Olson said there have been five exercises within the past 30 months and much has been learned from them.

Emergency management held a full-scale exercise in March in which it tested all aspects of its emergency protocol, including the deployment of emergency vehicles.

Tech students seem to be in agreement that the exercises are beneficial to the city and university.

"It's necessary in some aspects to test it out," said John Zancana, a

sophomore business economics major from Richardson. "Being prepared is important for any situation that may arise."

Olson declined to comment on the probability of Lubbock being attacked by terrorists. He did say, however, there will probably be a tabletop exercise within the next fiscal year. Tabletop exercises consist of a committee meeting that discusses a scenario without taking any active roles.

The exercises are funded by the Texas Department of Public Safety's Emergency Management Services. The Texas DPS contracts the Texas Engineering Extension Services, a to develop and conduct the exercises.

Texas Engineering Extension Services is a part of the Texas A&M University system.

Danielle's immune system before this; she was young and healthy."

Swet said getting sick was an awful experience, but in the end it turned her life around for the better.

"It's sad that it takes something bad to bring you back to God," Swet said. "I have a whole different perspective on the way I want to live. I spend more time talking to God now. I am definitely changed."

Robison said she is looking forward to having Swet as her matron of honor in her January wedding.

Swet said she was worried about the possibility of not being able to stand up in heels at the ceremony, but Robison put her at ease.

"I told her that I may not be able to wear heels, and that she could change her mind if she wanted to," Swet said. "But she told me that even if I had to be in a wheelchair, I would still be in her wedding."

Isabel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

down. However, if the ground is drier, then the trees will snap. The snapped trees will not be carried far, Smith said.

"The trees aren't going to become missiles," he said.

The amount of damage that is caused by the hurricane will determine the size of the team that is sent to North Carolina, Smith said. Morris explained that personnel from Tech are already located in Currituck, N.C., and Morehead City, N.C.

On Sunday, a team of 11 Tech researchers left to go to the coast. Part of the team includes a hurricane in-

tercept team. The name of the team is the Wind Engineering Mobile Instrumented Tower Experiment.

The team is collecting real-time data. To accomplish that, the team is using two 33-foot towers. The large towers will be able to measure gale force winds and will be accompanied by smaller towers and a mobile Doppler, Morris explained.

The other team is the damage assessment team. Members of this team will survey the damage caused by the hurricane, Morris said.

"The team will be looking into some of the wind characteristics like speed and the turbulence intensity," Smith said.

Smith said the turbulence is similar to small wind gusts that cause

ripples on a lake. In the case of a hurricane, the turbulence can affect the design pressures on a building.

The damage from the hurricane could include damaged roofs and broken windows. The teams will check the damage caused to different kinds of construction, Smith said.

"Checking the structures will help with damage prediction insurance

loss models. The models help estimate losses for different events to set up claims," Smith said.

Further investigation will check into failure modes for buildings and checking to see if the buildings were prepared for the event. Smith said if the teams see failure modes that are unfamiliar, then they will conduct more research.



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Foreign policy not falling like dominoes

Johnny Depp is being roasted for calling America a "big dumb puppy," or something like that, in a German magazine. His original quote was mangled by America haters in the German press, but his clarification seems clear enough.

In a Sept. 4 Reuters story, Depp said, "What I was saying was that, compared to Europe, America is a very young country and we are still growing as a nation."

Do I agree with this sentiment?

No.

Do I think Depp should have his career ruined over it?

Of course not.

It's tough to pick a side on this pro-America/anti-America debate because both sides have become so annoying.

I don't know who annoys me more, the smug Europeans who ignore their own history or the flag-waving NASCAR crowd that trots out "my country, right or wrong."

The fact is, since Sept. 11, 2001, America's foreign policy has been both right and wrong, and there are legitimate points to be made by both sides.

Saddam Hussein was an evil, mass-murdering waste of skin.

Deposing him was a good thing, even if the Iraqis have to endure a period of chaos afterwards.

The Taliban was an evil regime that kept its population in medieval slavery.

Deposing them was a good thing, even if the Afghans are just going to replace them with another set of warlords.

By the same token, the Europeans are right to be skeptical of American motives around the world.

I think our intervention in the Middle East is based on some dubious premises, and ultimately, our intervention will fail.

The Bush Administration thinks we can turn Iraq into a stable democracy, and once we do that, democracy will spread to Syria, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

I call it the Reverse-Domino Theory.

During Vietnam, our government was obsessed with the idea of communism infecting the world, sweeping around the globe like a set of tumbling dominoes.

That theory was proven false in Vietnam.

Ho Chi Minh was devoted to nationalism, not communism, and he would have opposed the Soviet Union just as strongly as he opposed us.

Foreign policy analysts are so adept at seeing patterns, they are apt to blame "movements" for things that really are isolated events.

The "Arab World" is not a monolithic group marching in lockstep against us.

With rare exception, these countries hate each other more than they hate us. Ironically, the only thing that could create

Michael Duff



I don't know who annoys me more, the smug Europeans who ignore their own history or the flag-waving NASCAR crowd that trots out "my country, right or wrong."

Arab unity is intervention by the United States.

So, based on this reverse domino theory, we are creating the very situation that we are trying to avoid.

Do I think America is a big dumb puppy?

No.

I think America is still being run by cold warriors, obsessed with domino theories of foreign policy.

It really bothers me to see Europe adopting the moral high ground, when the 20th century was dominated by European imperialism.

Our intervention has been a bare fraction of theirs, because we are a young nation, and we haven't had time to make Europe's mistakes.

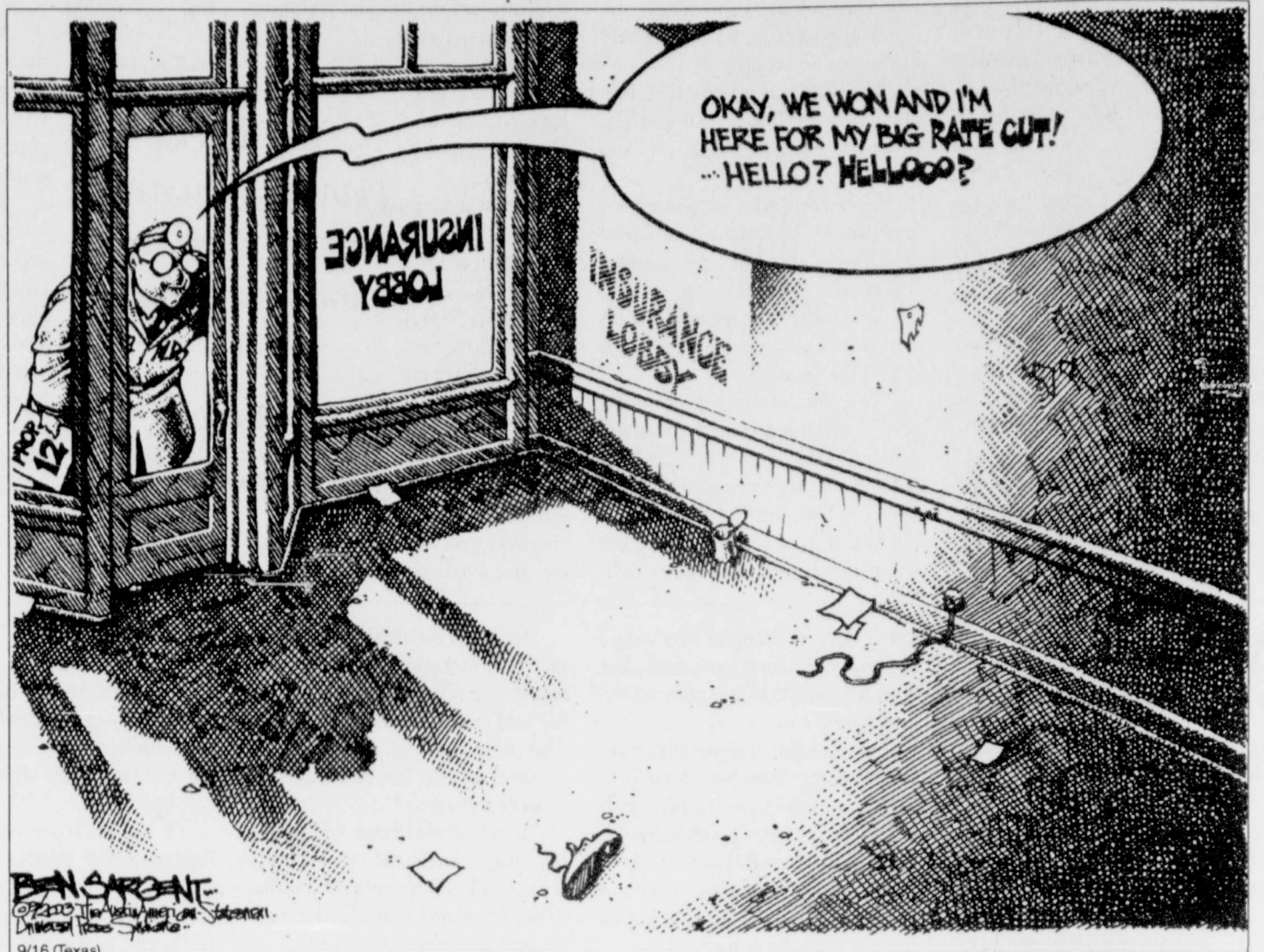
Europe may be going through a brief isolationist phase, but watching them condemn us is like watching a lifelong practicing alcoholic preach about the dangers of drinking.

Europe has no moral authority here. I'm tired of their posturing, and I'm sick of watching Americans buy into it.

If you're going to be an isolationist — be consistent. Don't just trot out the position when it's fashionable.

Go all the way with it, and acknowledge the color of this pot that is calling the kettle black.

■ Duff is a junior english major from Lubbock. E-mail your comments to michael.duff@ttu.edu.



When a wedding involves warfare

Planning for the big day often far from blissful

Kristen Gilbreth



The number of checklists, calendars and cue-cards involved in a ceremony that lasts half an hour is beyond ridiculous. A plan of execution equal only to the detail of a wartime battle plan begins to take affect the moment proposals are popped.

veil to keep women wishing for that fantasy fairy tale.

But, just like anything in life, there is no way to plan the perfect wedding, despite the book titles with such claims.

Expectations cause clashes between family, friends and the couple just trying to start their life as one.

More dissension evolves than unity as budgeting battles ensue and everyone thinks they know what is best for the happy couple to do.

And yet, despite all this ceremonial chaos, Americans are obsessed with the idea of weddings.

Whether it's stalking J-Lo and Ben Affleck or watching strangers meet and marry on national television, we can't get enough of this nuptial nonsense.

When it comes to our personal lives, I know there is no more important decision than who we decide to commit to until death us do part.

But too many people I know are convinced they need to meet their life partner during their college years.

So, many end up settling because they fear spinster status.

If you're single — slow down and just date around.

Stop flipping through Martha Stewart's silly magazines on how to create the ideal wedding and stop going to design-your-own-ring Web sites.

Work on yourself and everything will work out.

And if you're planning a wedding, chill out and don't get wrapped up in the materialism of it all.

Plan for your marriage — not your wedding. Ask all the questions you need to ask. Know your partner inside and out.

Talk about religion, politics, money and kids.

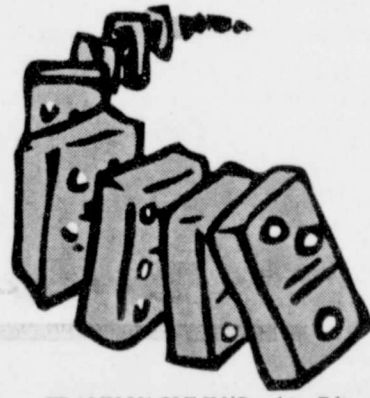
Go to premarital counseling.

And when it's time to make it all legal, don't go insane picking out place settings and arguing over what size knife to use to cut the cake.

Cut out all the nonsense, save money for your new life together, and pick up a ticket to Las Vegas.

Whether you say your vows in a little white chapel or in front of Elvis, there really is no better place to take the biggest gamble of your life.

■ Gilbreth is a senior communication studies major from Brownwood and the opinions editor of the UD. Email her at kristen.d.gilbreth@ttu.edu



FRANK VACULIN/Graphics Editor



FRANK VACULIN/Graphics Editor

This summer my brother decided to say the knot you are tying begins to unravel. "I do" to his longtime girlfriend during the It's a secret our society keeps under a

Share your opinion with the Tech community!
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New NASA rule — daylight launches

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — A new NASA safety rule restricting shuttle launches to daylight hours will lead to more and longer flight delays and, unless the space agency is strong enough to resist, deadline pressures similar to those that contributed to the Columbia disaster, officials warned Wednesday.

More than half of any given calendar year will be blacked out for launches under the new guideline, sometimes for months at a time.

The new rule, prompted by the Columbia disaster, was dictated by the need to photograph each shuttle at liftoff in order to document any damage from flying debris, and to check the external fuel tank for any missing foam insulation.

John Shannon, manager of shuttle flight operations and integration, said everyone inside the space agency will have to resist the urge to meet what few launch dates might be available in any given period.

"We have to guard against that," Shannon said. "Everybody who's worked here for a long time looks at that thing (blackout chart) and says, 'Wow, we need to get something going here and here and

here.' And you say, 'No, we are not going to do that. That is not the way we're going to operate.'"

A chunk of foam slammed into Columbia's left wing during liftoff in January and left a hole that later let in the deadly gases of re-entry. NASA had no good pictures of the strike or the gashed area and concluded during the flight that no significant damage occurred. All seven astronauts were killed, just 16 minutes away from their Florida homecoming.

For the next launch, dozens of additional cameras will be positioned throughout the launch area. In addition, extra cameras will be installed on the shuttle to document its entire eight-minute ride to orbit, and the astronauts will use a digital camera to photograph the empty fuel tank as it falls away.

Daylight will be required not only at Florida's Kennedy Space Center, but also far out over the Atlantic so the fuel tank is visible when it tumbles away.

At a return-to-flight seminar at Johnson Space Center, the chief of the shuttle ascent and descent dynamics branch, Greg Oliver, said these daylight launch restrictions will reduce the number of launch opportunities by more than half.

Animal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

consumer product testing. Product testing is what is disputed most often.

GOVEG.com, education manager for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said people are elevated too highly over animals. She believes animals should have rights. GOVEG.com said she changed her name to match her favorite Web site because she is a supporter of the vegetarian lifestyle. She said wanted to be able to sign the anthem everywhere.

"Animals aren't ours to experiment on," she said. "It's not OK to test things like bleach and Saran Wrap on them."

Lorraine Hough, executive director of the Texas Society for Biomedical Research, said animal testing used by cosmetic companies is the only type of testing that could stand to be eliminated completely.

"Cosmetic testing needs to be taken away," she said. "After all, who needs another mascara?"

Hough is an advocate of animal research and consumer animal testing because she believes it is the only way products that people use every day can be found safe for consumption.

"Before the development of modern product safety standards, consumers simply had to gamble at the safety of everything," she said. "I am not willing to take those risks when it comes to my health and that of those I care

about." GOVEG.com said she does not believe animal testing is the best way to ensure products are safe for consumers.

"The medical community and consumer product companies could spend money to find a more productive way to do research instead of torturing animals," she said.

Hough disagrees. "There are no alternatives," she said. "A computer, et cetera, can never replace the complex beings that we are."

Hough said scientists do adhere to the 3R's of research: reduce, refine, and replace. They try to reduce the numbers of higher species animals used, refine the procedure to ensure the most humane conditions possible, and replace with another model whenever possible.

"The three R's is what people usually talk about," GOVEG.com said. "I think the last one, replace, is the most important."

Pence said animal research not only benefits humans, but animals as well.

Scientists perform controlled experiments with these animals to come up with new ways to treat diseases affecting animals as well.

Information about PETA and animal testing can be found at stopanimaltesting.com. For more information about animal research, contact the TSBR.

Senate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The bill concerns the changes to the Election Code for the Homecoming election process.

Carr said the reign of the Homecoming Queen sits on the Interview Committee and the reign of the Homecoming King does not.

The Homecoming Interview Committee will consist of nine voting members and three ex-officio members if the Senate approves the bill.

Steinmetz said she will talk about the senate retreat, the announcement of committees, RaiderGate for Texas A&M weekend and Freshman Council elections.

She said each committee will get together to talk about meeting times and other issues that could be of importance.

"We will set calendars and we will have the second and third reading of the bill and resolution," she said.

Jeremy Brown, SGA president, said he will welcome all the senators and will present a proposal regarding the establishment of a vice president for graduate affairs office.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS
 1 Shuttle org
 5 "brillig"
 9 Chip dip
 14 Sunday night NFL outlet
 15 "I can't be!"
 16 Computer communicate
 17 Start of a query
 20 Finish
 21 Ravi Shankar's instrument
 22 Vert. counterpart
 23 Church section
 25 Real-life model for "Citizen Kane"
 27 Undergraduate course
 32 Sacristy
 32 Punch-in-the-stomach sound effect
 33 Reveal true feelings
 35 911 respondents
 38 Part 2 of query
 42 Andean nation
 43 Financial review
 44 Mexican Mrs. buildup
 45 Recorded
 48 "Cat Scratch Fever" singer
 50 Forthrightness
 52 Musical tag
 53 Make a choice
 54 Earth tone
 57 "Dallas" matriarch
 61 End of query
 64 Actor Flynn
 65 Word in Hope/Crosby titles
 66 Staff member?
 67 Panache
 68 Concerning Bartlett's abbr.
DOWN
 1 CNN word
 2 Arthur of tennis
 3 Spit out
 4 One-season plant
 5 Mister turkey
 6 "... Line Is It Anyway?"
 7 Freeze front?
 8 Chimney buildup
 9 Hush-hush woman
 10 "Little Women" woman
 11 Teary
 12 Missile berths
 13 Warning
 18 Fill with dismay
 19 College cheers
 24 Popeye's ___
 26 God of war
 27 Splendor
 28 Libertine
 29 Brazen boldness
 30 Fashion magazine
 31 Geraint's wife
 34 Pritali
 36 Rotation
 37 Sports fig
 39 Hedge or slush follower
 40 Ristorante beverage
 41 Pieces of Chopin
 46 Amble
 47 Foot part
 49 Lead ore
 50 Systems of rules
 51 Leftward, at sea
 52 Dubrovnik man
 55 Wife of Zeus
 56 Slaughter in Cooperstown
 58 Author Urs
 59 Division word
 60 Fall garden?
 62 Fa-la link
 63 Bridal vow

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Bush's low ratings not concern for students

By Jeff Lotspeich/Staff Reporter

Many Texas Tech students support President George W. Bush, despite recent criticism of his policies concerning the economy and the war on terrorism.

According to the latest Zogby poll, President Bush's approval rating is the lowest it has been since before his inauguration.

Brian Gerber, assistant professor of political science, said the economy's rate is a reflection of the approval consistently slow growth over the past year and a seemingly prolonged occupation of U.S. troops in the Middle East.

"While the public still believes it was the right thing to do, his approval is steadily declining," Gerber said.

Tech students, however, are in favor of the president and his policies.

"I love the guy," said Stephen Tigh, a freshman business major from Lubbock. "He's protecting the country and us. It bothers me what people say about him being a bad president."

Jared Cole, a junior mathematics major from Rowlett, said he believes the president is doing a good job and handled well the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"I don't think people will realize it until 50 years down the road when they look back on it," Cole said.

Not all Tech students agree on the president's issues.

"I personally don't care for Bush," said Kathryn Hinkson, a sophomore

political science major from Strawn. "I don't agree with his policies. They seem reckless at times."

Some students thought the casualties of American troops after President Bush declared Iraq a no-fly zone were cause for concern.

Gerber commented on the effects of the recent casualties on the president's approval rating.

"(The administration) underestimated the cost in dollars and the cost in U.S. troop casualties," Gerber said. "I don't think there's any question that the casualties have led to a decline in (the president's) approval."

Despite the casualties suffered in Iraq, some students feel the Bush administration is succeeding in keeping the combat away from American soil.

"He's done a pretty good job trying to keep war away from us," said Benita Dix, a freshman pre-veterinary major from Lubbock.

When asked about Bush's future, Gerber said it is still undecided.

"In terms of his presidency, it's still very much an open question whether he will be regarded as a successful president," he said.

According to the Associated Press, Bush has said there is no evidence connecting Saddam Hussein to the terror attacks.

His announcement followed allegations that Bush created a link between al-Qaida and Iraq to justify the war.

Bush is up for re-election in 2004.

College of Education's Distance Learning Program reaches students across region

By Andrew Bell/Staff Reporter

Students of the Distance Learning Center in Texas Tech's College of Education are able to use interactive technology to spread education throughout the area.

The Distance Learning Center classrooms, located in the Education building, are equipped with technology that enables students to observe classrooms in progress or interact through video conferencing with professors and students from other universities, said Karen Jacobsen, director of external relations for the College of Education.

"In one classroom, 30 Tech kids can watch an elementary class in progress. Then, the students can interact with the teacher to ask about the teacher's teaching method," Jacobsen said.

The live-link classroom collaborates with local schools for the purpose of helping students interact with teachers and their classroom methods, Jacobsen said.

"The classroom is hooked up to Bean Elementary and Dunbar Junior High so that students can interact with the teacher," she said.

This interaction is possible through the technology in the classrooms.

Each classroom has several televisions in them. These are classified as remote and local screens, said

Wes Fryer, director of the Distance Learning Center.

At each desk, students are provided with a device similar to a computer mouse.

When a student wants to ask a question, he or she hits the button on the mouse and a camera on top of the televisions focuses on the student who pushed the button, Jacobsen said.

The center is using this technology to work with school districts around West Texas, from Amarillo to San Angelo, Fryer said.

At the college level, the center has 31 distance courses for students. Most of the courses are Web-based courses. Fryer said these courses are available to students throughout the nation.

"We have had students from Florida, New York and New Mexico. I believe we have even had a student from Puerto Rico," Fryer said.

The remaining courses are taught by video conferencing.

This method is conducted by in-

teractive tele-video.

It is a two-way video link that allows two parties from different places to interact, Fryer said.

The courses provided by the center also are used by Tech campuses throughout the state.

Students at other locations, such as Stephen F. Austin University and

West Texas A&M University, can use the services to complete degree programs initiated by the center.

Fryer said the College of Education has two degree programs and four branches of certification.

Fryer said he hopes in two or three years the center will be able to add more master's programs.

He also would like to add a doctorate degree to the list.

"There are four private universities in Abilene that offer master's programs, but no doctorate degree," Fryer said. "If we can bring the degree to them, then that would be a great opportunity for Tech."

Still, Fryer believes the program in place can be beneficial to students across the state.

"Non-traditional students can get a master's degree despite where they live," he said.

The center also is beneficial for teachers.

"I encourage faculty to use the tools in their classes. An example would be guest speakers. It can cost a lot of money to fly a speaker into town. With the technology we have, a speaker can give a presentation and answer any questions from students without being on campus," Fryer said.

This fall, the center has already received 29 requests to connect with classes.

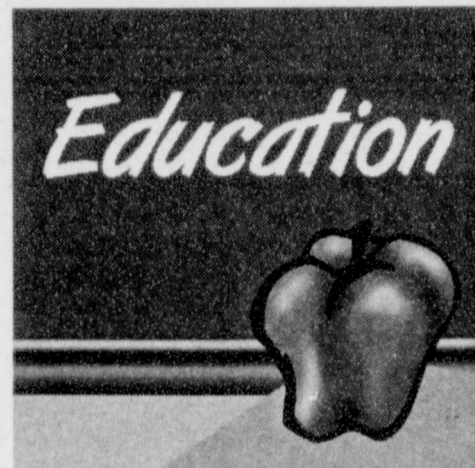
"We had a nurse from Oklahoma who was driving three or more hours to come to a course. So, we connected the course to her in Oklahoma so she wouldn't have to drive," Fryer said.

The center also is trying to expand the service it provides with help from other resources on campus outside of the College of Education.

They are trying to reach an agreement with the Health Sciences Center.

The center's administrators hope that the students will be able to utilize the Health Sciences Center's facilities, Fryer said.

"We hope to open up a market for the whole state and open up opportunities," Fryer said.



Colleges suffering from parking shortfall

AP—The hot topic on college campuses? Forget affirmative action, academic freedom or grade inflation. What really heats up students these days is trying to find a parking spot.

With more and more students bringing cars to campus, students are irked over costly permits and parking violations. Schools reap millions of dollars from fees and fines, but deal with congestion and complaints.

"Anybody will tell you that parking is the No. 1 issue on campus," said Aaron Flint, president of the Associated Students of the University of

Montana, who parked in a reserved spot and had his car towed on his first day of classes.

"But it's also the No. 1 issue that's hardest to deal with and the hardest to find solutions for."

The problem is a matter of supply and demand: too many cars and not enough spaces. The University of Arkansas issues nearly 14,000 student and staff parking permits for 8,300 spaces.

It also collects \$2 million annually in parking revenues, split evenly between permit fees and violation pen-

alties, said Gary Smith, the director of parking and transit.

Smith — also secretary of the 80-member Midwest Campus Parking Association — blames the squeeze on an influx of undergraduate drivers. Two decades ago, approximately 30 percent of Arkansas freshmen brought cars to campus. Today, nearly 70 percent have cars, Smith said.

Even more problematic, he added, some upperclassmen bring two cars to campus.

"On the Fayetteville campus we have a lot of permits we basically consider a license to hunt," said Smith. "Register your car, and if you can find a legal space by that permit designation you can park there."

Campus parking managers say the situation is only made worse by class schedules that create rush hours.

At the urging of its student government, Southeast Missouri instituted a weighted lottery system that gives students who have accumulated the most credit hours the best crack at the school's prime parking places.



FRESHMEN, Texas Tech Student

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2. Sept. 19: Statement of Intent form DUE by 5 p.m. in SGA Office.
3. Sept. 23th and 24th: Candidate Seminar - Red Raider Lounge.
4. Sept. 30th and Oct. 1st: Elections! Vote at www.sga.ttu.edu

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Visit www.sga.ttu.edu or Call the SGA office at 742-3631

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Family Outreach program reaches out to Tech

By Sabra Jennings/Staff Reporter

Volunteering can boost one's self-esteem, give a sense of accomplishment and provide worthwhile learning experiences.

The Family Outreach Center is one place in Lubbock that offers volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer training for the center begins at 6:30 p.m. today.

Located at No. 5 Briercroft Office Park, the agency's mission is the prevention of child abuse and neglect, said Kim Comacho, program coordinator.

The center differs from Child Protective Services in that Family Outreach focuses on prevention instead of intervention, she said.

"CPS intervenes because there's already something going on," Comacho said. "We're here to work with the families before it gets to that point."

Comacho said families become clients by referral or self-referral, and there are many different ways that center works with the families. One way

is through one-on-one mentoring, and that's where the volunteers come in, she said.

"If they do choose to work one-on-one, that's when we offer them a trained volunteer to just guide them through some of the things that are going on, and every family's different," Comacho said.

Volunteers act as a support system for the families, as well as an extra set of ears to help guide them through anything that might be happening,

Comacho said. "One of the things volunteers might work with the parents with is proper discipline for children, she said. "Almost always there will be one child who has not behavioral problems necessarily, but is just a difficult child," she said. "So that's whenever we kind of step in and offer some guidance for parents."

If volunteers do not feel comfortable working one-on-one with families, there are many other ways that they can help out at the agency, from office work, public speaking or fund

raising, Comacho said.

"Our training will cover how to be a volunteer in any aspect of our agency, from coming in and answering the phones for one day a week, a half a day a week, all the way to working with the families," she said.

A total of four training sessions are scheduled, and the first one will serve as an informative session so volunteers can learn more about the agency and how it works, Comacho said.

Snacks will be offered, and a lunch will be provided at the Saturday session on Sept. 20.

Comacho said Family Outreach is a student-friendly agency, and staff members are accommodating to student's schedules.

"We work around schedules, and we understand that things come up," she said. "If they're more available in the evenings, our parenting programs are in the evening. If they're more available on the weekend, we have at least one health fair per month that they can participate in."

Megan Wright, civic engagement coordinator for the Center for Campus Life, said volunteering is important.

"Volunteering time not only helps out the community of Lubbock, but it teaches them something about who they are and their values," she said.

Volunteering can build job skills such as teamwork, Wright said.

"I think you learn about yourself, and you learn about working with others," she said. "In most job place environments, teamwork is important and you definitely learn about that."

In addition to the mentor program there are several other programs, including one for teen mothers called Connections, Comacho said. Volunteers meet with teen mothers once a week for lunch.

All volunteers for Connections have been set, but in January the agency may need new volunteers for the program.

Tara Lok, a junior advertising ma-

nor from Katy, said she volunteered last year with the Connections program, and is returning this semester.

Volunteering for the center is rewarding, Lok said. Although she may not see a complete difference, she always feels as though she has planted the seed for change, and encourages others to volunteer, as well.

"There are many people out there that need help," she said. "If they're

brave enough to ask for help, then we should be the ones to step up and be there for them."

Lok said volunteering has taught her things about herself and the type of person she wants to be.

"I don't do it because it looks good," she said. "I just do it because it's fun."

For volunteer training information, call (806) 747-5577.

"I think you learn about yourself, and you learn about working with others."

— MEGAN WRIGHT
 Engagement Coordinator
 for the Center For Campus Life



THURSDAY		SEPTEMBER 18				
STAT. CHAN. AFFIL. CITY	KTXD & PBS Lubbock	KCBD & NBC Lubbock	KLKB & CBS Lubbock	KUPT 7 UPN Lubbock	KAMC = ABC Lubbock	KJTV C FOX Lubbock
7:00	Body Elec. Callou	Today Show	News	Religion	Jood Morning	K. Copeland Awesome Adv.
8:00	Berenstain Barney		Early Show	Paid Program	America	Paid Program
9:00	Dragon Tales Arthur	Today Show	TBA	Judge Mathia	Regis & Kelly	Family Feud Family Feud
10:00	Sesame Street	Martha Stewart	Price is Right	Hatchett Hatchett	View	John Walsh
11:00	Mr. Rogers Television	Hiwy Square Jeopardy	Young & the Restless	Paid Program	Home Impr. Port Charles	Access Extra
12:00	Old House Watercolor	News Days of Our	News Beautiful	Jerry Springer	All My Children	Good Day Live
1:00	Needle Arts Dragon Tales	Lives Passions	As the World Turns	Paid Program	One Life to Live	People's Court
2:00	Zoom	InvEdition	Guiding Light	Street Smart	General Hospital	Divorce Court
3:00	R. Rainbow Cyberchase	Oprah Winfrey	Mary Povich	Dharma/Greg	Wayne Brady	Joe Brown Joe Brown
4:00	Clifford Arthur	Dr. Phil	Judge Judy Judge Judy	Sabrina That 70's	Montel Williams	News & More
5:00	Liberty Nightly Bus.	InvEdition NBC News	News CBS News	Pyramid	News ABC News	That 70's Simpsons
6:00	NewsHour	News W/Fortune	News Millionaire	Access Extra	E.T.	Friends Raymond
7:00	Antiques Roadshow UK	WTV14	Survivor Pearl	WWE Smackdown	Threat Matrix	Stupid Stupid
8:00	Ed Sullivan Show	Will & Grace TV14	Island C.S.I.		Extreme Makeover	Temptation Island
9:00	Wide Angle	E.R. TV14		King/Hill King/Hill	Primetime Live	News
10:00	Nightly Bus. Destinos	News Tonight Show	News David Letterman	Friends Blind Date	News Nightline	Seinfeld Frasier
11:00		Conan	Letterman Craig T. Nelson	Ext. Dating Blind Date	MASH E.T.	Becker Shoot Me
12:00		O'Brien Last Call	Kilborn Paid Program	Ext. Dating Paid Program	Jimmy Kimmel	Spin City Paid Program

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 6928 83rd Street.
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 CROSS INTO THE BLUE

Tech families, couples connect with campus

By Megan LaVoie/Staff Reporter

A new and unique Texas Tech organization will be introduced on campus today.

The TECH Couples and Families Organization is having its first meeting tonight at 5:30 in the Career Center, located in the southeast corner of the Wiggins Complex.

Carissa Nichols, president and co-founder of TECH Couples and Families, said this is the first organization at Tech that is solely committed to empowering, supporting and representing Tech couples that are married or dating, and Tech families either raising or expecting children.

"I want to unite students' home life with their school life," Nichols said. "I don't want students to feel isolated on campus. This organization was created so that all students would have a network of support."

Nichols said the TECH Couples

and Family Organization has been carefully designed and developed after two years of research.

"The program was inspired by three other Universities: Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania and Texas A&M," she said.

Nichols and her husband Tom are the co-founders of the organization and were inspired to create an organization that met the needs of couples and families after their son

John, now 14 months old, was born.

"It was kind of ironic how this organization came to life because we worked on it for a class communications project," Nichols said.

Maynard, advisor for T E C H Couples, is excited about the new organization and said she believes it is a great idea.

"This is a new organization, and it is such a worthy cause because it is supporting a group that hasn't neces-

sarily been addressed before," she said.

Nichols agreed with Maynard.

"The goal of this organization is to provide a friendly atmosphere for these Tech students and the development of couple-friendly organizations around their needs," she said. Nichols said she believes couples and families who participate will be able to accomplish their personal goals as well as their goals for the campus.

"The organization will address each member's needs, as well as members' needs within the campus," she said.

"We plan on addressing issues such as on-campus housing for families and married couples, maternity (expectant mother) parking, benefits for spouses of Tech students and the development of couple-friendly fraternities."

Nichols also hopes TECH Couples and Families can get involved within the Student Government Association and other organizations on campus.

"The organization also plans to have guest speakers and mobilize committees to find solutions to the problems that many students confront on

campus," she said.

Nichols expects to hold two meetings each month, and dues for membership will be \$5.

"We understand that many students who will be participating in this organization have busy lives so membership in this organization will not require a huge time commitment," she said.

Nichols also hopes to get involved within the community.

"Our goal is to build alliances with the Lubbock community and seek out local sponsors," she said.

"We hope to recruit sponsors so that Tech students as well as Lubbock businesses know that they support each other," she said.

Overall, Nichols hopes that TECH Couples and Families is a positive resource for all students to use and get involved with.

"The sole goal of this organization is to make a positive impact on our campus," she said.



Miss America pageant holding out for better audience response

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — With its amateur singers, head-to-head contests and gradual eliminations, the Miss America pageant was TV's first reality show.

It was Sept. 11, 1954. For the first time ever, black-and-white images of the Atlantic City beauty pageant were beamed into living rooms all across America, showing young women parading across the Convention Hall stage in elegant evening gowns and tight-fitting swimsuits.

Grace Kelly was a judge. Bob Russell was the host, to be replaced a year later by someone named Bert Parks. The winner was Lee Meriwether, a 19-year-old Californian.

Viewers loved it. With its parade of pulchritude, hokey talent offerings and an end-of-show coronation, the pageant was a hit, drawing 27 million viewers its first time on television.

Nearly 50 years later, the formula remains fundamentally the same, for better or worse.

Viewers who dial up this year's model (airing 8 p.m. EDT Saturday on ABC) will see touches of television's reality revolution all over the three-hour telecast.

Hoping to jazz up Miss America's staid formula, the show's producers have enlisted some familiar faces to go along with the pretty ones.

Hosted by Tom Bergeron ("Holly-

wood Squares"), it will include:

— A viewing party hosted by Trista Rehn and Ryan Sutter, the couple who emerged from last spring's ABC romantic reality show "The Bachelorette" as real-life sweethearts. The party, in Boulder, Colo., will feature them and some of their friends watching the telecast, with cut-ins showing Rehn and Sutter talking about which contestant they think will win.

— "American Idol" runner-up Clay Aiken singing his hit single "This Is the Night."

— The five finalists in a "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire"-style pop quiz, standing at podiums and answering questions about current events,

geography and U.S. history.

— A casual wear competition, with 15 of the 51 women wearing the kind of clothes they would wear to a college class, concert or outing with friends.

And for the first time ever, the winners of each contest within the pageant will be announced, letting viewers know who's ahead every step of the way.

Whether the switches can stem the exodus of viewers remains to be seen.

Once a major draw for viewers and a sure-shot Saturday night champion, the Miss America pageant has lost millions of viewers in recent years.

Last year, about 12 million people

— an all-time low — watched the crowning of Miss Illinois Erika Harold, down from 25.3 million just eight years ago, according to Nielsen Media Research.

It's Bob Bain's job to recover some of those viewers, and he's getting it. "It's easy to draft off the recent success of reality TV and call Miss America the mother of reality shows," said Bain, the pageant's TV producer.

"But it was never intended to do what the reality shows do, which is put civilians into awkward or embarrassing situations and then titillate the audience with how they're going to react." "The (contestant-by-contestant)

eliminations, the use of civilians as opposed to celebrities, being live, they are all reality TV elements. But after that the comparison stops. What we want to do is imbue our proceedings with the basic tenets of reality TV, where applicable," Bain said.

Rehn and Sutter are known entities and their party will make viewers feel like a fly on the wall, listening in to what goes on in someone else's house.

"No one who watches Miss America about who should win. Now, as a home viewer, you've got an opinion to bounce your opinion off of," said Bain.

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McDonald's tries a healthier approach to reach adults

CHICAGO (AP) — McDonald's Corp. has enlisted the aid of Oprah Winfrey's personal trainer to promote an adult version of the Happy Meal, the fast-food giant's latest effort to offer healthier products.

Instead of Happy Meal standards

like a burger and a toy, the new Go Active meal will include a salad, an exercise booklet and a pedometer meant to encourage walking.

McDonald's and other fast-food chains have tried to offer healthier fare that will still tempt taste buds as the fat and calorie content of their

core products has come under scrutiny. Burger King, the No. 2 hamburger chain, planned to launch a new line of low-fat, baguette-style chicken sandwiches on Thursday.

Two weeks ago, a federal judge in New York dismissed an obesity lawsuit against McDonald's that alleged it had been hiding the health risks of eating its popular Big Macs and Chicken McNuggets. It was

the second time this year that U.S. District Judge Robert Sweet threw out a class-action lawsuit that blamed McDonald's for making people fat.

Greene, who can't remember the last time he visited a McDonald's restaurant, said consumers had to take "personal responsibility" for the choices they make when it comes to consuming food.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

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Tech program advises students on addictions

By Nikki Siegrist/Staff Reporter

A perception of a rite of passage in the United States commonly involves alcohol, sex and college, said Bonnie Bourland, manager for the Texas Tech Raider Assistance Program.

However, Bourland said this perception is far from reality.

The program is university-sponsored and designed to advise students about unhealthy choices.

"You go to college and learn to drink," Bourland said. "It's what college people do, and it is no longer acceptable for the universities to do it anything."

Tech is one of the first universities to have a program like this, Bourland said.

The program is primarily an educational program designed to teach students the symptoms of alcoholism, drug addiction and unhealthy eating habits. The students can then assist others who demonstrate the symptoms in getting help.

The program presents informative sessions covering topics such as nutrition, violence, depression and drinking.

After a student decides to seek help, the Raider Assistance Program can refer them to someone for help. The program is designed for confidentiality and safety, Bourland said.

"If it causes you any problem in any area in your life, it's something they (the students) have an opportunity to

take a look and make a choice," she said. "We can sit and talk about confidentiality, safety and my credentials. I will ask them, 'What brings you here, and how can I help?'"

Bourland said she finds out what the problem area is in the student's life through a series of questions.

"We talk a lot about taking a look at our own behavior," she said. "We look at different questions and scenarios and what you do."

Juli Benson, a health educator who works with the Raider Assistance Program, said through the program she and Bourland can refer a student to a private clinician, a dietician or any other professional the student may need.

"We do awareness but then we also do screening to get students connected to the services that are most needed," Benson said. "We have wonderful resources on campus for the students."

Benson said the students might think the problem they have is something they can handle or take care of after they get out of college, but she said students cannot afford to wait that long.

"It is about five years or maybe nine for a graduate student and that is a huge part of life," Benson said. "The services are here at Tech and they are free."

Bourland said she agrees with Benson and students should try to beat any addiction or problem they have now while they are in school.

"The choices made from the beginning make a pattern and a lifestyle," Bourland said. "So it does matter what you do (in college)."

Students also take part in the Raider Assistance Program through Impact Tech.

"It's a student organization that's purpose is to educate," Benson said. "They are a real enthusiastic group."

Emily Brewer, a senior psychology major from Odessa, is the treasurer for Impact Tech. She said she became interested in the program when she saw Benson present a presentation about violence and date rape in one of her classes.

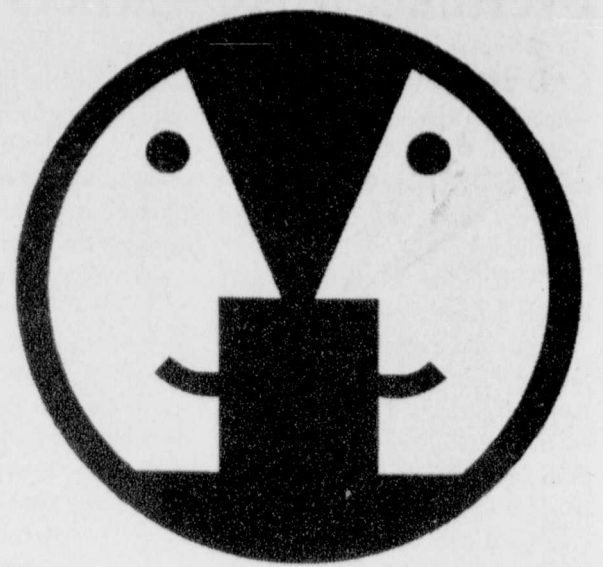
The main function of Impact Tech is similar to that of Raider Assistance Program, Brewer said. Impact Tech presents different presentations to students in classes, athletics, the Greek system and more.

"I was really interested in helping educate other students," Brewer said. "We talk to students who normally wouldn't hear what we talk about. If we talk about STIs (sexually transmitted infections), sex and sexual health, a lot of times students don't want to talk to adults."

Brewer said she can make a presentation to 500 people and if one person asks her for more information or to ask to talk to her later, it is worth it.

Crystal Garcia has been a member of Impact Tech for four years and is currently vice president of the organization. Garcia, a senior health major from San Angelo, said she enjoys seeing students get the help they need.

"To see students who have hit rock bottom and they want something more," Garcia said, "and then to see them later when they are doing better and have something out of life - it's just great."



RAIDER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Graphic Courtesy of Raider Assistance Program

World obsesses over actor, singer, clothing designer J-Lo

LOS ANGELES (AP)—No matter what Jennifer Lopez does, she's followed by a hurricane of hype.

Sure, she's a major movie star with hits like "Maid in Manhattan."

Yeah, she got a ring from Ben Affleck, the heartthrob star of "Pearl Harbor," "Daredevil" and "Armageddon."

And yes, she's frequently ranked as one of the most beautiful people in the world.

Why do soooooo many people care soooooo much?

"Jennifer Lopez is one of these celebrities that no matter what she does, whether her movies are good or bad, or whether critics like her album, her level of celebrity remains very, very high," said Ken Baker, West Coast executive editor of Us Weekly.

The key to the Bronx-raised star's appeal is a mix of working-class grit and temperamental diva glamor, he added.

"People, especially women, feel they can identify with her even though she's extremely wealthy," Baker said. "There's an authenticity to her, despite all the bling-bling. They think, 'I'd do the same thing.'"

Her Puerto Rican heritage makes her exotic, a cross-cultural commodity, Baker added, setting her apart from Hollywood's array of "cookie cutter" skin, blond actresses.

So when did the begin?

After breaking into showbiz as a dancer on the TV sketch comedy show "In Living Color," she became a movie face name by appearing in movies like "Money Train," "Selena" and "Out of Sight" and releasing a hit album, "On the 6."

Then came the night that put her over the top.

On December 27, 1999, she and then-boyfriend Sean Combs (who had not yet changed his nickname from

"Puffy" to "P. Diddy") were arrested in connection with a nightclub shooting in New York. Lopez was released without being charged; Combs was later acquitted of weapons and bribery charges.

At that point, Jennifer Lopez became more interesting than her music and movies.

Three months later, she appeared with Combs in the Grammys in a low-low-low-cut green Versace dress, causing eyeballs to widen and tongues to wag.

Then she appeared without Combs, breaking up with the hip-hop mogul.

Her virtually every move since then has appeared calculated, aimed at capitalizing on the world's obsession with her. It's no coincidence that a flurry of gossip column items precede most of

her moves.

Lopez is in the business of selling an image, and associates say she's an excellent salesperson.

Affleck helps fuel her flame but the public also salivated over the details when Lopez married her husband, no-name dancer Cris Judd, in 2001.

Lopez's celebrity may end up backing their wedding when media attention got too crazy, then called the whole thing off a few days later.

During their botched wedding

weekend, Lopez was photographed in Miami, in the ocean, in a tiny bikini.

Affleck, was sighted in Las Vegas.

On Monday, as often with the tabloid monster known as Bennifer, the next chapter in their soap-opera romance was a mystery.

What does the average person think? Better yet, what does the average Jennifer Lopez think?

Jenny Lopez, 34, a homemaker and mother of two small children from Mount Dora, Fla., said she enjoys the singer-actress's songs on the radio, although she doesn't buy her CDs.

She liked her alter ego in "Gigli," even though she didn't care for the film overall.

She acknowledges curiosity about Lopez's activities: "I guess it's that idea that she wants you to think about her, that she's this girl from a certain part of town and a certain place and that if she can do this than anyone can do this."

Jenny from Mount Dora had only a moment interest in the wedding.

"The odds that it will last for a long time are so low," she said last week, before the nuptials went south. "But God bless them if it works."

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College football coaches discuss overtime, MAC garners respect

Kenyan runner winning comfortably for Tech

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. — According to some, the NFL does it completely wrong. According to others, the NCAA limits who participates in it. But either way, everyone's got an opinion on it.

Overtime in football is a very heavily debated topic.

And college coaches were open to talking about it after a weekend of nationally televised overtime games — in both college and pro. Ohio State, after two overtime wins propelled it to a national title last year, continued its success in the extra frames with a 44-38 triple-overtime win over North Carolina State. Dallas, Carolina and St. Louis all won week two overtime games in the NFL.

"We always played the ties off [coaching at I-AA Idaho from 1989-94], which I think is a good way to do it," Michigan State coach John L. Smith said. "Is this the right format? I don't know. It's as good of a one that I've been acquainted with."

As for the NFL?

"I think it's worse," Smith said.

The debate is sparked in the pros every time a team that loses a coin toss, loses a game. Many believe that the way that colleges do it is the best: Give each team an equal amount of chances from the 25-yard line until one team can come out on top.

"I really like the format," Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said. "There's excitement to it. It's a little like soccer, where they have that goal kick-off."

But there are disputes that without

using the entire field, overtime isn't really deciding the better team. Instead, it decides the better kicker from 42 yards out, when both defenses were able to make stops that would normally bring out the punting units.

MAC DADDIES
Lloyd Carr called it the most underappreciated conference in the nation not too long ago.

Tressel talks about it as if he were describing the Pac-10.

But it has been the Mid-American Conference that has been making waves this season.

After Northern Illinois' week-one win over pre-season ACC favorite Maryland, it made some news. But while that garnered some attention, the MAC has really made a name for itself with its recent performances over the teams in the Big Ten.

And perennial power Marshall hasn't been named at all.

Bowling Green — a perfect 3-0 going into this weekend's contest with No. 5 Ohio State — got the media hype in the midwest going for the conference with a one-point win over one of the Big Ten's best, Purdue.

"Northern Illinois got it started off with its win over Maryland," Tressel said. "Obviously, Bowling Green's win put a feather in the conference's cap. Miami (Ohio) had a solid performance, too, against Northwestern."

The Redhawks won their game against the Wildcats this past weekend and actually had a closer game with Iowa than the 21-3 score would indicate.

By Jason Lenz/Staff Reporter

He is an otherwise unimposing figure, thin and soft-spoken. Yet his decision to come to Texas Tech has changed the complexion of men's and women's cross country.

Sophomore Benson Cheserek is a cross country runner and a native of Nairobi, Kenya. In his first week of collegiate competition, Cheserek finished in first place at the UT-Arlington Invite and earned Big 12 Conference Runner of the Week honors.

Other Red Raiders on both the men's and women's side, said Cheserek's addition has added a new dimension to the team.

Sophomore Anna Hagood said getting to know Cheserek has been challenging but always rewarding.

"I know he pushes everybody," she said. "He's very encouraging. He's very, very sweet-spirited. Every time you talk to him he's always very kind. Sometimes it's difficult to understand him. Sometimes you wonder if he's understanding you, but everyone's very patient with him. I know no one's offended by it at all."

Acclimating himself to Texas life has been made easier by the friendliness of West Texans, Cheserek said.

"They are very good, very nice," he said. "They are hospitable; they are welcoming."

As to the state he is living in, Cheserek said he is not disappointed with his surrounding environment.

"Texas is very good," he said. "It's a very nice place to be."

On the men's side, senior Joe McCellon will run side by side with Cheserek this season. He said Cheserek is a welcome addition at Tech.

"He's got good character," he said. "He makes us laugh a lot. He's still getting used to everything. Talented, he's great. We've definitely got a better shot at placing better because we've got him out there in the front leading us."

Cross country head coach Burke Binning said the blessing of Cheserek was bestowed on him through track and field head coach

Wes Kittley.

"Through one of coach Kittley's contacts back in Kenya, a good friend that he has," he said. "I think they actually found him about a year and a half ago, but slowly, they've gotten through all the paperwork. Now he's here and ready to go."

The added dimension that Cheserek brings to the team should help the confidence level of everyone on the men's team, Binning said.

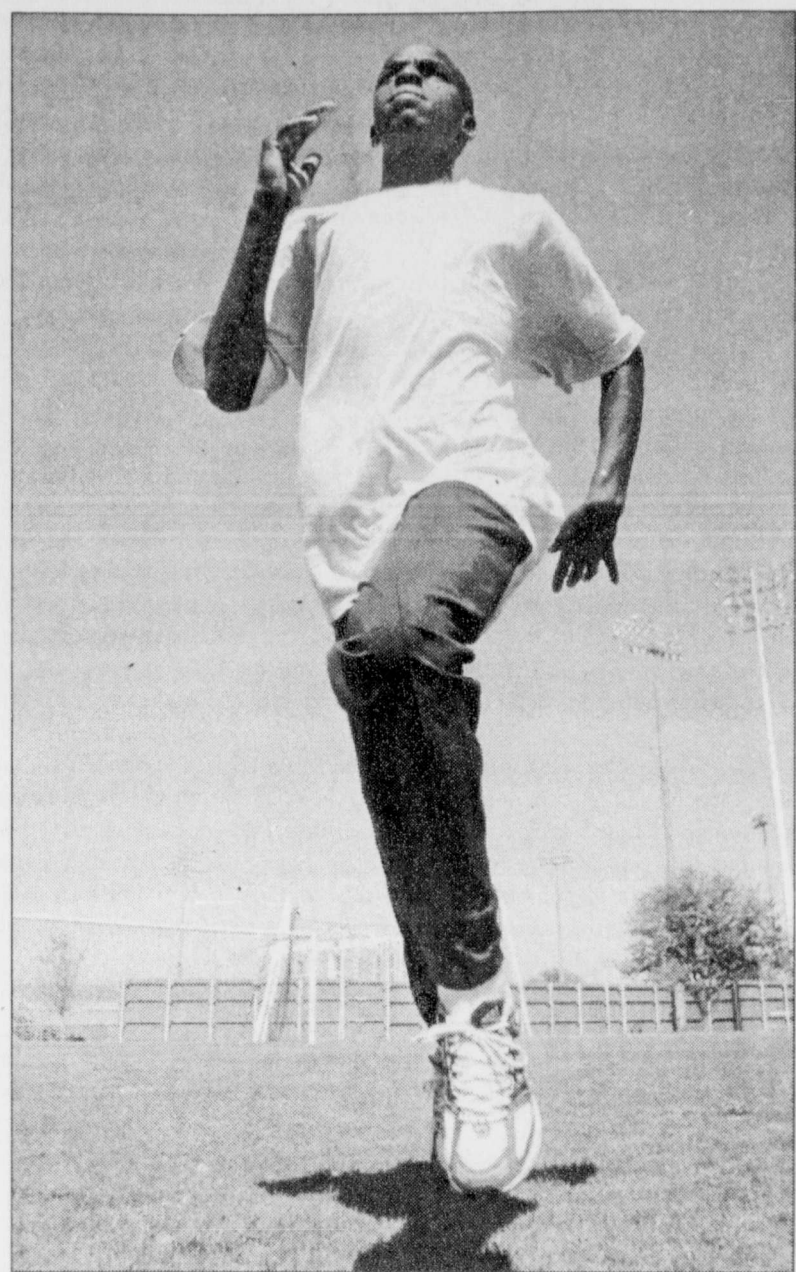
"I think his presence here has really raised the level of expectations on the men's team," he said. "It gets them a little bit more excited about how they're going to fare at (the) conference and regional (tournaments). It helps a lot. It helps their confidence and gets them excited about running in the fall rather than having them wait for track in the spring."

The culture shock is evident, Binning said, but Cheserek is coming along slowly but surely.

"He's slowly starting to interact

"Sometimes it's difficult to understand him. Sometimes you wonder if he's understanding you, but everyone's very patient with him. I know no one's offended by it at all."

— ANNA HAGOOD
Sophomore Cross Country Runner



TEXAS TECH RUNNER Benson Cheserek, from Kenya, warms up at practice. Cheserek finished first at the UT-Arlington Invitational.

TYSON JEFFREYS/Staff Photographer



NCAA

2003 Cross Country Schedule

9/27 Roy Griak Invitational in Minneapolis, Minn.

10/4 Cowboy Jamboree in Stillwater, Okla.

10/18 Chili Pepper Invite in Fayetteville, Ark.

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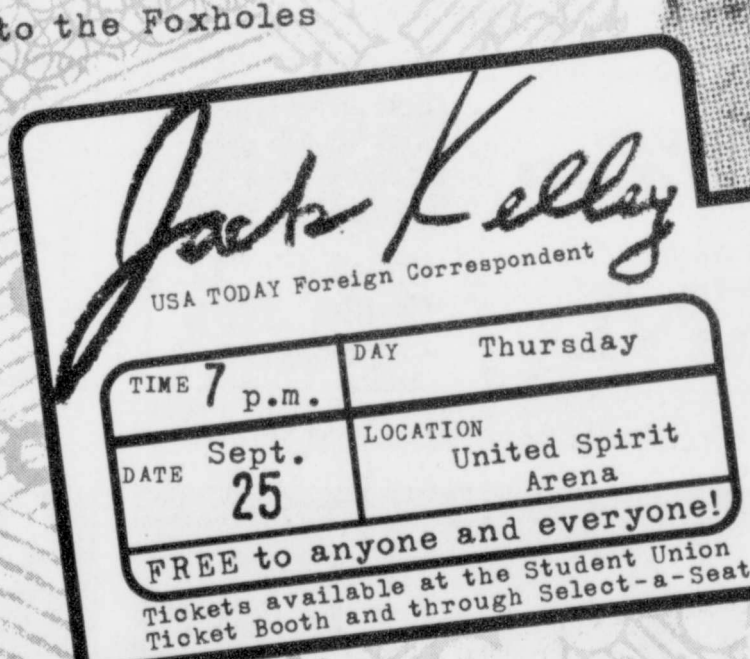
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Football team turning attention toward Wolfpack

By David Wiechmann/
Staff Reporter

Most would say Texas Tech has two favorable factors going into this weekend's game. They have rest. And they have history on their side. The question is, can the Red Raiders use that to their advantage when they face North Carolina State at 11 a.m. Saturday in Raleigh, N.C.?

Tech's legs are well rested since it has not played in two weeks. History wise, Tech has been successful coming off bye weeks in the past. It is 11-3 during the last 15 seasons after the off week. The Raiders are 4-1 in the last six years. Head coach Mike Leach's only loss after a bye came on the road at Texas A&M in 2000.

Some of the Tech players said that a week off does help better prepare them for the next game on the schedule.

"The main thing about the bye

week is, first off, we're able to rest and get everybody healthy," said quarterback B.J. Symons. "That's the first thing with the bye week is, it does give you that grace period where you can get healthy, go over some minor injuries, stuff like that, and at the same time you can gain ground a little bit."

"Does that have any relevance to being 11-3? I don't know, but I can see how it would help because you're going to be fresh. I noticed that most of the receivers said their legs feel pretty good.."

— B.J. SYMONS
Texas Tech Quarterback

Linebacker John Saldi said he agrees with Symons and nursing injuries is first on the list when it comes to a bye week. He also said the opportunity to lounge at home to watch football gets him pumped up for when he will be back on the gridiron.

"The main thing is the rest and injuries and letting those people heal up," he said. "It's nice to just have a bye week to sit at home and watch all the other teams play. It's kind of motivating because it makes you want to get back out there playing, too, so you're anxious to get back out there."

The time to heal has seemed to work for Tech recently, and Saldi said he hopes his teammates took advantage of the time off.

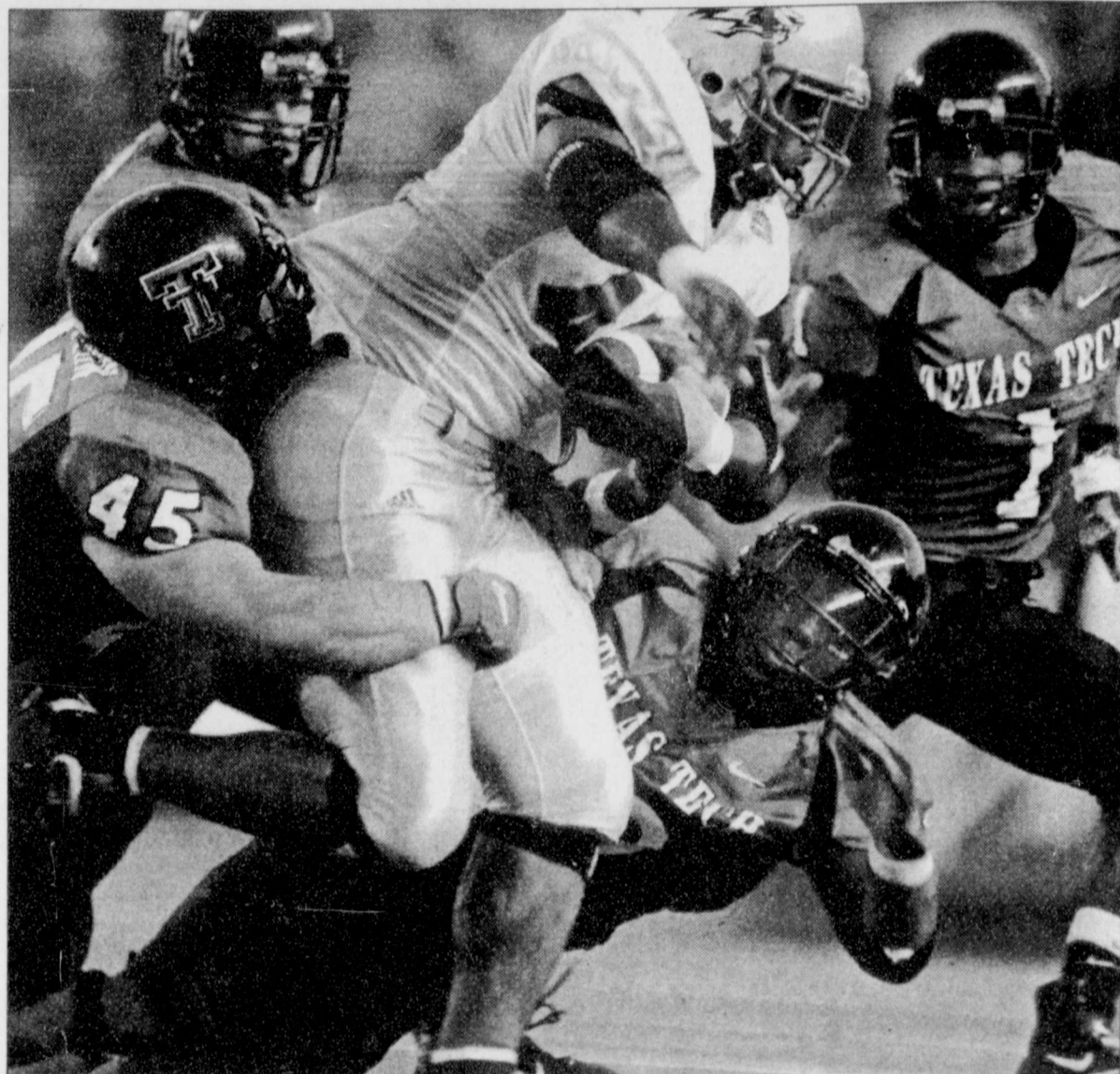
"Obviously, 11-3 in the past coming off bye weeks, it's shown people are healing up when they need to and getting healthy," he said. "I think the hardest part of the season on your body is the first half, and the second half on the body is little bit easier. So, the bye week helps just that much more."

Getting the extra rest may not be the only reason the Raiders seem to win after a bye week, but Symons said it more than likely is a participating factor. One he will hope works to Tech's advantage on the road.

"Does that have any relevance to being 11-3? I don't know, but I can see how it would help because you're going to be fresh," he said. "I noticed that most of the receivers said their legs feel pretty good, so I would say the bye week has definitely helped us get fresh."

Getting fresh is important for Tech since it will face one of the nations highest rated offenses and a Heisman Trophy candidate quarterback in Philip Rivers. Saldi said the bye week has allowed for the defense to key in on trouble areas and get ready for the Wolfpack offense.

"Now we've had a full week of preparation for them," he said. "That's good because they try to confuse you with a lot of different formations and a lot of different motions. They just do a lot of confusing stuff hoping that you're not ready for it."



DAVID JOHNSON/Staff Photographer

THE TEXAS TECH defense takes down University of New Mexico running back D.D. Cox during Tech's 42-28 victory against the Lobos at Jones SBC Stadium two weeks ago. The Raiders did not play last week, but will return to action against the North Carolina State Wolfpack Saturday at 11 a.m. in Raleigh, N.C.

GAME NOTE

The Texas Tech vs. North Carolina State game will be televised on ESPN 2. The game is Tech's first televised game this season and its fourth ever game on ESPN 2. Tech's 49-0 victory against New Mexico was televised on ESPN 2 last season.

A YEAR AGO

N.C. State defeated Tech 51-48 in overtime. Tech trailed by more than two touchdowns in the game, but scored four touchdowns in the fourth quarter to send the game into overtime. Wolfpack running back T.A. McLendon ran for six touchdowns.

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