

Malaysian company settles score with **Bruce Willis**

LA VIDA, PAGE 5

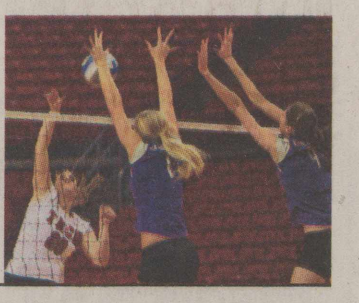
Close friend reflects on lost Tech students

OPINIONS, PAGE 4



0-20 season caps off worst in school history

SPORTS, PAGE 7

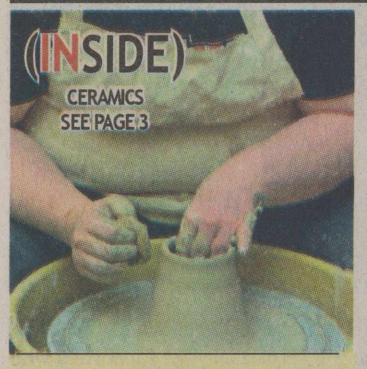


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Texas Tech University
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(INBRIEF)

STATE

Hundreds flee raided Dallas cockfight

DALLAS (AP) — Police say they raided a cockfight in a rural part of Dallas, arresting three organizers and sending hundreds of spectators fleeing into the woods.

Police spokesman Jerry Monreal said nearly 400 people who paid $20 admission scrambled as officers broke up a cockfight Saturday at a boxing ring-sized pit. Misdemeanor citations were issued to about 100 who were caught.

The three people arrested face felony charges of engaging in organized crime. Police said they found books used to take bets.

NATION

Obama to name secretary of state

(AP) — President-elect Barack Obama planned to nominate Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton as his secretary of state Monday, transforming a once-bitter political rivalry into a high-level strategic and diplomatic partnership.

Obama will name the New York senator to his national security team at a news conference in Chicago, Democratic officials said Saturday. They requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly for the transition team.

To clear the way for his wife to take the job, former President Bill Clinton agreed to disclose the names of every contributor to his foundation since its inception in 1997.

WORLD

Pakistani militants behind Mumbai attacks

MUMBAI, India (AP) — The only gunman captured by police after a string of attacks on Mumbai told authorities he belonged to a Pakistani militant group with links to the disputed region of Kashmir, a senior police officer said Sunday.

India has blamed "elements" from Pakistan for the 60-hour siege during which suspected Muslim militants hit 10 sites across India's financial capital, leaving at least 174 dead.

Joint Police Commissioner Rakesh Maria said the assailant now in custody — the only one of 10 to survive — told police the group had intended to hit even more targets.

DEATH TOLL

4203

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

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Black Friday shoppers crowd retail stores



PHOTO BY TINA ARONS/*The Daily Toreador*
MORGAN CROWE, A sophomore nursing major at Angelo State University, and her sister Jaci Crowe, a freshman nursing major at Tech, both from Harper, browse Black Friday bargains at South Plains Mall.

By TINA L. ARONS
STAFF WRITER

Doorbusters. Buy one, get one free. Up to 90 percent reductions.

Shoppers couldn't resist Black Friday deals during the post-Thanksgiving weekend. A survey by the National Retail Federation found a 17 percent increase in the number of shoppers — an increase the retail federation did not expect prior to the weekend.

Surveyed shoppers spent about 7.2 percent more than the previous year, and total spending was expected to reach $41 billion when Black Friday sales concluded Sunday evening.

"I'm thankful because so far (the economy) hasn't effected me," said Jeanne Martin, owner of Hippy Chick in the South Plains Mall. "Holiday spending has been really good, up from last year."

ShopperTrak analysts warned that Black Friday sales may not be a good indicator of holiday season performance, but retailers could be "cautiously optimistic as deep discounts drove consumers en masse to various retail locations to spend despite a myriad of economic pressures."

"While this is an encouraging start for retailers," said Bill Martin, co-founder of ShopperTrak, in a statement, "there's no guarantee these deep discounts will continue after Black Friday weekend, which could slow spending."

The increase of Black Friday sales came as a surprise to analysts who believed the economy would negatively impact holiday consumer spending.

The National Retail Federation predicted an 11 percent drop, or about 6 million fewer people who would shop during the Black Friday weekend.

"Retailers realize that low prices will get consumers into stores this holiday season, and this could be the most heavily promotional Black Friday in history," said Tracy Mullin, NRF President and CEO, in a statement Tuesday. "Shoppers who held off buying a DVD player or winter coat over the last few months will find that prices may literally be too good to pass up."

Some analysts believe the increased spending on Black Friday resulted from consumers planning to save money on their holiday spending by purchasing more bargain items.

According to BIGresearch, nearly half of the respondents in a recent survey said they plan to spend less than they did last year. Maritz Research Retail Group found in its poll that the average person plans to spend about $546 this year, compared with $637 last year.

Tom Krause, director of strategic consulting for Maritz Research Retail Group, said in a statement that retailers can expect consumers

BLACK FRIDAY continued on page 5

Odd Man Out



Tech escapes scrappy Baylor team 35-28, earns share of Big 12 South title

PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/*The Daily Toreador*
GRAHAM HARREL SENDS a pass to Detron Lewis Saturday against the Baylor Bears at Jones AT&T Stadium.

By ALEX YBARRA
STAFF WRITER

View a related slideshow at www.dailytoreador.com

View a related video at www.dailytoreador.com

Halfway through Texas Tech's game on Saturday, the question of whether Oklahoma State would beat Oklahoma as a favor toward the Big 12 Conference Championship vanished.

Tech quarterback Graham Harrell was playing with an injured non-throwing hand, receiver Michael Crabtree left the game for good with an ankle injury and the Red Raiders trailed Baylor by 14 points.

"They came out and they just hit us in the mouth and played harder than we did," Tech running back Baron Batch said.

So the new question was if No. 7 Tech could survive Baylor's upset bid, and Tech delivered by scoring touchdowns on three-straight possessions in the second half to seal a 35-28 comeback win on Saturday, which was Senior Day at Jones AT&T

FOOTBALL continued on page 6

Texas Tech Provost search narrowed to two candidates

By JON VANDERLAAN
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech President Guy Bailey named two finalists for the university's provost position Tuesday and announced the dates the two finalists would visit the campus.


SMITH

Robert Smith and Gail Hackett, who both served as provosts at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, respectively, are the two finalists and will visit the campus and speak in open forums to get student, faculty, staff and community input.


HACKETT

Bailey said he will speak with the candidates during their visit about the university's goals and how they match with the personalities and academic philosophies of the candidates.

Although the candidates will "sell" their qualifications and experience to the university, he said, the university also must sell itself to the candidates.

Smith is scheduled to visit Nov. 30 through Dec. 2 and speak in an open forum at 4 p.m. Dec. 1 in the Escondido Theatre. Hackett is scheduled to visit Dec. 2 through Dec. 4 and speak in an open forum at 4 p.m. Dec. 3 in the Escondido Theatre.

Michael Shonrock, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management and the chairman of the search committee, said the committee did an "exceptional" job and searched extensively throughout the nation for candidates.

Bailey said the response of students is important to his final decision because he wants to have a provost who understands the needs of students.

The university conducted thorough background checks, he said, and the only task left in the process is to see how the two candidates fit with the university.

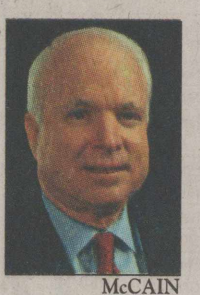
A decision should be made soon after the candidates visit the university, Bailey said, and he hopes it only will be about a week or two after the

PROVOST continued on page 2

McCain to speak at commencement

By ADAM YOUNG
NEWS EDITOR

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., will be the commencement speaker for Texas Tech's Graduate School Commencement ceremony at 4 p.m. Dec. 12.


McCAIN

Tech System Chancellor Kent Hance said McCain's speech will provide Tech graduates and those in attendance a "great opportunity" to hear from the 2008 Republican Party presidential candidate.

McCain originally was hesitant to participate in any university commencement speaking role, but Hance said he and McCain are personal friends and he was able to persuade the senator to come to Tech.

"He has been very gracious," he said. "John McCain is a great American hero."

Hance said he was impressed with the way McCain "handled himself with dignity" in the weeks following his loss to President-elect Barack Obama in November.

Hance, who is scheduled to be the commencement speaker during Tech's undergraduate commencements at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Dec. 13, served with McCain in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1983 to 1985.

McCain has served in the U.S. Senate since 1987 and is the senior senator from Arizona.

Hance served in the U.S. House of Representatives representing the Lubbock area from 1979 to 1985 and is an alumnus and former faculty member of the university.

Past commencement speakers at Tech include former President George H.W. Bush in spring 1999, then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush in spring 1997 and former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in spring 2008, according to information provided by the Tech Office of the Provost Web site.

adam.young@ttu.edu

TODAY	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High 60 / Low 36	High 74 / Low 42	High 56 / Low 25	High 52 / Low 29	High 61 / Low 30

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East side stadium construction begins, officials consider north-side expansion

By ADAM YOUNG
NEWS EDITOR

Texas Tech officials and supporters marked the beginning of the east-side expansion of Jones AT&T Stadium with a groundbreaking ceremony Saturday at the stadium.

The university's donation drive seeking $25 million for the east-side stadium expansion returned about $3 million more than was sought, which could be used for additional expansion behind the stadium's north end zone.

"This is something that's been a dream for us for a long time," Tech System Chancellor Kent Hance said of the east side expansion. "... This will give us one of the most beautiful stadiums in the nation, if not the most beautiful."

The $25 million addition will mirror the Spanish Renaissance style of the stadium's west side. The expansion will add more than 500 club seats and 26 new suites and is expected to open for the 2010 season.

About $28 million was raised since the fundraising initiative began in August, but much of the money was raised in October and November.

"We set out to raise $6 million over a period of six weeks, and we really wound up raising about $9 million," Hance said.

A potential north-side expansion would add student seating to the stadium. The student section has a capacity for more than 11,600 students.

"Finishing out the north end of the stadium will allow us to keep pace with our growing student population and fan demand for season tickets," Hance said in a Tech news release. "We want to continue to build on the success we've had raising money to complete the east side of the stadium."

University officials still are planning the next phase of expansion and could make an announcement soon, according to the release.

The east-side expansion "is one of the most important phases of our master plan to develop a stadium that we'll all be proud of," said Gerald Myers, Tech athletic director. "It will help not only recruit football players but students and staff."

Myers said the master plan for the stadium includes phases of expansion to increase seating capacity up to 85,000, according to a previous article in *The Daily Toreador*.

Tech President Guy Bailey said he anticipates that improving the stadium likely will contribute to the university as a whole, including academic programs.

"This is really the gateway to our institution," he said. "It's the thing that people see and it is the most beautiful stadium, I think, in the country."

Hance credited some of the fundraising drive's success to an e-mail fundraising effort that raised about $109,000, with most contributions ranging from $50 to $1,000.

"That gives us a tremendous base," he said.

Myers said all of the 26 planned stadium suites were sold as part of the fundraising effort before the groundbreaking ceremony.

Three additional stadium suites also were sold, Hance said, and designers will look into ways to include the suites into the expansion.

adam.young@ttu.edu



PHOTO BY ADAM YOUNG/*The Daily Toreador*

JOHN MALOUF, FATHER of contributor Matthew Malouf; John Scovell, Tech Board of Regents member; Tech Chancellor Kent Hance; and Debbie J. Cox, FP&C project manager, were among Tech officials and supporters who participated in the groundbreaking ceremony of the east side expansion of Jones AT&T Stadium Saturday.

Fla.'s bad weather sends shuttle arrival to Calif.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Dangerously high wind and a stormy sky prevented space shuttle Endeavour from returning to its home base in Florida on Sunday, and NASA ordered the astronauts to take a detour and land in sunny California.

With a gloomy Florida forecast for Monday as well, Mission Control opted to send Endeavour to Edwards Air Force Base, the backup landing site. Touchdown was scheduled for 4:25 p.m. EST.

"It is what it is," shuttle commander Christopher Ferguson radioed. "We'll see you on the ground in California."

Endeavour and its crew are wrapping up a 16-day trip that left the international space station freshly remodeled and capable of housing bigger crews. Returning home is former space station resident Gregory Chamitoff, who's been off the planet since the end of May.

NASA always prefers to land the space shuttles at its home base in Florida. It takes about a week and costs $1.8 million to transport a shuttle from California to Florida, atop a modified jumbo jet.

The astronauts also were rooting for a Florida touchdown; that's where their families were waiting.

But the crosswind at the Florida landing strip was too strong, and thunderstorms were moving in. Monday's outlook was just as dismal; NASA officials said over the weekend that it would make no sense to keep Endeavour in orbit an extra day if the weather wasn't expected to improve in Florida.

No space shuttle has landed at Edwards since last year. Ferguson will have to bring Endeavour down on a temporary runway that's shorter and more narrow than the Kennedy landing strip. Edwards' main runway — which parallels the temporary one — just underwent maintenance and upgrades, and has yet to be equipped with all the necessary navigation equipment.

NASA officials weren't concerned, saying both Ferguson and his co-pilot, Eric Boe, practiced on the temporary runway in training aircraft.

Flight surgeons were standing by at Edwards. Chamitoff, in particular, was expected to need assistance at touchdown; he has not experienced gravity for six months.

Endeavour blasted into orbit Nov. 14, carrying up all kinds of home improvement equipment for the space station. It dropped off a new bathroom, kitchenette, exercise machine, two sleeping quarters and a recycling system designed to convert astronauts' urine and sweat into drinking water.

The additions — and a few more scheduled to go up on the next shuttle flight in February — should enable NASA to double the size of the space station crew by June.

Endeavour's astronauts helped install the recycling machine and had to put in extra effort to get the urine processor working.

About seven liters of recycled urine and condensation were coming back aboard Endeavour for extensive testing. No one at the space station will drink the recycled water until the equipment runs for 90 days and ground tests ensure it's safe. More samples will be returned on the next shuttle flight.

The shuttle crew also conducted four spacewalks to clear metals shavings from a solar wing rotary joint at the space station. The joint had been jammed for more than a year and hampered energy production at the orbiting outpost.

Initial tests indicated the repairs on the joint were successful. Overshadowing the clean and lube job, however, was the loss of a $100,000 tool bag. Astronaut Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper let go of the bag during the first spacewalk, and it floated away.

Almost immediately after Endeavour's crew was instructed to keep circling Earth, Mission Control relayed news of the delayed homecoming to the three space station residents. Commander Mike Fincke asked to be kept abreast of everything.

Early Sunday morning, a Russian supply ship arrived at the space station with Christmas presents, food, clothes and other items.

Iran proposes nuclear plants with Arab countries

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The head of Iran's nuclear power agency said Sunday the country is willing to help neighboring Arab countries build joint light-water nuclear power plants if they are interested.

There was no immediate reaction from Arab countries, many of whom are deeply suspicious of the Islamic Republic's intentions regarding its controversial nuclear program.

Several Arab countries have announced plans to develop their own civilian nuclear programs for electricity generation in recent years, motivated in part by a feeling they need to keep up with Iran to blunt its growing regional influence.

It was unclear why Iran made the offer to help, but it may be trying to allay neighbors' concerns.

Gholam Reza Aghazadeh, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said the country was ready to offer the proposal for joint plants, according to a report carried Sunday by IRNA, the country's official news agency.

The U.S. and some of its allies claim Iran is secretly seeking to develop nuclear weapons, but Iran says its nuclear program is for civilian and peaceful uses only to generate power.

Iran is building its first nuclear power plant with Russia's help. It is slated to open in 2009.

At least 13 Middle Eastern countries either announced new plans to explore nuclear energy or revived pre-existing nuclear programs between February 2006 and January 2007, the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies said in a report this summer.

The report noted that most of the programs are still immature, and that sustainable new reactor projects in the Middle East are at least 10 or 15 years away.

Countries such as Jordan, Morocco or Tunisia have comparatively few energy reserves and are spurred on at least in part by a desire for energy independence in an age of soaring oil prices.

On the other hand, oil-rich Saudi Arabia, a longtime rival of Shiite Iran, is probably largely driven by the need to maintain its edge as a regional power, the report said.

Still other countries, such as Egypt or Turkey, are likely motivated both by worry over high energy prices and wariness of Iran.

Turkey said in 2006 that it wanted to produce 5,000 megawatts of nuclear energy by 2015, the same year that Egypt announced that its first reactor would be built at El-Dabaa, on the Mediterranean coast.

In addition, Syria last year was the target of an Israeli raid allegedly aimed at destroying a covert nuclear weapons program there.

OPEC ends Cairo meeting without new output cuts

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — OPEC held off on announcing new oil output cuts on Saturday, but its alarm over falling demand and a slumping economy potentially laid the groundwork for a big reduction when it meets again in a matter of weeks.

Chakib Khelil, Algeria's oil minister and the group's president, said the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries ministers noted "with concern the continued deterioration of the global economic situation and its impact on oil demand."

The ministers, he said in a statement, agreed to "take any additional action ... to balance oil supply and demand, and achieve market stability" during their Dec. 17 extraordinary meeting in Oran, Algeria.

The outcome of Saturday's meeting in Cairo, convened about a month after the group decided to pull 1.5 million barrels per day of oil from the market, seemed unlikely to put a floor beneath crude prices that have fallen by around 60 percent from their mid-July highs of $147 per barrel.

Saudi Arabia, the 13-member organization's top exporter and kingpin, broke with its usual silence about specific prices and cited $75 per barrel as a favorable target. King Abdullah, in an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper published Saturday, said that would be a "fair price" — a message echoed by his top oil official in Cairo.

"Eventually, if we want the marginal producer to produce and help the world supply, then we need to give them a better price," Saudi Oil Minister Ali Naimi said.

But it was unclear how the group — supplier of 40 percent of the world's crude — could realize that target soon, given the lack of action at Saturday's meeting.

Some analysts questioned the wisdom of waiting in light of the current weak oil prices.

"Another dumb move by OPEC, unless of course they want lower crude oil prices," said Vincent Lauerman, OPEC expert and president of the Calgary, Canada-based consultancy Geopolitics Central.

Ahead of the meeting, the U.S. benchmark light, sweet crude futures contract settled a penny lower Friday at $54.43 in an abbreviated session on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Others said the decision may have been a way for the group to push through a larger cut at the Algeria meeting.

Viewed in this light, the lack of a decision may be a strategic one aimed at preventing the group from suffering the same outcome it saw after the Oct. 24 Vienna meeting: Cut now and see prices fall again could further undercut its credibility, analysts said.

"They want to do everything they can to support prices, but do it in a way they can save face," said Phil Flynn, an oil analyst at Alaron Trading Corp. in Chicago. He expects the group to implement a cut of as much as 1.5 million barrels in Algeria next month.

If the Cairo gathering did not net a cut, it allowed the group to present a united front before a market that has recently been shrugging off their complaints about low prices.

Members were eager to brush aside persistent concerns that some countries fail to adhere to the production quotas OPEC has said it needs to be effective.

"We are assuming that everyone will be compliant — hopefully 100 percent compliant," said Qatari Oil Minister Abdullah Bin Hamad al-Attiya. "Don't take me to the past, take me to the future."

In general, the oil ministers seemed optimistic about compliance with the previous round of cuts, announced in Vienna. Khelil put it at about 85 percent, others said 100 percent.

Venezuela has been one of the countries cited as being more liberal with its production — a charge its oil minister denied on Saturday.

"Venezuela is fully compliant with the last cut decision in October," said Rafael Ramirez. "Venezuela's view is OPEC's view. We have to have a million barrels a day production (cut). But we have to wait for December."

Provost

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

visits by the candidates.

Mark Griffin, a member of the Tech Board of Regents and member of the search committee, said he liked the experience of the two candidates, and the ability of both candidates to "hit the ground running" if they take the position.

The two candidates have been in this position before, he said, and he believes the two have a high level of energy and can communicate well.

Griffin said he believes the two candidates knew what the job required and exhibited to the committee they could perform those tasks.

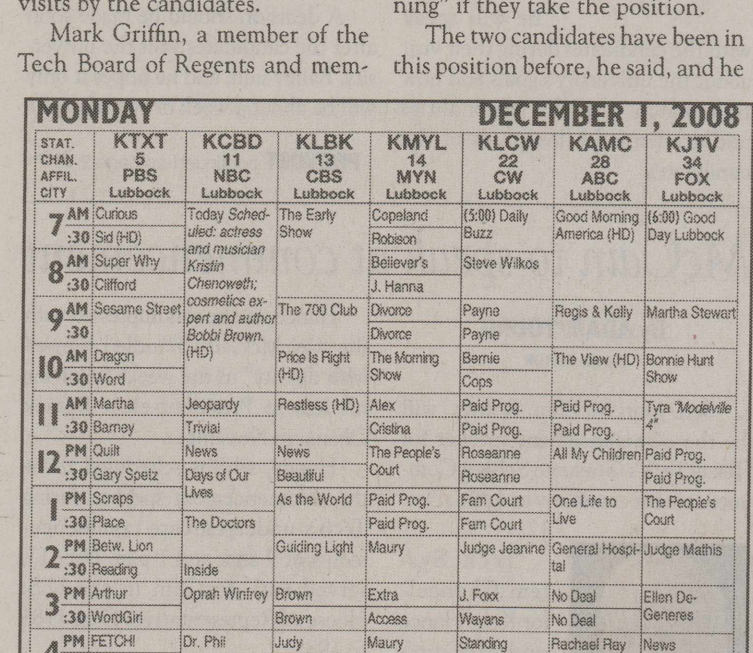
Although it is not guaranteed either candidate will receive the appointment by Bailey, Griffin said he would not be surprised if one of the two finalists received the position.

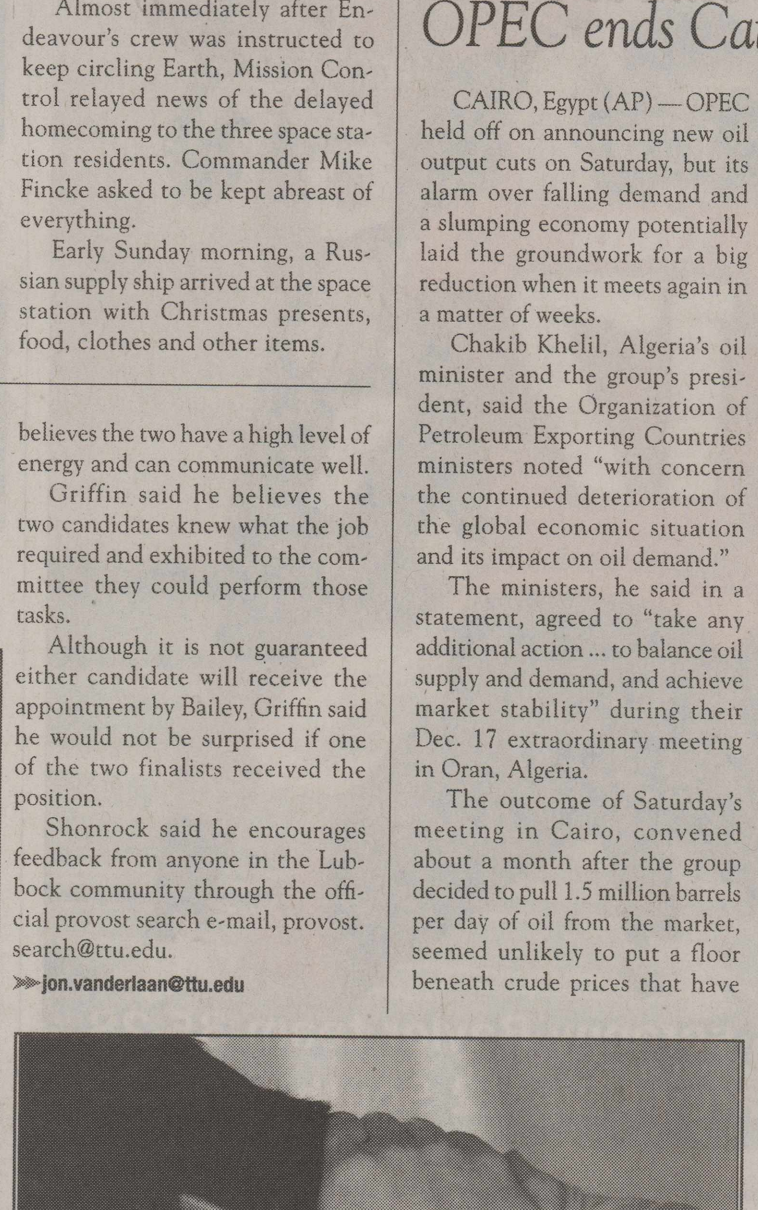
Shonrock said he encourages feedback from anyone in the Lubbock community through the official provost search e-mail, provost.search@ttu.edu.

jon.vanderlaan@ttu.edu

MONDAY DECEMBER 1, 2008

STAT. CHAN. AFFIL. CITY	KTXT 5 PBS Lubbock	KCBD 11 NBC Lubbock	KLBK 13 CBS Lubbock	KMYL 14 MYN Lubbock	KLCW 22 CW Lubbock	KAMC 28 ABC Lubbock	KJTV 34 FOX Lubbock
7 AM :30	Curious / Sid (HD)	Today *Scheduled: actress and musician Kristin Chenoweth; cosmetics expert and author Bobbi Brown.* (HD)	The Early Show	Copeland / Robison	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	(6:00) Good Day Lubbock
8 AM :30	Super Why / Clifford			Believer's / J. Hanna	Steve Wilkos		
9 AM :30	Sesame Street		The 700 Club	Divorce / Divorce	Payne / Payne	Regis & Kelly	Martha Stewart
10 AM :30	Dragon / Word		Price Is Right (HD)	The Morning Show	Bernie / Cops	The View (HD)	Bonnie Hunt Show
11 AM :30	Martha / Barney	Jeopardy / Trivial	Restless (HD)	Alex / Cristina	Paid Prog. / Paid Prog.	Paid Prog. / Paid Prog.	Tyra *'Modelville 4'*
12 PM :30	Quilt / Gary Spetz	News / Days of Our Lives	News / Beautiful	The People's Court	Roseanne / Roseanne	All My Children	Paid Prog. / Paid Prog.
1 PM :30	Scraps / Place	The Doctors	As the World	Paid Prog. / Paid Prog.	Fam Court / Fam Court	One Life to Live	The People's Court
2 PM :30	Betw. Lion / Reading	Inside	Guiding Light	Maury	Judge Jeanine	General Hospital	Judge Mathis
3 PM :30	Arthur / WordGirl	Oprah Winfrey	Brown / Brown	Extra / Access	J. Foxx / Wayans	No Deal / No Deal	Ellen DeGeneres
4 PM :30	FETCH! / Cyber	Dr. Phil	Judy / Judy	Maury	Standing / Standing	Rachael Ray	News
5 PM :30	Maya / Bus. Rpt	News / News	News / News	Fam. Feud / Fam. Feud	Queens / Queens	News / News	Lopez / Simpsons
6 PM :30	NewsHour (HD)	News / Wheel	News / Millionre.	Law Order (HD)	'70s / '70s	News / ET	Family / Two & 1/2
7 PM :30	Antiques (HD)	Chuck (HD)	Big Bang / How I Met	★★ "Houseguest" ('95) *Man flees mob.*	Gossip Girl (HD)	Shrek Hall / Grinch	Terminator (HD)
8 PM :30	Athens:	Heroes (HD)	Two & 1/2 / Worst Wk.		Privileged	Sam Who? / Sam Who?	Prison Break (HD)
9 PM :30	Athens:	Worst Enemy (HD)	CSI: Miami (HD)	Jim (HD) / Lopez	Sex City / Sex City	(9:01) Boston Legal	News
10 PM :30	Bus. Rpt / Charlie Rose	News / The Tonight Show	News / (10:35) Late Show	King / TMZ	Will (HD) / Will (HD)	News / Nightline	Two & 1/2 / Seinfeld
11 PM :30	News	(11:35) Late Night	Late Late Show	Malcolm / Wife	Cosby / Cosby	Jimmy Kimmel	Raymond / Scrubs
12 AM :30	Destinos / Geography	Last Call	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Insider	Frasier / Paid Prog.





I John 14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
Daily Proverbs: 12/1 - Pr. 1:23
12/2 - Pr. 2:22 • 12/3 - Pr. 3:21-22
12/4 - Pr. 4:19 • 12/5 - Pr. 5:22,23
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BEAR IT ALL



PHOTO BY KAT HILSABECK/*The Daily Toreador*

STUDENTS WITH "SKIN 'EM" painted on their chest cheer on the football team Saturday at the game against Baylor. The average temperature inside Jones AT&T Stadium during the game was 54 degrees Fahrenheit.

Vietnam Center Director appointed to VEF Board

The director of the Texas Tech Vietnam Center and Archive was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Vietnam Education Foundation Board of Directors, which was announced Tuesday.

Steve Maxner will serve the remainder of a three-year term, which expires in 2010, according to a Tech news release.

The VEF is an independent federal agency whose mission is to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Vietnam through educational exchanges in science and technology, according to the foundation's Web site.

Maxner said he will be glad to represent Tech and it also is good for the school to be showcased in academics in addition to the extra attention the university has received for the football team's success.

"It's really quite remarkable to be considered for a presidential appointment," he said.

The Vietnam Center has worked with the VEF before, Maxner said, and he hopes to be able to help the VEF bring students from Vietnam to the United States and find the best schools for those students based on their interests and areas of study and research.

He said he would like to make sure the students who travel back to Vietnam have enough resources to continue contributing through teaching and research.

The appointment is unpaid, and Maxner will continue as the director of the Vietnam Center and Archive.

A White House spokesperson was not available for comment before press time.

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ODDBALL DAILY

Texas man says God told him to wreck car

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A man who rammed his truck into a woman's vehicle on a highway early Friday told authorities he crashed into her while going more than 100 mph because God told him "she needed to be taken off the road."

The truck rear-ended the car on U.S. Highway 281, both vehicles spun across a median then came to a stop along a barrier in the opposite lanes. Both drivers suffered only minor injuries.

"He just said God said she wasn't driving right, and she needed to be taken off the road," Bexar County Sheriff's Office spokesman Kyle Coleman said in the online edition of the San Antonio Express-News. "God must have been with them, 'cause any other time, the severity of this crash, it would have been a fatal."

The pickup driver did not tell police how the woman was driving. Police could not find alcohol or drugs in either driver.

A psychiatric evaluation has been ordered for a man.

Germany: 2 Russians arrested after flight

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Police say have they arrested two Russian sailors at the Frankfurt airport after they drank an entire bottle of vodka and harassed passengers on a flight from Houston, Texas.

Frankfurt police say the two men smoked cigarettes in the plane's bathroom and frightened fellow passengers before the flight crew ordered them to stay in their seats.

The sailors responded by polishing off the two-liter bottle they bought in Texas and repeatedly attempting to use their mobile phones — forbidden during flight.

Police arrested the men on the tarmac Tuesday. One was promptly released after paying a fine and admitting that he caused a disturbance. The other refused and was ordered before a judge.

Police would not say which airline operated the flight.

Full-size cardboard figure causes NJ bank standoff

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP) — A standoff at a New Jersey bank is over after police learned a "person" seen inside was actually a full-size cardboard figure.

Officers went to the PNC Bank in Montgomery Township on Thursday night after an alarm went off. They saw what they thought was at least one person through the windows of the bank, which had its blinds drawn.

The area was sealed off and three nearby apartment buildings were evacuated as a precaution. Meanwhile, authorities used bullhorns and made telephone calls in a bid to make contact with whoever might be in the bank.

After repeatedly failing to get a response, a SWAT team entered the building and discovered the cardboard figure.

It was not immediately clear what set off the bank alarm.

Man robbed in Mexico while glued to steering wheel

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) — A driver in Mexico got himself into a sticky situation when he pulled over to help a woman whose pickup appeared to be broken down by the highway.

Anadel Carrizales was driving Wednesday near the northern city of Monterrey when a blond woman in a black miniskirt motioned for him to pull over.

Once he had stopped, the woman walked up and told him an accomplice was pointing a gun at him, said David Perales, a spokesman for state investigators.

She then tied him up with packing tape, super-glued his hands to the steering wheel of his truck and demanded money.

Carrizales didn't have any cash, but the woman took his credit cards and fled.

"He probably thought it was his lucky day when he saw the woman in the miniskirt, but was surprised when she tied him up," Perales said.

With his motor still running and his hands still glued to the wheel, Carrizales managed to drive a few miles (kilometers) down the road until he found a police officer to help him.

Emergency officials freed his hands with a saline solution.

"There are some contradictions in his story about how he ended up stopped alongside the road, but the robbery and being glued to the steering wheel are indisputable," Perales said.

Nearly a year ago, a 10-year-old boy in Monterrey glued his hand to his bed so that he wouldn't have to go to school. Paramedics had to free him.

SoCal police pull over, stun naked DUI suspect

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — California authorities got a shock of their own when they discovered that a drunken driving suspect they had just stunned with a Taser was completely naked.

Santa Ana police say the naked man was pulled over by police Wednesday night after his van hit a car.

Police Commander Stephen Colon says a driver alerted officers to the van that had just hit his car. He says the driver was fumbling in the front seat and refused to put his hands up.

Policed used a stun gun on his head and neck and then saw he was completely naked.

Colon says the man, whose name was not released, was being tested for drugs or alcohol.

Ill. zoo creates ornaments from reindeer droppings

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. (AP) — The Christmas ornaments for sale at the Miller Park Zoo's gift shop are partly manufactured by reindeer. Honest!

Staffers make decorations out of droppings from the zoo's two reindeer, Ealu and Rika. The droppings are dried, then clear-coated and either painted or rolled in glitter.

Zoo marketing director Susie Ohley has named the products "magical reindeer gem ornaments," and each comes with a label of authenticity. They cost $5 at the zoo gift shop.

Bases brace for surge in stress-related disorders

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) — Some 15,000 soldiers are heading home to this sprawling base after spending more than a year at war in Iraq and Afghanistan, and military health officials are bracing for a surge in brain injuries and psychological problems among those troops.

Facing prospects that one in five of the 101st Airborne Division soldiers will suffer from stress-related disorders, the base has nearly doubled its psychological health staff. Army leaders are hoping to use the base's experiences to assess the long-term impact of repeated deployments.

The three 101st Airborne combat brigades, which have begun arriving home, have gone through at least three tours in Iraq. The 3rd Brigade also served seven months in Afghanistan, early in the war. Next spring, the 4th Brigade will return from a 15-month tour in Afghanistan. So far, roughly 10,000 soldiers have come back; the remainder are expected by the end of January.

Army leaders say they will closely watch Fort Campbell to determine the proper medical staffing levels needed to aid soldiers who have endured repeated rotations in the two war zones.

"I don't know what to expect. I don't think anybody knows," said Gen. Peter Chiarelli, vice chief of staff of the Army, as he flew back to Washington from a recent tour of the base's medical facilities. "That's why I want to see numbers from the 101st's third deployment."

What happens with the 101st Airborne, he said, will let the Army help other bases ready for similar homecomings in the next year or two, when multiple brigades from the 4th Infantry Division and the 1st Cavalry Division return.

Noting that some soldiers in the 101st Airborne units have been to war four or five times, Chiarelli said he is most worried the military will not be able to find enough health care providers to deal effectively with the troops needing assistance.

Many of the military bases are near small or remote communities that do not have access to the number of health professionals who might be needed as a great many soldiers return home.

More than 63,600 active duty Army soldiers have done three or more tours in Iraq or Afghanistan. That is a nearly 12 percent of the total number of soldiers who have deployed at least once. Roughly four in 10 soldiers who have gone to war have served more than one deployment — and that number is growing steadily.

One solution under discussion is the formation of mobile medical and psychological teams that can go to Army bases when they are expecting a surge in activity from returning units.

At Fort Campbell, the director of health services, Col. Richard Thomas, has roughly doubled his authorized staff of psychologists and behavioral specialists to 55 and is trying to hire a few more.

"I think we have enough staff to meet the demands of the soldiers here, but I could use more, and I'll hire more if I can," said Thomas. "I'll hire them until they tell me to stop."

He said he expects the increased staffing levels to last at least through next year.

For the first time, Thomas said, every soldier returning home will have an individual meeting with a behavioral health specialist and then go through a second such session 90 days to 120 days later.

The second one is generally the time when indications of stress surface, after the initial euphoria of the homecoming wears off and sleeplessness, nightmares, and other symptoms show up.

"We're seeing a lot of soldiers with stress related issues," he said. "They're not bipolar or schizophrenic. But they're deploying three and four times and the stress is tremendous. They're having relationship issues, financial issues, marital problems — all stress related."

According to Dr. Bret Logan, deputy commander for managed care at the base, extended war zone stints that have lasted as long as 38 months over the course of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have taken a severe toll.

More than 3,000 of the 15,000 troops returning home, Logan estimated, probably will experience headaches, sleep disorders, irritability, memory loss, relationship strains or other symptoms linked to stress disorder.

Medical staff at Fort Campbell say they also worry that there will be a new surge of suicides — an escalating problem in recent years, largely related to the stresses of war.

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OPINIONS

Close friend reflects on lost Tech students

By MATTHEW TAWFIQ
GUEST COLUMNIST

Three weeks ago, the Texas Tech community suffered a tragic loss.

As several of our classmates were traveling home from the Texas Renaissance Festival near Houston on Nov. 9, their vehicle veered into oncoming traffic for unknown reasons. The 2008 Subaru Legacy collided head-on with a 2006 Dodge Ram.

Two passengers, Drew Anderson, 19, and Jeffrey Inns, 19, were pronounced dead at the scene. Chelsea Wiseman, 18, and Marissa Whitworth, 18, were flown by Life Flight to Memorial Hermann Hospital for internal injuries. Driver Robert Baigrie was taken to a local hospital and treated for minor injuries; he was released later in the evening, according to reporting by the Houston Chronicle.

Memorial Hermann treated Chelsea for internal injuries, but despite their best efforts, Chelsea died Nov. 11. Three lives were lost to the accident.

While I did not know Drew and Jeffrey well, I am certain that neither they nor Chelsea would want to be mourned. Rather, they would want us to celebrate their lives. Anyone who knew Chelsea always saw her smiling. Her beautiful smile could light up any room, and she was always happy, no matter what situation she found herself in. "She was always there for everyone," said Georgia Spolec, her best friend at Tech. "She would drop everything just to help a friend ... I miss her a lot."

It is hard to work through such a rough loss; family and friends are devastated. The victims were all on their way to bright futures. Jeffrey and Drew were sophomore roommates. Friends described them as quiet, respected and intelligent. Jeffrey was a biology major, and Drew was an international economics major. Chelsea was a nutritional sciences major; she aspired to become a home economics teacher. She had a big heart and wanted to work with people.

> "While it is important to remember and celebrate the lives lost, we must be glad for those who survived."

Prayers have gone out to the parents of those who passed away. Jeffrey, Chelsea and Drew will be very much missed here at Tech. The flags at Memorial Circle were lowered in honor of Drew's life on Nov. 24. They are lowered today for Jeffrey and will be lowered on Dec. 8 for Chelsea. Chelsea's parents will hold a memorial service in Lubbock on Dec. 8 in honor of her life in the coming days.

While it is important to remember and celebrate the lives lost, we must be glad for those who survived. Marissa Whitworth was originally listed in critical condition at Memorial Hermann Hospital. She spent two weeks at The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research in Houston. When Marissa was told about the accident she was very upset,

"The accident was extremely traumatic, and I can guarantee Drew and I are still here because we got lucky. Losing our three friends will definitely take some time to get over," Marissa said, "but we are both incredibly thankful to still be here."

On Nov. 26 Marissa returned to San Antonio where she will continue intense therapy for another three to six months, said her mother, Connie Whitworth.

She said Marissa will return to Tech next fall, or even possibly this summer.

Robert is back at Tech. It is important to remember that this was an accident, and friends of those who passed should not hold him responsible.

Cathee Brown-Wiseman, Chelsea's mother, said that Robert needs our support to get through this rough time. Marissa's parents agreed.

Dealing with loss of loved ones is not simple. Three Red Raiders will be deeply missed, but take comfort in the fact that one has rejoined us, and one more will return in the fall. Such loss can bring a large community together.

"We thank all our loving friends for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers. We feel the love and support from each and every one of you — and we are overwhelmed," said Cathee Brown-Wiseman in an e-mail she sent to those who knew Chelsea. "We cannot thank each of you enough for all you have done, are doing and will do. The prayers alone are the biggest comfort." The memories we shared with those lost will be forever in our hearts.

■ Tawfiq is a junior biology major from Houston. E-mail him at h.tawfiq@ttu.edu.

Internet age dawns new kind of wisdom

By ALEXANDRA A. PETRI
HARVARD CRIMSON (HARVARD)

Benjamin Franklin once remarked that the beginning of wisdom is the knowledge of your own ignorance. This is no longer true. Nowadays, the knowledge of your own ignorance is the beginning of a race towards a computer with Internet access.

As long as cantankerous old people have existed, they have complained that kids nowadays don't seem to know anything. But for the first time in history, this may actually be true. Attending the first meeting of a Government class early in the semester, I heard a professor talk about historical dates. "I don't expect you to memorize dates," he said. "Three years from now, you won't remember any dates. You can Google dates, but you can't Google how to think."

> "As long as cantankerous old people have existed, they have complained that kids nowadays don't seem to know anything. But for the first time in history, this may actually be true."

Or can you? I Googled "How to Think" and got 405,000,000 results. None of them provide concrete instructions, but you can "Learn How a 45 Year Old Woman Took Control of Her Sugar Addiction and Food Cravings. You Can Do It, Too." Perhaps the professor was right.

Today's high schools and universities abound in courses geared towards teaching people "how to think." Science, math, and English courses focus not on teaching specific material but on "approaches" and "methodologies." On the surface, this seems to make sense. With so much information readily accessible, why waste mental space on facts like the population of Russia or the circumference of a circle?

Humans have limited mental capacity. Even Sherlock Holmes had to purge his mind of random trivia occasionally to make room for more important matters. Rote memorization, long a mainstay of the classroom, is now relegated to Classics concentrators and those people who play online trivia games for fun. For the first time in centuries, humans can store all those pesky facts on Wikipedia and devote their entire minds to thinking.

But what will we think about?

This is the real problem, and, like any member of my generation faced with a real problem, I Googled it. Apparently, I have nothing to worry about. The Web site "Gadzillion Things To Think About" claims that there are over 13,570 different things I can think about, although it hasn't been updated since October 25th, so maybe there are more now. The "thought of the month" was an interesting tidbit from Don F: "Do walkers and joggers turn down their iPods when they are looking for an address?"

Somehow, this didn't seem like quite the quality of thought anyone had in mind. After about a minute of considering this, I became bored and discontented. I tried Googling "Profound Things to Think About," but without any actual knowledge to draw upon, I found it challenging to come up with a solution to the budget crisis on short notice.

It turns out that in order to think well, knowledge helps. With Wikipedia and Google, our generation is poor in knowledge, specialized or otherwise. While this would seem to be a weight off our minds, it also makes our thinking less profound.

Unlike prior generations, who wiled away the hours between going uphill both ways to school in massive hailstorms by memorizing the works of great authors, we devote our time to YouTube and Facebook, confident that the real information is all there somewhere should we ever need it.

Besides the fact that agreeing to disagree long since went the way of the dodo — that guy with the iPhone who can Google it follows conversations as a shark follows a ship—our fundamental ability to converse has suffered. Instead of marshaling facts and precedents, we simply unleash contrasting opinions at increasing decibel levels.

In this world where everyone has access to the same basic information about a variety of subjects but few people truly know things, the superficiality of our knowledge renders us vulnerable. Sure, there's Factcheck.com. But who fact-checks the fact-checkers? Without our own knowledge to draw on, we must rely on the kindness of strangers.

Admittedly, people who edit massive online encyclopedias in their spare time are probably not dangerous psychopaths, but there are plenty of pranksters out there who add things like "My dad knew him" to articles on Idiosyncrasy. This is hilarious, but without some tidbits bouncing around our own crania, we become unable to sift fact from fiction. This is dangerous.

Thanks to postmodernism, we tend to see all facts as meaningless trivia, no one more vital than any other. Yet this disregard for facts qua facts is intellectually crippling. Facts are the raw material of thought, and the knowledge of significant facts makes sophisticated thought possible. Some information is important and some is not, and intelligence consists in knowing one from the other.

Thomas Jefferson once noted that a nation that expects to be ignorant and free expects what never was and never will be. Then again, he didn't have Google.

Force all heathens to celebrate Christmas

By JOSH GREEN
THE PITT NEWS (U. PITTSBURGH)

Now that the holiday for godless heathens is over — not Halloween, but Election Day: Barack Obama won — it's time for Thanksgiving. I think we all know what that means. Fewer than 30 days until Christmas!

To me, Christmas is the most magical time of the year. I recall baking chocolate chip cookies with my closest kin as we gazed out at a sparkling blanket of white that covered the ground. I'd sit by the fire with a cup of hot cocoa — extra marshmallows, of course — and thank my lucky stars that there was a time of year when I got a bunch of stuff without actually doing anything for it.

However, as I get older, the magic seems to fade. Try as I might, I have lost the childlike wonder that comes with sitting on Santa's lap at the mall. I miss that familiar smell of stale beer and beef jerky. It seems that the older I get, the less Christmas means.

But is it my age?

I have recently come to realize that there is a war being waged on this holiest of holidays. Many call it the "war on Christmas." I have a couple of names for it myself: Operation Missile Toe; The Bombing of EggNogasaki; Christmas Tree-son;. Myrrhdur; Frankinsanity.

Hasn't anyone but me noticed that a lot of retail stores no longer allow their employees to say "Merry Christmas"? Fortunately a Web site called DefendChristmas.com has taken up the cause. They list all of the "naughty" stores that no longer greet people with the right Christmas spirit. Included in the list are CVS, Old Navy, Staples and Home Depot.

The Web site also includes information about a shocking new advertisement from the American Humanist Association. Washington, D.C. buses will soon carry an ad proclaiming, "Why believe in a god? Just be good for goodness' sake." This just burns me up. First secular citizens steal science, and now they want to steal this sacred holiday? I mean, it's not like Christians stole the date and customs of a pagan holiday in order to make Christmas more appealing.

Luckily there are heroes like the people from the Defend Christmas Web site, especially in the music business. Christmas tunes have been played earlier and earlier on radio stations every year. Some stations devote months solely to these classic songs.

This is a great way to get under the skin of all the Grinches and Scrooges in our lives. If, at any point during a Christmas song, a loved one says they are annoyed by all the Christmas music, it is important to disown them, blindfolding them and sending them away on a horse. Tar and feathers work as well.

Many people have heard the Trans-Siberian Orchestra's version of "Carol of the Bells." This is exactly what we need in times like this. If the humbuggers won't accept Christmas peacefully, then we must rock 'n' roll them into loving Christmas.

This version of the Ukrainian song displays brilliantly what Christmas is all about. Imagine baby Jesus in the manger with swaddling clothes ... and a sweet mullet. He rocks out and dives into the arms of Balthazar, Melchior and Caspar. They crowd surf him until New Years Eve. The girl from the Whitesnake video is present. Just Jesus, the Magi and Babes, TCOB.

Another important song is a piece called "Christmas Shoes" by NewSong. At first I was skeptical about this one. There is a touching element to the song. It is about a man who sees a little boy at a shoe store trying to buy something for his dying mother. The boy cannot afford the shoes, and so the narrator gives him the money to pay.

I'm not sure what message it sends when a father sends his young boy out into the freezing cold when he is improperly clothed and clearly doesn't have enough money to pay for a pair of shoes. It seems a bit irresponsible. However, the real message comes when the narrator proclaims in glorious melody, "I knew that God had sent that little boy to remind me what Christmas is all about."

What we have here is a song that was written to guilt trip people into remembering why we celebrate this holiday. Mel Gibson couldn't have done it better himself.

Forcing people to say "Merry Christmas" and making them buy cakes that say "Happy Birthday Jesus" is all that matters. Let's not let these people turn Christmas into a Silent Nightmare.

It is quite clear. The only way to spread Christmas cheer is to force everyone else in the country to celebrate exactly the same way I do.

Digital textbooks: the future of our education

By LARISSA PURO
DAILY TROJAN (USC)

The dreaded day is approaching. The day when students' printers across the nation spit out epic book lists in preparation for the new semester.

There's nothing like returning refreshed — and broke — from the holidays, only to have to shell out hundreds of dollars for stacks of new textbooks.

The beginning of a semester is an aggravating and bitter time of year in which the green LED numbers on bookstore cash registers draw tears and shouts of anguish as wallets are mercilessly disemboweled.

Students hate buying textbooks at the Pertusati University Bookstore. Course readers, which often contain extra material students don't use in class, are insanely expensive and can't be returned.

The book return policy is far too rigid. Textbooks cannot be refunded unless they are returned within the first 15 days of school. Yet, this semester, students could drop a class all the way through the first 18 days. Also, the policy doesn't account for books that arrived late to the bookstore, after the refund period.

These inconveniences, topped by endless lines snaking out the doors, encourage students to buy books online. With shipping costs and the potential for late or lost mail, however, it just isn't worth the hassle.

In the end, there aren't many choices for students who want to save some green on textbooks, short of borrowing, trading or stealing them.

No matter which route students opt to take, the issue remains — what to do with the hunks of paper when the semester ends. It's no secret the school's buyback option yields a pathetic amount of cash per book, if any.

Luckily, companies such as CourseSmart, VitalSource and McGraw-Hill's Zinio are cropping up all over the Internet to revolutionize education with digital textbooks.

The first advantage? Price. The companies claim digital textbooks are cheaper than buying tangible ones. According to the CourseSmart website, the average saving per eTextbook purchased this month is $57.09. With the spiraling economy, students will be feeling enough financial strain in the years to come. Increasing tuition and the cost of living are top priorities, let alone rising textbook prices.

Customers can usually buy a Web version of the book that can be accessed on any computer with an Internet connection or download a copy to their personal computer, viewing it with the company's software.

Another convenience of digital textbooks is their mobility. With digital textbooks, carrying or forgetting textbooks is never a problem. And for those who aren't thrilled at the thought of staring at a computer screen for hours at a time, pages of the books can easily be printed out on a home printer.

As far as functionality, a digital textbook acts just like the real thing. Text can be highlighted, pages can flip and notes can be added. And unlike physical books, digital ones can be regained easily if lost (like when a computer crashes), because they are either on the Internet or the customer has a backup download.

But these digital books go far beyond just the regular, old, dusty texts. They offer a richer studying experience.

One useful feature is the search tool. Users can search for words and phrases in the whole text. Imagine how easy studying would be, especially when looking back through literature before a test to remember a vague scene. Hyperlinked indexes can quickly link to various places in the book. Also, when making study guides, text can be copied and pasted directly from the book.

Digital textbooks also allow for interactivity. With Zinio, for example, professors can integrate flash animation, video and audio into the textbooks. Additionally, links to outside the text can take readers elsewhere on the Web for more information. Students and professors can use digital textbooks to share their thoughts and notes, too, with companies such as VitalSource.

Currently, because the Web sites are so new, the variety of books available is limited. But for tech-savvy students on a budget, digital textbooks are an innovative alternative to buying overpriced and quickly outdated books that just waste trees and gather dust.

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G'HEAD, MAKE MY CLAY



PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/*The Daily Toreador*

SENIOR MICHELLE BISIG, a visual studies major from Houston, works Monday on a vase for her final project in her clay class in the Art building.

Cash-strapped parents asking toy makers not to market to children

NEW YORK (AP) — In a season that inspires earnest letters about toys, one notable batch is being sent not by kids to Santa's workshop but by parents to the executive suites of real-world toy makers.

The message: Please, in these days of economic angst, cut back on marketing your products directly to our children.

The letter-writing initiative was launched by the Boston-based Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, which says roughly 1,400 of its members and supporters have contacted 24 leading toy companies and retailers to express concern about ads aimed at kids.

"Unfortunately, I will not be able to purchase many of the toys that my sons have asked for; we simply don't have the money," wrote Todd Helmkamp of Hudson, Ind. "By bombarding them with advertisements ... you are placing parents like me in the unenviable position of having to tell our children that we can't afford the toys you promote."

The Toy Industry Association has responded with a firm defense of current marketing practices, asserting that children "are a vital part of the gift selection process."

"If children are not aware of what is new and available, how will they be able to tell their families what their preferences are?" an industry statement said. "While there is certainly greater economic disturbance going on now, families have always faced different levels of economic well-being and have managed to tailor their spending to their means."

In recent conference calls with investors, toy company executives said they expect to suffer some holiday-season impact from the economic crisis, yet suggested their industry would be more resilient than many other sectors. The toy industry is commonly viewed as recession-resistant, due largely to the parent-child dynamic.

"Parents have trouble saying no," said Allison Pugh, a University of Virginia sociology professor. She says parents often buy toys to avoid guilt and ensure their children feel in sync with school classmates.

BIZ WEEKLY

Raul Castro to Sean Penn: He'd meet Obama at Gitmo

HAVANA (AP) — Cuban President Raul Castro said in an interview released Wednesday that he would like to meet President-elect Barack Obama on "neutral ground" — and he suggested the American naval base at Guantanamo Bay.

The Cuban leader's offer came in a rare interview in Havana with actor-director Sean Penn, who wrote about it for the Dec. 15 edition of The Nation magazine. The article was released on the magazine's Web site Wednesday.

Penn asked if Castro would meet with Obama in Washington. The Cuban president said he "would have to think about it," but that it would not be fair for either leader to go to the other's territory. Instead he suggested the base at Guantanamo.

"We must meet and begin to solve our problems, and at the end of the meeting, we could give the president a gift ... we could send him home with the American flag that waves over Guantanamo Bay," Castro said.

Bruce Willis settles dispute with Malaysia company

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Malaysian technology conglomerate has repaid $900,000 to Bruce Willis after the actor filed a lawsuit demanding a refund of his investment.

Martin Singer, Willis' lawyer, says the federal lawsuit filed in Los Angeles has been "amicably resolved."

The Kuala Lumpur-based Petra Group said Willis invested $2 million last year in its subsidiary, Green Rubber, a developer of technology that can recycle rubber in old tires.

Petra returned $1.1 million to the star of the "Die Hard" action films earlier this year when he decided to pull out his investment. Willis sued last week to get the remaining $900,000, plus interest and other compensation.

Singer says the initial investment has been repaid, but Willis was not given all the interest owed him. The actor remains a shareholder in the company.

Huge crowds cheer NYC Thanksgiving Day Parade

NEW YORK (AP) — Val Bonner planned for a decade to attend the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on her 50th birthday, and this year she got her wish Thursday, joining throngs of holiday revelers in Manhattan cheering the giant balloons and thousands of marchers.

"It's just fabulous — I cried when I saw it," said Bonner, of Steilacoom, Wash. "This is my gift to myself. I've been saving for years for it. It's a dream come true."

Bonner, her husband Frank, and son Jack stood with shrieking, delighted children throwing confetti as the 82nd annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade wound its way through Manhattan streets under sunny skies.

Quincy Kersbergen of Wyckoff, N.J., found a prime viewing spot — perched on a police barricade near the beginning of the parade — and proclaimed herself a big fan of a giant dog balloon.

"This is just fantastic!" the 11-year-old Kersbergen said. "So amazing to be here in person! I'm just so excited about today!"

New to the revelry this year were Buzz Lightyear, the square-jawed, action-figure astronaut from the 1995 film "Toy Story;" Horton, the compassionate elephant of Dr. Seuss books; and a five-story Smurf, a blue, gnome-like creature popularized by a TV show that began in 1981. Old favorites like Kermit and the Energizer Bunny also were back.

Organizers said more than a million spectators viewed the 82nd annual parade in person, with another 50 million watching on television. The 2.5-mile route winds from Central Park West and West 77th Street to Herald Square, in front of Macy's flagship store.

'Christmas Story' fans celebrate film's 25th year

CLEVELAND (AP) — Fans of the holiday classic "A Christmas Story" are celebrating the film's 25th anniversary with a convention and trips to the house where the movie was made.

The 1983 film, an adaptation of Jean Shepard's memoir of a boy in the 1940s, was set in Indiana but largely filmed in Ohio. The movie starred Peter Billingsley as Ralphie Parker, a young boy determined to get a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas.

The film was a modest theatrical success, but critics loved it. It eventually joined "It's a Wonderful Life" and "Miracle on 34th Street" as a Christmas cult classic.

"It's a film about being a kid and looking back," said Brian Jones, who owns the house where the movie was shot and the neighboring museum dedicated to the film.

About 4,000 fans are attending the convention at Cleveland's Renaissance Hotel, where they'll meet some of the film's actors, watch three documentaries made about the film and see the original 1938 fire truck from a famous scene in the movie involving a child's tongue stuck to a frozen pole.

Black Friday

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

who "will definitely be spending less and will be more deal sensitive than ever."

Jaci Crowe, a freshman nursing major from Harper, said she braved the Black Friday weekend crowds at the South Plains Mall with her mom and sister for the bargains.

"I don't have that much money to spend," she said, browsing a clothing rack. "So, I haven't really bought a lot this year. Being a college student, I'm broke."

Brian Thornton, manager for KK's Craft Mall in Lubbock, said the store's "lifeline" stems from holiday spending.

The family-owned business leases space within their store to entrepreneurs who provide merchandise and set prices, he said. Black Friday sales were down from previous years, because the craft mall is not able to make store-wide markdowns to compete with other retailers.

Although sales typically increase after consumers browse Black Friday bargains and return to the craft mall, Thornton said, he expects spending decreases as consumers' frugal spending continues.

"I expect people to be spending less across the board," he said. "I think (the economy) is going to affect all businesses, local and corporate."

However, Martin, who has worked in the retail business for 30 years, said she is optimistic about this year's holiday sales.

"I think it's going to be a good Christmas," she said. "(Consumers) might spend money they really don't have, but they'll do Christmas."

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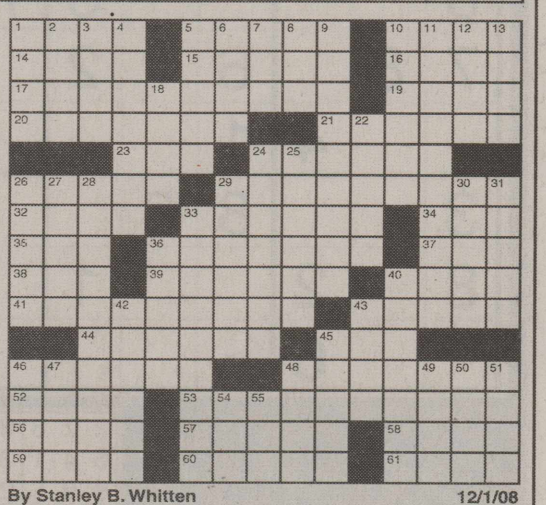
Recent survey's results about holiday spending:

- Four out of five people surveyed said they are buying items only when they find a sale.
- About 70 percent of those surveyed purchased gifts prior to the holiday season.
- Nearly three out of four participants said they do pre-shopping research to find best deals.
- Sixty-five percent of respondents admitted cutting back on the number of gifts per person.
- Nearly 60 percent of respondents admitted cutting back on the number of people on their holiday shopping list.
- Among a list of more than 15 stores, consumers chose Wal-Mart, Target and Best Buy as their top three choices for holiday spending.

Source: Maritz Research Retail Group (November 2008 Poll)

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams



ACROSS
1 A little night music?
5 Smudge
10 Church area
14 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
15 State gambling game
16 Tap trouble
17 July 4 noisemaker
19 Rattan piece
20 Stories in installments
21 Dieter and Lou
23 Handyman's letters
24 Clue collector
26 Jazz vocalist Mercer
29 Beauty parlor do
32 Bradley or Sharif
33 Lassie's breed
34 Set of parts
35 "Peter __"
36 Ziegfeld show
37 Cassowary cousin
38 Hagen of the stage
39 Military forces
40 Sesame, for one
41 Forest fauna
43 Perfect or past
44 Determine a tax
45 Writer Hentoff
46 Six-shooter
48 Pirate ship
52 Brainchild
53 Nonsense!
56 Checked garment
57 Add up
58 Branding rod
59 Der __ (Adenauer)
60 Tests
61 Come down to earth

DOWN
1 Muscle twinges
2 Massage target
3 British nobleman
4 "The Lord of the Rings" character
5 In a cunning manner
6 Unruly groups
7 Zone for DDE
8 24-hr. banker
9 Thefts
10 "Jo's Boys" author
11 Neat-o!
12 Went under
13 __ out (barely manages)
18 Horizontal barrier
22 Subterfuges
24 Witty quips
25 "__ of the Field"
26 Tidy any loose ends
27 Treasured violin
28 Bicyclist's perch
29 Doyle's sleuth
30 Margarita garnishes
31 Musical study
33 One of a pair
36 Butterball
40 Leave port
42 Heir's concern
43 Old sailors
45 Yuletide songs
46 12-point type
47 Pedestal topper
48 Chowder morsel
49 Ambiance
50 Clickable image
51 Rip apart
54 Chicken __
55 Mom-and-pop grp.

By Stanley B. Whitten
Madison, WI

12/1/08

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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Texans host Jags in Monday night debut

HOUSTON (AP) — Jacksonville enters Monday night's matchup with the Houston Texans as a team in disarray.

Fred Taylor doesn't know what the problem is, but the 11-year veteran called this team the worst he's ever been on. This season's 4-7 start has been a shocking turnaround from last year's 11-5 regular season finish and trip to the second round of the playoffs.

"It has to be something," Taylor said. "Right now the chemistry, it's not good ... the team, the (team) concept more so than our franchise. The chemistry is bad. The chemistry, the mix isn't ... something's not right."

The Jaguars prepare for their AFC South rival Houston after losing four of the last five, including last week's embarrassing and error-filled loss to the Vikings.

"We went out and we made certain moves in the offseason and we expect to do better," Taylor said. "Expectations are always high. That was just across the board from players in the locker room to the people up front. When the production isn't where it should be on the field, when the success isn't here yet, we haven't been real."

The problems for Jacksonville began before the season opener when backup tackle Richard Collier was shot and critically injured. With center Brad Meester already out for the start of the season, the Jaguars lost both their starting guards to season-ending injuries in the opener.

Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio refused to point to injuries on the offensive line as a reason for the struggles of his team.

"Well, I think certainly everything adds up," he said. "I think trying to pin it on any one thing is not going to be entirely accurate."

David Garrard has already been sacked 30 times after being taken down 21 times last year. Meester has been back for five games, but the protection hasn't improved much with his return. Garrard has been sacked four times in each of the last two games.

Though Garrard isn't looking for excuses, he acknowledged the difficulties Jacksonville has endured in the wake of the injuries.

"I know offensively it's definitely taken a toll on us, but we've got to get over that and stop talking about that, and we should have done that," he said. "But whenever you lose two starters and your top backup, that is going to be tough on your offense.

"Especially when your offense is built a certain way and those guys were key guys in us being able to run the ball effectively. And we really haven't had very many games where we've been able to do that, so it's been tough."

Jacksonville's rushing production has plummeted after the Jaguars were second in the NFL with more than 149 yards a game last year. Despite the combination of Taylor and Maurice Jones-Drew they're currently 17th in the league with just more than 110 yards a game on the ground.

Now they'll face a Houston team also in the midst of a disappointing season, but coming off its best defensive performance of the year in a 16-6 win over Cleveland.

The Texans are looking forward to their first Monday night appearance in franchise history.

"It means a lot to have an opportunity to play on a stage like that," said 2006 top pick Mario Williams. "A lot of people don't even know about us still or who we have on the team. So for us to finally showcase our stuff this year is really important."

Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Stadium.

All Tech could do after the win was sit and wait for the result of the game between Oklahoma State and Oklahoma, which ended in a 61-41 victory for the Sooners. If OSU had won, it would have given Tech a Big 12 South championship, sending the Red Raiders to their first conference championship game to face Missouri. Instead, with OU and Tech winning two days after Texas beat rival Texas A&M 49-9, a three-way tie atop the Big 12 South division created a mind-boggling question: Who deserved to go to the Big 12 Championship?

While the win over Baylor gave the Red Raiders a share of the Big 12 South championship — their first in school history — the 65-21 loss to Oklahoma last week dropped them below Texas and OU in the BCS Standings.

Because the tiebreaker defers to the BCS Standings, where the highest ranked team will represent the South division, the standings released Sunday sent Oklahoma to the title game. The Sooners are narrowly ahead of the Longhorns, who beat OU 45-35 earlier in the year, by .0128 points.

Batch said he was not feeling sorry for his team, admitting that Tech once controlled its own destiny but losing to the Sooners erased a chance at making Tech's dream season even sweeter.

"It was all on us, all we had to do was go into (Norman, Okla.) and beat Oklahoma," he said after the win against Baylor. "It's nothing I can say, 'Poor us, we're getting messed over, or anything.' All we had to do was go out and win and we didn't."

Baylor almost ended the conference puzzle by jumping out to a two-touchdown lead in the third quarter, giving the Bears a shot to spring Texas to the Big 12 Championship with a Tech loss.

However, the Red Raiders used as many resources as they possibly could to storm back.



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/*The Daily Toreador*

TEXAS TECH RUNNING back Baron Batch stiff arms Baylor free safety Jordan Lake Saturday in the Red Raiders' 35-28 win Saturday at Jones AT&T Stadium.

Harrell connected with receiver Detron Lewis on a touchdown to the corner of the end zone to take a 35-28 lead midway through the fourth quarter. The drive was set up by middle linebacker Brian Duncan's interception off a pass that safety Jordy Rowland tipped into the air.

On Baylor's ensuing drive, Tech defensive end McKinner Dixon sacked quarterback Robert Griffin on fourth down, allowing Tech to run the clock out and escape with a surprisingly close victory. Tech allowed more than 200 yards rushing for the second-consecutive game.

"I don't have anything good to say about the first half," Tech coach Mike Leach said, "and I don't have anything bad to say about the second half, and really I didn't see much in between throughout the course of the game. You had the first half, which was pitiful, and you had the second half, which was impressive."

Down 21-14, Tech (11-1, 7-1) played the first half about as poorly as it did the whole game against Oklahoma last week.

Baylor (4-8, 2-6) had Griffin, who Tech defensive coordinator Ruffin McNeill said has Olympic speed. He completed all seven of his passes while gaining 75 yards on the ground in the first half.

He led Baylor to four touchdowns on its first five possessions with a missed field goal thrown in between.

Meanwhile, Harrell threw an interception early in the first quarter and fumbled in the second, squandering a chance to take an eight-point lead heading into halftime.

He lost Crabtree when the star receiver left the game with an ankle injury after catching a pass and landing incorrectly at the 1-yard line during the second quarter. Crabtree's right ankle was wrapped on the sideline, and he tried to walk it off but later was carted off the sideline into the bowels of Jones Stadium.

He came out in the third quarter in street clothes and an orthopedic boot shielding his right ankle.

Even with his star receiver out, Harrell, whose left ring and pinky finger were taped up, led Tech to touchdown drives of 72, 95 and 38 yards.

"It always hurts not to have Crab out there but everyone else stepped up," Harrell said.

McNeill said the team just settled down at halftime while he made some defensive adjustments, such as taking a spy off Griffin, who was gashing the Red Raiders on the ground.

"It wasn't clicking at that time," he said, "so I just went four-man front; let's go with it and see how it goes, didn't have a spy guy on him the rest of the night because I thought it made us hesitate."

The only person who did not dismiss the notion that Tech was a little hungover from last week's loss to Oklahoma was McNeill.

"I'm glad we shook off Oklahoma," he said. "I thought it was on us a little bit the first half, I thought it was. I'm glad we were able to show our character there in the second half. I think that's what this team is; character is what you are when nobody's watching."

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Marbury suspended, fined $400,000 by Knicks

GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP) — The New York Knicks needed Stephon Marbury to play, then suspended him a game and docked him nearly $400,000 in salary after claiming he refused.

The disgruntled guard insisted Friday he never told coach Mike D'Antoni "no" and plans to appeal.

Marbury's tenure with the Knicks might be over before an appeal is filed. The New York Post reported Saturday Marbury, Knicks president Donnie Walsh and players' association lawyer Hal Biagas are set to meet Monday to try and reach a buyout agreement.

Of course I want something resolved," Marbury told the paper. "I want to go forward."

D'Antoni wouldn't go into specifics of their conversation that took place before Wednesday's loss in Detroit, though he made it clear he asked the point guard to play because the Knicks were short-handed.

"I don't want to get into it, guys. I think I already told you, I asked him to play. We just asked. You're a coach, and we needed him to play," D'Antoni said after practice Friday. "So I don't really have a whole lot to say. There's nothing I can say right now. I've already said the piece and what I said from my viewpoint is what happened. So we'll just leave it at that."

Marbury will not be paid when he sits out Saturday's home game against Golden State and will lose an additional game's pay for Wednesday's actions. He earns about $21 million in salary this year, drawing about $190,000 a game.

Marbury was not at the team's practice facility Friday.

"A player's central obligation is to provide his professional services when called upon," Walsh said in a statement. "Because he refused the coach's request to play in the team's last game, we had no choice but to impose disciplinary action."

Walsh was in Indiana for the holiday but is expected to address the issue before Saturday's game.

Marbury told NBC's Bruce Beck in an interview Friday there wasn't even a jersey in his locker in Detroit and he was "shocked" he was "suspended for no reason."

Marbury added he and D'Antoni spoke Wednesday morning and "basically went our separate ways."

"I never told him I was not going to play," Marbury said. "That's basically why I'm getting suspended. If I were to have said I'm not going to play, that's an automatic suspension, which I basically got suspended anyway."

The punishment likely accelerates a divorce between the Knicks and their one-time star, days after Marbury apparently could have resurrected his career. The Post reported Thursday that D'Antoni, after a number of changes to the roster, offered Marbury the opportunity to be the team's starting shooting guard the rest of the season — which D'Antoni didn't deny.

"That might have come up somewhere," he said of the offer.

It's the second time in two years the Knicks docked Marbury pay for not playing in a game. Last year, he skipped a loss in Phoenix after a dispute with Isiah Thomas, but contended his former coach gave him permission to leave.

Tide to face Gators for top spot in SEC

NEW YORK (AP) — To earn a national championship, Alabama or Florida will have to win two games matching No. 1 vs. No. 2.

The top-ranked Crimson Tide and second-ranked Gators held their spots in the AP Top 25 Sunday, setting up the 41st game matching the highest ranked teams in the AP Top 25.

Alabama (12-0) and Florida (11-1) will play Saturday at the Georgia Dome in the Southeastern Conference title game. The winner is virtually guaranteed a spot in the BCS national championship game in Miami on Jan. 8.

No. 3 Texas slipped past No. 4 Oklahoma in the latest rankings, a week after the Sooners had jumped over the Longhorns.

The Crimson Tide received 62 first-place votes and 1,620 points from the media panel. The Gators received three first-place votes, up one from last week, and 1,516 points.

Texas had 1,488 points, eight more than Oklahoma.

There was little movement throughout the poll after a weekend when most ranked teams either won and were off.

No. 5 Southern California and No. 6 Penn State held their spots. No. 7 Utah jumped a spot ahead of No. 8 Texas Tech, after the Red Raiders had to rally to beat Baylor 35-28 at home.

No. 9 and unbeaten Boise State and Ohio State round out the top 10.

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Puzzles by PageFiller

In Sudoku, all the numbers 1 to 9 must be in every row, column and 3 x 3 box. Use logic to define the answers.

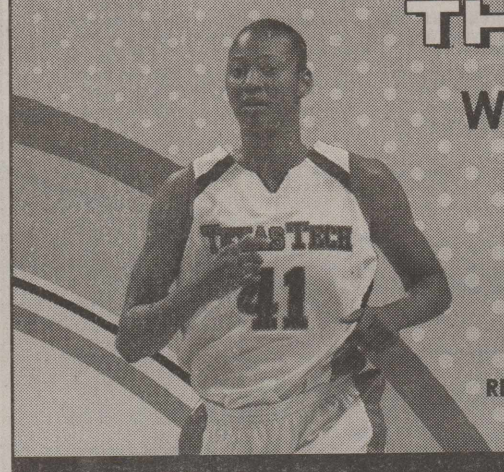
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5	8	4	1	3	6	2	9	7
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K-State loss ends worst season in Tech volleyball history

By ADAM COLEMAN
Sports Editor

0-20.

That's what the Texas Tech volleyball team will have to think about in the offseason.

A 3-0 loss to No. 13 Kansas State (24-7, 14-6 in Big 12 Conference play) Saturday in the United Spirit Arena gave the Red Raiders (5-26, 0-20 in Big 12 play) their 39th-straight conference loss, ending a 2008 season filled with many troubles. It caps off the worst season in school history.

The straight-sets loss marks the 16th of the season, 13th in Big 12 play and third-straight to end the year.

The 2008 finish marks the seventh-straight season the Red Raiders have been under .500 overall and in conference play. The last time they were over .500 overall and in conference play was in 2000. In the last four seasons, Tech has a total of 10 conference wins.

Still, Tech coach Nancy Todd said this team always fought hard through a season that was not easy to deal with.

"It takes a lot from what they've been through and not winning in their Big 12 games," she said. "It's hard. They are competitors. No matter what has gone on, they're competitors. That's a big deal for them."

Tech middle blocker Amanda Dowdy tallied eight kills against K-State. Alongside her performance came another eight kills from outside hitter Amanda Sbragia.

The problem for the Red Raiders was K-State's Rita Liliom who finished with a match-high 15 kills.

This match was similar to the straight-sets loss the Wildcats dealt Tech on Oct. 18, as Liliom had a match-high 11 kills on that night as well.

Not being able to generate enough offense was a problem in both matches as well for the Red Raiders. In the previous match, the Red Raiders had a .066 hitting percentage. In Saturday's matchup, they had a .144 hitting percentage.

It also was K-State's first straight-sets win since the Oct. 18 matchup against Tech. The Wildcats previously had been 2-3 in their last five matches.

With the win, K-State will cruise into the NCAA Tournament as one of three ranked Big 12 teams. The other two, No. 3 Texas and No. 4 Nebraska, were crowned Co-Big 12 Champions Saturday.

Todd said Liliom could be a big factor in the Wildcats' performance in the tournament this year.

"(Liliom) does a nice job," she said. "It's hard to stop somebody like that at times. You really have to get used to that. That's why you play here. That's a Big 12 person."

The loss also came on Senior Night for the Red Raiders.

Tech middle blocker Brandi Hood, outside hitters Michelle Flores and Sbragia were the three seniors honored Saturday.

While Tech loses three seniors from this year's team, the Red Raiders return 12 next season, which could give the team a foundation to build off of, Todd said.

Hood said the future looks bright with young players, such as freshman setter Karlyn Meyers, who had 31 assists against the Wildcats Saturday.

She said the recruiting efforts of Tech's coaches will be a big factor in determining the future of this team.

"Our coaches always do a great recruiting job, so of course we're going to have better people coming in again," Hood said. "As long as they work together and let someone lead them and just work hard, they're going to do great."

The Red Raiders did receive some advice they could carry into next season after the game.

Tech Chancellor Kent Hance spoke to the team after the match and gave the seniors and the younger players words of encouragement after what was a tough season.

"He's just very positive about everything," Flores said. "He just said you're going to end up having these friends forever and you know, even though we didn't have the best season ever, we're still winners and we're student-athletes."

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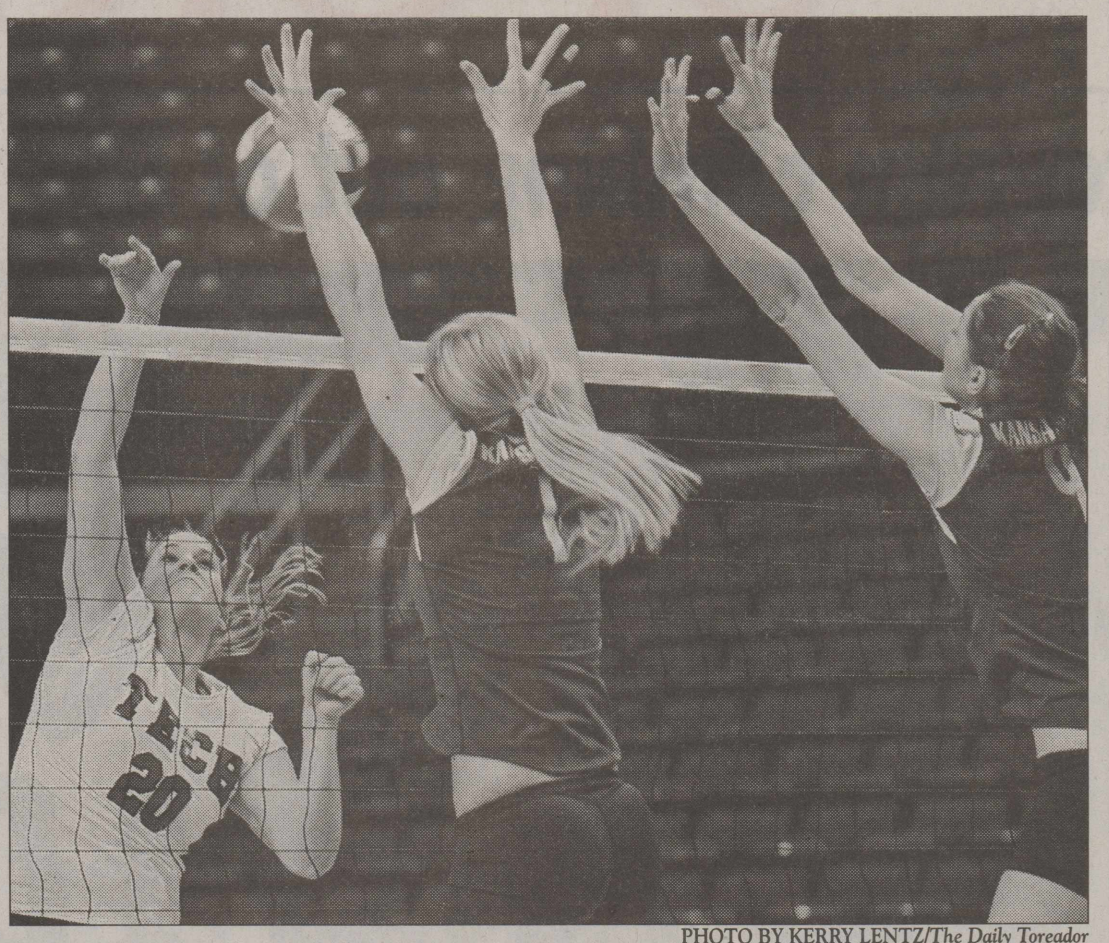


PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/*The Daily Toreador*

SENIOR OUTSIDE HITTER Amanda Sbragia spikes the ball against Kansas State's middle blocker Megan Farr and outside hitter Nataly Korobkova Saturday in the United Spirit Arena.

Croom resigns at Miss. State

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — When Sylvester Croom was hired at Mississippi State five years ago, CNN carried the announcement that the Southeastern Conference finally had a black head football coach to the world.

Croom slipped out the door while no one was looking Saturday, resigning after an early morning meeting with athletic director Greg Byrne. The man who made history was history, another victim of a win-now-or-else mentality in the nation's toughest conference.

"It's sad, but it doesn't surprise me," Mississippi coach Houston Nutt said. "It's the way of the world in college football right now."

Croom resigned less than 24 hours after the Bulldogs suffered one of their most embarrassing losses in his five-year term. They lost to No. 25 Mississippi 45-0 and appeared inept in a game that was out of hand from the opening moments. Croom finished 21-38 at Mississippi State.

Croom was given some wiggle room early in his tenure because of debilitating NCAA sanctions. But after winning 2007 SEC coach of the year and the Liberty Bowl during an 8-5 breakthrough season, boosters and fans were not willing to sit through another losing season and discontent grew as the Bulldogs stumbled to a 4-8 finish.

The coach met with Byrne, who is in his first season as AD, to discuss the program's future Saturday morning. Byrne was expected to ask Croom to make changes to his coaching staff, but Byrne would not give specific details about what was discussed. He said it was Croom's decision to resign.

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SPORTS

Baylor program climbing out of Big 12 cellar

By ADAM COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Baylor offensive tackle Jason Smith has the school's symbol and mascot tattooed on his right arm to show how proud he is to play for his team.

With Baylor's history in the Big 12 Conference, some may laugh at the 298-pounder for having a symbol that has been identified with failure on his arm.

With a 2008 season that could be the turning point for the program, what is no laughing matter now is Baylor.

Although a 4-8 season is not ideal, it still puts the Bears in fifth place in the Big 12 South — only their second fifth-place finish in the division since the Big 12 was created in 1996. The other came in 2005 as the result of a 5-6 season.

This season, wins over Texas A&M and Iowa State are conference victories the team has after going 0-8 in Big 12 play last year. What probably overshadows that are three-point losses against non-conference opponent Connecticut and Big 12 North foe Missouri.

The latest what-if moment comes in the form of a 35-28 loss to No. 7 Texas Tech after the Bears led the Red Raiders for two quarters and was tied after another.

Baylor coach Art Briles said he could not be any prouder of his players' performance against a team such as Tech.

He said this game and this season proved that the Bears are no longer the Big 12's doormat.

"We liable to play somebody, they better buckle 'em up because we're gonna play," Briles said. "We're going to get after 'em. We're going to expect to win. I think we've created a little bit of respect through that standard. Now we just gotta cross the bridge and not be close and win."

The belief that this team can win may have started with one player.

Briles said he believes Baylor quarterback Robert Griffin is the type of player who will always give the Bears a chance to win anytime they step on the field.



PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/*The Daily Toreador*

BAYLOR QUARTERBACK ROBERT Griffin, was one of the leaders in a rushing attack that ran for 299 yards against Tech's defense.

Griffin proved his coach right Saturday.

Completing 12-of-15 passes for 91 yards along with 99 yards rushing for three total touchdowns, Griffin had Baylor in position for an upset.

Griffin, along with running back Jay Finley, used the Bears' ground attack to convert third downs and put Baylor in a position to beat Tech. Baylor was 9-of-12 on third-down conversions and outgained Tech on the ground with 229 yards compared to the Red Raiders' 56. Finley had a game-high 105 yards rushing on 15 carries.

As a true freshman, Griffin may have given a glimpse of what to expect from him in the coming years.

With his season total now at 13, Griffin tied Baylor's single-season record for rushing touchdowns — a record that has stood since 1973. He is now fourth among all Baylor quarterbacks in touchdown passes in a season with 15, tying Larry Isbell's 1950 mark. Griffin also is fourth on the school's season points list with 78, the most by a Baylor quarterback since Steve Beaird's 96 points in 1974.

But this season, Griffin believes he has done more than just set records.

Griffin said his growth from the beginning of the season to now is based on one of the more important aspects of a quarterback and a teammate.

"Coming in that first game against (Wake Forest), I'm kinda the new kid on the block still," he said. "I had the respect of my teammates, but I didn't have the respect of anybody else. Players don't talk about gaining respect outta Baylor football, but teams — when we get on that field, they know we're coming to play."

Smith, a senior, was disappointed with the outcome, considering Baylor went into the fourth quarter with a seven-point lead and came out with a seven-point loss.

As far as his tattoo is concerned, Smith has no regret, as he said soon he will be even prouder to show it off.

"We got one goal in mind: Take over the Big 12," he said. "That's what we plan to do. Everybody else is eating; it's time for us to eat."

➤➤adam.coleman@ttu.edu

Plaxico Burress accidentally shot himself in thigh

(AP) — Super Bowl hero Plaxico Burress accidentally shot himself in the right thigh and spent the night in the hospital, another dramatic turn in a tumultuous season in which the star New York Giants receiver has been fined and suspended.

His lawyer said Sunday he is expected to plead not guilt to criminal possession of a weapon.

The Giants said the shooting happened Friday night and he was released from the hospital early Saturday. The team did not say which hospital Burress went to or how badly he was injured.

However, a team official told The Associated Press that Burress shot himself in a nightclub. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the team was still trying to sort out all the facts.

"Our primary concern is for Plaxico's health and well-being, and given the circumstances, we are relieved to say he was released from a New York City hospital," the Giants said in a statement.

New York City police said they were investigating whether the incident took place at Latin Quarter, a sprawling 15,000-square-foot, two-story restaurant and club located in the Radisson Lexington Hotel in midtown Manhattan.

Phone messages and an e-mail left at the nightclub were not immediately returned.

Police added that they have not spoken to Burress or recovered the gun used in the shooting.

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