

Lady Raiders get
break from Big 12
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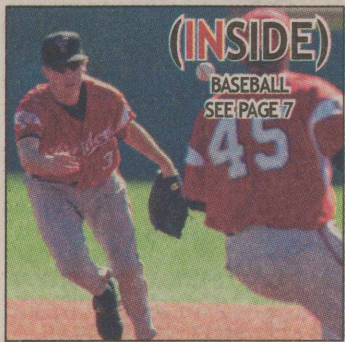
Hypnotist visits Tech
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THE DAILY TOREADOR

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION
Texas Tech University
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

MONDAY, FEB. 2, 2009
VOLUME 83 ■ ISSUE 87

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(INSIDE)
BASEBALL
SEE PAGE 7

(INBRIEF)

STATE

Thousands of refinery workers ready to picket

HOUSTON (AP) — A strike by some 24,000 refinery workers was averted, at least for now, as both sides agreed to extend negotiations for at least 24 hours.

Workers at refineries near New Orleans, Houston and as far away as Billings, Mont., will show up for scheduled shifts Monday, though negotiators will be back at the table on Sunday.

"We have made progress in that there was no strike at midnight," said Lynne Baker, a spokeswoman for the United Steelworkers, which represents more than 30,000 oil workers nationwide. "But there are still issues that need to be worked out and notice of a strike could be given at any time if that progress stalls."

NATION

GOP leaders: Little Sen. backing on stimulus

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate begins debate this week on its version of the stimulus bill and Republicans see little support from their side.

Sen. Jon Kyl, the chief GOP vote counter, says Republicans have not started to count their votes. But he says he sees support eroding for the nearly \$900 billion measure. He says it has too much wasteful spending and maybe it's best to just start from scratch.

The chief Democratic vote counter, Sen. Dick Durbin, says Democrats have asked Republicans for their ideas and are open to possible changes.

WORLD

Suicide bomber attacks foreign troops in Kabul

KABUL (AP) — A police officer says a suicide bomber in a car attacked a convoy of foreign troops in the Afghan capital.

Gen. Zulfikar Khan Horiyakheil says the bomber struck the convoy in Kabul's western outskirts Sunday, but there was no immediate report of casualties.

Representatives of NATO and U.S. troops say they are checking the report.

Insurgents regularly launch suicide attacks on foreign and Afghan troops throughout Afghanistan, but the number of such attacks in the capital has decreased over the past year.

DEATH TOLL

4236

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

INSIDE

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NKorea warns of war with SKorea

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea warned Sunday that South Korea's confrontational policies may trigger a war on the divided peninsula, a message coming two days after the communist country vowed to abandon all peace agreements with its southern neighbor.

Relations between the two Koreas have been strained since conservative President Lee Myung-bak took office nearly a year ago in Seoul, pledging to take a harder line on the North. Tension heightened Friday when

the North said it was ditching a nonaggression pact and all other peace accords with South Korea.

The tension may lead to "an unavoidable military conflict and a war," North Korea's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary carried Sunday by the country's official Korean Central News Agency.

"The policy of confrontation" by the South Korean government is "the very source of military conflicts and war" between the Koreas, it said.

The North has accused Lee's government of preparing to stage a war, which

South Korea denies. Earlier this month, the North's military declared it adopted an "all-out confrontational posture" to defeat any southern aggression.

In its Friday statement, the North said it would no longer respect a disputed sea border with the South on the west of the peninsula, raising the prospect for a new armed clash in the area — already the scene of bloody naval skirmishes in 1999 and 2002.

President Lee sought to downplay the statement and called it "not unusual." He indicated his government will wait until the North is ready for talks in good faith.

A South Korean Defense Ministry official said Sunday that the country's navy remains on alert along the western sea border. The official — speaking on condition of anonymity citing department policy — said the ministry has not detected any unusual movements of the North Korean military.

The two Koreas technically remain at war because their three-year conflict ended in 1953 with a truce, not a peace treaty. The peninsula remains divided by a heavily fortified border, with tens of thousands of troops stationed on both sides.

Rate my professor

Web site allows students to rate professors by 'hotness' and quality

By HANNAH BOEN
STAFF WRITER

Ratemyprofessors.com has been used by many Texas Tech students to view the quality of professors as well as compare professors' hotness ratings before they enroll in courses.

Part-time graduate instructor Kristin Gonzalez said she does not consider herself to be hot, but six people who have taken her classes do, which has possibly led to her being viewed as a better teacher.

"If they find me attractive and it helps them go to class more," she said, "then that's great."

Ratemyprofessor.com allows students to rate professors based on easiness, helpfulness, clarity and interest. Besides compiling the average score of the quality of the professor based on those four categories, the site allows students to give professors a red pepper, indicating that professor is hot.

Students who use the resource can search for professors with the best ratings or find an attractive reason to attend class.

Increased class attendance may not be the only positive outcome to Gonzalez's attrac-

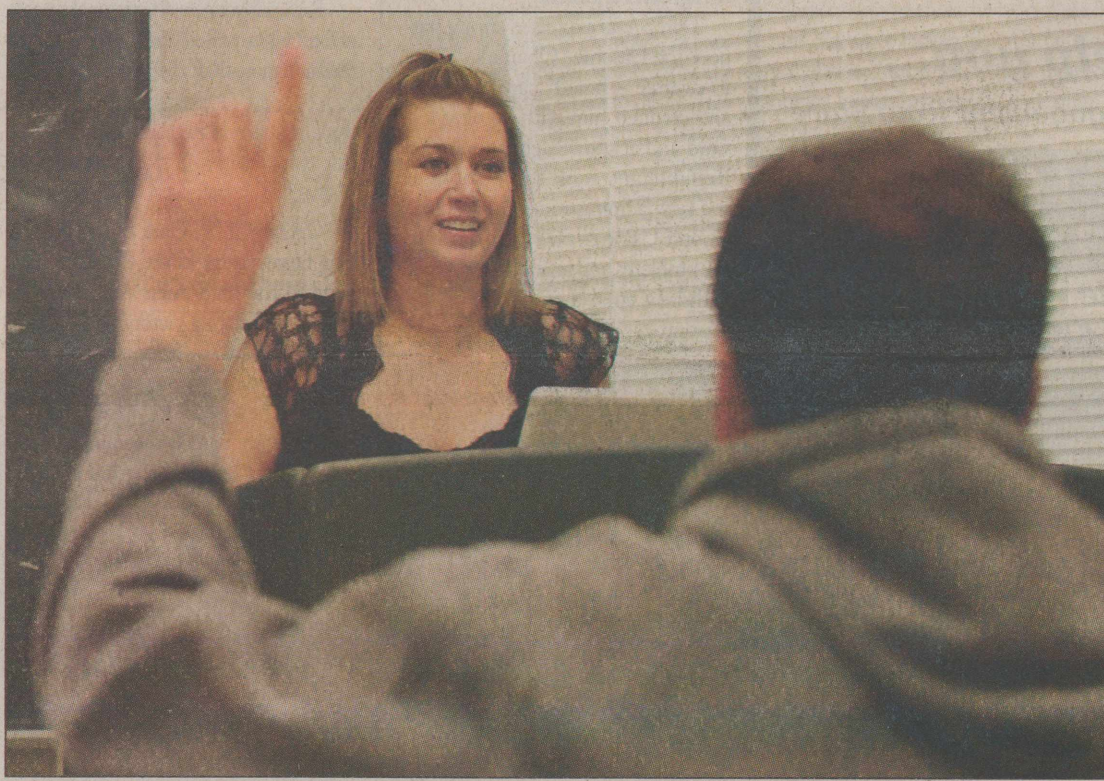


PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador
PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR KRISTIN Gonzalez delivers a lecture for her Close Relationships class Thursday in the philosophy building. Gonzalez was rated among the most attractive professors at Tech by student reviews at the Web site ratemyprofessors.com.

tiveness. The part-time psychology instructor said everyone has a natural inclination to attractive people, which can cause students to be more enthusiastic about class and more likely to approach her with questions.

"It may help my teaching," she said, "because there can be more

communication between my students and I due to appearance."

Psychology professor Jeff Larsen, who does not have any hot ratings on the Web site, said the idea that attractive people make for better teachers may stem from what he called the halo effect, which refers to the tendency for

people to perceive physically attractive people as being better at a lot of things.

"Physically attractive people are seen as more socially skilled, perceived as more intelligent," he said. "It makes sense that they'll also be seen as better teachers."

It is important to assess how

well teachers perform in the classroom, Larsen said. However, testing the teaching ability of an attractive professor could only be done if students could be blindfolded for a semester, then asked to rate the individual's teaching abilities.

"As it stands, you might give a physically attractive teacher higher ratings," he said. "You generally think they're a better teacher but your perception is being clouded by what you see."

Mass communications professor Bill Dean does not view himself as attractive and was surprised that people considered him "hot" on the professor-rating Web site.

Based on the ratings, Dean said, students who view the Web site may want to get into his class, but they should not be fooled by the "superficial" hotness rating.

"I've taught here for 41 years," he said, "and I am certainly not a young person. Students should be looking more at the quality of instruction and the substance of the course."

While some students may follow Dean's advice, many students plan to continue using the Web site to find a physically attractive professor.

PROFESSOR continued on page 5 >>>

Lubbock economic numbers buck national trend

By MIKE GRAHAM
STAFF WRITER

While national economic news gets grimmer almost every day, the Lubbock economy is still in the black according to Lubbock Economic Index numbers from December 2008 released Friday.

James Arnold, the executive vice president of Lubbock National Bank, said the numbers from December 2008 are not the best numbers he has seen but show the Lubbock economy in relatively good condition considering the national economic situation.

"The numbers are going against the national trend," he said. "Not great news, but we're in the black."

LEI numbers are based on numbers from the year 2000. Any number above 100 indicates positive growth from 2000 while anything below 100 indicates a decline from the numbers in 2000. The index was jointly produced by LEDA and the Lubbock

National Bank.

Gary Hatfield, the research coordinator for the Lubbock Economic Development Alliance, said the Lubbock economy uniquely is capable of surviving economic downturns due to a diverse economy.

"One of our advantages is our diverse economy," he said. "We have education in Texas Tech and the other schools here, the largest health care sector between Dallas and Phoenix, agriculture and manufacturing."

According to the Lubbock Economic Index, job growth increased 0.6 percent from 2007 to 2008. The unemployment rate for the Lubbock area rose during the past year to 3.8 percent at the end of December, the third lowest unemployment rate in Texas. The government sector lost an estimated 300 jobs, and the manufacturing sector lost an estimated 100 jobs during the past year. About 1,500 net jobs were added to the Lubbock economy in 2008.

Arnold said College Station ranked second among Texas cities with the lowest unemployment rate just behind the Midland-Odessa area, but speculated Lubbock and College Station may now have overtaken Midland-Odessa due to the reduced cost for petroleum products.

The College Station unemployment rate in November was 4.4 percent, in Midland was 3.3 percent, and in Odessa was 3.9 percent. Lubbock's unemployment rate in November was 4.1 percent.

"Lubbock consists mostly of small and mid-sized businesses," Hatfield said. "We don't have huge businesses so when one goes down, those jobs can usually be absorbed by other businesses. In Austin, for instance, the dot-com bust really hurt their economy and Midland-Odessa is strictly oil. If oil falls, their entire economy falls."

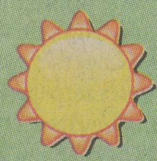
The construction sector of Lubbock's economy rose 4.1 percent from 2007,

according to the LEI. Building permits issued totaled \$473 million for 2008. However, building permit activity dropped 36 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2007. Construction building permit valuations exceeded \$400 million for the sixth consecutive year in 2008.

Hatfield said the construction sector consists of all things constructed in Lubbock including the Marsha Sharp Freeway, other road construction, housing construction and commercial construction.

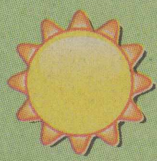
Automobile spending dropped 25 percent during the fourth quarter of 2008 and 8 percent year-to-date in 2008, according to the LEI. Lubbock foreclosures totaled 3,483 homes in 2008. The rate of price increases fell from 9 percent in November to 7.5 percent in December. The energy and utilities sector consumer price index increased from 5.2 percent in November to 5.5 percent in December.

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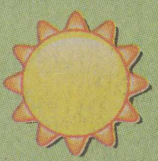
TODAY
Sunny

High 58 Low 25



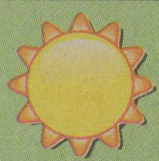
Tuesday
Sunny

High 64 Low 28



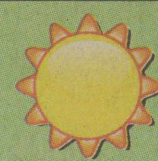
Wednesday
Sunny

High 65 Low 30



Thursday
Sunny / Wind

High 71 Low 36



Friday
Sunny / Wind

High 75 Low 37

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Officials: Kmart layoffs coming, workers will have Lubbock employment options

By **KENDYL SEBESTA**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Kmart will lay off about 90 Lubbock employees beginning in March as the Kmart Superstore transitions to a Big K format.

Kim Freely, company spokeswoman for Kmart, said a maximum of 90 layoffs are expected, but the exact count has not been determined.

"We are transitioning the store to a Big K format in order to stay competitive in our operating expenses," she said. "The grocery section of the store will be removed in the transition, making it hard to determine an exact layoff count."

Kmart is expected to begin employee layoffs as early as March 13.

Freely said Kmart will offer options through the company to employees who face layoffs.

"We hope associates will take positions in our other Kmart stores," she said,

"and those who qualify will be given severance packages."

Gary Lawrence, chief executive officer of the Lubbock Economic Development Alliance, said Kmart employees facing layoffs will be met by many job options in Lubbock.

"We'd like to host a jobfair for the Kmart employees who are let go," Lawrence said. "It will be a great way for those employees to find an immediate link with employers, and job-fairs in general are very effective for both employers and those seeking work."

Lawrence said it will be difficult to determine the exact impact the Kmart transition will have on the Lubbock economy.

"Often times we don't know what shape the business is in," Lawrence said. "I know the local stores have been doing well, but we've had a lot of corporate stores that are running into trouble and are resorting to laying off people across the board to save money."

Lawrence said Lubbock's unemployment rate was 3.8 percent at the end of December and the Lubbock job market remains strong.

Employers looking for workers can pursue a Rapid Response service which would allow the companies to locate workers who have been let go due to downsizing while providing workers who face layoffs with resources, according to the U.S. Department of Labor Web site.

Alice Fitzgerald, South Plains College Workforce Development secretary, said advanced training and continued education also can provide options for workers facing layoffs.

"The Workforce Development program provides public classes to help people transfer into new fields," Fitzgerald said. "Companies also have the option of setting up and paying for contract classes which will help employees develop new skills."

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WORLD EVENTS IN BRIEF

Sri Lankan official warns diplomats, CNN, BBC

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka warned Western diplomats, foreign journalists and aid groups Sunday that they would be "chased" out of the country if they appear to favor the Tamil Tiger rebels.

Defense Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa singled out the ambassadors of Switzerland and Germany, and television networks CNN, BBC and Al-Jazeera in

his criticism of foreigners, accusing them of being biased.

Rajapaksa said certain foreign media reports were damaging the security forces at a time they were "dealing the final death blow" to the Tigers.

His ire appears to stem from concern expressed by the international community that the government is not doing enough to extricate civilians trapped in

the fighting between the military and the Tamil rebels in the north.

In an interview published in the independent Sunday Island newspaper, Rajapaksa said the three TV networks were sensationalizing civilian hardships by telecasting video clips from a Web site run by the rebels. The ambassadors were trying to create panic, he was quoted as saying.

Iranian police kill 10 drug smugglers

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's state television says police have killed 10 drug smugglers in a shootout near the Afghan border.

The report says the clash happened when the bandits tried to sneak through the frontier some

750 miles east of the capital, Tehran.

After Sunday's shootout, police confiscated more than 2,500 pounds of drugs, most of it opium.

Last week, Iran said bandits killed 12 border guards in an ambush

near the frontier with Pakistan.

The area is a key crossing point for narcotics destined for Europe and the Persian Gulf countries. It has been the scene of frequent clashes between police and drug smugglers.

15 dead, 22 injured in bar fire in southern China

BEIJING (AP) — Revelers celebrating a birthday set off fireworks inside a bar in southern China, triggering a blaze that killed 15 people and injured 22, state media said.

The fire in Changle, a city in the southern province of Fujian, started just before midnight on Saturday, when 10 people lit the fireworks at their table, the Xinhua News Agency said. Fireworks are sold and set off everywhere during Lunar

New Year festivities, which lasted all week and ended Saturday. Also known as Spring Festival, it is the country's biggest holiday.

The explosion "set the ceiling on fire and the entire place was soon engulfed in flames," Xinhua said, citing a city government spokesman.

It took 30 minutes to put out the blaze and firefighters found 35 people in the debris. The 15 dead suffocated, the

report said. Three of the injured were in critical condition, while the other 17 were treated overnight at the Changle City Hospital.

Two other people in the bar escaped on their own and received medical treatment, the spokesman said.

A woman who answered the telephone at the city government office on Sunday confirmed the incident but declined to give any other details.

Kenya Red Cross: 89 dead in oil blaze after crash

MOLO, Kenya (AP) — An oil spill from a crashed truck erupted into flames Saturday in Kenya, killing at least 89 people who were trying to scoop up free fuel, officials said.

Patrick Nyongesa, the regional manager for the Kenya Red Cross, said 89 people died and more than 200 were injured

after a crowd gathered around the crash in search of free fuel.

The crash was in Molo, several hours outside the capital, Nairobi.

Local newspapers have criticized the government for poor safety.

On Wednesday, a massive fire swept through a supermarket in downtown

Nairobi, killing at least 25 people.

After the supermarket blaze, the Daily Nation said Nairobi's 3 million people are served by just one fire station situated close to a traffic-choked business district.

"Ours is a modern city with an 18th-century firefighting infrastructure," the newspaper said in an editorial.

Hard-liners strengthened by Gaza war

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — The biggest gains in the Gaza war have gone to the hard-liners on both sides. Hamas is declaring victory, while Israel's leading hawk is the front-runner in elections just over a week away.

But a new phase in peace efforts has opened with Barack Obama's election as U.S. president and the international

community may find itself offering Hamas incentives to moderate rather than shunning it.

Hamas is exulting in the widespread support it received in the Muslim world and many Western countries. Israeli public opinion has emerged tougher and more inclined to choose Benjamin Netanyahu over the more dovish candidates.

Israeli strategists say the offensive, mounted to halt rocket fire on Israeli settlements and cut the flow of arms to Hamas, has dealt the militants a heavy blow. But it has not yet led to a permanent arrangement that would stop Hamas weapons smuggling and rocket attacks, and fighting could erupt again at any moment.

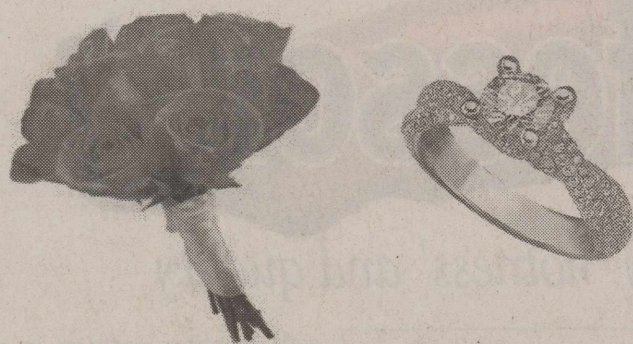
Government allies see gains in Iraqi elections

BAGHDAD (AP) — Allies of Iraq's U.S.-backed prime minister appeared Sunday to have made gains in the provincial elections, rewarding groups credited with reining in insurgents and militias, according to unofficial projections.

Initial results from Saturday's landmark voting are not expected for days. But reports by Iraqi media and interviews by The Associated Press suggest candidates backing Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki had strong showings in the crucial Shiite heartland in

southern Iraq. If the indications prove true, it would strengthen al-Maliki's hand ahead of national elections later this year and reflect a shift away from the more religious parties dominating the country.

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US Sen. committee reviews tax mistake

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators awaited guidance from the committee reviewing Tom Daschle's nomination to be health secretary before deciding whether the former majority leader's big tax mistake might trip him up.

Former colleagues on Sunday described Daschle as a popular public servant knowledgeable in health issues, yet they wondered how one of their own could find himself in such a mess — and why the matter escaped President Obama's team of background checkers.

Democrats expressed strong support for Daschle, Obama's choice to oversee a health care overhaul, and credited him with coming forward and acknowledging a mistake. Republicans took some shots at the new administration now that a second Cabinet pick had run into tax problems and an earlier nominee withdrew amid a grand jury investigation.

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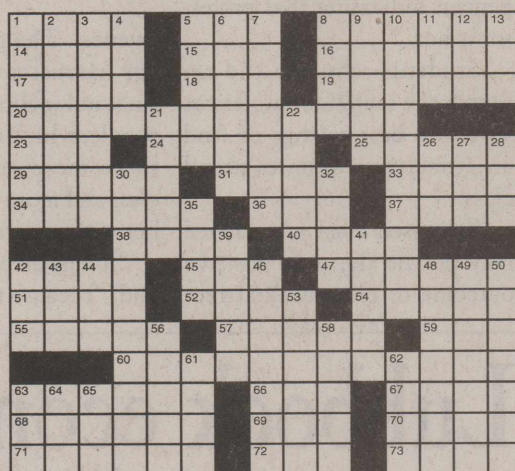
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Redefining Student Living...

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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- 68 Lose weight lasciviously
- 69 Coop product
- 70 Swan genus
- 71 Beginnings
- 72 French some
- 73 Sawbucks



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

Friday's Puzzle Solved

ALBEE HARPO RYE
LOAMS ALOOF HEX
PUTUPAGOODFRONT
INSETS INTO
SAPPED SPELL
HEARD TAUPES
ARNO CRUSOE TWO
MIDDLEAGESPREAD
SEA ENDURE ERGO
LITERS PAPER
LEVIS ORDERS
ITEM ASSURE
THEBACKOFBEYOND
HER PHILLO NEWER
ELSTENDS SALTLY

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1/3/09

DOWN

- 1 Individual performer
- 2 Chilean-born pianist Arrau
- 3 Unsettle
- 4 Tropical root
- 5 Thin soup
- 6 Fiery
- 7 Made sense
- 8 Support bar
- 9 Take issue
- 10 Something to scream
- 11 Actress Arthur
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- 13 Oolong, e.g.
- 21 Old French bread?
- 22 Foundations
- 26 Med. procedure
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- 28 Congeal
- 30 Miles Davis classic
- 32 Have the answers
- 35 Stare open-mouthed
- 39 Wane
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- 42 Canine
- 43 NASA partner
- 44 Diminutive being
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- 49 Greek letter
- 50 Some thrown horseshoes
- 53 Moe, Larry or Curly
- 56 Vote into office
- 58 Ladder features
- 61 Exploits
- 62 Palindromic honk
- 63 Sellout theaters
- 64 Sebaceous cyst
- 65 Circulars

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Lynch: Commerce pick won't change power in Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Sen. Judd Gregg has told colleagues that if he becomes commerce secretary, his replacement would affiliate with the GOP, denying Democrats' total dominance, his party leader said Sunday.

That would require an agreement involving President Barack Obama, who would appoint Gregg to his Cabinet, and New Hampshire Democratic Gov. John Lynch, who would name Gregg's successor to the Senate. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky suggested such an arrangement was in the works.

"Sen. Gregg has assured me that if this were to happen, if it were to happen, it would not change the makeup of the Senate," McConnell said on "Face the Nation" on CBS. "In other words, whoever is appointed to replace him would caucus with Senate Republicans, so I think it would have no impact on the balance of power in the Senate."

Lynch's spokesman, Colin Manning, declined comment on any agreement, saying only "this situation is still between the White House and Sen. Gregg."

Gregg spokeswoman Laena Fallon had no comment on McConnell's statement.

Replacing Gregg with someone other than a Democrat willing to side with the party would deny Democrats the legislative dominance they seek in the Senate. Sixty votes are required to end debate in the 100-member chamber, but Democrats have just 56 seats, plus two independents who caucus with them.

Strange behavior controlled by hypnotist at student rec center

By HANNAH BOEN
STAFF WRITER

Thousands of students gathered Friday evening in the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center for a hypnotizing experience.

Hypnotist Tom DeLuca visited Tech for the 25th consecutive year Friday for the center's 28th Annual Rec Center All-Nighter.

DeLuca used more than a dozen student volunteers to entertain the crowd at the event, including Jarrett Thompson, a junior psychology and Spanish major from Dallas.

While hypnotized, Thompson spoke in an alien language and participated in a body-building contest at the command of DeLuca.

After the show, Thompson said he had no idea what he had done on stage and never imagined DeLuca would have control over his actions.

He said he began as a skeptic but, after participating, could "believe this is for real."

DeLuca first became interested

in hypnotism in graduate school while working for a psychology professor who used hypnotism for therapy. He said he began helping the professor hypnotize patients who wanted to lose weight or quit smoking

until he saw a hypnotist performance that further peaked his curiosity.

A year after seeing his first performance, DeLuca said he began performing a show once per week at a local hotel. Since then, DeLuca has become a four-time winner of National Association for Campus Activities National Campus Entertainer of the Year and Campus Activities Today Entertainer of the Year.

Betty Blanton, associate director of the Fitness/Wellness Center, said

she has seen the event for the past 25 years and laughed every time.

Blanton was not the only one laughing.

Thousands of students attended the event to be entertained by DeLuca's hypnotist skills.

"It's a great event if we can get 2,500 to 3,000 students together," Blanton said, "and we just want all of them to know that they can have fun without alcohol. Also, they don't have to go far and they don't have to

spend any money."

Restaurant and hotel management junior Nicole Roman participated in a dance contest while hypnotized. Roman said she knew she was dancing but felt no inhibitions

at the time.

"I never would have done that on my own," said the Keller native, "I would have been way too nervous."

After being hypnotized, Roman said she would be up for doing it again but thought it would be funnier to be on the other side, watching friends and classmates controlled by someone else.

The hypnotist was the highlight of the evening for Joe MacLean, director of recreational sports. He said he and his staff enjoyed providing a variety of activities for students during the all-nighter. Activities included laser tag, video games, free pizza, dodge ball and a slam-dunk contest.

MacLean said he evaluates the activities each year to decide what to keep and what to change.

"We have to ask ourselves, 'What are kids interested in?'" MacLean said.

With thousands of students filling the center with laughter Friday night, he said the hypnotist performance is here to stay.

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PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

ZEKARIA ABDULAH, A sophomore business finance major from Dallas, Ryan Looney, a freshman journalism major from Midlothian, and Christopher Phelan, a Housing and Resident Life Advisor from Berger, act like they are trying to lift a heavy weight after being hypnotized at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center all-nighter event.

HONORS COLLEGE BOOK CLUB REVIEW

Ian McEwan creates contemporary tale about morality through 'Amsterdam'

By JELEESA PATTON
CONTRIBUTING REVIEWER

Ian McEwan's "Amsterdam" is a dark story ending in a profound lesson concerning hubris.

With a plot as twisted as its namesake city's reputation, the novel is an example of fast-paced pedagogy. It begins on a macabre note, entering the two main characters' lives as they attend the funeral of a former lover, a shadow in both of their pasts.

Death and hopelessness highlight Clive Linley's and Vernon Halliday's individual searches for purpose throughout the book as they face life-changing decisions.

McEwan delves into the friends' brains as each encounters his own fork in the road and allows the reader to experience firsthand the tragic mistakes of both.

As the reader bears witness to the logic, or lack thereof, of both men and passes judgment on the character of each, the author stimulates speculation on subjects of integrity, pride, obsession, personal identity, free will and human vice.

McEwan attempts to give dimension to his main characters as both Clive and Vernon provide a candid glimpse of the dark side of human motive at several points in the book.

The reader can eerily relate to the

embittered rants of the two men during their moments of frustration.

McEwan shows both ends of the human spectrum in Clive and Vernon, although he doesn't often place them in the middle. The ability to reason slips from both men as they fall deeper into their obsessions with success.

Despite the uncanny human attributes McEwan gives his characters, they are perhaps too starkly portrayed. The author may have written a book too black and white for a gray society.

Although this book addresses the extremes of human character, it does not achieve the most probable outcome

of meeting in the middle of the human spectrum. These extremes trigger reflection within the reader on the ethical boundaries of modern society versus the concept of free choice on which society is based.

While Vernon is in heavy debate with the newspaper for which he works concerning whether or not to print risqué photographs of a high-status political figure, Clive is in the midst of composing the musical piece of the millennium, a commission appointed him by the British Parliament.

McEwan rapidly advances the plot as the reader witnesses both men striving towards their personal goals. As they

further hone in on their desired successes, each of their life perceptions become more telescopic as both lose "the big picture."

Questions of ethics intertwine with disillusionment as these two jaded characters plummet further down a twisted spiral of faded morals and narrow-minded fantasies, ironically ending in their simultaneous deaths.

"Amsterdam" is a fast-paced novel echoing the dark thoughts that highlight the twisted motives of the characters.

As the story unfolds the reader can't help but internally debate the issue of free choice versus moral duty. McEwan is successful in inducing in the reader both pity

and contempt for his characters.

In the end his book does not even seem to give much importance to the issues at hand, instead focusing on the ironic fact that intense hard work and effort can be completely erased in a mere moment.

All in all, "Amsterdam" provides a deep and resonating message with a powerfully abrupt ending. Whether or not the characters prove justified in their choices is an issue McEwan leaves to the reader to decide.

► Patton is a junior theater design major from San Antonio. E-mail her at jeleesajodie.patton@ttu.edu.

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Tech class cancellation well executed, untimely

A week ago Monday I was walking back from my swing dancing class at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center, trying to stay as warm as I could in the sub-freezing, humid air. A light, chilly mist assaulted my hair and face, turning into little droplets of ice. The trees had already crystallized. "No class tomorrow," I thought to myself. "This is going to get ugly in a few hours."

I woke up on Tuesday and checked the Tech Web site — no indications of class cancellation. Outside the ground was already covered with a solid layer of ice and sleet was adding to it at a pretty steady pace. One person wiped out onto the pavement on the sidewalk outside my building.

The hours wore on, the sleet continued to come down, and Tech remained silent. Finally, during my last class of the day, at 3 p.m., the university took action. Within a span of about 10 minutes I received an e-mail, a text message, a tweet and a call with the announcement that Tech had officially cancelled

Stephen Torrence



classes and closed the university.

As I walked back, I passed a plethora of cars leaving campus all at once. The cancellation had prompted a massive, uncoordinated exodus, only two hours before the normal rush hour period. Later I got another flood of notifications that the university was also suspending morning classes until 10 a.m.

Tech implemented the emergency response system following 2007's shooting on the campus of Virginia Tech, with the goal of getting important instructions distributed to Texas Tech students quickly in the event of a major incident.

Since then, the system has only had to be used almost exclusively for notifications of Tuesday's type — class cancellations due to weather. Though a significant num-

ber of students are still not signed up for the notifications, enough of them got the message that those who didn't got it soon after via word-of-mouth.

In retrospect, the late timing of the cancellation made little to no difference. According to the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, there were only about 74 wrecks total all over Lubbock on Tuesday, with 20 occurring during the morning commute, a fairly low tally for such widespread ice, but still non-trivial.

I believe that Tech could have been far timelier with the class cancellation. Monday night the forecasts from Weather.com, Weather Underground and the National Weather Service all indicated major icing and sleet for the next day. All the signs were there that Tuesday was going to present danger for commuters.

I'll admit I'm not privy to the exact workings of the emergency response coordinators, but I do recall a similar case last year where a major thunderstorm was moving in on a Sunday night and Tech

cancelled classes for the following day at midnight, much to the elation of my neighbors.

So I know Tech could have done a similar thing this past Monday evening. An examination of the forecast followed by a few phone calls could have prevented some of those car accidents (as well as countless sore bums).

Instead, the day proceeded pretty much as it would have otherwise. By the following Wednesday morning most of the ice had melted and things were back to normal. This class cancellation was a moot point, whereas had it come the night before it could have actually made a difference.

In the future I expect Tech to do a better job of recognizing dangerous weather conditions and responding in time to actually make a difference. We certainly have the tools in place to do this, but the human factor must play its part as well.

■ **Torrence is a philosophy major from Georgetown. E-mail him at stephen.torrence@ttu.edu.**



Kermit was lonely, had a few drinks in him, and had heard that chunky muppets were easy pickin's.

Anatomy of an early morning class

By **DAVE FOLK**
THE CRIMSON WHITE (U. ALABAMA)

It happens to the best of us. At one point throughout our four to seven years of college, we will have to take the dreaded 8 a.m. class. Fear not children, for I have saved you all of your troubles and compiled a list of every single person you will meet when the clock strikes that God-awful time.

Mr. I-had-the-best-time-ever-last-night-and-you-have-to-know:

Says to quasi-friend: Dude, check it out. I'm still drunk from last night. I know, I'm kinda bad ass. Yeah dude we got in, my brah's got a fake. I don't know what band, something country — I was way wasted.

But get this, so I'm ordering a drink and this hot blonde is totally checking me out, so I get over there and start spittin' some game, ya know [insert fist pound]? She ain't havin any of it, so I peaced on to the next bitch right. She

was probably DTP, too. No, it means down-to-pray, get it? Like, God squad style [insert unnecessarily loud laugh at own joke]. Nah, dude, she didn't turn me down, I just came to my senses.

Whatever, class is starting; you got notes for me from last class, right?

Girl who is way too happy to be up:

Thinks to herself while smiling: It is a glorious day outside, the birds are chirping, the sun is out. I just want to thank some higher power for the opportunity to be together at this time of day. I got up a full hour ago and have already accomplished more in that amount of time than you probably will all day. Definitely more than you will all week.

Seriously though, you've had the same high school shirt on all week. We get it, you won state champs at football your junior year, please just change it though. For your sake. Oh, it's note time, my favorite.

Naive ADHD girl:

All in her head: I'm thinking about

definitely hitting the gym up for some cardio later on, I mean yeah, I'm skinny and beautiful but a little extra work never hurt anyone, right? Well, except if you were a POW, I guess in that case a little extra work did hurt them.

I wonder if you bleed red if you are physically red. And, wow, yeah, you'll definitely never be red. Have you ever heard of a tanning bed? I feel like I'm looking at a piece of paper sans college ruled. I'd call you pasty but that would be insulting Elmers.

Gosh, I love horses it's a shame glue's made out of them, but I mean you can't live without glue, right? I mean I guess we could use duct tape, but ducks are soooo much cuter.

Weird dude who sits in the back:

His inner monologue: Screw all of you. Talking to each other like you know one-another.

Yeah, sit there and laugh at me, we'll see who's laughing when the second coming is here, or the end of the world

— whichever comes first. Oh, what's that? You all look alike.

Wearing designer brands and dressing "successful." See what I'm wearing? Yeah, s---'s underground. Like I made it myself — that's how underground we're talking. Whatever, class is starting; I love when she lectures because who needs friends then. It's just me, her and notes. Perfect.

Hung over girl:

Why are you yelling at me? No, you were yelling at me, that definitely wasn't a whisper. I'm fine. The bar was fine, some country band. I don't even like country. I don't know some guy kept trying to talk to me, I think he thought I was staring at him. I was just zoning out. No, he was awkward. After he realized that I wasn't planning on ever getting near him he muttered something about DTP, whatever the hell that means. Yeah, weird.

You:
Awakens to alarm buzzing: Screw it.

Facebook: A bold new frontier of holy matrimony

By **JEFF CROCKETT**
DAILY NORTHWESTERN (NORTHWESTERN U.)

Marriage — the very definition of it — is under attack. In California and Connecticut, the battle lines have already been drawn. However, what our legislators fail to realize is that there is one place where the law — state or national — has no say. A place that is nowhere — and yet everywhere. A place where procrastinators and lazy stalkers alike can find common ground.

Of course, I'm talking about Facebook.

Thanks to Facebook, what was once a timeless social institution has now become a mockery. A lifelong commitment of love and trust can

now be made official with just the click of a button. If you know anything about Facebook, then its loose morals shouldn't come as a shock. It's the ultimate "free love" community, where all the traditional social boundaries come crashing down.

In the real world, if a person you haven't seen in 10 years approaches you on the street with a bag of Scrabble tiles and a poking stick, you start walking the other way. In the real world, if you break into someone's house at 3 a.m. and write "IM SOOO WASTED GO CATZ!" on their wall, you'll be hearing from the police. But not on Facebook.

How could Facebook have gone so far astray? A mere five years ago, it was an exclusive, Ivy-League only community — hardly socially liberated. The

site's original homepage said it best. If five years is enough time to change it from a vanguard of the Old School to a commie-hippie-topia, then one can only imagine what it will be like a few years down the line.

My greatest fear is that Facebook will take the progressive view of marriage to its logical extreme. If marriage is really nothing more than an agreement between consenting adults, then what's next? Polygamy? Incest? I doubt that the fate of either will be decided any time in the near future, either by the "tyranny of the majority" or the "tyranny of the judiciary," but if there's one thing Facebook doesn't need to wait for, it's an official decision.

And it looks like it has already made up its mind. Since there aren't

any restrictions on who you can "marry," you could get hitched to literally anyone ... even your sibling. If that wasn't bad enough, Facebook says nothing about the relative blasphemy of your marriage. If all I can find out is that you're "married," and not "gay married" or "incestuously married," then how will I know whether to oppress you?

Thankfully, there's still hope. Facebook still doesn't allow polygamous marriages, so we still haven't slid all the way down the slippery slope. But adding just a few lines of code would change all that, and that is why we have to stay vigilant. We have to keep marriage the way it has been since the dawn of time: between a man and a woman.

On Facebook.

Economic slowdown won't kill students

By **WES YOUNG**
DAILY O'COLLEGEAN
(OKLAHOMA STATE U.)

We're in a recession, and since October, every professor has addressed my classes with a sentence that starts "in today's economy," "with today's market" or some similar phrase.

I've watched the news and read the papers. I've listened to my parents and grandparents talk. I know people are losing jobs and homes. I was recently reminded, though, that we have a free market system. Boom times and not-so-boom times are going to happen. So, what's a person to do?

Look around, and the answer is in front of you. Do nothing. OK, do something. Go to the movies. Go out to eat. If you need a house and can afford it, buy a house. If you need a car, buy a car. Buy groceries, buy electronics and buy toys. Buy clothing, buy shoes and buy furniture. Take a vacation.

I'm not saying go on a spending spree. Feel free to change your spending habits a little, and maybe eat out once a week instead of twice. Buy generics instead of well-known brands. Buy used items instead of new ones. Put the cash you save into a high-yield savings account, and use your credit cards less or not at all.

Don't become a scrooge,

either. Don't bury money in your backyard or hide it inside your mattress. Instead of turning off your cable, phone and cell phone, downgrade your plan to a less expensive one. Turn your heat down a few degrees and bundle up, and remember to turn off lights. Buy energy-efficient products, which is good for your bills and the environment. You can save money without sending your household back to the dark ages.

Students: we don't need to change our majors, but we do need to be prepared. Our dream job and dream salary might not be waiting for us when we walk across the stage at graduation. For a few months or possibly a couple of years, we might be doing jobs unrelated to our degrees. Experience is experience. Who knows, you might find something else you enjoy doing every day.

More school isn't necessarily the answer, either. A master's degree or doctorate might make little difference in job options, and instead of that great salary, you'll have more student loans. Contrary to popular belief, the economy will fix itself. It takes time, though.

I'm no economist, so I can't predict how long the fix will take. I do know being scared and staying up all night worrying is pointless. We might face some tough times and difficult decisions, but eventually, we'll be back in a booming economy.



HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT SAME-SEX MARRIAGE?

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Speakers debate same-sex marriage, promote civil conversation

By **TINA L. ARONS**
FEATURES EDITOR

John Corvino and Glenn Stanton travel the nation together to argue about a controversial topic.

Students gathered in the Allen Theatre in the Student Union Building at Texas Tech on Thursday night to hear the duo debate same-sex marriage.

"People are often surprised when I refer to him as a friend," Corvino said.

Corvino, editor of the anthology "Same Sex: Debating the Ethics, Science and Culture of Homosexuality" and a philosophy professor at Wayne State University in Michigan, said he and his long-time friend debate for and against same-sex marriage to promote a better, more civil dialogue on a "hot" topic.

Stanton said arguing the same issue multiple times causes the debate to become more informative and civil than other debates that include personal attacks.

"The reason we are able to de-

bate is because we take each other seriously," he said.

Stanton, who works for Focus on the Family as a senior analyst for marriage and sexuality and director of social research and cultural affairs, said he argues from a social science perspective rather than a religious viewpoint.

During the debate, Corvino advocated same-sex marriage and argued that same-sex marriage is good for everyone because it promotes stable relationships and offers legal protection.

Stanton said he opposed same-sex marriage and argued that it makes men and women optional to the family.

Problems have occurred in the last several decades because of changes in the family formation, he said. An increase of fatherlessness, divorce, cohabitation and single parents by choice have negatively impacted children.

Stanton said his concern is how homosexual marriage will affect children of those couples.

The higher parenting standard

for homosexual couples is not equal, Corvino said. Heterosexual couples are not required to meet a parenting standard before marrying or having children.

"Let me tell you something about gay people," he said. "We don't usually wake up in the morning and say, 'Oops, we're pregnant.'"

Much thought occurs when gay couples decide to become parents, Corvino said. He also pointed out that the "vast majority" of artificial inseminations are performed on heterosexual women and many gay couples choose to adopt children.

The problem may reside in the homosexual family dynamic, Stanton said, and research on the subject has not produced a definite answer. Scholars have concluded that it will be "interesting" to wait and see what happens.

"All the love and care in the world can't turn a woman into a father," Stanton said, "and all of the love in the world can't turn a man into a mother."

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PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/The Daily Toreador

JOHN CORVINO, RIGHT, and Glenn Stanton, left, answer questions from students regarding same-sex marriage issues Thursday after debating the controversial topic with each other in the Allen Theatre located inside the Student Union Building.

Former American ambassador speaks about foreign relations

By **GARRETT SALZMAN**
STAFF WRITER

Carl Coon, a diplomat and former American ambassador to Nepal, discussed the strategy he proposed America should pursue in its foreign relations politics Thursday night in a lecture at the International Culture Center.

Coon's lecture was the third installment of the Dorothy McLarty Arts and Lecture Series. Marilyn Westfall, the coordinator of the Arts and Lecture series, said the event was designed to give voice to ideas not often expressed in West Texas.

"We have been trying to bring different points of view to Lubbock and Texas Tech than those that are generally held in the area," she said. "Even though these are some interesting views you don't often hear in Lubbock, we've had a wonderful response from the audience."

Westfall said the timing of the event shortly after the inauguration of Barack

Obama made the topic especially important.

"We thought it was an excellent opportunity, with the election of our new president and the new direction of foreign policy," she said, "to have someone with 34 years of experience as a diplomat who could bring that experience to the table."

According to a biography in the lecture's program, Coon was a member of the United States Foreign Service for 37 years. He was appointed ambassador to Nepal and served from 1981 until 1984. He is a Harvard graduate who lives in Washington, D.C., and has served as the vice president of the American Humanist Society.

Coon, who is the author of several books on foreign policy, said he believed that a second American revolution had begun by the election of President Obama. He said the election of an African-American president did much to realize

the principle espoused by the founders of the United States of all humans being born equal.

"At last our nation has at last gotten past that massive cloud on our collective conscience," Coon said. "Our country has become the truly multicultural, multiethnic nation we have been pretending to be for these many generations."

Coon said although he had reason to be optimistic about the future, several policy issues must be addressed to ensure a peaceful future for the United States' global interactions. He said the new administration must focus on global warming, defusing regional conflicts abroad, controlling nuclear arms, and working to end poverty.

On all of the global policy issues he discussed, Coon said a greater commitment to peaceful negotiations and working closely with allies would yield the greatest benefits.

"We should keep out diplomats up

front and our generals in the background," he said. "We should work with our allies and our efforts should be aimed at strengthening the United Nations, not trying to work around it."

Mikhail Rybalko, a first year political science doctorate program student, said his experience witnessing American policy from abroad led to him to agree with many of Coon's points.

Rybalko, a native of Irkutsk, Russia, said it was unusual to hear views such as Coon's shared openly in Lubbock. He said he was encouraged by the free exchange of ideas.

"Many Americans do not realize the fear for American imperialism throughout the world, and it's extremely important to have such a speaker to give outside perspective," Rybalko said. "Despite that fear, I share this optimism for the wind of change blowing in this country to remedy the situation."

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MONDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2009									
STAT. CHAN. AFFIL. CITY	KTXT 5 PBS Lubbock	KCBD 11 NBC Lubbock	KLBK 13 CBS Lubbock	KMYL 14 MYN Lubbock	KLWV 22 CW Lubbock	KAMC 28 ABC Lubbock	KJTV 34 FOX Lubbock		
7 AM	Curious Sid (HD)	Today Sched. Used: Miss Piggy, items to love now and later; shopping for clothes. (HD)	The Early Show	Copeland Robson	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	(6:00) Good Day Lubbock		
8 AM	Super Why		The 700 Club	Believer's J. Hanna	Payne	Regis & Kelly	Martha Stewart		
9 AM	Sesame Street		Price Is Right (HD)	Divorce	Payne	The View (HD)	Morning Show		
10 AM	Dragon Word		Restless (HD)	Alex Cristina	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Tyra Banks Show		
11 AM	Martha Jeopardy		News	Roseanne	Paid Prog.	All My Children	Paid Prog.		
12 PM	Quilt		As the World	Paid Prog.	Fam Court	One Life to Live	People's Court		
1 PM	Gary Spatz		The Doctors	Guiding Light	Mauzy	Judge Jeanine	Judge Mathis		
2 PM	Behv. Lion		Reading Inside	Extra	J. Fox	No Deal	Ellen DeGeneres		
3 PM	Arthur		Oprah Winfrey	Brown	Access	Wayans	No Deal		
4 PM	WordGirl		Dr. Phil	Judy	Mauzy	Standing	Rachael Ray		
5 PM	Maya		News	News	Fam. Feud	Queens	News		
6 PM	Bus. Ppt		News	News	Fam. Feud	Queens	News		
7 PM	Antiques (HD)		Chuck Rock	Big Bang	How I Met	Zone	Gossip Girl (HD)	The Bachelor '13	House (HD)
8 PM	American (HD)		Heroes (HD)	Two & 1/2	Masters Illu-	Worst Wk.	One Tree Hill (HD)		24 New target.
9 PM	Last Child		Medium (HD)	CSI: Miami (HD)	Jim (HD)	Style	True Beauty	News	
10 PM	Bus. Ppt		News	News	King	Sax City	News	Two & 1/2	
11 PM	Charlie Rose		(11:37) Late Night	(11:37) Late Night	TMZ	Married	Nightline	Sarkis	
12 AM	Destinos		Last Call	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Insider	Paid Prog.	

In Japan, you are what your blood type is

TOKYO (AP) — In Japan, "What's your type?" is much more than small talk; it can be a paramount question in everything from matchmaking to getting a job.

By type, the Japanese mean blood type, and no amount of scientific debunking can kill a widely held notion that blood tells all.

In the year just ended, four of Japan's top 10 best-sellers were about how blood type determines personality, according to Japan's largest book distributor, Tohan Co. The books' publisher, Bungeisha, says the series — one each for types B, O, A, and AB — has combined sales of well over 5 million copies.

Taku Kabeya, chief editor at Bungeisha, thinks the appeal comes from having one's self-image con-

firmed; readers discover the definition of their blood type and "It's like 'Yes, that's me!'"

As defined by the books, type As are sensitive perfectionists but overanxious; Type Bs are cheerful but eccentric and selfish; Os are curious, generous but stubborn; and ABs are arty but mysterious and unpredictable.

All that may sound like a horoscope, but the public doesn't seem to care.

Even Prime Minister Taro Aso seems to consider it important enough to reveal in his official profile on the Web. He's an A. His rival, opposition leader Ichiro Ozawa, is a B.

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Professor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Economics senior Jack Delaney said he would consider several things, not just a hot rating, when enrolling for classes, but he would be more likely to choose an attractive teacher than an unattractive one.

"If it makes going to class easier," said the Flower Mound native, "then why not?"

>>hannah.boen@ttu.edu

And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord; it shall rejoice in His salvation. — Psalm 35:9

Daily Proverbs: 2/2 - Pr. 2:4,5
2/3 - Pr. 3:3,4 • 2/4 - Pr. 4:2,3
2/5 - Pr. 5:2 • 2/6 - Pr. 6:3

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Puzzles by PageFiller

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

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.

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

Ombuds Office

A safe place for students & staff to bring concerns.

The Ombuds Office has moved!

We are now located in the SUB room 238.

238 Student Union Bldg 806-742-4791

SPORTS

PAGE 6
MONDAY, FEB. 2, 2009

Knight ejected, Red Raiders relapse in loss to Nebraska

By ALEX YBARRA
MANAGING EDITOR

Texas Tech coach Pat Knight's tirade and subsequent ejection obviously ignited his team's intensity midway through the second half against Nebraska Saturday.

However, while he was pleased with the effort his players showed in trimming an 18-point lead to five points late in the game, he was not satisfied with delayed focus and an 82-69 loss.

"But why do we gotta wait until the last nine minutes?" said Knight, whose team has lost six of its last seven games. "Honestly, I'm not very pleased at all. What if you do that for 40 minutes? What's the outcome gonna be?"

After Tech committed only seven turnovers at Texas A&M Wednesday, the Red Raiders reverted back to the team that had a season-high 29 turnovers against Missouri Jan. 24. With Nebraska running a full court press early on, Tech had 15 turnovers in the first half and finished with 21.

"I think they were being too careless," Knight said. "We weren't attacking them. If you watch the team, we're trying to make these lofty passes. You can't attack the zone press like that. Teams press you because they want you to quit being aggressive."

With a little help from Rogdrick Craig catching fire, Tech went on a 20-6 run to come back from a 17-point deficit in the first half. But after halftime, Nebraska extended its lead to double-digits before Knight's bashing of the referees lifted his team with nine minutes remaining.

Knight said "don't read too much into" his decision to retort the controversial call.

With 9:49 to go in the game, Tech's Alan Voskuil was called for a defensive foul when he got tangled up with Nebraska's Chris Ballham in the paint and the two fell to the ground. Knight lightly argued the call before he watched the replay, and then he erupted.

He charged across the floor to the opposite sideline and got in the official's face, shouting at the top of his lungs in disgust. He picked up a technical for yelling at the first official, then he continued to another, which is when he got the second technical and the ejection.

As Knight was being escorted by Robinson to the locker room, he spun around and sprinted back to mid-court

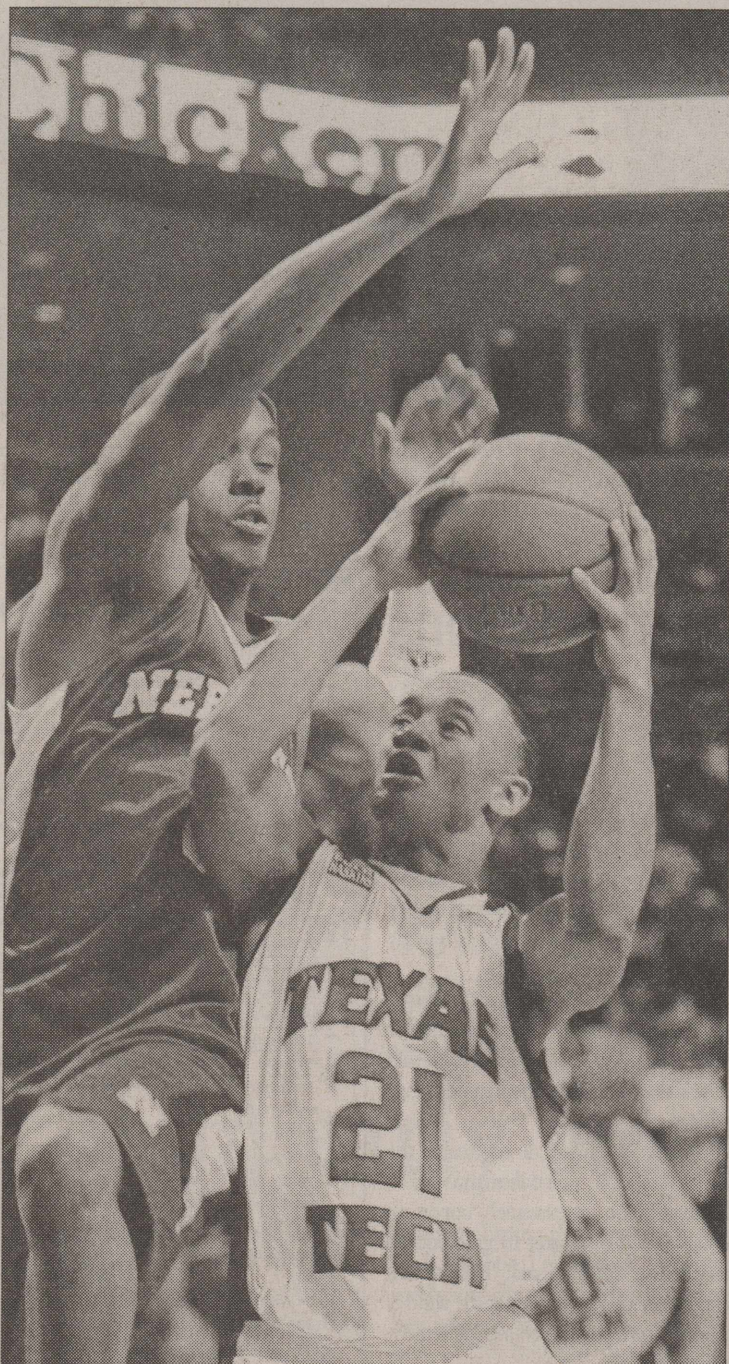


PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH GUARD John Roberson attempts a layup against Sek Henry in the Red Raiders' 82-69 loss to Nebraska Saturday in the United Spirit Arena.

to shout at the referees again. "My job is to protect my players, if y'all didn't see what happened then that's your fault, just see what happened," he said. "My job is to protect my players, and you can only sit there and take so much. I gotta protect my boys and that's my job."

Nebraska coach Doc Sadler said he was unsure of the motive behind Knight's explosion, but whether it was for protection, frustration or inspiration, he understands that a coach with

a struggling team will do anything to get a win.

"I have (argued to create a spark), and unfortunately I've been thrown out too," he said. "When you're in a ball game, you're just doing everything you can to try to do whatever to give your team a chance to win, and you're gonna fight man, and your players see that, and they respect it. I thought that his team responded very, very positively — the crowd definitely did."

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Lady Raiders get break from Big 12 against Savannah State

By ADAM COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

The Lady Raiders could have won Saturday's game against Oklahoma State.

But could have is not good enough for Texas Tech women's basketball coach Kristy Curry.

In the middle of Big 12 Conference play and coming off a 65-60 loss to Oklahoma State, the Lady Raiders hope to retool in a non-conference game against Savannah State at 7 p.m. today in the United Spirit Arena.

It is the final non-conference contest before the Lady Raiders play the last nine games of Big 12 play.

"I am very disappointed in our team and how we responded (Saturday)," Curry said. "We came and shot around at 8:30 (Saturday) morning. For whatever reason, for that 33 minutes in that 30 minute session (Saturday), we looked like we didn't have enough about us. I'll take full responsibility for it, but at the same time I'm a little bit too competitive to sit back and watch a group of kids do what they did (Saturday)."

In Saturday's loss, Tech saw OSU's Andrea Riley put up 33 points — the fourth time she has scored at least 30 points in Big 12 play.

Offensively, Tech's 30.9 shooting percentage is the third time in four games the Lady Raiders have shot below 40 percent. Against K-State, they shot 30.9 percent and against Baylor they shot 39.7 percent.

Against the Cowgirls, Tech (12-8, 3-4 in Big 12 play) started the game shooting 9.1 percent from the field at the



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH COACH Kristy Curry said she was not pleased with the way the Lady Raiders performed in the 65-60 loss to Oklahoma State.

15:53 mark and 17.4 percent at the 10:30 mark in the first half. The slump allowed Oklahoma State to grab the lead, but the Lady Raiders still were in the game at halftime, similar to the games against K-State and Baylor.

The Lady Raiders were down by two against K-State, three against Baylor and eight against OSU at the half — all of which ended up losses.

The closing minutes of the game probably sealed the win for OSU.

An Ashlee Roberson score at the 5:19 mark in the second half was the last time the Lady Raiders scored from the field, while Riley had the last eight points for Oklahoma State.

The drought consisted of misses by Kierra Mallard and Dominic Seals from the field and misses by Maria Moore and Maddy Brown from the 3-point line.

One positive for Tech was the play of Roberson, Seals and Mallard, who all earned double-

doubles. Roberson had 12 points along with 14 rebounds, Seals had 17 points with 11 rebounds and Mallard had 16 points and 14 rebounds.

It was one reason Oklahoma State coach Kurt Budke said he believed the Cowgirls got a win on the road against a Tech team capable of making the NCAA Tournament.

"I think Texas got in at 7-9 last year," he said. "You might see a team at 6-10 this year because when you're having to play OU twice who's second and Baylor twice who's third or fourth, A&M twice who's in the Top 10, I mean there's six potential losses just like that."

Savannah State (4-17) is an independent team ending a four-game road trip with Tech.

Curry said the game was an opportunity for the Lady Raiders to "keep our juices flowing" during a week away from Big 12 competition. After this game, Tech will travel to Austin for a rematch against Texas on Sunday.

The only other team in the Big 12 with a similar schedule is No. 2 Oklahoma, who will play No. 13 Tennessee today.

The road only gets harder for the Lady Raiders, though.

After Savannah State, four of the nine teams Tech will play are ranked — including an Oklahoma team the Lady Raiders have to play twice. The stretch includes trips to Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Nebraska, Baylor and Texas.

With that said, the Lady Raiders believe there is a lot of work still left to be done before a push can be made in the final nine games of conference play.

"We just gotta step it up a notch," Roberson said. "Maybe a couple more notches."

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Tech baseball begins practice, expects to be more aggressive

By MIKE GRAHAM
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech baseball team kicked off the 2009 season with an intrasquad scrimmage Sunday at Dan Law Field.

First-year head coach Dan Spencer said the entire team is energetic, healthy and ready for what lies around the corner.

"I feel great," Spencer said. "I think our guys are excited. It's an exciting time, I think they're all looking forward to it. I'm excited to go. We just have to get sharp. We're doing a lot of fundamental work. We're still getting used to playing with each other and figuring out some combinations. We're just getting ready to play."

Spencer succeeds Larry Hays, who led the Red Raiders for 22 years as head coach. Spencer played for Tech from 1985 to 1987. Spencer went on to coach at Tacoma Community College in 1991 and at Green River Community College from 1992-1996 before moving on to Oregon State, an NCAA baseball powerhouse. There he rose to serve as Beavers' pitching and catching coach and associate head coach. Spencer won two national titles at Oregon State.

Spencer played under Hays during his first season as Tech's coach in 1987 and coached under him during Hays' final season at the helm.

Last season, Spencer returned to Tech and served as the team's pitching director and associate head coach.

"I think I'm very fortunate to have played for him and fortunate I got to coach with him," Spencer

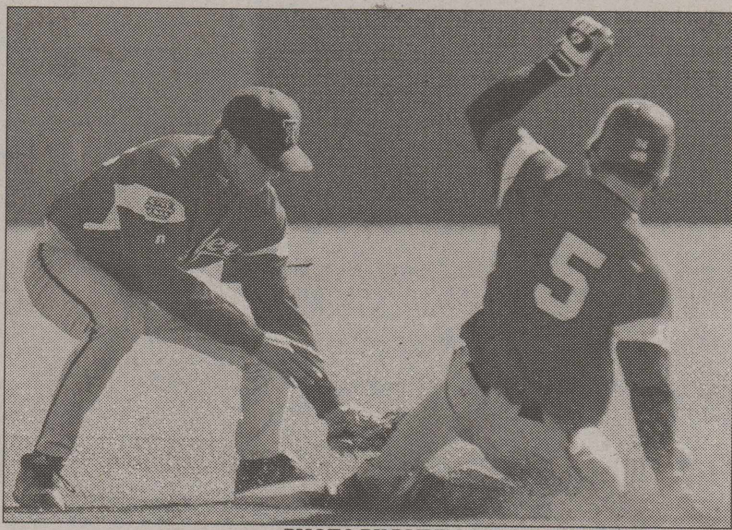


PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH'S JEREMY Mayo slides into second base in the Red Raiders' first practice this spring Sunday at Dan Law Field.

said. "I think it's been a lot smoother transition for me having been here before becoming head coach."

Players said Spencer intensified the off-season workouts and fans should expect to see a more aggressive 2009 squad compared to years passed.

"We're going to have a fast team," senior right handed pitcher AJ Ramos said. "A lot of stolen bases, a lot of bunts. We're not going to be a finesse team with not that much power. Pitching-wise, we're going to have a lot of good pitchers."

Chad Bettis, sophomore right handed pitcher, said if all goes right, Tech baseball will be taking a step forward from last year's final outcome of missing the Big 12 Conference Tournament.

"I think we just have to come out here and hustle," Bettis said. "Give it 100 percent every day and hopefully we'll be out here in May

and June." Last season, Tech and Kansas were the two teams who failed to reach the tournament.

Ramos said his recovery from a torn rotator cuff injury sustained last season in his throwing arm has been much quicker than he expected. He said he didn't expect to pitch this season.

"(I'm) pretty close to 100 percent," Ramos said. "I think later on this month it will be 100 percent. Right now, it's about 95, 96 percent. I'm pretty much full-blast."

Despite the confidence, Ramos said it is not a foregone conclusion that he will be ready for the first game of the season.

"Hopefully," he said, "that will all depend on my performance. Just because I'm fully healthy doesn't mean I'll be able to go out there and start."

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Tech men's tennis drops opener

The Tech men's tennis team knew the start of the 2009 season was not going to be easy.

Instead of starting it on a high note, the Red Raiders took a 4-3 loss to No. 16 LSU Saturday in Tulsa, Okla.

Although competitive, Tech was not able to recover from losing all three doubles matches.

Tech's No. 1 duo of Raony Carvalho and Christian Rojmar fell to LSU's combo of Michael Venus and Neal Supski, 8-4. Michael Breler and Sinisa Markovic lost to LSU's Mark Botwell and James Cluskey in a 9-7 thriller, while the Red Raiders' No. 3 team of Gonzalo Escobar and David Gonzalez dropped the match to Sebastian Carlsson and Jonathan Tragardh in a tie-breaking loss,

9-8.

Tech men's coach Tim Siegel expected this match between two ranked teams to be tightly-contested.

"This was one of those matches that you'd expect that it would come down to the wire, and it did," Siegel said. "The doubles was very close and they got the doubles point."

The doubles point proved to be the turning point in the match.

Tech split the six singles matches with Markovic at No. 2 dispensing LSU's Tragardh in two sets, 6-2, 6-3. Breler at No. 5 and Milos Kustudija at No. 6 also earned victories over LSU's Carlsson and Botwell, respectively.



SIEGEL

Carvalho, the Red Raiders' No. 1, dropped his singles match to No. 2-ranked Venus, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

Tech has not lost a season-opener since losing to Rice in 2003.

The Red Raiders and Siegel expect more tough matches along the road, and many narrow losses and nail-biting victories with a tough 2009 schedule.

"It was a tough match to lose because of the lead that we had in the last match," he said. "But as I told the guys, that's just what we're gonna see all year. Tough schedule, we're gonna have a lot of 4-3's. Some will go our way, some won't."

As a result of the loss to LSU, the Red Raiders played No. 30 Notre Dame Sunday. Results for that match were not available as of

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Nadal beats Federer to win Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Rafael Nadal held off Roger Federer in another five-set Grand Slam final, keeping Pete Sampras' record of 14 major titles intact for now.

Nadal became the first Spanish man to win the Australian Open, beating Federer 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-2 in a momentum-swinging, 4-hour, 22-minute final that finished just after midnight on Sunday.

Federer, trying to equal Sampras' record, sobbed at the trophy presentation.

"Maybe I'll try later. God, it's killing me," Federer said, crying. He returned to congratulate Nadal within minutes, saying: "You deserved it. You played a

fantastic final."

Top-ranked Nadal, who has won five of the seven Grand Slam finals they've contested, now has a major on hard courts to go with his titles on clay and grass.

He's the only man capable of a Grand Slam this season, 40 years after Australian great Rod Laver last won all four majors in one season.

"Roger, sorry for today. I really know how you feel right now," Nadal said. "Remember, you're a great champion, you're one of the best in history. You're going to improve on the 14 of Sampras."

Nadal collected the trophy from Laver, on the court that was named in the great Australian's honor, and put his arm around Federer.

"To receive this trophy from Rod

Laver is a dream for me," he said. "Rod, thanks very much. It was an amazing two weeks for me."

Nadal advanced to the final after holding off fellow Spanish left-hander Fernando Verdasco on Friday in 5 hours, 14 minutes — the longest match in the tournament's history.

Federer had a straight-sets win over Andy Roddick the previous night, but said the difference in preparation had no influence on the final.

He said the fact he'd missed the Sampras record at a tournament he's won three times didn't make the loss any worse or easier to take.

"Honestly, no," he said. "I mean, it's more like, in the first moment you're disappointed, you're shocked, you're sad, you know, then all of a sudden it overwhelms you."

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Late heroics secure Steelers' 6th Super Bowl

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Their Steel Curtain shredded, Ben Roethlisberger and the Pittsburgh offense ended a Super Bowl of incredible swings with a final-minute touchdown for a historic victory.

Santonio Holmes made a brilliant 6-yard catch deep in the right corner of the end zone with 35 seconds remaining Sunday night, lifting the Steelers to a record-setting sixth Super Bowl win, 27-23 over the Arizona Cardinals.

"Scramble right, scramble left, find someone open," Roethlisberger said.

It was one of the most thrilling finishes to the NFL title game, certainly equaling last year's upset by the New York Giants that ended with Plaxico Burress' TD catch — with 35 seconds left, too.

But this one was even wilder.

The Steelers (15-4), winning their second Super Bowl in four seasons, led 20-7 in the fourth quarter, only to see Kurt Warner and the Cardinals stage a remarkable rally to go in front 23-20 with 2:37 remaining.

Warner hit All-Pro receiver Larry Fitzgerald in stride for a 64-yard touchdown with 2:37 left. Already owning a slew of post-season receiving marks this year, Fitzgerald sped down the middle of the field, watching himself outrun the Steelers on the huge video screen.

Fitzgerald could only watch from the sideline as Roethlisberger engineered a 78-yard drive to win it in what resembled Heinz Field South. With waves of twirling Terrible Towels turning Raymond James Stadium into a black-and-gold tableau — Steelers fans supporting their beloved team, the economy be damned — Pittsburgh's offense rescued the title.

Holmes was selected the game's MVP.

"Great players step up in big-time games to make plays," Holmes said. "I kind of lost a little

composure, you know, but I knew our defense would give us a chance to make it back."

The stunning swings overshadowed Pittsburgh linebacker James Harrison's record 100-yard interception return for a touchdown to end the first half. That looked like the signature play until the final quarter, when both teams shook off apparent knockout punches to throw haymakers of their own.

Big Ben and Holmes struck the last blow, and when Warner fumbled in the final seconds, the Cardinals' dream of winning their first NFL crown since 1947 were gone.

"I said it's now or never, I told the guys all the film study you put in doesn't matter unless you do it now," Roethlisberger said. "I'm really proud of the way they responded."

The Cardinals (12-8), playing in their first Super Bowl and first championship game of any kind since 1948, lost their composure after Harrison's heroics. They had three penalties to keep Pittsburgh's 79-yard drive going, a 16-play march that ended with Jeff Reed's 21-yard field goal for a 20-7 lead.

And they couldn't get Fitzgerald free until very late. But boy did he get free.

The All-Pro who already had set a postseason record for yards receiving and had five touchdowns in the playoffs was a nonentity until an 87-yard fourth-quarter drive he capped with a leaping 1-yard catch over Ike Taylor. He made four receptions on that series on which Warner hit all eight passes for all the yards.

And then he struck swiftly for the 64-yarder that put Arizona within minutes of a remarkable victory.

A victory that didn't happen because the Steelers are as resilient as they come.

"I'm disappointed for our team," said Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt, the offensive coordinator in Pittsburgh when the Steelers won the 2005 title. "This

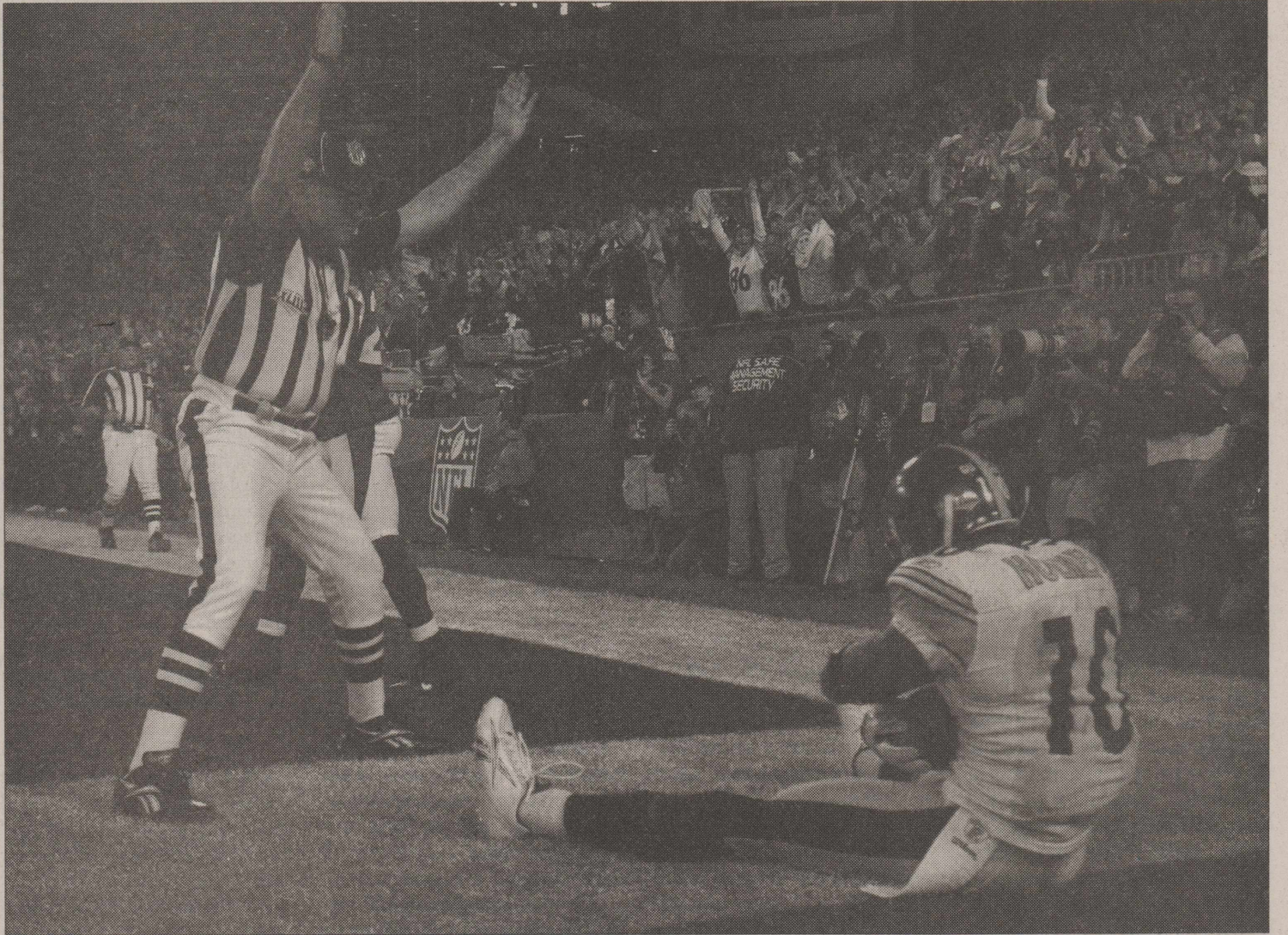


PHOTO BY BRIAN CASSELLA/The Associated Press
THE UMPIRE SIGNALS touchdown as Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Santonio Holmes (10) sits on the ground after scoring the final touchdown of Super Bowl XLIII. The score lifted his team to a 27-23 win in the fourth quarter against the Arizona Cardinals Sunday in Tampa, Fla.

is a group of men that I'm very proud of. They played very hard in circumstances where nobody believed in them.

"We learned a lot about our team, it's just unfortunate it had to come out that way."

Pittsburgh looked like the offensive juggernaut to open the game, smoothly driving 71 yards in eight plays. But the 72nd yard that would have given the Steelers a touchdown never came.

It seemingly had when Roethlisberger's short run was ruled a TD. Whisenhunt challenged, leaving Tomlin his first difficult decision.

He took the points, Reed's 18-

yard field goal, the shortest in a Super Bowl since 1976.

After forcing a punt, the Steelers kept the ball the remainder of the first quarter — 11:28 in all, outgaining Arizona 140-13, getting seven first downs to one for the Cardinals. As Warner and the usually potent Cardinals' offense watched, frustrated, from the sideline, Pittsburgh plowed it in on Gary Russell's 1-yard run to make it 10-0.

When Arizona finally got the ball back, it suddenly put the Steelers off-balance with short passes — and one huge play.

Warner had enough time to shine the NFL Man of the Year trophy he received just before

kickoff, then hit Anquan Boldin streaking from left to right. He was upended at the Pittsburgh 1, and Warner's lob to Ben Patrick got Arizona on the board. It was the tight end's first touchdown this season.

Arizona's defense then emulated the Steel Curtain with a big play. Bryan Robinson tipped Roethlisberger's pass high into the air and Karlos Dansby corralled it at the Pittsburgh 34. The Cardinals got to the 1, then, perhaps jealous, the Steelers' D asserted itself — magnificently.

Harrison, the defensive player of the year, stepped in front of Boldin at the goal line, picked off Warner's throw and began a

journey down the right sideline to the longest play in Super Bowl history.

Harrison ran past or through most of the Cardinals, nearly stepped out of bounds at one point, and was dragged down by Fitzgerald as he fell to the goal line. The play was reviewed as several Cardinals knelt on one knee, exhausted from the chase and disheartened by the result.

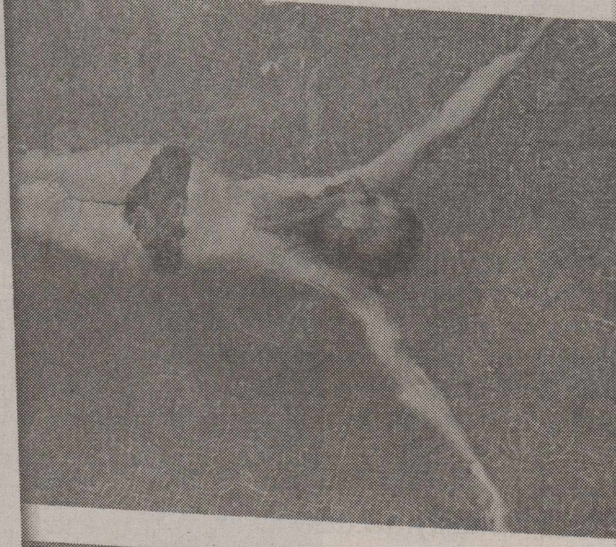
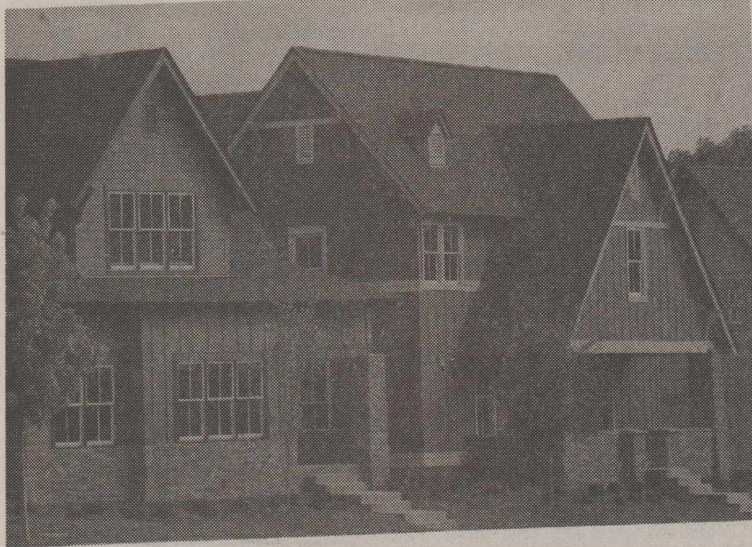
"I didn't see him around my offensive line," Warner said. "He made a great play and a great run to get them a touchdown."

The previous longest play was Desmond Howard's 99-yard kickoff return for Green Bay in 1997.

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