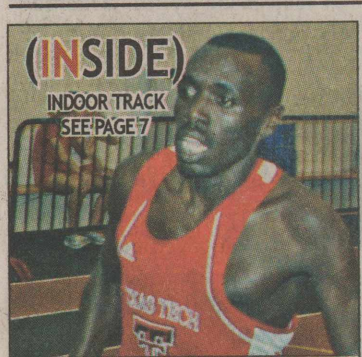




THE DAILY TOREADOR

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(INSIDE)
INDOOR TRACK
SEE PAGE 7

(INBRIEF)
STATE
Testimony begins on science, evolution

AUSTIN (AP) — The State Board of Education got an earful Wednesday from experts and activists concerned about the way evolution is taught in public schools.

Dozens of people, including a six-member expert review panel, lined up to testify as the board considers new science curriculum standards that will be in place for the next decade. The standards adopted also will dictate how publishers handle the topic in textbooks.

The crowd — as well as the review panel — was sharply split on the proposal to drop language in the current curriculum that requires teachers to address “strengths and weaknesses” of scientific theory.

NATION
Caroline Kennedy withdraws Senate bid

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Published reports say Caroline Kennedy is withdrawing her bid to join the U.S. Senate in the seat once held by her uncle, slain Sen. Bobby Kennedy.

The news is a shock to supporters and to New York Gov. David Paterson, who has said he hopes to make an appointment by the weekend.

Citing personal reasons, Kennedy ended her monthlong bid to succeed Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who was confirmed as secretary of state Wednesday.

WORLD
First war tally: 1,284 Gazans dead

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Squatting in the rubble, his briefcase perched atop his knees, the human rights researcher interviewed residents of a house shelled by Israel as he compiled a list of Gazans killed and wounded during Israel's offensive against Hamas.

Yasser Abdel Ghafar's work is part of a painstaking endeavor by the Palestinian Center for Human Rights to count the casualties of the 23-day war. The group released a final tally Wednesday, saying 1,284 Gazans were killed and 4,336 wounded, the vast majority civilians.

DEATH TOLL
4229
U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began
SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

INSIDE	
Classifieds.....	7
Crossword.....	3
La Vida.....	5
Opinions.....	4
Sports.....	8

Gitmo war court halted at Obama request

By BEN FOX
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP) — The Guantanamo Bay war crimes court came to an abrupt halt Wednesday as military judges granted President Barack Obama's request to suspend proceedings while he reviews his predecessor's strategy for prosecuting terrorists.

The judges quickly agreed to a

120-day suspension of the cases of a Canadian accused of killing an American soldier in Afghanistan and five men charged in the Sept. 11 attacks. Similar orders are expected in other pending cases pending before the Guantanamo military commissions.

Judge Stephen Henley, an Army colonel presiding over the Sept. 11 trial, accepted the prosecution argument that it would be in the “interests of justice” to give the new administration time to review the commission

process and decide what to do next, a decision tied closely to Obama's pledge to close the detention center.

The five charged in the Sept. 11 attacks had said they wanted to plead guilty to charges that carry potential death sentences and their alleged ringleader, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, told the court he opposes the delay.

“We should continue so we don't go backward, we go forward,” said Mohammed, who shrugged off the

prospect of a death sentence at a pretrial hearing at the base earlier in the week.

Another judge agreed to a suspension in the case of Canadian Omar Khadr with a one-sentence order.

Obama's order to seek a suspension of the proceedings came just hours after his inauguration.

Prosecutor Clay Trivett said all pending cases should be suspended because the new administration's review of the military commissions system

may result in significant changes that could have legal consequences for the defendants.

In Washington, the administration circulated a draft executive order that calls for closing the detention center within a year and reviewing the cases of all the nearly 245 still held. The government would release some, transfer others and put the rest on trial under terms still to be determined. It was not known when Obama intended to issue the order.

LEFTOVERS

Crabtree merchandise sales dwindle as former Texas Tech receiver enters NFL Draft

By HANNAH BOEN
STAFF WRITER

Former Texas Tech receiver Michael Crabtree's recent decision to enter the NFL Draft has left some local retail stores with more crabs than they bargained for.

Some store owners have found it difficult to sell some crab-related merchandise that was flying off the shelves last fall.

Although NCAA rules kept retailers from stocking Crabtree-specific items, the Red and Black Bookstore saw a demand for crab hats and jewelry, which owner Chris Toelle said they successfully sold during the football season.

“They'll probably have to be given away because I doubt anyone will buy them now,” Toelle said, “unless Mike Leach finds another good guy with crab in his name.”

Although Crabtree merchandise was popular last season, Toelle said the success of the entire team was what drove their sales more than the success of a single player.

Both Toelle and other local store owners agreed NCAA rules caused difficulties.

“When Crabtree was a freshman, we'd do the shirts with a crab and a tree,” Toelle said, “but everyone in town was told to stop making that stuff.”

Even with a halt put on some

items, Alan Berger, the owner of Campus Design and Double T Zone, said his stores successfully sold hats, jerseys and T-shirts bearing the number five, and they will continue to do so until the demand goes away.

Berger had no complaints about losing the player who generated a money-spending fan base, and he said he will continue to be a Crabtree fan.

“We're happy if he does well,” he said, “and I will be a fan of whatever team he goes to.”

Red Raider Outfitter's manager Mary Oaks said the store has had no trouble selling any jerseys or T-shirts related to Crabtree, and in fact, customers are still purchasing clothing after the player's decision to leave the team.

“There's a customer buying his stuff right now,” she said while working in the store, “and it will continue to sell through the summer and next year, I think.”

The store purchased a large order of number five jerseys before Christmas, Oaks said, and the entire order has left the shelves. However, Red Raider Outfitters is selling No. 5 and former Tech quarterback Graham Harrell jerseys at a discounted price.

Oaks said she has not been as fortunate with other crab memorabilia, and she expects to have to absorb the cost of dozens of plastic crabs bought for last year's Crabtree fans.

While some stores have marked



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH JERSEYS are not on sale at Campus Design on 98th Street and Quaker Avenue, because retailers hope the next No. 5 player generates as much fan devotion as former Tech receiver Michael Crabtree.

down No. 5 merchandise, a few store owners are waiting to see the potential of the next player wearing No. 5.

The manager of the Campus Design South Plains Mall location, Doug Tipton, said he has been in the

business long enough to know that someone else eventually will play for Tech wearing a No. 5 jersey.

In the meantime, Tipton said he has seen the potential of making money with a winning team and believes the Crabtree merchandise

will continue to sell.

“We don't think we'll lose any money on it,” he said. “Our income will come indirectly, and we still sell merchandise for a great university.”

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GM falls behind Toyota in annual global sales

By BREE FOWLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) — Toyota Motor Corp. sold more cars and trucks worldwide than any other automaker last year, seizing the crown General Motors Corp. held for 77 years. But with its overall sales having fallen for the first time in 10 years and the entire industry mired in a slump, there's little for the Japanese company to celebrate.

GM said Wednesday it sold 8,355,947 cars and trucks around the world in 2008, falling about 616,000 vehicles short of the 8.972 million Toyota announced Tuesday. GM said the shortfall was mainly caused by the economic downturns in the U.S. and Europe that slashed vehicle demand in those major markets, where Toyota doesn't have as large of a presence.

Mike DiGiovanni, GM's executive director of global market and industry analysis, down-

played the significance of the drop to No. 2, saying that the automaker is focused on profitability rather than sales volume.

“I don't think being No. 1 in vehicle sales means much at all to the American consumer,” DiGiovanni said in a conference call with reporters and analysts. “I think what matters most to the consumer is strong brands and strong products. And the key thing right now with what the industry is going through now is viability and profitability.”

Detroit-based GM, which has closed plants and laid off workers to cut production as it faces the worst U.S. auto market in more than 25 years, received a \$13.4 billion lifeline from the federal government last month. But the bailout requires GM to submit a plan for long-term viability, and the loan may be called back if the government hasn't determined by March 31 that

the plan can succeed.

DiGiovanni said all automakers are currently facing risks and challenges not seen since the Great Depression, and he pointed out that even Toyota expects to post an operating loss for the current fiscal year — its first in 70 years.

Toyota's overall global sales fell 4 percent for 2008, marking that automaker's first decline in a decade. The Japanese automaker has cut production in both North America and Japan to align its product offerings with slowing consumer demand.

GM posted an 11 percent drop in global sales, including a 21 percent drop in North America. GM Europe sales fell 6.5 percent, including a 21 percent plunge in the fourth quarter as the global economy melted down.

Those declines were partially offset by a 3.2 percent increase in sales at GM's Latin

America, Africa and Middle East region, and 2.7 percent growth in Asia-Pacific sales. Sales outside of the U.S. accounted for 64 percent of GM's global sales in 2008, up from 59 percent the year before.

Toyota's move into the top sales spot wasn't unexpected. The automaker nearly leapfrogged GM in 2007, selling only about 3,000 fewer vehicles than the U.S. company did that year.

DiGiovanni said Toyota's move to the top of the sales rankings doesn't necessarily signal a turning point in the industry. He said it's entirely possible that GM could regain the No. 1 spot once U.S. and European markets recover and sales in key emerging markets pick up.

“That story has yet to be written,” DiGiovanni said. “Nobody knows what's going to happen.”

GM shares rose 3 cents to end at \$3.53, while Toyota's U.S. shares rose \$1.64, or 2.5 percent, to \$67.52.

	TODAY Partly Cloudy High 80 Low 46		Friday Mostly Sunny High 71 Low 27		Saturday Sunny High 58 Low 32		Sunday Mostly Sunny High 62 Low 35		Monday Few Showers High 55 Low 32
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Tech provides aid to Lockney High School

By MATT COBB
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech University Library is lending textbooks to Lockney High School after a fire destroyed its facilities last week.

Lockney High School — which is located about 60 miles northeast of Lubbock — caught on fire Jan. 4 because of an apparent arson. Two female suspects are in custody.

Tech is trying to provide assistance to the school in anyway possible, said Laura Heinz, the head of information services at Tech's library.

"We are simply wanting to make sure the teachers and students have the materials they need to go forward in the classroom," she said.

Tech's library is lending out textbooks to the school, Heinz said. The university only lent out teacher editions of state adopted texts, and so far has lent about 100 textbooks to the high school.

Tech's library has a collection of both teacher and student editions of high school textbooks for every subject in its facilities, she said. The books are for education majors so they can have access to the materials for learning purposes.

Tech is using a library van to pick up and return books, Heinz said. Right now, volunteers are not needed to provide assistance in the exchange process.

"(Lending books) is not costing Tech anything," she said. "It takes some time, but that's okay. It's nothing monetary."

Lockney students are encouraged to sign up for library cards, Heinz said, because the library allows community members to get library cards to use the facilities.

The university is coordinating with Region 17 Education Service Center to help provide needed materials, she said. The center is an organization that provides support to schools in its region.

Many schools and universities in the state have made contributions to the Lockney School District, said Jerry Hogue, a field service agent at the Region 17 ESC.

"I've actually gotten calls from other parts of the state asking how they could help out," he said.

The center sent a list of items and textbooks that Lockney High School needed, and a large amount of people have contributed aid, Hogue said.

Todd Hallmark, the principal of Lockney High School, said the amount of aid and support the school has received is "fantastic." Schools, businesses and individuals have made contributions to assist Lockney students.

"(Neighboring school districts) have been awesome," Hallmark said. "They have called offering anything we may need to use from textbooks to other resources."

The textbooks Tech has lent have been very beneficial to the school, he said. The school should have all of the textbooks it needs by the beginning of next week.



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

TOM ROHRIG, ASSOCIATE librarian, Arlene Paschel, sciences librarian, and Jack Becker, Associate librarian, were appointed to gather information and to work with Region 17 on what Lockney High School needs were as a result of a school fire.

The high school now is focusing more of its needs on teacher and student supplies, Hallmark said.

Lockney High students are using the First Baptist Church in town as a temporary classroom facility, he said. The

school will relocate to portable buildings within the next two or three weeks.

"We're thankful to everyone for helping us get back on our feet and keeping us moving on," Hallmark said.

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Scientist: New fault could mean major Ark. temblor

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A previously unknown fault in eastern Arkansas could trigger a magnitude 7 earthquake with an epicenter near a major natural gas pipeline, a scientist said Wednesday.

Haydar Al-Shukri, the director of the Arkansas Earthquake Center at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, said the fault is separate from the New Madrid fault responsible for a series of quakes in 1811-12 that caused the Mississippi River to flow backward.

Acres of cotton fields cover the fault west of Marianna, about 100 miles east of Little Rock, but stretches of fine sand mixed with fertile soil gave away the fault's location, Al-Shukri said. Liquefied sand bubbled up through cracks in the earth, while ground radar and digs showed vents that let the sand reach the surface, he said.

The fault, likely created in the last 5,000 years, sparked at least one magnitude 7 earthquake in its history. Such temblors cause massive destruction in their wake.

"This is a very, very dangerous (area) at risk of earthquake," Al-Shukri said. "When you talk about (magnitude) 7 and plus, this is going to be a major disaster."

Al-Shukri did not identify a time frame for the potential earthquake.

Such a quake would affect Little Rock and neighboring states such as Tennessee and Mississippi, Al-Shukri said.

The researcher has said a gas pipeline crossed the newly discovered fault. He declined to name the company that owned the pipeline, but said it was building a large line through the area, mirroring the old one's path.

A map made by the Arkansas Public Service Commission shows an Arkla Energy Resources pipe in the area. CenterPoint Energy Inc., which owns Arkla, did not return a call for comment Wednesday.

Clint Stephens, the chief of pipeline safety at the commission, said the federal government would oversee any interstate lines. A call to U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Pipeline Safety was not immediately returned.

Hundreds of earthquakes occur each year, including several in Arkansas. Most Arkansas earthquakes occur in the state's northeast corner in the New Madrid Seismic Zone, but Al-Shukri said the Marianna fault was not connected because it was too far from the temblors caused by that zone.

Tara West building expected to be sold to bidder

By MIKE GRAHAM
STAFF WRITER

The Lubbock City Council will vote today on finalizing a contract to sell the Tara West building.

Regardless of the outcome of the vote, one thing is for sure: The building will not stay put.

Larry Hertel, a city engineer, said the City of Lubbock purchased the Tara West building for \$1.9 million for the rights to move it or demolish it to expand Slide Road into a five-lane road between Fourth Street and Loop 289, and eventually beyond.

"Because of the building, everything is all at an angle," he said.

The building is located at 5204 Fourth St., at the intersection of Fourth Street and Slide Road.

Sally Abbe, a city employee who works with the Planning Committee, said the Tara West building officially was acquired by the city in October.

According to the City of Lubbock's Request For Proposals on the building, which was the avenue for the city to accept bids in the auction, the city was seeking the best solution regarding the Tara West Building.

A request for proposal binds the City of Lubbock by law to accept the best proposal, but not necessarily the most cost-effective solution.

Councilman Paul Beane, District 4 City Council representative, said the expansion of Slide Road is part of a project to enhance the economic

growth of northwest Lubbock.

"We have got to make room for the Northwest Passage," he said.

"This is a part of our plan to increase the accessibility to northwest Lubbock to enhance economic development on that side of town."

Beane said the city purchased the building and considered physically dismantling it and moving it to a location on Buddy Holly Avenue to serve as the city's visitor's center. Those plans fell through because it was not seen as economically feasible.

"I think everyone, myself included, would like to see the building preserved," he said. "But the building has numerous problems. Moving it would be a logistical nightmare."

Rob Allison, an assistant city manager for development, said moving the building alone would cost about \$80,000. The city had consultants look at the building, and it was determined the city also would have to pay to bring the building up to code, build a new roof and foundation, and update the utilities including plumbing and electrical wiring.

"There was little or no savings in using that building," he said.

Beane said the city determined to auction off the building. The auction deadline was Jan. 7, but no bids were received. City council extended the deadline and received at least one offer.

Marta Alvarez, the City of Lub-

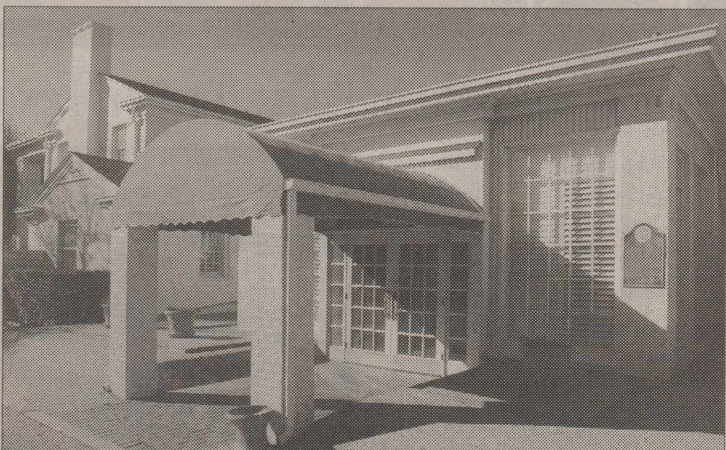


PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFFIELD/The Daily Toreador

THE TARA WEST building Monday at 4th and Slide Rd.

bock's Purchasing Manager, said due to the contract on the building not being finalized, no information regarding bids received can be released.

The city councils agenda for today's meeting indicates the council will vote to authorize Mayor Tom Martin to execute a contract with a Mike L. Haggard for the sale of the city-owned Tara West building.

Linda DeLeon, District 1 City Council representative, said the contract is expected to be approved.

"It should be a piece of cake to get (the contract) approved," she said. "At one time we were going to demolish it. We'll take the bid and move on."

The Tara West building was constructed in 1941 for John King, a legendary baseball player in the Texas League, according to the historical information section of the RFP. The home is built to look like the "Tara" home from the movie "Gone With the Wind."

The home was sold by the King family in 1948 to the W.E. Armstrong family who lived in the house and farmed in the acres surrounding it, according to the RFP.

In 1980, the Armstrong family sold the building to Tara Land Company, according to the RFP. The surrounding land was developed into a subdivision and Slide Road was extended. Later, the house was converted into a restaurant named Tara, and then the building was converted to office use for Rip Griffin Companies.

The City of Lubbock designated the Tara West Building a Lubbock Historic Landmark Feb. 14, 1980, according to the RFP. The building is not a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and is not on the National Register of Historic Places. The Texas Department of Transportation and Texas Historical Commission determined the property was not eligible for the National Register.

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Architecture majors now required to study abroad

The College of Architecture is requiring all of its undergraduate students to study abroad after their senior year.

Associate Academic Dean Michael Peters said the college made summer studying abroad — to take their final undergraduate studio in one of six summer abroad programs — a requirement because architecture is an international practice.

"Architecture students should get some experience abroad," he said. "At some point in their lives, most will be working abroad anyway."

He said it is a great idea for students to study abroad, regardless of their studies.

"This also gives students another cultural perspective," Peters said.

According to a survey by the International Cultural Center, 57 percent of Tech students express the desire to study abroad at some point of their college career, while only 11 percent actually do.

Clint McClain, a first-year architecture student, is among those who would like to study abroad at some point in their college careers.

"Going to another country to examine the architecture there is better than staying here and looking at the Americanized view of architecture,"

McClain said.

He said he feels it is a necessary experience.

"We need to know how other cultures represent architecture," McClain said. "Seeing is better than reading about it."

The College of Architecture's six study abroad programs are located in France, Spain, Mexico, Belgium, Nicaragua and Canada.

While studying abroad, Tech architecture majors live in varying conditions.

In Seville, Spain, students live with host families, while those in Montreal, Canada, usually share apartments.

In Paris, France, students stay at the American University of Paris.

Typically, students studying abroad take one-week trips to tourist locations close to their places of study after completing their summer studies.

Prior to making this study abroad program mandatory, students had the choice of a summer abroad or "practicum + studio" in Dallas, Houston, San Antonio or El Paso, in which the students worked full-time in architectural firms and attended a studio class taught by Tech faculty in each city, Peters said in an e-mail.

Only graduate students now will enroll in the "practicum + studio" which will run for seven months.

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THURSDAY		JANUARY 22, 2009	
STATION	KTXT	KCBD	KLBK
AFFILIATION	PBS Lubbock	NBC Lubbock	CBS Lubbock
7 AM	Curious	Today Sched-uled: Dr. Nancy Snyderman; the cost of adoption; the perfect pie crust; fashion expert Jacqui Stafford (HD)	The Early Show
8 AM	Super Why	Clifford	Copeland Robison
9 AM	Sesame Street	Price Is Right (HD)	Believer's J. Hanna
10 AM	Dragon Word	The 700 Club	Divorce Payne
11 AM	Barney	Jeopardy	Divorce Payne
12 PM	Quilling News	Restless (HD)	Cosby
1 PM	Watercolor	News	Cosby
2 PM	Beads	Days of Our Lives	The Morning Show
3 PM	Place	As the World	The People's Court
4 PM	Between Lion	The Doctors	Roseanne
5 PM	Reading	Guiding Light	Farm Court
6 PM	Arthur	Oprah Winfrey	Farm Court
7 PM	WordGirl	Brown	Judge Jeanine
8 PM	FETCHI	Dr. Phil	General Hospi-tal
9 PM	Cyber	Judy	Judge Mathis
10 PM	Maya	News	Extra
11 PM	Bus. Rpt	News	Access
12 AM	NewsHour	News	Maury
1 PM	Old House	Earl (HD)	Maury
2 PM	Story	Kath & Kim	Maury
3 PM	Story	Office	Maury
4 PM	Soundstage	CSI: Crime	Maury
5 PM	Bus. Rpt	ER: Neola	Maury
6 PM	WorldFocus	The Tonight Show	Maury
7 PM	Rose	(11:37) Late Night	Maury
8 PM	Destinos	Last Call	Maury
9 PM	Geography	Paid Prog.	Maury

BONES

7:00PM TONIGHT

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Powder mailed to newspaper, law school

NEW YORK (AP) — Authorities investigating white powder found in envelopes at New York's Wall Street Journal say similar mail was received at Harvard Law School in Massachusetts.

Police evacuated about 250 people from the Journal's Manhattan newsroom and executive

offices Wednesday after about a dozen envelopes were found. FBI spokesman James Margolin says five employees were decontaminated as a precaution.

A newspaper spokeswoman said the New York mail was addressed to several executives. The postmark was Knoxville, Tenn., but each letter had a different return address.

The FBI in Knoxville said another letter with powder and a Knoxville postmark was received at Harvard Law School, addressed to political commentator Alan Dershowitz. He recently published an opinion piece in the Journal defending Israel's actions in Gaza. It wasn't immediately clear if Dershowitz was at Harvard when the letter arrived.

The Journal is published by Dow Jones & Co., a division of the media and entertainment company News Corp.

The FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces in New York and Knoxville in partnership with the United States Postal Inspection Service were investigating the incidents. The Department of Homeland Security was monitoring the situation.

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10 - One Hour Swedish Massage Sessions for only \$400.00 (savings of \$150.00)

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Report: 49 deaths in Texas child-care facilities, none reported in Lubbock

By KENDYL SEBESTA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Web site reported the deaths of 49 children in Texas due to unregulated child care from 2004 to 2007, but none of the deaths were reported in Lubbock County.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Web site reported several circumstances could cause death in young children. Cribs that contain soft bedding and do not meet safety standards, unsafe playground surfacing and maintenance, the improper use or absence of child safety gates, and the accessibility of hazardous clothing, window chords, and recalled products are the leading causes of child death in Texas child care centers and homes.

Greg Cunningham, spokesman for the Lubbock Department of Family and Protective Services, said Texas family child care homes and child care centers become unregulated and illegal when they are not listed, registered or licensed with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

"Often family homes are not registered or listed with the department because they are not aware that the law requires them to," he said. "Once they become aware, they usually work with us without any problem."

Listed family homes typically care for one or two unrelated children and undergo background checks and initial inspections, Cunningham said, which require the homes to adhere to a set of minimum safety standards established by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

"We do not conduct regular inspections of listed family homes outside the initial inspection," he said. "To get out and inspect all the homes is very hard. It is a question of scale and resources."

The absence of continual inspections also prevents the department from ensuring listed family homes meet the one-to-two child requirement for listed status, Cunningham said.

"The law requires them to report increased numbers," he said, "but there is no one going out and checking up on them every month."

Cunningham said listed family homes are monitored in other ways by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

"Listed family homes are issued a certificate once they pass initial inspections," he said. "The certificates must be renewed annually and new background checks have to be submitted at that time too."

A \$20 annual certificate renewal and \$2 annual background check are the only departmental costs incurred by listed family



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador
MICHELLE ELLIOTT, A preschool teacher at the Child Development Research Center, reads "Pirate Girl" to a group of students at the center's playground Wednesday.

homes, Cunningham said.

Registered child care homes are inspected by the department every one to two years while licensed child care homes undergo inspection every 12 months, according to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Web site. Listed, registered and licensed child care homes all face inspection if the department receives a report alleging child abuse or neglect.

Child care homes that provide care for six children who are less than 14 years of age and six school-aged children must be registered with the department, according to the Web site. Licensed child care homes may provide care for seven to 12 unrelated children.

Licensed child care centers are held to the same standards and regulations as licensed child care homes, according to the department's Web site, but may provide care for seven or more children who are less than 14 years of age. The Web site reported licensed child care providers must submit a \$35 non-refundable application fee for an initial license to operate, a \$35 provisional license fee, a \$35 fee for child care operation, and a \$35 annual fee for all licensed child care operators. Licenses do not expire unless revoked by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

Carrie Hodnett, associate director of the Christine DeVitt and Helen DeVitt Jones Child Development Research Center, said the center legally must follow the standards of a licensed child care home.

"We are both licensed and accredited," she said, "which means we offer certain things like a much smaller child-to-teacher ratio."

Hodnett said the Child Development Research Center maintains a 1-to-9 teacher-to-child ratio in its preschool classrooms, a 1-to-7 ratio in its toddler classrooms and a 1-to-3 ratio for infant care.

"The ratios can actually be much smaller," she said, "because we typically have one or two extra assistants in our classrooms at all times."

Hodnett said licensed and accredited child care centers are subject to higher standards of care.

"Licensed facilities have accountability," she said. "I think when you don't have that accountability you are less likely to have the potential for a healthy environment."

The Child Development Research Center is inspected regularly by licensing officials, Hod-

nett said.

"Licensing officials can drop in unannounced to do regulation checks at any time," she said. "Typically they visit us once a year, but they can definitely show up at anytime."

Cunningham said parents can protect their child's safety by researching and visiting child care centers or homes.

"We would always rather there be more safe options for parents than not," Cunningham said. "We try to make sure child care providers are doing the right thing, but it is up to the parents to take responsibility for their child's safety."

Parents can avoid placing their child in unregulated care by visiting the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Web site, he said, to learn whether their child care provider meets listing, registration or licensing requirements.

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REGULATIONS FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Listed:
One or two unrelated children.
Must provide any information on increased numbers.

Registered:
Up to six children. Must be under 14 years old.

Licensed:
Seven to 12 children. Must be under 14 years old. Children may not be under care of licensed provider more than a day at a time.

North Korea, Iran open to US efforts

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea and Iran, two nations with nuclear aspirations the U.S. wants to thwart, both signaled Wednesday that they were open to new initiatives from President Barack Obama that could defuse tensions.

A newspaper considered a mouthpiece for the North Korean government said the communist regime is willing to give up its nuclear weapons if the U.S. agrees to conditions imposed by the North, including establishing formal diplomatic relations.

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China censors translation of Obama's inauguration address

BEIJING (AP) — China censored its translation of President Barack Obama's inauguration speech, removing references to communism and dissent, and quickly halted state television's live broadcast of the address when Cold War-era animosities were mentioned.

One television official tried to downplay the cutaway as a normal break in programming while an editor with the China Daily newspaper's Web site said staff who censored on-line versions of the speech likely did so because they were "duty-bound to protect the country's interests."

The news channel of state broadcaster China Central Television broadcast the speech live early Wednesday local time, but appeared caught off-guard by Obama's reference to how earlier generations of Americans had "faced down fascism and communism."

The audio quickly faded out from Obama's speech and cameras cut back to the studio anchor, who seemed flustered for a second before turning to ask a U.S.-based CCTV reporter what challenges the president faces in turning around the economy.

China's ruling Communist Party maintains a tight grip over its entirely state-run media. Beijing tolerates little dissent and frequently decries foreign interference in its internal affairs.

Wang Jianhong, deputy director of the CCTV general editing department, said he did not stay up to watch the inauguration-broadcast but suggested the transition was a normal part of the program.

"There are breakaways even when broadcasting China's own meetings," he said. "Americans might care a lot about the presidential inauguration, but Chinese may not be very interested."

Politician escapes bombing in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — A top official of Iraq's biggest Sunni party escaped assassination in a Baghdad car bombing that killed at least two other people Wednesday — only 10 days ahead of an election that could reshape local power bases.

The U.S. military blamed al-Qaida in Iraq for the attack against Ziyad al-Ani, deputy secretary-general of the Iraqi Is-

lamic Party and dean of the Islamic University, a Sunni institution.

His party said the blast was a "dangerous indication" of the perilous security in Iraq, even as President Barack Obama prepares to shift America's focus to Afghanistan.

The car blew up near al-Ani's convoy as it traveled through the former Sunni insurgent stronghold of Azamiyah in northern Baghdad.

Obama takes presidential oath — again

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chief Justice John Roberts administered the presidential oath of office to Barack Obama for a second time, just to be on the safe side.

The unusual step came after Roberts flubbed the oath Tuesday, causing Obama to repeat the word-

ing differently than as prescribed in the Constitution.

White House counsel Greg Craig said Obama took the oath from Roberts again out of an "abundance of caution."

The chief justice and the president handled the matter privately in the Map Room Wednesday night.

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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS
1 Lanterns
6 Elicit
11 Fathers
14 Numb
15 Animal toxin
16 Sales agt.
17 "West Side Story" heroine
18 Slur over
19 Raw mineral
20 Start of a quip
22 Triumph
23 Fox chaser?
24 Ocean speck
26 Of poor quality
29 Spoiled kids
32 Blaze the trail
33 Part 2 of quip
37 Bobby of the Bruins
38 OCA sites
40 Coffee server
41 Part 3 of quip
43 Manitoba tribe
44 Gray and Moran
45 Lists of candidates
47 Donkey calls
50 Long, narrow inlets
51 Set the pace
52 End of quip
59 Publishing grp.
60 Concerning bees
61 City on Baranof Island
62 Dine
63 Dogie catcher
64 Range of the Rockies
65 Superlative ending
66 Martin of "Apocalypse Now"
67 Borneo ape, briefly

DOWN
1 Peru's capital
2 First grandfather
3 Actress Sorvino
4 Fingered, in a way
5 One way up
6 Special occasion
7 Mark for removal
8 Part of UNLV
9 Morse message
10 Honorable retirement title
11 Slink about
12 Eagle's nest
13 Exhausted
21 Tofu source
25 Draft org.
26 Coagulate
27 Queen of Olympus
28 Justice Warren
29 False
30 Decisive defeat
31 Vigoda or Burrows
33 Disney sci-fi flick
34 Mongol's tent
35 Shade source
36 Persons
38 Western lawmen
39 Kyoto sash
42 Vocal pitch
43 Register operator
45 Female sib
46 Stops in open water
47 Above it all
48 Picture puzzle
49 Alter to fit
50 Talk and talk
53 Moonfish
54 Sage
55 Foundation
56 Blues singer
57 Sacred image: var.
58 Caroled

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved
LEASH BONN ITEM
ERICA LVIII NHRA
AIDANQUINN TOTS
REARGUE JEROMES
VEE PARANA
SNEER WAS VESTS
WARS DPW GERMAN
IRR SAMNUNN ARU
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Morality innate, not divine gift from above

It can and should be argued from the dissident point of view that human morality does not come by way of some omnipotent spirit or benign celestial entity of the sky. Indeed, the religious soul filled with eccentric piety seems to insinuate and condone with unequivocal arrogance, quite plainly, that this is not the case.

For the zealous believer, there can be no morality amongst us as human brothers and sisters without having the driving eminent force of a divine creator. This is a fantastically arrogant claim, if I may speak truthfully — and it is essentially based by those who freely impose upon others their knowledge of God, (that is, a knowledge supposedly bestowed to them from his graces).

Yet, even if I did regurgitate what I would hope you already know about the hate — that is, the sermons filled with degrading fervor towards specific social classes, whether it be ethnicity, sexual orientation, political views and so on — from reverends such as Pat Robertson, Fred Phelps or the late Jerry Falwell — the moderate believer will still claim that I am but cherry-picking my targets.

This is indubitably so. I am choosing the hardcore sect of the religious fundamentalists in America, but it is not a decision made simply because of how silly and ludicrous their words actually are. It is rather a decision made urgently, which should be met by immediate discussion amongst all of us, especially since we are one of the last surviving species on this fraction of a dot in the vast and beautiful cosmos we call our universe.

I have a message for these ridiculous “men of God,” and if I come across with harshness, it is not my intention. Actually, strike that. I’ll take it back. This is on purpose. The problem is not the unbeliever. It’s Fundamentalism itself.



Parker Mcmillan

If anything is to be said of the bedrock justifications of Fundamentalism, I must say that the statement begs itself and many in the religious sects of the world believe it is unambiguous, so here is what is normally preached: that without a creator, a god of some kind, there can be no morality because everything is permissible. Allow me the opportunity to shine a light on why this statement is obtuse, ignorant, unpalatable and scientifically just plain wrong.

Imagine there was no science or astronomy, no archaeology or any other branches of erudite knowledge. Imagine with me even more, back to a primitive and archaic time, when there was no real philosophy, only mythology. It is a difficult task indeed to comprehend such a lifestyle, especially in the period we now live.

We know from scientific research and brilliant minds such as Stephen Jay Gould, Carl Sagan and Richard Dawkins that Homo sapiens have been in existence for at least 100,000 years at the earliest. Some researchers trace our origin back as far as 250,000 years, but 100,000 will do just fine. If there was no morality within our hearts, and we were in fact wild, capricious and ferocious beings who are naturally jealous, we never would have made it this far.

It isn’t a farfetched theory to assert that our charismatic tendencies or our ethics, virtues and companionship qualities are innate in us. It would be impossible to say that we would still be a species in coexistence with one another if this were not the case.

Oh wait — I can hear it being uttered now. “But what about the terrible men such as Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin or Mao Zedong who had no morality? Who refused to believe univocal human solidarity?” I am emphatically comfortable expressing that there are those who refuse to live in harmony with others, especially because of diverse ideologies. I’m not going to attempt to defend anything those embarrassing souls have done, nor would I want to if the opportunity arose.

However, it must be said that morality is not the only thing that is innate in humans. As well as morality is innate in us, so is anxiety, misery, loneliness and fear. Let’s just face it like champs: people are scared of death, perceivably because we simply don’t know what happens after death. We are afraid to die and afraid of the dark and afraid of the unknown.

People prefer theories, whether they be of conspiracy or not, to no theory at all. It is comforting to imagine an existence beyond this one, and even more so to convince our hearts that this is the case. But that doesn’t make it true. And no matter what, we should never forget there have been thousands and thousands of different opinions on the matter. Isn’t it interesting how everyone is absolutely convinced that his or her belief is the correct one, too.

Again, the pinnacle reason behind writing about why I am confident that morality is innate is because I simply do not believe we would have made it this far without traces of harmony in our hearts. We would have died out like all of the other species that are now extinct.

■ Mcmillan is a sophomore English and philosophy major from Abilene. E-mail him at parker.mcmillan@ttu.edu.

Change we can’t see (yet)

By **KENNY RYAN**
THE BATTALION (TEXAS A&M)

This morning I woke up, got out of bed and dragged a comb across my head.

That’s when I realized I had been lied to.

The thing is, yesterday I woke up, got out of bed and dragged a comb across my head. It’s the same story the day before and the day before. You see the problem now, don’t you?

A certain “someone” promised me change, and I’m typically not one to finger-point, but — cough — Obama — cough — is a big fat phony liar. I want my change and I want it now.

I spent all morning looking for it, but it’s simply nowhere to be found. For a moment, I thought I had found it when I read there was a ceasefire between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Peace in the Middle East, I thought, that’s a good start for change. But then I realized the ceasefire has been in place since Saturday, and apparently a “cease-fire” doesn’t mean anyone has to cease firing.

Dejected, I recognized that I was still going to have to go to school. Devastated, I realized I still needed to graduate and find a job.

Defeated, I looked at my surroundings and found that everything was the same.

There wasn’t one iota of change to be found anywhere, not even under the couch cushions where it usually hides.

Before I signed off on life and put myself in a coma to avoid four years of disappointment, I consulted an expert to determine if maybe this lack of change was just a temporary thing. I mean, change can take time, so maybe I could expect it tomorrow or later this week.

Jon Bond, a political science professor at Texas A&M, said he couldn’t predict when the change Obama has promised might begin to take place.

“It depends a lot on the president,” Bond said. “Some presidents get off to a faster start than others,

and you’ve also got the context. A lot of the campaign promises made were made before this huge economic problem came up. Obama said that will be the number one priority, and other things will have to wait.”

Nobody knows when this change will arrive? Are you kidding me? For all I know, it might not even arrive this year. Even I can promise the sheets on my bed will eventually be changed at some point during the year.

How can the man expect a timetable of withdrawal from Iraq when he can’t even timetable his own change? Preposterous.

It is now obvious to me, clear as day; the change I was looking for just isn’t in the deck for me. I won’t be getting my free healthcare any time soon. I’ll still be paying for Iraq a year from now. And the 2010 national champion will still be a BCS concoction instead of the triumphant victor of an actual playoff system.

In today’s day and age I expect, I demand, instant gratification.

When I want to change my state of boredom, the Internet can have me entertained at the click of a button. When I want to change my state

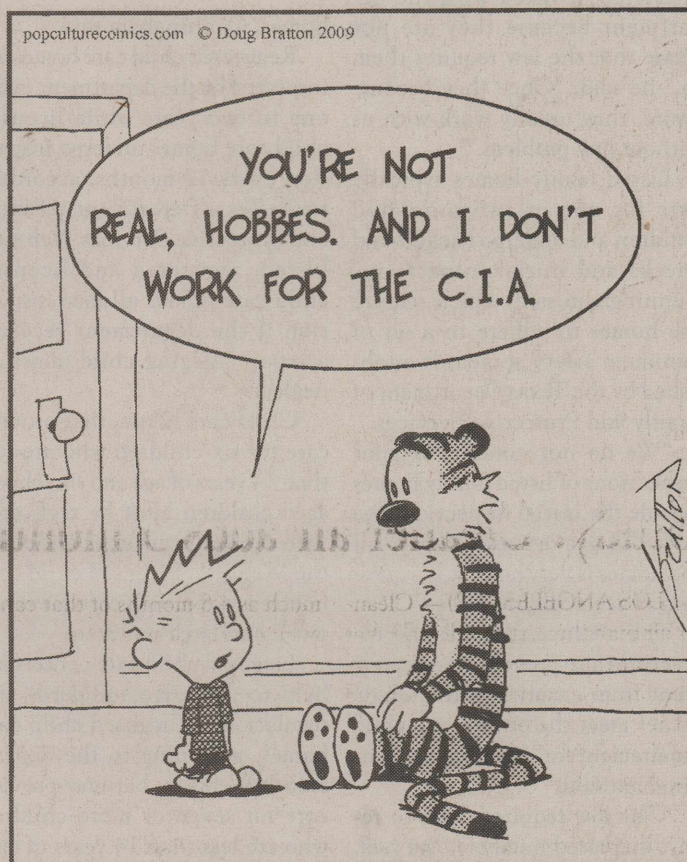
of hunger, I can have a microwaved meal within a minute. What we need from the new administration is an economic microwave that can resolve our woes with little to no permanent radiation damage.

I hate to say it, but it seems I may have to learn a little patience before I get to see the change I seek.

Patience is unheard of in this modern world of instant results; I have to think back hard to even remember the meaning of the word. Distantly, I remember a time when my family used the oven instead of the microwave to serve supper. Though my taste buds may have been ravaged by years of fast food and microwave dinners, the thought of a marinated steak after all these years is still enough to make my mouth water.

Mmm, steak. Patience might just be a good thing after all.

The question is, does the nation have enough patience to wait for results? I, myself, am skeptical. Four years of uncertainty lie ahead, and it will take time before change is delivered. Be it a burnt hot pocket or a succulent steak; only time and a dose of patience will tell.



Bill Watterson’s *A Beautiful Mind*

Israel, Palestine Facebook protesters showing commitment without cause

STAFF EDITORIAL
BROWN DAILY HERALD (BROWN U.)

Almost as soon as Israel started its invasion of Gaza, an unexpected front opened up across the Western world — the Facebook front.

Facebook members quickly “donated their status” to Israel or Palestine. Israel supporters counted Hamas rockets and fans of Gaza monitored civilian deaths. Europeans took to the streets, sort of the reality version of Facebook, and marched in the tens of thousands to show solidarity with Gaza or Israel.

Why are people, specifically Americans and Europeans, so vehemently protesting or supporting Israeli actions? They would have you believe that the answer is sympathy. Whether protesters are sympathizing with horrible living conditions in Gaza, Israelis under fire from Hamas rockets or victims

of state violence used by Israel, the protesters claim to respond to a perceived injustice.

With this as their rationale and the civilian and rocket counters clicking away in the blue and white Facebook background, the protests are quite confusing. It is very difficult to explain why a conflict that has been relatively peaceful has prompted 30,000 sympathetic people to march in Paris and possibly even more people to join our Facebook status war.

How can a conflict with 5,100 injured and another approximately 1,100 dead be considered peaceful? Context.

While the Sudanese genocide does get some attention, it is nothing compared to the response to Israel and Palestine’s latest war. More than 200,000 people have died there since 2003, and many others have been brutally displaced.

Other conflicts provide even greater perspective. Since 1991,

more than a million people are estimated to have died in Somalia. Millions more have fled their homes, while those that stay are in danger of rape and stoning.

The death toll in mostly Muslim Somalia, and the muted international response, belies the claim that these protests are purely religious in nature.

Of course, if state violence is the problem in Israel and Palestine, then why haven’t people taken to the streets to protest what is occurring in Zimbabwe, where Robert Mugabe’s government has terrorized its population and

refused to accept the results of an election?

You want real state violence?

Look at North Korea which has been described as a giant concentration camp where living conditions are “worse than indentured servitude.” Again, no large protests, no donated statuses, nothing.

And the reason that there were no protests over these significantly more destructive conflicts, but there HAVE been with regard to the current situation in Gaza, is simply fashion. It is more in vogue; it is sexier to ‘show solidarity with Gaza’

“With this as their rationale and the civilian and rocket counters clicking away in the blue and white Facebook background, the protests are quite confusing.”

than it is to focus on conflicts which exhibit much more completely and much more intensely, the problems people have with Israeli, or for that matter Palestinian, actions over the last several decades.

Israel is no closer to affecting Americans or Europeans than any of these other conflicts. Almost none of us Americans would even know there was a conflict in Gaza if not for the TV, the Internet and the newspaper. Excluding those of us with relatives in the region, a small minority, it doesn’t touch us.

During the buildup to the Iraq war, a favorite counterargument to invasion was that America was not invading North Korea when there was hard evidence that they had a WMD program. Surely, the Left insisted, this war was not about security but something else — be it oil or revenge. The same logic applies here. The protests are about ‘something else.’

Those who respond that these

conflicts are not in competition with one another are coping out. Of course, comparative horrors in other locations cannot be used to justify the actions in Israel and Gaza.

However, they do call into question the motives of those protesting for humanitarian reasons. If humans, regardless of their religion, race, ethnicity and gender, are really the central concern, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would be relegated to the backburner.

The question is not whether the protests come out of purely humanitarian motivation — they don’t. The real question, and one I have serious trouble answering, is: What about Zionism or anti-Zionism is so cool?

It is high time that those sympathizing with the civilians of Israel and Palestine re-examine their feelings and figure out why they are actually taking the sides they have chosen. It isn’t simply sympathy.

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Students pay tribute to Lunar New Year with wishing tree

By **CARRIE THORNTON**
STAFF WRITER

The Chinese Student Association began celebrating the Lunar New Year on Monday with events such as the Wishing Tree, which took place Wednesday in the Student Union Building.

"In the Chinese culture, instead of New Year's resolution, they celebrate with New Year wishes," said Jobi Martinez, director of the Cross-Cultural Academic Center. "Traditionally families would give red envelopes with money or other small gifts."

At the Wish Tree event, the association provided Chinese snacks and refreshments and a craft table where students could decorate a custom pocket to put their wish in.

Students were invited to write their wishes down and hang them on a Christmas tree. The tree was adorned with pockets and each was decorated differently; some were cut into shapes while others were designed with jewels and splashes of color.

Martinez said students can write their wishes and place them on the tree anytime during the remainder of the week. However, the tree will be moved to Allen Theatre where it will remain for the final event.

Hsiang-Ting Chen, president of the association, said Chinese families would usually write down wishes for good fortune and other things and put them in red envelopes with money and exchange them on New Year's Eve in hopes they will come true.

The Chinese New Year, which begins Jan. 26, celebrated the beginning



PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador

SHATINA CHEN, A graduate restaurant hotel and institutional management major, hangs a wish on the wish tree on Wednesday at an event celebrating the Lunar New Year in the Student Union Building.

of The Year of the Ox. The Lunar New Year takes place during the first three days of the first lunar month, which is either late January or early February.

The Chinese Student Association also played a Chinese New Year video that included traditional song and dance for students to watch.

"The turn-out was very good," Chen said. "We had several international and American students come who were interested about our culture, which is good."

She said this is the first time a Wish Tree event has occurred at Texas Tech, and she is glad students are taking

interest in the Chinese culture.

Chen said the Korean Movie Night, which will be part of the week-long celebration, is important because the association wanted to focus on Asian cultures other than Chinese.

Chen said the festivities will include a calligraphy workshop today at 11 a.m. in the Lubbock Room at the union building, a Korean Movie Night tomorrow at 6 p.m. in the Escondido Theatre, and the closing ceremony will start at 6 p.m. Saturday in the Allen Theatre.

► carrie.thornton@ttu.edu

AN ENGINEER'S EXPLANATION

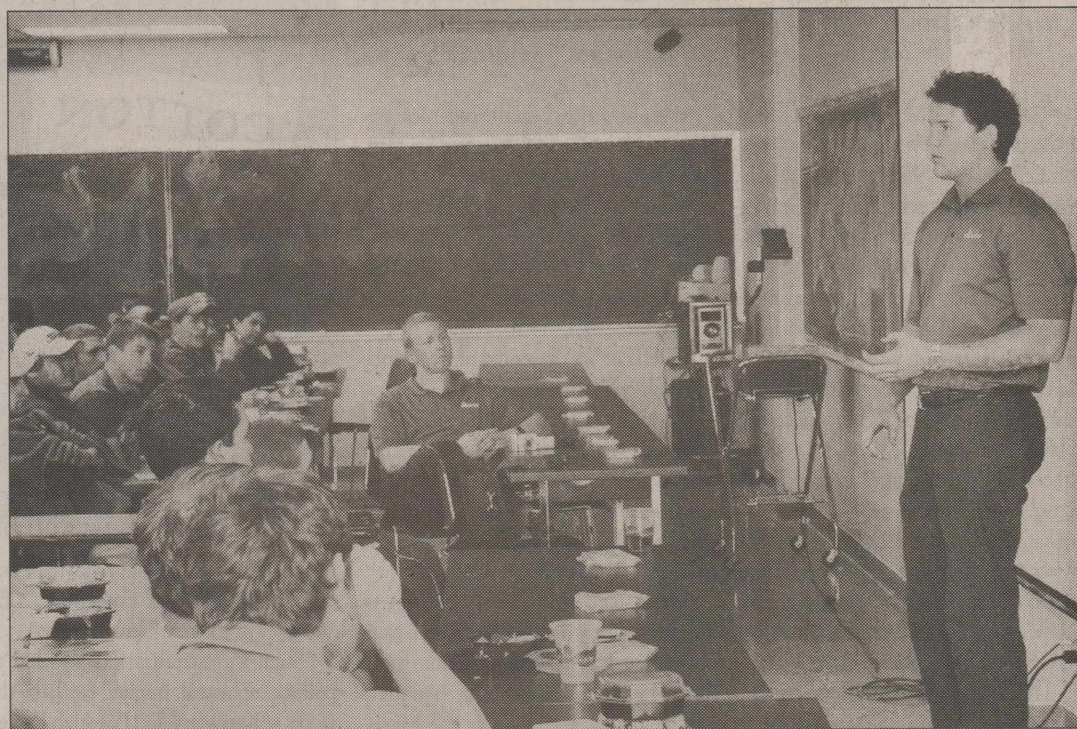


PHOTO BY BETH MCELHANNON/The Daily Toreador

DANIEL ROHLING, AN engineer from the El Paso Company, gives a lecture about his company to the Society of Petroleum Engineering students on Tuesday in the Bob L. Herd Department of Petroleum Engineering building.

Yale study explores 'network effect'

By **DIVVA CHARI**
YALE DAILY NEWS (YALE U.)

Are your friends making you fat? Can headaches or smoking be infectious?

Past studies have shown that obesity is "socially contagious" and may spread from person to person in a social network. So if your best friend is overweight, there is a good chance you will gain weight as well. But more recent research by Jason Fletcher, assistant professor at the Yale School of Public Health, and Ethan Cohen-Cole of the Boston Federal Reserve Bank, seems to contradict these conclusions.

Fletcher and Cohen-Cole have produced new data revising "the social network effect" in which they statistically accounted for

the effect of identical surroundings. For example, two college students typically have similar lifestyles and may be exposed to the same types of foods.

The researchers took into account the differences in schools and neighborhoods in contributing to the spread of obesity in adolescents. Once they controlled for similar features in a given environment, Fletcher and Cohen-Cole found that the spread of obesity through social networks declined significantly.

"Contextual effects can lead to false inference on social network effects," the authors wrote in their paper. "The social network effects were significantly reduced."

But Nicholas Christakis, sociology professor at Harvard, and James Fowler, associate professor at the

University of California San Diego, proponents of the social network effect, continue to defend the spread of obesity through social ties.

"Network phenomena appear to be relevant to the biological and behavioral trait of obesity," Christakis said in an e-mail.

While he concedes that three factors contribute to clustering in networks: (1) homophily (i.e. that birds of a feather flock together), (2) confounding (joint exposure to environmental factors) and (3) induction (peer effects), he argues that his analysis accounted for these features.

In a second follow-up study, Fletcher analyzed traits that are unlikely to be "contagious," such as height or the tendency to develop headaches,

Study: Cleaner air adds 5 months to US life span

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cleaner air over the past two decades has added nearly five months to average life expectancy in the United States, according to a federally funded study.

Researchers said it is the first study to show that reducing air pollution translates into longer lives.

Between 1978 and 2001, Americans' average life span increased almost three years to 77, and as

much as 4.8 months of that can be attributed to cleaner air, researchers from Brigham Young University and Harvard School of Public Health reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Some experts not connected with the study called the gain dramatic.

"It shows that our efforts as a country to control air pollution have been well worth the expense,"

said Dr. Joel Kaufman, a University of Washington expert on environmental health.

Scientists have long known that the grit in polluted air, or particulates, can lodge deep in the lungs and raise the risk of lung disease, heart attacks and strokes. The grit — made of dust, soot and various chemicals — comes from factories, power plants and diesel-powered vehicles.

Palin: leave my children alone

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin is going on the offensive against news organizations and bloggers she says are perpetuating malicious gossip about her and her children.

But political observers say the former Republican vice presidential candidate can't have it both ways: trotting out the children to showcase her family values, then trying to shield them from scrutiny.

Palin's criticism also raises questions about her motivations because she has said she is open to a presidential run in 2012.

"I think she's positioning herself. She's attacking the media as a way to generate support among a base she hopes will support her," said Leonard Steinhorn, a professor of communications at American University in Washington and an expert on the presidency.

Palin shied away from interviews during the campaign, although her children often accompanied her on her travels, including her oldest daughter, Bristol, who was pregnant at the time.

But in recent weeks, she has personally reached out to media outlets such as People magazine and The Associated Press to complain about information she claimed is wrong.

She slammed reports that 18-year-old Bristol Palin and the teen's fiancé are high school dropouts. The governor insists the two are not dropouts because they enrolled in correspondence courses.

The couple last month had a son — the governor's first grandchild.

The governor said she is speaking out to set the record straight, not because of any political aspirations.

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MONTHLY BOOK REVIEW

‘Cotton: The Biography of a Revolutionary Fiber’

REVIEW BY KEN BAAKE
TEXAS TECH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

“Cotton: The Biography of a Revolutionary Fiber” by Stephen Yafa is a non-fiction work that all South Plains residents should read to understand the agriculture, politics, culture and economy of our region — and the world.

It’s also a narrative filled with fun anecdotes, such as the story of neighbors in an 18th century English village who suspect the devil is playing bagpipes when they hear a cotton spinning jenny, or accounts of blue jeans appealing to a 20th century American “culture that worshipped belly buttons and denim divas.”

Yafa offers interesting, if somewhat provocative, facts about our favorite cloth fiber. For example, he writes that production of every cotton T-shirt requires one-third of a pound of chemical fertilizers.

The book begins with a look at the plant science behind cotton, a crop originating some 5,500 years ago in the Indus Valley of present day Pakistan before spreading to Africa and Arabia. Simultaneously, development of the crop occurred in Central America and Mexico.

We learn that the name “cotton” is derived from the Arabic “qutun.” Yafa also offers other interesting word origins, such as “chintzy” and “calico.” The former,

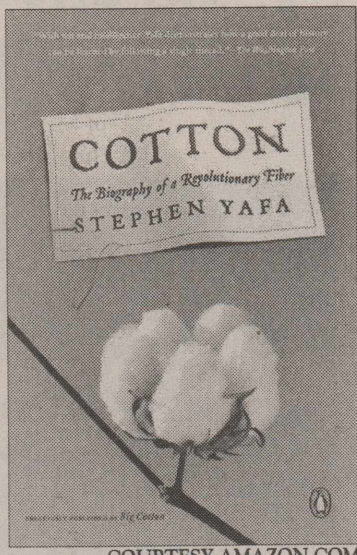
which now implies something cheap, comes from the Hindu word chint, meaning multicolored. The latter refers to the Indian port of Calicut.

He also touches on the botanical science of New World “tetraploid” cotton, so highly prized as a special hybrid because it carries the full genetic code of both parents instead of the usual blend. “As a result of their industrial-strength DNA, these tetraploids prove to be especially tough, successful, vigorous plants.”

Each culture “invented nearly identical tools-combs, bows, hand spindles, and primitive looms—to clean the fiber, then spin and weave it,” Yafa writes. “That remarkable parallel discovery seems to confirm that inspired insights leap past all geographical boundaries to become the common property of mankind.”

The story of cotton carries on to modern times, with the rise of denim work overalls and fashionable jeans from stores like The Gap. Woven in are narratives of blues music rising out of the Mississippi Delta, the arrival of pesticides and genetically modified crops, and the global interplay between West Texas growers and Chinese textile factories.

Cotton in part was responsible for global industrialization and technical innovation, accompanying the development of steam power in England and her colonies. Yafa craftily tells the entrepre-



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neurial stories of Richard Arkwright and James Hargreaves of England and Eli Whitney in the new United States.

Such industrialization also led to political upheaval, inspired partly by the works of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, who had only to look to the dank squalor of Manchester, England, and similar industrial towns for their evidence of capitalism’s dark side.

Both others saw rising economic fortunes in the fiber that Yafa writes “was the first crop to democratize greed.” It also helped spread a tenacious work ethic throughout the United States.

As Yafa reports prosaically, “Factory chimney smoke, said one man, was daily incense to God.”

This industrial growth transformed culture everywhere. Particularly telling for American history buffs are the parallel accounts of a cotton picking slave society in the South and the cotton “mill girls” of Lowell, Mass.

The growth of those mills offered young women their first chance to work off the farm, leading to an independence that would result in creative endeavors, such as the acclaimed literary journal “The Lowell Offering.” In the South, the slave culture and subsequent sharecropping cultures and hardships visited by pests like the Boll Weevil inspired the birth of blues and jazz music.

Yet, the power of the cotton economy helped drive the United States to the Civil War, in which both North and South had tainted hands. As Yafa writes, “From New England to New York to New Orleans, cotton still bound the country together as commercial enterprise even while propelling it into a bloody war.”

Yafa continues the story of cotton to present times, including everything from Calvin Klein marketing campaigns to the nanotechnology and genetic crop modifications of large corporations like Monsanto. We learn the science and the business acumen behind terms that

are common to all on the South Plains, such as “Bt hybrid seeds” or “Roundup” herbicide.

For Yafa, some of the hardcore science and business removes the romance and allure of what the average consumer might see as pure white, natural cotton. Cotton producers know better, he writes, perhaps a bit sarcastically:

“Growers themselves continue to approach the crop as a weed-choked, water-guzzling, persnickety plant prone to attracting and throwing banquet for the latest destructive worm, fly beetle, or all of the above.”

South Plains politics often are dominated by cotton, as Yafa reveals in his discussion of the periodic “farm bills” that move through Congress, covering subsidies for farmers and trade relations with other agricultural nations such as China—topics that often lead to acrimonious debates and strained global relationships.

Yafa’s prose is similarly barbed when

he asserts that support of cotton farming is seen as an act of patriotism in the United States even though, paradoxically, “cotton is on welfare in this country.” The story of the humble independent farmer is potent, even if that farmer is tied to a web of a big business and government.

Of course, cotton has a hold over social consciousness of the world, as

Yafa shows in recounting the story of Mahatma Gandhi’s non-violent revolution in India in the 1920s. Gandhi’s successful movement was symbolized by the humble peasants spinning their own cloth to become self-sufficient from the colonial power.

In the end, we come away from this book recognizing that cotton has been an enormous force in human society and consciousness. As such, it has fostered deep passions and even paradoxical beliefs—along with transformative development.

Or as any South Plains farmer would probably tell you, “There is nothing more visceral than cotton in the field.”

» ken.baake@ttu.edu

EVENT

Texas Tech English Department
book discussion

Time: 6 p.m.

Date: Tuesday

Place: J&B Coffee, 26th Street
and Boston Avenue

U. South Florida researchers discover benefits of crying

By HANNAH FEIG
THE ORACLE (U. SOUTH FLORIDA)

Students can spill all the milk they want, because according to a study by University of South Florida researchers, crying might actually be

good for them.

The study used survey data from more than 5,000 students in more than 35 countries about recent crying episodes, said graduate student Lauren Bylsma, who worked on the project.

Ad J.J.M. Vingerhoets, a professor at Tilburg University in the Netherlands, provided the data, and colleague Jon Rottenberg, assistant professor of psychology at USE, helped him conduct the study.

Intrigued by the power of crying as a social cue, Rottenberg said he wanted to observe different kinds of crying and its possible benefits.

“We’re particularly interested in what the consequences of crying are,” he said. “Does crying impact mood? Does crying impact the situation? And if so, how does it change things?”

Results showed that people experience different feelings as a result of crying, which can depend on their social situation, personality and reason for crying.

Comedy Central comedian to perform in Lubbock

Brian Regan makes fun of himself for money.

The prolific comedian, who has performed on national television and across the country, will perform at 7:30 p.m. today in the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center.

Regan said he enjoys performing as a comedian for more than the “jewels and riches that are thrown his way.”

“I just enjoy the honesty of it, you know? People don’t fake laugh,” he said. “So, when you’re on stage and you happen to be having a good show, you know you’re making a connection, a human interaction.”

Regan has performed two Comedy Central specials, according to a statement. His second stand-up

special, “The Epitome of Hyperbole,” premiered September 2008.

He said he writes his own material, because it is so “bizarre and twisted that no other human being would want to have their name associated with it.”

Regan said the comedy he creates often ridicules himself, although he considers himself “a guy trying to get through life without looking too dumb.”

Some comedians wear lucky charms or have a drink before walking on stage, but Regan said his pre-show ritual is more practical.

“I always retie my shoes,” he said, “which is sort of embarrassing.”

It may seem silly, Regan said, but he doesn’t want people to stare at

his shoes or trip during the performance.

“My son is in Cub Scouts and he was doing races the other day,” he said. “It’s amazing how many of (the children) needed to tie their shoes.”

The last time he visited Lubbock was during the 1980s, Regan said. And the staff at the comedy club where he performed placed a sign outside asking audience members to remove cowboy hats during the performance.

He said he’s interested in seeing how much has changed.

Tickets for Regan’s show can be purchased at Lubbock Select-A-Seat locations.

» tina.arons@ttu.edu

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Puzzles by PageFiler

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

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U. Florida student to be youngest contestant on ‘Survivor’

By SARA BRUBAKER
INDEPENDENT FLORIDA ALLIGATOR (U. FLORIDA)

University of Florida sophomore Spencer Duhm fulfilled one of his lifelong dreams this past fall.

But it wasn’t the fake internship in Chicago he told his friends about.

Duhm, 20, was cast in October for the newest season of “Survivor,” the youngest person ever to appear on the reality game show in which contestants compete in the wilderness for \$1 million.

However, throughout filming, Duhm kept his involvement a secret until the cast was released on Jan. 13. The Chicago internship was his alibi.

“I always planned on applying as soon as I became old enough,” said Duhm, who was 19 during the filming of the show.

This was the first season CBS lowered the age limit for applicants from 21 to 18.

Duhm, who said he was obsessed with the show, said he’s been a fan since its debut in 2000.

He said the show appeals to him because of its intense competition as well as the mental and physical tests the contestants go through.

While appearing on the show has always been an ambition of his, Duhm said he didn’t do it just for the experience; he planned to win.

“Everything is a competition to me,” he said. “I knew there would be some instances where I would have to lie, and I wasn’t going to try to be everyone’s best friend.”

Duhm’s familiarity with the intricacies of the game was perhaps his biggest advantage going into “Survivor,” he said. But his

experiences on sports teams, including the UF crew team, taught him to deal with the mental ups and downs that accompany challenges.

“As I watched the contestants on previous seasons, I knew that if they could do it, then I could definitely do it,” Duhm said.

But however prepared he felt going into the show, Duhm said he couldn’t entirely relate the experience to anything else.

He said even the physical demands of crew couldn’t compare to “Survivor.”

“In sports you’re expected to exert yourself in practice and during competitions,” he said. “But on ‘Survivor’ there is no reprieve and no escape.”

To participate in the show, Duhm withdrew from his classes last semester.

Study: Antarctica joins in warming

WASHINGTON (AP) — Antarctica, the only place that had oddly seemed immune from climate change, is warming after all, according to a new study.

For years, Antarctica was an enigma to scientists who track the effects of global warming. Temperatures on much of the continent at the bottom of the world were staying the same or slightly cooling, previous research indicated.

The new study went back further than earlier work and filled in a massive gap in data with satellite information to find that Antarctica too is getting warmer, like the Earth’s other six continents.

The findings were published in Thursday’s issue of the journal Nature.

“Contrarians have sometime grabbed on to this idea that the entire continent of Antarctica is cooling, so how could we be talking about global warming,” said study co-author Michael Mann, director of the Earth System Science Center at Penn State University. “Now we can say: no, it’s not true ... It is not bucking the trend.”

The study does not point to man-made climate change as the cause of the Antarctic warming — doing so is a highly intricate scientific process — but a different and smaller study out late last year did make that connection.

“We can’t pin it down, but it certainly is consistent with the influence of greenhouse gases,” said NASA scientist Drew Shindell, another study co-author. Some of the effects also could be natural variability, he said.

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Osaghae, Roberts ready to lead young men's track team

By ADAM WADSWORTH
STAFF WRITER

Sally Kipyego already is the face of the Texas Tech women's track team, but the Tech men may be close to finding theirs as well.

With emerging talent and a Top-5 recruiting class, the sky is the limit for the Tech men's track team.

Led by senior Omoghan Osaghae, the young Red Raiders enter the season with high hopes brought on by their highest preseason ranking in school history at No. 12 and a strong showing at last weekend's meet, the Texas Tech Invitational.

"I always have high expectations for myself," Osaghae said. "Nothing really specific other than to make it to nationals, and other than that I'd really like a Big 12 championship."

He took his first step toward his goals Saturday when he set a new school record in the 55-meter hurdles at 7.17 seconds.

In addition to being a record-setting athlete, Tech coach Wes Kittley said Osaghae also has stepped up to lead the young team after former All-American Shawn Harris moved on.

Tech sophomore sprinter Gil Roberts also is doing his part to help the Red Raiders with their high expectations.

In addition to winning the 400-meter dash and setting an NCAA provisional mark Saturday, Roberts was named the Big 12 Indoor Track and Field Male Athlete of the Week Tuesday.

"He opened up with a 46.59, the No. 1 time in the country in the first week," Kittley said. "He beat a lot of really good

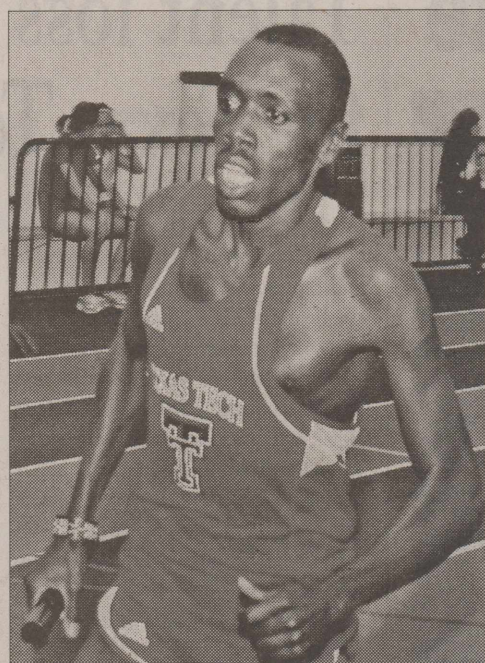


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADEIR /The Daily Treador
TEXAS TECH TRACK runner Gilbert Limo competes in the Tech Invitational on Friday in the Athletic Training Center.

Baylor quarter-milers."

Although, in the past, the Red Raiders have not received the national attention Kipyego and the Lady Raiders have, they are doing their best to make a statement this season.

In their first meet, the men's 4x400-meter relay team finished just .8 seconds behind the four-time defending outdoor national champion Baylor team, Osaghae set a record in the 55-meter hurdles, and shot putter Harrison Benjamin won his event by 3 feet, 10.5 inches.

Kittley said that one of the deciding

factors in whether the Red Raiders can win the Big 12 this year is the performance of the team's freshmen.

"I always say we're going to be as good as how quickly our freshmen grow up," Kittley said. "I think you're going to see that they're going to be a little inconsistent for a little while, but I'm really hoping that by the time we get to the Big 12 championships, that they're going to have a few good meets under their belts."

Kittley said Marcus Henderson, from Lewisville, and Jamele Mason, from Spring, have shown the most potential from the freshmen so far.

At the Texas Tech Invitational Saturday, Henderson finished sixth

in the 55-meter dash and Mason placed fourth in the 55-meter hurdle preliminaries, but hit a hurdle in the finals.

Along with young talent peaking, Osaghae said he was excited because the team is handling the pressures of being in the national spotlight and remaining focused and driven during practices.

The next step for the Red Raiders will be the second round of the Texas Tech Invitational Saturday in the Athletic Training Center.

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Tech hopes pieces are in place for breakout year after sub-par 2008

By ZANE TURNER
STAFF WRITER

Along with a new coach comes a new attitude.

That is the story of Texas Tech women's tennis heading into 2009.

The Lady Raiders and interim coach Todd Petty hope Tech can improve on a 12-12 overall and 4-7 mark in Big 12 Conference play.

"I think we're going to do really well this year," freshman Kelsy Garland said. "Everyone is really confident, I think we've come together as a team. Our motto this year is pride, so I think everyone is going to take pride in themselves and their team and do the job."

The Lady Raiders have set the bar high after having a positive fall season earning a combined singles record of 54-39 and doubles record of 12-20, giving them a total fall record of 66-59.

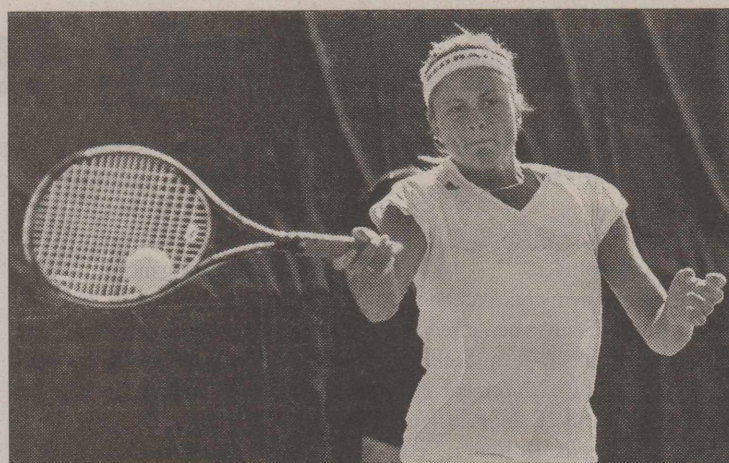
Petty said the fall season was great for his team, who needed the experience to prove it could compete at this level in preparation for Big 12 play.

"Definitely as a team we want to go to the tournament at the end of the semester," said junior Keryn Potgieter, who posted a 12-11 singles record in the No. 5 spot for Tech last season. "We've all been working very hard towards that, and from the first matches just going out to every game and giving my all."

But before Big 12 play, Tech has to get through a competitive non-conference schedule.

The team starts the season off against North Texas at 5 p.m. Friday and against Mississippi State at 9 a.m. Sunday at the McLeod Tennis Complex.

However, the Lady Raiders have a heavy dose of home cook-



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Treador

TEXAS TECH SENIOR Samantha van der Drift will lead the women's tennis team in 2009 after it finished 12-12 overall last season.

ing this season with 12 home matches compared to nine on the road — the same amount Tech had last season. In addition to the road matches, they have to travel for the San Diego Invitational March 18 to 20.

But nothing beats starting the season at home, especially for a team with one true senior in Samantha van der Drift, Petty said.

"It's big, this is a young team," Petty said. "We've got one senior, to get the familiarity of home on that first match to get out the jitters is big. You'd much rather play at home than on the road."

After the two-match weekend the team will travel to Colorado to face Air Force followed by a tough, veteran Denver squad that ranks No. 28 in the nation.

In total, Tech will play nine teams ranked in the ITA preseason poll. But the Lady Raiders are used to the competition after playing 10 ranked teams last season.

This season's list includes Big 12 foes No. 4 Baylor, No. 17 Texas, No. 31 Texas A&M, No. 57 Colorado, No. 69 Oklahoma State and No. 73 Kansas — who is one spot ahead of the Lady Raiders.

Tech may have to do better against ranked opponents this year, as they were 2-9 against teams in the Top 75 in 2008.

Tech's season ended in the second round of the Big 12 Tournament when Baylor beat the Lady Raiders for the second time in a year, 4-0.

Petty, however, is optimistic about the team's chances for success this season.

"We've got a team here that's on the edge of being something special," he said. "I think the focus has to be on what we do to prepare on the days leading up to matches more than the matches themselves."

The Lady Raiders, despite their youth, lost only one player from their top six singles players. As Janet Durham graduated, van der Drift remains the only true senior on the team. Kyla Coleman enters this season as a redshirt senior.

"It just depends on the day," Petty said. "We could finish third, we could finish 10th. It's such a tight conference, it's very close and it comes on day to day, there are so many swings. It's wide open on what we can do."

►zane.turner@ttu.edu

Vidor sophomore reaches powerlifting record books

BEAUMONT (AP) — At 4-foot-11 and 132 pounds, Bethani Duncan bench presses 190 pounds, squats 345 pounds and can deadlift

325 pounds.

So it should be no surprise that the Vidor sophomore holds four world records in the women's teen-

age 16-17 division, according to the World Powerlifting Congress, the sport's most prominent association.

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3 BEDROOM house. 1 block Tech. Central heat refrigerator air. No pets. Washer/dryer. \$950/month. Bills paid. 792-3118.

3/2 PERFECT for roommates! Only 2 years old. \$995/month. 4807 37th. Call Castle Property Management 806-783-3040.

3/2 TWO story house. Near campus. Dining. W/D connections. 2432 21st \$875/mo., \$400 deposit. 787-2323. 544-3600.

3/2 TWO-story house. Hardwood, CH/A, yard, W/D connections, appliances. 2310 28th. \$795/mo., \$400/dep. 787-2323. 544-3600.

3/2 UPDATED! Close to campus! \$1050/month. 3411 25th. Call Castle Property Management 783-3040.

3/2.5 with 3 living areas. Close to Tech. 3017 37th. Appliances included. Call for details! 806-241-8760.

4 ROOMS. Off street parking. \$450/mo, \$350/dep. C/H/A. No smokers/pets. 806-438-2326.

4/2. OFF street parking. 2 blocks from Tech. 2522 21st. \$1250. 760-5001.

5834 TTU. 3/2/2. Central H/A. W/D connection. Security gate. \$850 per month. 806-783-3040.

AFFORDABLE

Nice 1 bed efficiency house. Quite. 2 block off campus on 22nd. Kitchenette, refrigerator, stove, private parking. Move in today. \$265/mo. Call Ann or B. J. 795-2011.

EFFICIENCY. UPDATED. Lots of space. W/D hookups. Yard space. \$365/mo + electric, \$300/dep. Post. Joe 806-441-0611.
http://www.merlinspetshop.com/index.php?main_page=index&CPath=101.

FOR LEASE. Available February 1st. 2-story 3/3. Nice. 5 blocks from Tech. \$1100/mo. Call Bill 470-7037. Efficiency apartment available now. Nice. Close to Tech. \$450/mo., bills paid. Call Bill 470-7037.

FOR RENT. 2/1 country house. 30 minutes from campus. 806-759-1208.

FOR RENT

2312 14th A. 1/1. \$495 rent & \$350 deposit. All bills paid. Newly remodeled. Call Kelsey @ 806-687-4030.

FOR RENT: 3/2/1. Central H/A, washer/dryer, dishwasher and stove included. \$990/month with \$500 deposit @ 3811 28th. Call 806-798-3716.

UNFURNISHED

FREE RENT

Great houses and duplexes for lease. 2403 30th: 3/2/1, \$1050/month; 2302 17th: Lindsey Apartments 1/1, \$450/month; 2116 14th: 3/2, \$900/month; 3602 32nd: 2/1, \$595/month; 3215 33rd: 2/1, \$695/month; 4814 35th: 2/1, \$575/month; 4817 35th: 3/1, \$650/month; 2605 37th: 2/1, \$595/month; 1911 13th: 1/1, \$395/month. Please call 773-5249.

GARAGE APARTMENT. Near Tech on 16th. Quiet, clean, gas heat, upstairs, large closet, fenced, off-street parking. \$300/month. Available Now. 806-773-9423; 806-789-1369.

GREAT MOVE IN SPECIALS

3/1.5, 2-story house. Great parking. W/D connections, appliances. 2505 Ave. S. \$550/mo. \$400/dep. 806-787-2323. 806-544-3600.

GREAT MOVE IN SPECIALS 4/1.5/2 huge house, 2 living areas, CH/A. W/D connections. Appliances. 1725 25th. \$870/mo. \$400/dep. 806-787-2323. 806-544-3600.

HALF BLOCK Tech. Small, remodeled garage type efficiency apartment. No pets. Parking. Serious Students only. A/C. \$335/month, utilities paid. 792-3118.

HOUSE 2/1, fenced, no pets, stove/cookware, dishes, fridge, W/D, furnished. \$500. 2206 Ave T. 794-7931.

LOOKING TO 2 students who will be here 2 - 3 years. 2/1 brick house 3 blocks from Tech. Hardwood floors. \$850/mo. 762-6302.

NEWER! 3/3/2 duplex with yard. Only one left. 308B North Chicago. \$795/month. Call Castle Property Management 806-783-3040.

NEWLY REMODELED efficiencies, 3 & 4 bedroom houses convenient to Tech. Call 771-1890.

STUDENT SPECIAL.

Affordable housing. Close to campus. 1 bedroom duplex, bills paid. 2 bedroom mobilehomes. \$200 security deposit. 806-795-0040, 806-786-8711.

STUDENTS CALL on these great properties! 5417 29th, 2606 21st, 2604C 21st, 2608B 21st, 3810A & B 33rd, 5217 42nd. 797-2212.

FOR SALE

1/2. **QUEEN** size pillow top mattress & box spring set. New with warranty. 806-549-3110.

3 **PIECE** complete King orthopedic mattress set, Brand new! \$250. Delivery available. 806-549-3110.

5 **PIECE** microfiber sofa, love seat & cocktail table set. New! Can deliver. \$550. 806-549-3110.

ALL LEATHER couch & loveseat, with coffee table. Brand new. \$625. Can deliver. 806-549-3110.

CHERRY BEDROOM set. Complete 6 piece. New, boxed, \$699. Can deliver. 806-549-3110.

COMPLETE BEDROOM suite. Merlot finish bed, dresser, mirror, nightstand, List \$2190. Sell \$799. 806-549-3110.

FREE COVER EVERY DAY

At Daiquiri Lounge, Main Street, and Klusoz with College VIP Card. Only \$10 at Red & Black. www.CollegeVIP.net.

FULL SIZE orthopedic mattress set. Brand new! \$115, twin size \$99. 806-549-3310.

FOR SALE

GARAGE SALE. 5506 93th St. Saturday, January 24th. 8am - 1pm. Furniture, household items, teacher supplies, and lots of children books.

MATTRESS, FURNITURE

SPORTS

PAGE 8
THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 2009

Despite late rally, Tech falls to K-State

By ADAM COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Some nights, the Lady Raiders are hitting on all cylinders.

Then there are nights like the one against Kansas State, when it seemed no shot would fall for Texas Tech.

After shooting 32.2 percent from the field, the Lady Raiders suffered a 60-48 loss to No. 18 Kansas State Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena.

The game was tightly contested at one point, but the Wildcats (16-1, 3-1 in Big 12 Conference play) went on a 16-2 run early in the second half after being up 22-20 at the half.

With the only points coming from the free throw line, the run left Tech (11-6, 2-2) in a scoring drought that lasted for 9:05.

It proved to be all the motive K-State needed to cruise to the victory.

"We just did not make enough shots to give ourselves a chance," Tech coach Kristy Curry said. "I thought the first half, we missed a lot of easy shots, in the second half, we did. When you get six points from your bench, we were 7-for-22 inside, (Jordan Murphree) was 2-for-8. I mean, we just can't shoot the ball that way and have a chance against that kind of basketball team."

Most notable of the Lady Raiders' offensive woes was Dominic Seals, who had seven points on 2-of-12 shooting.

Seals did not make a shot until the

18:27 mark in the second half.

Although K-State statistically has the best defense in the Big 12, Seals said it was not K-State that prevented her from contributing more.

"They weren't physical," she said. "The defense wasn't so bad. I just wasn't making my shots. I wasn't being aggressive enough to make my shots."

K-State coach Deb Patterson agreed with Seals, and said sometimes players can have a night where nothing goes their way.

"There are some nights where you get some good looks and they just don't drop for you," she said. "I felt like she had that kind of night. Obviously going into the game, we knew the quality and the threat that she is on every catch and on every board."

What worked for the Wildcats was Shalee Lehning doing what she usual does: make her team better.

However, early on K-State committed five-straight turnovers after jumping out to an early 8-4 lead.

The Wildcats finished the first half with eleven turnovers and Lehning had the most with three.

The turnovers allowed Tech to be down only 22-20 at the half, even though the Lady Raiders were not shooting the ball particularly well with a 30.8 shooting percentage from the field.

But the run was all K-State needed and Lehning was the catalyst.

During the 16-2 run in the second half, Lehning gained four assists after

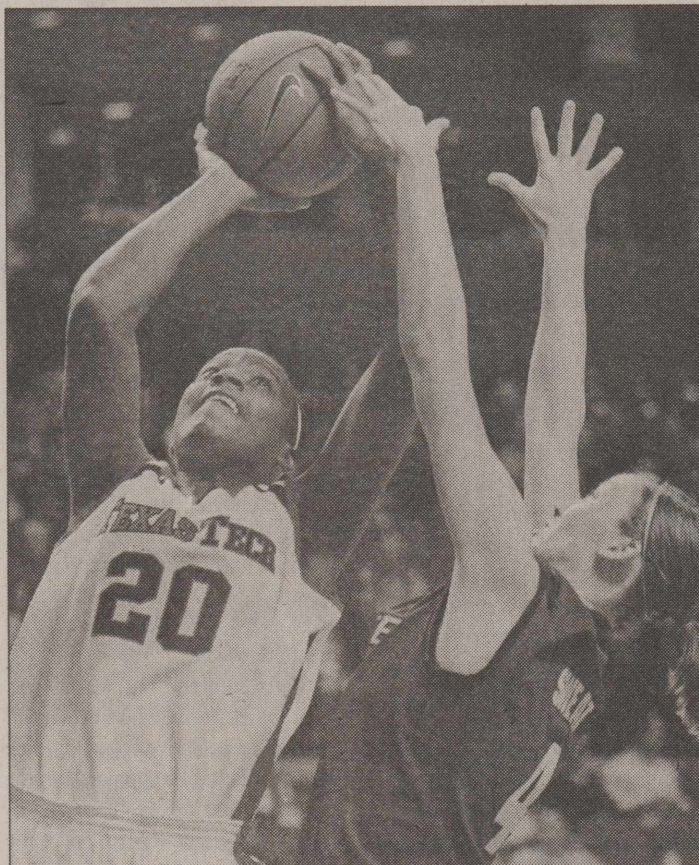


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH CENTER Kierra Mallard shoots over Kansas State's Ashley Sweat in the Wildcats' 60-48 victory Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena.

she had three throughout the first half.

Lehning ended the game with 16 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists — one short of her third triple-double this season. She already is the first player in Big 12 and NCAA history to record two triple-doubles in the same season.

The Wildcats' Ashley Sweat also chipped in 16 points.

Curry said her plan to disrupt Lehning was to have someone with size defend her. Tech forward Ashlee Roberson started the game guarding Lehning and the senior guard saw an array of Lady Raiders guard her from

Maria Moore to Alana Rumph throughout the game.

Tech did fight back near the end of the game, cutting the lead down to eight with 3:55 left, but the Wildcats' run was too much to overcome.

"We were finding each other better," Lehning said. "We were more connected in the second half than we were in the first. A lot of that was because I was not coming off the on ball well in the first half. When we kind of settled in and adjusted to that, things started working better for us."

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Talent loss beneficial for Texas Tech football

Brandon Aday



With just over a week of time gone by, the sting of losing star receiver Michael Crabtree and explosive defensive end Brandon Williams is still fresh on the hearts of Texas Tech football fans.

When you combine these key losses with Graham Harrell's departure and the disappointing loss in the Cotton Bowl, it is quite easy to get downtrodden about Red Raider football.

However, the short term loss of these two extremely dynamic players could — and should — hold long-term benefits for this program.

Crabtree's departure certainly was to be expected.

If National Football League rules allowed, he might have been gone last year. It is no secret that Crabtree should be taken with one of the first 10 picks in the NFL draft in April. In doing so, he will become the highest drafted Tech player in 45 years — wide receiver Dave Parks was taken first overall in 1964.

Still, Tech fans are left to wonder what Crabtree would have treated them to in 2009. More classic moments, more broken records, and more major awards were almost a certainty.

However, in the long run, Mike Leach's program can use Crabtree's departure to the program's advantage.

Above all else, there is one motivating factor that unites all talented young football players — the desire to play in the National Football League. And Leach's reign at Tech — for all of its offensive production — has yet to produce a single offensive draftee taken in the first three rounds.

Leach has reached the offensive pinnacle by doing one thing he does better than any other coach in the country, and that is maximize his players' potential. Without high school

All-Americans, Leach's Red Raiders consistently top the nation in passing, and the coach has never suffered a losing season.

Seemingly, the only thing holding Leach back from building a program consistently on Texas' and Oklahoma's level is star power.

Just as a quick breakdown, the four main things recruits look for when choosing a program are prestige, the coaching staff, being a contender, and the chance to improve and become a sought-after NFL prospect. Leach has painstakingly enhanced the first three off of that list. However, many pundits blow Tech players off as "system players," and consider them only fit to play in Leach's "gimmick" offense.

That all should change.

First, Leach's pass-heavy, spread offense is becoming legitimized as more and more traditional football powers adopt either the same framework or ideas from his prowess. The success that more pass-heavy offenses — such as Oklahoma, Texas, and many mid-major schools — are having, combined with the recent bowl losses of the extremely run-heavy Big Ten is revolutionizing college football.

The early product of this revolution — Michael Crabtree — is expected to be the first wide receiver taken off the board in April, and nobody is calling him a mere system player.

This is just the beginning.

High school recruits attracted to such an exciting offense will no longer have to worry about NFL scouts dismissing their accomplishments due primarily to playing in Leach's system. Leach and his staff now can go after offensive talent, and not just point out how much action they will see in college, but also with full assurances that NFL teams will take notice. This is the process which will allow Tech to become a consistent power.

There is not a single college power that does not annually lose major talent early to the NFL. Although counter-intuitive, the reason these schools are able to maintain such a high level of success depends on losing players. Every NFL early exit is an advertisement to a recruit: "Come and develop here for three or four years, enjoy both the local and national spotlight, help us win, and eventually enjoy even bigger fortune and fame at the professional level."

Why do you think North Carolina basketball enjoys so much recruiting success? The program essentially has built an image as an NBA farm system: Play there, and you will play in the NBA. This is quite an advantageous arrangement for both player and school — North Carolina fields a top-tier basketball team every season, and numerous players springboard to the NBA.

Similarly, as more and more Tech players become successful pros, more and more recruits will see Tech as the correct place to mature into an NFL-ready player.

The loss of Williams could eventually help seed the same process on the defensive side of the ball.

In all honesty, though remarkably improved in two short years, Ruffin McNeill's defense is not quite ready to begin recruiting against bigger programs. However, if an increased offensive talent can create Tech success, McNeill and his staff will feed off of that success to jump start defensive recruiting.

So while losing Crabtree is tough, the upside is great. Already in the Crabtree hoopla, major receiving recruit Eric Ward switched his commitment from Oklahoma to Tech. Crabtree's loss is a huge stepping stone toward the Red Raiders' offense becoming a desirable one to all recruits — an offense where you can become center of attention at a passionate campus and eventually enter into a big payday at the next level. It is scary to consider what Leach could do with his prowess and multiple big time recruits on offense.

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