

Students make lip balm

See Page 5

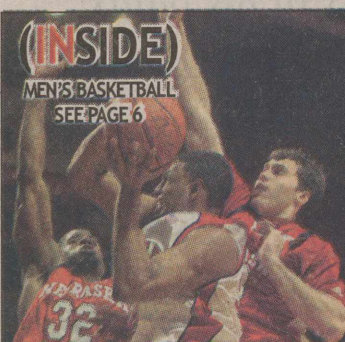
2009 National Signing Day

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THE DAILY T OREADOR

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4, 2009
VOLUME 83 ■ ISSUE 89



(INBRIEF)

STATE

Fort Worth oilman gives \$18 million to UT

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Fort Worth oilman W.A. "Tex" Moncrief has donated \$18 million to the University of Texas for simulation-based engineering sciences.

School officials Tuesday announced the funding from the philanthropist and former UT system regent will be combined with an \$18 million gift from an anonymous donor to create an endowment.

UT President William Powers says the funds will support computational engineering and science to study areas such as cardiovascular engineering, water sustainability and weather.

NATION

GM to offer buyouts to all hourly employees

NEW YORK (AP) — General Motors Corp. will offer buyouts to all of its hourly employees, a spokesman confirmed Tuesday, as the troubled automaker continues to slash costs.

GM spokesman Tony Sapienza said the buyouts will mainly target GM's 22,000 retirement-eligible hourly employees, though any union employee can take the offer.

News of the buyouts first broke on Monday. A union official told The Associated Press then that GM would offer \$20,000 in cash and a \$25,000 car voucher for workers who retire early and those who simply leave the company.

WORLD

Militants cut US, NATO supply to Afghanistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Militants blew up a bridge in northwest Pakistan on Tuesday, cutting the major supply line for U.S.-led troops in Afghanistan with an explosion that turned the narrow span into a jagged metal "V."

It was the latest, and perhaps most serious, attempt to block supplies to the U.S.-led mission against the Taliban.

The length of the slender metal bridge slanted to one side and was blocked by an overturned truck that spilled dozens of dusty bags into the pavement. Traffic from the bare hills continued on foot, with Afghans and Pakistanis, including women in burqas, hurrying their baggage over the dry riverbed.

DEATH TOLL

4237

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

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Tax problems torpedo nominations

By JENNIFER LOVEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barack Obama on Tuesday gave up his nomination fight for Tom Daschle and a second high-profile appointee who failed to pay all their taxes, fearing ugly confirmation battles that would undercut his claims to ethical high ground and cripple his presidency in just its second week. "I screwed up," he declared.

"It's important for this administration to send a message that there aren't two sets of rules — you know, one for prominent people and one for ordinary folks who have to pay their taxes," Obama said in one of a series of interviews with TV anchors.

"I'm frustrated with myself, with our team. ... I'm here on television saying I screwed up," Obama said in an interview on NBC's "Nightly News with Brian Williams." He repeated virtually the same words in several other interviews.

The White House announced that Daschle had asked to be removed from consideration as health and human services secretary and that Nancy Killefer had made the same request concerning what was to be her groundbreaking appointment as a chief performance officer to make the entire government run better.

"They both recognized that you can't set an example of responsibility but accept a different standard of who serves," said spokesman Gibbs.

Daschle said in a brief letter to

Obama that he refused to "be a distraction" from the new president's drive for health care reform. Obama said neither he nor Daschle excused the former senator's tax errors but that he accepted his friend's decision "with sadness and regret."

Questions about Daschle's failure to fully pay his taxes from 2005 through 2007 had been increasing since they came to light last Friday. Daschle overlooked taxes on income from consulting work and personal use of a car and driver, and also deducted more in charitable contributions than he should have. To resolve it, he paid \$128,203 in back taxes and \$11,964 in interest last month.

Daschle, chosen to lead the administration's push for sweeping health care reform, also was facing

questions about potential conflicts of interests related to speaking fees he accepted from health care interests and about the advice he provided to health insurers and hospitals through his work at a law firm.

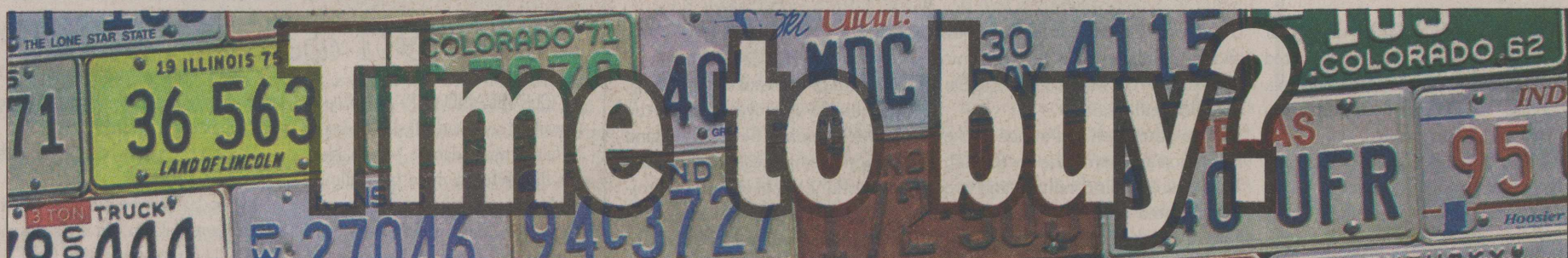
Killefer, an executive with consulting giant McKinsey & Co., had been chosen by Obama to serve in two roles: as the first chief performance officer in a White House and as a deputy director at the Office of Management and Budget.

When Obama announced Killefer to much fanfare in early January, The Associated Press reported that the District of Columbia government had filed a \$946.69 tax lien on her home in 2005 for failure to pay unemployment compensation tax on household help. She resolved the tax error five

months after the lien was filed. Since then, administration officials had refused to say whether her tax problems extended beyond that one issue.

The withdrawals by Daschle and Killefer are just two on a list of nomination troubles. Gibbs defended the administration's vetting process, but said "the president takes responsibility" for the problems.

Bill Richardson had been Obama's first choice for commerce secretary, but the New Mexico governor bowed out amid a grand jury investigation into a state contract awarded to his political donors. And last week, the Senate confirmed Timothy Geithner as treasury secretary, but only after days of controversy over the fact that he had only belatedly paid \$34,000 in income taxes.



Lower interest rates create optimal time for students to finance vehicles

By CARRIE THORNTON
STAFF WRITER

The economic recession has caused lower interest rates for those who plan to finance a new or used vehicle.

Several local car dealers agree the lower rates may make it a good time for students to purchase and finance a vehicle.

The time to buy has "never been better," said John Zwiacher, general manager of Scoggin Dickey, in Lubbock.

He said rates were as low as 2.9 percent on cars at Scoggin Dickey.

"It's hard to say if it is a good or bad time to purchase a car," said Jimmy Stallings, general manager of Gene Messer Ford.

However, he said interest rates are the lowest in a decade and the lowest he has seen during the 15 years he has been a car salesman.

It is not as difficult to obtain credit as some people think, Stallings said. Students with little credit can obtain a loan.

He said Ford offers rates as low as 5 percent on new and used cars, which is 1 to 1.5 points lower than last year.

Zwiacher said Scoggin Dickey has loyalty bonuses and consumer cash available on several vehicles.

If a student wished to purchase a Chevrolet Silverado pickup for \$25,000, he said, the Scoggin Dickey consumer cash offer may include \$2,000 in cash or \$2,000 in

credit to be applied toward reducing the vehicle's price.

He said another incentive the company offers is \$5,000 to \$7,000 on top of the existing consumer cash if the buyer owns a General Motors vehicle from 1999 or later.

Usually, Zwiacher said, college

students opt for the 60-month payment period, although 72-month payment plans are available.

When interest rates are low, he said, students who are able to buy should finance vehicles because rates most likely will never be this low in the near future.

Interest rates are not the only

factor contributing to a better time for students to purchase new vehicles.

"It's one of the best times to buy, and the reason is because the quality of vehicles and fuel efficiency has never been better," said Annette Sykora, general manager at Smith South Plains. "There are a lot of great incentives to keep prices low."

If students are financing vehicles, Sykora said, they should compare both credit union and dealership rates.

She said the benefit of using a dealership is it offers multiple credit options from several sources, which helps people get a good financing deal.

Check with local dealers and see what is available, Sykora said. Being knowledgeable is the first step to financing a vehicle.

Helen Hein, manager of the Texas Tech Credit Union, said spring usually is a slower business time for the union, and students may be able to take advantage of the low rates.

Hein said the union offers the lowest interest rates it can, but students should always shop around.



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Treador

A 1998 JEEP Wrangler 4x4 hard top with a stereo, air conditioning, automatic transmission, and no warranty sells for \$4,995 at Gene Messer Ford, in Lubbock.

CAR SALES continued on page 5 >>>

Hamas prepared for open-border truce with Israel

By SARAH EL DEEB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO (AP) — Hamas officials said Tuesday they are ready to commit to a cease-fire with Israel for at least a year in exchange for a full opening of Gaza's borders, as the group began a new round of truce talks with Egyptian mediators.

At the same time, foreign ministers of pro-U.S. Arab nations, including Saudi Arabia, met in the United Arab Emirates in a show of unity in support for Egypt's efforts to forge a long-term truce and against Iran, Hamas' most important ally.

Egypt is trying to mediate a

lasting cease-fire in place of the temporary and increasingly wobbly truce that ended the Gaza war last month. It has set a Thursday deadline for the Islamic militant rulers of Gaza to accept a deal.

But the complicated details of an accord appeared unresolved with border security arrangements a key obstacle.

"There is an agreement in principle about a calm for one year," said Ahmed Abdel-Hadi, a Lebanon-based Hamas official. "But the movement could show flexibility regarding the time ... if there are guarantees and commitments to lift the sanctions and open the borders," he told Gaza's Al

Quds Radio, signaling the possibility of extending the truce beyond one year.

Fawzi Barhoum, a Hamas spokesman in Gaza, said the Palestinian group is open to extending the cease-fire for 18 months.

Abdel-Hadi said Hamas rejects a gradual opening of the border crossings or linking a truce deal to a release of Israeli soldier Sgt. Gilad Shalit, held by Hamas-allied militants in Gaza since June 2006.

"We are going to deal with all the issues as one package, because we are going to avoid the trap of gradual implementation," he said.

Hamas demands that any truce

include the opening of borders into Gaza, which Israel and Egypt have largely kept sealed since the group seized control of the territory from the rival Fatah faction in 2007.

Hamas also wants a role in administering the border crossings in recognition of its power in Gaza.

Israel says it won't ease the 20-month blockade of the densely populated and impoverished coastal strip without international guarantees that Hamas will be prevented from smuggling more weapons into Gaza. It does not want any deal to give Hamas a role in controlling Gaza border crossings.

Hamas remains committed to

Israel's destruction and refused to renounce violence. Both the U.S. and Israel consider it a terrorist group.

Egypt is also pressing Hamas to start reconciliation talks with U.S.-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to form a unity government that can negotiate peace with Israel. Abbas, a moderate, runs a rival Palestinian government in the West Bank that has been conducting peace talks with Israel for more than a year.

But past attempts to broker a power-sharing deal among the rival Palestinians factions have failed. Prospects remain dim, with Hamas increasingly entrenched since its takeover of Gaza.

	TODAY Sunny		Thursday Sunny		Friday Partly Cloudy		Saturday Partly Cloudy		Sunday Few Showers						
High	64	Low	30	High	70	Low	37	High	75	Low	43	High	65	Low	39

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Committee selects finalists for VP for research position

By MATT COBB
STAFF WRITER

Several finalists were selected to possibly fill the vacant Texas Tech Vice President for Research position after participating in off-campus interviews last weekend.

The interviews were conducted by a search committee appointed by President Guy Bailey, said Bob Stafford, chair of the committee and member of the Tech Board of Regents. The committee selected finalists they deemed were best fit for the position out of a pool of 50 applicants.

"The finalists will be visiting the campus towards the middle of this month," Stafford said.

Each candidate will spend about a day and a half visiting Tech and will participate in on-campus interviews with university officials, he said. The candidates will meet with Tech's president, provost, chancellor and the research staff during their individual visits.

Stafford said the vice president for research answers directly to the university's president and works closely with the provost. The finalists will have meetings with both individuals during their visit to Tech's campus later this month.

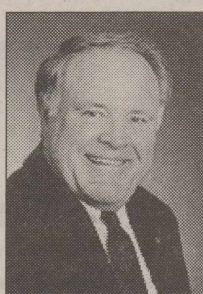
The search committee selected candidates it believes are best suited to help Tech continue in its goal to reach flagship status, he said. The committee looked for candidates who could improve the cross-disciplinary research within the university.

"We are looking for someone who has administrative abilities," Stafford said, "and cares about all of the different disciplines on campus."

During the off-campus interviewing process, the candidates discussed how they planned to increase the amount of research funding Tech receives, Stafford said. Raising the amount of research funding is vital to elevating the university to flagship status.

"I think last fiscal year we had \$57 million in sponsored research," he said. "The goal is to get above \$100 million."

The Tech Office of the Vice President for Research has operated without its top position for about three months, he said. The office is fully



STAFFORD

staffed and is working on grant proposals and other office responsibilities.

An interim vice president of research was not appointed because the position would not be left vacant long enough to warrant a temporary replacement.

The 10-member search committee for the vice president for research position is composed of members of Tech's faculty, staff and student body. Bailey is responsible for officially appointing a candidate to the position.

Dean O. Smith, the former Tech vice president for research, resigned last August to pursue research and teach at the University of Heidelberg in Germany for the 2008-2009 academic year, according to a previous article in *The Daily Toreador*.

The vice president for research is not the first administrative position that has been selected by Tech's president this year; Robert Smith was appointed as Tech's provost by Bailey last month.

A search committee also was formed to help select candidates to fill the provost position, according to a previous article in *The Daily Toreador*, and provost candidates went through similar on-campus interview processes.

» matthew.cobb@ttu.edu

ODDBALL DAILY

Md. surgeons remove donated kidney through vagina

BALTIMORE (AP) — Surgeons removed a woman's kidney through her vagina so she could give it to her ailing niece, an unusual operation they hope will encourage others to donate because it reduces pain, scarring and recovery time.

Doctors at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine said donor Kimberly Johnson, 48, and her niece, Jennifer Gilbert, 23, were both doing

well following operations Thursday.

"It was easier than childbirth," said Johnson, who has three children.

Transvaginal kidney removals have been done before to remove cancerous or nonfunctioning kidneys, and other diseased organs have also been removed through mouths and other orifices. Many donated kidneys are removed laparoscopically, through small keyhole incisions.

But hospital officials think this may be the first time a donor kidney was removed through the vagina.

The operation left three pea-size scars on the Lexington Park woman's abdomen, one hidden in her navel. Surgeons hope the procedure will lead more women to become donors, said Dr. Robert Montgomery, chief of the transplant division at Johns Hopkins, who led the team that performed the surgery.

Officials nab traveler with pigeons in his pants

SYDNEY (AP) — An Australian traveler was caught with two live pigeons stuffed in his pants following a trip to the Middle East, customs officials said Tuesday.

The 23-year-old man was searched after authorities discovered two eggs in a vitamin container in his luggage, said Richard Janeczko, national investigations manager for the Customs Service.

They found the pigeons wrapped in padded envelopes and held to each of

the man's legs with a pair of tights, according to a statement released by the agency. Officials also seized seeds in his money belt and an undeclared eggplant.

The alleged bird smuggler, who arrived in Melbourne on Sunday on a flight from Dubai, was being questioned.

Australia has very strict quarantine regulations on the importation of wildlife, plants and food to protect health, agriculture and the environment of the isolated island nation.

Charges of wildlife smuggling —

which carry a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and a fine of 110,000 Australian dollars (\$70,430) — could be brought against the man.

Janeczko said the pigeons were not endangered and that the case — as well as the birds, eggs and seeds — had been turned over to the Quarantine Service to assess the health risk associated with bringing the birds into the country.

The Quarantine Service would not comment on the continuing investigation.

Man accused of drunken horse riding in snowstorm

CODY, Wyo. (AP) — A man has been cited for public intoxication while riding a white horse during a snowstorm in the northern Wyoming town of Cody.

Police say they cited 28-year-old Benjamin Daniels after they received a call Sunday afternoon from a motorist

concerned that a man was creating a road hazard by riding his horse on a street in conditions with poor visibility.

Cody Assistant Police Chief George Menig says officers noticed Daniels was intoxicated after they stopped him to explain that drivers were having difficulty spotting his slow-moving white horse.

Menig said Thursday that Daniels was detained Sunday and released the following day. He will go before a municipal judge later.

A friend of Daniels picked up the horse.

There was no telephone listing for Daniels.

Police: 911 operator heard caller making drug deal

CLEVELAND (AP) — Police in Cleveland say a man called 911 because he felt he was in danger — then asked the dispatcher to hold on while he made a drug deal.

Police Lt. Thomas Stacho said Tuesday that Alejandro Melendez was arrested after the call and was charged with possessing cocaine.

Police said Melendez called 911

late Saturday and reported that two men with guns were watching him.

Police records show he hung up, so the dispatcher called back.

Melendez answered and asked the dispatcher to hold on, but the dispatcher could still hear what was being said.

A voice can be heard on the recording of the call saying: "What you need? A 10-pack? You need a 10-pack? All right."

Police say "10-pack" is slang for a bundle of heroin.

The dispatcher called police, who found Melendez at the location he gave, had the dispatcher call his cell phone again, and said they found cocaine in his trousers.

There was no immediate indication Tuesday if Melendez, 20, had an attorney to speak for him.

NJ disc jockey to part with Jenny's number

WEEHAWKEN, N.J. (AP) — After five years fielding thousands of calls to one of rock 'n' roll's most celebrated phone numbers, disc jockey Spencer Potter is hanging up on Jenny.

Her seven digits are familiar to

anyone who paid attention to pop music in the early 1980s: 867-5309, immortalized by the band Tommy Tutone.

Potter and his roommates requested the number on a lark for their home phone in northern New Jersey. They got it, along with about 30 to

40 calls a day. The 28-year-old Potter says he's selling his business, A Blast Entertainment, and moving to New York. The business and the phone number are for sale on eBay, where the high bid was about \$1,000 by Sunday morning.

Police: Man delivered stolen newspapers for years

PHILLIPSBURG, N.J. (AP) — Police in New Jersey say a man stole stacks of newspapers and delivered them to unsus-

pecting customers for years.

Phillipsburg police say Michael Farrell was delivering copies of the Express-Times of

Easton, Pa., for the last three years. The problem was, police say he was stealing the papers from boxes.

Explosion at Wisconsin power plant injures 6

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A silo at a Milwaukee-area coal plant erupted in a fiery explosion Tuesday morning, sending six workers with burns to a hospital, authorities said.

The blast occurred in a dust collector of the We Energies plant in Oak Creek, utility spokesman Barry McNulty said. The dust collector is a silo where residual coal dust is collected for eventual burning.

The injured were contracted workers who were setting up scaffolding in the dust collector, he said. Investigators have not yet determined the cause of the explosion.

A 22-year-old man was in critical

condition with burns on half his body and was being treated at the burn unit at Columbia St. Mary's Hospital, Dr. Tom Schneider said.

Five other men had minor smoke inhalation and burns, the doctor said. Three were in fair condition and two were treated and released, he said. One of the three has burns on about half his body and will need skin grafts on his hands, he said.

The blast sparked "a great deal of fire" in the silo and took about an hour to get under control, Oak Creek Fire Assistant Chief Tom Rosandich said.

The plant, located along Lake

Michigan, burns 5,000 to 10,000 tons of coal per day. Oak Creek is about 20 miles south of Milwaukee.

About 230 employees work at the plant, McNulty said. Several thousand construction employees are also at the plant, working on an expansion project that began in 2005, he said.

The injured contractors work for Waukesha-based ThyssenKrupp Safway Inc., a subcontractor of U.S. Fire Protection in New Berlin, We Energies spokesman Brian Manthey said.

Michelle Dalton, a spokeswoman for ThyssenKrupp Safway, said her company's main concern was to immediately contact the men's families.

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Puzzles by PageFiller

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Solution to yesterday's puzzle

Ombuds Office

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Texas owes \$134M from hurricane

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas is sitting on \$134 million in unpaid bills from the emergency response to Hurricane Ike and blames the federal government for failing to take care of the bulk of them.

Such vendors as grocers who provided food and water and bus companies that helped evacuate people from the deadly Sept. 13 storm are tired of waiting for payment, the state Senate Finance Committee was told Tuesday.

"We are not broke; why aren't we paying these bills?" asked committee Chairman Steve Ogden.

The reason is that about \$120 million of the amount owed is the responsibility of the federal government, said Allison Castle, spokeswoman for Gov. Rick Perry. The state's share of the unpaid Ike costs that have already come due is \$14 million, she said.

"In recent weeks, the governor

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Habitat for Humanity volunteers talk about organization's impact

By **TINA L. ARONS**
FEATURES EDITOR

Bertha Lara met Millard Fuller, the co-founder of Habitat for Humanity who died Tuesday, during one of his visits to Lubbock.

Lara, a 43-year-old Lubbock woman, said she is grateful to the organization that provided her and her family with a house of their own.

"It was great to meet the man who started the program and who helped families like mine," she said.

Lara, a mother of two who works as the family services coordinator and office manager for Lubbock Habitat for Humanity, said her family received a house almost 15 years ago.

"We lived with our in-laws," she said. "The kids really didn't have their own rooms or anything. When we applied for the program, they didn't call us right away. So we didn't think they qualified, but then they called us a year later."

Volunteers from the Lubbock and Texas Tech communities participate in building between three and seven homes per year, she said, and Lubbock Habitat for Humanity has built more than 100 homes since it began.

Jennifer Adams, a junior restaurant, hotel and institutional management major from Lewisville and co-president of Tech Habitat for Humanity, said the student organization, which began in fall 1993, has helped build more than 50 local homes.



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador
RACHAEL BALL, A sophomore business major from College Station, and **Natalie Gowler**, a freshman early childhood education major from Allen, paint the trim of a Habitat for Humanity house as part of a service project October 12.

"Lubbock is really supportive with everything Tech does," Adams said.

"So, this is a way to give back."

About 50 students actively participate in Tech Habitat for Humanity, she said. The organization members try to build a house each fall semester, and they help build other houses, raise money for neighborhood playground equipment, repaint houses and

build sheds throughout the year.

Dominick Casadonte, a faculty advisor for Tech Habitat for Humanity,

said the student organization partners with local churches to build houses. "They provide funding and we provide the manpower," he said. Students who participate gain the knowledge they are helping people who may never have owned a home, Casadonte said. They also gain carpentry skills and a sense of confidence.

Lara said families must meet three requirements to qualify for a house: Need, ability to repay a no-interest mortgage, and a willingness to volunteer 500 hours of service to the organization.

"It's just a great program. It offers a sense of home ownership to families that have never owned a home," she said. "It's a great feeling to be able to help other families to own a dream just like I did."

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Co-founder of Habitat for Humanity dies

ATLANTA (AP) — Millard Fuller, the millionaire entrepreneur who gave it all away to help found the Christian house-building charity Habitat for Humanity, died Tuesday. He was 74.

Fuller died about 3 a.m. after being taken to a hospital emergency room, his wife, Linda, said. The cause of death was not immediately known.

Linda Fuller, in a telephone interview from the couple's home in Americus, said her husband was complaining of chest pains, headache and difficulty swallowing.

They planned to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in August with a 100-house "blitz build" across the globe, she said.

"We'll probably go ahead with the 'blitz build.' Millard would not want people to mourn his death," she said. "He would be more interested in having people put on a tool belt and build a house for people in need."

One of Habitat's highest-profile volunteers, former President Jimmy Carter, called Fuller "one of the most extraordinary people I have ever known."

"He used his remarkable gifts as an entrepreneur for the benefit of millions of needy people around the world by providing them with decent housing," Carter said in a statement. "As the founder of Habitat for Humanity and later the Fuller Center, he was an inspiration to me, other members of our family and an untold number of volunteers who worked side-by-side under his leadership."

Fuller ran Habitat for Humanity with his wife for nearly three decades but lost control of the charity in a conflict with its board. When ousted in January 2005, he and his wife started The Fuller Center for Housing to raise money for Habitat affiliates.

The ouster and a subsequent relocation of the nonprofit to Atlanta "cut the heart out of Habitat," co-founder

of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala., and longtime friend Morris Dees told The Associated Press Tuesday.

"Like many nonprofits, though, they tend to grow beyond the founder and lose a lot of the original zeal and passion that caused it to be created in the first place," Dees said.

Lutfi sues Britney Spears, parents

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Britney Spears' former manager and friend Osama "Sam" Lutfi filed a libel and defamation lawsuit Tuesday against the singer and her parents.

Lutfi's lawsuit came just three days after a judge granted Spears and her parents a restraining order against Lutfi, paparazzo Adnan Ghalib and a lawyer who the Spears family claim tried to regain control of the singer's life.

The lawsuit, which does not seek a specific dollar amount, provides pages of Lutfi's version of events, including his claim that he urged the singer to reconcile with her parents and that he was acting in her best interests.

Spears' family has contended otherwise. Lynne Spears once accused him of grinding pills into her food to control her, a claim he denies in his lawsuit.

The 27-year-old Spears has a resurgent career with a new album and tour planned, both of which have occurred since a court granted her father, Jamie, control over the singer's personal and financial affairs.

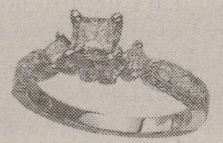
An e-mail and phone call sent to Spears' publicist seeking comment was not returned.

Lutfi also alleges that Jamie Spears punched him in the chest last year after accusing him of making a rude remark to the singer's mother, Lynne. Lutfi claims the incident happened in the midst of Britney Spears' downward spiral, just days before her father was granted the conservatorship.

A phone message left with Jamie Spears' conservatorship attorney was not immediately returned.

Lutfi's libel and defamation claims heavily cite Lynne Spears' recent book, "Through the Storm," and says it's filled with "false statements."

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Imitating the fine art of individuality

I was shopping for pens at the big-box craft store Hobby Lobby one recent afternoon when I overheard someone speaking.

"Bree, you've been very good. Do you want me to get you one of those?"

The voice was reassuring and motherly, but didn't belong to a mother. It belonged to a little girl. She was talking to her younger sister, her hands on her knees.

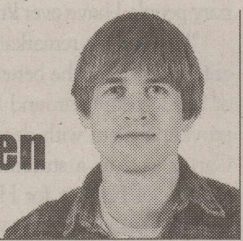
"Yeah, you've been really good, Bree," continued the girl. Then, standing up, determined, she said, "Mother, I'm going to buy my baby sister one of these pencils."

"You don't need to do that," said the slightly distracted-looking woman that was their mother. She took both girls' hands. "Let's go."

Ostensibly studying a box of pens I laughed to myself as the trio drifted off, their conversation lingering in the air, which smelled faintly of glue and potpourri.

I considered the tension between daughters and mothers, the implicit and subconscious competition. It was

Eric Braden



as if the mother had been insulted by the little girl's performance, but I guess that's how most people react to being mimicked.

I considered how parrot-like the little girl had seemed. She had spoken to her sister in the voice adults often use with children, an inflection halfway between tenderness and condescension. Perhaps the girl did not realize that she was mimicking her mother. Perhaps she just thinks that's how you talk to Bree.

As children, we mimic others unconsciously and without understanding. As adults we do the same thing, although with varying degrees of subtlety. That is, we become better actors. We make the roles our own, if you will.

Will Rogers knew about subtlety. He was one of the best around. He got

his start as a trick roper in Oklahoma (he could throw three lassoes at once, looping rider, horse and horse's legs simultaneously), and by the time of his death in a plane crash in 1935, he was the highest paid actor in Hollywood. He was as famous as Babe Ruth.

He was known for cutting big shot politicians down to size and was never afraid of sticking it to the man. He was sort of the Jon Stewart of his day. "Well, all I know is what I read in the papers," is what he would say to introduce his monologues.

A statue of Will Rogers on his horse Soapsuds stands near the main entrance to campus. It's called "Into the Sunset," and it is a casting of the Electra Wag-

goner original. People take pictures of each other in front of it just about every day.

Rogers once said, "An ignorant person is one who doesn't know what you have just found out." I love that quote. You can tell the person who said it was coming from a place of humility. He also said, "You know everybody is ignorant, only on different subjects."

He was probably most famous for the line "I never met a man I didn't like." He actually said, "I bet you if I had met him and had a chat with him, I would have found him a very interesting human and fellow, for I never yet met a man that I didn't like."

It was November 1926 and Rog-

ers was referring to Leon Trotsky, the Russian revolutionary.

He was making the point that even someone with an ideology so far from his own, like Trotsky, was simply just another human being, with flaws, quirks and all the basic fragile needs.

More than that, Rogers saw the good in people. He believed that he could sit with anyone and find something to like about that person, something in common. I wrote a column recently about the battle against cynicism; Rogers was a real anti-cynicism warrior, a true bi-partisan who only wanted peace and common sense to prevail.

I think he would have dug this Barack Obama guy.

Speaking of Trotsky, he once wrote, "The concrete is a combination of abstractions — not an arbitrary or subjective combination but one that corresponds to the laws of the movement of a given phenomenon."

Is there a better quote to define what it means to be an individual?

To me, seeing one's self as a "combination of abstractions" is healthy,

because that's what it's actually like. It's not good to stick too many labels on one's self that limit the imagination.

We all ponder the cycle of life and death, and consider that our bodies will in the end become the stuff of dirt. There's peace in that.

I think there's peace also in recognizing the mercurial relationship between who we are and our environment, like a ping-pong game, a process we can nearly observe happening outside of ourselves.

I can hear even now the voice of the little girl speaking like her mother. It's a form of mimicry at the moment, but like young lions stalking one another, it is also practice. We try on personas, but can never fully remove them. When the girl grows up and has kids of her own, she'll probably begin by talking exactly as she did as a child that day in Hobby Lobby.

■ Braden is a senior natural history and humanities major from Katy. E-mail him at eric.braden@ttu.edu.

“As children, we mimic others unconsciously and without understanding. As adults we do the same thing, although with varying degrees of subtlety.”

Tomorrow's citizens will pay for today's spending

By **BEN LINSKEY**
THE OBSERVER (NOTRE DAME)

Last November, voters elected Barack Obama as president, decisively repudiating the failed policies of the Bush administration and ushering in an era of change and reform.

Or at least that's what they thought they were doing. Less than a month into Obama's presidency, it's becoming alarmingly clear that many of the most misguided policies of the Bush years are here to stay. Thousands of Americans, suffering the effects of a deepening recession, are hopeful that the new administration will adopt a new course and lead our nation out of the present economic crisis. President Obama, however, seems determined to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor.

On Feb. 13 of last year, George W. Bush signed the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, intended to ward off a looming recession; predictably, the bill accomplished little more than tacking \$152 billion onto the federal deficit.

Less than a year later, faced with a worsening economic outlook, President Obama has somehow convinced himself and his political allies that the most prudent course of action is to imitate the Bush administration's policies on a grossly magnified scale, this time lobbing over \$800 billion at the problem.

The most immediate difficulty with this "stimulus" plan is that it simply won't work. In the 1930s, Franklin Delano Roosevelt oversaw the creation of thousands of new agencies and government jobs, but no amount of federal prodigality could lift the United States out of the Great Depression. In a recent analysis of Depression-era economic programs posted on the Cato Institute website, Regulation magazine editor Thomas Firey concluded that "the New Deal did little as an economic stimulus."

There is no reason to believe that

the Obama administration's "New Deal" will be any more effective. It is high time we recognize the sheer futility of government attempts to manipulate the economy. The greatest danger in this latest stimulus program, though, lies not in its ineffectiveness, but in the costs it will impose on future generations.

The national debt presently stands at over \$10.5 trillion — over \$30,000 per U.S. citizen. The Bush and Obama stimulus bills, combined with the recent wave of bailouts for failing, inefficient corporations, bear a combined price tag well in excess of \$1 trillion.

These numbers are almost too large to fully comprehend, but the federal debt is not an abstract tally; it is a series of enormous financial obligations to a variety of foreign governments and private citizens, all of whom collect interest on their investments each year.

Last year alone, the federal government paid out a whopping \$412 billion to its creditors. The Congressional Budget Office recently calculated that the stimulus package heralded by the Obama administration will entail an additional \$347 billion in interest payments over the next decade.

Deficit spending imposes a steadily growing burden on taxpayers. The government can account for its debt in only two ways. It can raise taxes, preying on the productivity of U.S. citizens, or it can simply print more money, leading to the hidden, insidious phenomenon of inflation. The latter option is more prevalent, as the disastrous consequences of inflation are not immediately apparent.

Incidentally, proponents of social justice who support government spending programs would do well to remember that the costs of inflation are distributed unevenly and often do the most harm to the poor. Politicians seize on the opportunity to impose long-term costs in return for the illusion of short-term benefits.

The ultimate, and most pernicious, consequences of reckless spending are seldom discussed. It is future generations, not current taxpayers, who will bear the brunt of the federal debt, and politicians in Washington have no qualms about burdening U.S. citizens not yet born with trillions of dollars of obligations in return for immediate political gain.

The great tragedy of the recent wave of stimulus bills and federal bailouts is that those who will be most affected by these policies do not even get a vote. The men and women who will inherit the national debt didn't elect George Bush, Barack Obama or any member of the U.S. Congress. The federal government's long standing policy of burdening the unborn with debt is little more than outright theft, closer to mob rule than democracy.

Sadly, the very nature of government and electoral politics encourages politicians to exploit the powerless for the sake of enriching present majorities. The good news is that there is still time for our nation to escape from the endless spiral of spending, bailouts and debt. But to do so, Americans must reject the ineffective and immoral policies offered by Democrats and Republicans in Washington.

Voters comprise the greatest — perhaps the only — check on such abuses of federal power. George W. Bush, Barack Obama and their colleagues in Congress have demonstrated that neither the left nor the right can be trusted to administer the powers of government responsibly.

Future generations will hold us accountable for the policies we endorse today. It's time for Americans to reject unrestrained federal spending and acknowledge the failure of the major parties to produce responsible, moral governance.

Cultural beliefs can make your penis disappear

By **DANIEL MORGAN**
THE DAILY REVELLE (LSU)

Let's take a break from biting geopolitical observations and balanced economic ruminations for something simpler:

Foreign cultures are weird. Or, more accurately, weird cultures are foreign.

Consider "Koro," a belief that one's genitals are retracting into one's body or have been removed.

Although the term originated in Asia — Koro is Malay for "head of the turtle" — recently, the most dramatic cases have taken place in Africa.

Assisted by juju and witchcraft, "penis thieves" have used their dark powers to steal the manhood from unsuspecting Africans.

Nervous victims have suddenly suspected their penises have disappeared or diminished and, in a moment of irrationality, blamed their newfound femininity on an unfortunate bystander.

Reports of penis thefts come in waves, like when angry mobs beat 12 suspected penis snatchers to death in Ghana's Capital in 1997, or when 13 suspected sorcerers were arrested by Congolese police last year, according to an April Reuters article.

Dr. Sunday Ilechukwu did some of the first reporting of African Koro in a letter to Transcultural Psychiatric Review. In 1975, a policeman escorted two men into Ilechukwu's office in Northern Nigeria, one of which had accused the other of stealing his penis.

After the doctor declared the alleged victim's condition to be

normal, he "looked down at his groin for the first time, suggesting that the genitals had just reappeared."

This is why journalists use the word "alleged."

What happened in Ilechukwu's office is most likely a combination of the power of suggestion and basic anatomy.

Penis thefts usually occur during a period of emotional excitement. The "fight or flight" impulse also results in decreased blood flow to the genitals.

It could be called the "first thing's first" response.

When the "first thing's first" response is combined with a firmly held belief that evil juju can steal ones' mo-jo, it is easy to see how these things can happen.

Or maybe this is just an elaborate way to explain away a lesser endowment.

"It's real," said one witness in the aforementioned Reuters article. "Just yesterday here, there was a man who was a victim. We saw. What was left was tiny."

Either way, the absurdity of the situation is matched by the credulity of the participants. Either way, foreign cultures are weird.

Cultural perceptions can make your penis disappear.

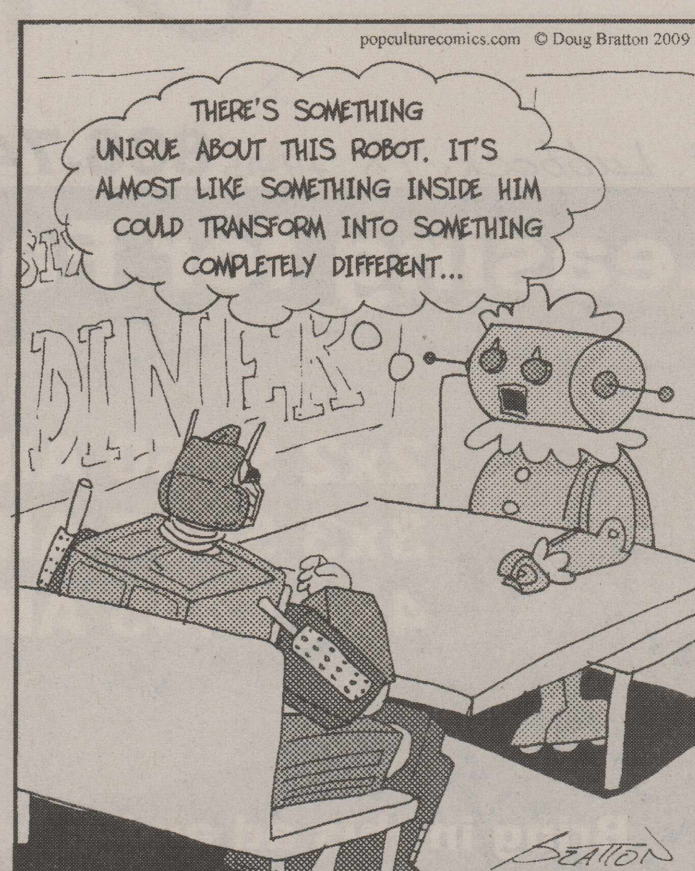
Sometimes cooler heads must point out that the Emperor is naked, or that the Emperor still has a penis.

But from the proper frame of mind, our own culture can seem just as foreign.

Americans have never believed in Juju, but we did suffer from a long spell of voodoo. As far as I know, no American has ever been lynched because of accusations of penis thefts, but we did have a shameful history in Salem, Massachusetts.

Come to think of it, there are still horoscopes in less-advanced newspapers.

We can generalize it: Cultures are weird.



Rosie was right about Optimus Prime--there was more to him than met the eye.

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Students make colorful lip balm creations on campus

By HANNAH BOEN
STAFF WRITER

A lip-balm making event hosted by Tech Activities Board allowed students to mix their favorite colors and flavors and take home a personalized tube of lip balm.

TAB member Angelica Longoria said the event was a unique way to bring students together to forget about school and meet new people.

Longoria, a San Diego, Calif., native said the purpose of the daytime events are to give students a break between classes and allow their minds to focus on something creative.

The activities board wants to include a majority of the student body in events, she said. So event coordinators try to make each event appealing to a wide range of students.

Although the event drew in mostly female students, several males stopped by to make lip balm in between classes or on their way to lunch.

Junior marketing manager Jeffrey Chui decided to create a blue grape-flavored lip balm. He said he attends as many TAB events as he can, because it is a good way to "kill time" between his classes.

"This is freaking awesome,



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON /The Daily Toreador

SARAH LECLAIR, LEFT, a senior history major from Dallas, and Lea Sweeney, a senior marketing major from Baird, fill lip balm containers while Nancy Sandoval, a senior wildlife management major from San Antonio, waits in line Tuesday in the Student Union Building.

and it's really unique to Tech," said the Lubbock native, "I've never heard of any other school doing this."

Besides using TAB events as a way to pass time in between classes, freshman pharmacy major Hollis Gurley said she uses TAB events as a way to meet new people.

"These daytime events are all good opportunities to get involved," she said.

Gurley, who is from Friona, encouraged other freshman to

attend the free events to learn more about campus and meet other students.

TAB will host its next daytime event from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Feb. 11. The event, which will take place in the Student Union Building, will include a butt sketch artist. Each student will leave with a portrait of their backside.

For more information about upcoming events, visit the TAB Web site.

hannah.boen@ttu.edu

Car sales

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It is important to not only shop around for low prices but low interest rates," Hein said.

Last month Ford Motor credit had a 4 percent interest rate, she said, which was lower than the rate the union offered.

Although rates are low and incentives are high, Gerry Landrum, the general manager at Alderson, said students should be careful when searching for a vehicle.

"Higher incentives means it's the hardest vehicle to sell," Landrum said. "Don't buy a vehicle based on how high the incentive is."

Jenny Kirk, a junior music performance and music education major, purchased a 2001 Honda Odyssey at the beginning of the year.

"All cars are really cheap right now," Kirk said. "Dealership prices are usually higher than individual sellers, but at this point they are equal or lower."

She said she looked on the Internet first, checking Kelly Blue Book prices as well as other Internet sources.

Knowing what to look for and knowing the information before shopping was important to her, Kirk said.

"We didn't go just to look," she said.

Kirk said her and her father had specific locations in mind as well as printed information about various vehicles they were interested in.

According to Edmunds.com, it is important to remember when negotiating with the salesman

THREE STEPS TO AUTO FINANCING

- Preparation**
 - Determine a realistic price range.
 - Know the difference between buying and leasing.
 - Know your credit record.
 - Compare annual percentage rates and financing terms from multiple sources.
 - Shopping**
 - Stay within the price range you can afford.
 - Negotiate your finance arrangements and terms.
 - Understand the value and price of optional products.
 - Read the contract carefully before you sign it.
 - Follow-up**
 - Make your payments on time.
 - Be aware the dealership or other creditor holds a right to the auto title until the contract is paid in full.
 - It may retain the finance contract or sell it to a third party.
 - The dealership or third party will service the account and collect payments.
- Source: <http://www.autofinancing101.com/>

for the most favorable auto loan that nothing is permanent until you have it in writing.
carrie.thorton@ttu.edu

LA VIDA NOCHE

Wednesday:

- Good vs. Evil Tour featuring My My Misfire, Lauren Louvre, Seven Last Words of Christ, Glenn Mara and This is the Sermon at Jake's Backroom. Doors open at 7 p.m. Cost \$10.

Thursday:

- Ryan Bales at Jake's Backroom. Doors open at 9 p.m. Cost \$5.
- Manny Rodriguez from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Stella's Lounge.

Friday:

- Whips and Kisses at Jake's Backroom. Doors open at 9 p.m. Cost \$10.
- Anthony Garcia from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Stella's Lounge.

Saturday:

- Devotchka with the Thrift Store Cowboys at Jake's Backroom. Doors open at 7 p.m. Cost \$18.
- Kyle Abernathie from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Stella's Lounge.

Tuesday:

- The Toasters with 50 Ft. Eyesore and Johnny Handgun at Jake's Backroom. Doors open at 9 p.m. Cost \$10.
- Jr. Vasquez from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Stella's Lounge.

Composed by features editor Tina L. Arons, tina.aron@ttu.edu

University Career Center promotes StrengthsQuest with month-long events

By CAYLOR BALLINGER
STAFF WRITER

The StrengthsQuest Advocate Committee will discuss two strengths from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. almost every day during February in the Student Union Play Room.

The discussions are open for all students, faculty and staff and will examine ways to best use personal strengths for optimal success.

Jay Killough, associate director of university career services, said StrengthsQuest starts with first-year students.

"StrengthsQuest is an assessment tool developed by the Gallup Organization to identify someone's top five strengths and areas of consistency," said Killough, who also is the StrengthsQuest coordinator for Tech.

According to the StrengthsQuest Web site, more than 400,000 people on more than 600 campuses have used the strengths test. The program provides a detailed personality test and identifies a person's top five strengths out of 34 different levels or themes.

"We want to encourage people to find their strengths," Killough said. "When an employer asks for your strengths it's important to know oneself and be able to articulate them in an interview."

Killough said knowing your strengths can help students seeking jobs. People who know their personal strengths can develop their skills, grow as a person, and be more confident in themselves.

The StrengthsQuest provides in-depth results including areas a person could excel and reasons why people may act the way they do.

Everybody is invited and en-

couraged to attend the month-long February discussions, even if they don't know their strengths, Killough said. It is a good idea to come and meet people with similar strengths. The discussions will be hosted for 17 days and two of the 34 strengths will be discussed each day.

"Maybe a significant other is puzzling to you," Killough said. "Well, you could go to their strength day and find out why they act the way they do."

Marjean Purinton, an Honors College associate dean who heads the First Year Experience program, said FYE helps freshman by providing mentors and helping them succeed in college by introducing them to StrengthsQuest.

"First year students take the StrengthsQuest so they can identify with their strengths and build on academic and social levels," Purinton said, "and they can recognize why they enjoy doing certain things."

StrengthsQuest is a great way to point students in the right direction, Purinton said, and they really enjoy it. It enables students to define and strengthen their personality, she said, and it is more enjoyable for students than an IQ test.

Honors College first-year experience coordinator Thomas Reynolds said via e-mail every honors student who joined the program as a first-semester freshman took the

UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS OF INDIVIDUAL STRENGTHS

- Feb. 4: Achiever and Activator
- Feb. 5: Analytical and Adaptability
- Feb. 6: Arranger and Belief
- Feb. 9: Command and Communication
- Feb. 10: Competition and Connectedness
- Feb. 11: Context and Deliberative
- Feb. 12: Developer and Discipline
- Feb. 13: Empathy and Consistency
- Feb. 16: Focus and Futuristic
- Feb. 17: Harmony and Ideation
- Feb. 19: Includer and Individualism
- Feb. 20: Input and Intellection
- Feb. 23: Learner and Maximizer
- Feb. 24: Positivity and Relator
- Feb. 25: Restorative and Responsibility
- Feb. 26: Significance and Self Assurance
- Feb. 27: Woo and Strategic

StrengthsQuest as part of his or her First-Year Experience course.

"As a first-semester freshman student, much of your time is spent acclimating yourself to the university and beginning to explore who you really are," Reynolds said.

StrengthsQuest helps students with this because it gives them five concrete things they do well. Reynolds said by having students do the StrengthsQuest in their first semester, they are automatically aware of the Career Center, which can become an invaluable tool to students and their futures after college.

"I think it is a good idea that the Career Center has made February StrengthsQuest month," Reynolds said. "It helps to put a spotlight on StrengthsQuest and the Career Center for the rest of the university."

caylor.ballinger@ttu.edu

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
- Split the beans
 - Japanese entertainer
 - Silent assent
 - World-class
 - resser
 - 1984's lover
 - 1986 hit by Heart
 - Sebaceous cyst
 - Asparagus unit
 - Top point
 - Boater or bowler
 - Passport stamp
 - Canine hotels
 - With frankness
 - Salty droplet
 - Conceit
 - Alan and Nathan
 - Goblet parts
 - River of Hamburg
 - 1963 hit by the Orlons
 - Melville novel
 - Infamous
 - Chip in chips
 - Act right
 - Rummy call
 - Hurrier's stat
 - Plus
 - Toy person
 - Ceylon, today
 - Very bad
 - Legendary archer
 - Toward the bottom
 - Un-, pardon me
 - Two quartets merged
 - Hawaiian staple
 - 1984 hit by Berlin
 - Barnyard layer
 - Saudi
 - Brightest star in Lyra
 - Spots on TV
 - Bleep out
 - Beholder

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71				72						73		

By Adele Mann
New York, NY
2/4/09

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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40 Slaughter of Cooperstown
42 One of HOMES
45 Fact book
47 Permit
50 City near Rawalpindi
52 Room recess
53 Greek letter

54 Voiced disapproval
55 Geneva's lake
59 Unruly crowds
61 Three-spot
62 Transition point
63 Russian ruler
66 Grande
67 Serving of corn

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7 AM	Curious (HD)	Today Schedules: a green routine; chef Seamus Muller; from Clifford	The Early Show	Copeland Robinson	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	(6:00) Good Day Lubbock
8 AM	Super Why	The Pink Panther 2, actor Andy Garcia (HD)	The 700 Club	Believer's J. Hanna	Divorce Payne	Regis & Kelly	Martha Stewart
9 AM	Sesame Street	Price is Right (HD)	Morning Show	Divorce Payne	Cosby	The View (HD)	Morning Show
10 AM	Dragon	Jeopardy!	Risless (HD)	Alex	Paid Prog.	Church	Tyra Banks Show
11 AM	Martha	Trivial Pursuit	Cristina	Cristina	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	
12 PM	Quilt-Day	News	News	People's Court	Roseanne	All My Children	Paid Prog.
1 PM	Painting	Days of Our Lives	Beautiful	Roseanne	Roseanne		Paid Prog.
2 PM	Woodturn	As the World Turns	As the World Turns	Paid Prog.	Farm Court	One Life to Live	People's Court
3 PM	Place	The Doctors	Guiding Light	Maury	Judge Jeanine	General Hospital	Judge Mathis
4 PM	Behind the Lion	Inside	Corah Winfrey	Brown	Extra	J. Fox	No Deal
5 PM	Arthur	WordGirl	Brown	Access	Wayans	No Deal	Ellen DeGeneres
6 PM	NewsHour (HD)	Wheel	Millionaire	Meury	Standing	Rachael Ray	Bonnie Hunt Show
7 PM	Pioneers Sit-coms	Knight Ride (HD)	Criminal Minds	Funnest Moment	Privileged	Lost "Jughead"	American Idol (HD)
8 PM	George Carlin	Life "Re-Entry"	Couric Grammy	One Roof	90210	Loat (HD)	Lie to Me (HD)
9 PM	Remain	Law & Order (HD)	CST: NY (HD)	Lim (HD)	Style	(9:00) Lie on Mars	News
10 PM	Bus. Rpt	News	News	King	Sex City	News	Two & 1/2
11 PM	BBC World Show	The Tonight Show	(10:35) Late Show	TMZ	Married Maniac	Nightline	Satire
12 AM	News	(11:37) Late Show	Late Late Show	Masoom	Maniac	Jimmy Kimmel	Raymond
	Rose	News	Wife	Bernie	Scubs	Scubs	Scubs
	Dastinos	News	Paid Prog.	Cops	Paid Prog.	Frasier	Frasier
	GED	Last Call	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Insider	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.

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SPORTS

PAGE 6
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4, 2009

2009 National Signing Day arrives for Red Raiders

By ADAM COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

No more in-house visits, hotel stays, or trying to convince high school football stars that Texas Tech is the place to be — 2009 National Signing Day is here for the Red Raiders' football coaching staff.

Unable to comment on players before Signing Day, Tech coach Mike Leach and defensive coordinator Ruffin McNeill are pleased with the latest recruiting class for the Red Raiders, saying it has the potential to be the best class in school history.

According to rivals.com, the Red Raiders have 25 commitments, including receiver Eric Ward, who switched his commitment from Oklahoma to Tech and has signed a letter of intent. In 2008 Tech had 16 commitments, and in 2007 the Red Raiders had 26. According to rivals.com, there are four four-star athletes committed to Tech. Last year Tech had three four-star recruits, and in 2007 the

Red Raiders only had one.

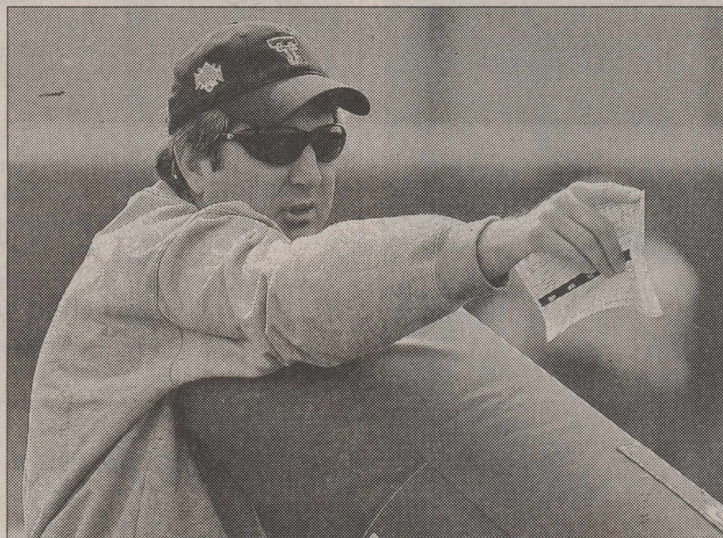
Leach said an 11-win season in 2008 provided some incentive for players and their decision to come to Tech. He said this, along with the continuous efforts of his staff helped players solidify their decisions.

"We have a chance to have the best class we've had, so we're looking forward to it," he said. "Our staff's worked really hard, and I think our players do a good job of kind of enjoying and selling what we have on campus. I think last year helped a great deal."

But even though the class may look good on paper, the players still have to fit in with the team.

Leach said he has learned not to put one player above another in a recruiting class because there still is so much more that determines whether a player will work out.

"I quit doing that a while back," he said. "Part of it was I was wrong every time. The guys that do the best early are the ones that adjust the quickest. You



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH COACH Mike Leach will conduct a press conference announcing the Red Raiders' 2009 recruiting class at 3 p.m. today.

never really know. I feel good about the group overall."

Thirteen of the 25 athletes on the list are recruited as defensive players, not including one player projected as a

defensive back according to rivals.com, D.J. Johnson from Austin. According to rivals.com, one of the four-star recruits is defensive tackle Myles Wade from Yuma, Ariz.

Leach said one concern heading into the recruiting season was the safety position considering the Red Raiders lost their top four, including Darcel McBeth and Daniel Charbonnet.

As a result, there are four defensive backs committed to Tech, according to rivals.com. Terrance Bullitt from Garland, Daniel Cobb from Killeen, Will Ford from Abilene, and Yahshua Williams from Denton are the four recruited as defensive backs.

Leach also said recruiting defensive and offensive linemen seems to be a top priority every year.

"We try to sign a whole football team," McNeill said. "I try to sign an entire defense. That's the whole goal of recruiting I think personally. You wanna sign four D-linemen. You wanna sign three linebackers. You wanna sign four DBs. Because we play so much nickel and dime packages, you wanna sign anywhere from six or seven DBs. We'll know (today), but we've hopefully accomplished that."

McNeill, who has been recruiting players for 23 years, said this is one of the busiest times of the year for the coaching staff. He said he has become accustomed to the demands recruiting can have, including traveling to a different city and visiting a different home every night.

He also said Tech has "made up a lot of ground" since Leach has been coach at Tech, and although the 2008 season may have helped, recruiting still is a lot of work.

As far as the end result, some players in this year's class may see the field earlier than expected.

"I feel good about them, but you never know until a year or so from now," McNeill said. "A lot of these kids on defense we're going to count on participating very, very early, but you never know the strength of the class until a couple years down. I like the makings of our class. I like the athleticism. I think a lot of these guys will do a great job here at Texas Tech."

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Red Raiders in unfriendly territory, back on the road at Oklahoma State

By ALEX YBARRA
MANAGING EDITOR

Texas Tech coach Pat Knight only received a slap on the wrist from the Big 12 Conference for running onto the court and getting ejected against Nebraska Saturday, meaning he would roam the sidelines in the Red Raiders' next game.

So when Tech plays Oklahoma State at 8 p.m. in Gallagher-Iba Arena in Stillwater, Okla., Cowboys' first-year coach Travis Ford will be opposite his weekly competition for the most fiery and animated head coach in the conference.

During a loss to Texas A&M Saturday, in which the Aggies had 32 free throw attempts, an official issued Ford a technical after he took off his jacket

and slammed it down in frustration of the calls.

After sprinting around the court, yelling at officials, Knight's tirade is hands down the winner.

Either way you cut it, both acts are a sign that each coach is fighting for a win during the most pivotal month of Big 12 basketball.

"I think coaches often will try to get the team motivated, as well as the crowd, in different ways," Tech associate coach Chris Beard said. "(Knight) just thought the team needed a spark, so I think it was a calculated thing by Pat."

The same could be applied to Ford's case. Oklahoma State (13-7, 2-4 in Big 12 play) has lost four of its last five games, including two at home. Of the losses, the Cowboys lost in overtime, 98-92, at Baylor and 97-95 at home to Missouri.

The Red Raiders (11-10, 1-5) are on a three-game skid that sits at the end of a 1-6 record during their last seven games.

To make matters worse, Tech is 0-6 on the road this season and is winless in Stillwater since 2005. Also, Tech caught the turnover bug again after a one-game hiatus.

The Red Raiders had 21 turnovers Saturday, after only committing seven against Texas A&M Jan. 28. Despite a plethora of bad passes, Tech hung around after falling behind by 17 points in each

half, coming within five twice near the end of the second half.

If Tech guard John Roberson had not fouled out late, the Red Raiders might have completed the comeback.

Beard filled in for Knight during the Big 12 coaches' teleconference Monday and said any coach preparing for the Cowboys would be wise to take into account their level of talent, regardless of the coaching change from former coach Sean Sutton to Ford.

After the departure of Sutton last season, Ford came in and increased the tempo, creating a team that already has scored more than 75 points four times in Big 12 play this year. Under Sutton last season, the Cowboys only reached that mark five times in 16 games.

So for Beard, the question is not how to solve Oklahoma State's revised, up-and-down style — which has four players averaging double figures. Instead, he said understanding how threats like James Anderson (17.7 points per game), Byron Eaton (13.9 per game) and Obi Muonelo (15.5 per game) can expose Tech's weaknesses.

"I think the thing with Oklahoma State is, that everyone in our league understands, especially the coaches across the conferences, this is one of the most talented teams in the league," Beard said. "Sean Sutton had this thing loaded up pretty good. They've got arguably the best starting lineup in the league maybe

besides Texas coming back. So more important than the new style of play, our emphasis is just trying to understand what each guy does on their team and we respect the talent they have."

Understandably so, OSU's 84.2 points per game rank fifth in the nation and second in the conference. However, the constant running in an offense that rotates no more than eight players seemed to irk Ford after the loss to A&M Saturday, especially considering his Cowboys had four-days to rest leading up to the game.

"We looked very tired, I don't know why," he said after the game. "We just played tired basketball."

In response, he said he would shorten practices in hopes of alleviating the



PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/The Daily Toreador

MIKE SINGLETARY ATTEMPTS a layup in Texas Tech's 69-82 loss to Nebraska Saturday in the United Spirit Arena. The Red Raiders face Oklahoma State at 8 p.m. today in Stillwater, Okla.

fatigue factor.

"We've gotta make practices more competitive," he said. "We've gotta make practices maybe shorter, go hard for that short amount of time because you don't wanna lose their focus in practice."

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Magic's Nelson out
with shoulder injury

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — All-Star point guard Jameer Nelson could miss the rest of the season for the Orlando Magic because of a torn labrum in his right shoulder.

An MRI exam revealed the injury Tuesday, the team announced.

Nelson will decide over the next week whether he will have surgery or attempt rehabilitation. If surgery is the option, his season is likely over. If he passes on the surgery, he'll likely miss several weeks.

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Carvalho plays like veteran, ready for demands at No. 1

By ZANE TURNER
STAFF WRITER

So young, but with such high expectations.

The bar is set quite high for Texas Tech men's tennis freshman sensation, Raony Carvalho, and the expectations not only come from others but from himself, too.

"I don't look at him as a freshman," Tech men's tennis coach Tim Siegel said. "The challenge for him is being able to handle playing No. 1 or playing top players each and every match."

Carvalho has had plenty of experience in the spotlight. In his home country of Brazil, he was ranked No. 1 for 12 years old and under, 14 and under, 16 and under and 18 and under, according to the International Tennis Federation.

In all of South America, he ranked No. 1 for 14 and under, 16 and under, and 18 and under.

Siegel said Carvalho has experience beyond his years and does not play or act like a freshman.

He begins the season ranked No. 19 in the nation in singles play after posting a 12-4 mark during the fall season. Six of those wins came against nationally-ranked opponents.

Carvalho had a solid first weekend of the season for the Red Raiders. Despite losing both matches at No. 1, he fought hard against



CARVALHO

LSU's No. 2 player in the country, Michael Venus, taking him to three sets, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

He took the other loss to the No. 20-ranked player in the country, Notre Dame's Brett Helgeson, also taking him to three sets, 4-6, 6-4, 3-2. The match ended in the third set because Tech at that time was down 4-0 and decided to end the contest.

After Carvalho and Christian Rojmar — ranked No. 7 — lost to LSU's duo of Neal Supski and Venus, 8-4, the freshman bounced back to notch a win.

Rojmar and Carvalho later defeated Notre Dame's No. 37 team of Tyler Davis and Helgeson, 8-5.

"I knew when I first saw him that he had an incredible amount of ability and talent," Siegel said. "And now he has a much better work ethic in the weight room as well as on the court. He has what it takes to play at a high level every day and ultimately to become a professional."

In the fall, Carvalho proved himself on and off the court by working hard in the weight room, winning tough matches and playing with heart.

Siegel said that Carvalho has improved his work ethic and focus, noting that his stud freshman is

even more mature after just one semester.

A good example of that maturity, Carvalho is not surprised or worried about a schedule that pits him against top players each week, similar to what he saw in Tech's season openers.

"I'm ready to play No. 1," he said. "When I came and visited Tech, (Siegel) told me, well you're gonna play No. 1. So I've been working hard to be ready. So I expect to play very well."

Carvalho is a big reason why this could be one of the more talented teams in recent Tech history. Teammates believe in him and know the competition he brings every day in practice.

"He's a really talented player," Rojmar said. "He's working really hard, we have good chemistry together. He's a great teammate and a good guy."

However, the Red Raiders' season got off to a rocky start with the 4-3 loss to No. 16 LSU and the 4-0 loss to No. 30 Notre Dame Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

Despite the losses, Carvalho said the team has unlimited potential.

"I think this season our team is better than last year's," he said. "We have good players, experienced players, so I think we're gonna do very well, better than any other season."

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Despite recent loss, Federer should stand among best in sports history

Every sport has its legends. Baseball and football have too many to name, but other sports with smaller rosters — basketball and hockey for example — and individual sports like tennis and golf lend themselves to the argument of who is the greatest ever to play the game.

Basketball has Michael Jordan, hockey has Wayne Gretzky, golf has Tiger Woods (sorry, Jack Nicklaus), and despite his recent loss to Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open, tennis has Roger Federer.

We are talking about a guy who sits one behind Pete Sampras' record Grand Slam total of 14 with 13 majors to his name. But the difference between the two players and their similar Slam numbers is huge.

First of all, Sampras won 14 Grand Slams over a span of 37 majors. Federer, by comparison, has won his 13 Grand Slams over a span of only 22 majors. There is something to be said for the longevity of Sampras' career, but the concentrated dominance of Federer's career is unrivaled.

And Federer is not done. It would be no surprise at all if he added at least one more Grand Slam to either tie or pass Sampras' record.

Another thing the two legends have in common is the glaring absence of a French Open title on the red clay of Roland Garros. But again, when you look beyond the surface of the similarity you find further reason to believe Federer is the best ever.

Sampras is well-known for his deficiencies on clay, as his powerful serve and piercing, flat ground strokes

Brett Talley



any other player and only counting his free throw totals.

What makes it even more impressive is that Gretzky did it in 20 seasons while second and third all-time needed 25 and 26 seasons, respectively, to finish with those kinds of numbers. That alone makes "The Great One" the single best player in the history of professional sports.

Michael Jordan won six titles and should have won eight in a row. A brief, and disastrous, foray into the world of minor league baseball prevented Jordan and his Bulls from joining the Celtics as the only franchise to win eight consecutive NBA titles.

Of course, Jordan won five MVP awards, led the league in scoring average 10 times and finished his career as the only person to ever average over 30 points per game making him a close second to Gretzky.

And then you have Federer and Tiger, two men who — without question — are third and fourth in this listing of the elite.

But the question is: in what order?

The jury is probably still out on this one. Only five years down the road when Federer leaves the game, or a decade or so from now when Tiger calls it quits, will we be able to properly assess the sum of their careers and place them in their rightful spot among the best to ever play.

The only thing we know for sure is that they will be there, and that they will always be in the discussion.

Talley is a senior marketing major from Odessa. E-mail him at brett.talley@ttu.edu.

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5220 17TH. 3/2/2. convenient to Tech! Fireplace. Large yard. \$995. Castle Property Mgmt. 783-3040.

5834 45TH. 4/2. Two living areas, new carpet! \$875. Castle Property Mgmt. 783-3040.

5834 B 7th. Newer 3/2/2. W/D connection. Security gate. \$850 per month. 806-783-3040.

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.

UNFURNISHED

FREE RENT
Great houses and duplexes for lease. 2302 17th: Lindsey Apartments 2/1, \$595/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.

GREAT MOVE IN SPECIALS

4/1.5/2 huge house, 2 living areas, CH/CA. 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.

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.

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

15 ABDA reg. blue and blue fawn pit bull puppies. 3 females, 12 males. Parents on premises. \$450-\$600. 575-706-3938 or 575-499-5632.

500 POLICE Impounds! Hondas, Toyotas, etc. From 500! For listings 800-544-1092 ext L356.

ADJUSTABLE BED and queen mattress. Brand new! Warranty, \$995, 806-549-3110.

ALL LEATHER 5 piece sofa set. Can separate. Brand new. \$650, 806-549-3110.

BRAND NEW micro suede sofa, loveseat, 3-piece table set. Lifetime warranty. Can separate. \$500, 806-549-3110.

BRAND NEW queen pillow top complete mattress set. In plastic. Warranty. \$135, 806-549-3110.

CHERRY BEDROOM set. Complete 6 piece. New, boxed. \$675, 806-549-3110.

COMPLETE 5 PIECE bedroom suite. Fruitwood finish. Never used. \$540, 806-438-0081.

COUNTER HEIGHT table and chairs. Ebony finish. New from manufacturer. \$399, 806-549-3110.

DINING TABLE and 4 chairs. Never used. Dark oak finish. \$270, 806-549-3110.

FOR SALE: 4/2 house, 1922 sq. ft., close to Tech, excellent condition. \$99,500. 5510 12th St. Call Jan Alexander, ERA Real Estate. (806)789-9325.

KING PILLOW TOP mattress and box spring. Brand new, in plastic. \$250, 806-549-3110.

MATTRESS, FURNITURE

5127 34th Street (34th & Slide), 785-7253.

SIMMONS QUEEN mattress & box spring. New. Warranty. List \$899, sell \$399, 806-549-3110.

VICTORIAN STYLE bed. Cherry finish, solid wood construction. Never used. \$295, 806-438-0081.

CLOTHING/JEWELRY

NEED CASH

Buying any gold/silver jewelry. Any Condition. Avery and others. Varsity Jewelers 1311 University.

TEXAS TECH

Officially licensed rings. Men's from \$495. Women's from \$275. Varsity Jewelers. 1311 University.

MISCELLANEOUS

\$5000 PAID EGG DONORS
plus expense. Non/smoker, ages 19-29 SAT>1100/ACT>24. GPA>3.0. Contact: info@eggdonorcenter.com if qualified.

NURSE-AID classes enrolling now. Day/Evening/Saturday. Class size limited. Three Star Nurse-Aid Training 806-747-4102, 806-928-9847.

THE GOLD STOP

Cash for gold, silver, jewelry, coins, watches, etc. 2423 34th. Open M-F 9am-6pm. 806-747-4653, 790-7074.

YOUR GIFT MEANS THE WORLD

Consider donating your eggs to help other women. Your time is worth \$2500-\$3500. The Centre for Reproductive Medicine. 788-1212.

ROOMMATES

ROOMMATE NEEDED

EXPERIENCE Rec Sports

Attention Faculty and Staff!!
It's not too late to get a Rec Center Membership!
Just \$65 for the Semester or \$106 til Aug. 31!
Stop by Rm. 202 M-F 8-5pm and W til 6pm!

Phone: 742-3351

Website: www.rescsports.ttu.edu

Box 2151

Heartbeats

A quick pulse around the Rec Sports World...

Sports Trivia Bowl!

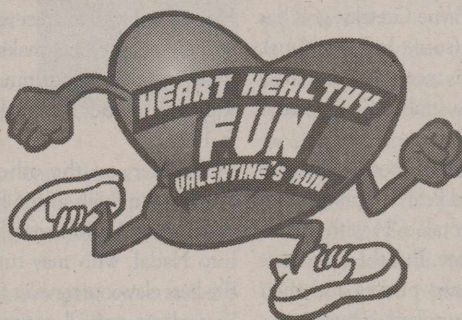
Sign up in the Intramurals Office by Friday for the Sports Trivia Bowl on Sunday! Test your knowledge of sports, present and past! Free! Free!

Intramural Sign-ups

Racquetball League FREE!
 Divisions - Men's and Women's
 Pool Play followed by a single elimination tournament
 Entries due Wednesday, February 4, 2009
 Inner-Tube Water Polo FREE!
 Play Day - Sunday February 8, 2009
 Tournament - Sunday February 15, 2009
 Divisions - Open and Co-Rec
 Entries due Wednesday, February 4, 2009
 9-Ball Tournament FREE !!
 Event Dates - 2/9 or 2/10
 Divisions - Open-Limited to first 16
 Participants each night
 Played in SUB, Lower Level
 Entries due Wednesday, February 10, 2009

Looking for a summer job but don't know what there is to do in Lubbock? Check out the Aquatics Center! Starting in March, we will be hiring lots of staff for the new Leisure Pool, which is scheduled to open on June 1! Be part of the first workers that get the privilege of working at Tech's newest attraction! Not only will you get paid, but you will have a great time too! And don't worry if you don't want to be a lifeguard, we have plenty of spots available that don't get in the water!

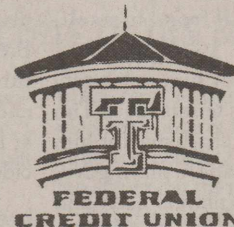
Fit/Well



Valentine 1 Mile/5K Run-Walk

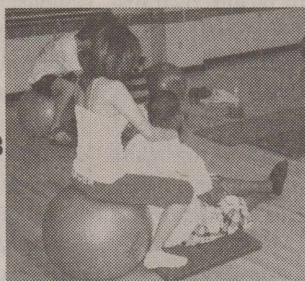
Saturday, February 7

Register 12:00 - 1:00pm at North ID
Free T-Shirts to the first 80 student runners!
(Must show ID) FREE to participate!
Bring a New Teddy Bear for the Children's Advocacy Center

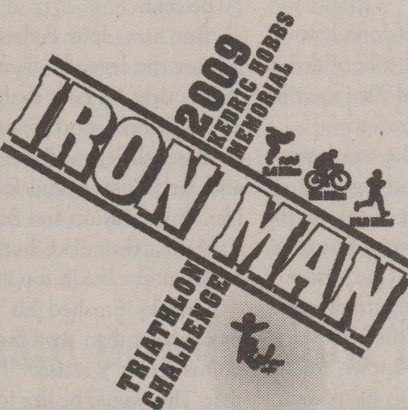


Couples Massage

Sunday, Feb. 10 6:30pm
Bring a friend and learn self care techniques to re-energize, loosen tense muscles, and plain ol' relax! \$10/Couple



Heart Healthy Valentine Dinner Heart Healthy Valentine Lunch
Wednesday, Feb. 11 5:30pm Friday, February 13 12:00pm
Register by Feb. 10 Register by Feb. 12
\$8/person! Cash or check only! \$8/person! Cash or check only!
Register by contacting the Register by contacting the
FitTech Office at 742-3046 FitTech Office at 742-3046



Can you do it all in 15 days? 2.4 mile swim, 112 miles biking, and 26.2 miles running.

Sign up in the Fit/Well by February 6.
 Cost: \$14 (\$16XXL)
 All finishers receive a dry fit T-shirt!

Runs February 7 - 22
www.rescsports.ttu.edu

One hour massage for \$35.00

Discount available now in Fit/Well
 Book it by Saturday!

*Massages purchased at discount price must be used on or before (no gift certificates)
 Book by phone: (806) 742-3046 February 20 Email for more info: fitwellrec@ttu.edu

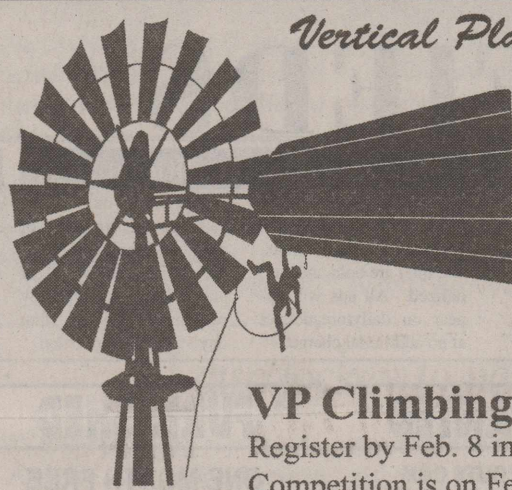
There are still Raider X2 Classes available!
 Mind/Body Pass \$75 gains access to 15 weekly classes. And this pass is for the entire semester! This deal simply cannot be beat anywhere!
 Racquetball Fitness League \$20 for 5 weeks that meets Thursdays from 6-8 pm. Improve your racquetball and fitness skills in this instructor-led league.
 And don't forget about the Xtra Strength Master Class tomorrow from 5:30 - 6:30pm!
 It's in Rm. 114 and we will give

Intramurals

Team Bowling

Where: South Plains Lanes (5150 69th Street)
 Register by Friday, February 6th for bowling on February 8th or 9th!
 4 Person Teams check in at 8:30pm.
 \$24/Team includes 4 players' shoes, 3 games and a great night of FUN!

Outdoor Pursuits Center



Vertical Plains Climbing Competition

Telluride Mountainfilm Festival
 7pm Allen Theatre
 See some of the best films from the Telluride festival! From Conservation to exhilaration!
 Stop by the OPC for more info!

VP Climbing Competition

Register by Feb. 8 in the OPC!
 Competition is on Feb. 16 all day! Registration forms available online at www.rescsports.ttu.edu

We are looking for you!! Become a Softball Umpire!

Students wanting to officiate softball are encouraged to one of the two meetings: Monday, Feb. 16th or Tuesday, Feb. 17th at 5 pm at the Student Rec Center (SRC), Room 201. Softball officials make \$9 per game and are thoroughly trained in rules, mechanics, and gamesmanship. Some knowledge of baseball or softball is helpful but not mandatory.

Any questions should be directed to the intramural staff by calling 742-2945, by coming by the SRC's room 203, or by visiting the web at: www.rescsports.ttu.edu

Aquatics Center

Register for Swim Fit!

Want more out of your swim? This 10 week program is designed for the advanced swimmer and involves stroke mechanics, strength conditioning, advanced water fitness and more! \$40 for Rec member and \$30 for students.

Register by calling the Aquatic Center at 742-3896.

Tuesdays from February 17 - April 28 7:00 - 9:00pm

Youth Learn To Swim

Got a little one? Our youth swim programs are the perfect start for your child to experience the water for the first time or improve their skills. We offer classes ranging from Parent and Me to Advanced Skills.

Spring Session: Every Tuesday and Thursday from Feb. 17 - Mar. 12 6:00 - 8:00pm

Lifeguard Challenge

Are you currently certified and about to expire? Are you certified by another agency other than American Red Cross? We have a challenge system especially for you! Update your certification by taking this Red Cross challenge course. The cost is \$75 (\$40 for CPR only).

Sunday, February 15 1:00 - 4:00pm

Colorado Ice Climbing Trip

Deadline: Feb. 19

Cost: \$275

Trip Dates: Feb. 26 - Mar. 1

Are you ready to challenge yourself with a new adventure? Colorado Ice Climbing might be for you! This trip has two and a half days of climbing guided by an ice climbing guide. The trip is at a waterfall near Creede, Co!
 For more information, call 742-2949.

Wilderness First Responder

Deadline: \$495 before February 20, \$525 after

Trip Dates: March 14 - 22

The Wilderness First Responder course has been designed specifically to meet the needs of wilderness guides, expedition leaders, and outdoor instructors. It is the outdoor education and recreation industry's standard for wilderness medical training. It is the wilderness medicine training course for outdoor professionals...and the course you want your friends to have taken before you travel with them. The course includes WMTCA adult CPR & AED certification. For more information, call 742-2949.

student union

coming together in the union

student assistant positions available, effective immediately

Student Union and Activities needs 2 students to work in our office. 1 student to work in the accounting office and 1 student to assist our computer technician.

Please come by Room 203 in the Student Union Building to fill out an application.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Student Union & Activities
 Division of Student Affairs

for more information - call (806) 742-3636 or visit www.sub.ttu.edu



activities

whats coming up at the union

Butt Sketch Artist

Wednesday, February 11
 SUB Across from Copy Tech | 11:00am

Comedy Night with Dan Cummins

Thursday, February 12
 SUB Allen Theatre | 8:00pm

Telluride Film Festival --co-sponsored with the Outdoor Pursuits Center

Friday, February 13
 SUB Allen Theatre | 7:00pm

Movie -- Changeling

Friday, February 20
 SUB Allen Theatre | 8:00pm

For more information about activities in the Student Union visit www.tab.ttu.edu

student organization updates...

Student Organization Registration Meeting

Tuesday, February 10
 SUB Senate Room | 2:00pm

Student Organization Workshop -- Situation Management

Wednesday, February 11
 SUB Mesa Room | 5:00pm