

CROWE'S HAVING 'A GOOD YEAR'



BASKETBALL START SEASONS



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MONDAY, NOV. 13, 2006 VOLUME 81 ■ ISSUE 55

THE DAILY T O R E A D O R

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(INSIDE)



Students putting care packages together for U.S. troops. SEE PAGE 6.

(INBRIEF)

STATE

Lawmakers turn attention to 2007 agenda

AUSTIN (AP) — The election dust has barely settled, but Texas lawmakers are already working on bills they'll push in the legislative session that begins in January.

Property appraisal caps, crack-downs on child predators and border security are among the major issues expected on the legislative agenda. The perennial proposals to allow casino gambling and to use taxpayer money for private school vouchers also are likely to pop up.

Lawmakers get their first chance to file bills on Monday, and clerks at the Texas House and Senate expect at least a few sponsors will be waiting in line when their offices open.

NATION

Bush, team to meet with Iraq study group

WASHINGTON (AP) — Responding to a humbling election, White House aides said Sunday that President Bush would welcome new ideas about the unpopular war in Iraq, even from Democrats he had branded as soft on terrorism. As Bush planned to meet Monday with a key advisory group on the war, his advisers adopted a new tone, days after a dissatisfied public handed the White House a divided government.

WORLD

Hamas official accepts Arab proposal

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — The Hamas-led Palestinian government agreed Sunday to an international peace conference with Israel after the Arab League — angered by Israel's military offensive in Gaza — voted to end a financial blockade on the Palestinians.

Foreign Minister Mahmoud Zahar of Hamas endorsed a statement by Arab foreign ministers calling for the peace conference during a meeting in Cairo to respond to a U.S. veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning the Gaza offensive.

DEATH TOLL

2848

U.S. Military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by Department of Defense

WEATHER

Today



SOME CLOUDS HIGH 62/ LOW 44

Tuesday



SUNNY HIGH 77/ LOW 39

INSIDE

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'Nobody can be happy with the situation'

Bush's top aide discusses war in Iraq; White House open commission's recommendations

By BEN FELLER ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's chief of staff said Sunday "nobody can be happy with the situation" now in Iraq and the White House would consider the idea of U.S. talks with Syria and Iran if a blue-ribbon commission recommended that.

President Bush and his national security team planned to meet Monday with the bipartisan Iraq Study Group, which is trying to develop a new course for the war.

"We're looking forward to the recommendations," said Josh Bolten, Bush's top aide. With

Democrats seizing majorities in the House and Senate in last week's elections and urging a change in Iraq policy, Bolten said the White House is "looking forward to a dialogue with bipartisan leaders in Congress."

"Everybody's objective here is to succeed in Iraq. I think that's true of Democrats as well as Republicans. But the president has said we need to get fresh eyes on the problem. We need a fresh perspective," Bolten said.

Already, military commanders are re-evaluating strategy to determine what changes are needed "to get ourselves more focused on the correct objectives," the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman

said last week.

The administration, Bolten said, "has always been ready to make a course adjustment" in Iraq.

"Nobody can be happy with the situation in Iraq right now. Everybody's been working hard, but what we've been doing has not worked well enough or fast enough," Bolten said. "So it's clearly time to put fresh eyes on the problem. The president has always been interested in tactical adjustments. But the ultimate goal remains the same, which is success in Iraq."

Former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, co-chairman of the Iraq Study Group

with ex-Democratic Rep. Lee Hamilton of Indiana, has questioned the administration's policy of not talking to the Iranians or Syrians, whom the United States has accused of helping terrorism, about cooperating on a way to end the violence in Iraq and stabilize the country.

Bolten, asked in an interview with CNN's "Late Edition" whether the administration was open to talking to Iran and Syria, said "nothing is off the table. All the options will be considered" from the commission.

"There's been lots of talking with Iran and Syria over the years ... The important thing is

CHIEF OF STAFF continued on page 3

TROUNCED



STEVE LEWIS/The Daily Toreador

MEMBERS OF TEXAS Tech's defense, including sophomore cornerback Darcel McBath (7), sophomore defensive end Jake Ratliff (98), junior safety Joe Garcia (49), and junior linebacker Brock Stratton (45), try to prevent Oklahoma from making its final touchdown of Saturday's game during the fourth quarter at Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium. See full game coverage on Page 10.

Memorial for Flight 587 creates mixed feelings

By JENNIFER PELTZ ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) — Hundreds of relatives and friends of the victims in the nation's second deadliest air accident dedicated a much-awaited memorial Sunday with mementoes and mixed emotions.

Wearing their loss on T-shirts, scarves and buttons, families clutching red roses and photographs gathered on a foggy beachfront to look up the names of 265 loved ones killed when American Airlines Flight 587 crashed five years ago.

"It's something that we can come to and pray," said Ana Lora, who placed a model car near the name of her brother, Jose Francisco Lora, who collected cars. "This is something that, really, we need."

The memorial marks years of effort to create a tangible remembrance of the crash, which killed all 260 people on board and another five in the quiet Queens neighborhood where the jet fell. The National Transportation Safety Board eventually determined that the tail of the Airbus A300 had fallen off, and the agency blamed pilot error, inadequate pilot training and overly sensitive rudder controls.

The disaster jarred a city still raw and fearful after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center two months before. The loss was also felt heavily in the Dominican Republic, where Flight 587 was bound from John F. Kennedy International Airport. Many passengers were of Dominican heritage.

Designed by a Dominican artist, the \$9.2 million memorial is a curved wall inscribed with the names of the

MEMORIAL continued on page 2

Future of four-on-four flag football uncertain

By NICK ZELINSKI CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Despite being one of the most popular intramural sports at Texas Tech, four-on-four flag football is now no longer on the schedule.

Texas Tech Recreational Sports has cancelled four-on-four flag football in the spring, citing the biggest reason being the wear and tear on the fields.

"After last year's spring season we made more than \$20,000 worth of repairs on the field," said Don Davis, associate director of Recreational Sports. "We are going to have to wait and see how the new sod reacts to the wear and tear of this last flag football

season."

Davis said he believes it is better to have the season off then to have it on the schedule and cancel it later.

"We feel that doing it this way, we may not upset as many people," Davis said.

The four-on-four season started at Tech in 2001 and has grown immensely.

"We started out with 48 teams in our first season and we grew to 215 last season," Davis said. "So imagine the amount of people on the fields throughout the season."

The popularity of flag football at Tech is shown by a group that was started on the online networking site Facebook by Andy Cates.

Cates, a Tech Law student from

Garland, said he started a group on Facebook to act like a petition to save four-on-four football and has received an incredible response. He said 1,025 students have joined the group so far.

Cates said he played every year during his undergraduate career and three years as a graduate student.

"I personally like four-on-four more than seven-on-seven because there is more room to run with fewer people on the field," Cates said. "It allows individuals to shine and make a play rather than the game being decided based on the mechanics of a particular set play, as in real football."

Trey Stewart, a senior accounting major from Franklin, Tenn., said he has never played four-on-four

before, but he was looking forward to trying it this season.

"I'm disappointed that they have canceled it," Stewart said. "I just finished my first seven-on-seven season and I loved it."

Stewart said the competition and the simple fact that flag football gave him something to do is the reason for playing.

"After I finished playing baseball, I missed the competition," Stewart said. "I am a very competitive person, and flag football helped me get the competition I needed."

Davis said the season might not be completely lost, but with the increased growth in teams and players, there are not enough officials to keep up with the league.

"We are going to need more

officials to combat the amount of people playing right now," Davis said. "There are so many sports going on at that time, and everyone wants to play. That's why we need more officials."

Davis said once the Recreational Sports department has a chance to check out the fields in the spring and meet with the ground maintenance and proper officials then they will decide if and when to continue four-on-four flag football.

As far as a definite yes or no on the season, Davis said they will have to wait to find out.

"We will just have to wait and see how the fields look," Davis said. "But if students want to help, we still need more officials."

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McCain moves to set up exploratory committee for 2008 White House race

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Sen. John McCain said Sunday he is taking the initial steps for a White House bid in 2008, setting up a committee that allows a potential candidate to raise money and travel the country to gauge support.

Democratic Sen. Joe Biden reaffirmed his intention to seek his party's nomination, though an announcement about establishing an exploratory committee probably will not come until early next year.

The anticipated wide-open campaign — for the first time since the 1928 race, the field will not include a sitting president or vice president — lost one possible participant when Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., decided against a long-shot run.

McCain, R-Ariz., said he is moving toward a 2008 bid by "doing things organizationally and legally" but will not make a final decision until early next year.

McCain, considered the front-runner for his party's presidential nomination, said he could create an exploratory committee as early as this week.

"Are we doing the things organizationally and legally that need to be done? Yes," he said. "There are certain things legally you have to comply with in order to continue to raise money and set up an organization."

"The important thing is we will not make a decision until I sit down with my family, but we will be prepared," McCain said.

GOP officials last week said McCain would set up an exploratory committee and has opened a bank account for the committee.

On Sunday, McCain characterized the moves as preliminary until he decides over the holidays about a possible bid. He unsuccessfully sought his party's nomination for president in 2000.

If McCain were to run, he would turn 72 on Aug. 29, 2008, at the height of the campaign. Only Ronald Reagan was older — 73 at the start of his second term. McCain's health also could be an issue because he has had several cancerous lesions removed from his skin.

McCain is a former Navy pilot who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam. He was elected to the Senate in 1986, and served in the House for four years before that.

During the 2006 election cycle, McCain attended 346 events and raising more than \$10.5 million on behalf of Republican candidates. He also donated nearly \$1.5 million to federal, state and county parties.

The 63-year-old Biden, who is line to take over as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, also ran for president before, dropping from the 1988 race after it became known he had lifted a portion of a speech from a British politician without attribution.

Biden, first elected to the Senate in 1972, said Sunday he would address the issue of an exploratory committee early in 2007. "I still plan on running. I haven't, quite frankly, thought through all of the mechanics of it at this point in terms of when to announce setting up an exploratory committee, but I plan on doing that," he said.

One potential challenger he will not have to contend with is Feingold, who said he wanted to focus

on his work in the Senate. Feingold, 53, is an outspoken opponent of the Iraq war, the Patriot Act and other Bush administration policies.

"I never got to the point where I felt strongly I wanted to run," Feingold told *The Associated Press*. "Then I saw the result Tuesday and thought what a great opportunity to do my work in the Senate."

Last week Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack announced his candidacy. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York is widely considered the front-runner. Others mentioned include Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, the 2004 nominee; former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, the vice presidential nominee two years ago; Sens. Barack Obama of Illinois, Evan Bayh of Indiana and Christopher Dodd of Connecticut; and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson.

Obama, the lone black senator, "has done an enormous amount for the party," said Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean, adding that in his job he must stay "entirely neutral."

Republicans talked about for 2008 are Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney; Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee; Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

GOP Rep. Duncan Hunter of California, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said last month he is forming an exploratory committee.

McCain appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press," Dean was on "Fox News Sunday" and Biden spoke on "This Week" on ABC.

Lubbock police blotter

By PAUL ROBERTS
STAFF WRITER

Oct. 28

Lubbock police received a report of theft in the 1300 block of University Avenue. Police said an unknown suspect broke the passenger side window of the victim's silver 2003 Jaguar XTY and stole a Jaguar vehicle owner's manual. The victim reported nothing else was stolen.

Oct. 29

Lubbock police received a report of theft in the 2200 block of Buddy Holly Avenue. Police said the victim parked her silver 1997 Honda Civic in front of the Daiquiri Lounge parking lot and entered the club. When she returned to her vehicle, she noticed a window of her vehicle had been shattered and the car stereo worth \$100 was stolen.

Oct. 31

Lubbock police received a report of a burglary in a residence in the 3000 block of Duke Street. According to reports, electronic equipment was stolen from the home. The victim said the suspect stole: an Xbox 360 game console worth \$500, a 20-inch flat screen television worth \$500, several Xbox 360 games

worth \$100 and several DVDs worth more than \$200.

Lubbock police received a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1600 block of 50th Street. A victim said an unknown suspect stole the victim's white 1992 Chevrolet pickup from the listed location. The victim reported a purse was inside the vehicle, which contained \$300, a Wells Fargo debit card, the victim's birth certificate and Social Security card. The suspect was not located.

Lubbock police received a report of a burglary in the 3300 block of 37th Street. Police said an unknown suspect kicked in the front door of the victim's residence and stole a digital camera worth \$2,000, a laptop worth \$1,200, a rifle with a scope worth \$700, a shotgun worth \$600 and a 10-inch knife worth \$1,000.

Lubbock police received a report of an aggravated robbery in the 3200 block of Fourth Street. A victim reported an unknown suspect approached the victim with a knife and demanded the victim's wallet. The suspect stole his wallet, which included \$400, the victim's Social Security card, driver's license and a credit card. The victim said he was not injured.

Nov. 1
Lubbock police arrested a sus-

pect for driving while intoxicated following a traffic stop in the 5700 block of Erskine Street. Reports state the suspect was stopped for a traffic violation at the listed location. When the officer approached the suspect, the officer could smell alcohol on the suspect's breath. According to reports, the suspect failed the field sobriety tests and was arrested.

Lubbock police received a report that a victim's residence was burglarized in the 2100 block of South Loop 289. According to reports, a Dell laptop worth \$5,000 was stolen from the home, as well as a Cox Cable modem worth \$200, a gold necklace worth \$200, a CD player worth \$150 and \$20 in U.S. currency. The suspect was not located.

Lubbock police received a report of an assault in the 900 block of East Slaton Road. The victim said she and the suspect have been living in an apartment at the listed location for the last three months. According to reports, the suspect assaulted the victim, then fled the scene. The victim said she is seven months pregnant. The victim refused medical attention. The suspect was not located.

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Sen. Russ Feingold of Wisconsin says he will not seek 2008 Democratic presidential nomination

MILWAUKEE (AP) — U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold has decided against seeking the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination, saying he wanted to focus on his work in the Senate.

In a letter posted on his political action committee's Web site, Feingold said he was excited that Tuesday's elections gave Democrats control of both chambers of Congress, giving them the chance to "undo much of the damage that one-party rule has done to America."

"We can actually advance progressive solutions to such major issues as guaranteed health care, dependence on oil and our unbalanced trade policies," he wrote.

Feingold, 53, told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* he realized he would be a long-shot candidate in a bid for the presidency.

He said running as an underdog appealed to him, but not the way it would "dismantle" his work in the Senate and his personal life.

An outspoken opponent of the Iraq war, the Patriot Act and other Bush administration policies, Feingold had formed his PAC, the Progressive Patriots Fund, and visited key presidential primary states such as Iowa and New Hampshire.

Still, he said he started the process more predisposed against a run than for it.

"I began with the feeling I didn't really want to do this but was open to the possibility that getting around the country would make me want to do it. That never happened," he told the newspaper in a story posted on its Web site late Saturday.

Feingold leaves a crowded field of possible Democratic candidates,

including Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, who announced his candidacy last week.

U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York is widely considered the front-runner for the nomination. Others considering or positioning themselves for a run include U.S. Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, the 2004 Democratic nominee; former U.S. Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, the vice presidential nominee two years ago; U.S. Sens. Evan Bayh of Indiana, Joe Biden of Delaware and Christopher Dodd of Connecticut; and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson.

Former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner announced last month that he was bowing out of the race.

Feingold said he had come closer to making his decision in the past few weeks, and the final factor came when Democrats won both chambers of Congress because it provided added appeal to focus on work in the Senate.

Feingold spokesman Zach Lowe did not immediately return a telephone message from *The Associated Press* early Sunday seeking comment.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Alone at a party
- In the past
- Lighting devices
- Roughly
- Hale or Alda
- Concerning
- Actor LeBlanc
- Displacement
- Twenty
- 4-in-a-row in major loss
- Profound
- "The Lost Galleon" poet
- Throngs
- Big name in fashion
- One-celled animal
- Chou En
- Irene of "Fame"
- Last Greek letter
- 1990-91 hostilities
- Brighten
- "Kate &"
- Thought
- Tax collector
- Truman's birthplace
- British bank note
- Female graduate
- Frequently
- Warrick of the NFL
- 4-in-a-row in tux shirt accessory
- Hunter of stars
- Narrow cut
- Press
- Knot again
- Present!
- Rivulet
- Put forth effort
- Gallery display
- Runner
- Zatopek

DOWN

- Vague amount
- Ambush
- Wine region of Italy
- Capturing exclamation
- In the air
- Listened (to)
- SSS designation
- Vegas lead-in
- 9 4-in-a-row in network genre
- Bellowed like
- Bossy
- Liquor
- Strides
- USA part
- Trope of Israel
- Common article
- Double-reed woodwind
- Pond floater
- Actor Julia
- Paper factory
- Armor crusher
- Operatic song
- LaSalle of "E.R."
- Wise mentor
- Church area
- 4-in-a-row in movie genre
- Disengage from a habit
- Produce milk
- Mora whimsical
- Buddy
- That woman
- Be nuts about
- Trademark yarn
- Join forces
- Coquette
- Workplace injury grp.
- Cut back
- Citrus hybrid
- Computer giant
- Angler's entangler

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Memorial

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dead. Cutouts, where weeping relatives placed roses, wreaths and photographs, provide a view of the sea.

"Your ideas and your memories have been woven into it," Mayor Michael Bloomberg told those gathered Sunday.

But the memorial also was shaped by tensions over its location — a seaside park, rather than the residential street where the plane crashed — and some victims' relatives

were still coming to terms with the outcome Sunday. After the city-sponsored ceremony, mourners flocked to an impromptu memorial around a tree at the crash site.

For many, too, just remembering raised conflicting feelings.

"I feel good being here, but it's very painful," said Lora. Her 43-year-old brother was on the verge of graduating from law school in the Dominican Republic when he boarded Flight 587.

Initially, she and many other victims' relatives wanted the memorial built at the scene of the crash, about 15 blocks away in the Belle Harbor neighborhood. But many residents opposed the idea, saying a memorial wouldn't fit on the residential block.

Others said they didn't want a constant reminder of the calamity, especially in a part of New

York City that had lost a number of residents on Sept. 11.

The city ultimately compromised on a spot off the Ocean Promenade, surrounded by shops and a condominium complex.

Family members and friends greeted the memorial Sunday with gratitude, if it took a measure of resignation for some.

"We would like to see something done where the plane came down, but it's too late now. They built a house there," said William Fernandez. He lost a cousin, Luis Arturo Pichardo, a father of four and the owner of a furniture store in Brentwood, N.Y.

Glady's Matos, whose aunt, Iris "Magaly" Santana de Acosta, was on the flight, saw the memorial and ceremony as a fitting tribute.

"It's nice, but it's not going to get back to what we really want, which is to be with them and to talk with them," said Matos, 36, of Queens. "But it's nice that we get together. We have the same emotional feelings. We try to give support, one to another. We're like a family."

Friday's Puzzle Solved

LARA BOSE LALAW
AVID ABOUT IRANI
NOCONCERN OF MINE
ANORAKS ABE TIL
ENDED OBEVED
SKIDOO USEUP
PUP OGRE OILED
TIDONTREALLWCARE
TUODOR ABLE GALL
PEARL OPOSSE
AGREED ERNIE
GOO LED EATAWAY
NOSKINOFFMYNOSE
ESSEN FLEE UVEA
SEINE FURS TEAR

40 Disengage from a habit
42 Produce milk
45 Mora whimsical
48 Buddy
50 That woman
51 Be nuts about
52 Be nuts about
53 Trademark yarn

54 Join forces
56 Coquette
59 Workplace injury grp.
60 Cut back
61 Citrus hybrid
62 Computer giant
64 Angler's entangler

Go to PostTech
& Ship or ups
retail corridor 7:30-5, m-f

F&N = NS

Program Name Change

The "Food and Nutrition" Program in the College of Human Sciences is changing its name to the "Nutritional Sciences" Program. Only the name will change---there are no other changes to the program!

For spring 2007 registration, students looking for Food and Nutrition classes will need to look for the prefix **NS** instead of **F&N**.

Tech prepares for Carol of Lights

By NICK ZELINSKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the holiday season right around the corner, the Carol of Lights is once again set to take place on the Texas Tech campus at the beginning of December.

The Carol of Lights is one of many traditions on the Tech campus and is currently in the eighth month out of the nine-month preparation process.

"We started the planning back in April, and we usually have four or five students in on the decision-making process," said Alice Scott, a co-adviser in her 21st year on the Carol of Lights board. "Every October, students realize what time is coming when the lights start to go on the buildings."

Scott said the tradition started in the 1950s with Dr. Gene Hemmle.

"Dr. Hemmle got students from the residence halls, and they went to Memorial Circle to sing Christmas carols and drink hot chocolate," Scott said.

According to the Department of Housing and Residence Life Web site, the Carol of Lights officially started in 1959 and was dubbed "Carol of Lights" in 1961.

"They started out with 5,000 lights, and now there are over 25,000 lights displayed on 13 buildings," Scott said.

The ceremony this year will

take place on Dec. 1. The carillon will start at 6:30 p.m. with the outdoor ceremony starting at 7 p.m.

The ceremony starts on Broadway and continues into Memorial Circle and then into the science quad where the Tech Music department serenades the crowd with Christmas Carols from the balcony of the science building.

For one Tech student, it is more than just another event on campus.

"I love Christmas time," said Ashley Witten, a junior public relations major from New Braunfels. "Tech does a great job of celebrating Christmas by having a specific time for Carol of Lights, and having it before finals is a good way to relieve stress."

This year, Witten said her mom will be coming to Lubbock to partake in the festivities.

"People sometimes don't realize what a special time the holidays are," Witten said. "I am very close to my mom, and it is a time to celebrate with the ones you love because you never know when it will be the last time that you are with them."

The Carol of Lights is one of the longest running traditions at Tech, and in 1992 the Carol of Lights received a Certificate of Registration from the State of Texas, according to the Department of Housing and Residence Life Web site.

"If students don't go they are missing out," Witten said. "This is an event that is known statewide, and if you go to the football and basketball games you need to go to this as well. What else are you going to do on a Friday night at 7 o'clock?"

Annie Williams, a freshman advertising major from Arlington, said she is planning to attend this year.

"It is my first year here and I have read about it, and it seems like it is a really cool experience," Williams said. "I get really excited about stuff like this."

Williams said she would be recruiting as many friends as possible because she thinks that everyone should go at least once.

"I didn't know much about it at first, but now that I know more, I can't wait to go," Williams said.

The event is open to the whole Tech campus and Lubbock community. This year's theme is "In the Moment."

"Texas Tech should be very proud to have a tradition like this," Scott said. "The Lubbock community feels very much a part of it as well."

For more information, visit the Carol of Lights Web page on the Department of Housing and Residence Life's Web site at http://www.depts.ttu.edu/housing/ResLife/carol_of_lights.asp.

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Saddle Tramps uphold tradition

By NICK ZELINSKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Saddle Tramps have been at Texas Tech since 1936 when Arch Lamb was appointed as the group's first leader.

According to Tech's Web site, the name Saddle Tramp comes from the stories of traveling men who would come to a farm for a brief time, fix up some things and move on.

Jonathan Merritt, a junior finance major from Corpus Christi, said he is very proud to be a Saddle Tramp.

"We get to uphold a lot of traditions here on the Tech campus," Merritt said. "Traditions are a big part of college, and I am just glad to be a part of it."

Merritt said he had no clue what a Saddle Tramp was when he originally got to Tech, but when he found out, he knew he wanted to be one.

"The Saddle Tramps link past and present Red Raiders," Merritt said. "And when I found out that they are a big part of men's athletics here at Tech, I was in."

Merritt said in high school he played sports and wanted to be linked to sports somehow in college. He said he thought the Saddle Tramps were the best way to go.

"It really has been the best

decision of my life," said Merritt.

The Saddle Tramps are linked to numerous traditions on campus. They are the Midnight Raiders who decorate the campus on home game weekends, which involves the wrapping of the Will Rogers statue. They also ring the victory bells after a win, build the homecoming bonfire and participate in the Carol of Lights.

Bill Dean, associate dean and professor in Mass Communications, has been a sponsor of the Saddle Tramps for 15 years.

Dean said not only do the Saddle Tramps participate on campus, but they also work in the community.

"They have performed lots of community service," said Dean. "They have also been a big help in the Guadalupe Learning Centers."

Dean said the Saddle Tramps originally began after a big win for the football team.

"Some students rang the bells all night long after a victory," said Dean. "So after that, Arch Lamb was called on to be the leader of the group."

The requirements for being a Saddle Tramp are simple, Dean said.

"Anyone who wants to serve Texas Tech University can be a Saddle Tramp," he said.

Currently, there are 70 members of the Saddle Tramps.

Don Guest, an alumni member of the Saddle Tramps who resides in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, said he shares the same sentiments as Merritt.

"It is all about displaying pride for the university," Guest said. "We are the pride of Texas Tech; everything we did was for the betterment of the university."

Guest, who graduated in 1968, is still an active member of the alumni association for the Saddle Tramps.

"We meet very year and decide what we can do to strengthen the Saddle Tramps," said Guest.

Guest said he joined the organization for the same reason as Merritt.

"I had played athletics all my life," Guest said. "I didn't try to play at the next level, and anything I could do to be close to the sports programs, I definitely wanted to do it. I love sports and so did many of the guys that were Saddle Tramps at the same time I was."

Guest said being a Saddle Tramp was one of the best experiences of his life.

"I love it," Guest said. "Anything we could do for the betterment of Texas Tech University, I absolutely wanted to be a part of it."

For more information on the Saddle Tramps, visit <http://www.ttu.edu/traditions/tramps.php>.

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U.S. officials say Castro believed to have terminal cancer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government believes Fidel Castro's health is deteriorating and that the Cuban dictator is unlikely to live through 2007.

That dire view was reinforced last week when Cuba's foreign minister backed away from his prediction that the ailing Castro would return to power by early December. "It's a subject on which I don't want to speculate," Felipe Perez Roque told *The Associated Press* in Havana.

U.S. government officials say there is still some mystery about Castro's diagnosis, his treatment and how he is responding. But these officials believe that the 80-year-old has terminal cancer of the stomach, colon or pancreas.

He was seen weakened and thinner in official state photos released late last month, and it is considered unlikely that he will return to power or survive through the end of next year, said the U.S. government and defense officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the politically sensitive topic.

With chemotherapy, Castro may live up to 18 months, said the defense official. Without it, expected survival would drop to three months to eight months.

American officials will not talk publicly about how they glean clues to Castro's health. But U.S. spy agencies include physicians who study pictures, video, public statements and other information coming out of Cuba.

The CIA's Office of Medical Services, for example, studies hair and other biological samples for hints about world leaders' health and how that could affect their official duties.

Images and video of a weakened Castro released in late October showed his now-slight frame and shaky movements. They contradicted the athletic image he sought to portray in his red, white and blue Cuban Olympic team warm-up suit, emblazoned with "F. Castro" on the chest.

A dark lesion on his neck could be seen in some images and a baggy nylon jacket could be hiding a colostomy bag. But the photos also made clear that he has not lost his hair or beard to chemotherapy.

Cuba has only known one leader in 47 years. Castro temporarily ceded power to his brother, Raul, at the end of July just before the government announced that the president was having intestinal surgery.

A planned celebration of Castro's 80th birthday next month is expected to draw international attention. The Cuban leader had planned to attend the public event, which already had been postponed once from his Aug. 13 birthday.

Perez Roque, the foreign minister, said last week that Castro was recovering steadily from his intestinal surgery. "We are optimistic," he said.

But the minister also said there was no guarantee Castro would be

well enough to attend the birthday celebration.

Brian Latell, a former Latin American specialist with the CIA who has written a book examining the leadership of Fidel and Raul Castro, said he has been convinced for three months that Castro is gravely ill with inoperable cancer.

Questions abound about what comes after Castro.

In the immediate future, the Cuban government could decide to hold a large state funeral and welcome an international contingent to Havana. But Latell thinks that probably will not happen. "They will be concerned about maintaining security," he said.

Because of the current transition to Raul Castro, unrest among the

Cuban population is considered unlikely. "I have not seen one credible report about riots or demonstrations ... not one credible challenge to the succession," Latell said.

Nevertheless, the U.S. government is preparing for a range of scenarios. For instance, the Miami-based U.S. Southern Command is working with the Coast Guard and Homeland Security Department on training and planning to minimize the impact of any mass migration out of Cuba.

"We are not expecting a mass migration, but are ready for that possibility," said Jose Ruiz, a Southern Command spokesman.

The United States has long wanted to see an end of Communist rule in Cuba.

Chief of Staff

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

what do the Iraqis want," he said.

"The problem hasn't been a lack of communication. But we'll look at whatever the Baker-Hamilton commission come up with because there are a lot of good smart people there and see what they're recommendations are," Bolten said.

Iran's hard-line Shiite theocracy maintains close ties to Iraqi Shiites, who make up about 60 percent of Iraq's population and dominate the government.

Iraq's Sunnis are highly suspicious of such ties.

The U.S. has accused Syria of facilitating the movement of foreign fighters into Iraq.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who plans to speak to the commission via video link on Tuesday, reportedly will urge the administration to open talks with Syria and Iran and push for a so-

lution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a way of defusing Mideast tensions.

Bolten was whether the administration was ready to make a new effort to get involved in negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians. "We'll see. The timing has to be right and it has to be something that both the Israelis and the Palestinians want," he said.

"The problem hasn't been a lack of communication,"

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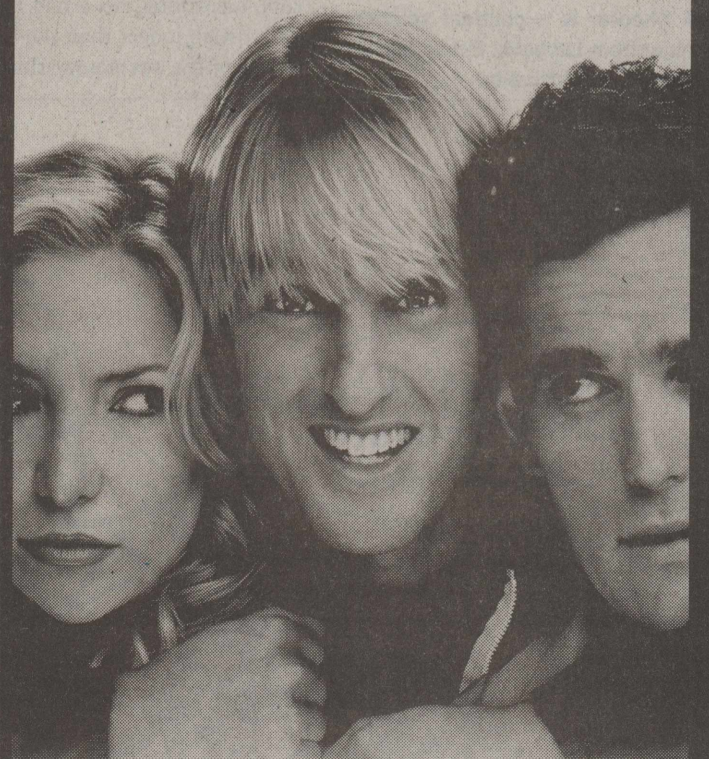


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OPINIONS

PAGE 4
MONDAY, NOV. 13, 2006

Community necessary for spiritual growth

Ginger Kapalka



A community can also provide opportunities to reach out to others, and prepare you for sharing God with them. After older students had helped me during my freshman year, I was given the chance to become a leader and serve others.

It seems surprising at first that even consistent church members are uncomfortable saying they are a part of "organized religion." The phrase has a negative connotation. It implies another person is telling you what to believe. For intellectuals, this is a horrible surrender of the mind. For independents, it's a loss of control. When afraid of having a blind faith dictated by politics and denominational differences, it seems like it is better not to join a structured group at all.

Instead, the popular choice is to define truth for yourself — possibly with mix-and-match religions and beliefs to make a unique combination. A person who claims to follow God may actually have selected faith from a variety of theologies, Bible verses, and modern thought to define his or her personal take on God. The danger is that one may use religion merely to justify pre-conceived notions and opinions.

Another fear about churches is they will force you to live by strict rules that outlaw fun. But this is not the intention of God's commandments. When Jesus was asked what was the most important part of the law, he said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

These two commands embody the intrinsic reason for all other laws. If you love God, you will want to please him. If you love others, you will not sin against them, but seek to support them.

Therefore, a church should be a place for growth through community. This is both for Christians who want to know how to follow God, and for people who are not certain of their beliefs and want to investigate God. Fellowship with believers allows God to speak through the voices of people for encouragement, prayer or guidance.

Community provides dependable people to help you honor God with your life. There are times when Christians need to correct each other. "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." (Hebrews 12:11) There are even times when it is good to hear preaching. I love discussion, but I have found it invaluable to simply stay silent for a while and truly listen.

Personally, I grew spiritually after I had joined a Christian group at Texas Tech. Although I had been a Christian all my life, I never before sacrificed my personal control and sought God's guidance. A leader in the fellowship showed me how to seek God and spent a lot of personal time mentoring me. I had been a Christian longer than she had. However, she was more spiritually

mature and had a closeness to God that I desired. Her enthusiasm and obedience to God inspired me.

Another source of development was my Bible study group. The members came from a variety of backgrounds. Some people had a strong Biblical understanding, and could explain how the context of a passage could clarify its meaning. For others, the stories and letters were fairly new. Their questions made me reconsider passages I had taken for granted before. Other students shared startling perspectives on verses that had lost meaning to me. The group was open to non-Christians as well, and they gave everyone a chance to better define beliefs and clearly communicate.

A community can also provide opportunities to reach out to others, and prepare you for sharing God with them. After older students had helped me during my freshman year, I was given the chance to become a leader and serve others. It was a pleasure to do it, and I wanted to give back what had been given to me. Additionally, teaching others taught me more than I ever could have learned privately.

An exciting aspect of becoming a leader is the chance to improve the community. Some who are now agnostics and atheists have been hurt by churches. Some churches and fellowships are not ideal communities. It is important for the people of a church to be seeking God's plan and focus on service and spiritual mentoring. A growing group strives to please God in these ways, and it may require some organization in religion. "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another." (Hebrews 10:25a)

Kapalka is a junior architecture major from Lubbock. E-mail her at ginger.kapalka@ttu.edu.



Lack of organization and weak candidates to blame for GOP loss

The Republicans got absolutely hosed last Tuesday. I figured they would lose the House by three or four seats, but I didn't expect the walloping that was received. I have also been on the receiving end of quite a bit of gloating from my liberal buddies. I would have done the same thing to them if the positions were changed.

Cole Shooter



to accomplish, they were unified as Democrats.

The sting is wearing off now, and it's time to move forward. Now that the Republicans are no longer in control, it's time for them to look back and figure out why they are no longer controlling the House and Senate.

I have heard all sorts of analyses as to why the Republicans got the smacking around they did. I have heard everything from blaming of the war in Iraq, which may be very valid, to the Democrats having better candidates, which I don't buy for a moment. I really think it came down to the elected Republicans' conduct while on the job. I've been griping for a while about the Republicans not taking a tough enough stance on most things, but it's deeper than that.

The Democrats have had years to regroup and exploit being the opposition party, which is what they were supposed to be doing. Even though I don't think they had much in the way of actual plans of what they wanted

The Republicans, however, were not unified in much of anything. They did not fight as one party, but were heavily divided every chance they got. Amid cries for bipartisan efforts, many Republicans did not fight for their party and their constituencies as they should have. Instead, they decided to take softer stances on many things to try and please people on both sides of the political spectrum.

I'm all for political civility. I don't pick my friends due to their political affiliation. We manage to stay friends, despite the fact that I may be a "heartless conservative" and they may be "bleeding heart liberals." That is fine in people's personal lives, but our officials are elected to fight. They're supposed to fight for us, and when they're elected on a certain ticket, they're supposed to fight for their party as well. When they don't, you get an election like we had last Tuesday.

The Republicans were perfectly happy to turn on each other like a pack of wild dogs over the simplest things. They were quite content with caving in to the united front the Democrats presented. There is a huge difference between bipartisan efforts and solidarity, and both can be achieved. The Democrats know this, and their party has apparently thrived on exploiting this rift. Nobody can blame them, because they've got to go with whatever they can to win.

The Republicans forgot how to do that, sadly. Had they gone into this election, fighting as they should have been from the moment they were elected, I don't think the Democrats would be in control of the House and Senate. When they really work to push their ideals through as a party, these people's constituents will realize they are fighting for them, as well, and will vote for them again.

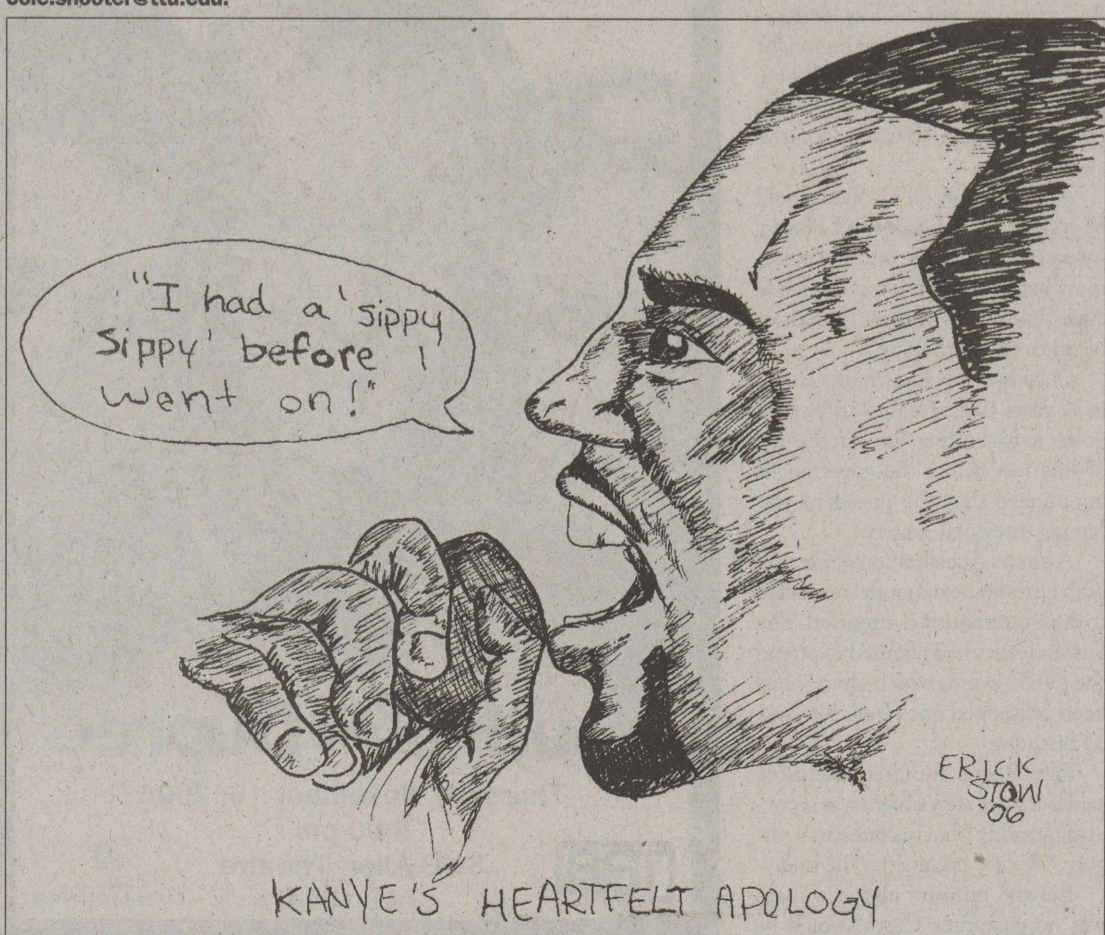
Thanks to these marshmallows the Republicans elected last time, the Democrats are now in control. Now is the time for the Republicans to get together and stay tough on the Democrats, so they can be back in the majority later on. Quite a few things are going to change with the Republican leadership, and this may be for the better.

With a fresh start, I hope they can

clean up their act and revisit exactly what it means to be a Republican. The party needs to work toward cutting budgets and striving for smaller government because they sure haven't been working toward that the last few years.

When the Republicans finally get it together and realize that they are supposed to be the conservative party, they'll get back in power. Until then, they can enjoy being second. Hopefully, the GOP will start preparing for the 2008 election and go into it with the full strength and unified front with which they should have approached 2006.

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MOVIE REVIEW

'Stranger than Fiction': A work of invention or potential schizophrenia?

Will Ferrell stands as one of the most sporadic and inventive comedic actors working in the entertainment industry today. He has hoarded in laughs from many unforgettable performances during his six-year cast position on Saturday Night Live and landed memorable roles in a variety of comedic films. His resumé includes the frat burlesque "Old School" and the first two installments of writer-director Adam McKay's ill-bred, working American man trilogy, "Anchorman" and "Talladega Nights."

Yet, like Jim Carrey, Robin Williams and Bill Murray before him, Ferrell's transition to a more serious disposition and solemn nature has proven to be a purely astonishing alteration. Vividly shining in his latest protagonist catch as an I.R.S. auditor named Harold Crick, the character's habitual life suddenly gains an audible narration with a much better vocabulary in director Marc Foster (Monster's Ball, Finding Neverland) and first time screenwriter Zach Helm's existence-identity chronicle, "Stranger Than Fiction."

Harold Crick's life is nothing more than a scheduled body of routine. He lives his life according to his wristwatch, waking every day at the same hour, counting his brush strokes while brushing his teeth and tallying his footsteps while walking to the bus stop. He lives his life in a state of extreme solitude, both eating and sleeping alone.

Harold is also abundantly hated by most of his clients, some labeling him a fascist, "Taxman" or a devilish auditor with no soul.

Yet, as the film begins to unfurl, the excessive details of Harold's life that have been gracefully delivered to us by a refined female British voice begin to be heard by Harold himself. This audible voice-over turns out to be the voice of Karen Eiffel (Emma Thompson), a renowned author who, as a result of suffering from a decade's worth of writer's block, has been placed under the supervision of a new secretary (Queen Latifah) sent to her by her publishing company to inspire Karen's latest unfinished novel, "Death and Taxes."

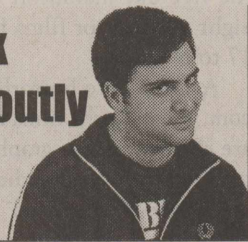
Harold soon discovers that Karen is trying to kill him — in a literary sense anyway — since Karen's trademark as a writer is that she always ends up killing her heroes at the end. Harold later discovers through the aid of an eccentric yet supportive English professor named Jules Hilbert (Dustin Hoffman) that the best way to determine the fate of his character would be to discover what genre of novel he's being written into.

One of Harold's latest clients and potential love fixations, a Harvard Law student turned socialist baker named Ana Pascal (Maggie Gyllenhal), serves as a willing and unconscious aid in determining whether Harold's story is a comedy or a tragedy.

Harold first approaches her professionally while attempting to slip some distilled charm under his breath. In some occasions the pair breeds chemistry, which prompts Harold to mark a tally in the comedy category, yet in most occasions, Harold finds himself marking most of his tallies in the tragedy category.

Harold's life drastically changes when he returns to Ana's bakery once again, this time carrying a crate of flowers. He begins to take on lost passions that he had always aspired to accomplish, such as learning to play the guitar. A brilliant scene narrated through Karen's voice-over illustrates the

Tarek Karkoutly



different personalities that certain guitars evoke, hereby enhancing the people who would chose to play them.

Harold eventually comes into contact with Karen Eiffel in an appealing and shocking meeting between author and main character. The encounter leaves Karen baffled about how to end her novel now that she has discovered the protagonist, whom she aimed to kill, actually exists.

Marc Forster's style of directing is so comfortably versatile that once you become fixated on the performance of Ferrell in key emotional scenes, your perception of his commonly known disposition will change.

Like Jim Carrey, Robin Williams and Bill Murray before him, Ferrell's transition to a more serious disposition and solemn nature has proven to be a purely astonishing alteration.

The film introduces a side of Ferrell you will grow to adore and sympathize with, a contrast to previous roles that left you programmed in comedy mode while laughing out of your seat.

Zach Helm's screenplay is nothing short of stylish and tidy as the dialogue leaves every scene ending with a cherished and "un-wasted" feeling. Hoffman and Thompson give some very thoughtful and genuine performances, while Gyllenhal bares a developmental character change that bluntly reveals some of her most prized acting to date.

"Stranger Than Fiction" is not your typical comedy starring the likes of Will Ferrell; instead, it is an inviting work of comedic intelligence that falls into a genre of mixed comedy and drama that other writers and directors such as Hal Ashby ("Harold and Maude"), Charlie Kaufman and Michel Gondry ("Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind") have skillfully brought to the attention of world moviegoers.

4.5 out of 6 - EXCEPTIONAL

■ Karkoutly is senior creative writing major from Lubbock. E-mail him at t.karkoutly@ttu.edu.

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COURTESY PHOTO/Twentieth Century Fox/The Daily Toreador

A GOOD YEAR Russell Crowe stars as Max Skinner, a London-based investment expert who moves to Provence to sell a small vineyard he has inherited from his late uncle.

Scott and Crowe have 'A Good Year'

The last time director Ridley Scott and actor Russell Crowe collaborated, the duo won Oscars in both the Best Actor and Best Picture categories. Their newest effort, "A Good Year," doesn't warrant the same praise, but it does utilize a few elements of vintage filmmaking.

Based on the novel by Peter Mayle and the screenplay by Marc Klein ("Serendipity"), "A Good Year" is a passable flick, although it does have its flaws.

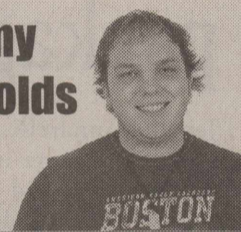
The movie begins with the simplistically sappy phrase, "a few vintages ago," with a younger version of Crowe's character, Max, haunting his uncle's chateau, cheating at chess, drinking that watered-down wine and overall just enjoying his youthful days on the estate.

Fast-forward to "many vintages later," and we catch up with Crowe as he is still cheating with ungentlemanly conduct — only this time the game is the stock market with stakes of \$77 million awarded to the victor.

Word arrives that his once-beloved Uncle Henry, played by vintage actor Albert Finney ("Traffic" and "Ocean's Twelve"), has passed away. Crowe's only reaction to losing the man who raised him is a slow removal of his glasses.

On the advice of his friend,

Jeremy Reynolds



Max sets out to the French countryside to complete a quick turnover on a piece of property and sell the estate to the highest bidder. The news of his intentions arrives before he does, setting the stage for tension between the vineyard staff and Max.

Still, before he can sell the house, he must fix it up. During the process of turning the falling-apart mansion into something that will stand long enough for a buyer to make an offer, Max begins to remember his lazy days of muddling around the grounds and taking in bits of wisdom from his Uncle Henry.

A pair of women who decide to take an interest in his life — and lifestyle — interrupt his trip down memory lane.

The first woman claims to be Henry's estranged daughter from California, though Max isn't exactly buying into her story.

French actress Marion Cotil-

lard plays the second woman. She stars as Crowe's reluctant love interest and works at a café.

The movie is the basic Hollywood love story only with better directing and a script that doesn't hit on all the clichés in the industry.

What I especially liked about the movie was the comedy. One wouldn't expect a romantic film set in the French countryside with a lot of the dialogue told through subtitles to have a comedic element, but Scott adds pokes and jabs at French culture at every chance he gets. One example of this occurs when Crowe drives by a group of cyclists, who laugh at his petite car, and he gives them the finger while screaming "Lance Armstrong."

The film is a watered-down version of something that could have been great. The background is spectacular and some of the scenes have a classic beauty about them that would make anyone want to retire to the area. The movie plays out like a Travel Channel special about some far off "neverland" that you will never have enough money to afford to visit or live in.

Finney, as Crowe's uncle, once again gives a brilliant perfor-

mance. His little pearls of wisdom are a bit cliché, especially given his character, but he does have certain quirks that fit, such as being a ladies man even at the ungraceful age of 70.

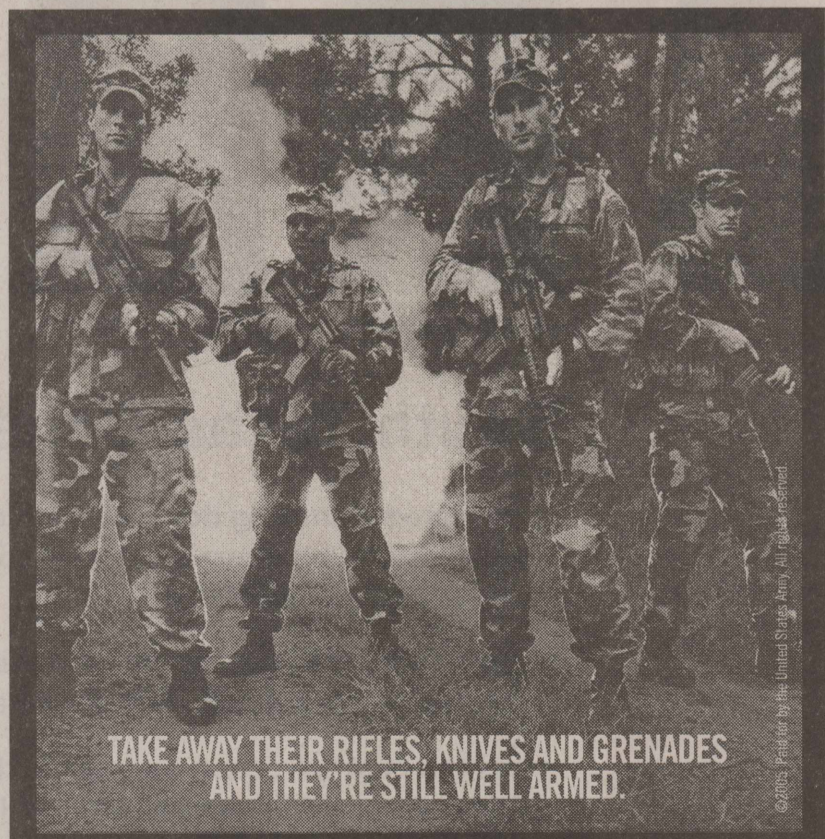
The reason the movie works is because of Scott. Unlike a lot of other directors in Hollywood who have their own visual style like Michael Mann, Tim Burton or the Cohen Brothers, Scott changes the style of his movies. "Blade Runner" looked nothing like "Gladiator," and "A Good Year" blends elements from previous works by the director for one consistent film.

While in London, Scott has a more professional look with faded hues and smoke-filled bars. Once in the country, however, the colors are more vibrant and full of life.

Drawbacks to the film include the predictable plot and the fact that Crowe's character is one the audience has seen hundreds of times before.

4 out of 6 - GOOD

■ Reynolds is The DT's movie critic. E-mail him at jeremy.reynolds@ttu.edu.



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SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

AMANDA GALBRAITH, A junior law major and president of the Tech Law Democrats, rearranges items in her trunk to be sent off as part of a holiday care package for soldiers in Iraq.

Students prepare care packages for troops

By KATIE HARRIS
STAFF WRITER

Candy, reading material, phone cards, thank-you notes and beef jerky are among the items that can be found in the care packages prepared by the Texas Tech Law Democrats to be shipped overseas to soldiers in Iraq.

Amanda Galbraith, a third-year law student from Victoria and president of Tech Law Democrats, said the project is of particular importance to her because two of her brothers fought in the first Gulf War through the Navy and the Army.

"We (the law school) have several currently enrolled students who have served in Iraq," she said. "If we can send them to war, the least we can do is send

them some cookies."

The drive started in early October and extended through early November, wrapping up in time for Veterans Day.

"Individuals and groups donated items, money, notes of thanks and holiday cards," she said. "At the end of the drive, we draw one soldier's unit to send the care package to."

Galbraith said at the end of the drive, she goes through the donations and purchases any specific items the organization was unable to accumulate.

"Everyone has been pretty generous these last couple days," Galbraith said on Friday. "Due to widespread concern for our troops, this is a perfect project for groups who may not generally work together to unite for a good cause."

Jacqui Eannarelli, a junior philosophy and pre-law major from Houston, said the care packages are a good idea.

"I would like to get my law school involved in the future because the soldiers need to know someone is thinking about them," Eannarelli said. "We are the opportune people to do so."

Derek Childs, a junior personal financial planning and pre-law major from Fort Worth, said getting things together for the troops is a good way to show them support.

"I think that it's important to support our troops. Whether they are overseas or at home, (they) deserve any of the support that we can give them," Childs said.

The second annual "Soldier Holiday Care Package" drive

is co-sponsored by Tech Law Republicans, Volunteer Law Student Association, Hispanic Law Students Association, Mineral Law Interest Group, Criminal Trial Lawyer's Association, Tech Military Law Association, Law Review and Student Public Interest Initiative and Law Partners.

Galbraith said the soldier's unit suggestions were made by faculty, staff and students of the law school to keep the care packages personal by sending them to a law school's loved one.

"There will always be brave American men and women who won't be home for the holidays," she said. "The need for a care-package project will continue."

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HORRORFEST HITS HUB CITY

By JESSICA HENDRICKS
STAFF WRITER

In case the public didn't get its fill of fright this Halloween, Cinemark Tinseltown is showcasing the After Dark Horrorfest.

Taking place around the country in 500 theaters and 35 cities, the five-day marathon will show eight new horror films from Nov. 17 to Nov. 21.

According to horrorfestonline.com, these "eight films to die for" are considered too graphic or disturbing for general audiences:

"Unrest" directed by Jason Todd Ipson. The film's dominant character, Alison, is on her way to becoming a physician and is shaken by the numerous cadavers she works with. She senses a "presence" about one of the cadavers, and her fears are confirmed to be more than just squeamishness when a friend is found dead in the basement.

"Penny Dreadful" directed by Richard Brandes. Starring Rachel Miner of "The Black Dahlia" and Mimi Rogers of "Austin Powers," this film follows Penny through what is supposed to be a therapeutic road trip. When the women meet a hitchhiker, however, the trip takes a turn from a healing adventure to a death struggle with a disturbed killer.

"The Gravedancers" directed by Mike Mendez. This film claims to be "old-school terror the way it should be." Three ghosts are angered by a group of friends who participate in a short stint of "grave dancing."

"The Hamiltons" directed by The Butcher Brothers. The Hamiltons are a typical, helpful, hardworking American family who seem to be respectful to their

neighbors — until the neighbors end up dead. This film was the winner of the Santa Barbara International Film Festival and the Malibu Film Festival.

"Reincarnation" directed by Takashi Shimizu of "The Grudge" and "The Grudge 2" fame. This picture is a psychological horror thriller that deals with issues of reincarnation.

"Dark Ride" directed by Craig Singer. A murderer who has killed two girls escapes from a mental institution 10 years later. He returns to his favorite theme park ride, an attraction called Dark Ride, and his path collides with that of a group of unknowing college students. The film stars Jamie-Lynn Sigler of "The Sopranos," Patrick Renna of "Boston Legal" and David Clayton Rogers of "CSI" and "Law and Order."

"The Abandoned" directed by Nacho Cerda. The film features Marie, a film producer who was adopted from Russia as a child, returning to both her native country and the abandoned farm where she was born. This link to the past proves to be disconcerting as a family secret is unleashed before her eyes.

"Wicked Little Things" directed by J.S. Cardone. Karen, a recent widow, and her two daughters move into a home she inherited from her late husband's family. She doesn't realize, however, the home is near an old mine — and the site of a tragedy where many children were buried alive.

Tinseltown will show three of the movies Friday through Sunday, and two of them on Monday and Tuesday. For more information, see <http://www.cinemark.com> or <http://www.horrorfestonline.com>.
► jessica.l.veaves@ttu.edu

'Gears of War' kicks off holiday season with dark tone, violent graphics

By JONATHAN HARROP
ARKANSAS TRAVELER (U. ARKANSAS)

(U-WIRE) FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Microsoft has struck the next blow in the next-generation console war.

The Xbox 360, already with a year head start on the Playstation 3 and the Nintendo Wii, has grabbed the first killer application of the holiday season.

"Gears of War" originally began its life as a demo of the "Unreal 3" graphics engine for the 360 and has dropped jaws at every video-game trade show since mid-2005.

It delivers in every way it was expected to. The graphics are, to be frank, amazing. When Sony said its demo of "Killzone 2" was in game, people doubted it and they were right.

When Epic Studios and Microsoft said "Gears of War" was in game, people doubted it and they were wrong.

Set on the fictional world of Sera, you play the role of Marcus Fenix, a former decorated soldier and current convict, battling the alien horde of the Locust, who live inside Sera.

"Gears of War" is probably the most tactical shooting game you'll play for a while. Ironically, it is much more tactical than the more "realistic" team shooting games like "Ghost Recon," "Rainbow Six," "Counter Strike," etc.

The game is all about cover. You need to take cover or you are killed very quickly.

The game's engine gives excellent and intuitive control for navigating into, through, around and between cover. The 'A' button is context dependent, allowing you to move intuitively and quickly between columns and slabs of concrete.

The solid, armored bulk of the "Gears" soldiers slam against the hard cover with weight and realism that must be seen to be believed. It makes you feel safe, for a brief second.

That second is over all so quickly, as the enemy does more than stand there and shoot you. The artificial intelligence is very impressive, especially, and unfortunately, the enemies.

Enemies will flank and surround you at the first opportunity, forcing you to be very aware of their movements; they even coordinate their attacks for maximum shock and impact.

Reloading is very cool in this game. You actually have to manage it. When you reload, there is a little timer bar in the manner of free throws for basketball games.

If you get the sweet spot, you get extra damage. If you get the normal target area, it's a normal reload. If you miss, you take extra time to reload, which can often mean the difference between living and dying.

It's nice to finally see reloading being something more than just hitting a button.

The weapons are not that impressive. Although they perform well, and cover all the basics (assault rifle, pistol, shotgun, etc.), they are just rather plain.

The one huge exception is the assault-rifle-mounted chainsaw. That's right. The gun has a chainsaw on the bottom.

"Gears of War" gets it right on almost all fronts, the decision to leave out a Halo-esque multi-player slayer-fest is understandable. Epic Studios is under no illusions of what the game is and isn't, and it comes off better for it.

If you own an Xbox 360 and are even remotely interested in shooting games, this is a must-buy. If nothing else, it will give you something to play until Halo Three is released.

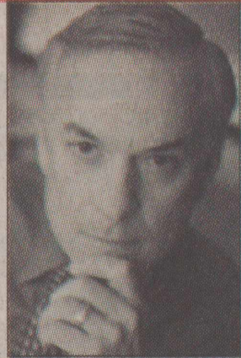
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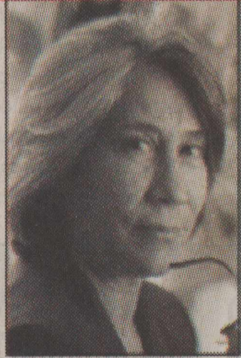
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Tech signs two new golfers

A pair of ball strikers have joined the Texas Tech men's golf squad.

On Thursday, the Tech golf team announced that freshman Matt Smith and high-school senior Brian Scherer will compete for the Red Raiders. Smith, from Canberra, Australia, is set to tee off for Tech this spring while Scherer, from Midland, has signed a National Letter of Intent and will join the team as a freshman next fall.

Smith joins the Tech team after a successful career competing in the Australian amateur golf circuit. There he won three events and maintained a 70.93

stroke average. Smith was named to the New South Wales National Golf Team — the Australia Golf Union Elite Squad — and the Australian Institute of Sport Elite Golf Team.

Scherer has also had success on the golf course. While playing on the American Junior Golf Association tour, he has won two tournaments, the Fidelity Investments Junior Classic in July and the Texas Oklahoma Junior Championship in 2005. Scherer has also finished in the top 10 in two other events and maintained a 73.07 stroke average during his 2006 AJGA tournament play.

— Wes Skipwith/The Daily Toreador

Woods' winning streak ends

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—Tiger Woods' streak is over.

Woods failed to win a 72-hole tournament for the first time since July 9, finishing two shots behind South Korea's Yang Yong-eun in the HSBC Champions on Sunday.

Yang, a regular on the Japanese tour who has played infrequently outside Asia, closed with a 3-under 69 Sunday for a 14-under 274 and a two stroke victory over Woods at the HSBC Champions tournament. Yang won \$833,000.

The loss ended his streak of stroke-play victories, dating to his runner-up finish to Trevor Immelman on July 9 in the Western Open.

The only streak that remains for Woods is his six straight victories on the PGA Tour. The HSBC Champions is sanctioned by the European, Asian, Australasian, South African, and was the first official tournament of the 2007 European tour season.

Woods' overall winning streak ended at the HSBC World Match Play Championship at Wentworth in September when he was eliminated in the first round.

Woods started the final round five shots behind and never really threatened to overtake Yang. Woods birdied the 14th, 16th and 18th holes, making a 4-footer on the final hole. He said his 73 on Saturday in cold, blustery conditions cost him a good run at the title in Asia's richest tournament.

"I wasn't quite good enough," Woods said. "Yesterday just killed me. I was so far back and Yang just played a great stretch of holes and just put it out of reach for all of us that were 6 or 7 under trying to make a run at him."

Third-round leader Retief Goosen hit his approach on 18 in the water, part of a horrendous back nine when he shot 39 en route to a 1-over 73 and a total of 11 under. He was tied for third with New Zealand's Michael Campbell, who matched the course record with a 64.

Yang started the day at 11-under par, one behind overnight leader Goosen, but took a three-shot lead with seven holes to play. He said he got nervous after a bogey at the 16th, but felt confident when he reached the green on the 18th after watching Goosen hit into the water.

"It's just such a big moment in my life right now I can't explain it in words," Yang said. "Now that I've won, I want to play a lot of tournaments overseas — in Europe, the United States

and Japan. I want to compete against the best in the world, now this gives me the chance."

Campbell, the 2005 U.S. Open champion, had a terrible third round, making 10 bogeys in a 77. But he improved on that score by 13 strokes Sunday, making five birdies on the front nine and three on the back.

He shares the course record with Woods and Henrik Stenson, who both had 64s on Friday.

Scotland's Marc Warren finished fifth at 10 under, followed by European No. 1 Padraig Harrington, Robert Karlsson and Paul Casey at 8 under.

Second-ranked Jim Furyk closed with a 68 and finished at seven under in a share of ninth with K.J. Choi, Johan Edfors, Italy's Francesco Molinari and India's Jyoti Randhawa.

Woods said the form he showed in the second round was verging on what is was before his five-week break.

He was followed by a packed gallery, buzzing with excitement on almost every shot.

"I wish I could have made a few more birdies and made it more exciting for them. We challenged for a win, but it wasn't the case," Woods said.

The 30-year-old American took on the course from the start, trying to make up ground.

He used a wood to hit out of a bunker hoping to hit the green in two on the par-five second hole. He landed it just on the verge of the green, but had to settle for par.

He also narrowly missed a birdie putt at the par-three fifth, where the distractions of a cackle of gunfire from an automatic weapon and a bugle salute from an adjoining army base brought a smile to his face.

It was a missed putt for eagle at the par-five 14th ended his challenge, Woods said.

"It was a momentum blower," said Woods, who admitted he did not know anything about Yang until now.

"I was just trying to make as many birdies as I can and maybe get second," Woods said. "If I could shoot 30 on the back nine somehow, I thought maybe I could get into a playoff at best. It didn't happen."

Yang has won four times on the Japanese tour and won his first Asian Tour event earlier this year in a Korean Open field containing Goosen.

Yang will play the Dunlop Phoenix in Japan next week, where Woods will attempt to defend his 2005 title.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Raiders rally for win

By JAY LANGLEY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

For Texas Tech men's basketball coach Bob Knight, size matters.

With his team trailing Sam Houston State by two points at the half, Knight decided to go to a smaller, quicker lineup to offset the Bearcats' smaller, quicker lineup. The move worked, as Tech outscored SHSU by 17 during the final 20 minutes en route to a 79-64 victory in Saturday's season opener.

"We're going to have to do that this year," Knight said. "We will play with different lineups throughout the course of the year. I don't think we have a lineup that can play against everybody. I think that we have got to try and see what we can do, particularly when a team is quick then we've got to match that."

With SHSU leading 36-35 with 15:19 to play, Tech (1-0) went on a 16-2 run to take a 51-38 lead. In the second half Tech scored 24 points off of 12 SHSU turnovers.

Besides leading all scorers with 27 points, Tech guard Jarrius Jackson added a game-high five steals.

"We did a lot better with our defensive intensity in the second half with that lineup that we had in," Jackson said. "I think that we picked up our ball pressure real well."

The Jackson moved past Mike Russell into tenth place on the all-time Tech scoring list with 1,571 career points with the 27-point effort. Jackson, who was dismissed from the team on Oct. 31 because of academic issue and began practicing again Nov. 5, said he did not know until Friday if he would be playing.

"It feels real good," Jackson said. "I think everybody just really didn't know what was going on. At the last minute I figured I was going to play so it was real exciting for me."

Tech's largest lead came with 6:57 left on a layup by Charlie Burgess to make the score 65-47. In his first game after transferring to Tech from Howard Community College Burgess recorded 13 points and a team high nine rebounds.

"I think Charlie made some good plays and some bad plays," Knight said. "This was Charlie's indoctrination into major college basketball. He was OK, but he was not as good as he's going to have to be."

Senior forward Darryl Dora said his team's slow start could have been a result of nine new players on the roster.

"I think the new guys came out a little timid," Dora said. "Our pace wasn't like it should have been in the first half. That's what we talked about at halftime was picking up the pace on defense and offense. That's what we did and we had a big turn around."

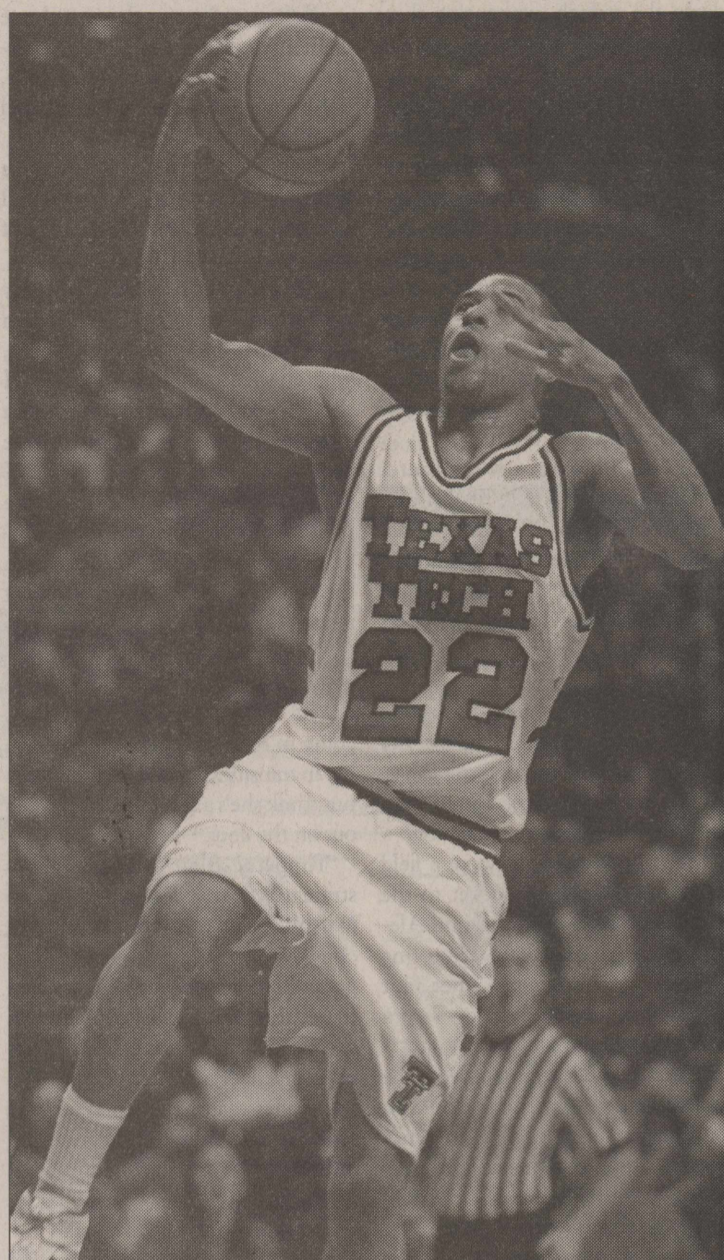
Knight said he wasn't surprised when SHSU (0-1) cut the Tech lead to eight with 3:11 to play.

"I thought that before we even started the game that it was going to be a very tough game for us," Knight said. "I had looked at tapes of the last two games Sam Houston played last year, and that is a good basketball team. I think that they're going to be pretty good throughout the course of the year."

Knight, who moved within 10 wins of breaking Dean Smith's record for all-time coaching victories, said he was happy with the way his team overcame a shaky first half and a second-half comeback by SHSU.

"I thought these kids did a good job of coming back after being down like they were," Knight said. "I don't think our team last year could have turned the game around like that. So that's already a little improvement over last year."

The Raiders led the court tonight against Gardner-Webb in the second game of a doubleheader at the United Spirit Arena as part of the first round of the CBE Classic. Tonight's first game pits Akron



COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH SENIOR guard Jarrius Jackson goes up for a basket during Saturday's game against Sam Houston State at the United Spirit Arena.

against Arkansas-Little Rock.

Knight said he enjoys playing in early season tournaments.

"You get to play two games back-to-back," Knight said. "You get to play against some different things. You see some things that maybe you haven't worked against in practice. I think these early season tournaments are really good for college basketball."

► jaymie.langley@ttu.edu

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7 AM	Curious Life Today	Today (HD)	Early Show	Believer	(500) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	J. Hanna
8 AM	Dragon Tales			Awesome Adv	Costly Show		Megan Mullally Show
9 AM	Sesame Street		700 Club	Judge Mathis	Roseanne	Rachael Ray	Martha John O'Hurley
10 AM	Callou	Regie and Kelly	Price Is Right	Divorce Court	Divorce Court	The View (HD)	Tyra Banks
11 AM	Teletubbies	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Paid Program	Paid Program	Dr. Keith Ablow
12 PM	Quil	News	KLBK 13 News	Jerry Springer	Greg Behrendt Show	All My Children	Access Extra
1 PM	Gary Spetz	Days of Our Lives	Bold & Beautiful	Mauri	Judge Lopez	One Life to Live	People's Court
2 PM	Puppy	Passions	Guiding Light	Good	What I Like	General Hospital	Cratina Court
3 PM	The Lions	Inside Edition	Judge Joe	Jerry Springer	Reba	Montel Williams	Ellen DeGeneres
4 PM	Cifford	Dr. Phil	Judge Judy	Mauri	Bernie Mac	Gerardo	Fox 34 News
5 PM	Mays & Miguel	News	KLBK 13 News	Access	Sill Standing	News	Friends
6 PM	Bus Report	News	CBS News	Family Feud	Sill Standing	ABC News	Simpsons
7 PM	Antiques Roadshow	Deal or No Deal	How I Met (HD)	Class (HD)	Everybody All of Us (HD)	Wife Swap	Prison Break
8 PM	American Experience	Heroes (HD)	Two & 1/2 (HD)	Fashion House	Girlhands (HD)	The Bachelor: Rome	Justice "Shotgun" (HD)
9 PM	American Experience	Studio 60 Sunset Strip (HD)	CSI: Miami	Jim	Will & Grace	What About Brian (HD)	Fox 34 News@Nine
10 PM	Bus Report	News	KLBK 13 News	70s	Sex and City	News	Seinfeld
11 PM	Charlie Rose	(33) Jay Leno (HD)	(33) Late Show (HD)	King of Hill	Malcolm	(33) Nightline	Prisoner "Boo"
12 AM	Destinos	(33) Late Night (HD)	(33) Craig Ferguson	Becker	Mad	(33) Jimmy Kimmel Live	Scrubs
	GED	(33) Last Call	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Chasers

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JUSTICE 8:00

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Lady Raiders win despite slow start

By **STEPHEN MONAHAN**
SPORTS EDITOR

Friday, Kristy Curry gave out her version of the rule of thirds.

In earning her first victory at the helm of the Texas Tech women's basketball team in its 66-58 win over Texas-San Antonio, Curry's Lady Raiders struggled early on and down the stretch, warranting three key elements for possible success this season.

"I think there are some glaring areas that we didn't do a good job with tonight, and we've got to come back out and get used to doing a better job," Curry said. "I think shot selection's one that's very glaring. I think secondly, maintaining the lead's important — giving up a 20-point lead's unacceptable — and thirdly, we obviously have to have a post presence, so they've got to play smarter and stay out of foul trouble."

With just over eight minutes left in the second half, Tech freshman guard Raquel Christian put her team up 56-36 over the Roadrunners — giving some fans a reason to reach in their pockets and dangle their keys to signify the game was out of reach for UTSA.

But the jingles sounded too soon as UTSA went on an 11-0 run behind seven points from guard Terrie Davis, cutting the lead to nine at 56-47 with just under five minutes remaining.

Tech (1-0) failed to score a field goal from Christian's bucket to the 2:51 mark when senior forward Alesha Robertson ended a 5:23 scoring drought with a layup — her first field goal of the game, giving Tech a 60-52 lead.

Curry said her team needed to be resilient and show they could hold on for the win during UTSA's late run.

"You know, good teams find a way to win," she said. "I think that we were able to do that down the stretch."

To get to their 20-point lead, the Lady Raiders had a 14-4 run to end the first half and continued that momentum into the second half with a 13-4 run behind freshman starter Jordan Murphree who scored 11 points and senior guards Chesley Dabbs and

Brooke Baughman who added eight and seven points each during that stretch.

Murphree, who lead the team in points with 17 and rebounds with eight in her first start as a member of the Lady Raiders, helped in place of a struggling Alesha Robertson, who was 2-of-10 from the floor and 0-of-5 from beyond the arc.

Robertson's struggles may have come from an uncontrollable occurrence as she was ill during the game, according to teammates Dabbs and Murphree.

Dabbs said one of the team's strengths is knowing to step up and contribute when another member of the team is down.

"With Alesha being sick, T (Teddy Griffin) and other people and Jordan have had to play the four," Dabbs, who finished with 15 points, said. "I think it's just us knowing that when someone's down, we've got to have each other's back and pick it up."

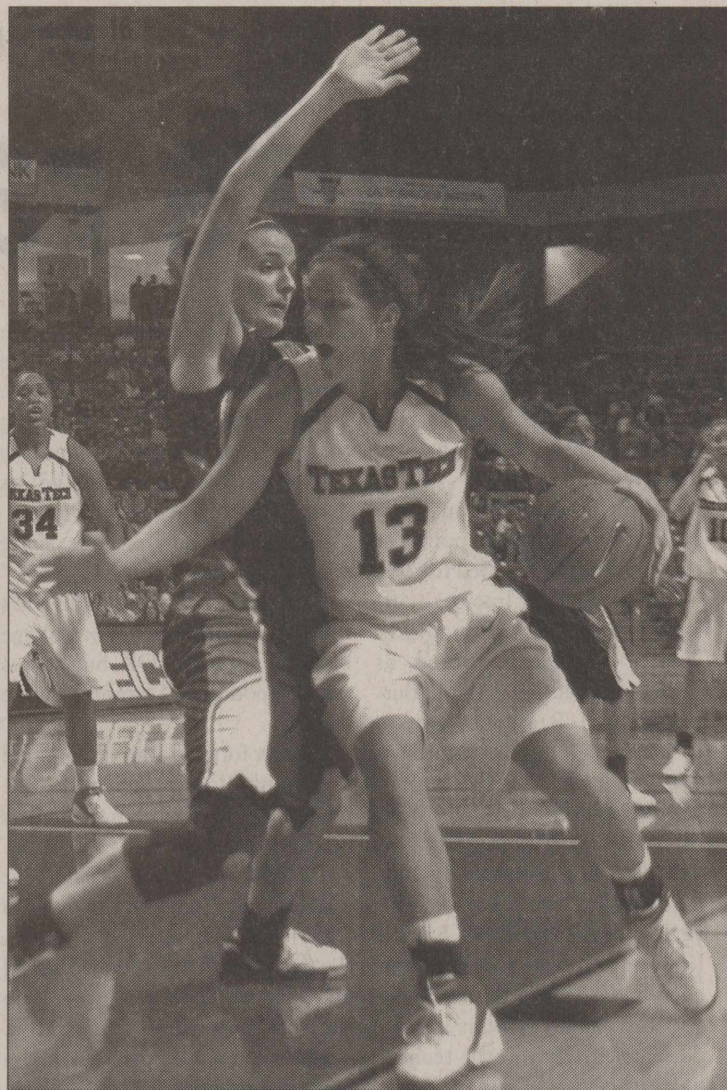
Although Murphree is a true freshman, UTSA coach Rae Ripptoe-Blair said Murphree's skills on the court did not appear to be one of a first-year player.

"What an awesome player," Ripptoe-Blair said of the freshman from Brock. "What a great career she's going to have. We just couldn't stop her in transition. You would definitely not think she's a freshman when she's out on the floor."

Ripptoe-Blair said her team's strategy was to contain Dabbs and Murphree and not take any big chances on those two guards. Ripptoe-Blair said she wanted her team to be aggressive against Baughman because in past games she had not been much of a scorer. But she said her team's overzealous play on the senior guard resulted in Tech's third double-digit scorer of the night with 15 points.

Both teams struggled to start the game as 14 fouls had been called with just under eight minutes to play, while only nine combined field goals were made as Tech led 12-10 in the first half.

Curry said she felt her team lacked an aggressive nature resulting in their



SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH FRESHMAN guard Jordan Murphree forces her way into the paint against Texas-San Antonio forward Regan Burks during Friday's game at the United Spirit Arena.

slow start.

"I just think that we were very passive and weren't very aggressive," Curry said. "We can either focus on the negative, but I can guarantee you that our team will be better for tonight. When we're 20 games from this one, we won't think about it, we'll just see it as a W."

Junior center Erin Myrick, who sat out most of the first half in foul trouble, managed to score six points, snag 13 rebounds and swat three shots, while Robertson finished with six points and six rebounds.

While the 2006-2007 season started on a high note, Curry said last season's letdown might be lingering in

the minds of those who were a part of the team that went 15-14 and missed the NCAA tournament for the first time since the 1988-1989 season. She said Friday's game should be a sign to let the memory of last year go.

"They've got to let the past go," she said. "That was a tough, tough year for them last year, and they lack a little bit of confidence sometimes. We need to quit talking about it. They need to quit thinking about that. Today's all that matters, and tonight counted. We finished with a win."

The Lady Raiders have their first road game of the season 7 p.m. Tuesday at Houston.

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Texans end road struggles

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — The Houston Texans ended nearly two years of frustration on the road and provided more angst for the Jacksonville Jaguars.

David Carr threw for 167 yards and ran for 48 more before leaving the game with a shoulder injury, and the Texans defeated the Jaguars 13-10 on Sunday to snap a 12-game road losing streak.

The Texans (3-6) upset their AFC South rivals for the second time in four weeks and won on the road for the first time since December 2004. Houston's last road victory also came at Jacksonville, a 21-0 shocker that essentially knocked the Jaguars out of playoff contention.

This one was considerably closer but equally surprising.

"I was looking for a broom before I came in here because of all the trash talking that was going on from one organization," said Carr, who added that his shoulder should be OK. "It was sweet to get this because they really felt they had some excuses for the last time we beat them. Maybe this excuse was that we were playing at 1 o'clock."

Houston won the previous meeting 27-7, and the Jaguars had plenty of excuses. Players said they would have won if not for two costly fumbles late, and coach Jack Del Rio essentially pinned the loss on Byron Leftwich after the quarterback convinced coaches he was ready to play, then misfired often on an injured left ankle.

Rushing back Fred Taylor even guaranteed a victory in the second meeting.

"It was on our bulletin board," Carr said. "It was kind of thrown in our face. But we play well against these guys all the time. We just wanted to show that the first time we beat them wasn't a fluke."

The Jaguars (5-4) didn't even try to make excuses after this one. Everyone knew what went wrong.

David Garrard, making his third consecutive start in place of Leftwich, threw four interceptions. Two came after Matt Jones bobbled perfect passes. Ernest Wilford also dropped two balls, including a deep one that could have been a touchdown.

Jacksonville's frustration boiled over in the closing minutes, when Wilford and Reggie Williams got into a shoving match on the sideline.

Garrard completed a 38-yard pass to Cortez Hankton with about two minutes remaining, but the play was nullified by Williams' offensive pass interference penalty that forced a punt.

Williams walked to the bench, then got into a shouting match with some fans. Wilford tried to calm him down, but ended up getting him more fired up. The two had to be separated.

"I was just trying to calm him down and get his head back in the game," Wilford said. "He wasn't ready to be calmed down."

Williams also was flagged for holding with about seven minutes to play, nullifying a 10-yard gain that set up first-and-goal at the 3. Garrard threw his fourth interception on the next play.

The Texans sealed the victory when coach Gary Kubiak gambled on fourth-and-1 at the Houston 41-yard line. Samkon Gado, who finished with 67 yards rushing, picked up enough for the first down.

"You've got to give your team a chance to win," Kubiak said. "Was it the smartest thing? I don't know, but where we are headed with our football team we got to send a message to our football team about the way we are going to play and what we are going to be about."

The Texans certainly match up well against the Jags.

They improved to 6-4 overall against Jacksonville; they have 15 wins against the rest of the league.

"It's just hard to figure out," Taylor said.

Sage Rosenfels played most of the fourth quarter after Carr bruised his left shoulder on a hit by Clint Ingram. Carr had done enough to put the Texans ahead for good.

He directed a 70-yard drive to start the game and had two key runs. Wali Lundy scored from 1 yard, then Houston took advantage of Garrard's first turnover to make it 10-0. DeMeco Ryans pressured Garrard and forced a floater over the middle. Murlon Greenwood picked it off, setting up Kris Brown's 25-yard field goal.

USC bounces back in BCS, but Florida and other close behind

NEW YORK (AP) — Southern California bounced back in the Bowl Championship Series standings.

The Trojans were in third place, right behind Ohio State and Michigan, in the standings released Sunday, returning to the spot they held before losing three weeks ago. Southern California had a slight lead over fourth-place Florida, and Notre Dame, unbeaten Rutgers and Arkansas also were close behind.

When first-place Ohio State (11-0) and second-place Michigan (11-0) play Saturday it'll mark the latest in the regular season the top two teams in the BCS standings have met. The winner will virtually clinch a spot

in the BCS title game on Jan. 8 in Glendale, Ariz.

USC was in the top three in the first two BCS standings with Ohio State and Michigan, and appeared in control of its destiny in the race to the national title game. Then the Trojans were upset at Oregon State, 33-31 on Oct. 28, and tumbled out of the top five.

But last week, four teams that were ahead of USC in the last BCS standings — Louisville, Auburn, Texas and California — lost.

Bolstered by a 35-10 victory over Oregon, the Trojans have rebounded with a BCS average of .8699. They moved up to third in the Harris

Interactive poll and fourth in the coaches' poll, each count for a third of the BCS average. The computer rankings that account for the final third have USC fourth.

But Trojans aren't in the clear from the competition. Florida's BCS average is .8495.

The Gators and Trojans are nearly even in the polls and both have some tough games left on the schedule. The Gators play at Florida State in two weeks and have already secured a spot in the Southeastern Conference title game, where Arkansas is the most likely opponent on Dec. 2 in Atlanta. USC plays Cal on Saturday and Notre Dame the week after.

The Fighting Irish (.8193) are now in position to secure an automatic bid to one of the five BCS games, even if they don't reach the title game. Notre Dame needs to finish in the top eight in the final BCS standings for automatic entry. A top-12 finish makes the Irish eligible for selection.

Sixth-place Rutgers (.7866) beat Louisville 28-25 last Thursday to remain undefeated, but the Scarlet Knights are still stuck behind USC, Florida and Notre Dame, all with one loss. The computers love the Knights, though. The computer ratings have Rutgers second behind Michigan and ahead of Ohio State.

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Arkansas, Rutgers make big moves in AP Top 25

(AP) — Arkansas and Rutgers are on the rise. Florida and Southern California are practically even. And Ohio State and Michigan haven't budged from the top of *The Associated Press* Top 25.

After a wild week in which four top-10 teams lost, including three of the top five, the rankings had a major shake-up Sunday.

Except at the top, where No. 1 Ohio State and No. 2 Michigan held their places and set up the second 1 vs. 2 matchup of the season. The Buckeyes (11-0) and Wolverines (11-0) play Saturday in Columbus, Ohio, with the winner earning a spot in the national title game Jan. 8 in Arizona.

Ohio State, which beat Texas in a 1 vs. 2 game in September, received all but one of the 65 first-place votes, with Michigan getting the other.

Florida is No. 3, just three points ahead of USC. The Gators, who moved up three spots, needed a blocked field goal on the final play to beat South Carolina 17-16 on Sat-

urday. The Trojans defeated Oregon 35-10 to also move up three spots.

No. 5 Arkansas moved up six spots with its 31-14 victory over Tennessee, and Notre Dame went up three spots to No. 6 after winning 39-17 at Air Force.

The Razorbacks have their highest ranking since they were No. 4 in October 1985.

Last week, Louisville, Texas and Auburn held spots three through five, but all were upset.

Unbeaten Rutgers handed Louisville its first loss of the season on Thursday, 28-25. The win boosted the Scarlet Knights to No. 7, their first appearance in the top 10.

Texas and Auburn were beaten by unranked teams. The Longhorns lost at Kansas State 45-42, and Auburn fell to Georgia 37-15.

The last time three top-five teams lost on the same weekend was Nov. 2, 2002, when No. 3 Virginia Tech, No. 4 Notre Dame and No. 5 Georgia all were upset by unranked opponents.

West Virginia is No. 8 in the

latest media poll, followed by LSU and Louisville, which dropped seven spots to No. 10. The Big East has three top-10 teams, along with the Southeastern Conference.

Texas fell seven spots to No. 11. No. 12 Wisconsin moved up four spots and undefeated Boise State moved up one place to No. 13.

No. 14 Wake Forest, coming off a 30-0 victory at Florida State that made the Demon Deacons 9-1 for the first time, moved up four spots.

No. 15 Auburn dropped 10 spots. The Tigers are followed by Oklahoma and California, the fourth member of last week's top 10 to lose. Cal was upset 24-20 at Arizona.

Four Atlantic Coast Conference teams hold the next four spots, starting with No. 18 Georgia Tech, the Coastal Division champ. Virginia Tech is 19th, followed by Boston College and Maryland, which is tied with Wake Forest for the lead in the Atlantic Division. The ACC has six ranked teams, the most of any conference.

Cowboys rebound, topple Cardinals

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Nothing like a trip to Arizona to right the wrongs of an NFL team.

Tony Romo threw for 308 yards and two touchdowns, including a 51-yarder to Terrell Owens, and the Dallas Cowboys beat the crumbling Cardinals 27-10 on Sunday.

The Cowboys (5-4), showing no signs of a hangover from their heartbreaking loss to Washington the previous week, turned two interceptions by Matt Leinart into second-half touchdowns and sent the Cardinals (1-8) to their eighth straight loss.

Romo completed 20-of-29 with no interceptions in Dallas' third consecutive road game. The Cowboys are home against unbeaten Indianapolis next Sunday.

As bad as Arizona has been over the years, its losing streak is its longest since dropping the final eight under Joe Bugel in 1991. The Cardinals haven't started a season 1-8 since 1978, when they were in St. Louis and coached by Bud Wilkinson.

Owens, who vowed to make

amends after dropping a sure TD against the Redskins, dropped the first pass thrown to him Sunday, too. But it was a nice day after that. Owens caught five for 96 yards, including the 51-yarder down the sidelines — his longest catch since coming to Dallas — to put the Cowboys up 20-7 with 5:15 left in the third quarter.

Moments later, Leinart's pass was picked off by Patrick Watkins, who returned it 24 yards to the Arizona 39. That led to Marion Barber's 5-yard touchdown run to give Dallas a 27-3 lead 4:30 into the final quarter.

Larry Fitzgerald had catches of 15 and 38 yards as Arizona drove 78 yards in seven plays to cut it to 27-10 on Leinart's 3-yard run with 11:53 remaining.

With Dallas leading 13-3, the Cardinals moved to the Cowboys 49, but Akin Ayodele intercepted Leinart's pass over the middle. A facemask penalty against Arizona's Reggie Wells moved the ball to the Cowboys 49. On the next play, Owens beat defender Eric Green and was wide open down the sidelines for a touchdown that put Dallas

ahead 20-7.

The Cowboys never trailed, converting two third-and-8 situations in a late first-quarter drive that ended with Mike Vanderjagt's 28-yard field goal to make it 3-0.

Dallas added its only first-half touchdown on its next possession. Romo completed passes of 16 and 22 yards to Jason Witten on a seven-play, 78-yard drive. Romo found Patrick Crayton down the left sideline for a 30-yard touchdown to put the Cowboys ahead 10-0 with 8:33 to go in the half.

Leinart's 43-yard pass to Boldin set up Neil Rackers' 28-yard field goal that cut the lead to 10-3 with 3:31 to play in the half.

After the kickoff, the Cowboys were backed up to second-and-22 from their nine, but Barber ran 12 yards and Romo connected with Crayton for a 34-yard play and a first down. Vanderjagt's 38-yard field goal as the half ended put Dallas ahead 13-3.

Dallas lost starting linebacker Greg Ellis to a left Achilles' injury early in the fourth quarter.

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DOWNTOWN LOFT Apartment. 16

OUT COLD

Sooners freeze Tech scoring, offense for 14-point come-from-behind victory in Norman

By TRAVIS CRAM
MANAGING EDITOR

For the second time this season, Texas Tech took a commanding lead over a top-ranked opponent in the first half. Outscoring No. 17 Oklahoma both offensively and defensively, it seemed Tech was well on its way to its first win in Norman since 1996.

All of it changed in seven seconds.

Senior quarterback Paul Thompson had a near-perfect second half — completing 12 of 13 passes — to lead the Sooners (8-2, 6-1 Big 12) to a 14-point comeback to beat Tech (6-5, 3-4) 34-24 on a cold Saturday night at Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium.

The freezing weather did little to suppress fans coming out to support the teams at the game, setting an Oklahoma state record for the largest attendance at an athletic event with 85,313.

The crowd saw somewhat of a different OU team in the first 29 minutes of the game, turning the ball over three times including an interception for a touchdown by senior cornerback Antonio Huffman that put Tech up 24-10 with less than two minutes remaining.

Thompson said he looked at his group and said he wanted to get one before the half.

"We knew we needed to get

something done," he said. "So I just tried not to think about the last play, and we got into our two-minute set."

After hitting wideout Malcolm Kelly for 10 yards and a first down, Thompson called timeout with 17 seconds remaining in the half to set up the play that might have changed the momentum around for the Sooners — not just for the game, but for the season.

"He just told me to make sure I avoided a collision because it was a stutter route," Kelly said. "So I ran and faked like it was a curl, and he (Chris Parker) came in and looped around him, and P.T. just put that ball right on the money, like I ran right up under it. So it was a real good touchdown, especially right before the half, and we needed it."

Thompson's 40-yard connection to Kelly left the Raiders with 10 seconds left in the half and a seven-point lead which would never be extended in the following half.

Before the OU drive to end the second quarter, Tech's defense had controlled Thompson and the Sooner rushing attack for the most part — allowing 132 passing yards and 54 rushing yards.

With junior running back Adrian Peterson still out with a broken collarbone and Allen Patrick unavailable after suffering an ankle injury in the closing quarter of last

week's win over Texas A&M, OU started junior Jacob Gutierrez at running back.

Gutierrez could only manage 27 yards on seven carries in the first half and coughed up the ball on first down in Tech territory, after the Sooners had picked-off sophomore Graham Harrell on the previous play.

Gutierrez split time with freshman Chris Brown, who had his redshirt status removed after it was evident to OU coach Bob Stoops that Patrick would not be able to play Saturday.

It might have been a smart move to take away the redshirt on Brown, who helped turn around the running game in the second half the same way he turned around a Tech defender, spinning away for a 40-yard touchdown run that put the Sooners out in front for good.

Brown said the play that resulted in the touchdown did not seem right to him when he first heard it called but ended up being a great play.

"It was fun," he said. "They called a stretch play and I started thinking, 'Why are we calling this play?' Because I saw only one guy out there, and so I just stuck with it and followed my blocks, and after that I just tried to get in and it worked out."

It continued to work out for Brown throughout the second half,



STEVE LEWIS/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH SENIOR defensive end Keyunta Dawson attempts to sack Oklahoma quarterback Paul Thompson during Saturday night's game at Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium in Norman, Okla. Thompson completed 24 of 31 passes for 309 yards and two touchdowns in OU's 34-24 win.

carrying the ball 13 times in the final two quarters for 69 yards and two scores — the last one icing the game after Thompson commanded the group 80 yards downfield and ate up almost seven minutes of the clock.

Tech coach Mike Leach said he was impressed with how well Thompson was able to overcome adversity in the game.

"There are a lot of quarterbacks that get in that situation and have a tendency to pack it in, and he

never did," he said. "He played confident and he played hard the whole game."

After hitting a 32-yard field goal in the first half, Tech place-kicker Alex Trlica failed to hit two more in the second half — one from 47 yards and the last from 28 yards — that would have tied the game with more than nine minutes remaining in regulation.

Thompson said once he saw the missed kick, he told his guys again what needed to be done in order

to solidify the win.

"First of all, that defense getting that stop was a big momentum shifter in the game," he said. "We came out on that final drive, and I just told the guys to hang on the ball because they're going to try and get it out. Stay in bounds so we can try and milk this clock for as much as we can, and that's what we did. We milked the clock, and in the end, we got the touchdown — which is what we wanted."

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STEVE LEWIS/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH SOPHOMORE quarterback Graham Harrell lies on the field after being hit from behind by Oklahoma sophomore cornerback Lendy Holmes in the fourth quarter of Saturday's game.

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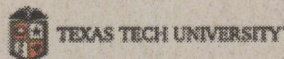
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Texas' loss knocks Big 12 out of title picture

(AP) — It's been another very good year for the Big 12, with half of the schools having won seven or more games.

It won't be a great one, not after Kansas State's upset of Texas knocked the Longhorns out of the national title picture. Instead, heading into the bowl season the conference has a look of parity with no truly dominant teams.

No. 11 Texas (9-2, 6-1) was fifth in last week's BCS standings and had hoped to move up after No. 10 Louisville lost to Rutgers. Kansas State's Josh Freeman spoiled that thinking, throwing three touchdown passes and running for a fourth in a 45-42 victory on Saturday night.

Nebraska (8-3, 5-2), which returned to the rankings Sunday at No. 24, will represent the North in the Big 12 championship game against either the Longhorns or 16th-ranked Oklahoma. To join the Huskers in the title game on Dec. 2 in Kansas City, Oklahoma needs to win its last two games and Texas must lose at Texas

A&M (8-3, 4-3) on Nov. 24.

The conference has eight guaranteed bowl slots and eight qualifiers. Kansas (5-5, 2-4) needs a win at home this week against Kansas State or at Missouri (7-3, 3-3) on Nov. 25 to make it nine.

Oklahoma (8-2, 4-1) got a big game from former fourth-string tailback Chris Brown, a freshman who scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns in a 34-24 victory over Texas Tech. The Sooners overcame four turnovers and benefited from two missed field goals by Tech.

"I love the way our team is competing and playing," coach Bob Stoops said. "We made it hard. We have got to take care of the football."

"But I love the character."

Oklahoma's 15-game streak with a 100-yard rusher, the longest in the nation, was snapped with Brown gaining 84 yards on 16 carries. The Sooners compensated with a career-high 309 yards passing and two touchdowns from Paul Thompson.

"Going into this week, we knew we wanted to wing it around a little bit, establish a little more balance in the offense," Thompson said. "I felt comfortable the entire game."

"Last week, I was a little nervous, but tonight I was calm."

Thompson's play was an eye-opener for Tech coach Mike Leach.

"Certainly as far as throwing the ball, this is the best game I've seen him play," Leach said. "The thing I thought he did well, even though he was inconsistent as well, was he dealt with adversity and disappointments and just kept plugging away."

Kansas State fans who had already seen Texas quarterback Colt McCoy sidelined by a sore shoulder after scoring a touchdown got a momentary scare when their own freshman quarterback trotted to the locker room after a scoring run.

Freeman left the sidelines late in the third quarter after running for a 1-yard score that put the Wildcats up 42-21.