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THURSDAY, NOV. 30, 2006
VOLUME 81 ■ ISSUE 65

THE DAILY T O R E A D O R

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(INSIDE)



Mario makes a comeback.
SEE PAGE 4

(INBRIEF)

STATE

Dec. 7 launch on schedule for Discovery

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Preparations are on schedule for NASA's first nighttime space shuttle launch in four years as the space agency readies Discovery for a mission to the international space station, managers said Wednesday.

NASA plans to launch Discovery at 9:35 p.m. on Dec. 7 for the third shuttle flight of the year and the fourth since the Columbia disaster killed seven astronauts in 2003.

The agency required the three launches after the Columbia accident to be in daylight so clear images could be taken of the shuttle's external fuel tank in case foam falls off.

NATION

One in every 32 U.S. adults behind bars

WASHINGTON (AP) — A record 7 million people — or one in every 32 American adults — were behind bars, on probation or on parole by the end of last year, according to the Justice Department.

Of those, 2,193,798 were in prison or jail, an increase of 2.7 percent over the previous year.

Even though data show more prison releases, the report said, admissions still exceed releases. More than 4.1 million people were on probation and 784,208 were on parole at the end of 2005.

WORLD

Panel reaches deal on U.S. Iraq policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bipartisan commission, under pressure to offer a U.S. exit strategy for the increasingly unpopular war in Iraq, has reached a consensus and will announce its recommendations next week, the group's co-chairman said Wednesday. Former Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., declined to disclose any specifics about the Iraq Study Group's decisions. The report, much anticipated by the Bush administration and members of Congress, is coming out next Wednesday amid the spiraling violence in Iraq that has raised questions about the viability of the Iraqi government.

DEATH TOLL

2881

U.S. Military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by Department of Defense

WEATHER

Today



A.M. SNOW
HIGH 34/
LOW 21

Friday



SUNNY
HIGH 54/
LOW 26

INSIDE

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Tech graduate piloted downed Air Force F-16

By **JOSH HULL**
STAFF WRITER

U.S. Air Force officials identified a former Texas Tech student as the pilot of a plane that crashed Monday 20 miles northwest of Baghdad.

According to an Air Force press release, Major Troy L. Gilbert, who graduated from Tech in 1993, has been listed as "duty status — whereabouts unknown" following the downing of his F-16 fighter plane. Officials confirmed Gilbert, who was assigned to the 309th Fighter Squadron based out of Luke Air Force Base in Arizona, was supporting coalition ground forces in the Anbar province when his plane went down.

Sally Post, director of news bureau and broadcasting for the Texas Tech Office of Communications and Marketing, said Gilbert graduated with a degree in economics.

Gilbert was commissioned as an Air Force officer following his graduation from Officer Training School in 1994, according to the press release. In January 2001 Gilbert completed his undergraduate pilot instruction at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls.

According to the press release, Gilbert has spent more than 1,000 hours piloting the F-16 and "has logged more than 130 combat hours during Operation Allied Force, Northern Watch and Iraqi Freedom."



GILBERT

at both Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico and Luke Air Force Base in Arizona

Air Force officials said the cause of the crash is unknown, although there is no indication so far that insurgent fire brought down the aircraft.

Officials confirmed that early reports indicating Gilbert was a part of the 524th squadron stationed at Cannon are incorrect.

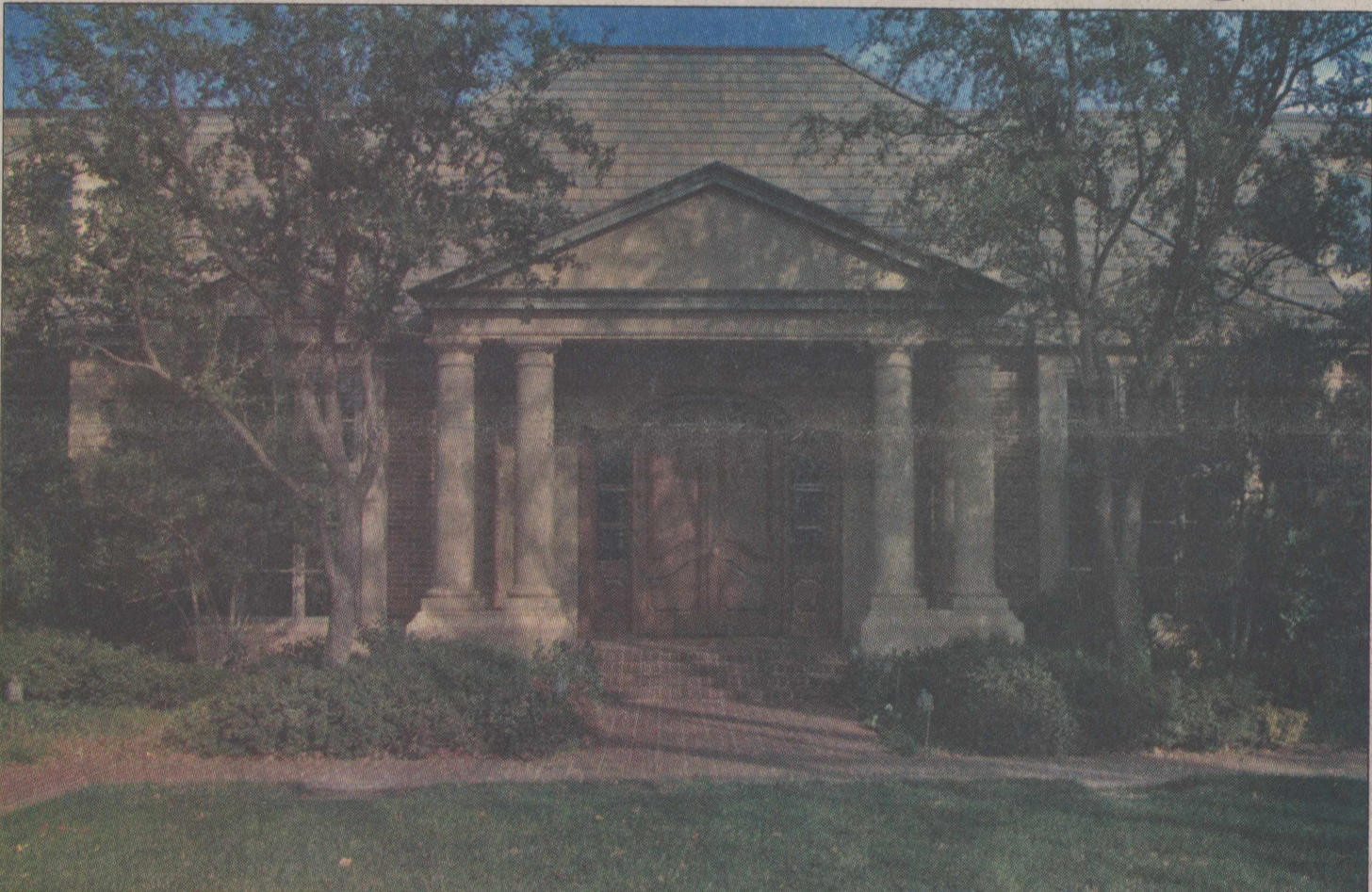
According to the press release, "Gilbert was selected to attend the prestigious U.S. Army Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth (Kansas)."

Since January 2003 Gilbert has been serving as assistant director of operations, wing flying executive officer, flight commander, chief of training and F-16 flight evaluator for the 56th Fighter Wing.

Officials said DNA evidence recovered from the crash will take three or four days to examine.

► josh.hull@ttu.edu

HOUSE of HANCE



KAT HILSABECK/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH'S NEW Chancellor Kent Hance will reside at the recently purchased 8,000-square-foot Tech House located at 4708 21st St.

Tech spends \$1.65 million on chancellor's house

By **JOSH HULL**
STAFF WRITER

Kent Hance will have one less thing to worry about when he assumes his new position as chancellor on Friday.

Texas Tech purchased a new home for the incoming chancellor Nov. 20, and it is expected to provide more than just shelter for the university leader.

The new chancellor's residence, known as the Tech House, was open Wednesday morning by the Tech office of communications and marketing for a tour.

Some of the features of the new house include two large living spaces, four fireplaces and a two-acre lot with a spacious back yard.

Margaret Lutherer, executive director of communications and marketing, said the new 8,000-square-foot Tech House was purchased for \$1.65 million.

"That was much lower than the asking price," Lutherer said.

The former Tech House, which was occupied by chancellors David Smith and John Montford, is appraised at \$1.1 million, according to the Lubbock Central Appraisal District Web site.

Because of the larger living spaces and open kitchen, Lutherer said she believes the new home is better suited than the previous Tech House for hosting events to showcase both the chancellor and the university.

"The benefit of this house for the chancellor, the university system and the Health Sciences Center is that it will be a warm and inviting environment to entertain Texas Tech donors and students and alumni," Lutherer said. "This house will be much more conducive to entertaining."

Lutherer said she believes the new house will be a great tool in helping Hance host events that will help him carry out one of his primary functions, which is to raise funding for the university.

"I think Chancellor Hance wants to do more and more entertaining," she said. "This house will be a major venue for the university system, not only

HOUSE continued on page 3

U.S. ambassador speaks to Tech community about Iraq

By **NAOMI KASKELA**
STAFF WRITER

Advice to individuals interested in pursuing a career in the foreign service and stories from his own career overseas were offered by U.S. Ambassador Gregory Engle on Wednesday. Engle spoke at the Ambassadorial Dinner at the International Cultural Center, along with Tibor Nagy, former U.S. ambassador and vice provost of International Affairs at Texas Tech.

The dinner was planned by students from the Study Abroad Association, International Business Association and Students for Global Awareness and International Culture.

Engle, former management counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, answered questions concerning the

foreign service, specifically about his time in Baghdad.

"You're aware from your first time of arrival that you're in a war zone," he said of his landing at night in Iraq.

Engle, who spent 13 months there, transferred from being the U.S. ambassador at the Togolese Republic in Africa to management counselor in Baghdad.

His mornings began in the office at 7 a.m. and ended around 10 p.m., during this time he attended meetings and handled problems and disputes, among other things.

"There's a huge amount of work, and it's necessary to get to that work at a very quick pace," he said.

Iraq has the biggest Country Team Meeting in the world, consisting of 40

AMBASSADOR continued on page 5



RECENT HEAD OF the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Gregory Engle, answers questions during the Ambassadorial Dinner at the International Cultural Center Wednesday evening.

VANESSA VELA/
The Daily Toreador

Bush-Al-Maliki meeting postponed

By **DEB RIECHMANN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — President Bush's high-stakes summit with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki was put off Wednesday amid political unrest in Baghdad and public disclosure of U.S. doubts about the Iraqi leader's capacity to control sectarian warfare.

The White House said Bush and al-Maliki would meet on Thursday.

The postponement was announced shortly after Bush arrived here for talks with Jordan's King Abdullah II and al-Maliki. Bush's meeting with the king proceeded on schedule at Raghadan Palace.

The change of plans appeared to surprise some members of Bush's entourage. Boarding the motorcade for the trip to the palace, White House press secretary Tony Snow said there were still discussions about whether a photo op Wednesday night would include al-Maliki.

The Iraqi prime minister faced political pressure at home about the summit. Thirty Iraqi lawmakers and five cabinet ministers loyal to anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr said they were boycotting participating in Parliament and the government to protest al-Maliki's presence at the summit.

White House counselor Dan Bartlett denied that the delay was a snub by al-Maliki or was related to the leak of a White House memo questioning the prime minister's capacity for controlling violence in Iraq.

"Absolutely not," Bartlett said. "He said the king and the prime minister had met before Bush arrived from a NATO summit in Latvia. "That negated the purpose for the three of them to meet tonight, together."

Bartlett said that Wednesday night's three-way meeting had always been planned as "more of a social meeting" and that Bush and Maliki on Thursday would have a "robust" meeting on their own.

The president was expected to ask the embattled Iraqi prime minister how best to train Iraqi forces faster so they can shoulder more responsibility for halting the sectarian violence and, specifically, mending a gaping Sunni-Shiite divide.

Bush arrived here amid disclosure of a memo by a top White House adviser that raised doubts about al-Maliki's ability to halt

BUSH continued on page 3

Tech police blotter

By **PAUL ROBERTS**
STAFF WRITER

Nov. 27

Texas Tech police arrested a student for driving with a suspended license. The student was pulled over in the 1800 block of Flint Avenue for a traffic violation. The student was transported to the Lubbock County Jail and the student's vehicle was towed.

A Tech student was arrested for three outstanding Lubbock County warrants and one outstanding Lubbock County citation. Tech police said they pulled the student over in the 3300 block of 18th Street. The

student was transported by Tech police to the Lubbock County Jail and his vehicle was towed.

Tech police investigated a traffic accident at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center. Tech police said no one was injured in the accident.

A nonstudent was arrested for public intoxication in the parking lot located near the University Medical Center emergency room. The nonstudent was released to his sister-in-law pending the filing of charges of public intoxication.

Nov. 28

Tech police responded to a 911 medical emergency call in the Tech

Health Sciences Center D-2 parking lot. Police said a female nonstudent was driving her vehicle when she lost consciousness. After the female passed out, her vehicle struck other vehicles causing an accident. The female reported minor injuries and was transported to the University Medical Center emergency room. Tech police investigated the accident and completed a Texas Department of Public Safety Driver Improvement Bureau Examination. Once the investigation was completed, Tech police said the driver suffered a seizure and struck three parked vehicles. The female's vehicle was towed.

► paul.j.roberts@ttu.edu

Ford says 38,000 have accepted buyout or early retirement offers

DETROIT (AP) — Ford's hourly work force is shrinking to half its current size, following the announcement Wednesday that 38,000 hourly workers have agreed to accept early retirement or buyout packages this year.

That still might not be enough to revive the nation's second-largest automaker, however, which is contracting in the face of multibillion-dollar losses and fierce competition. Now, say analysts, Ford Motor Co. needs to rekindle interest in its cars and reclaim some market share lost to Asian rivals.

"They've got to learn how to build a product that is acceptable in the market at a good price," Turn-

around specialist Jim McTevia, of McTevia & Associates in Bingham Farms, said. "They've got to build it economically and they've got to sell it economically."

Ford had expected 25,000 to 30,000 workers to sign up during an open enrollment period that expired Monday. The new reduction figure would amount to nearly 46 percent of the 83,000 unionized employees that Ford had at the start of the year.

That will eventually save Ford about \$5 billion a year, but it still has a long way to go and more painful measures to take before it's financially sound.

Ford lost \$7 billion in the first

nine months of the year. And it is losing money on a daily basis. The Dearborn-based automaker said Wednesday it expects to burn through \$17 billion in cash from 2007 to 2009.

On Monday, it announced plans to mortgage its assets and raise about \$18 billion in financing to pay for its restructuring.

McTevia said that move and the buyout figures signal that the automaker believes it will be able to operate profitably in the future. Ford has said it expects to return to profitability by 2009.

But McTevia said Ford faces stiff competition from companies on much stronger financial footing.

Santa bringing holiday greetings to HSC

By **LINDSEY DUNCAN**
STAFF WRITER

Santa Claus is coming to town, and he's bringing his wife and a few elves along too. They will all be present on Friday at the Health Sciences Center's annual Holiday Extravaganza, which will be held in the Synergetics Center of the Academic Classrooms Building.

"The Holiday Extravaganza is a great way to bring together students and staff and community members," said Traci Hall, president of the HSC Student Government Association.

Hall, a second-year medical student from Katy, said several student senators dressed as Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and the elves will be greeting people and handing out door prizes donated by local area businesses.

"It's really funny knowing who Santa is and knowing the elves," she said as she laughed and glanced at two other HSC SGA officers. "They have great personalities.

After the event, Santa and Mrs. Claus and the elves will go over to the University Medical Center Children's Hospital and pediatric clinic to hand out crayons and coloring books, and thanks to a generous donation from Wal-Mart, we will also have toys to give."

The Texas Nursing Students Association and its Toys for Tots drive also will be providing some of the toys, Hall said.

Hall said the HSC SGA is excited to have an opportunity to host an event that combines community service, unity among the five schools of the HSC and holiday spirit.

"We try to keep it a relaxed event," she said. "There'll be music playing, lunch and just hanging out."

Lindsey McDonald, social committee chair of the HSC SGA, and Chelsey Slayton, vice president of operations for the HSC SGA, helped plan the extravaganza.

"The unity is important for us to get to know one another, because we're all tied into careers together," said Slayton, a senior nursing student

from Coleman.

McDonald said the extravaganza is the biggest event targeted to the HSC student body as a whole, which is made up of the schools of Nursing, Medicine, Allied Health, Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences.

Hall said the extravaganza is primarily an event for the students but many people attend the event.

"We have people show up from the student services office," she said. "Student affairs offices from all five schools, and usually some administrative representatives. The deans of the schools will also probably stop by."

"We've been working on it since the first senate meeting," she said. "It'll be a time of unity, happiness and love in the synergetics center."

Hall said the synergetics center will be decorated with poinsettias, garland and Christmas ornaments.

"We put up a 90-foot Christmas tree," Slayton said of the decorations.

"It's not really 90 feet," she said laughing. "But, well, it's huge."

► lindsey.e.duncan@ttu.edu

Late summer economic slowdown, though not as much as first estimated

WASHINGTON (AP) — The economy lost steam in the late summer but not nearly as much as first thought, a hopeful sign the country is weathering the housing slump.

The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that economic growth clocked in at a 2.2 percent annual rate in the July-to-September quarter.

The new reading was a considerable upgrade from the government's earlier estimate of a 1.6 percent growth rate, which would have been the worst showing in more than three years if it had held up.

The main factors for the higher estimate were stronger inventories amassed by companies and a trade deficit that didn't strain economic growth as much.

The improvement, however, could not hide the fact that the economy has been losing momentum all year.

Over the first three months of the year, the economy grew at a blistering pace — 5.6 percent, the best performance in 2 1/2 years. From April through June, the growth rate was 2.6 percent as consumers and companies tightened spending in response to surging energy prices.

The further slowdown in late summer mostly reflected the deepening housing slump. Investment in home building was reduced by the largest amount in 15 years.

"It was a tough quarter, but not as

tough as previously estimated," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "But there's reason to be optimistic that the expansion will remain intact. With businesses so flush with profits, they will continue to invest and hire and the economy will continue to move forward," he predicted.

On an encouraging note, a Federal Reserve survey released Wednesday found that most parts of the country had moderate economic growth in the late fall despite troubles in the housing market and the automotive industry.

Fresh evidence of the ailing housing market came from a separate Commerce Department report that showed new-home sales fell in October by 3.2 percent, the most in three months, although home prices did rise.

"So far the housing correction has been orderly and it does not appear to have done significant damage to consumers or to the economy but the situation bears continued watching," said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at LaSalle Bank.

The Bush administration insists the economy is fundamentally sound. But Democrats say that the poor and the middle class have benefited little from the economic expansion over the past five years.

Democrats who will take over the House and Senate in January want to raise the federal minimum wage, among their other priorities.

Consumers and businesses did their part keeping the economy moving in the third quarter.

Consumers spending rose at a 2.9 percent pace, the most since the first months of this year.

Businesses stepped up investment in equipment and software at 7.2 percent pace — also the best showing since the first quarter. Also, their investment increased in new plants, office buildings and other commercial construction.

Companies' profits gained ground in the third quarter. One measure showed after-tax profits rising by 4.6 percent, compared with 0.3 percent in the second quarter.

All that helped to cushion against from the housing slump. Builders cut spending on home building at a 18 percent annual rate, even deeper than the government estimated a month ago and the most since early 1991. That sliced 1.16 percentage points off the gross domestic product in the third-quarter, the most in nearly 25 years.

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House

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for entertaining."

Though the duties of the chancellor require a lot of traveling, Lutherer said the new residence will serve as a home for Hance and his wife, Susie Hance.

"This will be his primary residence," she said. "The university plans on making this very welcoming."

Lutherer said one of the things the Hances said they enjoyed about the new home was the kitchen because Susie Hance is a gourmet cook.

The Tech Board of Regents approved the purchase of the new residence Nov. 13. At that meeting Board Chairman Frederick Francis said he believes the new home will provide Kent Hance a more intimate setting to entertain guests.

Sally Post, director of news bureau and broadcasting for the Office of Communications and Marketing, said the process of selling the former Tech House on 19th Street is still in the early phases.

"We've done a request for proposals for relators, which we are required to do," Post said. "That closes Friday."

Lutherer said while the cost of the new residence is more than the former Tech House, the money brought in from the sale will go directly to fund the purchase of the new house.



KAT HILSABECK/The Daily Treador

PICTURED ABOVE IS the kitchen within the Texas Tech chancellor's new residence.

Pat Ham, the realtor overseeing the sale of the new Tech House, said many people were interested in the home during its five-month stay on the housing market.

"We've had other contracts offered that were even better offers," Ham said. "The contracts just didn't work out."

Ham said working with Tech is different than a normal home sale, but she said she enjoyed working with

the university.

"Everything has to be approved by the Board of Regents and the general counsel," she said. "They were all very professional."

Though the million dollar price tag may seem daunting to some, Ham said the new house is in no way in the top price range of homes in Lubbock.

"It's not at the top of any bracket," she said. "There are several homes

out there that are \$2 million and \$3 million."

Lutherer said the Hances will be able to move into the house after some minor renovations are completed on the home, possibly sometime this month.

"We're going to be doing some basic renovation for an eight-year-old house," she said. "He's going to move in as soon as possible."

► josh.hull@ttu.edu



Kat Hilsabeck/The Daily Treador

THE NEW TEXAS Tech chancellor's house is more than 8,000 square feet.

Bush

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

escalating sectarian violence in Iraq, where U.S. involvement now exceeds the length of America's participation in World War II.

"We will discuss the situation on the ground in his country, our ongoing efforts to transfer more responsibility to the Iraqi security forces, and the responsibility of other nations in the region to support the security and stability of Iraq," Bush had said earlier.

The White House has avoided saying that Bush would pressure al-Maliki at the meeting to do more to stop the bloodshed. National security adviser Stephen Hadley says the Iraqi prime minister pushes himself — and that Bush will be listening to al-Maliki's ideas, not imposing plans on him.

But in a classified Nov. 8 memo following his Oct. 30 trip to Baghdad, Hadley expressed serious doubts about whether al-Maliki had the capacity to control the sectarian violence in Iraq, and recommended steps to strengthen the Iraqi leader's position. *The New York Times* reported in Wednesday editions.

"The reality on the streets of Baghdad suggests Maliki is either ignorant of what is going on, misrepresenting his intentions, or that his capabilities are not yet sufficient to turn his good intentions into action," the memo said.

In an unusual move for a White House that typically refuses to discuss classified material, the White House did not dispute the accuracy of the memo. But a senior administration official said the document, taken as a whole, was an expression of support for al-Maliki. "You have a constant reiteration of the importance of strengthening the Maliki government, the need to work with him, to augment his capabilities," the official said.

He added that Bush and Maliki

have a "personal relationship" that allows them to "talk candidly about the challenges."

Another official, also speaking anonymously because of the classified nature of the memo, said it was not "a slap in the face, but it's, 'How do we grow his capability?'"

"The president has confidence in Prime Minister Maliki, and also the administration is working with the prime minister to improve his capabilities," press secretary Snow told reporters, adding that Maliki "has been very aggressive in recent weeks in taking on some of the key challenges."

Abdullah has warned that unless bold steps are taken posthaste, the new year could dawn with three civil wars in the Mideast — in Lebanon, between the Palestinians and Israelis and in Iraq. He says the fighting in Iraq amounts to a civil war between the Sunnis and Shiites, but Bush chooses to characterize it differently.

Bush's meeting with al-Maliki is part of a new flurry of diplomacy the administration has undertaken across the Middle East. Hadley's memo suggests that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice hold a meeting for Iraq and its neighbors in the region early next month.

After the Bush-al-Maliki summit, Rice is staying behind in the region for talks with Palestinian, and possibly, Israeli leaders, who agreed last weekend on a cease-fire to end five months of fighting in the Gaza Strip.

Hadley suggested in his memo the United States could step up efforts to get Saudi Arabia to take a leadership role in supporting Iraq. Hadley said Saudi Arabia could use its influence to move Sunni populations in Iraq out of violence and into politics, cut off any public or private funding provided to the insurgents or death squads from the region and lean on Syria to terminate its support for Baathists and insurgent leaders.

Frist abandons plans for 2008 presidential bid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist renounced a bid for the White House in 2008 on Wednesday, an early dropout from the most wide-open presidential race in decades.

"In the Bible, God tells us for everything there is a season, and for me, for now, this season of being an elected official has come to a close," said the Tennessee Republican, a surgeon before he entered politics in 1994.

While the first national convention delegates won't be chosen for more than a year, jockeying among potential presidential contenders is well under way.

Frist made his announcement as several potential GOP hopefuls were descending on Miami for the annual meeting of the Republican Governors' Association. Among them were Massachusetts Gov. Mitt

Romney, outgoing head of the group, and Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., planned private meetings with governors Thursday followed by a reception.

The roster of potential candidates in both parties is long in the first White House campaign since 1928 in which neither an incumbent president nor vice president is in the early mix of candidates.

Frist's brief statement did not specify a reason for dropping out of a race he had eyed for more than a year, and had included trips to the key early states of Iowa and New Hampshire.

In a statement, he said he "will take a sabbatical from public life" and "return to my professional roots as a healer and to refocus my creative energies on innovative solutions to seemingly insurmountable challenges Americans face."

His decision capped a 12-year career in politics marked by a speedy rise but an

uncertain tenure at the peak of Senate power.

He won his Senate seat in 1994 and pledged to serve no longer than two six-year terms.

His launching pad to national power was the chairmanship of the Senate GOP campaign committee, which gained seats under his direction in 2002. That, in turn, positioned him to become majority leader when Mississippi Sen. Trent Lott made racially insensitive comments after the election and was forced to step aside.

As majority leader, Frist worked to implement President Bush's agenda, from passage of tax cuts to confirmation of conservative judges. He played a significant role in legislation that overhauled Medicare and created a prescription drug benefit.

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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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11/30/06

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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A	N	O	A	A	L	E	R	O	R	A	T	E
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OPINIONS

PAGE 4
THURSDAY, NOV. 30, 2006

Citizens of Mexico deserve recount

Ricardo Ramirez



The newly elected conservative president of Mexico, Felipe Calderón, will step into power tomorrow, but the world will hardly be watching. Rather, eyes will be focused on his leftist opponent, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who adamantly maintains the July election was fraudulent. On this side of the border, we insist on considering the election in terms familiar to us, instead of understanding the situation in Mexico. As a result, our perception of López Obrador is that of a crazed radical whimsically calling for protest and we are unable to listen to the Mexican left.

Defiling López Obrador's image has been easy. The semantics used to describe him (leftist, revolutionary and protester) are based on the truth. However, the American public links them to the Cold War and vicious evildoers in Latin America who, from our perspective, had a senseless passion for destabilizing the rest of the world. A column in *The New York Times* ridiculed him by simplifying his contentions with the headline, "Yes, He Lost Mexico's Vote, So He's Swearing Himself In."

Our reaction to this kind of portrayal of the candidate is inevitable. We overlook that we too would be leftist revolutionary protesters if in López Obrador's position.

Even though polls showed the leftist candidate would win the elections, he lost by 0.2 percent of the votes. After demanding a recount, the electoral tribunal (TRIFE) approved the recount of only a small fraction of the votes. This is what angers López Obrador. He has stated he would be satisfied with a full recount, but TRIFE has remained obstinate in their refusal.

Just as protesters show support for López Obrador, there also is ample support for the right-wing candidate and the result of the election. In a country with a particularly bad reputation for corruption, why is there so much support for the election results? It would be more logical to see less support for the result of the election.

Apparently, the decade-old TRIFE concept has an extremely clean reputation, thanks to its structure. The Supreme Court selects the candidates for TRIFE magistrates, who then need two-thirds of Congress's vote for election. They are usually of academic and legal backgrounds. To help dissuade corruption by party influences, they receive lavish salaries and escort services.

Conservative Mexicans and even some liberals recognize TRIFE as a trustworthy entity isolated from the corruption that plagues the country. Because confidence in these magistrates is absolute, their judgment is, surprisingly, respected and generally unchallenged — except in this election. In simple terms, if the magistrates believe the election has

been a fair one, they have the right to deny a full recount.

Granted, TRIFE's decisions are legally acceptable under the law, but the key questions are whether this design is not flawed, and whether the small margin of victory merits a recount.

Because Calderón's victory is legally acceptable, the conservative Mexican and international media attack López Obrador's defiance. They emphasize that challenging what is legal, in fact, promotes something illegal.

The biggest disconnection here is the seven trusty magistrates did not help count the 41 million votes. They authorized the recount of 9 percent of the votes and did not find any evidence of fraud there, but this does not eliminate the possibility of corruption in the other 91 percent.

Interviewed by *The New York Times*, chief judge of the electoral tribunal Leonel Castillo said fraud was nearly impossible because citizens chosen at random and trained to be poll workers were responsible for counting the vote on election night. He also said "Citizens provide the certainty of the computation process. ... this is the method and the way that the law makes the elections certain." He somehow implies that, because citizens are randomly chosen to work at the polls, fraud is impossible.

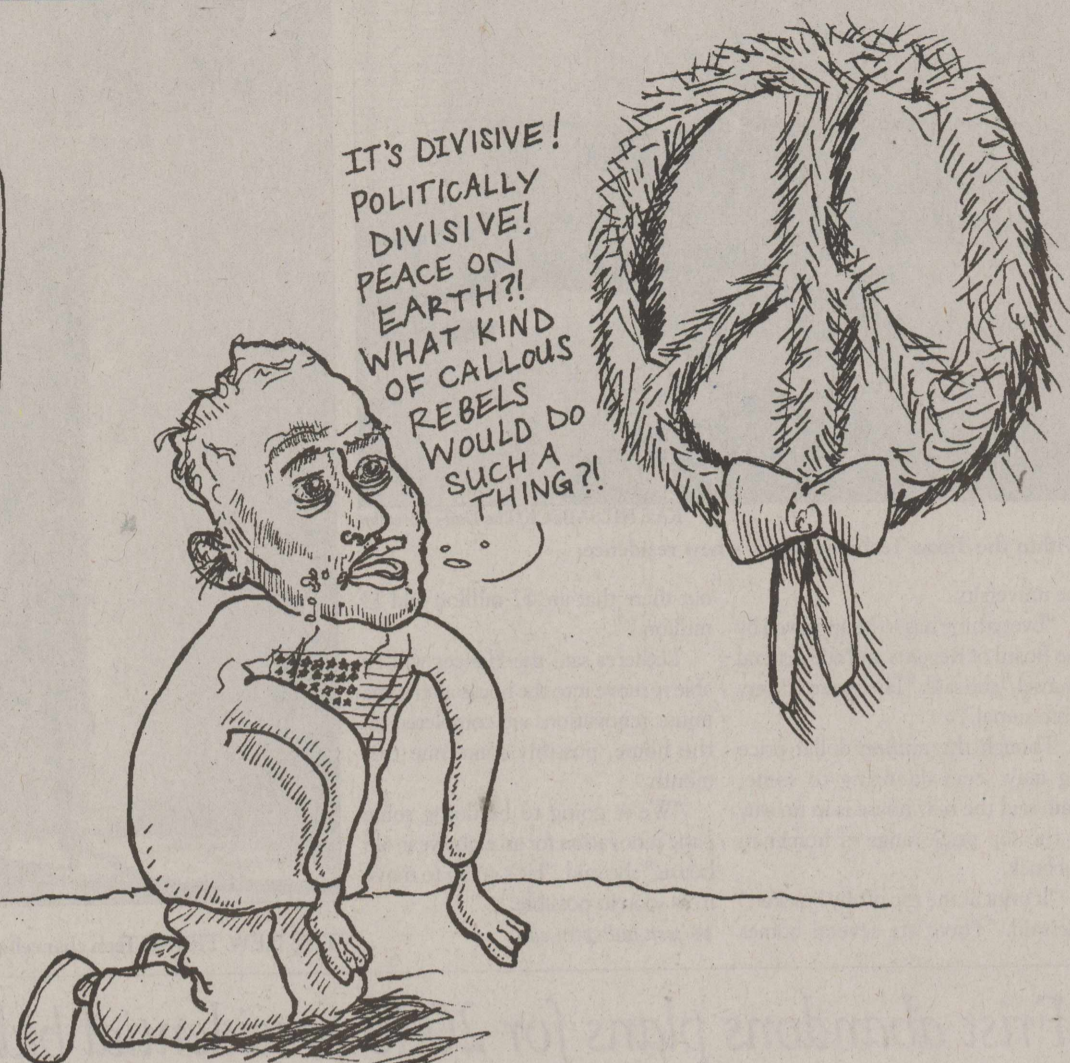
Fraud is possible. Especially since López Obrador directly criticized the richest monopolizers in Mexico by suggesting cheapening Internet and cell phone rates. He proposed what is expected from a leftist candidate. He vowed to work against the monopolies that have for so long hurt Mexicans, better worker conditions, reduce corruption, and stand-up for social justice.

Instead of pointing fingers at the obvious — that a Calderón victory is legal — American media and the public should be more sensible to reality in Mexico. On one hand, we treat Mexicans like worthless thieves for crossing the border illegally and feeding their families.

Nevertheless, given the opportunity to support a peaceful, non-fraudulent recount and perhaps a better domestic situation — which would reduce illegal immigration — we turn a blind eye in the name of tradition. Without knowing why, we link protests and the left with the irrational pursuit of political instability. The protesting Mexicans are seeking a better way of life in their own country, not ours, and we should applaud them for it.

■ Ramirez is a French and francophone literature major from Puerto Rico. E-mail him at ricardo.a.ramirez@ttu.edu.

You know you have "Mad Politics" Disease when you become enraged at a wreath shaped like a peace symbol, which really happened last week in Pagosa Springs, Colorado.



ERIC BRADEN NOV 29 2006

GUEST COLUMN

Wind energy worth pursuing

I am researching a senior project on wind power would like to argue Trey Caliva's column Monday "Blowin' in the wind" from three points. First, wind power is promising, healthy power. Second, the aesthetic argument against wind power is misplaced. And third, Caliva's support of nuclear as an alternative is misinformed.

Wind is a naturally occurring force tapped since humans could make sails. It can supply non-polluting, cheap, safe energy. According to Peters Asmus' work "Reaping the Wind," 6 percent of the nation's windiest sites could supply the United States with one-and one-half times its energy needs. While the turbines can be taller than the Statue of Liberty, the average turbine base is the size of a household living room.

This makes for a modest eco-footprint compared to a coal mine or combined oil derricks and piping. Turbines kill birds, but far less, according to Padriac Fowler, a graduate wind engineer, than skyscrapers, cars, airplanes or house cats. These environmental impacts are favorable to the pollution of fossil fuel-based plants.

Charles Kmanoff writes in his article "Whither Wind?" published in Orion that he too was aesthetically skeptical of wind turbines. Like Caliva, the turbines were constructed on a pleasurable drive he often took in Utah. Kmanoff was

won over however by the purity of the windmill. "For every hour it was in full use, each windmill was keeping a couple of barrels of oil, or an entire half-tonne of coal, in the ground ... clean and elegant in a way that no oil derrick or coal dragline could ever be."

For Kmanoff, wind power was human's acceptance of life on the limited-resource spaceship Earth. For my part I enjoy the sight of wind turbines. I have made the drive Caliva writes about often in my 14 years as a West Texan and, not to discredit Caliva, most of the drive is littered with human alterations in the form of power lines, oil derricks, train tracks, road signs, dirt roads, driveways, and not to mention, human imported plants and game animals.

The wind turbine is a far better sight than the smog produced by fossil fuels in Houston, California or Mexico, which then drips across the Rio Grande. Caliva should be pleased to share his scenic drive (which in my opinion has become more scenic with the turbines) if it means alleviating pollution.

As to Caliva's point on nuclear power. I'm glad he did some research into an alternative fuel, but ultimately the true costs of nuclear energy are inaccurately represented. Leftover from the nuclear arms race are 105 million gallons of radioactive and chemical waste stored

in tanks in Hanford, Wash., on the Savannah River in Georgia and other facilities. Some of the tanks are mislabeled, their contents unknown and leaking according to Lisa Newton and Catherine Dillingham in "Legacy of War" in *Watersheds* 3.

FBI agents raided one waste facility in Rocky Flats, Colo., in 1989 for dumps made into drinking water sources. All of this storage and clean-up costs money. Also, the nuclear option is short term. According to National Geographic in August 2005's cover story "Future Power" Earth's uranium supply will last a mere 50 years. In the meantime we will have added hazards on top of hazards that are already giving us problems and costing us to manage.

Finally, to dispel the myth that wind power is a trend, according to Asmus, the worldwide capacity for wind power has increased by 25 percent every year since 1990. A decade and a half ago, 1,700 Megawatts of electricity came from wind turbines around the globe, in 2005, 2,400 Mw came from Texas alone. The wind isn't blowing away.

—Clint Peters is junior natural history and humanities, creative writing, and philosophy major from Lubbock. E-mail him at clintoncrockett@yahoo.com.

VIEW FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSITY

Not settling for anything but happiness

By SUZANNE BELL
THE DAILY VIDETTE (ILLINOIS STATE U.)

(U-WIRE) NORMAL, Ill. — Walking into my room at home over Thanksgiving break was like walking into a time capsule.

My walls were adorned with different high school achievements, aged movie stubs, prom pictures with old boyfriends — it was like being a senior in high school all over again.

I'm not sure what I was looking for, but after digging around for a while I found a paper I had written in eighth grade titled, "Where I see myself in 10 years." So there I sat cross-legged in my closet laughing when I remembered how much I had hated having to write the whopping two-page paper.

Never-the-less I impressed myself with the lofty goals I had set. Obviously at the ripe old age of 24 I would have already graduated from college. I had en-

visioned either a journalism degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia or being an alumna of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

After graduating I had two career plans — I would either be a.) a U.S. Senator or b.) a senior reporter for the *New York Times*.

My grade school friends would still be my best friends and would somehow end up living in the same city as myself. I would obviously be happily married with two kids — maybe even three.

But the best part of the paper was when I described my husband, while most of the paper was pretty vague (I wanted to have a "nice" car and make "enough" money) the qualifications for my life-long partner were extremely specific.

Physically he had to be at least 6 feet tall with deep brown hair, have a six pack and he had to have a perfect smile — which was a must.

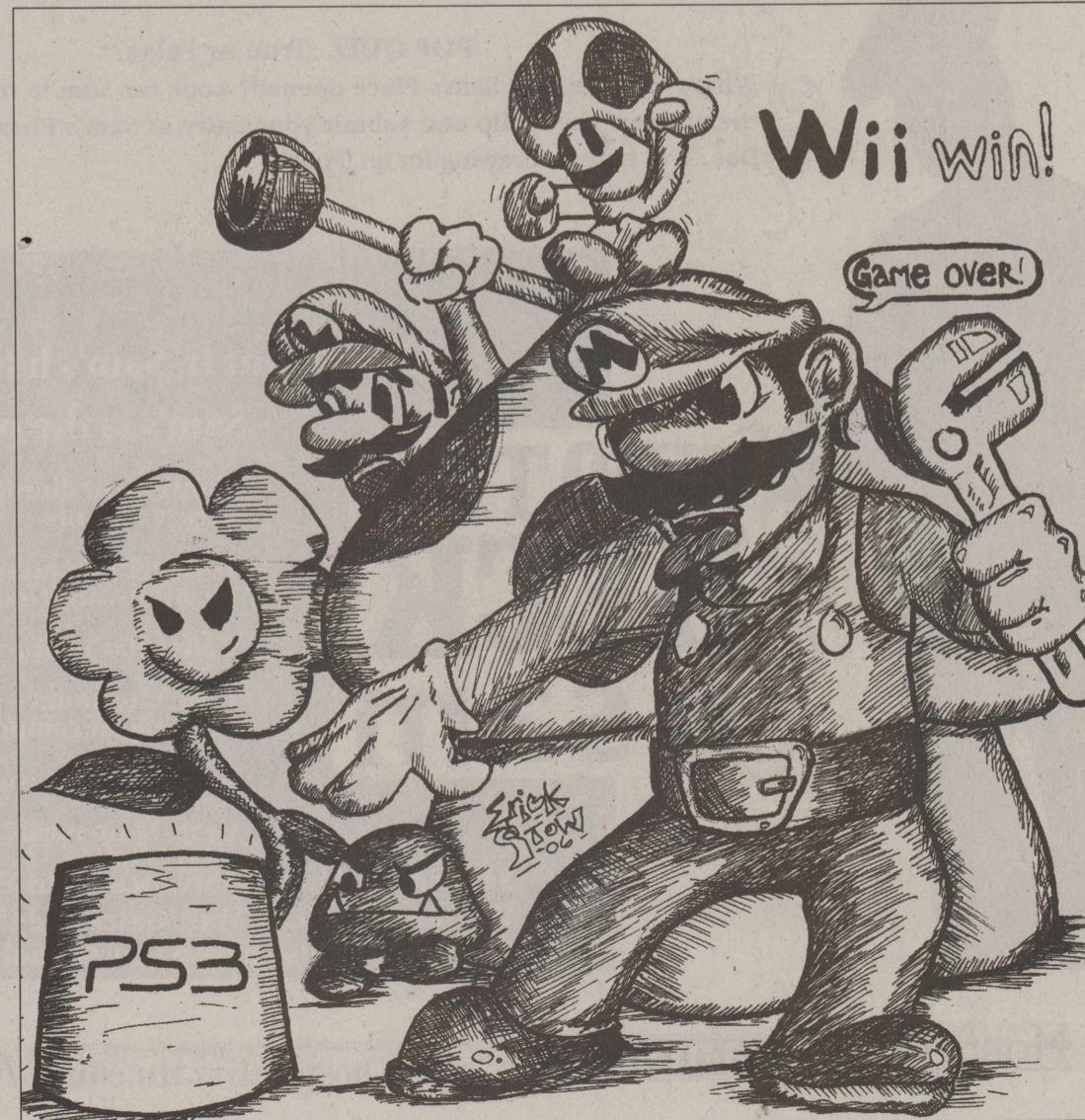
He had to be able to constantly keep me laughing and my friends had to not only like him but be friends with him too. He had to be really good at sports but be able to carry on a conversation about baseball as easy as an insightful discussion about politics. He had to be super supportive of me and my career and above all — be a good kisser (obviously anything more than that was pretty revolting to me in eighth grade.)

The list went on and on and at the time I just smirked at how picky I was. But as time went on I began to think about the different guys I've dated in college — none of them compared to that guy, they didn't even come close.

I've spent the last week trying to figure out when my mentality changed. When did I decide to stop looking for that one perfect guy and mold myself to the guys I did find? When did I decide to settle for less than perfect?

It didn't take long to realize that

it's not just true with the opposite sex, everyday it seems that each of us settles, just a little, in one way or another.



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Ambassador

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

people, but also has the quickest meetings, Engle said, because of the small amount of work that needed to be finished each day.

Taking his advice, individuals working at the embassy began taking off one day a week because of the "grinding monotony" that could set in, he said.

During his time in Baghdad, he said he had to handle many situations, including disagreements with the U.S. military.

"They're going to be eating their meals with their 5,000 best friends. It's a constant crowd," he said. "I fought for four months because our cafeteria was too small, and the military wanted to build a small room in it for ambassadors and generals."

Engle said he fought to keep this from happening because he believed they were doing it to try to make him cave.

Something that helped him was his title of ambassador because of the military-styled rank system, he said.

"Indeed, that title was golden," he said.

Nagy spoke of the many roles an ambassador has to play, including mayor of the American people in the area and leader of the embassy. Nagy, who is retired now, talked about his experience right after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks as ambassador in Ethiopia.

"Members of the Ethiopian government started calling me," he said about the time period immediately after news of the attacks. "My colleagues all over Africa were getting similar phone calls."

He said one of the more difficult experiences he had to go through was an interview the day after the attacks on national Ethiopian television.

"Everyone else can kind of lose it," he said, "but you're the person who has to hold it together."

The actions of the Ethiopians were especially comforting and sometimes surprising, he said.

"Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world and Ethiopians who make about 35 cents to 65 cents a day showed up at our gate with flowers," he said. "They were spending their money just as a gesture towards the United States."

During a visit he made to the northern region of Ethiopia, which was in the process of rebuilding after a war, Nagy said he was surprised by the leaders there who offered their support, although they had nothing themselves.

"Thirty-two years in the foreign service, and I don't regret one single day of it," he said.

Meredith Mattlage, a senior broadcast journalism major from

Roswell, N.M., said she went to the dinner after hearing about it from Nagy.

"I am interested in journalism and I think a lot of that has to do with the Middle East today," she said.

Mattlage said she wanted to hear about the experiences of the ambassadors.

"I just think it would be interesting to learn what they do," she said. "I think it's really important to know what's going on over there."

One of the reasons for the ambassadors speaking at the dinner was to teach students about job opportunities, said Richard Menard, a study abroad counselor at Tech.

"It's to get people interested in working for the State Department and international careers," he said.

Looking toward international careers is becoming increasingly important, he said.

Listening to the ambassadors speak would allow students to get firsthand knowledge about the process of entering into an international career, he said.

"In today's culture, you always hear that the world is getting smaller," he said. "You really need to know there are other languages and other cultures that you need to compete with."

The only disappointment Menard said he had about the dinner was that more students did not attend the event.

"It's definitely a shame that more Texas Tech students don't take advantage of seeing these guys because they've had amazing careers," he said.

naomi.kaskela@ttu.edu

FEMA ordered to resume Katrina housing payments

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge ordered the Bush administration Wednesday to immediately resume making housing benefits available to thousands of victims of Hurricane Katrina.

U.S. District Judge Richard J. Leon said the Federal Emergency Management Agency failed to adequately explain why it ended the 18-month housing assistance program for people who lost their homes in the 2005 storm.

Leon's ruling was issued as a temporary injunction requested by the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, which filed suit in August saying FEMA had violated the rights of Katrina victims by abruptly stopping housing payments.

The judge ordered the federal agency to explain its reasoning and allow the displaced hurricane victims to appeal its decision. While that process goes forward, the judge said,

FEMA must keep making payments and must pay storm victims for two months of housing since the decision to stop the program.

"It is unfortunate, if not incredible, that FEMA and its counsel could not devise a sufficient notice system to spare these beleaguered evacuees the added burden of federal litigation to vindicate their constitutional rights," Leon wrote.

Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita last year, FEMA said it would pay rental assistance to local governments, with the money to be used to pay landlords to cover the costs of housing the thousands of people displaced by the storms.

In February, FEMA switched to a stricter program and told thousands of families they were ineligible for relief or had to reapply for assistance. In some cases, their homes had been found to be usable, the agency said. In others, the houses were not their primary residences.

Ex-fugitive 'Bucky' Phillips pleads guilty to shooting New York troopers

MAYVILLE, N.Y. (AP) — A former fugitive whose dramatic capture at the edge of a Pennsylvania field ended the largest manhunt in New York state history pleaded guilty Wednesday to shooting three state troopers, one of whom died.

Ralph "Bucky" Phillips pleaded guilty to aggravated murder in the killing of Joseph Longobardo and the attempted aggravated murder of Donald Baker Jr. as the troopers staked out a home while searching for him Aug. 31.

Asked by a Chautauqua County judge if he knew the rifle he used to shoot Longobardo and Baker was capable of killing, he said: "Indeed I did."

He had appeared upbeat as he entered the courtroom in Mayville, waving to relatives and mugging for cameras.

The pleas in Chautauqua County

came hours after the 44-year-old career criminal pleaded guilty in Chemung County to the attempted murder of Sean Brown, who was shot during a traffic stop near Elmira on June 10.

Phillips had used an industrial can opener to escape from an Erie County jail near Buffalo on April 2.

Throughout the summer, troopers from around the state were assigned to follow a trail of stolen cars, burglaries and sightings across western New York.

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Supreme Court takes up global warming for first time

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court stepped gingerly into the national debate over global warming on Wednesday, asking how much harm would occur if the Environmental Protection Agency continues its refusal to regulate greenhouse gases from new vehicles.

In the first case about global warming to reach the high court, a lawyer for 12 states and 13 environmental groups pressed the justices to make the government act, saying the country faces grave environmental harm.

Inaction is like lighting "a fuse on a bomb," said James Milkey, an assistant attorney general for the state of Massachusetts.

Opening up an hour of arguments, Justice Antonin Scalia asked, "When is the predicted cataclysm?"

It's not cataclysmic, but rather "ongoing harm," Milkey replied.

Deputy Solicitor General Gregory Garre, representing the Bush administration, cautioned justices that EPA regulation could have a significant economic impact on the United States since 85 percent of the U.S. economy is tied to sources

of greenhouse gas emissions. Garre also argued that EPA was right not to act given "the substantial scientific uncertainty surrounding global climate change."

Chief Justice John Roberts pointed out that regulating carbon dioxide emissions from new vehicles addresses just one aspect of an issue of global dimensions.

The argument by those pushing for EPA action on vehicle emissions might or might not be valid, but it "assumes everything else is going to remain constant,"

Roberts observed. Several justices questioned whether the states and environmental groups have met their legal burden to show they will be harmed by continued EPA inaction. Petitioners to courts must meet that threshold before the merits of a case may be addressed.

"We own property, 200 miles of coastline, that we're losing," Milkey said, trying to allay justices' concerns.

But Justice Samuel Alito, who with Roberts seemed most skeptical of the states' position, said that even in the best of circumstances, the reduction in greenhouse gases would be relatively small.



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LA VIDA

Networks getting out of the reality rut

By DAKOTA BALLARD
DAILY O'COLLEGIAN (OKLAHOMA STATE U.)

(U-WIRE) STILLWATER, Okla. — It's a wonderful time for television. Not since my early days of sitting on the floor Saturday-morning cartoons has there been a single period of time in which so many quality TV shows were in production.

Television looked pretty bleak just a few years back, when networks were afflicted with reality show fever. Shows like "Survivor," "Big Brother" and "The Amazing Race" never really appealed to me, despite massive ratings. Furthermore, I was never interested in "Friends," probably because it wasn't very funny.

However, there is finally a full set of intelligent, hilarious comedies and captivating dramas all on television at the same time.

I'll start with "Prison Break," a great show that had its season finale on Monday. How could they come up with a full season of episodes of a guy and his brother escaping from prison, much less move onto a second or third season?

Despite a title that gave away the plot, they got it done with suspenseful storylines and memorable characters. I'm looking forward to the show's return in January.

Another amazing drama I've been pulled into is "House, M.D." The show is based on a pretty simple formula. Hugh Laurie delivers an all-star performance as abrasive Gregory House, while he and his team of doctors seeks to discover the ailment of each patient while

medical curve balls keep getting thrown their way.

On the lighter side of medical shows, "Scrubs" starts its sixth on Thursday. This show found success in laughing in the faces of medical dramas such as "E.R." and "Chicago Hope" by using a wide array of entertaining support characters, including Dr. Cox, Dr. Kelso, the Janitor and Todd.

"Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip" has received critical acclaim for weaving witty comedy in with dramatic stories in a way that viewers have come to expect from creator Aaron Sorkin.

"Studio 60" stars Matthew Perry, Amanda Peet and D.L. Hughley and has become a fixture of my Monday nights, largely in part to its similarity to "Sports Night," another offering from Sorkin. It's a shame that "Studio 60" probably won't make it to another season, as ratings continue to decline.

Some quality shows that haven't had to worry about ratings are "The Office," "Lost" and "Heroes." "Grey's Anatomy" has definitely developed a dedicated following, especially with female viewers.

I used to really dislike being sucked into TV shows, mostly because I didn't really feel that they were really worthy. Now, I don't mind. Every few nights of the week I enjoy kicking back, relaxing and watching a quality program, especially now that they aren't quite so rare.

Calling all fashion design majors

By JEREMY REYNOLDS
STAFF WRITER

For those who aspire to design dresses worn at venues such as the Academy Awards or the runways of Milan and Paris, it's time to sharpen a pencil and find a sketch pad.

Noxzema is giving fashion designers a chance to shine. Anyone interested in competing in a nationwide contest hosted by the company can send in a sketch pad of "sensational" designs, according to a press release.

Lisa Puskarcik, assistant brand manager for Noxzema, said the contest was designed to allow fashion designers the opportunity to exercise their creative muscles.

"Sometimes it takes something like this to spur an opportunity," Puskarcik said.

The winner of the contest will receive a trip for two to New York City, tickets to the New York Fashion Week in September 2007 and the opportunity to "shadow," or follow, an editor at a national fashion magazine for the day, according to the release.

Puskarcik said Noxzema has not decided which fashion shows the winner will attend. She said her company began promoting the contest during Fashion Week in September.

Most of the entries will come from the specialized schools for fashion designers, Puskarcik said.

Submissions started arriving in early October and will be accepted until Jan. 5, according to the release. Contestants who wish to enter need to design clothing

to be worn by the "Noxzema Girls" and write 50 words or less describing the outfit.

Puskarcik said she does not know the exact number of entries the company has received, but she said she expected the final number to be large.

"This can open up an entire career opportunity," she said.

Fashion majors can study designs and fabrics in school, but it takes firsthand experience to open their eyes to the real world, Puskarcik said. Being able to shadow an editor for a magazine can give the student experience in the fashion world, and they can see what goes into the creation of the final product people see on newsstands, she said.

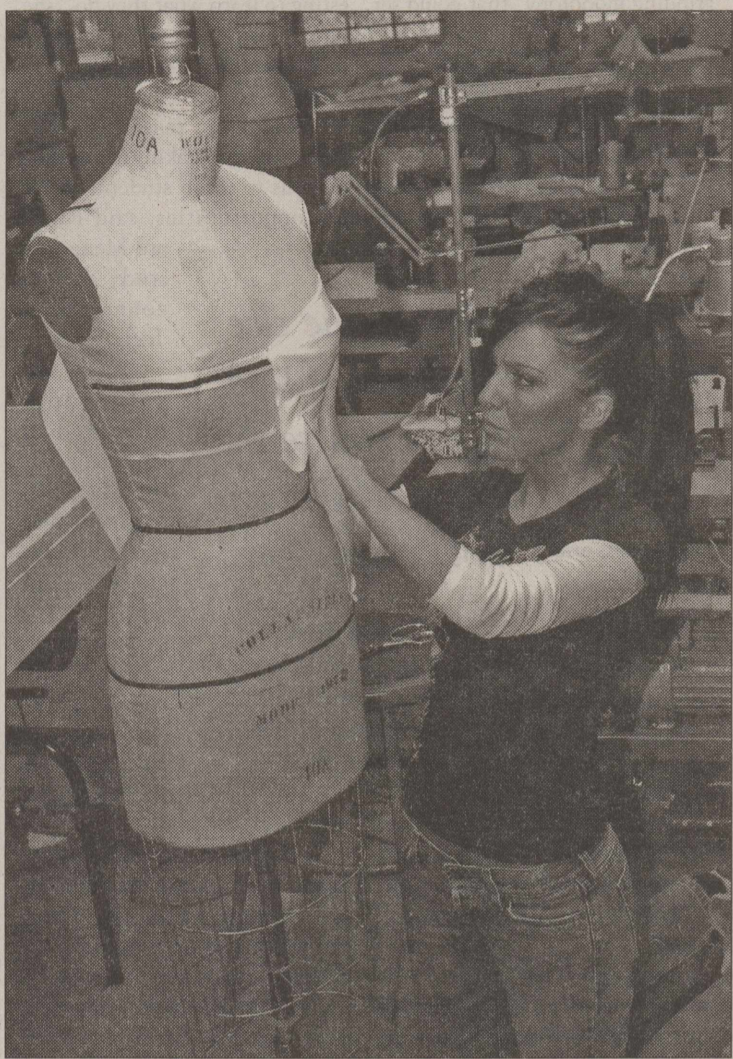
Four experts in the fashion, design and retail fields will judge the sketch pads, according to the release. Once the judges have narrowed the field of entries down to a select few, those designs will be posted on the Noxzema Web site for voters to vote on. The winner will be announced in March.

"Having Noxzema involved is a great way to give women the chance to exercise their smarts and make a brand relevant to them," she said.

Noxzema has created cartoon characters to promote its products in commercials rather than showing women splashing water on their faces, Puskarcik said.

Alyssa Head, a sophomore apparel design and manufacturing major from South Lake, said the opportunity to go to Fashion Week in New York is once-in-a-lifetime type of chance.

"It's awesome, because you usually don't get to go to the New



TRENT BARNES/The Daily Toreador
AMANDA BRIDGEMAN, A senior fashion design major from Coppell, fits a model for her final draping project Wednesday afternoon in the Human Sciences building.

York Fashion Week," she said.

She said it was surprising that she had not heard of the competition, but she said she figured mostly juniors and seniors composed the target audience.

The ability to sketch a dress and convey the patterns and shadows of the material is important for any design major, she said.

"Anyone can draw a simple shape of a dress," she said. "But to do your vision, and get across what you're going for, you have to be a good artist."

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Leigh Jackson, a sophomore apparel design and manufacturing from Houston, said tickets for the New York Fashion Week are extremely expensive — if not impossible — to get.

"There's a lot of new designers at the event," she said. "You see what the new trends are going to be; that's where everything starts. You'll see what's coming down to us."

Jackson said the New York Fashion Week is important and thought of as a highly prestigious event because there are so many new designers competing for attention during the week-long show.


"It's awesome for (Noxzema) to offer the contest because it's something not many girls will get."

For more information and a full description of the rules for the contest, visit <http://www.noxzema.com>.

jeremy.n.reynolds@ttu.edu

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PVRs offer TV-viewing options

By DANIEL SCHOENFELD
WASHINGTON SQUARE NEWS (NYU)

(U-WIRE) — Out of breath, sweat running down your forehead, you pump your legs as fast as possible. You look at your watch — 8:56 p.m., and you have three blocks left. You keep running. You slam through the door at 8:59 and dive for the TV, just in time for your favorite show. As you catch your breath, you wonder: Is there an easier way? Our parents would say yes, just buy a VCR. But college students in the digital generation want better options. And thanks to the technological wonder of personal video recording (also referred to as digital video recording), they have them.

TiVo

The oldest PVR is the one and only TiVo — the only PVR to be both a noun and a verb (e.g. I will TiVo the show when I get home). There are many different sets, ranging from \$150 to \$800, depending on the quality and how much TV you want to record (80 to 300 hours). For those who don't have enough to watch, TiVo can suggest shows to record based on what you have recorded. Of course, this all depends on paying the \$20 a month subscription to TiVo, on top of your regular cable bill.

NYU professor Howard Tiersky, who studies interactive telecommunications, said he polls his classes to see how many students have TiVo, and he normally finds between 8 and 10 percent do. He thinks that that's about the penetration of DVRs right now, though he says that analysts predict it will be 80 percent by 2008.

The biggest barrier students cite for

not having PVRs is cost, he said.

"Many of them have indicated that the cost has prohibited them — 'We are college students, we are poor, we can't afford this,' Tiersky said.

So if you have the money, relax, walk home leisurely and smell the roses. Your TV show will be there waiting for you. Slingbox

If you're upset that you can't catch your hometown sports teams in the dorms, try the new Slingbox, priced at \$180. The Slingbox is a small gray box that hooks up to your cable source, which transmits the TV signal over the Internet to your computer. You can connect the Slingbox to the cable system at your parents' home and then watch it in your dorm.

The upside? Mom and Dad pay. The downside? Only one person can log on at a time to watch the cable feed, so no freeing the prisoners of cable by feeding them free TV. Also, when you change the channel, the channel back home changes too — and if someone is watching TV there, they can always unplug the box and have the last laugh. But the Slingbox grants all the capabilities of your cable box: If you have a DVR at home, you can program and watch it from your computer.

SCPS junior Alexander George said he uses his friend's personal Slingbox — set up on his own cable box, not his parents' — when it's free.

"The feed is good — it's like streaming Internet," he said about the Slingbox. "I have no problems watching it."

Do-It-Yourself PVRs

If your parents won't let you hook up to the cable box back home, the next

—and perhaps best — choice is to take matters into your own hands. Making your computer into your own PVR lets you watch live TV on your computer, pause and rewind live TV and record shows to your hard drive.

All it takes is a digital video converter — like the Plector ConvertX PX-TV100U (retail price: \$99), which you can plug right into your USB port — and enough hard drive space. You can download a program from the Internet that records the shows. One hour of shows recorded at high quality (but not HD) levels takes up about two gigabytes of memory, though you can often compress the video. A 250 gigabyte hard drive — which are available for as low as \$80 — lets you carry your shows anywhere and will easily hold enough to last you through Christmas 2009.

But it's unlikely that PVRs will revolutionize peoples' viewing habits. It's just not how people want to watch TV, Tiersky said.

"People prefer to watch in what is often referred to in the industry as a 'lean back' experience, where they watch TV in their living room and not on a computer screen," he said. "And, though you can get stuff from your computer to your TV, the reality is that for your normal consumer — as opposed to some kind of technology geek — it isn't easy enough. For the vast majority, a DVR solution on a computer doesn't enable them to consume content the way they want to consume it."

Toys for Tickets campaign thrives

The alternative to paying for parking tickets

By JESSICA HENDRICKS
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech's University Parking Services is spreading a little holiday cheer in unexpected places — the little yellow envelopes that house a parking citation.

In conjunction with Toys for Tots, University Parking Services has launched a Toys for Tickets campaign. Instead of spending their money on a parking ticket, students can buy a toy that is at least equal to the amount of their citation and donate it to Toys for Tots, said Heather Medley, administrative assistant for University Parking Services.

"It's a nice way to be able to get yourself out of a ticket," she said.

Students submit their toy to the University Parking Services office; they must present a receipt at the time of donation. Afterward, their parking ticket is voided.

"It's a great way to give back to the community and allow students, faculty and staff to give back to the community," Director Eric Crouch said.

The idea was first presented to Crouch at a conference, he said.

"It's something I threw out there about this time last year," he said. "It's been on our list for about a year."

Crouch said the idea was met

with an overwhelmingly positive response by his co-workers.

"Our staff just ran with it. It's really a program that was put together by the staff here," he said. "It shows they really care about the Lubbock community and the Tech community. They have gone above and beyond their job requirements."

He said he understands what it is like to be a student dealing with a campus parking situation, and he knows nobody likes to get a parking ticket.

"I was a student, too, and I got my fair share of tickets," he said. "I even got towed."

The Toys for Tickets campaign can help put a positive spin on receiving a citation.

"If you're going to have to pay a ticket anyway, it's a good chance to do something good for somebody," Crouch said.

University Parking Services has worked hard to change the public perception of its office by providing better services to students, he said.

"This program really highlights the dedication to make that change," he said.

Although students can submit a toy to void a parking ticket, there are other citations that do not apply to the Toys for Tickets program.

Citations for blocking or parking in a handicapped space or for forged or stolen permits must be paid in full, Medley said.

Despite beginning the campaign the week of Thanksgiving holiday, Medley said they have received a great response.

"It's going so well, I think we'll probably do it again next year," she said. "We've already had to have them empty the boxes."

Crouch said he was a little surprised at the generosity of some students.

"A handful of people brought in more toys than their tickets were worth, and one student brought about \$100 worth of toys because he wanted to take advantage of the opportunity."

Lee Sonnenberg, associate director of University Parking Services, said he has just served as a sounding board to help promote the campaign.

"It's a good program because it makes you think about someone other than yourself," he said. "It provides for a kid who's not going to have a toy. For students, they don't have to pay a parking ticket, and their money goes to someone in the community."

University Parking Services will continue to accept toys in place of parking tickets through Dec. 6.

► jessica.l.reaves@ttu.edu

'Call of Duty 3' the game to end all war games

By JASON DEUTERMAN
THE BATTALION (TEXAS A&M)

(U-WIRE) COLLEGE STATION, Texas — You watch as the men you have fought with and bled with fall to lifeless heaps around you. Mortars explode in every direction, drowning out the sound of the many screams. Bullets rush by, searching for masses to implant themselves within.

Such characteristics are key aspects of Activision's newest and greatest installment of the "Call of Duty" franchise for the Xbox 360 gaming console. As with any first-person shooter in which the player is thrust into a real-time war scenario, realism is perhaps the most important aspect of the game genre. "Call of Duty

3," which focuses on several post-D-Day World War II military campaigns, allows for the player to be immersed into several battle sequences that push the boundaries of video game realism.

In the midst of flying bullets, the player is forced to duck and run for cover or face the ultimate consequence. While this may seem to be an average technique exemplified by most decent first-person shooters, the graphical quality is most assuredly what sets this World War II shooter above the rest. As the shooter looks around from behind a wall or over a broken wagon in the middle of a field, gun smoke and dust that was kicked up from sprayed bullets linger in the air. These destructible environments add aesthetic quality that, while small, only enhances the gameplay.

The game also exhibits an exceptional multiplayer experience. Whether a player enjoys the guns-blazing technique as exhibited by a majority of "Halo" players, or a more strategic approach based upon reconnaissance and invisibility, the 24 online multiplayer maps allow for a wide variety of gameplay styles. As well, added sound effects create a new environment for the multiplayer matches as they become slightly more realistic. This can be seen as the words "Kraut sniper" are yelled as a

fellow teammate falls to an enemy bullet or "Fire in the hole" being screamed as a fragmentation grenade is lobbed toward enemy lines.

"Call of Duty 3" tops, at least for the time being, even the popular "Brothers in Arms" franchise created by Ubisoft, which was raved as the most realistic and playable World War II game on the market for the first Xbox. Any player is sure to have an experience just short of actually picking up an M1-Grand and firing off a round.

THURSDAY **NOVEMBER 30, 2006**

STATION	KTXT	KCBD	KLBK	KMYL	KLCW	KAMC	KJTV
CHANNEL	5	11	13	14	22	28	34
AFFILIATION	PBS	NBC	CBS	MYN	CW	ABC	FOX
CITY	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock
7 AM	Curious Buzz	Today (HD)	Early Show	Believer	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America	J. Hanna
8 AM	Dragon Tales			Life Today	Animal Rescue	Wynonna perkins (HD)	Megan Mullally Show
9 AM	It's Big World		700 Club	Eye for an Eye	Cozy Show		
10 AM	Callou	Regis and Kelly	Price Is Right	Judge Mathis	Rosanne	Rachael Ray	Martha
11 AM	Teletubbies	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Judge Alex	Divorce Court	The View (HD)	Tyra Banks
12 PM	Mister Rogers	Jeopardy! (HD)	News	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy!	Dr. Keith Ablow
1 PM	Watercolor	Days of Our Lives	As the World Turns	Bold & Beautiful	Greg Behrendt Show	All My Children	Access
2 PM	Puppy	Passions	Guiding Light	Good	What I Like	General Hospital	Cristina Court
3 PM	Reading	Inside Edition	Judge Joe	Jerry Springer	Reba	Montel Williams	Ellen DeGeneres
4 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judge Judy	Maury	Bernie Mac	Geraldo	Fox 34 News First@Four
5 PM	News	News	CBS News	Family Feud	Still Standing	ABC News	Simpsons
6 PM	News	Wheel (HD)	Millionaire	Extra	King Of	Entertainment	Raymond
7 PM	This Old House	Earl (HD)	Survivor: Cook Islands	Desire "Unforgivable" (HD)	Smallville "Sneeze" (HD)	Ugly Betty "Fake Photo Show"	"TI Death (HD)
8 PM	Storytellers	Scrubs	CBS: Crime Scene	Fashion House (HD)	Supernatural (HD)	Grey's Anatomy (HD)	The O.C.
9 PM	Ending AIDS: The Search	(01) ER "Till Me No Secrets"	Shark "LAPD Blue" (HD)	Jim	Wife and Kids	Man in Trees	Fox 34 News@Nine
10 PM	Bus Report	News	KLBK 13 News	70s	Sex and City	News	Seinfeld
11 PM	Charlie Rose	(35) Jay Leno (HD)	(35) Late Show (HD)	King of Hill	Malcolm	The Nanny	(05) ET
12 AM	Distance	(35) Late Night (HD)	(35) Craig Ferguson	Becker	Mad About	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live	Scrubs
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7		9		
	6	5	9	

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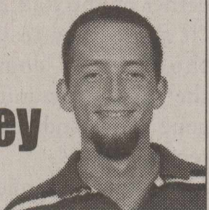


Dallas fans need to stop being Romosexuals

Giants players, fans should learn to shut it

The Dallas Cowboys travel to Giants Stadium Sunday to face the Giants in a battle for first place in the NFC East. According to most Cowboy fans, including my colleague Mr. Cram, Sunday's game is just a stepping stone for the Cowboys on their way to another Super Bowl victory.

Jay Langley



Right now, Mr. Cram is probably busy ranting about how the Giants need to shut up. Much of his claim is most likely based on a quote from Giants tight end Jeremy Shockey in which Shockey said there was "no way in hell" the Cowboys would beat the Giants.

What Mr. Cram is not going to tell you is the whole story. What Shockey actually said was if the Giants play their A-game, there is no way the Cowboys can beat them. Shockey is simply pointing to the fact that the Giants have beaten themselves in the last few weeks, and if they play their best, the Giants are one of the best teams in the league.

So what happened the last time the Giants played their A-game? The result was last month's 36-22 butt kicking in Texas Stadium in which the Cowboys turned the ball over a dismal four times, including three interceptions by Dallas quarterback Tony Romo.

The people that really need to shut up are the Cowboy fans like Mr. Cram who have coined the phrases "I am a Romosexual" or "the Cowboys have Romomentum." These are the

same fans who have crowned Romo the next Troy Aikman or Joe Montana, even though the quarterback has played less than half of a full season of football.

Those quarterbacks like Aikman and Montana have won multiple championships. Romo has two career 300-yard passing games against Washington and Tampa Bay who rank 27 and 22 in the NFL in passing defense, respectively.

It's time for Cowboy fans to slow down and be realistic. Don't get me wrong, Romo is a nice story. The win over the Colts was impressive. But there is a reason why the Colts are known for their offense. Before you crown Romo the next big thing and start Facebook groups in his honor (Mr. Cram apparently has nothing better to do than start a group proclaiming his man-love for the QB), let the guy win a game in December and January.

Another thing that Mr. Cram is probably ranting about is the fact that Giants like Shockey and Tiki Barber have recently had unpleasant things to say about their head coach. While I agree that team problems should be kept inside the locker room, I find it

extremely ironic that a fan of a team with Terrell Owens would complain about athletes talking too much.

Winning games has apparently made Cowboy fans blind to the fact that Owens is a team cancer. Cowboy fans will have you believe that because Owens is now a member of the mighty Cowboys, he is suddenly a changed man. Like all of a sudden Owens is a model teammate. In Philadelphia and San Francisco, Owens was a model teammate for a short time. But as soon as the attention for Romo gets too big, Owens will say or do something to get the attention back on him.

Apparently I and ESPN's Skip Bayless are the only ones who remember Owens for what he really is. Bayless affectionately refers to T.O. as Team Obliterator. It is only a matter of time before the Cowboys implode at the hands of the wide receiver. And when it happens, Mr. Cram, don't forget that I told you so.

Living in West Texas, I am sure that I will get hundreds of well thought-out and intelligently written letters about this column (unfortunately sarcasm doesn't translate well in writing). I will probably have at least a handful of letters accusing me of an East Coast bias. If I have an East Coast

ROMOSEXUALS continued on Page 9

With another trip to New York on the Tuna's itinerary for this weekend, the heated debate about the NFC East's dominant team will finally have an answer, as if it isn't already obvious enough for anyone. When the Cowboys manhandle the Giants Sunday faster than coach Tom Coughlin can think of some other way to make players and New Yorkers complain even more about the miserable season 2006 has become for the G-string men.

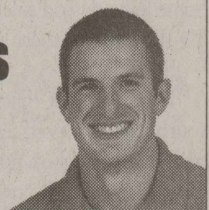
What the hell is wrong with people in New York? Do they just never give up on pissing and moaning about their teams, players and coaches? The sad part is I'm not even talking about the Yankee fans who are still mad about baseball season and the fact that their \$250 million third baseman still sucks in the playoffs. But now we all have to hear the Giants players mad and complaining about their own teammates and coaches.

Here's some advice to New York ... shut up!

Jeremy Shockey has to be the worst one of them all. He was one of the first to ridicule Coughlin after the team lost a game, saying the Giants were simply outcoached by their opponents — only to apologize for his statements later on.

Then it was "No way any team can beat us, we only beat ourselves," as Shockey addresses the recent losses this season. Why is making excuses for an offense that can't seem to fin-

Travis Cram



ish games lately by blaming his own teammates. You got beat by a team that played better so deal with it.

His latest explosion comes after the third-straight loss for the G-men, blowing a 21-point lead against the Vince Young-led Titans, who Dallas murdered earlier this season. Shockey criticized teammates again and told ESPN there was "no way in hell" the "Boys would beat New York when the teams face-off for their NFC East battle this weekend. If Shockey really wants to help his teammates and coaches to salvage the hopes of what will be left when the Dallas defense is done with New York Sunday, he'll concentrate on making plays.

Plaxico Burress is another candidate for what has gone wrong in New York. The wideout could be seen simply giving up on a play on an interception by Adam "Pacman" Jones in the loss to Tennessee Sunday. If you are not going to run and try to catch the ball, you better be sure you are prepared to make a hit on the guy who did hustle to snag the ball ... or do you just want to gripe about your quarterback's play over the last few weeks.

But the crying game is probably

the best thing the New York team has been good at since winning in Dallas five games ago. First Shockey, then Eli Manning, Burress, and let us not forget about Tiki Barber. For those of you who still listen to regular AM/FM radio, Barber and brother Rhonde from Tampa Bay have their own weekly show, "Barber Shop," on Sirius Satellite Radio. Since Tiki's news of retirement leaked out almost two months ago, he has been on the defense about whether he has been a distraction to his team, citing the comments made by ESPN's Tom Jackson and Michael Irvin on his future departure and the effect it has on his teammates' confidence in him.

Barber should have kept his mouth shut about everything in his future. It is no different then when dealing with a coach who is being pressed about the question of whether this will be a final game for him at Giants Stadium. When Bill Parcells was approached with the question, he simply avoided an answer with a joke and remark and tried to get back on the focus of the game.

Speaking of the focus of the game, let's finally get to it. Dallas is 4-1 since losing to New York, while Coughlin and his crybabies are trying to end a three-game skid, which will be four or more soon. Since Tony Romo stepped in for the old and immobile Drew Bledsoe during that loss to New York, the comparisons of him to Eli

SHUT IT continued on Page 9

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Romosexuals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

bias it is probably because the East Coast has the best sports teams. The New York Yankees have won more World Series than any other team in baseball history. The Boston Celtics are No. 1 in total NBA Championships. Even the Cowboys, who have won the most Super Bowls, have East Coast envy. They're in the NFC East for God's sake! Notice I didn't mention hockey, but that's because no one I know actually cares about hockey. But just in case you are interested, the Montreal Canadiens have the most Stanley Cups. And they are a hell of a lot closer to the East Coast than they are to Texas.

I already know that I'm going to

lose this battle with Mr. Cram. Being in Texas, I'd be surprised if I got even 10 percent of the votes. Don't just look at the fact that I am dogging your beloved Dallas Cowboys.

The point is for Cowboy fans to slow down and not jump to conclusions. Don't assume because Tony Romo has won four out of five games that he is the next hall of fame quarterback. Just because T.O. is happy now, don't assume that he won't blow up in the future.

Believing those two things is kind of like believing the hole in Texas Stadium is there so God can watch his favorite football team. Apparently, God was a Giants fan last month.

■ **Langley is a senior journalism major from Storrs, Conn. E-mail him at jaimie.langley@ttu.edu.**

Shut it

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Manning are astounding. Romo has a 112.16 passer rating, throwing for 1,394 yards and 10 touchdowns. Since being picked off three times in the second half of the loss to the Giants in Week 7, Romo has only let two errant throws end up in the arms of opposing players. Manning meanwhile has a 58.42 rating, 827 yards passing while scoring four times and giving up six interceptions. He is the only player who needs to do the talking other than injured captain Michael Strahan. But it should be his game talking. Since we all know what the kid is capable of, the "I'm still learning phase" is over and no longer a

decent excuse. So please, Giants fans, just sit back, deal with the disgrace of another loss and keep your mouth shut. Cowboys 35, Giants 16

■ **Cram is a senior journalism major from Arlington. E-mail him at travis.f.cram@ttu.edu.**

WHO HAD THE BEST ARGUMENT?

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Bowl Updates

Texas A&M takes bid to Holiday Bowl, facing Cal

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — No. 22 Texas A&M will represent the Big 12 against No. 21 California in the Holiday Bowl on Dec. 28.

The Aggies finished their regular season Friday with a 12-7 upset win over Texas. This will be the 29th bowl appearance for Texas A&M (9-3, 5-3 Big 12).

California (8-3) is playing in the bowl for the second time in the last three years. They finish their regular season against Stanford on Saturday.

Texas A&M and California have played twice before, with each team winning one game. The Aggies won 29-28 in 1981 and California got the 19-17 victory in 1983.

Loser of Big 12 Championship will take Cotton Bowl

DALLAS (AP) — The loser of the Big 12 championship game between Oklahoma and Nebraska will play in the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day, the conference announced Wednesday.

The Gator Bowl notified the Big 12 that it will wait until Sunday to choose either a Big East team or a Big 12 for its game. Texas and West Virginia appear to be the most likely options.

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3/1 5/1 CLOSE TO TECH 3506 23rd \$595/mo, \$300 Dep, Central H/A, W/D Connections. Pets OK 806-794-6969.

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82nd St	2/1, C/H/A	\$550.	3408 32nd St	3/2/2	+ fireplace	\$995	5919 16th St	3/2/2 home in French school district	\$895.	5909 13th	3/2/2 + fireplace in French School District	\$850.	2503 30th St	3/2
\$695.	6103 18th St	4/3/2 + fireplace.	appliances including W/D	\$1100.	3304 32nd St	4/2	\$850.	Whitson-Night Property services	8212 lithaca #8, 797-2212.					

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CUTE DUPLEX
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3/3/2, 529 A Chicago, \$795/month; 3/3/2, 526 A Clinton, \$795/month; 3/2, 2211 23rd, \$795/month. FIRSTMARK. We Have More Rentals! Call Us: 806-793-8759!

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6 month or 1 year lease: 2622 28th Street, nice 3/2, \$1125.; 2218 20th Street, 3/2, 2 story house, \$1050.; 2201 20th Apt B, nice large 2/1, \$500. Call Bill 470-7037.

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ALL NEW: 2216 28th, 3-1 or 2-1-den, big deck + yard, laundry with w/d, \$735 +. 793-8759.

LARGE 3/2 2 story house. Carport, yard, dining, hardwood, Chica. 2008-26th. \$825/mo. \$400/dep. 787-2323, 544-3600.

LEASE: DEC 15 THRU MAY
1 bedroom house near 23rd & Boston. 3 blocks off campus. Separate living, bedroom. Appliances. W/D. Extra 10 x 20 storage building. Private yard, parking. \$425. For appointment to view see Anne 4211 34th. 795-2011.

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NICE 3/2/2 house off campus. Chica, yard, W/D connections, appliances. 2903-94th. \$795/mo. \$400/dep. 787-2323, 544-3600.

Lady Raiders spoil Tulane's return to Lubbock

By **STEPHEN MONAHAN**
SPORTS EDITOR

The Texas Tech women's basketball team showed Wednesday why they deserve to be back in the Top 25.

Behind runs of 26-8 and 26-9 to end the first and start the second halves, the Lady Raiders spoiled Tulane's return to Lubbock in a 77-50 victory over the Green Wave at the United Spirit Arena.

Powered by double-digit scoring once again from senior Alesha Robertson and freshman Jordan Murphree, who combined for 27 points, and 13 off the bench from Tiny Henderson, No. 25 Tech (6-1) followed up nicely from Sunday's win over previously ranked UCLA.

"You couldn't have scripted that any better," Tech coach Kristy Curry said. "If you would have asked me, 'How would you want

this to go? It couldn't have gone any better."

Following the confidence-boosting win against the Bruins, the play of the Lady Raider bench has been one of the main sparks on both sides of the court, Curry said.

"Our bench has really developed, and I think that the deeper we can be, the better our team will be," she said. "When their number's called, they've accepted the role to step up and make plays and get loose balls, box out and do all the little things. If our bench can continue to do the little things, whether it be points here or there, whatever it be, it just makes us so much better."

That bench combined for 34 points against Tulane, led by Henderson's 13 and six points each from Teddy Griffin and Patrice Edwards — the triumvirate of players who have been key to Tech's recent momentum, Curry said.

"They've just been so steady and so solid for us," Curry said. "I could go on and on."

In the first half, the Lady Raiders stood with a 12-5 cushion, but a 9-0 run by Tulane gave the Green Wave a 14-12 advantage. The Lady Raiders rolled from there with a 14-0 run and eventually closed out the first half with the 26-8 run. With the score 14-12 in favor of Tulane, Curry said she could not remember what was said during a brief timeout, but whatever it was, it became a key point in Tech gathering momentum and leading the team to the win.

"At that point, enough was enough, and we need to understand that we need more of a sense of urgency," the coach said. "There were no excuses. I was really, really pleased with our mentality at that point."

Tulane (5-2) returned to the Hub City for the first time since

December 2005 after relocating in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, but after tip-off, Green Wave coach Lisa Stockton did not feel so good to be back.

"It was good until 7 o' clock," she said. "It was really good to be back until then."

Tech took a 64-31 lead behind its 26-9 run in the first eight minutes of the second half behind seven quick points in a one-minute stretch from Robertson, who leads the team in scoring this season. After the struggles of the first two games at the Rainbow Wahine Classic over the weekend, Robertson said her team needed to remain focused to get the wins over UCLA and Tulane.

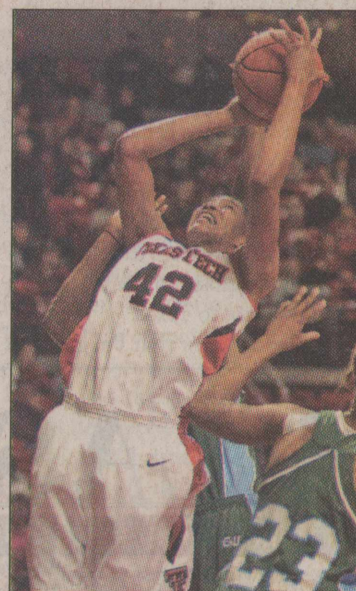
"We just had to stay positive," Robertson, who finished Wednesday's game with 13 points and two rebounds, said. "That was one of the things that was told to us during the game was keep stay-

ing positive and end on a good note. I think that when we get that consistency that the better we can be."

Tulane was forced into 25 take-aways and shot just 26.8 percent from the floor against Tech, something Curry attributes to her team's ability to be mentally prepared.

"Anytime I think that we can come out and have a defense presence and really be aggressive on the offensive end, good things happen," she said. "I really think you have to credit this group. It's been a tough few days, and we have a tough few more ahead, but the bottom line is I really like what they're doing. Tonight we were just extremely tough mentally and really executed the game plan, so I like the way our four seniors are leading our team."

The Lady Raiders will travel to face Fresno State 9 p.m. Friday. stephen.monahan@ttu.edu



STEVE LEWIS/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH JUNIOR forward Darrice Griffin goes up for a shot during the first half of the game against the Tulane Green Wave Wednesday evening at United Spirit Arena.

ANSWER

Carpenter/Wells Complex

Name:

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Tech beats 'Frogs; Knight within one win of Rupp

FORT WORTH (AP) — Bob Knight hasn't changed after 875 career victories. He admittedly still dwells on the negatives.

Another blown 14-point halftime lead. The five turnovers by Charlie Burgess.

"We had leads where we can dominate the second half in the last two games, and we didn't," Knight said.

The Red Raiders still won both games, at UTEP on Saturday night before their 70-60 victory at TCU on Wednesday night.

That got Knight within four victories of matching Dean Smith's NCAA Division I record. The next victory by the Red Raiders (6-2) will tie Knight for No. 2 on the career list with Adolph Rupp.

"If it hadn't been for people asking

me, I honestly wouldn't know what it was," Knight said. "That doesn't affect me one way or the other. All that means is I've coached a long time and had a lot of good players."

Burgess made up for his turnovers with 20 points. That included six-of-seven 3-pointers, one of them starting the tiebreaking run midway through the second half that put Tech ahead to stay.

TCU used a 20-6 run and got even at 44-all with 10:40 left on a 3-pointer by Brent Hackett, who had started the second-half surge with another 3-pointer. But the Horned Frogs weren't able to go ahead.

Burgess then hit a 3-pointer and Martin Zeno scored the next five points to stretch Texas Tech's lead to 52-44. Zeno finished with 19 points and eight

rebounds. "Burgess was the dagger every time he stepped up," TCU coach Neil Dougherty said. "He really made big timely shots for them."

While the latest victory certainly doesn't rank as one of Knight's favorites, the coach actually found some good in what happened.

"Our main objective when we started this season was to be better than we were last year," Knight said. "I don't think last year's team could have hung on and won either of these games. ... We really had a tremendous bend in our play, but we didn't break. We came back and put the game in a position to win it."

The Red Raiders also found a way to win when leading scorer Jarriss Jackson struggled most of the night,

playing on the same day that his grandfather died.

"He had a tough time. I'm sure that was on his mind," Knight said. "I think it's just a big thing that he was here to play."

Jackson finished 4-of-10 shooting for 16 points, 10 in the final 5 1/2 minutes.

When the Frogs got within 60-56 with 2:15 left, Zeno penetrated before passing the ball out to Jackson for a 3-pointer. Jackson then scored again on Tech's next possession.

Neiman Owens led TCU with 11 points and Kevin Langford had 10.

Jackson was only 1-of-5 shooting in the first half, making only a 3-pointer. He missed his only two free throws, after missing just three of his 46 attempts before that.



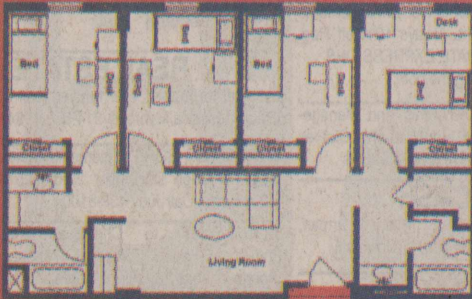
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