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(IN BRIEF)

STATE

Ex-Stanford exec enters plea in swindle case

HOUSTON (AP) — The former finance chief of Texas billionaire financier R. Allen Stanford's empire has pleaded not guilty to helping to swindle investors out of \$7 billion.

But James M. Davis' attorney says Davis is expected to return to court next week to plead guilty.

Davis pleaded not guilty Monday to three charges. Defense attorney David Finn says the Stanford Financial Group's ex-chief financial officer will return to court next week to plead guilty on all charges as part of a deal with prosecutors.

NATION

NYC woman gagged before body was found

NEW YORK (AP) — A woman found dead in a skyscraper where a cleaning woman had vanished days earlier was bound and gagged and had a gold crucifix taped to her mouth, police said Sunday.

Police searching for the missing cleaning woman at a building near the World Trade Center site found the body on Saturday after discovering blood leaking from a ventilation shaft, top police spokesman Paul Browne said.

The body hadn't been identified, but police presumed it was that of Eridania Rodriguez, who hasn't been seen since her work shift July 7 at the 26-story Manhattan tower.

WORLD

Prosecutors formally charge Demjanjuk

MUNICH (AP) — German prosecutors have formally charged John Demjanjuk with 27,900 counts of being an accessory to murder.

Munich prosecutors say in a brief statement the charges were filed on Monday. There is no immediate word on when a trial of the 89-year-old retired auto worker might start.

Prosecutors accuse Demjanjuk — who was deported from the U.S. in May — of serving as a guard at the Sobibor camp in Nazi-occupied Poland during World War II.

DEATH TOLL

4323

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

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WEATHER

Today Mostly Sunny

103/74

Thursday Partly cloudy

100/73

Moving forward

Texas Tech football enduring summer workouts to prepare for upcoming season

By CHRISTOPHER MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

At 9 a.m. Monday morning, the Texas Tech football team gathered around strength and conditioning coach Bennie Wylie to hear his thoughts on the weight lifting session that had just ensued.

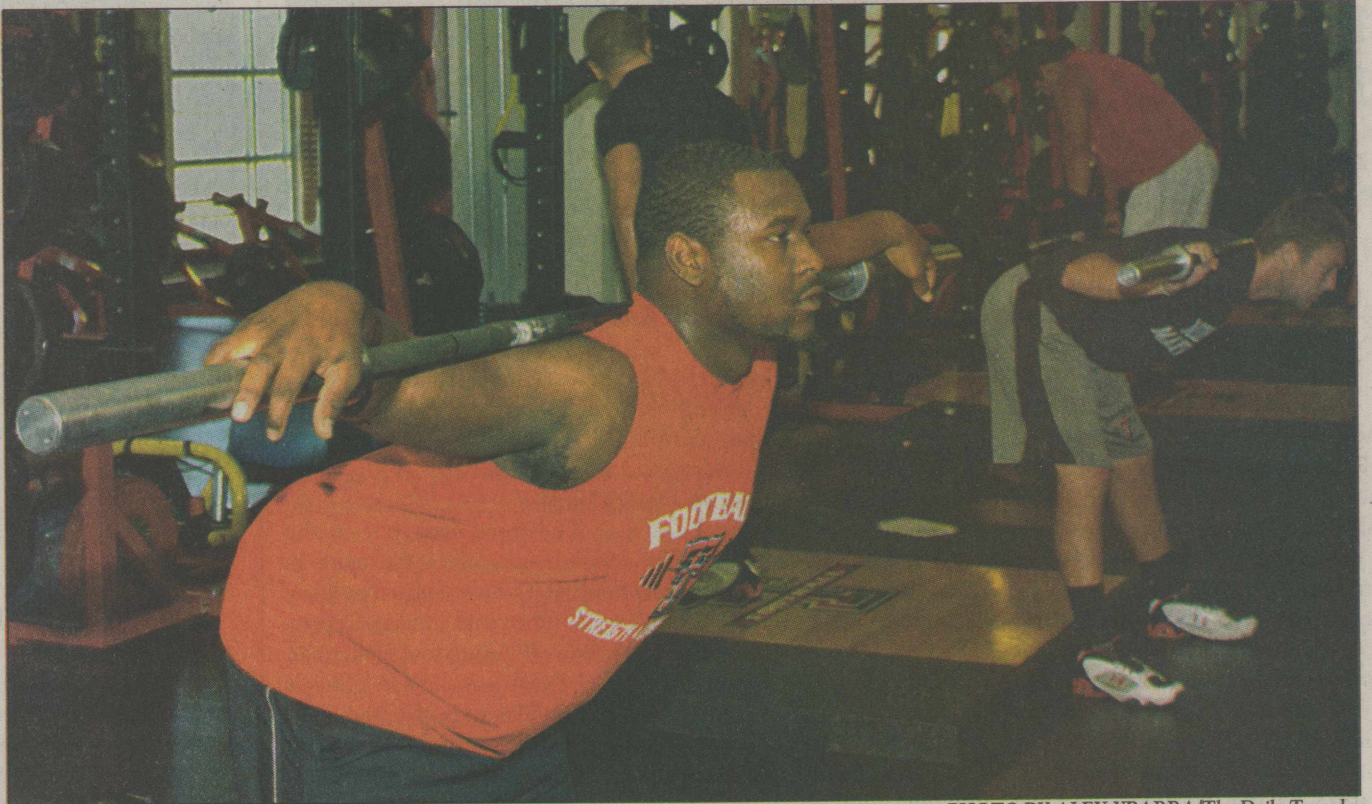
The athletes put their weights away and gathered in a circle; then the room grew quiet before Wylie began to speak.

"I will not let anything tarnish this team," he said, "so everyone in this room has to be on the same page. If you are not moving forward, then you are falling behind."

To make sure that doesn't happen, Tech is running through an eight-week summer workout program to prepare for this season, and Wylie has created an atmosphere of intensity that ensures each player improves.

During these workout sessions, no player is standing still at any moment, and Wylie patrols the weight room hooked up to a microphone encouraging his players and watching his finely-tuned workout routine unfold.

Wylie said maintaining a high level of tempo and intensity in the weight room is essential to preparing the team



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PHOTO BY ALEX YBARRA/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH NOSE tackle Victor Hunter works out with his teammates Monday at the Tech Athletic Training Facility.

for game day.

"When you watch the workout, it looks like total chaos with me yelling over the loud speaker and guys running everywhere, but these guys know what

they are doing," he said. "The more we can replicate chaos in the weight room, the more we can teach our players to stay poised under pressure which will make games easier for them."

After last year's 11-2 season, Wylie said the players are pushing themselves even harder during this offseason to improve

Workouts continued on page 5

Obama challenges on health care after setback

By ERICA WERNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama moved forcefully Monday to revive his faltering health care overhaul, warning "Don't bet against us. We are going to make this thing happen."

"I just want to put everybody on notice, because there was a lot of chatter during the week that I was gone," said Obama, just back from an overseas trip. His overhaul plan suffered a series of setbacks on Capitol Hill in his absence as divisions among Democrats over how to pay for the legislation slowed momentum.

"Inaction is not an option," Obama said at a press conference to announce his surgeon general nominee, Dr. Regina Benjamin.

The president summoned two of the lawmakers most critical to the health care debate to a private meeting Monday as the timetable for

a comprehensive bill continued to slip.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., were to meet with Obama at the White House on Monday afternoon, according to an official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private deliberations.

Baucus and Rangel are in charge of the crucial job of coming up with how to pay for a comprehensive health care overhaul that would cost an estimated \$1 trillion over 10 years, mostly for subsidies to help cover some 50 million uninsured Americans.

Timelines for the health legislation continue to be pushed back, with a bill unveiling promised for Monday in the House likely sliding to Tuesday as House Democratic leaders struggled to regain support from moderate and conservative Democrats who threatened opposition last week over the bill's price tag and other issues.

The White House's strategy to leave the legislative back-and-forth to

Congress has produced varying and sometimes contradictory versions of health care legislation — along with delays. As the Senate turns its attention to Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor's confirmation hearings, the focus on that side of the Capitol will turn away from Obama's top domestic priority.

Over the weekend the administration's Democratic allies in Congress hinted they would not deliver legislation before leaving town for an August recess. The delay would be a blow to the White House and to Democrats' electoral prospects.

But Obama sought Monday to inject renewed urgency into the proceedings.

"Muscles in this town to bring about big changes are a little atrophied but we are whipping people back into shape," he said.

The House and Senate are working toward legislation that would deliver on Obama's popular goals from his presidential campaign, but they are hardly in union. House Democrats have pro-

posed raising taxes on wealthy Americans to pay for the plan.

That idea appears to face opposition in the Senate, where a bipartisan group of senators is trying to reassemble a financing package now missing a key component: an unpopular tax on high-cost health insurance benefits, which would have raised \$320 billion out of a \$1 trillion package.

A bipartisan deal would have a better chance of winning broad support. That's what Obama says he wants, and the best chance for such a deal is still in the Senate.

But after a turbulent week, senators will move cautiously. A lot more work is needed to avoid another round of miscalculations.

Republicans, seizing on an issue that affects all Americans and has shown a glimmer of hope for an out-of-power political party, have lambasted the proposals as rash and irresponsible. They also see the issue as a way to win House and Senate seats in the 2010 midterm elections.

Sotomayor pledges impartial justice if confirmed

By DAVID ESPO AND
MARK SHERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Her confirmation all but assured, Sonia Sotomayor pledged Monday to serve the "larger interest of impartial justice" rather than any narrower cause if she becomes the first Hispanic on the Supreme Court.

"My personal and professional experiences help me listen and understand, with the law always commanding the result in every case," Sotomayor told senators at a nationally televised confirmation hearing.

The remarks about judicial philosophy were her first since President Barack Obama nominated the South Bronx-born and Ivy League-

educated veteran of 17 years on the federal bench. They appeared aimed at Republicans who have questioned her commitment to impartiality in light of a 2001 remark that experience as a "wise Latina" might give her an advantage over white males.

The 55-year-old appeals court judge spoke after several hours of speechmaking in which Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee praised her as a Hispanic pioneer well qualified for the high court and Republicans questioned her impartiality as well as President Barack Obama's views in nominating her.

Despite GOP misgivings, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., told Sotomayor, "Unless you have a complete meltdown, you're going to get confirmed."

"And I don't think you will" have a meltdown, he added quickly as Sotomayor sat listening, her face in a half-smile.

In her remarks, Sotomayor said, "The progression of my life has been uniquely American," that of a child of Puerto Rican parents who moved to New York during World War II. "I want to make one special note of thanks to my mom," she said. "I am here today because of her aspirations and sacrifices for my brother Juan and me."

"Mom, I love that we are sharing this together," said Sotomayor, whose father died when she was 9.

The role of racial politics in the day's proceedings became clear within minutes after Sen. Patrick Leahy, the committee chairman, rapped the

opening gavel.

"She's been a judge for all Americans. She'll be a justice for all Americans," said the Vermont Democrat.

Leahy likened Sotomayor to other judicial pioneers, citing Thurgood Marshall, the first black justice, as well as Louis Brandeis, the first Jew, and Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman.

"Let no one demean this extraordinary woman," Leahy said in a warning to committee Republicans to tread lightly in the days ahead.

Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, the senior Republican, vowed a "respectful tone" and "maybe some disagreements" when lawmakers begin questioning Sotomayor on Tuesday.

Budget deficit tops \$1 trillion

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nine months into the fiscal year, the federal deficit has topped \$1 trillion for the first time.

The imbalance is intensifying fears about higher interest rates and inflation, and already pressuring the value of the dollar. There's also concern about trying to reverse the deficit — by reducing government spending or raising taxes — in the midst of a harsh recession.

The Treasury Department said Monday that the deficit in June totaled \$94.3 billion, pushing the total since the budget year started in October to nearly \$1.1 trillion.

The deficit has been propelled by the huge sum the government has spent to combat the recession and financial crisis, combined with a sharp decline in tax revenues. Paying for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan also is a major factor.

The country's soaring deficits are making Chinese and other foreign buyers of U.S. debt nervous, which could make them reluctant lenders down the road. It could force the Treasury Department to pay higher interest rates to make U.S. debt attractive longer-term.

"These are mind boggling numbers," said Sung Won Sohn, an economist at the Smith School of Business at California State University. "Our foreign investors from China and elsewhere are starting to have concerns about not only the value of the dollar but how safe their investments will be in the long run."

Government spending is on the rise to address the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression and an unemployment rate that has climbed to 9.5 percent.

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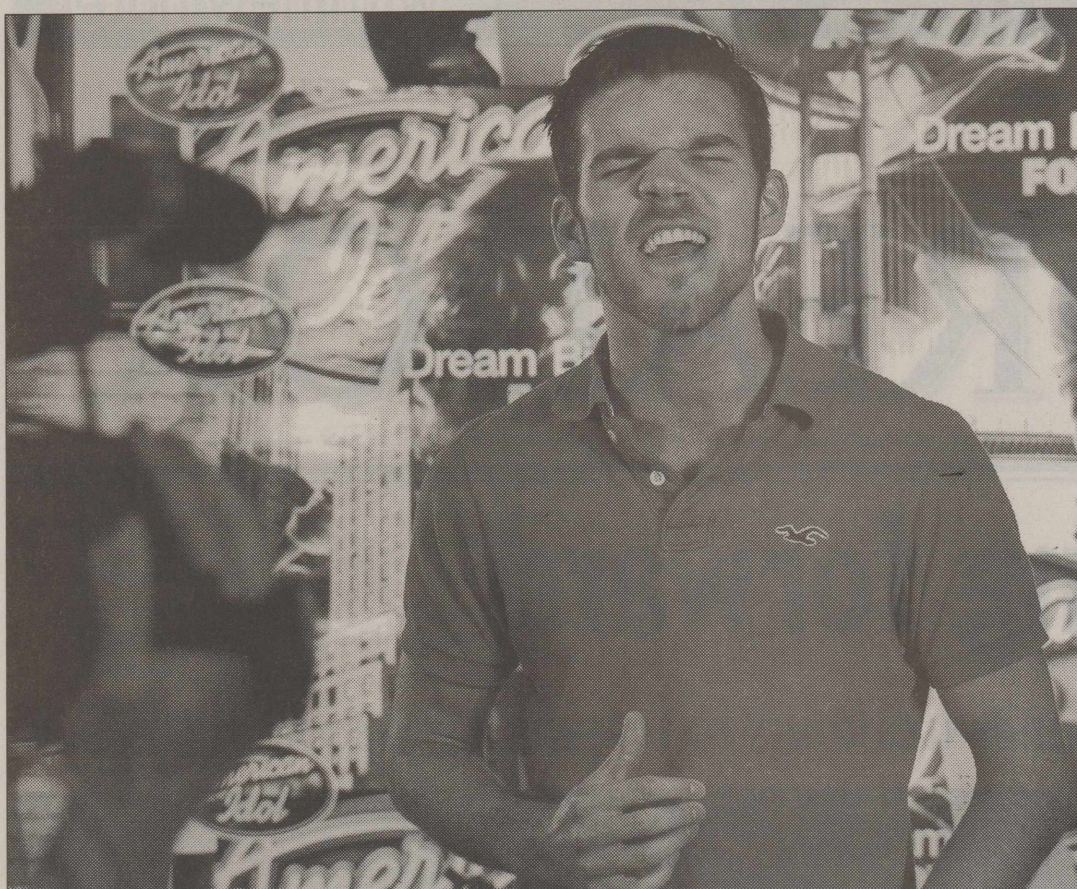


PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador

JOSH GENTRY, A senior exercise sports science major from Lubbock, performs "Boondocks" by Little Big Town at the Lubbock Idol Auditions at Ashley's Furniture Home Store on Thursday. The winner gets a guaranteed audition with an American Idol producer on Tuesday in Denver.

One escapee from Ind. prison caught in Mich.

GRAND BEACH, Mich. (AP) — A convicted killer who escaped from the Indiana State Prison was caught Monday near the Michigan vacation home of Chicago Mayor Richard Daley by an officer on the mayor's security detail, authorities said.

Police warned nearby residents to stay inside because two other escapees were still on the loose. The three men were discovered missing Sunday morning from the maximum-security prison in Michigan City, Ind., apparently escaping through underground tunnels and pipes, the Indiana Department of Correction said.

Daley said he was at his southwestern Michigan vacation home early Monday with his wife and three grandchildren when one of his guards saw two men fitting the descriptions of the escapees near the

house in Grand Beach, Mich.

The officer caught 48-year-old Charles Smith at gunpoint in a driveway near Daley's home, and police later arrived and took him into custody, said Grand Beach Police Chief Dan Schroeder. The other man ran off into the woods, Daley said.

Schroeder said police believe the other man seen near Daley's home was one of the escapees — convicted killer Mark Booher, 46, of New Castle, Ind. Police told residents to lock their doors and not go outside.

"Until this individual is apprehended, I don't want them to take any chances," Schroeder said.

Authorities also were looking for the third escapee, convicted rapist Lance Battreal, 45, of Rockport, Ind.

Daley said he didn't think the escaped convicts were targeting him

or his home, located about eight miles from the Indiana prison.

"I think they were lost," Daley told reporters in Chicago later Monday.

The three men were in the same housing unit at the state prison, but it's unclear how they knew each other, said Indiana Department of Correction spokesman Doug Garrison. Prison officials were talking to people who knew the inmates, including people on their visitation or e-mail lists and family and friends.

Smith, Booher and Battreal started serving time in the late 1990s and all faced at least 30 more years behind bars.

The prison sits in a neighborhood on the outskirts of Michigan City, about 30 miles west of South Bend and not far from Lake Michigan and the Michigan state line.

WORLD EVENTS IN BRIEF

Defeated conservative warns of Iran disintegration

TEHRAN, Iran — The defeated conservative candidate in Iran's disputed presidential election warned the government and opposition protesters that more postelection turmoil could lead to the country's disintegration.

In remarks published on his Web site late Sunday, Mohsen Rezaei urged the other two defeated candidates — both of them reformists — to drop their push for a new vote

and work with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The former commander of the powerful Revolutionary Guard may be trying to position himself as a neutral figure in the dispute who could work to bring Iran's divided camps together.

The two other defeated candidates, including main opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi, have charged that

Ahmadinejad's landslide re-election was the result of fraud and want the results scrapped. The official outcome of the June 12 vote triggered days of street protests. Authorities responded with a violent crackdown and round-ups of activists, academics, journalists and lawyers.

The election dispute also exposed rifts within Iran's clerical establishment.

Relatives of plane crash victims travel to Comoros

PARIS — Relatives of those killed when a Yemenia Airways plane crashed two weeks ago traveled Monday to the Comoros Islands in hopes of finding peace after their losses, officials said.

Authorities, meanwhile, were still investigating the cause of the June 30 crash, from which a 12-year-old girl was

the only survivor out of 153 aboard.

Yemenia chartered a French airplane on Monday to fly relatives of the victims of Yemenia Airways Flight 626 to the Indian Ocean islands. Yemenia's insurance company paid for the trip.

One passenger, Madaly Aicha, said

before the flight left Paris that traveling to Comoros was the only way she could accept that her mother was lost in the crash.

"I feel that once I'm there I can really properly mourn her ... for now she is only away," Aicha told Associated Press Television News.

Iraq beefs up security after attacks on Christians

BAGHDAD — Iraqi officials tightened security around churches in Baghdad and in two mostly Christian towns on Monday and braced for possible violence this weekend when huge crowds visit a holy Shiite shrine in the capital.

A series of church bombings targeting Iraq's Christian minority killed at least four people Sunday, including one that happened as worshippers were leaving Mass in eastern Bagh-

dad. Iraq's Christians have often been targeted by Islamic extremists, and many have fled the country despite an overall drop in violence in the past two years.

Fearing car bombs, authorities imposed vehicle bans in the towns of Tilkaif and Hamdaniyah. Both are predominantly Christian towns near the northern city of Mosul where an Iraqi soldier was killed Monday when a bomb attached

to his private vehicle exploded, police said.

Dalidar Zebari, deputy head of the Ninevah provincial council, which includes Mosul, said the Christian-dominated areas of Mosul were a priority for the security services. But he added: "We will make our best efforts to keep security for the province and all its citizens of all ethnic and religious backgrounds without exception."

Bomb explodes during N Ireland march; no injuries

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Police in Northern Ireland say a small bomb has detonated in the city of Armagh as Protestant hard-liners paraded across the British territory. There were no injuries.

No group claimed responsibility for Monday's blast on the Friary Road of Armagh, but police and politicians suspect Irish Republican Army dissidents. Protestants from the Orange Order brotherhood were marching on

a different Armagh road when security forces spotted the suspected bomb.

Police say the bomb exploded before British army explosives experts could defuse it using a remote-controlled robot.

WHO: No licensed swine flu vaccine til end of year

LONDON — A fully licensed swine flu vaccine might not be available until the end of the year, a top official at the World Health Organization said Monday, in a report that could affect many countries' vaccination plans.

But countries could use emergency provisions to get the vaccines out quicker if they decide their populations need them, Marie-Paule Kieny, director of WHO's Initiative for Vaccine Research, said during a

news conference.

The swine flu viruses currently being used to develop a vaccine aren't producing enough of the ingredient needed for the vaccine, and WHO has asked its laboratory network to produce a new set of viruses as soon as possible.

So far, the swine flu viruses being used are only producing about half as much "yield" to make vaccines as regular flu viruses.

Last week, WHO reported nearly

95,000 cases of swine flu worldwide including 429 deaths. Most people who get the virus only experience mild symptoms and don't need treatment to get better.

In a presentation to WHO's vaccines advisory group last week, Kieny said a lower-producing vaccine would significantly delay the timeline for vaccines. That could complicate many Western countries' plans to roll out vaccines in the fall.

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Texas Tech students to learn, work at new Overton Hotel

By HANNAH MOORE
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech's Restaurant, Hotel and Institutional Management program is pairing up with Overton Hotel to allow students to work, learn and take classes inside the facility.

Shane Blum, chairperson for Nutrition, Hospitality and Retailing at Tech, said the new program between Overton and Tech has been long anticipated.

"The RHIM program has wanted an association with a hotel for years," he said, "and over the years we have been approached by a number of different management companies. So around three years ago, the management of the new hotel came to us and wanted to get a relationship with the RHIM program. We've always been open to it, but it never materialized before because no one ever came up with the money."

Hunter Carmichael, general manager at Overton and a Tech alumnus, said there have been several owners and foundations who have supported the hotel and helped them bring the project to its completion.

With a plan for student accommodations since the beginning design stages, Blum said the hotel built a classroom on the second floor to accommodate 40 students, as well as several computer terminals to allow students hands-on training with the hotel's computer software.

"The good thing with having the hotel," he said, "is that I can talk about the software and show them the software in the classroom. Then when they are at the front desk they will have an understanding of what is going on."

Blum said Tech students are not the only ones who gain advantages from the hands-on experience.

"It's a nice situation for the hotel because they get to see the students in the lab," he said. "Then if they have job openings they can say, 'Wow, that student is a really good student,' and everything just comes full circle."



PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador

OVERTON HOTEL HAS paired up with Texas Tech's Restaurant, Hotel and Institutional Management program to help students.

Carmichael said the only class operating in the hotel for the fall will be hotel operations.

Blum said although other schools have hotels for their students, none have a hotel as state-of-the-art as Tech's.

"Other schools have hotels," he said, "like the University of Houston has a hotel on campus, and they teach classes in their hotel. Other schools have hotels but nobody has a hotel as new as this. Most hotel management schools don't have hotels that are as big as this."

"And very few have any that have as much meeting space and conference center attached to it. Most are just small on campus, maybe 100 rooms, that students just kind of work at. So it's not unique per se, but the size of the hotel, the size of the meeting space, and everything else — it's

different. And that helps to recruit new students in hotel management."

With the hotel to open on July 25, Blum said the students are contributing at the hotel to help them open on time.

Blum, who has worked with Carmichael before, said the management have been accommodating and are excited to work with the students.

"Besides us having a classroom," he said, "they are also allowing me to sit in on the management meetings. Just so I can kind of be the liaison between the RHIM program and the hotel. If they have any questions or how would something impact the students, I'd be there to answer the questions. That's really different."

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BIZ WEEKLY

Seacrest signs deal for 'Idol' and new projects

NEW YORK — Ryan Seacrest has signed a lucrative new deal that keeps him hosting "American Idol" through 2012 as well as participating in new projects.

The partnership, announced Monday by 19 Entertainment, a wholly owned subsidiary of CKX Inc., provides an opportunity for on-air-personality/producer Seacrest and his Ryan Seacrest Productions banner

to work with "American Idol" creator Simon Fuller on new entertainment endeavors.

Fuller's 19 Entertainment has created and produced TV hits including "American Idol" and "So You Think You Can Dance."

Although the announcement specified no dollar figure, The Hollywood Reporter pegged the deal at \$45 million.

Besides "American Idol," Seacrest, 34, is host of the radio countdown show "American Top 40," as well as a nationally syndicated radio show for Clear Channel's 102.7 KIIS-FM. He also executive produces and co-hosts "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve With Ryan Seacrest" and holds the titles of managing editor and lead anchor of E! Entertainment News. "American Idol" airs on Fox.

Warhol's Jackson portrait dropped from auction

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. — A New York art gallery has temporarily removed an Andy Warhol portrait of Michael Jackson from the auction block.

The Vered Gallery in East Hampton says enormous interest prompted the decision. The auction was to close Sunday.

The 30-by-26-inch painting shows a smiling Jackson in a red jacket from his "Thriller" days. Pre-sale estimates ranged anywhere from \$1 million to \$10 million.

There's renewed interest in all things Jackson since his death. His albums are back at the top of the charts.

Gallery co-owner Janet Lehr says in a statement she wants to offer the 1984 work to "the greatest number of prospective purchasers." She did not immediately return inquiries for comment Monday.

The portrait is reportedly owned by a New York collector.

Jackie Chan, Jaden Smith start 'Karate Kid' remake

BEIJING — Jackie Chan will play the wise kung-fu master in a Hollywood-Chinese remake of the 1984 hit "The Karate Kid" that kicked off filming in the Chinese capital at the weekend, a movie company publicist said Monday.

Chan's young disciple in "Kung Fu Kid" will be played by Jaden Smith, the son of Hollywood superstars Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith, China Film Group spokesman Weng Li told

The Associated Press in a phone interview.

In "The Karate Kid," Pat Morita plays the iconic building handyman Mr. Miyagi who trains one of his young tenants, portrayed by Ralph Macchio, into an accomplished fighter.

The co-production between the state-run China Film Group and Columbia Pictures started shooting Saturday in Beijing, Weng said.

"Kung Fu Kid" is being directed

by Harald Zwart, who also directed "One Night at McCool's" and "The Pink Panther 2." Solon So, the chief executive of Chan's company, JC Group, told the AP.

Chan and Smith, along with Smith's parents and sister Willow, attended a traditional Chinese ceremony to mark the start of the shoot Saturday. Photos on China Film Group's movie news Web site show the Smith family and Chan holding incense sticks.

Arquette to live in box to raise money for hungry

NEW YORK — David Arquette is going to live in a box in New York City to raise money for the hungry.

The 37-year-old actor plans to stay in a Plexiglas box above the Madison Square Garden marquee on Tuesday and Wednesday to raise

\$250,000 for Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger relief charity. He'll stay in the box each day for about eight hours.

Donations can come on site or through text messages or a Facebook page set up by Mars Inc.,

the company that makes Snickers candy bars.

A Mars spokesman says Arquette will eat during his two-day stay in the plastic enclosure.

Arquette starred in the "Scream" movie franchise.

Danny DeVito serves lemon liqueur at festival

NEW ORLEANS — Actor Danny DeVito served up his own premium "Limoncello" liqueur flavored with zesty Italian lemons and gave a cry of "Salut!" to a drink-sipping crowd at Tales of the Cocktail, a New Orleans cocktail and culinary festival.

Wife and actress Rhea Perlman accompanied DeVito as he shared stories Friday about his New Jersey upbringing and spoke of his passion for Sorrento, Italy, where his liqueur is produced. The occasion: a "Drink Italy" event at the Hotel Monteleone in the French Quarter.

"It's a magnificent place," DeVito

said as dozens of cocktail fans sat at tables sipping Limoncello while video footage of Italy flashed on a jumbo screen.

DeVito said his premium brand is crafted from Italian-grown organic lemons, sugar, water and alcohol. He said it goes well with tequila or in a martini with vodka — or even chilled alone.

Earlier Friday, DeVito joined New

Orleans chef John Besh for a cooking and cocktail-making demonstration called "Chef and the Fat Man."

Tales of the Cocktail is a five-day festival of dinners, tastings, competitions, book signings and parties that celebrate food and spirits. The event brings together bartenders, chefs and authors to celebrate the history and artistry of making drinks.

It also attracts regular folks.

Dance the night away? Not in Des Moines, please

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Dancing the night away in Des Moines doesn't seem to be at the top of many must-do lists. Maybe because it's illegal.

An obscure city ordinance outlaws publicly shaking your groove thing in Iowa's biggest city after 2 a.m.

Few even were aware of the ban until members of the nonprofit Des Moines Social Club sought to hold an after-hours dance at their downtown building.

They were told no-go on the tango.

"It's a silly law that shouldn't exist and the law shows we aren't keeping up with the times," said Zachary Mannheim, executive director of the club, which is made up largely of artists.

Officials and boosters in the city of 200,000 who have fought for years to live up Des Moines' sleepy image agree the ordinance should be repealed. A proposal to do just that is expected

to go before the City Council on Monday.

The ordinance, which dates to at least 1942, bans public dancing between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. Monday through Saturday. Residents must suppress the urge to Macarena in public until 8 a.m. on Sunday.

Any dance within the city that can be attended by the public, subject to the rule. Even venues that allow dancing before the wee hours of the morning must pay \$200 for an annual license or \$75 to host a single event.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78

- ACROSS**
- Caroline du Nord, e.g.
 - Seasonal roller
 - Veronica's pursuer, in comics
 - Tzu
 - "Who, me?"
 - For one
 - Overnight millionaire, probably
 - Loud speaker
 - Pond youngsters
 - Flight back ... duet!
 - "A likely story!"
 - One-time East Asian carrier
 - River of Devon
 - Training site?; Abbr.
 - Historical records
 - Burka wearer's delfy
 - Smite, and hint to this puzzle's theme
 - Bosch-type pick it up
 - Sting Rays, briefly
 - Calendar col.
 - "Disgusting!"
 - Pacific swimmer
 - Farm youngster
 - Peak between Pelion and Olympus
 - Complimentary review
 - Pop singer Vannelli
 - Grant, for one: Abbr.
 - Frozen treat brand
 - Plural suffix with mountain
 - Struggle
 - Tiller opening
 - Filled pastry of Asia
 - Fashion monogram
 - "The Joy of Painting" host Bob
 - Together
 - Pig-poke link
 - Book after Micah
 - Target's target, say
 - Herr's heir, maybe
- DOWN**
- Former Bruin all-star, familiarly
 - Red-bearded god
 - Sony subsidiary
 - It's generous to pick it up
 - Early life forms
 - long way; last
 - Like some fine art frames
 - Numbers to crunch
 - January 6th Christian celebration
 - Pop singer Vannelli
 - Grant, for one: Abbr.
 - Frozen treat brand
 - Plural suffix with mountain
 - Tiller opening
 - Costar with Bolger and Haley
 - Pituitary hormone
 - Theodore, to Wally
 - Bike feature
 - Thaws
 - Together
 - Pig-poke link
 - Book after Micah
 - Target's target, say
 - Herr's heir, maybe
 - Lincoln and others
 - Soft drink choice
 - ICC part; Abbr.
 - Melville's sequel to "Type"
 - A deadly sin
 - Art
 - Big name in publishing
 - Classic Pontiac
 - Dating from
 - Wait to attack
 - Soldiers

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A safe place for students & staff to bring concerns.

A reminder that July 17th is the Summer II deadline for staff members to apply for the Staff Senate Scholarship.

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FRIDAY- DOWN1450
SATURDAY- RYAN BINGHAM & THE DEAD HORSES W/ DOUG MORELAND
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OPINIONS

PAGE 4
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2009

Gonzales hiring interesting, possibly beneficial

Contemporary Issues in the Executive Branch. It seems a bit ironic this is the name of the course former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales will teach at Texas Tech this fall. But understand for just a minute how perfect Gonzales is to teach this class. If anyone knows of the issues facing the president of the United States, it's definitely Alberto Gonzales.

Tech's decision to hire Gonzales is more than just a curious move from Tech administrators looking to gain tier-one status. The moment Gonzales steps onto campus, he will instantly be the most scrutinized and publicized professor at the university.

Gonzales brings instant attention to Tech's political science department, providing a look inside the nation's government no other Tech faculty member can provide. And I for one, will be interested to see how he does it.

To begin with, Gonzales is more

Ben Jones



than qualified to serve on the Tech faculty. After serving two years for the United States Air Force, Gonzales earned his bachelor's degree from Rice University in 1979. Upon graduation, he attended Harvard Law School where he earned his juris doctorate in 1982.

As if that wasn't enough, he worked for the prestigious Houston law firm Vinson and Elkins for 12 years, was named one of five Outstanding Young Texans by the Texas Jaycees in 1994, was awarded the Latino Lawyer of the Year award by the National Hispanic Bar Association, served as Texas secretary of state and was named to the Texas

Supreme Court, all before becoming attorney general in 2004.

Yet, we seem to discredit his hiring because of the controversy surrounding those years on the White House staff from 2001 to 2007. Certainly, these controversies are serious, and, as with all of the shortcomings of the Bush presidency, Gonzales seemed to be in the center of it.

Amid these controversies were the atrocities at Guantanamo Bay Gonzales seemingly oversaw. Physical torture, psychological distress and ruthless interrogations are all synonymous with the unfortunate circumstances Gonzales approved after taking over as attorney general. Furthermore are allegations that he lied about knowledge of the dismissal of several U.S. attorneys along with his involvement in a federal wiretapping program.

And while these actions and allegations may suggest major ethical shortcomings, they symbolize

the collective efforts of a tattered administration and in no way hinder Gonzales' ability to teach the youth.

In fact, if anything, they further bolster his credentials. Gonzales has been out of work for nearly two years after being one of the most powerful men in the world. If Tech students can't learn from his actions, then show me someone better.

I won't begin to suggest I support Gonzales' actions as the attorney general,

nor will I make a political stance in his favor. Gonzales faces accusations that permanently undermine

international and domestic law. However, I certainly am willing to explore his position. Education is served in both success and failure, and Gonzales seems to have experienced the extremes.

His role as minority recruiter for Tech and Angelo State University is a massive boost for the university looking to diversify its growing enrollment. Gonzales' previous work as the Chairman for the Commission for Decentralization at the Houston Independent

School District, member of the Committee for Undergraduate Admissions for Rice University,

and member of the American Council of Young Political Leaders to Mexico provide a first class repertoire of skills needed to recruit young Hispanics to Tech.

Gonzales provides a perfect example of the importance of minority education, after being the first Hispanic attorney general in the nation's history.

And maybe Gonzales will find his experience at Tech humbling. His first real job after stepping down as attorney general, Gonzales has struggled to find work back in his legal profession. After once being considered a front runner to an open U.S. Supreme Court seat, he now sets his sights on lonely West Texas.

I think he'll find it a little less stressful.

Jones is a sophomore economics major from Lubbock. E-mail him at ben.jones@ttu.edu.

"Gonzales has been out of work for nearly two years ... If Tech students can't learn from his actions, then show me someone better."

Cyber terrorism poses new threat to government

There is a new threat to the United States. It is something that cannot be seen. It is something that cannot be heard. It can show up in a matter of seconds without knowledge. It is cyber terrorism.

Starting July 4 weekend, many government and commercial sites were attacked. When systems are cyber attacked, most of the time, it just creates a big hassle for the people running the networks and slows down business. But that does not mean that is the only thing possible.

A huge fear is hackers are able to get into systems right now. That is how they are able to create that hassle. If they can get into certain systems that means they are trying to get something bigger. Financial accounts, personal identification records, medical records, etc., make up a small list of things hackers could get their hands on.

So just on a commercial level, cyber terrorism can cause quite a mess. Especially in today's economic situation where hackers can steal identities and

Paul Williamson



ruin credit markets — though they have have my identity if they want it.

Another issue is this can happen from just one disgruntled person. Cyber attacks are not like conventional attacks where you can just say X or Y country did it. One person with a laptop conceivably can take down networks in a matter of minutes with the right technology.

Our military practically is run on technology nowadays. Missiles are guided by satellite technology, GPS networks, communication networks, etc., are all things cyber terrorists can try to hack into and disrupt as a precursor to an attack.

This is where it gets to be scary.

If a terrorist were to get the ability to hack into military net-

works to disrupt them, what do you think top military officials would think?

They would think an attack was imminent. Why else would someone want to hurt military capabilities?

The United States would be put on a standstill and would be put at its most vulnerable position.

At minimum, if that above situation does not escalate into a miscalculated war waged in the mystery of cyber attacks, it hurts U.S. military readiness to respond to threats.

But this is not the worst case scenario.

According to a Dec. 8, 2008 report by the *New York Times*, a cyber source in China was able to hack successfully into a nuclear weapon lab system in the United States.

Now the report does point out that just because it originated in China does not mean it was done by the government of China or even its citizens. Hackers have been known to disguise their location by hacking through an external source.

This means with the ability to get into the systems that secure our nuclear weapon stockpiles, someone could get the codes to launch, steal the technology to build identical weapons or even launch them on the spot.

President Barack Obama finally took action in May with the creation of a new cyber czar. This can be a major issue for civil libertarians such as myself.

How much power should the cyber czar have in the ability to oversee computer networks?

Should the National Security Agency or other government agencies have access to major private computer networks?

Because we all know how great of a record the NSA has on protecting the constitutional freedoms of the citizens of the

United States.

A solution to all of this would be to allow the NSA to do whatever is needed to protect public networks controlled already by the government, mainly military networks, Social Security Administration records, etc.

But when it comes to private networks, allow some form of a "9-1-1" so to speak.

A way for the private sector to report to the NSA in the event of increase levels of hacking.

Hopefully Obama will do the right thing in protecting the rights of the citizens.

But I do not like the odds of that happening.

Williamson is a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Crosby. E-mail him at paul.w.williamson@ttu.edu

"If they can get into certain systems that means they are trying to get something bigger."

Obama chooses surgeon general

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama turned to the Deep South for the next surgeon general, choosing a rural Alabama family physician who made headlines with fierce determination to rebuild her nonprofit medical clinic in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Dr. Regina Benjamin is known along Alabama's impoverished Gulf Coast as a country doctor who makes house calls and doesn't turn away patients who can't pay — even as she's had to find the money to rebuild a clinic repeatedly destroyed by hurricanes and once even fire.

"For all the tremendous obstacles that she has overcome, Regina Benjamin also represents what's best about health care in America, doctors and nurses who give and care and sacrifice for the sake of their patients," Obama said Monday in introducing his choice for a job known as America's doctor.

He said Benjamin will bring insight as his administration struggles to revamp the health care system.

Texas hotel pays man \$25 million

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — InterContinental Hotels Group, owners of Holiday Inn Worldwide, has been ordered by a court to pay \$25 million in damages to an Arkansas franchisee for fraud involving a hotel in Texas.

J.O. "Buddy" House of West Memphis, owner of Hotel Associates, claimed in a lawsuit that InterContinental Hotels Group breached its contract and fiduciary duty with his company over a Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Wichita Falls.

House claimed he lost millions of dollars in renovation costs and loss of value during various changes in ownership and personnel at the world's largest hotel franchiser.

All 12 members of a Crittenden County jury agreed that Hotel Associates was the victim of "deceit," while 10 jurors agreed that House proved he suffered from promissory estoppel, meaning the hotelier lost money after relying on a broken promise from InterContinental Hotels Group, according to verdict forms filed Friday.

Caroline Sanfilippo, a spokeswoman for InterContinental at its North American headquarters in Atlanta, said Monday that the company "strongly disagrees" with the verdict and was exploring its options, including appeals.

The jury ordered Holiday Hospitality Franchising Inc., an InterContinental company, to pay \$13 million in compensatory damages and \$12 million in punitive damages to Hotel Associates, according to Tim Dudley, a lawyer for House.

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Puzzles by PageFiller

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8	5	7	6	3	2	4	9	1
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Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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Reminder for Graduate Degree students, the last day to submit to the Graduate School final corrected PDF copy of thesis/dissertation is Friday, July 24

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Workouts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on last year's success.

"Our players are striving to be even better than we were," he said. "We had a great season last year, and the team wants to improve on that in order to prove to themselves that last season wasn't a fluke, and this program is here to stay."

Wylie said the coaching staff is trying to focus on improving the quickness of the team for next year, and that he is incorporating that into his workout routines this summer.

The task of improving agility is of high importance to junior running back Baron Batch, who is looking to improve on his success he has had in the past and shine as the leader of Tech's running game next year.

"Quickness is definitely something that I try to focus on every day going into this offsea-

son and I am going to just keep working," said Batch, who had 758 yards and seven touchdowns on the ground last year. "We work hard to win, and every win at this level isn't easy, so we are working to bring home another awesome season."

Senior cornerback Jamar Wall said he appreciates Wylie pushing the team with intensity because it matches the emotion during the season.

"We maintain a high tempo during the summer because that high tempo is what you need on the field in the fall" he said. "Coach Wylie makes sure we are always running everywhere we go so it becomes a habit."

Wall said during the summer, the defensive backs focus on improving their conditioning and staying in shape in order to compete at the highest level possible.

"We have to be the most conditioned and the most fun-

damentally sound because we are the last line of defense," Wall said. "If anything gets past us, it's a touchdown. So I have to be conditioned, so I can be in the right spot on every play."

As the players continue to prepare for 2009, Wylie said he continues to stress that each of his players improve every day. He encourages his players to move forward, so they can outwork their competitors.

"Every team in the country

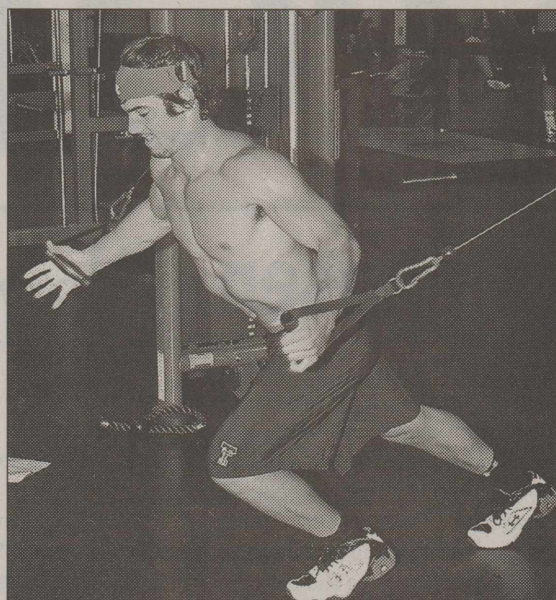


PHOTO BY ALEX YBARRA/The Daily Treador
CORNERBACK TAYLOR CHARBONNET lifts weights Monday during the workout session at the Tech Athletic facility.

is out there working right now," he said. "So if we aren't improving, we are falling behind our competition."

christopher.n.martin@ttu.edu

Bivens quits LPGA

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Carolyn Bivens resigned as LPGA Tour commissioner Monday, bowing to pressure from players who were upset about the organization's economic woes and her leadership.

Marsha Evans, a retired rear admiral in the Navy who also has led the American Red Cross and Girl Scouts of the USA, will take over as interim commissioner. She'll serve until the LPGA board finds a replacement, which it hopes to do by the end of the year.

Bivens' departure seemed increasingly likely after a group of players wrote a letter last week to the LPGA Tour's board of directors calling for her to quit. Her uncertain status created a distraction over the weekend during the U.S. Women's Open.

"We reached a point which

made it difficult for Carolyn herself to see herself going forward and being able to lead in this environment," board chairwoman Dawn Hudson said. "We had to change something."

Hudson said Bivens' resignation was a mutual decision between the former commissioner and the LPGA's board of directors. She praised Bivens for helping the tour "think big" during a developing economic climate.

But Bivens' four-year tenure also was plagued with difficulties and controversies.

The tour has lost seven tournaments since 2007, and last year Bivens was widely criticized when she proposed an English-only policy for tour players. It was never instituted. The LPGA includes 121 international players from 26 countries, including 45 from South Korea.

Armstrong puts pressure on Contador

TARBES, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong carried on playing mind games with his younger rival and teammate Alberto Contador on Sunday, hinting that he might be the strongest rider this year on the Tour and admitting for the first time that some tension exists on the Astana team.

With the race's toughest tests still to come, the 37-year-old Texan has decided to put the pressure on the Spaniard's shoulders and to show he is still in control despite trailing Contador by a fistful of seconds overall.

After Sunday's ninth stage out of the Pyrenees mountains, the Texan is third — a solid result for a man coming back to competition after nearly four years in retirement. But the seven-time Tour champion wants more and has settled an appointment with second-placed Contador in the Alps.

"There's not going to be a lot of change until Verbier," Armstrong said, referring to stage 15, a grueling 128.9-mile trek between Pontarlier

and Verbier, Switzerland. "We'll have more moments there when we'll see who's truly the strongest."

Despite losing 21 seconds to Contador at the first hilltop finish Friday in the Andorran ski resort of Arcalis, Armstrong seems convinced he can beat his Astana teammate in his quest for an 8th Tour de France triumph. Armstrong, who has meticulously previewed all the Alpine stages, even stated that he decided to let Contador go to favor his team interests when the Spaniard made his dazzling move in Arcalis.

"I wouldn't say that I could have easily followed, because it was an impressive attack," Armstrong said. "I probably could have gone, but I didn't see it coming and it wouldn't be correct for me to go across. So, I waited for the other guys. I expected them to be able to pull it back and they didn't, but that's life, that's cycling, and I had to do the right thing."

According to Armstrong and Astana manager Johan Bruyneel — a close friend to Armstrong — Conta-

dor went against the team's strategy when he attacked.

"The honest truth is that there is a little tension," Armstrong said Sunday on France-2 television, in the most explicit comments yet that their teamwork may be taking a back seat to their individual ambitions. "Contador is strong, and he is very ambitious."

The 26-year-old Contador has won all three Grand Tours of France, Italy and Spain — a feat accomplished by only five riders. Until now, the Spaniard has been careful not to speak to much about his ambitions, preferring to answer on the saddle.

"We knew that the Pyrenees were going to be the softest mountains on this Tour," he said. "Now I want to rest tomorrow and to stay calm during the first five days of next week before thinking about the next hilltop finish in Verbier."

With the Alps, a final individual time trial and the dreaded Mont Ventoux in the penultimate stage, the last week of the Tour will be crucial.

Armstrong hopes to find his top form by then.

"That's my plan. I hope so. We'll see. There's no guarantees — I hope so," he said.

Before Monday's rest day in Limoges, Armstrong is third overall, eight seconds behind leader Rinaldo Nocentini, who is not seen as an overall threat.

Contador, the 2007 champion, is six seconds back while other pre-race contenders are lagging well behind. Christian Vande Velde of the U.S. is eighth, 1:24 behind; Andy Schleck of Luxembourg is 1:49 back in ninth; defending Tour champion Carlos Sastre of Spain is 2:52 back in 16th; and Cadel Evans of Australia is 3:07 back in 18th place.

"Honestly, if I was Cadel Evans, or Andy Schleck, or Carlos Sastre, I would be waiting," Armstrong said. "I would wait for my moment in the Alps, on Ventoux, whatever, and I would stick it in as hard as I could. I would just pull the knife out and go."

Jacques Lemaire to have second round as NJ coach

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Jacques Lemaire is returning for a second stint as coach of the New Jersey Devils.

Lemaire, who coached the Devils for five seasons in the mid 1990s and led them to the first of three Stanley Cups, was hired Monday to replace Brent Sutter, who resigned after two seasons.

Contract terms were not disclosed but the 63-year-old Lemaire said he intends to coach at least two seasons.

"I never thought I would be back," Lemaire said. "I said at that time when I was leaving after five years, and it was five great years, I wanted to cherish this for the rest of my life and the rest of my career, but I never thought one day I would come back."

The deal reunites Lemaire with general manager and president Lou Lamoriello and goaltender Martin Brodeur, the combination that turned

that Devils from a contender to a champion in 1995.

"Jacques Lemaire is one of the most respected coaches in the game," Lamoriello said during a conference call. "He is a teacher and a communicator, and knows what it takes to have success."

Lemaire recently resigned as coach of the Minnesota Wild. He took over the expansion franchise in 2000 and led them to the playoffs three times. However, the injury-plagued Wild struggled this past season and Lemaire stepped down, saying he had taken them as far as he could.

"Last year, right after the season, I never did close the door on coaching," Lemaire said. "I just said that my time in Minnesota is over and it's time to go on and do something else," Lemaire said.

Watching the playoffs convinced Lemaire that he still wanted to coach.

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All-Star game pitchers chosen

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Tim Lincecum and Roy Halladay were selected Monday as the starting pitchers for the All-Star game.

Last year's NL Cy Young Award winner, Lincecum is 10-2 with a 2.33 ERA for the San Francisco Giants. He will get the ball Tuesday night at Busch Stadium, NL manager Charlie Manuel announced.

Lincecum made the All-Star team for last season's game at Yankee Stadium but was unable to pitch because he was ill.

"This is a great accomplishment for me," Lincecum said, his long, shaggy hair protruding from under a black knit cap. "I think tomorrow the big thing is going to be just getting to the field. And after that, just getting on the field."

Halladay, 10-3 with a 2.85 ERA for the Toronto Blue Jays, was chosen by AL manager Joe Maddon.

This is Halladay's sixth All-Star appearance, but his first chance to start — and it could be his final trip in a Toronto uniform.

Blue Jays general manager J.P. Ricciardi said last week he'll listen to trade offers for the 2003 AL Cy Young Award winner, who is signed through 2010 and would have to agree to a deal.

At a news conference Monday, broadcaster Bob Costas called Halladay a member of the Blue Jays "at least for the moment," which drew a round of uneasy chuckles.

"It's tough. Obviously, I'm somewhere that I enjoy being and have spent my entire career. There's a lot,

I think, that goes into it," Halladay said. "I think as a player, there's that will to win, that will to do it in October and basically that's what all of this has been about. I would like that chance. I'm not saying it won't be Toronto. You'd like to be three games up in first place and not have to deal with it."

Lincecum and Halladay each pitched Thursday, so both will be on their regular four days of rest.

In his most recent outing against San Diego, Lincecum carried a no-hit bid into the seventh inning and won his fourth straight outing.

Halladay, who has won more games than any other major league pitcher since 2002, has made three starts since returning from a stint on the disabled list with a groin strain.

Players great despite steroids

Every week a new name emerges from the steroid era, causing many people to look down on the baseball era I grew up in.

While a lot of people's views of baseball in the 1990s and early this decade have become negative, I think it's time for people to put the era in perspective and accept it by honoring the greats who played in the era just like the greats before the era.

I do not know how much better steroids make a player, but I do know hitting a baseball is one of the hardest things to do in sports, and it isn't a skill that is developed simply by injecting yourself with a performance-enhancing drug.

Mark McGwire, Barry Bonds, Alex Rodriguez and Roger Clemens are the four most prominent players to be linked to steroid use, but the fact is these guys were great players before they allegedly used steroids.

McGwire hit 49 homers in 1987 as a lanky rookie, Bonds was a 30-30 guy (30 homers and steals) in Pittsburgh in 1992 before signing with the San Francisco Giants. Rodriguez had four consecutive 40 home-run seasons during his early years in Seattle and Clemens was a Cy Young winner before he even met Brian McNamee.

These guys have always been great with and without steroids.

The average players mentioned in the Mitchell Report such as Marvin Bernard, Jeremy Giambi, Randy Velarde, Todd Pratt were still average players after they allegedly took steroids.

So while I can agree steroids enhances performance, I do not think anyone can tell me just how much better they make you.

Baseball purists will argue players during the steroid era have enhanced statistics.

I can see where the traditionalist would think like this, but I will argue players from the old days have enhanced statistics as well.

Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947; Therefore, players before that time such as Babe Ruth and Jimmie Fox have inflated statistics because they only competed against Caucasian players.

Landry Locker



Could you imagine Major League Baseball with all Caucasian players?

In the old days, hitters didn't have to face the quality bullpen players of today (the steroid era) have to face.

Starting pitchers used to pitch until their arms were about to fall off, and it was common for relief pitchers to throw almost every day without resting.

Willie Mays never had the opposing manager walk to the mound in the seventh inning and tap his right arm to bring in the multi-million dollar, submarine-throwing set-up man.

Whether you're a baseball purist or a cynical fan like myself, all baseball fans need to stop crucifying the players such as Rodriguez and Sammy Sosa who tested positive in 2003 when the MLB tested players confidentially.

The MLB needs to be blamed, not the players that played in the era. The fact is, prior to 2003, the MLB didn't even test for steroids.

I know steroids are against the law, but so is carrying and consuming unprescribed prescription medication. There are many students who have taken unprescribed adderall to enhance performance on tests.

How outrageous would it be if six years from now, Texas Tech began testing for adderall and today's students were punished and looked down on?

Baseball didn't care about steroids in the 1990s and didn't even acknowledge the obvious problem until Congress forced its hand.

It is too late for commissioner Bud Selig to punish players who used steroids before the MLB even tested.

Selig's recent obsession with steroids is similar to a parent finally spanking their bratty child at the age of 25. It's too late to change what already happened.

We were all unmindful of an obvious problem.

Even the most decorated players in the steroid era could have been using performance enhancers. We just don't know.

A lot of players who used performance enhancers, such as Andy Pettitte, have said they used human growth hormone to recover from injuries and get back on the field.

Cal Ripken played in 2,632 consecutive games, which is amazing, but is it possible a player who played that many consecutive games in that era would've taken steroids to stay in the lineup?

Ripken retired in 2001 before they started testing and had former teammates who have been linked with steroid use (Rafael Palmeiro and David Segui).

I am not saying Ripken used steroids, but I am saying we cannot be positive about anyone from that era.

But who really cares if he did or didn't? It doesn't make Ripken any less great to me.

There is no good that can be gained by knowing who used steroids during the steroid era, and we shouldn't hold a grudge against the players who used them.

The steroid era happened, and we need to leave it in the past.

In 2005, when McGwire was subpoenaed to testify at a Congressional hearing about steroid use in baseball, he chose to repeatedly say, "I am not here to talk about the past" when he was asked about his alleged steroid use.

McGwire originally looked foolish and was mocked by fans and media across the country, but I think it is time for the fans and the media to take McGwire's advice.

Baseball now has a testing policy and anyone who uses performance-enhancers now should be looked down on, but as the names continue to emerge from the steroid users of the past, we need to look at them as the great players of that era and not cheaters.

Locker is a senior broadcast journalism major from Southlake. E-mail him at landry.locker@ttu.edu.

Nationals fire manager, appoint interim

WASHINGTON (AP) — So much for the plan to have Manny Acta's patient optimism lead the Washington Nationals out of the doldrums. The abysmal won-loss record became too much to stomach, costing him his job at the All-Star break and adding another layer of instability to the worst team in baseball.

Acta was fired after the team reached the unofficial halfway mark of the season with a majors-worst 26-61 record, on pace to clear the 100-loss mark for the second consecutive year. Acting general manager Mike Rizzo — himself an interim placeholder — announced Acta's dismissal Monday morning.

"We feel that the team has underachieved," Rizzo said. "We feel we have a better ballclub than we've shown on the field. ... We feel with

a different voice and possibly a different feel in the clubhouse that we can have a more successful second half of the season."

Acta was informed Sunday night after the team returned home following a 5-0 loss at Houston, Washington's seventh in 10 games. Bench coach Jim Riggleman, who has a 522-652 record over nine seasons managing the Padres, Cubs and Mariners, was named the interim replacement — which means the Nationals now have both a GM and a manager with a temporary label next to their names.

"I'm very uncomfortable with that," team president Stan Kasten said. "I've strived my whole career valuing stability and consistency, and I want to get to that here. We're not there yet. I think we're working to-

ward that. Sometimes you encounter these unfortunate, unforeseen bumps in the road."

Acta joins Colorado's Clint Hurdle and Arizona's Bob Melvin as major league managers who have been fired this season.

"It was a great learning experience, I have no regrets," Acta said in a statement released by the team. "As I move forward, I wish the Nationals all the best. I was very fortunate to work with and meet a lot of wonderful people while here."

Acta was 158-252 over 2½ seasons in his first managerial job. The team's winning percentage dropped progressively from Year 1 until now, although his record had much to do with the talent — or lack thereof — assembled for him by the front office.

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Wife may have strangled Gatti

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Police investigating the death of former boxing champion Arturo Gatti are working on the assumption his wife strangled him with her purse strap while he drunkenly slept.

While cautioning that nothing is being ruled out, lead investigator Moises Teixeira told The Associated Press on Monday he is certain the woman acted alone.

"It was technically impossible for a third person to have been in the flat," where Gatti was found dead early Saturday, Teixeira said. "The investigation isn't finished, but we continue to think she did this alone."

Gatti's 23-year-old Brazilian wife, Amanda Rodrigues, told investigators she awoke Saturday about 6 a.m. to find her husband's body in the apartment they rented in Porto de Galinhas, a seaside resort in northeastern Pernambuco state.

Rodrigues told police she had a fight with Gatti after dinner Friday night and he pushed her to the ground, resulting in minor injuries to her elbow and chin. Witnesses also reported to police the couple fought and that Gatti was drunk.

Rodrigues told police the 37-year-old former junior welterweight champion then got into a cab with their son and returned to their rented apartment, leaving her alone downtown.

Teixeira said witnesses told police Gatti left his son to sleep in the apartment, then returned to the city center to find his wife. She arrived at the apartment before he did and waited for him. They then both went upstairs together.

Rodrigues told police she slept on the second floor of the apartment with her son, while Gatti slept on the first floor. She told police she awoke at 6 a.m. to feed her son and discovered her husband's body.

Police say he most likely had been killed at least four hours before that.

Teixeira said police do not think anyone else entered the apartment and killed Gatti — he said there were no signs of forced entry and electronic locks indicated nobody else had entered the room aside from Rodrigues and Gatti.

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