



Harrell to play  
in Canada

See Page 6

See Page 2  
Market Center construction

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FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2009  
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## (IN BRIEF)

### STATE

#### Proposed balloon release ban in Lubbock goes bust

LUBBOCK (AP) — A proposed ban on mass releases of helium-filled balloons in Lubbock has gone bust.

The measure would have barred the release of more than 30 gas-filled balloons at a time. The measure passed on first reading July 8.

But the proposal was withdrawn Wednesday from the agenda, after Councilman Todd Klein said he changed his mind and would oppose the ban.

Critics say council members had better things to do than banter over balloons, such as dealing with the city budget.

### NATION

#### House democrats move health care bill to vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats on Thursday pushed ahead with legislation that would remake the health care system and cover some 50 million uninsured, despite concerns from conservative democrats and republicans that the \$1.5 trillion plan costs too much.

Congressional Budget Office Director Douglas Elmendorf warned lawmakers the legislation he has seen so far would raise costs, not lower them. Elmendorf explained subsidies to help uninsured people would raise federal health care spending, which is already growing at an unsustainable rate.

### WORLD

#### Black boxes from Iran's crashed plane found

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Investigators have recovered two black boxes belonging to a Russian-made jetliner that crashed shortly after taking off from Tehran, Iran's state radio reported Thursday.

All 168 people aboard the Caspian Airlines aircraft bound for Yerevan, Armenia, on Wednesday were killed.

The radio's report quoted chief investigator Ahmad Majidi as saying one of the two recovered boxes was damaged. It said the boxes — the plane's cockpit voice and flight data recorders — would likely be sent to the aircraft's Russian manufacturers for analysis.

### DEATH TOLL

4324

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

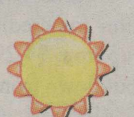
SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

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### WEATHER

#### Today



99/69

Sunny

#### Saturday

Scattered T-storms

91/66



## GOP envisions August Senate vote on Sotomayor

JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS  
AND DAVID ESPO  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans cleared the way Thursday for a Senate vote next month to confirm Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor, placing her firmly in line to become the first Hispanic justice.

"I look forward to you getting that vote before we recess in August," said Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, senior Republican at Senate

Judiciary Committee confirmation hearings.

He spoke as Sotomayor neared the end of four grueling days in the witness chair, prelude to the Senate vote confirming her as the first justice appointed by a Democratic president in 15 years.

Sessions said he would not support any attempt to block a vote on confirmation and didn't believe any other Republican would, either.

Sotomayor, 55, has overwhelming if not unanimous support among the Senate's 60 Democrats.

In an opening statement delivered on Monday, she pledged loyalty to "the impartiality of our justice system," a script from which she rarely strayed as she sidestepped questions on controversial issues such as abortion and gun rights.

She stepped lightly, too, around President Barack Obama's statement that he wanted a justice with empathy. And sought to neutralize critics who asked repeatedly about a 2001 speech in which she said the rulings of a wise Latina would often be superior to those of a white male.

For their part, Republicans picked their way carefully through the questioning, a recognition of the racial politics involved. Hispanics are the fastest growing demographic group in the electorate.

Sotomayor drew praise from Republicans and Democrats alike as she was wrapping up her time before the committee at the nationally televised hearing.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. described her judicial record as "generally in the mainstream" and said he thought she would keep an open mind on

rights. Graham, who has said previously he may vote to confirm Sotomayor, said she was "not an activist."

Another Republican, Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, also called Sotomayor's rulings "pretty much in the mainstream," although he said her assertions of impartiality at the hearings were strikingly at odds with her past remarks.

"You appear to be a different person almost in your speeches and in some of the comments that you've made" before the Judiciary panel, Cornyn said.

## West Texas treasures

Lubbock Lake Landmark offers ancient insight, historic findings

By HANNAH BOEN  
STAFF WRITER

Every July since the 1970s, university students from across the globe have gathered in the same area to catch a glimpse of human life 12,000 years ago.

The Lubbock Lake Landmark is the location of a late Paleo-Indian site that continuously has been excavated since its discovery during the Great Depression.

Katherine Ehlers, a graduate research assistant from Midland, has been visiting the site each July for six years to discover and study pieces of history.

"The more we can learn about how people live and adapt, the better," said Ehlers, the site's crew chief. "These things are relevant to today if we can study the trends of people thousands of years ago."

Ehlers has spent much of her time as an undergraduate and graduate student at Texas Tech doing regional research in the Caprock area and has the artifacts to prove it.

Halfway into this year's dig, her group has found Bison bone and some stone tools,



PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador  
DISA WIBERG, A graduate osteology major from Sweden, Nicole Cotto, a sophomore Anthropology major from Chicago, and Megan Reel a senior history major from Bolton, all work at excavating bones from a dig at the Lubbock Lake Landmark on Thursday.

clues into what life was like for humans thousands of years ago.

"I think it's neat that people have been hanging out in Lubbock for that long," she said, "and we're still here."

Disa Wiberg is an osteology masters student from Lund University in Sweden, and she is spending six weeks of her summer in Lubbock to be part of Ehlers' crew.

"It's a good experience," she said. "You get responsibility, and you get to learn about every aspect of archeology."

Wiberg and a handful of other students spend each day digging

and studying, and each night in tents near the dig site. The students work, eat, sleep and shower outdoors.

Although she admitted the **Landmark** continued on page 3 >>>

## Harrelson detests use of live cats in letter to HSC president

By HANNAH BOEN  
STAFF WRITER

An issue at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center that has drawn attention from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and the U.S. Department of Agriculture has now gained attention from Oscar-nominated actor Woody Harrelson.

For more than 20 years, TTUHSC has been using cats from Animal Control of Odessa for medical training purposes, including intubation and aspiration exercises. PETA recently began protesting the use of the cats, arguing the practice is inhumane and, according to the Animal Welfare Act, illegal.

The protests drew attention to the issue, encouraging Midland-born Harrelson to send a plea to HSC President John Baldwin to stop the use of

cats for training purposes.

"As a native Texan, I was shocked to learn from my friends at PETA that Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center has been purchasing cats from a nearby animal shelter and using them for cruel medical training exercises," his letter said in part. "Cats used for the experiments have plastic tubes forced down their throats and needles stabbed into their chests and are then killed."

The actor said in the letter the use of the animals is unjustifiable considering the endorsement of realistic manikins by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Heart Association.

"This proves that medical professionals do not need to take lives in order to learn how to save them," his letter said in part.

Besides being concerned for the mistreated animals, his let-

ter also stated concern for the students in the program who, by practicing on the cats, are using outdated methods of medical training.

PETA member Ian Smith said his organization has sent multiple letters to campus administrators with no response, and have filed a complaint with the USDA concerning the inhumane treatment of the cats.

Smith said he hopes the letter sent by Harrelson will draw at-

ention to an issue that needs to be addressed immediately.

*"Cats used for experiments have plastic tubes forced down their throats and needles stabbed into their chests and are then killed..."*

**WOODY HARRELSON**  
Oscar-nominated actor

have been unsuccessful because of the administration's refusal to communicate.

HSC officials released a statement concerning the use of cats for medical training exercises, but they have not responded directly to PETA and would not comment further.

According to the HSC statement, the practices are in compliance with all Federal and State regulations and regulated on a regular basis by the United States Department of Agriculture. Additionally, the release states the cats are free of pain and distress.

"I don't think that there's an argument that they can make in defense of the practices they're employing," Smith said.

Robyn Katz, a third year law student from Little Silver, N.J., is the president of Tech's Student Animal Legal Defense Fund and has spent an extensive amount of time studying animal cruelty

**Harrelson** continued on page 2 >>>

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## CIT will not receive bailout

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration drew a line in the sand on financial bailouts Wednesday by denying emergency aid to CIT Group Inc., a struggling commercial lender on the brink of bankruptcy.

After days of round-the-clock talks with regulators about a possible government bailout, CIT said those negotiations had ceased. The company said its management and directors were "evaluating alternatives."

The decision not to save CIT is a defining moment for the Obama administration's financial rescue program, headed by Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner. By withholding aid, the administration is betting that CIT's likely failure won't pose a critical risk to an economy weighed down by rising unemployment.

CIT, which had earlier received \$2.3 billion of bailout money, is one of the nation's largest lenders to small and mid-size businesses.

## Harrelson

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of time studying animal cruelty prosecution, she said.

It is discouraging, she said, to see the same university that teaches her the importance of upholding the law breaking the law.

"They're violating the Animal Welfare Act," she said. "If they'd gone about it legally, they'd have looked at other methods for doing this research."

Katz has written a letter to Baldwin, and also to Vice President of Medical Affairs Steven Berk and Institutional Compliance Officer Mildred Johnson, questioning the use of the cats and asking that they seek more humane methods of training. However, she has received no response.

Her goal is to be a voice for animals that do not have standing in court, and to encourage the university to uphold the law, she said.

"They're really not interested in changing their practices," she said, "for whatever reason."

The offices of the HSC president and the Texas Tech Animal Use Committee declined to comment.

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## CONSTRUCTION ZONE



PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador

A BACKHOE WAITS Tuesday for the return of the workers completing the expansion of the Merket Alumni Center. The \$4 million project will more than double the size of the center and is scheduled to finish in 2010.

## Foreclosures rise 15 percent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of U.S. households on the verge of losing their homes soared by nearly 15 percent in the first half of the year as more people lost their jobs and were unable to pay their monthly mortgage bills.

The mushrooming foreclosure crisis affected more than 1.5 million homes in the first six months of the year, according to a report released Thursday by foreclosure listing service RealtyTrac Inc.

The data show that, despite the Obama administration's plan to encourage the lending industry to prevent foreclosures by handing out \$50 billion in subsidies, the nation's housing woes continue to spread. Experts don't expect foreclosures to peak until the middle of next year.

Foreclosure filings rose more than 33 percent in June compared with the same month last year and were up nearly 5 percent from May, RealtyTrac said.

"Despite all the efforts to date, we clearly haven't got a handle on how to address the situation," said Rick Sharga, RealtyTrac's senior vice president for marketing.

More than 336,000 households received at least one foreclosure-related notice in June, according to the foreclosure listing firm's report. That works out to one in every 380 U.S. homes.

It was the fourth-straight month in which more than 300,000 households receiving a foreclosure filing, which includes default notices and several other legal notices that homeowners receive before they finally lose their homes. Banks repossessed more than 79,000 homes in June, up from about 65,000 a month earlier.

On a state-by-state basis, Nevada had the nation's highest foreclosure rate in the first half of the year, with more than 6 percent of all households receiving a filing. Arizona was No. 2, followed by Florida, California and Utah. Rounding out the top 10 were Georgia, Michigan, Illinois, Idaho and Colorado.

The Obama administration in March launched a \$50 billion plan to give the lending industry financial incentives to modify mortgages to lower payments, but it's off to a slow start.

As of early July, about 130,000 borrowers were enrolled in three-

month trial modifications under the plan, and 25 mortgage companies have signed up to receive potential payments of up to \$18.6 billion, according to the Treasury Department. But analysts and housing counselors say it isn't having much of an impact.

"The plan isn't going well, at least not yet," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "It's a creative plan with lots of incentives, but it's very complex."

In testimony prepared for delivery at a Senate hearing on Thursday, Bank of America executive Allen Jones said the company has about 80,000 loan modifications in the works under the new government guidelines, including some that aren't in the three-month trial phase yet.

"We have achieved this level of success by devoting substantial resources to this effort," Jones said, noting that the company has more than 7,000 employees handling calls and working on modifications. Industry experts, however, say the response from most mortgage companies has been lackluster.

"They've been slow to make sure they understand it and put all the processes and people in place," said Joel Lewis, vice president of financial services at Convergys Corp., which runs call centers for the financial industry and other companies.

## Telemedicine grant allocated to HSC

By HANNAH MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech Health Sciences Center recently was granted \$6.77 million from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission for a 26-month telemedicine program throughout West Texas.

Focusing on primary and specialty pediatric care, the program, called Project CHART for Children's Healthcare Access for Rural Texas, will assist Medicaid-enrolled children in 30 different patient sites in rural communities.

David Leforge, chief operating officer for F Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health, said the project will assist rural communities who lack medical resources.

Connecting the patient to the doctor through cameras and TV monitors, Leforge said the program will allow patients to receive instant medical attention while saving themselves the cost of travel and missed work.

"We'll be able to make the same kind of determination as if you were standing right next to that physician," he said.

Leforge said they are hoping to find

communities interested in sustaining the project past the two years funded through the grant.

"We're simply using the opportunity we have with different sites to engage with the communities to determine if after they see the success of this with pediatric care if they would like to pursue other areas," he said. "But what we don't want to do is say, 'Look what we've got for you.'"

"If this works as well as we think it can ... this can be a great benefit to a lot of communities."

DAVID LEFFORGE

Chief Operating Officer  
F. Marie Hall Community Health

We want to go to communities and say, 'What are your needs? And how can we help you?' But the only way you can know that is by asking them."

Anticipating challenges, Leforge said he believes most of the project will run smoothly because of previous experience.

"We just need to be able to work our scheduling," Leforge said. "That right now will probably be the biggest challenge. We have enough experience with telemedicine that we are very comfortable this is going to work very well."

Despite conflicts Leforge said the project will provide opportunities for research as well as service.

"If it works as well as we think it can," he said, "we think this can be a great benefit to a lot of communities."

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## More US troops to Afghanistan

FORT DRUM, N.Y. (AP) — The Pentagon's chief said Thursday he could send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan this year than he'd initially expected and is considering increasing the number of soldiers in the Army.

Both issues reflect demands on increasingly stressed American forces tasked with fighting two wars.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates' comments came during a short visit to Fort Drum in upstate New York — an Army post that he said has deployed more soldiers to battle zones over the last 20 years than any other unit. Two Fort Drum brigades are headed to Iraq later this year, and a third is currently in Afghanistan.

Asked about Afghanistan by one soldier, Gates said, "I think there will not be a significant increase in troop levels in Afghanistan beyond the 68,000, at least probably through the end of

the year. Maybe some increase, but not a lot."

So far, the Obama administration has approved sending 68,000 troops to Afghanistan by the end of 2009, including 21,000 that were added this spring.

The White House has wanted to wait until the end of the year before deciding whether to deploy more, but a defense official said Thursday that Gates does not want to discourage his new commander in Kabul, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, from taking a frank look at how many troops he needs.

McChrystal, who took over as commander for all U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan last month, is expected to advise Washington in the next few weeks on his views of how to end, and win, the 8-year war.

McChrystal is nearing the end of a 60-day review of troop requirements in Afghanistan, and will soon provide that report to Gates.

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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
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- By Robin Stears
- 3 Crow  
4 "Bad Blood" singer  
5 Luggage-screening gp.  
6 Part of BYO  
7 Words of innocence  
8 "The Day the Earth Stood Still" robot  
9 "home?"  
10 Beverage brewed in a gaiwan  
11 Having no effect  
12 As well  
13 Many a "One Tree Hill" character  
18 Drudge  
24 32-card game  
25 Flow  
27 Plug-and-play PC port  
28 Like a close buddy  
29 Actress Christine  
30 2600: early game console  
31 Road cones  
32 More valued, in a way
- 33 Scrumptious  
34 Capture  
37 Eponymous Chinese general  
39 Substitute for dropped items  
41 Cut  
44 Palindromic altar  
48 Equip  
49 Something to keep a teller busy?  
50 Inferior
- 53 Fresh approach?  
54 Pants part  
55 Bold alternative: Abbr.  
57 1973 defendant  
58 "Should" acquaintance ...  
60 Educ. support groups  
61 Della's creator  
62 Batik worker  
65 Crossed (out)  
66 Meddle

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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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## JPMorgan has huge 2Q growth

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — JPMorgan Chase & Co. posted a 36 percent jump in second quarter profit that easily surpassed analysts' expectations as strength in investment banking offset a jump in credit losses.

JPMorgan, the second big bank to report stronger earnings this week after Goldman Sachs Group Inc., earned \$2.72 billion, up from \$2 billion a year earlier. Revenues soared 39 percent to \$25.62 billion.

Results were driven by record investment banking fees and revenue in its bond business, much like Goldman Sachs. At JPMorgan's investment bank, revenue jumped 33 percent to \$7.3 billion and profits more than tripled to \$1.5 billion.

Those gains were partly offset by higher losses in consumer lending and credit cards. The bank said it set aside \$9.7 billion for credit losses in the quarter, up from \$4.29 billion a year earlier but down from the first quarter's \$10 billion.

CEO Jamie Dimon said in a statement that the company expects credit costs to remain high "for the foreseeable future."

The profit came despite a \$1.1 billion charge, or 27 cents a share, as JPMorgan repaid \$25 billion in loans it received from the government as part of the Troubled Asset Relief Program. The bank was also hit by a 10-cents-a-share FDIC special assessment penalty.

Earnings per share fell to 28 cents from 53 cents as the company had more stock outstanding than a year ago.



PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador

**KATHERINE EHLERS, A graduate interdisciplinary studies major from Midland, and Disa Wiberg, a graduate osteology major from Sweden, work to excavate bones at the Lubbock Lake Landmark on Thursday.**

## Landmark

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

West Texas heat was unpleasant, this is her second year to visit this dig site, and said it would probably not be her last.

"I come here partly for the experience," she said, "and partly for the great people."

Nicole Cotto, a sophomore anthropology major from Loyola University in Chicago, said she has enjoyed spending time with a diverse group of students who share her interests, however, she was hesitant about spending six weeks of her summer in Lubbock.

"Texas seemed kind of far," she said, "and I thought, 'What the heck? Lubbock? What is in

Lubbock?'" Cotto said this is her first time to work on a dig site and has enjoyed the experience and the history the site has to offer.

Both students believe they are working on a site that is providing valuable experience in their respective fields.

Lubbock Lake Landmark education program manager, Susan Rowe, said the site has so much history to offer, students have only made a small dent in researching the area since they began digging more than 30 years ago.

In the past three decades, full skeletons have been found on site of an ancient bison, a Columbian mammoth, a giant armadillo and a giant short-faced bear.

Although the dig site attracts attention from students worldwide, Rowe said it is a good opportunity for Tech students as well.

"I would suggest anyone looking for field experience with archeology or anthropology look here first," she said.

Lubbock Lake Landmark plans to continue to study anything they can find on their historical site, she said, in order to learn the interactions and environments of the first Lubbock residents.

Students interested in volunteer opportunities at the dig site may visit <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/museumttu/lll/> for more information.

**>>> hannah.boen@ttu.edu**

## Video of Jackson 1984 Pepsi burn accident surfaces

NEW YORK — Us Weekly magazine has obtained video it says shows never-before-seen footage of Michael Jackson's head catching on fire during filming of his 1984 Pepsi commercial.

Jackson suffered severe burns after a pyrotechnics mishap caused his hair and scalp to catch afire. Still photos of the accident have been seen before, but the new video on Us Weekly's Web site shows the moment Jackson's hair caught on fire and the top of his head became engulfed in flames.

Jackson didn't realize his hair was on fire. In the video, he's still dancing as the flames are on his head. When he spins, the flames go out. People on the set tackle him to extinguish the fire, and his brother Jermaine Jackson, playing the guitar in front of him and

oblivious to the commotion, turns around. When Michael Jackson emerges from the pile of people trying to help him, the top of his head is bald.

The accident, witnessed by thousands of stunned fans at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, came at the height of Jackson's fame, about a year after the release of his best-selling "Thriller" album. It marked what would be the beginning of serious, lifelong pain for Jackson, who had been treated for painkiller addiction and has been described by relatives and friends as being hooked on pain medication at the time of his death last month at age 50.

Jackson, who was photographed in an ambulance with a bandage on his head and his trademark sequined white glove on his right hand, required several surgeries

and needed skin grafts to treat the injury.

In his autobiography, "Moonwalk," he described the cause of the accident as "stupidity, pure and simple."

As he described the accident, he wrote: "... bombs went off on either side of my head, and the sparks set my hair on fire. I was dancing down this ramp and turning around, spinning, not knowing I was on fire. Suddenly I felt my hands reflexively go to my head in an attempt to smother the flames."

As a result of the accident, Pepsi gave Jackson \$1.5 million, which he donated to a burn center named after him.

A representative for Us Weekly had no immediate comment on where the video came from.

## BIZ WEEKLY

### '30 Rock' leads Emmy nominations with 22

LOS ANGELES — Tina Fey's urbane sitcom "30 Rock" received a leading 22 Emmy Award nominations Thursday, while the '60s retro series "Mad Men" led the drama pack with 16 bids.

The shows were honored last year as best comedy and drama and have a chance to repeat the performance at September's awards.

The TV movies "Grey Gardens," with 17 nominations, and "Into the Storm," with 14 nominations, were

among the front-runners. Chandra Wilson of "Grey Anatomy's" and Jim Parsons of "The Big Bang Theory" helped make the announcement at the TV academy's theater — and both proved to be among the lucky.

"No! ... This is some sort of trick fest," said Parsons, when his nomination for lead actor in a comedy series was announced.

"I feel a little dreamlike right now," Parsons said later about his first-time Emmy nomination.

"I'm going to the party" was Wilson's response to her bid for lead actress in a miniseries or movie for "Accidental Friendship." She was also nominated for supporting actress in a drama series for "Grey's Anatomy."

In a sad tribute, "Farrah's Story," a documentary account of Farrah Fawcett's battle against cancer, was nominated in the nonfiction special category. The former "Charlie's Angels" star died June 25.

### NY gallery resumes sale of Warhol's Jackson

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. — An Andy Warhol portrait of Michael Jackson is back on the auction block at a New York art gallery.

The Vered Gallery in East Hampton, N.Y., removed the painting from a sale that closed last Sunday. Gallery co-owner Janet Lehr said

Thursday it's again available to the highest bidder.

The 30-by-26-inch painting shows a smiling Jackson in a red jacket from his 1980s "Thriller" days.

It's owned by a private collector.

Because of renewed interest in all things Jackson since his death, Lehr says it's anyone's guess how much the painting might fetch.

Prospective buyers must register with the gallery to bid via e-mail, telephone or in person. The auction closes Aug. 18.

### McCartney performs where Beatles made US TV debut

NEW YORK — Paul McCartney returned to the Ed Sullivan Theater 45 years after the Beatles made their U.S. television debut there.

This time, McCartney put on an outdoor show atop the theater's marquee for thousands of fans Wednesday. The performance was shown during the former Beatle's first appearance on CBS' "Late Show With David Letterman."

The Beatles made their American television debut on "The Ed Sullivan Show" on Feb. 9, 1964.

During his appearance with Letterman, McCartney recalled that it was

"kind of scary" the first time the Beatles appeared on Sullivan's show.

However, he didn't acknowledge it when a floor manager asked "you nervous?" when the curtain was about to be raised for McCartney to perform "Yesterday" alone without his bandmates.

"You should be," McCartney said the manager told him. "There's 73 million people watching."

Letterman said that his impression of the Beatles was that it was four guys on a long spring break, having a great time. The Beatles went briefly to Miami the first time they came to the United States.

"The British car firm loaned us an MG each and, you know, there was a beach and sand and girls and, come on!" McCartney said.

Letterman and McCartney talked about the ex-Beatle's friendship with the late Michael Jackson. The two men recorded the duet "The Girl Is Mine" on Jackson's "Thriller" album.

McCartney advised Jackson to think about music publishing as an investment. Jackson bought rights to many of the Beatles' songs, and McCartney's hopes of getting a better deal with the new owner were in vain.

### Some Poles outraged Madonna to perform on holy day

WARSAW, Poland — Madonna's "Sticky & Sweet" tour brings her to Poland's capital on Aug. 15, the Catholic holiday celebrating the heavenly assumption of the Virgin Mary. That's sparking criticism and plans for protests in the Roman Catholic country.

Marian Brudzinski, the leader of the Catholic group Committee for the Protection of Faith and National Traditions, said Thursday he is outraged by the timing. He plans two weeks of protests starting July 31 in downtown Warsaw.

Poland's ombudsman, Janusz Kocha-

nowski, has asked Warsaw city officials to explain why the singer would be allowed to perform on a date bound to provoke and offend.

Even former President Lech Walesa, a Catholic and father of eight, says he would like the concert rescheduled.

### Police: Burglary at Orlando Bloom's home

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles police say they are investigating a break-in at Orlando Bloom's Los Angeles home.

Police spokeswoman Amanda Betat (BAY-tat) says officers responded to the 32-year-old actor's home Wednesday afternoon.

She says police were called to the home by one of Bloom's rela-

tives, who reported that it had been burglarized. Some cash and jewelry was reported stolen, but police did not release an amount.

Betat says detectives continue

to investigate and no arrests have been made.

A phone message left for Bloom's publicist was not immediately returned Thursday.

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Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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## Web offers new view of space

"Lift-off!"

On a warm Wednesday morning in Cape Canaveral, Fla., the roaring sound of five massive F-1 rocket engines suddenly drowned out millions of cheers and a bright streak of exhaust sliced up through the sky. "We have a lift-off, 32 minutes past the hour. Lift-off on Apollo 11."

I may not have been alive 40 years ago when a Saturn V launched Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins on the first manned mission to land on the moon, but watching the live stream from WeChooseTheMoon.org I could feel a good analogue to that rush of awe and inspiration that my parents and grandparents surely did.

WeChooseTheMoon is just one of many social media initiatives through which our generation is experiencing the wonder of space travel in a new and exciting way.

The project, put on by the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, is a brilliant use of modern Web technologies, intended to bring every step of the mission to millions of users worldwide in real time — plus 40 years.

Their slick Flash-based Web site includes a live feed of the mission audio, a "real time" tracker for the spacecraft's position, as well as photos, video and contextual trivia from every stage of the mission as it progresses.

Users also have the option to follow simulated Twitter feeds from the astronauts in the Apollo 11 spacecraft, Mission Control in Houston, and (when appropriate) the lunar module. Buzz Aldrin (now a regular Twitter user) is

### Stephen Torrence



also sharing some memories via his own account this week.

Current space operations also are increasing their use of social media and Web tools. I followed NASA astronaut Mike Massimino (@Astro\_Mike) on his trip into space aboard STS-125 back in May. His tweets about the trivial to the spectacular aspects of his adventure brought me closer than I have ever been to understanding what it is like to be an astronaut.

On Wednesday, I watched the NASA TV live webcast of the latest shuttle launch, STS-127. Mission commander Mark Polansky (@Astro\_127) tweeted often in the days and weeks leading up to the twice-delayed launch and has been sending regular updates from orbit.

Possibly the most mind-blowing experience of all for me recently was witnessing the launch of a Malaysian satellite-bearing Space X Falcon 1 commercial rocket — from the rocket itself — live.

In about eight minutes I watched, transfixed, as if I myself were hanging on for dear life while the rocket accelerated up from a lonely island in the South Pacific, gliding through layers of clouds, shrugging off its first stage and outer layers, and finally arcing up into a parking orbit with a clear view of the Earth's curvature.

Seeing that launch from such a unique perspective live on the Space X Web site, it struck me how truly far we have come in the last 40 years. Granted, we're not returning to the moon for at least another ten years, but live video and Twitter feeds of current NASA and private operations sate the hunger of space junkies like myself pretty darn well.

Imagine (if all goes well) what those next moon landings will be like for us here on Earth. After watching the lift-off in brilliantly clear HD video from any one of several dozen cameras, we turn to live audio, video and Twitter feeds from the spacecraft itself as it makes its three-day journey to our cratered companion.

On arrival day we watch breathlessly as the lunar module descends to the surface, following real-time (albeit distance-delayed) telemetry on NASA's Web site, counting down the feet until the craft nestles in the soft lunar soil.

The first human to touch the moon in almost a half century exits his craft, and we switch to an HD camera feed from his chest with perhaps an inset feed of his face.

As he speaks whatever stirring words he has prepared for this

momentous occasion, a billion people tweet them, post them as their Facebook status, or simply shed a tear of awe as if they were standing there right beside him, gazing out over the vast gray landscape.

For however long the astronauts are there we watch HD video of everything they do. When one of them trips on a moon rock, the whole world laughs with them a few seconds later and then posts the clip on YouTube. When one

of them throws a football 400 yards, sports fans worldwide clap in unison and a few geeks immediately edit the Wikipedia page for Moon Sports Records.

When the astronauts return home, a billion people welcome them back with @replies and excited Facebook and YouTube videos. Millions of kids wish with all their being that they could go up on the next rocket. Dozens of

them might get such a chance.

The rest of us, too old or too removed from that life track, smile in gratitude at the fact that even though we might not be able to live the dream we had when we were their age, technology is bringing us pretty darn close.

**Torrence is a philosophy major from Georgetown. E-mail him at [stephen.torrence@ttu.edu](mailto:stephen.torrence@ttu.edu).**

*"In about eight minutes I watched, transfixed, as if I myself were hanging on for dear life while the rocket accelerated up from a lonely island in the South Pacific"*

## Procedures using cats can save lives

I am a firm believer in the ethical treatment of animals.

Texas Tech's continued run-in with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has left me asking myself, "Is Tech's experimentation on animals for human betterment unethical?"

Actor Woody Harrelson, in a letter he wrote to Texas Tech Health Sciences Center President John Baldwin, said he was shocked to learn about the purchase and experimentation on cats for medical training purposes.

Harrelson's letter said in part, "Cats used for the experiments have plastic tubes forced down their throats and needles stabbed into their chests and are then killed."

The procedure that he is referring to is endotracheal intubation.

According to Medterms.com, endotracheal intubation is performed by running a tube down the patient's throat to alleviate an airway that is either obstructed or damaged.

Though it seems barbaric to push a tube down a cat's throat, the cats are under anesthesia and experience no pain.

Endotracheal intubation can be very painful, but it is a cardinal procedure. The consequences, if administered incorrectly, usually result in death or permanent injury. That is why it is of the utmost importance that medical officials are adequately trained in this procedure.

### Daniel Clayton



Harrelson proposed "realistic manikins that more accurately represent human anatomy," provide a more viable and ethical approach to training medical students.

The animals Tech purchases to train medical students come from an animal shelter where their fate was euthanasia and cremation. Now the animals are being used to train students to save lives.

PETA's cause, though noble, is annoying. What happened to the days when celebrities threw paint on each other's mink coat and walked around naked? Now PETA has resorted to damaging a prestigious institution's reputation by implying felonious activities.

PETA also endorses vegetarian diets for dogs and cats. This is unethical and certifiable torture.

PETA states on its Web site, "Some people wonder if it's 'unnatural' to omit meat from the diet of a dog or cat. Animals in the wild commonly eat quite a lot of plant matter."

I have seen a dog eat grass to settle an upset stomach. That doesn't mean a dog can live off of grass alone. It is unnatural to force a carnivorous animal to live off of tofu and rice. Starving an animal of essential nutrients is passive cruelty and a crime.

Manikins cannot replace real life and death consequences. The manikins allow for mistakes. If a medical student messes up on a manikin he or she might think, "At least I can try again."

There are no second chances if endotracheal intubation is performed on a child incorrectly. Perfection is key. Learning the procedure on a live animal helps the student realize the weight of his or her actions.

Using the cats for this purpose is ethical and necessary for the education of medical students.

PETA, causing unnecessary controversy doesn't lead to change.

**Clayton is a junior print journalism major from Amarillo. E-mail him at [daniel.k.clayton@ttu.edu](mailto:daniel.k.clayton@ttu.edu).**

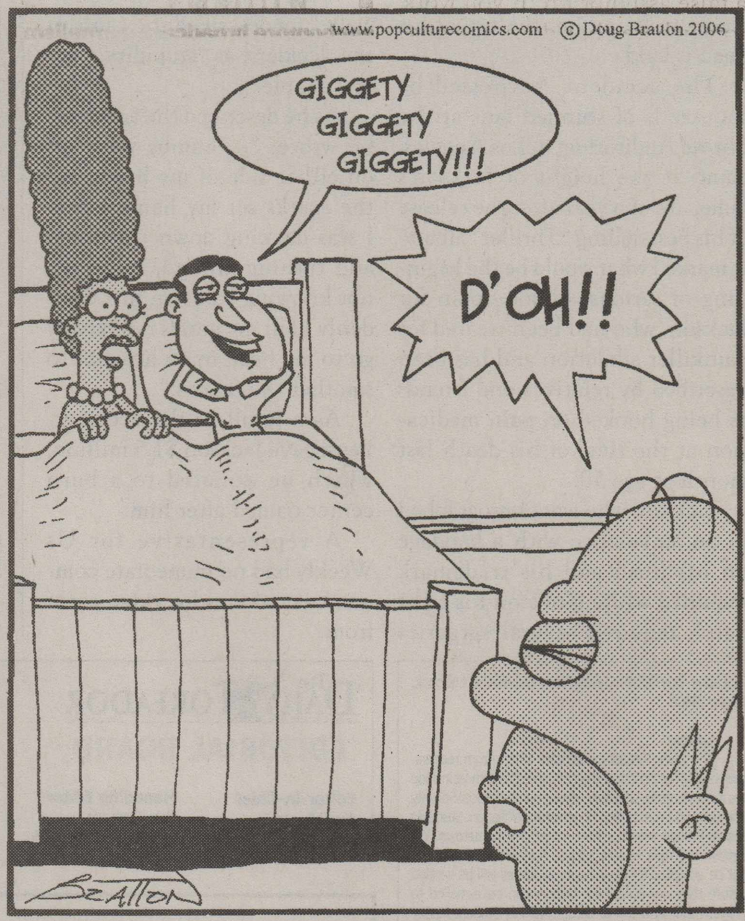
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## Moon landing tapes revamped

WASHINGTON (AP) — NASA still can't find its lost original moon landing videotapes. But that first moonwalk never looked better, thanks to new digitally refurbished copies unveiled Thursday.

The original live video was ghostlike and grainy. NASA and a Hollywood film restoration company took television video copies of what Apollo 11 beamed to Earth on July 20, 1969, and made the pictures look sharper.

The pictures themselves are not new. But some details are. Originally, Armstrong's face visor was too fuzzy to be seen. The refurbished video shows his visor and a reflection in it.

The original videos beamed to earth were stored on giant reels of tapes that contained 15 minutes of video along with 13 other channels of live data from the moon. In the 1970s and 1980s, NASA had a shortage of the tapes and erased about 200,000 of those tapes and reused them.

# Gonzales' hiring a mistake, reflects poorly on university

I recently quit my job as a retail manager. I had worked in retail for nearly 20 years as I worked my way up the ladder. But after being caught breaking company policy on multiple occasions and then lying to my employers about whether I could remember anything I had done over the past year as the manager, I was forced to quit.

Not surprisingly, I could not find work for two years after this incident. I could not even get Kmart to hire me. But then I got a call from Texas Tech Chancellor Kent Hance and he says I can teach a new class called, "Contemporary Issues Facing Retail Management".

After working his way up the ladder in law for 20 years, Alberto Gonzales did some pretty amazing things and got the job of any lawyer's dream, attorney general. However, only two words describe his actions as attorney general: epic fail.

Now there is no need to go into what all he did. We all know what he did. He oversaw the destruction of our constitution and then proceeded to lie about it to Congress. He allowed the violation of not only international law but domestic law. We have all heard his shortcomings. Now Hance believes he has the ability to teach Tech students in a class called Contemporary Issues Facing the Executive Branch. Only one class and only 15 students allowed. Oh and did I mention



**Paul Williamson**

The \$100,000 Tech will be paying him to teach and help recruit minority students?

Has Hance ever heard of a thing called integrity? How about ethics? Gonzales goes against the very thing Tech's statement of ethical principles says: "Texas Tech University is committed to transparency in governance".

How about this from the same statement: "The university is committed to supporting the following principles and to protecting those rights guaranteed by the Constitution, the laws of the United States and the State of Texas."

Oh I am sure Hance really was thinking about those when he hired a man responsible for throwing the Constitution out the door and making government transparency

obsolete. The biggest argument in favor of this hiring is that he worked in the White House; therefore he has the best knowledge of how the executive branch works. No, that is a false assumption. If you work somewhere that does not give you the best knowledge of how that works.

Next Hance will hire Paris Hilton to teach Hotel Management classes or former Enron CEO Jeffrey Skilling to teach in our economics department.

In January of 2007 there were Senate Judiciary Hearings. "The Constitution doesn't say every individual in the United States or every citizen is hereby granted or assured the right of habeas," said professor Gonzales to Senator Arlen Specter during the hearings.

According to the United States Constitution "The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion of the public Safety may require it." Now one could make the argument (in which I do disagree) that the public safety was involved therefore habeas can be suspended.

But Gonzales did not say that. He did not say anything about being in the middle of a "war on terror" but rather he said not everyone is entitled to something so clearly stated in our Constitution that Tech supposedly supports. If you ever get the chance to watch that part of the hearing between Specter and Gonzales on YouTube, do it. It is quite hilarious.

The hiring of Gonzales has done nothing but serve as a black eye to this institution that so nearly lost its accreditation. This brings nothing but negative publicity to our beloved university. Nothing positive has come from this hiring. I would have rather seen the \$100,000 go to minority scholarships rather than to this man.

The only good thing is that his class must be super easy. The answer to every question is: I don't recall.

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

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am a proud graduate of Texas Tech, class of '85 magna cum laude. I've watched Tech, rooted for the sports teams, looked for alumni in my area — New England — for almost 25 years. I've heard snarky comments like, "I often wonder who goes to Tech" and responded with, "Some of the best brains in the world."

But, apparently, they don't stay. When Tech hired Bobby Knight, I almost canceled my membership in the Alumni Association. When winning at sports becomes more important than gentlemanly role modeling for the youth who are, after all, there to learn to be gentlemen, then something is not right. Still, he seemed to behave, for the most

part. Maybe somebody spoke to him in language he understood.

But I draw the line at Alberto Gonzales. Hiring him to be associated with Texas Tech in any capacity is unacceptable. While he was the attorney general of the United States, he condoned and approved illegal activities which reduced America's standing on the global stage — not to mention costing American blood.

Who is making these decisions? Former Democratic Congressman Kent Hance? Making him chancellor was almost as bad as hiring Gonzales. Former President George Bush, calling the shots, looking out for old confederates? Secessionist Governor Rick Perry? With Texas

as an independent country, how does he propose to fund higher education?

Fortunately, I received a phone call yesterday wanting me to give \$1,000 to renew my membership in the Alumni Association, making it unnecessary for me to write to cancel. I not only declined, but forcefully ended my membership, and told the caller why.

I didn't get angry; the caller was, after all, probably a student volunteer and unlikely to pass my message along. That is why I'm writing you, hoping you will include this letter in *The Daily Treador*.

**John McNerney, Texas Tech class of 1985**

# Obama urges youth to achieve

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is telling the nation's oldest civil rights organization that government, families and neighborhoods must work together to improve communities.

Obama also planned to urge young people to aspire to surpass their role models and resist the lure of mediocrity during a speech Thursday to the NAACP.

White House aides said the president did not intend to introduce new programs or policy, instead striking an inspirational tone as the civil rights group gathers for its 100th annual convention.

Obama, the first black president, plans to take a restrained tone during his evening remarks instead of a raucous celebration of his history-making campaign, officials said before he flew to New York.

White House aides sought to play down the expectations of the speech, the first so directly linked with race since Obama took office.

"I think the first speech to black America, the first speech to white America, the first speech to America was the inaugural address," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs told reporters on Wednesday.

Implicit in the appearance, Obama is seeking the backing of the powerful NAACP and its members for his ambitious domestic agenda. For all their shared interests, White House aides cautioned that the group's leadership had not guaranteed its support of all of Obama's priorities.

"We will be the people at the end of the day who help make him do what he knows he should do. We will help create the room for (Obama) to fulfill, I think, his own aspirations for his presidency," NAACP President Benjamin Jealous told The Associated Press in an interview earlier this year.

"If he aspires to be the next Abraham Lincoln, I aspire to be his Frederick Douglass," Jealous said, referring to the slave-turned-abolitionist who pressed a cautious Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

Every president since 1909 has visited the NAACP at least once, although some more frequently than others. President George W. Bush skipped the first five meetings before eventually addressing the group in 2006.

For Obama, skipping his first invitation and the centennial festivities was not an option.

White House aides said Obama's speech would celebrate the organization's history and briefly touch on the debate about what the NAACP's next century should bring.

Jealous has pushed his organization to expand its civil rights work beyond black causes to broader human rights. Some members of his organization have resisted, arguing that much work remains to create racial equality in this country.

"The president being black gives us no advantage," Jealous told the AP.

"Our agenda as we head into our second century as a civil rights organization is also to revive our legacy as a human rights organization," he said.

White House aides cautioned that Obama wouldn't wade too deeply into those decisions, aware his role was not to dictate the organization's mission but to celebrate it. Instead, he would seek to reinforce the early pieces of an urban agenda he outlined Monday.

"I think black America has watched this president work on the economy," Gibbs said. "I think black America has watched this president work on health care — an issue of great concern — (and) education."

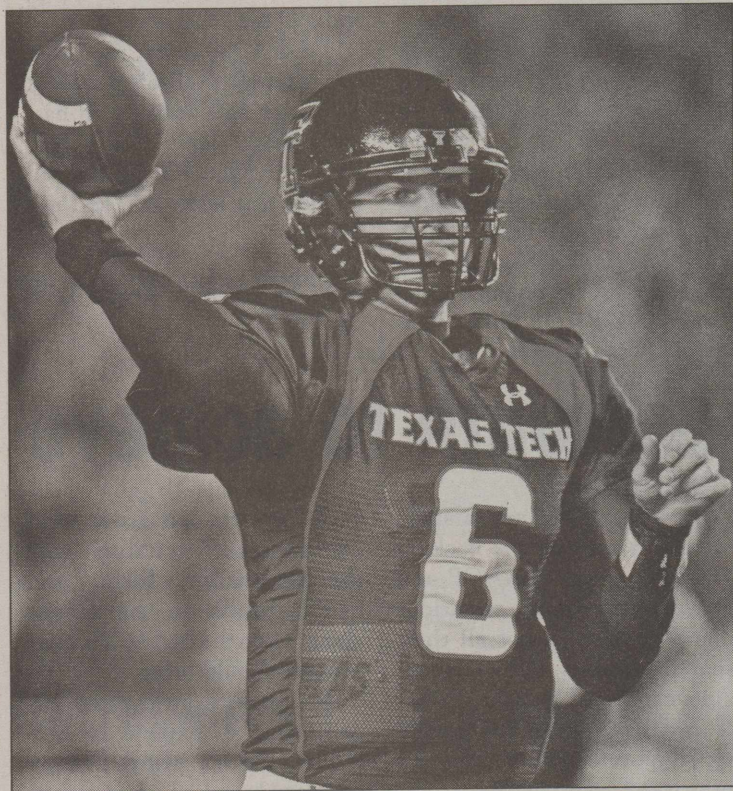
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Will be shown Friday and Saturday, July 17-18.</p> <p><b>AFFORDABLE</b> Special. Nice Tech Terrace 2 bedroom house. 1 bath. Appliances. Private yard. Lovely hardwood floors. Landscaped. 2606-23rd. \$625. Lease today. Move in today. Call for appointment 795-2011.</p> <p><b>AFFORDABLE</b> Special. Tech Terrace near 29th &amp; Boston. 2 bedroom house. 2 bath. Lovely decor. Appliances, hookups. Hardwood floors. Garage. Lovely private fenced yard. Security system. Will be shown Friday and Saturday, July 17-18. 2624 29th. \$695. Call for appointment 795-2011.</p> <p><b>AFFORDABLE</b> Special. 4 blocks off campus. Large one bedroom duplex. Appliances. Security system. Lovely hardwood floors. Separate study. Move in today. 2214 21st. \$455. Call for appointment 795-2011.</p> <p><b>AFFORDABLE</b> We have wonderful 1, 2, 3 bedroom homes in quiet residential neighborhoods with nice appliances and lovely yards. Pets are welcome at many properties. Short leases available on some one bedrooms. For info photos and appointment to view come by and visit with Ann or BJ at 4211 34th or call 795-2011.</p>	<h3>UNFURNISHED</h3> <p><b>BACKYARD APARTMENT</b> near Tech. Clean, quiet, reasonable. No pets. 741-1800.</p> <p><b>BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED</b> 2/1/1. Hardwood &amp; tiled floors. Must see. 2507 Kenosha. \$72,500. 438-6750.</p> <p><b>CLOSE TO CAMPUS</b> We have several one bedroom houses with appliances. Private parking and private yard. Price \$295-\$595. For info see Ann or BJ at 4211 34th, afternoons 1-5.</p> <p><b>DOWNTOWN LOFT APARTMENT AVAILABLE NOW</b> Not your typical cookie-cutter apartment experience. 1 bedroom / 1.5 bath - 1400 sq. ft. Remodel of old warehouse. 20' exposed wood ceilings. Stained concrete floors. DSL internet available. Very quiet, laid-back community. Perfect for Tech faculty/staff, graduate, law, &amp; medical students. 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Call Bill 470-7037.</p> <p><b>SUPER CUTE</b> 3/1. Hardwood floors. Large backyard with deck. Close to Tech. \$700/month. 5005 38th St. 806-549-0364.</p> <p><b>UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY</b> 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartments available with washer/dryer units. Fireplace. 1187 sf. Savannah Oaks 5204 50th. 806-797-8612.</p> <p><b>FOR SALE</b> <b>MATTRESS, FURNITURE</b> 5127 34th Street (34th &amp; Slide). 785-7253.</p> <p><b>ROOMMATES</b> FEMALE ROOMMATE Needed at University Fountains. Sub-Lease for \$530/month for 1 year. 4 Bed-Bath + Loft. August &amp; September free. Contact <a href="mailto:yolandawebb@hotmail.com">yolandawebb@hotmail.com</a>.</p> <p><b>MALE ROOMMATE</b>, 3/3 at Lynnwood Townhomes. \$350/month, \$200/deposit. Cable, internet, W/D. Fully furnished except bedroom. 972-533-9575, 512-608-3465.</p> <p><b>ROOMMATE WANTED</b> for 3/1. \$500/mo. All bills paid. Fully furnished except bedroom. Internet, cable, W/D. 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## Harrell will play in Canadian Football League



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

FORMER TEXAS TECH quarterback Graham Harrell will play in the Canadian Football League with the Saskatchewan Roughriders this season after not being picked up by a team in the National Football League.

By ALEX YBARRA  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After not being picked up by a team in the National Football League, former Texas Tech quarterback Graham Harrell is headed North to play for the Saskatchewan Roughriders of the Canadian Football League.

Now that he has the opportunity to show what he can do on a professional level, Harrell will compete against five other quarterbacks for the Roughriders, who are 2-0 so far this season.

The starter for the Roughriders is former North Carolina quarterback Darian Durant, who has completed 36-of-59 passes for 518 yards, three touchdowns and four interceptions. His four picks tie him for first among CFL quarterbacks and his 78.2 passer rating is third lowest among those with more than 50 pass attempts.

Harrell will team up with former teammate and receiver Eric Morris. The Shallowater product is returning kicks and punts for the Roughriders while working to earn more reps as a receiver behind 2008 Rookie of the Year Weston Dressler.

Morris had 149 receptions, 1,538

yards and 18 touchdowns in his last two seasons as a Red Raider.

"It'll be fun," he said of reuniting with Harrell. "It'll be good to have a friend and someone I'm comfortable with and I've thrown so many balls with before in my life."

The 6-foot-2, 223-pound Harrell finished his career at Tech with 15,793 yards and 134 touchdowns — both NCAA records — and led his team to a historic No. 2 ranking while finishing fourth in Heisman Trophy voting last season.

In his final year, he threw for 5,111 yards and 45 touchdowns, earning him the Johnny Unitas Golden

Arm award, which is presented to the top senior quarterback.

Despite all that, he was skipped over in the 2009 NFL Draft before working out at rookie camp with the Cleveland Browns, who eventually cut ties with Harrell because of an overload at the quarterback position.

"It'll be a chance for him to get some good film and some quality players and hopefully in the end it'll benefit him and he'll have a shot in the NFL," Morris said. "If not, he's gonna be great in the offenses that we run up here and get a lot of success."

Since Tech coach Mike Leach

implemented his spread offense, Red Raider quarterbacks from Kliff Kingsbury to B.J. Symons to Cody Hodges have battled the "system quarterback" label that damages their credibility when it comes to playing in the NFL.

However, Harrell seems to have taken the most criticism and is the most surprising of Leach's quarterbacks to not receive a legitimate chance in the league considering all his accomplishments.

But after not being chosen in the draft either, Morris can see how Harrell was shut out.

"I was shocked (Harrell went undrafted) as far as the production that he put out at Tech and the numbers and how consistent he was there," Morris said. "But kind of after going through the process myself, not really. It's a tough business to get into to."

Morris said Harrell has proved his leadership and accuracy during the past three years and expects him to show up ready to compete and make plays.

"He'll do great up here," he said. "So really I think this is gonna be a good opportunity for him."

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*It'll be a chance for him to get some good film and some quality players and hopefully in the end it'll benefit him, and he'll have a shot in the NFL.*

ERIC MORRIS

Saskatchewan Roughriders  
Receiver

## Tech punter LaCour suspended six games

Texas Tech punter Jonathan LaCour has been suspended for the first six games of the 2009 season, Texas Tech spokesman Chris Cook confirmed Thursday.

Cook declined to comment on the reason for the suspension, and he said the matter will be handled internally.

"The student-athlete in question was found in violation of Big 12 eligibility rules and has been declared ineligible," read a short prepared statement by the Big 12

Conference.

With the suspension, LaCour will miss games against North Dakota, Rice, Texas, Houston, New Mexico and Kansas State. Despite missing two Big 12 games against Texas and Kansas State, LaCour should be available for the last six conference games.

LaCour, who will be a junior next season, was one of the leading freshmen punters in 2007. He ranked 23rd nationally and second overall among freshmen with an average of 42.7 yards per

punt. However, he struggled in 2008 with his average dipping several yards to 37.1 per punt.

In spring practices, the position battle at punter seemed to be more intense than the past two seasons. Kicker Donnie Carona has shown the ability to punt well on a consistent basis, and has some walk-on punters to help alleviate the temporary absence of LaCour.

Tech coach Mike Leach was unavailable for comment.

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## British Open a battle between three generations

The crowd was beginning to grow restless at the Turnberry links course in Scotland as the legends Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson strolled up the 18th fairway, knowing in the next few moments the champion of the 1977 British Open would be crowned.

In the end Watson sank his putt and ended what would become a legendary tournament in golf history known as the "Duel in the Sun." That was the first year the British Open was played at Turnberry and it seems almost poetic that now, 32 years later, the 59-year-old Watson is at the top of the leader board again playing for his sixth open championship.

Watson has not won a British Open since his back-to-back victories in 1982 and 1983 and it would be an amazing chapter in his long and successful career.

The PGA TOUR has featured the rise of a young class of golfers in recent years to challenge the legends of today. Each week the tour's top players such as Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Vijay Singh are challenged by young newcomers such as Anthony Kim, Sean O'Hair and 19-year-old phenom

Chris Martin



Rory McIlroy.

I knew coming into this week two generations of golfers would be battling for the Claret Jug but never in my wildest dreams did I think a golfer who dominated the game before I was born would be vying for the top spot.

Watson fired a 5-under 65 Thursday morning to claim the morning lead while younger stars such as Camilo Villegas and Sean O'Hair lurk only strokes behind.

Meanwhile, Woods, who has yet to claim a major victory since his return from his knee surgery in 2008, struggled through his opening round with a 1-over 71 after shooting two bogeys in his final four holes. But Woods has won two tournaments in 2009 and has shown vast improvements in his game coming into this weekend.

Another player who has his eyes set on this year's championship is Ireland's Pad-

raig Harrington, who has won the event the past two years. He currently resides in 124th place in the FedExCup standings, however, history has proven he always plays his best golf at the British Open.

So there is no doubt three distinct generations of champions will be competing in the British Open this weekend, which makes the atmosphere that surrounds the tournament much more exciting.

Woods most likely will charge toward the front of the leaderboard at some point, as he commonly does after a mediocre first round, and golf fans everywhere will watch intently to see if Watson can hold his composure and remain at the top of the pack to win his first open in 26 years — making him the oldest golfer to ever win a major.

Or perhaps a new face will be holding the Claret Jug on Sunday bringing in a new era of dominance from golfers under 30, only time will tell. But I can assure you that this year's British Open will be one that will be remembered for years to come.

■ **Martin is a sophomore Public Relations major from Lubbock. E-mail him at [christopher.n.martin@ttu.edu](mailto:christopher.n.martin@ttu.edu).**

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