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Texas Tech student indicted for capital murder

Undetermined if Oguntope will face death penalty, life imprisonment

By **CAITLAN OSBORN**
News Editor

Texas Tech student Sampson Blake Oguntope, 21, was indicted Wednesday by a Lubbock County grand jury on capital murder charges, in regard to a fatal Slaton shooting Feb. 22 which left one woman dead and another injured.

Steven Wheeler, chief of the Slaton Police Department, said originally

Oguntope, a Houston native, was a person of interest regarding the homicide and he was detained at the Detention Center on charges of theft.

Slaton police found Faye Gray, 89, and her female caretaker, 21, had both sustained gunshot wounds. Gray was pronounced dead at the scene while the younger woman was transported to University Medical Center for treatment. She was later released from the hospital.

Oguntope was later charged with first-degree murder, the maximum sentence of which is life in prison without the possibility of parole.



OGUNTOPE

Oguntope was indicted for the sexual assault of Gray with the intention of taking her life and for the attempt to burglarize Gray with the intention of taking her life.

It is unknown if Oguntope will be facing the death penalty — the maximum sentence under capital murder charges.

According to the Texas Penal Code, in order for a murder to be capital murder, it must involve one or more offenses listed in the code, including intentional murder in the course of committing or attempting to commit a felony offense (such as burglary, robbery, aggravated sexual assault, arson, obstruction or retaliation, or terroristic threat).

Members of the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to 1480

W. Crosby St. in Slaton to assist the Slaton Police Department with a homicide investigation, according to a news release by the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office.

At 8:12 a.m. authorities received a complaint that a black male had made contact with a Slaton resident and was asking personal questions, including what times the resident went to work and would return home. Officials said the resident said Oguntope was asking if a woman around 21 years old lived at the home.

Wheeler said authorities discovered

the person of interest lived in Lubbock and was enrolled as a student at Tech. After contacting the Texas Tech Police Department, they found Oguntope's vehicle was entered under Tech property.

Tech PD, the Department of Public Safety and the Texas Rangers tried locating him on campus, and the Lubbock SWAT team set surveillance on Oguntope's residence in north Lubbock, at 3620 Marshall St. Oguntope was arrested in Lubbock at his address.

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Nonprofit internship fair provides students with work opportunities outside of volunteering



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

MURRAY COULTER AND Jim Graves, board members for the Lubbock Memorial Arboretum, talk with Meredith Crider, a sophomore psychology major from Dallas, about an internship with the Arboretum during the Career Services internship fair Wednesday in the Wiggins complex.

Nonprofits have one-on-one sessions with Tech students

By **BETSY EPPLER**
Contributing Writer

At the Nonprofit Internship Fair in the Wiggins Complex on Wednesday afternoon, 13 agencies provided Texas Tech students with additional options for employment, both now and after graduation.

Kristen Seideman, the assistant director of the University Career Services, said local nonprofit work provides Tech students with an opportunity to give back to the Lubbock community before graduation.

"It's kind of a window into the heart of Lubbock," she said. "There are a lot of causes here that are specific to the Lubbock area."

Organizations that took part in the event included Lubbock Buckner Aftercare, Memorial Arboretum and South Plains Food Bank.

Kinsey Zots, a senior human development and family studies major from Wichita Falls, said she thinks nonprofit organizations often get overlooked when students are searching for job prospects. She said her mother worked for a nonprofit organization, so she understands the value in them.

"I think they're very beneficial to the community," she said.

This is the second semester University Career Services has hosted this event, Seideman said. The first was in October, she said, and was a resounding success.

"We've had really good feedback," she said, "not just from our students, but from the agencies."

The event began after Rachel Flores, a former Tech student, began working at the Volunteer Center of Lubbock as an intern.

Flores said, as a student, she had difficulty finding an internship with a nonprofit organization. Once she got her job with the Volunteer Center, she said, every nonprofit she came in contact with complained about needing interns.

"I felt like there was a lack of communication," she said.

Then she reached out to the Volunteer Center and proposed the internship fair, Flores said. She offered to provide all of the participating agencies if Career Services would provide the students and the facility.

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BURNT BOARD

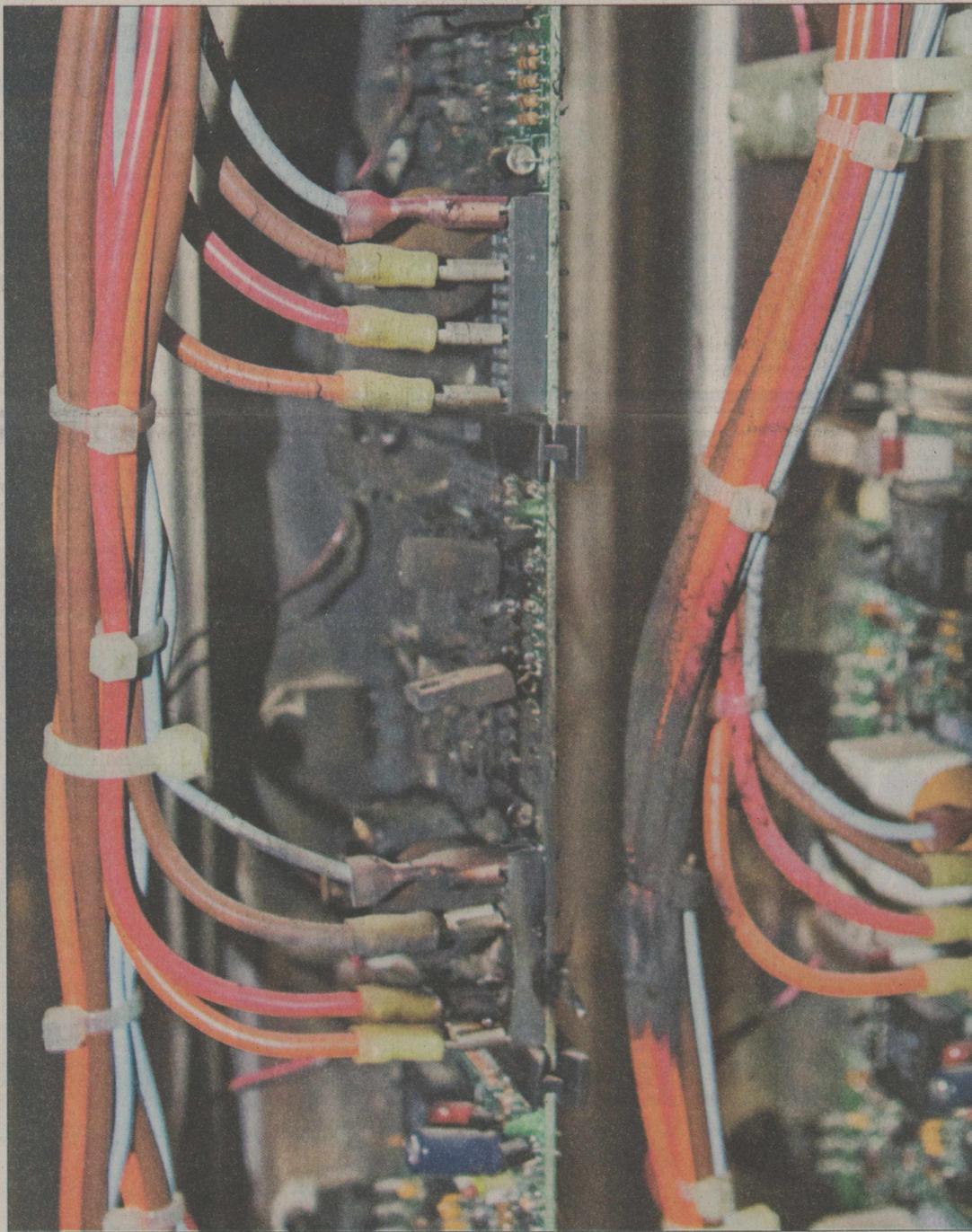


PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

A CIRCUIT BOARD was burnt during an electrical fire in the Biology Lecture Hall on Wednesday. Because of the fire, the lecture hall and basement were evacuated and some classes were canceled.

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WEATHER

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Gleinser: Radical religious groups seek attention
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Community Calendar

TODAY

Texas Tech's Landmark Arts
Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: School of Art

So, what is it?

Enjoy Virginia Saunders exhibit, "Visions and Dreams," with images based on Saunders' recent travels in Europe and China.

Da Vinci: The Genius

Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Science Spectrum Museum

So, what is it?

This traveling exhibition features some of da Vinci's full-scale machine inventions crafted from his personal notebooks, as well as reproductions of his most famous Renaissance art, including the "Mona Lisa," "Virgin of the Rocks," "The Annunciation," the "Last Supper," the "Vitruvian Man" and the "Sforza Horse."

Skillsoft Educational Session

Time: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Texas Tech Library

So, what is it?

Join the IT Division for this educational opportunity.

Gallery Talk on "Windows to Heaven: Russian Icons"

Time: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Where: Museum of Texas Tech

So, what is it?

Ildris Traylor will lead a discussion in conjunction with the exhibition "Windows to Heaven: Treasures for the Museum of Russian Icons."

TAB Speaker Series: Media Bias Debate

Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Where: Student Union Building, Allen Theatre

So, what is it?

Enjoy a debate presented by Peter Hart and Steve Randall as they discuss what part media outlets play in shaping the public's opinion of presidential candidates.

To make a calendar submission email dailystoreador@ttu.edu.

Events will be published either the day or the day before they take place. Submissions must be sent in by 4 p.m. on the preceding publication date.

FRIDAY

Trumpet Symposium

Time: All day

Where: Hemmle Recital Hall

So, what is it?

Enjoy a performance by area musicians as they participate in two days of clinics, master classes, guest artist performances and festival competition.

Title IX: History of Women's Leadership in Sports

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.

Where: Southwest Collection/Special Collection Library, Marshall Formby room

So, what is it?

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Women's Studies Program and Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library will host an informal discussion with guest speaker Judi Henry, the senior associate director of athletics.

Texas Tech Softball vs. Iowa State

Time: 6 p.m.

Where: Rocky Johnson Field

So, what is it?

Support the Red Raiders as they compete against Iowa State.

Texas Tech Women's Tennis vs. Oklahoma State

Time: 6 p.m.

Where: McLeod Tennis Center

So, what is it?

Support the Lady Raiders as they compete against the Cowboys.

Anoushka Shankar

Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Where: Student Union Building, Allen Theatre

So, what is it?

The Presidential Lecture and Performance Series presents Anoushka Shankar, will perform music from her newest album, "Traveller," which combines the diverse music from Spain and traditional Indian music.

COOKIE CRAFTING

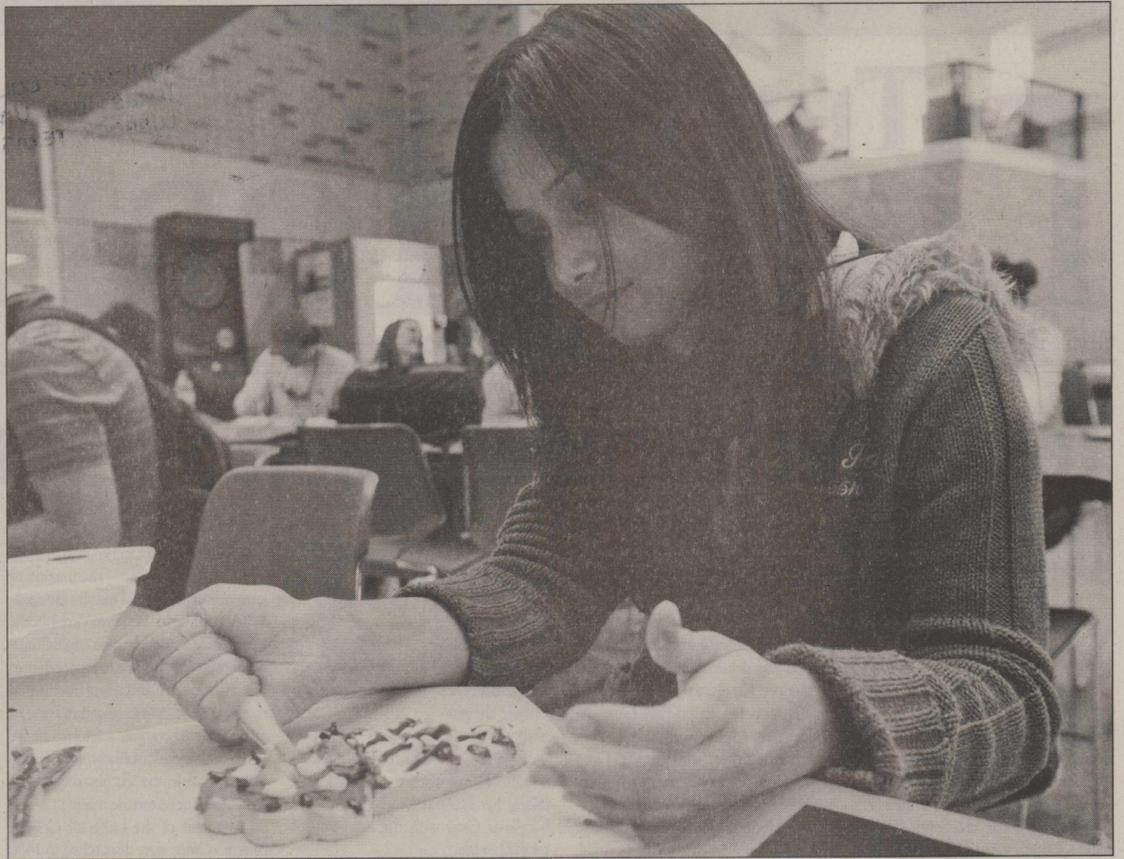


PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador

SAKTAH KHAN, A junior restaurant, hotel and institutional management major, decorates a heart-shaped cookie at the Tech Activities Board's Cookie By Design Event in the Student Union Building on Wednesday.

Arab summit appears divided over approach to Syria

BAGHDAD (AP) — Arab leaders gathering here Thursday will call for Syria to implement a cease-fire, but there's little faith that President Bashar Assad will do anything to halt his crackdown on the year-old uprising.

That could set the stage for Gulf Arab nations, eager to see Assad's downfall, to take stronger action on their own.

Arab governments are divided over how strongly to intervene to stop the bloodshed in Syria, and their divi-

sions illustrate how the conflict has become a proxy in the region's wider rivalry — the one between Arabs and powerhouse Iran.

Sunni-led nations of the Gulf such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar — hoping to break Syria out of its alliance with Shiite Iran — are believed to be considering arming the Syrian rebels to fight back against Assad's forces. But other Arab nations are reluctant to openly call for that step yet.

Iraq, the host of the one-day Arab League summit, is in a particularly

tight spot because its Shiite-led government has close ties to Iran, Assad's top ally.

Given the divisions, foreign ministers meeting here Wednesday laid out a middle-ground for their leaders to issue at the summit. The draft resolution they put together would reject foreign intervention in Syria while voicing support for the Syrian people's "legitimate aspirations to freedom and democracy." It would call on Assad to implement a cease-fire and let in humanitarian aid,

according to a copy obtained by The Associated Press.

The leaders also "denounce the acts of violence, killings ... and remain committed to a peaceful settlement and national dialogue," it said.

It also supports the mission of joint U.N.-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan, who has put forward a peace plan to end the regime's crackdown that the U.N. estimates has killed more than 9,000 people since the uprising began in March 2011 as part of the Arab Spring.

POLICE BLOTTER

Students arrested for public intoxication

Tuesday

12:23 p.m. — A Texas Tech officer documented information concerning a non-student who was attending a student organization meeting in the Student Union Building's Toreador Room and caused a disruption.

2:45 p.m. — A Tech officer responded to a medical emergency in the R14 parking lot. A student was feeling ill. Emergency Medical Services responded and determined the student's blood sugar was low. The student refused to be trans-

ported to the hospital.

5:18 p.m. — A Tech officer detained a student for an emergency detention in the Psychology building Clinic. The student was transported by EMS to Covenant Hospital Emergency Room.

6:15 p.m. — A Tech officer investigated burglary of a motor vehicle in the 3rd floor of the Flint Avenue Parking Garage. A skateboard was taken from the trunk of an unsecured vehicle.

6:51 p.m. — A Tech officer arrested two students for public intoxication in the R2 parking lot. Both students were transported to the Lubbock County Jail.

8:27 p.m. — A Tech officer issued a non-student a criminal trespass warning from all Texas Tech property following a complaint from the staff at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center that he was interfering at an event. The non-student was released after receiving the warning.

9:22 p.m. — A Tech officer detained a student for an emergency detention at Gates Residence Hall. The student was transported by EMS to Covenant Hospital Emergency Room.

11:20 p.m. — A Tech officer responded to a medical emergency at the Rec Center's basketball court #6. A student had a sprained left ankle. The student was transported by EMS to University Medical Center Emergency Room.

Wednesday

12:18 a.m. — A Tech officer detained six students in Sneed Residence Hall, following a report of a loud party. Two of the students were issued Lubbock County citations for possession of alcohol by a minor. The remaining students were released without charges.

Information provided by B.J. Watson of the Texas Tech Police Department.

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This establishment, Texas Tech University & The Daily Toreador do not encourage underage drinking or alcohol abuse.

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
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
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By Elizabeth A. Long 3/29/12

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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Don't look where you fall, but where you slipped.

~African Proverb

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Internships

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Flores said she made a requirement that all agencies must attend a workshop to ensure they have the capacity to have an intern.

"It's a perfect partnership," she said.

Christa Threet, the executive administrator of South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, said she was involved in the fair in October and looked forward to participating again in this semester's event.

"We're looking for someone that's driven," she said, "and we know that when someone comes to something like this, they have to be driven to want to do something."

The event provides her, and

students, the chance to brush up on their interviewing skills, Threet said, because of the way it is structured. Each agency meets with students one-on-one in a separate room. Threet said it gives agencies and students the time to represent themselves well.

Alexandra Pedrini, a junior electronic media and communications major from Dallas, said she thinks the private meetings are excellent networking opportunities.

"It gives you really good experience," she said, "so that later on when you find a real job, you know how to handle that situation."

Flores said she hopes this event will give students a more accurate understanding of what a nonprofit can be.

"I think people just view nonprofits as what they do when

they volunteer," she said. "I don't think a lot of students realize there are places to do marketing and education and family studies."

Peter Richardson, a senior sociology major from Muskogee, Okla., said his purpose in attending the fair might be unique.

"I'm actually thinking of starting my own nonprofit," he said. Richardson said he wants to meet with the organizations in order to understand how to get started. He said he would like to use a job with one of the local nonprofits as a jumping off point.

Seideman said, whatever a student's goals, she thinks nonprofits are an ideal place for graduates to get their feet wet.

"We want the students to see the opportunities out there for them," she said.

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Mumbai, Miami on list for big weather disasters

WASHINGTON (AP) — Global warming is leading to such severe storms, droughts and heat waves that nations should prepare for an unprecedented onslaught of deadly and costly weather disasters, an international panel of climate scientists said in a new report issued Wednesday.

The greatest threat from extreme weather is to highly populated, poor regions of the world, the report warns, but no corner of the globe — from Mumbai to Miami — is immune. The document by a Nobel Prize-winning panel of climate scientists forecasts stronger tropical cyclones and more frequent heat waves, deluges and droughts.

The 594-page report blames the scale of recent and future di-

asters on a combination of man-made climate change, population shifts and poverty.

In the past, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, founded in 1988 by the United Nations, has focused on the slow inexorable rise of temperatures and oceans as part of global warming. This report by the panel is the first to look at the less common but far more noticeable extreme weather changes, which lately have been costing on average about \$80 billion a year in damage.

"We mostly experience weather and climate through the extreme," said one of the report's top editors, Chris Field, an ecologist with the Carnegie Institution of Washington. "That's where we have the losses. That's where we

have the insurance payments. That's where things have the potential to fall apart.

"There are lots of places that are already marginal for one reason or another," Field said. But it's not just poor areas: "There is disaster risk almost everywhere."

The report specifically points to New Orleans during 2005's Hurricane Katrina, noting that "developed countries also suffer severe disasters because of social vulnerability and inadequate disaster protection."

In coastal areas of the United States, property damage from hurricanes and rising seas could increase by 20 percent by 2030, the report said. And in parts of Texas, the area vulnerable to storm surge could more than double by 2080.

Texas man executed for 10-month-old boy's death

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A convicted child sex offender was executed Wednesday for the beating death of a 10-month-old boy he was baby-sitting at a home in Dallas.

Jesse Joe Hernandez received lethal injection for the slaying of Karlos Borja 11 years ago.

"Tell my son I love him very much," the 47-year-old Hernandez said before being put to death. "God bless everybody. Continue to walk with God."

As the drugs took effect, he repeated his appreciation for those he knew who had gathered to witness the execution. "Love y'all, man," he said. "... Thank you. I can feel it, taste it. It's not bad."

He took about 10 deep breaths, which grew progressively weaker until he was no longer moving. Ten minutes later, at 6:18 p.m. CDT, he was pronounced dead.

No one related to the slain child attended the execution, the fourth this year in Texas. It was carried out about two hours after the U.S. Supreme Court denied last-ditch appeals for Hernandez.

Ten-month-old Karlos was taken to a Dallas hospital in April 2001 with a skull fracture and bruises to his head, thigh and abdomen. A week later, he was taken off life support and died. His 4-year-old sister had similar beating injuries to her head, ears and eyes but survived.

Hernandez's DNA was found in Karlos' blood on a pillowcase and on the child's clothing. The boy's sister drew stick figures for detectives to help describe her attack.

Hernandez denied beating the children but later told a detective he may have hit the boy with a flashlight. He did not include the flashlight reference in a written confession in which he said he "just exploded" and struck them with the back of his hand.

"They were being very bad by crying a lot for nothing," Hernandez wrote.

Howard Blackmon, the former assistant district attorney in Dallas County who prosecuted Hernandez, recalled seeing photos of the badly bruised boy connected to tubes while in the hospital and his sister's red, bruised forehead.

"I don't think Hernandez admitted to any intent to kill," he said. "He did admit to striking."

Jurors saw those images and also learned that Hernandez had a previous conviction for molesting a child and

drug possession, had beat his ex-wife with a baseball bat, burned a girlfriend's child with cigarettes and was found with a shank while locked up in jail.

Court records showed Hernandez and his wife of six years had been living with the two children and their 22-year-old mother about three days in a Dallas house that had no running water. Hernandez and his wife were to watch the children while their mother was working as a waitress.

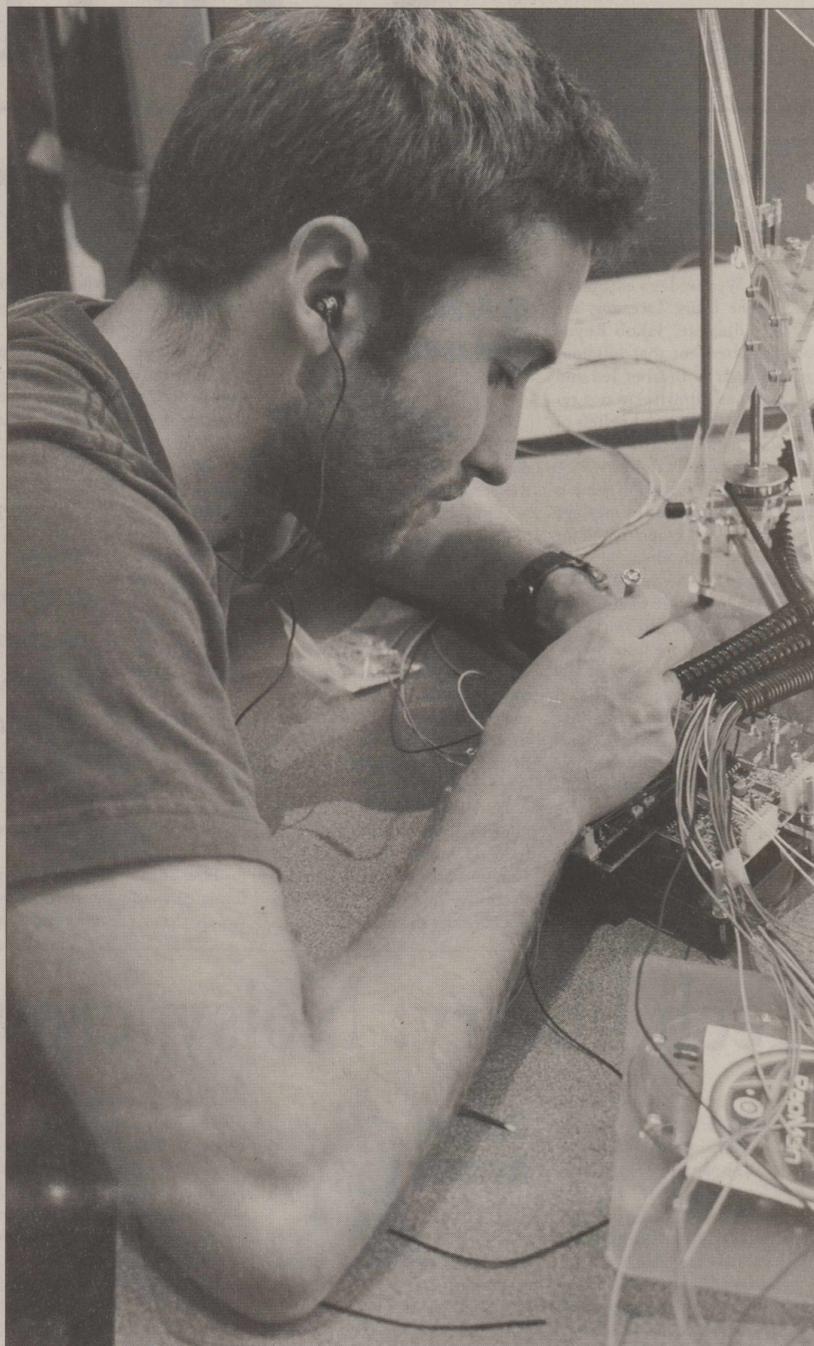


PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Treador
ANDREW TRIPLETT, A senior architecture major from Canyon, does the wiring for a 3D printer in the Architecture building Wednesday.

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Radical religious groups seek attention

In Wednesday's edition of *The Daily Toreador*, my colleague, Jakob Reynolds, pointed out that religious groups such as Brother Jed and his Campus Ministry do not reflect the attitudes and beliefs of the vast majority of Christians. He was absolutely right.

Brother Jed is back on campus this week to spread his message that all of us are going to hell for one reason or another.

Every girl who ventures out of the kitchen while wearing less than an ankle-length skirt, is a slut; while everyone from homosexuals to Catholics are eternally damned. My thought is that if these people are the only ones going to heaven, then I don't really want to be there anyway.

I like to think of fringe groups like these as similar to the radical Islamists who have taken over parts of the Middle East. Other than the fact that the Islamists control their society and advocate murdering those who

Andrew Gleinser



do not conform to their beliefs, the groups are very similar.

They both promote hatred and an extremely rigid interpretation of their religions. They both believe that everyone who does not believe exactly what they believe is wrong and, therefore, damned to hell.

They both subjugate women to the role of second-class citizens, or sometimes lower. Neither is indicative of the beliefs of the vast majority of their respective religions.

Yet, in spite of their unconventional views and methods, radical Christian groups like the Campus Ministry still manage to survive in a society that does not consider them to be credible.

All five of you who actually read my columns might be wondering why.

The reason is because they attract attention. Getting attention is their primary goal. They thrive on it. It's what makes them survive. Without attention, they are nothing.

In spite of how they may seem, groups like these are not foolish enough to think hurling insults and negative comments at people is going to make them convert. They do these things because it makes people stop and listen.

The crowd of people that forms to watch the debates between these preachers of hate

and offended bystanders is what these groups want. They love it when people gather around because they're getting the attention they seek.

This isn't just confined to Brother Jed. Look at the Westboro Baptist Church, for example. This is the group of nut-jobs who protest at military funerals and hold signs with phrases such as "Thank God for Dead Soldiers."

Do these fanatics honestly think people will join their cause because

of this? Absolutely not. They do it because the shock value of such activity attracts attention. And if they succeed in catching a short-tempered mourner on a

very bad day, that's even better.

To prove my point, I'll provide an example. Westboro members planned to protest the funeral of a 9-year-old girl who was killed in the Tucson shooting that injured Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in 2011, because the girl's family was Catholic.

After a grass-roots effort emerged to keep Westboro members away from the funeral procession, the group agreed to cancel its planned protest in exchange for airtime on two radio shows. They still got their attention, so they were satisfied.

Brother Jed and the similar groups we have seen on this campus are no different. They exist solely to garner attention. By allowing them to get under our skin and make us angry, we're only helping them.

The best way to combat these groups is to simply ignore them. Don't look at them, don't talk to them and don't even walk by them if at all possible. Don't give

them the attention and satisfaction that they want.

If something they say makes your blood boil, just tell yourself they are mentally incapacitated and go on about your day. If we as students get angry and yell at them, they are the only ones who will gain anything from it.

And to reiterate Reynolds' point, these groups are not representative of Christianity as a whole. Don't let them influence your opinions on what organized religion is all about. If you choose not to believe, don't let people like Brother Jed be the reason.

So let's all band together and ignore radicals like these. It may not keep them from coming to see us, but we'll all be much better off.

Gleinser is a junior political science and history major from Kingwood.

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Tech library: Noisy, crowded, fun

As a junior, I've gotten to know this campus relatively well, but there is one place I've been spending a lot more time at lately than I normally would — the library.

Usually, I only frequent this pit of despair during finals week, because that's what the cool kids do. And, since I was teased incessantly in elementary and middle school, I will do anything to be trendy now.

I don't care what anyone says, bullying builds character — and an unhealthy, narcissistic need to win the approval of everyone around.

More recently, though, I've been spending lots of nights at the library trying to soak in as much intelligence as I can, typically through banging my head on top of textbooks and hoping for some type knowledge transfer via osmosis.

I would just like to say if you want to get any work done, don't go to the library. If you want to people watch, this is your place.

This mosh-pit of intelligence — or lack thereof if you're sitting at my table — is the most accurate representation of our university that I've ever seen.

Aside from all the people going to bump uglies in the stacks, there are tons of other individuals worth paying attention to.

Exhibit A: The guy who is all

Sydney Holmes



benches four pounds.

The next person, or group of people actually, is the social hour.

These people go to the library just to chat with each other. Now don't misunderstand me — study groups are fine. Throwing a rave with your friends is not.

I get that there are silent floors and non-silent floors in the library, but I thought there was some type of universal understanding that even if you're not sitting on a silent floor, a library in general was supposed to be a relatively quiet place.

Not so, friends. Not so. And nothing is off-limits for these people: alcohol, drugs, what Jenny said when she was drunk as a skunk on Tuesday at the pool, sex lives — literally anything and everything.

Their music is usually pretty loud, too. Has no one ever heard of headphones? But then again, you can't really go to Club Lib and not have music. How silly of me. Keep playing your Ke\$ha Pandora

station.

Another set of people is "the couple."

Everyone knows how I feel about love. It's the same way I feel about musicals — they're stupid, unless I'm in it.

This one couple seems to find me everywhere I go.

On campus, on the bus — they made out on my leg press machine last week. I'm so glad you're so in love and in shape together, but cut it out. There are other things I can think of that you can do together to stay fit.

Ask me any other time and I would say I hate crowded places and avoid them at all costs, unless it's a bar, party or anywhere else I can socialize.

OK, so I don't hate crowded places, but the library is my new obsession.

If you see me there, chances are I'll be the one in the corner pretending to study while actually laughing at everyone around me.

Holmes is a junior broadcast journalism major from Houston.

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"If you want to people watch, this is your place."

GUEST COLUMN

Trayvon case: Police bias prevents justice

As an undergraduate at Howard, I had a friend who once plaintively remarked that "(we're) all one unfortunate event from an entirely different existence."

Ruminating on the Trayvon Martin case these past few weeks has given his words a severe, deafening poignancy.

As I stand on the eve of graduation and 26 years of age, I realize how different my life would be had I taken that ride or walked down that street or been there on that day.

Thinking about Trayvon Martin, I think about what he likely didn't think, a la McLean's classic, "American Pie." "... this'll be the day that I die." I also think about how invincible I felt at 17 — and still feel at 25 — and how much I've grown in that time. To that end, I've concluded that Trayvon Martin was not only murdered, but robbed as well. Robbed of life, robbed of opportunity and, currently, robbed of justice.

Unlike those angrily yelling for Zimmerman's head, the crosshairs of my ire are trained more on a different culprit: the Sanford Police Department.

Private discriminatory beliefs like Zimmerman's are disconcerting. However, using those discriminatory beliefs in the administration of your civil service obligations is utterly reprehensible. The available evidence seems to show that Sanford P.D. did precisely that, for four principal reasons:

First: The police claimed they did not have probable cause to arrest Zimmerman. This defies common sense, considering he had just fatally shot a minor after being told

— expressly — not to follow him. Probable cause exists to serve as a check on police power. However, it is not a difficult standard to meet in a situation like this one.

Second: The police accepted Zimmerman's tenuous self-defense claim despite evidence to the contrary. Zimmerman was told not to follow Martin. Martin was running away from Zimmerman. Martin was screaming for his life. These facts invalidate a self-defense claim. Furthermore, and most importantly, self-defense is not prophylactic, completely preventing investigation; it's an affirmative defense provided when facing charges. That this claim rendered the police effectively impotent is baffling.

Third: Historically, Sanford P.D. has profiled and mistreated black citizens. Why would they act any differently here? That's the only explanation for drug testing the victim, not the shooter, of a fatal crime and buying self-defense prior to a thorough investigation.

Fourth: Section two of Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law invalidates self-defense where the person claims it was committing an unlawful act. Zimmerman stalking Martin arguably constituted assault or harassment. Simple interrogation should have concluded as such.

Hopefully, the grand jury will indict Zimmerman and bring him to justice. Yet, while Zimmerman is the symbol of racism, the Sanford P.D. represents systemic racism. Both must be brought to task.

Matthew Manning is a third-year law student from Austin.

» matthew.manning@ttu.edu

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Student creates Tech Home Schoolers Association

By **HALLIE DAVIS**
STAFF WRITER

While few home schooling situations are the same, it is safe to say none involve 30,000 students.

To help with the transition from being home-schooled to being a Texas Tech student, junior John Stanko has created the Tech Home Schoolers Association.

Stanko, a political science major from Trenton N.J., said students who had not been in a classroom setting could be overwhelmed going straight to a campus like Tech. "There's some challenge involved," he said. "We're hoping this group will mitigate them."

The college atmosphere is much more structured than home schooling, he said, and there is far less

freedom with professors than with parents.

Junior Leah Wallace said the sheer amount of people was a shock to her. With just 300 incoming freshmen alongside her at orientation, she said, she was completely overwhelmed. Luckily, Wallace had a sister who was also attending Tech to help her out and show her around.

Being there for incoming students is one goal of the organization. Along with mentoring, Wallace said, the group will also provide study groups and a way to meet other students.

"It's a great way to get involved," Stanko said. "It's a way to get to know people who can relate to your academic background."

Another goal of the group is

to work with admissions to help reach out to home-schooled high

schoolers. He said it would be helpful to have someone who can relate to where they are and explain Tech to them.

Then, once the students arrive, Stanko said, he hopes they will join the association to be involved and to have a

support group.

These ties are important, Wallace said, and home-schooled students need to know the value of meeting people in college and having a group of friends or supporters.

That support group will be there to help the students as they transition to Tech, and even as they transition into life after college, she said. "It's important to develop net-

working skills," Wallace said, "to better assimilate in the Tech community ... and (it's an) opportunity, once you get past school, it's all about networking."

Another issue home-schooled students may face is the amount of moral, and even academic, diversity on campus, said senior Paul Trausch.

Most home schoolers are in various groups growing up, he said, but these groups are based on common beliefs, often — but not always — religion. Even the most social of home schoolers has not been around the variety of people and ideas found on a campus the size of Tech.

Knowing and understanding the diversity was a key point for Trausch, who said he got his start

in community college. When he transitioned to Tech, he said, he was more comfortable and open-minded. He encouraged students to get involved in groups that interest them and to ask for help or advice as needed.

"The more you get involved," he said, "the more comfortable you will begin to feel."

The HSA will help students with that involvement with like-minded people, he said. Stanko said the variety of ages represented will help to support one another, whether it be with questions about socializing, advising or help in a specific class.

"We can understand (each other) a little better than anyone else could," Trausch said. hdavis@dailytoreador.com

"It's a way to get to know people who can relate to your academic background."

JOHN STANKO
JUNIOR

POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

BISHOP BUSINESS



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

AINSLEY DASCHOFKY, A junior biology major from Gatesville, moves a bishop in the a game of chess against Kile Condra, a junior business major from Hammerfest, Norway, outside of the library Wednesday.

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Amazon CEO wants to raise sunken Apollo 11 engines

LOS ANGELES (AP) — For more than four decades, the powerful engines that helped boost the Apollo 11 mission to the moon have rested in the Atlantic. Now Internet billionaire and space enthusiast Jeff Bezos wants to raise at least one of them to the surface.

An undersea expedition spearheaded by Bezos used sonar to find what he said were the F-1 engines located 14,000 feet deep. In an online announcement Wednesday, the Amazon.com CEO and founder said he is drawing up plans to recover the sunken engines, part of the mighty Saturn V rocket that launched Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins on their moon mission.

The five engines, which produced nearly 7.7 million pounds of thrust, dropped into the sea as planned minutes after liftoff in 1969. Four days later, Armstrong and Aldrin walked on the moon.

"We don't know yet what condition these engines might be in," he wrote. "They hit the ocean at high velocity and have been in salt water for more than 40 years. On the other hand, they're made of tough stuff, so we'll see."

Bezos acknowledged the engines were the property of NASA, but said he hoped they will be displayed in museums.

NASA expressed excitement about the find. The space agency said it has not been formally contacted by Bezos and waited for more information.

"There has always been great interest in artifacts from the early days of space exploration and his announcement only adds to the enthusiasm of those interested in NASA's history," NASA spokesman Bob Jacobs said in a statement.

No timetable has been set for the recovery. When it happens, it'll undoubtedly take longer to hoist the

19-foot engines off the sea floor than the 2 1/2 minutes it took for them to power off the launch pad.

The sea floor is littered with spent rockets and flight parts from missions dating back to the dawn of the Space Age and it's unknown what survived decades later after crashing into the ocean.

In 2009, a private company salvaged Gus Grissom's Mercury capsule that accidentally sank in the Atlantic after splashdown in 1961. It was restored and displayed at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center.

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Puzzles by PageFiller

In Sudoku, all the numbers 1 to 9 must be in every row, column and 3 x 3 box. Use logic to define the answers.

6	4	1	5	8	9	3	2	7
9	2	7	6	3	4	5	1	8
5	8	3	2	7	1	9	6	4
2	3	9	4	6	7	8	5	1
4	1	6	3	5	8	7	9	2
8	7	5	1	9	2	4	3	6
1	9	4	8	2	5	6	7	3
3	5	8	7	1	6	2	4	9
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Hit song carries Eli Young Band to ACMs, beyond

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Count the guys in Rascal Flatts among the fans of "Crazy Girl," the song that took the Eli Young Band to the top of the country songs chart and earned the Texas quartet three nominations at the Academy of Country Music Awards on Sunday.

The veteran trio has tapped the act for its "American Band" tour later this year and guitarist Joe Don Rooney recently raved of lead singer Mike Eli's performance on the song: "He sings his butt off."

But as enamored as they are with the Eli Young Band, the Rascal Flatts members also had some advice for the rising group.

"You've got to follow it up," bassist Jay DeMarcus said. "That's the hard part. The easy part's having one hit, but you've got to follow it up."

"Yeah, but then you've got to follow that up and you've got to follow that up," Gary LeVox said with a laugh.

It's a lot of pressure, but it's a challenge the band — which includes guitarist James Young, bassist Jon Jones and drummer Chris Thompson — seems ready to tackle. After all, they spent a decade of hard work growing from a partnership between two roommates at the University of North Texas into a tight, ambitious outfit that relentlessly toured and grew its fan base one show at a time.

"No matter what comes along — hits or no hits — I think that you can work hard at capitalizing on what you already have built and then try to move forward with it and use your music to get to that point," Eli said. "Hits will definitely make that happen. They're not the only way, but they definitely will help. We've been very fortunate and very lucky to so far have this career and I think that it's turning into something really cool."

They've already experienced some of the cool moments. This week, they wrapped up a trip to Australia, came home for 12 hours, and then jumped on a plane to Las Vegas, where the ACMs are going to be held. "Crazy Girl," a slow-building love song that rolls along like a drive down a lonely two-lane blacktop, is up for song and single of the year and the band is up for vocal group of the year.

Originally scheduled for a one-off festival appearance in Australia, a promoter suggested them to Faith Hill and Tim McGraw and they found themselves as the husband-and-wife superstars' opening act.

"This is definitely one of those situations where it's been a blast to be here," Eli said in a phone interview from Australia. "I didn't realize how many fans we could really make here and how well we'd be embraced coming over from the U.S. It's been really cool."

They earned their way into these opportunities with a rockin' country sound that recalls the mellow smooth of Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers and the raucous nature of the Texas live music scene where bands are required to bring it every night. They had put out four albums and had a hit, "Always the Love Songs," about four years ago. But their latest album, "Life at Best," and the song "Crazy Girl" took off the band to another level; that album was released last year.

Their latest single, "Even If It Breaks Your Heart," cracked the top 20 last week and is one of the fastest rising songs on the Billboard country songs chart. But whether they'll have another No. 1 remains to be seen. To be honest, they're not really sure why "Crazy Girl" captured the imagination of so many people. There was the hard work and the support of label Universal Republic. But there's no explanation for why lightning struck when it did.

"I think anybody that's in the national spotlight, timing is really everything — timing and the people you have behind you," Young said. "There's so many talented musicians and songwriters, it's just we were lucky. We had kind of a top 10 and disappeared for a few years. We never quit touring or making records, and then with 'Crazy Girl' the time was right. It just happened."

Cameron pilots plans for 3-D film about ocean dive

LOS ANGELES (AP) — James Cameron will be one of the stars of his next big-screen adventure, a chronicle of the expedition on which he has made record-setting ocean dives.

Cameron said he plans a TV special for National Geographic and a 3-D theatrical release on the Deepsea Challenger missions, which included his seven-mile descent to the ocean's deepest point in the Mariana Trench in the western Pacific. It was the deepest solo dive ever, surpassing the five-mile descent he made a few weeks earlier.

The film could be ready late this year or early next year, depending on how much additional shooting he and his colleagues need to do, Cameron said in a telephone interview Tuesday night, after the premiere of a 3-D version of his 1997 blockbuster "Titanic," which sails into theaters next week.

"We're shooting the whole expedition as a 3-D film," Cameron said from London, where he had rushed for the "Titanic" screening after completing his dive Monday in the one-man sub Deepsea Challenger, which he helped design.

Much of the design effort focused on building small, lightweight digital 3-D cameras that could withstand ocean pressures of 16,000 pounds a square inch, Cameron said.

They were a huge leap forward from the cameras he used to shoot his first 3-D film, the 2003 Titanic documentary "Ghosts of the Abyss."

"They're a tenth of the size and weight of the 3-D camera that I used to go down to Titanic depth," Cameron said. "We spent a fair bit of the development budget of the sub figuring out how we would be lighting it and how we would do 3-D photography at full ocean depth. We did tackle a lot of challenges, but always, the thinking was this expedition is going to get paid for by a film."

Cameron has been planning the expedition since 2005, while he simultaneously worked on the 3-D conversion of "Titanic" and made "Avatar," the sci-fi blockbuster that displaced "Titanic" as the biggest modern blockbuster with \$2.8 billion worldwide.

"Titanic" co-star Bill Paxton, who dove with Cameron to the wreck of the ship for "Ghosts of the Abyss," said he had nervously followed accounts of the filmmaker's dive and that his first words when seeing him before Tuesday's premiere were, "Godspeed, Jim Cameron."

"I was very apprehensive and so anxious to hear that he was OK," Paxton said. "I've been two and a half miles down at the wreck of the Titanic with him. That's one thing. But seven miles, that's like going to the moon. In a one-man sub that's only been tested to a certain depth. ... Here's a guy who bets his life on the technology he makes. I've been very lucky to have a front-row seat to one of the most remarkable careers in Hollywood and beyond."

Cameron's dive was the first in 52 years to a section of the trench known as Challenger Deep. The only other manned dive there was done in 1960 by U.S. Navy Capt. Don Walsh and Swiss engineer Jacques Piccard.

The documentary will include a dramatized re-creation of Piccard and Walsh's dive, Cameron said.

Walsh came along with the surface crew on Cameron's dive and was waiting on the ship when the filmmaker returned. Cameron's three-hour-plus time at the bottom far eclipsed the 20 minutes Walsh and Piccard spent there, but Cameron said it's unclear if he actually descended to a lower depth.

Walsh "was kind of smiling. I kind of felt like he was ready to pass the baton," Cameron said. "He said, 'I'm happy to concede my record.' I said, 'You don't have to concede any record. The instruments were so imprecise, we'll never know how deep you were, and we don't even know exactly how deep I was.'"

"There's no way of measuring it super-accurately. You can bounce a laser off the moon and know within a couple of centimeters how far away the moon is, but you'll never know how deep the ocean is, because you're measuring waves, the sound through seawater, the changes in temperature and salinity. The error margin is tens of meters. I said, 'Let's just share it.' We shook on that."

POOL PLAY



PHOTO BY EMILY DE SANTOS/The Daily Treador
JACOB BURRESCIA, A freshman accounting major from Lubbock, and Carson Deno, a freshman restaurant hotel and institutional management major from Grapevine, dive for the ball at the Leisure Pool on Wednesday.

Lunch-goers by the hundreds bust a move in Sweden

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Some workers in Sweden have found a rather offbeat way to spend their lunch hour. Actually, on-beat is more like it.

Dripping with sweat and awash in disco lights, they dance away to pulsating club music at Lunch Beat, a trend that started in Stockholm and is spreading to other cities in Europe.

Then they go back to work. "It is absolutely fantastic!" exclaimed Asa Andersson, 33, who broke away from her job at a coffee shop to bust some moves last week. "It is the first time I'm here, I'm totally happy and ecstatic, totally covered in sweat and I'm full of energy. It does not get any better than this."

The first Lunch Beat was held in June 2010 in an underground parking lot in Stockholm. Only 14 people showed up. But they had so much fun they immediately planned another event. Word spread, and now the Swedish capital has monthly Lunch Beats that attract hundreds.

Similar events have been held in at least 10 other Swedish cities and in Finland and Serbia. Portugal's first try will be in Porto next month, organizers said.

The party starts at noon and goes on for one hour. There's no alcohol, which gives it a different ambience than nighttime clubbing, said Daniel Odelstad, the 31-year-old organizer of Lunch Beat Stockholm.

"People are sober, it's in the middle of the day and it is very short, effective and intensive," he said. "You just have to get in there and dance because the hour ends pretty quickly."

Heeding that advice, nearly 500 people paid 100 kronor (\$14) to attend at Kulturhuset, a cultural center in downtown Stockholm.

Anyone can organize a Lunch Beat event as long as they follow some simple rules, Odelstad said.

"The first rule of Lunch Beat is that you have to dance," he said while checking prepaid tickets at the door. "If you don't

want to dance during your lunch hour, then you should eat your lunch somewhere else."

The events are not-for-profit, with cover charges being used for rent and sandwiches so dancers don't return to work hungry.

Some first-time visitors were amazed at how quickly typically reserved Swedes burst out of their shells. As the DJ pumped up the base, office clerks mingled with business-suit types, the young mixed it up with the middle-aged and university students danced with everyone.

"It was just like bang, straight in to the disco," said Kristoffer Svenberg, a 34-year-old artist.

But isn't it uncomfortable returning to an office after an hour of dancing? European workers, a tad more relaxed than Americans, say not at all.

Ellen Bengtsson, 29, came to Lunch Beat with more than a dozen people from a government office.

"It's great," she said. "We'll go back sweaty together."

Clear Channel boss 'delighted' to have Limbaugh

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Advertisers and some radio stations may have abandoned Rush Limbaugh for calling a Georgetown law student a "slut." But the CEO of the radio company that distributes Limbaugh's show, San Antonio-based Clear Channel, says he's sticking with the conservative talk show host, calling him the "king" of radio.

Bob Pittman told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday that the outrage over Limbaugh's comments last month was "part of the normal day-to-day of talk radio." He also noted that Limbaugh apologized for the first time in 30 years.

Speaking publicly for the first time since the controversy erupted late last month, Pittman said that advertisers leaving the program did not have a major impact on the company and there has not been a major move among stations to drop Limbaugh.

Until now, media inquiries about the show had been directed to Clear Channel's talk show syndication subsidiary, Premiere Radio Networks.

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SPORTS

PAGE 8
THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2012

MLB needs to make a change to keep its fans

MLB needs to make a change to keep its fans.

If you blinked, you missed what was traditionally one of the best days of the sports calendar, Major League Baseball's Opening Day.

While most of the students who go to Texas Tech were sleeping Wednesday morning, MLB got its regular season underway. The Seattle Mariners defeated the Oakland Athletics — in Japan.

America's pastime has failed to get with the times and is losing its once loyal fan base.

I am not a super-traditional person. I think many traditions the Aggies partake in are silly and even Tech has some goofy traditions. Not every tradition needs to be upheld, but some never need to be changed.

Baseball's Opening Day

Cody Stoots



should never be played in another country. I am aware Japan is highly familiar with baseball, but it isn't right for baseball to begin the regular season in another country and now two teams have started their regular season more than a week before the rest of baseball.

I understand the MLB wanted to give the Japanese a peek at some American superstars, as well as one of their own home-grown prospects in the form of Ichiro Suzuki, but this can easily be achieved with a three-game spring training set. There was no need to

play games that count in Japan.

Baseball will always be America's pastime, but not in a good way. The failure to see the evolution of other sports will cause baseball fans to fall back into their pity and indifference for a sport too pompous and arrogant to change.

An investment group, featuring NBA superstar Magic Johnson, just bought the Los Angeles Dodgers for \$2 billion. An owner who had a public and messy divorce, along with running a storied franchise into the ground, will walk away with \$2 billion dollars. Frank McCourt might be the smartest man in baseball. The ownership group clearly overpaid for the Dodgers, but I hope they had the same faith in baseball few still do.

Baseball plays more meaningless games throughout the

course of the year than any other sport. The season is too long, as it is just a giant money grab for owners and players. I don't need millionaire athletes to care about me and I don't need billionaire owners to think twice about me, but don't lie to my face.

This is all about the money. It is why baseball plays 162 games, plus spring training, plus playoffs.

Fans fail to connect with the players anymore. Again, no one should expect great role models and special things from these athletes, but even a little respect for the game would be nice. Players like Albert Pujols shatter franchises when leaving and arrogant jerks like Alex Rodriguez collect millions of dollars for underperforming.

Players used to drink, smoke, spit, cuss and run around. Now they sit out with mild discomfort

in their pinky toe. Players aren't tough, they aren't fun to watch anymore and they don't connect with the fans. Josh Hamilton is a perfect example. A once proud member and face of change in an organization is now a villain in his own town.

Baseball also has a bad image when dealing with former players. There is nothing worse, not one thing in sports, than the baseball writers who vote on Baseball Hall of Fame players. The whole process is a joke, but these clowns make it a full-blown stand-up special.

There has never been a consensus hall of fame baseball player. Voters leave off some players because it is their first time on the ballot. These old fuddy-duddies get their intern to fire up the typewriter so they can bang out 6,000 words on why

everything needs to stay the same in baseball.

I know earlier I said traditions are important, but they are only important when they make sense. Some things baseball does make no sense. The inability to be forward-thinking and stay in front of the curve in the evolution of sports consumption, is pathetic.

Baseball will ruin baseball. The money grab will keep the casual fan away and slowly wear down the hardcore fan's faith in the game. The lack of connection with fans will cause a gradual drift to other forms of entertainment.

Baseball needs to get with the times, or stay in the past for all time.

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» cody.stoots@ttu.edu

Lucas Harrell pitches well as Astros top Miami Marlins

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) —

Lucas Harrell is trying to pitch himself into the race for the No. 5 spot in the Astros' rotation.

He's doing a pretty good job.

Harrell gave up three singles an unearned run over five innings in his first start of spring training, helping Houston beat the Florida Marlins 6-3 Wednesday.

"I feel like there's still a few guys ahead of me," the 26-year-old Harrell said. "I didn't really pitch well at the beginning of spring, but hopefully I can finish strong and put something in their heads. Hopefully I can make a push to make this team."

Harrell started in Bud Norris' spot because Norris experienced tightness in his triceps, moving his next start back to Sunday. Harrell is still in the competition with Jordan Lyles and Kyle Weiland for the Astros' No. 5 pitching spot.

"We're kind of wading through a few issues as we move into this last week," manager Brad Mills said.

Harrell outdueled Carlos Zambrano, who gave up five hits and five walks in four innings for

the Marlins.

Chris Johnson and Marwin Gonzalez each had two hits for the Astros and Brian Bogusevic hit a two-run single off Zambrano.

Harrell walked none and 11 of his 15 outs came on groundballs, an indication that his sinker was effective.

"In my last couple of outings, I wasn't getting a lot of groundballs because my arm angle was a little high," he said. "I wanted to make sure I got the right arm slot to get that sinker going, get some groundballs."

Houston shortstop Jed Lowrie left the game in the third inning with a sprained right thumb after getting picked off second game. X-rays were negative.

Lowrie's fine spring (.333 with two home runs in 14 games) has been marred by a painful foul tip off his right foot, a pitch off his left leg and now the thumb injury.

"Hopefully it's ice a couple days and I'm back out there. That's ideal," he said. "I'm going to go with that until they tell me otherwise."

Mavs back in Miami for 1st time since title win

MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James said it was one of the most painful moments that he can remember, one that is weighing heavily on him as the Miami Heat get ready for an NBA finals rematch with the Dallas Mavericks.

No, the Heat forward isn't talking about losing last year's title series.

He's talking about dislocating the ring finger on his left, non-shooting, hand at Indiana earlier this week.

"The only recovery for it, the doctors told me, was rest," James said. "And I think we all know I'm having none of that."

Not now, anyway — not with the Mavericks coming back to the building where they celebrated winning a championship

a little over nine months ago, and not with the Heat trying to snap a two-game slide that left them looking up at both Chicago and Oklahoma City in the race for the NBA's best record.

Dallas visits Miami on Thursday night, the second and final meeting of this regular season between the clubs.

The first one: All Miami. The Heat watched the Mavs raise their championship banner on Christmas Day, then built as much as a 35-point lead before settling for a 105-94 victory.

"A bad taste in our mouth," Mavs guard Jason Terry said.

So as much as the Heat remember Dallas celebrating on their floor, the Mavs remember the opener, too.

"We've got to think back to

Christmas Day because that was a miserable experience for us," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "That was really tough. I was watching some of it (Tuesday). They played terrific, and they were great that day, and we weren't, and so we're going to have to play a lot better."

Which is sort of a Heat mantra these days as well.

The Heat have been held under 100 points in 11 of their last 13 games, and that's not even the most staggering stat. Through March 1, Miami was the league's highest-scoring team at 103.8 points per game. Since then, the Heat are 25th at 93.1 points per game — and all the clubs they're outscoring are well outside the playoff picture.

Miami has a 14-game home

winning streak, the margin of victory in those games a little over 10 points. But after losing at Oklahoma City and Indiana by a combined 31 points — the first time since James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh became teammates nearly two years ago that the Heat endured double-digit losses in consecutive games — Heat coach Erik Spoelstra decided Wednesday's practice was the right time to address the slippage.

Not with words, but with action.

"Every team goes through this," Spoelstra said. "Sometimes you take things for granted and you become flat over the course of a long NBA season. And this season's been a challenge for everybody. So it's not an excuse."

Dodge says he's back in high school comfort zone

MARBLE FALLS (AP) — What most people will tell you about Todd Dodge is that he thinks ahead. Everything he does has a purpose, is part of a plan that might appear hazy in the distance to many but unfolds in vivid 20-20 glory to him.

This is perfect for football, where improvisation generally gets slammed into the turf by a hulking linebacker, and for several high school seasons every Dodge strategy worked — emphasis on high school. His vision has been far from perfect since then.

Dodge left the comforts of Southlake Carroll, a four-time state champion under his direction, for an experiment at North Texas, where in 3 1/2 seasons he won just six more games than you did. Then he landed at Pittsburgh, where his exodus after one season as an assistant was pretty much necessary after head coach Todd Graham split, and now has returned to the high school level, at Marble Falls.

Marble Falls hasn't made a deep playoff run in 20 years. Dodge has a plan, though, if you're willing to

believe him.

"He knows the culture he wants to create," says Hal Wasson, who succeeded Dodge as Southlake Carroll coach, "and he'll create that culture."

Marble Falls, a gorgeous, winding 3 1/2-hour drive from Dallas, is a city of 7,500 bordered by hills and water. Dodge bought a three-bedroom house for him and his wife, Elizabeth, that overlooks Lake LBJ, where he used to boat in his younger days. Dodge says his son, Riley, will start as an assistant coach at nearby Austin Westlake in the fall, the same time his daughter, Molly, will enroll at Texas State in San Marcos. It's perfect for his family.

Dodge visited Marble Falls first in January and started the job in February, Southlake and Denton deep in his rearview mirror. He doesn't regret any of those decisions, by the way, or at least he doesn't say it. But he does admit that he missed high school football. Every February, he missed it.

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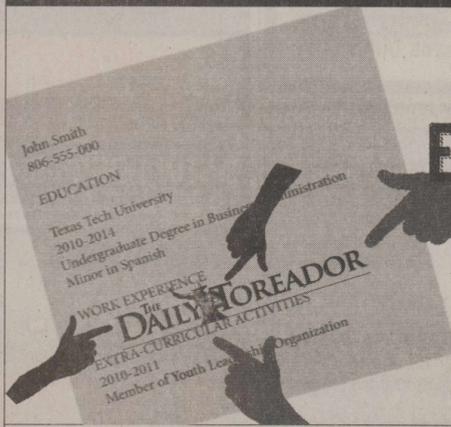
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All No. 1 seeds advance to women's Final Four

KINGSTON, R.I. (AP) — Brittney Griner and Baylor are two wins from a perfect season.

Still, it won't be easy for the Lady Bears to become the seventh women's team to go undefeated. They'll have to get past two other No. 1 seeds at the Final Four in Denver — Stanford and either Notre Dame or Connecticut. It's the first time since 1989 that all four top seeds reached the semifinals of the NCAA tournament.

No real surprise, though, because the Lady Bears, Cardinal, Irish and Huskies have dominated all year long. They've held the top four spots in The Associated Press poll virtually all season and have combined to lose only twice to anyone but themselves.

Even the four No. 2 seeds posed no problem in the regional finals as all four of the top teams won by double digits.

"If you're a No. 1 seed there's a reason you're a No. 1 seed," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "What you have in our situation, you have to beat the best teams in the end of the year because they don't get beat by the lesser teams."

The pressure of playing on the national stage in Denver shouldn't bother any of them. After all, Stanford, Notre Dame and UConn were in the Final Four last season. Baylor was there two years ago.

Stanford and Connecticut have reached five straight Final Fours — matching the Huskies' mark from 2000-04 and LSU from 2004-08.

Should the Lady Bears win it all, they will become the first men's or women's team in NCAA history to finish a season with 40 wins.

"It wasn't a goal of ours, but now it has to be because these kids want to win a championship," Baylor coach Kim Mulkey said. "I don't know about the history of the game. You have to remember, we really don't talk about the old days. ... I just look at it as an-

other number. I don't know that the kids look at it any differently. They won't look at 40 wins, but they sure will remember that national championship."

Baylor advanced to the national semifinals by easily beating Tennessee 77-58 on Monday night as Griner continued to be the most dominant player in women's basketball. She had 23 points, 15 rebounds and nine blocks — falling one short of a triple-double.

"It's not over. We've got our next game and it gets tougher as you go. We have to focus and get ready for our next game," Griner said.

That game will be against Stanford, the only one of the teams left that Baylor hasn't beaten this season. The Cardinal have won a school-record 32 straight and are trying to end a 20-year championship drought.

Stanford has been led by its own superstar, Nnemkadi Ogwumike. She had 39 points in the regional semifinal win over South Carolina and followed that up with 29 points in the Fresno Regional final against Duke.

"She has put our team on her back almost all year," Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said. "Coaching her is something really special. We just want to keep it going. I don't want any game to be her last game."

Ogwumike is looking forward to the challenge of playing against Griner and the Lady Bears.

"I've never done it so I'm excited," she said. "I feel like everybody but me has played against her. I'm just really excited. We're going to Denver, one. It's more exciting to play her in Denver than in the regular season. I'm really looking forward to this matchup. It's great to have a challenge like that. I played against her in high school — that's when I learned to shoot the 3."

While Stanford and Baylor haven't played yet this season, Notre Dame and Connecticut are very familiar with each other, having squared off

three times. The Irish took the first two meetings to win the Big East regular-season title outright. UConn won the championship game of the conference tournament.

It's the second straight season that the teams will play in the NCAA semifinals. Notre Dame ended UConn's run at a third consecutive national title last year before losing to Texas A&M in the title game.

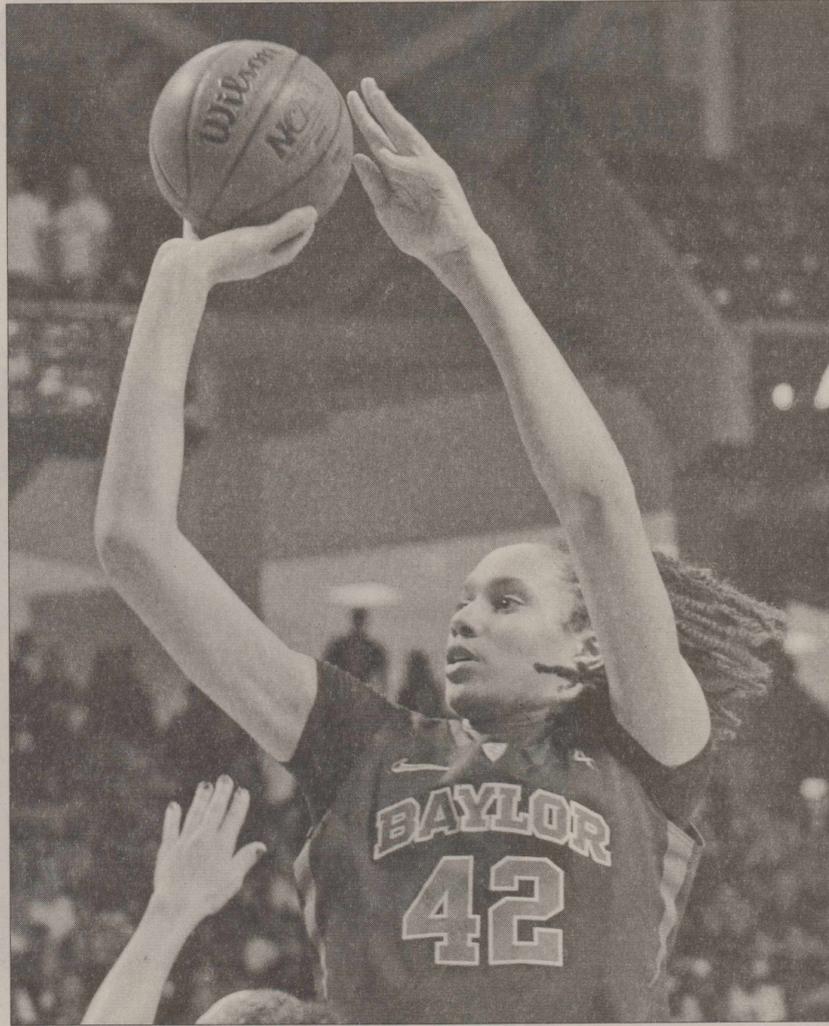
"That's not right," Auriemma said of having to face Notre Dame again. "But the Big East is the Big East. We've got two of the best teams in the country. They've been one of the best teams all year long. They have national championship game experience. That's going to be as hard to win as any other time we've played them. You would love to say you want to see someone different, but the reality is they are really good. They are really, really, really good."

It's been a strange season for UConn. Even though his team ran through the early part of the schedule, Auriemma knew it was just a matter of time before the Huskies' shortcomings were exposed. Losses to Baylor and Notre Dame on the road were understandable, but it wasn't until the end of February that Connecticut really came to a crossroads.

The Huskies lost to St. John's on senior night, snapping a 99-game home winning streak. Nine days later, they were beaten by Notre Dame. But those two defeats got the Huskies re-focused and they've been unstoppable ever since. They cruised to the Big East championship and rolled through their first three NCAA tournament games before pulling away from Kentucky in the Kingston Regional final.

Now, they're back in the Final Four for the 13th time in the last 18 years.

Notre Dame has played with a purpose all postseason, yearning to get back to the title game and finish what it started last year.



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Treador

BAYLOR CENTER BRITTNEY Griner and the rest of the Baylor Bears advanced to the Final Four for the second consecutive season. The Bears, who advanced with the No. 1 seed in their region, will have some stiff competition if they do not want to repeat their National Semifinals loss as they did last year. Baylor will have two No. 1 seeds to face if it wants to claim a national title, as all four No. 1 seeds made it to the Final Four for the first time since 1989.

Stanford's Ogwumike sisters eager to face Baylor's Griner

STANFORD, Calif. (AP) — Stanford sisters Nnemkadi and Chinney Ogwumike are thrilled to take on one mighty, Mile High challenge: stopping 6-foot-8 Baylor star Brittney Griner and the unbeaten Lady Bears.

It's a matchup they've both been eagerly waiting for as they lead the Cardinal (35-1) into their fifth straight Final Four this weekend in Denver riding a school-record 32-game winning streak. Nneka Ogwumike faced Griner in an AAU game back in high school,

and that's when she insists she learned to shoot 3-pointers because scoring in the paint was a big problem. But the senior feels like everybody else in the country has already faced Griner, and now she's finally getting that chance in her NCAA tournament farewell.

Chinney Ogwumike knows Griner will alter shots and block her fair share, too.

"I think we have a tall task ahead of us, no pun intended," Chinney Ogwumike said with a grin before practice Wednesday. "I expect my shot to

get blocked quite frankly. Embrace it." Stanford is an underdog for a change, and that's fine with 26th-year coach Tara VanDerveer. She hasn't received any text messages, emails or calls with tips on how to pull off the upset against the Bears (38-0).

"Everyone just says, 'Good luck, our money's on Baylor,'" she said, only half-joking.

VanDerveer has a couple of tall male practice players who have played as Griner in the past — like last March when Stanford figured it might face

Baylor at the Final Four. That was before Texas A&M pulled off a surprising victory against the Bears in the regional final and then beat the Cardinal in the national semifinals on the way to an improbable championship.

VanDerveer won't even mind if Griner dunks against her team. It's good for the women's game, after all.

"That adds excitement," the Hall of Fame coach said. "It's two points. We're not going to have a breakdown about it. As long as it's not the winning basket. If Brittney Griner dunks,

I hope she slams a couple home in warm-ups. I'll be sitting right there cheering. She's a special player."

Nneka Ogwumike is a load to handle herself, so Baylor's defense will have its hands full. Ogwumike, the likely No. 1 pick in next month's WNBA draft, had 39 points and 10 rebounds in Stanford's 76-60 victory over No. 5 seed South Carolina in the regional semifinals, then added 29 points and nine boards in an 81-69 win over Duke in the Fresno Regional final Monday night.

"Honestly, if Nneka was 6-8 I'd be terrified of her," said Chinney Ogwumike, who grabbed 17 rebounds in the Duke win. "Her game would be ridiculous. She said, 'March madness turns you into a monster.' She's playing out of her mind."

While these Final Four trips are becoming familiar each March, students and others in the community are stopping the Stanford players and coaches a little more frequently lately considering they all know that Griner and Co. are up next.

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