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Affirmative action rulings may bring more diversity to Tech

By Ashleigh Adams/Staff Reporter

Two recent Supreme Court decisions involving Affirmative Action policies at the University of Michigan will allow Texas Tech the opportunity to increase the diversity of the student body in both the undergraduate and graduate programs, said Chancellor David Smith.

The July 7 rulings made clear that racial

quotas were unconstitutional but gave leeway for public universities to find other ways of using race as one factor among others in the admission process.

One ruling stated that having racial quotas was unconstitutional, while the other ruling against the University of Michigan ruled that using race as an admittance factor can be allowed but not under a point system the

U of M was using.

"I think that the decision will result in an overall increase in diversity at Tech, which is exactly what we want," Smith said. "We are striving to make Tech's student body aptly reflect the changing demography of the state of Texas."

Although Tech's diversity has seen an increase in recent years, there is still much room for improvement, he said.

"We have definitely seen a rise in minority enrollment, especially in black and Hispanic students, but we don't simply want good numbers," Smith said. "We are really striving for a good retention rate, and we want our students to finish their higher education, not drop out after one or two years."

AFFIRMATIVE continued on page 3

Returning Troops

Local reserve unit comes home after serving overseas

By Sabra Jennings/Staff Reporter

Maria Louisa Villareal described the past six months as "difficult." Glancing over her shoulder every few seconds, Villareal waited nervously for her son, Cpl. Dory Villareal, to appear from behind the closed doors at the Armed Forces Reserves Center Saturday.

Villareal and her family joined other friends and family members in welcoming their loved ones in the Marine Reserves Corps back home. The Marines were deployed to the Middle East six months ago.

Fighting back tears, Villareal described how happy she was to have her son, Cpl. Dory Villareal of Plainview,

back in the United States.

"I haven't decided who gets the first hug, his wife or his mother," she said with a smile. "Well, maybe the son should have it."

Cpl. Dory Villareal's 4-year-old son did get the first bear hug, his beaming smile showing how happy he was to have his father back. Wife, mother, aunt, uncle and grandmother soon joined in on the reunion showering Cpl. Villareal with hugs and kisses.

"I can't describe how happy I am (to see everyone)," he said.

Maria Louisa Villareal said she relied on prayer to help her through the time her son was away at war.

"We are very lucky and very fortunate that we had people praying for him," she said. "We had lots of support from friends and relatives."

Like other families, the Villareal family kept in touch with Cpl. Villareal through letters and an occasional phone call.

Isaiah Pena of Lubbock said he relished every bit of contact with his twin brother, Cpl. Isaac Pena of Lubbock, even though letters and phone calls were few and far between.

"When I talked to him it wasn't very often. Once or twice he could get away to make a phone call," Pena said. "When the war was going on, he couldn't really talk about the details or his personal training."

Pena's mother, Irene Montoya, said she had a special way of keeping tabs on her son while he was away.

"When I was concerned about how (Isaac) was feeling, I talked to Isaiah," she said. "You know how twins are supposed to have that thing where they can feel what the other is thinking."

Isaac Pena said he was relieved, excited and nervous to be back, and now he just wants to relax.

Sharing Pena's feeling of relief was Jody Davis waiting anxiously for her nephew, Cpl. Clay Gunter of Lubbock, to appear.

"We're just so thankful he's home safe," she said. "It's been a long six months."

Davis said she found it extremely difficult to watch the news while Gunter was away because she was afraid



CRAIG SWANSON/Staff Photographer

LANCE CPL. DAVID Revilla greets his mother, wife and two children after returning from serving five and one half months in Iraq during the war.



CRAIG SWANSON/Staff Photographer

CPL. CLAY GUNTER hugs his wife at the local reserve center Saturday afternoon. Gunter and other Army reservists returned to Lubbock after serving time fighting the war in Iraq.

of hearing his name among the soldiers who had died.

Clinging to his wife, Gunter expressed disbelief at being home.

"This is unreal," he said.

Although some Marines did not have friends or family there to greet them, they were excited and happy to be going home all the same.

Cpl. Troy Mild said he was ready to relax and get back to his wife and

MARINES continued on page 6

Release of report from Congressional investigation helps shed light on 9/11

WASHINGTON (AP) — A congressional investigation into the Sept. 11 attacks has concluded that between 70,000 and 120,000 terrorists were trained by al-Qaida and some are still in the United States, Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., said Sunday.

"We have to assume that as those people were placed around the world, some were placed inside the United States. Some of them are in the United States today," Graham said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

After months of investigation and

a series of congressional hearings last year, the House and Senate Intelligence panels wrapped up their report Dec. 20 and released a summary.

The full classified report is still under review at the FBI and CIA, which are trying to determine whether any disclosure of information might pose a risk to national security and should remain secret.

Graham said that estimate shows that the Bush administration "lost focus" when it turned its attention to war with Iraq.

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Sharon says Europe is slowing peace process

JERUSALEM (AP) — European leaders are undermining peace efforts in the Middle East by maintaining ties with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in a newspaper interview published Saturday.

Sharon made the comments before he is to meet with British Prime Minister Tony Blair in London. He told London's *Daily Telegraph* that European officials were making "a major mistake" by maintaining links with Arafat, who the United States and Israel want to sideline.

"Every act of this nature only postpones the progress in the process," Sharon was quoted by the *Telegraph* as saying. "By that they are undermining Abu Mazen," he added, referring to Palestinian premier Mahmoud Abbas by his nickname.

The United States has sided with Israel in trying to isolate Arafat and to bolster Abbas. Both countries

have accused Arafat of supporting terrorism, and Arafat reluctantly appointed Abbas to the newly created position in April.

The internationally sponsored "road map" was launched at a June summit in Jordan with President Bush, Sharon and Abbas; it was the first major Israeli-Palestinian summit without Arafat, though he directed his prime minister's moves over the phone.

The plan lays out three stages for ending 33 months of fighting and creating a Palestinian state by 2005. But despite a two-week old truce — partly enabled by a promise by Palestinian militant groups to temporarily suspend attacks on Israelis — implementation has not been easy.

After troop pullouts from parts of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Bethlehem last week, Israel is refusing to hand over more Palestinian towns until the Pales-

tinian Authority moves to disarm militant groups, as required by the plan — which Abbas is highly reluctant to do.

There is also a major disagreement over Israel's refusal to release thousands of Palestinian prisoners accused of involvement in terrorism, although this issue is not referred to in the road map.

Sharon said the main problem was that Arafat is obstructing peace efforts.

"He (Arafat) controls the larger part of their armed forces, still part of the money and he got all those telephone calls from leaders, mostly from Europe, and he receives messages, ministers of foreign affairs and others," he said.

Sharon is to meet with Blair on Sunday.

On Saturday, a British parliamentary delegation visited Arafat at his headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

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Tech Notes

Tech Notes is a service provided to Texas Tech students by the Student Government Association and The University Daily. To have your student organization event listed, please call 742-3631 or e-mail UD@ttu.edu.

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Affirmative

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wesley Cochran, chair of admissions committee at the Tech law school and professor of law, said there are a few options to choose from if the decision is made to change admission standards.

"Our first option is to do nothing," he said. "Our current admission policy does a lot of the same things the Michigan decision urged universities to do. We already practice a full-file review of applicants, not a quota or point system that was declared unconstitutional."

Cochran said a second option would be to add race as one factor of many they would use when making a final decision.

"It is possible for race to be used as a tie-breaker or a 'plus'," he said. "No matter what, race would never be used as a major or deciding factor to overshadow other qualifications."

Ann McGlynn, assistant academic dean of graduate admissions, said the graduate program admits students on a holistic policy as well.

"We are bound by law to follow House Bill 1641 that says no specific factor, whether it be race, test scores or anything else can rule anyone in or out during the admission process or for any competitive scholarship," she said.

According to the bill, examples of criteria that can be used are academic records, socioeconomic status, geographic diversity, employment and academic commitment to the student's specific field of study, among others.

"The graduate school does use a holistic and race-neutral review pro-

cess, but we are always seeking diversity," McGlynn said. "Currently, we do not ask for a student's race on the application. The Michigan ruling would allow us to do so, but whether or not the process will change is something that has not been decided as of yet."

Like the undergrad program, McGlynn said the graduate program has made efforts to increase the diversity of its students.

"We have many international students in our program, which we are proud of," she said. "We have made special efforts to recruit rural and traditionally underserved students, as well as those who have shown superiority in their academics and community activities."

Smith said that Tech did benefit from the Hopwood v. State of Texas (1996) decision on affirmative action about law school admissions at the University of Texas, and will most likely benefit from recent rulings as well.

The Hopwood vs. Texas case served as a landmark case in affirmative action in which the Fifth Circuit Court ruled states must be able to prove the need for affirmative action in their admissions practices.

"From Hopwood I think we benefited by doing more recruiting and getting the word out," he said. "We will be reviewing our policies, but I think the only effect the ruling can have is to assist us in achieving a more diverse student demography."

Flooding in China leaves 51 missing after landslide

BEIJING (AP) — Hopes were fading on Monday for 51 people missing after a rain-triggered landslide in western China, while more than 1.6 million people who escaped flooding in the country's east were living in temporary shelters, officials said.

Rescuers have found no sign of the missing people since the slide of mud and rock struck remote, mountainous Danba county in Sichuan province before dawn Saturday, said a spokeswoman for the provincial disaster headquarters.

"Chances of finding them alive are very slim," said the

spokeswoman, who would give only her surname, Tian.

More than 500 people have been killed in floods, landslides and other disasters triggered by rains in areas throughout China this year, according to the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

In India, surging waters washed away more than a dozen homes on the world's largest river island and rain-swollen rivers claimed 10 more lives, raising the death toll from weeks of monsoon flooding in South Asia to 259, officials said Monday. Waters from the Brahmaputra River spread over the 312-square-mile Majuli island, eroding land and knocking down homes.

In China, more than 1.6 million people have been evacuated from low-lying areas along the swollen Huai River in the eastern provinces of Anhui and Jiangsu, rescue officials said.

Waterlogged dikes on the Huai have begun to give way, forcing villagers to flee empty-handed, said Thorir Gundmundsson, an official of the International Federation of the Red Cross who was visiting flood areas in Jiangsu.

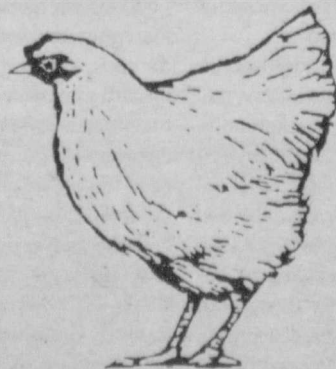
In other areas, authorities have destroyed dikes, diverting water from the Huai into evacuated towns and farmland in the hope of sparing cities downstream.

New York Times hires new editor

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times on Monday named Bill Keller as executive editor, more than a month after the newspaper's top editors resigned following a plagiarism scandal.

Keller, 54, a former Times managing editor and Pulitzer Prize-winning foreign correspondent, was chosen as the permanent replacement for Howell Raines.

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American news serves as great entertainment

The state of Iowa has recently been sued by three people who claim the University of Iowa is responsible for their speech impediments.

Apparently, as reported in an Associated Press story from Iowa City, in 1939 a speech pathologist named Wendell Johnson hypothesized that stuttering was a result of environmental influences and not genetics.

It turns out he was right. Unfortunately, the six children who were part of the study could not speak in proper formal register for the rest of their lives. Now the three surviving members of the original six want money from the state of Iowa to make up for a lifetime of extra syllables.

I love funny stories like this, as long as I can observe from the peanut gallery that is. I found another AP story that sounded like a scene from "Super Troopers." These two sheriff's deputies in Tampa went to a McDonald's and, instead of getting only onions, wound up ingesting broken glass that had been generously added to their hamburgers. The two guys were both hospitalized.

That's great PR for Mickey D's, eh? So much for "We love to see you smile."

Then I ran across a highly disturbing story from Colorado, but, like the great comedian George Carlin said, anything can be funny if you exaggerate the right part.

Some sick weirdo in Denver has gone on a huge cat-killing spree. He (or she) finds felines, slays them and leaves them on the doorstep of their owners' homes.

Authorities in Denver are on the lookout for this serial cat killer.

Can you imagine the detective who was assigned to this case? They probably gave it to some guy named Johnson who only recently was promoted to detective because his grandfather is chief of police.

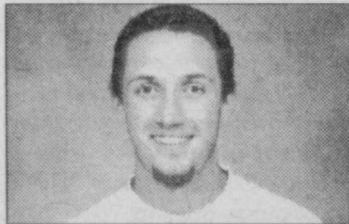
"Johnson!"

"Yes, sir!"

"We've got a case for you, finally."

"Yes, sir. What is it? Armed robbery, assault, battery, homicide?"

"Well, sort of. We want you to



Jason Lenz

catch the bastard who killed Garfield."

Here's another great story. During President Bush's trip to Africa, ABC news reports an awkward moment when he, the first lady and his daughter Barbara had a big game encounter in Botswana.

Four elephants had been arranged to be at a specific location for the President's entertainment. They did not disappoint.

Two of the elephants decided to get it on right then and there. The president reportedly made a comment to his wife, waited for the elephants to finish, walked over and patted the male elephant on the trunk.

It's good to see the symbol of the Republican party faring as well in his endeavors as the party itself did in the last election.

Then the best story of all. Pittsburgh Pirates player Randall Simon swatted a 19-year-old woman with a bat, incurred a \$432 fine and gave us something to laugh about for weeks.

The woman, named Mandy Block, was dressed as an Italian sausage in the sausage race that happens between the sixth and seventh innings at Milwaukee Brewers home games. Simon playfully tapped at her when she ran by, causing her to fall in her top-heavy suit and trip the woman in the hot dog suit next to her.

Simon gave Block the bat he smacked her with, complete with his autograph.

Only Americans can be so entertained by things so inane. It truly is the simple things in life.

Jason is a senior history and German major from Lubbock. Amusing anecdotes and other responses or comments can be sent to lenzo16@hotmail.com.



BEN SARGENT
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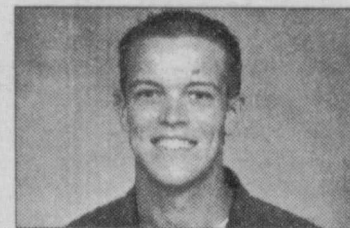
Critics need to look in own moralistic mirror

Quick! Everyone inside; the sky is falling! Such has been the predictable response of our nation's traditionalist hand-wringers to the recent headway made by the alleged "homosexual agenda." From the reaction to Canada's liberalizing the legal definition of marriage to include gay unions, you'd think the Soviets were parking missiles along our northern border.

Then our own Supreme Court went and decided to make "Land of the Free" more than just a catchy saying by declaring that the good people of Texas ought to enjoy the same basic human liberties as people in the rest of the free world. Now the talk is that homosexual marriage is on our horizon.

Before I proceed, let me establish my point of view. I know of two pastors with questionable backgrounds, one was an adulterer and the other a cohabitating divorcee. I have also heard tale of a youth-group leader who had an affair with a high-school student. We've all seen the unfolding revelation that many holy-men throughout the Catholic Church have deliberately and repeatedly put the preservation of their bogus charade of godliness before the safety and innocence of countless children by knowingly harboring child-molesters in their ranks.

Dr. Laura Schlessinger, shame-jockey extraordinaire: divorced and posed nude. Newt Gingrich, family-values superstar: adulterer and di-



Brian Carpenter

vorced. Then there's William Bennett, former Drug Czar and national voice of righteousness, and a compulsive-gambler who's spent his career railing against every vice but the one he happens to enjoy. And Bill Clinton: well, that's just too easy.

Don't get me wrong; I'm no saint. I've committed just about every sin in the book, and have possibly even come up with some new ones. But I haven't tried to pass myself off as a family-values crusader, either. My point is I've been made cynical by the procession of people in my life who've specifically held themselves up as models of goodness only to be exposed as frauds.

As such, I have difficulty taking seriously the concern that the sacrament of marriage will be cheapened and corrupted if revised to allow for same-sex couples. Not because it won't, but it's already been debased beyond recognition. There's a long-standing fiction in circulation among my countrymen that we're a particularly family-values-oriented nation.

Well, we're not. Not that we're

wicked or anything; man for man we've got some great people. They'll spot you a dime, give you a jump or listen to your boring stories. But when it comes to doing the things it takes to maintain lasting households for children to call home, we've got problems. The onslaught of the Baby Boomers and the advent of our national religion, money-worship, essentially put an end to the family-oriented society of our grandparents.

Okay, it's opinion time. For all of you who've written calling me a liberal, I've been saving this one for you: I think that households with a mother and a father provide the best environment for children, provided that the parents regularly exhibit mature behavior such as abstention from public fighting, vulgar language and drugs. There, you see; I'm not that liberal.

However, I think that dubbing homosexual couples unsuitable for marital rights and parental consideration is absurd considering the level of domestic corruption that our system currently permits. In short, if two heterosexual, violent drug-addicts can legally marry and have a family, then two upstanding, committed homosexuals certainly ought to enjoy the same privilege.

Brian is a graduate student from Irving. Conservative and liberal responses can be sent to ilovedyourcolumn@hotmail.com.

Woes of DVD shopping, theater etiquette threaten society

I must readily admit that I have an addiction. It comes not in the form of LSD, but rather, DVD. I buy DVDs with a certain amount of compulsiveness. I own more than a few movies that I have yet to watch since I purchased them, and I never seem to have enough.

I consider myself a collector, but it is getting more difficult these days to know exactly when it is safe to purchase a movie.

You see, the production studios know that addicts like me are out there. They also know it is imperative that we collectors absolutely must have the most recent and complete editions of any given title.

For example, you may have decided to purchase a copy of Martin Scorsese's classic mob flick, "Goodfellas" when it recently went on sale. In your haste, you may have decided to purchase this excellent film on DVD even though

it lacks any special features worthy of note. But a collector will buy this film just as a necessary addition to his collection. What you may not have realized, however, is that the studio is releasing a "Special Edition" of "Goodfellas" later this year loaded with special features.

Ah, those words—"Special Edition," "Collector's Edition," "Deluxe Edition" or even "Director's Cut" are all buzzwords that studios use to drive collectors crazy. Just by attaching that heading to any movie title makes us as consumers realize that our copy of the movie is now inferior and obsolete. Never mind that it's the same movie.

The fact that yours is not a new edition eats away at a collector like termites on a wooden leg. So, of course, you'll wind up with two copies of the same movie. Sure, after the purchase of the new edition, you'll feel abused and taken advantage of, but hey, you've

ENTERTAINMENT COLUMN



James Eppler

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got that special edition — at least until next year when the "Super-Duper-Deluxe Director's Cut" arrives.

By the way make sure you check Friday's paper for the Special Edition version of this column, complete with all the stuff my editor cut out.

Speaking of movies, have you been to the theatre recently on a Friday night? It dawned on me that so

many people have absolutely no sense of theatre etiquette. Some bother me, others amuse me.

The bothersome ones are obvious - the people with their feet on the back of your chair, the parents who honestly think their three-week-old baby won't make a peep and the morons who just have to leave their cell phone on. You may have also noticed at a sold-out show that there will be one helpless soul trying to save eight seats for their late friends as they frantically stretch out over the seats and whisper into their cell phone, "Where are you guys?"

This brings me to what I like to call, "The Theatre Losers." These amusing people are the ones who have the audacity to show up to a sold-out movie on its opening weekend on a Friday night two minutes before the lights go down thinking they'll find prime seating. These

rubes are easy to spot, and it makes a fun game for you and your friends to play before the movie.

The losers will enter at the front of the theatre and gaze up into the stands scanning for empty seats. Seeing none, they walk up the stairs on one side frantically searching for seats. If they're gutsy, they may ask an entire row to scoot down. Most, however, are not gutsy, and when they find no seats up in the stadium seating, they will take what I call "The Walk of Shame." Heads and shoulders slumped, they march right back down the stairs and take their seats on the front two rows on the floor.

Sadly, some reading this may recognize themselves in the description of "The Theatre Losers." So heed this advise: either show up to the movie early, or just know that as you take "The Walk" we will all be pointing and laughing at you.

Live underwater broadcast in Florida

BIG PINE KEY, Fla. (AP) — Nearly 400 people took a dive to listen to a local radio station's live underwater music broadcast in the Florida Keys.

The 19th annual Lower Keys Underwater Music Festival took place Saturday amid fish and other marine life at the Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary, a coral reef area six miles south of Big Pine Key.

The event featured selections including the Beatles' "Yellow Submarine," music from the "The Little Mermaid" and Jimmy Buffett's "Fins."

"We played some humpback whale songs, too, but didn't attract any humpback whales," said event founder and coordinator Bill Becker, news director of radio station WCNK.

The music was piped below through speakers suspended beneath boats positioned at the reef. The six-hour submerged songfest also incorporated a live remote broadcast by Becker 30 feet below the surface.

"It's just a beautiful reef and some of the smaller fish, like the sergeant majors, were swimming to the music," said Cheri Vaughn of Naples.

Mad cow disease scare not scaring Montana restaurant goers

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — Short-order cook Dianna Keeland looks a little disgusted as she takes a cow brain from the fridge and tosses the grayish, softball-sized organ onto the grill.

"They look like something a human being shouldn't eat," Keeland said.

She chops the sizzling mass into bite-size bits, scrambles in some eggs, onion and peppers and serves the steaming plate to a waiting customer at the Oxford restaurant bar.

Even with hashbrowns, toast and a beverage chaser, two chewy bites are enough to confirm it is an acquired taste.

Across the West and South,

brains and eggs are still a menu mainstay. Southerners consider pork brains a delicacy, but here, in the heart of beef country, Keeland fries up cow brains — and the orders haven't stopped despite mad-cow disease scares.

"That's the trademark dish here," said manager Ralph Baker, who eventually volunteers he's a vegetarian and has never tried brains and eggs himself.

"Frankly, if I was even eating steak every day," Baker said, "I wouldn't eat 'em."

At Big Ed's City Market in Raleigh, N.C., owner Richard Watkins serves up pork brains. He gets about

a half-dozen orders a week, mostly from older customers who remember eating it growing up.

"Back in the Depression, you didn't waste anything on a hog," he said.

Watkins said his dish, served at the family owned-restaurant for 40

years, tastes similar to ham and eggs.

"It's very tasty," he said. "I love it."

At the Oxford in Missoula, a landmark bar and grill for a half century, the dish has been on the menu from the beginning — and it has always been cow brains.

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Citibus announces continuation of Saturday service

By Sabra Jennings/Staff Reporter

Lubbock citizens anticipating the elimination of Saturday service from Citibus no longer have to worry because the service has been restored.

The City Council reversed its decision to cut Citibus's Saturday service at its meeting Thursday, said John Wilson, general manager of Citibus.

Lesli Hernandez, Citibus director of transportation, said the plan to cut Saturday service happened because

of budget problems.

Citibus took part of its funding and split it over a three-year period, Hernandez said. Half a million dollars were budgeted for the 2005 fiscal year so Citibus could save money.

"We wanted to save money today so we wouldn't have to make any additional (service) cuts later," she said. "Instead of recouping our budget into two years, we'll put it back into one. Basically, we bought ourselves more time so we can locate ad-

ditional funds."

The City Council said it supported public transit and would be able to assist Citibus in finding more funding, Hernandez said.

"A very important thing came out of this issue," she said. "The city councilmen and the mayor went publicly on the record saying they support public transit. It was a very big, bold statement to say, 'We're going to do what we can do to help you out.'"

City Council members are look-

ing for ways to help keep Citibus running, Wilson said.

"The City Council mentioned the Community Development Block Grant Fund as a partial way of funding it," he said. "They have a lot more resources than (Citibus)."

Many people protested the cut in Saturday service, and that helped to persuade the city council to restore all service, Wilson said.

"A lot of people wrote letters and called city council members. We had a lot of people show up at the meet-

ings," he said. "It shows that if you have people who want something to change, they can make that happen."

Student Government Association External Vice President, Colton Batchelor agreed with Wilson and said this shows how important it is for citizens to be involved with their community.

"I think the city of Lubbock realized the importance of transportation, and they stepped in to help," he said. "It shows the importance of writing your (city representatives)."

Tropical Storm Claudette hits coast, rough weather ahead in Texas

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas (AP) — Campers packed up and headed inland. Boat owners tightened their moorings. Surfers headed to the beach to ride the waves and emergency workers and forecasters kept a watch on Tropical Storm Claudette as it took aim on the South Texas coast.

The National Hurricane Center issued a hurricane watch Sunday for the coast from Port O'Connor, about 70 miles northeast of Corpus Christi, to Brownsville and south along the Mexican coast to Rio San Fernando. Landfall was projected in Willacy County, north of Brownsville, by late Tuesday afternoon.

Owners of about 900 recreational

vehicles parked for the summer on South Padre Island were warned that wind of more than 25 mph would mean they would not be allowed to drive their rigs across the sole bridge to the mainland. By Sunday, most of the campers had packed up voluntarily and left.

Workers on South Padre, along the coast a few miles from Brownsville, piled sand into berms at beach accesses, and Mayor Bob Pinkerton said the resort community was bracing for high water. He said there were no plans yet to evacuate.

Jim Campbell, a forecaster with the National Weather Service, said data buoys 200 miles offshore were picking up 10 feet swells occurring

11 seconds apart with swells closer to shore of 6 feet at 10 seconds apart Sunday night.

Campbell said the swells could lead to beach flooding and beach erosion. Forecasters warned about the rip currents, which could be dangerous for those trying to surf or swim. Advisories were already out to warn of dangerous surf conditions.

The U.S. Coast Guard said it was called in to search for 10 to 12 people who went out into the high seas at South Padre Island and got caught in strong currents. All were accounted for, including an 8-year-old girl on a boogie board who was carried down the beach more than a mile, said Petty Officer Third Class

Andrew Kendrick.

He said beaches on the popular resort island were closed.

Kendrick said a number of the Coast Guard's smaller boats, which can't handle the high seas, had been removed from the water in preparation for the storm.

Farther up the coast, lifeguards on Mustang Island near Corpus Christi were expected to be out earlier and stay later Monday and police were to help make sure beachgoers knew of the dangers of coastal flooding.

By 10 p.m. Sunday, the center of Claudette was about 320 miles east of Brownsville, with maximum sustained wind blowing at 65 mph, 9 mph shy of hurricane strength. Slow

strengthening is expected and the storm was expected to resume westward Monday.

Campbell said the storm could strengthen to a Category 1 hurricane just before making landfall.

In the Corpus Christi area, city officials were concerned with the potential for coastal and inland flooding from the storm. An extra highway lane was being opened on a causeway from Padre Island to Corpus Christi to speed up the process of leaving the island.

Juan Ortiz, emergency management coordinator for the city, said no massive community evacuations would be warranted if the storm stuck to its projected path.

KTXT-FM 88.1 will be off the air July 14, 15, 16 to accommodate equipment upgrades. Please join us again July 17.



The Museum of Texas Tech is holding "Bedtime under the stars" at 7 p.m. Thursday as part of the Bedtime at the Museum series. It is open to children ages 6-10 and free of charge, but registration is required. Call (806) 742-2432 for more information.

Red Raider Camp starts July 23 at the Tech campus in Junction. The program lasts three days and two nights and is designed to help incoming freshmen learn about Tech before the start of the fall semester.

Country music's Toby Keith will be in concert at the United Spirit Arena with Junior Brown and Blake Shelton on Aug. 21. Tickets are \$45.50 plus a \$4 service charge and are available at all Select-a-Seat locations including the Student Union building.

The city of Lubbock has set up a mosquito hotline. For spraying in your neighborhood, call (806) 775-3110.

Marines

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
son in San Angelo.

"I'm very excited to be back. I can't wait to get home and see my friends and family," he said. "It's been a long wait until the actual day (I get to go home)."

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Big 12 Conference No. 1, Lady Raiders No. 3 in attendance

By David Wiechmann/Editor

The Big 12 Conference continued its dominance of women's basketball attendance again in the 2002-03 season. The Big 12 ranked No. 1 in the nation in total and average attendance this season.

A total of 970,764 fans attended women's games this year, and an average of 5,030 per game put the conference on top again. In 2002, the Big 12 set NCAA records in attendance with more than 1 million fans attending games and an average of 5,331.

This season the Big 12 ran away from the competition by more than 250,000 fans. The Big Ten Conference came in second place in attendance with 716,019 fans.

Russell Warren, associate athletics director of ticket relations, said the Big 12 has separated itself from the competition because of

the competition on the court.

"The Big 12 is the best league in the nation for women's basketball," he said.

Warren credited much of the Big 12's success in attendance to the success the conference has had in sending teams to the NCAA Tournament every year and the effort its universities put into women's basketball.

"Everyone has made the commitment to women's basketball at their universities," he said. "And in turn you see better teams and better coaches."

The Big 12 can also boast that half of its conference ranked in the top 25 nationally for attendance. Texas Tech, Iowa State, Kansas

State, Texas, Oklahoma and Baylor all came in 23rd or higher in attendance.

Texas Tech stays among the leaders in attendance again, this year coming in third overall. Marsha Sharp's Lady Raiders had more than 195,000 fans attend their home games with an average of 12,204 in 2002-03. Tech was the only school in the Big 12 to break the 10,000 mark in average attendance respectively.

Iowa State and Kansas State both cracked the top 10 at fifth and sixth place. Warren said Tech has been ahead of the field for some time now, and it is something he and Tech can be proud of.

"We've led the charge for many years now

in the Southwest Conference as well as the Big 12," he said. "And for Texas Tech to be on the forefront of that is something to be proud of."

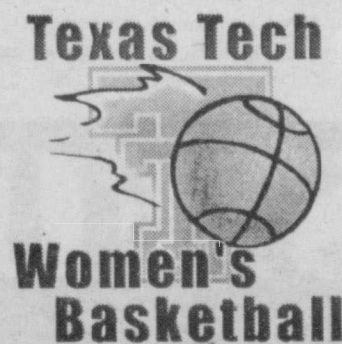
Tech's fall from No. 2 to No. 3 overall could be credited to a larger facility at the University of Connecticut. Warren said UConn's average attendance jumps considerably when its rivals come to town, and the same goes for No. 1 Tennessee.

Tennessee's arena holds approximately 25,000 fans. Warren said The Lady Volunteers' normally get 7,000 to 8,000 fans per game, but when UConn or any SEC rivals come the place is sold out.

The United Spirit Arena holds roughly 15,000, and the Lady Raiders' average of 12,204 is a "truer average," as Warren called it.

He said Tech would like to push and be back on top of UConn in the next season.

"We will continue to do better," he said. "And anything we can do to drive attendance will only help."



Armstrong leads in quest for fourth straight Tour de France

GAP, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong escaped a harrowing crash in the Alps on Monday, riding into a field to avoid a fallen rival but keeping his overall lead in the Tour de France.

Joseba Beloki had been second overall behind Armstrong and is out of cycling's premier race with a broken right leg, right elbow and right wrist.

Armstrong, bidding for a record-fifth consecutive title, made a

strong recovery to finish fourth in the ninth stage on Bastille Day.

"I was scared like never before," said Armstrong, who took the leader's yellow jersey Sunday. "It was a real panic. In a moment like that, it's a survival instinct."

Beloki hit the road hard when he slipped off his bike around a bend on a rapid descent with less than 5 miles to go. Armstrong was right behind and

just missed plowing into the Spaniard.

Beloki, the 2002 runner-up behind Armstrong, was conscious when taken to a hospital in an ambulance. His arm was to be placed in a cast, doctors said.

To avoid Beloki, Armstrong rode into a field next to the road. He bumped across the sun-burnt grass, cutting off a hairpin bend. At the end of the field, he got off his bike, carried it to the road, got back on and sped off.

"You can't train for that so it's just a reaction," Armstrong said. "When you see something like that happening the first thing you think is where am I going to go? I couldn't go right, I could only go left and I found a little path into the field."

Armstrong was not penalized for skipping the bend because he did not gain time on rivals and did not do it on purpose.

Ohio State AD denies Clarett got special help

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger denied that freshman football star Maurice Clarett received preferential academic treatment.

"There are no special considerations for student-athletes," Geiger said Sunday following a report that Clarett received help passing a class before Ohio State won the national championship.

The *New York Times* reported Sunday Clarett had passed African-American and African Studies 101 by taking two oral exams.

OSU President Karen Holbrook said the university will investigate athletes' academic performance and relationships with tutors and faculty starting Monday.

Holbrook stressed that no one at the university had lodged a complaint about the class, but that any wrongdoing found in the investigation would be reported to the NCAA.

"We recognize that the spotlight will always be on the national champion," she said. "Being in the spotlight makes it even more important for us to respond quickly and appropriately to these allegations."

Paulette Pierce, an associate professor, told the newspaper she worked directly with Clarett and administered the exams after he walked out of the midterm exam in the fall quarter. Pierce said she has taken similar steps with students who are not athletes.

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