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American bodies dragged through Iraqi streets

By Sameer N. Yacoub/Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq — In a scene reminiscent of Somalia, frenzied crowds dragged the burned, mutilated bodies of four American contractors through the streets of a town west of Baghdad on Wednesday and strung two of them up from a bridge after rebels ambushed their SUVs.

Five U.S. soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division also were killed in the same area when a bomb exploded under their M-113 armored personnel carrier, making it the bloodiest day for Americans in Iraq since Jan. 8.

The four contract workers were killed in Fallujah, a Sunni Triangle city about 35 miles

west of Baghdad and scene of some of the worst violence on both sides of the conflict since the beginning of the American occupation a year ago.

Chanting "Fallujah is the graveyard of Americans," residents cheered after the grisly assault on two four-wheel-drive civilian vehicles left both SUVs in flames.

Associated Press Television News pictures showed one man beating a charred corpse with a metal pole. Others tied a yellow rope to a body, hooked it to a car and dragged it down the main street of town. Two blackened and mangled corpses were hung from a green, iron bridge spanning the Euphrates River.

"The people of Fallujah hung some of the

bodies on the old bridge like slaughtered sheep," resident Abdul Aziz Mohammed said. Some corpses were dismembered, he said.

The White House blamed terrorists and remnants of Saddam Hussein's former regime for the "horrific attacks" on the American contractors.

"It is offensive, it is despicable the way these individuals have been treated," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said.

Referring to the planned June 30 transfer of sovereignty to Iraqis, McClellan said "the best way to honor those that lost their lives" is to continue with efforts to bring democracy to Iraq.

"There are terrorists, there are some remnants of the former regime that are enemies of freedom and enemies of democracy, but democracy is taking root and we are making important progress," McClellan added. "We will not turn back from that effort."

State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said the contractors, all men, "were trying to make a difference and to help others." He did not identify the dead or the nature of their work because the next of kin had not yet been notified.

The abuse and mutilation of the corpses was similar to the scene more than a decade ago in Somalia, when a mob dragged corpses of U.S. soldiers through the streets of Mogadishu, eventually leading to the Ameri-

can withdrawal from the African nation.

On Wednesday, a man held a printed sign with a skull and crossbones and the phrase "Fallujah is the cemetery for Americans" beneath the blackened corpses after they were pulled from the vehicles.

One body was tied to a car that had a poster in its window of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the founder of the Palestinian militant group Hamas who was assassinated by the Israeli military in Gaza City.

One resident displayed what appeared to be dog tags taken from one body. Residents also said there were weapons in the targeted

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Andrews' return draws concerns

CRIME QUESTIONS: Suspected killer's return to Tech causes some students, parents distress.

By Michael Castellon/The University Daily

On the evening of March 18, three gunshots rang out and rocked the coastal town of Baytown, located just east of Houston and barely a stone's throw from the Gulf of Mexico.

One of the shots hit Jaime Salazar, a 21-year-old Baytown man who police, upon arrival to investigate a disturbance call, found on the side of Gresham Avenue. Police reports indicate emergency personnel who arrived on the scene administered life-saving measures on Salazar, then transported him to nearby San Jacinto Hospital, where he was pronounced dead as the result of a single gunshot wound to the chest.

The effects of those shots have now reached Texas Tech, more than 600 miles from Baytown, where the Harris County District Attorney's Office's prime suspect lives and goes to school.

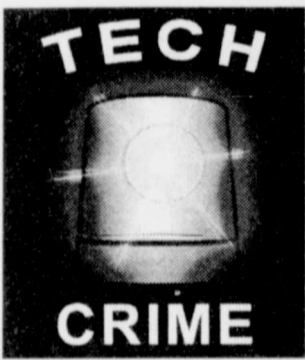
On Tuesday, Tech Police officials confirmed that Troy Vincent Andrews, a 19-year-old Baytown native, has returned to the university and his on-campus residence since posting bond at Harris County Jail. According to the 2003-2004 Tech Directory, Andrews resides in Bledsoe Residence Hall.

His return has some students distressed. Baytown Police officials say their department has arrested Andrews 10 times, the most recent being in connection with a theft in August.

But none of Andrews' past legal problems may be as severe as the murder charges he faces now. Complete details of Salazar's death remain sketchy, but Baytown Police records indicate that just before 11 p.m. on March 18, Salazar and Andrews engaged in an argument over a bottle of pills. The argument escalated, and police say Andrews pulled a gun on Salazar and shot three times, missing twice, and then delivered the fatal wound to Salazar's chest on the third.

Police reports indicate Andrews fled the scene in a blue and green 1997 Ford Thunderbird, taking with him the handgun used to commit the shooting.

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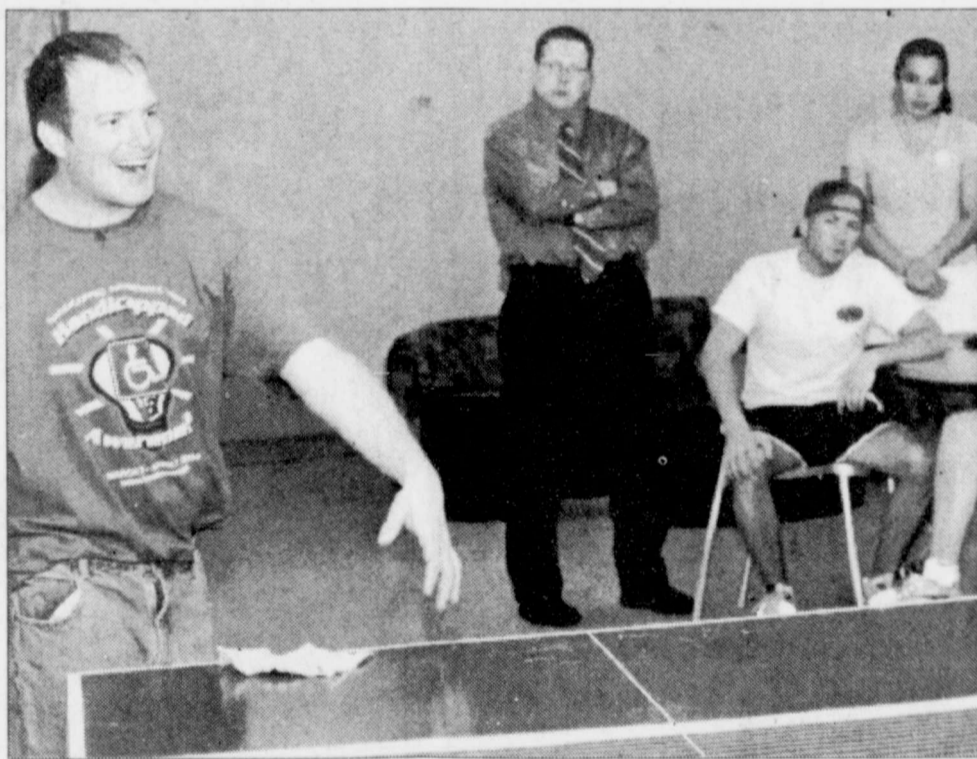


JAIME TOMÁS AGUILAR/The University Daily

TIFFANY CARISS, A senior marketing and management information systems major from Round Rock (left), and Jessica Alaqueiz, a senior psychology major from San Antonio, participate in a game of basketball to kick off Handicapped Awareness Week on Wednesday afternoon in the Robert H. Ewalt Recreational Center.

RANDELL RESNEDAR GIVES OPENING remarks to start off Handicapped Awareness Week in the lounge area of the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreational Center Wednesday afternoon.

JAIME TOMÁS AGUILAR/The University Daily



handicapped Awareness week

Wheelchair basketball tournament kicks off awareness week

By Beth Aaron/The University Daily

Handicapped Awareness Week began Wednesday, with an opening ceremony at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreational Center.

Randell Resnedar, a graduate student from Lubbock studying instructional technology kicked off the week's events as keynote speaker. Resnedar founded Handicapped Awareness week when he was a freshman. He virtually runs the program by himself.

"I founded it in 1988, and it's been going ever since," he said. "I have worked hard for eight years now."

Marilyn Wragg has known Resnedar since he was a child and he and his family attended her church. She said he has worked to raise awareness about people with disabilities since he was a high school student.

"My understanding is that it was really a dream of Randell's," she said. "Because people would assume he didn't have the intelligence."

Wragg said Resnedar decided he could either get mad or become frustrated. Instead, she said, he has tried to do something positive.

"He is very, very intelligent," she said.

Scheduled events for Handicapped Awareness Week included a wheelchair basketball tournament that took place shortly after Wednesday's opening event. Various Tech student organizations were asked to participate.

Tiffany Gourley, a graduate student studying marketing and finance from Fort Worth, joined with the Texas Tech Marketing Association to play in the wheelchair basketball tournament.

"I think this type of activity really gives students a chance to actually feel/see what it's like to be in their shoes," she said.

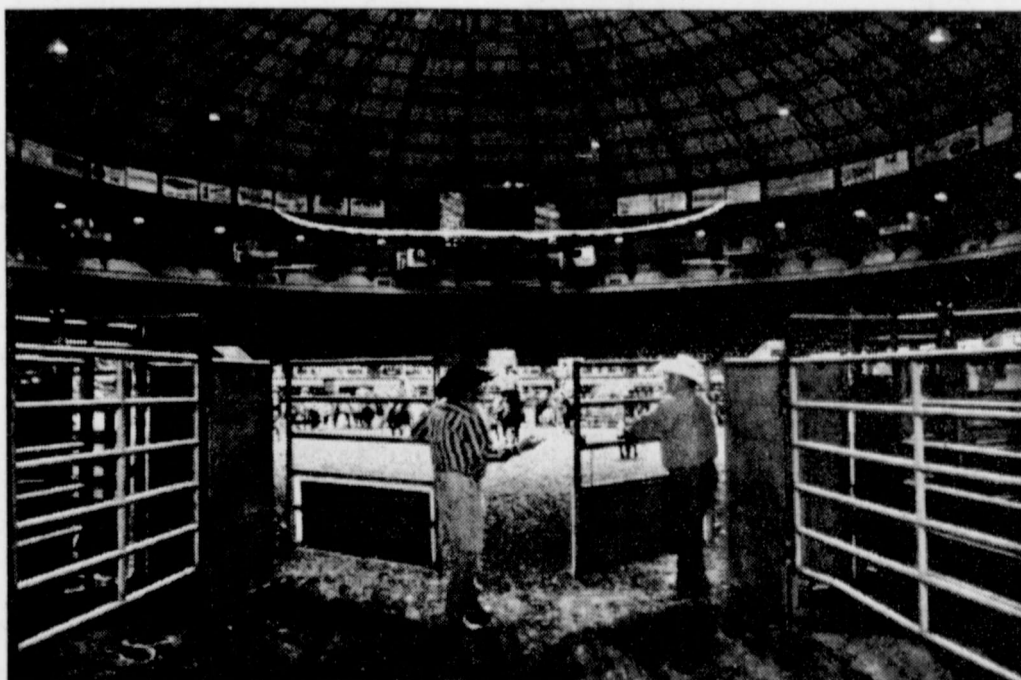
Gourley said she and her organization were set to play against the Residence Hall Association headed by Austin Hall, a freshman accounting major from Houston.

Hall said he and the members of his association are friends of Randell's and came out to support him and the Handicapped Awareness program. He said he thinks it is important for students to participate in events such as Handicapped Awareness Week.

"So they have an understanding that not everyone has

AWARENESS continued on page 6

RODEO ROUNDUP



DAVID JOHNSON/The University Daily

LUBBOCK RESIDENT AND former ABC Rodeo Chairman Mike Redeker and Rodeo Producer Rett Beutler open and close the gate for the cowboys during rodeo practice. The rodeo begins today at 7:30 p.m. and runs on Friday and Saturday evenings at the same time. Tickets cost \$12 and \$20.

Murphy: 'I am not guilty' of sexual abuse

By Pam Easton/Associated Press

HOUSTON — Tears streaming down his face after appearing in a courtroom Wednesday, former Houston Rockets star Calvin Murphy declared he is innocent of charges he molested five of his daughters.

"I am not guilty of these charges," Murphy said, at times blotting tears with a white hand towel. "I can't emphasize that enough."

The initial court appearance was to make sure Murphy understood the charges against him and he wasn't required to enter a formal plea.

Murphy, 55, was a guard for the Rockets from 1970 to 1983 and was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1993. He has taken a leave of absence from his analyst duties on Rockets telecasts while he fights three charges of indecency with a child and three charges of aggravated sexual assault of a child.

"Obviously, I am missing being the flamboyant commentator that I was before all this happened, but that is not important right now," he said. "What is important right now is what I am doing ... to defend myself, try to get myself exonerated and put my family back together."

Murphy has 10 daughters and four sons with nine women, Harris County prosecutor Lance Long said.

"You have got to remember this involves my family — the family that I so dearly love — and to be put in a situation like this, and to have a lot of time to think about what has occurred

is a travesty for my family," Murphy said.

The five daughters, now adults, claim the abuse occurred from 1988-91, according to an affidavit filed by the Texas Rangers. Murphy contends the claims by his daughters stem from family discord related to a battle over money.

"My heart aches — of course for me because I am in the spotlight — but it really aches for my daughters, because there are reasons behind this kind of thing that will be brought out later," he said.

Long said at least one daughter said she was as young as 6 when Murphy took her to a hotel room and performed oral sex on her. On another occasion, Long said, Murphy fondled one of the girls after she had moved in with him following her stepfather's death.

Long said he plans to take the case to a grand jury to secure the formal indictment needed to send the case to trial, but wasn't sure how soon the case would be presented. Murphy's next court date is April 27.

"Any time someone is charged with sexual abuse of a child, it is disturbing," Long said. "I think because he is well-known, or if someone is not well-known, it shouldn't make a difference. Lots of things happen in people's lives that the public doesn't always know about."

Fort Bend County District Attorney John Healey said Wednesday his office has joined the investigation into Murphy,

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Explosion hits Uzbeki capital

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan (AP) — Militants seized hostages during a standoff with authorities after an explosion in Uzbekistan's capital Wednesday, police said. A television station reported three wounded in the latest wave of terrorist-related violence in this Central Asian nation.

A grenade that was set up as a booby trap detonated when a police patrol tried to enter the gate of a house in Tashkent, leading to a standoff in which militants took hostages, a police major at the scene said.

Russia's Channel One television reported three people were wounded in the blast in the Sabir-Rakhimovskii district of Tashkent, about half a mile from the Chorsu bazaar, where suicide attackers struck Monday.

Authorities were negotiating with the hostage-takers in the house, the police major said.

Ilya Pyagay, deputy chief of the Interior Ministry's anti-terrorism department, said police were carrying out an anti-terrorist operation in that neighborhood.

The area is not far from the scene of fighting Tuesday that officials said left 23 people dead, including three police officers.

Police blocked off streets in the Sabir-Rakhimovskii district. Four trucks packed with soldiers arrived in the area and pushed back onlookers and establish a cordon around the area.

PLAYING CATCH



LINC ARMES/The University Daily
STEVE TOLMAN, A graduate student from Detroit, plays catch with Eric Freis, a junior German and communications studies major from Sugarland, outside the Human Sciences building Wednesday afternoon.

Two school buses wreck, injure children

BASTROP (AP) — Two school buses wrecked Wednesday morning on a rural road, causing minor injuries to some students, a Bastrop school official said.

"Two of our buses were involved in an accident. One bus rear-ended another bus," said Bastrop Independent School District spokesman Donald Williams.

Eight children were being taken to Brackenridge Hospital in Austin with

minor injuries, Williams said.

"Those injuries were minor, but we wanted to take every precaution with our students' health and well being," he said.

There were about 50 children in all on the two buses, he said. The buses were traveling to Red Rock Elementary School. Some high school students were also on board.

There were no reports that the bus

The Rundown



Police, zoo staff clash after gorilla escape

DALLAS (AP) — As a 350-pound gorilla terrorized Dallas Zoo patrons, a tranquilizer gun reportedly jammed and park employees clashed with police over how to corral the rampaging animal. It attacked four people before being shot to death.

Law officers failed to cooperate with the zoo's staff on how to subdue the western lowland gorilla Jabari despite more than five years of emergency drills together, records obtained by *The Dallas Morning News* for Wednesday's editions show.

"It was mayhem," Mike Glover, the zoo's emergency weapons team leader, wrote concerning the March 18 escape. "Nonzoo personnel were all over the site and approaching any zoo staffer they could find with questions and instructions. They were prepared to move in and frustrated that we were holding them up."

Zoo staff members tried for almost 50 minutes to evacuate patrons into locked buildings, move the injured to safety and track Jabari but found themselves overrun by police officers who ignored or were unaware of established emergency protocol that Police Department personnel had helped write, the report stated.

The missteps added to the confusion during evacuations of about 300 people from the 116-year-old zoo, with some guests hiding inside a restaurant and the monorial surrounding the award-winning Wilds of Africa exhibit where the gorilla escaped, then snatched up a toddler with his teeth and attacked three other people.

Missing Wisconsin college student found

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A missing University of Wisconsin student was found alive Wednesday, less than two miles from where she vanished from her off-campus apartment with no coat or purse, police said.

Audrey Seiler, 20, had non-life-threatening injuries and was taken to a hospital, Officer Larry Kamholz said. He refused to give further details about her condition.

Police said Seiler was found in a marsh near campus. Authorities told the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* that they are looking for an armed suspect in connection with the disappearance.

Police with their weapons drawn could be seen walking through the parking lot of a building near the marsh.

A surveillance tape showed the 20-year-old leaving her building early Saturday, and her door was left open, police said.

Volunteers from Seiler's hometown of Rockford, Minn., slogged through marshes around campus Tuesday, while investigators scoured phone records and searched apartments for any clue into her disappearance.

"Everybody wants you back, Audrey," her mother, Stephanie Seiler, said during a press conference Wednesday morning. "We're not stopping, Audrey, and you can't stop either."

Donors pledge \$8.2 billion for rebuilding

BERLIN (AP) — Donors at an international conference pledged \$8.2 billion over the next three years to help rebuild Afghanistan and smooth its transition to post-Taliban democracy, the Afghan finance minister said Wednesday.

Ashraf Ghani said he was "delighted" with the pledges, made after Afghan President Hamid Karzai appealed to officials from more than 50 countries to help his war-ravaged country support itself and confront the threat from private militias.

For the next year alone, donors pledged \$4.4 billion, Ghani said, adding that priorities will include rebuilding roads and irrigation systems.

Karzai's plans for the next seven years called for a total of US\$28 billion in aid.

Ghani said donors met Afghanistan's target for this year and covered more than two-thirds of its expectations over the next three years.

"We are keen to stand on our own two feet," Ghani said. Earlier, Karzai held out hope that Afghanistan can become self-sufficient in a decade.

The United States, European nations, Japan and Canada were among rich countries that reaffirmed their support as Afghanistan's transition to democracy prepares for a major test — its first post-Taliban elections, planned in September. The pledges compared with \$4.5 billion offered at a first conference in Tokyo in January 2002.

The University Daily

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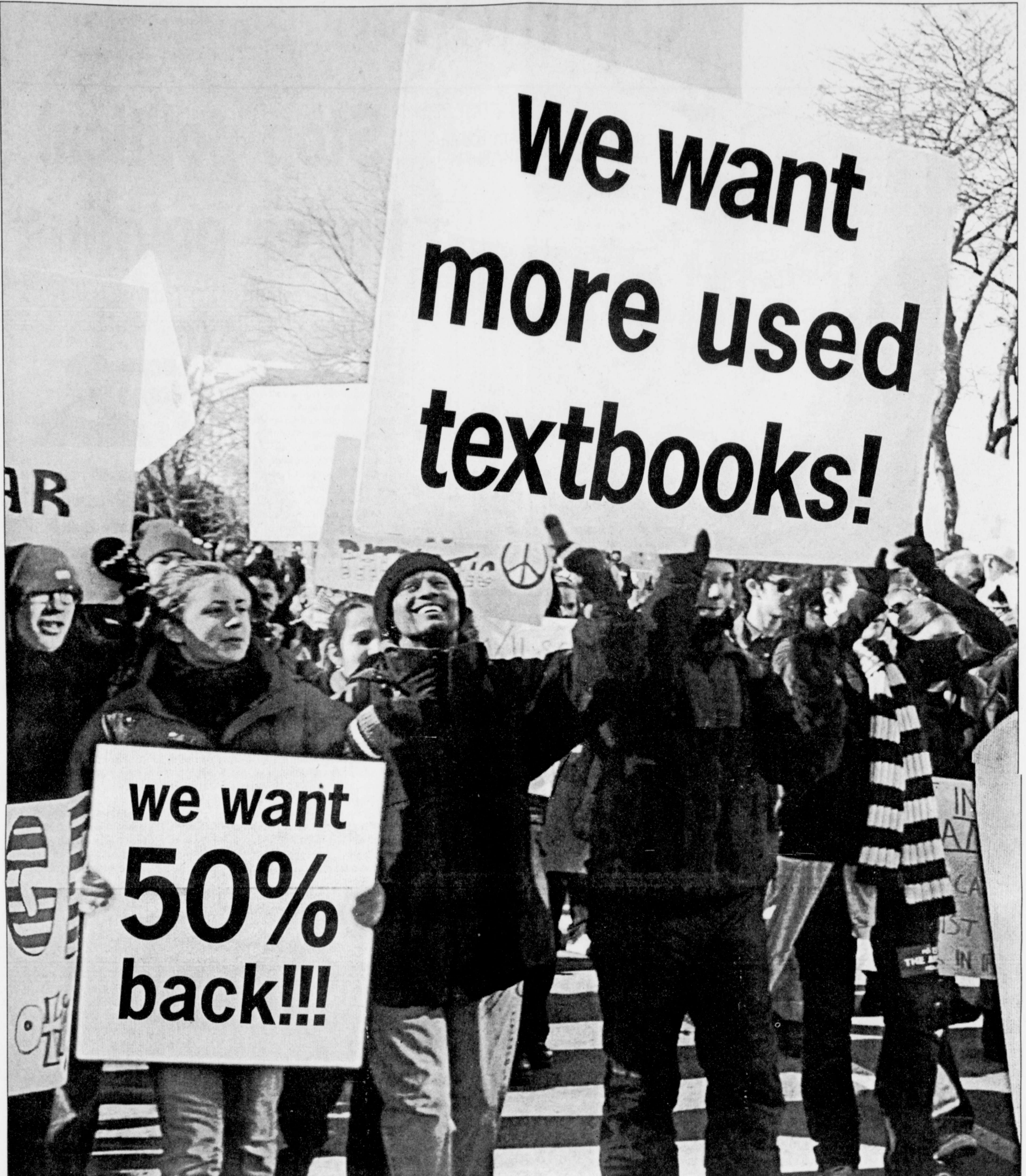
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Three foolish follies that make me furious

Put down the cell phone, shut up in class and don't mess with Texas

I tend to frown on complaining. I firmly believe you should tough it out or toughen up. So, when things aggravate me, I bite my tongue and let it go.

However, I have found it increasingly difficult to let certain things go. The more I think about them, the more they stew in my head and the more upset I get. Every time I think I have gotten past a certain incident, a repeat offender will pop up, and I'm upset all over again. This is horrible for my mental health. It is time to get all this pent up anger off my chest. Besides, they say talking is therapeutic.

Littering — I went to Traffic and Parking a while back to take care of some official business. On my way back to my car, I saw a girl waiting in a white Lexus SUV. I watched as she casually tossed a Burger King cup out her window. I was livid. Just as easily as that she just tossed out a cup and went back to lounging in her pretty Lexus.

What I wanted to do and what I should have done was walk over to her SUV, pick up the cup, tap on the window and just as casually as she tossed it said, "Excuse me, miss, I think you dropped something." That is not what I did. Instead I simply walked around the SUV, got in my car and seethed with anger.

I'm not a hippy-dippy environmental wacko. But, I don't believe in littering. My backpack is full of old newspapers, empty cups, napkins, CD wrappers and other assorted trash. Sure, it looks ugly. But every two weeks I clean it out and put everything in proper receptacles — trash cans. The way I see it, trash looks a lot better in a trash can — even if it has a lengthy sabbatical in car — than on the side of the road. Everyone knows that. It's just that some people are too lazy or too good to take responsibility for their trash.

Talking in class — I am horrible at math.

Sarah Looten



I am not afraid to admit it. But, my major dictates that I take classes that deal with the painful subject. So, I go to class, take notes, sit there confused, listen some more and try to muddle through.

However, several people have decided that it would be all right to talk about their day, their plans or their disgust for the professor in my near proximity. While they are talking, I am hearing about their personal lives and not about Chi Square. Who you go on a date with will not be on the next test — Chi Square will. I turn around and ask you to be quiet. Do not look upset. Do not look ignorant. If you don't want to learn, don't be there. If you want to gossip, whisper or write notes, go home. You don't have to pay attention, but you cannot impede others from paying attention.

Talking on your cell phones — I understand that cell phones are communication devices. You use them to keep in touch with parents, in case of emergencies, to take illegal pictures at the Rec, plan parties and annoy me. When talking on your cell phone, it's important to consider two things: volume and content.

I was going to the library the other day and had to actually stop and do a little math. You know how much I hate math, so please realize the importance of this. There was a gal on her cell phone 100 yards away yacking away. From 100 yards away I could hear her. That goes beyond the "outside voice." That is too damn loud. I don't care that he called this weekend (loud laughing) and that oh-my-god-I-think-I-love-him (loud gig-

gling) — Tone it down. But that's not as bad as the bus. I was sitting there waiting for my stop when a gal walks on the bus. She's talking on her cell phone. She's talking to her mom on her cell phone. She's talking to her mom on her cell phone about her gyno visit. She's talking to her mom on her cell phone about her gyno visit and her test results. I have a cell phone, too. In fact I use it for talking. But when I use it, I try to use a little common phone courtesy. I try to keep my voice down. I try to keep it short. I don't talk about private moments in public. These are things I don't need to know about my fellow students. So please, think of others while you're yammering on your phone. I feel a lot better now. That really was therapeutic. All the other things that frustrate me seem so trivial now. But let this be a lesson to you. Be responsible for your trash and your behavior. What you do affects other people — please let it be positive.

■ **Looten is a senior political science and sociology major from Panhandle. E-mail her at sarah.n.looten@ttu.edu.**

View from another university

SUVs aren't helping America's gas shortage

By Russ Zimmer/The BG News

(U-WIRE) BOWLING GREEN, Ohio — As gas prices rise nationally toward and past \$2 a gallon, I think we should take a look at those gas-guzzling tanks that have risen in popularity during the past few years. You guessed it — the Geo Metro. Wait a second. Let me take another look at my notes. I meant to say sport utility vehicles. SUVs are everywhere. I know a few people actually use them for their intended purpose. But what is that?

From the commercials you would guess driving around in mud swamps or maybe tearing through mountainous snow drifts. There is something about having the power over nature and the ability to dominate the earth while sitting on heated leather seats in a climate-controlled environment.

Very few people actually use their SUVs to exercise this power. Most people like to keep their vehicles looking fresh and clean but still take comfort in knowing that, if on a whim they decide to drive off the road and down a beaten, dirt path, they can. Maybe these people are nature enthusiasts. Well, that's kind of hard to believe.

Cars and trucks (SUVs included) are responsible for 1/3 of all the air pollution in

the United States according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Most large SUVs, such as the GMC Yukon or the Ford Expedition, get a poor rating of three out of 10 from the EPA for tailpipe pollutants that cause smog and public health problems. The infamous Hummer H2 gets a rating of two. The aforementioned models get right around 10 miles to the gallon in the city. Wonder why your gas prices are so high? SUV drivers are eating up all of the fuel.

If that doesn't sound irresponsible enough, think about what would happen if you were driving in your Honda Civic and had an accident with a Hummer that was going at a fairly high speed. The Hummer's grill might get scratched but you and your vehicle would be hurting. The Hummer was developed as a military vehicle and was then released in a civilian model which still weighs over three tons.

The strangest phenomenon associated with SUVs is that women are buying SUVs in great numbers. Indeed, car companies are targeting women like never before because they buy about half of all cars sold in the United States — a dramatic increase from just 20 years ago. Maybe it's an expression of independence and toughness since these SUVs are capable of doing all the off-roading

activities I previously mentioned.

Actually, it may have something to do with the fact that married couples with children make up half the market for SUVs. Married couples don't want to go for the sporty coupes of their youth straight into the minivan.

Instead, they choose to purchase a vehicle with an adventurous personality — like the SUV. It has plenty of space for the family vacation and when you look at yourself in the mirror you don't have to say, "I drive a Dodge Caravan." That's not cool, right? I think the most overlooked issue about SUVs is their effect on oil dependency. These things drink gas, like college students drink Belvedere vodka, or more realistically — Natural Light.

One of the problems facing this country is its dependence on foreign oil, which in a few cases may affect the way we go about the War on Terror. With poor gas mileage and increased popularity, the SUV is certainly not helping this problem. Gasoline-electric hybrids are more environmentally friendly and get up to five times better gas mileage.

It's interesting to think I would argue that by driving a gas-guzzling tank you are being un-American. I hope this isn't a permanent reflection of American culture.

Stop political finger pointing

Sept. 11 commission's purpose is the prevention of future terrorist attacks

Executive branch members of our government should not be forced to testify, under oath, to the 9/11 commission. As public officials they all should volunteer to share information. Now that they are starting to come forward under pressure, the question remains — should have they done so sooner under their own free will?

Tuesday, it was reported President Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, will finally testify under oath. Then, Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney agreed that they too would meet with the full panel of the commission, instead of just the commission's chairman and vice chairman. But, of course, there is a catch — they will only meet with this panel in private, not under oath.

Rice wanted to testify from the beginning, but like her boss she wanted to keep her comments in a private forum. The choice of not testifying about information the Bush administration knew prior to Sept. 11 was fine, but if the commission was truly set up to prevent future attacks, full disclosure is necessary. This means all information. This means complete honesty. This means caring more about America's safety, than about re-election.

The prevention of future attacks should be the main goal, and any helpful information to achieve this vital goal should be volunteered.

If we want to be able to prevent terrorist attacks, or any attacks on America, we need to know as much as possible. The members of the executive branch need to tell as much as they knew, if they knew anything.

The commission should question everyone who possibly had intelligence about possible attacks. They have already spoken with some officials from the Clinton Administration, and of course, they have spoken to Bush's former counterterrorism director Richard Clarke.

Can the commission trust everything Clarke says, or is he just making outrageous claims to try to sell his book? In the end, America must decide for itself. But, without others speaking up, it is impossible to have all sides to a seemingly secretive situation.

Many requests were made for Rice to testify, but after all of the requests had been denied, Rice was finally allowed to come forward.

The government said that a reason the requests were denied was because the information should be secret. An adviser gave it to the president, so forcing Rice to testify would set a new national precedent.

Many political analysts have already said this will not set a new precedent because an attack of this nature has never occurred, which makes the testimony of Condoleezza Rice an exception.

People have already begun to question why it took so long to come to a final decision. According to many polls, some U.S. citizens are starting to think the Bush Administration had something to hide about

Lucas Flores



The commission must not politicize this investigation.

Either party could be blamed. Republicans could hold Clinton responsible, and Democrats could put all the blame on Bush. In fact, fault can be put on almost any governmental employee.

pre-9/11 intelligence. Many people also feel Rice only wants to testify just to counteract the testimony of Richard Clarke. But neither party should try to use the commission to blame the other for the attacks.

Either party could try to use the commission as a tool to blame the other, but blaming one person or group will get us nowhere. All we will know is who messed up. What will that accomplish? The goal has to be the protection of the American people.

The commission must not politicize this investigation. Either party could be blamed. Republicans could hold Clinton responsible, and Democrats could put all the blame on Bush. In fact, fault can be put on almost any governmental

employee. The CIA or FBI ignored something they should not have. The INS or ATF or the welfare system did not catch on to someone that was in the system. Really, the entire disaster was one big group effort.

It will be too difficult to find the one person or group to blame for the attacks. We could attribute 9/11 to just about any past or present government official.

This reason alone should convince the commission to stay away from playing the blame game and stick to the matter of preventing another attack.

It is too complicated to say if the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks could have been prevented. It is impossible to know what might have been. And it's easy to look back and have 20/20 vision about what should have been. But, by focusing on gathering as much information about the terrorist attacks as possible, we just might be able to prevent any future attacks on America.

■ **Flores is a senior journalism major from Anton. E-mail him your comments at lucas.b.flores@ttu.edu.**



LETTERS: The UD welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be no longer than 200 words and must include the author's name, signature, phone number, and a description of university affiliation. Letters selected for publication have the right to be edited. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. All letters are subject to verification. Letters can be e-mailed to opinions@universitydaily.net or brought to 211 Student Media.

GUEST COLUMNS: The UD accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 600 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community.

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Toth selected as 2004-05 UD editor

By Sally Gunter/
The University Daily



Toth
The UD, Toth said a work attitude is key.

A 12-member committee interviewed three candidates on Wednesday evening before announcing Heidi Toth as editor-in-chief of *The University Daily* for 2004-2005.

Toth was a staff reporter covering public affairs for a year until becoming news editor in August 2003.

"I'm really excited," she said. "It is a great opportunity for me."

Despite her excitement, Toth, a graduate student from Roswell, N.M., studying business, said she has some reservations.

"It's kind of scary. I'll be running a newspaper," Toth said. "Somehow I don't seem old enough to have that type of responsibility."

Changes to the front page that include the addition of stock market quotes are part of Toth's improvement plan, she said. Toth also wants to focus more on accuracy and letting people know *The UD* is a paper people can talk to.

Reader feedback through open lines of communication is an important key to figuring out what aspects of the paper should be changed, she said.

"I want to focus more on internal," she said. "Jump-start from the inside out."

Replacing current editor-in-chief Courtney Muench will be difficult, but Toth said the good job Muench has done of keeping an open phone line and encouraging communication will

make the transition easier.

To ease tensions between the Student Government Association and

I think we need to keep the relationship professional," she said. "We need to get rid of the stuff that goes on in between."

Unless she receives a national internship she applied for, Toth said she will be accepting the position as summer editor-in-chief.

Toth will begin selections for editor positions in a couple of weeks. After the editors are selected, she said interviews will begin to hire staff reporters.

"Editors need to have a say in who their reporters are," Toth said.

The selection committee is comprised of six faculty members and six Tech students that were nominated by the Faculty Senate.

The faculty and student committee also selects the station manager for KTXT and the editor-in-chief for the La Ventana yearbook.

"The committee was so impressed with all of them," said Director of Stu-

dent Media Susan Peterson. "The decision was not an easy one for the committee."

The three candidates met with the professional staff of the Student Media department in individual interview sessions last week.

The group then gave their recommendation to the committee. Toth has extensive experience in the news sector of the paper that gave her an edge over the two other contestants, Peterson said.

"There was a lot of discussion about each of the candidates," she said.

"They all had experience in different areas. That may be where Heidi came through with her news experience."

Melissa Barnes, a senior advertising major from Houston, served on the committee and agreed it was a difficult decision to make.

Barnes said she was impressed with Toth's work ethic and plans for the paper.

"She was really professional, and she has some great ideas," Barnes said. "She will be a great leader and motivator. She has good working qualities."

The editor selection process is an effective one that gives the readers a chance to speak up, Barnes said.

"I think it is important because the newspaper is read by students, faculty and staff," she said. "It is only fair to include them."



Abstracts for race-based admissions debate due Friday

By Andrew Bell/
The University Daily

As Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week approaches, members of various graduate organizations are planning a university-wide debate on the topic of whether race should be used as a factor for admissions to Texas Tech, along with other activities, for the week.

The inaugural debate will be held from 12:30 to 2 p.m. April 6 in the Allen Theater of the Student Union.

Any student that would like to participate in the debate needs to turn in an abstract by April 2, Emma Dawson said.

The interim vice president for the Graduate and Professional Student Association said the abstract should contain whether the student is for or against the topic.

"This is an opportunity to hear different opinions on a topic that affects all," she said. "I hope it opens minds to different sides of the issue."

The debate is open for under-

graduate and graduate students, and Dawson said she would like to get the entire student body involved in the debate.

Also, the GPSA will hold other events during the week. The activities will begin after opening announcements Tuesday morning in Room 102 of the English/Philosophy building,

Dawson said.

Activities will include a membership drive for various graduate student organizations, a library workshop, a book fair and the GPSA will try to obtain fellowships and grants for graduate students.

Also, on Wednesday and Thursday, the GPSA will open its new offices and hold elections.

The organization is inviting nominations for positions, and any graduate student is eligible to serve any position, Dawson said.

"There should be something for everyone," she said, "so we hope they come out."

For more information about the activities of next week or concerning the debate, e-mail Dawson at emma.dawson@ttu.edu.

"This is an opportunity to hear different opinions on a topic that affects all."

— EMMA DAWSON
Interim Vice President for Graduate and Professional Student Association

Judge issues five arrest warrants for Madrid bombings

INTERNATIONAL ARRESTS: Juge hands warrants to officials in Britain, Morocco and France

MADRID, Spain (AP) — A Spanish judge issued five international arrest warrants on Wednesday for suspects in the Madrid train bombings and re-arrested a released Moroccan suspect, a court official said.

Another suspect identified as

Otman El Gnaout was arrested, a court official announced later, giving no details of the nationality of the man or the place of his arrest.

Judge Juan del Olmo was forwarding the warrants to authorities in Britain, Morocco and France, said the court official who did not

want to be identified.

Among the five suspects sought is Abdelkrim Mejjati, a 36-year-old Moroccan who was convicted in absentia in the deadly bombings in Casablanca last year and is no longer believed to be in Morocco.

Spanish Interior Minister Angel Acebes on Tuesday identified the Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group as the main focus of investigation in the March 11 bombings in

Madrid, which killed 191 people and injured more than 1,800 others.

That extremist group is a forerunner of Salafia Jihadia, which Morocco blamed for the Casablanca bombings.

The Spanish radio station Cadena Ser and the newspaper ABC have reported that Moroccan authorities believe Mejjati may have been the on-the-ground organizer of the Madrid attacks.

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Iraq

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cars. APTN showed an American passport near a body and a U.S. Department of Defense identification card belonging to another man.

Some of the slain contractors were wearing flak jackets, resident Safa Mohammedi said.

In Baghdad, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said the coalition would not be deterred from its mission to rebuild Iraq, and that numerous reconstruction projects were moving forward nationwide even though attention was focused on the attacks.

The roadside bomb that killed the five American soldiers Wednesday was in Malahma, 12 miles northwest of Fallujah, where anti-U.S. insurgents are active.

Their deaths raised the number of U.S. troops killed in March to at least 48, making it the second-deadliest month for U.S. troops since President Bush declared an end to major combat on May 1.

The deadliest month was November, when 82 U.S. troops were killed.

In all, at least 597 U.S. troops have died in Iraq since the war began March 20, 2003. Of the total, 459 have died since May 1 when Bush flew onto an aircraft carrier off the California coast to declare the end of major combat.

In the deadliest previous incident this year, nine soldiers were killed Jan. 8 when their Black Hawk medevac helicopter crashed near Fallujah, ap-

parently after being shot down.

Fallujah is in the so-called Sunni Triangle, where support for Saddam was strong and rebels often carry out attacks against American forces.

U.S. Marines recently took over authority in the region from the departing U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

In an effort to forcefully establish their presence, the newly arrived Marines have conducted numerous patrols in Fallujah and have engaged in fierce firefights with rebels.

In recent months, U.S. soldiers were not seen as often in the center of town.

The Marines have said they will aggressively pursue guerrillas in Fallujah. However, no U.S. troops or Iraqi police were seen in the area after the attacks Wednesday, and the city was quiet.

In nearby Ramadi, insurgents threw a grenade at a government building and Iraqi security forces returned fire Wednesday, witnesses said.

It was not clear if there were casualties.

Also in Ramadi, a roadside bomb exploded near a U.S. convoy, witnesses said. U.S. officials in Baghdad could not confirm the attack.

Northeast of Baghdad, in the city of Baqouba on Wednesday, a suicide bomber blew up explosives in his car when he was near a convoy of government vehicles, wounding 14 Iraqis and killing himself, officials said.

to a 22-7 record and an NCAA tournament berth in 1970.

Niagara athletic director Mike Hermann said Wednesday that the school had been considering expanding Murphy's prominence in its marketing campaign next year, but has put those plans on hold.

Murphy was drafted in the second round in 1970 by the San Diego Rockets, who moved to Houston the following season. Murphy quickly became a fan favorite despite playing on several bad teams. His 17,949 points were a franchise high until Hakeem Olajuwon passed him.

Murphy, known as the "Pocket Rocket" because of his small stature, missed just nine free throws — and made 78 straight in one stretch — in 1980-81 for a record single-season percentage of .958.

His number hangs retired in the Toyota Center rafters.

Concerns

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Just before 6 the next morning, police in the neighboring town of Bellaire spotted the Thunderbird, which had license plates that matched those of the Thunderbird leaving the scene of the shooting.

Bellaire police subsequently arrested Andrews, who was with the vehicle. Baytown detectives arrived shortly after and questioned Andrews, and then booked him on murder charges at Harris County Jail. His bond was set at \$30,000.

Documents obtained from the Harris County District Attorney's Office show that five days later, on March 24, Andrews posted bond and returned to Lubbock.

But the story doesn't end there. Even most incoming college freshmen know under the American legal system, a suspect is innocent until proven guilty, and Andrews is no exception.

"I was kind of taken aback by the situation as a safety concern, but we also have to remember innocent until proven guilty," said Student Government Association President Jeremy Brown.

Mark Olsen agrees. "He's innocent until proven guilty, period," the sophomore mechanical engineering major from Australia said. "I'm not worried about it until he's convicted. Right now, he's innocent, and I think

classifying him as anything else other than that is making a false assumption."

But for now, police reports indicate the evidence is stacked against Andrews. The argument leading up to the shooting was witnessed by nearly 20 people who were gathered with Andrews and Salazar outside of an apartment complex, and those questioned by police identified Andrews as the shooter.

Andrews' return to the university concerns Welsey Nemeth, a freshman business major from Houston.

"I think (university administrators) should have waited to see what the verdict was going to be before letting him come back on campus," she said. "I'm a little worried about the situation. Having him back on campus makes me feel uneasy."

Citing laws that intend to protect the privacy of students, university officials are unable to divulge much information about Andrews or any pending administrative decisions that may be revolving around the allegations.

"Federal privacy laws preclude us from saying anything about that situation," said Associate Director for News and Publications Sally Logue Post.

Attempts to contact Andrews at his on-campus residence were unsuccessful Wednesday, and his attorney, Brian Benken of Houston, did not return phone calls seeking comment.

The United Spirit Arena, said anyone wanting to volunteer for any of the Handicapped Awareness Week events should contact her at (806) 742-7362.

Liz Hall, vice provost and ADA Compliance Officer for Faculty and Staff said she works to make sure disabled students have the same opportunity everyone else does by accommodating classroom buildings to suit their needs.

"It's important to understand and appreciate any differences that we have between people," she said. "Handicap awareness is no different from that."

Liz Hall said she hopes students will take advantage of the events happening this week.

"I really think that if students would take advantage of that," she said, "they'd have a much better understanding of the world in general."

For more information about Handicapped Awareness Week, visit www.handiaware.com, Randell Resneder's Web site.

EYE ON BALL



LINC ARMES/The University Daily

BRANDON RIDENS, A sophomore mechanical engineering major from Stephenville, plays hackysack in between his classes outside the Mathematics building Wednesday afternoon.

Murphy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

who lives in the county just southwest of Harris County.

Children's Protective Services spokeswoman Estella Olguin said her agency was called to Murphy's \$350,000 home March 2 to investigate possible abuse and neglect of two children who live with him. The children have not been removed from the home, but the investigation is continuing, she said.

Murphy, an unlikely star from Niagara University because of his 5-foot-9 frame, averaged 17.9 points and shot 89.2 percent from the free throw line in his pro career.

He was a high school star at Norwalk, Conn., before moving on to Niagara, where he was a two-time consensus All-America and led the school

Awareness

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the opportunity that they do," he said. "To help be compassionate, you know?"

Upcoming events include disability simulations, an Easter egg hunt for children with disabilities on April 4 at 2 p.m. at the United Spirit Arena, City Conference Center and a faculty forum entitled "Best Practices for Teaching Disabled Students" on April 7 at 12 p.m. at the Teaching Learning and Technology Center located in the Texas Tech Library.

Wragg said the disability simulation is her favorite Handicapped Awareness Week event.

"It's a really neat event," she said. "They do things to make you have a better awareness of what it's like to function with a disability."

Cindy Harper, assistant director of

Laney recounts killing her children

TYLER (AP) — Sobbing and at times erupting into tears, an East Texas woman recounted in a videotaped interview shown to jurors Wednesday how she smashed her sons' skulls with rocks after seeing signs that God wanted her to kill them.

"I believed with all my heart that it was the Lord telling me that, but I couldn't figure out why," Deanna Laney, 39, said in the interview with psychiatrist Park Dietz. It was taped from jail seven months after the killings last Mother's Day weekend.

Laney, a stay-at-home mother who homeschooled her children in the small town of New Chapel Hill, has pleaded innocent by reason of

insanity to capital murder in the killings of 8-year-old Joshua and 6-year-old Luke. She also pleaded innocent to serious injury to a child charges in the severe beating of then-14-month-old Aaron.

Laney appeared distraught throughout the 50-minute interview, breaking down and dabbing her nose with a tissue while describing the beatings. On several occasions she stopped talking long enough to take a deep breath before continuing.

She said she believed she and Andrea Yates, the Houston woman who drowned her children, were chosen by God to kill their children and be witnesses after the world ends.

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The Rock trips, falls with 'Walking Tall'

With Gov. Schwarzenegger firmly in place in office and Stallone perpetually stuck in "straight-to-video land," the time has now come for The Rock to establish himself as the next big action star.

He surprised in "The Scorpion King" and gained my full support in "The Rundown" (in which Arnold symbolically abdicated his action star crown to The Rock). He has proved he's got the chiseled looks, the charming personality, the pearly whites and even the acting talent to be the next big thing.

Unfortunately, "Walking Tall," a remake of a 1973 action film of the same name, fails to ever let The Rock shine. As Chris Vaughn, a war hero returning home to find his town overrun with gambling, drugs and prostitution, The Rock looks trapped in a role that never lets him be all he can be.

He's stuck with a stale character

James Eppler



who has the personality of the big log he uses to administer justice.

In a story we've seen only about a million times, Vaughn finds his hometown has been corrupted, and after being severely beaten by the bad guys, he rises up and becomes town sheriff to clean up that one-horse town.

His rival is a long-time nemesis turned casino owner, Jay Hamilton Jr. (Neal McDonough). The two are civil to each other at first, but when Vaughn catches a casino worker switching out dice, he causes a scene. Hamilton's thugs take a box cutter to Vaughn's chest and leave him in the

street for dead.

So now it's personal.

With the town having a corrupt sheriff, Vaughn decides to take over the job and clean up the town with an iron fist—and a big log.

The film is based on the 1973 screenplay by Mort Briskin, but took (count 'em) four writers to update. Any film employing more than two writers earns it a slanted eyebrow from me, but it's astounding that it took four brains to produce this idiocy.

Not that the writing is that important. Vaughn is a man of action, not words. But it's just embarrassing watching The Rock spout out a

cheese-ball speech at a jury while the judge tells him he's out of order.

The mistakes keep piling up as the film drones along. Johnny "Jackass" Knoxville is tossed into the mix for some comic relief, and there's a pointless throwaway love story to take up time. For a moment, we wonder if the love interest (Ashley Scott) may end up playing a pivotal role late in the movie.

But the film doesn't have time for those kinds of complications. Running a scant 85 minutes, the movie is tailor-made for those with short attention spans. It moves from one action sequence to the next without much

concern for coherency.

Director Kevin Bray, whose first film was the haphazard "All About the Benjamins", has proved that he has the ability to produce cookie-cutter action movies with a certain amount of ease.

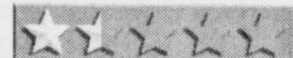
The action in this film is only mildly entertaining, but surprisingly violent for the PG-13 rating that it received. I suppose since the MPAA looks to never give a film the NC-17 for violence ("The Passion of the Christ," "Kill Bill") they are becoming more relaxed with what they will allow in a PG-13.

This film's failure is no fault of The

Rock, however. I have no doubt that we will soon see the film that will perfectly define him and play to his strengths.

In "Walking Tall," however, The Rock is just a helpless victim drowning in a bad action movie cesspool, clinging to a log for dear life. The movie opens Friday.

EPPLER'S RATING



■ Eppler is The UD's movie critic. E-mail questions and comments to James. D. Eppler@ttu.edu.

Insect trainer to perform at theatre

Insect trainer Steven Kutcher is coming to the Allen Theatre at 8 p.m. today.

Kutcher has trained bugs for such movies as "Spiderman," "Alien," "Contact" and "The Exorcist."

Janna Vise, a coordinator for the Center for Campus Life responsible for bringing Kutcher to Tech, said she thought the program was unlike anything they have done this year.

"No one ever thinks about how they get bugs to do things in movies," she said. "We saw him at a conference, and we thought it was something interesting and different."

He took bugs out and put them on his shoulder and they stayed for the whole lecture."

Kutcher has worked with bugs for more than 25 years. He is able to train them and have them perform on cue. For example, he can make a cockroach run four feet and stop by a quarter on cue. He was in charge of the spider invasion in "Arachnophobia" and choosing and painting the spider for "Spiderman."

"He's very down to earth, very personable and a very interesting person," she said.

Kutcher is not bringing his bugs with him for the presentation, but Vise said she still expects the night to be fun and educational.

"I think he's been traveling extensively and hasn't wanted to travel with them," she said.

Tickets are on sale at the Student Union box office. They are free with a valid Tech ID and \$10 for the general public.

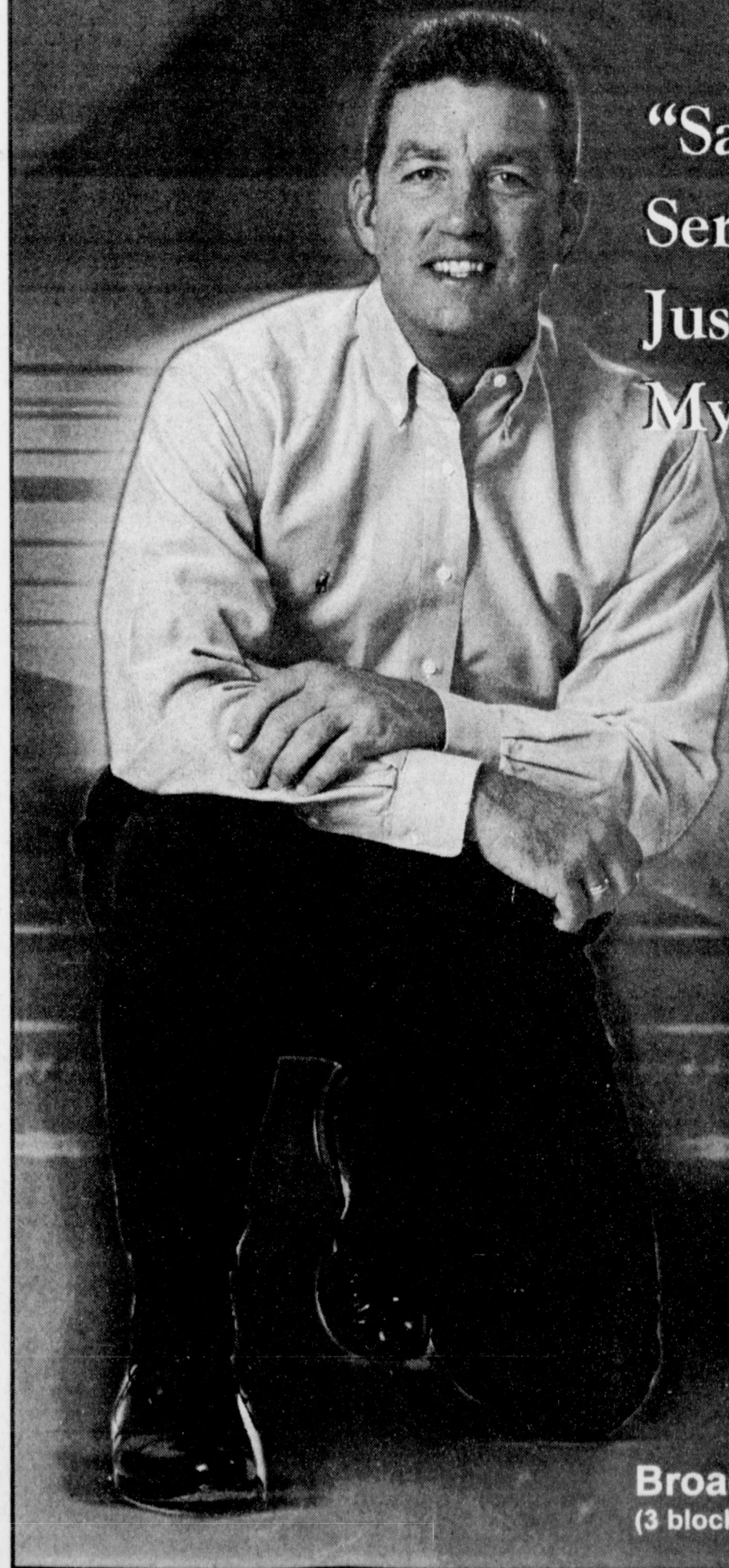


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with Steven Kutcher



POKER DRAWS College Crowds

Poker becoming the new fad across college campuses

By Megan LaVoie/The University Daily

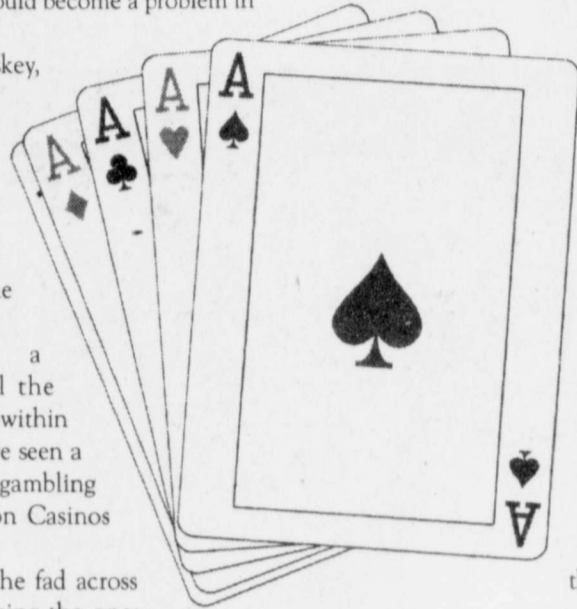
Gambling games are quickly becoming mainstream in today's world, but experts aren't bluffing when they say that small bets and amateur gambling could become a problem in the future.

George Comiskey, the associate director for the Center for the Study of Addiction at Texas Tech, said structured gambling has been around in the United States since the 1950s.

"Gambling was a backroom thing until the 1970s," he said. "Only within the last 10 years have we seen a significant increase in gambling with Indian Reservation Casinos and State Casinos."

Poker has become the fad across college campuses replacing the once-prominent marathon videogame sessions that were popular with teenagers and young adults.

Heath Stanley, a sophomore marketing major from Cleburne, said poker is a good way to spend your night and possibly make some money.



DAVID JOHNSON/Photo Illustration

"It is more fun to play poker with five bucks than paying to see a movie for \$8," he said. "You can play poker all night long."

Comiskey said poker is not the only form of gambling students are engaging in, betting on sporting games, lottery tickets, blackjack, horse races, Internet gambling and office or dorm pools are also becoming the norm on the campus scene.

"Any game where there is a chance to win or lose is gambling," he said. "Any game of chance can become a gambling problem."

There are 5 million Americans who have sought out help for a gambling addiction and 15 million who have one, Comiskey said.

Stanley said he didn't think his weekly game of poker with friends could ever turn into a gambling problem, but he liked the idea of winning, which Comiskey said is the major problem with gamblers.

"Gambling becoming an addiction has nothing to do with money," he said. "The addiction comes from the action and excitement that gambling brings."

Stanley agreed. "There is something about knowing you or win money — the thrill of poker is what gets you every time," Stanley said.

Blaine Coffee, a junior business major from Wylie, said he and his friends play poker often, but they also engage in other forms of gambling as well.

"We bet on a stupid stuff," he said. "We don't always bet money, sometimes if someone loses a bet we make their wash our car or ask a girl out on a date."

Some experts argue that one taste of gambling is all it takes for someone to get addicted.

"A person's first win is all it can take for someone to get addicted to gambling," Comiskey said. "The first big win is where it gets you — it's the fish hook in the mouth, and then it wheels you in."

Some experts believe that a gambling addiction can arise from how an individual was raised.

A gambling problem usually arises from the family dynamic, Comiskey said. "If an individual was raised in a gambling family or if their parents were extremely overprotective — they are more susceptible to develop a gambling addiction," he said.

Landry Scott, a sophomore business major from Celina said he has seen people who have lost a lot of money by gambling.

"I know people who have lost money, but they never got into trouble," he said. "I think most people may lose money, but they don't get in over their head."

Lubbock currently doesn't have a form of counseling for people suffering from a gambling addiction.

Comiskey said he would like to see that changed.

"I want to see an active Gamblers Anonymous chapter formed here in Lubbock," he said. "There are people out there who have this problem and the Center for the Study of Addiction is trying to fill this void."

Individuals who think they or their loved ones are suffering from a gambling addiction can call The Center for the Study of Addiction (806) 742-2891 or visit www.gamblinghelpline.org for help.

A year later, Lynch ponders survival, celebrity

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Jessica Lynch is trying to work it all out.

A year after the Army supply clerk's wounding and rescue made her the Iraq war's most famous soldier, she grapples with questions both personal (When should I go to college? Personal (Should I get married?) and philosophical (Why did I survive when others didn't?).

"I mean, obviously, there has to be a reason," the 20-year-old Lynch told The Associated Press. "I don't know what it is yet. So I have to explore all these things to figure it out."

Lynch's search is in many ways typical for an American woman still a few weeks shy of the drinking age. It is the fame that is unusual.

"I'm just a country girl. It's some-

thing I'm not used to, and I probably never will be," she said. "I do want my life back to normal, because it's hard — it's so hard. But at the same time I'm like — wow, I get to go to New York, I get to go to Hollywood. I get to hang out with people like Britney and Leonardo."

Lynch has made a few appearances since last year's book tour for Rick Bragg's biography, "I Am a Soldier, Too."

The former POW won an award from Glamour magazine; rode in the Gator Bowl parade; starred at Gov. Bob Wise's State of the State speech; hung out at parties after the Golden Globes and took a three-day jaunt to the Bahamas after christening a cruise ship.

This month, Lynch will do the first

of four events for Get Motivated, a company that hires figures such as Rudolph Giuliani and Mikhail Gorbachev to speak at business seminars. Her message will be: "If I can do it, you can."

"I was put in one of the worst situations there is out there. So if you're having problems with your boyfriend or whatever, you can get through it," she said. She added with a laugh: "I get nervous when I'm in a large group of people. I don't know how that'll work out."

Lynch's whirlwind started on March 23, 2003, when her 507th Maintenance Company got lost in the Iraqi desert and was ambushed in Nasiriyah.

With her vehicle stalled and her rifle jammed, Pfc. Lynch hopped into a Humvee driven by her best friend, Pfc. Lori Piestewa.

The vehicle was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade and crashed. The 11 American soldiers killed in the ambush included Piestewa and three others in the Humvee: 1st Sgt. Robert Dowdy, Sgt. George Buggs and Spc. Edward Anguiano.

Lynch suffered two spinal fractures, nerve damage and a shattered right arm, right foot and left leg.

According to medical records cited in her biography, she was also sodomized, apparently during a three-hour gap she cannot recall.

Her videotaped rescue from a Nasiriyah hospital by U.S. commandos on April 1 made Lynch a hero.

It also stirred complaints of media manipulation by the U.S. government. Early reports had the flyweight former Wirt County Miss Congeniality suffering knife and bullet wounds while fighting off attackers until run-

ning out of ammunition.

Lynch agreed to the AP interview on condition that she not be asked about her Iraq ordeal.

She repeated her charge that she felt "kind of used" by officials who spread false stories about her. She declined to discuss the politics of the Iraq war.

Still hobbled and using a cane, Lynch spends several hours a day in rehabilitation therapy.

Nerve damage has left her unable to feel her left foot, though doctors hope she will regain its full use.

The Army awarded her a medical retirement and an 80 percent disability pension.

"They say a millimeter a day the nerves grow" from where her back was damaged, she said. "They're giving me another year. After that, it might not be looking so good. But there's still hope."

One of the reasons for her survival, as she sees it, has been to allow her to tell her story to the families of the four soldiers who died next to her.

She created a foundation with pro-

ceeds from her \$1 million book deal. The Jessica Lynch Foundation's goal is to educate children of veterans.

Last month Lynch postponed her June wedding to Sgt. Ruben Contreras, whom she began dating two years ago when they were stationed at Fort Bliss in Texas. She would not discuss details but said they plan to wed next year.

Eventually, Lynch said, she will go to college to work toward her goal of teaching kindergarten.

Her face lights up whenever she discusses the job, or children.

Lynch is uncertain whether her wounds will prevent her from starting her own family.

"I do have a lot of problems with everything inside, so I don't know if that'll affect it or not. I hope not, because I'd love to have children," she said.

With a shy smile, she added, "Love it."

"I was put in one of the worst situations there is out there. So if you're having problems with your boyfriend or whatever, you can get through it."

— JESSICA LYNCH
Private First Class

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Pitching Party

Tech pitchers Erin Crawford, Kassy Planck help Raiders win doubleheader against Aggies

By Adam Boedecker/
The University Daily

Texas Tech softball coach Bobby Reeves had a few concerns before Wednesday's doubleheader against New Mexico State.

It was nothing in particular about the Aggies (9-30), but instead about his own team putting the three components of the game; pitching, defense and hitting, together.

Reeves had no concerns with the offense coming into the day, but his pitching and defense had been suspect. That all changed Wednesday with a doubleheader sweep against the Aggies.

"Our pitching and defense was great today," Reeves said. "Our offense wasn't bad either except for when we had runners in scoring position in a few situations we didn't score them, but it was a good day overall."

Two dominating pitching performances were turned in by Tech pitchers Kassy Planck and Erin Crawford.

Planck started the first game of the double-dip, which saw a 2-1 extra-inning nailbiter pulled off by the Red Raiders (19-20, 1-1 Big 12) on the heels of Planck's outing.

Planck (2-1) pitched all nine innings of the contest, giving up only one run on five hits with three strikeouts.

Reeves said he was questioning whether Planck could continue pitching after she finished the seventh inning, but she did not let him down.

"After the seventh I kept asking her after every inning if she could keep going," he said. "I would ask her if she was tired and she would say 'yes, I'm tired, but I want to finish.'"

Planck did not give up a run until the top of the seventh to break a string of three scoreless innings in the game and tie the game at one, sending it to extra frames.

In softball's extra innings the International Tiebreaker Rule takes effect, which places the last batter out from the previous inning on second base to start the new inning.

Tech second baseman Britney Stolle was on second to start the ninth when right fielder Lisa Lawler attempted to lay down a sacrifice bunt to move Stolle to third.

She bunted back to the Aggie pitcher who overthrew the first

baseman, scoring Stolle on the error those two hits was kind of questionable. I thought it was an error on our part. I'm tickled to death with her performance."

Planck said she was happy with her marathon performance.

"Erin and I stepped it up today," she said. "Our defense played exceptionally well also, we only had one error in each game. It felt good to get a victory when our offense was a little off."

Crawford (9-6) pitched the second game for the Raiders and took a one-hitter into the sixth inning. The Aggies had trouble connecting on Crawford as she gave up only two hits with six strikeouts in a 3-0 victory.

Reeves could not have been happier with his ace's performance.

"What is there to say about Erin's performance?" he said. "She pitched seven shutout innings, and one of

Crawford said the pitching staff got together earlier in the week and had a meeting. Each pitcher discussed what needed to be done better to prepare for games, and get the most of their staff.

Crawford said her specific remedy was correcting a mental issue.

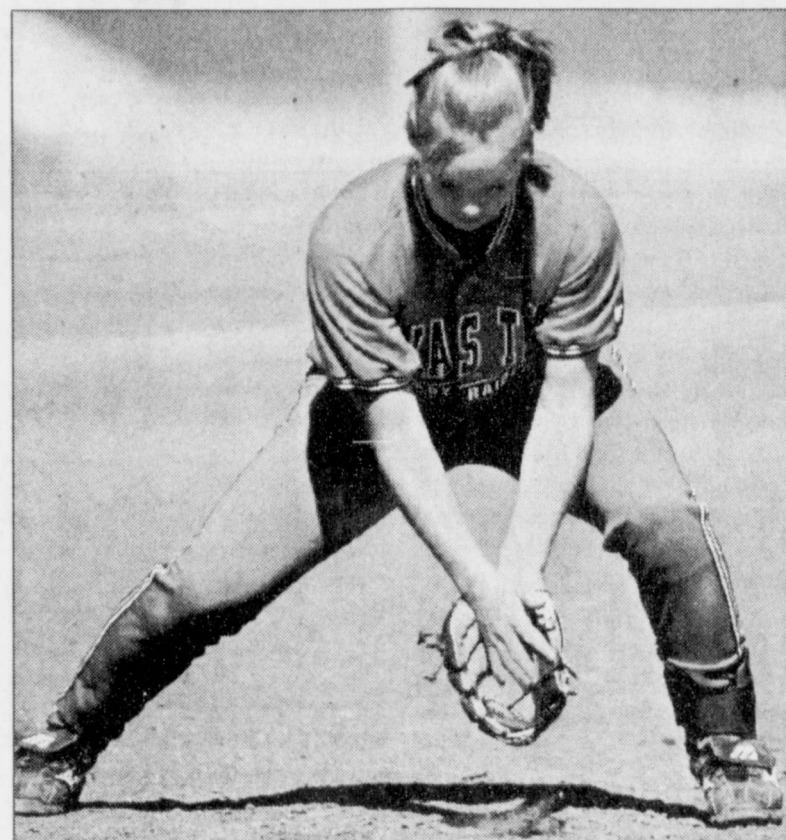
"My mindset wasn't right where it needed to be," she said. "While I was warming up, I needed to start focusing more on the upcoming game instead of just my warm-up motions, and today I did that."

She said it felt good to get out and pitch in such dominating fashion.

"I was ready to get out there (Wednesday) and really get into it," she said. "It was great, too, the way

After the seventh I kept asking her after every inning if she could keep going. I would ask her if she was tired and she would say 'yes, I'm tired, but I want to finish.'

— BOBBY REEVES
Tech Softball Coach



ANDREW WEATHERI/The University Daily

TEXAS TECH SHORTSTOP Heather Parker scoops up a groundball during Tech's 2-1 victory against New Mexico State. The win was Tech's first in a doubleheader sweep against the Aggies.

the defense was behind me. Our offense didn't have an eight-run game, but they still hit the ball hard."

Reeves said he was pleased with the team's overall performance in both games.

"We had our bright spots on

defense," he said. "Heather (Parker) had a big double (in the second game) to drive in a run. We pitched superb. I couldn't ask for better pitching and defense than what I saw today."



Sports world in interesting time of year

Timing in sports is everything. This week, although there is no football being played, is an intriguing week of sports.

College basketball has reached its most important week of the year with the best four teams in the country battling for supremacy.

NBA squads are in the final stage of the regular season with top teams scurrying for playoff position.

NFL teams are reaching the final period of player evaluations in preparation for April's NFL Draft.

And NCAA football squads are discovering new playmakers during spring practice drills.

Golfers are sharpening their skills in the final tournaments before the most important tourney of the year, The Masters.

Plus I'm sure something is going on in the world of hockey.

With all those things in mind the timing is perfect for another mailbag.

Hey Kyle, who you got winning the Final Four? Dylan Roy from Dublin, Ireland.

Dylan, I thought Kansas had a good shot before the Elite Eight but I guess the premonition was wishful thinking. Because I'm a Big 12 homer, Oklahoma State is my pick.

Kyle, what about the NBA? Your Lakers are hot and every other team in the West seems to be floundering. Will the Lakers win it all and can the Mavericks win in the first round? Billy from Dallas.

Billy, the Lakers are playing impressive basketball. Karl Malone's return has spurred Kobe's Herculean scoring and Shaq's dominance grabbing rebounds. If the Lakers avoid the injury bug, they should win it all. As for Dallas, the Mavs are the best scoring team in the league so they are a dangerous opponent, but a lack of defense and chemistry might end their season early.

Hey Kyle, I know you're ready for football and especially Tech football. Who is going to be throwing balls for the Raiders next season? Harold from Brownfield.

Harold, Tech coach Mike Leach likes experience in his system so there is a strong possibility 2003 backup Sonny Cumbie will get the nod, but conventional wisdom has to play in the favor of junior college transfer Robert Johnson.

On paper this guy is a monster. He's tall, fast, strong and can throw the ball as his JUCO stats show. Johnson is a junior so I doubt Tech recruited him to sit the bench. With a season of learning in 2004, Johnson could have the best season in Tech history in 2005.

Kyle, Tiger Woods is having a rough time lately. Is he still going to win The Masters this month? Steve from Butte, Wyoming.

Steve, Woods is the safe bet to win every major for the next 25 years. Forget what he's done lately. It doesn't matter. This guy can hone his skills with little practice. While I'd love to see Mickelson, Garcia or especially Daly win, Tiger is still the favorite.

Hey Kyle, the NFL Draft is on April 24 and there are a lot of intriguing storylines surfacing. I heard USC receiver Mike Williams has been dropping on draft boards and now the NFL has appealed Maurice Clarett's bid to enter the draft. If the court rules against Clarett, Williams couldn't enter the Draft either. Isn't that great? Longhorn Roy from Austin.

Roy you are shameless. True the courts might bar Clarett and Williams, which would throw the first 10 picks of the Draft into chaos.

But it might not even matter for you. I've heard Oakland might take ole' Longhorn Roy with the second pick anyway. How about sending another Odessa boy a chunk of your signing bonus for all the copy space you get?

Heck, I'd settle for a case of beer.

Clark is a sophomore journalism major from Odessa. Send questions for his next mailbag to kevin.k.clark@ttu.edu



THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Mine entrance
- Frequently
- Combination of cards
- Apple or quince
- Spark producer
- Logical starter?
- Peregrin, Barnum, Goodrich, Doctorow, Lawrence & Wyeth
- Greek Aurora
- M. Desclartes
- Itemizations
- Puts on
- Farm tower
- Munro, Milne, Lang, White, Menden & Auden
- Eagle's home
- Imprudent
- Old Olds
- Forbids
- Serious play
- D.C. bigwigs
- Infamous Amin
- Oceans
- Connecting rooms
- Eliot, Marshall, Snow, Lewis, Wells & Tittle
- Overdue
- Paris airport
- Thread holder
- Iowa State city
- Debt hit
- Lawrence, Griffith, Foyt, Wodehouse, Cummings and King
- Nobelist Wiesel
- Warning
- Nastase of tennis
- Gaze
- Loamy deposit
- do-well

DOWN

- Altar area
- Karate school
- Rascals
- Hanoi holiday
- Outrage
- Strip blubber
- Mah-jongg
- Conclude
- Final degree
- Flunky
- Roush and Hall
- Time of fasting
- Medical pers.
- Bankrupt
- Koran deity
- Podium
- Phony
- "Casablanca" role
- Custom
- Leaders
- Palmer of golf
- Army bigwigs
- Artoo Detoo, e.g.
- Write Eudora
- Book before Joel
- Part of N.Y.P.D.
- Track event
- Small and weak
- La (Milan opera house)
- Spanish sauce
- Stare angrily
- Four-baggers
- Says howdy
- Stair
- Legendary soccer player
- Mutt of Garfield's jokes
- 1958 Pulitzer winner
- Indolent
- Tony's cousin
- Over in Munich
- Carrier from Tokyo
- Arafat's grp.
- Anais

PLAYERS OF THE GAME

TEXAS TECH: KASSY PLANCK



STATS: Had three strikeouts in a nine-inning complete game against the Aggies.

NOTES: Planck's complete game was her second complete game of the season. Last year she was named The Desert Sun Athlete of the Year as a high school senior.

TEXAS TECH: ERIN CRAWFORD



STATS: Had six strikeouts during a complete game against New Mexico State.

NOTES: The sophomore pitcher appeared in a team high 36 games last season for the Raiders. She had 18 appearances and 10 starts in Big 12 play last season.

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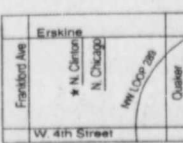
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SENIOR SENSATION

Emmett chosen as finalist for Wooden Award given to nation's best college basketball player

By Adam Boedeker/
The University Daily

Records and milestones are nothing new to Texas Tech forward Andre Emmett, but Tuesday he got some news he had never received before.

Emmett moved Tuesday to the list of finalists for the John R. Wooden Award for the best player in college basketball. The list is comprised of 10 players and will be narrowed down to five during this weekend's CBS coverage of the Final Four.

Those five players and their coaches are invited to the Los Angeles Athletic Club on April 10 for the John R. Wooden Award Show.

Emmett said it is a great honor to be one of the 10 best players in the country.

"It's most definitely an honor to be considered among the top 10 players in the country," Emmett said. "It goes to show you that hard work pays off on the floor, and in the classroom."

The award is considered the most prestigious in college basketball. Since 1976, it has been given to the best player in the country, who is on track to get a degree and maintain a 2.00 cumulative GPA. Emmett is scheduled to graduate with a bachelor's in business management in May.

Mike Solum, director of the John R. Wooden Award based in Los Angeles, said the voters are told to look for the best all-around player.

"Our trophy actually has five figures on it," he said. "For the five fundamentals of basketball: shooting, dribbling, passing, defense and rebounding."

Solum also said the voters look at the player as a person because that is how Wooden, the Hall of Fame

former UCLA coach, wanted it. "Andre's really exemplified this season how hard of a worker he is," Solum said. "He has the game physically and is grounded, in general, as a person."

The award process started with a top 50 preseason nominee list, based on the previous season's play. Then, there was a midseason list put out based on non-conference play, and the final list of 20 sent out to more than 2,000 voters before the postseason conference tournaments began.

Emmett, a senior, spoke about his career at Tech, which came to an end when the Red Raiders were defeated in the second round of the NCAA Tournament by St. Joseph's March 20.

"It was a great four years," he said. "Now to have the Wooden is great, it's all been good for me. Just being mentioned among these players is like a cherry on top. It was a goal that I accomplished."

Joining Emmett on the top 10 list are Josh Childress of Stanford, Chris Duhon of Duke, Ryan Gomes of Providence, Devin Harris of Wisconsin, John Lucas of Oklahoma State, Jameer Nelson of St. Joseph's, Emeke Okafor of Connecticut, Lawrence Roberts of Mis-

issippi State and Blake Stepp of Gonzaga.

Tech Athletic Director, and former men's basketball coach, Gerald Myers said Emmett is more than deserving of the honor.

"I think it's an honor well-deserved," Myers said. "He's been one of the best college players for the last three years. To be picked on the Wooden All-American team is an honor for him, and it's good recognition for the program."

Myers said the good thing about the Wooden award is it not only recognizes players for accomplishments on the floor, but also in the classroom.

"It speaks very well for Andre as a player, and a person," he said. "Plus all that is factored in with this award, it's a great honor for him."

Solum said he watched Emmett play a lot this season, and the forward was a frontrunner early on.

"He had an incredible early season and midseason," he said. "His team kind of fell off a bit toward the end."

He added that Emmett proved to be Tech's leader, but his stock for the award has dropped a bit as of late.

"His chances might not be as good as people like Okafor, Nelson and Duhon, whose teams got into the Elite Eight and the Final Four," he said. "But I think it's hard to predict because all of those players are such great ones."

EMMETT FILE

Name: Andre Emmett
Classification: Senior
Position: Forward
Hometown: Dallas
High School: Carter High
2003-2004 Stats: Averaged 20.6 points and 37 minutes per game during a 34 game season. Averaged 6.6 rebounds and 1.8 assists per game during his senior season. Also had 44 steals and 10 blocks this season.
Notes: Became the Big 12 Conference's all-time leading scorer with an 18-point performance against Texas A&M February 21 • Was named to the finalist list for the John Wooden award given to the best college basketball player in the nation • Was named second team All-American by the Associated Press.



ANDREW WEATHERL/The University Daily

TEXAS TECH SENIOR forward Andre Emmett is a finalist for the 2003-2004 Wooden Award given to the best college basketball player in the nation.

Emmett to end career in slam-dunk contest

By Adam Boedeker/
The University Daily

Andre Emmett's career as a Texas Tech basketball player began in a similar setting as the one it will end with today.

Emmett will be a participant in the Harley-Davidson 2004 College Slam Dunk and 3-point Contest, as part of ESPN's Week of Madness leading up to the Final Four this weekend in San Antonio.

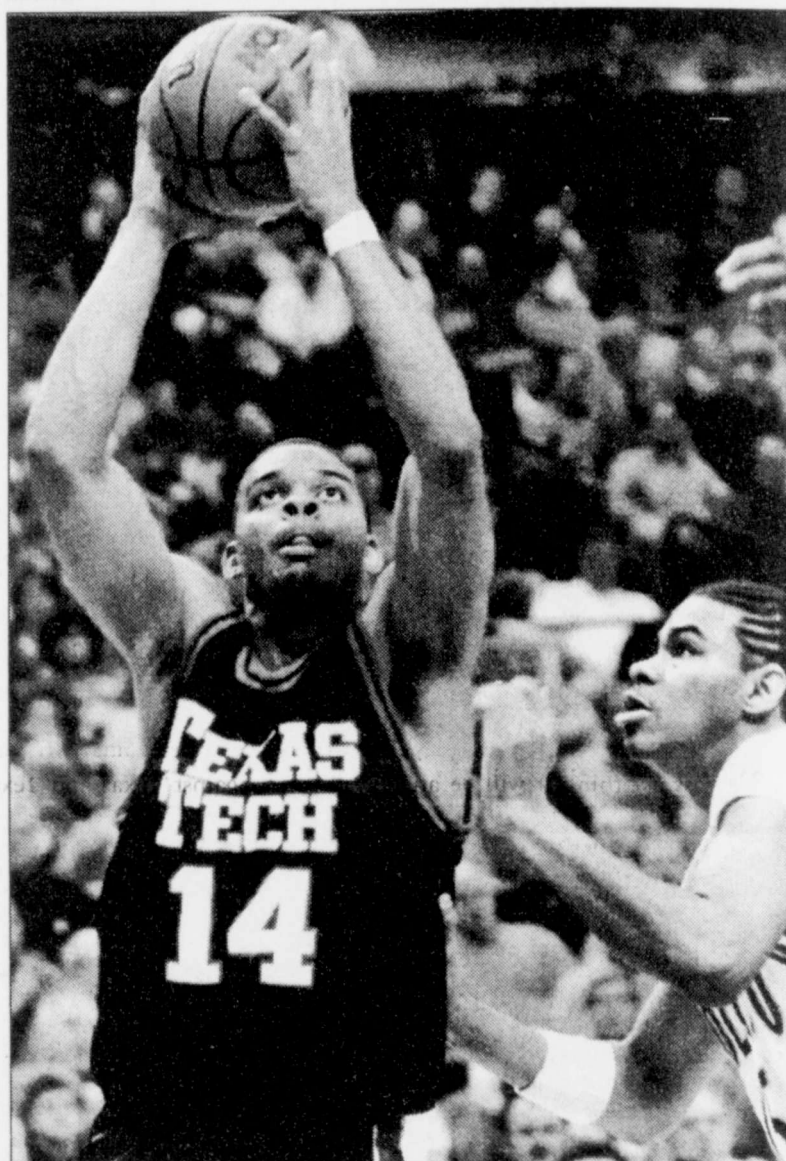
Emmett's first appearance as a Red Raider was during the "Midnight Madness" festivities before the season started in his freshman year.

He was an unknown freshman from Dallas Carter at the time and electrified the crowd in the United Spirit Arena by winning the night's slam-dunk contest after jumping over his freshman teammate Marcus Shropshire and throwing the ball down.

Shropshire will not be there with Emmett today at 8 p.m. in San Antonio, but if he were, Emmett would utilize him.

"Unfortunately, he won't be there," Emmett said. "But if he was there with me, I'd put him in the spotlight."

He said the idea of a slam-dunk contest in the national spotlight on ESPN excites him.



JAIME TOMAS AGUILAR/The University Daily

TECH FORWARD ANDRE Emmett pulls up for a jumper during Tech's Big 12 tournament victory against Colorado.

"For sure, I'm going out with a bang and to put a show on for the crowd," he said. "I want to represent Texas Tech and have fun. It'll be a good experience." He said he has to send thanks to a

friend for helping him come up with his arsenal of dunks for the competition.

"I want to give credit to Jason for coming up with the dunks," he said. "I don't know his last name, but I've known him since my freshman year. He's a student here at Tech. I met him around campus, and we became buddies."

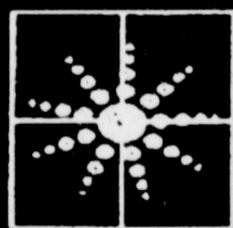
Emmett said he anticipates some tough competition in the national event, but feels confident in his ability. "I know there's gonna be some high-risers," he said. "I'll have to bring my A-game. I'm definitely coming with some tricks."

The event takes place today at 8 p.m. on ESPN and can be seen again on Saturday at 1 p.m.



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THERE SHALL BE LIGHT

Men's tennis squad focused on Longhorns

By Joey Kirk/
The University Daily

Texas may be a perennial top 20 team, but Tim Siegel sees them as any other squad.

The Texas Tech men's tennis team faces the No. 33-ranked Longhorns at 6 p.m. Friday, but Siegel, Tech's head tennis coach, said the No. 61-ranked Red Raiders have to play like any other weekend.

"They're just another team," he said. "We kept it close against No. 2 Baylor last weekend, even though the final score was 6-1."

Ranked teams are nothing new to Tech, and Siegel said the rankings do not count for anything when you step on the court.

"We are 9-7 right now, and 14 of those 16 matches were against ranked teams," he said. "The numbers don't mean a thing. You have to come out ready, prepared and fight hard to win."

Junior Esat Tanik said the challenge might not be as hard as some players expect.

"We're mentally and physically ready to play. We have no injuries," he said. "Also, Texas is not as strong as last year, and we are much better."

The matches against the Longhorns are important, Tanik said, going into another weekend of Big 12 matchups and rivalries.

"I really hate Texas A&M for some reason," he said. "These are the conference matches right before we play the Aggies, and we want to make them scared."

But before thinking about playing A&M, Tanik said Tech must look to Texas and Nebraska.

"We're not even focused on Nebraska right now," he said. "We are looking forward to UT and becoming the victors, then we'll play Nebraska. I think it will be an easier match."

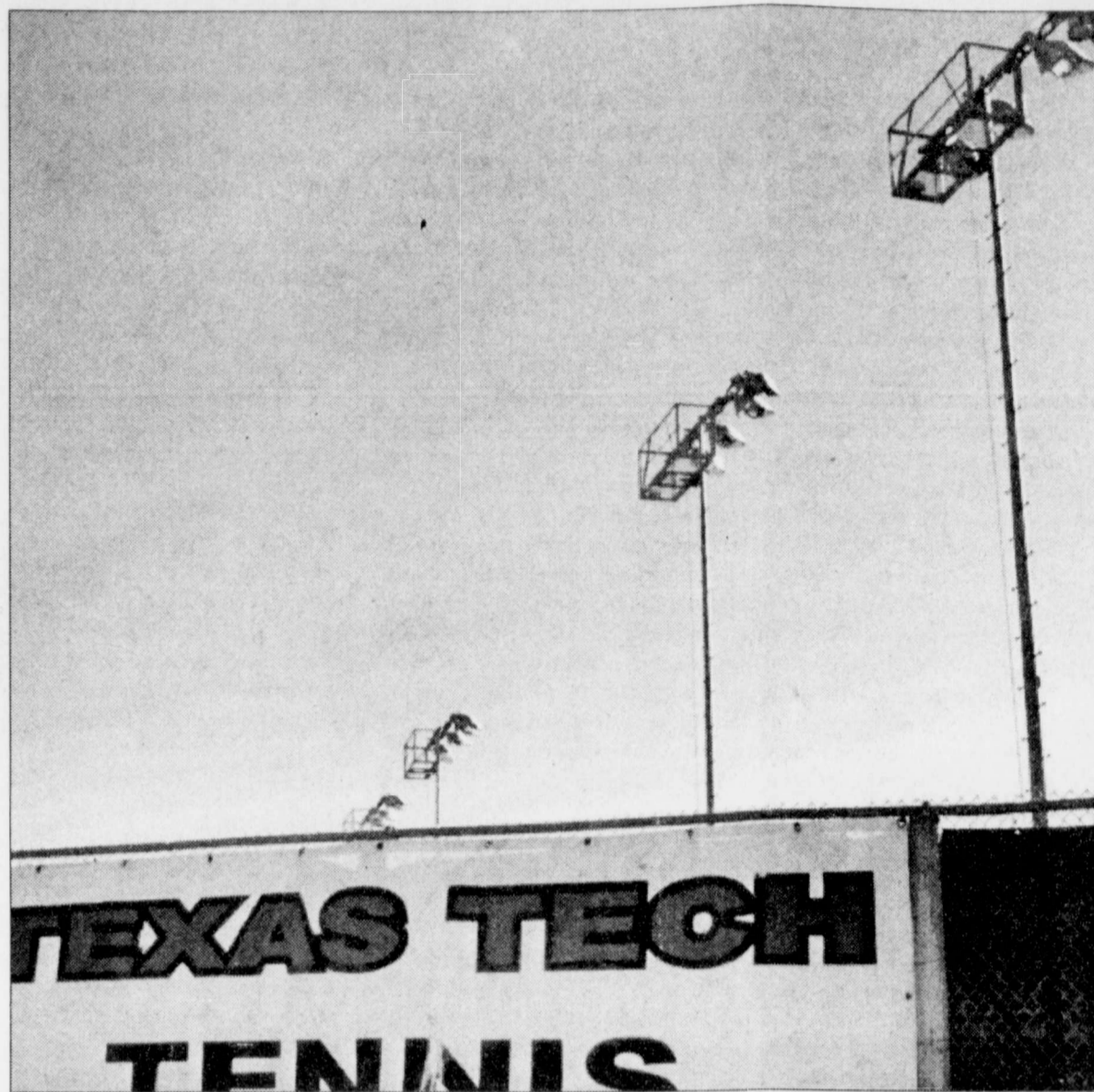
Siegel said the team knows it is a big weekend for Raider sports, with Texas playing baseball in Lubbock, and the women's team playing other Big 12 schools, but they have to take care of their situation.

"They have learned to take care of yourself first, and they've done that lately," he said. "They've followed our game plan, and they've played good tennis."

After the match against the Longhorns, then Raiders will have to shift its focus to Nebraska. Tech will face Nebraska at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the McLeod Tennis Center.

Weather may play a factor in the match. There is a 60 percent chance of rain on Saturday, but Siegel said it is not a concern.

"Weather is something we can't determine or control," he said. "We have to play every match as it comes to us, and we're not worried about Nebraska until Saturday comes."



DAVID JOHNSON/The University Daily

THE TEXAS TECH men's and women's tennis teams will play night games for the first time in the two programs' history Friday at the McLeod Tennis Center. The men's team will play Texas and the women's squad will face Texas A&M.

Red Raider men's, women's tennis squads to play first night matches in both programs' history

By Joey Kirk/The University Daily

Cari Groce does not want to stop students from engaging in their usual Friday rituals, but she does want some support.

"If they want to go to happy hour before our matches, great!" she said. "Just come out and help us get rowdy, and support Tech tennis."

The Texas Tech men's and women's tennis teams will play matches against Texas and Texas A&M, respectively, beginning at 6 p.m. Friday in the first-ever night matches at the McLeod Tennis Center.

Head women's coach Groce said both teams are ready to play under the lights.

"We've been waiting on this for a while," she said. "We just hope the wind settles down so we can play under our lights."

Night matches are not a new concept to Tech or the sport of college tennis, but it is new to Lubbock, Groce said.

"If you haven't given college tennis a try, this is a perfect weekend," she said. "Come help us do our chanting, cheering and just observe the atmosphere that exists."

Men's tennis head coach Tim Siegel said the same goes for the men's team.

"We're ready to play," he said. "We want to showcase our facility to its best, and the McLeod's gave us the best place to play tennis. They

really improved it."

If you have ever caught a professional tennis match on television, Siegel said college tennis is nothing like it.

"It is entertaining, I think," he said. "It is much different from pro tennis. The crowd gets wild, they make a lot of noise and it's a great time."

One thing Siegel said he promises to do is provide something every student loves.

"They love entertainment, and that's one guarantee I can give you," he said. "Our players will come out to play, it's just a matter of students coming out to support us."

Senior Kendall Brooks said she knows her part, now the fans have to find theirs.

"You never know what can happen," she said. "We need that home court advantage, and if you haven't seen a match yet, the lights will give it a better appeal."

Junior Esat Tanik said he finds night matches to be better for his game, but he doesn't really know why.

"I don't really know. I get great pleasure and I enjoy night matches for some reason," he said.

As an incentive, Tanik said the teams are provided more free stuff, other than the regular entertainment.

"We'll play our hearts out, and every single student should come," he said. "They're giving free pizza

and free t-shirts to most of them that come."

Groce said although the players generate a lot of rowdiness to support their teammates, the fans still play a big part in the Raiders' success.

"Fans add a huge amount of noise to the game," she said. "We have to get pumped up, and get ready to play."

To encourage the players to do better, Groce said her and assistant coach Majorie Terburgh have made added incentives to win the matches.

"The coaching staff made a couple of side bets with the players," she said. "We will fulfill our end of the agreement, but it won't be shaving our heads, like Siegel."

Siegel shaved his head earlier this season after his team's upset victory against New Mexico.

Women's squad ready for challenge of Big 12 play

By Joey Kirk/The University Daily

The Big 12 conference is a war, and Cari Groce said the Red Raiders cannot retreat from battle.

The Texas Tech women's tennis team hosts No. 14 Texas A&M at 6 p.m. Friday and Oklahoma State at 11 a.m. Saturday.

"We can't back off, and we have to capitalize on opportunity points to win," she said. "I think it's due to inexperience and a lack of confidence that we don't win some of those matches."

Groce said A&M and OSU will not back off either, so the Red Raiders have to play at the same level as the other Big 12 players.

"I would like to see every player playing on Friday to the level of the Big 12," she said. "We want to go at them with everything we have."

Texas A&M is a top 15 school, Groce said, so the winner will be determined by the way Tech plays.

"In tennis, it's a matter of who's gonna fight," she said. "They're a well-coached team, and they will come prepared."

Senior Kendall Brooks said A&M will pose a threat, and the Raiders anticipate it.

"They're undefeated in conference and everybody knows it," she said. "In tennis, you never know what can happen."

Whatever occurs on Friday, Brooks said Saturday is another day. "There are gonna be two exciting days of tennis this weekend," she said. "So, no matter what happens Friday, we'll come out Saturday to play."

Senior Irina Tereschenko has upset two top ranked players this season. Groce said Tereschenko is working on a spot this weekend for the NCAA tournament.

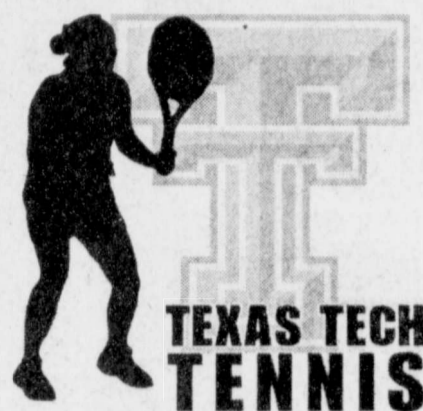
"Irina has played very well, so we should see her in the rankings soon," she said. "She's working on going after a spot in the NCAA tournament, she just has to reach out and grab the opportunities."

Like Tereschenko, Groce said all Tech's players have to take advantage of the weekend's matches.

"We have to get better at opportunity points, and getting up in the matches," she said. "We have to win matches, not just in doubles, but in singles as well."

Tech is 9-5 this season and is 2-3 against Big 12 competition. The team's next six matches are against Big 12 teams. After this weekend's matches the Raiders will play Iowa State and Nebraska on the road before returning to Lubbock to face Oklahoma at McLeod.

The squad will close the season April 24 against the Texas Longhorns in Austin.



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Aggies, 'Noles cancel future football games

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida State and Texas A&M canceled their home-and-home series in 2005 and 2006 because of scheduling conflicts, the schools said Wednesday.

Both teams were in need of an extra home game for the season that they were serving as the road team. Texas A&M was the host in 2005 while Florida State was to be the host in 2006.

The two schools were unable to flip-flop the games because of Florida State's scheduling conflicts related to the expansion of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Miami and Virginia Tech will join the conference in 2004 and Boston College will join in 2005.

Neither team has signed a replacement.



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Track team ready for pivotal meet

By Adam Boedeker/The University Daily



FILE PHOTO/The University Daily

TEXAS TECH TRACK runner Jonathan Johnson runs in the Red Raider Invitation indoor meet earlier this year in the Athletic Training Center.

Every track meet is big for Texas Tech coach Wes Kitley, but a few may loom a little larger in his mind.

The first of those begins today in Austin at the Texas Relays at the University of Texas. It is what Kitley called, a "mini-national championship."

With Tech turning in numerous regional qualifying times in the past two weeks, Kitley is excited to see what his team can do against the best teams in the country. "I hope the momentum will carry over for us," he said. "There's certain events we're looking at. We want to do well in all of them, but Jason Young has got the premier field in the country coming in. This is literally the national championship for discus."

While the literal national championship is a couple of months down the road, Kitley said everyone who is anyone in track will be in Austin this weekend trying to get a feel for the track where Nationals will be held in June.

What could shape up to be the main event of the weekend will be the men's sprint medley relay, in which Tech has been the national champions for the last two seasons, and has had the best time in the world. It is only run a few times a year, and it's been almost a year since Tech ran it.

"We're two-time champions there so we don't want to lose that," he said. The team consists of three runners returning from last year. Matt Stewart will run the second 200-meters, Albert Booker will run the 400 and Jonathan Johnson will run the anchoring 800 leg. Newcomer Tyree Gailes steps in running the first 200 in a race he's never ran, but he is not nervous.

"I think I'm ready to step in," he said. "It's just a 200. I've been running 200s my whole life. Just putting me on (the team) isn't gonna change anything. I'm just gonna come in and we're gonna try to keep that title."

Johnson said he talked to Gailes about the challenge and prestige behind Tech's history in the race.

"He sounded like he's ready," Johnson said. "It's Texas Relays so if you come and you ain't ready to play then there's something wrong. The crowd and the emotion is all into it. We've been looking forward to it for a long time. I believe Tyree's gonna do his part, and everyone else is gonna do theirs."

Kitley said there will be stiff competition for his squad to run against. "It will be unreal good competition," he said. "TCU will be really good. They have a good 800 runner. Auburn will be tough. Arkansas will be tough. It's just everybody has a great half-miler. It will be a really good show I think."

There are other people Kitley expects a lot from this weekend, one of those is Shereefa Lloyd.

She will run in the women's 4x400 and 4x100 relays this weekend, and rest in her individual events after being named Female Big 12 Co-Athlete of the Week this week following a stellar performance in El Paso last weekend.

"It's the first outdoor meet for us to run the 4x4," she said. "We'll have some really good competition, and it will really show us where we're gonna be for nationals."

Kitley said the meet will see a lot of times dropping and tough competition all-around.

"We're probably looking a little better than I expected at this point in the season," he said. "You'll see a bunch of marks even out this weekend because there's a bunch of good people coming in."

He said he has a recipe for success that must happen this weekend in order for him to be happy with the meet.

"I want to win the (men's) sprint medley," he said. "I want the women's 4x4 to set a personal record. I just want all the kids to improve. I'm looking for our quality people to step up at this meet. And then, our kids who are point-getters, but maybe not top ones to go out and set personal bests and be in this type of competition and not fold under the pressure."

Texas gears for rivalry game against Raiders

By Joey Kirk/The University Daily

As the expression goes, on any given day the best team can be beaten. Curtis Thigpen said the NCAA basketball tournament is a direct reflection of the expression.

"Just like in basketball, the No. 1 seeds get beat," he said.

Thigpen, a junior first baseman for the Texas Longhorns' baseball team, has the same aspect in mind before his trip to Lubbock this week.

According to different coaches' polls and rankings, the Longhorns are among the top five in the country, ranking as high as No. 1. But Thigpen said it doesn't matter.

"Rankings don't mean a thing," he said. "The best teams can get beat, and you just have to throw those standings out the door when it comes to Big 12."

Texas (29-4, 4-2 Big 12) leads the Big 12 standings as of now. Thigpen said at this early point in the season, the Longhorns' ranking could fall at any time.

"It is a long season," he said. "It is really who plays the best closer to the end, and we're just at the beginning of conference."

Longhorn junior second baseman Seth Johnston said he agreed with Thigpen's point of view about rankings.

"No. 1 or not, it doesn't mean anything to any of us," he said. "We almost lost the series to Oklahoma and to Oklahoma State. It just depends on how you play on any weekend."

Like the Sooners and the Cowboys, Johnston said Texas cannot underestimate Texas Tech.

"The past six or seven years, the Red Raiders have had our number," he said. "Last year, we won, but they are a great team."

Two years ago, the Raiders won the three-game series played at Dan Law field against the Longhorns. Texas went on to finish the season and win the College World Series. Both Thigpen and Johnston played that year.

"They play good on their home field," Johnston said. "They won in Lubbock, and it's hard to win there. We just have to look to Friday."

The first game starts at 6:30 p.m. Friday, while game two is set for 2 p.m. Saturday, and the last will begin at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Augie Garrido said the Longhorns are not going into the series expecting a certain outcome.

"We don't have any expectations," he said. "I don't think that way."

Garrido said Tech is a great team, and the Longhorns are going to have their hands full.

"They are well-coached, well-trained, and they have great fan support," he said. "It just depends on who is playing best."

On paper, Texas is the better team. But Garrido said the rankings are only for the people that aren't on the field.

"When you look at the standings and rankings, I think they affect the media and the fans," he said. "But, I also think it gives the players some incentive to play harder, especially for Tech this weekend."

Thigpen said Tech might be hard to control after coming off a pivotal win against Texas A&M, the Longhorns' most intense rival.

"The Raiders are coming off a big win against A&M last Sunday, so that might be a little momentum for them," he said.

Thigpen said with the caliber of teams in the conference, Tech is a team that may surprise anybody this weekend.

"There's a lot of good teams in the Big 12," he said. "It only matters who is ready and who wants it more."

Tech football season ticket holders have upgrade option

MOVING ON UP: Red Raider fans wanting to upgrade seats must renew tickets by April 12.

Season ticket holders for Texas Tech football wishing to upgrade for the 2004 season must renew their tickets by April 12 to be eligible for an upgrade.

Red Raider Club members will have the first opportunity to upgrade their seats April 13-14, and season ticket holders who are not in the Red Raider Club will be eligible for possible upgrades April 15-16.

Prices of season tickets vary from \$99 to \$445.

Fans have the opportunity to renew their seats online at www.texastech.com for the first time, which could earn them a special reward.

At the Tech athletics home page, click on the link "Renew Season Tickets Online" and follow the instructions. Fans wishing to do this need to have their invoice, an account number and a PIN number readily available.

Renewing season tickets online this season automatically signs ticket holders up for a drawing for seats in the Stadium Club level for the Tech-Texas game Oct. 23 at Jones SBC Stadium.

For more information call (888) GO-BIG-12 or contact the Tech ticket office at (806) 742-TECH.

Season tickets that are not renewed are opened for public sale April 20.

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7:00	Body Etc. Callou	Today Show	Early Show	K. Copeland Paid Program	Good Morning America	Paid Program Spin City
8:00	Berenstein Barney		Early Show	J. Robison Paid Program	America	Grace/Fire Roseanne
9:00	Dragon Tales Arthur	Today Show	Paid Program	Judge Mathis	Regs & Kelly	Family Feud Family Feud
10:00	Sesame Street	Martha Stewart Living	Price Is Right	Hatchett	View	Dharma/Greg Dharma/Greg
11:00	Mr. Rogers Teletubbies	Wheel Square Jeopardy	Young & the Restless	Paid Program	Home Impr. Paid Program	Access Extra
12:00	Old House Watercolors	News Days of Our Lives	Beautiful	Jerry Springer	All My Children	Good Day Live
1:00	Needle Arts Dragon Tales	Lives Passions	As the World Turns	Paid Program	One Life to Live	People's Court
2:00	Zoom	InEdition	Guiding Light	Street Smart	General Hospital	Divorce Court
3:00	P. Rainbow Cyberchase	Copart Winfrey	Maury Povich	Pyam Seacrest	Wayne Brady	Joe Brown Joe Brown
4:00	Clifford Arthur	Dr. Phil	Judge Judy	Sabrina That 70's	Montel Williams	News & More
5:00	Liberty Nightly Bus	News NBC News	News CBS News	Pyramid	News ABC News	That 70's Simpsons
6:00	Newshour	News W/ Fortune	News Millionaire	Access Extra	News E.T.	Friends Raymond
7:00	This Old House	Friends PG Will/Grace	Survivor: All-Stars	WWE Smackdown	Extreme Makeover	Tru Calling
8:00	Frontline	Apprentice PG	C.S.I. TV14	King of the Hill	Extreme Makeover	That 70's That 70's
9:00	Nightly Bus	ER TV14	Without a PG	King of the Hill	Primitime Thursday	News
10:00	Nightly Bus	News Tonight Show	News David Letterman	Friends Magnum P.I.	News Nightline	Seinfeld Frasier
11:00	Raidernet	Conan	Letterman	Blind Date	MASH E.T.	Raymond Shoot Me
12:00		O'Brien Last Call	Kilborn Paid Program	Ext. Dating Paid Program	Jimmy Kimmel	Becker Paid Program

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Swoopes returning to Lubbock for USA team exhibition game

Sheryl Swoopes is returning to Lubbock and returning to the court. Swoopes, a former Lady Raider, and the rest of the USA Basketball Women's Senior National Team will play the Japan National Team in an exhibition game at 7 p.m. on April 12 in the United Spirit Arena. Tickets for the event are \$12 for PSL seats and \$8 for south end reserved seats. The upper balcony seating will not be opened until the lower bowl of the arena is sold out.

Citibus will aid in the event by providing shuttles from the University Medical Center to the arena two hours before tipoff. The shuttles will run continuously throughout the game, like the Texas Tech regular season. Cost of the shuttle will be \$2 per person roundtrip.

Swoopes, a two-time gold medal winner, was a member of Tech's 1993 national championship team. She was named Southwest Conference player of the Year in 1992 and 1993.

The 2003-2004 Lady Raiders will receive recognition during halftime of the exhibition from head coach Marsha Sharp. Sharp will announce the two annual team awards at the game. The team's Most Valuable Player and Fighting Heart Award will be named. After the game a team highlight video will be shown. For more information and to purchase tickets call (888) GO-BIG-12 or (806) 742-TECH. Tickets can also be purchased at area United Supermarkets and Select-a-Seat locations.

Final Four has makings of epic struggle

(AP) — Based on pedigree, this should be a great Final Four. The teams left chasing the NCAA championship include the preseason No. 1, the winner of the top preseason tournament, a perennial power that spent a month at No. 1, and a top conference's regular season and tournament champs.

Further proof there are no sleepers: The lowest seed left, No. 3 Georgia Tech, already has beaten Duke and Connecticut, the teams the Yellow Jackets could play in the finale if they get past Oklahoma State on Saturday night.

"Whoever wins the championship, I think, will really be the true national champ this year,"

UConn coach Jim Calhoun said Wednesday. "I think most years they are, but this year I can clearly say you have to win two great basketball games."

Seeing the cream rise to the top doesn't always make for a memorable NCAA tournament. Fans love stories of underdogs' pulling off upset after upset to reach the final weekend, or one star player carrying his school to a string of victories.

These clubs still have their marquee players, but the common denominator is that they earned their way to San Antonio by becoming well-rounded teams capable of rising to challenges.

The Yellow Jackets and Cowboys, who meet in the early game Saturday, were long shots six months ago because of uncertainties.

Georgia Tech was trying to overcome the loss of freshman sensation Chris Bosh, now with the Toronto Raptors. Even with him, the Jackets missed the tournament last year. Then practices began, and Hewitt quickly believed his team could be among the nation's best.

The Cowboys came into the season trying to blend five transfers with three holdovers. They got their growing pains out of the way early, then breezed through the Big 12. They entered the NCAA tournament having won 17 of 18 games, with the only loss by one point in double overtime on the road against Missouri.

With Stillwater, Okla., about 500 miles from the Alamodome, Okla-

homa State is the geographic favorite. The Cowboys also could become the sentimental pick.

Their story lines include John Lucas' arrival from Baylor after that program was rocked by tragedy and scandal, plus coach Eddie Sutton's attempt to shed the label of owning the most wins without a national title. There also are the memories of 10 people who died in a plane crash while returning from a game three years ago. Starter Ivan McFarlin and reserve Terrence Crawford were on the Cowboys' roster that season.

"There's not a day goes by that I don't think about one of those 10 people," Sutton said. "I'm not sure there's ever complete closure. I think it's always going to be in your heart and in your mind."

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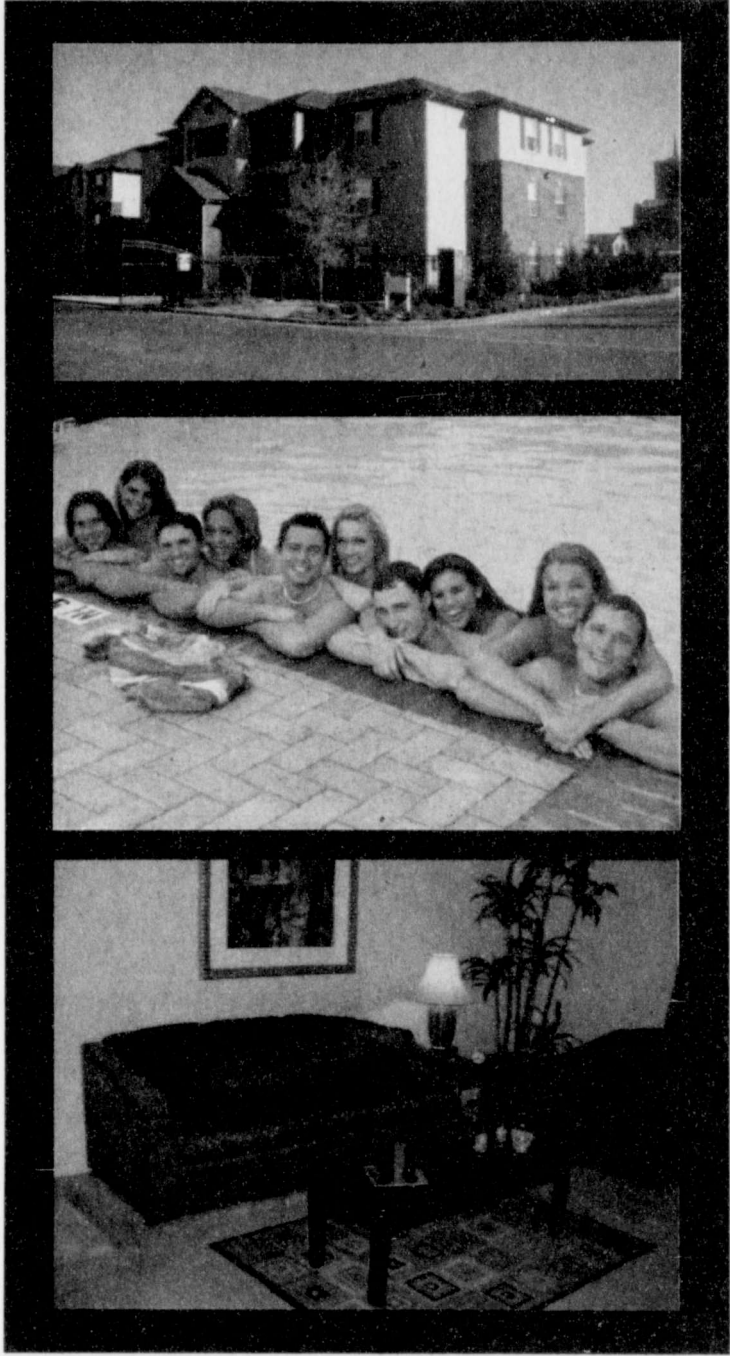
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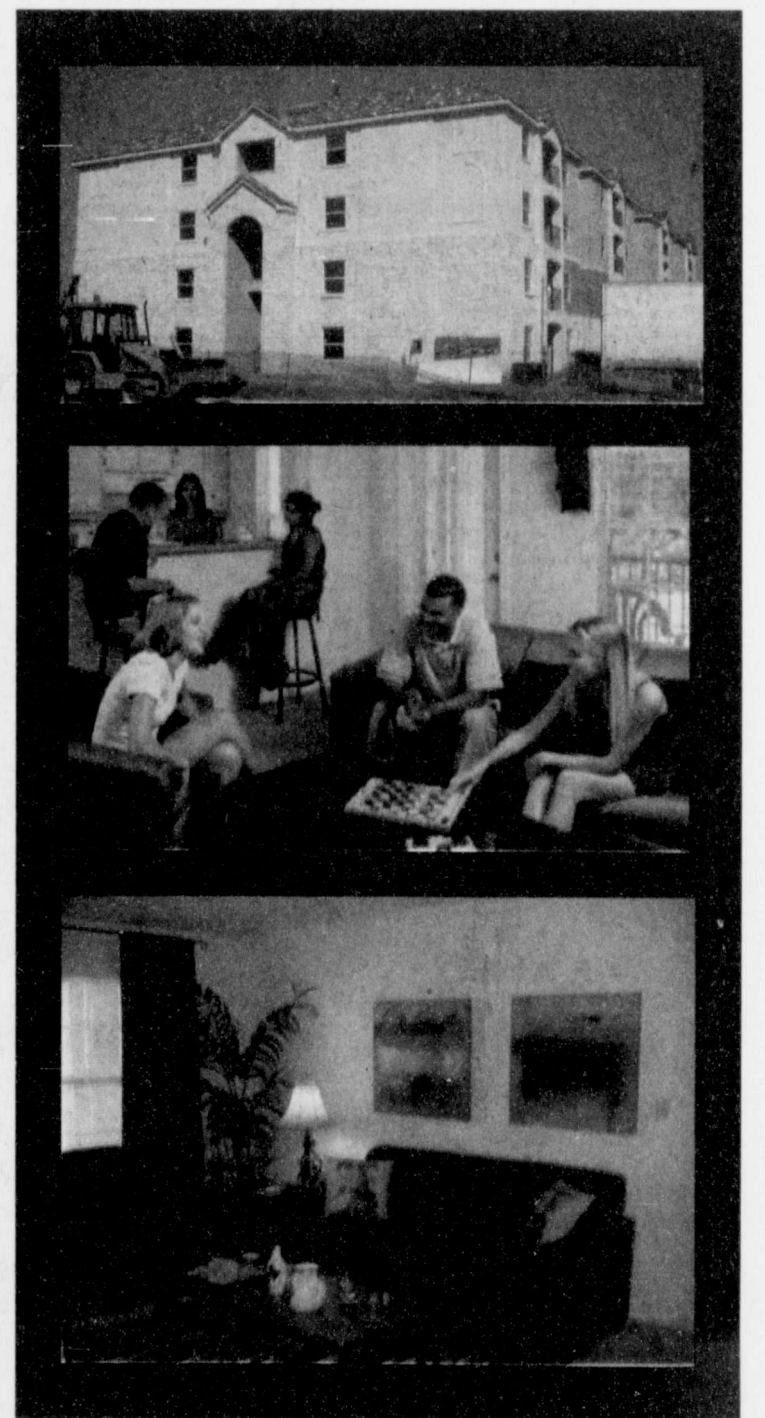
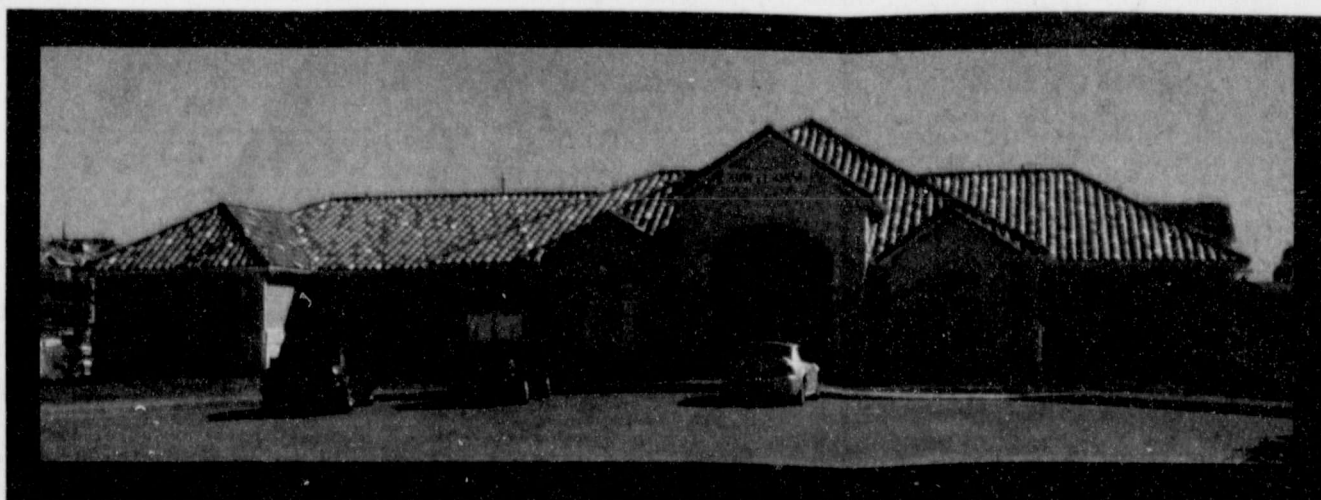


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