

Armstrong loses overall lead at Tour de France

CHARTRES, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong lost his overall lead in the Tour de France to Thomas Voeckler on Thursday, an honor the five-time champion willingly conceded — for now.

Withstanding rain-doused roads and high wind, Australia's Stuart O'Grady of Cofidis won the Tour's fifth stage with a sprint finish ahead of Voeckler and three other riders who broke early from the main pack and held on.

O'Grady thrust his arms in the air after winning a Tour de France stage for the second time in his career. Denmark's Jakob Piil was second and France's Sandy Casar was third. Voeckler, the French champion, was fourth.

At one point, the five-rider group built a lead as large as 17 minutes ahead of the pack on the 124.6-mile stage from Amiens to Chartres.

The breakaway riders clocked 5 hours, 5 minutes and 58 seconds; Armstrong and the pack finished 12 minutes, 33 seconds later.

Armstrong, who was 24th in the stage, fell to sixth overall — 9 minutes and 35 seconds off Voeckler's pace.

The U.S. Postal Service team tried to include George Hincapie in the break, but Jan Ullrich's T-Mobile team kept reeling them back in.

"We tried, but T-Mobile kept chasing down George and the guys we put in the break," Armstrong said.

Asked if any of the five riders could threaten his try for the overall crown, Armstrong said, "I don't know."

Voeckler chuckled when asked what his lead over Armstrong meant.

"Oh, I don't think he's worried about me," the 25-year-old Frenchman said.

Voeckler, riding for Brioches La Boulangere, epitomized how fickle the Tour can be from one day to the next. He entered the stage three minutes behind Armstrong in 59th place.

Mishaps — tire punctures, derailed chains and spills on rain-soaked roads — marred much of the course through bucolic wheat fields and rolling hills northwest of Paris.

Armstrong, seeking a record sixth straight Tour victory, captured the overall leader's yellow jersey a day earlier, thanks in part to a first-place performance in the team time trial by his U.S. Postal Service squad.

But controlling the race lead so early brings pressures along with honors — and Armstrong's coach said the 32-year-old Texan was willing to give up the yellow jersey temporarily and focus on bigger threats.

"We can't kill the team for a breakaway by five people who aren't a threat in the overall classification," Postal sporting director Johan Bruyneel said. "I'm comfortable with the situation."

Four of Armstrong's U.S. Postal teammates crashed about halfway through the course. Jose Luis Rubiera was treated by a race doctor, who swabbed down his leg from a car as the rider hung on to the vehicle's window.

Australian sprint specialist Bradley McGee, who complained of hip problems from the start of the race, dropped out Thursday.

Olympics

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ultimate prize: a trip to Athens and an opportunity to represent his country with pride and speed. He took the first-place finish at the NCAA track and field championships, winning with an overall time of 1:46.39. But Johnson said that was expected of him.

"People kept telling me that I would finish No. 1, but I didn't look at it that way," he said. "I couldn't let the pressure get to me, and the same goes for this. If I see myself as No. 1 all the time, I have nothing to strive for."

Whether he ends up first, second or third, one of those spots will earn Johnson the dream of a lifetime. He said he will not be the only one looking at it that way either.

"It's the Olympic trials. Everything is on the line," he said. "Everybody's gonna be looking for their best performance, and winning will not come easy."

But Tech head coach Wes Kittley has overwhelming faith in Johnson and the rest of the team's abilities.

"This is the climax to a long and great year," he said. "It really sums up what they've done all year long, and it gives us the chance to show off our rising program."

With the chances of Tech's first track and field Olympians in the midst, Kittley said everything

has not hit him yet.

"I know everybody's chances are great, especially (Johnson's)," he said. "It still hasn't soaked in that we could be on the verge of having our first Olympic qualifiers in this program."

Although most of the Raiders will be competing in sprints for the trials in California, Kittley said the training has been more of a marathon.

"The entire season has been a marathon for us," he said. "We began in August with fall track, and we're just about to finish up with the Olympic trials."

But the training has helped Johnson unbelievably, he said, especially with the help of Kittley.

"It's been a crazy and the longest season ever," Johnson said. "Coach Kittley has been a big supporter through the entire time, and he tries to keep the pressure low key and motivates me to win."

Johnson is one of several Texas Tech track and field competitors traveling to Sacramento, Calif. to try out for the 2004 U.S. Summer Olympic team. Other Red Raiders trying out include junior sprinter Tyree Gales for the men's 100-meter run, senior discus thrower Jason Young and junior sprinter Licretia Sibley for the women's 400-meter run.

The events will be broadcasted on television, alternating between NBC and the USA Network throughout the eight-day trial period. Johnson will race tonight, Saturday and during the finals on Monday.

Xavier coach Matta accepts position at Ohio State

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The search lasted 29 days. Thad Matta's turnaround took a week.

Seven days after declaring he had no interest in leaving Xavier for the vacant Ohio State basketball coaching job, Matta accepted the position on Wednesday.

His change of heart happened after a conversation late Tuesday

night with Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger.

"As of last night, I was not going to go to Ohio State," Matta told Cincinnati television station WCPO on Wednesday night. "I spoke with Mr. Geiger late last night and through our conversation decided to go up there today. And 6:30 tonight is basically when

I accepted the job."

Xavier athletic director Dawn Rogers confirmed Matta's hiring in an E-mail to The Associated Press shortly after she received a call from him early Wednesday evening.

"I always had the uneasy feeling that Thad might be the next Ohio State coach," Rogers said at a news conference. "Ultimately he did what he needed to do to be where he wanted to be as a coach."

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Six accused athletes included with contenders at U.S. Olympic trials

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The troubles of track and field, along with its triumphs, will be on display when the U.S. Olympic trials begin Friday.

Tim Montgomery and five other athletes with doping accusations pending against them will be allowed to compete, the head of USA Track and Field said Tuesday.

"The law of the United States is quite clear," USATF chief executive officer Craig Masback said. "It says unless someone has received a full due-process hearing and found to be ineligible, they must be allowed to compete."

That means world 100-meter record holder Montgomery, sprinters Chryste Gaines and Michelle Collins, twins Alvin and Calvin Harrison and distance runner Regina Jacobs are free to enter the U.S. trials.

Montgomery and Gaines are entered in the 100, Collins and the two Harrisons in the 400 and Jacobs in the 1,500 at the trials, held at Cal State-Sacramento.

Montgomery, Gaines, Collins and Alvin Harrison have been told by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency there is evidence they have committed doping offenses, even though they have not tested positive.



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Missing Marine safe at U.S. Embassy in Beirut

By Sam Ghattas/Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — A U.S. Marine who was reported missing in Iraq more than two weeks ago is alive and at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, where American officials are meeting with him, authorities said Thursday.

Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun is safe and appears to be in good health, said a Pentagon official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In making the announcement about Hassoun, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said in Washington: "We were able to go get him."

Boucher said Hassoun arrived at the embassy around 6 p.m. (11 a.m. EDT,) but he had no other details and no information on Hassoun's immediate plans. As for his military status, Boucher said that would be up to the Defense Department.

When reached at his West Jor-

dan, Utah, home Thursday morning, Hassoun's brother, Mohamad, said he had no comment.

Contradictory reports have surrounded the fate of the 24-year-old Lebanese native since his disappearance June 20.

On Saturday, a statement posted on a Web site known for extremist Muslim comment said Hassoun had been beheaded. A day later, another Web statement declared he had not been killed.

An Iraqi militant group said Monday it was holding him in a safe place but hadn't killed him. Al-Jazeera television broadcast the statement from "Islamic Response," which claimed responsibility June 27 for Hassoun's kidnapping.

NBC reported the Navy was investigating whether his disappearance may be part of a kidnapping hoax. A Marine spokesman confirmed the Navy investigation remains open.

"I don't think they're ruling that out. It would be fair to say they're not ruling that out," Maj. Nat Fahy said earlier Thursday.

A spokesman for the Bahrain-based U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet said the "matter is under investigation by Naval Criminal Investigative Service" and referred further questions to the service in Washington. A call to the service seeking com-

MARINE continued on page 3

OSU to pay Texas Tech \$40,000 for software use

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Oklahoma State University will pay Texas Tech University \$40,000 to license software former OSU employees had used without authorization for months, a Texas Tech official said Thursday.

Texas Tech Chancellor Dr. David Smith signed the agreement Wednesday afternoon after previous approval from Oklahoma State officials, said Mike Phillips, Texas Tech's chief information officer.

The agreement allows OSU five years' use of three software programs designed at Texas Tech but used without authorization at the Stillwater university for months, Phillips said.

Oklahoma State's chief information officer, Gary Wiggins, said a preliminary agreement reached earlier required only Texas Tech's approval. But he said he could not confirm the deal's completion because he hadn't yet spoken with Phillips.

OSU continued on page 3

Suspect sought by police in lewdness incidents on campus

By Sally Gunter/The University Daily

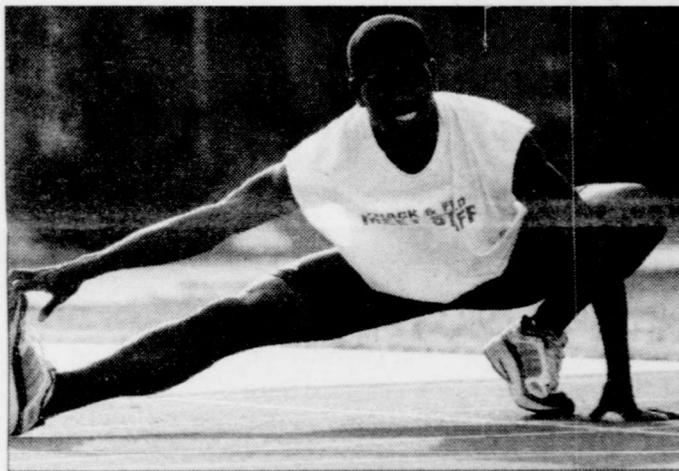
Texas Tech Police officers are on the watch for a Hispanic male in connection with three possible cases of public lewdness on the Tech campus.

"He has not been arrested yet," said Maj. Gordon Hoffman of the Tech PD. "We are actively trying to find him."

The suspect is described as a Hispanic male between the age of 35 and 40 years old, heavy set with black hair. He is being charged with public lewdness involving a female Tech student, whose name was undisclosed.

On March 10, a Tech officer responded to a call from a blue

SUSPECT continued on page 3



Chasing DREAMS

Red Raider runner Olympic hopeful

By Joey Kirk/The University Daily and photos by Linc Armes/The University Daily

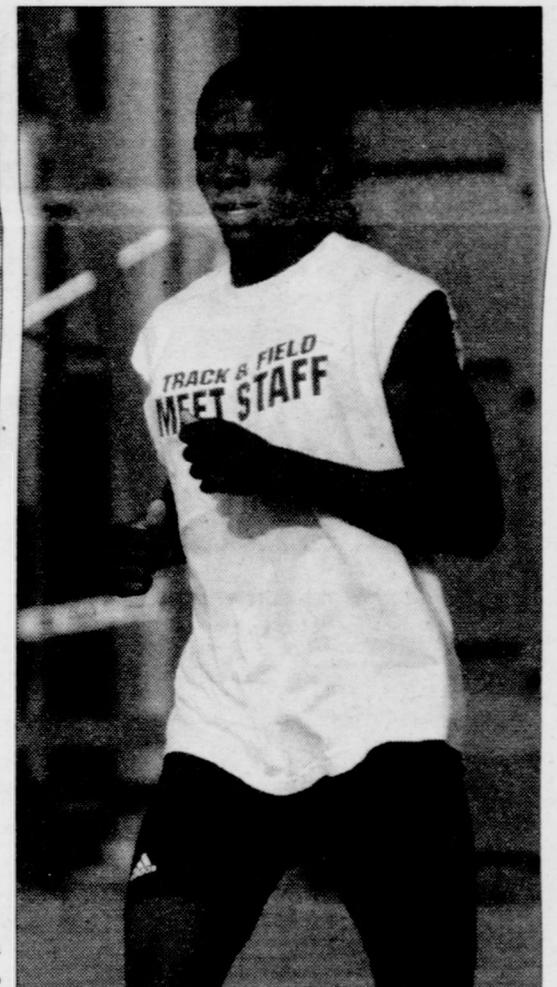
Some children dream about becoming fire fighters, doctors and astronauts. Others like junior Jonathan Johnson had different aspirations, and he is now getting the chance to chase his dream, literally.

Since he was a young runner growing up in Abilene, Johnson said he had watched the Olympic trials for the United States team every year. In the upcoming days,

Johnson will not be in front of a television to catch the action because he will be a part of it, trying to make

one of the top three spots in the men's 800-meter run.

"I've always dreamed of being in the Olympics, and I've always watched the trials, and now I'm in them," he said. "If you would have told

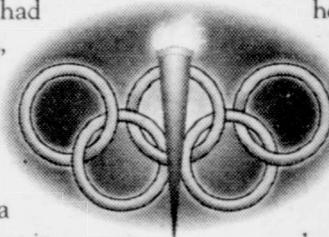


JUNIOR JONATHAN JOHNSON will compete tonight in the 2004 U.S. Olympic qualifying trials in Sacramento, Calif. He is joined by several other Red Raider teammates.

me when I was young that I would be where I am today, I would say you were joking or lying to me."

After almost a full year of running in events, winning medal after medal, Johnson gets the chance to go for the

OLYMPICS continued on page 8



Jury indicts pilots accused of being drunk before flight

MIAMI (AP) — A federal grand jury has indicted two America West pilots who were fired for allegedly being drunk in the cockpit just before takeoff.

The indictment released Thursday charges pilot Thomas Cloyd and co-pilot Christopher Hughes with being under the influence of alcohol while operating an airplane.

Both pilots were appealing similar state charges; they were expected to make their first court appearance later Thursday.

Cloyd and Hughes were accused of taking the controls of a jetliner after a night of heavy drinking in 2002. Officials said 124 passengers were aboard as the pilots left a gate at Miami International Airport.

The Rundown



Former Enron CEO Lay pleads innocent

HOUSTON (AP) — Enron Corp. founder and former chairman and CEO Kenneth Lay pleaded innocent Thursday to charges he was involved in a wide-ranging scheme to deceive the public, company shareholders, government regulators and others.

"Not guilty, your honor," Lay, speaking loudly and clearly, told U.S. Magistrate Judge Mary Milloy at a court hearing hours after he surrendered to the FBI and was hustled to the federal courthouse Skilling, and former top accountant Richard Causey, and accused Lay of participating in a conspiracy to manipulate Enron's quarterly financial results. It also accused him of making public statements about Enron's financial performance that were false and misleading and omitting facts necessary to make financial statements accurate and fair.

Milloy set his bond at \$500,000, and Lay emerged from the courthouse less than an hour later. Prosecutors had sought a \$6 million bond, saying he was a flight risk.

Ridge: Al-Qaida may try to disrupt elections

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is tightening security in the face of a steady stream of intelligence indicating al-Qaida may seek to mount an attack aimed at disrupting elections, the White House and Homeland Security officials said Thursday.

The Department of Homeland Security is addressing the threat and has efforts under way to "ramp up security," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said.

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said the Bush administration based its decision to bolster security on "credible" reports about al-Qaida's plans, coupled with the pre-election terror attack in Spain earlier this year and recent arrests in England, Jordan and Italy.

"This is sobering information about those who wish to do us harm," Ridge said. "But every day we strengthen the security of our nation."

U.S. officials do not have specific knowledge about where, when or how such an attack would take place.

Seven Palestinians dead in Gaza fighting

BEIT HANOUN, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli troops backed by helicopters and armored bulldozers battled Palestinian gunmen in this northern Gaza Strip town Thursday. At least seven Palestinians were killed, including the local commander of the Hamas militant group, Palestinians and the army said.

In the southern Gaza Strip, Islamic militants fired a missile at an Israeli jeep, wounding five soldiers, including two senior officers.

The militant Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility, saying it was avenging the "ugly Zionist massacre" in Beit Hanoun. It distributed a videotape showing an explosion near the jeep and the jeep on fire.

The army responded by opening fire in the nearby Rafah refugee camp. Palestinian hospital officials said five people were injured, including a 4-year-old girl with a critical head wound. The army had no comment.



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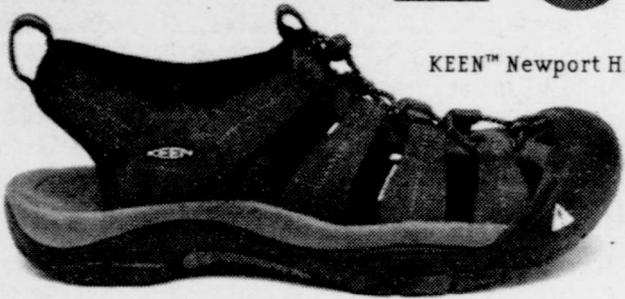
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Stork's Nest baby shower raises money at auction

By Abby Holcomb/
The University Daily

The second annual Stork's Nest baby shower was held on Thursday at the Texas Tech School of Nursing. The event was an auction to help raise money for the program.

The room was filled with baby shampoos, clothing, strollers and diapers, all ready to be donated to the Stork's Nest.

The auction was opened with thanks from Linda M. Brice, an assistant professor at the School of Nursing for all of the money and items that were donated.

Brice said the event raised \$2,600 in money donations by Thursday morning and more was coming in.

Stork's Nest began in 1971 to help low-income women receive education about prenatal care. It is

the national project of the March of Dimes and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

The program relies solely on donations from the community.

Cynthia O'Neal, an assistant professor at the School of Nursing, said the baby shower brings attention to the Stork's Nest.

"We do this as a once a year event in order to bring more attention to the community but they can go in throughout the year and donate baby items or money," she said.

Among the auctioned off items at the shower were autographed Tech memorabilia, signed by coaches Bob Knight, Marsha Sharp, Mike Leach and Larry Hays.

There also were packages donated by various businesses throughout

the Lubbock community.

Providing prenatal care is the Stork's Nests' main goal.

At the Stork's Nest women who make appointments and go to classes to educate themselves about prenatal care earn points to spend on the items that have been donated.

Ruth Ann Bridges, an assistant professor at the School of Nursing, said prenatal care is vital to reduce the number of premature babies that are born in Lubbock.

"In our community, we have a large number of women who don't understand the importance of prenatal care," she said.

"We have a high number of premature babies."



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Marine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ment was not immediately returned.

A gunbattle erupted in the northern Lebanese town of Tripoli between members of Hassoun's clan and people accusing them of being American collaborators, Lebanese security and hospital officials said.

Two people were killed, but they were not members of the Hassoun clan, which numbers over 1,000 people, officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Reports emerged that Hassoun might have been freed after his family in Utah said Tuesday they had word that he had been released and was safe, but they didn't know where.

Journalists had waited all day outside the building where his family owns an apartment in the Abu Samra neighborhood, hoping to meet the Marine or members of his family. Members of the Hassoun clan used cars to block the street outside the building at both ends. The shooting was not near the building.

On Tuesday, Hassoun's brother, Sami, said someone had visited the family in northern Lebanon and told them his brother was free and well. A Lebanese government official said Wednesday the kidnappers released Hassoun after he pledged he would not return to the U.S. military.

Two FBI agents met with the Hassoun family in Utah for about 20 minutes Wednesday. The agents

were not there to deliver any news to the family, but instead were sent to determine where the family was getting its information about Hassoun's whereabouts, agent Kelly Kleinvachter said.

The Marines said Hassoun disappeared on "unauthorized leave," but changed his status to "captured" after he turned up June 27 on television blindfolded with a sword hanging over his head.

Some of those claiming to be the captors have said he was romantically involved with an Arab woman and was lured away from his Marine base and captured. There also were reports that Hassoun, who was educated at American schools in Lebanon before moving to Utah and joining the Marines, might have been trying to get to Lebanon when he was captured.

Some reports also have said Hassoun fled his camp near the restive Iraqi city of Fallujah after seeing one of his colleagues killed by a mortar shell; others indicated he was lured out and captured.

Earlier Thursday, no overt signs of joy or preparations to welcome Hassoun could be seen at the family residence in Tripoli, an apartment on the second floor of a six-story building in the low-income Abu Samra district of Lebanon's second-largest city.

For Hassoun to make his way to Lebanon from Iraq, about 500 miles away, he would have to travel through Syria, which borders Iraq's western Anbar province, where his unit, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, is based. Hassoun worked as a translator.

events calendar.

Wiggins has said the university used the software for months under the assumption the code was "open source," available for free to any user.

The employees, Brandon LaBonte, OSU's director of software services, and his assistant, Michael Hewett, led the team that designed the software while the pair worked under Wiggins at Texas Tech.

Wiggins, LaBonte and Hewett came to Oklahoma State when OSU President David Schmidly left the Lubbock, Texas, university for Stillwater.

LaBonte and Hewett have been forced to resign over the flap, and payments totaling almost \$30,000 in their resignation agreements have prompted protest from faculty members in Stillwater.

Tech reacts to Kerry's choice of Edwards

By Megan LaVoie/
The University Daily

Mixed feelings ran rampant throughout the Texas Tech campus as Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry chose Sen. John Edwards as his running mate on Tuesday.

Kerry chose Edwards as his running mate out of a list of 25 candidates, which included Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri, Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack and Sen. Bob Graham of Florida.

Edwards, who is a seasoned trial lawyer and a rookie senator from North Carolina, is Kerry's formal rival. Edwards was a front contender against Kerry for the Democratic Presidential nomination this past spring.

Kerry described Edwards as a man who showed "Guts and determination and political skill" when announcing his decision, according to the Associated Press.

Missy Helbert, a senior account specialist with the Mass Communications college, said Edwards is

a bad choice as Kerry's running mate because he has no experience.

"I am from North Carolina, and I still think Edwards was a bad choice," she said. "It is scary to think that if Kerry were elected and something happened to him, Edwards would be president - I can't see him handling that responsibility."

Others thought Edwards was the perfect match for Kerry.

Carmen Rehn, a senior business major from Austin, said choosing Edwards will put Kerry ahead of President George Bush come election time.

"I think Edwards was the perfect choice - he's got charisma, and he's from the south, which contrasts with Kerry because he's from the North," she said. "Edwards is helping Kerry become a good threat against defeating Bush in November."

Chandan Kambli agreed.

"I think Kerry and Edwards together are going to be strong contenders for the presidency and vice presidency," said Kambli a business major from India.

"I am not from this country; however, I feel like Kerry and Edwards

both are committed to the welfare of this country and making it a better place for people to live in," he said.

Some students felt Kerry's choice was a blow to other contenders for the vice-presidential spot on the democratic ticket.

David Weaver, a junior engineering major from Sherman, said Kerry's choice was a slap in the face, especially to Dick Gephardt.

"Gephardt is the senior member of the party," he said. "Kerry not choosing him was a slap in the face to not only him, but also to the democratic party."

Helbert said Kerry chose Edwards as his running mate to gain votes in the south.

"I think he wanted Edwards to help gain votes in the south, but I think the south is smarter than that," she said.

Weaver agreed.

"Kerry has no respect for tradition," he said. "He just wants to get elected."

The Kerry-Edwards ticket will be nominated at the Democratic National Convention in Boston, which begins July 26.

Suspect

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

safety phone at the 2500 block of 15th Street, in front of the Student Union Building. The victim said as she walked on the sidewalk east toward University Ave., a man passed her and grabbed her right breast with his right hand, according to the police report.

The officer and victim tracked the suspect as he entered the south side of Doak Hall. The officer placed the suspect in handcuffs for both of their "safety" and transported him to the Tech PD, according to the report.

The man was issued a criminal trespass warning for all of Tech property, according to the report.

The man can be arrested for criminal trespassing if he does not obey the warning, Hoffman said.

Public lewdness is a Class A-misdemeanor. The suspect could face a maximum fine of \$4,000 and one year jail time if found guilty.

Investigators are working on two similar public lewdness cases that may involve the same suspect, Hoffman said.

A March 7 incident inside the Chemistry Building also involved a female Tech student being grabbed by a male fitting the description of the suspect.

Ten days later on March 17, a female Tech student was approached from behind and grabbed in a similar manner in the Doak

Hall parking lot, Hoffman said.

"We are pursuing the remaining cases and will present them as soon as we have enough to make a case," he said.

The Lubbock Police Department issued an arrest warrant in one of two cases involving the same individual, Hoffman said.

OSU

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"If so, that's good news," Wiggins said.

The settlement does not address OSU's past use of the programs - one, creating OSU's online events calendar; another, a security application; and the last, a tool for developing software code.

"There's not a lot that can be done about what's already occurred," Phillips said. "We were trying to protect our intellectual property issues moving forward."

A June 25 report from OSU's General Counsel's Office said two employees "more likely than not" gained unauthorized access to Texas Tech computers to copy programming code used for OSU's online

Move Over Martha

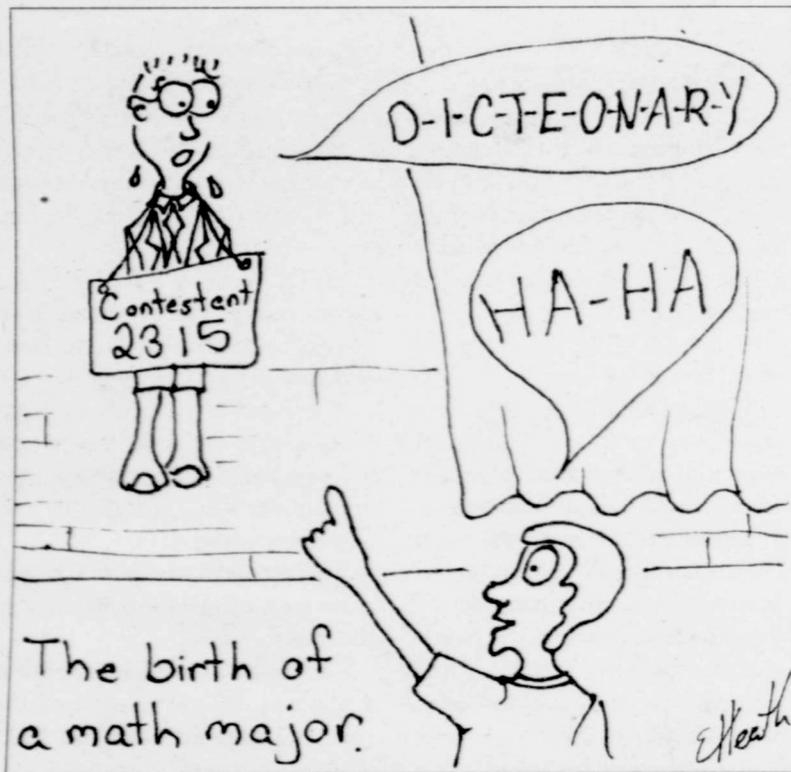
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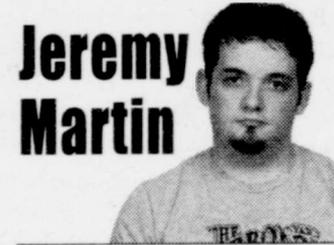
“Who’d you rather—Michael Moore or Rush Limbaugh?” If you haven’t heard it yet, you’ll be asked this head-scratcher soon enough. “Just one?” most people reply, “Why can’t I have them both?” It’s a tough choice, but before you answer, take some time to really think about it.

Don’t just go with your gut reaction or the current trends; follow your heart. The choice you make says a lot about you as a person. These are just a few of the things you should consider before you give your “final answer.”

What kind of over-the-top political extremist gets your motor running? Do you like Rush’s classy white-collar look or Michael’s working-man style? Rush sure cuts a dapper figure in his Italian suits, but Michael’s baseball caps and flannel shirts give him that rugged mountain man appeal.

Is there magic written in the stars? If so, you may want to keep in mind Rush is a Capricorn, ambitious but pessimistic, while Michael is a Taurus, reliable but jealous. Which is better for your astrological makeup? Remember Venus is waning.

In the ‘90s, this question was a no-brainer for most people, if it was even asked at all. Rush was the ‘90s “It” boy with his own radio and television shows and two bestselling books. Michael, on the other



hand, was virtually unknown to the average person. Nine times out of 10 when someone chose Michael Moore, it was because they had mistaken him with singer/actress Mandy Moore. “Dude, Michael Moore, for sure,” they’d say. “She was so freakin’ hot in ‘A Walk to Remember.’”

The tables are turning, however. These days Michael Moore is a household name with three books and an Oscar under his 54-inch belt. His latest movie, “Fahrenheit 9/11,” grabbed the No. 1 slot at the box office a couple of weekends ago. Yep, Michael is truly “the next big thing” in political super-hunks.

But don’t count Rush out just yet. The upcoming election is anybody’s guess, and it may change everything. The Democrats could always win big in November and make it cool to hate liberals all over again.

Who’s your type? In the past few years, Rush has developed a sort of Colin Farrell-style bad boy image because of his alleged drug use and multiple divorces, while Michael is more of a boy-next-door Tobey Maguire kind of guy.

Which would you rather cuddle

up to at night? That dangerous edge is exciting to some people, but others want someone they know will be there to hold them and tell them everything is going to be all right.

On the physical side, there are several things to consider. Remember there are no right or wrong answers; it’s just a matter of taste. Michael, for example, is sure to be a favorite with fans of long, luxurious hair and quirky Midwestern accents.

But Rush has slimmed down quite a bit recently, and his thinning silver hair is sure to be a hit with those in search of a father figure. Nirvana lovers will flock to Moore’s scruffy, unwashed grunge look, but Limbaugh is going to register in a big way with fans of personal hygiene.

So who’s the sexiest — conservative cutie Rush or bleeding heartthrob Michael? I’ll leave that for you to decide. E-mail your vote to jeremy.t.martin@ttu.edu and I’ll print the results in next week’s column. It’s the best way I know to settle this once and for all, at least until they respond to my letters and agree to compete in a swimsuit competition. Next week: the results and “Who’d you rather—Laura Bush or Hillary Clinton?”

■ Martin is a junior creative writing major from Lubbock. E-mail him at jeremy.t.martin@ttu.edu.

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UD@ttu.edu.



Mother Teresa said it best when she stated, “Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.” Do you aspire to be respected and admired by your peers and colleagues? I know I do, and I’ve found the secret; it is the art of being kind. There is an art in all things, and when you perfect it, it becomes a valuable asset. However, so many people are only concerned about what others think. When you adopt this state of mind, you have accepted a mindset that is the perfect planting grounds for destruction. I’m not here to preach, nor am I here to advise everyone to be kind all the time, but I do believe it is of utmost importance to make other

Random acts of kindness the secret to happiness

Nahum Aman



individuals feel good about themselves by leaving a lasting imprint on the spirit through spoken word.

Many people do not realize something as simple as a pat on the back or a few words can mean the world to someone who cannot see past

today. Those words have a way of being reciprocated when the storms of life have you bound on your darkest day.

A bad day should not stop you from being polite or courteous. Think about the last time you performed a good deed. (Those of you who can’t remember are missing out.) You see, benevolence brings happiness, and happiness has its benefits. People want to be around others who are kind to others and at peace with themselves. It should inspire you to do better for that someone. The kinder and more

considerate you are toward others, the more it will come back. In the midst of all this terror and war people feel helpless. They feel nothing can change the situation besides the government. That is a lie.

One person can make a difference. Make it a habit to keep a smile on your face, regardless of the situation. When doing a favor never look for something in return. Do it out of the goodness of your heart. Brighten up someone’s day by opening a door for someone or sharing a compliment. It’s not the materials,

objects or other physical substance that count in life; it’s the small things that make a difference.

Not everyone on campus is perfect, but what distinguishes one set of people from others is some people actually live to better themselves while others stay where they are. I am not perfect, so I have made a pledge to be a better person. Remember everyone has a battle to fight. I tell myself each day that I will commit to one random act of senseless kindness. The question is, will you?

■ Aman is a senior international business major from Dallas. E-mail him at nahum.s.aman@ttu.edu.

Red Raider captures the CROWN

By Megan LaVoie/
The University Daily



Graphic by Frank Vaculin

Texas Tech is known for stars like men's basketball coach Bob Knight and former Tech quarterback B.J. Simmons, but a new Tech star emerged when Red Raider Tyler Willis took home the Miss Texas USA crown June 27 at the Miss Texas USA pageant held in Laredo.

Willis competed as Miss Central Plains against a field of 128 other contestants to win the Texas crown. This was Willis' fourth attempt to win the title; she was 1st runner up in Miss Texas USA 2004 and was Miss Lubbock USA in 2001. Not only did she walk away with the title of Miss Texas USA, but Willis was also voted Miss Congeniality by other contestants.

Miss San Antonio Cassandra Meyer won 1st runner-up, Miss Bay Area Laurel Lanning took 2nd runner-up, Miss Fort Bend County Crystle Stewart was third runner-up and rounding out the field

of finalists was Miss North Dallas Candace Campfield.

Willis said winning Miss Texas USA is both a blessing and an honor.

"I felt so blessed that God had given me this opportunity," she said. "It is definitely an honor to get the chance to reach out and help young woman."

Throughout her one-year reign as Miss Texas USA, Willis said she plans to implement a program she started in Brownfield called "Developing the Leader Within."

The program is designed to teach children how to make good choices and set goals, especially children with economic difficulties.

"I am planning for this program to go statewide," she said. "And I hope the Texas State Legislature will recognize it, but that won't happen for a few months."

Willis' first act as Miss Texas USA was receiving a key to Laredo from Laredo's Mayor.

"The Mayor presented me with the key to Laredo the night I was crowned," she said. "It was a pretty big honor because I am not even from Laredo."

Willis also received a prize package worth more than \$100,000. Her prize package

includes a brand new 2004 Ford Mustang, mink coat, \$5,000 cash allowance, wardrobe, jewelry, gift certificates, makeup, physical training, interview coaching services and a trip to Hawaii.

Willis said her favorite prize is the Mustang.

"It's kind of ironic that I've been having car problems this past year," she said. "I was lucky to receive a car that I didn't have to pay for."

Willis was born in Brownfield and graduated from Tech in 2002 with a degree in broadcast journalism and is scheduled to graduate from Tech in August with a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies.

Willis said juggling classes along with competing in the Miss Texas USA pageant is difficult.

"I didn't get any special attention for winning from my teachers — but I shouldn't be treated any differently. I am just a normal student like everyone else," she said.

After graduation, Willis plans on seeking a job in public relations working for a sports franchise.

"I am actually unemployed rate now and looking for a job," she said.

College costs up again; financial aid should help

Despite a recovering economy and exasperation in Congress, college tuition will be up sharply again next year — though experts say that once financial aid is factored in, students may not be worse off.

Private institutions, which account for about half of American colleges and educate about 20 percent of four-year college students, will raise tuition on average 6 percent in 2004-2005 to just over \$18,000, according to a survey released Thursday by the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Public colleges, only slowly emerging from years of state budget cuts, will probably charge about 10 percent more on average next year, or \$5,100, estimated Travis Reindle, director of state policy analysis at the American Association of State

Colleges and Universities.

The only good news for parents and students is that, like cruise lines and automobile dealers, colleges don't always charge the sticker price.

NAICU says 86 percent of students at private colleges pay less than full fare. Last year, when private colleges also increased tuition 6 percent, they increased financial aid for tuition and other expenses such as room and board by 15 percent.

"The net tuition is the thing to watch for — when the day is done how much money is the family actually paying," said David L. Warren, NAICU's president.

NAICU can't say for sure whether financial aid will make up for the increase again this year, but Warren said he expects net costs for students will hold steady or fall, as they have on average over the last decade.

Disc jockey arrested after on-air prank

AUSTIN (AP) — A radio personality who put on a ski mask then walked into a convenience store to buy a pack of gum as part of an on-air prank has been charged with making a terroristic threat.

Police said Dan Chappell, known to listeners of Austin station KHFI as "Lunchbox," walked around the store narrating events on the phone before buying the gum and leaving. Though no verbal threats were made, store clerk Atif Akhlaque said he thought he was going to be robbed and pressed the silent alarm.

"People at convenience stores, banks and other places of business are on heightened alert, and some business owners have been known to carry weapons," said police spokesman Kevin Buchman. "Trying to pull off a prank endangered the life of not only himself but anybody else who might have been in the store."

Chappell, 22, was charged with making a terroristic threat, a Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and up to a \$4,000 fine. He was out on bond Thursday. A call left by The Associated Press for Chappell at the radio station was not immediately returned Thursday.

It was the latest in a series of on-air gags by Chappell, who also has had a bikini wax, walked across hot coals and married a listener who was paid \$100.

Station manager Dusty Black said in a written statement that the station "does not endorse behavior that may endanger the public or our employees, and we take these matters very seriously."

Akhlaque said he could hear Chappell talking on a cell phone, seemingly narrating the events.

"It was the most immature joke," Akhlaque said in Thursday's online edition of the Austin American-Statesman.

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'Arthur' not a 'King' worth hailing

King Arthur" is an epic action movie that puts in just enough effort to get audiences to sit through it, but not enough to make us remember afterward that it exists.

For months the trailers have promised heavy action, a weak story, typical battlefield pep talks about freedom, and most of all, mediocrity.

The film delivers on each of these levels.

There are many different versions of the King Arthur legend, and writer David Franzoni (who also penned "Gladiator") is working with some interesting ideas, but doesn't care a lot for his characters for the most part.

Clive Owen ("Beyond Borders") was a nice choice to play Arthur, the leader of a small band of Sarmatian warriors that do the bidding of Rome in England.

They've been forced to serve Rome for 15 years and are finally on the brink of freedom after completing a final mission, which was to protect the travel of a bishop under the attack of English rebels living in the

James Eppler



By my estimation, the film is really only interested in a few of its characters, but is content to make them only mildly deeper than wading pool shallow.

woods led by Merlin, the wizard.

The bishop, however, breaks Rome's promise to free Arthur and his men of their servitude by sending them on one more mission.

They must extract a young boy the pope has a particular interest in (no jokes, please), along with his family from a village that will soon be under attack from the invading Saxon army.

Stellan Skarsgard, who looks remarkably like Geoffrey Rush with a bad hangover, is Cerdic, who leads the Saxon army with the help of his punk son.

Reluctantly, Arthur, along with his few knights including his best friend, Lancelot (Ioan Gruffud) journey to the village, only to find the family is unwilling to go at Rome's bidding.

They also find a set of prisoners being kept in an underground prison for being un-Christian. One of these is Guinevere (Keira Knightley from "Pirates of the Caribbean"), who is part of Merlin's rebel army.

To save the people of the village, Arthur locks up the infidels in their own underground prison and takes all of the people with him to save them from the invaders. Along the way, he falls in love with Guinevere.

"King Arthur" was a mediocre movie when it was called "Tears of the Sun." Both films have the same director, Antoine Fuqua, and the plot similarities are undeniable.

Credit "King Arthur" for at least doing something different, and occasionally interesting, with the legend. Here there is no love triangle between Arthur, Guinevere and Lancelot, although the latter two occasionally trade long glances.

Guinevere herself is not a damsel in distress. Rather, she's a fierce warrior donning "Braveheart" make-up and a sexy leather belt bra in the film's final battle.

By my estimation, the film is really only interested in a few of its characters, but is content to make them only mildly deeper than wading pool shallow. Why waste time on character development when a rousing action sequence will do?

"King Arthur's" battles are boring for the most part, but at least Fuqua does not rely too much on CGI for effect like other films we've seen (yes, you, "Troy"). But action fans may be disappointed in

that the bloodshed in the battles is kept to a PG-13 level.

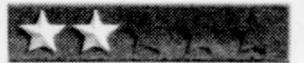
The film's highlight is a battle on an iced-over body of water with Arthur and his men, Guinevere being one, take on a sect of the Saxon army. It's an exciting battle, even if the scene is slightly preposterous.

Knightley's Guinevere is the only character worth caring about, and the talented actress is continuing to prove herself as an up-and-comer. Owen gives Arthur a macho-man hard edge, but the script gives the actor little to work with.

Epic battle films appear to be all the rage this year, with Oliver Stone's "Alexander" still to come, and moviegoers may find themselves becoming burned out on the genre.

"King Arthur" may speed up the process.

EPPLER'S RATING:



■ Eppler is The UD's movie critic. E-mail him comments at James.D.Eppler@ttu.edu.

Judge denies Martha Stewart second bid for new trial

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge on Thursday denied Martha Stewart's latest request for a new trial based on allegations that a government ink expert lied on the

witness stand.

U.S. District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum said there was "no reasonable likelihood that this perjury could have affected the

jury's verdict."

The judge said "overwhelming independent evidence" supports the jury's guilty verdict.

The decision paved the way for the celebrity homemaker to be sentenced next week for lying about a 2001 stock sale. Stewart and her former stockbroker are each expected to get 10 to 16 months in prison.

Stewart's lawyer, Robert Morvillo, said he was "very disappointed" by the decision and planned to raise that and other issues in an appeal.

There was no immediate comment from prosecutors other than an e-mail alerting reporters to the judge's decision.

Stewart and former stockbroker Peter Bacanovic asked for a new

trial after prosecutors accused Secret Service ink expert Larry Stewart of lying repeatedly on the witness stand during the trial in February.

Larry Stewart, no relation to Martha Stewart, was accused of lying when he said he participated in ink-analysis testing of a worksheet prepared by Bacanovic of stocks in Martha Stewart's portfolio.

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HOUSE FOR sale: 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, den 32nd street convenient to Tech Updated inside and out. 794-2032, 781-1632.

IMPROVED LOT in established mobile-home addition in Shallowater. One-third acre, convenient to Tech 794-2032, 781-1632.

RED 1995 Mitsubishi 3000 GT. Neon underbody lights. Factory wheels. Custom wheels. 60k miles. 638-6080 or 385-6233.

ROOMMATES

2 FEMALE students seek non-smoking, clean, responsible roommate to share 3/2 home. \$300 + 1/3 utilities. Call Tonya 438-8739.

2015 16TH. Looking for male roommate. \$300+bills. 2400-sq. feet. In great shape. Call Scott 806.763.5679.

2818 37TH: looking for male roommate. \$350+bills. Call Shane 687-2617.

FEMALE ROOMMATE Needed ASAP! \$350/mo. + 1/3 of bills. Call Linzi 441-2999.

FEMALE ROOMMATE needed for 1/1 in 3/3. Raiders Pass. August. I'll help you with first month's rent. Erin 713-269-4220.

FEMALE ROOMMATES for 3/2. 6312 31st. \$325+split bills. Call Felicia at 512-422-8086.

JULY RENT FREE. 3/2. Need 1 or 2 roommates. \$275 month + bills. 509 Kline #2. Call 535-1631.

ROOMMATE NEEDED for 3 bedroom house close to Tech. \$275 + 1/3 bills. 863-4242, 632-5567.

ROOMMATE NEEDED to share 3/2 house. \$325 + 1/3 bills. Contact 795-7575.

ROOMMATE WANTED to share 3/2 house with two other people. Near Tech. Call Kevin at 713-829-4347.