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TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2005

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## Rise in Iraqi deaths will not deter democracy

By Antonio Castaneda/  
The Associate Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Insurgents killed 18 police and government workers in a series of shootings across central Iraq, and the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said Monday the recent

wave of suicide bombings won't derail progress toward democracy.

Insurgents killed eight policemen in a gunbattle in the western Baghdad neighborhood of Khadra, police said. It was not clear if any insurgents were killed.

Gunmen also killed six police officers, including a colonel, in

five attacks in Baghdad, police and hospital officials said. Another policeman died in a shootout between insurgents and security forces just north of Baghdad in Taji, police said.

A police colonel was fatally shot while driving his car in Samarra, 60 miles north of the capi-

tal, according to police Capt. Laith Mohammed.

In a visit to Berlin, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard Myers, said a recent spike in suicide bombings in Iraq wouldn't derail the drafting of a new constitution or progress toward democracy. But he warned of

more violence ahead.

"Every major milestone has been met. That will continue, in my belief, to happen," Myers said.

Insurgents also attacked government employees Monday, killing a worker for the Iraqi Trade

**POLICE** continued on page 2



Photo by Caity Colvard

**SIBLINGS BEN AND Sarah Wolcott, a sophomore math and a senior French major from Lubbock wait in line at Barnes and Noble for the Harry Potter book, "Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince" Friday night.**

## Fans flock to bewitching book

By Jeremy Reynolds/  
The Daily Toreador

The not-so-underground wizard world of Harry Potter fans pulled their broomsticks out of the closet and dusted off their wands to converge at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore Friday night for the midnight release of the sixth book, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

Fans young and young-at-heart stood in line for hours awaiting the final countdown to the witching hour. To the left were young children dressed like members from the Hufflepuff House—a dormitory from the series—and to the right were high school and college students dressed like members of the Gryffindor House. In between were regular Muggles—a series name for non-magic people.

Amber Teichelman, a senior marketing major from Stanford, said she stood in line since eight o'clock to get the book, but had been anticipating its release for a longer period of time.

"I've been waiting for two years for this book," Teichelman said. "I couldn't wait to get it and I'll probably stay up all night reading it. For me, it's totally worth it."

Lorna Wolcott, a senior French major from Lubbock, said she felt that Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling resurrects mythology for the 21st century. She said the books make children learn without them knowing it. As far as standing in line all night for a book, she said she felt it was a worthwhile experience.

"Where else do you get to come and party for a book?" Wolcott said "It's like New Years' Eve only with a book."

Wolcott stood in the middle of a group of other college students who were surrounded on all sides by young children, but she did not feel out of place.

"I didn't have a childhood, so this is my way of recapturing it," Wolcott said.

Critics of the series have associated the wizard and witch characters with Satanism and corruption of young minds.

**BOOK** continued on page 3

## Campus art meant to challenge ideas

By Carlos Bergfeld/  
The Daily Toreador

It is probably possible to find both critics and admirers of almost any of the art works on campus, and that is the point.

Cecilia Carter Browne, public art manager for Texas Tech, said those who express an opinion on a work of public art have already fulfilled that work's purpose.

"These types of works that challenge your established paradigm are important in an intellectual environment because, in order to grow, you have to step away from your established paradigm

and take some leaps," she said.

Tech's percent-for-art program provides funding for the acquisition of works of art by allocating 1 percent of the total cost of every new construction project that exceeds \$500,000 for this purpose.

Tech assigns an additional 1 percent for landscape enhancements.

Texas Tech is one of four Texas schools that have a public art program, and Tech began acquiring works in 2001.

Browne said several features differentiate public art from other types of works.

"I think what makes public art

different from museum or gallery work is that it's often site-specific," she said. "It reflects something about its location."

Tina Kight, a junior human development and family studies major from Fort Worth, said she noticed the environmental relevance of public art while examining the pieces on campus.

"I like how (the art) correlates with what it's by," she said. "They have the sculptures of books by the English building, the 'Bookman' by the library and the bulls in front of the animal sciences building."

Larry Kirkland's "Headwaters" near the English building, Terry

Allen's "Read Reader" by the Student Union building and Peter Woytuk's "Bulls" in front of the Animal Sciences Facility are three of the 21 major art installations at various locations around the campus.

The University Public Art Committee, an 18-member committee of students, faculty, staff and community representatives appointed by the chancellor, selects new works of art to be added to the collection.

Browne said works of art can also serve as social-gathering plac-



Photo by Caity Colvard

**READ READER IS** one of many sculptures that decorate the campus.

**ART** continued on page 2

## Art

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

es, which have become less prominent in our culture.

"Sculpture often takes the place of what used to be the town square, so it really kind of creates a space for debate, for people to talk about ideas," she said.

Chuck Pelowski, a junior general studies major from Abilene, and Kim Ottis, a junior human development and family studies major from Victoria, said they often debated the meaning of the different objects in Tom Otterness' "Tornado of Ideas" sculpture outside the Student Union building.

"The more you learn about what they're trying to say, you really appreciate it more," Pelowski said.

Ottis said she enjoys some of the pieces on campus and dis-

likes others, but she knows other people may find something special in a work she disapproves of.

"That's the cool thing about art, you either love it or you hate it," she said.

Browne said it is impossible to satisfy everyone with a certain piece of art, and the important thing is to present people with new ideas that cause them to examine themselves or society.

"It can be a mirror of who and what you are, but it can also be a window outside of your backyard," she said.



Jesús Moroles' "Square Spiral Arch," a sculptural portal to be installed near the

Experimental Sciences

Building.

Deborah Butterfields' "Wind River," a horse sculpture made from non-traditional materials to be installed at Murray Residence Hall, will both be set up on campus later this summer.

## Police

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Minister in the southern neighborhood of Dora, Dr. Muhanad Jawad of the Yarmouk hospital said. A municipal worker was also killed and another wounded in a drive-by shooting on a highway between the cities of Samarra and Balad north of Baghdad, Mohammed said.

U.S. forces said Monday they killed four insurgents preparing to launch mortars in the northern city of Tal Afar. A fifth suspected insurgent in the same area was killed by U.S. troops during a raid.

U.S. and Iraqi forces seized a large weapons cache Monday in western Mosul, including more than 1,000 mortar rounds, 450 rocket-propelled grenade rounds, and 150 rockets, the military said.

In Jordan, Iraq's planning minister criticized the massive shortfall in donations pledged by foreign countries to rebuild his country,

telling a global reconstruction conference that most aid had been spent on security.

Barham Salih said of \$32 billion in loans and grants pledged two years ago, Iraq has received only \$7 billion.

Al-Qaida in Iraq reported Monday that one of its "field commanders" had been killed by coalition forces in western Iraq, the terror group purportedly said in a statement posted on a Web site used by militants. The statement did not say when the man, Abi Salih al-Ansar, was killed.

The government said Monday a stolen fuel tanker was used in a suicide attack last week that killed over 90 people in Musayyib, 40 miles south of Baghdad.

The truck was stolen by insurgents two days before the attack, an Oil Ministry spokesman said. However, there were conflicting accounts of the attack: most witnesses said a fuel tanker was moving slowly in the center of the town when the blast occurred, but a tanker truck in the area was mostly intact Sunday.

In southern Baghdad, Iraqi police found the body of an unidentified man with multiple gunshot wounds dumped on a highway, police 1st Lt. Thaeer Mahmoud said.

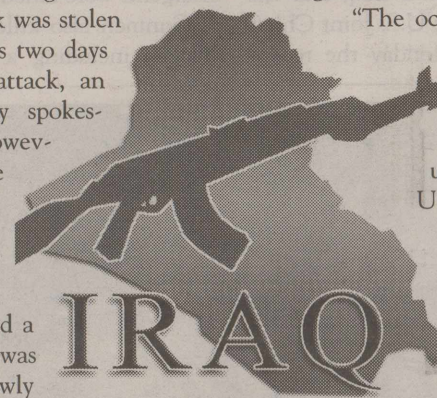
Iraq's most powerful Shiite clergyman, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, is deeply upset by the upsurge in suicide attacks, said Vice President Adil Abdul-Mahdi, a top Shiite politician, after meeting with the cleric on Sunday.

The cleric urged the government to protect the people in "this genocidal war," Abdul-Mahdi said. At least 170 people have been killed in suicide bombings throughout Iraq in the past week.

In a BBC interview scheduled for broadcast Monday, radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr said the continuing violence in Iraq was based in part on the presence of U.S. and other foreign forces.

"The occupation in itself is a problem," said al-Sadr, who led an uprising against U.S. forces last year. "Iraq not being independent is the problem. And the other problems stem from that — from sectarianism to civil war, the entire American presence causes this."

Also Monday, the military said a U.S. Marine died in a non-hostile incident the prior day at a U.S. base in Ramadi. The death is under investigation.



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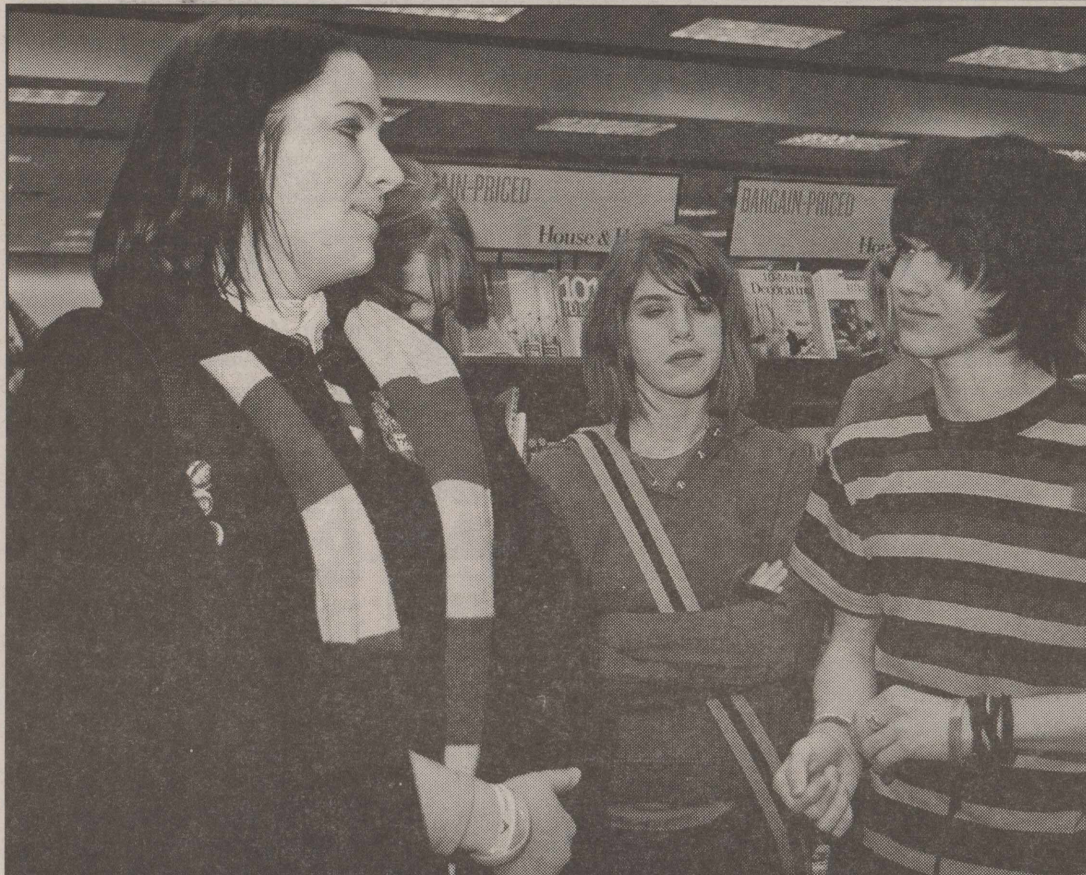


Photo by Caity Colvard

AMBER TEICHELMAN, A senior marketing major from Stanford, talks to high school students about the new Harry Potter book. Teichlman is dressed as a Gryffindor student and was one of many to attend the Harry Potter party on Friday night.

## Book

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wolcott said that she is a Christian and she still loves the series.

"The best way to share the gospel is not saying that if you read Harry Potter you're going to go to hell," Wolcott said. "You should find good in the book."

The Harry Potter franchise has been credited with many accomplishments such as an increase in youth reading.

Wolcott said a good reason to read the books is they are a common ground for many people. Someone from America can talk with someone from England and have something more to talk about than the weather.

Joanna Schmidt, a Tech student working towards her masters in HSC, stood along side Wolcott and the sea of paper wizard hats, and like Wolcott, she did not blush once in embarrassment.

"We're not crazy," Schmidt said. "It's just a good time."

Christina Maas, a senior history major from Dumas, said she came out to buy the book at midnight because she is impatient and could not wait until Saturday.

"I'm such a nerd," Maas said. "But, Harry Potter is so awesome. I love it."

Every time a new book in the series has come out, it has spent a few weeks as the top-seller. Pace Hanzel, a sophomore human development family studies major from San Antonio, said she came to get the book early because she felt the lines would be worse on Saturday.

"I've read all the books several times," Hanzel said.

She said she felt the series, though targeted at the younger generation, is written for a more mature audience.

"I don't think the series is geared towards children as much as they'd like it to be," Hanzel said.

# Why Live on Campus?

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Living on campus makes life convenient for you because of all of the amenities.

"I am a legally blind student who feels that living on campus is very convenient because of the easy commute to different classes, the Recreation Center and organizational meetings. Living on campus also has given me accessibility to dining halls and other eating places without the concern of having to worry about cooking or going somewhere to pick something up. Having all of these services has convinced me that living on campus is a great choice for Tech students."

**CARLA VALPEOZ,**  
JUNIOR, FOREIGN LANGUAGE MAJOR



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# Opinions

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## London attacks reveal flaws in U.S. security

The 7/7 attacks in London have exposed glaring deficiencies in our homeland security apparatus and reinforced valuable lessons from 9/11 that I worry we've forgotten.

First, the attacks demonstrate the imperative of reauthorizing the surveillance provisions of the U.S. Patriot Act set to expire on December 31st. Early press reports indicate that the London terrorists were all British citizens with little or no previous record of criminal activity. It is too early to tell if the bombers were conspicuous enough in their preparations to raise suspicion, but it is clear that, had that been the case, one "sneak and peek" search would have been all that was necessary to shut down the plot well in advance of its execution.

(The reader should also note the example of attorney Lynne Stewart, who acted as a messenger for one of the perpetrators of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, and would never have been prosecuted or convicted without evidence gathered under the Patriot Act's surveillance provisions.)

The London attacks also raise the specter of lax border security. As some commentators have pointed out, the London terrorists all would have been able to enter the United States without scrutiny under the State Department's Visa Waiver Program.

I don't know what the remedy is from our side. Ending the program would be problematic. The visa process is onerous, and terminating the program would probably result in a backlash from other countries. I do know that law enforcement does a lousy job of monitoring foreign

nationals once they are in the U.S., especially when it comes to illegals and persons with expired visas.

One thing that is certain is that the Bush administration and both parties in Congress have failed to lead on the issue of immigration reform.

In fact, according to Congressman Tom Tancredo's, R-Colo, office, over 75,000 non-Mexican foreign nationals were caught crossing the border illegally last year. That number includes nationals of every country on the State Department's list of terrorism sponsors.

Lastly, I think the London bombings have highlighted the unwillingness of the Muslim community to do its part against the Islamofascist (to use Christopher Hitchens' word) menace.

Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh was murdered last year for producing "Submission," a contro-

versial documentary about the role of women in Islam. Knifed to his body was a letter threatening the life of his partner, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, who had fled Islam and her native Somalia after being forced into an arranged marriage. Instead of defending Hirsi Ali (who now lives in hiding), the reaction of the Dutch Muslim community was to attack her apostasy.

As The New York Times' Thomas Friedman put it last week, it has been 16 years since the Ayatollah of Iran issued a death warrant and a \$3 million bounty for author Salman Rushdie because of a book he wrote. "To this day," Friedman writes, "no



Joe Biles

major Muslim cleric or religious body has ever issued a fatwa condemning Osama bin Laden."

The war on Islamic fundamentalism begins at home. Mainstream Islamic scholars reject suicide bombing and the targeting of innocents as anti-Koranic. But when Muslim leaders are silent on the issue, or start making excuses when the victims happen to be Israeli, they lend moral support to the enemy. Edmund Burke's dictum that "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing" rings as true in the 21st century as it did in the 18th. The "War on Terrorism" represents a civil war within Islam as well as an international conflict, and it's time the good guys started fighting back.

**Biles is a senior history major from Mineral Wells. E-mail him at biles@wf.net.**

## Too much expected from romantic relationships, love

We are social beings, created to interact with one another on a daily basis. That need for contact is hard-wired into us. It is unavoidable.

Maybe you've heard of the developmental phenomenon called "failure to thrive." Babies who are not given enough physical contact with other humans, even if they are given everything else essential for good health, will not only be unhappy, but will actually stop growing.

For example, an orphanage was grossly understaffed and developed an epidemic in which infants simply turned their faces to the wall and died! No one could decide what was causing this phenomenon-their basic needs were being met. However, with no real human interaction, these children were lonely. They had no reason

to live.

Obviously, we need other people. We aren't meant to live life alone. But even though the social realm of our existence is good, it can be dangerous. The danger is when we go too far with it, when the interaction becomes our entire purpose, when we look to others for everything.

Other humans cannot be expected to supersede the limitations we experience ourselves.

You wouldn't think that by what we see in our culture today, however. Everywhere you look-every song, movie, and novel-has an element of idealistic romantic relationships that seem to offer all the answers.

We have exaggerated our need for companionship to the point that we worship each other, and frankly, it's appalling.

All human beings are in the same plight. How can we expect to take each other out of it? It would be like one person in a well trying to help another person out of it. They can't really help you, and you can't really help them.

If we go into our relationships, particularly our romances, with the expectation that the other person can somehow satisfy all the inadequacies and the needs of our hearts, then we are going to be greatly disappointed.

But that's exactly what we do. "If I could only find someone, I'd be happy," we think to ourselves, as if the end all be all to existence



Tiffany Burt

were to find romance.

But undying romance doesn't really exist. Sure it lasts for a while, but when the "worse" in the "for better or worse" kicks in, the feelings are gone, and we "feel" nothing. But real love isn't a feeling. It's the reality of your decision to care for and love that person through thick and thin, and to put the other person's needs above your own.

So what are we looking for? Are we looking for someone, out of a selfish desire for companionship, who will finally give meaning to our existence, or are we looking for someone to love, in sickness and in health, 'til death do us part?

**Burt is a senior human development and family studies major from Carlsbad, N.M. E-mail her at tiffany.r.burt@ttu.edu.**

### DAILY TOREADOR

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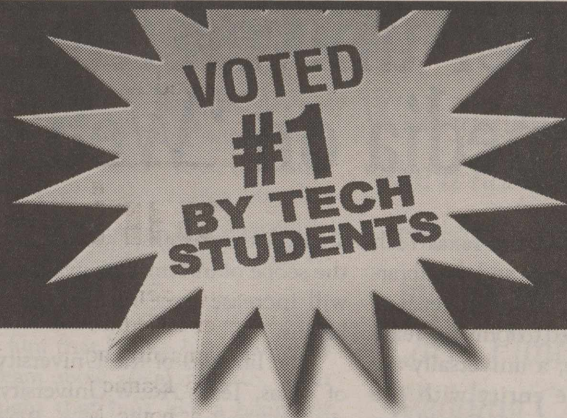
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Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification and submittal.

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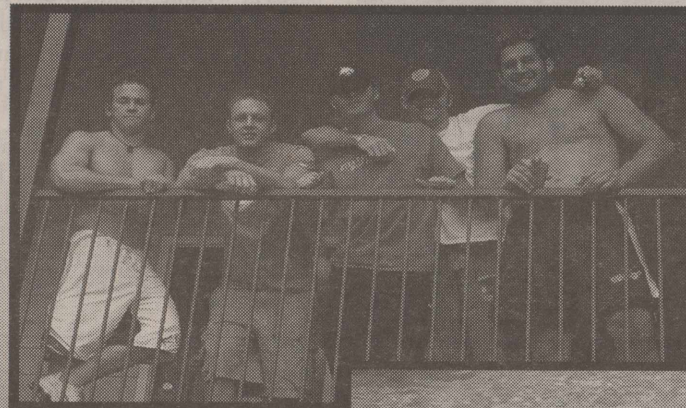
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## WILD AND WOOLY

WILL WINTER, A graduate studying animal sciences from Idalou, judges lambs in the Second Annual Hub City Show-down held Saturday at the Tech Livestock Arena. The event was sponsored by the Lubbock County Parent Leaders 4-H Club.

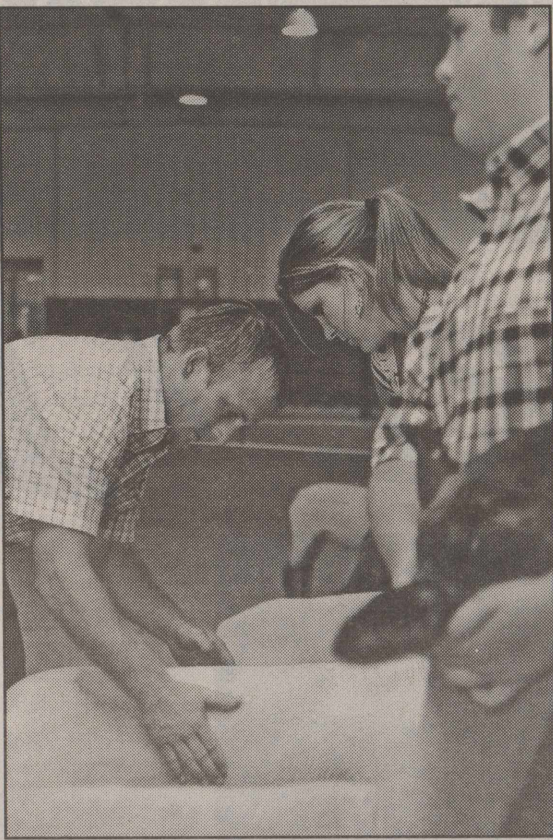


Photo by Steve Lewis

# Tech library, other universities go digital, post media on 'Web'

Carlos Bergfeld/  
The Daily Toreador

The Screaming Yellow Banana Spider, an eight-legged beast that drops from banana trees on unsuspecting humans while letting loose a blood-curdling scream, would be feared by many - if it were real.

The information on this fictitious arachnid can be seen (and heard) among other spoof Web pages at [www.hawksinger.net](http://www.hawksinger.net), and the author explains the factual-looking yet false pages were created to warn against bogus data on the World Wide Web.

The Internet offers a wealth of information to the world, but the accuracy of this information, as the site on Screaming Yellow Banana Spiders shows, can often be questionable.

To combat this, the Texas Tech University Libraries and the libraries of four other Texas universities have collaborated to form the Texas Digital Library, a universally-accessible online entity with the combined resources of five library systems.

Donald H. Dyal, dean of libraries at Texas Tech, said the project will increase the online presence and accessibility of the libraries internationally.

"Last year, we had one billion people walk through the door of the library," he said. "We had even more than that access stuff online."

The Texas Digital Library will offer much more than just digitized literature, Dyal said, and the library will be an academic tool for learners of all ages.

"This changes the nature of what is possible," he said. "If I'm a mathematician, I can make a math model (online), and it becomes almost a scholarly video game."

Students of music would be able to stream some of their performances through the Texas Digital Library, rather than the traditional method of sending video tapes to interested parties.

The project will initially focus on hosting electronic theses and dissertations to increase the avail-

ability of these works, Dyal said, but the scope of information available will increase once the endeavor begins.

The libraries of the University of Texas, Texas A&M University, the University of Houston, Rice University and Texas Tech University agreed to work together on the project.

Fred Heath, vice provost of the University of Texas libraries, said the collaboration between four public universities and one private institution will allow for the displaying of an unprecedented amount of information.

"It's not necessarily what any one of us has," he said. "It's when you get all five of the biggest libraries in the nation together in one place."

The Texas Digital Library will initially be headquartered at the Univer-

sity of Texas Libraries in Austin.

Colleen Cook, dean of Texas A&M University libraries, said the partnership between universities gives the project a solid foundation to build on.

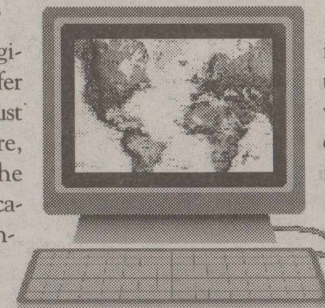
"We can plan how to do this in a way that saves us all money, keeps us from having to reinvent the wheel, and allows us to have an arithmetic progression because we can capitalize on each other's strengths," she said.

Cook has worked with Dyal before at his previous job in the A&M Libraries, and Cook said the team of library organizers has made significant progress.

Dyal said the Texas Digital Library Web site should be operating within the year, but he already has greater goals in mind.

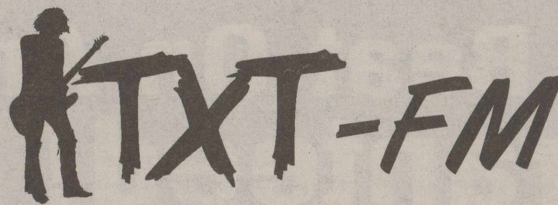
"Later what I think we ought to try to do is merge with the California Digital Library, and we take over the world - in terms of content," he said.

The California Digital Library, established in 1997, hosts online content from the University of California system, similar in theory to what is planned for the Texas Digital Library.



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# 'Crashers' not the perfect catch

There are so many movies out there with the what-would-Jesus-say clean humor that it is nice whenever a film comes out that is not afraid to drop the sacred F-bomb, ultimately hitting a solid R-rating pretty hard.

"Wedding Crashers" is the kind of film that high school teenagers dream about sneaking into. With laughs that hurt like a hangover and raunchy dialogue that would make Larry Flint blush, "Wedding Crashers" has finally brought back the good old days of the R-rated comedies.

Vince Vaughn ("Old School") stars as Jeremy, a divorce lawyer who is proud about his status as that one-night-stand guy that women warn others about.

Owen Wilson ("Starsky and Hutch") plays John - a fellow wedding crasher who has begun to wonder if he and Jeremy are too old for the crashing game.

John is just about to hang up

*With laughs that hurt like a hangover and raunchy dialogue that would make Larry Flint blush, "Wedding Crashers" has finally brought back the good old days of R-rated comedies.*

his tux when Jeremy presents him with the Mona Lisa of weddings. A politician's daughter is getting married and the guest list should be a who's who of rich and single women.

This is when the plot and love story finally move out of neutral. Both John and Jeremy meet

women at the reception, but John's love, Rachel McAdams ("The Notebook"), happens to be dating another guy, Bradley Cooper ("Alias").

Jeremy's girl, who was supposed to be a quickie on the beach, turns out to be a certified clinger who hangs onto his every movement and word.

Isla Fisher ("I Heart Huckabees") plays Jeremy's love interest and for once she does not embody the girl who is only background noise. She brings her character out in a collection of odd laughs, weird facial expressions and stories about her hundreds of imaginary friends, some of who can only understand a language she created. With any



**Jeremy Reynolds**

other actors playing John and Jeremy, Isla would steal the movie.

Both Wilson and Vaughn have been so brilliant in comedies over the years that it is a mystery why they have never hooked up before for a buddy comedy. Throughout the entire movie the two bicker and argue like an old married couple. The two actors play off each well.

The movie is not without flaws. The storyline follows the same structure laid out many years ago, and a person can pretty much guess the ending right from the beginning. There is nothing unique about the love stories, and though funny, John and Jeremy are nothing more than stock characters.

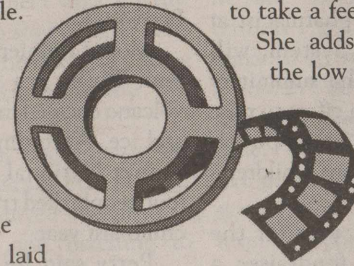
In supporting roles, Christopher Walken ("Man on Fire") and Jane

Seymour ("Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman") play parents to the two girls who John and Jeremy are trying to win over. Walken is always a fun actor to see on screen. His lines are tight and not too preachy as they have been in past films.

Seymour plays the ultimate Mrs. Robinson when she asks John to take a feel of her new breasts. She adds laughs in some of the low moments and pushes the tempo of the film when it feels like it is about to drag.

"Wedding Crashers" is a great movie to see if you are not shy about the F-bomb or get too embarrassed about crude dialogue.

**Reynolds is a junior journalism major from Lewisville. E-mail him at newspaperjeremy@mac.com**



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# Covenant pharmacist to climb mountain for children's fundraiser

Jay Langley/  
Daily Toreador

Despite America's being the wealthiest country in the world, Greg Perry said, not enough money is being spent on health care for children. Perry will risk his life to help.

Perry, a clinical pharmacist at Covenant Health System, will attempt to climb the summit of Mount Rainier in an effort to raise money for the Pediatric Oncology Clinic at Covenant Children's Hospital.

This is the first year for the Climbing for Kids fundraiser, a self-financed and independent event. All donations will benefit the Pediatric Oncology Clinic and

its patients, and will be used for staff education, equipment and patient needs.

Greg Perry, who will make the climb with his brother James Perry, said he has been climbing since 1995.

"Rainier is definitely the biggest climb I will have ever attempted," Perry said.

Mount Rainier, located in Ashford, Wash., is a 14,410 ft. active volcano encased in 35 miles of snow and ice. According to the Mount Rainer National Park Web site, four people died trying to make the climb last year.

Perry said he has no fear of climbing the mountain.

"It's about using your better judgment," Perry said. "If the

conditions aren't right you have to accept that tomorrow is another day. You can always turn around and go home."

Perry said putting a good team together is important.

"You have to put together a team of people you can trust," he said. "The team must pay attention to the risks involved."

The climb, Perry said, should not be difficult from a physical standpoint.

"I think it will be harder mentally than physically," he said.

Perry said despite the risks the climb is worth it for the kids.

"Too many kids in this country fall through the cracks because they don't have insurance or cannot get government assistance," he said,

Perry is amazed by how many children in America cannot pay for cancer treatment.

"The families are already dealing with the trauma of cancer," he said. "Why should they have to worry about money? We're trying to take away one worry for them."

Perry said expenses for the trip will come out of his own pocket, but 100 percent of the donations made to the Climbing for Kids fundraiser will go directly to the kids.

Audie Kilpatrick is the clinical pharmacy services manager at Covenant Health System. Kilpatrick, who has been Perry's supervisor for many years, said Perry loves working with children.

"He is superb with the kids," Kilpatrick said. "He is not only great with the kids but with their families also."

Kilpatrick said Perry's job as a pharmacist is to test drugs to see if they should be used at Covenant. This entails testing the effective-

ness of the drugs from a medical and economic standpoint, Kilpatrick said.

"He (Perry) was speaking of the dangers of Vioxx before it became a national issue," Kilpatrick said.

Perry is one of the best pharmacists at Covenant, Kilpatrick said.

"He is extremely sharp and intelligent. Many of the other pharmacists look to him for advice," Kilpatrick said.

This is the first year for the Climbing for Kids fundraiser. Perry said he hopes to continue the tradition in the future.

"We hope to make this an annual thing," he said.

Donors will receive a tax deduction and a thank you letter for their contribution. All checks can be made payable to the Covenant Foundation with the memo "Climbing for Kids." Donations can be mailed to: Covenant Foundation, 2201 Oxford, Suite 106, Lubbock, TX 79410.

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# Local musician goes back to his roots

By Clara Cobb/  
The Daily Toreador

Cancer survivor, Grammy-award winner and Lubbock live-music legend are titles that could describe him, but that is not how he would describe himself.

In a dimly-lit bar, Marc Mason Harper watches as his youngest son, Hunter, helps two young Texas country artists prepare for open microphone night. It is clear Harper is focused completely on his son and he smiles.

"I like smaller places," Harper said. "It's more intimate. Everyone gets to know each other."

Harper was about the same age as his on when he first learned how

to play guitar from what he called an "old hippie" who lived across the street from Harper's childhood home. When he was 13, he played his first paid show.

"My friend had a party at the community center, paid me \$15," he said. "I'm serious. That's where it all started."

Harper has been in the music and entertainment industry for over three decades and has traveled the world with the Box Tops and the Kentucky Head Hunters.

He was working with the Kentucky Head Hunters in 1990 when they won a Grammy Award for Best Country Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals.

Harper said he toured exten-

sively for 10 years, both in the United States and abroad in Europe.

"Waking up in different place every night, unwrapping a little soap," Harper said. "I hate that more than anything-little soaps in hotels."

When he was touring, he traveled with as many as 30 people and as few as one. He said he preferred traveling alone.

"I'm a lot easier to deal with than 30 other personalities trying to deal with me," he said. "I don't have to take it as serious. I can have more fun by myself."

Harper returned to West Texas in 1995 and he began to make a regular mark in the Lubbock Texas music scene, which he has been involved in for over 25 years. Harper's style, according to his Web site [www.marcmarsonharper.com](http://www.marcmarsonharper.com), is Y'alternative West Texas Country Rock Music.

"I don't consider myself 'Texas country' because I was doing it along time before the fad started," he said. "That's not putting anybody down."

Locally, he has performed regularly at Kershner's Inside 4-Bar-K and Bash Riprock's.

"Within the past six or eight years I've been raising my kids so I had to change a lot of stuff," Harper said. "It keeps me home a lot. I live in New Deal - I'm proud of that."

Harper said he does not plan writing a song or have any method for songwriting.

"I pick a subject and I write about it. I try to stay on that subject best I can," he said. "My life is totally spontaneous musically."

Jason White, coordinator the Marc Mason Harper benefit concert said he enjoyed listening to Harper's songs and listening to him play live.

"Marc is kind of carefree, he's a free spirit," White said. "He's not afraid of offending someone through his music."

Harper said he is aware his choice of words sometimes may offend people in the audience.

"I tend to speak my mind without trying to be offensive to anyone. I've ran myself out of a couple places with my mouth," he said. "Rednecks tend to put things funny. If you're taking yourself too serious, you can't have fun. I think being myself is fun, and if other

people can have fun with me, that's kick butt."

Harper said he plays because he loves sharing his stories from the stage with other people.

"I like the college crowd, the younger crowd. It keeps me from over-maturing. I enjoy doing this, I don't just do it for the money," he said. "Of course, the more attention I get, the more money I make. If it was about the money, I wouldn't be playing at Bash's or any other place in Lubbock all the time. I don't like Nashville; I don't like politics of someone else's version of success. To me, success is a level of happiness individually."

Having fun and being a single father are the only things Harper takes seriously.

"My children are my greatest accomplishment in life," Harper said. "I was peaked over the top a couple times, I was looking over the top, and that's nothing compared to my children."

Harper, who recently finished chemotherapy, is still singing and smiling.

"Don't take things serious to the point you're not having fun," he said. "Appreciate the goodness of the small things."



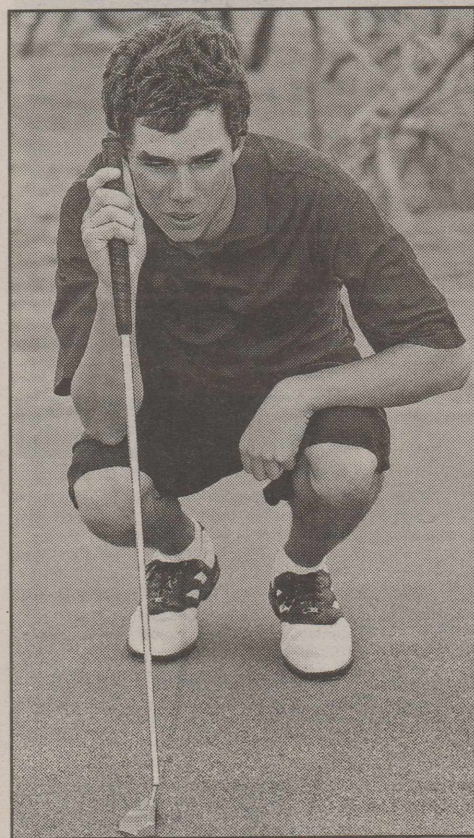
Photo by Caity Colvard

GRAMMY WINNER AND cancer survivor Marc Mason Harper performs a microphone check at his benefit concert Saturday afternoon at Bash Riprock's.









Courtesy of Athletic Media Relations

**TECH STUDENT OSCAR Floren** competed in the British Open golf tournament this weekend.

## Red Raider plays in British Open

By Jay Langley/  
The Daily Toreador

Jack Nicklaus retired. Tiger Woods raised the trophy. Oscar Floren got his guns up. Floren, a Texas Tech junior golfer, completed a two-round total of 151 as part of the British Open held this weekend.

Floren, from Ljungskile, Sweden, said, despite missing the cut, he enjoyed playing in the tournament.

"It was absolutely awesome," Floren said. "I got to play in Jack Nicklaus' final major and I played alongside the best players in the world."

Floren has played numerous golf tournaments in Europe, but the British Open was his first major. He said he was a little nervous.

"Of course there's going to be nerves playing in front of that many people," he said. "I was especially nervous on the first hole the first day. But, as I played more holes and got into the routine of playing, my nerves calmed down."

Floren shot 73-78 for a score of seven over par, missing the cut by six strokes.

"I thought I played pretty well on the first day," Floren said. "On the second day I hit the ball well but the putts just were not falling."

Floren said the unfamiliar golf course hurt his chances.

"The courses over here in Europe are completely different from anything in the U.S.," he said. "It's hard if you have never played the course before. Most of the other guys in the tournament had played the course before."

The British Open was played at The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews one of the most famous links golf courses in the world. Floren said the course forces golfers to change their games.

"On the U.S. courses you have to hit your irons high into the greens," Floren said. "Over here you have to hit your shots a lot lower."

Floren, who qualified at the Lundin Golf Club in Fife, Scotland, was the only collegiate golfer in the field of 156 at the British Open, and was the first Tech golfer to play

in the tournament while a member of the Red Raiders. Former Tech golfer and head coach Jeff Mitchell played in the Open during his professional career.

During his sophomore year at Tech, Floren paced the Red Raiders with a 74.3 stroke average. His best finish of the season was a third-place finish at the Tucker in Albuquerque, N.M.

Current Tech golf coach Greg Sands said he is proud of Floren's effort.

"Right now Oscar is still a little disappointed in himself," Sands said. "But I told him, soon you're going to realize how special this whole experience has been for you."

Sands said Floren has the skills to excel in the future.

"He (Floren) is very competitive," Sands said. "He is great around the greens which allows him to make a lot of birdies."

The British Open was highlighted by a farewell to Jack Nicklaus. Nicklaus, who has won 18 majors, more than anyone in the history of golf, announced that the British Open would be his last major. Tiger Woods won his tenth major before the age of 30, by a total of eight strokes.

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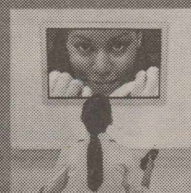
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