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TUESDAY, FEB. 13, 2007
VOLUME 81 ■ ISSUE 93

(INSIDE)



TECH PROF VISITS TORNADO RAVAGED FLORIDA
SEE PAGE 5

(INBRIEF)

STATE

17 members of
prison gang indicted

HOUSTON (AP) — Seventeen Houston area men whom officials say are members of a prison-based Texas gang have been indicted on charges of murder, armed robbery and drug trafficking, federal authorities said Monday.

The indictment accuses the men, nine of whom were already in prison, of three murders, two attempted murders, conspiracy to commit murder, five aggravated robberies, trafficking in cocaine and marijuana and of racketeering from August 1999 through February 2006 as members of the Texas Syndicate.

NATION

McCain fears 'Tet Offensive' in Iraq

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Republican presidential hopeful John McCain said Monday he fears an offensive by Iraqi insurgents similar to the Tet offensive by the Viet Cong that sent U.S. casualties soaring in Vietnam nearly 40 years ago. McCain, a Vietnam war veteran who spent 5 1/2 years as a prisoner of war, said in an interview with The Associated Press that it's not the U.S. presence in Iraq that upsets voters but rather the number of casualties and the possibility those numbers could rise.

WORLD

Iran leader softens his tone on Iraq

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's hard-line president, who has berated the United States and refused to compromise on his nuclear program, is now softening his tone, saying Monday he wants dialogue rather than confrontation in Iraq. Tehran also denied it gave sophisticated weapons to militants to attack U.S. forces. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad insisted that turmoil in Iraq is bad for his country and dialogue — not force — was the solution to the region's conflicts.

DEATH TOLL

3125

U.S. Military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

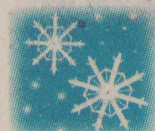
WEATHER

Today



PARTLY CLOUDY
HIGH 42/
LOW 21

Wednesday



SNOW SHOWERS
HIGH 33/
LOW 19

INSIDE

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Briefcase causes scare in downtown Lubbock

By PAUL ROBERTS
STAFF WRITER

A portion of downtown Lubbock was blocked off Monday morning after reports of a suspicious briefcase caused a bomb scare.

The suspicious briefcase was reported around 10 a.m. underneath a tree east of the Lubbock County Courthouse

across Buddy Holly Avenue next to the Lubbock Sheriff's Office, Capt. Don Carter said.

"What we had was a report of a briefcase left unchecked next to a tree across from the courthouse," Carter said.

He said the when the briefcase was reported, it appeared to be wet, which meant it could have been left there overnight.

Carter said the Lubbock Bomb

Squad was called to the scene for further investigation.

A two-mile radius was blocked off, and no traffic was allowed to enter the area, Carter said.

"We determined an appropriate perimeter to block off based on the size of the briefcase," he said.

No buildings were closed, however people in buildings next to the scene were asked to

stay clear from windows, Carter said.

The bomb squad utilized an X-ray to look inside the briefcase and then decided to disable the briefcase by using a hydraulic disabling device, the Sheriff's Office said.

Once this was completed, authorities determined the briefcase to be a false alarm.

Carter said the briefcase was

filled with papers, and nothing was out of the ordinary.

He said by noon, traffic was allowed through and all streets were unblocked.

The briefcase was determined to be left unintentionally by an individual, and as of 5:30 p.m. Monday no one had claimed the briefcase, Carter said.

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VALENTINE VOLUNTEERS



COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador

WAIDE VINALL, A senior petroleum land management and business management major from Arlington, visits the Covenant Children's Hospital Monday evening.

Tech students reach out to children's hospital

By KATIE HARRIS
STAFF WRITER

Children who would have otherwise not had smiles on their faces were grinning ear-to-ear when they received Valentine's Day presents Monday night.

Members of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and Alpha Phi sorority gathered in the halls of Covenant Children's Hospital with stuffed animals and home-made Valentine's Day cards to give to children.

Alpha Phi Philanthropy Chair Jessica Pearson said one week ago there were markers, stickers and other materials to make the perfect Valentine's Day card scattered all over the floor of the women's lodge.

"I like when we all get together a week before this event and design the cards and eat together," said Pearson, a sophomore business major from Coppell. "We want to thank all the sororities for donating the stuffed animals with us."

Trey Butler, a freshman pre-med major from Stephenville, said he enjoyed giving away the stuffed animals and cards.

"One little kid who was maybe a year old just grabbed the bear and was not letting go of it," Butler said.

Beta Philanthropy Chair Barrett Price, said he was

excited to see the turnout at the hospital.

"I thought overall it was a big success," said Price, a junior restaurant hotel institutional management major from Mesquite. "We had more bears than we gave out."

He said the nurses, parents and children were all appreciative of the gifts.

Lacey Dubose, a sophomore pre-occupational therapy major from The Woodlands, said she has participated in this event for two years and thinks it is special thing

VOLUNTEERS continued on page 6

New program lowers tuition for future students

By BEN MAKI
STAFF WRITER

For incoming freshmen, the price of college may have just gotten less expensive.

Texas Tech Chancellor Kent Hance unveiled a guaranteed tuition program in front of the Texas House of Representatives Higher Education Committee that would allow incoming freshmen to have their tuition and fees waived for eight semesters.

Stephanie Anderson, associate vice president of enrollment management, said she expects to see an increase in the

number of students who will be eligible for the program.

"If we had to project, based on last year's numbers, there would be roughly 500 students who would get their tuition paid for," Anderson said. "There will be some students who come to Tech because of this; we might see an increase of about 75 students."

Anderson said the guaranteed-tuition plan will be paid for by federal, state and institutional funds, including Pell grants, Texas grants and TTU grants, which are comprised of money set aside from the previous year's tuition.

She said there is not enough money to allow current students to take advantage of the program.

"We would like to be able to have this apply to transfer students and current students," Anderson said, "but to get us started, that's all we could handle."

Paul Blake, associate director of the office of student financial aid, said the key is to remember to apply early and get the Free Application for Federal Student Aid in by May 1.

Blake said the program requires students to reapply every year to make

sure they still fall within the guidelines. If the family's income level raises above the \$40,000 threshold, the student will no longer be eligible for the guaranteed-tuition program.

"We're hoping we could expand that to where we can raise the income level for eligibility," he said, "but for now we would just have to see what other programs are available to them for financial aid. This could get parents to apply for these programs when they might think they weren't eligible."

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Tech police blotter

By PAUL ROBERTS
STAFF WRITER

Feb. 8

Texas Tech police investigated a theft in the men's locker room of the Exercise Sciences Building. Police said an unsecured iPod music player was stolen from a locker.

Tech police investigated a theft in the Geosciences Building. According to reports, a student's unsecured Apple iPod Nano was stolen from a room in the building.

A theft was reported in the lobby of Wall/Gates Residence Hall. Police said a framed photograph was stolen from the lobby.

A student was arrested by Tech police for driving while intoxicated and unlawfully carrying a weapon in the R-7 parking lot. According to reports, the student was transported to the Lubbock County Jail and his vehicle was impounded.

Feb. 9

A female student passed out in the women's rest room of Chitwood/Weymouth Residence Hall. Police said the student was taken to the University Medical Center emergency room for treatment.

Tech police investigated a traffic accident between a motor vehicle and a bicycle in the 1500 block of Akron Avenue. According to re-

ports, no one suffered injuries from the accident.

A Tech student was arrested by police for possession of alcohol by a minor and possession of false Texas and Virginia identification cards in the Flint Avenue Parking Garage. Police released the student after he was issued two Lubbock County citations.

Tech police responded to a fire alarm in Weymouth Residence Hall. According to reports, a fire extinguisher was set off on the fourth floor.

A Tech female student was arrested for public intoxication in the Chitwood Residence Hall lobby. Police transported the student to the Lubbock County Jail.

A Tech male student was detained for possession of alcohol by a minor in the stairwell of Murdough Residence Hall. Police issued the student a Lubbock County citation and the student was released.

Feb. 10

Tech police investigated criminal mischief on two separate floors of Coleman Residence Hall. Police said light fixtures and ceiling tiles had been damaged on each floor.

A Tech student was arrested for possession of alcohol by a minor in a residence room of Coleman Residence Hall. Police said the student was issued a Lubbock County cita-

tion and released.

Tech police documented a code of student conduct violation by a Clement Residence Hall community adviser. Police said the community adviser was caught sneaking an alcoholic beverage into the residence hall.

Tech police investigated possible thefts in the United Spirit Arena Double-T Shop. According to reports, police are investigating multiple thefts.

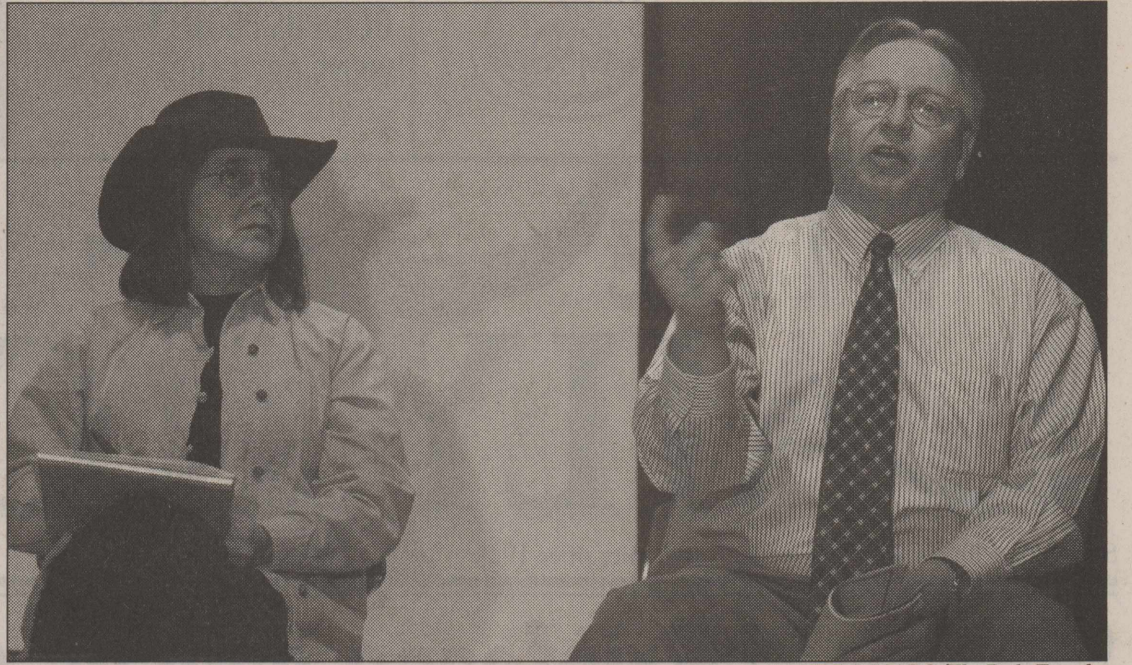
A Tech student was arrested for consumption of alcohol by a minor in Coleman Residence Hall. Police issued the student a Lubbock County citation and the student was released.

A Tech student was detained for possession of alcohol by a minor in the stairwell of Murdough Residence Hall. Police issued the student a Lubbock County citation and the student was released.

Tech police detained a student for consumption of alcohol by a minor in Stangel Residence Hall. According to reports, the student was issued a Lubbock County citation and released.

A Tech student was arrested for public intoxication at the east exterior doors of Drane Hall. Police transported the student to the Lubbock County Jail.

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WALTER ROSADO/The Daily Treador

ROBERT HENRY, ASSOCIATE Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, and Tina Fuentes, Interim Director of the School of Art, formed part of the panel that discussed ethical issues Monday evening at the Student Union building.

Ethics panel tackles tough problems

By NAOMI KASKELA
STAFF WRITER

Ethical values are often considered to be among the most important parts of a college education.

Diversity in hiring was the focus of the panel and audience discussion presented by the College of Visual and Performing Arts as part of Ethics Week beginning Monday. The presentation, "The Ethics and Practice of Diversity in Hiring," brought together members of different areas within the college to present their individual views on the issue.

Discussions and points were made concerning diversity in the College of Visual and Performing Arts specifically, as well as on a broader basis, such as diversity on the Texas Tech campus as a whole and in the Lubbock community.

"Look at the world and look at Texas Tech," said Jonathan Marks, the director of the Ethics Initiative and interim dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. "The world is what our students will be living in. The world is a more diverse place than Texas Tech, than in Lubbock."

Marks talked about diversity in terms of the way the Hub City is laid out, being split into the East and West sides of the city, and in individuals who are employed by the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

"The community was built along segregated lines and continues to live on segregated lines," he said of Lubbock. "We have to, in some sense, alter what Texas Tech looks like, what the complexion of Texas Tech looks like."

One issue of concern discussed

about diversifying the faculty at Tech was attracting a pool of applicants to fulfill that goal.

Robert Henry, the associate dean of undergraduate and curricular issues at the College of Visual and Performing Arts, said advertising and the way it is handled is something that needs to be looked at to revise the diversity standards at Tech.

"Are our descriptions inviting to possible applicants?" he said. "How do we develop beyond that [which] is here and already given to us?"

A way to make advertising appealing to a more diverse crowd is through using connections Tech, specifically the College of Visual and Performing Arts, has made throughout the state and nation, he said.

"It isn't good enough to just send a flier out," said William Ballenger, the director of the School of Music. "It just doesn't work that way."

Once an individual comes to Tech as an employee, especially one who can be characterized as diverse, the issue becomes how to retain them.

Tina Fuentes, the interim director and a professor in the School of Art, said she wanted to leave when she first came to Tech because she did not have support or a community she could become a part of.

She said the reason she stayed is because something a friend from New York told her over the phone.

"You have to stay where you are at," Fuentes said her friend told her.

Reasons for staying included the fact Fuentes was, in a way, a pioneer at Tech and she would help attract other people who are diverse in the future.

"I think that support system is very, very important, and it can come

on different levels and in different ways," she said.

One reason stated for the difficulty of retaining diversity in the faculty is some individuals who come are not able to adjust to the surroundings and the environment of Lubbock.

"One of the things we find we have working against us is geographic," said Frederick Christoffel, the chair of the Department of Theater and Dance. "We all know that this isn't the end of the world, but you can see it."

The staff workload and facilities were two other reasons he said retaining faculty can be difficult at times.

There are difficulties imposed from different places and people causing the goal to diversify to be hard to reach, Marks said.

"The state of the law now is that we absolutely must have diversity, but we can't do anything to achieve it," he said.

While he said this may be discouraging, Marks said it means people must want to create diversity themselves, rather than only being forced from the outside.

"If it's going to happen, the energy must come from within," he said.

Ballenger said he feels he is in a position to create change and that he is looking forward to making it happen.

"Look at it as here we are in a moment of time," he said. "In the time that we have we do need to make a difference in the way we look. We are working on that. Of course there are limitations on what we can do and what we ought to do. I think we've got a serious problem that we can work on together."

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China has no plans for more anti-satellite tests

TOKYO (AP) — China has no further plans to carry out anti-satellite tests, the country's defense head told Japan's former defense chief, a news report said Monday.

China's initial missile test, carried out on Jan. 11 and confirmed by Beijing after two weeks of silence,

destroyed a defunct Chinese weather satellite by hitting it with a warhead on a ballistic missile. Previously, only Russia and the U.S. had succeeded in shooting down anything in space.

"We do not plan further tests," former defense chief Fukushima

Nukaga quoted National Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan as saying in Beijing, according to Kyodo News agency.

Japanese Defense Ministry officials could not immediately be reached for comment on Monday, a national holiday.

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Iran rejects U.S. accusations it armed insurgents in Iraq

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran on Monday rejected U.S. accusations that the highest levels of Iranian leadership have armed Shiite militants in Iraq with armor-piercing roadside bombs, a day after U.S. military officials in Baghdad said they had traced the weapons to Tehran.

"Such accusations cannot be relied upon or be presented as evidence. The United States has a long history in fabricating evidence. Such charges

are unacceptable," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini told reporters.

The deadly and highly sophisticated weapons are known as "explosively formed penetrators," or EFPs, which have killed more than 170 troops from the American-led coalition. Three senior military officials in Baghdad said the "machining process" used in the construction of the deadly bombs had been traced to Iran.

But Hosseini said Iran's top leaders were not intervening in Iraq and considered "any intervention in Iraq's internal affairs as a weakening of the popular Iraqi government, and we are opposed to that."

The U.S. military presentation in Baghdad on Sunday was the result of weeks of preparation and revisions as U.S. officials put together a package of material to support the Bush administration's claims of Iranian intercession on behalf of militant Iraqis fighting American forces.

The experts, who spoke to a large gathering of reporters on condition that they not be further identified, said the supply trail began with Iran's Revolutionary Guards Quds Force, which also is accused of arming the Hezbollah guerrilla army in Lebanon. The officials said the EFP weapon was first tested there.

The U.S. officials in Baghdad claimed the EFPs, as well as Iranian-made mortar shells and rocket-propelled grenades, have been supplied to "rogue elements" of the Mahdi Army militia of anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who is a key backer of Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

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Dixie Chicks gain small vindication

It's been nearly three years since the famous incident on a London stage that caused the Dixie Chicks to fall from grace within the country-music world. Maybe you remember their fall on the radio, television and the country-music charts.

Certainly it's a time the three women from Texas will never forget. As they stood on stage at the Grammy awards Sunday, you couldn't help but feel a small bit of vindication, if not for the group, which has endured so much, then for the victory of freedom of speech.

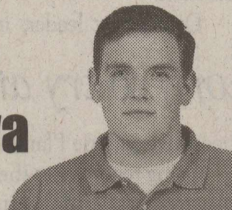
America is often lauded as the land of the free. Conservatives, as much as anyone, love to speak about freedom, the Bill of Rights and what it means to be American. Yet, the true measure of that freedom is your willingness to defend the right of someone to say something you may not believe in. True patriotism is not blindly following your country, but embodying the ideals for which that country was created.

The Bill of Rights is a guarantee to all Americans that their rights will be protected — no questions asked. There are no provisions. Unfortunately, both sides of the political spectrum seem easy to ignore those rights they don't quite wish we would have.

Conservatives want to honor the right to bear arms and freedom of religion, but when it comes to someone speaking his or her mind about the president of the United States or using the American flag as a symbol of freedom of speech, they want to ignore that section of the First Amendment.

Liberals want the most open freedom of speech possible, yet they

Trey Caliva



want to restrict what kind of guns you can have and how you practice your religion. The Bill of Rights is a total package; we don't get to pick which freedoms we want and which ones we'd rather not follow.

After being questioned about being a member of the American Civil Liberties Union, the president in the movie "The American President" said, "Let's see you acknowledge a man whose words make your blood boil, who's standing center stage and advocating at the top of his lungs that which you would spend a lifetime opposing at the top of yours."

I will probably never agree with Natalie Maines' statement about being embarrassed President George W. Bush is from the State of Texas, but I will never falter on the idea she has the right to speak her mind.

Perhaps, though, it takes a challenge of that freedom of speech to appreciate it. I certainly know what it means to speak your mind on an issue and pay the price when someone disagrees with that opinion.

Three years ago, I chose to speak my mind in an e-mail to members of an organization of which I was active. Yet, people didn't agree with what I had to say, and some took offense to it. They immediately removed me from my leadership position in the organization and suspended me — all without even considering the validity of what I

had said.

Those comments may have irked some people, but at least I had the will to say what I truly felt. Many times in history people have spoken their minds with positive effects. The outcome of speaking your mind shouldn't be complete destruction by those in opposition to you — such as what happened to the Dixie Chicks. It should be a discussion.

In the atmosphere of hysteria that followed her comments, though, discussion never entered consideration. The ignorant hillbillies of America were too busy burning and bulldozing Dixie Chicks CDs to ask them the one question which could've actually been productive — why?

It seems rarely does the outcome of an exercise of free speech result in a positive action. History remains littered with immeasurable numbers of people who spoke their minds and were never heard of again.

Similarly, there are the Natalie Maines's of the world, who spoke their minds and experienced some kind of outcome. No matter the result, if you've used free speech, you have honored the one freedom that is overall the most American.

Thomas Jefferson is Natalie Maines. Andrew Jackson is Natalie Maines. Abraham Lincoln is Natalie Maines. Teddy Roosevelt is Natalie Maines. From denouncing the "Tyrant King George" to being "ashamed that the president of the United States is from Texas," Natalie Maines is just another in a line of those who have used their right as an American to speak free.

Caliva is a senior mathematics major from San Antonio. E-mail him at trey.caliva@ttu.edu.

Star's demise a lesson on humanity

**By ELEX MICHAELSON
DAILY TROJAN (USC)**

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES — Anna Nicole Smith is dead. Surprisingly, in some ways, I miss her.

It's not exactly like her death is shocking. In the last few months, it seemed as if she was popping pills at a faster rate than Hugh Hefner was ingesting Viagra. You didn't need special medical knowledge to see her spiraling out of control.

Nonetheless, I feel for her, as do so many Americans. Who would have thought our country would sympathize so much with a white-trash, big-breasted,

gold-digging, drug-addicted, sex-addicted freak show?

She was a laughingstock. Her TV show was designed to document and mock the obese celebrity train wreck. Just like "American Idol," watching "The Anna Nicole Smith Show" allowed us all to point at someone else, laugh, and feel better about ourselves. It didn't matter that she had fame or money; she was fat and stupid, and we all felt superior to her.

Remember, this is the woman who met 89-year-old billionaire J. Howard Marshall while dancing at a strip club and then married him. After they said "I do," she showed her true feelings by kissing him on the cheek,

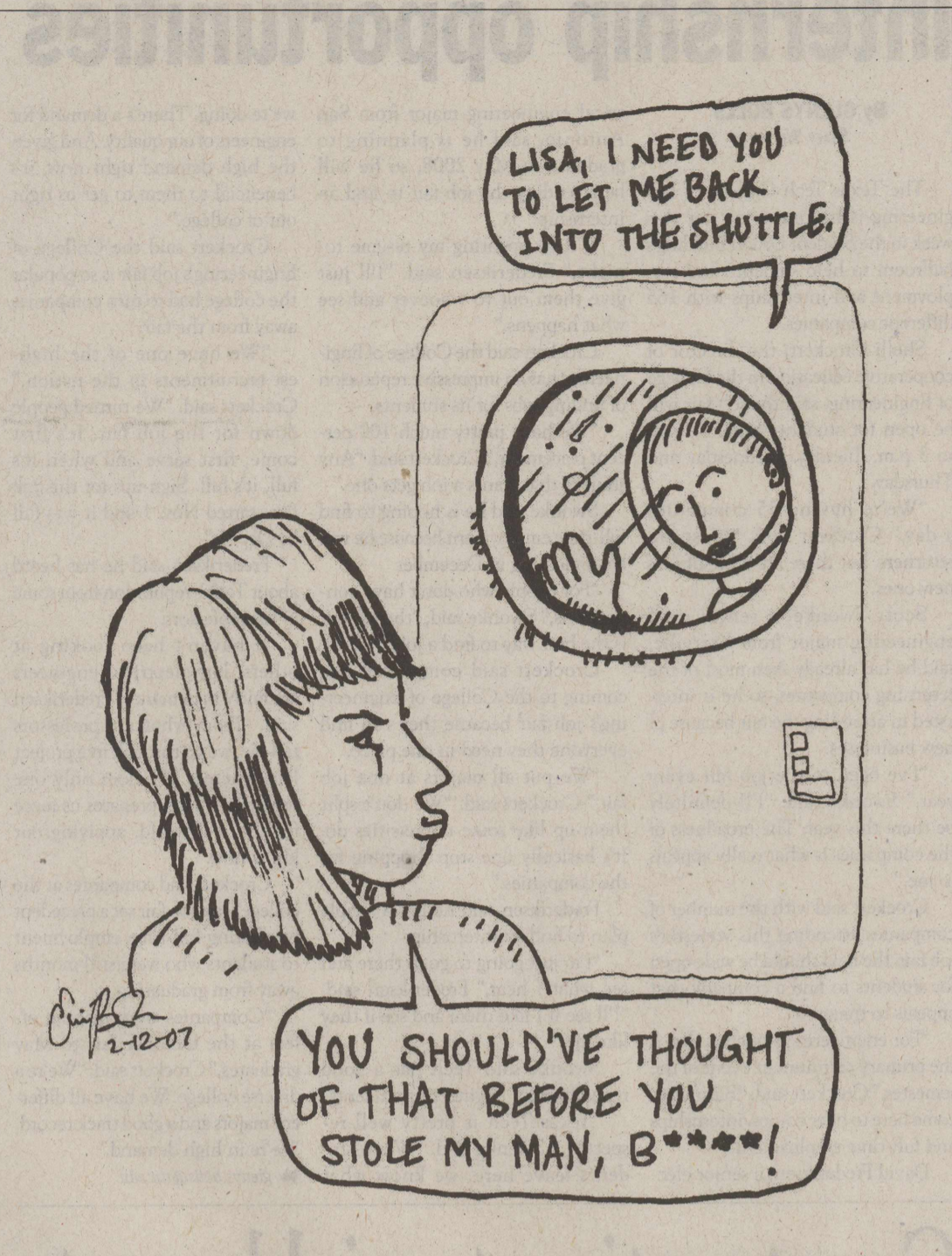
not the mouth.

After his death, her fight for his money went all the way to the Supreme Court — and she won. Clarence Thomas, Antonin Scalia and Anna Nicole Smith. There's a reality show I want to see.

Now Anna Nicole's 5-month-old daughter is without a mother and a brother. And she will never know either one of them. We have to wait for a DNA test and a lengthy paternity suit to see who is her father.

Even if she inherits Marshall's \$474 million, it doesn't matter. She will never have a mom to enjoy it with.

That is no laughing matter.



The hole in our education

**By ANA I. MENDY
HARVARD CRIMSON (HARVARD)**

(U-WIRE) CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Harvard University assumes, not always without reason, that its American undergraduates possess scant knowledge of European and Ancient History. To fill this void, the college offers courses such as History 10a, "Western Societies, Politics, and Cultures: From Antiquity to 1650" and History 10b, which does the same job from 1648 up to the present.

But the College forgets that its international students are correspondingly likely to have gaps in their high school education, especially when it comes to American history. After all, few international students — with the exception of those who, like myself, attended American high schools — have ever taken a U.S. history course. Many foreign students express interest in enrolling in a History 10a or 10b-like course that will provide them with an introduction to the major themes of American history. But for the past two years, Harvard has not offered one. There was previously such a course in the form of History 71a and 71b, but it was discontinued in 2005, to the detriment of our education. Harvard should, with its scrapping of the core, take the opportunity to restore these vital courses to the books.

This oversight is ironic, since the College proudly stakes its claims to internationalism and world prestige. Yet it fails to take into account this very basic need on the part of international students, who comprise nearly 10 percent of the Harvard undergraduate population.

After all, for an international student with no background in U.S. history, taking a general survey course on the subject would prove far more useful in understanding modern America than the more specific history core offerings, such as Historical Study B-34, "The World in 1776" or Historical Study B-40, "Pursuits of Happiness: Ordinary Lives in Revolutionary America." If international students are not familiar with the basic events and people of the American Revolution, then how are they expected to appreciate classes as broad in scope as these? Without a broad knowledge of U.S. history, the context of the courses is impossible to ascertain, thus many international students are excluded from a host of potentially interesting classes.

Even international students concentrating in history are given few opportunities to learn about the "big picture" of American history. Introduction to the major fields in

the History Department through tutorials such as History 90e, "The Major Themes in American Historical Writing" already assume previous knowledge of American history, making it hard for foreign students to study this field — few students choose to enroll in classes that assume knowledge they do not have. Unsurprisingly, I often find that I am the only international in the room in American history classes.

Furthermore, historical context is important not just academically but in order to fully comprehend the present developments in America, such as the misadventure in Iraq and the debate on immigration. Given America's superpower status, every Harvard graduate ought to possess a broad and sophisticated understanding of American history — something not always provided even by an American high school. Given that most Harvard undergraduates, both international and not, will work and live in America, understanding the roots of public dis-

course will invariably help students better comprehend the world around them.

Now that both the preliminary and the final report of the Task Force on General Education have acknowledged that U.S. history is of central importance to our education, the College must seize this opportunity to introduce such a survey U.S. History course, and must not allow the US requirement to become filled by the arcane and obscure.

While the report of the Task Force on General Education has identified American history as instrumental in "help[ing] students understand this country as a heterogeneous and multifaceted nation situated within an international framework," it again overlooks the necessity of providing students with an introductory course in American history. The time has come for Harvard to acknowledge that there is a big gap in our education — and to fill it.

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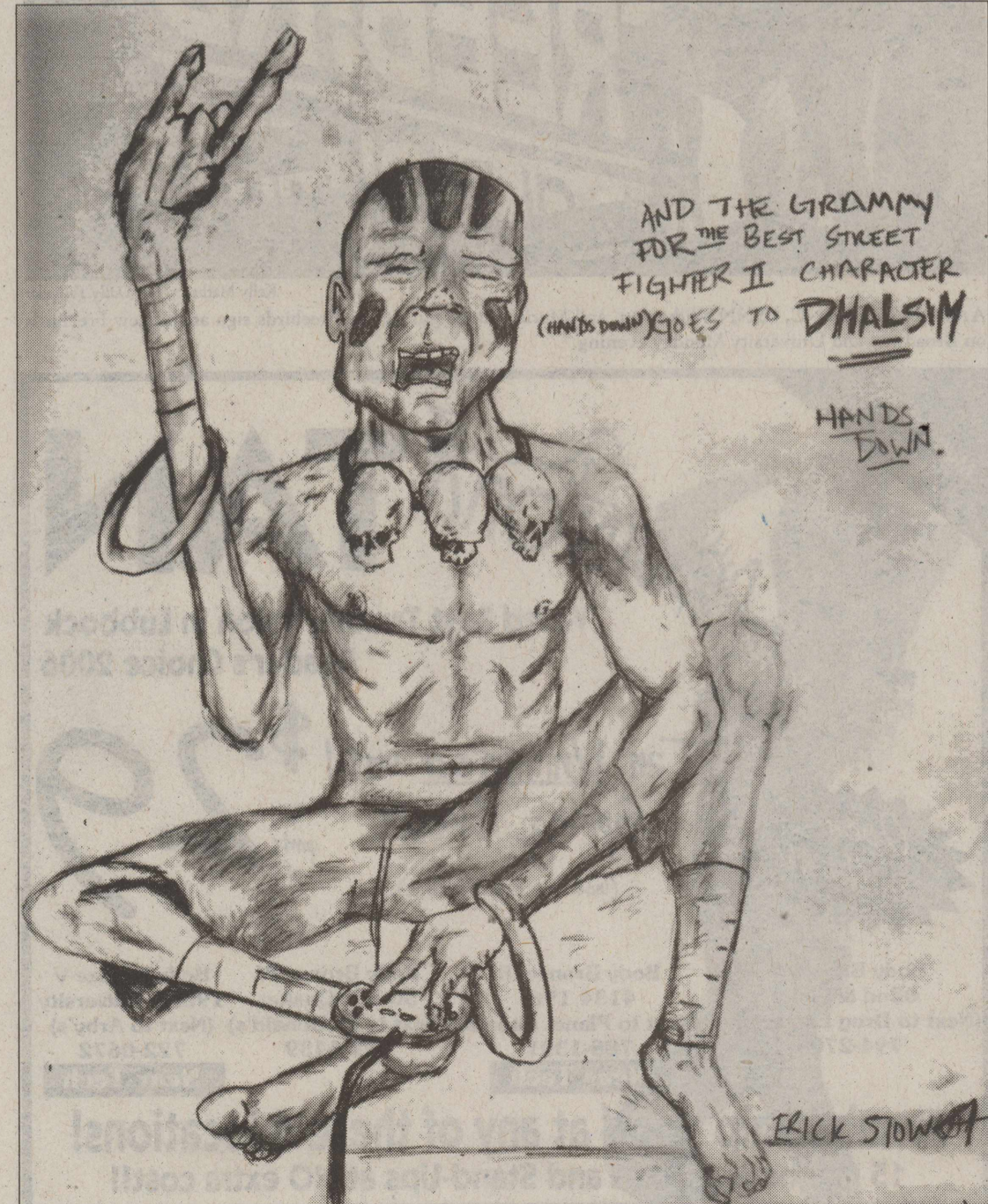
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Tech wind research team studies recent tornadoes

By BEN MAKI
STAFF WRITER

West Texas residents have had some experience with wind, like the tornado of 1970 that devastated parts of Lubbock, but Florida gets its share of wind as well.

Last week, a team of wind researchers from Texas Tech went to Florida to study the effects of a series of tornadoes that tore through the central region of the state two weeks ago.

Dave Sharp, forecaster for the National Weather Service in Melbourne, Fla., said the tornadoes occurred at the beginning of the area's severe weather period.

Larry Tanner, a civil engineering research associate and instructor, said this was the first series of storms to have its degree of damage evaluated by the new Enhanced Fujita scale by the NWS.

The original Fujita Scale was designed by T. Theodore Fujita in 1971 to rate tornadoes and the damage they cause.

According to a proposal to the NWS, the Enhanced Fujita scale was developed to increase the number of damage indicators and to more effectively determine degrees of damage. The proposal was put together by a team led by Tech professors Kishor Mehta, a Horn professor of civil engineering and former director of Tech's Wind Science and Engineering Research

Center, and James McDonald, department chairperson of civil engineering. The proposal to adopt the new scale was submitted to the NWS in October.

According to the NWS Web site, <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/efscale/>, the use of the Enhanced Fujita scale went into effect Feb. 1.

Graduate student Tanya Brown said the team stayed in Florida from Saturday through Tuesday.

Tanner said he has studied the effects of storms all over the country including storms in Indiana, Oklahoma and South Dakota. He studied the effects of hurricanes Katrina and Ivan as well.

He said his primary research is the damage of mobile homes from storms, but the team collected data from other building structures.

"The Florida building code has strict guidelines about anchors," Tanner said. "We were interested to see if those were performing up to their new standards."

Tanner said there are new regulations for newer manufactured homes, and he was looking forward to examining how well those homes stood up to the standards. Still, he only encountered manufactured homes built in the 1970s.

Tanner said the group will publish its findings this summer.

Brown said she hopes the research encourages people maintain the safety features of their homes



LARRY TANNER, MANAGER Debris Impact Facility/Research Associate from the Wind Science and Engineering Research Center at Texas Tech University, takes measurements of the tie down straps on the frame of double wide in the Lake Mack area that was destroyed by a tornado. Researchers from Tech visited areas of Central Florida that were damaged by the storm.

as they would maintain their vehicles' safety features.

"It's kind of like a seat belt in the car," Brown said. "If you keep it in good order, but you don't use it, then it is still no good."

Ron McQueen, forecaster for the NWS in Lubbock, said it is difficult to predict how the weather will be in the spring and summer months.

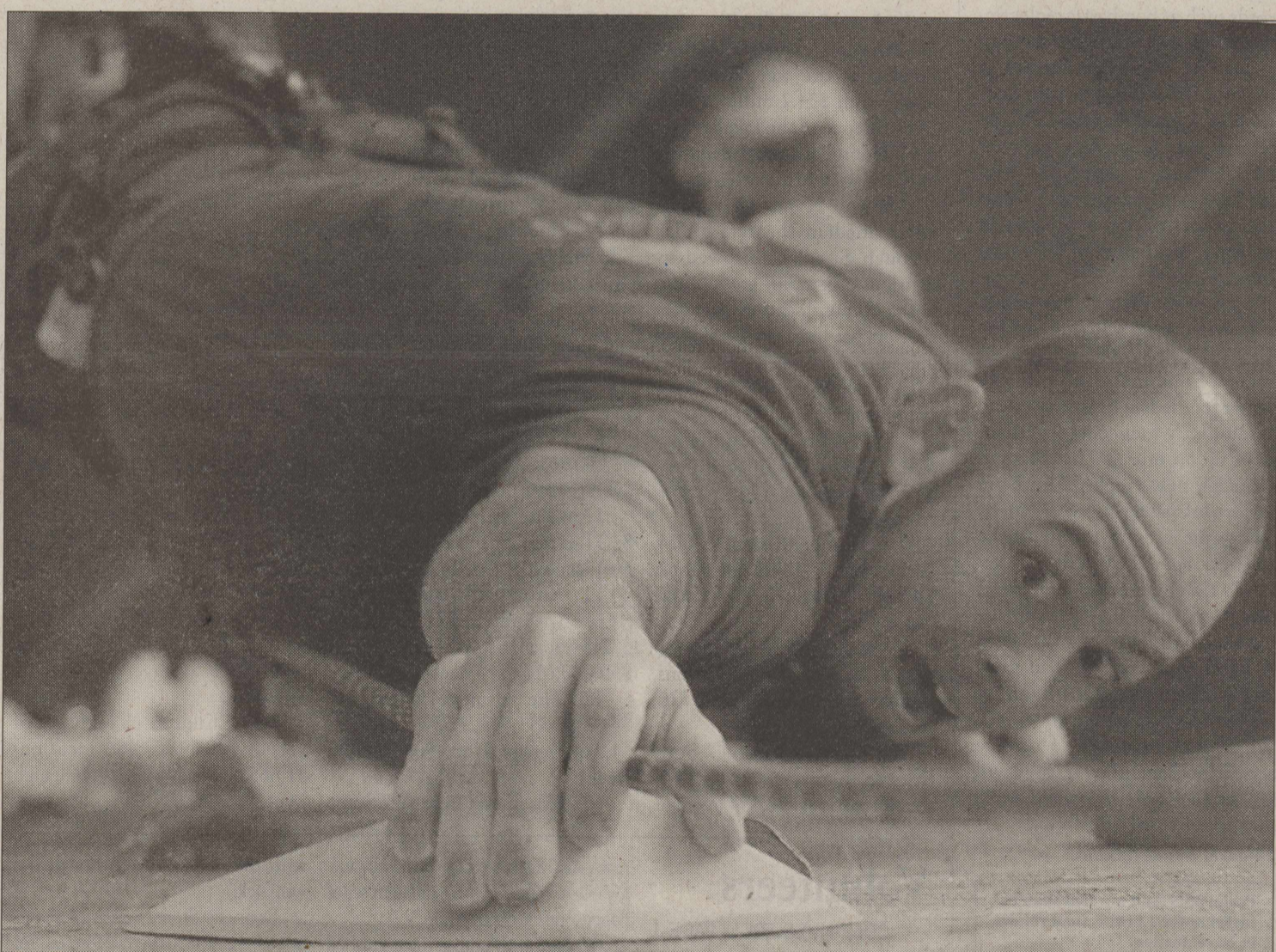
"Tornado season is primarily in

April, May and June, but it is generally easier to predict the weather patterns for the fall and winter months," McQueen said. "Right now, there are no strong climate signals to suggest an above average

or a below average spring." He said the average number of tornado events for the South Plains region is anywhere between 10 and 30.

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VERTICAL LIMIT



TROY WILSON OF Austin attempts to hang on to a hold near the top of the 53-foot indoor climbing wall at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center Saturday while competing in Vertical Plains 2007, a competition sponsored by the Outdoor Pursuits Center.

STEVE LEWIS/The Daily Toreador

In New Hampshire, voters seek clarity on Clinton's Iraq war views

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — After nearly four years of war and more than 3,000 U.S. dead, New Hampshire voters are demanding more than nuance on Iraq from Democratic front-runner Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton.

From crowded town hall meetings to smaller gathering at private homes, Clinton was enthusiastically received by voters throughout the key early voting state on Saturday and Sunday. She deftly fielded questions on a range of subjects, from education to health care to the genocide in Darfur.

But invariably, the questions returned to Iraq. What would she do to end the conflict if elected president? Would she support cutting funds to stop President Bush's planned increase in troop levels? And, perhaps most importantly, why won't she recant her 2002 vote authorizing the military invasion?

"She has a very nuanced explanation, and it's a pretty good explanation. But many people want to hear her clearly say that her vote was a mistake," said Paul LeBlanc, a Clinton supporter and president of Southern New Hampshire University.

It's a vexing matter for Clinton, who is hoping to become the nation's first female commander in chief. If she repudiates her vote — buckling to pressure from anti-war activists and two top Democratic rivals, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama and former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards — Clinton opens herself to accusations of flip-flopping. But defending her vote means she'll continue to be dogged by skeptical questions about it as she campaigns in not only the early voting states but around the country.

On Sunday, Obama told reporters in Iowa that the war was

a "tragic mistake" that never should have been authorized — a swipe at his Senate rivals who backed the 2002 resolution. Responding specifically to Clinton's stand, he said he was uncertain how she would proceed to reduce U.S. forces.

"I know that's she's stated that she thinks the war should end by the start of the next president's first term. Beyond that, though, how she wants to accomplish that, I'm not clear on," he said.

Throughout her weekend campaign visit here, Clinton stuck to her guns: She said she voted to give Bush authority to send weapons inspectors to Iraq, and that her vote was not an endorsement of pre-emptive war. She also said she would never have sought to invade Iraq if she had been president in 2002.

But that wasn't enough for Claire Helfman, a retired nurse who attended a Nashua house party to meet Clinton.

"I've heard your explanation for your vote: 'I didn't think I was voting for the war, I was voting for inspections.' It doesn't fly. It just doesn't fly," Helfman told Clinton.

The New York senator repeated her long-standing mantra — "If we knew then what we know now, I would never have voted to give this president the authority." And she again batted down calls for her to describe her vote as a mistake.

"I'm sorry, what I say is what I believe," she said. "I understand that some people disagree or think it's not adequate, but it's what I believe."

At a house party in Manchester on Sunday, Clinton offered an outline of what she would do as president to scale back the conflict. She vowed she would engage diplomatically with other countries in the region, relaunch the Middle East peace process and force Iraqis to take charge of their own security.

Southwest Airlines raises fares on more than half its seats

DALLAS (AP) — Southwest Airlines has raised fares on more than half its seats by up to \$10 each way, and several competitors matched the increase.

Dallas-based Southwest on Friday raised one-way fares by \$10 on flights of more than 1,000 miles and up to \$3 on shorter flights. It was Southwest's second broad increase in three months.

"It's still about fuel," said spokeswoman Paula Berg. "(Oil) prices remain high, and we expect them to stay high. We have to offset our fuel bill."

Berg said the \$10 increase affected one-fourth of its customers and the smaller increases would hit another one-third.

On Saturday, AMR Corp.'s American Airlines, UAL Corp.'s United Airlines, Northwest Air-

lines Corp., Continental Airlines Inc. and others had matched the increases, according to the carriers, analysts, and experts who track fares.

Southwest built its business by promising low fares, but it has raised prices several times in the past year.

"It is increasingly evident that if we count on higher oil prices, we can count on Southwest to push fares higher," Jamie Baker, an analyst with JP Morgan, said in a note to clients. "Southwest's full court press for higher revenue is a phenomenon

we expect to continue for several years given its confluence of rising labor and fuel costs."

Fare increases can fail if some carriers refuse to go along with the higher prices, but the Southwest increase appeared to be sticking late Monday.

"Given Southwest's general resistance to fare increases, when it does initiate an increase, the other

carriers are happy to join in," said Neil Bainton of FareCompare.com tracking service.

Separately, Bear Stearns raised its rating on Southwest to "outperform." Also, oil prices fell more than \$2, to under \$58 per barrel on Monday, which boosted airline stocks.

Southwest shares rose 63 cents, or 4.1 percent, to \$15.77 in trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

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Monday, February 19 (8:15-9:15pm): "How to Talk About the Tough Stuff & the Sweet Stuff in Close Relationships," Drs. Bob & Lane Powell, Red Raider Lounge (SUB)

Tuesday, February 20
6-8pm: "How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk (or Jerkette)," Jeremy Boden, Human Sciences, Room 111
7-8pm: "Diversity Rules: The Changing Nature of Families" (movie & discussion), Human Sciences, Room 226

Wednesday, February 21, 7-8pm: "What I Wish Someone Had Told Me About Marriage" (panel discussion), Red Raider Lounge (SUB)

Thursday, February 22, 7-9pm: "How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk (or Jerkette)" (repeated), Jeremy Boden, Red Raider Lounge (SUB)

SPORTS

Five Tech players headed for NFL Combine

By ADAM COLEMAN
STAFF WRITER

Five Texas Tech football players have been invited to showcase their talents in next week's NFL Combine.

Tech wide receivers Joel Filani and Jarrett Hicks, offensive linemen Gabe Hall and Manny Ramirez and punting specialist Alex Reyes were among the 335 players selected to attend this year's combine.

Jesse Wallace, an NFL scouting assistant for national football scouting, said compared to the participation in all-star games, the combine is the premier event players get chosen on draft day.

"It's a good opportunity for a player to come and showcase their talent to all NFL personnel," Wallace said. "It's a better opportunity to get drafted."

At the combine, which takes place Feb. 21-27 at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis, potential NFL prospects showcase their skills and talents on and off the field.

Many of the players participating in the combine have competed in various all-star games to help scouts further evaluate their talent. Recently,

Ramirez participated in the Senior Bowl and Reyes saw action in the Inta-Juice North South All-Star game. Most notably, Filani caught a touchdown in the East West Shrine Game Jan. 20.

The 300-plus players invited to the combine will take part in various

players who, according to ESPN.com, are expected to be in the mix when draft time comes around. Cornerback Antonio Huffman, defensive end Keyunta Dawson and wideout Robert Johnson are players who have the potential to be drafted without participating in the combine.

Wallace said NFL teams will send a handful of scouts to evaluate players like the ones from Tech.

"Each team sends about five or six," Wallace said.

Wallace also said the combine is an all day event and the players will begin workouts early and finish late in the evening.

"We pick it up at 6:30 in the morning and it goes all day until 11:00 at night," he said.

It will take four days for all players to arrive at the combine, but Tech's invites are scheduled to arrive on the first two days of the event.

Tech players will not just go through position drills, but they will go through testing as well. Before all the workouts start, there are medical examinations, interviews and even psychological testing.

Having such accomplishments as Filani's naming to the All-Big 12 First Team and Ramirez having missed one game throughout the 2006 season, could seemingly increase an athlete's draft stock. Alongside those accomplishments throughout the season, competing in an all-star game after the regular and postseasons have concluded is not required for athletes, but it is an extra game for those athletes to impress NFL scouts, Wallace said.

"Ultimately it depends on the player," Wallace said. "It all depends on if the player wants to attend the all-star game," he said. "Most people don't decline an invitation, so nine times out of 10, they're coming."

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Tech wins three straight at Red Raider Classic

By WES SKIPWITH
STAFF WRITER

After losing Friday and winning both games of a double-header Sunday, the Texas Tech baseball team closed out the 2007 Red Raider Classic Monday with a win to move above .500 for the first time this season.

In the final game of the tournament, the Red Raiders capitalized on Western Illinois's sloppy play to take an early lead. In the bottom of the first, Tech scored three runs off two wild pitches and one error.

Tech continued to build its lead, scoring a least one run every inning until the fifth. The team batted through the order in the second, with Martin and Smith both hitting two-run home runs and left fielder Geoff Byrns scoring on a Western Illinois' error to make the score 8-0.

With his single in the second, Byrns has now hit safely in all seven games this season.

"My main thing is staying consistent," Byrns said. "You know hitting is contagious, so when I bat behind guys like Kieschnick and Matt Smith, it makes it that much easier."

Martin hit another two-run home run in the third to make the score 10-0. His four RBIs Monday tied his career record for RBIs in a game.

"I just put a good swing on those pitches, got the ball up in the air, and the wind did the rest," Martin said.

Tech scored three more runs in the next two innings to take a 13-1 lead going into sixth. The Leathernecks held Tech scoreless for the rest of the game while they attempted to come back. Western Illinois scored 10 unanswered runs, including six in the ninth.

In the ninth, Tech pitcher Collin Auten was sent in the



TEXAS TECH TEAMMATES and No. 16 Matt Smith celebrate his home run in Sunday's win over Western Illinois.

in the fourth inning off another error and a RBI single.

Northwestern managed to increase its lead in the top of the seventh, scoring five runs on six hits to stretch the lead to 8-0.

Tech cut the lead down in the bottom of the seventh when catcher Matt Smith and shortstop Kyle Martin both scored on a throwing error. Then designated hitter Taylor Ashby hit a two-RBI single which made the score 8-4.

Tech again attempted to mount a comeback in the bottom of the eighth. Right fielder Roger Kieschnick scored on a wild pitch, and Smith hit a two-run home run to make the score 8-7, Northwestern.

The Wildcats put the game out of reach in the top of the ninth, posting four runs. Tech was unable to score in the bottom of the ninth and lost to Northwestern 12-7. Starting pitcher A.J. Ramos received the loss after pitching 3 1/3 innings and giving up three runs.

The next game scheduled against Northwestern was planned for Saturday but because of inclement weather, the game was moved to Sunday morning. It was also announced Saturday sophomore pitcher and 2006 Big 12 Freshman

lead 4-2, Tech.

The Wildcats were able to plate one more run in the eighth, but it was not enough as the Red Raiders won 4-3 with starting pitcher Colt Hynes receiving the win.

Tech faced Western Illinois in the third game of the Classic — the second part of Sunday's double header.

With the game tied at 1-1 in the bottom of the fifth, Kieschnick hit a grand slam over the left field wall to put the Red Raiders up 5-1. Tech continued to run away with the game, posting seven more runs to win the game 12-2. Starting pitcher Aaron Odom was awarded the win after pitching six innings and allowing one run.

After losing three straight games last week, Tech has now won three in-a-row finishing with a 3-1 record in the tournament. Tech coach Larry Hays said he credits the turnaround to his players overcoming the nervousness they had in the beginning of the season.

"We're pitching better and we are getting a little more relaxed as a team," Hays said. "We still got a ways to go but we have the ability to play."

► wesley.a.skipwith@ttu.edu



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Eagles' Reid taking leave of absence

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Andy Reid is facing a crisis far tougher than a quarterback controversy or a disruptive player.

The Philadelphia Eagles coach will leave the team for a month to deal with developments that have rocked his family the past two weeks — one son tested positive for heroin, another was arraigned on drug and weapons charges.

The team said the leave will last until mid-March.

"He's not going to come into the office. His priorities will be his family for that period of time, but he will be available to have a couple of

calls with us and collaborate and if he needed to be here for a visit of a free agent," Eagles president Joe Banner said Monday. "He will retain final say over whatever we do."

Reid, who is also the team's head of football operations, will miss the NFL scouting combine and the start of free agency. Teams may begin voluntary off-season workouts March 19. Reid plans to attend the NFL owners' meetings in Arizona in late March, and will be back for the NFL draft April 28-29.

The Eagles have 11 unrestricted free agents, notably wide receiver Donte Stallworth and backup quarterback Jeff Garcia.

"Before any of this had happened, we had finalized our own plans as to what we're going to do and not do with our own guys," Banner said. "We'd also put together our preliminary plan for the non-Eagle players that we could be interested in."

General manager Tom Heckert and the team's assistant coaches will handle the interviewing of players at the scouting combine in Indianapolis, though Reid might be able to meet with some players at another time.

Garrett Reid, 23, tested positive for heroin after he caused a traffic accident Jan. 30, police said. No charges have been filed, but prosecutors are looking at the case. Police have said he could be charged with driving under the influence of a controlled substance, a misdemeanor.

Britt Reid, 21, was arraigned on drug and weapons charges. He is accused of pointing a handgun at another driver following a dispute and faces a felony charge of carrying a firearm without a license as well as misdemeanor charges of lying to authorities, simple assault, making terroristic threats and possession of a controlled substance.

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