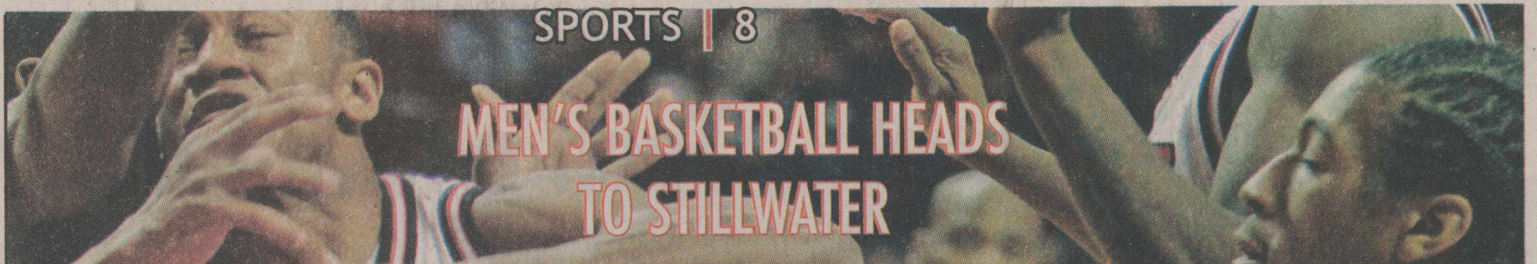




MR. FANTASTIC AVOIDS TROUBLE



MEN'S BASKETBALL HEADS TO STILLWATER

FRIDAY, JAN. 11, 2008  
VOLUME 82 ■ ISSUE 72

# THE DAILY T O R E A D O R

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LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

(INSIDE)



TECH STOPS FORWARDING E-MAILS  
SEE PAGE 2

(IN BRIEF)

STATE

DPS report: Bus driver fell asleep before accident

VICTORIA (AP) — A Department of Public Safety report says the driver of a bus returning from Mexico fell asleep and then overcorrected, causing the bus to roll over.

The accident near Victoria early on the morning of Jan. 2 killed one passenger and seriously injured several others. In all, 47 people were aboard the bus traveling from Monterrey, Mexico, to Houston.

The DPS report released Thursday says the 42-year-old driver, Roberto Garcia Cruz, veered off U.S. 59 after getting sleeping.

NATION

Inmate who escaped returned to New Jersey

NEW YORK (AP) — As a fugitive captured in Mexico was brought back to New Jersey Thursday, the Rev. Al Sharpton said criticism of his efforts to get the escapee to surrender was due to a law enforcement "turf war."

Otis Blunt, awaiting trial for robbery and weapons offenses, was arrested by Mexican Federal Police without incident Wednesday at a hotel in Mexico City, New Jersey authorities said.

WORLD

Sweden, Norway drop out of UN peacekeeping force

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Sweden and Norway dropped plans Wednesday to send about 400 troops to the U.N. peacekeeping force in Darfur because of opposition from Sudan's government.

The two Scandinavian countries had planned to send a joint engineering unit to the peacekeeping force in the troubled region, but their foreign ministers said in a joint statement that "Sudan's opposition makes it impossible to maintain the offer of a Norwegian-Swedish contribution."

DEATH TOLL

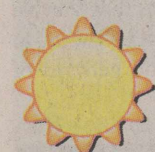
3921

U.S. Military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press confirmed by the Department of Defense

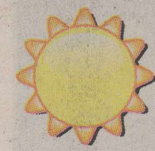
WEATHER

Today



SUNNY  
HIGH 62  
LOW 29

Saturday



SUNNY  
HIGH 56  
LOW 26

INSIDE

- Classifieds.....7
- Crossword.....6
- La Vida.....6
- Opinions.....4
- Sports.....8

## Tech receives \$13.2 million for research

By MATT MCGOWAN  
STAFF WRITER

Congress appropriated approximately \$13.2 million to Texas Tech in December for research and development in several fields over the next two years.

The appropriation, which was announced by Chancellor Kent Hance Dec. 21, provided the university with approximately \$2 million more than the previous federal funding package awarded in 2006, which funded programs through 2007.

The grant will fund several of Tech's research sectors, including the development of wind power, defense technologies, medicine and the food industry, according to a press release.

Congress allocated the largest portion of the monies, \$4 million, to continue research in Tech's Pulsed Power Program, Hance said. The

program aims to develop technologies that will allow U.S. troops to safely detonate improvised explosive devices, thus reducing their risk of injury.

"If the war ends tomorrow, there are still going to be terrorists using these devices, so we're working very hard," he said. "We feel like the increase in funding in that is something that, not only are we doing things that affect the region, but we're doing things that affect the entire world."

The second-largest portion, approximately \$2 million, has been designated

to fund Tech's Wind Science and Engineering Research Center.

*"If the war ends tomorrow, there are still going to be terrorists using these devices..."*

— KENT HANCE  
TEXAS TECH  
CHANCELLOR

"(The money) has a major beneficial impact on our research and the application of our research to the wind industry and to the economy of West Texas and beyond," said Jamie Chapman, a senior research faculty member in the College of Engineering.

The center will apply the funding to not only promote education, he said, but also to develop wind-power technologies that could ease the burden on West Texas' diminishing potable water source, the Ogallala Aquifer.

"We are investigating the use of other

groundwater sources," Chapman said. "These sources, typically, are brackish, and they're much deeper. We would be using the relatively inexpensive electricity from the wind turbines to supply the energy requirements of the water purification systems to remove the salt."

Approximately \$1.2 million of the funding will fuel research in cotton production, Hance said. Cotton production directly affects the region, and researching it has yielded good results in the past. The cotton grown within 100 miles of Lubbock comprises 30 percent of the nation's total harvest and provided the region with approximately \$1.7 billion last year.

"When I was in school, a great crop of cotton was when you had a bale of cotton per acre," he said. "Now, there are times that there are people that'll do three bales, or even more, per acre."

RESEARCH continued on page 5

## EXERCISE RESOLUTIONS

*Will they ever last?*

By LAYLA KHOSHNOUDI  
STAFF WRITER



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

ABOVE: MITCHELL LOWERY, a sophomore electrical engineering major from Big Spring, works out on the concept rower Thursday in the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center to help stick with his New Year's resolution of getting in shape and becoming more toned.



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

RIGHT: LEONE ISLAM, a freshman apparel design major from Dallas, helps keep her New Year's resolution of wanting to stay in shape while working out Thursday in the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center.

To begin the new year, students with resolutions to get in shape hit the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center hard. But as the New Year's zing diminishes and workloads get heavier, the tricky part is sticking with it.

Megan McGinnis, a freshmen English major, said she made a resolution to eat healthier and workout at the recreation center at least five times a week.

"I used to work out all the time and then I stopped," she said. "I gained a couple of pounds, but mostly I just felt terrible."

McGinnis said her goal is to have a new and improved body by Spring Break, but she must focus on sticking with her regimen.

"The new year is a really good motivation to start, but after awhile it gets harder," she said.

But as the semester progresses, numbers at the recreation center tend to dwindle.

Steve Skourup, a self-described "Red Shirt" employee of the recreation center, said he has noticed higher attendance during

the beginning of the semester, but expects the numbers to go down.

"The first three weeks of school tend to be more crowded," he said. "Then, as homework sets in, it goes back to normal."

Skourup said the regular crowd at the recreation center consists primarily of the people he sees at the same time, on the same days of the week. Also, he said a high percentage of attendees are freshmen who live in the residence halls.

Jeremy Robert, a sophomore English major, said he worked out at the recreation center every day as a freshmen, but last semester, he fell out of his regimen and gained weight. This year, he said he hopes to get back in line.

"My schedule this year allows me to workout during the day, so I don't have any excuses," he said.

Robert, whose goal is to lose 10 pounds in a month and a half, said he plans to workout four times a week, utilizing the elliptical machines, the jogging

RESOLUTIONS continued on page 5

## Collisions up, red-light cameras in question

By MAGGIE KIELY  
STAFF WRITER

Red-light cameras in Lubbock may soon be a thing of the past after a new report was presented at the City Council meeting Thursday.

According to the Public Works Update Safety Campaign Second Quarter Report, total Lubbock accidents numbered 286 for the months July through December 2007, almost 100 more accidents than occurred in the same months in 2006.

Total injuries have remained almost constant, and rear-end crashes have increased about 35 percent.

Linda DeLeon, city councilwoman for District 1, said she was surprised to learn the red-light cameras have not decreased the number of vehicle accidents or injuries due to accidents.

"From the stats I've seen today, I'm in favor of removing," she said. "I know that the majority of the citizens have a very negative feeling toward the cameras."

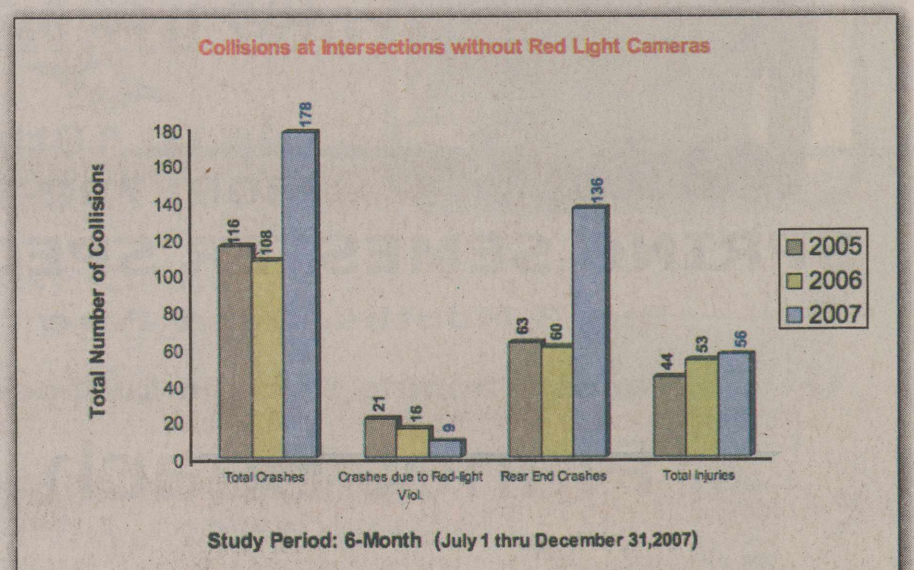
One citizen, Terry Moroste, said he was fed up with the red-light cameras after an incident where he lent his car to his brother-in-law and received a red-light violation in his own name.

"The bottom line is they're doing it for more money," he said. "You can't change people's habits by giving them more laws."

However, DeLeon said the red-light cameras are not generating the amount of money expected.

According to the report, revenue received from the red-light camera fines did not cover

RED LIGHT continued on page 2



COURTESY PHOTO/Public Works Update Safety Campaign Second Quarter Report

# Texas attorney general announces identity theft protection lawsuit launch

By ADAM YOUNG  
News Editor

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott announced the filing of a state lawsuit accusing a Levelland facility owned by a Pennsylvania rehabilitation company of violating state identity theft protection laws.

At a press conference in Lubbock Thursday, Abbott said the lawsuit accuses Select Physical Therapy Texas Limited Partnership and Select Medical Corporation of exposing its clients records, including Social Security and bank account numbers, to identity theft.

The business is accused of violating provisions of the 2005 Identity Theft Enforcement and Protection Act, which requires businesses to protect and properly dispose of clients' sensitive personal information, according to a press release from the attorney general's office.

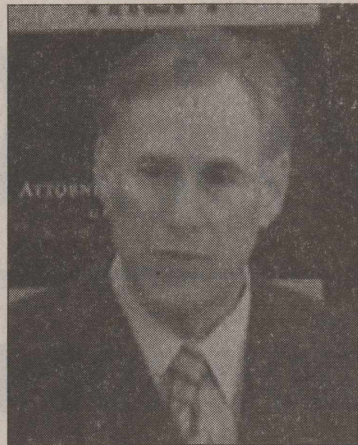
"We're trying to send a message to businesses across the State of Texas: you have a responsibility to shred or redact information in your records that contains personal identifying information of your customers," Abbott said.

At the conference, Abbott praised the work of the Levelland Police Department, which apprehended a suspect crawling out of a trash can behind Select Physical Therapy Texas. The officers discovered the trash can contained records of the business's clients.

In the lawsuit, the attorney general requests a fine of up to \$500 for each record containing personal identifying information and civil penalties of up to \$50,000 for each violation.

Toney Cowan, chief of the Levelland Police Department, thanked the attorney general for his office's involvement in the case.

"When we came across this, this was something that we knew was probably too big for us to handle,"



ABBOTT

Cowan said.

In the case of Select Physical Therapy Texas, Abbott said more than 1,000 people have been exposed to identity theft, but because the investigation is still in its early stages, his office has not determined if anyone became the victim of identity theft.

Abbott said he recommends anyone who believes they have been exposed to identity theft contact the attorney general's office to file a complaint or raise a concern and monitor their personal bank and credit card accounts daily to ensure nobody has opened a new account based upon a stolen identity.

"Anyone who suffers from identity theft is going to spend countless hours trying to recover the information and recover their good name and likely will spend hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars in that process," he said.

Along with individuals, Abbott said identity theft can be costly for businesses, which nationally lose approximately \$50 billion each year because of identity theft.

"By us enforcing these laws on identity theft, we're helping to protect consumers as well as businesses, making this country and this state a safer and better place," he said.

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*"We're trying to send a message to businesses across the State of Texas."*

— GREG ABBOTT  
TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL

# Tech e-mail forwarding discontinued

By MATT MCGOWAN  
STAFF WRITER

After checking their non-university e-mail inboxes, many Texas Tech students probably have been wondering why the university has not sent them anything this week, and they may want to take a look elsewhere for school-related messages.

Effective Monday, e-mails sent to students' TechMail addresses no longer have been forwarded to their external addresses, such as Yahoo, Gmail or Hotmail.

Students who formerly had their e-mails redirected to such external addresses now can find their messages on the Web at <http://mail.ttu.edu>, where they can enter their eRaider username and password to access their mailboxes.

Administrators stopped automatically redirecting students' e-mails to other addresses for several reasons, said Sam Segran, Tech's chief information officer.

Because the sheer volume of e-mail coming from the university's [ttu.edu](http://ttu.edu) address to external servers began making official university e-mails seem like junk mail, he said, many of those external servers began classifying messages from the university as unsolicited, or SPAM, which often resulted in

failure to deliver.

Students began expressing that they had not received e-mail the university sent them, which led administrators to take action, Segran said, at first by contacting those external providers, one by one, and asking to be removed from the blacklist, which began to take more and more time.

Originally, the university did not have the infrastructure to give everybody a mailbox in the TTU domain, he said. The redirection service helped the university maximize what little capacity it did have by only giving mailboxes to those who did not have an external address.

That was before SPAM levels were as high as they are today, Segran said. Currently, SPAM accounts for the majority of all e-mail processed by the university, as much as 85 percent, which led to the forwarding problems.

"It was beginning to become a problem," he said. "We started beefing up the mail infrastructure

so we could create mailboxes for everybody."

In an effort to make the transition smoothly, Segran said, students who enrolled at Tech last year no longer had the option of forwarding. Only students who have been enrolled at Tech for several years are affected by the changes now. Also, the information technology department has been sending notices to students for almost a year to warn them of the service's end this month.

University e-mail services provide more security, he said, because internal e-mails are not susceptible to the dangers lurking throughout the World Wide Web.

As student billing statements became more and more prevalent, Segran said, the security of the information in those statements was lessened when they were redirected to external addresses. Once the e-mail is redirected to an external server, it is impossible for adminis-

trators to assure the e-mail arrived in the destination mailbox, which was a cause for concern.

"Within a closed system — except for the people who have the access or people who are administering the system — it is extremely difficult for somebody to get in with the right tool, at the right place, with the right knowledge," he said.

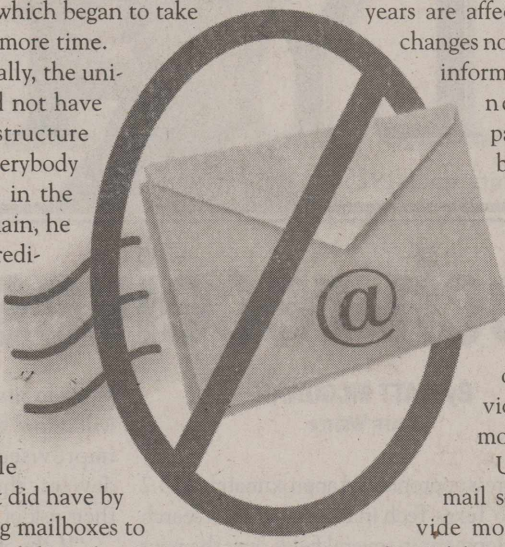
From a faculty perspective, professors should not have much trouble adjusting to the discontinuation of the forwarding, said Sam Dragna, chair of the English Department. Most professors strictly use students' TTU addresses for academic communication.

"I think it will simplify things for faculty in their communication with students," he said, "because the students will know that the TTU address will be what the faculty are using, and the faculty will know that that is the address the students must be responsive to."

The change in the e-mail system is somewhat frustrating, said John Strawn, a senior philosophy and English major from Fort Worth, because checking only one address is so much easier than checking two.

"It's not that big of a hassle if I have to check (my university account) every once in a while," he said. "Yeah, it's a little bit of a strain but not that big of a deal."

▶ matthew.mcgowan@ttu.edu



# Suicide bomb attack on Pakistani police kills 24 people, wounds dozens

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — A suspected Islamic militant walked into a crowd of police guarding a courthouse and blew himself up Thursday, killing 24 others and wounding dozens in the first major attack in Pakistan since the assassination of Benazir Bhutto.

The blast at Lahore High Court, minutes before a planned anti-government rally by lawyers, was a bloody reminder of the security threats facing this key U.S. ally ahead of Feb. 18 parliamentary elections.

Echoing an extremist tactic in Iraq, suicide attacks have become commonplace in Pakistan as in neighboring Afghanistan, adding to rising pressures on President Pervez Musharraf as he struggles to stay in office eight years after seizing power in military coup.

At least 20 suicide bombers have struck the past three months in attacks that killed 400 people, many of them from the security forces — the most intense period of terror strikes here since Pakistan allied with the U.S. in its war against al-Qaida and other extremist groups in 2001.

Police said the attacker got into the midst of some 70 officers in riot gear and detonated explosives on his body, spewing shrapnel in a blast that sprawled mangled bodies in pools of blood. All but three of the dead were police officers.

A horse lay dead, still harnessed to a cart. An abandoned motorcycle was toppled in the street a few yards away. Police boots, riot shields and helmets littered the ground.

"There was a huge bang," said Munir Bibi, 60, a school cleaner caught in the blast as she headed home from

work. "I saw people falling on ground crying for help. I don't know what saved my life from that hell," she said in a hospital where she was treated for leg wounds.

There was no claim of responsibility. The government has blamed previous attacks on Islamic radicals allied with al-Qaida and the Taliban who are intent on expanding their reach from strongholds in Pakistan's lawless tribal region along the Afghan border.

Musharraf blamed the same militants for the Dec. 27 gun and suicide bomb attack that killed Bhutto, a secular former prime minister who had repeatedly pledged to battle Islamic extremism in this country of 160 million people.

Bhutto's supporters have questioned whether elements within the government may have had a role in the opposition leader's slaying after a

campaign rally, and are demanding an independent U.N. investigation.

To allay critics, Musharraf last week invited British police to help investigate the attack. The small team of Scotland Yard investigators was in Lahore on Thursday to examine evidence stored at forensic laboratories, but that was far from the bombing site.

The attack in Lahore, which until Thursday had been spared the worst of Pakistan's rising violence, shattered windows and set off tear gas shells carried by the police, preventing people from getting close to the victims in the moments after the blast, witnesses said.

"A man rammed into our ranks and soon there was a huge explosion," said police officer Syed Imtiaz Hussain, who suffered wounds to his legs and groin. "I saw the bodies of other policemen burning. It was like hell."

# Red light

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cover the expense of operating the cameras, creating about an \$18,000 deficit in the city's budget.

DeLeon said she does not believe the red-light cameras are causing the increase in accidents.

"I think it's people that don't drive responsibly," she said. "The rear-enders are following too close. Even at a light, if you can't see the back tires easily, you've come too close. People just drive like they're invincible."

The red-light camera issue will be reviewed by the Traffic Com-

mission and Citizen's Committee, DeLeon said. The two groups then will make a recommendation to the council members on whether to remove the cameras.

Todd Klein, councilman for District 3, said he always opposed the red-light cameras for constitutional reasons and would not be upset to see them go.

"We need to do what I really wanted to see us do," he said. "I've always advocated stronger enforcement in particular areas with high traffic. The placement of the cameras does not correlate necessarily with the places of high traffic."

After he researched results of other cities with red-light cameras, Klein found the outcome has been similar in Lubbock.

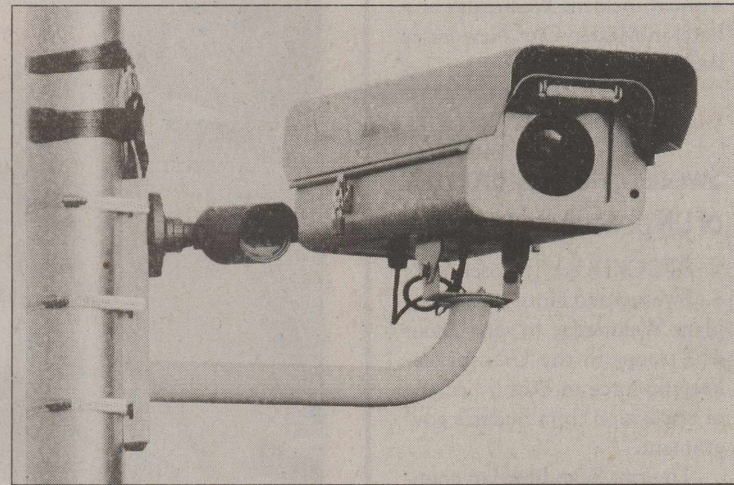


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

A RED-LIGHT camera stands watch over the intersection of 19th and University.

"It's a real world issue, and the numbers don't indicate a real ad-

vocacy for the red-light cameras," he said.

Floyd Price, councilman for District 2, said while he will consider the recommendations made by the Traffic Commission and Citizen's Committee, he wants to collect and evaluate a year's worth of data before making a final decision.

"I want to see exactly what happens in a year, because that is what we started out with," he said. "If in the year it is not feasible, we will drop it. You've got to give it a chance to fail or not to fail."

Moroste said he would like to see all the cameras turned off.

"It's a can of worms that they've got going here," he said. "I want to be the spearhead who gets rid of all this."

▶ mag8240@hotmail.com

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# US protests Iranian harassment of US warships in Persian Gulf

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States on Thursday lodged a formal diplomatic protest with Iran over an incident last week-end in which Iranian speedboats harassed U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf.

The protest repeats U.S. complaints about Sunday's "provocative" action in the Strait of Hormuz and was sent to the Iranian Foreign Ministry via the Swiss Embassy in Tehran, which represents U.S. interests in Iran, the State Department said.

"It reiterates the points that we have made publicly in the last few days," deputy spokesman Tom Casey told reporters. "We certainly don't want to see the Iranians taking any kind of provocative actions or provocative steps against our ships or against any ships that are transiting what is a primary international waterway."

In Tehran, Iranian Foreign Ministry officials said they were unaware of the U.S. protest.

At a Pentagon news conference, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said the Iranian boats had acted "in a pretty aggressive manner."

"What concerned us was first the fact that there were five of these boats and, second, that they came as close as they did to our ships and behaved in a pretty ag-

gressive manner," he said.

The Bush administration had been considering the move for several days, debating whether a formal protest would have any impact on Iranian behavior, given numerous

**"We certainly don't want to see the Iranians taking any kind of provocative actions."**

— TOM CASEY  
DEPUTY SPOKESMAN

strong public comments about the incident already delivered by the president and his top aides, according to officials familiar with the discussion.

They said the decision to proceed with the protest was made after consensus was reached to back up and reinforce those comments with a formal diplomatic demarche, or communication.

In his remarks, Casey dismissed Iranian claims that there was noth-

ing unusual about the incident as well as a videotape aired by Iranian television on Thursday that appeared to be an attempt to show there had not been a confrontation between the vessels.

"We all understand what happened in this incident," he said.

The Pentagon maintains that Iranian naval speedboats swarmed around U.S. warships in a threatening manner and released its own video of the incident in which a man in accented English says, "I am coming to you. ... You will explode after ... minutes."

In Israel on Wednesday, Bush warned Iran not to repeat such actions, which he said would draw "serious consequences."

Iran denies its boats threatened the U.S. vessels, and accused Washington of fabricating its video. The Pentagon has dismissed that claim and warned that its ships would respond with force if threatened.

The grainy 5-minute, 20-second Iranian video shows a man speaking into a handheld radio, with three U.S. ships floating in the distance. It appeared to be shot from a small boat bobbing at least 100 yards from the American warships. But the footage does not show any Iranian boats approaching the U.S. vessels or any provocation.

## WORK IT OUT

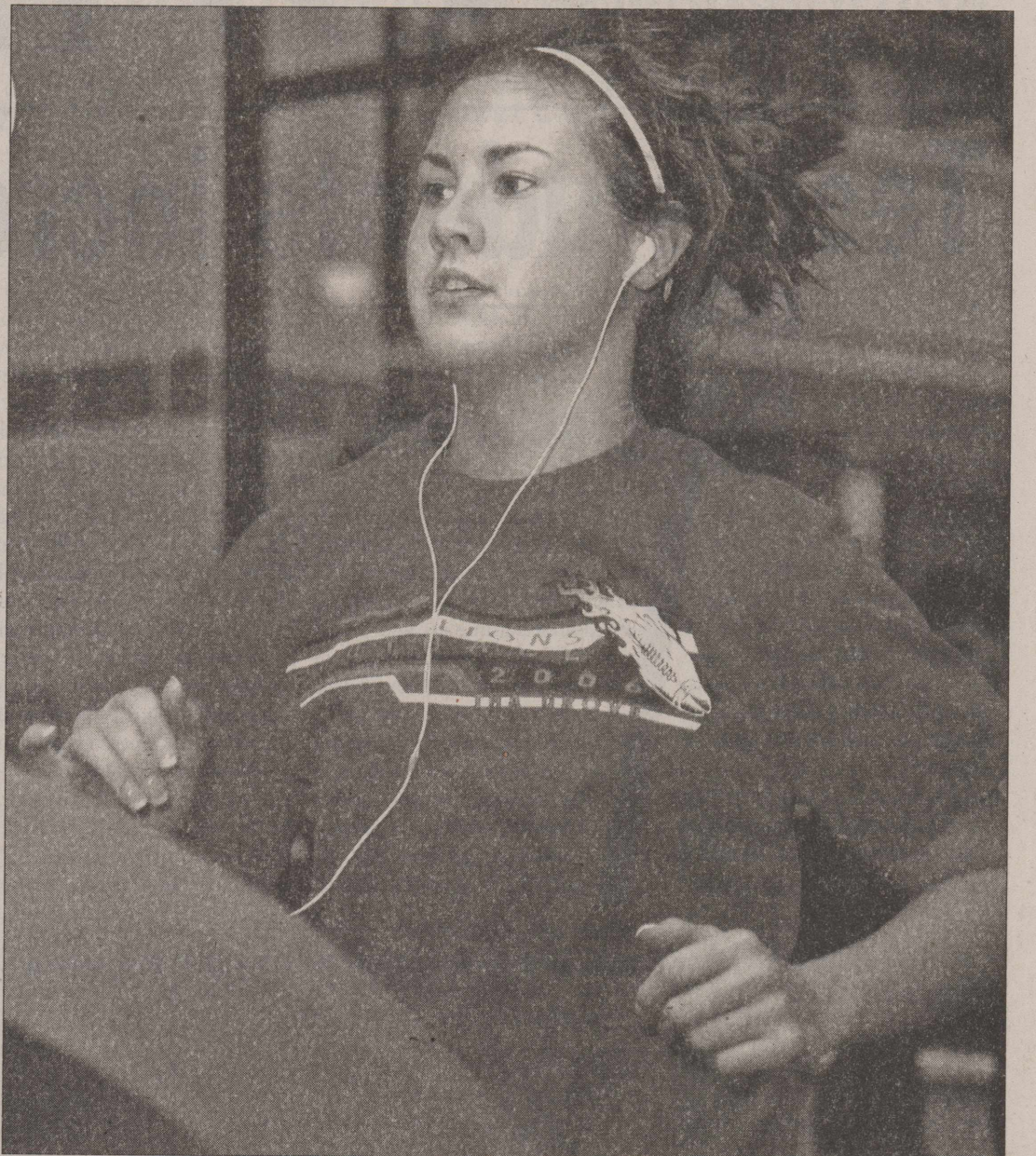


PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

RUNNING ON THE treadmill in the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center, sophomore nursing major from Barry, Danika Herod, keeps up her New Year's Resolution of staying fit.

# Tech targets educating people 50, older

By LILIANA GONZALEZ  
STAFF WRITER

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Texas Tech starts the spring semester Monday at the Division of Outreach and Distance Education building.

OLLI, a membership organization for people who are 50 years old and older, is part of Tech's Division of Outreach and Distance Education department.

Louise Cummins, OLLI advisory board chairwoman, said the program is a good way for the university to be involved with the Lubbock community because it helps older citizens who want to get involved and engaged in social and learning activities.

"Lifelong learning is important for people as they get older to help keep their mind and body active," she said. "It has been proven that this will help people live longer."

She said there is research showing that people who continue to learn and study benefit because it is good for their memory, health and in preventing dementia.

The program is both practical and philosophical, covering

subjects including art, history and science, Cummins said.

Some of the events scheduled for the semester include lectures

twice a month where members will learn about wine-growing regions of Texas, the use of natural resources to produce gasoline, classes on life in Russia, discovering Islam and digital photography, Cummins said.

While the institute does not offer credit or a degree program and members are not tested,

it does serve as an environment where people can interact with members of the community by attending classes and going to social events, according to the institute's Web site, [www.depts.ttu.edu/ode/olli/](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ode/olli/).

"People take this class just for the fun of it and to experience the learning of new things," Cummins said.

Elizabeth Mason, unit coordinator of Marketing for the Division of Outreach and Distance Education, said people do not have to be a former Tech student to join.

"It is a great opportunity for people 50 and older to expand their knowledge just for fun," Mason said, "and through meeting new people and learning."

► lg-3red@hotmail.com

**"Lifelong learning is important for people as they get older to help keep their mind and body active."**

— LOUISE CUMMINS  
OLLI ADVISORY BOARD  
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# Bush predicts Mideast peace treaty before he leaves office

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — President Bush, summing up meetings with both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, said Thursday that a peace accord will require "painful political concessions" by each. Resolving the status of Jerusalem will be hard, he said, and he called for the end of the "occupation" of Arab land by the Israeli military.

"Now is the time to make difficult choices," Bush said after a first-ever visit to the Palestinian

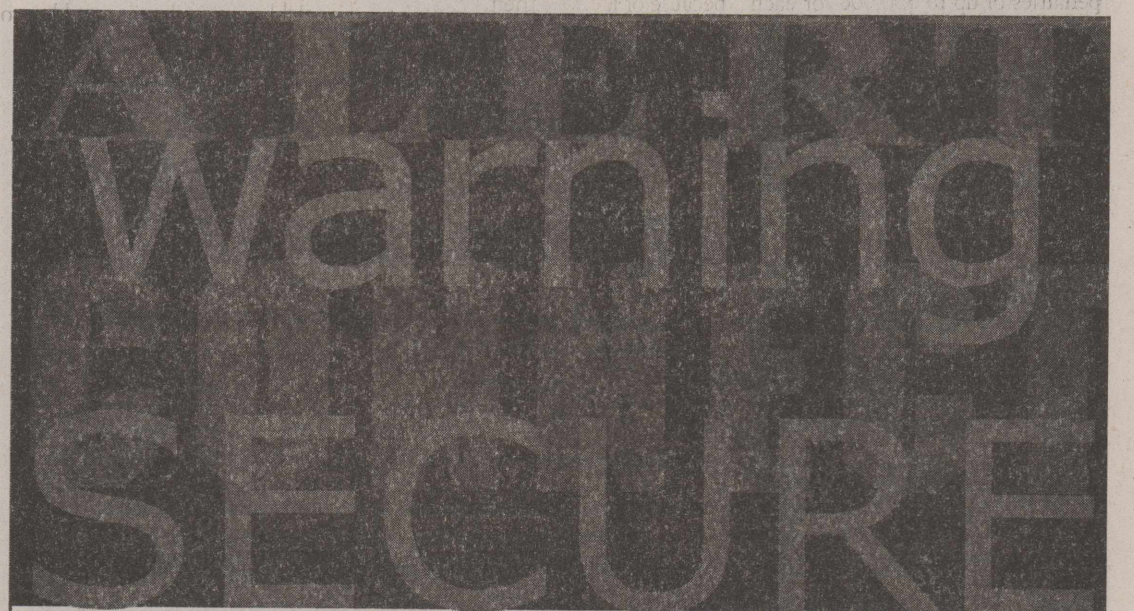
territories, which followed separate meetings with Israeli leaders in Jerusalem the day before.

Bush is in the Mideast for eight days, trying to bolster his goal of achieving a long-elusive peace agreement by the end of his presidency in a year. Speaking at his hotel in Jerusalem, he said again that he thinks that is possible.

"I am committed to doing all I can to achieve it," Bush said. Within minutes, Bush's national security adviser Stephen Hadley said the

president would return to the Middle East "at least once and maybe more" over the next year. He wouldn't elaborate on possible destinations, but another White House official said Bush is likely to attend Israel's 60th anniversary celebrations in May.

Bush gave his most detailed summation yet of what a final peace should include, including U.S. expectations for the resolution of some of the hardest issues in the violent conflict, one of the world's longest-running and most intractable.

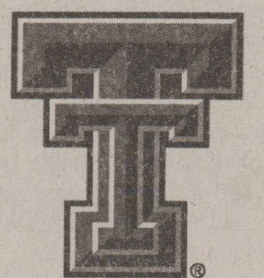


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## Tech students increasing in excuse use

People are capable of concocting all manner of demonstrably inaccurate explanations to explain their shortcomings. This is particularly true when talking about grades on exams. The litany of excuses is long, and many range from the "We didn't cover any of that in class" to the "That wasn't in the book." This only tells you they haven't opened the book or their attendance is less than stellar.

However, I just heard one that's total implausibility ranks with the aforementioned and should be shared.



### Guest Columnist

This person claimed to have failed an exam because of his or her own spelling errors. This is very hard to believe. Let us assume you are in an English Literature class, and before you take an exam, the professor informs the class that points will be deducted for misspelled words.

I am a bad speller myself but have never handed in anything that warranted the deduction of 30+ points for misspelled words.

The actual scenario is that you got a C, or more likely a D,

based on the content of your paper and lost perhaps five points for bad spelling and grammar, since the two seem to go hand in hand.

However, you conveniently blame the failing grade on the five points lost for spelling as opposed to the 25 or more you lost for not displaying a sufficient knowledge of the subject. It's like drinking a 12-pack and blaming the hangover on the last beer.

Now, I can see spelling being of enormous importance if you are in technical writing, but if this is your major and spelling is this large an issue for you, then perhaps a trip to the academic adviser is in order.

Another suggestion is that, on tests, you probably should only stick to words you know you can spell properly. You may not sound

that smart, but you probably aren't anyway if you actually believe your failing grades are a function of spelling errors.

Lastly, when we fail at something — which we all have or will — it is perfectly acceptable to take responsibility for that failure and take steps to improve. People who constantly make excuses and shift blame — I could make joke about politicians but won't — will only be left with the opportunity to make more of the same mistakes in the future.

Among other issues of pointless excuses are those of the people using handicapped parking stickers who are not, themselves, disabled and using these tags to secure better parking for themselves. Those tags are not for your use, and I don't care if the person

to whom it was issued gave it to you. The tag is not that person's to give to someone who does not need it.

We have made a kind of collective decision as a society to allow people with disabilities access to the most convenient parking by employing a sticker, which then is used improperly and may severely inconvenience someone who actually needs the space. What do you suppose a person who is wheelchair-bound would be willing to trade to be able to walk across the parking lot? To those of you who practice this kind of fraud, I think you should be told — because obviously it never has occurred to you — that you are inconsiderate, self-serving scum.

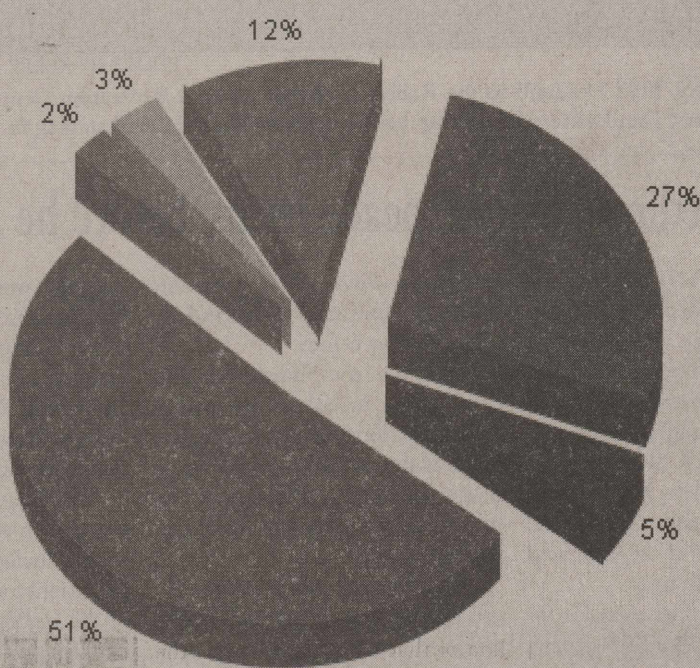
What is to be done about it? Perhaps someone should call the campus

police and ask them to make sure the tag is being used by the person to whom it was issued. If there is a procedure in place to revoke the tag for improper use, then those of you who do this can explain to the person who lent it to you that, because of your thoughtless behavior, they no longer have a valid permit.

Finally, don't offer the excuse that someone gave it to you to use — you had to have known this was unacceptable, and if you didn't, I can only shudder at how you might conduct your other business, given your cavalier and callous disregard for basic decency.

■ Lee Prestwood is a graduate student from Austin. E-mail him at [lee\\_prestwood@hotmail.com](mailto:lee_prestwood@hotmail.com).

### Who do you think is the strongest Democratic candidate in the 2008 Presidential Election?



#### Legend

■	Senator Hillary Clinton	27%
■	Former Senator John Edwards	12%
■	Former Senator Mike Gravel	3%
■	Representative Dennis Kucinich	2%
■	Senator Barack Obama	51%
■	Governor Bill Richardson	5%

This Daily Toreador poll is not scientific and reflects the opinions of only those Internet users who have chosen to participate. The results cannot be assumed to represent the opinions of Internet users in general, nor the public as a whole.

## Trying to find hope after Bhutto's death

By ALESSIO CEI  
THE SANTA CLARA (SANTA CLARA U.)

(U-WIRE) SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The death of Benazir Bhutto on Dec. 27 at the hands of a suicide bomber may not have drawn much attention from students, but it is one of the most devastating losses in the ongoing struggle against radical Islamists.

Bhutto was the first female prime minister of an Islamic nation, and in many ways, her terms in office were ground-breaking. Elected for the first time in 1988, she ushered in an era of democracy in Pakistan after years of repressive military rule by General Zia-ul-Haq, who executed her father, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, not far from where Benazir herself was killed.

Zia is best remembered for his religiosity and especially for the way he imposed it upon Pakistanis. Such impositions include the creation of Shar'ia courts, the rollback of women's rights and his support for the mujahedeen, which eventually evolved into the Taliban and al-Qaeda.

Had she lived to hold office again, Bhutto would have been a fierce and determined foe of radical Islam. She had much at stake personally, both as a woman and a Shi'a Muslim, and had the admiration and support of much of Pakistan.

A September 2006 poll carried out by Terror Free Tomorrow found

that Bhutto was viewed favorably by an overwhelming 63 percent of Pakistanis, a particularly impressive number considering how deeply ethnicity and religion divide sectors of Pakistani society. If only Iraq could give us a politician capable of bridging such divides.

Pakistan's current president, General Pervez Musharraf, on the other hand, was found to be less popular than Osama bin Laden in the same poll.

It was for these reasons that the Islamists worked so hard to bring Bhutto down. Their agenda flourishes best in an atmosphere of repression, such as Musharraf's military dictatorship, which has seen a rapid growth in the spread and power of radical Islamists. Neither Musharraf nor the Islamists have any desire to see democracy thrive in Pakistan, which is why a good part of the blame for Benazir Bhutto's death has landed on Musharraf.

He has been accused repeatedly of ignoring her requests for increased security. Also, the perpetually changing official account of her cause of death makes it appear as though the government has something to hide. At various times, gunshot wounds, shrapnel and hitting her head on the sunroof lever were all given as reasons for Bhutto's death.

Furthermore, after the suicide bombing in Karachi that greeted Bhutto when she returned to Pakistan in late 2006, some witnesses

said they saw fire trucks hosing down the crime scene.

You don't need to be a fan of CSI to realize that means much of the evidence from the blast was washed away deliberately by government officials.

A new, democratic, secular coalition would eliminate much of the political cover that the terrorists now enjoy, and pave the way for true international cooperation on the issue.

If this happens, perhaps the world will see some good emerge from the tragedy of Bhutto's death.

## 'Remember 9/11 was an inside job'

By ROB OLSON  
THE CALIFORNIA AGGIE (UC-DAVIS)

(U-WIRE) DAVIS, Calif. — Rifling through my wallet a little bit ago, I noticed something stamped in blue on a dollar bill. "Remember 9/11 was an inside job." I couldn't decide whether to laugh or shake my head, so I did both.

Nevermind that stamping your political views on federal money is a childish and disrespectful method of getting your message out. The underground movement must fight on, by any means possible. Including stamps.

But why is the command to "remember" that 9/11 was an inside job? Could someone come to the conclusion that their government murdered 3,000 of its citizens in a massive and elaborate conspiracy to found a fascist state in America ... only to forget and need to be reminded? Evil dictators should have it so easy.

Who is the stamper, and what is he thinking? First off, he is a "Truther," as they call themselves, meaning that he believes that the U.S. government either knew about the impending attacks and allowed them to happen, or perpetrated them itself, and that this "truth" must be revealed to the world.

Yet whenever I encounter a Truther, I find myself at a loss. I have no problem whatsoever debating liberals, and in fact consider it an obligation. But Truthers are not quite liberals. To call oneself a liberal — or a conservative — is to buy in, at least a little, to the current political system we have. Truthers, on the other hand, have a category of their own, and a world view so tremendously different from mine that I don't quite know how to bridge the gap.

It is certainly hopeless to go point by point, to address each and every little bit of "evidence" for the conspiracy presented in such ridiculous movies as Loose Change. Instead, what comes to mind is not the debate they love, but rather the thought process of the Truther himself.

At least hundreds of government officials and assorted conspirators would be required to carry out and then attempt to conceal such an epic terrorist attack. They would presumably be Americans, raised in our nation, brought up with our values and morals and trusted by us and by our elected leaders to run

our government. They would not be separate from us, but the very products of our nation just as we are. Truthers must therefore believe that America is at heart substantially evil, or at least deeply callous and ignorant. I wouldn't call them outright traitors, but their loyalty to this country is necessarily highly suspect. So then where do I begin when the Truther and I are so very far apart?

It must be difficult to live in a world in which so many of your fellow countrymen are capable of such evil. It must be hard to trust anyone with any power, which by simple extension suggests a preference for anarchy. Their view of human nature must be dark and cynical, even bitter. I do not envy them.

Or perhaps it is not difficult, but fun. Maybe the Truthers feel like they are "in the know" when so many others accept the "propaganda" of our government? Maybe they feel like detectives, heroes, piecing

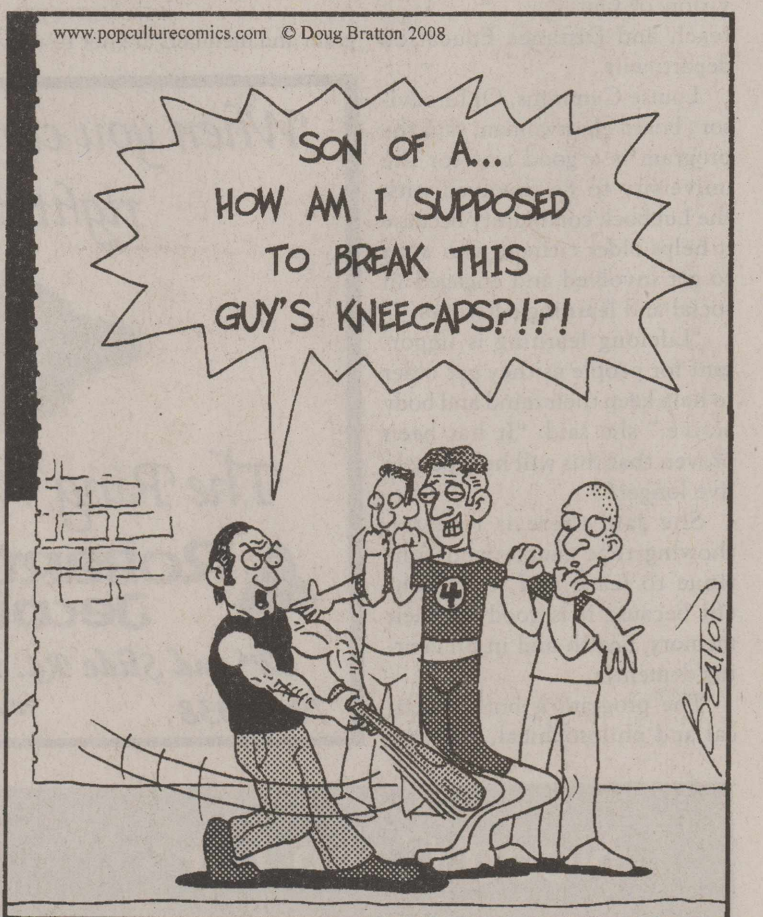
together the paltry evidence available to rescue a republic in mortal danger? They become tireless revolutionaries, studying images of the falling towers by day and watching Vendetta for inspiration by night.

How dramatic. How fun.

But it is not fun to those who lost friends, family and co-workers to a terrorist plot that September morning. It is not a good story, but a terrible story, nothing less than a nightmare.

Truthers must be made to realize the enormity of their views, and to see just how hurtful it is to those grieving and to the rest of the country. They must be made to understand just how fringe they are. Short of stunning new revelations, I will continue to largely ignore them and work elsewhere in politics.

So without any hesitation, I handed over the defaced money to the teller — the best dollar I ever



Why Mr. Fantastic Rarely Pays Off His Gambling Debts

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# Annan to lead Kenya mediation efforts in disputed election

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan agreed Thursday to take over talks to end the deadly turmoil linked to Kenya's presidential election, after days of international pressure resulted in nothing more than a fresh round of accusations from both sides.

The Dec. 27 election returned President Mwai Kibaki to power for another five-year term, with his opponent, Raila Odinga, coming in a close second after a vote tally that foreign observers say was rigged. More than 500 people have been killed in the ensuing violence.

"Both sides agree that there should be an end to violence," said African Union chairman John Kufuor as he left Kenya on Thursday after his two days of mediation failed even to get Kibaki and Odinga to meet.

Annan will not arrive in Nairobi to take over the talks before Jan. 15, his office in Geneva said. If his predecessor's experience was any indication, Annan will have a frustrating task ahead.

Both sides continued trading blame for the political deadlock. According to the government, Kibaki "offered dialogue," but Odinga was not responsive. Odinga, meanwhile, said Kibaki refused to sign an agreement to establish an interim coalition government and conduct an inquiry into the Electoral Commission of Kenya.

A government spokesman acknowledged Kibaki had not signed, saying he was not involved in the consultations. Odinga has said he would meet Kibaki only in the presence of an international mediator, but Kibaki wants direct talks.

Hopes for a power-sharing compromise were dampened Thursday as Kibaki's allies were sworn in as Cabinet ministers.

Earlier, protesters from the women's wing of Odinga's party marched chanting "Kibaki is a thief!" Police fired tear gas at them — noting a ban on all demonstrations since the violence erupted — and the women ran away.

# Lax FBI money controls lead to shutdown of surveillance, Justice Department audit finds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Telephone companies have cut off FBI wiretaps used to eavesdrop on suspected criminals because of the bureau's repeated failures to pay phone bills on time.

A Justice Department audit released Thursday blamed the lost connections on the FBI's lax oversight of money used in undercover investigations. In one office alone, unpaid costs for wiretaps from one phone company totaled \$66,000.

In at least one case, a wiretap used in a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act investigation "was halted due to untimely payment," the audit found. FISA wiretaps are used in the government's most sensitive and secretive criminal and intelligence investigations, and allow eavesdropping on suspected terrorists or spies.

"We also found that late payments have resulted in telecommunications carriers actually discon-

necting phone lines established to deliver surveillance results to the FBI, resulting in lost evidence," according to the audit by Inspector General Glenn A. Fine.

More than half of 990 bills to pay for telecommunications in five unidentified FBI field offices were not paid on time, the report shows.

Assistant FBI Director John Miller said wiretaps were dropped only a few times because of the backed-up billing, which he said didn't significantly set back the investigations under way. He said the FBI "will not tolerate financial mismanagement, or worse," and is working to fix the problems.

"While in a few instances, late-payment of telephone bills resulted

in interruptions of the timely delivery of surveillance results, these interruptions were temporary and in our assessment, none of those cases were significantly affected," Miller said in a statement Thursday evening.

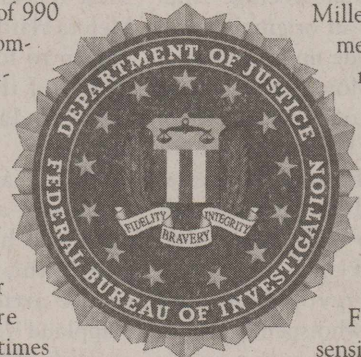
The report released Thursday was a highly edited version of Fine's 87-page audit that the FBI deemed too sensitive to be viewed publicly. It focused on what the bureau admitted was an "antiquated" system to track money sent to its 56 field offices nationwide for undercover work. Generally, the money pays for rental cars, leases and surveillance, the audit noted.

The American Civil Liberties Union called on the FBI to release

the entire, unedited audit. The group, which has been critical of some of the government's wiretapping programs, also took a swipe at telecommunication companies that allowed the eavesdropping — as long as they are getting paid.

"It seems the telecoms, who are claiming they were just being 'good patriots' when they allowed the government to spy on us without warrants, are more than willing to pull the plug on national security investigations when the government falls behind on its bills," said former FBI agent Michael German, the ACLU's national security policy counsel. "To put it bluntly, it sounds as though the telecoms believe it when the FBI says the warrant is in the mail but not when they say the check is in the mail."

The audit also found that some field offices paid for expenses on undercover cases that should have been financed by FBI headquarters.



# Sir Edmund Hillary, first to climb to top of Mount Everest, dies

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Sir Edmund Hillary, the unassuming beekeeper who conquered Mount Everest to win renown as one of the 20th century's greatest adventurers, died Friday. He was 88.

The gangling New Zealander devoted much of his life to aiding the mountain people of Nepal and took his fame in stride, preferring to be called Ed and considering himself an "ordinary person with ordinary qualities."

Hillary died at Auckland Hospital at 9 a.m. Friday, New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark's office said. Though ailing in his later years, he remained active, but no cause of death was immediately given.

Hillary's life was marked by grand achievements, high adventure, discovery, excitement — yet he was humble to the point that he only admitted being the first man atop Everest long after the death of climbing companion Tenzing Norgay.

He had pride in his feat, yet he ir-

reverently referred to it as he returned to base camp as the man who took the first step onto the top of the world's highest peak: "We knocked the bastard off."

The accomplishment as part of a British climbing expedition even added luster to the coronation of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II four days later, and she knighted Hillary as one of her first acts.

But he was more proud of his decades-long campaign to set up schools and health clinics in Nepal, the homeland of Norgay, the mountain guide with whom he stood arm in arm on the summit of Everest on May 29, 1953.

He wrote of the pair's final steps to the top of the world: "Another few weary steps and there was nothing above us but the sky. There was no false cornice, no final pinnacle. We were standing together on the summit. There was enough space for about six people. We had conquered Everest.

"Awe, wonder, humility, pride, exaltation — these surely ought to be the confused emotions of the first men to stand on the highest peak on Earth, after so many others had failed," Hillary noted.

"But my dominant reactions were

relief and surprise. Relief because the long grind was over and the unattainable had been attained. And surprise, because it had happened to me, old Ed Hillary, the beekeeper, once the star pupil of the Tuakau District School, but no great shakes at Auckland Grammar (high school) and a no-hoper at university, first to the top of Everest. I just didn't believe it.

He said: "I removed my oxygen mask to take some pictures. It wasn't enough just to get to the top. We had to get back with the evidence. Fifteen minutes later we began the descent."

His philosophy of life was simple: "Adventuring can be for the ordinary person with ordinary qualities, such as I regard myself," he said in a 1975 interview after writing his autobiography, "Nothing Venture, Nothing Win."

*"We all have dreams — but Ed has dreams, then he's got this incredible drive."*

— JIM WILSON  
LONG-TIME FRIEND

# Research

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

That's primarily because of the research that we've done at this level at Texas Tech."

Another \$1.6 million in funding will go to the College of Engineering to further the development of nano-photonics technology, Hance said, which has the potential to be revolutionary in the scope of utilizing electricity more efficiently.

"One of the applications in existence right now on a larger scale is light-emitting diodes (LEDs)," said Jeff Sammons, senior editor in the College of Engineering. "There is so much more that can be done with nano-photonics in decreasing the size of the light emitting — not just necessarily these LEDs — but decreasing the size and using lower energy, etc."

Additionally, according to the press release, approximately \$1 million of that funding will go to the

Center for Food Industry Excellence, \$350,000 will go to the Center for Border Health, \$95,000 will go to the Center for Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke and \$526,636 will fund programs in the West Texas Center for Influenza Research, Education and Treatment.

Rep. Randy Neugebauer, a member of the Texas delegation that worked to obtain the funding, said local communities know their needs best, which is why he submitted requests to Congress for the funding, according to his Web site, www.randy.house.gov.

"(Neugebauer), himself, is a Tech (alumnus), and he realizes that the research that is being done can help create new jobs," said Michael Frohlich, communications director for Neugebauer's office, "so people won't necessarily have to go to Los Angeles, New York, Washington or Boston to keep high-tech jobs."

matthew.mcgowan@ttu.edu

# Resolution

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

track and the weight room.

Chelsea Serrano-Piche, a junior architecture major from San Antonio, who has worked at the recreation center for a year, said she notices a major increase of inflow of students after the New Year's, but it rarely lasts.

"People get lazy, or their priorities change," she said.

To prevent a workout from being a chore, Serrano-Piche said she believes people should change their workout strategies to make the experience more enjoyable.

"If people found creative ways to have fun while they worked out,

rather than just going through the motions, they might stick with it longer," she said. "Maybe they could workout with a buddy or get into the classes."

The recreation center will offer

free demo sessions of all Raider X classes until Jan. 18, with schedules of the classes on the recreation center's Web site, www.depts.ttu.edu/recsports/.

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7 AM	Curious	Today Sched-uled: U.S. champion figure skater	The Early Show	Copeland Robinson	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	J. Hanna	7 AM	Mama	Today Week-end (HD)	Saturday Early	Scoby-Doo	Good Morning (HD)	Adrenaline	7 AM	Thomas	Today Week-end	Sushi Pk	Paid Programs	Bible	Paid Prog.	Lord's Way	Paid Programs	
8 AM	Super Why	Evan Lysacek; Chief Wally Malouf (HD)	The 700 Club	Awesome Lopez	Eye Lopez	Steve Wilkos	Regis & Kelly	8 AM	WordGirl	Titans	Sponsored television programming	Skunk Fu!	Emperor	Chaotic	8 AM	Franny	Reporter	CBS News Sunday Morning	Access Holy-wood	Children	Copeland			
9 AM	Sesame Street			Cristina	Steve Wilkos	Regis & Kelly	Martha Cook-ing	9 AM	Dragonfly	Jacob 2-2	Cake	So Raven	TMNT FF	9 AM	Wishbone	Meet the Press	Nation	Extra	Paid Programs	In Touch	FOX News Sunday			
10 AM	Big World			Divorce	Temptation	The View (HD)	The Morning Show	10 AM	TX Parks	Rabbit	Paid Prog.	Legion	Hannah	Pilafate	10 AM	Healthy	Hour of Power	1 Baptist	The Dead Zone	Si se pued	Southcrest			
11 AM	Barney	Jopardy	Restless (HD)	Alex	Victory	Tyra Banks Show		11 AM	Europe	Veggie	Paid Programs	Movie	Dead Like Me	Rangers	Paid Programs	11 AM	InnerVIEWS	NFL Today	Paid Programs	ReGenesis	TBA	Paid Programs		
12 PM	Needle	Crosswords	News	Jerry Springer	Cosby	All My Children	Feud	12 PM	P. Allen	Jane	Paid Programs	***	NBA Acc.	Idol	12 PM	Motor/Wk	Sponsored television programming	NFL Football AFC Divisional Playoff (Teams TBA)	***	RoboCop: Prime Direc-tives (01)	Sponsored television programming	Engaged to Kill! Man seeks revenge.		
1 PM	Real Moms	Days of Our Lives	Beautiful	As the World	Jerry Springer	Roseanne	One Life to Live	1 PM	Yankae	College Bas-ketball (Live)	Paid Programs	***	RoboCop: Prime Direc-tives (01)	Paid Programs	1 PM	Religion	Paid Programs	***	RoboCop: Prime Direc-tives (01)	Paid Programs	Engaged to Kill! Man seeks revenge.			
2 PM	Teletub	Crosswords	Guiding Light	Paid Programs	All of Us	General Hospi-tal	Judge Mathis	2 PM	Woodshop	Antiques (HD)	PGA Tourna-ment (T)	Wife	Scrubs	Ebert	2 PM	Money	Globe Trekker	Figure Skating (T)	College Bas-ketball (Live)	To Be An-nounced	Girlfriend Game	Dog Show (T)	Jim (HD)	
3 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	3 PM	Pepin	Mexico	Equestrian (T)	Paid Programs	Access Holy-wood	***	RoboCop: Prime Direc-tives (01)	Paid Prog.	American Mas-ters "Balanchine"	Paid Prog.	To Be An-nounced	Gossip Girl (HD)	News	CSI: Miami (HD)		
4 PM	Maya	News	News	TMZ	Standing	News	Raymond	4 PM	Barbecue	Kitchen	News	News	News	News	4 PM	Wek	2008 Golden	60 Minutes	Movie	CW Now	Home Videos	Dad		
5 PM	Bus. Rpt	News	News	Access	Standing	News	Simpsons	5 PM	Gourmet's	Life Pt. 2	Wheel	NFL Today	"Little Nikita"	Degrassi	Stardog	Queens	"Pearl Har-bor" (01)	Queens	WWII pilots fight for woman's love. (HD)	Cheaters	Shield "Thro-w-away"	Paid Program	Two & 1/2	
6 PM	NewsHour (HD)	Wheel	Million	Law Order (HD)	Queens	ET	Two & 1/2	6 PM	Wash Wk	NOV PBS	1 vs. 100	Ghost Whis-perer	*** "Jason's Lyric" (94)	Falling in love.	Cashmere Ma-ria	House (HD)	9 PM	State of	Las Vegas (HD)	Numb3rs (HD)	Local	Bernie	(9:02) 20/20 (HD)	News
7 PM	Bill Moyers Jour-nal	Friday Night Lights	Moonlight (HD)	Local	Jim (HD)	Bernie	News	7 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	8 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	
8 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	8 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	8 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	
9 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	9 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	9 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	
10 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	10 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	10 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	
11 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	11 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	11 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	
12 AM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	12 AM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	12 AM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Steve Wilkos	Rachael Ray	News	

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# LA VIDA

## '27 Dresses' not chick-flick but still disappointing

By PAT DEVERS  
THE LANTERN (OHIO STATE U.)

(U-WIRE) COLUMBUS, Ohio — At least 80 percent of the crowd was female and the theater was filled to the brim. Advertisements were everywhere and excitement filled the air at the sneak peak of 20th Century Fox's "27 Dresses." The crowd laughed along, they loved every moment.

I was not so lucky. There were a few positive things in the film, which was surprisingly more like star Katherine Heigl's previous film "Knocked Up" than a typical "chick flick." Heigl's performance was top-notch, as was the performance of supporting actress Judy Greer. It was the scripted clichés and the rest of the cast that brought the film down.

When combining the high points with the low, "27 Dresses"

comes out as an average film. What it lacks in originality and subtlety is made up for by Heigl and Greer. Moviegoers should look forward to seeing a lot more of Heigl, who became known for her role in the late '90s series "Roswell" and rose to fame with the ABC show "Grey's Anatomy" and "Knocked Up."

The film revolves around Heigl's Jane, who spends all her time at work trying to impress the boss she's attracted to and all her free time helping everyone she's ever met plan their wedding. That is, of course, until she meets Kevin, played by James Marsden of "X-Men" fame. Kevin shows her the meaning of love and that she doesn't always have to be the bridesmaid. He also just happens to write for her favorite section of the newspaper, the one that profiles betrothed couples. For fans starving for a strike-time taste of NBC's "The Office,"

there is also an appearance from Melora Hardin, known to followers of the show as Jan Levinson.

If you are a college-age male and have gotten this far in the article, I applaud you. If you're looking for a reason to see this movie, or simply a reason not to dread your girlfriend's invitation, look no further than Heigl and Greer. The actresses prove with

ease that they can be just as funny as your typical frat packer.

Actually, they were a breath of fresh air from the tired comedy film routines of frat pack leaders Vince Vaughn, Will Ferrell and Ben Stiller. Heigl's character is neurotic and endearing. She is even priceless when she is the only character on-screen, such as when she is scrubbing her stovetop at 3 a.m. and cursing to herself while her sister is on a

date with her boss. Greer's quirky best-friend character delivers the same amount of one-liners and priceless facial expressions as Vaughn's quirky best-friend characters in "Wedding Crashers" and "Old School." In all, these two actresses carry the film.

The movie trips up in a combination of the script and the rest of the actors. The script takes film conventions too far to make the characters believable. They all work glamorous jobs at magazines and newspapers in Manhattan, except for Jane's working-class father who owns his own hardware store. The remaining cast play stock characters, including Marsden's starving-artist-reporter-who-just-needs-that-one-great-feature-story-but-apparently-knows-how-to-stalk-a-woman-until-she-falls-for-him-guy.

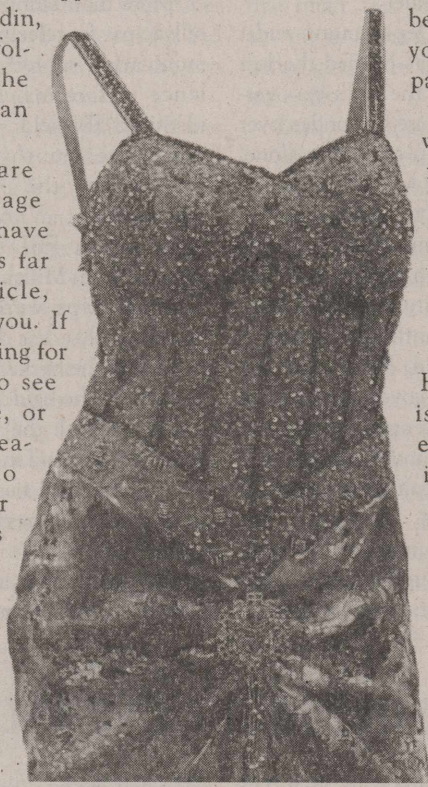
It is as though Adrian Grenier's character from "The Devil

Wears Prada" is put in the shoes of Simon Baker's character from the same movie. It could only be a coincidence that "Prada" screenwriter Aline Brosh McKenna also penned "27 Dresses."

Heigl's character seems to notice the irony, until she falls for him, of course. She rolls her eyes when he first tells her he's a writer and tells him to "find someone else to stalk" when he repeatedly calls her. But, eventually she gives in to the film gods and you can guess what happens then. Throw in a ruggedly handsome, seemingly perfect boss and a high-maintenance, well-traveled younger sister and suddenly the film comes down to earth.

Even the premise of the film comes from a cliché: Always a bridesmaid, never a bride.

The film hits theaters Jan. 18, but if you can wait for its debut at the dollar theater, then it's a steal.



## Michelle Rodriguez released from Los Angeles jail after serving 18 days on probation violation

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former "Lost" star Michelle Rodriguez has found her way out of jail.

Rodriguez was released from a Los Angeles County women's jail in Lynwood on Wednesday after serving 18 days of a 180-day sentence for violating probation in a drunken driving case, authorities said.

She was released early under a program that deals with jail overcrowding by allowing nonviolent female inmates to serve as little as 10 percent of their sentence.

The same thing happened two years ago when Rodriguez served just one day of a 60-day jail sentence for probation violation.

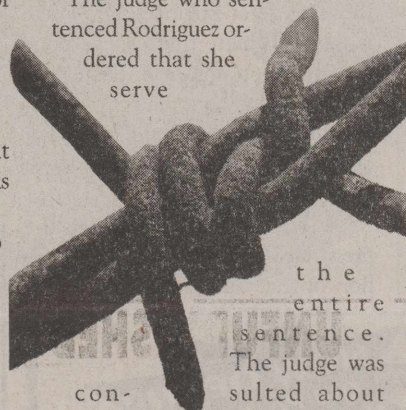
As many as 50 women a day are released early, sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said.

"She was treated the same way we do with all females because of the

extent of overcrowding," he said.

Rodriguez was sentenced in October for failing to prove she had done community service and for drinking while wearing an alcohol monitoring device.

The judge who sentenced Rodriguez ordered that she serve



the entire sentence. The judge was sullen about release but the department had the final say when jail safety was

involved, Whitmore said.

"The sheriff supports, obviously, the desire to have inmates serve their full sentence," but the county has only one women's jail and it is "bursting at the seams," Whitmore said.

Rodriguez was on probation after pleading no contest to drunken driving, hit-and-run and driving on a suspended license in connection with two Hollywood incidents in 2003.

While still on probation, she spent five days in a Hawaii jail in 2005 after pleading guilty to drunken driving there, which led to her one-day jail term in Los Angeles for probation violation.

Rodriguez appeared in one season of ABC's "Lost." Her film credits include "The Fast and The Furious," "Blue Crush" and "Girlfight."

## Late-night hosts return to deliver pro-strikers message along with jokes

NEW YORK (AP) — Earlier this week, David Letterman asked a timely question: How many striking writers could fit into a Jamba Juice store across the street from his studio?

The answer was 23 picketers, complete with their Writers Guild of America signs. There was also room for Spider-Man, the prophet Moses and someone in a bear suit.

Since late-night TV roared back to life last week, its returning hosts have done lots to keep the writers strike in front of the audience. And not just out of loyalty to the writers — the strike, now more than two months old with no end in sight, is a gold mine for humor.

After all, late night thrives on taking potshots at the ruling class. And this particular dispute pits guild writers against an aristocracy of

networks and studios owned by media behemoths like Viacom, Disney, CBS and General Electric (parent company of NBC Universal).

*"They want a share of Internet revenues and four more years of President Bush."*

— DAVID LETTERMAN  
"LATE SHOW" HOST

In that spirit, "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno shared a video clip of the

palatial estate he jokingly identified as the home of his boss, NBC Universal head Jeff Zucker. Then the next clip was supposed to illustrate where the TV writers live: a third-world shantytown whose hovels bore the names of prime-time series like "Lost" and "Desperate Housewives." (OK, so the bit wasn't all that funny — it was Leno.)

But what are the two sides feuding over, anyway?

"Here's what the writers want," Letterman summed up during one of his monologues, "and you tell me if you don't think this is fair: They want a share of Internet revenues and four more years of President Bush."

Well, he was playing it partly straight.

Of course, Letterman could crack wise from an advantageous spot: with a special deal from the guild, his writing staff is back with him at "Late Show."

## Weinstein Co. expects to make a deal with striking writers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Weinstein Co., one of Hollywood's largest independent filmmakers, said Thursday it expects to reach a deal with striking Hollywood writers that would allow the company to resume production.

The company was anticipating that an interim agreement with the Writers Guild of America would be signed by the end of the day, company spokesman Matthew Frankel said.

The writers guild did not im-

mediately respond to an e-mailed request for comment.

The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers also did not immediately respond for a request for comment.

The deal with Weinstein would be the second reached with big-screen producers. United Artists made an agreement with the guild Monday to resume production.

The union has also agreed to a deal with Worldwide Pants, the

company that makes David Letterman's late-night TV show.

Terms of the Weinstein deal were not released. But a person familiar with the agreement, speaking on condition of anonymity because it had yet to be completed, said it was similar to the interim deal reached by Worldwide Pants.

A central demand has been compensation for projects distributed on the Internet. Contract talks broke off on Dec. 7.

The studio alliance has downplayed the significance of the United Artists agreement and said "one-off deals" would not lead to a permanent solution of the labor dispute.

Brothers Harvey and Bob Weinstein founded Miramax, which became part of the independent film movement in the 1990s and has produced a number of high-grossing movies. The Walt Disney Co. bought Miramax in the early 1990s, but the Weinstein brothers continued to run the studio until 2005, when they left to form the Weinstein Co.

The Weinstein name has been attached to award-winning films including "The English Patient," "Good Will Hunting" and "Chicago."

While the initial catalyst for the deal was Harvey and Bob Weinstein's relationships with writers, it was their concern over the strike's growing impact, job losses and the negotiations stalemate that pushed them to act, according to the person familiar with the deal.

The Weinsteins also were disturbed by the effect the strike that began Nov. 5 was having on the awards season, typically a time of celebration for the industry — and, for the Weinstein Co., an important promotional tool.

Under threat of union picketing and a boycott by nominated actors, Sunday's Golden Globes switched from a live ceremony filled with stars to a news conference at which winners simply will be announced.

### THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
- Pump, e.g.
  - Pesky tyke
  - Harbor protection
  - Snug
  - Top-drawer
  - Came up
  - Hardly at all
  - Prod selection
  - "Omigod!"
  - Man of one's dreams goes fishing?
  - Prod
  - Harp family member
  - Uno a due
  - Age proofs, for short
  - Pirate's quaff
  - Get the kinks out of
  - "SNL" character gets on the bus?
  - Cracker cheese
  - Cost to participate
  - Wall St. inits.
  - Atkinson character plays shortstop?
  - "What Knew"
  - Title of respect
  - Tonic partner
  - Artist's rep.
  - Hazard
  - Jipijapa hat
  - Procter & Gamble mascot wins every game?
  - Submarine pioneer
  - Helen of
  - Woe is me!
  - Sam, for one
  - Closing word
  - Incite anger
  - Not by any means
  - Puff stuff
  - Wound mark
- DOWN**
- Shrimp entree
  - "American Graffiti" car
  - Missouri mountain range
  - Singer Gorme
  - Soaker's spot
  - One-sided contest
  - Yearly record
  - Minuscule
  - "Tonight Show" host
  - Clinton's canal
  - Newsweek opener
  - Hemi-fly?
  - Encouraging word
  - Teri of "Young Frankenstein"
  - Vittles
  - Disencumbers
  - Otherwise
  - Tick off
  - Fires
  - Fr. ladies
  - Ring of blooms
  - Ang and Spike
  - Poet Lazarus
  - Retarding force
  - Somewhat excessive
  - Flight staff
  - Mr. Diamond
  - Simulate
  - Singing
  - Shootout signal
  - Of Scottish Highlanders
  - Chevy model
  - Egyptian leader
  - Go after
  - Destiny
  - Gets closer
  - Move, in realtor lingo
  - December tune
  - Burger holder
  - Calendario span

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By Doug Peterson Pasadena, CA 1/11/08

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

T E A M	B I A S	C O M E T
A M M O	U G L I	A M E B A
P O U R	L O A N	N I M B I
I T S	A L L	R I G H T T O
R E E S E	L E S	R A H
S M A R T E R	S A L A	
T A D	O N E R	S I N A I
B R E A K Y	O U R	W O R D I F
A D A N O	S A I L	A N A
R E D D	A T T L E D	
S I N L	B A N	L I E T H E
Y O U	U S E	A H Y P H E N
T A S T Y	W I S E	E R S T
U N I T E	E R A S	N O S E
T E N O R	R E P S	D E E R

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5	4		7		8
	7		.		5
			8	6	1
8		1	9		2
	1	4		3	
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	3			2	8
8				6	

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9 with no numbers repeated in any row, column or box.

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# Congress waits to hear from Selig on steroids

WASHINGTON (AP) — Baseball commissioner Bud Selig might face a brushback pitch or two when he testifies next week before a congressional committee investigating steroid use among players. But it will be nothing compared with the treatment that Congress gave the sport's first commissioner.

In 1920, in the wake of the "Black Sox" scandal, baseball owners turned to a federal judge in Chicago, Kenesaw Mountain Landis, to reign over the sport. Landis retained his judgeship, leading to an impeachment effort in the House by Rep. Benjamin Welty, D-Ohio.

"What is to prevent (baseball owners) from going into the Supreme Court now and hiring every member on the bench?" Welty asked at a House Judiciary Committee hearing on Feb. 21, 1921, according to a transcript. "I think it affects the very soul of this government."

Selig is scheduled to appear Tuesday before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Lawmakers want to know how baseball will respond to the Mitchell Report's findings about the use of steroids and



other performance-enhancing drugs.

A similar hearing involving pitcher Roger Clemens and others is set for Feb. 13. Clemens will follow a long list of players who have also come before Congress, from Ty Cobb, Mickey Mantle and Jackie Robinson in the 1950s to Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa and Rafael Palmeiro in 2005.

Landis took the impeachment effort in stride. On the day Welty filed his charges, Landis said, "I'm not worrying about this thing. I'm no

more interested in this than I am in the appointment of a new bellhop in that hotel across the street."

Welty alleged that Landis was neglecting his official duties for another job. The attorney general, A. Mitchell Palmer, had ruled that Landis violated no law by holding both positions.

The owners paid Landis \$50,000 a year, but reduced it to \$7,500, his salary as a judge. They were looking for an iron-fisted ruler to clean up the sport following the scandal in which eight Chicago White Sox players were indicted for throwing the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds.

# Winning 3 in year isn't easy against one opponent

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Jim Fassel knows the predicament Wade Phillips is going through as the Dallas Cowboys prepare for their NFC semifinal against the New York Giants.

Beating a team three times in a season is a nightmare for a coach. Fassel's stomach still churns discussing his most pressure-packed game in seven seasons as Giants coach.

It wasn't the Super Bowl against the Ravens in 2001, nor the NFC title game against Minnesota just before that. It came in the NFC semifinal that year against Philadelphia. The Giants had beaten the Eagles twice that season in winning the NFC East and gaining home-field advantage for the playoffs.

"If you get that, you have to take advantage," Fassel said. "We were playing a team we had beaten regularly, had already beaten twice that season, and if we lose at home, that's devastating. You feel like you've wasted a season. We couldn't let it get away."

Seven years later, the Giants (11-5) are in the reverse situation. They are going to Dallas (13-3) trying to avoid the three-game sweep by Phillips and his team.

"I talked to Wade yesterday and I can guarantee you by the tone of his voice he is not taking this thing lightly," said Fassel, now an analyst for CBS Radio

Sports/Westwood One. Former Giants and Cowboys players who have faced the same team three times in a season said the one thing you can rely on is there will be change in that third game.

Offensive linemen Brad Benson and Karl Nelson recall Bill Parcells got very conservative in facing the Washington Redskins a third time for the 1986 NFC championship.

That game is best remembered for being played in a vicious wind. New York won 17-0 and went on to capture its first Super Bowl.

Cowboys linebacker Greg Ellis' memories of the 1998 NFC wild-card game against Arizona aren't that great. Dallas beat Arizona twice in the regular season and took the Cardinals lightly.

Giants coach Tom Coughlin thinks of mistakes in his Jaguars' loss to Tennessee in the AFC title game in January 2000, Jacksonville's third straight loss to the Titans that season — and the Jags' only losses.

Fassel ended up winning his big game 20-10, but it didn't go as planned.

"From a coaching perspective, the first thing you worry about is your team thinking we have their number, and they can't beat us," Fassel said. "You don't have to go overboard, but you have to talk your way through it. Then you worry about the other team and you know they are going to come in (angry)."

# Baseball, NFL each give \$3 million to USOC-sponsored steroid research

DENVER (AP) — Major League Baseball and the NFL agreed to join the U.S. Olympic Committee to fund anti-doping research, contributing \$3 million each to create the most extensive drug-fighting partnership between America's biggest pro leagues and its Olympic federation.

The USOC is also giving \$3 million and the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency is giving \$1 million to the new Partnership for Clean Competition, a collaborative that will use the initial \$10 million to fund grants for research to combat performance-enhancing drugs in sports.

"Major League Baseball's support of this important new effort by the U.S. Olympic Committee and the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency continues our commitment to fight the use of performance-enhancing substances

among our athletes," baseball commissioner Bud Selig said Thursday in a statement obtained by The Associated Press.

Baseball and the NFL have long distanced themselves from anti-doping programs endorsed by the USOC and USADA, saying their programs are tailored specifically for their sports and the management-union issues unique to them.

While this collaborative isn't a shift in the testing protocols of those leagues, it is significant because of the USOC's partnership with USADA, which is widely perceived as running the most effective anti-doping programs.

It's especially significant for baseball given the Mitchell Report and Selig's vow to clean things up in the sport.

The idea was spearheaded by

the USOC, which has pledged to do more in the anti-doping fight, and has become more vocal on the issue in the last two years, which have included a barrage of steroid stories ranging from track to cycling to baseball.

"It is vital that the major sport organizations in America work together to combat a problem that, left unchecked, has the potential to destroy the value and integrity of sport," USOC chairman Peter Ueberroth said.

Up to now, the research part of the anti-doping fight has been underfunded. Scientists and pharmacists have been able to come up with new, undetectable steroids more quickly than agencies like USADA have come up with tests to fight them.

The initial \$10 million, to be spent over the next four years — the

USOC expects the amount and the time commitment to increase if the program is a success — will go to researchers who have ideas about finding and detecting designer substances and also toward further development of a better and cheaper test to detect human growth hormone.

Baseball recently gave scientist Don Catlin \$500,000 to find an effective urine test for HGH and Catlin has said he's making progress. But it didn't change his overall view on the fight against doping in sports.

"But let's say we get that contained tomorrow," Catlin said last month. "The next day, there's going to be another one."

The NBA, NHL and PGA are also participating in the research collaborative, and the USOC is seeking more funding from sports and non-sports corporations.

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**PART TIME** help wanted in fast paced warehouse environment. Apply in person at 36th & Ave. A. Lubbock Bolt Bin. Ask for Keegan.

**PART TIME NANNY NEEDED**  
 Tuesday/Thursday, 9am - 5pm. Experience with children preferred. Please call 780-7397.

**PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST** needed. 15hrs/wk with opportunity for full-time. Knowledge of Microsoft Office suite a must. M-F 3:30-5:30 Sat. 9am-2pm. Call Kelly (806)283-6964.

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**STONELAKE APARTMENTS** seeking leasing consultant. Applicant must be outgoing and have positive attitude. M&W 9-4, Sat 10-5 and Sun 1-4. Drug screen and background check a must. Apply in person or send resume by email or fax. 7414 Elgin Ave., 748-1602 (fax) stephaniedodson@qnts-online.net.

**STUDENT NEEDED** as a part time assistant in a physical therapy position for male patient in private home. Training will be provided. Excellent opportunity for experience in field of health care. 795-7495.

**WE ARE** looking for a creative, self-motivated, team player for a part-time position. The qualified candidate must be proficient in Microsoft office and be knowledgeable in Photoshop and InDesign. Attention to detail, strong communication skills and the ability to multitask in a fast paced environment are a must. Send Resume, with all software knowledge, to [cev@cevmultimedia.com](mailto:cev@cevmultimedia.com) or PO Box 65265, Lubbock, TX, 79464. Attention: Marketing Assistant

**2704 63RD.** Remodeled, 3 bedroom brick home. New central h/a. W/D connections. \$600/mo. 392-0408, 792-5661.

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**3414 25TH ST. 3/1.** \$900/mo, \$450 deposit. Remodeled interior. For information call 687-7228.

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# SPORTS

PAGE 8  
FRIDAY, JAN. 11, 2008

## Red Raiders open conference against surging Oklahoma State

By ADAM COLEMAN  
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech men's basketball team expects a competitive game when it begins conference play against Oklahoma State at 12:30 p.m. Saturday in Stillwater, Okla.

With two close games between

these two teams in 2006-07, including a double-overtime loss to the Cowboys, Tech guard Charlie Burgess said the Red Raiders are prepared for any possibility when they face Oklahoma State.

"It's going to be a tough atmosphere," Burgess said. "I know we played them last year, and it went to a double-overtime game. Hostile crowd, it's going to be rough."

In the 2006-07 season, the Cowboys and the Red Raiders split the season series with one of the most competitive games of the season coming in Stillwater.

In the 93-91 double-overtime win, OSU's Mario Boggan, Jameson Curry and Terrel Harris scored in double figures, while the team shot 50 percent from the field.

Tech (9-5) has not defeated Oklahoma State in Stillwater since the 2002-03 season. The Cowboys also have a 27-12 advantage over the Red Raiders all-time with 16 of those wins coming in Gallagher-Iba Arena.

"We've always had good games between us," Tech head coach designate Pat Knight said. "All the games are usually pretty close, home

and away. It's always been pretty good. You go up there, the atmosphere is unbelievable. The solid ocean of orange. They did a nice job when they rebuilt the inside. They're right on top of you. You can't ask for better college atmosphere."

Both teams carry winning streaks leading into this game. The Cowboys (9-5) are on a four-game winning streak, while the Red Raiders claim a three-game winning streak heading into Big 12 Conference play.

Tech and OSU have struggled as well, with the Cowboys and the Red Raiders at the bottom of the conference in total wins.

Tech coach Bob Knight said although both teams have hit some rough spots, the Red Raiders only will focus on what they can control.

"Well, we've struggled too," Bob Knight said. "We've spent our time paying attention to what we're doing and what we have to do and how we can improve, and we haven't actually in any way."

OSU coach Sean Sutton understands his team's conference opener will be one it has to work for, and he believes the Red Raiders may be one of the toughest teams in the Big 12 South.

"I don't think there's any doubt about it," he said. "I think anytime you play against one of coach Knight's teams, you can expect a tough battle

— that they're guys are going to play extremely hard. Over the years, we've had some great games with Texas Tech. The two last years were completely different games but both extremely competitive, both very close."

The Red Raiders expect Oklahoma State to retain its defensive philosophy Saturday playing Tech using a man-to-man defense.

"You know they're going to defend the hell out of you," Pat Knight said. "They played some zone lately against us, but going against one of Sean's or his dad's teams defensively, they're going to be into you."

Offensively, the Cowboys feature James Anderson as the team's leading scorer with 16.8 points per game, good for fourth in the conference. Other players averaging double figures are Marcus Dove, averaging 10.5 points per game, and Harris with 11.3 points per game.

The Red Raiders have three players averaging double figures as well: Martin Zeno with 16.5 points per game, Alan Voskuil at 13.1 points per game and freshman John Roberson with 12.7.

Voskuil leads the conference in 3-point field goal percentage, while Roberson is a two-time Big 12 Rookie of the Week this season.

Tech's game against Oklahoma State is scheduled to air on CBS.

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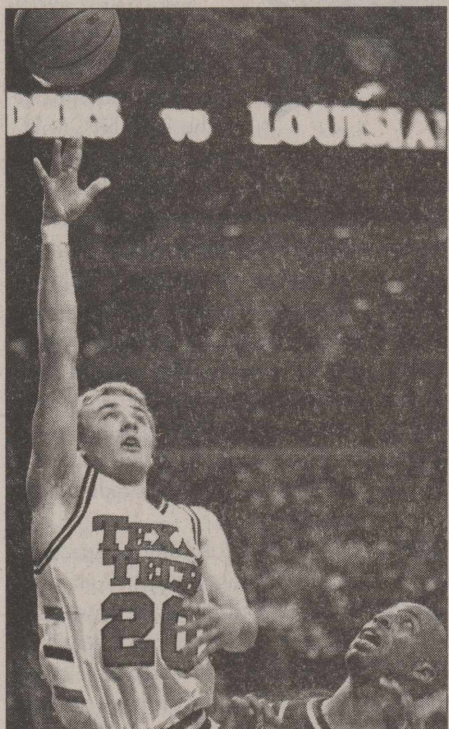


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador  
TEXAS TECH JUNIOR Alan Voskuil shoots a floater over a TCU defender.

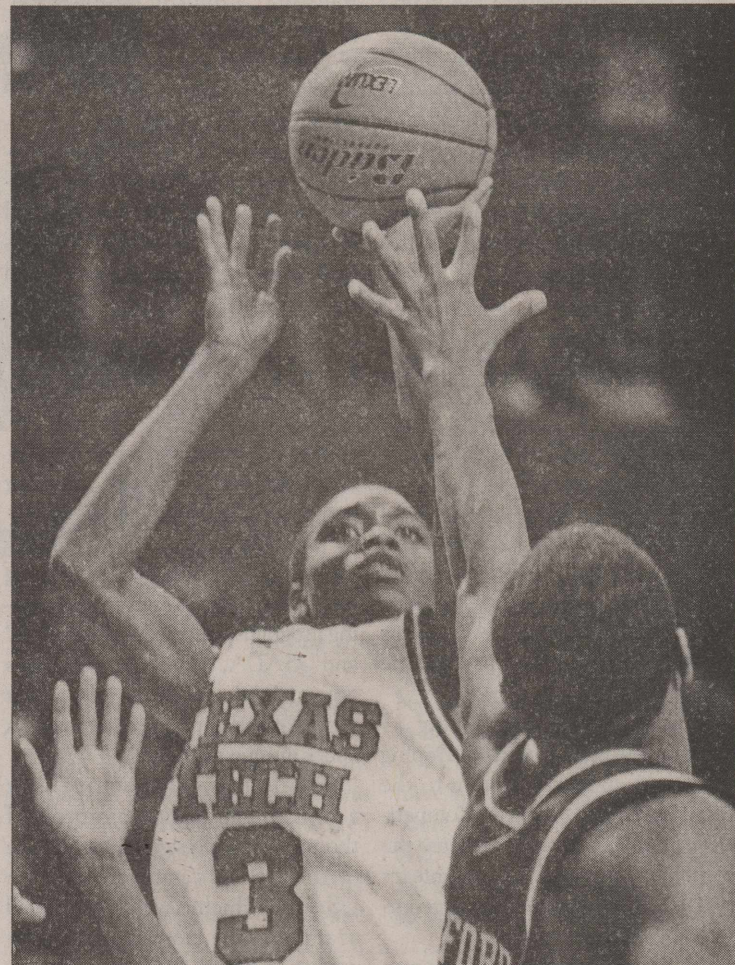


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador  
TEXAS TECH GUARD Martin Zeno shoots over TCU forward Kevin Langford earlier this season at the United Spirit Arena. The Red Raiders are 9-5 heading into Big 12 Conference play.

## Lady Raiders try to avoid 3-game skid Saturday against Mizzou

By ALEX YBARRA  
STAFF WRITER

For the Texas Tech Lady Raider basketball team, losing the first two games in Big 12 Conference play would make an already tough schedule even more difficult.

Tech (12-3, 0-1 in Big 12 Conference play) lost a close game to Baylor Wednesday in Lubbock, 72-67, the first time the Lady Raiders have lost back-to-back games this season — both by ranked opponents. The previous loss came at the hands of then-No. 25 Arkansas, 80-57, Jan. 5.

"It's a hurtful loss, but we're not just going to let it stand in our way," guard Maria Moore said, who recorded 10 points and six assists against Baylor. "We're just going to bounce back from it, just like we would any other game."

Tech will turn its attention to the Missouri Tigers (7-7, 0-1) who lost to No. 23 Colorado Wednesday at Mizzou Arena in Columbia, Mo.

Tech guard Jordan Murphree said she believes it's imperative that Tech recover from Wednesday's loss with a victory, considering the strength of the Big 12 schedule.

"We need to split our record at least and go 1-1," Murphree said. "So it'll help to get a win on the road. We can't get down 0-2 in the Big 12 Conference, or we won't have a chance."

Falling behind 0-2 in conference may not carry the same weight it did a year ago. The parity of the Big 12 was obvious on opening night, as a couple of teams served upsets to powerhouse teams, which suggests anyone can win the conference, coach Kristy Curry said.

Nebraska knocked off No. 15 Texas, 56-45, and Kansas State finished on top of No. 12 Texas A&M, 67-54.

Missouri's recent skid, losing three of its last four, could be misleading, Curry said.

The Tigers are present athletic

players who cause mismatches on the perimeter, particularly 6-foot junior guard Alyssa Hollins, who scored 22 points against the Buffaloes Wednesday.

In Hollins' last game against the Lady Raiders in Lubbock, the Mesquite-native posted 20 points, mostly coming from her 6-of-8 night from behind the 3-point line.

"She's very talented," Curry said of Hollins, who averages 17.1 points per game. "She's a Texas girl. She'll be fired up and ready to play. She's a tough matchup for a lot of people in this league."

Sophomore forward Jessa Johnson and freshman forward Shakara Jones average double figures with 15.8 and 12.6 points per game, respectively.

Curry said as long as her team plays with the same tenacity as in the game against Baylor and takes better care of the ball, then the Lady Raiders will place

themselves in a position to beat the Tigers, as well as maneuver their way through the Big 12 in a successful manner.

"It's about us coming out and playing aggressive and attacking and playing with a lot of energy and poise," Curry said. "The kind of effort we had against Baylor will give you the chance to win on the road in the Big 12, bottom line."

Coming off a game in which she tied a career-high in points with 22, Tech forward Dominic Seals said she believes Tech will win at Missouri if it can improve on the physical play she witnessed in the Baylor game.

"We were aggressive (Wednesday)," she said, "but I think we need to be more aggressive boxing out and on defending the 3-point shooters; if we can do that, then we'll be the better team."

Tipoff is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Saturday in Columbia.

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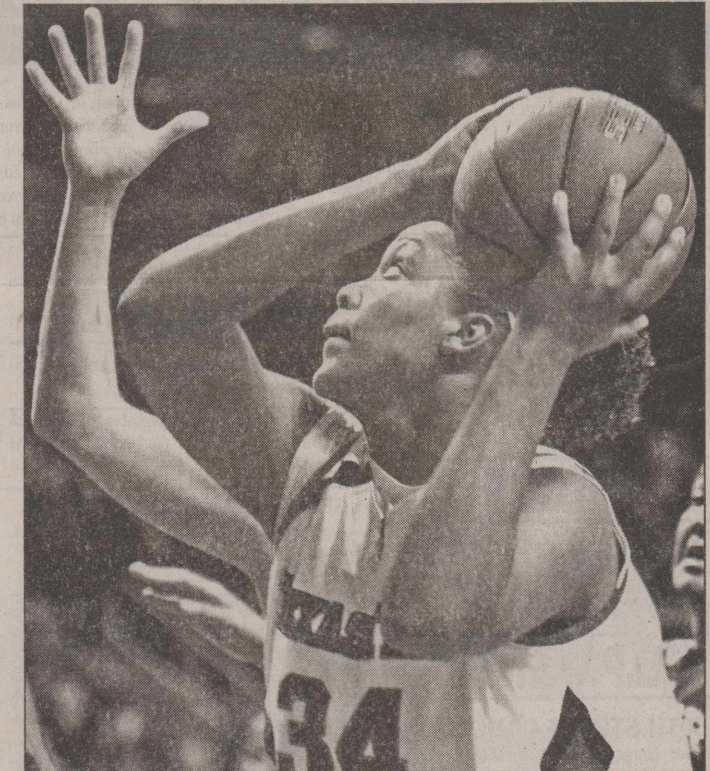
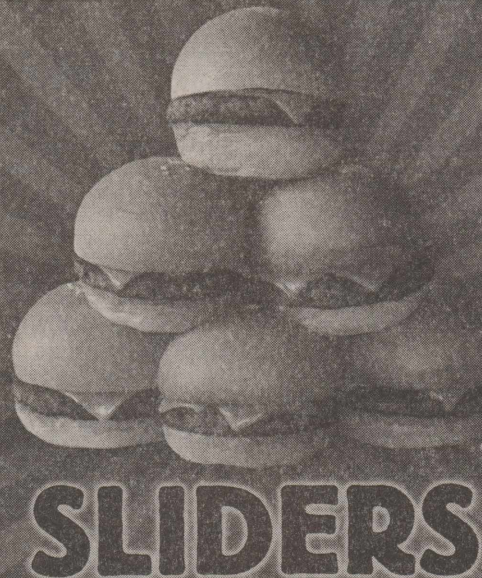


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador  
TEXAS TECH CENTER Erin Myrick shoots over a defender during a game earlier this season at the United Spirit Arena.

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## Dolphins GM cites 'urgency' in hiring QBs coach

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — New Miami Dolphins general manager Jeff Ireland says the team moved quickly to hire David Lee as quarterbacks coach because

of the job's importance, even though the head coaching position remains vacant.

Lee is a former Dallas Cowboys

assistant.

"There was an urgency to find the right person to coach the most important position on the team," Ireland said in a statement. "We didn't want to lose the ability to add someone as talented as David to our staff, so when he became available, we had to move quickly to bring him on board."

The Dolphins on Thursday confirmed the hiring of Lee, first reported earlier this week.

"In order to be successful in this league, it is imperative to get the most out of the

quarterback position," Ireland said. "To do that, you not only need the right quarterback, but the right quarterbacks coach."

"It is critical to hire someone who understands the position and can develop players there, and David has the ability to do that."

The Dolphins may tap the Dallas pipeline again for their head coach. Cowboys assistant head coach Tony Sparano is considered the front-runner, but talks are on hold while Dallas prepares for its opening playoff game Sunday against the New York Giants.

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