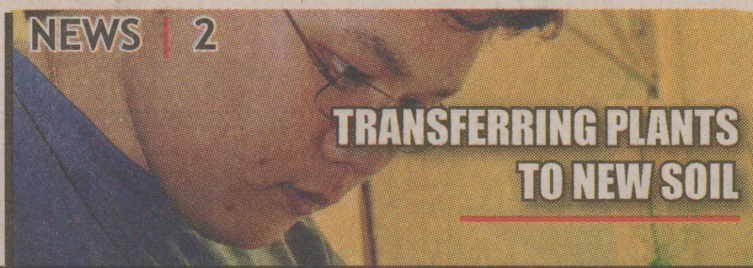


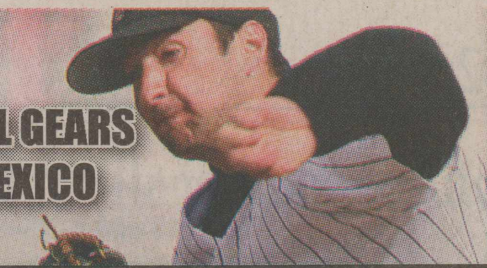
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TRANSFERRING PLANTS TO NEW SOIL



TECH BASEBALL GEARS UP FOR NEW MEXICO



THE DAILY T O R E A D O R

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Texas Tech University
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2008
VOLUME 82 ■ ISSUE 127

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(INSIDE)



TECH PLAYS TEXAS STATE TODAY
SEE PAGE 8

(INBRIEF)

STATE

Alon refinery in Big Spring reopens after explosion

DALLAS (AP) — The West Texas oil refinery closed by an explosion in February reopened at about half-capacity on Monday, but part of the Alon USA Energy Inc. plant shut down again after a fire broke out in an asphalt tank.

Alon Chief Executive Jeff D. Morris called the fire “minor” and said there were no injuries, but it closed a unit that prepares crude oil for refining into finished products such as gasoline.

NATION

Torch protesters scale Golden Gate Bridge

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Three people protesting China’s human rights record and the impending arrival of the Olympic torch climbed up the Golden Gate Bridge on Monday and tied the Tibetan flag and two banners to its cables.

The banners read “One World One Dream. Free Tibet” and “Free Tibet 08.”

The protesters wore helmets and harnesses as they made their way up the cables running next to the south tower of the famed span.

WORLD

Mugabe militants target white farmers

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Militant supporters of President Robert Mugabe targeted whites Monday, forcing about a dozen ranchers and farmers off their land as Zimbabwe’s longtime ruler fanned racial tensions amid fears he will turn to violence to hold on to power.

Mugabe’s opponents pressed a lawsuit seeking to compel the publication of results of the March 29 presidential election that they say Morgan Tsvangirai won.

DEATH TOLL

4014

U.S. Military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press confirmed by the Department of Defense

WEATHER

Today

CLOUDY
HIGH 76
LOW 42

Wednesday

SHOWERS
HIGH 67
LOW 45

INSIDE

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Hundreds flee fighting in Baghdad

By **ROBERT H. REID**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD (AP) — Hundreds of people fled fighting in Baghdad’s Shiite militia stronghold Monday as U.S. and Iraqi forces increased pressure on anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who faces an ultimatum to disband his Mahdi Army or face a ban from Iraqi politics.

Al-Sadr’s aides said he would only dismantle the powerful militia if ordered by top Shiite clerics — who have remained silent throughout the increasingly dangerous showdown.

Although al-Sadr holds considerable influence through the Madhi fighters — estimated at up to 60,000 — political exile for his movement would shatter his dream of becoming the major

power broker among the country’s Shiite majority.

Gunbattles raged around the sprawling Sadr City district that serves as the Baghdad nerve center of the Mahdi militia, which has been under siege since last week by about 1,000 U.S. and Iraqi troops.

Police said at least 14 civilians were killed in clashes Monday in the Baghdad area, nine of them in Sadr City. Frightened families poured out of Sadr City — some carrying their belongings in sacks or piled in pushcarts.

Three American soldiers were killed Monday in separate attacks in the capital — one by small arms fire and two others by a rocket-propelled grenade, the U.S. said without specifying the neighborhood or

whether Shiite extremists were responsible. At least 10 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq since Sunday.

The rapid tumble back to street battles in Baghdad — at an intensity not seen since last year’s flood of U.S. troops into the city — is a worrisome backdrop to Wednesday’s planned appearance before Congress by top commander Gen. David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker to report on progress in Iraq and prospects for further troop reductions.

With the crisis showing no sign of abating, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki raised the stakes.

The Shiite prime minister told CNN on Sunday that al-Sadr and his followers would not be allowed to participate in politics or run

in provincial elections this fall “unless they end the Mahdi Army.”

Al-Maliki’s statement followed a weekend declaration by top Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish leaders to support legislation banning any party that maintained a militia.

Facing broad political opposition, key al-Sadr aides went on the defensive Monday, insisting that banning them from politics would be unconstitutional. They proposed talks to resolve the standoff.

“We are calling for dialogue as a way to solve problems among Iraqi groups,” al-Sadr aide Salah al-Obeidi told AP Television News in the holy city of Najaf. “Al-Sadr’s office” affirms that the door is open to reach an understanding regarding these problems.

NEXT IN LINE

Morris works to become latest breakout receiver for Texas Tech



By **ADAM COLEMAN**
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech receiver Eric Morris can be seen as a perfectionist.

His mentality is similar to a typical receiver preparing for his senior season and hoping for his best season as a Red Raider.

“That’s my attitude,” Morris said. “I strive for perfection. I’m pretty hard on myself and like to make plays. I know it’s gonna happen every once in a while. That’s just something I have to work on, my consistency.”

Danny Amendola left a void at inside receiver as a leader and a competitor on the field. Morris and Amendola no longer stand as the inside receivers for the Red Raiders.

Morris, with his perfectionist ways, hopes to keep a trend going by emerging as another leader among the receivers in

his final season as a Red Raider.

Amendola’s best season as a Red Raider came in his final one, as he racked up 103 catches for 1,177 yards and five touchdowns. Morris said he hopes to do the same.

The 2007 season was a breakout year for Morris, as he piled up a career-high in catches, yards and touchdowns. He finished the season with 66 receptions for 690 yards and nine touchdowns. Morris had one touchdown catch in 2006, along with 25 catches for 347 yards.

Morris emerged on the field closer to the end of last season, highlighted by his performance in the Gator Bowl Jan. 1. He finished that game with nine receptions for 77 yards in the 31-28 win over Virginia.

Last season was the catapult Morris said he needed to improve his impact on the Red Raiders for 2008, whether it be helping younger receivers or catching touchdowns.

“(It is) my last year here,” he said. “Last

year was a good starting point. Caught a lot of balls. I’m excited just to do whatever it takes to make this team better and continue on and try to catch the balls and make plays for these guys.”

Morris took a lot from Amendola last year that he plans to carry with him throughout the spring.

Morris said Amendola made him a better player and some of what he learned from the former Tech receiver is instilled in him.

“He’s a good friend of mine,” he said. “He’s a competitive guy. Someone I always like to come out here and compete with, day-in and day-out. I just want to play hard each and every day. Whether it’s practice or a game, be really consistent. I think the main thing is, try to lead by consistency and try to avoid the slow days and the days where you don’t have much production.”

Morris, along with Detron Lewis, is expected to start at inside receiver heading into spring competitions.

MORRIS continued on page 6.

PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH SENIOR ERIC MORRIS catches a pass from quarterback Graham Harrell Wednesday evening during practice.

Unrelenting demonstrations disrupt Olympic torch relay across Paris

By **JEROME PUGMIRE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS (AP) — Paris’ Olympic torch relay descended into chaos Monday, with protesters scaling the Eiffel Tower, grabbing for the flame and forcing security officials to repeatedly snuff out the torch and transport it by bus past demonstrators yelling “Free Tibet!”

The relentless anti-Chinese demonstrations ignited across the capital with unexpected power and ingenuity, foiling 3,000 police officers deployed on motorcycles, in jogging gear and even inline skates.

Chinese organizers finally gave up on the relay, canceling the last third of what China had hoped would be a joyous jog by torch-bearing VIPs past some of Paris’ most famous landmarks.

Thousands of protesters slowed the relay to a stop-start crawl, with impassioned displays of

anger over China’s human rights record, its grip on Tibet and support for Sudan despite years of bloodshed in Darfur.

Five times, the Chinese officials in dark glasses and tracksuits who guard the torch extinguished it and retreated to the safety of a bus — the last time emerging only after the vehicle drove within 15 feet of the final stop, a track and field stadium. A torchbearer then ran the final steps inside.

Outside, a few French activists supporting Tibet had a fist-fight with pro-Chinese demonstrators. The French activists spat on them and shouted, “Fascists!”

In San Francisco, where the torch is due to arrive Wednesday, three protesters wearing harnesses and helmets climbed up the Golden Gate Bridge and tied the Tibetan flag and two banners to its cables. The banners read “One World One Dream. Free Tibet” and “Free Tibet.”

The 17.4-mile route in Paris started at the Eiffel Tower, headed down the Champs-Élysées toward City Hall, then crossed the Seine before ending at the Charlety track and field stadium.

Throughout the day, protesters booed trucks emblazoned with the names of Olympic corporate sponsors, chained themselves to railings and hurled water at the flame. Some unfurled banners depicting the Olympic rings as handcuffs from the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame cathedral. Others waved signs reading “the flame of shame.”

The Interior Ministry said police made 18 arrests.

Officers sprayed tear gas to break up a sit-in by about 300 pro-Tibet demonstrators who blocked the route. Police tackled protesters who ran at the torch; at least two activists got within arm’s length before they

were grabbed by police. Near the Louvre, police blocked a protester who approached the flame with a fire extinguisher.

One detained demonstrator, handcuffed in a police bus, wrote “liber” on her right palm and “te” on the other — spelling the French word for “freedom” — and held them up to the window.

With protesters slowing down the relay, a planned stop at Paris City Hall was canceled. Earlier, French officials hung a banner declaring support for human rights on the building’s facade.

A spokesman for the French Olympic Committee, Denis Masegla, estimated that a third of the 80 athletes and other VIPs who had been slated to carry the torch did not get to do so.

On a bus carrying French athletes, one man in a track suit shed a tear as protesters pelted the vehicle with eggs, bottles and soda cans.

X-PLANT



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

WORKING ON HIS bio-chemistry graduate research project, Bang Wang from Dallas, transfers a mutant plant into a different soil in hopes that the plant will grow better Monday afternoon in the Chemistry building.

New program to produce nurses in year

The Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Nursing will begin a new program in Abilene this fall to get nursing students through school in one year.

The second-degree nursing program will use an Internet-based curriculum to teach students the basics of the profession. Students then will get their clinical experience at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene, according to a news release from the Health Sciences Center.

"We're looking at addressing the nursing shortage, so we want to get the students through school as quickly as possible," said Patricia Francis-Johnson, coordinator for the second-degree program. "In a traditional program, it can take two years to get through nursing school, so we're just accelerating the process."

Francis-Johnson said students will learn with the help of various technological advances, including laptop computers, personal digital assistants and a simulation lab, in which students can practice health care techniques on a lifelike mannequin.

"With the growing need for well-trained nurses in Texas and across the country, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center is committed to creating programs that prepare nursing students to meet the challenges of today's complex health care field," said Dr. John Baldwin, president of the Health Sciences Center, in the release.

The School of Nursing anticipates having about 20 students in the inaugural class, which will begin in the fall.

"We anticipate having at least that many in the future," Francis-Johnson said, but the class sizes are limited because of the program's requirements.

During the clinical experience, each student will be assigned to a practicing nurse, who will serve as a coach and mentor for the student.

"The availability of coaches is the limitation," Francis-Johnson said.

According to the release, the program is available to anyone who meets certain admissions requirements and has received a bachelor's degree, no matter what field it was received in.

Applications for the program are due June 1, and all questions should be directed to Marilyn Taylor, the second-degree program coordinator, at 806-743-4844.

► glenys.bolls@ttu.edu

Texas Tech increasing funds for merit scholarships

By HANNAH BOEN
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech officials hope to draw in more high-achieving freshmen this fall with a 64-percent funding increase for merit scholarships.

The university increased its scholarship distribution to \$12 million to compete with other universities in attracting merit scholars. Tech already offers one of the strongest merit scholarship programs in the Big 12, according to the university's admissions Web site, www.admissions.ttu.edu. The increased funds to merit scholarships will allow Tech to guarantee a reward for incoming freshmen students in the Top 15 percent of their graduating class who have a composite ACT score of 26, or a 1200 on the math and critical reading portions of the SAT.

Rob Shindell, associate vice president in the Office of Admissions, said he believes the increase in the dollar amount and range of the award is "a great thing for Texas Tech."

It allows the university to be more competitive, and I think it rewards students who want to come to Texas Tech," he said.

Students with this academic qualification will be awarded \$8,000 for

four years. However, incoming freshmen with higher test scores can earn

"It allows the university to be more competitive, and I think it rewards students who want to come to Texas Tech."

— ROB SHINDELL
ASSOC. VICE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

up to \$30,000 for five years. Before the funding increased, the university's merit scholars program offered financial awards to students in the Top 10 percent of their class, according to the release.

"We are addressing the needs of an extra 5 percent of students," Shindell said. "There's no other school in Texas that does that."

The increase in funding will al-

low the university to include more academically successful students, he said.

Becky Wilson, managing director in the department of Student Financial Aid, said the department could see approximately 100 more students than it has seen in the past.

Admissions and Student Financial Aid staff hope the new requirements will be more inclusive and will attract more students to attend Tech, Wilson said.

"Merit scholarships, of course, are not the only scholarships we offer, but we hope to attract merit students," she said. "We want to be able to offer qualified students assistance in paying tuition."

Other than merit-based scholarships, the university offers scholarships for financial need and community involvement, Wilson said. Tech awards almost 7,000 scholarships every year, and Wilson said she believes an increased range and dollar amount for scholarship awards will make the university more competitive.

"We're trying to attract qualified students to Texas Tech," she said. "Anytime we do that, it is an investment in our students and our institution."

► hannah.boen@ttu.edu

Celebrating Texas Tech University's Phi Beta Kappa Chapter



Congratulations to these eighty-five outstanding students who will be inducted into Phi Beta Kappa on April 9. Founded in 1776, Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest and most prestigious academic honorary. Only ten percent of the nation's universities have Phi Beta Kappa chapters, and only ten percent of the top liberal arts and sciences students from these schools may be elected into lifetime membership. Texas Tech is one of only three public universities in Texas hosting Phi Beta Kappa chapters.

Texas Tech University's Phi Beta Kappa ceremony is free and open to the public on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, at 4 p.m. in the Allen Theatre. Scheduled to speak are Chancellor Kent Hance, TTUHSC President John Baldwin, and the distinguished historian and President of the National Phi Beta Kappa Society, Dr. Allison Blakely.

Brandon Bailey
Stacy E. Ball
Brett Barker
Sara Bayona
Nick Bergfeld
Eric Beutlich
Heather L. Black
Kelli Brown
Michael Cappelli
Brian Rene Case
Susan Caudill
Brittany Chan
Jeannine Choate
Ashley Chollar
Betsy Clark
John C. Cowling
Ashley S. Cox
Elizabeth B. Cox
Crystal Craig
Keri Jo Cummings
Daniel Durell
Michelle Falconer
Noveen Fatima
William Flanary
Rajan Gadhia
Amy L. Golightly
Noemi Guerrero
Brittany Hanlon

Mallori M. Hass
Amanda Hatfield
Charlie Hearne
Stephen Herrmann
Sharon Hughes
Lance Jackson
Jamie Jacquier
Levi Johnson
Allyson N. Keslin
John T. Kidwell
Lucas King
Lauren Koetting
Lisa M. Lomas
Geoffrey Lowe
Stephanie Lyells
Jonathan Martin
Grant Matthews
Whitney McBrayer
Jessica McCoury
Stephen McDonald
Scarlett McKenzie
Skyler McLaurin
Kellen Mcmanus
Courtney Mitchell
Micah Montgomery
Mary Ann Mullen
Erika Neeley
Matt Nestander
Thao Nguyen

Samantha J. Nicks
Lincy Oommen
Jason A. Orck
Jon K. Ormson
Martha Penturf
Bradley Phillips
Matthew Richards
Matthew Roth
David Schaefer
Jolie Beth Scott
Heather Jo Shelton
Colleen Sisneros
Melanie R. Smith
Camille Stephens
Dustin Stidger
Katie Stokes
Amanda Thomson
Hannah Ngoc Tran
Prathibha Varughese
Amy M. Ventura
Michael Waller
Walter J. Wever
Amanda Whitson
Mattie C. Wilson
Benjamin Wolcott
Deane Wood
Anita Yarlagadda
Noelle Zavala

Questions? Contact Dr. Mary Jane Hurst in the Office of the President at Texas Tech University. www.pbk.org www.depts.ttu.edu/phiбетakappa

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ODDBALL DAILY

Court rejects woman's damages claim for having kebab thrown at her

MUNICH, Germany (AP) — A German court has rejected an employee's demand that an irate customer pay damages for throwing a half-eaten kebab at her. The claim stems from an altercation in June in which a kebab customer unsuccessfully demanded his money back. He says he then tossed the food behind the counter. The employee claims the customer called her a "stupid cow" and aimed the kebab at her. She says she narrowly avoided the flying kebab and wants at least \$390 in damages. The court in Munich said in a ruling made public Monday that the employee failed to prove her claim — and that it doesn't matter anyway. The ruling says she's not entitled to damages because being targeted with a kebab does not constitute a "serious violation ... of human dignity and honor."

Man accused of using hedgehog as weapon

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — A New Zealand man has been accused of assault with prickly weapon — a hedgehog. Police allege that William Singalargh picked up the hedgehog and threw it several yards to hit a 15-year-old boy in the North Island east coast town of Whakatane on Feb. 9. "It hit the victim in the leg, causing a large, red welt and several puncture marks," police Senior Sgt. Bruce Jenkins said Monday. The teen did not need medical treatment, he added. The Herald on Sunday newspaper reported that it was not known whether the hedgehog was dead or alive at the time of the attack, but that it was dead when collected as evidence. Jenkins said Singalargh, 27, was arrested shortly after the incident on a charge of assault with a weapon. He is expected to appear in court again on April 17. His lawyer, Rebecca Plunket, said Singalargh intends to plead innocent. The maximum penalty for the charge is five years in prison. While using a hedgehog as a weapon in an assault is uncommon, Jenkins said, "People often get charged with assault for throwing things at other people."

Immigration issue separates man from his wife

PROVO, Utah (AP) — A 96-year-old man who outlived two wives is separated from his third — by immigration problems. Canadian Doreen Buttery, 73, was a temporary visitor when she met Leonard "Woody" Woodward at a senior center in Provo. They wed this year and honeymooned in Alberta — which gave Buttery the chance to sell her house and prepare to move to Provo permanently. But she hadn't filled out the paperwork to immigrate and was stuck at the border as her husband took the bus back to Provo. "We tried to provide her as much guidance as we could," said Larry Overcast, port director at the Customs and Border Protection entry point in Sweetgrass, Mont. Woodward and a neighbor who has a law degree are trying to put together the paperwork to bring Doreen back. But it's a complicated process that takes time. "It's on a merry-go-round," Woodward said. Buttery will also have to go through an interview, so U.S. officials can determine the marriage is legitimate and not just an attempt to bypass immigration rules. Woodward said he can still get by on his own, but he doesn't like it. "I need her home, bad," he said.

Robber left police his real name, filed application before crime

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) — Police say they got a major clue to the identity of a suspect in the armed robbery of a convenience store — his job application. Investigators in Athens, Ga., say Demetrius Robinson filled out the application to kill time while waiting for the Golden Pantry store to empty of customers. Authorities say it was Robinson who then produced a knife and held up the store last week. The job application gave Robinson's name and an uncle's phone number, but a phony address. Police arrested the 28-year-old man Saturday on armed robbery charges. An official at the Clarke County Jail said Robinson remained in custody Sunday but did not know whether he had an attorney.


American, Briton accused of illegally covering Zimbabwean election are released on bail

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — A New York Times correspondent and a British man who were arrested and accused of reporting illegally in Zimbabwe are now free on bail, but their passports are being held and they are unable to leave the country, a lawyer said Monday. Barry Bearak, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist for the Times, suffered a back injury during a fall in his cell, said Harrison Nkomo, a lawyer representing the two. The Times reported on its Web site Monday that Bearak had fallen 7 feet from his bunk onto a concrete floor in his cell. The identity of the Briton being held has not been made public. He is staying at the British Embassy. The journalists were detained Thursday by heavily armed riot police who surrounded and entered a Harare hotel frequented by foreign reporters. Zimbabwe's government had banned most foreign journalists from covering the elections and also barred Western election observers. The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists expressed alarm at the arrests and called for the reporters' immediate release. On Monday, the group said it was "relieved" Bearak was no longer in jail. "We ask that authorities refrain from pursuing any legal action and return Bearak's passport," CPJ executive director Joel Simon said. "Journalists must be allowed to cover this important story." Zimbabwe's government controls the country's local media and refused to accredit scores of reporters from abroad for the elections. The Foreign Correspondents Association of Southern Africa, which represents 192 journalists from 122 media around the world, had protested what it called a "near-blanket denial of accreditation." A judge had ordered the foreigners' release last week but they continued to be held for days. Bill Keller, executive editor of The New York Times, said Saturday that Bearak had been interrogated for hours by police trying to get him to give names of people he had interviewed. Nkomo said the journalists are expected to appear in court Thursday, at which point he plans to argue they should not be tried at all because they did not commit a crime. The offense, if convicted, carries a maximum penalty of a fine, two years in prison, or both, another lawyer said earlier. Two South Africans similarly charged also were granted bail Monday, but were not released because the ruling came too late for payment to be made, Nkomo said. He said they were expected to be released Tuesday.

Student Affairs to host conference about social networking Web sites


Texas Tech's Division of Student Affairs will host an audio conference about social networking Web sites and how they relate to college students at noon today in the Lubbock Room of the Student Union Building. The telephone conference will feature Tomas Gonzalez, senior assistant dean at Syracuse University and an expert on legal issues in higher education, said Zane Reif, associate director of Student Union and Activities. "It was just a matter of getting together to raise awareness about Facebook, how students are using Facebook, how campuses across the country are using it in judicial cases, or if they are at all," he said. "I think, more than anything, it is more of a familiarity thing for educational purposes by the Division of Student Affairs." As of Monday afternoon, approximately 24 people signed up to attend the event, Reif said. With space for approximately 40 participants, anybody interested in attending is asked to contact Reif at 742-3636 to reserve a spot. Also, interested people can e-mail an RSVP to him at zane.reif@ttu.edu. matthew.mcgowan@ttu.edu

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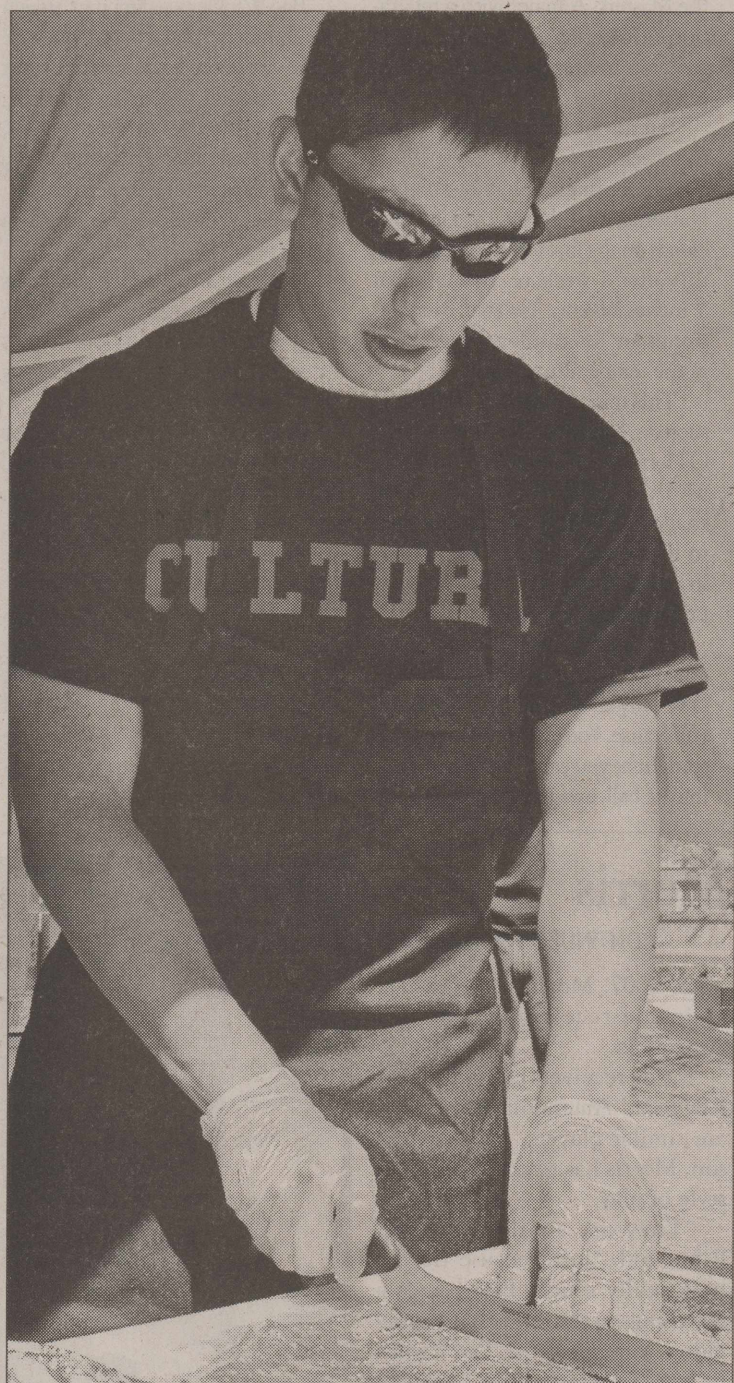


PHOTO BY JESSICA RIVERA/The Daily Toreador

FRESHMAN CIVIL ENGINEERING major David Sanchez from Lubbock prepares fajitas to be grilled to raise money for the Hispanic Student Society outside the Student Union Building Monday.

Bay City wants second chance to honor Madonna

BAY CITY, Mich. (AP) — A city that more than two decades ago declined to honor Madonna with a key to the city wants the singer to give it a second chance.

Mayor Charles M. Brunner has written a letter inviting Madonna, who grew up in Bay City and the Detroit suburb of Rochester Hills, to accept a key to the city, The Bay City Times reported.

"We have always been proud of your accomplishments but recently your induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame reminded us that we need to honor you with the highest honor that Bay City can offer," the letter says.

The Associated Press sent an e-mail Saturday seeking comment from a publicist for the 49-year-old singer.

Madonna was considered for the honor in 1985, but some thought

she was too risqué, the newspaper said. It also said the city in the late 1980s refused to accept a sculpture of Madonna from an Italian artist, citing a belief that her popularity would fade in time.

Now, Guy Greve, president of the Bay Arts Council, wants to commission an artist to sculpt a statue of Madonna.

"The local arts council would like to pay homage for her artistic contributions," he said. "I could see a sculpture of her in Bay City. One of Madonna's famous poses could be made into a sculpture."

City Commissioner Christopher J. Shannon, who fronts a local rock band, is planning a Madonna tribute album. He hopes to recruit local musicians to cover hits such as "Like a Virgin" and "Express Yourself."

Madonna's new album, "Hard Candy," will be released April 29.

GOOD FOR THE SOLE

By **STEPHANIE HERNANDEZ**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The "buy-one, get-one free" deal now has a more charitable and giving side to it.

The TOMS Style Your Sole Lubbock event, hosted by Chrome, will allow students to buy shoes for themselves and for kids in need globally.

This event, April 26, will be a day for students to decorate their TOMS shoes while listening to music from Levi Smith and helping the TOMS cause.

According to the TOMS Web site, www.tomshoes.com, designer and chief shoe giver Blake Mycoskie says, "I created TOMS with a singular mission: To make life more comfortable. TOMS accomplishes this through its unique shoe and my commitment to match every pair purchased with a donated pair to a child in need ... no complicated formulas, it's simple ... you buy a pair of TOMS and I give a pair to a child on your behalf."

Sarah Saunders, a sophomore global affairs major from Lubbock, said she has received an e-mail from about a TOMS shoes tour and wanted to get the tour to come to Tech.

"I got an e-mail from the International Justice Mission about the tour, and it had (a representative's) num-

ber on there," she said. "I told him — real informal — 'I think it would be really cool if you guys came.' And (he) called me that night."

She said after her call, she wanted to get Kiko Velez and David Sutton to help her because they were fans of the TOMS line, and then things started coming together for the planning.

Velez, a sophomore philosophy major from Clovis, N.M., said TOMS let them plan everything for the event themselves.

"TOMS said, 'Yeah, you guys can do it, do everything yourself,'" he said. "It was really cool how much freedom — to make it how we wanted — they gave us."

Velez said because TOMS is such a grassroots company, it let the students decide how to get the word out around Texas Tech. The three students have talked to classes and organizations, passed out fliers, created a Web site for the Lubbock event at www.styleyoursolelubbock.org and created a Facebook group at www.facebook.com.

Getting students to commit to the shoes has been a problem for the trio.

"It's hard to get people to involve," both Velez and Saunders said. "Our biggest problem is getting people to come in and buy the shoes. And that's what we need to focus on. Like, a lot of people are wanting to

come; a lot of people aren't wanting to paint the shoes."

Sutton, a junior political science major from Amarillo, said people should not avoid buying the shoes just because they do not believe they have the artistic ability to decorate the shoes.

"A lot of people just don't have the artistic knack to come paint the shoes," he said. "Just go buy a pair of shoes from Chrome, I tell them. We're throwing this whole event to decorate the shoes."

Velez said the decorating was the fun part of the event. He also said artists would be at the event for students to use to decorate the shoes they bought for themselves, but not to forget about the TOMS cause too.

"The fact is that hundreds of thousands of shoes are being given away," he said. "These kids are getting their first pair of shoes ever, at 12 or 13 years old."

Sutton and Saunders said all the donated shoes students purchase for

the event will go to the Ethiopia shoe drop, and TOMS will make them specially to resist volcanic soil. Velez also said TOMS would have a shoe drop in America this summer.

"TOMS doesn't just go abroad with their donations, there's a lot of in-America drops," he said. "It's

not neglecting American's problems as well."

Velez, Saunders and Sutton stressed how important it was for students to order their shoes by Friday for them to donate a pair as well.

"The most important thing is to be sure to go to Chrome before (Friday) and order shoes," Velez

said. "We want as many people as possible to go out there. And all you have to do is go in and tell them you want a pair of Style Your Sole."

Style Your Sole Lubbock will be hosted from noon to 6 p.m. April 26 in the Chrome parking lot, at 2601 University Ave. To pre-order, students need to go to Chrome and order their shoes by Friday to have them by the TOMS event.

► stephanie.hernandez@ttu.edu

“These kids are getting their first pair of shoes ever, at 12 or 13 years old.”

— KIKO VELEZ
SOPHOMORE PHILOSOPHY MAJOR FROM CLOVIS, NM

LA Times retracts Tupac Shakur story over phony documents

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Times on Monday retracted stories that implied purported associates of Sean "Diddy" Combs assaulted Tupac Shakur in 1994 and that Combs knew about it ahead of time.

The newspaper said the March 17 online story and a shorter version in the newspaper on March 19 relied heavily on what turned out to be phony FBI documents. The stories

were written by Pulitzer-prize winning staff writer Chuck Philips.

The Times also retracted statements Philips made in two online chats and the newspapers' blog. It did not provide details of the statements.

The article, titled "An Attack on Tupac Shakur Launched a Hip-Hop War" purported to relate new information about a 1994 assault on Shakur,

including a description of events contained in FBI reports.

The shooting triggered a feud between East and West Coast rappers that later led to the killings of Shakur and Notorious B.I.G.

"The Times has since concluded that the FBI reports were fabricated and that some of the other sources relied on — including the person Philips previously believed to be the 'confi-

dential source' cited in the FBI reports — do not support major elements of the story," the newspaper said.

On March 26, The Times posted an article on its Web site saying the authenticity of the documents and story had been challenged. The next day, the newspaper offered a front-page story that reported it had been the victim of a hoax and apologizing for its error.

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The DT Reader's Choice Awards has just gotten easier. The survey will be available only online, so don't miss your chance to choose Lubbock's best. Use the link provided and give us your opinion. **The survey will be available until April 20, 2008.** The most popular answers will be published in the April 25 edition of *The Daily Toreador*.

Many questions have options listed that were popular choices from last year's survey. There is also a field to write in a choice not listed.

Reader's CHOICE AWARDS

THE DAILY TOREADOR

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Jr79zd49WjvuHj2_2fEsYAsg_3d_3d
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All entries become property of *The DT*, which reserves the right to publish survey answers & comments. Final decisions on survey, categories & winning entries will be made by *The DT*.

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SPORTS

PAGE 8
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2008

Softball set for doubleheader with Texas State

By ALEX YBARRA
STAFF WRITER

Just a season ago, the Texas Tech softball team did not earn its third win in Big 12 Conference play until May, one game before the Big 12 Tournament.

Granted, the Red Raiders won their next four games en route to the Championship game against OU, where they lost, but now that late season success is paying dividends in conference.

Despite playing a non-conference schedule that got Tech off to the worst start in Tech history at 0-12, the Red Raiders (11-27, 3-4 in Big 12) have won four of their last six, with wins over Texas and Nebraska.

All three conference wins occurred at Rocky Johnson Field, where a record 771 fans witnessed Tech finish off a sweep — Tech's first sweep of Nebraska in school history Sunday.

"Our fans have had a huge impact on our play," Tech sophomore Leah Legler said. "At the Texas game, we had a ton of

fans. It's just great to hear them cheering; it gets us fired up to play. It's really great to have them out here."

Coach Teresa Wilson said winning against teams such as Nebraska and Texas in the Big 12 reminds her of when she was building Washington into a national contender.

"It feels like it used to feel when, at Washington, we beat an Arizona or a UCLA," said Wilson, whose team steps away from conference play to take on Texas State today at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. at Rocky Johnson Field. "You knew it was gonna be a battle from the first pitch to the last pitch, and on that particular night, your team gutted it out long enough to get the job done, and I feel that's what our kids did."

Sandwiched between Oklahoma State and Baylor, the Red Raiders are sixth in the standings, and have a chance to win more than four conference games for the first time since 2002.

Wilson said pitchers Ashly Jacobs (5-9) and Tye Coats (4-11), who both have

an ERA below 3.43, have been the difference in keeping games under control, but transferring that to road games can be difficult. Jacobs picked up both wins against the Cornhuskers and has allowed one run in her last three games, lowering her ERA from 2.40 to 2.15.

"When we head out this week to play after (today's) home games, the goal is to stay consistent in the conference and try to build on this every day," Wilson said. "You can play good defense, you can put some runs on the board. We've stayed in games with people all year; hopefully we'll just continue to get better."

With a team ERA of 2.28, Texas State (26-11, 16-2 in Southland Conference play) has secured most of its victories this season in the circle and boasts wins over Baylor and Washington.

Senior Ragan Blake (12-8) went 4-6 in non-conference, but has compiled a 1.37 ERA in SLC play with an 8-2 record. The Bobcat's other starter, junior Katie Garnett (11-3), enters the game with a 2.02 ERA.

Tech's one-hole and two-hole hitters, Legler and senior Devin Zaragoza, have taken control of Tech's offense in recent games. Legler has batted 6-for-14 with seven runs, while Zaragoza is 5-for-10 with three RBIs in the last three games.

Wilson said she would be elated to see the same level of play that has earned her Red Raiders four straight wins at home.



PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH CATCHER Robyn Wike will lead the Red Raiders in a mid-week doubleheader against Texas State at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. today at Rocky Johnson Field.

"I'm happy for our pitchers who have thrown fairly well in the past," she said.

"I'm happy for the pitchers, happy for the defense and the fact that when we play well, they see rewards for their efforts." daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu

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Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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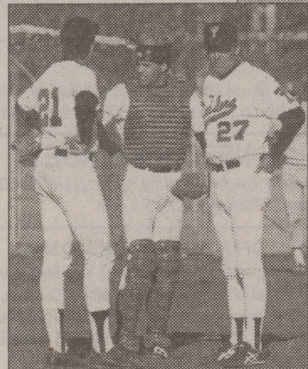


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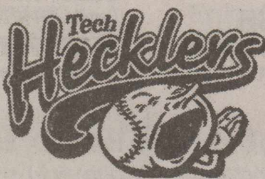
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Baseball hosts New Mexico in mid-week series

By BEN MAKI
SPORTS EDITOR

As Texas Tech's road woes continue, the Red Raiders come home for a mid-week-series against New Mexico starting at 6:05 p.m. today at Dan Law Field.

After losing three straight to No. 9 Nebraska, Tech is 2-7 on the road, including 1-5 in Big 12 Conference play, but is 8-4 at home and 6-4 at

neutral sites.

The road has not been kind to the Red Raiders, and the New Mexico series is a break in the Big 12 road trip Tech is embarking on. The Red Raiders (16-15), also have been streaky of late, winning a season-high four-straight games, before losing the series at Nebraska.

The Lobos (20-11) come to Lubbock having taken two-of-three games from Mountain West conference foe San Diego State over the weekend.

Russ Fornea (3-2, 4.63 ERA) is scheduled to pitch for the Red Raiders today in the opening game of the series. In his last outing, Fornea pitched 5.2 innings and gave up one run on four hits and a walk in Tech's 6-1 victory over Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

The Red Raiders' bullpen is anchored by closer Zach Stewart, who is 2-0 with a 2.35 ERA and has three saves in 13 appearances, and James Leverton, who is 1-2 with a 2.81 ERA in 16 appearances.

UNM has a team ERA of 5.38 and a batting average of .315. Rafael Neda leads the way at the plate, hitting .348 with 11 doubles, five home runs and 29 RBIs and 24 runs scored.

Offensively, Tech is led by the trifecta of infielders Chris Hall, Willie Rueda and Joey Kenworthy, who have combined to hit .297,

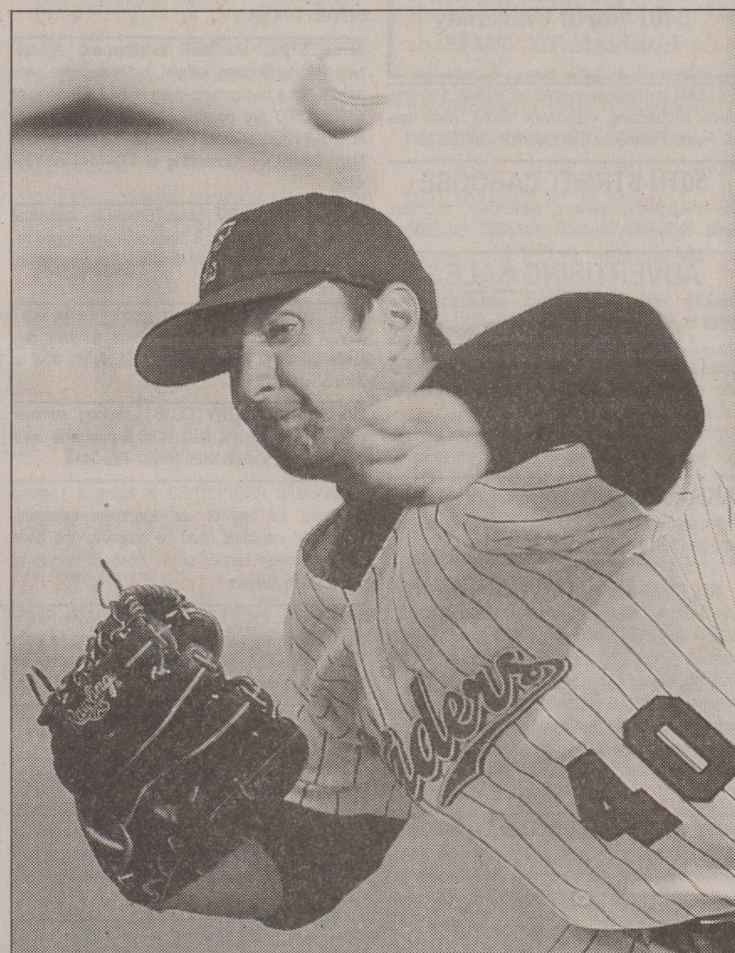


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH BASEBALL is 2-7 on the road, but plays New Mexico at 6:05 p.m. today at Dan Law Field where the Red Raiders are 8-4.

19 doubles and 44 RBIs on the season. starting pitchers for UNM were not available.

As of press time, the projected benjamin.maki@ttu.edu

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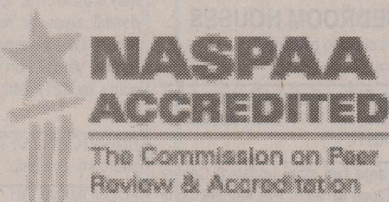


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