



Online gambling leads to addiction

LA VIDA, PAGE 5

Tech soccer has injury concerns after conference play



Volleyball suffers fourth conference loss

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THE DAILY T OREADOR

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(INSIDE)

FRISBEE FANATIC
SEE PAGE 3

(INBRIEF)
STATE
Hurricane Ike death toll in Texas rises

HOUSTON (AP) — The Texas death toll from Hurricane Ike rose to at least 32 with the discovery of three bodies, which were found this weekend amid storm debris in Galveston and Orange counties.

On Sunday afternoon, volunteers with Texas Equusearch discovered the body of Greg Walker, who had been missing since Sept. 13, when he made a 911 call for help after he got caught in Ike's storm surge, said Lt. Jimmy LeBoeuf, with the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

NATION
Citigroup to buy Wachovia operations

NEW YORK (AP) — Citigroup agreed Monday to purchase Wachovia's banking operations for \$2.1 billion in a deal arranged by federal regulators, making the Charlotte, N.C.-based bank the latest casualty of the widening global financial crisis.

The deal greatly expands Citigroup's retail franchise — giving it a total of more than 4,300 U.S. branches and \$600 billion in deposits — and secures its place among the U.S. banking industry's Big Three, along with Bank of America Corp. and JPMorgan Chase & Co.

WORLD
Brazil: Amazon destruction up sharply

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Brazilian officials say the Amazon is being deforested more than twice as fast as last year.

They blame higher global food prices for a sharp increase in illegal logging as soy farmers and cattle ranchers clear rain forest for crops and grazing land.

Authorities say 756 square kilometers (292 square miles) of Amazon was destroyed in August. That's a 228 percent increase over August of last year.

Brazil's National Institute for Space Research uses satellites to track the destruction. The latest data released Monday represents a reversal for Brazil, which had seen three years of declines in the rate of deforestation before this year.

DEATH TOLL

4175

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

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U.S. bailout fails, world markets plunge

By MATT MCGOWAN AND ADAM YOUNG
THE DAILY T OREADOR

Congress's rejection of a bailout package Monday left investors on Wall Street and around the world reeling in the wake of a record-breaking stock selloff in New York and in apprehension of an uncertain future.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 777 points Monday, its biggest single-day fall ever, beating

the 684 points it lost on the first day of trading after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, according to The Associated Press.

Investors in other world markets also began pulling out after the House of Representatives rejected a \$700 billion plan — sponsored by the Bush administration and Congressional leaders — to buy up bad debt and shore up the financial industry, according to the AP.

Regardless of the bill's passage, the issue at hand is how economically

painful the near future could be for Americans, said Peter Summers, an assistant professor of economics at Texas Tech.

"I think the prospect of more pain went up today," he said.

Some middle-class Americans did not support the bill, Summers said, because they believed it rescued many of the CEOs and financial managers who created the problem in the first place.

But Summers does not believe the plan would have been a simple

bailout for the leaders of investment firms.

The rejected bill included provisions for the government to take stake in the equity of the firms in addition to limiting financial compensation for executives, he said, "but it's entirely possible that message didn't get across to (representatives') constituents."

The proposed bill also included assurances that the government would ultimately be reimbursed by the companies for any losses, accord-

ing to the AP.

"It didn't seem like it was the best plan that there could have been, but it was good enough that it could have made a difference," Summers said. "Even if the bailout bill had passed and worked as it was supposed to, I still would have expected overall slowing in the economy the rest of this year and maybe the first part of next year."

In the proposal, the Treasury

ECONOMY continued on page 2

FLUFIGHTERS

Doctors prepare for new flu strains with more vaccines

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COURTESY PHOTO

THREE NEW STRAINS of the influenza virus have prompted medical officials to stockpile three new vaccines for this year's flu season.

By TINA L. ARONS
STAFF WRITER

It's not flu season yet, but it is time to start preparing for it.

Beckie Brawley, public health coordinator for Lubbock's health department, said this year's vaccinations differ from previous years for two reasons: The Food and Drug Administration changed all three strains for this season's vaccine, and vaccine manufacturers may produce an all-time high number of influenza vaccines for the upcoming flu season.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported that manufacturers expect to produce between 143 million and 146 million doses of the FDA-approved vaccines for use in the United States during the upcoming season, which is between 11 million and 14 million more doses more than the previous year.

Not only will manufacturers produce more vaccinations this year, but unlike most years in

the past, they will produce vaccinations for three new strains of the virus.

A statement released by the FDA reported the change in this year's vaccines is "an unusual occurrence, as usually only one or two strains are updated from year to year."

According to the CDC's Web site, last year's vaccinations failed to adequately prevent the three predominant flu strains during that season, which resulted in the creation of new vaccines for the strains researchers expect to be prevalent this year.

Dr. Kelly Bennett, medical director of Texas Tech Student Health Services, said medical experts find it difficult to predict a flu epidemic, but the spread of the virus can be prevented. "Every year we generally expect it to be an average year," Bennett said, "and then sometimes we get a surprise."

She said if students are diagnosed with the

FLU continued on page 6

FLU-VACCINATION CLINICS ON CAMPUS:

Oct 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Tech law school student forum

Oct 22 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Chitwood/Weymouth lobby

Oct 23 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Student Union Building Ballroom

Oct 29 from 9 a.m. to noon in Room 116 at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center

Cost: \$22

Student Health Services will not able to take debit or credit and students must pay by cash or check.

Al-Maliki says security pact in US, Iraqi interest

By JOHN DANISZEWSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD (AP) — Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said Monday that the government is ready to compromise to reach a security accord with the United States because Iraq still needs American troops despite the drop in violence.

In an interview with The Associated Press, al-Maliki said neither he nor Iraq's parliament will accept any pact that fails to serve the country's national interests. A poorly constructed plan would provoke so much discord in Iraq that it could threaten his government's survival, he said.

Al-Maliki said, however, that he is firmly committed to reaching an accord that would allow U.S. troops to remain in the country beyond next year.

"We regard negotiating and reaching such an agreement as a national endeavor, a national mission, a historic one. It is a very important agreement that involves the stability and the security of the country and the existence of foreign troops. It has a historic dimension," al-Maliki said.

The Iraqi prime minister spoke at length about the difficulty he faces in trying to negotiate the accord that would set the terms for the U.S. presence in Iraq for years to come. Supporters of anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr oppose the accord, arguing U.S. forces should leave Iraq as soon as possible. Neighboring Iran also has been speaking out vociferously against a long-term U.S. presence in Iraq.

"Pressures are coming from east and west and north and south, but we are determined to rise above all these difficulties and pressures because we want this agreement to be passed," al-Maliki said, "and we will go ahead despite all that is being said."

The prime minister also noted with gratitude the high cost paid by American taxpayers, the U.S. military and the forces of other coalition members to secure Iraq's freedom over the past five years.

"We appreciate and we respect their sacrifices," he said of the U.S. troops killed, adding that their deaths would act as a bridge between the two countries.

Town hall meeting addresses Tech hockey, places issue on Oct. 9 agenda

By JON VANDERLAAN
STAFF WRITER

In a packed city council meeting room Monday, Texas Tech ice hockey fans and its supporters from the Lubbock community asked the city council to reverse the decision not to renew Tech hockey's contract with the City Bank Coliseum.

The city refused Thursday to renew its contract with the Tech hockey team to let them continue playing at the City Bank Coliseum. The council cited a \$1,300 loss — and according to some citizens at the meeting, a \$4,000 loss — while the team occupied the arena as the reason a 5-2 vote was cast in opposition to renewing the contract.

Council members Floyd Price of District 2 and Linda DeLeon of District 1 announced the issue would be placed on the council's agenda a second time for the Oct. 9 council meeting.

Kelly Clark, a Tech instructor in the Rawls College of Busi-

ness, said the amount of money Lubbock would risk losing by taking the team out of the city would outweigh the amount they would save by not renewing the contract.

Because the team is scheduled to host the Big 12 Conference Tournament this year, Clark said, the revenue brought in by opposing teams and their families could have an economic impact on the city of about \$1 million.

"It's not what the City of Lubbock can do for the team," he said, "it's what they can do for the City of Lubbock."

Clark said because the visiting teams often bring players' families and friends to Lubbock, the city stands to collect about \$120,000 in lodging revenue and an additional \$40,000 for food and shopping for the Big 12 tournament. When multiplied by seven — the tourism industry's standard — the impact could equal about \$1.1 million in economic benefit

HOCKEY continued on page 2



PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/The Daily Treador
MEMBERS OF THE Texas Tech hockey team, Saddle Tramps and concerned citizens of Lubbock support the hockey program and give their opinion on the City Council's decision not to renew the hockey team's contract to play in the City Bank Coliseum.

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Grant helps fund new Hill Country University Center

By **MATT COBB**
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech's campus at Fredericksburg received a \$281,500 grant to purchase telecommunications equipment for the new Hill Country University Center.

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development program awarded the school with the grant so it could put video conference rooms in the new university center, according to a university news release.

"The purpose of the grant is to reach more people in rural settings," said James Morris, director of Tech's Fredericksburg site. "We asked for monies so we could purchase equipment for interactive video conferencing classes."

The interactive video conference classes will give students in

rural areas a chance to connect with professors at major universities such as Tech, Morris said.

All of the video conference classes will be located in the new Hill Country University Center, Morris said. The university center is a new 25,000-square-foot classroom facility that is located on the eastern side of Fredericksburg.

The university center will house Tech's site at Fredericksburg, as well as four other university programs, Morris said. Austin Community College, Angelo State University, Concordia University and Schreiner University all will offer courses at this location.

Tech's partnership with the four other colleges brings a number of different programs to one place, Morris said. Students will be able to work on degrees in a variety of fields, and will have an opportunity to take classes from a variety of schools.

"The neat thing about these

kinds of arrangements is one school doesn't have to bring everything to the table," he said. "You get different commitments from different universities."

Even though the university center will house five different programs, Tech will be the lead or anchor university at the location, Morris said.

Students will be able to take undergraduate and graduate coursework at the university center, Morris said. Majors will be offered in a variety of fields ranging from general studies to teaching.

This center also should help Tech in its push for 40,000 students, Morris said. They are expecting more than 500 students to be enrolled at the university center when it opens.

Construction for the university center has begun, he said, and it should be completed and open for class by the fall 2010 semester.

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Navy watches seized ship with Sudan-bound tanks

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — U.S. helicopters on Monday buzzed a hijacked Ukrainian cargo ship carrying 33 Soviet-designed tanks and other weapons that officials fear could end up in the hands of al-Qaida-linked militants in Somalia if the pirates are allowed to escape.

Thursday's seizure of the MV Faina off Somalia, a failed state seen as a key battleground in the war on terrorism, could bring dangerous effects across the Horn of Africa and the Gulf of Aden, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

Piracy has become a lucrative criminal racket in impoverished Somalia, bringing in millions of dollars in ransom.

The pirates aboard the blue-and-white Ukrainian-operated freighter are demanding \$20 million to release the ship, its 21 crew members, one of whom has died of an apparent heart attack, and its cargo of T-72 tanks, rifles and

ammunition.

The ship, now anchored off Somalia's coast near the central town of Hobyo, apparently was destined for Sudan when armed pirates overtook it, likely from a speedboat, and climbed up the side of the ship.

"We maintain a vigilant watch over the ship and we will remain on station while negotiations between the pirates and the shipping company are going on," Lt. Nathan Christensen, a deputy spokesman for the U.S. Navy's Bahrain-based 5th Fleet, told The Associated Press.

Although the pirates have not been allowed to take anything off the Faina, they have been allowed to resupply, one U.S. official said when asked if those aboard needed anything such as food. The official declined to comment on whether the negotiations between the pirates and the shipping company are being monitored.

U.S. Navy destroyers and cruisers have been deployed within 10 miles of the hijacked vessel and helicopters were circling overhead because of "great concern" over the possibility of the cargo falling "into the wrong hands," Christensen said. At one point on Sunday, the captain of the Faina said a warship was about two miles away.

"Our goal is to ensure the safety of the crew, to not allow off-loading of dangerous cargo and to make certain Faina can return to legitimate shipping," said Rear Adm. Kendall Card, commander of the task force monitoring the ship.

Although analysts say the pirates will likely be unable to unload the tanks, the other military hardware or a huge ransom could exacerbate the two-decade-old civil war in a country where nearly every building is pockmarked with bullet holes and all major civil institutions have crumbled.

Economy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

would have been permitted to spend \$250 billion to buy banks' risky assets, giving them a much-needed cash infusion. There also would be another \$100 billion for use at the president's discretion and a final \$350 billion if Congress signs off, according to the AP.

Summers said the bailout would, in part, have the government acting as an investor making investments that most individuals are straying away from.

"The problem is that a lot of U.S. financial markets just aren't functioning properly, if at all," he said. "A lot of those just are not trading — nobody wants to buy them at any price."

Fallout from Monday's collapse on Wall Street will affect Texas, said Cheryl Abbot, a regional economist with the Dallas office of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, but relatively the state thus far has escaped the worst of the nation's economic downturn.

She said factors partially have buffered Texas from the looming downturn, the state's oil and gas extraction industry and its lower housing prices being chief among them.

The state will not be immune to Wall Street's woes for long, Abbot said, because a financial crisis of this magnitude ultimately will impact every person across all industries in one way or another.

"This economic downturn will be felt across the board, depending on how long it goes on," she said. "Of course, first it will be in the banking and financial sector."

But Lubbock's economy has yet to feel the pinch from the unfolding financial disaster, said Greg Jones, executive vice president at locally based American State Bank. The impact of the credit crunch will affect Lubbockites, but he does not expect the effects in West Texas to be as profound as the may be elsewhere in the United States.

"It'll affect everyone, but if everyone is taking care of business and only borrowing what they can afford to pay back, the impact shouldn't be too bad here," he said. "Due to recent developments, it's for the marginal borrowers that things will get more difficult."

"We're very fortunate in West Texas right now. A lot of it is because we have been doing business the way we have always done."

After hearing of the rejected bill, West Texas politicians offered their own take on what many see as, by-and-large, a partisan debate on the economy.

Dwight Fullingim, the Democratic candidate running against Randy Neugebauer for the 19th U.S. Congressional District, called a press conference Monday afternoon to criticize his opponent's rejection of the House bill.

"The \$700 billion financial rescue plan failed to pass today due primarily to opposition by Republican members of the House of Representatives,"

Fullingim said during the conference. "The \$700 billion potential liability to taxpayers is hard to swallow, but refusal to take action when so much is at stake is irresponsible."

Although West Texas will not directly be affected by the turmoil on Wall Street, informed local business owners should find it in their best interest to support the economic stabilization package, he said, because a financial meltdown, given time, inevitably will impact local wallets.

The stabilization package should not come without strings attached, Fullingim said. A great deal of government oversight should accompany the \$700 billion in federal funding, oversight that aims to prevent financial executives from receiving the much-publicized "golden parachutes."

"The point here," he said, "is that we can't hand somebody a blank check and say, 'OK. You go ahead and write yourself a check for \$700 billion.'"

While Neugebauer's office did not return *The Daily Treador's* calls before press time, Chris Winn, chairman of the Lubbock County Republican Party, said he lauded Neugebauer's refusal to support the \$700 billion bailout package.

The government bailout, if passed as is, Winn said, could ripple through the U.S. economy for years.

"I'm not hearing where these corporate executives are going to be held accountable," he said. "You have winners and you have losers in the financial marketplace. When there's a meltdown, you can't have the government come in like the cavalry."

Winn said Monday's bill, if passed, would have set a precedent of "quasi-nationalized" U.S. financial markets — markets in which the government takes a large stake in what should be a laissez-faire economy.

The Congressional debate over the federal bailout is warranted, Winn said, because it shows a necessary and healthy process of political debate taking priority over short-term, knee-jerk remedies to a dire economic crisis.

"I think the process of Congress is clearly showing they're not going to rubberstamp anything on this bill," he said, "and I think it's going to work."

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

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NASA delays repair of Hubble telescope

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA said Monday it is delaying its mission to the Hubble Space Telescope until next year because of a serious breakdown of the observatory in orbit.

Space shuttle Atlantis had been scheduled to blast off in just two weeks, but an unexpected problem with the Hubble appeared on Saturday night when the telescope stopped sending science data.

That potentially means a new repair issue for the astronauts to confront — one that they haven't trained for and never anticipated.

The abrupt, mysterious failure of the command and data-handling system for Hubble's science instruments means that the telescope is unable to capture and beam down the data needed to produce its stunning deep space images.

Early Monday afternoon, NASA announced that the Oct. 14 launch had been postponed until at least early next year, possibly February. Each month's delay will cost the Hubble program about \$10 million.

It could have been far worse, said NASA's science chief, Ed Weiler.

"Think about if this failure had occurred two weeks after the servicing mission, we had just put two brand new instruments in and thought we extended the lifetime for five, 10 years and this thing failed after the last shuttle mission to Hubble," Weiler told reporters Monday evening.

"So in some sense, if this had to happen, it couldn't have happened at a better time."

Hubble manager Preston Burch said the first step is to try to fix the telescope by switching to a backup

channel for the science instruments' command and data-handling system, and allowing observations to resume. That should take a week or two. Even if the effort succeeds as engineers suspect it will, Burch and other officials still want to send up a replacement part for the bad component.

That's because there would be no other options if that one last working channel malfunctioned.

"Our plan right now is to take the delay and put up the new hardware ... so that we can keep Hubble going for as long as possible," Weiler said. "If we're going to spend the money and take all the risk involved in a shuttle mission, we want to be sure that we leave Hubble as healthy as we possibly can and potentially lasting for five or 10 more years."

Hockey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to Lubbock.

"Generally, what the tourism industry say, is when a dollar comes in from out of town, they come up with the idea that that dollar gets spent seven times before they leave," said Clark, the faculty adviser to the Tech hockey team who has a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation administration.

The meeting was in an open-microphone format, allowing several members of the hockey team, parents and other members of the community to voice their opinion about the issue. Those who took the podium spoke to the two council members who attended the meeting. The five council members who voted against renewing the contract were invited but did not attend.

The captain of the hockey team, several assistant captains, students, Saddle Tramps, community members and children involved in youth hockey and figure skating addressed the city council members, even those who were not in attendance.

Among the issues mentioned was the level of the hockey team's community involvement. Several members of the community and those associated with the team said the players not only did community service in town, but also taught children how to skate and play hockey

in their free time. Victoria McClure, the academic advisor for the team, said its games averaged about 1,500 attending fans each, which is a large difference from the reported 50 per game two years prior.

She said the players tutor each other to keep their grades up, volunteer within the community and wore tutus to support figure skating in the community.

John Griffin, senior captain of the team, said he is optimistic the council will reverse its initial decision because there will be a "devastating impact" on the city without the team.

He also said it is a shame that Lubbock is the largest city in North America without a full-time hockey rink.

During the open-microphone meeting, Griffin read a letter addressed to the city from former 1980 Olympian Mike Eruzione, who was the captain of the United States' gold-medal winning ice hockey team that year. Eruzione and former 1980 teammate Mark Johnson were two members of the broader hockey community to show support for Tech's program.

Sean McDougle, an assistant captain on the team, said multiple community activities besides hockey would have to be canceled if the city did not renew their agreement with the team, and it would be tough for the hockey program to last

playing outside of Lubbock. McDougle said, if no hockey program existed in Lubbock, many players would not have a reason to go to school at Tech, and would probably transfer.

However, he said, the team has seen much support from the community, and Monday's meeting should put pressure on the council to reverse their decision.

Floyd Price, one of the city council members who initially voted for the contract, said after seeing the passion of Lubbock's citizens to continue Tech hockey locally, it will not be a problem to raise the \$4,000 necessary to continue the program.

Price said, before he heard numbers from Clark, he was not aware how much money the city would lose without the Big 12 tournament in Lubbock.

Paul Fioroni, coach of the team, said the amount of people who showed up to the meeting shows that keeping hockey in Lubbock is a big issue for the citizens of Lubbock.

In response to some allegations that Fioroni demanded unreasonable terms in the contract, the coach said he has never demanded anything out of a contract, and only has had good talks with city officials.

"I can't put into words what Lubbock will lose," he said.

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Puzzles by PageFiller

In Sudoku, all the numbers 1 to 9 must be in every row, column and 3 x 3 box. Use logic to define the answers.

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Solution to yesterday's puzzle



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200 companies expected at engineering career fair

By MIKE GRAHAM
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech College of Engineering will host a career fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center.

Approximately 200 companies will visit the Civic Center and offer Tech students internships as well as part-time and full-time jobs, said Jeff Sammons, a spokesperson for the College of Engineering.

"This is a valuable experience for engineering students," he said. "Not only does this allow students to get internships and jobs but it also gives them valuable experience with their job interviewing skills."

Sammons said the college anticipates between 1,200 and 1,500 students will attend during the day.

"We hear from many of the companies that come that our students are well prepared for the field," he said. "They say hiring a Tech grad is a great choice for them."

To make it easier for students as well as companies to find candidates or jobs in their line of work or study, the organizers of the career fair color-coded the respective majors in different colors, Sammons said. Students will wear nametags marked with colored dots indicating their major, and companies will have colored dots on their signs

representing students of particular majors they are interested in speaking with.

The engineering job fair was rescheduled from Sept. 17 to today because the Civic Center was designated as a shelter for Hurricane Ike evacuees from Southeast Texas during that time, according to a College of Engineering news release.

The career fair began on campus in 1999 with 22 companies attending, Sammons said. The fair has since expanded to more than 200 companies and must be hosted off campus due to the space required to accommodate the participating companies.

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McCain: Obama policies will deepen recession

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Lagging in the polls, Republican presidential candidate John McCain unleashed a blistering attack Monday on his Democratic rival, saying the race comes down to a simple question: "Country first or Obama first?"

In his first public appearance since Friday night's debate, McCain said Democrat Barack Obama advocates tax-and-spend policies that "will deepen our recession," and voted against funding for equipment needed by troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"That is not putting the men and women of our military first," he said.

Later in the day, after a stunning rejection by the House of a bailout of the financial industry, McCain said Obama and his allies had "infused unnecessary partisanship" into the effort to steady the economy.

"Now is not the time to fix the blame; it's time to fix the problem,"

he said, speaking to reporters in Iowa.

He urged lawmakers to return to work immediately to pass legislation. Aides said he would return to Washington when he could help.

Earlier, McCain stressed his own record of opposing Republicans on key issues, and said: "When it comes time to reach across the aisle and work with members of both parties to get things done for the American people — my opponent can't name a single occasion in which he fought against his party's leadership to get something done for the country. That is not putting the interests of the country first."

Obama's campaign issued a swift rebuttal that accused McCain of an "angry diatribe" that it said "won't make up for his erratic response to the greatest financial crisis of our time."

The Arizona senator spoke at a rally with running mate Sarah Palin, who said she is looking forward to Thursday's debate with Sen. Joe

Biden of Delaware.

"I've been hearing his speeches since I was in the second grade," the 44-year-old Alaska governor said of her counterpart, who is 65 and a veteran of more than 35 years in the Senate.

The speech was McCain's first outside Washington since he announced abruptly last week he was suspending his campaign to concentrate on helping Congress agree on a bailout for the troubled financial industry. He drew heated criticism from Democrats who accused him of nearly derailing negotiations that were headed for success, and even some Republicans conceded privately he appeared impetuous and had not helped his own cause.

Recent polls also suggest Obama has regained a lead he held in the race before the Republican National Convention, where McCain's choice of Palin energized conservatives and led to a short-term surge in his poll ratings.

Iraq buys 12 US-made reconnaissance planes

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq has bought 12 new U.S.-built reconnaissance planes to monitor militants and the borders, the Defense Ministry said Monday, a small step in the country's attempt to reassert itself in air space now controlled by U.S.-led forces.

A ministry spokesman, Maj. Gen. Mohammed al-Askari, said six King Air planes had been delivered and the other six were expected soon. He said they would be used to track "terrorists' movements inside or outside cities, plus detect any infiltration across Iraq's borders."

The King Airs are small aircraft equipped with advanced aerial video technology enabling them to cover wide areas and send live feeds to ground control centers, the Defense Ministry says. The twin-turboprop aircraft are produced by Hawker Beechcraft Corp., based in Wichita, Kan.

Iraq once had a formidable air force, but it has been largely incapacitated since the 1991 Gulf War that followed Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's government hopes to regain control of the country's skies as it eventually takes over authority from the Americans.

The U.S. military often has used reconnaissance aircraft in Iraq to track down safe houses with militants inside.

Defense Minister Abdul-Qadir

al-Obeidi said in a statement Sunday that "these planes have been bought with Iraqi money" but he did not disclose the value of the purchase. The planes already have been flown over Baghdad by trained Iraqi pilots, according to the statement.

The U.S. has been working to train and equip Iraqi security forces on the ground and in the air to prepare them to take over their own security.

Violence has receded over the past year following a U.S. troop buildup,

a Sunni revolt against al-Qaida in Iraq and a Shiite militia cease-fire. However, U.S. commanders have warned that extremist groups are trying to rekindle sectarian warfare to undermine the government.

In violence Monday, gunmen attacked a tribal sheik, Ahmed Salim, wounding him and killing two of his sons in the village of al-Rasoul in Diyala province, police said. Diyala, one of the country's most violent provinces, lies to Baghdad's north-east and borders Iran.

FRISBEE FANATIC



PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador

EDGAR CANALES, A junior human development and family sciences major from Houston, practices ultimate frisbee by the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation center Friday afternoon.

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How to make Presidential debates into drinking game

By ASHER SMITH
EMORY WHEEL (EMORY U.)

God bless presidential debates. God bless the spin rooms, the collections of inexplicably undecided voters corralled by the cable news networks and, most of all, Jim Lehrer. For there's no denying reality: Ever since they've become a set part of the pageantry and narrative of our nation's presidential elections, the debates have made for some truly legendary opportunities for drinking games.

It's true. Whether you're waiting to see how many times Sen. John McCain starts a phrase with "My friends," Sen. Joe Biden fails to control himself from commenting on Sarah Palin's attractiveness or Gov. Palin fires off a riff featuring a similitude that includes pitbulls, hockey moms and lipstick, I predict your night will be far more productive in the long run than those of Sens. Obama and McCain — a prediction made safer by the fact that even the latter doesn't want to be at the debate, despite the fact that debates are one of the few opportunities available to losing campaigns to receive equal time and coverage.

Don't believe me? Think back to the last election and the first debate in which John Kerry dominated the President, forcing him to cry Poland until the colored lights came to his rescue. That's completely forgotten now — and the only episode that most observers could recall from the 2004 debates, if heavily prodded, is Kerry's feeble attempt late in the final debate to broach the topic of Dick Cheney's lesbian daughter.

The same holds true for practically every election. In 2000 Al Gore's sighing, space-invading and Dingell-Norwood references failed to move significant swaths of voters one way or the other. In 1996 the debates were purposefully kept low-key by a Clinton

campaign comfortable in its status as front-runner. The one modern debate that everyone loves to point to as genuinely influential, the 1976 contest between Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter in which Ford seemingly denied the existence of a Soviet domination of Eastern Europe, didn't really change much; Ford had started the campaign insurmountably behind in the polls and his ability to keep gaining on Carter until Election Day remains one of the greatest near-collapse in election history.

In fact, most contemporary political junkies, raised on lore about the Lincoln-Douglas contests of 1858, would likely be surprised to learn how recent a phenomenon regular presidential debates actually are. After the Kennedy-Nixon contest in 1960 debates didn't make a return until 1976, and even in 1980 President Carter felt the events were unimportant enough to duck out of the first one. (Reagan and Independent candidate Congressman John Anderson of Illinois still met to debate each other in Baltimore; predictably, no one much noticed.) The first (and practically only) important modern presidential debate came in 1980, when Michael Dukakis' answer of "no," to Bernard Shaw's question about whether he would demand the death penalty if his wife was raped and murdered, proved his lack of human emotion in the eyes of voters.

While polling following Friday's debate and all subsequent duels may fluctuate slightly either way depending on who "wins," these numbers will inevitably be ephemeral. Now that Barack Obama has a lead as large as any that he held over the summer, who remembers that McCain spent about a week slightly ahead in every poll? To revisit 2004, that first debate swung the polling data by only about four and a half points, according to data compiled by Professor Tom

Holbrook at the University of Wisconsin — and that swing was quickly negated by the unconquerable reality of the campaign news cycle, in which yesterday's news might as well have occurred a month ago. Before the issue-related fallout from that first debate could even be fully absorbed, voters had already moved on to questions about a strange bulge coming from the back of Bush's suit jacket.

What debates really do is provide the reporters, columnists, political scientists and historians following the race with useful little vignettes that help in framing the already decided-upon narrative. It's difficult to explain exactly how Ronald Reagan was able to utilize his unique gift of cleverly coating over whatever the real story was — until you can point to him successfully dismissing Jimmy Carter with that famous "there you go again" riposte. It's easy now to use Al Gore's sighs and over-eager wonkiness as evidence of his complete and utter inability to connect with ordinary folks — so long as you ignore the fact that, regardless of what you make of those Florida results, at least half a million more Americans voted for him than they did for then-Gov. Bush.

So sure, go to your debate parties, and let the ups and downs of what is in essence two hours of campaign infomercials have an inordinate impact on your personal happiness. Sit in awe and wonder as you contemplate whether Jim Lehrer is a real human being or an action figure that's just taken out of the packaging and wound up every four years to deliver questions in that matchlessly bland level of monotone of his. But all the while, make sure to acknowledge the debates' true purpose: creating drinking games that geeks are actually good at.

Presidential debate obscures important, genuine issues

By ANDI BERLIN
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT (U. ARIZONA)

Our political biases, personalities and sensory perceptions may lead us to declare a winner from Friday's presidential debate, but we really should know better. We don't know who won, the media doesn't really know who won, the obnoxious woman you overheard at Vila Thai last night doesn't know who won — no matter what her Tiger Beer said — and the candidates themselves probably don't know either.

The only people who do know, obviously, are their respective campaign staffs.

Despite predilections, the Republican campaign actually figured it out this week when they announced Sen. John McCain as the winner, before he even decided to go through with the debate. A writer at the Washington Post leaked a screenshot of an online ad on Friday morning, featuring robot McCain with that goofy forced smile in front of an American flag and the words "McCain wins debate!" underneath.

Although embarrassing, the incident does nothing but publicize the rampant spin machine on both sides of the fence — a spin machine that is by no means new.

Perhaps a precursor, the "Kerry Won" online campaign in 2004 demonstrated that people who saw his ad after the debate were statistically more likely to believe that Kerry won, regardless of whether they were Republican, Democratic or independent.

Thankfully, that ad leaked after the debate was over.

Both campaigns set out Friday night and Saturday morning with a number of dishonest and misleading tactics to prove their domination: McCain's side faulted Sen. Obama for seemingly pausing before saying the name of a dead soldier he was invoking; Obama's side faulted McCain for not using the words "middle class," which was in turn followed by McCain faulting Obama for not using the word "victory" when referring to Iraq; McCain countered again by compiling all of the instances where Obama agreed with him, god forbid; and Obama's side set their sights to the future by mocking Gov. Sarah Palin.

It's no secret that each side has a vested interest in winning, but it's kind of disheartening how well this crap actually works.

The same New York Times article that detailed all of these spin strategies sought to justify the process by explaining its consequences: "While such criticisms may seem, on first glance, trivial, they are the kind of issues... that can catch fire and influence public perception," the article said. "They can also put a candidate off-guard for the next debate."

No matter how hard the candidates try, the complexity of the political landscape and the debates themselves make it impossible to really win until hours or possibly years down the road. The spin machine influences the press, which ultimately gives the verdict on a complicated and undecided issue.

If we look back at the vice presidential debates of 2004, we can see that the press

has pretty much agreed that Dick Cheney beat John Edwards. Newspaper journalists referring back to it today all seem to point to the fact that Cheney appeared more stately and confident (despite whatever failed policies he was endorsing, which is beside the point), and cast doubt on Edwards' motives for being second in command.

But at the time there were just as many assorted opinions as there are now. In reality, it wasn't that clear at the time who won the debate. Who knows how many views have been silenced by the forced simplicity of time and the spin machine?

The only way to really get a hold on the specifics of the debate is to ignore the furor surrounding the issues and develop your own criteria to decide who won. Perhaps you can look at things like who lied the most. (According to Factcheck.org, both had their share of lies.) You can look at who appeared the most confident or who expressed himself the best. Or — and this is the kicker — you can actually consider whether you agree with the policies the candidates discussed. (If, of course, you understand what they said behind all the muddle.)

When we watch the remaining showdowns, it might be beneficial to approach them from the viewpoint that nobody can really win, despite what their supporters will say and what the press will say later. If you look at it like that, it's not about who won the debate, but whose ideas will win for you and the country. Who will win for the sake of our children and our children's children and the volatile fate of the earth as we know it?

Girls just want to have fun dating, without any games

By NICOLE FORDE
DAILY BRUIN (UCLA)

New school year? Yes, finally. Clean start? Maybe, hopefully.

Fresh meat? Not so much. Walking into my senior year with the finish line in sight, I expect almost nothing to change.

The ladies will have their expectations lowered when they realize the hard way that, no, this will not be the place where they finally meet someone of substance — someone who is worth dating. And the guys will be shocked when they realize the hard way that, yes, they still have to work for sex, at least a little bit.

Nobody wants to be alone. Well, at least nobody wants to feel alone.

So what do you do? Slap on a happy face and realize it works differently in college.

The idea of searching for someone you could really see yourself with is now lost among the search for someone you could really see yourself entangled with. In fact, I can only recall a few cases where the term "college sweetheart" still holds a tangible definition.

Kathleen Bogle of Saint Joseph's University said, "Hooking up represents a reversal of the traditional 'date first, sex later' formula. Moreover, with dating, there was some expectation that the degree of sexual intimacy would match the degree of emotional intimacy. In other words, two people would become increasingly sexually intimate as they grew 'closer.' With hooking up, the degree of sexual intimacy is often unrelated to emotional attachment."

We are stuck in a rut, worried about what the rest of the campus is doing and whether we fall into the "too much," "too little" or "just right" categories.

Whose fault is it? Hard to say, but I do have a hypothesis.

The problem with men in their 20s is that they just don't say what they mean.

Now, I can admit that I'm obviously biased against men. Heartbreak, breakups and breakdowns will do that to you.

I can't blame it all on the men, though. I'm sure the coded language they have developed stems from the fear of a crazy woman lashing out. It's a classic give-and-take situation.

But being deceived is one of the worst types of betrayal.

Since when does "we should do this again sometime" mean "we should never do this again," and why does "I'm so busy this week" mean "I'm too busy for you"? Even if you manage to get a relationship, "we should see other people" means "I am already seeing other people."

I think it would be great if I could tell someone right away that I don't put up with BS — I have half my wedding planned in my imagination, I need a good amount of attention and I expect them to be at least as smart as I am.

In fact, I've even discussed the idea of how wonderful it would be to require applications for new lovers as if they were applying to UCLA or for a new job: education, experience, recommendations.

Is dating really that different? I don't think that would go over very well, however.

We all take up these roles that we think seem more attractive to others, or these parts that inevitably fade because the upkeep is too much work.

I'd rather just get the truth flat-out than have to deal with weeks of wondering about the mixed messages.

Imagine you meet someone who seems really great. There is a lot of laughing, maybe some tingles and your cheeks hurt the next day from smiling so much. Then the game begins.

When will he call you? Should you wait to call until you hear from her? Did you write your number down right?

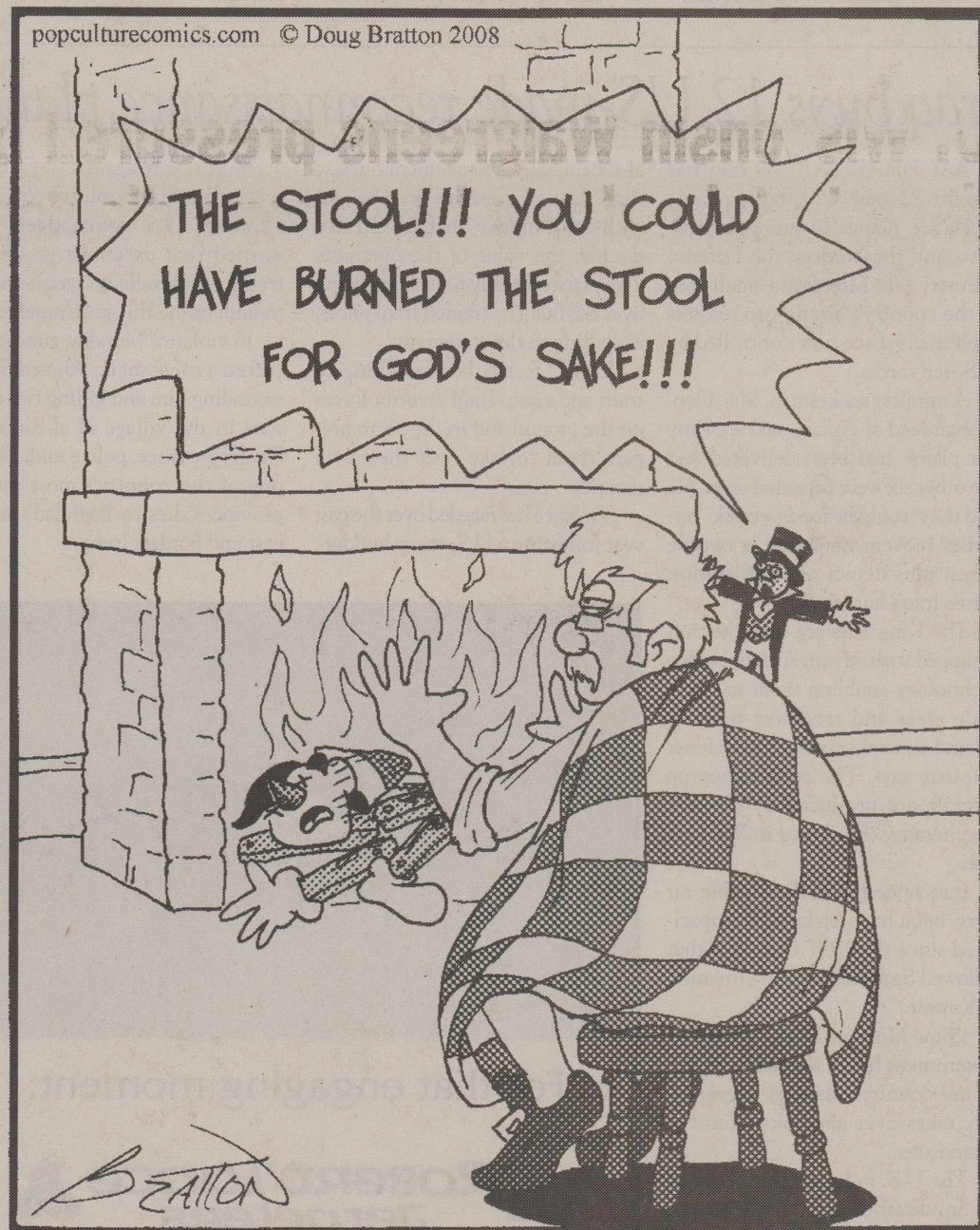
Stop. It really does not have to be this complicated.

If I could repeat my freshman year having the experience I've gained over the past three years already under my belt, the only thing I would change is no longer sitting around waiting for someone to call. No more waiting for an invitation — I'm taking myself out.

I'm not entirely sure I've gotten any smarter when it comes to dealing with the opposite sex, but this more-informed attitude could have really helped.

I missed out on way too much real fun while I was trying to have the kind of "fun" that would get me a boyfriend. I exhausted myself trying to constantly come up with endless sexual innuendos. I drove myself crazy trying to get noticed "having a great time" in a sea of girls who were ready to wrap their legs around anything.

I'm making this new year as much of a new start as I can possibly achieve on the high road. Join me up here.



The long, harsh winters finally drove Geppetto insane.

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The Daily Treador welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be no longer than 300 words and must include the author's name, signature, phone number, Social Security number and a description of university affiliation. Students should include year in school, major and hometown. We reserve the right to edit letters. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. All letters will be verified before they are published. Letters can be e-mailed to dailytreador@ttu.edu or brought to 211 Student Media. Letters should be sent in before 3 p.m. to ensure the editors have enough time to verify and edit the submission.

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The Daily Treador accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 650 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community. Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification and submittal.

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SURVEY SAYS...



KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador

Austin Helton, a sophomore civil engineering major from Artesia, N.M., and Chris Hendrix, a junior civil engineering major from Grand Prairie, participate in a leveling loop as a part of their C-Tech class Monday. They used surveying equipment as they traversed throughout the engineering key and 18th St.

U. Wisconsin Walgreens pressured by dean to take down beer pong display

BY JULIE STRUPP
BADGER HERALD (U. WISCONSIN)

A controversial beer pong display at a local Walgreens came down over the weekend after leaders said it promoted binge drinking.

The display in the Walgreens in the new University Square complex featured ping-pong balls and red plastic cups.

Although there were no connections to alcohol in the display itself, some University of Wisconsin students said it was obviously promoting the popular drinking game beer pong. Other students said they felt it was silly to make Walgreens take the display down.

"[Beer pong] is a student pastime," said UW sophomore Alex Pruzinsky. "Like any other business, they should be able to cater to their customers."

Pruzinsky said other businesses, specifically liquor stores, have similar displays and are not forced to take them down.

UW Dean of Students Lori Berquam first heard about the display from a concerned parent who has a freshman daughter at the University of Wisconsin.

"The display is marketed in a predominantly first-year student area, very few of whom are 21," Berquam said. "And the display was obviously indicating something to do with alcohol."

Berquam attempted to contact

the store's manager last Thursday but was only able to speak with the assistant manager. The manager has since taken responsibility for the display.

Walgreens officials were not available to comment, but employees confirmed the display was taken down.

Pruzinsky said asking Walgreens to take the display down is not going to stop people from playing the game. "Students are going to play beer pong regardless," Pruzinsky said.

Pruzinsky said if officials really wanted to stop the game from being played they would do more than just make the store take down the display.

Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk is another opponent to the display.

"Our impression is that although Walgreens is a good company, the display seems to send the wrong message," said Josh Westcott, spokesman for Falk.

This message, Berquam said, is one that promotes heavy drinking, which can put students' safety at risk.

"This is something that we as a campus continue to struggle with," Berquam said. "I'm concerned about the safety of all our students, and things like this heighten my concern."

While the display itself may not be a huge issue, both Berquam and Falk agreed that it is indicative of a greater problem:

Alcohol abuse.

"[The beer pong display] is a good marketing ploy, but I don't know if it's necessarily a good thing for a business to promote," said UW junior Garrett Notstad.

UW sophomore Brett Johnson agreed that while the display was a good marketing ploy, the Midwest's drinking culture "could be a serious issue — though it depends on the individual."

Falk is currently immersed in an initiative to address alcohol abuse in Dane County aimed at promoting a cultural shift in attitudes toward drinking.

"People always associate alcohol abuse with the campus and downtown area," Westcott said. "But the truth is, it's a countywide issue."

According to Westcott, there were more than 3,000 arrests and citations for drunken driving in Dane County last year.

"These are not statistics we should be proud of," Westcott said.

Falk's \$250,000 initiative released last Wednesday includes additional patrols for drunken drivers on Friday and Saturday nights, an early intervention program to prevent middle school students from abusing alcohol in future years and an emphasis on changing the cultural acceptance of alcohol overconsumption.

BIZ WEEKLY

Heather Locklear arrested in Calif. on DUI count

MONTECITO, Calif. (AP) — Heather Locklear was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of a controlled substance in the upscale Santa Barbara area, authorities said Sunday.

Locklear, 47, was pulled over by a California Highway Patrol officer Saturday afternoon after a resident reported seeing the actress

leaving a parking lot and "driving erratically," patrol spokesman Tom Marshall said.

The officer noticed Locklear's car parked on a state highway and blocking a lane in Montecito, a wealthy community about 90 miles northwest of Los Angeles. She was believed to be alone in the car, Marshall said.

"In talking with her, (the officer)

determines that she seems to be under the influence of something," Marshall said.

Locklear was taken to the police station, where she was tested for alcohol and drugs. She was booked at 7 p.m. on suspicion of driving under the influence of prescription medication. She was later released from custody.

West won't face felony charge in airport scuffle

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles County prosecutors say they have decided not to file felony charges against Kanye West and his manager over an incident in which a paparazzo's camera was broken.

Los Angeles County District At-

torney's spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons says prosecutors referred the case to city attorneys, who will decide whether to charge West with a misdemeanor.

West was arrested Sept. 11 at Los Angeles International Airport on suspicion of felony vandalism after

he was captured on video struggling with a paparazzo and breaking a flash on the floor.

City Attorney spokesman Frank Mateljan says a decision on a lesser charge isn't expected until next week.

Ledger's daughter to inherit late actor's estate

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Heath Ledger's 2-year-old daughter Matilda Rose will inherit all of her father's estate, Ledger's father says.

The Australian actor, who died from an accidental prescription drug overdose in January, signed a will before his daughter was born leaving everything to his parents and three

sisters. Some had speculated his former partner Michelle Williams would lodge a claim for the money.

But Ledger's father, Kim Ledger, told the Australian newspaper The Sunday Times that the family had given all the money to Matilda and that there had been no challenge from Williams.

"There is no claim," the newspaper quoted Kim Ledger as saying in a report published Sunday. "Our family has gifted everything to Matilda."

The actor signed the will on April 12, 2003. It lists assets and cash of just \$118,000, but the actor's estate is believed to be worth more than \$16.3 million, the newspaper said.

Scarlett Johansson, Ryan Reynolds marry in Canada

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Scarlett Johansson and Ryan Reynolds did a little rushing into it after all.

The couple married this weekend, according to publicist Meredith O'Sullivan. She did not provide details.

Us Weekly reported on its Web site Sunday that the small wedding took

place at a resort outside Vancouver, British Columbia. Guests included Scarlett's mother, Melanie Sloan, and her brother, Adrian Johansson, the magazine said.

The couple announced their engagement in May.

"We're just enjoying our time," the actress said last month. "We're just re-

cently — very recently — engaged. So, you know, we're just taking it easy. And no big plan yet. But it's a good time and we're just ... enjoying our time to be young and engaged."

"I mean, I'm 23. There's no reason to rush into it. Everything feels very natural and relaxed."

Tina Fey reprises role as Sarah Palin on 'SNL'

NEW YORK (AP) — Tina Fey reprised her role as Sarah Palin on "Saturday Night Live," again appearing as the Republican vice presidential candidate in an opening sketch.

Saturday night's show — the third of the season for the NBC comedy program — brought back the season premiere tandem of Fey and Amy Poehler, who opened the season with a memorable sketch featuring Fey as Palin and Poehler as Hillary Clinton.

This time around, Poehler played CBS's Katie Couric, parodying the interview with Palin earlier this week. Poehler, though, mostly played straight man to Fey, who ratcheted up her performance of Sen. John McCain's running mate by satirizing her foreign affairs experience.

When Poehler's Couric pushed Fey's Palin to specifically discuss how she would help facilitate democracy abroad, Fey gave in: "Katie, I'd like to use one of my lifelines. ... I want to

phone a friend."

When a confused Poehler informed her that that wasn't how the interview worked, Fey's Palin responded — alluding to one of the governor's most quoted lines from the interview — "Well, in that case, I'm just gonna have to get back to ya."

Fey, a former cast member and head writer of "SNL," has seemingly been thrust back into regular appearances on the program despite her full-time gig with NBC's "30 Rock."

The Boss to play Super Bowl halftime

NEW YORK (AP) — Another Super Bowl, another rock 'n' roll superstar at halftime.

Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band will perform at the 2009 Super Bowl halftime show in Tampa, Fla., the NFL and NBC announced Sunday night.

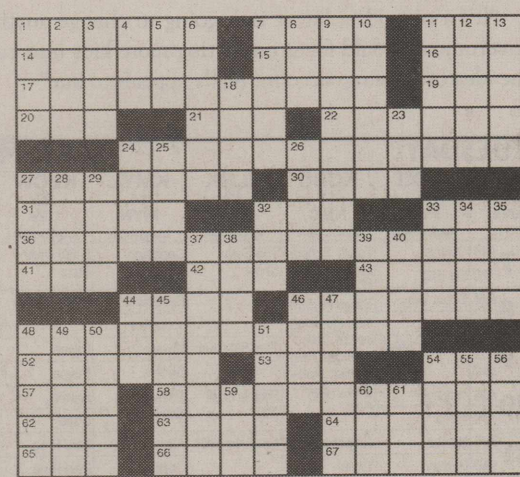
Continuing a run of major talent that has lately included

the Rolling Stones, U2, Paul McCartney, Prince and Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, the biggest television event in the nation will

showcase one of its most beloved rock 'n' roll artists. The Super Bowl will be played Feb. 1 at Raymond James Stadium.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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51 Tiny hooter
54 Charity
55 Unskilled toiler
56 Greenhorn
59 Free ad
60 Gaslayer of "SNL"
61 Put down



By John Underwood
New York, NY

9/30/08

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Online gaming leads to gambling addiction for some at U. Arizona

By ADAM CURTIS
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT (U. ARIZONA)

When Derek Norman, a psychology senior, started playing online poker, he couldn't stop. Soon he found himself playing eight to 10 hours a day, neglecting school work and finally losing more than \$2,000 in a roller coaster of highs and lows, Norman said.

Despite being a "terrible poker player," Norman was encouraged by big wins and started to look at poker "more as a career than a hobby," he said.

As poker's popularity among college students continues to rise, so does the number of students who develop bad gambling habits that can lead to a pathological

gambling addiction later in life, said Jeff Friedman, a therapist at Cottonwood de Tucson.

An estimated 1.6 million out of 17 million U.S. college students gambled online -- mostly on poker -- in 2005, according to an article published in the New York Times magazine.

Poker, particularly Texas Hold 'Em, owes most of its increasing popularity to its presence on cable TV.

The escalating presence of poker in mainstream media has created an atmosphere of acceptability, said Rick Pypier, director of the Arizona Office of Problem Gambling.

"Poker is different from most forms of gambling because the player has the ability to make

more decisions and exert more control over the game. This is why poker attracts action gamblers while compulsive gamblers, who play to escape their problems, prefer to play games of pure chance like roulette or slots," Pypier said.

The element of skill is what initially attracted Norman to the game and, after walking away from poker for several months, he realized this is exactly what he lacked.

Norman began picking up poker books and reading online forums.

Soon after turning 21, Norman went to Las Vegas and played in person for the first time and won \$2,000 in three days.

Now Norman believes he's a good player but says that at first he

had "no idea how to play the game or manage his finances."

Mike Gelfund, a 22-year-old former UA student, agrees managing money is critical to being a successful poker player and actually has a separate bank account for his poker money.

"You can't risk money for things you really need like rent or food," Gelfund said. "If you are afraid to lose your money, you won't be able to put all the chips out there when you need to," he said.

Gelfund is very aware of gambling addictions and has seen many of his friends "go on tilt" and lose large amounts of money. The phrase refers to when a player turns reckless after a big and often unlucky loss.

One of his friends lost \$5,000 in 15 minutes while on the way to Las Vegas because they decided to play blackjack.

When he goes on tilt, Gelfund likes to take a break, breathe deeply and "try not to throw over the poker table," he laughed.

A successful poker player is someone who consistently wins, not someone who wins big once or twice, he said.

Gelfund and Norman agree poker is getting much more popular among students at the UA.

A study done by the Annenberg Public Policy Center concluded that the number of college males who reported gambling online once a week or more doubled in 2005.

Friedman has also seen an

increase in the number of pathological gamblers that come into Cottonwood de Tucson, but attributes this mostly to the fact that there are more opportunities to gamble.

Most college students that report gambling problems come for treatment of a substance abuse problem and don't meet the criteria for pathological gambling because they don't have enough money, Friedman said.

If you have a problem with gambling or know someone who does, Friedman recommends you call Gambler's Anonymous at (520) 570-7879 or go to their website, www.gamblersanonymous.org/mtgdirAZ.html to see their meeting times.

FAFSA applicants rise, future of loans unclear

By TAYLOR MILLER
WASHINGTON SQUARE NEWS (NYU)

As students across the nation find themselves in trouble when it comes to paying for their education, there was a 16 percent increase this year in applicants for FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

According to data from Information for Financial Aid Professionals, 8.9 million students submitted FAFSA forms in the first half of 2008, up from 7.6 million the previous year.

With the FAFSA's increasing importance, a panel of education experts recently met to propose changes in the current federal policies on financial aid for colleges, including the possible elimination of the FAFSA.

The report proposed that Congress should eliminate the FAFSA and retrieve the financial data required for Pell grant allocation from the Internal Revenue Service.

However, if the FAFSA is kept, proposed changes include creating a simpler application process; linking the maximum amount of money a student can borrow from the Stafford Loan to the federal poverty level,

and the maximum Pell grant to the consumer price index; and creating federally financed college-savings accounts for children from low-income families, according to the report from the Rethinking Student Aid Study Group.

The combination of a slumping real-estate market, increased food and gas prices, a rising unemployment rate and recent trouble on Wall Street have led to a surge in the number of qualified financial aid applicants, a number that exceeds the available federal funds to support them.

For example, the Pell grant program, from which federal funds for financial aid are taken, is expected to face a \$6 billion shortfall this year.

LSP freshman Eamon Downey said he has faced difficulty coping with large tuition costs. He has taken out a private loan from Citibank.

"I have friends who tell me I'm nuts to be here because of the cost," he said.

The panel also proposed creating an account for children of low-income families, adding money to it each year until the child's 18th birthday. The money could only be withdrawn for college expenses.

CAS sophomore Rajshi Akruwala said the idea of eliminating the FAFSA just seemed like a matter of convenience for the government.

"It's a nice idea, but it isn't going to change anything," he said. "The government should focus on getting more kids into college, which is why the idea of a savings account really appeals to me."

"I have friends who tell me I'm nuts to be here because of the cost."

EAMON DOWNEY
COLLEGE FRESHMAN

At Brown U., 4 rooms go mixed-gender roommates

By EMMY LISS
BROWN DAILY HERALD (BROWN U.)

Sofia Unanue '11 has, by now, observed her roommate's daily rituals enough times to know them by heart.

"In the morning, Sam wakes up, goes to take a shower, looks in the mirror, puts on purple tighty-whities..."

"They're not tighty-whities; they're boxer briefs!"

Sam Yambrovich '11 and Unanue are typical roommates in all but one sense: Yambrovich is male and Unanue is female.

Last spring, the Office of Residential Life announced that for the first time, certain doubles on campus would be designated as gender-neutral. For the pilot program, ResLife strategically chose six residence halls, comprising about a third of upperclassman doubles. Only four rooms were chosen in the housing lottery by mixed gender groups though, according to ResLife.

Richard Bova, senior associate dean of Residential Life, speculated that the small number could be in part due to groups choosing suites or apartments, rather than traditional

doubles, in the housing lottery. He also suggested that the novelty of the program might have impacted the numbers.

Still, Yambrovich and Unanue were surprised to hear they were in such a small minority.

"Granted, it's the first year and it wasn't widely publicized, but still, I couldn't believe it," Yambrovich said. "This is Brown!"

But they didn't choose their living arrangement to make a statement. It was simply what made the most sense.

Last spring, the two were friendly but did not know each other well. They were in a lottery group of eight, hoping to get doubles or a suite. The other six paired off before the lottery, however, leaving Yambrovich and Unanue as the odd ones out.

"We were at dance one day," Unanue recalled, "and I was like, 'Dude, I don't have anyone to live with. Will you live with me?'"

Both admit now that they were nervous last spring, and not entirely sure they could live together. But they entered the lottery together and the group of eight was able to secure four doubles nearby in Hark-

ness House.

Over the summer, Yambrovich and Unanue were coincidentally both in Madrid. They lived together for 10 days, had a fantastic time and returned to school much more confident about their arrangement, they said.

Their friends find it "hilarious" that the two are roommates, though.

"We're kind of polar opposites," Yambrovich explained. "I have a shelf full of cleaning products; she has a laundry basket full of dirty clothes."

But when it comes to their different genders, neither feels uncomfortable. They attribute that in large part, though, to the fact that Yambrovich is gay.

"Otherwise, it would be really hard," Unanue said. "There's always sexual tension."

"We even have some," Yambrovich joked.

"Sam!"
"When I told my mom, the first thing I had to tell her was, 'He's gay,'" Unanue explained. "Don't worry, he's not going to be my boyfriend." That was a big relief."
Unanue said her mom has since

met Yambrovich, and is "obsessed" with him.

Yambrovich's situation is somewhat different: His parents think he lives in a single. They are coming to visit in two weeks, which both said should be interesting.

"I can completely see my parents being like, 'What? You can't do that!'" Yambrovich said.

Yambrovich said he acknowledges the opposition from the Brown community at large - including alumni and parents - when the policy was instituted, "but I never understand why," he said.

"If I'm more comfortable living with Sofia, who's a girl, why shouldn't I have that option?"

For Bova, that's the main reason to allow gender-neutral housing. He said he wants to ensure that all students feel safe and comfortable in their housing environments, and for some students, the option that makes them happiest may not be the traditional housing model.

So far, he said, the eight students living in gender-neutral rooms seem to be pleased with their setup, but ResLife will continue to monitor the results of the new policy throughout the year.

Northeastern U. students flock to Boston's CollegeFest

By TARA TURNER
THE NORTHEASTERN NEWS (NORTHEASTERN U.)

It seemed no one went home empty-handed this weekend from Boston's annual back-to-school event, CollegeFest.

Despite the rain, thousands of college students flocked to Hynes Convention Center, where \$10 admission and a valid college ID gained students access to free samples and prizes from visiting companies like Trojan, JetBlue, Monster and Playboy.

CollegeFest also featured concerts, including headliners Chammillonaire, a Grammy Award

winning rapper, and Soujia Boy, who is best known for his single "Crank That," a party anthem which hit No. 1 on the Billboard charts in 2007.

Other bands, like Bamboo Shoots and The White Tie Affair, performed as well.

The most popular exhibitor at CollegeFest appeared to be Playboy, with a line to get into the magazine's lounge that stretched the length of the convention center and wrapped around the side of the building. Some people said they waited in line for up to two hours to meet the playmates and "cyber girls."

Amanda Corey, model and winner of The CW's reality show "Beauty and the Geek," said the best thing about the day was meeting fans.

"The students are so much more excited than other fans I've met," Corey said. "It's a huge college town,

and it's so awesome that people are waiting in line to see us, because there are so many other things they could be doing."

Students could also meet Miss October Kelly Carrington, Cyber Girl of the Year Jo Garcia and Miss Playboy Mobile Amber J in the Playboy Lounge. People waiting in line could win Playboy swag to take home and play a popular "pong" game at CollegeFest with the booth's models.

Other companies took different approaches to attract students. Nantucket Nectars had its own "Nantucket Island," with beach chairs and towels, where students could take pictures, play Nintendo Wii and get free samples at a "bar."

For those students who came looking to help fund their academic future, Kaplan was giving away

\$25,000 for graduate school, and the Cramster.com booth offered students a chance to win \$2,500 for academic purposes. For gamers, radio station WAAF and Microsoft featured October Kelly Carrington, Cyber Girl of the Year Jo Garcia and Miss Playboy Mobile Amber J in the Playboy Lounge. People waiting in line could win Playboy swag to take home and play a popular "pong" game at CollegeFest with the booth's models.

Like last year, JetBlue was raffling off round trip airline tickets. The company featured "Blue Betty," a simulated airline cabin where students could get the "jetting" experience in leather seats, with DIRECTV, XM Radio and in-flight movies.

Standing out with its yellow tent was Trojan. The company featured an "Evolve" bus, playing off the company's recent advertising line, where students could put on pig costumes and race to put condoms on bananas.

| TUESDAY | | | | | | | | SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 | | | | | | | |
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| 7 AM | Curious Sid (HD) | Today Sched- ued author of 'Tie for Ruby,' Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, musician Kelly Rowland, musician Jewel (HD) | The Early Show | Copeland Robson | (5:00) Daily Buzz | Good Morning America (HD) | Athlete | 8 AM | Super Why Clifford | Sesame Street | The 700 Club | Divorce Payne | Divorce Payne | Regis & Kelly | Martha Stewart |
| 9 AM | Dragon Word | Price Is Right (HD) | Price Is Right (HD) | The Morning Show | Bernie Cops | The View (HD) | Bonnie Hunt Show | 10 AM | Martha Jeopardy | Reelless (HD) | Alex Cristina | Paid Prog. | Paid Prog. | Type "Bisexuales" | |
| 11 AM | Barnaby Trivial | News | News | The People's Court | Roseanne Roseanne | All My Children | Paid Prog. | 12 PM | Sewing Dewberry | Days of Our Lives | As the World | Paid Prog. | Farm Court | One Life to Live | The People's Court |
| 1 PM | Creative Place | The Doctors | Guiding Light | Maury | Judge Jeanine | General Hospital | Judge Mathis | 2 PM | Betw. Lion Reading | Oprah Winfrey | Brown | Extra | J. Foxx | No Deal | Eitan DeGeneres |
| 3 PM | WorldGirl | Dr. Phil | Judy Judy | Maury | Standing | Rachael Ray | News | 4 PM | FETCH Cyber | News | News | Fam. Feud | Queens | News | Lopez |
| 5 PM | Bus. Rpt | News | News | Fam. Feud | Queens | News | Simpsons | 6 PM | NewsHour (HD) | News | News | Law Order (HD) | 70s | News | Family |
| 7 PM | NOVA | The Biggest Loser 6: Families | NCIS (HD) | St. Patrol St. Patrol | 90210 | Opportun. | House (HD) | 8 PM | P.O.V. "Critical Condition" | Mentalist (HD) | Jail Jail | Privileged | Dancing with Stars | Fringe "The Ar- rivat" | |
| 9 PM | Rx Change | Law & Order: SVU | Without Trace (HD) | Jim (HD) | Sex City | Half Their Size | News | 10 PM | Bus. Rpt | News | News | King | Will (HD) | News | Two & 1/2 |
| 11 PM | Charlie Rose | The Tonight Show | (10:35) Late Show | TMZ | Will (HD) | Nightline | Seinfeld | 12 AM | News | (11:35) Late Show | Late Late Show | Wife | Cosby | Jimmy Kimmel | Raymond |
| | Destinos | GED | Late Call | Paid Prog. | Paid Prog. | Paid Prog. | Insider | | | | | | | | |

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Flu

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

flu early in the fall, it is often an indicator of a bad season.

The flu season can begin as early as October and end as late as May, and the CDC reported the best time to get vaccinated is during October or November.

Brawley said the increased number of doses may stem from the CDC's

new recommendation that children and youths between the ages of 5 and 18 years old to get vaccinated.

Although the flu vaccine was already licensed by the FDA to be administered to individuals in that age group, she said, this is the first year the CDC recommended the vaccination for this group, which may be the result of a higher rate of infection among children during the 2007-08 season.

"When you have a child that has the flu, the parents and other siblings tend to get sick," Brawley said. "It's just a preventative method so that it's not passed from person to person."

Brawley said the Lubbock Health Department administered a total of about 2,500 vaccines last season. The department ordered 3,300 vaccines for this season, a 32 percent increase from last year if all vaccines are distributed.

Juli McCauley, the clinical de-

partment administrator for Tech Student Health Services, said Tech ordered about 600 vaccines last season and 500 vaccines for the upcoming season.

"It's kind of tricky," McCauley said. "We had a surplus of vaccine for the previous two years, but we could order more of it if there was a demand for it and students needed it."

McCauley said the Student Wellness Center began administering vaccines to high-risk individuals earlier this month and will offer vaccines by appointment to all other students beginning Oct. 1.

The CDC recommends this year's vaccines for people between the ages of 6 months and 19 years. The center also is recommending this year's vaccines for pregnant women and people who are at high risk of complications — such as those who are older than 50 years old or those with weak immune systems.

Juli McCauley, the clinical de- >>tina.arons@tu.edu

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Tech suffers 4th Big 12 loss

By KEVIN CULLEN
STAFF WRITER

Saturday may have brought déjà vu for the Texas Tech volleyball team in more ways than one.

Not only was Tech unable to pick up its first Big 12 Conference win Saturday, but the Red Raiders fell to Oklahoma for the second time this season, giving Tech an 0-4 record in conference play. The match in Norman, Okla., also was the second time it took all five sets to determine the outcome between the two teams.

"We actually played really well," said Tech assistant coach Mike Moffitt. "(It was) very similar to our home match against Oklahoma. We just had the same thing: untimely errors."

The Red Raiders went up 2-1 after a win in the third set and proceeded to lose 25-10 in the fourth set.

The team may have come out for the fourth set a little too comfortable, said Tech libero Jenn Harrell, which is an issue the team must address.

"Our strongest point is definitely not urgency," she said. "We came out and played great in game one, played decent in game two and then won game three and then we came out in game four very, very, very, very flat."

The Sooners boasted a .255 attack percentage for the match compared to Tech's .176.

"We are focusing on trying to take away what the opponents is gonna do," Moffitt said. "A lot of our opponents are hitting slides and we've gotta do a better job. We're not blocking, that's what we've gotta do, a better job of beating that. Essentially on our side, it's just hitting errors."

Tech middle blocker Amanda Dowdy, whose 16 kills led the team for the ninth time this season, said one thing the Red Raiders can do to fix the attack percentage is focus on making smarter shots by placing balls instead of attempting a kill and avoiding blocks when a kill is attempted.

The Sooners also took advantage of the Red Raiders' 17 service errors for the match.



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Treador

TECH'S JENN HARRELL and the Red Raiders face No. 2 Nebraska at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena.

Moffitt said putting players through different situations in practice should help minimize service errors in the coming weeks.

"That's just something we've got going this week is just a lot more pressurized serving in practice," he said. "Our serving has been aggressive, but there are times we've gotta reign it in when everything else is going well we've gotta serve the ball on the court."

Player complacency is an issue many coaches face at all levels in all sports and Moffitt said with the recent conference play of the team, the coaches must consider this a possible issue.

"I think in this situation that can

always be a concern," he said. "Coming through the year we had last year with the injuries and things like that — we have a lot of newcomers that didn't know what to expect, but the girls that we had returning went through that last year in an unwinnable situation... so that's always a small cause of concern, but all you can really do is key on a specific thing you've gotta work on for the next match and that's what we are trying to do for this week."

The Red Raiders will look for their first Big 12 win this season against No. 2 Nebraska 7 p.m. Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena.

» kevin.m.cullen@ttu.edu

Tech soccer still dealing with injuries

By STEVEN RYAN
STAFF WRITER

It is always nice to have plenty of depth, especially when the injury bug is floating around.

It seems the Red Raiders cannot catch any breaks when it comes to staying healthy. With last year's leading goal scorer, Zhalch Rezaie, back in action for conference play, Tech lost two more starters to injuries over the weekend.

"Our bench has to be prepared," freshman Taylor Lytle said. "We tell everyone at the beginning of the game, even if you don't start just be prepared to go in so the momentum of the game doesn't go down."

Midfielder Halie Cde-baca left Friday night's game against No. 13 Oklahoma State early with a leg injury and sat on the bench in Sunday's game against Oklahoma with a large brace around her leg.

Last season, she started 14 games and was given the third most minutes played among position players. This season, she had started in eight matches for the Red Raiders.

"We don't know the extent of it," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "She is still being evaluated. They think it's just a sprain but no one has told us yet how long she will be out."

Also expecting to visit the team doctor this week is forward Kendyll Mygatt. She has been one of Stone's impact freshman this season, starting in all 10 matches, earning two goals with two assists on the year.

Mygatt went down early in the second half of Sunday's match against OU with what also looked like a leg injury. She sat out the rest of the game but



PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Treador

FORWARD FRESHMAN KENDYLL Mygatt passes the ball down the field Sunday at the John Walker Soccer Complex.

attempted to walk on the leg after the injury.

With the injuries continuing to pile up, Stone was looking down his bench once again for players to step up.

Two players who had yet to see playing time this season had plenty of it this weekend, while a couple of freshman received unexpected starts.

Leanne Mihelich, a sophomore transfer from Arkansas State, played 60 minutes against OU and got off a shot. Also, defender Erin Villareal finally was relieved of her bench-warming duties to play a combined 44 minutes in Tech's two weekend matches.

Meanwhile, defender Hope Hanson got her first career start against OU while midfielder Mag-

gie Fete got her second. Hanson said it was really exciting to make her first start and it felt like her hard work was starting to pay off.

Stone said it is his job to calm down his substitutes and remind them of strategy because it is easy for the players to get lost in the excitement of getting playing time.

"We give them a little more tactical advice," he said. "We tell them this is their role, this is what we are asking of you. The players that come on get excited because they know their play in practice is why they are why we are turning to. They've earned the right to be a starter now because when the player just in front of them has to step out; we believe in them enough to step in."

» steven.ryan@ttu.edu

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SPORTS

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TUESDAY SEPT. 30, 2008

Tech launches Heisman trophy campaign for Harrell, Crabtree

By ALEX YBARRA
STAFF WRITER

The Red Raider football team now has its own version of the White House, and the candidates vying for the top spot are quarterback Graham Harrell and All-American receiver Michael Crabtree.

Texas Tech announced a 2008 politically-designed campaign that promotes Crabtree and Harrell for the Heisman Memorial Trophy on the Web site, passorcatch2008.com, by providing information for national voters who may want to keep an eye on each candidate just as Big 12 Conference play begins at Kansas State on Saturday.

"We have been presented with a unique opportunity at Texas Tech," Associate Athletic Director Chris Cook said in a press release. "Whereas most programs are promoting one individual, we have two worthy candidates for consideration. Choosing one over the other to promote is not an option. Therefore, we are leaving that decision up to the voters. We will present the information and platforms as they unfold."

Tech went all out for the campaign, including a secret service (offensive line), a commander in chief (Tech coach Mike Leach) and a secretary of defense (defensive coordinator Ruffin McNeill).

On the Web site, Harrell and Crabtree each prepared a video urging voters to side with them, but after each of them acknowledge the others' accomplishments, they expose a humorous side to them.

Once Harrell praises Crabtree's record-breaking 2007 campaign, he reminds voters in a sarcastic manner of the real reason his receiver put up those numbers.

"But I ask you to consider one thing this election season, how do those footballs get in the air?" Harrell said with a straight face. "Football just don't magically fly through the air — they don't — it's science."

On the other hand, Crabtree has his moment to discuss Harrell's 2007 season but continues into his own pitch.

"When it comes down to your vote, I have to ask you something," Crabtree said. "What happens if I don't grab the ball out the air — an incompleteness? The clock stops, nobody wants that."

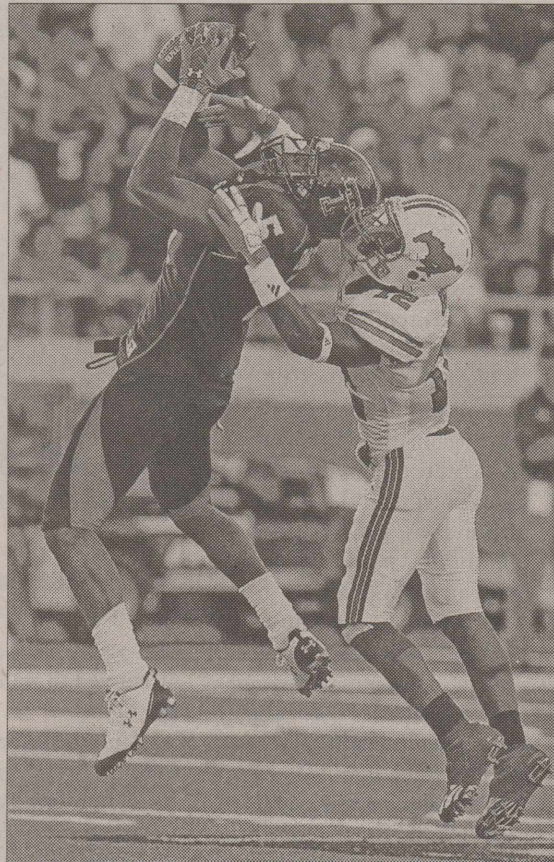
During Tech's weekly press conference Monday, guard Brandon Carter said he was unsure what to say about being involved in the secret service, or he could just be following the rules of secrecy.

"It's kind of one of those if I tell you I'd have to kill you thing," he joked. "It's kind of a secret deal."

It has been difficult for Crabtree to follow his debut season as a freshman in 2007 when his 134 receptions, 1,962 yards and 22 touchdowns were all freshmen records.

Through four games in 2007, Crabtree had 52 receptions for 775 yards and 11 touchdowns. So far in 2008 he has 29 catches for 457 yards and six touchdowns, but he still has impacted the season with key blocks and big plays down field.

Although those numbers don't match up to 2007, Crabtree ranks third in the nation with 114.3 yards per game and is among the nation's top receivers



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH'S MICHAEL Crabtree and Graham Harrell are featured in the You Choose 2008 campaign, promoting the two as Heisman candidates.

in receptions per game and receiving touchdowns.

Harrell, in his senior season, has spread his name among the record books just as easily as he distributes the ball to his receivers. Against SMU this season, he broke the school records for career passing touchdowns with 97 and career touchdowns responsible for, with 104, surpassing former quarterback Kliff Kingsbury for each record.

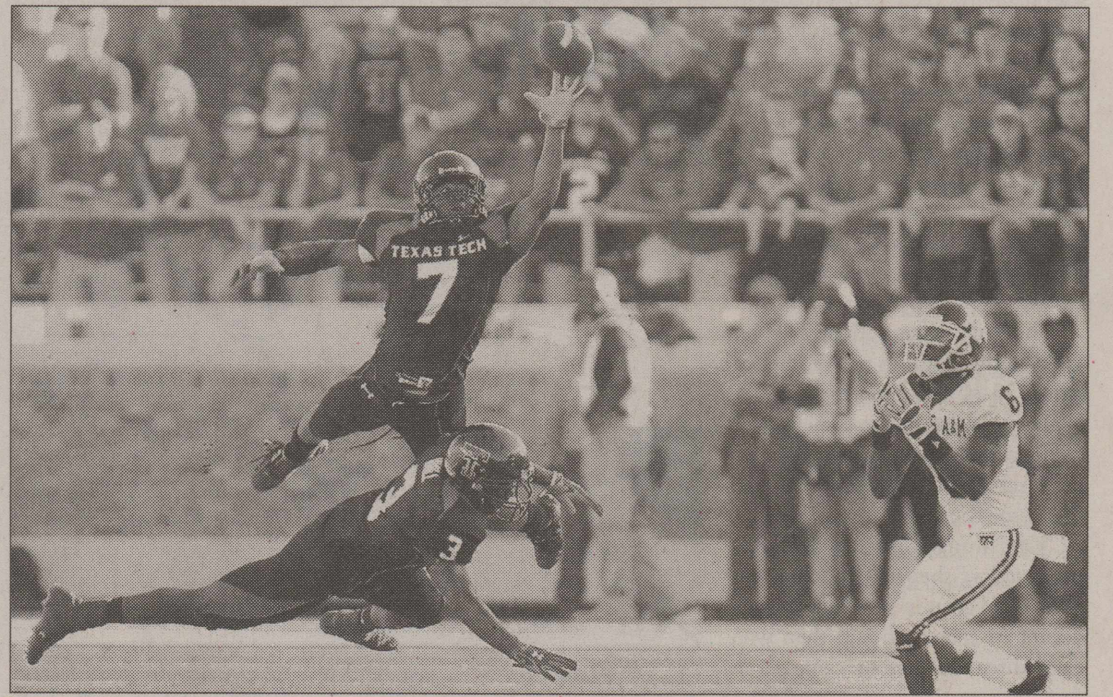
Furthermore, the Ennis native is one of six quarterbacks all-time to throw for 5,000 yards in a season, and he could gain that amount again this season, averaging 393.2 passing yards per game.

The campaign comes during a week when No. 7 Tech has its highest ranking in The Associated Press poll since 1976, when it was No. 5 for three consecutive weeks, prompting Leach to remind his two stars about their objective that matters most.

"I don't pay attention to the campaign either," Leach said after he was asked about the rise of media attention. "They just need to go out and play well."

>>> daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu

Big 12 Conference teams move up in polls, coaches, players stay focused



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

DARCEL McBATH AND the Red Raiders attempt to ignore recent national rankings.

By ALEX YBARRA
STAFF WRITER

View a related video at www.dailytoreador.com

It started with Oregon State knocking off the previously top-ranked USC Trojans during a nationally televised game Thursday.

A few days later, the upset bug carried over to Florida and Georgia, both Top 5 teams who lost at home.

When the smoke cleared, three more Top 25 teams fell — including No. 9 Wisconsin — and Tech reaped the benefits along with the Big 12 Conference.

In The Associated Press poll, the Red Raiders jumped from No. 10 to No. 7 — marking the highest ranking in any poll since 1976, when they were ranked No. 5 for three consecutive weeks.

Three Big 12 teams are ranked inside the Top 5: No. 1 Oklahoma, No. 3 Missouri and No. 5 Texas.

Tech coach Mike Leach said although players understand that any team can win on Saturday, there is no substitute for seeing "well-illustrated examples."

"We shouldn't be blind to that," said Leach, whose team experienced its first bye week since 2004. "I hope we're not."

In order to make sure his team realizes the gravity of these upsets,

Leach said during a recent team meeting he used a message former UCLA basketball coach John Wooden believed in.

"We talked about it just like John Wooden says, 'It's important to respect everyone and fear no one.' If you don't respect everyone, any of them can beat you, and if you fear anybody, then you can't have great victories, like Oregon State did."

Tech cornerback Brent Nickerson said watching so many powerful teams go down either at home or to unranked teams provides a lesson in itself: Don't let your guard down.

"You look at it and you see it and the thing that it makes you do is really focus on the next game," he said. "You don't want to look past an opponent because some of these teams that are dropping in the Top 10, that are in the Top 5 in the BCS, are going down. You learn from other people's mistakes. We see those mistakes and the things that they're going through and we don't want that to be us."

Tech safety Darcel McBath used the 2005 season as an example not to get caught up in any talk about a ranking. Looking to go 7-0 for the first time since 1976, Tech was ranked No. 10 heading into a showdown with Vince Young's No. 2 Texas Longhorns in Austin but lost 52-17.

"We kind of took it in too much, reading too many newspaper articles,"

McBath said. "I'm gonna make sure it doesn't happen this year."

Along with OU, Missouri, Texas and Tech, Kansas moved up two spots to No. 16 and No. 21 Oklahoma State entered the rankings.

McBath said six Big 12 teams ranked nationally and four in the top seven only adds up to more media coverage.

"It's always fun to play against the best in the country, I mean we do that every year," he said. "To have it ranked, its gonna have a lot more hype around it. It's no different than any other year, but a little more hype. I'm not really paying attention to that."

Kansas State coach Ron Prince said this could be a very unpredictable Big 12 regular season schedule for any team because of so many potent offenses.

How potent? Nationally, six Big 12 quarterbacks rank in the Top 10 in passing efficiency and six teams rank in the Top 12 in total offense.

"I know last year there was a lot of dynamic offense, but I think a lot of teams put themselves in a position to compete, offensively," said Prince, whose Wildcats play Tech at 2:30 p.m. Saturday in Manhattan, Kan. "Anybody who gets behind is never really out of it."

>>> daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu

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Tech men's tennis gets strong performance from Breler

By KEVIN CULLEN
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech men's tennis team saw some strong performances at the HEB Baylor Intercollegiate Invitational this weekend in Waco.

Among the strongest of showings was Tech's Michael Breler.

Breler won the A Draw Consolation bracket in an event Tech coach Tim Siegel said is one of the toughest on the team's schedule.

"Michael Breler, he's a senior," Siegel said, "and (it is) easy to take for granted how tough he is and how hard he works, but he has gotten better. He is just a guy you know is gonna come out and play with the kind of effort and intensity that you want, and he played extremely well.

He beat three players this weekend all playing (Nos.) 3 or 4 for their schools last year."

Breler said it was encouraging to have such a good tournament so early in the year and it is something he can use for the future.

"I think it's great preparation," he said. "It's one of the best tournaments of the fall, probably one of the best individual tournaments in the nation ... I think this is probably one of the best tournaments you can play to improve your game and get ready for upcoming tournaments in the fall and even in the spring."

Tech's James Wilson also won his consolation bracket, the B Draw.

Siegel said the play of Tech's freshmen thus far has been exciting to see, and he compares them

to some of the best players in the country.

"Raony Carvalho lost to the No. 1 player in the country 6-3, 6-4," he said. "He is without a doubt one of the best players in the country as a freshman. He's just gonna get better and better. Gonzalo Escobar is a lot like Michael. Those two guys as freshmen have shown a lot. They're gonna be the cornerstone or the backbone of our team for the next three years."

Another bright spot in Waco was the play of Tech's doubles teams, Siegel said.

"I'm pleasantly surprised with our play," he said. "At the same time, I know that's where we need the most work. Escobar and (David) Gonzalez I think could be a very good team.

They've got some improvement to do, but they could be a good team. I know that our No. 1 team, Carvalho and (Christian) Rojmar, have a chance to be as good as a No. 1 team as there is in the country."

Practice this week will focus on preparation for the All-American Championship as Siegel said it is probably the toughest tournament of the year.

"I'm just gonna work them hard is what I'm gonna do," he said. "I'm gonna work them hard. I'm gonna analyze where they are weak. They are gonna watch some video of their matches and it's my job and their job to improve their weaknesses from this past weekend and that's what we're gonna do."

>>> kevin.m.cullen@ttu.edu

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