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Bare Essentials

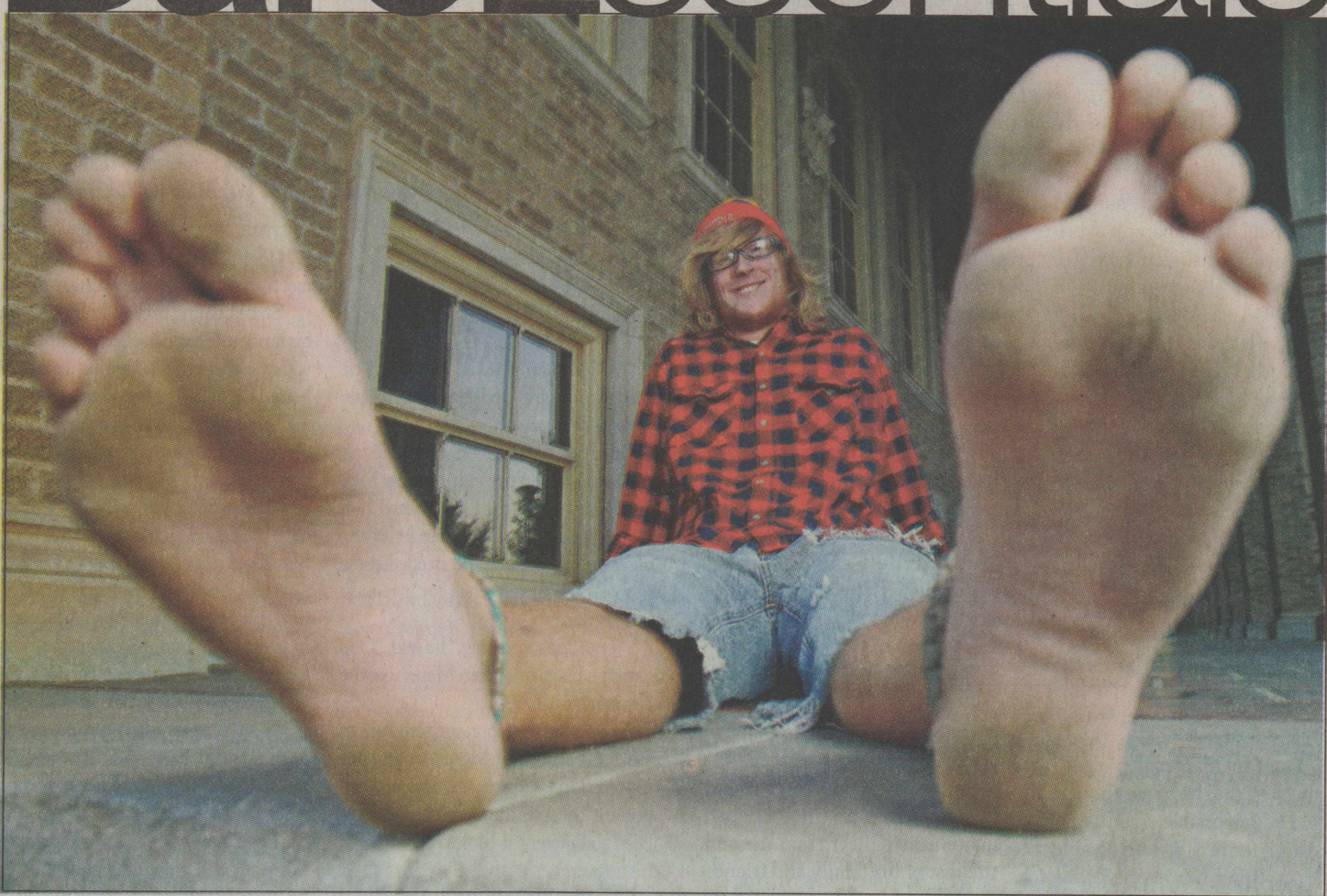


PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Treador

BEN COWEN HASN'T worn shoes since he traveled to Colombia to minister to street kids, orphans and prostitutes more than two years ago.

22-year-old Lubbockite walks through life shoeless

By DEVIN SANCHEZ
STAFF WRITER

Shoes. In today's material-obsessed society, it's easy to overlook their importance. We decide which ones to wear based on comfort, color and style, then move on with our day without another thought about them.

Bennett Cowen, a 22-year-old from

Lubbock, doesn't think shoes are simple commodities. In fact, Cowen has seen the luxury that shoes can be to people, especially children.

In December 2008, Cowen said he felt "called by God" to go to Salem, Oregon, to go work with Youth with a Mission, a group that educates college-aged students for three months before sending them off to do mission work

for another three months. YWAM sent Cowen to Colombia for his mission, and at first, he admits, he wasn't too excited.

"I had been to Mexico several times, and I wanted to work with a different culture" he said. "But this is where God wanted me to go, so I went."

Cowen went to Cartagena, Colombia, and was able to do what he was most passionate about: work with children. The children Cowen interacted with didn't come from fortunate families; these were children living in complete destitution.

"God put me with kids who were

the children of drug dealers, prostitutes, gang members; children with horrible lives," he said. "That's what I did for three months. I hung out with them, and they just blew my mind."

Cowen said the children taught him so much and made him realize how lucky he was to be born into the situation into which he was born. After three weeks of working with the children, Cowen felt he needed a way to relate to them. So he did what he usually does: He talked to God.

BARE continued on Page 2 >>>

Family, faith inspire alum Navy officer



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Treador

MATTHEW BERKETT IS a Texas Tech alumnus who currently serves in the Navy as an ensign.

'09 grad went straight to Officer Candidate School

By HALLIE DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

It took Matthew Burkett an entire year just to fill out the application; he said he took his time to make sure it was exactly what he wanted to do.

"It was not a quick decision, it was not spur of the moment or impulse," Burkett said. "It was very thought out, and when I decided, I was beyond sure that that was God had for my life, it was what I wanted to do."

Ensign W. Matthew Burkett graduated from Texas Tech in May of 2009 with a business degree, then went straight to Officer Candidate School to become a Navy Officer.

Burkett's father, Randy, the department chairman of the construction engineering and engineering technology, said he was not too surprised, as he served in the Navy as well with four years of active duty, and five years in the reserve.

Matthew Burkett's family involvement is even deeper, with both of his grandfathers having served in the armed forces. Burkett said the other deciding factor was his faith.

"I have the ability and freedom to worship and do the things I think are right without any input from anyone; not every



Part two in a four-part DT series about service men and women

country has that freedom," Burkett said. "To take advantage of that freedom but expect someone else to make it happen... didn't really sit right with me."

He finalized his decision in Fall 2008, he said, and signed up with the Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program, where he promised to serve at least four years after college, and the Navy paid him a salary until he graduated and officially joined.

"At OCS, Burkett said he and the other new officers were trained in the ways of the Navy, from intense physical work to academics and leadership training.

NAVY continued on Page 2 >>>

SGA hosts speakers, discusses fees

By BRIAN HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

Two guest speakers addressed the Student Government Association on Thursday night, speaking about students' opportunities to voice their opinions and Lubbock's support of the homeless.

Becky Killgore, assistant ombuds for students with the Texas Tech Office of the Ombudsman, said the offices provide a very calming environment for students to voice their concerns.

"We are located in the basement on the east side of the student union building," she said. "We want all students to know that we are here for any concerns or problems they may run into in their college lives."

The ombudsman's office will take the time to listen to any and all student complaints, Killgore said.

SGA continued on Page 2 >>>

Lecture series to feature two US Supreme Court justices Scalia, Breyer to give presentations today

By BROOKE BELLOMY
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech School of Law is hosting the Sandra Day O'Connor Distinguished Lecture Series at 5 p.m. today at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center featuring two U.S. Supreme Court justices.

The series began three years ago in 2007 when Sandra Day O'Connor, retired justice, was the featured speaker.

"The lecture series was the brain child of Mark and Becky Lanier, two Lubbock natives, who recognized the educational value for law students and the larger public in learning about the Constitution and judicial

philosophies," said Susan Saab Fortney, interim dean of the law school.

The series will include a presentation by two Supreme Court justices, Antonin Scalia and Stephen Breyer, and will be moderated by New York University School of Law professor Arthur Miller.

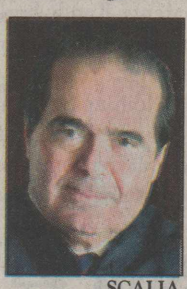
In 1986, Scalia, an associate justice and the longest-serving justice, was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan, according to the event's

news release. Breyer, also an associate justice, was appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1994.

"It is meaningful for the law school and community to have the opportunity to see and hear these two speakers," Fortney said. "Specifically, it is enlightening to learn their different views on Constitution interpretation."

Tina Dechausay, the communications coordinator for the law school, said 4,500 people are expected to attend the series. One notable attendant expected at the series is Tech Chancellor Kent Hance. Dechausay said tickets to the event, which were complimentary, are no longer available.

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SCALIA



BREYER

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Students sign Christmas cards to support soldiers

By CAROLINE COURTNEY
STAFF WRITER

Over the past year, Chyrel Mitchell, administrative assistant in the Office of the Chief Information Officer at Texas Tech, adopted a whole new family – the men and women serving in Afghanistan alongside her son, Spc. Chase Chumbley.

"I sent care packages to him and everyone in his unit," Mitchell said. "They really appreciate them, and it's something that makes them feel cared for because some of them didn't have anyone."

Mitchell said care packages and letters boost soldiers' morale immensely, even if the letters are sent from someone the soldiers do not know.

Texas Tech adviser of Double T Health Service Corps Chris Felton realized the impact a card can have on a soldier and organized the second "Christmas Cards for Soldiers" in the Student Union Building Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"It's so important to give back, especially on Veterans Day," Felton said. "We also want to show students that there are soldiers everywhere preserving their freedom, not just in Iraq and Afghanistan."

The Health Service Corps, partnered with the Volunteer Center of Lubbock, will send the cards to the 29,000 men and women stationed at Kunsan Air Force Base in South Korea.

"It's important to show our troops we support them," Felton

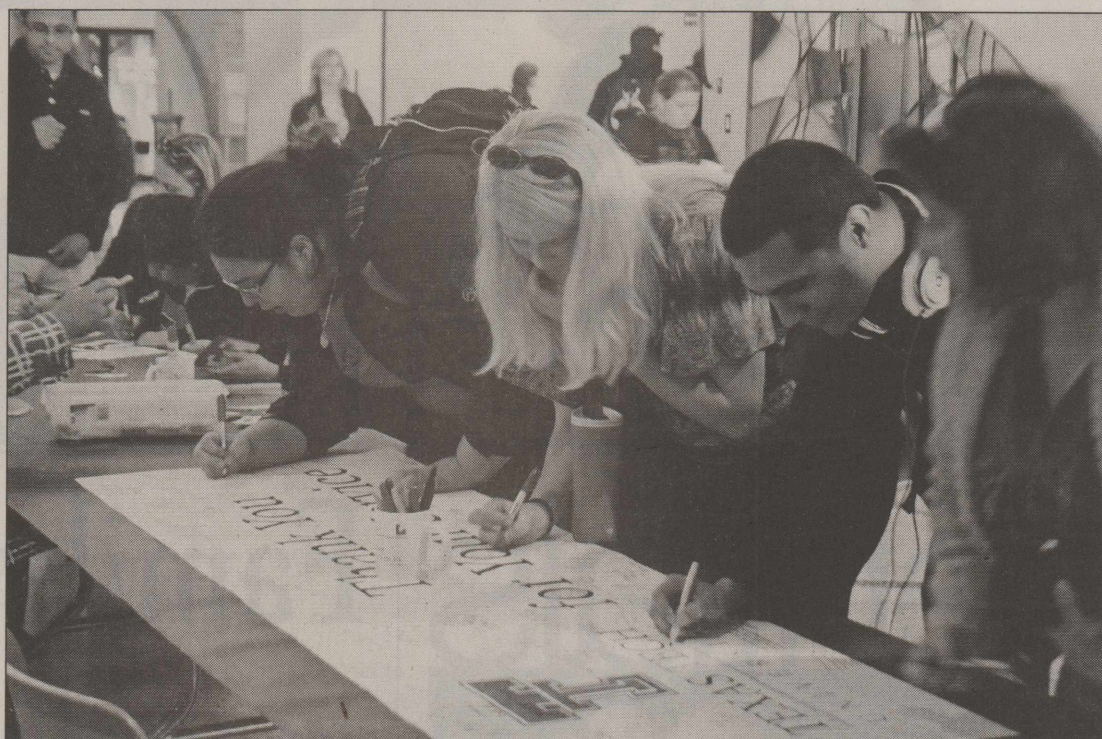


PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Toreador

STUDENTS SIGN BANNERS and make Christmas cards, on Thursday in the Student Union Building, that will be sent to the men and women stationed at Kunsan Air Force Base, South Korea.

said. "And this is such an easy and effective way to do that. But people have to realize that it's important at all times, whenever the opportunity presents itself, not just the holidays."

Regan Weaver, a freshman public relations major from Longview, said she takes advantage of every opportunity she finds to support the troops.

"I'm making a card because my great grandpa was a soldier in World War II, and I always send him a card on Veterans Day," Weaver said. "It has to mean a lot to them because it meant a lot to him."

Weaver said students should get involved not only because it is quick

and easy to make a card, but also because it is such an important cause.

"It's something students have to realize, that we get to go home for Christmas and have freedom, but it's only because of the soldiers," Weaver said. "And they don't get to be with family for the holidays. They have to fight during that time."

Chyrel Mitchell, whose son served a full year in Afghanistan, said she cried and felt blessed when she discovered her son could return for Christmas because so many soldiers do not get that luxury.

"It is so hard having him over there because he's my oldest son,"

Mitchell said. "I didn't know what to expect, but the Army surround them with resources to make them feel connected and appreciated, and things like making cards do that even more."

Mitchell said she was always able to remain in contact with her son Chase, but for the soldiers without family or friends, there was no face or name to personify for whom they were fighting.

"Soldiers need to feel appreciated," Mitchell said. "Making cards and just showing support today is awesome."

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Navy ←

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"When you're at Officer Candidate School," Burkett said, "if you don't have the right motivation to carry you through, you'll be broken and you'll drop."

Burkett's motivation came from his commitment and his faith; he said he knew he was where he needed to be and where God needed him to be, and so he wasn't "broken."

"It is an amazing experience," Burkett said. "You'll do, see and learn things you would never do see or learn any other way."

Burkett worked on the USS San Jacinto, a guided missile cruiser based in Norfolk. When he arrived in Norfolk, the ship was almost ready to go, and within a month the ship departed for a year-long trip.

"It took some adjusting, it was very different from anything I'd ever done," Burkett said, "but OCS had prepared me; one of the biggest

things they teach you is that you can adapt to anything."

Burkett said he never thought it would be impossible, and the hardest thing for him was being able to fit everything he was supposed to have into the limited storage space he was given.

With the San Jacinto, Burkett said he travelled to the Mediterranean and the Gulf of Oman, where Burkett said the ship worked in counter-piracy measures

He worked with different de-

partments on the ship from January to August 2010.

While away, Burkett's friend Jessie Cayton, a senior English major from Killeen, said she and the rest of his family and friends prayed for him every single day.

"That's how we supported him best when he was out of touch," Cayton said, referring to the lengths of time when Burkett had no contact with the outside world.

Cayton said she didn't worry too much; she respected his decision and knew he would be perfectly capable.

"He's probably one of the most determined people I've ever met," she said.

Burkett and Cayton met when he was in the Christian fraternity Kappa-Chi and she is in the Christian sorority Phi-Lamb.

While at Tech, Burkett majored in business and he said he took several speech and management skills classes that have been very helpful in his time in the Navy.

"I think Tech set me up very well for success in the military as an effective communicator and an effective leader," he said, and detailed example of being overseas and having to rely on communication skills he learned in speech classes. Knowing his son was in harm's way overseas was tough on his parents, Randy Burkett said, but he knew his son was there for the right reasons.

"Joining (the Navy)," he said, "is a way to give back our time, for our freedoms and our rights."

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SGA ←

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"If you know anyone under stress or in need of help please send them to us," she said. "Sticky situations, interpersonal problems, anything; before you pull your hair out come see us."

Any student statements regarding university complaints, teacher problems or academic problems remain confidential, Killgore said.

Guest speaker Melody Paton, a Salvation Army worker and master's student at Tech, said students should be aware of the city's homeless population.

"There are approximately 750 homeless people on the streets of Lubbock," she said. "We have four homeless centers around Lubbock, three of which are centers for alcohol and drug rehabilitation."

The Salvation Army also focuses on the marginally homeless, Paton said. "We welcome the marginally homeless, those who may even have homes but are dealing with very difficult life or financial situations," she said, "and our shelters operate seven days a week, with 48 permanent beds available every night."

After presentations by both guest

Community Calendar

TODAY

Murder Mystery Dinner

Time: 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Where: Student Union Ballroom
So, what is it?

Join the Farilands High's class of 1959's prom night – everyone is ready to celebrate, but for someone, it's their last night alive. Join Tech Activities Board in this suspenseful game, watching the events unfold as you eat dinner. Free tickets are available at the Student Union Ticket Booth.

Tech Men's Basketball vs. Louisiana-Monroe

Time: 7 p.m.

Where: United Spirit Arena

SATURDAY

Tech Volleyball vs. Texas

Time: 1 p.m.

Where: United Spirit Arena

SUNDAY

Baroque Music Concert

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Where: Museum of TTU Auditorium

So, what is it?

This concert by the School of Music's students is offered in conjunction with the "Sordid and Sacred: The Beggars in Rembrandt's Etchings" exhibit on display in the Museum of Texas Tech University. Reception following the concert. Free parking and admission

To make a calendar submission e-mail dailytoreador@ttu.edu.

Events will be published either the day or the day before they take place. Submissions must be sent in by 4 p.m. on the preceding publication date.

Bare ←

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Cowen said he asked God what he needed to do, and God gave him a simple answer: Take your shoes off.

He took his shoes off, but he didn't realize he wouldn't be putting them back on. Once he realized God wanted him to go shoeless for the remainder of the mission, Cowen said, he needed some sort of Biblical reference for a request such as this.

"I needed something," he said. "God gave me Exodus 3, when Moses sees the burning bush."

This was an important scripture to Cowen because of Moses' obedience towards God. Cowen said this was important because the outcome could've been so different if Moses had changed his answer.

"What if Moses had said, 'No? Would the story still be the same?'" he said. "It was a thing of obedience."

So, Cowen was obedient. He went shoeless for the remainder of his time in Colombia and had many trials and tribulations with his feet. He was in an immense amount of pain, he said. He also had an encounter with ringworms. Once diagnosed with the parasite, Cowen had a few choices: medicine, cutting them out or burning them. The medicine wouldn't fully kick in for a few weeks, so that option was out. He was left with the decision to cut them or burn them out.

"I sat every night for the rest of my time in Colombia digging ringworms out of my feet," he said. "It is amazing how fast your feet become callused."

Before he knew it, his time in Colombia was over. Cowen said he tried to wear shoes again, but it just wasn't the same. He said it felt different and he just couldn't do it. It has been nearly two years now, and Cowen is still shoeless. He does get hassled every so often, so he has learned to carry around a pair of flip-flops to wear to public places. Surprisingly enough, one place he did get kicked out of wouldn't be one anyone would think of.

"I've been kicked out of a church," he said. "I didn't think God would care."

An elder from the church approached Cowen, asking him about the whereabouts of his shoes. When he explained his situation, Cowen said the elder asked him to leave if he didn't put shoes on, "is a way to give back our time, for our freedoms and our rights."

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"I left," he said. "But it really upset me; they focused on the wrong things."

Since coming back to Lubbock after his mission, Cowen has become involved with the Wesley Foundation as a missions leader. His fellow leader, Elizabeth Niles, said she didn't quite know what to think about the shoeless man when she first met him.

"I thought he was just being comfortable," Niles said. "It took me awhile to ask him about it."

Niles, a senior psychology and human development and family studies major from San Antonio, said once she knew Cowen's reasons for going barefoot, she was inspired.

"I have made plans to go barefoot in the spring," Niles said. "It is going to be hard, and I'm going to need accountability and encouragement."

Ben Donley, associate director at the Wesley Foundation, has known Cowen for a year and half and mentors him every week. Donley said he wasn't surprised at all by Cowen's barefootedness because of the way Cowen is.

"He's a radical thinker," he said. "He is going to do what God tells him to do, even if it's odd."

Al Martin, the director at the Wesley Foundation, has known Cowen for two and a half years. Martin and Cowen went to Haiti together on a mission trip. It was in Haiti that Martin realized Cowen's dedication to relate to the people he is helping.

"Here we are in one of the poorest nations in the world, and Ben's not wearing shoes," he said. "People would ask him why, and he would tell them, and they understood him."

Both Martin and Donley said Cowen is really passionate about giving up his shoes.

"He is really genuine about this," Donley said. "He has been doing it for too long for it to be fake."

Kurtis Vanderpool, a senior global affairs specialization major from Wolfforth, used to live with Cowen and said Cowen is a very passionate person.

"He is one of the most passionate people I know," he said. "He is inspiring. He inspired me to live a day at a time."

That is all Cowen wants, Vanderpool said, to inspire people to be able to try to give up something usually taken for granted.

"Don't complain about the little things because things could be so much worse," he said. "Consider the little things just as you would consider the bigger things."

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Texas Tech set to square off with OU

By MIKE GRAHAM
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech cornerback LaRon Moore and the rest of the Red Raiders should have some momentum heading into their game against No. 19 Oklahoma on Saturday at 2:30 p.m. in Norman, Okla.

With a win against a ranked Missouri team last week, Tech has the confidence needed to return to the place where their Bowl Championship Series dreams were crushed back in 2008.

"I had to quiet everybody down after the game (against Missouri) and say, 'We shouldn't be surprised that we did that,'" Moore said. "You've got to expect to play like that. That's confidence, not being surprised that you shut a team down like that; you've got to expect to do that. And don't be proud for just one win. We've got to start that now and let it go into next year."

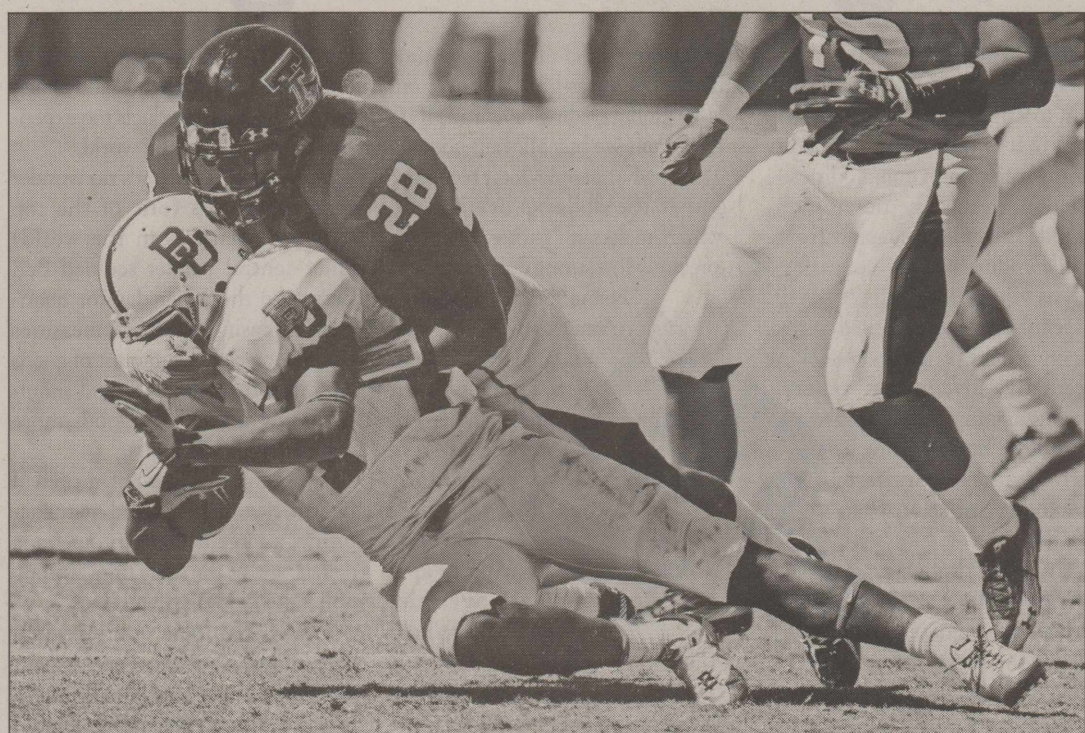
Playing at Oklahoma presents some unique challenges compared to squaring off with Missouri in the friendly confines of Jones AT&T Stadium.

Most notably, the Sooners' Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium is big — and loud.

Against Oklahoma's huge 65-21 win against Tech in 2008, Sooner coach Bob Stoops praised his team's fans and dubbed them the best in the country. The fans could have played a significant role in shifting momentum toward Oklahoma early in that game, forcing it to snowball out of control for Tech.

Head coach Tommy Tuberville said Tech (5-4, 3-4 in Big 12 Conference play) will have to ignore the crowd noise and shut down the Sooners quickly when they catch a break in Saturday's game.

"Most of our stuff is done by hand signals anyway," Tuberville said. "The thing that you've got to do on the road



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH'S LARON Moore takes down Baylor receiver Kendall Wright during Tech's 45-38 win against the Bears in the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

is look forward to it. You've got to turn it into an advantage for you, and for our guys that won't be a problem.

"The problem is momentum. When momentum starts to go the other way, their crowd gets into it for their players. So you've got to try to get the momentum back."

Oklahoma's 2008 win propelled the Sooners into the National Championship Game and damaged one-loss Tech's BCS hopes so badly that the Red Raiders ended up playing in the Cotton Bowl Classic.

This 2010 meeting in Norman is a little different. There are BCS hopes on the line for Oklahoma, but Tech is simply fighting for bowl eligibility. A Sooner win keeps Oklahoma alive in the Big 12 South Division race while a Tech victory would all but clinch a bowl for the Red Raiders

for an 11th consecutive year.

A Tech victory also could poise the Red Raiders for an eight-win regular season considering Tech's next two opponents — Weber State from the Division I Football Championship Subdivision, a level below Tech, and a down Houston team.

Eight wins would give Tuberville the same record former head coach Mike Leach had in his last season on the South Plains, a stat that would help fans feel more optimistic about where the program is going under Tuberville's control.

Tech's roster seems in agreement that the key to defeating Oklahoma will be containing the Sooner offense, but the Red Raider offense plays a key role as well. It seems as if Tech is incapable of mustering much of anything on offense in

the first quarter, but that might not be the case against the Sooners.

In the Missouri game, Tech's offense got rolling as soon as quarterback Taylor Potts came into the game in lieu of Steven Sheffield. Potts is expected to make his ninth start of the season Saturday.

If Potts can repeat the way he played against Missouri and get some help from the surrounding cast once again, Tech could be well on its way to a second consecutive upset win, but Tuberville is aware it won't be easy.

"Oklahoma has a good football team; they've got a lot of skilled players, a lot of guys who can make plays, experienced players," Tuberville said. "We've got our hands full on both sides."

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Lady Raiders take on UNM to open season



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH HEAD coach Kristy Curry leads Jordan Barncastle and the Lady Raiders into their regular season opener against UNM in Albuquerque, N.M. Tech defeated the Lobos 65-55 in Lubbock last season.

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Albuquerque, N.M., may be one of the most dangerous places in the country — for playing women's basketball, that is.

But that's just Kristy Curry's take on the subject.

"I'm not sure if there's a tougher opener across the country," Curry, head coach of the Lady Raiders, said regarding her team's first regular season game. "We're excited about the challenge. Obviously, it's their first real game since the renovations (to University Arena), so they'll have a great crowd. We're going to be thrown into the fire."

The fire Curry is referring to comes in the form of New Mexico's University Arena, better known nationally as The Pit.

Friday's contest at 8 p.m. between the Lady Raiders and the Lobos in The Pit will be the regular season opener for both squads. Texas Tech won last season's meeting, 65-55, in the United Spirit Arena.

But the Lady Raiders won't have the energy of a home crowd to feed off of.

There may be no question that The Pit poses as one of the best home court advantages out there. Average attendance for New Mexico women's basketball games during the 2009-10 season ranked ninth in the nation.

A total of 776 games have been played in The Pit since it opened in 1966; New Mexico teams have won 631 of those matches.

But when sizing the two teams up on the court, the Lady Raiders may stand taller than the Lobos, literally.

"I think that we'll have an advantage in our size compared to their size and maybe depth," Tech forward Jordan Barncastle said. "We got to run the floor well and run their posts up and down the floor."

The Lobos return four starters from the starting bunch Tech encountered last year in Lubbock. All four players, consisting of guards Sara Halasz and Lauren Taylor, along with forwards Jessica Kiepinski and Amanda Best, stand 6-foot-1 and under.

The Lady Raiders are expected to start Barncastle, 6-foot-2, and Kierra Mallard, 6-foot-3, at the forward and center positions.

The size differential, however, could provide the Lobos with the advantage on the perimeter.

"Playing up to the three-point line because they can all shoot threes," said Mallard, when asked what concerns the Lobos may raise. "And switching, we've got to switch on them good."

Unfortunately for New Mexico, Tech won't be confronted with the task of stopping Amy Beggin. Beggin, a two-time All-Mountain West Conference selection, was lost to graduation going into this season.

With or without Beggin, Tech freshman Ebony Walker, a product of Albuquerque's Sandia High School, is well aware of the obstacle that stands before her, the other freshmen and the whole team in general.

"This should be a really good, great test for us," Walker said. "It's the first game on the road, and there's going to be a really big crowd; it should make us pumped."

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Red Raiders open season against Louisiana-Monroe

By TOMMY MAGELSSSEN
STAFF WRITER

There are seven seniors on the Texas Tech basketball's roster, and none have played in the NCAA tournament.

"I was hoping it would happen a lot sooner, but things happen," senior guard John Roberson said. "You grow and you learn from your mistakes, but yeah, this is our last year."

"I mean, we have a sense of urgency, and we're ready to get to the tournament, somewhere we haven't been before."

Tech's quest for the NCAA tournament begins against Louisiana-Monroe at 7 p.m. tonight in the United Spirit Arena.

The Red Raiders finished last season with a taste of the postseason, advancing to the quarterfinals of the NIT tournament. But no one on the team is going to be satisfied with anything less than an NCAA bid this year.

Tech coach Pat Knight said this is the best team he's had since he took over in 2008, and he loves how experienced and deep his team is.

Returning to lead the core of the Red Raiders are Roberson and forwards Mike Singletary and D'Walyn Roberts.

Last season, Singletary led Tech with 15 points per game, while Roberson averaged 14.1. Roberts, who missed parts of last year with injuries, adds a physical presence down low to a team that finished last in the Big 12 Conference in scoring defense a year ago.

"Whatever I can do, whatever they want me to do, I'm going to do," Roberts said about his role on the team.

But in addition to the aforementioned trio of seniors, Tech also returns a handful of role players and an influx of freshmen to make this the deepest bench Knight has had at Tech. The Red Raiders also return five of their top six scoring threats from a year ago.

"This is the deepest we've ever been; you know, I'm looking at 10 or 11 deep," Knight said.

One of the keys to a successful season, Knight said, is developing an inside game. Last season, Tech finished next to last in the Big 12 in rebounding margin.

"That's huge for us to have an inside presence on both ends of the floor, and I think we have it because we have four guys that we can rotate in there or play together, and you just got to have that," Knight said. "If you look at all the great teams, they have that."



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH GUARD John Roberson pulls up for a basket during play last season in Lubbock. Roberson and the Red Raiders begin their regular season against Louisiana-Monroe at 7 p.m. in the United Spirit Arena.

Junior forward Robert Lewandowski said he has been working on his rebounding and defense during the offseason, something that will be key during the season, especially in a highly competitive Big 12.

"The Big 12 is a big, physical conference," Lewandowski said. "That's been the same old line for the past, ever since it opened up. That's something that everyone has on their minds. You have to have an inside-out game; you can't just rely on your guards."

Knight said he wants his team to defend with the best of them. He said the team knows how to score, and there are seven or eight players who can reach double-digits on any given night.

But Tech won't be able to keep up with high-scoring teams if they don't play defense, he said.

"A shootout ... is going to be like the O.K. Corral, and I'm not going to be Wyatt Earp — I'm going to be at the other end when we play guys like Texas and Kansas; we're going to get killed," Knight said. "So we've got to be careful, and you've got to be able to play defense."

Redshirt freshman Jaye Crockett and junior college transfer Paul Cooper will help out on defense, while seniors David Tairu and Brad Reese will be among the first on the floor to light up the scorebook.

Knight also pointed out freshman guard Javarez Willis as a guard who can be the next John Roberson or Ronald Ross. Willis, who is nicknamed "Bean," was the first top-100

recruit Knight brought in, he said.

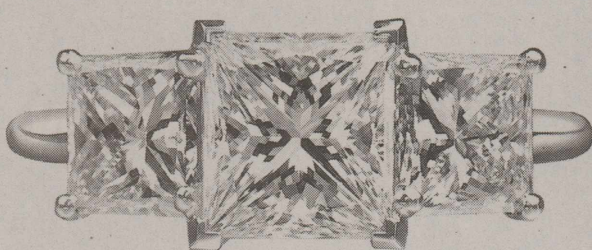
Louisiana-Monroe is coming off a 12-19 season, and Tech hasn't lost an opening-season game in 10 years.

"We definitely expect to win," Lewandowski said. "If we want to meet our goal of going to the NCAA

tournament, we can't lose games like this. We've just got to win, we've got to prove that we're a team to beat, and you know we can't just beat them — it's got to be a beat down."

►► thomas.magelssen@ttu.edu

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Today's sudoku

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

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.

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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Consider your study groups, committee assignments, work or family relationships with this quote in mind: "The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime." ~Babe Ruth

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Quantitative easing could be good for US

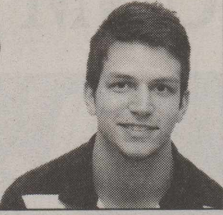
Last week, the Federal Reserve announced a second round of its so-called quantitative easing. For months, QE2 has been essentially presumed as a given by a broad swath of market participants and financial news pundits, due to the Fed's delicate telegraphing and "Fedpeak."

Despite this, once the official announcement broke, there were still many public outcries demonizing the action and questioning the intelligence of Chairman Ben Bernanke, but at the same time, the stock market rallied, reaching highs not seen since 2008.

The typical accusations people make are that further quantitative easing is simply "cranking up the printing presses," it's "hyperinflationary," it "debases the dollar" and it's "the reason your favorite childhood dog died."

Well, quantitative easing is a pretty cool name, but what is it exactly? First off, it needs to be stated that the Federal Reserve does not

Chris Leal



print currency; the Treasury does. So, when people say, "Helicopter Ben is cranking up the printing presses with QE2," at that point you can begin to ignore the words coming out of that person's mouth.

Quantitative easing is essentially just an asset-swap. Financial institutions are the largest domestic holders of government debt, so what the Fed does is take these bonds off of banks' balance sheets in exchange for a credit to the banks' reserve account held with the Fed. Not quite as exciting as the name itself.

Aside from providing liquidity, quantitative easing can also lower borrowing costs for the government (due to increased demand for its debt) and can potentially lower the

perceived value of the dollar.

Opponents of QE measures will point to rising commodity prices and claim that it is this added liquidity causing inflation in commodities.

However, this assertion is shortsighted. Increasing demand from rapidly industrializing countries such as China and India, as well as speculative bets coupled with a growing trend of investors seeking "alternative investments" other than zigzagging stocks and low interest rates, are much more accurate culprits of commodity inflation than U.S. QE.

The next drum of criticism opponents will beat like a piñata is they say the Fed is "debasement" the currency (i.e. decreasing the value of the dollar). This comment always makes me smile a little bit.

It's commonplace in the United States to lament on the current state of American manufacturing

and exports and at the same time berate countries like China for our large global trading deficit (as if it's their fault we buy all their goods).

But what people don't recognize is that the dollar is overbought, which makes it "strong." And it's precisely this strong dollar that is to blame for the decline of American exports and our large trade deficit.

The fact that the U.S. dollar enjoys near reserve currency status (meaning people all over the world like to hold and spend the dollar) is good in the sense that it allows our country to borrow cheaply and increases the amount of goods we can buy from the rest of the world.

But at the same time we see that over the long-term, this strong dollar causes the nation to incur too

much debt, encourages American citizens to over-consume, and makes American-made products too expensive for the rest of the world.

Considering this, it's no wonder that Germany's (one of the top exporting nations in the world) chief central banker scolded Ben Bernanke the other day for quantitative easing, as these measures could decrease the amount of goods they export to the U.S. and simultaneously make U.S. goods more competitive with theirs.

So, people who want a revival in American exports and manufacturing, a large decline in our trade deficit, and at the same time a strong dollar are kidding themselves.

The same logic applies when people don't want to cut entitlement and defense spending, don't want to limit health-care inflation (which is a major burden paid for by our government), don't want to raise taxes, but then criticize the government for incurring debt. All of these things cannot coexist; they contradict, and

something has to give.

But I digress. While I won't go so far as to say Bernanke has done everything right, he is definitely one of the most taken-for-granted civil servants. While moving into uncharted territory (having to get more creative with monetary policy as traditional levers are exhausted and no further fiscal stimulus is in sight), and making decisions that are economically necessary while politically unpopular, Bernanke makes himself vulnerable to much public criticism.

However, given the fact that this man has spent the majority of his academic career (as well as the topic of his doctoral dissertation) specifically studying the causes and policy mistakes of the Great Depression, I can't imagine a person better suited to conduct monetary policy at a time like this.

Leal is a junior finance and economics major from Dallas. >> chris.leal@ttu.edu

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Religion at root of gay bullying

Congratulations, Janelle Olney, you tried and failed to convince people that the religious are not to blame. You tried to succeed with the classic "being gay is a sin" and "gays don't know that Jesus saved them" arguments but ended up digging yourself a deeper hole.

Janelle's letter said that 80 to 90 percent of bullying has nothing to do with being gay. What does that prove? The letter also pointed out that gays represent 2 percent of our culture, which is a huge percentage for such a small population.

Let me do the math. According to her letter's statistics, gays are 12 times more likely to be bullied than straight people. Do you get the problem now?

Bullying of homosexuals is a big problem in public

schools, and the only solution is a change in our attitude.

Homophobia is a big problem all around the world. In the U.S., fundamentalists' literal interpretation of Biblical scripture is the root of the problem.

Is it OK to murder a woman on her wedding night if she is not a virgin? Of course not. We have morally evolved as a species; what was acceptable thousands of years ago now sounds insane.

A study I found on PubMed found that homophobes are more likely to become aroused to gay pornography. Was anyone surprised when Colorado Pastor Ted Haggard or any other pastors were caught in the act? Homophobia accomplished for fundamentalist preachers what celibacy accomplished for priests.

I guess we always want what we can't get, right?

Michael Chaney is a senior clinical laboratory science major from Houston.

WASTOIDS



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Post-election India visit smart move for president

By RAVI N. MULANI
HARVARD CRIMSON (HARVARD U.)

In the past week, the political intelligentsia has speculated as to the logic of President Obama's visit to Asia.

Why is he visiting right after a devastating election? Should he visit at a time of economic weakness at home? These shortsighted political commentaries are failing to realize the long-term geopolitical importance of the relationship with India for American interests.

America's most important economic partnership and security alliance in the next few decades will be with India, and President Obama's visit was a crucial step in building this relationship.

Not only does India have a burgeoning young English-speaking population with multiple needs, but the economy also has a healthy balance between consumption and investment, the prevalent rule of law creates an environment conducive to entrepreneurship and private innovation, and market forces are relatively

strong as liberalization and privatization steadily continues.

There are numerous opportunities for American businesses in India that have not yet been realized, as evidenced by the fact that America exports more to the Netherlands than to India.

The presidential visit thus placed an important focus on India for many in the American corporate world who had not yet realized the tremendous scale of opportunities, and it should serve as an impetus for both countries to make further progress on trade issues and continue to open markets and expand opportunities.

India must remove its restrictions on foreign investment in agriculture, retail, and telecommunications and involve American businesses in modernizing the country's infrastructure. Such liberalization could create opportunities for American businesses and help India modernize at the pace that it desires.

From a security standpoint, India now plays a crucial role in the region as both an uneasy trading partner and a simultaneous bulwark against Chinese interests.

America has an interest in supporting India in territorial and trade disputes to ensure that China does not feel as though

it can run roughshod over the region by claiming new territory or enacting petty protectionist measures. America's military sales to India highlighted an important alliance that has the potential to maintain stability in Asia.

With the world's second and third largest militaries, India and the United States have the potential to create a formidable military alliance that could maintain stability in the tense region, especially in the case of territorial and naval disputes.

In an age in which Europe and Japan are in decline and in which China often opposes human rights and democratic interests, America is too often left standing alone when trying to maintain peace and defend human rights. As a rising power with similar democratic ideals, India can be a valuable leader on the global stage.

Obama correctly realized the need and potential for India to be a leading power in Asia and the world when he endorsed its campaign to gain a permanent spot on the United Nations Security Council. He argued that, with a greater role on the international stage, India must accept greater responsibility in maintain-

ing a peaceful world and thus identified one of the major benefits of an alliance with a powerful India.

Obama's personal trip to India was also important because much of the Indian public is skeptical of his leanings since he has spent the last few years justifiably focused on problems and issues in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and China.

A visit has the potential to change Indian political and public opinion in a way that simple speeches or press releases from the White House cannot do and could, in the long term, help change the political calculus behind the Indian left's current wariness of security and trade agreements with the United States.

Dancing with children, visiting famous sights, supporting India's bid to the Security Council, and talking with students are all "soft" actions that might not produce immediately tangible results but they will remain lasting images in the psyche of one billion residents who are steadily becoming richer and more powerful. In the decades to come, America's relationship with India will be a major determinant of the future of our economic and security interests.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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50	51	52						53	54		
57								58	59	60	61
62								63			
64								65			

By Dan Naddor 11/12/10

ACROSS

- Bucolic
- Sushi choices
- Wood preservative
- Plays the class clown
- Opening with a thud?
- Showy
- Overseas fem. title
- Staple in a Hollywood first-aid kit?
- Clueless
- Source of Ulee's gold
- Compulsion to set up camp?
- She played Emma in "The Avengers"
- Mideast language
- Support group? Hoss and Little Joe's off-color jokes?
- Lake near Niagara Falls
- Atlanta campus
- Jets coach Ryan
- Civil unrest in Brazil?
- Fizzled out
- Gulf of Finland city
- Restrained a legendary soul singer?
- Word with a head slap
- Six-Day War country
- Classy accommodations at the Spider Fitz?
- Insurer of Tina Turner's legs
- One transferring property rights, in law
- Plenty
- As terrific as they say

DOWN

- Banned pollutants
- Biblical resting place
- Composed
- "The Fox and the Hound" fox
- Suffix with fruct-
- Hold up
- "Do you bite your thumb at me, sir?"
- "Romeo and Juliet"
- Riga resident
- Old lab heaters
- Isaac's eldest
- Eponymous skater Alois
- WWI German vice-admiral
- Centers
- Prods
- Justice Fortas
- Derivative
- Raison d'
- Month before Ritz?
- Card game warning
- Out of bed
- Still-life subject
- Bud
- Tip for a smoker?
- Corner the market on
- In accordance with
- It may be found in a deposit
- Outlaw
- Onetime Jeep
- Architect Miles van der
- Vicend sounds
- Fluted, in a way
- Maximum degree
- European capital
- Hubbard of Scientology
- Team acronym
- John with Emmys and a journalism award
- Rancher's concern
- Jamboree gp.
- Bo in session
- Trendy boot brand

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The DT Staff College Football Pick 'Em

 Games of the Week	 Kevin Cullen Editor in Chief Overall Record 29-21	 Jon Arnold Managing Editor Overall Record 26-24	 Jose Rodriguez Sports Editor Overall Record 30-20	 Brett Winegarner Electronic Media Editor Overall Record 27-23	 Sam Grenadier Photo Editor Overall Record 31-19	 Carrie Thornton La Vida Editor Overall Record 24-26	 Edmund Rostran News Editor Overall Record 30-20	 Britton Peele Opinions Editor Overall Record 27-23
Texas Tech @ No. 16 Oklahoma	Oklahoma 49-21	Oklahoma 45-27	Oklahoma 48-28	Oklahoma 35-24	Tech 31-28	Oklahoma 35-29	Oklahoma 45-24	Oklahoma 38-21
No. 24 Kansas State @ No. 17 Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	K-State	Missouri	Missouri
No. 25 Texas A&M @ Baylor	Baylor	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Baylor	Baylor	Texas A&M	Texas A&M
No. 19 Mississippi St. @ No. 12 Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
No. 23 South Carolina @ No. 22 Florida	South Carolina	Florida	Florida	Florida	South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina	Florida

★ indicates "Game to Watch"

Tech volleyball looks forward to Texas

By **JOSH KOCH**
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech junior Amanda Dowdy made her presence known in the Missouri match Wednesday by recording the 10th double-double of her career.

Dowdy posted 21 kills and 11 digs, and with those marks she broke into the top 10 in all-time kills at Texas Tech.

"It means a lot just to be a part of Tech's history," Dowdy said. "It's just a huge honor, and I'm very grateful for my teammates helping me get there and my setter. Couldn't do it without any of them. So very grateful for them."

In the match against the Tigers, Dowdy passed Jennifer Cohn (1992-95) and Kim Goselin (1989-92) in the third set to take sole possession of ninth place with 969 kills.

Dowdy will have the opportunity to pass Phillister Sang (973 kills, 2005-06) for eighth in the next match, as she only trails her by four kills.

Although Dowdy notched her name into Tech history during the match, the Red Raiders still lost 3-1 to the Tigers.

Even though the Red Raiders lost the match, senior libero and defensive specialist Jackie Vincent said it was a game in which the Red Raiders did a

lot of good things but came up short.

"It was really good," she said. "We did a lot of great things (Wednesday) night that we haven't seen in a while, so we were really happy about that. It was just a good college match, honestly; it was a great match."

Tech (3-22, 1-15 in Big 12 Conference play) gets the No. 7 Texas Longhorns (18-5, 13-2) at 1 p.m. Saturday in the United Spirit Arena.

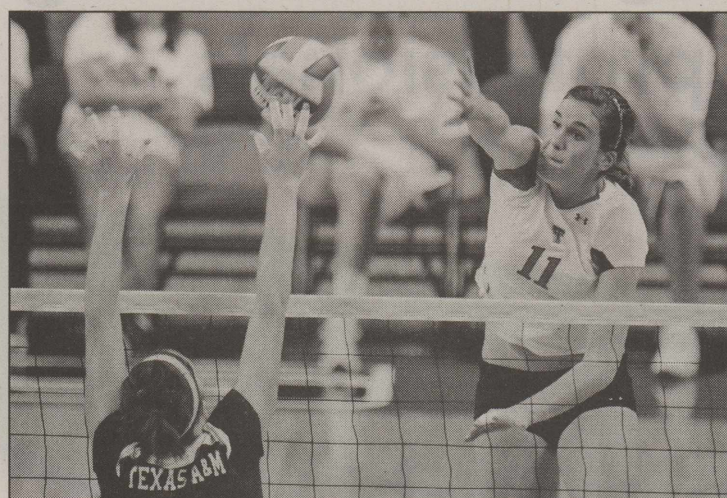
After this match, there will only be one home match remaining on the schedule for the Red Raiders. Tech still has to travel to Colorado and Baylor before it puts a bow on the 2010 campaign.

The Red Raiders are on a 10-match losing streak right now, making a stark contrast to the Longhorns, who are bringing a 10-match winning streak to Lubbock.

Texas has been beatable on the road this season, posting a 6-3 record when playing away from the Gregory Gymnasium in Austin.

The Longhorns have had three different players named the Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week this season: Texas junior middle blocker Rachael Adams won the award in back-to-back weeks in October.

Adams has improved immensely since joining the Longhorns in 2007.



AMANDA DOWDY ENTERED the top 10 on the Red Raider's all-time kill list in the team's loss to Missouri on Wednesday. She and the Red Raiders host Texas this weekend.

In her freshman campaign, she posted just 36 kills; this season so far she has posted 227 kills, good for second best on the team.

Although having a dismal season as a team, the Red Raiders have had numerous players post impressive numbers, even among newcomers to the program.

Freshman middle blocker and outside hitter Aubree Piper has posted 116 kills so far, which is third best on the team.

Tech interim head coach Beth Falls said with only four matches left in the season the team won't have any pressure on their shoulders when Texas comes to town.

"We have nothing to lose, and they do," she said. "And so that's what we're kind of going into it with, the attitude of just have fun. It's the last time we get to play Texas this year; let's just go out with a bang and see what happens."

► joshua.koch@ttu.edu

Curry signs with Red Raider tennis

By **JOSH KOCH**
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech men's tennis team inked a highly ranked recruit Wednesday afternoon when Chase Curry signed a national letter of intent to come play for the Red Raiders.

"I think we are going to have so many positive things bringing Chase to our team," Tech junior Gonzalo Escobar said. "First, he's a Texas kid. Of what I've heard, Chase really wants to come here for a long time. He's going to prove how good he is and how competitive he is."

Curry, a Wichita Falls native, will be joining the team next fall for the 2011-'12 campaign.

The Tech commit, a five-star recruit, is the No. 4 player in Texas and is ranked No. 39 in the nation, according to tennisrecruiting.net.

Those rankings peaked at No. 1 in Texas and No. 8 nationally. He also has been ranked No. 1 in doubles nationally before, according to a news release.

Tech coach Tim Siegel said the signee brings in a lot of

firepower and will be helpful to the team when he arrives.

"Very experienced player, very all around strong player," he said. "He's very fast, he can play aggressively at the net. He's got a big powerful forehand, and what's great is next year we don't lose any players."

Since the Red Raiders are not losing any players next year, there will be five seniors on the team if everyone on the current roster stays.

Escobar, Raony Carvalho, Rafael Garcia, David Pace and Ryan Ybarra will round out the seniors, and there will be three juniors, including Raphael Pfister and Vitor Manzini.

With all of this firepower already on the squad, Siegel said the future of the Red Raiders is even more exciting due to the addition of another explosive talent to the roster.

"It's great for us; I'm happy that we're able to get one of the top Texas players," he said. "That's been a goal of mine, to try to get some stronger players from Texas. We're very excited, our team is very excited, and look forward to next year."

► joshua.koch@ttu.edu

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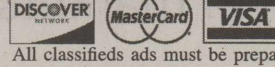
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