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3,000 dead or hurt in North Korea explosion

By Sang-Hun Choe/Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Two fuel trains collided at a North Korean railway station near the Chinese border Thursday, igniting a deafening explosion that rained debris for more than 10 miles around, South Korean media reported. One television channel said as many as 3,000 people might have been killed or injured.

The secretive communist government in Pyongyang declared an emergency while cutting off international telephone lines to prevent details of the crash from leaking out, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported. The North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il, had

quietly passed by rail through the station as he returned from China before dawn some nine hours earlier. It was not clear what caused the crash, or if it was related to Kim's journey.

But a South Korean official, quoted on condition of anonymity by South Korea's all-news cable channel, YTN, said it appeared to be an accident.

The collision reportedly took place about 1 p.m. in Ryongchon, a town 12 miles from China. One train was carrying oil and the second had liquefied petroleum gas, media reported.

"The area around Ryongchon station has turned into a mess as if it were bombarded," Yonhap quoted witnesses as saying. "Debris

from the explosion soared high into the sky and drifted to Sinuiju," a North Korean town on the border with China, it said.

Cho Sung-dae, a Yonhap correspondent in Beijing, said his reports were based on residents in the Chinese border city of Dandong who talked with their relatives in Ryongchon.

They described a massive explosion involving a large number of casualties but could not give figures, Cho told The Associated Press. Cho also said North Korean authorities appeared to shut down the border with China after the incident.

Subsequent attempts by his Chinese sources to contact people in Ryongchon failed because the phone lines apparently had been severed.

YTN reported that the number killed or injured could reach 3,000. A YTN reporter in Seoul, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AP the network's casualty count came from a South Korean government official, whom he declined to identify.

A South Korean Defense Ministry official confirmed "a large explosion near Ryongchon station," Yonhap reported. "We have yet to find out the cause of the incident, the kind of explosion and how many died," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Yang Jong-hwa, a spokeswoman of South Korea's Unification Ministry, said her organization could not immediately confirm the reports; the ministry is in charge of relations with

North Korea. The Defense Ministry could not comment, and the Foreign Ministry could immediately be reached.

U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the Bush administration had no information on the collision.

The accident apparently resembled a disaster in Iran on Feb. 18, when runaway train cars carrying fuel and chemicals derailed, setting off explosions that destroyed five villages. At least 200 people were killed.

North Korea is one of the world's most isolated countries and rarely allows visits by outside journalists. News events within its bor-

EXPLOSION continued on page 5

Campus News

Tech endowments total more than \$7 million

MORE MONEY: Tech graduate gives \$6.5 million to College of Agriculture Sciences.

By Michael Castellon/The University Daily

Texas Tech officials are celebrating a series of endowments recently made to several university programs, one of which marks the largest single contribution made to the university this year.

The endowments, totaling more than \$7 million, will serve to improve the overall quality of faculty and education at the university.

The gifts represent the kick-off of a major initiative designed by Tech officials to more aggressively generate revenue in the form of endowments at the university, a task that has become more necessary throughout the past several years as a result of major state and federal funding cutbacks.

Tech Chancellor Dr. David Smith, on hand at a news conference Thursday with Chancery Director Jon Whitmore, said the university is expecting several more gifts to be announced in coming months.

"This is not just about dollars; this is indeed a leveraging opportunity for us," he said. "In order to keep quality faculty, you have to have a strong research base, and this is going to help us do that."

The largest endowment, a \$6.5 million gift to endow graduate fellowships and the horticulture programs in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, was made by a Tech graduate who wished to remain anonymous.

The gift will in part provide for a leadership endowment for the Virginia Murray Sowell Center in Visual Impairment in the College of Education and a scholarship in the department of history in memory of former Vice Chancellor of Institutional Advancement William G. Wehner.

The Sowell Center will use its gift portion to establish an endowment that promotes a distinguished lecture series on the topic of visual impairment.

The university also has received a contribution of \$500,000 for an endowed chair in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources from the College of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources of the San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc.

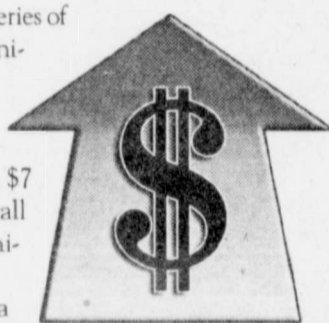
The gift is expected to be matched with existing funds to create a chair filled by Mark Miller, professor of animal and food sciences at Tech.

"We're looking forward to living up to the standards that have been set forth by the president," Miller said. "This is in sync with Dr. Whitmore's vision of excellence."

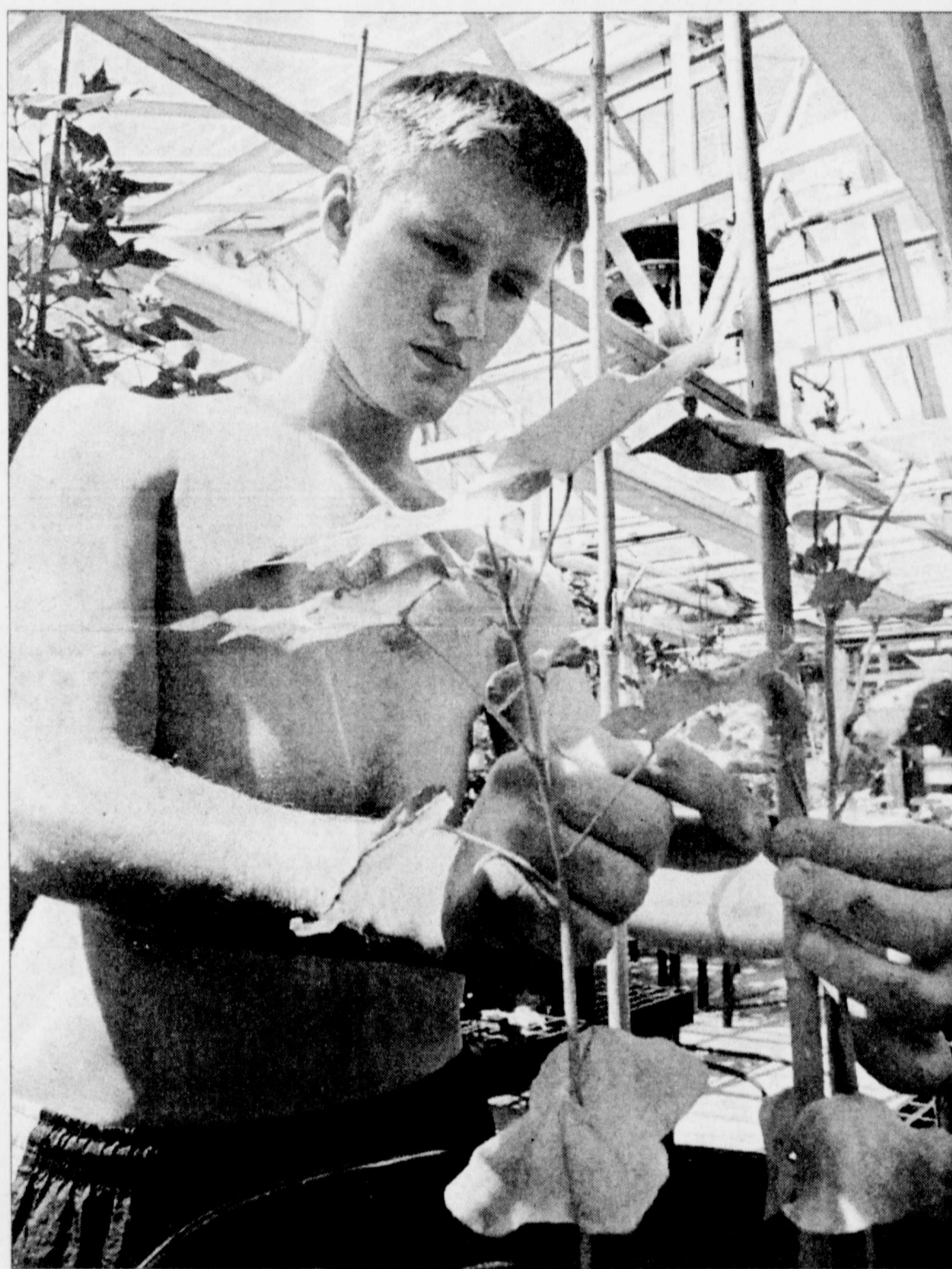
Whitmore said the endowment will serve to attract more faculty and retain quality faculty already holding positions at the university.

"This is the kind of private support for the university that will make Texas Tech a very prestigious university," he said. "This will help allow us to keep our very best faculty here, and allow us to attract quality faculty to the university, which is absolutely essential."

The gift is the first of several announced under the new Regents Faculty Endowment Program, a component of the university's goal of recruiting and retaining quality faculty.



PLANT DOCTOR



ANDREW WEATHERL/The University Daily

CORY MCCREEDY, A freshman business major from Austin, ties cotton plants to poles to help straighten the plants as they grow. McCreedy works as an assistant in the biology department's greenhouse.

Student Affairs

Financial aid awards to rise with tuition

By Sally Gunter/
The University Daily

Tuition is like the increase in gas prices — the cost rises and Texas Tech students must learn to adjust, said Kelly Hildebrandt, a Tech freshman.

The \$10 per credit hour increase in tuition for the fall semester is making a dent in some students' pocketbooks, and causing them to find alternative ways to pay for college.

Hildebrandt, an arts and sciences undecided major from Lubbock, said while he is on an academic scholarship now, he will have to work during the summer break to accumulate funds to pay for his higher education.

"It may be a problem," he said. "I'll probably have to take a loan next semester."

The amount of financial aid also will be increasing. The state mandates 15 percent of the increase in tuition toward financial aid. This increase amounts to approximately \$2.8 million for grants and scholarships, said Paul Blake, assistant director of operations at the financial aid office.

In 2003, the financial aid office awarded \$130 million in scholarships, loans and grants to Tech students. Blake said the total from all sources for 2004 is estimated at \$140 million.

The office already awarded 1,500 awards to new Tech students, Blake said.

Returning Tech students can anticipate notification of their awards during the first part of next week, he said. More than 1,900 awards are designated for returning students.

While it is too early in the award

INCREASE continued on page 5

Public Affairs

March of Dimes preparing for WalkAmerica race

By Beth Aaron/The University Daily

ends at about noon.

The Lubbock division of March of Dimes encourages people to "join the walk that saves babies."

Registration slots are still open for The March of Dimes WalkAmerica event happening at Maxey Park located at 24th Street and Quaker Avenue behind Covenant Lakeside on April 24. Registration begins at 9 a.m. The race kicks off at 9:30 a.m. and

Anyone wanting to participate in the four-mile walk or turn in donations should be there, said Starr Prumer, community director for the March of Dimes' Lubbock division.

"We have a lot of volunteers from Texas Tech and high schools that help," she said. "There's a lot of high school and Tech kids that come out."

Prumer said there will be music provided by KLLL and Mix 100.3, as well as activities for children and food at the end of the race.

"It'll be a fun day," she said.

March of Dimes hopes to raise \$215,000 with the race. Any money raised by WalkAmerica will be put toward research that is geared at finding cures

RACE continued on page 5

Student Affairs

SGA 2004-2005 officers begin Student Senate tenure

By Andrew Bell/The University Daily

The Student Senate of the Student Government Association is not allowed to break the rules — unless they agree to break them together.

On Thursday night, the Senate decided to suspend the rules and begin looking at legislation for next year. The meeting was the first of the 40th session of the Student Senate, with the 39th session ending at last weekend's SGA banquet.

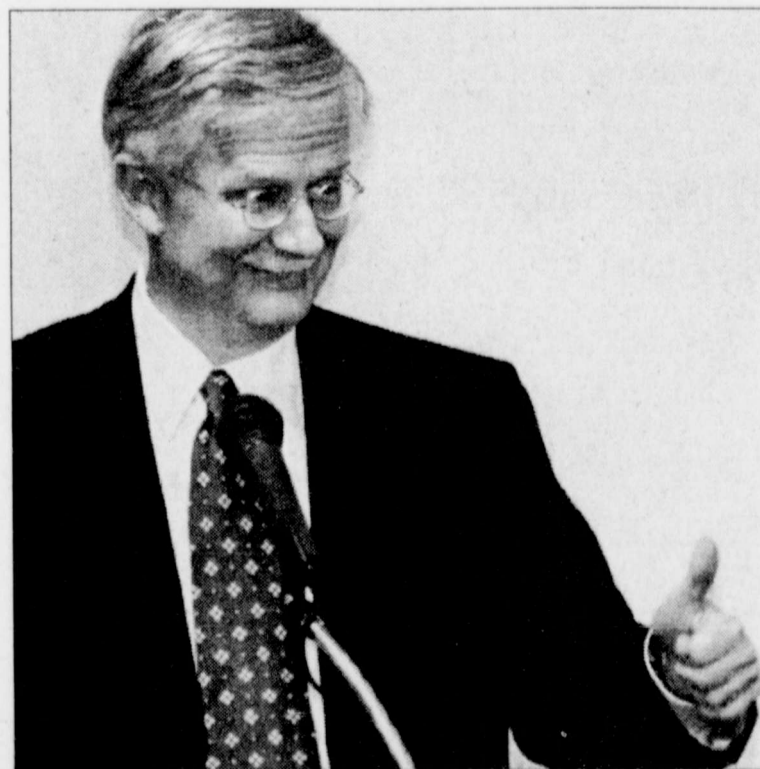
New senators and executive officers met

at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Russell H. Seacat Jr. Lecture Room of the Electrical Engineering building to begin serving Texas Tech students.

Before the Senate could begin parliamentary procedures, SGA President Mitchell Moses and External Vice President Anne Hunninghake spoke to the senators.

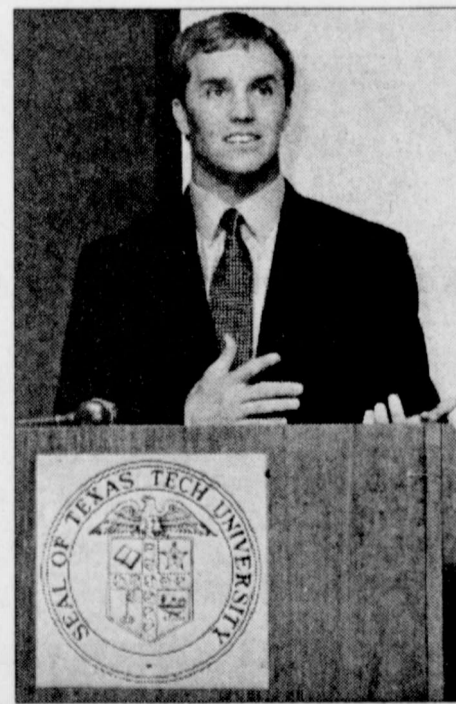
Moses said he is available to the Senate and Tech's student body anytime. Most importantly, he said he is ready to begin the

SENATE continued on page 5



DAVID JOHNSON/The University Daily

TEXAS TECH PRESIDENT Jon Whitmore gives Director of Development and External Relations Scott Cooksey a thumbs up during the announcement of endowments totaling more than \$7 million in the Formby room of the Southwest Collections building Thursday afternoon.



NEWLY ELECTED SGA President Mitchell Moses speaks to SGA senators at the first Student Senate meeting of the 40th Session in the Electrical Engineering building Thursday night.

HUTCH STILGENBAUER/
The University Daily

The University Daily

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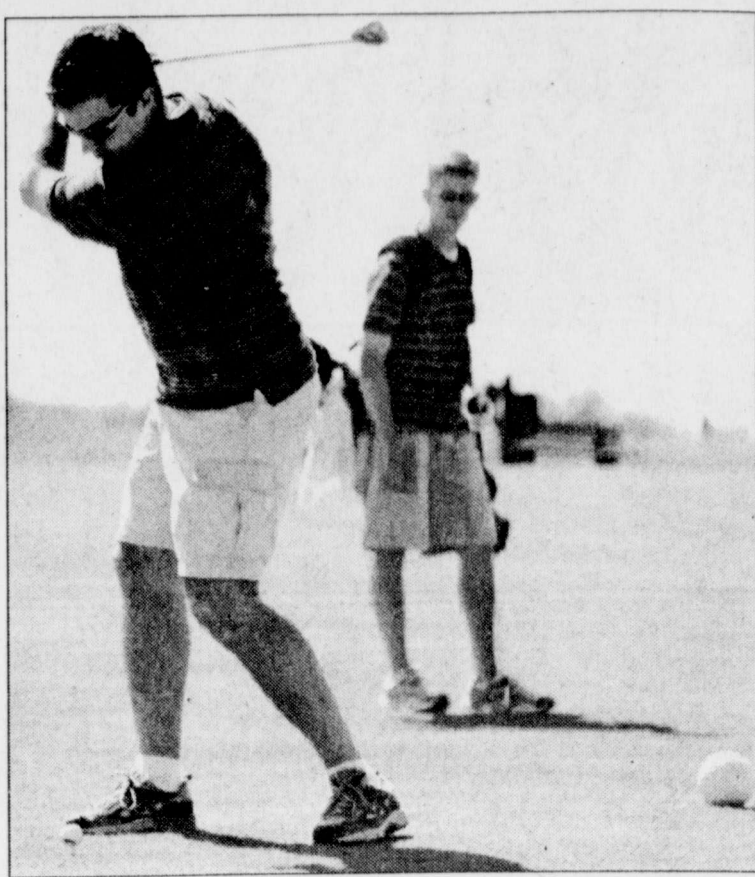
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TEED OFF



LINC ARMES/The University Daily

MICHAEL RIVERA, A senior management information systems major from Houston, tees off at the Jerry S. Rawls Golf Course, while Jason Smith, a senior management information systems major from Dallas, watches Thursday afternoon.

USA Today editor steps down after Kelley scandal

(AP) — A panel of leading journalists determined lax editing standards, poor newsroom oversight and a culture of fear allowed a former star reporter at USA Today to get away with fraudulent reporting for more than a decade, despite serious concerns being raised about his work.

The scandal provoked by Jack Kelley's extensive misdeeds has struck a devastating blow to USA Today, the largest circulation newspaper in the country, and paralleled a debacle last year at The New York Times involving former reporter Jayson Blair. Karen Jurgensen, 55, USA Today's editor since 1999, stepped down abruptly Tuesday in the scandal's wake.

The panel found that Kelley faked parts of at least 20 stories and plagiarized at least a hundred passages from other publications. In an initial report last month, the panel found that Kelley had made up parts of at least eight stories.

Led by three distinguished editors, the panel delivered its final report to publisher Craig Moon last week. The paper disclosed the panel's findings in a full page of articles in its Thursday editions, and a good portion of the report on its Web site.

The paper also published a statement from Kelley in which he apologized and admitted "a number of serious mistakes."

The panel placed much of the blame for Kelley's wrongdoing on USA Today's editors who, they say, should have looked into concerns about Kelley's work long ago. The newspaper's policies as well as routine editing procedures "should have raised dark shadows of doubt about Kelley's work, had his editors been vigilant and diligent. They were not," the panel said.

The Rundown



Perry's Bahamas trip undergoing scrutiny

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Ethics Commission has told Gov. Rick Perry it will decide whether he illegally converted political money to personal use when he used campaign funds to pay for a trip to the Bahamas.

At issue is money Perry used to pay for himself, wife Anita and several top staffers to travel to the Bahamas in February with campaign donors and others, the Austin American-Statesman reported Thursday.

"I think once the ethics commission looks into the facts, they will find it was an appropriate trip," Perry told reporters Thursday.

Perry spokeswoman Kathy Walt declined to say how much was spent on the trip but said it will be listed on Perry's next campaign finance report.

Also along on the trip at their own expense were San Antonio businessman James Leininger, a supporter of private school vouchers, and his wife Cecilia; Houston beer distributor John Nau and his wife, Bobbi; Grover Norquist, a Washington-based anti-tax activist; and Brooke Rollins, a former Perry aide now director of the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and her husband.

The Leiningers have given Perry more than \$75,000 in political contributions since 2000, and the Naus have given Perry more than \$100,000.

On Wednesday, Perry told news reporters he would like to see a school voucher bill emerge from the current special legislative session on school finance. Perry long has supported a pilot program to use taxpayer money to send children in failing schools to private schools.

Jackson indicted on molestation charges

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michael Jackson's legal team said the pop star will be fully exonerated when he goes to trial on child molestation charges.

A source close to the case told The Associated Press on Thursday that Jackson was indicted, although authorities wouldn't confirm it and the indictment handed up by a Santa Barbara County grand jury was sealed.

Jackson's publicist and his legal defense team issued a statement Wednesday that did not confirm an indictment but said: "Mr. Jackson and his attorneys are confident that after a trial on these charges Mr. Jackson will be fully exonerated and that the allegations contained in the indictment will be shown to be patently false."

A judge has issued a gag order that prohibits attorneys on both sides from discussing the case with the media.

Jackson spokeswoman Raymone Bain told The Associated Press that she had spoken with Jackson on Wednesday, but would say only that the singer "is out and about."

The closed-door grand jury proceedings replaced a preliminary hearing, which is open to the public. Both proceedings are to determine whether there is enough evidence for a case to go to trial.

Four months ago, county prosecutors charged Jackson with seven counts of lewd or lascivious acts on a child under the age of 14 and two counts of administering an intoxicating agent, reportedly wine. Jackson pleaded innocent in January to those charges and has been free on \$3 million bail.

Iraqis given few days to surrender weapons

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) — Guerrillas and residents in Fallujah have "days, not weeks" to turn in heavy weapons, the top Marine commander in Iraq said Thursday, warning that fighting could resume and that a U.S. push to take the city could be costly for both sides.

The stark warning by Lt. Gen. James Conway came two days after an agreement was reached in which city leaders called on insurgents to hand over their heavy weapons in return for a U.S. pledge to hold back on plans to storm the city and allow the return of families that fled the city.

The few arms that have been surrendered so far were "junk," Marine commanders said.

In Baghdad, a foreigner was killed, and his Iraqi translator was wounded by gunmen who opened fire on their bulletproof vehicle Thursday. The victim's nationality was not immediately known. The shooting took place in the northern neighborhood of Azimiyah.

Increasing violence has caused the German engineering giant Siemens AG pull its employees out of Iraq, and U.S.-based General Electric Co. has suspended some of its operations.

Iraqi Electricity Minister Ayham Al-Samarei said Siemens was to finish its projects by May 15, and much of the work was complete. He said he expected the firm's employees to return within a week. If they did not, Iraqi engineers were capable of finishing the job, he said.

General Electric, based in Fairfield, Conn., has suspended some operations in recent weeks because of the violence, but it is not pulling out, said GE spokesman Gary Sheffer.

Nichols' defense team says prosecution's witness had own connections to bombing

McALESTER, Okla. (AP) — Defense attorneys in the murder trial of Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols cross-examined the prosecution's star witness Thursday, seeking to convince jurors that Michael Fortier is an unreliable witness who had his own connections to the bomb plot.

Fortier, who served in the Army with Timothy McVeigh and knew both men, told Nichols' lawyers he was given stolen weapons that were allegedly sold to finance the April 1995 bombing.

When defense attorney Brian Hermanson asked Fortier if he believed his involvement with Nichols was suspicious, he responded, "Yes, I would agree to that."

Nichols and McVeigh were convicted of federal charges for the deaths

of eight federal agents. McVeigh was executed in 2001 and Nichols is serving a life prison sentence. Nichols is now being tried in state court for 161 murder charges for the other victims and for a fetus of one of the victims. He could be sentenced to death if convicted.

Fortier previously said he was not involved in the bomb plot. But he acknowledged Thursday that he shared money from the sale of the stolen weapons with McVeigh. He also said he handled blasting caps and other bomb components and even accompanied McVeigh on a trip to case the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building four months before the blast.

Fortier has been given immunity in exchange for his testimony. He has testified that McVeigh told him Nichols

was deeply involved in the bomb plot, stealing explosives and committing a robbery to help pull off the attack on the Oklahoma City federal building. Fortier is serving 12 years in prison for knowing about the plot and not telling authorities.

Hermanson sought to downplay Nichols' role, asking Fortier whether McVeigh thought Nichols was "stupid."

"He made comments like that," Fortier acknowledged.

Defense attorneys contend that McVeigh manipulated Nichols, and that their client was set up to protect unknown coconspirators who were more involved in planning the bombing.

jennifer garner

13. going on 30

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HSC receives grant to study ACL injuries

By Beth Aaron/
The University Daily

The Texas Tech Health Sciences Center received a five-year \$1.2 million grant from National Institutes of Health that will aid the research of the cause for the higher prevalence of anterior cruciate ligament injuries in female athletes.

According to Medline Plus Web site, an ACL injury is extreme stretching or tearing of the anterior cruciate ligament in the knee. Sports most often associated with ACL injuries include basketball and soccer.

Daniel Hardy, associate professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Biochemistry and orthopedic surgery, is the leader of the research

project. He said because of Title IX, there has been a large increase in participation of women in sports.

Title IX is a 1974 amendment to the 1964 Civil Rights Act banning sexual discrimination in education, namely calling for equality in scholastic sport programs.

"We're seeing a very large increase in ACL injuries," Hardy said. "We're investigating the way that women remodel ligaments different than men do."

Hardy said the explanation for a higher incidence of ACL injuries in female athletes could lie at the molecular level. He said the way the body turns over and rearranges itself may vary in men and women.

"Everything in the body has turn

over," he said. "Structures are always being replaced with more stuff."

Dr. Eugene Diabiezis, department chairman for orthopedic surgery at the HSC, said another explanation for ACL injuries in women may be that a woman's hormone cycles affect ligaments.

"There's a possibility that maybe these ligaments are more susceptible to injury during specific periods of cycling," he said.

Women's muscles also work differently from men's, Diabiezis said,

which could be another contributing factor to why women are 10 times more likely to suffer an ACL injury than men.

"When girls jump and land," he said, "they do it very mechanically and very different than boys do."

Because so many females are engaging in contact sports, Diabiezis said, it is important to understand why they may be especially susceptible to something as serious as an ACL injury.

"The way we are now, girls are going to compete in sports," he said.

"It has been in the past, a career-ending injury, and it still is."

Reducing the number of ACL injuries in athletes is also key, Hardy said, because treatment is painful and expensive. Almost all ACL injuries require surgery and rehabilitation.

"ACL injuries are common everywhere across the country," he said. "Sheryl Swoopes had an ACL injury."

Although Swoopes was able to make a comeback after a year of rehabilitation, Diabiezis said he has treated former female Tech basketball players who were not so fortunate.

"Sheryl only had one," he said. "She's as good as she ever was."

Hardy said other areas of explo-

ration that the basic scientific research grant will afford are preventative training options for athletes.

Diabiezis said there are multiple factors related to training and performance that must be understood before the basic knowledge sought after in this research is put to use.

"It's a very well-focused, specific target," he said. "The next step would be to see if training can be altered, and game play as well."

Hardy said he hopes the research findings will be translated for community benefit.

"It's a good deal not only because of the money coming into the economy, but for Lubbock to have expertise here," he said. "We're here to help the students and the community."



Major Jewish groups backing Bush's withdrawal from Gaza

NEW YORK (AP) — Major American Jewish organizations are praising President Bush's support for Israeli plans to withdraw from Gaza and maintain some settlements in the West Bank.

Jewish voters are courted by both Republicans and Democrats, but many groups see little difference on Israel between Bush and challenger John Kerry.

The president was blunter than his predecessors in supporting Israel on settlements, borders and the Palestinian refugees' right to return to homes they lost in Israel's 1948 war for independence. Arabs are outraged, saying it confirms their view the United States isn't an unbiased go-between in the conflict.

Among American Jewish groups, Bush's critics are few but vocal. Lewis Roth of Americans for Peace Now, linked to the Israeli group Peace Now, says Bush scuttled chances for the United States to be an effective peace broker.

The Zionist Organization of America, on the other hand, condemned the whole idea of removing Jewish settlements, saying it rewards terrorism and drives Jews from their homes.

The Union for Reform Judaism sup-

ports dismantling settlements and also considers Bush's position on Palestinian refugees "right and also practical," its president, Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie, said.

"There's a feeling in the American Jewish community that if the Arab world insists on the right to return, there will never be peace," he told The AP.

Abraham H. Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, called Bush's new position, set down in a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, "a bold and historic step." In 2002, Bush broke taboos by endorsing Palestinian statehood, and now he has broken taboos by saying the Palestinians will not get everything they want, Foxman said.

"I believe we'll get closer to peace when we're politically honest," he said.

Foxman said he sees overwhelming support for Bush and Sharon in the American Jewish community but expects Israel to be just one of many issues for Jewish voters in the November presidential election.

Jonathan Sarna, professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University, said "probably it's a mistake" to ex-

pect a unified American Jewish view.

"I think what you'll find is perhaps a consensus that terrorism should be fought and that it's best for Israel if some way is found to end the stalemate. Exactly how to do that and which policy is best, I don't think there is consensus in the American Jewish community, as there is not in Israel itself," he said.

Tamara Wittes, a Middle East specialist at the Brookings Institution, said Jewish Americans are concentrated in some key states, including Florida, and that for many, supporting Israel is part of maintaining Jewish identity. However, she cautioned against seeing Bush's stance solely in terms of American Jews.

She said evangelical Christians, who are strongly pro-Israel, may have greater influence on the White House than Jews.

David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, said Democrats can count on 60 percent of Jewish voters and Republicans on 20 percent, with the rest up for grabs. Jewish Americans have a greater impact on elections than their share of the population because many are politically active, he added.

Death sentence reversed for ineffective counsel

DALLAS (AP) — A federal appeals court has for a second time reversed the capital murder conviction of a man sentenced to die for a 1980 triple murder in Houston, saying his defense attorney was ineffective because he didn't contact the only known eyewitness.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans voted 2-1 to send the case of Max Alexander Soffar back to district court.

Soffar confessed to killing three people during a robbery at a bowling alley. Alane Felsher, 17; Tommy Lee Temple, 17; and Stephen Allen Sims, 25, were lined up and shot with a .357-caliber revolver. A fourth victim, Gregory Garner, 18, survived with permanent brain damage and lost his left eye.

Soffar, a former truck driver and ironworker who had been in and out of mental institutions and reform schools since he was 11, said he was a drug addict and confessed so the state would kill him.

James Schropp, Soffar's appellate attorney, said his client is pleased to have the opportunity for a retrial.

"He has been wrongfully incarcerated under incredibly harsh conditions now for 24 years," Schropp said Thursday. "As the opinion recognizes, Max did not receive a fair trial and was not fairly treated by the justice

system in Harris County. That's basically the only reason he was found guilty."

Tom Kelley, a spokesman with the Texas Attorney General's Office, would say only that they plan to ask the full appeals court to review the panel's decision. Soffar will remain incarcerated as that process continues.

A panel of the 5th Circuit overturned Soffar's conviction and ordered a retrial in 2000, saying police did not heed his ambiguous requests for an at-

torney. But the full appellate court ruled in 2002 that Soffar waived his rights to an attorney when he was arrested.

In Wednesday's ruling, the justices said Soffar's defense attorney violated his Sixth Amendment right by failing to contact Garner, the only known eyewitness, or call him to testify. The eyewitness' description of the shooting was vastly different from Soffar's confession, which was used to convict him and secure the death penalty.

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An ugly heart makes you ugly

Plastic surgery getting out of hand, sending wrong message

The Swan is one of television's new est reality shows. Its Web site describes it as "a new series where fairy tale turns into reality."

They say the show offers women the opportunity to undergo physical, mental and emotional transformations.

So, basically, if you think you are really ugly and people tell you that you are really ugly, call them up and they will operate on every one of your body parts to try and make you look better.

I decided to give the show a chance and watch an episode. The women who were on the show were not what I was expecting to see.

These women were 40-something with husbands and children. Why would a woman who already has someone that loves her for who she is think she needs to change?

They did a tummy-tuck on one lady and her stomach ended up looking better than mine does.

The doctor said "That will look great in a bikini." Why on earth would a 40-year-old mom need to look great in bikini? She's a mom, it is OK to look like one.

Anyway, even if she thinks she really and truly is ugly, are numerous surgeries really the answer?

I saw the "before and after pictures" of the women on the Web site, and I can honestly say I thought some of them looked better before their surgeries. At least they looked like real people.

Plastic surgery is a good name for the surgeries that these women get because in the end, they really do look plastic.

These women endure so much facial surgery their faces don't even look real

Kira Hild



anymore. They look like really ugly drag queens.

Also, let's not forget that these women have children. Their kids are going to see and know that their moms are getting surgery to look better. Isn't this going to send a message to these kids that appearances are everything?

There was one woman that at the last minute backed out of a lot of the surgeries she was scheduled to have.

The host and the doctor thought she was making a mistake. The reason this woman backed out of her surgeries was because her daughter had gotten into a car wreck and it made her realize the important things in life.

She decided that she wanted to keep a little bump on her nose because her daughters had the same bump.

The host and the doctor both tried to talk her out of it. Then she wasn't picked for the pageant. I guess she wasn't fake enough. This woman decided to make herself less fake and got criticized for it. I thought she looked a lot better than the other girl because she looked more like a real woman.

Getting plastic surgery is a major decision. Not only are there health risks but what if you get it and you hate what you look like in the end? There is nothing you can do about it. You will still be as miser-

Everyone is beautiful in their own way. That isn't just something that people say either, it is true.

The only really ugly people are the ones with ugly hearts. It is really sad that these women think they are so miserable that the only thing that can help is getting cosmetic surgery so they look better.

able as you were before, except now you are out a few thousand dollars.

Everyone is beautiful in their own way. That isn't just something that people say either, it is true. The only really ugly people are the ones with ugly hearts. It is really sad that these women think they are so miserable that the only thing that can help is getting cosmetic surgery so they look better.

It is very depressing to think that society has put so much emphasis on being beautiful that wives and mothers think they need surgery to really be happy.

■ Hild is a junior photo communications major from Rangely, Colo. E-mail her at kira.a.hild@ttu.edu.

View from another university

Woman should be prosecuted for fake kidnapping

By Kathryn Hollingsworth/
Kansas State Collegian

(U-WIRE) MANHATTAN, Kan. — It struck fear into the hearts of college women.

A sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison was reported missing. A video of her leaving her apartment late one night was replayed for days on major news networks.

Police began a frantic search for Audrey Seiler, and the news was alive with the story of another college girl gone missing.

According to the News-Star, police spent tens of thousands of dollars searching for the missing girl. Then the news broke that Seiler had been found unharmed in a marsh.

Signs reading "Welcome Home Audrey" were hung in store windows, and all of Wisconsin celebrated finding her alive.

But Wisconsin residents should take down their signs, because Seiler faked her own abduction.

Even after Seiler was found unharmed in a marsh and taken under questioning, she held steadfast to her story. She claimed she had been knocked unconscious and abducted at knife-point.

Only after police unveiled video of her purchasing a knife and duct tape did the disturbed woman admit to faking her

The only welcome home party Seiler should be having is in a courtroom being prosecuted.

own abduction.

Not only did Seiler purchase these items, she also looked up a five-day forecast in the marsh area.

Seiler's mental state is being questioned, and the signs welcoming her home still hang in store windows in Wisconsin.

The only welcome home party Seiler should be having is in a courtroom being prosecuted.

Harsh? Maybe. But remember Dru Sjodin? She was the North Dakota student who was reported missing in November. Her disappearance also lit up the headlines.

But they didn't find her in a marsh unharmed. They found her body this week-end.

For Seiler to manipulate the media and the public in an obvious attention-getting scheme was sick. There are parents mourning the deaths of their children who were taken and brutally killed.

Seiler may have mental health issues, but what she did was selfish and cruel.

The money, prayers and the media dedicated to Seiler's disappearance could have gone to a real case. There was a real child or woman abducted or killed that day.

It is a viable argument that Seiler should not be prosecuted, because of her mental state. Her stunt is an obvious cry for help.

But if her cry for help was to gain attention, I hope they throw the book at her.

This girl was in college, living in a decent apartment. She has two parents who obviously cared and a community who reached out to her.

Must be rough. There are people prosecuted every day in this country who grew up with none of the things Seiler has. No money, no education, no home and no chance. We prosecute these people every day.

Why? A crime is a crime. If a perpetrator is not legally insane, we prosecute them. Whether or not Seiler felt loved by her family or boyfriend should not be an issue.

She wasted thousands of dollars. She lied to the police and to the public. Seiler did all of these things with blatant disregard for the emotional upheaval she caused her family and community.

Whether a cry for help or for attention, Seiler should do time and think about how bad she really has it.

Is the price of life right?

Possibility of draft reinstatement a scary thought

Uncle Sam wants you, and if recent reports are correct, it may not matter if you want him.

It was reported Tuesday that a senior Republican lawmaker said reinstating the draft might be a possibility if security in Iraq continues to break down.

Nebraska Sen. Chuck Hagel told a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on post-occupation Iraq that every American citizen understands the job of soldiers in Iraq.

He said the draft might need to be reinstated to keep the military from being stretched too thin. This is a scary thought.

In a previous column, I defended the war. I said Sen. Edward Kennedy went too far when he compared the war in Iraq to Vietnam.

But, the bottom line is — if the draft is reinstated, this would almost be exactly like the Vietnam War. People would no longer volunteer to fight for their country, some would die for a cause they did not believe in and others would dodge the draft completely.

I admit reinstating the draft would be scary. It would be hard to live each day not knowing whether you will have to go to war.

If it came down to it and I am drafted, I would go and fight. But, I also know that while this is easy to say, it would be very hard to do.

Many critics of the U.S.-led occupation said military planners did not plan to use enough troops to control Iraq. They planned the war, without planning what we were going to do afterward.

They were also saying that more military forces would be needed to restore order in the war-torn country.

I know the soldiers are in Iraq trying to finish what was started, but why were all of the possibilities not weighed and planned out?

Why did no one think there was a possible situation we would not get in, do our business and get out? Should the planners have not planned for every situation?

"Why shouldn't we ask our citizens to bear some responsibility and pay some price?" Hagel asked.

There is a huge difference between asking me to pay taxes, which pays for things such as war, and asking me to pay the price of my life.

Already, many have volunteered their lives for the war. According to Tuesday's USA Today, more than 700 service members have lost their lives in the war in Iraq.

How many more will lose their lives before the draft is reinstated? Should we worry that as the death toll rises, the chances of the use of the draft also rise?

It is hard to read or hear about the deaths. They are reported almost nightly on CNN and even on the local news. When you hear the ages of these soldiers, and many of them are your age or younger, it is even harder to take.

A very strange thing happened to

Lucas Flores



The possibility of the draft being reinstated gets more and more real as the military is stretched further. I hope we can regain control and discontinue any future need for a draft. Our troops are there for a reason. They are the best and as they stay there, we should show our support, and stop talking like they cannot handle the job themselves.

me the other day. I was speaking with an elderly man. He is a World War II veteran.

The strange part is that he spoke in a heated way about the war. Not how you think — He was against it. Actually, he was against having to fight it.

It was different to hear an actual veteran that is not completely "patriotic" about the war in Iraq.

He spoke about how his grandson wanted to go to Iraq and had been speaking with military recruiters. He said his grandson was told he would not have to go through boot camp, and he would not have to be in combat.

He said he told his grandson not to believe everything he was told. He told his him to stop and go to college. The veteran said he did not want his grandson to go through all the pains he saw his friends and family go through.

We are going to have to realize this war will last a while, and we will probably occupy Iraq for many years. This war, possibly, could become Vietnam if it is not controlled correctly.

The possibility of the draft being reinstated gets more and more real as the military is stretched further.

I hope we can regain control and discontinue any future need for a draft. Our troops are there for a reason. They are the best and as they stay there, we should show our support, and stop talking like they cannot handle the job themselves.

■ Flores is a senior journalism major from Anton. E-mail him at lucas.b.flores@ttu.edu.

LETTERS: The UD welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be no longer than 200 words and must include the author's name, signature, phone number, and a description of university affiliation. Letters selected for publication have the right to be edited. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. All letters are subject to verification. Letters can be e-mailed to opinions@universitydaily.net or brought to 211 Student Media.

GUEST COLUMNS: The UD 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 600 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community.

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Organization takes home gold at regional contest

By Andrew Bell/The University Daily

Earlier this month, members of Students in Free Enterprise won the USA Regional Competitions held in Dallas. The students are currently preparing for the National Exposition in Kansas City, Mo., from May 23 to 25.

SIFE's mission is to provide Texas Tech students with the opportunity to positively influence the community, country and world through free enterprise.

Kathy Payne, a faculty adviser for the organization, said the group has four focus points they consider in the work they do, which include finding a profitable way to produce a need, free enterprise, ethics and financial management.

"If you give someone a fish, they can eat for a day," she said. "If you teach that person how to fish, they can eat for life."

Throughout the year, SIFE provides a number of activities for all age groups to learn the mechanics of free enterprise.

One such example involved flip-flops,

senior citizens and the free market in the global economy.

According to SIFE's annual report, the students conducted a hands-on learning session with a group of eight retired senior citizens. The students instructed them on how to develop enhanced flip-flop samples that would be sent to Taiwan.

With community involvement, the samples were sent with instructions, and Taiwanese elementary students created and sold the flip-flops to raise money to teach other villages in Taiwan the same lessons on free enterprise.

Back home in Lubbock, SIFE has also visited Alderson Academy to teach free enterprise to students there.

According to the annual report, SIFE members, who consist primarily of retailing majors through the College of Human Sciences, worked with 17 at-risk fifth grade students from a low-socioeconomic area to teach them ethical character traits.

The traits included integrity, initiative, citizenship, trustworthiness and respect,

according to the annual report. Lisa Bell, the external director of public relations for the organization, said the goal of the lessons was to teach the traits to them while they are children, so they make good decisions growing up.

During the visit to the academy, the SIFE members also held a soft drink float sale. The elementary students used the information given to them by the SIFE members and created a stand to sell the treats. Payne said the children enjoyed the project so much SIFE members would return to the academy to hold a similar event.

When the members leave at the end of next month for the national exposition, they will come to find the event will be much different than the regional competi-

tion.

At the regional tournament, 59 teams were divided into two leagues, which consisted of a four-year school league and a two-year school league, Payne said.

At the competition, Tech SIFE members conducted a presentation to the judges showing the activities the organization conducted during the year and how it benefited the society around them.

The judges, consisting of managers, directors and vice presidents of businesses in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex, evaluated the information and gave the team a \$1,500 prize and trophy.

Payne said the win was a major accomplishment for Tech SIFE, considering the organization is in its second year of exist-

ence. At the national exposition, the team will still have to present their information, but it will be in front of CEOs and CFOs of national businesses.

Bell said the group would use the money won at regionals to fund most of the expenses to go to the national competition. The rest will come from donations and fundraisers.

Until the team leaves for nationals, SIFE members will be selling Krispy Kreme cards.

After someone buys a card that person can buy a dozen doughnuts and receive a dozen glazed doughnuts for free.

The cards last until August 2005 and become void after the 10th use, Bell said. For more information about Krispy Kreme cards students can contact Bell by e-mail at lmb2001@aol.com.

Other students that would like information on how to join the organization could contact Payne by phone at 742-3050, Ext. 242 or visit their Web site at www.orgs.ttu.edu/SIFE.



Senate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

year. The executive officers have already begun preparing, so senators should do the same.

Under the leadership of Internal Vice President Nathan Nash, the Student Senate should have a productive year and, Hunninghake said, she is excited to work with every senator and officer in the next year.

Next year, Nash said the Senate should focus on actions instead of words. The committees have already developed ideas and actions for the fall.

Students should expect SGA Day to come earlier than it has in other years. SGA Day is a community service day where student organizations go throughout Lubbock to help businesses, clean up parks and listen to questions from the student body.

Also, committees will work to increase voter registration on campus and throughout the city. To improve communication, the committees will look into an increased student input and work more with *The University Daily*.

Usually, the Senate does not consider legislation at the first meeting because the meeting is an introduction for new senators who are unaware of the legislative procedures, Senator-at-Large Chris Carr said. Instead, the Student Senate decided to suspend the rules and begin looking at resolutions, Carr said.

The first resolution senators discussed concerns the implementation of a graduate student orientation. The orientation would become an important part of integrating graduate students into the campus community. Undergraduate, international and transfer students already enjoy this integration through their own orientation, but graduate students do not have the same opportunity, according to the resolution.

Graduate Sen. Jason McAfee, author of the resolution, said some departments have smaller orientations for graduate students, but the resolution would educate the students on various resources available to them through the university.

Since the Senate decided to pass the resolution, future graduate school orientations will be implemented by the SGA and the Graduate School and could begin as soon as fall 2004.

The Senate retreat is crucial to the senators and executive officers involved. Each year, members of the

Senate

SGA attend the retreat in order to form a more cohesive group, Carr said. To ensure the cohesiveness of the group, the Student Senate was called to consider making the attendance of every senator mandatory for future retreats.

The Senate passed the resolution. Finally, the SGA congratulated Marvin Cepica for becoming the dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources recently after being the interim dean since September 2003 by passing a resolution noting Cepica's previous achievements along with his new promotion. For his continued service to the university, the SGA will present the final copy of the resolution to Cepica.

The SGA senators and officers can be found on the third floor of the Student Union. The organization can also be contacted at 742-3631.

Increase

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

process to determine how many of the students that applied received an award, Blake said he anticipates approximately 60 percent will receive funds.

"It varies based on the applicant pool," he said.

While some students pay for college independently of their parents, a higher percentage of undergraduate students are dependent, Blake said.

"There's a fair amount, but the larger percentage of students are still dependent for undergrad," he said.

Jennifer Hall, a senior communication studies major, said she and her sister both attend Tech.

The sisters from Carrolton are both dependent of their parents; Hall said she did not apply for any financial aid.

"My parents made enough money. I didn't have to," she said. "It wasn't my choice."

While Corey Mitchell did apply for financial aid, he said he did not receive any.

The freshman business major from Odessa said he believes someone that is a minority receives financial aid rewards a lot easier.

"(The tuition increase) is a problem for a lot of kids," he said. "Some are already having a problem, and it's going to make it even harder."

Mitchell said he might have to take out a loan.

"I don't want to," he said. "But I guess I'd have to."

A sophomore business major

from Lubbock, Monica Clark, said she will have to take extra money from her college fund in the fall because she does not qualify for financial aid.

"I can't have it. My parents make too much money," Clark said. "I would have to repay someone."

The tuition increase will affect Katherine Amerson in the long run.

"I'm not in quite a disadvantage as some students," the junior public relations major from Amarillo said. "My grandparents set up a fund that pays for my college, but at the same time I'm planning on going to law school, and that'll be expensive."

Financial aid in the form of grants, scholarships and loans are available, Amerson said.

"I think there are means for students to pursue higher education if they don't have the means," she said.

Race

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for birth defects and preventing infant mortality, Prumer said.

"To me, it's just important to give back locally to your community," she said. "It's a good way to get involved with something in your community."

Prumer said the March of Dimes is the only non-profit organization that has ever completed its mission.

First established by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1938, March of Dimes set out to combat polio.

In 1958, the organization adopted a new mission, birth defects, hoping to conquer it as well.

Explosion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ders are difficult to confirm independently, and the state-controlled media is unlikely to provide quick confirmation of such an accident.

The country's infrastructure is dilapidated and accident-prone.

Its passenger cars are usually packed with people, and defectors say trains are seldom punctual and frequently break down.

Sometimes, trains are stranded for hours at stations until their electricity supply is restored enabling them to continue, some defectors say.

The trunk line on which Thursday's accident reportedly occurred, the main rail link between China and North Korea, was first laid during the Japanese occupation more than 60 years ago.

YTN reported that the casualties included Chinese living in the North Korean border region, and that Chinese in Dandong — a bustling industrial city on Yalu River — were desperate to learn about their relatives.

Chinese and North Korean traders frequently cross the border at Dandong.

Some of the injured were evacuated to hospitals in Dandong, it said.

Kim rarely leaves North Korea and when he does takes a special train — reportedly armored and a gift to his father from Stalin — because he is known to have a fear of flying.

North Korea's state-run news agency on Thursday confirmed that Kim made a secretive trip to China on Monday through Wednesday, but carried no comments on the reported explosion.

China, which also confirmed Kim's visit, is North Korea's last major ally, and the countries' ruling communist parties boast of close ties. But while China's experiments with capitalism have transformed it into an economic dynamo, North Korea suffers chronic food shortages and depends on its larger neighbor for aid.

Kim met with President Hu Jintao and other Chinese leaders and agreed to "push ahead" with a peaceful resolution to the standoff over its nuclear weapons programs, the North's official KCNA news agency and central television network reported earlier Thursday.

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Hulen/Clement sand castle contest signups due today

Raiders no longer have to travel nine hours to see a beach full of sand.

The Hulen/Clement Architecture Learning Community will bring the beach to you.

Red Raiders have the opportunity to shovel away their exam worries by participating in the Hulen/Clement sand castle contest.

Applications will be accepted for teams wanting to participate until 5 p.m. today in the Hulen/Clement office.

Calvin engineering major from Midland said the community advisers of Hulen/Clement came up with the idea for a sand castle contest because they wanted an event that would promote the Architecture Learning Community.

"We thought it would be a fun event to get students ready for summer," he said. "It's going to be relaxing, something students will definitely need before finals."

Bogart said prizes will be awarded to the winners of the best-designed sand castle.

"The competition is going to be judged by faculty members of the architecture department," he said. Sand, water and a limited amount of building supplies will be provided.

However, Bogart said teams can bring their own materials as long as they don't get too crazy.

"Students can use anything that we encourage them to bring their own materials, but they can't use concrete or anything crazy like that."

Bahama Bucks snow cones and leis will be handed out throughout the competition, Bogart said.

'Tartuffe' a savory theatrical truffle

James Eppler



After an eclectic season of shows, Texas Tech Theatre has saved one of the best for last with Moliere's 'Tartuffe,' a beautifully written and delightfully funny period piece.

The play, written in the 1600s, is no small undertaking. Director Laurin Mann calls on her cast to cater to the acting techniques representative of the time period in which the play was written.

Actors must maintain distinct poise throughout, and deliver lines written in rhyming iambic pentameter without losing the audience. Although the plot is relatively simple, the language, if not handled properly, could have the potential to complicate matters.

When the curtain first opens, the audience will get its first look at a gorgeous and brightly lit set of a Paris home, circa the 1700s, complete with a large staircase and a wall adorned with painted portraits.



DAVID JOHNSON/The University Daily

The house belongs to Orgon (Sean Cooper), a wealthy Parisian who lives with his second wife, Elmire (Sarah S. Shaver) and his son, Damis (Kevin Ten Eyck). He has recently taken in a beggar named Tartuffe (Jeffrey Scott) who has deceived the master of the house into thinking that he is a well-meaning servant of God.

Apparently, Tartuffe lost all of his earthly possessions in hopes of what he will have in heaven.

Orgon not only buys this garbage, he makes Tartuffe an honorary guest in his house.

We may start to suspect that Orgon has a non-sexual man-crush on Tartuffe, as anyone except for Orgon seems to know that this "servant of God" is a fraud.

Orgon loves Tartuffe so much that he seeks to have him married to his subservient daughter, Mariane (Charissa King)

who is already promised to the doting Valere (Alan Taylor).

But Tartuffe is more interested in Orgon's wife than his daughter. In a pivotal scene, Tartuffe openly suggests the torrid affair to Elmire, who roundly rejects him. Damis, however, overhears the entire conversation and tells his father. Orgon, still deceived by Tartuffe, disowns his son and refuses to believe his wife's confirmation. He then makes the imposter the sole heir to his fortune.

Presiding over many of these scenes is the housemaid, Dorine (Mary Housewirth) — arguably the star of the show — who always has a frank opinion over all of these occurrences.

Despite the topics of religious hypocrisy, adultery and deception, all of these things are played for laughs. The play has a sharp tongue and a scathing wit that provides many big laughs throughout.

Mann's direction is strong, as it becomes obvious early in the production that she has a firm grasp on the period performance techniques of the time. She wisely doesn't let the material take itself too seriously.

The cast does an excellent job with the language. When every two lines rhyme, it gets too easy to sound as if one is just reciting poetry. But the cast avoids falling into that trap. The line delivery is well enunciated and most importantly, believable.

There is not a weak performance in the bunch, but a few cannot help but stand out. Housewirth is uproariously funny as Dorine.

She takes ownership of all of her scenes and connects with the audience in various asides.

Cooper is terrific as Orgon, an up-tight master of his domain. His strong performance is hilariously over the top. One of the play's best scenes finds these two characters fighting to get the last word in.

The costumes by Melissa L. Merz are fantastic and aptly accent the period. The design involved in preparing the designs is evident.

This large undertaking of performing a classic could have gone wrong in so many ways, but Mann and her company achieve a pleasant success.

Dim the Lights Moliere's 'Tartuffe,' translated by Richard Wilbur When: 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday Where: Charles E. Maedgen, Jr. Theatre, Main Stage Tickets: \$12 for general public, \$5 for students with valid ID. Call: (806) 742-3603

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams. Includes crossword grid and solutions for Thursday's puzzle.

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Raiders host Big 12 leading Sooners

By Joey Kirk/The University Daily

Texas Tech knows what is right and wrong on the diamond. Now, junior shortstop Cameron Blair said the objective this weekend is to aim its eyes on the former rather than the latter.

"We have to focus hard on the right things to do, not the wrong," he said. "It will only hurt us if we focus on the wrong."

The Red Raider baseball team (25-12, 6-5 Big 12) will face the Big 12 Conference leader, Oklahoma (25-14, 12-3), beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Dan Law Field. The other two games of the three-game series will be played at 2 p.m. Saturday and at 1 p.m. Sunday. But Blair said the last two games are irrelevant at this point.

"If we don't show up on Friday, and we don't put the ball into play, we could see an upset this weekend," he said. "We gotta get things started off right because they are a good ball club."

This is the fifth conference series for the

Raiders this season. Junior first baseman Josh Brady said Tech knows how to handle Big 12 opponents and how to prepare for them.

"When it has to do with conference, we have to take the games from Oklahoma," he said. "I think we are definitely more focused, and we have to jump on them in a hurry."

Tech leads the series with Oklahoma dating back to 1976, 19-16-1. This weekend can determine if the Raiders keep the lead or if the Sooners can come back to tie Tech in the win column. Head coach Larry Hays said either way, this weekend's series will be one for the books.

"I think it's gonna be a great series any way you look at it," he said. "OU is leading the league right now, and I think we expect to see a little bit of everything."

Problems with pitching have plagued Tech in the past, but Hays said the matchups are fairly even between the two opponents.

"If our guys come out and pitch, we have a chance to win," he said. "We match up all right, but we definitely have to match their pitching to be successful."

Junior right fielder Madison Edwards said the Tech-OU series is like any other in the Big 12.

"We've seen good pitching, and we will continue to see good pitching this year," he said. "It's a challenge. It always is."

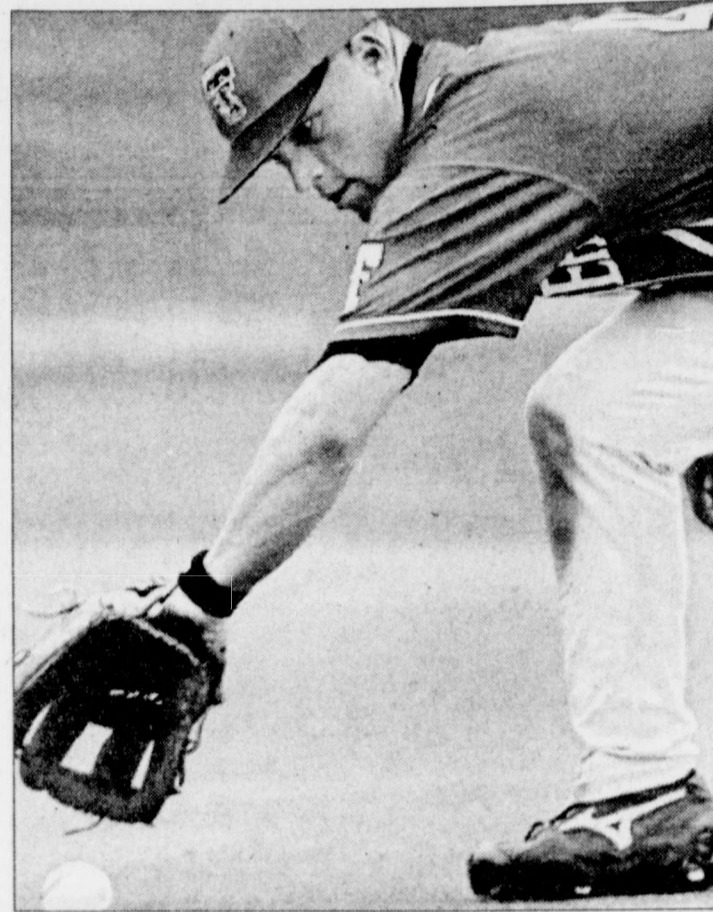
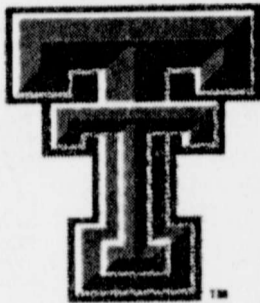
If the sticks get cracking against the Sooner bullpen, Edwards said Tech can look forward to basking in glory at the end of the weekend, but the Raiders cannot focus on it too much.

"I'm not thinking of a series win against Oklahoma. We can't look too far back, and not too far ahead," he said. "We've been on a roll in defense and offense. We just have to keep it that way."

Overall, the team is hitting more than .300, with 49 homeruns and 350 runs scored thus far in the 2004 season. Tech ranks seventh in the nation in runs scored.

The only objective against the Sooners is to continue the roll Tech has been on, and Blair said to do so Tech has to come out fighting during that first game.

"Against OU, we have to press hard on opening day to get a win," he said. "It will be that much better for the rest of the weekend, and we can be a little more relaxed."



THIRD BASEMAN JOSH HANEY backhands a groundball during Tech's win against Kansas State on Saturday. The Raiders host the Big 12 Conference leading Oklahoma Sooners this weekend. Game times are Friday at 6:30 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m. at Dan Law Field. RaiderGate festivities originally scheduled for the Texas series will begin before Saturday's game.

JAIME TOMÁS AGUILAR/
The University Daily

Reeves confident about Nebraska

By Adam Boedeker/
The University Daily

The Texas Tech softball team has fought adversity this season, most notably the youth and inexperience of the team, coming into the season with 11 Big 12 newcomers, including eight freshmen.

With the season in its final weeks the Red Raiders (19-32, 1-13 Big 12) will host their final home conference

series against the first-place Nebraska Cornhuskers (32-12, 10-0) before heading to Columbia, Mo., to end conference play against Missouri.

The Huskers main weapon, pitcher Peaches James, is coming off a stellar week in the circle, garnering Big 12 Pitcher of the Week honors after going 3-0 and not giving up an earned run in 21 innings pitched.

Tech head coach Bobby Reeves said James is a phenomenal talent who presents many problems to her opponents, but one the Raiders can handle if they continue swinging the bats the way they have.

"First of all, she's a big-time competitor," Reeves said. "She throws the ball really hard and has a great changeup. She also has a good curve

and rise ball. When she's on she's the toughest pitcher to face in the conference."

The series against the Big 12's top team comes at the end of what could be considered a "murderer's row" of the Big 12. Last week Tech faced Texas, second-place Texas A&M and lost a doubleheader to Oklahoma on Wednesday in Norman, Okla.

Reeves said with the youth on his team, the tough finish to the schedule

could be a good thing for the future of his program.

"I like to think it's a good thing for our future," he said. "You almost have to approach it that way, where we are. Right now you just hope to have some success with these teams we've played. We just want to play at home and try to get a win out of the series."

Like so many times in the past,

Reeves stressed the importance of getting all cylinders clicking for the team to be successful — pitching, hitting and defense.

Reeves said after a disappointing week for his pitching staff, there were some bright spots seen in Norman.

"Erin (Crawford) threw 12 innings in our doubleheader (against OU)," he said. "I think she responded very well. Kassy (Planck) had a rough start, but Erin threw the last five innings of game



JAIME TOMÁS AGUILAR/The University Daily

SECOND BASEMAN BRITNEY STOLLE fields a groundball during Tech's loss to Texas A&M on Sunday. The Raiders host Nebraska at 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday at Rocky Johnson Field.

one and threw a complete game in the second game, and we just lost that 4-3, it was a tough loss but she did well."

Reeves said another recent problem — errors — plagued his team against the Sooners. He said despite the improvement in the circle and the continued hot bats, Tech is having problems committing inopportune errors.

"I don't think it's becoming a trend," he said. "When you put as many

young players on the field as I do, it can get rough at times. We're trying to learn how to win, and they're playing hard so I can't ask for more there."

Reeves said despite Nebraska's perfect conference record and its No. 15 ranking, he believes his team can win its final home conference series.

"I'm not scared to play anyone in our conference. We've been with everyone this year with the exception of maybe A&M," he said.

He summed up the Raiders' chances by referring back to the three components of the game.

"If we can hit the way we're hitting now and find a way to get some pitching and defense in there, we can beat anyone in the conference," he said. "I really do believe that."

Supreme Court turns down Clarett for draft

WASHINGTON (AP) — Maurice Clarett's bid to enter the NFL draft this weekend was turned down by the Supreme Court on Thursday, delaying for now his attempt to get into the league.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said she saw no reason to overturn a lower court's stay preventing the former Ohio State running back from being picked.

The 20-year-old Clarett is fighting the NFL's requirement that players wait three years after high school before turning pro.

Ginsburg said she would not intervene given the NFL's "commitment" to conduct a supplemental draft if Clarett eventually is determined eligible.

The NFL had said Clarett could participate in training camps this summer, if he wins his case in a lower court.

"Today's decision confirms the judgment of the court of appeals and allows us to turn our focus from the courtroom to the draft room," Jeff Pash, the NFL's in-house attorney, said in a statement.

Calls to Clarett's attorney were not immediately returned.

The decision also keeps wide receiver Mike Williams of Southern California out of the draft.

Williams, who entered the draft after the original decision allowing in Clarett, would have been a first-round pick while Clarett likely would have gone in the second or third round.

Clarett was appealing a stay issued Monday by the New York-based 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, putting on hold a lower-court ruling that said the NFL can't enforce its three-year rule.

Ginsburg issued the decision because she oversees appeals from New York, which is where the NFL is based.

Bonds' fast start awes many

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Hall of Famer Orlando Cepeda told everyone almost a decade ago that he'd never seen someone swing a bat as well as Barry Bonds.

"And people looked at me funny," Cepeda recalled.

Nobody's arguing now, not with Bonds batting .500 — yep, .500! — and connecting for nine homeruns among his first 19 hits. He even homered in seven straight games, one shy of the major league record.

"What he's doing is pretty special," first baseman J.T. Snow said.

Bonds, a six-time NL MVP, got a much-needed day off Thursday when the Giants concluded a four-game series against the San Diego

Padres. He is expected to play all three weekend games in Los Angeles against the Dodgers.

"He is really tired," manager Felipe Alou said. "You can see it in the outfield. He's been busy."

That's for sure.

Bonds' homer streak ended Wednesday, just short of tying the mark shared by Dale Long (1956), Don Mattingly (1987) and Ken Griffey Jr. (1993). With the game out of reach — the Giants lost 11-0 — Bonds asked to be taken out in the eighth inning.

Bonds, who turns 40 in July, has 667 homers, behind only Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714). If he stays healthy and keeps up his pace, Bonds could reach 700 this season.

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