

'Spider-Man 2' swings past rival comic book heroes

After making his debut in the original and fairly decent "Spider-Man" in 2002, the web-slinger comes roaring back onto the silver screen in "Spider-Man 2" with a fierceness that should make heroes like "The Hulk," "The Punisher" and "Hell-boy" run home crying to momma.

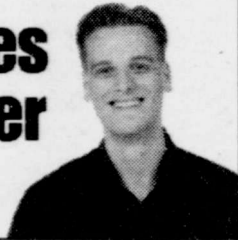
"Spider-Man 2" improves on every aspect of the original and brims over with edgy excitement and genuine summer movie joy. It's the quintessential summer movie.

The original "Spider-Man" was more of a cookie-cutter comic book movie: a loner experiences a tragedy, (in Peter Parker's case, the death of his uncle) and decides to use his newly discovered superpowers to fight evil.

It's been done many times, and even "Daredevil" (2003) gave the same material more depth.

"Spider-Man 2," however, gives us more character meat to chew on. Moreover, the special effects are tighter and more convincing, and

James Eppler



the adventure story and the love story gel more naturally.

It almost feels like classic film noir watching Mary Jane Watson (Kirsten Dunst) look deep into Peter Parker's (Tobey Maguire) eyes and command him to kiss her to prove he has feelings for her.

Maguire's Parker spends much of this film feeling torn between his responsibilities as a hero and what he may be sacrificing because of it. His conflicted state is having an adverse effect on his web-slinging skills, as he sometimes finds himself in midair unable to get his web up. (Insert Freudian reference here.)

Meanwhile, Parker finds himself fired from job after job. Being a superhero is great, but it doesn't pay the

bills. He's constantly tardy because he's trying to save lives and deliver pizza in less than 29 minutes.

Parker is also writing a paper for school about Dr. Otto Octavius (Alfred Molina), a brilliant scientist who is hoping to expand the boundaries of fusion. It's a dangerous experiment; so much so that the good doctor has created four mechanical arms that attach to his spine and take orders from his brain to do the work for him.

Parker's best friend, Harry Osborn (James Franco), is sponsoring the experiment through his late father's old company. Harry has also vowed vengeance on Spider-Man for killing his father, who, unbeknownst to Harry, was the Green Goblin.

Octavius' experiment is a disaster, however, and the apparatus attached to his spine turns into an angry dreadlock-looking monster with a mind of its own.

The battles between Doc Ock and Spider-Man are terrific, especially one involving a clock tower

and a train. The Doc Ock villain is a vast improvement over the Green Goblin, who looked more like something a bad "Power Rangers" episode coughed up.

Amidst the eye-popping special effects and chase sequences, it's the little things that make this comic book movie a keeper.

J.K. Simmons steals every scene he gets as the fast-talking Jameson, editor of *The Daily Bugle* who pays Parker for pictures of Spider-Man. Rosemary Harris adds nicely to the tender side of the film as Aunt May, and Molina's Octavius matches the hero step for step in terms of a conflicted psyche.

Maguire proves he is still the right man for this job, even though he reportedly almost lost the gig to Jake Gyllenhaal ("The Day After Tomorrow") for this second film. We get more of an opportunity to actually see Maguire in the Spider-Man uniform (no fair telling how), which makes the computer-generated hero of the original film seem

more human.

I also appreciated Dunst's Mary Jane refusing to simply be a damsel in distress. Dunst gives her character a genuine emotional center, which elicits similar results out of Maguire.

It's a good match. Director Sam Raimi, who also helmed the original, has turned all aspects of this franchise up several notches. By the end of "Spider-Man 2," he has readied the franchise for the third film, perhaps dangerously treading on a trap of predictability.

It also begs the question, could any future "Spider-Man" movie improve on "2"?

It's hard to imagine.

EPPLER'S RATING



■ Eppler is *The UD's* movie critic. E-mail comments and questions to James.D.Eppler@ttu.edu.

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Tech bicyclists ride for a cause

By Abby Holcomb/
The University Daily

As they passed through Florida's natural landscape and major cities, they spread their message to increase awareness about the abilities of those with disabilities, all while riding a bicycle.

On May 16, Robert Shindell, director of the Rawls College of Business Career Center and chapter adviser of the Epsilon Omega chapter of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity at Texas

Tech, and Jeff Myers, president of the chapter, began their 800-mile bicycle journey across Florida.

Shindell said they rode four to six hours each day and covered about 75 miles a day, so training before the event was helpful.

Each team member had to raise at least \$1,800 and fill out applications to participate in the event.

The bicycle trek began in Miami, went through the Florida orange fields, reached the Gulf Coast, visited Orlando and rested at the state capitol in Tallahassee.

Pedaling along side them was a team of 32 undergraduates and alumni fraternity members from chapters of the fraternity from colleges and universities across the country.

This year was Shindell's first time to participate in the Gear up Florida event, and he said it was a good experience to give something back.

College students are fortunate to be where they are, he said, because they have an opportunity to obtain a degree.

"It's important to give back to someone who may never have the opportunity," he said.

Pi Kappa Phi is the only fraternity to have its own philanthropy, and Shindell said the event was important for the fraternity.

Shindell said a typical day during the event consisted of getting up at 5 a.m. and riding until about noon. Then they would stop at various facilities for children and adults with disabilities and spent time with them in what is called friendship visits.

Myers, a senior finance major from Albuquerque, N.M., said the entire experience was good for changing the stereotypes about fraternities.

"There is so much bad media about frats, and it shows that there is a frat that is doing something different," he said.

Working and spending time with people with disabilities was a rewarding experience, Myers said.

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Kerry picks Edwards for running mate

By Ron Fournier/
AP Political Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry on Tuesday selected former rival John Edwards to be his running mate, calling the rich former trial lawyer and rookie senator a man who showed “guts and determination and political skill” in his unsuccessful race against Kerry for the party’s nomination.

As Kerry announced his decision, a huge crowd of supporters burst into applause, wav-

ing handmade signs that mixed with professionally printed “Kerry-Edwards” placards kept under wraps until the last minute.

“I trust that met with your approval,” Kerry, a smile crossing his face, said at a rally in Pittsburgh. A banner unfurled behind him with the latest campaign message: “Kerry-Edwards. A stronger America.”

As he wrapped up his remarks — a vintage Kerry stump speech laced with a few descriptions of Edwards — Chuck Berry’s “Johnny B. Goode” played, a reference to the first name the running mates share.

By selecting Edwards, 51, Kerry went with the smooth-talking Southern populist over more seasoned politicians in hopes of injecting vigor and small-town appeal to the Democratic presidential ticket. Kerry, a decorated Vietnam veteran, calculated that he didn’t need to add foreign policy heft to the ticket.

Called aloof by his critics, reserved by his supporters, Kerry hopes Edwards adds pizzazz to the Democratic team. Edwards is rich, but his up-from-the-bootstraps biography made a compelling story during his nomination fight

against Kerry and several other Democrats.

President Bush’s allies at the Republican National Committee immediately labeled Edwards a “disingenuous, unaccomplished liberal” trial lawyer — even as Vice President Dick Cheney called to congratulate him. Spokeswoman Nicolle Devenish said Cheney congratulated Edwards and told his rival that he looked forward to the vice presidential debate and “a spirited campaign.”

Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri, Iowa

KERRY continued on page 2

Putnam family drops lawsuit

By Sally Gunter/
The University Daily

The parents of a Texas Tech graduate killed in a boating accident May 26, 2003, dropped civil charges on June 24 against the owners of the boat involved in their daughter’s death. Judd and Betty Putnam, the parents of Laura Putnam, filed a lawsuit a year ago against Berkley Dawson and his brother Vincent Dawson, owners of Bud Co. in San Antonio.

Robert Newman, attorney for the Dawsons, said it is his understanding the Putnams dropped the civil suit because law enforcement officials determined the Dawsons were asleep during the accident and unaware their boat was being used.

“It has become clear that the Dawsons had nothing to do with this,” Newman said.

The Dawsons were always confident that when people had the chance to hear their side of the story, they would not be a part of a civil suit, Newman said.

“The Dawsons became aware their boat was part of the accident three weeks later,” he said. “They didn’t know until then.”

Greg Marks, attorney for the Putnams, is unavailable for comment for two weeks.

LAWSUIT continued on page 5

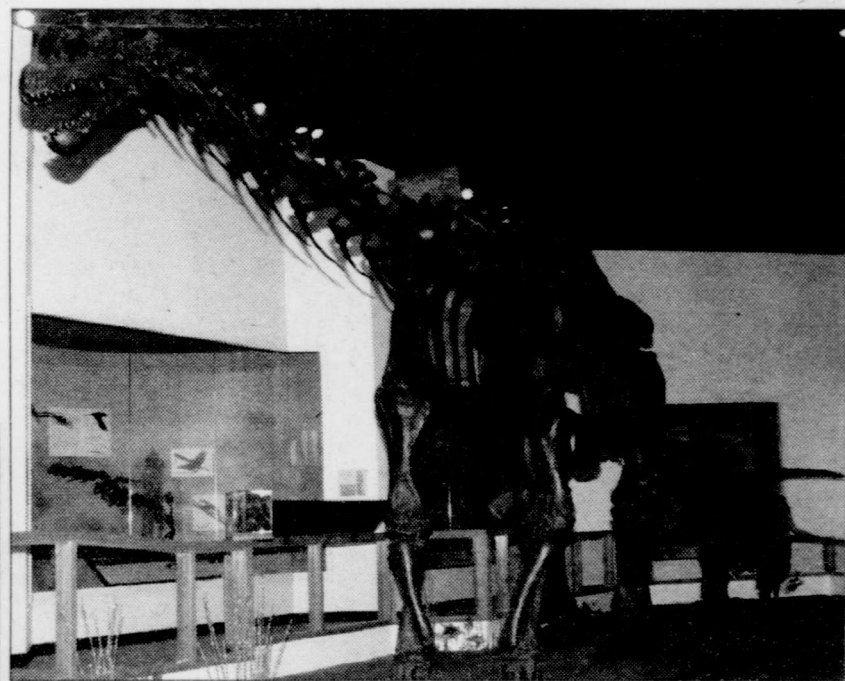
Monsters of the Mesozoic

By Megan LaVoie/The University Daily and photos by
Linc Armes/The University Daily

Since the opening of Steven Spielberg’s “Jurassic Park,” crowds have flocked to the nearest destinations highlighting the fossils of the mammoth reptiles. Now Lubbockites don’t have to travel too far, because the Texas Tech Museum is bringing dinosaurs to them. The Tech Museum opened its newest exhibit July 1 — A Changing World: Dinosaurs, Diversity and Drifting Continents.

The event kicked off with a ribbon cutting ceremony,

MUSEUM continued on page 3



ABOVE: A DINOSAUR skeleton towers above other exhibits in the dinosaur room of the Texas Tech Museum. The exhibit opened July 1 and showcases several skeleton of various dinosaurs from the Mesozoic Era, including a few skeletons of dinosaurs discovered in the South Plains Area. LEFT: A dino exhibit shows two smaller dinosaurs interacting.

Two OSU employees resign after being accused of taking software from Tech

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — Two Oklahoma State University employees who were accused of taking software from Texas Tech University were paid a total of nearly \$29,000 by OSU and agreed to resign from the school, according to documents obtained through an

open records request.

According to a deal between OSU and the former employees, Brandon LaBonte was paid \$16,083. Former employee Michael Hewett was paid \$12,883 in a similar agreement.

The signed documents obtained through open records requests made by The Oklahoman and the Tulsa World state that the former employees agreed “to make no adverse

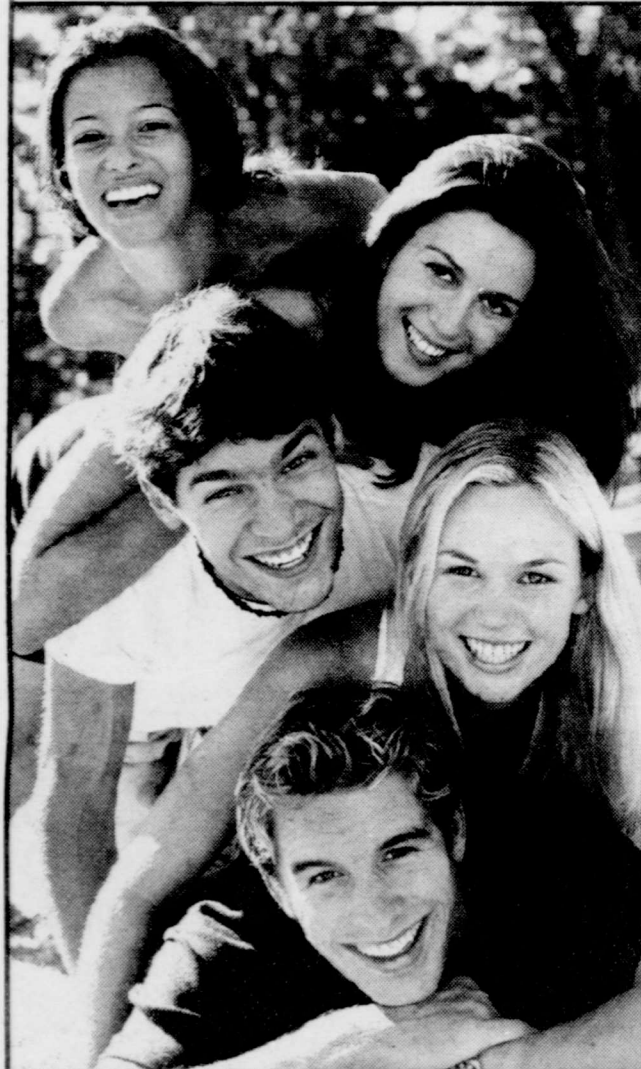
OSU continued on page 5

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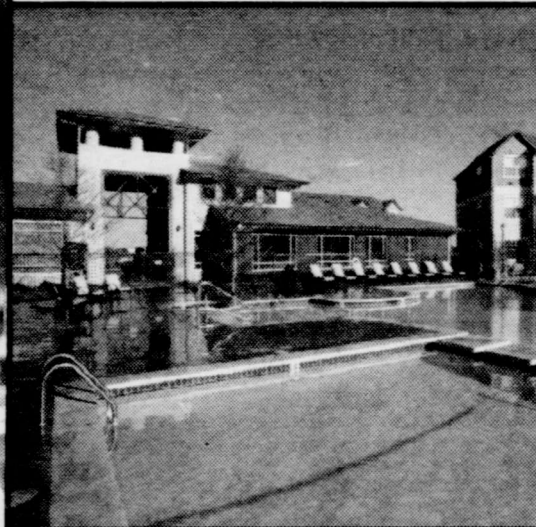
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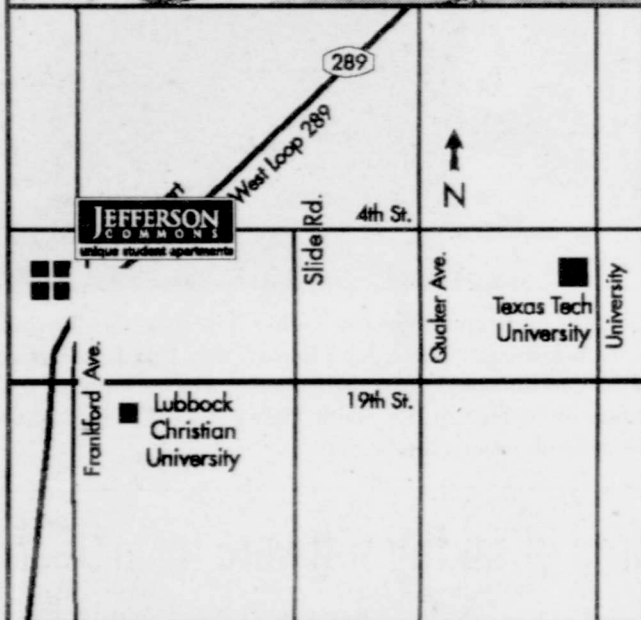
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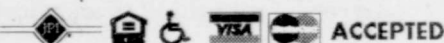
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Kerry

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gov. Tom Vilsack and Sen. Bob Graham of Florida emerged as finalists in a search that began four months ago with a list of about 25 candidate and a mandate to find a political soul mate who would be "ready at any minute" to assume the presidency.

Kerry called all three also-rans shortly before the rally, an aide said. He also telephoned 2000 Democratic nominee Al Gore, who in turn talked to Edwards.

Edwards was the most popular of the leading contenders for the job, according to an AP-Ipsos poll of registered voters taken last month, and party leaders had been urging Kerry to shed his initial resistance to the North Carolina senator, first elected in 1998.

In his 15-minute call to the North Carolina senator, Kerry said, "Teresa and I would like to ask you and Elizabeth to join us on our ticket to take back our country."

Edwards was at his home in Washington's Georgetown neighborhood when Kerry told the rally, "I have chosen a man who understands and defends the values of America, a man who has shown courage

and conviction as a champion for middle-class Americans and for those struggling to reach the middle class, a man who has shown guts and determination and political skill in his own race for the presidency of the United States, a man whose life has prepared him for leadership."

Bush's re-election campaign rushed to the airwaves with a television ad featuring former Republican rival John McCain and titled "First Choice," an effort to paint Democrat John Kerry's running mate as his second choice. McCain, the Arizona senator, had rejected Kerry's overtures to be No. 2 on the Democratic ticket.

McCain says of Bush in the ad: "He has not wavered, he has not flinched from the hard choices, he was determined and remains determined to make this world a better, safer, freer place." Kerry's campaign rushed into production its own ad featuring the newly minted ticket.

The Bush-Cheney ad alludes to what Republicans hope will be a problem for Edwards - his lack of foreign policy experience and political seasoning. It is not a new argument for Kerry: During the Democratic nomination fight, Kerry groused to associates that Edwards had no right seeking the presidency after less than a single term in the Senate.

The University Daily

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Museum

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followed by a dinosaur talk from the curator of paleontology, Sanker Chatterjee. The "Dinosaur Talk" included defining the time when the dinosaurs lived: the Mesozoic Era, which covered the span of 230 to 650 million years ago and included three periods, the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous. Chatterjee said some of the creatures in the new exhibit are named after area towns, Texas Tech, discoverers and patrons including, Postosuchus and Technosaurus. Chatterjee said the museum has conducted a large portion of Mesozoic research in the nearby town of Post, and most of their findings are displayed in the new gallery.

The exhibit also concentrates on creatures that inhabited Texas during the prehistoric Era. The world's largest flying reptile with a wingspan of over 35 feet inhabits the halls of the museum, as does the Alamosaurus named for the famous Texas Landmark.

Along with touring the new exhibit, children and adults were able to take home a piece of the exhibit by way of DINO-crafts they made at stations throughout the museum.

Heather Miller, a resident of Lubbock, said she brought her children Kayla and Danielle to get out of the sun for a day.

"It's a fun thing to do for a change — it keeps the children entertained and entertains me as well," she said.

Chaterjee said museum scientists have been working on the exhibit for at least five years.

"It has been a long time in the works," he said. "We are still working on the exhibit, making additions, and scientists are still researching in Post."

Chatterjee said most people in Lubbock don't know they live in dinosaur territory.

"This area is known for its abundance of dinosaur fossils," he said.

One of the most common questions heard throughout the exhibit was if the dinosaur fossils were real.

"The fossils on display are a combination of both genuine fossils and fossils made from scientifically accurate resin casts," he said. "You can't tell the difference between the two."

Children's favorite exhibits included the dinosaur eggs and the prehistoric fish with all the water, he said.

"This is a town where children don't have as many things to do as children who live in Houston or Dallas do," he said. "We are going to have a lot of programs that children can take part in through their schools."

Tech is one of 10 universities in the country who have a dinosaur

exhibit, Chatterjee said.

"This exhibit is going to put Tech on the map," he said.

The museum is open from 10

a.m. through 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free. For more information about the dinosaur gal-

lery or to request special assistance, call the museum education office at (806) 742-2432 or visit their Web site at www.museum.ttu.edu.

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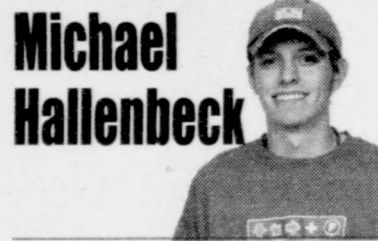
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What the Olympics mean in this day and age

Oh, the Olympics. It's a magical event — at least, according to television. And who can argue with TV? Every four years (well, two, but we're not counting the sissy Winter Olympics) a particularly enchanting city gets to show its charms to the world. Athletes from hundreds of countries come together in the spirit of friendly competition — and, uh, steroid abuse. Businessmen join to see who can scam the most from the generous funds. And terrorists from the farthest corners of the universe unite with one goal: blow the heck out of something really big.

OK, maybe it hasn't always been that way. But recent states of crisis and scandal surrounding the 2004 Olympics — in Athens, whose older denizens created the darn thing — is a pretty major turn-off to the average citizen.

Every day it seems another big name in sports is turning down a free trip to Greece because they're (rightfully) concerned about security. Or, that same big name can't go anyway because their cousin's roommate's fiancé's trainer said they



Michael Hallenbeck

took steroids. Or some random terrorists blew up an empty barn 100 miles away from anything remotely involved in the Olympics. Or, the Athenians haven't finished their new Olympic pavilion — you know, the one where every event takes place. It's really pretty discouraging.

The Olympics used to be really cool. Sports heroes in rhythmic gymnastics got immortalized on Wheaties boxes. Americans could finally prove to those showboating Brits we're better in the 10-meter platform dive. And who didn't enjoy waking up to the news that Zambia swept the women's triple jump competition?

But seriously, one of the most impressive things

about the Olympics is its ability to function as one of the most powerful political vehicles the world has ever seen. One of the most lasting images in all of history was that of Jesse Owens showing up Adolf Hitler in the 1936 Berlin events.

As Nazism spread throughout Europe in the 1930s, Hitler saw the Olympics coming to Berlin as his chance to show off the new Germany and prove the Aryan race superior. Unfortunately for him, Jesse Owens (one of the most under-appreciated athletes in sports history) had other ideas, winning four gold medals. The big thing was Owens was black, an inferior race to Hitler.

This wasn't just a fleeting moment in some meaningless sport competition — it was something that changed the way the world looked at certain people and ideas. Hitler never seemed to learn anything from Owens' spectacular performance, but Owens beat out several German competitors, and many German fans made him a hero. And in 1984, before the fall of the Berlin Wall, a street in Berlin was named for Owens.

As trivial as sports may seem in the grand scheme of things, the Olympics stand as an example of world unity and peace, no matter what terrorists or shady organizers try to pull off. Even with no big political issues at stake, the Olympics are still a great opportunity for people to come together. Fielding an Olympic team, even if it features a pole-vaulter who's scared of heights, is a defining moment for a fledgling country or a time-honored tradition for an established nation.

So despite all the horrible news swirling around Athens, let's get just as excited about the Olympics as we have in years past. No matter where you're from or what your ideals, it's a chance for people to meet on common ground, put away their differences and enjoy a little friendly rivalry. Personally, I can't wait to gloat when Switzerland takes the gold in kayaking this year.

■ Hallenbeck is a sophomore German major from Killeen. E-mail him at reverehallenbeck@ttu.edu.

Barbie speaks for first time since breakup: I've found someone else

After a much-publicized split, one half of the most famous couple in the world has found happiness yet again, this time in the arms of an Australian surfer dude.

Yes, that's right, folks; Barbie has found love again.

Mattel recently revealed that its famous plastic woman, who just a few months ago endured a public breakup with longtime honey — the anatomically incorrect Ken — has been spotted on the Australian beaches with Blaine, termed the "Aussie Hunk."

Barbie's lonely life for the past few months hasn't been too lonely, though. Apparently, according to CNN/Money, she had quite a few options for the next Mr. Barbie, with input from more than two million people as to the next love of her life, who takes on the big task of outdoing Ken's 43-year romance with anatomically impossible Barbie.

Are you freaking kidding me?

I would laugh at this, except 1) I got the information from CNN, which should be a serious news network, 2) two million people voted for this Blaine guy (method ring a bell? Reality TV meets 10-year-old girls'

Heidi Toth



toys), and 3) both the "breakup" and the "new love" have been deemed newsworthy items, big enough for CNN and the Associated Press.

Granted, Money's excuse is this hot new relationship could mean hot new profits for beleaguered Barbie. But still, "Aussie hunk wins Barbie's heart." This less-than-serious headline is prominently, and proudly, displayed right beneath the "Fortune 500" link on the Web site. I bet right along side the tabloidesque update was a story on Cisco's latest stock performance and the Feds raising the interest rates.

It makes for rather a tragicomic connection, doesn't it? (Say, Sam, did you know the interest rate is going up? Yeah, Bob, I heard that's really going to make it difficult for Barbie and Blaine to buy their starter beach mansion because of those greedy Feds.)

According to the CNN story, Mat-

tel decided on this move to get publicity and get some interest in a former hit. After all, Barbie used to be rite of passage for every little girl around the world. Lately, however, the tradition has taken the back burner and despite Barbie's many personalities, she has lost quite a bit of her popularity.

But not anymore. Like moths to a flame, people the world over have suddenly remembered their favorite plastic-looking woman (with Joan Rivers taking a close second) as soon as some scandal enters her life.

It's really rather sad that to get people's attention, Mattel had to cause a breakup, make it public, haul in the world's opinion on who should next be Barbie's boy toy, and then make a big deal about her fabulous and unexpected "new love."

Of course, this isn't Mattel's first drastic change. Barbie, or one of her friends, has spanned just about every age group, racial or ethnic group, profession and so on. She does it all. She was revamped a few years ago to make her less like, well, Barbie, and more like the rest of us flawed humans.

So what's next for our favorite girl? Maybe College Barbie, when she's

poor, wears whatever clothes she can find on her way out the door, and doesn't have time for make-up? Bad Hair Day Barbie? How about Menopausal Barbie, when she has hot flashes and mood swings and always feels bloated? Retirement Barbie, with even more fake-looking skin, bags under her eyes and breasts sagging down to her navel? I bet people will be lining up for any of the above reality Barbies.

Yes, America has been sucked in by the Barbie fantasy. She epitomizes everything we've ever wanted to be, largely because she'll never be any of the things we are.

She got the good end of the bar-

gain. Time means nothing to Barbie.

You know who got screwed out of all this, though? Ken. The poor guy gets publicly dumped after 43 years because Barbie was going through a midlife crisis, although they're "still friends," according to the article. We all know what that means.

As for Blaine, well, he's got some pretty big underwear to fill. I guess we'll have to pay the \$14.95 to see how he compares.

■ Toth is a graduate student from Roswell, N.M., studying business and editor of *The UD*. E-mail her at UD@ttu.edu.

Tech PD's Crime Prevention Tip of the Week

According to the National Crime Prevention Council, identity theft is the fastest-growing crime in America. You can reduce your chances of becoming a victim by:

- Not leaving your wallet or purse unsecured or unattended.
- Not giving out personal information over the phone, through the mail or over the Internet unless you know who you are dealing with.
- Shredding documents with personal information on them.
- Not putting your Social Security number, driver's license number or date of birth on checks or credit cards.
- Canceling all credit cards not used in the last six months.

Marine's life still in question after Iraqi militant group denies beheading him

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — The fate of a U.S. Marine held hostage in Iraq remained in question on Monday after an Iraqi guerrilla group denied beheading Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun.

The denial Sunday gave new hope to Hassoun's relatives just when there appeared to be none.

The Ansar al-Sunna Army posted the denial on its Web site in response to reports by the Lebanese Foreign Ministry that the group had killed Hassoun.

Ansar al-Sunna said the statement announcing Hassoun's death "has no basis of truth." It added that "any statement that is not issued through our site doesn't represent us."

Lebanon reported Hassoun's death after extremist Web sites posted a statement that claimed he had been killed. The declaration was posted in the name

of Ansar al-Sunna.

"The denial gave us a big relief," Hassoun's brother, Sami, said by telephone from the northern city of Tripoli, where he, his father and several other relatives live.

He renewed his appeal to the kidnapers to release his brother, a translator the Marines who went missing June 20 while serving his second stint in Iraq. Hassoun, 24, speaks Arabic and French as well as English.

On June 27, the Arab television station Al-Jazeera broadcast a videotape showing Hassoun blindfolded, along with a statement from militants threatening to kill him unless the United States releases all Iraqis in "occupation jails."

That statement identified the militants as "Islamic Response," rather than Ansar al-Sunna.

Holiday weekend proves less fatal than years past

A Lubbock man died in an accident over the holiday weekend, but he was the only fatality inside the city limits during a traditionally fatal weekend.

In the Lubbock area, there was an accident involving a motorcycle. Mark Castro was fatally injured on Saturday when he struck two gas meters and a block wall at

4600 Englewood. He was fatally injured, according to the police report.

As for the Texas Tech community, Maj. Richard Foster said the weekend was quiet.

There were a number of traffic citations given, but no traffic accidents to report. Foster said there were no fireworks accidents.

The Lubbock Police Department has not reported any other accidents in the area.

No accidents involving Tech students have been reported in other parts of the state.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife department stepped up patrol, as did all other law enforcement departments across the state.

Lawsuit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The accident occurred May 26 on Lake LBJ near San Antonio, when the boat allegedly driven by Robert Napier Corrigan III hit the starboard side of Putnam's boat in a glancing blow and flew over the top of it.

Putnam took a direct blow to the head from the hit and was knocked into the water. Her body was recovered two weeks later. The autopsy showed Putnam died of drowning.

Her fiancé, Justin Moore, and Jerry Neil Cypert also were in the boat when the accident occurred.

Frio County officials arrested Corrigan, a 28-year-old commercial real estate agent in San Antonio at REOC Partners, on Oct. 1 while he was on a hunting trip, ending a four-month investigation into the boat collision.

Corrigan was indicted Oct. 8 on charges of failure to stop and give assistance after the Memorial Day boating accident. His criminal trial is set for November.

No criminal charges were

brought against the Dawsons, said Chief Criminal Investigator for the District Attorney's Office Henry A. Nolan.

While the Dawsons are no longer part of the civil suit, Newman said they will provide as much information as they did during the investigation by answering questions for officials.

"The Dawsons truly have been concerned and continue to hope the Putnams find peace and closure in this matter," Newman said. "They will continue to cooperate with police and the Putnams in any way."

OSU

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

comments about Oklahoma State University to any third parties."

LaBonte and Hewett also signed documents giving up their rights to sue the university. OSU also agreed to give LaBonte a favorable job reference.

A review released June 25 by the General Counsel's Office at

OSU stated that the two employees "more likely than not" gained unauthorized access to computer systems at Texas Tech University to copy that school's software.

LaBonte, Hewett and an OSU spokeswoman did not immediately return phone calls on Saturday.

Both employees previously worked for Texas Tech, and the General Counsel's Office review said witnesses saw one of the employees use an old user name and

identification to log onto Texas Tech's computer system and get programming code that was used to create OSU's online events calendar.

LaBonte was the director of software services at OSU. Hewett was his assistant.

OSU officials have made settlement offers to Texas Tech related to the software. Both schools expect an agreement to be signed by next Friday, officials said.

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LINC ARMES/The University Daily

RAIDER RED PUTS his guns up during the Fourth of July parade Saturday morning on Broadway Avenue as he enters the Texas Tech campus.

Dennis Quaid marries Texas real estate agent on the 4th

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Dennis Quaid celebrated Independence Day by marrying Texas real estate agent Kimberly Buffington.

Quaid, 50, and Buffington, 32, tied the knot Sunday in Montana, said Quaid's spokeswoman Cara Tripicchio. She did not disclose the site of the wedding.

Quaid's best man was his 12-year-old son, Jack Henry Quaid, and the bride's attendant was her

brother, Blake Buffington. Quaid met Buffington in March 2003 when a mutual friend introduced them at a dinner in Austin, Tripicchio said.

The actor was previously married to actress P.J. Soles from 1978 to 1983 and to actress Meg Ryan, the mother of his son, from 1991 to 2001.

Quaid stars in "The Day After Tomorrow," playing a scientist trying to prevent the end of the world when global warming unleashes disaster.

New software makes cheating more difficult

By Abby Holcomb/
The University Daily

A new software has been introduced that might make plagiarizing anything from the Web more challenging for cheaters.

The Plagiarism-Finder software, made by Mediaphor Software Entertainment, works by comparing any digital document to the billions of Web pages all over the Internet. The documents include presentations, final projects, dissertations, and term papers.

A study done by the Center for Academic Integrity showed almost 80 percent of college students have admitted to cheating at least once.

Plagiarizing from the Internet has become an easier task as the Internet has grown into an information smorgasbord. It offers paper mills where anyone can buy term papers and turn them in. However, all of this could be coming to an end.

According to Mediaphor Software Entertainment, the new Plagiarism-Finder software can be used with any Windows-based PC to scan files for cheating.

The program can scan the files in question in a variety of differ-

ent ways, after which the program produces a detailed report to the user. This report highlights sources that may have been copied and a percentage of the copied text.

Brian McFadden, an associate professor in the English department at Texas Tech, said plagiarism is a constant problem every year but he does not use any particular program to track it.

"If I see something suspicious, I search on the Web," he said.

The problem with plagiarism, McFadden said, is it is widespread, but hardly anyone gets caught. He has not had a problem with it in any of his classes in the past three years but said he hears of one or two cases from other professors every year. He said he would consider using the Plagiarism-Finder software to help

catch cheaters.

The new software could make catching cheaters easier for professors who do not want to spend a lot of time manually searching the web.

Melanie Chaffin-Poeing, library specialist at Texas Tech's International Cultural Center, said the software could prove valuable to professors at Tech.

"I think it is important software to have because a lot of students rely on Internet sources," she said.

She said she has not seen many cases of serious plagiarism, but she has seen students copy things from the Internet without citing the source.

Chaffin-Poeing said Tech has a good policy on academic dishonesty because it makes students want to be honest and think for themselves.

"It is important for students to develop skills and also to form their own ideas and opinions on subject matters," she said.

The punishments might seem harsh, but with all of the information out there universities are not taking the problem lightly.

Lindsey Yarbrough, a sophomore marketing major from Fort Stockton, works at the circulation desk in the library, and she said the

software would be good for teachers to have if it would help catch those who were trying to cheat.

"It would be good as long as it didn't get students in trouble that weren't actually trying to cheat," she said.

She has heard about people plagiarizing but hasn't really seen much of it, Yarbrough said.

Depending on the severity of the case, the consequences for plagiarizing at Tech could end a student's college career if he or she was caught.

Tech's Operating Policy and Procedure states if plagiarism is found, the consequences could range from a zero on the assignment in question to suspension from the university.

"The consequences have to be steep enough to let the students know they can't do this," McFadden said.

"It is important for students to develop skills and also to form their own ideas."

— MELANIE CHAFFIN-POEING
International Cultural
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Armstrong finishes third stage of Tour de France, keeping title hopes alive

WASQUEHAL, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong turned two treacherous and cobblestone stretches of the Tour de France to his advantage Tuesday while Spanish rival Ivan Mayo crashed in a blow to his title hopes.

Mayo lost a whopping 3 minutes, 48 seconds to Armstrong in the third stage. Armstrong, meanwhile, kept alive his bid for a record sixth straight victory in cycling's showcase race.

"Ugh, that's unbelievable," the Texan said in summing up the difficult day.

Armstrong is fifth overall, 16 seconds behind leader Robbie McEwen of Australia. Armstrong will look to take the lead in the later mountain stages and time trials in a race that ends July 25 in Paris.

Jean-Patrick Nazon of France won the stage from Waterloo in Belgium to Wasquehal in northern France, beating Germany's Erik Zabel and McEwen in a sprint finish.



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