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### The East Texan, 2007-03-15

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# The East Texan

Student Publication of Texas A&M University-Commerce since 1915

COMMERCE, TEXAS 75429, THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2007

XCI

NO. 22

## A hero is dead ...

Comics' famed shield slinger met an untimely death. What happened? Marvel's writers took a stand ... three years too late.

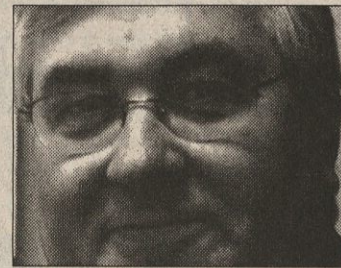
□ IN VIEWPOINTS, PAGE 2



## Miller muses

The director of the under-construction student center speaks of his past at A&M-C and plans for students' futures with a state-of-the-art facility.

□ IN A&E, PAGE 5



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# An elite feat

*Washburn sings the Blues; Lions advance to NCAA Division II Elite Eight*



SHELLY CERVANTES/Special Contributor

Senior guard Kanani Marshal cuts down the net after the Lions 71-70 win over Washburn (Kan.). Marshal and the Lions will travel to Kearney, Neb., to battle Clayton State for the chance to move on to the Final Four. Game time is set for Wednesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. Extended coverage of the Lions magical run through the NCAA tournament can be found on Pages 7 and 8 and [www.theeasttexan.com](http://www.theeasttexan.com).

## A&M-Commerce holds on for one-point victory

By Brent Lyday  
Sports Editor

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — Texas A&M University-Commerce held off Washburn's second-half comeback to earn its first trip to the NCAA Division II women's Elite Eight with a 71-70 victory in the South Central Region basketball finals on Monday night.

Washburn battled back from a 13-point deficit to make the 28-8 Lions work hard at the foul line for their trip to Kearney, Neb., for the next tournament that starts with a game against 28-5 Clayton State (Ga.) at 6 p.m. on March 21. Clayton State nipped Georgia College and State 66-65 in overtime in the South Atlantic Regional finals.

Washburn (Kan.), which finished at 29-4, pulled to within 67-65 with 1:17 remaining, but Kanani Marshal hit two free throws to give the Lions a four-point lead with 24.5 seconds left. The Lady Blues cut the lead to

three on a free throw from Brooke Ubelaker before A&M-Commerce's Katedria Mosley hit one of two free throws to make it 70-66 with 11.6 seconds left.

Ubelaker scored inside to cut the Lions' lead to 70-68 with 4.7 seconds left and the Lady Blues fouled Marshal again with 4.1 left on the clock. Marshal hit one of the two free throws to extend the Lions' lead.

Rather than allow Washburn to attempt a tying 3-pointer, the Lions intentionally fouled guard Jessica Mainz with three seconds left. Mainz hit the first free throw and missed the second one. Washburn forward Amanda Holmes rebounded the miss and got fouled with 0.7 remaining.

Holmes had to hit both free throws to send the game to overtime. She hit the first one and missed the second one as Dawn Montgomery secured the rebound for the Lions.

"The ball bounced our way there at the end," said Lion head coach Denny Downing. "They have been a team of destiny here lately."

The first half was all Lions as they put up 43 points while shooting 19-33 from the field. Marshal could not be stopped, putting up 16 points, with nine coming from beyond the arc.

Lion guard Britney Jordan and forward Tradawn Short followed Marshal as they each put up eight points in the session as the Lions outscored Washburn 28-4 in the paint.

Guard Alicia Johnson saw her first action of the NCAA tournament and hit a big 3-pointer in the half, putting the Lions up 36-24.

The Washburn Lady Blues were led by forward Brooke Ubelaker who was the only player to put up double-digits in the half for the Blues with 10.

SEE WASHBURN, PAGE 3

## Loyal fans make eight-hour journey to watch team

By Brent Lyday  
Sports Editor

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — The Lions women basketball team may have averaged a low attendance this season, but at every one of them, a certain group was sure to be in the crowd.

Jack Euwer, Hoyle Julian, Ann Julian, Andrew Kohn, Tina Kohn, Mel Kohn, Tasha Anders and Charles Nash traveled to St. Joseph, Mo., to keep cheering their Lions on.

Lions guard Dawn Montgomery's parents and a few more Lion faithful came to watch the Lions take down the South Central Regional Championship.

President Dr. Keith McFarland and Interim Provost Dr. Frank Ashley brought their wives down to the championship game to watch the finale as well. The long road trip lasted about eight hours for the group that took a van down to the tournament.

Before the players left on Wednesday, March 7, the crew brought the Lions a goody bag and about 15 people sent the team off.

"The girls were surprised, they couldn't believe it," said Ann Julian. "They couldn't be sweeter."

The low attendance that watches the home games is not something that this group is proud of.

"We need more people, students and the commu-

nity to come," said Julian. "The kids are so appreciative. There should have been buses come up here."

It has been said people don't want to come watch games of a losing team, but this team is not losing anymore. This team has won a program best 11 games in a row, won the Lone Star Conference and are moving on to the Elite Eight for the first time in the 35-year history of women's basketball at Commerce.

The consensus decision among them is that every Lion player on this team is their favorite. "The girls are so good, we wouldn't want to give credit to just one," the group agreed.

They were definitely able to choose which game was their favorite this season, though, and that game was when the Lions were able to beat West Texas A&M in the Lone Star Conference Championship game.

Whether it's win, lose or draw, these fans support the Lions athletics in volleyball, soccer and football.

"People like to see a winner," said Hoyle Julian. "It's more fun when you win."

After getting past this South Central Region, the Lions will be traveling to Kearney, Neb., where this group will be there to cheer on their Lions.

"Go Lions," said the fans. "We want them to win, win, win, go far and we will all be there."

## EDITORIAL

**T**he ELITE Eight. A feat that has never been accomplished in the history of A&M-Commerce women's basketball. We like the sound of it and what this will mean for the university and the athletic program.

We join A&M-Commerce and the city of Commerce in congratulating the women on their South Central regional championship.

Although, it's not over yet.

Whether the team wins or loses on Wednesday, we can be proud of our "Elite Eight" comprised of Tarika Campbell, Dominee Evans, Alicia Johnson, Britney Jordan, Kanani Marshal, Dawn Montgomery, Katedria Mosley, Tradawn Short. It's not necessarily the type of basketball they play but the dignity and class they show when they put on a Lion uniform.

And that makes them the epitome of winners in our books.

## LETTERS

This letter was posted on our Web site in reaction to a reply to a previous letter about the KFC/Catholic Church column in the March 1 issue. In response to Troy Brakefield's response:

He has indicted himself with his own pen. A person with integrity does not ridicule. A person of integrity might have a difference of opinion. A person of integrity makes careful creative criticism. A bully or a second rate comedian uses ridicule, derision, mockery and taunting. If one actually respects someone or something he does not ridicule. If one respects himself, he does not use ridicule. If one is truly Christian, or a person of any faith, one has respect for others, even in disagreement. To write a column on the decision of Kentucky Fried Chicken to use Lent and the Church as a marketing ploy could very well be an honorable thing. To use that column to ridicule a people, their faith and the practices of their faith is reprehensible. It is nothing more than hate mongering. One would hope that in an institution of higher learning one would have matured in the ability to be sensitive to others. To quote something that I heard Jerry Springer say one day on his show, "Jerry Springer is not a handbook for life." I hope and pray that all connected with the Texas A&M University-Commerce are well beyond that.

Rev. George P. Monaghan  
Pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church

Thank you for your comments, sir.

While I believe the term "hate mongering" is a bit strong, I respect your opinion and right to speak it. I also disagree with not being permitted to ridicule.

## The East Texan

Established 1915

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The East Texan, official student newspaper of Texas A&M University-Commerce, is published 14 times per semester during the Fall and Spring by students in reporting and editing classes. Content is solely the responsibility of the student editors and writers. The comments and views expressed in The East Texan do not necessarily reflect the beliefs of other students, staff, faculty, administration, or the Board of Trustees. The East Texan is located inside the Journalism building on the east side of campus in room 113. Single copy free; additional copies are available in Journalism 113 for 25 cents.

## Letters To The Editor

Letters to the Editor are welcome and should be limited to 250 words. They will not be edited for spelling, grammar and libelous or malicious statements. We reserve the right to refuse publication. Letters should be typed or e-mailed and must include a signature, classification (grade level) and telephone number. Mailing address is The East Texan, P.O. Box 4011 Commerce, Texas 75428

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Joey Dean  
Editor-in-chief  
jdean@leo.tamu-commerce.edu

Troy Brakefield Managing Editor	Wyndi Veigel Senior Editor
Brent Lyday Sports Editor	Shristi Shrestha Student Life Editor
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## CONTACT

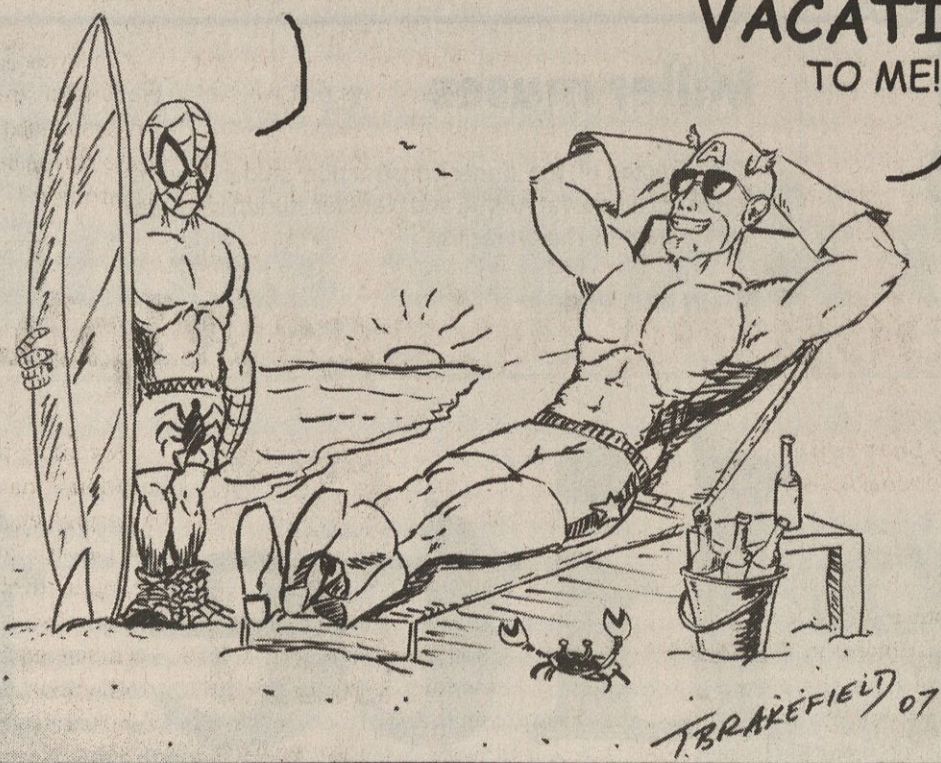
Website: www.theeasttexan.com

Phone: News Desk 903-886-5985  
Advertising 903-886-5231

E-mail: theeasttexan@gmail.com  
fred\_stewart@tamu-commerce.edu

HOW'S THE WHOLE  
DEATH  
THING GOING?

IT'S NOT DEATH --  
IT'S A HIATUS!  
AND IT FEELS LIKE A  
VACATION  
TO ME!



TROY BRAKEFIELD/The East Texan

## Ding! Dong! A hero is dead

**I**t wasn't exactly "a shot heard 'round the world," but it did manage to grab a few headlines.



Troy Brakefield  
Managing Editor

On March 7, Marvel Comics killed Captain America. And by killed, I mean shot repeatedly. I would tell you to go to wikipedia.com for more info, but if you're a comic book geek (like me), you already know what happened. Jack Ruby got him with

three slugs at the courthouse (Happy birthday, Jack!).

Suffice it to say, comic book writers killed off a character that epitomized America. (Captain America = America. Superman = American Dream. Wonder Woman = pervert's dream.)

Well, I hate to be the one to break it to Marvel and all the fanboys out there, but this guy's been dead for a while now.

Using the same news release video edited to appear fresh and original, numerous news channels have jumped on the bandwagon to show Joe Quesada, Marvel's editor-in-chief, plead his case that this is a real death in the comics. (Just as real as the movie in the works.)

Some reviewers (yes, people get jobs as comic book reviewers) claim this is Marvel's way of protesting the Patriot Act and the Iraq War and the Bush administration's policies and probably the end of "Everybody Loves Raymond." (Lord, knows why.)

But if this is the case, there are a few problems at the logic factory. First: Marvel got to the party late with the anti-Bush/anti-war/anti-Big Brother rheto-

*"Suffice it to say, comic book writers killed off a character that epitomized America." (referring to Capt. America)*

ric. If it was courageous, it would have killed the captain three years ago. Second: Sorry folks, this old soldier's been dead for a while.

Captain America stopped living years ago when our civil liberties became passé as compared to the newest cell phone (no court-ordered wire tap necessary!). Cap and the ideals he stood for no longer mattered against a backdrop of immoral celebrity role models, corporations bankrupting their workers, politicians cow-towing to lobbyist's interests and clergy sex scandals.

In terms of meaning, Captain America died the moment America closed its eyes and hoped that our fearless leaders would make those awful terrorists go away. Just let daddy take care of it and don't ask how. Now let's put those silly little civil liberties - er, I mean toys -- away and let's go nighty-night.

It comes as little surprise Cap died on the one-year anniversary of the Senate's renewal of the Patriot Act. And two days after the fictional hero's "death" the U.S. Department of Justice issued a statement claiming the FBI had acted illegally in its use of the Patriot Act to obtain information about U.S. citizens.

In a world where the norm is to do as authority dictates with no way of questioning their actions, whether well-intentioned or not, America has died. To go blindly, trusting that someone else knows best and they cannot be wrong is a fool's errand.

Since when did it become unpatriotic to question authority?

Every time I try to get information for a story on campus and someone doesn't

return calls or e-mails - or worse, tells everyone in his department they can't talk to media - it makes me wonder what they are hiding. (I know. It's Commerce. Go back to sleep.)

When someone tells me I can't satirize, criticize or ridicule something, I feel a twinge of 1940s Germany, a hint of Taliban-era Afghanistan and an Orwellian chill running up my spine. And maybe the Spanish Inquisition, too.

In the 1940s, Timely (now Marvel) featured Captain America slugging Hitler on more than one occasion - and not just on the covers, Superman fans. He took the fight to where it was being waged and fought alongside GIs. Immediately after Sept. 11, Cap was in the Middle East tackling terrorists.

Then he stopped. In the comics, he still fought villains, but not the ones who were targeting Americans in our reality. Hey, kids! It's just like our real leaders!

Let's face it, fanboys, Cap will be back. Just wait a little while and say, "I believe in patriots!" and he'll hop right back up, walking hand in hand with Jesus and Jack Kennedy, ready to save us all.

Or ... he won't. Then what? Will we need to be the carriers of the flame, er, shield? Will we crawl out of our beds and open our eyes to our government's deeds?

Face front, true believers, at some point in all our lives it's time to put away the funny books and stand up and take our country back. And after we clean our own house, it'll be time to kick some terrorist ass.

E-mail Troy at theeasttexan@gmail.com

## GUEST COLUMN

*Editor's note: This column was written by A&M system chancellor Michael McKinney regarding the "MLK Day party" put on by a few students at Tarleton State University and a "blackface video" posted on the internet by a former Texas A&M University student last fall.*

A recent "MLK Day party" put on by a few students at Tarleton State University and a "blackface video" posted by a former Texas A&M University student have brought shame and disappointment to the entire Texas A&M System, our leadership and our individual universities.

The defense of these incidents has been muted and the apologies have been profuse, but these hurtful actions by a few are a stark reminder that racism and insensitivity are still present in 21st-Century America.

These actions are not just insensitive; they are demeaning and mean-spirited. I refuse to accept the notion that the incidents were "just kids being kids." I refuse to accept such behavior under the guise of freedom of speech. We are blessed to have freedom of speech in this country, but this freedom also carries a responsibility to think before we

speak or act.

These events are a reflection of our failures as parents, as educators and as humans. They are a reflection of our failure to learn and our failure to teach our children the difference between right and wrong. I have heard people explain the need for sensitivity to others' feelings in terms of "political correctness." The very use of that term is an admission that one cannot differentiate right from wrong. Sensitivity to the feelings of others is right.

My primary concern is that for all we are doing to reach the minds of young people, we are failing in our duty to first reach down into their hearts and develop their characters. What is in their hearts that would lead them to think that their actions were all right, or much less, funny? "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

We can teach our students how to succeed in the workforce, but we must do more to teach them how to be caring, fair-minded citizens. We must also reach their hearts. We must teach and we must learn to think before we speak or act, and to be thankful that we are not all the same. We must all remember

that higher education is a privilege, not a right. Abuse of this privilege will not go unnoticed and is not without consequences.

As representatives of higher education, we must teach our students to respect cultural and racial differences. But above all, we must teach the next generation to value every individual's feelings. In conjunction with the Chancellor's Student Advisory Board and our university presidents, I will establish a Systemwide diversity council charged with making recommendations for changes needed in the code of conduct at each of our campuses.

I'd like to thank the students, professors and administrators at Texas A&M and Tarleton State for their quick reactions to these recent events. Let's work as individuals, as university communities and as a university system to promote kindness and respect in our corner of the world.

I urge each of you to continue to do, say and think about those things that are needed to continue the healing.

Michael D. McKinney, M.D.  
A&M University System Chancellor

Revenues  
no gamble  
for state  
schools

Since 1994, Louisiana has collected over \$2.02 billion in state and \$557 million in local taxes from river-boat casinos.

These numbers are staggering, but for Louisiana the real bonus is that

53 percent of patrons are from out of state, accounting for \$177.8 million dollars. The tax revenues from casinos are put into a state fund which is dispersed throughout state. A large percentage of those patrons are from Texas.

Louisiana is not the only winner in the casino battle, New Mexico and Oklahoma are also recipients of the estimated \$10 billion per year that is spent by Texans. Okay, they don't quite get all of the \$10 billion, some of it does stay in Texas, by way of illegal gambling.

Two state senators believe it is time that the out-flow of Texas money needs to be stopped. On Thursday, Senators John Carona, R-Dallas, and Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, introduced new legislation that, if passed, will allow casino gambling in up to 12 places across Texas, three of which would be on Indian reservations. Video slot machines would also be allowed at horse and dog tracks.

But to the senators, who both say they don't gamble or buy lottery tickets, this bill is not just about gambling.

They are not debating the morality of gambling. For them it's all about the money -- \$1 billion to be exact and any which way you slice it up, that is a lot of money.

Their plan for all these Benjamins? They say it will all go to the education to enable eligible Texans to attend a community college or public university education. Isn't that what they told us they were going to do with the money from the sale of lottery tickets?

Texas lottery proceeds have been put into the Foundation School Fund since the fund was created in 1997. To date, there has been \$9 billion deposited. Unfortunately, there isn't much to show for \$9 billion. Across the state schools are struggling to pay teachers, provide programs and maintain buildings.

Wilmer Hutchins ISD is a prime example of the ailing school system. At the end of the 2004-05 school year, they closed their doors for good. Now those students must attend Dallas schools. New Mexico, however, has a similar plan in place. Their program began in 1996. Since then, it has raised more than \$300 million to assist more than 43,000 students obtain a higher education. In New Mexico, students are actually benefitting from the lottery -- unlike Texas students.

Gambling will continue, whether it is legal or not. It makes sense to legalize it -- at least then taxes can be collected and the state will benefit from it.

The biggest question is: Will the state actually apply the proceeds to our education system? Because in the state where everything is bigger, we desperately need bigger improvements to the schools.

E-mail theeasttexan@gmail.com

*"Their plan for all these Benjamins? They say it will all go to the education to enable eligible Texans to attend a community college or public university education. Isn't that what they told us they were going to do with the money from the sale of lottery tickets?"*



Cassie Kennedy  
Staff Columnist

BRIEFLY...

**Three ring circus swings into Commerce**

Carson & Barnes Three Ring Circus will be in Commerce on Wednesday, March 28. With showtimes set at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., the event will take place behind Whitley Hall.

Under a tent the size of a football field, entertainment will include: 36,000 pounds of elephants, flying trapeze artists, high wire motorcycle riding, a human highwire pyramid and special guest appearances from world hula-hooping champions.

Coupons for free tickets can be found at most fast food restaurants in Commerce, as

**New writing center opening in Gee Library**

The new writing center in the Gee Library will be opening March 26, according to library assistant, Jacob Pichnarck.

The center will offer extended hours for those students who need to see tutors at night or on the weekends.

Sunday through Thursday, it will be open from 6-10 p.m. and on Saturdays noon until 4 p.m. During hours of business, there will always be two tutors on duty, with a third on call if need be.

Some of the services the new writing center will be offering are: assistance with thesis development, research, writing arguments, and citation formatting assistance.

"Students can walk in on a first come, first serve, basis or they can make an appointment to see a tutor. This new writing center is an extension of the writing center that is currently in the Hall of Languages," Pichnarck said.

The writing center also encourages students to bring their assignment sheets with their papers so the tutors can address everything their instructors want in their papers.

This center is not strictly for English papers though.

"We can help with history papers, science papers, journalism papers, any subject, any level, from freshman level to master's thesis, to doctoral dissertations," Dr. Shannon Carter, head of the writing center said. "We are very excited about the new location that's opening in the library. The new tutors are spending this week in the Hall of Languages doing training sessions, observing and honing their expertise getting ready to serve writers at a new location."

— Steve Shwarts

**Last Lion Standing applications available**

Breakout Entertainment is now accepting applications for the student comedy competition, Last Lion Standing, which will be held on Sunday March 26.

Application packets can be picked up in the Campus Synergy lab or downloaded at <http://breakout.tamu-commerce.edu/show-events.asp> and are due by Friday March 16.

All applications should be accompanied by a three-minute or less DVD or VHS, or students may sign up for a live audition.

**Student loses battle with cancer**

By Michael Thompson  
Copy Editor

Jan Swart succumbed to breast cancer in her home with her family on Monday March 12.

Swart, a Theatre major, a playwright, a director and actor, was one of the

first successes for Professor of Theater and Playwright in Residence Jim Anderson's playwright program.

"(Swart's) was one of the first full-length student plays that we produced here," Anderson said.

Swart wrote *Stargirls*, performed in *You Can't Take it With You* and directed

*Ballerinas, Choose Your Weapons*. She was also a member of Cricket City Improv.

"She was a remarkable person to work with and a wonderful actress," Anderson said. "She was a great friend and a surrogate mother to many in our department."

A memorial service will be held in her honor in the Performing Arts Center on Saturday March 31 at 2 p.m.

The Theater Department will also establish an endowment in Swart's name for student playwrights.

"Everyone thought the world of her," Anderson said.

**Flooding brings Alpha Phi together**

By Shauna Banks  
Editorial Assistant

Since the second major flooding in the Alpha Phi house, action has been taken by both the Residence Life and Facilities departments in order to assist affected members of the distressed sorority.

On Feb. 10, the Alpha Phi house woke to a second damaging flood caused by aged plumbing and an upstairs toilet overflowing.

According to E. Thayne King, director of residence life, both the Residence Life and Facilities departments responded quickly to each of the severe floods in

the Alpha Phi house, the first occurring in early January.

"An outside contractor was also brought in to help remove the moisture from the house and assess the damages," King said.

Over the seven to eight days following the second flood, repairs were made, and the girls forced to bunk with other sisters temporarily were able to move back into their own rooms.



E. Thayne King  
Res. Life Director

According to Alpha Phi member Katie Monus, having to bunk together had a positive effect on all of the sisters in the house, bringing them closer literally and figuratively.

Both floods also helped Alpha Phi members realize just how valuable the people they came in contact with on a daily basis in the house were.

"Our cleaning ladies are amazing. The first time it happened they shampooed and mopped and did everything they could to try and get the horrible smell out. The school also had a professional cleaning crew come out and clean our carpet," Alyssa McWilliams, Alpha Phi member said.

According to King, following the second flood, the plumbing department also conducted a thorough inspection of all plumbing fixtures throughout the building, and these are the only two floods that have happened to the Residence Life department's knowledge.

Since the immediate plumbing repairs were done, Residence Life has agreed to replace the wood flooring in the main lobby of the Alpha Phi house, and have given the sorority the option to change the flooring if they would like something different.

No other greek houses have had plumbing problems or been affected to this date.

*The truth and other lies*

**Watch what you bring back this break**

Are you excited about spring break? Well, that's a dumb question. Of course you are excited. Spring break is, traditionally, when college students everywhere get the hell out of Dodge and spend zillions of dollars getting drunk and having unprotected sex with multiple partners and going into debt up to their eyebrows doing it.

Sounds like fun. I've never gone anywhere for spring break, because I don't have the kind of money you spoiled-brats out there get from mommy and daddy. No, I sit at home, drink whiskey straight from the bottle, and call evangelical preachers at four in the morning and ask for their miracle spring water (don't ask).

This year was supposed to be different. This year my friends Shay, Josh and I were going to go to Las Vegas for the break. But I can't go. I have to go to the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association conference in San Antonio, but I'm not complaining.

My hotel room is covered. All I have to pay for is meals and entertainment. And I have the shot of defending my "First Place Student Anchor" and "Second Place Radio Announcing" awards. Also, my talk show "Hot Topix" is entered in a competition.

So Josh and Shay are going to Vegas without me. Everyday they give me a countdown. "Two weeks left, you douche," Josh will say. Or "Four days left until I hit the casino, you hump," Shay

will say.

Well, to hell with you guys. Okay, not really. I'm jealous because I can't go. They will be having the time of their lives, and I'll be working.

Shay, Josh ... I hate you guys. But at least I won't be in debt up to my eyebrows!

Speaking of debt, if you are going to travel for Spring Break, I would suggest you travel the way my girlfriend Robyn does. Namely, have the university pick-up your traveling expenses. Robyn was an instrumental part of the Veterans Vigil last semester. So, as a sign of thanks, the university is sending her to Washington, D.C.

I wish I could come up with a joke here, but I can't. She deserves that trip.

So where are you going for your break? To the beach? To the slopes? To the "Girls Gone Wild" RV to star in your

own video? To jail? Because you must be careful out there. I know that driving around Mexico at three in the morning, your stomach full of tequila, looking for a place to kick a midget down a flight of stairs sounds like a good idea. But, trust me, it's not. I suggest looking for the donkey show.

But that is neither here nor there (it's in Mexico, remember?). My point is to have a good time, but to do it safely. You don't want to come back from the break with your crotch on fire and the FBI looking for you, do you? I mean, you would have great stories to tell for years to come, but is it really worth it?

Probably. And that is why I hate all of you. Enjoy yourselves, you wieners. But have fun paying for it in more ways than one.

[thetruthandotherlies1@gmail.com](mailto:thetruthandotherlies1@gmail.com)



Michael Thompson  
Humor Columnist

**Washburn**

Continued from Page 1

The second half was a different story. The Lady Blues took their biggest lead at 61-56 with 5:49 ticks remaining.

Ubelaker was a large part of the comeback, scoring 16 more points in the second half before finishing the game with 26 points and hitting 5-of-10 on 3-pointers.

Guard Corkey Stiger and Holmes both finished

with 12 points.

Mosley had her second big half in a row as she finished with 16 points and had a run of nine out of 11 points for the Lions within a five-minute span in the second half. She totaled 12 in the second half alone.

"I just figured it was time for someone else to show up and I just took it into my own hands," said Mosley.

The Lions' defense held Washburn to 38.5 percent shooting in the first half and to only 44 percent for the game.

"Everything just fell in place for us tonight," said Downing.

The Lions, who've won their last 11 games, have beaten four top 25 teams in the last 10 days, going back to the Lone Star Conference tournament.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

As required by Texas Education Code, Section 54.0513(f) and Section 54.507(e), the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System will hold public hearings to receive input from students and the public regarding the proposed increases in Designated Tuition and Group Hospital Fees for The Texas A&M University System's Academic Institutions and Health Science Center, to be effective with the Fall 2007 Semester (unless otherwise noted). As required by System policy, hearings have already been held on each campus regarding increases in Designated Tuition.

The Board of Regents hearings are scheduled for 3:00 p.m., Thursday, March 29, 2007, as part of the Board of Regents Meeting, Room 292, Memorial Student Center, Joe Routt Boulevard, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

The proposed increases for Texas A&M University-Commerce are as follows:

Type of Fee	Description	Current Fee	Increase	Proposed Fee	Assessed Per
<b>DESIGNATED TUITION</b>					
Statutory Authority 54.0513					
Texas A&M University - Commerce	Designated Tuition	\$67.00	\$0.00 - \$19.00*	\$67.00 - \$86.00*	SCH**
<b>GROUP HOSPITAL FEE</b>					
(No Group Hospital Fee increase is proposed for Texas A&M University-Commerce)					

For additional information, please contact Vickie Spillers, Executive Secretary to the Board of Regents, The Texas A&M University System, (979) 845-9600.

\*Final designated tuition levels will be determined after the approval of the General Appropriation Act for the 2008-09 biennium.  
\*\*Assessed per Semester Credit Hour

**The East Texan**

**WEEKEND WEATHER**

**Today:** Partly cloudy with a high near 81 and a low around 45.

**Friday:** Partly cloudy and windy with a high near 66 and a low around 43.

**Saturday:** Partly cloudy with a high near 68 and a low around 46.

**Sunday:** Partly cloudy, with a high near 72 and a low around 51.

Source: NOAA

## SOUND OFF! What are your plans for the upcoming break?



"I'm going to South Padre in Houston. I'm taking a road trip with my sorority sisters."

*Jeniffer C. Ratliff, undergraduate student*



"Me, my wife and two other friends are driving down to San Antonio over the spring break."

*Sunil Kandel, graduate student*



"My plan for spring break is resting and possibly going to camping in Beaver's Bend, Oklahoma. I love camping."

*Joe Aguayo, graduate student*



"I'm going to write a paper on sex and teenage television shows. Other than that, just take a break and spend time with my daughter."

*Darina Davis, undergraduate student*



"I'm going to South Padre with my fraternity brothers in the first part of spring break and resting once I get back."

*Greg Allmon, graduate student*



"I plan to write a research paper over the spring break on (the) Space Race. I don't know yet, but if I get some time, I'll go to Mavericks game."

*Luke Nelson, undergraduate student*



"I am staying at home during spring break. I am not doing anything."

*Leigh Ann, undergraduate student*



"I am just going to hang out with friends over the spring break."

*Emily Cox, undergraduate student*

## Mission: spring break

*San Antonio, Padre attract with diverse activities*



COURTESY PHOTO/The East Texan

The city of San Antonio is one of the spring break hotspots for Texas A&M-Commerce students. A historic attraction like the Alamo, which houses the relics and mementos from the historic battle and narration of the fall of the Alamo are just one part of the story. Nothing can be as romantic as the walk down the famous River Walk. With a trail of restaurants and shops along the riverside, the cruise of Rio San Antonio is a must do. Aztec on the River, Bracken Village, Buckhorn Saloon & Museum, Casa Navarro State Historical Park, Enchanted Springs Ranch, Fiesta Farm, Guinness World Records Museum, Ripley's

Haunted Adventure, Davy Crockett's Tall Tales Ride, King William Historic Area, La Villita, Market Square - El Mercado, Natural Bridge Caverns, Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch, Old Spanish Trail, Plaza Wax Museum and Ripley's Believe It or Not are just some of the attractions in the city. Other attractions include: the San Antonio Botanical Garden, IMAX Theatre Rivercenter, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, San Antonio Zoo Eagle, San Antonio Zoological Gardens and Aquarium, Spanish Governor's Palace, Sunset Station, The Guenther House, Tower of the Americas and the Ultimate Mirror Maze Challenge.



COURTESY PHOTO/The East Texan

Ranked "Third Best Beach in America" by Travel Channel, South Padre island has much more to offer than a white sandy shoreline that stretches 34 mile and is surrounded by emerald waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Laguna Madre Bay. With fabulous resorts, restaurants and shops, South Padre is one of the most sought out destinations for A&M-Commerce students. Cristo de los Pescadoes (Christ of Fisherman),

Isla Blanca Park, Laguna Madre Nature Trail, Dolphin Watch, Sea Turtles, Whaling Wall, Andy Bowie Park, South Padre Island Convention Centre, Schlitterbahn Beach Waterpark, Unique Lighthouse and Surfing lessons are some of the major attractions of the island. It is an ideal spot for camping, fishing, picnicking, bird watching and surfing.

Staff Reports

## Last Lion Standing

A Student Comedy Competition



Sponsored by

Breakout Entertainment

Now accepting applications

Deadline: Friday, March 16  
@ 5 p.m.

Student should submit a 3 minute DVD/VHS or sign up for live auditions.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 26**

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**Student Appreciation  
Special**

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Carryout Only. Must present coupon.

**The Full Meal Deal**

Medium 1-Topping  
and 20oz soft drink  
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Carryout or Delivery.  
Must present coupon.

**Domino's Pizza appreciates your business... Thank You!**

\*Student Appreciation Special is for carry out only. Special prices do not include state sales tax. Deep dish pizza cost extra. Valid at participating stores only. Not valid with any other offer. Prices may vary. Customer pays sales tax where applicable. Delivery areas limited to ensure safe driving. Our drivers carry less than \$20. Our drivers are not penalized for late deliveries.

# Miller guides MSC plans, dreams

By Shauna Banks  
Editorial Assistant

As the kite slips higher into the sky, picking up with the wind, he's certain of his success in building it, as well as the organization he's involved in at that very moment.

Although not many people can say experience with building and flying stunt kites has led them to a deeper understanding of leadership, Rick Miller, director of the Rayburn Student Center, can say just that.

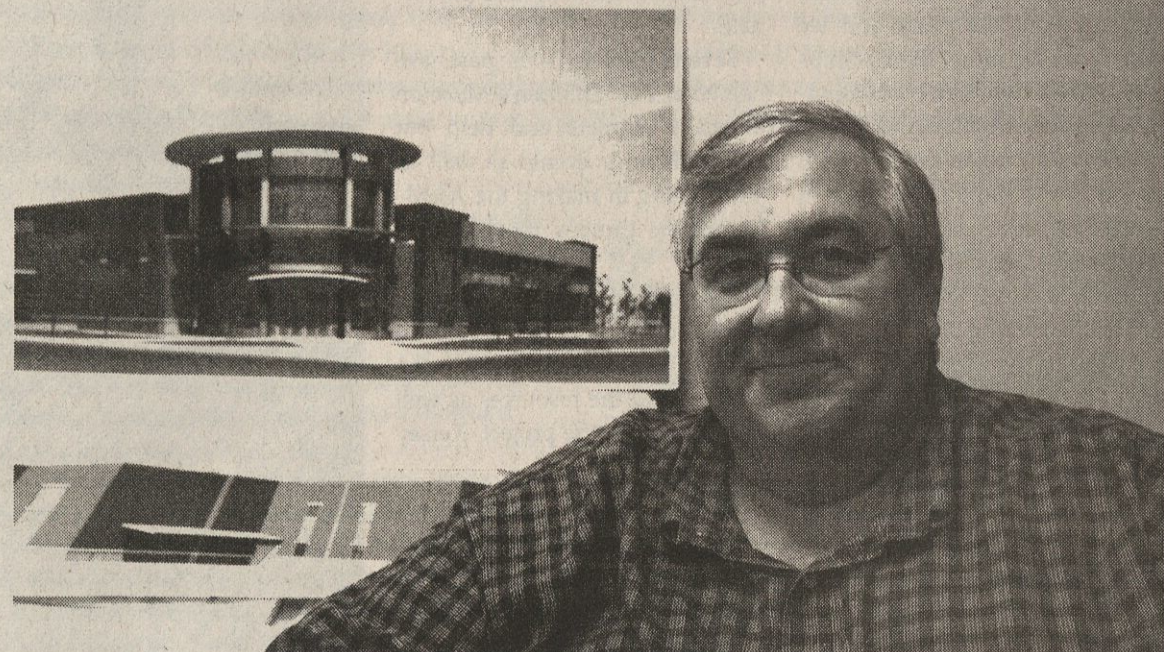
Since first serving Texas A&M University-Commerce as program director and acting director of the student center from 1979 to 1983, Miller has always expressed an interest in on-campus organizations and improving the leadership within them.

After leaving A&M-Commerce for the first time in 1983, Miller started a company, Designs for Development (DFD), in which he traveled all over the United States, Canada and Australia, providing training in leadership development, organizational effectiveness and creativity for numerous universities.

"I still go out and do some consulting, but DFD doesn't book other speakers or do the conference circuit like we used to. I was on the road 280 days—gone way too much!" Miller said.

Still interested in working on campus, Miller returned to A&M-Commerce in 1998 to work on what would later become the synergy lab and leadership programs.

"[In the synergy lab], organizations and individuals come together to work on programs. We have the Graf/x Palace, Pride Shop, IdeaWorks, Monster Studio and Serious Fun Prop Room. There are four professional staff members working there with the help of two support



ANDREA CANAFAX/The East Texan

**Rick Miller, director of the Sam Rayburn Memorial Student Center, has much to be excited about since construction of the new student center began. He has worked at A&M-Commerce since 1983.**

staff and lots of students making things happen," Miller said.

In 2003, Miller became the director of the student center, taking on a whole new set of responsibilities.

"Right now, a lot of time is spent on developing the systems we will be using in the new center. It is really interesting—as we do a program, we are looking at how it will fit into the new building, what resources I will take and what changes will need to be created," Miller said.

Currently, Miller is helping develop the state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems for the club and ballroom in the new student center. Along with that, there will be an InfoDesk that will provide the services of a campus concierge.

The meeting rooms also being designed will have built in media presentation equipment and flexible seating and meeting arrangements.

"To power all this—will be students. I am currently working on staffing patterns and needs that will entail the technical training, customer service training and the knowledge based training for the InfoDesk, Scheduling, recreation and production areas," Miller said. "A student center with students running the various areas as managers, desk workers and assistants requires a lot of planning, care and feeding."

When its construction is complete, Miller hopes the new student center will become a great lab for students to gain experience in many

areas.

"As an educator, I see the potential for any student with any major to be able to come in and find a path that will help them become what they are seeking to become personally and professionally," Miller said. "The accessibility of the new center builds upon what we do now—but it broadens the opportunities by eliminating many of the physical and systemic barriers of getting things done."

Miller also hopes to provide several hands-on opportunities so students can explore and develop skills while producing events and making their ideas become reality.

# Spicy event leads to fun in Commerce

*Cowhill Chili Cook-off held this weekend on downtown square*

By Wyndi Veigel  
Senior Editor

Chili, stew and barbecue are on the menu for this weekend's fourth annual Cowhill Chili Fest and Barbecue Cook-off.

The cook-off will be held March 16 and 17 in the downtown square of Commerce starting with the kick-off at 5 p.m. on Friday.

"This year we have expanded the event to include additional events including salsa, pinto beans, stew and barbecue sauce," Jeanie Putman, assistant to the city manager, said.

The chili cook off will be sanctioned by the Chili Appreciation Society International which will allow contestants to compete, earn points and move on to other chili cook-offs, Putman said. The Lone Star Barbecue Society will also sanction the barbecue contest.

The events people can compete in will be Chicken or Beef Stew, Chicken, beef or brisket barbecue, pinto beans, salsa, barbecue sauce and chili.

Individuals can get a taste of brisket

by purchasing a brisket sandwich and a bag of chips for \$5. The proceeds of this go toward the city park project.

All-you-can-eat chili will be served for \$7.

This is the first year the event is being held downtown which will help the merchants get business, Putman said.

"The event is named Cowhill because in the history of Commerce, the town was originally called this," Putman said. "Many people get confused because they think Cowhill coffee is the major sponsor for the event."

There will also be free activities for kids including a mechanical bull and bouncy house. Omega Delta Phi will be hosting relay and toe sack races and bobbing for apples as well.

"We will also be having live entertainment during the weekend to encourage people to come out," Putman said.

On Friday night, Commerce Idol winners Dani Roberts, Brin Beaver and Tabitha Wooten will be performing from 5-7 p.m. There will also be

**"We will also be having live entertainment during the weekend to encourage people to come out."**

— Jeanie Putman,  
assistant to the city manager

a jitterbug dance off from 7-8 p.m. with a \$10 entry fee. The winners of the competition will receive all of the money is charged for entry into the dance off.

Later that night, there will be a street dance starting at 8 p.m. until midnight with "Miles from Nowhere" providing entertainment.

Saturday's groups will include the local oldies band Fat Tuesday from 9 a.m. until 11:30 p.m., southern rock band from Oklahoma, Fat Dixie from noon to 2 p.m. and Los Callezero's performing upbeat Hispanic music from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The winners of the competitions

will be announced after all of the bands have played.

There is an entry fee of \$25 for people wanting to compete in the chili or stew cook-offs, a \$10 fee for salsa, barbecue sauce and pinto beans and a \$50 fee for barbecue, plus the donation of a brisket, Putman said.

"We will also be awarding cash prizes to everyone except the chili winners," Putman said. "Chili winners will receive other prizes that are donated by the local merchants."

The first place winner will get 50 percent of the entry fees, second will get 30 percent and third place will receive 20 percent. There will also be a grand champion and a reserve grand champion awarded as well, said Putman.

Sponsors for the event include James, Walker and Sons, Ben E. Keith and KETR as well as many other Commerce merchants.

For more information regarding the cook-off, please contact Janie Putman at 903-886-1126 or at jputman@koyote.com.

## FILM

# 300



**Rating:** R, for graphic battle sequences throughout, some sexuality and nudity

**Release Date:** March 9, 2007

**Cast:** Gerard Butler, Vincent Regan, Lena Headey and David Wenham

**Director:** Zack Snyder

By Wyndi Veigel  
Senior Editor



300, which is based off of the graphic novel by Frank Miller (creator of *Sin City*) is without a doubt the best film I have seen in over two years.

The film is about the Battle of Thermopylae where 300 Spartans fought with the Persian army and eventually decimated their forces. Throughout the film, King Leonidas (Gerald Butler) battles against Xerxes and his huge army to reign against tyranny, oppression and to retain their freedom.

First of all, in case you didn't get the impression from the rating on this film, it is bloody and violent, though not gory. There are numerous sword fights, arrow battles and well ... people getting their heads chopped off. If this doesn't sound like your type of movie, then I advise

you to stay at home.

However, this film isn't just another action movie. It is without a doubt the most beautiful and macabre movie I have ever seen. The only way to describe it is that it is an art film and an action film with great CG intertwined.

300 has a grittiness that only Frank Miller could accomplish and excellent acting. Overall, the cast does a tremendous job and even manages to carry off the humorous elements eloquently, especially King Leonidas.

The only downfall in this film, according to some critics, is the over simplistic plot. Yes, the plot is simple and very easy to follow but that is in order to allow the audience to focus on the effects that they are seeing for the first time and to allow the action sequences to flow. What is lacked in plot, is definitely made up for in witty dialogue, action sequences and CG.

I would recommend everyone go see this film, as soon as possible, on an IMAX screen if you can. It will be worth the cost and would be a great spring break treat for students.

Even if you did not care for *Sin City*, go see this film. You will change your mind about Frank Miller's creations.

## MUSIC

# Ligion

**Band:** Ligion  
**Album:** *External Affairs*  
**Genre:** Alternative Rock  
**Label:** Maple Jam Records/  
Bellum Records

By Renee Caldwell  
Staff Writer



Ligion is a band out of Nashville, Tenn. that is currently on tour with Saliva and Crossfade. I saw them in concert at the beginning of this month, and got a pre-released copy of their brand new CD which hits stores March 20.

The first track on the album called, "One My Way" starts off mellow and slow, but has the drums kick in just as your starting to want more. With a good ear the drummer, Johannes, has interesting beats. The snare is somewhat metallic sounding, yet the drums are deep and drawing.

Lead singer, Ligion, has a steady voice and makes you wanna dance. The guitars between June and Seth counter each other and the vocals very well. They also perform harmonies with Ligion himself, in perfect tune. This song is very radio, and sounds a bit like The Killers.

Song 3, "Get Over Me" is still very upbeat. However, this is where the CD starts to head south. Singer, Ligion, sounds like he is oversinging at times using tons of vibrato and strength. Which is good for the passion side of music but the vocals just sound off and funny in this track. The second verse is better vocally than the first using a little less intensity.

The guitars are still counter-

ing each other in the melodies well. The bass has its own melody line, and the drums are still on beat. What a shocker, it's still very radio. But this time it doesn't sound quite ready for the radio.

Track 4, "Reach" is still very off, yet very on at the same time. It has a very punk sounding melody, with very heavy almost metalish vocals. The break sounds like a normal Ligion song (ready for radio play), but the verses seem almost out of place and a little off kilter.

I was almost wondering if it was going to turn around and get better when it did. Track 5, "Pins and Needles" is their first slow song. It is beautiful and almost haunting. It follows the same line as the classic slow song, of verse, chorus, verse, chorus, bridge, chorus, end. But all in all still makes you want to sway to the music.

"Pins and Needles" is one of those songs that you get your lighter out to and hug the person standing next to. In a concert you would be screaming, "I love you man" half way through it. And yet, still has the same Ligion mark, of radio play.

This whole CD continues like the first six tracks. Half of them great I would buy this CD for only half the songs. The other half make you wanna scream and leave you wondering, "What were they thinking?" With its very radio sound, and almost a mix of old school Greenday and a dash of Velvet Revolver, this band is definitely worth checking out.

## LISTEN TO KKOM "RADIO TEXAS"

Live this week!

Featured tracks for the week of March 12

Wade Bowen  
Trish Murphy  
The Ackermans  
Rithie Foster  
Kenny Traylor  
Guy Clark  
Leann Rimes  
Willie Nelson  
Pat Green

*Get Away*  
*Goldilocks*  
*Colorado*  
*Small-town Baby*  
*Tall Drink*  
*Desperado*  
*Life Goes On*  
*My Broken Heart*  
*John Wayne and*  
*Jesus*

Cross Canadian  
Ragweed  
Fair to Midland

*Sick and Tired*  
*Orphan Anthem*

System Overload  
The Alexanders  
Bishops Alley  
Drowning Pool  
Mars Volta  
ZZ Top  
Stevie Ray Vaughn  
Eagles  
Steve Miller  
Spin  
Oddibie  
Addison Road  
Dodging Simplicity

*Stay Away*  
*These Walls*  
*Evil Pill*  
*Tear Away*  
*The Widow*  
*Tush*  
*Tight Rope*  
*Wasted Time*  
*The Joker*  
*How do you think*  
*Standing in Line*  
*Walk Away*  
*Rain is Falling*

KKOM "Radio Texas," student radio for A&M-Commerce, features Texas music and is heard on Cable Channel 3 from 2-11 p.m. weekdays and 24 hours a day at kkomradiotexas.com.



# A little help makes big difference

*Ninth annual Big Event held with university students and Commerce residents; effort to beautify appreciated*

By Wyndi Veigel  
Senior Editor

The community will once again come together to improve Commerce for the Ninth annual Big Event, which will be held on Saturday, March 31 with participants improving various areas around the town and university.

"It [The Big Event] is about the city and the university coming together," Barbara Kersey, manager of the Commerce Chamber of Commerce said.

The Big Event originated because of a similar event that is held at Texas A&M University in College Station and was conceived in 1999 by Dr. Paul Zelhart and Jim Bob Latham, who are co-chairs for the event, Kersey said.

The day will include many activities including all of the service projects that university students and Commerce residents will tackle and a stew luncheon provided by the Masonic Lodge that will be served in the City Park between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Entertainment will also be provided during the lunch.

"We expect to serve about 200

people during the event," Kersey commented.

"We are also placing several bricks in the Author's Walk that day," Kersey said.

The antique bricks are donated by the city and the Matthews from Cooper marble and granite works are donating the engravings of nominated local author names.

One other part of The Big Event is that Commerce residents will be able to get rid of hazardous materials that cannot be taken to a normal dumpster.

"The county barn will be accepting dangerous items between 8 a.m. until 1p.m. so that residents can clean out garages properly," Kersey said.

Accepted items will include paint, household chemicals, batteries, car tires and scrap metal.

The fire department will once again be installing fire detectors free of charge in homes that need them.

The university will also be helping out with the event providing students with the opportunity to get involved within the commu-

"So far we have 85 students signed up for the event and we have room for more," Emily Shipman, A&M-Commerce coordinator of student organizations said.

University organizations such as Phi Theta Kappa, the Golden Leos, First Year Leadership Class and Omega Delta Phi have volunteered to be a part of The Big Event and will be picking up trash, planting flowers, painting lamp posts and working at The Northeast Texas Children's museum, Shipman said.

"All service clubs, student organizations, church groups, business and industrial groups are invited to participate," Shipman said.

Individual students who are not part of a group or organization are also encouraged to sign up to be part of The Big Event.

"We have quite a few individual students who have signed up to be a part of this day," Shipman said. "We have five graduate students from India who are excited to be part of this community event."

Those students who are not part of a group or organization are not required to fund the projects and

just have to show up and participate.

Several students in the past have helped at The Children's Museum to make puppets and help out with children's events as well as participating in making the A&M-Commerce campus more beautiful.

Participants are asked to develop projects, submit the projects to the Chamber and organize the workers and the resources as well as carrying out the project, Kersey commented.

"Participants are responsible for funding their own projects," Kersey said. "The projects can be anything to improve the safety, appearance or the facilities of Commerce, and must be completed within one day."

Anyone who is interested in volunteering for The Big Event can contact the Chamber of Commerce located at 1114 Main Street. Applications for project proposals can be picked up at the Chamber as well.

University students can contact Emily Shipman at 903/886-5793 for more information. The deadline is March 27.



COURTESY PHOTO/The East Texan

Members of Omega Delta Phi and their friends paint a lamppost in downtown Commerce as part of last year's Big Event.

**The 440 Alliance**  
*"Disturbing The Peace On 16 Strings"*

**The 440 Alliance is coming to Texas A&M Commerce**  
Special guests Tired Glenn & the Uncertain Cannon  
Wednesday, March 28 at 8 p.m.

## Practice safety this spring break

By Lacie Morgan  
The Battalion

For many students, spring break is a time for fun in the sun with friends and family.

However, because spring break takes place on many college campuses around the state simultaneously, the roads are often crowded with students traveling.

"Just because it's spring break doesn't mean it's time to take a break from common sense," said DPS director Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr.

Drivers 25 and under accounted for nearly a third of the alcohol-related fatalities in Texas in 1999 alone, according to Texas Department of Public Safety records.

This number has drastically increased in recent years, as cell phone use while driving has become a growing problem. Cell phone distraction causes 2,600 deaths and 330,000 injuries in the United States every year, according to the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. Cell phone-related traffic crashes increased from 716 to 1,032 from 2000 to 2001 - a 44

percent increase, according to Department of Public Safety records.

Davis said students traveling during spring break should make sure they are well-rested and should use caution when spending time on the road.

"Leave in plenty of time to get to your destination," Davis said. "Observe the speed limit, make sure everyone in your vehicle is wearing a seatbelt and drive sober."

*The Battalion is the student publication of Texas A&M University at College Station.*

All types of aid are available

Get help completing the FASFA

Scholarship opportunities

## NEED FINANCIAL AID FOR Fall 2007?

Come to the financial aid workshops!  
Financial Aid Advisors will be there to assist students in completing the application process.

March 27 8:30-9:30 and March 29 3:00-4:00 located in the Leadership Lounge

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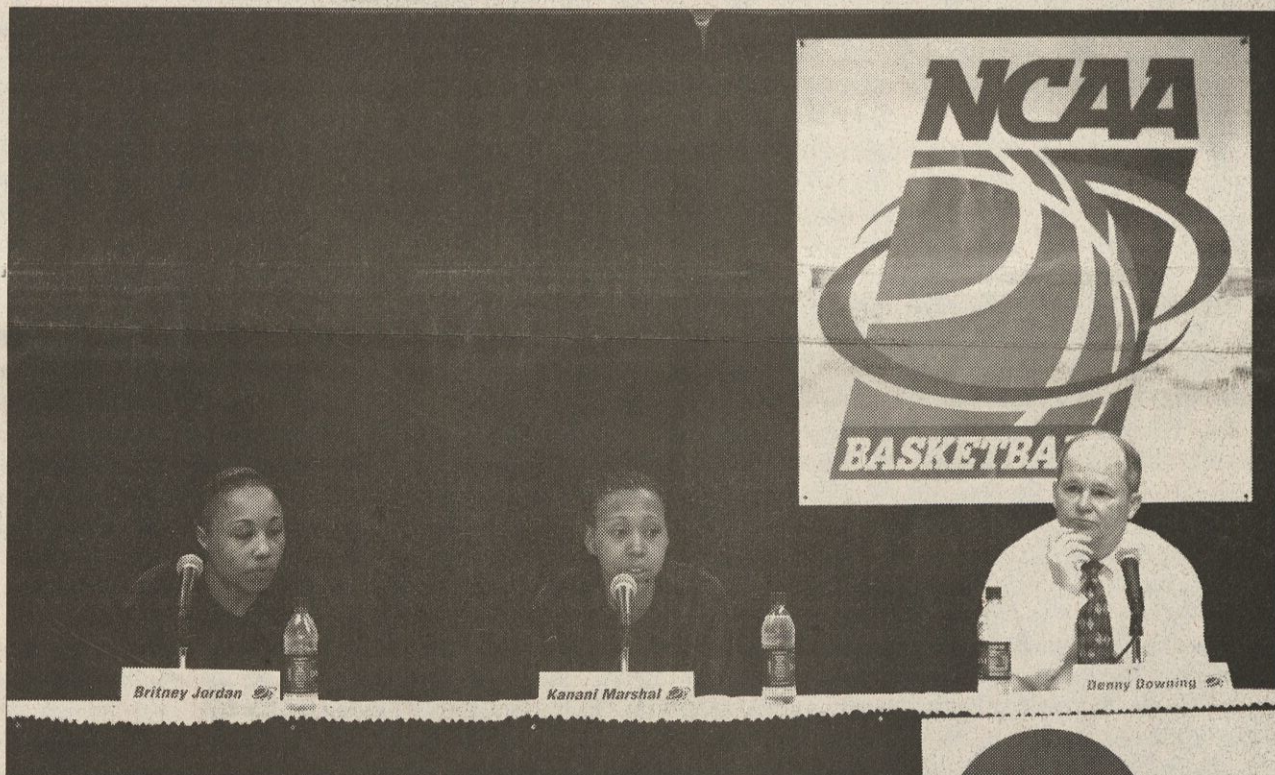


(Left) The 2006-2007 Texas A&M-Commerce women's basketball team pose with the South Central Regional trophy. The Lions in their first-tournament appearance have advanced to the Elite Eight and are three games away from a National Championship. Team members include Tarika Campbell, Dominee Evans, Alicia Johnson, Britney Jordan, Kanani Marshal, Dawn Montgomery, Katedria Mosley, Tradawn Short.

# THE LION QUEENS



(Above) Teammates Tarika Campbell and Britney Jordan talk over strategy during their first round match-up against Emporia State.



(Above) Britney Jordan, Kanani Marshal and head coach Denny Downing field questions from the press following their one point victory over top seeded Missouri Western.



(Right) Head coach Denny Downing gives instruction to players on the court. Downing was named Lone Star Conference Coach of the Year and has led the Lions to their first ever NCAA Tournament appearance.

*Photos by Shelly Cervantes*

## Lion tracksters finish strong at Tarelton State

**By Danial Dreiling**  
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M-Commerce track and field team showed a strong presence Thursday, March 8, at the Tarleton State Invitational held in Stephenville.

The Lions had 20 top-5 finishes at the meet, with the men and women splitting that total down the middle with 10 a piece.

"Our team improved their marks and timings in many areas, congratulations to everyone," said interim track head coach Rich Lawrence.

The men were led by senior Larry Gilbert, who finished 2nd in both the shot put and discus events, with distances of 170'2.75" and 153'7.5", respectively.

After being sick all week, Kyle Thompson ran the 110 hurdles, and finished 2nd with a time of 14.95 seconds, which is only .25 seconds shy of provisionally qualifying in the event. Thompson also achieved a 2nd place finish in the high jump, clearing 6 feet, 2 inches.

Robert Reed ran both the 1500-meter run, and the 5000-meter run.



**Niki Williams**  
Women's track

ran the 1500 in 4 minutes, 8.82 seconds, which was good for a 2nd place finish.

Leslie White participated in both the javelin and high jump field events, with a 2nd place finish in both events. In the javelin event, he threw 170 feet, 2.75 inches, and cleared 6 feet, 4 inches in the high jump event.

On the women's side, Niki Williams led the Lions, with a time of 10 minutes, 57.64 seconds, which gave her a 1st place finish in the 3,000 meter run, and winning

the event. She also ran in the 1500 meter run, and finished in 4th place, with a time of 5 minutes, 7.20 seconds.

In the field events, Rachel Redding had a strong performance in both the Hammer and Discus events. The Tarleton meet was the first meet this season that Redding has thrown in the Hammer event, and in doing so, she finished in 3rd place, with a distance of 127 feet, 11.5 inches.

In the discus event, Redding improved her distance by nearly 7 feet. She threw 117 feet, 6.5 inches at the Tarleton Invitational, and 110 feet, 7 inches at the Trinity Invitational the previous weekend. Her

mark of 117'6.5" helped her to a 5th place finish in the discus event.

Britney Fisher joined Redding in the top-5 finishes in the field events, with a 3rd place finish in the discus event, at a distance of 121 feet, 2 inches. She also finished in 5th place in the shot put event, with a distance of 33 feet, 7.25 inches.

Next up for the Lions, is the Dr. Pepper/Baylor Invitational in Waco on March 24th, and after the Baylor Invitational, the Lions finish out the month of March with a meet on March 31st, at the UTA Invitational in Arlington.



## ON THE PROWL



### Four teams making debut in Elite Eight

The 2007 Division II women's Elite Eight field features six teams that were the top seed in their respective region and four schools making their first-ever trip to the National Quarterfinals.

The University of Nebraska at Kearney will host the Elite Eight March 21-22 & 24 at the Health & Sports Center.

Making up the quarterfinals this year are:

**Texas A&M-Commerce (28-8/South Central)**, Clayton State of Georgia (28-5/South Atlantic), North Dakota (32-3/North Central), Florida Gulf Coast (32-0/South), Glenville State of West Virginia (33-2/East), UC San Diego (26-4/West), Southern Connecticut State (31-2/Northeast) and Drury U. of Missouri (25-8/Great Lakes).

Drury and A&M-Commerce were No. 4 seeds in their regions; the other six were No. 1 seeds and served as regional hosts.

Making the Elite Eight for the first time are A&M-Commerce, Clayton, FGCU and UCSD.

The Owls of Southern Connecticut are back in the quarterfinals for the first time since 1983 — the second year there was a D2 women's basketball tournament — while Glenville is the only school to have made last year's Elite Eight. The Pioneers also made the Elite Eight in 2002.

North Dakota will be making a seventh trip to the Elite Eight and has three national titles (1997-99) and a national runner up (2001) finish on its resume. The Sioux, like the Eagles of FGCU, will soon be making the jump to NCAA Division I.

Drury started up a women's basketball program in 2000-01 but is in the Elite Eight for the second time. In 2004, the Panthers finished as national runners up.

On the same page, Gulf Coast has finished the past five years but has gone 59-2 since the beginning of the 2005-06 campaign. They also have no conference affiliation and are one of the few remaining independent schools in Division II.

Finally, UC San Diego has recently made the jump from NCAA Division III to Division II. The Tritons made five D3 tourney appearances, including four in a row from 1995-98.

—Staff Reports

### NCAA Women's DII Elite Eight schedule

#### Wednesday, March 21

1 p.m. — Glenville State (33-2) v. Cal-San Diego (26-4)  
3 p.m. — Southern Connecticut State (31-2) v. Drury (25-8)  
7 p.m. — Clayton State (28-5) v. Texas A&M-Commerce (28-8)  
9 p.m. — Florida Gulf Coast (32-0) v. North Dakota (31-3)

#### Thursday, March 22

8 p.m. — Glenville State/Cal-San Diego winner v. Southern Connecticut State/Drury winner (ESPN)  
10:30 p.m. — Clayton State/Texas A&M-Commerce winner v. Florida Gulf Coast/North Dakota winner (ESPN)

#### Saturday, March 24

6 p.m. — Semifinal winners (ESPN2)

\*ALL TIMES EASTERN.

## NCAA SOUTH CENTRAL SEMIFINAL

# Lions shock top seed

Mosley's last second heroics propel A&M-C over tourney favorite Missouri Western

By Brent Lyday  
Sports Editor

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — Junior Katedria Mosley hit a layup with less than a second left to lead the Texas A&M University-Commerce Lions to a 73-72 win over Missouri Western State University in an NCAA Division II South Central Regional semifinal thriller on Saturday night.

Her team trailing by 72-71 with five seconds left, sophomore Britney Jordan brought the ball up court and a collapsing defense by the host Griffons left an open Mosley underneath the basket for the gamewinner.

The Lions, in their first NCAA tournament appearance, advanced to Monday night's regional final to face the No. 3 seed Washburn (Kan.).

A&M-Commerce improves to 28-8 overall and Missouri Western State ends its season with a 30-4 mark.

"We have great players on our team," said Jordan. "We play our game and we are in it to win it."

Mosley scored 15 of her 20 points in the second half to lead three Lions in double figures. She was joined by senior Kanani Marshal and Jordan, who each scored 19 points.

Marshal hit a 3-pointer in each half to become the all-time single-season NCAA Division II leader with 139 3-pointers.

A&M-Commerce outrebounded

Missouri Western State 41-39, including a game-high 12 from junior Dominee Evans.

Missouri Western State had three players in double digits, including 23 from Inga Buzoka, 22 from Ashleigh Curry and 10 from Yanique Jarvis. Buzoka also had 10 rebounds.

Trailing by 41-31 at the intermission, the Lions opened the second half by scoring 20 of the first 30 points to tie the game for the sixth and final time. Mosley scored back-to-back baskets for four of her 15 second-half points to put the Lions in front 53-51 with 12:55 remaining.

A&M-Commerce extended its lead to as much as seven but host Missouri Western State would not surrender to the last remaining Lone Star Conference team in the tournament.

The Griffons rallied from a 68-62 deficit, scoring five straight points to cut the A&M-Commerce lead to 68-67 with 2:10 remaining.

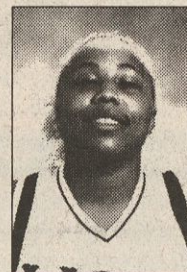
On the Lions next possession, Jordan hit her fourth 3-pointer of the game to put the Lions up 71-67 with 1:49 remaining.

A 3-point play by Ashleigh Curry with 58 seconds remaining and layup by Curry with five seconds put MWSU up 72-71 before setting the stage for the game-winning heroics.

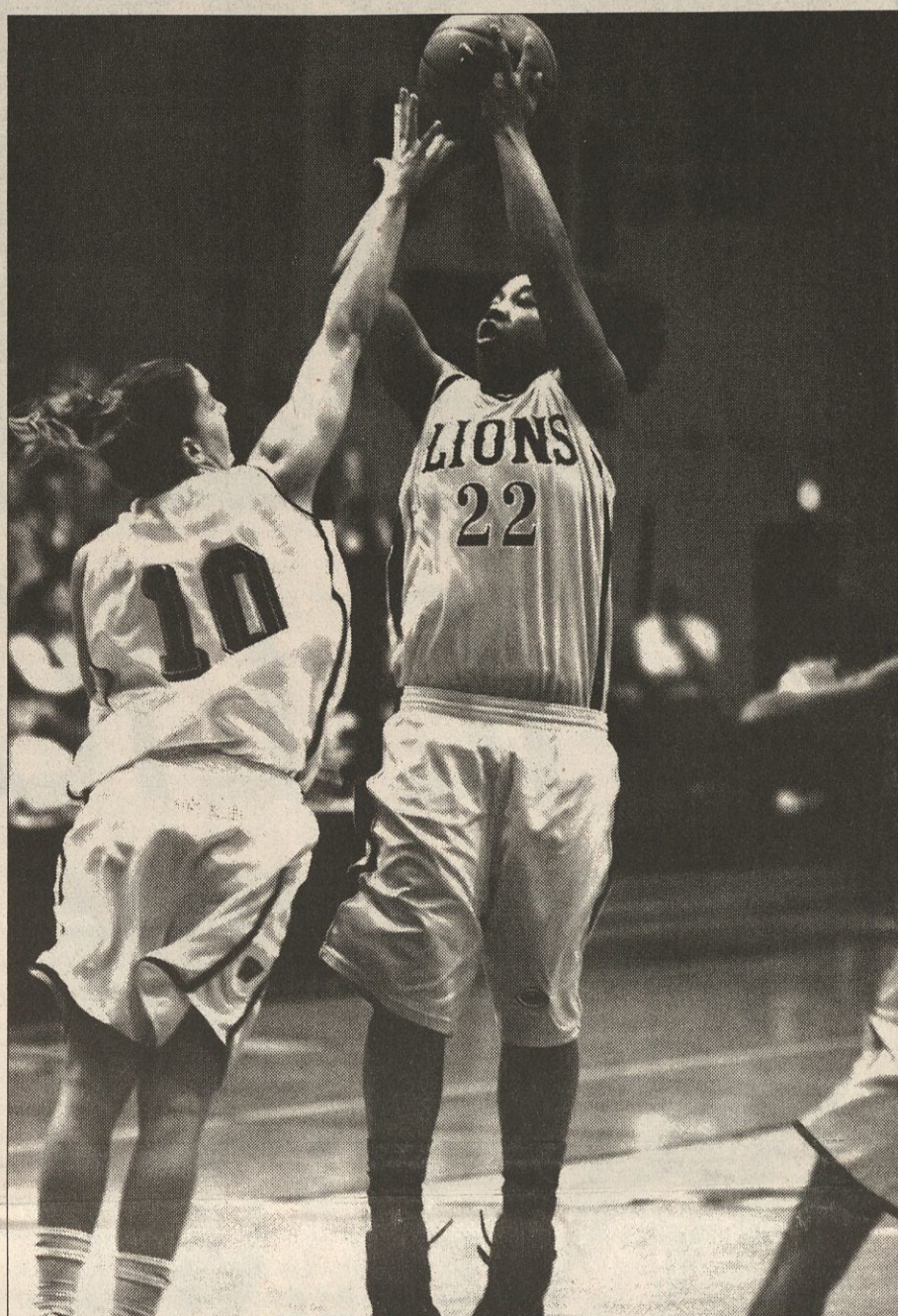
A&M-Commerce (28-8) vs. Missouri Western (30-4) scoring summary — Mosley 20, Marshal 19, Jordan 19, Dawn Montgomery 7; Evans 6; Tradawn Short 2;



Katedria Mosley  
Lion forward



Britney Jordan  
Lion guard



SHELLY CERVANTES/Special Contributor

Trailing by one, 72-71, with five seconds left, sophomore Britney Jordan (above) brought the ball up court and a collapsing defense by the host Griffons left an open Mosley underneath the basket for the gamewinner.

## NCAA OPENING ROUND

# A&M-C stings #13 Hornets, 81-73

Marshal leads with 27 points as Lions win first tournament game in school history



SHELLY CERVANTES/Special Contributor

Senior guard Dawn Montgomery defends an Emporia State player. Montgomery was praised for excellent defense over the weekend.

By Brent Lyday  
Sports Editor

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — In their first NCAA Division II South Central Regional Basketball Tournament, the Texas A&M University-Commerce Lions showed no signs of tension as they held on for an 81-77 victory Friday night against the No. 5 seed Emporia State Hornets.

"It was a team effort tonight," said Lion head coach Denny Downing.

Downing 77-71 with 58 seconds remaining in the ball game, Hornet guard Michelle Stueve nailed a 3-pointer to pull the Lions down to within three points.

Lion guard Britney Jordan was fouled on the next possession and made one of her free throws.

Another bucket by Stueve pulled the Lady Hornets by two but that was the closest they would get before guard Kanani Marshal nailed both of her free throws as time ran out on the Lady Hornets.

The first half saw the Lions get off to a quick 6-2 start, but the Lady Hornets countered taking a 15-10 lead. A 13-2 run put the Lions up for good throughout the rest of the half as A&M-Commerce led 35-34 lead going into the break.

Marshal hit two 3-pointers in the first half, as she put up 10 points to lead the

Lions. Her three rebounds and two steals were big as well.

Forward Tradawn Short was next in line for the Lions, dropping in eight points with three rebounds.

Stueve was the leading force behind the Hornets, staying with the Lions scoring 18 points and pulling down six boards, while going 9-of-9 from the free throw line.

The first half seemed to be more of a defensive battle as there were a total of 16 turnovers between the teams.

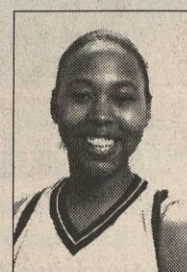
The second half was a different story as both teams would come out strong on the offensive end.

The Lions were able to extend the lead to 63-53 with 11:47 to go.

ESU trimmed the lead to within 69-63 at the 7:47 mark before a stalemate between the teams halted the scoring for 3:47.

Jordan broke the tie, hitting two free throws to extend the lead back to eight. Fouls and free throws would last throughout the rest of the game.

"I told the kids with about 2:30 to go during a timeout that its going to come down to free throws," said Downing. "Marshal, Jordan and (forward Dominee) Evans were huge down the stretch."



Kanani Marshal  
Lion guard

SEE OPENING ROUND, PAGE 7