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The East Texan Newspaper

2007-05-03

The East Texan, 2007-05-03

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The East Texan

XCI, NO. 28, 8 pages

www.theeasttexan.com

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2007

► IN SCENE



Melba Toast EP full of flavor

Enjoy the musical flavor of Melba Toast. It may be crunchy on the outside but deep down lies the soft interworkings of something greater and meaningful, writes Joey Dean.

PAGE 5

Final Exam Schedule

Sat. May 5
Day & Time of class/ Exam Time
S 7:30 7:30-9:30
S 10:20 10:20-12:20

Monday, May 7
Day & Time of class/ Exam Time
MWF 8:00 8:00-10:00
MWF 10:00 10:30-12:30
MWF 2:00 1:15-3:15

Tuesday, May 8
Day & Time of class/Exam Time
TR 8:00 8:00-10:00
TR 11:00 10:30-12:30
TR 2:00 1:15-3:15

Wednesday, May 9
Day & Time of class/Exam Time
MWF 9:00 8:00-10:00
MWF 11:00 10:30-12:30
MWF 4:00 1:15-3:15

Thursday, May 10
Day & Time of class/ Exam Time
TR 9:30 8:00-10:00
TR 12:30 10:30-12:30
TR 3:30 1:15-3:15

Friday, May 11
Day and Time of class/Exam Time
MWF 12:00 8:00-10:00
MWF 1:00 10:30-12:30
MWF 3:00 1:15-3:15

Evening Class Exam Schedule

Final examinations for evening classes will be conducted during regularly scheduled class periods on Monday, May 7; Tuesday, May 8; Wednesday, May 9; Thursday, May 10.

Math Departmental Exam Schedule

Final departmental examinations for Math 131 and Math 141 will be as follows:
MATH 141 -
Monday, May 7 - 3:30-5:30pm
MATH 131 -
Tuesday, May 8 - 3:30-5:30pm

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Program to draw honors freshmen

Office and housing to be at Prairie Crossing

By Jill Glancy
Staff Writer

This fall, 50 incoming freshmen will participate in the new Honors College at Texas A&M-Commerce, headed by Dr. Raymond Green in the Department of Psychology and Special Education.

Requirements for membership in the honors college include application completion, status as an entering freshman with a minimum ACT score of 27 or SAT score of 1200 and a ranking in the top ten percent of their high school graduation class.

"These are not cut-off scores, but rough benchmarks," Dr. Green said. "That is, a

valedictorian with an SAT of 1170 would certainly be considered."

An interview with an honors college advisor and a commitment to a four-year honors college program are also required to apply.

Students who are currently enrolled as a recognized honor student will be allowed to finish their program, but only incoming freshmen will be accepted in the new program, at this time, according to Green.

The Honors College is working closely with Dr. Bill Thompson and Mayo College. Although the Honors College may draw some students away from Mayo College, Dr. Green also hopes to direct quality students who do not qualify for the Honors College to Mayo College. "We hope to have a synergistic relationship with Mayo College," Dr. Green said.

The new office for the department will be housed at the Prairie Crossing apartments, located at 1708 Monroe Street.

Previously, the honors office was located in the basement of the social sciences building. This new location was chosen because the Honors College students will reside on the fourth floor of Prairie Crossing.

"One goal of housing students together is creating an academic learning community," Dr. Green said. "We believe that having our office in Prairie Crossing can help foster that."

Honors College students will take approximately 25 percent of their coursework in Honors Sections.

"The majority of the credits will fit into the University studies core," Dr. Green said. "In addition, students will take two one-credit seminar classes as upperclass-

men and will culminate their experience by writing an honors thesis."

Benefits from the new program include a debt-free education, priority housing, small class size, early registration during all semesters, special recognition at graduation, honors designation on your diploma and transcripts and completion of a thesis, which can be listed on the resume.

The 50 students chosen for the program will receive a scholarship covering tuition and fees, room and board and a textbook allowance.

For more information on the honors program, contact Dr. Raymond Green at HonorsCollege@tamuc.edu.

Staff writers Justin Clounts and Shuantiwa Tuck contributed to this article.

Admissions standards get quick, strict

By Wyndi Veigel
Senior Editor

Admissions standards and turn-around for admitting students into Texas A&M University-Commerce is an important part of recruiting new students to attend campus.

The A&M-Commerce admissions department has been accomplishing the entire admissions process quickly, setting a new precedent for the university.

"If a student were to apply for admissions today, provide us with the necessary transcripts and/or test scores, typically there is about a 48 hours turnaround. That's only if the application submitted is complete," said Becki Byrd, interim director of undergraduate admissions. "If they submit an application, but do not submit anything else we have to wait and notify the student that we have received the application and here are the missing documents."

According to Byrd, there is

a misconception on campus that it takes longer than 48 hours to get admitted, but due to an improved admission-processing staff, they have shortened the time it takes to get a student admitted.

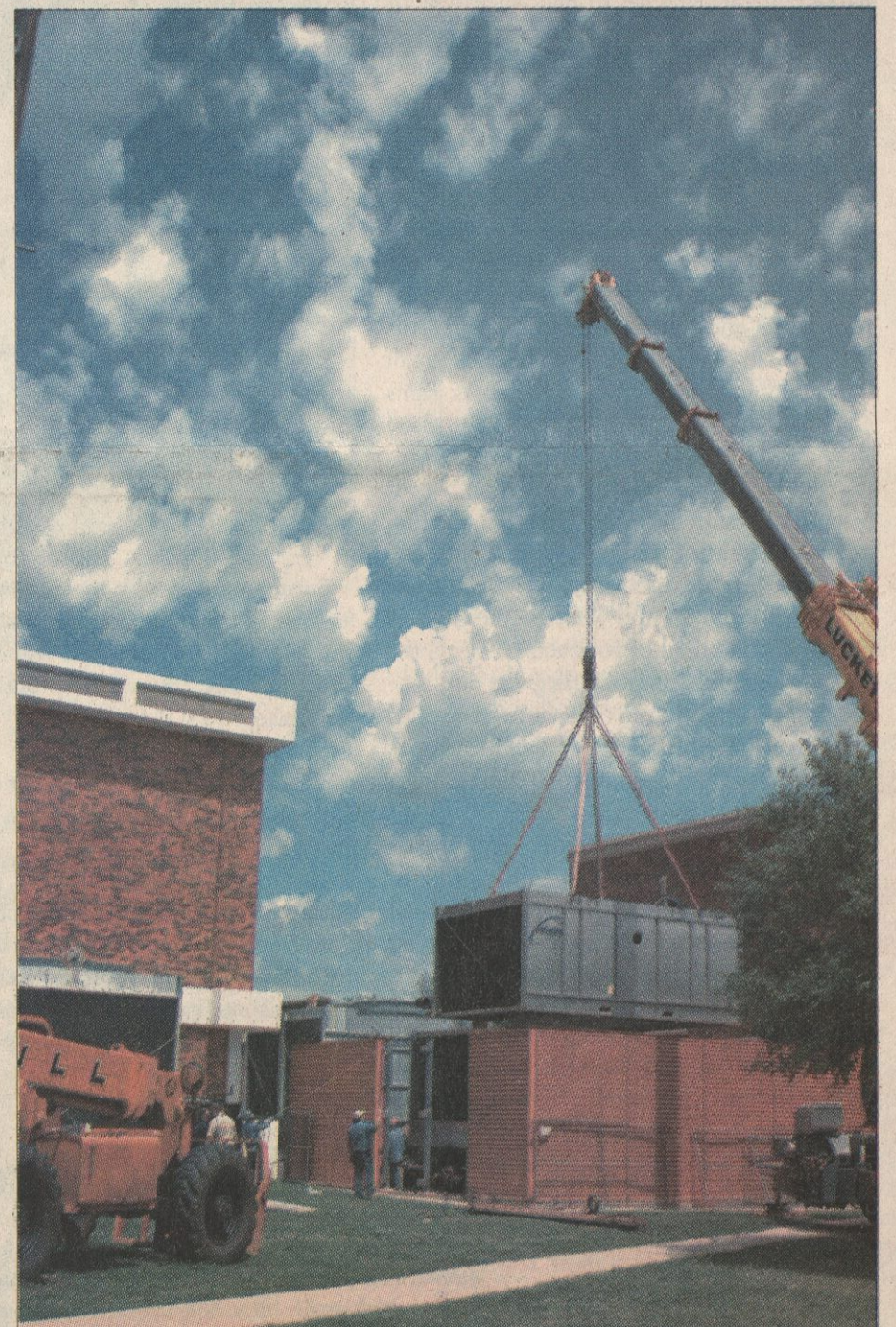
"In the past, we had one transcript evaluator and two admissions processors, and now we have four admissions processors who do the whole process," Byrd said. "They can evaluate transcripts, can enter in applications and can make the admissions decisions. We have more staff and the staff is cross-trained."

Getting an admissions letter processed quickly has a significant impact on what university that student chooses. Students can submit an online application to several schools through applytexas.org.

If they submit the application on the same day, send the transcripts to all the schools, and A&M-Commerce is the

► SEE ADMISSIONS, PAGE 3

Raising the tower



Crews replaced the cooler tower for the whole campus last Friday. The units costs \$500,000 for both and are good for 18 to 20 years. The whole job will take 2 to three days to complete.

Ron Scott HVAC foreman is in charge of completing the job.

ANDREA CANAFAX/
The East Texan

A&M-C listed in state athletic fee legislation

Staff Reports

Texas A&M University-Commerce is among three schools listed in a proposed bill in the Texas Legislature to authorize an intercollegiate athletic fee for each student.

Under provisions of the bill, the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents is authorized to impose an intercollegiate athletics fee on each student enrolled at Texas A&M International University, West Texas A&M University, and A&M-Commerce.

"I have no intention of imposing a sports fee in the immediate future," said A&M-Commerce President Dr. Keith McFarland. "We will go along now and if we need it we are not going in [to the Legislature] by ourselves."

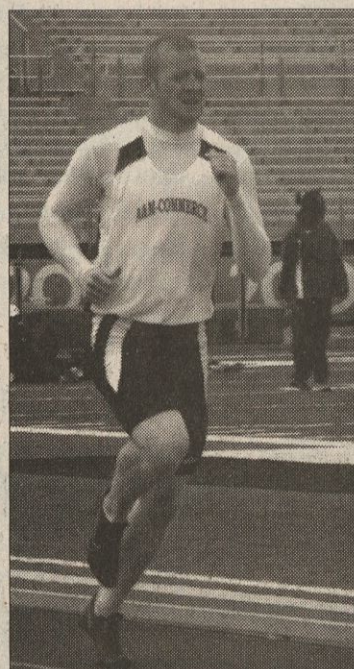
The bill would amend Education Code to establish a stu-

dent fee advisory committee at each component of the Texas A&M University System that would advise the board of regents on the type, amount and expenditure of compulsory fees for student services, student health and medical services, student center facilities and recreational sports.

It would also amend Education Code to increase the maximum fee allowable for the board of regents of Texas A&M University System to levy and collect from students at all Texas A&M University component institutions for recreational sports.

The amount of revenue generated by the authorized fee increases and new fees, locally assessed by the individual universities, would depend on the fee amount assessed by the universities and could increase with enrollment growth.

► IN SPORTS



Track prepares for LSC meet

The Texas A&M University-Commerce track and field teams will host the Lone Star Conference Championship meet this weekend, May 4-6 at Memorial Stadium.

PAGE 8

Fresh Draft: Campus master plan revised

By Amber Pompa
Staff Writer

The University's Master Plan, which was put into effect April 6, 2001, has been revisited and is in the process of being revised.

The Master Plan is the vision of how the physical structure and layout of the campus will look like in the future, according to Dr. Bob Brown, vice president for business and administration.

The University has been working towards improvement under an architectural rendering of how the campus is going to develop, but when the architects came to visit with the committee, it became clear the Science Building didn't belong where the Master Plan had original-

ly placed it. After moving it to a more appropriate location, the decision was made to put the student center across the street from the new building. After that, the president asked the plan be revisited and revised.

"It [the new plan] won't be completely different, but there will be some significant new elements," Brown said.

The main idea is to make the center of the campus feel like a more traditional place — to give it a more classic feel.

This will create a more aesthetically pleasing environment, but school officials

► SEE FRESH DRAFT, PAGE 6



Bob Brown
VP Business & Admin

Troops get 'blue-collared'

I usually commit to a course of action and stick to it — much like Bush with Iraq. I already wrote the column for this last issue of the semester. It was a nice thank you column for readers, university faculty and newspaper staff. (Thanks, everybody.)

I should be writing a news story right now, but something's stuck in my craw. (What's a craw, anyway? Wait a second ... hmm, Webster's says it's an animal's stomach. Weird.)

Anyway, while waiting for "Hot Fuzz" to start, I saw a preview for the new film "Delta Farce" starring Bill Engvall and Larry the Cable Guy — and the scrawny kid from "Road Trip."

The next time some redneck says anything about war critics dishonoring the troops, they're going to get a DVD of this shoved in their face.

Wars are not the natural setting for comedies. There's only one reason "Hogan's Heroes" did as well as it did: The war had been over for 20 years. (And still my grandmother thought it was too soon.)

To make light of our troops serving in Iraq seems a bit tacky. I know the film's trio of Sad Sacks don't actually get to Iraq, instead landing in and attacking a Mexican town, but it just makes me feel disgusted. (Of course, this could have something to do with Larry being in the film. Did anyone see "Health Inspector" and live to tell about it?)

Now I have watched all the Blue Collar tours on Comedy Central. And yes, I laughed. But I have gotten to where I can't watch any of the guys except Ron White. They seem to repeat themselves and I am not a fan of comedians with a catch phrase that has to be the crux of their routines. I get it already: Rednecks, signs and "Get 'er Done." Thank God White used Tater Salad to get famous and dropped it.

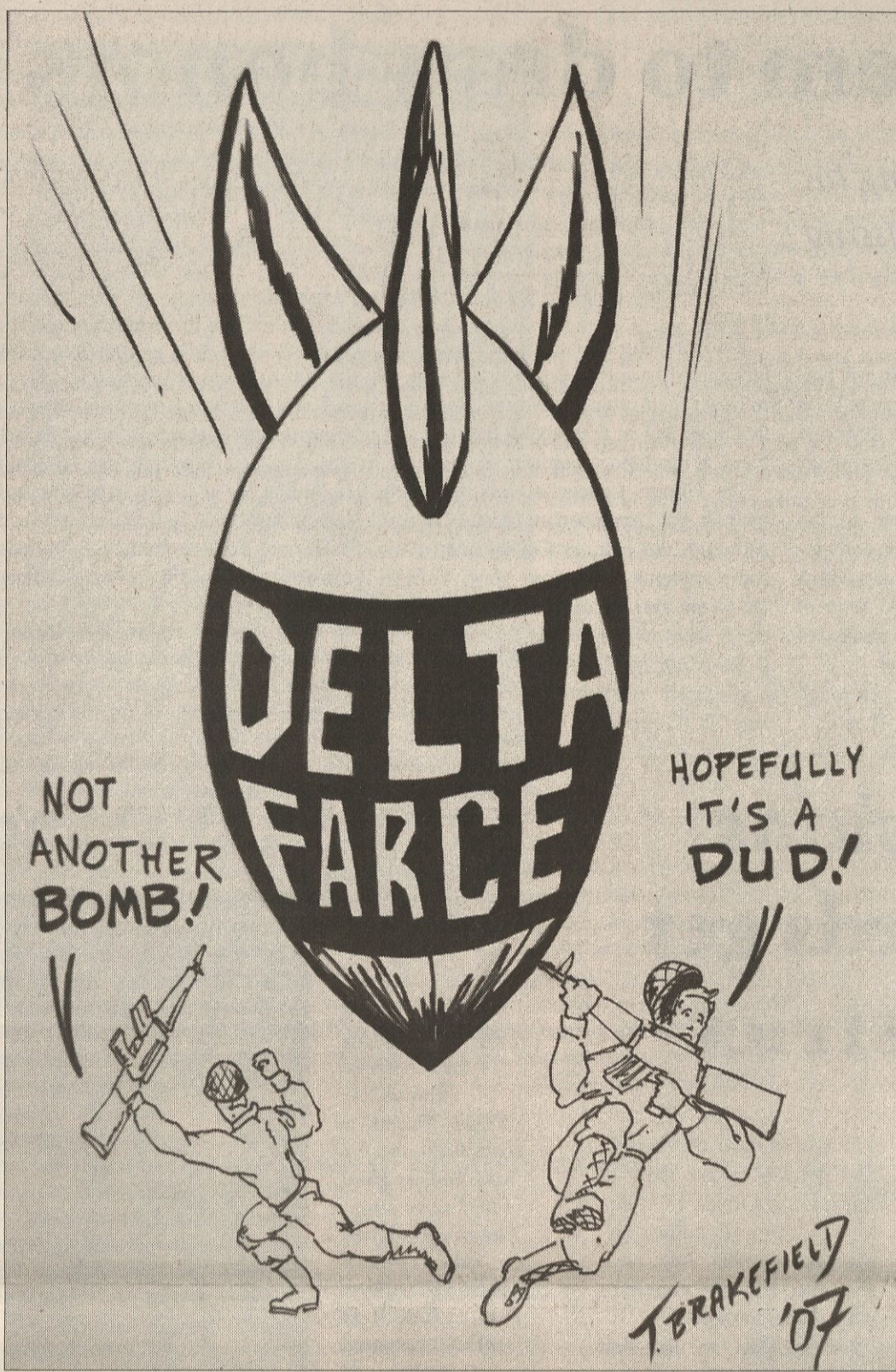
I'm sure these are good men with nothing but respect for the troops, but why make this film and why now? Couldn't we wait until after the war guys? C'mon, you'll always have careers as long as CMT exists. And what are the chances people will get tired of your acts? I mean, the ones without signs Engvall has given out.

Maybe I simply haven't seen a good comedy in a while. (BTW: "Hot Fuzz" rocks.) Perhaps it's just my sense of humor. Either go subtle or over the top; don't go for the obvious.

And what are good examples of funny? Easily, one thinks of the Marx Bros. "Ducksoup" or Mel Brooks' "Blazin' Saddles" or a Dane Cook or Sam Kinison concert. If that doesn't float your boat, how about when Leonardo sinks in "Titanic" or Meg Ryan kisses a log truck in "City of Angels" — sick, man, really sick.



Troy Brakefield
Managing Editor



But no more so than making fun of soldiers fighting in a war that looks like it might never end. There's only one way I feel decent about a film like this: Give all the profits to veterans' hospitals.

Unfortunately, this may mean the veterans could end up owing more money since the film will likely be a bomb—which our boys see enough of as it is.

That's it for this semester, folks. Keep your e-mailed comments and Web site postings coming during the summer, although we might not reply until fall. We appreciate your comments, criticisms and questions and look forward to next time. Until then, thanks for the memories,

happy trails to you and keep your feet on the ground while reaching for the stars. See you in New Orleans.

P.S.: Check out *The Dallas Morning News* for Sunday, April 29, Page 12A. There's a nice story about how the government blew the chance to accept \$854 million in aid from allies for Katrina relief. About \$500 million was in oil, back when our gas prices were reaching more than \$3.50 a gallon.

Thanks, George.

Contact Troy at theeasttexan.com

Loyalty priority in life, friendship

When I was in the Army we were taught to live by the seven values — loyalty, duty, respect, selfless, service, honor, integrity and personal courage. These still are the values I hold significant to my character. Most people value these qualities in their friends and their co-workers.

One of the values I have recently noticed that some people lack is loyalty. The word loyal has many definitions. The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines loyal as, "unswerving in allegiance: as (a) faithful in allegiance to one's lawful sovereign or government (b) faithful to a private person to whom fidelity is due (c) faithful to a cause, ideal, custom, institution, or product." Loyalty is obviously the action of being loyal.

There are certain rules in a friendship that involve loyalty that you may not recognize. For instance, I believe that you shouldn't date your friends ex's ... especially if it's recent or was serious. I know that sometimes you can't help who you fall in love with, but you should have enough respect for your friend to ask if dating their ex will hurt them.

Another example of loyalty in a friendship is not breaking plans with your friends in order to make other plans. When I make plans with my friends I try not to double book myself and I try and keep those plans. Friends do understand that things come up; however, if you broke your plans of a movie night last week just so you could go hang out with the guy you like or your boyfriend, then that is a case of not being a loyal friend.

I have done that before and let me tell you I almost lost my best friend because of it. I think the worst feeling in the world was when he called me out, and told me how upset he was. I realized at that moment that I had broken one of my key values — loyalty.

The value I hold closest to my heart is integrity and in order to have integrity you have to have loyalty. A loyal friend sticks with you no matter what happens between the two of you. My best friend and I have been through so much together, at the time it seemed we wouldn't make it through and there were times that we weren't loyal to each other. But, now we look back at those moments and laugh. Our friendship is better now than it was in the past.

The bonds of friendship should be stronger and more important than any sisterhood, work related things and relationships with the opposite sex. If you are in a serious relationship then those bonds of friendship should be in there too.

Being loyal doesn't stop there. It applies to work, it applies to fun, and it basically applies to life in all of its unique corners. If you say you're going to do something for or with someone, then you should do it. Period. End of story. No questions asked.

If you are feeling like you have no friends, maybe you should check out the people you have been trying to hang out with. Sometimes the true friends we have aren't who we thought they were!

Contact Renee at theeasttexan.com



Renee Caldwell
Staff Writer

CORRECTION

In the April 19 issue of *The East Texan*, the article titled "Be Free with Liberal Degree," cited that the program will begin in fall of 2008. It will begin in fall of 2007 and classes are now open for registration. *The East Texan* staff regrets the error.

Good-bye, A&M-Commerce, you'll be missed

By Wyndi Veigel
Senior Editor

Since I began writing for this publication two years ago, I have learned many things, which is only appropriate since a university is an educational setting.

However, perhaps the most important thing that I have learned is the power of the written word.

As a journalism major, I have

learned important things that have been taught by an incredible faculty. My passion for writing and the power of words have been reinforced.

I have been fortunate in my academic career to be part of a family.

The East Texan staff has taught me many things, such as which pizza place is open at midnight in Commerce on a Tuesday night. But in the end it all comes back to the writing.

As journalists, we are to report the unbiased news to the best of our ability.

This reporting makes an impact on people, no matter who they are. In times of joy, chaos, sorrow or crisis, writing makes an impact.

To those who I have had the pleasure of working with, thank you and you will be missed. You have made my experience at A&M-Commerce a joy and I am overjoyed to call you family.

To the faculty that I have had the honor to be educated by, I thank you. Teaching is one of the greatest pursuits in life and I envy you.

To the university administration, keep up the good work. A&M-Commerce has the potential to one day be phenomenal and legendary. We just have to get it there.

To my staff, I am blessed because of you and you will all be missed tremendously.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To all at TAMU-Commerce,

I would like to publicly praise a professor of mine, Rhonda Clark. (No, I'm not kissing up, this won't publish before final grades are given)

Ms. Clark is a superb teacher. An hour and fifteen minutes twice a week is no where near enough time for her class. Our syllabus says her class is an "Intro to Teaching" class, but its more of an "Introduction to Life, Teaching and Parenting". If you don't know the next step in the student teaching process, call Rhonda. If your son is biting at daycare, call Rhonda. I knew I would love her class the first time I took her in the fall of 2006.

She can be the shoulder to cry on during finals as well as the fire under your butt. Her class has made me analyze my thoughts and beliefs, only to make them stronger. Rhonda has given

me a confidence I never would have thought was there. Because of Ms. Clark I know I will be a successful educator.

Anyone searching for an ELED 200 or 300 professor, sign up for Rhonda Clark, you won't regret it.

And to whoever develops courses, consider a "Ms. Clark knows what she's doing" class, with Rhonda. It could meet just once a week and we could just sit and pick her brain of all her education advice and knowledge. Or at least give her a raise!

We can thank Ms. Rhonda Clark and educators like her for the caliber of teachers that graduate from our school.

Lauren Crowe,
senior, MLED major

To the Editor,

Last Thursday I was one of the volunteers who served hotdogs to the students, faculty and staff at the recognition for our women's basketball team. It was a very positive experience.

I would like to compliment the students for their courtesy and politeness as they came through the lines. I do not recall one student not saying thank you as they picked up their hotdogs. This speaks very highly of the students of Texas A&M-Commerce.

WAY TO GO LIONS!!!

Louie Bledsoe
Golf Coach, A&M Commerce

The East Texan

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Established 1915

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

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The Truth and Other Lies | By Michael Thompson

So long, wieners! Thanks for reading

There comes a time in every writer's life when he must ask himself - as Dostoyevsky, Shakespeare, Thoreau and Barry must have asked themselves - do I have to stop writing irrelevant columns full of wiener jokes because I'm graduating from college?

For me, unfortunately, the answer is yes. I believe with all my heart that not one student who has walked the hallowed halls of Texas A&M University - Commerce has enjoyed their stay as much as I have. And I'm fairly confident that there are some professors, administrators and other university employees happy to see me go.

You'll get your wish soon enough. But I want to thank everyone who has helped me, directly and indirectly, with my column, "The Truth and Other Lies."

First I want to thank my editors over the years: Justin Acker and Joey Dean. Justin, when I told him I wanted to write a humor column, didn't laugh in my face. He told me to go for it, and when I sent him my first column, Justin continued to ask for more.

Before the end of his tenure as editor-in-chief, I was practically guaranteed space in *The East Texan*. Enter Joey Dean.

Joey let me spread my wings. He wasn't afraid that I was going to offend people. He constantly encouraged me, because he wanted angry letters to the editor as much as I did.

My heartfelt thanks to both of you wieners.

Second I would like to thank my friends, because many times they were the butt of my jokes. Oh, the fun I had writing about them wanting to kick midgets down a flight of stairs in Mexico, eating penguins and all the other stupid stuff we've done over the years.



Michael Thompson
Humor Columnist

Thanks to all of you, especially Derik Grey, Shay Moore and Josh Henry. You three are major wieners.

I would also like to thank my professors, because they taught me everything I know and had the privilege (by privilege, I mean misfortune) of putting up with me in classes for the last two years.

To Dr. Lamar Bridges, Dr. John Mark Dempsey, Dr. Robert Sanders and Fred Stewart: I couldn't have asked for better teachers. I apologize for acting like a smart-ass wiener in class. But we had fun, didn't we?

I also want to thank Robyn Hollis, because I wrote about her many times. That poor woman. Not only does she get mentioned in my column, she is also dating me. But she has a great sense of humor and makes me laugh constantly.

Thank you for putting up with me, love.

Of course, I couldn't have done anything without my constant readers. No matter where I went on campus, someone would always ask me a version of,

"You're the guy in the paper, right?" I almost never knew what to say. Perhaps my friend Derik Grey said it best, "Dude, people KNOW you!"

And then there were the letters. Those always made my day. Charmaine Caldwell, senior academic advisor, always left me a nice note. Brock Calloway, an A&M - Commerce alum, almost made me spew soda through my nose when he wrote, "Now give me German condoms and make me famous!" I think most of us would agree that his words captured perfectly the theme of my column.

You see, I didn't want to write about poignant social issues or the current political climate. I wasn't out to force my beliefs down your throat or to make you think. My goal was to make you laugh so hard you would need a change of underwear. That's why I wrote about a guy eaten by bears, the differences between men and women, how to use grammar correctly (in a column that was FULL of mistakes), stupid things my friends would say and wiener jokes out the wazooty. It was funny to me, and I hope it was funny to you.

So thanks again for reading. I am very grateful you allowed me to try and brighten your day. And I'll see you out there in (shudder) the real world.

Stay classy, Commerce.

Wiener, wiener, wiener ...

Say goodbye to Michael at
thetruthandotherlies1@gmail.com

BRIEFLY...

Fallen officers to be honored in service

As part of national police week, there will be an annual memorial service in Greenville to honor Hunt County's fallen officers.

The ceremony will be on May 17 at the new criminal justice center at 10 a.m.

Also, as part of this police week, the Gee Library will be showing a display concerning the UPD that will focus on UPD then and now. The display will contain memorabilia dating back to the 1960s as well as the current time.

Check conversion to be implemented

In an effort to reduce processing costs, Texas A&M University-Commerce will begin processing paper checks electronically effective May 2.

If a student delivers a check in person, mails it to the university, or places it in any drop box locations, the paper check will be converted to an electronic Automated Clearing House (ACH) transaction.

For student's reconciliation purposes, these checks will now appear on their monthly bank statement as an electronic debit.

If for any reason they do not wish their check to be converted to an electronic debit, they should inform the cashier at the time of payment or send payment to this alternate address:

Texas A&M University-Commerce
ACH Opt Out
PO Box 3011
Commerce, TX 75429-3011

Fiesta time at Children's museum

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with music, food, crafts and fun at Northeast Texas Children's Museum on Saturday, May 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fashion tissue paper flowers, snip papel picado flags, learn how to make tortillas, make your own maracas, learn some Spanish phrases and watch authentic Aztec dances performed by Patechines of Greenville.

Craft activities will be available all day in addition to the scheduled performances and demonstrations.

Everyone attending will also have the opportunity to enter a drawing for the newly released Strawberry Shortcake "Berry Blossom Festival" and other movies.

All activities will be held in Northeast Texas Children's Museum in its new location in the Watson Center building of Texas A&M-Commerce at Hwy 50 and Culver Street.

Call 903-886-6055 or visit the Web site <http://www.netxcm.org> for details.

Student leaders wanted for the summit

It's that time of year again ... time to apply for the Summer Leadership Summit.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to learn and network with fellow student leaders.

The Summit is all about bringing student leaders from around Texas A&M-Commerce together just before the academic year begins.

Guest facilitators will join the university for the weekend to aid student leaders in shaping the year ahead and beyond.

The 2007 Summer Leadership Summit will focus on creating changes through self analysis and actions.

It will also bring together the top student leaders to learn, collaborate and grow as individuals and as a group.

The dates for this year's Summit are Friday, August 17- Sunday, August 19.

Upon acceptance of any applications, the cost is \$25 and includes transportation, lodging and meals.

Anyone wanting more information or that has any questions should contact Shelly Matkiewicz at 903-468-3172 or visit the Web site at <http://campusactivities.tamu-commerce.edu>.

E-mail theeasttexan@gmail.com

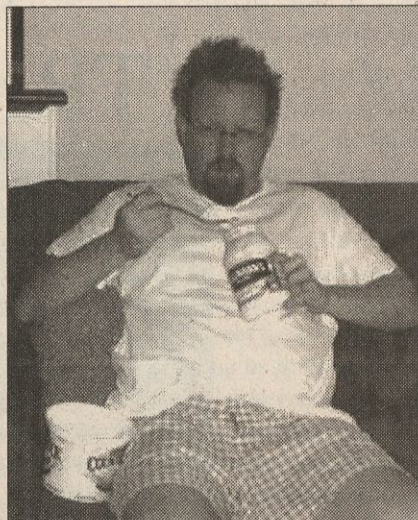
OK, summer is almost here and you still haven't made plans? Oh, what's a poor reader to do? How about letting us, the kind-hearted *East Texan* staffers make a few recommendations? We promise to set you on the right path to a great way to kill some time before seeing you again in the fall.

Editor's note: The following is a parody and is intended for entertainment purposes.

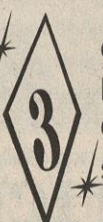
7 ways to kill summer



1. Eat mayonaisse and butter on the couch in your underwear while playing Halo 2 and swearing to your friends you could've had that one girl in history class except that "she just couldn't tell what she was missing." When that gets boring, take off the underwear.



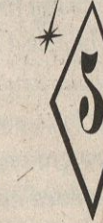
2. Go to a movie. You know "Spider-Man 3" will rock. But will "Transformers" be this year's "Hulk?" Who cares? It'll be neat watching Starscream step on somebody. But not everything's for certain ... so skip the new "Fantastic Four." The only thing cool about it is the Silver Surfer effects. But if you like those, just watch the Capri Sun commercial again on YouTube.



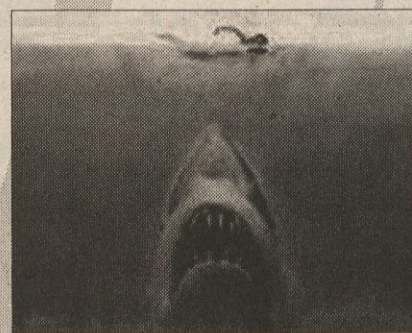
3. Go to Dallas and visit Deep Ellum before it disappears. Cry over how bad Dallas screwed up another incredible opportunity at having a world-class music scene.



4. Break up with your long-time partner, meet a new girl at the beach named Sandy who will transfer to your school in the fall and learn to do the "hand jive" while wearing a leather jacket.



5. Go to the beach. Yes, it's been done before, so try a new twist. Head out to an East Coast Florida beach to see if shark attacks really have gone up. Increase your chances of getting cool YouTube footage by mixing a little blood in surfers' sunscreen.



6. Intern for Def Jam Records in order to get that record deal when you graduate. Oh, wait, Simmons isn't letting anyone say three magic words anymore. Well, to heck with that. Go intern at CMT and let loose your inner cowboy! Yee haw!



7. What? How can you still have \$30 left from your student loan money? Sounds like somebody gets to take a Mexican vacation! (Please note: The U.S. State Department has issued a travel advisory for Mexico due to increased deaths from drug wars.)



Admissions standards

Continued from Page 1

first school to send them notification, it makes an impact on the student and the parent, Byrd said.

"The parent has a lot to do with the decision-making process. The parent, if they know their son or daughter has been admitted to Texas A&M University-Commerce, that's something that they don't have to worry about anymore," Byrd said. "And for the student also, if they know that they have been admitted to the university, then they can go on with finishing out high school or finishing out their college work and get ready to transfer and enroll ..."

For freshmen students, current admissions standards require a 20 on the ACT or a 920 on the verbal and math portions of the SAT, or a student ranking in the top 25 percent of their high school graduating class. For transfer students, if they have more than 21 hours of transfer work, they must have a cumulative 2.0 GPA in order to be admitted, according to Byrd.

The State of Texas mandates all freshmen students graduating in the top 10 percent of their class gain automatic admission to the university, but A&M-Commerce raised their standards to the top 25 percent.

"I know within the A&M system, we have a meeting of enrollment managers and there are several schools within the system that have expanded their automatic admissions to the top 25 percent," Byrd said. "In our immediate area — and that includes, UNT, University of Texas-Arlington, Stephen F. Austin — it varies though, and is based on a sliding scale."

Up until this year there has been a \$25 application fee required to make an admissions decision, but in order to speed up the process that fee is now put on a student's bill, she said.

"I know right now we are running ahead in admissions applications, admitted students and then also our scholarship recipients. We are offering more scholarships to students than we have in the past," Byrd said. "We have admitted already over 1,200 students for the fall semester. Last year, we did not reach the 1,200-admit mark until (the) middle or end of May, so we're running about a month to six weeks ahead of last year at this time."

"We are also ahead in scholarship offers, so the quality of our incoming freshmen and transfer student body is higher," she said.

The admissions department is also changing their appeal process to a committee that will review appeals made up of faculty members instead of just administrators. Students will now be interviewed by the committee.

SOUND OFF!

How do you manage stress during final exams?



"Don't wait till the last minute to study. Take breaks while you're studying; that way you're not cramming too much information."

Ron Middleton, undergraduate student



"You try to find out some time for recreation. Don't spend all the time studying. Take a break."

Donald, undergraduate student



"Exercise, spend time with friends, and watch the NBA playoffs. Go Mavs!"

Tiffany Baldwin, undergraduate student



"The best thing to do is work hard and put more time in studies. It will reduce the stress."

Rahim Rahim, graduate student



"I really don't stress. I am already prepared."

Erin Estrada, undergraduate student



"I normally work out and stuff."

Jacob Bush, undergraduate student



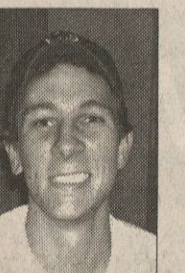
"I just don't care. I don't worry about it."

LaciJo Heyne, undergraduate student



"I study, but that doesn't affect me. I don't stress out."

Bethany Skinner, undergraduate student



"I just know that I'm gonna get through. I try not to stress out about it."

Mitch Miller, undergraduate student

Bigger the wallet, better the apartment

Housing in Commerce range from approx. \$275 to \$565 per month

By Jill Glancy
Staff Writer

You can't always rely on people to tell you the truth and it's probably a good idea to go by the old adage, 'you get what you pay for.'

Regency Square Apartments are located on Washington Street, just north of Culver Street. The apartments range from \$475 for a one bedroom to \$595 for a studio (up and down stairs) two bedrooms/2 baths. All the apartments are all bills paid.

An undergraduate student, Sabeina Williams, 22, resides in the apartments.

"For the price, they are okay, but I don't like them because they are older," said Williams. "I don't like the neighborhood they are in, because it's not just college students who reside there and it makes me feel unsafe."

Security is a big concern for Williams.

"At the beginning of the year, back window of my car got busted out," said Williams. "My car was parked right in front of my apartment. Luckily nothing was stolen."

Prairie Crossing is located across the street from Molina's and is in walking distance from school. Prices for the apartments start at \$275 for a two-bedrooms/two baths. The dorm style living includes two twin size beds in each room. All apartments are unfurnished except for the one-bedroom efficiencies, which rent for \$565 per month.

If you've got a dog or cat, they're not allowed. The only pets that are permitted are fish up to a 10-gallon tank.

Basic and expanded cable is provided. Electric, phone and Internet are the only bills the occupant is required to pay.

Luis Lujan, 24, undergraduate student has lived in Prairie Crossing for a year.

"They are really nice," said Lujan. "The office staff is really nice and there's a swimming pool, foosball and pool table and a café/internet room downstairs."

The downside?

"The only bad thing is that it's loud sometimes and you can hear everyone," said Lujan. "But it's really safe and it's gated, so there are no problems with cars."

The Corners Apartments rental fees range from \$350, plus electric, to \$525. Houses and duplexes are also available and range in price depending on the location.

Kelly, the apartment manager, said loud noise and music is not tolerated and mostly students reside in the complex.

New Pride apartments are located just east of the Morris Recreation Center.

"It's so much better than dorm life because it's nice inside and not ghetto at all," said Kelli Walker, undergraduate student and New Pride occupant.

Walker, 21, likes the fact that the rent comes out of her tuition and it's something she doesn't have to worry about.

Her concern, however, lies within the residence life office.

"Neighbors play their music too loud and the leasing office (residence life) does nothing about it," said Walker.

Walker and her roommate have had several problems with the maintenance team.

When Walker's closet door was broken, she put in several work orders to have the sliding door fixed during a three-month period.

"I finally took the door into the leasing office and said, 'here, it's your problem, now fix it,'" said Walker.

"The residence life office tried to threaten me with fines since I had removed furniture from the apartment," she added.

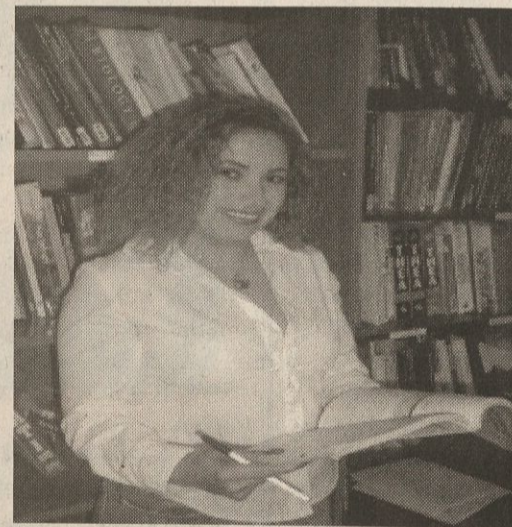
Walker's closet door was fixed, but she still had concerns about past repairs.

"Last semester, our refrigerator broke," said Walker. "We are just now being reimbursed for all the food that went bad last semester."

Congratulations!

to the Trio Programs Spring 2007

"TRiO Star"



Ms. Patricia Castaneda

My story begins after completing high school in Mexico. Immediately afterwards, I began to work in different places, doing different jobs. My first job was in Florida, picking oranges and different citrus. After my time in Florida, I moved to Illinois where I worked in a factory as an operator. At that time I was blessed with my first son (Brian) and then blessed with another (Alan) a second time two years later. I was the happiest woman in the world but a thought was telling me that I had to take control of my personal goals, which was to finish my education. By this time life wasn't so good, I felt as if I let my life pass me by, I was separated from my children's father and had to take on the responsibilities of caring for two growing boys on my own, I was overwhelmed.

Although at the time I was offered an opportunity to advance in my current position as a Quality Control Inspector, I realized that was only temporary and I needed to secure the future for my children and myself permanently. I then took control of my life and reset my goals and enrolled at Texas A&M Commerce. I worked hard to challenge myself by becoming a full time student, part time job and full time mother. I am so glad and happy that I am a sophomore at this campus because it has helped support me in many aspects towards reaching my goals.

Thanks to Student Support Services / Mach III (which are available to all level of classes that qualify for their services) I have access to an array of educational tools that help me achieve above satisfactory academic progress, such as the Olga Perez Learning Center/Computer Lab, registration assistance, financial aid advice, and Part-Time Employment. This program informs the students of any other outside resources that would complement their efforts towards completing a class productively. The benefits are voluntarily provided from the organization all out of the kindness of ensuring that every student enrolled has equal opportunity of being successful throughout their college experience."

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MUSIC

Melba Toast



COURTESY PHOTO/The East Texan

Pictured from left are Alex Mixson (guitar), Adam Mixson (guitar/vocals) and Lee Hyatt (bass).

Title: *Trip The Light* EP
Genre: Indie Rock
Web site: melbatoastmusic.com
Location: Greenville, Texas



By Joey Dean
Editor-in-Chief

Enjoy the musical flavor of Melba Toast. It may be crunchy on the outside but deep down lies the soft interworkings of something greater and meaningful.

If one had to pigeonhole the up-and-coming Greenville quartet's latest release, it would be a hybrid between Tom Petty and Creedence Clearwater Revival, sprinkled with modern rockers Built to Spill and My Morning Jacket, to form a tasty treat for your ears to dine on.

Trip The Light is well produced and cleanly mastered, the songs are well written, and the performances are solid. The band shows signs of maturity from their self-titled release, not only in quality but in a sense of identity.

"Screwball," the opening track

introduces with warm guitars and raw emotion, interlaced with soft harmonies in the chorus. This is a far cry from their self-titled opening track "CheckYr Head."

The stand-out track on the EP "Icy Sleep," feature powerful vocals and a definite kick, a welcomed change from the other tracks recorded.

"Yellowbelly," is a newer track and change of pace for the band. One could describe it as a southern rock melody that likens to an old Petty arrangement, but with a modern twist, and Mixson's melodic voice.

Perhaps the catchiest cut on the recording is "New Junk," with the chorus line: "I'm alone right in your car/Drive my heart down in the dark/ Shut my eyes and wait for dawn," and a toe-tapping rhythm to boot.

In the final track, the bands creative versatility and musical proficiency show in the mellow love song "City Life."

Trip The Light is an accurate representation of where Melba Toast is heading—and the destination is definitely not bland or tasteless.

Produced by John Kent
Engineered by John Kent and Randy Fuller at the Vault Studio, Celeste, TX
Mastered by Jerry Tubbs at Terra Nova

LIVE

Blues Traveler



John Popper, vocalist and harmonica player for Blues Traveler sings the hit "Run Around" during a performance at the Jump, Jive and Jam Festival in Texarkana on Saturday, April 29. The Texarkana Regional Arts and Humanities Council has hosted the event annually for six years.

JOEY DEAN/
The East Texan

Artist: Blues Traveler and Jawbone
Venue: Jump, Jive and Jam Festival
Date: April 29, 2007



By Joey Dean
Editor-in-Chief

TEXARKANA — Those in attendance Saturday at Texarkana's Jump, Jive and Jam Festival, did not get the "run-around," and were treated to an evening of blues infused good times that will not be forgotten.

Before the nights festivities, there were a multitude of art exhibits, events and a burger competition to warm up many in attendance.

And that was just for starters.

Kicking off the evening's bill was Texarkana's own Jawbone, setting the tone with plenty of power and enthusiasm to match the already amped crowd. From Led Zeppelin and B-52 covers to original songs, the band was solid throughout their set, and provided a nice compliment to what was to come from the headliner, Blues Traveler.

Blues Traveler took the stage to a standing ovation from the anxious crowd. Vocalist and harmonica player, John Popper, wearing his traditional black hat, took to the stage with commanding fervor with the rest of the band following closely. At one point early in the set, the jam blues-rock fusion band, played for what felt like an eternity of funky guitar riffs and psychodelic melodies, entrancing concert-goers.

Blues Traveler may not be churning out the Grammy-nominated hits of the '90s but I would have "coffee and tea" with them any day.

PLAYHOUSE REVIEW

Minimalistic production soars in spirit

Play: "Our Town"
Written by: Thornton Wilder
Director: Jim Tyler Anderson
Lead Cast: Quincy Johnson II, Rachel Joseph, Chris Martinez, Lacy Lynch, Rob McWhorter, Katie Townsend and Matt Plummer.

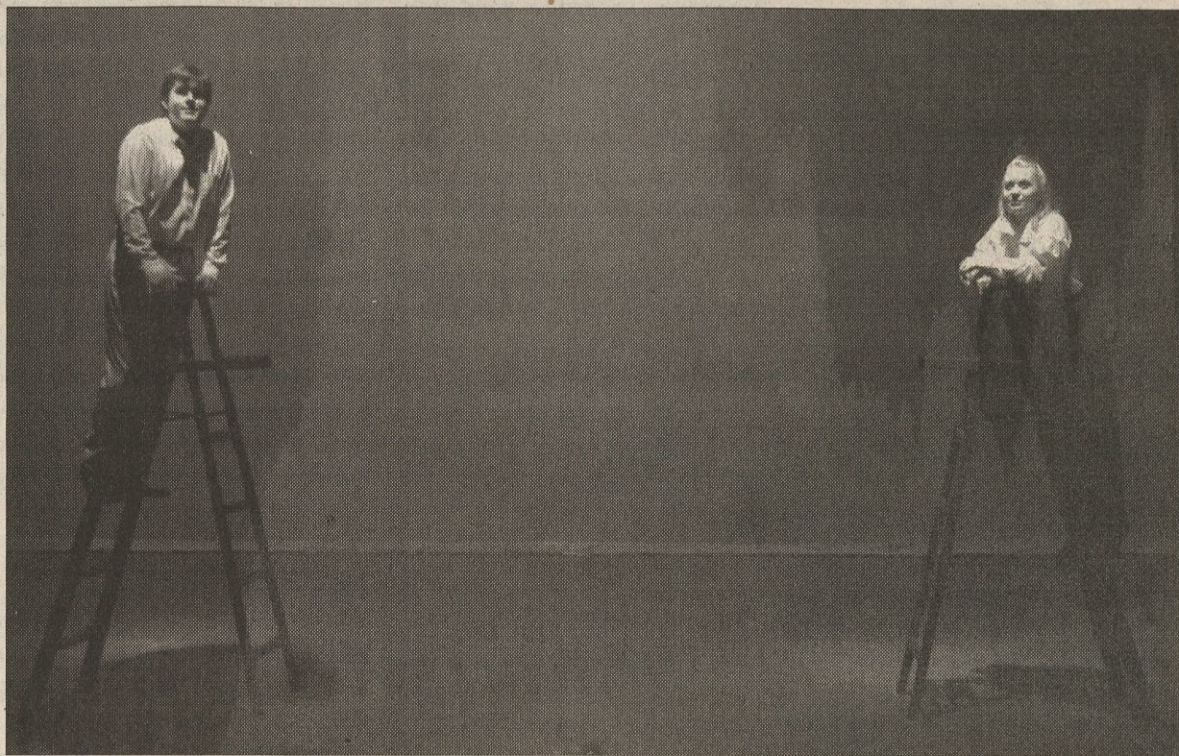
By Joey Dean
Editor-in-Chief

Editor's note: The following production was reviewed on Wednesday, April 25 in the Performing Arts Center.

In "Our Town", the University Playhouse gets away from the norm, taking a minimalist approach in the classic Thornton Wilder production. Although, the approach is intended by the playwright, the cast and crew delivered with a well executed performance on this night.

Rachel Joseph stood out amongst her peers, playing the role of Webb's daughter, Emily. Exchanges between her and Gibbs' son, George, played by Chris Martinez, were the strongest and brought the sense of what it is like to be in love for the first time. Joseph committed to the role and it shows throughout "Our Town" in scenes with her mother and father, played by Katie Townsend and Matt Plummer.

Martinez, brought a sense of teenage angst, with his character, George. One is reminded of the naive teenagers we once were when watching Martinez execute this role. Troubling was the relationship between he and his father, played by Rob McWhorter. A sense of awkwardness and lack of chemistry at times was felt between a close bond of father and son. Although, McWhorter did have come-



COURTESY PHOTO/The East Texan

A&M-Commerce students Chris Martinez (left) and Rachel Joseph on the ladders ponder life in this scene from the University Playhouse production of "Our Town."

dic one-liners that loosened up the mood.

Wilder uses a narrator character, which he calls the stage manager, played by Quincy Johnson II.

At first, it is difficult to get acclimated to the stage manager and the action around the character is a bit slow. But as time goes on, a personal relationship builds and by the end of the play it is as though you have known him your whole life. Johnson accomplishes this with a soothing, informal voice and eye contact with the audience, bringing a sense of comfort and familiarity—like one should feel in a small town. Johnson excels in a role that makes or breaks the production.

Lacy Lynch, Gibbs' wife, Plummer and Townsend, all played their parts with strong conviction. Plummer provided much needed comedy relief, while Lynch and Townsend sold their roles as the Wonder Woman housewives of Grover's Corners. Anderson couldn't have picked two better actresses for the job.

In the final scene, there was an eerie twist and Joseph's interaction with the characters was powerful and symbolic. Not to mention, it taps into one's heart.

The sound effects team and live music composed, brought a sense of realism to the production. Minor problems arose in synchronization but were easily overlooked. Set

changes were smooth and relaxed, especially since the stage manager would direct attention away while the few benches, chairs, and trellises used were moved.

Lighting was a little dark at times but overall solid. The design in the Act I choir scene was superb.

Overall, the play was a delight to watch. Director Jim Tyler Anderson follows through with Wilder's vision and brings a meaningful play to our town that has stood the test of time.

To quote Matthew Brodrick in the '80's movie Ferris Bueller, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in awhile, you could miss it."

This play makes you realize why.

An interpretation of Wilder's 'Our Town'

By Kerry Karrafa
Special Contributor

We are the center of our own universe. We march through life with one foot in front of the other with our eyes aimed firmly towards the dirt. We walk day after day in pursuit of something that will ultimately end the numbing monotony of one perceived struggle after another. Few will find a way out.

We have an undeniable tendency to hope for tomorrow because today just isn't good enough and ignore the suffering of others because caring was never convenient. Our world in a shell is fast food and gray skies, credit card debt and another failed attempt at love. In *Our Town*, Wilder analyzes the taken for granted aspects of life by showing us the intimate relationships within Grover's Corners, small town USA.

The play's simplistic presentation and natural division suggests that life follows a distinctive and unavoidable path. We live, we love and we die, however the quality of our life is dependent on how we choose to interpret both the calamities and every moment of dullness.

Throughout the play, Wilder stresses society's predisposition towards narrow-mindedness, ritualism, and apathy. For the most part, the citizens of Grover's Corners are content with their tiny

section of the universe, favoring ignorance as a means of stability.

Dr. Gibbs refuses to travel, despite his wife's desire to see the world, and George Gibbs decides not to go away to college because he fears he will meet new people and lose interest in his old friends. They are the center of their universe, maintaining a sense of order through isolationism. As far as Dr. Gibbs and his son are concerned, the world does not exist outside of Grover's Corners.

Furthermore, the play suggests that ritualism is prevalent in American life through normal everyday interactions. Every morning, the paper boy delivers the paper, the women cook breakfast for their families, husbands leave for work, and children rush to school. It is fast-paced and chaotic but it is also consistent and predictable. Ritualism and consistency seems to support apathy as well. Simon Stimson, the church organist, is dismissed as a drunk over and over again. The church members and community alike pardon his behavior because he has "seen a lot," while doing nothing to alleviate his pain. Over the years, his lethargy and depression engrained themselves into his persona and became status quo.

When he eventually took his own life, perhaps no one seemed to care. Wilder makes a bold suggestion that humanity is ultimately selfish and cold when caring threatens to upset the regularity

of life. Narrow-mindedness, ritualism, and apathy act as insulating forces to get one through the day and on the path to a better, brighter tomorrow that some may never see.

Perhaps the strongest theme in *Our Town* relates to the old cliché, "You don't know what you've got till it's gone." *Our Town* is a call for action and a challenge to appreciate the little things in life. Will you settle for the monotony and the subtle warmth afforded by ignorance, ritualism, and apathy, or will you learn to sense the beauty in simplicity and the inherent stability in chaos? You may choose to look upon a grayscale world with pessimism and cynicism, or you may see the world in true color as the saints and poets do.

The suggestions offered by Wilder aren't antiquated by any means. The power behind this play lies in its relevance to modern life. Emily Webb is a metaphor for every young girl who refuses to march with her eyes gazing blankly into the dirt. Simon Stimson is the emo kid that killed himself in his high school bathroom because no one would listen. "You don't know what you've got till it's gone." It's cliché but it's true. Wake up and look around.

Maybe you are a poet.

Karrafa is a freshman criminal justice major at A&M-Commerce.

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Recycling pays off for Commerce resident

By Shauna Banks
Editorial Assistant

As he walks across the parking lot following a long day of track and field events, it takes him hardly any time at all to fill the bags he carries with the cans that litter the ground as far as the eye can see.

After just 11 weeks on the task, undergraduate Daniel Hartman has managed to collect 13,000 cans on and off campus, equaling 419 pounds of aluminum now ready to be recycled.

Hartman is currently working on a proposal with the cooperation of Dr. Haydn Fox in of the science

department to create a credit bearing independent study, expanding his recycling efforts into the Fall 2007 semester.

The study will include power point presentations, e-mail campaigns, a Web site, posters and other promotional materials.

"There has been much positive response from faculty and staff with talking about the program, as well as fraternities and general community members, some of who are already saving and donating cans, paper materials and other items," Hartman said.

Recently gaining the support of the Alpha Kappa Order, Hartman

hopes to give some initiative for other organizations on campus to participate by making it possible for them to receive community service credit for their efforts.

"I am hoping that this project will inspire the university, students and the general community to increase their reduction, reuse and recycling efforts," Hartman said.

Since Commerce alone dumps 550 tons of waste per day in the landfill south of town, Hartman feels that his proposed program will play a key role in how recycling is viewed in the future.

"Much of this waste could be recycled with little effort, thus saving valuable resources, land space, and in turn saving energy, and in turn keeping the air and water cleaner," Hartman said.

Having already gotten the support of the University Police Department, Hartman plans to visit local businesses and places around Commerce to leave containers to place cans in for recycling, to be picked up once or twice a week.

"I have to be very diligent to keep [these containers] clean, because if they stay very long, they start to get smelly and can draw bugs," Hartman said.

Although it will not profit him a great deal financially, Hartman has also taken the time to estab-

lish a relationship with the campus print shop in order to increase the amount of paper recycled.

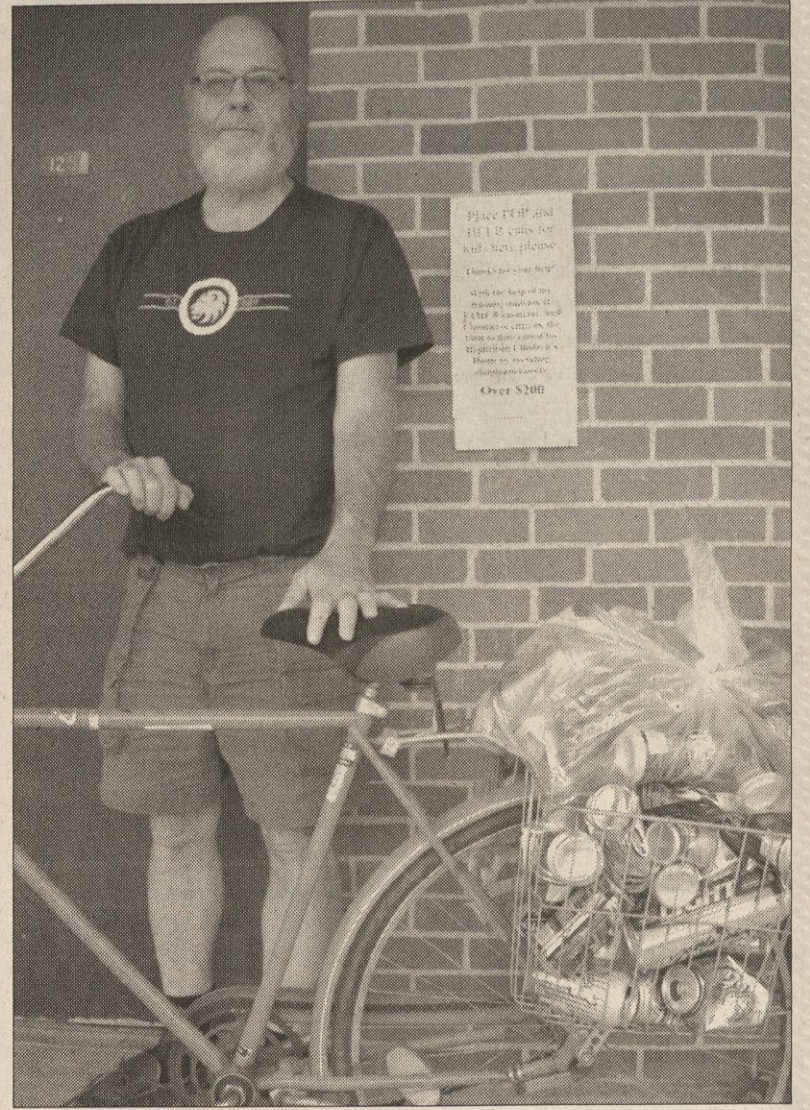
"That's a major part of the recycling thing, is to build relationships with the people you are working with," Harman said. "The idea of paper is not going to be so much of a profit idea, but I've kept a ton of paper out of the landfill, and I've also kept a ton of paper from having to be manufactured from scratch and saving those trees."

To date, Hartman has raised \$292.64 from just the aluminum cans he's collected, and has donated all of it to Hephzibah Children's Home in Macon, Ga., a home for over 200 at risk children.

So far, Hartman has been able to get several citizens, as well as some faculty to help in his efforts and donate their cans to be recycled.

In the long run, he would like to help the citizens of Commerce by educating and inspiring them to stop wasting.

"If I do this study and recycle as much as I can and get as many people as I can on my own cooperating, I can show that this much can be recycled and how much they can benefit," Hartman said. "I want to recycle as much as I can and show what can be done to inspire [the University] to do a better job."



COURTESY PHOTO/The East Texan

A&M-Commerce student, Daniel Hartman takes care of the environment, while making cash on the side. To date Hartman has made \$292.64 just by recycling aluminum cans.



COURTESY PHOTO/The East Texan

The Commerce landfill is now expanding due to the volume of trash that the city of Commerce provides.

Psychology professor helps citizens with special needs

By Sarah Babb
Staff Writer

At every twist and turn of a college campus there are people that inspire growth within the community and strive to do their best while juggling a family and a job at the same time.

"My life consists of my friends, my family, my job and working with the Association for Retarded Citizens," Harry Fullwood, professor of psychology said.

Fullwood has been a professor at Texas A&M-Commerce since 1968 and been working with the Association for Retarded Citizens (Arc).

"I have been training teachers to work with individuals with special needs since 1966," Fullwood said. "There are different levels of mental disability, but my interest is in adult disabled individuals."

The Association for Retarded Citizens is located in Hunt County in Greenville.

They do not have an official office currently, but the home office at the state level is in Austin.

"The largest and most effective office is in Dallas, Texas," Fullwood said.

The Arc is a group known for working with the mentally disabled.

"The individuals being helped are developmentally disabled and have depressed in mental ability such as speech, language, intellect and social abilities, but they can be successful in the community," Fullwood said.

In order to help the individuals they work with develop a roll within the community, the Arc provides an array of job opportunities, including positions at Brookshire's and Wal-Mart.

"Every year we have a Christmas party and Halloween dance, and we try to get out in the community and do activities like go to the library or the park," Fullwood said

Depending on a person's level of disability, they have many daily activities to choose from.

"They can write letters, prepare meals, play games and pay bills. Some even get married," Fullwood said.

The Arc is principally interested in people's lives, how well they are accepted in the community and finding them employment and sheltered living.

Sheltered living usually refers to a Texas

Intermediate Care Facility, also called a group home.

There can be up to eight individuals living in a home.

The normal routine is breakfast, chores and then to either work or attend a day care center, depending on the disability level of the person.

The best-case scenario for an individual with mental disabilities is to live semi-independently, but still be somewhat supervised because they are not able to travel alone or drive a car.

The Arc also helps with problems that the mentally disabled have no control over, a major one being exploitation.

telling the person to back off, which proved to be effective in most cases.

The law would only be brought in if the individual's health, welfare or life was being threatened.

The Arc has yet to have the police brought into a situation, but has shown no reservations about doing so if the situation ever became severe enough.

One major goal of the Arc is to help entire families who have mental disabilities.

"If a parent moves into the community or births a child with a mental disability, the association provides parents with the information if the hospital does not," Fullwood said.

The organization also provides services to parents that help them understand what is going on with their loved one.

"We house sit for the parents so they can take the child with them and go do something fun and sometimes baby-sit the child so the parents can go do their own thing," Fullwood said.

Fullwood is chairperson of the information center, which offers literature to help

parents understand what is going on and to decipher the medical records.

The members of the Arc come from a range of parents to professionals.

Eighty percent of the members are parents of individuals with special needs. The remaining percent include professionals and people who care.

The members are all people who want to help and make sure that the people with mental disabilities feel wanted in the community, loved and appreciated.

The Arc is completely a voluntary organization and has a president, vice president, board of officers, a secretary and a treasurer.

Officers and office positions are filled by holding elections within the community group.

"The people who are involved are there for the knowledge of knowing that they are helping people who need help and are not looking for recognition," Fullwood said.

Anyone interested can get in contact with the Arc in Hunt County by contacting Teena Shipp at 903-455-6796 or by email at tshipp@arcocountycity.org.

"The people who are involved are there for the knowledge of knowing that they are helping people who need help and are not looking for recognition"

- Harry Fullwood,
Psychology Professor

"Years ago a person down the street from a group home was renting an individual in the home a broom or a hammer for \$3-5 per use," Fullwood said.

Exploitation was usually dealt with by

Master plan

Continued from Page 1

officials want to address noise and safety issues as well.

According to Brown, vehicular traffic and parking will be moved to the perimeter of the campus in an attempt to make the center a walking mall so students can traverse between classes without the worry of crossing busy streets. This will require the closing of roads and problems in trying to figure out where new parking will be.

Another aspect of the plan is creating an additional another entryway where Bickham's Florist used to be.

"As we limit how far you can go off of Highway 50, we need to provide another alternative way to get on and around campus," Brown said. "This is just another way to try to separate the vehicle traffic from the pedestrians."

A third element to the plan is where the Music Building will be placed after the old one comes down. It will most likely not be in the same spot, as the new build-

ing is significantly larger than the old, Brown said. University officials want it to have an effective entry appeal and ample parking for events. They want the Music Building to be the most environmentally sensitive building on campus in terms of construction, materials and placement.

Yet another element is the leveling of Hubble Hall. No plans have been outlined for the lot yet, although some school officials have suggested it be used in conjunction with the Morris Recreation Center as an intramural field due to its location.

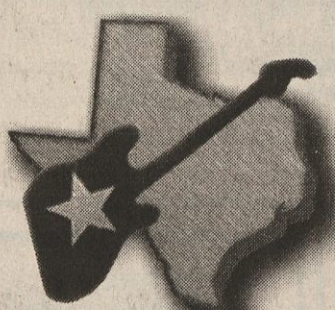
"We're trying to make the education buildings and the student center the hub of the campus and make as much of that accessible by foot or bike with minimum interference from vehicles," Brown said.

The old Master Plan helped accomplish some of the University's goals, but it's time for fresh ideas. These ideas will come in the form of a new plan that should be completed before the fall semester.

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ALBERT AND GAGE
THE ALEXANDER
BABOON
BEN ZEPHYR
BISHOPS ALLEY
BLACK TIE DYNASTY
BLACK HALO
DERAILERS
EMBODIMENT
FAIR TO MIDLAND
FLICKER STICK

OVER IT
FULL MOON
THALESSA
ENDLESSLY
STARGAZER
FORGOTTEN
SIGNS
SKY LINE
THE ONE BEFORE ME
K-9
BELTWAY
YOUNG

JON DEE GRAHAM
LITTLE NIKKI
L J TAYLOR
MONEY WATERS
MYRNA SANDERS
RAKOO NATION
RANDY ROGERS
RUFF STUFF
SEAN RASUL
SERVED WITH RICE
SPOON
TRIPPIN' DAISY

HOME
SAY GOOD BYE
FALL LIKE A STONE
MORE THAN LIFE
GOOD THANG
WHOYA WIT
AGAIN
DEAD ENDZ
BEAUTIFUL
BE WITH YOU
LINES IN THE SUIT
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NATIONAL LAMPOON SPORTS MINUTE ORSO

Written by Steve Hofstetter, Adam Hofstetter, Cody Marley, Ryan Murphy, Rich Ragains, Elliot Steingart, and Chris Strait.

(5/3/07) FSN Northwest will not renew a broadcast deal with the Portland Trail Blazers. The network has decided to move away from amateur athletics.

Speaking of amateur athletics, the Boston Celtics severed ties with guard Sebastian Telfair after he was arrested with a loaded gun in his car. Too bad - Telfair was the only shooter on the team.

Lenny Wilkens has been promoted from vice chairman to president of the Seattle SuperSonics. Apparently, he was the fifth caller. Congratulations, Lenny - that's the equivalent of being promoted from 1st mate to captain on the Titanic.

In baseball, Milwaukee Brewers manager Ned Yost broke his collarbone while jogging. Thousands of midwestern sports fans plan on using the incident as an excuse to work out even less. A Brewer collapsing. Wow - is it July already?

Deceased running back Damien Nash's brain has been donated to science. What a blow to Pacman Jones, who has been waiting for a brain for some time now.

Parry O'Brien, the 3-time Olympic shot putter who founded the spinning technique, died at age 75. His last words were, "UUUGGGH-HHH!!!" His ashes were spread at sea, precisely 75.3 meters from the boat.

And a man in jail for the last 25 years became the nation's 200th inmate to be set free because of DNA evidence. Also this week, O.J. Simpson had a great round of golf.

(4/30/07) This week marked the beginning of the NBA playoffs. Or as the Hawks call it: vacation time.

Elsewhere in basketball, Upper Deck Authenticated's new Kobe Bryant action figure is so realistic you can't even get the ball out of his hands.

Fox featured San Diego State alumni Mark Grace, Jeanne Zelasko and Kevin Kennedy on the same program. We're not sure what's stranger; the fact that all three broadcasters attended the same school or the fact that three San Diego State grads actually managed to find jobs.

Texas Rangers closer Eric Gagne is back on the disabled list, upsetting the one fantasy owner who picked up Eric Gagne. Gagne blames his newest injury on the rehab work he did at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Cubs broadcaster Ron Santo is in the hospital while undergoing tests for an irregular heartbeat. What brought on the palpitations? Following the Cubs.

Detroit Tigers first baseman Sean Casey flew home recently to find his car up on cinder blocks with the windows smashed in. Authorities have ruled out Manny Ramirez, who is incapable of hitting anything.

Justin Timberlake announced that he'd like to play professional golf. Joey Fatone is excited, as he was looking for a new job caddy.

And the Indianapolis Colts visited the White House. President Bush was happy for the change of pace - meeting an offensive line instead of ut-

For more of the Sports Minute (Or So), visit minuteorso.com

Winners and losers on draft day

Well folks, here are the big winners in the NFL Draft, held Saturday and Sunday in New York City.

Starting with our Dallas Cowboys, the organization is making strides to becoming the Doomsday D of the '70s. They made a good first round selection, but not great, in selecting Purdue University's Anthony Spencer at the defensive end position.



Steve Shwartz Sports Columnist

Spencer is very quick and closes well once he turns the corner, so he should make an immediate impact rushing the passer. He's big and tough enough to develop into an effective run stopper.

However, he may not be athletic enough to develop into an every-down outside linebacker. Wade Phillips, the Cowboys new coach should help Spencer develop into a very good defensive end such as he did for Shawne Merriman in San Diego. Defense, after all is Phillip's specialty. That's why Jerry Jones, the Cowboys owner, wanted Phillips to be the new head coach. Other notable picks were offensive linemen Doug Free and James Marten, two picks that could be the start of a solid line for years to come. Not to mention they picked up Cleveland's first round pick next year.

The rest of the teams in the NFC East made the Cowboys look like geniuses with their lackluster picks.

Washington, known for building a team with free agency, took another step down by taking a non-necessity LaRon Landry of LSU. He's good but will not fit into the scheme of the Redskins defenses, with the

same kind of player in Sean Taylor.

New York was the best of the division, taking Aaron Ross, the dynamic cornerback from Texas. Also, in the mix were WR Steve Smith and TE Kevin Boss as solid second round picks.

Philadelphia was below average, taking Houston quarterback Kevin Kolb as insurance for Donovan McNabb and essentially giving Dallas the 26th overall pick. Notre Dame end Victor Abiamiri was a gamble and may prove to be a bust, based on his combine workouts.

Oakland's Raiders would appear to be a big winner in taking LSU quarterback JeMarcus Russell. Russell can throw a football 80 yards on the fly and his speed will give opposing defenses fits. Just like Vince Young of Tennessee does.

Minnesota's Vikings appeared to score a big win in getting Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson. But this was a big risk, because Peterson has been prone to injuries during his college career at Oklahoma.

If Peterson can stay healthy, than the Vikings will have their running back situation set for the next ten years. If not, than Minnesota's owner will certainly be second-guessed.

Atlanta's Falcons and Miami's Dolphins appeared to better their teams with the selections of Jamaal Anderson, defensive end from Arkansas, and Ted Ginn Jr., wide receiver from Ohio State, respectively. Atlanta, in selecting Anderson, gets a relentless pass-rusher who has good closing speed and can deliver the big hits to the opposing team's quarterback.

Miami, in getting Ted Ginn Jr. from Ohio State, gets a playmaker with blazing speed in the wide receiver posi-

tion. He can go the distance every time he touches the ball whether it's on kick returns or catching the ball on offense. However Ginn Jr. will need to work on his pass routes because he ran just three routes at Ohio State. For that reason there are no guarantees that he will develop into a quality No.2 receiver. Miami, of course, thinks he will. But some of the Dolphin fans were hoping the Dolphins would draft Brady Quinn, Notre Dame quarterback, instead of Ginn Jr.

Speaking of Brady Quinn, the Cleveland Browns selected Quinn as their quarterback of the future, with the Number 22 selection in Saturday's first round of the NFL draft. The Browns also selected Joe Thomas offensive tackle from Wisconsin with the Number 3 selection in the first round of the draft. Cleveland was definitely a big winner in the NFL draft. But it may not show for three or four years.

Now for the questionable calls of the NFL draft, the Houston Texans, at Number 10 selection, selected Louisville's Amobi Okoye, a defensive tackle. With the Texans history of failed drafts in the past, one has to wonder if this pick will turn out to be anything major. I'm still trying to figure out why they picked Mario Williams last year instead of Reggie Bush or Vince Young.

The biggest questionable call is New England picking up wide receiver Randy Moss. Moss is 30 years old and still is capable of having spectacular games when sets his mind to it or comes to play. But just like Terrell Owens in Dallas, you never know when Moss is going to come to play football or just showoff. Moss could be just what the Patriots need to get back to the Super Bowl or he could just cause distractions for the Patriots. Things should be very interesting in New England this year.

Conley announces fall football schedule

Special to The East Texan

Last week, Texas A&M University-Commerce head football coach Scotty Conley announced the 2007 schedule. The schedule begins with six-straight evening contests before closing out the regular season with five-consecutive 2 p.m. Kickoffs.

"Our 2007 schedule should be very challenging and exciting with 11 quality Division II opponents. Pitt State gives us an opportunity to play a regional game against the most winning program in Division II history and that will help us in our preparations for the Lone Star Conference. Our home opener against Ouachita Baptist from the Gulf South Conference will be the first game in a four-year series between the Tigers and us. The Lone Star Conference will continue its tradition of being a very talented and competitive league in 2007," said Conley.

Texas A&M-Commerce will be one of the first teams to take to the field in 2007 when they open the season at Pittsburg State (Kansas) of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) on Aug. 25 at 7 p.m.

The matchup between the Lions and the Gorillas will be the seventh meeting all-time. After opening on the road against Pittsburg State, the Lions will first play at Memorial Stadium in 2007 against Gulf South Conference member Ouachita Baptist on Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. The Lions last played both teams in 1999.

After the contests against Pittsburg State and Ouachita Baptist, the remainder of the schedule includes teams from the Lone Star

Conference, including five from the LSC North Division. Next, the Lions will face Texas A&M-Kingsville for its second-straight home game at 7 p.m. on Sept. 8.

After hosting Texas A&M-Kingsville, Texas A&M-Commerce will be on the road for a pair of LSC crossover games against West Texas A&M (Sept. 15, 6 pm) and Tarleton State (Sept. 22, 7 p.m.).

The Lions lead the all-time series against both teams, holding a 13-9 advantage over West Texas A&M and a 9-7 mark over Tarleton State.

The Lions will host Central Oklahoma on September 29th for its final 7 p.m. kickoff of the season. A&M-Commerce holds a 13-9 advantage in the series history against the Bronchos.

After a 2 p.m. kickoff at Southeastern Oklahoma in Durant, Okla. on Oct. 6th, the Lions will host its final two home games of the season in back-to-back weeks.

On Oct. 13, Texas A&M-Commerce will host Northeastern State. The Lions hold a 4-2 advantage in six contests against NSU. On Oct. 20, the Lions will host Angelo State in the home finale at 2 p.m.

The Rams and the Lions have played 36 times and every year since the series debut in 1970, except in 2005.

Texas A&M-Commerce will close out the season with road games at East Central (Oct. 27) and Southwestern Oklahoma State (Nov. 10). Both games will start at 2 pm. The Lions will have their lone bye week on Nov. 3rd between these two games.

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
08/25/07	at Pittsburg State	7 p.m.
09/01/07	vs. <i>Ouachita Baptist</i>	7 p.m.
09/08/07	vs. <i>Texas A&M - Kingsville</i>	7 p.m.
09/15/07	at West Texas A&M	6 p.m.
09/22/07	at Tarleton State	7 p.m.
09/29/07	vs. <i>Central Oklahoma</i>	7 p.m.
10/06/07	at Southeastern Oklahoma	2 p.m.
10/13/07	vs. <i>Northeastern Oklahoma</i>	2 p.m.
10/20/07	vs. <i>Angelo State</i>	2 p.m.
10/27/07	at East Central	2 p.m.
11/10/07	at Southwestern Oklahoma	2 p.m.
11/17/07	NCAA First Round	TBA
11/24/07	NCAA Second Round	TBA
12/01/07	NCAA Quarterfinals	TBA
12/08/07	NCAA Semifinals	TBA
12/15/07	NCAA Championship	TBA

* bold italic denotes home games

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A&M-Commerce football and basketball is returning to KETR.

Details this fall when you are invited to visit KETR's new home at Binnion Hall.

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ON THE PROWL

Lion thrower Larry Gilbert notches Player of the Week honor

Texas A&M-Commerce senior Larry Gilbert was named the LSC Men's Field Athlete of the Week on Thursday, after his performance at the TCU Invitational on Saturday, April 21.

Gilbert recorded an NCAA provisional mark in the discus, with a throw of 164'11" (50.27m). The mark for the Bryan, Texas native eclipsed his season-best mark by five feet en route to a second place finish in the event.

Gilbert also was fourth-place in the shot put with a throw of 50-10 1/4 (15.50m).

His discus throw is the 10th best mark in the NCAA Division II this season.

-Sports Information

Men's golf qualifies for NCAA Super Regions

The Texas A&M University-Commerce men's golf team received an invitation, on Friday, to compete in the South/South Central Super Regional to be held at Robert Trent Jones at the Shoals in Florence, Ala. on May 7-9.

The Lions earned the eighth and final seed in the South Central region to become one of the eighty teams participating in the NCAA Super Regionals. The South/South Central region is comprised of the top-8 teams from each region and the top-5 individuals not with a team.

A&M-Commerce enters the super regional after finishing in a tie for third place in the Lone Star Conference Men's Golf Championship held on April 16-17. Sophomore Blake Worden garnered All-Tournament team honors for the second consecutive year and paced the Lions with a fifth place finish.

The team is comprised of Worden, senior Andy Carter, junior Pinkey Hartline, freshman Chase Johnson, and freshman Brian Pearce.

The Lions are making their first super regional appearance, as a team, since 2001. Worden qualified as an individual last season and placed 10th in the South Central Region.

The top team from each region within the super regional and the top individual not with a team from each super regional (regardless of region) will advance to the finals May 22-25 at The Meadows in Alendale, Michigan.

-Sports Information

Mavs stay alive in first round of playoffs

I didn't see it coming and neither did you. The Dallas Mavericks getting pushed to the limit by the number eight seed Golden State Warriors and are now on the brink of elimination.

The Mavs were able to stay in it on Tuesday night with a 118-112 victory over the Warriors to push the series to a game 6 on Thursday at Golden State.

But it was supposed to be the other way around. The Mavs won a franchise best 67 games and had one of the best seasons of any team in NBA history.

Even though they did get swept in the three game series by the Warriors in the regular season, that shouldn't have meant anything. The Mavs were on a mission.

After last season collapse in the finals, it didn't seem like anything could be worse than that.

But with Dirk Nowitzki struggling and the Warriors just out-hustling and out-playing the Mavericks, a first round knockout now seems probable.

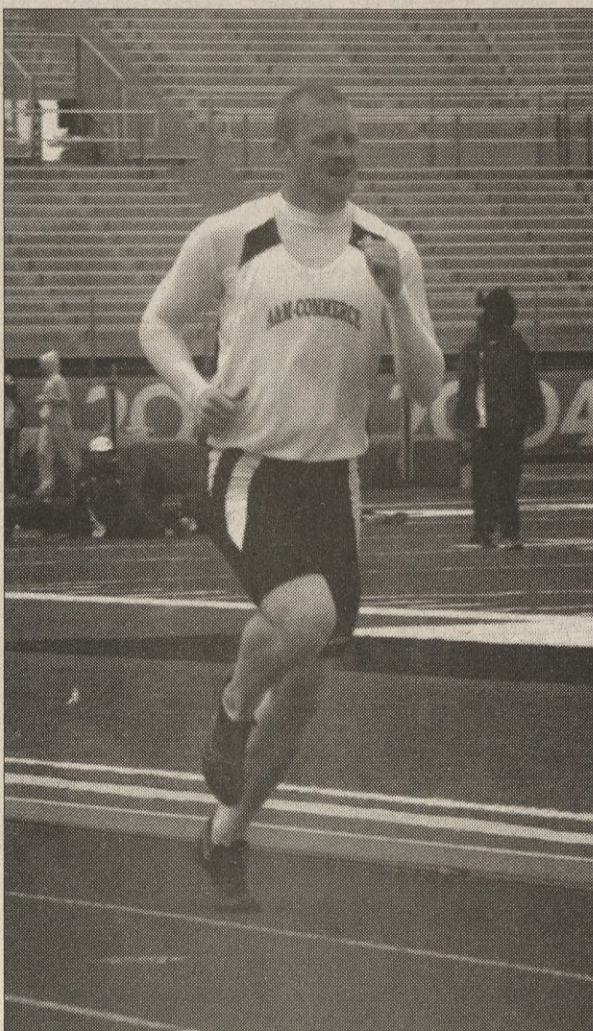
Don't think the Mavs are completely out of it, but if they don't step it up a notch, the outing could be more embarrassing than the finals loss.

-By Brent Lyday

E-mail sporting news at theeasttexan.com

Lions prepare for LSC meet

By Danial Dreiling
Staff Writer



SPORTS INFORMATION

Lion runner Lance Smith pushes to the finish line in a recent meet. Smith will be participating in the Lone Star Conference Championships this weekend May 4-6, at Memorial Stadium. Smith's top time in the 800m this season is 2:02.8.

The Texas A&M-Commerce track and field teams will host the Lone Star Conference Championship meet this weekend, May 4-6 at Memorial Stadium.

The Lions have had successful performances from many different student-athletes this spring and look forward to hosting other LSC member schools at the newly finished track.

Head Coach Rich Lawrence reflected on hosting the LSC meet, "I am glad they (other teams) get to come in and see the track. We have some things with the pole vault and long jump pits being side by side, some things that you don't normally see at a track. I am looking forward to having teams in and letting them see that. If we can build on the personal bests, or at least be consistent with them, when the conference meet comes, we can be competitive, at least within our own rights. We're not going to blow people away, but we hope to have some kids compete pretty well."

The Lions have seen great performances from a number of individuals during the spring, some of which will be participating in their last meet of their college career at the LSC meet.

Niki Williams has spent her four-year career at A&M-Commerce, running for both the cross-country and track & field teams. During the 2007 spring season, she has run in the 1500-meter run, 3000-meter run, 5000-meter run, and 3000-meter steeplechase. In the LSC, Williams ranks fifth in the 1500m (4:56.31), third in the 3000m run (10:57.64), fifth in the 3000m steeplechase (11:53.91), and third in the 5000m run (19:10.66).

Kara Bickel has also participated in cross-country as well as track & field, alongside Williams. Bickel has run in the 400-meter dash, 800-meter run, and one of the members of the 4x400-meter relay teams. Bickel leads the women's side in the 800m, where as her season best

was set at the Bobby Lane Invitational, with a time of 2:28.31.

Larry Gilbert has had a tremendous spring season so far, and provisionally qualified in the discus at the TCU Invitational in late April. His discus throw of 164'11" (50.27m) at TCU, places Gilbert as the second best thrower in the LSC. His top throw in the shot put of 51'1.75" (15.59m) places him at fourth. Gilbert's throw in the discus also ranks him tenth in all of Division II. Gilbert looks forward to the Lions hosting the LSC meet, and looks to be successful in his throwing events at the meet.

"I want to win both of them, I want to win shot put and discus, I want to qualify in shot put and I am going to work hard in practice, tried to work at it, get my technique down."

Lance Smith is also preparing to participate in his last LSC track meet of his college career this weekend. Smith has run in the 200-meter dash, 400m, 800m and has been one of the members of the 4x400 relay. Smith's top time in the 800 of 2:02.8 places him third among the Lions.

In only his first year of college, Robert Reed has been a strong performer for the Lions, as he has participated in the 800m, 1500m, 3000m, 5000m and 4x400 relay teams. Reed ranks fifth in the LSC in the 800 (1:57.29), and the 1500m (4:07.91), and he ranks first in the 3000m (9:12.08).

Kyle Thompson will not be at A&M-Commerce next season, as he will be entering a medical program for anesthesiology at UT Tyler. Thompson has participated in the 110-meter hurdles, 400-meter hurdles, high jump, 200-meter dash, and also was a member of the 4x400 relay teams. His top-time of 14.89 in the 110 hurdles, places Thompson seventh in the LSC.

Abilene Christian, Angelo State, Tarleton State, Eastern New Mexico State and A&M-Kingsville will be the five other teams joining the Lions at the LSC meet this weekend at Memorial Stadium.

ATHLETES TO WATCH THIS WEEKEND:



Name: Daniell Haynes
School: Texas A&M University - Kingsville
Classification: Senior

Lone Star Conference best result:

Haynes is currently the top women's triple jump champion in the LSC with a jump of 39-4, that she set on Feb. 24 at the Javelina Relays. Last season, Haynes was the LSC champ in the long jump.



Name: Jeff Pate
School: Tarleton State University
Classification: Soph.

Lone Star Conference best result:

Pate currently sits in second place behind teammate Rey Hinojosa in the 800-meters run in the LSC with a time of 1:55.94. Hinojosa is also a player to watch as he is first in the conference in that event with a time of 1:54.81



Name: Niki Williams
School: Texas A&M University-Commerce
Classification: Senior

Lone Star Conference best result:

Williams has been a top runner for the Lions for many years. This season in the LSC, Williams ranks fifth in the 1500m (4:56.31), third in the 3000m run (10:57.64), fifth in the 3000m steeplechase (11:53.91), and third in the 5000m run (19:10.66).

These athletes, however, are not the only ones to keep an eye out for. Abilene Christian University has many top runners and throwers that will be competing in this weekend's Lone Star Conference Championships.

ACU women currently lead the LSC in ten different events. On the men's side, ACU holds on to 12 top times and throws coming into the weekend.

Lion Robert Reed tops the list of runners in the 3000-meters run with a time of 9:12.08 set on April 14 at the UNT Classic.

Elite Eight celebrated Lions recognized for outstanding season



KYLE McPEEK/The East Texan

President Dr. Keith McFarland and women's head basketball coach Denny Downing exchange a basketball and pose for pictures during a celebration of the women's spectacular season. The basketball team signed the basketball and gave it to Dr. McFarland as a gift for the best season in team history.



KYLE McPEEK/The East Texan

Many fans huddle around the podium as Dr. McFarland, Mayor of the city of Commerce Sheryl Zelhart, head coach Denny Downing and senior guard Dawn Montgomery addressed the crowd. The players received plaques from Downing for their great season. Guard Kanani Marshal also received a plaque for being a part of the All-American squad. Hot dogs, chips and drinks were served for free at the celebration. Also, a fan signed up for a drawing and won a basketball goal.