Students urge to consider campus safety

By AMBER BATURA
Interim Assistant Editor

With a new semester, the campus hosts new students, new faculty, and new visitors. It is important to those who are just joining the UTPB family, as well as those who have been here for some time to be aware of their security and safety on campus.

The University Police Department works in conjunction with civilian personnel, non-commissioned security guards, as well as the surrounding local and state law enforcement agencies to guarantee the safety of those on the UTPB campus.

The police department hosts a variety of awareness and prevention programs developed to make the campus a safer, more secure environment. Operation Identification allows the students to engrave items of value with serial numbers or owner-recognized numbers and then catalog those items. If any students are interested in doing this, the tools are available for check-out at the Police Department Information Center located on the first floor of the Mesa Building in MB 100.

With the Safety Escort Program, an individual can request an escort to locations on campus any time during the day. The Escort Department is responsible for maintaining the safety of the students, faculty, and visitors on campus.

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Three UTPB students interned in Washington D.C. during the Fall 2009 semester through the Bill Archer Fellowship Program. Kelly Combs, Gaven Norris, and Josh Zuniga were three of 32 students chosen to move to Washington D.C. for an entire academic semester and intern with various departments and agencies while taking classes.

Kelly Combs interned with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and her staff along with three other students from different programs of the university. The interns divided up and split their time between departments within Hutchison’s office.

In the scheduling department, he took part in coordi- nating Hutchison’s D.C. schedule as well as her Texas schedule. While working in the mud department, which steals two full-time employees to handle the amount of corres- pondence Hutchison receives daily, Combs helped sort, organize, and dispense over 30,000 to 40,000 pieces of mail weekly. In the press depart- ment, he was required to track any mention of Senator Hutchison in the news as well as read 5 to 7 newspapers and magazines a day, collecting any articles that might interest Senator Hutchison. In addi- tion, he gained an overview of the legislative department’s activities by assisting with bill research and projects.

“I’ve never seen so many highly educated people who were willing to work so hard and so long for so little money,” Combs said. “But they love what they are doing, and they love their jobs. They are happy to be there.”

Not only did Combs work with Hutchison’s staff, he also had a front row seat to the healthcare debate. “To see the debate first hand, to watch it happen with your own eyes, you know that you were a witness to history,” Combs said. The internship was not the only requirement of the program. The students also attended classes during the week. On Monday night, the students attended Policy Making Process taught by Dr. Julie Donnelly; on Wednesday night, the course was Beyond Congress taught by Dr. Jolli Sverdlow, and three weekends throughout the semester, the students took Advocacy and Applied Settings with Dr. John Daly.

For one of the classes we had an ongoing research proj- ect at the Library of Congress that our professor used to help us hone our research skills,” Combs said. “It was a ‘who’s who’ moment having the largest and most publicly funded library in the world at my fingertips.”

There was more to do in the two terms the students spent in Washington D.C. than just work and class. Late one night, Combs and a friend decided to walk the three miles from their house to the Lincoln Memorial. Along the way, the two teens, the

Students leave mark on piece of UTPB history

By KRISTEN GIPSON
Editor-in-Chief

President Watts stands with UTPB students, faculty, and members of the public, as the heaviest beam in the Performing Arts Center is signed in a “topping off” ceremony on January 12, 2010.

Performing Arts building’s heaviest beam in the structure, weighing over 54,000 lbs and measuring 9 feet by 38 inches. Mike Slade, the beam available for signing is the largest and signatory. The “topping off” cere- mony is a UTPB tradition, the actual flying of the beam was postponed to Jan. 6, President Watts lauded the support of the members of the Founders’ Campaign, who helped make the construction possible. of the Performing Arts Center to be completed by Fall 2011.

On Tuesday, January 12, the University of Texas of the Performing Arts Center and faculty to put their names on a piece of UTPB his- tory. The “topping off” cere- mony is a UTPB tradition, although the actual flying of the beam was postponed to January 14 due to a broken track.

In a press release on Wed. Jan 6, President Watts lauded the support of the members of the Founders’ Campaign, who helped make the construction possible. Watts said in the press release, “We are delighted that construction has progressed to this point,” Watts said.

The beam available for signing is the largest and heaviest beam in the Performing Arts building’s structure, weighing over 54,000 lbs and measuring 9 feet by 38 inches. Mike Slade, the beam weighing over 54,000 lbs and measuring 9 feet by 38 inches. Mike Slade, the heaviest beam in the structure, weighing over 54,000 lbs and measuring 9 feet by 38 inches. Mike Slade, the

photo by Romey Elguezabal

The Mesa Journal is now hiring. Fill out an application today!

Students Return Triumphant: Part One

By AMBER BATURA
Interim Assistant Editor

The Book of Eli, Lovely Bones, Check out the Lost and Found to Your Way Yogurt, and more, find missing items, p.4

ONOPIN

A&E

COMMUNITY

Community Check out the Lost and Found to find missing items, p.4

President Watts stands with UTPB students, faculty, and members of the public, as the heaviest beam in the Performing Arts Center is signed in a “topping off” ceremony on January 12, 2010.

A&E

The Rock of Ellis, Lovely Bones, Your Way Yogurt, and more, p.3

The Mesa Journal is now hiring. Fill out an application today!
As a fairly technologically-savvy person, I like to think that I’m pretty smart about when and how I share my personal information. My current understanding is that I make sure that any time I use my card to pay for something, it is through a secure and trusted site. I don’t include my personal information in any emails or other documents. I don’t respond to those emails from “Tina Ali Khawar, who wishes nothing more than to make me the hero of a fortune; if only he could have my bank information. My pin number isn’t written down anywhere; on rare occasions, I have used my debit card other than me, and I still have to enter a pin number.

Safe, sound, and completely useless. A week ago, I became one of the 10 million Americans who have their identity stolen each year. Even though I had taken all the precautions and followed all the rules, somehow, somewhere, my information was stolen and my bank account was charged $2000 for Thai airline tickets. Sadly, the identity theft isn’t the worst part. Trying to clear up the damage, file the appropriate paperwork, and prosecute the perpetrator is a confusing and frustrating process for victims, and in my experience, it often leaves them feeling as though they’ve done something wrong. Filing numerous complaints and forms through multiple companies and agencies is only the beginning. It takes the average victim 130 hours to repair the damage from identity theft; for me, it can take up to 5,840 hours depending on the severity of the case (ITRC Aftermath Study, 2004).

Not only do the victims have to consume an inordinate amount of time to correct this damage, it also costs them money. According to the Javelin Strategy and Research 2009 Identity Fraud Survey Report, the average cost per victim is $845. They are required to identify their identity. In my experience, it often leaves them feeling as though they’ve done something wrong. Filing numerous complaints and forms through multiple companies and agencies is only the beginning. It takes the average victim 130 hours to repair the damage from identity theft; for me, it can take up to 5,840 hours depending on the severity of the case (ITRC Aftermath Study, 2004).

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The Screaming Fury of Imama Bullfight Fans as they Fight over Who Betcha Bickers the Vampire that Call them Other than Any other Ever

Love is...
The screaming fury of Imama Bullfight fans as they fight over who betcha vs the vampire that call them other than any other ever.

Lovely Bones stuns visually, but falls flat in other areas.

The Book of Eli

By SCOTT THOEN
Staff Writer

Director Peter Jackson brings to life The Lovely Bones to the big screen with breathtaking visuals and a heart-breaking story. The film is a work of art that will leave you breathless.

The Book of Eli

By MARK BLAIR
Staff Writer

Gary Oldman has the best performance in the film. He creates a very powerful character who can make you forget you ever saw him. The Hughes brothers created some very unique fight scenes that will definitely please any viewer seeking some bloodshed.

The Book of Eli

By SCOTT THOEN
Staff Writer

The Hughes brothers bring an entirely new type of character to the big screen. Oldman shows his ability to create an entirely different role. His character is not a villain who can make viewers forget he ever was. The Hughes brothers created some very unique fight scenes that will definitely please any viewer seeking some bloodshed.

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Falcons Speak: The Superbowl is coming up. Who are you rooting for?

Becky Gardner
Junior Comm.

"I don’t even know who’s playing."

Jazmin Sanchez
Senior
Psychology and Spanish

"I don’t know who they’re going to win, but they’re wearing white."

Stefen Murphy
Freshman
Information Systems

"Whoever wins the NFC Championship will win the Super Bowl."

Curtis Holmes
Freshman
Criminology

"I think the Saints are going to win, but they don't like the Vikings."

D.C. continued from p.1

Capitol, the Senate Building, the District of Columbia Courthouse, and other significant buildings. At last. At last, the last days of Lincoln Memorial at around 3 am."

"I arrived at around 6 am and was greeted by Combs. "And I stood there in silence and wondered if I would ever even try anything as grand as this."

"Combs is well on his way to doing great things. As a recipient of the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, this fall, Combs will begin studying in Morocco for a year while working on different service projects. He plans on returning to Washington D.C. for graduate work and eventually finding a job in the Foreign Service abroad."

"The most important thing I took away from Washington is that you are only limited by your own ideas and dreams." Combs said. "If you want something, you can achieve it. You can do anything as long as you don't limit yourself."" Review, continued from p.3

pops up on their heads which tell them something else but nothing more. When you press B at the bottom, the avatar will smash, slash and bash his enemies. Each enemy has his own way of getting hit, and this is how the game helps to make the repetitive battles a little more fun.

"It is a famously fun game that is a good pick for anyone who enjoys Donkey Kong Country 2."

Delegate wants to see things cleaned up. If you don’t use it, don’t worry about it. Once you beat the game, you can’t get a level back."

"It is a decently fun game that has a lot of levels that are more fun."

"It’s just Lincoln and you,“ Jazmin Sanchez, a Spanish senior from Plainview, said. “The most important thing I took away from Washington is that you are only limited by your own ideas and dreams.”

"You can do and be anything as great as him." Sanchez said. "The most important thing I took away from Washington is that you are only limited by your own ideas and dreams." Sanchez said. "If you want something, you can achieve it. You can do anything as long as you don’t limit yourself."