

THE DAILY TOREADOR

Black & Red

Tuesday, June 17, 2008
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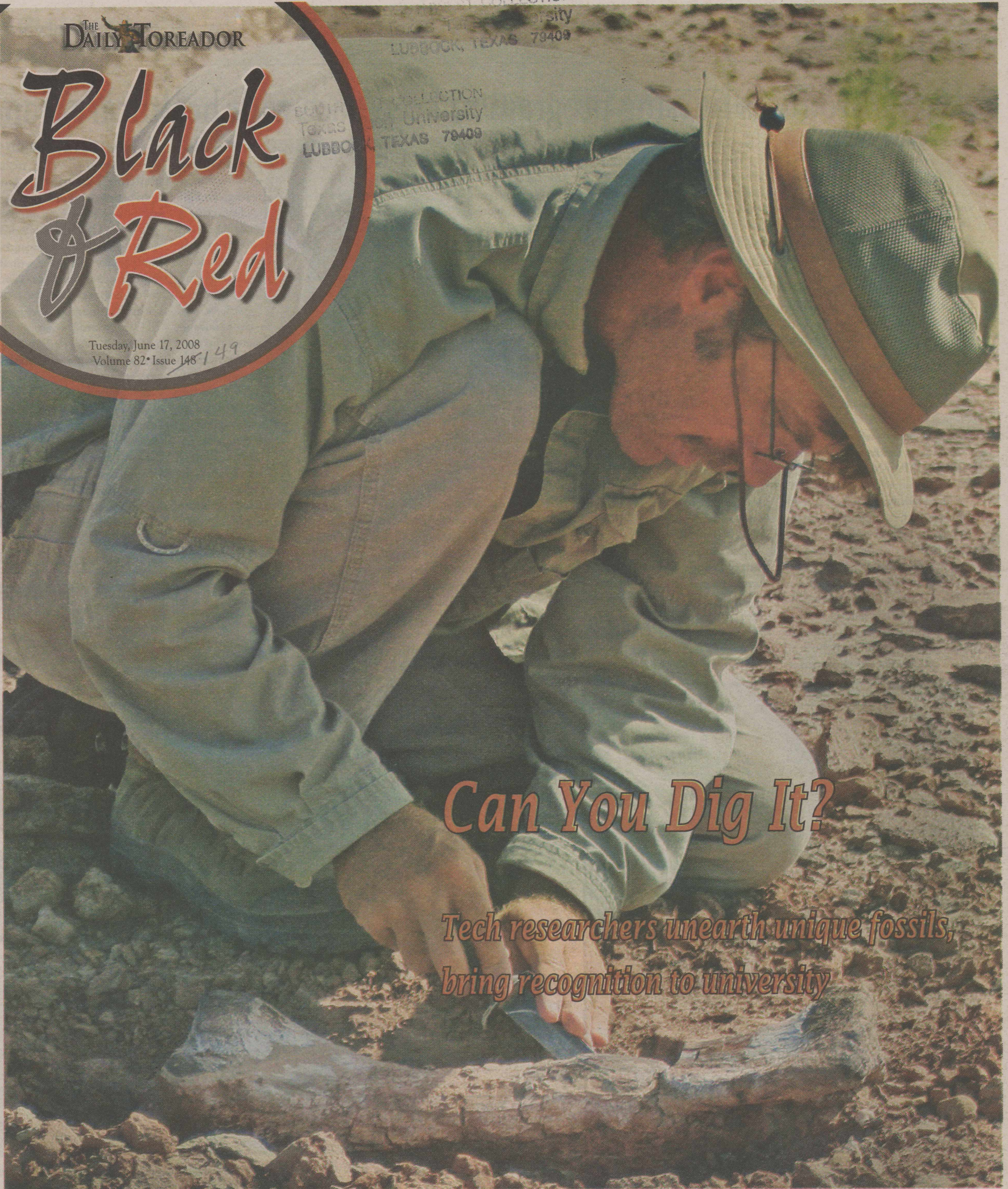
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Can You Dig It?

*Tech researchers unearth unique fossils,
bring recognition to university*



Tech introduces nursing program to keep pace with healthcare trends

BY MIA WALTERS
STAFF WRITER

Nursing is the fastest growing occupation in the country, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, and Texas Tech has made strides to take advantage of that statistic.

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center now offers a unique Doctorate of Nursing Practice and Post-Master Program (DNP) that has two specialty concentrations in order to further nurses' education. The new program began Thursday and consists of 48 credit hours to be finished in six semesters with a focus on Post-Masters Advanced Practice Nursing or Post-Masters Executive Leadership.

The DNP program is a level of education that enables practicing nurses to advance their careers. One concentration is for nurse practitioners to expand expertise in advanced practice, while the other is an executive program for nurses with master's degrees to expand leadership skills in administrative positions. Both of these concentrations allow nurses

to become teaching faculty in nursing schools at a time when nursing faculty is in high demand.

Every year, several hundred applications are received from undergraduates hoping to get into the TTUHSC nursing school. Of those applicants only 130 students were admitted this semester because of the lack of faculty positions.

"About half of our new students are nurse practitioners and the reason they are in the program is really because healthcare has become so much more complex," said Barbara Cherry, chair of the Department of Leadership Studies, "and it really provides them a doctoral level of education, which is needed in today's healthcare environment because of the complexity of care, managing chronic conditions - all those kinds of issues."

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Web site, in 2006, there were only 108 schools offering a doctoral program for nurses. Cherry said the DNP degree, offered through the TTUHSC, is one of four in Texas and the only program to offer the executive

leadership track.

Out of the 52 applicants for the inaugural DNP program, 20 nurses were accepted. The 20 accepted students are all practicing nurses - 17 women and three men. There are 10 nurses in each specialty program.

Cherry said she is excited about what this new program will accomplish for Tech's reputation.

"It really is putting Texas Tech on the map, as far as being the only program in the state that has the doctorate in executive leadership and one of the few in the country," she said. "There's not many nursing programs in the United States. There are a few, but not too many that have the doctorate in executive leadership."

Tech is one of the few schools to implement this program because officials recognized the need to have skilled nurses as leaders and they saw the need for that focus in the program, Cherry said.

Linda McMurry, clinical instructor in the TTUHSC's nursing school and Executive Director of Lubbock's Larry Combest Community Health and Wellness Center, said she is pleased to be one of 20 nurses accepted into the DNP program.

"I think the most exciting part is that it's a doctorate degree that actually helps us as nurses in the practice that we've chosen," said McMurry, who has been a nurse for 30 years. "It helps you grow and learn and become a better leader. It's so exciting to be in the inaugural class for something here at the Health Sciences Center."

She said she chose Tech's DNP program for a variety of reasons, but mostly because of the quality of the program.

"I do live here, convenience is one thing, but in looking at the curriculum - it is absolutely outstanding and it is just perfectly made for the job that I do," McMurry said. "Also, the flexibility of this program - it's really designed for someone who does have a full-time job. A lot of it is online

based, we come to the campus two or three times a semester so the rest of it is online, working directly with other students in groups."

Emily Merrill, department chair for nurse practitioner studies said Tech has been working on the DNP program for two years, and it was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in October.

She said there are a number of factors that impacted the need for a DNP degree to be offered at Tech. The complexity of healthcare, the need of the ever-growing aging population and the need for a systematic approach to solving some of the current healthcare problems in our country are a few reasons Tech recognized the urgency for this program.

"Nursing is such a tremendous profession," Merrill said. "It offers so many opportunities for people

to grow professionally. It gives them something that is such a gratifying profession in order to help people, and there are so many specialties and so many needs."

She said that the DNP program is going to draw attention to Tech because the doctorate will attract many people that already have much expertise in nursing to continue their education at the TTUHSC.

Merrill said this degree will appeal to people who already are experts and simply want more expertise in helping to solve some of the healthcare challenges the country currently is facing.

"All of these people are experts in their own field," she said. "They have been doing this a long time; they're not 20-year-old people. Most of them have had a number of years of nursing and they're experts."

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WEEKLY WEATHER

Today
Mostly Sunny
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Wednesday
Partly Cloudy
High 90/Low 66



Thursday
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Friday
Sunny
High 100/Low 69



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THE FRONT PAGE: Doug Cunningham digs at a paleontology site around Post.

University makes several summer renovations, upgrades residence halls

BY BRIDGET DE STEFANO
STAFF WRITER

Residence halls will receive a face lift this summer in an effort to modernize Texas Tech's campus.

A number of residence halls — including Bledsoe, Sneed, Carpenter/Wells, Hulen/Clement and Gates — already have begun to undergo what are both minor and major changes in aesthetics, energy efficiency and landscaping.

The largest project is installing air conditioners in Bledsoe, a project with an estimated \$3 million pricetag.

Bledsoe is the last non-air conditioned residence hall on campus. Sneed received air conditioning last year.

Sean Duggan, managing director of University Student Housing, said adding air conditioning will enable Tech to utilize Bledsoe during the summer.

Duggan said non-air conditioned residence halls were the most affordable housing option for students living on campus.

However, with the new addition to Bledsoe, he said, Tech will be getting rid of its alternative housing option.

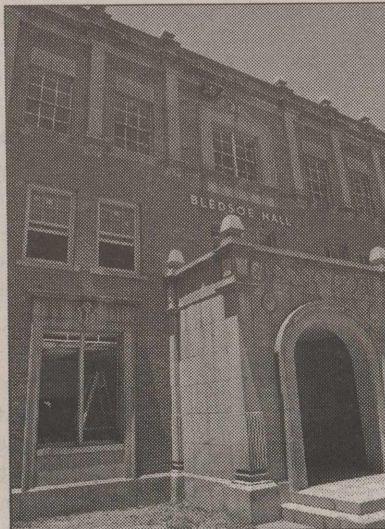
He said hot weather in West Texas has led Student Housing to make a change for the comfort of the students.

Bledsoe also will receive new windows, light fixtures and furniture to improve its overall look and the energy efficiency of the air conditioners.

Duggan said all of the planned projects are being funded by student money.

He said some of the money is borrowed and some is paid for at the time of planning and construction.

Jose Valenciano, manager of assignments and contracts, said the housing department listens to the students'



Coleman Morefield/The Daily Toreador
Bledsoe Hall is one of the residence halls on campus going through renovations.

recommendations and complaints as a forum for scheduling and prioritizing of projects.

"You can't renovate everything," he said. "We are very selective as to where we think we need the most attention and that's what we give the attention to."

Administrators are trying to make the best decisions, Duggan said, to meet the needs of present and future Tech students.

"We want students to feel like the money they pay to us is well spent to serve them," he said.

The commons building in Carpenter/Wells is being renovated into a student leadership center for all student

leadership groups to hold meetings.

The Sam's Place will be renovated into a study and meeting area. It will be repainted and will receive new wood-plank flooring.

Duggan said the 10-year-old building will receive half of the renovations this summer, with the rest of the renovations scheduled for completion next summer.

Additional landscaping improvements will be made to the front entrances of Sneed and Bledsoe.

Duggan said landscaping is vital to the look of Tech's campus, especially for noticeable residence halls.

"It's part of the historical core of the campus," said Duggan, "so we have a responsibility to maintain those buildings."

The Housing Department is undergoing renovations as well. The Welcome Center will be remodeled for more customer-friendly service for students.

Duggan said the department is a big part of the recruitment of students because of housing and its impact on incoming freshman.

The project will cost an estimated \$250,000.

The housing department also spent \$1 million to replace all of the light fixtures in the building with fluorescent light bulbs.

Duggan said fluorescent light bulbs provide better lighting, update the look of the rooms and keep the utilities down.

"We estimate that this project will pay for itself in four or five years," he said.

Duggan said he hopes to have an environmental educational campaign in the residence halls called "Red, Black and Green."

He said students moving in are much more in touch with issues of energy conservation, and he encourages students to demonstrate earth-friendly actions while living on campus.

Elevators in Hulen/Clement will be replaced soon. Gates will repair its elevators before December in order to meet the university elevator code. This project will cost about \$700,000.

Murray Hall is the only residence hall open for enrolled and non-enrolled summer school students. Students may still sign a contract to live in Murray during this summer.

Duggan said all other halls are used for conferences, orientations, camps, etc.

He hopes that students will find the renovations satisfying and will want to continue living on campus.

The recent tuition freeze allowed for Tech to be proactive in finding ways to cut corners and save students money, Valenciano said, while maintaining sufficient funds to perform this summer's maintenance.

"The bottom line is Texas Tech is taking care of their students," he said.

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Annual Pain Symposium brings experts from around the world

BY MATT COBB
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech University Health Science Center hosted the 25th Annual Pain Symposium last weekend in the Health Science Center.

A number of professionals in all fields of pain management came from around the world to learn new techniques in chronic and acute pain control, according to a Texas Tech news release. The goal of the symposium was to combine both scientific knowledge and clinical practice and to help professionals in the field learn more efficient techniques in pain management.

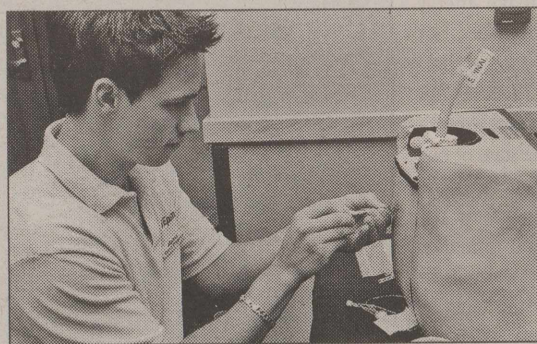
"We started this process 25 years ago because we felt we had something to say that is of practical importance to practicing physicians," said Dr. Gabor Racz, the Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Anesthesiology. "The information we have and we share is clinically relevant, and helps the doctors take better care of their patients."

At the symposium professionals spoke about common problems they have encountered, and the best ways to go about solving them, Racz said.

"As you take care of patients you realize

where the problems are," he said. "We just strive to fix the problems, and do it better every time."

Dr. B.J. Daneshfar, a specialist in anesthesiology and subspecialist in pain



Ruben Castillo/The Daily Toreador

Chad Diebold demonstrates a Epimed International product on a spinal injection simulator Saturday at the 25th annual pain symposium held at Texas Tech's Health Science Center.

management said the three-day symposium involved both lectures and cadaver workshops.

"First, someone would give a lecture on a new or improved technique in pain management," he said, "then they would demonstrate the technique on a cadaver."

The specialists that spoke at the symposium are some of the best in the field,

Daneshfar said. They tried to demonstrate to others better techniques they have discovered. This annual conference provides professionals in the field of pain management the opportunity to learn techniques

from some of the best doctors in the world.

"Every year they have this conference where the best doctors in the field take all of their best techniques and inform everyone," he said.

In addition to the lectures and cadaver workshops, there was

a commencement ceremony for the new International Pain Center, which is located at the northeastern corner of Tech's Health Science Center.

"Saturday is the commencement of this International Pain Center," Racz said, "which is the first one that is a university-based service center in the country."

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Time for bed: Americans need to reconsider priorities, get more sleep

Surprise, surprise: Americans aren't getting enough sleep. The National Institutes of Health recommend seven to eight hours of sleep per night, although some of us receive five to six hours of sleep or less on a regular basis.

The individuals that are getting less sleep may not feel that it is necessary, but not getting enough sleep can harm your health in diverse ways. You are more susceptible to gaining weight, developing depression and not being able to perform daily tasks that you once completed with ease.

Sure, it's a new era. The people of the United States are more educated, driven and talented than ever before. We might think sleep is just a waste of precious time, a road block to getting extra work finished.

If you feel as though sleep could cut into your daily schedule, you probably need to rethink your schedule and your priorities.

Our jobs, families and friends will always ask more from us, and a student

Jaclyn Thies



could always lend more time to studying and learning. But there comes a point where we need to stop whatever we're doing, and count on finishing or continuing a task tomorrow.

Falling asleep behind the wheel is now being compared to drunk-driving. My cousin's brother-in-law died from falling asleep while taking a routine drive. He didn't die from the irresponsibility of another driver; he died from the thinking that his body was capable of performing on less sleep than it actually required.

One of the problems associated with sleep is that it is just now being researched. We are still partially in the dark as to the benefits of sleep on our minds and bodies. However, this

shouldn't give us the opportunity to let ourselves take advantage of our bodies, pushing it to the outermost limits.

We need to find time to just relax and collect our thoughts for the following day. So much of what surrounds us begs for our attention. I know many of my peers who sleep with their cell phones right next to them. The outer world has become more important to us than our own happiness and well-being.

My phone has a handy button available. It's called the "silent" button. Not only am I able check missed calls or messages in the morning, but it also allows me the opportunity to sleep. Admittedly, I didn't used to do this, thinking I would miss an important call or miss out on other important news. After years of keep-

ing the sound on my phone going throughout the night, I soon realized how preposterous those thoughts were. I started to resent calls from my friends during the night, and looking back on the situation, I am sure they were less-than-delighted by my attitude upon being rudely awakened.

If your mind continues to run around various duties you have yet to fulfill at the end of the day, start writing in a planner to settle the thoughts. Write down what you still need to get done, and resolve the issues on the paper instead of letting them run around in your head. It's about putting mind over matter.

If it's your body that is restless, consider what could be leaving you unable to sleep. Avoid exercise, big meals, caffeine, and alcohol a few hours before bed. Give yourself half an hour to get settled and comfortable instead of plopping into bed, expecting to fall

asleep as soon as you hit the sheets. Being able to fall asleep too quickly is actually an indication that you have been depriving your body of sleep.

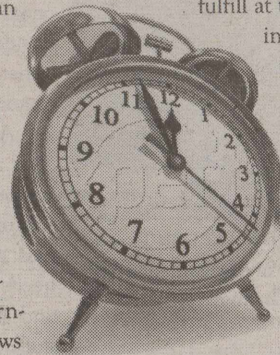
Ironically, some of us are unable to sleep because we dwell on the actual thought that we are unable to fall asleep. That might seem like a funny concept, but if that is an ailment of yours, take a few deep breaths and relax. Pick up the book again and read a few minutes until you feel drowsy.

If all else fails, consult a doctor. Sleeping pills are a short-term remedy to a lack of sleep, but aren't made to be used long-term and could actually lead to dependency.

Humans need sleep as much as we need food and shelter; it's a vital part to functioning correctly.

Be good to yourself, and get some shut eye tonight.

n Thies is a sophomore English major from Plano. E-mail her at jaclyn.thies@ttu.edu.



New 'green' schools bill should be vetoed

STAFF EDITORIAL
INDIANA DAILY STUDENT (INDIANA U.)

Kermit was right. Going green is difficult, and in the case of green schools, it's also expensive. The 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act represents Congress's latest effort to pump money into environmental-efficiency projects.

The bill, passed June 4 in the House by a vote of 250-164, would set aside more than \$20 billion over the next five years to help modernize existing schools and to start construction on new eco-friendly buildings. Indiana Rep. Baron Hill co-sponsored the bill, saying it would channel \$111 million dollars into Hoosier schools. The money would be used to help to eliminate crumbling schools, and it would offer a healthier, more energy-efficient place for thousands of teachers and students to work and play.

Even though the initiative seems like a win-win vote for the environment and education, Bush has threatened a veto, and we agree.

Don't get us wrong, we love the bill's sentiment: making the environment a priority through productive investment that could stimulate the economy. Great. Channeling money into needy public school systems. We couldn't agree more. But the thought of the government mandating how individual school systems should handle repairs has us shaking in our green, public-school-loving boots.

With caveats for Davis-Bacon "fair wages" and American steel, the bill panders to labor interests and traffics in feeble attempts to promote American companies that drive up the price of construction. In addition, by committing the federal government to supporting school maintenance into the future, the bill sets a precedent for federal involvement in local issues. By wetting its hands with public education - an issue that has historically been reserved for the states and localities - the bill makes a pronounced step toward more big government that makes us nervous.

Moreover, we have watched as good-

natured "No Child Left Behind" programs floundered under insufficient federal funding. If Congress really wants to invest in education, we say why not put that \$20 billion toward the existing programs that we all agree could use it?

Congress is right to make energy efficiency and education priorities, but we think The 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act leaves much to be desired. If we are to make strides toward improving the state of our education system and environment, federal interest and investment is paramount. Yet, the key is to earmark federal funds for general causes, not to bog down bills in provisions and details that tie the hands of local officials and drive up costs.

We think Congress should focus on the education initiatives it has already started before diving into expensive, string-laden bills. Congress is on the right track with this act. It just needs to let go and leave the fine-tuning up to the states and the local school boards. Until then, we're siding with Kermit.

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GUEST COLUMNS: *The Daily Toreador* accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 650 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community.

Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification and submittal.

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Tech researchers unearth unique fossils, bring recognition to university

BY MATT COBB
STAFF WRITER

People often find the dinosaur exhibit the highlight of Texas Tech's museum. What many are unaware of is a majority of the dinosaurs displayed there are unique to the region - that is, they were first unearthed in Lubbock's own backyard.

The paleontology department of the Museum of Texas Tech University has discovered several dozen prehistoric species at dig sites in the dinosaur-laden land around Post, Texas.

Sankar Chatterjee, the curator of paleontology at the Museum of Texas Tech, said unlike Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico, dinosaurs are not very abundant in Texas. The area around Post is just one of a few locations in the state that has a large cache of dinosaur remains, most of which come from the Triassic period.

"If you really want to look at the beginning of dinosaurs, you have to come to here," he said. "Post is really a cradle of the Triassic period."

Dinosaurs first came into existence during the Triassic era, which took place about 225 million years ago, he said. Over the years, people from all around the world have come to this part of the country to learn more about the birth of these species.

The museum's paleontology department already has named a dozen of these newly found species, he said.

One dinosaur, the Technosaurus, was named after Texas Tech. The Technosaurus was approximately six-feet in length, and was an herbivorous dinosaur. Another new non-dinosaur species found in the area was named after Post.

"We named one after the town Post," he said. "It's called Postosuchus. He was at the top of the food chain at the time. He was two or three times larger than the typical dinosaur. They were really the top predator."

Many of these discoveries have received worldwide recognition, he said. National Geographic sponsored the paleontology program for a number of years, and several documentaries have been filmed out on the dig sites.

"There's a very popular documentary by (British Broadcasting Corporation) called 'Walking With Dinosaurs,'" he said. "They featured the Postosuchus in it. The History Channel is also going to come out to Post to film soon."

All of the fieldwork that takes place is done on privately owned ranches in and around Post, said Bill Mueller, the collections manager for paleontology at the Museum of Texas Tech University. The ranchers often help the museum's staff find new localities to search.

"Everything is privately owned," he said. "The ranchers are extremely nice and very supportive. They are really careful about protecting our research and keeping quiet about what we're doing and where we're doing it."

Once bones and fossils are unearthed, they are brought back to the museum and catalogued, Mueller said. Everything that is found at dig sites is kept at the museum. Sometimes the museum will loan material to other researchers and institutions, but it always comes back. The museum has an extensive collection of its findings.

Having the dig sites so close to Lubbock allows the staff to make more frequent trips than most universities' paleontology departments, Mueller said. Right now the field staff goes out to excavate almost every other weekend of the year.

"A lot of museums and universities, they don't do hardly any field work during the year and then they travel and go do the field work during the summer," he said. "Our advantage is we put in more days than they do. We go out every other weekend and spend a day or two in the field."

It's important to go out to the dig sites and collect regularly, Mueller said. One rainstorm can uncover a lot of bones and fossils, but if you wait too long another will wash it all away.

Doug Cunningham, field specialist and research assistant for the Anthropology Division at the museum, said West Texas is really the best place to come if you want to learn more about the Triassic period. People have come from countries like Argentina, China and Germany to learn more about the era.

"Texas Tech paleontology is known

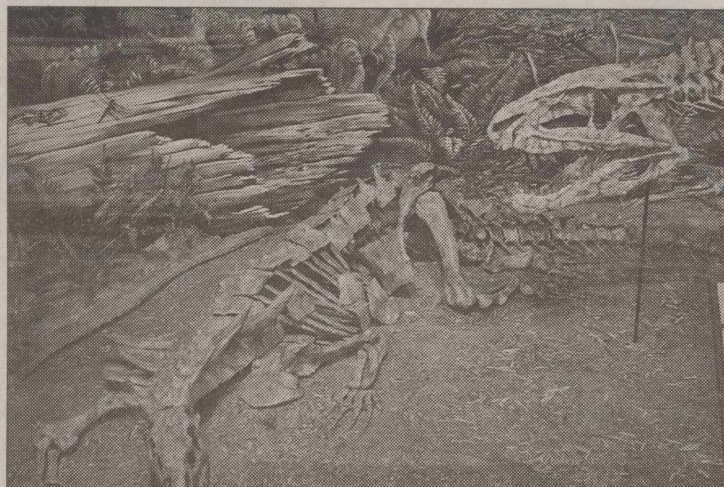


Photo Courtesy of the Museum of Texas Tech University

A showcase at the Museum of Texas Tech University displays two sets of fossilized remains of animals from the Triassic Period.

all over the world," he said. "Everyone knows if you are studying Triassic you have to come to Texas Tech, because we have the best stuff in the world."

Researchers find something new pretty much every time they go out, Cunningham said, and they believe

the department has barely scratched the surface on what is out there.

"Right now we are out there to find that killer fossil," he said. "We are always trying to find that next big thing."

► matthew.cobb@ttu.edu

THE BIZ' BRIEFLY

Winehouse taken to hospital after fainting spell

LONDON (AP) — Amy Winehouse fainted Monday at her north London home and was hospitalized, her spokesman said.

Winehouse lost consciousness but an assistant caught her before she hit the ground, spokesman Chris Goodman said.

Snoop Dogg's wife arrested for DUI in S. California

FULLERTON, Calif. (AP) — Police say the wife of rapper Snoop Dogg has been arrested in California's Orange County for investigation of driving under the influence of alcohol.

Fullerton police Lt. Craig Brower says officers stopped 32-year-old Shante (Shahn-tay) Broadus of Sherman Oaks about 12:15 a.m. Saturday and took her to jail. She was cited and then released pending a court appearance.

Hastily-called hearing held in Spears custody case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An unscheduled hearing in the Britney Spears custody case Friday yielded no change in the arrangement between the pop star and ex-husband Kevin Federline.

The hearing was closed and all documents were ordered sealed until a hearing later this month. A court spokeswoman says no rulings were made.

WEEKEND BOX OFFICE

1. "The Incredible Hulk," \$54.5 million.
2. "Kung Fu Panda," \$34.3 million.
3. "The Happening," \$30.5 million.
4. "You Don't Mess With the Zohan," \$16.4 million.
5. "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," \$13.5 million.
6. "Sex and the City," \$10.2 million.
7. "Iron Man," \$5.1 million.
8. "The Strangers," \$4.1 million.
9. "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian," \$3 million.
10. "What Happens in Vegas," \$1.7 million.

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Lubbock offers wide range of activities for Tech students during summer

BY ANGELA FARMER
STAFF WRITER

For Texas Tech students who are in Lubbock for the summer and missing their hometown attractions, students may find this West Texas town offers more than meets the eye.

Stars & Stripes Drive-In theatre, disc golf course at Mackenzie Park, Buffalo Springs Lake and Lubbock Windmill Museum are some of the places where students can find activities to get away from class or busy work schedules during the summer.

Although the majority of Lubbock's Science Spectrum Museum's visitors are children and family, said James Nesmith, administrative manager for the museum, there also are a good number of college students who visit the museum and particularly the OMNI theatre.

"I think most high school, college

students are looking for entertainment opportunities," he said. "There are some that are looking for educational opportunities. There are some really neat things in the museum, but more of them are probably coming for the entertainment aspects that the theatre has to offer."

The museum contains more than 250 hands-on interactive science exhibits. Lubbock's only public aquarium also can be found inside the museum.

Nesmith said, out of all college students who visit the museum, approximately half of them are on a date. The other half of students are in groups or individuals.

The museum can be a good opportunity to spend some quality time with friends, as Nesmith said students can easily spend up to three hours between the museum and theatre.

With the OMNI theatre's new

film, Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk, there was a higher number of college students attending than usual, Nesmith said. The film will continue to show for the rest of summer.

Nesmith said college students may be interested in Lubbock's annual animal event, CritterFest, which will take place at the museum June 27-29. In the past, staff members at the museum saw a wide range of age groups attending.

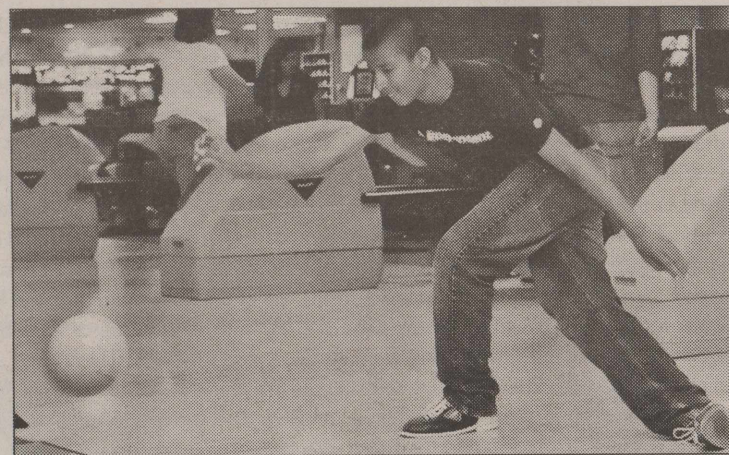
"It's basically where the science spectrum turns into a zoo for the weekend," he said. "Since there's not a zoo in Lubbock, this is probably the next closest thing to it."

Aside from museums, Tech students may find what they need at the local bowling alleys.

David Knight, general manager at AMF Classic Lanes, said employees see an increase number of college students on Monday, Wednesday and Sunday nights because the business offers \$1 per person to bowl a game, \$1 specials in the snack bar and bar on those days.

With the majority of Tech students out of town for the summer, Knight said there has been a dramatic drop in numbers for the business. The drop also is a result of summer outdoor activities such as going to parks or swimming at pools.

"Tech students are very important to the business," he said. "Tech students are our main source because we



Ruben Castillo/ The Daily Toreador

Anthony Ascenci goes for a strike Sunday afternoon at the AMF Classic Lanes on Slide Road.

are close to the campus."

If students are looking for outdoor activities and a way to stay cool from triple-digit temperatures at the same time, Joyland Amusement Park could be the answer. It offers a wide variety of rides for the amusement park enthusiasts.

David Dean, president and owner of the park, said out of all the park's customers, approximately 10 percent to 15 percent are college students.

"I think it'd be a great place for a date," he said. "It has a certain charm to it. It has some rides you can go and just have a good time. It has the Skyride, it kind of gives you 10 minutes of quiet time, and you're kind of above

everybody. To me, that kind of thing is romantic."

The park's new ride, Daredevil Drop, Dean said, certainly will draw college students' attention and help attract more visitors to the park this summer.

"A lot of times with college students, it's tough for them to go out and have fun without going to a place like a bar," Dean said. "We don't feel like it's a place where they're going to meet other college students always. But it gives students the opportunity to go have fun without driving so far to places like Six Flags."

► angela.farmer@ttu.edu

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'You Don't Mess with the Zohan' mixes old Sandler with new

BY COREY CRAFT
THE CRIMSON WHITE (U. ALABAMA)

"You Don't Mess With the Zohan" is an Adam Sandler movie that mixes his—and I can't

believe I'm writing this—earlier, funnier work with his later, preachier work. The result is something that plays like a bastardized offspring of the non sequitur-laced humor of "Happy Gilmore" and the miserable moralizing of "Click" and "I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry." It's often very funny and often very unfunny, but I'll hand it to Sandler, along with his co-writers Robert Smigel and comedy guru Judd Apatow—it's never uninteresting, and it goes way off the deep end more often than not.

"Zohan," as you may have heard, is a much more political film than generally expected from Sandler. Sander stars as the titular Zohan, a secret agent for Mossad who is the best at countering Palestinian terrorists and is, generally speaking, a superhero adept at catching bullets, playing hacky-sack and finding inventive uses for hummus dip.

His adversary on the Palestinian side, the Phantom (John Turturro), is nearly his equal in strength and ability. So their faceoff—which finally occurs near the beginning of the film—is the stuff of legend. But something unexpected

happens; Zohan fakes his own death and heads for America, tired of the constant fighting. He's going to follow his dream: to become a hairdresser and make women's hair "silk smooth." After wearing down a salon owner who happens to be Palestinian (Emmanuelle Chriqui), he finally gets his shot, catering his hair stylings to older women and happily throwing in a bonus afterwards. Yes, it's what you think it is. It's pretty funny, too.

Along the way, there are some misadventures involving a young Jewish guy (Nick Swardson) and his amorous mom (Lainie Kazan), a Palestinian cab driver with whom the Zohan shares a dark past (Rob Schneider, of course) and Mariah Carey, who appears as herself for no apparent reason.

But more jokes hit than miss, though when they miss—such as singer Dave Matthews showing up late in the game as a vengeful racist—they miss pretty hard. The movie's also about 20 minutes too long and overstays its welcome. But it's better than most Sandler movies have been lately, so that's worth something, right?

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Spencer sets high expectations as Tech baseball's new head coach

BY ADAM COLEMAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Friday the 13th can bring some people bad luck, but for the Texas Tech baseball team, it brought the eighth head coach in the program's history and a new expectations for the team.

Following Larry Hays' retirement on June 2, Dan Spencer was formally introduced as the Red Raider's new head coach.

Spencer, who was Tech's pitching coach during the 2008 season, is taking the place of Hays, who spent 22 seasons as the Red Raider's skipper. Spencer hopes to keep the program on a winning track with his playing style and commitment to winning championships.

"My expectations for the program at Texas Tech are that we're going to win," Spencer said. "We're going to win championships. There's going to be a commitment to detail. As far as my philosophy, it's going to be a relentless, high energy,

attacking style both offensively and on the mound. head coach designate on April 29.

Spencer spent 11 seasons at Oregon State. He served as associate head coach during his last three seasons for the Beavers. The 2006 and 2007 seasons brought national championships for Oregon State.

Tech Athletic Director Gerald Myers said Spencer fits the job well because of his background with Tech and the game of collegiate baseball.

"I think he's just got a great background in baseball," Myers said. "He played here. He understands Texas Tech. He loves Texas Tech and this community. He's just done a great job as an assistant coach at Oregon State. He was very instrumental and a big reason Oregon State won two consecutive national titles. That's unreal to be able to do that in modern day college baseball."

Spencer was primed to take the head coaching position over as he was named

Spencer coached a few of his pitchers in baseball. In the 2007 MLB Draft, the Beavers had seven pitchers drafted in the top 10 rounds.

With the success Hays had as Tech's coach, Spencer said he wants to turn this team into perennial winners.

"Coach Hays has won championships at Texas Tech and we need to win more," he said. "My goal is that the road to Omaha is going to run through Lubbock, Texas. That's something we can do. That's something we can do at Tech. Does it take work, yes. Does it take players, yes. Some of those players are already here. Some of those players are coming and there's others out there to be found, which we will."

Spencer said attitude is everything when it comes to the future of this team and the type of players he looks to have on the roster.

"It's a blue-collar sport," he said, "and a lady in the club about a month ago was telling me that she was thinking about moving back to Houston because she said 'I just don't think I'm tough enough to live in Lubbock.' She said 'You can't grow anything here. Everything here's got thorns. It's hard and it's tough.' Then I said 'That's exactly right. Those are the kind of kids that are going to come to Lubbock to play baseball.'"

"This year, he taught me just to be aggressive," he said. "Not hope that they get a ground out, but make them get a ground out. Make them miss the ball. He has an aggressive style and it fits more to my personality."

Spencer is not shy about his goals as Tech's head coach.

► adam.coleman@ttu.edu



Dan Spencer is the eighth head coach in the Texas Tech baseball program's history.

Coleman Morefield/The Daily Toreador

Tech track geared for future after performance at NCAA Championships

BY ADAM COLEMAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Through the best competition in the nation, the Texas Tech track team came away with a hard-fought performance at the NCAA Championships last weekend at Drake Stadium in Des Moines, Iowa.

The NCAA Championships was highlighted by the Tech women finishing in fifth place with a total of 32 points, both of which are program-best. The Tech men finished in 25th place, scoring 10 points, good for fifth-best in school history.

"It was really exciting for (the women) to finish in the top 5 for the first time ever,"

Tech coach Wes Kitley said. "It was real exciting to see that. We scored more points than we've ever scored in the history of our school and in the national championships. We also had several people scoring those points than we've had in the past. Sally's pretty much gave us all our points so I was really pleased. We took seven girls down there. We took a larger group than we've been taking."

Sally Kipyego earned her seventh national title by winning the 5000M with a time of 15:15.06. Her time was a Drake Stadium and NCAA Championship record.

Kitley said when it is all set and done,

Kipyego will be remembered for her accomplishments.

"If you really look at everything she's done, I don't anybody could have ever predicted what she would do," he said. "Plus all the cross-country and the indoors (accomplishments), just everything she's done. Seven national championships. I think she should be the most decorated athlete to ever come through the school."

Other standouts for the women include D'Andra Carter earning her second straight All-American honor of her career with a throw of 181, 7 inches to finish third in the discus. Carter is the only Tech female athlete in school history to earn All-American in the discus.

Patience Knight claimed her second All-American honor in the shot put with a throw of 56'7.50".

The Tech men had two athletes earn All-American honors at nationals. With a time of 13.73 seconds in the 110M hurdles, Shawon Harris earned his fifth All-American honor. Joining him is Omo Osaghae, who finished seventh place with a time of 13.90. The All-American honor is Osaghae's first.

Harris also earned All-American hon-


ors in the 4x4 relay with Rodney Mims, Tim Foster and Gil Roberts. The team finished sixth with a time of 3:05.22, the second best finish in school history. This is Mims, Foster and Robert's first All-American honor.

"Shawon's been so steady for us every year," Kitley said. "He's a fifth year senior and captain of our team. He'd been an All-American several times. It's just great to go out his senior year running on the 4x4 as an All-American and on the 100M hurdles."

After the Red Raiders' performance in the NCAA Championships, Kitley said the program has turned around and is closer in its efforts to be established as one of the best in the nation.

"I think we're so far ahead of where we were nine years ago when I got here," he said. "We were dead last in the conference. We have so many schools that compete in track and field. People really don't realize to be a top 5 program in the nation is really remarkable. That's the thing I'm so proud of and I think it gives us a chance in recruiting and lets people see that we're a national power in track and field."

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